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Photo: YUPR

Rabbi Yehuda Amital, Minister Without Portfolio in the Israeli Government and Rosh Hayeshiva of Yeshivat Har Etzion addresses crowd in Beit Midrash during last Thursday's Club Hour

Israeli Cabinet Minister Rav Amital Speaks of Religious Unity

BY BOAZ KURTIS

hashem [of Rabin's murder]."

In a brief but highly symbolic February 8th speech in front of a packed Beit Midrash, Rav Yehuda Amital, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivat Har Etzion and Minister Without Portfolio in the nascent Peres Cabinet in Israel, called upon all religious Jews to strive to erase the recent negative Jewish Orthodox publicity by reducing divisions between the Orthodox and non-religious groups.

Rav Amital expressed serious concern about the negative image of Jews, and Orthodox Jews in particular, that has been painted in the wake of recent events such as the Hebron massacre in 1994 in which a religious Jew killed 29 Arabs praying in a mosque, and the November 4th assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. "Who would've imagined that tragedies like these would occur in Israel...and above all [that Rabin died] at the hands of a Jew wearing a yarmulke, claiming his actions were sanctioned by Jewish law? In times like these, it is incumbent upon every person to find out what his/her responsibility is... one must ask himself 'What can I do to make a kiddush hashem?'"

Torah study, he suggested, is one such way. "Learning Torah creates more substance [in one's life] and encourages greater benevolence towards others," said Rav Amital. On his own behalf, Amital discussed his decision to join the government, among other things, as partly fulfilling his obligation to make a positive contribution to Jewish society. "As a Rabbi and head of a Hesder yeshiva, I saw it as my responsibility to join the government in the aftermath of the great chillul

and to the recent establishment of Israeli diplomatic relations with the Vatican and Russia, two former enemies, as paradigms of *kiddush hashem*. Rav Amital fought in Israel's War of Independence in 1948 and was involved in talks with the Vatican and Moscow.

In his twenty minute Hebrew speech, Rav Amital also focused on prevalent attitudes within Israel that have devastated the infrastructure of Jewish society. "The Prime Minister invited me into the government because he feared the divisions within Israel could destroy the State," Rav Amital said. But Peres' gesture of reconciliation between Orthodox and secular Jews has had minimal effect, he fears.

Rav Amital challenged all to overcome *sin'at chinam*, or groundless hatred: "If we ostracize others, even if they have sinned, we will reach the point where hatred encompasses everyone...it is a great and often difficult challenge to avert hatred," warned Amital. Indeed, since Rabin's murder, separation among sects of Jews continues to deepen.

RIETS Vice President R. Robert Hirt, who delivered the introduction to Amital's speech, talked of the "feeling of desperation" in many Orthodox circles as a result of Rabin's assassination. "The sense of polarization between religious and non-religious...has erupted volcanically and encouraged Rabbi Amital...to call for a greater involvement of our people [in Yeshiva University]...to express confidence in the government and people of Israel."

Senate Unanimously Approves Outside Credit Cap

Campus Divided Over Upcoming Academic Standards Vote

BY DAVID SWIDLER

The Academic Senate set the legislative wheels in motion last week when it unanimously approved the much talked about proposal which will implement a limiting 40 credit cap on all credit earned outside YC and SSSB Uptown. The action is intended to bolster the quality and reputation of a YU degree.

Before becoming an official policy the proposal must next be approved by the Academic Standards Committee; and pending such approval, the proposal would then move on to a general faculty vote. If the act passes by

both the Academic Standards Committee and the faculty, it will either be enacted immediately or require final ratification by President Lamm and the Board of Trustees.

The proposal states that any credits above 40 will exempt the student from the courses in which they were earned, but will not count toward the requisite 128 for graduation. Included under the category of "outside credit" are Advanced Placement exams, CLEP tests, exemption tests, the Yerushalmi exam, summer courses at other institutions, OAC (grade thirteen in Ontario, Canada), joint association pro-

grams and Israel credit.

Any full academic semester at an accredited four-year college will not be restricted in this regard - meaning this new measure should not effect transfer students.

Included in the proposal is a grandfather clause exempting all students currently enrolled, which includes those on the Joint Israel Program. Senate member and Director of Enrollment Management at the Office of the Registrar Rabbi Mel Davis pointed out that by law, this feature must be included, as it is illegal to lengthen artificially and across

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Morg Beit Midrash: A Temporary Solution To A Permanent Problem

BY ARI GRUEN

The 1996 Spring semester has seen the establishment of a new Beit Midrash in the Morgenstern Dormitory shul. While administration members have defended the move, the new Beit Midrash has had a troubled start and has opened to decidedly mixed reviews by the approximately 140 students who spend their mornings there, many of whom hope a better solution will soon be implemented.

The establishment of a new

Beit Midrash was deemed necessary by the RIETS administration due to the large number of students already bereft of *makomot* in the Main Beit Midrash, a situation exacerbated by the significant number of students who returned from Israel after half a year. Learning in classrooms was not considered a viable option, and thus, a new Beit Midrash was born in the Morgenstern basement shul.

The students of the three MYP freshman shiurim and of the SBMP program who were desig-

nated to learn in the Morgenstern Beit Midrash have met with many difficulties in their new learning environment. Most significantly, they have complained of poor lighting and of the lack of air ventilation which could turn worse as the semester continues and temperatures rise outside. One disgusted student referred to his morning home as "a dark, mildewy dungeon."

RIETS Vice President Rabbi Robert S. Hirt defends the choice of location for the new Beit Mi-

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Students from across North America came together for YU's National Model United Nations. Students represented some 70 nations as delegates to various committees such as the Security Council. See story page 5.

LETTERS

To the Editor

RESPECT-Just A Little Bit

To the Editor:

Since the beginning of the academic year, RIETS students have been living in apartments leased to Yeshiva University in the blocks surrounding the Main Campus.

While this is nothing new, as RIETS students, married couples and singles have long been accustomed to renting apartments nearby, this year marks the first year in which RIETS students - approximately 65 - who wished to live in the dormitories were forced, in a last minute decision made this past August, to move into local apartments rented by the University.

Upon the students' arrival in late August, we were told by a number of University officials that these newly rented apartments and the students living in them - all paying the full dorm fee of \$3000 a year - would be treated as if they were residing in the dorm.

We understood this to mean that many of the amenities and services received by residents of the dormitories would, similarly, be made available to us.

Seven months later, we're still waiting for the University to come through on its promise.

Though we finally received vitally needed desks and dressers a short month ago, nearly five months after the University had promised to provide them for us, much more has to be addressed. Paying the full dorm fee, we expected to be provided with adequate living space, lighting, proper waste receptacles, cleaning materials and toilet supplies, and the security offered by the dorms. Upon moving in, we discovered, much to our dismay, cramped studio and one bedroom apartments with four, five, or six students stuffed together, all without phone hookups, shower curtains, wastebaskets, cooking gas, mezuzot, lighting fixtures, properly wired outlets, and of course, dressers. For virtually all of our apartments, the living conditions were far more crowded than the dorm rooms we left behind.

With students in each apartment paying the full dorm price, the University is actually reaping a tremendous windfall in crowding the RIETS students in these apartments. Let us explain: the apartments which the University provides for the RIETS students are rentals which cost the University slightly more than \$600 a month. Depending on the amount of students in the apartment paying the full dorm fee, which amounts to \$300 a

month per student, the University is receiving from us between \$1500 - \$1800 a month per apartment. Even assuming that the University pays for the cost of each apartment's utilities, which it does, the University is still making a considerable profit on the twelve or so apartments it has rented for RIETS.

In the dormitories, with all their security, maintenance, cleaning, toilet supplies, and other conveniences, students don't notice or feel the difference in cost relative to an apartment. We in the apartments certainly do, especially without all the conveniences offered by the dorm. We can't help but feel that we are being ripped off.

While some progress has been achieved since those first few weeks, as *The Commentator* reported in its last issue (Vol. LX, 9), we are still a long way from where we want to be and should be. We've asked repeatedly, through meetings and discussions with University officials, for all the items and services enumerated above. We need the various departments in the YU bureaucracy to finally respond to our requests for basic needs. We need to have YU's Facilities Management provide us with lighting fixtures, waste receptacles, a regular supply of light bulbs and cleaning materials, all of which are usually supplied under the regular dormitory fee which we are all paying.

As well, if the University refuses to provide all the extras normally associated with dorm life and make a handsome profit on it at the same time, we want answers as to why our dorm fees cannot be reduced and the students reimbursed for the expenses incurred over the last half-year. And as the months pass quickly by, time is running out for the answers to make a difference.

