

Yeshiva University Commentator

Orientation
'97

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Record Enrollment Leads to Creation of “Independent Housing Program”

BY MORDECHAI FISHMAN

The Fall '97 semester is shaping up to set a record in enrollment forcing the Office of Residence Halls to place students in apartment buildings neighboring the YU campus in lieu of housing them in the dormitories.

The Dean of Admissions, Michael Kranzler, conservatively estimates that there will be approximately 1060 undergraduate male students on the uptown campus. The three dorms currently in use can only hold roughly 845 students. In addition, instead of the average 78 to 82 percent of students who usually request University housing, this year it is estimated that 89 to 93 percent of students have requested that the University provide them with a roof over their heads. To compound matters, an understanding between YCSC and the administration precludes using the student lounges as residential space.

The combination of the above mentioned factors and the lack of dormitory

space forced University administrators to scramble to attempt to find a solution to the housing crisis. Because of the rolling nature of enrollment, the magnitude of the problem was not clarified until the last moment, leaving little available time to search for alternative options.

To alleviate the overflow in the dormitories, the Office of Residence Halls designated two apartment buildings, one at 475 West 186 Street, and another at 480 West 187 Street, as the “Independent Housing Program.” According to Efreim Nulman, Dean of Students, these apartment buildings are not owned by Yeshiva University, but the University controls the leases to a number of apartments. These apartments were previously occupied by Smicha students, and will now be filled with undergraduates chosen by the Office of Residence Halls.

The exact number of students to be housed in these apartments is still unknown,

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L to R: David Gottesman, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Robert M. Beren, Member of the YU Board of Trustees; Herbert Smilowitz, Vice Chairman of the RIETS Board; University President Dr. Lamm; Moshe L. Green, Vice Chairman of the RIETS Board; Judah Feinerman, Chairman of the RIETS Board.

RIETS Celebrates Centennial Anniversary

BY NIR KNOLL

On May 28, 1997, approximately 800 members of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) and Yeshiva University faculty assembled at the Grand Hyatt in New York City to celebrate the Centennial anniversary of RIETS. The joyous evening consisted of a Centennial Convocation and dinner.

During the convocation, RIETS presented 161 Centennial Medallion Awards to major supporters and their families in recognition of cumulative contributions of \$100,00 to \$5 million that have sustained the institution over the past 100 years. In addition, during the Dinner, 348 Centennial Awards were given out to supporters who have contributed between \$25,000 to \$99,999.

Robert M. Beren, a member of the YU Board of Trustees and general chairman of the event, was the principal recipient of the highest Centennial Medallion Award, the Platinum version. Also, as sole trustee of the Israel Henry Beren Charitable Trust, named for his late uncle, Beren formally announced the endowment of the Israel Henry Beren In-

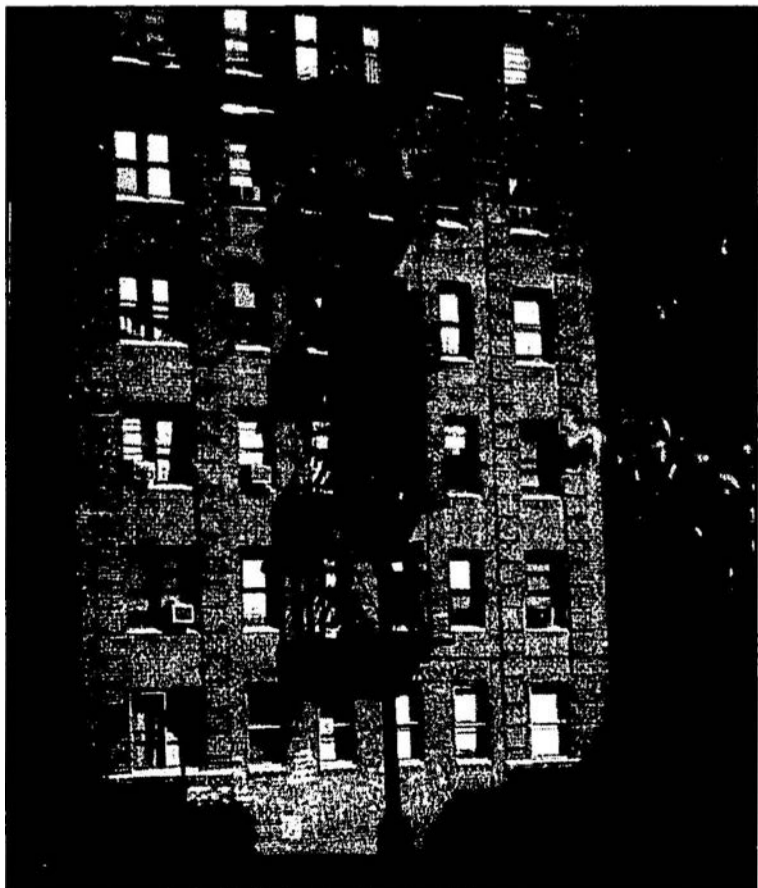
stitute for Higher Talmudic Studies at RIETS. Dr. Abraham M. Mann, Director of Development for RIETS, explained that the “institute’s objective is to produce excellent Rabbinic leaders and talmidei chachamim with extensive knowledge of the Jewish community, leadership abilities and broad general knowledge of Torah.”

As the evening progressed, Rabbi Sholom Klass, founder of the Jewish Press, received the Lifetime Achievement in Journalism Award for his support of Jewish education. In addition, a presentation was made to the families of Julius and Meyer Berman in recognition of their establishment of the Rabbi Henschel and Sara D. Berman Chair in Talmud at the RIETS affiliated Caroline and Joseph S. Gruss Institute in Jerusalem. Rav Aharon Lichtenstein, the director of the Gruss Institute and Rosh Yeshiva of Gush, is the inaugural occupant of this newly endowed chair. The program was also highlighted by prayer recitals from Cantors Sherwood Goffin of Lincoln Square Synagogue and Joseph Malovany of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue. Both are also faculty members at RIETS’ Philip and

Sarah Belz School of Jewish Music.

Also honored was Rabbi Norman Lamm, President and Rosh Hayeshiva of YU, on the occasion of his 20th year as president of YU and RIETS. He delivered a Centennial Address concerning the current and future mission of RIETS. Rabbi Lamm noted that “we who study and teach at Yeshiva essentially live in a private community—a marvelous enclave, one of study and thought and research, of vibrant ideas and creative concepts and novel interpretations and spiritual growth, all on the very highest levels. But it is an enclave, not a cave; we are not hermetically sealed off from the world.” Rabbi Lamm also stated that “unquestionably, the great mission and prime emphasis of RIETS is Torah lishma—‘the study of Torah for its own sake’... Our credo is and must remain that Torah is the highest and most sublime ideal of Am Yisroel, that study of Torah is the noblest occupation, that the Torah way of life is worthy of the most demanding sacrifice.” However, he explained that the “Torah is not incompatible with a cre

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The Apartment Building on 187th Street, Designated as Home to the New Independent Housing Program.

