

# The Commentator

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The YC Annual Holiday Blood Drive provides a significant percentage of the blood for New York hospitals during this season. See story page 4.

## Amid Questions and Concerns, BMP Set to Go

BY EPHRAIM LEIBTAG

As the fall semester comes to a close, the schedule for the new Beit Midrash Program, the 'fourth' Jewish studies program which is to begin classes in the spring, was announced through a December 20 memo sent to all students. The memo also requested that IBC students interested in joining the new program must schedule an interview with Dean of Jewish Studies Rabbi Michael Shmidman and interested MYP students must schedule one with Rav Meir Goldwicht. The interviews are for the purpose of ascertaining whether the BMP is suited for each student's specific needs and to grant admission into the program.

But as of press time Rav Goldwicht and Dean Shmidman had conducted interviews with less than twenty students. The relatively small number raises many questions regarding the program's focus and intentions.

One concern noted by students interested in the program is that of language - the only shiur currently scheduled is that of Rav Goldwicht, posing a difficulty for students with limited fluency in Hebrew. One remedy may be by adding a second shiur to BMP, although this would only occur with a sharp increase in the amount of students interested in entering the program.

Another difficulty arises from the fact that Rav Goldwicht will be giving only two shiurim for three separate programs. The result is a schedule where students in BMP will have a shiur for them only on Tuesday - they have a combined shiur with IBC

on Mondays and Wednesdays and with MYP on Thursday.

Surprisingly, however, neither teacher nor student seem to view this as a formidable concern. "We're all in the shiur to learn from Rav Goldwicht. What difference does it make what 'program' the guy sitting next to you is in?" said one IBC student. Most students agree - they feel that IBC and MYP students currently attend the same shiur with few problems and adding BMP students (many of whom are already in the shiur anyway) will not change things significantly.

But the low number of potential enrollees invariably sparks questions regarding the purpose of BMP. One intended advantage is to combine the time flexibility of IBC (the new program ends at 1:00) with the "Beit Medrash atmosphere" of YP. Another reason offered by members of the Administration is that the new program will attract more students to YU. But to many students, minor modifications such as this one accomplish little. One YC Junior remarked that "if they [the administration] think this is going to attract more students to YU, they're crazy. What person who is not already here is going to come now for this?" These students feel that the energy and money dedicated to the creation of BMP would have been better spent on enriching the existing programs.

There are, however, some students who feel that pre-judging BMP is unfair. And the Administration is open to suggestions - they view this semester as experimental and will modify the program if they deem it necessary.

## MYP Announces Compulsory Credit For Next Year

### Unilateral Decision Angers Many

BY MOSHE I. KINDERLEHRER

Last week, the MYP administration announced that for the fall 1995 semester, all MYP students will have to transfer at least one credit from MYP to their YC transcripts. The change in policy, which has already set off considerable debate among the MYP student body, is designed to increase *seder* and *shiur* attendance and ensure that the students take their learning in MYP more seriously.

Speaking to *The Commentator* last week, R. Zevulun Charlop, the Dean of RIETS and

MYP, announced the new credit policy. He explained that the motivation for initiating the mandatory credit program stemmed from a "need for accountability" on the part of MYP students. "We (MYP) must have some form of leverage over students with poor attendance records," R. Charlop pointed out. He stressed that the MYP administration has no wish "to penalize anyone" by enacting the change. Furthermore, he emphasized repeatedly that this latest move is only one of a number of steps MYP has taken in recent months in an effort to

make the program better. "We view this in tandem with the appointment of the three *Sgan Mashgichim* and *Shoalim U'meishivim*," he stressed.

He went on to explain how these appointments and recent initiatives such as computerized attendance monitoring have their origin in the results of the MYP survey conducted more than three semesters ago by then-MYP students Eitan Mayer and Yitzy Schechter. While the results of the survey remain unpublished, R. Charlop explained much of the impetus

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## Dormitories Full Next Semester

BY JOSH ENGLAND

Faced with YU's highest enrollment in years and a strong contingent of students coming from Israel after a half-Shana Bet, all three residence halls will be filled to capacity next semester. However, no major changes will be necessary and all students will have room under the current arrangement.

With fall enrollment on the Main Campus 982 strong - its highest level in over twenty years - there are only eighteen dormitory vacancies this semester as opposed to the seventy vacancies during the fall 1993 semester. But according to Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz, Director of Residence Halls, there is presently enough space to house the newcomers without making any drastic changes in any of the dorms. The university is

expecting fifty students from Israel as well as five or six non-Israel newcomers. In addition to the current eighteen vacancies, approximately thirty-two students will be leaving the dormitories after the fall. Furthermore, there are always a few additional students who decide to leave the dorms at the last minute. The numbers cited by Rabbi Cheifetz confirm the ability of the dorms to house the newcomers.

In ensuring that all new arrivals receive rooms, the Office of the Residence Halls has also been successful in consolidating remaining roommates, freeing rooms for new students. This will enable newcomers to stay together and have a choice of roommate.

### Morg Lounges Next To Go

While the housing dilemma seems solved for the moment,

the question as to the future of the dorms still exists: What will be done if enrollment continues to increase? During past housing shortages, the floor lounges in Morgenstern Hall have been utilized as dormitory rooms and some rooms in Rubin and Muss Halls were 'tripled up.' "Using the study halls [in Morg] seems to be an obvious option," says Rabbi Cheifetz. "However, we would be very reluctant to do that as we consider it important that the students have a place to study and socialize." While conceding that there have been discussions about contingency plans for more dorm space, Rabbi Cheifetz emphatically stated that they are nothing more than discussions: "We are not planning [any changes] at the present time."

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## Credit Where No Credit is Due

The administrations of MYP and Academic Affairs have joined forces to find a solution to MYP's age-old problems. They have decided that mandatory transfer of credit is the answer. Sadly, their "solution" of holding credits and transcripts over students' heads, a mere stopgap measure, will not only hurt the student body and the University, it will also undermine the quality of the very program it aims to bolster. Moreover, the Administration's unilateral method of decision-making, without even so much as mentioning the idea to any student leaders, is a slap in the face of every member of the student body.

With the current concern over the academic reputation of Yeshiva College, requiring additional MYP credits on a transcript will only further the perception of the YU education as narrow and incomprehensive. More importantly, the widely disparate grading methods employed in the different MYP *shiurim* will force many students to choose their rebbe based on his grading practices rather than the suitability of his *shiur* to their individual learning. Conversely, rebbeim might feel pressured by their *talmidim* to inflate grades, rendering both the grades and the credit meaningless.

The most disturbing element of this decision is its complete omission of students from any role in the process. Administering by fiat has no place in Yeshiva College; it merely increases the tension between administration and students. Perhaps if student input had been solicited in this instance, it would have been possible to avoid the shortsighted policy that has been implemented. Both the policy and the method of its arrival are unacceptable. We expect that the MYP administration will take steps to create a policy acceptable to both itself and the MYP students in whose best interests it is expected to act.

## Senators: Time For a Change

The very title of the Student Senate implies that it performs some sort of legislative function, more than just that of a mere advisory body. However, in Yeshiva College, the Senate, which has been making headlines recently for its discussions on Israel credit, has no such powers. Composed of students, faculty, alumni, and administration members, it simply discusses, studies, and makes recommendations on issues of concern to the campus community.

The Student Senate emerged as the result of pressure by students during the late sixties for more involvement in the formation of university policy. Over the years it has accomplished numerous achievements, including the development of the Writing Center as well as the recent hiring of a full-time computer-room operator. Yet these accomplishments do not cover up the problems surrounding the Senate. Their proposal to establish a task force to study interdisciplinary majors and minors in YC, for example, indicates their unawareness of the goings on in other committees such as the Curriculum Committee and the Academic Standards Committee (the former currently studying such majors).

More importantly, the Senate's role still remains unclear. They have spent much time debating the issue of Israel credits, yet when the dust clears, they will only present the Administration with their recommendations, the effectiveness of which must be questioned, considering the absence of any Administration members from last Thursday's meeting.

Rather than debate ideas without any potential for substantive impact, the Senate should rename and reestablish itself in the form of an academic affairs umbrella organization which would oversee any academically-related committees such as those listed above. This would simultaneously sharpen its focus as well as keep it abreast of related developments on campus. It would regenerate the purpose and function of an important student-faculty-administration body sorely in need of renewal.

# The Commentator

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## LETTERS To the Editor

### No Smoking in Belfer

To the Editor:

Every Monday and Wednesday while walking to my class on Belfer Hall's second floor, I am physically sickened by a cloud of carcinogenic smoke. This cloud of smoke comes from faculty members smoking on that floor. It is my understanding that for the welfare of its students, Yeshiva University has declared itself a smoke-free campus. If this is the case, then why have I and my fellow students been subjected to the harmful elements contained in smoke as we make our way down the hall? Although smok-

ers have the right to smoke, non-smokers have the right not to inhale smoke filled air. If the University feels that it is important enough to attempt to protect its students by declaring the campus smoke free, why is this policy unenforced? It is time the University recognize the need to enforce this policy and cease the outright defiance of the smoke-free campus policy.

Doni Stern  
YC 95'

### Show Some Derech Eretz

To the Editor:

I'm sure that the entire school empathizes with YCSC President Daniel Billig when he wished that "these people [Roshei Yeshiva]" were more "in line on these issues." Maybe the university should begin hiring only those rebbeim that conform to Mr. Billig's high standards, especially in regard to programs like the recent Channukah social event. (Oops — scratch the social!) Although we can certainly debate halachic opinions, the right to differ ends when disagreement becomes disparaging *chutzpah*, a line which the YCSC president clearly crossed.

To expect our rebbeim to demean themselves and the values they repre-

sent to satisfy others tastes is ridiculous. Perhaps the different parts of this university should co-operate in future activities in an effort to make them acceptable to everybody. We must realize, however, that this institution exists for only one reason and undermining the respect that the yeshiva deserves does NOT contribute to the welfare of the university. An apology is definitely in order.

Thank you,  
Eli Greenbaum

*Editor's Note: Please be aware that Mr. Billig did apologize for his inappropriate tone, both publicly and in his letter in this issue.*

## P I C T O R I A L





# From the Executive Editor's Desk

SIDNEY A. SINGER

Open up the pages of any official YU literature and you will surely find the phrase "YU Community" floating around. Yet ask anyone on this campus to clarify the exact meaning of that term, and their responses will surely leave you disappointed. The common understanding of the word "community" surpasses the limitations set by the dictionary. It connotes not only shared geography and government, but a sense of mutual respect between its participants, of working together toward a greater societal good. Does our own campus, particularly Yeshiva College, conjure up such images?

Within the homogeneity of our student body lies a diversity dividing us beyond mere titles and categories. Despite our similar backgrounds and levels of religious observance, significant tension lingers between the members of the various Jewish studies programs, both as groups and individuals. Even a small, intimate *minyan* of only eleven people in which I recently *davened* could not escape the unpleasant looks and sarcastic comments exchanged between the YP and IBC students present. Those who have spent even one semester here know this example does not belie the truth.

The answer to the problem of community may lie in how we tackle another perpetual question, that of yeshiva vs. university. During the last five semesters on campus, I have witnessed many students invest their efforts primarily in learning and Judaic studies. Many others have committed themselves to their secular studies, ignoring the yeshiva aspect. Still others have attempted to perform the high-wire act of balancing the two.

Students, faculty, and rebbeim have debated this question for years, and have presented many convincing arguments on both sides of the issue. That the question still lingers and will remain as such for years does not negate our daily existence in the very institution around which the discussion revolves. On the contrary, a practical approach demands tolerance for the plurality of ideas on the issue. Even a theoretical victor in the debate would not alter the reality for the common student: YU presents students with a balance of both institutions, and leaves it

up to the individual to tip the scales in the favor of his desired direction. The wide range of actions and choices of the students themselves provides the strongest proof. The mold remains the same, but the body onto which it conforms changes constantly.

Why must we react with such a defensive and condemning attitude toward a new Jewish studies program? Should a *talmid* who wants to trade, in his opinion, quantity for quality, not have that choice? If students in alternate Judaic studies programs consistently displayed and acted with mutual respect for their peers, it would teach and exemplify a level of *derech erez* rivaling any taught in the classroom.

