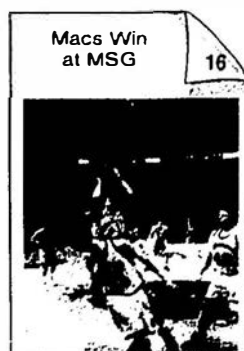


# Yeshiva University Commentator

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Official Undergraduate Newspaper of Yeshiva College

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## Special Report: Behind the Books of the Seforim Sale

BY NICOLAS MUZIN

There are a lot of seforim at the seforim sale. And not only seforim, but tapes, English books, religious articles - a total of 29,249 items in all. And that figure is just the tip of the iceberg, because an 'item' can include a 16-volume *shas*, and because the merchandise is constantly replenished during the three week sale. If everything goes as planned this year, the Seforim Sale and its parent establishment, the Student Organization of Yeshiva (SOY) could bring in almost one million dollars.

Although organizers insist that the Seforim Sale is not profit-oriented, one board member projected their net-profit at \$90,000, approximately \$20,000 of which will go to Tzedakah.

While the Seforim Sale started out as a way for Yeshiva students to purchase, at discount prices, seforim they need for their learning, it has expanded into a major New York City event which offers over 3200 titles, including children's books, CDs, computer software, and a variety of religious articles. Clearly it is no longer an event geared specifically to Yeshiva students.

"We opened it to the public in order to be able to serve the Yeshiva better," explains Avi Koenigsberg, Co-Chair of this year's Sale.

By catering to the rank and file seforim consumers, the Sale purchases in greater bulk and thus receives better discounts than they otherwise would. These bargain basement prices draw a crowd from all over the tri-state area. Synagogues and Jewish day schools from as far

as Hartford, Baltimore, and Philadelphia charter buses and arrange Sunday excursions to purchase seforim. Orders come regularly from Georgia, Tennessee, and Ontario, and from university students in Penn, Cornell and Columbia. Even other NYC bookstores order cases from the Seforim Sale, because their prices are so unbeatable. Koenigsberg brags that even after their "slight markup", the Seforim Sale still sells merchandise at least 25% cheaper than retail price. Furthermore, the Seforim Sale provides rebbeim, schools, and synagogues with a flat 5% discount.

"Which seforim store do you know that is this large?" Koenigsberg exclaims as he motions around the room on Belfer's fifth floor which houses the Sale. "Which seforim store do you know that sells 200 Stone (Artscroll) Chumashim in a year, let alone a month?"

The Seforim Sale has developed an extensive network, which is impressive even to business insiders. They are careful to respect their contacts, and vigorously refuse to disclose how much they pay for the merchandise. Daniel Davis, who chaired the Sale last year, recalls receiving a complaint from a distributor because he was selling a Soncino Gemarah on CD-ROM for \$200, while other stores were selling it for \$300. The distributor asked him to increase the markup because the Sale's prices were killing other dealers.

The huge discounts explain why the Seforim Sale has inspired jealousy from local Judaica stores, who report huge

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The blizzard which shut down the entire East Coast this past January also had its effects on Yeshiva College. Many students were forced to miss finals, and airport closings left out-of-towners stranded at YU's Main Campus for days.

## Upcoming Faculty Vote May Limit Outside Credit

### Proposal would lengthen students' stay on campus

BY STEVEN MIODOWNIK

This semester, groundbreaking legislation aimed at improving YU's academic standards is expected to be voted into effect, restricting the amount of credits students may claim from their senior years in high school, summer school courses, CLEP and other exemption tests, and years in Israel.

Student senators and professors on the Academic Standards Committee are intent on lengthening the stay of YU stu-

dents on campus, and hope a proposal for an "outside credit cap" will come to a vote of the full undergraduate faculty within the next few months. If such a law is then approved by President Lamm and the Board of Trustees, earning a YU degree in 2.5 years - a common feat for students returning to Israel for Shana Bet - would become considerably more difficult; the rule would prevent students from devising an elaborate graduation scheme involving high school AP test

scores, college exemption examinations, outside summer school credits, and 32 Israel credits in order to pass through YU's portals in five semesters. A grandfather clause would apply to current YU students and those currently enrolled in the Joint Israel Program.

The move to restrict outside credit on a grand scale follows last semester's abolishment of community college credit by the Academic Standards Committee, and is the outgrowth of

*continued on page 15*

## Union Employees Outraged Over Administration's Snow Policy

BY ARNON STORFER

Beginning on January 7th, more than two feet of snow fell on the New York Metropolitan area within 24 hours, rendering streets unnavigable, effectively shutting down public transportation and causing the governors of both New York and New Jersey to declare a state of emergency forbidding cars to venture onto the roads. For YU employees who missed work on January 8th, however, the excuse was not good enough. University management decided instead that employees would have to charge their vacation time in order to get paid. And while the last remnants of

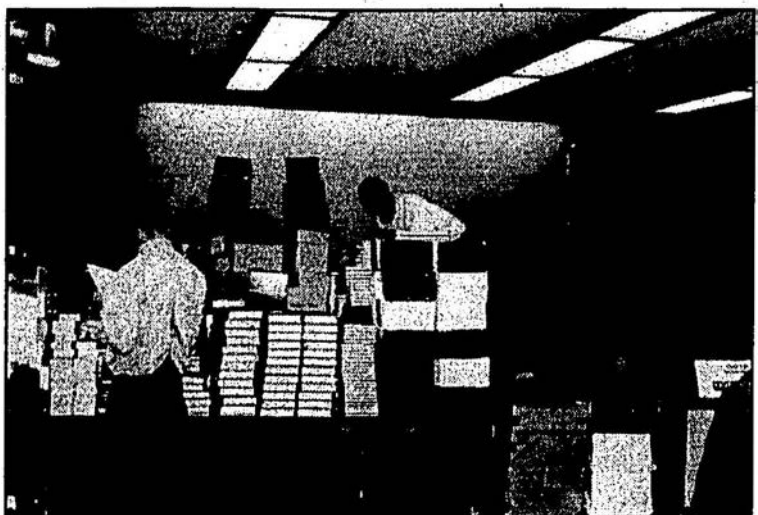
the Blizzard of 1996 melted into the Harlem River, Yeshiva University management and employees sparked a storm of their own.

The decision came by way of a memo from Personnel Manager Michael Sperling, after a week of indecision by upper management on the status of the day. Referring to the university's "Weather and Other Emergencies" policy adopted on December 3, 1990, the memo explained that the policy was instituted "for exactly the circumstances that existed last week."

The decision caused an uproar from union 1199 members. A number of members sent let-

ters of protest to management conveying their disgust and asking the university to reconsider its policy. Elma Smallwood-Homer, an employee in the YU Department of Development, argued that roads were closed as a result of the State of Emergency declared by Governors Pataki and Whitman of New York and New Jersey, respectively. Smallwood-Homer found it difficult to understand why she and her fellow workers should have been penalized for conditions beyond their control. Sylvia Santiago explained that she traveled to work from the Bronx on January 9 and 10 by foot, putting

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Seforim Sale staff preparing for the month long event

# The Commentator

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# LETTERS

## Achdus is the Key

I am writing to express my appreciation for the opinions conveyed by Joseph J. Sussman in your recent issue concerning the Madison Square Garden rally in memory of Yitzhak Rabin Z'l.

It was heartening to read Mr. Sussman's insightful comment that "it is our community whose hands are viewed as stained....hence, it is our community...who must make that extra effort to let others know that we deplore what took place." The leadership of American Orthodoxy, as exemplified by Dr. Norman Lamm and the leaders of the Orthodox Union, understood that

position, and that is why the rally was tailored to meet the sensitivities of our community and gained such widespread endorsement.

PostAmir, Orthodox Jews must demonstrate anew the deep respect that Religious Zionism has always accorded *Medinat Yisroel* as an important path toward the *Geula Shelema*. It was wonderful to see such sensitivity to this aspect of our belief expressed in your pages.

Sincerely yours,  
Morton Landowne  
Editor-in-Chief, The Commentator,  
1968-69

# Clearing My Name

I would like to make it clear that I voted against the current decision to ban community college summer schools from YU in receiving credit. While I told the Commentator that I understood the reasoning behind the bill, I still was against it.

Very simply, there are many reasons to keep summer school credit from community college. First of all, we have only accepted it from Freshmen and Sopho-

more Status students. Additionally, community college over the summer is substantially cheaper in price than a four year university (especially YU).

Finally, there are community colleges that offer excellent courses in specific fields specifically to gear one for full time university study. My suggestion would not be to cut accepting credit from every community college summer school program. Rather, both myself, and the members of the student committee on Aca-

*continued on next page*

# EDITORIALS.. EDITORIALS.. EDITORIALS...





## From the Editor's Desk

OWEN CYRULNIK

"Eisav will only fall by the hands of Yosef's descendants."

— Baba Basra 123b

"A son of fruitlessness is Yosef, a son of fruitlessness by a well..."

— Breishis 49:22

Yeshiva University is an enigma, a synthesis of opposing values and beliefs, an experiment in *Torah Umaddah*. A commitment to that synthesis is the essence of YU's appeal and fundamental to its continued endurance. That is not to say, however, that there is no sacrifice. The dangers of secularization and assimilation are both potent and imminent. This past week, however, during a *sichat mussar* in the Beis Midrash, *The Commentator* was attacked for allowing its journalistic secular values to cast a negative light on Yeshiva University. What our critics fail to realize is that such a blithe dismissal of secular values as incompatible with religion and spirituality robs Yeshiva of the institutional power which has allowed it to prosper.

Truthfully, however, Jewish History bears witness to this very same struggle. In fact, for *Chazal*, Yosef represents the very synthesis of the secular and the spiritual, the first Yeshiva University. Yosef was characterized by *chayn*, a property almost metaphysical in nature which endeared him to all those with whom he came in contact. And Yosef was well aware of his blessing; in fact, according to *Chazal* he was not shy of flaunting his beauty and of putting great emphasis upon its preservation, sometimes almost to absurd extremes. At times it seems as if Yosef was a shallow biblical character, forsaking the spiritual for the physical, obsessing on the details but ignoring the big picture.

Yosef's name, however, has been perpetuated through the generations as *Yosef HaTzaddik* - Yosef the righteous - because he managed to successfully synthesize his pagan, secular gifts with his spirituality - to channel his natural beauty and appeal for the greater good and the glorification of heaven. Yosef put the Tzaddik into Yavan and created Tzion; it was, in fact, his synthesis and integration which paved the way for the formation and shaping of a Jewish nation.

