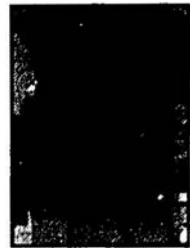


Yeshiva University Commentator

April 16, 1997 / 9 Nisan 5757

Official Undergraduate Newspaper of Yeshiva College Volume LXI No. 12

Burns Guards Not
'Secure' About Jobs
Story on Page 5



Cop Car Swipes
MTA Brothers
Story on Page 12



Unknowing students eating Caf food assumed to be kosher.

Cafeteria Faces Kashrus Crisis

BY NIR KNOLL

When YU students line up in the cafeteria in the basement of Rubin Hall for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, most of them never even think about the *kashrus* of the food they are about to enjoy. As Yitzchak Raab, a SSSB Senior put it, "I'm supposed to assume that when I go into the cafeteria there might be problems with *kashrus*? Obviously not! This is Yeshiva University, we have a *mashgiach* [*kashrut* supervisor] and we can assume the cafeteria has a *chezkas kashrus*. I don't check the *kashrus* when I go to a friend's house."

But recent events have alerted many of the students at YU to the fact that even the YU Food Services is not immune to the *kashrus* problems that plague many mass food production kitchens.

Two weeks ago, members of the Student Organization of Yeshiva (SOY) *Kashrus* committee discovered that the cafeteria had been serving Uncle Ben's Wild Rice and Rice Pilaf as side dishes during lunch and dinner. Although the rice itself had a proper *hashgacha* [Kosher Certification] from Rabbi Radzinsky of Houston, the students noticed that the flavor packet for the rice seasonings lacked any symbol of *Kashrus*. Upon making this discovery, the students immediately alerted Rabbi Phillip H. Reiss, the faculty advisor to the kitchen, JSS rebbe at YU and former Associate Rabbinic Administrator at the OU, of their findings. Rabbi Reiss assured the students that he would make

sure to look into the problem.

Nevertheless, the members of the SOY *Kashrus* Committee decided to take their own initiative and contacted the Uncle Ben's plant in Houston and inquired as to the status of the rice seasonings. Approximately a week later, the members of the plant told the students that the seasonings had not received any certificate of *Kashrus*. In addition, the manager of the plant informed the *Kashrus* Committee that Uncle Ben's uses animal fat from non-kosher animals, making the seasonings completely non-kosher - not just lacking rabbinical supervision. That animal fats were used for flavoring was not disclosed on the ingredients list on the package, since, by federal law, the company is only obligated to label it as natural flavors. The plant manager agreed to have the seasonings analyzed by his research department to see whether the animal fat constituted less than one sixtieth of the seasonings making it *batel b'shishim* [nullified by sixtyfold] and not a problem *b'deeded* [after the fact]. Finally, the students approached Rabbi Reiss with their findings.

Rabbi Reiss told *The Commentator* that once the *Kashrus* Committee informed him of their conversation with the officials at the Uncle Ben's plant in Houston, he made sure that the kitchen staff refrained from serving the rice and had all the packages sent back to Uncle Ben's. Rabbi Reiss explained that because all the rice in the Cafeteria is cooked

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Tannenbaum Elected New YCSC President

Schreiber, Mazin & Glass Form
Balance of Executive Board

BY ADAM MOSES

As the Thursday, April 4, YCSC elections drew to a close, the bulk of the offices sought were filled. The frenzied day of last-minute politicking and rhetoric was marred by some questionable conduct, both before and during elections.

The YCSC presidential office was claimed by the unopposed Sruli Tannenbaum. Efforts to advance a serious write-in challenge for the presidency fizzled as the election approached and Tannenbaum enjoyed an easy victory.

One YC student who was particularly appalled by the prospect of the most influential elected position in the undergraduate student government being attained without opposition, took to the sidewalk in front of Morgenstern Residence Hall with a megaphone to express his sentiment on the matter. Evan Kevelson indicated his



YCSC President-Elect
Sruli Tannenbaum

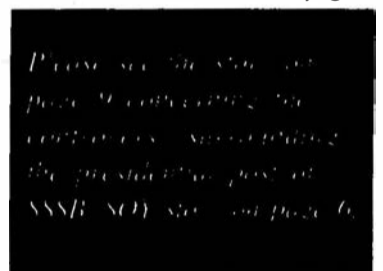
belief that "YCSC is a dictatorship keeping its own people in power and not giving people choices for candidates."

Kevelson repeatedly demanded that voters write him in as YCSC President. This display continued with Kevelson barking his anti-YCSC diatribe for a number of hours until he was detained by YU's security forces. They instructed him to suspend usage of his mega-

phone. Kevelson returned to his previous position among the swarms of approaching voters and continued screeching without the aid of a megaphone. Students in the vicinity appeared to be alternately annoyed and entertained by this spontaneous and unusual performance.

The emotionally charged election environment witnessed another manifestation of frustration when an unknown student showered the assembled crowd of students in front of Morgenstern Residence Hall with refuse from a fourth-floor window. No students were injured by the unanticipated trash dumping.

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Kahn, Streit Elected Commentator Editors-in-Chief

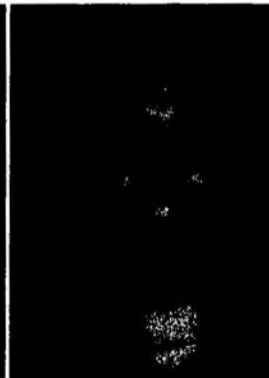
BY JEREMY IVES

The Governing Board of *The Commentator* has elected Ari Kahn and Noah Streit Editors-in-Chief of Volume LXII. Ari Gruen will round out the Executive Board as Executive Editor. The decision marks the fifth time in six years that two people will sit at the helm of *The Commentator*. They take over from graduating Seniors Joshua Feldman and Arnon Storfer.

Streit is a California native and alumnus of YULA. After graduating, he spent one year in Israel studying at Yeshivat HaKotel. Following his studies overseas, Streit spent a brief stint at UCLA, transferring to YU for the Spring 1996 semester. A dedicated worker for *The Commentator* over the past year and a half, he has served one semester as a Staff Writer, Associate News Editor, and News Editor, during which he de-



Noah Streit



Ari Kahn

tailed the battle surrounding the Scheiber fortune, as well as the plight of University professors who are underpaid.

Kahn who hails from Long Island, has also served on *The Commentator* for one and a half years. He brings experience to the Editor-in-Chief position, serving in the same position at the *HANCHerald* during high school. Kahn spent one year learning at Sha'alvim, settling at YU thereafter. Though currently serving as Features Editor, he has written his share of memorable sto-

ries as Associate Features Editor and as a Features Writer. He has become a household name with his in-depth and analytical styles of writing, and is best known for his expose on racial attitudes of students at YU, as well as a behind the scenes look at how US News and World Reports rated Yeshiva University as the 45th ranked undergraduate college in the Country.

Both Kahn and Streit are confident about the future of *The Commentator*. Kahn commented that "During my time with this newspaper I have been exposed to virtually every aspect involved in producing a quality newspaper. With the help of the rest of the staff, I am confident that my co-editor Noah and I will be able to continue this long standing tradition." Streit said, "From my first semester on campus I remember looking towards *The Commentator*"

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

www.get_in_touch.com

The University's recent decision to shut down the student-operated Internet server will result in the termination of Internet web space for student-run services including *The Commentator* online site. This is the most recent manifestation of an ongoing sequence of administrative footdragging on the matter of Internet policy. Over the course of the past two years, the University has neglected to formulate a formal policy on Internet service despite strenuous efforts by student organizations to achieve a clarification of the matter. What is most alarming about the trend that has been established by the administration is what this lack of definitive action represents in the context of the University's view of technological advances and their relevance to the educational climate. While most American universities are spiraling upwards with ethernet connections in every dormitory room and personal websites for students, Yeshiva University sprawls downwards into the quagmire of technological ineptitude. While the *Commentator* can parley its well developed website into a commercially lucrative independent venture, the precedent established serves to indicate that Yeshiva University is more interested in suppressing student activity and expression than facilitating technological advance that would benefit students.

Who's Watching the Watchmen?

It should go without saying that Yeshiva University vigilantly follows the strict standards of Halacha. It should also go without saying that those placed in charge of ensuring that these standards are upheld must perform their job with the *zrius*, effort, that corresponds to their great responsibility. Yet when the cafeteria on our campus faced a crisis that many kosher kitchens face at one time or another, it was left up to a student initiative to ensure time and time again that no one was purchasing *treif* from the cafeteria.

With the tremendous pressures and responsibilities that the undergraduates face, it is unconscionable to expect them to take on the additional burden of making sure what they are eating is kosher every time they want to purchase any food from the cafeteria. That is why the University has a system in place with *mashgichim* in the kitchen at all times and a separate head *mashgiach* who schedules the *mashgichim* and arranges that all food deliveries are supervised. The head *mashgiach* is charged with investigating the *hashgacha* of all products coming into the kitchen. This system is only as effective as the individuals who regard themselves as watchmen for the students. Repeatedly, though, they failed to put forth the required effort. It fell to a student to find out that chefs were using a seasoning that they were told not to use, and then to determine that this seasoning had animal fat as a "natural flavor."

Every student is virtually forced to consume \$1300 worth of food each year in the cafeteria. Clearly, the laxity in supervision has significantly reduced the confidence level students have in the YU Department of Food Services to provide kosher food. We call on the YU Administration to refund, without question, the amount of money remaining on the caf card of any student who has doubts as to the *kashrut* of the cafeteria.

The Commentator

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P I C T O R I A L



V'achalta V'Savata U'Verachta

Mazal Tov to
Commentator Editor-in-Chief
Arnon Storfer
on his recent engagement to
Shlomit Kushner

Dorm Talks

BY ADAM P. PLOTCH

On Wednesday, April 2, students were invited to the ever popular "Dorm Talks" lecture series featuring University President Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm. Over the course of his 2 hour oration, entitled "Jew and Jew - Relating to Jews Who Don't Share Our Religious Perspectives", the Rosh Yeshiva touched on a myriad of issues relating to everything, from *ahavat yisrael*, to pluralism, to the YU versus Charedi shabbos experience, in his typically erudite and eloquent manner.

The evening began with a riveting and moving tribute to the late Rav Shimon Romm zt"l by the evening's moderator, Rav Yosef Blau. The Mashgiach Ruchani favorably contrasted Rav Romm's reaction to his witnessing of mass destruction in the holocaust - by dedicating his life to the dissemination of Torah - to that displayed by the biblical Noah, who responded to the cataclysmic deluge of his era by getting inebriated.

After Rav Blau's eulogy, Rabbi Lamm proceeded to expound, point by point, on the issues and questions raised on a pamphlet distributed to students several days prior. The handbill described three distinct, hypothetical situations that accentuated conflicts likely to be encountered by Yeshiva University students interacting with Jews outside of the realm of "Torah U'Madda". In consonance with his image as the "moderate voice of centrist Orthodoxy", Rabbi Lamm said nothing particularly controversial or unexpected, but did manage - both subtly and not so subtly - to interpose his opinion on the gamut of "hot" issues on the modern Jewish agenda.