If current trends continue, YU will be housing the RIETS students in these apartments for some time to come. Though it is too late in the year for the issue of overcrowding to be addressed, for the future, it must be. The overcrowding in our apartments cannot be allowed to happen again. We're entitled to at least some of the rights as our brethren in the dorms - two in a room. Hopefully, the YU administration is listening. It better be, or there will be just as many unhappy RIETS students as there were this year.

Signed,
Two Concerned RIETS Students
Moshe I. Kinderlehrer RIETS '99 YC '95
Uriel Schechterman RIETS '99 YC '95

Delicious Hospitality

A travesty of justice was done by Arnon Storfer in his article "Sephardic Club Embattled by Controversy". I personally attended the event at Deli Kasbah and was made to feel extremely welcome by all those attending. During the course of the evening many of the Sephardic men had gotten up to allow the "Askenazim", whom they welcomed with open arms, to wait in comfort while Sephardic Club President Ralph Madeb single-handedly served all the European Jews he could

drag into Deli Kasbah. Madeb and his officers exemplified the attribute of Avraham Avinu, hospitality, and would not start the program until everyone was served. Arnon Storfer and *The Commentator* owe Madeb and the Sephardic Club a public apology keeping their own words (Dec. 5 "From the Editor's Desk") to work for, "a truly united Israel."

Sincerely,
Aron Tendler YC '96

Back To Torah U'Madda

To the Editor:

In *The Commentator's* fascinating interview with Dean Adler, I did not see any reference to how the Dean sees his role in enhancing YC as an institution that embodies *Torah U'Madda*. While it is quite important that the physical plant, the morale of the faculty/students, etc. all be optimized, it does not seem that this is the primary goal for a Dean of Yeshiva College. If, in fact, that is as far as Dean Adler's horizons extend, what does *Yeshiva Col-*

lege gain from the presence of such a person? More important (from the viewpoint of alumni who are asked to contribute to their Alma Mater), why should any "member of the alumni" contribute from his limited funds to an institution that does not appear to be focused upon its raison d'être as evidenced by its "academic leadership"?

Sincerely,
Zvi Weiss YC '71/RIETS '74

Rav Twersky on Target

To the Editor:

Pity those who missed the powerful Nov. 15 speech by Rabbi Moshe Twersky on the tumultuous situation among Jews in the wake of Prime Minister Yitzchak Rabin's murder. He was truly on the ball.

On one point, in particular, related to Yigal Amir's crime was he especially more pointed than other Orthodox rabbis have been: That Prime Minister Rabin's death was an outrageous abomination, and that students at institutions such as Yeshiva University must condemn it completely. Period.

As a faculty member and graduate of Yeshiva College, I was proud to hear such strong language about such a horrific event from one of its rabbis. Prime Minister Rabin's death, I believe, will be remembered as one of the darkest days in Jewish history. How can a day on which a Jew was murdered by a Jew not be considered as such? Pity those who do not realize this.

Sincerely,
Jonathan S. Hornbliss YC '91
Adjunct Instructor of Journalism
Yeshiva College

Super Snow Job

To the Editor:

I would like to applaud the staff of Yeshiva University, especially the staff of the Department of Facilities Management, for their work during the Blizzard of 1996. As photographer for the *Commentator* I was out during and after the storm taking pictures, and I saw how hard the Department of Facilities Management worked to keep the sidewalks, streets, walkways and entrance vestibules clear of snow and ice, and as clean as possible, all this in addition to their regular duties. University staff were here to keep school facil-

ities open, among these: the cafeteria, the library, and the athletic center. In addition, some faculty and proctors were here to administer final exams.

I think that YU students do not give enough credit to the staff for all their hard work during the year, especially during times of inclement weather and other extenuating circumstances. We take most of what they do for granted and once in a while should stop and thank them.

Paul Hurwitz
YC '97

Correction

In our last issue, Volume LX No. 9, the front page article entitled "Behind the Books of the Seforim Sale" attributed a \$10,000 food tab to the 1995 Seforim Sale.

After publication, however, it came to our attention that our source, a Board member of the current Sale, had unwittingly provided us with inaccurate information.

Yum Yum's Records indicate that the actual tab was approximately \$900.

In addition, the Seforim Sale's current beeper inventory includes 5 alphanumeric and 3 standard pagers, not the 8 alphanumeric pagers which the above referenced article originally indicated.

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Yeshiva College



Campus News

Sy Syms Exchange Debuts To Mixed Reviews

BY JOSHUA M. FELDMAN

The inaugural issue of the *The Exchange*, the new official undergraduate newspaper of the Sy Syms School of Business, was received this past week by mixed reviews.

"We are no longer the baby brother of Yeshiva and Stern Colleges... we are now an integral part of the YU family," wrote SSSB Presidents Barbara Pollack and Sam Wald in their Presidents' Message.

"It's a good paper," noted SSSB Junior Shraga Goldenhersh, "but I don't know if it is necessary." Goldenhersh also took offense at Wald and Pollack's statement. "It doesn't matter which school a student is enrolled in," explained Goldenhersh, "[W]e are all one unified student body." YC Senior Benji Levy said that "if the students of SSSB feel that they need a newspaper, then as long as they fund it, let them have it."

With messages from the Dean, SSSB-SA Presidents, and columns from almost all of the Syms' clubs, *The Exchange* was welcomed by many YU administrators. "There is always room for another student publication at YU" said SSSB Associate Dean Ira Jaskoll, "the only question is the amount of resources that the student councils are prepared to invest in such causes."

According to Jason Buskin, Editor-in-Chief, *The Exchange* received \$1500 allocated by SSSB President Sam Wald to start the paper. *The Exchange's* permanent budget comes from the YCSC, the SSSB, and ad revenues. Yeshiva College Student Council President Joshua Fine explained that YCSC often has to supplement the SSSB budget because most of their \$17,000 allo-

cation is diverted to pay for the SSSB annual dinner.

No Conflict of Interest

Buskin, who also serves on the Governing Board of *The Commentator* as Business Manager, dismissed the possibility of a conflict of interest, citing the different mandates of the two newspapers. "[The mandate of *The Commentator* is to] enlighten the students of the college as to what is going on in the school. A newspaper reporting on the day to day activities of campus with features on topics of interest on things that are relevant to the everyday lives of students on campus."

Commentator Editor-in-Chief Ari Hirt noted that "Sy Syms is growing, and as it does, there is a vast area within the business field to expose... a great potential for *The Exchange* to delve into different careers and use this as a way of networking and to build the reputation of Syms in the business world."

Hirt emphasized that in his opinion, "the purpose of *The Exchange* is to expose different areas and venues of the business school which *The Commentator* doesn't focus on." Hirt went on to explain that he and his co-editor, Owen Cyrulnik, lent their full support to Buskin's efforts and showed good faith by granting Buskin and his staff the temporary use of *The Commentator's* equipment in order to produce the inaugural issue.

Buskin says that his intention is to publish two or three more issues during the remainder of this semester, as of next year, he expects that *The Exchange* will be published on a monthly basis.

Entrepreneurs Speak Out To SSSB Students

BY NOAH STREIT

Thirty-five SSSB students gathered last week in Belfer Hall for a presentation entitled "Starting Your Own Business," a segment of the Self-Made Entrepreneurs Sy Syms Lecture Series. This program presented to the students a slew of successful businessmen who "made it on their own." The entrepreneurs in attendance offered no complex formulae and no fancy graphs - just plain old conventional wisdom mixed with experience.

The Shipper Man

The first to speak was Stuart Forman, who graduated from YU well before SSSB, the Sy Syms School of Business, existed. While working at a summer job he discovered his love for shipping. He now owns ADS Trucking, a New Jersey-based firm, which specializes in the transport of printed material. ADS is also well-known as the transporter of luggage to the numerous Jewish summer camps which dot the Poconos and Catskills.

Mr. Forman advised the group of aspiring business people about the importance of "finding a specialty in whatever field you choose to go into," and reminded everyone of the constant responsibility to give back to one's own community.

The Exterminator Man

How does a mango from number crunching at Ernst & Young, a prestigious accounting firm, to owning his own successful pest control company? Well, just ask Jeff Eisenberg, owner of City and State Pest Control. Mr. Eisenberg, a graduate of the Sy Syms School of Business first graduating

class, entered the exterminator business after working through a number of the big eight firms. Eisenberg recalls that after serious introspection he discovered that his true calling is pest control. His advice for the entrepreneur was that one should be able to understand and perform all responsibilities of the company from the ground up.

