

Yeshiva University Commentator

September 4 1996 / 21 Elul 5756 Official Undergraduate Newspaper of Yeshiva College Volume LXI No. 2

In This Issue:

The New YU.....pp. 6-7
YU, Bar-Ilan Form
MBA Alliance.....p.11
New Student Liaison
Appointed.....p. 4



New student registration in Tenzer Gardens

Judaic Studies Main Draw for New Students

BY DOV SIEGMAN

The year is off to a roaring start, with many new students from across the country and around the world arriving on campus for an activity-filled orientation and an accomplishment-filled year. Orientation activities ran remarkably smoothly, with many new and returning students participating.

Most of the new students are fresh from a year or more of study in Israel, but many others just finished high school, and some are early-admissions. They chose YU for a variety of reasons, mostly having to do with its unique nature as a Jewish university. For many, coming to YU was a choice made despite various advantages of other schools.

When asked why he chose YU, new student Josh Abraham, returning from his second year at Gush, enthusiastically gave one answer - "daily shiur!" Such a response seemed typical of students returning from Israel,

with many attributing their choice of YU to greater learning opportunities and the general Torah atmosphere pervading campus. This response was usually accompanied by a comment about another school they turned down despite its better academic reputation.

One somewhat surprising response from some Israel returnees was that they were only in college at their parents' insistence. Typical of this reluctance was one student returning from his years in Israel who, when asked why he chose YU, responded: "I'm here against my own volition."

He explained that he would have preferred to continue learning in Israel, but his parents refused to allow him to do so. Antipathy to secular studies has been a rising trend among Israel returnees in recent years, as the practice of staying in Israel for a second and third year after high school has become more popular.

Other new students, though,



Students arrive on campus to find many renovations.
See related articles on pages 6 and 7.

President Lamm Calls for Tolerance in Jewish Community

BY ARI GRUEN

At an orientation dinner last week, University President Norman Lamm exhorted incoming students not to be influenced by attitudes of racial and ethnic intolerance they may find at Yeshiva.

"As you enter upon your career at Yeshiva, don't let the virus of intolerance that you do find infect you."

The remarks seemed geared to set a new tone at Yeshiva University, which still feels guilty for harboring the kind of right wing rhetoric that many blame for last year's assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzchak Rabin.

Lamm qualified his remarks by adding that to be completely tolerant is to have no firm principles at all.

"Real tolerance only comes in the presence of genuine principle... Weak principles lead one to apathy and indifference. Tolerance is most meaningful if you are zealous. If you are willing to die for what you believe... and yet willing to grant to another fellow his opinions, that is tolerance."

Lamm spoke to a group of deans, professors and incoming students who later discussed the novel *Balkan Ghosts: A Journey Through History*, which they were to have read over the summer. The novel, by Robert Kaplan, discusses the historical roots of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, and contains an overriding message about tolerance and the evils of racism.

The dinner was the inaugural event of the Commission on Juda-

continued on page 5



University President
Norman Lamm

Students Excel on

MCAT, LSAT

Best Scores in 25 Years

BY ARI KAHN

For the future doctors and lawyers at YU, 1996 was an extremely successful year, with students scoring in the top percentiles nationwide on two of the toughest and most competitive exams. Half of the twenty-eight students from the Uptown campus who took the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) last June scored in the top ten percent, with eight of them hitting the top two percent, which means a 169 or higher on a test out of 180. One student scored an almost-perfect 176.

Associate Dean Michael Hecht, the pre-law advisor, boasted that these are the best results he has seen in his 25 years at YU.

Ironically, some students are afraid of this strong performance. They fear that some schools might take only a limited number of YU students and therefore, a traditionally decent score might not make the cut.

To allay these fears, Hecht told *The Commentator* that "there is no such thing as a quota on students from YU."

He noted that in some years Harvard has taken only one person from YU while in other years it has taken five. Likewise, Columbia might

continued on page 9

Unanswered Questions Surround Death of Stern Student



Ramie Kertzner z"l

BY MATTHEW LEADER

As students began to wind down their school year and prepare for the forthcoming summer vacation, no one could have foreseen the tragedy that would alter their lives forever. In a short chain of events Yeshiva University students and faculty were shocked by the sudden death of Ramie Kertzner, a popular Stern College junior from North Miami Beach, Florida.

Kertzner, a 21 year-old speech and communications major, attended Hebrew Academy of Greater Miami and Shyara seminary in Israel before coming to Stern two years ago. She planned on a career in advertising.

However, Ramie's untimely death has left friends and family filled with sorrow and unanswered questions.

In the weeks preceding her hospital admittance, say friends, Ramie suffered from a general malaise, often complaining of fatigue, headaches, and nausea. Childhood friend Pamela Brill assumed that it was just the flu. "She had a fever and felt sick for a while, but nothing indicative of cancer." Assuming that the feeling would pass, Ramie made plans to fly to Atlanta for the Pesach break.

During this period, Ramie saw two doctors about her condition, both of who diagnosed her with a viral infection and told her to wait it out. Immediately before Pesach she began to experience more severe symptoms including a constant fever and difficulty breathing. "Ramie was really, really sick the day before we left," said Pamela. "She wanted to come [to Atlanta], but she had a fever of 102 for the last few days, and an ear infection that prevented her from flying. She really couldn't move, so she went to stay with her grandmother in Brooklyn."

At her grandmother's, her condition steadily worsened throughout the week. Finally, the day after Pesach, she collapsed at the house, unable to

continued on page 11

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

Some Flora Of Our Own

You can't smell it and you can't taste it, but if you keep your eyes and ears open you can sense its presence infiltrating the campus. It's the dreaded inferiority complex, and though it hovers over the entire campus, its power to penetrate the minds of those new to YU is infinitely more potent.

You can see it on their faces as they look at Furst Hall and wonder what goes on inside its confining walls, as they stare at the library and ponder how a project could go so wrong, and when they jump into the swimming pool and notice that it's just a couple of feet short of regulation size. You can hear it in their conversation as they mumble to each other about how things ran so much more smoothly at their respective summer schools. To the uninitiated, it seems so much better on the other side.

Granted, it takes some time. But look a little more closely at our university and see what it has to offer. The school isn't ranked among the top 100 universities in the country, but its median SAT score is exceptionally high. Every year a significant number of students are hired by "Big Six" accounting firms, and accepted by top medical and law schools. These accomplishments are not accidental. They occur because YU students are as dedicated and assiduous as any Ivy Leaguer.

The fact is YU students choose to enter that monstrosity we call Furst Hall, and the Moorish Fortress we call the Beis Medrash. Yale University chose to treat its stone buildings with an acidic compound to make their buildings look more aged. Though our buildings do not look as distinguished from the outside, and are still structurally sound, what is found inside is of a much older tradition.

So fellow students, pick your chin up, and be proud of YU. And the next time you think about what it's like in the Ivy look no further than Strenger Hall.

A Time and Place for Everything

A hearty thank you goes out to the administration for the many improvements seen and felt all around campus, from the renovated Klein Hall and Cafeteria to the new elevators in Belfer and air conditioning in Morg. Thank you also to the Office of the Dean of Students for cooperating with the Student Council in this year's orientation, which appears to have been the most successful ever. It is fervently hoped that the cooperation between students and administration evidenced during the last week and a half will endure, and that the administration will continue to give students' physical well-being their due attention.

Nonetheless, we cannot help but wonder *why* it was necessary to refurbish the cafeteria. Unfortunately, the renovation doesn't make the lineups any shorter or the food any better; if anything, it merely enhances the aesthetic quality of the mealtime experience. Forgive us for suggesting that perhaps the money would have been better spent improving the quality of the food - which has been a long-standing problem, or initiating the honors college - which was promised for this year, or even establishing a new scholarship so that one more student could afford to attend Yeshiva.

