

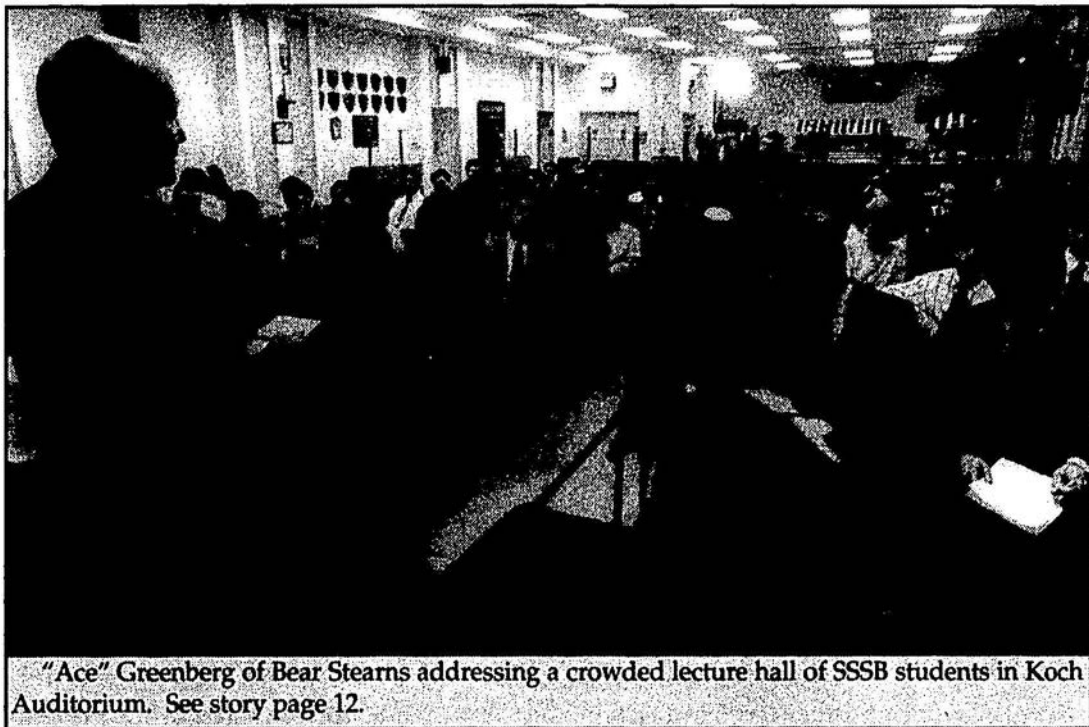
The Commentator

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"Ace" Greenberg of Bear Stearns addressing a crowded lecture hall of SSSB students in Koch Auditorium. See story page 12.

Faculty and Administration Meet to Resolve MYP Credit Debate

Israel Credit Reduction Reported to be Part of the Solution

BY MEIR ZEITCHIK

In a February 22 meeting attended by prominent members of both the YU and MYP faculty and administration but not by any student representative, significant steps were taken to achieve a resolution on the issue of mandatory shiur credit. The meeting saw participating members take a definite direction in reaching a solution appealing to all. "To my mind, a possible solution was reached which has elements all three constituencies, YC, MYP, and students will find very beneficial," com-

mented YC Associate Dean Michael Hecht, who attended the meeting. While Hecht declined to specifically outline any proposal, *The Commentator* has learned that this solution involves mandating shiur credit in exchange for a reduction of Israel credits.

According to Hecht, the talks will now proceed with meetings to be convened by the Academic Standards Committee, which he chairs, and the Curriculum Committee, chaired by Bible professor Dr. Moshe Bernstein. Bernstein also noted that there will also soon be a meeting attended by a "long list of

Yeshiva College faculty" to discuss the issue.

The proposal, as noted by Hecht, is intended to appeal to all parties. The MYP administration is clearly pleased, as they will attain their long-awaited goal of mandatory shiur credit. Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, the MYP dean, in fact began to attempt to gather students support for the idea, visiting various shiurim last week. "We've done a lot this year with the addition of the *shoalim u' meishivim* and all of that," noted Rabbi Charlop to one MYP shiur, "but we'd like to do more,"

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Premier Philosopher and Chemistry Laureate to Lecture Next Year

BY STEVEN MIODOWNIK AND EZRA TUCHMAN

Lecturing at YC and Stern in the fall semester will be two nationally acclaimed scholars: Dr. Roald Hoffman, winner of the 1981 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, and Professor Robert Nozick, one of the premier philosophers in the United States. They will be joining the YU faculty as Gottesman Distinguished Visiting Lecturers. The two, who were hired without prior consultation with their respective departments, are nevertheless being warmly received by faculty members.

In addition to filling those temporary positions, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. William Schwartz is currently heading the search for two more professors to assume permanent positions in the chemistry and philosophy departments. The search aims to fill the positions of Dr. Irving Borowitz, who is retiring at the end of this semester after twenty-six years in the chemistry department, and of philosophy professor Yitzchak Miller, who died suddenly last year shortly after being hired.

Faculty Concerned Over Hiring Process

While YC faculty members are involved in reviewing applications and interviewing ap-



Renowned philosopher Professor Robert Nozick

plicants for those positions, some are angry they were not included in the recruitment process for Hoffman and Nozick. They see the administration as rushing to acquire a big name without first inquiring if the person behind that name possesses genuine teaching ability. Others, like Rabbi Shalom Carmy of the philosophy department and Dr. Lea Blau, a chemistry professor, were simply concerned that the standard protocol of notifying faculty was ignored.

Dr. Schwartz admits that there was "pressure" to quickly procure talent for the Gottesman Program for Academic Excellence, but he assured *The Commentator* that Hoffman's

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YU Attorneys Meet With Student Press Over Cardozo Gay Issue

BY OWEN CYRULNIK

Student journalists from Yeshiva University schools met this past Friday with representatives of Weil, Gotschal, & Manges, the firm representing YU over the controversy surrounding the gay club at Cardozo. Present were University Dean of Students Efrem Nulman, whose office organized the meeting, along with University Vice President for Business Affairs Sheldon Socol.

Student representatives were present from Yeshiva College, SCW, and Cardozo Law School,

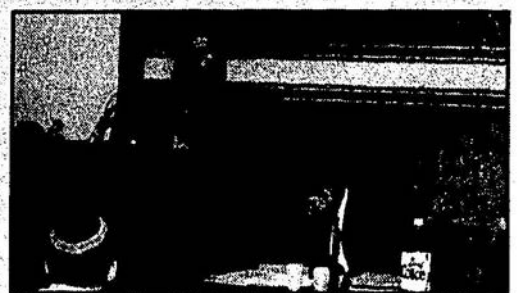
the only three YU schools to publish a student newspaper. The purpose of the meeting was to allow the attorneys to present the legal issues to the students, while serving the dual purpose of attempting to present a convincing case that YU could not benefit from a legal battle in this area.

The two attorneys from Weil, Gotschal, Philip Rosen and Richard Davis, began their legal analysis by examining a New York City statute which provides that certain "protected" groups must be provided with equal access to facilities within

an educational institution. The statute provides for a religious exemption to this requirement, but only if the institution claiming exemption meets two distinct criteria. The first is that the institution be defined as a religious institution, and the second that the institution can show that providing equal access to the group in question would fly in the face of the religious purpose of the institution. In other words, YU would have to prove both that it is a religious institution, and that providing office space to a gay club

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Achdus Stressed at Dorm Talks this past Wednesday night.

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Anticipating Dean Adler's Arrival

Incoming YC Dean Norman Adler readying himself for his March 20 investiture.

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Whose Awards?

Congratulations to Samson Fine, Ziv Mendelsohn, and Professor Mordechai Cohen on their respective victories in the Senior Awards balloting which took place nearly two weeks ago.

Unfortunately, the whole election process was a sham.

Signs publicizing the nomination process - simply recommending anyone desired - went up one week before the election; those announcing the time and location of the voting were posted 24 hours in advance. Moreover, rather than placing the elections in Morgenstern Hall, the unofficial senior dormitory, the Canvassing Committee placed the election in Rubin Hall during club hour, when very few seniors were likely to have anywhere close. The result of all this? 46 members of a class of well over 200 voted in the election.

It seems particularly ironic that an umbrella student council which so capably advertised longer pool hours and increased van service fell so short on this old tradition. Rather than allow the award process to perpetuate its longtime reputation as unmeaningful, the Canvassing Committee and YCSC should have seized the opportunity to make the entire process credible.

They should start right now, with the first step to declare the farce of two Thursdays ago invalid. Choose a date for a new election, publicize it well, and then attack the ridiculous nomination process. Why should they allow someone who has done absolutely nothing the chance to win awards based on service to YU and the Jewish community, respectively? Nominees should have to meet at least a simple requirement, if nothing more than a submission by their nominators of one paragraph listing their credentials. Such information, when verified by the Canvassing Committee, could then be given out to voters, since surely that committee recognizes the possibility of voting seniors not recognizing all the names on the ballot.

We do not aim to strip Ziv and Samson of their awards, and in fact, we endorse their "re-election." We just want the senior class to elect them.

Speakers, Anyone??

In recent years, Bob Dole, Colin Powell, Dan Quayle, Mikhail Gorbachev, and Jack Kemp have comprised the list of marquee names who have spoken under the YU ceremonial bunting. But few undergraduates have ever been afforded the opportunity to hear these prominent national and international speakers at dinners costing \$500 a plate. While the upper administration, YU Board members included, faces few problems in landing the big catch for its black-tie fundraisers, when it comes to the undergraduate schools, they feed us slim pickings.

One only has to read the newspapers of any major college or university to see that such prominent speakers are regular guests at other schools. For YC students, on the other hand, almost two years have passed since a major figure (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin) has visited our campus.

We do not disagree with our University's desire to attract well-known personalities to help it fill seats, and in turn, raise money at the annual dinner. Yet we resent the complete lack of effort to bring speakers of similar prestige to our campus during the academic year. YU often likes to compare itself to the Ivy Leagues; we hope it will attempt to match their efforts in enriching their students' perspectives and horizons, not just its endowment.

The Commentator

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LETTERS To the Editor

Remember Fifth-Floor Muss?

To the Editor:

I live on the fifth floor of Muss Hall and because of this, my knowledge of university affairs should not be lessened. Those who put up signs usually get Morg and usually, the bottom floors of Muss, but do not make it up to floors four and five of Muss. Not only are the students on those floors, such as myself, missing out on what is happening on the rest of the campus, but the campus itself is losing out because these students are not even aware of what is going on.

I am writing this letter in the hope that all those putting up signs in the dorms give the fourth and fifth floors of Muss the courtesy of putting up their signs on those floors as well. I assume that if they would have known how residents of the fourth and fifth floors feel about the matter, more signs would make it up to the top floors of this dorm. Hopefully, this letter will make people aware of our current situation and signs will start appearing on now-barren walls.

Josh Friedman YC' 96

In the Dark Over YUNMUN

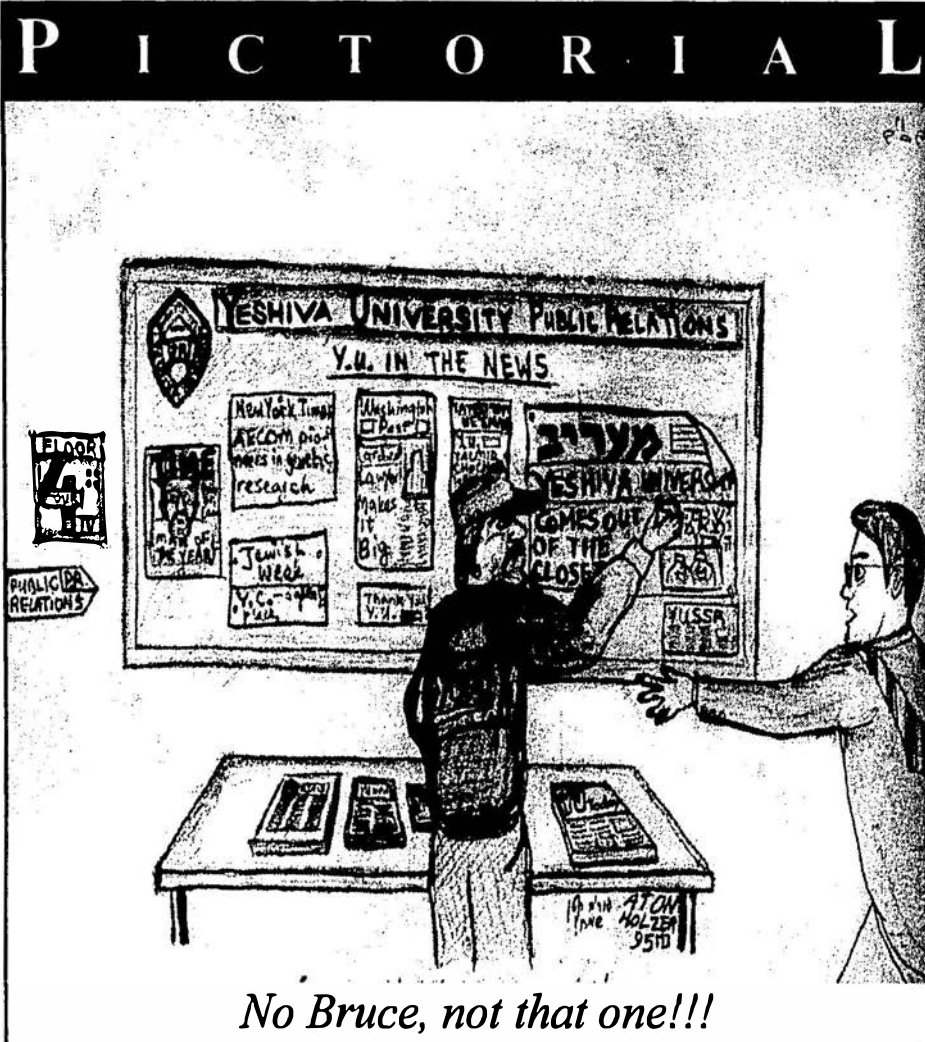
To the Editor:

I am not writing this letter with the intent to publicly embarrass members of the Yeshiva University community, however, I feel that a fraud has been committed and therefore I must speak out. As most students in YC and Stern probably do not know, last week the Yeshiva University Model United Nations took place. Why do so few students know about this competition?