The *chagigot* of Purim and Yom Ha'atzmaut reflect such sentiment. On those days, virtually the entire student body unites in celebration of great moments in Jewish history. Regardless of appearance, attitude, or any other potentially "damaging" characteristic, everyone participates together in wild jubilation to enhance these already festive occasions. The only requirement for attendance, apparently, is checking one's judgments at the door.

On a much sadder note, as Rabbi Lamm pointed out in his recent Dorm Talks lecture, the tragic saga of Nachshon Waxman, *z"l*, united all of *Klal Yisrael*. Jews of all levels of observance came together at the *Kotel* to pray on his behalf; women who had never previously lit shabbat candles honored Mrs. Waxman's request, lighting candles that Friday night for the soldier then-held captive. Rabbi Lamm verbalized the sentiments of many Jews around the world following Nachshon's devastating murder, namely, that it should not take a tragedy to unite the Jewish people.

Similarly, moments of great *simcha* should not constitute the only times we on our own campus act as a true community. We must recognize and accept the notion of the individual choice of the Yeshiva University student. Otherwise, we will inevitably continue our self-defeating judgmental patterns of old. The time for judging has long since passed; the time for acceptance is well overdue.



# Message From the YCSC President

It is hard to believe but the snow hasn't fallen even once. That's how this semester feels as I look back on some of its finer moments.

We have a record number of students on campus and that meant a lot of work providing top-notch student council services for each and every one of them. We started off in June going to meetings about student life and Orientation and that early effort paid off. Orientation was the smoothest and best-run ever, and beginning next semester there will be extended hours in the Gym (until 2am on Thursdays) and in the Pool (M-TH 3-6pm).

Who can forget the great events we have enjoyed; whether it was shooting lasers at Sportsworld, getting lost in New York, laughing at the Limits or skating at the rink, everyone had a good time.

Then on Channukah we all came to-

gether for an *achdut* event of singing dancing and eating. I would like to thank all the student councils for their participation and our very devoted Alumni Associations for their generous support. I would also like to apologize to the Rebbeim, because in a moment of frustration I referred to them disrespectfully. It is my hope that next semester, on Purim and Yom Haatzmaut, we can all work together in achieving our goal of a totally *Achdut* event.

I hope you have a wonderful vacation and I look forward to another exciting semester filled with Elections, Speakers, and events.

Sincerely,  
Daniel Billig  
Y.C.S.C. President, 1994-1995  
Phone: 781-8139 Mo224

# LETTERS

To the Editor

## Retroactive Credit for Israel

To the Editor:

I'm a freshman. I "did" early admissions. I'm "serious." And I'm mad.

There are quite a number of early admissions students in YU. We are "serious" students- most of us bear the full burden of 17.5 credits- and most of us plan to attend yeshivot in Eretz Yisrael in the coming year. YU has seen fit to encourage our attendance of these yeshivot by awarding 32 credits for the year spent in Eretz Yisrael, presumably because it is a year spent in the augmentation of Torah knowledge and the enhancing of Torah understanding, a year in which students and prospective students often acquire precious insight and maturity. The feedback to this program has, by and large, been positive- the Beit Midrash is packed "to the gills," so to speak, and enrollment is booming as never before. Our student body is mature and sophisticated; our numerous student publications and activities attest to the fact that we can express ourselves eloquently and effectively. Why seek to change all that?

Enter the *U.S. News and World Report*. The weekly news-magazine has featured a rating of major colleges and universities for at least the past six years, and YU has consistently ranked in the "third quartile." For some odd reason, the low ranking (107) has begun to perturb us only this year. Now we have decided to seek to improve our academic standing, and the Senate, as well as several independent disgruntled individuals among us, seem to have concluded that the source of our poor ranking is the Joint-Israel program, and that we must drastically modify, "round out" or phase out the credits granted for the year of study so as to improve our graduation rate, a factor in the calculation of our academic standing.

It irks me that we feel obliged to

ascribe the low academic ranking solely or even chiefly to the Israel program. Let us not delude ourselves - if we trust *The Commentator*, we know that we do have our own fair share of troubles. Could it possibly be that such issues as our relatively small variety of course offerings (and majors), our "low faculty morale" (and its causes) or our lack of a current course catalog contribute to our low academic reputation ranking, a major factor in the determination of our overall rank? Are there not more exigent and pivotal deficiencies here (perish the thought!) that would benefit more from the scrutiny of the Senate?

Yaakov Blau and one of our student senators suggested that we allot 32 credits for two years in Israel. Ideally, Mr. Blau's reasoning is certainly valid; however, I feel that practically, this would defeat his stated objective of "encouraging *Shana Bet*," for, unfortunately, *B'Avonoseinu HaRabbim*, a great number of students are attracted to the Joint Israel Program by the prospect of not having to lose a year of college credit; most students who decide to stay in Israel for a *Shana Bet* (and the limited number of parents who allow their children to remain) make that decision only after the students have begun *Shana Alef*. Fewer students would initially embark on the Joint Israel Program at a loss of 16 potential college credits, and thus even fewer students would stay to study for a *Shana Bet* than are at the present.

I have two suggestions. First, if the problem is that many seek to use YU's Israel credits in other colleges and universities, hence the low graduation rate, why then can't we devise a system by which the Israel credits will be added to the transcript only after a subsequent year spent at Yeshiva University? If that is not possible, why not

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# ATTENTION!!!

The Guide to the Perplexed mistakenly printed the wrong phone and room numbers of the Hatzola EMT's at YC and SCW. The following are the correct listings:

Josef Shenker		873-3008
Yosef Levenbrown	Mo312	781-3135
Elly Berlin	Ru209	740-7854
Avi Hornstein	Mo618	740-8772
Hillel Weiner	Mo614	781-0896
Motti Edelstein	189th 4E	927-4332

STERN EMT

Dafna Kalish Br20a 213-8041

# Yeshiva College



# Campus News

## New Dean Visits Campus

BY MOSHE I. KINDERLEHRER

On Dec. 22, two Thursdays ago, the newly appointed YC dean, Dr. Norman T. Adler, paid an official visit to the YC campus. Meeting with administrators, students and faculty, the new dean spent his day trying to familiarize himself with the uptown campus.

Adler, currently a Vice Provost at Northeastern University in Boston, was escorted around the campus by SSSB Dean and YC Dean Ad-Interim Dr. Harold Nierenberg. Nierenberg arranged a number of meetings for the incoming dean with students, faculty, as well as with his future colleagues in the Dean's Office. He also met with prospective YC students from HANC (Hebrew Academy of Nassau County).

### Talks With Students

In the morning, Adler met with a select group of four YC students in a conference room on the Dean's Office. The stated purpose of the meeting was to feel out the concerns of the YC student body and to determine some of their attitudes and opinions on a number of issues. During the ensuing dialogue, he expressed tremendous pleasure at the opportunity to come to YC. He praised the quality and the intellectual level of the students he has come across so far in YC.

Among the matters discussed in the hourlong meeting was the issue of Torah U'madda. Adler was interested in how students understood the integration between the two. He pledged to visit and sit in on Jewish Studies courses in YC before he is installed as dean. Another issue brought up was the tremendous pressures associated with bal-



Dr. Norman Adler meets with student leaders

ancing a dual curriculum and pursuing career goals. The meeting also touched upon the importance of Israel credit and the role and function of the Senate.

Adler promised to try and make the YC experience more enjoyable and "fun" in the future. He also noted how he felt confident of his ability to attract more press coverage for YC in the future, possibly enhancing YC's image and outside reputation.

Adler is officially scheduled to arrive on the YC campus as dean in mid-March. Till then, he plans to visit the campus a few more times and hold more meetings with small groups of students, enabling him to learn as much as possible about the student body he stands to inherit in a few short months.

## Holiday Blood Drive at YC

BY JOSH EPSTEIN

A successful second round of the Yeshiva College blood drive came to a close last Tuesday, providing a much needed boost to the New York area's blood bank.

The drive, originally planned for early January, was moved up at the request of the New York Blood Center, because according to YC senior Samson Fine, co-coordinator of the blood drive, "the holiday season is the busiest time of the year for blood leaving the bank and also the slowest for donors." Long-time New York Blood Center volunteer Consuela Gutierrezina echoed Fine and added that YU was one of the few institutions to be open during the holiday season.

To help make this year's drive even more successful than years past, Fine

and fellow co-coordinator Azriel Hirschfeld formed a volunteer force for the purpose of spreading the word early and effectively. Their concerted efforts were rewarded with a large turnout. Some students also attributed the drive's success to the fact that this drive scheduled hours during lunch as well as club hour, allowing more people to donate without missing class.

Gutierrezina, a four-year veteran of blood drives at YU, was especially pleased with this particular drive. "Yeshiva students should realize how big a 'mitzva' this is to New York City during the holiday season.

One student, freshly bandaged, rushed back to class after donating, but not before he stopped to explain his reasons for donating: "How could I not give? After all, 'Tis the season for giving."

## MTA Joint Program Receives Report Card

BY NICK MUZIN

The first semester of a new MTA program that enables on-campus high school seniors to enroll in courses in the college has met with a mixture of success and failure. Though a number of students have dropped out of their courses, and others are receiving below-average grades, many are succeeding and are pleased with the opportunity that has been made available to them. There have been no incidences of students misbehaving in class or detracting from the "academic atmosphere" of the college.

Benjamin Gelman, who is enrolled in Genetics and Physics, finds the college courses challenging but not overwhelming. He is pleased with the program overall, but mentioned some areas that need improvement: "There are countless scheduling conflicts and mistakes in enrollment. A friend of mine wanted to enroll in Statistics, was enrolled in Economics, and isn't doing well. He shouldn't have been forced into a course he didn't want to take."

Rabbi Ellis Bloch, assistant principal of MTA, explains that only a small number of high-schoolers have been having

trouble in their courses and they have handled it very well. "Those students who have dropped courses were enrolled in Computer Science and Physics, two of the toughest courses in YC," he said. "The fact that they weren't successful doesn't reflect on the selection criteria."

One student called the program "a sham and a feeble attempt to try and persuade MTA students to go to YU. I've applied to Cornell and MIT and don't plan on staying here. This is their last-ditch attempt to save my tuition dollars."

Most students, however, are extremely pleased with the program. Rabbi Bloch observed that "it has generated a lot of interest and excitement at MTA and that it is a good thing." He stressed that there had been instances where college professors were keeping their classes late, causing the students to be late for their high school classes. He informed the high school teachers that they would have to make accommodations for these students. "We realize that we are guests in the University and I would never ask a college professor to let his classes out on time because of the high school."

## Gift of T-Shirts to Faculty Sparks Controversy

BY DOV SIMONS

As a special holiday bonus this Chanukah, the Yeshiva University Department of Personnel offered its employees free t-shirts. The gray shirts, emblazoned with the Yeshiva University name and emblem in blue, raised some eyebrows among the faculty who questioned the gift's appropriateness for a members of a serious academic institution.

Mike Sperling, speaking for the Office of Facilities Management and Personnel, said, "We tried to come up with something everyone could use and appreciate." The t-shirts were distributed to everyone on the payroll, including college faculty, staff and rebbeim. Sperling said such mementos are nothing new, but another example of the "little gifts or souvenirs that we have been giving out around Chanukah time." In the past, the Department of Personnel distributed coffee mugs and cakes.

Faculty members found the gifts to be amusing. When asked about the t-shirts, many professors just smiled or started laughing, with one adding, "it made

good joke material." Most professors refused to comment on the t-shirts, many saying something to the effect that they had "better things to get in trouble for."

An anonymous memo circulated among faculty members did reflect their sentiments. Faculty morale has been at a nadir since the lower than expected 3% pay raise the faculty received this fall. The memo joked of future Administration plans for compensation, such as a twenty cent pay raise due in 1997, and other gifts expected over the next few years, including upgrade certificates on Air Jordans, AIDS prevention devices, and Shmura Matza with a Pyramid-K hashgachah.

Rosengarten, in a memo to the Dean's office, stated that "the best of intentions are at times misunderstood." He added that the t-shirts "did not mean to offend anyone. We can only apologize. We are sensitive to and respect the very special nature status of the Roshei Yeshiva and faculty." Mike Sperling added that the t-shirts could be given to children, and need not necessarily be worn by the professors themselves.



