

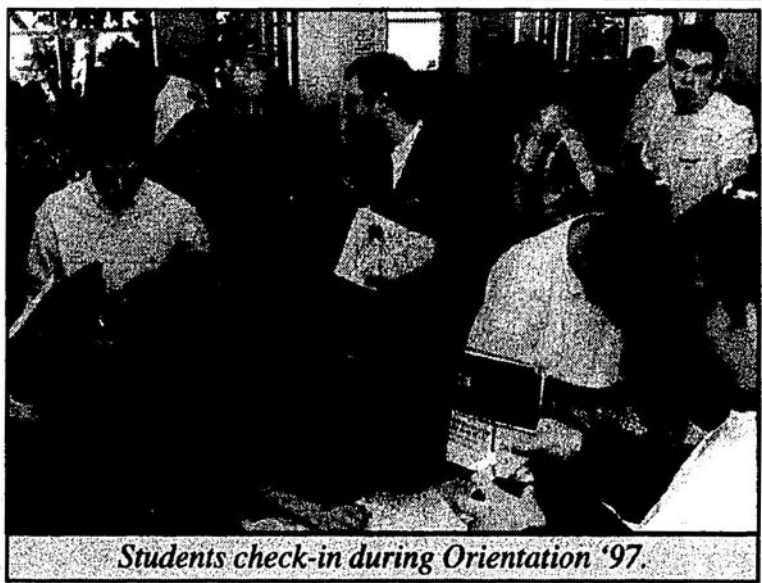
# The Yeshiva University Commentator

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Orientation '97  
Spread  
Pages 8-9



New Athletic  
Director  
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Students check-in during Orientation '97.

## Administration Fine Tuning Independent Housing Program

By MORDECHAI FISHMAN

"We are doing the best we can, but things are not yet perfect." This sentiment expressed by Efrem Nulman, Dean of Students, seemed to sum up the student and faculty reaction to the new Independent Housing Program.

The program was inaugurated this semester by the administration to alleviate overcrowding in the existing dormitories and cope with the record enrollment on the uptown campus. After the initial two weeks, there are still issues to be resolved and details to be ironed out, but the Office of Residence Halls continues in its efforts to integrate the apartment dwellings into the larger framework of sanctioned University housing.

The program consists of 24 individual apartments split between two separate buildings. One is located at 475 West 186 Street and the other at 480 West 187 Street. According to Nulman, there are currently 906 students registered for University housing, of which 83 now reside in the Independent Housing Program apartments. These apartments are controlled by the University however, the buildings also contain married students and faculty as well as local residents. A portion of these apartments formerly housed Smicha students, of which 34 now live in the high school dormitory, Strenger Hall. 42 others were placed in apartments on Laurel Hill Terrace.

When first informed of the program by the administration, students protested their transfer to apartments from the dorms. They objected to

the seemingly arbitrary selection methods employed by the Office of Residence Halls to decide which students would be moved. Phone calls were made and received by concerned parents and pressures were brought to bear on administrators from various quarters. Contributing to the doubts voiced by many was the uncertainty surrounding what University services and regulations the new apartments would have, and how these matters were going to be implemented by the Office of Residence Halls.

The majority of the issues had already been decided in the initial phase of the program. The apartments are equipped with a full bath and shower, and are fully furnished with desks, beds, and chairs. Although the University does not control these apartment buildings, all the rules and regulations of the Office of Residence Halls handbook apply to the students of the Independent Housing Program, and will be enforced. The residents are required to participate in the cafeteria card program and the gas line to the stoves have been shut off. There are resident advisors located in each building to handle complaints, and if necessary, deal with whatever problems arise.

What remains to be seen is how the details will work themselves out. Security was the overriding concern of parents and students when the semester started, with some demanding a security guard outside the buildings and others concerned about late night activity. But the qualms

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## University Shuts Down Student Server

Administration Cites Student Hacker as Reason

By ADAM MOSES

The Yeshiva University student-operated 501 Internet server was shut down without warning by the University administration this past summer. This action defied an agreement forged between University administration officials and the YU Computer Science Club and raised serious questions regarding censorship of student expression.

The 501 student-operated server was established last year by Jack Cates and Josh Spoerri, the student leaders of the YU Computer Science Club. It was hoped that 501 would serve as an academic resource to provide computer science students with the opportunity to hone their skills in an area for which YC offers no courses. While its web address had a yu.edu suffix, 501 was supported by

an independent server that was not connected to official University web sites or the Y-Mail e-mail service.

On July 8, the MIS department shut down the 501 server despite an agreement made at the end of the previous academic year that mandated consultation with students before any substantive alterations were made to the academic server.

As a result of 501's termination, all user files and web sites on the server were rendered inaccessible for a month. The academic server housed a host of student web sites including the home pages of The Commentator, the YU Computer Science Club, and various academic honors societies. Some student users reported that they were unable to display their technical wares to prospective employers via the Internet as a consequence of the unan-

icipated closure. Others complained that the thousands of technical man hours devoted to putting together the server and its web pages were squandered by the University's decision.

The decision to terminate service was apparently independently made and executed by the University Department of Management Information Systems. MIS Director Arthur Meyers acknowledged that his department acted alone to close 501, but cited a hacking incident and inadequate coordination between the student operators of 501 and MIS as grounds for the action. "We received e-mail from Israel saying 501 was used to hack other computers in Israel...The students did not discuss 501 developments with us enough." Meyers had no con-

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## YU Still in Top Tier

By AKIVA HERZFELD

The U.S. News and World Report has released its rankings of "America's Best Colleges" and Yeshiva University is at the top of the list, relatively. It is the second consecutive year that the US News' research staff has rated Y.U. in the first tier among the top fifty "Best National Universities."

Last year Yeshiva University was ranked number forty-five. However, this year YU fell three places in the rankings to the forty-eighth position. The slight drop did not at all diminish the joy of some students. Jeff Kohn, a junior delighted with the news, but perhaps a little confused about the difference between first tier and first rank, cried "We're #1 baby!"

Others were slightly more reserved in their reactions. YU President Dr. Norman Lamm said that while we should not "overemphasize" the rankings, "we are pleased that this major national survey has again ranked us in the first tier." Public relations director David Rosen said, "It is definitely gratifying." Michael Kranzler, Director of Admissions, concurred, saying that "it certainly is helpful." While Director of Alumni

Affairs Robert Saltzman stated, "This should confirm that we compete well with the big boys."

Saltzman added that, "It builds pride in the alma mater. There is a lack of self-confidence in alumni and they really don't realize how good this school is."

The YU administration has

Yale, and Princeton. This year, they will once again publicize the rankings at the open house for prospective students.

Such actions have upset at least some members of the faculty. One professor, desiring to remain nameless, remarked, "I don't think well of the administration's attempts to capitalize on the high rankings. It smacks of insecurity, a lack of self-respect, and, at a mere superficial level, you are setting yourself up for a fall, especially when you know that nothing is really responsible for the fluctuations."

Only a few years ago, in 1994, YU was ranked in the third tier with a rating of 116. YU reached the second tier in '95 and escalated into the first tier last year. This climb upwards in the rankings has been facilitated by changes in the way that US News calculates its rankings. Before the 1997 guide to "Best Colleges," if a school was unable to supply data for a certain category, it was given the lowest rank possible. YU does not have class rankings for entering freshmen, and had always been ranked last in that category. But for the past two years, US News has estimated the high school class

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attempted to take advantage of the school's ranking by organizing a massive campaign to publicize YU's success. Last year, the Public Relations department purchased advertisements in the Jewish Press and the Jerusalem Post, proclaiming YU's status as a first tier school, which includes schools such as Harvard,

# :Imagine All the People...

The expansion of the undergraduate population at Yeshiva University's Uptown Campus is a development that should bode well for the future of the institution. However, expansion requires an equally important corollary: facilities expansion.

Back in July of 1997, the YU administration was well aware of the impending population explosion that would result from the incoming deluge of first-year students. Nevertheless, there was inadequate administrative communication between those overseeing housing and those overseeing admissions.

Eventually Housing began having problems. Dormitory space was depleted but Admissions was told to continue admitting. What would Housing do with the extra people?

Fortunately, two weeks before the onset of the school year, University officials informed Housing of available apartments in nearby apartment buildings.

It is now two weeks into the new school year and most of the current housing problems have been ironed out. Yet, if the population of the undergraduate student body continues to grow, the Independent Housing Program becomes only a temporary solution.

The University has two choices. It can decide that the size of the current student body is ideal. This would allow the admissions office to become more selective when accepting students to the University, and would not require a significant change in the campus infrastructure. Or, it could decide that expansion is its vision for the future.

If the University chooses the latter it must realize that they will need to include plans for additional permanent student housing, additional Beit Midrash space, as well as plans to increase the courses available to the undergraduate student body.

