

# The Commentator

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## Fine Triumphs in Tight YCSC Presidential Election

### Simons, Paul, and Leibowitz Round Out 1995-96 Executive Board

BY MEIR S. ZEITCHIK

In a hotly contested race, YC junior Joshua Fine was elected last Thursday to the post of YCSC President. The election, which drew a relatively high voter turnout of seven hundred and thirty YU students (85%) was won by a mere seventeen votes over the closest candidate, current YCSC Secretary Jeremy Lustman.

"It was a tough campaign, one which took a lot of time and energy," said the exhausted but content Fine later that night.

In the Vice Presidential race, third-year student Dov Simons won handily, capturing over forty-four percent of the vote, and leaving his two opponents, Junior class Vice President Scott Farrell and Political Awareness club President Shmuli Spigel to split the remaining votes.

One of Farrell's informal "running mates," fellow Junior class officer Elie Paul fare better, capturing the position of YCSC Treas-



Newly elected president  
Josh Fine

urer. And in the Secretary race, YC sophomore Netanel Leibowitz squeaked into office, receiving just one hundred and fifty six of the six hundred and ninety seven votes (22.4%). Leibowitz edged out his closest rival, say sources, by only a handful of votes.

Fine's campaign contained a

strong populist theme; he emphasized his desire that more students become engaged in government. "I think student government should be more inclusive, students should have an opportunity to become involved," he said at the debate on Wednesday night. He also stressed "quality of student life," pledging to place issues such as new washers and dryers and the publication of the Guide early in the semester high on his executive agenda. And he emphatically declared that there is "Noway any student next year will pay for the Guide."

Lustman's campaign had a slightly different focus, although he also promised more perks to students, such as copy machines in the dorms and a used book sale on campus. He invoked his political experience as current YCSC Secretary, coining the catch phrase "Vision, Experience and Understanding." Lustman also

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Campaigning continued until the very end as Student Council hopefuls solicit votes outside the polls in Morg Lounge.

## New Computer System to Integrate University

### Half Million Dollar Purchase Approved Last Week

BY NICK MUZIN  
AND DOV SIMONS

Last Friday, YU Vice President for Business Affairs Sheldon Socol approved the purchase of a \$500,000 computer package which will integrate the University's six computer databases into one integrated system. Faculty, the Office of Admissions, and the Office of the Residence Halls have been looking forward to the new system for many months. It promises to increase accuracy and productivity at many levels of the university which until now have been under six separate databases, including Admissions, Registrar, Finance, the Cafeteria, Residence Halls, and the Library, none of which could "speak" to each other. The Office of Alumni will not immediately be included in the new network.

According to Melvin Davis, Director of Enrollment Manage-

ment, there will now be "one integrated, coherent system," which will keep track of overall enrollment, as well as students' transcripts, and finances. It would also simplify procedures for graduation and academic advisement.

"There has been a redundancy in entering names and social security numbers," explains Director of Billing and Financial Aid Neil Harris, "the new software package will encompass more than one database, thus saving time."

The system, named "The Banner Series for Higher Education," will be installed by SCT. The system will be phased in by next spring at the earliest. New hardware and software must be put in place and current operators must be trained. All information stored on the old system must be converted to the new format.

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## Cyrulnik, Hirt Named Editors-in-Chief

BY SIDNEY A. SINGER

For the third time in four years, two will share the helm of this newspaper. Late last Wednesday night, on the eve of YCSC elections, the governing board of *The Commentator* elected Ari Hirt and Owen Cyrulnik, current Features Editor and Layout Editor, respectively, Co-Editors-in-Chief for the upcoming Volume 60. Ryan Karben will take over as Executive Editor.

Both new editors joined *The Commentator* staff in fall, 1993, their first semesters on campus. Hirt was immediately assigned to features, where he quickly ascended to an associate editorship. By his second semester, he was promoted to Co-Features Editor, a position he has held alone this year. Cyrulnik, on the other hand, well versed in



Volume 60 Editors-in-Chief, Owen Cyrulnik (top) and Ari Hirt the intricacies of desktop publishing, found his niche on the opposite side of the masthead. After quickly learning the trade, he assumed the full duties of Layout Editor in December, 1993.

Current Editor-in-Chief Moshe Kinderlehrer, although

he served alone in his tenure at the top, asserted that the dual leadership does not indicate a lack of ability by either of the newly elected chiefs. "Ari and Owen are both extremely qualified," he said. "They bring a wide range of talent, and jointly possess an extensive background in features, layout, and news. *The Commentator* stands to benefit greatly from their knowledge and experience."

During his term as Features Editor, Hirt has written a number of thought-provoking pieces. He "scooped" YU's public relations newspaper with his profile of Maurice Torgoman, YU's 64-year-old freshman. Hirt's three-part series provided an in-depth look into the debate over YU's academic reputation. And he won last year's award for "Best Feature" with

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# LETTERS

To the Editor

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with the *chilul HaShem* of a 1 AM "finals scream"? When the security guard asks to see your ID, why not show it to him instead of fighting? They remembered to do their job by asking you to produce it, why not do your job and remember to keep it where it belongs, with you, instead of in your room (modesty and respect apply to our relationships with non-Jews as well, see *Tania D'bei Eliyahu Zuta*, 4). When you walk through the street keep your head up and acknowledge the existence of others — are we really too busy to even *noda* a hello to our friends and acquaintances? Finally, and perhaps most embarrassing of all, the little handle on the back of the toilet is the device that begins the whole "flushing process," it only takes a few seconds to push and hold down, is this something that is too hard to do? We're so involved in so many great things, NCSY, Russia, Young Israel, Israel, and the list goes on and on, and it's fantastic, but why is it that we are so concerned about the Jews of the world and yet we neglect the Jews in our own backyard?

This is not a matter of JSS, IBC, YP, BMP, (see Gemara *Sanhedrin* 99a and *Medrash Tanchuma B'reishis* 2), or any other program or school we have here — it's simply one person taking the time to care about someone else. These

are not YU problems, they are people problems. Our time here is merely a practice run for when we enter the "real world" after graduation. If someone cannot wake up for minyan now when there is one at 8:30 in the basement of his building or a few hundred feet away, he probably won't wake up early before work to go when the shul is a few miles away from his home and the kids have the flu. If you do not care about people now, you probably won't respect them later on in life either.

YU is a very special and great place. We need to build on the positives and look out for one another. Maybe when your friend is about to pass you on the street and he's got his eyes to the ground, walking the "YU walk," you'll take the initiative and say hello to him first. Perhaps now you'll be nice to the guards and our neighbors across the street. And, well, the toilet example speaks for itself. Instead of taking all the time, do some giving. Instead of loving only yourself, love someone else. Make YU a better place. After all we're all after the same goal (at least we should be) — the building of the third *Beis haMikdash*. *Sinas Chinom* destroyed it and "*ahavas chinom*" will bring it back. Let's do our part together.

Hillel Wiener  
YC '95



## From the Senior Editor

SANDOR BAK

Change. It is an inevitable part of life; all we can do is hope that it comes in the form of progression rather than regression. Reflecting on my years spent in YU, I come to the conclusion that the most noticeable phenomenon at our university has been that of constant change. For the most part, that change has been towards making our university a better school on many different levels.

YU is a far different place than it was only several years ago when I first entered the school. Some changes have been, unfortunately, of a negative variety. In the last few years we have mourned the loss of the *Rav z"l*, as well as the passing of many prominent long-time members of the YU family.