Participation

Few undergraduate students bear the same academic burdens as a student in Yeshiva University. While other collegians may spend three hours a day in a classroom, a YU student can easily spend three times that amount attending class. He not only adds a significant amount of school-work outside the classroom, but reduces the time available for him to complete this work.

Yet, extra-curricular life on campus continues to thrive. We have clubs and societies for every person and every interest. All you have to do is figure out which ones you will enjoy or which ones can help you grow. Participation is as easy as showing up to the event of your choosing.

For those with a little more motivation, participation is not limited to mere attendance. The opportunity to plan, organize, and supervise the events alongside your fellow students is open to all with a sense of responsibility. The contributions you make to your club or society benefits everyone attending the event, creating an extra-curricular atmosphere which in turn benefits the entire student body.

We urge everyone to set aside time in their schedules to take advantage of the opportunities provided by all the extra-curricular activities.

CLASSIFIEDS

If you would like to place an advertisement to buy or sell something in the classified section of *The Commentator's* next issue please leave a message with all pertinent information at 212-740-2155

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR'S COMMENTATOR, PLEASE JOIN US ON

TUESDAY

SEPTEMBER 2 @ 10:15 PM

**IN THE MORG
BEIT MIDRASH**

PLEASE BRING A WRITING SAMPLE.

The Commentator

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MESSAGE FROM THE YCSC PRESIDENT SRULI TANNENBAUM

I would like to welcome all new students to Yeshiva University. I hope you find your stay here an enjoyable and satisfying one. Also a hearty welcome back to all returning students. This year promises to be an exciting one for the Yeshiva College Student Council and the student body.

Over the summer months we have been hard at work preparing for orientation and encourage all students to take advantage of the activities being offered over the first few weeks of school. A tremendous thank you goes to Orientation Chairman Dror Barber and his entire staff for their amazing efforts. I would also like to extend my appreciation to The Office of Student Services, their assistance has made it possible for all new students to receive free T-shirts and for YCSC to offer the incredible array of orientation activities for student benefit. Also I would like to thank Dean Michael Kranzler and The Office of Admissions for their assistance. Additionally I'd like to thank last year's president Jason Buskin for his help.

Rest assured Orientation is just the beginning of an exciting year of programs and activities. YCSC is beginning to plan for the entire year and will shortly be budgeting clubs for their activities. Also look for signs about how you can get involved in

student government. Freshmen and Sophomore class elections are right around the corner.

YCSC have also been working with the school on a number of campus improvements and I am pleased to announce that the weight room will be refurbished in the coming months. Other changes to take note of are the new acceptance of credit cards in the Office of Student Finances and the Israeli Flag which will be flying permanently on campus. These improvements are some of the final accomplishments of my predecessor and mentor Jason Buskin and YCSC '96-'97 and I would like to express my deepest gratitude and congratulations on a magnificent job. Jason, you are the best. Thanks for getting me where I am today.

Now as we look ahead to this year I would like to invite everyone to take part in student council activities and to give me your input and feedback. Get to know members of your student council, we're here to help. Have a great year!!

Sruli Tannenbaum
YCSC President '97-'98



FROM THE EDITOR

NOAH STREIT

Over the summer many have asked me a seemingly simple question - what is the purpose of *The Commentator*? Somewhat jokingly I often answered, "muck-raking, yellow journalism and a bit o' controversy," although sometimes, for some unfathomable reason, they took me quite seriously.

However, realizing the gravity of this question I should like to attempt an answer in this inaugural issue of the 1997-98 school year to the readers of this finepaper.

The purpose of *The Commentator* is knowledge, knowledge for the student about that which transpires at Yeshiva University. Obviously there will be coverage of all the positive events that come to pass - events planned by the different clubs and councils, celebrations and commencements etc. But there will also be coverage of the negative. Not for the purpose of muckraking or stirring up controversy, rather to hold questionable events and activities up to the light. If an administrator commits a questionable act, we will investigate and report on it. If a student commits a suspect act we shall do the same. If the dubious act is perpetrated by a professor or Rabbi then we shall account for that act as well. This is not a declaration of war, rather a promise of knowledge, a promise of truth.

If life were a popularity contest, then I am sure *The Commentator* would fail miserably. Fortunately, our goal is not to have you like us, though that would be nice, rather it is to have you read our paper with the foreknowledge that akin to Lady Justice we strive to blindfold our eyes to bias and report with objectivity.

What end does this purpose serve? To create a system of accountability for the readers of this paper. Consequently, I turn to you dear reader and I make two requests. The first is for your input. If you have a comment or an opinion, I demand that you let us know. Do not let your thoughts dissipate into the abyss of unwritten thoughts. Take the time to write it down and we will make it worth your while.

The second request is more arduous, but I believe more gratifying. As a newspaper we can convey the written word, still the written word alone is not powerful enough to cause change. In contrast,

you, as a reader, can bring about change. If you find an issue that stirs your heart, fight for it. Do not wallow in the comfortable bed of apathy. Attempt change, and I believe that the satisfaction of your reform will make it worth your while.

Now for something a bit lighter.

We at *The Commentator* strive to constantly better our publication, so here is a list of enhancements and additions that will be implemented in conjunction with my previously stated lofty purpose:

Jews In the News - Comprehensive reporting on news pertaining to and/or made by Jews on a local, national and international level.

Cultural Section - We will continue our explorations and reviews of the of the cultural aspects of Western Civilization. This section will be expanded to encompass reviews of theater, restaurants, music and movies.

Behind Dorm Doors - A random sampling of four students on pertinent issues

Classifieds - This section will provide opportunity for students to advertise what they would like to sell and buy for a very minimal fee.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce and thank *The Commentator* staff for the work they have already put in and the for the insane amount of work they will be putting in over the course of this year. Thank you to the News Editors, Mordechai Fishman and Adam Moses and to the Feature Editor, Nir Knoll - not to sound too syrupy but you truly are the heart and soul of this paper. Thanks to the Business Managers, Yosef Levine and Edon Hiift, especially to Yosef for the work you have put in over the summer. Thank you to the Layout Editor, Aylon Glaser, your crazy schedule will be good practice for medical school. Thank you to Mark Hecht and Josh Parver who are going to rekindle the flame of YU athletics.

