

Yeshiva University Commentator

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Special Coverage



Tragedy in
the Holy
Land
Pages 7-10



Roshei Yeshiva Rav Herschel Schachter (left) and Rav Yehuda Parnes (right) reacting to President Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm's Main Campus hesped of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Lamm Eulogizes Rabin as a 'Celebrated Hero' Before Packed Lamport Auditorium

BY ARI GRUEN

"The victim was a general, a celebrated hero of his people, deeply involved in the diplomatic and political issues of government." With these words Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, president of Yeshiva University, began his eulogy of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was slain by an assassin last Saturday. Lamm's words were followed later that Monday

night, by a student-run event, rounding out the day of mourning for Yeshiva College students.

Dr. Lamm delivered his address on Monday morning, November sixth, to a filled-to-capacity auditorium. The address was attended by all the rebbeim and students of Yeshiva College, as well as those of MTA.

Dr. Lamm called on all Jews, no matter what their political views, to mourn Yitzhak Rabin,

whom he described as "direct yet thoughtful, tough but introspective, unceremonious, even humble...."

"His entire life was spent on behalf of his people and his country."

He derided those Jews who were pleased with the murder of Rabin, calling them "incredibly foolish," for "the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin may leave in its wake consequences as di-

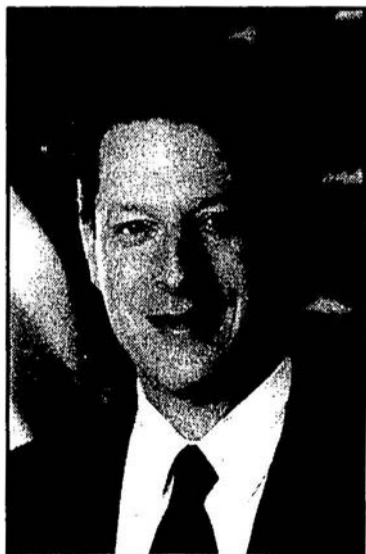
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Gore to Speak at YU Dinner

BY NACHUM LAMM

Vice President Al Gore and Viacom chairman Sumner Redstone will be the featured speakers at Yeshiva University's 71st annual Chanukah dinner. Gore will also be awarded an honorary doctorate at the dinner, to be held Sunday, December third, at The Waldorf-Astoria hotel in midtown Manhattan.

The dinner, YU's largest event of the year, typically attracts six hundred to eight hundred guests, each paying five hundred dollars to attend. In past years, the dinner has attracted such speakers as then-Vice President Dan Quayle, General Colin Powell, Senator Bob Dole, and other political leaders from both Israel and the United States.



US Vice-President, Al Gore

Titled an "Evening in Celebration of Learning and Leadership", this year's event will begin with an address by the Vice President at the pre-dinner "con-

vocation", after which he will be awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. Also receiving honorary degrees will be YU board members and Benefactors S. Daniel Abraham, John D. Cohen, Max Grill, Charles A. Krasne, and Jack and Lewis Rudin.

Sumner Redstone, chairman of the board of Viacom, which owns cable television companies, Paramount Communications, and Blockbuster Video, will speak at the dinner itself. Also featured at the dinner will be a tribute to the Mozes S. Schupf Foundation, which gave a ten million dollar donation to YU last year. Finally, YU President Norman Lamm will deliver a *dvar Torah*.

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MYP Roshei Yeshiva Unanimously Condemn Rabin Assassination

Remain Divided on Israel's Politics

BY NICK MUZIN

On Saturday night, November 4, YU students clamored around the Morg lounge television to watch CNN's coverage of the tragedy in Israel. As the full details of the assassination and its inherent *Chillul Hashem* became known, students yearned for an explanation, a Torah view, on the shocking events unfolding in front of them.

This vacuum of direction did not last long. Beginning Sunday morning and continuing all week, YU Roshei Yeshiva saturated their talmidim with an abundance of discussion on the murder. Whether speaking to the entire Yeshiva, or to their respective shi-

urim, or privately to talmidim, the rebbeim made it clear that the assassination, by a religious student, was a disaster on an unprecedented scale and could have deleterious consequences.

"I've never been so discouraged and disgusted and terrified," said Harav Aharon Soloveitchik, "When I first heard [of Rabin's death] I hoped that it was a Hamas terrorist that killed him."

"This is one of the greatest *Chillulei Hashem* in hundreds of years," said Rav Yosef Blau, "it has destroyed the basic image of a Jew."

"What will someone from the outside say," Rav Goldwicht cried to a packed Beis Medrash,

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Labor Dispute Ends as Union and Administration Reach Consensus

BY STEVEN MIODOWNIK

It was hours of grueling and tedious deliberation in the making. But six weeks, several job actions, and much quarreling later, Yeshiva University and the 325 members of the 1199 National Health and Human Services Employees Union finally settled on a new contract. On Thursday night, November 9, a memorandum of agreement outlining a complicated settlement was signed following a week of union demonstrations and walk-outs and before a threatened union protest at Sunday's Open House.

Union laborers, who had originally proposed seven-percent salary increases and a complete job security package, acquiesced to several compromises for their new, three-year contract: Workers will receive \$750 bonuses this year coupled with three-percent raises the following two years; base salaries have been raised to a \$400 per week minimum; and 118 workers achieved complete job security while the others will get benefits if laid off as part of a new YU security fund uniting the Bronx campus with the three Manhattan campuses.

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Union 1199 members demonstrating amidst contract negotiations

Rabin Eulogy Delivered By Rabbi Marvin Hier

This is one of the saddest days in modern Jewish History. A day when the life of a courageous Prime Minister of Israel was snuffed out by one of our own. One supposedly schooled in law and morality, one versed in the Torah, in the juridic principles of pluralism and democracy.

What shall we say? What words are there to comfort us in this dark hour when we are confronted by a killer who has the audacity to declare, "I do not regret what I have done. G-d spoke to me and told me to do it."

No, my friends. The G-d of Israel who commanded "Thou shalt not kill", the G-d of Israel who demanded of Cain... "Where is Abel thy Brother?"... "his blood crieth to me from the ground."

That G-d is much too clever to speak to such a fool. Much too humble to empower such arrogance and much too noble to dignify such deception.

No, it is not the words of the Almighty that the assassin heard that day, rather it is the cynical rhetoric of extremism. The anthem of fanatics that struck down Israel's Prime Minister.

A climate of going beyond the pale - beyond the parameters of legitimate criticism which is the sacred rite of every democracy. A climate that allows a man to hold up a placard showing Yitzhak Rabin dressed in an SS uniform justifying it by declaring - it's an expression of my opposition to his government's policies.

Such tyranny against a man who fought the Nazis when he was 19 years old during World War II when many others sat by silently.

Against a man who in 1945 launched a daring raid to rescue 200 Holocaust survivors that the British had interred on a Greek island.

Such a placard against the deputy commander of the Palmach who kept the roads to Jerusalem open, enabling crucial supplies to get through during the War of Independence in 1948.

An SS placard against the Chief of Staff who brilliantly won the 6-day war and who restored the Western Wall to the Jewish people for the first time in 2000 years of exile.

A placard against a man who launched the raid on Entebbe... Dealing a mortal blow to international terrorism. And still the placards appeared

and re-appeared and no one rose up to tear them down.

Such infamy breeds a climate of hatred. Such infamy gives birth to killers. Yes, even killers smart enough to work their way through law school.

What is especially painful my friends, is that we are the people who walked away from the Holocaust and yet maintained our faith in G-d!

The people who walked away from the crematoria and still showed a capacity to love!

The people who moved away from the valley of the shadow of death to rebuild our lives in our communities without rancor! Fostering new dreams and singing new songs of hope for a better world and a better tomorrow, just as Yitzhak Rabin did only moments before he was gunned down.

Who can believe that this great leader in war and peace is no longer with us because he refused to believe that someone would open another front against him in an area where he was most vulnerable.

He had successfully fought a three-frontal war in 1967 and now he was engaged in an historic three-frontal effort for peace. But he never believed that someone from within would rise up and open a fourth front against him. One that would pit Jew against Jew and one in which 2000 years ago was responsible for the destruction of Jerusalem and the burning of its temple.

My friends, Yitzhak Rabin is assured his place of honor in the rich history of the Jewish people. The bullet that killed him will not prevent future generations from learning the story of this noble warrior and this great man of peace who asked for nothing more than the right to bequeath his grandchildren and great-grandchildren a promised land free of war and want, rich in spirit and ideas where the words of the ancient people still ring true... Righteousness, righteousness shalt thou pursue.

May the memory of Yitzhak Rabin be a blessing and may the peace he gave his life for take hold and endure forever.

Rabbi Marvin Hier is the founder and dean of the world-wide Simon Wiesenthal Center based in Los Angeles. This eulogy was delivered at a Memorial service attended by over two thousand people including Governor Pete Wilson, Mayor Richard Riordan, among other dignitaries.



From the Editor's Desk

OWEN CYRULNIK

This past Thursday night, I found myself sitting in a hotel room with 15 other delegates from the YU contingent to the University of Pennsylvania Model United Nations. The delegation, however, was meeting to discuss religion, not the issues of international politics which dominated the rest of the conference. We were trying to decide whether or not to spend Shabbos in the hotel and attend some of the sessions rather than simply spending Shabbos with some of the religious students on the University Campus itself, without participating in any of the sessions that were to take place on Shabbos.

The arguments for both sides were compelling, but what was most interesting was that many of them centered around one general theme - the impression that our actions would make on the other, non-Jewish people at the conference: Would they be more impressed by our leaving entirely for Shabbos and refusing to participate in the sessions at all, or would they have more respect for our attending, yet refusing to do anything that would violate the Shabbos at the sessions themselves.

But these arguments are two sides of the same coin, and are indicative of a more important concept. Orthodox Jews, in the world at large, are respected for their commitment, and admired for their principles. Non-Jews, while finding many of our actions incomprehensible, nonetheless respect those actions as truly answering to a higher authority. Anti-Semitism and discrimination aside, for the most part, people will look up to an individual who will not sacrifice his values for anything in the world.

This respect and admiration is what the Orthodox community is losing in the wake of the Rabin assassination. With orthodox co-conspirators being arrested every day, people in Israel and abroad are losing that respect that was so important to us in our discussions in Pennsylvania and are so important to the Jewish community in general. It is indeed tragic that it has come to the point where a yarmulke is a sign of shame for any Jew.

I was speaking last night to a former columnist for *The Commentator* who remarked that when he attended the funeral services held for Yitzhak Rabin, every person wore a yarmulke just out of respect for the state of Israel and the personage of Rabin. He was sure, however, that had the funeral occurred today, people would not have been so quick to do so. The Yarmulke, a sign of pride, of purity, of the Ortho-

dox community has been tainted by the actions and words of people who portend to represent the Orthodox community. It used to be that there were places an Orthodox Jew could never go regardless of the consequences because he remained within the confines and the sanctuary of the *Halacha*. Now, using halacha as the guise for politics it seems that anything goes.

I began this column with a scene from a Model United Nations. Tragically, that metaphor is all too relevant in illustrating the issue at hand. It seems that just as the UN charter and international laws and values are manipulated and used as a guise for the furthering of national interests, the Torah, *L'havdil* is being used as a guise for political agendas. And as Rabbi Lamm remarked in his address, this *M'galeh Panim Sheloh K'halocheli* cannot be tolerated.

One of the most important conceptual insights that I take away with me from my time at YU comes from Dr. Ruth Bevan in her class on Fundamentals of Political Science. She explained once that sometimes the two endpoints of a line, or the two opposite extremes, are closer to each other than any other two points on that line. Perceptually, this can be understood by viewing the line as a circle, which is formed by joining the two endpoints of a line in the exact same place.