At the same time, however, we have witnessed events that promise great hope for our University's future. The Golding gift of \$40 million is just the highlight of several large donations the school has received over the past few years. More importantly, though, has been the addition of many key administrative figures who have begun to make their mark on our school. The most noticeable change in this regard has been the improvement in the relation between the YU students and the administrative body.

It is apparent that YU is much more "student-friendly" than it was only several years ago. When I first entered the confines of YU, many older and wiser students warned me to avoid, at all costs, making a trip to the Registrar's office or the Dean's office. "It's worthless to waste your time trying to accomplish anything there," I was warned. And, as I discovered, all too often they were right. The registration process itself was a harrowing, time-consuming process. Now, however, with the recent hiring of R. Melvin Davis, and the many improvements he has already implemented, that office runs smoothly and effectively serves the student's needs. Similarly, with the addition of Dean Norman Adler, students now feel at ease in his office and one senses that it is a place where numerous things will be accomplished. Additionally, Dr. William Schwartz, on campus only a year now, has already infused a new, vibrant spirit into our university. Students are always made to feel comfortable speaking to him and his office on the 12th floor of Belfer has been the sight of many club hour Open Houses for the students (always with the requisite brownies.)

Many will argue that these are just minor changes, not things that will have an impact on the overall quality of the university. I disagree. A university's first and foremost priority is to serve its students well. Little things, such as a Dean taking a few minutes to listen to a student's concern or a registrar administrator providing clear and helpful information for a student can go a long way in making the short stay at YU a much more pleasant experience.

Yet, it is not only the YU administration that has progressed so much in recent years. On the student-level, too, there has been much advancement and progress. The Yeshiva College Student Council now plays a much larger role in promoting the student's cause than it did only several years ago. The recent election campaign demonstrated the willingness and desire of so many of the students to be a part of the student council. Clearly, most YU students are now aware of the Student Council and the roles it plays on our campus. Much of the credit for this must go to YCSC President Daniel Billig for his constant attempts at upgrading and improving upon the services that are provided for the student body. But it is also the many students who remain in the background, yet quietly and effectively plan programs, invite speakers, and arrange events, that deserve a great deal of credit for the new spirit of involvement on campus.

When my grandfather, *a"h*, attended YU in the 1940's it was a school that was still struggling to gain a place for itself among the many, much more established universities. When my father attended YU in the 1960's it was a school seeking to gain acceptance as a serious, high-level college. As I now graduate from YU it is a university that has gained legitimacy and is striving to enter the top echelons of schools in the country. Recently, YU's Einstein School of Medicine was ranked among the top twenty of medical schools nationwide in the annual survey of the *U.S. News and World Report*. If, several years ago, someone had suggested that Yeshiva College would one day place in the top rankings for undergraduate schools in the U.S., I would have laughed at the notion. However, having seen the many improvements and progress that have taken place during my short time on this campus these past few years, I no longer laugh at that scenario. In fact, today I am the one making that suggestion.

## Message From the YCSC President

I would like to wish congratulations to all the victorious candidates. I know that everyone eagerly awaits to see your fresh ideas and approach to student government. Good Luck!

However, it is back to business for me. I would like to announce the Alumni Big Brother/ Networking Program. This program will match students with alumni who are currently practicing in the work fields that we are interested in. The network will be kicked off with a bang. On Thursday, April 27, at 8 PM, seventy-five lucky students will be invited to the restaurant, *What's Cookin*, to meet and eat with alumni from one of the graduating classes of 1965-1987. These alumni are not your average Joes. In fact, many of them are partners or owners of their businesses. We will hear remarks from Emanuel Adler, who is a partner in Tenzer Greenblatt LP, a major corporate law firm! This is a great opportunity for students interested in any field to get advice and make great connections.

This is the first of what I hope will be a four times a year affair. The second event is currently being scheduled for June. If you need a job or just want a great meal for a reasonable price, call to reserve your spot as soon as the signs go up.

When is the last time you went to play the arcade games in Morg? I bet you're thinking, who would want to go

down to that dirty dreary room? Well, if you don't hurry you will miss your last chance to be dreary. I am proud to announce that over the next five weeks that room will be transformed into an awesome lounge. Not only that, but we will be moving the TV down there to create double the seating space than we currently have on the ground floor lounge. Do you remember how many people came to watch Jordan's return to NY? We will be able to sit everybody down there. Guess what, no more engagement parties or dorm talks ruining the games for you. Wait, there is more, with the TV gone, that corner on the ground floor becomes a great place to put cubicles for after library hours studying. We hope all these new features will be ready by finals.

For all those who thought all you were getting was this: pool and gym hours, Friday vans, open government, amendments, security booth on Laurel Hill for safer parking, and several great events, you were wrong. That was just the beginning. What did you think, just because elections are over, I would go hit the golf course? No way. I have students to satisfy!

Chag Kasher Vi'sameach

Sincerely  
Daniel Billig  
YCSC President  
1994-1995

*Mazal Tov to Former Commentator Editor-in-Chief Robert Fagin ('94-'95) and his wife Miriam on the birth of a baby boy.*

# Yeshiva College



# Campus News

## Rabbi Cohen Wins NEA Grant

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

In class, Rabbi Mordecai Cohen teaches YU students the relevance of bible to our everyday life. "It (the Torah) tells of the complexities of human life; there are high points and crises. That is what makes it real class" stresses Rabbi Cohen, assistant professor of Bible at Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women. Recently, Rabbi Cohen has been the recipient of two impressive awards. He has been selected as a recipient of the 1995 National Endowment for the Humanities Study Grant and named this year's "Outstanding Professor" by the YC senior class.

Rabbi Cohen graduated Yeshiva College in 1987 and then continued on in both the Bernard Revel School and RIETS. He earned both his master's degree from Revel and his rabbinic ordination in 1989. "I'm pleasantly surprised, they are both gratifying," says Rabbi Cohen about his most recent honors. He hopes to research, and "hopefully publish" on the work of Medieval Spanish-Hebrew poet Moses Ibn Ezra. "I will



Bible Professor Rabbi Mordechai Cohen, recently named "Outstanding Professor"

also be expanding my horizons, so that I may be a more effective teacher," explains Rabbi Cohen. "I believe that the more knowledge a professor brings to the classroom, the more meaningful his teaching will be to his students," he added.

Based on student response his efforts seem to be paying off.

According to YC Sophomore Doron Katz, a recent transfer from the University of Pennsylvania. "Rabbi Cohen is, by far, better than any professor whose course I took at Penn."

## Student Defeated in Suit Against Canvassing Committee

BY MEIR S. ZEITCHIK

In a chaotic April 6 session of the Student Court, YC junior Michael Belgrade lost his battle to be placed on the ballot for the office of YCSC Secretary. Belgrade was denied a spot on the ballot after missing the candidate-declaration deadline.

Belgrade acknowledged that he telephoned Canvassing Committee Chairman Michael Fragin to declare two days late, but contested the committee's right to establish a deadline in the first place. "What Billig and the committee did was totally unconstitutional. They had no right to set the deadline for more than a week before the election," said Belgrade. In addition, Belgrade accused the Committee of unprofessional tactics. "They put me on trial instead of the issue at hand," he said.

But outgoing YCSC President Billig, the defendant, and the court, presided over by justices Ira Piltz, Patrick Amar and Reuven Falik, vehemently disagreed. "We proved very clearly for the court that not only was the legislation constitutional but also a good idea," said Billig. "Once in place, it would have been illegal to go against it." And Billig believes Belgrade's personal attacks against the court are not only unfounded but hypocritical. "I was shocked by the level of personal attacks directed at me in a public forum," charged Billig.