I feel that there was a calculated effort by the students in charge to keep the program hush-hush so that they could have all their close friends join them on the conference in the best po-

sitions. The competition is sponsored by Yeshiva University and therefore all students should at least have the ability to try to participate. Without any publicity on behalf of the competition the student body has been done a disservice. Qualified students who could have greatly improved the competition were left in the dark unfairly. I contrast this to the recent model Knesset where signs were evident all around Yeshiva and where students were given the chance to earn places on the squad based on merit and not on whom they knew.

Joseph Gitler YC' 96



No Bruce, not that one!!!

Doing A Grade 'A' Job

To the Editor:

Although I am extremely flattered by the fact that you helped me to achieve a new world record by having been misquoted in a single issue of *The Commentator* in three different articles and one cartoon, I feel that there is one of the statements attributed to me that I need to correct.

One of the articles discussing the debate on academic standards and the Israel credit cites part of one of my remarks which, taken out of context, might give the impression that I was alluding in negative terms to Queens College of the City University of New York. The fact is that I was simply answering the remarks of another member of the Senate who referred to some policies of Queens College, pertinent to the subject we were debating, and I mentioned that we cannot compare that institution with YU in that respect.

It is ironic that I received the issue of *The Commentator* containing my remarks precisely as I was coming to YU after spending the morning in Queens College, attending one of the excellent seminars that they usually hold with foreign visitors in my area of research: propagation of waves in random systems.

I have had a long history of collaboration and discussions with many of my colleagues in the Physics Department there. I meet them in almost every international conference in our area of research that I attend and together we have organized visits of researchers in

our field to the New York area. Even some of our own YU Physics students have spent time during the summer engaged in research activities there in the group led by Professor Azriel Genack, who, besides being one of the leading experimentalists in our field in this country, is himself no stranger to our institution where all his sons have been educated.

In another vein, after having scolded you let me finish this letter by saying that I have found this year's *Commentator* more exciting, more polemical and more devoted to the discussion of the really important topics that affect our University than in any other year that I have been in YU.

Although I did not have a chance to grade many of the members of your editorial staff, since they have successfully (so far) avoided our physics courses, if I had to base my grade in your journalistic performance, you would be definitely getting an A from me.

Gabriel Cwilich

Assistant Professor of Physics

(Editor's Note: *The Governing Board of The Commentator would like to thank Dr. Cwilich for his compliments on this year's newspaper. However, we are somewhat regretful about his remark in the letter's first paragraph pertaining to being "misquoted...in three different articles and one cartoon." Since the exact misquotes are not mentioned, save the one referring to Queens College, we regret the fact that we cannot answer him fully.*)

YC Bookstore: A Disgrace

To the Editor:

After several negative experiences with the Yeshiva College bookstore, I have finally decided to expose the unfavorable encounters I have had there. This past week I purchased a financial calculator from the bookstore (the only model of financial calculators the store carries). Later that day, I discovered that the same model is sold for less at a major retail chain. After seeing other students' calculators, I decided that I prefer a different model altogether. So, only two days after the original purchase I attempted to return the product, which was sealed and unopened, with my store receipt and credit card receipt. The bookstore refused to take the item back or give me store credit. They claimed that they do not allow returns on calculators or software. My product, however, had never been used and was not opened. In today's business world, almost any store will accept refunds, exchanges, etc. on most any product even if it had been opened and used. *Nobody Beats the Wiz*, for example, has a 33 day return policy after which store credit will be issued. A customer can even use the product and still return it to a Wiz store. Numerous other stores accommodate customer needs in a similar fashion. Granted, the bookstore is not a major retail chain, but if something is unopened, some leeway should be given. Certainly for students who spend large sums every year on books, the bookstore could have the decency to allow a return or exchange of this type considering their grossly overpriced in-

ventory.

Not only does the bookstore have a complete lack of customer-oriented goals, but the service and treatment of students there is downright offensive and totally unacceptable. We are the customers, yet we are regarded with extreme rudeness. Also, smoking is continuously being outlawed in many places. This is a privately-owned store, but is it absolutely necessary for YU students to be subjected to strong unhealthy tobacco fumes that wreck our clothes for days afterwards?

I know for a fact that I am not the only student who has a legitimate gripe about the bookstore and its policies. In fact, there are worse stories to be told. I think the administration or student council must step in and demand that some changes be made. These changes should be made in regard to the high prices, policies, and customer treatment. It is a disgrace to Yeshiva University to allow the bookstore to bear the Yeshiva College name under policies by which the bookstore currently operates.

An easy alternative, and very appealing one, is to boycott the bookstore. Nevertheless, there is a bookstore on campus for student use. Is it necessary to stop and think twice about the numerous faults of the bookstore before deciding to enter? Must we dread having to go in there for books and supplies? Or, can the bookstore be changed to make it a more decent place to go.

Lon Smolensky
SSSB '97



From the Executive Editor's Desk

SIDNEY A. SINGER

Last Tuesday my family and I witnessed and celebrated the *bris milah* of my oldest brother's newborn son. The baby's birth marked the first boy born to any of my siblings; the first *bris* of the new generation therefore signaled an especially happy occasion. The pendulum of emotions, however, also swung to the other side. As my brother briefly explained that the baby's name was chosen partly in memory of my maternal grandparents, both of whom died two days after my eighteenth birthday, tears quickly began to flow from my eyes. I had great difficulty maintaining my composure even later that evening when my seven-year-old niece, not unaware of the emotional level of the day, asked me if I was sad "when Daddy talked about your grandma and grandpa."

Mixing a bit of sadness into happy occasions definitely owns a place in Judaism. In a week and a half, we will read *parshat zachor*, in which we remember the nearly successful attempt by the people of *Amalek* to annihilate the Jews in the desert. Our *chachamim* chose the shabbos before Purim, a holiday commemorated with intense celebration of a similar failed attempt, as the day for the reading of *zachor*. While a number of reasons have been offered for their selection of this date, surely the effects upon the Jewish people of a sobering reminder of our very fragile history were not lost on our sages.

Nearly everyone recognizes the example of the Jewish wedding, which does not conclude before the groom breaks a glass in remembrance of the *Beit HaMikdash*. Regrettably, many people misunderstand this practice, especially at American weddings, where shouts of "Mazel Tov" often immediately follow the breaking of the glass.

The Israeli rabbinate, on the other hand, knew fully well the importance of such a synthesis when they established the date of Yom Hazikaron, the memorial day for all Israeli soldiers, one day prior to Yom Ha'atzmaut, a day of independence achieved largely through the efforts of many fallen soldiers at the time of the young nation's inception. Those who have spent the two days in Israel can testify to the significance of their juxtaposition, and its impact upon Israeli society.

Human nature and our short attention spans keep us focused on the present and on what affects us in the here and now. Yet we owe it to those who labored and suffered on our behalves yesterday to remember them today. For many years, and still in some places, Jews could not celebrate Purim nearly as easily as we do currently. Let us keep them, and all those who have fallen victim to horrible terror acts in the past year, in mind even as we celebrate on Purim itself. Then we will have begun to achieve "לא תשכח."

Purim Contest

The Commentator is Accepting Submissions of Humorous Articles for Publication in the Upcoming Purim Issue. The Top Submissions Will be Published in the Issue, and the Authors Awarded \$50 Each. The Articles Must be Submitted to Moshe Kinderlehrer (Mo223) Within the Next Three Weeks to be Considered.

All Submissions Become the Property of The Commentator.

College



News



The Annual SOY Seforim Sale attracted shoppers of all ages

Seforim Sale '95 Raises Most Profits Ever

BY DAVID SWIDLER

The annual SOY Seforim Sale drew to a close this past Sunday after two weeks of supplying the greater New York area with seforim, Jewish music and software. From February 12th to 26th, the fifth floor of Belfer Hall teemed with customers whose purchases provide the bulk of SOY's operating budget each year.

SOY Vice President Daniel Davis, who began organizing the sale in October, noted the contributions of the twenty or so people who devoted their time and effort to Seforim Sale '95, most of whom were volunteers. Special thanks, he said, should go to Josh Hosseinoff, who set up the computerized checkout system used by the cashiers to tally simultaneously each customer's purchase and the total number of each item sold.

Among the best-selling items were a number of works that commemorate The Rav zt'l and his teachings: *Nefesh HaRav*, by MYP Rosh Yeshiva R. Herschel Schachter, *Zichron HaRav*, and a newly-published Hagada, *Siach HaGrid*.

Nearly all of the seforim dealing with the Tractate *Shevuos*, which will be learned in the yeshiva next year, sold out. Many students expressed apprehension that the decision might be changed, which would mean everyone spent their money on the wrong seforim.

Artscroll Mishnayot and Gemaras, perennial favorites, sold well, as did the relatively new Stone edition of the Chumash. Other big sellers included small sets of the Talman Shas and Mikraos Gedolos HaMaor chumash-

im. Much of the computer software available for the first time this year was sold, including a full line of CD-ROM material.

Due in part to widespread advertising, throngs of people who needed to purchase Judaica, or who simply wanted to browse the selection of 3500 titles, made their way to the sale, at times causing severe crowding problems, especially on the checkout lines.

Despite such uncomfortable circumstances, volunteer Michael Buchsbaum noted that very few of the customers he encountered showed a great deal of annoyance. "I worked the register for eight hours last Sunday, and only came across two or three cranky people," he said.

Supplier Rabbi Yakov Levitz commented that this year's sale was "the busiest it's ever been." Ordering Manager Moshe Kesselman said that there was a constant necessity to replenish rapidly depleting stock of fast-selling items. Last Wednesday night, Davis said, "We're on track to sell more this year than in any year before."

Many shuls in the area, he added, use the annual sale to supply their Judaica needs. He declined to provide figures on how much SOY netted from the endeavor, but one worker estimated that sales were in excess of \$75,000 per day of business. One needed only to witness the sheer numbers of people who crowded into Belfer Hall and the cartloads of seforim with which many of them departed to find such an assessment plausible.

Clean-up will take another few weeks as volunteers return surplus merchandise to suppliers and clear out the room.

Who's Who Nominations

BY NACHUM LAMM

Over sixty YU and Stern students have been nominated by the undergraduate deans to be in this year's publication of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

According to Dean of Students Efreim Nulman, the number of slots in the directory allocated to Yeshiva University has recently been increased to sixty-three, with all those nominated by the school almost certain to be included in the publication.

The academic deans, athletic director, and others receive an allotted amount of names to submit, and each submits a list of students to be nominated, judged by grades and involvement in extracurricular activities. Ap-

proximately seventy names are submitted in total, but there are repeats between lists, so almost all names suggested by the deans are passed on by the Dean of Students to be included in the Who's Who. All are students in good standing, and most are upper-classmen, usually seniors.

In addition to those nominated for the reasons above, the office of the Dean of Students may add students who are distinguished for other activities, such as work in their communities, and names are occasionally suggested by third parties. Most, if not all, student leaders are nominated as well.

