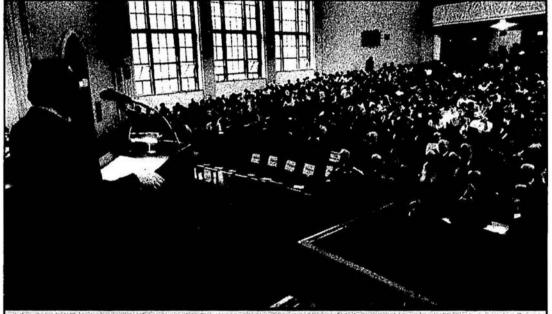
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Rabbi Lamm addresses a packed Lamport Auditorium on the topic of techelet this past Thursday morning. The address was part of the memorial *yahrtzeit shiur* for Rabbi Isaac Elcchanan Spector. See story on page 5.

# New YC Dean Norman Adler Finally Takes Office

BY NICK MUZIN

On Thursday, March 23, a day he called "his most stimulating in decades," Dr. Norman Adler assumed the reigns of the YC deanship. Student leaders and faculty members flooded his office for much of the day, welcoming him and expressing their wishes for a successful tenure.

Dr. Adler began his day by attending the "Techelet lectures" given by Rabbis Lamm, Tendler, and Shachter, which he called "religious and intellectual pyrotechnics."

"Intellectually, this univer-



Dr. Norman Adler

sity is more intense than any I've ever been at. It's a unique place, truly the nerve center of orthodoxy. And the heart of YU is the college. The students here are the brightest and the best."

Dean Adler plans to raise faculty salaries, and improve laboratory infrastructure with more modern equipment. While he intends to improve academic standards by "creating a sense of intellectual excitement" he is conscious of the pressures already exerted on the students.

When asked how he would respond to conflicts between the yeshiva and the college, Adler pointed to the fact that his Hebrewnameis "Nachum," which means "to comfort, to calm down."

"The synthesis of Torah U'Madda is a philosophical

continued on page 14

# Socol "Pulls Plug" on Purim Shpiel

#### Misunderstanding by Both Sides

BY MOSHE I. KINDERLEHRER

Late last week, SOY president Yitzchak Book and members of the YU administration achieved a partial resolution of the incident in which Jeffrey Socol, Associate Director of Facilities Management, disconnected sound system for this year's Purim shpiel.

At the beginning of the shpiel and in front of hundreds of students from YC and SCW, Socol stepped onto the stage in Lamport Auditorium and unplugged the wires necessary for the specially rented set of wireless microphones to work, forcing the cast of the shpiel to use the regular Lamport sound system. Socol's action threw the cast of the shpiel off-guard and upset many of the students involved in its production. After last week's meetings, both sides now claim that the whole affair was a "mutual misunderstanding."

On the Monday following Purim, YCSC president Daniel Billig drafted a memo to Dean of Students Efrem Nulman and Assistant Dean of Students Rabbi Jeffrey Chaitoff which outlined Socol's actions, and accused Socol of ruining the Purim shpiel for the students. The memo also stated that YCSC, acting in the interest of the student body, would seek to file a "class-action" lawsuit on behalf of the student body, unless Socol writes an apology and Facil-

ities Management refunds the \$1,500 room fee charged for using Lamport Auditorium.

ThoughSOY, not YCSC, was the student organization tasked with organizing and running the *chagiga* and *shpiel*, Billig justified his actions. "I went in representing the students," he explained. "Students came to me upset over what happened, and I felt that the students were entitled to getting their money back." Billig also noted that the *chagiga* was sponsored with money from virtually all the student organizations, including \$500 from YCSC, as well as from the YC Alumni Association.

Acting as an intermediary between Director of Supporting Services Administration Jeffrey Rosengarten, Socol, and the students, Chaitoff met with Book and students involved in the shpiel last Wednesday to discuss the issues raised by Billig and to hear the Administration's position on the issue. According to Chaitoff and Book, Socol and Rosengarten claimed that the specially rented microphone system had not been cleared with Facilities Management prior to the event and that the system threatened to damage the current sound system in Lamport. At the beginning of the shpiel, claimed Socol, certain sounds and static were coming from the system which indicated that the wireless microphones were incompatible with continued on page 14

# YCSC and Class Elections Heat Up

#### President Overhauls Process

BY MEIR ZEITCHIK

The annual YCSC and class elections processes have commenced, bringing with them the usual excitement and controversies. And in an effort to make this year's election process both smoother and more constitutional than in years past, YCSC President Daniel Billig and the Canvassing Committee have introduced subtle yet significant changes in this year's YCSC and class elections.

 $While the election season \, has$ 

only just begun, some interesting dramas were already beginning to unfold as of press time. In the hotly contested YCSC presidential race, declared candidate Eric Berkowitz was reconsidering his decision to run after contemplating the matter and realizing that the demanding job of YCSC President may conflict with his studies and MCAT preparation. By press time, however, he had already collected the necessary signatures. Adam Melzer, a close friend of Berkowitz and a

presidential candidate himself, has decided to run despite the fact that his friendship with Berkowitz may cause strife between them, not to mention split the vote amongst their mutual friends.

#### No Competition For Senior Class

In the Senior class presidential race, Oren Lieber is the only declared candidate, which means that if he amasses enough signatures to be placed on the continued on page 15

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Hundreds dance at the annual Purim Chagigah last week. Men were in the Beis Midrash, while the women were in Belfer Hall.

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#### **Time to Put Students First**

In one fell swoop, Assistant Director of Facilities Management Jeffrey Socol wasted hours of students' hard work and preparation for last week's Purim *shpiel*. Claiming he heard static and odd noises emanating from the Lamport Auditorium sound system, he disconnected the privately rented wireless microphones minutes before the *shpiel's* commencement. SOY president Yitzchak Book indeed affirmed that he did not obtain written permission to hook up the microphones. Nonetheless, Socol's actions bore no justification. Even if his claim that the microphones were "incompatible" was accurate, that does not justify the unilateral decision-making and abrupt manner in which he ripped out the microphone system, rendering the *shpiel* virtually inaudible. The swift departure of the near-capacity audience attested to that.

While both sides have graciously acknowledged error, this incident never should have occurred. Facilities Management and Supporting Services, like all other ancillary components of a university, exist to serve the only vital component of any academic institution: the students. Although fundamental in nature, this idea is sometimes lost on members of such administrative units, or even worse, those units as a whole. Simply stated, students should not have to "kiss up" to, or fear dealing with, obstinate administrators every time they want to organize an event or rent a room. That we must currently do so indicates a glaring problem which demands immediate attention.

### Welcome, Dean Adler

If you thought the breeze outside Belfer was bad, try the winds that have blown through Yeshiva College this year.

Issue after issue, this campus has discussed and debated the academic challenges facing YC. Israel credit. Course offerings. Time spent on campus. Faculty salaries. Passions have run high. Student interest has perked up. What is there to show for it all?

Enter Norman Adler.

Previously unacquainted with YU and unfamiliar with its political infighting and personality conflicts, Dean Adler brings to this time of transition the objective detachment necessary to steer us back on course. His academic resume suggests a determined and innovative administrator unafraid to make bold suggestions. And the moment affords him the chance to put his ideas into action.

While the ultimate destination of a more academically sound Yeshiva College is clear, the route there is not. We await real direction from the new helmsman on his proposed trajectory. Administrators, faculty, and students need to hear about his vision for the college and what role each of us must play in realizing it.

The great dialogue about YC's academic future has begun. The task now falls to the new dean to channel the dynamism of this discussion into a plan for progress.

Dean Adler, welcome to Yeshiva College. We look forward to hearing from you.

# PICTORIAL



There was no misunderstanding; it was a bomb they defused.

# The Commentator

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# To the Editor

# **Enough is Enough**

To the Editor:

With all the plethora of things I have to do throughout my long day, I relish returning to my room, and its peace and quiet. It is my only escape from YU, where I can do my work without any distractions. Unfortunately, there is one minhag in Morg which has just gotten way out of hand. This past week, there were four engagement parties. Mazel Tov, I'm happy for you, but two hours of loud music is a difficult obstacle to overcome while attempting to do all my reading.

I shouldn't have to go to the library, I should beable to study in my roomwhenever I want, without distraction. The li-

brary, by the way, is not conducive to studying.

A reasonable alternative would be to have engagement parties in Weissberg Commons (bottom floor Belfer). But if for some reasonengagement parties continue in Morg, I would hope that the revenue they generate would be used to buy new dryers. That is another thing which should be changed. They are an embarrassment to this university. Either get rid of the engagement parties, or use them to buy new dryers. The current situation is unbearable.

Yoni Kahan SSSB 96'

#### Attention Seniors:

There's still time to become a part of the 1995 Masmid (our yearbook)!
The deadline for all ads and Bios is April 24, 1995.

Please bring ads to Marcelo Weiss Mo304

# Cho Tension and Balance MOEC

### A Message From the Rosh Hayeshiva, Rabbi Lamm

I have always been intrigued by the phenomenon of Chol Hamoed. For here, in both the name for and substance of the intermediate days between Yom Tov Rishon and Yom Tov Acharon of Pesach and Sukkot, we find a reflection of our own lives and Weltanschauung.

Consider the very term: *Chol* = profane, secular; and *Moed* = festival, sacred. And the halakhot of these days continue the same theme; part Yom Tov, part weekday. Most forms of melachah are prohibited, yet those involved in the preparation of food are permitted. Also, those which are forbidden are sometimes tolerated in certain cases of dire need. And even then we must dress in a manner befitting a holy day.

Indeed, it seems that what the Talmud (Pes. 68b and Betzah 15b) says about Yom Tov itself applies even more aptly to Chol Hamoed: "Half for you, half for G-d," i.e., the study of Torah. It is a mixture of both the human and the divine, a hybrid of the holy and the profane.

I remember reading, in the name of the great Gerer Rebbe, the Chiddushei  ${\it HaRim}$ , that the ability to embrace both, to comprehend the Chol and the moed simultaneously, is an avodah kasha — a most difficult task — and that is why Onkelos, in translating the verse "And Moses spoke (va-yedabber) the festivals of the Lord to the Children of Israel," used the word ve'alifnun, "and he taught them." Why was it necessary for Moses to teach the festivals instead of enumerating them? Because of the inherent challenge of combining both the sacred and the secular. It is not unusual to aspire to complete devotion to either one of the two — all sacred or all profane — but the Almighty asks more of us. There are indeed times when we must concentrate all our energies and talents and interests in one direction, but the major part of life must be an application of Chol Hamoed, of the two in consonance and synergistic cooperation with each other.

Moses, who was Ish haElokim, one who combined both the manly and the G-dly, was ideally suited to teach the lesson of Chol Hamoed to his people. Adon haneviim and melekh, military leader and kohen gadol — he was the right one not only to relay the commandment to observe the moadim, but also to act as a role model in teaching ment which happily accompany us Israel their meaning.

We of Yeshiva University hold that ideal aloft; indeed, our very name is apposite to "Chol Hamoed," as is our mission of Torah Umadda. Those who aspire to this ideal and who labor to realize it in their lives and their careers, can testify to the fact that it is unquestionably an avodah kashah, a difficult, wearying challenge. The task is not only physically trying — the dual program was not meant for the lazy and the weak — but it is only

intellectually demanding. A cartoon I saw not too long ago shows a little boy returning home from school with a frown on his face and, when his mother asks him what went wrong, replies, "We learned how to think today. It hurt!" Trying, demanding, challenging, wearying, sometimes hurting but it is worth the prize!

I know that we are under sustained criticism from a number of sources, all of whom tell us that it can't be dome, that Torah and Madda, Yeshiva and University, cannot coexist without compromising each other. But an awareness of history arms us against arguments that have long been buried for want of proof, only to be disinterred and revived. Take note: it was always thus! At the very cradle of our institution, long before any of us was born, this new experiment in Jewish education was declared doomed. The Yiddish press sanctimoniously opined that a "real" yeshiva was incompatible with a college. The secular Anglo-Jewish press smugly ridiculed the idea of Torah students excelling in the liberal arts and sciences.

