

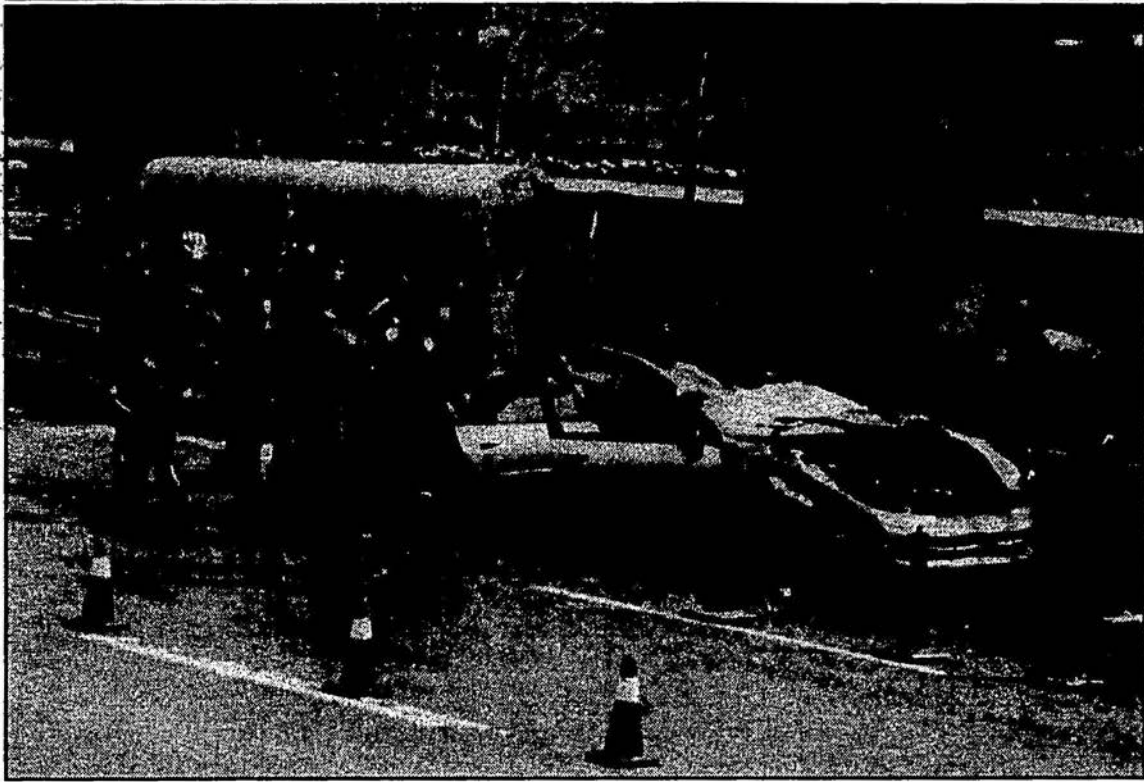
Yeshiva University Commentator

March 6, 1997 / Adar I 5757 Official Undergraduate Newspaper of Yeshiva College Volume LXI No. 9

Mac's Earn Post
Season Play in
ECAC Tournament
Story, Back Page



YU Hosts
Groundbreak-
ing Conference
on Racial
Relations.
See Story on
Page 5



Shattered glass and twisted metal faintly resemble the Dodge Intrepid and minibus which crashed on the Harlem River Drive at 155th Street. Miraculously, all but one person survived.

One Dead, Nine Injured in MTA Minibus Crash On FDR

BY ADAM MOSES

Tragedy struck the YU community on the morning of Thursday, February 27, when a minibus providing its scheduled daily transportation service to the YU main campus for high school students hailing from Boro Park, met with a slick patch of road on the Harlem River Drive and 155th Street.

The driver of the bus was killed and six students attending the Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy, the yeshiva high school of Yeshiva University, were injured, one critically.

A light rain pelted the Harlem River Drive, a highway notoriously susceptible to oil accumulation and slick road conditions, on the morning of the accident. According to an officer who knows the parkway well, "there was an accident this past Sunday [Mar. 2] and more than several accidents over the last couple of months."

As the minibus traveled north, it lost control, skidded into the guard rail and jumped it. The minibus plowed into a southbound Dodge Intrepid decimating its hood and roof and injuring its four occupants. The

impact of the contact with the Intrepid catapulted the minibus back over the rail into its original lane where it landed upright.

A TMSA-chartered minibus from Forest Hills was traveling a short distance behind the Boro Park minibus and pulled over upon witnessing the crash. Efforts were made to obstruct the swarming rush-hour traffic to facilitate access to the injured students entangled in the wreckage of the minibus. The Forest Hills students rushed to the assistance of their compatriots, dragging them away from the

continued on page 11

Scheiber Relatives Contest Will

Family Contends She Was Coerced By YU

BY NOAH STREIT

Over a year and a half after Yeshiva University was informed of its \$22 million windfall from Anne Scheiber's will, the money lies tied up in court. Donald Scheiber and his sister Audrey, a nephew and niece of the late Anne Schieber are contesting their aunt's will on the grounds that it is invalid.

After Anne's death on January 9, 1995, Benjamin Clark, Executor of the Estate of Anne Schieber appointed the firm of Prerau and Teitell as special counsel to the Schieber Estate to serve the appropriate relatives with Petitions of Probate—a document that gives the relatives a



Ms. Anne Scheiber

deadline to contest the will.

YU was under the assumption that all the surviving relatives were served, thus allowing the will's directives to be carried out. Two relatives, though, were overlooked: Donald Scheiber and his sister Audrey—both children of Bernard Scheiber, one of Anne's nine siblings. Neglecting to inform them left the Executor unable to carry out the wish-

es detailed in Ms. Scheiber will. Following this critical error, Clark fired the firm of Prerau and Teitell and hired Arthur Pelikow Esq. as the new special counsel for Scheiber's Estate in their stead.

On July 30, 1996, Donald and Audrey filed an Objection in the Probate Court regarding the validity of the will, claiming that it was the "result of fraud, duress and undue influence, practiced upon her..." by and not limited to YU or a representative of YU, but the exact people "are presently not known to the Objectant." The Objectors also claim that the will was not written "in the presence of the wit-

continued on page 7

Undergraduate Honors College To Begin Implementation In Fall '97

BY MORDECHAI FISHMAN

The quest for academic excellence at Yeshiva University is a constant crusade. Every segment of the University community, from the trustees to the student body, agree that energies must be directed to attaining that goal. The actual policies implemented are less unanimously decided upon, and often cause dissension between the various elements of the University.

Recent rumors about the imminent creation of an "Honors College," or honors program, have already caused rumblings on campus, with members of the faculty, administration, and student body taking positions on either side of the issues.

The honors program is envisioned by its proponents as a tool to improve the general academic environment at YU, as a means to correct the perceived flaws in the current curriculum. The program's purpose is to

combine selected members of the student body with outstanding members of the faculty, and engage in more intense study within assorted subjects and interdisciplinary fields. It is felt that such a program will better serve to maximize the intellectual potential of gifted students.

The honors program will consist of two groups of students, "Honors Scholars," and "Honors Students." The scholars will be composed of 20 to 40 selected students in a given year who will be required to meet all the requirements of the honors regimen during their academic careers at YU. The scholars will also be required to remain on campus for a minimum of three years, participate in seminars and independent study outside the classroom and engage in a summer internship or research fellowship in the student's particular field. A senior thesis paper would be required in each

continued on page 13

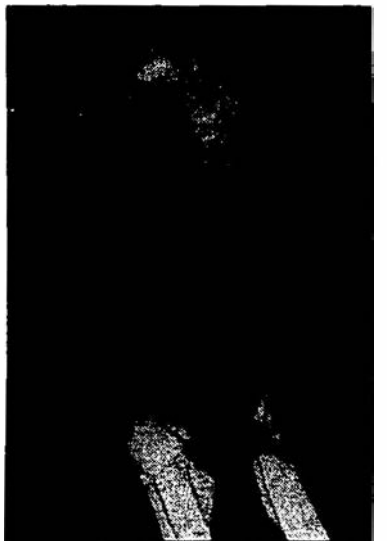
MYP/RIETS Rosh Yeshiva, R' Romm Passes Away

BY NOAH STREIT

In a mournful event, MYP/RIETS Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Shimon Romm passed away yesterday at the age of eighty-nine. A Levaya was held at 2:30 the same afternoon attracting close to 1,000 people.

After almost a half century of teaching at YU, R' Romm, a resident of Washington Heights, was set to retire at the end of this year. His post-retirement goals, to live in Israel and publish some of his works were, unfortunately, severed short. At about 6am on March 4, R' Romm awoke to chestpains. Having a pacemaker and preexisting heart condition, he was accustomed to this sort of pain. Thus he took a nitroglycerine tablet and returned to sleep. After not arising at his usual time, his wife attempted to wake him and realized that he was not responding. Hatzalah arrived and he was later declared to have died from heart failure at about 7am.

A sorrowful crowd of about



Rabbi Shimon Romm z"l

1,000, attended the Levaya services held in YU's Nathan Lamm Auditorium. In attendance were University and High School students, fellow Roshei Yeshiva, faculty and family.

The ceremony began with an emotion filled reading of a Psalm, followed by an address from YU President, Norman Lamm. Dr. Lamm articulated the importance of identifying and revealing the traits and deeds of the

continued on page 7

The Grand Illusion

In an attempt to cure the academic ills of Yeshiva College which Dean Adler feels is two decades behind the finest liberal arts programs in the country, the Dean is promoting a snake-oil serum which he touts as the only remedy.

However, treating these ills with an elixir such as the honors college, will, like the snake oil, prove to exacerbate the current condition of Yeshiva College.

Dean Adler's proposal creates the impression that the College's curriculum will undergo major improvements that will benefit all students. In reality, these changes may only benefit the approximately one hundred students accepted into the honors program. The remaining 900 students on campus will be left with the current, decades old curriculum... Or worse.

Separating the College's top professors from the rank and file instructors, leaves students not enrolled in the honors program with a curriculum that at best remains twenty years outdated, and a faculty with additional responsibilities. These responsibilities will necessarily take time away from the current attention professors can afford to give their students.

A revamped curriculum is clearly needed at YC. But limiting its access to ten percent of the campus population robs the remaining students of an opportunity to attain a truly higher education.

We urge the YC administration to refocus their energies, and initiate a *real* effort toward securing a brighter academic future for all its students. Everyone figured out the snake-oil sham eventually.

Torah, Madda & Common Sense

Recently, the Jewish world learned of Howard Shapiro, an Orthodox Jew with strong anti-peace process views, who allegedly planted a pipe bomb in a Conservative synagogue where former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres was to speak.

Shapiro notified the police of the explosive device just hours before the speech, identifying himself as a member of an Islamic terrorist group in an effort to create a backlash against the Arab community and ultimately halt the peace process.

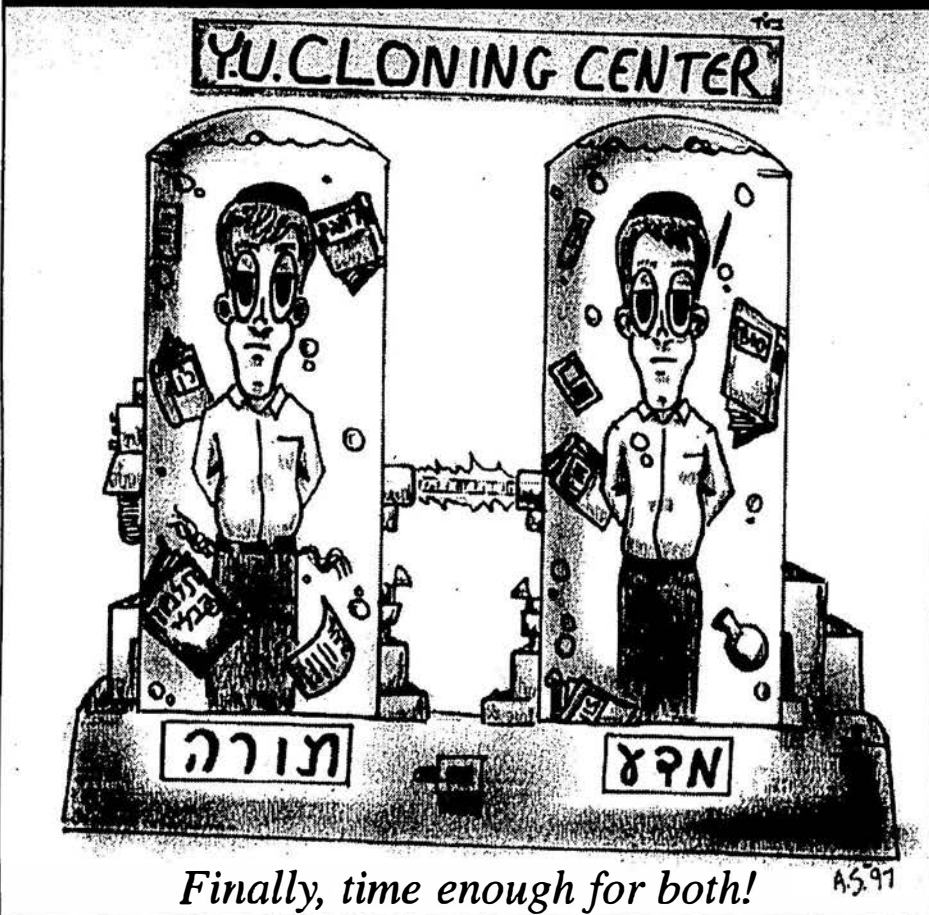
Whether Shapiro actually expected the device to detonate, or simply serve as a scare tactic is a side point.

