



FBI Agents round up suspected drug dealers

## Police, FBI Bust 20 Local Drug Dealers

BY DANIEL RUBIN

On Thursday, October 10, YU students and faculty were treated to some live, high-stakes drama as scores of FBI agents and special task-force police officers descended upon the campus and cracked no less than three drug rings while arresting twenty suspects. But while the drug gangs and the bust had no physical impact on anyone from YU, a subsequent article in the *New York Daily News* declared that Yeshiva students were "frightened" and that the gangs had been "long terrorizing its (YU's) students."

A press release from the office of the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York announced that twenty members of three major retail drug distribution organizations operating "near Yeshiva University" have been charged in three

separate indictments with conspiracy to distribute either cocaine, crack or heroin in the vicinity of 186<sup>th</sup> Street and Audobon Avenue, from as early as the late-1980's to the present. The alleged heads of the three organizations—Ruben Perez Rodriguez, a.k.a. "Pito," Santiago Diaz, a.k.a. "Chago," and Hector Encarnacion, a.k.a. "Capitan"—have all been indicted, as have a number of their workers.

Over the course of the investigation, 150 grams of crack, more than three kilograms of cocaine, and two handguns were purchased or seized by confidential informants and agents. If convicted, each defendant faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. FBI Media Relations Director (New York office) Joseph Valiquette added that none of the arrests were related to illegal immigration.

*continued on page 7*

## Students Check Out Campus Activities at Club Fair

BY BOAZ KURTIS

Marking the beginning of a concerted effort by the Student Council to revamp campus life, YCSC held a formal club fair as a forum for students to explore the opportunities for involvement in extracurricular activities. The fair, held on October 15 in Belfer Hall's Weissberg Commons, was the first of its kind in school history, with all registered clubs and societies participating.

In previous years, campus clubs presented themselves to

students during freshman orientation, immediately preceding fall semester. The system was fraught with disarray, as student council leaders couldn't identify club leaders due to the disorganization within the clubs at the start of the year, and many clubs, it was found, existed on paper alone.

Through its decision to introduce students to school clubs in a more structured manner, YCSC hoped to allow club leaders to get their act together in order to showcase their soci-

*continued on page 17*

## YU Ranked 45th in National University Survey

### Spectacular Leap Surprises Many

BY ARI KAHN

YU students can walk a little straighter and hold their heads up higher. They are now attending one of the top fifty schools in the nation, according to this year's rankings by *U.S. News and World Report*.

In their annual guide to America's Best Colleges, the research staff at *U.S. News* placed Yeshiva University forty-fifth overall among the undergraduate programs of national universities. This means that YU is now considered a "first tier university," completing what some have dubbed "an unprecedented leap" through the rankings in a span of just two years. In 1994, YU was a third tier school, with a ranking no

higher than 116.

In past years the significance of the ranking was downplayed



by members of the administration, but this year, the rankings were greeted with surprised elation

on campus.

"Clearly this is the first year *U.S. News* has a valid tier system," joked Michael Kranzler, Director of Admissions, whose office is sure to feel the impact of these results.

"Everyone, at least everyone on the faculty, knows we are better than the world realizes we are," explained Dr. Will Lee, Professor of English and Head of the Academic Standards Committee.

Now it seems YU is getting at least some of the recognition it deserves. However, some administrators are still cautious about the good news. Dean Norman Adler warned, "Do I think it's a valid statistical analysis of a school's quality of education?"

*continued on page 16*

## Torah Commissioned In Memory of R' Lifshitz ZT"L

BY NICK MUZIN

In a project designed to honor one of the great gedolim in YU history, the Student Organization of Yeshiva (SOY) has commissioned the writing of a Sefer Torah to be donated to the Beis Medrash in memory of Harav Dovid Lifshitz ZT"L, a giant in Torah who taught at YU for over 50 years. SOY hopes to raise the funds for the Sefer Torah, which costs approximately \$30,000, from alumni and current students of RIETS. They will also make their own donation from Seforim Sale profits.

The idea of donating a Sefer Torah is credited to Rabbi Yitzchok Cohen, a rebbe at MTA, who pointed out the need for more Sifrei Torah in the Beis Medrash. SOY President Jonathan Neiss then suggested that this would be an appropriate way to honor Reb Dovid, who passed away during the summer in 1993 and thus was not memorialized in the same way as Rav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik ZT"L, whose passing occurred during the school-year.

"It is particularly befitting that the Beis Medrash benefit from this project, as it was in that minyan that Reb Dovid davened for over 50 years," Neiss said.

Reb Dovid had a tremendous impact not only on his talmidim, but on hundreds of other students who sought his advice, or were inspired by his presence on campus. He is remembered for his famous "Tzavei" dance, which was the highlight of Purim and Chanukah chagigas.

"Great Talmidei Chachamim are looked upon as Sifrei To-

rah," explained Rav Zevulun Charlop, Dean of RIETS. "By donating this in his memory, we are showing that we sensed Reb Dovid was a living Sefer Torah."

Reb Dovid was born in Minsk, Russia in 1906. After learning with Rav Shimon Shkop and receiving Semikhah in the Mirrer Yeshiva, he became the chief rabbi of Suwalk, Poland at the age of 29. In 1939, Reb Dovid escaped the Germans and, together with his wife and two daughters, immigrated to

*continued on page 15*



HaRav Dovid Lifshitz ZT"L talks with President Lamm.

## Make it a Habit

Over the course of the next two weeks, hundreds of editorials will be offered endorsing numerous candidates currently campaigning for political office. Though journalistic expedience would suggest that the Commentator endorse its own candidates, we feel that it is more important to emphasize a more fundamental issue—the vote itself.

For many students, this election represents the first time that they can participate in the political process. As a consequence of this inexperience, many may decide to shy away from the polling booths. However, apathy that results from unfamiliarity is inexcusable. Voting is an activity that should be embraced, not ignored simply because the process itself is foreign.

In fact, no reason can be given to justify not voting. The issues that separate the two candidates are clear. For the first time in many years the results of the election will drastically impact policy both at home and abroad. Issues such as welfare and tax reform, education, and the course of the peace process in the Middle East, will all be affected by the candidate who is elected to occupy the Oval Office.

With such important issues at hand, it is essential that you cast your vote.

In recognition of the importance of this election, the University administration has decided to cancel classes to allow students to vote. We implore students to take advantage of this opportunity and show up at their designated voting locations on November 5. Though it would be much easier to make use of the time off to catch up on some neglected schoolwork, push it off one more day and do something that will really impact your future. Get out and vote.

## The Company We Keep

Though no YU students were involved on the area drug bust two weeks ago, the event was significant nonetheless, revealing once again to those who had any doubts, exactly what type of neighborhood we live in. In the words of one FBI agent, Washington Heights is the most drug-infested neighborhood in the Western Hemisphere.

Not that the administration doesn't know this. In response, they have mounted a massive, multi-million dollar effort to guard entrance to each building and to promote a strong police presence on campus. Nonetheless, there is a sense of vulnerability, where students are left to wonder when they might see something they shouldn't have, or walk across the wrong territorial line drawn out by the neighborhood drug rings.

Take a look at the Schottenstein building. Long underused by students because it is a block and a half away from the rest of the campus, Schottenstein was intended to be a center of activity where clubs could meet and students could go to relax. Yet, no student in their right mind would use Schottenstein, when they have to walk through mobs of locals who stand on street corners at all hours of the day and night. What is so exciting about standing on a street corner? After last week's bust, there is no doubt why these people love the great outdoors.

In response to concerns raised by numerous students, the Office of the Dean of Students called a meeting last week between security officials and student leaders. The meeting, which was delayed a half hour because members of the administration didn't show up, quickly degenerated into a comic session, with one security official making light of students' concerns.

It is time for the University to "take back its streets" and give students a safe campus.

# The Commentator

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## P I C T O R I A L



"C'mon! People KILL for these...front up close, only two feet from the..."

# LETTERS

To the Editor

## THE CAF: STYLE AND SUBSTANCE

### To the Editor:

For a number of years now I have sensed that the Commentator likes to complain, yet I find that this year outpaces previous editions by far. While this thought dismays me, my analysis of the evidence indicates to me that the board of the Commentator is not interested in editorial continuity or the search for ever elusive truth. On the contrary, I am forced to conclude that it seeks to engage in perpetual grumbling, to always find fault, regardless whether or not any exists.

Case in point: two articles in your last issue (September 4, 1996) which heavily criticized the recent renovation of the cafeteria. The first, an editorial entitled "A Time and Place for Everything," began with a "heartily" thank you to the administration for nearly everything under the sun, from the installation of new elevators in Belfer Hall, to the renovation of the cafeteria.

The editorial, however, soon adopted a more negative, skeptical, tone, asking why such refurbishment, for which it had just heartily thanked the administration, was necessary. "Unfortunately," the muddled argument of the editorial continued, "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" (emphasis added). I wish to address the final charge before I return to the first two. One wonders what surroundings the editors would prefer to dine in. I am certain I speak for the majority of people when I say that the aesthetic quality of my surroundings has a definite effect on my appetite. This complaint seems all the more inane as it was composed by an editorial board which charged me with the task of investigating and writing about the Furman Dining Hall only last spring. (May 7, 1996) Accusing the Department of Food Services of not providing an appetizing environment, I contrasted the pre-renovation Furman to the Kalman Dining Hall at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, which, I wrote, "has very modern decor,... emitting a feeling of cleanliness... The atmosphere created was one of serenity in otherwise hectic surroundings."

Admittedly, I approached the subject of my article with a negative bias. My research, reported in last spring's article, caused me to reevaluate my position. I found that the Y.U. Food Services prices were

comparable to those at other universities, the cost of its meal plan cheaper than most by something to the tune of 33%-50%, and its food quality equal.

To return to the first point raised by the editorial, that the remodeling does not make the lineups any shorter, I found it remarkable that an article just four pages later ("Cafeteria, Dormitory Lounges Revamped and Restyled") stated the exact opposite. "The food court," it stated, "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." And, in fact, the repositioning does shorten the lineups, by circulating the traffic in the cafeteria and utilizing previously underused space.

The next sentence in the same article proved the editorial's implied charge that nothing was done to improve the food quality also inaccurate, reporting that "new cooks joined the kitchen staff over the summer." While it is true that new cooks do not guarantee a higher grade product, it is obvious that effort has been expended in an attempt to improve the product.

The article itself, despite contradicting the editorial, contained some silly cafeteria critique of its own. Wishing to make an issue of the bright new paint scheme, the article quoted a Y.C. senior as describing it as "annoying and nauseating." Despite the Commentator's treatment of the Y.C. senior's dramatic utterance as that of an art critic's, I found that most students, although at first shocked by the change from the previous dull industrial colors, soon grew accustomed to, and (gasp!) found attractive, the new paint.

It was the last line of the editorial, however, which I found more disturbing than all that had come before. In it, the editors suggest in a sarcastically apologetic manner that the money used for the remodeling of the cafeteria "could have been better spent... initiating an honors college... or even establishing a new scholarship so that one more student could afford to attend Yeshiva."

While these are both worthwhile causes, I find it incredulous that the Commentator would suggest that the University do anything but attempt to maximize the number of people who would benefit from its limited resources. While an honors college would benefit an elite, and a new scholarship a handful of lucky students, a modernized cafeteria raises the quality of life for everyone at

Yeshiva.

It is dismaying that the Commentator would choose to report as it did rather than recognize the University's efforts. The remodeling of the dining hall, the addition of air conditioning, the attention to detail, such as the installation of modern halogen backlighting, and the renovation and retiling of the ground floor restrooms all point to extraordinary effort on the part of the administration in general, and Facilities Management and Food Services in particular, to provide the students and staff of the University with comfortable surroundings.

It is time for the Commentator to stop spewing inaccurate and irresponsible rhetoric, and ascend to its proper position as a representative of the fourth estate. For if it abdicates this role, another publication will surely replace it, reporting on meaningful issues and provoking thoughtful debate in a timely fashion.

Shimon Oppenheim,  
YC '97

— Editor's Note: Shimon Oppenheim is currently the treasurer of the Yeshiva College Student Council. Last year as a features writer for *The Commentator* he authored a highly critical investigative report on food services entitled "Stomach Aches." The article begins, "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... What keeps this much maligned department going?" Later in the article Oppenheim writes, "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 barbecue, students witnessed waitresses picking forks up off the floor where they had dropped them, and setting them back on the tables for use by unsuspecting students." It is interesting to note, that in his two page expose, Oppenheim fails to mention the decor of the cafeteria as an area which could use improvement. We must wonder, therefore, why he feels it was important for the administration to pour massive resources into this area.

### To the Editor:

I wholeheartedly agree with the Commentator's editorial *A Time and Place For Everything*. The remodeling of the cafeteria does nothing to improve the quality of food offered by food services, which is long overdue. The numerous turnstiles placed near the food lines are merely an obstacle pushed out of the way by many students. Perhaps the money spent on remodeling the cafeteria could have been used to purchase ingredients for lunch other than pasta and cheese. Maybe we could have yogurt cups with normal flavors such as blueberry, strawberry, or raspberry, rather than the orange, lemon, or chocolate flavors I never saw until I came to YU. Maybe food services could install a second pop dispenser in the new "food court" instead of making students walk all the way out of the cafeteria and then down the hall just to get a coke.

But hey, at least the caf looks beautiful.

Yudy Sheinfeld  
SSSB '98

### To the Editor:

Kudos to the Commentator for being right on target in their September 4 editorial *A Time and Place for Everything*. It is about time that something is done about the menu offered to students, rather than the surroundings in which they eat. The food is as indigestible today as it was before the renovations, maybe more. Granted the cafeteria is better lit, but who wants to see the oil glistening at the top of my bowl as it separates from my soup. The feeble attempts at altering the menu are embarrassing. Noodles and cheese are noodles and cheese are noodles and cheese. Taste buds don't see, they taste. If nothing is going to be done, be it as it may, but don't force students on the meal plan, you can be sure they aren't getting their balanced diet.

Danny Nagler,  
YC '97

Additional Letters To  
The Editor can be found  
on Page 22

Comments?  
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# Yeshiva College



# Campus News

## Sy Syms "Big Six" Recruiting Function a Resounding Success

BY ADAM MOSES

A tangible aura of ambition pervaded Weissberg Commons on the Wednesday night preceding Succot break. Drove of prospective accountants enrolled in Sy Syms School of Business, adorned in dapper business attire, strolled around booths representing some of the largest and most prestigious accounting firms in the region. The event, billed as "Big Six Night," is one of the cornerstones in a series of preparatory exercises orchestrated by the Office of Placement and Career Services to facilitate employment for graduates of Yeshiva University undergraduate schools.

The specific objective of the evening was to provide students with the opportunity to establish and foster ties with representatives from major accounting firms with which they may be interviewing at a subsequent point and gain some degree of familiarity with their hiring practices and employment expectations. At the commencement of the event, the 100 or so Sy Syms students appeared to be somewhat intimidated by the presence of the brass, but this anxiety visibly dissipated as the evening progressed and students became more comfortable with the format.

Although there was some dissension over which was the best firm by which to be employed, all present agreed that the evening was a success. Assistant Dean of SSSB, Ira Jaskoll, remarked that the evening was "a major event with a format that works well."

There was a very good showing with great interest in our students from the firms."

Jaskoll, however, added that the event was only one "in a series of successful programs that work well in preparation for interviews."

Students appeared to generally echo Jaskoll's sentiment.

Marc Rosenbaum, President of the Sy

Syms Accounting Society, agreed with the favorable assessment and added that "the primary goal of the evening was to meet representatives and get a feel for the firms. Making successful initial connections directly benefits you in the future interviewing process."

Brian Ness, Treasurer of the SSSB Student Association, expressed his gratitude to the "Placement Office for its critical role in arranging opportunities for us to meet with important representatives from the 'Big Six' firms, many of whom are alumni of Sy Syms."

These responses, although impressively favorable, were anticipated and exclusively represented one side of the equation. A more integral measurement of the success of the evening was the response of the firms represented. The response, by any objective standard, was remarkable. Of approximately ten *Commentator* interviews conducted with firm representatives, all were pleased by SSSB and its students.

Darlene Shea, Senior Personnel Director for Price Waterhouse, is responsible in large part for final hiring decisions for her firm. She reflected on the caliber of Sy Syms graduates employed by Price Waterhouse: "We find that Sy Syms graduates tend to be very persistent, tenacious, incredibly academically-gifted, directed, motivated... realistic and pro-active... They are absolutely adequately prepared.... I don't mean to suggest that we don't get good people from other schools, but over the past few years, some of our best people have come to us from Sy Syms. That's why we keep coming back [for continued recruiting efforts]."

This incredible corporate validation appeared to substantiate unequivocally the success of the evening and the Sy Syms program as a whole. Jaskoll anticipated this response and he remarked, "they [the accounting firms] want the best, and we have them."

## Registration '96 the Smoothest Ever

BY YOSSE LEWIS

Happy faces during fall registration there weren't. But there was an attitude far different than the grimacing contortions seen on the faces of students of years past. The difference is largely due to enhancements to the faculty advisement center by Assistant Dean Avery Horowitz.

In a report sent to the Yeshiva College faculty, Horowitz attributed much of the success to a group advisement session held on Sunday, August 25 during which Yeshiva College deans addressed new students on the basic nuts and bolts of registration. The session served to introduce the students to the system and help them decipher the various codes, numbers, abbreviations in the registration booklet.

The session was followed by an opportunity for the students to meet individual faculty members, many of whom

were faculty advisers. Associate Dean of Yeshiva College Michael Hecht feels that this was the key to alleviating registration bottlenecks.

"Before we had faculty advisers, each student would have to spend half an hour with the dean, explaining his problems," said Hecht. "Now, the advisers cut through everything and at times when a Dean's decision is needed, it takes less than a minute."

In addition to streamlining the advisement process, the YC administration instituted new policies such as making it a point never to close any student out of a course, something Hecht said doesn't occur at other schools.

Horowitz's report also suggests future improvements such as providing more academic information in the orientation package so that the students know where to go and which activities will best help them, and better coordination with the Israel office.

## Guide to the Perplexed Completed in Record Time

BY RON FINBERG

Upon returning from Succot vacation, students at YU and SCW found the finished 1996-97 "Guide to the Perplexed" awaiting them. This was a pleasant surprise to many students, who in past years have seen a slow release of the finished Guide, which, in turn, often caused 411 billing expenses to exceed long distance charges.