Chassid and Litvak

Rabbi Lamm began by unequivocally noting an inherent distinction between the Chassidic and Litvak perspective on more "progressive" movements, asserting that "Chassidim are more pluralistic...[they are] normally more accepting because there are large numbers [of them] and all manage to live quite peacefully." He then proceeded to attempt to dispel the prevalent notion that "some of us seem to assume that we have to go to the Charedim to experience Shabbos." R' Lamm related that he had recently spent Shabbos [Zachor] at YU and found it to be "no less lovely [than the Charedi Shabbos experience]...[and that there was]...no fundamental difference." With regard to current demographic trends indicating that charedi populations will continue to grow while the ranks of the Reform and Conservative movements decrease, R' Lamm lamented that he "take[s] no pleasure in knowing they are dwindling into nothing. No one should...[it should just] fuel the importance of *kiruv*." He boldly predicted that when these population changes become more palpable, "the whole Charedi world will have to change...and they will. [They'll] have to produce doctors, lawyers, not just shopkeepers." The Rabbi's underlying message however, was one of tolerance and understanding, stating that while it is "good to experience [Shabbos] in a community of *Kulo Kodesh* [referring to Charedi environments]", and that we can "learn *hitlahavut* from the Charedim", "we can give them education just as they can do [to us...]." He said that educating Charedim about the validity of our religious perspective is "well worth all the

exertion" since "many of them just don't know us." R' Lamm concluded this first segment with a defense of Modern Orthodoxy, admitting that while many constituents do, for example, talk during prayer services, "[which is] outrageous and disgraceful...[it is not] indicative [of a fault in the movement]," noting that "Chassidim are rude too."

More Religious; Less Religious

The next issue on the agenda dealt with the opposite end of the spectrum - relating with Jews whose views are more liberal than our own. Rabbi Lamm began by clearly declaring his own take on the matter, rhetorically asking "isn't some Judaism better than none? My answer is an almost unqualified 'yes'." He added that [we are dealing with] *pikuach nefesh*, literally...not saving [the] body, but the *neshamah*. Faced with the disillusioning prospect of a theoretical Jewish cousin's affiliation with "Conservative, or Jews for Jesus, or the yellow mush of *stam* Americanism", the R' Lamm said simply "I know my choice."

On Pluralism

"Pluralism" Rabbi Lamm referred to as a buzzword...a symbol...[and, along with egalitarianism] the greatest mitzvot...*yehureg v'al yaavor* [in the eyes of Jewish liberals]." He stated that "sacred cows, like golden calves, lead people astray...[There are] 70, but not infinite numbers of interpretations [of the words of the Torah]...If everything is kosher, nothing is kosher." He mentioned however, how prevalent the notion has become and enjoined those in attendance to educate themselves on the matter, noting that "the Labor party [and the] UJA are pluralistic. The Orthodox is the odd man out. We have to know how to defend our position."

R' Lamm's interpretation of the Orthodox position is that with regard to "political/cultural pluralism, I take it, but not religious pluralism...[towards a movement that is] not legitimate in following Jewish law...[I am] pluralistic within the framework of Halacha." On the other hand however, R' Lamm did not dismiss affiliation with Reform and Conservative Jews altogether, noting, in a possible reference to the controversy currently circulating about the Edah movement, that he has "no problem accepting donations [from non-Orthodox groups]. [Should I] take away their opportunity to perform a mitzvah?" adding that many religious institutions, including the Ponevezh yeshiva, accept contributions from non-religious people. With regard to political dealings with non-Jews, the Rosh Yeshiva asked similarly "should we not follow [a non-religious] guy in [the fight against] anti-Semitism...or Ben-Gurion? [The right-wingers say] 'I'm going to represent [the Jewish people]', but they've never left the Yeshiva." He further exhorted us to "bear in mind, we're one people", and quoted the Rav saying that "there's something that binds all of us as Jews if they identify as Jews."

The Agudas HaRabbonim

The University President then turned to the controversy involving the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, who recently released a statement calling the Reform and Conservative movements "not Judaism", and urging Jews affiliated with

those movements to abandon their temples and come to Orthodox shuls "where they will be warmly welcomed." The Rosh Yeshiva saved his most critical and disparaging remarks for this topic, prognosticating that "[the Reform and Conservative Jews] will leave their synagogues and temples and won't come to shul." He alleged that while the ideas put forth in the statement have long been held by these (and other) rabbis, the Agudas HaRabbonim "said it in a way to aggravate people", and called the statement and the subsequent attention the issue received "...a PR coup...[the] most effective way to *benechalel shem shamayim*.... Do I recognize [the legitimacy of their philosophies?] Chas ve'Shalom...[But there is a distinction between] validity and legitimacy...[Saying they are valid] acknowledge[s] that they exist and have power. [Saying they're legitimate is] saying that according to Halacha, [they're kosher]." Rabbi Lamm did attempt to defend the members of the Agudah by blaming the harshness of their statement on the Rabbis' background: "people my age [were] fed ideas 40 years ago. [They] knew [the reforming movements] as rebellions [and their constituents as] religious traitors. [But it's] not like that anymore." As proof, he cited an instance in which he was invited to speak at the Jewish Theological Seminary, a Conservative rabbinical institution. After receiving permission to speak uncensored from the administration Rabbi Lamm delivered a shiur in which he delineated exactly what aspects of Conservative theology he disagreed with, and watched as the JTS faculty fumed in the background. When he finished, instead of being lambasted by the crowd, he surprisingly got a "standing ovation". Rabbi Lamm used this story to prove the fact that Reform and Conservative Jews are "innocent", not the antagonistic and rancorous heretics of yesteryear. He mentioned that "whoever says that [Reform and Conservative people are] not Jews...is spitting in the face of Halacha. [To argue such a position is] first rate *pikusus*". (The Agudah also explicitly stated that despite their affiliations, Reform and Conservative Jews are truly Jewish, but that element of their statement was misconstrued and misunderstood by much of the media.) Rabbi Lamm concluded this segment of the lecture, which some might erroneously dub "rabbi-bashing", by saying that while he doesn't subscribe "to [the notion of] *Da'as Torah*, the idea that the words of great rabbis are virtually infallible, [I do feel that a person is] worthy of great respect if he lived his life steeped in Torah."

Kiruv Rechokim

The final issue dealt with was one of *kiruv*; how do we as *nei Torah* impart Orthodoxy to non-religious Jews? "Is it better," the pamphlet asked, "to faithfully convey what we understand the Orthodox position to be, even if doing so will alienate non-Orthodox questioners? How much should we misrepresent our faith in order to dispose others favorably towards it?" Rabbi Lamm proceeded to elucidate some mitzvot that might be difficult for the modern and rational mind to accept and understand, like *korbanot*. In the same vein as a passage from the *Rambam*, the Rosh Yeshiva explained that at the "time the Torah was given, that [korbanot] was the way to perform religious service. When you love, you give." With regard to another unusual

mitzvah, that of killing Amalek, he advised students that if faced with the question they should simply remark "*lo yad'ati* [I don't know]. [Today, there is] no one here from Amalek. [The mitzvah today is that] we only remember, not kill," adding that "if the *goyim* did that to us, we'd be much better [off]."

Individual Responsibility

Finally, Rabbi Lamm distinguished between the secular and Jewish view on the rights and responsibilities of the sexes, remarking that "men are men...[and] women are women...[As there is] gender differentiation, [so too are there] different laws... Separate but equal is unequal in the Supreme Court...[but] we disagree. [With regard to] blacks and whites, yes [there is equality]...[but] men and women have different obligations [just as] Cohen, Levi, and Yisrael do."

As part of his concluding remarks, Rabbi Lamm provided his listeners with *kiruv* advice, particularly with regard to sensitive issues such as these. He adjured the audience not to "misrepresent [Judaism. It's] *kasur* to lie, but there's no mitzva to tell the truth. [One is allowed to] shade [the truth] for the sake of *shalom bayit*. [A potential] student can't take it all at once...[you] have to go step by step...simplify in order to elucidate...[one has] to know what not to say...and what is said has to be said understandably." R' Lamm provided an example of an instance in which he himself had to offer such restraint when invited to speak to the Jewish community in India. He related that some of the Jews in that southeastern Asian country have adopted Hindu practices and philosophies of reincarnation and quasi-idolatry in addition to their Jewish observance. As a result, one of the more common questions R' Lamm was asked during his speaking engagements was the Jewish take on such ideas. Despite the fact that there does exist kabbalistic writings suggesting *gilgul neshamot*, "[I had a] moral obligation to keep Jews away from *woodah zarah*...[I] had to make sure they wouldn't assimilate, so I denounced the idea." In a final, one sentence summation of Rabbi Lamm's advice for optimal *kiruv* effectiveness, he concluded by quipping that it's "conduct and attitude that wins people."

Following the lecture, the floor was open to questions from those in attendance, and many students availed themselves of the unique and rare opportunity to clarify their Rosh Yeshiva's position on matters of Hashkafa. Some of his more memorable quotes included: "Giving to [the] UJA is a means of identification [for many Jews]. [We] have to encourage [such measures] as long as it's not violating [the] Torah." "Every time a Jew is lost to us, we have to feel pain...[it has to] hurt us deeply...[We've] got [to] save [them by] throw[ing] out anything you have...[you] can't be that finicky when they're drowning."

All in all, based on the huge attendance and proportionally large number of students who stayed around at the end to ask the rabbi questions individually, the Dorm Talks was a tremendous success. As a fitting conclusion to an evening dedicated to the differing perspectives all along the Jewish theological spectrum, one student was overheard jokingly articulating Yeshiva University's unique *weltanschauung*: "How many Roshei Yeshiva do you know who can get up and speak in front of hundreds of talmidim with a backdrop of a 50 inch TV?"

Yeshiva College



Campus News

Buskin, Fine Receive Senior Awards

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

After a year of toil by many seniors and professors, the Senior class cast ballots for Senior class awards, which recognize students for various aspects of service they have provided. YCSC president Jason Buskin and former YCSC president Josh Fine received the student awards and Political Science Professor Ross Zucker was awarded Professor of the Year.

The award process consisted of candidates nominating themselves for the awards, and writing an essay on why they felt themselves deserving of the honor. The members of the Senior class then vote. They also voted for an outstanding faculty member, one from Yeshiva College, and one from the Sy Syms School of Business.

In recognition of his service and dedication to the student body of Yeshiva University, Buskin was chosen for the "Philip Leiberman service to Yeshiva University" award. Expressing his thanks to the Senior class for choosing him, Buskin said "It is extremely nice to be recognized by my peers, and it is truly an honor. It is a really

nice finish to my tenure as YCSC president."

Joshua Fine, past president of YCSC, was chosen for the "Steven Gladstein Service to the Jewish Community" award. He was confirmed by the Senior class as one who donated of his time and energies to the entire Jewish community, and truly made an impact in the lives of others. Fine thanked his fellow Seniors, and said "It is a great honor to be chosen, and to be recognized. I am truly and deeply honored." He plans on continuing to serve the greater Jewish community in whatever capacity he is able, wherever he may find himself.

Chosen as the outstanding faculty member of Yeshiva College by the Senior class Professor Zucker received an award for his dedication and hard work, and his constant level of excellence in teaching.

The Seniors also chose Professor Joel Hochman of SSSB. Their selection was negated, though. They were told that an outstanding faculty member would be chosen with an election exclusively for SSSB Seniors, and not from the entire senior class voting.

YU's Annual Commencement Exercises to Feature Chief Rabbi of Britain

BY J.J. LANDO

Yeshiva University will hold its 66th annual commencement exercises on Thursday, May 22, at 11 A.M. in the Theater at Madison Square Garden. The Chief Rabbi of the British Commonwealth, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, will address the graduating students and will be one of these seven individuals to receive honorary doctorate degrees.

Sacks was elected Chief Rabbi of Great Britain's United Synagogues in 1991 at only 41 years of age. He is a renowned author of works on Jewish thought, philosophy and the Talmud. University President Rabbi Norman Lamm, who will be representing the honorary degrees, stated that Sacks "worked tirelessly and often thanklessly to stress the qualities that unite rather than divide Jews, while, at the same time, adhering strictly to the laws that have guided our people for thousands of years."

About one thousand diplomas will be presented at the May 22 exercises from: YC, SCW, Sy Syms School of Business, JSS, IBC, the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education, The Bernard Revel Graduate School, The Ferkau Graduate School of Psychology, and the Wurzeiler School of Social Work. FGS and WSSW will hold their own additional ceremonies later in the day.

