

Yeshiva University Commentator

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New Big Screen.
The Big Story on
Page 4



YU student leaders mingle at a reception in the home of Yeshiva University President Dr. Norman Lamm.

Questions Surround YC Research Group

Unnamed Club Remains Source of Controversy

BY NOAH STREIT

Isaac Sasson, a fifth year student at Yeshiva University and President of YURG is being paid \$1500 this year by the dean's office. His salary is attributed to his leadership of YURG, a club that was formed by Dean Adler in the summer of 1995.

According to Dean Adler "YURG originally began as a seminar for Roth scholars and then I wanted to broaden its path beyond the pre-med spectrum." Its purpose, continued Dean Adler, is to alleviate "an existential loneliness. It provides a forum for students doing research to identify each other and discuss their ideas."

Last year, both Chaim Lazar and Isaac Sasson served as YURG leaders. In the 1996 YURG Journal, Adler gave special thanks to them "for their leadership guiding the students (and me) throughout the year." YURG ended off its first year with a dinner where students who were either YURG members or were invited to attend discussed potential careers. This year, Isaac Sasson, a fifth year student, was appointed president of YURG. He explained that "we target special interest groups, where students can have an outlet for whatever it is that they are interested in."

Although, the reasons appear to be noble and productive, several questions have been raised about YURG by students and administrators including why YURG is not under the auspices of YCSC. A frustrated Jason Buskin, President of YCSC, explained, "The way I see it, there



Dean Norman Adler

are several problems with YURG. One, why wasn't I consulted about it? Two, what makes YURG that much different than any other student organization. According to the 1996 YCSC constitution 'We the students of Yeshiva College, in order to further the interests and provide for the general welfare of the Student Body... provide for the management of student activities.' Three, quite often, YCSC is forced to deny funding to different clubs, why should YURG receive special funding when there is not enough money for student activities?"

Sasson responded that "the budget which YCSC grants to clubs is limited in scope. For instance the chemistry club only receives fifty dollars. Also, if YURG would be a YCSC club, it would overlap with existing clubs... Finally, we co-sponsor most of our events with YCSC clubs." However, last fall, Chaim Lazar, Co-President of YURG, submitted a petition to YCSC to receive funds for its journal (for

continued on page 5

Mid-Semester Shake-Up Rattles YC Dean's Office

Untimely Move Source of Great Concern

BY JOSHUA M. FELDMAN

As a result of a surreptitious chain of events that continue to transpire, sources within the Yeshiva University administration report that Yeshiva College Dean Norman Adler has dismissed his Assistant Dean, Dr. Avery Horowitz.

On Wednesday October 23, 1996, University Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosen and Dean Adler informed Dr. Horowitz of his termination. Within an hour of delivering the news to Dr. Horowitz, YC Dean Norman Adler left New York for a conference in Boston, Massachusetts, leaving Dean Horowitz with no explanation for his dismissal.

When contacted by *The Commentator*, Dean Horowitz said he would "not confirm, nor deny [the story]." However, *Commentator* sources indicate that from the outset, Dean Horowitz did not fit into the future plans of the



Asst. Dean Avery Horowitz

Dean's Office, and Dean Adler wondered why Dr. Horowitz's current responsibilities resided in his office at all.

When asked about the apparent dismissal, Dean Adler, responded that "it would be inappropriate to comment on any personnel issue." Nonetheless, several indications point to concern amongst the administration that Dr. Horowitz spent too much

time talking with students and, in an attempt to keep academic standards high, was often abrasive.

Members of the YU faculty were shocked by the sudden action taken against Dr. Horowitz. English Professor and long time colleague Dr. Joan Haahr, noted that Dean Horowitz is a "very necessary and essential component to the Dean's Office. He [Horowitz] does the nitty gritty of both scheduling and organizing." Other faculty members echoed Dr. Haahr's sentiments declaring that they "can't even conceive of what the office would be like without him," and the lack of apparent reason caused one to exclaim "it is a miscarriage of justice!"

Professors were not only irked about the dismissal, but at the fact that the Dean's termination came in the midst of the fall semester. One professor noted that "it is practically unheard of to

continued on page 14

Student Leaders Protest Unnecessary University Fees

BY MATTHEW ROSEN
AND ARI GRUEN

Student leaders within the undergraduate schools of Yeshiva University are furious over fees that the University charges to clubs and societies on campus to run activities. Approximately ten percent of the Yeshiva College Student Council's budget is returned to the University in the form of room rental fees which the council is forced to pay every time an event is run on campus.

YU's room fee policy is unique among universities in the New York City area. Student leaders at both Columbia College and Fordham University stated that they receive free use of school rooms and services for their activities, and that they are responsible only for additional costs, such as food or extra security. One student leader at New York University

described her college's system as follows: "All we are required to do is reserve the rooms in advance, and budget for food and stuff." Dr. Sue Nanka-Bruce, the Director of Student Life at Teacher's College at Columbia University said, "One of the advantages of being a registered student organization is the free use of school facilities and any additional services that the school can provide."

In contrast, Jason Buskin, the President of YCSC, complains, "I have to think twice about approving club events because I know the Student Council is going to have to cover the cost of the room."

YU currently charges fifty dollars for the use of a classroom, fifty dollars for the use of Rubin Shul, and more than double those amounts for the use of Morenstein Lounge or Belfer Hall's Weissberg Commons. Buskin said that if a club

wants to have a meeting or bring in a speaker, he has to search for a lounge for them to meet in instead of them just meeting in a classroom due to budget constraints.

If the approximately thirty-five clubs registered with Yeshiva College each hold six events this year, all in First class rooms — a very unlikely occurrence, YCSC will owe over ten thousand dollars to YU. Buskin said, "I would rather use that money for more productive measures such as more campus activities, additional improvements to campus life, and other things which will benefit the students." Netanel Leibowitz, vice president of YCSC concurred, "If we didn't have to pay for room fees, we would be able to run more events."

University Dean of Students, Dr. Efreim Nulman, defended the university's room fee policy.

continued on page 13

EDITORIALS.. EDITORIALS.. EDITORIALS.

Second Class Citizens?

For the university to put on its best face for an Open House is understandable, even laudable. But to do so at the expense and great inconvenience of its already enrolled, tuition-paying students is inexcusable.

The Commentator

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P I C T O R I A L



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CORRECTIONS



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

NICK MUZIN

When Yaakov Aveinu concealed his identity to receive the *berachos* of the first born, he was afraid that Yitzchak would recognize him because of his smooth skin. The Rishonim point out that Yaakov was not concerned that Yitzchak would detect his voice, even though this was later shown to be a distinguishing characteristic, because his voice actually sounded the same as that of Esav. Later, Rashi explains that Yitzchak suspected that it was Yaakov receiving the blessing, not from his voice, but from the content of his speech, from his pleasant and courteous words. This prompted the famous cry: "The voice is the voice of Yaakov, but the hands are the hands of Esav!"

As students seeking a secular education, with all its joys and pitfalls, while trying to keep our heads above the water in *ruchnios*, and possibly even swim, we face a similar paradox. Our afternoons are filled with physics, philosophy, and finance — indeed *hayadayim yedei Esav* — but in our thoughts, in our hearts and minds, we are the voice of Yaakov.

Since we are the future professionals, *rabbonim*, and political activists, the future Yissachars and Zevulunim of the Jewish people, we have a responsibility to conduct ourselves on a higher level than our counterparts at other schools. This is true in our disputes and confrontations as much as it is true in the Beis Medrash and in the library. For campus leaders and administrators, and for the student body as a whole, it is important that our voice be that of Yaakov, that the style and substance of our disagreements be elevated to a level of *machlokes leshem shomayim*.

This is why it disturbs me that the first Yahrzeit of Yitzchak Rabin z"l passed without any form of commemoration on campus. Political and religious views aside, the occasion could and should have been used as a time to remind ourselves that while we may temporarily fool ourselves into thinking that our hands are those of Esav, our voice must ever and always be that of Yaakov.

Chazal tell us that we must constantly balance two principles: on one hand, we must truly believe that *bishvili nivra*

laolam — the entire world was created for our benefit, and we therefore should employ the opportunities available to us. On the other hand, as Avraham Aveinu teaches *Anochi Afar Va'Efer* — we are but dust and ashes, and we mustn't be carried away with our own self-importance. And so, while we seek to maximize the YU experience and use it to shape our lives, we must be ever cognizant of the fact that we are part of an institution whose history and future engage a far greater good than what we as individuals will take out.

The real *gadlus* — greatness — of Yeshiva was evident to me this week as I began interviewing at medical schools across the northeast. At first I was slightly intimidated when introducing myself to fellow interviewees, who held degrees from Princeton, Duke, and the like. But it didn't take long for me to realize that while I may not have taken as many biology courses as some of these heavy hitters, they really couldn't compete with the Yeshiva experience, in the Beis Medrash, in the small-sized college classes, or in the *Commentator* office. And while two people in the group of interviewees were both current Harvard students, yet total strangers to each other, I had lunch with a former YU student I had never met before, yet he acted like my big brother, taking me around the campus and introducing me to deans and faculty. Our discussion encompassed not only the benefits of one medical school over another, but also what *daf* Rav Schacter's *shiur* was up to in Maseches Kiddushin. Even in the far corners of the ivy league world, *Hakol Kol Yaakov!*

It is not only the education we gain here which lasts a lifetime, but the friendships, the camaraderie, and the sense of brotherhood. As Rav Aharon Kahnsaid last year, at YU we are one big fraternity.

May we all merit a comparison to the ladder in Yaakov's famous dream: *Sulam Mutzav Ariza VeRosho Magia Hashamayma*. With our feet firmly planted on the ground, engrossed in the practical aspects of this world, may our minds — our ideas and aspirations — soar to the skies.



MESSAGE FROM THE YCSC PRESIDENT

It is a busy time for the Yeshiva College Student Council. With many projects and events on the horizon, the end of the semester should be both busy and fulfilling for all students. Foremost, we are pleased to announce The Chanukah Concert Extravaganza. The event, sponsored by the undergraduate student councils of Yeshiva University, will be taking place Thursday, December 5th, at 8 pm in Lamport Auditorium. Featured acts are Mendy Wald and Avraham Fried and the event promises to be the most fantastic concert ever at YU. Tickets are on sale now, get them before they're sold out.

The concert was just one of the exciting announcements made at the YCSC meeting last Wednesday. For those who attended I would like to thank you for your support and questions. In the next few weeks we are looking forward to another meeting focused mainly on the agenda of the student body. Additionally, look for door-to-door representation coming in the next few weeks.

One project currently being initiated is the YCSC Book Exchange, a program which will allow students an easier opportunity to sell their used books next semester. More information and data forms will follow shortly. Keep your

eyes open.

Additionally with the Spring Semester right around the corner, YCSC is planning a big brother night. The evening will allow underclassmen the chance to sit down with upperclassmen in an informal setting, and discuss different courses to take and to talk about other issues and goings on around campus.

Lastly, for those of you who have had the chance to take a stroll to the MSAC game room, in Rubin Hall, I hope you have had the opportunity to relax and enjoy the new big screen television. I would like to thank my colleagues on the Student Life Committee for their assistance in making this possible, and the Office of Student Services, who purchased the television for the student body.

Indeed, the end of the fall semester is shaping up to be quite exciting. Make sure you stay informed by reading the YCSC Calendar, dormitory bulletin boards and attending our meetings. Also don't miss the YCDS production this semester, *Inherit the Wind*. Tickets are on sale now.

Stay tuned for more!

Jason Buskin
YCSC President 1996-97

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Yeshiva College



Campus News



left to right: Isaac Menashe, Bennet Schachter, Brian Ashenberg and Jason Buskin

YCSC Reveals New Rubin TV At Open Meeting

BY BOAZ J. KURTIS

The Yeshiva College Student Council held its second open meeting of the semester in the Morgenstern Dormitory's basement lounge on Wednesday November 13.

Out of concern for students' hectic schedules during midterms, YCSC President Jason Buskin chose simply to present the latest developments on campus, rather than opening the floor for student discussion.

Buskin reported that a new 60-inch television has been placed in the Max Stern Athletic Center game room on the first floor of Rubin Hall. The television has been wired to receive cable and thirty chairs have been placed in the game room for viewers.