Growing pains may be inevitable, but a clear vision for the future of our University will surely lessen their intensity.

## 501 Blues

Most major universities across the United States provide certain basic technological services for their students. For instance, students are granted space on the university computer systems to hone their skills in designing web pages and administrating servers.

Likewise, YU allowed students space on its university system until this summer, at which point the university abruptly shut down 501, a student run server, citing supposed hacking of other systems through 501, as its reason.

Shutting down 501 does not solve the security issue. Whatever illegitimate activities took place over the summer were not a result of the existence of 501. Rather, 501 was used as a gateway. Any other Telnet server could have performed the same function.

Even if the only way to secure the main server would be to shut down 501, the students would still be entitled to demand an alternative that allows them to keep up with technological progress.

Especially since this server has already painstakingly been built, there is no excuse for denying students the ability to utilize this technology.

- By terminating 501, YU performed an immense disservice against its students. The University should immediately end this collective punishment and resurrect 501.

## PICTORIAL



"Keep 'em coming, we've got plenty of space!"

# The Commentator

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## MESSAGE FROM THE YCSC PRESIDENT

SRULI TANNENBAUM

As Orientation '97 comes to a close, the final numbers show that nearly 1000 YC students took part in the two weeks of events. I can proudly say that Orientation '97 was a huge success. Beginning with the first ever YCSC/SCWSC cruise - with a sold out crowd of 400 students - continuing with a record 410 student Orientation Shabbos, and finally concluding with a night at Yankee Stadium, the '97 year started with a bang. I would like to convey my thanks to the students who volunteered their time and energy to make the events enjoyable; your help was immeasurable. On behalf of the student body our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the Office of Student Services for sponsoring and assisting in all the orientation events. Orientation is just the beginning of many events YCSC will be running in conjunction with Student Services.

The Student Council is now focusing its attention on the fall semester. We are assigning the budgets to the various clubs for their upcoming events. Additionally, next week we are sponsoring a Club Fair, which is an opportunity for students to orient themselves with the vast array of clubs in Yeshiva. Please stop by, look around, and get involved. Organizations such as the Dramatics Society, the Commentator, and Student Council offer students the chance to take active roles in the school. The Commentator is a great way for students to keep in touch with campus events; be sure to check out the

YCSC calendar found in every issue. I'd like to wish the Commentator and the governing board the best of luck on Volume 62.

Signs have been posted for Freshman and Sophomore elections. Underclassmen, don't forget to vote, and to those running; best of luck. Students who wish to be involved in student government we invite your participation. Signs will be posted detailing how to get involved in committees, which address various schoolwide issues. Help us make a difference!

I am happy to report that the Student Life Committee is ready to tackle various school wide issues and facilitate improvements. The committee, which consists of the 5 school presidents and works in conjunction with the Dean of Students, has already initiated a number of exciting changes including the upcoming weight room renovation.

Finally, and most importantly, I would like to add something on a personal note. Student Council is here to serve and assist the student body. We are your voice to the administration, so if you have a problem let us know. We promise to do our utmost to resolve any situation that may occur. I would like to urge every student to attend all YCSC open meetings to address issues important to them and the school. We are here to help you. Have a great year!

Sruli Tannenbaum  
YCSC President '97-'98





## FROM THE EDITOR

NOAH STREIT

Picture the following situations: Imagine your friend walking down Ben-Yehuda last Thursday. Imagine your friend sitting down to have lunch. Imagine your friend torn to pieces and killed by exploding shrapnel. Your friend - dead.

Imagine you are an Israeli soldier, age 19 or 20. Imagine you are serving on the buffer zone between Israel and Lebanon. Imagine you are ambushed and though you struggle to survive, you are killed. Imagine yourself dead. Ponder your mortality for a moment. I know, it's almost impossible, but try.

Perhaps it is the luck of the draw that we are here at Yeshiva University, perhaps it is *siyata dishmaya* that we are safe and sound, while those elite commando soldiers were ambushed, and innocent bystanders were killed in the terrorist bombings.

Many of us have personal stories of redemption, as I have one indirectly related to myself. My father and his parents escaped from Germany only because his parents had once treated their maid with more dignity than she deserved. They were incarcerated in 1939 and only survived because their maid, who had been promoted to a high ranking Brown Shirt, facilitated their escape.

*Mi Yichye o' Mi Yamot* says the liturgy? Who is to know?

I too am guilty of forgetting - a mere hour after I heard about the bombings my mind was already elsewhere. When I was informed about the 11 *Kommando Yami* who perished, I acknowledged their death, but I did not take it to heart.

I am not advocating that we tear our clothes, or wear sack cloth. I am not proposing that we live in a state of eternal

grief.

I am not writing this column to criticize. Were that my aim, my ramblings would be hypocritical. My cry is for emotional recognition of those who died, recognition by individual students, the entire student body as a unit, and by the University.

I attended Mincha on Thursday and I said *tehillim* with the *tzibbur*. I am aware that *tehillim* was recited by many different shiurim. Yet, the emotional recognition I sought seemed not to be present in my fellow students. I walked around campus and found that people knew, but did not feel.

I knew as well, and I did not feel.

I expected to find a gathering of the entire student body later that afternoon or evening, but found none. So many other universities held a vigil or commemoration. Where were the students of YU? Alas, I am as guilty as the rest, for I was inactive as well.

And where was the University? Flags were flown at half mast across the country on behalf of the late Princess Diana. Shouldn't we, as the "Premier Jewish Institution of North America" fly our Israeli flag at half mast in honor of those brave men who lost their lives for Israel's sovereignty and for those innocent bystanders who were destroyed?

I know, so many have perished in this seemingly endless fight. After a while it becomes fatiguing to muster feelings.

But I cannot afford this insensitivity. We cannot afford this insensitivity. These are not just nameless or inconsequential people. They are our brothers, our blood, and they have died.

It is not enough that we know and we remember.

We must feel as well.

## Howard Hughes Medical Institute Predoctoral Fellowships in Biological Sciences

### 1998 Competition

80 fellowships will be awarded for full-time study toward the Ph.D or Sc.D. degree in cell biology, genetics, immunology, neuroscience, structural biology, epidemiology, or mathematical biology.

### Fellowship terms

- Three-year initial awards, with two-year extension possible
- \$15,000 annual stipend
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### Eligibility

- Less than one year of post-baccalaureate graduate study in biology: college seniors; first year graduate students; M.D., D.O., D.D.S., D.V.M., students or professionals
- If an M.D./Ph.D. student: not in a funded program
- No citizenship requirements: U.S. citizens may study abroad; others must study in the United States

### Schedule

- Application deadline: November 12, 1997
- Awards announced: early April 1998
- Fellowships start: June 1998-January 1999

### For Program Announcements, Eligibility Guidelines, and Applications

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The Howard Hughes Medical Institute welcomes applications from all qualified candidates and encourages women and members of minority groups to apply.

“With great anguish and awareness of loss,  
we share in your bereavement.”

We, along with the rest of the Jewish world, mourn the deaths of 12 IDF soldiers killed in action last week and the civilians who were murdered on the Ben-Yehuda Mall. We proffer our deepest consolations to their families and friends. Our prayers and support go out to the wounded, and our admiration to the hospital staffs and rescue workers who performed brilliantly during the chaotic aftermath of the explosions. May the Israeli public and the Jewish community take heart and grow in courage despite these terrible events.



# Yeshiva College



# Campus News

## Dr. Moses Pava Authors Book on Business Ethics

BY MORDECHAI FISHMAN

A new book melding traditional Jewish ethical thought and modern-day business dilemmas has been written by Dr. Moses L. Pava, Assistant Professor of Accounting at the Sy Syms School of Business. Entitled Business Ethics: A Jewish Perspective, the book attempts to deal with ethical issues raised in today's marketplace and how to address these matters in light of traditional Jewish values.

The phrase "Jewish business ethics" is seen by many to be an oxymoron. The news is rife with accounts of Jews caught in compromising financial situations, from the standard white-collar tax evasion, to Hasidic rabbis laundering Colombian drug money. The world of business is seen by many as being outside of the purview of Halacha, and therefore open to ethically questionable business practices.

Wading into this morass of money and values is Dr. Pava, who posits that not only are traditional Jewish values necessary to operate an ethical business; they can be profitable as well. He cites his students as, the impetus for his writing on this particular topic, and causing him to delve deeper into the issues surrounding business and ethics.