The other honorary doctorate recipients are: Charles H. Bendheim, a University Trust-

ee and President of Philipp Brothers Chemicals; Dr. Gerald Blidstein, the chairman of the Department of Jewish Studies and Professor of Jewish Law at Ben-Gurion University; Erica Jesselson, chairperson of the YU Museum Board of Governors; Kurt Rothschild, president of the Toronto-area Canadian Friends of YU and RIETS trustee; Rabbi Melech Schachter, a YU faculty member since 1951 who has taught at BRGS, SCSW, and WSSW; and Bernard Sharfstein, legal counsel and publisher at KTAV publishing house. The honorees have had a significant impact on the spread of Jewish education either through both their generous philanthropy and personal scholarship.

The Albert Einstein College of Medicine will have its 39th Annual Commencement on June 5 at the Jack and Pearl Resnick campus, along with the Sue Golding Graduate Division of Medical Sciences and the Belfer Institute for Advanced Biomedical Studies. The Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law will hold its 19th Annual Commencement on June 15th at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall. The Marsha Stern Talmudic Academy YUHS for Boys will have its graduation exercises at the Main Campus on June 22. The Samuel H. Wang YUHS for Girls will honor its graduates June 23rd, also at the Main Campus. WSSW will honor graduates of its Block Education Plan on July 31st at the Main Campus.



Photo: YUJPR

MYP Rosh Yeshiva R' Mordechai Willig dancing with new Sefer Torah donated by SOY.

New Torah Dedicated in Memory of R' Lifshitz

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

A Sefer Torah in memory of the Suvalker Rav, Rav Dovid Lifshitz was dedicated during a *Hachnosas Sefer Torah* ceremony in Belfer Hall's Weissberg Commons on Sunday, April 6. The ceremony, in honor of the Torah luminary who served as a RIETS Rosh Yeshiva for over half a century, and was well attended with over four hundred people listening to the speakers at the event, and hundreds more joining the musical procession escorting the Sefer Torah across campus to its new home in the main Beit Midrash.

The Sefer Torah was commissioned by the Student Organization of Yeshiva, which represents the students of the Yeshiva Program/Mazer School of Talmudic Studies and the Rabbi Isaac Elchonon Theological Seminary. The reported cost of the Torah scroll exceeded \$35,000, which was raised by SOY. Jonathan Neiss, president of SOY, said "Rabbi Lifshitz was able to combine his vast Torah scholarship with a warmth that all the talmidim benefited from."

Featured speakers at the event included University president, Rabbi Norman Lamm, who extolled Reb Dovid's virtues and his years of teaching at RIETS. R' Lifshitz's son-in-law, Rabbi Nosson Kamenetzky, spoke about his father-in-law in glowing, reverent tones, and described his utter dedication to the Torah and her values.

The speakers were followed by a joyous musical procession, which took the Sefer Torah across the street to the main Beit Midrash, where it was ensconced in the *Aron Kodesh* [Ark]. The music and the celebration attracted a large crowd, which enthusiastically joined the celebration, enhancing the festivities for all. Adam Katz, SSSB '98, said "It was really nice; the whole Yeshiva came together to honor and commemorate a true *gadol b'Torah* who left an indelible legacy for generations to come."

Born in Minsk, Reb Dovid, as his students affectionately called him, became the chief rabbi of Suvalk, Poland at the age of 29, and began teaching at RIETS in 1939. He passed on in June, 1993.

Kahn, Streit To Head

Commentator Volume Sixty-Two continued from page one

tor with great regard. It provided and continues to provide the students with a forum for representation, discussion and accountability. I look forward to slaving with my co-editor, Ari, and the new governing board to continue *The Commentator* tradition while also expanding her horizons. I hope that I can translate my garnered experiences with the paper into future excellence."

Outgoing co-Editor-in-Chief Arnon Storf mentioned that he was quite confident that he was leaving the newspaper in good hands. "Both Ari and Noah are talented journalists, who are competent in reporting the news students have a right to know in a

fair and timely manner. They have a tremendous amount to offer the undergraduate community here at YU, and the student body should be excited about reading next year's *Commentator*."

Joshua Feldman, outgoing co-Editor-in-Chief, echoed Storf's thoughts. "I have no doubt that both Ari and Noah will continue to make *The Commentator* an ongoing YU tradition."

Kahn and Streit will choose their governing board in the upcoming days, and will officially produce the first issue of volume sixty-two's of *The Commentator* after Passover.

Rabbi Willig Addresses Large Crowd On Women's Obligation at the Seder

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

Addressing more than four hundred people in Weissberg Commons, comprised of students from Yeshiva College, Stern College, and members of the community, MYP Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Mordechai Willig gave a shiur on the topic of "A Woman's Halachic obligations at the Seder."

Rabbi Willig began by dedicating his shiur, to the late Rabbi Shimon Romm ZTL, the longtime MYP Rosh Yeshiva. He then stated that he chose the topic "in deference to the half of the room on my right," referring to the women who came to hear the Rabbi's shiur.

After encapsulating the Halachic obligations of the Seder, R' Willig delineated which are applicable to women, and

the Halachic reasoning behind these injunctions. He stated, that even though some of these mitzvot are time-related, which would negate a woman's obligation to perform them, there may be reasons that women would be obligated to perform them, and perhaps the woman's obligation may be construed as *ad'oraita*, or biblical, rather than rabbinical obligations.

Using a four-step approach to various rulings in the *Rambam* and in the *Sefer Hachinuch*, R' Willig systematically reviewed each mitzvah, and its possible ramifications for women. He stated each opinion, and used a touch of "Brisker" methodology to derive his conclusions for each one. The Rabbi also took the opportunity to state his own Halachic rulings on the topic, and to give his opinion to the assembled masses.

Two MTA Brothers Hit By Cop Car

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

On Monday, April 7, Jon and Eli Shillowitz, students at The Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy, the high school affiliate of Yeshiva University, were hit by an NYPD squad car which ran a red light. The two students were rushed to Columbia Presbyterian and upon release later that evening, returned to their MTA dorm rooms.

Around 3:50 on Monday afternoon, Jon and Eli were about to cross the street from the West side of 186th and Amsterdam Avenue to the East side of the street. As the light was about to change, giving them the right of way, one police car sped by. When the light changed, the brothers proceeded to walk across the street.

According to eye witnesses and Jon Shillowitz, a second police car from the 34th Precinct, ran the red light without sirens and lights and hit both the brothers. Jon was hit, bounced off the hood and slid

to the side of the vehicle. "When I got up, I didn't realize that my brother had been hit till he told me," said Jon.

The Hatzolah volunteer ambulance corps was immediately called. The EMTs placed Jon and his brother into neck braces. Although the brothers said that they felt fine, it is Hatzolah's policy to take all minors they treat to the hospital unless a guardian signs a release form.

The brothers were then transported to Columbia Presbyterian where they were both treated and x-rayed. According to Jon they were both "fine," and were returned by their father to their dorm room later that evening.

Jon told *The Commentator* that there would be no charges filed against the police department, although he did notice on the following evening, that another police vehicle from the 34th Precinct ran a red light without its sirens audible or lights visible. The police department was unavailable for comment.



Photo: Hadar Weiss

YCSC Throws NCAA Bash

BY SAM RITTER

Following the formula of its successful Superbowl party in January, YCSC threw a second, comparable bash, this time celebrating the NCAA Division One Mens' Basketball Championship game which featured the Universities of Kentucky and Arizona Wildcats who faced off. Students were provided with hoagies and buffalo wings from Dougies free of charge.

Once the food was dished out, students gazed at the big screen television, hoping their favorite team would be the

victor—especially those who had money riding on the game. After each basket half the crowd seemed to jump up in sheer joy while the other half moaned in agony. The two teams were neck and neck throughout the entire game, leaving the fans holding onto their seats.

During halftime a raffle was held to aid the Israeli based charity Y ad Ezra. Money raised were earmarked to help facilitate the celebration of Pesach by many poor families in Israel. The grand prize went to Yaacov Weinstein who won two round-trip tickets to Israel.

The Commentator would like to extend its heartfelt condolences to Dean Hecht and Family on the loss of his father

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SOY Presidential Elections Marred by Controversy

New Elections April 16

BY CHANAN HOSCHANDER

After reports of sabotage and scandal, the results of the April 3 SOY presidential election were voided. Students will have an opportunity to vote again on April 16, although this time, only one candidate, Menachem Luftglass, will appear on the ballot.

On Tuesday night, April 1, Aryeh Sheinbein, who was one of three candidates in the presidential race, removed his name from the ballot. The current SOY Vice President stated that he was the victim of specific malicious practices, such as the removal of his campaign signs from the bulletin board to which they were affixed.

Although he admitted he was frustrated by these actions, Sheinbein claims that they did not directly affect his decision to drop out of the race. Rather, he attributed his action to a reconsideration of the adverse effects that the time-consuming position would have had on him should he have been elected.

A second candidate for the presidential post, Dror Barber, also claimed to be the victim of similar acts aimed at sabotaging his campaign. According to a list of events submitted by Barber to *The Commentator* one election day, he became aware of such activities on Saturday night, March 29, the first night of permissible public campaigning.

That night, Barber's staff put up campaign signs. Four to five hours later they noticed that these same signs had been removed. This occurred again on Sunday night.

On Tuesday night, Barber's camp noticed that the signs put up prior to that night's debate had been removed, with the exception of two signs. These two signs had been defaced by someone who had scrawled sarcastic references vis-à-vis the content of the signs.

The following morning, Barber went to current SOY President Jonathan Neiss and

informed him of these events. Barber also told Neiss of a witness' report to Barber that the SOY Secretary, Mr. Dov Siegman, had been responsible for removing and defacing the signs. The report was not entirely confirmed, but the chairman of the Canvassing Committee, Nir Knoll, was instructed by Neiss to speak to Siegman in an effort to halt his alleged inappropriate activities.

Siegman denied removing any signs. However he admitted to writing sarcastic remarks on four such signs prior to the warning from Knoll. He claims that of these four signs, only three were related to the election, and at least one belonged to each of the two remaining presidential candidates, Barber and Menachem Luftglass.

While it has been confirmed that Barber's signs were indeed tampered with, no confirmation of Luftglass having had a sign sabotaged has been obtained. When asked why he defaced the signs, Siegman replied, "I thought they were silly."

Additional difficulties have arisen because Siegman admittedly spent time working for the Luftglass campaign. On the morning of the election, Siegman disseminated "An Open Letter to All Candidates." In this letter, which Siegman admits to have authored, he outlines a protest directed at various unnamed candidates - that they, via their immature campaigns, have proven themselves unworthy for the positions for which they were running. The letter began with general complaints about empty and irrelevant promises.

This second page, however, was addressed to a candidate, in the singular. It stated that this candidate, "insulted our intelligence by placing signs with nothing but his name... and the suggestion that we vote for him as president or whatever... take solace in the fact that we are voting for the better candidate, your opponent."

Although no specific candidate's name was mentioned, additional comments, seemingly specifically directed, caused the Barber camp to consider this a, "scathing letter attacking [their] whole campaign."

Siegman stated that, "It was pretty clear that Dror Barber was included in [this letter], if you were looking for it. If you followed his campaign you can find enough lines that relate to it." However, he maintains that it was directed at a number of candidates to whom he wished to publish his message.

When the SOY Canvassing Committee became aware of Siegman's activities they confiscated his materials. Luftglass, who had knowledge of the letter and its dissemination, claimed to have told Siegman to stop on numerous occasions because he felt it was hurting, rather than helping, his campaign.

Siegman has supported Luftglass' claim. In addition, he has stated that when he distributed his flyer, he was no longer working for the Luftglass campaign, but rather as a "private citizen" who was attempting to voice his opinion. Moreover, Siegman emphasized that he did not intend to act in any official position, such as that of SOY Secretary, while he engaged in any activities pertaining to the election.