Yosef's gamble was dangerous but necessary. And the same gamble is necessary for Yeshiva University. Just as Yosef's obsession with his appearance might have deviated from the strict dictates of spirituality, that deviation was necessary for him to establish himself in the eyes of the world, to preserve his credibility. Yosef's position in Egypt might have entailed some assimilation,

but his position allowed him to do much for K'lal Yisroel.

So too, *The Commentator*. Our student newspaper and student councils are necessary to establish Yeshiva University as a legitimate institution in the eyes of the world; adherence to admittedly secular codes of journalistic values and ethics is just as essential. A story, for example, exposing students caught cheating in courses here at Yeshiva College is consistent with every conceivable tenet of journalistic integrity. And if this momentous revelation sheds a negative light on Yeshiva then so be it, because by so doing we strengthen the foundation upon which YU is built — we prove that YU really does have a serious commitment to the acceptable values of the secular sphere. It shows, most importantly, that our newspaper has a right to exist because we do not reject, out of hand and without consideration, the values of our profession.

Unfortunately, however, this argument is never recognized until it is too late. Yosef's brothers rejected his secularism out of hand; they perceived him as a danger to the Jewish people and they undertook to remove that danger from their midst. In the process, however, they committed a grave error. Yosef's intention was not to destroy a nation but to build one. Yosef was a true Tzaddik, he was able to synthesize the spiritual and the secular. And while Yosef's vision did endure in the end — the Jewish nation survived because of his vision — the course of Jewish history was irrevocably and tragically altered; the *galus mitzrayim*, Egyptian slavery, had become a necessity.

By rejecting, out of hand, values in which we earnestly believe, and by publicly and sarcastically denigrating decisions over which we agonize, our critics on the right, and specifically within the ranks of our respected Roshei Yeshiva do us a great disservice. More importantly, however, they fail to learn the lesson of history, instead choosing to repeat the tragic mistake of Yosef's brothers. Never do they engage us in a dialogue which is meaningful and based on mutual respect. They refuse to acknowledge the fundamental point that we share in common — a commitment to YU, even if we achieve that goal through variant means. By fighting us instead of guiding us, these rebbeim contribute to the problem instead of the solution. They promote divisiveness and dissension within our own YU community. Our critics fail to see the forest for the trees. Their zealous efforts threaten to destroy the very institution that they try so hard to protect.

*continued from page two*

demetic Affairs agreed that we should instead make a list of schools that are acceptable for credit and those not acceptable. There are many community colleges offering poor programs over the summer. At the same time, there are still good schools that should not have been banned.

Unfortunately, the majority of the Ac-

ademic Standards Committee did not feel the same way.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Belgrade  
Student Committee Co-chair  
Academic Standards



## Message From the YCSC President

"There is little hope for us until we become tough-minded enough to break loose from the shackles of prejudice, half truths, and downright ignorance."

— Martin Luther King Jr.

Racism is a part of American life and has been for over 200 years. Therefore, it is inevitable that racism should exist among all groups in our country, including among students at Yeshiva College.

I believe that it is incumbent upon our YC community to combat the prejudices that poison the minds of our students. As Jews, we can certainly understand the harsh effects of anti-Semitism on our people. Surely, we can find a parallel in and understand the harsh effects of racism on people of color.

I am proud that a few YC students have already begun to work on breaking down racist attitudes and on building a relationship with the children from the Dominican Republic residing in the surrounding Washington Heights community.

The YC Council on Racial Harmony brings together students from City College and YC to discuss Jewish-Black tensions. The Communal Literacy Club has been working with local junior high school students to help them improve their reading skills. Both of these initiatives are positive attempts to build bridges and alter attitudes.

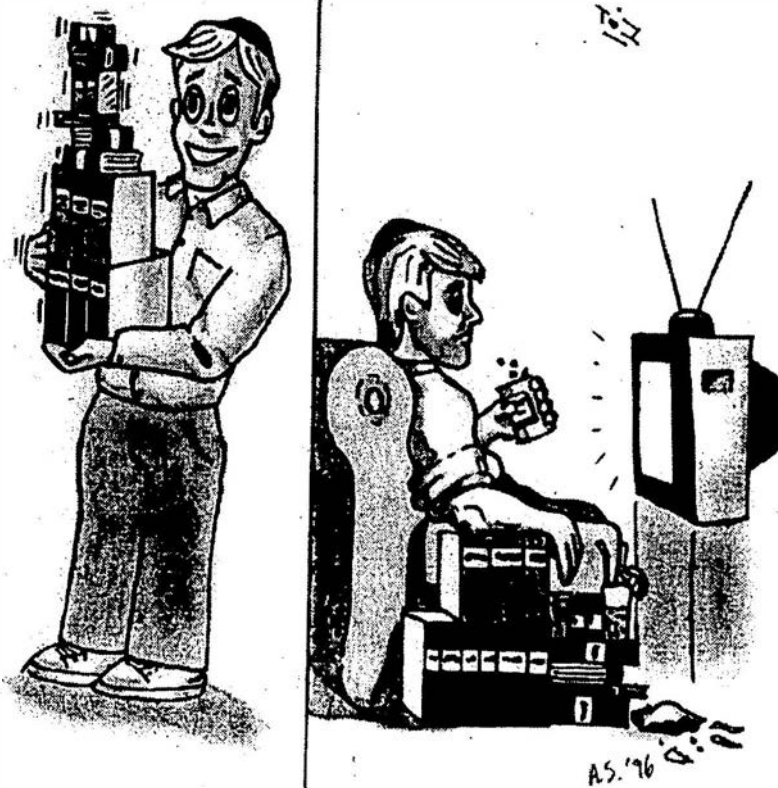
It is notable that to open our spring semester, on Monday evening January 22nd, in the Main Beis Medrash, our Mashgiach Ruchani, Rav Yosef Blau

Shlita, spoke out on "The Treatment of non-religious Jews and non-Jews." In order to further deepen our knowledge and sensitivity, on February 28th at 8 PM at the Rubin Shul, YU's Torah U-Madda Project, YCSC and the YC Council on Racial Harmony, will be sponsoring a student symposium on the topic of "The Concept of Am Ha-Nivchar and the Status of the Non-Jew." The featured speakers will be Eli Duker and Yair Silverman. The participation of students, faculty and administrators alike will be a major step in coming to grips with our attitudes towards others and hopefully will stimulate a process of introspection for all who attend.

I hope that we as Orthodox Jews will fully appreciate the unprecedented tolerance and opportunity which we have been afforded in this country. At the same time we must not shackle ourselves with the chains of intolerance. Our exposure to the growing racist atmosphere of our society should not overwhelm our more noble *midos*. While we must be for ourselves, that does not preclude compassion, understanding and acceptance of others.

Martin Luther King Jr. told us something that we need to hear anew. He said, "We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In the unfolding of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late." Let's not deny our prejudice. Rather let us now confront it and move forward.

## P I C T O R I A L



# Yeshiva College



# Campus News

## IBC Hebrew: A Haven for MYP Students

BY ARI GRUEN

The beginning of the Spring semester has focused attention on the approximately 15% of MYP seniors who plan to complete their YC Hebrew requirement by taking courses in IBC. Students attempting to enroll in the IBC Hebrew courses have met with resistance, many who are spending their last semester at YC and need to fulfill the requirement to qualify for graduation. YC administrators are trying to weed out the cases of real need in an attempt to limit the practice for the future.

Page thirty-six of the latest Yeshiva University Undergraduate Catalogue states: "Students may not register for any courses at Yeshiva College or Sy Syms School during time designated for MYP studies." This would seem to imply that MYP students are forbidden to take any non-MYP classes during the 9AM to 12PM *hachana* (preparation) as well as the 1PM - 2:30PM shiur (lecture). However, a strict reading of the text does leave some room for a more liberal interpretation, as only YC and Sy Syms classes are specifically mentioned as forbidden, perhaps allowing students to enroll in IBC morning classes.

Perhaps. Consider that approximately 15% of seniors enrolled in the Mazer Yeshiva Program fulfill part of their YC Jewish Studies requirements by taking courses in IBC. This action is officially frowned upon by MYP and YC administrations, with one administrator labeling it "an absolute farce."

Currently, some twenty-one seniors are caught in this loophole, with seventeen taking IBC Hebrew classes, three students taking Jewish History, and one student taking Bible. The drawback to this is the loss of a significant portion of seder time. All IBC classes, except for Talmud, meet twice a week with each session ranging in length between an hour and ten minutes and an hour and forty minutes. The absolute minimum amount of time an MYP student must miss in order to take IBC courses is forty minutes. However, due to the IBC course schedules, some of the students miss over three hours of Beis Midrash time.

In light of these numbers, the administration has restricted those MYP students allowed to take IBC courses to seniors who can demonstrate exceptional need. Therefore, with rare exception, all MYP students in IBC classes are seniors who need to fulfill their requirements so that they can graduate on time but cannot fit the

required course into their afternoon schedule. This may be due to a scheduling conflict with another requirement or due to the seventeen-and-a-half maximum credit cap enforced in YC and Sy Syms.

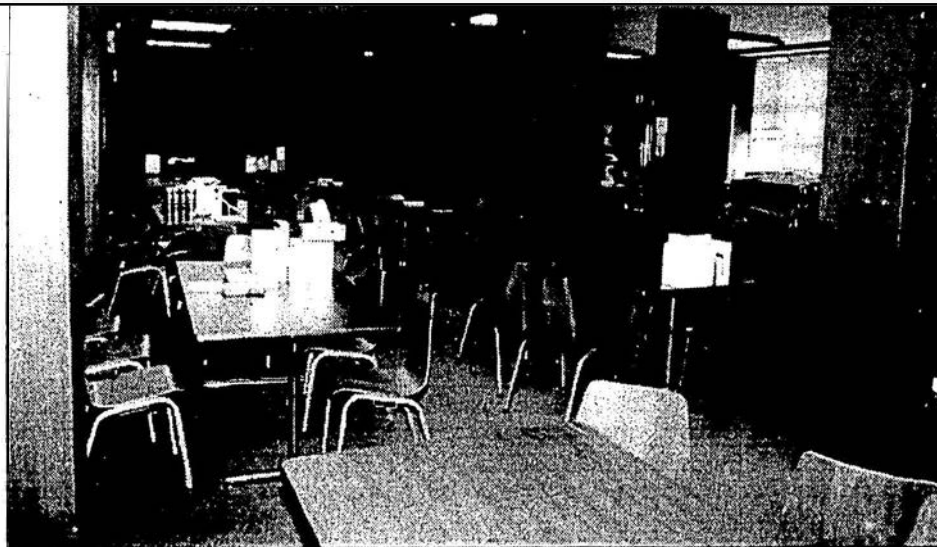
Before applying for approval through the Yeshiva College Dean's office, all MYP students interested in taking IBC courses are first cleared by the Yeshiva Program's Dean's office which permits the student to miss Seder time. Rabbi Chaim Bronstein, Administrator of the Yeshiva Program, said "[This] is not something we encourage, but given the realities of life at YU, it makes it more manageable for some of our students." He added that leaving the option open for MYP students to take IBC courses can even be looked at in a positive light, as it ensures that those students who would consider leaving the Yeshiva Program entirely in order to more easily satisfy their Jewish studies requirements instead choose to remain in MYP.

