

# Yeshiva University Commentator

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## SOY Annual Purim Chagiga Sobered

### Music Taken Out Of Program

BY ARNON STORFER

The annual festivities associated with Purim at Yeshiva University were somewhat curtailed this year in light of the four suicide bombings which had left sixty dead and hundreds injured in Israel within a period of two weeks prior to the holiday.

SOY President Hillel Cohen, in consultation with RIETS Rebbeim and administration had considered canceling the entire chagigah. MYP Dean Rabbi Zevulun Charlop decided, however, that it would be appropriate in this instance for YU to follow the lead of the Israeli Yeshivot in making their decision. Charlop called Rabbi Dovid Miller at the Yeshiva University Gruss Institute in Jerusalem who in turn contacted a number of Roshei Yeshivot of institutions whose alumni are represented in the YU student body. The consensus was that the chagigah continue, but without a live band. Cohen agreed, "I was told about the consensus of the Rabbiem, and agreed. Cancellation of the whole Chagiga would have let the modern day Haman triumph."

Cohen said that SOY was prepared to pay for the band even though it did not play, because they had booked the musicians for the night. However, Jordan Hirsch of Neshoma Orchestras called Cohen to inform him that there would be no fee for the cancellation because the Orchestra agreed with the decision and wanted to show solidarity.

Student reaction to the decision was mixed. YC Junior David Greenberg said that the decision to cancel the band was "appropriate." One student, though, mentioned that he thought that canceling the band was ridiculous and it would result in a half-hearted *chagigah* without the band's encouragement. The student said that if SOY wants to make a statement the whole Chagiga should be canceled. The student did say, however, that once he arrived at the Chagiga he was happy that it was not canceled and was relieved that despite the lack of musical entertainment the party was in full swing. Others expressed reservations as well. Anticipating that the Chagiga would not run smoothly as a result of the emotional trauma students might have felt from the terrorist attacks, Charlop had prepared a speech. Much to his surprise and happiness, however, it was not necessary. The Chagiga, attended by over 500 people, quickly became extremely joyous. "It was a tremendous experience," He said. "There was a sense of Purim and also a simcha of *avodat hakodesh*. It felt as if it was a sacred service."

#### Girls Stay at Stern

Upon receiving word that there would be no band, Emily Shapiro, secretary of the Torah Activities Council at Stern decided to keep the women at Stern. A small Chagiga was conducted in the Brookdale dormitory which included dancing and *divrei torah*.



The Yeshiva University Museum is spending its last few months on the Main Campus. The Museum is scheduled to move to New York's Greenwich Village sometime next year. See story, Page 4.

## Academic Standards Committee Approves Credit Cap and Sends Proposal to a Faculty Vote

### Process Clouded by Confusion Over Committee Makeup

BY STEVEN MIODOWNNIK

On Wednesday, February 28, the members of the Yeshiva College Academic Standards Committee voted 9-4 to approve a 44 outside credit cap after error-filled voting procedures required the recasting of a tight 7-6 vote from the previous day. The current proposal - a modified version of a 40-credit Student Senate proposal which could go into effect as early as Fall 1997 - will most likely be presented to the full faculty of YC and Uptown SSSB on Monday, March 18. At

*Extensive coverage of reactions to the Academic Standards Committee vote can be found on page 6.*

that time, however, any number of novel proposals could be advanced or approved.

Confusion over the official membership of the Academic Standards Committee resulted in an nonmember's deciding vote being counted at the Tuesday meeting, held from 11:00 am to 1 p.m. on the first floor of Furst Hall. Director of Student Financ-

es Neal Harris, invited to the meeting by YC Associate Dean Michael Hecht to share his view of a credit cap's financial implications, raised his hand during the vote and was counted among the seven voters favoring a 44 credit cap versus the six opposed to it.

The seven supporting votes *continued on page 15*

## STUDENT NOTEBOOK

### Israel Terror Dampens Campus Mood

BY STEVEN MIODOWNNIK

Harrowing and all-too-familiar, the sights and sounds of terror in the streets of Israel reverberate acutely in the hearts of YU students. Residency thousands of miles from bloody Hamas bombings serves as no solace for Jews nurturing an intimate relationship with that land and its people; muted Purim celebrations and hushed conversation - punctuated by the occasionally shed tear - transformed the campus last week into a cauldron of emotions.

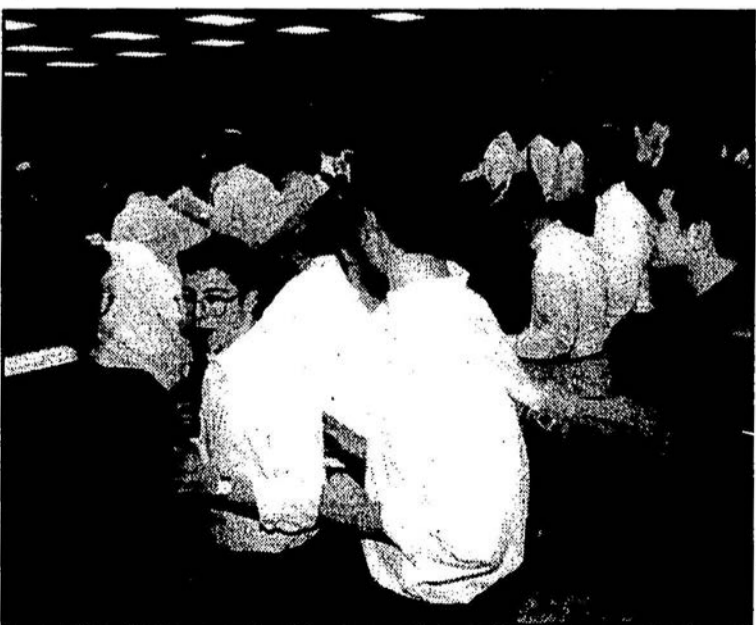
With the customary gaiety of Adar tainted by despair, stu-

dents strove to balance mirth with melancholy. CNN superseded ESPN as the fixture of Morg Lounge, and the images transmitted from Jerusalem and Tel Aviv sobered a holiday season unassociated with sobriety. The slow, heart-rending strains of Shlomo Carlebach *niggunim* seemed more appropriate than the orchestral offerings of a Dedi or MBD. Instead of traditional pre-Purim antics there were emergency *tehillim* readings; a command performance by Rav Aharon Kahn in the Beit Midrash; a *Ta'anit Esther* gathering in Lamport Auditorium presided over by President Norman Lamm; and a restrained chagi-

gah without live music to culminate the taxing day. *The Commentator* and *Hamevaser* delayed release of their Purim editions in acknowledgment of this macabre Adar's unique tenor.

Still, YU students would not allow jubilation over Purim's miracles to be stifled entirely. Masked missionaries of YUSSR scoured Jewish neighborhoods to solicit funds, while others crammed into the Washington Heights dwellings of Rav Herschel Schachter and Rav Meir Goldwicht to absorb words of Torah. The numerous Roshei Yeshiva who attended the Pu-

*continued on page 15*



Students bring ruach to Purim Chagiga despite lack of band.

EDITORIALS... EDITORIALS... EDITORIALS...

## Something From Nothing

A mistake was made in the Academic Standards Committee vote last week, and mistakes are understandable. The ensuing controversy and confusion, however, was entirely avoidable. In fact, it was inexcusable. Dean Hecht's call for a re-vote at a meeting that would be held the following week could easily have nullified the questions raised by the first vote. Instead, however, the hasty and incomprehensive phone polling, whether accurate or inaccurate drew the attention of the students away from the substantive issues and focused them instead on a process which was, for all intents and purposes, relatively inconsequential.

The procedures which shape the policies of Universities world-wide are of utmost importance to the academic community. They have endured for centuries for precisely that reason. Whether or not the Academic Standards Committee vote has any binding significance upon this particular issue, it has undeniable symbolic import. The administration decided to bypass the system; they opted to deal with the Committee as a formality, a chore on the road to the full faculty vote. And they underestimated student interest and, more importantly, student intelligence.

For a University that is so adept at public relations, the actions of the administration in this instance are almost incomprehensible. Student attention had been focused on the Academic Standards committee -- a glance at the newsletters flying around campus, or a bit of attention paid to conversations in the cafeteria would have made this painfully obvious. And even decisions which are ultimately designed for the good of the institution must be packaged, they must be sold. When a mistake is made in public, it must be righted *in public*, not summarily ignored and dealt with behind closed doors.

It seems the administration has become its own worst enemy. The irony is that their essential argument is correct -- what is important here is the substantive issue. And the credit has merit; it can go a long way towards forwarding academic standards here at Yeshiva. But by ignoring the public attention focused on the Academic Standards Committee, and by conducting a re-vote which was, at best, hasty and ill thought-out, the administration did a great disservice not only to the students, but to itself as well.

## The Beat of the Heart

Dancing and singing without the aid of an orchestra, without question helped us foster the appropriate mood and state of mind that was needed for this Purim chagiga '96. We commend SOY and RIETS administrators for the decision that they made in the face of the Israel tragedy.

Shuls, yeshivas, and communities throughout the country faced the same decision and each one reacted in its own, personal way. Some deemed it most appropriate to scratch all festivities and devote the night to learn Torah in memory of the murdered and future of status of Israel; while others maintained that a full fledged chagiga, filled with music, dance, and ruach was the optimal response to the terrifying bombs in Israel. Our Purim night was a mixture of both a physical and spiritual dance.

The chagigah minus the orchestra presented each participant with the challenge of creating an atmosphere and supplying the emotion for one's self. Unlike traditional Purims there was no artificial means to assist in conjuring up the necessary emotions for the holiday. On this night we danced to the beat of our hearts and joined in song with the voices of our brothers - a song of sorrow, a song of grief, and a song of hope.

# The Commentator

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# LETTERS

To the Editor

## A Cure For Senioritis

To the editor:

As a graduating senior, I have succumbed to an illness of apathetic lethargy, otherwise known as senior "senioritis." Throughout my past five semesters, I have sat at my desk with patience and determination, a goal set in my mind. Through periodic frustrations and depressions, lengthy conversations and exhilarating, I sat and sweat out my grades.

And now I feel nothing: no goal or grade. I sit by my desk reading Ayn Rand, not Jonathan Swift. I go to bed at 1:00, not 3:00. In short, I lack motivation. I've tried talking to myself, leaving books open on my desk, staying in Thursday nights, even erasing "Solitaire" from my computer; nothing worked.

It should be noted that I not resorted to a mere "bed-potato;" indeed, I now have more time to read other books as well as to

write poetry.

However, the problem is that I feel terribly in complacent. Although my time is spent enjoyably, in the back of my mind lingers the apprehension of receiving a 'C' on a forthcoming paper or exam. As a registered Democrat, the only thing I can think of doing, is calling on my "government" to intervene. So, I propose - on behalf of those graduating seniors bold enough to agree with me - that the current academic policy for second semester seniors be amended.

The only cure to senioritis is to create a new option for all graduating seniors: to have them register for their last semester classes as Pass/Fail. This way, despite the minimized effort, seniors can leave the university on a high note: reading their novels without compromising their GPAs.

Tzvika A.R.E. Nissel, YC '96

## P I C T O R I A L



Rock the Schott II: Survival of the Fittest

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# Our Republic

To the Editor:

"The people, sir, are a beast!"  
-- Alexander Hamilton

People stood aghast as Patrick Buchanan celebrated his Louisiana and New Hampshire wins with cheers of "Go, Pat, go!" heard around him. "Are his supporters mad?," many wondered. "Surely, those people are beasts!"

When the Framers of the United States Constitution met to create a new system of government, they were aware of the potential dangers of granting people the ability to rule themselves. Nonetheless, they recognized that justice demands that those who live under a law should have a say in making it.