Since those days, when Yeshiva was moving form the Lower East Side to Washington Heights (then considered the gentrified suburbs), we have educated, reared, and trained many generations of Torah Umadda personalities. And Yeshiva alumni, imbued with the ultimate and proven compatibility of Chol and Moed, have risen in the ranks of American Jewish leadership and were marbitz Torah be'rabbim both here and in Israel, all - without being strangers in the world of Madda and without suffering any insult to their spiritual integrity.

In a word, we have made Chol Hamoed come alive in the very texture of our lives. As long as the emphasis is on Torah — the Yom Tov before and the Yom Tov after — and as long as the integration of all our values takes place in the larger context of kedushah, Chol Hamoed remains the choice period to emulate for the bulk of our lives.

Yes, Chol and Moed sometimes clash, there is often tension between them; that is an existential as well as a halackhic fact. But more memorable than the tension is the sense of balance, and more enduring that the conflict is the resulting spiritual enrichment. It is the balance and the enrichthrough life.

As we welcome Pesach, bear in mind that as talmidim of Yeshiva University we face the daunting avodah kashah of embracing in each of our personalities the distinctive dynamism of Chol Hamoed - that which can sanctify our Chol and strengthen our Moed. And difficult as it may sometimes be, remember what we learned in Avot — le'fum tzaara agra, the reward is commesurate with the pain!

Moadim le'simcha to all of you!



#### From the Editor's Desk

#### Moshe I. Kinderlehrer

Campus elections are right around the corner. Next week - election week - bulletin boards will groan under the weight of the thousands of fluorescentcolored sheets stapled to them. Candidates who have not already begun to do so will soon start trekking floor-tofloor in the dorms and apartments, listening and talking to students from all walks of the YU "community." They will solicit advice, take suggestions, and heed all criticisms offered. And they will participate in debates, such as the one to be held next week in Morg Lounge, which offer interested students a glimpse at the faces behind the names on the ballot, as well as a chance to see how well our potential student leaders hold up under pressure and in the public eye.

For me, and, I believe, for many on campus, election time is an amusing period. We watch as some friends transform into politicians, others into amateur strategists and consultants. The spectacle on Election Day, when anxious candidates don suits and stand outside the voting area, hoarsely wooing the passing voters, is downright comedic. And often, the best campaign signs are those most offbeat, clever, and entertaining. Humor certainly plays a vital role in our election process. After speaking with many alumni, I've discovered that for the most part, elections have always been this way. This won't change.

However, the elections have another, more sober side to them. The issues at stake affect all of us. Surprising as it may be to some, the student council presidency, as well as the other student council and Jewish studies positions, carry with them real responsibility, both to the student body and the university.

Candidates speak earnestly of including the entire student body in student government, of acting as the voice of the students, and of serving as a bridge between the students and the administration. They talk glowingly ofnew initiatives and the ways in which student government can be improved and made more responsive.

I hope they do not forget their pledges.

As the candidates gear up for next Thursday, let them take to heart their campaign slogans and promises. From the winners, I only request that the convictions and sentiments they evince this coming week do not get buried under the inevitable avalanche of "other things to do" in the year ahead. Their commitment to the students, which they profess increasingly as the election nears, will serve as the measure of their success. Hopefully, in one year from now, they will be remembered for having honored it.



### Message From the **YCSC President**

Gentlemen, You have in the next week and a half, a wonderful opportunity. It is not better facility hours, lounges in the dorms or an evening with the Alumni, no those dreams have already been realized. It is now time to chart your future and dream again.

Yes, Election day fast approaches, and you can expect to hear the most outrageous promises. (I myself have made some.) There are thirty three candidates for ten YCSC positions and over thirty for SSSBSA positions. Each one will try to catch your attention with a cute joke or sincere concern. Consider them carefully, because these candidates are your representatives to the Administration, Faculty, and thewhole world. They have the best chance of continued improvement in your student life.

Believe it or not, we will be making history on election day. As you may have read our constitution is in the final stages of Amendments. YCSC will distribute to every student a copy of the completed new constitution, with changes underlined, before election day. You will have the chance to reviewthechanges before April 6th. Then on April 6th, your ballot will ask you if you would like to ratify the new constitution. A majority vote will launch us into history as the first student body in many years to do a complete update of the constitution.

Sincerely, Daniel Billig YCSC President 1994-1995 Tel# 781-8139

#### Keshet

is looking for college-age students to work with campers with special needs in overnight camp setting in Wild Rose, Wisconsin. Campers are integrated into all possible activities and each has a one-on-one staff aid. Call Dave Gendel at Keshet for an application. 708-205-0274

#### Chai Lifeline

is in need of a Rabbinical Student to lead the Pesach Sedarim at a New York Hospital. If interested please contact Esther Schwartz at 212.255.1160

# Yeshiva College



# Campus News

Hundreds Celebrate at

Purim Chagiga



Members of the Franco family escort Torah to new home in Morg Sephardic Shul

### **Sephardic Shul Gets New** Sefer Torah

BY ELIE BORGER

The students who use the Sephardic Shul in the lobby of Morgenstern Hall received a brand-new Sephardic Sefer Torah — the first of its kind at YU, on Sunday morning, March 19. At a brief ceremony in Belfer Hall, the Franco family, a prominent Syrian family from Brooklyn, was thanked by students and administration members. The Torah's dedication was in response to the burgeoning Sephardic student population.

Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky, current Vice President for University Affairs and former Sephardic program director, and Rabbi Mitchell M. Serels, the program's current director, attended the ceremony, as did MYP Rosh Yeshiva R. Eliyahu Ben Haim. The donation of the Torah, which arrived encased in Portuguese velvet and silver, marks the culmination of a campaign to enhance the ambiance of the Sephardic shul. The shul has recently received over 150 new seforim, donated by Dr. Robert Matalon.

After the ceremony in Belfer Hall, the Torah was walked along Amsterdam to its home in the aron of the Sephardic Shul in the Morgenstern Dormitory. The procession of approximately 100 people carried the Torah under a chupah and sang along the way.

YC Junior Ralph Madeb, president of the Sephardic Club, declared the Torah's dedication "a milestone for Sephardic students at YU." He noted that it is important for Sephardim to retain their identity within the mostly Ashkenazic student population. "We can still keep our customs and remain one group."

#### students joined rebbeim in singing and "Best Chagiga Ever" dancing at the annual SOY Purim Chagiga. The chagiga, which took place in the Main Beit Midrash, was followed by the annual Purim shpiel and then lasted into the wee hours of the night. As they were last year, Stern College women celebrated their own Chagiga

BY JOSH ENGLARD

tion of past YU Purims. Hundreds of

Purim night 1995, Wednesday, March 15, continued in the rich tradi-

in Weissberg Commons. In anticipation of a large number of attendees, SOY representatives circulated the campus in the days preced-

ing, selling red bracelets that would enable students to enter the chagiga without any hassle. Those who did not buy were required to pay at the door. The large number of pre-purchasers, approximately 300, foreshad-

owed the big turnout for the chagiga.

The ten-piece band provided by Neshoma Orchestra was all the incentive the participants needed to begin singing and dancing after a long day of fasting and Purim-issue reading. As each Rosh Yeshiva entered the room, throngs of students banded together in concentric circles, surrounding their rebbeim with shouts and screams of joy and happiness. The high point of the night was when all the students gathered into one circle around the dancing Rabbi Norman Lammand Rav Abba Bronspiegel.

The Chagiga, though organized by

SOY, was sponsored as well by YCSC, SCWSC, IBC, JSS. Funding for the Chagiga also came from the Yeshiva College Alumni Association.

"This was the best chagiga that I remember," declared SOY President Yitzchak Book. "The achdus that was displayed was incredible." The 600 students included members of all the different segments of the Yeshiva community as well as students from other colleges and yeshiva high schools. In addition, several developmentally disabled children and adults from Camp HASC were present at the chagiga.

Shortly after midnight, the Purim shpiel commenced in Lamport Auditorium. After a forty-minute delay due to the loss of microphones rented for the Shpiel and a raucous audience, the event began. Unfortunately, much of the shpiel could not be heard over the din of the audience. The problems were compounded later when most of the Stern students left only a few minutes into the performance because the buses to Stern were leaving.

However, the ten YU students participating in the shpiel carried on and finished the performance. As the room quickly emptied, Book rushed to the bandstand and commanded Neshomah to strike up the music immediately. Neshomah complied, and the dancing continued until 2:30 in the morning.

# **YU Professors Deliver** Colloquia Lectures

BY SETH GROSSMAN

In an attempt to foster and promote intellectual discussion among YU faculty members, the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs recently inaugurated the Academic Colloquia Lecture Series. The sequence of lectures, coordinated by YC sociology professor Dr. Mareleyn Schneider, consists of six sessions in which faculty members address the extent of their research in their respective fields. The informal setting is similar to that common to other universities. While the program is intended for faculty members, it is open to anyone who wishes to attend, including students.

This is the second semester that YU has held Colloquia lectures. However, despite the intriguing subjects, neither last semester's sessions nor this semester's first session, which was delivered

by economics professor Dr. Eliyahu Kanovsky, a well-known expert on the economies of the Mideast, on March 6, have boasted large turnouts. Kanovsky addressed the vexing issue of the Middle East peace initiatives, and their economic ramifications.

There are four lectures scheduled for the remainder of the semester on a variety of topics. The most recent lecture was delivered this past Monday by YU archivist Shulamith Z. Berger in Belfer Hall. She spoke on "The Permanence of Ephemera: Archival Treasures." A complete definition of the subject matter ensued. On April 11, Assistant Dean Avery Horowitz will discuss in detail "The Demand for Textbooks: The Effect of the Used Book Market."

Attendees may tote brown-bag lunches to the lectures; beverages and desserts are provided.

# Sy Syms To Hold Student-Alumni Reception

BY SIDNEY SINGER

On Tuesday evening, April 4, the Sy Syms School of Business student councils and Alumni Association will hold a student-alumni gathering at Stern College. Functioning both as a preliminary networking opportunity and alumni reunion, the evening promises to give business students a chance to make contacts without the pressure of a career fair or the more formal Sy Syms dinner held annually at the end of

The reception will combine both formal and the informal. Business attire is required, but students are asked not to bring resumes, although alumni will hand out business cards. No formal speeches will take place.

"The point of the evening," SSSB President Ziv Mendelsohn stated, "is to foster interaction between alumni and students, as well as between fellow alumni." The evening also provides students with a chance to polish their personal presentation skills without the pressure of "having to sell the school," as he puts it.

Mendelsohn credited reception cochairperson Ari Feldman, along with Stern College SSSB president Judith Schlussel, as being instrumental to the realization of the reception, which all parties involved hope will become an annual event. "It's just a great way for students to develop, and even possibly, cement relationships," he said.

Both the reception and transportation from the uptown bookstore are free of cost.

## Senate **Debates** Campus Special Ed.

BY MEIR ZEITCHIK

In debates on important academic issues at YU, the needs of the learning disabled often take a backseat. But as the YC Student Senate sat for their second meeting of the semester on Thursday, March 9, this was precisely the question

After thoroughly examining both the advantages and drawbacks of a "resource center" designed to satisfy the needs of special students, YC Senate member Michael Nelson concluded that the endeavor was worthwhile and urged the formation of a task force to explore the issue. The senate quickly reached a consensus and agreed to empanel the committee.

In his two page proposal, Nelson explained that the center would "allow slightly to moderately learning disabled students to function... in the academic environment of our university." To this end, he suggested features such as "untimed exams in the presence of a special education instructor" as well as "the hiring of a special education instructor to work with these students for a few hours a week." The proposal is based on the assumption that there are highly intelligent students capable of receiving A's, but unfairly suffering under the current system for a variety of reasons, such as an inability to comprehend all the test questions in the allotted amount

However, not all members present at the meeting were satisfied with Nelson's plan in its present formulation. "There is ambiguity in the proposal," commented English professor Dr. William Lee, also noting that he didn't think it was productive for a special Ed teacher to be assisting a student in specialized subjects like Economics.