Belgrade also argues he was not given a fair trial, partially because not all of his scheduled witnesses had been allowed to testify. Among them, Political Science professor Ross Zucker, who had been scheduled to testify by phone but was later barred from doing so.

But Piltz disagreed with Belgrade's contention. "We reviewed the list of witnesses for expedience and efficiency," he said.

Belgrade eventually conducted a full-scale campaign as a write-in candidate but failed in his bid. But because the court also ruled that there were fewer rules governing write-in candidates, Belgrade was allowed to circumvent many of the strict campaigning regulations enforced against the 'regular' candidates. He was permitted to campaign in the Morg lobby during balloting, and was not prevented from hanging a sheet proclaiming his candidacy from his dorm window, an advertisement which would have ordinarily been banned

under the eight-and-a-half by eleven campaign poster limit.

The proceedings were closed to the public, as per Billig's request. The court's charter states that the doors are to be closed if either of the two litigants make this request.

Still, the trial stumbled into a series of obstacles, leading to several instances of mass confusion and disorder.

Originally scheduled to take place in the Sephardic Beit Midrash, the case was quickly moved to the Schottenstein Center after realizing that the Shul was occupied. The switch left some witnesses unable to locate the session entirely and others appearing at court late and winded. The session also dragged on until nearly three in the morning, with constant interruptions, many of them irrelevant to the actual case. For example, a subpoena was issued for Commentator Editor-in-Chief Moshe Kinderlehrer, after the court suspected YC sophomore Nachum Lamm of taping the proceedings for the newspaper. Kinderlehrer graciously came to Schottenstein and was informed of the incident. The tape was subsequently confiscated and Lamm was told it would be erased and returned to him after the trial.

As the night wore on, tempers flared, and a scuffle broke out just outside the courtroom between Chief Justice Brian Grobstein, who had removed himself from the case, and Martin Hochheimer. "The whole thing was a joke, with the way everyone conducted themselves," said witness Josh Feldman.

Grobstein withdrew from presiding over the trial after hearing too many details before the case was actually brought to court.

Adding to the confusion was the lack of communication between the court and the witnesses. YCSC Vice President-elect Dov Simons was summoned but uninformd of the reason until he arrived at court. And many of the witnesses had little to offer besides character assessments, such as the witness who was called to establish that Belgrade had a chronic tendency to miss deadlines.

"This school could use a dose of professionalism," conceded Justice Ira Piltz. Despite this, he affirmed his faith in the system. "I believe justice was done," noted Piltz.

## ABSOLUTE

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A recent  
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ducted by a  
Big Six ac-  
counting firm  
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Review's outstanding average score improvements! Our MCAT students have an average score improvement of 6.0 points. Our LSAT students improve their scores by an average of 7.5 points. The average score improvement of our GMAT students is 72 points, and our GRE students raise their scores by an average of 214 points. So, how do we do it? Simple. Small classes (no more than 15 students) grouped by ability and great teachers who give lots of personal attention. The Princeton Review is the most effective, efficient and enjoyable way to great results! No more wondering who's the best. Now, we have

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Students voting at the Morg Lounge polling tables. Voter turnout this year was estimated at 85% of the Yeshiva College student body

## Grossman Wins IBC, Merklin Wins JSS

BY NACHUM LAMM

Elections were held last Thursday for the student councils of IBC and JSS, on the same day as the YCSC and SSSBSA elections, while the remaining Jewish Studies council, SOY, has postponed its elections until after Pesach.

In the IBC elections, which, according to IBC President Steven Gordon, featured a very high voter turnout, YC junior Richie Grossman won a clear victory over his opponents, Neer Even-Hen and Eric Heine. Another clear victory was won by YC sophomore Bryan Ashenberg over Zevi David and Josh Rifkind for the position of Vice President. Sophomore Shimon Oppenheim was reelected treasurer over Brian Ness, and junior Motti Edelstein was unopposed for secretary.

The JSS elections also had what president Jake Freiman called a "good turnout." In close races - one with just a two point margin of victory - junior David Merklin won the presidency over Akiva Aronson and Yigal Chetrit; sophomore Isaac Menasha attained the vice presidency over Moshe Feldhendler and Lev Kandinov; and junior Alex Politsmaker captured the position of Secretary-Treasurer over Zev Williams.

### SOY Elections on April 27

According to SOY President Yitzchak Book, the elections for his council will be held after Pesach, on Thursday, April 27. While the elections are usually held the same day as those of the other councils, Book said that because the Seformim sale and Purim Chagiga were so close to

the elections, he could not prepare for the election in time for the April 6 date. While he admitted that some students might not want to vote a second time, Book said that turnout might actually increase with the separation of SOY elections from the publicity and hype of the other campaigns.

Declared candidates for SOY Treasurer thus far include Jonathan Cohen and Chaim Haas. A third student, Shraga Goldenhersh dropped out of the race when he won the junior class Vice Presidency election. Candidates for Secretary are David Gladstone, Jeremy Kurz and Eric Sussman. Stephen Reingold is the only candidate for the Vice Presidency, a position traditionally responsible for the Seformim sale and passed on to one who worked on it; and candidates for president include Scott Chudnoff, Hillel Cohen, David Kahn, and J.J. Sussman.

While Sussman is expected to drop out now that Cohen, a friend of his, is running, his candidacy is interesting because he has spent the last year in Israel in the Machal (IDF/ Hesder for Americans) program. According to his campaign manager on campus, Ephraim Leibtag, Sussman decided to run after winning the position of SOY mascot last year, by which time he had spent 2 1/2 years on campus and one in Israel. Book stressed that the candidacy was perfectly constitutional, considering that Sussman had been on campus the required two years. None of the SOY candidates expressed opposition to Sussman's campaign, and a number were quite supportive.

## Senior Dinner Plans Nearly Complete

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

As the spring semester draws to a close, Senior Dinner plans are being solidified by the Senior Class Student Councils of YU and Stern. The annual black-tie buffet event will be held on Tuesday, May 30, the night prior to graduation at the Puck Building in Greenwich Village from 7-11 PM. As of yet, no speaker has been chosen for the evening. Senior Class President Ezra Cohen,

who is organizing the event along with Suzanne Herscher, his counterpart from Stern College, expects almost 250 students to attend the dinner. While no price has been set thus far, Cohen expects to set a covert of approximately \$30, with heavy subsidizing coming from both student councils. Invitations will be sent out following the Pesach break.

While many details still need to be ironed out, Cohen promises "this year's gala will be the best Senior Dinner ever."

## Wald Takes SSSB Presidency

BY STEVEN MIODOWNIK

Sam Wald defeated six other candidates on Election Thursday to become the next SSSB Student Association President. When the balloting came to a close, Andrew Davidson emerged as the next vice-president, Bennett Schachter next year's secretary, and Avi Vogel as treasurer. The four all won by garnering the most first-place votes; there were no ties or second place dark horses.

The elections, which culminated days of fierce campaigning that saw twenty-three candidates vying for four positions, signified SSSB's gradual move away from the umbrella of YCSC. This year marked the first time Sy Syms students did not vote for a YCSC vice-president; Wald, as SSSB President, will have vice-presidential status on the new YCSC Board. Wald explained that though he favors SSSB secession sometime in the future, as SSSB students now comprise a significant percentage of YU students, it would be dangerous to rush into it without ironing out many budgetary and logistical details first. "It will take a series of steps," he explained.

Wald, a Boston native, is a finance major and marketing minor who attended Yeshivat Ohr Yerushalayim in Israel. The most crucial item on his platform, making available on-line news services for easily accessible business and financial data, could already be on its way to fruition. SSSB Dean Harold Nierenberg has given Wald permission to go forward with proposals from four companies. The on-line computer, which would either be in the computer room or on the fourth floor of Belfer Hall, would allow students to research company histories for class projects and interviews. Wald expressed "appreciation for everyone's support" and welcomed "input from all Sy Syms students."