Don't worry, almost done.

Thank you to the Executive Editor, Ari Gruen. Finally, to my co-editor, Mr. Kahn, I look forward to working with you and as far as your thanks goes, well, you get to work with me.

Finally to all YU students and administrators - welcome back to the grind!



MESSAGE FROM DR. NORMAN LAMM

In welcoming you to Yeshiva for the 5758 (1997-98) academic year, I offer you this urgent advice: Don't rush. Real education requires a degree of leisure—time to think, to absorb what you've learned, to understand it and criticize it and evaluate it. If you try in every way to get out before you've really gotten in, you may well emerge with a degree, but it will be fairly meaningless: credentials without substance are a deception. Learning is a process, not an event. Remember that our tradition bids us to be *koveia ittim le'torah*, which means, literally, to set aside times for Torah—times, in the plural—because Torah demands not only the time to study the text but also the leisure to ponder and assimilate it. Your Rebbeim are outstanding sages who have spent long years plumbing the depths of Torah, and you can learn from them only if you invest the time and the same kind of dedication, patience, and love of Torah that they brought and bring to their labors. Your professors are experts in their various disciplines. Do not insult them by a breathless rush through their lectures as if they were the academic equivalent of fast food: the latter will give you a belly-ache, the former a mind-ache, a disease of the spirit. Both are the equivalent of "junk food"...

Along with this practical advice it is important for you to appreciate the conceptual and axiological framework within which Yeshiva offers an education to its students. To that end, permit me to share with you several excerpts from an address I delivered at the Centennial of Yeshiva University in 1986 which I hope you will take seriously.

I wish each and every one of you a happy and blessed new year, one filled with love of learning, passion for Torah, clarity of thought, health of body and spirit, and creativity in the adventure of acquiring not only knowledge but also wisdom.

The faculty and students of Yeshiva University have made many contributions, of varying degrees and importance, in many fields and in many disciplines. But if I were to focus on what is perhaps Yeshiva's unique contribution, it would be this: that we have endeavored to provide a liberal education within the context of moral and spiritual affirmations; that in providing intellectual leadership in Jewish thought and learning and culture in its broadest and deepest sense, we have learned and taught that such profound Jewish commitments need not be confining and tribal, but can offer enlightenment and illumination on the higher aspirations of all human beings, on that which inspires every man and woman on the face of the earth.

ite the inevitable tensions that rise between Torah and Mada, between the fidelity to a self-renewing ancient people with its sacred tradition and the search for universal knowledge, such conflicts are not fatal. Granted that we have not achieved full coherence amongst all our various schools (and probably never will), some general principles emerge which, even if disputed by some, are of value to all: that the pursuit of knowledge is worthwhile and deserving of sacrifice; that knowledge ought to ripen into wisdom; that whether or not one believes that human beings are the purpose of creation, they are certainly the purpose of education; that the effort by man to transcend himself is admirable, even if he often fails; that there are verities that are eternal, though they may be ignored for generations; that life is sacred; that men and women possess spiritual dignity which makes them worthy of our respect, and our dedication to their welfare.

Yeshiva University, under the leadership of my distinguished predecessors, Dr. Bernard Revel and Dr. Samuel Belkin, has become one of those few schools that have managed to embrace science, technology, law, and the social sciences of our day—without compromising their integrity—while at the same time offering a welcome home for those whose axiological convictions are based upon the reality of mind and soul and the existence of an active and creative God who reveals and guides and loves. It is not even necessary that they debate or talk with each other, although that would be helpful. The very fact that both exist within the confines of one academic institution is itself a reminder to each that the other must act as a corrective to one's own penchant for narrowness and self-righteousness.

Office of Placement & Career Services
Events

September

Belfer Hall 419 (212)960-0845
Midtown Center 923 (212) 340-7783

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 8pm-Accounting Placement Orientation-Main Campus	3 Interviewing Workshop-Club Hour-Midtown Center 8pm-Big Six Night-Main Campus	4 Interviewing Workshop-Club Hour-Main Campus	5	6
7	8 8pm-Midsize Accounting Firms Panel Discussion-Midtown Center	9 Accounting Resume & Preference Sheets Due. 8pm-Behavioral Interviewing Techniques with Ken Cappell of C&L	10 Mock Interview Wksp with Barry Wintle of PW-Club Hour-Midtown Center	11 Mock Interview Wksp with Barry Wintle of PW-Club Hour-Main Campus	12 Accounting Field Trip-10am - 12noon	13

Yeshiva College



Campus News

New Faculty Appointments

By ADAM MOSES

The University recently announced faculty appointments for the upcoming semester. The following are brief academic sketches of those slated to teach courses at Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, Yeshiva College, and Sy Syms School of Business:

Rabbi Jeremy Wieder - Held the post of *S'gan Mashgiach/Shoel U'meshiv* to rabbinic students at RIETS and Assistant Professor of Bible in YC. Appointed *Rosh Yeshiva* in the Yeshiva Program/Mazer School of Talmudic Studies (MYP). He received his rabbinic ordination from RIETS in 1994. Served as co-editor of *Zichron Harav* and editor of *Beit Yitzchak*. A doctoral candidate in Hebrew and Jewish studies at New York University. Holds a master's degree in American Jewish History from Bernard Revel Graduate School and graduated summa cum laude from Yeshiva College.

Rabbi Jacob Haber - Instructor in the Stone Beit Midrash Program. Ordained at RIETS. Fellow of the Caroline and Joseph S. Gruss Kollel Elyon for gifted Talmudic scholars. A magna cum laude graduate of Yeshiva College.

Dr. Deborah Y. Cohn - Held the

position of an adjunct assistant professor at YU during the spring semester. Appointed assistant professor at SSSB. Holds a Ph.D. in marketing and M.Phil. in business from CUNY and an M.B.A. in marketing from New York Institute of Technology. Received B.A. from SUNY Albany.

Dr. Karen Taylor Stewart - Appointed assistant professor of psychology at YC. A clinical psychologist whose primary area of specialization is the biological clock in humans. Served as senior associate at the National Research Council, Johnson Space Center, Biomedical Operations and Research, Houston, Texas. Worked in the area of mood disorders and biological rhythms. B.A. from Princeton University. Holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Lauren Fitzgerald - Appointed instructor of communications at YC and director of the Yeshiva College Writing Center. A Ph.D. candidate in English literature at New York University. Graduate of the University of Tulsa. Taught most recently at Barnard College where she directed the Erica Mann Jong Writing Center and acting director of the Writing Program.