Results of the election or any definitive statement with respect to it were not publicized until the early morning of April 7th, three days subsequent to the balloting. The official explanation for this apparent delay in action from the SOY Executive Board stated that, "the time that was used was needed in order to fully determine the specifics of the events regarding the election and to review all viable options before making a decision."

On April 8, Neiss, Sheinbein, SOY Treasurer Daniel Frogel, and Knoll announced that they had decided to invalidate the elections and reschedule them for Wednesday April 16. The date was chosen in order to coincide with the SSSB reelection in hopes that voter turnout will benefit from the dual polls. They attributed their decision to the general perpetration of election improprieties.

The board told *The Commentator* that the SOY Constitution does not specifically deal with such matters, but does give the SOY

Board and the Canvassing Committee the right to make decisions on unusual situations. The statement of explanation for the decision was as follows: "We do not wish to incriminate any one of the candidates in the presidential election. We are not holding any candidate responsible for illicit activities nor do we find fault with any of these candidates. There were problems related to the integrity of the election process. As such, the SOY Board and the Canvassing Committee deemed it necessary to hold a new election."

They stated that the candidates were robbed of the right to campaign freely due to the defacing of signs and rampant disregard for the right of public electioneering. Neiss wished to emphasize that, "We hold no candidate responsible. There was a deficiency in the system and the election process. We try to offer a fair election for all candidates."

Barber Drops Out; Siegman Resigns

On Tuesday night, April 8, Dror Barber informed the SOY Board that he wished to remove his name from the ballot. He told *The Commentator*, "I think that the fashion in which the new election would take place would make it necessary for me to do a lot more work, even though I have already run a fair campaign." He told *The Commentator* that he still hopes to be involved in SOY next year.

On Wednesday night, Siegman resigned from his position as Secretary on the SOY Board. Siegman declined to comment to *The Commentator*. Neiss, speaking on behalf of the remaining Board members, stated that, "We believed that he had violated our own election regulations and disrupted the process that we, including him, were responsible for. Therefore, we feel that his resignation was warranted and was the appropriate course of action."

The SOY Board plans to run the April 16 election without Barber's name on the ballot. The only official candidate whose name will appear is Menachem Luftglass. With regard to his now unopposed bid, he stated, "It is unfortunate for all parties involved." The SOY Board intends to leave a space for a write-in candidate as it did for the original election.

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Caf Hashgacha Comes Under Fire

continued from page one

in disposable aluminum trays, there was no need to *kasher* the pots and pans in the Kitchen. However, Rabbi Reiss did mention that he had "any of the beaters and serving utensils that had come into any contact with the rice *kasher*ed immediately."

Despite these measures, many students have complained about the lack of initiative taken by cafeteria officials upon being notified of the absence of a certification of *kashrus*. These students feel that the phone calls to the Uncle Ben's plant should have been made by YU officials immediately.

One of Many Problems

This development comes as just the latest in a series of smaller concerns that have been festering over the past year. Earlier, a number of YU students noticed that the cafeteria has been using products that have *hashgachot* from certain organizations that are not accepted by a large portion of the student body. Although these students were given assurances that these *hashgachot* have been accepted by many legitimate Orthodox rabbeim, the student still felt that as a yeshiva, YU must follow more stringent *Kashrus* restrictions than the average Jewish household, or that, at a minimum, conform to the *kashrus* standards which most students have in their homes. One YU student complained that "we are in a yeshiva with lower standards than those

for *baal ha'batim*. It doesn't matter if you can justify these things, the *hashgacha* of a yeshiva must be higher than regular *hashgachot*." Furthermore, the student lamented that "students are being held hostage by the caf card. They are being forced to eat foods that they would not allow in their own homes."

In another unrelated incident, some students discovered that some of the labels of the Healthy Trends brand Juice Blend in the cafeteria, stated that the product contained grape juice which is not permissible *m'drabban* [according to the Rabbis] because of a rabbinic prohibition of *stam yeinam* [against drinking regular gentile wine]. The Juice blend had been under the *hashgacha* of KIHPA, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, headed by Rabbi Chaim Sherz. Students informed the officials at the cafeteria and called Rabbi Sherz of their discovery. Rabbi Sherz responded immediately by contacting the company and finding out that the company had indeed changed the ingredients in its product two weeks after his monthly inspection. Rabbi Sherz informed *The Commentator* that he removed the KIHPA *hashgacha* from the product and called the YU cafeteria within the hour of his inquiry into the company's actions. Rabbi Sherz also contacted all distributors of the product immediately to ensure that the *hashgacha* was removed.

After calling the Cafeteria the next day,

Rabbi Sherz was pleased to find out that the kitchen officials had removed the Healthy Trends brand Juice Blends right after receiving his initial phone call. Rabbi Sherz explained that this incident was a result of "federal regulations that allow a company to maintain a label even though it is misleading." Rabbi Sherz was also very appreciative of the YU students who brought this problem to his attention.

These events led to the formation of the SOY *Kashrus* Committee consisting of MYP and Semicha students. David Danzer, a Semicha student at YU and the head of the committee stated that the committee was created to "address the *Kashrus* concerns of the students in an organized manner, and to act as a liaison between the students and food services on *kashrus* issues." Two weeks ago, upon its inception, the committee had a meeting with YU officials and Rabbi Reiss. At the meeting, according to committee members, Rabbi Reiss agreed to quietly stop using certain *hashgachot* that are not accepted by a large portion of the students, provide the *Kashrus* committee with a list of *hashgachot* that are accepted by the YU cafeteria, and maintain stricter guidelines for checking vegetables for bugs. However, many committee members felt that the questionable items were not being removed.

The growing problems in the cafeteria were finally resolved this past Thursday, after the *Kashrus* Committee received a report from the research department of the Uncle Ben's plant in Houston detailing the breakdown of the ingredients of the questionable rice seasonings. This led to the calling of an emergency meet-

ing between members of the SOY *Kashrus* Committee, Rabbi Reiss, and YU officials. Rabbi Reiss explained that the meeting was about whether or not there is a need for any further *hechsher kelim* and how to deal with the remaining products that had not been removed.

Rabbi Reiss explained to *The Commentator* that in Halacha there is a concept that *eid echad ne'eman b'Isurrim* [in matters of what is forbidden we can rely on the testimony of one witness] and therefore to say that "whatever Rabbi Ralbag says is not kosher is not *k'din*." Nevertheless out of respect to the students' wishes, Rabbi Reiss stated that he has agreed to eliminate any of the products that they expressed to him as having *kashrus* certification that many students do not follow such as those with Rabbi Ralbag's "Triangle-K" certification. However, Rabbi Reiss added that this is no indication and should not cast dispersion on the legitimacy of these *hashgachot* "because we have no right to label someone as a *ma'achil treifos* [one who eats non-kosher]."

Commenting on this matter, officials at YU have stated that they appreciate the vigilance of the students, particularly David Danzer, in their efforts to help alleviate the complications in the cafeteria. In addition, YU officials have given their assurances to the students that there are no halachic problems with eating in the cafeteria and that whatever problems have come up "have been quickly rectified. And there will be a mechanism to fix them and prevent any mistakes that are possible even in the strictest kitchens."

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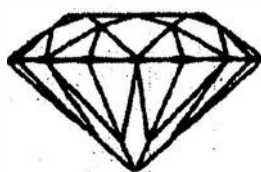
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YU Students Join Thousands At Annual AIPAC Conference

SHMUEL BODENHEIMER

Twenty-five Yeshiva University undergraduates joined more than 1000 students from more than 125 college campuses and over 1200 Jewish community activists from across the country at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's (AIPAC) 38th Annual Policy Conference in Washington DC April 6-8.

The annual conference featured distinguished speakers including Al Gore, Newt Gingrich, and Benjamin Netanyahu, and Chaim Herzog, whose principal purpose was to garner American support for Israel and produce the next generation of activists for Israel.

Following a friendly welcome to the participants and a quick overview describing the tremendous task of the AIPAC as a lobbying body for and representative of Israel's interests to the American government, the opening plenary began with Knesset Minister Yuli Edelstein, former Israeli president Chaim Herzog, and United States ambassador to the UN Bill Richardson, each discussing the essence of the "Zionist Dream" and what causes will work to unite us toward maintaining this dream into the next millennium.

Following the addresses, those in attendance splintered off to join various forums including briefings on the Iranian threat of nuclear terrorism, the long term goals of Syria and Egypt, Middle East economics, and potential outcomes to the Palestinian talks.

The evening plenary was headlined by vice president Al Gore who entertained the audience with a surprisingly lively comedy routine after receiving a "Mazal Tov" on his daughter's upcoming marriage. Gore reiterated his support for a strong and warm American-Israeli friendship and emphasized that "terrorism will on no grounds be tolerated - period." Though the Vice President seemed to echo President Clinton's policy providing no innovative propositions, the assembly was very satisfied with his remarks and his genuine concern for Israel's well being.

Day two of the three day conference featured key players in the Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations Dennis Ross and Dore Gold, who discussed the behind the scenes factors playing a role in the headline stories. The day was also used to educate the participants on lobbying effectively on Capitol Hill in the pursuit of pro-Israel aims.

That evening, nearly half of the United States Senate, 93 House representatives, as well as many other prominent US and Israeli government officials, joined at the conference's main event, a banquet which featured a speech by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Despite a difficult afternoon in which he was harassed by the American media and apparently accomplished little in lengthy and arduous peace discussions with President Clinton, Netanyahu was in excellent form. The Prime Minister captivated the audience, hit home on the

issues, and stood firm on his goal of "peace with security" in the Middle East. During the course of his speech, Netanyahu blasted the American media for repeatedly presenting an inaccurate picture of the Middle East situation by distorting the facts, whether intentionally or unwittingly.

The Prime Minister proceeded to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks and Oslo Accords, reiterating that while Israel stayed true to the accords, Yassir Arafat and the Palestinian Authority have not followed suit. Netanyahu also asserted that construction underway on Har Homa should not be an issue. "Bibi" closed his remarks by emphasizing that terrorism will never be justified and certainly will not be accepted as a means of furthering a political agenda. Referring to Har Homa and the recent Palestinian terrorist attacks and riots to which Arafat essentially gave a "green light," Netanyahu asserted that Israelis should not have to "buy the right to live."

Overall, Netanyahu appeared to be well received by those in attendance. One student commented, "I felt as if Bibi was speaking my mind. He addressed the various important sectors of the crowd, each accurately, yet diplomatically. I found his speech reassuring and I hope this message, in its true context, finds its way into living rooms across America through public television."

During the final day of the conference, those in attendance were able to try their hands on lobbying on Capitol Hill, speak with their local Senators and House representatives. Many students were surprised by the eagerness of Congressmen to hear what their collegiate constituents had to say. AIPAC President elect Leonard Kaplan, commented that students meeting with their governmental representatives is a "great opportunity to make an impression on members of both Houses while educating many of them on issues they are unaware of. For AIPAC, it was a no opportunity to build new relationships while strengthening existing ones."

Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, received standing ovations throughout his address, speaking toward the close of the conference. The Speaker forcefully condemned the Palestinian Authority's violations, and reminded Israel to be careful in dealing with the Palestinian Authority, because they have not followed the agreements stipulated in the Oslo Accords. Gingrich emphasized that Israel needs to start scoring some points in the "media war," a war which "unfortunately, they are badly losing." Equally important, he said, Israel must continue to develop their defense forces and capabilities, as they still face many old enemies.

Daniel Anziska, New York AIPAC liaison was optimistic about the results of the conference. "I felt the students enjoyed DC while getting a first hand look at political activism at the fundamental level. Maybe this introduction to political activity will invigorate the campus political climate."