For reasons that Nulman "would rather not disclose," the names of the students who were nominated for the prestigious award is being kept secret for the time being.

Arrogance, Apathy & Purim Intoxication Discussed at Dorm Talks

BY SETH GROSSMAN
AND DANIEL RUBIN

Over one hundred students gathered in the Morg Lounge last Thursday night for the third Dorm Talks program of the year. The panelists, MYP Rosh Yeshiva Aharon Kahn and Rabbi Reuven Fink, Instructor of Talmud in IBC and JSS, discussed a wide range of issues, from *achdus* in the YU community to drinking on Purim.

Most of the two-hour program, which was broadcast on WYUR for the first time ever, consisted of emotional speeches given by both rebbeim, who beseeched those in attendance to adhere to the principles of "*Ve'Ahavtah Li'Rayocha Kamocha*" and "*Havei Dan Es Kol Adam B'Kof Z'chus*," as well as refraining from *Lashon Hara*. Both rebbeim stressed the fact that everyone in YU, being Jews from a wide variety of backgrounds and situations, are fellow members of one organism - *K'lal Yisrael* - and should be treated as such, regardless of how individuals perceive each other's level of "religiosity."

A number of students in attendance felt that it is the YU administration and not the students who often highlight the differences between the various morning programs; "conflicts" between students of the various programs seldom arise, and even then only if the matter is provoked by a member of the administration or staff.

Nachum Lamm, an IBC student, accused administrators of, "making inferences, through hit speeches, program

notes and general attitude, that it feels that the morning program one attends is directly related to his degree of religious observance." Rabbi Fink claimed that Lamm's comments represented a figment of his imagination.

"Shikkur NOT the Ikkur"

Both Rabbi Fink and Mashgiach Ruchani Rabbi Yosef Blau expressed deep opposition to getting drunk on Purim, saying there was no mitzvah whatsoever, and that in fact it is prohibited. And for those who were left in the dark from the Dorm Talks handouts as to whether drugs were halachically permitted, Rabbi Fink mentioned that it was most certainly not permitted to use "controlled substances" to get high, even if one's intentions are to get closer to Hashem, citing the untimely demise of Nadav and Avihu as an example.

Finally, Rabbi Kahn explained that if one were required to read literature or view art by an instructor which the student felt could possibly violate Torah guidelines, the student should inquire of the *Gedolei HaDor*. If they would deem the matter not permissible it would be the student's responsibility to not study the material in question, regardless of what the teacher mandates. "There is no authority higher than the Torah!" he said. Rabbi Kahn also added his view that YU "is a yeshiva and not a University and students must therefore act accordingly." Rather, he stated, "It is a yeshiva that has a university."

Chinuch Job Fair On Sunday

BY RYAN S. KARBEN

The Azrieli Institute for Jewish Education and the Max Stern Division of Communal Services will host a job fair this Sunday afternoon for students interested in pursuing careers in chinuch.

Rabbi Morton Summer, the coordinator of the program, says that the job market for Jewish educators is the best it has been in a while. "There are a lot of job openings, and fewer applicants than last year," he said, "and salaries have gone up considerably."

Summer says one day school in the metro region called him recently and was willing to pay \$50,000 for a Jewish educator with four or five years experience. He says entry-level salaries start at about \$30,000.

Principals from both New York and out-of-state yeshivas will interview applicants on site for full and part-time positions. Students are urged to bring their resumes.

The job fair kicks off at 1:30 in Furst Hall 501. It will run until 4:30 and is open to undergraduate seniors at YC and SCW and graduate students of YU and RIETS. For more information, call Rabbi Summer at 960-5265.

Rav Romm Returns

BY JOSH EPSTEIN

After a medical leave lasting several months, longtime MYP Rosh Yeshiva Rav Shimon Romm has returned to giving shiur. Although they appreciated their temporary Rebbe, Rabbi Elchanan Adler of the Mentor/Hadracha program, R. Romm's students were overjoyed at the return of their respected rebbe. They demonstrated their joy by throwing a kiddush in his honor, which also served to celebrate the occasion of him becoming a great grandfather.

Rabbi Romm has been a pillar of the Yeshiva Program for many years, dating back to his close friendship with former YU President Dr. Belkin zt'l. He was educated and received his semicha in Europe and has continued many of the methods acquired there, especially that of a small close-knit shiur with much individual attention.

Jay Koffsky, a member of the six-person shiur, was anxious for his Rebbe's return. "It is an amazing experience to learn, firsthand, Torah from someone whose stories of gedolim come from his direct knowledge of those gedolim. When Rabbi Romm quotes the Chofetz Chayim it is often a direct quote," noted Koffsky.

Rabbi Romm also spent time learning in the various Mirrer Yeshivot, including the period when it was based in Shanghai, as well as in Palestine in the 1930s.



Professor Herman Broniver meeting with students

Ben-Gurion Professor Speaks in Furst

BY SANDOR BAK

Herman Broniver, Professor of Thermo-Hydrodynamics at Ben-Gurion University, addressed a crowd of twenty YU administrators, faculty, and students over lunch in the Furst Hall faculty lounge on Wednesday, February 15. The informal talk was arranged by Dr. Efrem Nulman, the University Dean of Students.

A former Soviet refusenik himself, Broniver spoke about his organization, which helps recent immigrants from Russia find jobs in Israel. While he serves as an advisor for Prime Minister Rabin in helping to integrate Russian scientists into Israeli society, Broniver mentioned his disappointment over the lack of government attention to this vital issue.

"Unfortunately," he noted, "with all the tragedies in Israel, the issue of Russian Jewry has been abandoned. Current conditions in Russia are very favorable for the immigration of Jews to Israel, but right now no one cares about them."

Broniver is also involved with helping Russians adjust to religious life. His publishing company, Shamir, has translated *chumashim* and commentaries into Russian to allow the immigrants to learn these texts in their native language. He has also published many titles dealing with the issue of integrating religion and secular science. As Rabbi Dr. Israel Miller commented in his introduction, "Prof. Broniver has succeeded both in his own calling of science and in a higher calling of *yiddishkeit*."

Fine, Mendelsohn, and Rabbi Mordechai Cohen Win Senior Awards

BY JOSH ENGLAND

On Thursday, February 16, elections for senior awards took place in the Rubin Hall lobby. These awards are bestowed annually by the senior class to recognize service to the university and to the Jewish community. The elections were characterized by low voter turnout and new election procedures.

In a close vote, Samson Fine was elected the recipient of the Philip Lieberman Award for service to the university, which carries a \$200 award. Fine was tied with YCSC President Daniel Billig in first-place votes but edged Billig in second-place votes, giving him the victory under new election procedures. Fine, the former senior class president, is a recognized campus figure, having directed this past fall's Orientation as well as numerous campus blood drives.

Ziv Mendelsohn, SSSB Student Association President, was chosen as recipient of the Gladstein Award for service to the Jewish community. In his role as President of the Philanthropy Society, Mendelsohn coordinated the

Channukah Chagigah for Russian immigrants and is involved in the Meals-on-Wheels lunch program. This endowed award comes with a \$150 gift.

Seniors also voted on the Senior Professor Award — a recognition open to any full-time faculty member. In a close vote, Rabbi Mordechai Cohen, a popular professor of Bible, was victorious. Although there is presently no financial reward for this honor, the Student Council is considering establishing one.

Low Turnout

Only 46 of approximately 150-200 seniors voted, leading some to question the integrity of the process. "If most seniors are living in Morg why are they [the elections] being held in Rubin?" asked one irate senior. Other seniors attributed the small vote to lack of publicity. Jonathan Lifshutz, co-chairman of the Canvassing Committee, which sponsored the elections, blamed the low turnout on voter apathy. "Signs were posted all over the place," said Lifshutz. "People didn't vote because they were too lazy."

Van Service Extended to Friday Mornings

BY SIDNEY SINGER

The Student Security Council, in conjunction with the Department of Safety and Security, has announced extended van service on Friday mornings. Students will now have the option of taking the vans to Penn Station or Brookdale Hall, the dormitory of Stern College, at 10:30 AM and 12 noon.

The current plan for the service came together fairly quickly. Jonathan Lifshutz, co-chairman of the Student Security Council, met with Don Sommers, Director of the Department of Safety and Security, about one month ago, and suggested his idea to provide students with shuttle service into midtown on Friday mornings. His suggestion came "partly for selfish reasons," he quipped, since he lives on Long Island, but more importantly, since nearly everyone travels at that time. Sommers was very receptive to the idea, according to Lifshutz, and said it was merely a question of arranging drivers.

Lifshutz stated that he hopes the service will eventually be expanded to every half-hour on Friday mornings, but said the security department explained that the students will have to warrant it with their numbers. Dean of Students Efrem Nulman, with whose office Sommers co-arranged the service, sent all the credit Sommers' way, and explained that neither office is against maintaining or possibly increasing the service if need demands. "If it's something helpful to students," he said, "[then] we'd like to be able to continue."

Guide II Aims to Improve on First Semester

BY OREN S. KEISER

This year's "Guide to the Perplexed" has certainly seen more than its fair share of controversy. Whether it was the debate over the nominal one-dollar fee, the unexpectedly long delay, or the significant oversight in printing incorrect Hatzola numbers, the Guide seemed to be a constant source of controversy and discussion.

However, the Guide to the Perplexed II seeks to improve on the efforts of the past semester. Under the leadership of Daniel Ritsma, the scaled-down and less colorful sequel to the ever-popular and necessary Guide hopes to be published in a matter of days. According to Ritsma, the Guide II will correct mistakes from the first Guide such as the aforementioned Hatzola blunders, as well as add important information like room changes and new enrollees.

Dean Adler Prepares to Take Over

BY RYAN S. KARBEN

The bookshelves are looking a little less empty these days, and the desk is getting a little messier. But Norman Adler has retained his calm confidence as he listens and learns in anticipation of assuming the YC deanship on a full-time basis next month.

His biggest challenge has been understanding the unique culture of Yeshiva College. No small task.

"The University is 800 years old, the Yeshiva is 2000 years old. That's 2800 years of complexity. It's incredibly exciting. I've had more intellectual stimulation in the past three months than I have had in years," he said.

In those three months, Adler has become a cheerleader for the college he is to lead, stressing repeatedly in the course of an interview that YC is home to "the best and the brightest."

This latest leg in a very impressive professional journey has taken on the era of a mission for Adler. In an interview with *The Jewish Advocate* in Boston, he described the job as "coming home."

His resume includes a stint as Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, where he taught psychology for many years. He is currently a Vice Provost at Northeastern University.

In two recent conversations, Adler stressed that the Jew has always been a "citizen of the world" and he sees Yeshiva College as the heir to that legacy. "We are supposed to be *anohr la'goyim*, we have a higher mission. The world needs an infusion of Jewish values, and the rebbeim infuse Western knowledge with an informed tradition," he said. "Our civilization thrives through that dialectic."

On a practical level, Adler says one of his major priorities is salary enhancement for the undergraduate faculty. "We have a first-rate faculty, first-rate intellects who are more devoted than in other places I have been. I'm optimistic that the university will do something."

He also wants to introduce more inter-disciplinary courses and is working to secure a larger share of the Gold-



Next YC Dean Norman Adler

ing dollar pie for undergraduate science laboratories. And he is anxious to return to the classroom.

"I'm excited (to teach a course in the Psychology Department). I really enjoy it. It is the core of all we do. I went into administration because I got older," he said.

Adler says the challenge at YC is to nurture the identity of a small college in a large university, a goal he hopes to accomplish by working with an informal student advisory board similar to a group he met with regularly at Penn. He says he will go to any dorm whenever he is invited.

The date, March 20, has been pegged as the date for his formal assumption of the deanship, a position that has been filled on an interim basis by SSSB Dean Harold Nierenberg since the summer. Dr. Norman Rosenfeld stepped down last year to assume the Jekuthiel Ginsburg Chair in Mathematics after a tenure that lasted more than a decade.

Adler faces a slew of challenges, and enters a campus environment alive with discussion of numerous academic issues, from transfer credit for time spent in yeshiva in Israel to faculty authority over academic matters. And concerns persist over YC's "academic reputation."

None of that has deterred him. "I've met with pretty much everybody. I am determined to make this place truly excellent in all dimensions."

Academic VP Schwartz Hosts Open House Meetings

BY RYAN HYMAN

On February 16, an "open house" was held by Dr. William Schwartz, Vice President for Academic Affairs. Students from different classes were invited to this informal meeting which was also attended by Dean Harold Nierenberg of YC and SSSB and members of faculty. Incoming YC Dean, Dr. Norman Adler, was also present.