Assistant Dean Avery Horowitz suggested, on the other hand, that MYP students realize that if they take Hebrew in IBC, they have the choice of simply transferring an exemption for the course into YC, rather than transferring the credits for the course. This choice ensures that their grade in the course does not affect their grade point average, and perhaps inspires a less than full effort on the student's part.

Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, Dean of the Yeshiva Program, pointed out that he would certainly prefer that it was not necessary. However, if this requirement presents a student's only impediment to graduation then he would approve the request.

Dr. Norman Adler, Dean of Yeshiva College, commented that the number of MYP students asking to take IBC courses makes one wonder why so many students push off fulfilling their Hebrew requirements until their last year on campus. Adler, however, has no intention of eliminating the option for MYP students to take IBC courses under extenuating circumstances, "I do not believe in educating through enforcement of laws."

Adler has instructed all academic advisors to strongly encourage all students to fulfill their Hebrew requirements during their first year in YU. He has also promised to continue carefully reviewing on a case by case basis all requests of MYP students to take IBC courses, thus ensuring that the number of students actually granted permission remains limited.



Morg Shul converted with tables and chairs into temporary Beis Medrash

## 8:30 Morg Minyan Abolished

*New minyan immediately established on second floor*

BY MICHAEL J. BELGRADE

When university officials designated the Morg shul to function this semester as a daily "beit midrash" for all SBMP students and MYP freshmen shiurim, they in turn discontinued the traditional 8:30 morning minyan due to an obvious logistical conflict - morning seder must begin at 9:00 AM sharp. In the popular minyan's place, two new 8:30 morning congregations were founded. One in the Rubin shul and one in the second floor Morg lounge.

The decision to disband the Morg minyan was made by Mashgiach Ruchani R. Yosef Blau, who last year disbanded an unofficial 8:30 Rubin Shul minyan. R. Blau told *The Commentator* that he disapproved of last year's Rubin minyan since he only deems appropriate one official 8:30 minyan on campus and not two.

Rabbi Blau explored several additional options of salvaging the Morg minyan before making his ultimate decision. One alternative involved a simple two-for-one switch - moving both the 7:45 and 8:30 minyanim from Morg shul to Morg Lounge, and translocating the 8:10 lounge minyan downstairs to the Morg shul. The idea was rejected,

however, because the process involved tampering with three minyanim rather than one. Furthermore, certain MYP Roshei Yeshiva had expressed discomfort with the notion of students praying every day in a "lounge" instead of a shul, and did not wish to increase the number of lounge minyanim in YU.

Some rabbeim and talmidim decry the existence of all 8:30 minyanim because it necessitates tardiness to MYP seder, BMP shiur, and JSS and IBC classes. Others believe, however, that while the schedule says 9:00, one can arrive later. One MYP student said, "Seder doesn't really start till 9:15, anyway."

The University converted the shul to a beit midrash at the end of last semester as a temporary solution to the lack of unified 'learning' space created by the exponentially growing student population. Until now, many morning sederim of various shiurim were dispersed amongst various classrooms in Furst Hall. Student leaders, last semester, discussed with administrators several alternative beit midrash space solutions, such as converting Furst 501 or adding narrower tables to the Main beit midrash; but in the end, the University opted to convert Morg Shul by simply adding a few tables.

## IBC To Draw Lots on Purim

BY HESHY WILLIG

IBC will add to this year's Purim festivities by sponsoring a raffle in which the grand prize will be two round-trip tickets to Israel. Second and third prizes will be fully paid dinners for two at Levana's and La Marais, respectively. The cost per ticket will be ten dollars, and no more than 500 tickets will be sold.

According to IBC President Richie Grossman, the idea of a raffle was real-

ized in an effort to bolster IBC student participation in Purim activities. Grossman's student council determined that holding a drawing during the popular SOY sponsored chagigah should entice IBC students to participate in the other holiday festivities. The exact time of the raffle still needs to be decided.

Profits generated by the raffle will help fund future IBC events, such as a possible trip to the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.



# Campus Bursting At Seams

## Fourth Dorm Is Sought

BY ERIC ASHKENAZI

You don't have to be a math major to figure it out. Take a campus with dorms filled to capacity, add 74 new students to the equation, and you have a serious overcrowding problem. University administrators have dealt with this problem by forcing the new arrivals into dorm rooms already occupied by one and sometimes two students. These measures come on the heels of last semester's decision to relocate all semicha students to outside apartments.

With student leaders vowing to prevent the floor lounges from being converted into dorm rooms, administrators found creative new places to house students in the existing dorms. One such place, on the first floor of Rubin opposite R. Ahron Soloveitchik's apartment and down the hall from R. Joshua Cheifetz's residence, illustrates the desperate nature of this search.

Many incoming students, returning from half of Shana Bet in Israel, were unable to choose their roommates and were paired with one or two strangers for the remainder of the school year.

For the time being, all students who requested university housing have been satisfied in this innovative manner, but the outlook for the future is uncertain. If enrollment increases, there could be a serious problem accommodating all students in dorm rooms.

According to University Dean of

Students Dr. Efrem Nulman, there are a number of options which are being investigated. One possibility which is being examined by the YC Board of Directors and the Student Life Committee is the purchase of another building in close proximity to the campus that would serve as an additional residential facility. Nulman added that "students should be involved in the process" as they were during Stern College's recent purchase of a dormitory facility, when "students viewed the building before any decisions were made."

A convenient housing solution could lie in the nearby buildings where semichah students and kollel families reside. YU has slowly been taking control of apartments in those buildings in order to develop its Washington Heights community, and this consolidated effort could continue for undergraduates as well.

### Commuting?

Yet another alternative is to have some students commute. Nulman stresses, however, that this "is not a pleasant option, since YU is a residential college" and dorming adds much to the college experience. Nulman also said that currently there is no housing shortage, and rooms in which students were tripled were designed for three people. For the near future he suggests that students apply for dormitory housing early and meet all dorm application deadlines to avoid any possible problems in their obtaining housing due to overcrowding.



View of one bedroom RIETS apartment shared by five students.

## Semicha Apartment Living Conditions Still Not Improved

### Committee Formed To Alleviate Problems

BY EZRA TUCHMAN

Washington Heights has long been associated with crime, fixed-income housing, and a pesky rodent population. For the most part, students at Yeshiva College have been able to avoid contact with the realities of the inner city by taking advantage of the three on-campus dormitories. However, for 65 RIETS students relocated to nearby apartment complexes, life in the "hood" has become a frightening reality. The overcrowding of the undergraduate dorms has forced these graduate students to take residence in cramped, often mice and roach infested apartments. Some of them are as far from campus as 182nd Street, and all are lacking in basic amenities such as light fixtures, light bulbs, garbage cans, clothes dressers, and work desks.

Among the students most disturbed by these living conditions are Moshe Kinderlehrer and Uri Schechterman, both of whom graduated from Yeshiva College last year and are currently studying for their ordinations. In Schechterman's view, the Yeshiva administration is taking advantage of the apartment residents. As he put it, "Each person in an apartment must pay \$300 a month in rent. That is \$1500 for each apartment. If they [the administration] only pay Parkoff Management \$610 per month for the use of the apartment, they are making a large profit. They should at least ease some of the overcrowding and pay for our light bulbs, toilet paper, and cleaning materials, stuff that every dorm student is entitled to."

To advance their cause, Schechterman and Kinderlehrer, a former Editor-in-Chief of *The Commentator* and a veteran of internal Yeshiva politics, formed a building committee and asked to meet with University Dean of Students Dr. Efrem Nulman. According to both Kinderlehrer and Schechterman, Nulman responded to their grievances with a sincere commitment to alleviate the poor conditions. He appointed Associate David Himber to personally oversee the necessary improvements, and

instructed officials at Facilities Management to provide the apartment residents with light bulbs, desks, and garbage cans.

However, despite Nulman's promises and Himber's involvement, the administration has acted slowly and without any apparent concern. Although desks were ordered in September, they did not arrive until mid-January. Only one garbage can was purchased per apartment, while several apartments still lack light bulbs and toilet paper and are overrun by roaches and rats. Apartment residents are angered that despite several meetings between themselves and the administration, conditions have not improved to their satisfaction.

Nulman reiterated the administration's commitment to provide the apartment residents with the necessary equipment to maintain cleanliness and adequate living conditions. And although Nulman did not wish to minimize the concerns of the building committee, he did point out that apartment residents do enjoy several amenities that dormitory residents do not, including a refrigerator and a full bath. He also asserted that the living space for each person in the apartments is no smaller than that in a two person dormitory room. Nulman did promise to review the situation and to plan more effectively for the future, "We've both lived through a year of experience. We will certainly learn from it and plan much more effectively."

Kinderlehrer and Schechterman remain cautiously optimistic. As Semicha students they recognize that they must remain in YU housing for at least two more years, and they do not want to live under adverse conditions any longer than necessary. Shraga Goldenhirsh, the current Junior Class Vice President has expressed his support for the building committee's cause, "It would be a travesty if students refrained from entering Semicha because of the living conditions of the apartments. I can't understand how people who learn all day are treated like second class citizens. They are the future *Gedolim* of our community."

## Hal Finally Replaced

BY JOSHUA M. FELDMAN

After a search process which spanned an entire semester, the Office of Career and Placement Services has announced the addition of Marjorie Rubins as Placement Coordinator. Rubins fills the position left vacant by Hal Tannenbaum.

