

# Yeshiva University Commentator

May 7/18 Iyar, Lag Ba'Omer 5756 Official Undergraduate Newspaper of Yeshiva College Volume LXI No. 1

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the Guard.....p. 10



Students celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut in Weissberg Commons

## YU Holding Empty Buildings

### RIETS Students Still Packed Into Laurel Hill Apartments

BY DAVID SWIDLER

Despite public records showing that YU either owns or controls a number of unoccupied properties in Washington Heights, unmarried semicha students find themselves crammed into apartments on dangerous and inconveniently located Laurel Hill Terrace.

As the end of the school year approaches, RIETS students are concerned that the same unfortunate housing situation that confronts them this year will reappear in the fall, when housing arrangements are finalized.

In August of 1991, *The New York Times* ran an article about Washington Terrace. In it, the reporter, Christopher Gray, raises the issue of YU's effective ownership of six three-story houses on that street. Director of Supporting Services Admin-

istration Jeffrey Rosengarten, also in that article, denied that YU owns the properties, but, as Gray points out, the CFIP corporation, which officially owns the houses, lists as its address, "c/o Bernard Pittinsky, 500 W 185th St." - YU's Office of Finances.

At the beginning of this school year, unmarried RIETS students residing in the dormitories were removed and placed in neighborhood apartments. Many of these students found themselves in overcrowded, poorly-equipped, even unsanitary accommodations, and some time passed before Facilities Management personnel came by on a regular basis to improve and maintain their living conditions.

To prevent a recurrence of these and other problems, *continued on page 14*

## Buskin Victorious in YCSC Presidential Election

### Leibowitz, London, and Oppenheim Complete 1996-97 Executive Board

BY DAVID SWIDLER

After a week of grueling campaigning and sometimes heated debate over the future of Yeshiva College, the results of Thursday's balloting revealed that Jason Buskin will lead the undergraduates of the Main Campus into 1997. Buskin assumes the office of YCSC President on May 22.

Also elected to the Council positions were: Vice President Netanel Leibowitz, who currently holds the office of Secretary; Treasurer Shimon Oppenheim; and Secretary Eric London.

Buskin defeated Shmuel Bodenheimer and Shraga Goldenherish in a race characterized by appeals to such lofty ideals as unity and to somewhat more earthly sentiments, namely, free Dougie's chicken wings.

During the campaign, Buskin emphasized his extensive experience in areas that would help him discharge presidential duties with efficiency, such



YCSC President-Elect  
Jason Buskin

as dealing with the administration as a class representative, and his organizational skills, illustrated by his coordination of the orientation program for incoming students early last semester.

The three presidential candidates squared off in a *Commentator*-sponsored debate the night before the elections. After a fiery farewell speech from out-

going President Josh Fine, exhorting incoming student leaders not to be intimidated by, or sell out to, administrative power (see transcript, p. 14), each candidate delivered a short address to discuss why he should be the next President.

Each touted his background as proof of experience in dealing with different parts of the student body. Bodenheimer tried to show that as an IBC student, he could most easily identify with the large "centrist" block of students. Buskin, also of IBC, cited his resume of leadership experience. Goldenherish, of MYP, claimed that as a foreign student (his family made Aliyah from New Haven, Connecticut, years ago) and as a "beis medrash guy", he embodied the concerns and views of the majority of students, and could thus represent them most successfully.

The Canvassing Committee, the student-run body which coordinates elections, employed *continued on page 14*

## Students Join the Battle to Free Agunot

BY ARI GRUEN

In an emotional plea to Yeshiva University students last Tuesday in Rubin Shul, an Agunah, Hannah Levine, and her son Michael, along with Deena Aranoff, president and founder of SAFA-Student Action to Free Agunot-urged students to do everything in their power to help those women whose husbands refuse to grant them a *Get* [a religious divorce]. YU students heeded the call and turned out in force at a rally last Friday at Ms. Levine's estranged husband's place of work.

Levine, who has been waiting in vain to receive a *Get* from her husband for the past six years, criticized the indifference of the Jewish community to the plight of Agunot. According to *Halakha* [Jewish Law], an Agunah is forbidden to remar-

ry unless granted a *Get* by her husband.

"Actually, nobody [in my community] was really interested," complained Levine. "They think it's not going to affect them and they're living with their wife and children....If somebody's sick then the community comes out, but for this, nobody thinks it's important."

She pointed out that the Agunah problem is "not only my problem, but is also my children's problem," as she described the effect that her estranged husband, who, ironically, is a divorce attorney who serves on a neighborhood ethics committee, has had on her children and on her son in particular.

"Michael was very little when we separated," Levine explained, "and the hardest thing was Friday night going to

Shul- he had nobody to go to Shul with."

Indeed, Michael Levine himself, a student at the Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy, detailed the effect of living under the shadow of an abusive father. He described one incident in which his father kicked his mother in the throat after she had confronted him with evidence of his infidelity.

"I have not spoken to my father in almost a year," lamented Michael. "I have nobody to play ball with or have a catch with....I have nobody to watch baseball or basketball games with on TV. Whenever I go to my friends' house, I see how good their father's treat them....I think how things could have been with my family if things would have went right."

Ms. Levine concluded her *continued on page 12*



Photo: YUPR

New Science Labs Open In Belfer: Dr. Kenneth Danishefsky demonstrates DNA analysis techniques in his molecular biology laboratory. The new labs feature state-of-the-art computer technology to assist in genetic research and cellular experimentation.

## Reading Week? Yeah, Right

Reading Week was designed to provide overburdened students with a few class-free days at the end of the semester to study for their finals. But in recent years, professors have, in effect, taken this privilege away from the students by scheduling classes during the week.

Some Professors announce nonchalantly on the first day of class "oh, by the way, I give class during reading week;" others cajole their students into forfeiting their reading week by promising them a later midterm or an easier final. Still others announce half way through the semester that since they missed a class due to illness/out-of-town conference/snow storm, they will summarily be giving class on reading week.

No doubt the professors are filled with a sincere desire to finish their course material, but the net result of their careless intrusion onto reading week is an overstressed and underprepared student body come finals week. This is especially disconcerting to those students enrolled in the IBC, JSS and BMP Jewish studies programs, whose finals in those courses already extend several days into Reading Period. This, compounded by the fact that all science labs meet during this period, confront almost any student with an overwhelming task.

The administration must set forth a stricter Reading Period policy, wherein not only will exams be prohibited, as is currently the case, but that classes must also must terminate beforehand. There must be no exceptions, even if "the class agrees."

## Room To Maneuver

It is rare that an individual is presented with the opportunity to publicly atone for past mistakes. Normally, he must confront his decisions and actions head on and suffer their consequences, whatever they may be. However, over the next few months the University administration will be presented with such an opportunity. They will have the chance to work together with student leaders to bring about real solutions to two problems that have, for the last few years, vexed and irritated YC and RIETS students, namely the overcrowding of the Beit Medrash and the Semicha housing crisis.

Mistakes have certainly been made. For the past year, Semicha students, individuals committed to Torah, and who, in the past, have been praised by the administration as representing the elite of Modern Orthodoxy, have been housed in apartments that are infested with rodents and which lack basic amenities such as lighting and furniture. One would never keep his precious jewelry in an environment susceptible to theft or damage. It is unconscionable then, that our administration continues to house Semicha students, the jewels of our institution, in apartments that are unsanitary and dangerous.

As for the Beis Medrash, the overcrowding continues and will, with the growth of our yeshiva, only worsen. *Chavrusas* literally sit on top of each other, and there is little room for *Sefirim*. Those YC and RIETS students who have been banished to the Morgenstern basement in an attempt to ease the overcrowding feel alienated and estranged. They too want to participate in the *Kol Torah* that emanates from within the main Beis Medrash at all times of the day. They too want to call the main Beis Medrash their *Makom Torah*.

Despite these sentiments little has been done by the administration to improve either of the situations. Petitions, Letters to the Editor, and the suggestions of student committees have fallen on deaf ears. Administrators have expressed their sympathies and have promised change, but have produced little substance. We cannot expect the University to construct a new Beis Medrash or a new apartment complex by the time we return in the fall, but we can demand that the administration work with student leaders to develop definitive and substantive plans.

We implore the University to take advantage of this opportunity.

## Mingling With The Wrong Crowd

Last week's Yom Ha'atzmaut chagiga was extremely vivacious. Hundreds of students from both Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women gathered to commemorate the State of Israel's 48th birthday. Yes, Men and Women, together, on the main campus.

Coed chagigot celebrating holidays occur throughout the year on an annual basis. One would be hard pressed, though, to find a purely social event with YU men and SCW women occurring here. That is because they do not happen. The University subscribes to a policy that forbids social activities between men and women on the main campus.

What is it about holidays and academic events that makes it permissible for both YU men and women to participate in activities together?

If the reason is that we are a Yeshiva and thus co-educational social events are not for *bnei torah*, why is it then that chagigot are permitted to occur on the campus? Does the addition of women heighten the level of simcha? Surely not. Does the event eventually end in socializing with women? Almost always.

Let's be honest. The same temptations are presented to both men and women during any event, be it a chagiga or an orientation event, on the main campus or during an student function at a bowling alley. And as for sanctity of the premises, Weissberg Commons is hardly a *makom kadosh*.

The University is sending its students mixed messages and it is high time that it takes a stand on this issue once and for all. If social activities are not befitting the students of Yeshiva University, fine. But they should not be masqueraded as "get togethers" for a higher purpose, especially a religious one.

# The Commentator

500 West 185th Street, New York, NY 10033, Telephone and Fax: (212) 740-2155. Published bi-weekly during the academic year by the Yeshiva College Student Council. The views expressed in these columns are those of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *The Commentator*, the student body, the faculty, or the Administration of Yeshiva University. We do not endorse any of the products or services advertised in these pages. Copyright 1996, *The Commentator*. One issue free, fee for additional issues.

NICOLAS D. MUZIN

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TION



## FROM THE EDITOR EMERITUS

ARI HIRT

As my mother walked me into kindergarten that first day, not only did I tug her arm and beg her not to leave - I also kicked, screamed, and yelled. I was scared; frightened to depart my comfortable and certain world, only to face a world of bountiful unknowns and challenges.

Okay, now I admit that there were children who stepped straight out of their parent's car and into the classroom without flinching; but most of the kids assumed my theatrics of the day - a typical emotional outburst for most four-year-old children on their very first day of school.

Well, at least typical for one day. Over the next thirty days, however, I had emerged as the kindergarten spectacle when every day, for one whole month I would not leave my mother's side without crying; then I would sit on my teacher's lap the remainder of the day frowning. It is needless to say that 'good-byes' and me do not mix well.

Yes, eventually I adjusted to my new surroundings without ever requiring psychotherapy.

Like any brilliant four-year-old I realized that going to school does not involve abandoning your home and family forever. Just as my mother dropped

me off in the mornings she also returned to take me home. And each day of every school day for the next seventeen years of my life I have managed to return home - whether that be by car, by phone, or by thoughts that reflect the values of my family.

Today, as I approach my graduation from Yeshiva College, once again I find myself scared to say goodbye. I am scared to burst that bubble which I had entered on that first day of kindergarten - the world of Jewish education - and embark upon an untested future, that ever so infamous "real world."

At times I want to crawl under my covers and cry. But I won't, for this time I know that I need not say goodbye. Instead, I recognize how these forthcoming years posit for me the opportunity to materialize my seventeen years of Jewish education. Now I have the chance to shape my future by using the tools of my past. In this capacity I must never bid farewell to my years at Yeshiva College, Yeshivat Shaalvim, YULA High, or Hillel Hebrew Academy of Los Angeles - for the experiences, the memories, and the lessons from these years will be with me forever, helping guide me through a dark hallway which leads to a banquet hall.

**Good Luck on Finals!**





## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

NICK MUZIN

It seems like only yesterday that I sat listening to my Rosh Yeshiva implore me to spend another year learning in yeshiva in Philadelphia.

"Don't go to YU," he warned, knowing of my ambitions to become a professional and a talmid chocham. "In YU you can become the best doctor - amongst the rabbis, and the best rabbi - amongst the doctors. You can do better."

The truth, I have learnt in my two years here, is far more complex. Unable to see any other respectable way to combine an undergraduate degree with a full morning of learning, I took the road less traveled by, as it were, and headed off one bright morning in October of '94 to begin what has so far been a productive, albeit grueling, career at YU.

I have seen hasmada, devoted rabbeim, and an atmosphere conducive to learning. Equally, I've seen deans and college faculty whose knowledge and qualifications are as impressive as their approachability and personal qualities. Which pre-med student was not filled with pride when our very own Albert Einstein College of Medicine was named in the top 20 medical schools in the country? And isn't it Dean Norman Adler, who after studying and teaching at some of the best ivy league schools, insists that Yeshiva students are "the best and the brightest?"

Moreover, I've seen faculty and students who are leaders both in secular studies and in Torah and halacha. Where else in the world can you find a Rav Moshe Tendler, or a Dean Michael Hecht?

The Amorah Rav Yosef exclaims in the famous gemarah in Pesachim:

"If not for this day [Shavuos] which so caused, how many Yosefs would there be in the marketplace?" Rav Yosef was declaring that if not for the Torah that he learned, which was given on shavuos, there would be little to distinguish him from any other merchant named Yosef.