Their trust was not misplaced. The recent Republican primaries and caucuses prove that republicanism -- representative democracy -- works. Given the choice, people will opt for the least awful alternative, as roughly two-thirds of the members of America's "right-wing" party, in state after state, voted against Patrick Buchanan and his message of hate. The people of the Republican Party aren't beasts, after all.

Yet, Hamilton's old gripe could be heard recently from members of the YC/SSSB Uptown Senate. Academic issues, they claim, cannot be decided by student opinion, because students are unable to decide for themselves what is best for them. Their claim that the students, or their elected representatives, cannot make such a realization is as preposterous as it is wrong. In fact, the Student Council agrees with the need for tighter reins on what students may take outside YU.

Where we differ from the Senate is in finding a need to establish overly strict standards. We should uphold the ability of financially pressed students to graduate expeditiously without having to rely on a Dean's mercy. We should uphold the growing tradition among YU students to stay in Israel for Shanah Bet. In doing so we do not lower our academic standards, we raise them. Talmud and Hashkafah are a type of scholarship. They are a scholarship of a different type, true, but Yeshiva University's ability to appreciate their importance is what makes Yeshiva University great. That is why over one thousand men chose YU this year.

The 44 non-residential Credit Cap is a good plan, because it manages to balance both interests in one plan. In this version, the Academic Standards Committee elevates the academic integrity of the school; the age of the two-year student is over. But the plan raises our standards without being unnecessarily harsh. It has allayed the greater fears of the students body -- a student can still go to Israel for Shanah Bet or graduate in 2<sup>o</sup> years if there is a pressing financial need. Students attempting to rush their education, though, will now be forced through a crucible. I will feel no sympathy for them, for they have one very simple option: stay for three or four full years. Most students will.

I hope the Yeshiva College faculty will pass this proposal with all due speed.

Initial plans to conduct a survey before introducing any recommendations

on the issue was dropped long ago. The Senate was intent to look out for academics, not student interests.

Which is why the Student Senators has its own, unique way of selecting their successors. Only after the Old Guard of Student Senators are convinced that a student can write well, speak well, and most importantly, think well, will they invite him to join their ranks. They are, apparently, perfect representatives of the student body. They could be, until one hears them ask: "Why should the students be consulted? What do students (who will receive Yeshiva University degrees, who will hang them on their walls at home and in the office) know about Academic Standards." Or to paraphrase Hamilton, "The students, sir, are a beast."

The Founding Fathers rejected that idea. They also knew, sometimes the people might need a backbone. Sometimes they will need a Senate to make them stand tall when they would want to curl up in a ball and hide from reality. But they did not leave governance only to the Senate. They accepted Benjamin Franklin's compromise to allow both the House and the Senate to rule jointly. The House would represent public opinion, and the Senate would moderate it. The Senate would represent the interests of the upper classes, and the House would moderate it in return.

Here, too, we find two bodies: the Council and the Senate. Student Council members are required to answer any question that a student might be posed to them in the course of a meeting. They cannot evade any issue. The Constitutional reforms of the past few years have guaranteed that YCSC shall be a democratic institution, where no one with a valid issue will be silenced. The Council must construct policies which do the least harm to all, balancing one option against others.

The Senate must not lose its aristocratic quality, but it can allow students to have a greater say in the process of selecting Senators. Electing Senators will not decrease the effectiveness of the Senate, it will increase it. In the future, when a Senator speaks, he will do so with the confidence of the people, advancing the cause of academic reform cognizant of other practical problems. Policies with the sole aim of raising academic standards will only lower enrollment. Standards do no one any good if students aren't around to abide by them. We can raise our standards and continue the Israel program, continue to increase enrollment. We need as many people as we can living by the Yeshiva University motto.

Moderation is the key to any good policy, and to any policy which pretends to be effective. If a policy is too extreme, it misses that mark. Which is why Pat Buchanan and his policies of immigration fences and high tariffs were rejected. Which is why policies never seem to make anyone completely happy. Many complain the 44 is too low. A few argue that it is too high. What resounding endorsements for the 44 Cap! That's what a republic is all about.

Dov Simons YC '96  
Vice-President, Liberal Arts  
Yeshiva College Student Council

## Op-Ed

### Thank You, Pat Buchanan

BY MEIR S. ZEITCHIK

It is upon us. Lying dormant for months, its resilience proves overwhelming, and again the ugly beast of a presidential election surfaces from its hole of hibernation. With it arrives another season of aggressive advertising, incessant punditry and hollow promises. Yet despite the bombardment over the airwaves and in the newspapers, average Americans seem to glean few lessons from the repetitive rhetoric.

But if the race itself yields little, our reactions to the candidates can be illuminating, and not just for the American people. They shed light on some fundamental - and disturbing - truths on our campus. Last week I set out on the laborious task of composing a story on YU students' feelings toward the Republican field. I thought of it as a noble attempt to bridge the gap between YU and the 'outside world,' place my finger on the political pulse of the student body, blah, blah, blah. What I heard surprised and disappointed me. (Fear not - I plan on making no mention of political apathy on campus, although several politically active friends recently disclosed to me that they never registered to vote).

Most frustrating was the monolithic response I received when I surveyed students on their attitudes toward Pat Buchanan, the firebrand conservative commentator turned Republican presidential candidate. "Buchanan? Gosh, what an anti-semitic," countless students reflexively regurgitated. When pressed to supply proofs, few rose to the challenge. The more-informed sheepishly managed: "Didn't he make comments during the Gulf War about Israel?" or "He defended Nazi war criminals, right?" Both responses are somewhat on the mark. The actual comment during the Gulf War was a reference to Israel and her "amen corner" in Washington, a fairly accurate if malicious description. The Nazi-war criminal perception stems from an incident in the late 1980's when Buchanan, then a journalist, questioned America's right to prosecute Nazi war criminals.

Episodes like these may reflect deep-seated feelings of anti-Semitism on the part of Buchanan. Or they may not. But our utter inability to equip ourselves with the information necessary to rightly shun a candidate reflects poorly on us as a rational and reasonable student body. We quickly reject, yet reluctantly explore the motives for these condemnations.

This is unfortunate. We are, after all, college students, presumably the intelligentsia of the Orthodox Jewish community. What can we expect from our elders if we slide into the trap of political obliviousness? Indeed, the responses of several adults I polled similarly distressed me.

Of course, unawareness doesn't preclude emitting loud screams. In fact, the two often come together, as ignoramus seek to conceal their lack of knowledge. So it fails to surprise me that some of the most vocal are also the least informed.

But beyond the obvious symptom of weakly-based denunciations, though,

lies a perilous ailment - difficult to discern but equally dangerous. It comes in the form of simplistic thought, a disease which causes us to view only the most superficial and easily digestible characteristics, and not underlying ideas or policies. With Buchanan, for instance, we react to questionable lines written in his column years ago instead of keying in on more relevant concerns. Did any of these opiners on campus ever think to ask how withdrawing from GATT and NAFTA (hallmarks of Buchanan's vision for America) would affect workers in both America at large and the Jewish community in particular? Or perhaps to inquire as to how his views on abortion square with the positions of halachic authorities on abortion for Jews and non-Jews? The answers are murky, but wouldn't these questions gauge his potential effect on the Jewish community far more reliably?

But that kind of analysis demands probing thought. Who has time for that, what with all the balls we must juggle. Better to compensate for our lack of serious exploration on the matter by slapping on a label. And who knows? Maybe we'll dupe someone into thinking we're informed. Or worse, maybe having a nuanced opinion has just ceased to matter.

This is frightening enough. But at work here is a malady that pervades not only our political psyches but our social personalities as well. Falling prey to this scourge, we replace careful analysis of a person's character by invoking a stereotype. "He's only in IBC, he probably can't learn for anything." "Oh, that guy - he's a Gushie, pretty pretentious, probably." "Sy Syms student? Forget about studying with him."

We carry our penchant for labeling to ridiculous lengths. We come to critical decisions - on friendships, study partners, relationships - because of stereotypes, not rational thought. Sentiments in this hot political climate, then, illustrate more than seasonal weather, but year-round trends. Just as we pigeon-hole a candidate, allowing our minds to become impenetrable to any other wisdom on the subject, we judge students on the basis of shallow criteria. In our social lives, as with our political thinking, we turn into automatons. We pathetically rely on superficial, if not secondhand, information. It sounds almost trite today to reiterate a message akin to "not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character," but the reaction to Buchanan reveals that we can't stress it enough.

America at large can be found guilty of this crime of simplistic thinking. After all, that explains how Steve Forbes's campaign caught fire earlier in the year - his flat-tax possesses the supreme virtue of simplicity. No surprise there: simple messages play to people who think simplistically, as many in the masses do. As students in both college and yeshiva, however, we pride ourselves on our ability to wield the analytical knife to cut beneath all the shallowness and reach meaningful insights. Thank you, Pat Buchanan, for showing us how far we have yet to go.

# Yeshiva College



# Campus News

## Hundreds Join to 'Rock the Schott'...Again

BY EZRA TUCHMAN

Nearly 400 YC students crammed into Weissberg Commons last Wednesday night for a second attempt at "Rock the Schott." Students flocked to the celebration that was modeled after the event last fall with the same name, when students turned out to the Schottenstein center to eat and be merry.

This time around, security concerns prevented the event from being held in Schottenstein. Instead Weissberg Commons was home to the activity commemorating the festive Adar spirit with singing, dancing, and the inhaling of Dougie's buffalo wings.

The event, sponsored by YCSC, the Stone Beit Medrash Program (SBMP) and the Junior Class, was kicked off with a *Dvar Torah* by SBMP Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Dovid Hirsch, which was followed by a round of vigorous and often frenzied dancing.

Having worked up an appetite, the students converged on the buffalo

wings. Within minutes, 1700 Buffalo Wings and 11 three foot heroes had been devoured.

Student reaction to the event was overwhelmingly positive. Shlomo Drazin, a senior at SSSB, noted the *achdut* at the event. "This is the first time that I noticed Yeshivish and non-Yeshivish guys at the same event. I'm glad the organizers planned the event after night Seder so that...everyone could attend."

Although some students complained that there was not enough food and that more should have been ordered. Elisha Graff, a Junior at YC, responded to this critique by saying, "There aren't enough chickens in the world to satiate YC students."

The chairmen of the event, Shraga Goldenhersh, vice-president of the Junior Class and Eli Borger, President of the SBMP, were both pleased with the event. Goldenhersh, pointing to a fellow eating a fistful of wings, exclaimed, "Now this is what I call a *tachlis* oriented activity."

## YU Museum to be Relocated in Downtown New York

BY J.D. SHULMAN

After 23 years on the uptown Main Campus the Yeshiva University Museum will be moving to a new site downtown by December 1997.

Museum director Sylvia Herskowitz accepted an offer to join the YIVO Institute in the newly purchased Helen Keller Center after receiving the formal approval from the Yeshiva administration and the Board of Museum Trustees, headed by Mrs. Erica Jesselsohn. The Center, located on 16th Street near 5th Ave, has 3 buildings and a high-rise on 17th Street which will provide space for storage, archives, and offices. There will also be several large galleries for exhibits, and auditoriums for concerts and shows.

Herskowitz hopes that many problems currently facing the museum will be rectified by the move. One problem noted was the lack of attendance at museum exhibits. "The majority of our visitors are from public schools. There are 12 in this area alone, which are within walking distance of the Museum. But we don't get many people who walk in off the street because of the neighborhood. Even the students don't attend." Herskowitz hopes that moving downtown will attract larger crowds.

The museum's relationship with its uptown host has at times been stormy, with friction between museum officials and the YU administration. "We are low man on the totem pole here, even after the library" lamented Herskowitz. For example, when construction was needed for a new exhibit, the University wanted their own union members to perform the work. But "we are usually working right up to the end, with the deadline staring us in the face... and cannot rely on workers who will be called away every time a crisis occurs." At the new location, Herskowitz said, the museum will be able to hire its own staff and workers.