New Sy Syms president Sam Wald

Marketing major Andrew Davidson, the next SSSB vice-president, also attended Ohr Yerushalayim. The Queens resident and *Commentator* correspondent hopes to institute the practice of marketing firms and departments recruiting for both full-time and summer positions on the Main Campus, saying that marketing students have been neglected in that aspect. Davidson also wishes to make the existing Big Brother and tutorial programs more effective and professional. An elated Davidson said he hopes "to work together with the Sy Syms faculty and administration in order to enhance the quality of education."

Rounding out the new SSSB Student Association are Schachter and Vogel, both Teaneck residents.

Current SSSB President Ziv Mendelsohn offered his congratulations to the winners, commenting that "it is nice to see so many people get involved in the elections. Everyone who ran was certainly qualified." Mendelsohn hoped that the many students who didn't emerge victorious will "stay involved." The new presidium will take charge in September, at the start of the Fall semester.

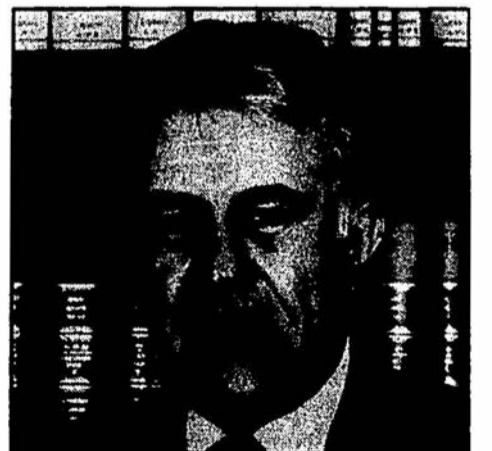
## Esther Wachsman to Speak at May 31 Commencement

BY STUART MILSTEIN

Mrs. Esther Wachsman, the mother of Israeli soldier Nachshon Wachsman, whose kidnapping and murder by terrorists last October was mourned by Jews worldwide, will be receiving an honorary degree and delivering the commencement address at YU's 64th annual commencement on Wednesday, May 31. Mrs. Wachsman's connection to YU dates back to 1965 when she graduated from the YU High School for Girls. Her fortitude and courage during those grim October days endeared her to the Jewish community at large.

According to *YU Today* editor, Bruce Bobbins, she is being honored at commencement for her "valor, faith in G-d, and worldwide plea for religious tolerance."

In addition to Mrs. Wachsman, honorary doctorates will be presented to Dr. Henry L. Barnett, Chairman of Pediatrics at Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Julius Berman (YC '56, RIETS '59), a member of the Board of Trustees of



Hon. Benjamin A. Gilman

RIETS; Dr. Herman Branover, a professor at the Ben Gurion University of the Negev; Hon. Benjamin A. Gilman, the Rockland County congressman who is chairman of the International Relations Committee; and Dr. Asher Siev (YC '37, RIETS '38), a professor emeritus of Hebrew literature at YC.

The Commencement Exercises are scheduled for 11 AM at The Paramount in Madison Square Garden.

# Morg Basement to Get Facelift

BY MENASHE SHAPIRO

Construction will soon be underway in the depths of the Morg in a move to create a brand-new lounge in the currently underused basement. Student leaders, in conjunction with the offices of the Dean of Students and Supporting Services Administration, have devised plans to refurbish the Morgenstern lounge by utilizing the basement arcade area as the new home for the television in addition to the arcades, and for constructing a new dormitory lounge in Muss Hall Rm. 262, something that dormitory has been lacking for quite some time.

The new and improved Morg lounge with the TV and arcades will provide viewers with nearly double the seating capacity, because currently, any time there is a major event like Michael Jordan's return to MSG or the NCAA finals people were left to strain their necks or to stand on tables which pose problems for the security guards. By revitalizing the basement lounge area, Morg Mart should see a boom in business with television viewers expected to wander in and buy food. There are also plans to expand Morg Mart hours to accommodate the expanded business. Furthermore, installing a copy machine in Morg Mart to be operated by the Morg Mart staff, and possibly, a fax machine for student use, are among some of the potential plans for the new lounge area.

Muss Hall has long been without a suitable lounge area, something that many feel has severely hurt the dorm's appeal. According to Dean of Students Dr. Efrem Nulman, "The lounge is a long time in coming and we will be pleased to hopefully have it by the beginning of the next semester." The plans call for a sectioned lounge with new tables and chairs and new couches, with a smaller section of tables and chairs set up in *bais medrash* style format, in the event people leaving the *bais medrash* want to learn in a relaxed environment and even perhaps eat something that can now only be done in the side rooms adjoining the *bais medrash*. It has been learned that this new lounge will be air conditioned; as a major amount of work went into designing the exhaust system so that it would not disturb those in their rooms directly above it.

Construction should begin by the end of the semester and should hopefully be completed by the fall. Obviously, the major factor in getting these renovations off the drawing board and towards implementation was the availability of necessary funds. "They are willing to build anything for you, provided that you pay for it," said YCSC president Daniel Billig, explaining that the funds for the Morg renovation came partly from alumni donations and partly from the student council itself. He would not comment how-

ever, as to how the YCSC budget was restructured to accommodate these new costs. The current lounge will remain a lounge minus the noisy distraction of the television. It is unclear whether females will be allowed downstairs in the new T.V. room, and according to Billig "we're not pushing for it." The Muss lounge is being funded by private donations, with the purpose of providing Muss residents with a suitable lounge area.

These improvements are the fruit of a series of meetings of the Student Life Committee held throughout the academic year. It met at various times during the year and is chaired by the YCSC president. The meetings include Dr. Efrem Nulman, Rabbi Jeffery Chaitoff and Jeffery Rosengarten, director of Supporting Services and Administration, the presidents of all other student councils. They attempt to decide on various ways to improve the quality of student life at YU, and this year they met at least eight times during the year including four times during the summer. Dr. Nulman feels that they are very important and have achieved real results, "They have been rather successful and with good representation of the students we have dealt with many non-academic issues," he explained.

Billig had made these meetings an integral part of his agenda to serve the students, "We went through many painstaking meetings to achieve our goals, it's not often the student council has been able to provide what we were able to do this year." In particular the plans with the television have been sought for a very long time, especially since it was not an outrageous request from the administration. "You have to know what to push for, and not to try to accomplish the impossible, because if you do so you're going to run into a brick wall," said Billig, while noting that he still might have more to come before his term expires at the end of the year.

The Student Life meetings provide a necessary forum for important matters to be discussed. Billig cited his business-like attitude as the reason for the numerous successes that have emerged from these meetings, "It's important not to joke around when you have only a few short meetings, yet we achieved extended hours for the pool and gym, both major accomplishments that required cutting a lot of red tape, and we were able to attain van service to Penn station." He continued that "This in addition to the lounges the student council was able to provide excellent service to the students it represented." In this way he feels that he has had lasting benefit on the students, "As long as they use one of these things we have been successful and that is important with 1000 people depending on you, your job is cut out for you, but the important thing is that everyone enjoys."