What is of much greater concern is that this incident represents the third act of terror committed by an Orthodox Jew schooled in the philosophy of Torah U'Madda.

Tragically, the lesson that terror lies outside the pale of Judaism and civilized society has not been internalized.

This emerging trend of violent acts perpetrated by "religious" Jews places Torah observant Judaism into the realm of other religions that we as have deplored as failing to civilize man. That we should tolerate the views of others, at least to the point where we resist resorting to violence, is a lesson that needs to be drilled into the minds of every student passing through our educational system from the first day they enter, and not something spoken of in an occasional lecture.

PICTORIAL



The Commentator

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Letters
Editors Desk
Campus News
Messages
Opinion
Calendar
Staff

Repairs, Renovations Disrupt Classes in Furst Hall Professors Forced to Cancel Lectures

By Yossi Lewis

Over the past few weeks, Yeshiva University's Facilities Management has been putting the finishing touches on an upgrade of the campus computer and phone networks, a project which according to Dean Norman Adler, "will lead us into the educational technology of the twenty-first century."

However, to professors like Dr. Albert Marrin, the construction necessary to install the new telecommunications systems has come at the expense of more traditional methods of learning like the teacher lecturing and students listening. Both History professor Dr. Marrin and English professor Dr. William Lee have complained that the noise creates an environment that is not conducive to academic enrichment.



The Commentator Online's new home. Check us out at <http://501.yc.yu.edu/commie>

Commentator Launches New Online Site

BY ADAM MOSES

The Commentator has once again joined the burgeoning ranks of prominent collegiate newspapers who provide their newspapers to readers around the globe via the World Wide Web. This development marks an eagerly anticipated renaissance of the online version of the official undergraduate newspaper of Yeshiva College to the Internet. The site address is <http://501.yc.yu.edu/commie>.

Before moving to its current home, The Commentator Online spent a short stint on the Jerusalem One server where the newspaper was mailed electronically to a membership list, and nearly a year as a World Wide Web location within the domain of www.nysernet.org, a site dedicated to advancing research by adopting leading edge networking technologies among New York state's research and education institutions. However due to a restructuring within nysernet which resulted in numerous technical and logistical impediments, the online version of the newspaper was forced to shut down.

"The new home of The Commentator Online will allow the online editors to eschew many of the obstacles that had to be previously dealt with. It will allow the online editors to spend their time on the website itself," commented Editor-in-Chief Arnon Storfer.

The Commentator home page owes its technical pioneering to feverish efforts on the part of a devoted corps of Yeshiva College computer aficionados led by David Goldstein and Josh Cantor. Goldstein was largely responsible for the graphic development of the site which he patterned after the websites of major national newspapers. Cantor committed his coding expertise with the HTML lan-

guage to the venture. Avi Turkel and Nachi Klein also played crucial roles in assuring that this project was brought to its successful fruition.

The opening page of The Commentator Online website features a rotating image of the Yeshiva University insignia, colorful highlights of sections of the newspaper upon which the user may click, and the lead story of the current issue of the paper with accompanying photograph.

"Going online brings The Commentator into the 21st century," said Editor-in-Chief Josh Feldman. "The World Wide Web is a perfect vehicle to bring the Newspaper to not just students and alumni, but to the greater Jewish Community."

Upon accessing the new site, the user encounters the current edition of the paper in its entirety. Consonant with the objective of achieving optimal accessibility for the casual user, "any story in the paper can be clicked on from the opening page. This was our primary consideration in designing the site," commented Cantor. An archives section devoted to previous editions is slated for completion within approximately a week.

The site is expected to significantly augment readership of The Commentator Online over the course of the subsequent few months. Storfer believes that "many alumni not currently receiving the paper, especially those in Israel, will find this new service to be of immeasurable benefit as they are not presently afforded access to the printed version."

Goldstein was excited by the prospect of facilitating "universal access to The Commentator Online and Yeshiva University on the technological wave of the future. This is an opportunity to launch the University into the 21st century that I appreciate having had the opportunity to be a part of."



MESSAGE FROM THE YCSC PRESIDENT

JASON BUSKIN

Friends,

In the midst of a recent conversation, somebody reminded me that the semester is almost over, elections nearly upon us, and my time in office drawing rapidly to a close. With that reminder comes a bit of sadness in knowing that the year is nearly complete. However, while the number of school days remaining on the calendar may be rapidly diminishing, the number of events, projects, and issues YCSC is undertaking seems to be growing by inversely greater. I can proudly say that up until the last day of the school year, the Student Council will not stop working for you.

On March 27 join your fellow students in welcoming Mordechai Ben David to our campus. The Jewish music superstar will be headlining a post-Purim extravaganza in Lampport Auditorium. After the success of the Chanukah Concert, this will surely be a great way to top off the year. Tickets should be going on sale shortly, make sure you act fast because this concert is sure to sell out immediately.

On Monday night March 31, we will be having another Dougies Night. Join us in Weissberg Commons to watch the championship game of the NCAA tournament and enjoy the food, sponsored by Student Services. Also, look for more events from our clubs and class student councils in the coming weeks. This Shabbat, the Sophomore Class and Israel Club are co-sponsoring a Shabbaton at Stern, sign up now.

At our last meeting we were pleased to announce that in the coming months the Israeli flag will be permanently hung from a fourth flag pole outside Belfer Hall. I would like to thank my colleagues on the Student Life Committee for their assistance in making this possible. Additionally I would like to thank Dr. Nulman and Mr. Rosengarten for their assistance in the entire process.

YCSC is currently working on addressing various issues within the Office of the Registrar. A group of students headed by YCSC Sr. Class VP Rocky Schechter are in the process of meeting with the administration and evaluating the current system.

The Senior Class is busy at the moment with Senior awards; don't forget to vote next Thursday. They are also hard at work planning the Senior Dinner which promises to be the best ever.

Finally, come out this Wednesday night and support the Macs as they begin the ECAC Tournament. The bus leaves for the College of Staten Island at 6:30 P.M. Help support your team!

These are just some of the items we are busy with, as we move towards the end of the year. Keep sending us your input, whether by email (YCSC@ymail.yu.edu), or by stopping by my room (Morg 224), and let YCSC know what you're thinking.

Yours Truly,

Jason Buskin
YCSC President, 1996-97

An Orthodox Minyan in Northern Yonkers needs help with its minyan on Shabbos.

We are looking for anyone who can make a one-time, monthly or bi-monthly commitment to come and spend Shabbos.

-Travel Expenses will be paid.

-Full Accommodations will be provided.

-Laining Ability is a plus, and will be compensated for, but is not required.

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Yeshiva College



Campus News

YU Students Participate in Yale Model Knesset

BY NIR KNOLL

Over the weekend of February 20-23, twelve Yeshiva and fourteen Stern College students participated in the fourth annual Yale Model Israeli Knesset (YMIK). YU students joined with forty-five Jewish students from the University of Pennsylvania, as well as George Washington, and Columbia Universities, to debate the future of Israel as it approaches the 21st century. Each delegate was assigned a specific party and committee to represent during discussions on topics ranging from the legalization of marijuana to the future of the Middle-East peace process.

Upon their arrival on Thursday night, the impact of the YU students was felt immediately as they helped the Yale Orthodox community complete a rare Ma'ariv minyan. After davening, YMIK officially began with the presentation of the 1997 YMIK video featuring an official welcome from Labor Party leader Shimon Peres. The evening progressed with a public address from the Israeli Ambassador to the United States, Eliahu Ben-Elissar, who discussed the social and economic achievements of Israel since 1948 and the position of Israel's Likud government on the Oslo peace accords. The evening concluded with an introductory plenary session, during which delegates were instructed on the Robert's rules of parliamentary procedure, and party caucuses, so that the delegates could plan their strategy over the next three days.

Friday's committee sessions lasted from nine o'clock in the morning till past four in the afternoon, giving the delegates an hour to prepare for Shabbat. In committee sessions, delegates

were able to propose the agenda of bills that would be debated during Saturday and Sunday's general plenary sessions. The sessions were interrupted at 3 o'clock for a fifteen minute press conference headed by YU's Josh Muskat (YC '98) and Michael Sussman (YC '97) on the topic of allegations of bribery charges directed at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the appointment of Levi Bar On as attorney general.

Shabbat day began with davening and a traditional meal run by the Yale Hillel House. After the meal, an Israeli professor of Comparative Literature at Yale spoke to the YMIK delegates about the status of the modern Jewish culture and the Hebrew language in the Diaspora.

Shabbat afternoon included party caucuses and the beginning of the general plenary sessions. Out of respect for the YU delegation, the YMIK officials refrained from writing and any form of *chillul* Shabbat. During the general plenary sessions, the bills proposed in Friday's committee meetings were debated. The plenary sessions occasionally erupted into what Labor party member Shmuel Bodenheimer (YC '97) described as "sudden shouting matches and chaos giving everyone a feeling for the workings of the real Israeli Knesset."

Plenary sessions ran from Shabbat afternoon until Sunday morning, when the model Knesset concluded with an awards assembly and closing ceremonies.

The YU delegates seemed to enjoy their experiences at Yale. Josh Muskat (YC '98) characterized the weekend as "one that I won't soon forget. It was very enlightening meeting fellow Jewish students from different denominations and seeing that we all share a common concern over the future of the State of Israel."

Mordechai Ben David To Perform at YCSC Spring Concert

BY ARI GRUEN

At its most recent open meeting, the Yeshiva College Student Council announced plans for YU's first ever Spring concert to be held on Thursday night, March 27. The event's featured performer will be Jewish music legend Mordechai Ben David.

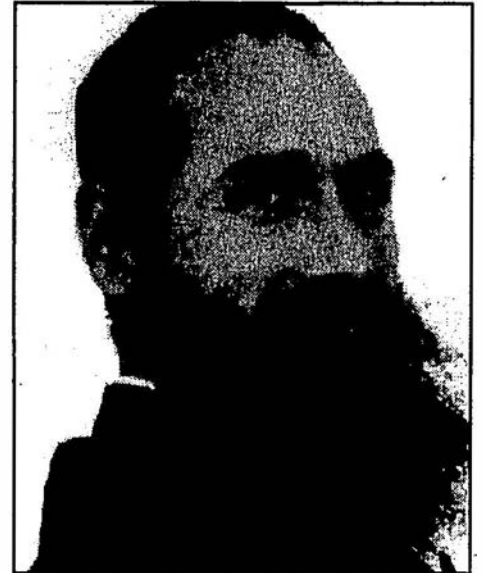
YCSC President Jason Buskin explained the council's decision to run another concert: "We saw how much the student body liked the first concert. What better way to thank the student body than to put on another show."

YCSC vice-president Natanel Lebowitz added, "Work is being done to find an opening act." Referring to Dedi's 'surprise' appearance at this year's Chanukah concert, Lebowitz commented, "If we get an opening act, it will not be a surprise; he will be announced."

According to Lebowitz and Buskin, the concert will be held at MTA's Lamport Auditorium with seating arrangements similar to the setup at this year's Chanukah concert - there will be separate as well as mixed seating areas. Tickets will be going on sale shortly.

New Registrar Committee Formed

A Registrar Committee consisting of six students will be formed to meet with the Student Life Committee, the Dean's Office, and the Registrar. According to



Mordechai Ben David

Buskin, "It's sole purpose will be to deal with student complaints about the registration process."

Unlike the futile attempts of student councils of years past at improving the harrowing registration process, Buskin declared that he is "taking a special interest in making sure the suggestions of the committee are actually implemented."

Israeli Flag To Be Raised on Campus

According to Buskin, by this summer, after many months of meetings with the Dean's Office and the Department of Facilities Management, the Israeli flag will finally be raised on YU's campus.

YCDS To Present *Ordinary People*

BY GIL BLOOM

On April 5-10, the Yeshiva College Dramatics Society will once again enter the limelight as it performs Judith Guest's *Ordinary People*.