Assistant Dean's Position Still Vacant

By ADAM MOSES

As the 1997-1998 academic year is ushered in, Yeshiva College's Assistant Dean position remains unclaimed. A successor for acting Assistant Dean Avery Horowitz has not been secured and uncertainty remains as to when a satisfactory candidate will be located.

During the previous academic year *The Commentator* reported YC Dean Norman Adler's mid-semester decision to terminate current Assistant Dean Avery Horowitz. Horowitz, however, remained in his Assistant Dean position for the duration and is currently serving in that capacity. No indications of formal efforts to replace him materialized until the conclusion of the year as students were leaving the University for the summer.

Over the summer, administrators and a student advisory panel, comprised of a

number of elected student leaders including YCSC president Sruli Tannenbaum, interviewed four prospective candidates for Horowitz's seat, according to Adler. None passed the screening process.

According to Adler, the incoming Assistant Dean must cohere with his envisioned direction for the future of YC. This, he elaborated, is characterized by a commitment to making the Office of the Dean "a user-friendly environment that students can feel comfortable approaching." Additionally, Adler remarked, the future Assistant Dean must possess the ability to "infuse the school with intellectual excitement."

Adler also indicated that it had been agreed that theological factors would not play a role in the consideration of candidates for the Assistant Dean post. This would appear to pave the path for hiring the first non-Orthodox or non-Jewish YC administrator in recent memory.

YU Graduates Place Well Across the Board

By NIR KNOLL

Reports of acceptances of many YU students to top notch graduate schools and business firms indicate another stellar performance by graduates of this past year.

The final count of law school acceptances has demonstrated that YU students have successfully continued the tradition of getting into the best law schools in America. Over seven students achieved LSAT scores in the 99th percentile and an additional six students received scores that placed them above the 95th percentile. The mean LSAT score achieved by YC/SSSB placed it in the 85th percentile.

This year's impressive LSAT results translated into the acceptance of all 40 YC/SSSB applicants to at least one American Bar Association accredited law school, including 4 acceptances to Harvard Law School, 7 acceptances to Columbia Law School, 9 acceptances to NYU, and 7 acceptances to the University of Pennsylvania.

In addition, YU students garnered a number of acceptances to respected medical schools across America. Of the 57 YU students who applied to medical schools, 46 have already been accepted. This figure represents an acceptance rate of approximately 80%. YU students were able to secure spots in some of the finest medical schools in America with 2 acceptances to Yale Medical School one of which was for its esteemed MD/Ph.D. program, one acceptance to Harvard, and 19 acceptances to AECOM.

YU students did much better on the MCAT's than they did the previous year. The average scores were 8.8 in verbal

reasoning, and 10 or more in both the physical sciences and biological sciences. This amounted to an average total score of just under thirty for the first time in the history of YU. This year, the national mean average was 8.0 on the verbal reasoning, 8.3 on the physical sciences, and 8.5 on the biological sciences.

Commenting on the prospects of the upcoming senior class, Dr. Weisbrot, the pre-med advisor at YU, stated "that the future looks very bright." In addition, Dr. Weisbrot stated that he would continue to meet with the Deans of Admissions at the top medical schools in the U.S., as he has over the past 7 years, to ensure that YU students are recognized by these prestigious institutions.

As for those students who chose to enter the business world directly, administrators at Sy Syms School of Business report that of the 129 students who applied for full time jobs last year, 119 have been placed. This amounts to a placement rate of 92%. Approximately 96% of the accounting graduates have received jobs. Of these accounting graduates, about half went on to join the staff of Big Six accounting firms. In addition, 100% of all those students looking for work in the Management Information Systems field have been successfully placed.

Regarding the few students who have not yet been placed, Ira Jaskoll, Assistant Dean of SSSB explained that, "Within a month we should have most of them done. Usually, we will get close to 100% placement by October." In addition, Jaskoll wished to emphasize that SSSB "will work with every student until they are placed."

Tuition Via Visa

By MORDECHAI FISHMAN

Ushering the Office of Student Finances into the realm of electronic payment, Yeshiva University has instituted a new credit card payment option for the Fall '97 semester.

The initiative to arrange credit card payment was a project of the Student Life Committee, led by then president of YCSC, Jason Buskin. According to Buskin, it was originally envisioned to make the students' life easier, by allowing them to pay for minor expenses such as additions to the caf card, or fees in the Student Finance office for matters such as transcripts or housing. But once the system was in place, it was broadened to include

tuition payments as well. "I am extremely happy that the hard work put in by the members of YCSC, the Student Life Committee, and the employees of the Student Finance office has paid off," said Buskin. "This new system will benefit students as well as parents for years to come."

According to Neal Harris, Director of the Office of Student Finances, 501 students have already utilized the credit card option to pay their tuition, 293 uptown, and the remainder at the Midtown campus. "I would say it has provided a very good payment alternative to a reasonable percentage of our parents," said Harris. "Our aim is to provide payment alternatives, and this seems to have been extremely well received."

*The
Yeshiva College
Student Council
and the
Office of Student Services
are proud to present*

ORIENTATION '97

Featuring:

Tuesday 8/26: Cruise With Dougies

Thursday 8/28: Stomp

Sunday 8/31: Great Adventure

Thursday 9/4: Yankees v. Orioles

Don't Miss Out!

**Be a Part of the
Greatest Orientation Ever.**

Greetings From the Deans

YC - Dr. Norman Adler

Welcome - you are about to embark on one of the most fascinating journeys of your life: the systematic exploration of the life of the mind within the metaphysical context of Torah. Having chosen Yeshiva College, you have made a commitment to Jewish values and, at the same time, to the best of what a liberal arts education can be. Today, America offers over two thousand institutions of post-secondary education (with more than twelve million students enrolled). There are liberal arts colleges, graduate and research universities, technical schools, art institutes, music conservatories, and a variety of vocational training schools from which the potential student may choose. Your choice is unique; there is no other model like Yeshiva College.

You will be offered the opportunity to grow spiritually, psychologically, and intellectually. We are a classic liberal arts college - with its small size, attention to every student, and its emphasis on critical thinking and writing. We are also a research university - with opportunities to explore in depth the most modern areas of scholarship actively investigated by world-famous scholars. We are a pre-professional training school - with hundreds of course entries each year and over twenty majors and joint-degree programs from which to choose - all preparing you for a meaningful post-baccalaureate career.