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
Editor-in-Chief

ARNON STORFER
Executive Editor

JOSHUA M. FELDMAN
Managing Editor

ARI GRUEN
DAVID SWIDLER
News Editors

J.D. SHULMAN
Layout Editor

EZRA TUCHMAN
Copy Editor

JEREMY IVES
Business Manager

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

News
Features
Photography
Art
Layout
Research

Boaz Kurtis, Noah Streit
Ari Kahn
Avraham Goldberg
Ari Steiner
Dov Greenbaum
Heshy Willig

Member:



AMERICAN JEWISH
PRESS ASSOCIATION

WELCOME, NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS, TO *THE COMMENTATOR*, VOLUME 61. THIS PAPER SERVES MULTIPLE FUNCTIONS. IT IS THE BIGGEST AND MOST INTERESTING SOURCE OF NEWS ON CAMPUS, THE MOST WIDELY CIRCULATED ARENA FOR DISCUSSION AND DEBATE, AND ABOVE ALL, IT IS THE UNDISPUTED VOICE OF THE STUDENTS. WE ARE HERE TO PUBLISH YOUR IDEAS AND OPINIONS. WE ENCOURAGE ALL STUDENTS TO GET INVOLVED. INQUIRE WITH THE EDITORS ABOUT AVAILABLE POSITIONS. IF YOU CAN'T WRITE FOR THE PAPER ON A REGULAR BASIS, YOU CAN STILL SEND IN LETTERS, OP-ED COLUMNS, AND NEWS TIPS TO MORG. 222, OR, IF YOU'RE ON E-MAIL, TO COMMIE@YU1.YU.EDU.

-THE GOVERNING BOARD

P I C T O R I A L



"Doesn't the Old Food look much better in this new light?"

NEED EXTRA INCOME?

TUTORS NEEDED
YESHIVA COLLEGE WRITING CENTER

To apply, please contact Mrs. Rosenblum
in Furst 202, or leave a message at
960-5290, as soon as possible



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

NICK MUZIN

When I returned to school last week, a number of students questioned why the administration decided to start classes just two weeks before Rosh Hashana, only to break in time for Succos. To me the answer was quite simple - in order to have students spend Elul in Yeshiva.

OK, so we were a week late. And this isn't Lakewood. But still, where better to spend the month of teshuva than in Yeshiva, in shiurim and in the Beis Medrash? Conversely, what better way to begin a new academic year than with a month of heightened focus on our learning and our davening?

Chazal explain that Hallel is not recited on Rosh Hashana, as it is on other Yomim Tovim, because "the books of life and the books of death are open," and we dare not have the flippancy to rejoice at such a time.

But why mention "the books of life" as a reason for not saying Hallel? Obviously, it is difficult to celebrate in the face of death, but when the books of life are open, all the more reason to recite Hallel.

Unless we say that the "books" which open on Rosh Hashana are not only those of judgment, rather, they are the histories of the living and the dead, the records of their thoughts and actions, which ought to inspire us to teshuva. On Rosh Hashana, we compare ourselves to the generations of tzaddikim that came before us as well as to the living role models around us.

When you first come to YU, you feel

much the same. You look around not only at the gedolim who once taught here, whose vision and spirit still fill the halls, but also at the rabbeim, deans and professors who challenge us on a daily basis to live up to their example of scholarship and dedication.

The Gemarah in Sotah contrasts the different ways in which the Avos described the site of the Beis Hamikdash.

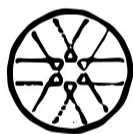
"Unlike Avraham who called it *har* (a mountain), and unlike Yitzchak who called it *Sadeh* (a field), Yaakov called it *Beis Kel* (the house of God)."

These three images parallel the process of teshuva, but they also describe a student's adjustment to Yeshiva. At first we are awed by the challenge - to us it looks like a mountain. Surely, we say, it is impossible to combine shiur and seder with a college degree. Yet after the first few weeks of struggle, we begin to view Yeshiva as a field - a constant source of religious and intellectual nourishment. Finally we come to see it as a *Bayis*, a model for life - the house of God on the hilltop - and we understand the meaning of the verse "Shivti beVais Hashem Kol Yemai Chayai."

This is the challenge of Elul at Yeshiva - to set our goals for the coming year and to get off to a good start, using the best of this world for our personal and collective *aliyah*.

When, one must ask himself each day, will I reach the level of my forefathers Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov?

Let us begin now.



High Holydays 5757/1996 Jewish Tradition Teaches That "Silence Is Agreement"

Silence is appropriate, even useful, as we look inward at this sacred time of year. During the High Holydays we reflect, gaining perspective and seeking forgiveness; washing away the sins of the past and beginning anew. Throughout the rest of the year, we speak up, letting others know what we stand for and what we won't stand for.

How can we reconcile this quiet period of self-examination with our Jewish tradition of speaking out in pursuit of justice for the poor and the stranger?

Millions who live among us struggle under the crushing weight of poverty and hunger. Many are children who have not yet gained control of their lives; many others are elderly and have lost the ability to care for themselves. Others are simply too weak, too sick or too deeply disillusioned to rise above their poverty - unless we help them.

How can we keep silent about their plight when Jewish tradition teaches us that "silence is agreement"?

As you look inward during these High Holydays, MAZON asks that you reach outward to those who are hungry by contributing the dollars you and your family save by not eating on Yom Kippur - or by giving whatever amount you deem appropriate. Your one day of fast, and your momentary silence, will speak volumes as you help MAZON feed those so desperately in need; those whose fast will not end at sundown.

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
12401 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 303
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1015

YES, I/we choose to help ease the involuntary fast suffered by millions of hungry people

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____



MESSAGE FROM THE YCSC PRESIDENT

It is with tremendous pride that I say Orientation 1996 was the most successful school kickoff in years. Months of planning paid off, thanks in no small part to the Chairman of Orientation, Sruli Tannenbaum. Sruli, who dedicated much of his summer to help plan for this year's orientation, along with his entire staff, deserves a tremendous thank you for his service these past few weeks.

This year's orientation activities included the hit show *Stomp* and the chance to spend the day at the theme park *Great Adventure*. Both trips, available at reduced prices, would not have been possible without the help of the Office of Student Services. Additionally, this past Thursday night saw the return of *Lost In NYC*, a scavenger hunt in midtown Manhattan. The event, sponsored by the Senior Classes of YCSC and SCWSC, would not have been possible without the hard work of Debbie Bielory, Chaim Haas and Rocky Schechter. They deserve a tremendous thank you for planning the event which drew an impressive 225 people.

These events are just the beginning of a magnificent year for the student body. I am pleased to be surrounded by a number of the hardest working student leaders this campus has ever seen, and especially those on the elected council. Best of luck this year to all campus councils, clubs, and publications, and in particular *The Commentator*, which, as it heads into its 61st year of publication, is indeed a landmark on this campus.

The Yeshiva College Student Council is forging ahead with plans to make student life on this campus better. We will take each up issue of student con-

cern and no matter how difficult, be sure we find a solution. A summer of hard work is not without its rewards. A new toll-free Security phone number has finally been installed. A number of other improvements are in the works to make campus life better.

A special thank you must go to the editors of *The Guide to the Perplexed*, Heshy Willig and Mor Reis, who along with J.D. Shulman and the rest of their staff, spent countless hours preparing the Guide so that it arrived the first day of school. With your prompt cooperation, the second part with the phone numbers will be here shortly.

YCSC is now beginning to work with club leaders to help them plan for the coming year. Additionally signs are going up for positions on various YCSC committees. Please consider volunteering your help in many of the projects run by the council. With your help we can truly change things for the better. Also Freshman and Sophomores please note elections for your class officers are right around the corner so please keep your eyes open for signs about running for office.

It is my intention to make YCSC 1996-1997 the best it has ever been, the most active and the most accomplished. And it is my intention to make sure you have a say, so stop by my room, Morg 224, to talk, complain, or even complement. Let me know what you are thinking!