Herskowitz added that since at the

uptown campus, "there is no Art Major, few students come to be a docent or intern." The move downtown will give Art majors at Stern College a chance to intern in their own Museum.

### New Exhibit

News about the move comes at the heels of the opening of the exhibit, *Sacred Realm: The Emergence of the Synagogue in the Ancient World*, whose plans were granted accommodations and acceptances from such diverse organizations as the Royal Ontario Museum, the Musée de Louvre in Paris, and the Vatican in Rome, and whose exhibit has been favorably critiqued in the New York Times.

The exhibit, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, traces the emergence and history of the synagogue from 300 BCE to 700 CE. There are 5 models of ancient synagogues, including a contemporary model by the Israeli artist, and YU alumnus Catriel Sugarman. There are also fragments of gold glass, from the Vatican and The Metropolitan, inlaid with inscriptions and drawings depicting an *aron* flanked by two lions. "This is really a big deal for us," said Rhoda Terry, Adjunct Assistant Curator for Sacred Realms, "because it provides us with a continuity from antiquity to modern times."

In addition, the exhibit includes magical amulets, a polycandelon, an early synagogue chandelier, and examples of R' Yannai's *piyutim* from the Cairo Geniza on loan from the Jewish Theological Seminary. Among the many surprise items is a model of the Temple by a Swedish sculptor.

While Herskowitz agrees that the Museums move downtown is necessary, she will still miss the public school children that visit the museum. "Most of the schools do not have a program for the arts, and we have been providing them with that necessity. Hopefully, there will be other such schools downtown which we can serve."

## Communal Affairs Committee to Honor Elected Officials At First Annual Breakfast

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

Four local legislators will receive awards from NYC's Communal Affairs Committee this Friday morning in recognition of their contributions to civic life at the federal, state and city levels. The presentations will be made at the committee's First Annual Legislative Breakfast.

Congressman Charles B. Rangel (D-NY), a member of the House since 1970, will receive the National Leadership Award. Rangel is the Dean of the New York State Congressional delegation and the second ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee. He is also the former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

State Senator Olga Mendez and Assembly member Herman "Denny" Farrell, Jr. will receive State Leadership Awards. City Councilman Guillermo Linares will receive the City Leadership Award.

Communal Affairs Committee Chairperson Ryan Karben says recognizing the achievements of public servants is in "perfect consonance" with the values YU seeks to inculcate in its students.

"Our heritage is supported by the twin pillars of *tikun olam* and *hakarat*

*hatov*. By demonstrating our appreciation for those who have dedicated the better part of their lives to serving others, we affirm our own commitment to that ideal," Karben said.

The breakfast program is expected to draw public officials from across the city, including Public Advocate Mark Green and City Councilman Noach Dear. The keynote address will be delivered by Michael Miller, Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. He is the son of YU Senior Vice President Emeritus Dr. Israel Miller.

Karben says that he and YCSC President Josh Fine have long argued for a stepped-up role for YU in the political life of the Washington Heights community in which the YC campus is situated. In honoring the community's representatives, Karben says, YC students pay tribute to the entire community. The leadership of the local Community Board, including its chairman, YC Assistant Director of Security Sandy Dultz, will be in attendance.

The breakfast will kick-off at 9:30 in the morning in the Gloria and Jesse Weissberg Commons. Attendance is by invitation only. For more information call 568-7730.



Ashkenaz: The German Jewish Heritage Exhibition. YU Museum, 1985-1987.

# Belgrade Wins One

## New Senior Vice-President Elected

BY HESHY WILLIG



YC Senior Michael Belgrade

The senior class recently elected YC senior Michael Belgrade to fill a void created in Vice-President position when Oren Leiber resigned as the class President at the beginning of this semester. Former Vice-President Chaim Huss was promoted to the president position immediately following Lieber's surprise announcement that he had graduated in January and would be relinquishing his presidential responsibilities.

Belgrade plans to assist with the three primary functions of the senior board: organizing the Masmid staff, planning the senior event, and coordinating all aspects of the senior dinner. Additionally, he hopes to impact student council decisions. While his actions as Vice-President may not make a tremendous impact, Belgrade wishes to use his vote and influence on the council to better student life.

Belgrade narrowly defeated Isaac Pearlman with 49 percent of the senior class vote; Pearlman collected 47 percent. The remaining 3 percent split amongst write in candidates.

Another senior, who had expressed interest to Canvassing Committee Co-Chairman Benji Levy several days prior to the election about running for the position, was denied election participation. Levy explained that a candidate must declare to the committee intent to run two weeks before an election.

### Low Turnout

Less than 70 out of the 180 YU seniors took the time to vote, prompting calls of concern regarding the election process. A number of seniors, when queried about the election, admitted ignorance of the proceedings due to both apathy and poor publicity. The canvassing committee contends, however, that there was ample publicity. Levy says that weeks in ad-

vance of the election, yellow signs with big letters were posted in all the dorms. Levy also notes that while in an average election the candidates campaign, this one did not display any such signs.

Belgrade counters that the committee's sole acts of publicity - placing signs in the dorms - was insufficient. He questions why there was no attempt made to inform those seniors living in the apartments, and why no signs were placed in Belfer or Furst Halls. Belgrade asserts that students have a responsibility to vote; those who do not vote forfeit their right to complain when they dislike the actions of the elected officials.

YCSC President Josh Fine does not blame lack of publicity or high student apathy for the low turnout. He maintains that a normal YCSC election sees 85 percent of the school voting. "Based on the circumstances it is a sizable percentage," remarks Fine, since this election was in the middle of the year, and was not even for the class president position.

# Clinton Economic Advisor Addresses Students

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

With talk of reducing deficit, opening markets, and making government more efficient, President Clinton's top economic advisor described the Clinton Administration's economic agenda for the twenty-first century at a Belfer Hall lecture on Monday night, February 26.

Dr. Joseph E. Stiglitz, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors to the President of the United States, spent 45 minutes recounting Clinton economic achievements of the past three years and defending the Clinton plan for growing the economy. He also blasted the protectionist policies of Pat Buchanan and the 'trickle-down' economics notions of Steve Forbes, labeling them the "wrong way to address" the challenges of the next century.

Stiglitz, speaking as part of the Alexander Brody Distinguished Lecture Series, defined those challenges as "stag-

nating wages" and "increasing inequality." Pointing to the sizable percent difference in annual earnings for college and high school graduates and the college enrollment rates of 18- to 19-year-olds by family income quartile, Stiglitz maintained that this inequality represents a major stumbling block.

Stiglitz fortified his President's position by distributing charts detailing the falling real dollar value of the budget deficit in recent years. In addition, he contrasted Republican and Democrat policies by showing on a chart how the ratio of Federal debt to GDP rose in the 1980s and has now leveled off.

The evening began with a formal dinner in Weissberg Commons for Distinguished Scholar Program students, administration bigwigs, and Public Relations officials. Stiglitz, introduced to the audience of 100 as a modern-day Joseph facing bible-like economic woes, followed with his lecture.

# Sefarim Sale Managers Begin The Tally

BY ARI GRUEN

After a month of expected record profits at the SOY Sefarim Sale, organizers are still busy tallying up this year's totals, which will then be reviewed by Accounting Professor Dr. Charles Snow. No decisions have yet been made as to allocations of Sale profits, but Sale board members promise most funds will be granted to those Tzedakah's in which YU students are involved.

According to Chaim Haas, Sale Treasurer, the final numbers of the 1996 SOY Sefarim Sale aren't expected until the end of the month as the Sale must still work out finalized bills with their suppliers. He explained that the suppliers first send their tentative bills to the Sefarim Sale, but these bills are then adjusted once the Sale returns all unsold merchandise. In this way, the Sale is left with no excess inventory.

In response to questions raised regarding the Sefarim Sale's finances, most recently in the February 7th Commentator, Chaim Haas has asked Dr. Snow to review the Sale's bookkeeping.

SOY Vice-President Stephen Rein-

gold, one of the Co-Chair's of this year's sale, welcomed the assistance of Dr. Snow saying, "We will be more than grateful for any help he can offer."

### More funds for YU tzedakas

Both Sale Treasurer Haas and Rein-gold have promised most of the money allocated to Tzedakah will be distributed to those funds affiliated to YU.

In years past the Sale heavily supported many outside Tzedakas, such as Ezras Torah. However, Sale Co-Chair Reingold is "very concerned about giving money to Tzedakah's in which YU students are active such as YUSSR and the activities of the Max Stern Division of Communal Services."

Chaim Haas pointed out that although he's received stacks of mail requesting donations for causes as far afield as the Jerusalem Post and the Weitzman Institute of Science, he feels much more comfortable donating the money to causes with at least some connection to YU.

The final decision regarding distribution of funds will be made by the SOY and Sefarim Sale Boards when the bookkeeping for the Sale is complete.

# YU Students Participate in Model Knesset

BY EZRA TUCHMAN

TWO WEEKENDS AGO, 27 YC and SCW students traveled to New Haven, Connecticut to participate in the Yale Model Israel Knesset.

The conference, hosted and organized by the Jewish community at Yale, provided the student delegates with an opportunity to debate the myriad socio-economic crises currently facing Israeli society in sessions that paralleled those of the actual Knesset. The event also provided the YU delegation an opportunity to meet college age students of various religious backgrounds from across the East coast and as far as Michigan.

Gad Ya'acobi, the Israeli Ambassador to the UN, opened the Conference with an arousing speech before the participants. Ya'acobi, an accomplished diplomat and author, reiterated the commitment of the Israeli government to the peace process and to the security of all Israeli citizens. He concluded his remarks by challenging the student delegates to formulate effective solutions to

the problems facing the State of Israel.

Inspired by Ya'acobi, the delegates set out to tackle the various topics ranging from peace with Syria to the control of Jerusalem's feral cat population. The assembly meetings and the committee sessions were filled with the vim and vigor often associated with Israeli politics and the Israeli Knesset. As one YC participant put it, "For a second, I actually thought I was in Knesset, not in the Yale Hillel House."

Shabbat provided the YU delegates with a welcome rest and opportunity to bring a little *ru'achniyut* to the Conference. The Shabbat meals were enhanced with singing and with discussions of Jewish law and philosophy.

After havdalah, the delegates returned to official business and passed a slew of bills, including a Foreign Relations Bill authored by YC Junior Benji Bailint and a Constitution Bill co-authored by YC senior Meir Zeitchik.

Though neither YC or SCW students received any awards, delegates from all schools were impressed with their preparedness and professionalism.

## Mazel Tov To:

Yaakov Aspir and Yael Orkaby  
Michael Fruchter and Estee Lewkowitz  
Zev Williams and Lilly Eisenstadt  
David Merklin and Ariella Herman  
David Friedlander and Aviva Frolich

On Their Recent Engagements

BY NOAH STREIT

The Yeshiva College Academic Standards Committee approved a 44 outside credit cap last week without the input from the Jewish Studies faculty - not a single rabbi or Jewish studies professor sits on the committee. Yet, the potential repercussions from this particular proposal are of major concern to the faculty members of YU's multifarious religious studies programs.

Some rabbeim view the proposal as tacit discouragement for students to stay Shana Bet in Israel, while other rabbeim wholeheartedly concur with the committee's desire to lengthen the campus stay of YU students. Several Roshei Yeshiva interviewed by *The Commentator*, though, would not comment on the credit cap proposal stating that they lacked adequate knowledge of its details.

MYP Dean R. Zevulun Charlop sees the benefits of extending the student's years on campus. He says that he is "very much aware of the fact that the boys... want to get out in two years and they want to make it a four year college, even though they have spent two of the four years in Israel." This troubles many because "you can't get a very good college education, in most instances, in that short of a period. He [the student] has got to cut corners in learning and in college and he doesn't do either so well. YU should not become like a fast food restaurant where you go in and go out and you don't even sit down to eat."

