

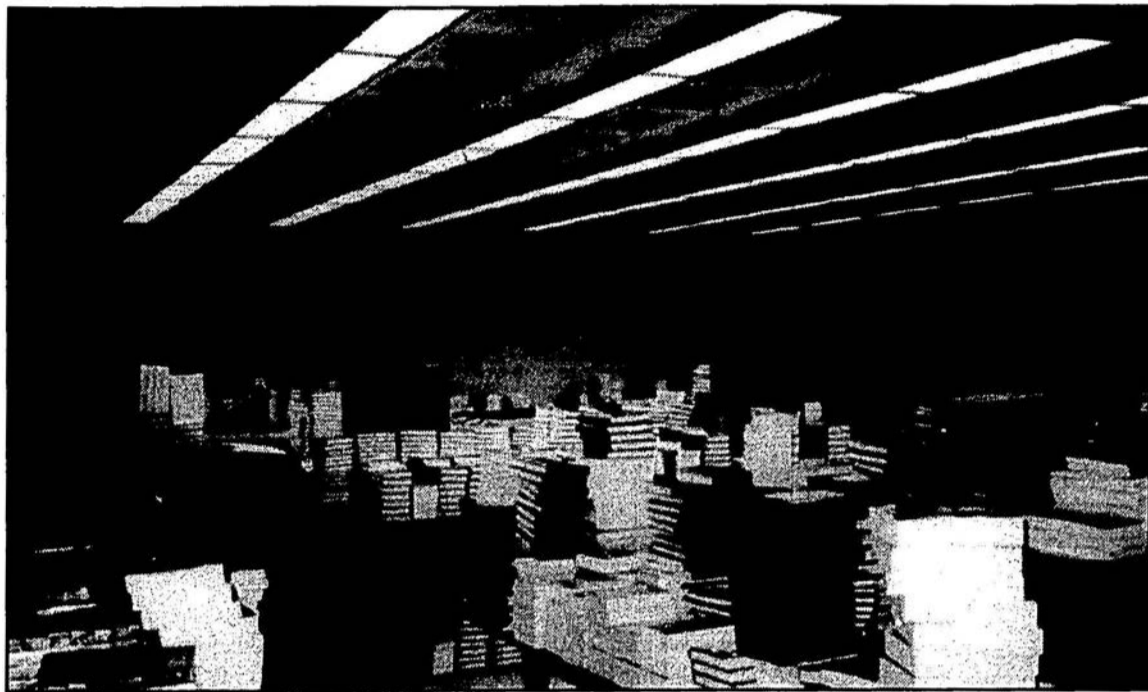
# Yeshiva University Commentator

February 4, 1997 / 27 Shvat 5757 Official Undergraduate Newspaper of Yeshiva College Volume LXI No. 7

Tal Sharon  
beats the Dow:  
Story, Page 5



Exclusive!  
Interview With  
William Friedkin  
Story, Page 9



Some of the more than 4500 Judaic titles featured in this year's annual SOY Seforim Sale. The Sale runs from February 9-23.

## SOY Seforim Sale Returns Facilities Management Fumbles Again

BY ADAM MOSES

Thousands of people eager to bag Judaic items at rock bottom prices are expected to flood the pass through the doors of Belfer Hall as the Students Organization of Yeshiva (SOY) returns with its annual Seforim Sale from February 9-23.

During the two week extravaganza, Belfer Hall's fifth floor auditorium, used during the balance of the year for undergraduate final examinations and events conducted by the various schools of the University, will be transformed into one of the largest retail displays of Judaica in the world open to the public.

This annual student-run function has emerged as a hallmark of student initiative and communal service at the main Campus of Yeshiva University. In recent years, the diverse array of purchasers attracted by the event spanned the spectrum of Jewish affiliation. Chasidim and Reform movement rabbis alike could be seen congregating amongst the warehouse style stacks of books to examine the vast offerings of the Seforim Sale and seeking to further their Judaic edification. This communal cohesion of disparate ranks was accompanied by contribution of the sale's formidable proceeds to a number of charitable

organizations and services. David Rosen, YU Director of Public Relations observed that the Seforim Sale "reflects well on the institution.... It's a productive thing for students to be doing... as it serves the Jewish community at large, not just the Yeshiva and RIETS communities."

Despite its long history of impressive turnouts and positive P.R., the Seforim Sale has had its share of setbacks this year at the hands of the University's Facilities Management.

Following standard protocol, former SOY vice president Mitch Taragin submitted a facilities request for the fifth floor of Belfer

*continued on page 7*

## Horowitz to Remain YC Assistant Dean Until Semester's End

BY JOSHUA M. FELDMAN

As controversy surrounding the future of the relationship of Yeshiva College Assistant Dean Dr. Avery Horowitz and Yeshiva University continues, it has been confirmed that Dean Horowitz will leave the post of Assistant Dean of Yeshiva College at the end of this academic year.

On Monday, January 27, just one week into the Spring semester, Horowitz was called into a meeting with Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosen Garten, Dr. Jeffrey Gurock, and Deans Adler, Nulman and Jaskoll. At the meeting he was told of his imminent dismissal, but,



Asst. Dean Avery Horowitz

according to Dean Horowitz, the only reason given for his termination is a "restructuring of the office."

When asked about the cur-

rent situation, YC Dean, Dr. Norman Adler confirmed that "Dean Horowitz will remain in his position until the end of this academic year." Adler stated that he had no knowledge of reports that Horowitz was being transferred to the Office of the Registrar to fill an Assistant Registrar vacancy. The Registrar is a "separate academic unit that has nothing to do with my office."

University Registrar Melvin Davis explained that the vacancy that currently exists in his office must be filled as soon as possible for the office to continue its upward trend in productivity. Davis said that although

*continued on page 5*

## 10-3 Macs Win Games; Lose Their League

BY NOAH STREIT  
AND RON MARKOVITZ

After 25 years of existence, the NCAA Division III Independent Athletic Conference (IAC), in which the YU Macabees Basketball team plays, is no longer.

The league, designed for small Division III schools with strict academic standards, disbanded in early December following the possibility of a lawsuit from Steven's Tech and Mr. Matt Berliner, a student and basketball player for the school. In March 1996, Matt Berliner was struck in the chin by an "elbow" actually delivered by his own teammate in a game between Steves Tech and SUNY Maritime. Berliner became upset when no foul was called. After arguing with the referee and being ejected, Berliner spat blood at the referee.

Stevens Tech assured the league it would suspend Berliner from all sports activities for a year, but later recinded its promise after an appeal by Berliner. Though Berliner was not permitted to participate in the basketball season, he won the right to participate in other sports.

As a result, Steve Young, Director of Athletics at YU as well as Acting President of the IAC, along with other IAC members decided to suspend Stevens Tech from the league for an entire year. "It's been a tough year and I feel bad, but we stood by our principles. There is something inherently wrong when a kid can do what he did and be allowed to continue in any sort of athletics," commented Young.

The Macs entered the IAC in the early 1980 and YU's athletic director, Steve Young was this year's president until the league faced its untimely end.

Following the decision to suspend the school, Young became aware of a possible law suit against the league by Stevens Tech and Berliner. Fearing a costly lawsuit, members of the IAC were forced to disband. Stevens Tech denied pursuing a lawsuit, however Young claims that he has "documentation that proves otherwise."

Initial discussions of reconstituting the league immediately after it had been disbanded, were conducted but the threat of a law suit remained eminent. Young and the rest of the IAC have decided to wait out the year at which point Berliner will have already graduated, and the case will become moot. Though nothing has been formalized, "we are looking at a couple of different options," Young said.

While the IAC existed, the Macs competed against seven other schools in five different sports: men's and women's basketball, cross-country running, volleyball and tennis. Although each team will continue with their scheduled matches, there will no longer be IAC playoffs or awards.

These developments come as the Macs continue to have a stellar year on the court. At 10-3 the team is shooting for the prestigious East Coast Athletic Conference (ECAC) invitational playoffs.

*continued on back page*



The YU Macs boast a 10-3 record and are looking towards post-season ECAC play





**MESSAGE FROM THE  
YCSC PRESIDENT  
JASON BUSKIN**

Friends,

Welcome back! I hope everyone had an enjoyable break and is ready for another exciting semester. A special welcome to the new students on campus, I hope you will find your stay at YU an enjoyable and rewarding one. Make sure you pick up your copy of the Guide to the Perplexed and fill out an info sheet so that you can be listed in Part Two. If you have any other questions about life at YU, stop by my room, Morg 224, or any other member of the student council. We'll be more than happy to help.

It has been a busy start to the Spring semester. The first week was jam-packed with the Senior Class Murder Mystery and culminated with an unbelievable Superbowl get together in Weissberg Commons, in which hundreds of students enjoyed free Dougies and watched the game on a big screen. The landmark event sponsored by the Office of Student Services in conjunction with YCSC will hopefully be the first of many similar type events run every year, and the beginning of many more projects student council will be running with the Office of Student Services.

On Sunday, Feb 2, YCSC sent 100 students to see Star Wars, for less than half price, at the Sony Lincoln Theaters. Together we all got a chance to relive our childhood, special thanks to Andy Weiss for making the event possible through his research and legwork. Additionally,

movie nights are back, on the third floor of Schottenstein. We kicked the semester off with "Spy Week" with movies ranging from the classic Goldfinger to the recent Mission Impossible. Stay tuned each week for current showings.

The new semester also saw the implementation of the first ever YCSC Book Exchange, thanks to Sr. Class VP Rocky Schechter. Over 300 books were listed in a database in every dorm so that students could buy and sell used books. Thanks to Rocky this ingenious idea proved to be a huge success.

These are just a few of the many events and programs being planned for the coming semester. In the upcoming weeks the Freshman Class will be sponsoring an ice skating event. Events and Shabbatonim from the other classes are on their way, so don't forget to read the YCSC calendar in the *Commentator*, watch bulletin boards, and attend open student council meetings for info on upcoming events.

Speaking of bulletin boards, I would like to thank Mr. Jeffrey Socol and the Office of Student Services for installing new larger boards in the Muss dormitory. More improvements are in the works.

Is that enough for the first two weeks? Don't worry there's more to come, after all I'm just getting my second wind!

Best of luck for a great semester,

Jason Buskin  
YCSC President '96-'97



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**Mazal Tov to Former  
Commentator Editor-in-Chief  
Moshe Kinderlehrer  
on his recent engagement to  
Dena Glick**

# Yeshiva College



# Campus News



Student leaders along with University Dean of Students Dr. Efreim Nulman, dish out more than 5000 Buffalo Wings and Hoagies courtesy of the Office of the Dean of Students

## Superbowl Bash Scores Big on Campus

### Student Services Picks Up the Tab

BY YOSSEI LEWIS

Yeshiva University's first annual Super Bowl bash had a little something for everyone. The sports fanatics were treated to one half of exciting football, the hungry were satiated by a bountiful Dougie's buffet, and the spiritually-hungry were fed Torah. The party peaked in attendance at half-time with over 500 students partaking of the feast.