Writing in the preface to his tome, Dr. Pava says, "The book was inspired by my many students at the Sy Syms School of Business, Yeshiva University. The agenda was set by their intelligent questions and comments. In my numerous formal and informal conversations with them, my students have demonstrated curiosity, intellectual rigor, and a deep faith in Judaism. They continually

demand an answer to the question of how best to integrate the worldviews of religion and business. They realize that we are beyond the point where we can ignore such questions. This book is my

attempt at a coherent and thoughtful response. It is not meant to be the last word on the subject, but rather the continuation of an ongoing discussion."

Pava further writes that "The purpose of this book is to explore and interpret Jewish religious writings in light of contemporary business ideology and practice. The book investigates both traditional teachings and modern Jewish voices. A con-

scious attempt is made to integrate the best of the ever growing academic business literature with authoritative Jewish sources."

He bases his thesis on a theory expounded by Rav Aharon Lichtenstein that there are areas of life not covered precisely by Halacha and that there exists a corpus of general Jewish ethical rules to deal with these situations. Precisely in the situations where the laws are not clear and issues are not black and white, a Jew's ethical comportment must reflect his time-honored values.

This is the third book written by Pava. He coauthored Corporate Responsibility and Financial Performance: The Paradox of Social Cost with Dr. Joshua Krausz, a fellow professor at SSSB. The book was selected by the American Library Association as an outstanding business book in 1996. Another joint effort, Jewish Business Ethics: The Firm and Its Stakeholder, is currently being coedited by Pava and Dr. Aaron Levine, another SSSB faculty member.

## Record Uptown Enrollment

BY NETANEL NEWBERGER

Despite more rigorous admissions requirements, a record-breaking enrollment of approximately 1100 undergraduate men on the Uptown Campus has been announced for the fall 1997 semester by Director of Admissions Michael Kranzler.

"This has been our largest enrollment since at least the Vietnam War years," Kranzler said. The high enrollment has been attributed to increases in both the amounts of students who come

to YC and SSSB directly from high school as well as those who enroll after spending one or more years studying in Israel.

The result has been a school with a "more heterogenous-looking student body. There are more students coming from both public schools and yeshiva backgrounds," said Kranzler.

The increased enrollment has contributed greatly to the need for additional student housing. Plans are reportedly being made for the construction of new student dormitories.

## New Registration Program Phased In

*Only Minor Glitches Reported*

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

Part One  
in an occasional  
series on YU's  
technological  
improvements

Though it be a trite introduction, Yeshiva University is truly ushering in a new era with the installation of the

Banner system created by the SCT corporation. By the end of this academic year all of the branches at Yeshiva University: Registrar, Finance, Alumni and Admissions will be interconnected through this new system.

Although the Banner system is not available college-wide, it will be phased in over the course of this academic year. Currently it is operational in the office of admissions and the office of the registrar. According to Rabbi Mel Davis, head of the registrar, "the phase-in process is going about as smooth as we can hope for."

When the system is entirely phased in, any office connected to the system will have access to all appropriate information. For instance, the Office of the Registrar will know whether a student is financially cleared for registration with the touch of a button. Another example is upon graduation, a student's file will immediately be transferred to the Alumni Office and the graduate will immediately begin to receive all alumni benefits.

Admissions began using the system for this year's incoming freshman class including those on the Joint-Israel Program. Additionally, the office of the registrar implemented the new system for Fall of 1997 registration.

### Registration

The new system offers a wide variety of features that will both ease and facilitate the registration process. For example, their unique numbering system for class and course codes avoids courses with the same numbering that often caused incorrect scheduling conflicts and inability to enroll in certain classes. Furthermore, the unique coding system allows the program to identify classes through several methods, so that if a student were to mistakenly write an incorrect class code, but a correct course code, the system will immediately rectify the mistake.

The new system will also contain a student's entire academic history. Information is currently being en-

tered into the system and is predicted to be ready by next semester. Once the academic histories of students are completely updated, students will have constant access to their academic records. Moreover, the new system will incorporate a student's academic history to provide an "automatic advisement modular" or "graduation modular" which will inform the student of courses needed to graduate and courses already taken.

Other benefits of the Banner system are: graphical interface which makes it significantly easier to use than the previous text-only system, a pop-up screen which immediately warns of an impending time conflict, the allowance for more than seven characters for first and last names, and the ability to accommodate more than one mailing address so that students will be able to receive their grades at different addresses depending upon the time of year.

The new system may also upset some students. For instance, the previous system did not calculate In-completes (I) or Tentative Grades (T), whereas the Banner system calculates both of those grades as Failures (F).

### Glitches

As with the implementation of any new system several problems have arisen over the course this year's registration. First and foremost on the student's list of complaints was incorrect academic standing. Many seniors and juniors were listed as sophomores and freshmen. Another complaint voiced by many students was the change in the codes identifying classes from last year's schedule for the fall of 1997 to the schedule published at the beginning of this school year. This caused erroneous scheduling conflicts and an inability to register for certain classes. Also many students were signed up twice for the same class.

R. Davis acknowledged that the Banner system has caused several problems, but he stated that as with any new system there will always be glitches. He explained that class standings were incorrect, because students' academic histories were still being updated. He also emphasized that the coding problems were a function of the switch over from the old system and they would be cleared up by next semester.



## Accounting Orientation Placement Night

By GIL BLOOM

Preparing seniors interested in pursuing careers in the accounting field, the Office of Placement and Career Services sponsored its annual Accounting Placement Orientation Night.

The event was conducted in Belfer Hall's fifth floor auditorium. It was well attended, and based on student reaction, well received. One graduating SSSB Senior commented that the

program was "intended to be an indicator of how the Office of Placement wants you to improve, and to clarify what they expect of you, and what you can expect of them."

The program consisted of several presentations by members of the Placement and Career Office, including Naomi Kapp, Marjorie Rubins, and Adrienne Wolff. Emphasis was placed on the importance of integrity and honesty in the job hunt.

## Chabad Club in Full Swing

By COMMENTATOR STAFF

Yeshiva University's Chabad Club is once again going to be offering a slew of activities for the YU student body. Club members are hoping to capitalize on their successes of last year as they plan an expanded program of exciting events for the new school semester.

Last year, in addition to offering nightly shiurim on Tanya, Chassidut, and "Moshiach Through the Eyes of the Rambam," the club cosponsored a shabbaton in Crown Heights in conjunction with YCSC. Club president Yosef Levine said the event served as "a unique opportunity for eager students to get a glimpse of Chabad and get a taste of Chassidut."

The club also sponsored two Chassidic *Farbrengens* (a Yiddish word for gathering), which featured speakers who discussed various Jewish topics. This year, Chabad club members hope to continue

this tradition and sponsor several Deli Kasbah *Farbrengens*, which will celebrate the various meaningful days on the Lubavitch calendar. In addition, the club will attempt to revitalize last semester's short lived *Nusach Ari* minyan.

Former club Vice President Sholomo Hershkop exclaimed, "This year is promising to be full of activities for students who wish to add some insightful Torah to their learning." Hershkop added that "We are planning to have another shabbaton in Crown Heights after the High Holy Days and our weekly shiurim are beginning next week."

Students should keep their eyes open for events sponsored by the Chabad Club this year. They are willing to accommodate anyone who wishes to learn chassidut one-on-one with a chavrutah, or someone who desires to just gain a little more knowledge as to what Chabad really stands for.

## "Big Six" Recruitment Night

By CHANAN HOSCHANDER

Ambitious prospective accountants circulated through Weissberg Commons which played host to the Sy Syms School of Business "Big Six Night." Inside the Commons were booths representing some of the largest and most prestigious accounting firms in the region. The event is one of a number of preparatory exercises arranged by the Office of Placement and Career Services that are intended to facilitate employment for those with an interest in accounting.

The specific objective of the evening was to provide students with the opportunity to establish and foster ties with representatives from major accounting firms with which they may be interviewing and to gain some degree of familiarity with their hiring practices and employment expectations. The firms that were represented are generally referred to as the "Big Six" and include Arthur Anderson, Coopers & Lybrand, Deloitte & Touche, Ernst & Young, KPMG Peat Marwick, and Price Waterhouse. All were in attendance to discuss career opportunities in the field of accounting. Both Arthur Anderson and Deloitte & Touche provided additional recruiting information in the fields of Management Information Systems (MIS) and Computer Science.

The students were introduced to these firms via representatives, many of whom were themselves recent alumni of Sy Syms. These representatives, who not long ago had attended this event as students, eagerly assisted their successors. This provided for a comfortable atmosphere conducive to the goals of the event.

Michael Greenfield, President of the Sy Syms Accounting Society, described some of the benefits of the evening's program, saying, "It gives the students the chance to learn more about career opportunities within the Big Six firms and allows them to familiarize themselves with the varying strengths of these potential places of future employment."

Greenfield's Midtown campus counterpart, Rachel Goldstein, echoed his remarks, calling the event "a wonderful opportunity for all accounting students to gain insight into the different corporate cultures" of the firms that were represented.