The Sign Maker Men

"You don't learn anything till you start doing it," said Michael Fried and his partner, Jonathan Sklar, owners of Sign-A-Rama USA. Mr. Fried and Mr. Sklar were the third group of lecturers to address the businessmen of tomorrow. Both Sklar and Fried graduated together three-and-half years ago.

After studying to be accountants, both Mr. Sklar and Mr. Fried realized that they had no interest in the field. So they bought a sign-making franchise. Mr. Fried works on the sales and business end, while Mr. Sklar takes care of the sign-making.

Each of the four lecturers stressed hard work, dedication, and the importance of working with people in a positive and friendly manner. Most importantly, "Don't be miserable, do that which you find interesting and enjoyable, and you'll be surprised at the money you can make."

Students noted that the speakers were informative and offered important and practical advice. One student commented that, "These are the things which they don't teach in business school."

Yoel Mayerfeld, chairman of the Sy Syms Lecture Series Committee, said, "I think it was a great success... and especially important to a lot of seniors who don't know what they want to do."

WYUR To Switch Bandwidths

BY J.D. SHULMAN

The days of Yeshiva University radio broadcasting on 640 AM may soon be history as it will attempt to make a transition to the FM dial. After much deliberation, managers of the student-run radio station hope to have WYUR broadcasting on a FM transponder by the start of the fall semester.

"There is simply no other way," asserts WYUR Co-manager Reuben Levy, "a critical mass has been reached with the AM - we've got it as good as we can get it."

The current means of broadcast require a cable to carry the AM signal from the station to receivers in all three Yeshiva College and only one Stern College dormitory buildings. From there, the signal is passed along the telephone lines into the individual rooms, making reception contingent on the proximity of the radio to the phone jack.

The idea of an FM frequency is being met with great opposition. One roadblock has been the lack of finances. The other has been YU President, Dr. Norman Lamun.

The President stalwartly refuses to grant permission for an FM station because of the current content of the station's manifest. He and other administrators have been less than willing to comply with an FM station unless it will be entirely devoted to Jewish music.

The solution to the problem may be a limited range FM broadcasting. This system, projected to cost \$20,000, makes use of a low power antenna to supply FM radio signals to all the dormitories, including the newly purchased Schottenstein building on the Midtown Campus. The expense would cover the cost of installation of new transmitters at the station and the installation of the low wattage antennas in the buildings.

The new broadcasting system is only one in a series of recent changes at the station. The purchase of new chairs, telephones, a new computer, and the renovation of the studio are appreciated additions for this year's disc jockeys. Additionally, the reassignment of managerial positions has led to a more caring and involved staff.



Rabbi Druckman, a father of the Bnei Akiva Youth Movement addresses students in Rav Goldwicht's shiur this past week.



Morg Mart Manager Eric Sussman selling buffalo wings from Dougie's in the 7th floor lounge

Morg Mart Opens For One Night Stand

BY YUDY SHEINFELD

Morg Mart finally opened for one night last week, but not in its usual location. Despite signs announcing the opening, store management, now under the auspices of YU's chapter of the American Management Association, arrived to find that the room, located in the basement of the Morgenstern dormitory, had been locked by YU officials.

Store manager Eric Sussman decided to move to a lounge on the seventh floor of Morg and sell the store's only merchandise, 500 buffalo wings from Dougie's Barbecue and Grill. His goal was to supplement the store's relatively small \$500 budget allotment, as compared with allotments in previous years which ranged up to \$2,000. According to Sussman, the night was not as profitable as it could have been because he was forced to lower prices due to his poor location.

The reason for the lockout is still not clear. On the morning of what was to be the mart's grand opening, YCSC President Josh Fine spoke to Assistant Head of Security Mr. Don Summers to arrange for the designated Morg Mart room to be opened. The room was open around at 6:30 p.m. when Sussman put his supplies in the store. According to security guards, the store was then locked by Associate Director of Facilities Management Jeffrey Socol. Apparently, Socol believed that Sussman was not planning to open the store until the following week. "It is unbelievable how such a simple chore could get tangled between Mr. Summers and Mr. Socol and cause such a big problem," said an infuriated Daniel Hartstein, the AMA president.

Sussman hopes to have the store fully stocked within the next few weeks. In addition to buffalo wings from Dougie's, he plans on conducting other specials throughout the year.

Blood Center Lauds YU For Donation Efforts

BY ROBERT GUTTMANN

In the inaugural issue of its Donor Chairpersons' Advisory Council Newsletter, the New York Blood Center breathlessly paid tribute to YU for its laborious efforts and excellent results in blood donation. The council's newsletter, "Out For Blood," contains a piece in which YU is praised for its dedication, specifically for holding frequent blood drives and achieving impressive student turnouts during them.

"Ask anyone in the post-secondary community who runs a great a blood drive?" the newsletter noted. "Chances are the answer will undoubtedly be - Yeshiva!" The article, though arguably a bit hyperbolic, reflects the noble commitment of YU students in supporting these drives. Indeed, when asked what the motivation is for participating in the drives, Associate Dean of Students

Rabbi Jeffrey Chaitoff explained, "YU has some of the finest students in the U.S., indeed in the world. They're incredible in terms of working in the community and are very community-minded. When they give blood they are saving a life, and as the Torah says, when one's life is saved it's equivalent to an entire world being saved."

500 pints per year
Blood Drive Coordinator Stuart Milstein (YC '96) reports that the four drives held during the 1994-95 academic year brought in close to 500 pints of blood, while last January's drive raised over 70 pints, despite being held during reading week. It is not surprising, therefore, that YU is ranked number one by the NY Blood Council in student participation. Milstein urges all students to continue the trend by participating in future blood drives.

Beukas and 2/3 of Morg Room 222 Win Senior Awards

BY MEIR S. ZEITCHIK

In an annual Senior election which bestows honors on two distinguished classmates and one faculty professor, 40% of YC/SSSB seniors cast their votes on a ballot from which YCSC President Joshua Fine, NCSY and Yachad coordinator Larry Stern, and Speech and Dramatics Professor Anthony Beukas emerged victorious. Ironically, Larry Stern and Joshua Fine are roommates.

Students selected Beukas overwhelmingly for the award of best full-time Senior professor; he received fifteen votes, compared with three for his nearest competitors, Drs. Marrin, Otway, Palumbo, and Hochman.

Stern, recognized for his contribution to the Jewish community, also won comfortably, collecting twenty-seven votes, thirteen more than runner-up Joshua Fine.

Fine was more successful in his bid for the YU service award, but emerged from a slightly stickier race, winning by a twenty to thirteen count over AIPAC campus coordinator Jeremy Lustman. It is not the first time the two duked it out in a heated election; Fine defeated Lustman by only seventeen votes in last Spring's YCSC presidential race.

The election, which took place last Thursday amid controversy over the nominating process, drew approximately twice as many students as last year, when turnout was so dismal that one nominee secured an award with only three votes.

The election was marked by uncertainty before the first student ever regis-

tered a vote. Several members of YCSC desired to strengthen nominating requirements by obligating nominees to submit two faculty recommendations. The motion failed, and to attain a spot on the ballot students simply had to submit a resume to the Canvassing Committee, the student-run administrative body in charge of coordinating student elections.

Defending the decision, Canvassing Committee co-chair Yoel Mayerfeld noted that this "is a student-vote election," and external factors like teacher recommendations should be disregarded.

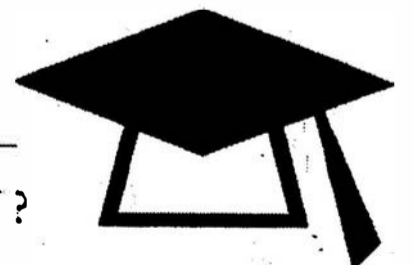
A slight clamor also arose over the publicizing of the event. Unlike last year's fiasco, when only twenty students voted, this year's turnout was considerably heavier. Still, some students complained of not knowing of the election until it was too late. Canvassing Committee co-chair Benjy Levy conceded that "there could have been more publicity."

Fine exuded satisfaction at being conferred the award. "I'm honored that students chose to recognize me," he said. Fine also lavished praise on his roommate Stern, saying how "he's done so much for the Jewish community." And he dismissed theories that there is a magical quality to the 2nd floor Morg room in which they both reside.

Beukas, a longtime speech professor and director of Yeshiva College Dramatics Society, has a cadre of loyal admirers. "He's the only professor who has a following. He demands competent accomplishment, and it's great to see that students appreciate that," said YCDS die-hard Seth Dimbert.

yeshiva university COMMENCEMENT

MAY 22



DID YOU APPLY?

DID YOU RECEIVE A RECEIPT?