Kesivah V'Chasimah Tova,
Jason Buskin
YCSC President
1996-97

The Office of Placement & Career Services Calendar of Events (Week of September 1-6, 1996)

THESE WORKSHOPS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL ACCOUNTING MAJORS AND ARE OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS. ALL SENIORS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT AFTER GRADUATION ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

TUESDAY, September 3, 1996 - 8:00 p.m., Room 502 Belfer Hall-Main Campus:
"How to Interview" Learn the "Ins & Outs" of interviewing, both on-campus and off-campus.

WEDNESDAY, September 4, 1996 - 8:00 p.m., Weissberg Commons in Belfer Hall-Main Campus: "Big Six Night" Meet with representatives from: Arthur Andersen; Coopers & Lybrand; Deloitte & Touche; Ernst & Young; KPMG Peat Marwick; and Price Waterhouse. Professional attire required.

THURSDAY, September 5, 1996 - Club Hour: 2:45-3:45 p.m., Room 411 Belfer Hall-Main Campus: "Mock Interviews with Tom Madera of Deloitte & Touche." Learn interviewing skills & techniques by watching an actual interview. Business-casual attire required.

FRIDAY, September 6, 1996 - Field trip to Accounting Firm, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon: Bus leaves Main Campus Bookstore at 8:45 a.m./Brookdale Dorm at 9:15 a.m. Professional attire required.

Vans for evening events leave Brookdale Dorm at 7:30 p.m.

Office of Placement & Career Services
BH 419.415/Mid 920.923
950-0845/340-7783

Yeshiva College



Campus News

University Appoints Miller as Student Liaison

BY EZRA TUCHMAN

The office of the Dean of Students has announced the hiring of Rabbi Adam Miller to act as Coordinator of Student Activities for Undergraduate Men. Unlike past holders of this office, who were responsible for overseeing university-wide programs, Rabbi Miller will be responsible only for student activities at the uptown campus.

University Dean of Students Efreim Nulman explained the decision to alter Miller's responsibilities, saying, "I want someone here focused only on the concerns and needs of our students uptown."

The hiring was the result of complaints about Student Services, which reached a high last semester. The majority of students didn't know what the services were, or were unaware as to how they could benefit from them. According to Nulman, a conscious decision was made during the summer to become more student-friendly; the reconfiguration of the office responsibilities and the

hiring of Rabbi Miller are all part of this new game plan.

Rabbi Miller is no stranger to the University, nor to the uptown campus. He is, as Nulman put it, "a product of our system".

A graduate of YC, Miller has served the uptown campus as dorm counselor and, most recently, as Mashgiach Ruchani of JSS. He is currently completing his requirements for Semicha, and has received a doctoral degree in psychology from Ferkauf.

Student leaders who have met Miller find him pleasant to work with. Student council president Jason Buskin welcomed the opportunity to work with Rabbi Miller.

"He seems to be open to new ideas. He wants to work with us, and that is extremely important."

Accounting Society President Marc Rosenbaum added that "it's nice to see new blood filling old positions, especially someone with a familiarity of the campus."

Orientation Welcomes New Students

continued from page 1

Other new students, though, while explaining that the choice of YU resulted from differing objectives, were more positive and viewed it as a compromise, not a defeat. One student explained that he would have liked to learn in Israel this year, but his parents wanted him to go to college. He sounded happy to have as much time and support for learning as he does here and still have the opportunity to please his parents by getting a college degree.

Some new students seem to have

picked up on much of the standard cynicism already, though. When asked in the lunchroom why he chose YU, one new student commented with a slight note of sarcasm, "The food is incredibly good!"

Safety in the surrounding neighborhood also ranked high as a concern of new arrivals.

Credit Cap Stifles Enrollment

Some pundits have suggested that there is a decrease in new enrollment because of last year's credit cap on courses taken outside of YU. They feared that many students who would

Bookstore Cleans Up its Act

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

Over the past decade, YC students have experienced their share of difficulties with the Collegiate Bookstore, located on the corner of 186th street and Amsterdam Ave. Looking for books at the store each semester found book prices to be exorbitant, the managers to be unfriendly, (often using expletives and puffing smoke in their faces) and the store itself to be open at inconvenient hours of the day. As a result, a good percentage of students found themselves travelling downtown to Barnes & Noble to purchase the books they needed for class. Despite these conditions, and the complaints of students, little was done to alleviate the situation. However, last year strides were made by YCSC to resolve this student life issue.

During the summer of 1995, YCSC began investigating the student complaints and looking into possible solutions to these problems. At a Student Life Committee meeting held in July, then YCSC President Josh Fine addressed the subject of the bookstore, suggesting the possibility of starting a student-run bookstore if the problems were not cleared up.

In a November meeting, Fine presented his gripes to Collegiate Bookstores Regional Manager Herb Glantz. Glantz then proceeded to meet with bookstore personnel at the beginning of the new semester.

The results were evident throughout the spring '96 semester. Ed Fisher, the manager of the store and the individual singled out by students as the most offensive, was transferred to another local store. New employees were hired and the bookstore was open at more

convenient hours to allow students to purchase the necessary textbooks. Additionally, Glantz agreed to a comparative study between YC bookstore prices and other bookstores like Barnes & Noble.

As for the first week of the fall 1996 semester, students seemed to be generally impressed with the service the bookstore has been providing.

YC Senior Aaron Leff said that although he had no previous problems with bookstore, he was glad "it didn't stink of cigars" and that instead now had "the sweet smell of new book aroma." One YC Junior excited about the bookstore's convenient hours stated the hours are better, and that now he didn't have to run out of class in order to buy the books he needed.

When it comes to prices, however, there still is some concern. YC Junior Roniel Weinberg commented that he would like to see "a comparative study of bookstore prices", so that he'll know "the prices are competitive with prices at other college bookstores."

YC sophomore J.J. Lando explained that he didn't fault the bookstore "as prices are generally high for college textbooks."

Student leaders such as Orientation Chairman Sruli Tannenbaum welcomed the 'new faces' of employees hired over the summer, and was thrilled that "they possessed the attitude of wanting to accommodate students." YCSC President Jason Buskin said that he gives "a lot of credit to last year's student council," and is "happy with the changes that have been made." But, he contends that if students want a comparative study of prices "it will be done" and that "YCSC will monitor the bookstore as the year continues."

otherwise come to YU were concerned that they would not be able to use the credits they accumulated through Advanced Placement tests, Canadian OACs, and summer school.

The Office of Admissions, while they did not have final statistical data available about the entering class, insisted that it was "quite similar" to classes of past years, both in size and composition. Michael Kranzler, Dean of Admissions, explained that the credit cap was not an issue in recruitment because students in this year's entering class are still excluded from the cap through the same "grandfather clause" which excludes current students.

Orientation activities, coordinated by student council in conjunction with the Dean of Students, included a trip to see the musical *Stomp*, a Scavenger Hunt, and a trip to Great Adventure. The *Stomp* tickets were beyond sold

out, with a waiting list of around 30 students.

The Scavenger Hunt, too, drew a huge crowd, with 225 students attending for an evening of searching midtown Manhattan for places and objects to match the more than 100 clues. Penlights were given out at the end as mementos.

Orientation Shabbos kicked off what should be a great year for the Shabbos Enhancement Program with Divrei Torah, speeches, and words of welcome from Rav Herschel Schacter, Dean Norman Adler, and others. Shabbos was followed by a Melaveh Malkah with Divrei Torah, dancing, and pizza.

Also new and notable at Orientation was the presence of the *Guide to the Perplexed* staff at check-in, gathering information and handing out the first part of the Guide before classes had even begun.



Student Council President Jason Buskin (left) presents a Guide to "perplexed" new student Jonathan Levy, of Toronto.

MYP Struggles to Handle Largest Ever Enrollment

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

The Mazer Yeshiva Program, traditionally the most popular Judaic Studies program at YU, is overcrowded, with some shiurim, such as those of Rav Twersky, Rav Bronspigel and Rav Rosensweig, bursting at the seams.