At the meeting, which is one in a series, students voiced their opinions on various issues under discussion at YU. The bulk of the meeting, however, was devoted to the debate on the mandatory credit proposed for students in the Mazer Yeshiva Program.

Although most students disagreed with the extra credit being imposed on the already heavily-burdened MYP students, there was a consensus that problems regarding poor attendance and lack of "seriousness" at MYP do exist.

Many students were concerned that by imposing a credit, those students in "difficult shiurim" would suffer. Dr. Schwartz responded that if students were worried about their GPAs being adversely affected, they could move to "easier" shiurim. He also noted that it would be advantageous for students to experience the different methods of learning and foster relationships with many rebbeim. YC Junior Shlomo Babani, one of the YC students present, replied that "there is more to shiur than just sitting there and learning" and added that by changing shiur every year one would "lose the relationship you'd started because you no longer see that rebbe every day."

Several suggestions were proposed for solving the dilemma and Dr. Schwartz agreed that some of the ideas were valid and would be considered. Among the recommendations was the possibility that students who did not attend seder and shiur regularly would be required to take shiur for credit in the following semester. As Zevi Halstuch, a junior, noted, "It's not really fair to harass people [who are learning steadily]."

One of the more drastic measures proposed was that students not meeting MYP standards be required to join IBC where a more rigid schedule is enforced. A sophomore who wished to

remain anonymous, disagreed with this approach as he remarked, "The fact that they [IBC and JSS students] have to take courses for credit doesn't stop them from sleeping until 10:30 in the morning [when the first class, for many, is held]." He continued that the credit "does not necessarily provide the accountability that it should."

In concluding his remarks on this issue, Dr. Schwartz maintained that "the MYP faculty are highly qualified to make decisions" and that he has faith that they have, and will, take all factors into consideration when reviewing the situation.

Many other topics were brought under discussion, including the upgrading and acquisition of computers in many departments of the university, and the employment of personnel to supervise the computer center. Those present were informed about the upgrading of the computers used by the administration and registrar's office, and the computerized cataloging of the campus libraries. Under consideration are the proposed plans for wiring all dormitory rooms for telephone and computer connections. These proposals were well received by all present.

Dr. Marilyn Schneider, Professor of Sociology, said that she felt unsure where the meetings, including a similar one held the week before, would lead, but that they had been constructive. She did feel, however, that had a larger number of students been present at the gathering, greater diversity in responses would have been achieved and the discussions may have been more productive. Dr. Schneider found it interesting that most students were opposed to the MYP credit and she said that the reasons given for opposing it were "idealistic" and valid.

Closing the "open house," Dr. Schwartz asserted that his office, as well as the offices of Deans Nierenberg and Hecht were always open for students to discuss academic problems and thoughts. He insisted that students should avail themselves of the "open door" policy at Yeshiva University.

Another similar meeting with students was held during Club Hour the following Thursday, February 23.

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No Course Evaluations for Fall Semester

BY MENASHE SHAPIRO

With discussion about the academic standards of the university raging on, one critical measure of the academic level at YU, the performance of its instructors, has apparently been overlooked. Traditionally, professors have distributed evaluation questionnaires to all students at the end of the term for the purpose of assessing courses and faculty. This past semester, however, these questionnaires were not distributed, leaving many to question why.

"How can we improve on the academic image of this place when the only medium of student feedback is not put to use," remarked one YC junior who had a number of complaints about some of his courses. Former dean, Norman Rosenfeld, currently a YC math professor, who, during his tenure, strongly supported the surveys as a means of gauging student opinion on various courses, downplayed the absence of the evaluations. "In assessing faculty and courses, one semester does not tell you much, but accumulating a number of semesters can give you some information," explained Rosenfeld.

However, despite acknowledging the importance of questionnaires over a period of several semesters, the results of last year's surveys still remain unknown. While some have jokingly speculated that they are currently gathering dust like the Mayer/Schechter MYP study of 1993 had done for so long, the difficulty according to Rosenfeld is a technical one. "This is because of a computer glitch," explained Rosenfeld. "I was doing the tabulating by hand and did not have time to correct the problem."

YC Assistant Dean Avery Horowitz did suggest however, that the evaluations should receive a serious overhaul in the near future to better ascertain student opinion. "They're certainly not

perfect," admitted Horowitz. Dr. Will Lee of the English department faculty cited one major flaw with the form, "It's not possible to respond not applicable, for some questions don't really apply to certain courses or even departments." He did, however, stress the need for placing greater emphasis on course evaluations in the future. Lee added that he feels that things should improve after the university emerges from its current transition. "It's likely things will receive a fresh look with the new dean in place." Dean Horowitz also acknowledged that the lack of a permanent dean has caused things to be more chaotic than usual, leaving many things to be overlooked.

In truth, according to many faculty members, neglecting the evaluations for this past semester is not a major problem. "I don't think the omission is a big disaster," said Dr. Lee, although cautioning that "it might become a long-term problem." Yet with everybody seeming to be locked into the mode of anticipation of Dean Norman Adler's impending arrival, the urgency for evaluating courses on a large scale has seemed to take a back seat to judging the more general parameters of academic efficiency. Knowing that evaluations from recent semesters have generally been neglected, thereby losing a valuable barometer by which to measure performance, the prospects for long-term problems in attaining a true picture of the academic state of YC are becoming greater.

Ideally, the data from the evaluations would be tabulated, entered into the main computer, and used as one of the components in judging a certain professor when questions arise with regard to tenure and department chairmanships. They can also provide for important sources of feedback for the faculty as they set out to improve their various courses.

Senate Looks to Raise Academic Level at YU

BY OREN S. KEISER

In a February 16 meeting, the Student Senate addressed a number of the critical issues facing Yeshiva, including the controversial mandatory MYP credit, as well as outside credit. The Senate also floated possibilities on modifying the current system of majors and minors in the hope of increasing academic options available to students.

On the MYP credit issue, several student representatives expressed disappointment that such a plan was formed without first asking for the opinion of the Senate on the matter. To remedy the oversight, MYP Dean Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, the proposal's strongest proponent, was on hand to discuss the issue.

Most of the discussion, however, focused on a topic which the Senate has spent a good deal of time debating recently - outside credit. Picking up right where it left off at the last meeting of the Fall semester, a task force has been convened to investigate the issue. Led by

YC Junior Ari Hirt, the purpose of the group is both to discover exactly how many credits YU students take off campus as well as to measure the impact these outside credits have on the academic standing of the University.

Interdisciplinary Majors and Concentrations Discussed

In addition to these vital concerns, the Senate also debated other ways to enhance academic opportunities at YU. One possibility would be the creation of an interdisciplinary minor, which would allow students to take a minor comprised of courses from several different fields of study. The model for such a plan is the American Studies minor, currently available to SSSB and YC students. A second suggestion is to establish "concentrations" within majors. Under this proposal, a student would take a number of extra courses that relate to a specific area within his major, and would graduate having "specialized" in a particular area of study.

YUNMUN V Draws High Schoolers From Across US

BY SANDOR BAK

With over 340 high school students in attendance, the fifth annual Yeshiva University National Model United Nations held sessions February 14-16 at the Meadowlands Hilton in Secaucus, New Jersey. The student delegates, from thirty yeshiva high schools across the U.S. and Canada, represented seventy-two UN countries.

While many colleges are host to their own model United Nations, the ones sponsored by YU is unique, as was pointed out by this year's director, Admissions Officer Deena Shiff. "Anyone who has been to another Model United Nations understands how difficult it is when you can only participate in one or two sessions because most of the program takes place on *shabbat*. This conference, on the other hand, gives each and every delegate the chance to participate from start to finish, as the actual delegates do in the United Nations."

More than sixty students from Yeshiva and Stern College participated in the conference, acting in a variety of roles. YC Senior Matt Goldsmith, who served as Undersecretary-General, remarked that "the fact that this year's conference was the most successful ever is definitely a credit to the quality of the staff of YU students."

Besides the scheduled Plenary and General Assembly sessions, the delegates also had the opportunity to hear an address from Rabbi Avi Weiss. Rabbi Weiss urged the students to constantly fight for that which they truly believe is just and reminded them that "the right cause is not always the one that is most popular."

At the close of the conference, awards were given to the best individual delegates as well as to the best school in attendance. This year's award went to the Ramaz Upper School, which represented Brazil, Cuba, and the United Kingdom.

RIETS Publishes Compendium in Honor of The Rav

BY AYAL RAVIV

In tribute to the late Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik *zt'l*, RIETS recently announced the publication of *Zichron HaRav*, a book which discusses contemporary issues in Halacha. Thirty-seven Talmudic scholars from across the globe contributed essays to the *sefer*, which took a year to compile.

The articles examine in concise detail varying sources on specific Halachic issues and combine the viewpoints to formulate the Jewish law. The book's 342 pages cover a wide variety of topics, ranging from publicizing a miracle to whether charity can be distributed to non-Jewish causes.

Published in Hebrew, the book is dedicated to the memory of Rav Soloveitchik, the world leading authority on Halacha in the second half of the 20th century. To his countless students and followers, he was known simply as "the Rav," an affectionate name in Hebrew for teacher. In his more than 40 years at Yeshiva University's affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS), The Rav was not only a teacher, but also a philosopher, theologian, and author.

For almost 50 years, Rav Soloveitchik served as spiritual teacher and Senior Professor of Talmud on the RIETS faculty, as the Leib Merkin Distinguished Professor of Talmud and Jewish philosophy. Raised in the tradition of his fathers which emphasized the intellectual function of the Jew, The Rav dedicated his life to education.

Although the Rav's home was rooted in Boston, Massachusetts, Rav Soloveitchik managed to teach Talmud at RIETS for more than 45 years, arriving each week in New York either by plane, train, or car. The Rav earned worldwide prominence for the brilliant shiurim he delivered at Yeshiva. Speaking sometimes for over five hours straight, the

Rav would leave his audience spellbound, challenging his listeners with intricate questions, developing themes, and solving his own questions through deep analysis and mind-boggling twists.

In this vein, the magnificent task of editing a *sefer of chidushei torah* in honor of the Rav was courageously undertaken by two young men who learn in YU, Rabbi Jeremy Wieder and a current semicha candidate at RIETS, Avraham (Abie) Shmidman.

Rabbi Norman Lamm, president of Yeshiva University, lauds the work as "a sign of the splendid Torah scholarship of the students and faculty of our institution and a distinguished testament to the giant who overwhelmingly deserves it."

The *Zichron HaRav* includes essays by some of the Rav's most distinguished talmidim. In addition, some of the book's authors are currently members of the faculty and administration of Yeshiva University, including Rabbi Herschel Schachter, Rosh Yeshiva and Rosh Kollel of RIETS' Marcos and Adina Katz Kollel, Rabbi Aharon Soloveitchik, Rosh Yeshiva in RIETS and brother of the late Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik and Rabbi Dr. Sol Roth Professor of Talmud and Contemporary Halacha.

Weider, an assistant Mashgiach of MYP, received his S'micha from RIETS in 1994. "We've all been touched by the Rav," Weider said. "The work is an effort to keep alive the spirit with which he imbued his students." According to Abie Shmidman, "This project is a labor of love" and "a tremendous honor and privilege to do something for the memory of the Rav."

Zichron HaRav was made possible through a generous gift from Rabbi Julious Berman. Rabbi Berman is an alumnus of YU and RIETS and a disciple of Rabbi Soloveitchik. The book is available in bookstores and sells for ten dollars.

YU's Most Valued Commodity: Sleep

BY JONATHAN REISS

We learn that man tends to most appreciate the luxuries of this world when he is deprived of them. People, for example, enjoy eating food but are most enthusiastic and excited about food when they are starving. Similarly, when individuals are deprived of sleep they more strongly appreciate its worth. Needless to say, one of the most treasured commodities at Yeshiva University is sleep.

When we were younger and more innocent we assumed sleep was an automatic component of our day-to-day experience. We breathed, we ate, we drank and we slept. Sleep had for us a definite function and occupied a specific time frame. When we were tired we went to sleep. After an average day's activities we were tired so we went to sleep at night. When we woke up in the morning we were no longer tired and did not need to worry about sleep until the following evening.

Now, however, sleep no longer seems to find a niche in our routine. We no longer designate certain times for sleeping and other times for staying awake. Although we can keep approximate track of various sections of the day by observing which prayers we are uttering at any particular time - whether Maariv, Shacharis or Mincha - as well as occasionally attending classes which meet at fixed time, such as say, 3-4:15 Tue; 3:45-5:00 Thurs, we can never precisely determine whether we are in the process of going to sleep or awakening from it. The YU student just tries to stay awake for as long as possible until he collapses. Although the entities of night and day used to establish permanent demarcation lines delineating when to sleep and when to be awake, we find now that any relationship between night and sleep is purely accidental.