Holding Masters' degrees in Counseling and Education, Rubins comes to Sy Syms after working at Bronx Science Community College for three years. SSSB Assistant Dean Ira Jaskoll, who played a key role in the procurement process said that he was enthusiastic about the addition of Rubins and was happy to have the Placement Office back to full staff.

The Office of Placement and Career Services mandate is to secure a job for every student that signs up for placement. "My goal is to provide good career counseling and to find students the jobs of their choice," said Rubins. Rubins will have a tough act to follow. Until this year, SSSB has boasted a 99% placement rating, quite a feat, for an office operating with a three person staff.

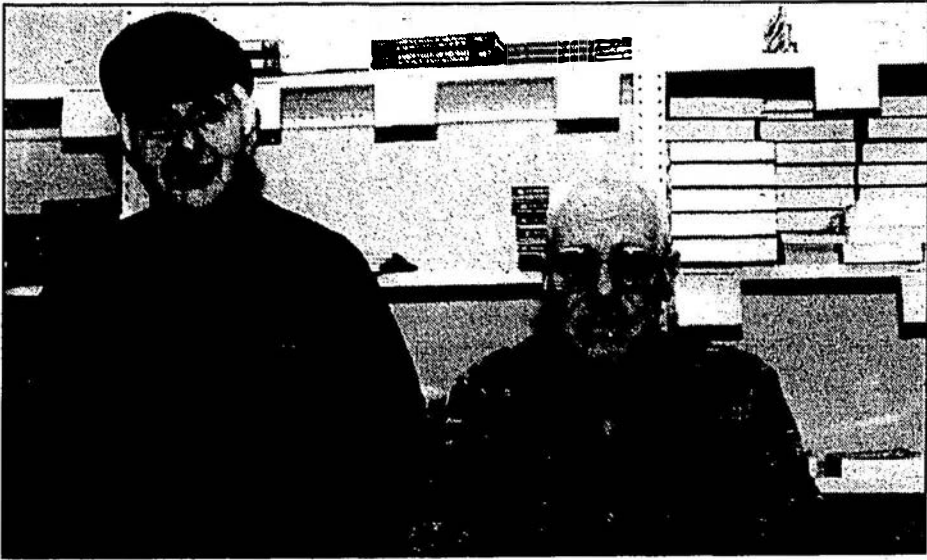
Rubins didn't become part of the Placement Office overnight. The hiring process was long and tedious. Candidates for the position were screened through the personnel office. Once a suitable candidate was found, Jaskoll conducted an inter-



Placement Coordinator Marjorie Rubins view.

There seemed to be some initial concern over Rubins' background. Her former place of employment, Bronx Community College, is only a two-year program. She is not concerned, however, that making a transition to a four year institution will pose any problems. She noted that she was very familiar with four year and graduate school programs.

The new Placement Coordinator was very impressed with the resumes that SSSB students have presented to her and looks forward to meeting with each student in the near future.



Notorious College Bookstore employees caught taking a rare break for some healthy "fresh air"

# Bookstore Managers Accused of Antagonistic Customer Service

## Fine Threatens to Initiate Second Store

BY JASON BUSKIN

The complaints resurface every semester without fail. They continue for roughly two weeks and die down, except for an occasional murmur, as the semester proceeds and students attempt to resell their "used" books. The focus of these complaints is the school bookstore.

Students have long asked for something to be done regarding issues such as inconvenient hours, book prices and a general feeling that service within the store leaves much to be desired. Although many students have been loud in their complaints, in the past, little has been done to address the issues. The only reasonable alternative has been to go shopping at Barnes & Noble. However, as Junior Owen Waxman says, "I would go to Barnes & Noble but the reality is it is more convenient to go here."

The reality is that the Collegiate Book Store on campus is the only viable option to students at YC and many would like to see its problems addressed. In fact, YCSC has been investigating many of these problems since the summer.

At a Student Life Committee meeting this summer, YCSC President Josh Fine addressed the subject of the bookstore, suggesting the possibility of starting a student-run store if the problems could not be properly addressed.

In a November meeting, Fine presented his gripes, including reports of unfriendly service and inconvenient hours to Collegiate Book Stores Regional Manager Herb Glantz. Glantz then proceeded to meet with bookstore personnel at the beginning of the new semester.

However, Ed Fisher, the bookstore manager, maintains that changes are not necessary. When questioned about the reports of unfriendly service he responded that while he is normally friendly, "If students are unfriendly and abrupt I will be too." He added that if there are 10 - 15 people in the store, all demanding his attention, he

will react abruptly.

Fisher's manner of dealing with students still continues to bother some, for example Yehuda Wolf, who is in his first semester on campus. Wolf says, "The first time I was in the store one of the employees blew up at a student for not being able to find a book." Others, however, have had more positive experiences. SSSB student Aaron Leff says he has never had a problem in the bookstore, simply saying 'please' and 'thank you' has always worked for him.

The issue of extending the bookstore's hours to accommodate the schedules of YU students, has been addressed by lengthening the store's hours during the opening weeks of the semester. Fine says he is working to have the store sustain these hours throughout the semester, and not just for the first few weeks. As for complaints of high prices, Fisher can do no more than shrug his shoulders as he explains that the prices are set by Collegiate Book Stores and communicated to the individual stores in the form of standardized charts; although he does admit that chart prices vary for the different stores. Fisher explained that price charts are determined based upon the contract each book store has with its respective host school, thus shifting the blame for high prices from the store management to the YU administration. In the meantime Glantz has agreed to a comparative price study between YC Bookstore prices, and other book stores like Barnes & Noble.

Fine maintains that if decent progress is not made, he will proceed with plans to begin a student run bookstore. Fisher laughs upon hearing this. "Go right ahead," he says. He points to the YCSC sign above the store and explains that the store used to be student run, and did not last; neither did Barnes & Noble who replaced them and lasted only six months. For most students, however, there is no difference. As YC Junior Ari Eckman puts it, "I just want my books as cheaply and as quickly as possible."

# Open Meetings Cover Variety Of Issues

BY NACHUM LAMM

The Yeshiva College Student Council held open meetings for the first time this school year, on January 23 and January 31. The first meeting, held in the second floor Morg lounge, attracted about forty students. Future class activities were discussed, and a variety of issues and proposals were suggested.

## Beit Midrash Committee

A new Beit Midrash Committee, chaired by Jonathan Neiss, was specially formed to deal with issues involving the overcrowded Beit Midrash. Neiss reported a high level of student interest in the committee, as over thirty students applied to join within a week. The committee will report to all six student councils.

## Senior Class President

Also on the agenda was the question of how to fill the position of senior class president, which was left vacant when the incumbent, Oren Leiber, graduated in January. Josh Fine appointed Chaim Huss, who is currently the senior class vice president to act as the temporary president. Huss, with the council's approval, then appointed Danny Najman as his temporary vice president. Elections will be held in two weeks, in conjunction with a vote on four senior awards.

## Senior Awards

Establishing qualifications for senior awards was also discussed. Eventually, the council voted in favor of a proposal which requires students seeking an award to submit a "resume" with their qualifications. Other suggestions included requiring faculty recommendations (Fine) and having two other students write supporting letters (VP Dov Simons). Simons also announced his intention to explore the possibility of granting extracurricular "credit" that would be listed on the awards ballot and student records.

## Morg Mart

A vote was taken to officially remove Morg Mart management from the Joint

Business Society, which had failed to open it in the first semester. Morg Mart was summarily handed over to the new campus chapter of the American Marketing Association and SSSB President Sam Wald.

## New clubs rejected

The Dental Society was voted to be abolished as the society failed to organize anything in the fall semester; since the council is legally unable to remove club officers, it chose to dissolve the society and create a new one headed by Daniel Kraft, a new president.

Two new clubs were then proposed and summarily rejected. Chaim Lazar, SSSB '96, proposed a new "Goodwill Society," which would distribute clothes and food to those in need. Many in attendance wanted to know the necessity of such a society when a Philanthropy Society is already active. Simons pointed out that there are already over fifty active clubs, many with redundant activities. The council voted to give the new society only temporary status for one year until the Philanthropy Club decides whether to incorporate Goodwill's activities into its own.

A similar solution was found for Adam Berkowitz' proposed "Poetry Society," which, while receiving no funds from YCSC, would function under its name in participation in a nationwide poetry journal, "Spire." Again, the club was granted that status only until June 1st, when the matter will come up for review.

## Israeli flag on campus

Ariel Siegel raised the issue of having an Israeli flag on campus. Siegel stated that from his conversations with YU administration, he saw no reason not to have a flag. He and Israel Club President Arie Pelta showed pictures they dug up from YU's archives in which the Israeli flag was flown from the main building. Much spirited discussion ensued, with a few students citing fears of accusations of dual loyalty and anti-Semitism. Fine pushed resolution of the issue off until the next meeting, scheduled for February 14.



Rabbi Blau Decries Campus Racism: In a Sichat Mussar, Mashgiach Ruchani Rabbi Blau addressed a packed Beit Midrash on the issue of relations between Jews and non-Jews. He expressed concern about attitudes in Yeshiva that are racist and bear religious cover-up. YCSC President Josh Fine and Racial Harmony Council President Chaim Motzen, who both felt that "racism is an issue on campus" and the criticism of these attitudes had to be forcefully expressed, asked R. Blau to speak on the issue.

--Daniel Rubin



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## MFATS: Who, Why, and When?

BY JOSH RIFKIND

It's the third of the big three 'M' exams that students worry about, or at least hear about, during their journey through a Yeshiva College education. There's MCAT, the pre-med students' nightmare; MBAT, the Yeshiva Program's noble attempt to make students learn Mishna Berurah; and last but not least, the MFAT.

The Major Field Achievement Test, taken in March of the graduating year (or December for Jan. graduates) is the primary exit exam at Yeshiva University. It is a standardized test given by YU in those departments in which it is applicable. In those major fields in which there is no MFAT, e.g. - Classical Philosophy, Speech, and Jewish Studies, students write a departmental exam. The GRE's, written by students going to graduate school, can also be used to substitute for the MFAT's.

In the past, Middle States, an accrediting agency, and the New York State Education Department have commended Yeshiva University for initiating the MFAT, which is not required at many other universities. As a result, the administration at YU takes the test very seriously.