Buskin said, "The Student Life Committee has been working on this since the summer with the Dean of Students' Office, [Director of Supporting Service Administration Mr. Jeffrey] Rosengarten, and [Director of the Athletics Department] Steve Young."

The Student Life Committee is composed of the various student council heads and is chaired by Buskin. The committee meets approximately twice a

month with Dr. Efreim Nulman, University Dean of Students, Mr. David Himber, Associate Dean of Students, Rabbi Adam Miller, Coordinator of Student Services, and Mr. Rosengarten.

Buskin thanked the Office of Student Services for paying for the new television.

When asked by an audience member about the absence of a TV in Muss Hall, Buskin noted the lack of a location in the building that could conveniently house the TV.

Buskin also announced the establishment of the "Big Brother Night", a program which will take place prior to registration for next semester's classes in an effort to aid freshmen and sophomores in the registration process.

Buskin described the program as "A chance for underclassmen to sit down with upperclassmen and get their input on courses to take, on registration, and on college life in general."

The next open meeting of the Council will take place after Thanksgiving.

Details of the annual Chanukah concert and a newly established book exchange were announced at the meeting as well. Please see related articles for those stories.

YCSC Establishes Book Exchange Program

BY J.J. LANDO

The Yeshiva College Student Council is initiating a book exchange system to make buying and selling used books easier for students. Rather than searching through a mass of signs and phone numbers posted on bulletin boards across campus, students will now have an efficient method of buying and selling used books.

Y.C. Senior Class Vice-President Rocky Schechter suggested the idea for the system when he realized that almost all other colleges offer some similar service, and that it would greatly benefit the student body for such a program to be set up here. Schechter stated that the exchange is meant to make "life on campus more affordable."

At the end of each semester, students will get forms to fill out for the books they want to sell. The form will ask for the class, title, edition, and asking price of the book for sale. YCSC will then compile all the forms into a database.

For students looking for specific books,

a file cabinet will be made available with the information on the books for sale. Students can then copy down the phone number of the seller of the book they need.

According to the rules to be adopted by the book exchange, each form received must be dated. Each prospective buyer must then call the student who first registered his form with the book exchange. The seller must be given a chance to lower his selling price to meet the lowest asking price of all sellers. If no agreement is met, the prospective buyer may then move on to the next seller. Y.C.S.C. thus serves only as a matchmaker, but will not buy or sell books itself.

The aim of the book exchange is not to undermine the business of the on campus bookstore, but rather a response to a long-standing problem of securing used books.

When asked to comment, Yeshiva College Student Council president Jason Buskin stated that the exchange is a "wonderful idea," and, "now it is up to the students to make it work."

Masmid '97 Underway

BY J. ETHAN KROLL

Yeshiva University's yearbook, *Masmid*, will be released significantly earlier this school year than in previous years, according to organizers.

Masmid's co-editors in chief, J.D. Shulman and Yaakov Markowitz, have announced plans for the yearbook's release by the summer immediately following graduation, well in advance of the traditional timetable. In recent years the *Masmid* has routinely come out, but over two years after graduation.

The apparent reasons for the inordinate delays of the past involve an array of technical and managerial pitfalls, Shulman said. Solicitation of ads, arguably

the most vital element in the formation of the yearbook, was not done in a timely fashion. Some have even accused past yearbook editors of being less than intent on fulfilling their duties.

Shulman outlined several steps that would be taken to ensure prompt publication. He would "increase the campaign to petition ads, by mailing ad blanks to the parents of every student." He is most concerned, though, about the lack of student interest in the yearbook. Nonetheless, Shulman strongly sounded his commitment to amend this troubling issue. "We will double our efforts to arouse student awareness in the *Masmid*," which he hopes, "will in turn spark a rise in student interest."



Yearbook Editors (left to right): Yaakov Markowitz and J.D. Shulman

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Fried, Wald to Headline Channukah Concert

BY BOAZ J. KURTIS

The annual Channukah Concert at YU will once again bring Jewish music phenom Avraham Fried to campus. Fried, who headlined last year's concert, will be joined by fellow performer Mendy Wald at the December 5th concert at the Lamport Auditorium.

The duo will be backed by Neshoma Orchestra.

YCSC Vice President and lead organizer for the concert, Natanel Lebowitz, predicts a huge success. "It promises to be an unbelievable show, due in part to a tremendous amount of effort on both campuses."

Tickets will be sold in all dormitories on both the midtown and uptown campuses, as the concert is only being advertised on campus and not in the New York community at large. The ticket prices range from \$20-28, with the proceeds going to pay the overhead.

The organizers aim is just to break even. If there are any extra funds left over, which is considered unlikely, the money will be

given to YCSC. Lebowitz stressed, however, that the concert is not a fundraiser. "We don't hold the concert as a fundraiser. We do it to put the best show out for the students," Lebowitz said.

The concert is held strictly for enhancement of student and campus life and is one of only a handful of official, large-scale events involving members of both undergraduate campuses that is held throughout the year. Both separate and mixed seating will be available at the concert, with the center of the auditorium and the balcony seating designated as co-ed and the wings of the orchestra being separate.

The organization of the concert, officially an event of all the undergraduate student councils, was aided by the Office of the Dean of Students, Director of Facilities Management Jeffrey Socol with the maintenance crew, and Chief of Security Don Summers with the Burns security team.

Doors to the Lamport Auditorium open at 7:15 P.M. and the concert starts at 8:00.

Student Leaders Meet President Lamm

BY NICK MUZIN

Continuing a standing tradition, Rabbi and Mrs. Norman Lamm hosted student leaders from the undergraduate schools of Yeshiva University to a dessert reception in their Central Park West duplex last Tuesday night. The Lamms welcomed forty students, mainly student council presidents and editors of the various campus publications. Also in attendance were Vice President for Academic Affairs William Schwartz, University Dean of Students Efrem Nulman, and Mrs. Zelda Braun, Assistant Dean of Students for Stern.

The evening was intended to give student leaders an opportunity to meet Rabbi Lamm informally, and to bring to his attention some issues of concern to students. Dr. Lamm spent an hour answering the representatives' questions, after which he chatted one-on-one with students at a dessert reception.

Dean Nulman opened the dialogue by commenting that this year's student leaders have been particularly diligent in their efforts to improve campus life, and that their requests of the administration have always been reasonable.

Students raised various issues. IBC Secretary Gary Strong broke the ice, asking President Lamm if anything could be done about creating a large Beis Medrash, which would accommodate students from all four Judaic Studies programs. Student Council president Jason Buskin wanted to know why the class valedictorians are not permitted to speak at graduation, and requested

greater student participation in selecting the evening's speakers. Rabbi Lamm replied that since the YU commencement includes graduating classes from Einstein, Cardozo, and the other graduate schools, it would be difficult to choose one valedictorian to represent all students.

Some other attendees were even more original in their questions. Hamevaser Editor-in-Chief Stephen Tolany asked President Lamm if there were any plans to move the Wurzeiler School of Social Work from the Main Campus to a new location (No), and SOY Secretary Dov Siegman wanted to know if anything could be done about some *nouveau-frum* students' anti-college attitude. Rabbi Lamm explained that he is confident that these negative attitudes about college will fade as the students readjust to everyday life, which includes the secular world. At the same time, Dr. Lamm mentioned that he hopes that the positive influences students pick up during their years in Israeli *Yeshivot* will remain with them for years to come.

Nitzan Pelman, Vice President of TAC, wanted to know who determines hashkafic and halachic policy for the University and who she should turn to with her questions. Rabbi Lamm replied that ultimately he is the poseik for the University, although he will often set up committees to explore issues in which he is not expert. Any questions that students would like answered should be directed to Rav Yosef Blau, Mashgiach Ruchani.

YCDS to perform *Inherit the Wind*

BY DAVID SWIDLER

In December, the Yeshiva College Dramatics Society will present *Inherit the Wind*, a dramatization of the famous "Scopes Monkey Trial" of 1925. Under the direction of Dr. Anthony Beukas, the Society will perform from December 14-19 at the Schottenstein Theater.

The actual trial upon which the play is based involved a Tennessee high school teacher who taught his class Darwinism, an unlawful act under erstwhile state law, which banned the teaching of anything but the Creationist view of the world's origins as set forth in a literalistic reading of the Bible.

William Jennings Bryan, several times an unsuccessful candidate for the Presidency leading the largely agriculturally-based Populist movement of the early 1900s, acted as prosecuting attorney, ostensibly to defend the Scriptures against perceived blasphemies by scientists, and to prevent the spread of atheistic teachings.

Clarence Darrow, who also acted as defense attorney in the Leopold and Loeb murder case that provided the story behind the film *Compulsion*, defended the accused teacher against what he portrayed as an impingement on academic freedom and a violation of the principle of separation of Church and State.

The trial itself was, however, considerably less exciting than the play's depiction. The script, therefore, uses fictional names and places and an unspecified time so as not to distort the history of the trial.

This semester's production uses a relatively large cast, most of whom will be on stage for almost the entire duration of the play. Set design, music, sound, staging, lighting, directing and scenery artwork form a complicated mesh that demand artistic and technical prowess.

The cast is led by YCDS president Allan Schwartz, complemented largely by first-time performers. Schwartz plays Matthew Brady, a fictionalized Bryan. Noah Streit portrays Henry Drummond, the play's



Dr. Anthony Beukas

version of Darrow.

Most of the play has the two main characters sparring verbally in the courtroom, as the townspeople of "Hillsboro" struggle to deal with the titanic issues that have been thrust upon them by the moral and religious debate surrounding the case.

Dr. Beukas chose *Inherit the Wind* because issues of freedom of expression and education are always hot topics in the academic arena, and he wants to get Yeshiva students more involved and interested.

The Scopes case brought such issues to the fore during its time, and Dr. Beukas wanted to utilize the intellectual resources of the rabbis at YU in this debate. To that end, Rosh Yeshiva and noted scientific expert Rabbi Moshe Tendler will discuss the impact of evolutionist science on traditional Jewish thought following the December 15th performance.

Beukas hopes the theological implications and Rabbi Tendler's scheduled speech will add religious appeal and attract a larger audience. "Thousands of people come every year to see the plays," he said, "and we want to attract people" to what is essentially a class, Theater Workshop, wherein the work of the students is on display for all to see and judge. "No other class in this school does that."

Student President Receives Salary For Y.U.R.G.

continued from page one

which he served as founder and Editor-in-Chief) and to also be considered under YCSC's auspices. YCSC recognized the YURG Journal as one of its official student organizations' publications. Lazar, received some funding from YCSC and went so far as to thank YCSC in his *Letter from the Editor*. Defining his club, Dean Adler commented that "YURG is not and was not a student organization... It's a device of the dean's office and its employees are employees of the university."

In addition to the question regarding Sasson's compensation for serving as president of YURG, students have begun to wonder just who funds YURG. This year, YURG has co-sponsored many YCSC events, produced events independently, and has had excess cash to pay a "salary" for its president. A source that asked to remain anonymous stated that funding comes from student tuition and endowment, but the same source also

added that he is unaware of any system of checks and balances for fund allocation.

Isaac Sasson has confirmed that he is receiving \$1500 from the YC Dean's Office. Some sources have said that the money is being used to pay for his parking at AECOM, (as has been done for others in the past) while he takes classes. Sasson responded that the money he receives is restitution for the time and effort he gives to YURG.

If in fact YURG is a student organization, then Sasson is the only student leader on campus that receives money for his position. If the money is to help supplement Sasson's part time graduate program, as one high level student activist stated, "why has this offer not been extended all Yeshiva College students? There should be a contest of sorts determining eligibility in receiving these funds. But having only one or two students receiving surely isn't fair."

Rising To New Heights

Washington Heights Shows Signs of Renaissance

BY CHANAN HOSCHANDER

Once a bastion of religious Jewish life in the "new world," the Jewish population residing in Washington Heights has slowly dwindled — until now.

After years of continuous decline, the last six months have seen a small, yet encouraging, rejuvenation of the Jewish community in this section of Manhattan, where numerous ethnicities have historically started their first communities in America.

