

Yeshiva University Commentator

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Stern, page 8



SSSB student leaders with Viacom Chairman Sumner Redstone at his recent lecture in Koch Auditorium. His lecture was part of the Management seminar being given this semester. See story page 12.

RIETS Students May Face Eviction from Dorms

BY STEVEN MIODOWNIK

With YU reveling in its high-est registration level in decades, and with rosy expectations for the year ahead, the Residence Office is examining the possibility of ejecting post-collegiate kollel and smicha students from the three Main Campus dorms, and instead, housing them in nearby apartments. The prospect is receiving mixed reviews from the approximately seventy-five students potentially affected by the proposal.

While no concrete dorm figures are available yet undergraduate dorm applications are still being accepted and figures from this year's crop of Israel students are still up in the air. Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz, Residents Halls Director, notes that

there has been an average increase of twenty-five students requesting dorm space per semester over the past two years. If the trend continues, massive logistical problems could ensue because the dorms have already reached their saturation point. Rabbi Cheifetz promises, however, that "everyone will be accommodated" in the upcoming term.

RIETS students discovered their tentative status when several of them unsuccessfully attempted to obtain dorm applications from the Residence Halls Office. They were instead informed of the potential problem and instructed to wait until the undergraduate application process is completed. Meanwhile, Rabbi Cheifetz began compiling a separate list of the

names, dorm rooms, and phone numbers of RIETS students requesting dorm space. Dorm counselors who are RIETS students will not be affected by the space constrictions.

Only when the undergraduate dorm numbers for 1995-6 are finalized, probably within the next two weeks, will it be determined if the evictions are necessary. One residence official speculated that if there will be enough space left over for some, a lottery will be held, Stern College-style, to decide which students will benefit from the dorms. But the entire process, which has been transpiring behind closed doors for several months now, is producing layers of speculation and rumor.

Some kollel students feel they

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Commentator Wins ADL Journalism Award

BY MOSHE I. KINDERLEHRER

On Tuesday, April 4, *The Commentator* took third place in the first-ever ADL (Anti-Defamation League) - Bess Myerson Campus Journalism Award. The \$500 prize was granted for the 1994 editorial entitled "Looking Out From Where He Sat."

The award-winning editorial, which appeared in Volume 58, Issue 10, on March 10, 1994,

sharply condemned the atrocity committed by Dr. Baruch Goldstein, the YU alumnus who opened fire in the Me'arat HaMachpela (Cave of the Patriarchs) in Hebron, killing a number of Muslim worshippers. The editorial placed third in the editorial/opinion portion of the contest, behind entries from the Columbia and CUNY student newspapers.

The Co-Editor-in-Chief of last year's *Commentator*, Rob-

ert Fagin, accepted the award on behalf of the newspaper at a ceremony held in the ADL's headquarters in Manhattan. The entry was submitted by Fagin and his Co-Editor, Sender Cohen, in June of last year. The two former editors received a check for \$250 and the newspaper received the other \$250 of the \$500 third place prize. Plaques commemorating the third place finish were also

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Death of Alisa Flatow Hits Home for YU Students

Controversial Ruling Permits Organ Donation

BY STEVEN MIODOWNIK

The news of a Jewish tragedy like a terrorist attack in Israel has always affected students at Yeshiva College. But more than any other tragedy that has transpired in Israel over the past two years, the murder of Alisa Flatow on April 9 prompted an unprecedented outpouring of grief and solidarity.

Alisa Flatow, 20, was killed right before Pesach when a car filled with explosives rammed into the Egged bus she was traveling on from Ashkelon to Gush Katif. Six Israeli soldiers also died in the blast.

A Brandeis University junior, Flatow had taken a six-month leave of absence to study at the Nishmat yeshiva in Jerusalem. She had attended the Frisch School and lived in West Orange, New Jersey. Alisa Flatow's background was identical to that of the typical YU student; her death removed the barrier separating the tumultuous Israeli peace process from the comfortable lives of American Jews, "It could have been one of us."

But as more information trickled in from YU students and faculty, the reality sunk in, "She was one of us." Flatow was traveling to the Gaza resort with Chavie Levine, SCW '94, and Kesari Ruza, SCW '93, who both miraculously survived. The first news of the attack reached America through a frantic telephone call placed by Levine to her sister and brother-in-law, a YU kollel member, in Washington Heights. Flatow's roommates at Nishmat had brothers and boyfriends at

YU. And as an Orthodox Jew studying Torah in Israel, Flatow represented the hundreds of friends whom YU students send off with great fanfare and little worry, expecting them to safely return when their year of learning is over.

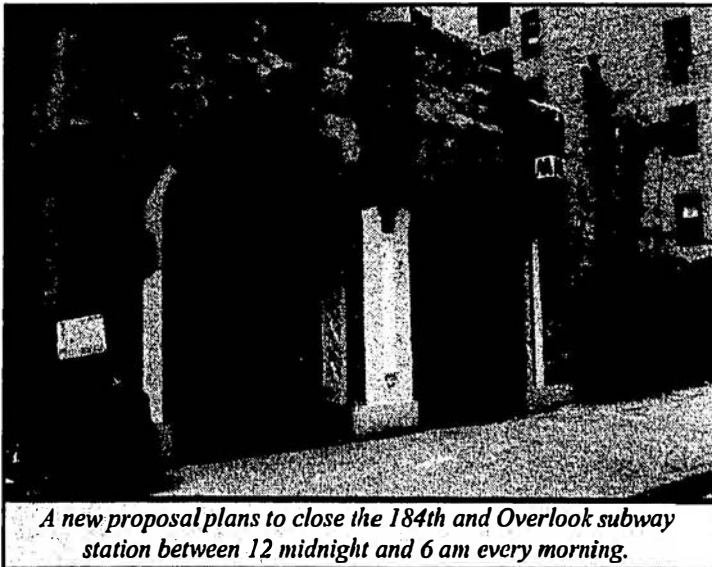
Flatow's return, however, came on April 12, when her father, Stephen, brought her body back for burial in America after donating some of her organs to six Israeli citizens. Tears flowed freely at the funeral at Congregation Ahavas Achim B'nai Jacob and David in West Orange, which was attended by 2,000 people, including many who did not know her but wished to honor her martyrdom. MYP Roshei Yeshiva Rav Herschel Schachter and Rav Meir Goldwicht were among the many prominent Jewish leaders in attendance, and a busload of mourners arrived from YU.

Raphael Gross, SSSB '96, a former classmate of Flatow's, remembers a "a really nice girl with a great sense of humor," and someone whom he never saw "upset or in a bad mood." Oren Keiser, also a former classmate, described Flatow as "the type of person who could always cheer you up." Most disturbing for Keiser was the "flood of memories" that engulfed him as he recalled "moments of sitting next to her in class" and bumping into her in Jerusalem over the winter break.

Rabbi Tandler Permits Organ Donation

Tragically, Flatow's funeral became the first reunion for Frisch's Class of 1992. Students

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EDITORIALS EDITORIALS EDITORIALS

Just Think

As students exited their shiur rooms two weeks ago, many fervently echoed the opinions expressed by their Rebbeim regarding Hamevaser's latest "controversial" issue. "Apikorsus," "Arayos," and "censorship" were only some of the epithets reverberating through YU hallways. Frightningly, many such vocal and opinionated individuals had not even read the article for themselves. By his own admission, SOY president Yitzchak Book had threatened to cut the paper's funding based merely on hearsay, without ever reading the controversial article.

The student reaction evoked by Hamevaser helps illuminate a more prevalent danger permeating throughout the university: the students' pension for forming ideas and opinions based on their observation of others. Too often, students avoid enrolling in classes or in taking talented professors for they are told by others that the professor is "tough" or "unfair." Too often, students shun YC-Stern social events because of the stigma attached to attending rather than because of their own personal value judgements.

Time spent in college, and especially time spent in yeshiva, is most valuable not in the specific knowledge that a student gains, but in the outlook and values that he formulates for himself. A student who never has the need to think through an issue on his own will never develop the tools by which to analyze issues on his own. And it is just such an individual, whose values are entirely external, who presents the real danger to the future of the Jewish community.

Hail to the 'Chiefs'

After having published twelve issues, Commentator Volume 59 halted its presses last month paving the way for volume sixty and its fresh governing board. The YU community may perceive these dozen issues as merely twelve days worth of newsbreaking, entertaining, scandalous literature; on the other hand, to the paper's editor-in-chief Moshe Kinderlehrer twelve issues represents 365 days of mental toil, complete dedication, and ultimate satisfaction.

Moshe's leadership has helped define the make-up of an editor-in-chief *par excellence*. He is one who not only creates and implements his personal innovations but who also contains the ability to respect and utilize the ideas and talents of others.

The governing board of volume 60 would like to thank Moshe, as well as outgoing executive editor Sid Singer, and senior editor Sandor Bak for setting the lofty standards and Pulitzer prize direction towards which we will continue to guide this publication.

The Commentator

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P I C T O R I A L



LETTERS

To the Editor

Remembering Rabbi Bernstein

To the editor:
Your obituary of March 29th by Dov Simons brought forth fond memories of Rabbi Dr. Louis Bernstein. He was my first teacher of "Tanakh" when I entered "T.A." in 1955; he was animated, enthusiastic, demanding, and scholarly.
Two things stand out in my memory: In 1956, when the Suez War broke out, we spent many days crowded around Rabbi Bernstein's desk listening to his portable radio (smuggled in under the ever watchful eye of Dr. Norman Abrams) for every update from the battlefield. It was my first lesson in the price of "Zionism."
In my freshman year I met, for the first time in my life, youngsters from the Bronx. They were tough, street-wise and

protective of their turf. From this Salanter "mafia" I learned the finer points of switchblades, zipguns and the art of intimidation. I never knew such Jewish kids existed who could fight their way out of a dead end alley against "Shkut-zim" twice their size without losing a "kipa." When my admiration for the Salanter gang turned to emulation, Rabbi Bernstein publicly announced my name change to "Scrappy." To this day, my old classmates still remind me. The old Salanter street fighters now do battle in the operating rooms, the courtrooms and the classrooms. "Rocky Louie," as we fondly called him, should be very proud.
Rabbi Barry J. Kanovitch

The Double Standard

To the editor:
Recently, I needed a means of transportation to get downtown. I decided that since I did not want to take the subway, that I would inquire as to if I, being an MTA student, was allowed to take the shuttle to Stern. After going to one of the security posts on campus I was informed that although I was an MTA student I was permitted to take the shuttle to Stern. After I had completed my classes for the day I went to go catch the shuttle. Upon my boarding the shuttle I was asked to present my ID. The driver informed me that since I was an MTA student that I would have to get

approval from my 'supervisor' in order to ride the shuttle.
After getting over my anger, I thought about the problem that had just faced me, and I realized yet another example of the 'double standard'. I'm a little confused how come YC students are allotted the privilege to ride the vehicles that are provided for the MTA students for a nominal fee, whereas MTA students, on the other hand, are not even given the option to ride the University's vehicles. Maybe my logic is a little faulty but I really don't see the difference between the two cases.
Shalom Schwartz, MTA '96



From the Editor's Desk

OWEN CYRULNIK

"But the Torah envisions time as out contact with reality ... the basis of the events which comprise our history and our individual lives. It is a temporal reliving of those aspects in time which created events."

-- Rabbi Matis Weinberg, *Patterns in Time*

Hegel envisioned time as a progression whose unfolding we can only understand after it has passed. He represented this theory with his now famous line, "The owl of minerva spreads its wings with the coming of dusk." It is the argument of Rabbi Weinberg (quoted above), and of Judaism in general, that time serves a much different function. Time is not linear, it is spiraling; we re-experience events from out past every day, but just from a different perspective. This concept lies at the root of the Jewish term for holiday, *moed*, which means meeting. But more importantly, rather than simply being observers and interpreters of time, we are *partners* with time; in fact one of the first commandments in the Torah, that of *kiddush hachodesh*, or sanctification of the new month teaches that the Jews actually define time completely by themselves.

If you ask Rav Aharon Kahn why he insists on giving shiur on the first floor of the main building, he will tell you that he is giving shiur in the room that the Rav learned in; he will tell you that he feels the spirit of the Rav in the room as he gives shiur. Rav Kahn, and, no doubt, many others here at YU understand that although we don't have green ivy on the walls or a colonial puritan on our board of founders, we have a tradition and a history that is just as rich as that of Harvard or Yale. We stand today quite literally on the shoulders of giants in both the Jewish and secular communities who dedicated their lives to building this institution nearly one hundred years ago.