Just how serious is questionable. YU's policy is that a student obtaining a grade in the top 66th percentile on the MFAT will graduate. One member of the administration added that students who fail to do so "will not be messed up", but may "have to sweat a little." Ceil Levinson, a secretary in the Dean's office, alleges that a student who fails the MFAT will be given a departmental exam that they must pass in order to graduate.

Dean Michael Hecht feels that administering departmental exams to those students who failed the MFAT is necessary since the course emphasis in certain majors at Yeshiva University differs from other universities. While a YC education emphasizes Sephardic, Russian, and Israeli studies, it neglects such topics as African American studies. Foreign students express anxiety over writing another test in English and pre-Health majors also have problems in writing the test since they do not have a specific major. Therefore, YU protects prospective graduates whose majors lack the necessary courses to write the MFAT by offering other exit exams such as departmentals.

According to Dean Hecht, the MFAT has a valid academic purpose. It was integrated into the graduation procedure as a capstone for the student's education to remind them of how much they have learned in their college years. A student takes many diverse courses over his term at YU and the MFAT is an opportunity to evaluate how much a student has progressed in his specialty of studies. Therefore, Hecht encourages the faculty advisors to emphasize the importance of the MFAT and to take it seriously.

YC dean Norman Adler, while in favor of the modern educational theory of closure, is no "fan of multiple choice tests". Therefore, he is encouraging the faculty to think about upgrading the current capstone mechanism. He suggests a thesis paper or a "capstone course" that includes a variety of disciplines such as psychology, biology, or philosophy. The thesis would be an elective but it could also be a student research seminar. Dean Adler believes that the idea of requiring all students to write a thesis, which is still in practice at Princeton, has become stale. Thus he'd like to maintain the MFAT at YU while also giving students other options.

Adler maintains that "YU students have no time to think about the future and an elective thesis would help students formulate careers in government positions, and in applied economics. Yeshiva University students would then populate positions of leadership with Jewish Orthodox personnel."

Most students agree with the educational motives of the MFAT, but look upon it as an extraneous requirement which does not achieve its purpose, since to 'pass' you need only fall in the top 66 percentile. Naftali Feldman, a computer major, quipped, "A student goes through three or four years at Yeshiva University taking many courses in his major. If he does not remember anything from all that he has learned, how is the MFAT going to help him remember the information two or three years from now, let alone twenty or thirty years in the future? If a student is smart and has done well at YU then he will certainly do well on another standardized test!"

This year's May graduates will write the MFAT on Friday, March 22, 1996. Deadline for registration is February 26, 1996 and costs 24 dollars.

## Junior Class Bowling Trip a Gutter Ball

BY HESHY WILLIG

The first two weeks of this semester have been marked by several YCSC class events, including two open student-council meetings and a junior-class trip to Bowl-Mor Lanes in Greenwich Village. Following on the heels of a semester in which these events were notably lacking, student council's task seems no longer to be in running the events, but in convincing students to attend.

The highly-publicized junior class bowling event held Thursday, January 25, was a flop. Planners had hoped that since schoolwork had not yet piled up, the event would draw a large crowd. But gauging by the 14 students in attendance, of whom YC students numbered four, they were obviously mistaken. Even the YC Junior Class President, Vice-president, and Secretary/Treasurer were not able to attend.

Debbie Bielory, president of the junior class at Stern, said attendance was mandatory for her board except under special circumstances. Shraga Goldenhersh, YC Junior Class President had been unable to attend because of a prior engagement. Levine claimed he didn't even know the final details of the event, and when he saw the signs he was no longer available. Bennet, who did not take part in planning the event, could not be reached for comment. According to YCSC Vice-president Dov Simons, "Mr. Bennet has not attended YCSC meetings and has been asked to organize events and refused. If he is not going to do his

job, maybe someone else can borrow it."

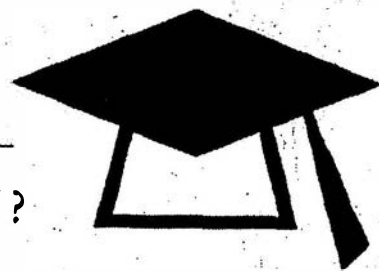
Lack of adequate publicity was not to be blamed for the poor attendance at the bowling alley. Signs were placed on both the main campus and at Stern. Additionally, at Stern, people went door-to-door informing people of the event and requesting their attendance. Bielory maintains that while planning for a canceled skating trip in December, a number of people had indicated preference for a bowling event as opposed to a skating event.

Bielory blames the low turnout on other conflicting events that occurred the same evening. These events included a *Beat'achon* concert at Columbia University, a pair of weddings, and a Sheva Brachot, all of which drew people away from the bowling event that they otherwise might have attended. Bielory also attributed the low turnout to an unfortunate apathy among the students and a general lack of excitement regarding school activities.

Goldenhersh, not as concerned, attributed the low participation to an understandable lack of interest in YCSC-sponsored events. He maintains, "The main reason that guys didn't go is because of night seder - bitul z' man. *Baruch Hashem* Yeshiva guys are either learning or taking care of *tachlis*-orientated business." Bielory's reaction was quite different. She said, "I am very disturbed by the apathy of the students." While she had a good time, she remains concerned about the low turnout and participation of the class.

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Steve Smith and Yael Sudberg  
Robert Teichman and Keli Kaufler  
Hillel Wiener and Rivki Roth

### On Their Recent Engagements



# Union Demands Pay for Snow Day

*continued from page one*

herself in grave danger by walking along highways as public transportation was non operational, but that it was impossible on January 8.

Union members pointed to their fellow chapter members who are employed at Columbia University and were paid for a full day's work, despite their absence. In addition, they cited a press release issued by Governor Christie Whitman of New Jersey, home to a number of employees, in which the governor took responsibility for the road closures stating, "We banned unnecessary road travel from Sunday through Tuesday morning because the roads were perilous..." Whitman appealed to those employers in the private sector who are withholding pay for those who could not get to work while travel restrictions were in place stating, "If ever there was a time to put human life above the bottom line, it was last Sunday and Monday." The governor said that she was "stunned to learn that so many employers were taking such a hard line."

In an interview, Sperling stated that he was unmoved by the union's grievance. He stated that the vacation time allotted to YU staff is quite generous, given that they have four full weeks of vacation in addition to their time off for Jewish holidays. Such a policy makes possible the enforcement of policies such

as the one implemented on January 8. Sperling stressed that the university did not try to jeopardize anyone's health nor did they penalize anyone for not showing up to work. He contends that the university did its utmost to accommodate employees as much as possible within the boundaries of the policy, including the forwarding of vacation time to those needing it, rewarding those who showed up on January 8 with a \$25 bonus, and payment for a full day of work for those who left early that day.

As a result of management's decision on January 8, Union 1199 met on Thursday, January 25 to discuss possible actions. It was decided that the union would deliver a petition in protest to the management, signed by both members of the union and sympathetic faculty and students, demanding an answer to their charges. The petition was delivered by a delegation from the union, and on February 1, the delegation met with Director of Supporting Service Administration Mr. Jeffrey Rosengarten. The union was turned down.

Still unsatisfied with the decision of management, the union staged a small demonstration. Santiago said later that union had run out of options. "There is a faction," she said, "that wants to continue fighting, but the majority think it's just like beating a dead horse."

# Award-Winning Writers to Lecture in New Lit Course

BY J.D. SHULMAN

In an unprecedented move, the Yeshiva College English department will offer a literature course in the fall featuring the lectures of eight award-winning writers.

With the help of the Gottesman Program for Academic Excellence in Undergraduate Education, the American Literature course will include lectures by Pulitzer Prize-winning illustrator Art Spiegelman, the author and cartoonist of *Maus: A Survivor's Tale*; Jane Smiley, a Pulitzer Prize and National Book Critics Award winner, poet and novelist Cynthia Ozick, William Friedkin, the Academy Award-winning screenwriter and director of the films *The Exorcist* and *Jade*, Grace Paley, a National Book Critics Award nominee, and Richard Rodriguez, an essayist with the *MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour*, and contributor to numerous national publications.

In addition, the course will feature husband and wife authors Jonathan and Faye Kellerman, an Orthodox couple who have written many award-winning *New York Times* bestsellers. The Kellermans will spend one week at YU, keynoting a public lecture and giving two lectures in the class.

"We are trying to make literature feel much less an abstraction, and therefore are providing a forum for interaction with authors who have come not to lecture about material, but to be the material," commented English Professor, Dr. Joanne Jacobson.

"These specific personalities were chosen so as to present an example of the diversity of the different type of media

which exist," observed Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Dr. William Schwartz. "Just look, we have the media of film, the novel, and even the cartoon." The writers were chosen because they have a reputation for being enthusiastic about working with students and exciting lecturers.

Schwartz described the conception of the course as the result of a cooperative effort by the faculty and the deans. "During a summer meeting, people were proposing names... [and] the concept emerged: 'Let's build a course around invited lecturers'."

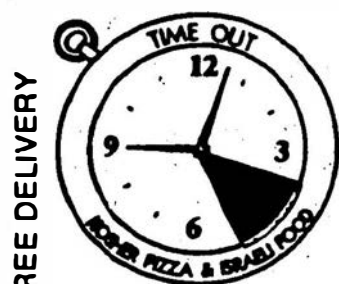
The course, which can be used to fulfill the second part of the literature requirement at Yeshiva College, will still be based around a "conventional course with papers and exams," warned Professor Jacobson. During the week of residence, the works of the respective lecturer will be the focus of classroom discussion; however, when an author is not in residence, other writers' works will be assigned. The course has been described by Schwartz as "a Harvard and Yale-type course."

The Gottesman program, funded by Chairman of the YU Board of Trustees Dr. David S. Gottesman and his wife, Dr. Ruth Gottesman, is now in its second year. The program has brought such distinguished scholars as Professor Roald Hoffman, a Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, Philosopher Robert Nozick of Harvard University, and Professors Walt and Elspeth Rostow, the former National Security Advisor, and Dean of the Lyndon Johnson School of Government at the University of Texas, respectively, to lecture at the university.

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# Sale Chairmen Seek To Correct Past Misappropriations

*continued from page one*

losses every year during the Sale. Some dealers have applied pressure through YU board members to abolish the Sale. Others argue that the Seforim Sale was tolerable when it lasted only ten days, whereas now it cuts off almost a month of profits. The Sale organizers explain that this year they decided to extend the dates of the Sale to include four Sundays since their opening Sunday—which normally brings in 40% of their revenues—conflicts this year with the HASC concert and with the wedding of Rabbi Elchanan Adler.