The same may be said of Yeshiva. Yes, Rav Yosef was a merchant. Yes, YU is a top-notch college. But if not for the day of the giving of the Torah, there would be many other Yosefs in the marketplace, and many other colleges in the world of academia. Our unique characteristic, that which defines us and that elevates us beyond Princeton, Brandeis, and Columbia, is that we received the Torah, and with it the keys to lead a meaningful and purposeful life. As our PR department incessantly declares "there is only one Yeshiva University."

And therefore we have to start appreciating who we are, and not try to align ourselves with other ivy-league schools. Why is it that in the PR literature of some of our graduate schools, you would be hard-pressed to find a yarmulke? Why is it that instead of talking about how we have a Rav Shachter, a Rav Willig, or a Rav Parnes in our Beis Medrash, all YU Today can find to write about is that we have a Nobel laureate lecturing once a month in the college?

Not that fostering a well-respected college isn't important - it is. It is key to our ability to get into top graduate schools, to getting jobs, and to feeling good about our education. But we must remember that what defines us, what truly makes us unique, is this great and holy day of Shavuos, on which we were destined for nobility. As such, when the University makes a Chanukah dinner, or a graduation ceremony, we should honor rabbeim and roshei yeshiva, together with the politicians and the CEOs.

"If not for this day which so caused, how many other Yosefs would there be in the marketplace?"

Rav Yaakov Kamenetsky Z"l once remarked that American Jews face a paradox

every day. On one hand, we get up in the morning and make the beracha "Asher Bachar Banu MeKol Ha'amim", we thank God for choosing us over all other nations as worthy of receiving the Torah. On the other hand we live in a country in which it is "self-evident" that "all men are created equal", and no one is given any advantages over anyone else.

Yet we know that some people are exceptionally bright, while others might be better athletes or better looking. If the "DNA revolution" of the last forty years has taught us anything, it is that not all men are created equal, rather, that some are given advantages and privileges that others don't have. In addition to nature, nurture undoubtedly plays a role, as some are born into circumstances which supply them with a head start. For better or for worse, it is clear that not all men are created equal.

And so we can understand that as Yeshvei Beis HaMedrash, we too were given a natural advantage - we were given the crown of Torah.

Alas, in the words of John F. Kennedy, "of those to whom much is given, much is expected." As Bnei Torah we have the responsibility to set an example to the world, to conduct our lives in such a way that is Mekadesh Shem Shomayim. And, as students in the "University of the Jewish People in America" we must assume the leadership role in promoting a Torah hashkafa in the Jewish community both in the United States and in Israel. If we do not, who will?

Furthermore, we must be able to face our critics on the left - and on the right - with a *shtoltz*, with a confidence that we believe we are doing what is right, we believe we are doing what God wants us to be doing at this stage in our lives.

And so, it is with great pride that I present to you the first issue of *The Commentator* Volume LXI. Amon, Josh, and I have worked hard to assemble a Governing Board that is energetic and competent, while representative of the diverse student body at YU. We plan to deliver an exciting and informative newspaper that provokes hearty dialogue, while helping to define what makes Yeshiva unique.

We are extremely indebted to the outgoing Governing Board, presided over by Owen Cyrulnik and Ari Hirt for their stellar job in putting out Volume 60. I'd also like to thank Ryan Karben for teaching me the meaning of a good news story and how to go after it at all costs. For our part, we plan to increase the paper's circulation throughout the tri-state area, and in college campuses throughout the country. As such, we will present articles which deal with the grander message and mission of Yeshiva, and hope to provide a forum for the rabbeim and faculty to unleash their views upon the American Jewish community.

I would like to get more students involved in the paper, both as writers and editors. Students should feel free to write a sporadic article or a letter to the editor without feeling that they are taking on a three year commitment. But, you never know. I certainly didn't as I sat just a short 19 months ago during orientation listening to then-editor Moshe Kinderlehrer talk about the responsibilities of working for a school paper. As Tolkien wrote, when you take the first brave steps of a journey, you never know where the path will ultimately lead.

On behalf of the Governing Board, I'd like to wish everyone much success on finals and best wishes for a restful, productive summer - oh, and come back energized... because the stage is set, the players are in place, the curtain is rising, and the great debate is about to begin.



## FROM THE EDITOR EMERITUS

OWEN CYRULNIK

Paradox, humor, irony. All three are leaves of the same tree - expressions of an incongruous relationship between two juxtaposed ideas or concepts; it explains how people can laugh and cry at the same time. In each of our lives, we experience humor, paradox and irony in many different manifestations. An existence, however, which has these elements as its most basic foundation does not come along very often.

Sarah laughed at the possibility of Yitzchak's birth - the Torah records that Sarah was barren, unable to have a child. Yitzchak's birth was a paradox, an impossibility. The incongruity caused Sarah to laugh. But for Yitzchak, it was not just an episode; his entire life was born of paradox - hence his name, Yitzchak, the Hebrew word for laughter.

An entity which is conceived in paradox seems destined to fall - its foundation is fundamentally unsound. Yitzchak, however, was special; the incongruity that yielded his birth is one of the primordial events in the forming of the Jewish nation. The paradox that gave him life - between impossibility of existence and existential reality - is relived every year when Jews worldwide are judged on Rosh Hashana - our sins, judged harshly, could condemn us, but nevertheless we know that we will be forgiven. And in fact, according to Chazal, it is only Yitzchak himself that can commission that forgiveness from G-d.

Yeshiva University is an institution which, like Yitzchak, is conceived in incongruity. The paradox that is YU exists on many levels and pervades every nook and cranny of the institution. Our University espouses a doctrine of Torah and Maddah; it is a non-sectarian University, but it is a Yeshiva nonetheless. The relative majesty of its buildings within the surrounding city streets are similarly incongruous. YU has a spiritual vision which soars to the greatest heights, and yet on the most mundane levels it fails miserably as student life leaves much to be desired. Just like Yitzchak, YU is a unity of opposites; and just like Yitzchak, YU has the potential to have a profound effect upon the essence of the Jewish people.

In my three years here at Yeshiva College and in my seven years here on campus I have seen Yeshiva University grow beyond its own greatest expectations. But

at the same time, I have seen an institution that is threatened with fundamental collapse. Gay clubs, fraternities and the like - new, direct manifestations of Yeshiva's paradoxical existence, threaten to destroy the institution from within, while critics on both the left and the right threaten from without. These are not isolated problems or aberrations. They bear testimony to the fundamental dichotomy which both gives YU its vision and yet threatens it with destruction.

Yitzchak, too, was threatened with similar foundational destruction. Bound on the altar by his own father, Yitzchak was again forced to face the impossibility of his own existence. And yet he survived that episode - yet another primordial event in Jewish history. Yeshiva University has the potential to follow in that lead - to transcend its paradoxical foundation and instead draw upon the uniqueness of that paradox as it strives to fulfill its mission.

In my first *Commentator* column, almost exactly one year ago, I stressed the rich heritage of Yeshiva University. It is time to draw upon that heritage, to move beyond the problems of the present and into the future. I recall the words of Rav Aharon Kahn as he spoke before an electrified Beis Midrash at the very beginning of this year, "College. Yeshiva College. My Yeshiva College. I cry for your possibility."

Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* claims that "Every entrance is an exit and every exit an entrance." With that in mind, I end this, my final column, just as I began my first, with Hegel's infamous insight, "The owl of Minerva spreads its wings only with the coming of dusk." Well the dusk has settled over my time on *The Commentator*, but Yeshiva University is still in the dawn of its existence.

To ignore the problem is not the answer. Sarah laughed when the angel told her that she would have a son - a birth to her was an impossibility that was so incongruous that it caused laughter. But when confronted by G-d about her laughter, Sarah denied ever having done so, "I did not laugh," she said. But Hashem knew better - "Indeed she did laugh." YU must move beyond the contradictions of its paradoxical foundations, synthesizing its incongruous essence into a unified whole as it retakes its place with Yitzchak as a truly unique leader of the Jewish community.

## With Joy You Shall Go Out

Of all student activities on campus, *The Commentator* is the most influential. What is contained within its pages is read and internalized by students, faculty and alumni all over the country, and indeed, the world. It is therefore the responsibility of the editors, at the head of this powerful institution, to hold back what can't be released - but also to say what has to be said. The editors must be fearless in taking a stand on issues they feel need to be brought to the attention of the administration and students.

The governing board of volume 60, headed by Owen Cyrulnik and Ari Hirt, took the initiative on a number of issues, while administrators and other student leaders shied away from controversy. Joined by Executive Editor Ryan Karben and News Editors Steven Miodownik and Meir Zeitchik, they exposed students who were abusing the system, revealed inconsistencies in the school's policies, and tackled socially and religiously charged issues. And after causing a "big splash" with their front-page articles, they stood by their decisions, defending them in the face of criticism and controversy.

Guys, thank you for teaching us so much about how to make a tough decision. You were not the most popular governing board, but you will be remembered as one of the best.



# Yeshiva College



# Campus News



## Police Arrest Crazed Vandal

BY ELLIOT GANCHROW

In a scene straight from the television show "Cops", police apprehended a resident of one of the apartment buildings overlooking the YU campus, after a tense standoff during which the suspect refused, at first, to allow the police to enter his apartment. The man (name withheld as per request of the authorities) is suspected of smashing the windshield of a car parked in one of the YU parking lots.

The action began on Thursday, April 25, as the suspect reportedly threw a rock from his apartment window at a car parked in Lot A on Amsterdam and 185th street. The car, owned by the university's Dean of Libraries Pearl Berger, sustained heavy damage, including a shattered windshield. Security saw the rock being thrown and immediately called the police for help.

Three police cars and a large police van arrived in response to the call. After conferring with campus security, the police approached the man's building. Several officers went to the back entrance, while several officers approached the front door. The man inside refused to allow the police into the building, thus forcing a temporary standoff.

It was then that Yeshiva Security Chief Don Summers, who has dealt previously with the suspect, defused the potentially dangerous situation by calling the gentleman on his cellular phone and convincing him to surrender to the authorities.

After an intense 20 minutes, the suspect allowed several policemen to enter his apartment. For a moment the officers disappeared from view inside the apartment, which prompted the officers remaining outside the

apartment to draw their weapons and approach the entrances to the apartment. However, the officers inside the apartment soon reappeared with the suspect, whom they immediately handcuffed. It appeared to eyewitnesses of the incident that the police first confiscated a hammer from the hands of the man.

Chief Summers described the arrested man as "emotionally disturbed." He continued, "with this guy, you never know what to expect." Summers explained that the apartment from which the rock was thrown, located directly adjacent to Lot A, was owned by the suspect's now deceased mother. During his mother's lifetime she took care of him. However, upon her death, he inherited the apartment, and has lived there since without supervision.

The man was charged by police with criminal mischief and will stand trial at some point in the future. The police refused to comment on the arrest. The damage to the car will be covered by insurance.

Many students could be heard expressing their outrage that a car parked in a Yeshiva lot could get damaged so badly. Ari Greene, a SSSB Junior who frequently parks his car in the lot, stated, "I will definitely think twice before parking in that lot again; if I do park [in the lot again], I will try to stay far away from that guy's apartment."

Summers insists that the University's relationship with the local 34th police precinct is excellent, as evidenced by the 24 hour police presence on Campus. It is widely rumored that the Yeshiva recently made a gift to the precinct in exchange for extra police protection.

## Bodoff Chosen Valedictorian

BY ERIC ASCHKENASY

While there has been much commotion in the last couple of weeks over student government elections, another, much quieter election, occurred at the same time, namely the election of the senior class valedictorian.

The senior class chose Neil (Tali) Bodoff, a math major who learns in the mornings in MYP, as their valedictorian. Bodoff is known as a hard-worker who spends his free time in the Beis Medrash, and is always available to help fellow students. On campus, he currently serves as the Editor-in-Chief of Enayim L'Torah, a weekly publication featuring Divrei Torah on the parsha. He is an alumni of Hebrew Academy of Nassau County (HANC), and Yeshivat Shaalavim. Bodoff, who boasts a 4.0 GPA is studying to be an actuary.

Candidates for valedictorian are normally determined by the deans. The only factor taken into account is grade point average. However, when there

are several contenders for valedictorian and their grade point averages are extremely close, the deans allow the students to choose.

This year, Deans Hecht and Horowitz met to evaluate the nominees for valedictorian. Because the grade point averages of six candidates were quite close, the choice for valedictorian was put to a student decision.

During three days of voting, senior class members chose among the six nominees. While student turnout was somewhat better than in years past, Dean Hecht, who coordinated the election, was still somewhat disappointed with this year's turnout.

Though Bodoff is "thrilled that both his professors and his peers chose him for the honor," he is dismayed that the valedictorian does not speak at graduation.

The five other contenders for valedictorian were: Ari Hirt, Zev Williams, Elie Paul, Victor Rosenberg, and Steven Erenberg.

## Chaitoff Steps Down

BY BOAZ KURTIS

Rabbi Jeffrey Chaitoff, Assistant Dean of Students, announced that he has stepped down from his position and will enter the private business sector. This decision to resign brings to an end a career with Yeshiva University that began in college and culminated in the administration. His departure took effect May 3.

Chaitoff, 31, first came to Yeshiva as a college student and graduated YC in 1986. He subsequently received a graduate degree from Wurzweiler School of Social Work and ordination from RIETS. He had been Assistant Dean of Students since 1993.

Chaitoff will now be taking a position as a human resources administrator for a national retail chain. He will continue to work with YU students, particularly through the SSSB placement office, as recruitment will be part of his responsibilities at his new position.