So it is ironic that in a University that hold its history in such high regard, and within a religion that places a special emphasis on time, that it is so difficult for YU to impart that message to its students. I have been attending classes

on this campus for more than six years and I have watched as the practice of making fun of the facilities and education here at YU has become more and more popular. Are there problems at Yeshiva College? Absolutely. And will the *Commentator* plaster those problems all over the front page of the newspaper? Probably. That is our job. But that should be irrelevant. Students should be cognizant of the tradition of which they are a part. They should take pride in the fact that they attend YU, and they should express that pride to each other and to the outside world as well. All too often we succumb to the level of Hegel. We recognize history after it has already become history; we understand the importance of events only when it is too late to appreciate that importance.

For what its worth, as we take over the mantle of leadership of the *Commentator*, my co-editor Ari Hirt and I are quite aware of the tradition to which we are heir. The publication of this issue represents the beginning of the sixtieth volume of the *Commentator*, and it is also the final issue of the 1994-95 academic year. This is the time of year when newly elected student leaders begin to take their positions. The new YCSC President has a column in this issue, as does the outgoing president. Closer to our own hearts, the outgoing editors are both saluted in an editorial in this issue, and have also written columns bidding farewell to the paper. These past leaders and those of us who take over for them do our part to make students aware of the tradition in which they participate. Part of the mission of the *Commentator* this year will be to attempt, difficult though it might seem, to transcend Hegel's limitations and embrace the message taught by Rabbi Weinberg; to see and to portray the history of this University as a spiral that is shaped by the students around whom it unfolds. And at the same time, to make those students proud of that tradition. It will be part of our mission to ensure that, at least here at YU, Hegel's owl of minerva can spread its wings at the dawn of history rather than waiting until dusk has overtaken those of us who shape that history.



Editor Emeritus

MOSHE I. KINDERLEHRER

Yeshiva College...YU...

Three weeks till graduation. My major is nearly complete; my requirements long over; MFAT's taken; and I should probably stop by the Placement Office soon. Also, my parents just informed me that my graduation tickets have arrived in the mail. Apparently, my formal college education is at an end. Hard to believe.

As I and my classmates set about preparing for the "post-YU" world—the way we now refer to the hazy period after graduation—I cannot help but look at the past few years as a blur of classes, finals, *chavrusas*, basketball games, late nights, and papers. Memories all run together, bits of each flowing and fading into the next, combining to form one, jumbled array of images. Sadly, this incoherent and swiftly fading mass is what I will be taking with me after graduation.

The Commentator ...

As early as my high school years in MTA, *The Commentator* drew me. Even back then, I knew I would be working for this newspaper. From the moment I stepped onto the campus as a YC student, I was writing for it. Since then, it has been practically my only extracurricular activity. Along the way, *The Commentator* became the guiding force and focal point for my years here. As my roommates and friends will readily attest, it has fundamentally shaped, if not

dominated, my YU experience.

And mostly, it has been an invaluable out-of-classroom learning experience. I have learned a tremendous amount about how our university works; about those who work for it as well as about those who they work for—the students. As well, I have learned about myself, my abilities, my strengths, and my shortcomings. It has not been easy.

I will never forget the heartwarming feeling of satisfaction I derived from watching the entire campus holding, reading, and discussing the *The Commentator* when it came out every other Tuesday. I doubt I will ever forget the grueling, late-night layout sessions or our exhaustingly long Governing Board meetings. Nor will I forget the events that rocked the campus this year: the dean search process, the death of Ahron Heller, the Cardozo controversy, to name but a few. *The Commentator*, in its news coverage and editorials managed to stay on top or ahead of them all. Of this, I am immensely proud.

Seizing on the moment and available space, I want to thank publicly all who I have already thanked privately in the past year. They are the ones without whom I would not have had a paper to edit. They are my writers, my editors, and all of the others who helped me put the paper together. Thank you for coming through as often as you did.



Executive Editor Emeritus

SIDNEY A. SINGER

I first stumbled across a copy of *The Commentator* on the floor of a friend's room during my second year in Israel. Unaware of very much about this institution (including my eventual enrollment) and even less about its newspaper, neither the fancy Old English of the masthead nor the newspaper's text impressed me. My attitude did not change much upon my arrival here. When I opened the pages of *The Commentator* as a student for the first time and noticed the title of "executive editor" on page two, I laughed at how those who ran this newspaper could stoop to making up fancy titles simply to give their friends high positions.

Needless to say, I think I owe some people an apology.

However, I spent quite a bit of time apologizing to myself early on in my collegiate career here. After spending a shabbat at Columbia, I found myself rationalizing unsuccessfully why not to consider transferring. Many friends and fellow YU students related similar experiences after visiting other fine universities.

I cannot speak for those friends and fellow students. But six semesters later, I know I made the right choice in staying here. We hear it over and over again, but it bears repeating: YU affords us an opportunity unavailable anywhere else. No other university shares a campus and an ideology with such a large and intense yeshiva. And no other yeshiva lays claim to a university of this size or quality, with many faculty members coming straight from the Ivy League. Undoubtedly, there are better schools than YU. And probably even better yeshivot. But

none with a better combination. Our academic and spiritual home is living proof of the old cliché, that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

On a more personal level, YU presented me with the chance to contribute to the student newspaper far more than I might have at another university. After writing a bit here and there, I even managed to scam my way into writing a semi-regular column. Somewhere in all this, of course, I came to respect the name of *The Commentator*.

But this newspaper did not need me before I arrived, and it certainly will not miss me when I have left. Far better and more qualified students have held and will hold my former positions. They will write far more eloquently than I have written. The same can be said for just about anyone who has worked for this newspaper. The institution is greater than those who make it run. It will always outlast them.

On the larger scale, this institution will certainly not miss any of the members of this or any other graduating class. YU combines the yeshiva and the university, both of which do not depend on students as individuals, but rather, only as collective units. Rare is the student who so strongly imprints his mark here that YU suffers in his absence. On the contrary, only those who can perform the high-wire act of balancing serious *limudei kodesh* with challenging secular studies—the ideal YU schedule—stand out. Making your mark here requires not that you leave lasting impressions; only that you recognize, and more importantly, take advantage of, a unique opportunity.

Positions are still available for

The Commentator, Volume LX

All those who are interested, please contact:

Owen Cyrulnik

795-1431

Ari Hirt

927-7947

**Don't miss Dorm Talks this
Wednesday night in Rubin Shul!
Speaker: Rabbi Norman Lamm
The Aharon Heller Library will be
dedicated at this time.**

Yeshiva College



Campus News

First Annual Heller Memorial Game Played at J.E.C.

Library to be Dedicated at Dorm Talks

BY J.D. SHULMAN

Throughout the year friends of Aaron Heller have been working towards memorializing the name of their lost friend. Their efforts are reaching fruition in the form of commemorative basketball games, dedicated torah libraries, and Dorm Talks. Aaron was a YC senior who tragically passed away on November 17 of Wilson's disease.

Several of Aaron's closest friends orchestrated the first of a series of annual memorial basketball games to be played in his memory. The first game took place at JEC, Heller's alma mater, on Saturday night, April 30, attracting eighty people, most of whom were from Aaron's hometown, West Orange, and Elizabeth. This game, and the ones following it, are structured to allow JEC's current varsity to play against Aaron's friends and other alumni.

Despite the somber motive driving the evening's occasion, the atmosphere in the gym where Aaron had played enthusiastically for years was upbeat. Aryeh Gross, a JEC student, was impressed that "his friends came out for him." As Benji Reich, Aaron's close friend, introduced the teams, the players jogged onto the court. Aaron's friends all wore Boston Celtic-green jerseys emblazoned with the words 'Aaron's game' and the number 33, the number of Larry Bird, Aaron's favorite player. JEC's Rabbi Malafsky commented, "Larry Bird signified [the importance of team spirit] on the basketball court," something which Aaron felt was very important. Rabbi Malaf-

sky was also pleased with the turnout which he described as something which "wouldn't have occurred for everybody; it took someone special."

By half-time, the JEC Chargers, IAC League Champions for 1995, had managed to bring the score to 40-35 in their favor. Reich, and several others of Aaron's friends managed to encapsulate the meaning of the evening as an opportunity "not to remember" Aaron, but "to appreciate what he meant to us." Another close friend, Shmueli Pineles, noted that this was the "perfect memorial in his name... older out of shape guys, jogging up the court instead of running... is just what he would have liked to see." Daniel Hanuka, a YC Senior and Aaron's roommate during his freshman year, related a more personal feeling: "There isn't a day in my life when I don't think about Aaron," he said. Imparting Aaron's deep sense of friendship, Daniel read from what Aaron had signed in his high school yearbook.

All proceeds from the evening's event will help contribute to a Judeo-English library being set up in the JEC Beit Midrash in Aaron's memory.

Rubin Shul library

Thanks to the help of the IBC, JSS, and MYP Student Councils, over \$400 has been raised to finance the purchase of four bookcases for the rear of Rubin Shul. Hundreds of seforim have been donated by the President's Circle to fill those shelves. The completed library and a *ner tamid* donated by JSS will be unveiled at Dorm Talks this Wednesday night. Rabbi Norman Lamm will speak on marriage, aliyah, and unholy curricula.

Seniors Post Impressive Law School Admissions Rate

BY DANIEL RUBIN

In years past, almost one hundred percent of all YC and SSSB aspiring lawyers have been accepted to a fully accredited American Bar Association law schools, and this year, according to Associate Dean Michael Hecht, should be no exception. Over 90 percent of the greater than fifty applicants have already been accepted to law schools ranging from Cardozo to University of Toronto, with several others still on waiting lists.

In addition, three students have

been accepted to Harvard Law School, up from last year's two, and several others remain on the waiting list. Furthermore, the number of YC/SSSB graduates that have been and will be accepted to Columbia, NYU, and University of Chicago Law Schools is expected to exceed last year's totals of six, nine, and none, respectively, according to Dean Hecht.

Hecht further gave his assurance that he will be working through the summer to help all applicants get into the best possible school.



Candle lighting ceremony at the Yom Hazikaron commemoration which preceded the Yom Ha'atzmaut festivities last Wednesday night.

Hundreds Turn Out for Yom Ha'atzmaut Program

BY ARIEL KONSTANTYN

Last Wednesday evening, the fourth of Iyar, hundreds of men and women assembled in Weissberg Commons in what turned out to be one of the largest gatherings for Yom HaZikaron and Yom HaAtzmaut in the New York Metropolitan area. MYP Rosh Yeshiva Rav Meir Goldwicht commented that "Yeshiva University is the central Zionist yeshiva for the entire Diaspora, and has strong ties to the State of Israel. It is therefore logical that the students here are fit to raise the flag between the Diaspora and Israel."

The evening began with flag bearers marching down and standing at attention. Everyone rose and bowed their heads in silent contemplation as the memorial siren was sounded. The Yom HaZikaron ceremony, in honor of the men and women who died fighting in the defense of Israel, immediately preceded the celebration. YC Junior Itamar Doniger said, "The shrill of the air raid sirens transformed Weissberg Commons into a microcosm of our distant home and reminded us of the realities of Israeli life."

Rabbi Israel Miller then spoke of his strong emotional ties to Israel and hidden love of the Jewish state. He quoted David Ben Gurion ("The Balfour Declaration is not my Bible; the Bible is my Balfour Declaration") and also spoke of the many YU students and alumni who gave their services to the State of Israel, some of whom unfortunately died in the line of duty. Arie Pelta, President of the Israel Club which co-sponsored the ceremony and chagiga with YCSC and SCWSC, was proud of several new additions to the ceremony that made it more unique and personalized. YC student Yair Silverstein, a veteran of the Israel

Defense Forces, told his personal story of those who served alongside him and were injured or killed. Pelta also arranged for translations of Hebrew poems and songs so that everyone would benefit from their meaning.

An extra special new dimension to the program was YC Senior Danny Najman's powerful and moving rendition of Ballada Chovesh - the Ballad to the Army Medic, a portrayal of a wounded soldier and a medic who comes to his aid. As the battle intensifies, the wounded soldier calls out to the chovesh to leave and save himself, but the medic refuses and remains with him throughout the battle, sacrificing his life for the life of his brother by shielding him with his own body.

After the performance, Rav Goldwicht ushered in Israeli Independence Day with words of Torah. His main message was the importance of faith in Hashem; all troubles in Israel are a result of lack of this faith. He quoted the passage from T'hilim 37:3, "Trust in Hashem and do good, dwell in the land and harbor faith."