According to the majority of representatives present, the benefits of the night were mutual. Jerry Glazer, a 1990 graduate of SSSB, acted as one of the representatives for KPMG Peat Marwick. He claimed that the event provided the firms with a forum to introduce themselves to the students. The tri-state recruiter for Deloitte and Touche, Cindy Marrone, emphasized that this is a good time for the firms to explain the interview and recruiting processes for new hires and interns and more importantly "to tell them what we're all about."

The students in attendance felt the event was useful and left Belfer Hall with standard corporate literature as well as personalized information. Sy Syms sophomore, Joey London, remarked, "Being around 'Big Six' professionals was very helpful...they gave advice about jobs and interviews." Another student, Steve Polonetsky, "found the recruiters to be extremely informative."



Rav Goldwicht welcomes students to the new Independent Housing Program.

## Fine Tuning I.H.P.

*continued from page one*

about security have been assuaged and complaints about the issue to the administration have tapered off. The buildings are included in the regular patrols performed by YU security, and a "Walking Service" has been initiated. Any student who so desires may telephone Security, and a guard will be provided to escort the student to his building. Dean Nulman assured the Commentator that his office, in conjunction with Chief of Security Donald Summers is doing all it can to secure the safety and well being of the residents of the Independent Housing Program.

Other details were worked out as well. Since the dorms are supplied with telephone jacks, students in the apartments complained that the added expense of installing telephone jacks was unfairly being passed to them. The administration acquiesced to the students demands and agreed to reimburse the students for installation expenses. Students also requested screens for their windows and mezuzot for their doors. The administration agreed to provide these items on a per request basis. This prompted some surprise amongst various residents of the dormitories since none of the regular dorm rooms are supplied with window screens.

The most contentious issues to be dealt with centered on that focal point of student life, the bathroom. Independent Housing Program residents requested that the University supply them with toilet paper and light bulbs as is done in dorms. They also petitioned for regular bathroom maintenance and cleaning akin to the services provided to current dorm residents. These issues have yet to be worked out, but steps are being taken to address such matters and come to an equitable and satisfactory conclusion.

Various residents were satisfied with their new housing arrangements, but others were not as ecstatic with the new program. The size discrepancy between different apartments and the seemingly random manner in which they were assigned was cited as a source of discontent by many students. Daniel Frogel, a YP senior, was assigned to the apartments was partially dissatisfied with his living situation. Although Maintenance was in his apartment assembling his bed until midnight on the night he moved in, he has yet to receive his mail because there is no key to his mailbox and no one is able to locate it.

He is also rankled by the amount of money he is forced to pay for an apartment, as he explained, "The thing that most gets under my skin is the fact that I am paying four times the market value of this apartment, and all I have nothing to show for it except for a dirty bathroom and a broken mailbox."

The main step being taken by the administration to rectify all problems is the creation of Residence Committee composed of students from both the Independent Housing Program Buildings. The committee is slated to meet regularly with student leaders and the administration, and will voice student complaints and problems emanating from the apartment buildings. Members of the committee are to be selected by the student council and confirmed by Sruli Tannenbaum, the president of YCSC.

As a gesture of solidarity with the apartment dwellers, a small gathering was held in the home of Rav Meir Goldwicht to welcome the Independent Housing Program students to his building. The Rabbi feted the students with cake and other treats prepared by Rabbanit Goldwicht and held an inaugural shiur for the Independent Housing Program members. Rav Goldwicht explained that his desire is to make the students feel at home and always welcome in his abode. He decided to hold the gathering of his own volition and spread the word on campus through his students and his shiur.

What the future holds for the Office of Residence Halls is unclear. With current enrollment exceeding 1100 students, there are serious shortages of space and the existing facilities are overtaxed. Yet burgeoning enrollment continues and is the harbinger of the future at YU. Various solutions to the housing crisis have been advanced, including converting neighborhood buildings owned by the University into new dorms, or building a brand new dormitory on available sites in the area. One solution currently being debated in the upper levels of the administration would institute a sliding scale of fees for the various dorms. The dorm in most demand would have the highest housing fee, and the fees would decrease for less popular housing options such as the apartments. This would create a free market system of housing, with those students demanding premium housing paying a premium price.

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# Students Claim 501 is Not at Fault

*continued from page one*

firmation of the alleged Israeli hackings other than the e-mails he reported that he received. He could not comment on the nature of the Israeli hacking or against whom it was directed.

Yeshiva College Dean Norman Adler echoed the message of MIS. "I concur with and support the MIS decision. I believe the security of the University was jeopardized."

The MIS allegations against the student operators of 501 were also largely based on one student's successful penetration of Y-Mail, which is supported by ACIS, an independent server. Y-Mail provides e-mail service for the majority of YU students.

This student, who was associated with the leadership of 501 last year, breached the security of Y-Mail but touched nothing upon receiving high level clearance. According to MIS, this student may have used 501 to telnet to Y-Mail when he hacked into it. Meyers could not prove that 501 was used in the hacking episode, he could only say that he "suspected it."

According to YU Computer Science Club leaders, a record of 501 involvement would be available on Y-Mail if the hacker had indeed used 501 to access Y-Mail. They wondered why such a record could not be procured if it existed.

The computer science student leadership and many users of 501 feel that the University action was rash and unfair. They also believe that operating a server is an integral component of computer education that the small Department of Computer Science was unable to provide them through formal classes. Menachem Berkowitz, president of the Yeshiva University Computer Science Society, remarked that "the closure was a knee jerk reaction that amounts to a collective punishment against the students" for the unfortunate actions of a single individual.

Berkowitz voiced his organization's view that any connection established to 501 is irrelevant. He observed that "any hacking activity must originate in an account on the entity hacked, therefore Y-Mail could only have been hacked from Y-Mail. One can telnet to Y-Mail from any server, not just 501. Thus, even if 501 was actually used to telnet to Y-Mail, it is

irrelevant since it could have been done from anywhere."

## FUTURE STUDENT SERVER

501 has been down for in excess of two months and there have been no indications that it will be resurrected. There is hope, however, among the YU Computer Science Club members that they will be able to negotiate with the University administration for authorization to establish a new student-operated server.

Ben Sandler, vice president of the YU Computer Science Club, remarked, "We are a group of serious students with a reasonable request that the administration has no reason to oppose."

He expressed a willingness to make accommodations to address administrative concerns with a possible future server.

In response to efforts to secure a new student-operated server, Dean Adler extended an invitation to the computer science student leadership to attend the September 3 meeting

of the YC Educational Technology Implementation Committee. He informed them that they would have an opportunity to present and discuss their proposal for a new server.

Approximately ten minutes of the hour-and-a-half meeting were devoted to the student-operated server scenario. Meyers presented the MIS allegations against 501. Brief discussion of the consequences of the reintroduction of a student-operated server ensued with some administrators expressing concern.

Eventually, the computer science leadership was permitted to distribute photocopies of its written proposal for a new student-operated server. The meeting then abruptly ended with no formal discussion of the student proposal. No substantive decisions were made by the administration with reference to the future of the server. Adler did, however, indicate that he would have administrators report their views on the server proposal to him over the course of the coming weeks.

The computer science leadership was frustrated by the lack of advance in the negotiations with the administration. Sandler indicated that the YU Computer Science Club would prefer to establish a student-operated server "directly through the University, but if necessary, we will do it independently."



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Students enjoying Dougie's and each other's company aboard the Queen of Hearts

## Cruising with Dougies and SCW

In what was billed by student council members as the biggest YC off-campus event ever, almost 400 students participated in a cruise around Manhattan on Tuesday, August 26. Several busloads of students boarded the S.S. Queen of Hearts at Pier 13 in lower Manhattan for a two hour trip around the lower tip of Manhattan and the Statue of Liberty.

The three-level boat came complete with food - buffalo wings and hero sandwiches, courtesy of Dougie's - and entertainment in the form of a magician and a caricaturist. In addition, students were provided the unique opportunity to listen to Jewish music while being bathed in strobe lights. "The cruise resembled a sweet sixteen or a singles event," commented one student who appeared uncomfortable with the atmosphere on the boat. "and I'm too old for sweet-sixteens and too young for singles events."

Sruli Tannenbaum explained that a

cruise around Manhattan is an event that has been done at other college orientations. "We felt it would be a great way for students who were new to our campus to meet other students in a fun atmosphere."

Indeed, most students seemed to enjoy the boat ride. Scott Nadel, YC '00, thought the cruise "provided a great opportunity to meet my fellow students in a relaxed atmosphere." Jesse Mendelson of Pittsburgh commented, "It was a great way to see Manhattan," and Charna Schwartz, SCW Junior Class VP, found the boat ride to be "very soothing and relaxing."