Any student heading for college today must make choices. For Jewish students, these include how one becomes "educated" while remaining true to Torah values. The American educational system, especially higher education, has traditionally provided ethnic groups access to the broader society and the chance to assume leadership positions therein. The cultural cost of entrance is sometimes high though - sometimes too high. It can lead to assimilation and loss of established religious and cultural values. At Yeshiva College, our educational goal is to furnish you with the tools to survive and succeed in the increasingly multicultural world of the diaspora - while nurturing your adherence to our tradition. There is no other school like this.

I echo what President Lamm has said; do not rush. Savor the learning. In the dialectic that is Torah U'madda, there are certainly points of contact that must be resolved. However, the reciprocal enrichment of your religious and intellectual life is the potential and the goal of your education here.

This year we are continuing our commitment to your education here.

This year we are continuing our commitment to bringing you the most exciting innovations in higher education. Your class will be the first to have access to our new observatory, exciting new courses

SSSB - Dr. Harold Nierenberg

Dear Students,

On behalf of the Faculty, Staff and Administration of the Sy Syms School of Business, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Yeshiva University. The 1997-98 academic year promises to be an exciting one for the Sy Syms School of Business and we all look forward to making this an exciting and productive year for all of you.

Attending Yeshiva University is an important milestone in your life, and the privilege of studying at the Sy Syms School of Business provides you with a Torah U'Madda opportunity that will last you a lifetime. It is up to you to make the most of it.

Please do not fail to avail yourself of all the services we have to offer. Whether it be program guidance, career guidance, placement, or any question or problem of a general nature, all of us at the Sy Syms School of Business are committed to helping you succeed.

On a personal level, I am always available to any student who wishes to see me and I welcome and look forward to meeting with you. Best wishes for a successful and rewarding year.

Harold Nierenberg, Ph.D.

es like the evolution of modernism in history and political science, a chance to interact with some of America's finest writers in the Gottesman Distinguished Authors' Series. This is of course in addition to your basic learning with our outstanding Rebbeim and College faculty.

Finally (or perhaps initially), there is the YU Reading Project - part of your orientation week in which we will gather to discuss Berthold Brecht's classic play Galileo. The evening devoted to the play is a fitting inauguration of your academic year. We will hear dramatic readings from the text, be addressed by President Lamm, and become involved in a discussion of

the interaction between science and religion with our faculty and our visiting Nobel Laureate Roald Hoffman.

The material presented will be utilized throughout the year in various courses; and a number of special lectures and events will follow this evening of intellectual initiation.

Let me conclude how I began - with a welcome. The faculty and staff of Yeshiva College are here to help you grow and to realize your individual potentials. Come visit us: in the advising center, after class, and in the numerous extra-curricular events we have planned for you. Together, we will make Yeshiva College what it can be.



Yeshiva University
SY SYMS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

proudly presents

"BIG SIX NIGHT"

Meet with representatives from:
*Arthur Andersen, Coopers & Lybrand, Deloitte & Touche,
Ernst & Young, KPMG Peat Marwick, & Price Waterhouse*

Wednesday, September 3, 1997
Belfer Hall - Weissberg Commons
8:00 P.M.

Required of all Accounting Majors
Recommended to all Students

VAN LEAVES BROOKDALE DORM at 7:00 PM

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE REQUIRED

Office of Placement & Career Services
BH 415/419 or MID 920/923
960-0845 or 340-7763/7783

ATTENTION SENIORS!

Office of Placement & Career Services

presents

PLACEMENT ORIENTATION

This workshop is ***required*** for ***Accounting Seniors*** who are interested in seeking employment after graduation and plan on participating in our On-Campus Recruiting Program.

Monday, September 2, 1997 at 8:00 p.m.
Belfer Hall Room 502

Bus leaves Brookdale Dorm at 7:00 p.m.

Office of Placement & Career Services
BH 419,415/MID 923,905
960-0845/340-7783,7763

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BARGAINS

School's starting-and so are the savings at Barnes & Noble 18th Street.

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MESSAGE FROM THE
SOY PRESIDENT

MENACHEM LUFTGLASS

The Haftorah of Parshas Re'eh, as one of the *shivah d'nechemtah*, has the dual task of comforting *Klal Yisroel* in the aftermath of the destruction of the Beis Hamikdash and of providing hope for the anticipated eventual *geulah*. The Haftorah includes an assurance from the *Ribono Shel Olam*: "*V'chol banayich limudei Hashem, v'rov shalom banayich.*" Although this promise represents a wonderful bracha from HKB"H, one may fail to decipher what prompted its specific inclusion within the context of the presumed goals of the Haftorah. But its relevance is indeed obvious. The gemara in maseches Shabbos (119a) quotes Rav Hamnuna as teaching us that the reason for the destruction and desolation of Yerushalayim lies in the termination of the institution of *tinokos shel beis rabban*. Similarly, the gemara in Yuma (9b) attributes the subsequent destruction of the Beis Hamikdash to the proliferation of *sinas chinam*. Therefore, when HKB"H comforts *Klal Yisroel* with the promise of impending redemption, He pledges that the reasons for the destruction will terminate as well. For in order to ensure an ultimate *geulah* the reasons for the former *galus* must be obliterated: "*V'chol banayich limudei Hashem*" - Hashem promises that the words of Torah will never stop flowing from the lips of *Klal Yisroel* and similarly "*v'rov shalom banayich*" - amity and *achdus* shall pervade throughout *Klal Yisroel* signaling the disappearance of the destructiveness of *sinas chinam* from the national psyche.

I believe that in the microcosm that is our Yeshiva these twin promises of *habatzas HaTorah* and *achdus* represents the two-pronged mission of SOY. Our Yeshiva is not like any other. That is a function of both the various factors that compete for our limited time and of the existence of several programs to accommodate the different needs of our students. But while it may be true that we come from diverse backgrounds with certain divergent perspectives and express a keen sense of distinct individualism, there is an acknowledgment of a single, unitary *hashkafa* that permeates the walls of our Yeshiva. That is the acknowledgment of the centrality of Torah in our lives.

Our mission as your student organization is to buttress our Torah Institution in the hope that it will continue to forget the very foundation of our lives as *b'nei Torah*. From the maintaining of the Batei Midrashim to providing extra shiurim to organizing seforim sales to arranging for shatnez testing, SOY attempts to meet the needs of the *brei ha Yeshiva* in order to ease the hassles of everyday Yeshiva life.

This year, we have therefore begun an attempt at improving the general *avira* of the main Beis Medrash with a refurbishing project for its long-neglected seforim. We have over 2000 new and recently bound seforim that are currently waiting administrative action in allocating much needed shelf space in the Beis Medrash.