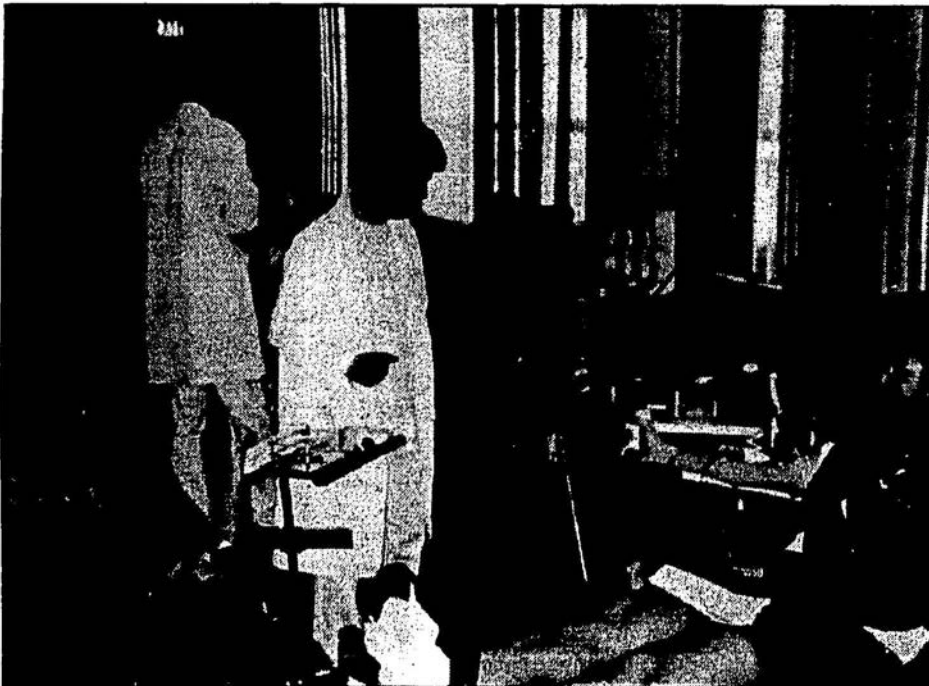
Following last semester's production of *Inherit The Wind*, the cast will, once again, be forced to confront issues painfully relevant to their own lives. *Ordinary People*, revolves around a severely depressed adolescent's attempted suicide, and the effect of the attempted suicide on the teen and his family. "I wanted to pick a play with contemporary sociological relevance," commented play director Dr. Anthony Beukas. "Having spoken to several rabbis and educators at various Jewish academic institutions, I have been made aware that teenage suicide is not a foreign concept to our society." Dr. Beukas hopes that the presentation of this sensitive issue on stage will place Yeshiva University on the map as a school which addresses, head-on, socially apropos issues.

Allan Schwartz, President of YCDS and co-star of *Ordinary People*, believes that the decision to present this particular play "demonstrates high regard for the audience; a play like this one is designed to make the audience think, to

really get their wheels turning about their values in life." In addition to its attribute of being a socially redeeming play, the drama was chosen because it is, in Dr. Beukas' words, "original as well as beautifully written. Besides, it was time to do something artsy."

The play will feature Jeremy Danzer as the troubled teenager, Allan Schwartz as his father, Ben Franz as his grandfather, and Howard Shapiro as his psychiatrist. Several other student thespians will round out the play's cast.

As described by Dr. Beukas, the sets of the production are "very existential on one side, and pictorially reminiscent on the other. They present the dilemma of dual personality, and the lonely, cold isolation of winter." Dr. Beukas challenged the audience to attend the play and decide for themselves whether the sets succeed in their attempt to create such an atmosphere. "I have great expectations that the students of psychology and sociology will come and see for themselves if the subject is relevant to their disciplines," he stated. It is important "for the student body to come see fellow students transform themselves into a topic and concept not in their milieu. They do it very well."



New York Blood Services once again came to YU where students openly donated much needed blood. The University has been cited for heeding the call when shortages arise.

Y.U. Revamping and Networking Computer System

BY J.J. LANDO

The administrative computer system at Yeshiva University is currently undergoing a major facelift which will, according to University Registrar Rabbi Melvin Davis, "position the University for the 21st century." Enhancements will integrate the computer systems of the various departments within the University, including admissions, registration, and financial aid. The "Banner System", as it is technically referred to, should eliminate repetitive paperwork by allowing each University office to access the same student files.

With the new network in place, academic advisors will, among other things, know exactly which requirements students still need to fill, and will therefore be in a better position to help students plan their class schedules. A few years down the road, on-line registration via the Internet might be available to students. In all, much of the bureaucracy which often frustrates students, especially during the registration process, has the potential to be eliminated if the new computer system runs according to plan.

The "Banner System" programs were purchased by the YU last year. The software package contains a series of modules for individual departments within the University. Though each department has a separate module, the system will be able to integrate all the information onto a single information network. The various de-

partments will be able to access the system through standard personal computers, instead of the archaic terminals they now use.

To take full advantage of the new software, the University purchased an IBS 6000 computer system. Each of the departments is now being connected to this computer which serves as the backbone of the entire network. The hard-wiring installation of the new network is well under way and is the reason for construction that has taken place in Furst Hall over the course of the previous weeks.

"The MIS department staff has been working late and putting a lot of effort into getting the system ready," says Director of Management Information Systems Arthur Meyers. Two full-time employees and one part-time employee of MIS are working on the project. "There is much work to be done on the project," says Meyers, "as some tasks, such as regulating security, or tailoring the system to meet YU needs still have to be written into the existing program."

The Office of Admissions has already been connected to the new system and the Office of the Registrar should be aboard sometime this summer. Different departments and offices will be hooked up to the system gradually during the course of the next few years. "Our goal right now is to get the systems cabled, start them running, and then look at the practical applications for future years," Meyers said.

SOY Seforim Sale Draws Record Crowds

BY MICHAEL GEWIRTZ

The most successful SOY Seforim Sale to date concluded this past week with record sales. The Sale saw some 10,000 customers pass through the fifth floor of Belfer Hall from February 9-23.

According to Seforim Sale estimates, some 1200 shoppers spent their Presidents' Day vacations at the Sale and an average of 1500 customers showed up each Sunday during the event.

One of the primary factors responsible for increasing sales was the successful effort of Seforim Sale chairman Mitch Taragin to secure credit card use for customers. According to Taragin, "most of the sales came through Visa, MasterCard, or Discover."

SOY Vice President and Seforim Sale executive manager Aryeh Sheinbein affirmed that the acceptance of "credit cards definitely helped increase sales."

The Seforim Sale would not have gotten off the ground without the hard work and long hours contributed by the Seforim Sale staff. Representatives from YC, SCW, and MTA together arranged the nearly 5000 titles on display prior to the opening of the Sale. "The hard work of many different people," according to Carmi Gross, executive manager of the

Sale, "is what made this Seforim Sale very successful."

Among the hot items that topped the Seforim Sale selling charts were the Artsroll Stone Tanach (over 450 copies sold), sets of Kehati Mishanayot, and Rav Mirski's *Hegyonei Haggadah* (150 copies sold). Additionally, Professor Daniel Goldhagen's *Hitler's Willing Executioners*, the first New York Times Best-seller to be sold at the SOY Seforim Sale, had to be reordered from Random House almost immediately as the public demand for the book greatly exceeded the initial shipment of thirty copies.

Many customers were also pleased to see that two works of Rav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik ZT"L, *Lonely Man of Faith* and *On Repentance*, were once again available after being out of print for several years.

Jewish music proved to be one of the biggest attractions at the Seforim Sale. Operated by Ephraim Shapiro, the Jewish music section featured close to 650 titles and sold approximately 5000 items. Atop the list of big sellers this year were Shlomie Dachs' new album (175 copies sold), Dedi's third album, and *Dance With Neginah Volume Four* (produced and directed by Belz School of Music's newest addition Shelly Lang).

YU Hosts Conference On African-American and Jewish Relations

BY BENJAMIN BALINT

Black and Jewish leaders alike have long fretted over the seeming lack of open dialogue and trusting cooperation between the members of these two prominent minority groups.

Dubbing itself "African Americans and Jews: A Dialogue for the 21st Century," the conference held this week at YU's Main Campus attempted to bridge this lack of genuine communication. Sponsored by The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, The World Jewish Congress, and the Wurzweiler School of Social Work, the event drew approximately 300 registered participants and 100 students to Belfer Hall on Tuesday, March 4 to explore the direction of black-Jewish relations in the United States.

Invoking concepts such as *darchei shalom* and tolerance *bein adam l'chaveiro*, Rabbi Norman Lamm set the tone in his brief opening remarks by characterizing the conference as a meeting of the "rational, moderate centers" of the two communities; a meeting which is neither "political," nor "academic, in the pejorative sense."

Rabbi Marc Shneier, President of The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, commented on the appropriateness of holding the conference at Yeshiva University, which, in his words, espouses "a policy of centrism and a philosophy of moderation." He quoted extensively from a compiled catalogue of recent instances of cooperations and conflicts between blacks and Jews in this country.

Current Manhattan Borough President and Democratic candidate for Mayor of New York Ruth Messinger, after cautioning against rhetorical use of stereotypical generalizations, blamed much of the "cross-antagonisms" between the two communities on the perception that in this city of 170 distinct ethnic groups, resources are scarce and that one group's gain is another's loss.

Meanwhile, Gary Rosenblatt de-

bunked the myth of a glorious heyday of black-Jewish cooperation, represented in the popular mind as the image of A.J. Heschel and M.L. King marching arm in arm for civil rights. Black-Jewish relations were never extremely warm, he observed, but neither have they deteriorated recently as drastically as some reactionaries would have us believe.

With former Mayor David Dinkins in attendance, Rabbi Israel Singer, quoting Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, stated that "Jews have no rights, human or civil; Jews have obligations," and lamented the modern age's "theology of strife" which, unlike Jewish thought, forcibly drives an artificial wedge between social obligations and rights.

And beneath the watchful gaze of C-SPAN television cameras, Kweisi Mfume, head of the NAACP, spoke with fustian grandiloquence not readily lending itself to synopsis. Addressing himself to opponents of the conference, Mfume declared, "There are those who will say that our gathering here today is worthless, an experiment that need not take place. There is a myopic melodrama of fear and contradiction that they play out in their own minds and we must reject that at every opportunity we can."

Finally, with the unmentioned specters of Sharpton and Farrakhan looming in the background, some in the audience noted the lack of representatives of a mainstream black consensus with whom constructive dialogue could be sustained. Others managed to avoid the all too prevalent clichés of conciliation and questioned the implicit paternalism of a conference of this sort sponsored, organized and moderated exclusively by Jews.

As one RIETS student concluded, "The conference was an important first step, but first steps by their very nature must be uncertain." Hugh Price of the National Urban League echoed his sentiments: "There is much, much work ahead."

With reporting by Gil Bloom

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Melech Monker, Proprietor

YURG Dismantled; Academic Activities Board Established

BY MORDECHAI FISHMAN

Amidst questions of financing and jurisdiction, last month, Dean Adler abolished the controversial Yeshiva University Research Group. In its place, a Student Academic Activities Board has been established under the auspices of YCSC.

In a meeting which solidified the final stage of the creation of the Student Academic Activities Board last Thursday, Dean Adler met with YCSC president Jason Buskin, various student leaders, representatives of academic societies and faculty members. Buskin expressed the flaws and grievances felt by the student council towards YURG, particularly citing YCSC's lack of jurisdiction over events and a "duplicitous" of missions between YCSC and YURG.

Buskin expressed a desire to continue the present scope of activities, merely under the existing structure of YCSC and the academic clubs and committees. The club presidents, who were in attendance, uniformly endorsed Buskin's position and pledged their support to any further projects that would continue to enhance the academic life of the student body.

Many of the attendees contrasted YURG's initiative and success with certain notoriously inactive clubs and societies. Dean Adler noted that there is an

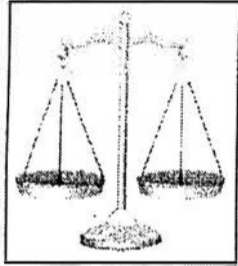
apparent problem in the status quo of clubs and societies if YURG is filling their void.

To effectively curb this problem in the future, one member of the meeting proposed that Student Council embark on a radical policing of the clubs, and abolish those who would be deemed inactive. The active clubs would then work with the student council and the Dean's office to facilitate the timely execution of co-curricular activities.

The activities will include mentoring in various fields with mock interviews, career nights and preparation for prestigious academic fellowships, such as the Rhodes and Fullbright scholarships. Also slated are co-curricular activities, such as the recent arts festival and chemistry poster presentation.

Dean Adler additionally suggested the creation of a "Dead Poets Society," with readings from assorted disciplines such as Jewish theology and Greek classics, followed by discussion groups with members of the faculty.

In return for the resources of the Dean's Office, Adler requested that representatives of the various academic societies meet bi-weekly, thereby guaranteeing constant communication between academic societies, YCSC and members of the faculty.



THE YESHIVA COLLEGE PRE-LAW SOCIETY

PROUDLY PRESENTS:

JUDGE MICHAEL B. MUKASEY
U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE, SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF N.Y.

**TOPIC: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE
LAW AND THE MEDIA**

WHEN: MONDAY, MARCH 17, 7:00PM

WHERE: RUBIN SHUL

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YU Community Mourns Loss of Rosh Yeshiva

continued from page one

deceased that are unknown to the public. He proceeded to praise R' Romm as being a wonderfully kind, warm and gentle-hearted individual and possessing a brilliant and creative mind. Dr. Lamm's praises mirrored the sentiments of the other speakers and R' Romm's students.

R' Meir Ginsburg, a representative from the Agudah then spoke to the morose crowd in Yiddish and praised R' Romm's ability to fill the dual rolls of Rabbi and Rosh Yeshiva. Following R' Ginsburg, R' Charlop spoke of R' Romm's youth and sacrifice.

Mashgiach Ruchani, R' Blau concluded the *hespaydim* with an apropos Psalm about Moshe, "A man of G-d..." Rosh Yeshiva R' Reichman concluded the ceremony with a recitation *Kel Malay Rachamin*.

The melancholic crowd then adjourned to Amsterdam Avenue and

formed a procession following the herse from 187th to 184th Streets. As the procession proceeded, an eerie silence overtook the normally noisy and boisterous Amsterdam Ave. Rebetzin Romm will accompany the body of her late husband to Israel where he will soon be buried.