The radical Orthodox view, however, was always the exception to this rule. It never joins the radical extreme to the fullest extent but rather maintains that modicum of distance that distinguishes it both in concept and in practice. Only now that is changing. When *halacha* can no longer serve as an effective check on the actions of those that it governs; indeed, when *halacha* becomes a justification for actions as repulsive as outright murder, then Jews, Orthodox Jews, are no different.

Our decision at the University of Pennsylvania was very difficult. But I, for one, am proud to have been forced to make such a decision. I am proud that I have to worry how my actions will reflect upon a religion that has the respect of the world around it. We must fight to maintain that image in the light of what has transpired in Israel. The Orthodox community must fight responsibly but passionately to ensure that the next time we attend the Model United Nations or any similar event or experience that our decision will not be even a tiny bit easier. We must fight for something which is our right, but not necessarily our privilege, and that is to remain an *Or Lagoyim*, a paragon for the nations of the world.

Mazel Tov to:

Jeremy "Beauty and the Beast"

Lustman & Tamar Parness

Elie Paul & Tziona Bersson

Daniel Reich & Shani Fenigstein

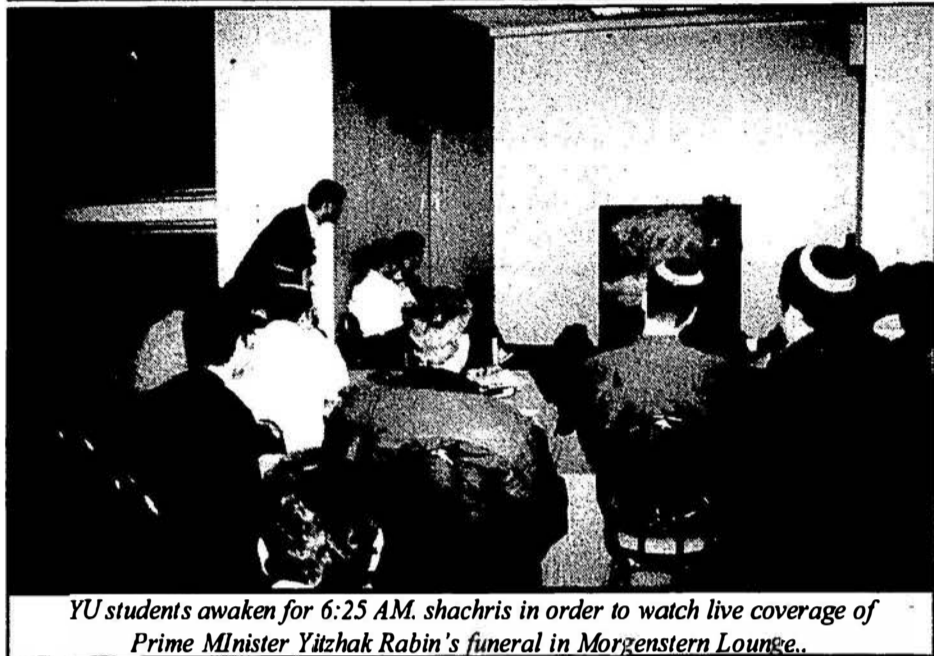
On Their Recent Engagements

Good Luck on Midterms

Yeshiva College



Campus News



YU students awaken for 6:25 AM. shachris in order to watch live coverage of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's funeral in Morgenstern Lounge.

YC Curriculum Committee Eliminates Two More CLEPs

BY J.D. SHULMAN

Thinking of taking a CLEP exam?
Then you'd better act fast.

That's because the Yeshiva College Academic Standards Committee unanimously voted, at an October 25th meeting, to stop granting credit for the microeconomics and the macroeconomics CLEP at YC, citing that the CLEPs failed to meet the standards of the economics department of the college.

The CLEP examinations will still be offered in November, February, and for the final time, in May. Dean Michael Hecht, head of the committee, explained that the reason they weren't eliminated immediately was because it would have placed too great a burden on the students.

"Fundamental changes were made in CLEP procedures because many tests were not of the same caliber as the material taught in the course. Students could too easily study the night before, or not study at all, and still get a grade sufficient to get the credits," explained YC junior Michael Belgrade, one of two student representatives to the committee.

Some students were disappointed by the decision. Sy Syms junior Jason Buskin, who had planned to take the test next year, said that the "economics [CLEP] is an invaluable tool for completing the requirements, especially for Sy Syms students. By allowing students to CLEP these courses, it alleviates the pressure of trying to cram all the courses into our already limited space." Dov Robinson, a SSSB sophomore, said "The material is such that it wouldn't matter if you learned it in one night or a whole semester."

The CLEP is a division of the Educational Testing Service - the same organization responsible for the SAT, GRE, and MCAT. The service administers exams in Calculus, French, German, Spanish, Biology, Chemistry, and Micro- and Macroeconomics, for college credits.

The Academic Standards Committee has not looked into changing any other CLEP exams. Dean Hecht pointed out that "each department is responsible for its own CLEP exam and those CLEPs which remain apparently do reflect the proper academic standards of the department."

Council On Racial Harmony Holds First Event

BY CHAIM LAZAR

The YU Council on Racial Harmony, a group that deals with racial issues, held its first presentation and discussion, entitled "Where do we go from here?" The presentation was given by Stanley Roy Watson, an African-American who is the assistant athletics director at YU. The presentation was a success as many students and community members attended.

Stan, who is known for his great sensitivity and care moved many students with his thoughtful words. A few students were even tearing as Stan spoke about being brought up in a segregated environment in the South during the fifties.

Stan started off by characterizing himself as an old timer who lived through the struggles, the pains, the links and the changes which the black people went through in the past century. Stan spoke about his past experiences as a black living in a segregated South, and about how it felt to have been brought up in Harlem during the sixties when people from all denominations linked together in a chain of unity, love, and general harmony.

The sixties was a time when blacks and Jews marched together to achieve civil rights. Stan emphasized that what is missing in our generation is "love," the reality that peace and concern for others is the only way to advance society and truly fulfill our roles on earth. Stan went on to explain that we are on earth as tenants for a short time and that the rent demanded from us is to be on our finest attainable behavior. Stan stressed that he is a sensitive man disturbed with injustice against any person regardless of their race, creed, or religious conviction. He emphasized that we must stop stereotyping and that we must put aside our differences in order to progress as a nation.

The speech took place at a crucial time, one day after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated. Chaim Motzen, co-chairman of the Council on Racial Harmony, explained in his introduction to Stan's

discourse that he was considering canceling the program because of the shocking news of the assassination but reconsidered and felt that it was very appropriate to have Watson speak on harmony within society. Motzen introduced Stan with a famous proverb, 'Who is respected? One who respects others.'

Stan spoke about Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the Nation of Islam, and explained that he does not agree with many of Farrakhan's views because he is a political opportunist. Yet much of the message Farrakhan's preaches have positive connotations. Stan made it clear however that Farrakhan's leadership is in many ways different from that of Martin Luther King's.

King was a leader who preached equality for all man kind and worked for equality of all races; while Farrakhan, a blatant anti-Semite, is most concerned with the problems that face the black community alone. Stan explained that Black and Jewish communities worked together to harbor harmony, and a perfect example of that is the Civil Rights March in Montgomery Alabama 1965. However, this unity has diminished since then, as the new leadership is more concerned with personal gains than national unity. Some individuals elevate themselves over others and fail to acknowledge that suffering affects all humanity and is never exclusive to only some.

Stan lives his life according to his beliefs and when taking his track team through different parts of Washington Heights or Harlem, Stan is known and recognized by many of the residents as a peace maker. The speech ended with a standing ovation for Stan and many of those present hugged Stan as he walked around the room.

Stan ended his deliberation with his favorite poem which he cherished since his youth. It was written by Paul Lawrence Dunbar, a son of a slave sheer-cropper. Emotions stirred as Stan read the poem:

"A little dreaming by the way, a little toiling day by day, a little pain a little strife a little joy and that is life."

Countermissionary Exhorts YU Students to Save Jews

BY DAVID S. GREENBERG

In 1978 an estimated 10,000 Jews in the U.S. were affiliated with Jews for Jesus. Today the number has grown to over a quarter of a million. It is against this growing trend that Mark Powers, director of Jews for Judaism, an organization dedicated to fighting the growing trend, delivered a speech in Rubin Shul two weeks ago.

Sponsored by the American Students to Activate Pride (ASAP), Powers spoke to YU students on the dangers of Christian cults and missionaries. "Five hundred different missionary groups together spent more than one hundred million dollars last year, in the hope of converting Jews," he noted. To deceive unsuspecting and often unaffiliated Jews, missionaries

he explained, use Jewish rituals and symbols as a means to guise Christianity.

"We must put an end to this, and the way to do it is through kiruv." Powers called on the those in attendance to reach out to Jews on other college campuses who are being swept into the "cults of deception," adding that "whoever saves a single Jewish soul it is as if he saved an entire world."

Located in five cities across the United States and Canada, Jews For Judaism is the only full time counter-missionary and counter-cult intervention resource center in North America. "It is tough being the only organization of its kind out there, but we are willing and committed to reaching out to every Jew who is in search for the truth," Powers said.

To Advertise in *The Commentator* please
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Security Adventures With the YU Internet System

BY ARNON STORFER

Do you know Professor Peter Tillers? Not many people do.

Sometime after 7:30 pm on the night of October 31st, Peter Tillers didn't know who he was either.

Confused?

So was Ari Rosenthal, Head Computer Operator for the Yeshiva University Internet gateway.

Peter Tillers is a Professor at the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law. He logged himself onto the YU Internet system that fateful Tuesday night, to read his Email, after which he hung up the phone. Within minutes, another Internet user contacted the Yeshiva University system to do the same thing. However, instead of greeting the user with the usual login prompt, the user found himself already logged in. A quick check to see who the unauthorized

user was revealed that the user had become "Professor Peter Tillers."

Next, "Peter Tillers" summoned the head operator without revealing his true identity. "Tillers" asked Rosenthal about the legitimacy of the two previous system breaches as reported in an October 31 Commentator article. Rosenthal told the user that *The Commentator* "created a sensationalist story out of an unfortunate, but thankfully rare occurrence." "Tillers" then asked Rosenthal what the chances of a security breach were. The system administrator confidently responded, "One in ten trillion."

"Tillers" then wrote a short letter to YC Dean Norman Adler, Associate Dean Michael Hecht, Ari Rosenthal, and his co-operator, Steven Weinberger and warned the deans and Weinberger of the potential dangers often associated with system infiltration.

After Rosenthal assured "Tillers" that the only person able to access his account and Email was Peter Tillers, "Peter Tillers" sent a chilling message to Rosenthal, revealing that the user, in fact, was not Professor Peter Tillers. Rosenthal immediately disabled Tillers' account, to prevent the alleged hacker from re-entering the system as the law professor. The system administrator demanded that "Tillers" log off, citing that "electronic trespassing has been a federal crime for the last four years," and that if the call originated from out of state, the F.B.I. would be notified. The alleged intruder didn't heed Rosenthal's warnings, and continued to remain on line. Shortly thereafter, Rosenthal alerted the unauthorized user that steps were being taken to determine his identity. Within two minutes, "Peter Tillers" disconnected.

It was too easy

"Tillers" admitted that accessing Professor Tillers account was too easy. The user simply dialed a local YU number dedicated to Internet access. Once connected though, the server did not greet

the user with the usual login prompt. Rather, the user found himself, in the midst of an Email program known as Pine. Due to the limitations of a very simple terminal program used by "Tillers," the user could not determine who he was while in Pine. "Tillers" exited Pine and typed `finger tillers@yu1.yu.edu`, a command that lists information about the account. Included was the owner's name, Professor Peter Tillers.