The Sale buys from over 40 publishers and distributors including Feldheim, Moznain, and Artscroll as well as seforim published by the YU Press in connection with the PR department. They also sell seforim for YU scholars, such as Rav Aharon Kahn, Rabbi Levine, and Rabbi Yonason Sacks. This year they're releasing for the first time a book by past YU president Samuel Belkin about Mi-drashim.

Money that is raised in the Seforim Sale is passed on to SOY, which uses it to sponsor chagigas, buy seforim for the Beis Medrash, and publish Enayim L'Torah and Hamevaser. Co-Chairman Stephen Reingold said that this year he would prefer to give the extra money to YU causes, such as the Max Stern Division of Communal Services, than to outside agencies, such as Ezras Torah, for which funds had been diverted in the past.

Official overhead includes rental of the room in Belfer, for which the administration charges a large sum, as well as for computer equipment, 2 plain-paper

fax machines, and a total of 8 alpha-numerical beepers. Notably, however, none of the board members of the sale, which prides itself on professionalism, could clarify the exact cost of room rental, seemingly a major chunk of their overhead costs. How then, does \$90,000 become \$20,000?

Part of this difference is accounted for by a practice in which organizers of the Seforim Sale have been taking compensation—some repayment, in the form of seforim, for their efforts in the sale. While no one is clear how it started, the board, which this year includes 5 students (ranging in the past from 10-15), are permitted to take home up to \$1000 worth of seforim at cost price, which means that their real value in a typical NYC bookstore can be almost double that figure. The other 40-50 helpers and floor managers who work on the Sale, both from YC and Stern, also receive seforim at a rate of \$2-3 an hour, either at cost or at price, depending on how many hours they have worked.

"To ask why [we take compensation] is absurd and ludicrous," exclaims Davis, "The compensation is part of the overhead. People involved in the Sale work 24 hour days for two and a half months and then 12 hour days for another two months in organizing the Sale."

"Without compensation the sale couldn't run," insists Reingold. "We wouldn't be able to get people to work on it. You couldn't imagine the work involved in the Sale. The money we're getting is nothing compared to the time we put in - it's pennies an hour."

Ari Rosenthal, Sale Board member,

recalls that last year on opening weekend, he found himself working nonstop on the fifth floor of Belfer from Saturday night until Monday morning, when someone relieved him so he could get some sleep.

Reingold, a pre-med student who has had "no spare time since November," added that "[running the sale] is a thankless job and has meant nothing on my resume." He agreed to run the Sale because "I know I'm spreading Torah. People who couldn't otherwise afford seforim, now can buy. Others expand their budget to buy more because they know they are getting such good value."

Still, Sale organizers are hard pressed to explain why they make money from the Sale, while leaders of other student activities, who put in comparable time and effort, are not compensated.

"From a legal perspective, students who work are allowed to be compensated," asserts Assistant Dean of Students Jeffrey Chaitoff, who oversees the Seforim Sale. "Some universities pay their student council presidents and newspaper editors. We choose not to."

"The compensation is just a little something at the end. It probably started because such a great profit was being made," says Reingold, who pointed to the fact that the YCSC president gets a free parking space, a value significantly more than his compensation.

Heightening the suspicion surrounding the Sale is the well-known fact that people who work on the Sale are showered with free food - pizza, sodas, and chips during their work time. And then there are all sorts of extras. Last year,

the Seforim Sale took out a tab at Yum-Yum's for people who worked on the Sale to buy refreshments whenever they needed it. By the end of the Sale, the tab came to a staggering \$10,000, which was quietly paid for by an SOY account.

"We complained that we weren't getting paid, but we got paid," says Sale Treasurer Chaim Haas, with a knowing nod, "We got paid in food, in seforim. We had soda coming out of our ears."

Reingold maintains that all of that is changing this year.

"The compensation this year is being lowered by at least 50%. There's no account at Yum-Yum's. We will spend no more than \$500 on food, total."

"We felt that the compensation in past years had become excessive," says Koenigsberg. "We felt those working on the Sale lost the *Ta'am* (purpose) for the Sale. I always saw myself as someone who was being *marbitz* (spreading) Torah."

In order to make his work on the Sale more meaningful, Koenigsberg is waiving his right to take home \$1000 of merchandise. The '*marbitz Torah*' argument has been used by those working on the Sale to justify missing seder to work on the Sale, and allowing girls to come up from Stern to pitch in to the efforts. And it is also central to the justification for paying the workers - the Sale is a way for them to earn seforim they couldn't otherwise afford.

"I can't be Rav Kahn," confesses Avi Koenigsberg, referring to his rebbe, who is an unofficial advisor to the Sale, "I can't give shiur to a group of students. But this is my way of spreading Torah."

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## Police Mount Effort To Corner Rabid Dog

BY ELLIOT GANCHROW

The Yeshiva University campus was treated to a bizarre scene on Wednesday, January 24th, as the New York Police Department was summoned to incarcerate a trespasser. What was so unusual was that the party wanted by the authorities was not a human. It was

circle around the grass as two officers moved in with a tranquilizer gun and a long rod with a loop at the end to snare the dog by its head.

The moment of truth arrived. One officer attempted to distract the dog as the other went to trap it. However the dog telegraphed the cops' plan and began running around the lawn.

se cam to an it end as

The dog was instructed as it snarled around the Danziger Quadrangle in front of the Max Stern Athletic Center. Since the campus is considered private property, the police were notified to help YU security nab the intruder.

Within minutes, approximately 15 officers appeared on the scene, arriving in vans labeled "Emergency Services." A number of officers, apparently bracing themselves for the worst, dressed in plastic riot gear.

The police officers formed a semi-

the dog began to tire. The officer with the tranquilizer gun fired twice at the dog hitting it once. Police quickly apprehended the sedated trespasser and took it away.

Students who watched the complex police operation were astounded to see so many cops wasting their time trying to catch a dog. Ari Greene, a Sy Syms School of Business Junior joked, "If this much manpower was put into real crimefighting perhaps the city wouldn't have so many problems."

*Mazel Tov To YC Journalism  
Professor J.J. Hornblass and  
Chani Penstein on their recent  
engagement*



# Bevan Conducts Research in Bulgaria

BY MICHA GREENLAND

Dr. Ruth A. Bevan, professor and chairman of Political Science, has returned to Yeshiva College this semester after a sabbatical in Bulgaria.

Taking advantage of an International Research Exchange grant awarded to Bevan by the State Department and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the professor engaged in what she termed systematically expanding her horizons in Eastern Europe. Earlier in her career, Bevan was unable to visit the area as entry was extremely difficult and limited. However, since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Bevan has been to the former Czechoslovakia, the former Soviet Union, Hungary, and now Bulgaria. She feels that she has gotten a better sense for their problems and gained insight into their social and political systems.

The bulk of Bevan's research focused on the Jewish communities of Sofia and Plovdiv, two of Bulgaria's larger cities, where she interviewed Jewish survivors of the Holocaust. As much as she felt she gained from her conversations with the people there, Dr. Bevan was

even more fascinated by the desire of almost everyone there to connect with the West. Many people in Bulgaria really want to identify more with the United States, and Dr. Bevan said that she is representative of that link for them.

Bevan found the geography of Bulgaria to be especially interesting. Resting on the border between Turkey and Russia, Bulgaria has always been subject to invasion. Today, it can be considered the fence between Eastern and Western Civilization, politically torn between NATO and not offending the neighboring Russia. She noticed this cultural blend in many of the Bulgarian habits and lifestyles, commenting that her communication there was conducted in a mixture of English, German, and French.

The long-time department head is currently teaching three courses this semester at YU. She says she is quite pleased with the department in general, adding that the students responded well to the new adjuncts that filled out the course offerings during her absence. She looks forward to bringing to the classroom what she gained this past semester through her myriad of experiences.

# YCDS To Present 'I Hate Hamlet'

BY DAVID SWIDLER

Amid controversy over funding, the Yeshiva College Dramatics Society has begun preparation for its upcoming production of *I Hate Hamlet*, scheduled to begin showing in less than two months.

The play, which has been modified slightly from its original version, includes scenes from various Shakespearean works including *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Richard III*. YCDS Director Dr. Anthony Beukas has spent time editing the script to include more scenes from Shakespeare and to make the content more acceptable to an Orthodox audience.

Beukas explains that he chose this play because Shakespeare has enjoyed wild popularity, and YU students should be given the opportunity to experience a production of his material; at the same time, however, he indicated that many students would be turned off by a traditional Shakespearean production. *I Hate Hamlet* provides a suitable vehicle for appreciation of the Bard of Avon's work without overloading the students' brains with iambic pentameter and archaic English.

## Funding concerns continue

So far, the production plans of *I Hate Hamlet* have progressed according to schedule. A number of unsettled issues, however, still plague the Dramatics Society. Earlier this year, Yeshiva College Student Council President Josh Fine, convinced the YU administration to supply funding for Theater Workshop, the course in which all participants in the play enroll. Fine claims that the course falls completely under the auspices of the YC speech department. In the past, YCDS has been considered a club under the umbrella of YCSC, and occupied a significant portion of the student council's budget. The administration has allocated some of the necessary capital for this year's productions, but the future source of YCDS funding remains uncertain.

Despite this potential dilemma, Beukas is optimistic about *I Hate Hamlet*. "I'm very excited about the whole thing," he said. This semester's cast is larger than that of any previous production, and Beukas says he is stunned by the plethora of talent he has discovered at auditions.

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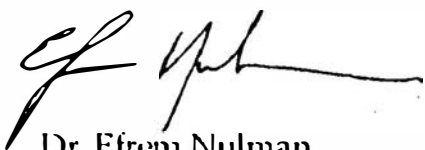
On behalf of the Office of the Dean of Students, we would like to welcome our returning and new students for the 1996 spring semester.

Adjusting to college life can be both exciting and challenging. The staff of the Department of Student Services is committed to helping you through these challenging times. Whether you require assistance through the complexities of registration and academic life; guidance or advice regarding career opportunities, graduate and professional schools; or development of job search techniques, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR EXPERTISE. If you are in need of counseling or even a reassuring hand, we encourage you to meet with our caring staff to discuss your needs and concerns.

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU FEEL FRUSTRATED AND OVERWHELMED. We encourage you to take full advantage of these services so that your college years can be most productive and rewarding.