Pictured left to right: Bruce Teitelbaum, David Luchins, and Suri Kasirer

## Three Political Leaders Address Yeshiva University Students

BY MICHAEL J. BELGRADE

This past Wednesday, December 28, three eminent members of the political world spoke to students of Yeshiva University about Jobs in Government and Politics. The meeting was one in a series being conducted as part of a "Career Forum" to let students at Yeshiva University know what job opportunities await them after graduation. Over 50 students from both YC and SCW attended.

The event was sponsored by various groups, including the Office of Placement and Career Services, the J.P. Dunner Political Science Society of YC and SCW, The Political Awareness Club, and The Committee on Jewish Affairs. The event was personally coordinated by YC Senior Sandor Bak, President of the Political Science Society.

The three speakers invited by Bak were Dr. David Luchins, Ms. Suri Kasirer, and Mr. Bruce Teitelbaum. Luchins, a graduate of Yeshiva College, is the Senior Assistant to Senator Daniel P. Moynihan of New York. Kasirer, a graduate of Stern College for Women, was special assistant for Jewish Affairs to former Governor Mario M. Cuomo. Teitelbaum is currently the Deputy Chief of Staff to Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani.

One of Bruce Teitelbaum's first points were that one did not need to be a political science major to involve himself with politics. Additionally, he stressed that volunteering to work for a candidate you support is very important in order to start a career in the political field. His work has enabled him to meet political personalities such as Nelson Mandela, Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres, and Mayor Giuliani. He also said that helping to raise money for a candidate can also start your involvement in the political arena as well.

Luchins, speaking after Mr. Teitelbaum, began his speech with a *Dvar Torah* as he always does when he speaks in front of a Jewish audience. He informed the participants that the State Department is starting to change its policy towards Jerusalem, which it once considered as a separate sovereignty in and of itself. He asserted that the Jewish and specifically the orthodox contingency needs to stop a new trend of apathy. The Jewish vote this election was 57% this year in New York when at times it has been up to 80%. He concluded with the remarks that the most effective Jews

in politics today are the ones who do not use being Jewish as an issue in politics. Instead, the most effective Jewish politicians are the ones who do the right thing without having necessarily a press release or the media there to let everyone know about it.

Before Kasirer spoke she stressed how lucky the Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women students are to have a staff to help them figure out what majors they choose and what fields to enter. She noted that she did not have that luxury when she was in Stern College. Ms. Kasirer has been involved in different grassroots programs including the plight of Syrian Jewry. She spoke about her involvement in the Clinton campaign as the New York Jewish Coordinator. After the Clinton campaign, she started to work as former Governor Mario Cuomo's special Assistant for Jewish affairs. It was a two-fold job. On one end, she would advise the Governor on the issues vis-à-vis the Jewish community. On the other end, she would inform the Jewish community of issues going on in Albany that affected them. Ms. Kasirer said that the Jewish community needs to know the outcome of bills that are passed in the State capital that affect them.

She also said that one needs two traits if they want to go into politics. The first is that one has to have "tough skin" - one cannot be offended by every slanderous remark that will be made if one wants to make it in politics. The other characteristic was that one should be loyal to their candidate or cause. Otherwise, their credibility will be extremely weakened.

Dr. Ruth A. Bevan, chairperson of the Political Science Department, inquired of the panel what a political assistant or aid does if their candidate loses the election. The three political figures pointed out that there are other fields either in the private sector or in government to go into afterwards. Additionally, if the person did a good job, one can be sure that there will be job opportunities given to them from other candidates. Other questions that were raised included what skills were needed to go into politics and what job opportunities for Americans are available for those who want to be involved politically in Israel.

The event was very successful for the Political Science Department as it showed the students that there are an array of opportunities in the political world that they can aspire to after college.

## The Guide is Here ... Finally (Almost)

BY RYAN S. KARBEN

After months of delay, denial, and gloom, the *Guide to the Perplexed* made its Main Campus debut this week, eliciting cheers from the socially challenged and professions of outrage from still disgruntled students.

"It's about time," said YC senior Barry Horowitz, who was forced to create his own "Guide" on a now well-worn half-sheet of loose-leaf paper. "It's not as if this year's 'Guide' is so impressive as to justify such a delay. There's no excuse."

As of press time, however, only half of the YU students had received their copies, as floors 3-8 of Morgenstern Hall, and some floors in Rubin were still "Guideless." Many residents of the upper-floors of Morgenstern were particularly incensed that only the 2nd floor of the dorm had received their copy. YC sophomore Elie Borger, a tenant of the 8th floor of Morg, complained that at the current rate he could expect to receive his Guide sometime in the Spring semester. "I would have called someone to complain about the situation," he explained, "but I don't have their phone number."

Running 261 pages in length, this year's blue, white and green compendium of phone numbers, restaurant addresses and sightseeing suggestions appears to differ little from past versions of the campus-life staple. The most significant addition is a copy of the YCSC Constitution in the closing pages of the binder, an innovation introduced by YCSC President Daniel Billig.

The Guides were hand-delivered to Stern College by Billig last Wednesday and arrived in some Muss dorms

on Thursday and Friday and in Rubin and Morg early this week. Students, while bewildered by the Guide's erratic distribution-pattern, were nonetheless grateful for its successful landing.

"My social life has been an utter and absolute disaster," said one sophomore. "The Guide is a lifeline, a buoy for those who might otherwise be without shidduch hopes. I don't want to think of all the might-have-beens that will never be because of the delay. But better late than never."

The story of the publication of this year's Guide at times seemed to read like a novel. The delay was alternately blamed on the amount of information to be compiled, budget problems, personality conflicts, inept printers and lazy binders. And, after all the effort, there were still errors, such as the "Guide to the *Peplexed*" heading that ran across the top of the entire phone directory. And many students wanted to know why attendance at "Stren College" was a negative trait for a mate.

To most students, though, the intrigue didn't matter much. They just wanted their Guides. "I know this might sound funny," junior Joey Lifshitz said, "but the absence of the Guide caused me real *agmas nefesh*. It was very frustrating not to be able to track down my friends."

Rena May is just happy students finally have their Guide. When reached by a reporter at a number discovered in the pages of the Guide, she said simply, "Thank G-d it's over."

Plans to distribute a list of phone numbers and addresses for students who arrive next semester are still unclear.

## Dr. Lamm Addresses Distinguished Scholars

BY OWEN CYRULNIK

On December 19, 1994, YU held a dinner for Golding and Rudin Distinguished scholars in Belfer Commons. The keynote speaker of the evening was YU President Dr. Norman Lamm who spoke about the relationship between Chassidim and Misnagdim.

The dinner was attended by Distinguished Scholars from both YC and SCW. Also present were Dr. William Schwartz, Academic Vice President, Dr. Harold Nierenberg, and Dr. Karin Bacon, the Deans of YC and SCW, and Dr. Michael Hecht, Associate Dean of YC. Dr. David Shatz, the mentor of the Distinguished Scholar's program, acted as the master of ceremonies. Dr. Schwartz spoke briefly congratulating the scholars on their achievements and emphasizing the role that they would play in the future of the Jewish community.

Dr. Shatz then introduced Dr. Lamm, highlighting the academic scholarship for which he had been kn-

won before accepting the presidency 18 years ago. Dr. Lamm's lecture was both entertaining and engrossing. He began by thanking Dr. Shatz for "The most recent introduction" he had ever received. Dr. Lamm, who attended despite an injured left arm, presented a brief history of the rise of chassidism, and the misnagid opposition. He progressed into modern times when, in a conciliatory tone, he argued that the two groups should come together in a united front. Dr. Lamm pointed out that of the many differences that existed between the two camps during the formative years of chassidism, the current incarnation is really much of a compromise. In fact, he argued that even the radical concept of a chassidic rebbe, so opposed by misnagdische leaders, is found in the current Yeshiva world in the form of Roshei Yeshiva. *Da'as Torah*, Lamm argued, is a replacement for the role of the Rebbe.

The evening also served to celebrate Dr. Lamm's birthday, and his office provided a birthday cake.

## Senate Poised To Form Task Force on Off Campus Credit

### Israel Credit Debate Widens

BY MEIR ZEITCHIK

Hoping to raise the academic standards of YU, the Student Senate reached a general consensus in its December 29 assembly, albeit without a vote, that a task force was necessary to investigate off campus credit. The discussion, which began in a December 1 meeting about the effects of the Joint Israel Program credit system, has ballooned into a debate over the negative academic impact of off campus credits in general and what measures should be taken to limit them. The discussion now revolves around the value of a wide range of credits, from AP courses to CLEPS, summer school to programs abroad.

For several minutes a task force vote, which Senate Chairman Richie Soclof called "controversial" due to the absence of all administration members who normally attend, appeared likely. But Soclof backed off, stating that the issue was now on the agenda and would be "fully articulated next semester when we [the senate] reconvene". The reason for the hesitation was a legal one - the YCSC constitution mandates that at least two administration members be present for a vote to take place.

Also conspicuously absent at the meeting were student member Steven Greenfield, who has been especially vocal on this issue, and English professor Dr. William Lee. At the previous meeting, Lee proposed delaying the vote on an off campus credit task force until the off campus credit issue could be debated further. The total lack of representation from the administration at the meeting was particularly striking, given the fact that the previous meeting attracted considerable attention and dealt with the important issue of Israel credit. At that meeting SSSB dean and Dean Ad Interim of YC Harold Nierenberg noted that while no one questioned the value of the Israel program, the issue of cutting back on credit is a separate, academic question. He also pointed out that no student would be any less religious if he spent a year in Israel and did not receive credit. Physics professor Dr.

Cwilich, in this past meeting, agreed with Nierenberg that choices must often be made in giving credit, but stated that cutting back on Israel credit would be "the biggest mistake we can [make]," not just because it might affect enrollment but because by not offering incentives to spend a year in Israel, the University would fall short in its commitment to uphold Torah U'madda.

Despite near unanimity on the importance of a task force to examine the credit issue, the senate is clearly divided over the areas any such body should be required to explore. Outgoing senate veteran Michael Kupferman noted that a single task force charged with the heavy responsibility of exploring all outside credit would be "too much of an undertaking," and suggested commissioning several groups, each with their own specific focus. A second stream of thinking believes that because all types of outside credit adversely affect the academic standing of the University in similar ways, only one task force should be assigned to investigate the matter. "The report should be unified," commented Bible and Philosophy professor Rabbi Shalom Carmy, although he did suggest a division of labor to increase the task force's efficiency.

But regardless of the number of individuals and groups dispensed with the responsibility of making an inquiry, a substantial change in YU's credit policy anytime soon appears unlikely. The Senate will begin next semester with the issue of a task force "on the agenda," which still leaves a vote, the formation of the task force, and its research to follow. Even when the senate finally reaches a conclusion, they can only make recommendations; they cannot create legislation. These discussions are significant, however, in that they reflect the notion that key members of the faculty, administration, and student body recognize flaws in the current system and are willing to take initiative to correct them.

As Dr. Cwilich remarked, we should be "very concerned with the quality of education [at YU]...it is not good enough to be on the level of Queens College."



On December 13, 1994, Dorm Talks featured Dr. Norman Lamm addressing the issue of Aaron Heller's untimely passing. Dr. Lamm, by use of both personal and biblical examples, stressed the ways in which the tragedy would impact on our daily lives.

## Asbestos Still Clouding YC Campus

BY SANDOR BAK

Despite assertions by the Department of Facilities Management that the problems have been cleared up, a delegate from Local 1199, the union serving YU employees, insists that there are still asbestos particles in University buildings.

The delegate, speaking on condition of anonymity, "because I don't want to get fired by Jeff Socol [Assistant Director of Facilities Management]," pointed out a particular area in the basement of Belfer Hall where he is certain there is asbestos. Indeed, in one area, a hallway outside the Production Department leading from the basement to a parking lot, there are particles of some sort literally flaking from the ceiling.

"I know it's asbestos," the union delegate maintains, "because I was called in to take care of the problem throughout the basement of Belfer Hall, but this one spot, which is out of public view,

they don't care about and leave it like it is." He added that the area is used quite often by maintenance workers on their way between the building and the parking lot. "I filed a grievance about the problem but it was simply ignored."

Numerous calls to both Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services, and Jeffrey Socol, Associate Director of Facilities Management, were unanswered.

Several union members added that while at other branches of the University all grievances of this sort are dealt with in a swift manner, "here they refuse to give us the same policy as at the other places, but it makes no sense; asbestos is asbestos, whether here or at Einstein."