At the turn of the Century, Washington Heights became a haven for Jewish refugees fresh off the boat from Germany. "The Heights" were so named because the area had the highest elevation on Manhattan Island and enjoyed a commanding view of the rest of New York City and New York Harbor. With the addition of YU to the neighborhood in the early 1930s, Washington Heights became the home of a flourishing and vibrant young Jewish community. First generation immigrants turned this part of the city into a place where German was the language prevalent on the street and the topics of conversation centered around *Shabbosim* and *Yeshivos*.

As the children of these immigrants grew older they took advantage of the opportunities this country had to offer and assumed a new level of affluence. Caught up in the pursuit of the "American Dream" of a house with a white picket fence, this second generation took their affluence from the city to the suburbs. More recent immigrants moved in to take their place in the Heights, giving the neighborhood a new culture and a new reputation. Spanish became the dialect of choice and gradually drowned

out the sounds of Yiddish.

Community organizations such as the Jewish Community Council (JCC) and the Upper Heights Jewish Alliance (UHJA) are leading somewhat of a campaign to improve the image of the much maligned locale. The UHJA was formed to project a positive image for the neighborhood. Committee members include residents and politicians, among them a member of City Council, Stan Michaels. It is their belief that a major factor inhibiting community growth is bad press. The media has caused the name Washington Heights to become synonymous with "the crack capital of the world," not exactly an inviting term. Hardly a day goes by without a newsworthy event appearing on TV or in the paper, which lends further support to the neighborhood's image as crime-ridden. However, the still active community is working to combat that image, claiming that it truly is undeserved. Positive advertisements with slogans such as, "If you're looking to move to the New York area, have you considered Washington Heights?" have appeared in local, as well as, national publications, among them *The Jewish Week*, *The Jewish Press* and *The Commentator*. The UHJA is currently involved in producing a brochure that will contain information about the benefits of the neighborhood.

Although the powerful community that once was will likely not make a full return in the foreseeable future, it seems that the Heights may be in the midst of a modest revival. The Jewish Community Council estimates that between twelve and fifteen new families have moved into the area in the past six months. The migration back to Washington Heights has been attributed to what the area has to



offer.

Washington Heights is very conveniently located; it is a crossroads between the Bronx, Queens, and Manhattan. In addition New Jersey is just across the George Washington Bridge and the commute by car to Connecticut is reasonable. The Heights contains as a hub for the city's bus and subway systems, making all parts of the city very accessible. Apartments are much more reasonably priced and, due to the efforts of organizations like the Jewish Community Council (JCC), more available to prospective residents than in most other areas, such as the Upper West Side.

Eric Heine, an alum of YU, stated that the JCC can help save tenants-to-be, "between \$1000 and \$1500 by eliminating the need for a broker."

Even through the extended lull in the growth of the Jewish community in Washington Heights, the sounds and sights of Judaism have continued to ring as true as they did in the 1950s. One only need look a little more closely to find the same spirit of the Jewish community of forty years ago. There are nearly fifteen orthodox *minyanim* operating within the vicinity, with various affiliations, including Breuers, the center of the German-Jewish community in America, which operates local schools from elementary to Beit Midrash. Yeshiva University provides a college in the area.

Washington Heights is home to a diverse selection of programs that seek to provide residents with a full and active Jewish life. *Shiurim* take place regularly in the many synagogues, including a nightly shiur given by Rabbi Hoffman of Congregation Shaarei Hatikvah. There are at least four organized *Daf Yomi shiurim*, and YU's daily *shiurim* are also accessible to the community. Organizations such as the Achdut Group for women offer activities such as a weekly aerobics class, in addition to a book containing a list of names and phone numbers of local residents. Agudas Yisrael provides separate Shabbos afternoon groups for

boys and girls in the neighborhood. There is an active *Bikur Cholim* committee as well as a committee which provides meals for new mothers.

Kosher delectables are just a hop, skip, and a jump away from any apartment complex. A bodega operates on nearly every block; there is a supermarket in the area, which carries a variety of kosher products, as well as staple foods; there are even a kosher bakery and a kosher butcher shop.

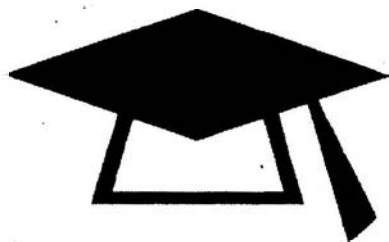
Those who have recently settled in the area have done so for a variety of these reasons. Others have had prior connections to the Heights and have returned to their roots. But most seemed to stress the affordability in their decision to move to Washington Heights as opposed to other neighborhoods. David Steiner, an accountant who works in the city and lives in Washington Heights, says the housing in the neighborhood is very cheap and encourages his friends to join him, but admits, "It's a hard sell." Other new residents cite invitations for Shabbos meals as an indication of the friendly atmosphere. Many do not believe that Washington Heights will suit their long term needs, but they do feel that it is an excellent location for those who are just getting started. With regard to crime, they say that from when you cross Broadway towards Bennett, the area is clean, quiet, and safe. It is supposed that the presence of the 34th precinct is a deterrent to crime nearby. In addition, a recent police effort consisting of the NYPD, DEA, FBI, ATF, National Guard, and other law enforcement agencies, is expected to make a significant amount of progress in cleaning up the neighborhood, and funds have been allocated for this joint effort to continue until the end of 1997.

Chani Hillowitz, a member of the UHJA and an administrator for Congregation Mt. Sinai, a local synagogue, calls the Heights, "a pretty well-kept secret." Much to the delight of the UHJA's and the Washington Heights Jewish community, it appears that the cat is out of the bag.

COMMENCEMENT 1997

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 11:00 AM

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Twenty Years of Memories

A Look at the Highs and Lows of Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm's Tenure as University President

BY ARI KAHN

October 1975 is a month to be remembered in Yeshiva University history. It was the month that Rabbi Dr. Samuel Belkin z"l, the man who through his thirty-two years on the job, developed YU from a small college with 850 students into a burgeoning national university boasting an enrollment of over 7,000 students, announced that due to his ailing health, he would be resigning as President of Yeshiva University. Soon thereafter, a presidential search committee was assembled and given the unenviable task of finding a replacement.

The search ended one year later when, after reviewing fifty-seven nominees, the fifty-member committee announced that it had made its recommendation to the Board of Trustees. The process had taken thousands of man-hours to complete, as everything about the final choice had to be debated to the bitter end. The qualities and personality-traits the committee wanted evolved continuously throughout the selection process. References were meticulously checked and re-checked. The committee conducted interviews not just with the nominees, but with people who were close to them and knew them well. In the end, the Trustees unanimously selected a 48 year old, American born scholar, and graduate of Yeshiva College, Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm.

Born in Brooklyn, R. Lamm attended Torah Vodaath High School. Dr. Lamm came to YU at the age of 18 to continue his education despite his having been, by his own admission, "brain-washed." As he describes it, though, reversing this did not take much work, "I was simply attracted to the whole concept of Torah U'Madda. I felt this is really the Derech Hashem, this is really the way a Jew should be...I came because of that and the Rav. I wanted to learn under the Rav, I

had heard so much about him."

Graduating in 1949 as valedictorian, with a bachelor's degree summa cum laude in chemistry, R. Lamm continued with his academic work, studying chemistry at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn while receiving Smicha from RIETS in 1951.

R. Lamm was initially torn between pursuing a career in science and entering the Rabbinate, but his mentor and predecessor, Dr. Belkin, encouraged him to become a pulpit Rabbi. He heeded this advice and became the assistant rabbi of Kehillat Yeshurun in New York City. Eventually he became community rabbi of Springfield, Massachusetts and their synagogue Congregation Kadima.

On November 3, 1976, the then pulpit rabbi was vested with the Presidency of Yeshiva University. "If anyone would have told me what this job entailed the day before I was elected, I would have withdrawn," Dr. Lamm told the Commentator.

At the initiation of his tenure President Lamm realized that "when I got a handle on things... there was no food in the pot of which I was holding the handle." YU was in desperate financial straits. A declining enrollment and lack of endowments had caused YU to take on a substantial debt. According to Rabbi Lamm, the financial troubles were both the high point and low point of his presidency.

In 1978, Dr. Lamm was forced to sign Chapter 11 bankruptcy papers. He reflected on that time as the lowest point of his presidency. In February 1980, YU received news that the Bowery Bank was to foreclose on the \$40 million mortgage YU had outstanding. Under the conditions of the mortgage, YU was to make monthly payments of \$373,000 through 1997. However, in September of 1979, YU failed to pay its monthly installment to

Bowery. This news and the Chapter 11 papers YU had filed "woke up (NY) Governor Carey who proved to be very helpful, and he woke up the bankers."

Though his institution was hobbled financially, Dr. Lamm, still undiscouraged, looked at the situation as an impetus for the university to get on the right track for explosive growth. YU's financial problems ended in 1982. They had agreed in 1980 to come up with \$35 million over two years to stave off foreclosure and end the debt to Bowery Bank. The last payment was due in February, and with the help of \$5 million in bridge loans, YU finally paid off its mortgage and found itself free of major debt.

The fund-raising effort was spearheaded by Dr. Lamm, and the attempt to raise the money in two years was successful. Rabbi Lamm became known as a master fund-raiser. It is a necessary part of the job, but a part he says he does not enjoy. "I can tell you he saved this institution, we wouldn't be here without him," commented Dean of Student Services Efrem Nullman, "He has done an awesome job." Rabbi Lamm truly loves this institution and when he sells it to people, his sincerity shows through, "He knows how to bring his vision to life and he is a real person with a real *neshama*. Donors can see that he really believes in YU and its purpose."

R. Lamm also fought a battle that affected the future of higher education throughout United States. It centered around a faculty union formed by the professors at YU to take advantage of collective bargaining tactics that unions employ. President Lamm and the administration maintained that the faculty could not form a union because they made management decisions for the college and argued that teachers should be considered management and barred from forming a union.

With the support of the National Labor Relations Board, the Yeshiva University Faculty Association, as the union became known, took their fight all the way up to the Supreme Court. On February 20, 1980, the United States Supreme Court decided that the member of YUFA were considered managerial professionals and could not be protected by the National Labor Relations Act. Schools from around the country who were embroiled in legal battles of their own against

faculty unions felt the effect of this long battle from within YU, either disbanding or losing their respective court cases.

During the time Rabbi Lamm has served as university president has not solely concerned himself with the physical growth of Yeshiva University. Even before he was appointed President he published books on Jewish thought including *The Royal Reach*, *Hedge of Roses*, and *Faith and Doubt*. As President, Dr. Lamm tried to clarify YU's motto and mission by writing his magnum opus, *Torah U'madda*. He also instituted the Torah U'madda Project. Both of these actions show how he has attempted to give guidance to the students and imbue within students lessons on living life as a *ben torah* while taking advantage of the knowledge and opportunities the outside world has to offer.

In addition to being President of Yeshiva University, Rabbi Lamm serves as Rosh Yeshiva of the Rabbeinu Isaac Elchanon Theological Seminary. As such, he shoulders the responsibilities that all Roshei Yeshiva have toward molding their students. He has tried to live up to this responsibility over the years by holding the ever popular "Dorm Talks" series of informal talks during which he responds to different hypothetical scenarios presented by students. Topics have ranged from dating to business and ethics. At each meeting, he tries to give the students his personal guidance. The forums serve as rare opportunities for YC students to interact with Rabbi Lamm who is responsible for all university activity including YU's graduate schools which have risen to become some of the top schools in the country.

"Rabbi Lamm is one of the most unusual university presidents I've ever seen," reports Dean of Yeshiva College, Dr. Norman Adler. "He is of the 'old school' where the president is not just a fundraiser but the true intellectual leader of the university. He defines not only the infrastructure, but the vision for the university."

When R. Lamm looks back on his twenty years as president, he is amazed at how far YU has come in such a short time. President Lamm's goals for the university have yet to be reached. Dr. Lamm believes that that "goals should never be reachable" so that a person has something to strive for.



Yeshiva College Student Council



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

YCSC Working for You!

Monday, November 25

9:15PM Aaron Heller Memorial Shiur Rubin Shul

YURG: Psych/Behavioral Science Speech 535 Furst Hall

Tuesday, November 26

Torah U'Madda Project Lecture by Rabbi Taragin

Thursday, December 12

8:00PM CHANUKAH CONCERT Lamport Auditorium

Monday December 9

7:00PM Pre-Med Club Lecturer Doctor Weisbrot, Topic: "Getting into Medical School"

Attention All Seniors:

Don't forget that yearbook pictures are being taken

December 2nd, 5th, and 9th.