STUDENT CRITIQUE

Ordinary People

BY DANIEL ANZISKA

Anthony Beukas' awkwardly paced presentation of Judith Guest's *Ordinary People*, is the perfect example of the pratfalls of amateur production. Despite solid acting and dramatic subject matter, the production is ponderous and disjointed, never meshing into a cohesive work. The play, based on Robert Redford's Oscar winning film by the same title, deals with the difficult and potentially overwrought subject of suicide and its affects on the perfect American family. The play's hero, Connie Jarret, solidly played by Jeremy Danzer, is meant to be a sympathetic, yet strong personality who has difficulty dealing with his guilt. He is the central character of the work, the pillar in which the remaining characters are meant to play off of. But in Beukas' staging, Connie is bland and lacks true emotional depth - a fact that makes it difficult for the supporting cast to interact with him. I never believe that Connie has attempted suicide or truly feels guilty for his brother's drowning. Don't get me wrong, Danzer recites his lines impassionately and looks quite upset, but we are still never drawn into the depths of his character, a fact that should not be blamed on the actor. Connie is a nearly impossible role and it's no coincidence that Timothy Hutton (the film's Connie) won an Oscar for his portrayal.

But even ignoring the underdevelopment of Connie, there are still a number of difficulties with the staging. Firstly, the Japanese style of scenery (as well as singing) appears woefully out of place. The constant scene changes by cast members throws off the rhythm and disintegrates any tension that has been building up. Additionally, the early ensemble choral effort by the supporting players, especially, the night I attended, during Connie's first dream sequence, drew unintended audience laughter and came off as a campy take on what should have been a serious scene.

Another difficulty that this production runs into is the lack of females present in the cast. While this difficulty was neatly avoided during such recent YCDS productions as *Conversations With My Father* and *Inherit The Wind* in this case, the dearth of women inhibits this play. Alan Schwartz, a fine actor, does his best at portraying Beth Jarret in all of her emotional chill. He has the cold, distant country club WASP down

to a tee, with all of the pent up anger and years of resentment brimming through, about to explode. Yet, despite his performance, there are a few uneasy scenes with both Connie and his husband (Josh Fine), especially touchy ones, in which the sexual tension resonating from stage downright gives one the shivers. To put it mildly, these scenes could only have worked with a woman.

The remainder of the cast, which is almost entirely underutilized, also suffers from the lack of tension. The actors, who tend to speak in that jet-quick, manneristic style of Forties movie stars, should have been told to slow down by Beukas. For the most part, they are racing through their lines, as if they are in a rush to finish their scenes. For this reason, Josh Fine's even tempered Cal, gives the audience an important respite. Fine's calm demeanor and apologetic character, nicely offsets Schwartz's tense Beth. Also, Phil Bak, criminally underused, brings a self-assured style to the less than confident Kevin, conveying a desperate tone in his slacken demeanor, not with loud words. He and Fine's restrained performances help the production.

The humorous side story, consisting of Connie's hapless swimming teammates, brings much needed breaks in the serious subject matter. Johnny Lewis, a YCDS veteran (*Sherlock's Last Case*), is wasted in the role of Laz, but still manages to display comic potential. Yoni Lieber (Coach Salan) hysterically overacts. And Mark Shinnar proves to be a real find, stealing every scene that he is in with his Richard Simmonsesque portrayal of a swimmer. With his eyes widely opened, his voice outrageously high and his arms flailing around uncontrollably, Mark is a natural and someone should get him in touch with John Waters real soon.

Overall, Beukas' production, which ultimately suffers from a lack of tension and connection between the characters, should probably be written off as a poor selection for YCDS. It's minimalist background (in which the stage is far too close to the audience) and overwrought dialogue prove fatal to the play. However, Jeremy Danzer, as well as most of the cast, put in respectable performances, especially Josh Fine, who came in with only a couple of weeks to spare. This play should have been put back into the cutting room where more of the characters should have been fleshed out. This would have alleviated the pressure on Danzer and allowed for a more even production.

Mazal Tov to:

**Elie Borger and Iris Ofer
Chaim Zakheim and Sara Carmel
on their recent engagements**

SSSB Presidential Elections Voided

Scandal Creates Tension on Campus

BY MORDECHAI FISHMAN

After a tumultuous campaign and a contested election for the position of SSSB president, the YCSC Canvassing Committee, in conjunction with the presidents of YCSC and SSSB, canceled the results of the elections without tallying the votes, and rescheduled the elections for Wednesday, April 16.

The cancellation was revealed as being officially due to the Canvassing Committee's own actions, which were felt to have "significantly altered the playing field" and changed the outcome of the elections.

Originally, three students declared their candidacies for the position of SSSB president: Simcha Gissinger, Heshy Willig, and Daniel Berkowitz. Each one campaigned vigorously to sway the student body and garner extra votes. Fliers were printed, and posted on bulletin boards and the inside of bathroom stall doors to maximize publicity.

The campaigning reached its peak just before election day, Thursday, April 10. But when students awoke to vote on Thursday, they were greeted with a scene of rancorous debate in front of Morgestern Hall, and with the news that instead of three potential presidents, there were now only two candidates for the top job. Daniel Berkowitz had dropped out.

In a letter circulated by his campaign, Mr. Berkowitz stated "I am removing myself from the SySyms presidential race for the sole reason of endorsing Heshy Willig," and put the time of his withdrawal as 11:00 P.M. Wednesday evening. He urged all of his supporters to vote for Mr. Willig, and said that he would

be the best man for the job.

This sudden decision, and the whole-hearted endorsement of a rival candidate was seen by many as inherently suspicious, and Gissinger voiced his complaints to the Canvassing Committee. He accused Berkowitz and Willig of collusion, and demanded redress. When asked if he colluded, Willig denied the accusations, and Berkowitz said "I had no contact with Heshy, until [sic] when I did."

An all night meeting was held, lasting until 6:30 AM. In attendance were Gissinger, the President of SSSB Bennett Schachter, Jason Buskin, the President of YCSC, and Yosef Rothstein, the chairman of the Canvassing Committee.

The three agreed to distribute a letter along with each student's ballot, which would appraise them of the situation. The letter stated that "there has been a series of events that have occurred during this campaign that one may deem suspicious." It further indicated that Berkowitz had "insinuated" that he would withdraw at 1:00 PM, Wednesday, and although charges of impropriety were aired, "no campaign rules have been outwardly violated," and that this was not to be seen as an endorsement or condemnation of any candidate in any way.

Gissinger also issued a flyer, which was stamped with the approval of the YCSC Canvassing Committee. The flyer accused Willig and Berkowitz of colluding before Berkowitz's withdrawal from the race, and distributing a flyer containing "numerous lies." It stated that Michael Sussman, Willig's campaign manager had presumably worked for the Berkowitz campaign, and brought this as further

proof of their collusion. It alluded to the fact that this was *halachically* improper and said, "This is not the manner we as *bnei-Torah* hope to conduct ourselves." The final paragraph mentioned that the flyer and its contents, had been stamped and approved by the assorted student councils and the Canvassing Committee.

Willig, referring to the Canvassing Committee's letter, said "I found the first line of the letter extremely grievous and grossly inappropriate in that it indicated that there were suspicious events that occurred, and the letter tied them into my campaign. This from a supposedly impartial committee which is not supposed to have any bearing whatsoever on the elections."

As polls closed on Thursday, a meeting was held, consisting of Buskin, Schachter, Rothstein, and three other members of the eight-man Canvassing Committee; Avi Lopchinsky, Ari Bandler, and Matthew Rosen. They concluded that their actions had skewed the election results, and called in both candidates for consultation. They were given the option of allowing the as-yet unknown outcome to stand, or they could agree to hold new elections. When asked if they wanted the original results to be valid, Gissinger said that he wanted the results to stand, and Willig refused to comment.

According to Buskin, "The votes were not counted. The decision was made to cancel, and the decision was also made not to count the votes." Echoing Buskin's remarks Rothstein stated, that "The votes were not counted, and the ballots remain in my possession."

When asked to expound on the rules explaining how a partial section of the

Canvassing Committee could cancel the elections and negate the results, Rothstein said "There are no rules, it's a problem."

A letter was sent out by Schachter, where he attempted to clarify the reasons for the cancellation. "The blame for the cancellation of last weeks elections, rests on the Canvassing Committee, on which I held an authoritative position. We on the Canvassing Committee felt that we deviated from our inherent responsibility of insuring that the elections run properly, and actually had a significant effect on the elections themselves." He also stated that "No actions of the candidates (Mr. Willig, Mr. Gissinger, and Mr. Daniel Berkowitz, who has since withdrawn his candidacy) were against election procedures." He specifically referred to the flyers as being misunderstood, and that their contents were "strictly and explicitly the opinions of those who wrote them."

The new elections are to be held solely under the auspices of SSSB, with Schachter and the SSSB executive board in charge of the polls and tallying the ballots. The candidates agreed on a compromise date of April 16, for the new elections. When asked if the scheduling was chosen to preclude *The Commentator* from covering the original elections before the new ones, Schachter answered "We all preferred it to be before, as to concentrate on the candidates, and not what happened before." Buskin expressed his sentiments by saying "It is unfortunate that this had to happen, and hopefully we can put it behind us, and move ahead. The student body can now fulfill their responsibilities by electing a new student representative."

Analysis: Election '97 Results

continued from page one

Election Recap

The YCSC Vice Presidential contest saw current Junior Class President David Schreiber defeat Mark Posner, president of the College Democrats. Joe Glass' campaign, featuring coupons for discounts on Time Out pizza and the campaign management services of Michael Sussman, rolled over the bid of Joshua Landa for the YCSC Treasurer position. Howard Mazin rounded out the YCSC Executive Board with an unopposed victory for the Secretary post.

The Senior Class Presidency was claimed by David Schwartz over Aylon Glaser. Jonathan Rosman ran unopposed in his bid for the Senior Class Vice Presidency. Elliot Lowenstein, who also ran unopposed, is the new Senior Class Secretary/Treasurer.

Jeff Bander scored an upset victory over current Sophomore Class VP Joe Dyckman in the contest for the Junior Class Presidency. Hadar Weiss pulled off an unprecedented write-in victory in the Junior Class VP race against Hillel Zinkin and Charles Cohen, both of whom appeared on the ballots. Weiss plastered the campus with campaign signs in the days preceding the election and stood outside of Morgestern Hall on the day of the election distributing pens with slips

of paper promoting his candidacy information attached to them. Weiss expressed his "thanks to the students for making the effort to write me in. I wish to assure everyone that I will do my best to represent them." Eric Shubert recorded a win over Ari Farkas for the post of Junior Class Secretary/Treasurer.

SSSB And SOY To Rerun Elections

The SSSB presidential election was the source of great controversy and therefore will be rerun on Wednesday of this week. Joshua Klavan was victorious in his bid for SSSB VP over Danny Nassimi. In a crowded election slot, Jonathan Teitelbaum snatched a victory in the SSSB treasurer position against Ron Finberg, Aviad Goldwicht, and Daniel Drabkin. The SSSB Secretary position was garnered by Michael Gewirtz in a fierce competition against Uri Sava.

The contested SOY presidential election will be rerun this Wednesday after the initial results were invalidated by that body's Executive Board on Monday. The vice presidency of SOY did not have any formal candidates. This position is traditionally accompanied by responsibility for arranging the annual SOY Se-forim Sale. Jonathan Neiss, SOY President, indicated that "write-in efforts for

the VP position in the initial election failed as no write-in candidate garnered a substantial proportion of the votes. We urge those interested in being VP to either run as write-ins in this Wednesday's reelection or to speak with us." In the battle for the SOY Secretary position, Ephraim Shapiro edged out Michael Klerer and Steven Polonetsky. The SOY Treasurer position went to Daniel Kamnitsky over a bid by Jonathan Gerszberg.