Following the special ma'ariv for Yom Ha'atzmaut, Neshoma Orchestra struck up the band and there was an incredible surge of ruach. Many rebbeim and professors attended the celebration, including Rav Romm, Rav Blau, Rav Schmidman, Rav Reichman, Rav Orlian, economics professor Dr. Kanovsky, Hebrew professor Dr. Schneider, and biology professor Dr. Danishevsky who let his lab out early in order for all to attend the event.

There were, however, some faculty members who were noticeably absent, including some MYP Roshei Yeshiva who ruled that the celebration was inappropriate during the period of *sefira*. Many students felt that their celebration was diminished by the absence of their rebbeim.

Hillel Cohen Elected SOY President

BY MENASHE SHAPIRO

At the end of a tight and exciting election, Hillel Cohen was elected as SOY president for the academic year 1995-96. This surprised some who felt that the blitzkrieg campaign of Scott Chudnoff would be hard to match; apparently, it was not enough as Cohen grabbed a majority of the 465 votes cast. Cohen also beat out David Kahn, who ran a creative campaign that featured a proposed computerized shidduch service.

Rounding out the rest of the executive board are vice president Stephen Reingold, who ran unopposed, secretary Jeremy Kurz, and treasurer Chaim Haas.

Cohen's platform placed strong emphasis on improving the atmosphere of shabbat in YU and helping to restock the *seforim* in the Beit Midrash. He also promised the institution of special shiurim before each *chag*, specifically geared towards *inyanei d'yoma*. His campaign featured placards invoking the sayings of another Hillel, one of *Pirkei Avot* fame.

While Chudnoff's campaign also focused on improving the quality of shabbat at yeshiva, it also included the idea of holding an expanded mini-seforim sale at the beginning of the *z'man*. Chudnoff stressed his service as dorm counselor on the fourth floor of Muss Hall as evidence of his ability to lead. Playing with his name *Chudnoff*, he left his mark on the campaign with the popular slogan "Chudweiser," a mantra that was chanted, in frog-like manner, throughout the campus.

"It was a very well run campaign, and all candidates proved worthy of the job," proclaimed an ecstatic Cohen following the election. "I hope they will join the administration so we can all work together to serve all the *talmidei hayeshiva*." Cohen has already set the wheels in motion to help fulfill his cam-

aign promises; he has already met with current president Yitzchak Book on SOY-related matters.

The election did not pass without its fair share of controversy. Legalities became an issue when at lunchtime during the elections Chudnoff opened a refreshment stand outside the polling area. When current SOY president Yitzchak Book got wind of it, he immediately put a stop to it. "It violated the rules set forth in the contract signed by each candidate, but the violation was not egregious enough to necessitate disqualification," explained Book.

Candidate in Israeli Army

Perhaps even more pronounced than any issue related to the elections was the "on-and-off-and-on-again" candidacy of J.J. Sussman, currently in Israel having just completed his service in *Machal*. Sussman had organized a campaign committee headed by Ephraim Leibtag that originally failed to garner the 200 signatures needed for placement on the ballot. The Sussman camp claimed that a waiver had been granted for the remaining signatures. However, there was still time to scrounge for signatures, a fact which made the situation somewhat muddled. Book cited this as a misunderstanding and said that the whole problem could have been avoided had Sussman been available for discussion. "We had to deal with the situation in a very fair and considerate manner, but since I did not have a chance to speak to [Sussman] until the day before the election, I had to proceed only with the other candidates," said Book. "Had he been here we could have cleared up the situation." Once erased from the ballot, Sussman attempted to wage a write-in campaign that attracted interest, but failed to make much of a difference in the end.

Lack of Course Offerings

BY OREN S. KEISER

This semester's registration process is the first to use the new registrar facility on the first floor of Furst Hall. For most students, the registration process has become much less painful, as one YC junior commented, "My registration time has been cut in half."

Not all students, however, had such a positive experience. The lack of course offerings, especially in the science departments had many pre-health majors quite disturbed. "A school with such a high percentage of pre-med and bio majors should provide the space for these students to get into the classes they need. It's very frustrating to see a list of courses that are closed and then to look closely and see that they are all the courses you need to take," noted YC junior Lev Kandinov. Indeed, the second day of registration saw the closing of all but two of the Biology courses.

On a more positive note, there have also been a number of changes imple-

mented for the purpose of broadening student's educational options. To this end, a new Writing minor was instituted, and a course specifically focusing on Israeli politics will be offered in the fall.

At least part of the registration process took on a humorous quality as YC's newest student, Moshe Talmid, whose name was filled in as an example on every registration booklet, has caused quite a commotion. Some, like YC Senior Ari Pelta, thought that the demonstration of how the registration sheet should be completed was a great idea, "Often people have trouble figuring out exactly how to fill it out, and the silly mistakes just make the process more frustrating and take longer." Others, however are confounded by the example used. "If they are going to give us an example, make it a realistic one. I mean what freshman take 14 credits, not one course in their major, and leaves out an HES code to his form," said a confused Stephen Stern. But I must say I thought the name was cute."

Crystal Elected Yeshiva College Valedictorian

BY ARIEL KONSTANTYN

Yosef Crystal, a YC chemistry and mathematics major, has been elected Valedictorian of the Class of 1995 in a vote by members of the senior class. Crystal was nominated along with three other YC students; the list of nominees was compiled by the administration and consisted of the students with the highest grade point averages in this year's graduating senior class. The other three candidates included Yosef Helft, Michael Kupferman, and Barry Lebovits.

Valedictorian elections were held by the Office of the Dean during the last week of April.

YC Associate Dean Michael Hecht proudly described Crystal as a student who "exemplifies what this institution is all about. He excels in both Judaic and secular studies." Dean Hecht added that Crystal will also be receiving awards in Bible and mathematics.

Many students feel that the practice of electing a valedictorian rather than having one selected by the faculty is important because it allows the stu-

dents to ensure that factors aside from academics are also considered. YC Senior Kevin Ohayon expressed his belief that "the valedictorian is not only the student with a 4.0 but he's also a student that has been dedicated to the betterment of Yeshiva University." YC Senior Arie Pelta added, "A definition of representative is someone who benefits his constituents. Therefore, for students, it is a person who is friendly, personable, and works for the benefit of other students, not just locks himself in a room to study."

Low Voter Turnout

Only forty of the approximately one hundred seniors voted in this year's elections. Many students expressed their frustrations in the lack of time to enter the pre-registration chaos of the Dean's Office to vote while they were in the midst of many other end-of-year pressures.

As is customary at Yeshiva University, the valedictorian will not speak at the May 31 graduation. Instead, Crystal will speak at the awards assembly which will take place on *Lag B'Omer*, May 18.

New "State-of-the-Art" Science Labs Under Construction

BY EPHRAIM LEIBTAG

Two separate endowments have enabled Yeshiva and Stern College to build new biology laboratories, which are scheduled to be available for use by both schools by the start of the upcoming Fall semester.

At Yeshiva College, three rooms on the 14th floor of Belfer Hall which are currently being used for storage will be converted into a state-of-the-art laboratory for both the Genetics and Molecular Biology courses. Funding for the new labs comes from the Golding Science Fund, and is one of the many uses for which the Golding money has been designated.

At Stern College, the Leo and Rachel Sussman Laboratory will be funded by the \$500,000 remainder annuity trust endowed by Mrs. Rachel Sussman.

Both laboratories will allow YU students to make use of the latest technologies and equipment, of critical importance in a world where the technology is so rapidly changing. "For students to absorb the sweeping breakthroughs in the sciences," said Dr. Karen Bacon, Dean of Stern College and herself a microbiologist, "they must have access to the newest technologies and equipment in which to conduct research. The Sussman Laboratory offers this opportunity by affording our students the most effective learning and research tools and methodologies." The site of the new YC labs were originally designed to serve as part of YU's now defunct Physics Graduate School, making the transition to biology labs significantly easier. The problem with the current

labs, as cited by both faculty and students, is the lack of space, both for students to work, and for new equipment to be installed and used. "In some of the current laboratories, it is nearly impossible to walk between stations to help students if they have questions or problems," remarked Dr. Carl Feit, a professor of Biology at YC.

The construction of the new labs is part of a larger scheme which calls for all the biology labs in the basement of Furst Hall to be moved to the 13th and 14th floors of Belfer Hall. The time frame for these moves, however, remains unclear. According to Feit it could take from two to five years before the labs are ready in their new location.

The new Stern Laboratory comes on the heels of two other gifts to the University by Mrs. Sussman. In 1993 she donated \$500,000 to the Bernard Revel Graduate School to establish the Leo and Rachel Sussman Fellowship Fund. And in 1994 she endowed one million dollars to the Albert Einstein College of Medicine for the Leo and Rachel Sussman Computer-based Education Fund.

Mrs. Sussman, a Holocaust survivor, emigrated to the U.S. in 1941 with strong ambitions. "I always wanted to be a doctor, but being a Jew in Poland in the late 1930's I couldn't accomplish this," said Mrs. Sussman. She hopes that her charity will afford students the opportunity to pursue careers in science and medicine, opportunities which she did not have in Poland. "Doing this in my lifetime, I can see the fruits of my labor," she said. "This is my reward."

Fine Pledges to Conquer Student Apathy

BY DAVID SWIDLER

He will only take office on May 31. But over the last few weeks, newly-elected YCSC President Josh Fine has been a busy man. In his quest to make student government more inclusive, he has called for a restructuring of the way the Council has been run in the past. At the same time, there has been discussion of creating a greater student voice in administrative decisions.

One of the problems, said Fine in an interview with *The Commentator*, is that student representatives on various administrative committees are often ill-prepared to discuss the issues raised at meetings. The faculty and administration representatives on these committees have the opportunity to meet, discuss, and plan beforehand how they intend to approach the upcoming meetings. There is no reason, says Fine, why the students shouldn't do the same. Therefore, he has proposed a slight change in the system: The same representatives would attend these meetings, but would meet with fellow students beforehand, members of a student committee, to coordinate their "strategy," as it were, if need be.

One of the reasons that student government has been so closed in the past, says Fine, is that the people assigned to certain projects had a tendency to select their close friends to assist them. Fine promises greater publicity and more openings in next year's student council activities, including the *Guide* and *Masmid*.

Chanukah planning has started
The key to having a successful year, asserts Fine, is proper planning. To that

end, YCSC is starting right away on projects for the entire next year. For example, the annual Chanukah concert is an expensive and time-consuming endeavor; to arrange it, YCSC must book performers and sponsors well in advance. YCSC has been in touch with its counterpart at Stern College, and they are coordinating their efforts in this regard.

Orientation for first-time YU students, especially those who do not hail from the New York metropolitan area, is of limited assistance in making new students feel comfortable in their new environment. So there is a planned tour of the city for orientation participants. The tour's objective will be to acquaint students with the metropolitan area, and hopefully, in the process, open their eyes to the number, diversity, and location of possible entertainment and resources.

Many people, not only students, are puzzled by what seems to be a predominance of apathy for university affairs, and in a few cases outright hostility to YU, amongst the students. This is not a new phenomenon, says Fine, but it is a problem that YCSC intends to combat. Much of the negative sentiment derives from things that build up as the student spends more time on campus: high Caf and CafStore prices, decrepit student lounges (if they exist at all), exorbitant bookstore expenses, and inconvenient library hours. Fine hopes that increased student representation in student government will help correct these wrongs. He says it is important to let the administration know how the students stand on certain issues, and that it must take this into account when decisions affecting student life are made.

IBC, Racial Harmony Students Visit Holocaust Museum

CCNY and YU Students share experiences

BY NACHUM LAMM

Fifty YU students took an all-day trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. on Sunday, April 30. The trip, planned to coincide with the week of Yom Hashoa, was sponsored by the IBC and JSS Student Councils and the Racial Harmony councils of YU and the City College of New York (CUNY). It was the second event held jointly with CCNY this semester.

The trip included about twenty IBC and JSS students and about thirty from Racial Harmony, including students from YC, Stern, and CCNY. In addition, Dr. Ruth Bevan, chair of the political science department, accompanied the group.

Following a three-hour tour of the Holocaust Museum, students went to an exhibit of African-American art at the Smithsonian Institution. Following dinner in Baltimore, the students returned to New York, arriving at midnight.

Originally, the student council and racial harmony trips were planned separately, but were merged the week before out of convenience. According to

Steven Gordon, president of IBCSC and one of the coordinators of the event, students from both schools benefited greatly from each other's presence. "Although they didn't have to, many IBC and JSS students went to the African-American exhibit as well. While we are not comparing the two experiences, we learned much from each other."