The Guide editors were Heshy Willig and Mor Reis. According to Willig, the driving force behind the Guide's timely release was the "[responsibility the entire staff] felt in making the university a better place."

The responsibility began towards the end of last semester. The research staff polled students as to what they think should be in the guide and what could be improved. Along with these questions, researchers compiled other useful information, especially updated telephone numbers and addresses, outdated from last year's Guide.

With much of the "mesorah" of the Guide thus accounted for, the staff was able to use the summer time efficiently to devise new items for the Guide. These include sections called, "Israel addresses," a ten

page collection of telephone numbers and locations of virtually all Yeshivas, Seminaries, and universities, "Getting Around," a must for all out-of-towners, and a feature abandoned years ago and now reborn, the "Table of Contents."

Near the start of the semester, all that remained to be completed was the directory of students. To simplify the process of collecting student information, during Orientation an exchange was made. Students were given the Guide in return for having filled out a student information form. This form included all pertinent information that would be listed in the directory, excluding unavailable dormitory phone numbers.

About two weeks later, a form containing all previously collected information was given to each student, asking for their phone numbers and any corrections. When these were collected, the directory was submitted to the publishers. After Succot, all that remained to complete the Guide was the placement of the student directory in the section neatly labeled "Student Directory."

The guide's authors thanked *The Commentator* editors for allowing use of their facilities.



Students in the Morg Lounge watch avidly as the New York Yankees take the American League Pennant.

# High Hopes for New Observatory

BY MATITHYOHU BALAS

In the not too distant future, possibly as early as February 1997, YU will be the home of a new state-of-the-art observatory. The observatory will house several telescopes available for use by the YU student body. In addition, an introductory course in astronomy taught by one of the Physics professors on campus - Dr. Cwilich, Dr. Otway, or Dr. Kaplan - will be available to YU students.

Last year, YC Physics professor Dr. Otway suggested that YU compliment its Physics department by offering courses in astronomy. As a result, plans for constructing an observatory on the YU campus were drawn by the YC Physics professors, Dr. Cwilich and Dr. Otway, with the help of Dean Adler, Dr. Brandwein, the Director of Laboratories and Science, and YC Biology professor, Dr. Feit. They decided upon a weather-protected, domed refractor telescope on the roof of Belfer Hall, the highest point in Manhattan, and a fully computerized and automated observatory in room 1610.

The observatory will also consist of mobile auxiliary telescopes which students will utilize for elementary observations, like viewing the moon through a window. The domed refractor telescope will be operated from the roof of Belfer and used for viewing planets. A charge coupling device will digitize and transmit images from a camera on the telescope to new computer screens with high graphic capabilities in the observatory allowing students to measure distances of celestial bodies. After the images are transferred to the computers, students will be able to print and download them.

In the future, YU may put the recorded astronomical images on the Internet, giving others access to the observations seen in the classroom.

The cost of constructing the observatory is \$25,000, which the Physics department received in the will of a major benefactor, Mr. Abbosh. "In his will," Dr. Cwilich said, "Mr. Abbosh specified that the money should be used to purchase a telescope."

Since the donation exceeded the cost of one telescope, the directors of the project ordered several of the high-tech

telescopes from the Meade Company in Northern California. YU has already received the auxiliary telescopes, and the domed refractor telescope will be affixed and wired by February 1997.

The observatory will be used mainly for an introductory Astronomy course, consisting of a lecture and a laboratory session, that may fulfill the Science requirement at YC. The course will be taught by one of Yeshiva College's Physics professors - Dr. Cwilich, who is proficient in theoretical astrophysics, Dr. Otway, who is accomplished in the field of celestial mechanics, or Dr. Kaplan, who is an expert in research and experimental astronomy and its applications. Based on student interest, more advanced courses in astronomy may be offered and credited towards the Physics or Mathematics departments.

The YU professors are planning to extend the use of the observatory to outsiders by forming ties with other astronomy institutions. Over the summer, Dean Adler, Dr. Cwilich, and Dr. Otway met with a representative from the planetarium of the Museum of Natural History to discuss a potential relationship with the museum. The museum does not currently have enough room to facilitate a high-tech observatory and is undergoing renovations. Its directors are interested in having access to celestial recordings from outside sources until their renovations are completed. Dr. Cwilich is excited about the opportunity to deal with the museum as he hopes it will boost the reputation of YU. Also, the museum may send astronomy experts to lecture on the YU campus, thereby advancing the educational atmosphere of the university.

The anticipated opening of the new observatory has also excited the members of the Astronomy Club. According to Mikhail Serebrennik, the Astronomy Club President, "Last year was a 'preamble' to the club. Students seemed very interested in astronomy, and some even built their own telescopes." This year, with the arrival of the new equipment, the club should grow tremendously.

# BMP Revisited

## Seeing Success in the Beis Medrash

ALAN A. EPSTEIN

The Stone Beit Medrash Program, only in its second year of existence, has experienced a meteoric rise in enrollment. The program, known popularly as BMP, has grown this year to 120 students from last year's class of 27. The program was initiated last year in order to allow talmidim who experience time constraints in their schedules to maintain a Yeshiva level of learning, while finishing each day at 1:00 PM. Students in the traditional Mazer Yeshiva Program aren't dismissed until 3:00.

Rabbi Tzvi Sobolofsky, who lectures in BMP, attributes the program's popularity to its "diversification" aspect. He believes that some serious talmidim, including those who had spent time learning in Israel, choose it over the Mazer Yeshiva Program because it offers Hashkafa (Jewish philosophy and ethics) and Halacha shiurim, while the Mazer Program focuses only on Gemarah. Rav Sobolofsky also noted that another factor which seems to attract students is the "element of Beis Medrash and Seder" which are not a part of the programs offered in JSS or IBC, the two other Judaic Studies departments.

Credit for both the idea and the success of BMP rests squarely on the shoulders of Rav Meir Goldwicht, who initiated and built the program, against opposition from those satisfied with the status quo. The popular Rosh Yeshiva from Israel, whose infectious enthusiasm and lively teaching style fill his classes, teaches over 120 talmidim each day, with shiurim in three Judaic Studies Programs - MYP, IBC, and now BMP. Because of his experience, Rav Goldwicht is able to see the big picture and often counsels talmidim on which program is best suited for them, occasionally pushing students from BMP to MYP if he feels they can handle it.

Originally, Rav Sobolofsky and Rav Hirsch assisted Rav Goldwicht, serving in the capacity of Shoalim U' Meishivim, teaching mentors, guiding students and answering their questions. At that time, they were both were giving a Halacha shiur once a week. But as BMP expanded, the initial mentors were promoted to full-time faculty positions. As a result of the rapid growth, three separate shiurim now exist.

While BMP doesn't lead to a degree

after a student completes his course of study, he may transfer one or two credits as an elective to Yeshiva College or Sy Syms School of Business. In order to be admitted to the program, students are interviewed by the Dean of the program, Rabbi Michael D. Shnidman and must pass an oral entrance exam designed to determine their comprehension of specific Talmudic passages and commentaries. BMP students attend halacha or hashkafa shiurim, after which they attend seder, held in the "BMP Beis Medrash," located in the Morgestern basement shul. Rav Sobolofsky points out that this particular study hall used to serve both MYP and BMP's needs, but the MYP shiurim that used to occupy it have now moved to the recently-opened Klein Hall.

Labe Feldman, President of the BMP Student Council characterizes his shiur (Rav Hirsch's) as "top-rate." He enjoys the fact that approximately once every two weeks, Rav Goldwicht or another top MYP rebbe lectures to BMP students. After learning in Israel for one year, Feldman enrolled in IBC, but switched last semester to BMP because he was looking for "more of the yeshivish atmosphere."

He is very enthusiastic about his decision. "BMP incorporates the best aspects of [MYP and other programs]," Feldman said.

Another bonus is that the schedule allows students to finish their Jewish studies "at early enough time to take English courses at 1:30."

At the same time, the President of BMP is critical of the fact that his student council, which was formed at the beginning of the last semester, has not received any funding whatsoever, neither in 1995 nor this year. BMP was "under the IBC umbrella" originally, explains Feldman.

"These students pay their dues as anybody else does," he complained, "and it's unfortunate that we are not getting what we pay for." While describing the situation as "a big problem", Feldman assures that getting money is his council's "first priority".

Overall, Feldman appears to be optimistic about the BMP's future. Plans include putting out a Dvar Torah book for Chanukka, Purim, and Pesach. A BMP Shabbaton, which would feature the program's rabbeim, is also being considered for the near future.

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or  
stop by Belfer Hall Room 317**



Rav Meir Goldwicht, main proponent and founder of the SBMP program, lectures to his students

# The Washington Heights Campus: Is it Time for a Move?

BY YONI BAK AND NIR KNOLL

In the advertisement which was published in Jewish newspapers last week, YU celebrated its high ranking in the *US News & World Report* by stating: "Sometimes you can tell the quality of an institution by the company it keeps."

Yet if you look around on campus, the company we keep is not bright minds from Harvard and Princeton; rather, it is the company of drug dealers, prostitutes, and illegal immigrants. These observations were particularly clear last week when the FBI chose our campus as the "collecting site" for its roundup of criminals. In light of this event, many students have begun to wonder anew why we are on this campus, and whether or not it is time for YU to pack its bags in search of a kinder, gentler campus.

In a short essay entitled "The New Yeshiva Buildings," the chairman of YU's building committee in 1929, Harry Fischel, explained that YU was moving from the lower East Side to Washington Heights "because of the greater space required, and the need of surroundings more befitting the character of the proposed great institution."

In 1929 Yeshiva University moved its main campus to this area of Washington Heights, thus beginning the process of building this campus, in which over 1000 students now study. The presence of YU invigorated the neighborhood, creating an influx of Jewish settlement. In 1941, with the presence of Rav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik ZT"L, the Washington Heights campus became a center of Jewish learning and secular study.

Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz, residence director at YU, recalled the 1950's and 60's as a time that witnessed an active and large Jewish community throughout Washington Heights.

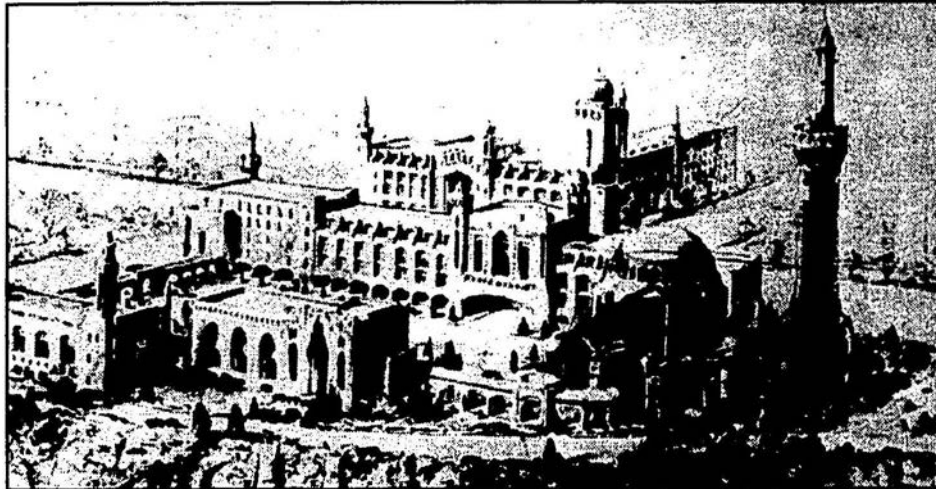
The community at that time lived without fears of being mugged or assaulted. With most of the rabbeim living on the campus, a Yeshiva environment was created, with rabbeim able to invite talmidim to their houses for shabbos and always available to develop a keshar with their students. Rabbi Cheifetz reminisced about a time when he, his family and students would take a leisurely

stroll to High Bridge Park, behind what is now Belfer Hall, to study or just relax on the grass. "Every Rosh Hashana the Washington Bridge was flooded with Jews from Washington Heights and the West Bronx meeting for tashlich services."

However, in the 1970's and 80's the community began to deteriorate. As crime began to rise, the Jews of Washington Heights joined the "Great White Flight," as they moved their families to suburbs such as New Rochelle, Englewood, and Teaneck. YU was left as the only remnant of the old Jewish Community. Yeshiva students were the only Jews walking the neighborhood along Amsterdam Avenue between 181st and 187th Street.

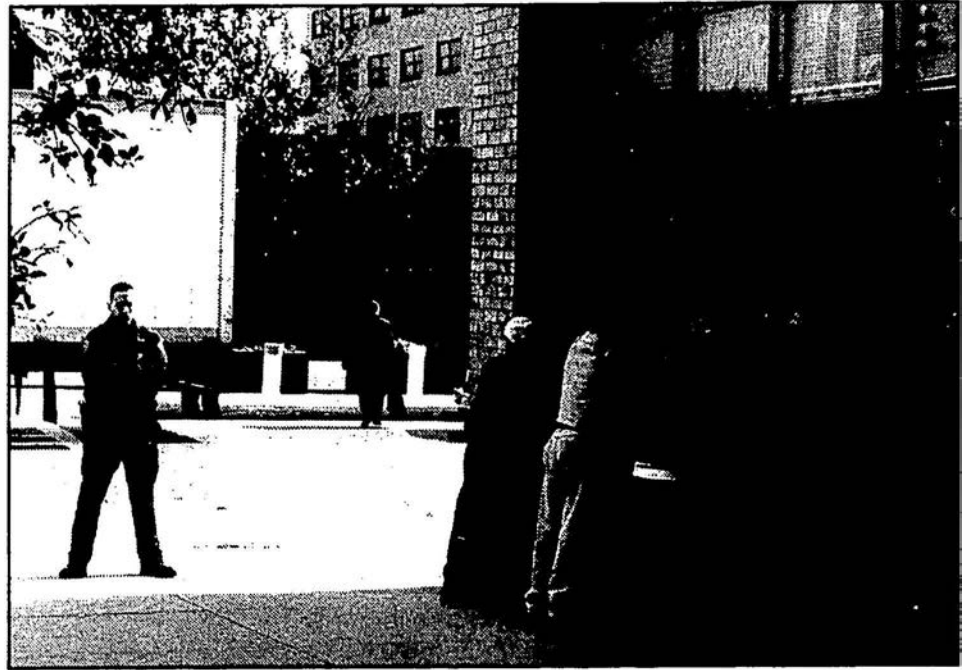
What's more, for the first time ever security had become a serious concern on the main campus. No longer could one take a leisurely stroll to the "A" train without fears of being mugged or assaulted. A system of security vans was instituted to allow students safe passage to the subway stations in the area in an attempt to assuage these fears.

Rabbi Cheifetz noted that one of the advantages of keeping the campus in Manhattan is that students are just a



Artist's conception of the Washington Heights campus, circa 1929

subway ride away from the center of the richest culture and history in the world. Rabbi Cheifetz also stated that it is unfortunate that YU students do not take advantage of the cultural opportunities in Washington Heights, such as the Cloisters Museum, Fort Tryon Park, and the Yeshiva University Museum. In addition, Rabbi Cheifetz mentioned the various cho-



Suspects held by NYPD outside Furst Hall

rus performances in the Belz School of Music throughout the year.

Associate Dean Michael Hecht stated that "it is very hard to maintain a nice campus in an urban setting. However, to a certain extent there is a sense of history, although I'm not sure that our students feel it. When you walk into this room [the Dean's office], you realize

"clearly security is a concern, but I'm very comfortable with what we have, twenty four hour and 365 days is very impressive."

Don Sommers, a former New York City Chief of Police and chief of security at YU, stated that "we are very proud of our status here in regard to security."

Sommers stated that although in the past there have been a couple of muggings, "I can't remember when the last one took place." Dean Hecht added that "in other college campuses people do not feel the kind of sense of security that our students feel."

Hecht described our campus today as "an oasis."

However, recent events have put doubts in the minds of students. On September 20, police apprehended two men right next to the college bookstore for robbing a local apartment. And last Thursday there was a major drug bust on Audobon Avenue and 185th Street.

With the rising security concerns, many may wonder if there is any possibility of YU moving to a more rural and secure setting. According to sources, in the 1970's YU was offered the possibility of receiving a suburban campus in New Jersey around the area of Fairleigh Dickinson University. At that time much of the present campus was not yet in existence. However, in order to make the plan to move to FDU's campus economically viable it would have been necessary to create a mixed campus between YC and Stern College for Women. Such a move according to sources "would have undermined the Yeshiva aspect on which YU prides itself."

In addition, New York City had offered YU financial aid to remain in Washington Heights in order to continue benefiting the neighborhood. However, one source stated that "I don't think we could ever have seriously considered moving out of New York State because of the financial considerations New York State provides."

Don Sommers stated that "twenty-five years ago, people were thinking of moving. But now that [YU] has made such a huge investment in this campus, I don't think so. We are here for the long term now."

For better or for worse.

that this is the room where Rav Moshe Soloveitchik gave shiur and Rav Yoshev Ber said shiur. Rav Dovid Lifshitz was in that room [Dean Horowitz's office], and this [Dean Hecht's office] was Dr. Belkin's old office."

For this reason, Hecht feels that the presence of the Rav is still felt around YU. Rabbi Cheifetz said that "unfortunately the students are not that aware of the history and the names of the YU gedolim."

Recently, the Washington Heights Jewish community has shown signs of rebirth. Dean Hecht said that "one of the most important developments is the fact that we have begun to attract graduates of Yeshiva College to live in the immediate vicinity of the college."

This phenomena of students returning to the campus is a testament to the connections many students have made to the YU campus over the years.

Probably the biggest concern on Campus is whether the students of YU are secure. Due to the rising number of incidents of crime in Washington Heights over the past 20 years, Burns Security was hired to supervise safety. While discussing the level of security at YU, Michael Kranzler, Dean of Admissions, stated that



Police apprehend suspected drug dealers in front of Gottesman library

# YU Officials Deny Daily News Account

continued from page one

The drug bust was indeed a sight to see for the many onlookers, perhaps on their way to Thursday afternoon Bible classes. A myriad of agents and police officers rushed to the area between 184<sup>th</sup> and 186<sup>th</sup> streets and St. Nicholas and Amsterdam Avenues and quickly closed off the vicinity to any incoming vehicles or pedestrians. After the area was sealed the agents stormed the café on the corner of 185<sup>th</sup> and Audobon, the laundromat just down the street, and four apartments at 408 Audobon, the headquarters of Encarnacion's gang. The agents gathered approximately 40 suspects and lined them up against Furst Hall and the Gottesman Library with their hands against the wall and feet spread apart.