Of course, many of us are simply inundated by a massive sleep-forbidding quantity of work to complete. Grinding our term papers, completing computer programs, and struggling over difficult homework assignments can occupy us until 4:00 A.M. or later. Remarkably little time remains for substantial sleep.

The fabulously famed playwright William Shakespeare seems to have suffered from the same hassle. Although he needed his sleep just as much as the next fellow, he had so many plays to write that he probably hardly ever got to bed. He expresses his frustration through the speeches of some of his main characters, the fiends who forced him to stay up scribbling about their miseries. In the middle of Hamlet's serious contemplation of death, for instance, Shakespeare's sleepstarved mind suddenly strays for a second: "To die - to SLEEP" - and then he starts to get carried away: "and by a sleep to say we end the heartache... that flesh is heir to. 'Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished." Shakespeare recomposes himself, returning to his subject matter of a brief moment, "To die" but then totally falls apart: "to sleep, to sleep! Perchance a dream!" Interestingly this passage has become one of the Bard's most famous and most passionately performed - probably because we can all sympathize with



YC Senior Josh Segal catching up on some much needed sleep

the playwright's fatigue.

Similarly, in Macbeth you can tell that Shakespeare was getting a little tired. Frustrated by the necessity of finishing his plays quickly in order to meet the typically harrowing deadlines, Shakespeare took the anger of his sleepless nights out on his principal character: "Sleep no more! Macbeth does murder sleep... sleep no more!" Poor guy.

Clearly, we are not the first to suffer from sleep deficiency. But what should we do to combat this problem? The simplest approach is the no sleep approach. I won't mention sleep and you won't mention sleep, and everyone will be happy. Nobody tells us to go to bed so why should we sleep at all? This seemingly brilliant solution simply doesn't work. We all need sleep and since as soon as we get tired our bodies are naturally inclined to sleep all proponents of this approach wind up in a perpetual state of zombie-hood. There are other students who decide to sleep a minimal amount of time during the week and catch up on the weekends. Besides the fact that most of these students sleep even less on weekends, this formula also requires its adherents to function on pure adrenalin, which, as we all know, eventually strikes back.

What then is the answer? Each student has to determine how many hours he needs to sleep in order to remain alert and sleep that amount every night. The Rambam, in his *Mishnah Torah*, recommends that a normal person sleep eight hours a night, although he seems to make allowances elsewhere for a scholar who can handle less. The *Maaseh Rokeiyach* writes that seven hours is the standard unit. Some people need more sleep than others.

Additionally, students have to reassess their priorities. Which is more important - a term paper or sleep? While they are both important, a term paper cannot be permitted to impinge upon precious sleeping time. Without sleep we cannot remain alert, and without alertness, adequately accomplish anything. "R. Simeon Ben Eleazer said 'behold and it was very good - and behold sleep is very good.' When a fellow sleeps a little he arises and involves himself more in Torah". (*Beraishis Rabba* - author's translation). Rather than infringe upon our sleep, the term paper should consume our free time. If we have no expendable free time we should ease our workload. But under no condition should we trespass upon our sleep. Only

through sleep can we fully fulfill our potential.

This sermon is convincing enough for me. That's why I try to turn in at 12:00 every night. But there are still other problems.

Not only should we not hamstring our own sleep, but we should not hinder the sleep of others. Although some fellows may not hit the sack until 4:00 or 5:00 a.m., or never, they should not disturb other students who attempt to go to sleep earlier. While some students can go to sleep even while a band rehearses next door there are others who can be awakened by the slightest disturbance and they deserve consideration. Stu-

dents have a right to converse with each other in their dorm rooms late at night only insofar as their voices remain unheard in adjoining rooms. Similarly, students can adjust their radios to be loud enough to grant themselves enjoyment without turning up the volume so violently that the light sleeper who lives next door will be awakened or have difficulty falling asleep.

We learn in YU that sleep doesn't just come by itself. We have to work at maintaining our regular sleeping hours every night and sometimes this pursuit requires a little effort. Last year my roommate and I had difficulty sleeping for several nights because we thought we heard pencils dropping on the floor of the room above us every thirty seconds. Finally, after I became reasonably certain that my senses could not be completely deceiving me, I walked up to that room one night around 2:00 in the morning and simply announced to the residents "Please stop dropping pencils on your floor. We'd like to get some sleep." They both looked at me very kindly and considerately and replied "Okay." And they stopped dropping the pencils. So you see, nobody really wants to keep others up. If your neighbors are disturbing you, tell them. With a little responsibility and cooperation, we can all get some sleep.

(This feature is a reprint from a 1988 *Commentator*.)

COMMENCEMENT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 11:00 AM

THE PARAMOUNT
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN



HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR
COMPLETED GRADUATION KIT
TO THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR?

IF NOT, CONTACT THE REGISTRAR

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

Pre-Med In YU: Tough Competition

BY JOSH FINE

This past semester, an organic chemistry lab instructor assigned an extra credit assignment, hoping to help only those students whose grades were floundering. However, not only did the struggling students rush to do the assignment, but strangely enough, students already receiving strong 'A's in the course pleaded with the instructor for permission to do the extra credit assignment as well.

This incident is a premier example of the fierce competition between all YC pre-med students trying to reach their goal of being accepted to a medical school. Students are well aware that while the number of med-school applicants across the nation is growing, the number of seats in these schools is remaining constant. Acceptance to medical school is, obviously, a primary concern for all pre-med students in the country. The pre-med students, recognizing academic success as the determinant used by medical school admission boards, have grown obsessed with achieving an A.

"Unlike other majors, the fear of fellow pre-med students getting ahead, and the constant need to know where everybody is holding is unique," claims YC Junior, Daniel Reich. "Unlike some courses in other majors, virtually no pre-med course can be considered a course in which one can get an 'easy A.'"

How far will YC pre-meds go in competing to get a better grade? When it comes to sharing lecture notes, or sharing tests from the *mesorah*, it seems that the average pre-med students are not anxious in assisting their fellow student. YC junior and biology major Avi Penstein recalls that "before exams, it is frequent for students to hide from each other, in hope that they won't have to say 'no' when they are asked for help." One pre-med student wishing to remain anonymous says, "It is especially trying for pre-meds who want to take their Torah studies seriously, for they have to stick to their *sedarim* knowing that their 'competitors' use their mornings for catching up on sleep and study time."

Dirty Deeds

Some faculty members feel that students, if necessary, are willing to cheat, copy, and steal. Although she is not sure if somebody intentionally did it, Professor of Chemistry Dr. Raji Viswanathan tells of how she put a solutions manual in the library which soon after went 'missing.' Organic Chemistry students experienced a similar situation this past semester. Professor Dr. Irving Borowitz placed an old 'Orgo' final on reserve in the library which mysteriously suffered the same fate as the chemistry solutions manual. Immediately, students insisted that these objects were stolen. However, Stuart Milstein, a YC junior and pre-med, contends that "the [orgo] final could have been misplaced accidentally, but the very fact that some pre-meds immediately felt that one of their fellow students stole it shows how uptight the pre-med competition is at YC."

Another rumor circulating the Main

Campus is that of laboratory sabotage. Last semester, a student claimed that his lab experiment was contaminated by another student. YC Chemistry Lab Instructor Gail Horowitz explains that she's seen students change their own data, but to the degree of sabotage she asserts, "I've never seen anything like that happen here...I would be really shocked if I saw that someone was actually deliberately trying to hurt other students." However, in terms of competition among the students during lab, Horowitz has witnessed students being inconsiderate of one another. "They'll try to cut ahead of each other, or if they want their question answered, they don't want to wait."

Shnorrng for Grades

With pre-meds obsessing over how to get a better grade, faculty members bemoan dealing with the students who "shnorr" for points. One faculty member exclaims, "When it comes to giving out grades they [pre-med students] make me crazy!" Horowitz recalls her first semester at YC when a student seriously requested his grade to be raised because he was a "nice guy." In describing the behavior of pre-med students she asserts that "while some students are more polite about it, some students, depending upon their personality, can be obnoxious, disrespectful.... to the point where you feel harassed."

Why is there such a fierce competition among YC pre-meds? According to Penstein, "each year it becomes more and more difficult to get into good medical schools and pre-meds feel that they are fighting with their friends for entry into schools." Milstein explains that most YC pre-med students, being orthodox Jews from the New York area are competing to get into the same 4 or 5 medical schools in the Northeast; whereas, at other universities most students have many viable options across the country. Dr. Viswanathan points to the dual curriculum as being the source of the competition: "We have very bright students here...and they have a more difficult job. They have a dual curriculum... its not an easy thing to do as far as I'm concerned."

A Positive Side

Although it may be taxing on the students, there are positive aspects to pre-med competition. YC junior, Jeremy Kurz states that "the pre-med track is very competitive, but I think the heavy competition may serve to raise standards - which helps YC maintain a good reputation." Dr. Viswanathan also sees the competition in a positive light since the pre-meds know that they must work hard in order to do well. Horowitz maintains that "the only positive thing I could say [about pre-med competition] is that pre-meds are motivated by grades, so that's a way of motivating them to learn when they're in your course."

On the whole, there seems to be a considerable amount of tension among YC pre-meds. Professors, like Dr. Borowitz, say that YC pre-meds need to become less hyperactive about grades. Students, however, contend that these times unfortunately call for this 'battle' of medical school acceptance.

Op-Ed: Paying by the Credit

BY MEIR ZEITCHIK

Perhaps the most critical issue currently facing YU is its academic reputation. Whether it's the clamor over the low *US News & World Report* ranking or a Student Senate debate on the adverse effects of outside credit, it seems impossible to avoid encountering the issue. Students too, feel the effects of a diminished academic reputation. Many enroll in YU expecting to be enriched by an education designed to meet the standards of the Torah U'madda ideal, only to end up expressing frustration at what they perceive to be a weak secular education. And all too often students find themselves in a nearly impossible balancing act, finding they have too little time to dedicate to either Torah, Madda, or both.

Teachers, not blind to the onerous demands of a dual curriculum, often plan their classes with this in mind. One teacher told me recently he doesn't even expect students to complete a good deal of the assigned readings because of the demanding schedule. Thus, the education is not only too demanding but diluted as well.

The issue is not a new one, and considerable time and effort has been poured into solving both the quality of education and time constraints problem. The Senate's Outside Credit task force was established with the express purpose of exploring ways to encourage or perhaps even coerce students into spending more time on campus. No one denies the benefits of such a move - a higher academic reputation as well as an easier course load for students each semester are just some of the advantages. But for all the options that have been raised, there is one exceedingly appealing possibility which seems to have been lost in the swirl of debate.

To ease students' course loads and increase their timespent on campus, all the University has to do is charge tuition by the credit instead of by semester. Then, instead of feeling both internal and parental pressure to cram a large amount of credits into each semester for the purpose of saving money, many students would choose to reduce their schedule and ease their course load. They would jump at the opportunity to end their day considerably earlier than eight o'clock. They

would also like nothing more than to cut down on the six classes worth of work which looms ahead of them after their grueling day. Instead of deterring students from taking this option by charging the same amount for twelve credits as for seventeen, as the University's current policy does, students would be encouraged to spend both more time on campus overall and more time each semester to devote to their studies.

Granted, some students rush through their college education because they don't feel there is much to be gained from being in an academic environment. For these people, few methods, short of pure coercion, will have any noticeable effect. But for those individuals who take their college education seriously, this solution is both feasible and enriching.

And the University will obviously benefit as well - YU will shed the image of a two or three year college, thereby increasing its academic standing.

Additionally, the charge often leveled at YU in academic circles of grade inflation will lose credibility. Because they now have the necessary time to dedicate to their classes, students will actually deserve the relatively high grades they receive.

Economically the plan makes sense. The University would continue taking in the same revenue by using a formula that would divide the current average amount of credits per semester, say, sixteen, by tuition for that semester, which is slightly more than six thousand dollars. According to this calculation, students would then pay the same amount after the completion of a hundred and twenty eight credits that they currently pay under the "flat semester" rate. In fact, YU can actually increase revenue under this plan, by collecting higher tuition from students who choose to graduate with more than a hundred and twenty eight credits.

The plan is easy to implement and would benefit nearly everyone involved. Yes, it is a fundamental change in a longstanding YU policy, which, like all institutional change, is always a little frightening. But if the administration and faculty is at all serious in its talk of increasing the academic reputation of YU, they should waste no time in pushing for this change.



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YUPR's David Rosen: The Man Behind the Message

BY YAN S. KARBEN

Interviews come easy to David Rosen. They should. He's been doing them for nearly twenty-seven years.