Reflecting upon his tenure in the Office of the Dean of Students, Chaitoff was quite nostalgic. "I feel like I'm graduating YC all over again," he remarked. He cited the relationships he has forged with students and his ability to help shape student lives as the aspects of his job that he will miss most.

Chaitoff was instrumental in arranging successful student events and in revitalizing the student court. He helped financially burdened students by establishing a charity network in the college. "I've conducted myself as a professional and I've treated students as customers here and they de-



Rabbi Jeffrey Chaitoff

serve the best service possible," Chaitoff said.

The Associate Dean of Students, Mr. David Himber, will assume the responsibilities that Chaitoff has vacated.

Chaitoff feels that his work at YU has prepared him to enter the business world. "YU has given me incredible training as an administrator and manager," he said. When asked what advice he would give to his successor, Chaitoff answered, "treat everybody with courtesy and respect. Be a *mentsh*."

Student activists, however, expressed mixed sentiment towards Chaitoff's departure. The purpose of the Office of the Dean of Students was questioned, as certain leaders felt the Office hampered, rather than enhanced, progress of student activities. One high level student leader even cited harassment and antagonism as part of his dealings with the office.



# YU Server Crashes

BY YEHUDA BURNS

On the Saturday night before Pesach, as students scurried around in preparation for their upcoming vacation, the YU Internet system crashed. As is all too often the case, YU students could not log onto the school's UNIX server which enables access to the Internet. While the difficulty required only a few days to correct, it brought to light more severe problems with YU's current Internet system.

The problem first became apparent when Lenny Brandwein, the chief system administrator, logged on from his home computer. He noticed that some of the files in his directory were missing. After an extensive check of the system and a consultation with a student operator on campus, he decided to shut down the system for fear of greater problems.

The problem lay in the log file. The log file controls the usage of all the files currently on the system. It "knows" how much memory and hard drive space exists, as well as their locations on the system. The particular sector of the server's hard drive on which the log file was located had become corrupted. For those unfamiliar with computer lingo, the area of the computer containing this integral file had become unusable, thereby making the file inaccessible.

Without the log file, the system could not keep track of portions of the hard drive or recall much of its memory. For this reason, it could not tell where the information had gone. As it stood, 9 gigabytes of information (an extremely large amount of information) was "missing" from the hard drive. Mr. Brandwein consulted with an AIX system specialist from IBM in Houston. They both agreed that the best solution would be to format the corrupted sector of the hard drive, and create a new log file.

And so, on Saturday night, the system was shut down and the repairs were undertaken. By Monday morning, YU's Internet system was once again functioning properly. Any lost mail was resent from the server in

Einstein and there were no further problems.

Still, the question remains: how had the log file become corrupted? The problem could have been caused by someone trying to "hack" the system, meaning, someone attempting to illegally break into the system, but that is unlikely since the file was strongly protected. It might also have been a simple mechanical error, perhaps a hardware failure, that caused the file to be "lost". Another possible explanation of the failure is the result of a faulty drive. Most likely, however, there was a power glitch in the system that resulted in corrupted magnetic media on the hard drive.

Regardless of the reasons involved, the shutdown of the YU Internet system exposes some of the problems inherent in the current server. It is five years old and by current technological standards outdated. The hard drive from which the server runs is relatively slow in comparison to today's high speed drives.

In addition, if the system were to fail entirely, while the files needed to run the actual system are backed up, all of the student installed programs and utilities are not, and would be lost. This includes Pine, the "user friendly" mail program that students use to send and receive electronic mail. These programs would have to be freshly reinstalled.

These are not the only problems. The phone lines linking the system to the outside world are in terrible condition. Currently, about half of the lines have been replaced by newer NYNEX lines. The older, unreliable phone lines are the cause of many students being dropped from the system, especially when logging on at speeds higher than 9600 Kbps.

Problems aside, the entire system is gradually being revamped. The ultimate plan is to give students a fully graphical interface to the Internet and to install direct Ethernet jacks in all the dorm rooms. As of next year, there will be computer consoles connected throughout the library to a new, fully automated library system which will also have a link to the Internet.



l to r: AIPAC liason Jeremy Lustman, Senator Paul Simon (D-IL), and political insider Ryan Karben

## Student Leaders Rock the Nation's Capital

BY GARY STRONG

Seventeen delegates from Yeshiva College and eight delegates from Stern College attended last week's AIPAC convention in Washington D.C. AIPAC—the American Israel Public Affairs Committee—is an American organization registered to lobby Congress regarding legislation affecting the U.S.-Israel relationship. The students heard speeches from U.S. President Bill Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, and a host of other senators, political pundits, and AIPAC coordinators. They also spent time on Capitol Hill lobbying proposed legislation.

Students from Yeshiva University have participated in AIPAC for well over thirty years. This year, YU's presence at the convention was organized by political wiz Jeremy Lustman, who noted that Yeshiva University has the largest student delegation in the Northeast.

AIPAC's key goal is to strengthen American/Jewish relations. Lustman gave many thanks to the Office of the Dean of Students and Rabbi Israel Miller for helping subsidize the trip. The students who were chosen to participate in this convention, many of them student leaders at YU, all feel strongly that Israel and America must work hand-in-hand to secure a positive future for both nations.

Lustman explained that AIPAC works with whatever government is in power in Israel. He said, "If Likud was elected tomorrow, AIPAC would support whatever that party was trying to accomplish. We do not try to cause or get involved with controversy. Rather, we work on inducing a positive relationship between the U.S., Israel, and the rest of the Middle East."

The students from Yeshiva University and Stern College stayed at the Washington Hilton. During the opening session, Alan Dershowitz spoke about the importance of an organization such as AIPAC. He explained that though AIPAC should permit diverse opinions within the Jewish community it must present a united front to the outside world. Dershowitz said, "AIPAC must be divided with varying opinions within the group and united to the outside world in order to be successful."

The Prime Minister of Israel, Shimon Peres, explained that Israel will remain a place of peaceful coexistence between

Arabs and Jews. Peres received a standing ovation for promising the crowd that "Jerusalem will forever remain united."

The applause received by Peres paled in comparison to that of Clinton, who left crowds on their feet chanting "Four More Years, Four More Years."

Clinton promised to build a relationship with Israel so strong "that no one will be able to drive a wedge between us."

The highlight of the convention was "The Banquet." With over half the US Senate and hundreds of congressmen in attendance, the various speakers made it clear that the Jewish community must convince the non-Jewish world that it is in their best interest to support Israel. Senator Richard Gephardt felt that America has and will continue to have strong ties with Israel.

Tzvika Nissel, a YC senior, felt that the convention was an overall success except for one incident. Nissel explained that outside "The Banquet," Avi Weiss was protesting the continued silence on the issue of Jonathan Pollard. As thousands of students left "The Banquet," only two, Nissel and another YU student, stood to protest with Rabbi Weiss and his thirty supporters. Nissel said, "It just left me with an empty feeling how all of these people just walked by without show of emotion about the Pollard situation."

Some topics focused on at this year's convention included: Terrorism in Iran—What do we do? Also: how to curtail the Muslim radical groups who not only terrorize Israel but the rest of the world? Where does Israel stand in the case of foreign aid?

For over forty years, AIPAC has been at the forefront of every challenge facing Israel. In 1951, when Israel had to provide a home for hundreds of thousands of Holocaust refugees; in 1973, when Israel defenses were devastated by war; in 1991, when Israel bravely sat with its enemies to talk peace, AIPAC was there to ensure that Israel's interests were heard and understood by America's leaders.

And now, with the dramatic changes in Congress, AIPAC's vital work continues as Israel pursues peace, fights terrorism, defends its sovereignty over a united Jerusalem, and builds an economy for the 21st century. As Lustman said, "Good relations with Israel is an indisputable priority of America foreign policy. We as student delegates of AIPAC want to make sure this relationship continues smoothly well into the 21st century."

## YURG Holds First Annual Dinner

BY DANIEL RUBIN

On Wednesday, May 1, the Yeshiva University Research Group, or YURG, held its first dinner with a collection of esteemed lecturers speaking on the topic of "The Other Jewish Professions." The event, coordinated by Dean Norman Adler, included speeches by AECOM Dean Dominick Purpurra, Vice Presidents Sheldon Socol and William Schwartz, and Emmy Award winning journalist Sara Lee Kessler. Each of the speakers focused on the possibilities of careers

in professions somewhat less frequented by orthodox youth, such as biological research as opposed to clinical medicine.

The research group, founded last summer by Dean Adler, initially as a forum for the Roth Scholars to meet regularly and present their research, later grew as students who did research at other institutions joined the group. YURG is now publishing its first journal of research with articles in all areas of academia from medical studies to political science.

# The New Student Leaders: DECISION '96



## Schachter Takes SSSB

BY YOEL FEILER AND  
SIMCHA GISSINGER

Thursday, May 2, brought an end to campaigning by candidates in the Sy Syms Student Government elections. The myriad of campaigning methods ranged from dispensing super-balls to promising super-computers. When the votes were tallied, and the dust had settled, four students were elected to the 1996-1997 Sy Syms Student Government.

Bennett Schachter, a finance major with extensive experience in coordinating and running student activities, was elected the new president of the Sy Syms School of Business. He summed up his victory by saying, "it was a tough election. All three candidates are equally well-qualified for the important position." Schachter defeated Jonathan Lifschutz and Daniel Blank.

Schachter feels it essential that Sy Syms be represented in terms of Yeshiva University's Torah Umadda philosophy. Some of his immediate goals include creating a "Learn about careers night" with a panel of professionals from various fields, initiating more extra-curricular activities such as a school-wide stock market challenge and a "Run your own business" competition, and getting more students involved in extra-curricular, resume building activities. He is quite confident that he can improve and expand the array

of activities open to students in the business school.

Tal Sharon, the manager of the Investment Club, is the new Vice President. His first order of business as Vice President will be to "contact YU alumni in the business world to develop a database of names that students can contact for guidance and career opportunities". He too feels confident that the 1996-1997 school year will provide an abundance of new opportunities that Sy Syms students will have at their fingertips.

The Secretary and Treasurer for 1996-1997 will be Rafi Warburg and Brian Ness, respectively. Their campaigns were more low key than those of the president and vice president.

It would seem that some of the business student's primary concerns include the subordinate standing that many Sy Syms students feel their school holds in terms of YCSC involvement and allocation of student funds, as well as their desire to establish more employment-based opportunities.

There was no formal debate for the Sy Syms elections, in contrast to that of YCSC. Students were able to attain some idea of what the candidates represented by reading the Campaign Platforms that were distributed and displayed throughout the campus.

## Neiss Steals SOY

### Ashenberg, Menashe to Head IBC and JSS

BY DANIEL RUBIN

Mirroring the hotly contested Jewish Studies Program elections of years past, this year's SOY, IBCSC, and JSSSC elections produced a slew of surprise results and close finishes, not the least of which was the election of Jonathan Neiss SOY President. In a race so close the votes had to be counted and recounted four times, Jonathan Neiss edged out Elisha Graff to win the coveted office.

Although no official polls were taken before May 2, the general consensus in the days leading up to the election was that the well-liked Graff would emerge victorious based upon his popularity and, perhaps more importantly, the debt of gratitude that many YC students owed to him for his unyielding supply of notes and 'mesorah'. Indeed, Graff banked his campaign on this idea, promising to continue to "bring you the mesorah" as SOY President.

But what Graff possessed in name-recognition he lacked in experience, and it is here that Neiss capitalized. Neiss, Chairman of the Beis Medrash Committee and a member of the Shabbos Committee and the SOY Seforim Sale Staff, was able to push his reputation as the candidate with "unmatched experience." In addition, as many election observers point out, Neiss worked tirelessly in the final days before the election, campaigning door-to-door. He clearly enumerated his ideas for next year on his posters, while Graff took a more lackadaisical approach in his campaign. "I really worked hard on this campaign," explained Neiss, "and I think going door-to-door helped me win the younger vote, who may not have known Graff."

As SOY President, Neiss hopes to

bring a solution to the overcrowded Beis Medrash problem, as well as to implement a new Tzedakah Drive, Chavrusa Networking Program, and improve the conditions for the many Semicha students living in apartments.

In the other SOY races, the exhausting and thankless job of Vice President, which, in fact, had no official candidates running this year, was won by Mitch Taragin, who was allowed to campaign at the ballot box, as a write-in candidate. Daniel Frogel nosed out Kevin Rodbell, Gamliel Kronemer, and Aryeh Sheinbein for Treasurer, and Dov Siegman won the Secretary position over Evan Kevelson.

In the IBCSC elections, current IBC Vice President Bryan Ashenberg ran uncontested to win the Presidency, while Nachum Lamm beat out Jeremy M. Renna and Neil Landerer to become next year's Vice President. Ashenberg has stated his resolve to create a "better IBC climate" by instituting a new "IBC Night" complete with Dougie's wings and Divrei Torah.

The office of Treasurer was won by Jonathan Sicklick. Gary Strong defeated Marc Posner for IBC Secretary.

The JSSSC Presidency was also won by its current Vice President, Isaac Menasha, who hopes not only to continue with the current practice of a Tefilin check, but to possibly institute a new Shatnez check, as well as to organize a joint IBC-JSS trip to the Holocaust Museum. The Vice-Presidency was won by Ofer Melamed. Andres Chame won the office of Secretary-Treasurer.