Jonathan Teitelbaum, SSSB '98, suggested that the boat ride provided "A great opportunity to meet some really cute guys," while a Stern student who chose to be quoted anonymously, (apparently out of fear of the social repercussions of her statement), maintained, "There were no cute guys to be found."

## A Great Adventure

On Sunday, August 31, approximately one hundred and forty YU students braved the roller coasters of Great Adventure. One student reported, "It was very thoughtful of student council to schedule an event on Labor Day weekend so that the out of town students could enjoy their holiday weekend together."

Students all raved about the wonderful day they had.

Only one small incident tainted the great joy of the day. YCSC had ordered two coach buses for the uptown students, whereas SCWSC ordered a "non-luxury," yellow school bus, into which all of its students were cramped.

As Uptown campus students exited the park at the end of the day, they found one of their coach buses commandeered by Stern women. YCSC leader and Orientation Coordinator Aylon Glaser, was informed by a self appointed Stern representative that the women would take one of the coach buses Stern, while the men would all crowd into the other coach bus and return to their respective campus. According to the Stern

representative it had been "OK" by the bus company.

Immediately Glaser vaulted into action. He contacted President Tannenbaum and informed him of the impending crisis. Tannenbaum told Glaser that YCSC had paid for both buses and that both would return to the main campus with uptown students only.

Glaser relayed the information to an actual Stern student leader, Mechal Weiss, TAC President. Mechal in turn told her fellow students that they were to vacate the bus. They acquiesced and returned to Stern in their yellow school bus, while YC students returned to their uptown campus in both of their luxurious coach buses.

## Nobel Laureate Addresses Students at Book Project Dinner

### Brecht's "Galileo" Subject of Discussion

Three hundred some-odd students turned out for an early orientation dinner on Tuesday night to be exposed to "their first collegiate academic experience," an analysis of Brecht's drama, Galileo. Orientation dinner is the first fruit of Yeshiva College's Book Project designed by the faculty for incoming students.

After a brief introduction, President Lamm spoke, claiming that Galileo's conflict with the Catholic church could never have happened in a Jewish context, not only because of the dearth of ground-breaking religious Jewish scientists, but that "Judaism does not argue with facts." He followed his comparison with a chaser about the Social Responsibility of the Scientist.

Then a couple of student actors, well-rehearsed by

two acts from Galileo, giving students who hadn't pondered the work a chance to make up for lost ground. "It's fun to see your classmates in robes, but seriously, people had a greater sense of the dramatic aspect," said Baltzar Beckeld, an upperclassman.

Afterward Roald Hoffman, the perennial but truly "distinguished visitor from Cornell University and Nobel Prize Winner" spoke about the historical context of Galileo's thinking, just before the Thirty Years' War. After the meal, Dean Adler peppered the audience with queries on the risks

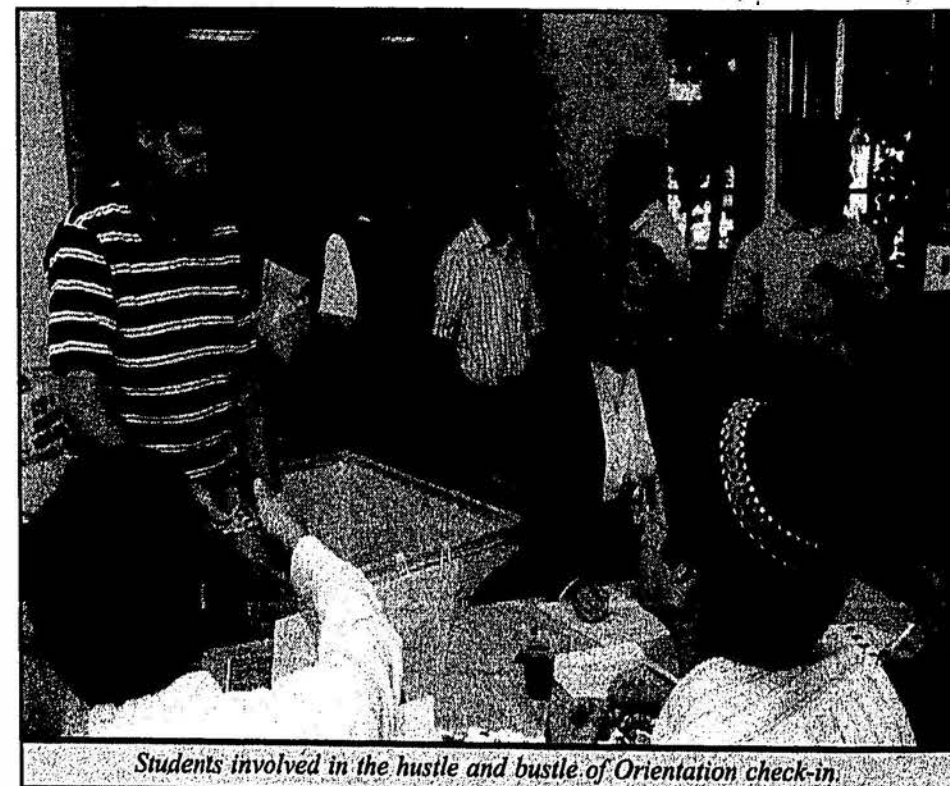


Nobel Laureate Ronald Hoffman

of individualism and the nature of scientific discovery.

The dinner also gave incoming students an opportunity to meet deans and professors in a semiformal atmosphere. "As a first taste of college learning, it's exciting," said Avrumi Kahn SSSB 2000, "I hope YU keeps it up."

Anthony Beukas performed



Students involved in the hustle and bustle of Orientation check-in.



Students and Dr. Bernstein discussing "Galileo" over dinner.

## Orientation Deemed A Success

Student leaders, administration members, and student participants all hailed Orientation '97 as a smashing success both in terms of the smoothness of the move into the dorms and the participation of students in the orientation events.

Dror Barber, the Chairman of Orientation, estimated that more than fifty upper classmen volunteered on the first day of orientation to help ease the underclassmen's move onto campus. He believes this turnout, as well as student participation in the orientation events, all

of which were sold out, points to a change in attitude of YU students. "I am very excited our school has grown to the level that we all care about the events and atmosphere of school life."

Aylon Glaser, the Associate Chairman of Orientation, echoed Barber's words. "Students showed that they truly want to participate in events and that there is school spirit at YU, contrary to popular belief. Hopefully, events that run throughout the

year will have equally as impressive turnouts."

Dean of Students Efreml Nulman commended the student councils and orientation committees for their hard work. "I think they pulled together an extremely fun, creative, and educational orientation program."

Most importantly, the students seemed to agree with the positive assessments of Orientation as well. Scott Nadel, YC '00, said, "I was extremely surprised with how smooth things moved along and was very happy there were no problems." "Orientation was one of the most successful ever," observed Charna Schwartz, Junior Class VP in SCW.

YCSC President Sruli Tannenbaum emphasized that the success of Orientation was just a beginning. He declared that he aims "To make student life on campus enjoyable for all students."

Tannenbaum pointed out that the number of events during Orientation and their affordability were due in large part to the Office of Student Services. Dean Nulman stated that his office subsidized the orientation events because the administration "wants to convey to the students that this administration is a student oriented one."

## Baseball Daze

Over two hundred students from YU's uptown and downtown undergraduate campuses attended the September 4 Yankee game versus the Orioles in the final event of Orientation '97. The Yankees lost and the game took over three hours, yet most students found a way to amuse themselves.

Highlights of the Yankee stadium experience included the 5<sup>th</sup> inning sing-along of "YMCA" with the grounds crew and the occasional yelling match with drunkards in the bleachers who didn't appreciate the T-shirt of one YU student from out of town which read: "New York Sucks."

Shlomo Hubscher, a student from Silver Spring, Maryland, spoke for the out-of-town contingency at the game. "Going out to the ballpark gave us non-New Yorkers a chance to join together with camaraderie and unity to cheer against those damn Yankees." He added, "I especially enjoyed watching the spitting and scratching - and the players were exciting too!"

Hannah Shonfield, President of the Stern College Student Council, stated that a baseball game makes a good event, "Because it attracts a diverse group of people no matter their background or interests."

Ryan Hyman, a native of South Africa, declared, "There is no doubt that this game is far more exciting than cricket."

"This was my first baseball game and it was really neat that I got to go with friends," noted Sarah Balch, SCW '01. "And I got to meet many new people as well." While initially being confused by the rules of the game, Ms. Balch reported that she had mastered the intricacies of the game by its conclusion.

David Diaz, YU's Mail Room Supervisor who attended the game with his daughter, noticed the spirit of the students at the game. "Everybody seemed to be enjoying and going with the groove."

On a comical note, it was rumored that several women from Stern thought the YUPR photographer to be a photographer from Playboy Magazine.