Former IBC Dean R. Yaakov Rabinowitz voices a similar opinion: "The purpose of getting an education is not only to make a living; rather, you really need to become an educated and cultured person. You not only have to learn how to make a living, but also how to live." MYP Rosh Yeshiva and chairman of the YC Biology department, R. Moshe Tendler, concurs with Rabbi Charlop and Rabinowitz because, "our kids are not getting an adequate education by doing college in two years time. That he's been a student of ours and that he's been here for two years is not proper."

## Rebbeim Divided Over Credit Cap Issue

*Some praise professors' efforts, others fear impact on Shana Bet*

### Time on campus crucial

R. Rabinowitz believes that "residency is an important aspect as well, because you learn not only from the classroom, but you learn very much from exposure outside of the classroom, like *shmoozing* with your rabbeim... and especially at a place like YU which draws people from so many diverse backgrounds." MYP Rosh Yeshiva R. Herschel Reichman agrees: "In terms of making an impact on the boys, the longer they're here the more we can impact."

In this light, many of the rabbeim interviewed by *The Commentator* acquiesce that an outside credit cap would be a step in a positive direction. "There should be a credit cap, certainly," says Rabbi Tendler, "because things have a gotten a little out of hand." Rabbi Rabinowitz is also an advocate of the credit cap, as he says most emphatically, "I think it would be a far better place if there were a cap."

Although Rabbi Reichman agrees that "if you tighten up, you get a better quality student," he has a somewhat cynical view of the credit cap, because, "we've had tight seasons and open seasons, so maybe the current cap is just a function of timing. Whenever they [the administration] tightens it, they reduce enrollment. Right now, the fact is, that probably because the schools are full, they can tighten it... Maybe there is no room in the dormitories... in a few years, it

will probably go back the other way."

### Cap Would Have 'Chilling Effect'

On the opposite of the spectrum of opinion is MYP Rosh Yeshiva R. Yehuda Parnes, who contends the credit cap might have very negative ramifications if implemented. "I'm really concerned by what this implies," Rabbi Parnes told his shiur two weeks ago. "The general tenor of the move to cap the credits will have the chilling effect of discouraging fellows to stay an extra year in *Eretz Yisrael*," and if *bochurim* are "discouraged [from going back to Israel for another year], then it will have a serious negative impact on the student body at large and on everyone as individuals."

While many rabbeim agree with the vision of some sort of a credit cap, some fear a possible cap of forty-four credits is too stringent. Especially prevalent in their uncertainties about the actual limitation of the cap is a concern similar to that of Rabbi Parnes: that the credit cap will adversely affect students attending Israeli yeshivot for a year-and-a-half or two years. Mashgiach Ruchani Rabbi Yosef Blau expressed his concerns on those grounds: "We have to be careful that changes that are made shouldn't come out to be a way of killing the kid's second year... We have to find a way not to have the new requirements so stringent that it will cut off a second year."

But Rabbi Tendler doesn't believe that "everybody who wants to study Torah for another year will be discouraged by the fact that they won't be able to receive more credits

outside of the institution. For Torah study you are also supposed to give up a little bit."

Rabbi Meir Orlian, assistant *mashgiach*, suggests that "the thirty-two credits which boys receive in Israel should not be counted among the forty-four credits of the cap" and that "sensitivity should be shown to the fact that the year in Israel is a very essential part of education, so essentially, instead of a forty-four credit cap, there is really a cap at 12 outside credits."

The monetary issue must not be disregarded either contends Rabbi Charlop. Since the credit cap directly causes students to have to spend more time at YU, Rabbi Charlop suggests that "if anybody is a resident for three years, his fourth year should be free. Right now, if a boy were to stay five years, his fifth year would be free, so the fifth year should become like the fourth year. This way the boys will take their college program with much more ease... and that very expensive extra year won't be a problem."

### Rebbeim have no say

Possibly problematic in the credit cap issue is not the amount of credits that should be capped, but rather that rabbeim are not involved in the process at all. As Rabbi Blau describes the situation, "The role of the rabbeim vis-à-vis the college and the role of the college vis-à-vis the role of the Yeshiva is a very touchy one. So I don't know if I'm looking for a formal voting process, but surely if there will be consequences and ramifications on the Yeshiva, there should be formal consultation between the two [the yeshiva and the college]."

In a similar vein, Rabbi Parnes stated that although he doesn't blame the professors, "they should not be running the Yeshiva. They should play an auxiliary role. We are here for Torah and the college is here to aid and abet our capacity to function in the world. So to just discuss the enhancement of college without concern for the growth and development of [students] as *bnei torah*, is a deplorable situation."

BY ARIEL KONSTANTYN

The motivation for ushering in a new, more restrictive outside credit cap is simple for the majority of YC's Academic Standards Committee: they believe that keeping students on campus longer benefits will benefit the education that the students receive and the academic reputation of Yeshiva College as an educational institution.

"I think it's a reasonable compromise," commented YC Associate Dean Michael Hecht. "I think it goes a long way towards accomplishing what the faculty wants to accomplish in terms of upgrading the seriousness of academic excellence of the college" YC English professor, Dr. William Lee, echoed Hecht's sentiments. "It's groundbreaking. It will improve the quality of the Yeshiva College degree more than any other proposal that has been passed, with the possible exception of the major curriculum revisions. [No other step] has been as significant as this one."

At the heart of the credit cap issue is the concern that as a result of the limited time that many spend at YC, students are not graduating with a "college education". Assistant Dean, Dr. Avery Horowitz was confident about the decision stating, "Anything that improves the amount of interaction that students have with faculty members and with libraries is a step in the right direction." English professor, Dr. Richard Nochimson

## THE PLAYERS

*Academic Standards Committee members reflect on their choice of a 44 outside credit cap*

agreed. "I believe in a college education, not to just assemble requirements for a degree and move on to something else." Nochimson stated that continuity and cohesiveness are crucial for a high quality college education which can only be received by staying at one place for a significant period of time, but not by a fragmented piecing together of credits.

However as the old maxim states, "time is money", and with the current tuition it is no different at Yeshiva University. Issues were raised regarding the cost of and lack of summer school course offerings at YC and SSSB. Both Hecht and SSSB Assistant Dean Ira Jaskoll admitted that the concerns were legitimate and that the office of student finance would work to make financial aid available to assist in defraying the cost. Jaskoll said, "If the students have a need, the university will work to solve those needs" Hecht also

said that expanding the summer school program at YU is a very possible consequence of the new proposal.

In addition to the financial concerns, many feel that the new credit cap will create a demographic change by decreasing the number of *Shana Bet* students that will come to YU. Hecht dismissed this claim as a scare tactic. In actuality, he said, that will not happen; despite the limited credit transfer the serious learner would not be driven away. Rather, "The only 'demographic' change is that people will start Semicha before they are technically graduates of YC".

Bible professor Dr. Moshe Bernstein, however, preferred that *Shana Bet* students stay far away from YU. He described how many students in Israel are indoctrinated with an anti-college philosophy and a second year in Israel tends to enforce that notion. He added that, in fact, these *Shana*

*Bet* students "detract from the quality of academic excellence of YC". Bernstein said that he is personally against the transfer of any Israel credit and MYP credit to Yeshiva College.

### Admissions Expert Worried

Director of Admissions Michael Kranzler is concerned about the change. Kranzler said that he supports the tightening of academic standards but not at the cost of admissions. He was particularly concerned with 10th graders who might decide to take AP courses go to another school because YU will not recognize more than 12 credits outside of Israel credits to graduate. Although Kranzler voted, in the end, to allow the issue to be decided by the full faculty, he plans to address the faculty and reinforce his stance against the cap.

Hecht stressed that, "[one] will get credit for these courses and YC will recognize these courses. It will just not count for the 128 [credits] necessary for graduation." As a result, "Students will graduate now, often with 145 credits which will be to their advantage when they apply to graduate school and to their overall education." Dr. Lee said, "The admissions office will still be able to make an extremely strong case for upgraded admissions standards while not asking people to come and pay for another four years. But I think we're good enough to fully justify any student staying here for three years."

# YU Students Bring Yad Ezra to American Shores

BY NICK MUZIN

The clock is ticking for Rabbi Tzvi Waldman. The popular second year Bible professor, whose infectious enthusiasm packs his YC and IBC classes every semester, is moving back to Israel in just a few short months. And before he leaves, he is determined to establish on American shores a strong and lasting presence for Yad Ezra, an Israeli philanthropy organization with which he has been involved for over thirteen years.

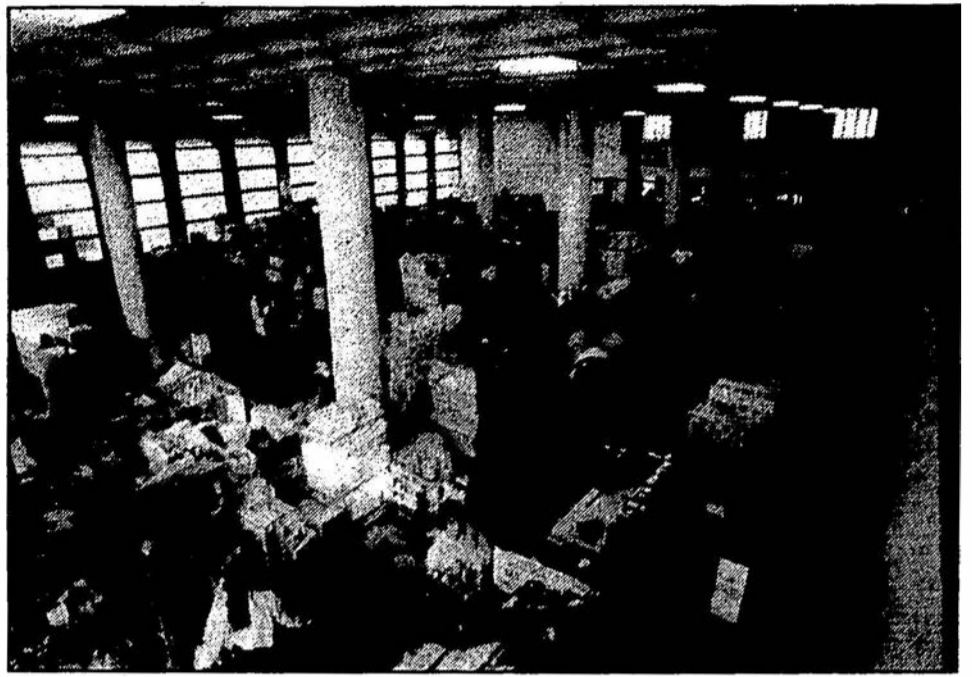
Together with a few YU student leaders, ranging from IBC President Richie Grossman to SOY President Hillel Cohen, and YCSC Vice President Dov Simons, R. Waldman hopes to establish an office for Yad Ezra within YU. He envisions students taking leadership roles in raising funds, spreading the message of tzedakah, and then coming to Israel to plan with Yad Ezra on how to best allocate the money. The group has received approval from Rav Hershel Shachter and other rebbeim. This year they have planned a raffle for Yom Ha'atzmaut which will raise funds for their annual Kimcha D'Pischa Passover Drive.

Yad Ezra began forty years ago in the streets of Jerusalem, when a little-known but well respected rabbi would cart up and down the marketplaces collecting the best of the day's leftover fruits and vegetables, just as the sun would set. Later that night he would knock on the doors of the poorest families in Israel

and provide them with the staple foods that they could not afford. Yet as he spent time in their homes listening to their problems and providing advice, he came to realize that a poor man's troubles only begin with money. The rabbi was soon able to interest like-minded people to assist him in bringing relief to the hungry.