As the semester begins, we wish you continued success.

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## Senior President Leaves Class Hanging

BY JUDY SHEINFELD

Amidst complex constitutional arguments and clarification, Chaim Huss has been appointed Senior Class President after the unexpected January graduation of the incumbent Oren Lieber.

Lieber's graduation came as a surprise to YCSC and his own board, but although attempts to contact Lieber proved unsuccessful, the registrar's office confirmed that Lieber had applied for graduation.

Lieber's unexpected absence at this point in the year has left a large void. The senior class president is responsible for three major events: organizing the staff for Masmid, planning the senior event, and coordinating all aspects of the senior dinner. Initial preparations for Masmid and the senior event were accomplished by Lieber during the fall semester. The senior dinner, however, has yet to be tackled. Selection of a new president became a top priority for YCSC.

### Confusion over successor

On January 22, Chaim Huss, Lieber's vice-president, assumed the role of president. Shortly thereafter, questions about the procedures involved in filling the position arose. Article II, Section 6, Clause 7 of the lengthy YCSC constitution states, "If any class officer cannot assume his duties temporarily, the officer below him in rank shall fill the position. If the vacancy is permanent and occurs before March 1 an

election shall be held within two weeks of succession to fill the position." Originally the clause was interpreted to mean that Chaim Huss would become acting President for two weeks at which time elections would be held to find a new president.

Prior to election day, YCSC wanted Huss to resign as vice president in order to simplify the election process and hold one election for both the vice-presidency and the presidency. Huss argued that it would be impossible to conduct an election for both offices, for there was no constitutional provision stating that he had to resign in order to run for president.

YCSC and Huss never reconciled their disagreement regarding the form of the election because the executive board clarified the constitution by referring to Article 2, Section 2, Clause 3, which states, "If for any reason the President can't assume his duties temporarily, the vice-president shall fill his position. If the President is permanently disabled before March 1, the vice-president shall succeed to the Presidency and an election for a new vice-president shall be held within two weeks."

### Huss becomes President

Following the rules of the constitution, Chaim Huss formally became president of the senior class. Huss appointed Danny Najman as acting vice-president until the upcoming elections. The elections will be organized by the canvassing committee and should take place within the next two weeks.

## Vacation Hotspots: YU Students on the Move

BY YONI FROGEL

The Blizzard of 1996 couldn't have come at a worse time. With vacation just two short days away, over two feet of snow buried the metropolitan area, clogging highways and shutting down airports. However, despite this inauspicious start most students eventually reached their desired destinations and settled in for some hard earned rest and relaxation.

During the break, Yeshiva College students traveled to all corners of the globe in search of the perfect resort spot. Some found their vacation Valhalla on the ski slopes. Yeshiva College senior Dov Segal, who spent his vacation conquering the mountains of Killington, Vermont, claims, "Nothing compares to the thrill of barreling down a steep slope at dangerously high speeds, except, perhaps, a midnight stroll through beautiful Washington Heights."

Despite this enthusiastic endorsement, many students opted for the sunshine and beaches of Miami and Puerto Rico. "It just doesn't feel like vacation unless I come home with the perfect tan" quipped Yeshiva College senior "John Doe". One group from Yeshiva College enjoyed the best of both worlds in Vail. Not only did they experience

some of the most challenging ski trails in the world, they also returned to New York with killer tans courtesy of the Colorado Sunshine.

Some students spent their vacations studying in various Yeshivot in the United States and Israel. "I feel that winter break affords students a fantastic opportunity to learn full time for two weeks" said Yeshiva College junior David Lawrence, who spent his vacation in the Holy Land. Another popular destination for the Beit Midrash crowd was Ner Yisroel in Baltimore.

For many out of town students winter break is time to return home. Eli Duker, a native of Philadelphia, spent his vacation at home with his family. Duker described his vacation as "time split between Moreh Nevuchim and Montel."

Other students chose to spend their vacation in community service. Barry Habib, a Yeshiva College senior who resides in Brooklyn, spent his break in New York delivering food to the homeless as part of the "Meals on Wheels" program.

"I just couldn't justify selfishly spending my vacation at a resort," Habib explained. "While working for 'Meals on Wheels', I helped make the lives of hundreds of destitute people a little bit more bearable."

## Physics Professor Lectures in the Holy Land

BY DAVID S. GREENBERG

Following the lead of dozens of YU students, physics professor Dr. Gabriel Cwilich flew to Israel during the winter break. His days there, however, were not spent in triumphant return to haunting grounds of old. Instead, Cwilich spent his first-ever visit to the Holy Land lecturing and absorbing knowledge in Israel's top universities. A series of seminars and speaking engagements had aroused Cwilich's interest in the journey, as well as the opportunity to interact with physics gurus of the world.

Cwilich spent his first few days in Israel at Tel Aviv's Bar Ilan University. There, he took part in a memorial symposium on noted Russian physicist Arkady Aronov and his famous Metal Theory. Over fifty of the world's top physicists, all familiar with Aronov's work, were invited to attend. After the symposium, the spotlight focused exclusively on Cwilich, who led a seminar based on his years of research on the connections between disorder and randomness.

After his sojourn in Tel Aviv, Cwilich moved up the Mediterranean coast

to Haifa and its famous Technion Institute, where he participated in a memorial lecture in honor of Natan Rosen, a physicist who worked and wrote papers with Albert Einstein. A satellite link-up between the Technion and Ben Gurion University enabled professors from both institutions to hear the lecture and communicate with each other. Punctuating Cwilich's academic pursuits during his Israel stay were meetings with Israeli university officials, including the president of Bar Ilan. Cwilich's efforts in that administrative arena were intended to help bring prominent physicists from around the world to lecture at YU.

Before embarking on his trip, Cwilich was concerned that Bar Ilan University would be negatively affected by Yigal Amir's affiliation with the institution. Cwilich quickly learned that this was not the case: "Science and physics are flourishing throughout Israel. Physics remains extremely strong and very up to date." Cwilich returned to YU optimistic about the future prospects of YU's physics department and deemed his first pilgrimage to the Holy Land successful and memorable.

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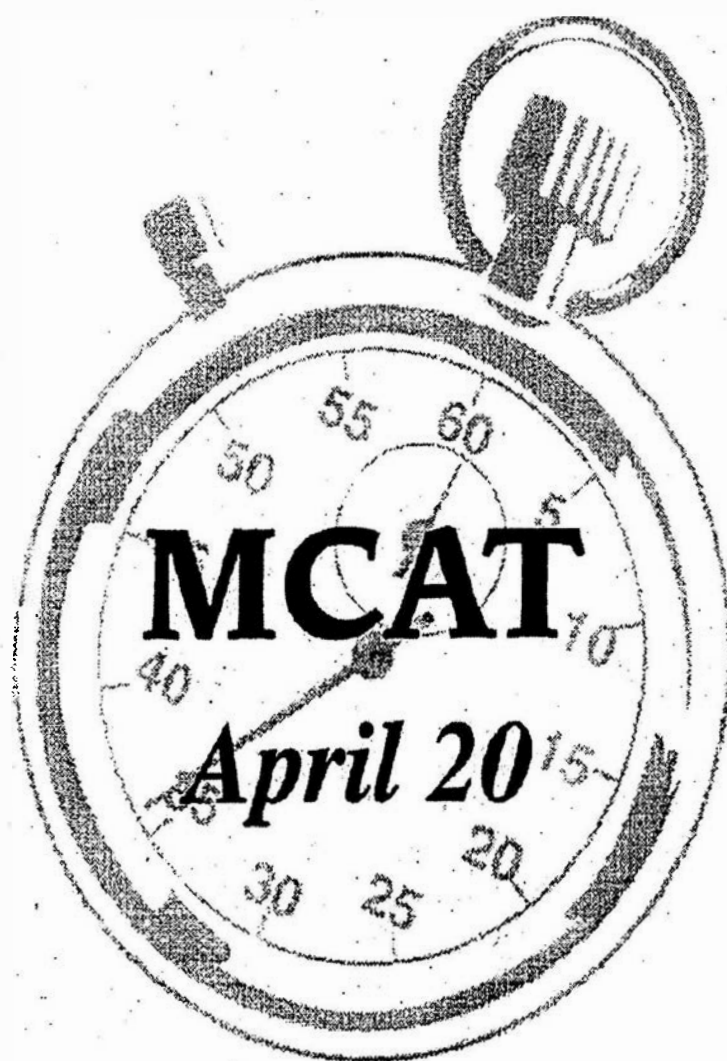
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# Outside Credit Cap on the Way

*continued from page one*

increasing faculty and administrative disillusionment with the quality of a YU diploma. Bible professor Moshe Bernstein, a member of the Academic Standards Committee, noted that "the faculty, as a whole, is extremely concerned about the deterioration of academic standards at YU." By seeking to keep YU students on campus longer, professors hope to combat this perception and strengthen the reputation of the school. Director of Enrollment Management Mel Davis estimates that the average student's stay on campus is currently 2.6 years.

YC Associate Dean Michael Hecht, chairman of the Academic Standards Committee, has expressed his wholehearted approval of the proposed legislation and promises that "changes are in the wind." R. Hecht told *The Commentator* that as pre-law advisor, he has been forced to personally intervene with the law school admissions process, entreating law school deans to accept YU students who can only report three or four semesters of real college grades. With similar circumstances hampering the medical school admissions process, faculty advisors have felt the consequences of what R. Hecht calls the drive "to get out fast." This matriculation marathon is partly being fueled by "financial pressures" of the nineties, but YU has "a responsibility to see that [its students] are well-educated."

The formal proposal, authored by student senator Isaac Sasson with the support of the entire student senate, would create a cap of approximately 48-50 "outside" credits, limiting the overall utility of: high school AP tests and senior-year "college credit" courses currently popular in many yeshiva high schools; 32 Israel credits for Shana Aleph and Yerushalmi Hebrew exemption tests; the remaining CLEP tests still administered at YU; and summer courses taken at any other college besides YU. The plan, claims Sasson, curbs "abuses of the system" by preventing students from entering YU "with an astronomical amount of credit." Especially stymied by the rule will be the graduates of local yeshiva high schools who have amassed dozens of viable credits from their senior years and hope to use them to shorten their YU experiences. Yeshiva high school principals, who currently sell their institutions' senior years

as economical ways to blend high school and college, will not be the most enthusiastic supporters of the proposition.