Both Sandor Bak and David Price, co-presidents of the Racial Harmony Council, stated that a positive aspect was the amount of time shared on the bus and in settings other than the museums, such as the shared meals. At these times, the groups discussed their experiences intensively, and came out with a greater understanding of each other.

YCSC president-elect Josh Fine, who attended the trip, agreed that these events had made a "big impression" on all involved. He mentioned how his father had encountered a number of CCNY students in the subway who were still discussing the trip; Price recounted a similar experience he had, attesting to the considerable amount of reflection participants had given the trip.

Katz Receives Publishers Award

BY JACOB ROSENBERG

Holocaust scholar Steven T. Katz, a visiting Professor at YU through 1996, recently received the outstanding scholarly work of philosophy and religion award for 1994. This accolade, given by the Association of American Publishers, was for volume one of Dr. Katz's three-volume endeavor, *The Holocaust in Historical Context* (Volumes II and III are expected to be published later this year).

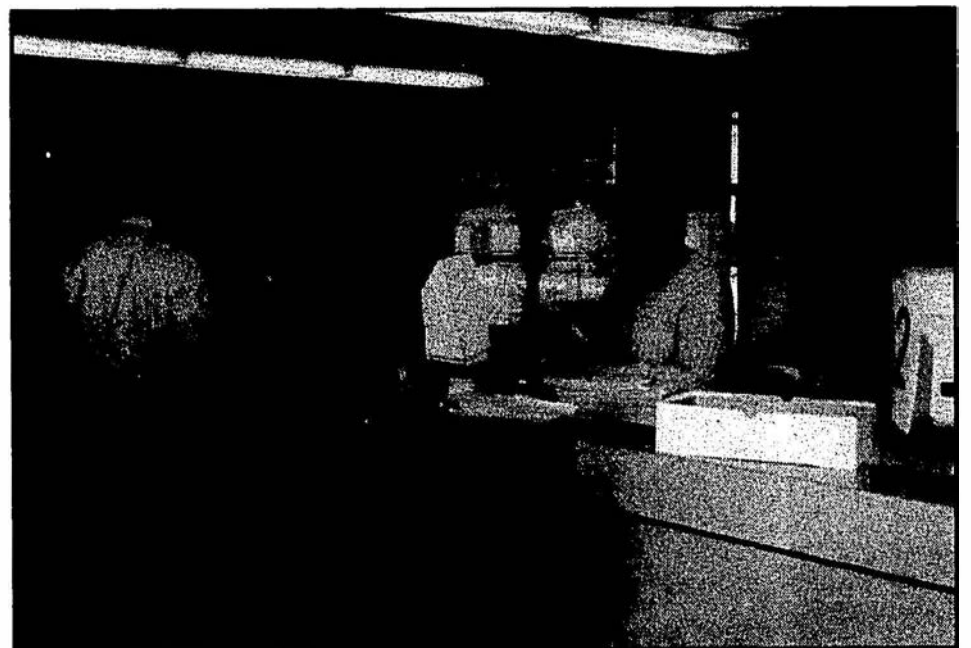
Dr. Katz argues that the Holocaust is the only true genocide to occur in history; for supporting evidence, he makes use of over seven-thousand manuscript pages and three-thousand footnotes in eleven different languages. He excludes such mass murders and brutalities as the slavery in ancient Greece and Rome, the European witch craze, and the persecution of religious heretics and homosexuals, from being considered 'true' genocides. Katz believes the idea that differentiates the Holocaust and the aforementioned events is "intentionality -- a definitive plan by Hitler to rid the world of the Jewish population." By comparing the Holocaust to recent events that are generally con-



Professor Stephen Katz

sidered barbaric, Katz attempts to illustrate the severe inhumanity of the Nazi's actions.

Katz, a Cornell professor, will be teaching courses in Jewish philosophy and history next semester as he continues his stay at YU.



Students register in the new Furst Hall Office of the Registrar

Change of Address for Registrar's Office

BY KENNY WEINBLATT

For years the office of the registrar was located in room 125, the last room on the first floor of Furst Hall. However, just this week the Office of Registration moved to a newly re-constructed room across the hall. The immediate benefit is the additional space, convenience for the students and easier access to Registration files, which is now consolidated in the old Registrar room.

The registrar's office took the place of the office of admissions, which moved to the fourth floor, completing a long chain of moves of administrative offices. The most useful conveniences now for the students in the new office are the new enter and exit doors. The student now can enter one door and exit a second door, making it easier for the em-

ployees to aid the students. The new office has a larger processing area, along with larger counter space. The move was completed in time for last week's fall registration.

Rabbi Melvin Davis, director of enrollment management, is very optimistic that events will flow smoothly with the move. He hopes that the fall registration will run without a hitch, and that there will be no dislocation now that the registration process will be on the first floor instead of the fifth. Amongst the many advantages, Rabbi Davis listed the unnecessary wait for the elevator along with the relative proximity of the Deans and advisors. "The University has put in a lot of resources in this move, and we hope it will pay off in improved services for the student," said Rabbi Davis.

Shiur Credit Proposal to Die a Silent Death

No Meetings Since February

BY MEIR S. ZEITCHIK

After months of informal debate, editorials in the Commentator and Hamevaser, and several high-level meetings between administration and faculty, the cloudy fate of the proposed mandatory shiur credit is clearing up. And what appears to be emerging, say many individuals involved in the decision-making process, does not bode well for the much-scrutinized credit proposal.

"Many members of the faculty and administration wouldn't mind if the proposal is allowed to die a graceful death," said Associate Yeshiva College Dean Michael Hecht.

Supporting Hecht's pessimistic claim about the credit is the fact that there have been no formal meetings between administration and faculty to discuss the issue since February. "There have been no meetings; no one has presented us with any proposal," noted Biology professor and meeting attendee Carl Feit. As a result, Feit believes the entire issue is "not going anywhere."

In addition to the lack of formal debate on the matter, many key players in the discussion have expressed doubt as to the efficacy of the proposal. "I can't see how it's going to help," said Director of Enrollment Management Melvin Davis, a participant at the last meeting. But he did note that "proposals have a way of coming back."

Dean Hecht also said that his feelings have strengthened in opposition to the idea. "Originally, I was for it. But after giving the matter a lot of thought and speaking to a lot of people about the issue I became convinced that the negative possibilities outweigh the positive consequences," he said.

MYP dean Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, however, remains optimistic about the credit's long-term prospects for survival, even success. Following the firm stance he has held throughout this debate, he conceded that the credit would not be in place for students arriving on campus in the fall, but expressed hope that it will be an innovation greeting students entering YC/SSSB in the spring.

Charlop, who has drawn praise from administrators and faculty members alike for his strong commitment to his principles, does not view himself as the solitary champion of the cause. "There is unanimous agreement among the rebbeim [of MYP] that there should be a credit," he said.

And while many Yeshiva College faculty and administration members view the lack of formal meetings as an indication that the issue has been shelved, one senior administrator disagrees. "It's good for people to

meditate and go through a period of introspection," said Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. William Schwartz. He explained that the lack of formal meetings by saying that there have been other, more pressing issues of which to attend.

"We have a duty to reconvene a meeting," he said of the uncertain future. But he did acknowledge that "there's nothing that's going to be immediate," on the issue of a mandatory credit.

What is happening next semester, according to Charlop, is a more exact grading system, where "other factors" are taken into account. These factors include the attendance record of a student as well as the "level" of shiur he attends. This last factor is intended to discourage students from switching into an ostensibly "easier" shiur for the purpose of receiving a better grade.

But some Yeshiva College teachers are unhappy with this subjective element. "Weighting grades will be difficult to sell to the college," said Feit. "That's not the way grades are given [in the college]."

Many administrators are also bothered by the concomitant reduction in Israel credit, an alternative which was proposed at last committee meeting. "It's an unfortunate link," said Davis, who thinks it "sends the wrong message." The credit reduction is necessary, however, to placate members of the college faculty. These teachers fear that they are further limiting the electives students may take in the College by forcing students to transfer credit without simultaneously reducing Israel credit.

When Charlop was asked as to whether he would exercise what he believes to be his legal right to force the transfer of the credit against the wishes of the YC faculty and administration, he responded by saying that this was not the ideal situation. "We're moving toward an approbation of all constituencies," he said. But, he added significantly, "If I feel that we have to do it that way, [without their approval,] we will."

The legality of such a move is disputable. While Yeshiva College, under current rules must accept up to three credits from MYP if a student chooses to transfer them, some administrators question the College's obligation if MYP were to mandate a transfer. And even if the move is legal, note these administrators, there would be little stopping the College from changing the rules to prevent the transfer from taking effect.

Student leaders are also skeptical about the survival of the credit. "I don't think it's happening," said SOY president and student representative Yitzchak Book. "Let's start all over again."

WYUR Making Progress

Still Has Long Way to Go

BY DORON GOLDSCHMIDT

In the past WYUR has been a symbol of inefficiency and a cause of frustration for both the station's management and student audience. But this year a devoted and well-organized staff seems to have placed these problems in the past.

According to YUR Station Manager Stephen Unterberg, the station has developed this year into the popular attraction it was always intended to be. Unterberg stresses that, while in the past the station was criticized for being slow to begin broadcasting, "We were the fastest to get on the air in years - it only took us one month."

In order to improve on both this problem and other weaknesses, a twelve-member Board of Directors was formed, each of whom was responsible for a different aspect of the station.

Receiving funds to bolster the poor sound quality and the lack of a working security system was the radio station's priority. But the task was not an easy one since the station had a long history of poor management, discouraging potential sources of revenue. YCSC president Daniel Billig and the rest of the Student Council, however, demonstrated their confidence in the station and quickly designated the appropriate funds. This allowed the station to purchase, among other things, an "away-board," which is a device used to carry broadcasts away from the studio, like Dorm Talks and basketball games.

The Board also introduced a system of *shemira*, wherein a Board Member was always present at the station when programming was aired. The watchguards' job was to ensure continuous broadcasting in the face of technical difficulties.

Another innovation made by this year's staff was the switch from a music oriented college station to a talk-show format, which allowed for greater student participation. "After all," says Unterberg, "if students want to hear music, they would rather hear it on FM." The station also offered show slots to the major campus clubs. The Israel Club, Dramatics Society, and Sephardic Club took advantage of the opportunity, while many others made occasional appearances.

Students feel that the station has made significant improvements over past years, but still has a long way to go to gain a more widespread appeal. "In the three years I've been here I've seen the radio station go from disorganized chaos to a first class operation," said YC senior Ira Piltz. It's only a matter of the school and the students continuing to give its support that the station can proceed in what it is doing."

But many students maintain that YUR's problems are inherently unsolvable. Junior Ari Wartelsky pointed out that "due to the dual curriculum, few students find time to listen to amateur talk shows which are centered around the DJ's three or four closest friends."

Incoming Station Manager Chanoch Kanovsky promises on increasing the listenership next year through an intense advertising campaign. Kanovsky and his staff have also added a student public relations director to assist in the programs, giveaways, and special guest programs for the coming semester. There will be campus news broadcast every hour, so "students don't have to wait up to two weeks to read about it in the *Commentator*," added Kanovsky.

YC, SSSB Job Placement Percentages Increase

BY STUART MILSTEIN

Job placement for Yeshiva University undergraduates seeking employment for next year is going very well according to Assistant Director Hal Tannenbaum. "We are on target to do as well as last year," he said, "if anything we are doing better." Last year at this time, according to Assistant Dean Ira Jaskoll, the placement success for Sy Syms students was 80-85 percent and 70-75 percent for liberal arts majors. The first set of official statistics for this year will be calculated at the end of June. If placement continues at last year's pace then by the end of the summer 95 percent of the business majors and 85 percent of the liberal arts majors will receive job offers.

Most of the placement this year has come via on-campus interviewing and résumé referral program arranged by the placement office; others have received offers from personal connections.

Remarkably, two students may benefit from the MAN 4931 course - Contemporary Problems in Business whose latest guest lecturer was Mr. Sumner Red-

stone, chairman of Viacom. Although the businessmen came for educational purposes rather than recruitment intentions, Tannenbaum remarked how two students told him that Redstone recommended that they send in their resumes.

While the placement success rate remains constant the jobs that the students are offered is becoming more diverse. This is because the traditional jobs are "getting dry" and the number of students majoring in different areas has increased. The more students majoring in a specific field the easier it is to have recruiters come and interview.