While the bust appeared to be an almost random round-up of suspects, the agents had already picked out for arrest the people they were looking for. Valiquette added that no one from YU was ever put in harm's way, as the police responded in massive numbers and all the suspects were searched before being lined up outside.

YU Chief of Security Donald Summers reinforced this statement, and added that there was nothing he could have done to help, as the FBI did not inform him in advance of their plans for the bust. He also noted that these gangs will not pose any future threats, as the FBI "penetrated their internal structures" and "sealed the properties where the operations took place." Summers further revealed that this bust was the first of many that are to take place as part of a new, federally funded program aimed at ridding urban environments like Washington Heights of the drugs and gangs that have gained a stranglehold in these areas. As part of the program, Summers explained, meetings have been conducted since September by the Police Department in conjunction with politicians and other community leaders at local assembly points like the YMHA, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, and the community board. The meetings were convened in order to find a solution to the ongoing drug problem and also to send a strong message to the drug leaders,



which obviously went unheeded. A well-informed source who wished to remain anonymous added that the program is "excellent" and "will be here for an extended period of time."

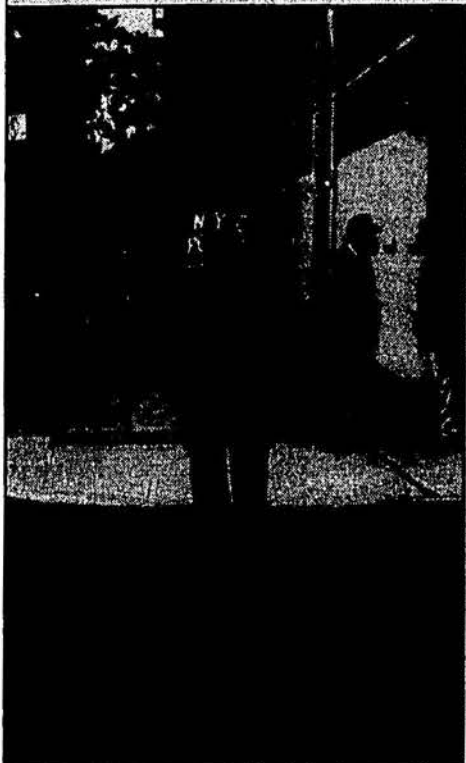
### YU Involvement in Dispute

There have been hints, however, that YU took a more active role in the program and in fact pushed for the authorities to aim their first drug bust at the immediate YU vicinity, which may have been what prompted the references to YU in the *Daily News* article. Summers vehemently denied this, saying the bust had "nothing to do with YU" and that "it's beneficial to the whole community." Public Relations Director David Rosen added that he was "very concerned about the *Daily News* article because it was grossly inaccurate, inflammatory (and) simply not true."

The *Daily News* article asserted that "Yeshiva students were so frightened that they routinely left the campus only with security escorts - even when traveling just a few blocks."

Rosen explained that the entire incident, including the article, is just "a momentary blip on the screen that will have no lasting impact on the perception of YU." He admitted that the PR department debated writing a letter to the editor, but decided against it because "any attempt to correct it after the fact would only draw attention to it." Furthermore, Rosen said that he was not too worried about the effects of the article because "most of the people associated with YU don't read the *Daily News*."

As for the image of suspects with their hands up against the wall of the Gottesman Library, Rosen acknowledged that he'd "rather it took place someplace else, but the police are doing their job, and my own personal observation is they did a very proficient and professional job." He also warned that he is "concerned with *The Commentator* itself, which could be the greatest PR problem. I hope *The Commentator* will exercise care and discretion, because it reaches more YU people and one would hope has more credibility than the *Daily News*."



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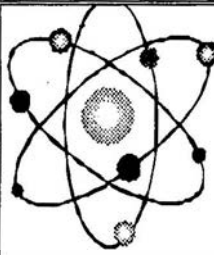
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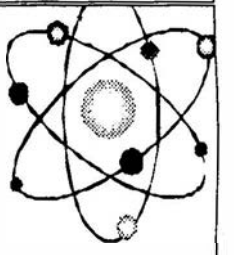
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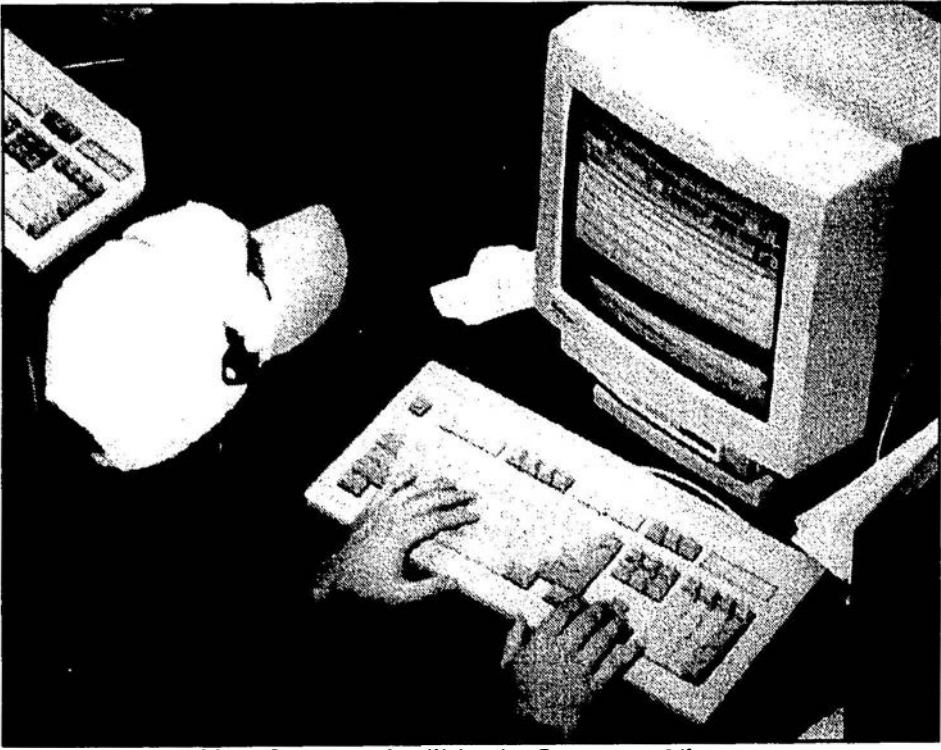
Poster Session Will Be Held On  
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Furst Hall Lobby 2:45 pm - 3:45pm

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New Computer Facilities in Gottesman Library

## New Internet Server to Come to YU

### Administration Strikes Deal With IBM

BY BOAZ KURTIS

In a long anticipated move, the Management Information Systems Department of YU and the Office of Student Services have offered students another option for connecting to the Internet by making available a new IBM service which will offer graphics in addition to text. The current YU server, known as YU1, is a text-based server.

Administration officials expect the new option to increase students' interest in the Internet, an increasingly present force in academics. "We are anticipating students and faculty to take advantage of this offer," said Arthur Meyers, Director of the MIS Department.

As an added incentive for students to obtain an account with IBM's server, the school is offering to reimburse students for the \$10 registration fee charged by IBM for its service.

Also, the school has provided the start-up software at no cost; normally the disks cost about \$3.

There are a variety of differences between the IBM and YU1 servers. While the most notable distinction is the capability of the IBM server to display graphics, there are several other important differences that will affect students' decisions as to which service to use.

A student subscribing to the IBM service will need his own computer to access his account. This is because a phone line and modem will be necessary to dial into the IBM mainframe, meaning that the student will have to "log on" from his/her dorm room or apartment. YU1 accounts, on the other hand, can be accessed directly from the university's computer labs.

The IBM account, in addition to

the \$10 registration fee, will cost \$12.95 per month for 50 hours of access time and \$17.95 per month for unlimited access time. As of this semester, students opening new YU1 accounts will be charged \$25 per semester for the service. In the past, there was a one-time fee of \$50 for an account on YU1 which the student then had access to for the rest of his college career at YU.

According to George Sullivan, Associate Director of the MIS department at YU, MIS officials decided to charge students per semester due to the uncertainty of the future of the YU1 server.

The possibility of terminating the outdated server is evidence of the administration's eagerness to keep pace with the advancing technologies of cyberspace. "The world of computers and the Internet is exploding on a daily basis and we felt the need to provide the students with the [IBM] service," said David Himer, Associate Dean of the Office of Student Services.

The MIS department officially took control over the academic computer operations and laboratories on July 1. The department subsequently supplied the computer labs with 45 new machines, fully equipped with Windows '95 and access to the World Wide Web via Microsoft Explorer. In addition, a new host of computers has been installed in the Gottesman Library, with fiber-optic wiring already in place underground as the terminals will soon be connected to the Internet.

Plans are also in store to computerize the library's card catalog of books. Traditional card catalogs, such as those in the Pollack and Gottesman libraries, have been virtually obsolete in public and university libraries for at least five years.

## Blood Drive Draws 130 Students

### Organizers Make Up for First Day Troubles

BY JONATHAN TIGER

Continuing the successes of previous campaigns, the Blood Drive Committee reported very successful numbers for the most recent campus blood drive despite a temporary change of location that threatened turnout. The Committee announced that over 120 students participated in the October 14-15 event, attaining their standard goal for a two-day campaign. The blood drives are sponsored and performed by New York Blood Services, and are held on YU's uptown campus. Citibank supplies gifts for each participant who donates blood - this year's gift was an umbrella.

The first day of the blood drive started ominously as the Blood Drive Committee was compelled to hold the drive in the unusual location of Belfer Hall's Weissberg Commons due to the new furniture that was placed over the summer in the traditional venue of the Morgenstern lounge. The Committee had feared using Belfer Hall because of its lack of centrality on campus and, therefore, its lesser visibility.

Indeed, the Blood Drive Committee's fears were validated when only forty students showed, a disappointing figure given the blood drive's goal - and its usual achievement - of 65-70. But by the second day, the furniture situation in the Morgenstern lounge was worked out - it was decided by university officials that new furniture could be moved just as well as old furniture - and the drive moved to the centrally located lounge. Students responded accordingly, with participation dramatically increasing to 88, bringing the two-day total to almost 130.

Responding to the sharp increase in turnout on the second day, Kathleen Rossi, a phlebotomist from the New York Blood Center who worked at the drive said, "I find it

very honorable that so many students are willing to donate their valuable time to help save the lives of others through this blood drive."

The sharp rise in second-day participation was partly attributed to a public announcement made that morning by MYP Mashgiach Rabbi Yosef Blau, in which R. Blau exhorted students to donate blood in wake of the initially dispiriting turnout.

The Blood Drive Committee, co-organized by Mr. Tannenbaum YC '97, and Mr. Shindel YC '97, organizes two drives per semester, or one blood drive per every two months, which satisfies the minimum medically required wait in order to allow donors' blood to properly replenish.

The blood drives held on YU's campus in recent years have been enormously successful, particularly when the turnout is gauged by the percent-base, or the percentage of the respective institution that each pool of participants comprises. Participation at blood drives held at YU generally have a percent-base of 15%. Drives held at Citibank, for example, have a percent-base turnout of about 5%.

Over the past two years, the Blood Drive Committee has received awards from New York Blood Services for the unusually high amount of donations from its student body. Additionally, the blood drive was written up in the inaugural issue of New York Blood Services' Newsletter as an example of how to run a good blood drive.

Yeshiva University blood drives are considered to be so successful that Mr. Tannenbaum and Mr. Shindel were asked by the Service to lecture organizers at Columbia University and in New Jersey about the techniques of executing a successful drive.

Tannenbaum and Shindel urge anyone interested in helping to continue the college's blood drive's history of success to please contact them.



YU Student giving blood to NY Blood Center



# Morg Mart To Open Its Doors

BY STEVEN BERNSTEIN

After an absence of over two years, Yeshiva University students will once again have an alternative to the caf store: Morg Mart will reopen its doors in the basement of the Morgenstern Dormitory this week. Morg Mart, a service of the Joint Business Society (JBS), under the auspices of its president, Doron Katz, will feature all sorts of goodies for the late night hungry student.

Morg Mart, though not a novelty to YU, has been closed for the past two years.

However, a lot of hard work and effort from the members of the JBS has brought the store new life. Morg Mart, having been completely refurbished, repainted and restocked, will reopen this week.

Open nightly, Sundays through Wednesdays, from 10:15 until 1:15, Katz promises that Morg Mart will feature, "a homely atmosphere and lots of great food." Some items to be featured in the store, include: Coke, Snapple, Tropicanna juices, candy bars, Drake's and Entenmann's cakes, potato chips, ice-cream and various frozen goods. In addition students can expect a fresh supply of wings from Dougie's restaurant and other savory foods from Chopstix's restaurant. A microwave, toaster oven, and television will all be available for use by the customer.

Realizing the long standing complaints about the expensive prices pro-

vided by the cafeteria, the Joint Business Society has promised to make Morg Mart prices very reasonable.

Simcha Gissinger, Vice President of the Joint Business Society said that in addition to providing food and drinks "We hope to create a social environment where students can enjoy themselves." Stressing the importance of student support, Doron said, "Morg Mart is run by students, for students and will only work if students support

it."

The Joint Business Society (JBS), was created to encourage and help entrepreneurship on campus. Though their focus, as of late, has been solely on Morg Mart, they encourage students to offer ideas and will help make these ideas a reality. Also "through the programs created by the JBS," said Doron, "students will develop hands on experience in management, accounting and organizational skills."



Morg Mart managers celebrate the imminent opening of the student-run store. left to right: Simcha Gissinger, Ari Gelman, Doron Katz, and Dov Robinson

## WHAT TO SEE IN NYC

BY DANIEL ANZISKA

Fresh out of places to go? Tired of the same old "same old"? This coming year try out some of New York's hipper attractions:

### MUST GO:

**SoHo Galleries** - This season look for exhibits by Robert Cumming (560 Broadway), Martin Kersels (100 Greene St), Daniel Villeneuve (62 Crosby St).

**Guggenheim Museum** (1071 5th Ave/88th St.) - This month includes the first comprehensive viewing of the entire African continent's artistic tradition.

Try out an auction at either **Christies** (502 Park Ave.) or **Sotherby's** (York Ave./72nd St.). Hey, you never know where you could pick up a bargain.

**NYC and boroughs Walking Tours** (Call 439-1090 for information). Tired of not knowing anything about our City? In search of a cheap date? Well, this is your miraculous answer to both of these problems. These tours are usually uncrowded, give you the opportunity for plenty of exercise and are actually quite educational.

### MUSTSEE

**Bring In 'da Noise, Bring In 'da Funk** - Savion Glover's Tony-award winning salute to ethnic tap dancing is both energetic and exciting (219 W49th St)

**Hughte** - Al Pacino's portrayal of a small-time hustler in this Eugene O'Neill's play is dynamite. (50th between B'dwy and 8th)

**Stomp** - This hyper-energetic and way cool performance by a troupe of talented performers has cultivated a cult following. Not for the weak-eared. (126 Second Ave./7th St.)

**Corman's Children** - This film retrospective at "MMI" follows the early films and artistic decisions of directors who were involved with the "king of schlock." Look out for an impressive list of directors including Scorsese, Coppola and Demme. ("MMI, 3601 36TH St., Astoria, Queens.- film)

**Purple Noon** - Rene' Clement's famous stylish french thriller has been re-released in a visually-stunning form. This story about greed generates into a boldly original and successful thriller. (Paris Theater - 59th St.- film)

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### 'The Future of the Jewish Past: Orthodox In The Post-Modern Age'

October 30, 1996 8 pm

**Dr. Elayn Solovitchik**, Professor of Jewish History & Literature, Yeshiva University  
"Transformation of Contemporary Orthodoxy: A Discussion"

Dr. Solovitchik will give a brief presentation based on his article "Rupture and Reconstruction: The Transformation of Contemporary Orthodoxy" from Tradition (1994) followed by an open discussion on both the article and the topic. Questions and objections from the audience are welcomed. (The article is available in advance in the synagogue office)

November 6, 1996 8 pm

**Rabbi Adam Mintz**  
"The Talmud In Translation: Adapting To New Realities"

In the past two hundred years, the Talmud has been translated into Hebrew, English, Yiddish, German, French, Spanish, and Russian. Through an historical survey of these translations and the rabbinic opposition to them, Rabbi Mintz will explore the manner in which Jewish learning has met the challenges of the changing world.

November 13, 1996 8 pm

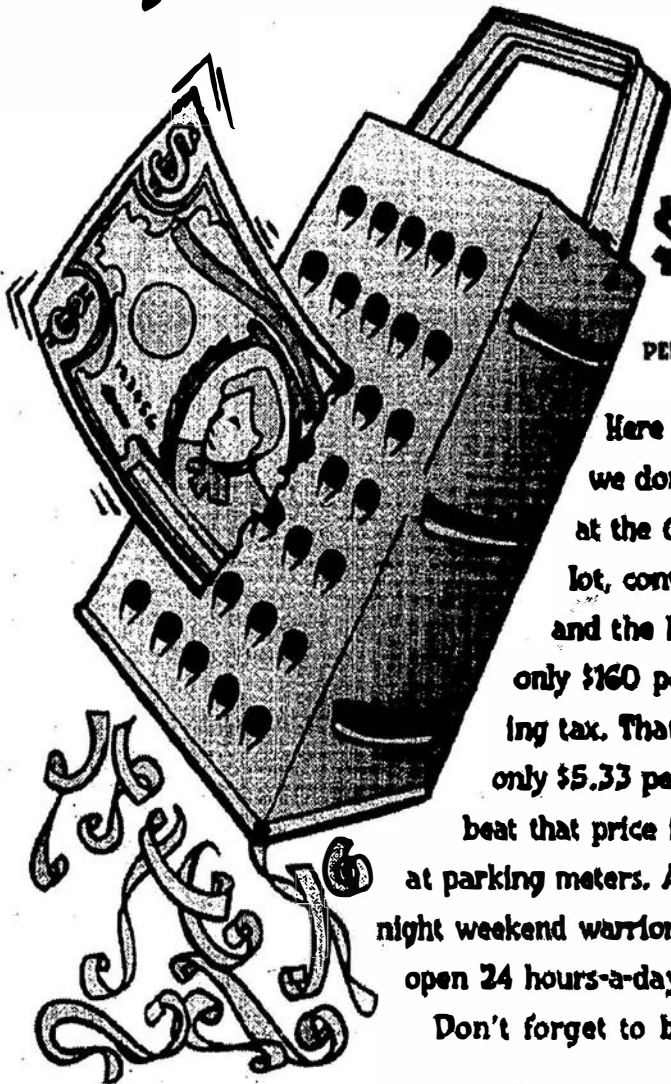
**Rabbi Moshe Scharman**, General Editor of ArtScroll's Mesorah Publications  
**Arthur Kurzwel**, Vice President of Jason Aronson Publishers and Coordinator of Talmud Circle Project of the Aleph Society  
"Jewish Learning in the Nineties: A Publishers' Dialogue"

The publication of Jewish books has exploded in the past decade. Hebrew and English Judaica can be found on the bookshelves of Jewish and general bookstores as never before. Rabbi Scharman and Mr. Kurzwel will discuss the reasons for the recent interest in Jewish books and the role of these books in strengthening the commitment and involvement of American Jews.