"Nothing draws students here together more than sports and food," observed YCSC president Jason Buskin. "The one thing I'm hoping is that it becomes a yearly event in which we can join our efforts together and have a good time."

The inspiration behind the event came from the Office of the Dean of Students as it approached the Student Council prior to vacation with the knowledge that Yeshiva College students have a penchant for enjoying activities with free Dougie's food. The Student Council developed the idea to combine the festive mood of Super Bowl Sunday with the administration's generous offer to finance the refreshments and the rental of Weissberg Commons and the plans were set.

Upon the suggestion of the administration, the party had an early kick-off with a 20 minute *D'var Torah* given by *Mashgiach Ruchani* Rabbi Yosef Blau prior to the big game. In his speech, R' Blau extolled the many virtues of active participation in sports such as physical exertion and the feeling of unity and humil-

ity that sports engenders in the participant. In reference to the viewing of professional sports events, R' Blau pointed out many negative aspects which students should avoid, such as gambling, drug abuse, materialism and false vanity. However, R' Blau also noted that there is nothing intrinsically wrong with viewing sports, thus, setting the stage for the students to enjoy the game.

The substance of the evening was provided by what has been called the most exciting Super Bowl since the New York Giants defeated the Buffalo Bills in 1991, and the plentiful supply of buffalo wings and hero sandwiches at half-time. After filling their bellies with an unprecedented second helping of wings, the students were treated to Super Bowl MVP Desmond Howard's unprecedented 99-yard touchdown kick-off return, to cap the festivities.

"It was a lot of fun," said SSSB Senior Jeremy Ives. "There was plenty of food. Everyone watched, cheered, and ate. Everyone had a great time. I feel that it really brought the students together."

Yeshiva University Dean of Students Dr. Efreim Nulman, who attended the event said, "To the credit of the Student Council, they really did a fantastic job and put a nice program together. It was great for school spirit. As we look for any creative opportunity to make students feel comfortable here and make them happy, we hope to do it again this year sometime soon."

## Belz School Acquires Renowned Jewish Composer

BY SHMUEL BODENHEIMER

The Belz School of Music at Yeshiva University has retained the well known Jewish vocalist and orchestra leader Shelly Lang to its staff, creating much excitement amongst music students.

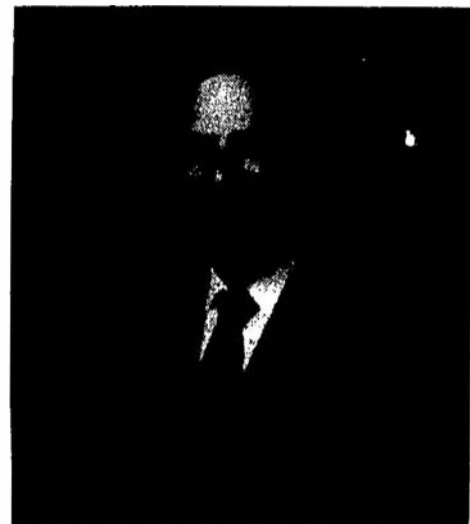
Cantor Bernard Beer, Director of the Belz School, hired Lang in December to fill the vacancy left by the personable, popular, and distinguished Dr. Perelsh-teyn, who was forced to stop teaching after taking ill.

As word quickly circulated that "The Shelly Lang" would be teaching Piano, Rudiments, and two Voice Culture courses, a mad rush for these sections quickly ensued. The Belz office found themselves scrambling to find class rooms to meet the increased demand.

One of Jewish music's most talented and prolific musicians, Lang began his musical studies with the accordion and gradually proceeded with other instruments. He received a BA in music from Brooklyn College with an intense concentration in music theory, history, and performance. In addition, Lang took a number of courses in Belz. Lang has taught music in Touro College, Yeshiva High School, and continues to teach privately as well.

Mr. Lang's productions include 4 solo albums, 2 wedding productions, "Dance With Neginah" volumes 1-4, the children's album "Kosher Fairy Tale," and 1 *Chupah* album. In addition, he has appeared as a guest artist singing on many albums, including those of Sheya Mendlowitz and Suki and Ding. Around Shavuot time, he plans on releasing "Everybody's Favorite Chupah Songs Vol. 2," and hopes to also release a fifth solo album within the next half a year.

As owner of "Neginah Orchestra" since merging with "Shelly Lang Orchestras" in the early 1980's, Lang has played the major role in the business,



Mr. Shelly Lang

performing, and producing of HASC's annual productions. His Neginah Orchestra has played in countless major Jewish functions and concerts and has become a household name in Jewish music.

At Yeshiva University, Lang hopes to begin and head a new instrumental/vocal group, and there is consideration of him offering a course in Modern Chasidic Music, which would include R' Shlomo Carlebach's works.

When asked to comment on his teaching at YU thus far Shelly replied: "In the little time I have been at YU, I have been very impressed with the administration and equally impressed with student interest and seriousness, they simply want to learn music: credit or not."

Cantor Beer expressed much optimism with his new addition. "He (Lang) is a great musician with excellent credentials. Many musicians may have the skill without the training; Shelly has the degree in music and voice, along with tremendous experience. Shelly Lang is a great addition to the faculty. His name and popularity will add a new dimension to the department and student interest."

## CEO's Lecture on Campus

BY ARI GRUEN

Now in its third year, Sy Syms' Contemporary Problems in Business course will feature lectures by today's business leaders. The class, one of only a handful of its kind on the undergraduate level, is coordinated by Dr. Fred Palumbo, an assistant professor of management and marketing at Sy Syms.

In a typical class, the speaker provides a short overview of his or her company and its position in today's economic environment, and then answers questions and responds to comments from students.

This semester's course was kicked off this past Friday by David Checketts, president of the Madison Square Garden Corporation. Future guest lecturers include Richard Grasso, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, and Sherri Lansing, president of Paramount Pictures.

"This is the third year for the course, and it continues to grow in popularity among the students," said SSSB Dean Nierenberg. "It affords them the opportunity to interact with leading executives in various fields of business and industry, and to learn first-hand what 'it's like out there.'"



*l-r: Investment Club President Tal Sharon, Vice-President Mark Schlossberg, and Treasurer Simcha Gissinger check out the hot picks*

## Max Investment Club Beats Dow Jones

BY JEREMY E. KROLL

The Max Investment Club under the leadership of its president Tal Sharon and vice president Mark Schlossberg, has become one of the most successful and recognizable clubs at Yeshiva University. Recently, The Max Investment Club has been recognized by the likes of CNNfn, the financial news network of cable giant CNN, as well as *The Jewish Week*, and *The Detroit Jewish News*.

The network and newspapers hooked onto a press release circulated by Yeshiva University Department of Public Relations which noted the club's astounding returns. For the three month period ending December 4, the investment club's stock fund gained 27.6 percent, beating not only the Dow Jones Industrial Average's 16.31 percent gain, as well as the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq Composite. Only thirty percent of professionally managed mutual funds achieved a similar return.

During an interview aired live on the CNNfn morning show "Before the Bell" club president Tal Sharon explained the reasons behind the club's overwhelming success and steps that would be taken to achieve future success.

Over 115 members manage The Max's stock fund that consists entirely of the technology stocks America Online, Sub-Micron, Iomega, and Analog Devices. Each member of the club is required to

invest a minimum of \$100, however many have invested as much as \$1000 into the fund currently valued at approximately \$15,500. During the 1995-1996, the Investment Club set a precedent for its current performance, outperforming other indices with return of 25.27 percent.

The club convenes on a regular basis to report and vote on stocks that have been carefully researched through a variety of means, such as the annual reports of companies and through use of the Internet, which provides information on the market in general and stocks in particular.

Sharon attributes The Max's success to stock picks which "are thoroughly researched and analyzed. A tremendous amount of time and arduous work is put in by club members to ensure success. We were also able to take advantage of the great momentum of the technology stocks."

Simcha Gissinger, Managing Editor of the club's newsletter *The Max Report* echoed Sharon's thoughts saying that "we perform extensive research and only choose those stocks that have demonstrated a capacity to maintain a healthy growth rate." Schlossberg concurred with Gissinger. "When one researches a stock he must employ fundamental analysis techniques which include hours of reading articles and press releases related to the company and industry."

## Dean's Office Still in Limbo

continued from page one

Horowitz is still a candidate in his eyes, "personnel said that Horowitz would be unavailable until the end of the semester," effectively eliminating Dr. Horowitz as a candidate for the position.

The changing of personnel to "make the Office of the Dean more user friendly," has raised a number of questions such as Horowitz's successor, the method of choosing a candidate and the status of the office during the interim, unfilled time.

Dean of Students, Efreim Nulman, believes that no search committee will be necessary to find a new assistant dean. Instead he hinted at a process of selection which will involve several stages. The first stage would be a meeting between a candi-

date and personnel. The next stage would be to meet with the deans, and finally, the candidate would meet with faculty and students.

Describing some of the qualities Dean Adler seeks, he included "someone who will work well with and support student and faculty needs," and "a person willing to work hard to help create a distinguished academic structure that will bring us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

Currently, there are no named candidates. However, once the academic year comes to an end, Ira Jaskoll, Associate Dean of the Sy Syms School of Business will assist in the daily needs of the Office of the Dean of Yeshiva College when necessary.

## Updated Server at YU Still Not Available to Students

BY GIL BLOOM

The new YU UNIX server, the IBM AIX version 4, while online, is still inaccessible to students. According to Arthur Myers, Director of Management Information Systems (MIS), the server will be accessible in the near future, but is currently undergoing testing to ensure "smooth service."

The new server, says Myers, is "faster, has greater availability, more reliability, more disk storage, and more power overall" than the current system. Many common glitches, such as difficulty in connecting with the server, being cut-off, and system malfunctions will be minimized.

In fact, Myers explained, many of the problems exist, because the NYNEX, provided phone lines, utilized by students connecting to the system, are faulty. Though these problems may or may not be fixed by NYNEX, the actual server will have few if any internal problems.

Currently, MIS is investigating problems in the actual UNIX program. Additionally, they are employing the use of YU "hackers" (people who attain illegal access to computers and programs) to increase the program's security. "We are putting a lot of effort into the security of the new system. In particular, the protection of the system from those who want

to bring it down."

Shedding additional light on the issue, Chaim Haas, Yeshiva University Webmaster and Senior Class president, revealed that the current system is outdated by six years and only intended to accommodate sixteen simultaneous users. Further elucidating the current server problems, a programmer working on the new system noted that there are now sixteen hundred people, from YC, SCW, Cardozo Law School, Wurzelweil School of Social Work, and AECOM with accounts.