The information provided by "Tillers" assisted in pointing the system operators to the source of the problem - a hardware malfunction that prevented a certain box from properly hanging up. It has since been replaced with a new one.

The Future of yu1.yu.edu

One of the pitfalls of the information superhighway seems to be that no system accessible to others is ever completely immune to breaches in security. Being connected to a network that allows millions of users to access it greatly increases the chance of attempts at unauthorized entry.

Although the problem that faced the YU system in this instance was, embarrassingly, due to faulty hardware, the university is not alone in its battle against unauthorized and illegal entry. America Online, an on-line service that boasts millions of users, is trying to battle access programs such as AOL4FREE, an altered version of the on-line service's software that circumvents all billing for time on-line.

Unfortunately, the computer hacker has metamorphosed in step with technology. As the uncensored Internet continues to grow, so do the sites where hacking information is readily available. Today's hacker is no longer the stereotypical nerdy teenager. It is now an older, highly-skilled programmer. The new infiltrators who work for foreign governments, rival corporations, or organized crime, exploit security weaknesses to hide monetary transactions, steal confidential information, and destroy the data bases of financial institutions. Many of these trespassers have the capability to shut down networks and destroy software. Hacking is no longer a hobby, it has become a profession of the underworld.

Hackers have developed highly sophisticated programs known as *sniffersoftware*. The programs monitor networks and detect up to the first 120 keystrokes of a newly opened Internet session. In the process, the software captures the user's account and password information. If the victim happens to be the System Operator, the criminal can do an infinite amount of damage.

Security awareness is one way to combat the problem of these hackers. The Yeshiva University system administrators are constantly engaged in increasing the level of security on YU's system, however it seems to be a Herculean feat. Rosenthal mentioned that he receives at least five pieces of mail each day regarding security, and admits that operators across the world "are always five steps behind."

Dean Adler may have said it best when reflecting on the Tillers incident. "There are always costs with every technological benefit. Security and its violation is such a cost. It is unfortunately a consequence of the very efficiencies that make the computer and the Internet so much a part of modern life."

Editors Note: "Peter Tillers" is actually Arnon Storfer, the writer of this piece.

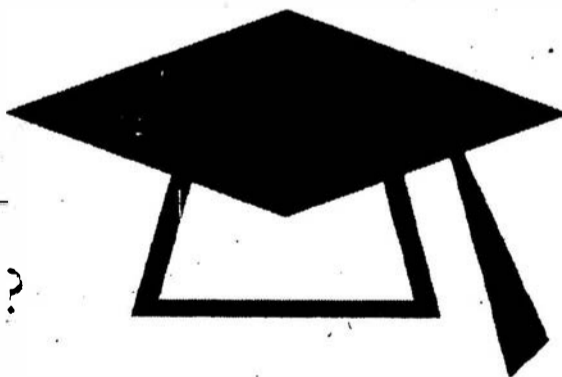
yeshiva university COMMENCEMENT

MAY 22

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Karben Loses Election; Wins Respect

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

It's back to reading, writing, and 'rithmetic for Ryan Karben, YC '96. The 21-year-old politician narrowly lost his unprecedented November 7 bid for the Rockland County legislature, but in doing so achieved newfound prominence in politics and established a name for himself among the Democratic party's elite.

Karben, the Commentator's Executive Editor, ran an extremely successful and fast-paced campaign that required arduous hours of speaking, handshaking, baby-kissing, and networking in that county north of New York City. His efforts included printing campaign literature in Yiddish in order to befriend the many religious communities nestled in and around Monsey, and achieving the support of well-known rabbis in the area. In the end only three hundred of the 20,000 votes cast separated Karben from office; he came in fourth place in a race

with five others for three spaces, nearly unseating his Democratic running-mate in the process.

Political observers note that if the 1050 vote strong Skvere Hasidic sect - which is famous for voting in blocs - had lent just a third of its vote to Karben rather than the thirteen votes they provided, he would have been a winner. Another community did not vote for Karben in order to keep him on the Planning Board of the Town of Ramapo so he would expedite the construction of a new shul.

But undaunted, Karben is already preparing for his next campaign for County Legislator (Karben in '97), and next time he will have experience, connections, and a college degree on his side. Also, he could possibly gain a county position as early as this spring, so political acumen cannot be left to decay. Meanwhile, the immediate future holds more days in the Heights and more nights in the Morg for Ryan Karben.

Redstone Returns to YU for Chanukah Dinner

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Dinner participants will also be able to make donations of 2,500 to 25,000 dollars and be inscribed in a "scroll of honor." Their names will then be included on a tribute page in a special edition of the Schottenstein (ArtScroll) Gemara, Maseches Megillah.

According to YU Vice President for Development Daniel Forman, the event provides an opportunity to form "partnerships" and new friendships with potential donors to YU, even though there is no fund raising at the dinner itself, with the cost of admission just covering the cost of the dinner. In addition, the university dinner provides a framework for the individual schools' (Yeshiva College, RIETS, the High Schools, and others) dinners, which will be occurring in the Spring.

Forman also stated that unlike events held by other institutions, the speakers will not be accepting any compensation. Keynote speakers are usually attracted through friends of theirs in the YU community. Sumner Redstone, for example, who has already spoken at Sy Syms, was invited by YU Academic Vice President



Viacom CEO, Sumner Redstone

William Schwartz, who is also a Viacom board member.

About twenty-five student leaders usually attend the dinner, which YU Director of Media Relations Bruce Bobbins called a "premier event" in Jewish society circles, as well.

Over 200 Students gather to Mourn Yitzhak Rabin

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sastrous as they are unforeseen and unforeseeable."

All Jews must learn from this tragedy, Dr. Lamm urged, to never again create an environment so saturated with hatred and animosity fueled by harsh words; an environment whose product is a Yigal Amir or Baruch Goldstein. "Our responsibility is to be responsible, to recognize that violent rhetoric invariably leads to violent deeds." He also warned of the impropriety of extending the realm of Halacha to one's political views, calling this *Megaleh Panim Batorah Shelo Kahalacha*. And finally, Dr. Lamm stated that in the future we must all learn to be sensitive of and to avoid any extremism and any extremist expression - whether one's politics lean to the right or to the left. "We may deplore what a man says - we may even find it deceitful and hateful," Dr. Lamm said, "but never may we denigrate his *Tzelem Elokim*, the divine image which confers upon him his basic human dignity. We may oppose,

however strongly, the policy, but not savage the personality."

Student Assembly For Israel

The student assembly took place on Monday night, November sixth, in Belfer Commons. The event was sponsored by the Israel Club and the Yeshiva College Student Council, and was attended by over two hundred students.

At the assembly, students recited the prayer for Israel (*Ifilah leshlom hamiedina*), a prayer for her soldiers, several *Tehilim* and finished with a moving rendition of *Hatikvah*. In addition, the students were privileged to hear a few short remarks from YCSC President Josh Fine, and from the Israel Clubs Arie Pelta, Michael Belgrade, and Alan Schwartz.

In his speech, Fine called to all YU students to heed the wake up call of Rabin's murder, to work to end the divisiveness found in *Klal Yisroel* as a whole, and YU in particular: "It is my hope that we, as a student body, can start this trend."

KOSHER-D

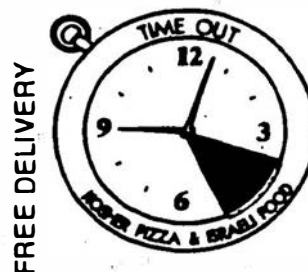


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BY STEVEN MIODOWNIK

The outpouring of grief that has accompanied the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin has been aptly described as mourning for the very State of Israel itself and anguish over innocence long ago lost. The heart-rending images of a Jewish nation in shock over the death of one of its most famous sons bespeak the intimate relationship Rabin had with the small but mighty country he led, and the extensive contributions he made to a monumental chapter in Jewish history.

Yitzhak Rabin was a sabra. Before he rose to become the State of Israel's first native-born prime minister in 1974, and before he succumbed as its first prime minister to be gunned down, he was witness to the severe birthpangs and commander of the great battles that produced today's Israel. Born in Jerusalem, Palestine on March 1, 1922 to two immigrants from Russia and the Ukraine, Rabin grew up in a chaotic era of regular Arab rioting and oppressive British control. Although he originally intended to become an agronomist, military service soon beckoned and he joined the Palmach at nineteen, emerging proficient in combat strategy and steeped in leadership skills.

In the precarious years before Israel's War of Independence, Rabin took part in forays into Axis-held Syria, commanded the Palmach raid on a British internment camp at Atlit, and spent six months in the squalor of a British prison in Gaza for his intrepid activities. His escapades in those days also included involvement in the Haganah attack on the Altalena, the Irgun ship that attempted to land at Tel Aviv with arms and reserves for the upcoming war; fifteen Jews were killed. Increased prominence came during the 1948 war, when Rabin led the famed Har-El Brigade in its valiant effort to keep the vital Jerusalem corridor open during months of fierce fighting and brutal Arab assault. While Jerusalem's lifeline was never cut off and the city survived despite severe rationing, its heart, the Old City, was ultimately ceded to the Arabs and lay in their hands for the next nineteen years.

By the time Egypt, Syria, and Jordan loosed their combined air, land, and sea forces on the young country in May of 1967, Rabin had risen to the rank of Chief of Staff of the Israeli Army. His masterful planning was largely responsible for the recapturing of the Old City, as well as for significant victories on all fronts. In six days, those who had confidently been sounding Israel's death knell were compelled to recognize the reality of a country with great promise and hope. In 1968, Rabin left military service and became the architect of Israel's battles fought on the critical political front.

As Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Rabin sowed and harvested political relationships that kept his troops - who were still operating in the most hostile of environs - supplied with the latest machines of war. But lack of military readiness was the cause of much political upheaval. In 1973, Israel's enemies launched another futile attempt to wipe the country out. But the major losses suffered during the Yom Kippur War exposed to the world how unprepared Israel's army was and shattered confidence in Prime Minister Golda Meir's leadership. Although Meir's party retained its majority in the 1974 elections by a narrow margin, Meir resigned shortly thereafter and a 52-year-old Yitzhak Rabin assumed the position of prime minister.

Rabin's first term as prime minister last-

In the Holy Land Tragedy

An Embattled Hero Of Battles



YITZHAK RABIN 1922-1995

ed but four years, as he, too, was forced to resign in 1977 due to a scandal involving his ownership of illegal bank accounts in the United States. During that time, however, Rabin was responsible for some pivotal decision-making. He signed an Egyptian-Israeli disengagement agreement in 1975 that paved the way to the 1979 Camp David Accords and in 1976 he ordered a successful raid on terrorists holding 100 Israelis hostage in Entebbe, Uganda.

After disappearing from the political scene for several years, Rabin returned to the Knesset in 1984 to become Minister of Defense during the period of Israel's difficult withdrawal from parts of southern Lebanon. Rabin's tenure at the Defense Ministry also saw the first shadows of Arab uprising in Gaza and the West Bank. By the time he returned to the prime minister's seat in 1992, when his Labor party ousted Likud from power, the Arab insurrection - with its formal appellation, Intifada - had gained considerable momentum and organization. PLO leader Yasir Arafat, the crass guerrilla with the checkered kafiya who had for years organized terrorist activity and gained notoriety as Israel's arch-enemy, had emerged as a prominent leader of the revolt.

It was under these circumstances that

Rabin turned to the formal peacemaking activities that contrasted so much with his life of waging war. Shunning the more right-wing policies of his predecessor Yitzhak Shamir, Rabin, coaxed by the Clinton administration and left-wing parties in the Knesset-embarked on a controversial mission to forge a treaty with the Arab population residing within Israel's post-1967 borders. To do that, he was willing to trade "land for peace" and his government curbed much Jewish expansion and building in the West Bank and parts of Jerusalem, in direct contrast to the Likud policy of aspiring to create a Jewish majority in Arab areas.