### Other Highlights:

- One-on-One Study Program (No Background necessary), Mondays, 7:45 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.
- **Rabbi Mayer Twersky**, Advanced Talmud - Berachot, Tuesdays, 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
- **Rabbi Hershel Cohen & Cantor Sherwood Goffin**, Lillian Goodman Services Program, Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.

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# LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

*The story behind dorm assignments*

BY NOAH STREIT

Among the most integral parts of a student's success on campus is happiness with his accommodations. Complaints with a roommate, floor, or building can be detrimental.

This may become the cause of unneeded stress, cause a deterioration in classroom performance and lead to a general unhappiness with one's entire university experience. Some of these effects can be avoided on larger campuses, but at our university, there are few places aside from a dorm room that can provide privacy and solace. Thus, it stands to reason that those working in the Dorm office hold some of the most important positions on campus.

The Dorm office is presided over by Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz. He is flanked by three head Residential Advisors (RAs), Ryan Hyman, Ari Rockoff and Yoni Kristt. Each floor has its own RA, as well. Every year, along with the head RAs, R' Cheifetz makes crucial decisions, namely where each of the students will live for the upcoming year.

As with any office wielding this sort of power, accusations and allegations abound. Cries of "why was I placed in this building?" or "why was I placed on this floor?" and "why was I given this roommate?" are frequently heard at the beginning of every semester.

Obviously, the process of dorm and room assignments is a tedious one. Rabbi Cheifetz and Michael Bramson, who resigned earlier this year, worked together to assign rooms for the fall se-

mester.

Bramson was replaced by new head RA, Ryan Hyman, after assignments were made.

According to Hyman, there are three major factors determining dorm assignments: "The first factor is your choice of roommate, [which] we try to accommodate as best we can... The next thing we look at is where you were in the past. If you request the same room, you do have priority, but it's not a binding priority. If we feel someone else should be put in the room, we will do that... The third factor is Shabbat. If you are going to be in often... then we will try, to the best of our ability, to put you on a lower floor."

Rabbi Cheifetz mirrored Hyman's statements, and stressed that, "Seniority does not dictate placement on a floor or in a room. There are other factors involved... If it's between an old guy and a new guy, the old guy might get [the room], if he fits into the criteria."

This last statement touches upon a particularly sensitive issue, one that caused much ado this year, when several seniors felt that they had been wrongfully placed on higher floors, as opposed to the more desirable lower floors. In fact, Rabbi Cheifetz stated that seniority does not even entitle a student to the building of his choice. "Potentially, there is a time limit a student can spend in a particular building. If he no longer fits the criteria, then we may move him, no matter how long he's been in the building."

What other criteria factor into dorm assignments? R' Cheifetz explained that if you do not specify a roommate, or if

for some reason you and your request cannot be placed together, then the dorm office makes the decision for you. "Personal interests, nationality and level of religiosity are all factored in to the decision." However, many charge that the process is cursory and in some cases superficial. One student, who asked not to be named, complained of a complete and total mismatch, "I don't know what possessed them to put us together." Rabbi Cheifetz defended his office, "We put a lot of time into choosing roommates. We weigh all the factors very carefully, before making a decision."

As far as building assignments are concerned, "Seniors are generally placed in Morg, and incoming students are often divided up between Muss and Rubin, unless, of course, a request is made for another building, in which case we try to accommodate [the student]," said Rabbi Cheifetz.

Both this year and in years past, there have been numerous grievances about certain homogenous floors. Two frequent complaints have been about floors either containing members of a specific nationality or of a specific Yeshiva. According to Rabbi Cheifetz, "There are some floors known as Sha'alavim floors or KBY floors, but this is not intended. Usually, if you take a closer look, you'll find that the floor is actually a mixture. We will not put fifty Sha'alavim guys on one floor, because we don't want to create cliques." Hyman, agreeing with R' Cheifetz, said, "Homogeneity of floors is not a conscious decision," and he stressed that their goal is to create a mixture of students, with different backgrounds.

Notwithstanding the complaints and woes, the RAs and Rabbi Cheifetz put a great deal of time and effort into their

job. During the year, both the head RA and R' Cheifetz are on call 24 hours a day. Throughout the summer, the head RA and Rabbi Cheifetz work every day to prepare the dormitory assignments for the upcoming year.

In spite of the hard work, the dorm office is always inundated with complaints, problems and requests. According to Hyman, "If a problem comes up, we try to deal with it that week. We look into every detail and see if the complaint [is really warranted]."

Nevertheless, some feel that the dorm office, like any other YU office, is a bureaucracy. One student told *The Commentator*, "Last year, from the point I filed a complaint, to the point that action was finally taken, five weeks passed. Five weeks is a terribly long time to live in a situation that was more than just a little uncomfortable. For this to happen to anyone is ridiculous, but for it to happen to someone who is not from the New York area is especially problematic, because an out-of-towner's room is his safe haven." Although five weeks is not indicative of the time it usually takes to process a complaint, many of those interviewed have said that the average processing time is well beyond a week.

Finally, there have also been allegations that RA's choose their friends to reside on their floor, thereby eliminating objectivity from the decision process. "This is not true and not valid," stated Rabbi Cheifetz, "I ask counselors to try to recruit guys to their floor, guys who will give strength to the floor, in terms of learning, helping and providing moral support. It might seem like they are choosing their pals, but obviously they are going to choose people they know."



## Yeshiva College Student Council



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, October 23, 1996

Sephardic Club event with speaker at Colbeh restaurant 43 West 39th Street between 5th and 6th Avenue at 9:00 p.m. contact Nouri Zalta M0824 923-6365

Sunday, October 27, 1996

Outdoors Club- Bike tour along the Palisades for more information contact Rafi Schorr Mo 521 740-4643

Sunday, October 27, 1996

Midnight Madness- come meet the '96-'97 Macs at 11:30p.m. at the MSAC- refreshments to be served and contests to be held.

Thursday, October 31, 1996

Torah U'madda Project speaker- Dr. Carl Feit "The Heaven and Earth and All Their Host: The Contemplation of Extra-terrestrial life" 2:45 Rubin Shul

Thursday, October 31, 1996

YCSC/SCWSC presents Chicago City Limits price \$10 including transportation- all invited- sponsored by Sophomore & Junior class- contact David Schrieber Ru 423 568-8910- hurry space is limited

Sunday, November 3, 1996

Art Club presents a trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art- for more information contact Moussa Sweid Hallabi Mo 822 740-1783

### YCSC

## Working For You!

YCSC in conjunction with the Dean's office is running a peer tutoring program. Contact Eric London for more information- Ru 205 740-2507

Bikur Cholim leaves every Club hour to Columbia Presbyterian. To go, contact Teddy Scher Mo 623 927-1572

Morg Mart opens this week in the Morgenstern Dormitory Basement

The Guide is out Contact Heshy Willig for your copy. Mo 329 568-3151

Questions or comments, let us know, e-mail YCSC at YCSC@yu1.yu.edu

## YCSC Election Results

Sophomore:

Pres.- Howard Abrahams

V.P.- Joseph Dyckman

Sec./Tres.- Jeff Bander

Freshman:

Pres.- Joshua Klein

V.P.- Jason Yablon

Sec./Tres.- Ephraim Gabbai

# THE ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE

## A Student's Guide To The Issues Underlying Campaign '96

BY ADAM MOSES

In just two weeks, many students on campus will be voting in their first ever presidential election. In a University where politics plays a part of everyday life, the election provides yet another opportunity for students to discuss, debate, and take an active role in confronting issues affecting the entire country.

Yeshiva College Dean Norman Adler commented that he "looks forward to the elections because they engage the students in their education...Part of the education of the mind is to do something active... this is incorporated in the inspired debates and involved discussions which students participate in around election time."

Some students, however, find it difficult to be excited by what they expect to be a less than nailbiting showdown. They view a Clinton victory in the upcoming elections as a *fait accompli* and thus consider the entire process "a waste of time since it's a blowout."

As would be anticipated, students are split on who to vote for. A majority of students interviewed supported Clinton, however, a strong minority expressed support for Dole. One almost universal opinion of the students and faculty members was that no candidate options was a good option and that voters were forced to select from the proverbial "lesser of two evils."

Mike Weinschelbaum, a YC junior, commented: "I'm really disappointed with these selections that we have to choose from. It says something about the state of affairs in the country today when the quality of the candidates is as poor as it is."

Not only YC students were disaffected with the candidates, professors reflected this attitude as well.

Dr. Anthony Beukas, Head of the Speech Department, was concerned that "no one is being honest, no one is being direct... The candidates are not coming in with information to back-up their policy assertions."

Dr. Ruth Bevan, Head of the Political Science Department, characterized the current campaign "as a turning point in how campaigns are run" because "the public was not involved at all."

Both political conventions were as scripted as television infomercials, with little substantive discussion of the issues. Fed up with the predictability, television networks have threatened to boycott future political conventions. This, according to Bevan, could have significant implications on subsequent election campaigns. Beukas similarly alluded to the "tremendous disservice of this possibly being the last election with [televised] nominating conventions. I think it will be a tremendous loss

to the American democratic process."

Despite her concerns, Bevan still feels comfortable voting for President Clinton, believing that he "somehow still has a consciousness of justice that can be appealed to." She believes that "a reasonable majority of professors are Clinton-leaning, although there are a few who are very obviously on the other side of the fence."

One such professor, Rabbi Dr. Moshe Tendler, was disappointed with President Clinton's handling of Israel's recent "tunnel crisis". Rabbi Tendler feels that Clinton should have clarified to reporters that the Arab rioting was unrelated to the archaeological excavations, and merely an excuse for their actions. The fact that Clinton knew this, yet did not mention it in his address shows "a lack of integrity, and proves to me that Clinton is not a true friend of Israel."

Rabbi Tendler also has problems with the Dole camp, and feels that neither of the choices are perfect.

One common theme reflecting the divide of public opinion at Yeshiva, is the universal desire for the democratic process to work effectively.

Whether talking to supporters of Clinton or Dole, to the politically inspired or the apathetic, to those who viewed the caliber of the candidates as dubious or the entire shift in the system as foreboding, all agree that it is both theoretically possible for our democratic system to work and imperative that it does.

### On Israel

Many students placed unparalleled importance on a candidate's positions on Israel in influencing their vote. "If the candidate has a favorable Israel policy, he has my vote," remarked Sean Rosenblum, a YC sophomore. Most students agreed that Jerusalem should be retained under the jurisdiction of the state of Israel and that the United States should embark on measures to formally recognize this status.

"It's ludicrous for the United States not to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel," asserted Michael Gewirtz, a

YC sophomore.

Clinton's policy toward Israel has evoked different responses by American Jews. He has provided strong support for the Israeli government's attempt to achieve peace with its Arab neighbors. This support, however, has generally been predicated on the process established by the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his left-wing coalition. During Labor government rule, American-Israeli relations reached arguably unprecedented levels of cordiality. Much of this, though, was attributable to the personal relationship between Clinton and Rabin, as well as to Rabin's willingness to make concessions suggested by the Clinton administration.

Although Clinton's personal commitment to Jewish causes Israel appears to be significant and altruistic, his relations with the state of Israel have stagnated since Binyamin Netanyahu assumed power a few months ago. Perhaps Clinton's greatest foreign policy gaffe over the past term was his all but explicit support for Shimon Peres over Netanyahu in the recent Israeli elections. This approach backfired when Netanyahu emerged victorious from the tight contest.

Clinton continues to support the land-for-peace principle. Earlier this month, he subjected himself to a potential political sacrifice by hosting a Netanyahu-Arafat summit without assurance of Israeli concessions. Clinton continues to oppose American recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel as he believes it would offend Palestinian Arabs who have ambitions to ultimately make Jerusalem the capital of their state. Clinton has consistently been in favor of maintaining U.S. aid to Israel at its current level.

Dole's record on Israel is less consistent, however, his current platform positions favor Israeli interests more than Clinton's. Dole opposes any U.S. pressure on the Israeli's for unilateral concessions during peace process negotiations. He also favors suspending aid to the Palestinians if they don't comply with their side of the agreements. Dole

sponsored a bill to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, thus formally providing American recognition of Jerusalem as the Israel's capital. Dole has criticized Clinton for meeting with Syria's President Hafez al Assad in Damascus and for not being more reserved in his support of Shimon Peres in his failed election campaign. Although his support for foreign aid in general as well as foreign aid to Israel has been questionable, Dole has not suggested that foreign aid to Israel be reduced when addressing the issue.

Most YU students tend to support Dole's positions on Israel, but were concerned, citing past inconsistencies and remarks. Many worried that Dole's reversal on Israeli issues is merely an effort to pander to the American Jewish community.

"Despite the fact that I'm generally politically conservative, it's obvious to me that Dole's current statements on Israel don't reflect his previous statements, and should be considered questionable," one student said.

Other students, such as sophomore Chaim Herman, maintained support for Dole and expressed confidence that "Dole would be 'onboard' with Israel."

### On Education and Student Issues

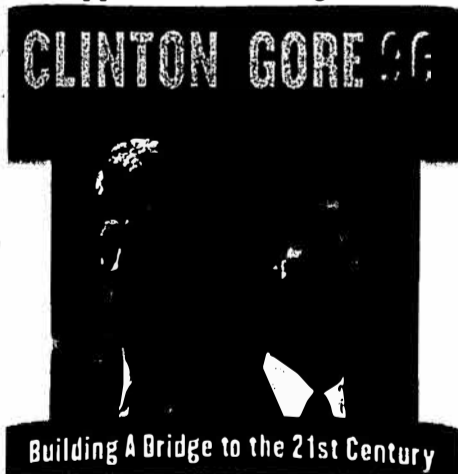
"Both candidates have some worthwhile ideas on financing higher education. They obviously realize that this is a vital issue for many students," commented Brent Kessler, a YC sophomore.

Education as an issue, is of integral value to the YU Financial Aid Office. Records reflect that more than three-quarters of students receive some form of financial aid from either the University, the government, or both.

Clinton has proposed the introduction of a \$1,500 Hope Scholarship to defray the first two years of college expenses for students whose family income is below \$120,000. The second year of eligibility would be contingent upon the student maintaining a "B" average in academic courses taken. The student could also decline the Hope Scholarship for a \$10,000 college tax deduction throughout their college education. This plan would be available for students whose family income is less than \$100,000.

Clinton has also promised that every school will be wired for Internet access by 2000. He has advanced a school construction initiative to rebuild schools over the next four years. Finally, Clinton has called for a new GI bill for American workers, promising a \$2,600 grant for education and training of people who are laid off.

Dole's education proposals also reflect his acknowledgement of its importance. He has proposed programs so



families with incomes of below \$85,000 would be eligible to deduct student loan interest from taxable income. Dole also favors penalty-free IRA withdrawals for higher education expenses. Moreover, a family would save \$500 per year of federal taxes for every child. Dole also supported tax-free education grants from employers to permanently extend the employer-provided educational assistance for undergraduate education.

Dole's most innovative and controversial program is the Opportunity Scholarship program. Through this program, four million middle and low-income families would receive educational grants of \$1,000 to \$1,500 for four years, enabling them to select to enroll their children in private or parochial schools if they wish to do so.

Dole's Opportunity Scholarship received the emphatic commendation of Elliot Ganchrow, a senior political science major, who referred to it as "one of the three cornerstones of Bob Dole's domestic policy, and a convincing reason to support him."

Others disagreed, arguing that diverting funding and students from the public school system would serve to further destabilize a system that cannot afford to sustain any more losses. Aharon Weinstein, a YC junior, commented that "it would be tragic to our public school system" to enact a program such as the Opportunity Scholarship proposed by Dole.

#### Other Issues

On the issue of crime, both Clinton and Dole have expressed similar sentiments regarding the necessity to curb violence. Clinton has embraced extending the Brady Law's seven-day firearm waiting period to cover domestic violence offenders in addition to the already prohibited felons and fugitives. He has urged a ban on the production of "cop-killer" bullets that pierce police vests, and has also called for a national non-emergency police number to be used in non life-threatening situations.

Dole also favors an extension of the Brady Bill, however he proposes extending it to adults convicted of violent offenses when they were juveniles.

Dole proposed further revamping the Brady Bill with a plan to allow instant background checks on prospective firearm purchasers and thus eliminating the waiting period entirely. Dole has also vowed to double federal funding for state prison construction over the next four years. Finally, Dole has indicated that he will seek a federal initiative to try juveniles thirteen and older as adults if they have committed "violent" crimes such as murder and rape.

Abortion has probably created greater division among Americans than any other issue in the past decade. This past year, the House and Senate voted to outlaw "partial-birth abortions," a procedure in which late-term pregnancies are aborted by pulling out the fetus feet first, bursting the skull open and literally vacuuming out the fetal brains. Clinton vetoed the bill, insisting that an amendment be added to allow for the



procedure in cases where the mother's life is at stake. The move was perceived as a drastic shift to the left for Clinton, and in the Vice-Presidential debate two weeks ago, Vice-President Al Gore reinforced this position, saying "we would never take away a woman's right to chose."

Bob Dole has traditionally been aligned with the pro-life flank, although on a Sunday morning talk show last year, Dole, in a move perhaps calculated to attract the female vote, attempted to shift more toward the center on the issue. Vice-Presidential candidate Jack Kemp also admitted in the debate that a constitutional ban on abortion would probably never happen, and

tially a good program that needs revision, not dissolution.

However, he has not taken much action, if any, to correct the problem. While it is not immediately clear what Dole would do with affirmative action if elected, Republicans would surely mount the pressure on him to discard the program entirely.

As for taxation, Clinton has proposed an exemption from capital gains taxes on the sale of homes under \$500,000 for joint filers and \$250,000 for single filers. The President also favors a \$500 per child tax credit for every child under 13 whose parents earn less than \$75,000 a year.