YC junior and Rockland County Legislature hopeful Ryan Karben with his mother and sister after being introduced by Orange County legislator Rich Baum

## YC Junior Announces Run for Rockland Legislature

BY OWEN CYRULNIK

Amidst routine fire-station messages, klaxon-like alarms and the clamor of over 100 supporters, YC junior Ryan Karben announced that his time had come to run for the Rockland County Legislature. Karben's kick-off party, which was held in the Hillcrest Fire House, was indicative of the energetic and vigorous campaign that he plans to run, and the progressive values that he stresses in both his political and personal life. At the age of 20, if elected, Karben would be one of the youngest elected officials in the state of New York.

Karben possesses unique vision and foresight for an individual in his position. When asked why he is running at this stage of his life, he responded that he had to seize the opportunity. Karben says that he sees public life as the ultimate duty, as a manner of *tikum olam*, of mending the world. He has already served for two years on the Planning Commission in his home town of Ramapo.

The announcement spurred much publicity for the young candidate, including news stories on WINS News Radio. The stories stressed particularly captivating elements of his announcement speech, including his promise to "cut the red tape that inflates tax bills and cut the yellow tape that warns voters: Caution - Government in Progress: Do not Enter." Karben's speech touched upon the themes of his campaign - energy, enthusiasm, and a sincere desire to make a difference.

Karben's public exposure culminated with an interview on WCBS radio for the popular "Terese and Harley" show. Amidst the back-and-forth dialogue, Karben was asked whether he had his eye on the Presidency. True to form, Karben was ready with his answer,

"Never say never."

Despite Ryan's increasing forays into the "real world" of politics, he still plays an important role on the Yeshiva College campus. While Karben spends most of his political life dealing with the press, he has dedicated much of his time at YU to pressing the school politicians in his capacities as News Editor and newly elected Executive Editor of *The Commentator*. Surprisingly, Karben has not become disillusioned with Yeshiva College politics. On the contrary, he sees campus politics as an integral part of the American system.

Although age certainly will be a factor in the upcoming Rockland County election, Karben advises that his opponents will not be successful in harping on the issue. Perhaps new blood is needed, he reflected, when, in his own words, "This County government has been studying some problems longer than I've been alive ... That's why I'm running for County Legislature."

One of the most exciting points in Karben's speech came as he raised his voice in the triumphant exclamation, "I am young. I am tough and nobody owns me." That, however, is not entirely true. Ryan is a committed Jew, often faced with tough decisions in his political endeavors. "You have to ask a lot of *Shaylos*," he said. But religion, for Ryan, is the driving force behind his efforts.

Karben's biggest fear is not losing the election, but losing his vigor and his drive. He admits that he often considers forsaking his political career for one in the legal field. But Ryan truly believes that he can make a difference, and that this is "an exciting time to be alive." In his words, "Abandon your cynicism. Cast away your skepticism. Throw out any notion that we aren't going to make a difference. We will."

Mazal Tov to

Avi Levine & Devorah Jacobs

Avi Hornstein & Tsippi Kilimnick

Fixler & Dinah Schonfeld

for their recent engagements

## Isolation in the Apartments

BY STUART MILSTEIN

Signs in the halls. Paper under the doors. Promises, bulletins, platforms. More paper, more paper, and even more paper...

While most students on the Main Campus drowned in the paper deluge of last week's election, one segment of the student body did manage to keep its head above the swamp - the apartment dwellers. Although during such times they treasure their isolationism, students who opt to rent nearby apartments rather than live in the YU dorms more frequently are ill informed. Many of the announcements and bulletins that inform the student body about various activities are hung in the dorm, making it difficult for the apartment students to be aware of what is happening on campus.

The largest obstacle students in the apartments fight to overcome is that mailings to the student body are never sent to them. Most recently, invitations were sent to all of the students in the dorms inviting them to an event welcoming Dean Norman Adler. Since the publicity for the event was done through inter-campus mail and not by posting signs, the students in the apartments were uninformed. "I would like to have known," said Joseph Gitler, an apartment dweller who did not find out about the event until after it happened. Isaac Sasson, a resident of 189 St., feels that not getting these mailings makes him feel a little detached from the campus.

Zevi Shubin, a YC senior who lives on 186 St, lamented that he had not heard about the MFATS until the day before the exams and was unaware of graduation pictures until the day they were being taken.

### More Can Be Done

According to Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz, the director of the residence halls, more attention should be given to the students in the apartments, including, perhaps, putting them on a mailing list so they can be notified and participate in events and activities of the university, just like the students living in the dorms. "A lot can be

done to inform them and make them aware so that they feel like a part of student life," Rabbi Cheifetz said.

Many students from the apartments feel that the lack of bulletins is "no big deal," because they see all the signs anyway when they go to class in Belfer or Furst Hall. Others, however, agree that they do miss out on the notices, announcements, and signs. Sasson, a YC junior complained that "in the apartments, students are cut off from announcements such as guest lecturers and research availability." Even though most announcements are hung in Furst and Belfer Halls, the students apartments are still at a disadvantage because "they don't see it until later."

Other apartment dwellers feel that there is little difference between themselves and those who live in the dorms. Gitler, who lives across from Furst Hall, says "the announcements are everywhere, in the Beis Medrash, in Furst Hall, so I do not feel left out." However, even Gitler admits that if he would live in the dorms he would be better informed. The main difference is that from the apartments one must actively "look for the signs," while a dorm resident can find the signs more easily because the announcements are "right there."

Some students maintain that even within the current system apartment dwellers can be equally involved. Secretary of the Senate Isaac Sasson does not feel any less involved than last year when he was in the dorm, but this year his participation requires more effort.

Many apartment residents describe the option of voluntary isolation as being the beauty of the apartments. "The students are not automatically isolated," said Jeremy Fox a SSSB junior who lives above the bookstore, "rather they are only isolated if they want to be."

Josh Fine the YCSC President-elect, indicated that during his campaign he realized the importance of students in the apartments staying informed, at least, of basic information. "They are part of the Yeshiva College and we must make sure that is taken into account."

## Poor Writing Quality Bothers Faculty

BY NICK MUZIN

Last month, YC English faculty unexpectedly postponed the deadline for the Essay Contest. The reason: the submissions were so weak, the judges could not declare any one of them a winner.

Publicly and amongst themselves, YC professors have been decrying the quality of students' writing for years. The complaint originates in the composition courses where teachers claim they see too much passive voice, awkward syntax, and general obfuscation. Lately this claim has been heard from professors of Political Science, Bible, and even Chemistry, where one instructor says that students' lab reports are incoherent.

"Some of the writing I get is appalling," says Associate Dean and pre-law advisor Michael Hecht, "I've seen students who are incredibly bright students who have scored in the top percentiles in the LSAT - and their level of writing is unbelievably poor."

### Big Problem in SSSB

While the writing at YC leaves much to be desired, Sy Syms students, according to Hecht, are much worse.

To combat this problem, the YC English department, under the direction of Dr. Nochimson, established the Writing Center a few years ago, where students can improve their writing working with tutors one-on-one at no cost.

"What else can you ask for?" asserts David Schertz, president of the English Honors Society. "I would encourage all students to make use of the Writing Center - even strong writers who wish to improve. It's absolutely free, and you get experienced help."

Nonetheless, the Writing Center remains mostly empty as students find other ways to spend their time.

"YU students are in a hurry," explains Dean Hecht, "and as a result their writing suffers. There is no skill in college more important than learning how to write clearly and concisely. Writing well is a key skill in virtually any area, including: business, law, the rabbinate. You'll go further if you write well - law firms, for example, require a writing sample of all applicants and consider it a key determinant in job offers."

Some teachers, including one who works in the Writing Center, blame stu-

dents' abilities on Jewish high schools where writing "just isn't a priority."

Hecht rejects this premise. "Obviously the college professors are going to blame it on the high school teachers, and the high school teachers blame it on the elementary school teachers and eventually you find a lousy kindergarten teacher whose fault it really is," he explained.