Dean Jaskoll notes that the students own impatience and anxieties for quick responses is really SSSB's largest problem. "Firms are delaying or postponing their decisions and we are still very much in the process" stated Jaskoll. During the summer the competition gets smaller and people do not look as much, so historically it has been a good time for placement. Jaskoll predicts that by the end of the summer the only graduates still looking for employment will be those searching for a specific occupation.



l to r: Rabbi Norman Lamm, Mr. Leib Merkin, Rabbi Meir Twersky and Rabbi Robert Hirt

Rav Twersky Assumes Rav's Chair at Memorial Shiur

BY DANIEL HERRMANN

On Sunday, April 30, R. Meir Twersky delivered the first annual Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik Memorial Shiur on the occasion of his investiture as Chairholder of the Leib Merkin Distinguished Chair in Talmud. The chair, endowed by Herman Merkin in the name of his father, was formerly held by the Rav, Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, whose second yahrtzeit was marked over Pesach.

The ceremony began with MYP Dean R. Zevulun Charlop, who discussed the Rav's long tradition of giving masterful yartzietsiurim in mem-

ory of his father, and how fitting it was that a shiur be given in his memory by R. Twersky, the Rav's grandson.

Rabbi Norman Lamm then introduced Mr. Merkin who briefly addressed the audience. Rabbi Twersky then gave the hour-long memorial shiur, in which he discussed issues pertaining to the mitzvah of *t'filah*, particularly the importance of *t'filah b'tzibur*, based on a difficult gemara in *Masechet Brachos*. The ceremony attracted over 300 people, including many alumni and other distinguished guests, and was attended by all of the Roshei Yeshiva.

Yom Hashoah Memorial Held in Belfer Commons

BY NACHUM LAMM

On Wednesday night, April 26, Zachor, the YU Association for the Furtherance of Holocaust Studies, held "An Evening of Memorial for Children of the Holocaust" in Belfer Commons. The event, which was co-sponsored by YCSC, SCWSC, SOY, IBC, JSS, and TAC, drew about 250 YU and Stern students.

Shoshana Markovitz, president of Zachor, introduced the keynote speaker, Mr. Lee Potazynski, who is a research associate at the Holocaust Research Center and Archives at Queensboro Community College and himself a survivor of seven concentration camps. Markovitz spoke of the tragedy of the children of the Holocaust, both of those who perished, and of those who were "forced to prematurely grow up."

Mr. Potazynski, currently at work on a 31 volume collection of articles from the Holocaust period, spoke of his own experiences during that horrible time. He began with the brutal occupation of his native Poland in 1939, when he was seven years old. From that point on, the situation in Europe deteriorated until August 1942, when all the Jews were rounded up and separated by age. Potazynski recalled that although he was placed in a group of children and elderly, his grandfather advised him to run to the adult group. When the members of

this group were ordered to sit on the ground, Mr. Potazynski kneeled and passed for an adult, and probably, in so doing, saved his own life by escaping the immediate executions of the elderly and the children.

Potazynski went on to discuss his experiences in the camps, ending with the story of his liberation by American soldiers fifty years ago, his return to Poland a year later, and his final departure from Europe in November of 1946.

The next speaker was Chani Weiser, an SCW student who spoke of her experiences as the granddaughter of survivors. She spoke of how ordinary events can take on completely different meanings when living in a family like hers, whether it be references to the grandparents her parents never knew, or the celebration of the first Bar Mitzvah of a survivor's grandchild. She also spoke of how her goals in life have been affected by these events, and concluded by speaking of acts of spiritual heroism in the concentration camps.

The memorial concluded with the lighting of six memorial candles by student leaders and organizers of the evening and the singing of *Kel Maleh* and a *Kinah* by Belz student Shmulie Pineles. Following this ceremony, students examined the exhibits on the walls of the room which detailed the history of the Holocaust.

Roth Scholars Chosen

BY DANIEL RUBIN

Eight YU pre-med students have been selected as Roth Institute Scholars for undergraduate summer research at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Michael Nelson, Elliot Paul, Issac Sasson, and Ian Stein from YC, and Ilana Barber, Caren Gottlieb, Lauren Insel, and Azita Simoni from SCW are the beneficiaries who will be spending the summer getting important headstarts on their careers. In the past the Roth program has served as a de-facto one-way ticket to acceptance at Albert Einstein. The program is directed by the school's graduate office.

The students will perform research in the appropriate laboratories at Einstein based upon their interests and will receive \$2000 sti-

pends, in addition to being put up at a dorm, if necessary, at no cost. The students were chosen out of a field of twenty-two applicants from YC and Stern through a selection process involving a written application with a short essay on professional goals, examination of all grades in the sciences, and two interviews conducted by Drs. Lea Blau and Joseph DeSantis for YC students and Drs. Raji Viswanathan and Barry B. Potvin for Stern applicants.

When asked for his reaction on being accepted to the program, Ian Steinechoed the sentiments of all these selected students: "I'm ecstatic about the fact that I got it and I hope I'll have a productive summer. The competition was very stiff and it was unfortunate that there were so few spaces, because all those who applied were top quality students."

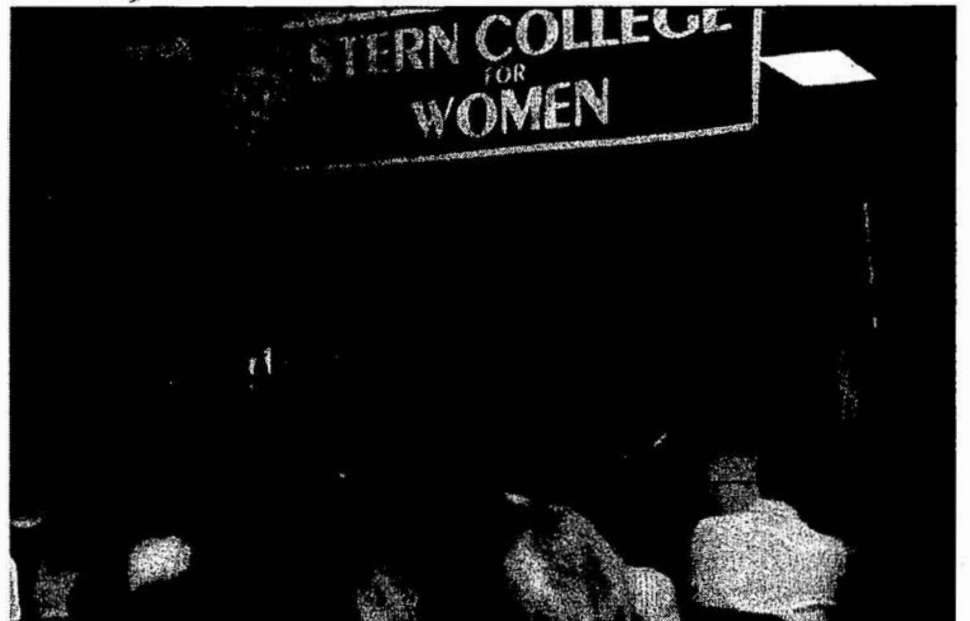
IBC Reading Week

BY NACHUM LAMM

Students at IBC will have their own reading week this year, according to incoming IBCSC president Richie Grossman. This change from previous years, when IBC finals were given during YC/SSSB reading week, will grant IBC students more time to study for their other finals.

According to current IBCSC president Steven Gordon, the change came as

result of the Board of Directors choosing IBC as the school to be examined in its annual report. Student representatives raised the issue with the Board and the administration, and the beginning of finals were changed from the Thursday before reading week to the previous Tuesday. The only negative result of the change is the probable cancellation of a picnic planned by the sophomore class for Lag B'Omer, as it conflicts with this new finals schedule.



Robert Nozick delivers a lecture at Koch Auditorium

Nozick Delivers Annual Rogoff Lecture

BY NICK MUZIN

Dr. Robert Nozick, a professor at Harvard University and a nationally-acclaimed philosopher, delivered the Hillel Rogoff Memorial Lecture on May 1. The lecture, which took place at Stern's Koch Auditorium and was entitled "The Nature of Reality," drew a modest crowd of students, professors, YU supporters and alumni.

Nozick, together with Nobel Laureate Ronald Hoffman, will be teaching at YC and SCW in the coming year as part of the Gottesman Program for Academic Excellence. The Gottesman Program brings renowned scholars to YU to lec-

ture in semester-long undergraduate courses.

For Nozick, it is a voyage well-traveled. He is the author of *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, winner of the 1975 National Book Award, *Philosophical Explanations: The Examined Life*, and *The Nature of Rationality*, among other acclaimed works. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Philosophy and Public Affairs.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. William Schwartz opened the evening by saying Nozick's appearance and employment at YU reaffirmed the notion that "academic excellence is a voyage, not a harbor."



Message From the YCSC President

Gentlemen,

My time to serve you is coming to an end. It has been two good years for the students, filled with many accomplishments, but there is much more to be done. Your future looks good. With some young fresh student leadership in Josh Fine and Sam Wald there is no question that student life will prosper more than ever in the year to come.

Two years ago I asked you to give me a chance to represent you as your executive secretary. I brought with me a host of promises, but the one underlying them all was my catch phrase *Letting you experience an education rather than fight for one*. You the students gave me the chance I so desired by choosing me, the younger candidate. I made it my business to do three things: Not to let you down, provide better services for you, and listen and learn so that I may be an even more effective student leader in my bid for the presidency. Some of those services include the academic advisement center, improved registration procedures (with the advent of the new computer system in Fall '95 it will get even better!), and more variety at breakfast in the caf.

In the Spring of '94 the students went to the polls and elected team Billig. We responded by holding open and advertised meetings, publishing the budget in the commentator, and with your help we amended the constitution. The reason we were successful is because we had a strategy. The strategy consisted of comprehensive and efficient management of our resources; attacking problem areas in strength, and keeping the life of the students as the #1 agenda at all times. We set up a budget audit task force to maximize our capital potential thus making our money work for the students. We designed a chain of command between the student leaders, clubs, and committees. This allowed us to keep the pulse of student activities, and agendas at a steady 100%. I made sure to keep a close tie with the Alumni, President Circle and the University Board, in order keep a steady cash flow and provide more opportunities to meet with our esteemed Alumni.

All these efforts (and a few other ones, that I can't talk to you about) have produced big dividends. We now have extended pool and gym hours, van service on Fridays to Penn. station, better security on laurel hill for parkers with the construction of a new security booth there. An Alumni Big Brother/Networking Program, that after only one

event has already provided no less than five interviews for students. Two new lounges, one in morg. basement, and one on the second floor of Muss to relieve the tensions we feel everyday. There are many more accomplishments, like an unprecedented eight journals being printed this year, but alas, time is money.

We the students have come up short in certain areas. Our academic prowess is laughable, we neither try nor care to work hard. We make personal attacks on each other and disregard everything we hold as true to degrade the ones who dress differently than ourselves. Worst of all we never challenge our teachers when we have trouble incorporating what they have said. This is not true across the board, but we have all been guilty of these things at one time.

The Student council also comes up short sometimes. We need to be even more inclusive. We need to be even better prepared for our meetings with the administration. Most of all we must let the students know what we are doing even better.

Therefore, I leave this great place with some advice to students and student leaders alike. YCSC '95-'96 should again pursue a retreat with the administration and faculty to let them know where we have gone in four years time of open negotiations. We should restart a bi-weekly calendar of events for students to plan their social activities in advance. We should push the administration to place a limit on how many students they will house in the dorms to create more floor lounge space. The administration needs to be pushed to come up with funds to keep the library open later. Tell Dean Adler that his welcome time has expired and that he has one short summer to get that office in gear; oh, and wish him good luck because he is going to need it.

Finally to the students, remember who makes YU what it is, only you. Not your teachers, dorm counselors, or any other administrator. Show respect to one another and think carefully about serious decisions, most of all have fun representing us in the real world!

Good luck to next year's guys! I have had a blast. Thanks to my board, the commentator staff, the administrators for keeping me busy, my family and my kalah, and most of all I thank you the students for giving me the opportunity to fulfil my dream and promise of "Two Years of Service".

Daniel Billig
YCSC President '94-'95



Message From the YCSC President Elect

In the words of Edmund Burke, "All that it takes for evil to triumph is for good people to be silent." The evil on our campus is apathy, that insidious disease which paralyzes healthy young men and enervates the creative spirit.