Students gather in Tenzer Gardens for Sumptuous Orientation BBQ.

## Unconventional Melodies

For the second consecutive Orientation, YU students were treated to the off-Broadway play Stomp. Stomp, described in its playbill as a "unique combination of percussion, movement, and visual comedy," features performers banging out rhythms on stage with a variety of "instruments."

Approximately two hundred students witnessed performers using everything from brooms to trash cans to matchboxes to bang out sophisticated beats and rhythms. And yes, for one number, the actors even used kitchen sinks.

Student reaction to Stomp was very upbeat (no pun intended). Jesse Mendelson, YC '00, gushed, "Stomp was fantastic. The members of Stomp worked just as fluidly as the Orientation Committee. The leader of the Stomp cast was as good

at his job as Sruli Tannenbaum [YCSC President] is at his."

Jason Buskin, SSSB '98, was impressed by one specific aspect of the play. "They showed me a very unique way to use a plunger."

"I'm not into noise and I went into Stomp negatively," related Ryan Hyman, YC '98, "but I was very impressed."

Sruli Tannenbaum, who enjoyed Stomp for a second time, described the choice to bring YU students to Stomp as a "no-brainer." He explained that after the enthusiastic student response to Stomp last year, the choice was made to buy two hundred tickets as compared to the one-hundred-and-fifty bought a year ago, and there were still students who were unable to attend due to the quick sellout of tickets.



Students attend a riveting game at Yankee Stadium.



# YU Ranked Alongside Harvard, Yale, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute

*continued from page one*

standings based on SAT scores. Yeshiva University's rating has responded accordingly.

US News & World Report includes a variety of factors to help influence its rating system. There are 228 national universities that are ranked. To be considered a national university, a school has to meet certain standards, including a diverse selection of majors for undergraduates, and the maintenance of masters and doctorate programs. Not ranked as national universities are strong liberal arts colleges such as Swarthmore, Vassar, and Haverford.

The national universities are divided into four tiers based on their final rank. Schools 1-50 are first tier, 51-115 are second tier, 116-172 are third tier, and 173-228 comprise the fourth tier schools. Schools in the second, third, and fourth tier are ranked alphabetically, and their numeric score within their tier is not listed. Had YU fallen even one percentage point this year, it would have fallen into the second tier. Since second tier schools are ranked alphabetically, and Yeshiva is the last university in terms of alphabetical ranking, it would have appeared as if Yeshiva was the last ranked school in the second tier.

There are seven factors which influence a school's ranking: academic reputation, retention, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, value added, and the alumni-giving rate. Yeshiva University scored remarkably high in some categories, but achieved very poor marks in other categories.

The retention rate is worth 20% of a school's final tally. It measures the percentage of freshman who stayed in and graduated from the university within six years. Yeshiva University has a retention rate of 77%, a horrendous percentage more than 10 points lower than any other school in tier one.

Michael Kranzler, Director of Admissions, explained that there is an understandable reason for this discrepancy: "Our score is deleteriously swayed because of our Joint-Israel Program." Kranzler noted that there are students who sign up for YU and its Joint-Israel Pro-

gram without having any intention of attending the school. These students enroll in YU either for federal funding, or so that their transcript shows a year of college credit. Kranzler proclaimed, "YU could be astronomically high without the Israel factor."

He added that this is not the only category where the rating system does not favor YU. The student selectivity rate (15% of final score) and value added category (5%) also have a detrimental effect on YU's standing.

"We [YU] are the ultimate community school," Kranzler explained, "we have to take certain factors into account which no other school in the country even considers. We have relationships with high schools in the area and actually counsel certain applicants against applying. Our real rejection rate (of students) may be closer to 25%."

One category in which YU's performance was especially dismal was the academic reputation bracket. This category accounts for 25% of the final score in the ratings, and according to US News and World Report, reflects the manner in which graduate schools and business firms accept applicants. To determine a school's reputation, the president, provost, and dean of all schools are asked to rate other schools in their category into one of four quartiles.

Two schools, Princeton and Stanford, received the highest academic reputation score, a 4.0. #1, Harvard scored a 3.9, #9, Columbia scored a 3.8, #45, Penn State scored a 3.3, but #48, Yeshiva University merited only a 2.3. Only one university in the first tier, Worcester Polytechnic Inst., boasted a lower academic reputation rating. A student receiving a 2.3 at YU, equivalent to a C+, would probably have his grade changed. No such luck for our university.

Director of YU Public Relations David Rosen, who came to YU four years ago and has presided over our rise to statistical prominence, downplayed the importance of the academic reputation evaluation. "The fact is that this alone of all the criteria is subjective," he explained. "It is essentially a beauty contest... I

guess Yeshiva is not that beautiful." But Rosen does not think any less of the institution because others rate it poorly, "It could be that because Y.U. is a small school, we are not as well known."

From the dean's office, Norman Adler stopped signing students' add-drop forms for just enough time to concur with the YUPR director. Dean Adler, like Rosen, believes that the academic reputations is a highly competitive "beauty contest." But, unlike Rosen, Adler expressed his belief that YU is beautiful! Adler explained that we are losing the pageant because our professors do not devote as much time as others do to pursuing the publication of their articles and books.

"The primary task of our faculty is to our students, not to publish in journals," Adler explained. This makes the YU professor a rare bird in an age where other major universities have only a limited amount of time for student/professor interaction. In other words, Dean Adler believes that Miss Yeshiva '98 has a nice figure, but did not give a long enough speech on world peace to overawe the judges.

In order to bolster YU's academic reputation, Dean Adler stated that he is trying to expand the contact between Yeshiva and the academic world by urging professors to publish and give lectures outside the university. He himself is also trying to promote YU as a respectable liberal arts institution. Adler is chairman of the subcommittee dealing with liberal arts learning in research universities for the American Association of Colleges and Universities. He strongly believes that YU is a "unique" institution of the type proven to provide the best liberal arts education.

Faculty resources, financial resources, and alumni giving constitute the rest of the categories of the rankings. YU is twenty-first in the country in the financial resources rank, which is worth 10 percent of the final score. But, spectacularly, we are ranked third in the nation for faculty resources. This category is worth 20 percent of the final score and accounts for class size, average faculty salaries,

faculty degrees, student-to-faculty ratio, and proportion of full time faculty.

YU, however, has the capability to move up to #1 in the faculty resources ranking. According to this year's annual salary report in "Academe," the average professor's salary for category I schools in the Mid-Atlantic region is \$85,973; however, the estimated median salary for YU professors is \$56,600. Dr. Joan G. Haahr complained, "YU's long-term faculty deserve better from the institution whose academic success derives in great part from the contribution they have made." If YU increased professors' salaries, not only would professors at YU be content, but the faculty resources would rise as well.

The reliability of the statistics that US News has compiled, is actually very questionable. Attempts to rate schools with numerical statistics have proven to be problematic. The PR department proudly points out that not only YU, but Yale as well, fell three places in the rankings this year. Dean Hecht, who downplayed the importance of the rankings, remarked that the magazine itself has a vested interest in making sure that schools fluctuate in the standings. "They do it to sell magazines," he said.

Ultimately, the most important rating comes from the students themselves. YC sophomore Oren Harroche, a computer science major, was disappointed that YU dropped three places from last year's standings. However, he pointed out that we do well despite two unfair factors. "We should be ranked much much higher," he said. "In my book we're top thirty... not top twenty, maybe top ten. No, I take that back. We are definitely top thirty... definitely better than Brandeis."

Not a few students, however, vehemently refuse to accept US News' ratings and continue to believe that this school is "waste matter." But at least one student feels that he is getting the best education available. Perry Kunin, a satisfied Sy Syms senior, put his sentiments this way. "We could be ranked 228 for all I care. Our school makes us learn Mada and also Torah. Name another school in the country like that."

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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 4, 1997

President William J. Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

The world watches in horror again as innocent citizens get blown up in a Jerusalem market place. Yet, our government's Mideast policy of evenhandedness, in contradiction with reality, continues. It is wrong. Evenhandedness has not been earned.

Just weeks after a tragic bombing incident in July, Yasser Arafat publicly embraced the leader of Hamas. Chillingly, Arafat reiterated his call for those who disagreed with him to drink seawater. Two weeks later, today, three more bombs killed and maimed civilians on a crowded shopping street in Jerusalem.

It's an outrage. Yasser Arafat is no hero, he is the villain who is unwilling to stop the terror. Arafat believes that terrorism is the path to peace. He has violated the core bargain that stood behind his historic handshake with the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and he must be held accountable.

In the past, the world applauded him and even gave him the Nobel Peace prize. Yet since Arafat received that prize, deadly bombs have time and again exploded in the heart of Israel's cities, killing innocent citizens, including grandparents, children, even pregnant women.