The new system will accommodate all those with accounts, even if everyone were to access the system simultaneously. The dial-up numbers will remain the same, and the only noticeable difference will be the system's increased speed and reliability.

When asked if YU planned on installing ethernet connections (cables which will allow the student to directly access the system instead of having to use a phone line) in the dorms, Mr. Myers responded that "the school is in the midst of installing ethernet connections in all of the academic and administrative offices, including all of the laboratories. When we have accomplished this task, we will be able to evaluate the situation of installing them in the dorms."

## Students Commemorate Death of Dr. King

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

Despite the fact that the YU Academic Calendar marks Martin Luther King Day as an observed holiday, the YC administration planned a regular scheduled day of classes. In an effort to give meaning to the observance of Martin Luther King Day, the Yeshiva College Communal Affairs Committee (YCCAC) held a program in honor of the late Dr. King.

YCCAC Chairman, Josh Fine, explained that "it is of great importance to pay public tribute to Dr. King's legacy. Dr. King's message was a universal one. It spoke to all oppressed and racially degraded people and struck a chord in all those concerned with justice. We as Jews should realize from Dr. King's example that it is incumbent upon us to speak out against racism and bigotry whenever and wherever it rears its ugly head in society." To that end, the committee posted signs across campus stating "Today, Monday, January 20, 1997, We Observe Martin Luther King Day," along with a picture and a quote from Dr. King's "I had a Dream" speech.

The committee also organized a program for Monday evening, which was held on the third floor student lounge of S-hottenstein. The few students in attendance saw the 1970 Academy Award nominated documentary film, "From Montgomery to Memphis." The documentary covered specific events that illustrated Dr. King's leadership of the civil rights movement from 1955 until he was tragically assassinated in 1968.

YC Junior Aylon Glaser, an attendee of the event said that he was glad to see

a YCSC student organization "doing the right thing, by organizing a program in honor of Martin Luther King for YC students." But he was surprised and dismayed that "Rabbi Lamm who has convened a commission on religious tolerance and supposedly has a tour to promote it, didn't organize a program for Martin Luther King Day which would help promote racial tolerance here at Yeshiva College. Racial tolerance is especially important at a homogenous university, like our own, and should be an issue addressed by the faculty especially in light of last year's *Commentator* survey on racism in YU."

The students who attended the program wondered why there was not a more significant showing. YCCAC Vice-Chairman Dror Barber offered an answer, "since Martin Luther King Day was the first day of the Spring semester there were students that still had not returned to campus from winter break and that others were still getting adjusted to the college atmosphere."

Fine added that albeit "students had just returned from vacation, Martin Luther King Day is a day that stands for many important and relevant issues to the Jewish community. It should be incumbent upon the YC administration to promote student awareness of this day."

"In the future," Fine continued, "the Communal Affairs Committee intends to organize more events which will promote social awareness and racial tolerance at Yeshiva College, hopefully in conjunction with the YC administration."

## YU's Own Featured On Oprah The Rules vs. The Play by Play

BY ARI GRUEN

Craig is a devoted 'rules man'. Irv is most definitely not.

Oprah thinks all men like rules-type women—they just aren't comfortable with women who follow a set of rules.

A bit confused? Let's try some definitions.

Oprah—that's Oprah Winfrey. Irv—that's Irv Eatman, offensive lineman for the National Football League's Houston Oilers. And Craig—that's Yeshiva University's Office of Student Services' executive assistant Craig D. Cohen.

Both Eatman and Cohen appeared as guests on the January 21 Oprah Winfrey Show. The talk show discussed the varying reactions to the recent publication of two books—*The Rules* and *The Code*.

*The Rules* is a current New York Times bestseller with the subtitle of "Time-Tested Secrets for Capturing the Heart of Mr. Right." Written by Ellen Fein and Sherrie Schneider, the book offers 35 guidelines for women who are looking for romantic involvement, that is, commitment, from men.

*The Code* is a spoof of *The Rules*. The book, authored by Nate Penn and Lawrence Leroose, provides "Time-Tested Secrets for Getting What You Want from Women Without Marrying Them." According to the authors, the book's main function lies in its tongue-in-cheek suggestions as to how to get into and out of relationships with ease. An example? "To get into a relationship, massage her foot; to get out of the relationship, cut your toenails over the sink."

Here are some sample comparisons from the two books:

Rule #1: "Be a creature unlike any other."

Code #1: "Be a beast." The authors explained that they were referring to a bit of animal magnetism that is so essential for any healthy relationship.

Rule #2: "Never go dutch on a date."

Code #2: "Go on the 'non-date date'—don't go to a restaurant; take her for a drink. The authors described this as the perfect "non-date date, a type of dating test-drive."

Craig Cohen was invited to appear as a guest audience member on the Oprah Winfrey Show because he is a follower of "The Rules" and attends Rules seminars religiously in search of his partner for life. He told Oprah that he attends the seminars to find a woman "with self-respect and who won't allow herself to be treated like a doormat." By relating practical advice on such matters as when a woman should call a man and how far to go on a first

date, Cohen believes the Rules makes women feel better about themselves and produce women whom he finds more attractive.

Cohen performed spiritedly on the show, often sparring with the authors of *The Code*, as well as Oprah herself. When Oprah first introduced Cohen, she made the mistake of saying that he attends the Rules seminars to meet women. Cohen immediately corrected Oprah by stating that he goes to the seminars hoping to "meet a woman, not many women."

The authors of *The Code* feel that *The Rules* is degrading to both men and women, as the book suggests that women play a game with men in order to snatch them. According to them, the book provides a facade for women to put on as they try to find a husband. Indeed, many women in the show's audience agreed with the "Code men's" opinion, with one woman suggesting that any relationship based on *The Rules* is doomed to failure.

Cohen elicited a strong reaction from the audience by firmly stating that the authors of *The Code* are wrong. He explained his position while directly addressing Oprah: "The reason they're wrong is the following: when you wake up in the morning, what do you do? You put on makeup. It doesn't change who Oprah Winfrey is." Oprah interjected at this point, "But we're glad she put on some." Cohen continued, "Right, because you feel better and I like looking at you more when you wear makeup. Exact same thing with *The Rules*, it doesn't change who the woman is in her heart, but it makes her more attractive to me as a person, to me as a man."

At another point in the show, Cohen defended *The Rules* suggestion that women not be so quick to return the phone calls of pursuing men. "The reason that a woman doesn't return phone calls has nothing to do with pretending anything. It's to teach a man he has to direct his attention to her and to treat her with the respect and dignity that she deserves because he is pursuing her."

Irv Eatman, for his part, doesn't believe in *The Rules*. He makes two phone calls, and if there's still no response, he moves on.

So what rules does Irv Eatman live by?

Irv's Rule #1: "I like a girl who writes her rules for me specifically," declared Eatman. "Don't play games with me." And Irv's Rule #2?

In adhering to the "Rules of *The Commentator*" this Rules man suggests that if you must know the wisdom of this philosopher/football player, get a hold of a copy of the show's transcript.

### Mazal Tov to

Michael Belgrade & Shoshana Krombach

Yitzy Book & Sorolle Bennett

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# SOY Seforim Sale Returns to Belfer Hall Despite Administration Resistance

*continued from page one*

Hall on November 5, 1996. Since SOY has held its annual sale on the fifth floor of Belfer Hall for the past three years, and there were no confirmed reservations for the location at the time of the request, SOY believed their use of the hall in Belfer to be a done deal. Over the course of the subsequent month-and-a-half, SOY began placing orders for close to 4500 Judaic titles from various publishers while making preparations to set up shop on the fifth floor of Belfer Hall.

Toward the end of December, Director of Facilities Management Jeffrey Socol, informed SOY that the Seforim Sale would be held in the Shenk Shul of Schottenstein Hall stating that the Belfer location was too important to be occupied by the Seforim Sale for an extended period of time. "It was a declaration, there was no room for negotiation despite our complaints," Taragin said.

For SOY, the change of venue was unanticipated and disconcerting. The Shenk Shul is approximately a third of the size of the hall in Belfer. Orders had already been placed for an amount of books that greatly exceeded what the Shenk location could accommodate. Taragin suspended book orders and calculated that the location adjustment would entail reducing titles offered by two thirds of the original amount intended.

In addition the relocation to obscurely located Shenk Synagogue, with its lack of direct elevator access to the facility from street level, which would cause delivery of the items for sale inside the location to be nearly impossible, access to the Shul would be severely limited, reducing the flow of purchasers and sales as fire regulations would preclude customer traffic from even approaching the levels achieved in past Belfer sales.

SOY was also concerned about Facilities Management's policy in renting space to student organizations and not

disclosing the price of the rental until the function has concluded. An accompanying history of notorious "extra" charges makes the prospect of a student organization renting space from the University quite daunting. In this instance, since Shenk Shul was recently renovated and had a new carpet installed, a member of the SOY board was concerned that his organization "would be charged some ridiculous amount for wear-and-tear especially on the new carpet as has happened to other student groups in the past."

Realizing that the Seforim Sale would be drastically reduced in size as well as character and finding University officials, at that point, not amenable to suggestions, SOY elected to threaten to cancel the event if a suitable on-campus location could not be secured. According to Taragin, "only after we threatened" did the administration make any concessions and consider the situation more seriously. In a January meeting between SOY and Associate Dean of Students David Himer at the Schottenstein, the administration came to the realization that Shenk Shul was insufficient for the Seforim Sale.

The administration's reversal of position on the Shenk facility was sudden and SOY attributes it primarily to the threat that the Seforim Sale would be cancelled. The Belfer location was offered for the Seforim Sale with a number of stipulations and revisions from the arrangement enjoyed by SOY the previous year. SOY was required to shorten the length of the sale by a week and remove all books by an earlier date than was arranged in the past. Ultimately, SOY accepted this offer and resumed preparations for use of the Belfer location in earnest, having fallen behind significantly as a consequence of hindrances imposed by the administration in the

Shenk catastrophe.

Many in the SOY camp were dismayed that a function that benefits the general Jewish community, many charitable organizations, and reflects very favorably on YU would encounter administrative impediment. Pundits speculated that the administration wished to reverse a previous controversy stemming from the usage of Shenk Shul as a storage facility which incensed the donor. By inviting thousands of visitors to the location, the University could capitalize on an opportunity for some much needed exposure to the Shul.

Socol declined to confirm or deny the suggestion that concern over public relations was behind the Shenk fiasco. Repeated efforts to elicit comment on the issue from the office of Jeffrey Rosengarten, University Director of Supporting Services, were not acknowledged. Dr. Efreim Nulman, Dean of Student Services, however, chose to "emphatically deny the PR aspect. I never said that. I never thought that... Clearly, I can't look into the heart, mind, and soul of my colleagues, but I have not heard any such articulation expressed... Our concern was the long period of time that the Belfer place was being booked for."