Furthermore, we realize that there is a genuine need for a variety of extra shiurim to accommodate the diverse needs of our many students. As a result, we have arranged for several new supplementary night-time shiurim that will Y"H be available for the first time for all *talmidei Ha Yeshiva*. Ranging from *gemara* to *halacha* and *hashkafa*, they will include: a *daf yomi* shiur that will begin the eleventh cycle of

the *daf yomi* at the beginning of *Elul z'man*, a few *halacha l'maaseh* shiurim that will focus on hilchos shabbos during the Fall semester, a possible weekly hour-long *haskafa* shiur that will cover topics that concern *brei yeshiva*, besides the preexisting shiurim and *chaburos* from previous years. I hope that you will take advantage of these new learning opportunities during the coming z'man so that we will be able to continue sponsoring them in the future.

We hope to organize several Torah Forums throughout the year where Roshei Yeshiva and invited guests will be able to discuss various Halachic issues that concern us in modern society. Topics will range from the dealing with the plight of the *agunah* to discovering the wonders of genetic testing and uncovering the dangers of genetic manipulation. These shiurim will allow us to be intellectually aware of the issues that present themselves at very turn of our society.

As for immediate events, SOY's annual pre-z'man seforim sale is already underway in the basement of the Morgenstern dormitory and will continue throughout the orientation week and the first few days of shiur. The sale offers the *talmidim* of the Yeshiva the opportunity to choose and purchase from a wide selection of *gemaros*, *rishonim* and *achronim* as well as other useful seforim.

At the orientation seforim sale we will be presenting our incoming students with a welcoming gift. Each new student, whether part of the early admissions program, an incoming freshman, an *Eretz Yisroel* returnee, or an incoming Semicha Student, is entitled to a complimentary copy of *Zichron HaRav*, published a few years ago by RIETS in memory of Rav Soloveichik *z"l*. The sefer contains a variety of *divrei Torah* written by several of the Rav's foremost *talmidim*, among them many of our present Roshie Yeshiva. It is this synthesis that we would like to pass on to our new fellow *talmidim*. It is this *mesorah*, from Rebbe to *talmid*, that will ensure that the Torah which the Rav personally transmitted to a multitude of *talmidim* will continue to be a guiding light for generations to come.

"*V'chol banayich limudei Hashem, v'rov shalom banayich.*" The famous drasha quoted at the end of maseches Brachos: "*Al tikrei Banayich (children), elah Bonoayich (builders)*" emphasizes that the vehicle for the fulfillment of this promise of peace and *achdus* rests within the power of *talmidei chachamim* and those engrossed with the study of Torah who are credited with being *builders*. On behalf of the Student Organization of Yeshiva I would like to officially welcome you for another z'man at Yeshivas Rabbeinu Yitzchak Elchanan and to formally invite you to join us in the building process.

It is my fervent hope that through our attempt at reinforcing the learning and values of the Yeshiva atmosphere our *limud haTorah* and *yiras shamayim* will penetrate the very walls of the Yeshiva, giving the institution strength, as we build it together. With your help, the *limud* and *achdus* of the yeshiva will, by example, be a source of inspiration for the spread of the Torah and peace the HKB"H pledged as part of the ultimate *nechamas Tzion ubinyan Yerushalayim*.

MESSAGE FROM THE
SSSBSA PRESIDENT

SINCHA GISSINGER

Dear Students of the Sy Syms School of Business,

As Sy Syms begins its second decade, it will hopefully continue to carve out its niche in the undergraduate business world. It has already proven its ability to produce qualified graduates who integrate their Torah U'madda education into their daily lives and can therefore serve as an *ohr lagoyim* while functioning as successful professionals. One significant objective of this year's Sy Syms Student Association is to further that ability through the enhancement of the already strong education and reputation of the Sy Syms School of Business.

We have set out to achieve this end through various means. Through our work in conjunction with the Placement Office, a Yeshiva University Alumni Finance Network met for the first time ever over this past summer. We are presently in the preliminary stages of instituting a mentoring network between alumni and students. The program will initially concentrate solely on juniors majoring in finance, and will later expand to all areas of concentration at Sy Syms. We've also invited certain alumni to speak on campus regarding differing issues in which they can share their expertise and experiences. An MIS exemption test has been created. Students who successfully pass the exam will be able to forego their rudimentary MIS class in favor of more advanced MIS studies.

In the coming weeks we will be rigorously working to expand the performance, participation, and efficacy of the on campus Sy Syms tutoring, and Big Brother - Little Brother programs. We will also be working with the Accounting Society, American Marketing Association, Investment

Club, Joint Business Society, MIS Society, and The Exchange to insure that previous successes are surpassed in this pivotal year for Sy Syms. Students have already begun to work on this year's business journal, which insure that previous successes are surpassed in this pivotal year for Sy Syms. Students have already begun to work on this year's business journal, which should prove to be a true testament to the quality of the Sy Syms education.

Our long-term outlook for the year encompasses the establishment of several other developmental and educational programs on campus that will hopefully provide for an understanding of and experience with the business world.

For the ensuing academic year to be as successful as we all hope it to be, the critical ingredient will be student involvement. From that end I sincerely request that over the next few weeks you approach either myself, Josh Klavan, Jonathan Teitelbaum, or Michael Gewirtz, this year's Sy Syms Student Council, with your suggestions, advice, critique, or questions concerning any Sy Syms activity or program that you deem appropriate for your involvement. Reception will take place at 8 PM on Tuesday, September 23, and all Sy Syms students are invited, and strongly encouraged to attend. The evening will be meant to insure that students become further acquainted with the activities taking place through the Sy Syms School of Business over the coming year. Also, please reserve the Shabbat of November 7-8 for this year's Sy Syms Shabbaton.

It is your participation that will ultimately determine the coming year's success, and will provide for the constant personification of the values that we all hold so dear.

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Housing Crisis

continued from page one

but nearly 84 students received phone calls from members of the orientation committee informing them that they will be living in the new housing arrangements. "We were asked by Rabbi Cheifetz to help facilitate the residence office in informing the select students who have been chosen that they are moving to the apartments," said Dror Barber, chairman of the orientation committee.

The orientation volunteers read from a prepared "Script for Orientation Committee Telephone Calls" dated August 21, given to them by the Office of Residence Halls. The script mentioned that there had been a "substantial increase in enrollment" and that "applications have exceeded the capacity of the residence halls." It went on to identify the buildings chosen to house the students, and said that "These buildings have been occupied by our Smicha students during the past two years as well as Roshei Yeshiva, Kollel and other young couples, and their children, and other families who are part of the YU community." "You are part of a selected group of students who will be living in the apartments" continued the script, and informed the recipients that "All rules and regulations in the Residence Halls handbook are applicable to our Independent Housing Program."