In March 1997, Mr. Arafat gave a "green light" to resume attacks on Israel. He did so again on August 20. Now dozens of innocent people are dead.

Arafat's macabre behavior includes silence on the execution of Palestinians who sold land to Jews. At least four of his own people have been murdered under this despicable directive.

Where is the outrage? Where is the punishment? Where is the justice? Where is the peace?

It is time to let Arafat know that terrorism is wrong-that the United States recognizes Arafat is responsible.

Words will not bring back the dead, and only decisive action by your administration can change his actions.

- ♦ No more terrorism.
- ♦ No more concessions.

Peace takes respect, vigilance and moral authority. You must act now before it's too late.

Arafat will understand that, but only if you are clear in your resolve.

Sincerely,



Trent Lott



Connie Mack



Joe Lieberman



Alfonse D'Amato



Tim Hutchinson



# N E W S

## Dorm Crisis at the Other YU

By NIR KNOLL

As the 1997 academic year, opens up at Yale University, five Orthodox Jewish Students have threatened the school with a federal lawsuit for failing to honor their religious beliefs in housing placement. The students have claimed that the conditions of the Yale dormitory, such as coed bathrooms and open sexual activity, place them in an environment that violates the halachos of tzniut.

As he prepared to enter Yale a year and a half ago, Jeremy Hershman, a HAFTR graduate and Kerem b'Yavneh (KBY) Alumnus, wrote a letter to Yale College Dean of Student Affairs Betty Trachtenberg about the religious difficulties of living in the Yale residence halls. In the letter, Hershman explained the halachic difficulties that dorm life would pose for him. According to Hershman, Trachtenberg "said that she would accommodate me. However, when I got to Campus, I found out that there were no accommodations made." Therefore, in order to avoid the problematic conditions of the Yale dormitories Hershman elected to live in an off campus apartment. However, due to Yale's mandatory dorming requirement his parents were forced to pay for both his apartment and the \$7000 housing fee for his assigned dormitory room.

Last spring, Hershman found out

about three incoming students who shared his problem, but could not afford to pay both for dorming and off campus housing. In order to rectify this problem Hershman stated that he contacted these other students and "we set up a meeting with Dean Trachtenberg last April, where we explained our problem again and she told us that she doesn't understand how Orthodox Jews will ever integrate into society." In addition, Trachtenberg told the students that they were aware of the Yale residency requirements when they applied and that students with their religious views should have decided not to enroll into the university in the first place.

Therefore, in order to rectify the situation, Hershman and four other Yale students, Lisa Friedman, a sophomore from Lawrence, and incoming freshmen Elisha Hack and Batsheva Greer of New Haven and Rachel Wohlge- lenter of Los Angeles, have acquired the services of Nathan Lewin, a distinguished Washington Attorney, who will represent them in a possible federal lawsuit against Yale. On August 19, Lewin wrote a letter to Yale College Dean Richard Brodhead in

which he stated that the school's dorm policy is infringing on the religious beliefs of his clients, which "forbid them from residing in dormitories that are readily accessible to members of the opposite sex for extended periods of time, including overnight visits." In addition, the letter stated that "experience of Yale students is that this is true of all Yale dormitories, including those that are designated single-sex."

The letter also explained that since Yale already makes exceptions for married couples and students over twenty one, it "proves that the new rule requiring all freshmen and sophomores to live on campus is not so absolute that it can permit no exceptions." Until this point, Yale officials have refused to wave

the dormitory fees or make any changes in the university's dormitory policy. In response, Lewin told the Commentator that if the issue "is not resolved there will be a lawsuit filed."

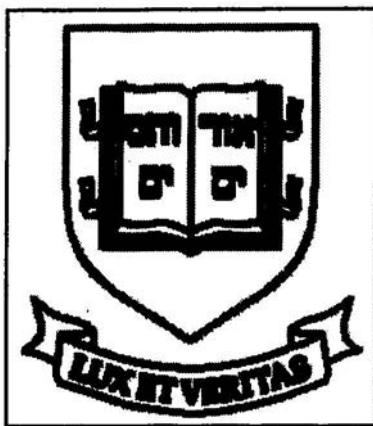
Although the Commentator was not able to contact officials at Yale for comment, Tom Conroy, deputy director of public affairs at Yale, has been quoted as saying that "We are more than willing to discuss it with them,

but the alternative to waiving [the on-campus requirement is not one that works for Yale." Regarding the housing requirement, Lewin said that "they [Yale] are not adequately sensitive to the needs of students, but they think that their dorm policy overrides everything and that is wrong."

In terms of other alternatives within the dorming facilities at Yale, Hershman said that it is "very complicated to get a room of only Orthodox Jews." Moreover, he explained that even in dorms that have single sex floors there is nothing that prevents sexual activities in the rooms and the bathrooms on each floor are still coed. When asked about what other options the students had, Conroy has been cited as saying that "they can attend another school. No one has to live by these rules."

Currently, the students are living off campus and have not yet paid the Yale bursar for their housing fees. They face the possibility of a freeze in their registration on September 15<sup>th</sup> if they do not meet their financial requirements. However, Lewin has assured the *Commentator* that "payments will be made and we will seek legal relief."

Regarding campus reaction, Hershman said that most Jews and non-Jews, whom he has encountered on campus have been very understanding, supportive of his position and respect his religious convictions.



## The Student Academic Life Committee and the Yeshiva College Office of the Dean Announce

### The 1997-98 Mentoring for Leadership Program

Last year we began a special program to train our students for positions of leadership in the world of higher education and the professions.

This program included individualized, practice interviews for students applying to graduate and professional schools, and special evenings devoted to exploring a variety of professions.

We invite you to an organizational meeting for this year's juniors and seniors interested in this kind of individualized training.

Thursday, September 11  
Club Hour, 3:00 pm  
At the Office of the Dean



# MUSIC, THEATRE, RESTAURANTS, CINEMA ENTERTAINMENT

## Know Your Alternatives (so to speak)

By DAVID RAPPAPORT

This month I would like to touch on an issue that has started to bite my lower right earlobe. I see many fine upstanding young men walking around the uptown campus wearing tee-shirts from concert festivals such as, Lollapalooza, The Further Festival, Woodstock II, and the Horde Tour etc..... Here's what I think.

Festivals are a plague on the world of modern music. Music, as well as a poached egg (pun intended) is best consumed in a dark enclosure where you can hear everything and breathe nothing. For some inane reason, one day a rock promoter said "music is so much fun indoors. Why don't we bring it outside where it rains, mud will get on people's clothing, and everyone will have a jolly old time and pay lots of money for it." My rebuttal is quite simple. If the Lord Above wanted rock and roll to be played outdoors, he would have created the world with electrical sockets behind every tree (have you ever seen the behind of a tree? Hoooo Weeeee).

Take the second Woodstock for example. The same bad hippie bands from 25 some odd years ago played again. Oooooo, and everyone waved their hands in the air in front of their eyes in order to induce an odd trance like feel when all they really had to do was eat something that this university has so graciously prepared for us to buy in the cafeteria for "dinner."

Lollapalooza is even worse, Perry Farrell decides to have nothing to do with it anymore so now we get to see an old twit like Peter Dinklage headline and many overly mediocre modern rock bands that at best will have their second album put on heavy rotation on the VH1 channel. I once went to one of those and

was induced to write new words to that Billy Joel song. Instead of "Uptown girl/ she's been living in her white bread world," (which is utterly horrid to begin with) I would hum the words, "fat pants girl/ she's been living in her chain wallet world." There is nothing more unattractive on a female than huge pants that look like tree trunks.

This summer I saw quite a few shows and generally had a wonderful time. Radiohead was magnificent all three times and deserve to be applauded for their eccentricity and bold step into a new world of rock. I thoroughly recommend buying their new record, *O.K. Computer* and their last



Radiohead



Oasis



The Squirrel Nut Zippers

record, *The Bends*.

### Good News...

Instead of Oasis' attempting to steal from The Beatles, they have decided to steal all their new songs from their past two albums. At least they don't sound like The Rutles anymore. *Be Here Now* is the name of the album you should not buy.

Sublime is incapable of recording another album.

Jane's Addiction is getting back together again. New album should be out by the spring of 1998

70's soul music is coming back to the mainstream, Expect Speech's (leader of Arrested Development) to release an amazing album within the next two years.