But the scene that unfolded one year into Rabin's term still came to the utter astonishment of a world unprepared for sudden change. Some applauded and others cringed as they watched Rabin gingerly shake the hand of Arafat on the White House lawn on September 13, 1993, as they jointly signed a treaty brokered in Oslo a week earlier. The agreement was an outline of how Israel would grant a certain level of political, economic, and military independence to Jericho, the Gaza Strip, and parts of the West Bank, and how, in turn, the Palestinians would cease their struggle against Israel and erase state-

ments contained in the PLO covenant that called for Israel's annihilation. The final status of Jerusalem was to be decided at a later point. At the ceremony, which was attended by hundreds of world leaders, Rabin acknowledged that Jews and Palestinians "are destined to live together on the same soil in the same land" and called for "Enough of blood and tears. Enough."

While the developments were hailed by the world as the cornerstone of a permanent peace in the Middle East, the Jewish community - both in Israel and in the Diaspora - was largely divided over the initiatives of the Rabin government. Emotionally, many were unwilling to deal with Arafat and his sordid past and doubted that he had experienced a genuine change of heart. And practically, they argued, granting Palestinians autonomy would only exacerbate Israel's terrorism woes instead of achieving real peace. More religiously sensitive elements of the population decried Rabin's attempts to reduce Jewish control of areas of Israel. Others, exhausted from decades of war and hate, were willing to take the "risk for peace" and supported Rabin's efforts either cautiously or wholeheartedly.

The most immediate effect of the Oslo agreement was a devastating spate of Hamas terrorist attacks on Israeli citizens that has continued for two years. Countless bus bombings, stabbings, and kidnappings in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Gaza proceeded unabated and served to undermine confidence in the likelihood of a successful peace with an Arab population bent on destruction. To many, the bombings indicated the inability or unwillingness of Arafat to control violent terrorists within his midst and contributed to the farcical nature of the proceedings. Rhetoric against Rabin, who had not enjoyed much support from the right in the first place, grew increasingly bitter and spilled out onto the streets in the form of massive protest rallies. The most vocal of the protesters were residents of the West Bank, who felt they had been abandoned and vilified by the Rabin government.

The blood that was being spilled at home certainly marred Rabin's receiving of the Nobel Peace Prize along with Peres and Arafat in 1994. Although a treaty with Jordan's King Hussein was favorable in the eyes of most of the public, Rabin's harsh statements against those opposed to him elicited an even harsher response from right-wing citizens. Perceived as vacillating on the importance of Diaspora Jewry in general, and American Jewry in particular, Rabin was assaulted from all sides. He stood firm, however, and continued the implementation of the Israel-PLO accords, even in the midst of escalating Hamas violence and incendiary remarks made by Arafat to his fellow Arabs.

In the months preceding his death, Rabin signed into effect the second phase of the Israel-PLO accords, which included the specific dates of Israeli withdrawal from Arab cities in the West Bank. With support for it tenuous at best, the accord passed in the Knesset by only a slim majority which included the Knesset's Arab members. Intensified protests both for and against the peace process revealed an Israel deeply and dangerously divided. And at a massive peace rally in Tel Aviv on November 4, a young murderer attempting to alter the future struck down Yitzhak Rabin and with that act killed part of Israel's history too. For the story of Yitzhak Rabin was the story of Israel itself, and the tragedy surrounding his death symbolizes the tragedy of an Israel once so proud and now so disgraced and fragmented.

Question of Responsibility Persists

BY MEIR S. ZEITCHIK

The motive behind the November fourth assassination of Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin seemed to mirror the country's personality; both are straightforward and direct. Unlike the last murder of an American leader while in office - the 1963 assassination of John F. Kennedy - there are no mysteries shrouding the assassin's motives. Yigal Amir was a fervent ideologue who believed murdering the prime minister was a divinely inspired, if not mandated, act.

But if the motive is clear, the questions which the assassination provokes are slippery and complex. What set of circumstances prompted the unprecedented act? To what extent did fiery rhetoric play a role? And could a more active community of moderate Jewish laymen, rabbis and politicians have

allowed ourselves too often the luxury of intemperate, extremist expression, and we must all band together to learn how to avoid it," said YU president Rabbi Norman Lamm in a Lamport Auditorium address several hours after Rabin's body was laid to rest.

The perplexing question of responsibility has evoked passionate reactions from the Orthodox Zionist community and exposed deep divisions over the role of extremist rhetoric. For Lamm and others, the prominent role played by extremist rhetoric in generating violent action is clear. "One can never know for sure, but he [Amir] came from a normal Jewish family and learned in a wonderful yeshiva," said Mashgiach Ruchani Rabbi Yosef Blau. "How did he come to believe that it is permissible and desirable to kill the prime minister? Several right-wing students justify

Rosh Yeshiva and Biology professor Rabbi Moshe Tendler.

To be sure, such a position alleviates responsibility from some members of the moderate Zionist community who might otherwise be held accountable for their less-than-passionate objections to the extremists.

What it ignores, according to critics, is the lethal power of language. Speaking of right-wing posters which depict Rabin as a Nazi, YC senior Yair Silverman said that "when you dehumanize people, those seeds will bear fruit."

For these harsh critics of extremist speech, the assassination raises a vexing and painful moral question. Should moderates have vocalized their concerns more loudly, marginalizing the extremists? Or did they wage a valiant struggle but simply lose the war? "We [moderate Orthodox Zionist] didn't completely delegitimize them [right-wing extremists]," said Silverman. Others are not as cynical. "The moderates tried, they were drowned out," said Biology professor Dr. Carl Feit.

The reason for this may actually be a result of what many perceive as an advantage of moderates: their level-headedness, which prevents them from raising their voices above the din. "Moderate Jews are by definition moderate both in their tempers and voices," said one YC student.

In the rush to condemn those within the community, some charge that one group has unjustifiably escaped scrutiny. This group is comprised of the most significant actors on the political stage - the politicians themselves.

According to some right-wing students, Rabin's policies instilled a sense of fear in right-wing Israelis and played a significant role in his death. "When you perceive that your life and ideals are being threatened, you react in violent and irrational ways," said a student who requested anonymity.

The blame, others say, can be extended to the right-wing parties. Wanting to capitalize on emotional statements for political gain, they allowed what one MYP Rosh Yeshiva described as the "abuse of language" to flourish unchecked. "Extremists are always outspoken. What marked this situation as different was the politicians' neglect to curtail the rhetoric, on both sides," said YC senior Jay Lisker.

To whatever extent the idea of a Jew killing a fellow Jew is new, the notion of Jews arguing heatedly among themselves is not.

Jews have disagreed vehemently throughout history, from the emotional disputes of the Gemara to the raucous atmosphere in the Israeli Knesset. "We debate, we shout, we don't shut up," Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu remarked after the assassination. The very fact that such rhetoric is normalized indicates a Jewish culture and an Israeli society strongly rooted in the principles of free speech. There might even be an obligation to tolerate the rhetoric, even if it does influence Yigal Amir and his ilk. "It's the unfortunate price we have to pay for democracy," said YC Senate member Isaac Sasson.



Photo: Paul Horvitz

Rosh Yeshiva Rav Meir Goldwicht delivers a hesped for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin

altered the grim outcome?

The questions seem backward-looking and non-productive, but such introspection has traditionally emerged in the wake of similar tragedies.

They serve important purposes, like healing a grieving nation, and in light of the burgeoning movement of Jewish extremists, teaching lessons which might prevent future violence.

"We must develop a new sensitivity to extremism of all kinds... We have

the rhetoric on the basis of its truth. "He [Rabin] was a rotzeach, insisted senior Daniel Rubin. "If that's the fact that's the fact."

But a much larger group believes that, even if right-wing rhetoric was exaggerated, attributing the killing to it is simplistic and unfair. "Intemperate language does not lead to killing somebody, not among moral, ethical people. Intemperate language leads to intemperate language," said MYP



Photo: YU PR

Rosh Hayeshiva, Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm addressing the YU student body. He condemned extremism and inflammatory rhetoric within the Orthodox community.

In the Holy Land Tragedy

"The assassination was the fault of the Rabbonim and Roshei Yeshiva who do not hammer in the minds of their students that murder is the most abominable thing"

-R.A. Soloveitchik



Photo: YU PR

Yitzhak Rabin (right) receiving a Yeshiva University honorary doctorate, in 1968, from former President, Dr. Samuel Belkin (left).

Just One of Us: A Friend from Kerem B'Yavneh

BY EZRA TUCHMAN

As the mainstream media attacks Yigal Amir as a violent extremist, KBY alumni who interacted with him as recently as two years ago paint a portrait of a rather ordinary Hesder student

For alumni of Yeshivat Kerem B'Yevneh the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak was doubly shocking and painful. Aside from the grief that they shared with the rest of the Jewish community, they were further saddened by the news that the assassin, Yigal Amir, is a fellow alumnus of the Yeshiva and an individual who many students at YU had befriended and learned with during their stay at Yavneh.

Although the KBY alumni were hesitant to speak openly and publicly about their personal experiences and encounters with Yigal, they did describe him as an exceptionally bright and analytical student, who enjoyed arguing Talmudic points with his Rebbe, Rav David Kav, SHLITA. Others added that it was typical of the other Israelis at KBY, in that he was serious about his learning and committed to his people and his country. As one Shmicha student, who asked to remain nameless phrased it, "there was nothing about him that made him stand out as a murderer or an assassin."

Ronnie Samet, one of the few KBY students that would speak publicly, recalled Yigal's keen sense of humor, particularly his role in the 1993 Purim Shepil. Samet also reminisced about Amir's commitment to learning. "I remember all the late nights that Amir spent learning with my roommate. He was a tremendous Matmid."

Finally, the KBY alumni stressed that the "Yigal Amir" that they knew at KBY was certainly not a madman nor a violent individual, but rather a soft spoken individual who loved learning and his country.

Perspectives A World Anaesthetized to Death

BY NOAH DAVIS

Noah Davis is a Native of Montreal, and a second year law student at Bar-Ilan Law School

Campus has been a zoo since this has happened. Every and any newspaper, TV station, etc... has converged on this tiny island. Sunday there were more media people here than students. The foreign press has been acting quite well interviewing people on an individual basis looking for what is behind the stories and a more in depth analysis. While the Israeli press has been looking for sensationalism and fights, if they couldn't find any they would create it.

The first day, I basically decided on a policy of refusing to be interviewed and have basically kept to it. The only interview I have given is to channel 3 in France, because they needed a French speaker (it was basically the first time I had spoken French since high school but it went all right). But aside from that I have returned to my policy because I feel that I have nothing really to say, and in the words of Elie Wiesel "silence reigns where words fear to tread."

To answer the most frequently asked question, yes I knew him. Not well, never had any deep or meaningful conversations with the man, but I knew him, we all did. He sat not 20 meters from me in the kollel last year, and went to the same law school as I. He was not crazy, he was a sane, intelligent, thinking individual. Don't think for a second that it was the fault of posters calling Rabin a "traitor" or a "Nazi"; this was not what influenced him. He had his politics, they were extreme, but he would only talk about them if questioned about them - he did not volunteer or search out conflict. I don't know what else to add about him as a man or as an individual. He was a hesder student who went to KBY, he did his shana aleph with the class of '88, there are many people that you know that may know him.

Next comes the internal questions, the questions of responsibility. Every faction on the right acted properly. They sent condolences and said that this was a bad thing. The only people who impressed me were YESHA. YESHA asked the questions, the right questions. They asked "did we maybe have something to do with this? Could we have in any way prevented this?" In the tradition of Elie Wiesel's philosophy they did not try to offer answers because the questions are what is truly important. The stimulation of thought and ideas.