He also suggested subsuming the room into a larger "Learning Center," where students will have the opportunity to take advantage of a variety of services, including the Writing Center as well as the Resource Room. Physics professor Dr. Cwilich offered a rationale for such a move — it would help remove the stigma which may be attached to an independent Resource Center, thereby encouraging students to make use of it.

#### **Obstacles Aplenty**

The issue poses several difficulties. Perhaps the largest obstacle is in gauging the need for such a program. Many students are reluctant to admit they have a learning disability, and even if they would, confidentiality laws prevent administrative offices from releasing the information.

Still, Nelson is convinced of the efficacy of such a center. As he stated in the proposal: "This program will really help current students and... will also attract new students who previously could not have considered YU as feasible options for their undergraduate studies."



Rav Shachter displays his tztitzis with techeles at the memorial shiur

### Roshei Yeshiva Talk Techelet At Memorial Shiur

BY MICHAEL J. BELGRADE

On Thursday, March 23, three YU Roshei Yeshiva spoke at the Annual Memorial Shiur in the Nathan Lamport Auditorium. The shiurim were in honor of the yartzheit of Rabbi Issac Elchanon Spector zt'l and in memory of Rabbi Dr. Samuel Belkin Zt'l. Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, Rabbi Moshe Dovid Tendler, and Rabbi Hershel Schacter gave shiurim on the issue of Techelet Betzitzit (wearing blue tzitzit) to an audience comprised of students, teachers and rebbeim from YU and from MTA, as well as many from the general Jewish community.

The main issue surrounding the Techelet is whether or not the real "Chilazon," which contained the secretions that make the dye of *Techelet*. Two former YU students, Ari Greenspan and Baruch Sternman, are the two people who claim to have found it. The dye comes from a snail found in the Mediterranean Sea called merilux trunclus.

Rabbi Lamm introduced his shiur by showing the chemical makeup of snail secretion and showing how it is similar to an archaeological dig that was supposed to have uncovered Techelet. From there he went into the different commentaries from the time of the Mishna till present day which dealt with the issue of whether or not Techelet Betzitzit

and tzitzit are two separate mitzvahs or one mitzvah of tzitzit. He concluded that it is highly probable that this dye is the same original dye used over 2000 years ago.

Rabbi Tendler started his shiur by stating the complications that arise in determining what color the Techelet should be. Different Techelet can exist based on manipulating the excretion of the snail through the length of dying, chemical reactions, the duration that the excretion is left out, and its temperature. Rabbi Tendler summed up by saying that in order to bridge the 2000 year gap, the mesorah (tradition) of making Techelet can be returned through a combination of proofs including the finding of the actual snails and the correlation with archaeological evidence discovered in digs in Syria and Lebanon.

Rabbi Schachter was the third speaker on the topic. His part of the shiur discussed the different minhagim of the different Rishonim on how one should apply Techelet on the tzitzit. He also spoke of the machlokes regarding how some of the Rishonim say that the Techelet is an essential part to Tzitzit, while others say the mitzvah of tzitzit is really

### **SSSB Dinner Plans Underway**

BY ARNON STORFER

Plans for the Sy Syms School of Business annual dinner, the largest SSSB event of the year, are well underway. The dinner, sponsored by the Joint Business Society, the Mildred Schlessberg Accounting Society, and the Yeshiva College Student Council, is scheduled to take place on May 8, at the Puck Building in Manhattan.

With nearly 2600 invitations extended, the organizing committee, chaired by four SSSB students, expects a turnout of more than four hundred people, including a variety of businesspersons and representatives from major firms and corporations.

Co-chairperson of the organizing committee Josh Halickman believes that the dinner, which costs more than \$17,000, offers students an opportunity

to mingle with potential recruiters and employers in a non-business setting. And he stressed that although the dinner is a Sy Syms function, all Yeshiva University students are encouraged to

No Speaker Yet

While the guest speaker of the evening has yet to be determined, members of the organizing committee have said that four different women, including Charlotte Beers, CEO of the advertising firm Ogilvy and Mather, have been suggested.

One detail which has yet to be explained is the cost, which has risen from the \$20 fee last year to \$25 this year, an increase of 25 percent. One chairperson attributed this increase to "inflation and the price of postage having increased."

### **New Security Booth on** Laurel Hill



New security booth on Laurel Hill Terrace

BY NAFTALI BENNET

Due to a need for added campus security, a new security booth has been placed on Laurel Hill Terrace behind Rubin Hall, according to Don Sommers, Chief of Safety and Security for YU.

"There has been a history of students' cars being vandalized on Laurel Hill," said Sommers. "The University would like to make its campus as safe for its students as possible."

Although an NYPD security booth currently exists directly across the street, there is still a need for the university to establish their own booth on Laurel Hill, Sommers explained. Jonathan Lifschutz, chairman of the Student Security Council of Yeshiva University, explained that he discussed the creation of a booth with Sommers because "Laurel Hill Terrace is so poorly lit at night that it is dangerous for students who park their cars there."

Donny Appel, a YC sophomore who keeps his car on the campus, explained, "I think it's a great idea to establish this booth to keep our cars safe; however, I still have to walk to 186 St. to get back to my room in Rubin. It would be great if an entrance was opened on Laurel Hill."

Lifschutz says that he too would like to see an entrance created on Laurel Hill. "But," Lifschutz said, "things have to go one step at a time."

Mazal Tov to Michael Teichman and Devora Genut on their recent engagement.



Zev Berman, President of the Yeshiva College Alumni Association, presents YCSC President Daniel Billig with a \$5000 check.

# YC Alumni Doubles Yearly Donations

BY DORON KATZ

This year, the Yeshiva College Alumni Association has raised its annual pledge to Yeshiva College by \$5000. This is a significant increase, as it raise the annual grant to \$10,000. The money, which is usually spent to fund student journals, will now also be used to subsidize the Purim, Channukah, and Yom Ha'atzmaut chagigot, as well as the Senior Dinner. YCSC President Daniel Billig stated, "This is the start of a great relationship between the students and alumni that the students have been requesting for many years."

Last year the five thousand dollars was used to fund all student journals, publications which many students are involved with during their stay at Yeshiva College. These include the English, Science, Philosophy, Psychology, Sigma Delta Rho, and Political Science journals. This year, an additional thousand dollars will go towards the

journals, while the remainder will significantly reduce student fees for the various chagigot. President of the Yeshiva College Alumni Association, Zev Berman, stated that "this year's increased allocation is due in great part to a better relationship between this year's student council and the Alumni Association, brought about by numerous meetings and efforts to assist both the student body and alumni as they graduate."

Additional outside funding to the student council this year has come from the President's Circle. The Commentator received ten thousand dollars in new equipment, while another four thousand three hundred and fifty dollars was granted to subsidize trips by AIPAC and the Council for Racial Harmony, as well as the EMT course recently offered in the college. Billig stated, "This marks a particular goal of mine to significantly raise outside funding for the student council."

# The Flying Club: Soaring to the Heights

BY AARON KLEIN

Spread across the YU campus are signs that read, "Soar to new heights, make dreams a reality! Join a group of people who want to experience the practical application of physics, math, meteorology, and navigation." At first glance, a student asks himself what in the world is this all about or says, "Wow! Does this mean YU is going to have a flying school." This sign is promoting the Flying Club, one of the newest and most unique clubs on campus. The Flying Club's purpose is to address the topic of flight and how it occurs, a topic that has never really been explored at YU.

Didn't you always wonder how a plane is able to get off the ground or how a plane can maintain flight while in the air? Or, weren't you interested in the role the pilot and the co-pilot play in the success of a flight? The Flying Club hopes to address these interests by exposing the students to a new and unique interest

Jonathan Klein, a YC freshman, was intent on forming a flying club here be-

cause flying is one of his personal interests. When he proposed the idea of a club to some students, many were ecstatic about the idea and Klein decided to go forward with the club. The club will be officially established next year, but they hope to have an activity before year's end. Some future activities he hopes will include: Having pilots from major airlines come and speak, utilization of a flight simulator, and maybe even go up in a plane and experience real flight. Klein has already received calls from about 30 students interested in joining the club.

The club is not necessarily geared towards those who want to be pilots, but is rather for the typical student interested in learning more about flying. The main purpose of the club is to allow students to see how some of their math and science studies apply in the area of flying. Many students wonder where physics and calculus apply in the practical world, and the Flying Club hopes to inform the students of their application to one of the more intriguing fields of modern study.

### Constitutional Amendment Hearings Complete

BY NACHUM LAMM

With little pomp, but a lot of circumstance, YCSC completed its hearings to amend the YCSC constitution. In two gruelling sessions held last week in Schottenstein Center, student leaders proposed and debated issues ranging from election reform to freedom of the press.

In one controversial motion, Dov Simons, kicking off his campaign for the Vice-Presidency, suggested that all those working on behalf of a candidate register with the canvassing committee, so that they would be bound to the same election rules as the candidates. This proposal was met with much discussion as to how to implement it, and how to levy penalties for violations.

Simons also proposed a number of amendments dealing with student council meetings, including having representatives of all committees present at meetings to answer questions. He stated that while this year's council has held open meetings, this has not always been the case, and an article in the constitution would preclude future student councils from becoming elitist clubs.

Michael Nelson, chairman of the constitutional amendment committee suggested that non-full time students be allowed to vote. Some students questioned whether that would give MTA students taking college courses voting privileges.

YCSC President Billig, chairman of the meeting, announced that YCSC and The Commentator had reached an agreement which would assuage concerns caused by Billig's claim that The Commentator was subject to discipline by YCSC. The two parties had met earlier over dinner in order to iron out differences. The agreement which came out of the meeting minimizes the influence of YCSC, butcontains a clause which would

force *The Commentator* to print a letter from YCSC in "extreme circumstances." In addition, the amendment states that *The Commentator* budget may not be cut by more than a small percentage, and that YCSC cannot remove a member of the governing board of the newspaper.

Commentator Editor-in Chief Moshe Kinderlehrer explained that much work had gone into writing the new proposal, and that he was quite pleased with the result of "a lot of open and candid discussion about YCSC's involvement with The Commentator. The amendment is a tremendous stride forward in the newspaper's ability to operate as a fully independent and active voice of the student body," he noted.

Another proposal was to remove "Kol" and "Tempo" from the list of publications mandated by the constitution. YC student Michael Sussman argued that Kol should be protected, both because of the high status given literary journals in many other universities, as well as the possibility that an incident similar to last year's could cause Kol's funding to be cut off.

These and other proposals will be voted on by the outgoing student council. Therevised constitution will then be submitted to the students shortly before election day, giving them a minimum of two days to examine it and compare it to their old ones (printed in the Guide to the Perplexed). As part of the elections, students will be able to vote whether or not to accept the changes approved by the council. If the vote is no, the old constitution will remain in effect.

In closing, Billig thanked all those who had participated in the process. He pointed out that while the process had been "long and grueling", there had been a large amount of interest, and significant changes had been proposed. The meetings, held in Schottenstein, attracted in total 50-60 students.

# Students Resent Exorbitant Fax Prices

BY DANIEL RUBIN

For students who have relatives and friends thousands of miles away, the fax machine seems a logical, costefficient mode of correspondence. It is only when these students trudge down to the basement of Belfer Hall to pick up their faxes from Productions Services that they discover that someone has found a new way to make money. David Cohen, a YC senior, found out the hard way when he was forced to pay \$5 in order to receive two pages.

"It's totally ridiculous," Cohen commented, "and is completely contrary to the Yeshiva's ideals. We should have the right to use the fax machine and not be charged prices that amount to g'naivah." YU Director of Finance Bernard Pittinsky explained that the prices, which he admitted have aroused complaints from staff as well as students, were estab-

lished in the days when there was only one fax machine in the entire university. As a result, when a fax was received at Productions, Director Ruby Heisler was required to hand-deliver it, and the price therefore reflected the additional cost of labor. Pittinsky said that he has appointed an employee to do a "new cost analysis" and basically establish two prices; one for having a fax delivered, and a second, lower price when the recipient picks up the fax himself.

Fax Coming to Morg Mart

In addition, Pittinsky suggested that YCSC President Daniel Billig install a fax machine for student use. In response, Billig said that he is indeed planning to install a fax machine in Morg Mart after Pesach vacation which students will be able to use during Morg Mart's operational hours.