From food parcels left on doorsteps, Yad Ezra expanded into a soup kitchen which provided hot meals for the sick and elderly, as well as challot and cooked meals for Shabbat. It also opened discount supermarkets, dentistry clinics, wedding halls and educational facilities. Its most acclaimed venture has been its opening of vocational workshops to employ the mentally ill. Though the workshops lose money on a daily basis, they have changed the world for over 150 mentally ill patients who have been taken directly from hospitals by the Yad Ezra volunteers and imbued with a sense of purpose and a confidence that they too are productive members of society.

Yad Ezra, in one way or another, cares daily for over 25,000 people in all parts of Israel. While it is essentially a Torah-observant organization, its services are available to anyone in need. R. Waldman points out that the people who work on and benefit from Yad Ezra come from a wide spectrum of Israeli society, including Satmer chassidim, Russian Olim, and others. Since it enjoys neither government nor public funding it is depen-



The Yad Ezra Warehouse that stores and packages food for the needy.

dent on private donations. R. Waldman explains that while Yad Ezra has an office in the US, the office serves largely as a center for churning out tax receipts and does little active fundraising. All of which he plans to change.

Last week R. Waldman spent Shabbos at YU together with Shlomo Cohen, a 39 year-old electrician who has been involved with Yad Ezra both as a patient and a volunteer. While serving his duty in the army, Shlomo Cohen was badly injured in the Yom Kippur War, after which he languished in a hospital devoid of purpose and full of self-pity. He was approached by a member of Yad Ezra who offered to get him a job in a subsidized factory. Through his work in the factory, Cohen began to feel that he was part of a family as he healed physically and mentally. Soon Cohen himself was helping Yad Ezra save others from neglect in state institutions.

"I was depressed and felt my life was going nowhere," Cohen explained, "but Yad Ezra doesn't allow for self-pity. They force you to get up and make yourself productive. Through this you gain the confidence and self-esteem necessary to re-enter mainstream society."

R. Waldman recalls working for Yad Ezra ten years ago, when a mentally disturbed patient was sent to them from an upper-class New York family who just couldn't handle his disabilities.

"He was literally crawling on all fours and I thought the situation was hopeless," said R. Waldman, "but then one of the Yad Ezra workers proclaimed 'this man will build buildings one day'. Sure enough, within a few years he was completely rehabilitated."

Rabbi Waldman pointed out that just last week he saw a picture of this former patient on the cover of Yediot Aharonot, as one of the volunteers who was helping tend to victims of the Hamas bombing.

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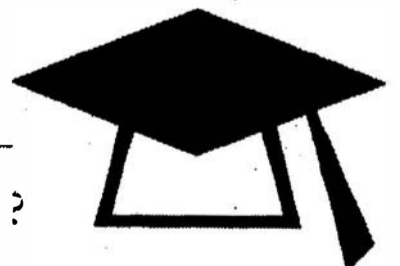
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# A Look Back: A History of Controversy

BY AKIVA HERZFELD

The recent credit-cap proposal stunned many YU students because of its obviously long and far-reaching effects on the students. Equally surprising was the fact that the proposal was not initiated by the administration, rather, by a group of 8 students, who through their self-appointed power as Senators, have cast the dice on the future of YU.

"The goal of the Senate is toward academic Standards, not to the students," declared Uriel Lubetsky, Chairman of the Senate, in his address to the Student Council last month.

When initially conceived in 1969, then YCSC President Kenneth Hain, wrote in the March 5 issue of the Commentator:

"The logic behind it [the senate] is to clearly introduce a democratic structure in the decision-making process of the college.... As students, our complaints have varied from an inadequate curriculum to an uncooperative administrator, from a faulty grading system to unfair regulations. Until now those complaints have been directed to individuals in the administration who reacted (or more often did not react) according to their arbitrary will.... Of utmost concern must be the preservation of the primary Jewish nature of the school and this certainly can be best done by involving students in the direction of YC in the future."

The senate's purpose in formation was to be the voice of the student body. The senate would represent the ideas of the students and the Senate members

could only attain their position by approval of the Student Council.

Rabbi Schneier, now President of the New York Board of Rabbis and 1979 Student Council President, recalled the selection of one Senate member in particular. "Not only did we appoint the members of the Senate, I remember approving Shalom Lamm, Rabbi Lamm's son to the

*"The senate's purpose in formation was to be the voice of the student body. The senate would represent the ideas of the students and the Senate members could only attain their position by approval of the Student Council."*

position." It was student council, not the Senate, making the appointments in both 1970 and 1980.

While the basic appearance of YU's campus has remained the same since the '70s, the Senate has changed, and changed drastically.

The example of Howard Dorfman (YC '69) supplies the first striking difference between the divergent Senates of present and the past. Describing the grueling

interview necessary for one who aspires a Senate seat, a rejected Dorfman commented in a facetious manner. "I felt like a rapist in front of a parole board made up of the league of Women Voters."

Clearly the method for obtaining a Senate seat then was no effortless chore. Later the election process would be slightly modified to prevent harrowing experiences such as the one Dorfman went through from reoccurring. However, the status quo, whereby senators are elected if they have friends on the outgoing Senate, evolved indeterminately. No faculty members supervise, no student council members approve, no students vote. Nor are the names and identities of the senate members known to most students. Some have termed them "Yeshiva's anonymous Senate advisory board".

Jeremy Blank, JSS freshman class appointee, wondered aloud how they achieved such dominance. "We don't pick them, why should they pick and assert the Senatorial decrees for us?"

It was not always like this. When did it develop into such? Surely not in 1969 when the interrogation of Senate nominees was compared to a combination of "the Spanish Inquisition, Dragnet, and a Salem Witchcraft trial." And in 1974, indications of an arduous selection process are apparent as well — the YCSC president would sit in on Senate interviews and advise the executive board in selecting the final candidates.

Whether or not the Senate should grow their sideburns long and revert

*YCSC created The Student Senate in 1969. Since that time, the Senators have repeatedly formulated policy on both restricting and extending academic credit in Yeshiva College.*

*But who gives the Senators their mandate?*

*The Students or Themselves?*

## The Student Senate:

- Uriel Lubetski
- Isaac Sasson
- Yosef Rothstein
- Yehuda Halpert
- Steven Greenfield
- Roniel Weinberg
- Avi Miller
- Daniel Wolff

continued on page 13

# A Look Ahead: How Will the Senate Endure

BY DAVID SWIDLER

In the wake of recent credit cap approval by the Student Senate and the Academic Standards Committee, student leaders and aspirants to leadership positions have called for an overhaul of the legislative structure, in an effort to make the Senate more representative of student opinion.

At issue is the fact that the student members of the Senate are not accountable to the student body in any official capacity for the consequences of their actions as Senators.

Because the credit cap proposal was approved by the Senate with relative alacrity and against the wishes of a significant number of students, many feel that the time has come to change the procedure through which Senators are appointed.

Under the current system, incumbent Senators evaluate the candidacy of applicants for upcoming vacancies and accept whom they think will discharge his duties properly.

YCSC President Josh Fine is intent on transforming the system, however, and has indicated to the Student Senators that the Senate's independent status is tenuous. Because of objections arising from the credit cap approval, students such as YC junior class president Shraga Goldenherish have become rather vocal in decrying the status quo. "We live in a democracy, but these guys are a bunch of elitists. It's like living under communists," he said.

Senators not "representatives" Senator Uriel Lubetski acknowledges that the current system is anything but democratic, and that it includes the danger of patronage and favoritism in the selection of candidates for vacant positions. However, he insists, the function of the students on the Senate is not to act as representatives of the student body *per se*; rather, they are there to offer a student

Fine seeks to hold elections for new Senators, beginning this year. He pointed out that under Article V of the Student Council Constitution, paragraph (2), YCSC has "the power to exercise legislative, executive, and judicial authority over all student extracurricular organizations and activities."

However, whether or not student membership and participation in the Senate falls under the category of "extracurricular activities" is open to question. It is unclear where the jurisdiction lies in deciding that question. Lubetski said that until such time as they are informed otherwise, the Senate will continue to operate under the assumption that YCSC has no say in the matter.

Fine notes that years ago, Senators were appointed by YCSC. Over the years that changed, and now, insists Fine, the Council is simply trying to restore *status quo ante*. At a Senate meeting held last Thursday, March 7, confusion over the independence of the Senate from YCSC persisted. The final few minutes of the club hour session were spent quarreling over whether YCSC in fact retains the power to force Senate elections; Senate Chairman Dr. Will Lee contended it does not while other professors believed it does.

The debate over the future of Senate membership is not the only outgrowth of the credit cap approval. Student resentment of Senate and administration among foes of the cap is high, despite Senators' assurances, at a YCSC meeting a month ago, that "we are not trying to [expletive deleted] you; we are not trying to [expletive deleted] your little brothers."<sup>1</sup>

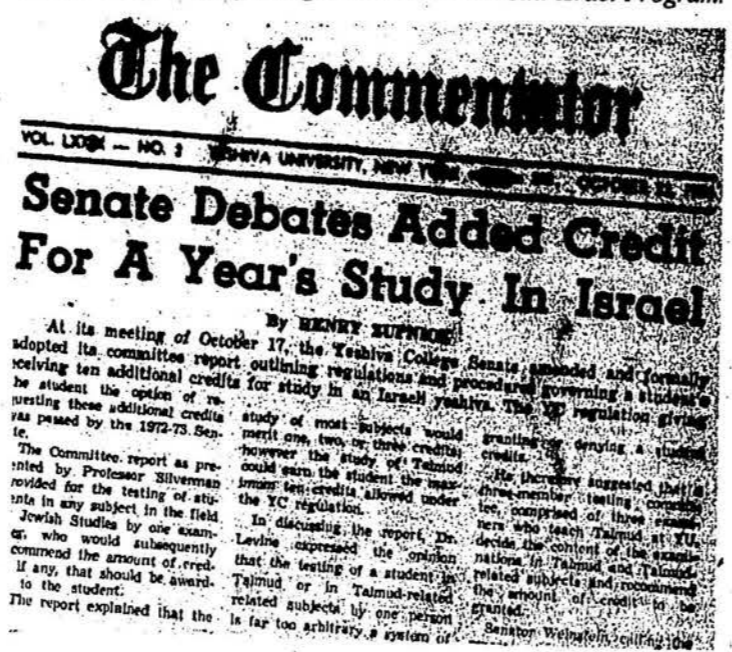
*"Because the credit cap proposal was approved by the Senate with relative alacrity and against the wishes of a significant number of students, many feel that the time has come to change the procedure through which Senators are appointed."*

perspective on the issues at hand. He noted that during the selection of new Senators, candidates are asked which they will put first: student opinion or academic standards? The "correct" answer, as far as the Senate is concerned, is academic standards, because the primary aim of that body is the enhancement of academic standards, while student opinion does not necessarily coincide with certain "enhancements".

# Giving Credit Where Credit Is Due



1974: A Senate proposal gives birth to The Joint Israel Program.



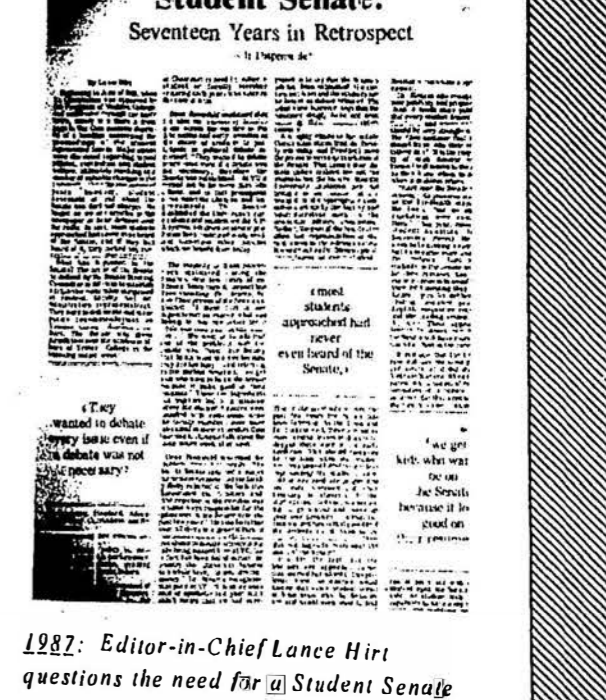
1974: Senate paves the way for an influx of outside credits.