Nulman went on to emphasize that "the main issue for my office was accommodating Mitch [Taragin] and John Neiss [SOY president] in their effort. As soon as we [Office of Student Services] got in contact with SOY, we wanted to make things

work. Eventually, that made staying with Belfer for this year's sale the option we pursued." Jonathan Neiss confirmed Nulman's account. "The location catastrophe was very frustrating and damaging for the SOY Seforim Sale, but once we got in closer contact with Dean Nulman and the Office of Student Services, the situation improved. They have been very cooperative since. The real problem was dealing with facilities management."

Unfortunately, it appears that battles with facilities management are not isolated occurrences, but rather reflections of a larger trend. The emerging consensus among campus leaders is that the Department of Facilities Management makes it exceedingly difficult for student organizations to utilize University facilities for student functions. While the Office of Student Services is viewed as generally helpful, students are nonetheless nearly always required to contend with facilities management to obtain usage of halls at some point in the process. The impenetrable web of bureaucracy coupled with a pervasive sense of turf warfare being waged between contentious University departments serves to augment student unrest and demand for a change. Administrative miscues over Shenk-gate are merely the most visible and humiliating manifestations of a broader, festering problem that the University has yet to adequately address.

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# Yeshiva College Student Council



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### YCSC Working for You!

Feb 3	8:00 PM	MSAC	Basketball Game	Macs vs. NJIT: Fan Night-Free gift for first people to arrive at game	Feb 12	8-10:30 PM 8:00 PM	Arts Festival 535 Furst Hall	"All Bets Are Off" A play by Aharon Rabinowitz
Feb 4	11:00 PM	Morg Basement Lounge	Open YCSC Meeting	Feb 13	Rockefeller Center	Freshman Student Council Ice Skating Event		
Feb 5	10:30 PM	3rd. Floor Schottenstein	Movie Night: The Rock	Feb 19	Physics Club presents Columbia University professor to speak on volunteer work			
Feb 6	7:30 PM	MSAC	Basketball Game	Macs vs. Suny Purchase	Feb 20	8:15 PM	Torah Umadda Speech	
Feb 10	8-10:30 PM	Arts Festival			Feb 24	8:00 PM 8:00 PM	Dorm Talks Featuring Rabbi Lamm Macs vs. Pratt Institute	
Feb 11	8-10:30 PM	Arts Festival						

## SSSB Offers Real Estate Course

BY ARI GRUEN

In its continuing quest to provide its students with adequate preparation for the many opportunities available in today's business world, the Sy Syms School of Business now offers its students a course in the basics of real estate.

The course is taught by Mr. Laizer Kornwasser, a SSSB alumnus, on YU's uptown campus.

Kornwasser graduated from the Sy Syms School of Business with a Bachelor's Degree of Accounting in 1992. Following two years with the Real Estate Division of Coopers and Lybrand, Kornwasser attended Harvard where he earned an MBA in general management.

Kornwasser's syllabus for the Principles of Real Estate course states, "The real estate course is designed to give an exciting feel of the real estate industry.... This course examines the various types of real estate including: apartment and office buildings, industrial parks, shopping centers, private homes and undeveloped land."

According to Kornwasser, "The goal of the class is to familiarize the students

with the different aspects and type of real estate, and to get them to learn in a fun manner." To this end, Kornwasser has decided to teach his class entirely on a case study basis, as opposed to using the lecture method with which SSSB students are more familiar. He explains, "One of the things I learned at Harvard is that case study is a much better educational process than the lecture method. It motivates the students to be more involved in the material."

Kornwasser emphasizes, "There is no formula for success in real estate. The goal of the class is not to give a theoretical formula for real estate." He hopes to invite professionals in the field of real estate to lecture his class and give the students a taste of business in the 'real world'.

SSSB Dean Harold Nierenberg notes that "Student response to the course is extremely encouraging [over 40 students enrolled in the course] and as the school continues to grow, we will continue to add courses and programs that will provide our students with a greater degree of options in the world of business."

## WYUR Still Not on Air

*Faulty cables and equipment upgrades blamed for delay*

BY NOAH STREIT

WYUR, YU's official undergraduate radio station, has yet to broadcast this school year. Neil Berman, WYUR's station manager, points to faulty machinery and cables as the primary obstacles preventing the station from "going on the air."

WYUR, when fully operational, broadcasts to Rubin, Morg, Muss and Brookdale Hall. Cables provided by NYNEX, run from Schottenstein, where the radio station is located to Belfer Hall which houses the main transmitter. From Belfer, cables carry the WYUR signal to the dormitory buildings. Once the signal reaches the transmitter, a coupler amplifies and sends the signal throughout the building.

However, even couplers in good working order will not amplify WYUR's radio waves until they are broadcasted. "When I was elected we were aware of problems, but no one realized to what extent... When the extent of the problems were realized, many asked me to take this as a rebuilding year," stated Berman. But he intends to have WYUR up and running before the end of the school year.

Assessing the overall damage, Berman complains that years of neglect have taken their toll on the transmitters, couplers and cables running to each building. In fact, Muss is the only building currently capable of receiving a decent signal, owing to the fact that it has its own cable and its transmitter and coupler have not decayed because "someone had unplugged the transmitter in order to plug in a portable heating unit."

The transmitters and couplers are supposed to be maintained by professional

engineers. According to Berman, "the legacy engineers didn't meet my standards for efficiency. In fact they often neglected the machinery by checking it erratically." This past semester, Berman hired, "professional" engineers from LPB Engineering, a firm based in Philadelphia. Although Berman is pleased with the new engineers, "you pay the price for professionals in price and availability."

During the past semester, Berman spoke with the engineers about replacing the transmitter and couplers. The engineers decided that it would be foolish to replace the machinery if a more severe problem were not dealt with. Most of the cables, through which the WYUR signal is transmitted, are defective. "The source of the problem still needs to be located and fixed. NYNEX is the only company that can legally fix problems with its cables... and trying to get in touch with NYNEX and have them fix the cable is a monumental effort. We are hoping they will be here sometime next month." If the machinery were replaced before the cables were repaired, then post cable repair, the machinery would have to be recalibrated.

Once the NYNEX cables are revamped, WYUR plans to purchase new transmitters and couplers. In reference to funding for the new machinery, Berman would only say that "there is a strong likelihood that we will be able to pool together and allocate funds from various sources."

When WYUR will finally broadcast, which Berman predicts for this semester, the frequency may change from 640AM to 530AM which is at the very end of the AM band. It is not commercially licensable thus providing signals uncluttered by stronger commercial frequencies.

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BY DANIEL ANZISKA

Old directors don't retire, they fade into mediocrity. While such an underhanded remark may be too extreme to be taken without a grain of salt, there is truth to this saying. William Friedkin, who long ago directed two classics, *The French Connection* and *The Exorcist*, has been brought back to earth. His recent films, which have ranged from noble misses (*The Sorcerer*, *Rampage*) to missed the side of the barn (*The Guardian*, *Jade*), do not mesh with his earlier brilliance. How could someone, whose brute honesty and uncompromising artistic integrity are so apparent, veer wildly off the course? The riddle that is William Friedkin's career may never truly be answered but, in a recent interview, we sat down to discuss the film auteur's work.

**DA: Having never been to college, what is your opinion of today's young film makers, many of whom have graduate degrees from film schools?**

WF: If you asked me the same question twenty years ago, I would have told you that they are wasting their time. But, some of the best film makers today have come out of these institutions... When I started nearly thirty years ago, people interested in film got experience by apprenticing; film schools were just not an option and only began to come into their own during the late 1960's.

**DA: But don't you feel that it is important to have 'real' life experience before you begin directing?**

WF: Well, it depends what type of film you are making. Steven Spielberg rarely works in reality. (Spielberg) works directly out of his imagination and whatever feeds his imagination is certainly as important as what people experience on the streets or in the army.... Today's film makers are getting younger and younger and are therefore more likely to work from the imagination. They are making pastiges (copies) of old films. For example, I found this to be the case with the *Usual Suspects*, a highly praised recent film that was a pastige of old movies... I also find this to be true with the Cohen brothers (at Miramax), they are very talented film makers who are not totally original. They can be very good, for example, I think that *Blood Simple* was an excellent film, but, not completely original....

I think that film makers of past generations made more socially significant films. Today's film makers are not interested in connecting with the audience on a socially significant level. This tells you a lot about them, a lot about current audiences and a lot about studios that are not interested in these type of films.

**DA: Maybe it could be said that (the reason for the dearth of originality) is because all of the ideas are used up?**

WF: (chuckle) Well, I hope not. That is a horrible idea. I guess in every generation there are these fears. For example, with classical music, how can you compare modern music with Mozart, Schubert and Bach. Classical music is still being made but, who the hell is going to listen to it? I much rather listen to Mozart and Bach.

**DA: How have special effects affected modern film?**

WF: They have become special effects shows. No major studio is willing to make a movie without (having) them.

**DA: Do you think that this has caused a dichotomy in the film industry? That the good young directors like (Brian) Singer and (Quintin) Tarantino are forced to make their films independently?**

WF: While I like Tarantino's movies, I do not think that they are original. He is a very popular director and I'm almost certain that all of the majors would want him.... But, I love Miramax, I think they are great guys who love film, unlike many of the major studios. They are willing to make films that the others wouldn't touch, and they make them successful. I think Tarantino has found a home there and he feels comfortable with them.

**DA: Who were the best people to work with 25 years ago (when *The French Connection* was made)?**

WF: Let me see.... The year that the *French Connection* was made, Hollywood was in a terrible depression. The studio that I made my film for (FOX) was on the verge of bankruptcy and was about to be taken over by Wall Street. In terms of marketing my film, the executives (at FOX) were idiots, you know... imbecilic and they had no

the post *Star Wars* era with your films. How have you dealt with the New Hollywood?

WF: In some of my films I did not connect with the audience... and my only answer (to these setbacks) is to try again, to find a project that interests me and to keep working. During these years I have made many films that have interested me and some that haven't, but, I've kept working. That is the advice that I give to all of the young film makers or actors. Take whatever jobs are offered to you, don't sit out and wait for the 'great' project. There is nothing wrong with working.... we are in a great industry and it is important to keep working on your craft.

**DA: Have you made the films that you wanted to make?**

WF: In the post (*Exorcist*) era, I have made many films that I wanted to make such as *Jade*, *Blue Chips*, *Rampage* and *Deal of the Century*. However, there have been some films that I have made simply to keep working like the *Guardian*. I had nothing else to do that year, so I made it.

**DA: So, you will make a mediocre**

recent work which was a critical and financial failure)? Were you happy with your work? Can you really say that it should've been made?