R' Romm grew up in Poland and studied in Slonim where he developed a close friendship with the late Dr. Samuel Belkin. Throughout his years as a student he was known as the *Visoker Illui* - a talmudic genius. He was ordained by the renowned R' Aharon Kotler in the Mir Yeshiva. During WWII, he escaped with his wife and yeshiva to Shanghai and reestablished the Mir Yeshiva. After dwelling in Mozambique, South Africa and Israel, he came to America in 1955 and was persuaded by his close, childhood friend, Dr. Belkin, to stay and teach at Yeshiva University.

\$22 Million Donation Challenged By Scheiber Family

continued from page one

nesses whose names are subscribed there-to... and [the] witnesses did not then sign as witnesses in her presence or in the presence of each other." Additionally, "The Decedent lacked the testamentary capacity to make a will on October 9, 1975..." It is on these grounds that Donald and his sister have requested a trial by jury to vindicate their position.

Seth Rubenstein, special counsel to YU, explained that their "is no indication of any evidence," in Donald's favor, and "most probate cases are money-making schemes." Furthermore, he pointed out that Anne wrote an earlier will which contained a virtually identical section apportioning similar monies to YU, as

did the 1975 will. When asked about the case's present state, Rubenstein would only comment that "it is in Discovery" (the process whereby both parties exchange documents and evidence).

However, Arthur Pelikow Esq., special counsel to the Scheiber Estate, mirroring the sentiments of several other attorneys working under YU auspices, commented that there would be "no settlement... We are trying to defeat their position and we hope to dismiss it before it reaches a trial by jury." He further commented that Donald's claims are "all ridiculous and nonsense. Why did it take Mr. Scheiber 20 years to realize the will was fraudulent?"

YC Dean Hires New Professors In Hope of Raising Academic Standards

BY JONATHAN BENDHEIM

In a move that Yeshiva College Dean Norman Adler termed "another step closer to making YU the best, religious, liberal arts college in the country," five new professors have been added to the undergraduate faculty. The professors have filled positions in fields ranging from physics to finance.

These professorial additions mark an effort that Dean Adler believes to be a major shift in YC's teaching philosophy. "The faculty's goal must be to give the students critical thinking skills, not simply convey ideas that can be understood through reading a book."

The new professors have generally been well-received on campus. Many students confess, however, that they were unprepared for the rigorous course work demanded by these recent faculty additions.

Following is a brief *curriculum vitae* and comments on the professorial acquisitions:

Dr. Gregory Arluck: Now a Professor of Economics at Yeshiva University, Dr. Arluck graduated from CUNY with a Ph.D. in economics in 1987. Dr. Arluck has a considerable experience teaching as well as working in the industry. During his four years at Brooklyn College, he taught Econometrics, Corporate Finance, and International Economics. In addition, Dr. Arluck has over ten years of experience as an industry economist with firms such as New York Telephone Company, National Economic Research Associates, and Consolidated Edison.

Dr. David Johnson: YU's newest addition to the Philosophy department, he graduated with a Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1989, and has an impressive teaching resume which includes visiting positions at Wesleyan, William and Mary, Ohio State, and Syracuse. He spent last year as a visiting Professor at UCLA. His particular academic specialties include epistemology and philosophical logic, upon which he has had a number of schol-

arly essays published. Dr. Johnson finds the environment at YU highly conducive to learning philosophy due to what he terms "the close ties between philosophy and theism." Johnson has quickly emerged as a favorite of philosophy majors who respect his knowledge and accessibility.

Dr. David Kaplan: After Graduating Summa Cum Laude from NYU in 1973, Dr. Kaplan continued with his studies at Cornell University from which he received his Ph.D. in Physics in 1983. His lengthy teaching resume includes employment as an assistant professor at Lake Forest College, The University of Oklahoma, and Colgate University. Additionally, he has worked as a research associate at Northeastern and the University of Colorado. Many of his research projects have enjoyed grant support from the U.S. Department of Energy, the Texas National Research Council Funds, and the Southern Association for High Energy Physics. In addition to experience reviewing colleague essays, Dr. Kaplan has over seventy-five published essays to his personal credit. Raphi Schorr, a first year physics major at YC, credits Dr. Kaplan with "getting guys really excited about physics." Schorr observes that labs that are scheduled to conclude at 10:00 PM regularly run to 11:30, "just because the students won't let Dr. Kaplan leave."

Dr. Shaul Magid: After his ordination at Yeshivat Ha-Mivtar in 1984, Dr. Magid studied at Hebrew University (where he received an MA), the Shalom Hartman Institute of Jewish Studies, and the Seminary of Judaic Studies. He earned his Ph.D. at Brandeis in 1994. He has taught a wide range of courses and lectured at Boston University, Harvard, UMASS, and Brandeis.

Mr. Chatham Ewing: Instructor of English Composition and director of the Writing Center at YU. He is presently completing a Ph.D. in English Literature at NYU. He has taught at NYU, Fordham University, and The College of New Rochelle.



Yeshiva College Student Council



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

YCSC Working for You!

- March 5 ECAC Tournament Playoffs!!!
Macs vs. College of Staten Island at Staten Island, 8:00 PM
Van leaving Athletic Office in Rubin Lobby @ 6:30,

Star Trek Club presents Star Trek V, Schottenstein 3rd. floor
- March 6 10:30 PM Movie Night: Spaceballs, Schottenstein 3rd floor,
- March 8 Sophomore Class and Israel Club Shabbaton, Stern College
- March 16 Movie Trip: Return of the Jedi

- March 17 7:30 PM Pre-Law Speaker: Federal Judge Michael McKenzie
"Relationship between Law and Media." Rubin Shul
- March 18 7:00 PM Torah U'Madda Lecture
Dr. Daniel Kurtzer, from the Department of Security,
speaking on Middle East Peace Talks.
- March 27 MORDECHAI BENDAVID CONCERT!!!
- March 29 Purim

Notices:

1. Yeshiva University Mesh Shorts are on sale for \$10-Contact Eric London, RU205
2. Israel Club is Back! Contact Daniel Berkowitz for Details @ 568-5860

ETHICAL DILEMMA AMMEJID JACIHTÉ

The Mastery Of Man Over Man

MSNBC Interviews R' Tandler On The Nature Of Man

BY NIR KNOLL

The recent technological breakthrough of two Scottish embryologists who, for the first time, have managed to successfully clone a sheep from the DNA of an adult female, has forced modern science to grapple with an issue that it hoped would remain in the realms of Hollywood and the comic book industry.

"We know that there is a human consciousness. We speak of it theologically as the G-dly image, a spark of divine"

Plants have been cloned for decades and, in recent years, there have been successful attempts to clone amphibians.

The procedure used in cloning sheep involves isolating the DNA from an adult female sheep and inserting it into an egg cell whose nucleus, and thus its own DNA, has been removed. In order to initiate the divisions that are a normal part of embryonic development, the scientist shocked the cells with electricity, evoking images of Mary Shelley's famous novel *Frankenstein*.

The recently publicized research has turned the world of bioethics upside down as scientists consider the very real possibility and implications of cloning human beings. This controversial topic has not escaped the analysis of both the students and the faculty of Yeshiva University. On Wednesday, February 26, Debra Wasser, the producer of MSNBC's *Edgewise*, a cable show focusing on the latest breakthroughs in science and technology, interviewed MYP Rosh Yeshiva and internationally recognized expert in

"Our problem, right now, is can we trust people without a soul to clone? We are concerned that science has lost its soul."

biologic and medical ethics, Rav Moshe Tandler, on his view of cloning from both a scientific and Jewish perspective.

Rav Tandler clarified his position that one's response to cloning should be not only "as a Jew, but as an ethical individual, one who wants to live an ethical life, how does this impact on our lives?"

He explained that the reason for concern over this new phenomenon "is the construct of the psychology behind it. You're [potentially] doing to man what you did to a sheep. And we are concerned by increasing mastery of man over man." In addition Rav Tandler added that, "We are concerned that science has lost its soul. Remember, to go back to history, it was medical science that gave the scien-

tific basis for eugenics and then for racial cleansing." In the modern day Rav Tandler expressed fears that doctors as "businessmen, they are no longer favored by most people. Especially not their patients," and that "we can do terrible things with science."

Rav Tandler recalled a time when two researchers at George Washington University fertilized a human egg and then divided it in two to demonstrate that they can produce two identical people, justifying their experiment because they had worked with a flawed egg that had no chance for survival. Although that incident has the same ethical implications as the recent events in Scotland, Rav Tandler stated that a "very significant" difference is that the "sheep wasn't standing there. And I think the fact that he did it to a sheep and we say he could do it to

man for his needs," citing examples such as creating a superior air-force or a commando unit out of clones. In addition, Rav Tandler depicted the person who will attempt to clone himself as someone "with that mentality, who'll decide the greatest contribution he can leave for the world is another one of himself. When most people think—that is may be not the greatest contribution."

It's All About Soul

In terms of the implications of creating a new human being, Rav Tandler stated that "when man clones man all he does is really skip a generation. In other words he chooses for his child his parents—it's the grandparents that give birth to the child." Moreover, Rav Tandler argued that when cloning a person, in no way is man cloning or creating a soul. Rav Ten-

responsibility to be teachers first of ourselves and our children, and to teach other nations."

In addition, Rav Tandler added that the definition of right and wrong in Judaism is not determined by society, but Jews "are measured by a rigid yardstick known as biblical ethics," which is not subject to change due to the whims of humankind. "We have a lot of confidence in man, if he

"And G-d is looking down and smiling and saying, 'let's see what those idiots are going to do with it.'"

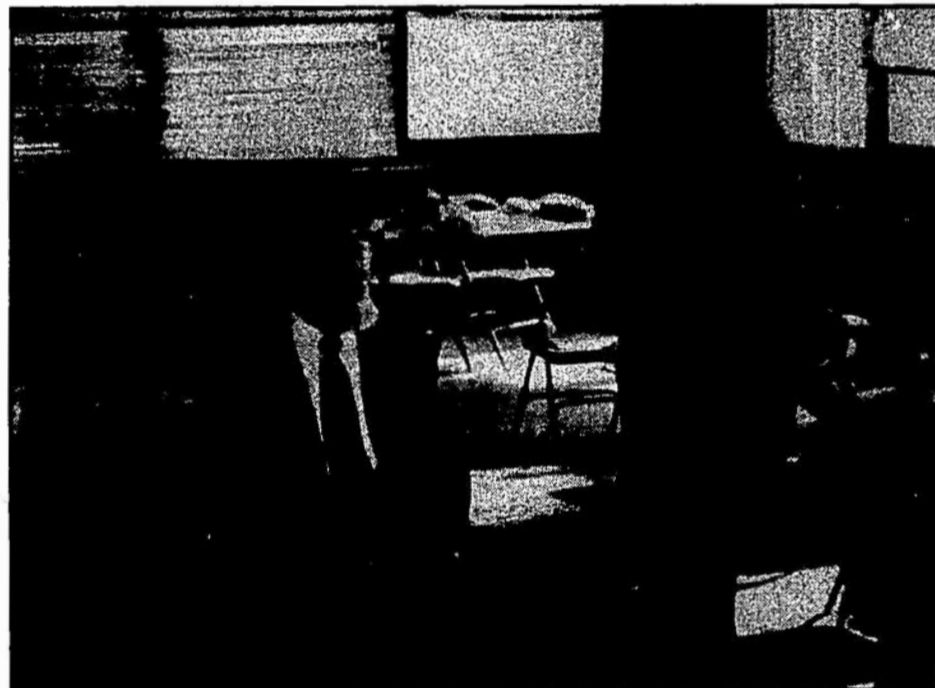
will accept the licensure of working under these restrictive yardsticks that God has set up... The commandment 'and master it' meant to master the world, not to master God—not to put yourself instead of God and not to master man. For God reserved mankind for his own mastery."

However, he notes, this biblical yardstick that we find in Judaism is not followed by the rest of the world, "Too much is happening in the world that has convinced us that man can't be trusted. Rwanda, Biafra, Bosnia—and we are losing our confidence in religion's ability to modify man. So we're now more concerned—we don't want science to modify man either.

"I think it's important to recognize that all the people who had been causing this horrendous massacre throughout the world are all members of a formal religion. They attend church and mosque regularly, and yet, they can go out with a machete and split the head of a little child open. I'm afraid of man and therefore, whatever man does is suspect."

"The one who will undertake to do this, who'll clone himself will be someone with that mentality, who'll decide the greatest contribution he can leave for this world is another one of himself."

As for the future of cloning Rav Tandler warned, "there's a rule that has no exception—whatever can be done will be done. I believe that a human will be cloned; no doubt about it. The biggest question is when and by whom? But if indeed the technique is transferable to humans and no one who has studied the field doubts that it is transferable, then it will surely be done... And God is looking down, and smiling and saying 'let's see what those idiots are going to do with it.'"



MYP Rosh Yeshiva, R' Tandler being interviewed in the Rubin Shul by MSNBC.

a human, is of greater concern to us for the point [that] you've denigrated man to the level of an animal." Continuously citing God's limitation to man in Genesis to only take mastery over the animals, but leave mastery over man in the domain of God, Rav Tandler argued that "it's the comparison—I'm doing to man what I did to animal that seems to be so disturbing people today. We don't want to be treated like an animal." For these reasons, Rav Tandler noted that in many scientific areas there is a consensus among scientists not to experiment with human beings because "they don't trust themselves."