Sasson's first proposal - that of instituting a three-year residency requirement on all YU students - was rejected by Dean Hecht because it would prevent transfer students from other reputable universities from graduating on time. But the outside credit cap was hailed by YC Dean Norman Adler, Assistant Dean Avery Horowitz, and Hecht at a Wednesday, January 31 meeting as a practical way to lower the 'speed limit' on a YU education. Implications for SSSB are uncertain because SSSB Dean Harold Nierenberg was not present at the session and was unaware of the pending legislation. SSSB professors are represented in the Senate and on the Academic Standards Committee, but SSSB's status as an intensely career-oriented school could discourage its faculty from adopting the proposal.

## No Focus On Israel

According to Dean Hecht, the specter of a direct reduction in Israel credits, from 32 to 24, would "raise political and *hashkafic* problems" for certain elements within the university and a blanket credit cap avoids these issues: "We can't have people think we're trying to undermine the attractiveness of learning in *Eretz Yisrael*. We must be sensitive." Director of Admissions Michael Kranzler concurred, asserting that "sending a message that we're against it would be detrimental." The legislation-drafters should rather "focus on the quality of outside credits and then perhaps put a cap on the total number of those credits." Sasson says his plan "leaves room for flexibility" by allowing the student to claim any amount up to 32 credits from his year in Israel.

## Shana Bet Could Suffer

Sasson admits that his proposal, if adopted, would entail significant financial implications for YU parents hoping to escape a sixth semester's tuition. This could dash some students' hopes of returning to Israel for Shana Bet, with summer school no longer a convenient way to recover a lost semester if high school credits are also entered into the equation. But Sasson contends that "it is the Yeshiva College student who has suffered the

most" from YU's attempt to simultaneously satisfy its feeder high schools, feeder Israel institutions, and the impractical wishes of the students themselves. Dean Hecht states that "there are financial implications that I am aware of," but "students must wake up to the fact that" spending 25 years on campus is a "short-cut that ends up being a long-cut."

The outside credit cap proposal, which will first be presented before the student and faculty members of the Senate next week, is expected to move up to the Academic Standards Committee by the end of February. If endorsed by its faculty delegates, a vote of approval of the full YC - or YC and SSSB - faculty is only a formality. Dean Hecht notes, however, that a plan with such profound ramifications cannot be effected without the support of President Lamm and his Board of Trustees. Sources say that once an outside credit cap of 48-50 is established, its

further reduction - perhaps to 40 credits - would be sought by the same legislative bodies when the initial resistance dissipates.

However, the cap was apparently already altered down to 40 credits in a senate proposal submitted for approval this past Monday night to the Student Committee on Academic Standards, chaired by Michael Belgrade. Furthermore, this proposal did not specify any grandfather clause nor any policy regarding transfer student. Before the committee votes on the matter, Belgrade wants to take the time to discuss and resolve these apparent discrepancies between the written and oral proposals. Belgrade also wants to ensure that students are adequately informed on these issues before the proposal goes to a vote. Meanwhile, Hecht and the cap's other endorsers expect several months of jockeying and dissent before their bill becomes law.

# Macs Keep Trying

*continued from back page*

## Yeshiva 59 Maritime 55

In what may have been an IAC playoff preview, the Macs took their annual trip to the World's Most Famous Arena (MSG) and defeated a strong Maritime Privateers squad. The playoff picture seems to be wide open as the Privateers defeated the Dolphins of Mt. St. Vincent earlier in the week. The Privateers freshman off-guard Duke McCabewas unstoppable in the first half scoring 19 points on 4 of 4 from downtown. However, the Macs swingman Jacob Rosenberg was the answer as he played superb defense in the second half holding the rookie to 5 points. Captain Alan Levy led the way for the Macs with 17 points. An impressive outing by small forward Brian Wein left him with 15 points on 6 of 11 from the field. Center Joel Jacobson kept the Macs in the game grabbing 13 boards as the Macs out-rebounded the Privateers 40-28.

## Brooklyn College 67 Yeshiva 63 (OT)

The Macs lost a nail-biter in overtime to Brooklyn College Thursday night. Facing their ex-assistant coach Steve Podias, the Macs lost yet another game they should have won in their roller-coaster season. Captain Alan Levy led the Macs with 14 points

and 6 boards in the Macs dismal performance of 34% from the field. Despite the poor shooting, the Macs still had a chance to win in the extra session, but fell short once again.

## Yeshiva 71 Mass College of Pharmacy 47

The Macs routed the Pharmacists from Boston on Sunday for their tenth win of the season to improve to a 10-9 record. The Macs were led by Captain Alan Levy who scored 15 points and grabbed 9 boards. Ira Landsman contributed in the absence of Barry Aranoff with five fancy assists. Rookie David Neiss scored 11 points and Yehudah Halpert dished out 5 assists.

## Notes and Quotes

The Macs will continue their home stretch to finish the season with games against City College (2/6), Poly Tech (2/8), St Joseph's (2/11) and an IAC conference game against Steven's Tech on February 14. All games will be in the MSAC. Point guard Barry Aranoff is expected to return as early as next week. Forward/Center Steven Kupferman may return for the playoffs. Point Guard Neil Weiner is still bothered by his separated shoulder and is out indefinitely.

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# YESHIVA SPORTS

## Macs Hit Memphis

BY RON MARKOVITZ

The YU Macs took their show on the road to Memphis, Tennessee, January 18th to the 22nd, and were welcomed with open arms by the local Jewish community. For one weekend, the team felt bigger than Elvis.

The trip, made possible and coordinated by YU Athletic Director Steve Young and Memphis philanthropist Pace Cooper, was designed to expose Yeshiva University to the Memphis community. The team spent the Shabbos in the community and then played a basketball game against Rhodes College, a local division III college.

Over Shabbos, the Macs participated in davening at the Baron Hirsch Synagogue, attended a kiddush sponsored on their behalf, and stayed at various members' households, who were extremely hospitable. On Friday night, the team, joined by community members, congregated for an Oneg Shabbos at Rabbi Grossman's house. Everyone was quizzed on his different background. Rabbi Grossman was especially interested in the upbringings of Alex Shakhmurov, a native of Uzbekistan, Russia, and Alon Zaibert, who hails from Tel Aviv.

The group also gathered together on Shabbos at the shul for a panel discussion open to the whole congregation.

The main topic of interest was whether it was appropriate for a Yeshiva-college to have itself any sports teams. Many different opinions were expressed by the team members and Coach Halpert from both Halachic and secular points of view, all agreeing with the necessity for a sports team. Rabbi Grossman expressed how impressed he was by the Macs as individuals representing YU, and as Jewish college basketball players.

On Monday, the Macs gave a basketball clinic at Cooper Yeshiva, showcasing their talents to the young boys and girls. There were drills on shooting, passing, and dribbling. The Macs then were off to Rhodes College for their 4:30 P.M. game. Although they were playing a road game some 1200 miles away from home, the Macs felt at home in the spanking new Rhodes gym, due to the fact that Cooper Yeshiva sent about 200 students to root them on against the Rhodes Lynx. The game was controlled by the Lynx for the most part as the Macs were obviously out of shape, not having played together as a team for about a month.

Overall, the trip was a success, as the players grew closer as a team and learned many things about each other as individuals. They gave the community of Memphis a good taste Yeshiva University products.

## Macs Continue to Trade Wins and Losses

### Rhodes College 72 Yeshiva 41

The Macs opened the second half of the season the same way they ended it - by being blown out by a weak team. The Macs travelled to Memphis, Tennessee to play Rhodes College but the only road trip of the season turned out to be a disappointing one, laced with only a few bright spots. The gracious southern hospitality of the Memphis Jewish community, however, seemed to quell the defeat. Joel Jacobson led the way for the Macs with 13 points and 9 rebounds. The Macs shot a miserable 15 for 55 (29%) from the field in the loss.

### Yeshiva 85 Pratt Institute 58

Four Macs scored in double figures as the Macs defeated Pratt Institute even without the team's injured starting point guard, Barry Aranoff. The Macs floor leader went down during a routine drill in a practice before the game suffering a sprained ankle. Barry is expected to return before the playoffs. In his first start as a Mac, Neil Bronstein led all scorers with 16 points on 8 of 9 from the field. Captain Alan Levy contributed with 15 points and swingman Jacob Rosenberg chipped in 10 points on 4 of 5 shooting. Joel Jacobson continued to

be a force down low with a 14 point, 15 rebound performance. The Macs led the whole way in an "impressive" victory.

### Yeshiva 84 St. Joseph's (Brooklyn) 54

Joel Jacobson poured in a career high 27 points and grabbed 9 rebounds in the Macs rout of St. Joseph's. The Macs went down early in the first half by 15 points until an offensive adjustment by the coaching staff freed up Jacobson who went on a tear to lead the Macs to their first winning streak of the season. Jacobson was 10 of 15 from the floor and 7 of 8 from the charity stripe. Back-up point guard Neil Wiener did not play due to a separated shoulder, he is out indefinitely.

### New Jersey Tech 91 Yeshiva 64

After two straight impressive victories, the Macs were brought back down to reality by losing to NJIT by 27 points. The only bright spot for the Mac's was rookie small forward Brian Wein. Wein had his first double-double as a Mac with 12 points and 10 rebounds. The only other Mac in double figures was "Oak" Zaibert who chipped in 10 points. The Mac's fell to 8-8.



Macs leading scorer Joel Jacobson goes for two at Madison Square Garden

## Lakers Taste First Championship of '90s

BY STANLEY R. WATSON

The 1995 Fall Intramural Basketball Finals was played as advertised - an intense championship game fought out between the league's two best teams - the Lakers and Sixers. In the end the Lakers, the "comeback kids" of intramurals emerged victorious with a 50-38 final score. Captain David Samet contributed an MVP performance and received fine support from Josh Elstein, Mark Hecht, Steven Bransdorfer, Menachem Gelbtucht, as well as gutsy performances by point guard Bennet Shachter and Avi Wachsmann. With adept ball movement, timely buckets,

and hard nosed defense the Lakers displayed all elements of a tightly played basketball game.

After a see-saw battle in the first half consisting of an abundance of offense, defense tightened up in the second half. Neither team was able to grasp a firm lead until the final minutes of the game when Samet converted key offensive rebounds into timely baskets and eventual victory.

The Lakers overcame losing their first two regular season games by winning nine consecutive games in what turned out to be a rampaging and resilient road to the first semester championship.

## The Commentator

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