Lest we think the problem is confined to a small area in Belfer Hall, the union delegate has some disheartening words for the student body. "The stuff [asbestos] is all over the campus, especially in the old building, Tannenbaum Hall, but no one is doing anything about it."

## Rollerblading Banned in Mall

BY MICHAEL J. BELGRADE

YU students on the Main Campus have been told not to roller-skate or roller-blade on the campus walk area that runs on Amsterdam Avenue between 184th and 186th Streets. The move, initiated by the YU Department of Safety and Security, is in response to accidents that have occurred when "skaters" bump into pedestrians sitting on the benches or walking in the area. Additionally, jumping off of benches and chairs while skating has caused substantial damage to YU property.

Security has already enforced this

rule: YU students Martin Tollinsky and Avi Hornstein, who have normally roller-bladed on the walk for recreation and exercise, were stopped by security. Flyers have been sent by YU Security to residents in the neighborhood asking them not to skate on the walk.

The new policy does not seem to have had much of an effect on the neighborhood youths who still roller-blade on the walk at night. One neighborhood youth who rollerblades frequently with his friends on the walk told *The Commentator* that YU Security has never prevented them from rollerblading.

## Daniel Forman Named VP of Development

BY DANIEL RUBIN

President Norman Lamm has announced that Daniel T. Forman, currently the Executive Director of Capital and Annual Campaigns for the United Jewish Appeal-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, will succeed David Zysman as YU's Vice President for Development. Mr. Zysman retired at the end of the calendar year; Mr. Forman's appointment is effective February 6.

Zysman stressed that he was "very happy at Yeshiva University. These last twelve years have been the happiest years professionally in my life. Dr. Lamm and the board tried in every way to convince me not to leave... [but] the time [to retire] has come."

At the time of his 1982 hiring, Zysman was the campaign director for State of Israel Bonds, and was offered positions at YU, UJA, and Hebrew University. Mr. Zysman took the job at YU because "YU is very important to Jewish life and the continuity of the Jewish people....because YU has a special mission to perform." During his ten-

ure, Zysman helped establish the Belz School of Jewish Music and the Sy Syms School of Business through solicitation of donations of at least one million dollars each from 170 different benefactors. At the December 4th Channukah Dinner, Zysman received an honorary degree in recognition of his accomplishments.

Forman, a *summa cum laude* graduate of SUNY-Buffalo with a masters degree from the Graduate School of Social Work at Boston University, has taught at a number of institutions, including Boston University, Brandeis University, and YU's Wurzweiler School of Social Work. He has been with the UJA-Federation for eleven years and has had full responsibility for the design, creation, and management of its \$1.2 billion Capital Campaign. He also oversees the solicitation of some \$40 million a year in annual donations for the UJA.

Zysman, who interviewed Forman for the position at YU and endorsed his selection, is sure that Forman "will do very well" as YU's new Vice President for Development.



Barbara Noel, Director of Press and Public Affairs, with the delegation of the Commission of the European Communities, meeting with David Merklin, Vice President of the European Students Union and other students. The meeting took place during Club Hour on Thursday, December 15.

## Computerized Catalog "Imminent"

BY MICHAEL SPIVAK

Can't find that book on molecular cell biology? Looking for a compendium of popular midrashim in Hebrew? If you're like many YU students and hate wading through endless card catalog files in the library with their indecipherable letters and numbers, help is on the way: the Yeshiva University library will be computerizing a card catalog for student and faculty use after years of trouble with the current system.

Pearl Berger, Dean of University Libraries, says that the search for a proper computer database to handle the catalog system had begun more than a year ago. Berger produced an eighty-page document enumerating the various requirements that the YU library system needed for its computer database. Besides a system that would meet the requirements of a college library in the

United States, it had to be able to handle Hebrew characters.

Berger said that the library staff was "doing well" in transcribing the catalog into electronic form. Information on 160,000 books will be available via library computer and over the Internet as well. Users will simply need to type in a keyword, and the system will automatically select books matching the user's subject. If a book is not available in the YU library system, YU students will be able to make use of the First Search Service and Worldcat, two huge computerized databases of millions of books.

The date the system goes on-line is dependent on when the library comes to a contractual agreement with a computer database company. Refusing to be specific on a date, Berger would only say that an on-line date is "imminent," and that she was "optimistic and excited" about the project.

## Senate Report

COMPILED BY SENATE STAFF

**Results:** Yeshiva University is currently replacing their outdated computers in the Belfer Hall computer room with 45 new Pentiums computers. In addition, a full-time computer operator is being hired to maintain the room and help oversee and train student operators in assisting students more efficiently. This revision, desperately needed the past couple years, is a product of a report composed by last year's Senate computer task force. The report contained a comprehensive analysis of the computer center's status and detailed several proposals on how to alleviate its deficiencies.

The major goal of this year's Senate entails enhancing academic standards. Creating interdisciplinary majors and minors is a positive means of broadening the students education. Student senator Dov Kalton was appointed chairman of the Senate task force. The team will probe all departments within

YC and SSSB and will compile a report suggesting which majors and minors are most possible and beneficial. Kalton suggested that an "American Society After WWII" minor composed of history, political science, literature, and english courses is a possible addition to the interdisciplinary curriculum. Other possibilities are a "British Studies" minor and an "Oriental Studies" minor. Professor of Physics and senate member Dr. Gabriel Cwilich added that there is also room in the natural sciences for such a program.

Since most YU undergraduates do not stay longer than three years, students are deprived of the full breadth and depth of a college education. The Senate feels that YU's policy on outside credits is the core of the problem. Therefore the Senate is assembling a task force which will evaluate all external credits (including AP, Israel, exemption, and summer credits) granted by the University and will suggest what changes are required.

# Group Gives Students Their Day In Court

BY NACHUM LAMM

Although many students are unaware of its precise functions or even of its existence, the Student Court is preparing to convene in the near-future. The seven-member court, which has not heard a case this semester, is empowered to judge cases involving the student council, clubs, athletics, and other extracurricular activities, as well as disputes between students.

Complaints may be submitted by students to the Dean of Students, who, along with Chief Justice Brian Grosberg, determines whether the court should take action. Hearings are confidential and Justices must pledge impartiality, or disqualify themselves. Upon making a decision, the judges may recommend various sanctions to the Dean of Students. The court,

however, is limited in two ways: cases brought in front of the court can be appealed, and the court does not possess jurisdiction over complaints by students against the University, as these cases are ultimately handled through the Dean of Students by the grievance committee.

Last year, the court dealt with issues such as damage to one student's property by another, and parking fees owed by a student to the Student Council.

In discussing the upcoming session, Chief Justice Grosberg stated that he was ready to take on cases as they arose, and that he hoped "to make students aware" that a platform exists for them to air their grievances.

Members include the aforementioned Grosberg, Reuven Falik, David Schertz, Josh Segal, Patrick Amar, Ira Piltz and David Blatt.

## Residence Council Looks Out For Students

BY AARON KLEIN

Over the course of the fall semester, the Residence Council of Yeshiva University has begun to take an active role in the university's affairs.

The Residence Council, comprised of a representative from every floor of the three dorms, serves as an intermediary between the students and the various student councils. The hope is that since these representatives will have more access to the students than class representatives they can more effectively improve on the status quo.

### Door-to-Door Info Service

The Residence Council is faced with the responsibility of becoming acquainted with the students on each floor and of obtaining feedback from them concerning different affairs in the university. This project, dubbed the "Door to Door Informational Service" serves two purposes. Firstly, it helps to inform the students of the current activities of the Student Council. The second purpose is to

enable the students to make suggestions and register complaints with the Student Council. The floor representatives have already begun to go to each room and distribute a form giving the students the opportunity to voice opinions concerning different aspects of the university.

With a budget of \$850, the Council has put their funds to good use, spending a portion of it on floor parties and dorm talks. They have other plans as well. In addition to being responsible for the distribution (not the production) of the Guide, they are also planning to refurbish the arcade room in the basement of Morg and hope to move the television down there while turning Morg lounge into a study room, as well as transforming a room in Muss into a study hall. They also plan to have an "Asbestos Awareness Night" where an asbestos expert will be brought in to speak to the students. As Stuart Milstein, chairman of the Residence Council put it, "Our goal is to improve the general quality of life in the residence halls."

## Tribute Paid To Aaron Heller

BY HILLEL COHEN

On the evening of December 19, the date marking the 'shloshim' of Aaron Hellerz"l, YU students and faculty joined relatives and friends to complete the six tractates of the *Mishna* and pay tribute to his memory.

The speakers at the solemn event, held at Congregation Ahavas Achim in Ahron's community of West Orange, New Jersey, emphasized Aaron's easy-going manner and peaceful disposition. Rabbi Solomon Rybak compared Aaron to his namesake in the Torah, who was the archetypal "oliev shalom and rodef shalom." Rabbi Fulda, Aaron's beloved teacher and 'rebbe' described Aaron as a "gentle neshoma" from whom he had learned a great deal of positive character traits. And Ahron's mother, Shirley

Klausner, noted that she could not recall one instance in which Aaron spoke *lashon hara*.

Several close friends also spoke at the emotion-filled occasion. Barry Goldfisher described Aaron's popularity among fellow students and Shmuli Pineles stressed the impact Ahron had made on him personally. "He was like a brother... I will never forget him", he noted.

But perhaps the most moving speech of the entire night came from Mrs. Klausner herself. She pointed out that despite Aaron's ill health, he never complained and concluded with the simple yet emotional words, "I will always love you, Aaron." The sentiment left the audience in tears and highlighted the sense of loss felt by both those who knew him and those who didn't feel the pain of his death.

# Midterm Examination: YCSC

BY JOSH FINE

As the fall semester comes to a close, the students have the right to ask their student council leaders, "What have you done for us lately?" Three criteria should be focused upon in order to evaluate the effectiveness of this year's Student Council: the council's accomplishments; the students' perceptions of the council; and the student leaders' relationship with the administration, always crucial for a successful council.

YCSC student leaders feel that their commitment to the students was clearly evident throughout the fall semester. As YCSC President Daniel Billig says, "we have run a very good program of activities, from class events, student council events, to the opening shabbaton, that were unbelievably successful, with some minor unfortunate exceptions." He calls this a "pride semester," a great semester of providing events with relaxed social atmospheres for people to meet each other and have a good time. In reviewing his accomplishments, he points to an efficient student council - a well thought-out, published budget and budgetary task force, as well as student council committees with organized student leaders.

Some students express a less rosy view of this year's Student Council. "Up until now, except for the Channukah event, they don't seem to be any more active or inactive than past student councils... it's pretty much business as usual," says YC junior Matthew Leader. YC freshman Sruli Tannenbaum states that "despite their 'openness' they still haven't done anything concrete." And while YC sophomore Menashe Shapiro applauds the student council for getting organized, he advises the council members that they should not be merely a social organization.

Billig does not deny the semester's setbacks. He concedes that "the Guide is a big blemish; I feel bad that I couldn't have done more to get it here sooner, but it's kind of out of my hands." At the same time, Billig readily boasts about the council's successful Channukah chaggiga, but adds that there is still room for improvement. "I hope that our Pu-



From left: YCSC Pres. Daniel Billig and Vice Pres. Yosef Helft

rim and Yom Ha'atzmaut events will surpass the Channukah Event and be "total achdus events," because that is our main objective, and I hope that it is everybody's main objective, at this grand institution."

Concerning the budget, Billig proudly discusses how he made his budget public. He attributes much praise to YCSC treasurer Chaim Leffel for the manner in which Leffel deals with clubs that need money to run programs. "He is extremely organized, very committed, and whenever something needs to be done, it gets done immediately. I have never seen anyone keep books nicer and cleaner than he does."

An Israel Club board member, however, expresses distress concerning the distribution of the \$800 allocated to the club in the year's beginning in order to run programs and shabbatons. He claims that YCSC currently won't give the club money for shabbatons, because it wants the club to save money to run a program for Yom Ha'atzmaut. The board member protested, stating that "the Yom Ha'atzmaut program isn't a part of our budget; rather, YCSC is responsible to pay for...such a program [which] costs in excess of \$1500."

In reference to the Israel Club's accusatory remarks, Billig admits that there were some discrepancies between YCSC and the Israel Club as to which monies would pay for speakers or shabbatons and in what ratio. "The bottom line is that they did have a sizable amount of money, and we told them to go do events. Unfortunately, for whatever number of

reasons, this entire semester, the only thing they were able to accomplish was one shabbaton," asserts Billig. "I'm looking forward to a lot more from the Israel Club next semester." As far as Yom Ha'atzmaut is concerned, Billig adds that the Israel Club will not be involved in the event's funding.