Legal Threats Don't Stymie IBC Elections

The Isaac Breuer College presidential campaign promised to be controversial with both Gary Strong and Jonathan Sicklick threatening to file suits against each other in student court. Sicklick alleged that Strong should not be eligible to vie for an IBC post since he was enrolled in

a BMP shiur the previous semester. Strong indicated that he would bring a countersuit against Sicklick on the basis of his not having fulfilled the minimum time on campus requirement to run for the IBC presidential post. *Quid pro quo* eventually became the route pursued as both parties agreed to abstain from taking legal action against each other. Strong proceeded to defeat Sicklick in the election. Adam Bensley garnered the IBC VP position. The Treasurer slot went to Levi Goldberg. Kenneth Sicklick scored a decisive victory in his bid for the Secretary duties.

JSS Results

Ofer Melamed was the victor in the JSS presidential race. Alan Epstein claimed the JSS VP position. The JSS Secretary/Treasurer post was garnered by Ben Ahdut.

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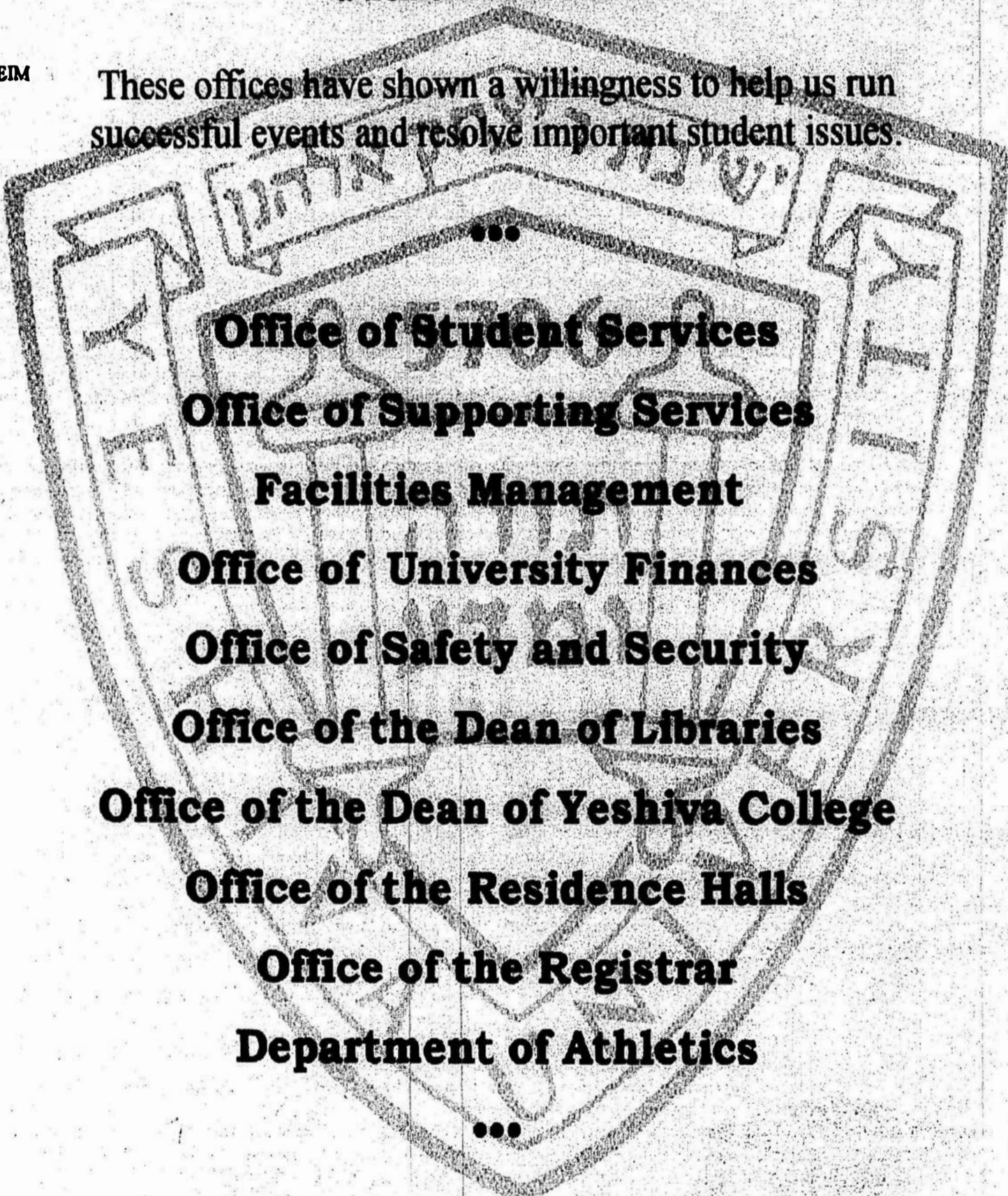
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For their efforts we thank them.

NEWS IN THE S

ADL Calls on America Online to Remove KKK Site

BY ARI KAHN

In Cyberspace, the world of America Online is proclaimed as a Utopia. Tens of Millions of people throughout the world freely share ideas and information if they abide by a certain moral code prohibiting influences such as pornography and messages of racial or religious hatred. To Abraham Foxman, National Director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), America Online's decision to host a website from one of the oldest organizations dedicated to hatred and racial bigotry comes as a surprise.

In a letter sent last week, Foxman expressed concern that America Online is hosting "The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - Realm of Texas" web site and does not regard the site as violating its terms of service. In the past, AOL has been very responsive to complaints about racism and bigotry from the ADL, which now calls "on AOL to adhere to their terms of service regarding hate material with equal vigilance as those regarding pornography."

"Your 'Rules of the Road' prohibit attacks based on a number of characteristics including 'a person's race, national origin, ethnicity or religion,'" The ADL Chairman said in the letter to Steve Case, Chairman of America Online, Inc. "They clearly state that 'hateful language... is not allowed.'"

"While the materials accessible through the Klan page may not contain

explicit calls for violence," continued Mr. Foxman, "they reflect hate, vulgarity and abuse far more profound and troubling. Hate, even with a face-lift, is as dangerous, repulsive and corrupting as the pornography you unhesitatingly remove."

The KKK website goes through a white-

ment, the extortion of the carpetbaggers, the treason of the scalawags, and the hatred of the numerous renegade Negroes. Today we are seeing history repeating itself. Our land is once again being destroyed by the same treason. This time it is not only confined to the South,

with us in our efforts toward the final victory through White Christian Revival." A twenty-nine point political platform that calls for national laws banning abortion and homosexuality, a law banning the sale of American land to all foreigners "including Japanese, Arabs, and Jews," a quarantine for all AIDS patients, and a law allowing the military to patrol our borders to prevent the entry of illegal aliens, also appears at that site.

The site also offers links to the official Klan homepage, an application for membership as well as links to other white- or Christian supremacy groups such as Aryan Nations, Stormfront, and the NAAWP of America.

According to ADL, "the particular branch of the Klan using AOL preaches a pseudo-religion called 'Identity' Christianity that claims Jews are the spawn of Satan and all other non-Whites are 'mud-people.'"

"While we strongly believe in freedom of speech and do not advocate censorship on the Internet," said Mr. Foxman, "we expect those companies which have created guidelines to adhere to them."

AOL's terms of service state that AOL, Inc., its affiliates and ICPs have the right to remove content they deem, in their discretion, "harmful" or "offensive." America Online has not responded publicly to the criticism from the ADL, but as of press time, the KKK website was still up and running.

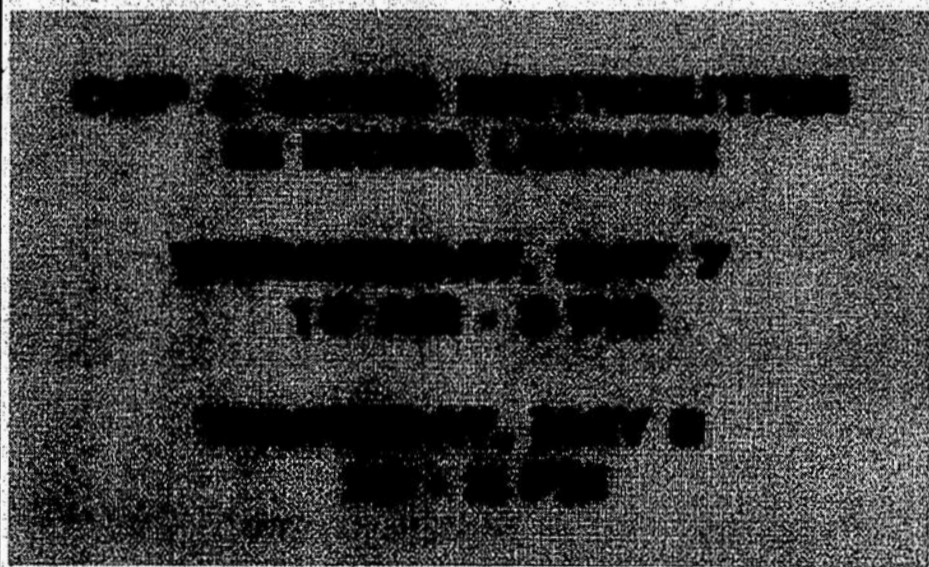


washed history of the Klan, a racist movement that was formed in the South in the wake of the Civil War. According to the authors of the site, "It was out of these dismal conditions that six just and decent men of honor came together forming the Ku Klux Klan. Led by General Nathan Bedford Forrest, by 1877 these courageous men had driven the troops back north. For a time they saved the White South from the tyranny of the Federal govern-

ment, but it is affecting the nation as a whole."

In addition to professing its purpose, the Klan is using the site to recruit new members. One part of the website reads, "Now, even as it was then, when the original Klansmen rode over the hills of the South, we begin again with a few courageous souls who are willing to stand up against the real enemy... It is our greatest desire that others, seeing our good works, may obtain the courage to join

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Security Guards Feeling "Burned"

BY AKIVA HERZFELD

Slouched over in a somnambulant stupor, gazing listlessly at the shifting cloud configurations in the staid sky, an apathetic security guard at his desk lets time fly by, slowly. Suddenly, he awakes. He has seen someone approaching. Quickly, he jumps to his feet, and, as the college student nears, he bellows: "ID, sir." The student shows the guard his ID, and continues on his way; the guard then retires to his former supine state.

At his post, the Yeshiva University Burns security guard seems tranquil and content. But, beneath this veneer of calm, lies an interior clouded with tempest, bubbling with discontent, darkened with anger. The YU security guard, having been swindled and ill-treated by his union, by his superiors, and by his institution, is mad!

Since the beginning of the year, over thirty security guards, around half the full-time security staff, has quit or been fired. Men like Sandy Mercedes, a chubby Hispanic with thinning hair, or Dixon, a tall, lanky, 6 foot 7" African-American, with prominent gold teeth and a shaved head. Or Blanding, or Jones, or Arnold, or Perez, and many others, all of whom have been fired or have quit. Of those guards remaining, one has had students help him write his resume, another is leaving to become a car mechanic, and another guard is thinking of joining the military as soon as his wife has a baby.

Why? Why are all the guards fleeing from Yeshiva University? Why are they so discontent? Why, invariably, is there a new security guard in the Rubin dormitory every time you go to lunch?

The answer for some security guards, willing

to be interviewed anonymously, is simple: "the pay stinks, there is no job security, and the working atmosphere is deplorable."

The complaints begin with the salary. The starting salary for a Yeshiva University security guard is a paltry six dollars an hour, and the first pay raise does not arrive for at least one year. In contrast, their friends in maintenance earn around two thirds to double the amount they do, and the Board of Education pays its security guards \$12.45 an hour as a starting salary.

If a guard is promoted to lieutenant or captain, his or her salary may exceed the Board of Education's starting salary, but it is not easy to become either a lieutenant or a captain. One guard grumbled, "You could be here for years and not go nowhere, unless you're a serious butt kisser." And the guard continued, "I ain't gonna be nobody's kiss ___. I do my job; I don't need to do his for \$6 an hour."