### Pataki Budget Threatens Student Aid

BY RYAN S. KARBEN

New York Governor George E. Pataki's proposed budget cuts may impact the amount of financial assistance available to YU students, according to university financial aid officials.

Neil Harris, Acting Director of Student Finance, says that Pataki's suggested \$500 reduction in Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) awards will "decrease the amount of money available for other students" as the university attempts to make up the difference for students who lost their TAP money.

"Pataki is proposing a \$500 reduction for those who receive the highest TAP award; that is, those students with a family income of under \$8000. Not many of our students fall into that category, but the major cuts will be felt by those who need it the most," he said.

Harris says that university officials have not begun drawing up plans to address the potential cuts because of uncertainty over what the final amounts will be. The Office of Student Finance has written a letter of protest to the governor and state lawmakers. Some funding restoration is expected.

Pataki's New York City spokesperson, Sarah Gaffney, dismisses concerns about the cuts. "New York's TAP program is the most generous tuition assistance program in the nation," she said, "Even with the proposed budget cuts, the appropriation for TAP will be \$562.2 million. Illinois and California, the next two states, each offer about \$200 million to their students."

Gaffney added that budget cuts are being made across the board and that "New York gives double the money Illinois and California do and our education is half the cost."

In addition to students losing TAP awards, the university stands to lose what were commonly known as "Bundy funds," unrestricted monies granted to institutions based on the number of degrees they award.

Director of Finance Bernard Pittinsky is not worried. "The Bundy cuts won't



NY Governor George Pataki

have much of an impact; (former Governor Mario Cuomo) cut it down to where it is not significant."

Pittinsky adds that "we are always doing fundraising for scholarship money, which will offset TAP reductions."

The big question mark in the funding questions is exactly what the final numbers will be. State lawmakers face an April 1 deadline for adopting the budget, which they perennially ignore.

Pataki is currently engaged in intense negotiations with Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno on the fiscal plan. In past weeks, student activists, primarily from public insitutions which will bear the brunt of the cuts, have converged on Albany to lobby against the cuts.

Opponents of the Pataki budget argue that he is punishing students to make good on his campaign pledge of income tax cuts. Pataki supporters, like the anti-tax group Change-NY, argue instead that the governor's bitter medicine is necessary if the state is to regain it's economic competitiveness. The looming political slugfest makes predicting the outcome difficult.

"Generally, things go back and forth to the point of where having any meetings right now is a waste of time," Harris noted. "But we will not abandon our students. We will make sure that they can still afford to go to school. We will do everything possible to see that their costs and needs are met."

## Still in Debt, Morg Mart Lumbers Along

BY STEVEN MIODOWNIK

Nestled between the game room and the twisting corridor of the Morgenstern Hall basement, student-run Morg Mart is struggling to keep its head above water. The trickle of students which finds itself at Morg Mart each night is often greeted by bare shelves or even a locked door. After opening three weeks late this semester, the not-for-profit convenience store is running a deficit and inconvenience is cited as the major reason for its woes. Despite its location in the hub of the largest student dormitory, Morg Mart's target market instead flocks to the Caf Store to use the quick and easy Caf Card.

For Morg Mart's managers and employees, the Caf Store's popularity is particularly irritating because its prices are routinely higher than Morg Mart's. The reluctance of dormitory students to use cash has seriously hampered Morg Mart marketing efforts, despite the reasonable prices. YC senior Stephen Gordon, who manages the store under the Joint Business Society along with "Tex" Weissman, explained that besides being concerned over the nominal effect of the price difference, he is also surprised that Morg Mart's competitive selection has not increased sales. Morg Mart currently offers many of the same frozengoods, beverages, and dry snacks as the Caf Store.

Morg Mart can afford to charge less than the Caf Store because it has considerably less overhead than the Caf Store. The few hours that it is open, 10:00 PM to 1:00 AM Sunday through Wednesday and to 2:00 AM on Thursday, means fewer expenses are incurred; employees are paid \$5 per hour and the managers work for no salary. No rent is charged by the Department of Facilities Management. While these savings are passed along to the students, the response has been less than desirable. The soda and snack machines of the Department of Food Services in

Morg Lounge, only one flight above Morg Mart, are heavily used by students even during Morg Mart hours, even when the same can of soda costs significantly less in the store.

According to employees, the most frequent visitors to Morg Mart are the non-dormitory residents who are not bound by the Caf Card and its confining limitations. Only when one is divorced from the meal plan do lower prices become a consideration and supporting student-run initiatives a goal.

#### Misreading the Market

Morg Mart's deficit status is partly the result of poor planning and partly the consequence of hard luck. In the fall semester, management attempted to tap into the lucrative breakfast market by offering fresh danishes, pastries, and coffee during special morning hours. Instead of buying breakfast at neighborhood establishments, studentswere expected to proceed directly to Morg Mart from minyanim in Morg Lounge and Shul. But while much money was invested in purchasing breakfast products, the venture was a failure and sales were extremely poor.

The debt incurred from the breakfast program was exacerbated when Morg Market's main freezer suddenly broke down soon afterwards. The repair expenses were in the hundreds of dollars. The purchase of a new microwave oven further worsened the bleak financial picture.

Gordon is confident, however, that Morg Mart will recover from its set-backs and that sales will increase. New shipments of products, including the ever-popular Snapple, arrived last week to refill the vacant refrigerator and shelves. As the semester comes to an end, students' Caf Card accounts wane and the use of cash becomes more popular. Late-night studying in the dorm, whether for midterms or finals, also contributes greatly to Morg Mart's sales figures, as students find the need to take frequent breaks from their books.

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#### Name: Adam Melzer **Major: History**

Years on campus: 2

Ever since I was a little kid, I have always made it my goal to try and leave a big impact whereever I journeyed. Taking on the mantle of being a leader has always been a challenge that I've loved accepting. Upon entering Yeshiva University,I thought that running basketball intramurals and working as a sports editor for The Commentator would satisfy me. I was wrong. The desire and the challange to lead continues to burn inside me. Thus, I now look towards the challenge of leading the entire student body as my next possible goal. The two keys to success in the position (besides winning, of course) is leadership and negotiating between parties. Throughout my experiences, the primary place that I have honed my leadership skills has been coaching HAFTR basketball the past two years. Being successful at that job gives me a lot of confidence because of the challenge it takes in juggling personalities and

There are a lot of ideas that I have in my head that I wish to help implement. Examples include: Our format of registration is primitive. I did some checking and found that most schools have registration by phone and students can find out their status by phone. There has got to be a better way for this university. In addition, I also would like to settle matters with the bookstore as well as work on continuing the improvement of our dorms. Our dorms are very downhill as compared to many colleges. I believe that the key to being the voice of the students lies in Koheles. Basically, in every season there is a time to every thing. There is a time to be stern, a time to be flexible, a time to negotiate, and a time to back away. The key is in knowing the time and using your instincts.

#### Name: Akiva Davis Major: Marketing Years on Campus: 2

There is only one determining factor which renders a candidate qualified to be student council president: the desire to do the job. I cannot realistically say that anyone is more competent than anyone else because these things have no measure until each person has an opportunity to demonstrate their effectiveness on the job. What I can tell you is I have benefited from Yeshiva University and the student body here for two years. I appreciate the work that student council representatives and administrators have provided to make YU a better place for me. The only way that I can pay them back is to take office and continue their efforts.

If elected their are several modifications I would make to the current situation. Yeshiva College lacks a proper Guidance Office. When I started school here I found myself searching for deans and upperclassmen to help me choose classes, determine my major, set up a schedule etc. Thank you Dean Jaskoll. Additionally, many students, including myself are unaware of the programs available to us here at YU. Students should be informed of their options before their senior year. Other things on my agenda will include reviving the Chanukah Concert and continuing previous efforts to create a networking system for the underclassmen.

The student council president has the responsibility of putting into action the voice of the students. I have heard the voice of the students and now it is time for me to stand up and do something.

#### Name: Eric Berkowitz Major: Biology Years on Campus: 2

I believe that my strongest qualifications to serve as YCSC President come from the experiences I've had in the past two years on campus. As the current Junior Class President the responsibilities of leadership, the understanding of how to deal with the administration, and most importantly the "students voice" all became clear to me. Understanding all these responsibilities, I guarantee, if elected President of YCSC, to be responsive to the issues and affairs expressed by any and all the students with enthusiasm and vigor.

If elected YCSC President the students concern would be of the utmost priority. Acknowledging the fact that until this year there was almost no advisement, the student advisement center is still in the early stages and still has much improvement to make. To enhance the work of the advisement I will expose YU students to the many opportunities available to the scientific and liberal arts students by bringing in prominent individuals practicing in those fields who will take a special interest in advising YU students on a practical level regarding opportunities in fields ranging from Botany to Zoology. Because of the taxing schedules of the YC/SSSB students I would also push to extend the hours of the library and and will set forth on behalf of the students.

increase inter-campus shuttle rides making mid-Manhattan access more easily attainable. In order to best represent the "students Voice" to the best of my ability I would like to continue the polling service and make it more accessible so that I will have a complete grasp of any issue from student life to the Sabbath programs.

The Commentator

In order to fully represent "the voice of the students" I believe it is the responsibility of the YCSC President to represent everyone in matters be it academic, political, financial or social Only if one is fully aware of the students concerns can one negotiate with the administration and fully represent the student. I have the leadership capabilities required to represent the students. Understanding the trials and tribulations encountered by the YU undergraduate it will be my mission to provide relief and comfort from the often strenuous schedule while making certain the curricular requirements are met.

#### Name: Jeremy Lustman Major: Political Science Years on Campus: 2

As Secretary of YCSC, I was instrumental in planning and executing many of the decisions that were made this year. By serving on several executive committees, I have developed a warm rapport with many of our faculty and administrators, which will be a tremendous asset in implementing change. Most importantly, I care deeply about my fellow students. I have participated in many student clubs and events, which has given me the opportunity to meet many students and learn what is important to them. With experience in student government, a vision for a more cohesive student body, and an understanding of our student needs, I will be an effective and responsible leader who will work tirelessly on your

Instead of promising dozens of changes that will never see their fruition, I propose a few legitimate and practical changes that I will be sure to accomplish:

- refurbishing and redecorating every floor lounge
- set up a YCSC book sale at the beginning of every semester where students would be able to buy and sell books at reasonable prices
- expand the caf card to include production services and library photocopy machines
- expand van service to major NY airports before and after
- an intra-campus phone system

YCSC is the body which must serve as the bridge between the often conflicting agendas of the students, faculty, and administration. I feel it is my responsibility to listen to the concerns of the student body and accurately convey their message to the administration so that we can ensure continued dedication to the ideals of Torah learning, secular education, and student involvement that brought us to Yeshiva University.

#### Name: Josh Fine Major: History

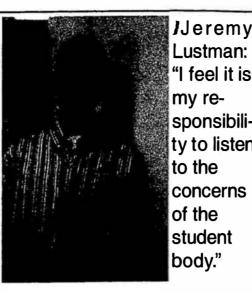
#### Years on Campus: 3 (including one year in Israel)

My strongest qualification to serve as YCSC President is my leadership ability. I have demonstrated this ability as Freshman Class President, as Chairman of the Committee on Iewish Affairs and as Associate Features Editor of The Com-

As Freshman Class President, I effectively represented the students' point of view at the Student-Administration Retreats. As Chairman of the Committee on Jewish Affairs, I organized a student newsletter, conducted a petition drive for Jonathan Pollard and co-sponsored a political forum featuring 3 Jewish political leaders. As Associate Features Editor of The Commentator, I initiated investigations resulting in articles on YCSC (Midterm Evaluation), Asbestos and MYP Credit.

My major plans for helping the student body for next year are to: 1) Publish the "Guide" within the first six weeks of school; 2) Have phones hooked up by the first day of classes; 3) Advocate for more convenient YCSC Bookstore hours; 4) Institute registration by phone for the spring semester; 5) Install vending machines on dorm floors; 6) Stabilize caf prices; 7) Install a centrally located ATM Machine; 8) Insure that washers and dryers work well; 9) Preserve student lounges; 10) Organize exciting student programs; 11) Improve communication between students, faculty and administration, and 12) Make student government more inclusive.