This was their greatest contribution. The question remains where to go from here? People say that we will never be the same as before. People say that this is an incredible thing, an unprecedented event, a Jew taking another Jew's life. How quickly we forget of Gedaliah and other historical references. Or in more modern history Arlozorov reigns as the classic example, while Be'eri, the Atelena there has

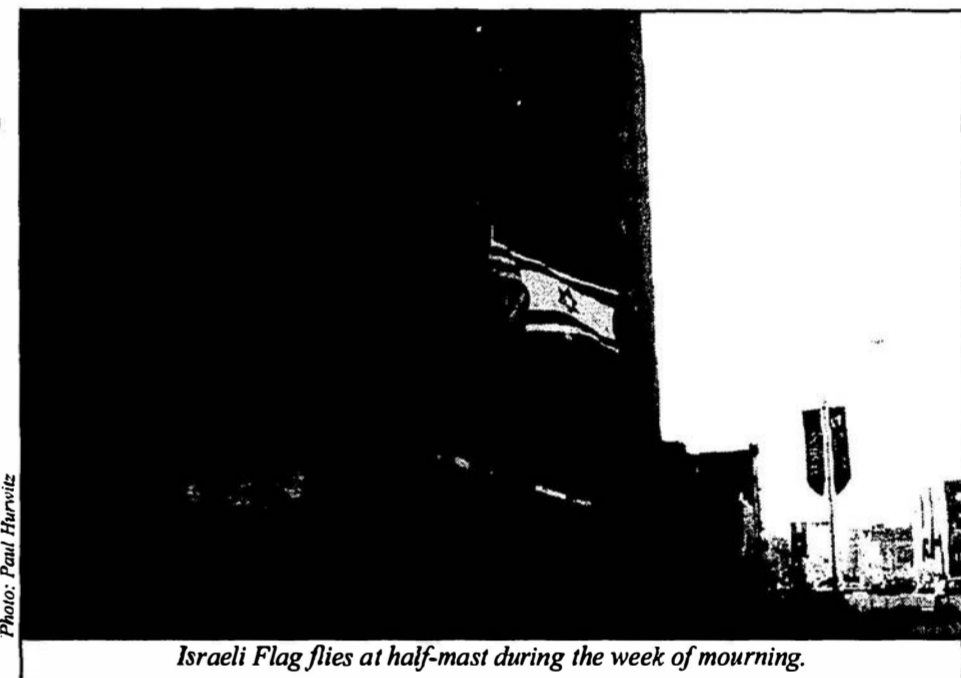
been a lot of Jewish blood spilt by Jewish hands historically. As one historian said (I forget who) "If it was not for the Jews, the Jews would not have suffered so much historically" (the general gist of the quote not a direct one the direct one was much more powerful but temporarily escapes me).

The world has a short and forgetful memory. Everyone says that we will never be the same. Let's try to remember this in a week or two when this all dies down and life returns to normal and people all forget. I myself am guilty. When I read a paper, if I see the words Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Yugoslavia... my personal sensor kicks in, I close my eyes and flip to the next page. We are dulled and jaded to violence, we are supersaturated with news. No longer does the death of

Tachat Hashamesh (Kohélet).

There is so much more to say. So many more thoughts to develop but this has been enough for one day. I just want to leave you with a few questions, a few questions asked to us by journalists from here and abroad. Where were you when they called Rabin a Nazi? Where were you when they called him a traitor? Where were you when the leading Rabbis of this country, my Rosh Yeshiva included, signed on a document calling Rabin a Moser and giving him din rodef calling for anarchy in the army and a refusal to listen to orders regarding Yehuda, Shomron and Gaza? What did you do when you saw those signs at demonstrations, how did you react to it?

Not that this is why Rabin was killed - Yigal was more intelligent than to be



Israeli flag flies at half-mast during the week of mourning.

hundreds starving in Africa even affect us in the slightest, for this we are all guilty and because of this this too will pass into the realm of our past and our memories. Ask anyone where they were when they heard JFK was shot and they will tell you; that no one forgets - that is sensationalism. But we all thought that the World would change and we would never be the same again, but nothing has changed. Not due to that, not at all. Eyn Hadash

influenced by that. Not that people chanting outside of the white house "Hey Hey LBJ how many kids did you kill today" would have led to inciting his assassination, so to this did not lead to Rabin's. But the question remains...

WHERE WAS I, WHERE WERE YOU, WHERE WERE WE ALL AND WHAT DID WE DO???



Former Yeshiva College Student Council President Avi Steinlauf presents Yitzhak Rabin with a Yeshiva University sweatshirt on the occasion of Rabin's last visit to Yeshiva University in 1992. Among those present was former Yeshiva University Board of Trustees Chairman, Mr. Ludwig Jesselson, and Yeshiva University Senior Vice-President Emeritus Rabbi Dr. Israel Miller.

BY JOSH HOSSEINOFF

Just as a generation ago the news of President Kennedy's assassination forever ingrained in the memories of our parents what they were doing on that fateful day, so too I don't think our generation will soon forget where they were when they heard the news of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination. Myself, I was on a bus in Jerusalem coming back from visiting some friends when the bus driver was listening to the radio and we all heard the announcement that someone had shot the prime minister. Around 11 PM the newsreader said that Yitzhak Rabin was in very serious condition and his chances were slim. At 11:30, about 15 minutes after I reached my uncle's home, the whole country was stunned as we heard the news that Yitzhak Rabin was dead.

My initial reaction upon seeing the television footage of the assassin, Yigal Amir, was that at least he wasn't religious since he wasn't wearing a kippah. As I was later to learn, not only was he religious, but until a few years ago he also attended the very same yeshiva that I am learning at this year, Kerem B'Yavneh. The reaction to the assassination here at Kerem B'Yavneh probably mirrors the reaction among religious Jews elsewhere. Most people were upset and outraged over the fact that a Jew could murder another Jew; some were upset that now Shimon Peres would probably accelerate the transfer of land to the PLO; some were upset about the stigma it would put on religious Jews in Israel; and to our shame as Jews, one or two foolish students were even happy at the murder of a fellow Jew.

In the Holy Land Tragedy

OP-ED:

A View From Within

On Sunday night the Yeshiva organized a bus for us to go to Jerusalem to pass by the coffin of Yitzhak Rabin and to say Tehillim there by the Knesset. I had left earlier with some friends in the hope that we could avoid some of the crowds. From 10 PM to midnight we waited by the outer gates of the Knesset but the police were not letting anyone in as there were already far too many people inside. At midnight I gave up and went to my uncle's house for a few hours. I decided to go back at 4:30 a.m. in the hope that the crowds would have thinned out a bit. When I got there the crowds were larger than they had been at midnight but at least it was moving forward at a slow pace. After three hours of inching forward we finally were able to walk past the bier. I decided to read chapter 9 of Tehillim which is read in Israel as part of the prayers for Yom Hazikaron. I was however choked with emotion and could not come to read the words out loud. The people there that

day at the Knesset ranged the entire spectrum of Israeli society, from ardent secularists to chareidim, chassidim, and kipot srugot, and even arabs and druse. Israel radio reported that in the 24 hours that Yitzhak Rabin's bier lay in state at the Knesset over 1 million Israelis, about a fifth of the country went there to pay their respects.

Monday afternoon at 2 PM the whole nation stood still for two minutes as air raid sirens blared in memory of Yitzhak Rabin. As I watched the funeral on television I was awe struck at the assembly of world leaders who came to pay their respects. I had expected that Vice President Al Gore and the Secretary of State would come, as usually the President does not travel on such short notice. Instead, most of the American government came, including former presidents and cabinet secretaries, as well as just about every European leader, the Egyptian president, King Hussein of Jordan, some arab offi-

cial from Oman and Qatar, and quite a few leaders from Asia and Africa. By all accounts President Clinton gave the best eulogy at the funeral, and it seemed like what he said really came from his heart. His words have even reintroduced the farewell greeting of *shalom* to Israelis who had long gotten used to saying *bye, lehit, or yalla*.

After 2000 years of exile if we had learned anything from the history of our people we would know that no external enemy is as great as the enemy from within. When we were united we could conquer the land of Israel, both 3000 years ago and in 1948 and 1967. When we were driven by sectionalism and zealots assassinated *Gedalyah ben Achikam* during the Second Temple, it led to the final destruction of the Jewish kingdom in Israel and the long exile that followed it. I would have hoped at least that Yitzhak Rabin's death would serve as a sobering thought to all sides, that perhaps the invective had gone too far, the arguments had gone beyond civilized debate but one week after his death it already looks like the lessons of our history have passed by most people unnoticed. *Shin Bet* security agents have already been trying to recruit informers at hesder yeshivot, and now the Interior Minister Ehud Barak has announced plans to change the Law of Return to prevent anyone who praised or advocated Rabin's assassination from entering Israel. And if the witch hunt of the left is not enough, already the graffiti of the week at the central bus station in Jerusalem says: "Yitzhak Rabin was a sacrifice for peace, Shimon Peres is next in line."

Students React With Shock and Confusion As Rabin Assassination Hits Close to Home

BY CARL HOCHHAUSER

It was a scene repeated hundreds of times in shuls across the New York area. Right before *mincha* on Shabbos afternoon, rumors began to circulate that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had been assassinated. Possibly even more disturbing was a report that his murderer was a religious Jew. Unable to learn more until after Havdala, Jews waited impatiently until they were able to turn on CNN and find out the full story.

On campus, many students returned to Washington Heights after Shabbat and headed straight for the Morg lounge to watch the news and debate its implications. Though many were visibly upset at the death of Israel's head of state, the idea that the architect of Israel's military victories should be slain by one of his own was even more upsetting.

Isaac Zimmerman, YC sophomore, remarked that "just because you disagree doesn't give you the right to kill him. Political disputes should not devolve into physical confrontations, especially of this kind."

Some students were saddened by a look at the bigger picture. Menachem Levine quoted his rebbe, Rav Meir Twersky, as saying that "this is our worst nightmare." Levine added that the *chillul Hashem* that this will generate is beyond measure, so it is incumbent upon the Orthodox world to denounce the assassination with all of our power. The



Students gather to recite tehilim in memory of Rabin

world will perceive that a person who ostensibly stands for Torah values is capable of committing such a heinous crime. Yet in truth, this should not disparage the religious community since "Yigal Amir isn't really one of us. Being religious doesn't mean wearing *Tzitzit* and a *kippa*. It means keeping all 613 mitzvot. Pretty high up on the list is the prohibition against murder," concluded Levine.

Lance Corporal J.J. Sussman, SSSB senior and former member of the Israeli Defense Force's Artillery Corps maintained that the incident hit close to home. "It especially pained me that a fellow *hesdernik* could commit such a crime

and pervert *halacha* to the point where he feels that he can mete out punishment to someone that he deems worthy of the death penalty."

But not everyone shared such disdain for the killer. On Saturday night one student reported that he heard others running down the hall celebrating Rabin's death and praising his killer. Another student commented that although Rabin's death was not positive, it would "not be terrible" if the murder ultimately halts the peace process.

Mashgiach Ruchani Rav Yosef Blau, who was present at the time, exploded with anger at this student. Students gathered around Rav Blau to hear his views

on the matter and why he felt so strongly that this student was wrong.

Many students also waited with baited breath for their respective rebbeim to speak about the assassination. Students listened with rapt attention to Dr. Lamm's eulogy on Monday, and read speeches (received over the Internet) given in Israel by Rav Yehuda Amital, and Rav Shlomo Aviner.

Andrew Wurzbarger, YC junior, said, "it's really good to see that when a major event like this occurs in the Jewish community, *talmidim* are anxious to hear what their *rebbeim* have to say. People wanted to hear the Torah approach on the issue and why Amir's action was *halachically* invalid."