Yeshiva Program Dean R. Zevulun Charlop accounted for this imbalance by stating that while no rebbe is any more learned than any of his peers, the talmidim seem to gravitate towards some styles of shiurim more than to others. Although there have been large shiurim in the past, a boom in Yeshiva enrollment has escalated the problem.

With over 600 students enrolled in MYP this coming semester, there is understandably a strain on the present resources. Even with the new third year shiur given this year by Rabbi Baruch Simon, who has traditionally been a first year rebbe, some shiurim are still overcrowded.

The cramped shiurim pose a two-fold problem to the Yeshiva. The incommensurate quarters are potential fire hazards and will not be tolerated by facilities management. The larger shiurim have already been moved to new rooms - some to bigger rooms in the Furst Hall, others to the new classrooms in Klein Hall. A more difficult problem arising from the large shiurim is that the Rebbeim are having difficulty

keeping track of their talmidim. The rebbe ideally tries to develop a personal relationship with most, if not all, of his talmidim. With a large shiur this becomes exceedingly difficult and some of the talmidim inevitably fall between the cracks.

Cap on Popular Shiurim Imminent

To help alleviate the problem, a new cap has been placed on some of the more popular shiurim. The cap would serve to limit the number of talmidim per shiur to approximately 60. As final numbers have not yet come in, and are always in flux, the cap has yet to be enforced, and as of now everyone has been placed in his requested shiur. Both Rav Charlop and Rav Bronstein insist that when enforced it will be done in the most fair and thought-out fashion.

Another change to the MYP program is the apparent absence of the ever popular Shoel U'meshiv, Rav Meir Orlian. Rav Orlian, who recently made aliyah to Israel, was also involved in the fledgling mentoring/hadracha program. To compensate for the loss, two long time talmidim of the yeshiva, Rav Pahmer and Rav Koenigsberg, were invited to take over in addition to the already overburdened Rav Wieder and Rav Adler. Together, the four will cover the main beis medrash and the new beis medrash in Klein Hall.

Lamm Discusses 'Balkan Ghosts' at Orientation Dinner

continued from page 1

ism and Human Values, formed last winter by the University with the aim of sensitizing the Jewish community to the importance of tolerance.

"In light of the Rabin killing, Dr. Lamm wanted the people of our community to think through issues of civility, stereotyping, and the ethics of debate and dissent," explained Dr. Jeffrey S. Gurock, the Academic Assistant to the President and active commission member.

The commission is chaired by Rabbi Julius Berman, an alumnus of YU, and is divided into a research group and an educational design committee. Dr. Isadore Twerski of Harvard serves as chairman of the research group, whose main task is to organize for publication Torah source material on such issues as stereotyping and tolerance.

Members of the research group include Professors David Shatz, Shalom Carmy, and other members of YU and RIETS. In addition, the faculty members are being assisted in their research by Semicha and graduate students of YU.

The educational design committee is chaired by Dr. Alvin Schiff, Professor of Jewish Education at the Azrieli Graduate School of YU. Its main function, according to Dr. Schiff, "will be to introduce human values into the curriculum at the YU boys high school and the girls high school, and at Yeshiva College and Stern."

YC Dean Norman Adler was pleased that the *Balkan Ghosts* project went off so well, as he had been eager to establish at Yeshiva College a reading program for inci-

ate dean at the University of Pennsylvania.

Adler believes that the reading project will "give a unified intellectual and religious experience to students throughout their years in YU."

English professor Will Lee welcomed the reading project, comparing the new YU program to his own experience at Dartmouth University where he was assigned to read two books as an incoming freshman.

"Dr. Adler wants to send a signal to people that Yeshiva is about developing an intellectual life. [This program] sets a tone."

In a letter to the Yeshiva College faculty, Adler explained the choice of *Balkan Ghosts* (Vintage Books, 1993) for the reading project.

"The Kaplan book was chosen precisely because it reveals the consequences of intolerance in conflict situations. For our purpose, then, we are less interested in submitting the book to a historical analysis than in using *Balkan Ghosts* as a metaphor of conflict."

Adler told *The Commentator* that the book does not only apply to the Balkans, but raises issues crucial to Jewish life.

"How are we to deal with non-traditional forms of Judaism? How does one maintain one's identity without creating a society of monstrosity towards others?"

Both Gurock and Schiff promise upcoming programs produced by the commission. The themes found in *Balkan Ghosts* will continue to be discussed in various English and History courses in Yeshiva College during the coming semester. In addition, E. Billie Ivry, a University trustee, has established a lecture on Judaism and Democracy which will be delivered on campus in November.

Did you
GET STOMPED?
GET LOST IN NYC?
HAVE A GREAT ADVENTURE?

The Yeshiva College Student Council

would like to thank
The Office of Student Services
for all their assistance in making
Orientation 1996
"the best ever!"

Cafeteria, Dormitory Lounges Revamped and Restyled

Students arriving for orientation last week were treated to a "delightful surprise." While the temperature outside approached the high-eighties, the people inside the Morgenstern Dormitory Lounge were kept cool and comfortable thanks to recently installed air conditioning.

"Today it's an absolute life-saver," remarked Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz, director of Residence Halls, as he dealt with the chaos of the first day of new student orientation.

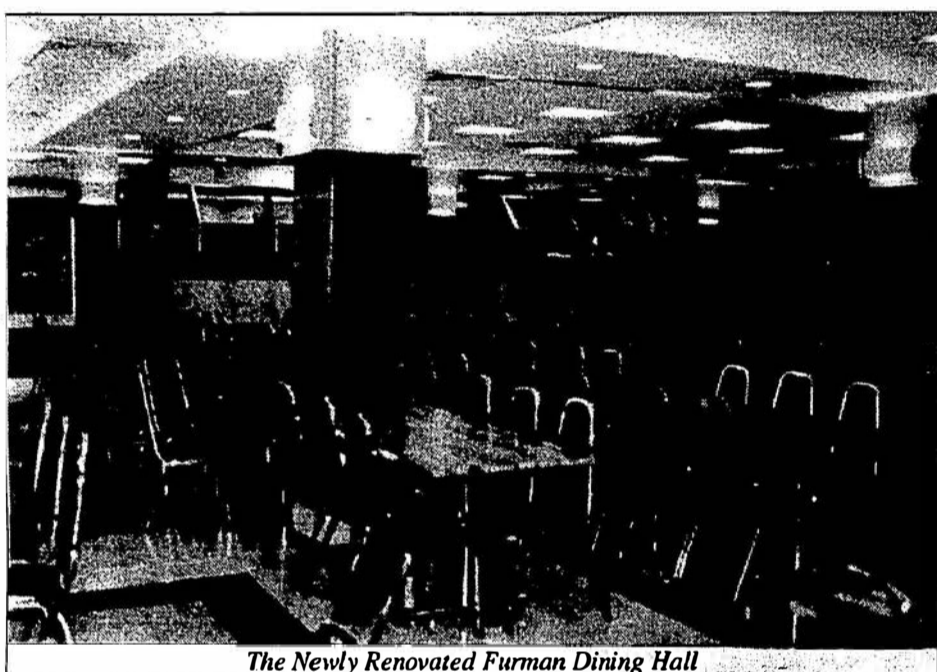
Students waiting to be processed sat pleasantly on the newly purchased couches. As if to add a final touch, fresh plants adorned the room.

These were just a few of the improvements seen and felt all around

claim: "It's a pleasure to serve you."

Within the next few weeks, the Caf will also be equipped with a working air conditioning system. There are plans to extend the unit so that it will also include Rubin Shul.