Rosen has been at the helm of the university's public relations efforts for nearly a year and half now, introducing innovations both major and minor in his quest to tell the story of Yeshiva. Nationally recognized as a leader in university public relations, Rosen has drawn on years of experience as a reporter, consultant and public affairs maven as he moves YUPR into the future and then some.

He finds it an imposing task.

"One of my major concerns coming here," the former Harvard Associate Vice President says, "was succeeding Sam Hartstein (the previous director of the department). He was a living legend with 50 years of service and a genuine pioneer in university public relations. He was one of those who created the field."

He was also worried about being accepted into the YU/RIETS community as a non-Orthodox Jew. While he was Vice President for Public Affairs at Brandeis, a "nominally Jewish institution," he knew the challenge of YU was unique. But, he says, the support of top university administrators, including President Norman Lamm and Senior Vice President Emeritus Israel Miller, has eased the transition. "I have been made to feel welcome," he says.

In the past year, Rosen's top priorities have been improving and expanding publications for key constituencies and developing and expanding the professional skills of the department's staff. He launched *Yeshiva Today*, a bi-monthly newspaper that serves as "an internal vehicle to convey to faculty, administration and students some sense of the scope of what's going on." He says his goal with the paper has been to "create a sense of community."

The format of *Alumni Review/Inside YU* was also revamped to reflect President Lamm and Vice President for Academic Affairs William Schwartz's desire for a publication with the "look, feel and content of a serious university alumni magazine." That meant ditching the old magazine's peculiarly large shape and expanding features on prominent alumni.

Rosen stresses that this has all been done within budget. In fact, three issues of *YU Review* cost the same to produce as two issues of its predecessor.

Started as a Reporter

Rosen's first job was as a general assignment reporter at *The Day* in New London, Connecticut. The Boston native then moved to the *Boston Herald* before serving as Capitol Bureau Chief in Massachusetts for United Press International. He has taught at Boston University and Harvard's Graduate School of Education and worked as a political commentator.

The BU grad (whose physical likeness to Prince Charles has been noted on the front page of the *Harvard Crimson*) shifted from journalism to public relations in 1977 and has held posts at The University of Chicago, Brandeis University and Harvard University. He served as Chief of Staff to a former Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor and was vice president of Nicolazzo & Associates, a Boston public relations and marketing firm.

His wife Nina still works as an attorney in Boston, where Rosen tries to spend weekends. He expects his wife to move to New York when his younger daughter graduates from college this May.

The Public Relations Department has a nearly thirty-person staff, who are assigned to one of five depart-

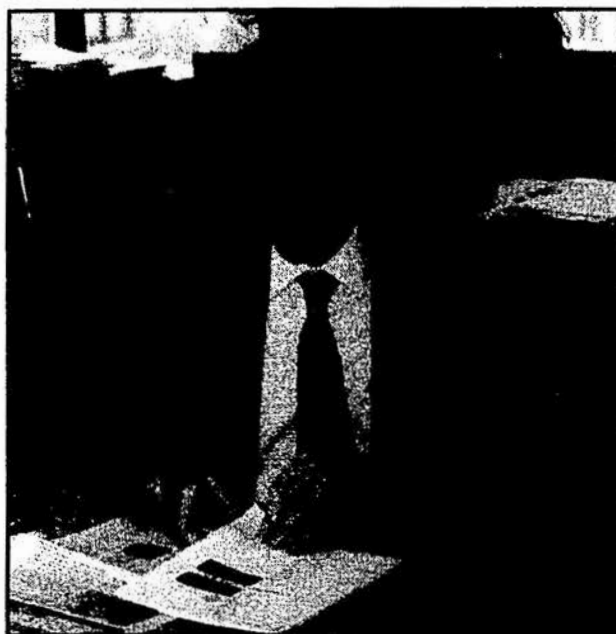


Photo: Paul Horowitz

ments: graphics, media, photography, development and Cardozo/Midtown. An associate PR director has just been assigned to CSL and plans are underway to deploy a second person to work jointly at CSL and SCW.

A typical day for Rosen begins at half-past eight, when he scans the *Times* and either the *Post* or the *Daily News*, "depending on which one my secretary puts in my box." Priority one is reading the obituaries to see if any friends of the university have passed away.

Seeking the "Big One"

He says his biggest regret is he hasn't found the "big story" yet.

"I am not sure I know exactly what I mean by that. There are always new, interesting and exciting things within the faculty and students, there is a steady level of scholarship. But I want another Torah Shield. I've gotten more satisfaction from the publications than from the publicity," he says.

The highlight of his career, though, remains not in speechwriting or press-release drafting, but in a display of bravado at Harvard.

"Paul Volker, the Chairman of the Fed, was giving the commencement address and we issued credentials, against my judgment, but at counsel's insistence, to some leftist. In the middle of the speech the guy gets up and rushes the stage. There was no security. I got so mad that I ran up and tackled him. He had my credentials!"

He had a recent "anonymous victory" at the Chanukah Dinner, where his suggestions for Senator Bob Dole's keynote were adopted by Dole's speechwriters.

"I also reminded him how to say 'chai,'" Rosen recalls. "He told me he had already been briefed on that."

Looking Ahead

In the coming year, Rosen hopes to continue to focus on the academic strength of the university, particularly the accomplishments of the undergraduate faculty. He feels that academics have traditionally gotten short shrift in publications and press releases and plans more aggressive attempts to find "vehicles to convey the YU/RIETS story of excellence in teaching, research and community service."

The department will soon distribute the first "Media Guide to Faculty Experts at Yeshiva University" and plans to place advertisements highlighting academic excellence, in addition to fundraising, in *The Jewish Week*. By seeking out regional and national media more aggressively, Rosen hopes to "reinforce the perception of YU as a Jewish-sponsored institution devoted to academic excellence," thereby promoting student recruitment efforts, creating a positive fundraising environment and assisting in the recruitment and retention of faculty and administrators.

Role is Educational

"The best part of the job is the pace, the people, the challenge and the importance of YU's mission," Rosen says, "It has been exciting, though not always for the same reasons I imagined."

He concedes that he finds the controversy over an organization for gay and lesbian students at CSL "strange." "It is the most frustrating challenge. A couple of students are cranking this thing up and the religious right outside of YU sees some advantage in bring critical. They are envious."

Rosen notes that YU is the "biggest and the best, the only game in town in Orthodox Judaism with the only serious university level faculty and the best *rebbeim* and an endowment in excess of \$300 million."

This will be Rosen's last stand. He plans to retire in five years when he turns fifty-five, returning to writing (he has one book under his belt), some consulting and a sideline as a professional musician. "Maybe I'll do some bar mitzvahs and weddings," he says.

He'll miss the students. "Part of my role is educational. I was the faculty advisor for an alternative student newspaper at Chicago. I've written recommendations and counseled students seeking professional careers in journalism. The institution—every institution—is about students, that is what the place is here for."

Another successful interview.



Photo: Paul Horowitz

Former Lyndon Johnson Advisor Among Visiting Professors *continued from page one*



Dr. Roald Hoffman

and Nozick's excellent classroom reputations were crucial to the decision process. Both Hoffman and Nozick were reportedly surprised to be hired before speaking with professors from the philosophy or chemistry departments. R. Carmy noted that only "following the selection of [Nozick] were the full-time members of the department and incoming dean Dr. Norman Adler consulted about the most effective utilization of his presence."

R. Carmy, however, is looking forward to team-teaching with Nozick, a Harvard University scholar whose book, *Anarchy, State and Utopia*, won the National Book Award in 1975. Nozick will also be team-teaching with Dean Adler in a course dealing with the interaction of philosophy and psychology, as well as with Stern philosophy department chairman Dr. David Schatz.

A Renaissance Man

Despite the unsettling hiring process, Dr. Borowitz allowed that Roald Hoffman "would have been the best choice for the [chemistry] position anyway." Hoffman, whose Nobel Prize was for quantum mechanical studies of chemical reactivity, is also a well-published

poet and is in the process of writing a book about Judaism and science. A Holocaust survivor, he now is the John A. Newman Professor of Physical Science at Cornell University.

Speaking from his office at Cornell, Hoffman told *The Commentator* that he accepted his two-semester position because he was attracted to both the students and professors of YU. Citing a fascination with Torah U'Madda, Hoffman claimed he is interested in working with the likes of "R. Moshe Tendler, Professor Haym Soloveitchik, R. Carmy," and others. In addition, he looked forward to "interaction with the students of YU."

Hoffman's affiliation with YU is a product of his 1991 appearance as the inaugural scholar in the Kucin Lecture Series. Dr. Blau, who is coordinating Hoffman's schedule, said the YC faculty was extremely impressed then and is confident now that Hoffman will prove to be a valuable asset to the chemistry



Dr. Walt Rostow

department: "He is an exceptional person and is very interested in the Jewish aspect of life," she explained. Hoffman will be teaching general elementary chemistry at YC and Stern during the fall semester and hopes to lead a seminar course on science and culture. He met with various faculty members at a campus visit three weeks ago.

The Gottesman Program's third "acquisition" is that of former Presidential national security advisor Dr. Walt Rostow and his wife, political scientist Dr. Elsbeth Davies Rostow, who will be at YC and Stern for the Spring 1996 semester. The Rostows, both professors at the University of Texas, Austin, are authors of numerous books and recipients of a substantial number of national awards. Walt Rostow served under President Lyndon B. Johnson.



Dr. Elsbeth Davies Rostow

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Shechita Students on Cutting Edge

BY STEVEN MIODOWNIK

If Yeshiva University didn't qualify for the word "unique" before, it certainly does now: YU has officially become the first university where students can explore the use of metaphor in the works of Shelley in all its sublime glory, then proceed to ritually slaughter a chicken, all in the same day. A new shechita course, offered on Friday mornings in a biology lab in Belfer Hall, is the cause of this newfound status.

On Fridays, a select group of knife-wielding undergraduates has chosen to learn the intricate laws of shechita from Rabbi Mitchell Serels, International Student Advisor. The twenty apprentices have purchased special knives, sharpening stones, and polishing stones for the course. Before attempting to actually perform shechita, they will be studying its complex and difficult laws and learning how to detect the much-loathed "nick" in the knife. Soon after-

wards, the grim melee will begin when students test their proficiency.

If R. Serels accedes to a student's competency at the end of the course, the student will be granted "kabbalah," the license to perform kosher slaughter passed down for centuries. This will usher in a new generation of computer scientists, accountants, and attorneys who are also qualified to serve in the nation's top slaughterhouses.

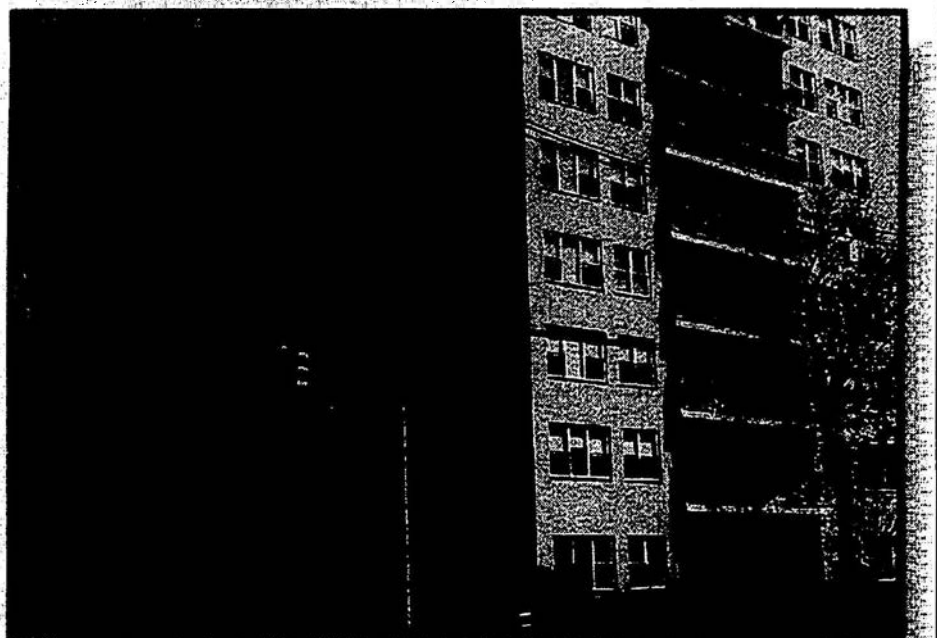
Participants in the course are mainly motivated by a desire to learn more about Jewish tradition and ritual, and are pleased to have such a chance. One student joked about the therapeutic nature of taking out pent-up frustration on small, flightless birds after a long week. But the overwhelming feeling is that of awe at the wide spectrum of diverse educational opportunities available at Yeshiva University.