Supporting YCSC leadership, YC Dramatics Society president Steven J. Kaye and Martin Tollinsky, the society's treasurer, agree that "both financially and politically, Billig and his board have been supportive and helpful in all aspects." Likewise, Philanthropy Society Co-President Ziv Mendelsohn states, "our funding basically comes from YCSC and we'd like to thank them for giving us an allocation...our financial needs are tremendous and we're still desperately looking for outside help."

One requirement of an effective college student council is for its leaders to maintain a good working relationship with the college's administration. Billig relates that coming into this year and towards the end of last year, "I was really in favor with the Administration. In terms of the upper echelons of the President's Circle and the Board of Trustees, I know them all personally, so everybody knew I had connections, [and in terms of] pulling something big off, I would have better chances than anyone."

Billig acknowledges that at the beginning of this year, many students perceived that he had fallen out of favor with the college administration because of his demeanor. "I was walking in there all-business, I was not smiling, I was just trying to get my points across," consents Billig. However, he says that now he feels that "those rumors, and they were rumors, have been dispelled."

Critiquing his personal leadership style, Billig insists, "I am a no-nonsense guy, and I don't have patience for kidding around when a thousand students need something done. I mean you won't see me laugh or smile in a Student Life (Committee) meeting, unless I'm making my own joke." However, he thinks that the all-business approach has really paid off, and that the relationship he has right now with the Office of the Dean of Students and with other administrators

"is really excellent."

Dean of Students Efreim Nulman commented that this year, "the Administration and YCSC have maintained a positive working relationship." He added that some of this year's Student Council's innovative ideas have already been implemented, and that "the student body should be grateful that they have the student leaders they do."

In order to ascertain the pulse of the student body so as to ensure that its views may be advocated by its representatives, YCSC has been holding open student council meetings once every three weeks this semester. In this way, members of YC's student body may express their opinions and ideas publicly and directly to their elected representatives. YCSC Secretary Jeremy Lustman commented that "these meetings are evidence of a 'new attitude' towards much more student involvement."

One of Billig's most recent innovations is the "Info Service." The service involves members of the Resident Council (made up of representatives from every floor of each of the three dorms) and members of YCSC, knocking door to door, to discover the complaints and suggestions of the student body. In the near future, the "Info Service" will seek student feedback on ideas which the student council plans on enacting.

All members of YCSC agree that the student body will enjoy next semester the things that the council has been working on for them throughout the fall semester. Billig alluded to more than just one idea in improving the quality of student life. "I've been meeting with the Student Life Committee since June, to get extended hours at the pool (from 3-6 PM Sun.-Thurs.), the gym opened on Thursday nights 'till 2 AM, to renovate the Morg arcade room, to bring the TV down there, and to make sure there's a place for students to study after 1 AM (when the library closes) in each dorm." He admits that although it's been a slow process attempting to achieve these goals, "hopefully all of these things will come to fruition next semester." He ends that when he has accomplished all that he set out to do, students will then say, "Billig and his administration did that."

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# How Time Flies...

BY DOV SIMONS

About fifty minutes into class, YC Junior Elie Paul shouted, "Oh my G-d!" He had suddenly realized that another hour of lecture still remained. Later, Paul warily turned to the clock, but then shied away being too scared to take a second glance. With good reason - only twenty more minutes had passed.

Long classes such as Organic Chemistry, International Politics, Cost Accounting, and Multivariable Calculus are pitfalls in Yeshiva academia. Running over two hours straight, they are classes every student tries to avoid, only to end up plunging in face first.

Organic Chemistry is a particularly sore example. All pre-med students are required to sit idly through unending hours watching the infinite molecular combinations and recombinations. Each class session lasts one hour and fifty minutes, totaling three hours and forty minutes per week. The subject is very complex, and proper teaching of the material requires vast amounts of time. The result, as one student phrases it, is a class like a beleaguered and belabored root canal. "It's a problem, I know. The classes are longer than usual," says Dr. Irving Borowitz, Professor of Organic Chemistry.

Students like Jacob Rosenberg also see problems with the extended lecture marathons. "An hour and a half pass by and you just can't sit there anymore. It's a lot like Bible," comments Rosenberg. YC Junior Jonathan Jacoby, a junior in Dr. Bernard Firestone's two and one-half hours International Politics lecture, described the elongated course as "defeating pedagogical purposes because it goes on for so long. No matter how interesting and how exciting the professor is, there is only so much a brain can saturate, and after about an hour and a half I'm jumping out of my seat."

Dr. Firestone, though, has no choice but to teach only once a week on Tuesday nights. "I had been teaching two nights a week," explains Dr. Firestone, "but when I assumed the Associate Deanship at Hofstra we worked this

out. I am grateful for the decision of Dean Bacon at Stern and former Dean Rosenfeld at YC to accommodate me."

Firestone points out one advantage to teaching for an extended period of time. "The class is relatively uninterrupted. When there is a two day break between classes, the professor must spend some time at the beginning of the class to recapitulate material covered last time. This problem is avoided with long classes."

Dr. Yakov Karpishpan, Professor of Mathematics, concurs with Firestone on the added value of lengthy lectures. He feels that with a solid block of time, students have the opportunity to delve into complex subjects that could only be touched upon in 50 minutes. "I would say a couple of words and that would be it." Dr. Karpishpan notes as an example how his class was able to discuss the proofs to Kepler's laws of planetary motion.

Both professors and students try to make the best of the situation.

YC Junior Mattis Brandwein, a student in Dr. Charles Snow's two hour Cost Accounting class, feels that "since Dr. Snow is a good lecturer and has a good relationship with the students, the time runs pretty quickly." Jeremy Lustman feels that his International Politics class "isn't really two and a half hours." He explains that the late starts, as well as a five minute break in the middle, help break up the time. Dr. Snow employs a similar tactic. As accounting major Richie Grossman said, "He gives us a five minute break to compose ourselves."

Dr. Karpishpan simply relies on the material itself to keep his students involved in the class. "It's bound to interest you, even if it appears hard. For the teacher it goes fast. Maybe for the students, that could be kind of slow."

Steven Tolany comments about his Calculus class that "conceptual and abstract math courses do not require vigorous note-taking, rather the contemplation of interesting ideas. Therefore the two hours just fly by."

## LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Reading Period - Final Exams - Intersession  
Winter 1995

January	8	S	11 AM - 2 AM
	9-12	M-Th	9 AM - 2 AM
	13	F	9 AM - 12:30 PM
	14	Sat. night	7:30 PM - 2 AM
	15	S	11 AM - 2 AM
	16-18	M-W	9 AM - 2 AM
	19	Th	9 AM - 5:30 PM
	20	F	9 AM - 12:30 PM
	22	S	Closed
	23-25	M-W	9 AM - 5:30 PM
	26	Th	9 AM - 7:00 PM
	27	F	9 AM - 12:30 PM
	29	S	11 AM - 6 PM
	30, 31	M, T	9 AM - 5:30 PM

February 1 W 9 AM - 1 AM

Regular schedule resumes.

# YU Night School?

BY ARI HIRT

In the mornings "Daryl" works at least twenty hours a week as a salesperson for an Import/Export Co. By the time 3 PM rolls around, he returns to school in an effort to complete an accounting degree. "Daryl" is the alias for a student in the Syms School of Business, who, like most of the students interviewed in this article, must remain anonymous, for he is also officially enrolled in the Mazer Yeshiva Program.

Working as a student is not an unheard of phenomenon in the college world, but YU undergraduates managing to juggle a dual curriculum as well as joining the American work force would seem an impossible endeavor. Whether it be morning *seder*, *shiur*, or classes in the afternoon, something must be sacrificed.

A number of students like Daryl exist in YU who feel that they must seize every opportunity to get ahead and obtain an edge for getting a job in the future, even if they must work in the mornings at the cost of *seder* or *shiur*, and in turn, abuse the Mazer Yeshiva Program's system of trust.

Like Daryl, "Tim" is an employee of corporate America on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings, instead of attending MYP morning *seder*. "I feel that we start out with a handicap, being that we are YU students," he explains. "I am hoping the significant work experience will at least help me equal the competition." While Tim is ready to place the blame on YU's status, Daryl and "Tony", a student who worked last year for Merrill Lynch at the expense of morning *seder*, both argue that YU's reputation is not what pushed them to take their jobs. Tony says that no matter which university he was attending he would have sought a job, for as he reasons, "the first thing you have to write on your resume is work experience. How could you work if you never had the chance?"

YU's Career Placement Office affirms that they do not encourage students, in any fashion, to work during school hours. "When companies call about job opportunities requiring twenty hour weeks for students, we tell them that our students do not have the time," asserts Adrienne Wolf, Assistant Director of the Career Placement Office. When the office assists the students in developing their resumes, the students are not obligated to detail hours worked for the jobs listed. However, if the placement office discovers that a student is working in lieu of his Jewish or secular studies, it would be their responsibility to inform the appropriate dean.

Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, Dean of MYP, was shocked upon hearing the existence of *talmidim* who work in the mornings. "It is inconceivable that more than one or two *talmidim* could maintain such a schedule without us finding out," exclaims Rabbi Charlop. Charlop then declared that any *talmid* found working during *seder* or *shiur* would be expelled from both the Yeshiva and the College.

Is there a difference, though, between those students who hold jobs in the mornings and those students who sleep or study for tests in the mornings? Rabbi Charlop does not acknowledge the comparison. He states, "the basic difference is that the *talmid* who sleeps in the morning

is saying 'I have too little time,' whereas the person who works in the morning is sending the message 'I have too much time on my hands.'" By choosing employment, the student who has "too much time on his hands" is openly proclaiming that he does not care about his Jewish studies obligation. As MYP junior Avi Penstein analyzes the situation, "the student who sleeps in the morning may intend to make it to *seder* and *shiur*, but the student who works is committing himself to minimal attendance."

While there may only be a handful, these students are taking advantage of YU, for they will surely write on their resumes that they went to Yeshiva University, when really they only attended the university half. Tim, however, vehemently rejects the idea that he is taking advantage of YU. "If I do not go to YP, who is losing but me?" he questions. "I am not taking away from YU; I am paying YU. If I order cable, I don't need to watch every channel." Daryl concedes that he is taking advantage of YU but does not care. "Everyone should do what they feel is best for them," remarks Daryl. "I do what I do to get ahead."

One student chose to compromise his afternoon schedule rather than his Jewish studies obligations in order to accommodate a daily working schedule. Steve Unterberg, a Sy Syms MIS major, worked a twenty hour week last year. He managed a computer Local Area Network (LAN) at Dunn & Bradstreet, the world renowned credit rating agency. Instead of cutting *shiur* and *seder*, Unterberg took 12.5 credit hours and worked in the afternoons. On the average, he worked for 3 hours a day Monday through Thursday, and all day Friday. As a *talmid* of Rav Parnes' *shiur*, Unterberg brags about not cutting any *seder* or *shiur*, and even having a night *seder*.

Unterberg classifies last year as a "working year," having filled his academic schedule with the minimum amount of credits with courses he did not need. Consequently, he may need to stay in YU two extra semesters when he ordinarily should graduate this June. However, Unterberg does not regret his decision. Not only does he feel that he has "got it made" in terms of getting a job coming out of YU, but he also believes that working for a year is the best type of informal education a student can possibly receive. "I honestly feel that before MIS majors leave YU there should be some type of required 'hands on' experience."

"Ivan," another student in SSSB, uses an alternative means towards gaining legal work experience in the mornings. As a student of IBC, Ivan arranged his schedule so that he takes his courses solely on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, Ivan works from 8 AM to 2 PM for an accounting firm.

Although Rabbi Charlop is convinced that the students interviewed in this article must be the "one or two" *talmidim* who are slipping through the system, the growth of the YU student work force is an undeniable trend. Every student working can quickly name two or three different students who are also part time employees. The majority of these students unfortunately see their time at Yeshiva University merely as an opportunity to attend a very reputable "night school."