Time: 10 A.M.-4 P.M. and 5 P.M.-7 P.M.

\$10 Sitting fee has been waived by the Yeshiva College Student Council. Please bring a bio, containing your name, major, short list of achievements and, if you'd like, a quote.

Sign up in the Morg Lobby or call one of the editors.

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Commentator: It is now one year since the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin z"l. After the murder, the rabbeim at RIETS took out an advertisement in Jewish newspapers condemning Yigal Amir, and you set up a commission to explore issues of tolerance within the community, in addition to delivering numerous speeches. Was all this necessary? Do you think that our community was sending the wrong signals, in terms of all the harsh rhetoric?

NL: Yes, of course we were. And to deny it is to deny reality, to deny facts. Everyone was sending wrong signals on all sides, but as a religious community, as a Torah community, I hold us to a higher standard than others - and we failed that standard. We have a tendency to be almost adolescent in the way we express opinions, as if everything has to go to an extreme and there's no moderation, there are no grays, everything is black and white. We talk too much and we talk too harshly and we talk too mindlessly. To say that that was primarily responsible for the murder of Rabin is silly, but that we have reason to regret the looser rhetoric and the purple rhetoric certainly is true. We have much reason to regret it and we still haven't done enough. I don't think we've uprooted that tendency towards demonization of everyone who disagrees with us. So we have a lot to account for and the most important thing is to make a constructive and creative attempt to overcome it. Now this commission that I've appointed has been working assiduously. I don't expect them to give me answers overnight. I've assigned them three topics: Democracy, Tolerance, and the Ethics of Dissent or Disagreement. It's going slower than I thought, but I'm not alarmed because the problems will always be with us and what I'm aiming at is not simply research papers which will be published in some obscure journal and put away on somebody's shelf, but rather translating that into educational implementation. And that committee is working assiduously, too. So there will be results, be'ezras Hashem.

Commentator: You're famous for your fund-raising efforts. What qualities make you such a good fund-raiser?

NL: I don't know. Two things: number one, I believe in it, number two, I have some mazel. I never was trained to be a fund-raiser. To this day I raise millions of dollars. I don't necessarily like it. I don't enjoy it. Yes, I get a feeling after I've done it that I did a mitzvah, I did a favor to the one who's giving the money. I really believe that. Otherwise, they spend it on nareshkeit, or on other things that are less valuable. I don't enjoy it, but you've got to do it. I said before I'm a housewife. You think a housewife enjoys mopping the floors? She doesn't. But it has to get done. This is my housework.

Commentator: When Yeshiva accepts a donation from someone, does the benefactor then have the right to direct the funds to a certain area or to determine the curriculum content in those areas? In other words, does giving money give a person a say in how Yeshiva is run?

NL: Oh, no. Well, divide that into two. Do they have a right to direct it to certain areas? Absolutely. Not only that, but we have no right to change that without permission. For instance, if they give money for RIETS, I can't change that to Einstein. If they give money for a chair in French, I can't make it Spanish.

Commentator: But can you then redirect other funds?

NL: No. The money that's fungible is fungible. That means that it can be used for other purposes. But it's against the law and against morality and its against halacha. Ein meshanin mitzedaka litzedaka. You're not allowed to take from one tzedaka to put to another. So restricted funds are kept for what they were restricted to scrupulously. Does that give the donor the right to determine the curricular content? Of course not. Unless that's the nature of what they're doing. If a man gives me money for constitutional law, then we will teach constitutional law. Will we ask him for permission to teach one way or another way? Of course not. If any donor has that in mind, then we should never accept it. But if they have in mind they want a subject to be taught, by all means.

Commentator: What about having a say in Yeshiva?

NL: No, not on the basis of contributions alone. However, people do become board members and trustees are the legal owners of the corporation. They are the ones who decide. It is they who choose a president. It is the president who chooses a vice-president, who chooses the deans, who choose the faculty. So in a way, they do have a say, very much so, but they do not micro-manage the institution and they do not get involved in personnel down the line or in curricular matters or in ideology, for that matter.

Commentator: Most undergraduates here, both at the Sy Syms school and at Yeshiva College, are interested in a practical career, for instance, medicine, law, or business, rather than in pure academia. Are we at Yeshiva, and the Orthodox community in general, producing enough intellectuals and if not, who will fill those positions?

NL: No, we're not producing enough intellectuals, but we're producing some of them. Some of the young fellows and some of the young women whom I talk to occasionally do show an aptitude and a genuine intellectual bent other than pre-professional. We're not a trades school. It would be a mistake to say that. We're not a trades school. We are largely pre-professional. My complaint is that we're too heavily pre-professional and I blame the students and their parents for that. You take a year in Israel and you have early admissions and APs and summer school and all kinds of "kuntzim" so by the time you come in you're out already. How does anyone expect us to have any influence in doing what I received here, namely formulating a personality intellectually, culturally, religiously, if you're not here long enough? And you're not here long enough because everyone's got the idea that you've got to go out and make a living immediately, and parents get high-strung about it and students are nervous about it. You know, learning requires leisure, a certain sense of serenity in your own mind. It means you have to think, not just absorb knowledge. You have to classify, you've got to be critical, and to be critical you've got to evaluate, so you've got to have the time to evaluate and to be critical and to put things in perspective. How can you do that if you're taking 17 credits and you're taking summer school on top of it and you want to learn well, too, and go to a night-seder? It's superhuman. There's got to be more relaxation, and that requires not cramming too many courses into one term, but to let yourself go for a while and come for a full four-

year course. But when you have pre-professional neuroses, that becomes difficult. So I'm critical of what's happening today. I don't think we have enough people who will become the intellectuals of the future, but there will be some. And many of them will be coming from the rabbinate, incidentally. A lot of the people who are going into the rabbinate are beginning to develop into intellectual leaders, in the rabbinate and in academia. So they'll come. From where they come is a mysterious thing. No one knows where leadership comes from. It's a great mystery, thank heavens.

Commentator: An issue which is very hot right now is teachers' salaries. Why are the teachers' salaries at YU significantly less than those of equally qualified professors at Universities of similar size with similar endowments?

NL: How do you know they are?

Commentator: Well, we have the AAUP's recent newsletter, comparing Yeshiva to other universities.

NL: You've got to compare first of all, categories. It is true that in some categories we are behind, but in some we are ahead. No one speaks about those where we're ahead, they speak about where we're behind. Of course, it becomes a kind of negotiating stance. Yet, I wish we could do better, and we will try. We've been giving constant raises every year, more than the cost of living. It is true that in certain categories we are still behind

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY

and we try every year to make up for them and to iron out the inequities as best we can. But the idea that we're way behind everybody else is not accurate.

Commentator: Do you think many professors stay on at Yeshiva because they believe in its purpose, when they could possibly be getting a higher salary elsewhere?

NL: Yes. I'm not so sure about that higher salary someplace else. I'm a bit skeptical. Don't forget that we have a lot

of things to offer. I know people who will come to Yeshiva and stay here even if they have a better offer elsewhere not only because they believe in the mission of Yeshiva, but because they enjoy teaching here. You know there's still a difference between teaching here or at Hunter City or Baruch or even in other schools that are more prestigious. There are challenging students here. There are receptive students. And they're more or less vil, most of the time. So that people like

*In honor of his 20th year anniversary,
Commentator Editors Nick Muzin and Ari Kahn interviewed
Yeshiva University President
Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm.
Presented here is the second half of the hour-long interview.*



to teach in an atmosphere of this sort. I enjoyed teaching here enormously in the years that I was teaching. But I think you have to look at those figures again and you'll see that in certain categories we're ahead. Incidentally, our tuition is less than that of those schools, too. I have no students who have yet volunteered to give better salaries to faculty because they're going to give us more tuition. And we don't charge at all for limmudei kodesh. So you figure what we have to do, and students ought to appreciate this, and their parents, too. We give you two educations for less than the price of one. The tuition here is less than it is at other private institutions, yet we give you several faculties for Judaic studies. On top of that, there are some 75% who are on one form of student aid or another. And on top of that, we give you credit for a year in Israel, which means we take three years tuition instead of four years tuition. Now we are doing more tzedaka in that sense than anyone I know.

Commentator: What do you think is the future of YU in terms of its impact on the Jewish community? For instance, 20 years from now, will YU be more centrally recognized as the flagship of American Orthodoxy, or will its need fade out?

NL: Oh, I don't think its need is going to fade out at all. To predict the future? I would be guilty of self-deprecation if I would try to tell it to you, because the gemara says that mishecharav beis

hamikdash, nitlah nevuah michachamim venitnahleshotim. So even if I am one, I'm not going to tell it to you. So why should I make predictions about the future? But let me say this without prophesy. I feel that despite the current pressure against what we stand for, against Torah U'Madda and against Yeshiva, we hold the key to the future. I feel that unfortunately, the non-observant community is going to shrink. They're already shrinking. I find that to be an incomparable tragedy. It breaks my heart that so many lovely people, good people, are not going to see grandchildren who are Jewish, certainly not great-grandchildren. That's an unspeakable tragedy. I think that the parts of the community that are more religiously committed, and obviously that includes Orthodox Jews, will make it. The question is how will we make it? In what form? What kind of people will we be? I think that the right-wing will begin to send their kids to college, too. They're doing it now reluctantly. But in principle, there is no difference between college and high school. The extreme of the right-wing would not send their kids to high school beyond the age required by law. The others will send them not only to high school, but to college. In the beginnings, they'll send them to college only for the accounting courses, or for an insurance, and then they'll start going to the medical schools and the law schools, as they've already begun. And then eventually they will be us. So I feel that we do have a future, and it's IY" H a good one. Yes, there will be highs and lows, there will be waves, ups and downs, but that's life. But by and large, I'm optimistic. I'm optimistic about Orthodoxy. I'm optimistic about Yeshiva. I am sad and pessimistic about the Jewish community as a whole. We have certain responsibilities to that community, and I think we have to express those responsibilities through our students, through our faculty, and through a greater effort on outreach.

Commentator: When you were ourage, did you ever think you'd get to where you are today? And what would you say to a young college student who wants to become a leader in the Jewish community?

NL: Did I ever think I'd get to where I am today? Well, I had loftier ambitions... No, I didn't think so. If anyone had told me what this job entails the day before I was elected, I would have withdrawn. It's very burdensome. I told someone recently that when I came into the Presidency 20 years ago, I averaged 16 hours a day. Now the burden is lighter; I average 15 and a half. I never go home without homework and it takes me until all hours of the night, sometimes the middle of the night. But that's the job you can't help it. Back to the housewife analogy, her work is never done. That's all there is to it.

Commentator: What would you say to a young college student who wants to become a Jewish leader like yourself? Is it something to strive for? Is it possible?

NL: Sure, it's possible. **Commentator:** What qualities are necessary?

NL: What qualities? First of all, learn as much as you can. Because when you leave Yeshiva, you'll have less opportunity to learn, so learn as much as you can. Be alert to what's happening in the world, but don't

spend too much time on it while you're here. You don't have to go to every demonstration. You don't have to go to every political convention. You don't have to show up every time there's a photographer present. Shun that stuff now and get whatever you can, as much as you can. Become a malei kreiso baTorah, you have to fill up your belly with Torah, as it were. And with Torah U'Madda, as well, but with Torah, especially. Keep an open mind, but remember that an open mind has limits, too. Lionel Trilling once said that some people are so open-minded their brains fall out. By that I mean, listen as much as you can, learn as much as you can, until you formulate a point of view. Don't spout opinions that are half-baked and shun people who do such things. Be critical, always critical, and evaluate; critical and respectful. And keep on developing a passionate love of your people and love of Torah, and if you have what it takes, and what you have somehow conforms to the needs of our people and our community, you'll become a leader whether you like it or not. And if it doesn't conform, don't even try, because you're not going to make it. How will you know? At the Dorm Talks recently, someone asked me "How will I know that I love her?" and I said, "You'll know, you'll know." When it will happen, you'll know.