IF NOT, GO TO REGISTRAR ON YOUR CAMPUS

Sephardic Population Thriving on Campus

BY SIMCHA GISSINGER

In just over 30 years, the Sephardic club has grown to be the largest club on campus, boasting a tremendous success in a short period. Now, one of every seven undergraduate students is a member. And its alumni, who form one third of the American Sephardi rabbis, have changed the ethnic landscape of American Orthodoxy, by joining their Ashkenazic counterparts in top leadership roles. In addition, it is the only club whose president automatically becomes part of an international council (the Sephardic Council Overseas).

Rabbi M. Mitchell Serels, Sephardic student advisor, recounts the club's founding in 1964. As one of the three undergraduate founding members, he recalls how all six of the Sephardim in YU were gathered to take the club picture. Rabbi Serels then proudly announces that the Sephardic Club now has one hundred and fifty undergraduate males. A Sephardic major has been created in IBC, and a Sephardic Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Eliyahu Ben-Haim has been installed. Even classes in Sephardic history are currently being given at YU.

"Torah Umadda", according to Rabbi Serels, is very much in agreement with Sephardic philosophy, because Sephardim, (whose experiences have been quite distinct from those of Ashkenazim), have never felt the world to be antagonistic toward them. "Every Sephardic high school graduate should come to YU", proclaims Rabbi Serels.

The club was founded so that it could be a source of leadership in the American Sephardic community. Among its activities are conferences that educate Sephardim in their ethnic history and train them to take an active role in community Chesed projects and general leadership. The Sephardic Club's Shabbaton, the largest of its sort on campus, is sponsored by funds provided by the Spanish government. Some of the club's other activities include an annual educational Shabbaton on the history of Yemenite Jews, and visits to nursing homes.

The club has been growing at about ten percent per year, and has enjoyed a large growth in both funding and numbers of Sephardim on campus. Two years ago Rabbi Lamm began reaching out to the Sephardic community. He started in his own neighborhood, at the Spanish Portuguese Synagogue, whose leader, Rabbi Marc Angel, is another one of the three founding undergraduate members of the Sephardic Club. From there, Rabbi Lamm moved on to the Syrian community in Brooklyn. He urged them to send their college students to YU. Rabbi Lamm met with much success, and the Syrian community at YU has grown considerably.

Since the club is privately funded, and does not take monies from YCSC or other sources, its leaders feel justified in promoting events specifically for Sephardic students. In addition, the scholarships they offer are only available to Sephardic students. The scholarships are need-based, and have helped increase the number of international students at YU. Rabbi Serels explains that many of the scholarships were founded as different waves of Sephardim have immigrated to America and needed to be absorbed. Many of them

came in poverty, from places like Morocco, Syria, Iran, and recently Russia. The Sephardic Council Overseas recently received a one million dollar scholarship in memory of the Chacham Gaon. Most of the scholarships work on the basis of endowments, with the annual interest of the principle being distributed.

Since these scholarships are meant only for Sephardim, the "litmus test" for testing the "Sephardiness" of the applicants is their surname. Serels concedes that it would be entirely possible for Ashkenazim to scam their way into these scholarships as well, since the surnames of many families have been changed over the years, and because there is no investigation into a scholarship applicant's claim of being Sephardic.

Some Ashkenazic students have complained that the Sephardic Club is a separate entity from the rest of the university. They base this allegation primarily on the fact that the Sephardic Club is the only club whose funding is completely exclusive of the Yeshiva College Student Council, and on a situation that transpired last semester at Deli Kasbah. The Sephardic Club had posted signs saying that all students were invited to attend a planned function at the Deli which would begin at 8:30 pm. The Ashkenazic students who showed up promptly at eight-thirty were told to leave. Rabbi Serels attributes this to a time mis-understanding. He says that when Sephardim call something for eight-thirty, they actually intend for it to begin at about nine fifteen; and so when Ashkenazim showed up at eight-thirty, the club wasn't ready to begin. He further asserts that when he was there later on that night, there were Ashkenazim in attendance.

As for the Sephardic Club not taking funds from the Yeshiva College Student Council, Rabbi Serels fails to see students' complaints since this frees up YCSC funds for other uses. Rav Yosef Blau, MYP Mashgiach Ruchani, feels that tensions between Ashkenazim and Sephardim, while tight in the past, have gone down over the past few years. R. Blau feels that the tensions peaked a few years ago during a large influx of Iranian immigrants to YU. Since then, R. Blau confirms that there have been few problems. Rav Blau further says that human nature is such that over time Ashkenazim and Sephardim melt together, but it is nonetheless important for Sephardim to maintain their tradition, and he is therefore strongly in favor of institutions such as the Sephardic minyan, Beit Medrash, and shiur.

In defense of the Sephardic club's policy of giving financial aid exclusively to Sephardim, Rav Blau comments that all minority groups help their own. He points out that the status quo at YU before many of the recent "Sephardic reforms" favored an Ashkenazic derech, one based on the predilections of most of the rabbanim and administrators. Rav Serels adds that the reason that Sephardic donations are meant for Sephardim only is that Sephardim, in general, are more community-minded than Ashkenazim. He cites his own congregation, Magen David, in Scarsdale, and says that his congregants feel closer to the Sephardic congregations of Brooklyn, than the other Ashkenazic congregations in Scarsdale.

YC's Chaim Motzen Named in USA Today's Top 20

BY ARIEL KONSTANTYN

The national spotlight was cast on Yeshiva University two weeks ago when the face of one of its student achievers was splashed in the pages of the February 8th USA Today. The newspaper chose YC and RIETS student Chaim Motzen as one of twenty members of its prestigious All-USA College Academic Team. Motzen was nominated by the faculty and deans of the university to represent YU for the first time in this nationwide contest. Motzen and his nineteen counterparts were selected from a pool of 1,200 candidates based on "academic excellence in a wide range of disciplines from physics and political science to economics and engineering" and social and community leadership.

Motzen is a biology major and an art minor; he is a Max Stern and Roth Institute Scholar with an exceptional academic standing. But in the domain of extracurricular activity, Motzen truly stands out. He is Bone Marrow Drive chairman, the New York bureau chief of the student publication *Dateline: Middle East*, co-chairman of YU's Council on Racial Harmony, a jazz ensemble soloist, the track team's co-captain, and the former Junior class president. YC Associate Dean Michael Hecht remarked, "Frankly, I have never seen a student do so much so well." YC Dean Norman Adler added, "He has a combination of smarts and social leadership, so that he's able to galvanize support for causes and get things done."

Dean Adler decided to enter YU in the contest because "the guys at Yeshiva are the best and the brightest. The level of intellectual stimulation of the students and the faculty is astounding." He felt that it would take a few years to become known in that circle and was thrilled that



Photo: Gary Mann, YUPP

YC Senior Chaim Motzen

the "young man who is astounding" won: "I think it was good for USA Today to see a frum Jew win it as well."

Motzen was awarded a cash prize of \$2,500 and his picture and biography were featured in USA Today. A separate article described how Motzen requested that his biography space be devoted for him to encouraging minorities to enter the bone marrow registry. He and the other awardees were presented with official plaques at a weekend reception in Washington coinciding with publication of the education feature. Through discussions and interaction with the other awardees from Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Columbia, Princeton, and other colleges, Motzen learned that "YU has a great reputation outside of YU." Motzen also commented that his fellow academic team members were incredible people, and interaction with them was one of the highlights of the weekend.



The Rabbinic Track: Motivations and Aspirations of Semicha Students

BY AKIVA HERZFELD

With its students evicted from the dormitories to make room for the record setting levels of undergraduate students, the RIETS semicha program has undergone a population explosion of its own. After a fall semester of record enrollment, the spring semester, always larger due to its ability to attract students who have completed college early, registers a 50% increase in *talmidim* since 1990. The actual enrollment, while in its own right impressive, is magnified by what Rabbi Charlop terms "a nil dropout rate" - most of those who enter RIETS to complete their ordination stay until they are finished. Additionally, while many students who enter the program fully believe that they will be there only temporarily while on their way to graduate school, every year some of these students conclude by staying to complete their ordination.

In a school where no tuition is charged and where nearly half the students receive stipends, there is little to prevent someone interested in learning and unsure of what he wants to do from enrolling in RIETS. In fact, many in the Semicha program apparently are not sure they want to be a Rav, or for that matter seem to be indecisive about what it is they do want to do. Such irresoluteness would seem to make RIETS a school of uncommitted, waffling young men.

"Not so," declared Vice President for RIETS Robert Hirt. "RIETS students are more committed than law school students. Not knowing what you want to do is not a sin."