The SBMP elections were postponed because current President Elie Borger was not allowed to be present in the Morg Lounge to run the election, as he was running for YCSC office. They will be held sometime this week.

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V.P.: Rocky Schechter  
Secretary/Treasurer: Josh Klein

### Junior Class

President: David Schreiber  
V.P.: Yechiel Rosman  
Secretary/Treasurer: Jonathan Tiger

### IBC

V.P.: Nachum Lamm  
Secretary: Gary Strong  
Treasurer: Jonathan Sicklick

### J.S.S.

V.P.: Ofer Melamed  
Secretary/Treasurer: Andres Chame



# President Lamm Speaks at Dorm Talks

BY NOAH STREET

The final dorm talks of 1996, entitled, "Familiar Strangers: Orthodox Jews Encountering Non-Orthodox Jews and Non-Jews," had Yeshiva University's President, Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, as its speaker. He addressed a group of approximately 250 students.

MYP Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Yosef Blau, introduced Rabbi Lamm. He read the first of two scenarios especially written for this evening's topic.

The first scenario discussed an immigrant Jew living on Manhattan's Lower East side. This Jew had constantly been told that the goyim shouldn't be trusted and the less we have to do with them, the better. But now he secured a new job which has allowed him to live uptown, and though he has come into contact with a few crooks and bigots, "mostly they [the goyim] are schlepping through this world, just as we are."

Rabbi Lamm opened his speech by introducing general guidelines to understanding G-d's view of the Jewish people and Non-Jewish people, as delineated in the *Aleinu*. The first part of *Aleinu* is ethnocentric and particularistic. It describes the Jews as worshipping G-d properly, whereas the non-Jews do not. The second paragraph of *Aleinu* encompasses a broad and universalistic view of Jews and Non-Jews. It discusses mankind as a whole in its relationship with God. Together, said Rabbi Lamm, these views give us an understanding of what *yiddishkeit* is all about.

He then compared two descriptions of the Jewish people in the *Aleinu*, to the two missions that the Jewish people were given at Mount Sinai, namely, a particularistic mission and a universalistic mission, that of *goy kadosh* and *mamlechet kohanim*, respectively.

Our role in the world is no less than that of the non-Jew, and if non-Jews have a responsibility to be active in the world, then so do we. To prove this point, Rabbi Lamm quoted a Rambam which states that one must support a poor Jew and a poor non-Jew, and one must visit the mourners of one's own people as well as non-Jews. "Obviously," he continued, "your primary obligation, your priorities are to your own people, as the pasuk says, 'Do not hide from your own kind,'... Remember xenophobia is not much different from xenophilia... Jews of course are the primary example of this, feeling closest to strangers, rather than to their own."

He then addressed the issue of *Darchei Shalom* and *Eivah*, that is, treating non-Jews in a certain manner, not because they inherently deserve it, but rather, not to create strife between Jew and non-Jew. While this appears to be only a pragmatic reason, "most *rishonim* view it as not purdential, but rather as a principle. Just as God acts in a manner of *Darchei Shalom*, so we too must emulate him."

How must we interact with non-Jews, socially? "Like gentlemen... but obviously with boundaries as set forth by *Chazal*."

Should we establish meaningful personal relationships with non-Jews? "Yes. But first we should establish meaningful personal relationships with Orthodox Jews, then Jews who are not orthodox and then non-Jews... we must remember the important principal of *B'tzelem Elokim*. It is an inherent



President Norman Lamm

property of human beings, according to the Torah."

He concluded the first part of his address by discussing the issue of teaching the 7 Noachide Laws to non-Jews. "I daresay that a higher percentage of goyim, at least in this country, are aware of the *sheva mitzvot*, whether consciously or functionally, then there are Jews who are aware of the *taryag mitzvot*. Our main task ought to be directed at the *taryag mitzvot* of Jews, even though this *taryag* does not necessarily mean neglecting the *sheva mitzvot* to non-Jews."

Several questions were posed at this point. One question in particular cited a *gemara* which states that certain immoral actions would be permissible to inflict against non-Jews, except that they would be a *chilul Hashem*. Thus one is not permitted to perform these immoral acts. To this Rabbi Lamm answered, "halacha is a legal structure... and often times there are results that hurt individuals and often appear immoral. A living system of law corrects them to the best of its ability, especially those parts that seem immoral. So *chilul Hashem* is a self corrective *halacha*."

The next part of Rabbi Lamm's speech addressed the Jew's interaction with non-religious Jews. The scenario given was that of a religious Jew discussing assimilation, his decision not to attend an intermarriage of a cousin, and his pondering if his interaction with non-religious Jews should be limited to *Kiruv*.

Rabbi Lamm commenced this section of his address by stating, "It is clear and unambiguous... that one may not attend a wedding of a Jew and of a non-Jew, because it is compromising your values."

Can we distinguish between Conservative and Reform Jews? "Yes. I certainly think there is a difference between a Conservative Jew who at least has a nominal allegiance to *halcha* and Reform Judaism which has gone completely haywire... you have come into a world in which the reform movement has gone crazy. A leading Reform rabbi once said, 'I don't know why Orthodox Jews are fighting the reform, if they were smart they would stand aside with their arms folded and wait for the Reform movement to destroy itself.'"

Is there a practical difference between the way we should treat the different sects of Judaism? "Not really. Especially if the Conservative groups adopts patrilinealism, as

far as I'm concerned, they will be on the same side as the Reform."

"But," as Rabbi Lamm, pointed out, "it is important to remember that we are a minority among the Jewish people. So for us to turn our back on non-Orthodox Jews means that we lose contact with millions of Jews."

Should all non-orthodox Jews be regarded as actual *apikorsim* (heretics)? "Obviously not. Punishment towards *apikorsim* is very extreme... and in most cases [the offenders] bear no blame... The *Chazon Ish*, himself, says in reference to *apikorsim*, that in these days if we follow the letter of the law, it will make people even more anti-Torah and be absolutely counterproductive."

What is the Orthodox Jew's role in the non-religious Jewish world? "We are no less Jewish than the non-religious Jew. You need to be active... you must represent Orthodoxy and be active on behalf of things concerning all of Kelal Yisrael. Of course you should be primarily active in orthodox causes, but not neglect the other causes as well."

Is *kiruv* the only way we can relate to non-Orthodox Jews? "No. While *kiruv* may be important, it is as though a missionary comes up to you and says, 'I love you, because I want to make you a believer in Jesus.' Do you think he really loves you? He cherished you only because you're a potential convert."

Giving general advice on dealing with the non-religious world, Rabbi Lamm, said, "everything depends on the time and place and making responsible decisions. We have a responsibility first and foremost to the orthodox community itself, but we have a responsibility to the rest of the world, which we cannot abdicate."

Finally, on the actual success of *Kiruv* movements, Rabbi Lamm commented, "I'm sad to say that with all our *kiruv* movements together, although performing an extremely important and wonderful service, are still overwhelmed by the number of people dropping out. The attrition rate is greater than the recruitment rate."

Once again, Rabbi Blau opened up the floor for questions. One student asked Rabbi Lamm about his views in relating to

Conservative and Reform Jews in Israel. Rabbi Lamm responded, "If you accept them you break down what is left of the possibility of unity for *Klal Yisrael* and in *Eretz Yisrael*, but if you don't it's going to be broken down anyway."

In addition to several other questions, Rabbi Lamm was asked what he thought of cooperating with non-Orthodox Jews for conversion of non-Jews. This was actually a loaded question, because in the 1980's, Rabbi Lamm had been involved in such a decision. "The problem concerned those people who come from America and wanted to be converts and go on aliyah. This fell under the question of Who is a Jew... It was actually Yitchak Shamir who asked me to solve this problem... My solution was, let us have a regular, 100% kosher beit din. However, before the candidate comes before the beit din, there will be an advisory board of several Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Jews and they will say whether this man is sincere or not in his wishes to convert. It seemed to be a perfect solution, because the advisory board had to be unanimous. This was a device that would not violate anyone's principles and it was a solution."

In fact, the solution never came to fruition because of dissent on both the Reform and Conservative sides.

In conclusion, Rabbi Lamm told a story of a wealthy Jew who is now dedicating his wealth to help Jewry, specifically non-Orthodox Jewry, "because, you guys are going to survive anyway, so I have to pay attention to everyone else... My questions, Rabbi Lamm, is, what are you orthodox Jews doing about the 90% of Jews who are not orthodox?" Rabbi Lamm continued, "The challenge is there. There is a whole world disintegrating before our eyes. So this remains as our challenge and that means we must be ready to work. It also means that we must be entirely sure about ourselves, because you can't send weaklings to the front lines."

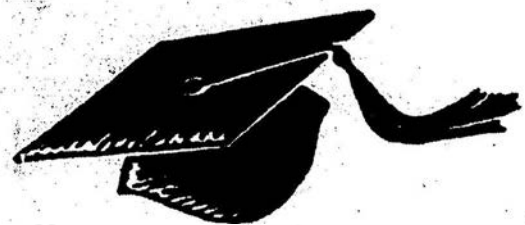
Dorm talks is sponsored by the Residence Council, YCSC, SOY, IBCSC, BMP-SC, JSSSC, SSSBSC, *The Commentator* and *Hamevasser*. It was coordinated by Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz.

## GRADUATING SENIORS IBC, JSS, SSSB UPTOWN, YC

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# Stomach Aches: An Investigative Report on Food Services

BY SHIMON OPPENHEIM

Take a walk down the serving aisles of either undergraduate cafeteria, and, more often than not, the sound of grumbling will greet your ears. Poor selection, unappetizing dishes, high prices, frequent rate hikes, and lack of cleanliness are the charges most frequently leveled at the dining hall. But are the perceptions worse than the reality? What keeps this much maligned department going?

The answer to the second question is clear. The cafeteria is financed by a \$1300 meal plan which is mandatory for all dormitory residents. The "caf card" may be used to purchase items sold at any of the undergraduate dining halls and convenience stores. The menu is designed on a four week rotation to ensure variety. At the head of this operation stands Mr. Jake Leiberman, director of Yeshiva University Food Services for the last five years.

Students complain that as a result of the mandatory \$1300 meal plan, they do not expect to see changes, since there is no incentive for the cafeteria to improve its performance. The question that comes to mind is "does it have to be this way?" Are ever higher prices, low quality food, and little selection the only venues available to cafeteria management, in their quest to run a financially sound establishment? Students, such as former YCSC Presidential nominee Shraga Goldenhersh, respond with a resounding "No," but seem unable to propose viable alternatives.

Student complaints that the caf practices are unsanitary seem to be grounded in fact. Shabbos waiters claim to see roaches, sometimes lying dead on their backs, in the kitchen. At this year's orientation barbeque, students witnessed waitresses picking forks up off the floor where they had dropped them, and setting them back onto the tables for use by unsuspecting students.

At a meeting of the food services committee, held last semester, members were shown price lists for dishes served at the Furman Dining Hall. The lists showed tremendous mark ups. For example, a chicken dinner with two side orders, a mainstay of cafeteria meals, was listed at approximately \$2.75, yet it sold to students for \$6.75, an increase of over 150 percent. Labor, rent, and other expenses are not taken into account in

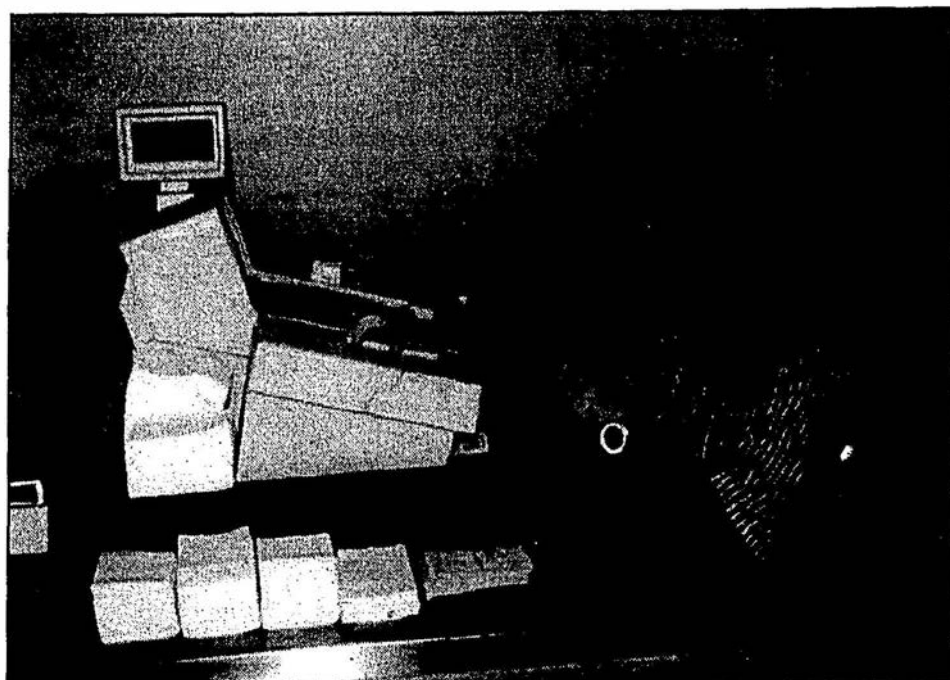
this figure, but it is unfathomable the low wages the thirty or so employees of the dining hall receive, together with rent and utilities, would cause such a great increase in the food prices.