Conciliatory comments about the murder did not bother only Rav Blau. Ari Eckman, YC Sophomore, said that it was bad enough that a Jew murdered another Jew. "But what makes matters worse is that some Jews are actually happy that one of our own was killed."

YC Senior Eytan Marcus also condemned Amir, but warned against making Rabin into a martyr. "We shouldn't let this incident sway our opinions on this situation as a whole, nor change our convictions, many of them religiously grounded." Marcus also related that someone in his Israeli Politics class got up and said that it was understandable that Rabin was killed. By acting as a "dictator," this student argued, and denying people a political outlet for their views, he sealed his own fate.

Rebbeim React to Assassination

continued from page one

"they [the religious Jews] learn Torah, and this is what it leads to!"

Right Wing Zionists to Blame?

Many Roshei Yeshiva - beginning with **President Lamm** - assigned blame for the assassination to ultra-right wing Zionists and Rabbonim who escalated a heated political debate over the peace process into a personal hatred of Rabin.

"There is something awfully wrong," declared **Rav Yehudah Parnes**, "with a modern, religious, Zionist Chinuch that teaches that giving up a piece of land is the end of the world."

"Those who spoke against him [Rabin] should have been more careful with what they said," asserted **Rav Abba Bronspiegel**, "A Rav in Brooklyn said it's a mitzva to kill him. No one can use a halacha to kill someone."

Rav Soloveitchik was even more adamant in assigning blame.

"[The assassination] is the fault of the Rabbonim and Roshei Yeshiva who do not hammer into the minds of their students that murder is the most abominable thing."

In fact, members of the administration and Public Relations department at YU are concerned that the image of YU, and of Modern Orthodoxy in general, will be irrevocably tarnished by being associated with Yigal Amir, a former student at Kerem B'Yavneh, and Baruch Goldstein, a former student at YU.

"We must establish beyond any shadow of a doubt," exclaimed **Rav Blau**, "that we do not condone killing. If we are perceived by the Jewish community as a hotbed of crazies then our ability to be a significant force is diminished."

In fact, members of the Anglo-Jewish press were snooping around YU's uptown campus last week trying to find students who support the assassination in order to paint an unsavory picture of YU. According to **Rav Blau**, these writers met with success as a few students "went to the *Jewish Week* and reported that before the assassination, if you supported the peace process you couldn't open your mouth in YU."

Rabbeim who held long-standing opposition to Rabin's policies were insulted that they would be blamed for his death and insisted that the assassination has no bearing on their views of Rabin and his government.

Rabin Not a Tzaddik

"There is a qualitative difference between protest and assassination," declared **Rav Moshe Tendler**. "Intemperate language does not lead to killing somebody. Not among moral, ethical people."

Nonetheless, Tendler felt it necessary to cancel a Sunday engagement in which he was to deliver a eulogy for **Rabbi Meir Kahane**.

"I felt it wasn't the right time," explained **Tendler**, "It would be spitting in the face [of Jews mourning Rabin's death]."

Rav Tendler maintained that while Rabin certainly did not deserve to die, his government still made several mistakes which must be accounted for.

"The Rabin government decided to crush the opposition using classic to-

talitarian techniques. His [Rabin's] response to the settlers' civil disobedience was to 'break their bones'. His government controlled the press, radio, police, courts - they declared a military emergency."

Rav Tendler pointed to police charging peaceful demonstrations on Dagan Hill in Efrat, as well as holding up buses headed to Jerusalem for protests. Tendler also criticized the Rabin government for giving up "too much, too fast" and for shrouding the details of the Oslo agreements in secrecy. And even while lauding the Israeli government as "the greatest supporter of Torah education", Tendler declared that "the error was never made by me to treat Rabin as a Rosh Yeshiva."

"I did not consider him [Rabin] a leader of Israel," said **Rav Bronspiegel**, "He was no tzaddik. If you say Zt'l (the memory of a righteous man is a blessing) on him, then on whom can you not say Zt'l?"

Rav Bronspiegel was referring to a tribute ad by the American Jewish Committee which appeared in the *New York Times*. The ad, which offended many religious Jews, called Rabin a Tzaddik.

Rav Meir Goldwicht quoted from the "Song of Peace" which Rabin sang at the Peace Now rally shortly before his death.

"No song of praise or victory will avail us. Therefore, sing only a song of peace. Don't whisper a prayer - sing aloud a song of peace."

"It is forbidden to sing this song," **Rav Goldwicht** told the students.

Rav Hershel Reichman, who is well known for his activism in Israeli politics, refused to comment on the assassination, citing the "emotions of the moment" as not conducive to proper discussion. Other rabbeim, who refused to be quoted on the record, openly called Rabin a traitor to the Jewish people and referred to the fact that it was **Yitzhak Rabin** who gave the orders to sink the *Altalena*, an Irgun ship carrying aid to Palestine in 1948.

"He was the master of political assassinations," declared one Rosh Yeshiva.

All Rabbeim, however, insisted that Rabin did not deserve to die and that nothing that he did gave anyone a reason to kill him. If some rabbeim were adamant in their dislike of Rabin, others could see no fault in the slain leader, calling him "today's equivalent of a Jewish King" and asking that the 12th of Cheshvan be declared a fast day on the Jewish calendar. **Rabbi Lamm**, at his eulogy in Lamport auditorium, called Rabin "a great man" and one of "noble nefesh."

Rav **Aharon Soloveitchik** recalled a warm relationship with Rabin and maintained that he was always treated with respect and personal deference. In a 1993 meeting he warned Rabin: "Mr. Prime Minister, there are those who acquire their World [to come] in one hour and there are those who lose it in one hour. In 1967 when you captured Jerusalem, you paved the way for thousands of students to gravitate to the Western Wall and become Ba'alei Tshuva. When you began this peace process, you risk losing it all. Go back on it, Mr. Prime Minister, go back on it."

LETTERS

To the Editor

Destroy AEPi? Destroy Its Causes First.

To The Editor:

A few students have the impression that I had great difficulty in deciding what to do with the AEPi issue. I hope that everyone now realizes that I unequivocally oppose the fraternity, since its existence on campus certainly threatens the unique ideals and atmosphere of this school. Nevertheless, AEPi fills a vacuum that current student groups do not. Any stance against AEPi is useless without first uprooting the conditions that led to its inception.

Why should we consider the needs of potential AEPi members at all? As one person who came over to me put it, "They're animals. They don't belong here at all!" That is a troubling attitude to take towards fellow Jews whose very presence at YU evinces their interest in furthering their ties to *Yahadus*. Besides, like it or not, they are already here. The presence of a large, well organized force of disaffected group of students such as AEPi is inherently destabilizing. Given that any AEPi request for recognition would now be refused by a united Council, the urgency to confront the needs of those students is greater than ever. We must rectify the atmosphere which originally led a band of YU students to consider forming it at all.

YU has been called "one big fraternity," yet some here remain outside this *chevrah*. Some have different sources of inspiration, different goals, different priorities, and different outlooks. A noticeable minority feel that student leaders, teachers, and others simply do not understand what kind of problems they face, or do not care. Students in the apartments feel distanced from the campus. Announcements of student events just cannot be put up in an apartment building lobby as they are in Rubin Hall. A disproportionate number of apartment dwellers never handed in their forms for this year's *Guide*. Not every apartment resident would run to join AEPi, but that sense of detachment from the main student body leaves too much room for temptation. Moreover, students in the dorms can also feel as though they live at a distance, even if they live in the bowels of Morg. Although no student should be left outside our *chevrah*, many still are.

AEPi also holds the lure of a well-developed commercial network, giving students contacts for jobs. Arguably, the readily available professional contacts are the real motivation behind the decision to join AEPi. This last issue only highlights our need to expand the Career Services Office and strengthen our ties with YU alumni through such means as the Big Brother program that was initiated last year.

The Aalienation problem is a bit trickier to solve. Rav Kahn has suggested that we hire more *Mashgichim*. The *Shoalim U'Meishivim* program has already proved its worth by helping a number of people adjust to YU life, inside and outside the Beis Medrash. Our President, **Josh Fine**, has started appointing apartment liaisons to help those outside Rubin, Muss, and Morg distribute the Guides, and, more generally, "keep in touch." Volunteers are still needed. If you are interested, please call 781-9886. Fine has also offered the "Apartment Guys" the chance to form their own club. Perhaps that is another way to go...

We must remember that any solution should strive to unite the campus, not split it into newer and smaller factions. A *chavrusah* program, pairing IBC, JSS, and SOY students, would help break down the perceived barriers which divide them.

Are there more solutions out there? I think so.

There is a Talmudic aphorism, that the cure is created before the disease. We can be sure that the solutions for problems such as alienation already exist in the hearts and minds of the students of Yeshiva. All of us must work together to solve them, since they are problems that trouble us all equally. These problems will not go away if simply ignored. Ad hominem attacks are pointless unless they are backed up with solid efforts to address these problems. For all the rhetoric unleashed in the past few months, virtually no action has been taken. The only way to destroy AEPi is to root out its causes. As long as they exist, an AEPi will come again. Only next time, our neglect will have made it larger and stronger.

Dov Simons, Vice-President
YCSC '95-'96

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<http://www.shamash.nysernet.org/naolc/commie/>

LETTERS

To the Editor

Problems Worsen In the Wake of Rabin's Murder

To the Editor:

Saturday November 4, 1995 will go down in Jewish history as a day of infamy. My statement is not meant to have political or religious implications, it is my natural reaction to the assassination of the Jewish Prime Minister. On Saturday night, when I heard those fateful words uttered by the newscaster, my immediate reaction was one of profound shock and intense pain. I recalled thinking to myself, "How could the Israeli Prime Minister be murdered by a fellow Jew?" After such sacrifice was spent defending the state of Israel, this is what happens to us? Can it be that Israel, the holy land, is now the same as any other unstable Arab regime? Awed by my immediate intense reaction, I began contemplating the meaning of the act on both a political and personal level.

While I am no dove and never had professed to being a supporter of Rabin, at the very least I respected his esteemed military career and placed a degree of trust in his decisions. Furthermore, whether one agreed or disagreed with Rabin, he nevertheless was the elected Prime Minister of Israel, the most important Jewish secular leader in the world. I still find it difficult to emotionally accept that a Jewish fundamentalist, acting like people from all fundamentalist sects across the world, assassinated Rabin, an act so evil and divisive I at first questioned the sanity of the murderer. I had a difficult time attempting to register and to put into perspective what had just occurred. While I couldn't yet translate my emotions to words, I knew that one thing was for sure. Israel, as I had known it all of my life, was changed forever. The concept of universal Jewish Achdut in which the nation had first been founded on would be forever lost.

While hearing about Yigal Amir's assassination of Rabin may have shocked me at first, I must say that after gaining my bearings, I wasn't completely surprised. Amir's fatal act was the result of a schism of Israel between the religious and Pro-land Nationalists and the mostly irreligious pro-peace Secularists. It stemmed from an argument about returning parts of our inherited land, an emotionally volatile topic dealing with the return of parts of our ancestral homeland, land that much blood was spilt over. The Right's calling Rabin such obscenities as: traitor, murderer, and a Nazi created a tense and dangerous environment. Following the assassination, my only question is whether or not the bridge between the religious and secular has grown irreconcilably wide. It does not take Oliver Stone to realize Amir, was not a lone insane gunman who took out his psychosis on the world, rather, he was a sane, rational young man who was indoctrinated with a Jewish notion of Jihad. We Americans, who worship the Holy Dollar, tend to dis-

miss all political and religious assassinations and acts of violence as being irrational and inherently evil. Yet, according to Eastern traditional fundamentalism, Amir's act was a necessary means in order to halt the peace process. Amir was indoctrinated with a panacea of violent rhetoric by extremist leaders and Rabbis in the Shtachim, who by threatening and calling Rabin inflammatory names dehumanized him setting up the inevitable scenario of an individual taking up their pleas into his own hands. Thus, Amir was an appendage of an ideological sect of Israelis; those who believe that protection of their land is paramount, even if it costs the life of their own leader.