WF: *Jade* was my best experience making a film, in terms of being interested in the material, liking the script and getting along with the cast. I could not say enough about the cast, they were all talented and hard working. It was a rewarding experience and I believe my best film.

**DA: Then why did it fail?**

WF: You have to ask the public.

*Friedkin has the bright intellectual-type of intelligence that is rarely associated with Hollywood. He is a thinker and a questioner, constantly taking the bait and tossing it back into your face. Dressed in a Josephinian-like technicolor sweater and immaculately presentable, Friedkin certainly played the part of the veteran Hollywood director. While speaking in nouveau riche terms (how many times during the course of a conversation can one sit through well placed references of Bach and Vermeer without keeling over?), his pretensions seemed wildly out of place. Friedkin began his career as a street smart artist who*

*presented the 'real' world as he saw it. His most successful films are unpretentious, directly challenging the gut of the audience, daring people to become emotionally involved. He speaks like he directs, confrontational and thoughtful, a combination of substance and pizzazz. The same man who claims that *Jade* is his best project also projected unflinching accounts of Hollywood (only concerning film, of course).*

**DA: Quickly, what do you think of the following actors that you worked with? Cher (in *Good Times*, 1967)?**

WF: I always thought that Sonny Bono was a talented songwriter. I thought that Cher was a dits, she used to sit and paint her toenails different colors, but she was obviously talented at what she did. Though, her talent has always eluded me, I like her but I don't consider her a great singer or actress, I always thought that she was marginal, but I thought he

(Bono) was talented.

**DA: Al Pacino (*Cruising*, 1980)?**

WF: I didn't enjoy working with Pacino at all. I thought he was unprofessional, had bad work habits and was not a good actor. Though I must say that he has done good work in the past, I have not enjoyed anything of his since *The Godfather* and *Dog Day Afternoon*.

**DA: Sigourney Weaver (*Deal of the Century*, 1983)?**

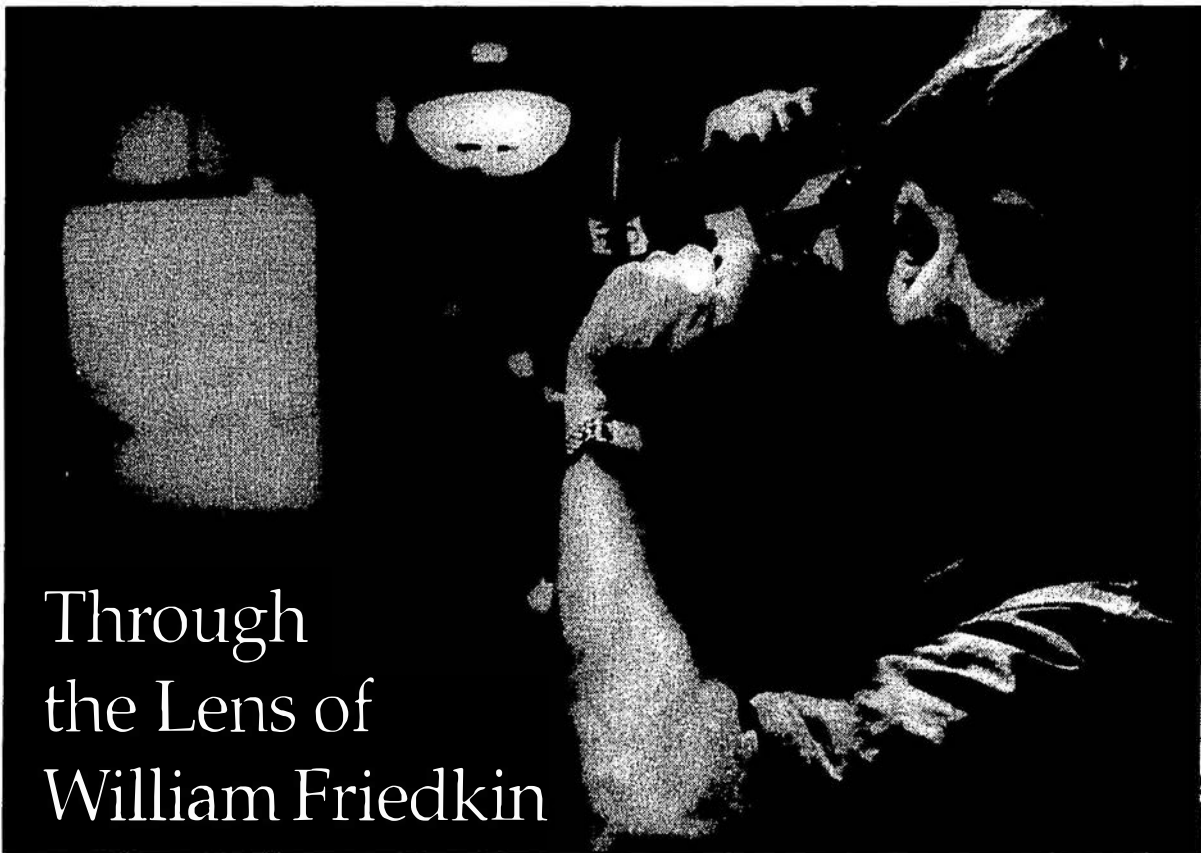
WF: I didn't have a good experience working with her. Ummm, maybe she was miscast or whatever. I found her to be a little stiff, not very naturalistic as an actor. Although she is a beautiful woman. As I analyze the work that I have seen her in, although I thought she was terrific in *Alien*, I haven't liked her (performances).

**DA: Chevy Chase (ditto)?**

WF: I like him and think that he is a very funny person. Bad work habits, though, I came away from (*Deal of the Century*) with a positive view. I liked the experience though I felt that the film had some problems.

**DA: Basketball players in general (*Blue Chips*, 1994)?**

WF: (laughing) They should keep their day jobs.



## Through the Lens of William Friedkin

imagination whatsoever, but that year (1971), my film was their only film. In general, that was not a good year for Hollywood. But yet, out of it, came what is now called the Last Golden Age of Hollywood.

**DA: Now '71, in which most of you 'snuck in' your films, was an interesting year. You had your film, Peter Bagdaodovich's *The Last Picture Show*, Stanley Kubrick's *A Clockwork Orange* and Sam Peckinpah's *Straw Dogs*, all original, at times brutal films. Why were they made at this time?**

WF: Directors were able to slip in their films right before Wall Street took over. Believe me, the studios were not patting us on our backs. Francis Coppola had to fight for every scene in (*The Godfather*), the studio wanted to edit and cut scenes. The same is true of the *French Connection*.. This period was almost like the Prague Spring of '68 in which there was a brief glimmer of hope before the Soviet tanks invaded. There was a brief glimmer of hope, before *Jaws* and *Star Wars* changed everything. Since then, the studios have attempted to copy these films, make them big and eventful. Though you may read into the mythology of *Star Wars* or into Lucas's allusions of Joseph Campbell, to me, it (*Star Wars*) is kind of stupid and lame.

**DA: Now, you have had problems in**

**movie just because you had nothing else to do that year?**

WF: Film making is like a muscle, if you not making a film then your not using your muscle. You have to stay in practice and work on your (filmmaking) techniques. If you are out of practice, then you get flabby... Film making, like writing, is a muscle which you have to exercise.

**DA: How have you coped with recent critiques on your films?**

WF: Every film that you make is a risk. I had no idea that some of the films that I made would be as successful as they were, both critically and financially. I don't make movies with these worries in mind.... certainly not the critics and the audience, well, you see, sometimes you connect with an audience and sometimes you don't and you don't know when it will and it won't. For example, I never imagined that *The French Connection* would be so successful. Yet, I thought that *The Sorcerer* and *Jade* were great movies that would perform well (at the box office).

**DA: Why are unintelligent films being made?**

WF: That is in your opinion. Whether a film is good or not is in the eye of the beholder. For example, the art cadre of Van Gogh was a failure in its time and is now considered a masterpiece.

**DA: What about *Jade* (Friedkin's most**

# Yeshiva University

## Office of the Dean of Students

Dear Students,

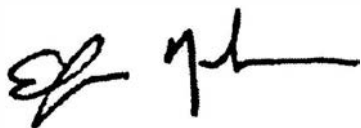
On behalf of the Office of the Dean of Students, we would like to welcome our returning and new students for the Spring 1997 semester.

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

As the semester begins, we wish you continued success.

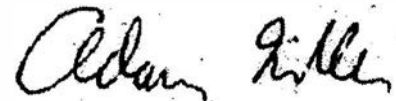
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# NEWS

## The Swiss Banking Fiasco: A Race Against Time to Compensate Victims

BY ARI KAHN

Events have been unfolding by the day during the past two months regarding a controversy that began at the end of the Second World War. Jewish organizations allege that hundreds of millions, perhaps billions of dollars in assets belonging to European Jews were either confiscated by the Nazis or voluntarily deposited in Swiss Banks for safekeeping during the Holocaust. The organizations claim that this money was either laundered through the Swiss banks to support Nazi causes or simply sat in dormant accounts as unclaimed assets, kept by the bank until full verification of proper ownership could be established. If you or your parents are related to someone who has been doubly-victimized in this manner, now is the time to act.

Unfortunately, for many survivors, the documentation necessary to retrieve their money was lost during the war and the deportations. Strict secrecy laws allowed the Swiss to deny many of the claims that were filed during these past fifty years. The three biggest banks Credit Suisse, Union Bank of Switzerland, and Swiss Bank Corporation have remained determined to keep the files closed forever.

The past two years have seen mounting pressures that swiftly brought these events to a head. The creation of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. provided a starting point for tracking down information on the amount of capital residing in the banks and its owners. However, the greatest force behind the recent, massive mobilization of government and Jewish agencies alike, is Senator Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY) who became chairman of the Senate Banking Committee in 1994 when the Republican Party took control of the Congress. Sen. D'Amato used his authority to search through archival material from World War II.

Last year, Switzerland announced that officials found just \$32 million in unclaimed assets but at the same time, launched two separate investi-

gative committees to search for more. The evidence was gathered by examining once-secret documents that traced the movements and storage of Nazi gold including, what American officials believed to be caches of gold bars created by extracting the fillings of crematoria victims.

Last week, Union Bank of Switzerland was caught destroying bank archives only days after the Swiss government had banned such action. Sen. D'Amato wrote the top Swiss ambassador, demanding better treatment for Swiss bank guard Christoph Meili who discovered World War II era documents being prepared for the shredder and promptly lost his job.

Noble Laureate Eli Wiesel testified before a Senate Banking Committee hearing in October, demanding that justice be finally done because, "Now we know they [the Nazis] didn't simply want to kill the Jews, as horrible as this might sound. They wanted Jewish money... Is there no limit to the pain? Is there no limit to the outrage?"