One student, Jonathan Kroll, initially enrolled in semicha in order to spend additional time learning and to keep his options open. Now he hopes one day to enter the field of Jewish education. His aspirations require him to achieve ordination because, "no one is going to hire a Mr." Like Kroll, many who enter semicha desire at first to learn *lishma* and only later their learning is transformed into more tangible terms.

Over 70% of RIETS graduates choose to enter *avodas ha-kodesh*, meaning congregational rabbinic, Jewish education, or Jewish communal work, such as military chapels, and university campus work. To prepare its students for these positions, RIETS, besides having the traditional requirements, supplements its program with practical, hands-on rabbinic experience and classes in psychology and sociology.

"If someone's goal is just to sit and learn, then he should not go into semicha because you get requirements which are unnecessary for *stam* learning," says Judah Diamant, a RIETS student who eventually wants to go into *chinuch*.

While it may be plausible that the proliferation of RIETS students is due to the realization that the rabbinic offers substantial pecuniary benefits, a more immediate reason for the growth

of RIETS may be the upwards surge of *talmidim* spending two years in the Israel Program and the overall swelling of the Mazer Yeshiva Program. Ezra Schwartz, a first year student, sees his entrance into RIETS as a natural progression from the two programs. In detailing why he chose to enlist, he explained that "it just happened. I figured I'd go to YU, finish college, and go to law school. But I decided to pursue my learning further as I became involved in YP."

Ian Pear, another assiduous *talmid*, besides fulfilling the requirements of RIETS, is also taking summer law school classes with which he hopes to one day lay the groundwork for a law clinic run out of his congregation. Ian characterized the curriculum of RIETS and its self-motivation philosophy. "It's as rigorous as you want to make it. You can end up spending all day in the beis midrash learning... but if you want to cut corners you can also spend a minimal amount of time."

One student brooded over the diminishing lack of job opportunities and hinted that this in fact is the reason why he chose to enter. He related how he had always wished to help the Jewish people, but never wished to be a pauper. "Now," he asserted, "I don't see any good jobs out there, so if I'm not successful in this world, why not position myself well for the next?"

Shmuel Herzfeld, who was a classics major while in YC, spoke of how he thought Semicha will enhance his understanding of classical thought. "It will definitely better my understanding of Josephus. Moreover, the *talmud* has numerous instances where Greek words pop-up. Aramaic is a fascinating language."

Not everyone in RIETS thinks the title of rabbi will necessarily help them in their projected occupation. Yonatan Joshua inevitably thinks he will go to law school. "Semicha is just a goal; it compels me to sit down and learn for an extra year or two. I don't plan on practicing." Another hopeful future lawyer, responding to the suggestion that he couldn't get into a top notch law school asserted that "about half of RIETS is made up of future lawyers."

Moshe Kinderlehrer, former *Commentator* editor-in-chief, had his own description.

"Semicha equips one for a future devoted to the *Klal*... I look at it as preparation for life."

Although RIETS is flourishing, with registration consistently augmenting over the years, no prospective *talmid* should fear an eventual overabundance in supply of clergymen. Rabbi Hirt maintains that "there is an inadequate number of *talmidim*. The demand to produce far exceeds our capacity to do it... We need more people, skilled and community-compatible. We have to produce more leaders."

YU Hosts Sixth Annual High School Model United Nations Conference

BY EZRA TUCHMAN

The sixth annual Yeshiva University National Model United Nations conference was held this past week at the Meadowlands Hilton in Secaucus, New Jersey. The event, attended by almost 450 high school students from across North America, allowed the student delegates to tackle various social and economic issues in committee sessions that paralleled those of the actual UN.

Event organizers, both student and faculty, considered the Conference a success and lauded the professionalism of the YU staffers. Lisa Slansky, Assistant Director of Admissions and the Conference Coordinator, described the Conference as a "resounding success," and as "a totally encompassing religious and intellectual experience."

Mr. Michael Kranzler, Director of Undergraduate Admissions at YC, reiterated this sentiment. "The people who ran this Conference ran it very well," he said. "When our current students act professionally as they did, they serve as our university's best ambassadors and representatives." In addition, Kranzler mentioned that he had already received

positive feedback from advisors who had accompanied their students at the Conference and who had called to congratulate him on the performance of his staff and of the YU staffers.

Although no active recruitment efforts were made at the conference itself, it is clear that the *raison d'être* of YUNMUN is recruitment and public relations; in the words of Slansky, the event is an "excellent public relations vehicle for the University." And despite student complaints of overcrowding, Kranzler stresses the importance of such recruiting efforts. He explained that such events are part of a process that bring the best and brightest Orthodox students to campus. "With this event alone we will not convince students to come to YU. But taken together with other events like the Basketball Tournament, the Joint-Israel Program, and our on-campus visits, we can introduce high school seniors to the possibility of attending YU. Our job is to keep chipping away. To keep bringing the best students to YU. Though I understand that additional students may overload the dorms, our job is to keep this campus full of bright and devoted

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Finances and Intellect

A Change in the Distinguished Scholars Program

BY ARI KAHN

It is almost understood that YU programs do not always live up to the reputations that are depicted in the public relations brochures. Yet when the Distinguished Scholars' Program, the "pride" of YU is at stake, the need to bridge the gap between the dream and the reality becomes all the greater.

The program, started twelve years ago by introducing the Max Stern Scholarship, was designed to offer top students from around the country a fiscal and intellectual incentive to attend YU. Surely, the program has met its financial obligations, yet the scholars have perpetually felt dissatisfied by the promised honors courses, cultural enrichment program, and lectures given specifically for these students.

Well, change is on its way in the form of a proposal that details two innovative ways of blending the intellect back into the scholarship. A letter addressed to the scholars discusses two proposals that could be immediately implemented as part of the program. Proposal number one talks about the formation of mentor discussion groups, small in size, and relating to the chosen interests of the scholars. It was proposed in order to give scholars the opportunity to engage in meaningful intellectual dialogue beyond the classroom.

The second proposal gives scholars the chance to serve as research assistants for faculty members both during the summer and the regular fall/spring semesters. The positions are not limited to the basic sciences but could include the social sciences, humanities, and Judaic Studies as well. Termed "the Augmentation of the Distinguished Scholars Program," it is "just the beginning," promises Isaac Sasson who worked on the proposal along with Carl Hochhauser YC'97, and Ryan Karben YC'96. They introduced the proposal to test the waters of participation; their biggest fear is possible apathy on the part of the scholars.

These new steps may not only signal wholesale changes that are in store for the Scholars Program, but all of YC and SCW as well. Under consideration right now is the possible formation of an Honors College at YU. Though details are sparse,

admission will be limited and requirements for graduation will be more varied and stringent. The college will offer courses that are more challenging as well as more comprehensive. The role that the Scholars' Program will play in the Honors College, along with the role it will continue to play in the YC and SSSB of the future, are questions that have yet to be answered.

The current program begins in the student's first year on campus when the scholars are called in for a formal meeting with the deans as well as the advisors for the program, Dr. Feit and Dr. Shatz. They are told of all the highlights in store for them in the coming years and what they can expect from the University. Scholars are impressed to be "flag barers of what YU represents," reports YC sophomore Ari Mermelstein.

If the program has any pretensions towards molding the future leaders of Torah U'Maddah, it "fails to offer any concrete help towards reaching that goal," explains Dr. Will Lee, the instructor of this year's English Honors Seminar. Instead, he clarifies, it is supposed to provide motivation for the scholars to see themselves as leaders. They can then seek out the people on campus who will serve as mentors and role models.

The honors English class which all distinguished scholars are required to take has always been an integral part of the program. Dr. Lee calls it "The Impossible Dream" and according to most students such a dream refers to the impossibility of getting an A in the course. Taught by different teachers on a three year rotating basis, it strives to connect an intensive literature section with a writing portion that keeps the teacher and students trying to integrate both halves. The scholars are supposed to learn from each other during its one year duration, and eventually, when heading in their separate directions, take their experience with them. According to Dr. Lee it will give us a "promising sense of community that reinforces you."

The final part of the program consists of invitations to cultural enrichment events. Only one event took place this year, a lecture at the 92nd Street Y by Elie Wiesel, and this has upset many of the scholars. "It seems that YU's commit-

ment to cultural enrichment is more of a token gesture than anything," was a sentiment put forth by Mermelstein and shared by many of the scholars I spoke to. They call for outings that they find interesting, but that do not put a strain on their already heavy schedules. The organizers reduced the number of the cultural enrichment events because they sensed that every time they arranged an event there

were complaints. Dr. Lee suggested that "the Distinguished Scholars killed the cultural enrichment programs."