Commentator: One last question. We hope that you'll be able and willing to serve Yeshiva for many more years. We just want to know who you envision as a successor to the Presidency and to your position as a leader of Modern Orthodoxy?

NL: I can't answer that question. I'm not ready to think about it.

Commentator: Some of the people who have been mentioned include Dean Nulman...

NL: [turning to Dean of Students Efraim Nulman, who was present during the interview] You want it? Ephy, you want it? You can have my chair if you want it; no problem.

Commentator: ...or Rabbi Jeffrey Gurock, as well as Rabbi Jacob Schacter is another name.

NL: I'm not going to answer that question.

Commentator: OK, what qualities do you think are important in someone who would want to take over your position?

NL: Well, masochism would be the first one... No, I think those are questions which I really can't answer because I don't know what qualities are necessary. It's like saying "What qualities are necessary in the girl I want to marry?" ...again going back to my Dorm Talk. If you have a very strict standard and you analyze each one clearly, you're not going to find anyone, and if you do she probably is not going to be attracted to you. You have to be malleable, you have to be flexible, yet have principles and guidelines. There are obviously certain things that are important. Most important is to really believe in what Yeshiva's all about. A President of Yeshiva should not be a manager, should not be an administrator. It doesn't hurt, indeed it helps, if you have some talents, but you have to believe in it and have to want the world to believe in it. And you have to be devoted to Yeshiva as an institution. I love this place. And someone who doesn't love this place should not be sitting in this seat. Everything else is negotiable; love is not.

Students Helping Students

Tutoring Program Looks Strong in Second Year of Existence

BY GARY STRONG

Rather than cramming two months of work into two nights as midterms arrive, many students are getting help from their peers, as the Yeshiva University Tutoring Program kicks into full swing. The tutoring program is currently offering help in a number of classes, including math, Hebrew, and organic chemistry.

Officially, there are eight courses for which tutoring is offered. The program is based in the Writing Center and according to Eric London, YC Secretary and student coordinator of the tutorial program, people can be tutored in any subject. There are three to eight tutors in each subject, with the number of tutors based on the demand. The program is currently being funded by the Yeshiva College administration.

Nadav Schwartz, an organic chemistry tutor, explained that students come in flustered, but the tutoring program is a calming factor. He said, "organic chemistry is arguably the hardest subject in YC, some guys just need reassurance, while others need more help. We do not do the work for them, rather, students bring in work and we help them understand the subject matter."

Although the tutors have had some success, there are kinks which need to be worked out. Yoni Bak, a math tutor said, "As tutors, we have work to do also. I understand that students need even more help during midterm and finals but what about the tutors? Tutors only make \$7.50 an hour, in other schools tutors make almost \$10 an hour." He hopes these kinks will be worked out as the tutoring program increases in popularity.

The tutoring program was a brainchild of the Student Council administration under then president Josh Fine. During its first year of existence, tutors

were only available for the sciences and Hebrew. The goal was to implement the program so that this year it would be in full use. As mentioned before, Eric London, the student coordinator, is working closely with Professor Gabriel Cwilich, the faculty liaison, to have the tutoring include all introductory classes. Since the program has become so popular, there is a five hour limit per week of tutoring per student.

London did add that someone who needs extra time will get it. He concluded by saying, "The faculty of Yeshiva University wants to improve the academic standards up to the par of Ivy League Universities which have all-encompassing tutorial programs. What better way for students to achieve success than to have a tutor. The tutoring for introductory classes is vital, because instead of having students fall behind and become frustrated, they will succeed."

London met with Yeshiva College Dean Norman Adler on October 31 to discuss opening the program to all classes and still having the university fund it; Adler agreed.

In upper level classes the teacher will use the "buddy system". Students will be paired with each other in the same class to study and work out dilemmas together. Now that most of the key points are covered, London hopes the tutoring program will prove successful.

Student feedback on the tutoring program has been positive. Shmuel Bodenheimer, a YC senior, said, "The relationship between student and tutor will benefit all parties involved. Students will not panic, knowing there is a tutor to guide them, and teachers will have better prepared students who want to learn. As YU continues to strive for superior academic standards, a strong student-run tutoring program is a step in the right direction."

Yeshiva University
Department of Political Science
cordially invites student to attend an informal talk by
Dr. Ross Zucker
who will speak on
"What is Contemporary Political Theory?"
and
"How is Sandel to Clinton what Nozick is to Reagan?"
Tuesday, December 2, 1996
Furst Hall Faculty Lounge, 8:00 P.M.

Yeshiva University Research Group

Upcoming Events:

Gottesman Program for Excellence in Undergraduate Education
November 24 Jane Smiley 5pm Lecture
At Louis Koch Auditorium Transportation Available

SCIENCE POSTER AWARD NIGHT Presented by R'Dr. Moshe D. Tendler
Reception to Follow Monday November 25 7:30pm Furst 535

Psychology and Behavioral Science Graduate School Night featuring:
Lawrence J. Siegel Ph.D. Dean, Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology
Monday November 25 8pm Furst 535

On December 15, R' Tendler will give a lecture in conjunction with the YCDS Production of *Inherit The Wind*. This will take place immediately following that day's performance at the Schottenstein Theater.

Internet Censorship

Rumors Unfounded

BY GARY STRONG

The notion that Web pornography on Yeshiva University computers would be censored is apparently a misconception. Professor Michael Ross, the MIS professor and faculty advisor to university computers labs, recently told the *Commentator* that "as of November 11, 1996 pornography on the computers is left to an honor system. The faculty leaves the students on their honor to use the computers in an ethical way."

Though the administration hopes that a good majority of students use computers for research and other school-related purposes, Ross noted that out of 1,000 students, there are bound to be those who are bound to use computers in a perverted fashion.

Professor Lenny Brandwein, one of the professors who was instrumental in bringing over fifty new computers to the computer lab and library, agreed. Censoring all pornography would be too time consuming, and added that new pornographic Web sites are popping up quite frequently, making it virtually impossible to censor all the addresses.

When registering for an E-mail account, a student must sign a form that deals in part with improper use of the Internet. The stipulation reads: "Notice is hereby given that users who cannot be depended upon to behave ethically will have their computer privileges revoked and may be subject to academic penal-

ties, civil actions and/or criminal prosecution." Though it may seem that this warning would be enough to keep students away from porn addresses, some YU students think otherwise.

Most students are well aware of the pornography now available on-line. Neal Landerer, a SSSB senior describes what he has seen at the library and computer room: "Some of the students that huddle in the corner and talk quietly with their friends are the ones into pornography. Maybe they are deprived or maybe they just want to see a picture of naked women, but it has no place in a Yeshiva."

Another YU student, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the main problem is that there is such easy access to porn on the information superhighway, noting the number of Web sites to which one can link. This student also feels that something must be done to curb even the smallest availability of pornography on computers.

As the administration continues to leave the pornography issue in the hands of YU students, pornography on the information superhighway is increasingly rampant. Shalom Schwartz, an SSSB junior noted, "It is one thing if a student has a Playboy in his room, but the computer room and library are public places. What if a janitor, or librarian, or a student from another school like Wurzeiler sees a YU student looking at pornography on the computer? If this is not a *Chillul Hashem* and a *busha* to the university I don't know what is."

SSSB Professor Leaves

Classes to Complete PhD

BY NOAH STREIT

Students of Professor Martin Leibowitz were welcomed to class by unfamiliar faces two weeks ago. The new faces were those of Professors Moses Pava and Aaron Brown, who have been assigned to teach Professor Leibowitz's courses for the remainder of the semester.

Mr. Leibowitz, a professor of accounting and finance at the Sy Syms School of Business, left two of his four classes to complete his Ph.D. in accounting at Columbia University. He has spent the last seven years working towards his Ph.D., and was to complete the final part of his dissertation over winter break and then defend his dissertation during the upcoming spring or summer.

He explained, "I handed in three fourths of my dissertation and one of my advisers informed me on the spot that he was going back to Israel in the middle of December." He further warned that if Mr. Leibowitz did not finish and defend his dissertation by the middle of December, he would have to wait until the summer of 1997 at the earliest, which would probably place extra difficulties on the already grueling project.

Stressing the difficulties and tension of the Ph.D. program, Prof. Leibowitz stated, "in the last seven years, only three have made it through the accounting doctoral program and the other five have dropped out." Therefore, Mr. Leibowitz requested that SSSB Dean Harold Nier-

enberg ease his burden by allowing him leave two classes.

Most of the students from both classes left by Mr. Leibowitz have had little to say about the switch in professors, and, in fact, as Yosi Lebovic, a student in Leibowitz's Principles of Finance course pointed out, "the truth is, when we initially signed up for the class, we signed up for Prof. Brown."

Nevertheless, Yoel Feiler, also a student in the Finance class, said, "I was surprised and disappointed by this sudden change, because I expect a professor to teach his course until the end."

Nierenberg was quick to point out that he had weighed the possibility of student unhappiness and stated that "If I thought it would have any effect, I wouldn't do it. But, in these classes, when you are on chapter four, you are on chapter four... If any students (s.i.c.) has problems with the current situation, if they think it's unfair in anyway, they may come and see me at any time. My door is always open."

Additionally, Dean Nierenberg emphasized that "there is nothing nefarious or underhanded about Prof. Leibowitz's leaving his classes. This is a critical period in his life and we wanted to make it easier for him, so we lightened his load."

Currently, Prof. Leibowitz is still teaching two sections of Principles of Accounting I. But as of next semester, he expects to finish his Ph.D. program and hopes to be associated with YU for the long-term future.

Brooklyn District Attorney Speaks at YU

BY MATITHYOHU BALAS

In their first event of the school year, the College Democrats invited Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes to address YC and SSSB students about the effectiveness of the death penalty as well as numerous other controversial issues.

In his introduction, club president Marc Posner stressed that the goal of the College Democrats is to encourage students to become politically active. He also stressed the importance of College Democrats and Republicans working together to produce events.

Following Posner's remarks, Dr. Avery Mehlman, adjunct professor of Business Law at the Sy Syms School of Business, introduced the District Attorney. A "friend of the Jewish community," Dr. Mehlman praised Mr. Hynes for his work on behalf of the "helpless" in his district, citing several examples, such as Hynes's work on behalf of the elderly when he exposed the nursing home scandals in the 1970s, and his work on behalf of battered and abused orthodox women, a sensitive problem often ignored, and his work in prosecuting hate crimes and domestic violence.

Mr. Hynes is most prominently known for his work during the 1970s and early 1980s, where he fought against organized crime, investigated corruption in the police force, and served for a time as New York City Fire Commissioner. As a prosecutor, he led the so-called "Gold Bug" prosecution of the Luchese crime family. The case was named after the listening device, placed in a house trailer in a Canarsie junkyard, which recorded thou-

sands of conversations about organized criminal activities. The effort resulted in 125 convictions ranging from bribery to extortion, and the imprisonment of the reputed leader of the crime family, Carmine Tramunti.

District Attorney Hynes began his remarks by discussing the issue of capital punishment. Quoting a verse from Deuteronomy, in which God says "I have set before you life and death ... therefore, chose life," Mr. Hynes stated that society is really at war with itself, causing a national loss of safety. To counteract this insecurity, many Americans seek capital punishment to help create a safer society.

"But," asked the District Attorney, "What will the Death Penalty accomplish?" Hynes contends that in addition to killing being an ethically wrong approach to punishment, endless statistics continue to prove that the death penalty is an unsatisfactory solution for dealing with crime and creating a national sense of security.

Mr. Hynes offered Texas and Florida as cases in point. Both states have instituted the death penalty, yet continue to have a murder rate about twice the national average. Furthermore, the average time between convicting and executing a criminal is between seven and ten years. "The death penalty," Mr. Hynes exclaimed, "is nothing more than a false panacea!" Hynes remarked that killing the convict does not help the victim's surviving relatives and friends. Life imprisonment without parole, he says, should supply the sense of closure, often sought by those close to the deceased.

Furthermore, Mr. Hynes asserted that life imprisonment is less expensive than



Brooklyn D.A. Charles J. Hynes speaks with SSSB Seniors
Idel Kolodny and Menashe Shapiro

the death penalty. The execution of the notorious Ted Bundy, at a cost to the people of \$3.5 million, was twice that of keeping a prisoner in jail for fifty years, which in New York State is about \$30,000 per year.