The cafeteria, despite these figures, is seeking approval to raise prices on main courses by another \$2.00, to an average of \$8.50, or an increase of nearly 250 percent over cost. Students who had heard rumors of a possible price hike expressed anger and disbelief. "No place in the world, that I know of, has an 150 percent mark up and loses money," said one student, expressing skepticism at the cafeteria claims.

Josh Fine, president of YCSC, explained that he had agreed over the summer to certain higher prices for new dishes, such as Swiss steak, in order to increase variety. Food services, he emphasized, was to be the focus of an all out effort of the Student Council this semester. Promising that these and other issues would be brought up at Executive Food Services Committee meetings this semester, with Deans Adler, Nulman and Chaitoff, he reiterated that it is important for the student body to present a unified front and work within the system in order to achieve their aims.

With all these negative opinions of caf practices it is surprising that there was a time not too long ago when the cafeteria earned high marks from students and others for its wares. For a number of decades, until the early 80's, the dining hall was run by Mr. Parker, a larger than life figure who, in the minds of students, owned the dining hall, which they referred to as "Parker's Cafeteria." Mr. Parker won this recognition and affection by providing high quality food for low prices in a pleasant environment for scores of years, providing daily meals to students as well as catering outside events. Alumni, faculty and neighborhood residents fondly remember eating in the caf. "It was a great place for a cheap date," related Dr. Howard Klein, YC '69. He remembered fondly a delicious steak cost only \$3.75. "Things have sure changed," reflected Jim Korn, a YC senior. "I'd be mortified to admit to taking a girl to the caf on a date."

Others told stories similar to Dr. Klein's. Harvey I. Sober, professor of Hebrew and Jewish History in JSS and IBC, remembered coming in extra early



to make the minyan at Yeshiva in order to be able to eat breakfast in the dining hall before teaching first period classes.

A neighborhood resident for over 30 years and secretary to the dean of JSS and IBC for the last ten, Shirley Auslander recounted eating many a delicious Sunday dinner at Parker's. In fact, she thought so highly of the cafeteria that she had them cater her son's bar-mitzva.

Mr. Parker's formula for success, however, was what eventually cost him his job. The low prices combined with high quality food, despite the cafeteria's popularity, led to budget deficits. While this may have been bearable during good times, it was not at all acceptable when banks were moving to foreclose on Yeshiva, as they tried in the early 80's.

Already in 1978 there were student complaints that prices were rising. Commentator articles bemoaned a 20% price increase, suggested instituting a meal plan, and decried the student council and food services committee for their inactivity. An editorial reminded students that "Parker's Cafeteria" was in fact, owned by YU, and therefore accountable to the student body.

Mr. Parker resigned in 1982 amid rumours that he was forced out after refusing to lower the quality of the food. The University then embarked on a major cost cutting program, instituting higher prices and lowering the quality of the food. This belt tightening had another consequence which the administration did not foresee; customers left in droves, patronizing neighborhood restaurants instead of the dining hall.

The situation got so severe that by 1989-1990 the administration reversed its position and proposed a \$1700 mandatory meal plan for all students. After protests by the student body, the administration agreed to reduce the plan to \$1200 and only obligate incoming students to join it. Within two years, however, the cost of the meal plan was raised by \$100. At the time students suggested in letters to the *Commentator* that outside catering contracts should be accepted, a policy abandoned when Mr. Parker left.

Yet despite the fact that the 1500 dormitory residents of both YC and Stern College are meal plan members, student complaints remain as loud as ever. "The math is simple," said Yoni Z. Kahan, a SSSB senior. "1500 students paying \$1300 each year gives the caf some \$1,950,000. And that's before you add the faculty, high school students and other paying customers. But despite all this guaranteed revenue, the quality of their food doesn't improve."

In order to investigate the competi-

tiveness of Yeshiva University Food Services, *The Commentator* decided to compare it to cafeterias at other academic institutions via visits to their campuses and interviews with both current and former students at universities with large kosher programs.

The first dining hall visited is on the AECOM campus' Kalman Dining Hall in the Jack D. Weiler Hospital. Administered by People Based Services, a private catering company, and under Orthodox Union certification, the Dining Hall is, in many ways the antithesis of the one in Rubin Hall. The cafeteria has very modern decor, and is decorated in attractive pastels, emitting a feeling of cleanliness. The dinner tables were covered the evening of our inspection with non-disposable tablecloths, bearing floral and abstract patterns. The atmosphere created was one of serenity in otherwise hectic surroundings.

More importantly, the food was of better quality, in larger quantities, and available at lower prices than that served in Yeshiva College. Breakfast, lunch and dinner offerings were all up to a third cheaper than at the Furman Dining Hall. Main dishes were \$2.25, with each side order an additional \$0.60. Similar helpings at the YU cafeteria cost anywhere from \$5.50 to \$7.00. The roast turkey sampled at the Kalman cafeteria was lean and delicious, with the side order of candied sweet potato tasty, if a little too sweet.

It comes to light, however, that in the realm of university eateries, Yeshiva's meal plan cost is average, if not greatly cheaper than those of most other schools. Judah Dardik, a SSSB junior and recent transfer from the University of Pennsylvania, said that the cost of the meal plan at his former school is over twice as much as at YU, costing \$1350 per semester. One could choose from four plans varying in range from one meal a day to three. Missed meals were still charged to the student's account. He recalled reacting with surprise when, after coming to YU, he first heard students talk about the caf, and wanted to set the record straight. "I always hear people complain about the caf, that the prices are too high, and the food isn't good enough. The food is just as good as at Penn, the full plan price is half, and you can buy whatever you want in the caf store. I don't know why people think they'll get something better someplace else."

The two advantages of the Penn program, he felt, were that it was more flexible, and that the meals were all you can eat, although students were not permitted to take food out of the cafeteria.

Stephenie Akner, a junior at New





York University described the meal program at her school as tailored to students needs. There are a number of programs, each consisting of different amounts of meals per week. Prices were on par with those at YU, being \$8-9 for a full meal of soup, salad, sandwich, two sides, fruit and a 20 oz. soda. "I couldn't ask for anything more in terms of quality and amount of food. It is pricey and I think they take advantage of the fact that they are the only kosher place on campus and one of the only kosher places in the village," she stated. "I'm definately glad it's there even though they aren't open on Sundays." On Shabbat, however, there is only one meal in the dining hall, she complained, missed meals are never refunded and there is no dairy cafeteria on campus.

As YU is not only a university, but quite proudly declares itself a yeshiva, it is fitting to compare its cafeteria to the dining halls at other rabbinical schools. A YC junior, and former talmid at both the Telshe Yeshiva of Cleveland and Ner Yisroel in Baltimore, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that YU rated favorably when compared to other yeshivas. He recalled that at Cleveland "the food was much worse, the plates weren't disposable, the spoons and forks were not plastic, and you couldn't find clean ones, so you just picked up any fork and knife and you went to wash them." Payment for the meals was included in tuition and paid annually. The food was "very oily," and "fish sticks were the best lunch, he remembered. "Can you imagine?," he asked with a hint of disbelief, "most of the guys here wouldn't eat fish sticks, and over there Beis Medrash guys came to the Mechina lunch to get fish sticks once, and then they came to the Beis Medrash lunch to get it a second time. We had it, like, once a month, you know, the best, the best lunch." Dinner consisted of either chicken or "toyveled meat," meat in oil. Conditions in the kitchen were horrible, much filthier than at YU, with plates being used as ashtrays, and cooks spitting into pans in order to check if they were hot.

At Ner Yisroel, he continued, students also paid for the meals annually, as part of tuition. The food there "wasn't bad." "I liked Shabbat food in Ner Yisroel, I think it is much better than we have here. The chicken was hot, they had coldcuts, three kinds of coldcuts, hot chicken and good chulent, and chicken or pea soup." Dishes were disposable, and the kitchen was clean. Unlike Telshe, "you couldn't go into the kitchen," he said, insuring that it stayed sanitary.

Of all three cafeterias he has visited, he likes none. "The food here is okay, but it is not fresh," he alleged, "it's not great, but you can eat it, it's edible."

He had high marks, however, for the Shabbat Enhancement Program. "For this price, for five bucks, it's great! It's worth much more."

Indeed the Shabbat Enhancement Program seems to be a resounding success, winning high praise and attracting larger numbers on both undergraduate campuses. Originally started at Yeshiva College in order to convince talmidim to stay at the yeshiva for Shabbat, the program was extended to Stern College after it was argued that women should be given the same privileges and opportunities as men. As mentioned earlier, all three Shabbat meals cost only five dollars, as opposed to the fifteen

dollars of previous years, with late comers, signing up after Wednesday night, paying an additional five. This has led to much greater participation in Shabbat programs at both colleges. The average Shabbat at Yeshiva has some 150 students eating in the caf, according to Jerry Bluegrind, a head waiter uptown, with the largest shabbatonim attracting over 320 participants, or nearly a third of the student body. At Stern, the Program has generated the added benefit of prompting more clubs to sponsor shabbatonim and thus providing students with greater options as to where to spend the Shabbat and more opportunities for a Shabbat atmosphere at the midtown campus.

Yet many women continue to spend their Shabbat in the dormitory, at friends, or at home, so that the largest shabbatonim seldom find more than 125 participants, of both sexes, downtown. Students at Stern College attribute this lack of interest to deficiencies in what is being served. They protest that much food is fried, the chicken is oily, leftovers are regularly served, salads are not fresh, and conditions are not sanitary. Additionally, "One major concern of most of the Stern students is that the food lacks any nutritional value," said a student, who would only give her name as Deena. She complained that there is no alternate plan available for those with allergies, and that the dairy lunchroom closes at six, while many students are still in class, thus denying vegetarians the option of eating there.

Jake Leiberman, responding to some of these charges, insisted that the cafeteria salads are made fresh daily, and that no oil is added to the chicken, but that as a result of the preparation process, its natural oils rise to the surface. Some of the women, however, admit that it is also a question of greater selectiveness among their sex. "Girls expect more," said Deena, "They are more concerned for their health in general, for what goes into them."

Yet despite all the shortcomings, it would seem that all the ingredients for a successful and crowd pleasing cafeteria are present; a captive audience, nearly two million in guaranteed revenues, thousands of graduate and undergraduate customers, and convenient locations. However, they would have to win over the student body anew. "Part of being a top notch university, which Yeshiva aspires to be, is providing quality facilities," said Shaun Azari, a SSSB junior. "Tasty, lower priced food is what students demand for \$1300. With a little common sense and planning, Food Services can remove what has become, over the last decade and a half, one of the largest student complaints."

Mr. Leiberman, explained that he is always working on new ideas and trying to upgrade in order to better serve the students and administration. Running through a list of improvements, he said that he realized that he could never satisfy everyone, but that he is concerned about customer relations, and wishes that those with complaints approach him or their student representatives. "There is a Food Services Committee on campus with which we meet on a regular basis, where we sit down and discuss issues, listen to student complaints, and we work hand in hand with the students" in order to resolve them. "People," he complained, "always think that the grass is greener somewhere else."

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# Principles of the Yeshiva College Student Council

*A farewell speech delivered by YCSC President Joshua M. Fine, at the YCSC Presidential Debate, Morgenstern Lounge, May 1, 1996*

Spring is upon us and finals are almost here, signaling the home stretch of this 1995-1996 school year. I feel privileged to have served the student body throughout the past nine months, and I want to assure you that I will continue to work to put the needs and wants of the student body foremost on the agenda, of the administration until my term of office expires on May 22, the day of graduation.

We have accomplished much this year. Most importantly, we have increased student involvement in YCSC's affairs. Student involvement should be a priority of our new student leadership for the coming 1996-1997 school year.

The 1995-1996 Yeshiva College Student Council has not been afraid nor intimidated by the YC administration. Too often in the past, student leaders compromised their principles in exchange for recommendations or special favors from the administration. This year, however, we have not hesitated to raise difficult issues with the Yeshiva College administration. For example,

we questioned how the Dramatics Society should be funded and complained about the lack of space for bochrim to learn in a beis medrash. We also fought to prevent our student lounges from being turned into dorm rooms. The administration's only response was a hard line of resistance. Couched in their responses, were implicit threats against me, for example, "So Josh, you want to go to law school?" If you think that's bad, you don't even know the half of it. Rather than, supporting the efforts of your duly elected student leaders to improve campus life, administrators attempted to put obstacles in our way whenever possible. However, as you well know your student leaders prevailed - WE PREVAILED, because we did our homework, stood on principle and with your support had the courage to speak the truth and fight for our rightful role as leaders on this campus.

While most of the YC administration attempted to maintain the status quo and induce stagnation, it was unsalaried student leaders who emerged with

fresh and novel ideas. Unfortunately, the YU bureaucracy emulates that of other prominent American colleges, when Yeshiva College should be holding itself to a higher standard.

The legacy we leave to our future student leaders is our system of forging progress in moving forward. We implore you:

Do not sell the welfare of the student body for a ticket to medical school, law school, or a job opportunity. Always remember that as elected student leaders you are important partners with the Yeshiva College administration in making the decisions that effect student life. Remember that you speak for those for whom this college was created - the students.

Make us Proud!!

I know that you will elect new student leaders who will follow our lead. We have worked hard this year to develop in our Freshmen, Sophomore and Junior Class Councils and other student leaders a work ethic - an ethic of hard work and that they must always keep in mind what is best for the student body.