It appears something concrete may finally be done. Rainer Gut, chairman of Credit Suisse, told a leading Swiss daily that Switzerland and its bankers had "just about run out of time to defuse the public relations crisis over the country's wartime record" when it helped sustain the German war machine and discriminated against Jewish refugees. In addition, the President of Switzerland, Casper Villiger, has recently admitted that the Swiss "bear a considerable burden of guilt for the treatment of Jews by our country."

Mr. Gut said Switzerland's delay in coming to grips with the issue threatened the reputation of the "Big Three" Swiss banks and had reduced the credibility of the country's banking industry to its lowest point since the second world war. He proposed the immediate creation of a fund of more than 100 million Swiss Francs as a goodwill gesture to survivors and relatives of victims of the Holocaust.

Mr. Gut's intervention was perhaps prompted by two concerns. Swiss banks are more dependent than their competitors on international

business, and the steady stream of allegations is hitting their national image. Two of the four Jewish members of the main investigatory committee, Avraham Burg, chairman of the Jewish Agency, and Israel Singer, member of the World Jewish Congress, have threatened an international boycott of Swiss banks unless they fully co-operate.

The crisis is also undermining the consensus on which the Swiss government depends as the government is not rigidly structured and many procedures and decisions are made with the understanding that no side in the government or business world changes the rules that have been implicitly in place for years. The structure is so rooted in its tradition that during times of peace, they do not even have a Commander in Chief to control their army. The issue over moneys belonging to Holocaust victims has caused such a tumult amongst public opinion that it appears no consensus will be reached regarding the issue.

The reaction of the remaining two "Big Three" banks have been less than enthusiastic about Gut's proposal. Marcel Ospel, chief executive of Swiss Bank Corporation said talk of a "generous gesture" should wait until the results of the official investigations. Robert Studer, chairman of Union Bank of Switzerland, which was caught destroying the documents, went further, asserting that, "we should not take a decision to solve the problems of today and create problems for tomorrow." He described as "peanuts" the amount of unclaimed money in dormant bank accounts and dismissed as a "fairy tale" claims that Swiss banks still profited from billions of dollars of Holocaust victims' bank accounts.

On January 29, the New York City Council proposed the withdrawal of all city funds from Swiss banks until a satisfactory solution was reached. Martin Begun, president of the Jewish Community Relations Council, called the City Council's proposal "a way to correct a terrible immorality in recent world history. It is very impor-

tant as a moral statement from the people of the City of New York of what should be done to correct an enormous injustice."

In Washington, Swiss embassy spokesman Cristophe Bubb said the embassy had no reaction to the proposal. The embassy has been under fire throughout the week, following the resignation of Swiss ambassador Carlo Jametti after the publication of a memo in which he declared "war" on those who allege improprieties in Swiss banks' handling of Nazi gold.

It appears that Gut's leadership has paid off. The Swiss Government along with the banks announced last week the establishment of a fund to compensate claimants who have lost assets in Swiss banks. While this may be an extremely significant first step, two big questions which remain are how much money is to be put in the fund and who will pay for it, the banks, the government, or both.

Sen. D'Amato said that he would "continue to be vigilant to see that the fund pledge is carried out." He condemned an earlier Swiss offer to consider a fund that would have limited compensation to \$31 million.

On the heels of this announcement, came the news that France would also set up a fund to compensate Holocaust victims. The French government has until now sought to downplay its role in the Holocaust by maintaining that the Vichy Government, not the true French Government, aided Hitler's quest to annihilate the Jews. When last week, the French Supreme Court ordered former cabinet minister Maurice Papon to stand trial for crimes against humanity, the rest of the government decided to start accepting some blame for what happened to French Jews and others in their country persecuted by the Nazis.

Attorney General Janet Reno used a news conference to remind U.S. citizens that they have until February 23, to add to the 250 claims seeking compensation from the German Government for Nazi concentration camp survivors. "We are racing against time to compensate them."

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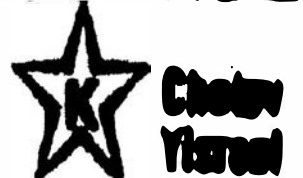
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## SOY Revises Constitution; Appoints Aryeh Sheinbein as New Vice-President

BY JJ LANDO

The Student Organization of Yeshiva (SOY) voted to amend its constitution at the end of the Fall '96 semester in response to the mid-year graduation of its Vice-President, Mitch Taragin.

According to the amendment, the SOY President is allowed to appoint a replacement Vice-President if the position is vacated in mid-year. The appointment requires confirmation by three-quarters of the SOY Executive Council.

SOY, whose main duties include the running of various religious events on campus, is the governing body of MYP and RIETS students. Amendments to the organization's constitution were proposed by the SOY Constitutional Revision Committee in order to "clean up some of the obsolete and unclear aspects of the S.O.Y. constitution," explained Committee Chairman Josh Fine.

In last May's elections, there were no official candidates for the position of SOY vice president. By a write-in-vote, MYP and RIETS students chose Taragin to serve as their vice president. In order to serve on the SOY Executive Council, one must be

in either MYP or REITS. At the time he took office, Taragin believed that while he would be graduating in January 1997, he would enroll in *smicha* at RIETS, which would enable him to continue to perform his vice presidential duties according to the guidelines set forth by the SOY constitution.

However, Taragin decided not to enroll in *smicha* for the spring semester and inadvertently created a SOY constitutional crisis. SOY President Jonathan Neiss then decided to turn the matter over to the SOY Constitutional Revision Committee, a committee provided for in the constitution.

Although some students have questioned the idea of filling an Executive Council position through the process of appointment, Neiss explained that the amendment made sense because "there was an immediate need to fill the position, and it was unfeasible to arrange an election at this point in the school year." While he has resigned, Taragin has voluntarily decided to continue to run the Seform Sale, a duty which can be performed by someone other than the vice president, as set forth in the 1985-1986 amendments to the SOY Constitution, that were passed under then SOY



l-r: SOY Constitutional Revision Committee Members: Neil Knoll, Joseph Fox, SOY President Jonathan Neiss, Aylon Glaser, Josh Fine, Dror Barber, Andrew Wurzburger

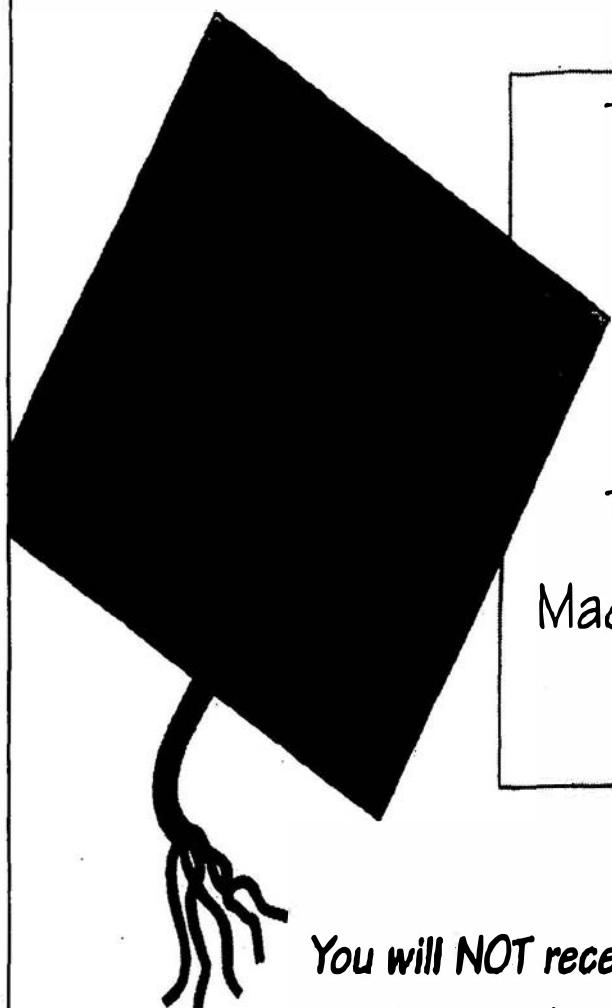
President Chaim Book.

Fine noted that "Other new amendments were written with the intention of promoting efficiency, not bureaucracy, by bringing the Constitution up-to-date with the current workings of SOY." For example, there was a large portion of the Constitution which dealt with the operation of a General Council that was supposed to consist of a variety of shiur representatives and be the "Congress" of the SOY "government." However, no such council has existed for years and for that matter an amendment passed back in 1985 didn't make ref-

erence to it rendering it obsolete. Therefore, an amendment was passed that eliminated the institution of the General Council from the Constitution. The constitution now clearly states that the Executive Council, which consists of a president, a vice president, a treasurer and a secretary, is solely responsible for the decision making processes of SOY.

Neiss believes that "the SOY Constitutional Revision Committee's amendments that were passed will greatly facilitate the role of the Student Organization at Yeshiva and its decision-making processes."

## COMMENCEMENT



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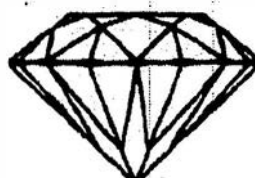
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# The Pre-Health Office's New Look

## Full-Time Pre-Health Advisor Hired

BY ERIC LONDON

Medicine is continually changing and students need to be educated about where health professionals are wanted, as well as where different health related fields are developing. In an effort to continue to provide adequate guidance to YC students, Dr. Stefan Bosworth has been added to the pre-health office to aide in the transition into twenty first century careers in medicine.

Dr. Bosworth has an impressive resume both academically and administratively. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from CUNY, and an MA in Political Science from Sonoma State University in California. His professional experience includes: Skills Counselor/Lecturer-CUNY Medical School, Director of the Student Learning Center at Lehman College, Lecture/Science Supervisor at the University of California, San Diego, Coordinator of Reading and study skills at University of California, San Diego, and Director at the Learning Resource Center at CUNY Medical

School. Furthermore, Dr. Bosworth also developed and implemented the MCAT review course at the University of California Medical School, and co-authored *The MCAT Practice Exam Book*.

Dr. Bosworth will serve as Yeshiva University's new undergraduate men and women's Pre-Health Science Advisor, and will be working with current part-time advisor, Dr. David Weisbrott. According to University Dean of Students Dr. Efreim Nulman, "Dr. Bosworth has been brought in to cover the whole health field... his goals are to shift the office's focus from Pre-Med to Pre-Health. The Pre-Health office will focus on fields where students request information, and also introduce new fields to students."

According to Nulman, the search for a new Pre-Health advisor to assist Dr. Weisbrott began in December 1994. During the recruitment process the student service office interviewed many people, placed ads, and reached out to professional organizations and other schools for qualified candidates. Dr. Bosworth was acquired by Yeshiva

after being interviewed by Dean Nulman, Dean Himber, faculty members, as well as a committee of students majoring in Pre Health sciences.