In fact, the average SAT (verbal) score of incoming freshmen is 550, not a number which indicates fault in a high school education. Dr. Leo Taubes, professor of Composition and Literature, doesn't believe that the writing at YU is any worse than at any other university, and attributes the perceived problem to a nation-wide writing quandary.

Across North America the level of writing has declined in the past few decades. Some studies have linked it to the greater emphasis on visual media (i.e. television and computers), with less attention given to the written word. In addition, computer programs like Spell-Check and Grammar Check de-emphasize the need for a solid English education. Recently, State Education Commissioner Thomas Sobol ordered 250 of his highest ranking officials, many of whom hold doctorates and oversee the education of N.Y.'s three million schoolchildren, to take special classes on writing.

Dean Hecht asserts that while YU students are no worse at writing than other college students, their outstanding proficiency in analytic reasoning and logic skills makes it seem as if their writing skills lag behind more than they really do. "While studying Talmud develops precise thinking, it does nothing to nurture good writing."

Dr. Moshe J. Bernstein, chairman of the YC Curriculum & Academic Standards Committee, says that his committee has discussed the option of requiring more writing courses, but doesn't believe it should be done in a policed fashion. He claims that if students would make better use of the Writing Center, and of "the excellent faculty" available to them their writing would quickly improve.

One YC student stated jokingly that "students should improve their writing, because when they move into the job market they will discover that poor writing is something which future employers will not put up with."

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# New Computer System Will Improve Student Services

*continued from page one*

Academic Advisement will also be improved with the new package, as a wide assortment of data will now be accessible on-line. A student's academic information will be available to an advisor by computer, clearly listing the student's academic year. Necessary details such as the number of credits and courses needed to graduate will be displayed onscreen. Time saved reviewing technical details with students can now be spent on actual advisement. "Students will no longer need to be surprised in their last year that they need one more course to graduate," Davis commented.

Harris commented that a student information kiosk had been set up at Dowling College which uses a similar system. Such a kiosk would allow students to review their own transcripts. Davis added there would be security passwords, and the Dean's office would be able to initiate a lockout if necessary.

It would also assist in producing accurate statistical studies and analyses which would help direct administration towards future decisions. Data would be immediately accessible and retrievable, and accessible by any variable. Such studies would be relatively simple to do by computer, but simply would not get done without the new system. The analyses would provide for YU what Harris calls "a vision of where to direct the future."

Director of Admissions Michael Kranzler recalls he was once asked to produce a report of how many MTA students eventually end up in YU. Because

the current registration lists and MTA graduates were on two separate systems, Kranzler had to cross-reference the two lists manually. The Admissions Office would now be able to evaluate how different factors and events in a student's past influence his decision to come to YU.

Kranzler remarked the system would also allow the Admissions Office to contact current YU students when their high school basketball team will be playing in the Red Sarachek basketball tournament. High school students, Kranzler asserts, will be more comfortable playing in front of people they know than people they don't.

Financial Aid Director Harris said it would also become easier to assess which kinds of students needed financial aid and then went on to graduate school. Billing procedures would also be simplified, as Pell grants would be included in the financial aid computer. The office will also be able to keep track of Belkin scholars who defer two years to go to Israel. Currently, they are recorded on different lists.

Davis admitted that getting the new computer network was one of his goals since his arrival here. Davis has experience in installing systems. "I'm not the one to take all the credit," Davis insists, "Everyone involved realized we needed a new one." He noted the time, money, and staff required came together, and, as a result, the best possible system was chosen. "The selection was a team effort involving a lot of hard work," Davis says.

# Sophomores and Seniors Visit the Nets

BY SETH GROSSMAN

On Thursday night, March 30, the senior and sophomore classes from YC and SCW sponsored a trip to watch the New Jersey Nets play against the formidable Portland Trail Blazers. At the start, the student council leaders had an extremely hard time selling tickets, but after much cajoling and large price discounts, approximately forty tickets were sold.

YCSC Vice President Yosef Helft remarked, "It is a shame so few people came; everyone had an amazing time." According to almost all accounts the event turned out to be most enjoyable, as the Meadowlands crowd was treated to a thriller as the usually overmatched Nets, led brilliantly by point guard Kenny Anderson, actually managed to stay in the

game before finally losing in the closing minutes. YCSC President Daniel Billig did an excellent job of explaining the nuances of the game to the twenty or so attendees from Stern College.

### Where's Michael?

The ironic twist to the event is that, while in its planning stages, student leaders were offered tickets to either the Trailblazer game or last Wednesday's Chicago Bulls game. Helft chose the Portland match; soon afterwards Michael Jordan made his much-heralded return to the NBA after his brief foray into minor league baseball. As SCW junior Ayala Shapiro articulated, "the game was okay, but seeing Michael Jordan play in person would have been sick!"

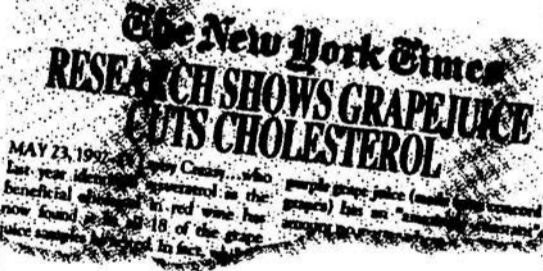
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# SUMMER AT SY SYMS

### SUMMER SESSION I A - (JUNE 6, JUNE 28, 1995)

DEPT.	COURSE	CREDIT/HOUR	INSTRUCTOR	
ACC	1002	PRINCIPLES OF ACCOUNTING II	(3) / 9:30-12:10	DR. J. HOCHMAN
FIN	1001	PRINCIPLES OF FINANCE	(3) / 1:00-3:40	DR. J. KRAUSZ
FIN	1408	CORPORATE FINANCE	(3) / 9:30-12:10	DR. J. KRAUSZ
INF	1020	MANAGEMENT INFO. SYSTEMS	(3) / 9:30-12:10	DR. A. ZILBERT
MAN	1020	PRINCIPLES OF MANAGEMENT	(3) / 1:00-3:40	PROF. R. WILLIAMS
MAR	1001	PRINCIPLES OF MARKETING	(3) / 9:30-12:10	PROF. R. VALENTIN

### SUMMER SESSION I B - (JUNE 6, JULY 6, 1995)

DEPT.	COURSE	CREDIT/HOUR	INSTRUCTOR	
ACC	1101	INTERMEDIATE ACCOUNTING II	(3) / 9:50-12:00	DR. M. PAVA
ACC	2403	MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING	(4) / 1:00-4:00	DR. C. SNOW

### SUMMER SESSION II - (JULY 10, AUGUST 9, 1995)

DEPT.	COURSE	CREDIT/HOUR	INSTRUCTOR	
ACC	1102	INTERMEDIATE ACCOUNTING II	(3) / 9:50-12:00	DR. M. PAVA

For additional information and to register, contact the Office of the Dean, Sy Syms School of Business, (212) 960-0845, Belfer Hall Room 412 or (212) 340-7781, Stern Room 904.

## Fine Ready to Start Work

*continued from page one*

appealed to the 'out-of-towner' vote, promising to fight for van service to and from the airports when necessary and noting that the vast distance between YU and his native city of Baltimore has helped him foster a strong connection with YU. "YU is my home, seven days a week, from September to May," he said at the debate. Lustman was, arguably, the favorite in the race as the current YCSC secretary, a position which some view as a "stepping stone" to the presidency. Current YCSC president Daniel Billig served in that capacity before he was elected president last year.