Now, in the past it has taken 3 to 4 months for student council leaders to figure out just how the administration works and who one should go to in the YC bureaucracy with any given situation. This usually leaves YCSC at a loss and the administrators laughing to themselves when half the year's over and problems from three years before still have not been solved. I will be sure to work with all of the candidates who win tomorrow's elections and impart to them the knowledge and insights that they will need in order to make a smooth transition.

Student power.

Student power is necessary even when an administration is doing what it is being paid to do.

Student power.

How much more is student power needed when our administrators resist change.

Robert Kennedy once said, "Each time a man stands up for an ideal or acts to improve the lots of others or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

This year some administrators who spoke against the student council said, that they couldn't handle certain members of this year's YCSC. What is the reason? Quote, "they (the student leaders) believe that they are on a mission from G-d." Well, knowing that the administration views us in this manner reassures us that we have been heading on the right track all along.

Our work is not done, our force is not

spent. A better quality of student life and a better education are within our vision and our grasp. We do not have every answer. There are questions not yet asked, waiting for us in the recesses of the future and we will continue to ask legitimate questions of our administration.

But of this much we can be certain:

Together YCSC and the student body can make a difference. I have found that faith still alive this year on the YC campus. So let us reject the counsel of retreat and the call to reaction. Let us go forward in the knowledge that history only helps those who help themselves.

In closing, let me say a few words to all those I have met and all those who have supported me during my tenure as YCSC President.

There were hard times on our course. Often we sailed against the wind but we always kept our rudder true. There were so many of you who shared our hope and vision for improvements at Yeshiva College. You gave your help, but even more you gave your hearts. Because of you, this has been a happy year for me. When I think back on all the months and all the memories, I think of you. I recall the poet's words, and I say: "What golden friends I had."

I look forward to tomorrow night, when I will be privileged to congratulate the newly elected members of next year's YCSC, whomever they might be on their victories, in an election that has been tiresome and arduous for every candidate involved.

Once again, I am convinced that the students are not selfish or hopeless - and that student government is not helpless to serve the student interest. I am confident that the student body will unite and work together. May we, as a student body, never be in the position to talk about "the things that never were."

It is my hope that someday, long after this debate, long after the signs come down, may it be said of the 1995-1996 YCSC that we kept the faith. May it be said of the student body in 1996 that apathy wasn't the first word in our vocabulary.

May it be said of us, in the words of Tennyson, that Ryan Karben and I quote and love - and that have special meaning for me now:

I am a part of all that I have met . . . Though much is taken much abides . . . That which we are, we are - one equal temper of heroic hearts . . . strong in will . . . to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

For me, on May 22, the day of graduation, my year as YCSC President will come to an end. For all those whose cares have been our concern, the work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives and our commitment to making Yeshiva College a better place still stands.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT ELECT

JASON BUSKIN

A friend of mine recently reminded me why Yeshiva University is so special. No matter what complaints we may have, and we very often have them, there are aspects that make our school a very special place. It is not only the very essence of Torah U'Madda which we practice every day but the fact that no matter where we are on campus, no matter what time it is, we can find a minyan. It is the fact that we don't need to walk across campus to find the kosher cafeteria and we don't need to worry about missing classes on a Yom Tov. Indeed, we are fortunate, whether we realize it or not. This will never change at YU.

As we take office in two weeks, each and every member of the student council is full of energy and fresh ideas, our causes stand tall in our hearts and minds. Work is already beginning on the next edition of The Guide to the Perplexed, and on Orientation '96. These are just the beginnings of a busy year which lay ahead, a year which promises a Student Council responsive to the needs of a growing student body. Remember, we are here as your elected representatives, and should we forget this, it is your job to remind us. After all "Ayzehu chacham? Halomed micol adam."

This has and always be the goal of the student council. At various times during election week, the issues seem to fall out of the picture and become clouded by

divisions in the school. He stood for this, he stood for that. Our council is not about such matters, it is about ideas and innovations. It is about fighting for student needs and making life on campus just that much more bearable.

With the semester nearly over and finals upon us, our minds are decidedly focused on our upcoming summer breaks from yet another school year. For others, including many of my dearest friends, in two weeks you will graduate from Yeshiva University with diploma in hand and memories in heart. To those graduating, I wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors and hope that you will remember the good times spent on this campus. To those returning next year I look forward to working with many of you in what will be a successful year.

To those who have supported me and helped me reach this stage my thanks are immeasurable. From fellow student leaders over the years, to co-workers to most importantly friends, each of you has played a role in my development and growth. Without you all I would not be able to have reached this position and so one more time may I just say thank you.

Good Luck On Finals and Have a Great Summer.

Jason Buskin  
YCSC President '96-97



BY NIR KNOLL

The worldwide Jewish community will soon witness a crucial election in Israel, as the State holds its first direct election for Prime Minister in its 48 year history. The two main candidates for Prime Minister are Binyamin Netanyahu of the Likud Party and Shimon Peres, the current Prime Minister and head of the Labor Party.

For religious Jews, many of the issues in the upcoming elections transcend politics as usual and go to the core of Israel's existence as the only Jewish State. This election means evaluating ideological and religious connections to Israel and the prospect of peace if land is returned. Orthodox Jewry will have to contend with such problems as the increasing anti-religious sentiment forwarded by parties like Labor Party and Meretz which have platforms that call for the elimination exemptions for yeshiva students from military service, and the issue of voting for a candidate who does not necessarily espouse the views of Torah true Judaism.

#### On Land For Peace

Though the elections will take place in Israel, many of the issues, particularly the question of land for peace, have evoked strong responses throughout the diaspora. RIETS Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yehuda Parness stated that "Giving Land for peace is not a critical issue in itself. I am not against land for peace on a hashkafic view of Issur, but the problem is that the Arabs have a long standing religious perspective on acquiring Israel and are not to be believed." Rav Parness added that this situation "may not have a rational solution for the problems because its nature is caught between good and bad on both sides."

Fellow Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Moshe Tendler is quick to point out that the issue of primary importance is that the current peace process violates halacha as well as secular ethics. In a letter he wrote explaining his position, R' Tendler described the purpose of the peace process as a ploy to delay a potentially devastating war with the Arabs. He notes that the peace process is currently placing part of the population in severe danger, because the government no longer controls the territories and cannot prevent terrorists from mobilizing within a few miles of their targets. Compounding this problem is the fact that the government is withdrawing troops who protect Israeli cities in Yehuda and Shomron as well as roads frequently used by Israeli motorists. "Putting people in danger today to stop a potential danger tomorrow, says Rav Tendler, "is a clear violation of halacha, much like a doctor who tests a vaccine on patients without informed consent with the hope of finding a cure."

#### The Character of Israel

Rabbi Yosef Blau, Mashgiach Ruchani of RIETS, points out that the "Jewish character of the state is very much becoming questionable. Studies indicate that a large percentage of the Israeli population has almost no traditional Jewish knowledge and doesn't see itself as very Jewish. The problem, of course, is that the left-right political scale in Israel, primarily seems to focus not on economic matters, but on how to interact with the Arabs and the Palestinians. None of the major leaders of the major

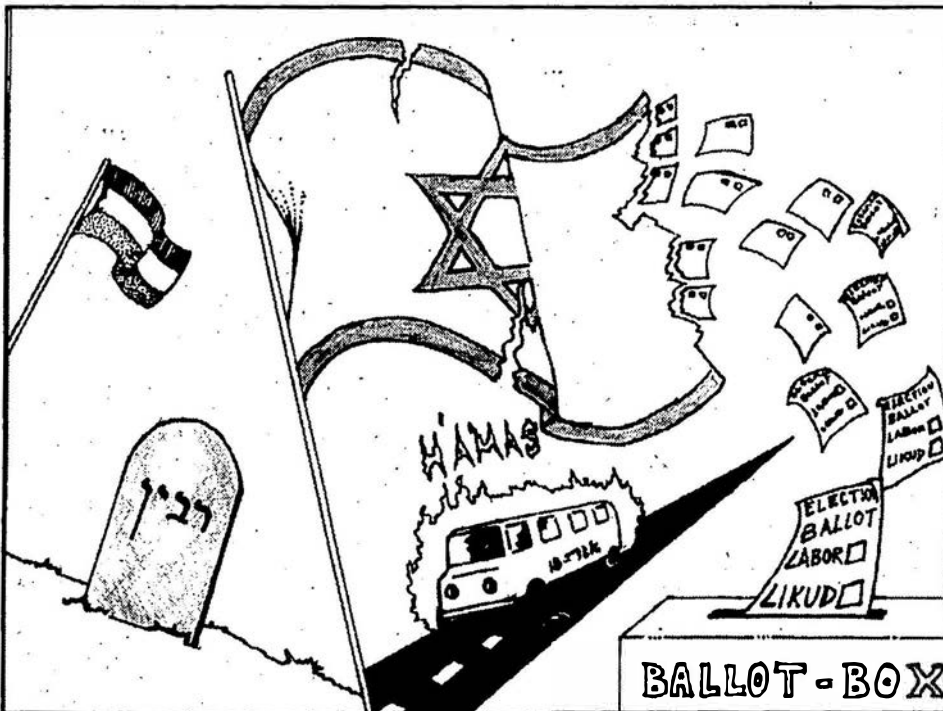
## Perspectives

### Mixing Politics and Religion: A YU Perspective on the Issues Behind Israel's Elections

parties is particularly sympathetic to religion except when they want the votes. On the other hand, there is an awareness on the level of ignorance and the want to have Jewish consciousness in the country." R' Blau notes that "there are people for whom the religious issue is territory. There are others, and I certainly am amongst them, who would say the religious issue is the Jewish concept of State, and that it is not coextensive with whether you give back land or not. It has to do with much more complex issues and the relationship between religious and non-religious in the state is critical towards the role religion is going to play in the state and that may produce a different response of what one sees as the priority."

Rabbi Shalom Carmy, assistant professor of philosophy and Bible, explained that the attempt by religious Zionists to work very hard for *shlemut ha'aretz* reflects a sincere attempt to build bridges with the *chilonim*. R' Carmy ex-

plains that the religious community should wash its hands from the decision. To run a religious candidate, we're not foolish, we know we are not going to win. To then say that we don't care which candidate wins or we do care but we can't vote for a mechalelei shabbos is to take our percentage of the Israeli population and play no role in the process. ...I can't imagine that one would tell his people not to vote. When it is the first time the country is voting directly for Prime Minister to remove oneself from that vote would be absolutely foolish. There are two major parties in Israel, Likud and Labor. They seem to be rather close in terms of political strength. That being the case, the religious vote has become a premium, [since] when elections are close, minorities are more important. It is clear already in the campaign that both Netanyahu and Peres have been careful not to want to antagonize the religious community in their campaign. So you see on some level



there is a force that people have to reckon with."

plains that to a certain extent their efforts have proved fruitful, namely 'you may not want to put on Tefillin, but I'll show something we're doing that you like.'" "Now," he says, "It has become a curse. We are saying to *chilonim* 'what really matters is what you hold about holding on to Chevron.' Tefillin don't really matter; Shabbos doesn't really matter. What goes on in Dizzengof we're ignoring." R' Carmy maintains that it is this general ethical atmosphere of Israel that has been ignored during the time when both religious and secular Israelis agreed on land issues. He asserts that it is this disagreement over the fundamental issues buried somewhere under the shared beliefs about the physical land, that have prompted many secular Israelis to proclaim 'we don't like what you're doing in Chevron. We don't want our children to risk their lives for your religious ideals.'

#### Voting for a Secular PM

In evaluating a prime ministerial election, in which both of the top candidates are not observant, R' Blau explains that "If one is very practical, one has to operate with the system. The system there has two candidates for prime minister, which means one of the two is going to win, both of them mechalelei shabbos. To take a position not to vote, means

tion. Rabbi Blau believes that Jews in the diaspora are entitled to express their opinions because the activities in Israel affect the destiny of the Jewish people throughout the world. "No one questions that the Jews in Manhattan should say Hallel on Chanukah because the nisim took place in Eretz Yisrael, because Eretz Yisrael is the center of religious life." However, R' Blau questions if the diaspora Jew should have as much say as one for whom the decision has life and death consequences.

Rav Parness agrees. "We can express opinions, but lower the passion of our statements, since we are too a degree academic and distanced from the situation, so we should limit our passions."

Aside from active political participation, Rabbis Carmy and Blau believe that keeping oneself regularly informed in the latest issues concerning Israel, is a must. YU "should have more programs about it [Israeli politics] and people should be more aware of the issues."

#### Israel's Economy

In five words, The Israeli public is concerned. Many people have cited the drop in unemployment from 11.2% in 1992 to 6.3% as an indication of the Labor Party's success. Dr. Eliyahu Kanovsky, a professor of economics at YU and the senior researcher at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies in Bar Ilan University, disagrees.

Kanovsky conducted research comparing the growth of the Israeli economy from 1990 to 1992, under the Likud Government and from 1992 to 1995, under the current Labor government. He found that "In terms of the rate of growth of the economy the average rate of growth was somewhat greater even in the previous period." In his article appearing in the Jerusalem Post, Kanovsky states that "In fact, the average annual growth rate for 1993-1995 (inclusive) was 5.7%, as compared with 6.4% in the previous three year period, 1990-1992." While describing the current economic situation Kanovsky said that the current growth rate is "by international standards very good, but then came certain things which are not widely well known, namely how did that affect the balance of payments."