During the question and answer period following the speech, Hynes addressed several other issues. He accused the government of not attaching enough importance to the significance of hate crimes and explained that when someone attacks a group because of prejudice, he attacks the entire culture to which that group belongs. Mr. Hynes proposed that the crime (if not a violent crime, because it would automatically fall into a harsher category) be elevated from a misdemeanor to a felony.

Hynes proposes a law that modifies or prevents plea bargaining for violent offenders and drug dealers. Regarding drugs users and the insane, Mr. Hynes said that the government should help to "bring them back from the dead and return them to society." The Rockefeller Drug Law, one program with such a

purpose, provides drug treatment, job training and placement for people who need it. It has also served to reduce homelessness. In Brooklyn, the program boasts a success rate over 65%.

Concluding his presentation, Mr. Hynes left the audience with a quote from John Donne about social responsibility: "No man is an island; every man is part of the main ... life is too precious to offer as a solution."

Of the approximately sixty students who attended the event, some felt that although Mr. Hynes has had much experience in the legal field, they do not agree that the death penalty is ineffective. As one YC Junior said, "With all due respect to Mr. Hynes, I think that he ignored some of the benefits of Capital Punishment." Others said that Hynes made a convincing argument. Nevertheless, as one SSSB sophomore commented, hearing him speak is a "rare and meaningful opportunity" and hoped that the College Democrats and Republicans will continue to encourage students to become more aware of political issues.



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YU Sends Delegation To Penn Model UN Conference

Event Declared Tremendous Success Despite Anti-semitic Undertones

BY ADAM MOSES

Yeshiva University students participated in the 30th annual University of Pennsylvania Model United Nations Conference (UPMUNC) earlier this month. A delegation comprised of 13 students, 8 from YC and 5 from SCW, was selected to attend on behalf of the University. The function was organized by and conducted under the auspices of the J.P. Dunner Political Science Societies of the respective colleges. UPMUNC serves as an interactive forum for students from universities across the country to represent the interests of assorted U.N. countries in committees patterned around U.N. structure and procedure. Professor Ruth Bevan, political science departmental head, explained that "the value of model United Nations conferences for students is that they allow students to exercise their debating and public speaking skills in a relevant political context."

YC interest in UPMUNC, arguably the preeminent university political science event of the year, experienced an unprecedented ascendancy this year, with an unparalleled number of applicants at YC vying for the limited space on the YC delegation. Arnon Storfer, president of the YC chapter of the J.P. Dunner Political Science Society, expressed his enthusiasm over the interest in UPMUNC. "This is a very encouraging display of student interest in an obviously valuable activity. More than 30 YC students applied for four positions on our delegation. This selectivity resulted in the most qualified delegation I've seen in my years here."

Storfer headed a YC delegation comprised of himself, Adam Moses, Ezra Tuchman, Elliot Ganchrow, Matthew Leader, Yosef Rothstein, Pinchas Saar, and Joseph Glass. The SCW delegation included Racheli Felsman, Leebie Mallin, Stephanie Dienstag, Rebecca Leicht, and Elizabeth Renana. The ranks of the SCW delegation were depleted from the originally anticipated 8 attendees due to a series of unanticipated last minute cancellations arising from as yet unexplained extenuating circumstances.

The most conspicuous omission from the Stern delegation list was Sharone Cohen, the president of the J.P. Dunner Political Science Society at SCW. Cohen's not attending generated moderate turmoil as it effectively rendered the SCW delegation leaderless. Fortunately, veteran UPMUNCers Felsman and Mallin were able to compensate for the loss by reining in the delegation and providing guidance to new SCW delegates while turning in solid individual committee session performances.

The Conference

The unified Y.U. delegation departed from Penn Station on Thursday afternoon by train for Philadelphia. The conference itself was conducted in a hotel in downtown Philadelphia. The opening ceremonies got off to an uneventful start, as the former president of Costa Rica, a Nobel laureate, spouted a mouthful of thoroughly uninspiring and factually dubious drivel exhorting a sparse and uninterested audience to relentlessly pursue peace as an

element of the American national obligation as "world peacemaker."

Following the opening ceremonies, the true festivities commenced in full force. The first committee session got underway for members of most committees. This was the first, and one of the only, opportunities for Y.U. delegates to showcase their oratorical and forensic prowess in advocating the positions of their countries. Y.U. delegates met with resounding success in their representation of Pakistan and Lithuania on U.N. committees ranging from the World Health Organization to the Status of Women. On Friday morning, approximately half of the Y.U. delegates participated in a second committee session scheduled for select committees.

Around midday Friday, the delegation gathered their belongings and made the short trek to the University of Pennsylvania campus in West Philadelphia. They were greeted by gracious and hospitable Jewish University of Pennsylvania students who provided them with accommodations for Shabbat. The Shabbat experience at Penn proved to be enjoyable, rejuvenating, and deeply spiritual for the delegates and provided many with the opportunity for spontaneous reunions with old friends.

The perennial scheduling dilemma encountered by past delegations to UPMUNC from Y.U. resurfaced this year. Over half of the committee sessions were conducted on Shabbat, precluding Y.U. attendance. While obviously disappointing to many of the students in attendance, most believed this conflict did not inhibit Y.U. from making an impressive showing and having a productive overall experience. Elliot Ganchrow, a YC senior, noted that "our delegates, for the most part, still performed incredibly well, despite the scheduling. This is our only real opportunity to compete against other prominent universities during the year and we pretty much showed them what we're made of. I have no regrets." This reflected the general sentiment of the Y.U. delegates, including Arnon Storfer, who asserted that "the event was incredibly productive despite the scheduling problems."

The event is seen by some as an opportunity to expand the prestige of Yeshiva University and shore up its recent impressive rankings in the U.S. News and World Report national university survey. Initial indications were that it attained this objective and then some. Many students reported widespread recognition of Y.U. by delegates from other universities and in two cases overt expressions of admiration for the University. Stephanie Dienstag, a SCW freshman, found "remarkably high recognition of Y.U. by delegates from other universities at the start of the conference. By the end, after demonstrating our formidable skills and basically mopping the floor with some of the other universities, even more people knew who we were. It was very good for the school (Yeshiva University)."

Professor Bevan noted that an additional virtue of UPMUNC is that "it allows non-Jewish students to see orthodox Jewish students in the flesh and blood. Our students can be seen for what they truly are—highly competent and very real entities."

This sentiment was bolstered by a number of delegates who regarded their presence and impressive conduct as a *kiddush hashem*.

Anti-Semitism Hits Home

After participating in one more committee session and closing ceremonies on Sunday morning, the Y.U. delegation boarded a train and headed back for New York. While successful, the conference had evoked an extreme sense of offense in the Y.U. delegates as a result of an indignity incurred at the hands of the UPMUNC governing officers.


First, Y.U. did not receive preparatory pamphlets for the conference until a week prior to UPMUNC, clearly substantially less time than other universities, whose delegations received their materials as much as a month prior to the conference. Second, and significantly more alarmingly, in the UPMUNC preparatory pamphlet devoted to terrorism as a world problem, an egregiously anti-Semitic factual fallacy appears.

In historically chronicling contemporary terrorism, the author asserts that terrorism finds its roots in the actions of "Jewish Zealots" in Palestine during the period of the Maccabean resistance against Roman occupation. Beyond being blatantly inaccurate factually in that Maccabean resistance bore none of the attributes associated with modern terrorism, the author chooses to ignore a multitude of incredibly brutal, terrorist-oriented movements in the century preceding Maccabean prominence perpetrated in Europe and other regions of the Middle East. The author then attempts to attribute the actions of the "Jewish Zealots" to a desire to wage what he refers to as a "holy war."


Interestingly, the entire section devoted to terrorism omits any reference to Islamic fundamentalist terrorism. The Muslim author of this fine selection lifts a stock line from PLO propagandists interested in diverting focus from Arab terrorist attacks on Israelis. In so doing, he projects the Muslim conception of Jihad onto the Jewish faith in an effort to not only fallaciously pin pragmatic responsibility for terrorism on Jews, but insinuate that Jewish theological doctrine itself provides a conceptual framework of justification for terrorism. In purveying this perversion of history and theological doctrine, the author entirely sidesteps the issue of Muslim terrorism and Jihad.

Y.U. delegates were dismayed upon reading this pamphlet. Matthew Leader immediately sent a piece of E-mail to the UPMUNC governing officials protesting the factual distortions and prejudiced tone of the pamphlet. In a response, the Secretary General of UPMUNC apologized profusely for the error and indicated that the author had been dismissed from his post. He, however, offered no explanation for how such a selection could have escaped detection during the editorial process. Nor did he apologize for the pamphlet being distributed to approximately 800 students. Finally, he did not offer to issue a public retraction at the conference to attempt to rectify the acknowledged falsehood disseminated. The report of the author's dismissal could not be directly confirmed.

Despite obviously being disconcerted by this unacceptable manifestation of anti-Semitism, the consensus of the Y.U. delegates was that the overall UPMUNC experience was incredibly worthwhile, enjoyable, and a "tremendous success."



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What to do in New York When You're Dead

BY DANIEL ANZISKA

Jasper Johns's career retrospective (currently being shown at the Museum of Modern Art — 53rd and 5th Ave.) contains a wide assortment of the most famous works of a great modern American artist. Johns, who parlayed a repressed Southern childhood into an obsession with form and content, is not the quintessential pop artist. His work tends to be much more subtle and layered than his contemporaries. By removing pretensions, Johns, over the years, has been able to create simple yet revolutionary images. Flags, targets, flashlights and brooms become integral parts of an artistic world, as Johns attempts to combine the "real" with the creative. By demanding from his audience a soul-searching effort to constantly define and redefine what they are seeing, Johns's pedagogical impulses cannot be ignored. He is the thinking man's pop artist — full of symbols that, when closely inspected, have layers of meaning.

Johns's constant metamorphoses, over the years, are evidence of his maturation as an artist. His first famous work, *Flag* (1958), is an excellent example of a simple icon, when closely inspected, being emotionally deep. Due to its shiny encaustic exterior, it has a layered appearance that brings texture and levity to the work. Yet, Johns's depersonalized, conventional style depicts the tension between objects and art, a tension that is only exacerbated in his later works.

Johns's *Three Flags* and *Target With Four Faces*, his most popular works, continue with the theme of icon and art. Like Warhol, Johns attempted to play with cultural ironic saturations. However, Johns's arty playfulness is only on the exterior of his work. Questions of life and death are interpreted through ordered numbers, ingeniously patterned throughout different mediums. For example, Johns's *According To What* (1964), a cleverly constructed "collage" of paint, wood and other utensils, personifies the ambiguities in life. Form and composition take precedence as Johns expertly integrates several of his styles. Flashy paint, ordered numbers, and household items turn up in this most accomplished work. His combining of saturation and minimalism and of order and chaos would not have succeeded for most artists. This work, as well as many others, is uncannily balanced, able to solidify seemingly contradictory artistic methods.

In his later works, Johns has matured into a complex, if not challenging artist. His refusal to clarify or to define continues to be the hallmark of his work, made all the more impressive by its rejection of the current "dumbed down" culture. Additionally, Johns likes to play the fool, enticing us with riddles and clever compositions. By presenting universality of meaning and reality in an, at times, entertaining atmosphere, Johns allows us to enjoy his art for its own sake. His combinations of icons, bright colors and everyday items are meshed together in clever and inventive ways. For example, in his mid-life works, Johns's incorporation of plastered body parts amongst opposing painted patterns is diametrically opposed to our usual concept of art as being complete and whole.

Yet, even when he introduces new variations into his pallet, he always retains a sophisticated interplay of lines and shapes within his works. When viewing *Racing Thoughts* (1983), I was amazed at Johns's ability to balance a seemingly contradictory work. The painted photo of *Leo Castelli* is balanced by the "painted" painting of the *Mona Lisa*. Furthermore, by offsetting a bark-like pattern with large surfaces of pure color, Johns breaks the painting into two contradictory worlds that would not be cohesive with one another. By pitting our school-taught definition of art (*Mona Lisa*, vases, generalized background) with *Castelli's* view of art, which includes a broad, almost random white stroke of paint in the middle, Johns hopes to incorporate both views. His comparative "pictures" of *Castelli* and *Mona Lisa* are symbols of two different worlds about to crash together. However, Johns refuses to take the next step, by combining these two images. He is a teacher, only presenting the facts to his students.