These improvements will benefit YU activities such as the Shabbos Enhancement Program. Rabbi Cheifetz explained that "the main goal of the program is *ruchniyut*, but we need a comfortable physical envi-



The Newly Renovated Furman Dining Hall

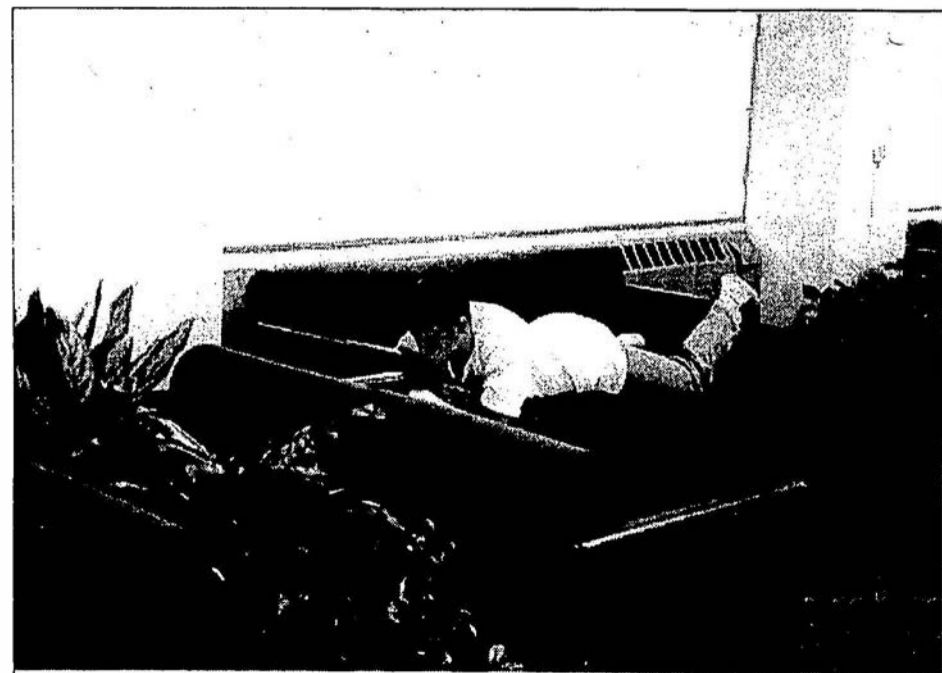
ronment." Student Council president Jason Buskin thanked the management for completing over the summer "a renovation that normally would take close to a year."

"I found the administration extremely receptive," reported Buskin, "we had excellent communication and they were open to new ideas. Every change was made with the thought to make things easier for the students on campus, because this is their home."

Dean of Students Efreim Nulman was quick to point out that these renovations demonstrate "a commitment to maintaining a nice campus with improvements, as well as a commitment to maintain those rooms as lounges."

Morg was not the only building that received new air conditioning and improvements. The Cafeteria experienced a total facelift over the summer. A new color scheme, heavily dominated by Yellow Ochre, almost jumps off the walls in the basement of Rubin, though not all reaction has been favorable.

"Annoying and nauseating," is how YC senior Nadav Schwartz described it. The food court was pushed back to the corner of the far wall and enclosed in glass, in order to eliminate the problem of a food line blocking the entrance and exit. Also, new cooks joined the kitchen staff over the summer and all food service personnel now wear name tags that pro-



Student relaxes in the new Morg Lounge

New Courses Round Out YC Curriculum

As if they didn't have enough trouble with the old courses, this semester students will have a variety of new ones to choose from. The new courses, which include sciences as well as humanities and Judaic studies, are partly a result of the Gottesman Program for Academic Excellence, which pays for top-notch professors to spend a semester or two at YU. Other courses are merely extensions of previously taught subjects in areas where the department heads felt there was room for addition.

Associate Dean Michael Hecht commented that "[Yeshiva College] is on the move...we have the resources that enable us to invest in people, equipment and in facilities...and our students are going to get the kind of education that they are entitled to."

The centerpiece of these additions is the Contemporary American Literature course, which will be taught by Dr. Joan Jacobson, professor of English at YC. The course will feature prominent novelists and entertainment writers including Pulitzer Prize winners and nominees Richard Rodriguez, Grace Paley, and Cynthia Ozick, popular mystery writers Jonathan and Faye Kellerman and Academy Award winning director and screen-writer William Friedkin. Aside from their classroom lectures, the authors-in-residence will also give public talks and be available on campus for discussion with students.

continued on page 9

Toll Free Security Number Finally a Reality

Perhaps the most significant improvement this semester will be more helpful off campus than to those already on it. Students will no longer have to stand around late at night at the subway station fishing for a quarter to call for the van. The call is now toll-free.

"Just dial 1-888-YU-SAFE-T and leave off the last 'Y' for Yeshiva," is how one student council member put it.

Student Council president Jason Buskin fought for the toll free number because he felt it was important that "no matter where students go around Washington Heights, they'll have the comfort of knowing that YU security is just a phone call away, and they don't even need a quarter."

"But," he cautions, "it is not 911." The number is connected to the main security booth of the Uptown campus and in the event of real emergencies, students should obtain real aid from the police or Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

Why did it take so long for the free security number to be implemented? Aside from the cost, there was a fear that it would be abused. Buskin said the University administration was planning to cap the num-

ber in order to limit its long distance charges.

- BY ARI KAHN



Toll-Free 1-888-YU-SAFE-T

Klein Hall: A Beis Medrash?

In a move to help alleviate the crowded conditions in the main Batei Medrash, Klein Hall was refurbished over the summer and converted into a new study hall. This is the second Beis Medrash created in the past year. Last semester, the Morg Basement Shul was filled with tables and equipped for chavrusa-style learning.

In June, renovations began on the area behind the Lamport Auditorium. Now three MYP shiurim utilize the new classrooms and Hall - those of Rabbi Yonasan Sacks, Rabbi Baruch Simon, and Rabbi Mordechai Willig.

Mashgiach Ruchani R. Yosef Blau concedes that while he hopes eventually to see a single Beis Medrash for everyone, he doesn't know if

lockers and an Aron Kodesh are necessary before the new Hall will function on par with the established Batei Medrash on campus. The Aron will probably be placed in front of the fireplace on the eastern wall. The fireplace is old and valuable, and the Yeshiva elected to maintain it despite the oddity of its presence.

As a consequence of the construction of the Beis Medrash, some new



issues have emerged. Among them is the relocation of YUSSR, which sponsors *kiruv* missions to Russia and had its office in that area. Also, the Pesach Products Committee, which once used Klein Hall as a storage room, is now pressed to find an alternative storage space.

The Muss family, already famous in YU for funding the residence hall directly above the new Beis Medrash, paid for the project.

Student feedback has been generally positive. Said one senior, "it's nice to see [the administration] finally do something" about the overcrowding problem.

Some peripheral items such as

the administration is also considering the construction of a direct connection between the new Beis Medrash and the main Beis Medrash, possibly utilizing the outdoor passageway that leads from what is currently the emergency exit on the north wall of the main Beis Medrash.