In response to why the search took as long as it did, Dean Nulman explained: "We don't like to settle, and we don't want second best... Dr. Bosworth was hired because he was a professional who knows the business, who can move right in, and who knows the industry. We also wanted someone whose personality would be considered warm, caring, energetic, and helpful. And I think we found the right guy."

Nulman explained that Dr. Weisbrott worked twelve hours a week on both campuses and it wasn't sufficient and that Dr. Bosworth will offer a greater quantity of service.

Dr. Bosworth intends to prepare Yeshiva students for the 'new medicine.' Bosworth believes: "Large corporations are the future and private practices are disappearing." He foresees health related careers to be found in Pharmaceutical companies, HMOs and Health Care Management.

Bosworth's has planned an extensive counselling program that will begin during the early semesters of a student's arrival at YU, and hopes it will prevent sophomore mistakes. For those already within the system, even those in their third year of study, the advisor believes it's not too late and that he can open doors for students he hasn't even heard of until their

third year, helping them get in to masters programs, research experiences in labs, and other opportunities.

Dr. Bosworth addressed the common student misconception that Biology is the Pre-Health major, Dr. Bosworth feels: "Generally, Pre-Med students feel that they should major in a science, but on the contrary, medical schools are looking for diverse majors... Doctors need to learn how to interact and work with HMOs. Doctors will be, yes, employees. Doctors will have to take into account the new reality that their incomes will no longer be limitless."

However, Dr. Bosworth reminds students that secular pressure for primary care may exist, but students shouldn't think that there will be no need for specialists. According to Dr. Bosworth: "Forty to fifty percent of medical students graduate with specialties."

Eventually, a career fair will be set up as an opportunity for students to be exposed to careers of health care. The office intends to run a series of presentations, and requests continual input from students.

Dr. Bosworth knows that, "One must build a reputation, and one can't expect to come in a place and have one. Naturally, many people would feel more comfortable choosing Doctor Weisbrott, because he's been here for many years, but as people get to know about the new people they're hopeful to build a reputation."

## Office of the Dean of Students Welcomes Dr. Stefan Bosworth to the Office of Pre-Health Advisement.

### DR. STEFAN BOSWORTH

Monday	12:00 noon - 8:30 p.m.	F419	Main Campus
Tuesday	9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	SCW 110	Midtown Campus
Wednesday	2:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.	SCW 110	Midtown Campus
Thursday	9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	F419	Main Campus
Friday	9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	F419	Main Campus

### DR. DAVID WEISBROT

Monday	1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	SCW 110	Midtown Campus
Tuesday	9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	F419	Main Campus

Editorials  
**OPINION**

# The Politics of Religion in Israel

Over a sparkingly set *Shabbat* table, a friend who had just returned from Israel reported noticing considerable favorable mention, both in Israel's corner cafes and in the pages of its newspapers, of the proposal to set up two separate states; one in the coastal Gush Dan for secular Israelis, and a second in the highlands of Judea and Samaria for the religious. Though this banter is probably to a large degree sensationalistic, it does reflect how far the consciousness and fear of an Israeli *kulturkampf* has progressed, and it exposes certain conventional wisdoms about the relation between religion and state.

While the notion of a halachic state may appeal to many religious Jews, I would humbly suggest that realization of such a flawed idea would threaten both the state, and - much more significantly - Judaism itself. On the contrary, vibrant renewal of Judaism in Israel necessitates a sharp break between religion and state in that country.

We must realize that the state in general, and the state of Israel in specific, are purely secular institutions, and have no intrinsic religious value *per se*. Centuries before Thomas Hobbes described life in the pre-political state of nature as "nasty,

brutish, and short." Rabbi Chanina observed that "were it not for fear of the political ruler, men would swallow one another alive." The state is an instrument to fulfill a need; it is practically necessary for survival.

The founding of the State of Israel was neither conducted by religious principles nor guided by the Torah's light. Its *raison d'être* was (and is) not the service of God, but simply the liberation of Jews from the impositions of Gentile rule. Failure to clearly recognize this has engendered the hypocrisy of a secular government with a religious facade. It has created a state in which religion, plagued by petty clerical infighting, prostituting itself for funding, acts as a parasitic adjunct dependent on the state. It has given birth to an official rabbinate, subject to ridicule like the *rabanut mita'am* of old, which receives its authority and pay from the secular government, and is therefore hampered and hindered: limited to blessing marriages and pronouncing divorces. The Ministry of Religion, no different than the Ministry of Transportation, is a mere arm of the secular state. When religion serves not God but political utility, its influences sub-

sides and it spews corruptions (i.e. Shas). Religion has thereby debased itself.

As Mendelssohn noted, to attempt a synthesis of religion and state is to confuse two opposites. For if the political is the realm of outward actions subject to coercion by a state in differ-

ent to inner belief, the religious is the realm of thought which abhors the action not grounded in genuine autonomous conviction.

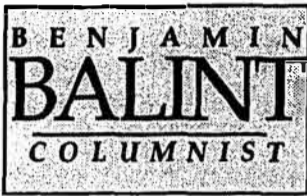
We must realize that the essential Jewish problems are not political ones, and that to rely on a sociopolitical solution to solve anything but purely sociopolitical problems is to fall into the Marxist error of regarding an ideal social order as a panacea for all other evils.

We must realize that to justify religion as indispensable for the maintenance of public order is to vulgarize it by turning it into a mere means, a tool to be measured by its usefulness to society; it becomes conditional. It is to adopt the cynicism of a Voltaire, who famously said, "If there were no God, we should have to invent Him."

And finally, we must realize that, eschatological utopianisms and aggadic ide-

alizations aside, it remains to be seen whether the creation of some sort of theocratic halachic state, even if desirable, is really possible. Does halacha in fact have anything to say in determining a modern sociopolitical system? For example, does the Biblical prohibition against plowing with an ox and donkey together imply an encouragement of agricultural society or discouragement of mechanized plowing? If not, is it not possible that in matters of *choshen mishpat* as well, the halacha does not ordain sociopolitical forms *a priori* but instead accepts them as given and regulates them? Which rabbinic interpretation will be translated into civil law? Does a Torah-imbued outlook commit me to adopting a specific view in matters of state and society? What do you mean by a state governed by Torah? Will it be a democracy or monarchy or oligarchy? Will its economics adhere to *laissez-faire* capitalist or socialist or Keynesian principles? Unanswered questions all.

Perhaps the very debate - nay, battle - over the soul of the Jewish nation from which advocates of the two state proposal are trying so desperately to flee is precisely what is essential to restoring Jewish intellectual and moral vigor.



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23 1:30 PM until 9:00 PM	<p align="center"><b>Belfer Hall - Room 502</b>  <b>2495 Amsterdam Ave</b>                      Phone &amp; Fax: (212) 960-5387                      Mitch Taragin, Chairman</p>					

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# LETTERS

To the Editor

## Sheer Chutzpah

To the Editor:

I am a proud alumnus of MTA and three of my children have gone through the high school or are presently enrolled. Your front page article about MTA which appeared in the December 20 issue of *The Commentator* was shocking, malicious and formulated in a particularly mean-spirited fashion. Certainly, we are aware of the bureaucratic maze that one must negotiate at YU, but to say that the quality of the individual student has fallen is simply untrue. My sons have received and are receiving excellent educations in both *kodesh* and *chol* and the comments of the anonymous nay-sayers are certainly not representative of the faculty as a whole. Given the general tone of the article, one wonders whether the author

would have even bothered to jot down any favorable opinion or comment. The reporter blasts "reduced enrollment" on Page One, while the truth—that enrollment is being intentionally limited is buried towards the very end of the article. I further have been unaware that academic excellence is directly related to the age and quality of the building and the facilities. Many of the world's finest institutions would be in serious trouble if their ratings were dependent on the issue dates of their Certificates of Occupancy. Unfortunately, the piece bears the hallmark of personal *animus* on the part of the reporter with little in the way of constructive comment.

Moshe S. Neiss  
MTA '68

## One-Half Century Later: Questions Still Must Be Answered

As the Nazi threat grew in Germany in the 1930's, many Jews were forced to abandon their homes and their livelihoods. In a desperate attempt to keep their assets out of the hands of Nazis, they turned to a place they trusted — Swiss banks. Today, despite the efforts of many, some of those assets have yet to be turned over to their rightful owners. The time is long overdue for justice to be done.

For some fifty years, Holocaust survivors and their families have sought to resolve this issue, which continues the pain and injustice of this tragic era in world history. We are at a critical juncture, where we have the opportunity to bring some measure of justice to aging Holocaust survivors and to make right one wrong from that era. I am joining in the call for a full-scale effort to finally return these assets to their rightful owners.

The full cooperation of Swiss banks is crucial to a successful effort. Both houses of the Swiss Parliament have committed to an expedited, full scale investigation. A commission of independent historians and financial and legal experts is studying the wartime role of Switzerland with Nazi Germany. Swiss banking secrecy laws will be suspended for up to five years to allow this commission better access to banking records.

While I am heartened by the efforts of some Swiss officials, I am deeply troubled by the recent comments of the Swiss Economics Minister who charged that demands for restitution are "extortion and blackmail." Has the Economics Minister ever suggested that depositors who merely request their rightful deposits are "extorting?" During a reign of terror, Jews handed Swiss banks their assets, and were handed an insult in return. The Minister's viewpoint is an

outrage and must not stand in the way of a genuine effort to do justice.

Justice requires an international commitment. Spain, Portugal, and Sweden, may possess important information. An international effort is necessary if we are ever to know the truth about where the missing assets are and who made financial gain at the expense of Holocaust victims.

I have written to President Clinton and asked him to do all that he can to move the effort forward. I have asked him to declassify the fifty-year-old records of the Tripartite Gold Commission. The Commission was formed by Britain, France and the United States in 1946 to distribute Nazi gold that was seized by Allied forces. These records should be made available to the public to help determine whether the Nazi-held gold was stolen from Holocaust victims. The United States should ensure that all documents that shed light on this tragic historical chapter are found.

As a member of the Senate Banking committee, I am fully committed to finding the truth. A joint effort among Congress, the White House, and international authorities, will improve the chances of tracking the assets and locating their rightful owners and heirs.

We must keep the pressure on the international community to see that the ethical and financial obligations to Holocaust survivors and their families are met. The atrocities of Nazi Germany are recorded in our history books, but the sting of the financial injustice lives today. We must do all that we can to bring Holocaust survivors and their families some measure of justice at long last.

Honorable Barbara Boxer  
U.S. Senator (D-California)

## MTA: More Exhilaration Than Frustration

To the Editor:

The recent article entitled "MTA FACULTY FRUSTRATED" painted a rather bleak picture of a school in serious disrepair. Yes, I would like a new refrigerator and a separate phone line. Yes, I would like to see the science laboratory upgraded and renovated.