Johns, whose work has recently exhibited a fascination with death, religion and the cosmos, continues to mature as an artist. While some may not like particular styles that he has adopted, one cannot fault him with attempting to metamorphose. Unlike Warhol, whose infatuation with icons and popularity was tediously repetitive, Johns has never failed to reinvent his styles and himself in the process. He is the Madonna of modern art, part calculated control freak, part exhibitionist. His work has grown far more personal with the passage of time, yet, he has always maintained a glossy, if not scientific, method to his art. I surmise that his work will always retain the calculated structure of his flags. Johns is an analytical showman, who has substance as well as fire. It would be tragic if he eventually placed in art textbooks next to the Warhol's and Basquiat's of the "pop-art" world.

Administration Looking For Alternatives to Room Fees

continued from page one

"Different universities have different ways of handling these things." He explained that every university has to cover its internal costs, for such things as heating, electricity, and air-conditioning, "The question is what is the best method." Dr. Nulman pointed out that many universities choose to cover their internal cost through an increased student activity fee which is added on to students tuition.

Nonetheless Dean Nulman mentioned that preliminary discussions have taken place to make this easier for the students, but he cautioned, "We can't remove the reality that the bills must be paid." Buskin had positive words regarding the administration's attempts at rectifying the current situation: "The Dean's office has been both supportive and very cooperative in helping to arrange the student activities."

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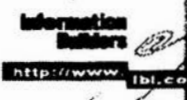
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Monday, Dec. 30:	#01: ALL Bible, SEC 311	#02: SEC 361
Tuesday, Dec. 31:	#03: SEC 231	#04: BIO 1001C CHE 10045 CHE 1213
Wednesday, Jan. 1:	#05: All Hebrew 1205, 1206	#06: SEC 211
Thursday, Jan. 2:	#07: SEC 251	#08: STA 1021
Friday, Jan. 3:	#09: SEC 261	
Sunday, Jan. 5:	#10: SEC 331	#11: SEC 241
Monday, Jan 6:	#12: SEC 341	#13: PHY 1031 PHY 1032 PHY 1041

Future of Assistant Dean Position In Question

continued from page one

terminate an administrator in the middle of the academic year, since there is no hiring done until the following year. Generally, if an administrator is fired, unless there is real cause, he or she is given until the end of the academic year to find a new position."

An Attempt to Conceal

The *Commentator* learned of the decision to oust Dean Horowitz on October 25, two days after Dean Horowitz was told. In an attempt to authenticate the story, a *Commentator* reporter approached Dean Adler. Caught off guard, the Dean was unsure of whether to confirm or deny the report and scrambled to call Mr. Jeffery Rosengarten for an official response.

Days after the news leaked, colleagues of Dean Horowitz banded together in an effort to find him a different position and probed the possibility of adding the Assistant Dean to their respective departments. One scenario which, according to sources is now being implemented, relocated Dean Horowitz and his administrative responsibilities from the Dean's Office to the Office of the Registrar. This was to become Dean Adler's justification for Dr. Horowitz's termination; not that he was fired, but that he was being transferred.

The *Commentator* sought to publish this news in its November 12 issue, but was pressured by key administrators to hold off printing this story in order to prevent any negative publicity about the Dean's dismissal. The *Commentator* complied with the request when it discovered that a threat was leveled at Dean Horowitz warning that if the news of the relocation was printed by *The Commentator*, Dr. Horowitz's transfer to the Office of the Registrar would be dissolved, and his termination would become effective sometime thereafter. The decision to print at this time comes as a result of an attempt by those involved in the dismissal of Dean Horowitz to project the consequences of their actions directly onto *The Commentator*.

Those responsible for the Dean's ousting believed that by silencing *The Commentator*, they would be able to make up for dismissing the Dean outright, by transferring him to a newly created position within the Office of the Registrar. Officials planned to avoid possible legal entanglements resulting from federal equal opportunity employment and similar laws which demand that any and all qualified candidate be considered for new positions. Publication of the plan would thereby necessarily eliminate any chance of moving Dr. Horowitz to a new position with the same responsibilities, without first opening the position to the general public.

However, while Dean Adler planned to transfer the responsibilities currently held by Dr. Horowitz to the Office of the Registrar, he originally gave no indication that he would help Horowitz find a different position within the University. It was only after the news caused a backlash from incensed individuals that Dean Adler aligned himself with those committed to placing Dr. Horowitz in a different position within the University.

Two Visions, One Position

The position of Assistant Dean was

created during the administration of former Dean Dr. Norman Rosenfeld. Under his tenure, the initial description of the position was that of an Assistant to the Dean, and was held by David Rosenberg. As an Assistant to the Dean, Rosenberg was responsible for creating the course schedule in YC, evaluating outside credit, and providing academic advisement. Rosenberg eventually resigned due to the overwhelming responsibilities related to the low level job. Realizing that the duties of the job did not match the description, Rosenfeld upgraded it to 'Assistant Dean' when Horowitz was offered the job.

Dr. Horowitz first came to YU as a member of the Economics faculty in 1986 and was denied tenure after teaching for 7 years in the Economics Department. He was denied tenure due to strict publishing and teaching requirements. However, recognizing his talents for administrative duties, and his good rapport with students, University Administrators placed him in the newly upgraded position in the Dean's office.

When he first accepted the position, Horowitz had a clear vision of what he would try to accomplish. "Students are users of this office," he told *The Commentator* in 1993, "hopefully I would be able to make students comfortable coming and coming back... the term 'user friendly' comes to mind."

Throughout his time as Assistant Dean, Horowitz has had a tremendous impact on the academic quality of life for every undergraduate student. Credit for the newly created academic advisement center rests squarely on his shoulders. He single-handedly created the center, whereby students could have more than one person available to help with course and career decisions.

Furthermore, as a result of the constant scrutiny of the advisement center the registration process was streamlined. The center and the advisors effectively took on most of the preparatory work previously done by the Office of the Registrar. Horowitz also insisted there be more trained staff to address student concerns at all times, and not just during the registration period.

The Dean's Office has become 'user friendly' like he had hoped, as Associate Dean Michael Hecht recently explained that "before we had faculty adviser, each student would have to spend half an hour with the dean explaining his problems. Now, the advisers cut through everything and at times when a Dean's decision is needed, it takes less than a minute."

In 1994, Dr. Horowitz assumed a massive undertaking running the YC Dean's Office as the lone full time administrator from the time Dr. Rosenfeld stepped down in May until Dean Nierenberg became interim Dean of YC in September. This occurred during the most chaotic time of year when seniors were graduating, new students were entering, and other students were attempting to obtain summer college credit. Through all the changes that have occurred to Yeshiva College's Office of the Dean, Dr. Horowitz has been able to stay true to course.

The future of the position of Assistant Dean as well as Dr. Horowitz's relationship with the University hinges on decisions yet to be made by the Yeshiva University administration.

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Area Congressman Wins By Landslide

BY JOSH FINE

On November 5, YU's congressman for over a quarter century, Charles Rangel, was easily reelected for a fourteenth consecutive term as Congressman of New York's 15th District.

Receiving 91 percent of the votes, Congressman Rangel handily defeated his three opponents, Republican Edward R. Adams, Independent Ruben D. Vargas, and Right to Life candidate Jose Suero, who were virtually unknown to voters.

On November 6, in his reelection statement, Congressman Rangel said "I thank my constituents in the 15th Congressional District for electing me to another term in office and the opportunity to represent them in the House of Representatives."

For more than two decades, the 15th District's election results have been the same as incumbent Rangel has consistently garnered an overwhelming percentage of voters.

"Charlie" as he is known, began his career in public affairs as Assistant US Attorney for the Southern District of New York and continued his public service in the New York State Assembly.

His career in the House of Representatives began in 1970. As a congressman he has served as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, of which he is a founding member, and member of the House Judiciary Committee during the hearing of the articles of impeachment of Richard Nixon.

As the third ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee, Rangel makes decisions concerning federal tax policies, Social Security, and public assistance programs. He is also the principal author of the Low Housing Income Tax Credit, which is responsible for providing most of the affordable housing recently built in the United States. The Congressman championed The Targeted Jobs Tax Credit, which has provided thousands of jobs for underprivileged young people, and has also served as a leading advocate for Enterprise Zones programs, which would revitalize urban neighborhoods throughout America.

As Chairman of the newly formed Congressional Drug Caucus, Congressman Rangel is leading the nation's fight against drug abuse and trafficking. To reduce the flow of drugs into the United States and solve the nation's growing drug abuse crisis, he proposes new legislation, holds public hearings, and negotiates with foreign governments.

Congressman Rangel explained in his reelection statement that "We cannot expect to succeed in the next century with 13 million Americans addicted to illegal drugs and 1.5 million of our young men in prison, the majority for drug connected crimes. We cannot afford to go on wasting close to a trillion dollars a year on drug addiction, crime, poverty and lost productivity. Our prisons are filled with unemployable individuals, many of them driven to crime by despair and hopelessness. We must be committed to restoring hope to all our citizens, not just our youth, but our elderly and our poor."

The Congressman also stated that he

sincerely believes that the many social problems we have today would be dramatically reduced "once our young people knew that this new exciting century includes their hopes and aspirations for the future." He went on to say that "We must provide them with a solid foundation of education and training so they can compete for the jobs and resources to provide their families with a better quality of life."

Unlike other US representatives, Rangel is no stranger to the communities he represents. The 15th District that he represents, includes East and Central Harlem, the Upper West Side, and Washington Heights/Inwood. Rangel lives in Harlem with his wife Alma, who participates in many of its community organizations.

He has been involved in the Upper West Side throughout his political career and has been a friend of its Jewish community. In the 1980's, he attended legislative breakfasts run by the active West Side Jewish Community Council at which he participated in discussions of issues that concerned the community.

Congressman Rangel has also sought to maintain a connection with the Washington Heights and YU communities. Sandy Dulitz, Chairman of Community Board 12 said that Rangel "is the sort of person that is there for us and available to us whenever we need him." He also stated that "having a representative that holds such a powerful position in Washington, benefits the entire community."

Over the past few years Congressman Rangel has spoken to YU students several times. In 1993, in a late December "town meeting," sponsored by the Yeshiva College Israel Public Affairs Committee, he discussed Israel, the Middle East, and the peace process. He called Israel, "the only solid ally we [America] have had in this part of the world." YC Senior Vice President Emeritus Rabbi Israel Miller, who concluded the meeting, reminded students that Rangel was among those who traveled to Jerusalem as Iraq fired Scud missiles upon Israel. "Supporters of Israel have a friend in Charlie Rangel," he said.

Commenting on YU's effect on its surroundings, at the 1995 YU Chanukah Dinner, Rangel told *The Commentator*, that the relationship between the community [Washington Heights] and YU is "excitingly good. It's just a great university."

On March 15, 1996, the YC Communal Affairs Committee along with YCSC honored Rangel with the "National Leadership Award," in recognition of his contributions to civic life at the federal level, at YU's First Annual Legislative Breakfast held at Weissberg Commons. This year, the YC Communal Affairs Committee is planning for YU's congressman to address the student body in the Spring. Andrew Wurzbarger, Executive Director of the committee, commented that "Congressman Rangel's consistent landslide victories every two years shows that his constituents are satisfied with his abilities to represent their interests," and that therefore, "Yeshiva College students should be very interested in hearing what he has to say."

LETTERS To The Editor

To the Editor:

Upon opening the latest issue of *The Commentator*, I was surprised to see a personal attack on myself and my political views. Half an article ostensibly written to commemorate the Rabin assassination was instead devoted to an attack on a student with a "Kahane Chai" flag in his Morg window, an obvious reference to myself, setting me on a pedestal as an example of intolerance.