- BY DAVID SWIDLER

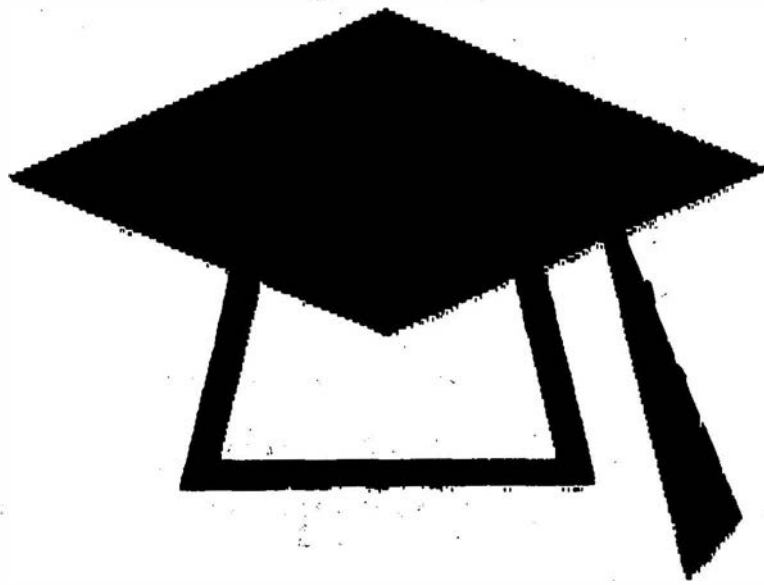


New students are recruited at Club Fair

COMMENCEMENT 1997

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 11:00 AM

**THE THEATER
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN**



**SENIORS, HAVE YOU
FILED FOR GRADUATION
WITH THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR?**

**IF NOT, PICK UP KIT FROM THE
REGISTRAR ON YOUR CAMPUS**

New Courses at YU

Continued from page 6

The Gottesman Fund will also provide financing for three distinguished professors who will be guest faculty members this year. Dr. Devra Lee Davis, who was the Senior advisor to the Department of Health and Human Services and a specialist in breast cancer research, will be teaching in YC this year. Dr. Davis will be joined by her husband Dr. Richard D. Morgenstern, who is a full time professor at Johns Hopkins and served as Director of Analysis for the Environmental Protection Agency. Dr. Morgenstern will be giving a course on Techniques in Environmental Economics.

Also joining the faculty will be Professor Herman Branover of Ben Gurion University, a world-renowned chemist who emigrated from the former Soviet Union to Israel about fifteen years ago. Branover will be co-teaching a six week mini-course with Rabbi Moshe Tendler on Science and Halacha in which, as YC Dean Norman Adler quipped, "the sum total IQ should be worth the price of admission."

The Judaic studies department will benefit by the addition of Dr. Alan Brill to its faculty. Dr. Brill, who received Semicha from YU and was a Post-doctoral Fellow at Harvard, will be teaching a course on Chasidut. He will also be adding a course in Kaballah to the YC Jewish Philosophy Department.

In the sciences, physicist David Kaplan, a Ph.D. recipient in Experimental Physics at Cornell who specializes in particle physics, has joined the Physics department and will give a course in experimental techniques.

Bernstein, Bevan to Showcase their Expertise

But not all the first time courses are being given by new teachers. Two home-grown YU professors will share with students the research they have done in recent months.

Bible scholar Dr. Moshe Bernstein will be giving a course on the Dead Sea Scrolls, a subject he has written extensively about over the last year. Dr. Ruth Bevan, hot off a summer trip to Korea, will give a course on politics in the Pacific Rim. And for those with Hollywood dreams, a course on film script writing will be added to the Speech department, taught by Dr. A. Sultanik.

In discussing the evergrowing and changing curriculum at YU, Dean Adler opined that "in terms of size YU is small, but it is the most intense intellectualism I have ever seen. There is an incredible amount of multiculturalism here. Twenty percent of our students come from outside of America, which adds to the diversity here."

As for the future of the YC curriculum, Dean Hecht explained that often new courses are an experiment.

"If they work, we recycle them so that they are offered every other year. It is amazing how many new courses have been introduced in Yeshiva College over the last decade, especially considering how many of them have become permanent fixtures at YU... As someone who has been [at YU] for many years, I can say that now is an exciting time to be here."

— BY NIR KNOLL

Weisbrot to Get Assistance

Continued from page 1

take between eight and fifteen on any given year.

But just to be sure, he will be sending a letter to the directors of admission at the law schools stating that the overall scores reflect the strength of this year's class and should be treated accordingly.

Pre-med students also hit the ground running in the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) administered in April. Of the forty-six Uptown students who took the MCAT, thirteen scored 30 or higher, out of a possible 45, with one student scoring 38. Since a score of 27 should ensure a spot at an accredited medical school, this means that over 50% of students received competitive scores on their first attempt.

Pre-med advisor Dr. David Weisbrot explained that it is unusual for the April scores to be so high because usually many students take the MCAT again in August.

"We hope these strong scores are a pattern, not just a one-time blip," he said.

In past years 85% of YU applicants have been accepted to medical school. In fact, Weisbrot reported that the YU student reputation is growing among medical schools. Two years ago Johns Hopkins Medical School admitted its first YU student (Michael Weiderkehrer) in thirty years. This year they admitted two more students and Dr. Weisbrot attributes it to Weiderkehrer's sterling performance in Hopkins.

New Pre-Med Advisor Sought

There is more good news for the pre-med students. A second full-time position as pre-med advisor is being created to accommodate applicants to medical school, who in the past have had to wait up to six weeks to see Weisbrot.

Dean of Students Efreim Nulman said that the search for an advisor began last year and is now down to one candidate. This candidate must still be approved by the administration and by a student committee.

Weisbrot plans to institute more programs with the help of this new advisor. They will stress reading and writing skills, which form an increasingly large part of the MCAT. They will also conduct mock interviews to help prepare students for the real thing, and will have YU alumni come and speak to prospective medical students.

Also in the works are plans to employ senior students who have already completed the application process to assist others in filling out the myriad of forms and personal statements.

"[The new advisor] will simply make someone available full-time in the advisor's office," said Dr. Weisbrot. "When I'm in Midtown he'll be here, when I'm here, he'll be in Midtown."

If all goes well, the position will be filled within a month.

Attention All Yeshiva College Clubs

Budget Proposals for the fall semester (only) are due Monday

Sept. 9th

NO EXCEPTIONS

Proposals must include:

Itemized breakdown of fall semester plans including costs, tentative dates for activities and the names of all club officers.

To sponsor a new club twenty signatures are required in addition to a faculty advisor to present a budget

For questions or to submit a budget please see:

Jason Buskin

Mo 224

#781-2307

OP-ED... OPINIONS... LETTERS... OP-ED... OPINIONS... LETTERS...

CNN Misfires on Terrorism

CNN's July 28th special, "Acts of Terror," presented in collaboration with *Time* magazine, should be studied in journalism schools. It is a guide to the ills of the profession, but above all to the menace of anti-Israel bias. CNN anchor Bernard Shaw introduced the ninety-minute program as a "report in depth" on both the Olympic bombing and the July 17th crash of TWA Flight 800 off Long Island. Commentary turned to the topic of Middle East terrorism and "why the United States has been targeted with increasing frequency."

Scott MacLeod, veteran correspondent for *Time*, provided the answer: Israel.

He said, "...if the crash of TWA Flight 800 did have Middle East origins it is worth taking a closer look at why somebody might perform such a deed. Middle East terrorism is rooted in the conflicts that followed colonialism. Much of this violence has surrounded the creation of Israel. When Jewish nationalists made their state, they did so at the expense of local Arabs, who lost homes, property, and no less important, their dignity. That was nearly fifty years ago and the wounds have never healed."

MacLeod continued: "Even moderate Muslims believe that America gives Israel the green light to oppress Muslims. Washington is seen as the hand that controls puppet Arab regimes who made peace with Israel."

More particularly, according to the reporter, Islamic fundamentalist factions that have targeted America have done so because of Israel. "The Lebanese Hezbollah group, which hit the U.S. hard in the 80's, is upset with Israel's American-supported attacks on southern Lebanon, which left scores of women and children dead. The Palestinian group Hamas is furious over America's detention of one of its leaders. Musa Abu Marzok faces extradition to Israel."

Neither Shaw nor co-anchor Judy Woodruff uttered a word of challenge to this nonsense. They did not distance themselves or their network from a report that scapegoated tiny, democratic Israel for the myriad forces that spawn assaults on America. No one winced at MacLeod's failure even to mention Middle East despots that despise American democracy, freedom, individualism, and tolerance. Incredibly, the program omitted any ref-

erence to Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, and Syria. The state of Israel alone was identified as the "cause" of terrorism.