Having taught for twelve years at Stuyvesant High School, which is recognized nationally as the top science, math and technology high school in the country, I can assure you that the ancient building that housed this school up to 1990, makes TMSTA look like "Trump Tower." In regard to this, I have a few comments.

One of the reasons I came to MTA full time was the similarity in the two schools in the following respects: (1) A highly educated, energetic staff of teaching professionals who go beyond the classroom borders to see that their students are successful (2) A strong commitment to advance placement courses in all subject areas (3) A student body in which a substantial number of the boys can challenge successfully the highest academic achievers in any high school (4) A resurgent interest in science as witnessed by the number of entrants in various national and interna-

tional competitions including five Westinghouse research entrants. (All of this done by students whose school day is 70% longer than that of public high schools.) (5) An average cap SAT 1 score that ranks in the top 20% of the country; AP score of 3 or better for 81% of our students compared to a national average of 66.5%; a 96.5% combined pass rate on all New York State Regents exams.

Over the last two years, more than \$50,000 was spent on giving us a state of the art computer instruction facility as well as modern microscopy upgrades for both regents and AP biology. This represented a start in a prioritized list of improvements which should and will be made over time.

The bottom line in all of this is the success of our graduates in the areas of Religion, Medicine, Business, Law, and other professional careers. Yes, at times I am frustrated, but in this building there is more exhilaration than frustration.

Dr. Arnold N. Lefkowitz  
Chairman,  
Department of Biological, Physical &  
Computer Science  
MTA

## Thank You

To the Editor and Rabbi Lamm:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am taking this opportunity to write to you to thank you and the Yeshiva for creating a unique Kiddush Hashem only possible at Yeshiva.

About a month ago, I had the pleasure of meeting Moshe Kranzler in Cleveland during our Yeshiva Fair. We had seventy-five students there and twenty-five Yeshivot where half of that number were public high school students. It was there that Mr. Kranzler and I began to discuss the possibility of my bringing a large number of high school students to Yeshiva.

Every year NCSY hosts a program for public high school students in Asbury Park, New Jersey called Yarchai Kallah. It runs from Tuesday to Sunday during the NCSY's midwinter break. These kids "sit and learn" for five days while their friends back home are vacationing. With one hundred and sixteen participants on this past Yarchai Kallah, Central East NCSY sent forty participants from Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Detroit and Pittsburgh. Every year Central East NCSY goes to New York on Sunday and tours New York until the start of the program. This gives the NCSY's the opportunity to see the rich Jewish life in New York. It also helps the kids to not feel as bad about missing vacation. Until this year, we had stayed in a motel in New Jersey for the first part of our trip. Mr. Kranzler and I thought that this would be an excellent opportunity to expose forty public high school students to Yeshiva.

I can not describe to you in words the impact and effect that Yeshiva had on these kids. The kids saw things they could never

had imagined existed. There were in shock at how large and full the Beit Medrash was. At the same time they could not believe how nice the gymnasium was. The meals in the Cafeteria were delicious. Who could have imagined that a library could contain two full floors of Judaic Books. A boy from Columbus who was planning on attending the University of Toledo is now considering Yeshiva in Israel and Yeshiva University as strong possibilities.

The physical structure was beautiful but it paled in comparison to the men and women of Yeshiva. The students at the college were in the midst of reading when we arrived. Yet, they took the time out to show the NCSY'ers around the campus. I must single out a few of the administration members who were especially helpful. They are Rabbi Cheifetz, Alexis Levit, Don Summers, Joan Freedman and Memphis Montag. The real hero and visionary of this program was Moshe Kranzler. He saw the need to expose public school youth to Yeshiva. I must also add that the Security staff was friendly and extremely courteous.

I can honestly say that while I was in Yeshiva I never fully appreciated what a special and unique institution Yeshiva is. I thank you and Yeshiva from the bottom of my heart for opening your doors to us. May you continue to bring continued praise to God's name.

A grateful talmid,

Steven Burg  
Associate Regional Director  
Central East NCSY

# Volleyball Team Season Preview

BY COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF

Good things appear to be just over the horizon for the Yeshiva volleyball team. After a disappointing '95-'96 campaign, the team seems to have the right blend of experience and new blood to propel them to previously unattained levels. The squad opens its season this Sunday with matches against Bard and Cooper Union in Croton-on-Hudson, New York. The projected starters for Sunday are:

**Carl Hochhauser, middle hitter (MH):** The co-captain and lone third year player on the team, Carl hopes to lend a sense of stability and leadership to the improving squad.

**Russell Kimyagarov, outside hitter (OH):** The other co-captain, Russell is the team's most dangerous hitter as well as an all around solid player.

**Adam Aronowitz, setter (S):** Adam is the squad's most welcome addition. After starting the year with no setter, Adam's precise sets quickly earned his teammates' respect.

**Ronen Lazar, OH:** One of the team's best defenders, Ronen puts down the ball with serious authority.

**Aloni Englanoff, S:** A midseason walk-on, Aloni's emergence as a setter allowed Coach Jiang to switch to a two setter rotation. He is a quick study and continues to improve.

The sixth and final spot in the rotation will be selected by the coach from the team's talented reserves. Second year players Ari Bandler and David Waknin give the team depth and experience on the right side of the court. Although both

players have lost time due to injury, they help the younger players with their league experience.

Yeshiva also looks to be even better in the coming seasons. After an incredible recruiting year by the athletic department, Coach Jiang was able to more than fill the spots vacated by some of last year's players turning pro. Steven "Wheaties" Bernstein joins fellow LA recruits Aronowitz and Englanoff on the squad. Coach Jiang considers him the most improved player. Elie Hochhauser, an up and coming middle hitter, looks ready to make a run for the final starting position. Former high school stars Benham Shamsian and Andrew Hararri look to be his fiercest competitors.

The middle hitter controversy is one problem the team is glad to have. "Benney" and Andrew are both hard workers with a lot of talent. Andrew's jump serve could well become a fixture of the team for two more years. Floridians Mike Vogel and Mark Aquinin round out the squad. Although hampered by knee problems, Mike possesses a powerful spike and a vastly improved defensive game. He and Mark both hope to raise the team to the next level.

After the double match at Bard, Yeshiva has two away games before returning home to face Brooklyn College on Thursday, February 20, at 7:30 PM. Due to scheduling errors, the only other home game of the season is on Tuesday, March 4, against Mount Saint Vincent (also at 7:30 PM). Fans are urged to show up to the games and show support for the school and its athletic teams.

# YESHIVA

# SPORTS

## League or No League, Macs Aim for Playoffs

*continued from page one*

The Macs last stretch of five games have found them at 3-2. On Dec. 18, the Macs were clearly overmatched against Mt. St. Vincent, who were taller and faster. The Dolphins came out to a 20-3 lead in the first 8 minutes of the game. With about 3 minutes left in the first half, Alex Shakhmurov got clocked on the side of the head with an unintentional elbow while skying for a rebound. He was taken to the hospital with a mild concussion and was spared seeing the rest of the 27 point loss (70-43), and the team's second loss of the season. Joel Jacobson, who was named ECAC Player of the Week for the week of December 9, had 14 points in the loss.

Over winter break, the Macs received some positive media attention when they were one of the featured teams on the ESPN show "The NCAA Today" on January 9th. At 3:00 PM, there was Mac Junior Forward Neil Bronstein saying, "Welcome to New York," before the introduction theme of the show was played. In his interview, Coach Halpert explained to the national audience how teaching a play to Jewish players can be compared to teaching a Talmud class; everyone questions why and offers advice on how to run it better. His son, Senior Guard Yehuda "Ice-Man" Halpert retold a story from a road trip last year in Boston when the team was mistaken as a high school team by the hotel concierge. Junior Guard Alon "Oak" Zaibert discussed the team's cohesion. And Dr. Jeffery Gurock was mistakenly labeled 'Assistant Coach' as he retold YU's fabled history of days when they were coached by Red Sarachek. The piece shed the team in a nice light and as hard working students who play ball as hard as their dual curriculum schedule.

The team returned with a few players shedding some pounds as most of the players practiced every day of vacation. Alex "Shak" Shakhmurov decided he needed some time off due to his injury, and will transfer next year to Stony Brook College, which has a Division I team. Brian "Air" Wein injured his knee in a game of pick-up and might be out for the rest of the season; a major loss.

John Jay College entered the MSAC on Jan. 25 and handed the Macs their second straight 27 point loss by a 50-23 score. John Jay shot a phenomenal 61% from the field and had four players in double figures. Joel Jacobson paced the Macs with 14 points, Alon Zaibert had 12.

Eversince former Assistant Coach Steve

Podias left the Macs two and a half years ago, there has always been a friendly rivalry between his team, Brooklyn College, and his former mentor YU Macs Coach Halpert. This was the third matchup between the two teams, and the score was even 1-1. The home team had prevailed in the past and that was the story again on Jan. 28 when the Macs improved to 8-3 by beating the Bridges (4-11) 65-43. Podias's style on offense is to read the opponents defense and then call a play (one of his favorites is called 'Chicago'). Unfortunately, his team did not get back on defense well and the Macs took advantage of the opportunities. Dovey Forman had big minutes coming off the bench and canned the first try of his career. Moshe Abehsera also swished his first field goal with a beautiful baseline jumper. The point leaders for the Macs were Joel Jacobson (18), Marc Nadritch (17), Alon Zaibert (15), and Neil Bronstein (10).

Against St. Joseph's (LI) on Jan. 30, the Macs, spurred on behind a great fan turnout, squeaked their ninth victory of the year by a score of 58-54. Alon Zaibert was on fire as he matched season high of five three-pointers (5 for 5), and 21 points. The game came down to important foul shooting by Zaibert and Yehuda Halpert. Marc Nadritch (13 points) continued to play extremely well, especially down the stretch.

This past Saturday night, the Macs improved their record to a very impressive record of 10-3 by beating SUNY Maritime for the season sweep 58-49. The Macs were down 20-12 with 3:13 left in the first half when Yehuda "Ice-Man" Halpert got fouled and was sent to the line to shoot the one and one bonus and two shots for an ensuing technical foul called on Maritime player Shawn Russel. Yehuda hit 3 out of 4 (9 for 10 for the game), followed by a huge three-pointer by Dovey "Trey" Forman to spark the team to a 24-20 half-time lead. Joel Jacobson finished with 20 points and Marc Nadritch had 13.

The Macs now face their biggest test against NJIT at home. If they win, there's a good chance they will make the playoffs, if not they will have to pray that their record stands out from the crowd. This is a special team who in Coach Halpert has said is the "best team I've ever coached." Strong words from a man coaching over 25 years at YU. The team has expressed a special request of support from all of the students at YU to come out and support the best.

**The Commentator**  
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