This spartan starting salary comes with neither health, nor medical, nor benefits of any other kind. One guard commented, "A lot of guys here don't have medical insurance, because they can't pay for it. They used to give raises every three months, and now you pass years and they don't give you one."

The starting salary does, however, come with a week of paid vacation at the end of the year. Yet, if the guards forget to file for it, and they are never told to file for it, they lose this vacation time, and could work right through it. One unknowing guard, speaking under a false assumption, told *The Commentator* that there is no vacation time for security guards. This guard, who has worked here since the beginning of the school year, still does not know that he is eligible for vacation.

The "vacation" does not include such traditional Christian holidays as Easter, Good Friday, and even Christmas. If the guard's schedule dictates that he or she must work on those days, he or she must.

The security guards, who can

If a captain or a superior does not like a security guard, that guard is stuck.

In December six security guards complained about a captain who was not treating them fairly. They took their complaint to the highest authorities in the security administration. The Captain who they complained about, Captain Morales, code named Charlie 1, still works here; however, five of the security guards who placed the complaint have been fired. The last remaining guard, Guzman, would not speak to *The Commentator*.

The complaints continue. One guard complained about an African-American captain, whom he felt was racist to Hispanic security guards. The captain apparently gives the black guards all the good posts and sticks the Hispanics in the unwanted ones. The guard said, "You can't

graying, disheveled mass of hair. He is the representative for Burns security, which is an independent firm hired by Yeshiva University in a contract paying millions of dollars to Burns. An unconfirmed statement said that YU pays Burns 14 dollars for each security man per hour; somewhere in the shuffle between YU, Burns, and the individual security guard, 8 dollars of pay per man is lost.

Mr. Russo would not confirm any statistics, instead responding to the "false allegations," presented by some security guards. Many times he interjected, "Who said this? Where are you getting this from? This is not true!... There is no news story here!"

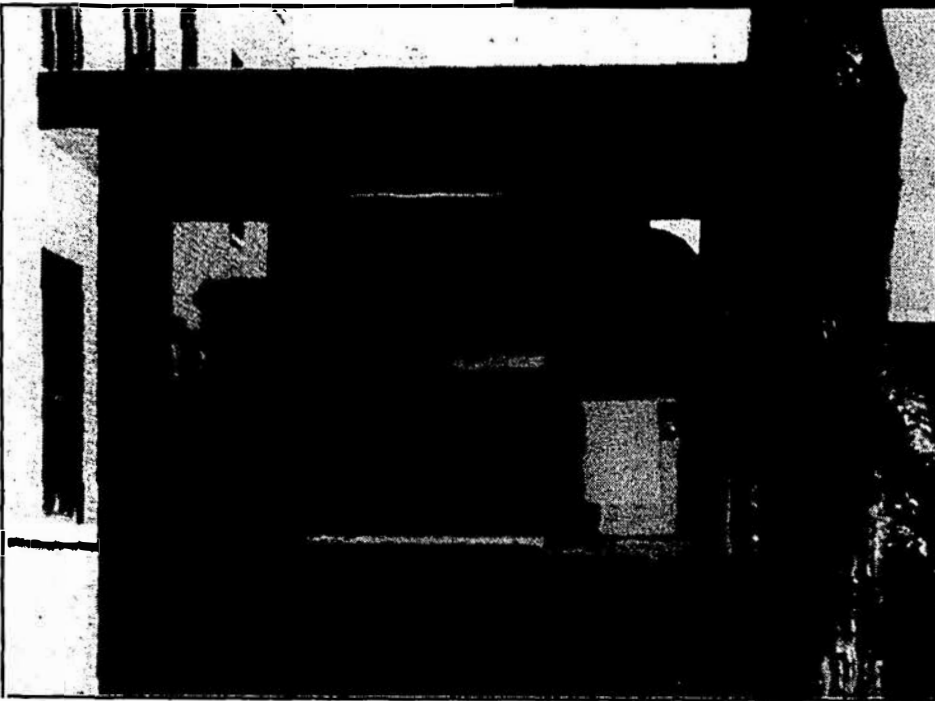
The reason, Russo said, that there is such a large turnover in guards is because it is the nature of the industry. He said that this is the first job of

some security guards, and sometimes they cannot handle it. Also, many of the guards here use this job to help them pay for college, and when they graduate college, they leave. Additionally, he said, "There is no set salary for guards at Yeshiva University of six dollars an hour." He explained that the starting salary can fluctuate if a guard is considered especially qualified.

His friend, Frank Morris, assistant to Donald Summers, chimed in, in response to the complaint of having to work on Christmas and Easter. He said, "Young man (addressing *The Commentator* reporter), this is the way jobs operate. I was in the NYPD and had to work twelve years before I got my first Christmas off." Mr. Russo added concerning the vacations, "If there are 150 guards here, it is not my responsibility to make sure that they each file for vacation."

One allegation which not only the administrators, but also many security guards responded to was the charge against Captain Morales. Morales is known as one of the most dependable guards not only by security guards, but also by the students. Russo explained that sometimes there are personality conflicts which occur between an authority figure and the toiler. He did not feel that it was important that guards have an outlet to address their complaints without fear of becoming fired.

In any case, a profound misunderstanding exists on campus between the common security guard and his superior. Whether or not the allegations are true, misunderstandings as such, between the worker and the supervisor are not healthy in any relationship, especially in a security firm. As Frank Morris proclaimed, "Welcome to working class America!"



complain [because] once you complain they got their eyes on you."

Yet, the most common complaint was that they were not being treated with respect. The night shift has no accessibility to coffee, a nurse, or even Tylenol; one captain

spies from outside windows to make sure that they check ID's, etc. In addition to the poor pay and no job security, the guards must also deal with administrators and students who do not appreciate what they are doing.

Burns Security administrators paint a totally different picture of security guard conditions on campus. Room number 110, stationed on the ground floor of Belfer Commons, is the hub of security operations on campus. There, surrounded by scurrying security guards, with the cackle of walkie-talkies reverberating through the air, sit the head honchos of security operations on campus. In this office, Donald Summers, code 101, Richard Russo, code 111, and all the other VIP's discuss security operations. Mr. Summers was not available for interview, but Mr. Russo granted *The Commentator* a brief interview.

Mr. Russo is an ex-cop of sturdy build and strong features, with a

be fired at their supervisor's whim, are more bitter about their job security than their pecuniary disbursements. Not one guard was willing to give his name away for inclusion in the article, neither the last name nor the first name, because each one feared his supervisor. One guard explained his predicament: "They make up this long list of rules; no eat, no drink, no smoke, no music, no read, no anything, and if you break one rule, then they fire you." One guard was even told not to talk to students.

Another security guard complained about the way justice is meted out. "No matter how long you come on time," he said, "you come here one day five minutes late, and you in trouble."

"Trouble" means that the captain will write up a report concerning the security guard's behavior. After a certain number of reports, the security guard is immediately terminated.

Music Department Holds Packed Concerts

BY YOSEF LEVINE

The Recital Room on the second floor of the Schottenstein Center was packed for two straight nights this week as the Yeshiva University Music Department held their spring concerts.

On Sunday April 13, seven Yeshiva University students performed pieces by Bach, Bartok, Brahms, Levy, Mozart, and Mendelssohn in a Concert of Chamber Music. The event featured Eric Freeman and J.D. Shulman on the piano, Daniel Robbins and Edward Levy playing the clarinet, Yochanan Donath and Eli Priytkin playing the violin and Richard Hidary playing the cello.

The next day, there was not even standing room when the Jazz Ensemble performed six pieces either composed or arranged by the directors of the group. SCW students Deborah Roth and Aliza Fox played flute, and Rachel Milner played the vibraphone and drums. Edward Levy played the alto saxophone and was accompanied by Daniel Robbins who also played the clarinet. Eric Freeman and Ari Paley graced the audience with their pi-

ano and keyboard bass performances, while Gregory Jaffe added some spunk to the recitals on guitar. Dr. Noyes Bartholomew and Dr. Edward Levy direct both the Yeshiva University Jazz Ensemble and the Chamber Music Ensemble as part of their duties teaching the Performance and Interpretation class. They have co-directed since 1985 and enjoy their work immensely. "One of the things that attracts us to giving this class," said Dr. Bartholomew, "is the opportunity to compose and arrange music that explores jazz as an art form in the same way that we compose music for classical chamber ensembles. That is to say esthetic music that pushes the boundaries of more traditional styles."

Multitalented Rachel Milner, said that jazz is her favorite type of music and enjoys playing in the ensemble because, "there is nothing like playing in a group setting."

The audiences seemed to enjoy both performances. Steven J. Bernstein a YC sophomore, asserted that, "both the Chamber Music and Jazz Ensemble recitals were incredible. It is a treat to see fellow students perform."

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Editorials OPINION

Administrative Rejection: The Story of An Arab's Non-Visit to YU

Derachim, a student-run forum, recently extended a tentative invitation to Dr. James Zogby to speak at this university. Zogby, a prominent writer with impeccable credentials, is a member of the Democratic National Committee and the Council on Foreign Relations, and was appointed by Al Gore to lead Builders for Peace. One complication: he is also the President of the Arab American Institute. Yes, he is an Arab.

Because of this unfortunate fact, our esteemed administration, after the requisite amount of inter-administrative haggling, intervened to declare that it would not permit Zogby to speak on campus. Barred. Vetoed. *Verboten*.

The ostensible reason cited by the administration for this prohibition was that Zogby's appearance here might spark physical violence and/or may cause headaches for YU security.

This is a patently and absurdly specious excuse. YU does not exactly crackle with volatile political energy. Sometimes

to our chagrin, YU is as far from the Berkeley of the 1960s as... as Rabbi Lamm is from Abbie Hoffman. Physical violence?! Does the administration deem us to be brute thugs and hooligans who answer every objectionable remark with a flying chair?

No; there are far deeper concerns at play. Perhaps the administration subscribes to the disingenuous argument which claims that YU, as an institution, endorses the views of every speaker who ever graces its rostrums. But I doubt it.

Perhaps the administration worries lest the student body come to question its predominantly and staunchly held anti-Arab positions. (After all, our student body, more than most, confirms George Steiner's observation that nationalism, even Jewish nationalism, "signifies an abstention from free and clear thought and from the disinterested pursuit of justice.") But does the administration think

us such infantile fools as to be irrevocably swayed by a suave speaker? And are our political opinions so delicate, so tenuously held, that we fear any exposure to the "other side" could topple them? Clearly not.

More likely the administration simply decided to shy away from grappling with substantive and often controversial issues, so as not to "cause a stir." To which I must retort: Is our education nothing but a protracted dusty snooze of complacency? Who needs the education which serves only to placate and please, which sings soft lullabies to our minds, which only reinforces our often simplistically formulated pre-college convictions? Rather, education should prod and provoke; it should shake us, disturb us, confront us, force us to think and re-think. We should be made profoundly uncomfortable and uneasy by thoughtful perspectives which differ from our own.

The solution is certainly not to bar Zogby from our campus. The solution, quite simply, is to hear him and challenge him; to hear him and refute him; or to hear him and learn from him. God forbid our opinions suffer nuance and qualification as a result.

It has been said often enough: The true test of whether I affirm the value of free speech with my heart or with my lips only is whether I can countenance and tolerate speech which I personally abhor. Today, in this post-Goldstein and Amir era, a day when "tolerance" is made subject of Presidential Blue Ribbon Commissions and becomes the catch-word of choice; a day in a year haunted by *Balkan Ghosts* and a conference on black-Jewish relations and other safely bland things eagerly gobbled up by YU public relations like so many multicolored M&Ms; today the YU administration shamefully and embarrassingly failed that test, and its students have lost as a result.