Since placing the flag (actually of the Kach Movement—I am a member of neither but agree strongly with both, and with Kahanist ideas and ideals in general) in my window, I have been subjected to many verbal attacks, and have even had the flag removed by security on unknown orders. (The flag is currently down, but for reasons that have nothing to do with any changes in my opinions or bowing to outside pressure.) After I placed signs (approved by YCSC) on dorm bulletin boards commemorating the Yahrzeit of Rabbi Meir Kahane, zt'l, they were torn down by a student, who accused me of cowardice for failing to put my name on the signs (I couldn't see a reason to). Throughout all this, I have noticed a distinct reluctance to engage in logical debate about the issues involved. I feel it is now time to set the record straight.

Yes, I am a Kahanist. So are quite a few people in Israel, many of whom were thrown in jail for no reason yet again this week in the country we proudly tout as "the only democracy in the Middle East." Most, if not all, of the Kahanist ideas are held in part or in whole by large segments of the Israeli population, including a number of "legitimate" groups—at least one of which holds Knesset seats today. These ideas are logical, reasonable, practical, and not at all racist, as anyone familiar with the writings of Rabbi Kahane will attest. As even the writer of this article acknowledges, these ideas are shared by quite a few YU students as well. Perhaps it would do him good to stop assuming that his way of thinking is the only correct one, and start examining why so many of his colleagues feel the way they do.

My feelings on Baruch Goldstein and Yigal Amir are irrelevant, as I did not publicly declare them, although I would be glad to

discuss them in another forum. Suffice it to say that neither acted on behalf of the above mentioned groups (one can be sure the then-ruling leftist Israeli government would have exploited any connection it could have found), and Amireven belonged to a group whose leader had been kicked out of Kach (a good move, as he was a government informer and agent provocateur). True, the association exists in people's minds—but is that enough a reason to suppress an idea or group? Several Congressional Democrats have compared Republicans to Nazis, and no less a personage than Bill Clinton has accused conservatives in general and radio talk-show hosts in specific of complicity in the Oklahoma City bombing.

Should College Republicans of YU close shop? Leah Rabin has accused Binyamin Netanyahu of complicity in her husband's assassination. Should YU students whose support Likud stop any public expression of their feelings? On the other extreme, arguments that Democrats, liberals (dare I mention the Unabomber?), and such organizations as Labor, Meretz, or Peace Now are against our school's values are numerous. Should the student who displayed a poster of the latter group in his dorm window throughout last year have been told to take it down? Should those rebbeim who publicly support Democrats or the peace process be muted? I think the answer to all these questions is a resounding no.

We all know, and often repeat, the usual clichés about free speech. Perhaps it is time we started believing in them. Perhaps it is time we started wondering if the ideas we think we hold so deeply have such a logical basis, after all. In the words of the aforementioned writer, we must be "sensitive to those with whom we disagree." And in the words of Rabbi Blau on the same page, we should "create a climate of respect for the sincerity of others despite their radically different views." Just because we consider ourselves right-wing does not mean that the words "sensitivity" and "respect" should apply only to those to our left. Rather, they should be applied equally to all.

Nachum Lamm
YC '97

To The Editor:

In your October 22 article about the evaluation of Yeshiva University published by U.S. News and World Report, you expressed puzzlement at YU's low rating in the "Academic Reputation" category of the U.S. News survey. You note that the director of research for the survey "found no obvious explanation" for the low opinion of Yeshiva University held by 4200 college presidents, deans, and admission directors.

May I suggest an obvious explanation? One of the few facts about Yeshiva University known to all those college officials is that YU has been censured for unprofessional practices by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), a national organization dedicated to upholding the integrity of American higher education and the primary professional association for college faculty and administrators. One of only fifty-one institutions cited (most of the others small sectarian schools), YU is one of those which has been on the list the longest (since 1982). The list of "Censured Administrations" is published in every issue of *Academe*, a quarterly journal read by college faculty and administrators

throughout the nation.

Why the continuing censure? The original case, involving what was viewed by the AAUP as an unwarranted termination of appointments of three tenured professors, was resolved some years ago. We remain on the list because certain sections of the Yeshiva University Faculty Handbook (adopted by the Board of Trustees in 1992) violate commonly-accepted academic procedural standards, most pertaining to matters of appointment, tenure, and due process.

This censure need not be permanent. The AAUP has consistently expressed its willingness to help YU correct the violations which keep us on the list, as has the YU faculty (which has urged the administration to respond). For all of us in the academic community, YU's continuing presence on a list of institutions which depart from acknowledged principles of academic governance constitutes a blemish on the university's reputation.

Joan G. Haahr
Professor of English
President,
YU Chapter of the AAUP

Intramural Basketball Update

BY RON MARKOVITZ

In the biggest trade since the NY Yankees traded for a beefy Boston Red Sox pitcher named George Herman Ruth, the YU intramural basketball Nuggets, Bulls, and Lakers made a three-way trade in hopes of improving their rosters. The Nuggets traded Dov Emerson and Dovid Kompel to the Lakers for Jonathan Neiss. They also shipped Benjie Levine and Neil Wiener to the Bulls for Doron Goldschmidt. The Lakers also received Meir Resnick in the trade from the Bulls. In other news, the Jazz traded Dov Robinson to the Raptors for a player to be named later.

Week Three

Bulls 58 Nuggets 31

David Wild led all players with 17 points, including 13 in the first-half to lead Weinblatt's Bulls (2-1) to an easy victory over the Neikrug's winless Nuggets (0-3). Ephraim Yablock cashed in with 14 (2 trifectas).

Week Four

Knicks 62 Bulls 35

With Ewing, Starks, Jordan, Pippen unavailable due to the YU flu, the rest of the rosters refused to play and Rodman opted to re-marry himself. Replacement players Josh Parver (19 points), Marc Hecht (14) and Carl Hochhauser (8) crushed the Bulls' (2-2) replacements David Wild (14), Michael Resnick (6), and Capt. Weinblatt (6) by 27. The key was when the Knicks' (3-0) PTPer Parver caught fire with four straight bombs from

three-point land.

Clippers over Grizzlies

That darn YU flu got to Lifschutz's Grizzlies (1-3) who were forced to forfeit to Grossman's Clippers (3-0).

T'Wolves 54 Lakers 37

Three T'Wolves players hit double figures including Moshe Orlinsky (13), Judah Grauber (12), and Doron Fetman (10) as Mikey Feder's team improved to 3-1. Shai Samet's Lakers (1-3) struggled for the most part of the game. Point Guard Joel Kornbluth finished with 12 in the losing effort.

Celtics 51 Nuggets 42

Rockoff's team improved to 3-1 while Commissioner Neikrug's team couldn't crack that goose egg and dropped to (0-4).

Week Five

T'Wolves 51 Grizzlies 46

Knicks 50 Raptors 42

Clippers 54 Nuggets 39

Week Six

Knicks 54 T'Wolves 47

Standings W L GB

Knicks	5	0	—
T'Wolves	4	1	1
Clippers	3	0	1
Celtics	3	1	1½
Bulls	2	2	2½
Lakers	1	3	3½
Grizzlies	1	4	4
Raptors	0	4	4½
Nuggets	0	5	5

Macs Get Set To Open Season

Two Preseason Scrimmages under belt

BY RON MARKOVITZ

The 1996-97 YU Macs basketball began to work on their team game as they gear up for the start of the season by scrimmaging St. Thomas Aquinas College and York College. The Macs played three halves of basketball against the two colleges.

In the first game, against St. Thomas Aquinas, the Macs took an early 10-4 lead, but let their opponents back into the game. They trailed 26-23 at half-time. In the second half, the offense sputtered as Coach Halpert seemed more interested in practicing plays and giving everyone a chance to play than to win. The team lost the second half 33-22. In the first two halves, Joel Jacobson led the Macs in scoring with 20 points on 7 for 11 shooting followed by Brian Wein who had 10 points (4 for 7) and 8 rebounds while the team shot a decent 45% from the field. Yehudah Halpert ran the court well and finished with 5 assists. The problem was that only three other players chipped in this very low scoring effort. The Macs starters propelled them to a 24-14 win in the third half against the St. Thomas second team led by Alon Zaibert's 12 points as he hit all of his five attempts including 2 three pointers. At one point Zaibert scored 10 straight points for the Macs in a four minute span.

In the second game, the Macs played

better overall against a tough York team who came in with a slew of towering players ready to play. Although the Macs' shooting percentage was slightly lower than the first game (43%), the scoring was spread more evenly amongst the team.

In the first half, the crowd was immediately silenced when Co-Captain Joel Jacobson took a hard fall just a few minutes into the game going for a rebound. Coach Halpert was put in a very tough position, as the team was already without Brian Wein, who hurt his hand after a blown dunk attempt in the St. Thomas game. York took advantage and won the first half 34-20. The Macs played better in the second half but lost 26-24.

Over the first two halves, Alon Zaibert had an outside touch, going 7 for 14 (4 for 8 from downtown) to lead the team with 19 points. He also contributed 5 rebounds and 3 assists. Alex Shakhmurov played well and had 12 points, 7 rebounds (3 offensive), a block and a steal. York went on a tear in the third half winning 41-18. Two rookies scored their first points; Marc Nadritch had 4 points and Moshe Abehsa had 2.

The Macs should be ready to start strong in Boston November 23-24 against two teams, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Emerson College. The team will continue on the road to play against fellow IAC rivals New Jersey Tech on November 26.

YESHIVA SPORTS

YU Wrestling Macs- Excited To Hit The Mat

BY ELI GANCHROW

Though the wrestling team lost many members who graduated last year, it is still loaded with returning lettermen. Captains Avi Ellman and Donny Thurm exemplify both the team spirit and depth of experience. The team has benefited from the new Yeshiva High School Wrestling Association formed by YU/MTA wrestling coaches Neil Ellman and Brian Ostrow. The high school league has already been an important and unprecedented factor in feeding YU with experienced wrestlers.

This year's lineup is very strong, from the 118lb weight class up to the 158lb class, and from 190lbs through Heavyweight. Two new wrestlers, Avi Goldin and Yehuda Wolf, are training extensively to make a strong showing this year. Coach Ostrow and Coach Nathan Schwietzer have high hopes for both of them. Avi is vying for the 134lb weight class and Yehuda will be competing in the 178lb weight class.

Some other wrestlers to watch:

126 lbs - Avi Ellman Captain from last year, has had much success since his return from yeshiva in Israel. He has qualified in the National AAU's, and has since been invited to train with the Olympic level athletes at the prestigious New York Athletic Club, where wrestlers from diverse backgrounds such as the Ukraine and Iran train at the highest intensity.

142 lbs - veteran wrestler Shmuel Breban has grown at an astonishing rate both physically, and more importantly skillfully. His drive and determination from the past years have paid off. He is going to be a major force to contend with this year, as his performance towards the end of last year can attest.

158 lbs - It would take quite a laureate to describe Aron Robin in a few words. His amazing show of sheer will and focus during competitions has always left

his fellow wrestlers (teammates and opposition alike) impressed, while leaving spectators completely baffled. Aron came to YU from California last year, and has since been a vital presence as one of YU's toughest athletic competitors.

167lbs - D'mitry Borovik is in his fourth year as a YU wrestler, 'fresh from the Ukraine.' His quick wit is almost as noteworthy as his upper body throws. He has constantly stunned spectators by effortlessly launching his opponents into the air with his well honed headlock series. Upper body throws are quite uncommon in American wrestling, so all who have witnessed D'mitry perform such maneuvers have also missed his 'accidental' bites and scratches which are usually dismissed by referees as 'over-excitement'.

190 lbs. - 3rd year YU wrestler Yosef Golowa is one of the most experienced members of the team. As a four year letterman from MTA, Yosef came to YU after a year in yeshiva already sound in skill and mindset. His wrestling ability is one of the most important sources of confidence to the team since it lost so many seniors last year. Yosef is expected to wrestle quite impressively as he has already done in the past.

Heavyweight - Captain Donny Thurm has not only been a source of inspiration, but a major source of fear as well. That is the way Donny performs on the mat - quick and ruthless. Donny has been working on a pinning series of ground wrestling techniques known as the 'Hammerlock.'

The YU wrestling Macs are powered by many former yeshiva high school wrestlers. From MTA, Avi Ellman, Donny Thurm, Yosef Golowa, Avery Jutkowitz, Shmuel Breban and Amichai Erdfarb have carried on the tradition. Ariel Shilo is a YU freshman recruited from Frisch. Last year, Ariel was a member of Frisch's first ever wrestling team.

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