Undoubtedly, many secularist Israelis are calling for a purge of the far Right nationalists, who they feel should all pay the price for Rabin's murder. However, while I may agree with a curtailing of public inflammatory and threatening remarks by Nationalists toward government (there is no First Amendment in Israel) for their own safety, I believe that punishing the Rightists will only exacerbate the situation. What good will come from further infighting within Israel? More Assassinations? Civil War? I call upon the secularists to push aside their call for vengeance and attempt to work out an immediate compromise with the Right. The government should attempt to come up with a contingency plan for those settlers to who will be losing their homes. This tragedy should serve as a catharsis for all Israelis, a sober reminder of the evils of disunity and fanaticism. If the country continues to be in this virtual state of civil war, the peace process soon will be meaningless because, we will be handing away all of Israel to the Arabs.

The assassination of Prime Minister Rabin will go down in history as an infamous act attempting to tear apart Israel at its core. Similar to the belief of the Saccarides two thousand years before him, Yigal Amir felt that his violent zealotry was sanctioned by G-d. We, as religious Jews in Yeshiva University must send Amir an abundantly clear message. No act of political violence, whether it be cloaked in the name of G-d or not, will be tolerated. Amir is a cold-blooded murderer who with one shot of a pistol may have wiped out the land of Israel as we know it. His extremist action aided no one as the peace process will continue under the more liberal Peres. Now, confrontations between religious and non-religious will no longer have even a modicum of restraint. The true irony here is that while Amir's murder of Rabin was an attempt to improve the situation for the religious who were opposed to Rabin's peace plan, the direct result of his action, unfortunately, will in fact be the opposite.

-Daniel Anziska

Remember Ahavat Yisroel

To the Editor:

Hours after Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated, I found myself discussing the situation with one of my students.

"How did you react when you heard the news," I asked her.

"I wasn't sure how to react," she answered. "I didn't know - is it good or bad?"

I was speechless. How could a yeshiva high school student not know how to react to this atrocity? How could the killing of a Jew by a Jew in any way be a "good" thing?

Unfortunately this student was not alone. Students of all ages throughout yeshiva day schools reacted with similar confusion.

Why? How could this be? One thing is for sure: these students are not to blame. Nor is it merely the fault of the boiling political atmosphere that has permeated our world since the peace talks in Israel began. Rather, it is the fault of the leadership and education within the Jewish community that has led to a confusion about a most fundamental aspect of Judaism - Ahavat Yisrael, the love of a Jew for a fellow Jew.

The day Rabin was killed we read in the weekly Torah portion, Lech-Lecha, that G-d appointed Avraham to be a light among nations. Avraham was told that through him and through his children, the world would be filled with blessing. Along similar lines, the last mishna in the Talmud teaches that in G-d's eyes the only vessel of blessings in this world is peace. Commentators on this mishna explain that all blessings in the world are rendered null and void if there is no peace. And the mishna is certainly not referring to peace with the P.L.O., but rather peace within ourselves, within our own family.

This terrible event is unparalleled in our recent history. The last time a Jewish political leader was killed because

of his political beliefs, was after the destruction of the first Temple. Gedalya ben Achiyakam was killed by a Jew for his attempts to reconcile with the Babylonian enemy. His assassination, a dark event in our history, led to the Jews being kicked out of Israel for good: Jews now still fast each year on the anniversary of that day, marking not only the end of Jewish existence in Israel at that time, but the moral and spiritual destruction of the Jewish people.

While watching the news on the morning of Rabin's funeral, I heard the siren that rang throughout Israel marking a moment of silence for the slain leader. It was not an unfamiliar sound. I closed my eyes and recounted all the times I had heard that same grave siren during my many visits to Israel. On Yom HaZikaron, Israeli Veteran's Day, the siren screams for a moment of silence for the Israeli soldiers who died fighting against Israel's enemies. On Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, the siren screams for a moment of silence for the six million Jews who perished at the hands of the nazis. During the Gulf War the siren screamed out a warning to take shelter from our enemy's missiles. And today, the siren is screaming for the evil that occurred from within.

We as Jews have an eternal responsibility to carry on the mission we were given at our inception as a people, to spread blessings throughout the world. And when we fail to do that, our existence becomes meaningless. At this low point in our history, we must now put all our efforts into raising our spiritual, moral low by teaching Ahavat Yisrael along with our basic tenets of morality, and by doing so attempt to rebuild our now tainted name as the light among nations.

Yitzy Schechter
YC'92 RIETS'97 FGS'98

Stern Hosts Sy Syms Shabbaton

BY EZRA GENAUER

The first Sy Syms School of Business Shabbaton in over two years was held on the weekend of November 4 at the midtown campus. There were thirty uptown students and over 50 downtown students in attendance, and many other had to be turned away due to space constraints.

The weekend's main attraction was Rabbi Neil Fleishman, who has been labeled one of New York's funniest Rabbis. Fleishman gave inspirational yet entertaining divrei torah on Shabbos, and hilarious stand-up comedy *motzei* Shabbos. Also in attendance was YU Smicha student Moshe Shapiro who acted as host Rabbi, delivering the speech in shul on shabbos and supplying a *halacha* shiur after Mincha.

The entire uptown Sy Syms Student Council board attended the Shabbaton along with Downtown President Barbara Pollack. The Shabbaton was designed to give all participants the op-

portunity to get to know other Sy Syms students in less pressured atmosphere than their usual schedules allow.

"I don't usually have a chance to meet new people at most student council events because I'm constantly running after a recruiter or administrator of some kind," said Jerry Blugrind, an SSSB participant on the Shabbaton. The careful planning of the event by presidents Wald and Pollack led to a smooth running and relaxing weekend.

The announcement of the Rabin assassination late Shabbos afternoon dampened the spirit of the event, but the close camaraderie of the group made the shock easier to handle. Motzei Shabbos found the group closely watching CNN to get the latest details on the breaking story.

Because of the success of the event, preliminary work is underway for a follow-up Shabbaton during the spring semester. With the planning being done so early, student leaders hope to make space available to all students who wish to attend.

Management Prevents Prolonged Union Strike

continued from page one

The final agreement was the culmination of a week which saw YU's campuses come alive with union members staging demonstrations and a week which was replete with miscommunication and accusations. A union strike approved for Monday, November 6, forced the administration to schedule a marathon negotiating session with the union at 6 p.m. Sunday evening, a session which ultimately lasted through the wee hours of the night, ending at 7:30 Monday morning. The haggard and exhausted negotiators from both sides emerged from the Belfer Hall conference room for breakfast with a tacit agreement on a "no layoff" clause for twenty percent of the union members, with the remainder of employees joining the significant job security fund of the City's League of Voluntary Hospitals. Pay raises and other aspects of the contract as finally signed were ironed out early that morning, too.

The night had been filled with raucous debate during the union and administration caucuses which punctuated the face-to-face dialogue. In developing the twenty percent figure, both sides followed the lead of the contract recently signed by union workers at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. But union members were concerned that the administration was trying to divide its employees by asking them to choose who would receive "no layoff" status. In the final agreement, pure seniority is the deciding factor in the selection of the 118 protected employees.

Between 7:30 and noon that Monday, union leaders contacted their lawyers at the union's national office and discovered that there were some problems with the language of some of the clauses - one of which even the administration later realized was actually illegal - agreed upon earlier that morning. At the union meetings in Weissberg Commons on the Main Campus and at Stern and Cardozo, union members who had not attended the session were informed that Gerald Bodner, YU's labor counsel, had added "a meaningless provision into the contract" that would be "impossible to implement." The disagreement surrounded the legality of the percentages of YU personnel joining the League of Voluntary Hospitals fund. Circulating a flyer with the words "Bod-

ner Lied" covering an outline of the job security package, organizers urged the workers to take a job action to show the administration their solidarity.

After the two-hour meeting, the union, whose Main Campus members had previously voted 201-24 to strike on November 6, if there was no contract by then, initiated a full work stoppage until 6 p.m. The administration had prepared for the likelihood of a strike and had already hired "scabs" to work the cafeterias during the busy dinner period. At a Student Life Committee meeting on Thursday, November 2, administration representatives had floated the idea of asking student leaders and other volunteers to help serve meals in the cafeterias, but YCSC President Josh Fine had adamantly balked at the notion. Library officials, too, had developed a contingency plan in the event that over half the library staff would not return after lunch hour.

Parading up and down the streets of the Main Campus in the early November frost, the workers alleged management deviousness and vociferously chanted their desire for a contract. Dozens of students' heads poked out of the dormitory windows upon hearing the din to observe the commotion as union members marched triumphantly by, occasionally jeering management officials standing agog on the sidewalk. A sleepy David Rosen, Director of Public Relations and a member of the administration's negotiating committee, expressed genuine surprise at the turn of events; management was under the impression that the union had been satisfied with the outcome of the negotiating session that had ended that morning.

In private conversations with administration negotiators, union organizers discussed the problems with the proposals and a negotiating session was scheduled for Thursday night, November 9. On Tuesday and Wednesday, union members used their lunch hour to protest in different locations on campus but never approved another work stoppage. They did, however, campaign to win the support of students and professors by handing out copies of the union's position. Additional pressure was put on the administration when the union began organizing a demonstration for Sunday morning outside Belfer Hall in order to influence prospec-



tive students and parents on campus for Open House. But on Thursday night, the first proposal the administration threw out on the table - 118 of the 325 workers receive "no layoff" status while the rest get supported by a YU layoff support fund - was immediately accepted by the union members in attendance and the seventh and final negotiating session came to a close at a respectful 11 p.m.

The new contract has been applauded by most union members, who view the introduction of any "no layoff" clause as an important step. In fact, such a concept, of only recent genesis, is becoming increasingly common. Last week, New York City teachers accepted a "no layoff" contract with no raises for the next two years. According to Director of Supporting Service Administration Jeffrey Rosengarten, the co-chief negotiator for management, productivity of the works should not be

affected because the "no layoff" clause only prevents firing employees to save money if YU were to face a door-closing debt situation. Under this contract, however, workers are still subject to disciplinary action and firings due to indecent or unsatisfactory behavior.

Sitting in his office the morning after, a relieved Rosengarten characterized the negotiating sessions as being "in a very good spirit of understanding and compassion." He commended the twenty members of the negotiating committee for approaching the sessions with much enthusiasm and sobriety and noted that on that long Sunday night and Monday morning he knew that a final agreement wouldn't be reached: "I didn't sense that people were ready to come to an agreement. After all, negotiating is a human, emotional process."