That diversity has its limits, though. The course, which focuses only on fowl, will not be expanding to the bovine world any time soon.

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The Management Seminar: Opening New Doors For YU Students

BY JOSEPH GITLER

Sumner Redstone, Ronald Perelman, Ace Greenberg, Leon Rennert, Sy Syms, and Michael Goldstein are some of the most wealthy and powerful CEO's and chairmen in the business world today; they also happen to be giving the unique and well-publicized Sy Syms School of Business lecture series entitled, "Contemporary Problems in Business." The three-credit course is being held on Friday mornings in Stern College's Koch Auditorium.

Four weeks into the semester, the 70 students in the class rave about the enthusiasm and excitement that these entrepreneurs generate throughout the lecture hall. "When the CEO of Viacom, Toys R' US, or Bear Stearns is addressing you face to face, you make sure your mind absorbs every syllable," exclaims SSSB junior and seminar student Andrew Davidson.

While all students, faculty, and alumni are marveling over the group of highly-famed businessmen, the YU community is still wondering how this course came into being.

In a meeting last summer, Dean of SSSB Dr. Nierenberg, Vice-President of Academic Affairs Dr. Schwartz, and Assistant Professor of Marketing Dr. Fred Palumbo convened to discuss the fact that the business world has not been satisfied with the skills of college students across the country. Although students are well trained in business theory, businesses also wish their college recruits to be better equipped with practical knowledge. Everyone agreed that a bridge between business theory and its practical aspects was needed in the Sy Syms School of Business. A decision was reached to try to alleviate this problem by expanding to a curriculum which will attempt to forge closer links with prominent businessmen who could share their 'practical knowledge' with college students. This semester's Management Seminar, under the aegis

of the School's Ira and Doris Kukin Distinguished Visiting Professorship program, is only the first in what SSSB hopes to be a series of new and exciting programs in the business school.

When devising the class, Dr. Palumbo created a list of possible candidates from many sectors of the business world, hoping to give students a broad spectrum of major companies. Many of the CEO's were also chosen based on the varying challenges that their companies were experiencing, for instance foreign competition, government regulation, downsizing and environmental problems. Ultimately the list was narrowed down to the present diverse group of entrepreneurial all-stars. "These and other leading business figures [teaching] represent diverse segments of the economy, including manufacturing, retailing, media and communications, and financial services," commented Vice-President Schwartz.

Dr. Palumbo, the new course's coordinator, noted that the initiative of the CEO to teach in such a program is due to the "willingness of business leaders to enter into partnerships with institutions of higher learning to devise programming which meets the goal of bridging the gap between theory and practice in the real world." The course encourages the students to think and write critically, which helps benefit companies in the future.

Besides student benefits, Dr. Palumbo also realizes what a positive impact a course of this nature can have on the entire YU community. The course enhances the academic quality of YU which is what many prominent donors want to see as a development of their contributions. The course also helps forge relationships with major figures in the business world, who have had little previous connection with YU. This new relationship will hopefully progress into increased recruiting by these companies at YU.

YU to Face Financial Consequences if Gay Issue Goes to Trial

continued from page one

is specifically contrary to its inherent religious values. In the opinions of the two attorneys present, it would not be easy for YU to meet either of the two criteria.

Since 1968, when the Attorney General of New York State sent a questionnaire to all universities asking whether they would comply with the statute or claim exemption, YU has specifically claimed that it is not a religious institution. In fact, in the late 1960s, YU specifically separated itself from RIETS in order to allow itself to maintain its status as an institution not governed by religious values. RIETS was given its own charter and is affiliated with YU only by a very specific agreement which, again, specifically denies that YU itself is a religious institution. In addition, over the past two decades, YU has filed numerous forms with the state requesting government aid in which it has specifically stated that it is not a religious institution. In the opinion of the presenting attorneys, arguing against such overwhelming self-incriminating evidence would indeed be an impossible task. When pressed, they said that if forced to argue the issue in court, they would point to the practical religious aspects of Yeshiva University schools in order to establish it as a religious institution.

Even if YU were to establish itself as a religious institution, despite the difficulties, it would still be necessary for it to prove that providing facilities for the gay club specifically negates its religious purpose. Richard Davis, one of the two attorneys, argued that even this criterion would be difficult to meet because the statute specifically says that providing equal facilities is not tantamount to condoning the activities that the facilities are used for. Thus, YU could not argue that simply by providing office space it is condoning the club, because the law says that is not so. Even the attorneys, however, did allow that it would be easier for YU to meet this test than the first test of proving that they are a religious institution. Interestingly, under this second criterion, even RIETS, clearly a religious organization would be unable to take action against gay clubs.

Although legal precedent in this area is far from abundant, there are two relevant cases. The first is the well-known Georgetown case where the University attempted to deny equal access to gay organizations and the Washington DC Court of Appeals decided against the school. Although the Georgetown case is similar to YU's situation, the law is different in the two states and thus the

case is of marginal importance. More relevant is the New York State case of Scheiber v. St. John's. In this case, St. John's University removed a Jewish student leader, arguing that his occupying the position prevented the university from achieving its religious purpose. Here, the Court decided that although St. John's did qualify as a religious institution, it would still not be able to demonstrate that the position had to be filled by a person of the same religion. This decision is viewed as extremely damaging to YU on this issue because while St. John's specifically defines itself as a religious institution and refuses state funds, YU does not, and would thus be in a much worse position than St. John's.

Collateral Consequences

The meeting ended with a discussion of the collateral consequences that YU could experience if it were to take this matter to Court. If YU were to argue in court that it was a religious institution, it would be specifically contradicting documents that it filed with the state requesting funding and could thus put that funding in jeopardy. Last fall, the university secured \$32 million in tax exempt bonds from the New York State Dormitory fund. Moreover, YU receives in excess of \$1 million each year from the Bundy fund, a fund that distributes funds specifically on the basis of an institution's compliance with the Blaine Amendment, a law that, in effect, requires the equal access provisions that are required by the city statute. In addition, YU is the recipient of over \$40 million in research funds a year that could be jeopardized by losing its status as a non-religious institution. In the words of Dr. Socol, "That is a lot of money ... It makes a big difference between existence and non-existence."

Jeff Stier, Editor-in-Chief of the *Cardozo Law Forum*, was not impressed by the meeting. Despite the arguments made by the attorneys, he still believes that YU could win if the issue were to go to court. In fact, Nulman did mention that YU had consulted one attorney who believed that a court would decide in YU's favor. Socol, however, added, that even he, when pressed, could not defend his position. If anything, Stier has become even more disillusioned by the University's attitude towards this issue. "Yeshiva University has, in effect, equated the Torah U'Maddah logo with the Urim V'Tumim logo at Yale University — a symbol that has no meaning whatsoever. I think an important step is for YU to take the Torah U'Maddah symbol down from its doors."

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OBITUARY
Harav Shlomo
Zalman Auerbach

BY STEVEN MIODOWNIK

HaRav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach, one of the most respected halachic authorities in Eretz Yisrael and the world, became the third *gadol* to leave us this month when he passed away in Yerushalayim on Sunday, February 19. Rav Auerbach's passing was marked by mourning worldwide, and the recognition that an irreplaceable Torah figure had been lost.

Rav Auerbach, who was 84 at his passing, was reportedly the first child to be born in a fledgling Sha'arei Chesed neighborhood of Yerushalayim, a community he served his entire life. Under the guidance of his father, HaRav Chaim Leib Auerbach, the world-famous Jewish mystic, Rav Shlomo Zalman attended the renowned Etz Chaim yeshiva. He gained a reputation as a preeminent halachic authority at quite a young age and was a mainstay at Sha'arei Chesed's Gra Shul for fifty years. Rav Auerbach's first sefer, "*Ma'adanei Aretz*," was a highly acclaimed work concerning the laws of *sh'mittah*. After years of private study, Rav Auerbach became a master in all areas of halachah. Until his passing, thousands around the world relied solely on him for halachic *p'sak*.

Rav Auerbach's grasp of Jewish law included a firm background in science and technology, upon which he could form complex halachic opinions, especially in the area of *Shabbat*. In a moving eulogy delivered last Tuesday night in a packed Main Beit Midrash, MYP Rosh Yeshiva Rav Meir Goldwicht recounted how Rav Auerbach met with the greatest physicists in Israel, who were awestruck at the breadth of his knowledge.

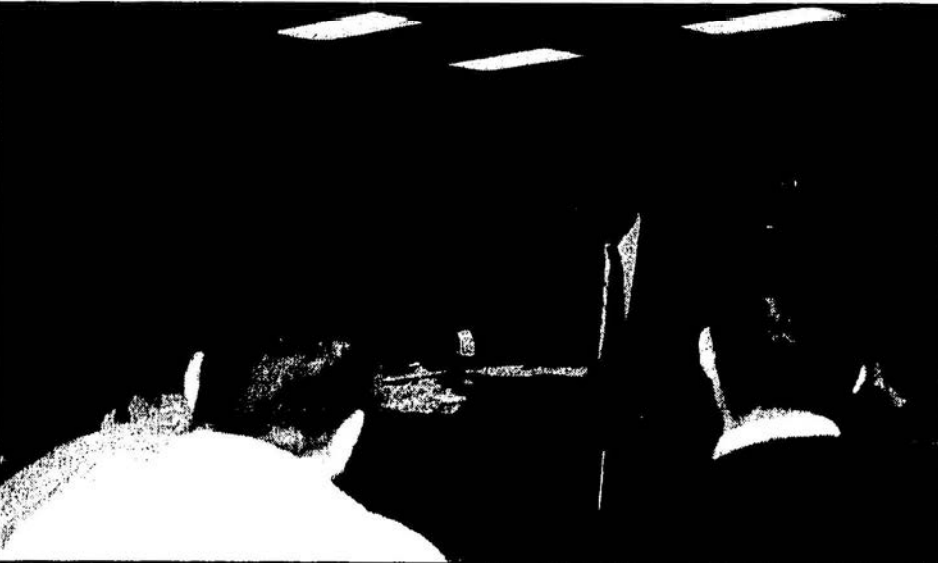
But most significant, asserted Rav Goldwicht, was Rav Auerbach's perfect *midot*, especially his modesty: "His uniqueness was that he did not see his own uniqueness! He made everyone feel that he existed purely for them." Rav Goldwicht described him as one who hated *machloket* and constantly fled from it, as a supporter of orphans and widows, as one who subjugated his will to that of others. MYP Dean Rabbi Zevulun Charlop characterized Rav Shlomo Zalman as "a world personality. His greatness was that he belonged to all camps, that he was the friend of all enemies."

Connection to YU

Rav Auerbach had strong ties with the Goldwicht and Charlop families. Rav Goldwicht's family, which settled in Sha'arei Chesed before moving to Kerem B'Yavneh in the mid-fifties, has maintained extremely close relations with the Auerbach family. Rav Charlop's grandson married Rav Auerbach's granddaughter just last month, but the two families go decades back. Rav Charlop's grandfather, HaRav Ya'akov Moshe Charlop, who was head of Sha'arei Chesed and Rosh Yeshiva of Mercaz HaRav, was the one who first approached Rav Shlomo Zalman about leading the community.

In a 1945 letter recently discovered by Rav Charlop, Rav Ya'akov Moshe writes about a thirty-something scholar whom he had just met and felt was destined for greatness. In the letter, Rav Ya'akov Moshe implores his son to see to it that the young Shlomo Zalman Auerbach is properly supported and given every opportunity to grow in learning.

In his final letter, Rav Auerbach requested of his mourners "not to overindulge in praise... but to arouse *mot, mussar, and love of Torah*."



Rav Meir Goldwicht delivering a Hespel for Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach in the Main Beis Midrash

OBITUARY
Harav Shimon Schwab

BY NICK MUZIN

B'av.

After a lifetime of service to the Jewish community, Rav Shimon Schwab, beloved leader of the nearby Breuer's community passed away last week at 86 years of age. Born in Germany and educated in the Lithuanian *Yeshivas*, Rav Schwab was considered one of the last great Torah giants from a generation that is all too rapidly fading away.

In 1957, after serving as a Rav in Baltimore, Rav Schwab joined the Rabbanut of K'hal Adath Jeshurun in Washington Heights and later took over the duties of the famed Rav Breuer *zt'l*.

Rav Schwab was known throughout Klal Yisroel as a dynamic Talmudic scholar whose advice was widely sought. He was a brilliant thinker and a prolific writer who delivered his many themes with a fiery oratory. His famous sefer "*Elu VaElu*" (These and Those), is considered a basic handbook today for many Jewish educators. In addition, his collections "Selected Speeches" and "Selected Writings" testify to his wide scope of expertise, ranging from piercing *Divrei Mussar* to an essay on the miscalculations in the timeline of Jewish History.