1978: One hand gives, the other takes. Senate targets CLEP exams.



1987: Editor-in-Chief Lance Hirt questions the need for a Student Senate





## Perspectives: Not Just Playing Around

### The Make-Up of the Yeshiva College Dramatics Society

BY ALLAN SCHWARTZ

Such is the story of play-making anywhere in the world: give us time, time, and more time. But who, studying on a YU undergraduate schedule, has that much time for a play? The answer is a list too long to include in one issue of the Commentator. That list includes many students who have made long-lasting contributions, not only to the Yeshiva College Dramatics Society, but to Yeshiva College itself. Another question then arises: how do these students, who also spend their time working on projects other than YCDS, manage to have all the time necessary to do the play? The answer is both simple and complicated.

The simplicity of time management works like this - if you want something badly enough, you can get it. And these guys seem to want it a heck of a lot. Sure, there are people who live for the thrill of winning the basketball or hockey intramurals. Sure, there are those guys who love to see their names in print. And of course, some tzaddikim do whatever they do just for the sake of doing it. But most of the YCDS guys will reluctantly admit that there is no substitute for a standing ovation, for the congratulations on a job well done, for being given the opportunity to make somebody laugh or cry or identify with a part of themselves, hidden for some time.

So these guys push and push and then push themselves some more as they try to deliver the best performance they can. They spend weeks memorizing lines, sometimes in other accents, and often-times foreign in syntax from their own culture's vocabulary. They drive their families and friends crazy, constantly scurrying off somewhere to memorize more and more and more. As if their line-load wouldn't be enough, they spend night upon night of countless rehearsals, going over their blocking (basic movements on stage) and running through their lines. Then, as their academic calendar begins to get seriously cluttered with exams and papers, the director, Dr. Anthony Beukas, presents them with music, lights, costumes and special effects - the items that make the YCDS stage more than an amateur, that provide the audience member with a feeling of enchantment, a feeling they will take with them even after the curtain falls.

With all the new perks included, the unimaginable becomes reality, with rehearsals becoming even more difficult and complicated. Know how to walk, know how to talk, know how to sit, know how to stand. Know how to be heard, know how to be seen. As the days fly by, as weekends come and go, the adrenaline level rises, and the desire for perfection becomes even more acute. Sound volumes need to be reset, spots need to be moved, backs need to be turned, voices need to be raised. Lines need to be reworked, attitudes need to be calmed, hems need to be sown, cues must be perfected; the team must pull together. As show-

time approaches, everyone must give all they've got, for the theater lives on the motto belonging to the Three Musketeers: "all for one, and one for all."

The average theatergoer needn't be aware of the fact that numerous individuals devote time and effort to set design, to set construction, to set painting, to light design, to setting the lights, to making the playbills, to publicizing the event, to coordinating the lives of the over fifty people intimately involved, and a hundred more not-so intimately involved. Not to mention to getting the props, to setting the stage every night, to caring for the costumes, to preparing the makeup, to cleaning the theater, to putting on the smiles that gets money from contented alumni year after year. People sometimes forget that the actors are merely the first floor of a skyscraper, the display window of a showroom, the outer casing of an intricate and delicate shell. If even one person fails at his particular task, he performs a disservice not only to himself, but to the countless others who count on him to come through for them with his own assignment. An actor forgetting his lines, a technician losing control of his lights or sound, a props-man forgetting a prop - all hinge on the fact that the production manager got the signature he needed to ensure that the set would be built before the next century.

The cast party which takes place immediately after the final performance brings the entire cast and crew together for a few moments of nostalgia before they plunge back into their academic studies, often in an attempt to salvage a sinking semester. All those involved receive their cast gift, usually along with a sweat-shirt commemorating the particular play for that semester. The crowd at the party shakes hands and slaps backs; thanks are conveyed around the room and the friendships formed solidify, sometimes over the shedding of tears. The tasks to be completed were enormous, the thanks to be received almost non-existent. The only desire is to live for the moment and relive the experience of the semester for as long as possible, as long as the night will allow.

The only person, besides those who sit on the YCDS board, who does not relinquish his position until after the cast party is the stage manager. "Stage," as the position is affectionately known, is the most time consuming and difficult job of all, practically requiring a full time commitment from the individual chosen to undertake its awesome responsibility. This person functions as Dr. Beukas' right-hand man, coordinating all the different goings-on surrounding the production. He deals with cast and with crew, with administration, faculty and with students as he attempts to control the subjects of his domain, and make the show truly his. He is the highest chief on the YCDS totem-pole, the biggest dignitary after the President of YCDS, and, therefore, the first one to blame if anything, Heaven forbid, goes even slightly



YCDS Faculty Advisor and Artistic Producer Dr. Anthony S. Beukas demonstrating the art of dueling to an aspiring YC actor.

awry. To state all his tasks serves no purpose, to illustrate his power emphasizes nothing. It suffices to say that he has his whole body and soul engaged in every aforementioned task. Nothing evades his scrutiny, nothing gets done without his approval. The stage's time comes at the expense of his academic pursuits, yet all who have undertaken it will agree that nothing else taught them as much as being at the helm of a production. Their turnover rate is exceptionally high, as the requirements of the job prove too burdensome for most. YCDS strives for excellence, and high standards are sometimes difficult to maintain.

In respect to those who gave of their time during their academic career, YCDS has established an intricate connection of alumni who return year after year to see the work of their mentor, Dr. Beukas, come alive. They reminisce of their times in the spotlight, or behind it, long for those sleepless nights during their preparation for the show, and recount the depressing days after their last performance. All in all, they concur that their days at Yeshiva molded their lives, and that YCDS had molded those days.

Dr. Anthony Beukas is currently guid-

ing YCDS in his thirty-first year as director. The sixty-five plays performed in that timespan are a credit to his perseverance in the face of adversity, and undying dedication to his students. Famous to his students for his drive for excellence, Dr. Beukas never lets his students get lax for a moment. He constantly and consistently pushes them to perform to the best of their ability, to impress not only the audience members, but themselves as well. He coordinates the team effort, instructing the many students of his Theater Workshop on the fine points of theater life, the many tribulations and jublations. Towards that end, he was only recently recognized by the Senior class for his honesty, integrity and efforts on the students' behalf, and awarded the prestigious Professor of the Year award.

All in all, YCDS is, in and of itself, a production. They give every ounce of their being to performing their job to the best of their ability. By any standard, they perform a difficult task. And although in previous years their accolades have been mainly from fellow members, they hope that the upward trends in student interest in the past two productions will continue into the future. After all, everyone loves an audience.

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## High School Board to Take Some Control From YU

BY DANIEL RUBIN

After months of speculation and with little fanfare, the Yeshiva University administration and the board of the Yeshiva University High Schools, headed by Mr. Elliott Gibber, have reached an agreement that will shift much of the decision-making power over the high schools from YU's upper administration to the High School Board.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. William Schwartz explained that the board will take on "a more active role" with matters such as the high school curricula, although most financial affairs will still be under the administration's auspices. The Yeshiva University cause and motto will still influence significant decisions like appointment of principals.

YU High School for Girls Principal Chaya Hirschman said that the idea for the shift in command was offered

to her and MTA Principal Rabbi Michael Taubes by "the powers that be" to allow for a more efficient decision-making process in the high schools. The principals and teachers of the schools agreed to the idea because, as Hirschman explained, the high schools' problems often fell low on Dr. Schwartz's list of priorities, due to his myriad of responsibilities, and a more independent High School Board could handle such matters with greater expediently.

Currently, YU high schools are subsumed under the RIETS umbrella rather than under Yeshiva University in order to exempt them from technical legal obligations that are related to non-sectarian University status. Dr. Schwartz adds that MTA and "Central" will maintain their RIETS-like "affiliation" with YU so as to remain sectarian, but at the same time the schools will seek "corporation" status for tax purposes and greater financial independence.

Spring, 1996

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BY BOAZ KURTIS

## Cheating And Campus Immodesty Denounced At Dorm Talks

For the second time this year, the student-rabbi symposium known as Dorm Talks brought current school social issues to the forefront of the student agenda; this time the emphasis was on the Halacha and Hashkafa Torah attitudes towards cheating and public immodesty.

The February 20th forum featured MYP Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Mayer Twersky and JSS's Rabbi Benjamin Yudin, both of whom addressed and expanded upon four different scenarios regarding the issues of "Personal Responses to Public Immorality: In the Classroom and At the Van-Stop." Recent incidents of student cheating and public displays of immodest behavior provided the background for the discussion's theme.

"What should we do as we are trying to strive [in personal growth] if there are certain elements and attitudes floating around Yeshiva which are not conducive to this?" queried Rabbi Meir Orlian, who moderated the two-hour Morg Lounge session.

Rabbi Twersky presented the first response to the issue of classroom integrity, rejecting the notion that college is not the "real world" and thus cheating is more acceptable at Yeshiva College. "There is nothing less real about dishonesty in college than there is about dishonesty in the so-called 'real world,'" explained Twersky. He was referring to the "artificial distinctions" that people impose upon different environments, such as school and the workplace, which foster justifications for cheating.

### Mesorah O.K.

R. Twersky was swift to condemn almost all forms of questionable transfer of information from one student to another, as outlined in the model scenarios. His main concern was the *chilul Hashem* that results from dishonesty at Yeshiva College and he added that "one can in no way assist or be complicit in such actions." Although he noted that using 'mesorah,' or old class tests and notes, is permissible.

Rabbi Yudin also conceded that YU students have yet to reach a higher cognizance of academic integrity, noting that exams at many other col-

leges are administered on the honor system where there is no instructor present. When asked if a YU student has the responsibility to notify a teacher if he witnessed a classmate cheating, Yudin replied, "I think we're not there yet." Rather, he said,

### Excerpts From Dorm Talks

"There's nothing less real about dishonesty in college than there is about dishonesty in the so-called 'real world.' There's nothing to debate regarding the fact that cheating is absolutely forbidden. One can in no way assist or be complicit in such actions. Every moment of a person's life, he is in the presence of Hashem and is obligated to maintain and live up to certain basic ethical standards and demands, whether in Yeshiva College, a law firm, or trading on Wall Street. There's nothing less real about your years in college than there is about your years in the workplace."

-Rabbi Twersky on cheating

"Students are in nothing less than a *mikdash*. This is a major test for us. Is it easy? No. We recognize that there is a certain holiness to the body and therefore this kind of behavior is in the category of *gilui arayos*. The way in which we conduct ourselves with a young lady is very significant. There is no negotiation on what the Halacha says... This is wrong; it is prohibited.

"Even if the person doesn't listen to you, you have the responsibility to speak out ...and protest. The concept of 'Mind Your Own Business' is foreign to Jewish concept and thought. I think it is clearly known to anyone that comes to the Yeshiva that there is a minimum code of acceptable behavior which includes the manner which they conduct themselves with members of the opposite sex."

-Rabbi Yudin on immodesty

one should approach the offending student first.

### Confronting the campus embrace

R. Yudin primarily spoke on the second topic - Immodest Activity on Campus - specifically the issue of YU students being seen on campus hold-

ing hands with or embracing their girlfriends in public. He adamantly denounced such behavior and insisted that he was "very pained" in having to address the issue as a problem in Yeshiva University.

"Students are in nothing less than a *mikdash*," argued R. Yudin. "There is no negotiation on what the Jewish law says... [immodesty] is wrong; it is prohibited." Quoting various sources, Yudin further urged that it is each student's responsibility to rebuke those who are conducting themselves immodestly. "You should confront those who are acting unfortunately with *chutzpah* here in our backyard... whether they are IBC, JSS, or 'Beis Midrash' students... Those individuals who are polluting our yeshiva... and [polluting] what our Torah stands for... cannot be tolerated."