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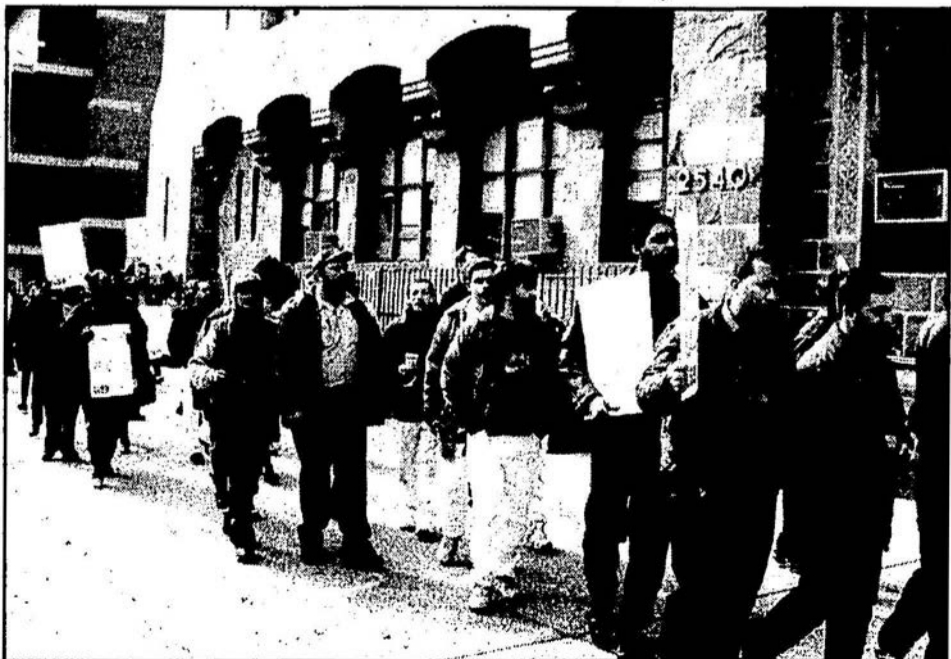
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A Message from the Yeshiva College Student Life Committee

Five Dollar Shabbos Deadline Extended

Dear Students,

Shabbos in Yeshiva, thus far, has been extremely wonderful and rewarding. As we look forward to spending more shabbatot together, we need your assistance to ensure the success of a new system. The deadline for the Shabbat Enhancement Program's reduced student rate of \$5.00, will be extended until Thursday morning, 1:00AM. Until Friday afternoon at 1:30 pm, anyone who signs up will be charged \$10; after that, anyone who comes for the meals without having signed up at all will be charged \$20. This new system is only for a trial period. We **strongly urge** you to sign up early in the week. In order that we don't revert back to the "old" prices, we ask for your cooperation.

* We understand that in some extreme cases, individuals may not know their plans for shabbat until the last moment, and have therefore tried our best to accommodate them.

Thank you,

Rabbi Jeffrey Chartoff
Assistant Dean of Students

Mr. David Merklin
JSS President

Mr. Hillel Cohen
SOY President

Dr. Efrem Nulman
Dean of Students

Mr. Joshua Fine
YCSC President
Chairman, Student Life Committee

Mr. Bernard Pittensky
Director of Finances

Mr. Richard Grossman
IBC President

Mr. Jeffrey Rosengarten
Director of Supporting
Service Administration

Mr. David Hember
Associate Dean of Students

Mr. Sam Wald
SSSBSA President

Cross Country 1995-96 A "Wash Out" Season

BY STAN WATSON

The anticipation leading to this year's Yeshiva Cross Country Team has failed to reach fruition after bad weather, untimely injuries, and lack of commitment led to two forfeit wins versus Poly Tech University and Pratt Institute. The Mt. St. Vincent and St. Joseph's College Meets were rained out while the annual IAC Conference race- Halloween 4th Annual Invitational Oct. 29, 1995- resulted in a disappointing fifth place (of seven team) finish. The final race was a forfeit for Yeshiva, due to an incomplete team.

Akiva Davis, who enjoyed a fine final running season, ran an excellent 35:06 (21:12 3 mile split) for his outstanding

finish to a stellar three year career.

Davis' efforts, along with co-captain Michael Resnick's and co-captain Chaim Motzen, the Montreal marathoner who ran a 3:25 for 26.2 miles (same distance as NYC marathon), contributed to a strong Yeshiva race. Gili Houpt trained but failed to place in the race.

Other helpful harriers to the runners this season were: Adam Leibowitz, Jonathan Lipschutz, and Gil Goldschein. A special salute to Mike Zelnitz who showed great responsibility and resilience. Josh Epstein and Ari Rockoff suffered injuries which limited their running abilities. And promising senior Steve (Meir) Zeitchik was unable to repeat his last year's fine showing.

Hockey Intramurals: Week Three *continued from page sixteen*

Week 3

Lawrence 6 Lieber 5

Lawrence Lawrence Lawrence Lawrence Lawrence

In a high scoring duel played without Captain Oren Lieber, Larry picked up his third win of the season. Larry scored twice and Shmuli Spigel added another to put Larry ahead 3-0 after one. After a goal by Lieber's team, Larry added another to make it 4-1. Yussi Grunberg scored a shorthanded goal and Howie Paskowitz scored early in the third to slice the lead to 4-3. After Larry scored again off his own rebound to make it 5-3, two late goals by Paskowitz and Mike Kule forced the first overtime. Three minutes into the second overtime, Larry's fifth goal of the game was the game-winner, keeping his team undefeated.

Mauskopf 3 Bennett 2

Great goaltending by Dan Leffel and

along-distances slapshot late in the game helped Mauskopf's team prevail. Mauskopf opened the scoring for his team midway through the first with a power play goal. Andrew Bronfeld made it 2-0 scoring on a great individual effort; stealing the puck at mid-court, he fought off two defenders and beat the goaltender between the legs. At the end of the second period Bennett scored to cut the lead to 2-1. Late in the third, Bennett tied the game batting in a puck that had caromed off the back wall. But, with 16 seconds left Mauskopf beat the goaltender on a full-court slap shot to win the game, their second of the early season.

Standings

Leading Goal Scorers:

Larry-9, Mauskopf-5, Goldman-5, Bennett-4, Paskowitz-3, Bronfeld-2, Wolfson-2

YU Students Participate in Model United Nations at Penn

BY MICHAEL J. BELGRADE

Sixteen students from Yeshiva and Stern Colleges represented their school and the country of Egypt at the University of Pennsylvania Model United Nations Conference (UPMUNC) this past weekend.

The YU contingent was plagued with a similar problem they had faced in the past - their inability to participate in the three sessions which took place on Shabbat. Indeed, last year several YU students advanced arguments that YU should refrain from attending because of their limitations.

But despite the obstacle, two members of the YU contingent, Yosef Rothstein and Elizabeth Renna, still man-

aged to walk away with an "honorable mention," and two other students drafted a resolution which passed the General Assembly.

This year's Stern head delegate Ellie Wohlgemuth and YC head delgate Meir Zeitchik at the last minute raised the option of buying food for Shabbat, davening at a shul nearby and staying in the hotel with the conference rather than spending Shabbat at nearby UPenn, as had been done in previous years. Many delegates were concerned, however, with potential halachic difficulties, like the electronic key system at the hotel, as well as the spirit of Shabbat and the perception from the non-Jewish and non-religious schools. They voted to travel to Penn.

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SPORTS

Midnight Madness: Basketball Intramurals

BY JONATHAN NEISS

As the intramural season rolls forward, the competitive level of play has continued. To this point, Grossman's Clippers and Friedman's 76ers are the undefeated teams in the league, while Croatia is the only squad which has yet to win through four weeks of play.

WEEK # 3

LAKERS 50 N. J. TURNPIKES 43

Despite playing without captain Adam Melzer, the Turnpikes led by Steve Mandel (15 points) and Mark Goldberg (14 points) kept the game close throughout. Lakers' Co-captains David Samet and Avi Wachsmann, combined for 21 points, while Josh Elstein added 10 points for the Lakers in their first win of the season.

CLIPPERS 48 CROATIA 39

Grossman's Clippers dominated the match from the opening tip. Tough defense by the All-Syrian team including the scoring efforts of David Waknin (7 points) and Dweck (11 points) did not suffice as Clipper forwards Eckman, Engel, Bennett and Welfeld combined for 42 of the team's 48 total points.

CELTICS 41 RAPTORS 38

This game featured exciting and competitive play as the Celtics outlasted the Raptors for the victory. Poor clutch foul shooting by the Celtics nearly enabled the Raptors to steal the game. Doni Glatt scored 14 and Ari Rockoff 10 for the Celtics. Not to be overlooked was the performance of Raptor Andrew Wurzbarger, who scored 14 points in a losing effort.

KNICKS 59 WARRIORS 50

The Warriors grabbed an early lead, but an aggressive Knicks team took

control of the game and achieved their first victory of the season. Once again Knicks center Daniel Lowe powered his way for 13 points, while Daniel Blank and Aaron Solomon had key contributions for the Knicks as well. David Wild's 16 points were not enough for the Warriors who fell to 1-1.

Week # 4

CLIPPERS 64 WARRIORS 53

After falling behind early, the Warriors made a valiant effort to comeback but fell short. Strong performances by Engel and Welfeld sparked the undefeated Clippers. David Wild led the scoring for the Warriors.

76ERS 52 CROATIA 37

Friedman's Sixers dominated the game from the start on route to their third win of the season. At times the fiery Croatia team clearly looked over-matched, most notably by the superb play of guards Hillel Olshin and Jake Goldberg who were the scoring leaders for the Sixers.

KNICKS 59 GRIZZLIES 50

At the beginning of the second half, the Knicks found themselves trailing by 8 with the Grizzlies in control. Ten minutes later, the Knicks led by Donnie Blank (15 points), Eitan Butler (12 points) and the defense of Ezra Cohen got their act together and took over the game in victory.

LAKERS 50 RAPTORS 35

Close at the start, this match up turned into a blowout highlighted by a minor altercation which resulted in ejections, fines, and one game suspensions for those who participated in the brawl. In the game itself, Avi Wachsmann and Dave Levine played well for the Lakers, and Sam Wald led the scoring for the Raptors with 17 points.

Macs Preseason Underway

BY DANIEL WOLFSON

If you are in the weight room on Sunday evenings and Thursday nights, you might see something very unusual - the Yeshiva Maccabees are on a weight lifting program. That's right, newly acquired assistant coach Evan Goldstein has implemented a "semi-mandatory" weight lifting session twice a week for this year's basketball team.

With only one week remaining until their season opener against Emerson College on Sunday Nov. 19 at 1:00pm, the Mac's are continuing to practice ten hours a week.

The Mac's opened their pre-season with a scrimmage against Manhattanville College. The Mac's were far from mid-season form, but, showed signs of excellence during their three halves of scrimmage. Alon Zaibert drained sev-

eral buckets from downtown and proved that he can play in a transition game.

Although he got off to a slow start, swingman Brian Wein showed signs of improvement. And Captain Alan Levy, as always, was a force inside.

With one more scrimmage left before the home opener, the Mac's will continue to work hard toward what they hope will be a successful season.

Notes and Quotes:

-Alon Zaibert is still bothered by a sore thumb.

-Point guard Barry Aranoff sprained his pinkie.

-Freshman Center Alex Shakhmurov is bothered by a sore ankle.

-Mazel Tov to ex-Mac Daniel Aaron upon his wedding last week.

-The season opens on Sunday November 19th in the MSAC at 1:00pm.

Lawrence Leading the way in Hockey Intramurals

BY JONATHAN TIGER & WILLI DRAIARSH

Great goaltending and overtime thrillers marked weeks two and three of the Yeshiva Hockey Intramurals. Two more victories kept Larry's team undefeated, while Mauskopf hung tough posting a last-second victory over Bennett.

Week 2

Lieber 4 Bennett 3 (shootout)

Lieber posted his first victory of the season in an exciting overtime shootout. Marky Goldman scored three goals giving his team a 3-1 lead after two periods, until Mikey Kopps scored two third period goals to send the game into overtime. After two scoreless overtimes a shootout was employed to determine

the victor. Zack Schenker stopped all four shots he saw and Howie Paskowitz scored the game winner for Lieber's team.

Lawrence 2 Mauskopf 1

In a game with sparkling goaltending at both ends of the floor, Lawrence emerged victorious. Daniel Wolfson opened the scoring by converting on a pass from Larry past goaltender Daniel Leffel. The lead increased to 2-0 when Larry scored on a blast from the point. From here on in, goaltending was the story. Nothing got past goaltenders Leffel and Feldman until late in the third when Jeff Epstein poked in a rebound past Feldman to cut the lead to 2-1. That was all she wrote as Labe preserved the victory for his team.

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The Commentator

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