As YCSC President I will place the needs and wants of the students foremost on the agenda of the YU and YC administration. As the "voice of the students", I will exercise my skill in negotiation to achieve the reasonable goals which Thave



Berkow-Lustman: "I feel it is my responsibility to listen to the concerns of the student body."





itz: "It will be my mission to provide relief and comfort from the often strenuous schedule.' Akiva

27 Adar II 5755

Eric

Davis: "I have heard the voice of the students. Now it is time for me to stand up and do something."

Remember to Vote! Elections will take place on April 6 between 11:30 am and 5:00 pm in Morg Lounge.

# YCSC Presidential Elections '95

istration."

The following three questions were posed to each candidate (Answers are at left):

- What is your strongest qualification to serve as YCSC rsident?
- That are your major plans for helping the student body cM vear.
- w should the YCSC president, in his role as "voice of adents," act towards the YU and YC administration?



"I want to continue in YCSC's current direction in changing student life for the better." -Eric Berkowitz

Eric "Tzvi" Berkowitz is a hybrid, a cross between a New Yorker and an Outof-Towner. Born in L.A., Tzvi attended Yavneh Hebrew Academy until his family moved to the Upper West Side of Manhattan after he finished the sixth grade. Berkowitz completed his elementary education in Manhattan Day School beforespending four years in MTA where he became a star hockey player. After a year of study at Yeshivat Hakotel, Tzvi landed on the YU campus as a sopho-

After a morning of classes in IBC, Berkowitz arduously works as a biology major towards his eventual goal of practicing as a physician. Currently taking Organic Chemistry and an advanced biology, Berkowitz spends two nights a week in science labs. This past summer "Berk" worked in a research laboratory. He plans on taking his MCATs in April 1996.

Unlike the bulk of pre-med students Berkowitz finds time to participate in activites outside the medical field. As Junior class president, Tzvi not only coordinatesstudentactivitiesbutisalsoinvolved in student council policy. Berkowitz also participates in the Philanthropy Society, the Ski Club, Bikur Cholim, and hockey intramurals. If free time should ever arise Berkowitz enjoys reading, snowboarding, and playing roller hockey.

In the year's first semester Tzvi spent his Thursday nights studying. This semester he frequently goes out with his friends. Soon, going out on Thursday nights for Tzvi will no longer be a question mark for his girl friend is returning on Thursday after spending a year in Israel. "Thank God," says Berkowitz.

"It's time for me to get off my butt and do something. I think Billig has done a good job

and I want to continue what he has started." -- Akiva Davis

Well known around campus as the 8:30 minyan's "I will get you out in twenty minutes" Baal Tefilah or the frequent nighttime caf store cashier, Akiva Davis was born and lived in Richmond, Va. the first six years of his life before moving to his present residence in Hollywood, Florida. Growing up in Miami Akiva was educated at Toras Academy of Miami High School. He trophies. also spent three summers as a camper at Camp Morasha and a summer at Mesorah as a counselor. Before arriving on the Main Campus Davis studied a year at Ohr Yerushalayim.

At 8:55 AM following the 8:30 minyan, Davis proceeds to seder where he prepares for Rav Willig's shiur in MYP. After a morning of Torah study, Akiva moves on to the Maddah side majoring in Marketing in the Sy Syms School of Business. In his nights, Davis runs for the cross country team, attends meetings for the Investment club, regularly works out in theweight room, and calls it a night when he closes the Caf store at 1:00 AM.

Thursday nights for Akiva usually consist of going out with his girlfirend from Stern and playing Thursday night basketball. Akiva prides himself in adding that "Ineversmoked, don't drink, and don't do drugs." \*\*\*\*\*\*

# Who are these people?

"I want to end the apathy. As YCSC President I feel that I could get the entire Student body involved. I want to break the pattern of a few people running the school."

-Josh Fine

On April 26th 1975 Josh Fine was born on the Upper West Side of Manhattan; he has lived there ever since. In fact, having attended Manhattan Day School, MTA, and now Yeshiva University, Josh rarely leaves the confines of the Island during a school year. Until high school, Josh spent his summers traveling the world with his family. For the last three summers, Josh has worked for the law firm Lester, Schwab, Katz, & Dwyer or be a counselor at MDS Day Camp. Josh would also hold a nightly seder in Gemarah during these summer months and spent the past summer learning in the West Side Kollel.

After spending a year abroad in Yeshivat Shaalvim, Fine is currently a junior on Yeshiva University's Main Campus. He begins his day in the 8:30 AM Morg minyan and attends MYP morning seder until he breaks for lunch. Instead of eating, Fine frequently utilizes this time interviewing faculty and administration for he is an active associate feature editor of The Commentator. He then returns to Tannenbaum Hall in time for shiur by Rav Ahron Kahn.

While he envisions his future as a lawyer with possible political ventures, Fine is dead set on seizing a rounded education by majoring in history and minoring in music. However, for Fine education is just a fraction of his schedule. Aside from Commentator reporting, Josh is co-Chairman of the Committee on Jewish Affairs, an active member of the Track Team, Blood Drive, Orientation Committee, and YUNMUN, and was his freshmen's Class president. On the weekends, Fine serves as assistant Gabbai at the Young Israel of the West Side.

An ardent baseball card collector (a collection consisting of Mantles, Koufax...), Fine enjoys following national and local politics, being involved in the Jewish Community, and bowling competitively - he Emes Academy and at the Hebrew has already taken home three bowling \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

> "Growing up I have learned that if you have a vision and want to see results you can not just sit as a spectator; rather you must go out and play on the team."

--Jeremy Lustman

Baltimore, Maryland is the home and birthplace of Jeremy Lustman, a YC junior who proudly describes himself as a "family man." While bouncing around such camps as Mesorah, Hillel, and Moshava, Lustman recalls his family trips as his most treasured childhood moments.

Jeremy's elementary education was achieved at the Talmudical Academy of Baltimore followed by four years of high school at the Hebrew Academy of Greater Washington. During his high school years Lustman actively participated in organizations such as Bnei Akiva, NCSY, and the late Torah

High School Network. Before arriving on this Manhattan campus Jeremy studied the Talmud at Yeshivat Shaalvim, Israel for not one - but for two years.

Enrolled in MYP and Yeshiva College Jeremy's academic day consists of seder, listening to his Rebbe, Rav Parnes give shiur, and taking as lew of afternoon courses in pursuit of a political science major and a Sy Syms minor in business. Lustman intends on being an international attorney for it opens the door to possible aliyah and thinks the profession will also satiate his thirst for knowledge in languages and cultures.

Lustman's day really begins outside the classroom where he juggles an insane number of extra curricular activities. Currently Jeremy is the Secretary of YCSC, he sits on the Academic Standards Committee, the Executive Education and Technology Sub-committee, the Executive Committee of AIPAC on YC campus, the Racial Harmony Society and Political Science Committee; and is the managing editor of the Clarion (the political science journal). In the past, Lustman has served as the assistant chairman of YUNMUN, he co-headed delegate of Yale University's Model Israeli Knesset, and was an advisor and program coordinator for NCSY on the West Coast.

When Jeremy manages to find any spare time he enjoys swimming, playing basketball, and reading. Oh yeah, one more item - Lustman also has a girlfriend. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

"I have always enjoyed the challenges of trying to be the leader of a situation and leave a positive impact. The post of YCSC president is the perfect challenge that I have been looking for in YU - to lead the student body in the best way possible."

-- Adam Melzer

Born and bred in Lawrence, New York, Adam attended both HAFTR elementary and high school, where he served as the student council president. The same way Adam's school years are permanently tied to HAFTR his summer days are etched with the words Camp Morasha; Morasha has been a part of Melzer's summer life for twelve years, three of which he worked on the sports staff.

After a year of study and running Friday night tishes at Yeshivat Ohr Yerushalayim, Adam continued his education at YU where he now stands as a junior. Enrolled in MYP Melzer attendsRav Goldwicht's shiur in the mornings and pursues his history major in the afternoons. His eyes are set on a future of law school.

Sports is the evident theme of Melzer's life outside the classroom. For the past two years Adam has filled the shoes as the HAFTR High School varsity basketball coach, guiding them last year to Yeshiva League and YU Tournament championships. Adam also runs basketball clinics in the Five Towns area. However, Adam is most notably recognized around the Main Campus as the commisioner of the very popular basketball intramural league and as the sports editor of *The* Commentator.

When Melzer is not playing, thinking, or breathing basketball, he ardently enjoys reading literature and listening to Jewish music (especially Mordechai Ben David).

### **Taubes Named New MTA Principal**

BY EZRA TUCHMAN

The University administration announced last week the appointment of Rabbi Michael Taubes as the new principal of TMSTA-YUHS, or as it is commonly known - MTA. Taubes succeeds Rabbi George Finkelstein, who is leaving to become the dean of the Hillel School of North Miami Beach, Florida.

In an interview with The Academy News, the official newspaper of the high school, Rabbi Taubes expressed his excitement about being presented with this opportunity "to help the students in MTA share the same positive experience I had." In addition, Rabbi Taubes stressed his commitment to the introduction of new and innovative programs that would improve the religious and secular programs of the high school.

Taubes, who is currently teaching at the Torah Academy of Bergen County, has certainly traversed the day school circuit. He previously served as a faculty member at the Lincoln Square Synagogue Summer Torah Institute, the Manhattan Day School, Hillel High School, and the Frisch Yeshiva High School.

In addition, Rabbi Taubesis the founder and editor of Kol Torali, a weekly high school Torah publication circulated throughout North America. He is also the founder of the Jewish Learning Experience of Bergen County, an outreach organization offering academic, spiritual, and cultural programming.

Though he has never taught in a YU school, Taubes is not new to the YU system. The son of YC English professor Leo Taubes, the new principal is also a graduate of YC, a musmach of RIETS, and holds a Masters Degree in Jewish Education from what is now the David J. Azrieli Graduate Institute of Jewish Education and Administration.

Rumors had been circulating that Rabbi Saul Zucker, the Assistant Principal of



Rabbi Michael Taubes

the Frisch Yeshiva High School in Paramus, was the selection committee's initial choice to fill the open position, but the administration emphasizes its confidence in Rabbi Taubes and his abilities as an educator and administrator. "We're confident that with Michael Taubes at the helm, the best boys' Yeshiva high school in the country will become even better," commented YU Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. William Schwartz.

While the departure of Rabbi Finkelstein and the hiring of Rabbi Taubes does not directly affect the students at the college, many of the students at YU are graduates of the high school, and are therefore interested in the future of their alma mater. In addition, the joint MTA-YU program initiated this past year will certainly be reviewed by the new administration; it is unknown whether they will opt to continue, discontinue, or modify the program in any way.

Outgoing principal Rabbi Finkelstein has offered Rabbi Taubes his complete cooperation and the full services of his staff. "I very much want him to succeed and YUHS to grow and flourish," commented Finkelstein.

# **Students Skeptical Over New Library Photocopy Machines**

BY OREN S. KEISER

As the signs have been warning for weeks, the YU library has finally replaced its photocopy machines. Among the features of the new copy machines is their easier access for the physically disabled, the result of lowering the height of themachines substantially.

The most important change, however, is that the new machines do not accept the old copy cards. Students were able to submit them at the circulation desk in exchange for new cards. But the process does take four or five days, leaving students unable to use the machines for a substantial amount of time.

For a great majority of students, the copy machine change is a significant one, especially at a time in the semester when the machines see extensive use from students cramming for midterms. "I don't see why they had to change the machines in the middle of the semester when it throws the students off. Why couldn't they wait a couple of months till the summer began and less people would be affected by the change-over," asked David Ruditzky, an SSSB junior.

Other students have voiced complaints about the choice to squander money on the overhaul, especially in a time when other areas in the library seem to demand more improvement. "The school has more important things to spend its money on than to replace working machines with other working machines. How about replacing the dryers instead?" commented SSSB junior Raphael Gross. He also suggested placing a machine in one of the dorms to help facilitate the copying process.