Kanovsky discovered that the balance of current accounts in the previous period "there is a positive balance of credit, Israel is ahead, not much, but ahead. The last three years there has been a terrible deterioration in the economy. The balance of credits becomes sharply negative and getting worse from year to year. In other words, 1993 was bad, 1994 was worse, 1995 was still worse, which means Israel is going into debts, bigger than its been before to cover the difference." Professor Kanovsky admitted that if Likud wins the election "there is no evidence" that halting the peace talks will stop investment. Kanovsky added, "Foreign private investment is done for one reason, to make money. If the economy is functioning well, there is every chance you will make money, they made money before the peace talks began...there is no way I can say that it will have zero impact. The fact of the matter is, what happened after the big bombings a month or two months ago, was there any decrease in foreign investment? Not that I know of."

Elections will be held on May 29.

#### Voting For A Religious Party

In a parliament where there are both religious and non-religious parties espousing partisan political and idealistic agendas, the decision of who to vote for becomes increasingly difficult.

R' Parness believes that "you really need to be in the country, and our views are not completely appropriate, since I don't have a son in the army and my opinions are purely academic." However, "it's a toss up, on one hand voting for religious parties with your voice restricted, or voting for Likud in order to influence them."

R' Blau, visibly torn, commented that "It's very hard for me to say that people shouldn't vote for the religious party. It's extremely difficult. But I can understand a religious Jew whose political orientation on issues, or his unhappiness with the leadership of the religious parties was so strong that he could say 'that I can't stand a religious party or vote for candidate X.'"

#### Role of Diaspora Jews in Israel's Elections

The opinions of Jews in the diaspora regarding issues that affect Israeli citizens has long been a source of conten-



# Students Initiate Literary Magazine

By YECHIEL SEPTIMUS

YC students, in an effort to provide others with a forum to express their literary work, recently founded a chapter of "Spires", an intercollegiate literary magazine. The national version of "Spires" was formed two years ago by Bryan Townsend, a student at Washington University. The Bi-Annual publication, which is based in St. Louis, showcases works of literature written by collegiates throughout the country.

Past issues of "Spires" have presented the works of students from several different institutions such as Harvard, University of Virginia, and Dartmouth; however, until three months ago Washington University was the only official chapter.

"Spires" solicits writings over the Internet where they have their own web page. Adam Berkowitz, the Co-Founder of the YU chapter, came across the "Spires" web page and immediately became interested; he subsequently contacted Mr. Townsend in St. Louis.

"I saw a unique possibility in the creation of a 'Spires' chapter. It would and did create an opportunity for the works of YU students to be read and appreciated on a national level," said Berkowitz, "it also gives YU students the chance to read works of literature from students of other colleges."

A "Spires" chapter must exist in conjunction with a Poetry Society, a club

that had been non-existent in YU. Berkowitz and chapter Co-Founder Yechiel Septimus brought the idea for a "Spires" chapter and Poetry Society to YCSC Vice President Dov Simons. At a YCSC meeting the following night, YCSC granted the society temporary status to be reviewed next year.

Berkowitz and Septimus immediately began soliciting literature; they also constructed a chapter constitution. Berkowitz assumed the position of chapter Editor-in-Chief while Septimus became Associate Editor; David Rappaport was named Literary Editor.

After the editors collected works from members of the YU student body, about 15 poems were sent to St. Louis. In St. Louis the senior staff of "Spires" compiled the YU submissions with those from Washington University and several other colleges. When the layout was completed, Mr. Townsend shipped the finished product back to Berkowitz at YU.

The Spring '96 edition of "Spires" is a modest one compared to "Spires" of the past. It contains the literary works of students from four schools: Washington, YU, Harvard, and NYU. Currently, chapters of "Spires" are being formed at Harvard and Dartmouth. Berkowitz and Septimus hope to distribute copies of "Spires" and urge all students interested in receiving a copy or finding out more about the YU chapter to contact them.

# Rally Aims to Pressure 'Deadbeat Dad'

*continued from page one*

remarks by responding to the question of one Yeshiva College student who attended the Tuesday program, who inquired as to what specific actions can be taken by students to help the Levines' situation.

"My husband is a lawyer in the Wall Street area," Levine offered. He's not intimidated by the Rabbis; he lives with a non-Jew. He doesn't care. But if people do demonstrations in the work area, he will then be embarrassed by his peers."

Thus, the idea for a rally was proposed in order to pressure Fine, or as Ari Cutler, one Yeshiva student who attended the Friday protest, so eloquently put it: "If his peers realize he's a bastard, maybe it will influence him to consider freeing his wife."

Approximately 120 students from Columbia University, YU, and Stern attended the demonstration, with one overcrowded bus sponsored by SOY providing at least half the participants. At the midday rally at Fine's office in lower Manhattan, the students distributed over a thousand leaflets detailing Fine's mistreatment of his wife, and shouted "No more pain. No more strife. Larry Fine, free your wife."

Responding to the overwhelming turnout of YC students, Deena Aranoff, head of SAFA which coordinated the event, stated: "The students at YU were responsible for the success of the demonstration on Friday."

Student Action to Free Agunot is a student run organization created four weeks ago by Aranoff, a student at Columbia University.

Aranoff explained that "The goal of the organization is two-fold: To increase communal pressure on husbands who refuse to give their wives a *Get*. And to increase awareness of the Agunah situation. We are also hoping this awareness will pressure the Halakhic authorities into searching for a long-term solution, beyond the preventive measures of the prenuptial agreement."

Aranoff is referring to the Halakhic solution devised by R. Zalman Nechemia Goldberg and YU's R. Mordechai Willig which seeks to prevent future cases of Agunot by having the bride and groom-to-be to sign a prenuptial agreement. In the event of the couple's separation, the agreement obligates the husband to pay his wife a set amount per day for the duration of the couple's marriage, which according to halacha, is until the husband gives his wife a *Get*. The legally enforceable agreement should serve as a significant incentive for even the most recalcitrant of husbands to quickly grant their spouses a divorce.

Unfortunately, R. Willig's solution is only a preventive measure which will

effectively limit the number of future Agunot. Aranoff plans on focusing SAFA's efforts on pushing the Jewish community to find a Halakhic solution for those who are already Agunot. "...we cannot grow complacent with these developments..." Aranoff declared during her opening remarks at Tuesday's program. "Yeshiva University, as the symbolic center of American Orthodox Judaism, must spearhead the movement to free the Agunot."

SAFA was originally planning to stage a rally on YU's campus in order to increase awareness of the issues among YU's student body, in the hope that the students would pressure their Rebbeim on the issue and bring that concern to their homes and communities. However, upon discussions with students at YU and with *Mashgiach Ruchani* R. Yosef Blau, it was decided that a rally would be counterproductive. Thus, in coordination with Yeshiva students, SAFA decided to organize the Tuesday program.

R. Blau, who spoke at the program, supported the unusual step of having a non-YU student club run an event on campus because he felt the goals of the program were of great import. He felt the "program was meant to increase awareness of the Agunot's plight, and to promote use of the prenuptial agreement created by R. Willig."

SAFA will continue its efforts on behalf of Agunot through publicizing the Agunah demonstrations that occur in the NY area. Aranoff expects to open branches in the University of Pennsylvania, and in Brooklyn and Queens Colleges, and hopes to provide a minimum of 20 students for each demonstration. To that end, she urges YU students to attend a May 20<sup>th</sup> march organized by Agunah, Inc., which will pass the workplace of Larry Fine, as well as that of another abusive husband named Mr. Becher. The march will end at the offices at the Agudat Yisrael where demonstrators will urge Torah leaders to once and for all find a comprehensive solution to the Agunah problem.

As she said in her opening remarks during Tuesday's program, "We are SAFA - Student Action to Free Agunot. We are students from Columbia University, Yeshiva College, RIETS, Stern College, Drisha Institute, RAMAZ, and elsewhere, who can no longer tolerate the plight of thousands of Jewish women in our communities who are trapped in abusive marriages. We are young Jews who live by Halakha and have faith in its authority and guidance. We know that Halakha is just, yet we recognize the injustice being inflicted upon women through a tolerated abuse of the Halakha. Our community will no longer be silent."

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**On Their Recent Engagements**



# Library Goes On-Line

BY YUDY SHEINFELD

Students using the Library building over the past few weeks to study for finals complained of noise due to Facilities Management personnel setting up wires along the walls of the library. These wires will support a brand new network for the library to store a catalog of all the books in the uptown and downtown campuses' libraries. Once this system is finished, not only will it be accessible in the library itself, but also via an internet hookup.

When asked why the work could not have waited until the summer when the library will be less occupied, Berger replied that delaying the installation of the wires would have delayed the whole process and that the Library would like to get the system up and running as soon as possible. In fact, Berger said that even though they are still working at the Stern Library, the work will stop during reading week and finals so students will be able to study without any commotion.

The actual program being used for the network catalog is a program from a company called VTLS Inc. The new

network will bring an added bonus of up to twenty-five more computers in the library, although Dean Berger said the official number has still not been finalized. Berger described the benefits of such a setup as, "enabling the students to reference the materials in an efficient manner," once the system is up and running. She said that she believes eventually the whole campus should be hooked up to one entire network, enabling students to access necessary information from anywhere, without having to make phone calls or leave their rooms.

Although there are computers in the library presently hooked up to the internet, those computers are only connected through three phone lines that are constantly connected with the YU Internet server. The new network would eliminate the need for all these lines to connect to the Internet.

In the past, when the ceilings in the library were being fixed there was concern about asbestos, there was no problem this time because all work was being done externally, as illustrated by the plastic covering running near the ceiling in the library.

# In the Shadow of the Credit Cap

## Summer School at YU

BY ELLIOT LOWENSTEIN

Summer school represents for many the chance to meet goals that can't be accomplished during the year; whether it means catching up in requirements to graduate on time, or taking that extra course to leave school early. While the exact number of YC and Sy Syms students attending summer school is unknown, it is a well known fact that summer school is highly attended.

However, YU students find themselves more attracted to outside institutions than their own. While YU's own program has met with limited success, other schools have received an influx of YU students.

The most popular colleges for YU students in New York were Queens, Brooklyn, and St. Johns University. Rutgers and Montclair were the best attended in New Jersey. However, the popularity of these institutions raises the fundamental question of why this university's own program has, at best, met with limited success.

For many students, the answer lies in the perception of a limited selection and the seemingly notorious unreliability of the YU program. In fact, by having a low turnout, the administration is forced to drop sparsely attended classes. This in turn results in even fewer students being interested in YU's own program.

There are several other potential liabilities with the YU summer program. While Yeshiva University charges \$335 a credit, institutions such as Queens college are able to charge almost a third less. Additionally, with most dormitories closed, a daily trip into Washington Heights seems extremely inconvenient

to many students. The location of other universities is often more accommodating.

Dean of Sy Syms, Harold Nierenberg, is in charge of YU's fledgling program. He refuses to be discouraged by such bleak beginnings. Instead, Nierenberg feels that such a view doesn't correctly assess many benefits that a summer at the Main Campus could provide. He points to several reasons to be hopeful about YU's program, such as the ability to provide a course for only a few students who request it.

For Sy Syms students, Dean Nierenberg feels that Yeshiva's own program is particularly convenient - outside credit for business courses are not accepted. But he adds that he's "not going to make anyone come back because they need one course. If you say you need one course, I'm going to tell you to sign up next year for one course? That's ridiculous!"

Assistant Dean Avery Horowitz noted that "our goal is to give students a college education. Historically the way we measured when a student had a college education was in the number of credits, but it was never a very good measure. With AP's and CLEP's and summer schools and so forth and so on, it becomes an even less good measure. Part of the educational experience has to be interacting with faculty, being in the library, talking to fellow students etc., and that doesn't happen in summer school the way it happens in the 'winter' school, and certainly doesn't happen when you take a CLEP test, and it doesn't really happen when you take a supposed college course in the high school classroom."

# Gottesman Joins List of Graduation Honorees

BY HESHY WILLIG

Esther Gottesman of New York City and Palm Beach, Fla., a leader in the Hadassah organization for more than sixty years, lifelong Zionist, and matriarch of one of Yeshiva University's "First Families," will be honored by YU at its 65 Annual Commencement on Wednesday, May 22 at Madison Square Garden in NYC.

University President Norman Lamm will confer upon her an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree in recognition of her lifetime contribution to the Jewish community and commitment to Jewish education. At age 96, Mrs. Gottesman will become the oldest person to be awarded YU's highest honor.

The Gottesman family's relationship with the University spans almost three-quarters of a century. The late Mendel Gottesman, Mrs. Gottesman's father-in-law, was treasurer of its Board of Trustees from 1922 until his death in 1942 and initiated the Yeshiva Endowment Foundation.

Mrs. Gottesman's husband, the late Benjamin Gottesman, served as a YU Trustee from 1927 until his death in 1979. He was also chairman of its Investment Committee and president of its Endowment Foundation for over 30 years.

Lifelong supporters of Jewish education, Mrs. Gottesman and her late husband are YU Benefactors whose

generosity on behalf of the University resulted in the establishment of, among other entities, the Mendel Gottesman Library at the Main Campus, the endowment of a Chair in Library Sciences at that library, and the creation of the Benjamin Gottesman Presidential Lecture Series.