Perhaps the most prominent aspect

of Dole's platform, and the element he most frequently invokes is the prospective supporter, is the fifteen percent income tax cut. It is arguably the cor-

nerstone of his efforts to achieve widespread popular appeal. He proposes to pay for it by cutting in other areas of the federal budget. Dole has supported the \$500-per-child tax credit for every dependent child under 18, however, the ceiling on parental income would be \$110,000 for dual filers and \$75,000 for single filers. He has also favored an increase in the capital gains tax exemption for homeowners. His plan differs slightly from Clinton's, but it also allows an exemption of up to \$500,000. Dole would also halve the capital gains

tax on all non-home transactions.

Welfare reform came under new public scrutiny over the past few months because of legislative consideration of a Republican-sponsored welfare reform bill. Clinton diplomatically navigated his way through a potentially debilitating conflict by signing the bill with "significant reservations" and committing to repeal or amend certain objectionable provisions if elected to a second term. While Clinton's more liberal constituents and supporters were annoyed by his signing the bill, they were partially appeased by his stipulation to follow his more liberal vision in his second term. Clinton's signing the bill was of paramount importance, strategically preventing Republican attacks on his inability to pass legislation to which he previously committed.

Under Clinton's Welfare-to-Work program, former welfare recipients, employers, and local businesses would receive some new benefits to compensate for the void generated by the welfare reform bill. Direct monetary benefits would be provided to companies in the public and private sector to facilitate employment of those deemed by the White House as the "1 million hardest-to-employ welfare recipients."

Tax benefits for employers hiring former welfare recipients would be provided under the revised plan. Through the Brownfield initiative and the Community Development Financial Institution, additional funds would be allocated to provide tax incentives to enhance economically distressed regions.

Much of what Dole espouses about welfare reform has been adopted; the welfare reform bill effectively negating any philosophical distinction between the two candidates. He would, however, propose certain changes in the bill if elected. He would support efforts to suspend or reevaluate the eligibility of welfare recipients if they test positive for illegal or controlled substance usage. Dole would also advance programs to prevent welfare fraud through the establishment of fingerprint identification systems.

Clinton's Environmental policies include cleaning up toxic-waste dumps and giving protection agencies additional authority to oversee the massive effort.

Dole supports "policies to keep our environment safe and clean." He has not, however, advanced any concrete legislative proposals or expressed any definitive parameters for attaining this goal. This is probably because of his conception that the current condition of the environment is not as dire as many liberals tend to assert. Dole has also expressed conceptual support for developing non-polluting electric vehicles.

For families, Clinton has tried to provide specific program proposals, including a plan to make twenty million additional middle-class families eligible for an IRA expansion program that would allow for penalty-free withdrawals for "major life expenses" such as college payments. Clinton also endorses an augmentation of the eligibility parameters for the family leave law. Under the proposed regulations, people would be able to take up to twelve unpaid weeks off work for the care of a child or parent. Expansions in the existing legislation will also allow people to take off twenty-



that Republicans would try to use persuasion as opposed to force to convince others not to perform abortions.

Affirmative action has strongly divided Americans. The program was instituted to promote fairness and equal opportunity in the workplace for people of all races. Many feel, however, that the result has been "reverse discrimination," where individuals of minority races are given jobs in lieu of whites with better credentials simply to fulfill the quota of the program. Clinton insists that affirmative action is essen-

four hours a year for childhood education, elderly care or routine family medical purposes.

Dole too has a number of initiatives with no direct parallel found in Clinton's platform. In response to a supposedly inadequate national economic performance, Dole has advanced proposals to enhance economic development by limiting regulation and providing greater benefits to the populace. Dole favors increasing the estate tax exemption for businesses. He believes that this will allow family-owned businesses to stay in their respective families.

Dole has proposed a program to reduce auto insurance premiums by an average of \$221 by lowering legal expenditures due to lawsuits. Under the proposal, some policies would cover "pain and suffering" while others would exclusively cover "economic damages."

Dole plans to drastically revamp the Internal Revenue Service, which he perceives as being fraught with gratuitous bureaucracy. He intends to eliminate many jobs that he believes are unnecessary and simplify the filing process for federal taxes.

Dole has also integrated policy on illegal drug usage into his platform. He cites an increase in drug offenders as clear substantiation that the "war on drugs" as pursued by Clinton has failed, and claims that if he is elected, he will make it a critical priority that 1,000 new community-based, anti-drug coalitions are established, using federal seed money if necessary. He would elicit assistance from the private sector for this program. Dole has criticized Clinton for not adequately funding the drug czar's office, and has committed to fully funding this office. Dole also favors reforming federal drug treatment programs by shifting many of the treatment programs to religious institutions. He believes this measure would mitigate unnecessary bureaucracy in the existing federal programs.

Dole has expressed interest in limiting punitive damage awards to \$250,000 or three times economic damages in an effort to revitalize the "spirit of innovation and enterprise that made America strong." He has asserted this type of tort reform will engender a much greater degree of technological innovation and allow the United States to maintain its position at the forefront of the field of emerging technological development.

Finally, Dole seeks a constitutional amendment establishing a two-term limit for senators and a six-term limit for House members in an effort to reduce the number of career politicians in Congress.

On the balanced budget issue, Dole frequently alleges that Clinton is a "tax-and-spend liberal" whose current platform reflects a continued desire to pursue this course despite his quasi-conservative rhetoric. Dole cites Clinton's proposed spending initiatives for this term which amount to a projected \$115.5 billion over the course of the subsequent six years. Dole's new spending measures amount to a paltry \$2.9 billion over six years, however, his proposed tax cut would be an expense of \$538 billion over six years. Clinton has repeatedly attacked Dole for an unrealistic effort to sharply reduce taxes

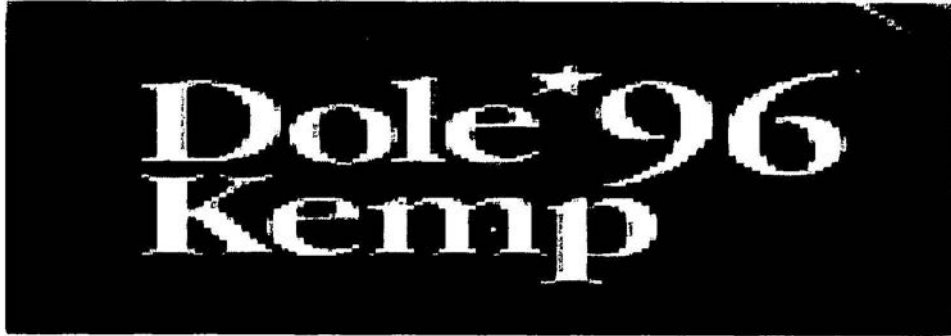
while balancing the budget. Clinton asserts that it is virtually impossible to achieve both objectives simultaneously without sacrificing crucial government services. Dole responds that all that will be sacrificed is unnecessary governmental bureaucracy, which must ultimately be terminated anyhow.

#### Candidates' Background

Both Bill Clinton and Bob Dole were raised in rural and relatively impoverished households in the American South and midwest, respectively. While both hold law degrees, they are both career politicians for all intents and purposes. Clinton did, however, serve as a professor at University of Arkansas Law School for a number of years prior to formally entering the political realm. Clinton attended a battery of prestigious institutions including Georgetown as an undergraduate, Yale Law School, and was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University. By contrast, Dole attended University of Kansas and Washburn University.

Last term, Clinton entered office as the first American president to be born following World War II. Critics complicated matters for Clinton by emphasizing that he had not served in the military. A controversy cropped up regarding alleged efforts by Clinton to "dodge" Vietnam War era draft programs. This served to further deleteriously impact upon his image as a military com-

mander-in-chief, and served as a springboard for spontaneous *ad hominum* assaults on Clinton and, by extension, on virtually every policy he adopted of relevance to military affairs. Dole, however, served a distinguished military career. He engaged in active service in World War II during which he sustained a severe injury on the battlefield. This active military component of Dole's personal experience serves to shore-up his



military credentials and influence his personal and political doctrine to no insubstantial extent.

Clinton's meteoric political ascendancy occurred at a young age with a final leap to the presidency from his gubernatorial post in Arkansas in 1992. Dole's rise was more measured and plodding, and took place over a far greater period of time. He has recorded public service as a representative in the Kansas State Legislature, U.S. House of Representatives, and the U.S. Senate - serving as both Majority and Minority Leader. He was the GOP nominee for Vice President in 1976 and completed two unsuccessful bids to become the Republican presidential nominee in 1980 and 1988.

On a personal level, Clinton is generally regarded as significantly more polished, articulate, and cerebral than Dole.

This advantage has been most manifest in the presidential debates, during which Clinton has appeared to be substantially more presidential and eloquent in presentation and expression, as well as generally more capable of conveying substantive arguments pertinent to his platform. Clinton's detractors argue that his personal character is questionable and that his frequent vacillation on crucial issues to satisfy current public demand betrays a lack of ideological commitment.

Republicans argue that Dole's personal character is more meritorious than that of Clinton and that he maintains a consistent, unswerving ideological vision. Studies indicate, however, that since Dole is regarded by some Americans as being personally mean-spirited and unnecessarily belligerent, some voters won't even consider him seriously despite possible agreement on issues.

#### Campaign Strategies

President Bill Clinton, vying to retain the presidency against the challenge of Bob Dole, enjoys a formidable lead according to virtually all recently released major polls.

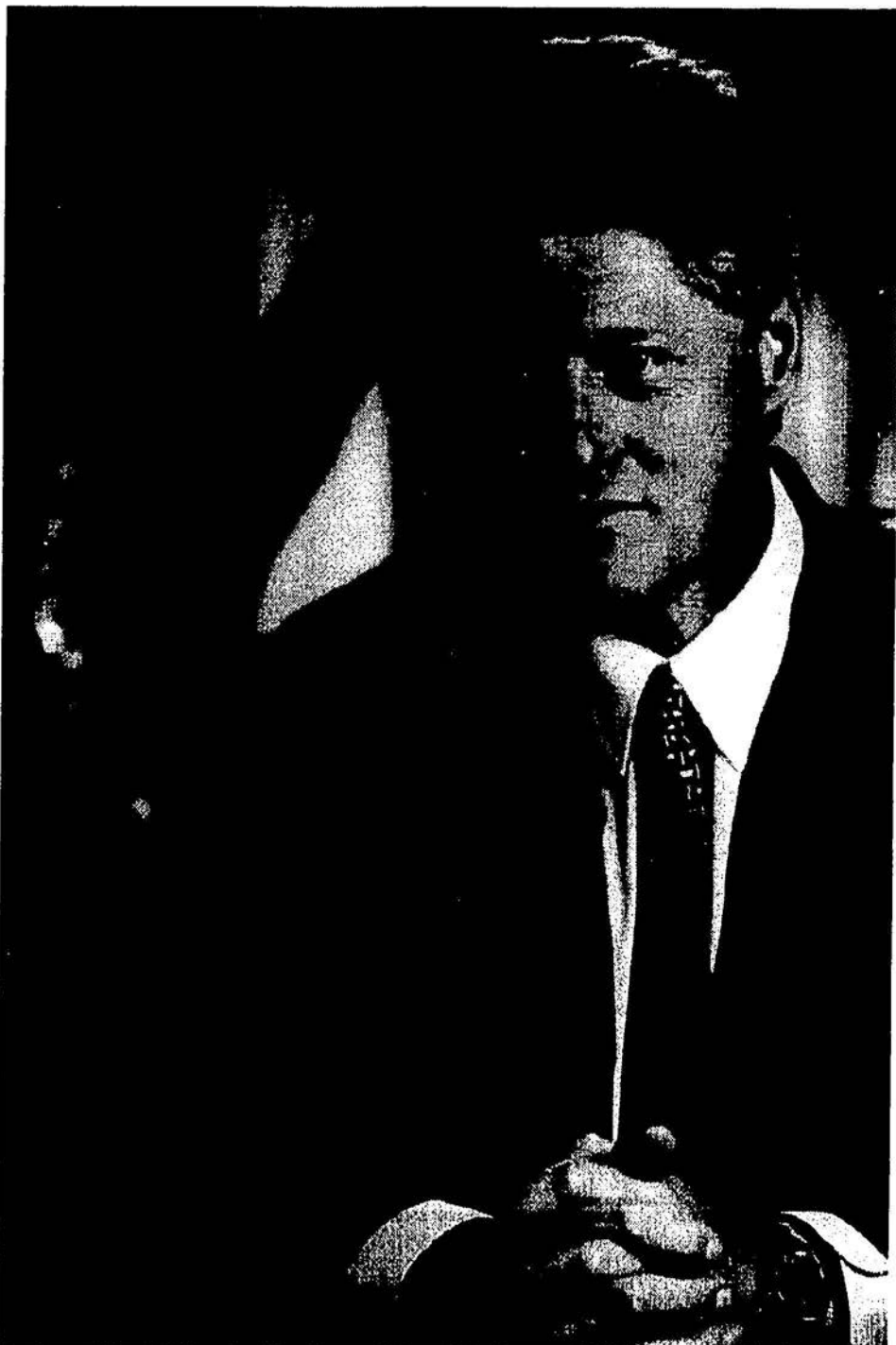
Despite this, Clinton proceeds with aggressive campaigning efforts across much of the United States. He has outlined an ambitious, although unremarkable, platform predicated on attaining significant progress in seven integral areas: Families, Education, Economic Security, Crime and Drugs, Environment, Reinventing Government, and World Leadership.

Clinton's campaign rhetoric is decidedly focused on past achievements during the course of the previous term. He has assumed the position of accomplished incumbent.

Despite this premise, Clinton has chosen to frame his candidacy within the context of confronting "significant challenges" on a societal level and not exclusively resting on his laurels. His platform also reflects a concerted effort to assume a moderate stance to appeal to undecided and moderate swing-voters as well as disaffected Republicans. This course of action is prudent and has served to preempt some of Dole's more distinguishing political characteristics.

Dole's approach has been to characterize the previous four years of Clinton's administration as profoundly detrimental to the United States from essentially all perspectives with specific emphasis on economic and social conditions. His hallmark complaint is that there is a gargantuan amount of extraneous spending by the federal government that must be reduced and utilized to address taxation injustices and the budgetary imbalance.

Dole has also employed extensive negative campaigning measures in an effort to portray Clinton as relatively inexperienced, more liberal than he indicates, and a politician who has run a "photo-op" presidency. Dole has suffered from Clinton's moderately conservative platform stances on a variety of issues that generally comprise the bulwark of Republican policy positions. Dole registered a moderate strategic victory when Ross Perot was excluded from eligibility for the Presidential Debates.



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*Even if one writes only one letter of the Torah, he is regarded as having written the whole Torah himself.*

— Menachos 30a

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*This Advertisement Compliments of The Commentator*

# Rav Lifschitz: A Rebbe Seven Days A Week

*continued from page one*

the United States, where he was soon recruited to RIETS by the late Rabbi Samuel Belkin ZT"l. He served as president of Ezras Torah and on the presidium of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis.

Reb Dovid lived in the Washington Heights area, right across the street from the Beis Medrash, and often welcomed talmidim into his home for shabbos. Rav Meir Goldwicht, also a neighbor of the Yeshiva, recalls spending many shabbosim with Reb Dovid and his rebbetzin, who passed away just last year. After Reb Dovid's death, the Goldwichts would visit the Rebbetzin every Friday night to make kiddush and sing zemiros.

"She always asked how the students were, what they were learning," Rav Goldwicht recalled, "Reb Dovid and his wife lived in the Yeshiva 24 hours a day."

Rav Charlop, who recently gave taped testimony about Reb Dovid for an auto-

biographical series, explained that "Reb Dovid came to America dressed in a certain way and he never changed that way. He lived on the edge of the tension between Torah and Mada, but he always remained the Suvalker Rov."

"He was both a kannai (zealot) and a man of peace. He didn't allow the outside world to impact on him, yet he viewed everyone outside with generosity and understanding."

Rav Goldwicht remembers davening with Reb Dovid in the Yeshiva on Shabbos afternoon, and worrying that it would be too cloudy later that night for kiddush levana.

"Reb Dovid would always say 'Now it is shabbos. At night it will clear up,'" Rav Goldwicht recalled, "and sure enough, after Ma'ariv it would clear up for just enough time to say kiddush levana."

"To Reb Dovid the Torah was clear, mitzvos were clear, the goals of life were clear."



Reb Dovid celebrates a chagiga in the Beis Medrash, performing his famous "Tzvaei" dance with Rav Herschel Schachter (left).

## Reins of Academic Computing Handed To MIS

By JOSHUA M. FELDMAN

This past summer, Yeshiva University's Management Information Systems assumed responsibility for the computer labs and Internet server on campus. According to George Sullivan, Associate Director for Management Information Services, the MIS department officially took over academic computing from the Science Department on July 1st.

MIS has been supporting the University's various computer systems since 1965. It was realized some time ago that Academic Computing needs support. Realizing that the MIS department already has the organizational infrastructure, as well as technical expertise in the many areas required to successfully administrate the labs and a network, University Administration gave the job to Arthur Myers, Director of MIS.

Myers is confident that his department can handle its increased responsibilities. He noted, "MIS can add to its existing staff to handle the extra workload of Academic Computing."

There are several improvements noticeable on campus since the changeover. The entire computer system has been converted from an archaic 'Broadband' network to a state of the art 'Ethernet' network, that will eventually be upgraded to an even faster 'Banner' system, resulting in much greater speed.

To accommodate both UNIX and PC users, the old UNIX lab migrated from archaic "dumb terminals" to Pentium PC's. Every computer in each lab can now access the Internet directly, through the Microsoft Explorer, or by the "Telnet" protocol, which, if desired, can access YU's e-mail system, YU1.YU.EDU.Laser

Printers have also been added, allowing students to produce quality output.

In addition, the YU library has been equipped with over 50 new Pentium PC's, with more to come. In addition, a new Internet server has been purchased to upgrade the existing e-mail server.

The move from the Science Department to MIS has not gone without problems. For the first several days of the semester, students did not have access to any of the computer labs. Chaim Haas, Head Student Operator, explained that "the minor delay gave MIS the amount of time needed to be certain that everything was fully operational for the students' return to classes."

MIS's initial solution to the problem of the computers in the labs crashing, an all too frequent occurrence in the past, was to install a security program called Fortress that restricted the use of the computers in the Lab. Unfortunately, due to the lock-down, some teachers were unable to teach their classes. This led to the unlocking of a number of computers, but most of the computers are still restricted, limiting the ability of students to download information from the Internet.