In fact, not all scholars were enthusiastic about more events. One senior who did not want to be identified said that he went to the Wiesel lecture because he felt pressured to show up. Looking back on it now he said it was good, "but," he questioned, "was it better than night seder?"

Schedule for YC Makeup Finals

all examinations will be held in 501 Furst Hall

Friday February 23 @ 8AM

BIB1015A	Intro Bible	all sections
BIB1071A	Biblical Midrashim	Hurvitz
3IB2555A	Jeremiah	Schwartz
3IB3409A	Five Megillot	Waldman
3NG1101	English Comp	all sections
HIS3210	Intro Islam	Weber
HIS4691	War in Western	Marrin
POL1040	American Govern	Zucker
SCI1021C	Physical Universe	Taub

Sunday February 25 @ 1:30 PM

CHE1376	Biochemistry	Potvin
COM1315C	Intro Comp Sci	Breban
COM1502	Discrete Struct	Lebow
COM3640	Programming Lang	Leibovitch
ECO1011	Principles I	Markovitz
ECO3528	Money & Banking	Chang
ENG1601	Print Journalism	Hornblase
ENG2003	Survey Eng Lit I	Taubes
ENG2003	Survey Eng Lit I	Weidhorn
ENG2004	Survey Eng Lit II	Haahr
ENG2346	Milton	Weidhorn
ENG2400	Romantic Vision	Taubes
ENG3315	English Novel	Haahr
HEB1205	Intermed Heb I	Schneider
HEB1205	Intermed Heb I	Tawil
HIS2250	US: 1941-present	Schrecker
HIS4691	War in West Civ	Marrin
JHI1200	Classical Jew His	Reiner
JHI1400	Modern Jew His	Rosensw
JAT1101	Cicero	Feldman
MAT1510B	Multivariable Calc	Karpishpan
MAT1520	Adv Calc I	Rosenfeld
MAT2105B	Linear Algebra I	Rosenfeld
PHI1100	Logic	Haaren
PHI1031R	Intro Physics I	Komar
PSY1010	Intro Psych	Pali
PSY3804	Psychobiology	Adler
PSY2100C	Experimental	Pali
PSY2150	Cognitive	Pali
SOC1001	Intro to Sociology	Lindenthal
SPA1101	Elementary Spanish	Michaelson
STA1021	Intro to Statistics	Schneider

Note: all students taking makeup finals must register in advance in the dean's office.

Friday February 23 @ 11:45AM

ENG4201	Masters Western Lit	Feldman
HIS2005	Survey of US His	Davis-Kram
JHI1834	Intellectual	Carry
MUS1371	20th Century Music	Bartholome

Sunday February 25 @ 5PM

BIB1086A	Biblical Exegesis	Schneide
BIO1001C	Essentials of Bio I	Danishaf
BIO1011R	Principles	Feit
BIO3207C	Cell Biology	Danishaf
COM1107C	Change & Chance	Lebow
COM3563	Data Base Systems	Breban
ECO1021	Principles II	Kahnman
ECO1101	Microeconomics	Levine
ENG2003	Survey Eng Lit I	Haahr
ENG2612	American Lit II	Jacobson
HEB1205	Inter Heb I	Schneide
HIS1400	Greek Civ	Feldman
HIS1501	Hist of Britain I	Marrin
JAP1101	Intro to Jap	Ohnishi
JHI1300	Medieval Jewish Hist	Landman
JHI1300	Medieval Jewish Hist	Rosensw
MAT1160	Elementary Functions	Lebow
MAT1412	Calculus I	Otway
MUS1111A	Sense of Music	Glazer
PHI1360	Theory of Knowledge	Roth
PHI1600	Ethics	Wurtzber
POL1355	Area Studies: Israel	Mogilner
POL1540	International Law	Firestone
PSY1010	Intro Psych	Sternlicht
PSY2400	Psych of Adjustment	Sternlicht
PSY2164	Psych of Language	Pali
SOC1204	Social Antropology	Schneide
SOC2110	Demography	Nwakaze

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New Interactive Technology Put on Hold

BY DANIEL RUBIN

Administrators were exuberant at last semester's announcement of interactive courses between YC and SCW. But after several technical difficulties and low student interest at SCW, the interactive aspects of the courses have been postponed till at least next semester.

While enrollment at the YC campus for the two courses that were to use the system was high, only two students from Stern registered for one of the courses and none enrolled in the other.

To inaugurate the system, YU hired professors Robert Nozick of Harvard University to teach "Mind and Brain," and Elspeth Rostow of the University of Texas to lecture at the YC campus while the classes would be broadcast to the Stern campus. No SCW students signed up for "Mind and Brain," which is also being taught by YC dean Norman Adler. Adler says he understands their hesitancy toward the system, saying, "It's hard to be on the receiving end." Two Stern students did sign up for the political science course in "Public Administration," taught by Rostow and political science professor Ross Zucker, and so the video-link was given its first trial in a classroom setting.

The system, however, did not run as smoothly as planned. The video-link was

set up in Room 218 of Belfer Hall with a camera pointing at the lecturer and a monitor at the lecturer's side to view the students at Stern, with the same set-up in the multi-media room at Stern for the two students there. While the visual aspect of the system presented no problems, there were technical difficulties with the audio. Director of Laboratories Mr. Leonard Brandwein explained that the sound system amplified all small sounds in the room, allowing the ventilation system to interfere with the lecturer's voice. In addition, there were random three-second breaks in the audio due to sound splatter over the phone lines on which the system worked. Brandwein also noted that in one "Public Policy" lecture the camera didn't focus directly on Rostow, with SCW students seeing only her profile.

Despite the initial kinks in the video-link, Dean Adler still has high expectations for the system. He envisions a future where students on the Joint Israel Program take classes via video hook-ups. Adler likened the first attempt to that of a bar-mitzvah boy reading from the Torah for the first time - both should improve with time. Zucker felt that the system should have been tested more before YU brought in someone to use it. As for the future, Zucker said that "it requires a more thorough test. Two classes is not a definitive test."

Purim Contest:
The Commentator is accepting submissions for this year's Purim Issue.
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Satirical Ads or cartoons are also acceptable.
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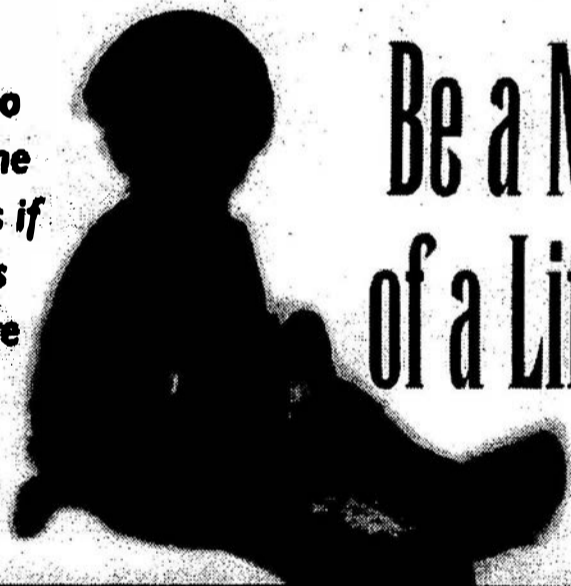
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- Beth Jacob of Boro Park, 1371 - 46th St. Corner of 14th Avenue. (in the old auditorium)
- Shulamith School For Girls, 1277 East 14th St. Between Aves L & M in Flatbush.

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PLEASE POST

Credit Cap Passes First Phase Towards Ratification

continued from page one

the board the stay of enrolled students on campus.

Senate Chairman Dr. Will Lee hailed the measure as "the gutsiest I've seen in all my years on the senate - and I've been on the senate eleven years." YC Associate Dean Michael Hecht interrupted the proceedings to heap praise upon the students who authored the proposal. SSSB Dean Harold Nierenberg demanded that the proposal be redrafted to include his uptown SSSB students. The atmosphere in Furst 535 was one of optimism and the dialogue - even before the unanimous vote - centered around the speed with which the senate bill could become law.

Some members expect the proposed cap to rise as the various academic bodies debate it, partly because the number forty does not account for the fact that many courses are three credits; any student with thirty-two Israel credits would have difficulty fitting exactly eight credits under the cap.

As it is, the 40-credit cap means that 88 credits must be taken in residence. To earn a degree in two years - as many students currently strive to do - a student would have to take 17.6 credits per semester, an impossibility, given the regulated maximum of 17.5.

This extra time will be spent, say the senators, in more advanced elective courses, which, under the current system, few students have the time or inclination to take as they rush to earn their degrees.

Student opposition persists

Student leaders assert that the unanimous vote, although it includes student senators, does not reflect the true student sentiment - one of opposition. In the words

of one YC senior, "if the student took the courses and earned every credit, why shouldn't he be able to count them?"