Rav Schwab also composed a beautiful *Kinah* about the Holocaust which is recited in many shuls today on *Tisha*

operation of the *Kehillath Adath Jeshurun Kashrus* division, which is considered by many to be of the highest standard. He was also involved in the growth of the Breuer's Beis Medrash and Kollel.

Rav Schwab was one of the last gedolim who promoted the unique philosophy of *Torah Im Derech Eretz*, an ideology based on the writings of Rav Shimon Raphael Hirsch. While many have compared this to YU's Torah U'Madda philosophy, Rav Schwab was a staunch opponent of YU and spoke many times about the problems he foresaw with a way of life "that couldn't make up its mind about priorities." It is perhaps because of Rav Schwab's close proximity to YU, both physically, and with regard to ideology, that he felt so inclined to speak out against it.

In his will, Rav Schwab stipulated that no hespedim be said at the levayah. Instead, a large hesped was held on Monday night February 20 at which both the Novominsker Rebbe and Rav Shmuel Kamenetsky, Rosh Yeshiva of the Yeshiva of Philadelphia, spoke.

Rav Zecharia Gellay, who joined the rabbinate of the Kehillah eight years ago in order to help Rav Schwab with the day to day operations, will be taking over as Rav of the community.

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Expansion of Maximum Credits per Semester Not Expected

continued from page one

clearly referring to the mandatory shiur credit proposal.

The YC faculty would also have little to lose, their fears about shiur credit replacing college elective credit assuaged by the counterbalance of reducing Israel elective credits. In fact, they may even gain. Rabbi Charlop presently seeks four semesters of mandatory shiur credit. But according to sources, some in the debate have expressed interest at reducing Israel credit down to twenty four, thereby freeing up even more elective credits.

SOY President Book Not Invited

The administration also hopes that students will not feel they are losing under the proposal, as the total credits taken outside of college classes will remain approximately the same. Strikingly absent at this past meeting however, was SOY president Yitzchak Book, who attended the previous meeting and has been the predominant voice of the students on the issue. Book alleges he was promised at the previous meeting that he'd be invited but then was left uninformed. "They told me I'd be invited, yet I only found out about the meeting from someone after it had already taken place," remarked the SOY president. The incident has heightened students' fears that they are being shut out of the process. "Many members of the administration are very good at paying lip service to the idea of student input, but when it comes down to it, they make little effort to include them in the process, noted an anonymous and clearly agitated student. "It seems almost as if they view students as an interference instead of an integral part of the process," he explained further. "They therefore make concerted efforts to discuss things without them present."

Dr. Bernstein, however, points out that despite agreeing with the notion that students should play some role in

the process, he believes that in its early stages, the discussion should be left mainly to faculty and administration. He explained, "Often, student involvement at such an early stage creates more heat than it does light. Students will have their say later, at both the Academic Standards and Curriculum Committee meetings." (Each have two student representatives.) Other faculty members point out that this will not impact on current students anyway, because all discussions on the issue have been under the assumption that those now enrolled in the college will have a "grandfather clause" and will never apply to them.

Other concerns have been voiced. Some students maintain that the mandatory credit will limit the amount of classes they are able to take in a given semester. The possibility of YC expanding this limit, though, is quite improbable.

"After the YC meeting several weeks ago which passed the resolution setting the limit at seventeen and a half, I don't think something like that is going to fly", remarked Biology department chairman and meeting attendee Dr. Carl Feit.

Perhaps the biggest concern now facing those in the debate is the potentially harmful effects of Israel credit reduction on enrollment, especially in a period when it is enjoying near record numbers. Recruitment Director Melvin Davis was on hand at the meeting and could figure in as a key player if the Israel credit reduction idea proceeds further.

On the whole, many faculty and administration members remain optimistic that the issue can be resolved in a manner acceptable to all parties. "Progress has been made in a positive direction," noted Bernstein. "We hope we can find a solution which will be pleasing to everyone."

Intramurals Return

The Juice Set to Defend Title

BY DAVID GOLDENBERG

Congratulations to the Champions

Captain Ephraim Gerzberg
Ari Ciment
Dovey Forman
Ari Oliner
Shlomie Herschman
Kenny Ripstein
Mordechai Schnur
Jonathan Schloss

Charleston Chiefs 58,
Miami Juice 36

In the first game back from vacation, the defending champs looked anything but ready to defend their title as they were handily defeated by the Chiefs. Neer Even-hen led all scorers with 17 points. Hillel Cohen chipped in with 11 for the winners. The Juice were led by Dovey Foreman's 10 points.

Hickory Huskers 51,
Terhune Tigers 29

The Huskers who lost in the semi-finals last semester picked up Wes Kalmar in the supplemental draft before the game and it paid off right away, as he scored 10 points in his debut. The Huskers were led by forward Michael Dube who scored 19 to lead the Huskers to their first win of the season. Terhune was led by Sam Wald's 10 points.

Oolitic Owls 54,
South Bend Central Bears 33

The Owls easily defeated a shorthanded Bears team as Noam Geft led the way with 12 and Ari Hirt added 10. The Bears who played without captain Eitan Butler, guard Chaim Zakheim, and forward Jeremy Fox, were led by David Zeit's 13 points as he shot 3-5 from downtown.

Oolitic Owls 51, Terhune 40

Oolitic won their second straight as Noam Geft once again led the way with 19 points for his second straight strong performance. Ari Hirt added 12 points for the 2-0 Owls. The Tigers are headed in the other direction as they fell to 0-2. Sam Wald scored 10 for Terhune.

S.B. Central Bears 78, Miami 61

In a game that saw little defense and 17 three pointers, the Bears out-gunned the Juice by 17. The Bears had five players in double figures as David Katzoff led all scorers with 24 points. Aaron Solomon added 15 and Ron Markowitz scored 14. For the Juice who played without captain Ephraim Gerzberg and forward Ari Ciment dropped to 0-2. Ari Oliner had the hot hand for Miami hitting for 18 points on 6 three pointers. Shlomie Herschman scored 15.

Albany Patroons 44,
Ithica Warriors 32

The Patroons avenged their semi-final loss to the Warriors last semester and won their opener with a strong second half. The Warriors who led by 1 at halftime switched to a man-to-man defense in the second half and Albany took advantage. Bennett Schacter who was traded to albany prior to tip-off from Ithica scorched his former teammates with 11 points including 8 in a row during a 10-2 decisive second half run. Steven Bransdorfer led the Warriors with 14 points and supplemental draftee David Wild added 8.

Hickory 40, Ithica 36

The Warriors who lost one game all of last season dropped their second straight to open up 0-2 as Arkady Abraham led the Huskers with 11 points. The Warriors who came within 2 at 33-31 with five minutes left couldn't overcome Hickory. they were led once again by center Steven Bransdorfer's 14 and David Wild's 13.

With the win, the Huskers moved into a first place tie with Oolitic with a 2-0 record.

Long Island Surf 42,
Charleston 40 O.T.

In the most exciting game of the young season, the Surf, in their opener, edged the Chiefs by 2 in overtime. With 4 seconds left in the extra session, Hillel Olshin went to the line for two foul shots. He missed them both but got his own rebound and scored the winner for the Surf. Akiva Aronson led all scorers with 14 points. Hillel Cohen scored 12 for the 1-1 Chiefs.

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Mazal Tov to Seth Dimbert and Judi Goodman on their Recent Engagement

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Yeshiva Sports



The 1994-95 Macs in a team photo taken before the game at MSG

Macs Finish Second in the IAC League Standings

Team Earns Respect by Overcoming Adversity

BY ADAM MELZER

Now that the season is over, it is time to reflect a little on how far the Macs have gone and how much adversity they have overcome. The Macs wanted respect this year and they earned it. After beginning the season 3-6, the Macs finished their season by winning 10 of their last 14, finishing a solid 13-10.

Macs Beat Bard in First Round

The Macs qualified as the second seed in the Independent Athletic Conference after defeating Stevens Tech in the season finale. The Macs first round opponent in the IAC tournament was Bard College. The game was played before a large crowd in the Max Stern Athletic Center. The Macs grounded out a 12-point win without star Alan Levy who sat out due to injury. Beating Bard allowed the Macs to move on to the semifinals against Mt. St. Vincent. For the Macs, the win also demonstrated that they could win without Levy, a graduating senior. Barry Aranoff (the nation's steals leader as of tournament time!) played his best game as a Mac, scoring 28 points on 11 for 14 shooting (4 three pointers). Neil Bronstein was also a force with 14 points and Stephen Kupferman (8 points) was superb in filling in for an injured Alan Levy.

In the semifinal game, the results were much different. The game was over quickly as Mt. St. Vincent trounced the Macs 97-53. Mt. St. Vincent hit their first seven shots of the game (the eighth shot, which was missed, was quickly tipped

in) en-route to the rout which ended the Mac's season.

Overcoming Adversity:

One of the themes of this year's winning Macs was overcoming adversity. Though many had thought the Macs would simply fall apart this year, they surprised all and overcame a number of factors which figured against them in the beginning of the year. Here is a list of some of them:

1. The loss of Daniel Aaron and Miko Danan. The Macs finished with a better record than last year.
2. A 3-6 start. The Macs won 10 of their final 14 games.
3. The loss of Coach Podias. Coach Post (-dias) was a capable replacement as the Macs defense remained solid.
4. The media - 'nuff said.
5. The injury to Issac Neuman. A key role player was replaced by Neil Bronstein who emerged as a solid player in only his first season as a Mac.

6. The fans. Mac fans were not so quick to come to games citing the lack of a marquee player. Ever hear of Hoosiers? How about the Mighty Ducks?

The 1994-95 Macs will be remembered as a team that overcame adversity. They were a team that not only earned the respect of many but had a very productive season in doing so. They were a team that went from 3-6 to one in contention for a possible ECAC tournament berth. Congratulations to Coaches Halpert and Post and to the entire team on a very commendable season.

Volleyball Team off to a Shaky Start

BY COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF

After a half-year of practice, the Y.U. Volleyball team began their season at Stevens Tech with the IAC tournament. The team had placed third at the tournament a year ago and had hoped to improve on that this year. After sizing up the competition, Co-Captain Noam Geft remarked that "this goal could be reached." Veteran setter Noah Lindenberg continually stressed that if the team just concentrated on the fundamentals, they could stay competitive with any team!

The first opponent for the Macs was the host, Stevens Tech. In the first game (of a best-of-5 series), the team was playing well, and most importantly, playing as a unit. This resulted in a high level of intensity, and led to a lead late in the game. The passing was good, the setting was excellent, and the all around play of Co-Captain Avi Vogel had everyone feeling that the team had a promising day ahead of them. Unfortunately, a late collapse which cost the team the game was a precursor for the rest of the day's events. Errors in all aspects of the game were turning up everywhere, and the lack of consistency was completely destroying YU's chances. They lost the first game 15:13, the second 15:10, and the third 15:6.

The second opponent to face YU was IAC newcomer, Polytechnic. After watching this team play earlier in the day, Coach Shensheng Jiang figured on giving his rookies some quality time. Although YU did not play up to its fullest potential, and the reliable setting of Noah Lindenberg and Vladimir Pe-

terzeil, YU prevailed in three straight games 15:7, 15:7, 15:10 behind the thunderous spikes of Noam Geft,

In their third match, YU fell quickly to tournament favorite, NJIT (15:2, 15:3, 15:6), and went on to face an improved Mt. St. Vincent team which YU had beaten 3 times last season.

Unfortunately, the result was the same old story, with YU staying competitive until the end. The match ended with YU losing 15:11, 15:6, 15:6.

Although the day concluded with the Macs holding a 1-3 record, Coach Shensheng Jiang was able to draw many positives. Firstly, YU beat the teams that they were supposed to, and secondly, the players were able to see what they had to improve on, both as a unit, as well as individually. Furthermore, newcomers Jeremy Fine, and Eitan Geft saw their first action as Macs, and proved with their solid play that they will be tremendous contributors in the future. Others who contributed were veterans Boris Khodorkovsky and Martin Joshua, and rookies, David Ruditzky, Carl Hochhauser, and Andrew Davidson.

Macs Fall to York at MSAC

In Y.U.'s first home match of the season, the team was looking to rebound from its disappointing showing at the IAC tournament. With a large crowd looking on, the team wanted a win badly. The team lost the first two games miserably, committing numerous unforced errors. There was no doubt, they were beating themselves! Finally the team came alive late in the second game, but it was too little too late. The final score was 15:3, 15:11, 15:13 in favor of York.

The Commentator
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