Let it be clear, first of all, that MacLeod's assertions about the creation of Israel are boilerplate propaganda. The Jewish restoration of Israel nearly fifty years ago was not a process of dispossession of native Arabs, regardless of the relentless claims to this effect that are written, broadcast, and taught in the Arab world and elsewhere. Zionist development renewed a desolate and sparsely populated region, attracting 100,000 Arabs into Mandate Palestine between the World Wars. Indeed, the centers of Jewish concentration in Palestine were precisely those that drew the largest number of Arabs, while Arab towns grew, little or declined. Zionism was an economic boon to most Arabs.

That the Arab world, spurred on by leaders such as Haj Amin el Husseini, opposed the reconstitution of a Jewish nation, and rejected numerous proposals for territorial compromise, is part of the historical record. That the Arabs hurled themselves ineffectually into repeated wars against Israel in an effort to obliterate the new state is also a fact. But if the failure thus far to eradicate Israel is an affront to Arab dignity, it is not the role of CNN to falsify history, to blame Israel for the aggression perpetrated against her, or to rationalize murderous attacks on America as an expression of wounded Arab feelings.

Nor is it ethical to impute fault to Israel because Hezbollah terrorists on Israel's northern border hate all non-Islamic entities and vent their hatred against the nearest target, the Western-oriented Jewish state. It is plain malice for MacLeod to parrot Hezbollah charges against Israel and to be silent about the decades during which Israeli communities have endured unprovoked shelling from Lebanon. Jewish children have been forced to flee regularly to bomb shelters and so pervasive is the threat that special ordinances require Israeli homes in the north to be constructed with walls capable of withstanding 115 mm shells.

The stupidities and omissions of the CNN special are dangerous not only because they incite viewers against Israel. They are a peril because they distort and conceal vital information and obscure the sources of threat to America. The message that Israel is the root cause of terrorism suggests that action by that nation would dampen the rage at America. Yet, no ceding of territory or other concessions to Palestinian Arabs would appease the Iranian mullahs, the Iraqi tyrant, or the Islamic Jihad terrorists. Their grievance is ultimately with the freedoms that the West reveres and Israel embodies.

Reporting of MacLeod's sort, blaming terrorism's victims and giving credence to the rationalizations of the perpetrators, all too often renders our media no more than purveyors of a blurred reality in the face of a very real evil.

*Courtesy of CAMERA, a not-for-profit, media monitoring organization dedicated to countering biased coverage of Israel and the Middle East.
Andrea Levin is National President of CAMERA.*

France's

The mounting organizational effort at the grass roots by Jean-Marie LePen's extreme right FRONT NATIONAL (FN) party has been one of the important underreported stories of the past six months. According to a detailed analysis of data in two special reports by the conservative paper *LE FIGARO*, the FN party is estimated to have the support of 30 percent of the French working population—exceeding by a good deal that voting bloc's choice of the once powerful Communist party. In addition, the extreme right party is maintaining its traditional strength among small merchants and independent craftsmen. An additional source of growing support is the double-digit number of unemployed.

The FN is thus the most significant and influential nationalist political grouping in a major western democracy, with deeply rooted and frequently articulated anti-foreign and anti-Semitic attitudes and policies.

At the last municipal elections, the party won in three cities, with one of them Toulon, on the Mediterranean coast, its prize conquest of the mayoralty. The other two cities are smaller, but still important centers of the southern region—Marignane near Marseille and Orange, with its Roman amphitheater that has become a summer international art center. In each of these cities, the FN mayor does his best to put FN policies in action. For example, in Marignane, the City administration has cancelled alternative food to pork in the school cafeteria—a direct affront to both Moslem and Jewish children.

In Toulon, a grotesque situation has developed. The mayor there has been trying to oust the director of the National Dance Theater, Gerard Paquet. The latter decided to reject any subsidy from the FN mayor and to raise his resources elsewhere, as a demonstration of both artistic independence and political opposition. Now the mayor has filed suit against Paquet on the grounds that the director is refusing to accept municipal money!

In Orange, Mayor Jacques Bompard is trying to censor books in the city's public library. The staff of the library is instructed to watch over new acquisitions, and the mayor, himself, looks over the lists and he orders specific new purchases. Bompard finds it easy to run the library, since the director resigned in the spring and Bompard did not replace her. The Ministry of Culture in Paris is trying to prevent such local censoring efforts, but so far the evidence is success for the mayor. A review by the correspondent of the *FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG* shows among new books in July, a series of pro-Fascist and anti-Semitic titles.

On a national level, the FN also concentrates on cultural and sports institutions. The head of the Front National's Youth Organization, Samuel Marechal, who is also LePen's son-in-law, has called for "infiltrating sports and cultural associations by the most solidly indoctrinat-

THE ELIE WIESEL PRIZE IN ETHICS 1997 ESSAY CONTEST

SUGGESTED THEMES

- ◆ DISCUSS ETHICS BASED ON A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE
- ◆ WHY ARE WE HERE? HOW ARE WE TO MEET OUR ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS?
- ◆ REFLECT ON AN ETHICAL ASPECT OF A LITERARY TEXT

ELIGIBILITY: FULL-TIME JUNIOR AND SENIOR UNDERGRADUATES

DEADLINE: JANUARY 17, 1997

No more than three (3) essays from the same college, university or campus will be considered in any one contest year. Essays must be submitted by a college or university on behalf of its students.

FIRST PRIZE: \$5,000 SECOND PRIZE: \$2,500

THIRD PRIZE: \$1,500

TWO HONORABLE MENTIONS: \$500 EACH

For entry forms and further information, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope by December 20, 1996 to:

The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity
1177 Avenue of the Americas, 36th Floor
New York, NY 10036

OP-ED... OPINIONS... LETTERS...

LePen Builds To Win

ed elements" of the party's young recruits. Said Marechal: "We cannot cooperate with the (conservative) government, which is betraying our French blood and destroying our traditions."

This comment reflects the now well-established strategy of LePen to make the Chirac government the FN's chief target. It is from the voters who are traditionally conservative, and disappointed by the Chirac government's performance, that LePen hopes to reap his coming electoral harvests. Some political observers believe that his goal of 30 percent of the national vote is not unrealistic.

With these elections still two years away, the FN is organizing at the grass roots level as never before. It is setting up its own professional associations, equivalents to trade unions and other groups to lay a solid basis for developing the political rewards.

The Movement for National Education (MEN by its French initials) comes close to being a right-wing extreme teachers union, with its own publication, distributed to close to 7,000 adherents. Discipline and pride in the French language are among its guidelines.

In the process of formation is the FN's equivalent to a transport workers union (FNTC). Last month, it claimed to have 3,500 members.

FN's Tenants organization focuses on public housing occupants. By assistance of various kinds, particularly social services, this group is to work hand-in-hand with mayors controlling cities and towns to solidify the FN's hold.

The Small Business Federation (FNEM) is made up of merchants, small enterprises, the liberal professionals (lawyers, accountants, etc.), and medical professionals. This organization is trying to get its members to control Chambers of Commerce and other professional associations on city- or region-wide levels. It claims 1200 members. FNEM's director, Jean-Michel Dubois, says this group is not a trade union. He says that half its members are not FN adherents, and belong to the conservative parties. The point of the organization, according to Dubois, is to shake up existing parties and increase the FN's influence among broad sectors of the population.

The FN also has organized a police union, an association of retired persons, and one of parents of children in school.

From the pattern of organizational work and the ideological focus of the FN's program, it is evident that the party concentrates on sectors where dissatisfaction with current economic and social conditions is greatest, and where LePen and his ultra-nationalist, xenophobic message can make its greatest impact.

The Front National thus is becoming a broadly organized and deeply rooted political force. Unless the Chirac government finds ways to make real and credible inroads on critical problems – mainly the persistently high and resistant unemployment level – but also the growing tensions between immigrants in suburban ghettos and more established population groups, LePen's strength will continue to grow.