In response to a question regarding the attire of students on campus, R. Yudin expressed desire for the enforcement of a stricter dress code: "Going to a class in shorts and walking around the college buildings... is inappropriate behavior... I would hope that our Dean of Students would be enforcing this kind of dress code within the college."

Around the campus, students held different views regarding the effect that Dorm Talks produces within the college agenda. Many students insisted that such forums are necessary to address these serious issues. "Obviously it's clear that there's garbage taking place here. Once we saw that [cheating] was going on, we had to address it and squash it right away," said Zvi Micahnik, a JSS freshman. "Unfortunately, when there's cheating going on, which you would think to be an unheard of thing at a place like this, you have to let people know how bad it really is so you don't lose focus."

### Wrong audience?

Other students disagreed with the notion that Dorm Talks will help ameliorate campus problems. Some felt that the meeting was ineffective because those who attended it were a homogenous crowd of students, not representative of a true sample of Yeshiva College students; they suggested that the Talks were a failure because the issues did not primarily relate to the audience.

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125	Orion Siegleman (Atl)	Aaron Katz (Chi)	Moshe Popack (MTA)
130	Aryeh Brueckheimer (MTA)	Mickey Ellman (Atl)	Yoni Baer (TABC)
135	David Gottlieb (MTA)	Eric Samson (TABC)	Fox (Chi)
140	Ben Cohen (Chi.)	Avi Berliner (MTA)	E. Shiloh (Frisch)
145	Jason Comrov (Chi)	Asher Dordeck (Chi)	O. Neumeyer (Atl)
152	Micha Lader (MTA)	Neer Hason (MTA)	B. Breda (Frisch)
160	Ari Tarner (Chi)	Daniel Schon (MTA)	S. Fuchs (Frisch)
171	Joshua Murad (MTA)	Darrin Peller (Frisch)	L. Thumin (Frisch)
189	Daniel Doctor (Chi)	Michael Fine (MTA)	Steven Kluger (TABC)
HWT	Ariel Shiloh (Frisch)	Yosef Milgrom (MTA)	R. Gibkin (TABC)

## YCSC and Student Senate Clash Over Possibility of Senate Elections *continued from page 8*

back to the procedures of 1969 is a subject of heated disputations between the Senate, the faculty, and Student Council members.

The Student Council cites Article 1 Section 2 (b) of the Senate Constitution as an indication that the Senate was meant to preside only under the authority of the Council. Alas, there is another rendering of the text.

Dr. Will Lee, the Chairman of the "Undergraduate Student Senate" exclaimed "That's not what the phrase means at all." Flabbergasted, he pointed out that this phrase refers only to the earlier part of passage, which discusses senators' being aloud to partake in other YCSC activities.

Rav Carmy, one of the framers of the rewritten Senate constitution, conferred with Lee as to the specific meaning of the phrase. Rav Carmy, however, conceded that the Student Council has a valid point because the constitution when drafted was purposely left ambiguous regarding the elections of Senate members for precisely such an instance.

The diverging translations in the rendering of the text have enormous ramifications. The results will determine how future Senate members will be elected. Yet with many seething at the recent credit cap proposal, some students suggest that the Senate be abolished altogether.

Or in the words of Robert Guttmann, "the inane [credit cap] proposal is an attention getting maneuver by a bunch of primadonnas who seek self-contentment, respect, and most importantly a sense that they are doing something."

The Senate has definitely done things in the past. It is a body that has proposed matters of great import. For instance, a long time back, it was the Senate that proposed weakening the required stay on campus from four to three years (see sideline), and it was the Senate who helped found the Writing Center. Last year it began work on a student tutorial center and updated a computer task force. This year alone, the senate has passed proposals for a course and faculty guide, which will

include a listing of all the courses with descriptions in detail mentioning the syllabus and a biography of the faculty. They have also continued work on a tutorial service with the help of Dean Horowitz and Cwillich.

The above proposals were beneficial for the school certainly and for the students as well. But in matters such as the credit cap are fellow students question whether the senators are representing the students or are they attempting to accrue favor in the eye's of other Senatemenbers?

Issac Sasson, a current Senate member, admitted that "one of the things that has come out of his work on the Senate is a close working relationship with Dr. Lee," the chairman. Sasson disproved the notion that members are just selecting friends. "I had no friends on the Senate that chose me. I was chosen for the good head on my shoulders and my great oratorical skills." In fact, Sasson wrote an article for *The Commentator* in fall '94, lambasting the Senate for lack of initiative, and then he was selected by those very same persons whom he had just criticized. He described this year's Senate as "one of the hardest working groups in a long long time."

"The Senate is one of the most judicious committee's around... to suggest otherwise would be blasphemous," said Michael Nelson a former member. Nelson also unequivocally rejected the idea that one could attain the position through befriendng a past Senator.

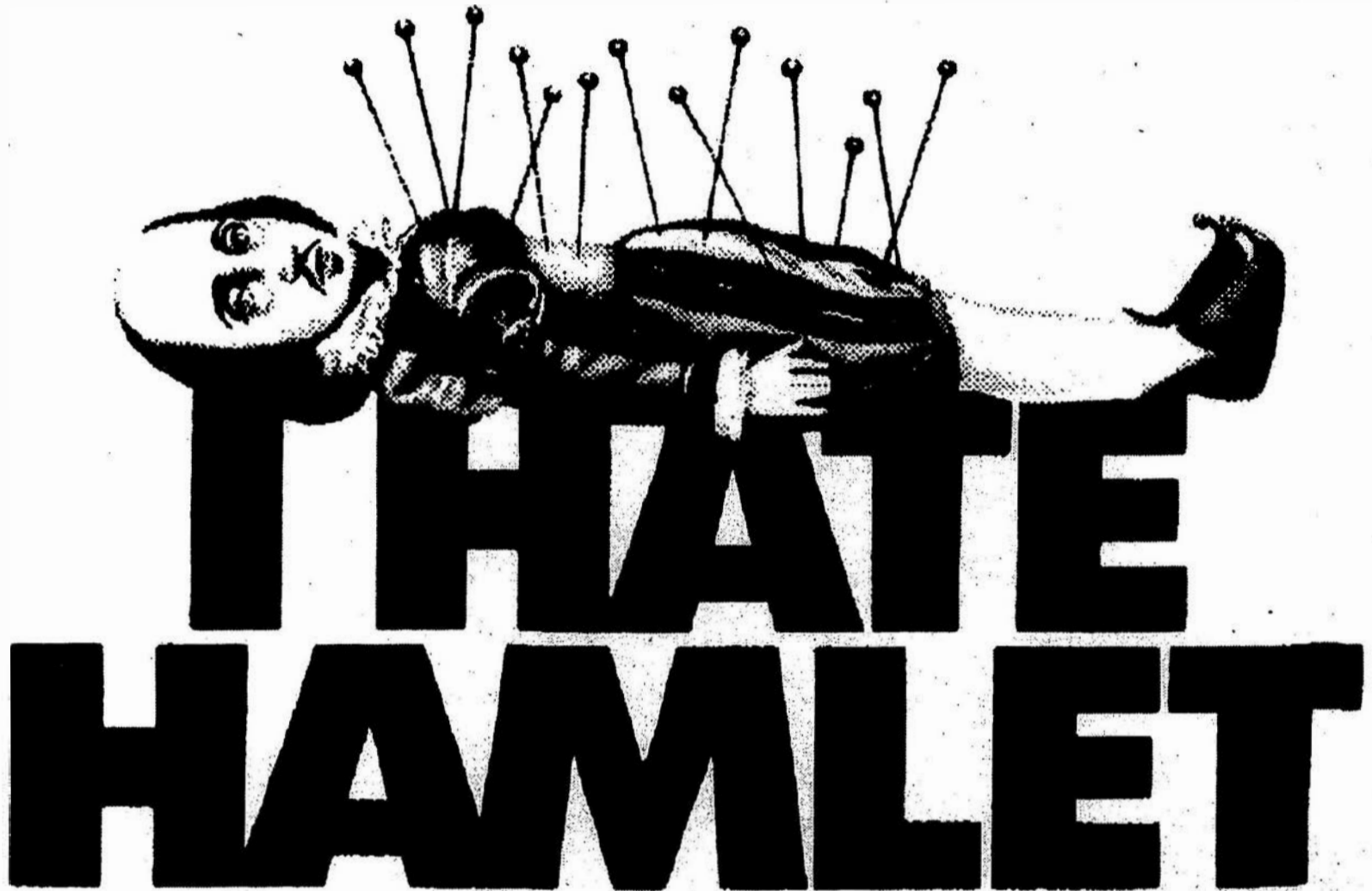
"When a friend of a Senator applies, then that Senator usually steps out of the room for the selection process."

If one thing is clear it's that the Senate members take their position very seriously. The recent appointments and resolutions also seem to indicate that Senate members definitely feel that they have absolute probity and only the well being of the college in mind when they propose significant matters. Others at Yeshiva may not hold them in such high regard.

Daniel Anziska believes the Senate exists for one sole purpose. "Do not misunderstand: it is definitely very crucial that a Senate exists at Yeshiva; the Senate serves to provide extra padding for the resumes of YU's best students. It enables our select few at the top to one day move on to a top-notch institution." Many others share this view.

As the situation currently stands Senators are chosen by past Senators. Dr. Lee noted that he would be amenable toward a situation where the students select the Senators. And this is what the student council desires as well. If the Senate is, as originally presented, supposed to represent the student body then the students should have a direct say in its election. However, if the Senate has evolved into an effective body precisely because it does not answer to the students' every whim then surely the present situation must continue.

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## Confusion Over Academic Standards Vote

*continued from page one*

were cast by Harris, Hecht, YC Dean Norman Adler, Associate Dean of Students David Himber, English professor and Senate Chairman Will Lee, Bible professor Moshe Bernstein, and economics professor Aaron Levine. Opposing the 44 credit proposal were Director of Enrollment Management Melvin Davis, Director of Admissions Michael Kranzler, biology professor Kenneth Danishevsky, mathematics professor Thomas Otway, and the two student representatives to the committee, Michael Belgrade and Jonathan Klein. Both YC Assistant Dean A Very Horowitz and SSSB Assistant Dean Ira Jaskoll were present but abstained from the vote. Horowitz only abstained, however, when the proposal was guaranteed the committee's stamp of approval; had his vote been necessary it would have been cast in the cap's favor.

Harris' nonmembership status was acknowledged later that evening by Adler after *The Commentator* interviewed Harris, who openly admitted he is not a standing member of the Academic Standards Committee, and brought its findings to the dean. Adler immediately telephoned Hecht at home, and the two decided to strike Harris' vote from the record, transforming that morning's vote into a 6-6 deadlock.

### A new vote

Recognizing the imperative for a new vote, Hecht advocated the next morning that the Academic Standards Committee reconvene the following week in order to expedite the process. Under pressure from Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. William Schwartz and YC Dean Norman Adler, however, a phone poll of the committee's members was conducted by Horowitz that Wednesday afternoon. When informed by *The Commentator* that a new vote was being conducted in absence of an official meeting, a furious Michael Belgrade bolted from his Morg dorm room to Hecht's office to demand an explanation and cast his vote. Hecht explained that Horowitz did not contact Belgrade and

Klein for their votes because their aversion to the 44 outside credit cap was presumed. According to Hecht, the final tally of the poll was a 9-4 vote in favor of a cap of 44.

The disparity between the two votes was generated by defections from the "no cap" camp by Kranzler and Davis, and a grudging nod to the cap by Horowitz, who ideally prefers one of 40 or less. Hecht abstained from the vote, Harris' opinion was not solicited, and Otway reiterated his stance. English professor Richard Nochimson, a Committee member, was neither present at the original meeting nor polled by Horowitz.