Another criticism expressed by students is that the new machines fail to accomplish their goal of improving on the old ones in a noticeable way. "The machines might be new, but they don't have any new features or abilities that the old ones didn't already have. Why get machines that are new bi it not better?' questimed YC senior Brad Karasi k.

Coins Unacceptable

Other students go so far as to say that the new machines are worse than the ones they replaced. SSSB Junior Eli Mandelbaum pointed out: "Before, each machine took both coins or cards, some of the new ones only take cards, making it harder to use because you don't have the option on each machine." And the new system has already shown signs of problems; the card machine refused to dispense cards last Wednesday, leading one distraught student to kick it and ask, "Is this why we got you?"

But not all students see the change as a bad move. Many commented that the new machines are more user friendly and that the pages are clearer. "I was really impressed with the new machines. I like the change," said J.D. Shulman, a YC junior. One YC junior noted that he's "glad to see the school is showing some respect for the physically disabled by providing them a machine they can use

But perhaps the most insightful comment came from SSSB junior Andy Davidson. "If they really wanted to improve the machines they would change the copy card so that I could use my caf card. Now that would be worth something," remarked Davidson.

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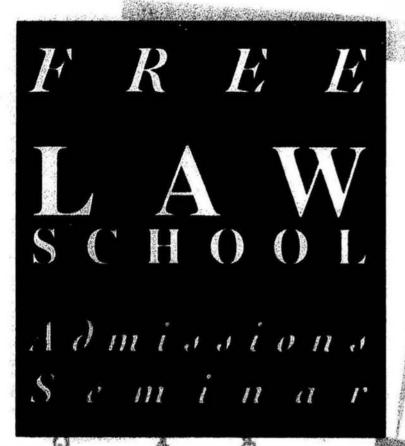
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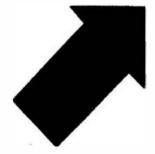
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# Canadian High School Credit Cutbacks on the Way

BY MICHAEL SUSSMAN

Sitting in Organic Chemistry you see a fellow student on the other side of the room. You don't recognize him. Maybe he was one of the many students you never got to know during Biology and Chemistry, the usual pattern of courses taken before tackling Orgo with Dr. Borowitz . Maybe he is a transfer student. Then again, maybe not. This new face may in fact be a student from Toronto who was granted a tremendous amount of college credit from his high school. It would then be possible to classify this student as an improbable "freshman on campus" taking organic chemistry.

Dating back to a decade ago, students in Ontario, Canada began taking a fifth year of high school when the Ontario Board of Education instituted its new requirements for graduation. Students passing through the Ontario school system must now complete thirty one-credit courses, of which 16 are mandated and 14 are electives. Within these thirty courses, students must take six mandatory higher level courses called Ontario Academic Credits (OAC's) which are taught along province-wide guidelines and standardized syllabi.

Most students in the province's public schools complete the requirements in a five year program that consists of four six-credit years and a fifth year mandating six OAC's. In Toronto's three Jewish schools, however, most students cram the first four years of high school into three years, leaving their fourth year for the OAC's. Educators, specifically in the Jewish secondary schools bemoan the policy change of the past decade. Due to these time constraints, the OAC's places upon the students as well as elevated competition for high grades in the senior year, Ontario's academic program often does not allow senior students to take upon themselves leadership roles in extra-curricular projects and activities.

Canadian universities consider an applicant's OAC course grades first in the admissions process. The marks on these advanced courses are viewed by the universities as both the "GPA and SAT" scores of an applicant. "OAC grades are pretty much the only thing (Canadian) colleges look at," one student commented. The OAC's can substitute for equivalent college level introductory courses in one's chosen studies program. If a student did not take a particular OAC, that course must be taken in college. In the Canadian system, students start college with a more specialized program, rather than the broader liberal arts education of American schools. Students are therefore given the option of schooling in arts or sciences; it is in these fields of study that the OAC's have the capacity of doubling as prerequisite courses.

Due to this provision, there are students who believe that OAC's are on par with college introductory courses. After all, students often take a three year university program in Canada and count the OAC as the fourth year. In the United States, Advanced Placement (AP) exams also allow students to take basic college requirements while still in the secondary school system. Uri Etigson, a Torontonian and YC philosophy major stated emphatically, "As long as AP credits are accepted by American universities, the YC Academic Standards Committee should recognize that OAC's are of at least equivalent value." Assistant Dean Avery Horowitz disagrees with this argument, for unlike AP courses, the OAC courses have no standardized final examinations.

Nevertheless, OAC's are accepted as valid college credits in many American institutions. Brandeis University grants Canadian students full credit for all OAC work. Within Canada, however, York University does not accept OAC credits. Currently, YU's Office of the Registrar allows about one year of transfer credit from OAC's. Many students compound their OAC credit with an additional year of creditattainedthroughthe Joint-Israel Program thereby arriving on campus as juniors.

It is questionable whether OAC's are truly analogous to college-level introductory courses. The doubt in this matter is caused by the fact that some students in Toronto are taking OAC's in their fourth, third, and in certain instances, second years of high school. "Indeed there are problems," Dean Horowitz noted. "There is good reason to think that they're [OAC's] not on the same level as introductory courses", he continued.

According to the Dean's Office, two venues of review have been charted regarding the OAC's. First, a May 1994 Academic Standards Committee decision that will become effective September 1996, will only grant credits towards a four semester-long course (approximately 12 credits). Second, the Committee will re-evaluate the Ontario Academic Credit course by course at a future date, though as of yet no date has been set for this reevaluation process. The only time review is currently being done is when a student takes an unusual OAC course or comes from a school that is not typically a "feeder school" of Yeshiva University.

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#### **O**BITUARY

### Rabbi Dr. Louis Bernstein

BY DOV SIMONS

On March 12, Rabbi Dr. Louis Bernstein, professor of Jewish studies and a prominent member of the Yeshiva University community, passed away at the age of 67. Bernstein had been suffering from a brain tumor, which had forced him to take a leave of absence in the middle of last year.

Dr. Bernstein was a well-respected leader of the Jewish community and known champion of Orthodoxy and Zionism. A professor of Jewish studies at Yeshiva University since 1954, he repeatedly stood up for YU. "I believe in Yeshiva's destiny and the role she is to play in formulating the Judaism of the future," he wrote in a 1947 Commentator.

He served as rabbi of Young Israel of Windsor Park in Bayside, New York. During the Korean War, he was a U.S. Army Chaplain. He died while serving his third term as President of the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA). He also held the positions of chairman and president of the Religious Zionists of America (RZA) and sat on the Executive Board of the World Zionist Organization.

A prolific writer in both English and Hebrew, he penned columns for *The Jewish Press* and *The Jerusalem Post*, and served as editor of the RCA's Rabbinical Council Record and *The Jewish Horizon*, put out by the Religious Zionists of America.

He received several honors for his commitment to Orthodoxy and to Zionism. Just last year, he received an honorary Doctorate in Divinity from Yeshiva University. The World Zionist Organization awarded him the Jerusalem Prize in 1993, one of only two recipients worldwide. He was also honored with the National Rabbinic Leadership

Award from the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.

Born on April 2, 1927, Dr. Bernstein graduated from Yeshiva College in 1947, received semicha from RIETS in 1950, and a Ph.D. from the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies. While on campus, he served as Editor-in-Chief of The Commentator. A close friend of Dr. Bernstein, Rabbi Bernard Rosensweig, noted, "He always fought for the truth as he saw it. The truth was the truth. He was always fighting for one cause or another."

During his tenure as editor, he repeatedly called for greater involvement on the part of Orthodox Jews to lend support to the burgeoning movement for a Jewish state. He also critiqued administrative policy, emphasizing the need for *The Commentator* to be a vigilant guard of student welfare and rights. "There is no enjoyment in criticizing the school's administration," he pointed out, "especially when you are aware that the criticisms probably will be ignored," writing in his first editorial column named "Maybe I'm Wrong."

According to a long-time associate Rabbi Emanuel Holzer, an effort is currently underway to collate his writings and notes. The book, when published, would contain a great volume of information on the Orthodox movement in the past three decades, in which he played a vital part.

Rabbi Holzer related a story to *The Commentator* when Congress was considering a humane treatment of animals bill, which would have essentially outlawed *shechita*. Dr. Bernstein, then only in his thirties, went around to individuals members of Congress and galvanized a successful opposition to the bill.

Dr. Bernstein is survived by his wife Pearl and by four children.



# YCDS Presents Conversations With My Father

BY RYAN S. KARBEN

or the past two months, the members of the Yeshiva Col lege Dramatics Society have endeavored to make sense of the American Jewish experience. This Saturday night, students, faculty and administrators will join their struggle as the curtain goes up on Herb Gardner's Conversations With My Father.

Set in a SoHo bar before SoHo was SoHo, the play, performed with powerful emotion by an all-star cast, is a series of flashbacks by Charlie Ross (Alan Schwartz), a millionaire novelist faced with the prospect of selling the old place after his father's passing.

As he reviews his childhood and recalls the trials and tribulations of growing up Jewish in mid-century New York, the audience is riveted and transported: the pain and promise of World War II, the complexity of inter-generational relationships, alienated man's uneasy relationship with his Creator. Though it is the first time in thirty years that YCDS Artistic Director, Dr. Anthony Beukas, has directed a play with a Jewish theme, the ease with which the cast members interact and the passion that fills the room during rehearsal, makes the observer wonder why he has waited so long.

"This is a good script about a piece of Jewish history we know little about," Beukas said. "It's about the transition into American society." He says he has been blessed with "natural talent" in the thirteen-member cast this season and is thrilled that the students have given each of their eccentric characters a voice that is "so individual and so rich."

Charlie's father Eddie Ross is por-

trayed by Daniel Brody in a role that it seems he was born to play. They are joined on stage by Jonathan Bailey in a tender portrayal of young Charlie, Aryeh Pearlman and Jonathan Schloss as Charlie's brother Joey, Eric Freeman as Herschel the brother-in-law, and Stage Manager Seth Dimbert as the sagacious and sophisticated Professor Anton Zaretsky.

True to form, Beukas has enhanced the script with a magnificent use of lighting and brilliant musical selections. The set also lends itself a most powerful use of blocking (where actors stand on the set).

In an innovation that Beukas hopes will allow a more diverse group of students to see the show, YCDS will perform this Sunday afternoon. He says that many students who learn in the Beis Medrash at night had approached him and told him that evening plays interfered with their learning schedule, and he wanted to find a way to accommodate them.

The play's thematic focus is the cycle of life. Charlie's relationship with Eddie comes to parallel his own relationship with his son Josh (Benny Cheslow), and his emotional struggles have a haunting similarity with his father's.

Indeed, he shares his emotional journey with a generation of American Jews raised in neighborhoods that have changed beyond recognition, who now look back with a mixture of fear and fondness at a heritage that either they have forsaken or has forsaken them.

By the play's close, though, Charlie Ross the novelist is serving drinks and thirteen year old Joshua is setting tables.

"And as I hung up the phone it occurred to me, my boy was just like me."

# IBC Students Allege Discrimination in Dorm Counselor Selection Process

BY JOSEPH GITLER

On March 20, thirty YC students submitted their applications for resident adviser positions. Conspicuously missing from the list, however, were a significant number of IBC students, many of whom were deterred from applying because of their perception that non-MYP students are discriminated against in the selection process.

The burden of this charge falls on the shoulders of Director of Residence Halls Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz, who personally selects the RAs. Cheifetz vehemently denies the IBC/JSS discrimination allegation. "YP is not a focus; when I make the final decision, I do not even consider it; it is only asked for identification purposes," he said. In fact, Cheifetz noted, this year's head Morg RA is Gil Elmaleh, a former IBC student, and last year's head RA was a once a student in JSS. He did admit that over the years a greater number of YP students have been chosen for RA jobs, but attributed this to the fact that there are simply many

more more students in YP.

Rabbi Cheifetz also delineated the three criteria used in selecting students for the coveted slot: dedication, time, and leadership/social skills. The RA is expected to be devoted to the students and make strides in establishing relationships with as many of them as possible. Because of these demands, Cheifetz stressed, the ideal candidate is someone who will be in his room after 10 PM on most evenings.