Nevertheless, Rav Tandler did state that cloning could help a couple in which the man is infertile by allowing doctors to insert the nucleus of his cell into his wife's egg, although this would be at the loss of his wife's genetic contribution. However, Rav Tandler stated that he would not categorize this as a benefit, but as a "situation in which on a case by case basis it loses the horror that it seems to engender when we speak about cloning, per se."

Despite this positive side, Rav Tandler strongly cautioned that the "danger of cloning per se is that man will modify

dler explained that the soul enters a person during the developmental phase of the fetus and that it does not come from one's father or mother, but from God. Rav Tandler noted that "We don't know what the soul is. ... We know that there is a human consciousness. We speak of it theologically as the Godly image, a spark of divine." He also mentioned that "there is a basic axiom or belief that every individual is given a soul—a soul that can differentiate between good and evil."

In the case of a clone, Rav Tandler added that "there's no doubt that this living being that will come out of cloning will have no deficiency in his soul... he'll have no difficulty in his ethical nature, nothing has happened differently except how you initiated the birth process."

Or La'Goyim

While discussing whether Jews have a moral imperative to respond to this new mastery of science, Rav Tandler stated that "We always had a moral imperative. It's one that, unfortunately, we've given up a little bit because it is not in consonance with democracy. The concept of a 'light unto the nations'—that we have a

Students Petition Administration To Re-open Shenk Shul

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

Recently, a committee chaired by YC Sophomore Stephen Sokolow, was established to reopen the Shenk Shul in the Schottenstein Center. Shenk Shul was last utilized for a lecture series and a Parent's Day Program, in 1989.

In the May 11, 1993 edition of *The Commentator*, it was reported that the Shenk Shul was "unused due to an accident... a section of the ceiling plaster in the synagogue de-laminated." It was also reported that this resulted in a large chunk of the shul's roof falling into the women's balcony, and that fixing the ceiling and roof would take place during the summer of 1993. When the University would finish repairing the Shul, Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services Administration explained that its possible uses include holding Torah lectures, becoming an auxiliary beit medrash, or accommodating the minyan now being held across the street (popularly known as the "Soloveitchik minyan").

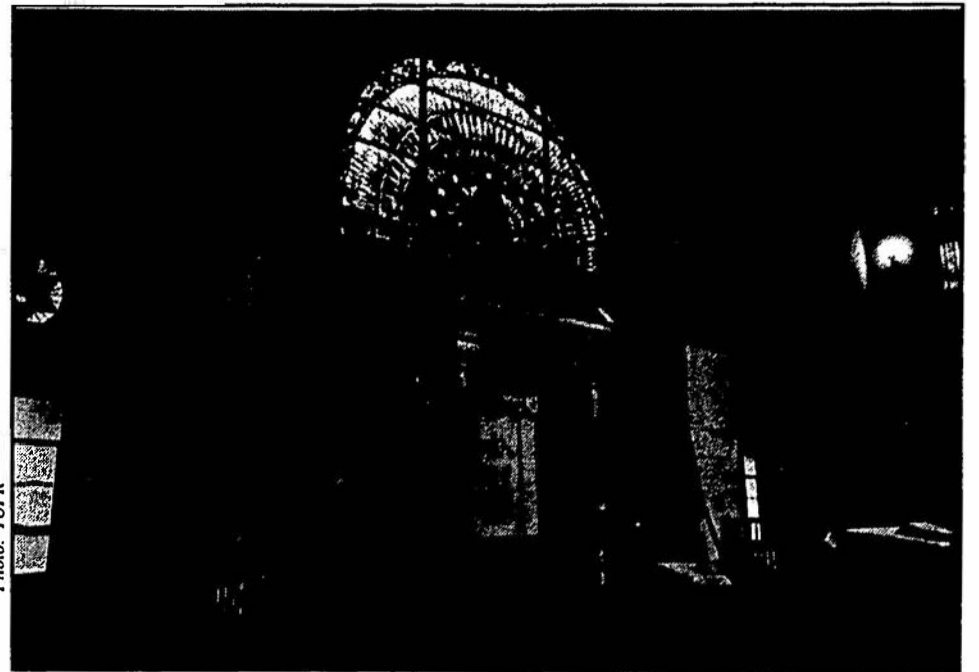
However, almost a year and a half later, in the November 15, 1994 issue, *The Commentator* reported that the Shenk Shul remained closed to the students and utilized as a room for storage. Eventually, the University administration decided to renovate the Shenk Shul, giving it an entire makeover; making the necessary repairs as well as giving it a new paint job.

In the fall 1995 semester, student leaders raised the issue that there was not

enough space to accommodate every student with a place to learn in a beit medrash, and that students were being forced to learn in classrooms in Furst Hall and in the Main Building. In December 1995, they met with RIETS Vice President Robert Hirt to discuss a temporary solution to the lack of space issue. Once again, there was discussion that Shenk Shul, although it could not be used temporarily due to its still being in the final stages of its renovations, would possibly be used as a third beit medrash starting the Fall 1996 semester. But, when students arrived on campus this past semester, they were welcomed with the news that the University administration had refurbished Klein Hall in Muss Dorm and turned it into the campus' third beit medrash.

However, at the beginning of this semester with the doors to Shenk Shul still closed, Committee to Reopen the Shenk Shul Chairman Stephen Sokolow claims that he found his first stumbling block at the hands of the Yeshiva College Student Council. Although Sokolow originally attempted his campaign under YCSC auspices, he has since become independent, because of perceived inaction by YCSC president, Jason Buskin.

Sokolow developed a five point proposal to reopen and utilize Shenk Shul. His proposal includes employing the synagogue for various lectures, Belz concerts and *minyanim*. Sokolow gave his proposal to Buskin and assumed that Buskin would raise the issue at the fol-



Located in the Schottenstein Center, the newly renovated Shenk Shul still sits dormant.

lowing YCSC meeting.

Much to Sokolow's chagrin, the issue was not present in the minutes from that meeting. An upset Sokolow commented that "...this is a classic example of bureaucratic government at work. I was very disappointed with the response I received from Jason, because I personally asked Jason to place it on the agenda."

Sokolow responded to his perception of Buskin's inaction by declaring his committee independent of YCSC auspices. "The committee was evenly divided on whether or not to cut off our association with the Buskin administration, but after careful consideration it was decided that the issue is important enough to take such action."

Refuting Sokolow's charges that YCSC had ignored the issue, Buskin responded that "I told Sokolow that I'd bring it up. I did not specify which meeting. In fact,

I raised the issue at a Student Life meeting with Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosengarten and University Dean of Students Efreim Nulman. Stephen was unaware, because there are no minutes for these meetings."

Rosengarten and Nulman both informed Buskin that Shenk Shul will not be utilized until the "university" decides on an official policy. Now working to achieve their goal as an independent student organization, Sokolow and his committee drafted a letter detailing their desires to revitalize the shul and sent copies of it to every member of the YC administration. He hopes that by directly communicating with the administration, Shenk Shul will be opened some time this semester. The committee is currently awaiting a response from the University administration to an eight year old issue that continues to concern YC students.

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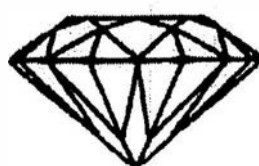
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**Monday March 24, 1997
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Dr. Soleveitchik will lecture on his article "Rupture and Reconstruction: The Transformation of Orthodoxy."

Please call the college office at 960-5214 to make a reservation.

Price of admission? You must have read the article, a copy of which can be obtained at the Dean's office, F101.

Mr. Robert Katz

Director of Academic Affairs

for

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will be visiting Yeshiva College

on Thursday, March 6 during club hour

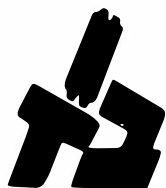
The meeting will take place in

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YCDS Facing Extra "Ordinary" Problems

BY ARIKAHN

With less than four weeks remaining until opening night, a cursory glance around the Schottenstein Theater gives no indication of an upcoming performance. The set from last semester's production of *Inherit the Wind* litters the floor and nails stud the walls ready to impale the next unsuspecting victim.

These are just the symptoms of the difficulties facing the Yeshiva College Dramatic Society as they endeavor to put on their own production of *Ordinary People* dramatized by Nancy Gilsean, based on the novel by Judith Guest.

When questioned about the lack of noticeable progress on the set, YCDS president Allan Schwartz said, "The production of a show is a long and arduous process made up of a myriad of different yet difficult tasks. The final outcome is due to the hard work of every single team member. Unfortunately, our team cohesion is lacking leaving us in this current state of disarray. This team is not only comprised of YCDS *per se*, but various other departments in the University."

Apparently this includes Facilities Management which is in charge of building the set and the Dean's Office which allocates the funds.

"Our set is comprised of various scenes which are depicted on rotating panels. Without the actual panels in place, the actors are having a difficult time envisioning their working environment. Therefore it is essential that it is completed as soon as possible," said Steve Mauner, the Stage Manager for this production.

The plans were submitted several weeks ago but were put on hold because the old set

was not removed until last week.

When asked if there were any efforts to speed the construction, Schwartz said, "We worked hard visiting and revisiting different departments in an attempt to see our plans come to fruition. Unfortunately, the bureaucracy, at loggerheads with our academic and artistic pursuits is oftentimes overwhelming. Our pleas are well taken, but we don't see tangible results. The process is detrimental to progress."

Other solutions such as hiring outside contractors to build the set would violate union guidelines.

It was only two weeks ago that YCDS finally got funds that it was promised. Until then, Dr. Beukas had to lay out the money on his own. However, when contacted by *The Commentator*, Beukas refused to comment on the problems plaguing this production.

Seth Dimbert, an alumnus of YU and a former member of YCDS dropped in on a recent rehearsal. He explained that although the lack of a set cannot be used as an excuse because "the show must go on," it can have a dual negative effect on the performers. Not only can this cause a lowering of morale because the crew does not see the show coming together, it can be extremely dangerous to the actors who are constantly moving around the set. Anyone who saw last year's production of *I Hate Hamlet* realizes the potential dangers involved in the climbing, leaping, and swinging of the various actors. "Without a set to practice on for an adequate period of time," Dimbert warns, "the actors face a dangerous situation."

If progress is not made in the near future, the situation may be dangerous enough to cancel opening night.



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Accident Sends Six Students to Hospital; Investigation Underway

continued from page one

devastated bus and its horrific carnage, that TMSTA student Daniel Schon characterized as "worse than a horror movie."

The two most seriously injured students, including Benedict Beckelid, were brought to Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital for treatment. Beckelid later underwent successful surgery for a possible blood clot in his brain, which later turned out to be a blood clot outside of the brain area. Three students were admitted to Harlem Hospital with less serious injuries. One student was treated for minor injuries at Metropolitan Hospital.

The driver of the minibus, Mikhail Liberman, was pronounced dead at the scene shortly after being extricated from the mangled minibus. The 52-year-old Boro Park driver had been an employee of All-Ride Transportation in Brooklyn for over two years.

The four occupants of the Dodge Intrepid were commuters from New Jersey enroute to work at the Korean Shin Han Bank in Manhattan. All four were transported to area hospitals for treatment and were expected to recover fully from their injuries.

Police and emergency medical service vehicles cordoned off traffic along the Harlem River Drive for some time follow-

ing the 8:03 incident as they scrambled to complete their work on the scene. Traffic drew to a standstill on either side of the police blockade, intensifying the already substantial rush-hour jam.

The Cause of The Crash

Although the precise cause of the accident has yet to be conclusively determined, it appears that the slick road conditions played a crucial role. Witnesses report that the All-Ride minibus was traveling at an accelerated pace and repeatedly weaving between lanes prior to its loss of control. While state transportation and motor vehicle records indicate that neither All-Ride nor Liberman had records of significant safety violations, Liberman did receive two tickets for running red lights in 1994.

As the All-Ride minibus involved in the crash passed state inspection in October of 1996 and was not scheduled for an additional inspection until April, there is no immediate reason to presume mechanical error played a role in the accident.

The Commentator has learned that an All-Ride minibus was involved in another disconcerting YU-related accident on the morning of December 12, 1996. An



Various YU and city officials survey the scene of the now infamous accident.

All-Ride minibus chartered to provide transportation service to the Samuel H. Wang Yeshiva University High School for Girls, had picked up seven girls in the Flatbush area. The minibus began to emit unusual odors and eventually erupted in fire forcing its occupants to evacuate. The Fire Department had to be called to extinguish the minibus as it was engulfed in flames. One injury was sustained by a girl evacuating the van.

Student Response

Response to the incident on TMSTA and YU fronts was swift and efficient, with teams of psychologists and counselors dispatched by the schools to the hospitals treating students. An assembly was held during which TMSTA students were briefed on the tragic developments and were led in *tehilim* recitation for the injured. A concurrent *tehilim* service for University students was organized by SOY president Jonathan Neiss. Dr. Efreim Nulman, YU Dean of Student Services, reported that the University and high school were "doing their best under difficult circumstances."