As it grows, it finds the major political parties in disarray. Opinion surveys show the overwhelming conservative tide that brought in both the legislative and executive branches in sharp decline. The Socialist Party, which was battered in the 1st election, shows no signs of revival; on the contrary, it is busy with internal arguments and factionalism.

The most vocal and consistent opposition to LePen comes from the intellectual community, the more sophisticated segments of the media, human rights groups and from important segments of the Jewish and immigrant communities. The problem is that these groups have limited political clout, and only thin or intermittent links to the main body of the voting public.

A recent editorial in the leading French daily *LE MONDE* spoke of the Front National's "attack on freedom of speech." The paper added: "It is not a matter of ringing the alarm, but it is time to get concerned about a practice which, bit by bit, can chip away at the rights of all citizens."

Against this background, the outlook for France from a Jewish and minority rights point of view is a matter of concern. This could change with evidence of success on the economic and social fronts by the Chirac administration. So far, there are few signs of it.

Courtesy of the Anti-Defamation League. Robert Goldman is the ADL's European Consultant.

YU, Bar-Ilan Form Joint MBA Program

BY HESHY WILLIG

After nearly a year of planning, Bar-Ilan University and YU have announced the creation of an MBA program for English speaking students.

The program, set to accept its first class in the fall of 1998, has been made attractive to students at YU. Through an arrangement hammered out in late July, the Bar-Ilan program will guarantee students admission if they maintain a B+ average while at YU or have earned a B average and have scored a minimum of 1200 on the SAT.

In addition, the program will afford YU students the opportunity to complete an MBA in as little as 13 months, transferring courses such as calculus, Introduction to MIS, economics, organizational behavior, and statistics for business taken at the Sy Syms School of Business. And at \$17,000 per annum, the school should be in reach of most prospective students.

While many MBA programs offered in the United States prefer students to bring "real world" work experience to their programs, the Bar-Ilan program will enable YU students to begin their graduate studies immediately after graduation. YU Vice President for Academic Affairs William Schwartz commented that while previous work experience is sometimes helpful, it isn't crucial, and that enrolling in an MBA program in Israel would compensate for the lack of work experience.

Although generally interested in the Bar-Ilan MBA, students like Accounting society president Mark Rosenbaum have questioned the quality of a program that guarantees admission to students. Sy Syms School of Business Dean Harold Neirenberg discounted the concern, citing numerous other MBA programs which have similar policies. Commenting on the potential of the program, Neirenberg said, "I have every reason to believe that it will rank with the prestigious programs in this country."

Student's Death Shocks Many

continued from page 1

breathe. Ramie was rushed by ambulance to nearby Maimonides Medical Center, where she entered the Pulmonary Intensive Care Unit in respiratory failure. A CAT scan appeared to show an internal blockage in her system and immediate surgery was performed. However, doctors found no obvious cause for her illness. "Her body was so full of infection that it just shut down. They treated it as toxic shock syndrome, even though they had no idea what it was," said Sylvia Peroff, Ramie's guardian.

At this point, the actual chain of events at the hospital becomes less clear, with contradictory and inaccurate information having been circulated to both Ramie's guardians and friends. "We never got the truth" says Mrs. Peroff. "We're still trying to piece together what actually happened." While reluctant to place the blame for the situation on any one person or group, the feelings of shock, confusion and foreboding that those close to her experienced only intensified with the erratic and vague reports. "A lot of information was kept from her friends," agreed Cheryl Borenstein of Miami, "no one knew what really terrible things had happened. They just came out and said 'it's bad; just pray'". As Ramie continued to struggle for her life, countless people across the country did just that. Numerous *tehillim* groups were instituted around the country, led by Stern and Yeshiva Colleges, as a continuous stream of school friends filled the hospital lobby, waiting for any clear indication of what was actually happening.

After numerous tests and biopsies were performed to give the doctors a clue about the exact problem. "They had no idea what was going on," said Mrs. Peroff; "Her fever kept peaking at 104, 105, then it would go down. It was not until a month after she was admitted that they decided to look at

the spleen. They took it out and saw that it was a pocket for all the blood, covered with cancer."

The disease was finally identified as advanced T-cell lymphoma, a lethal variant of Hodgkin's disease.

The staff at Maimonides felt that there was no choice but to begin chemotherapy almost immediately, even though Ramie was in a dangerously weakened state. The result, says Mrs. Peroff, was almost a foregone conclusion. After the first bout of chemo, that was it. Her body was so weak from fighting that she couldn't handle it, and [she] went into cardiac arrest.

Later that week, on the second night of Shavuot, Ramie passed away. She was buried in Long Island the day after the holiday.

Though she will be remembered by the College and her community for her inspirational *chesed* and determination, it is not her example that her friends will miss the most. In a bitter-sweet occasion, long time friend Cheryl Borenstein got married three weeks after Ramie's death. "We talked every day on the phone. She was supposed to be a bridesmaid, and we went to register together. The only time I cried in the whole wedding had nothing to do with the event, it was only when I thought of her. We talked about her at the *sheva brachot*, and it felt like she was included. It gets a little better over time, but not really."

In recognition of her personal and spiritual efforts, both Stern College and the Hebrew Academy of Greater Miami have established scholarship awards in her memory. According to a letter introducing Stern's Ramie Kertzner Memorial Award, the beneficiary will be a "Stern senior who best exemplifies the strong commitment to *chesed* and Jewish identity, and demonstrates the same resilience and strength characteristic of Ramie." Donations to the fund are being accepted by the Stern College Office of Student Services, and by the Hebrew Academy of Greater Miami.

KOSHER-D



2551 AMSTERDAM AVE. (BTWN 186-187 ST.)
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10033
(212) 568-4855

Yeshiva University

Office of the Dean of Students

Dear Students,

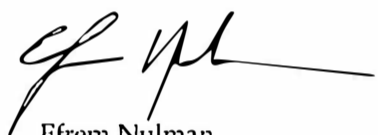
On behalf of the Office of the Dean of Students, we would like to welcome our returning and new students for the Fall 1996.

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

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

As the semester begins, we wish you continued success.

Hatzlachah Rabbah,



Efrem Nulman
University Dean of Students
FH 428 • (212) 960-5330



David Humber
Associate Dean of Students
FH 427 • (212) 960-5480



Rabbi Adam Miller
Coordinator of Student Services
FH 431 • (212) 960-5480

Rabbi Elchanan Adler
(General Guidance)
M 110

Rabbi Yosef Blau
(General Guidance)
FH 419

Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz
(Dormitory Concerns/
Personal Guidance)
MO 104

Rabbi Yehudah Fine
(Academic Skills/
Personal Guidance)
FH 419

Mrs. Laura Harry, RN
(Medical Services)
RH 110

Dr. Michael Hecht
Associate Dean, YC
(Pre-law / Academic Advisement)
FH 104

Dr. Avery Horowitz
Assistant Dean, YC
(Academic Guidance)
FH 103

Prof. Ira Jaskoll
Assistant Dean, SSSB
(Career Services Director)
BH 421

Ms. Naomi Kapp
(Career Services)
BH 421

Rabbi Eliakim Koenigsberg
(General Guidance)
M 110

Rabbi David Pahmer
(General Guidance)
M 110

Ms. Marjorie Rubins
(Career Placement)
BH 419

Dr. Eli Sar, M.D.
(Medical Services)
RH 110

Rabbi Dr. M. Mitchell Serels
(Sephardic Student
Advisement / International
Student Advisement)
FH 419

Rabbi Kenneth Wieder
(General Guidance)
M 110

Dr. David Weisbrot
(Pre-Health Advisement)
FH 419

Ms. Adrienne Wolff
(Career Placement)
BH 419

Academic Advisement Center

FH 109

Professor Gabriel Cwilich
Professor Manfred Fulda
Professor Yaakov Karpishpan
Professor William Lee
Professor Richard Nochinson
Professor Thomas Otway
Professor Leo Taubes