In the end, however, Lustman's loss may have been caused by sleeper candidate Barry Habib, who surprised many by finishing third in the balloting, ahead of Eric Berkowitz, Akiva Davis, and Adam Melzer. An informal poll taken of Habib voters found that a significant number would have voted for Lustman if Habib had chosen not to run, "Lustman was my second choice," said one Habib voter who asked he not be identified. Some students have speculated that without Habib's candidacy, Lustman could have easily made up the seventeen vote difference.

Habib's campaign stressed his "rapport with the masses," while Davis focused on more tangible items, promising, if elected, to advance the idea of cable television in Ruben Hall as well as more soap in the pool bathrooms, "even if I have to put it there myself." Berkowitz's pet issue was academic advisement, an area he says he felt to be severely lacking at present. Melzer reminded voters of his reputation as a leader and organizer, specifically in regard to sporting events, which makes him into a potent political force.

### Student Court Called Upon

While the election process generally went smoothly, it did hit several snags, one involving YCSC secretary hopeful, Michael Belgrade. Belgrade, who missed the deadline to register for the election,

alleged that Billig's deadline was unconstitutional. He consequently brought the president to Student Court, which heard the case last Tuesday night, two nights before the election. Although Belgrade eventually lost his struggle to be placed on the ballot in what was a bizarre and often unruly session of the court, he continued to wage his campaign as a write-in candidate. The decision may actually have been a mixed blessing, because as a write-in candidate he was not bound by the strict campaigning regulations, thus enabling him to employ unorthodox campaigning methods, such as hanging a banner out of his Morg window the day of the election.

The evening following the election, Fine, along with his campaign manager and brother, Samson, as well as several friends, celebrated the momentous occasion in an informal Kosher Delight setting. The mood was relaxed, the President-elect just trying to soak everything in after a grueling campaign. "It feels really good, almost surreal," he said. But true to his reputation as a hard worker, he doesn't wish to revel in his glory for too long. "I plan on getting on the phone tomorrow, starting to work to fulfill the promises I made during the election," he remarked later that night. In the post-election euphoria, Fine also found time to make the trek over to the *Commentator* office, floating possibilities there of what he'd like to accomplish during his tenure. "I think we have to work on improving the relationship between students and faculty as well as between students and administration," he said. He also proposed an idea he believes to be long overdue: an organization charged with the responsibility of evaluating and suggesting improvements for student life, comprised almost entirely by students and not just the "group of five presidents." "I want to stop the pattern of a few people running the school," he said.

## Golf Team is Back!

BY COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF

Yeshiva University Golf is back! With the first match of the 1995 season played last week, the YU Golf Team has begun their road to success. With the experience of returning players Jeremy Fox and Kevin Weinberg and rookie golfers David Levine, Brian Ness, Isaac Kalish, and Ari Shaffir, the Yeshiva golf team posted a respectable loss to the well seasoned team from NJIT.

Although this first match ended in defeat, the golf team members have found much to build on. Acting as a single unit and working together, the golfers have been helping each other with their swing, their tempo, and their confidence. On the 4th hole last week, rookie Brian Ness hit an errant shot and

lost his concentration and confidence. Thankfully, his playing partner, David Levine, told him to "calm down and keep your head in it!" Ness cooled off and shot par on the next hole.

The Golf Team is once again lead by Coach Allen "the Golden Bear" Mittelman, former U.S. long-driving champion. Coach Mittelman has enlightened the team with his golf tips, many of which were highlighted in last week's match at Van Cortlandt Park. David Levine had a string of three pars on the front nine finishing up with a 49 on the front side. Isaac Kalish had the shot of the day when he chipped in a 35-foot shot for his first birdie ever and the team's first birdie of the season. Hopefully, the drives will hop and the putts will drop. "Tee it high and let it fly!"

## Editors Look Forward to Next Year

*continued from page one*

his warm tale about his experience at the Soloveichik shul, now struggling to survive.

Hirt follows in the footsteps of his older brother Lance, who served as Editor-in-Chief of *The Commentator* in 1987-88. His main goal is to bolster the quality of the newspaper's writing staff. "Additionally," he adds, "I hope to give more incentive to those writers willing to write for the sake of good journalism but who may not want to put in the normal amount of hours required to get formal recognition."

Cyrułnik's skills have made their visual mark. His innovations have included fresh new appearances for titles of such sections as "Campus News" and "Letters to the Editor," as well as the subtle but much noticed Torah U'madda logo in the newspaper's masthead. He has also written extensively, following several "beats" over a few months,

among them the *Guide to the Perplexed* fiasco and the controversy surrounding the Cardozo gay club.

"I've been integrally involved in the production of *The Commentator* under two different governing boards," stated Cyrułnik, the former editor of the *MTA Academy News*. "I have learned a great deal about our newspaper and the business as a whole. While I still hope to improve my own skills, I look forward to changing roles from student to teacher."

Both Cyrułnik and Hirt express their excitement about combining their skills, along with Karben's, to lead the newspaper. "Over the past few years, each of us has cultivated the necessary ideas and talents to carry *The Commentator* to even greater heights," Hirt said. Added Cyrułnik, "The newspaper has made many positive changes in the past two years. We hope to continue that trend, with our own personal touch."

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## Chemistry Club Sponsors Lecture on Patent Law

BY DAVID KAHN

On Thursday, March 28, the Chemistry Club sponsored a successful lecture entitled "Chemistry and the Law." Dr. Frederick L. Herman, a patent liaison at Johnson & Johnson, and an Orthodox Jew, discussed his experience as a patent agent and as a chemist.

In his lecture, Herman spoke about his early career as an organic chemist trying to make a water-proof paint. The problem with water-proof paint was that it had already been patented. His job as a chemist was to create a variation of the water-proof paint that was not under the previous patent. While creating this new paint he became involved in the intricacies of patent law. He eventually took the patent bar exam to become a patent agent and passed. This offered him the opportunity to enter a much

more lucrative field than the average chemist.

Herman also explained that to become a patent lawyer or agent, a science undergraduate degree is required. However, after becoming a patent agent the probability of being successful is very high. Every year only 400 people pass the patent Bar while each year the amount of discoveries increases. "In short," he concluded "companies want patents."

The event attracted about twenty people, considerably more than the first Chemistry Club-sponsored lecture on polyaxoanions. Yosef Crystal, president of the Chemistry Club, attributed the success to the headline on the flyers announcing the event. Somehow, student interest, he felt, was piqued more by a lecture on "Chemistry and the Law" than on polyaxoanions.

## Volleyball: Season Spiked

*continued from back page*

strong play of the Macs, inspired by reserves David Ruditzky and Carl Hochhauser, but what really made it fun was the rare fan support the team received. Due to the unexpected length of the matches, many students expecting to play in that night's intramural game found themselves enthusiastically egging on the team members. Although in the end, the Macs were not able to pull it off, this match highlighted the lack of fan support that the team has received throughout the season. Home matches didn't draw many more attendees than away ones, even on weeknights.

When asked to comment on the season, most team members were reluctant to dwell on the negative, regardless of the team's performance this year. The elder Geft remarked how despite the lack of commitment that many of the veterans displayed, the "desire and heart" evident in the play of first-year players like his younger brother Eitan, Jeremy Fine, Ruditzky, and Hochhauser provided much hope for next year's squad. Fine's take on the situation was that, "Although there was a lot of individual talent on the team, it just didn't seem to gel. Hopefully we can build off this year to integrate further as a team and succeed next season."