A portion of the Smicha students who were formerly housed in these apartments have been moved to Strenger Hall, the MTA dormitory. The dorm only held 35 to 40 high school students, and the remaining beds in the 80 person capacity building are to be filled with Smicha students. The Smicha students are also being given the option of having the University find them outside apartments in the neighborhood to dwell in.

Daniel Frogel, a YP senior, is one of the students who is slated to be moved to the new apartments. According to Frogel, Rabbi Cheifetz called him two weeks before the start of the semester and asked him if he would consider moving to the apartments. After consultation with his roommate, he called Cheifetz and politely declined. "I asked him if there would be furniture, if there would be a dorm counselor, a caf card, security, maintenance, and all the other amenities of the dorms, and all he would tell me was 'I do not know.'" Frogel then called a friend who is a resident advisor, who assured him that he had a dorm room. He even found out his dorm room number, Morg 504. When he received a phone call from another member of the orientation staff informing him that he was being moved, it came as a total surprise. He expressed his sentiments by saying "If they wanted to kick me out, why ask me, and then move me regardless of what I want?"

The criteria for selection remains unclear. Seniors who applied late for housing were considered prime candidates for transfer. According to Dean Nulman, the decisions were



*Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz,
Director of Residence Halls*

made by the Office of Resident Halls in conjunction with the resident advisors. The Commentator was informed by a resident advisor, that they were instructed to concentrate on YP students, who would be "model citizens." Netanel Newberger, another student who was informed that he is to be moved, asked Rabbi Cheifetz how he was chosen. "I hand picked your name because you are a good kid" was the Rabbi's response.

Dean Nulman requested understanding and forbearance from the student body while the details of the housing situation are being ironed out. "We need to be as flexible as possible with the students, and we hope that the students will be flexible with us."

He acknowledged that there are student concerns, and assured the Commentator that the Office of the Dean of Students and the Student Life committee will address all complaints, and take the necessary measures to correct any and all problems that may arise. Nulman explained that the Office of Residence Halls has been working around the clock in collaboration with himself and Assistant Dean David Himber to find the best solution to the housing crisis. "We knew there were going to be an excess amount of students, but we did not know the scope of the problem until recently."

He stressed that the administration has been planning for this eventuality, and that this did not catch them unaware. Arrangements such as security, maintenance, and dorm regulations will be finalized as the process continues, said Dean Nulman.

The apartments will have furniture including a refrigerator, and they are equipped with a full bathroom and shower. Residents will be required to participate in the cafeteria card program, and their apartments are scheduled to be maintained by Facilities Management. The security arrangements have yet to be finalized, but the buildings are under the aegis of the security patrols performed by YU Security. There will be resident advisors located in the buildings, with the possibility that they may be married residents of the building.

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Editorials OPINION

WASHINGTON REFLECTIONS

By: ADAM MOSES

Ah, Washington...realm of unfulfilled rhetoric and grandiose schemes. I languished at my desk encapsulated in the malaise. The turbulent cohesion of aggressiveness, avarice, testosterone, ineptitude, nothingness comprised the Washington I observed. In this city realpolitik is not a realist principle of international diplomacy, it is a method of subverting colleagues to facilitate personal advance. Washington is a quagmire of artificiality and ethical depravity that on one level is abominable, but at the same time shimmers with an attraction that parallels one's initial impression of Nietzsche's conception of moral transvaluation - intuitively reprehensible, but fascinating and vigorous. What insights, if any, does this city bear?

I cannot claim with any sincerity that I reported to my Capitol Hill internship this summer with lofty expectations of making a substantive contribution to the Senator for whom I was to work. Such an approach, I repeatedly assured myself, would merely engender disillusionment

when I confronted the inevitable realization that the deluge of interns that engulf the Hill during June is to the political climate what humidity is to a Washington summer - unpleasant but unavoidable.

Armed with this pessimistic conviction - which I chose to call pragmatism - I began my internship. My prognostication of a dearth of substantive work was borne out. While I received the departmental assignment I sought within the Senator's office and the charges I received were repeatedly characterized as "high level" intern activity, it was apparent to me almost immediately that my conception of a meaningful contribution was not consonant with that of the Senator's staff. I could respond to the letters of misguided constituents ignorantly voicing concern with sundry foreign affairs issues and I could write irrelevant research memoranda that would never be read on the fiscal prudence of funding bilateral international development projects, but any discussion of a policy matter of even marginal practical import was categorically barred.

Of course, for me to have presumed

that interns would issue binding policy advice to Senators or their staff members would have been simultaneously naive and supercilious. However, the preclusion of the opportunity to participate even peripherally in intelligent analysis of policy formulation, innocuous as it sounds, represented to me the violent extrication of a meaningful element of the Capitol Hill internship experience. Why did I continue? Why was I inclined to promote my own hindrance?

Although disconcerting, it was not surprising to me that interns were denied the opportunity to contribute productively to the political process. Other observations were less expected. After fording the tumultuous river of acrid tension generated by the unmitigated ambition that is the lifeblood of congressional staffers, I encountered the stark reality that while everyone jockeyed for position, few do any work of consequence. Every staffer is subject to the unequivocal intellectual dominion of the Member of Congress. Anything they do, believe, assert, say, or write can be challenged and capriciously subordinated to the whim of the Mem-

ber of Congress. More anxiety is evoked by the prospect of raising the ire of that omnipotent despot than by the failure of legislation supporting a valuable ideal. Sycophants exist everywhere; it is my contention that Washington has succeeded in breeding a unique species calibrated to be so repugnant as to assure that they are never eclipsed by any other sycophants. Why do they do it? Why does everyone submit to this inhibiting system?

Pragmatism and self-interest. These are the compelling factors motivating virtually every action in Washington. This is the city's poignantly simple, albeit disenchanting, lesson. The mindless drudgery, the personal humiliation, the abject subjugation, the moral harlotry - all are countenanced in the interest of the lofty aim of advancing self-interest.

Interns on Capitol Hill are not paid. Instead, they are provided with exposure to this exhilarating spiral of power in an ethical wasteland. It is hoped that interns will be satisfied with this rank slice of decadence that is Washington. I was not.