As the 1994-1995 school year is coming to a close we need to confront those issues which irk us and resolve to make the necessary changes in how student affairs are conducted. By doing so, we will enter into the new year with a clean slate onto which we will write a new history for Yeshiva College. In the past, the student body let these issues go by uncontested, because they felt that there was no hope to resolve the problems that they were experiencing. The result has been an apathetic student body that is forever blaming its problems and frustrations on the faculty and administration and on situations beyond their control. Also, it does not take more than a few days for Freshmen to contract the disease of apathy that is so pervasive on campus. Before we take our finals and begin to enjoy the summer, I suggest that ways to combat student apathy should be examined, and put to task next year. The most logical way for students who are unhappy with what their college currently offers them, is for them to speak up and to become vocal about what is bothering them. It is true that not every student feels that he has the time or that he is the right person to speak up. He may argue that student representatives have been elected to serve that function. However, it is time for our student body to face up to the fact that although the structure is in place for the exercise of a powerful student voice at Yeshiva College, student inaction renders that voice weak. Where were students during open student council meetings held this year? Why were approximately half of those present the elected officials themselves? Is our student government a microcosm of the political scene in New York City today, wherein the populace elects representatives and then sits back inactively until the next election?

I want to put an end to the apathy. I intend to accomplish this by working to fix the problems which students brought to my attention throughout

the campaign. These issues ranged from basic quality of life issues to the reluctance of students to get involved because of their feelings that access to meaningful participation is limited to those who are popular or a part of the 'inner circle' of students who run everything at our college. Well, I have a commitment to making sure that we have a "new day" at Yeshiva College. As I promised in my campaign, I will work tirelessly to address quality of student life issues and create a more open and inclusive process for student access to and participation in student activities. I intend to break the pattern of elected leaders promoting a small inner circle of students to run most of the student activities at Yeshiva College. I deplore the unwritten YCSC doctrine of elected leaders appointing a small group of friends to serve in many roles. I believe strongly in recruiting and encouraging a richer diversity of student leadership. Groups and individuals who have been subtly excluded from involvement in decisions affecting their lives as Yeshiva College students should feel that a participation of student life is a right, not a privilege. Those who have been left out are not going to be left out anymore!

How effective will our student government be next year? I think it is quite clear, that the answer may be in each student's perception of his role as a student on the Yeshiva College Campus. The more students get directly involved in trying to solve the issues which they are care about most, the more likely we are to succeed. I am convinced that students working together can make the Yeshiva College administration and faculty

responsive to their needs and wants. As your President, I am determined to provide the strong leadership we will need to achieve the improvements for which we strive. As we look forward to the new year at Yeshiva College, it's clear that what we really need is change and believe me--it's coming!

Good luck on your finals and have an enjoyable summer!

Josh Fine
YCSC President '95-'96

Mazel Tov:

David Price & Zeldie Schlackman
Joseph Gitler & Leila Koschitzky
Avi Hornstein & Tzippi Kilimnick

Good Luck on Finals!

Anyone interested in working on Orientation '95 should contact YCSC President Josh Fine (212) 927-1266, Mo406



standing, l to r: Seth Fischen, Dan Lifschutz, Jon Lifschutz, Hon. David Stadtmayer, Aaron Weitz, Emanuel Adler, Stuart Verstandig, Toby Weiss.
Seated, l to r: Eric Cohen, Zev S. Berman, Daniel Billig

Alumni Big Brother Networking Program

BY DANIEL BILLIG

On Thursday April 27th, a group of Yeshiva College Alumni and YC/SSSB students met for an evening of networking at the upscale midtown restaurant What's Cookin'. The event was planned jointly by YCSC and the YC Alumni Association's membership Committee, headed by Eric Cohen '87. The purpose of the evening was to create a network where students can meet Alumni and get insight on the job market in all different professions. The Alumni did not just come for the benefit of the students; aside from the great food, the Alumni had a great opportunity to gain new clients and future employers from the other Alumni and students alike. The theory behind the network is that people who

share a common background or experience are very likely to be of assistance to each other.

"We are planning another event for the Fall", says event organizer Jonathan Lifshutz. "I am really glad I went," said David Samet, who was on his way to an interview that he had arranged through the networking evening.

The group heard remarks from Emanuel Adler '76, a partner in the corporate law firm Tenzer Greenblatt, who gave hearty advice to the students about balancing an orthodox lifestyle against the gentile needs in the business world.

The event was attended by over thirty alumni and thirty students whose understanding of the business world will no doubt be enhanced by their experience.

Clubs Select New Leaders

BY ELLI GANCHROW

As the school year winds down, the numerous clubs on campus are beginning to prepare for next year by choosing new presidents and boards.

This past Thursday, both the Accounting Society and the Joint Business Society held their annual elections. Josh Levine was victorious in his quest for president, edging out fellow Accounting major Noam Herman in the election.

The Joint Business Society chose Sy Symms student Shlomo Drazin as president, Economics major Ephraim Leibtag as vice president, and Richard Mensh as Secretary-Treasurer. Drazin will be continuing the work of outgoing president Mike Bazelon, who among other ac-

complishments, was instrumental in writing a new constitution for the Joint Business Society.

Next week the J.P. Dunner Political Society will also be choosing its new President. As of press-time, the declared candidates were Michael Belgrade, Meir Zeitchik and Jeremy Lustman. The winner will replace graduating senior and former Commentator News Editor Sandor Bak. Bak revived this club by arranging for informative speakers and setting up other programs, such as political science shabbatonim.

The Accounting Society also had an extremely successful year, under the leadership of Moshe Jacobs. These successes include a Mock Interview Night and a Tax Night, which allowed students to help middle income families fill out their tax forms.

Gay Club Publicity Threatens YU's Image

BY MEIR S. ZEITCHIK

Just as interest in the gay club controversy seemed to be dwindling on YU campuses, several recent incidents in the mass media have sparked the debate anew. The publicity has also fueled fears that what is already a public relations nightmare will get worse before it gets better.

On April 11, the respected *Washington Times* ran a story with the headline "Allowing gay groups shake university's Orthodox image," and said in its lead that YU "is weathering a debate over homosexual student clubs and how they affect its religious identity."

In the wake of the *Times* article, the *Washington Jewish Week* also published a piece on the clubs, while a WABC radio show hosted by Bob Grant featured one caller who noted the gay groups at YU schools, which evoked a negative reaction from Grant.

The YU administration has played down the media attention, pointing out that the homosexual clubs affect no one on the YC campus and that even the clubs at the three graduate schools are the exception and not the mainstream organizations that some in the media depict them to be.

"It's a non-issue," said Vice president for Academic Affairs Dr. William Schwartz. "This affects no one on the Yeshiva College campus."

Some administrators agree with Schwartz that there are few practical effects of funding the clubs, which are estimated to receive about seven hundred dollars at YU's Cardozo Law School and like amounts at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and the Wurzweiler School of Social Work. But the issue, they say, has far-reaching philosophical implications. "This is really a battle for the heart and soul of YU," said one high-ranking official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The new media focus has also heightened concern that the gay issue could become an even greater public relations nightmare than it already is. Because of its religious and social overtones, the issue has angered people across the spectrum. "Nothing good can come out of this," said Public Relations Director David Rosen.

From the right flank came sharply critical attacks, such as those of the Family Defense Council, a group dedicated to "raising the level of public morality," according to its chairman, Dr. Howard Hurwitz. Hurwitz has launched a frontal assault not only on YU but on University President Rabbi Norman Lamm, challenging him to a debate. In a May 2 interview with *The Commentator*, Hurwitz said that Lamm, by not stopping the flow of funds to the gay clubs at Cardozo, Einstein and Wurzweiler was an "absolute disgrace" to the Orthodox Jewish community. In an April 20 letter to Lamm, Hurwitz, writing as chairman of the Council, accused the university president of "betraying Judaism for gelt," and asked "Have you no shame, Lamm?"

Lamm, meanwhile, has maintained public silence on the issue. He did not accept Hurwitz's challenge to a debate, which was to be sponsored by the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv*, and did not return messages left for him by the *Commentator*.

From the left-wing comes equally harsh accusations. Some homosexuals allege that YU, both as a university and as a yeshiva are not doing enough to foster debate on the topic, opting instead to "shove it under the rug." "There's no effort within the University itself [to encourage dialogue]. The University should serve as a safe place to have discourse without worrying that if we talk about it people will think it's not wrong," said Alan Meyer, an openly homosexual YU alumnus (YC '83). He also advocated exploring the matter from a "halachic perspective," and clarifying what exactly is prohibited under Jewish law. "Let's halachically define what it is. Orthodoxy is so halachic and gets caught up in the specifics of everything. But not with homosexuality. We just say it's not allowed," he said.

While YU's reputation as both a quality secular university and a bastion of Torah learning has come under fire as a result of this issue, many are wont to believe that it will not shake the University to its core, as some doomsday prophets have predicted.

"It's horrible for PR," said Rosen. "But it will pass."

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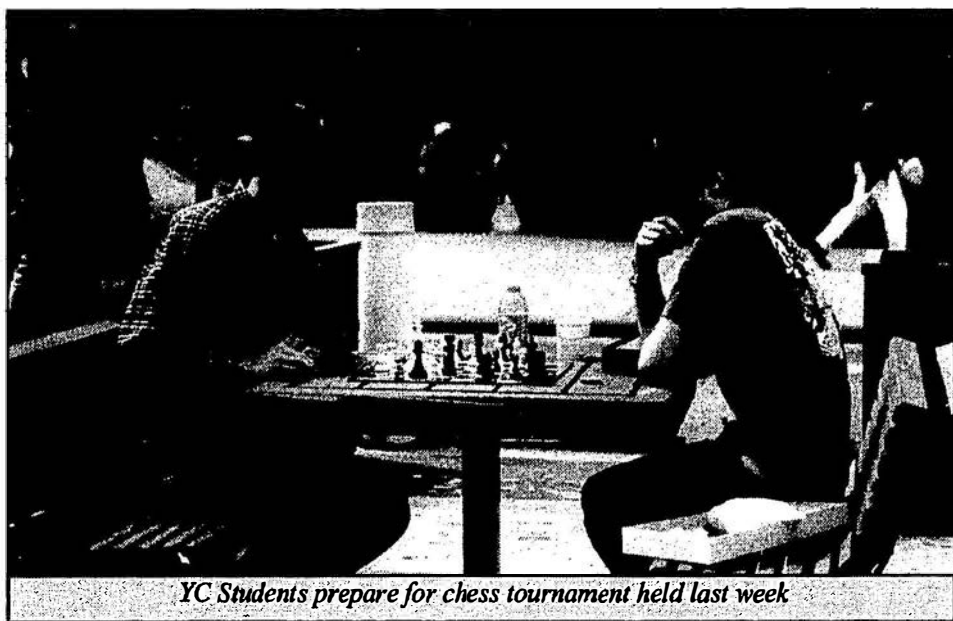
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YC Students prepare for chess tournament held last week

Faculty Turnover

By Ezra Tuchman

When Bob Dylan penned his classic "The Times They are A'Changing," he probably was not thinking of the YC and SSSB faculties of the upcoming semester. After students received their course catalogues this past week, having noticed the numerous faculty changes at both schools they may not find a more fitting lyric. Seven new professors will begin teaching classes next semester, while six current professors will be conspicuously missing in the YU classrooms.

Many students are despondent as a result of the changes. The sabbatical of Dr. Ruth Bevan, who currently serves as Chairperson of the political science department has saddened a large number of political science students. Bevan plans on spending the upcoming semester studying and writing in Europe.

In addition to Bevan, Bible professor Dr. Yaacov Elman will be taking a leave of absence to conduct research at the University of Pennsylvania.

On a more permanent basis, Chemistry chairman Dr. Irving Borowitz and SSSB professor Dr. Healy are retiring, and the Bible Department will bid farewell to first year professor Rabbi Waldman. Although many students were excited to take Rabbi Waldman's originally scheduled class on Ezekiel, a sign was posted before registration notifying students of the cancellation of his classes.

Waldman stresses that his departure was strictly a financial decision. According to Waldman, the College did not wish to pay for both Elman's sabbatical and another full time Bible professor. Without the classes of Elman and Waldman, many registering students quickly found themselves closed out of Bible courses.

The University decision to not renew the contract of English Professor Richard Donalan has been most shocking to students. YC student Marc Berger, outraged at the University's action, denounced what he considered to be an unfair evaluation process. "Professor Donalan is a caring, devoted and brilliant teacher. His ability to interpret and explain the books we have read is truly unbelievable... They will not find anyone who can replace him."

New Professors Highly Touted

Among the new professors are Drs. Wayne Schnatter, Claire Zakheim, Randi Grossman and Ms. Myra Mogilner; all begin their YU careers with high marks from members of the YU administration.