Nonetheless, the whirl of circling helicopters and the incessant barrage of media vehicles around the YU Main Campus provided an extended dramatic interlude that reiterated that the morning's tragedy was more than simply a fleeting image. Students congregated around their friends as they were interviewed by various media outfits to absorb the traumatizing details of the shocking episode.

As the day progressed, MSTA appeared to resume a more ordinary routine. TMSTA senior Avi Helfand com-

mented that the high school "although initially shocked by the unanticipated accident, eventually came to grips with the situation. We were all incredibly grateful that there were no student fatalities and that it appears everyone will eventually be okay."

Current Update

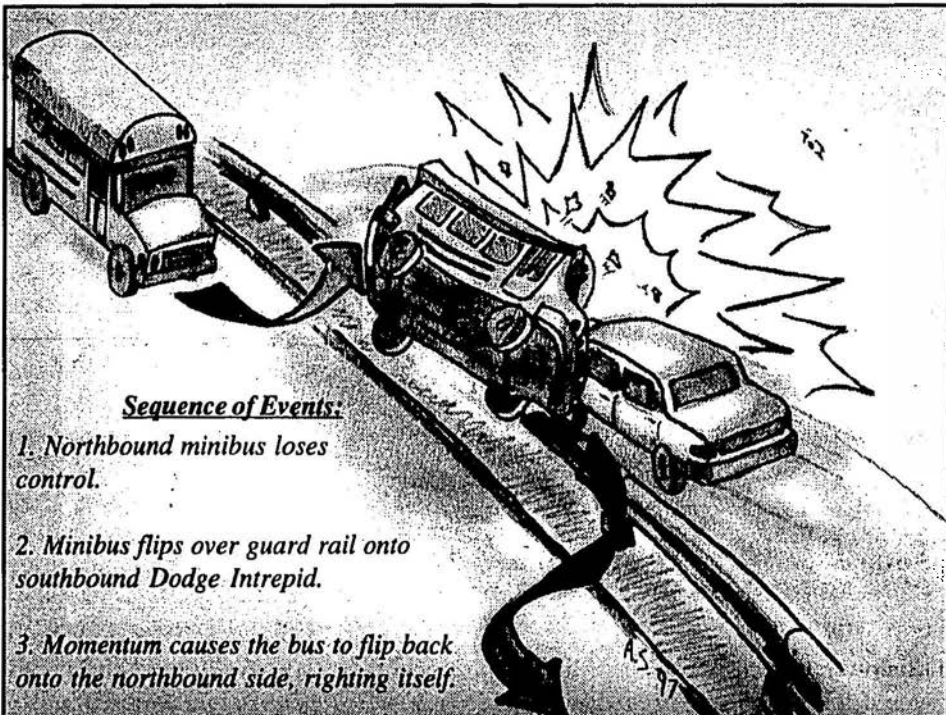
The Commentator was able to contact several of the victims on Monday evening March 4.

Simonne Beckelid, mother of Benedict reported that her son "seems to be doing better and will probably be well enough to come home this week." She explained that "there was a blood clot around his brain," but it has since been alleviated. Unfortunately, Benedict still "has a swollen eye and constant headaches." Simonne received a visit from many concerned individuals, including Rabbi Lamm.

Mrs. Frolicht, mother of Neil, reported that her son was still experiencing severe back, neck and jaw pain. Additionally, she reported that her son has had great difficulty sleeping, as he often wakes to nightmares. But she believes that the effects of the crash will prove to be temporary.

Emma Shteingart reported that her son David, while suffering from whiplash pain, is recovering at a good pace.

Joonge Lee, a passenger in the unlucky Dodge Intrepid is recovering but still in pain. He reported that both the driver and the other passengers are out of the hospital. Lee inquired about the condition of the six students in the minibus and was relieved to find out that they are all expected to make full recoveries.



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Hatzolah: Keeping the YU and Washington Heights Communities Healthy

BY NIR KNOLL

It is 11 PM as Yossi Faber, the forties liaison to the Washington Heights division of Hatzolah, enters the fourth floor of the Rubin Dormitory dressed in his EMT gear. The student for whom the call was made approaches Yossi and explains the problem. Yossi meticulously follows the instructions in his protocol book and cures the student's hiccup. Fortunately this student's uncontrollable spasms of the diaphragm was not serious, but for the men and women of Hatzolah who face life threatening situations on a daily basis, no call is minor. This is just one example of the services that the eight students at YU, all of whom have codenumbers in the forties, and volunteer with the Chevra Hatzolah of Washington Heights/Inwood, provide on campus. These students offer their EMT knowledge to assist the Washington Heights neighborhood, responding to calls regardless of the described seriousness of the condition.

Nearly fourteen years ago, YU students who had been trained as Emergency Medical Technicians began to volunteer in the Chevra Hatzolah of Washington Heights/Inwood, which serves the area between 158th and 218th streets. At that time, a shortage of volunteers who were available during the day to service the area, and the neighborhood women, a rarity in Hatzolah, served as the impetus for students to become active in the volunteer ambulance corps and emergency calls around Washington Heights. During the past fourteen years, Hatzolah Volunteers at YU have become an invaluable part of the Hatzolah of Washington Heights/Inwood.

Their presence during the afternoon hours is the backbone of Hatzolah's daytime emergency service. In fact, only two of the Hatzolah volunteers serving Washington Heights during the day are not YU students. Faber stated that during the hours in which most of the Washington Heights volunteers go to work, meaning nine to five, "we're [YU Volunteers] the guys."

In addition, the YU students cover the weekly evening rotations on Sunday and Wednesday nights between 10 PM and 8 AM where as Faber noted, "no matter where the call is in the Heights or Inwood it is our [YU Hatzolah] *achriyus* (responsibility)." YU students also take part in the Shabbat rotations. On two out of every nine weekends, from Friday night through Sunday evening, YU Hatzolah has the lives of the Washington Heights community in their hands.

In order to make their jobs easier, YU allows Hatzolah to store an ambulance, which is taken care of by the YU students, on YU property in Parking Lot H, on 185th street, across from Schottenstein Hall. In this lot, normally reserved for

faculty parking, YU also provides the ambulance with electrical supply allowing the battery to remain charged and keep the inside of the ambulance as well as the medical supplies warm. Faber said that there has never been a problem getting access to the ambulance but "it would be nicer to have it [the ambulance] on campus."

Students hoping to join Washington Heights Hatzolah must successfully pass an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Course. Harold Leibowitz, a Physical Education Instructor at Brooklyn College, has been teaching an EMT course at YU on Sundays. There was no course given last semester due to scheduling conflicts between YU and Columbia University students, who comprise the majority of

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cation from a dispatcher about an emergency, the volunteers must decide who will take care of the situation based on their availability and proximity to the area. Faber stated that "occasionally we [YU students] step on each other ... but it doesn't really interfere. The first person who gets the dispatch goes. We try to cut down so that if you are in class, you don't jump on something. You wait for a person who is out of class so there is some semblance of organization. Also, at nights we have a duty rotation so we really aren't stepping on each other and it is all organized by the dispatcher." Students respond to the emergency by bringing the ambulance to the area in case someone needs to be taken to the hospital and with their medical equipment which they keep

general Hatzolah dispatcher in addition to the Washington Heights dispatcher. Faber recalled spending a few days in Flatbush over the summer and having to respond to three calls due to the shortage of people available. He stated that at YU's Stern College for Women, "since more often than not there are YU guys on dates or down there visiting their friends, the guys take the calls just like any other EMT." Faber added that many times, he gets calls from Stern from students who were not able to contact the EMT on the Stern campus and need advice in how to handle a situation.

Although the YU volunteers are willing and able to help wherever they are, Faber noted that they respect the fact that the primary response to a Hatzolah dispatch is left open to the volunteers of that area and therefore, the students are careful not to interfere with the local volunteers in a neighborhood which they are visiting.

Aside from helping Hatzolah of Washington Heights/Inwood keep an ambulance on campus, Faber said that the YU administration has been more than accommodating. YU security has actually helped transport injured students to the hospital for X-rays, on occasions where Hatzolah needs the ambulance to take care of bigger emergencies. In addition, Faber stated that when it comes to allowing students to miss class because they need to respond to call "most professors are very understanding. They realize that we are not going out of class because we have a particular aversion to them. Most of them realize

that if I was next door in math and they were having a heart attack in English Lit, they would be more than happy to have me come next door and help them out, so it's reciprocal." Also, in order not to disturb their class by having their radio go off in the middle the Hatzolah members on campus have begun to wear ear pieces.

Over the years, students and faculty members in both YU and Stern have worked, ate and slept more easily knowing that the Hatzolah volunteers have been making our campus a safer place to live. If any student is involved in an emergency situation, Faber stated it is "very important" that the student inform the dispatcher about the particular problem in order to help the EMTs know how to respond. "One of the biggest impediments to helping people," Faber remarked, "is that they feel that they are making a big fuss about something when they are not feeling well. However, we can't help someone unless he or she calls. It is not a big fuss especially to us. It's a thing we do the whole time. When someone is not feeling well, we're there to help them."



the class, caused by the way the Yomim Tovim fell out. Anyone who receives certification as an EMT may apply to join Hatzolah and will undergo a series of interviews conducted by the three coordinators of Hatzolah of Washington Heights/Inwood. Based on the amount of space available, the coordinators choose how many applicants can join Hatzolah. Each new member begins a training period where he receives a two way radio and is explained the logistics of how Hatzolah of Washington Heights functions. During this training period, which can last anywhere between a few weeks and a few months, depending on the person's prior experience in emergency volunteer groups, the new member accompanies two veterans in order to assist them and learn the ropes, as they cannot immediately become the primary responder.

Once the new recruit has become a full fledged member, he must be prepared to respond to calls over his two way radio at any time, whether he is the cafeteria eating lunch or sitting in a classroom taking notes. Within seconds of receiving noti-

fication from a dispatcher about an emergency, the volunteers must decide who will take care of the situation based on their availability and proximity to the area. Faber stated that "occasionally we [YU students] step on each other ... but it doesn't really interfere. The first person who gets the dispatch goes. We try to cut down so that if you are in class, you don't jump on something. You wait for a person who is out of class so there is some semblance of organization. Also, at nights we have a duty rotation so we really aren't stepping on each other and it is all organized by the dispatcher." Students respond to the emergency by bringing the ambulance to the area in case someone needs to be taken to the hospital and with their medical equipment which they keep

in their rooms or nearby. Faber said that "even if it is something drastic and critical we have enough on us to do whatever we have to do." According to Faber, most calls on campus involve students who hurt themselves while playing basketball in the gym.

Faber also stated that there are 29 Hatzolah members in the Washington Heights area, which is more than sufficient to handle the 600 calls a year that Washington Heights/Inwood Hatzolah receives. In addition, at times when the corps is shorthanded many students agree to stay in the area to help. The YU students who are members of Hatzolah in Riverdale are also available to lend a hand.

The students on campus do not limit their services to the Washington Heights area. On occasion, they have aided Hatzolah of Riverdale. Faber added that he has had his "share of mileage" going up to Riverdale in order to help the Hatzolah group there.

Purim Contest:

The Commentator is accepting submissions for this year's Purim Issue. Articles should be humorous and ideally relevant to Yeshiva University. Satirical Ads or cartoons are also acceptable. The best submissions will be awarded \$50.00 Each.

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Honors College To Open Next Semester

continued from page one

major field of study, prior to graduation. Students accepted into the track will receive ample scholarship support, and would graduate with "Honors Diplomas."

The second track within the "Honors Program," which will enroll around 60 honors students, requires students to take select courses within the honors curriculum, though not a full honors course load. This would allow them to pick and choose which academic fields they would like to concentrate their honors study, or allow students with non-honors majors to participate in honors courses.

The curriculum will be composed of core "interdisciplinary courses," synergies of different fields of study. They will include five major areas of the liberal arts curriculum: social sciences, natural sciences, computer sciences, humanities, and Jewish studies. Courses will be created from combinations of these categories, such as a class in literature and music of the Baroque period, or a course in philosophical issues and their correlation's in the Bible. Some classes will be "team taught," with two or more professors, each with their own area of expertise. Such teaching will hopefully lead to a broader intellectual experience and create what has been termed, "problem based learning" geared to the dilemmas of modern society. Honors courses will have an extra, or "fourth" hour of classroom time weekly, which will enable faculty to expand their syllabi to include a more comprehensive overview of the subject matter being studied, and will also involve major amounts of independent study with the faculty outside the classroom.

The driving force behind this idea is the Dean of Yeshiva College, Norman Adler, who believes that the program will create "a more vigorous collegiate atmosphere," which within five to ten years could give YU a place "as one of the top liberal arts colleges in the nation."

Adler is convinced that by targeting and combating the current University atmosphere which he finds remicent of an advanced vocational school, where students are required to put in the minimum required time on campus and take only the courses needed to graduate, and the current University curriculum which he views as two decades behind that of top tier universities, the creation of an honors program will finally bring the undergraduate educational experience needed to place YU amongst the finest

universities in America.

The honors tracks, however, has already met with fierce resistance from within the University. Individuals raising a myriad of concerns. "My sense is that most faculty regard it as eighty percent empty glitz," said one professor. He cited the lack of faculty input in the honors program as a sign that the administration will do as they please without addressing the faculty's concerns. These include scheduling problems that he classified as "chaos on a grand scale," and a level of compensation for independent study with students that was called "subpar."