## Sy Syms School of Business

# Accounting Society Provides Tax Help

BY ANDREW DAVIDSON

Accounting majors attempting to locate worthwhile and fulfilling on-the-job experience need to look no further than the Community Tax Aid Program (CTA). In its second year at YU, and its first year headed by the SSSB Accounting society, the CTA is designed to help the less fortunate file their tax returns during the tax season. Accounting Society President Moshe Jacobs hopes for maximum participation because involvement "will help [students] care for the community and gain practical experience at the same time."

Serious preparation for the CTA will commence next semester. The volunteer work will start with two three-hour training sessions, where students will be taught the complex filing procedures. After tax procedures have been learned, the students will travel to various parts of the city to aid those unable to calculate tax figures themselves. Each student will be able to choose the neighborhood where he or she would like to work

from areas such as the Bronx, Harlem, the East or West Sides, Flatbush, or Washington Heights.

Last year, fifteen YU students donated their time and effort to the needy. This year, Jacobs and Zvi Kahn, the Accounting Society's vice president, are looking to increase the number to twenty students from both YU and Stern. They feel that CTA is an opportunity to help out communities in need while gaining invaluable first-hand experience on how to properly fill out a tax return. For accounting majors this is crucial, as tax law is not taken until a student's final year. CTA "allows you to see the other side of the accounting profession," noted Jacobs, "before you ever step into the classroom."

Although not the main goal of the program, participation in it can aid in finding a job. "Many firms like to see student involvement in the community, and this provides students with a perfect, real-life situation," said Kahn. In addition to helping the student and the needy, CTA also portrays the University in a positive light.



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## Message From the SSSB President

Dear fellow students:

I am pleased to be writing to you once again in the SSSB page of *The Commentator*. I am happy that we have been covered in *The Commentator* throughout the semester and I thank the paper's board for that exposure.

We had a strong semester of activities and are looking forward to an even stronger one next term. Our tutoring program has helped many people and I want to thank David Ruditzky and Daniel Gibber for their efforts in this cause. Our guest speakers program provided seminars on a variety of topics. The downtown SSSB board organized a marketing forum at Stern which gave students an insight into this field and areas related to it. Rav Schachter *shlita*, gave a shiur uptown on Business ethics and answered nearly an hour's worth of questions. We hope to provide more speakers next term and I want to thank those who spoke this semester.

We recently started the "Big Brother" program in conjunction with Moshe Jacobs and the Accounting Society. I

hope students look up their "Big Brother" and seek their input, especially during registration. The Business Review board has already collected several articles and is well on their way to publishing a respectable publication. Anyone who is still interested in writing for it should contact Daniel Hanuka or Daniel Torczyner.

This coming Shabbat we, together with the Accounting Society, are running a Shabbaton uptown featuring Dr. Moses Pava as the guest speaker. Meal costs will be subsidized and I hope students take advantage of this opportunity.

We are currently working on many other projects which I hope to inform you about soon. At this time I would also like to thank Glen Pfeiffer for his help. I encourage and welcome all comments and wish everybody good luck on finals!

Sincerely,  
Ziv Mendelsohn  
SSSB President

## Rav Schachter Tackles Business and Halacha

BY STEVEN MIODOWNIK

In a Rubin Shul packed with men and women last Wednesday night, MYP Rosh Yeshiva R. Herschel Schachter discussed the problems confronting students who too often make difficult decisions involving business and *halacha*. By first expounding on Jewish business ethics, and then entertaining many questions on the subject, R. Schachter provided many insights into what the attitude and practices of a Jew in the business world should be.

The SSSB Business and Halacha Forum, which was broadcast live on WYUR, dispelled the notion of incompatibility between the two areas. But R. Schachter noted the sobering fact that many American business and economic practices contradict the Torah view, even while striving for fairness and justice. For instance, *halacha* has no concept of bankruptcy legislation that exempts one from repaying debts. It is questionable, therefore, if filing for bankruptcy would allow one Jew to default on an obligation to a fellow Jew. Similarly, the concept of free enterprise that Americans take for granted is highly restricted in *halacha*, where the prohibition of "*hasagas g'vul*" severely limits the entrepreneur's right to impinge on another Jew's business.

R. Schachter contrasted the Jewish business ethic with its secular counterpart by classifying *halacha* as divinely-ordained principles, as opposed to mere concessions in the spirit of fairness. As such, Jewish definitions of theft and usury are extremely strict. The prohibition of "*ribis*" prevents charging interest, even if it is in line with the rate of inflation. The pro-

hibition of stealing includes trying to woo the potential business partner of another Jew away from him, even before any papers are signed.

More applicable to the student body were questions regarding the interview process. R. Schachter lambasted those who would misrepresent themselves to a potential employer by failing to reveal that they are *shomer shabbat*, and consequently unable to work some Friday afternoons. Taking a job under false pretenses, for example when one plans to quit after the summer, would be considered "*ona'ah*." Regarding the famous handshake that the business world lives by, R. Schachter felt there was no problem with men and women touching in that manner because of its commonality in the American workplace.

During the question-and-answer session students posed a wide array of "*sha'alot*" to the Rosh Yeshiva. Among R. Schachter's responses were as follows: It is improper to attend a company Christmas party, unless it is to quickly pick up a bonus check. Professors who miss class are stealing parents' tuition dollars, but students who cut class are not. Advertising? Permissible as long as no product deficiencies or falsehoods are covered up. Manufacturing women's pants and shorts could fall under the prohibition of "*lifnay ivair*." Owning stock in a company that produces non-kosher food would be considered profiting from "*ma'achalos asuros*."

R. Schachter concluded his discussion by exhorting students to study and constantly review the complex laws of business that comprise a good portion of the *Shulchan Aruch*: "We must be *m'chozeik* ourselves to make sure we are not in violation of them."

## Fifth Year Student at YU?

BY DAVID SCHERTZ

While most YU students complete their college requirements with three years or less on campus, and while the YU Senate grapples with means of luring students to extend their stay as undergraduates, YC senior Ahron Herring is currently completing his fifth year on campus.

Herring will be leaving YU with a triple major in physics, math, and computer science, and explains that "because I took different fields I got a broad view and I got to see how they're related." Herring explains that he does not regret staying five years, a decision which was completely voluntary. "We only get a short time in our lives to get a formal education, and I wanted to make it worthwhile," he notes.

Herring admits that a fifth year is not possible or practical for most YU students. However, he entered YU under extraordinary circumstances. Since he skipped two grades, he began his college career as an early admissions freshman at the age of fifteen. Therefore, even with the extra year, Herring will still graduate at the age of twenty.

Although Herring did not originally intend to stay at YC for five years, he realized after four years of course work



YC Senior Ahron Herring

in physics that he was just a few credits away from completing second and third majors in computer science and mathematics. "I realized that I was so close that I might as well stay."

Staying for so long does have its disadvantages. For one, Herring is concerned about the additional financial investment that comes with an extra year of college. In addition, all of his classmates and many of his friends have left the institution and moved on to the next stage of their educations or careers. However, he feels that the extra semesters have allowed him to take courses he ordinarily would not have had the time to take.

## LETTERS

To the Editor

### No Freshmen on Senate

continued from page 3

simply increase the redeemable deposit that already exists (currently 500 dollars) to a lofty sum that will insure that the student returns to YU?

Second, I feel that the initially negative response of the Senate in this area is indicative of a much greater problem—namely, that the freshman class is not at all represented nor is allowed to be represented on the student Senate (one year of previous residence is a prerequisite for membership). The body that is to decide our

fate ought to represent our opinions, as well; it is unfair to expect even those who have previously experienced the benefits of the Israel program to be altruistic or to be understanding toward those who have not yet enjoyed that privilege. We have valid ideas too; contrary to Mr. Blau's sentiments, we are "serious" college students and, in the interest of fairness and equality, we ought to have a say in that which will affect us most directly.

Aton Holzer, YC '98

## Unjustified Anonymity

To the Editor:

The anonymous writer who spotlighted the plight of Al Linder in the December 14, 1994 issue obviously is motivated by a different agenda. While advocating *chesed* for Mr. Linder, he manages to vilify R.I.E.T.S. and M.T.A. which he classifies as "*yeshivot*... under a very liberal definition."

As *amusmach* of R.I.E.T.S. and a former principal of M.T.A., I take strong objection to your editorial judgement in in-

cluding this irresponsible letter, especially your allowing the writer to remain anonymous. Please inform the letter writer that the world rests on *Emet* as well as *chesed*. In addition, given the fact that I head the Yeshiva Department of the Board of Education of Greater New York, I would be interested to learn the writer's "non-liberal" definition of a yeshiva.

Sincerely Yours,  
Rabbi Mordechai Spiegelman

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 11:00 AM

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TO THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR?

IF NOT, CONTACT THE REGISTRAR

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

## OBITUARY: SOLOMON GAON

### *Sephardic Leader and YU Visionary Passes Away At 82*

BY STEVEN MIODOWNIK

Dr. Solomon Gaon, a longtime professor of Sephardic Studies and the founding director of the Jacob E. Safra Institute of Sephardic Studies died of pneumonia at 82 on December 21st at Mount Sinai Medical Center. Buried in Israel, he leaves behind a legacy of scholarly accomplishment and community service.

Born in Travnik, Yugoslavia in 1912, Dr. Gaon studied at the Yeshiva of Sarajevo, later moving to England for study at the University of London. He received *smicha* in 1948 from Jews' College in London and a year later was named Chacham of the Spanish and Portuguese Congregations of the British Commonwealth. The Chacham became associated with YU in 1962, when he was asked to establish Sephardic programs and activities for the school's burgeoning Sephardic population. Dr. Gaon was the inaugural occupant of the Maxwell R. Maybaum Chair in Talmud and Sephardic Codes and was a rosh yeshiva at RIETS. He became a professor in 1976 and only recently retired from that position.

Concurrent with the Chacham's career at YU was his illustrious presence on the international scene. Dr. Gaon was president of the Union of Sephardic Congregations of the United States and Canada, president of the American Society of Sephardic Studies, and was an Honorary Governor-for-Life at Hebrew University. In 1968, Dr. Gaon dedicated the first synagogue consecrated in Spain in five centuries. In what he described as "a sacred hour," the Chacham delivered a major address at the March 31, 1992 commemoration of the Spanish Inquisition in Madrid. Present at the



Dr. Solomon Gaon, z"l

ceremony were King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain and Israeli President Chaim Herzog.

Dr. Gaon's published works include *Minhat Shlomo*, a commentary on the *siddur* of Spanish and Portuguese Jews, and numerous articles in respected journals. He co-edited "Sephardim and the Holocaust" (New York, 1987), the second volume of which will be published in 1995.

According to Vice President for University Affairs Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky, an *azkarah* service is planned for Sunday afternoon, February 5, in Lamm Auditorium. The commemoration will be for a man who, as President Norman Lamm stated, was "a much-admired, stalwart, and respected leader of Sephardic Jewry of the Diaspora. He brought to us at Yeshiva the gift of his personality, experience, and, above all, his inspired and irrepressible optimism."

#### FOUR DAY OUTLOOKS



**MONDAY:** icy winds from the west. with chance of hail in late afternoon. High 35. Low 21.

**TUESDAY:** snow. snow and snow! Heavy dark clouds will loom overhead like plague of darkness. High 39. Low 31.

**WEDNESDAY:** much cooler with chance of snow mixed with hail. storm expected to last thru weekend.

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## Potluck: To Chance or Not to Chance?

BY OREN S. KEISER

If you were on campus last year, perhaps, you remember the mad scramble of students running around trying to find names to list on their housing request form for roommates. In Israel, the "scramble" for the upcoming year is not that different, with students calling back and forth between yeshivot, trying to resolve with whom to live. There is a major aversion on the part of the students in going "potluck" and leaving their dorm request forms empty. In fact, out of all the students on campus last year, only approximately 5% of them handed in dorm request forms without a mutual request.

Ask around campus, and you'll probably hear that the number one reason why students don't want to go pot luck is fear. Most see everyone else pairing up and are afraid that all desirable roommates will be snagged. David Ruditsky, a SSSB junior, comments, "I was thinking about going potluck, but I decided I better find a roommate when I saw everyone else looking for one. I was afraid of what would be left over."

Other students prefer having control over the choice of who they are going live with. "It was safer to pick for myself than to let someone pick for me. So when I was asked if I wanted to live with a seemingly amenable person, I decided that it would be safer to agree to room with him than to go pot luck," remarked Stephen Stern, a YC junior.