The teachers are "the cream of the crop of American academicians," said Dr. William Schwartz, Vice President for Academic Affairs. Mogilner, a political science professor in the final stage of her Ph.D dissertation at New York University, is slated to teach an Israeli politics course, in place of Dr. Bevan. Mogilner has teaching experience at Jersey City State College. Schnatter will teach organic chemistry replacing the retiring Borowitz. Schnatter received his Ph.D from Princeton University and is currently a professor at Polytechnic University. Grossman is also a graduate of NYU, and a past professor at St. John's and Drexel Universities. She will teach marketing and management, replacing Professor Healy. Zakheim, currently an adjunct Professor of Management Information Systems at Sy Symms, has agreed to expand her schedule and work full time at the school. Students who have already taken classes with Dr. Zakheim are excited about her decision to teach full time. As SSSB student Marc Rosenbaum explained, "Dr. Zakheim is an excellent professor. She makes a difficult subject much more manageable."

In addition to these full-time appointments, the Gottesman Lecture Program will begin during the fall semester. Professor Robert Hoffman, a world renowned chemist and Nobel Laureate will teach General Chemistry in conjunction with YC instructor Professor Viswanathan. The other Gottesman lecturers, including Political Science professors Mr. and Mrs. Walt Rostow and philosophy professor Dr. Robert Nozick will not begin teaching at YC until the Spring semester. The delay has upset a number of students, who were anxiously anticipating Nozick's arrival. "I was really interested in taking a course with Professor Nozick. It's a real shame that he's not teaching until the spring," commented YC junior Daniel Anziska. When Nozick finally lectures at YC it will be on a very limited basis; he will "team-teach" one course with YC dean Norman Adler.

Despite these faculty changes, the administration is confident that the fall semester will begin smoothly and efficiently. While a majority of students agree with this sentiment, several students have voiced apprehension over the faculty turnover. They believe that constant faculty changes have a negative affect on the morale of both students and professors. These students admit, however, that every effort must be made to greet the new instructors with open arms.

When Best Isn't Good Enough

Reflections on YC's Academic Journey

By Ryan Karben

The case for Yeshiva College often seems so easy to make. It is unarguably the finest institution of its kind. It is also, however, the only institution of its kind, and there's the rub.

This has been a year of transition and challenge for YC, most notably at the academic level. Heightened by the search for a new dean, concerns about academic standards and reputation dominated not only *Commentator* headlines this year, but most substantive discussions about campus issues. The time, however, this discussion reached into the dorms, the apartments and even the Senate. Indeed this dialogue was driven, for the most part, by students and their concern over the academic maturity of this University.

It was in the pages of *The Commentator* that the discussion about the real value of a full year of Israel credit began, as then-News Editor Sandor Bak argued for a no holds barred dialogue on whether those credits meet serious standards. And it was at meetings of the Senate (hemming, hawing and backtracking by University administrators notwithstanding) that the issue received a real hearing, if no satisfactory resolutions.

There has been a change. To the shock of many academic officials, last year's decision to greatly reduce the number of CLEP tests for which YC would grant credit was greeted with applause, rather than disdain, by many students. U.S. News and World Report's low ranking of YC angered students more than PR officials. There was a sense of betrayal of sorts. Exactly what kind of education does one get here?

The past few months have sought to answer that question. Dean Norman Adler has pledged to bring a new discipline and consistency to academic policy. New minors in Writing and American Studies broaden the options available to students. A commitment to faculty salary enhancement is welcomed by all concerned about the ability to Yeshiva college to attract and retain top-notch intellectual talent.

(Permanent talent. Not cameo classroom appearances by big-names from other places, but "home grown" professors to augment our overworked distinguished faculty.)

Yes, a real education, Yeshiva College-style.

What does it mean? Well, to gain a sense of perspective compare a syllabus for a YC course to an "equivalent" course at Columbia. The reading list in Morningside Heights is three times as long. Imposing and more challenging? Certainly. Practical in YC? Not necessarily; this is no Columbia. But is it not remedial college either and should not be a four-year pit-stop for those unable or unwilling to handle the challenge of other institutions. Balance must be sought and balance must be found. That is part of the new dean's mission this

summer.

Many YC professors argue (off the record, of course) that the problem is Sy Syms. The great evil Sy Syms behemoth. True, the business school has taken away students from the college, limiting the number of courses the college can offer. And, in all honesty, undergraduate business school is not where one goes to become a "man of the world." The whole focus of SSSB on hiring, rather than on academic growth, some argue, has polluted the intellectual environment on campus. With homage paid to the almighty dollar rather than Dickens or Descartes, many find it difficult to see how serious students can thrive here. But Sy Sym's growth, though troubling on some level, is not the problem.

Dean Adler has begun to grasp the challenge before him. In articulating a vision of the Jew's role in the world grounded in President Lamm's Torah U'Maddah paradigm, he has drawn students, faculty and administrators to the heart of the academic challenge: What values, knowledge and perspective should a Yeshiva College education instill during the time a student spends here? And how can those values be instilled as students spend less time on the main campus? Further, where does Yeshiva College fit into the larger picture of the Torah environment and how does it function when it becomes a flashpoint between its faculty and RIETS roshai yeshiva? And how can the mission of higher education- described by Woodrow Wilson as an effort to "make sons as unlike their fathers as possible"-be realized in an institution that has nurturing traditions as its primary purpose?

The search for answers to these questions took a great step forward this year- in large measure because students cared. YC will improve academically because it appears to be a demand of the students; mandatory credit will not be instituted for shiur because students believe it inimical to their intellectual and spiritual development.

A year of discussion and challenge. Faculty tempers flared. Public statements by top-level administrators were disavowed. And for a semester and a half, leadership was pathetically absent.

But the dialog continues. What will become of Israel credit, CLEPs, standards and reputation? How will the faculty look in five years? Will the importance of an up-to-date course catalog ever be comprehended?

Who knows. But the very discussion has proven that YC can no longer survive as mom-and-pop education. Students and professors will no longer tolerate excuses for unprofessionalism or administrative incompetence because "this is Yeshiva, what do you expect?"

This year has shown that students expect better. A lot better. From their teachers. Their administrators. And even of themselves.

Being the best of its kind is no longer good enough.

Sumner Redstone Concludes Lecture Series

BY ANDREW DAVIDSON

Viacom CEO Sumner Redstone spoke at Stern's Koch Auditorium on Friday, April 28 culminating a lecture series whose first week began with Mr. Alan "ace" Greenberg and included prominent chairmen Edgar Bronfman and Sy Syms. The first semester of the Ira and Doris Kukin Distinguished Lecture Series was deemed a success by its dozens of students on both campuses.

After being introduced by both Dr. Ira Schwartz and Dean Harold Nierenberg, Mr. Redstone began his thirty minute presentation by briefing the SSSB students on the history and growth of Viacom, as well as the recent purchases of Paramount and Blockbuster. Upon completion of the lecture, Mr. Redstone opened the floor to a one-hour question-and-answer session for students and faculty alike. Queries included those about his day-to-day dealings with company problems, such as how and when he censored videos (notably Madonna's) on MTV and VH1, and how he handled criticism of other cable programs, specifically Beavis and Butthead.

Aside from business questions, SSSB student Alex Salomon inquired about Mr. Redstone's involvement as chairman of a project fighting Anti-Semitism in Russia. The event which took place on April 2, focused on the current wave of anti-semitism endangering the lives of numerous Russian Jews. Mr. Redstone responded with remarks confirming his conviction that such issues become publicized, and related his proud feelings on his participation. Dean Nierenberg remarked that Sumner Redstone's presentation was "one of the highlights of the seminar, and that the students gained a great deal from Mr. Redstone in particular, and from the course in general." Dr. Fred Palumbo, coordinator of the seminar, stated that its importance lied in its attempt to "bridge the gap between theory and practice in the real world."

The seminar will be offered again next Spring semester, open to all undergraduate juniors and seniors in SSSB, YC, and SCW.

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Controversial Hamevaser Issue Incites Campus Backlash

BY STEVEN MIODOWNIK

The publication of the April 1995 issue of Hamevaser, which appeared during the week preceding Pesach, has generated unusual controversy about its contents and editors. Several Roshei Yeshiva have publicly denounced the issue as bordering on heresy, and some have even called for an end to SOY funding of the scholarly journal. Others have praised the editors' decision to bring a controversial topic to the attention of the publication's readers, arguing that there is little benefit in refusing to address issues merely because some may find their discussion troubling.

The edition in question contained several controversial items, including illustrations of capital punishment scenes and a Mazel Tov Matching Game invoking *arayos*. But the most severe criticism came in response to an article entitled "Sophistry and Dishonesty on 'Women and Judaism.'" The article, which criticized the "different roles" approach to the woman's role in Judaism, contained the assertion, "Judaism, in its original form (in both letter and spirit) is discriminatory, in the full sense of the (modern) term."

When the edition was distributed on the Main Campus on Tuesday, April 11, its contents were immediately called to the attention of several Roshei Yeshiva, who expressed their outrage to both students and MYP Dean R. Zevulun Charlop. One Rosh Yeshiva labeled the controversial article as rhetoric of the "Reform or Conservative," while another claimed that the Hamevaser's dissemination could prove "more damaging than the entire gay issue." In addition, R. Charlop was the recipient of a number of phone calls from alumni and others troubled by the issue.

Meir Zeitchik, the author of the controversial piece, says he did not intend to offend anyone with the article and is surprised by all the attention it has generated. And while he is glad that the issue of 'women's roles in Judaism' has been raised on campus, he is somewhat disappointed by the way in which it has been handled by some rebbeim. "The article may have had an

emotional tone; it is, after all, an emotional topic," said Zeitchik. "But I am disappointed that many rebbeim did not take advantage of the opportunity to discuss the issue, instead of merely grandstanding and engaging in rhetoric. Using harsh and vague labels like "kefirah" is not at all productive."

While the strong language employed by Hamevaser's critics has not been bolstered by any concrete motion to censor the Hamevaser or remove its editors from their positions, the fiery response seems to be borne of Hamevaser's status as a product of yeshiva environs. While Hamevaser has its own governing board and no faculty or Student Council advisor, it is under the aegis of SOY and is viewed by many students and alumni as the most religious English-language publication coming out of YU, although its content has sometimes been criticized in its thirty-four years.

SOY President Yitzchak Book, who has not read and does "not plan to read" the article, said he was "appalled" and "ashamed," and would have prevented publication of the Hamevaser had he originally known of its contents. However, there was no SOY attempt to physically remove copies of the newspaper from areas on the Main Campus. Due to logistical errors, however, stacks of the paper never reached the Stern College campus.

According to Craig Berkowitz, Hamevaser's editor-in-chief, Hamevaser editors themselves removed stacks from the dorms before Pesach in order to prevent angry students from stealing and caching them, but not before one stack mysteriously vanished from the library. The disappearance of copies of Hamevaser from the dorms does not represent a backing down on the part of the editors; copies are still available from them upon request, explained Berkowitz.

With the money leftover in the Hamevaser budget, the editors will be publishing an abbreviated issue within the next two weeks to defend the newspaper and clarify the viewpoints expressed in it. In addition, Zeitchik will publish a defense of his viewpoint in that issue.

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MCAT - The Pre-Med's Nightmare

BY AVI PENSTEIN

During the month of April, the normally unflappable pre-med students began to show cracks in their composure. The MCAT, the single most important test for prospective physicians, was administered on April twenty-third. As the test date drew near, the tension on campus was palpable. Barry Habib, a YCSC presidential candidate recently quipped, "even I was nervous and I'm not taking the test until next year."

Preparation for the MCAT begins months in advance. Most Yeshiva students elected to shell out almost eight-hundred dollars to take the Kaplan review course, which conveniently had it's scheduled weekly lectures at YU. However, the bulk of the studying had to be done in the Kaplan's center located in midtown (sometimes referred to as the "house of pain"). At the center, Kaplans has thousands of practice questions available to it's students. These questions are important study tools since few actual MCATs have been released. YC pre-meds spent countless hours in the center, some have even become permanent fixtures there. While the hours spent listening to tapes were long and tiresome, at least one student seemed to enjoy the social aspect of the center, "You see, there was this girl.."

For all students, balancing time between college course work and MCAT study was a very difficult task. Some were able to plan ahead and schedule a very light load this semester. Others, however, were forced into taking many credits in order to graduate on time. YC junior Ari Ciment commented, "I had a really tough schedule and compounded with the vigorous and necessary MCAT study I felt like an overgrown pimple full of puss ready to explode." YC junior Jacob Rosenberg complained "it's unfair for science teachers to give exams a week or two before the MCAT."