Cheifetz's argument, however, fails to quell the doubts of some IBC applicants who feel that only "YPguys" stand any chance of receiving these positions, although an informal poll taken of some of the current RA's showed that they believed the arguments to be unfounded. These IBC students see the dorm counselor issue as part of a broader problem, namely, that the administration views them as somehow inferior. "I would cut off my rightarm to get the job of residence advisor, however, Iam from IBC so I don't even have a chance," said one anonymous applicant for RA position.

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# Op-Ed: Rav Yosef Blau, MYP Mashgiach Ruchani

A short while ago I returned from my annual trip to Israel on behalf of Yeshiva. While speaking to the students at seventeen Yeshivot, I was listening to their expressions of concern about returning to the United States and to YU. There is a clarity to life in an Israeli yeshiva, a focus on Torah and few distractions. In contrast, Yeshiva represented pressure, increased demands, complexity and confusion. Choosing either a Yeshiva or a college and somehow finessing the other becomes an attractive alternative. I felt a need to clarify why I see Yeshiva as, in many ways, the best option available to them when they return.

Israel itself, and the need to prepare for the possibility of creating a Halachic state which will be able to successfully function in the modern world, is perhaps the strongest argument for the validity of our philosophy. Without some variation of Torah U'madah there cannot be a religious Jewish state. Every aspect of society that religious Jewry masters is a step in achieving our goals, and any time we leave an area over to secular Jews because we don't have the skills or the methodology to deal with it halachically, is a defeat.

Openness to the outside world creates opportunities, not only threats. Learning the difficult process of taking responsibility for making choices is a critical part of spiritual growth. Life is confusing and it is appealing to have a Rebbe decide for us, but we as individuals will inevitably, as our forefather Yaakov did find ourselves alone fighting a mysterious adversary in the darkness of the night. Withdrawal from the outside world, while increasing one's sense of security, creates its own problems and reflects acceptance of a view that Torah is unable to confront modernity. Culture can and has been debased, but that need not imply that there is little value to being cultured. Accomplishment in Torah scholarship requires an independent mind, intellectually aware, questioning and creative. In a world where the computer can place sources at our fingertips almost instantaneously the ability to discriminate and evaluate information becomes crit-

If any aspect of the legacy of the Rav z'tl is incontrovertible, it is his commitment to the seriousness of learning, not being afraid to confront knowledge from any source, demanding intellec-

tual honesty and personal responsibility. There is a correlation between exposure to culture (literature, music and art) and developing sensitivities. Broadening our horizons helps sensitize us to the needs of others. While it is impossible to prove a connection, it is not surprising that students at Yeshiva are consistently in the forefront of programs of kindness to the handicapped, in outreach around the world and in expressing concern for fellow Jews throughout the world.

Interacting with the external society assumes the ability to discriminate, to know what can be absorbed and what discarded. The alternative inevitably requires ever increasing isolation, allowing decisions to be made by a small group of likeminded Rabbinical leaders and giving up on the overwhelming majority of Jewry. There are bases for this type of an approach and it is always safer to have an alternative, but such an admission of defeat appears to me to be clearly premature and unwarranted.

A critical area where our approach to the modern world will determine our ability to confront a changing reality is our response to to the new role women are playing in society. We are in the midst of a redefinition of the relationship between men and women. There has been a revolution in the education of young women within the Orthodox community and we cannot predict the consequences. Acknowledging the tensions and attempting to find an approach which is consistent with halacha and which respects the spiritual dignity of both men and women will undoubtedly be difficult, but to deny that there is a problem while glorifying the past will at most work with a few temporarily. This particular issue illustrates the fundamental difference between confronting complex problems, acknowledging the lack of easy solutions, and avoidance, which is invariably accompanied by declarations of piety.

Yeshiva is not a perfect institution and those who care are often disappointed by specific decisions reached and policies taken. However, when we focus on fundamental approaches and the potential for growth, including growth in Torah and spirituality, when we think of the broader Jewish community of men and women and of the future of Israel, then Yeshiva is our best hope.

# Open House Meeting for New Dean

continued from page one

quest which doesn't have one correct answer," said Dean Adler "as Vice President [for Academic Affairs] William Schwartz often says 'academic excellence is a voyage, not a harbor.' I've already found my answer. I'm here to help you work out yours."

At the behest of YCSC President

Daniel Billig there will be an Open House meeting with Dean Adler in the office of VP of Academic Affairs Dr. William Schwartz in Belfer Hall this Thursday, March 30, at 2:45 PM. All students are encouraged to come meet Dr. Adler and welcome him to the university.

# Candidates Emerge in Jewish Studies Race

#### BMP Status Unclear

BY STEVEN MIODOWNIK

Amidst a flurry of election activity, candidates for Jewish Studies student council positions are beginning to emerge, ready to festoon YU's walls with campaign placards and extend outstretched arms to the students of MYP, IBC, and JSS. A tight struggle is ensuing, with four vying for the helm of SOY, and many others competing for president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer of the student councils. And the fledgling BMP is experiencing its first real identity crisis, its few members unsure under which council they will be subsumed.

IBC and JSS elections are scheduled for Thursday, April 6 along with general YCSC and SSSB elections. With tomorrow the deadline for providing signatures, and with Dean Michael Shmidman's approval still pending, Eric Heine, Richie Grossman, and Neer Even-hen are set to run for IBC president. As of press time, Bryan Ashenberg was the sole candidate for vice president, and Shimon Oppenheim and Brian Ness the two aspiring for secretary/treasurer. There are four unconfirmed candidates for the ISS Student Council presidency, two for its vice-presidency, and one for secretary/ treasurer. JSS Student Council President Jake Freiman would not release their names until final dean's approval.

SOY elections will be pushed off until after Pesach, according to current president Yitzchak Book, due to time-consuming Purim Chagigah planning which left little chance to prepare for elections. Nevertheless, four candidates for Book's successor have emerged: Scott Chudnoff, David Kahn, Stephen Reingold, and J.J. Sussman. As of press time, no one had casthis hatintothering forvice president, traditionally charged with running the Seforim Sale, or any other SOY post.

Although there is no law governing the minimum size of a student body that can create its own presidium, the thirty BMP students in their first semester will not be holding elections for a student council. No BMP constitution exists to set guidelines for such an election. Dean MichaelShmidman, although stymied by the lack of concrete regulations to follow, had no objections to "increased student representation" and would have supported the formation of a BMP Student Council. Dr. Efrem Nulman, Dean of Students, felt it was too "premature" to form such a presidium and expressed doubts at the viability of what would be a sixth student council adding to the already confusing student representative mix.

Student reaction is mixed. BMP student EliMandelbaum acknowledged that BMP is too small to have its own council and was not distressed at not having one, while Ariel Konstantyn was concerned that BMP students would feel inferior: "If every other program has a council, we should have one, too."

Questions remain, however, through which student council the interests of BMP willberepresented. DeanNulmanassumed that BMP would be subsumed either under IBC or JSS and that BMP students would vote for one of those student councils.

# Billig Unhappy With Agreement

continued from page one

the Lamport system. He then proceeded to disconnect the SOY-rented system just before the shpiel was to begin.

Book conceded that the students had made some mistakes. "There were some misunderstandings on our part. We didn't ask permission in hooking up the system. He [Socol] felt that something was wrong with the system and he needed to make sure that the current system would not be destroyed." explained Book. However, Book did question why Facilities Management workers had received express permission by Socol earlier in the evening to set up the wireless system. "Socol's own people set up the microphones," stated Book.

"As a rule, we don't prefer to have outside equipment plugged in," explained Rosengarten. Rosengarten stated further that while he didn't know the precise details, he understood that the rented set of microphones had been causing problems with the regular Lamport system of microphones prior to the Chagiga's start. He conceded that most of the problems could have been "avoided" if the microphones had been turned off an hour or so earlier. "Everyone was

under a lot of pressure that night," he said.

All calls to Socol's office went unreturned and efforts to contact him over the issue met with failure.

Chaitoff acknowledged that mistakes had been made on both sides. He explained, "Both parties agreed that there was a misunderstanding.... and both sides are now committed to doing it right next year." Book agreed, noting that "we have an understanding that next year things like this will not happen."

#### **Billig Unhappy With Agreement**

However, Billig was upset with the resolution. "I am not satisfied unless that \$1500 is recovered," he asserted. He dismissed as invalid the claim that the rented sound system threatened to destroy the current Lamport setup and felt that the students had been cheated out of a Purim shpiel for no reason at all. Also, he felt that Book had agreed too readily that the students were at fault. However, as of press-time, Billig was unsure as to what course of action, if any, he would pursue.

# Students Upset by Strict Election Rules

### continued from page one

ballot, he will attain the coveted position before an election even takes place. Senior Class Secretary/treasurer candidate Ari Oliner is in a similar situation.

Several students are also upset with the way the process has been handled thus far by Billig and the rest of the Canvassing Committee. One potential candidate for a senior class office phoned in to register as a candidate about an hour after the midnight deadline, only to be rejected by Billig. "I was shocked that calling an hour late would be a deciding factor," remarked the candidate, junior Isaac Pearlman. This is especially striking, noted Pearlman, given the fact that two of the three candidates for Senior class positions are running unopposed. "This is unfair to the student body; they should have a choice as to who should be their leaders in the coming year," says Pearlman. And YC junior Michael Belgrade, who also missed the March 19 deadline, pointed out that the election process had not even begun last week when he handed in his name; the week was being used by Assistant YC Dean of Students Rabbi Jeffrey Chaitoff to do background checks of the candi-

The mandatory week-long waiting period is the brainchild of Billig, who wished to avoid the fiasco of last year, where YCSC presidential candidates Chanoch Kanovsky and Michael Nelson were 'bounced from the ballot' after they failed background checks, even though they had already finished collecting the necessary signatures. This year, students were required to submit their names to YCSC by Sunday March 19, and were prohibited from beginning their crusade to collect the signatures needed to be placed on the ballot until Saturday, March 25, when the "background check" period was completed. Candidates now have until Saturday, March 30 to submit the proper amount of signatures, and then until the April 6 election day to campaign. "We were looking for a way to make the process smoother and more thorough," noted Canvassing Committee co-chairman Michael Fragin. "This idea of a waiting period goes a long way to achieve that

Indeed, the waiting period is part of a larger overhaul of the election process by Billig and the Canvassing Committee. Unwilling to give free-spending candidates an advantage, Billig and the committee have capped total campaign spending at one hundred dollars, down from a hundred and fifty last year. "We want to put everyone on equal ground," said Billig. "Besides, no one last year even came close to the spending limit." This is understandable - according to the guidelines the committee has published, the only printed material allowed is eight and a half by eleven size flyers

In addition, Billig has reduced the amount of signatures necessary to be placed on the ballot for the YCSC Vice President from 296, or one third of YC/SSSB to 223, or one third of YC alone. The SSSBSC President serves as a second vice president to YCSC, leaving the first YCSC vice president to represent YC alone, and therefore requiring one third of only YC signatures. Billig has also said that the debate which usually takes place with the YCSC candidates several days before the election will be run by YCSC, instead of by The Commentator, as has been the tradition in the last several years. The reason, Billig explains, is the language of the constitution: "Before the Executive Board (i.e. YCSC) elections an assembly shall be called by the Canvassing Committee for the presentation of candidates and platforms."[Article 3, Section 1, Rule 5] Moshe Kinderlehrer, Editor-in-Chief of The Commentator, noted that he was disturbed by the student council president's bid to control an event traditionally run by the newspaper. "There is something fundamentally wrong with having a governing body hold a debate about the process of government...Hopefully, in the next week, we will be able to work together to solve some of the outstanding issues," explained Kinderlehrer. These changes will also be followed by the SSSB student council elections, according to SSSBSC president Ziv Mendelsohn.