One Hundred Years for RIETS

continued from page one

active life in the enormous variety of pursuits open to us in the modern life: in the arts and sciences and business and crafts and professions." Further clarifying the role of RIETS in a contemporary society, he stated that "the second emphasis of RIETS, as the premier institution of Modern Orthodoxy, is therefore on service to the Jewish community... the adjective 'Modern' should not fool anyone. Our commitment to and the celebration of Torah lishmah of any other advanced yeshiva; but unlike others, our confrontation with modernity is more nuanced, more subtle and more balanced." Rabbi Lamm also remarked that "we have and should have higher and more demanding standards than the rest of society and the Jewish Community, but not so high that we look upon them with withering contempt... and not so demanding that others look upon us as out of reach and irrelevant."

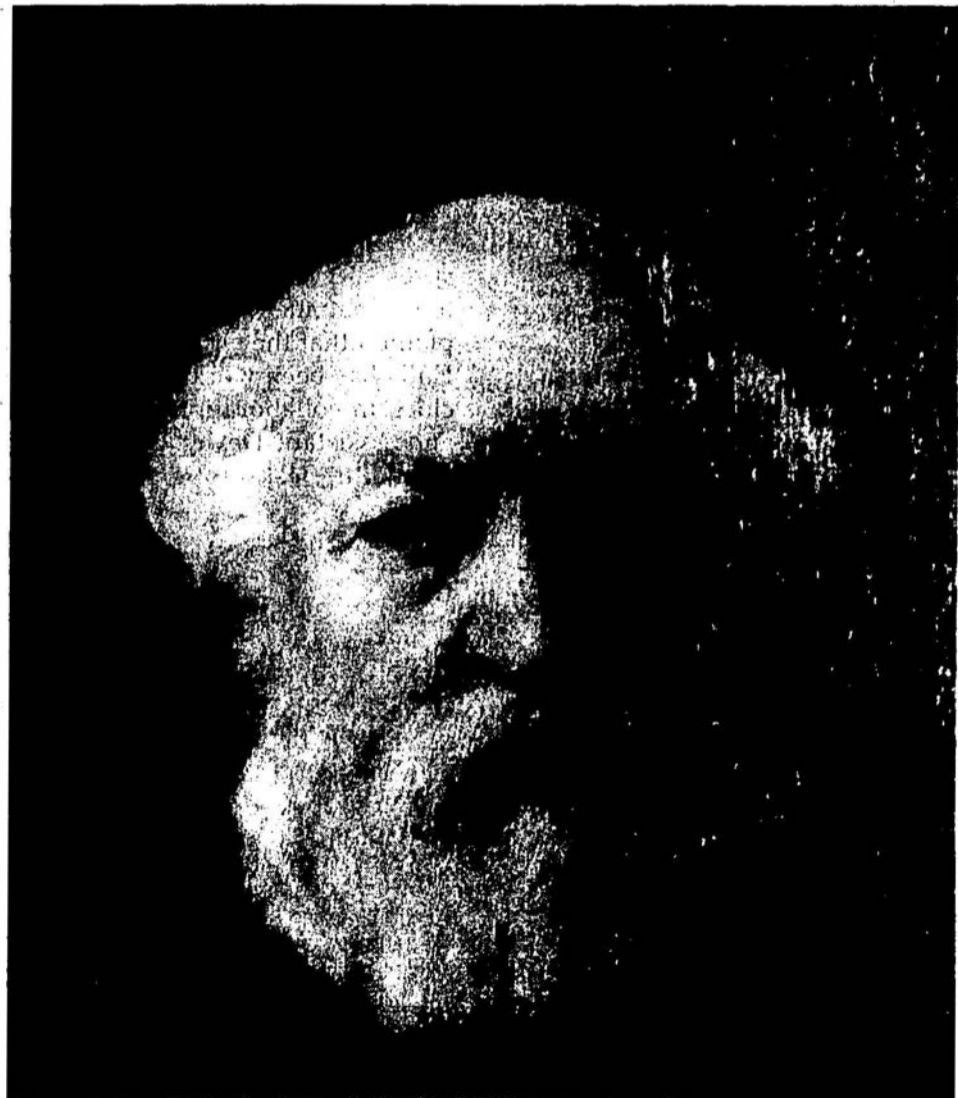
Rabbi Lamm also discussed the vast tradition of RIETS, noting that through his support of the Hovevei Zion movement and "sophisticated ahavat Yisrael", Rav Yitzchak Elchanan Spektor "in many ways adumbrated—explicitly but mostly implicitly, in the way he behaved—the ideals which inspire this Yeshiva and make it unique." In addition, Rabbi Lamm also noted the great

contribution of the Rav in shaping RIETS stated that "it is his legacy that must be preserved, expanded, and continued as a living tradition at Yeshiva University and RIETS. But—it must be his true legacy. No one-sided distortion of this complex intellectual and spiritual giant should be countenanced."

The Man and the Yeshiva

Rav Yitzchak Elchanan Spektor, the Kovner Rav and namesake of RIETS, was one of the 19th century's most prolific scholars of Torah. He became the Chief rabbi of Kovno in the 1860's and continued to be the dominant figure in the World Jewish Community until his death in 1896. Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, the Dean of RIETS noted that even Jews who had migrated to the United States from Czarist Russia towards the end of the 20th century continued to view Rav Yitzchak Elchanan as "the single most dominant figure in World Jewry," regardless of their religious commitment.

After his death in 1896, a group of American Jewish Leaders, founded the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) (Yeshivas Rabbeinu Yitzchak Elchanan), in his memory. Throughout the century RIETS has continued to flourish even suc-



Rav Yitzchak Elchanan Spektor

cessfully branching into Israel through the Caroline and Joseph S. Gruss Institute in Jerusalem, which provides many YU graduates with the opportunity to conduct their post-graduate and Semikhah studies in Israel. In addition, over the past 100 years, RIETS has granted Semikhah

for approximately 2,400 students, with over 140 students receiving ordination in the last Hag Hasemikhah in 1994. Commenting on the Centennial anniversary and massive growth of RIETS, Rabbi Charlop stated that this "celebration signifies that we are thriving."

Yeshiva University

Office of the Dean of Students

Dear Students,

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

Adjusting to college life can be both exciting and challenging. The staff of the Office of Student Services is committed to helping you through these challenging times. If you are in need of counseling or even a reassuring hand, we encourage you to meet with our caring staff to discuss your needs and concerns. Our student services source book provides you with useful information.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR EXPERTISE. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU FEEL FRUSTRATED AND OVERWHELMED. We encourage you to use our services so that your college years can be most productive and rewarding.

As a new semester begins, we wish you continued success in your endeavors.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year

Hatzlachah Rabbah,



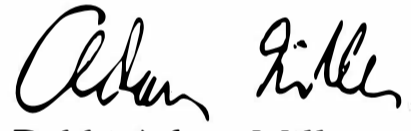
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