There were those who could not perform the balancing act. Steven Stern had a most unusual response to the pressure of the immense study load; he dropped out of school to study for the MCAT full time. Others were forced to postpone taking the MCAT until August, when there is ample time to study. YC junior Azriel Hirschfeld said "I just couldn't handle it."

Taking the MCAT in August places the student at a decided disadvantage. Medical schools practice rolling admissions and any delay in MCAT score reports hurts the students' chances of being accepted. The August MCAT also puts a major damper on the summer.

Aside from these purely practical considerations, the April MCAT also provides the student with the security of knowing that he can take the test over in August, and still apply for medical school in time for the

following year. Some pessimistic students were planning on taking the test over again even before taking the April test. As he walked out of the test, Ezra Berry, a YC junior, exclaimed "one down, and one to go!"

Unfortunately, what has suffered the most from the intense MCAT preparation is Torah. Ciment said "although I still attended seder and shiur for the most part, I was in a trance-like state, while my mind wandered to science, and I asked myself, what am I doing here?" Most missed either seder, shiur, or both during the weeks preceding the MCAT (and in some cases, for the entire semester). The Bet Midrash was witness to much confusion as talmidim searched for their pre-med chavrusas. YC/SSSB senior Menachem Gelbtuch claims he hasn't seen his chavrusa the entire semester.

This year, the MCAT was administered on the day after Pesach. Most people were happy to have the week prior to the test free to study, without the burden of class. Others, however, maintained that the MCAT ruined their Pesach vacation. Most students tried to follow Kaplan's advice and relax and get a good night's sleep before the test. However, many attempted to cram physics formulas into their heads as they waited on line to be admitted to the test.

Conveniently, Yeshiva University was chosen as the lone Sunday test center in the Manhattan area (the test is supposed to be taken on Saturday). However, most YC students opted to take the test at centers closer to their homes. Only a handful returned to YU.

There was no absolute consensus as to the difficulty of the test, except that the "verbal section was impossible." YC senior Elie Grunstein said "it was the first verbal section I ever took that I couldn't finish." Most people agreed that the science sections were slightly easier, as David Kahn summed up "yeah, they were quite easy." There were exceptions to these opinions; Ari Walfish said "it was one of the easiest tests I have ever taken," while star Mac player Jake Rosenberg refused to comment.

One particular student, wishing to remain anonymous, seemed extremely bitter that there were different test versions. "You can do an unlimited amount of studying, but it's a joke because some tests were very specific (difficult) and some were general," he said.

Now that the MCAT is over, YU has returned to normal. Pre-med students await their scores, which should be back late in June, as they attempt to catch up in all their classes. SSSB senior Yechiel Weiner, seemingly upset, said "I enjoyed seeing those lazy pre-med students working." The bet midrash is again at full capacity, and rumor has it that Mr. Gelbtuch found his chavrusa.

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The New York Times
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BUSINESS WEEK

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OBITUARY

Mr. Jack Nussbaum

BY STEVEN MIODOWNIK

Jack Nussbaum, Director of Student Finances since 1974, lost his battle with cancer on April 22, passing away after years of dedicated service to the University at the age of 61. Colleagues from the finance office, as well as numerous administration officials, were deeply saddened by the death of Nussbaum, who was responsible for allowing the Jewish education of many YU students with financial difficulties.

"Jack Nussbaum enabled hundreds to go to school here and learn Torah," remarked Neal Harris, Mr. Nussbaum's successor. "He showed extreme compassion, and a sense of justice and equality." Co-workers who spoke with The Commentator regarded Mr. Nussbaum as a much-needed non-bureaucrat in a

sensitive and crucial position.

Mr. Nussbaum was born in 1934 and was a graduate of YU High School for Boys, serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Though he graduated YC in 1962, he began working for YU in 1961 as an office manager, working his way up to the finance office position. "Many people owe their careers and futures to him," Harris said.

Fran Frankel, another co-worker, echoed Harris' sentiments: "The many thousands of students and their parents who passed through his office left with the knowledge that here is a man who listens and understands. There was never a day he would not thank us when we left the office after work, and when one of us secretaries had personal problems he was always ready to listen, and if possible, to help."

Editorial on Goldstein Garners ADL Award

continued from page one

awarded to the winners. Cohen was unable to attend the ceremony; Fagin accepted on his behalf.

The winning editorial, written only a few days after the Hebron incident, pointed out how similar Dr. Goldstein, a YC alumnus who "sat in the same classrooms as in which we sit" and "...had many of the same teachers we have," was to the present-day YC student. The editorial described the killing as "an action which defies explanation" and called for everyone to "learn from his heinous deed that his (Dr. Goldstein's) way was the wrong way." The editorial went on to express concern regarding those who sympathized with Dr. Goldstein's cause, arguing that such "sentiments only foster more hate and more killing." In a ringing conclusion, the editorial stated: "Baruch Goldstein's actions can never be justified. They can only be condemned."

In a telephone interview, Cohen noted his reaction to the award: "This was a very difficult topic for us to deal with and I think this award acknowledges that we did so properly." Added Fagin, "Balancing out facts from emotion is probably the toughest task of any news-

paper editor and this award is given to those who do it well," he explained.

The program for the awards ceremony featured Arnold Foster, the general counsel of the ADL, and Bess Myerson, the former Miss America and ADL National Commissioner who provided the financial support for the costs and expenses of the ADL award. The winning entries were judged by the Hon. Herman Badillo, Special Counsel to the Mayor for Fiscal Oversight of Education, Eric Breindel, Editorial Page Editor of the *New York Post*, and Edith Everett, the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees of CUNY.

The campus journalism contest, administered by the New York Regional Office of the ADL, was set up to advance multicultural and interfaith understanding through journalistic excellence in campus student newspapers. As well, the contest hopes to foster sensitivity of cultural differences and interfaith harmony through articles and editorials written by the leading student journalists of New York City. The writing contest is open to all registered and chartered newspapers of accredited higher education colleges and universities in the New York City.

Dorm Decision Expected Shortly

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are being singled out for elimination because many of them do not pay for dorm space, and the university would rather accommodate paying students. The possible alternative housing in apartments, said one student, would be the "first step" towards a future discontinuing of the traditional free board that has been provided to Kollel students. RIETS students are additionally concerned that a move to the apartments could cause them to be overcrowded, and some question exactly how close to campus those apartments will be. Yet another important concern is that a decision will be made in June, when many will no longer be on campus, effectively precluding

student protest or input.

Several of the Kollel students interviewed by the *Commentator* found the news bittersweet. While acknowledging that the tight dorm conditions are the offspring of a university growing at a healthy pace, the specter of being ousted from the dorms worried some who do not want to feel removed from campus life. "I want to feel like part of the yeshiva," remarked one smicha student. Another said the move represents the distancing of post-collegiate from the focal point of the yeshiva. Other students, however, said they would not mind being placed in apartments, assuming those apartments will be right on campus.

YU Students Mourn Loss of Friend

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have planned a memorial ceremony for her on Sunday evening, May 14 at Frisch. This past Sunday, another service was held at Flatow's shul to make up for a mourning period cut short by Pesach.

Among the attendees was MYP Rosh Yeshiva R. Moshe Tendler, who played a most crucial role in the Alisa Flatow story as the posek who authorized the donation of Flatow's heart, lungs, pancreas, liver, and corneas. Contacted early Monday morning by Rabbi Alvin Marcus, a RIETS musmach and spiritual leader of West Orange, Rabbi Tendler spoke via conference call to Stephen Flatow at his daughter's bedside in Soroka Hospital in Beersheva. After determining that there had been brain stem death, the two rabbis permitted the removal of her organs, citing the ruling of Rav Moshe Feinstein. The recipient of one lung and the recipient of the pancreas have since passed away; Rabbi Tendler is not surprised because those organs have the lowest transplant success rate.

The donation of Flatow's organs caused a media stir both in the United States and Israel. Rabbi Tendler's move was immediately labeled "controversial" because organ donations are rare among Orthodox Jews in America and even

rarer among both religious and secular Jews in Israel. Although the halachic ruling of Rav Moshe has been accepted, Rabbi Tendler explained, a stigma has been attached to the procedure due to the concept of "nibul ha'mait," desecration of the corpse. But *pikuach nefesh* concerns override *nibul ha'mait*, and Rabbi Tendler finds no excuse for the low donor rate among Orthodox Jews. He has championed the cause and is the author of the organ donor proxy approved by the Rabbinical Council of America.

The widespread publicity of the ruling in Israel, a country where the organ donation rate is nine per 1,000 deaths, as opposed to the United States where it is thirty per 1,000, forced the Chief Health Minister there to publicly declare his acceptance of Rav Moshe's ruling. The minister had previously refused to come out in support of organ donations. Rabbi Tendler, who hopes that the incident will serve as a turning point and that organ donations will achieve universal approval in both countries, commented that the Flatow episode demonstrates the "power of halacha l'maaseh." Flatow was "given the z'chus to break that barrier," and her death resulted in "an unqualified kiddush Hashem."

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Yeshiva Sports

Wrestling Team Finishes on Top

COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF

In a season of ups and downs, the YU wrestling Macs were still able to capture the title of number one in the IAC. Among their better known opponents, the Macs showed consistency by beating St. Johns twice. They also contributed to their record with a powerful showing against Middlesex County College, and with a rare display of strength against new contender Lafayette.

Looking back on the season, senior captain Albert Sebag commented about his final year on the mat. "I've wrestled for other schools, but it is my accomplishments at YU of which I am most proud. The team has come a long way in what turned out to be a very tough season. I am glad that I was given the chance to contribute."

Coach Neil Elman responded to Sebag's leaving with a smile. "He was a

great wrestler, and I am happy to have coached him. Maybe now he can do something important."

Next year looks good for the Macs as most of the starters will be returning. Sol Genet will be providing stability in the upper weight classes at 177, while Dmitri Borovik will keep the middle strong at 158 pounds. Also wrestling in his first full season will be former MTA star Avi Moshe Ellman. Rounding out the starting line-up will be co-captain Daniel Sentell at 142.

Assistant coach Brian Ostrow likes the potential that he believes the team possesses. "Our schedule will be much tougher next year, but I am not worried. With a good mix of veteran skill and rookie ambition, we should be able to run over anything that gets in our way." As the IAC champions take the mat next season, the only direction that looks plausible is up.



YU Tennis Team Finishes Undefeated

BY COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF

As number one seed and team co-captain David Samet closed out his grueling three set match 6-4, 5-7, 6-3, against long-time rival Stevens Tech, not only did he seal victory over Stevens but he also helped clinch the team's first ever IAC league title and undefeated season. The team finished the year with a 9-0 record.

Over the season a number of individuals achieved nearly flawless records in playing singles. Co-captain Gabe Slotnick did not lose any of his seven matches, alternating play between the third and fourth seed. Freshman phenom Tzvi Zilbershteyn similarly cruised to an undefeated league record, and 6-1 overall as the #2/#3 seed. Ron Samet and Avram Ciment also concluded the season with impressive overall standings: 6-1, 5-1 records respectively.

The moment first year coach John Bandler evaluated the talent pool at try-outs he knew that he would have a solid team. Even though Bandler realized that he possessed a dominating team he tried to keep the team low key in order to sustain its competitive vigor. "I have never seen a team as deeply talented as this team," remarked the coach, a YC alumnus who also played on the tennis team seven years ago. "As a coach it was a luxury to shuffle three or four players who could all easily play at #1 or #2, and

still have three other strong players at the five and six seeds," continued Bandler.

The team's tremendous depth was most revealing during its victory over Bard College, a league match which took place during a week filled of midterms. When only five players showed, the team was forced to forfeit two matches since a minimal of six players are required for a match. Nevertheless, the team emerged victorious.

For weeks, both Coach Bandler and veteran players on the team hyped up the Stevens Tech match as the one serious hurdle standing in the way to perfection and IAC triumph. What was expected to be a nailbiting thriller turned out to be an 8-1 Yeshiva blowout. "Our guys played some of their best tennis that day," noted Bandler, "clearly, it was the season's best played tournament." David Samet, Michael Pfeiffer, Tzvi Zilbershteyn, Gabe Slotnick, Ron Samet, and Avraham Ciment swept all six singles matches.

"With the return of virtually all of this year's team, next year promises to be a repeat of success," remarked Los Angeles native David Samet. In fact, Samet and YC senior Josh Segal are the only expected losses to the coming years squad. However, the absence of Samet will surely be felt - he along with co-captain Gabe Slotnick were named to the IAC all-conference team.

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