In addition, YU's e-mail server has encountered more breakdowns this semester than ever before.

While the server does go down periodically for maintenance, it has also crashed many times, if not slowed down to a snail's pace at other times. When asked about the unexpected failures of YU1, Haas blamed a number of factors. "The age of the machine, the increased server load associated with the students' return to school and the learning of the UNIX system by the new MIS personnel."

## Few Attend Simchat Torah in Yeshiva; SOY Not Discouraged

By DAVID HERSH

Despite an advertising blitz that included flyers posted on dormitory and classroom bulletin boards, few students took advantage of the opportunity to spend Simchat Torah on campus, yet again marking a significant student disinterest in spending any free time in Washington Heights.

"Simchat torah was disappointing," said Jonathan Neiss, President of SOY, the student organization that helped put together the student holiday program. Neiss attributed the scarce number of students to the popularity of Torah Tours, an outreach program in which Yeshiva students travel to different cities to enrich the final days of Yom Tov for small Jewish communities.

Unofficial estimates indicated that approximately 30 students stayed on campus for Simchat Torah, which, together with Shemini

Atzeret, constitutes the final two days of the Succot holiday.

Participation in the program — highlighted by lectures from Rav Herschel Shachter, head of the RIETS Kollel — entailed a ten dollar fee, a nominal price to pay considering the number of meals included over the course of the holiday, which coincided with the weekend of October 4-6. The Office of Student Affairs helped subsidize the event in an effort to attract more students.

Though the chances of heavy attendance were from the beginning hampered as the Simchat Torah weekend was within the College's own Succot vacation, programs like these have traditionally been plagued with sparse student interest.

For the past several years, there has been a program to spend Simchat Torah on campus, as well as Shavuot, all with virtually the same disappointing turnout.

There has been a renewed effort

on behalf of the student council to make campus life more enjoyable, mainly evidenced by the reinvigoration of the student clubs and societies. A Club Fair was held last week to showcase the opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities.

But when it comes to being on campus any longer than necessary, particularly over vacation time, students seem to shun the idea, many reporting that they would like to spend the holiday with their families or simply relax in their homes.

It is also widely felt that as long as the campus is not co-educational, students will not be inclined to participate in campus-oriented programs over weekends and periods of vacation — time that could be otherwise spent socializing. This is evidenced by the popularity among YU students to stay at the Upper West Side or Columbia University over certain weekends and holidays, par-

ticularly, Simchat Torah.

Nevertheless, SOY and the Office of Student Affairs will further try to increase the appeal of the campus programs, although it is unclear what further incentives remain to be offered.

SOY was successful, however, in their planning of Shabbos Breishis, the weekend of October 11-12. Over 250 students joined Rav Meir Twerski, Rav Meir Goldwicht, and Rav Meir Schiller for the first shabbos of the new Jewish year.

Students were able to hear shiurim from the Rabbeim and participate in a "chulent tish" Friday night. "It was an unbelievable Shabbos, just great, especially the tish," exclaimed Adam Katz, one of the many students who were extremely happy with their choice to remain in Yeshiva.

With the success of the Shabbos program, Neiss and SOY hope to plan many more such activities and Shabbos events in the weeks to come.

# New Rules Give YU Boost

continued from page one

cation? Not particularly...but," he brightened, "the fact is people read it."

And those people will now think twice before shrugging off YU. A PR ad campaign has already begun in the New York area with advertisements in Jewish newspapers such as *The Jewish Press*, and *The Jerusalem Post*. The full page ad proclaims YU's new status as a first tier school and explains the significance of this ranking by listing some of the other first tier schools like Harvard, Yale, and Princeton. The intent of the ad is not only to solicit donations, but also to attract prospective students. How will this affect admissions? "Well," said Kranzler, "there are very few single factors that directly affect admissions. Things like this are just icing on the cake. In fact, we view ourselves as an upper tier school that finally got its due."

As proof that the system is not yet

ing the type of students admitted using SAT scores and acceptance rates, counted for another 15% of the total. Faculty resources, which was measured by factors such as class size and average salary was 20%. Retention was another 20% of the total score and was based on the percent of students entering as freshman, who graduated within six years. Financial resources were 10%, while alumni giving was 5%, along with a new category called "value added" which comprised the final 5%.

YU received 73.0 of the possible 100 points, with Yale getting the number one ranking this year.

YU received high scores in the faculty resource category, with only 1% of classes having 50 or more students, and measured up to all the first tier schools in most of the other categories.

The main difference between this year and past years has to do with rule changes

Kranzler tends to agree with that assessment, asserting that, "we are small as a school and have very specific interests for a liberal arts college." People graduating from YU tend toward certain professions such as medicine, law, accounting, and finance. A student who does not gravitate to one of these areas is very rare indeed.

Dr. Lee explained the significance of this in the rankings. He pointed out that since YU has no graduate school in the Arts and Sciences, this may affect not only the way students choose career paths, but also how the outsiders completing the *U.S. News* survey perceive YU. He further cites "certain insular aspects" that serve a particular subculture at Yeshiva.

Dean Adler also feels that our academic reputation suffers, "partly because of a delicate dynamic," in which we want to keep to ourselves, "partly because we are afraid of getting hurt."

In any case, since academic reputation is measured by people outside of YU, the simplest way to improve would be to

make the school more widely known. Part of this goal has been accomplished by YU's emergence into the first tier. The rest will have to come from within.

Dean Adler explained that, "One of my roles is to expand the contact between Yeshiva and the academic world...As I bring in people from outside, we become known."

Towards this end he has invited the Vice President of the American Association of Colleges and Universities, along with the American Association of Higher Education and fellows from the American Council on Education to visit YU. "I know the nature of the students," he asserted, "and it is nice to see it come through to others. The depth of scholarship and intensity... of the students," leaves them impressed.

YC senior, Shimon Oppenheim mused, "It is certainly impressive that we are ranked in the first tier, yet, with an academic reputation ranked at 103, I wonder if graduate schools are taking note."

Let's hope so.

**SCHOOLS RANKED 51TH TO 80TH**

Rank	School	Score	Category
51	Boston College	72.0	Liberal Arts
52	Brandeis University	71.0	Liberal Arts
53	Case Western Reserve University	70.0	Liberal Arts
54	Colby College	69.0	Liberal Arts
55	Cornell University	68.0	Liberal Arts
56	Dartmouth College	67.0	Liberal Arts
57	Harvard University	66.0	Liberal Arts
58	Yale University	65.0	Liberal Arts
59	Yeshiva University	73.0	Liberal Arts
60	Princeton University	64.0	Liberal Arts

**SECOND TIER / SCHOOLS LISTED ALPHABETICALLY, RANKED 81-115**

Rank	School	Score	Category
81	Adelphi University	62.0	Liberal Arts
82	Albany State University	61.0	Liberal Arts
83	Albion College	60.0	Liberal Arts
84	Alfred University	59.0	Liberal Arts
85	Alma College	58.0	Liberal Arts

U.S. News' Ranking of Nation's Top Schools

totally worked out, Kranzler pointed to some other schools that were not ranked in the first tier but he felt should have been, such as SUNY Binghamton.

### The Rankings

*U.S. News* ranks 229 schools that qualify as national universities. They divide the universities into four tiers based on their final rank. Schools 1-50 are first tier, 51-115 are second tier, 116-172 are third tier, and finally, 173-229 are the fourth tier schools. Schools ranked below the first tier do not have their final score or rank published but are listed in their tier in alphabetical order. Instead, these schools are sent their score and rank directly.

In 1994 YU ranked someplace in the third tier. Last year YU moved up into the second tier and ranked in the low sixties. This year YU moved up to forty-five overall.

Robert Morse, the director of research for this *U.S. News* study explained that to understand why YU was able to move up sixty spots in two years, one must understand how the rankings work this year as compared to previous years.

### The Methodology

*U.S. News* ranks colleges using a scoring system that gave the top school 100.0 points. That total score is derived from categories which made up a fixed percentage of the possible 100 point total. Academic reputation, measured through a survey mailed to 4,200 college presidents, deans and admission directors, accounted for 25% of the total score. Selectivity, which was measured by determin-

instituted to ensure the accuracy of the survey. In past years, when a school for some reason could not supply data for a particular category, it was given the lowest score out of the 228 other scores. Many Yeshiva High Schools do not rank their graduating seniors according to class standing. Thus, YU does not have the class rankings for entering freshman and therefore usually received a poor score in the selectivity category. This year, *U.S. News* provided estimates for this data, and in YU's case, they estimated class rank from the SAT scores, which boosted the rankings.

In truth, the selectivity score, though 20% of the total, would not have affected YU so much if it did not have another obstacle to overcome. "It appears," Morse told *The Commentator*, "that your [YU's] academic reputation lags behind your other indicators."

In fact, YU was ranked 103rd in academic reputation. Though this marks a slight improvement from last year's 106, it is unusually low for a first tier school. Except for YU, the lowest ranking for any other first tier school is 65. With a value of 25% of the total score, this seems to be what is holding YU back.

### Room to Rise

If YU's academic reputation were to improve to 65, the modest seven point gain in total score would propel YU ten ranks higher in the tier. However, Morse found no obvious explanation for the discrepancy in academic reputation other than the fact YU is smaller, and thus a less well known school.

Long acknowledged as America's leading center for Jewish studies.

# Now, Yeshiva University is rated as one of the top universities in the nation



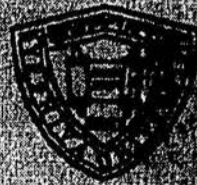
The just-released

"Best Colleges" issue of *U.S. News & World Report* rates some 1,400 colleges and universities around the country, with an emphasis on the quality of their undergraduate programs. And it finds that Yeshiva University

Of the 229 schools in the prestigious national university survey, the survey ranked YU placing it in the first tier (top 50) along with schools as prestigious as Yale, Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, MIT, University of Chicago, and Stanford.

It's a testament to the quality of an institution that for many years has been a leader in its field.

Some times you can't see the quality of an institution until you're in it. Yeshiva University is the company it keeps.



## Yeshiva University: The University of the Jewish People in America

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS IN LIBERAL ARTS • STERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN • SY SYMS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS AT ALBERT EINSTEIN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE • YERUSHALAYIM SCHOOL OF LAW • BERCAUF GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION • HANCOCK SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK • ABRIEL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF TEACHER EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION • BERNARD REVEL GRADUATE SCHOOL



# Student Council Gets Tough on Inactive Clubs

continued from page one

ety properly. They hoped to take it clear to club leaders that this year they will be watched closely to ensure their active participation in campus life. "The majority of clubs people don't know [about]. There will be more of a push on clubs to do new things," said Yosef Rothstein YC '97, Clubs and Societies Coordinator.

Rothstein, along with Sruli Tannenbaum YC '97, are the first appointees to the newly created position of Clubs and Societies Coordinator. They will be responsible for assisting clubs in carrying out activities and encouraging their leaders with fresh ideas for events.

The creation of the new position of coordinator is yet another signal by YCSC President Jason Buskin that students who hold titles within organizations purported to provide campus activities will be held accountable for doing just that. "We were unsatisfied with what we saw in earlier years," commented Buskin. "We wanted to get all the clubs active and to do so in a formal setting."

## New Clubs

A handful of fledgling clubs have emerged on campus for the '96-'97 school year. By far, the most popular of the new clubs is the Seinfeld Club, which has reported a list of 100 students who signed up for membership. The club's founder, Steve Polonetsky, was inspired by the fact that the Seinfeld show is very popular among YU students and that its founders, Larry David and Jerry Seinfeld, are both Jewish.

Polonetsky was upset that his club



(r to l) Student Council President Jason Buskin and VP Netanel Lebowitz

will not be receiving Student Council funds, despite strong student interest, and complained that it is the only officially recognizes club that will not be granted money for operations. He does insist, though, that the club will nonetheless be active, meeting every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday to watch old Seinfeld episodes together and discuss issues presented on the show.

The Star Trek Club, also new, will receive a budget. Its founder, Andrew Weiss, plans on renting old Star Trek movies and watching them at club meetings. With the assistance of Vice Presi-

dent for Academic Affairs William Schwartz, a Trekkie himself, Weiss is working on plans to take his club members to the premiere of the new Star Trek movie to be released in November. The Star Trek Club's faculty advisor will be SSSB Assistant Dean Ira Jaskoll.

The Outdoors Club and the Martial Arts Club are the other two first-timers on main campus. Outdoors' founder, Raphael Schorr (YC '99), wanted to exploit the plethora of opportunities for outdoor activities available in the Northeast, such as bicycling, whitewater rafting, and backpacking. Mr. Schorr wasted

no time in organizing his first event: a bicycle trip through Manhattan on October 20.

Matthew Rosen, founder of Martial Arts, is looking for students experienced in the martial arts, as well as beginners interested in learning. Rosen was partly influenced to create his club because of the dangers present on the Washington Heights campus.

"Yeshiva University students sometimes forget where they are because of the security present on campus," remarked Rosen, who's idea for the club was also inspired by his being recently mugged in Central Park.

With plenty of excitement being generated over the latest additions to the pool of clubs and societies, the seasoned clubs seemed to be overshadowed at the fair but nonetheless did receive equal amounts of student interest. Clubs like the *Commentator*, in its 61<sup>st</sup> year, Sigma Delta Rho, and the JP Dunner Political Science Society still remain the most venerable of the lot. All were accepting new members in order to increase their member base - and operations - but also, in part, to find students who might ultimately take over the reins of the club in the future.

Sigma Delta, now on campus for 11 years, has emerged as the pre-med club on campus in the wake of the recent inactivity of Alpha Epsilon Delta, the society that had previously catered to students planning on attending medical school.

At no time during the fair, held from 8:30-10:00, was the crowd particularly large, but most clubs did report satisfactory numbers of new students interested in their respective activities.

The fair represented only those clubs present on Main Campus: clubs at Stern Campus are mostly unaffiliated with YC, with the exception of WYUR. The exclusion of Stern students from clubs on Main Campus - and vice versa - is viewed by some as a hindrance to increased student involvement in extracurricular activity. "I would like to see more interaction between YU and Stern. In high school, one of the reasons I joined extracurricular activities was to meet girls," said Steven Bernstein YC' 2000.

Nonetheless, the fair was considered by many a success. "It gave me a chance to see all the activities that are available to students on campus," noted Bernstein. "It shows that there's more to YU than an academic environment and that extracurricular activities are available as well."

But there still does exist a feeling of indifference, if not contempt, towards the clubs due to many clubs' previous failure to run interesting events or - in some extreme cases - a failure to organize any events at all. "As far as I'm concerned, the majority of the clubs in the school exist merely for people to pad their resumes," said Mendy Miller YC '98. "There seems to be a serious deficiency of true club activity."

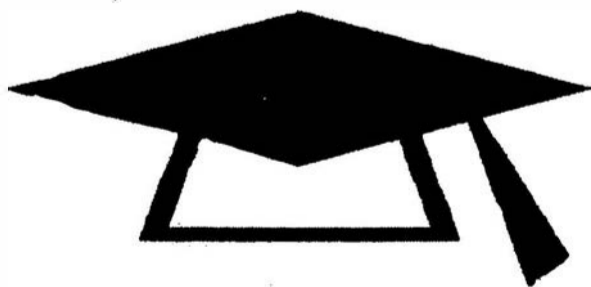
It is clear that YCSC was aware that such attitudes were prevalent on campus when they decided to crack down on the idleness of many of the clubs. "The old clubs that didn't do anything last year will be monitored closely as to whether or not they are holding an ample number of events," said Buskin.

The YCSC Constitution states that if a club does not hold at least six meetings during the school year, the Student Council, with two-thirds vote, can dissolve the club the following year.

# 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**



Rav Herschel Schachter delivers a kinos lecture in Weissberg Commons

## Yom Iyun Draws Large Crowd

BY EZRA TUCHMAN

While millions of Americans gathered around pools and BBQ pits to celebrate the Labor Day Weekend, nearly one hundred and fifty students gathered in the YU Beit Midrash to participate in a Yom Iyun, a day of Torah study that would have otherwise been a day off. The program included lectures by Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, Rabbi Herschel Schachter, and Rabbi Meir Goldwicht.

Rabbi Charlop, Max and Marion Grill Dean of RIETS, opened the program with a moving sermon about the spirituality of the body. Rav Shachter, renowned for his extensive knowledge of Talmud and commentaries, presented a comprehensive discourse expounding on various laws pertaining to the *Shofar*. Finally, Rav Goldwicht, a Rosh Yeshiva for both the MYP and BMP Programs, concluded the Yom Iyun by delivering a lecture in which he emphasized the importance of prayer

on behalf of the congregation, by pointing to the differences in the supplications of *Channah* and other Matriarchs.

Students and visitors complimented the Yeshiva administration's decision to hold the event on Labor Day, allowing them to attend without missing class. Shlomo Drazin, a graduate of SSSB and an analyst for Toronto Dominion Bank, returned to YU to attend Yom Iyun. Drazin remarked, "While most of my colleagues spent the day at the beach or on the golf course, I feel I spent my Labor Day in a more appropriate manner. It's nice that so many other *talmidim* gave of their own time to participate in this program."

Dov Siegman, secretary of the Student Organization of Yeshiva, which sponsored the event, was "happy that after all the work that went into organizing and publicizing this event, so many students took the opportunity to spend their Labor Day learning Torah."

## Students Enhance Yom Tov In Communities Across America

BY GARY STRONG

For many Jewish college students, Simchat Torah is a time of happiness amid social events at universities across America. However, in recent years, more and more students from Yeshiva University have decided to enliven the Simchat Torah celebrations of Jewish communities around the country through their participation in Torah Tours. This year, over two hundred students from Yeshiva College, Stern and other colleges participated in Torah Tours.

Torah Tours is a program run through the Max Stern Division of Communal Services of YU in which students are sent to Jewish communities to spend the holiday with the members of those respective communities in an effort to energize the Holiday. The program is run on Simchat Torah, Purim, as well as Shavuot.

Students had the option of requesting to be placed in a certain city in order to be with other friends or were simply sent to those areas that needed them most, with the cost of transportation subsidized by Torah Tours.

Torah Tours served the purpose of adding an increased level of Ruach in communities where an awareness of Succoth and Simchat Torah existed but were lacking in effervescence in celebrating the holiday. Students led singing, dancing, and other *shlick* with the goal of encouraging all the community residents to partake in the spirit of the holiday.