The night before the senate meeting, YCSC held an open meeting to discuss the issue and to air concerns in the presence of student senators Isaac Sasson and Daniel Wolf, who are spearheading the proposal. Among those concerns is that the motivation to learn in Israel and to stay there longer than a year will be seriously impaired if a forty credit cap is adopted.

Because of these and other concerns, the proposal contains a "justification" section, in which the *shana bet* question and others are addressed, not necessarily to the satisfaction of many students. At the meeting, Dr. Lee suggested that the language of this justification section be minorly altered to adopt a more sympathetic tone regarding students who return to Israel for a second year of learning.

One YC senior, who declined to be identified, commented that at the heart of the dispute is the senate's perception that something is "wrong" or "problematic" when students stay only two years on campus - a view that many students do not share. The senate, they assert, is jousting with academic windmills. But Sasson claims a lengthier stay on campus is in both the students' and school's best interest.

Given the tenor of the debate and the upcoming Academic Standards Committee vote, there will no doubt continue to be expressions of concern among students on both sides of the issue, in the hope that the faculty, administration, and especially the student members of that committee will take into account the far-reaching effects of the credit cap proposal.

Dancing and Shpieling: Purim '96

BY JASON BUSKIN

Once again students will gyrate to the beat of Neshoma Orchestra at this year's SOY Purim chagiga scheduled to take place this Monday, March 4th at 9 p.m. in the Main Beit Midrash. Although SOY is still finalizing matters on culinary detail, two definitive facts are that the traditional shpiel will take place in the Beit Midrash and that the Stern College women will once again dance separately in Belfer Hall's Weissberg Commons.

\$1 admission

Some changes instituted this year include a reduction in the price of admission to the chagiga. The cost this year will be \$1, as opposed to the \$5-figure of previous years. The reduction in price is an added incentive for students to spend Purim at Yeshiva; all monies will go

towards food expenses. The traditional Purim shpiel will also reappear, but this time in the Beit Midrash instead of Lamport Auditorium. And the winner of the inaugural IBC Purim raffle will be drawn during the chagiga - the grand prize being two round trip tickets to Israel.

In the past, student turnout to the chagiga has been impressive. Junior Ari Eckman enjoys the "opportunity to spend the chag with his fellow Yeshiva students." Head Ruben Advisor, Mike Bramson, adds that "much enthusiasm is drawn from the presence of the rebbeim dancing with their talmidim."

SOY President Hillel Cohen notes that the festivities "provide an opportunity for talmidim to spend Purim in their own Yeshiva." He hopes that the incentive of spending the holiday within the Yeshiva, combined with the allure of Neshoma and the reduced rate will keep students in YU to celebrate Purim.

Mazel Tov To:

Avraham Ciment and Becky Gruen
Steve Erenberg and Shanie Dubinsky
Darrell Ginsberg and Yael Schlager
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An Address to the Undergraduate Men
and Women of Yeshiva University

Wednesday, March 20, 1996 at 8:00 P.M.
at the Weissberg Commons, Belfer Hall
Amsterdam Avenue and 184th Street

Admission free with valid Yeshiva I.D. Transportation provided from the Midtown Center. Sign up at the office of Student Services, SCW-114, by Monday, March 18, 1996

Buses leaving from Brookdale Hall at 7:00 P.M.



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Students Still Unhappy Over Beit Midrash Situation

continued from page one

drash, calling it a "reasonable facility." He noted that the Morgenstern Shul was a natural first choice to serve in the capacity of Beit Midrash due to precedence; the shul was utilized as a Beit Midrash for half a year in the late '70s when the Main Beis Midrash underwent renovations.

Actually, had the lighting been adequate, the students in the new Beit Midrash still would be hard-pressed to learn to the best of their ability - as of present time the Beit Midrash was not yet stocked with seforim. However, the students do find a ray of hope for the future in the fact that their Beit Midrash has been supplied with beautiful, new - albeit empty - bookcases.

MYP Dean R. Zevulun Charlop promised seforim would be supplied within a week and stressed the importance of the students allowing some time to get used to their new surroundings. Rabbi Hirt echoed Rabbi Charlop's sentiment: "Some students can adjust and appreciate change more readily than others.... No change would have been worse."

Yearning for Furst

Many students are not so sure. Al-

though they recognize the advantages of learning in a Beit Midrash setting instead of smaller individual classroom, the problems encountered in the Morgenstern Shul leave many wishing they could return to learning in close proximity to the Kollel Beit Midrash on the third floor of Furst Hall. That setting, many contend, provided enough of a Beit Midrash-type atmosphere while offering the convenience of learning and having one's shiur in the same room. Now, minutes of precious sedertime must be spent transferring from one location to another.

Committee created

In order to prod the administration into quickly alleviating the current Morgenstern Beit Midrash problems and to push for a permanent solution to the overcrowding dilemma, a Beit Midrash Committee was created at an open YCSC meeting on Tuesday, January 23, with Jonathan Neiss appointed to serve as chairman. The committee has the dual purpose of ensuring both the best short- and long-term solutions to the lack of Beit Midrash space and consists of two sub-committees: one group which meets with

administration and rebbeim to present the group's suggestions and another which plans to run a student poll to prove to the administration the student body's desire for one unified Beis Midrash.

"Our main goal is to rally support for a unified Beit Midrash," said Neiss, adding that "every student has a right to learn in a Main Beis Midrash." He urged all students to participate in the poll which will take place sometime in the next several weeks, and welcomes any student suggestions. Both Rabbi Charlop and Mashgiach Ruchani R. Yosef Blau, agree with the long term goal of the Beit Midrash Committee, but note that it is just that - a long term goal.

There are other administration members, however, who don't see a need for one huge Beit Midrash, and are not convinced another permanent Beit Midrash is necessary at all. "There may be a limit...What is the best size?" asks Rabbi Hirt. "Interactions of all ages and experiences, from high school to Kollel - is that best?" Rabbi Hirt suggests that, if needed, a second Beit Midrash similar to the size of the Main Beit Midrash would be a better long term goal to aim for.

Everyone seems to be in agreement, however, that more must be done to alleviate overcrowding in the near future. While Neiss advocates expanding the Main Beit Midrash to include the classrooms and offices across the hall, Rabbi Blau suggests extending the Kollel Beit Midrash, and Rabbi Charlop mentioned possible plans to con-

vert Klein Hall, located in the bowels of the Muss dormitory, into a freshmen Beit Midrash. The nearby old Gerofsky Physics labs would then be converted into shiur rooms.

No Furst 501

One suggestion no longer being heard from administrators is the use of Furst Hall room 501 as a temporary Beit Midrash. YCSC President Josh Fine advocated its use throughout the fall semester and even secured a donor of thousands of dollars worth of tables, shelves, and seforim. The room is certainly spacious enough, has excellent lighting and ventilation, offers the convenience of nearby shiur rooms, and would seem to require minimum construction to be converted into a Beit Midrash. Yet, the administration has decided not to take advantage of room 501 in this manner due to the room's other usages, which include mass testing and other functions. Additionally, elevator congestion would result if the room were converted into a Beit Midrash (there seem to be only two working elevators in Furst Hall, despite the three elevator doors present on each floor).

And what about the new "temporary" Morgenstern Beit Midrash? Will it exist for years to come?

Rabbi Hirt says, "This is a short term solution. The question is just how short term."

"The Morgenstern Beit Midrash was agreed upon as a temporary solution," reflected Rabbi Blau, "but temporary solutions have a way of being dragged on."

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Masmid '96 on Schedule

by Yossi Lewis

Preparations for Masmid '96, this year's installment of the annual Yeshiva College yearbook, are proceeding smoothly, despite the unexpected graduation of senior class president Oren Lieber. Lieber's unfulfilled responsibilities included organizing Masmid's staff, but this year's edition looks to be a landmark production.

"We've completely revised the design for Masmid '96," says co-Editor-in-Chief Yehudah Jacoby. "We're going for a simple yet elegant look in the vein of those at Georgetown or Villanova. The cover will be completely different than any previous Masmid."

"As far as layout goes," Jacoby added, "we've switched companies and we've got it all running on computer. For the first time, it's not being done by

hand."

"The plan is progressing excellently and we're right on schedule," he affirmed. "The next phase is the advertisement forms for the students. If everything comes in on time, we'll be getting the book on schedule in the fall."

More staff needed

While stating that acting Senior class president Chaim Huss need not involve himself in Masmid's staff organization, Jacoby did not deny that further assistance is required for the completion of the yearbook. "We're looking for some guys who are interested in helping with the layout," he said. "We are also looking for additional photographers because we want Masmid to be filled with color photos that give a good overview of Yeshiva campus activity."