Currently professors receive a little more than one hundred dollars a semester for each student they work with outside the classroom and with independent study a central component of the proposed honors program, this would seem to be a legitimate concern. Another faculty member pointed to the entire interdisciplinary nature of the program as being flawed. "When you try to meld disparate fields into one cohesive unit, you are often left without comprehension in all of your studies."

Students voiced concerns over the apparent segregation of the student body into the "smart kids," and the "dummies." "Who would decide what the criteria for acceptance would be? How do you pick the faculty who are "better" than the others?" Others said, that a honors system already exists de facto, with everybody knowing which professors are "harder" than others, and the students desiring the intellectual challenge taking the more rigorous courses on their own initiative. Another uncertainty was how the courses would affect a student's requirements for his major. Would an interdisciplinary class satisfy a requirement for both majors, or would it fail to satisfy either?

An anonymous member of the administration claimed that the impetus behind the program is entirely financial, because the school already has a donor lined that wishes to put his name on the college, and the University need only to create a structure to receive the funding. He also pointed to the small size of the University, within which already exist an inordinate amount of separate schools, as a factor to be taken under consideration. "Another college, can only add to the 'Balkanization' of YU, and cause more of a beauracatic nightmare, which is the last thing we need."

Mazal Tov to:

**Seth Polner & Shoshana Katz
Adi Kron & Bracha Shapiro**

on their recent engagements

Editorials OPINION

The Demise Of The Big Budget Production

What can be said about an industry that only can generate genuine interest by rereleasing movies from twenty years ago? Thumbing through the *New York Times* and *New York's* of this past year, I have noticed that a plethora of articles have been written about *Vertigo*, *Star Wars* and *Bonnie and Clyde*. Sure, those films are all excellent, but haven't we already seen them? The question is, what is being churned out in Hollywood right now?

The answer, reached by a consensus of critics and the public, appears to be garbage. This year's "big" Hollywood productions have gravitated between large special effects shows (*Twister*, *ID4*, *Mission Impossible*, *Eraser*) inane, toothless romantic comedies (*Fools Rush In*, *She's The One*, anything with Meg Ryan in it), implausible thrillers (*Absolute Power*, *The Shadow Conspiracy*, "Mission Implausible"), and sentimentalized historical biopics (*Infinity*, *Ghosts of Mississippi*, *Rosewood*). Based on the recent spate of distinctly non-Hollywood Oscar selections such as *Shine* and *Fargo*, it is apparent that self loathing in Tinseltown is once again in vogue. Clearly, Hollywood has become so predictable, so sanitized, that it has lost all of its ability to challenge and intrigue an audience. Blame it on market-research laden decision mak-

ing, out-of-touch studio executives and even audiences. After all, the majority of major studio releases are now extensively test researched, long before they are released or even completed. Studios and directors are revising films based on audience response, literally shaping their final product to the taste of the masses. Yet, many of these films bomb with the public, anyway.

It now appears that Hollywood is looking to the booming "Indy" (Independent Feature films) scene for answers. This past year alone, brilliant, highly original and ultimately profitable films have been released by Miramax (*The English Patient*, *Sling Blade*, *Everyone Says I Love You*) and October (*Secrets & Lies*, *Breaking The Waves*). Films, both offshoots of larger, more mainstream Hollywood studios, as well as a wide assortment of smaller labels. It appears, at least for the time being, that highly personalized, lower budgeted films may be the way to go. Billy Bob Thornton, the Oscar nominated director, actor and writer of *Sling Blade* literally made the film by the skin of his teeth, based on a character that he originated while staring into his bathroom mirror. Despite an infinitesimal budget, no studio back-

ing and a highly unusual story line, Thornton's film has become a hit.

However, such a path can be quite risky.

For many years, critically acclaimed directors such as Woody Allen and James Ivory have been releasing excellent movies to an indifferent public. Sure, the occasional Tarantino or David Fincher (*Seven*) may break through but, in general, most independent feature directors lack a mass audience. Intense cult-like following cannot earn a well-crafted, brilliantly executed film like *Breaking The Waves* one twentieth of the take of a summer blockbuster. It just does not happen.

It is too early to announce the demise of the big studio, big budget movie. They still do succeed, especially when released during the summer months. Names like Arnold, Cruise and even Van Damme have large national and international followings and consistently deliver dollars to their studios, no matter what the critics may say about the merits of their films. Cruise (*Jerry Maguire*, for which he has been nominated for an Academy Award), Stallone (currently filming *Copland*) and Pitt (currently filming *Seven Days in Tibet*) have all attempted to expand their careers

artistically, choosing to do risky films in the process. This is also true of "young Hollywood" stars, who are turning up in mass in independent movies, usually taking a hefty pay cut in the process. But, these small films, even when well-reviewed, usually still struggle to find an audience.

The film industry has become polarized, either churning out fantastic bonanzas or tiny dirt-cheap films. An integration is desperately needed, good young film makers have to be given the resources to reach a larger viewership. A return to the seventies era of film making, when young titans, such as Scorsese, Friedkin, Pakula and Coppola were consistently delivering one imaginative, relevant film after another, would do Hollywood some good. Leave the test markets and Harvard business school graduates in a background role. While it would be foolish to ignore the importance of financial management in the film industry, a more balanced approach should be reached. Allowing the young "Indy" directors to get a foothold into Hollywood, while retaining artistic integrity, would put the ball in motion. But studio executives would be giving up power, a courageous albeit implausible idea. Meanwhile, one has to look abroad and in small theaters in order to find great films.

DANIEL
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Swashbucklers Fight To The Finish

BY COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF

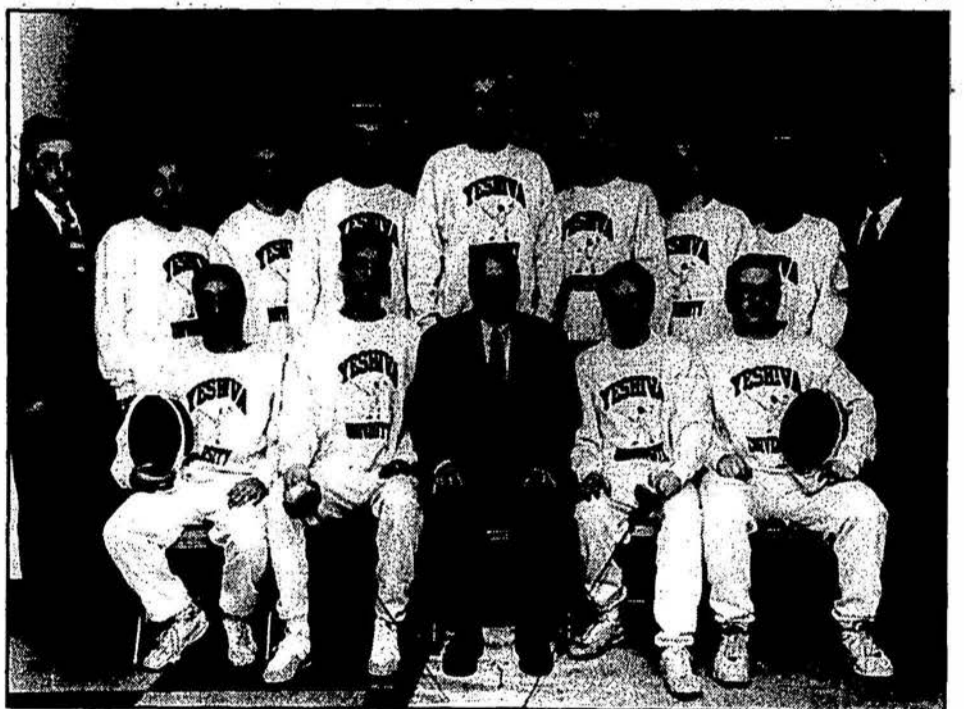
Sunday, March 2: The YU fencing team fenced in its most important event of the year - the Mid Atlantic Conference Fencing Association Championships. Hosted by Vassar College, the fencers fought a grueling 120 bouts, arriving at 8:00 AM and departing after 10:00 PM. The tournament provides an opportunity for both the team and the individual to succeed, an opportunity seized by both the YU fencing team and the individuals.

The numerous bouts allow fencers to recover their standings even if they get off to a shaky start. Foil fencer, Shaun Azari, began the day losing his first six matches and initially appeared to be out of synch, but staged a remarkable recovery winning his next seven. Eric Schubert also benefited from the many matches. After a mediocre regular season, Eric emerged in the championships, go-

ing 8-6 for the day.

Yekutiel Sandman went 10-4, dominating the other sabre fencers who seemed intimidated by his beard and large yarmulke. Sandman, who will wed in one month, immediately dedicated the wins to his future wife. (Incidentally, the entire Yeshiva is invited to his wedding.) Mordechai Gluck also fenced surprisingly well.

The most successful individual accomplishment of the day was turned in by Akiva Herzfeld, who finished in sixth place overall for the day and was recognized as a member of the Second Team All Conference. It was the first time that assistant coach Pete Rosas, one of the best sabre coaches in the northeast, had a fencer from Yeshiva University finish that high in the standings. Herzfeld took home two medals and said that the honor was especially sweet since he beat his old rival and nemesis on Stevens Tech, Dick Muccio.



1996-97 YU Macs Fencing Team

Shimon Oppenheim, a graduating senior and perhaps the best fencer at Yeshiva, had a disappointing day. After a remarkably successful season, with 33 wins and 9 losses, Shimon started the day off on the wrong foot and never fully recovered. He missed qualification for the finals by .01% points.

However, the season is not over for Oppenheim. He will be going to the

NCAA's held at Cornell this coming Sunday, March 9. Other Yeshiva hopefuls who may qualify include, Hadar "hot-stuff" Weiss, Stuart Shindel, Shaun Azari, and Sabre fencers Akiva Herzfeld and Yekutiel Sandman. In past years, fencing team coach Arnie Messing, has worked wonders towards convincing NCAA officials to qualify Yeshiva fencers for the NCAA competition.

LETTERS

To the Editor

In Defense of Dr. Sternlicht

To The Editor:

Having been a student of Dr. Sternlicht's in eight classes over the past three years, I feel obligated to comment on last week's article ("Sternlicht Retires After 35 Years of Service"). One of the few lecturers that I actually look forward to seeing twice a week, Dr. Sternlicht's lessons are always interesting and thought provoking. I can understand that Dr. Sternlicht may seem intimidating to some, for he demands intelligence and critical thinking, but in the long-run this is the best way to prepare a student for the real world.

I believe that the data from the student evaluation forms is the often skewed. Most students base their responses on the grades they receive, rather than on the professors teaching skills. Being that Dr. Sternlicht is by no means an "Easy A," many students get their revenge by filling out negative reports. Let's examine some of the typical evaluation questions, such as: did the teacher demonstrate a mastery of the subject, was the teacher well prepared for class, was

the teacher available after class, and was the teacher a fair grader? There is no denying that Dr. Sternlicht has a mastery of the field. The lectures are well organized, and Dr. Sternlicht is always prepared. Through my experience, Dr. Sternlicht has been a fair, if not lenient, grader, and he is always available after class for even lengthy discussions.

In response to Mr. Jesselson's comments, on the first day of classes, after assigning the term-paper, Dr. Sternlicht warns the students not to wait until the last minute to do the paper. He will then proceed to read a letter of excuses from a former student who missed the due date for the paper, and explain that there are no exceptions. Had Mr. Jesselson listened to this advice he would not have had a problem.

It is extremely unfortunate that a 35 year relationship will come to an end on such negative terms. Dr. Sternlicht's departure marks a great loss to the University, as well as to future psychology majors.

Labe Feldman
YC '97

Facilities Mismanagement

To the Editor:

The article by Adam Moses in the *Commentator* of February 4, 1997 states that "the Department of Facilities Management makes it exceedingly difficult for student organizations to utilize university facilities for student functions." The problem is not limited to students. Several months ago, I met an extremely agitated faculty member who had spent months organizing a conference to be held at YU, with careful attention to the task of securing the requisite approval from Facilities Management. This poor soul had just

returned from inspecting the lounge where the conference was to be held in an hour, and found that the room was being painted.

At a time when the president of Columbia University is lobbying and offering financial incentives to attract a private bookstore to his campus, on the theory that books attract scholars (see *New York Times* of February 17), it is sad to read about Yeshiva University putting up obstacles to an enterprise that attracts as many scholars as the Seforim Sale.

S. Rosin

On track 13 there is a direct train to Auschwitz...

To The Editor:

A few weeks ago a family friend brought her fourteen year old son to the main train station in Zurich. She was sending him on a ski trip. He was wearing his black velvet yarmulke and was clearly distinguishable as a "frumm" Jew. A well dressed man approached them and pointed towards one of the tracks: "On track 13 there is a direct train to Auschwitz he said, why don't you put your son on that one?"

Lately comments like this have been heard by Jews all over Switzerland. Swiss Anti-Semites are no longer scared and are slowly, but surely coming out of the closets. They are all deeply upset by the claims we Jews make on money that was brought to Swiss Banks before and during the Holocaust. They seem to be asking why we make a big deal out of something that was over and done with a long time ago....