Rabbi Bentzion Scheinfeld, the director of Torah Tours and other Outreach program at YU, called this year's service a resounding success. He was amazed that there were so many starved Jewish communities that were passionately invigorated by the liveliness of the students.

Rabbi Scheinfeld has received letters of thanks from the rabbis of communities

that Torah Tours visited - communities such as West Hartford, Connecticut and Memphis.

One thankful rabbi said, "The young men and women of Yeshiva University made all the difference in the world in terms of the level of enjoyment that the holiday brought to the members of my congregation. Even after services ended, many people wanted to stay at shul singing and dancing!"

In fact, some communities enjoyed the holiday program so much that they asked for students of Torah Tours to return for a shabbaton during the year.

Another rabbi added to this positive feedback by noting that the students were, "wonderful ambassadors for YU and terrific role models for committed young Jewish men and women involved in learning, religious commitment, but 'with it' and 'lebedik.'"

Doron Simon YC '98, was one of eight students - 4 boys and 4 girls - who went to Memphis. Four of the students, including Mr. Simon, held celebrations at a synagogue called Anshei Sephard while the other four went to the Baron Hirsch synagogue.

"I can't speak for everyone but it is a great feeling to use your knowledge and love of Judaism in a such a positive manner," said Simon. "I know I made a difference and that will stay with me for a long time."

Rabbi Scheinfeld mentioned that people achieve a certain fulfillment by incorporating facets of religion into their lives and enjoy the vibrancy that comes along with the faith.

He hopes that the positive experiences generated by the students of Torah Tours will leave the people in the communities visited with a positive Simchat Torah memory.

**September 9**  
8 p.m.  
Louis Koch Auditorium  
Midtown Center

**October 13**  
8 p.m.  
Louis Koch Auditorium  
Midtown Center

**October 20**  
8 p.m.  
Louis Koch Auditorium  
Midtown Center

**November 21**  
8 p.m.  
Louis Koch Auditorium  
Midtown Center

**November 24**  
8 p.m.  
Louis Koch Auditorium  
Midtown Center

**December 11**  
8 p.m.  
Belfer Hall, Room 502  
Main Campus

**Richard Rodriguez, Pacific News Service editor, essayist, PBS commentator, and author**

**Cynthia Ozick, award-winning poet, essayist, and novelist on Jewish and feminist themes**

**Grace Paley, noted educator and author**

**Faye and Jonathan Kellerman, award-winning, New York Times best-selling authors**

**Jane Smiley, University of Iowa professor and recipient of a Pulitzer Prize and a National Book Critic Award**

**William Friedkin, film and television director whose 1971 film *The French Connection* won the Academy Award**

# As always, Yeshiva University has the "write stuff"

As part of its Gottesman Program for Excellence in Undergraduate Education, YU is pleased to present "Authors in Residence." Starting September 9, the series will bring to our campuses a Pulitzer Prize winner, an acclaimed writer on Jewish themes, an Academy Award-winning film director and screenwriter, a popular husband-wife team of novelists, and other prominent writers. Each will conduct classes for undergraduates and offer a public lecture. (See dates at left.)

For more information, call 212-960-5217

## YU Scholar Publishing Three Books

By J. J. LANDO

Dr. Jeffrey S. Gurock, Yeshiva University history professor and chairman of the American Jewish Historical Society, is publishing three significant works, a culmination of fifteen years of research and study.

*American Jewish Orthodoxy in Historical Perspective*, (Ktav Publishing Company), already available in many local Jewish book stores, is a compilation of articles which Dr. Gurock has published in a variety of scholarly journals. Gurock described the theme as the varying reactions of the Orthodox Jew to America, namely, "those who resist America and those who accommodate America."

The second book, entitled, *A Modern Heretic and a Traditional Community*, discusses the life of Mordechai Kaplan, founder of the Reconstructionist movement. The book was co-authored by Rabbi J.J. Schacter, Rabbi of the Jewish Center where Kaplan began his career as a rabbi. In depicting Kaplan's life, the book also discusses the age-old issue of what positive ideas can be taken from someone who is in a fundamental disagreement with Orthodox Judaism. Kaplan recorded his life in a 40 volume journal which Gurock has studied daily for many years. The book should appear on the shelves around Chanukah time and will be



Dr. Jeffrey S. Gurock

published by Columbia University Press.

The third work, which Gurock describes as his "greatest hits album," is a thirteen-volume compilation of articles which date back to the beginnings of Jewish history in America. Sorted chronologically and topically, the articles were selected by Gurock. Additionally, he has written an introduction and overview to each volume. *American Jewish History* should be released in December from the Carleson Publishing Company and the American Jewish Historical Society.

## Minutes: YCSC Holds First Meeting

By DAVID SWIDLER

Before the Succot break, the Yeshiva College Student Council held its first official meeting of the term. On Tuesday evening, September 3, the Council members and student representatives gathered in Morgenstern Hall's basement lounge.

The Council discussed a number of issues, beginning with a series of thank you's. First, YCSC President Jason Buskin extended appreciation to the organizers of this year's freshmen orientation for their fine job, and encouraged students to "keep up the momentum" of successfully staged events.

A second thank you was extended to last year's student leaders for successful implementation of the toll-free 1-888-YU-SAFETY security hotline.

From there the meeting progressed to more pressing issues, such as reminding student representatives to make sure they gather the necessary data to publish the Guide to the Perplexed for this year as soon as possible. The Guide was published last week, the earliest ever.

The Council then discussed a crack-down on its club policy. To combat the possibility that clubs will be inactive during the term and become nothing but fodder for enhancement of some students' resumes, YCSC wants to restrict funding for clubs unless they submit a budget and calendar for the semester. A club must give notice to the Council one month in advance of any planned event.

If, by the end of 1996 any club fails to live up to these standards, it will be dissolved.

Similarly, YCSC seeks to regulate student involvement in the various committees that interface with the administration, with an eye toward pushing committee members to be diligent about their tasks.

Freshmen and Sophomore class elections were then scheduled for after the break to allow students time to settle in before they are bombarded with slogans and flyers.

In a policy move similar to that used during the election campaigns for student leadership positions, YCSC seeks to regulate the signs posted on the bulletin boards on campus.

Each flyer will require Council approval before it can be legally posted. Through this set of regulations, YCSC will try to minimize the chaos that covers the bulletin boards on occasion, and avert the unnecessary plastering of dozens of the same sign on a single board.

YCSC also discussed the possibility of chartering a new committee with an exclusively social purpose. The Entertainment Committee would be charged with organizing and running "fun" events that heretofore have been run by the Council itself.

Finally, the Council fielded questions from the floor. One student requested that the Israeli flag be displayed on campus all the time, not just on Yom Haatzmaut.

## Professors Not Using Campus Bookstore

By NIR KNOLL

Students this semester found themselves hunting around Manhattan to obtain the books they need for their courses because a handful of YC professors have decided not to make use of the campus bookstore. Professors normally submit a list of the books they need to the bookstore so that students can conveniently pick them up. This year, however, many professors told their students to get their books elsewhere.

History professor Jeffrey Freedman explained his decision not to use the campus bookstore.

"The bookstore does not have a catalog of books in print, so I can't go there with a list of books and ask which books are available and which are not. By the time they put through the request and get back to me with an answer, many weeks will have gone by."

Dr. Freedman recalled that "Last time I did order my books from the bookstore here, but before I was able to do so I had to do all of the work myself. I had to go to the library and look up which books were in print or not in print. I had to provide the publisher the ISBN number."

Based on these difficulties, Dr. Freedman decided not to continue using the bookstore for this year. Instead, Freedman ordered his books through another Manhattan store, which was able to provide him the services he needed.

Dr. Freedman has had this problem with the bookstore for over two years. This year he decided to give them another chance, but "realized that things hadn't changed" and decided to go elsewhere.

Dr. Hadassa Kosak, also a Professor of History in YC, told her students this year to look elsewhere to purchase the books which are required for her history courses. Dr. Kosak explained that when she began teaching at YC she used the bookstore, but felt that they were charging higher prices than many other bookstores in the area and did not want to force her students to pay such costs for her course.

Both Kosak and Freedman admitted that these grievances could well be out of the hands of the YC Bookstore's owner.

Freedman felt that the problems "are not the fault of the employees of the bookstore here, rather it is the fact that they don't have the technical equipment or the bibliographic resources," that can be found at Barnes and Noble or other stores. Also, Dr. Freedman stated that if he heard that the bookstore had improved

this year he would definitely have no problem using it in the future.

Dr. Freedman suspects that this "problem is more serious in the Humanities and Social Sciences, where professors need a wide range of books, as opposed to the sciences, where you basically need one textbook and can order the same one every year."

In light of these events, Herb Glantz, the district manager of Collegiate Bookstores, stated that "in the past there was no liaison that contacted us about any of these problems, until that article was put in the paper about us last year."

Glantz was referring to last year's *Commentator* article on the bookstore, which got the ball rolling in the effort to improve customer service. Glantz explained that the bookstore has been "striving to correct any problems in servicing the students."

"When we got the book lists [over the summer] we contacted the school and notified them that we are missing lists from certain departments, however we can't contact the departments directly. We felt that people were going to other stores, but we did not know for sure," Glantz said.

In addition, Glantz defended the technological deficiencies of the Bookstore.

"We are looking to computerize our whole company within the next few years. However, with a school this size it is very hard to pay for the software and find a place to put it, in this [small] area. One of the things we are going to try to do is have a meeting with the school so that we can increase our hours and increase the items that we sell."

Glantz also added that the time that it takes for books to arrive is solely in the hands of UPS. He said that he had received no complaints from YU professors this term and that "every book order which we were made aware of before school started, was here on the first day of school."

Glantz was upset that none of the professors made their grievances known to the bookstore and feels that the decision made by some of the professors to use other stores to acquire books "hurts the students, because now you have to go other places to get their books instead of going across the street."

History major Andrew Wurzbarger summed up this sentiment.

"It is unfortunate that in order for teachers to insure that their courses go smoothly they must resort to sending their students across Manhattan."

KOSHER-D



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# Editorials OPINION

## Roberto Alomar: A Role Model?

BY DAVID SWIDLER

This year's American League Championship Series between the New York Yankees and the Baltimore Orioles saw more than its share of controversy. Perhaps it was a good thing that Jeff Maier intercepted Derek Jeter's fly ball to right field, because the ensuing publicity completely overshadowed the issue of Roberto Alomar's spitting offense and slap-on-the-wrist penalty.

Overshadowed as it was, however, the fiasco and the public reaction to it still reared its ugly head, even within the walls of Yeshiva University though it waned, thankfully, as the series of games progressed.

The main venue on campus for watching these games was, for many students, Morg Lounge. Naturally, the majority of those watching were either Yankee or Oriole fans, and there was the expected banter between these two groups, most of it good-natured.

Not so good-natured, however, was the tendency of some Baltimore fans watching the games in Morg Lounge to rally behind Roberto Alomar, perhaps out of sympathy, perhaps out of Baltimorean solidarity in a perceived sea of Yankee fans, or perhaps both or neither of these.

Nonetheless, it is troubling that these fans seemed not to care that they only made themselves look worse by cheering for Alomar.

More troubling, however, is the scary realization that if a member of the Yankees had committed an Alomar-like offense and been punished as lightly, many New Yorkers would see nothing wrong with cheering him on. It seems that winning has become such a lofty goal that fans will forgive almost any disgraceful act by a player as long as that player performs. The reaction has become one of, "he may be a spitter, but he's our spitter."

Many of us would like to believe that YU students would rise above such a lack of perspective, but that assumption betrays naivete - who are we to judge that Yankee fans have any more perspective than those Oriole fans who cheered for Alomar?

The elimination of the Orioles from contention has not eliminated the bothersome thought from my conscience. We, as ostensible exemplars of Jewish moral values, should strive for a higher standard than the world around us does, and not adopt the negative attitudes and assumptions of society at large. The concept of "Or Lagoyim" extends even to expressions of rivalry between sports teams, and we must make it into more than just a concept if we are to fulfill our designated role as "a light unto the nations."

## Why Jews Should Vote for Dole

### College Republicans Address The Issues

BY ELLIOT GANCHROW

In 1992 Bill Clinton won a resounding 85 percent of the Jewish vote in his victorious Presidential campaign. As Election Day nears, the Jewish community must take a careful look at the past 4 years and ask itself: Has Bill Clinton truly been a friend to Israel and to the overall Jewish community? Or could we do better with a Bob Dole Presidency?

An examination of five key factors points overwhelmingly towards support for Dole. Here they are:

1. Jerusalem To most Jews Jerusalem represents the pinnacle of our religion. In 1992 Bill Clinton campaigned on the issue of moving the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Yet four years later the Embassy remains outside of Israel's capital. In 1995 Bob Dole introduced legislation in Congress demanding that the American Embassy be moved to Jerusalem, with construction on the new building to be finished no later than May 1999. Although huge majorities in both Houses passed the bill, Bill Clinton refused to sign it, thus allowing it to become law without his approval.

As a result of this new law, 25 million dollars was set aside for construction, to start this year, but Bill Clinton has refused to use this money and allows this large sum to sit in limbo. Is this the

*Elliot Ganchrow is a senior political science major who works for the Dole-Kemp campaign in New York.*

*Editor's Note: The Commentator invited both the College Democrats and the College Republicans to submit columns supporting their candidates. The College Democrats failed to respond.*

## Farrakhan Fails to Atone

The great books of Jewish thought, the Talmud, always begin on page two. This may indicate that there are times when what is said on page two is more significant than what is on page one. This past week page one pictured the presidential debate of two people of divergent political paths. Page two portrayed two ministers, who so differently represent their religious beliefs. Bill Moyers commenced a symposium on the book of genesis showing that we of different faiths were fashioned by one G-d. Lewis Farakhan, at his atonement rally, proclaimed that we are all children of G-d, but to him Jews and Catholics are children of a lesser G-d. For Moyers all religions are great faiths, for Farakhan, Judaism is a gutter faith. It may be hard to separate between church and state, but with Moyers and Farakhan it's easy to separate between church and hate.

-Rabbi Joseph Potasnik  
New York Board of Rabbis

behavior of a true friend? Under President Bob Dole, the Embassy will finally be relocated in Israel's eternal undivided capital.

2. Relations With Netanyahu We perhaps saw Bill Clinton at his worst during the recent Presidential campaign in Israel. During this time Clinton openly campaigned for Shimon Peres, thus setting himself up for some tough times to come with the new Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Is that the action of a true friend of Israel? Bob Dole said it best last month when he called Clinton's intervention in the Israeli election as "embarrassing and harmful".

Dole has pledged to work with whoever is Prime Minister to increase the close friendship between the two countries. Dole extended his hand of friendship to Netanyahu with a personal phone call of congratulations after the Israeli elections. Last week the State Department asked Israel for clarification on its settlement policy. This is a preview of the type of pressure to expect from the State Department should Clinton win re-election. On the other hand, Dole has pledged never to pressure Israel into trading any land for peace.

3. Terrorism Bill Clinton has tried to talk a good game when it comes to fighting terrorism but the facts tell us a different story. The noted terrorism specialist Steve Emerson recently published an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal in which he exposes the White House for hosting a reception attended by Muslim groups which support radical Islamic terrorist movements. According to the article, Hillary Clinton allowed the American Muslim Council (AMC) to draw up the Muslim guest list for a White House reception marking the end of Ramadan. The AMC, according to the article, is a "radical group that supports radical Islamic terrorist movements". Is this the action of a Jewish-friendly White House?

Furthermore we have seen Warren Christopher visit Syria over twenty times and even Bill Clinton went to Syria to visit its dictator Hafez Assad. Yet Syria remains on the State Department terror-

ism list, it continues to allow arms to reach Hezbollah fighters in Lebanon and it still is one of the world's major drug traffickers. Just last month *The Jewish Week* called for America to bomb Syria. Certainly our leaders do not belong in Syria.

4. Jack Kemp While most people tend not to take Vice Presidential nominees into consideration this should be an exception. Rarely do you come across a politician who is so committed to pro-Jewish and Pro-Israel issues. It is also important to consider the Kemp factor for another reason: it is Kemp who has an excellent friendship with Netanyahu and it was Kemp who insisted on meeting with Ariel Sharon when both were heads of Housing for their respective governments. That meeting took place over the objection of James Baker. Jack Kemp would be an incredible asset for the Jewish community as we try to keep pressure off Israel and allow the Netanyahu government to govern as it sees fit.

5. School Choice It is on this issue where the biggest gap lies between Clinton and Dole in relation to the Jewish community. Bob Dole strongly supports a plan which would give school vouchers to parents to pay for private schools, including religious schools. Thus hundreds of Jewish parents who send their children to Jewish Day Schools or Yeshivot would gain a partial relief from the great financial burden that school tuition has become. This would be, in short, a financial bonanza for the Jewish community. President Clinton has repeatedly asserted that he is very much against any such voucher plan.

These issues and factors are simply too important to ignore. It is imperative for our community to be heard on Election Day. Stand up and demand that the Embassy be moved to its rightful home in Jerusalem. Choose the candidate who takes the security and sovereignty of Israel seriously, the candidate who will battle for the issues close to the Jewish heart. Choose Bob Dole.

**Dorm Talks**  
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**Morg Lounge**

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# LETTERS

To the Editor

## Israel's Turn At Bat

BY JOSEPH J. SUSSMAN

As the job search for graduating seniors intensifies, many of us face momentous decisions which are sure to impact the rest of our lives. Should I interview this year or take a year off to learn? Do I want to go to graduate school? Should I go into Investment Banking or Marketing? Unfortunately, one question all too rarely enters our decision making process: "What are my options in Israel?"

Avraham Avinu, in Parshat Chayei Sarah, becomes the first Jewish businessman to enter Israel's real estate market. Quite symbolically, soon after he arrives in Israel, the first plot of land that Avraham purchases serves as the ultimate resting place for both him and his spouse. Moving to Israel is not easy and it often entails many hardships. Sacrifices will and must be made. I often recall the poster I first noticed hanging in Israel's Department of the Interior on Shlomzion HaMalka Street depicting a field of thorns and ugly bushes with the caption at the bottom: "We never promised you a rose garden." Nevertheless, no matter how impractical we may envision it to be, we should at least give a job in Israel a chance. We must give Aliyah a fair shot.

To their credit, the Career Placement Office continues to take many steps towards assisting those students interested in cracking the Israeli job market. They actively promote and heavily publicize the Geshet Program for summer internships. Many former students have taken advantage of this program and have benefited greatly.