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SPORTS

Intramurals: The Sequel

Opening week of the spring semester intramural season featured exciting and competitive play. With the addition of talented players Arkady Abraham, Ari Ciment, and Chaim Zackheim via the supplemental draft, the league's non-playoff teams have dramatically improved. Without question the Lakers, champions of the first semester season, appear to be at times unstoppable displaying a solid combination of speed, power, and impressive team play.

CELTICS 45 GRIZZLIES 38

A close game throughout, the Celtics got 12 points from captain Andy Davidson, 9 points from Marc Rosenbaum, and 8 from forward Ari Cutler in the victory. Once again Hillel Cohen led the Grizzlies with 14 points including two from long range.

RAPTORS 68 CROATIA 56

With the victory, the Raptors matched their victory total of the entire first semester season. Could it be that newly acquired center Ari Ciment had something to do with it? Of course. Ciment dominated most of the game and had 16 points. Kenny Ripstein added 4 long bombs for the Raptors, while Arkady's 23 point performance was not enough for Croatia.

WARRIORS 43 SIXERS 39

David Wild's game high 19 points paced the Warriors in the victory. Warriors center Kenny Weinblatt had a solid performance with 11 points and tough work on the boards. The Sixers who lost Hillel Olshin (graduated) were led by Ari Hirt who scored 13 points in a losing effort.

CELTICS 49 RAPTORS 37

The Celtics continued with their solid team play as guard Ari Rockoff scored 11 points, and Ari Cutler added 10 points. The Raptors were once again led by Ari Ciment who had 15 points, but showed up at the game with his team already trailing 21-3.

WARRIORS 43 KNICKS 40

Poor free throw shooting proved to be the difference in the contest. The Warriors played confidently throughout, led by the strong performance of David Wild (18 points) while Knick center Daniel Lowe paced his team with 15 points from the field. The Warriors continued their winning streak while the Knicks dropped their second straight.

LAKERS 47 TURNPIKES 42

The scoring combination of Laker captains David Samet (9 points) and Avi Wachsmann (10 points) were too much for the Turnpikes. The Turnpikes were led by Jeremy Fox who had 13 points, and Steve Mandel and Donny Hochberg who each added 11 points. For the Lakers Steve Brandsdorfer chipped in 8 points as well.

CROATIA 39 CLIPPERS 36

Arkady Abraham's last minute heroics enabled Croatia to pull out their first victory of the season. Ark's 12 points and passing to Dweck and Beyda (15 points) provided most of the team's offense. Jacob Vidomilanski was on fire from long range hitting 4 three-pointers and scoring a team high 16 points for the Clippers. Welfeld also added 13 points in the Clippers loss.

Wrestlers Lose then Win

BY COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF

Two Sunday's ago the MSAC rocked to the rhythms of Yeshiva wrestling. Against strong teams from Yale and Lafayette Universities, the mighty muscular Macs were picking up their opponents and slamming them to the mats. The crowd came to its feet a number of times, as the home team proved once again that Yeshiva is a wrestling force with which to be reckoned, as they defeated Lafayette and nearly beat Yale.

Although the Macs did not win the Yale meet, a number of individual performances made it a match to remember. In the 126 lb. weight class, Avi Ellman astounded the spectators with a rare and difficult maneuver called the Japanese Arm Whizzer. In a movement resembling a judo throw, Ellman threw his opponent above his head, bringing him down to a near pin. Unfortunately, the Yale man recuperated, and came back to win the match by a score of 13-8. At 142lb., Daniel Sentell fought what was apparently a losing battle for six and a half minutes until he miraculously turned the table by bridging and pinning his opponent. Im-

mediately, he celebrated the win by sitting down and panting for over twenty minutes. "And to think I paid good money for the Stairmaster," remarked Sentell.

A half hour later, hungering for a win, the Macs came on the mat to face Lafayette. Bolstered by forfeits taken by Jacob Karen, Shmuel Breban, and Aaron Robin, Yeshiva thought it was in for an easy ride. However, their opponents avoided the blowout by securing a number of quick pins. The 158 lb. Class brought on the heroics of Dmitri Borovik. Resorting to his trademark move, he performed a number of stunning headlock throws. However, he ultimately succumbed to his more formidable opponent by the score of 12-7. By the time the heavyweight match rolled around, Yeshiva found itself losing by three points. Donny Thurm took the mat and quickly fell behind 7-0. In a desperate situation, Thurm chose the top position for the second period. Less than a minute had passed when Thurm executed a spectacular hammerlock leading to a successful pin. The move won the match for the Macs by a score of 30-27. It was Thurm's second official pin of the year.

Macs Win IAC Quarterfinal Playoff Game

Finish Regular Season with (13-12) Record

BY STEVEN ZOMBEK

With the regular season behind them, the Macs had a chance to redeem themselves from what many considered to be a disappointing regular season. Playing in a packed MSAC, the Macs opened the quarterfinal round of the IAC Playoffs with a 62-54 thrilling victory against SUNY Maritime. All night long the MSAC was rocking as the playoff atmosphere was tangible in the air.

The first half was a see-saw battle as the Macs trailed 27-26 at the half. Maritime opened up an eight point lead to start the second half. The Macs, however, clawed their way back into the game on the paws of super subs Alon Zaibert and Brian Wein as they tied the game at 42 on a Zaibert three pointer. Then, a steal by Barry Aranoff led to a powerful Wein dunk prompting the MSAC crowd to erupt in a frenzy.

The Macs would never look back... Ignited by a raucous crowd, the Macs played tenacious defense in shutting down Maritime. The Macs held on to their lead by hitting some key free throws down the stretch as they pulled out the victory.

The Seniors stepped up big in their final home game. Forward Jake Rosenberg connected on 4 of 5 from the three point arc, while the floor general Barry Aranoff finished with 4 points, 5 assists, and 4 steals. Captain Alan Levy finished with 8 points and 8 rebounds, as they all left the game to standing ovations. The Macs next opponent will be Mt. Saint Vincent.

Regular Season:

CCNY 74 Yeshiva 68

Two weeks back the Macs fell to defeat at the hands of the very quick CCNY team. Although Yeshiva jumped out to an early seven point lead, they were unable to pull away as they committed several turnovers. Although they trailed by only two points at the half, Yeshiva would never draw any closer. When CCNY built a fourteen point lead with five minutes left in the game fans, began chanting "Coach Must Go." A couple of timely threes by "Oak" Zaibert and a few missed free throws by City College allowed the Macs to make a late run. However, the Macs rally fell short as they lost 74-68.

Zaibert led the Macs with 21 points (5 of 7 from downtown) while Joel Jacobson chipped in 18 points and 7 rebounds.

Yeshiva 58 Polytechnic 54

In their next game, the Macs took on IAC rival Polytechnic. This game featured the return of starting point guard Barry Aranoff from a severe ankle sprain. The Macs stormed out to an early 21-5 lead. However, crucial YU turnovers allowed Polytechnic to close the half on a 16-8 run. The Macs poor play continued through the second half as Polytechnic turned an eight point halftime deficit into a three point lead. Fortunately the Macs turned it around in crunch time and squeaked out a 58-54 win. Junior Joel Jacobson led the Macs with 18 points and 9 rebounds. Senior captain Alan Levy chipped in with 13 points and 5 rebounds.

Yeshiva 56 St. Joseph's 46

The Macs got off to a poor start when St. Joseph's jumped out to a 23-20 halftime lead. But Yeshiva came out roaring in the second half, as they stepped it up on both the offensive and defensive ends of the court. The Macs limited their opponents to twenty-three second half points en route to a 56-46 win. Captain Alan Levy led the Macs with 20 points. Senior point guard Barry Aranoff returned to form with 9 points, 5 assists, and 5 steals.

Stevens Tech 76 Yeshiva 70

The Macs finished their regular season schedule with a home game against a very tough Stevens Tech team. The Macs fell behind early as Stevens Tech ran their half-court offense to perfection. As a result, the Macs found themselves down nine at the half. In the second half, the Macs heated up offensively by working it into their big men. The Macs trailed by three with under a minute left, but poor free throw shooting down the stretch prevented them from getting any closer. The Macs finished a horrendous 17 for 35 from the charity stripe and the Macs ended up on the short end of a 76-70 score. Senior captain Alan Levy closed out an excellent YU career with 16 points and four boards. Sophomore sensation Brian Wein showed that he is ready to step into the starting lineup next season by chipping in 14 points and 10 rebounds.

The Commentator

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