### Billig Chair of Canvassing Committee

Billig assumed the role of head of the Canvassing committe after the resignation of former chair Jonathan Lifschutz. To justify this move he quotes Article 5, Section 1, Rule 8, which states that one of the powers of YCSC is to "Regulate all students elections through a Canvassing Committee." Billig asserts that he is fully in compliance with this clause, as it does not prevent him from "reg ulating" the committee by taking control himself. Lifschutz resigned when his declaration to seek the Secretary position on YCSC resulted in a conflict of interests with his Committee chairmanship.

One committee member, who requested anonymity, "expresses concern that Billig has such a heavy hand in the process." Other students point out, however, that most of the committee's work is only procedural anyway, and it is in the students' best interest to have someone like Billig, who is familiar with the nitty gritty on these matters, involved in the process. "I don't think it's a big deal," noted one committee member. "Billig wants to make sure everything is being run as smoothly as possible, which is exactly how the process is going thus far."

### Hoop Dreams, YU Style

BY MEIR ZEITCHIK

Shami Minkove is a typical YU student. ASy Symsjunior, he studies hard and is in good physical shape. But Minkove, like hundreds of other YU students this time of year, has become afflicted with a harmless but exceedingly addictive disease. Known as "March Madness," it tends to affect student'stime, concentration, and most importantly, their wallets. This trend of paying a small sum of money in exchange for the right to predict the futures of sixty four college basketball teams in the annual NCAA tournament has become unbelievably popular in recent years.

Some of the uninitiated may have spotted Xeroxed copies of box-like diagrams all around campus and thought to themselves: This is Mesora notes gone haywire! But fear not, these are simply ways many YU students keep themselves entertained. It is only the rarest of fans who will obsess nights over difficult problems such as the efficacy of Gonzaga's backcourt.

These informal gambling rings are affably known as 'pools', although the exact reason for this nickname are unclear. The comparison may stem from the fact that entering these competitions often resembles entering a pool: it's inviting, but you can easily lose your parts if you're not careful

your pants if you're not careful. Although these pools require no explanation for most YU students, here's a quick rundown for the minority of people who have recently crashed from another planet, woken from a twentyyear slumber, or both. The standard pool requests that, after paying a fee, students submit a personalized 'chart,' consisting or who they think will win each matchup in the tournament, and eventually go the Final Four and Championship game. Points are allocated for each round, with the later rounds usually worth more than the earlier ones. The person or people who wind up with the highest or second highest amount of points win a portion of the pot, and earn the honor and respect of their peers (And to think that some people accuse YU students of not having their priorities straight.)

Pretty simple concept, no? But some innovative thinkers at YU have introduced some wrinkles. For instance, one pool awards bonus points for correctly predicting upsets. In this pool, if the lower seeded team wins a particular game, the maverick bettor will receive extra points based on how great an upset it actually was. The result is ob-

vious - everyone suddenly becomes a huge Weberstate fan, rooting them on as they trounce favorites like Michigan State. And all the while most students don't even bother to ask where "Weber" is located, let alone when it became a state.

But not all students join pools to satisfy the gambling, daredevil aspect of their personality. One NCSY chapter has organized a pool where much of the proceeds will go to tzedakah. After squandering their life savings on these pools, the bettors may sometimes need to become the beneficiaries of these charities.

Like much of gambling, logic does not always prevail. Pools generally include at least fifteen or twenty people, but yield only one or two winners. The odds are heavily against each bettor, yet this does not prevent many students from deluding themselves and thinking that THEY have an excellent chance of winning. Sort of like the statistic which states that over ninety percent of drivers implausibly consider themselves better than average.

Many students are also initially reluctant to join a pool, claiming that "they know more about redox reactions than they do about college basketball." But the logic is flawed; NCAA pools are one of the few areas where knowing LESS actually works to your advantage. [The reason? Possible because there are a large number of teams and tremendously varying levels of competition, making it impossible to objectively assess a teams strength, resulting in a very arbitrary seeding process.

Taking this idea to the extreme, one pool has gone totally random. Under the rules of this pool, each participant selects several teams out of a hat.

(Some people point out that this is not an altogether unheard of concept, in fact, the NCAA-seeding Committee sometimes seems to be employing the same method.) The further each of a person's carefully selected teams proceed in the tournament, the more money they earn.

Some purists are bothered by the commercial dimension the pools have brought to the game. For them, basketballis a sporttobe played, watched, and enjoyed, but never profited from. Some people, however, like Michael Jordan, Shaquille O'Neal and anyone affiliated with Division I basketball are wont to disagree. Not to mention all the optimistic pool participants here in YU. I guess there's a little of Shami Minkove in all of us.

#### **YU Students Take to the Slopes**

BY CHAIM D. LOIKE

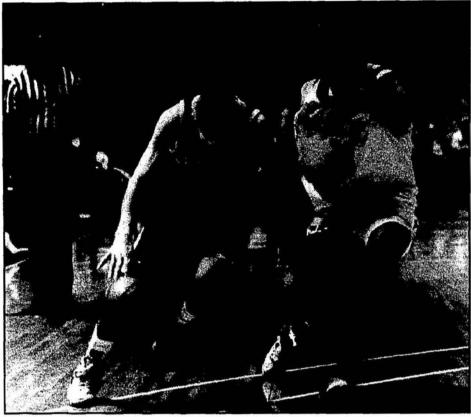
The ski trip, a long-standing tradition among college students nationwide, has found its way to YC and Stern. With its members longing for the cool mountain air and the freedom of the slopes, the recently created Ski Club held its second event of the year on Sunday, March 5. Thirty students, from YC and Stern, spent a full day at Hunter Mountain; their bus left at 5:45 in the morning and returned at 10:00 PM. Shacharit was recited on the way to the slopes.

While more experienced skiers partic-

ipated in races and other activities on the slopes, lessons were offered for those who wished to improve their skiing. The trip was deemed a resounding success by the participants, including YC junior Seth Dym, who praised the "strange duet of the wind's icy lips whispering."

However, the successful trip was marred by injury. One woman fractured a bone in her back while attempting a particularly difficult mogul. She is expected to recover fully. In addition, the YCSC-sponsored club has come under fireforincluding female participants, who must wear ski pants on the slopes.

# Yeshiva Sports



Barry Aranoff driving against an NJIT opponent

# **Barry Aranoff Named IAC Rookie of the Year**

#### A Tribute to a Proven Winner

BY COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF

If leading the nation in steals wasn't enough, last week, Barry Aranoff was voted as the Independent Athletic Conference (IAC) Rookie of the Year. At the start of the season, when the Macs began their only road trip of the year, Barry was surprisingly benched after a subpar performance at Bard College and what was termed as "arriving ten minutes late to a walk-through practice." The road trip finished in Boston at the Massachusetts College Cardinal Invitational Tournament where Aranoff came off the bench and the Macs came up short losing to the University of Maine at Fort Kent in the finals. After two more games, Aranoff finally worked his way back into the starting lineup, where he evidently belonged, and led the Macs to the semi-finals, only to lose to their archrival Mt. St. Vincent Dolphins. Aranoff claims that his limited time early in the season was primarily due to the "difficult transition from the Yeshiva high school to the college level of play."

Even before Barry led his elementary school to a championship in eighth grade, he was winning championships during his many summers at Camp Lavi, where he asserts that he learned the fundamentals of basketball and more importantly, how to win. Barry is a proven winner. After leading his eighth grade Moriah Hebrew Day School basketball team to the championships, Barry was chosen to play for the Riverdale Maccabiah bas-

ketball team. As the youngest player on the squad, Barry was honored with the starting point guard position. In tenth grade Barry again led his MTA Lions junior varsity basketball team to another championship season.

Before Barry began his first varsity season as a junior in high school, he was once again chosen to play in the Maccabiah games. This time in Detroit, Michigan, at the 1990 National Maccabiah Games, Barry and his team brought home a silver metal which fit nicely next to his championship trophies. Barry had a stellar varsity career filled with personal and team accomplishments. At the Mark Sackin Memorial Basketball Tournament held annually at HAFTR, Barry led the MTA Lions to victory and captured the Most Valuable Player award.

His next stop was at the Metropolitan Yeshiva High School Basketball (MYHS-BL) varsity championship game at Madison Square Garden where he led the Lions to victory and again took home MVP honors. To wrap up his high school career, Barry lead the Lions to victory one last time at the First Annual Red Sarachek National Invitational Basketball Tournament at Yeshiva University where he was voted as one of the tournament all-stars.

As a proven winner Barry plans to return to the Macs in the fall and bring his talent and consistency to the court. We hope the 1995-1996 basketball season will be a winning one for the Macs.

# Tennis Team Leading IAC Division

BY COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF

Over the past few weeks the YU tennis team continued its impressive season as it improved to a 3-0 record. Coming off their first victory against Polytechnic last week, last Sunday they played NJIT at our home court, the Binghampton Racquet Club. The YU tennis team had a very strong outing as they defeated NJIT 7-2. Number one seed, David Samet, started the match with a hard-fought three-set victory over NJIT's Jason Lee. Samet won the first with an easy 6-2 victory, lost the second set 3-6, and with a hard fight, overtook his opponent 6-4 in the third set to win the match. Third seeded Tsvi Zilbershteyn had an easier time defeating his opponent Rasesh Shah in two straight sets 6-4, 6-2. Tzvi's strong and consistent ground strokes were just too much for his opponent. Gabe Slotnik had the quickest match of the day as he rolled over his opponent Aaron Poole 6-1, 6-0. Gabe's match lasted a little more than 30 minutes as he totally overpowered his opponent. Number five seed, Jonathan Heller, gave the team a lot to cheer about as he beat his opponent Damien Hughs in two straight sets 6-1, 7-5. Avraham Ciment's victory over his opponent Andrew Venera clinched the victory for the YU team. He easily overpowered his opponent in two straitsets, not even losing onegame 6-0,6-0. The team's only singles loss was NJIT's Semyon Kogan over Ari Ciment 3-6, 3-6. The doubles matches went the same way for the team as they won 2 out of the 3 matches. Ron Samet and Ari Ciment got things started as they easily overtook their opponents David Lee and Rasesh Shah with a strait set 6-4, 6-1 victory. Ari Hirt and Tsvi Zilbershteyn teamed up for the next doubles match as they easily defeated their opponents 6-1, 6-0. This doubles team looked as if they played together for years as they never let their opponents even come close to winning a game in the second set. The team's only doubles loss of the day was NJIT's Kogan and Poole over Gabe Slotnik and Ron Samet 5-7, 5-7.

Last Thursday the team was back on the courts again this time in the USTA Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows (where the US Open is played), where they took on Baruch College. This match was not as easy for the team as the previous match, but the outcome was the same, a YU victory 6-3. First seeded David Samet had the longest match of the day. After losing his first set 1-6 to Baruch's Tony Phialas, David took the second set in a hard and controversy filled second set tie-break 7-6. The third set was even more exciting as it took another tie-break to finally decide the match. The balls didn't bounce the right way for David in this tiebreak as he lost the third set 6-7 to lose the match. Second seeded Tsvi Zilbershteyn also lost his singles match to Baruch's Joseph Shiau 6-0, 6-1. The loss was Tsvi's first of the season. Third seeded Ari Ciment was the most impressive player of the match as he easily overpowered his opponent Jen Klein 6-0, 6-1 in the shortest match of the day. Ciment's hard and consistent serve and volley was just to much for Jen. A spectator watching the match said "Ciment was simply unstoppable." Ronnie Samet also looked good as he defeated his opponent Carlyle Birmider in two strait sets 6-2, 6-4. First-year player Daniel Kraft lost his single's match 1-6, 4-6 to Baruch's Suneet Dir. Daniel Wolfson had the third singles victory of the match over Mike Zettle. The second seeded doubles team featured Ron Samet and Tsvi Zilbershteyn. After losing his singles match Zvi gave all he had to winning this match as they easily defeated their opponents 10-1 to clinch the match for the Yeshiva Macabees. Due to alack of players, the third and first seeded doubles teams had the easiest victories of the day as Baruch had to forfeit the matches to YU.

The Yeshiva Tennisteamisnow in first place in their division with a 3-0 record. The team's next match is this Wednesday against inter-conference rival Mt St. Vincent. When interviewed after this past week of victories Coach Jonathan Bandler said "Let my team's wins do the talking."

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