In addition to the YU connection, Mrs. Gottesman has been affiliated with Hadassah for six decades. A member of its National Board since 1934, she has served as its vice president and treasurer. She also chaired committees leading to the creation of the Hadassah College of Technology in Jerusalem and Hadassah Magazine, and to the publication of Great Ages and Ideas of the Jewish People by Random House in 1956.

Mrs. Gottesman served as a delegate to the first post-war congress of the World Zionist Organization in Basle in 1946 and was a member of the WZO's Actions Committee during the formative years of the State of Israel.

Mrs. Gottesman will be joined as an honorary degree recipient at the May 22 exercises by Mr. Robert Rubin, US Treasury Secretary who will also be giving the commencement address.

Dr. Bernard Shapiro, principal and vice chancellor of McGill University in Montreal, Canada, Dr. Harold T. Shapiro, President of Princeton University, and Dr. Daniel Tropper, founder of The Geshur foundation, and Aaron Feuerstein, a YU alumnus and factory owner.

LIBRARY SCHEDULE			
READING PERIOD - FINAL EXAMS			
SHAVUOT - MEMORIAL DAY			
May 1996			
May	8, 9	W, Th	9:00 AM - 2:00 AM
	10	F	9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
	12	S	10:00 AM - 2:00 AM
	13-16	M-Th	9:00 AM - 2:00 AM
	17	F	9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
	18	Sat. night	10:30 PM - 2:00 AM
	19	S	10:00 AM - 2:00 AM
	20	M	9:00 AM - 2:00 AM
	21-23	T-Th	9:00 AM - 5:30 PM
	24-27	F-M	C L O S E D
	28-30	T-TH	9:00 AM - 5:30 PM
	31	F	9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

## Students Question Administration's Claims of Full Capacity

*continued from page one*

Moshe Kinderlehrer and Uriel Schechterman, who signed themselves, "Two Concerned RIETS Students," sent a letter dated April 24, to various administrators and to *The Commentator*, expressing their anxiety and listing the difficulties faced this year by the apartment-dwelling semicha students, in the hopes of securing at least a pledge of action.

Among the list of issues, they cite: lack of storage space for those who wish to leave for the summer; severe overcrowding in some apartments, specifically "five or six people in a one-bedroom apartment" and "four in a cramped studio apartment"; limited security around the Laurel Hill Terrace apartments behind Belfer Hall; and the disconnection of Con Edison gas lines by Facilities Management, which makes cooking difficult, a special concern in light of RIETS students' not being on the Caf card plan.

Kinderlehrer and Schechterman suggest that the university refurbish the derelict Washington Terrace structures- numbers 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, and 18- thereby providing adequate space for about seventy students to live comfortably. Currently, about twelve students reside at number 16, renting from a different landlord, and several who were questioned have few complaints about the size or condition of the walk-up.

If the shoddy apartments were redone in similar format to the ones that now house tenants, each floor could hold up to four students. This would solve the location, security and space constraints, note Kinderlehrer and Schechterman, all while allowing YU to see a profit on the unutilized real estate.

One administrator who insisted upon anonymity explained that the

university's idleness regarding the Washington Terrace houses stems from the desire to purchase the whole lot, demolish the buildings, and construct a new residence hall on the site. By refraining from use, YU seeks to avoid being identified as the owner so that potential sellers do not increase their asking price when they realize how important the purchase is to YU.

The problem with that rationale is that *The New York Times* all but named YU as the property holder, and the owners of the other houses on the block, in all likelihood, are aware of the situation.

In the same article, some residents on that street expressed their wish to apply for landmark status, which would preclude demolition of the two rows of houses, built in 1898. Were this to materialize, YU would have no choice but to refurbish only the inside of whatever it owns.

Although not mentioned in the letter, other properties in the neighborhood are listed under the effective ownership of the university, including the building behind parking lot B on Audubon Avenue, also currently in disuse. The bottom level is built to hold shops, but the second floor could be used as residences. Alternatively, the entire structure could be demolished to make way for more dormitory space.

A meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 6, between the Two Concerned RIETS Students and a number of administrators. Kinderlehrer hopes that something will be done soon, but espoused a fatalistic attitude. He perceives many administrators as favoring the status quo, and fears that it takes tremendous effort and a great deal of time to get anything accomplished in the bureaucracy of Yeshiva University.

## 'Bus' Rolls Onto Campus

*continued from page one*

some innovative methods to ensure security in this year's group of elections. The ballots were printed on red paper, making duplication more difficult to accomplish and easier to detect. Each ballot was folded in half and stamped by the canvassing committee. Votes were tallied in a single room under the watchful eye of a representative from each candidate's campaign, and the ballots were counted a number of times.

In a departure from precedent, Committee chairman Martin Tollinsky declined to release percentages of the winning candidates' shares of the votes, as is the right of the committee. He did say that voter turnout was about 650, which is in the neighborhood of seventy-one percent.

The news of his victory was greeted emotionally by Buskin and a few close friends, who were present in Josh Fine's room when Tollinsky and Fine broke the news. Each winning candidate was asked to come to Fine's room to hear the good tidings in person, if possible.

After things had calmed down a bit, Buskin expressed for the record how it felt to win the arduous campaign: "it feels pretty good," he said with a sly grin,

eschewing the more colorful enhancements of that sentence offered at the time by his friends.

When asked what his first act as President will be, Buskin responded that he intends to begin preliminary work on next year's Guide to the Perplexed, which in recent years has been published and distributed relatively late in the first semester, and that he wants to start working on Orientation for the fall semester. One of his pet ideas, propounded at the debate, is a college-wide "big-brother" program for incoming freshmen and for sophomores returning from Israel.

Buskin, London and Oppenheim are enrolled in the IBC program. Of the newly-elected officers, only Leibowitz is MYP, and he was running only against Robert Bagdadi, also a YP student. Some election observers see this IBC "sweep" as a backlash against the "right-wing" yeshiva "faction," ostensibly symbolized by the YP candidates.

Buskin prefers to view the success of the victors as individual phenomena. "Each one of them worked really hard to get where he is now, and I think that's what did it," he said.

## YU Sets Sights on Distant Galaxies

BY ELLIOT GANCHROW

Plans are currently in the making for a new class in astronomy, which will feature a brand new refractor telescope. Such a course will be the first of its kind at Yeshiva.

Professor Thomas Otway explained that some time ago, the Development Department was searching for new ideas that could enhance the Yeshiva campus. One of the ideas proposed was the building of an observatory, but of course funds were needed. Since that time a man by the name of Mr. Awash passed away and left a sizable sum in his will to Yeshiva University for the expressed purposes of buying a telescope.

The telescope is to be purchased in October, with the new course being of-

fered as early as next Spring. This will allow some of the staff at Yeshiva to become more familiar with use of the telescope, before the actual course is offered.

The course in astronomy will fall under the physics department. As part of the astronomy class, students will first learn in class about the different aspects of astronomy and then be allowed to go to the lab for viewing sessions with the brand new telescope.

Professor Otway stressed that this is not going to be an Observatory, but rather part of an astronomy lab. Although the funds for a telescope have been provided, Yeshiva University is still awaiting funds for additional components of this new lab, such as an observatory.

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LETTERS  
To the Editor

A Critical View

To The Editor:

Pat Buchanan was right when he maliciously slandered Capitol Hill's pro-Israel lobby, calling it Israel's "amen-corner." I, along with many Jews, took deep offense at yet another sign of the fiery Republican's not-so-latent anti-Semitic sentiments. On what basis did Buchanan make such allegations? Surely the Jewish lobbyists are more than mere servile puppets of the Israeli government. Surely they are critical and independent thinkers on political issues. Surely they are honest individuals who work diligently for a cause they believe in passionately.

Surely not. As one of approximately 20 YC and Stern students, and almost 1,000 undergraduates from campuses across the country attending the recent American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) 37th Annual Policy Conference in Washington, D.C., I grew quickly disillusioned and increasingly cynical.

The tone was set by Alan Dershowitz's opening diatribe, in which he declared that no matter who emerged victorious in Israel's May elections, whatever the result, the victors would have his "full support." Whether Labor or Likud, he promised to faithfully lobby on their behalf. This attitude, pervasive in the rank and file of AIPAC, poses as courageous activism, but is actually the most subversive kind of passivism. What kind of detached apathy is it that allows a Jew to pledge advance support to such radically different visions of the future of the Jewish State? What kind of spinelessness?

The rest of the sessions were generally characterized by an utter lack of real content hiding behind a superficial facade of polished verbiage. Richard Haass eloquently said nothing; the editor of *George* magazine mechanically read off a scripted statement; Uri Savir and Dennis Ross- the principal diplomatic architects of the Oslo Accords -

slyly evaded questions rather than engage in honest debate; Peres' granddaughter (since when are diplomat's grandchildren authoritative voices on international affairs?) spouted off slick formula replies to my candid questions; and House majority leader Dick Armey casually tossed around lofty terms like "peace" and "freedom" like so many bread crumbs to a flock of eager pigeons.

In his uniquely monotonous cadence, Prime Minister Peres spoke in slogans, and unabashedly touted his own "vision" and accomplishments. His sentences were but applause fodder for the overflowing crowd, and the lecturn dripped with jejune cliches: "Peace will prevail . . . A new Middle East will emerge; free of violence."

Not to be outdone, President Clinton followed with a speech consisting of disjointed, if well crafted, sentences, including such priceless profundities as: "Hizballah and Hamas will not succeed." After announcing the third phase of the Arrow anti-missile missile, the Nautilus and AMRAM programs, and the delivery of F-15I's to Israel next year, Clinton invoked Tehillim, and exited to enthusiastic chants of "Four more years." The lavish affair was capped off with a stirring performance of Israeli singer Chava Alberstein, who, draped in black, sang "Mi ha'Ish ha'Chafetz Chaim" in a manner worthy only of an N.C.S.Y. kumsitz.

AIPAC is about simplistically minded lobbyists taking their cue from the Israeli government, whoever that happens to be. It is about the typically "Establishment" fear of offending the politically powerful, a fear which engenders a paralysis and hesitancy wherever substantive issues are concerned. It is about political expediency, and obsequious ingratiation born of insincerity.

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Benjamin Balint  
YC '98

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# YESHIVA SPORTS



## Athletic Awards Banquet

BY CARL HOCHHAUSER

Last Wednesday night in Belfer Hall, the Athletic Department held its annual awards banquet. The dinner was attended by players from all the varsity teams of Yeshiva College and SCW as well as the athletic staff and some members of the administration.

The appetizers were served, and men's basketball coach Jonathan Halpert rose to the podium as the evening's emcee. After recognizing intramural sports at both campuses, Halpert presented Yeshiva students with their conference all-star awards. Basketball star Alan Levy was recognized as a second team all-ECAC player, while teammate Barry Aranoff made the third team. In addition, fencer Ruben Levy was named an ECAC scholar athlete, the first of his many awards on the night.

The final conference recognitions went to Yeshiva's most successful teams for the past two years- the fencing and tennis teams. Both squads went undefeated for the second straight year and both brought home their respective league championships.

Yeshiva College also gave out two awards of its own. The Norman Palefski Award is given to the outstanding scholar-athlete and the Emile Offenbacher Award is given to the outstanding senior athlete. The former award was picked up by Jake Rosenberg, shooting guard for the Macs and middle hitter for the volleyball team. Rosenberg, a biology major in Rabbi Bronspigel's shiur, said, "I was truly honored to receive an award that gives recognition to the many responsibilities of a Yeshiva student, both on the court and in the classroom." Ruben Levy was honored again with the latter award for his dominance on the college fencing circuit.

After dinner was served, the individual coaches got the chance to present

their players with their varsity letters and plaques. A few even threw in a private joke or two. The basketball team recognized graduating captain Alan Levy with the Coach's Award, and Barry Aranoff with the Red Sarachek Award. After cross country team coach Stan Watson was showered with one of many standing ovations, he presented his awards to Akiva Davis and fourth year star Chaim Motzen.

Following yet another thunderous ovation as Stan sat down, the golf team's award was presented to Isaac Kalish and the tennis team's award was presented to graduating co-captain Gabe Slotnick. Shaun Azari and Shimon Oppenheimer got the Coach's Awards for fencing, and Ruben Levy garnered his third award of the night, the Tauber Award, given to the best overall fencer in Yeshiva.

With coach Sheinsheng Jiang visiting his native China, graduating co-captain Avi Vogel presented the volleyball team's letters. He then passed the microphone to co-captain Noam Geft, who handed Vogel the Coach's Award. Wrestling coach Neil Ellman gave his award to Daniel Sentell and then stepped aside as his assistant coach presented his son Avi with an award as well.

As the athletic season officially came to a close, Coach Halpert, also the assistant director of athletics, remarked that he was very satisfied with this year's teams. The tennis squad was once again dominant, the fencing team placed 3 players in the NCAA tournament, the basketball team made the IAC quarterfinals with a winning record and the wrestlers succeeded against a very tough schedule. He added, "the athletic program continues to improve each year. I look forward to even more success in the future."

## Tennis Team Aces for Second Consecutive Year

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

The Yeshiva University Macs closed out their 1996 season in the same manner as the year before; an undefeated 9-0, claiming the IAC championship.

The Macs steamrolled past their opponents on May 2, flattening

Brooklyn College 9-0. Their latest victim, Bard College, fell to the mighty Macs on Sunday 7-2, losing their two matches to forfeit, as only five Macs attended the match.

The Macs will be losing a number of stars to graduation this year, but are confident about those who are returning for the upcoming season.

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