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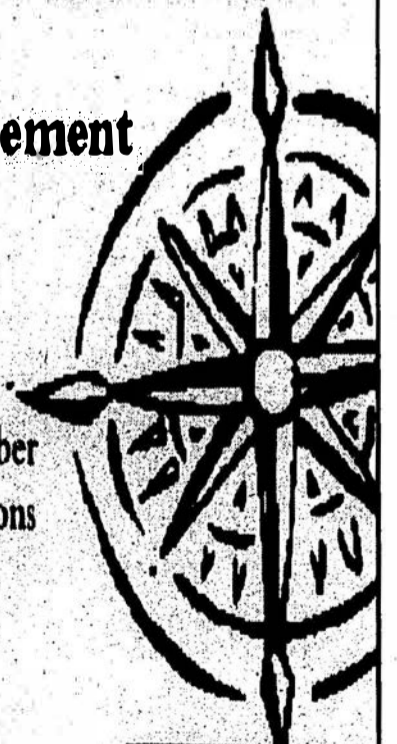
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LETTERS

To the Editor

An Open Letter To the Yeshiva Community

To The Editor:

This election year is one that will be remembered for years to come at YU. I will not go into the scandalous elections run by the YCSC Canvassing Committee. Everyone is well aware of the chaotic and haphazard fashion in which it was run. Instead, I would like to focus on SOY's elections for President. Being in YP, it brought me great alarm when I found out about the scandals that went on there.

First of all, I would like to state a matter of opinion. Although SOY is a student organization like any other at YU, I feel that SOY should be held to a level of values that is higher than any other organization at YU. This feeling stems from the fact that the Jewish studies organizations represent students, undergraduates and graduates, that are enrolled in the Yeshiva. Because SOY, as well as the other respective Jewish studies programs' councils, represent the Yeshiva and because SOY's focus should be Torah and Torah life activities, it is only fitting that it should be held to a high degree of scrutiny.

Even though I have stated that SOY should be held to a higher standard, I am writing about matters that are in no way above the standard. My grievance is not that SOY did not go *Liphnim m'shuras hadin*, but that it did not even meet the minimum of its requirements to the students of Yeshiva.

It can be said that the SOY elections for President, from the beginning, had an air of unsportsmanlike competition that should never arise in a Yeshiva. There is no reason why a candidate's signs should be sprayed with shaving cream. There is no reason that a candidate's expensive, full color signs should be ripped off every bulletin board within two hours of their placement there at the kickoff of election week on Motzei Shabbos. As a side point, it should be noted that this candidate's signs were the only signs approved and stamped by the SOY Canvassing Committee to be allowed to be placed on the bulletin boards.

Apparently, the injustices aimed at this candidate, Dror Barber, did not end there. The events that followed were the most scandalous events that, to my knowledge, have ever occurred in a YU election. I was appalled and shocked when I learned that a member of the SOY Executive Board was involved in actions directed towards Mr. Barber. The SOY Secretary was caught by, as I heard it, two individuals defacing Mr. Barber's signs. Although the Secretary was well aware of the fact that each defaced sign caused Mr. Barber to have a deduction of \$1 from his budget of \$170, he did not reconsider his actions. When the Secretary was yelled at by the onlookers, he responded that he is doing it all in the name of satire because "everyone loves a little satire." He continued defacing the

signs. His work was seen all over Morgentstern Hall that night. His work forced Mr. Barber to spend another \$10 that night, a fact that Mr. Secretary, being on the Board, knew about. He also forced Mr. Barber into spending valuable campaign time replacing his signs. These actions should have been enough to convince the SOY Executive Board and the Canvassing Committee that actions must be taken immediately to remedy the situation. Apparently, they didn't feel this way.

When the SOY Board and Canvassing Committee heard later that day, from a witness, of Mr. Secretary's actions, they should have moved immediately to remedy the situation by throwing the Secretary off their board. They should have also publicly denounced the Secretary's actions and moved for a postponement of the elections. By not doing so they allowed the elections to be tainted.

People talk. By Tuesday, when these offenses were committed, the third candidate for the Presidency had dropped out, citing personal reasons. When people heard, later on that day, of the Secretary's actions they would have been very likely to come to the conclusion that the Secretary was opposed to Dror Barber's becoming President of SOY. They would have also assumed that, because the Board did not take actions against Mr. Secretary and because they did not publicly denounce his actions, the Executive Board, as a whole, agreed in some way with Mr. Secretary's actions. I am in no way suggesting that the Board agreed with his choice of actions. I am only suggesting that their failure to act might have caused people to err in judgment as to the Board's feelings on Mr. Barber's seriousness as a candidate. Because of SOY's failure to take action, students would opt for the only other candidate left, the candidate that SOY practically endorsed by not taking actions to level the playing field so that Mr. Barber would have the opportunity to participate in a fair campaign.

Unfortunately, this was not the last of SOY's blunders. After it was discovered that Mr. Secretary was working for Mr. Barber's opponent, Menachem Luftglass, SOY had an even bigger reason to push off elections. In fact, according to election rules, Mr. Luftglass should have been disqualified as a candidate. Constitution rules are very clear as to the responsibility of each candidate towards his campaign staff. Whether or not a candidate has knowledge of a perpetrator's actions, if the perpetrator is working on the candidate's committee, the candidate is required to take full responsibility for his worker's actions. An act such as Mr. Secretary's, if done by Mr. Luftglass himself would disqualify him from running. Therefore, according to the rules, Mr. Luftglass should have been disqualified. I am in no way saying that Mr.

Luftglass told his worker to violate Mr. Barber's rights as a candidate. I am only suggesting that the strict laws of elections should be followed, especially by SOY, no matter what the consequences.

In this case the consequences were another blow to Mr. Barber's campaign. By not taking actions against Mr. Luftglass or Mr. Secretary, SOY practically declared to the student body that Mr. Barber's rights were not important. They gave a green light for the violations of Mr. Barber's rights to continue. And continue they did. They, once again, tainted the elections.

On Thursday morning, as voters walked in to cast their ballots, another violation of election rules was perpetrated. Not just by anyone, but by Mr. Secretary, the same person that SOY failed to admonish. Mr. Secretary handed out a letter to voters on the steps of Morgentstern Hall which directly attacked Mr. Barber, his signs, and his platform. Besides being unethical, it was a clear violation of election rules, one that required immediate action. No one is allowed to stand in Morgentstern's entrance and hand out letters to students as they walk in to vote. What makes this violation even more remarkable is that it was done in public, in the presence and with the awareness of Menachem Luftglass. This violation should have caused SOY to act, but they didn't.

Only on Sunday, three days after the elections were over, did SOY realize that they might have erred in their judgment. The Board called for an "emergency" meeting on Monday. That morning, the Board, on its own, came to the conclu-

sion that they did, in fact, ignore their responsibilities as an impartial committee charged with running elections. They called for a reelection. It should be noted that Mr. Barber was in no way part of this decision. Even though Mr. Barber was the only person violated and harmed by these events, his opinions did not matter to them. Mr. Barber would have never wanted a reelection.

After speaking with Mr. Barber, I learned that he felt that the Executive Board of SOY did not fulfill their obligations. He felt that he should not be forced to partake in a reelection because it would be unfair to him to have to make up for the fault of others. After running a clean and honest campaign there should be no reason for him to expend time, money, and energy in what he felt is an extraneous exercise.

It is the opinion of this writer that SOY wronged Mr. Barber. According to election rules Mr. Luftglass should not have been on the ballot. Mr. Secretary should have been publicly admonished. SOY should have apologized publicly to Mr. Barber for their lack of initiative in protecting his rights as a candidate. I am saddened by the fact that my personal choice for President was not given a fair chance in his campaign. Turning to my fellow YP students, I ask: How can a candidate involved in such a scandalous campaign "put the Yeshiva back into SOY?"

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YESHIVA

SPORTS

Tennis Team; 26-0 and Counting

BY COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF

Just three more matches remain before the end of what has been another undefeated campaign for the YU tennis team. With the majority of the season gone by, the tennis team has won its first 8 matches, running its winning streak to 26 over the past three years.

The first victim this season, Polytechnic, fell to the Macs by the final score of 8-1. Despite the 30 degree weather (without the wind chill), the Macs were victorious in all six singles matches including an exceptional performance by #3 seed Shai Samet. Having lost the first set 6-2 and trailing in the third 3-1, Samet fought back to win in three sets, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3. In fact, he managed to win a crucial point with an around-the-back shot that totally shocked his opponent. Other Mac stars Hasten, Zilbershteyn, Kraft, Hirt, and Langer all won in straight sets. The team finished strong, winning two of its three doubles matches.

The following Sunday, the Macs faced Manhattanville in even harsher weather conditions which included very strong winds. Although Chuck Slattery was successful in both singles and doubles for Manhattanville, victories from Koslowe, Schwartz, and Rothman contributed to a 7-2 victory for Yeshiva.

As the weather slowly got warmer the Macs looked forward to playing Maritime, especially on their lego courts. Using his home court advantage, Maritime's Ed Dohrman upset #1 seed Josh Hasten, his first loss in two years of singles for YU. In another dramatic match, #2 seed Zvi Zilbershteyn used a combination of winners and first aid (on his aching opponent) to pull through in a three setter, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2. Overall, the 8-1 win moved the Macs to 3-0 on the season.

Playing their first match at home, the Macs swept Brooklyn college 9-0 with the help of first appearances by Schlossberg and Bendheim. The match against Stevens Tech a few days later, however, was no breeze. Five out of the six singles matches went the full three sets while giving the Macs a temporary 4-2 edge. Unfortunately, the lead was trimmed to 4-3 after the #3 doubles came up a little short. But Hasten and Samet, the #1 doubles team, knew they had to win in order to clinch. They got off to a 5-0 lead and later held on to win 8-5 in a pro-set that ended with a powerful service ace by Samet. The final was 6-3.

Hopes to go undefeated for a third consecutive season almost came to an end versus St. Joseph's, certainly the biggest scare of the year. With the score tied 4-4 and the last doubles match on the verge of ending, Coach Jon Bandler was pacing and turning afraid to watch the outcome. After making a tremendous comeback in singles to win (2-6, 6-4, 6-4), rookie David Schwartz came through in the clutch with his doubles partner, Oren Koslowe. Schwartz's exceptional service game in the closing games earned him and Koslowe an 8-6 victory. Schwartz was awarded the game ball at the end of the match.

Next on the agenda was the Manhattanville Tournament in which Manhattanville, YU, St. Joseph's, and SUNY Old Westbury competed. The #1 and #2 seeds of each team competed in the Flight A Singles, the #3 and #4 in Flight B Singles, and 5 and 6 in C; doubles competition consisted of two flights. With the exception of Flight A doubles, YU took home all the plaques by the end of the tournament. Hasten's quest for the singles championship included overcoming match points and winning 10-8 in a pro-set tie breaker versus Turhan Cumboof Old Westbury. In the Flight B finals, Steve Langer prevailed in three sets against his own teammate, Shai Samet, while David Schwartz defeated Digiaco of St. Joseph's in the Flight C championship. To top it all off, Langer, along with Oren Koslowe, took home Flight B doubles and was thereby named MVP of the Tournament.

Most recently, the Macs added another 2 Wins by easily passing over John Jay College (9-0) and Mount St. Vincent College (9-0).

Finally, in spite of the fog and rain, the Macs traveled upstate for the IAC Tournament at Bard. Three teams did not show up due to the poor weather, but Yeshiva decided to fight it out with Bard and St. Joseph's nonetheless. Unfortunately, Steve Langer could not challenge his opponent in the finals for Flight B singles before the rain started to fall again. Hasten, however, came up on top against his own teammate, Samet, in the bid for Flight A Singles Champion. The rest of the competition was postponed for another, hopefully clearer day.

The biggest match of the year against NJIT has yet to be played, but the Macs are optimistic of its outcome and of the results of the final two matches of the year, Bard and York. Good Luck!

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