I am a Swiss Jew. My father's family has been in Switzerland since the 17th Century, my mother's family though went through the Holocaust. My grandfather was in Auschwitz and many of his family members were killed. My background gives me the opportunity to see the recent happenings in Switzerland from two different points of view. Of course I think that the money in the Swiss vaults has to be returned to its rightful owners. I am also happy that people are finally raising their voices and claiming their belongings. But on the other hand, as a Swiss Jew, I am scared. I am scared of Anti-Semitism and I am worried that my community will have to face real hatred. I say real hatred, because they are feeling hatred already. It is easy for American Jews to raise their voices, they are thousands of miles away from the real happenings. They do not know what their Swiss counterparts are feeling. They feel fear! I was home during the semester break and I had the opportunity to see it with my own eyes. My friends and family are afraid.

The rate of Anti-Semitism has shot up. Discriminating letters of unbearable content arrive every day in piles and piles. "You Jews only want money!" "You own half the banks in Switzerland already anyway!" "Hitler should have finished his job!" "Go to Israel all of you, Arafat will take care of you!" Charming is it not? I am not even going to write about the Swastika graffiti and the Jewish children whose classmates in school ask them "So, how much money are you getting?" The Swiss tend to become very patriotic when it comes to defending their country, especially when it comes to defending their money. A Swiss Gentile does not differentiate between Jews. For them an American Jew is the same as a Swiss Jew who is no different than an Israeli Jew. They are all the same. Now wonder they attack their own little community of Jews. We are near and we are vulnerable. Polls show that the Swiss think that there are 10 times as many Jews living in their country than there really are. Why? Because we make noise! They think that all the Jews own banks? Well, out of the hundreds of Swiss banks only very few are actually owned by Jews. The Swiss people have indicated that if the world will boycott their banks, then they will boycott all the Jewish businesses in their country.

So of course my whole community wants the money returned to its rightful owners. Of course they appreciate all the hard work the World Jewish Congress and other institutions put into this affair, yet they would also appreciate it greatly if all this was done a little more subtly. I am not saying that we should be quiet. On the contrary, we should keep fighting. However it would be nice if we could use lighter artillery. Sometimes quiet voices can gain more attention than shouting ones. Sometimes we just have to be a little more relaxed.

Joelle Bollag
SC '98

Yasher Koach

To the Editor:

As the 1997 SOY Seforim Sale closes its doors for the year and the sale becomes just another statistic in the YU statistic book, we would like to express our gratitude to those that we feel thanks is long overdue. As members of the executive staff of the SOY Seforim Sale we feel obligated to publicly thank those people who helped make the sale what it was.

The first person deserving thanks is Mitch Taragin. We have been working with him since November on the sale, and without his endless hours and dedication to the sale nothing would have been possible. The amount of hours that goes into calling all the distributors and

making all the arrangements is unimaginable. Had it not been for him there would have not been credit cards at the sale. Next, a big thanks goes to SOY President and close friend, Jonathan Niess. Without his tireless efforts there would not have been a room to have the Seforim Sale. His endless determination to get the room in Belfer Hall showed why he has been such an unbelievable president this year.

We now move on to the "behind the scenes" people. Without these following people and their dedication the sale would not have been able to be properly executed. These people have not received gratitude anywhere close to the required amount.

Stephen Reingold is unbelievable. Even though he is an extremely busy Semikha student, he still found time to contribute all his spare time to the sale. His experienced advice and "fun" attitude kept the sale running as it should. Next, we certainly can not forget the "computer guys": Jack Cate, Nachi Klein, and Avi Turkel. They set up the computer system, and fixed any and all technical problems we encountered, no matter what time of the day or night it was.

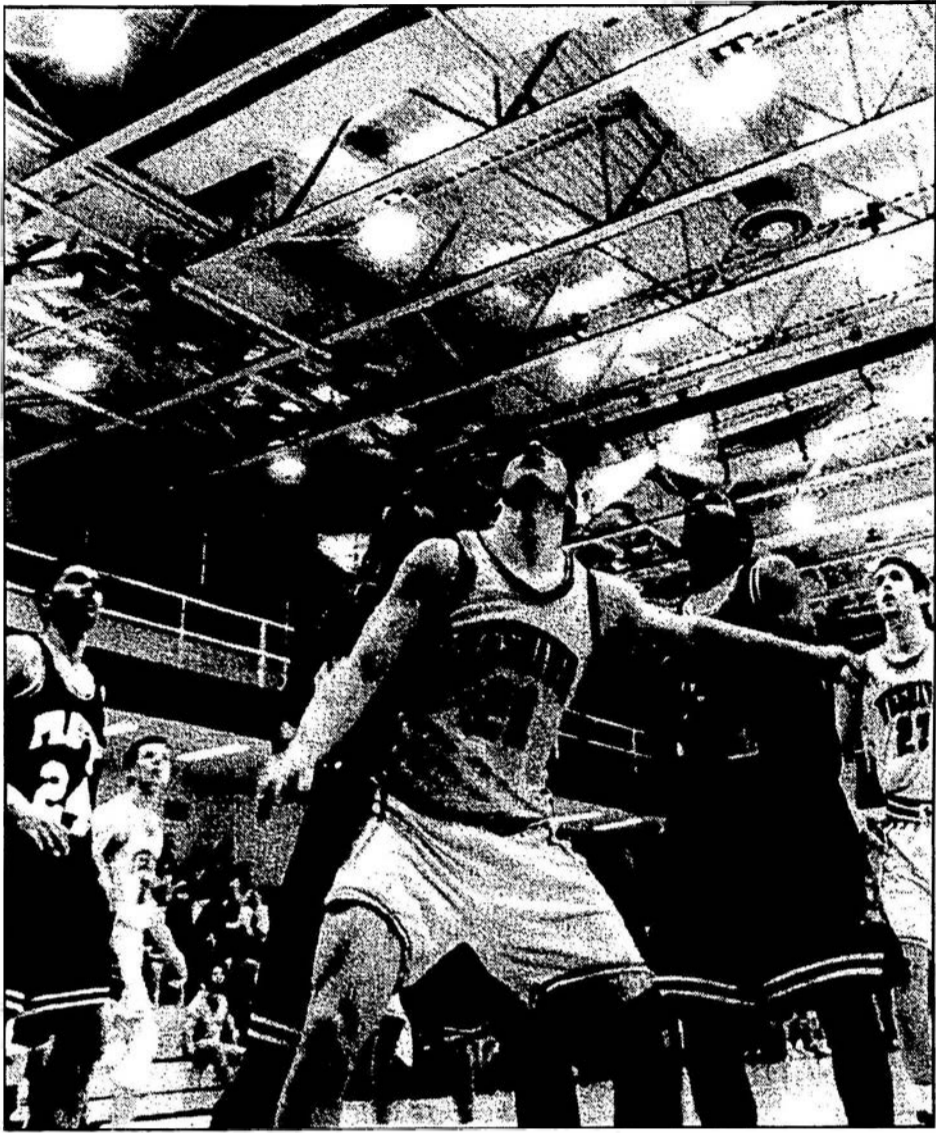
Last and by no means least, were the students who gave their time to the sale. Without them, the sale would not have been able to function and there would have been no Seforim to purchase. There were times when we thought that there

were not enough workers to open the sale doors for the day, but the amount of work each person did to help compensated and we thank you for that. There are too many people to list and we would hate to leave someone out, so a tremendous thank you to everyone who helped out.

Once again thank you to everybody who pitched in to make this year's sale such a great one. Everybody worked together to create an unbelievable staff and an unbelievable sale.

Sincerely,

Aryeh Sheinbein and
Carmi Gross
Executive Managers, Seforim Sale '97



YESHIVA SPORTS

(continued on page 14)

Macs Volleyball Season In Full Gear

BY MIKE VOGEL

After a semester of tough practices under the guidance of Coach Jiang, YU's volleyball Macs started their season with a double-header which brought Cooper Union and Polytechnic to the Max Stern Athletic Center. The first three points of the match versus Cooper Union were scored by the Macs and as the game progressed, the Macs elevated their intensity for a great season opener. After many "spikes" and "digs," the Macs easily won the first game, while Cooper Union prevailed the second game. The third game was a nail-biter with many lead changes throughout the game. Building a 14-13 lead, the Macs were in position for a commanding lead in the match. However, a bad call made by the referee on veteran captain Carl Hochhauser turned the game in favor of the Cooper Union team, who would go on to win both the third and fourth games to close out the match.

The second match of the Macs' young season featured the Macs versus Polytechnic. The Macs started strong but lost the first game in a very close battle. After an inspiring team huddle, the team refocused and prevailed in the second game, tying up the match. However, the Macs seemed to run out of gas as the Polytechnic team proved to be too much for the Macabees, who would go on to lose for the second time in as many tries.

On a frigid Thursday night, the Macs traveled to Long Island to play SUNY Old Westbury for their third match of the year. Arriving at the campus, the players seemed focused and determined to give the SUNY team a 'run for their money.' The Macs fought hard, but their effort fell just short as they lost the first two games.

by only two points apiece. The SUNY finished the match strongly, easily winning the third game, handing the Macabees their third loss.

In their fourth match of the season, the Macs faced Mt. St. Vincent, one of the strongest teams in the league. The Macs, clearly overmatched, did not give up but could not pull out a win against their talented opponents.

Returning home to play Brooklyn College, the Macs had the support of the home crowd behind them. After losing a tough first game, the Macs faced one of the most powerful players around in 'Captain Leo' of the Brooklyn team. Leo exploded for eight phenomenal points with a precise jump serve. However, the Macs were not done and gave Brooklyn quite a fight in the third game. Inspired by the cheering fans, the Macs picked up their heads and gained a lead of 9-8, showing some signs of life. That is, until Brooklyn refocused and put the game away. Impressive defensive action by Steven Bernstein, Elie Hochhauser, and Andrew Harrari, as well as offense by Russell K. and Adam Aronowitz were the Mac highlights of the game.

The Macs face tough tests in the future including a match against Ramapo, and matches in the IAC tournament. Coach Jiang expressed concern over the lack of mental toughness and consistency of the team, but notes that this is a rebuilding year for the Macs. The Coach expressed confidence that the team is sure to get stronger as the year progresses and his players gain more experience.

Indeed, Coach Jiang's faith in his team was finally rewarded with a strong three game to none victory over SUNY Maritime in the Macs' sixth match of the season.

YU Macs Get ECAC Bid

BY RON MARKOVITZ

With their 15-5 regular season record and the least amount of losses since 1956, the YU Macs were invited, along with seven other teams, to the prestigious ECAC tournament; only the fourth time in YU basketball history. The team won three of its last four games beating CCNY 63-55, St. Joseph's of Brooklyn 78-62, and Pratt 73-30, and losing a very close game to NJIT 61-55. After the NJIT loss, a last minute addition to the schedule, people associated with the team were concerned about the chances of making the ECAC, with only eight spots available.

Coach Halpert said that he was "hopefully optimistic. It was tough to get in despite the record because there were a lot of other quality teams out there." "The kids have done a wonderful job, it's very gratifying getting in."

The Macs, seeded eighth, will play the top seeded College of Staten Island Dolphins this Wednesday night at 8:00 PM in Willowbrook, Staten Island. Marc Nadritch, who hails from Willowbrook is quite aware of the Dolphin's success. "They're a very good team. I've followed them in the (local) paper all year." Point Guard John Cali has led his squad to easy wins over teams with whom the Macs struggled, like NJIT. They play a tough man-to-man half-court defense and rebound well. When asked what he plans on doing to prepare the team for CSI, Coach Halpert responded, "The team has been through all the adversity, whether it be playing with five or six men, being on the road. We'll just try and refine some things."

The Macs have never made it past the first round in the ECAC. The first and third time they suffered 10 point losses to Jersey City State. In their second appearance in the tournament, they were defeated by Lebanon Valley, who won a Divi-

sion III title two years ago on a controversial lay-up at the buzzer to beat NYU. The teams who make the ECAC tourney are the cream of the crop in Division III, and the magnitude of a YU bid this year is the icing on the cake of a very successful year for the Macs.

The other teams joining YU and CSI in the tourney are #2-Mt. St. Mary's, #3-Drew, #4-NJIT, #5-John Jay, #6-Lehman, #7-Montclair St.

The Macs success has continued to receive media attention. They appeared in the *New York Times* twice, the *Daily News* and *The Jewish Week*. On February 10, the *New York Times* ran a blurb on the Macs and Vic Ziegel, who covered the team at Madison Square Garden two years ago, featured them in his daily column titled "LIU, Yeshiva Dare to Dream." He quotes Joel Jacobson asking Coach Halpert about the ECAC "What are our chances? We'll be disappointed if we don't go." And he gives Halpert's response, "How can you say that? This team has character. We've won every close game we've been in. They work hard and play well together. If we finish 15-5, who needs a tournament to certify it as a good year? That's backwards from everything we try to teach." Ziegel goes on to compare LIU's coach, who is dreaming about the NCAA tournament, and ends "These coaches have nothing in common," referring to their mentalities and aspirations. Moshe Abehsera was shocked when he first saw a large action photo of him being guarded by a player from Pratt on page four in *The Jewish Week*. "I hit a three right after too," he exclaimed. The Macs are really riding high these days and have found out that success feels great. The team now looks forward to Wednesday to their greatest challenge in Staten Island where they can expect many Jewish families from Willowbrook to show up including Marc Nadritch's parents, avid Macs fans.

The Commentator

500 West 185th Street
New York, NY 10033