However, what happens to those few who do go for the luck of the draw? Probably the most important thing to point out is that who these students end up with is not a matter of luck. Rather, the housing office spends time making each pair, trying to match roommates by personality and schedules. Often, the office spends the summer months calling all over the country to ask students what they think about a proposed roommate, giving each the other telephone number so that the students can intro-

duce themselves to each other. A lot of consideration goes in to each pairing before roommates are put together; calling it "pot luck" doesn't really do justice to the system.

Perhaps the only students who really go pot luck are the students who seem to show up at YC a week before the semester, or perhaps, even a week into the semester. These students have the luck of the draw, trying to find a spot in the dorms after the rooms have all been given out.

After talking with students who allow the Housing Office to choose their roommates, the majority will say that the situations have worked well. Avi Factor, a YC freshman who went pot luck, is extremely happy with his roommate. "He's leading me down the right path. I'm really happy with how things ended up," Factor exclaimed with a smile.

In fact, a number of students have come down to thank the office for setting them up. Many remark that they have found in their roommate a friend for life. "I have a number of letters from students thanking me for setting up close friendships. It's a very satisfying feeling," stated Mrs. Judas of the Housing office.

Others are less optimistic about the roommates they have been put with. One student, requesting anonymity, remarks, "We get along fine. We don't do much together, or talk so much, but we don't get into each other's way. I guess I would say that it's worked out all right, not great."

When asked if he would go pot luck again next year, the student replied, "I'd rather not. It seems to me that it's better to pick for yourself so that you can be sure you'll get along. That way you can be sure that the person you live with will be more than a roommate, he'll also be a friend."

This statement fits the general trend here at YC. No matter how many good matches the housing office can put together, few students will take the chance.



Photo: D. Gordon

In a scene from the YCDS Production, "Enemy of the People," Zachary Hepner, playing the role of Dr. Stockmann, realizes that his altruistic attempts to save his town from poisoned water will fall prey to old fashioned greed. Pictured left to right are Steven Kaye, Dan Roth, Avi Hornstein, Zachary Hepner, and Aryeh Perlman. The play ran from Saturday night December 17 through Thursday night December 22.

# YP Credit To Systematize and Heighten Level of Education

continued from page one

transcript, they are not required to take MYP for any YC credit. When asked about whether the new credit requirement would come into conflict with the current YC credit limit of seventeen-and-a-half credits, he explained that if a student was already taking the maximum number of credits allowed in YC, the student would then be allowed to take eighteen-and-a-half credits, with the credit transferred from MYP comprising the additional credit.

R. Charlop did note that a number of details about the credit had still not been worked out. Primary among these details is the issue of how many semesters the credit will be mandatory. He intimated that the requirement will probably be for either four or six semesters. Another issue still up in the air is the status of those currently enrolled in MYP and planning to return next year. As of press time, no specific "grandfather clause" exempting those currently enrolled in MYP had been drawn up just yet.

According to R. Charlop, the final decision to make the credit mandatory was reached around a month ago. The decision to implement the credit was

approved by YU Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. William Schwartz. Also, explained R. Charlop, incoming YC dean Dr. Norman Adler, was apprised of the issue and approved of the decision as well.

Schwartz lauded the decision reached by the MYP administration and faculty as a "step in the right direction." "Anything that makes education more systematic and more subject to supervision...can only heighten the academic level of the program...This is something the Roshei Yeshiva of MYP are in favor of and if the faculty and administration come up with a plan that is within a range of reasonable alternatives then I am willing to go along and approve it," Schwartz said. He added, "We have to experiment with change. If we have to fine-tune it, we will, and if it doesn't succeed, then we'll have to go back to the old method. The important thing is that we have to be willing to approach this with an open mind." He also noted that with the addition of the new BMP, students will now have more alternatives in deciding what kind of Jewish studies program they are interested in attending.

**Students Upset**

However, many MYP students are up in arms over the prospect of being forced to take MYP for credit. As Daniel Rosenfield, an MYP/SSSB junior, put it: "I think it takes away from the *lishmah* aspect of learning." He added, "I also think it also widens the gap between learning in Israel, which is done in an unpressured environment and the learning here, which will now only have more pressure...This will not help the guys who are coming in every day...For those who aren't coming in every day, it's the job of the *Shoalim U'meshivim* to check up on them."

MYP/YC senior Evan Kroll also cast aspersions on the efficacy of the new credit requirement. "Both the YC aspect and the Yeshiva aspect are losing out because of it. Now the rebbeim will feel obligated to give good grades in order to ensure that their *talmid* is in good standing. Therebbeim will make sure that the *talmid* doesn't resent the rebbe and in turn, Judaism," he stated.

Yosef Crystal, an MYP/YC senior, was a little more receptive to the new credit policy. "It's being put forth with good intentions but the *talmidim* in the


more serious shiurim will see their GPAs suffer," Crystal pointed out.

Another area of concern centers on the information being told to prospective students for the coming year. As of press time, the Office of Admissions acknowledged that prospective students were still being told that the MYP program does not have a compulsory credit requirement.

YC faculty members also took issue with the decision making process involved in approving the credit process. One unnamed faculty member, a member of the YC Curriculum Committee, expressed his displeasure at the way the decision had been made without any faculty input. He argued that placing MYP credit on the YC transcript was an academic issue of tremendous significance to the faculty.

**Student Forums Planned**

Over the course of the next semester, R. Charlop pledged to hold student forums in which the exact credit structure and concerns of the MYP student body would be addressed and explained.



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FAX: (212) 960-5359

December 23, 1994

כ"ט טבת תשנ"ה


Dear Student:

No prior musical or vocal experience is required for many of the courses that are offered at the Belz School of Jewish Music. Most classes are conducted on the basis of "general instruction and individual attention", a system that invites cooperation by students of various levels. You can choose from the many courses which include Nusah (prayer chant), Biblical Cantillation (Torah Reading), Music Theory, Voice, Piano, Hebrew Calligraphy (Safut), Sephardic Hazzanut, Choral Ensemble, Liturgy and History of Jewish Music. One to three credits a semester, but not more than a total of nine, may be transferred to Yeshiva College from courses taken at BSJM.

Of particular interest this semester are the following course offerings: Cantillation III prepares students to acquire the skill of reading all Megillot. Seder & Shofar are combined into one course whereby students can learn the chants of the seder as well as the skill of blowing the shofar. Choral Ensemble is being featured for 2 hours on Wednesday evening (8-9:50 PM). Students may register for either one of these two hours and receive credit.

I welcome you to examine the course schedule for the upcoming Spring '95 semester and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
Cantor Bernard Beer

PHILIP AND SARAH BELZ SCHOOL OF JEWISH MUSIC  
Schottenstein Center - 2nd Floor

SPRING 1995 PROGRAM

IMPORTANT NOTE: Students who wish to receive YC credit MUST fill out a BSJM orange program card and MUST REGISTER SIMULTANEOUSLY for the same course(s) with Yeshiva College.

CODE	JMU #	DESCRIPTION	CRCD	SEC	HOURS	INSTRUCTOR
<b>TUESDAY</b>						
9000	4673A	SEPH LIT MUSIC I (oriental)	1	381	8-8:55	E. FARHI
9005	4674A	SEPH LIT MUSIC II (oriental)	1	391	9-9:55	E. FARHI
9010	4421A	SHACH. SHALOSH REGALIM	1	361	6-6:55	J. MALOVANY
9015	4311A	FRIDAY EVE SERVICE	1	371	7-7:55	J. MALOVANY
9020	4571A	NEILAH	1	381	8-8:55	J. MALOVANY
9025	4143A	IMPROV & SELECT RECIT	1	391	9-9:55	J. MALOVANY
9030	4041A	KEYBOARD WORK	1	361	6-6:55	H. PERELSHTEYN
9035	4042A	KEYBOARD WORK	1	361	6-6:55	H. PERELSHTEYN
9040	2001A	RUDIMENTS	1	371	7-7:55	H. PERELSHTEYN
9045	4011A	VOICE CULTURE	1	381	8-8:55	H. PERELSHTEYN
9050	4012A	VOICE CULTURE	1	381	8-8:55	H. PERELSHTEYN
9055	4011A	VOICE CULTURE	1	391	9-9:55	H. PERELSHTEYN
9060	4012A	VOICE CULTURE	1	391	9-9:55	H. PERELSHTEYN
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>						
9065	4441A	MUSAF SHALOSH REGALIM	1	471	7-7:55	B. BEER
9070	4533A	MUSAF ROSH HASHANAH III	1	481	8-8:55	B. BEER
9075	1642A	LITURGICAL CHORAL LIT. I	1	491	9-9:55	B. BEER
9080	4211A	WEEKDAY MORNING SERVICE	1	461	6-6:55	S. BERL
9085	4621A	SEDER & SHOFAR SERVICES	1	471	7-7:55	S. BERL
9090	4113A	CANTILLATION III	1	481	8-8:55	S. BERL
9095	4922A	SURVEY JEWISH MUS. & LIT.	1	491	9-9:55	S. BERL
9100	3303A	CHORAL ENSEMBLE	1	481	8-9:50	B. GLICKMAN
9105	4041A	KEYBOARD WORK	1	451	5-5:55	H. PERELSHTEYN
9110	4042A	KEYBOARD WORK	1	451	5-5:55	H. PERELSHTEYN
9115	4041A	KEYBOARD WORK	1	461	6-6:55	H. PERELSHTEYN
9120	4042A	KEYBOARD WORK	1	461	6-6:55	H. PERELSHTEYN
9125	2002A	FUNDAMENTALS	1	471	7-7:55	H. PERELSHTEYN
9130	4011A	VOICE CULTURE	1	481	8-8:55	H. PERELSHTEYN
9135	4012A	VOICE CULTURE	1	481	8-8:55	H. PERELSHTEYN
9140	4011A	VOICE CULTURE	1	491	9-9:55	H. PERELSHTEYN
9145	4012A	VOICE CULTURE	1	491	9-9:55	H. PERELSHTEYN
9150	4714A	HEBREW CALLIGRAPHY	1	481	8-8:55	S. SCHNEID
9155	4712A	HEBREW CALLIGRAPHY	1	491	9-9:55	S. SCHNEID
<b>THURSDAY</b>						
9160	4113A	CANTILLATION III	1	521	2:45-3:40	B. BEER
9165	4342A	SABBATH II	1	521	2:45-3:40	S. GOFFIN
9170	4672A	SPHRD LIT MUSIC (occidental)	1	521	2:45-3:40	C. GOURGEY
<b>TBA</b>						
9175	4915A	TERM PAPER*	1	901		B. BEER

\* NOTE: CREDIT FOR TERM PAPER OFFERED ONLY TO BSJM MATRICULATED STUDENTS; IT IS NOT A CREDIT COURSE FOR YC STUDENTS.

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## Macs Riding a Winning Streak

*Continued from page 16*

ful with his team in the future.

In the Mt. St. Vincent game, Joel Jacobson led the way with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Barry Aranoff had 10 points and 4 steals and Alan Levy had 12 rebounds and 3 steals.

Against Polytech Levy had 21 and 10 rebounds, Aranoff had 13, with 7 boards and 6 steals. Steven Kupferman had 10 points and 6 boards. The Macs were down by 11 but came back due to offense by Levy and key steals

by Aranoff. Marc Saada hit a baseline jumper to tie the game and send it into overtime.

Notes: The Macs played their alumni last week and beat them by one in a hotly contested game. Be sure to catch a feature on the top twenty Macs of all time due out in about a month. Freshman Marc Saada continues to impress as he scored 12 points in only 11 minutes vs. Brooklyn. Alan Levy was named IAC Player of the Week.

## Macs Beat Mount St. Vincent

*Continued from page 16*

untimely defensive breakdown, however, allowed MSV to pull within two points with five seconds to go. Aranoff then redeemed himself for his earlier mistake, hitting the second free throw to put the Macs up three. MSV's desperation shot fell short. The Macs had pulled off the unexpected, defeating MSV on the road, 63-60.

When asked after the game how the Macs contended with the Dolphin press when NJIT just caused them fits earlier this year, Halpert, emerging from the locker room after congratulating his

players on a fine effort, commented that the NJIT press was quicker and faster, but more importantly, "our kids are much more mature one month into the season." Pointing to the Macs' youth and lack of experience, he lauded the individual performances of a number of players. "Or was fabulous, Joel was fabulous," he said, and also praised Steven Kupferman's strong play in the first half.