In terms of next year, the outlook is up in the air. Coach Jiang expects to return, despite his increased responsibilities at his other coaching job, the US Army Women's team. Lindenberg and Joshua are graduating, and Noam Geft is contemplating foregoing his final year of eligibility to turn professional. No other players have overtly expressed any possibility of not returning, though many are discouraged by the lack of victories this season. The redeeming factor however, was the game itself. Fine, Geft and Hochhauser were all quick to point out that they really love playing the game. Hopefully, it will be this love that will

draw team members back to the Macs next season as well as invite next year's crop of recruits to try out for the team. As one player remarked, "The only way to go is up."

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# Yeshiva Sports



MTA's winning Sarachek Team

## Red Sarachek Tournament a Boost for YU Admissions

BY ANDREW DAVIDSON

On Thursday, March 30, YU's fourth annual Red Sarachek Yeshiva High School Invitational Tournament began with a bang, bringing together teams of basketball-playing yeshiva students from the New York area, Miami, Los Angeles, Chicago, St. Louis, Memphis, Toronto, and Washington, DC. A record number of fifteen teams were present for the weekend of games, promising excitement right up to the tournament finale. The tournament didn't disappoint.

With each round becoming more and more intense, New York rivals JEC and MTA prevailed and ended up facing each other in the championship game. Playing a close, hard-fought game throughout, JEC was led by forward Marc Nadritch, whose then new single game points record. MTA, however used a very balanced attack, and made a run as time began to wind down. With just seconds left on the clock, and the filled-to-capacity crowd chanting "M-T-A," MTA student David Neiss, the MVP of the tournament, hit a game winning shot sending both the crowd and his teammates into a frenzy.

However, this was more than a basketball tournament. It was an event organized by the YU Office of Admissions as a chance for out-of-town yeshiva high school students to visit the Main Campus and get a sense of what college life is like. At every game, former graduates of the visiting schools, now attending YU, could be spotted mingling with their hometown teams, cheering them on and making the high schoolers feel at home. Shachar Minkove, a senior at the Hebrew Academy of Greater Washington, commented, "It's great. I get to come up here for a couple of days, see New York, and learn about the University. It was a great experience."

Besides the YU-sponsored Model United Nations, the Red Sarachek tournament is the only event that familiarizes yeshiva

high school students from across the country with the YU campus. Moshe Kranzler, Dean of Admissions, explained that "the key is to display all the University has to offer, and to build the perception that YU should be central to the [students'] lives."

While in the planning stage, numerous invitations were sent out to schools nationwide, and the final decision on who attended was based on a "first-come, first-served," basis. Jonathan Epstein, Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions explained that "we only had a certain number of available spots, so whoever responded first, locked up a spot. Unfortunately, we had to turn some teams away, but next year we plan on expanding the tournament to sixteen teams." Kranzler ascribed the sixteen-team limit to YU's having only one full size basketball court available.

### Scouting for the Macs

One spectator spotted at many of the games was Macs coach Jonathan Halpert, who was undoubtedly scouting for a "diamond in the rough" for a future Macs basketball team. Barry Aranoff, a current Mac, and former MVP of the Sarachek tournament, remarked that it is "great to bring yeshiva high schools together, but the level of play seems to have declined somewhat from past years." Another current Mac, Ira Landsman, described the tournament as "March Madness for yeshiva high schools." Hey, maybe someone will start a pool next year," he added.

As the tournament becomes more and more popular, Kranzler hopes to "build a sense of continuity, so out-of-town schools look forward to the 'YU' tournament." The tournament participants were headquartered at the Radisson Hotel in Englewood, NJ, supervised by Epstein, who was also at every game greeting players, coaches, and parents alike. A Shabbat program was conducted by YC students Rafi Lipner and Howie Paskowitz.

## YU Volleyball Season Review

BY COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF

With the cancellation of a make-up game against SUNY New Paltz, the YU volleyball team officially ended its season last Tuesday. Backing up into the off-season seemed ironically appropriate for this squad, considering the dashed hopes of this once-promising season. Although they lost star player Ralph Yacowar to graduation, the team looked to overachieve this year for a variety of reasons. The primary one was the acquisition of world class coach Shensheng Jiang, direct from the Chinese national woman's team. All hoped that his Olympic Gold Medal and world championship experience would help guide the team to victory. Although an obvious language barrier existed, the team was helped by an assistant coach who doubled as a translator. Co-Captains Avi Vogel and Noam Geft headed up the list of returning players which also included Noah Lindenberg, Moshe Joshua, Vladimir Peterziel and Boris Khodorkovsky. The team was also encouraged by the emergence of rookies Jeremy Fine, Eitan Geft, Carl Hochhauser, David Ruditzky and Andy Davidson.

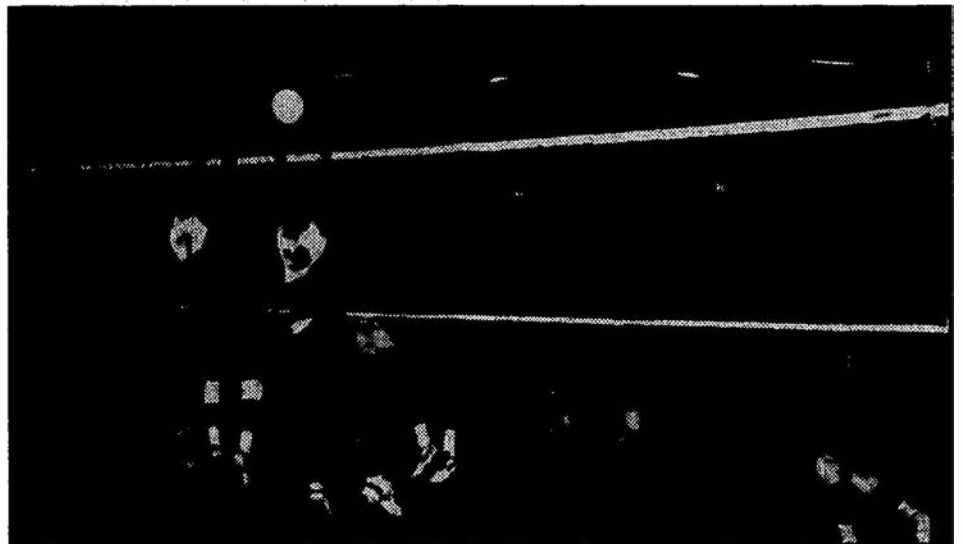
The Macs started the '95 season with a dismal outing at the IAC tournament hosted by Stevens Tech in Hoboken. After two more losses to York and Bard Colleges, the team

rebounded with a victory against an outclassed Cooper Union. After a week off, the team headed out to Long Island for a date with SUNY Old Westbury. In his scouting report, Noam Geft painted an ugly picture of the team's chances against a bigger and more skilled opponent. But to the welcome surprise of all, YU captured the first two games of the usual best-of-five match. Although the third game was close, the Macs were blown away in the fourth game to set up a tense "rally point" tie-breaker. The game was as close as could be with multiple lead changes, as YU lost the game 16-14 and the match 3-2.

This devastating loss must have taken a lot out of the team as they dropped three straight matches to Baruch, Mount St. Vincent and Stevens Tech. In all three matches victory was within the Macs' grasp, but in all three it managed to slip away. Noam Geft was quick to point out that these matches, along with all the previous ones (except versus the clearly superior NJIT), could easily have been won, had the team just hustled and stayed more focused.

One exciting match played by the Macs was the one three weeks ago against Sacred Heart (albeit with some of their starters were on the bench). What livened it up was the

*continued on page 11*



YU Volleyball Macs in action on their home floor

### The Commentator

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