### Shana Bet still possible

By approving an outside credit cap of 44, Academic Standards Committee members would allow students to complete their YU education - albeit with great difficulty - in two and a half years. But they acknowledge that the prospect of taking 17 credits each semester is daunting and will reduce the number of students annually availing themselves of this option. According to Hecht, Shana Bet would still be a "potential option," but not a "practical" one. He notes that it is "important not to drag on" the idea which "started several years ago.

Vice President Schwartz, in an interview with *The Commentator*, indicated that there is a perception in the administration that the Student Senators who initiated the original 40-credit proposal represent all YU students; a proposal emitted from the mouths of Senators consequently carries great weight. According to Hecht, though, YCSC President Josh Fine together with Belgrade and Klein "made it clear" - through personal conversation and their authorship of a Student Academic Standards Committee Newsletter advocating a 50 outside credit cap - that the student body's wishes are not accurately represented in the Senate.

*Joshua Feldman and Ariel Konstantyn contributed to this story.*

## SOY Purim Chagiga Tinged With Sadness

*continued from page one*

rim chagigah inspired feverish dancing and singing, to the point where current events lingered hazily in the mind; those moments were tempered by more tehillim and a kumitz-style guitar session with Rav Mordechai Willig. Certainly the public reading of the megillah, which recounts an ancient plot to murder Jews, was painfully current and its outcome - *v'nahopuch lu* - fervently desired. Thus, the Purim of 1996 was tinged with sadness.

At the city's *se'udot* the next day, joy once again manifested itself as students recovered from the blow. Intoxication, consequently, did not suffer during the Purim of 1996, illustrating the ability of the Jewish people to bounce back rapidly from tragedy. This speedy rehabilitation was perhaps a product of well-rehearsed routine, played out time and

time again these past few years. YU students who attended the Teaneck funeral of Sara Duker had been trained in funeral-going by the Alisa Flatow tragedy only eleven months prior. And the ensuing media blitz, which put American students in Israel in the spotlight, came as no surprise.

But fear did not become a function of the number of friends or relatives riding the buses of Jerusalem; foremost was identification with all Israel's Jews. Students compared the *matzav* to that of the Gulf War, and others reasoned it eclipsed the terror of those times. And for some who were enveloped by a mysterious desire to be there, fusion of the logical and irrational characterized these trying times.

## Who is Brian Wein

*continued from page 16*

didn't start a game in any sport since my first little league game."

Wein's game is one of the flashiest ever to be seen in a Mac uniform. While he possesses a deadly shot from the outside, his offensive forte is his driving to the hole, and in creating shots for himself and his teammates. On defense he's a menace - a hard-nosed one on one defender, who also reads the passing lanes to steal the ball of a pass, and blocks shots coming over to help from the weak side. In addition to all the fundamentals that Wein possesses he is a solid rebounder at 6'4" with the speed to finish the break ignited by his rebound. But he is most noted

for his Herculean dunks that dazzle the crowds and cause uproar in the Beis Medrash. Yet, despite all these unique abilities Wein possesses, he never questioned his lack of playing time. "The only question that entered my mind was 'what can I do to earn more minutes?' I respect the coach's preference to play the guys more experienced within his system. I just look forward to starting next year and being a leader on this team."

Although the mystery behind who Brian Wein is might be gone, his unparalleled talent is not. Fans still have two more seasons of Wein highlights to be able to share with their grandchildren fifty years from now.

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## SPORTS

### Fencing IAC Champions - Again

BY COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF

By defeating Stevens Tech in the Max Stern Athletic Center on Sunday, February 25, the YC Tauberman finished off their IAC season as the league's undefeated champions. The Tauberman, named after Olympian and former YC fencing head coach Arthur Tauber, have not lost to an IAC team in two years - a YC record.

The next Sunday, the Tauberman travelled to Blacksburg, VA, for the MACFA

championships. In order to fence more teams throughout the season, the Tauberman are also a part of the Mid-Atlantic Conference Fencing Association. After a grueling day of fencing - six and half hours straight - the Tauberman went home proudly, in fourth place out of fourteen teams - shy of the number three spot by just one bout. Johns Hopkins University came in first place. The epee' squad came in third place, lead by Reuben Levy who brought home a medal, making "second team."

### Hockey Intramurals Continue

BY JONATHAN TIGER

#### Week 11

Lawrence 5 Mauskopf 3 - Lawrence (hat trick), Fine, Bronfeld (2)

Lieber 4 Bennett 3 - Bennett (hat trick), Goldman (2)

#### Week 12

Bennett 5 Mauskopf 4 (OT)

Naftali Bennett's team notched a rare victory in a tremendously exciting game. Dan Lifschutz and Bennett staked their team to an early 2-0 lead. Marc Berger cut that lead in half on a goal that deflected in off the ceiling. A beautiful wrap-around by Barry Habib increased Bennett's lead to 4-1. However, a strong comeback led by captain Eric Mauskopf's two goals brought this game into overtime. There, Kenny Ripstein scored the game winner.

Lieber 9 Lawrence 1

In an all out destruction, Oren Lieber's team took over league supremacy. Moshe Schreiber and Yussi Grunberg led the charge, both netting hat tricks. Mark Goldman, David Levine, and Ari Gell-

man all chipped in with a goal apiece. A strong game from goaltender Mark Mandel prevented this game from getting close.

#### Week 13

Lawrence 6 Bennett 0

Severely shorthanded, Naftali Bennett's team was shut out. Lawrence and Daniel Wolfson each had a pair of goals. Ariel Fine and Steven Bransdorfer also helped out, each adding a goal of his own. Leib Feldman was victorious between the pipes.

Lieber 3 Mauskopf 2

Oren Lieber's team remained undefeated for the semester, solidly defeating Eric Mauskopf's team. Mauskopf staked his team to an early lead before Goldman answered for his team. Doron Goldschmidt made it 2-1 for Lieber's team midway through the second period. Goldman scored his second goal of the game on a breakaway late in the third period. A late goal by Marc Berger was not enough as Mark Mandel preserved another win for his team.

### B-Ball Intramurals

The following are the games from the past week of play:

#### CELTICS 40 LAKERS 33

Impressive outside shooting by Ari Rockoff, 13 points, and solid performances by Marc Rosenbaum, Ari Cutler and captain Andy Davidson helped the Celtics defeat the Lakers. The Lakers were led by Rock Harrow (10 points) and Steve Bransdorfer (9 points).

#### CROATIA 60 SIXERS 58

Each team played an exciting style of basketball and the game was not decided until the overtime period when Croatia emerged the victor. For the Sixers, Michael Feder put on a show of his own scoring a season high 22 points, while his teammate Tal Sharon also had his best performance of the season hitting on 4 three pointers on way to 14 total points. Croatia was led by David Zeit who scored 22, and Arkady poured in 18 in the win.

#### GRIZZLIES 36 KNICKS 32

A close game for most of the way, the Grizzlies played a strong second half to achieve the victory. Hillel Cohen (13 points) and Jon Lifshutz (10 points) paved the way for the Grizzlies. The Knicks scoring came from newly acquired Moshe Kesselman, and Jonathan Neiss who each scored 15 points. The Knicks dropped to 1-3, while the Grizzlies continued their solid second semester play.

#### WARRIORS 50 CLIPPERS 48

This game came down to the final seconds, as David Wild's shot with nearly no time remaining sealed the game for the Warriors. The Warriors had a balanced attack, led by Wild (11 points) and Wes Kalmar, Y. Rosman and Josh Hasten who scored 10 points apiece. Dovie Forman led the Clippers with 16 points and Naftali Bennet and Ari Eckman chipped in 10 each.

### Weined on the Basketball Court

#### Who is Brian Wein?

BY DAVID WILD

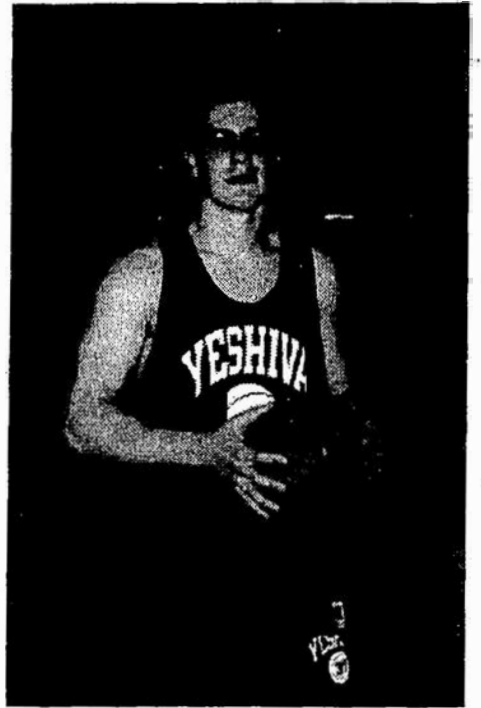
Prior to the 1995-96 season, the YU Macs and their fans touted the arrival of the high flying Brian Wein. Many considered Wein to be a player who possessed the talent capable to catalyze the Mac team and bring back to the MSAC a level of excitement and enthusiasm that has been lacking since the graduation of Daniel Aaron. Hype surrounding Wein's arrival enabled the team to draw many curious crowds into the MSAC gym seeking to catch a glimpse of the rookie phenom. Impressed by his terrific play early in the season, many fans wanted to know how this talent ended up at YU. Now with the basketball season behind us, the question still remains, "Who is Brian Wein?"

Hailing from Teaneck, New Jersey, Wein attended Moriah elementary school and began playing basketball in the sixth grade. His prodigious talents grew and his mastery of fundamentals of team play led him to star on the school basketball team. Following his graduation from Moriah, Wein enrolled in Teaneck High, and taking advantage of the more flexible school hours he began to work on the weaknesses of his game. His goal throughout high school was to play at a Division I college; so he began lifting weights and exercising in order to enhance his rebounding and power game. Midway through high school, Wein was able to dunk and this added a whole new facet to his already dominant game.

He thrived on the varsity basketball team, comfortably playing in a nup-tempo, fast breaking system. But during his senior year Wein developed tendinitis in his knee; his determination to persevere in face of hardship was evident as he increased his practice and exercises.

Although Wein spoke to several Division I coaches in his senior year, he opted to stay close to home and attend Rutgers University in New Jersey - even though he was not formally recruited and the team had only lost one player to graduation. Following his freshman year, while Brian participated in a summer basketball league at the JCC of Tenafly, New Jersey, former Mac star Lior Hod spotted Wein and his obvious talents. Thus Hod began recruiting and encouraging Wein to transfer to YU.

After much thought, Wein finally decided to switch to YU and become a Mac, despite the interest of Division I schools such as Duquesne and St. Joseph's University.



Brian Wein

What was his motivation to transfer to YU? Wein responded, "I hadn't been doing exceptionally well academically at Rutgers, and attending YU would offer an opportunity to have a fresh start, in addition to being an integral part of a promising basketball team." Another reason Brian preferred YU to the other colleges was that in YU he would still be immersed in Judaism, whereas in another university he would constantly be fighting a personal religious battle.

At the beginning of this year, Wein found it difficult to balance his basketball schedule and the rigors of YU's dual curriculum. Wein also found it frustrating in adjusting to a slower-paced, often lethargic half court style of play which clearly restricts Wein's open floor talents which flourished in his high school's up-tempo game.

Perhaps the most difficult adjustment for Wein the 'off-the-bench role' which he was forced to play under Coach Halper's system, in which upperclassmen have historically received the major minutes. On his reduced playing time Wein comments, "it's difficult for me to accept sitting on the bench for even a second. Whether it's a Mac game, intramural game, or pickup game, I want to be on the floor. When Coach cut my playing time, I began to force the action a bit too much. Only later in the season did I really relax and play my game. More than anything else, I had trouble adjusting to coming off the bench. I mean, it was the first time I

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### The Commentator

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