Gabe Slotnick, SSSB '96 and a former participant on the Geshet program remarked: "When I worked for the summer in Israel, for the first time I felt engrossed in Israeli day-to-day life. Although I learned in Yeshiva for a year with all of my friends, I never experienced that same feeling. All of my fellow Americans would come to the *chadar ochel* with their boxes of Froot Loops and we always congregated amongst ourselves, rarely attempting to integrate into Israeli society. I still keep in touch with my boss from that summer and he always updates me on job opportunities which he thinks will suit me.

It was the best and most rewarding summer I ever had!"

The new agreement signed with Bar Ilan University paving the road for YU students to earn an MBA at Bar Ilan also merits commendation. Now, students considering Aliyah can learn the tricks of the trade in the country where they hope to live.

"Aliyah always interested me," remarked SSSB senior Mordechai Solomon. "With the Bar Ilan MBA program now more easily accessible, I am pondering a move to Israel much more earnestly."

Nevertheless, a lot remains to be done. A more active network of YU alumni currently residing in Israel needs to be established.

Maybe this could be done by hosting a career fair (similar to the one we all attended in the Israel Center during *Shana Aleph*) presenting job opportunities for American college graduates interested in moving to Israel. However, we cannot fault the Placement Office for the lack of such events. It is we the students who must display interest in these types of programs. Only when the demand increases will the supply rise as well.

Practically, a summer internship is the best way for students to break into the Israeli job market. When I worked for an Israeli accounting firm this past summer, my international accounting skills vastly improved. By going out on audits, I saw first-hand many different companies all doing business in different areas of the economy. I established many contacts through networking that I hope to capitalize on in the future. Many of my friends who have worked in Israel for the summer have had similar experiences. On a resume, a job in Israel carries equal weight to an internship here in America. Sometimes, it carries even more weight, because of the international experience.

Summer job opportunities in Israel do exist, but somehow we just don't find out about them. Michael Eisenberg, YC '93 and currently the Vice President of Jerusalem Global Consultants, noted that he contacted YU's placement office more than once, searching for a summer intern. "Unfortunately," he said, "only one of the resumes faxed to my office came from a YU student." Most YU students consider making Aliyah but don't have enough resources available to them to make it a serious option.

During the upcoming summer and the months leading up to it, why not check out what Israel has to offer. It is now, when we are about to decide where to plant the seeds that will ultimately grow into the rest of our lives, that we should try planting them in Israel. It is now, as we go through college and commence our job search anyway, that we should try our luck in Israel. It is now, after completing ten years in Bnei Akiva and NCSY, that we should practice what we've preached and try moving to Israel. The longer we wait the harder it becomes.

An analogy often portrayed to highlight our predicament in America takes place at a ball game. We in the Diaspora represent the spectators in the stadium, cheering or booing as the case may be, but in no way altering the outcome of the game. Now, we have the chance to enter the game as a player but we continue to decline. Well, the bases are loaded in the bottom of the ninth. The game is almost over. We can either continue to holler from the bleachers or come in to pinch hit and remain in the game until its completion. Unless we can be as fortunate as Jeff Maier, with a glove in the right field seats, we cannot simultaneously view the game from the stands while at the same time influence our team's destiny. Therefore, the choice is ours. Do we want to remain perpetual fans or step in and become active players?

## Order in the Library

To the Editor:

While the University has made numerous strides to improve student life on campus, one thing still remains unimproved - the Library. Yes, many a weary and dreary night we spend in Mendel Gottesmans' intellectual playground. Why are we so exhausted after being in the Library? The answer is simple. The cataloging of books is too confusing. Here's a practical example: try to find this book located at the library address of "HQ 1172 M45 c.4" Don't forget your stopwatch. Don't try to cheat by asking a librarian. They are not the problem. As University students we should be able to carry out a task of finding a book in the Library. Maybe I'm the only one who has no idea how to find books in the Library. Or maybe this is a problem that students have but up until now been too afraid to voice in public. When a student was locked in the last year after closing it was the funniest thing, right. Wrong; this student, no doubt was trying to find a book. Going to the Library is like you average episode of "Mission Impossible." If you don't complete your mis-

sion, the Library disavows any knowledge of your existence.

It is easy to complain; therefore, here is my proposal. It is called "The One Book One Number Program." Here is how I envision it. Each book in the library is assigned a number. The first book is called #1, the second #2. I'll start the numbering. Number one goes to a Tanach. Then every other Tanach should follow in sequential order. The shelves should maintain a sequential order as well. Now under the new system, you look up Tanach. It doesn't matter whether you need Hebrew, English, Spanish, Latin, or Klingonese. Each Tanach will have its own individual number. This plan will work as long as we don't run out of numbers. NASA assures me this will not happen in the near future. The way the Library works now reminds me of a saying in the Navy that applied to YU goes, "there's a right way, a wrong way, and a YU way." So, the next time your looking for a compendium of the history of oak furniture in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, remember there could have been an easier way.

Aaron Leff  
SSSB '97

## CAMERA Clicks on Middle East

To the Editor:

Kudos to CAMERA for exposing the ridiculous slander that Israel is responsible for international terrorism ("CNN Misfires...", September 4). Middle East terrorists have existed well before the State of Israel was established and continue to murder many innocent people that have no affiliation with Israel.

While serving as Israeli ambassador to the United Nations in 1985, Benyamin Netanyahu handed to the General Assembly an extensive list of inter-Arab bombings, assassinations, kidnappings and hijackings in only the previous month. Those targeted included diplomats, journalists, embassies and airline offices. Victims included Ira-

qis, Moroccans, Libyans and Sudanese with passports from nearly every Arab country. Also victimized were American, British, French, Italians, Dutch, Soviets and Japanese. Though Arab delegates were upset, the point was made that violence in Mideast countries goes far beyond the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Over the past 50 years, Israel has done a great deal in the fight against terrorism. Rather than blaming Israel, the reporter would do well to expose the truly guilty proponents of terrorism. They are the greedy governments and business owners that continue to trade with terrorist-sponsoring states.

Yoni Bak  
YC '98

## Something's Wrong With This Picture

To the Editor:

It's ten thirty on a Wednesday night. After an excruciatingly long day of class, you are looking forward to finally relaxing. You have been up late studying the past four nights, and you are dying to just lie down and rest. As you step out of Furst Hall, you can't wait for the peace and quiet of a nice night *seider*, or maybe a good sitcom in the Morg lounge. But suddenly, right in front of you are 150 locals having some sort of late night picnic. Rollerbladers and bike riders whiz right in front of you. There is certainly no place to sit on the picnic benches. Music is blasting and some annoying ice cream truck blares the same tune over and over. Your night of peace and quiet has turned into one of disruption and disturbance. Perhaps expensive real estate and a big city don't allow

the campus to have large fields with cut grass, but must we also be rid of our two blocks of concrete ground and a few picnic benches? Welcome to a typical evening at the Yeshiva University main campus. Or should I, rather, call the place an assortment of buildings with a small public park in between. The entire Washington Heights population, it seems, swarms to the site, with the exception of the students who live there. Whether or not this is a safe environment might be disputable, but is this a yeshiva environment, or even a college environment? Maybe once the winter commences and no one wants to be outside, but in the interim something is definitely very wrong with this picture.

J.J. Lando  
YC '99



## MESSAGE FROM THE YCSC PRESIDENT

Dear Students,

It is the wee hours of the morning as I sit down to write this article. YCSC at the moment is restructuring the manner in which we deal with all clubs and societies in order to assist them in any way possible throughout the semester, planning and implementing activities.

Additionally we are examining different ways to address student complaints so that we can more efficiently deal with your problems. Our classes are in the process of planning events: don't miss an evening at Chicago City Limits on Thursday October 31<sup>st</sup>. Now with the addition of the Sophomore and Freshman class representatives, we hope to get YCSC into full gear.

Furthermore, this year marks the ear-

liest date the Guide to the Perplexed directory has ever been published and the staff deserves a tremendous thank you. Morg Mart is opening this week for the first time in several years thanks to the hard work of the Joint Business Society.

More events, surprises and campus improvements are on the way. Our hope is to publicize the events and activities as YCSC as much as possible, to keep you, the student, updated. We hope to continue to provide the types of events that you, the student, would want to attend. With this in mind, I request, no, I implore you, to demand better of us.

Yours Truly,  
Jason Buskin

## Mazel Tov to the following couples:

David Greenberg and Shira Feder  
Yoni Kristt and Rivky Schramm  
Gedalya Berger and Miriam Davis  
Adam Sokol and Sure Besser  
Tzvi Harrow and Devora Newman  
Yitzi Shapiro and Estee Dombeck  
Jon Kroll and Jen Kohl  
Matthew Rosen and Bena Falk  
Saraya Sobol and Shana Lustman  
*on their recent engagements.*

The Editors-in-chief of the  
**GuidetothePerplexed**  
would like to thank their publishers

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# The New Macs

continued from back page

ior Dovey Forman, 6'1" Junior Joel Kruger from Toronto, and 5'7" Sophomore Gabe Lakser from Winnipeg. Forman is a real shooting threat off the bench and is also pretty good at handling the ball. Kruger, a transfer student from the University of Toronto, likes to play the 2-Guard and is "very happy to make the team."

The suspicious departure of Coach Steve Post left the door wide open for well-liked Evan Goldstein, who assisted Coaches Halpert and Post. Many of the players have expressed sincere regrets that Coach Post has left the team, and many believe that defensively, the team may suffer as a consequence. "I believe that it's a great loss for the team," said Alex Shakhmurov, "He was a great defensive coach. He gave us real motivation to play." Joel Jacobson agrees, "He was very intense. He knew the game very well, and he was a great motivator. Defensively it might hurt us."

The team has a meager 8 out of 23 games at home this year. Joel Kruger thinks that the team can work it to their advantage. "If you go out there and win some games on the road, you can come home and you're still gonna have your 8 games. You just have to play your hardest." Said Alon Zaibert, "It's hard to get the rest of the school involved when you only have 8 games at home. When I get booed in another place, it gets me going, but on the other hand, when I get cheered here, at home, it

gets me going even harder."

Joel Jacobson had this to say when asked how this year's team compares to last year's, "Last year we (the team) had some conflicts of interest, and this year, everyone that I've talked to is really set on just one goal, going out there, playing well, winning, and having a good time." Alon Zaibert thinks the team needs a more up-tempo style. "I definitely think we should run more. Not all the time, but we should have some kind of transition game."

The Macs should be contenders for the Independent Athletic Conference playoffs.

Some interesting match-ups will be versus SUNY Maritime, with whom the Macs had 2 of their most exciting games with last year, including their first ever win in Madison Square Garden. Former Macs Assistant Coach Steve Podias brings his Brooklyn College team to YU for a second time since assuming the position as Head Coach. The Macs beat his team 2 years ago at YU, but let one slip away on an ego bruising defeat last year at Brooklyn.

Look for the Macs to provide some exciting basketball during the season. On paper, the Macs match-up well in size and quickness. Their only question mark is the outside shooting, but if they have any transition offense whatsoever, they can make up for that deficit with some fast breaks and fancy dunks to bring the fans to their feet.

## Volleyball Team Looks To Improve

BY RON MARKOVITZ

The YU Maccabees volleyball team is coming off a very disappointing season in which they had more losses than wins. With the core of the team returning and some great new editions, the team has a reason to be confident that they won't have back-to-back losing seasons.

The Macs are coached by Shensheng Jiang, who formerly coached the Chinese Women's Olympic Team, and is starting his third year as volleyball coach at YU. The players really have a lot of respect for him, and think he's an excellent teacher of the sport even though at times there's somewhat of a language barrier.

Third year member Carl Hochhauser has really improved his all-around game last year.

The team is really counting on his ability to serve well as well as spike the ball.

Second year players are abundant on this year's team. David Waknin is, according to teammate Russell Kimyagarov, "one of the best setters on the team and in the league." He is also expected to play at some hitting

positions too. Some team members feel that Ari Bandler has the most team spirit, and would make a great assistant coach. He has been known to cheer up those teammates of his who are not having a good day at practice.

Hailing from Toronto, Ronen Lazar is a merciless spiker. He also is also one of the best blockers that the team has.

The 'biggest' addition to the team is 6'6" Alex Shakhmurov, who also plays center for the basketball team. He should be a dominating force in the center with his height. A dangerous spiker, who also played volleyball in high school, Alex will make it tough for opponents to get the ball past his long arms.

One of the returning players is Russell Kimyagarov, who is playing his second year at Offside Spiker. He's a hard hitter who has worked very hard to improve offensively and defensively. "Personally, I believe that the team is somewhat tougher this year."

Fortunately, most of the starting players are returning, so through cooperation, we stand a good chance of winning this season.

See where **Michael CHANG** nets out when he makes a statement.

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# Macs Basketball Preview '96-'97

BY RON MARKOVITZ

Coming off a 13-12 season (7-6 in conference play) and a devastating post-season loss to Mt. St. Vincent, the YU Maccabees men's basketball team, along with Head Coach Johnny Halpert, are faced with the loss of 7 players including top scorer Forward Alan Levy, sharpshooter Jake Rosenberg, and former Division III steals leader and floor general Barry Aranoff. Coach Halpert meticulously chose 4 talented new players to fill out the roster for a total of 12 players.

The burden of leadership will mainly fall upon the shoulders of the captains: 6'7" Junior Center/Forward Joel Jacobson, 6'4" Senior Center Stephen "Kup" Kupferman, and 6'2" Senior Point Guard Yehuda Halpert.

Starting with the big men, Jacobson will probably start at Power Forward due to the effectiveness of Kupferman at Center. Joel, in his third year with the Macs, is coming off a second solid season and looks to improve and return the team to the playoffs.

Stephen really stepped it up at the end of the season and in the playoffs, even after being sidelined for most of the season with an injury. Spelling both men will be 6'5" Sophomore master rebounding Center Alex "Shak" Shakhmurov.

At Small Forward, the Macs have two very talented athletes. 6'3" Senior Neil Bronstein, who is playing his third year for the Macs, should see major minutes due to his experi-

ence, steady play, and knowledge of the system. 6'4" Junior Brian "Air" Wein, who had some sparkling moments last year, seems physically and mentally ready to get the season started and will probably share time with Bronstein. Both players are exciting to watch on both sides of the court.

At Point Guard, Yehuda Halpert will have the responsibility of bringing up the ball. 5'10" Senior Ira Landsman will bring his nifty passing ability onto the court when substituting for Halpert. 6'4" Junior Alon "Oak" Zaibert will bring his range to the Shooting Guard position. Alon badly sprained his left ankle in the Macs' first practice.

He hopes to be available for the opening game in Boston against Massachusetts College of Pharmacy on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, otherwise Bronstein and Wein should pick up the slack by playing at the same time.

Among the new faces on the team, 6'2" Sophomore Marc Nadritch sticks out the most. A native of Staten Island and a graduate of J.E.C. in Elizabeth, N.J., Marc should feel quite comfortable in the Max Stern Athletic Center, having played against MTA in the Yeshiva League and in the Red Sarachek Tournament, in which he led his team to the finals a couple of years ago. He's a big guard with a good shooting touch, though he played down low in high school. As a guard he feels that he can contribute by getting inside and driving to the basket.

Rounding off the other new team members are three Guards: 6'3" Sen-

*continued on page 23*

## Not Content to Rest on Laurels, Fencers Look Ahead

BY COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF

Some nineteen new recruits joined the seven returning veterans of the Yeshiva University fencing team at the first team practice, held on August 28th. The fencing Maccabees looks to reach new heights on the heels of what some would say would be a tough act to follow.

The '95-'96 year fencing team set high standards for what can be expected of Yeshiva fencers. The team won their second consecutive Independent Athletic Conference championship undefeated. On road trips to MIT, Johns Hopkins, and Virginia Tech, they made strong showings as well. Surprising most of their opponents, they placed fourth overall in the Mid-Atlantic Conference Fencing Association championships, held in Blacksburg, Virginia, with the Epee squad, led by departing senior Reuben Levy, repeating its previous year's feat by placing third. Reuben Levy was later selected to the All-Conference team in light of his gaudy personal record, 46-13.

Traveling to Johns Hopkins, once again for the Blue Jay Invitational Tournament, the Yeshiva representatives came in

fourth in a field of thirteen schools.

The jewel in the team's crown, however, was the qualification of six fencers, from all three weapons, to the NCAA Regional Championship, held at Wellesly. Unprecedented in size, the delegation, comprised of Reuben Levy, Tzvika Nissel, Shaun Azari, Shimon Oppenheim, Baltsar Beckeld, and Jack Cate, made a strong showing. Two Epee fencers made the second round, finishing seventeenth and twentieth in the Northeast Region, a region known for its high concentration of fencing powerhouses, such as Columbia, St. John's, and Yale.

Despite the concern that it may not be able to repeat the sterling performance of its predecessor, both team members and the coaches feel that this year's team has the potential to equal last year's achievement of nine victories.

"To reach this goal I expect the team to work hard, to make the necessary commitment, and to have the desire, the confidence, to win," said Coach Arnold Messing. "I have much faith in the captains to help train the new recruits, solidify and channel their team spirit, and make them a close-knit group intent on winning."

# YESHIVA

# SPORTS

## Cross Country Team Makes Run for Title

COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF

With the fall 1996 cross country season about to begin many new faces along with the returning veterans are preparing to make themselves strong contenders in the IAC.

With the graduation of senior standouts Akiva Davis and captain Chaim Motzen, all the new members will have to make an immediate impact. Coach Stan Watson said, "I am very optimistic and excited about newcomers Shaan Elbaum, Howard Shapiro, Yossi Nissenfeld, and Joel Kirzner. They have showed tremendous potential."

With Senior member Michael Zelenetz injured and the IAC championship about three weeks away, the team is working hard to prepare itself. Senior co-captain Michael Resnick remarked, "The mix of

the veterans and newcomers will greatly strengthen our chances of winning the IAC this year. The new guys are also generating a lot of excitement for the future."

With its Hilly wooded area and difficult and sometimes grueling terrain, Van Cortland Park, provides a challenging training course for the track team. Because the park is the site for this year's IAC championship, and all other scheduled meets, Yeshiva has the advantage with it being their official home grounds.

The team has been practicing consistently, learning the Van Cortland course and accustoming themselves to its five mile length. Coach Watson expressed his optimism for the coming year by claiming, "I am confident that by the time the IAC Championship comes that this team can make some noise".

### The Commentator

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