Halpert gave his team its strongest boost of confidence when he stated that despite MSV's ability to keep the game close, "I was never in doubt."

## Athletic Dept. Shoots and Scores

BY MENASHE SHAPIRO

The athletic department at YU has always been relatively strong for a college of its size, offering a wide range of classes and participating in a number of NCAA Division III intercollegiate sports. Also, the ever-popular basketball intramural league and annual three-on-three tournament have always been highlights of the athletic department's efforts and continue this year as well. However, that has not been enough for Athletic Director Steven Young. Young, who arrived at YU only a few short months ago has embarked on an ambitious plan to further enhance the program.

New innovations this year have been the Fencing team joining the Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Fencing Association, a conference that includes schools such as Army and Stevens Tech. Additionally, the Macs are playing a game at Madison Square Garden in February, the only Division III game to be played there all year. The scuba class now offers certification for open water diving. But probably the most dramatic change has been the arrival of the new volleyball coach Shensheng Jiang, formerly of the coaching staff of the Chinese women's Olympic team in 1992 and whom the Atlanta Journal Constitution has called "The Pat Riley of volleyball."

Part of the success of the department can be attributed to the commitment of

the players and coaches. "The coaches are dedicated and have been doing it for a long time," explained Young who also praised the students for meeting the requirements of academic eligibility with relative ease.

And the containment of costs has enabled Young to easily meet expenses like referees and travel for the various teams. Because of the prudent spending he was even able to upgrade the practice of the golf team to include access to an indoor driving range.

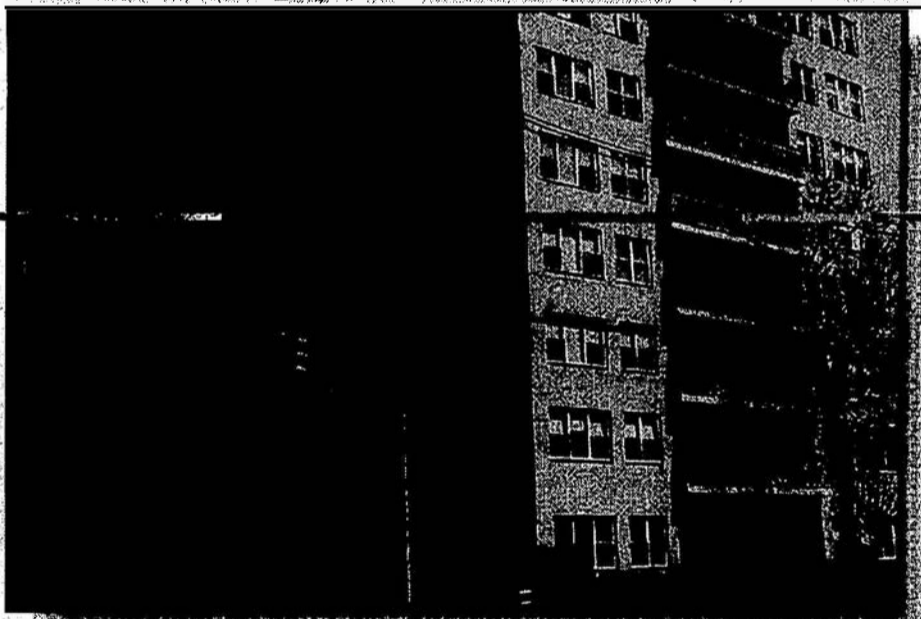
Assistant AD Stan "The Man" Watson had only high praise for the new athletic director. "He is innovative and energetic and the transition from the previous director has gone very smoothly," he said while noting that Young has been a pleasure to work with.

Students seem pleased with what Young has accomplished as well. Sophomore Mac guard Ira Landsman noted: "He did a great job on the Boston trip," referring to the basketball team's early season trip to Boston. David Ruditzky, fellow member of the Macs echoed the sentiment and commended Young on his scheduling, as well as the publicity of events all the teams have received. Perhaps Watson summed it up best when he said: "With this size school and all of its constraints, we are very happy with the direction the program is taking."

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## Sports

### Last Minute Drama in Mt. St. Vincent Game

BY SIDNEY A. SINGER

Losses in their previous two games in which they blew leads in the last minute. A faster, bigger, opponent featuring a '93-'94 1st-team All-Conference player. Playing on the road in the crowded and cramped gymnasium of their hated conference rival, Mt. St. Vincent.

Clearly, the Macs were the underdog. Yet after MSV jumped out to an 11-5 lead, the Macs went on a 14-2 run, capped off by Steven Kupferman's three-point play, with slightly over six minutes to go in the first half. Heading into the locker room with a 30-21 halftime lead, the Macs left their handful of fans present, including four members of *The Commentator's* governing board, pleasantly surprised.

Repeatedly pressing the Macs as the second half began, MSV made their game plan for the remainder of the contest quite clear, challenging their less-conditioned opponent to prove they could withstand the pressure. Although the Macs broke the press consistently with few turnovers, the Dolphins did not let up. The Macs would have to fight to the wire.

The Macs' lead seesawed most of the second half. Co-captain Or Rose's jump-shot following his strong drive to the basket put them up by 11 early in the half, but MSV responded with a 5-0 run, and after a YU turnover, Coach Halpert called time-out. The Dolphins continued to chip away, cutting the lead to

four at the thirteen minute mark, and eventually tying the game 43-43 with nine minutes to go.

Co-Captain Alan Levy and 6'6" freshman Joel Jacobson put the Macs back on top, hitting two free throws each. After an MSV three-pointer, Jacobson's lay-up following the Macs' third offensive rebound of the possession gave YU a four point lead with 3:40 to play. A Dolphin lay-up made the score 52-50, and Halpert called timeout.

Entering the final minutes of play, the Macs found themselves thrust into the same type of pressure they faced in their previous two games. Barry Aranoff stepped forward and hit a three-point shot with the shot clock winding down. However, his hesitation jump shot on the next possession fell far short, and the Dolphins responded quickly with a crushing three-pointer, slicing the lead to two.

Unfortunately for the Dolphins, the Macs learned from their mistakes, and apparently used the previous time-out to remind themselves of the errors of their most recent losses. With barely over a minute to go, Levy hit a tough fade-away to reestablish a four-point lead. Half a minute later, after pulling down a big defensive rebound, he hit two free throws to increase the lead to six. Rose, the team's other veteran leader also stepped forward, hitting three of four shots from the free throw line in what should have iced the game. An

*continued on page 15*

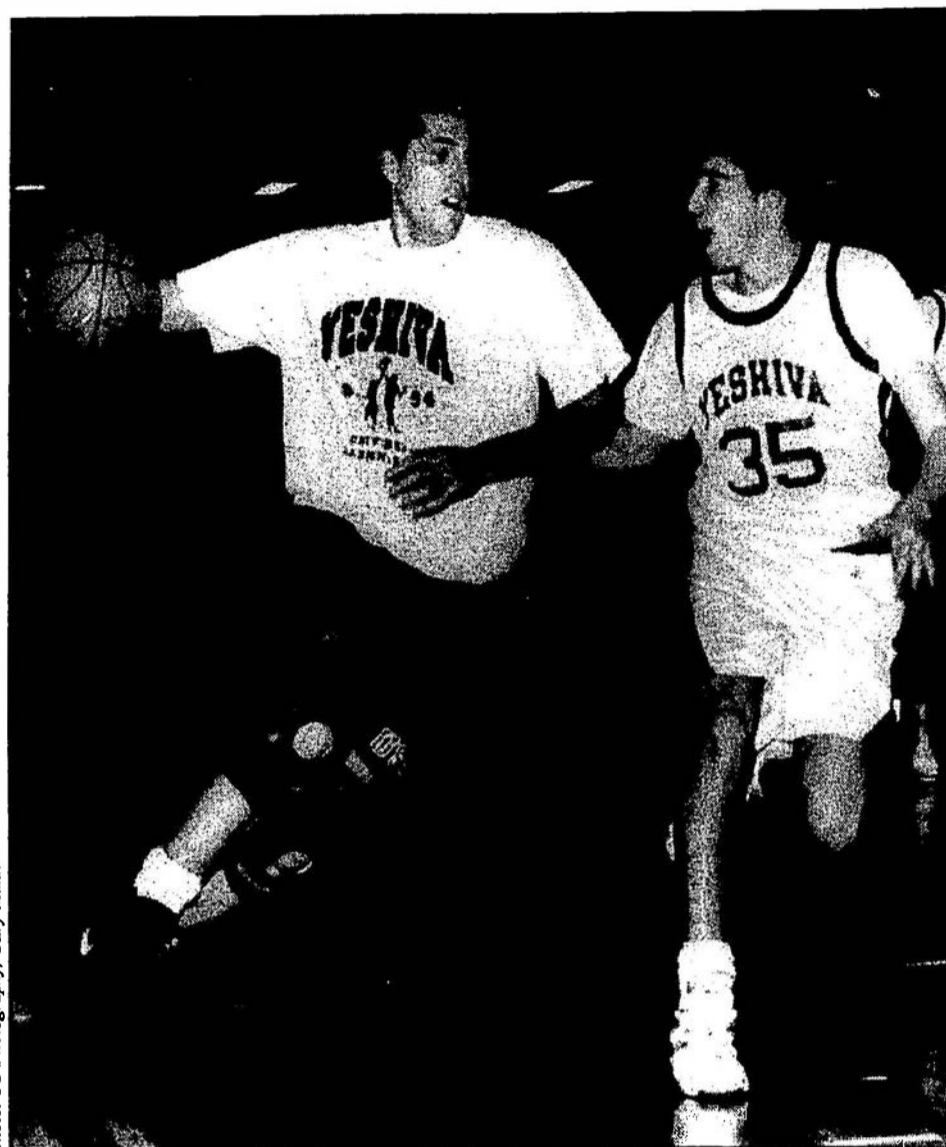


Photo: YU Photography, Gary Mann

Former Macs star center Daniel Aaron driving against current Macs guard Jacob Rosenberg during the recent Alumni game

### Macs Heat It Up, Reaching the .500 Mark

BY ADAM MELZER

The Macs (6-6) have really turned it up the past couple of weeks. After victories over Mt. St. Vincent, 63-60, (huge win fellas) and Polytech 61-54 (Was overtime really needed to beat this team?), the Macs welcomed back former assistant coach Steve Podias as they faced him and his new Brooklyn college basketball team. Podias is currently trying to implement the same defense that was so highly successful with the Macs in years past with his new team. However,

on this night, that defense came unraveled as the Macs lit up the scoreboard like an Olympic torch. Brooklyn defenders looked confused as Jacob Rosenberg (17 points) shot the lights out and Alan Levy was a force inside (13 points). Barry Aranoff scored 12 but what was most notable is his defense as he has emerged as Mr. Theft (5 steals vs. Brooklyn and is among the league leaders.) The final score was the Macs 76 Brooklyn 57. However this is not the last we have heard of Podias as he will definitely be successful

*continued on page 15*

### Wrestling Team at 2-3

BY COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF

The YU wrestling Macs fell to a record of 2-3, after losing two of their toughest matches in recent history. On Sunday December 18, SUNY Farmingdale came to the MSAC where they met a Macs team that was low on experience but high on heart. One of the rallying points of the meet came at the 158 lb. weight class with starter Dmitri Bosovik. In an incredibly exciting match with the lead switching back and forth, Dmitri found himself down one point with the clock running out of time. With just ten seconds left, he performed a difficult maneuver known as the head-and-arm throw leading to his successful pin.

The Macs next challenge came when they visited Middlesex County College. The team they were facing had placed often at state championships and on paper were perhaps the most formidable opponent they would face all year.

Captain Daniel Sentell led the way with a first-period pin that quickly quieted the home crowd. In a short speech after the match he was quoted as saying, "Sometimes you just gotta pin them fast to shut them up."

Unfortunately, also at this meet, co-captain Albert Sebag suffered a shoulder injury that will put him out of action for an undetermined amount of time. The only winner in a recent meet against Upsala, his presence and skill on the mat will be greatly missed. The team is hoping that he will recover in time to lead them in their next home match against Columbia.

In other wrestling news, the Macs for the first time in years have an official scorer. Eli Ganchrow is now the new statistician behind the table. When coach Neil Ellman was asked about this new team "luxury", he responded with his usual pragmatism. "He has neat handwriting. 'Nuff said."

### The Commentator

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