### Bad News...

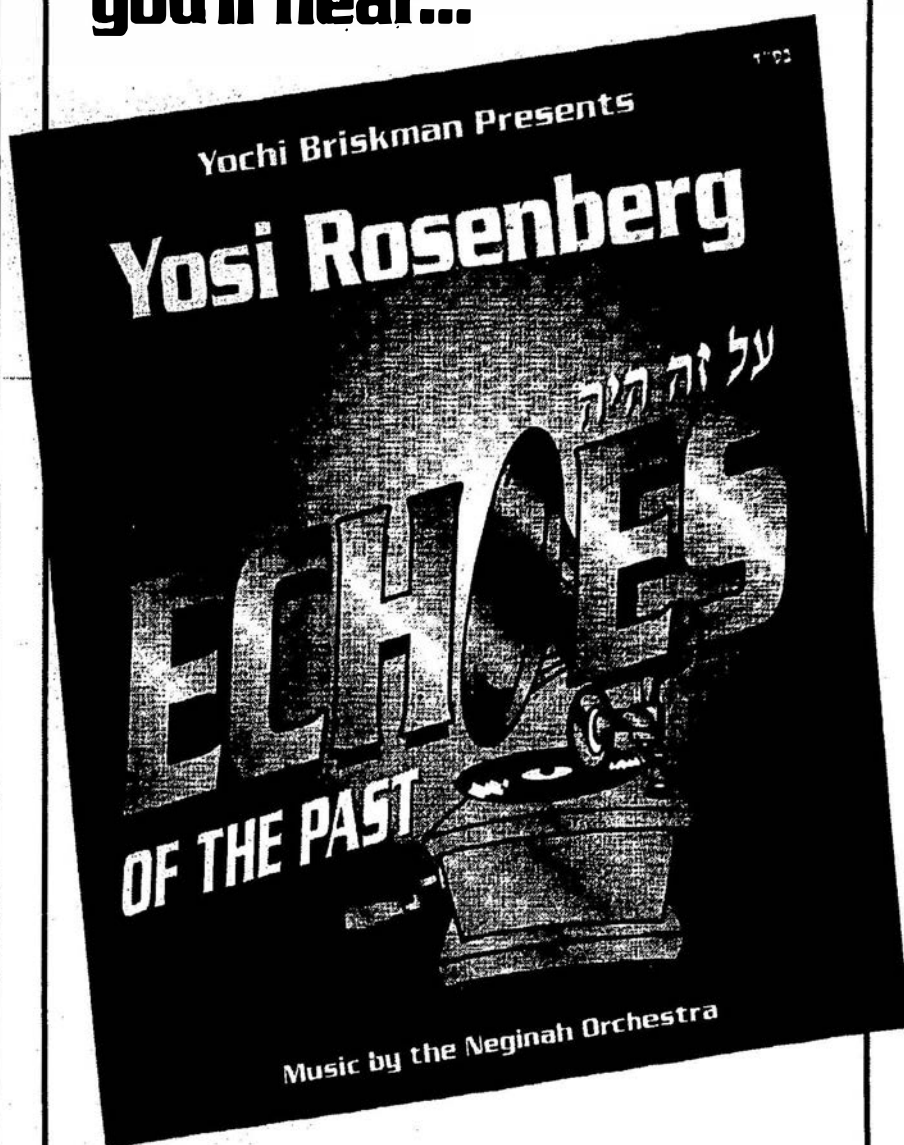
Puffy Combes is still mourning the loss of The Notorious B.I.G. His shameless display at the MTV music awards was sickening and his rapping was even worse.

311 is capable of releasing more albums.

The Squirrel Nut Zippers are getting widespread recognition and are even being called original and zany. Wake up call! The Squirrel Nut Zippers are about as crazy and original as the packaging department at Ikea.

I keep running into Marilyn Manson.

If you close your eyes  
& open your heart  
you'll hear...



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## ATTENTION SENIORS!

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This workshop is required for all seniors who are interested in participating in our On-Campus Recruiting Program and seeking employment in any field after graduation.

ALL MAJORS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

Monday, September 22, 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 415, 419/MID 920, 923  
960-0845/340-7763, 7783



# Editorials

# OPINION

## The New Age of Torah U'Madda

Mention the phrase Torah U'Madda - our university seal since 1946 - to the Yeshiva University student, and you will typically elicit little more than an uncomprehending stare, a disinterested yawn or a jaded rolling of the eyes. The subject sparks few vibrant cafeteria discussions, attracts dismal numbers of students to Torah U'Madda lectures, and seems the kiss of death for any course associated with its name. (A Torah and science class given by a renowned scholar in the field and offered here last year boasted no more than four registered students.) Even to pontificate on the death of Torah U'Madda (it died because it succeeded, not because it failed), or on a post-Torah U'Madda era, has become cliché.

To an extent, this profound lack of interest is justified. If, on the one hand, by Torah U'Madda we mean the affirmation of the legitimacy of secular studies within Jewish education and the refusal to categorically and monolithically reject all values of modernity, then to engage in serious debate on this moot topic, a stale remnant of the centuries-old Maimonidean Controversy, seems embarrassingly anachronistic. If, on the other hand, by Torah U'Madda we mean a certain theoretical synthesis of the contents and methodologies of secular and Torah knowl-

edge, then - it seems to me - we mean very little (or at least very little meaningfully pertinent to the daily operation of the school).

YU students are, and have eternally been puzzled by this notion of synthesis. As a matter of fact, on this very page of the Commentator in May 1943, an editorial read: "We think there is a tragic lack of

understanding among many students of what Yeshiva College is, what it stands for, and what it is attempting to do. Too often the word 'synthesis' has been thrust in our

faces; in our hearts and minds we are still confused over its meaning. 'Yeshiva College attempts to effect a synthesis of religious and secular studies,' we have been often told. What does this mean?" V'nomar amen.

Inevitably, an irrelevant ideological core quickly makes for an irrelevant institution. We should therefore, I suggest, look elsewhere for this university's ideological core, a core which deserves to be articulated as we embark on a new academic year. What do we stand for; not as

the 48th ranked university in the country, teetering on the edge of mediocrity, but as a school which is *sui generis*; irreplaceable and unique?

The following is a brief personal attempt to sketch an answer to this pressing question:

The Yeshiva University student sees himself, of course, as very much a student of Western civilization, a tradition from which he derives a refined sense of literary complexity and intellectual sophistication. At the same time, he recognizes his

own unique position as a Jew, as one who stands outside the Western intellectual tradition, and looks upon it with a critical and discriminating eye. No longer does he allow Judaism to be scrutinized and judged by the West, but he confidently asserts that, especially after the Holocaust, it is Judaism which puts Western civilization on trial, and not vice versa. From his perspective, it is Judaism which incorporates into itself the best elements of Western thought, not the Western tradition

which assimilates the choicest of Jewish teachings.

With this in mind, the Yeshiva University student looks with unforgiving suspicion on the post-Enlightenment secular intellectual who too often writes of noble ideals while living a base life. Rousseau, Shelley, Marx, Ibsen, Tolstoy, Hemingway, Brecht (who we know so well from orientation), Russell, all (as Paul Johnson points out), in their own ways, exemplified this hypocrisy.

We, the students of YU, reject these men as unworthy of being the moral mentors of mankind. We reject knowledge not grounded in piety just as surely as we reject piety not grounded in knowledge. We reject the supposed dichotomy between thinkers and doers; between those who rigorously strive for conceptual complexity, and those who muddy their hands in the affairs of this world.

So yes, what makes Yeshiva University unique among its secular counterparts is that we call for a synthesis. But not a synthesis in the realm of theory alone so much as a synthesis in the personality of the individual student; a harmonious synthesis of simple kindness and sophisticated thought.

BENJAMIN  
BALINT  
COLUMNIST

## Thank You Sy Syms

I had not come to praise Sy Syms but to bury it. I sat down to write this article with the full intention of deprecating both the Sy Syms School of Business as well as its students whom I thought, either due to extreme sloth, overwhelming ignorance or a full measure of both, had decided to categorically squander all three-and-a-half semesters they planned on spending at Yeshiva University. As clearly and as unambiguously as possible, I wanted to send an explicit message to any underclassman who had a *hava amina* of rejecting the fluid poetry of Homer for the pseudo blather of a prototypical Syms course such as "management financial something something systems something information blah blah marketing etc." My spleen frothed in anticipation; I overflowed with malicious glee. And then the bubble burst...

To my great dismay, I discovered that, though he was perhaps a bit too subtle for the indiscriminating Syms reader, Benjy Balint had published a very similar article last year. Not want-

ing to simply reiterate all the points Balint had already hashed through, I began to reconsider the role that the Sy Syms School of Business plays in the Yeshiva University dynamic. To my great surprise, I found that my hard line stance on Syms, a stance which began to burgeon after unwittingly taking a mickey mouse course in marketing my first semester

freshman year, a stance which I cultivated and nurtured by watching Syms students over the next five semesters, seemed to be weakening. Could it be that I had been perhaps a bit too hasty to judge and dismiss the entire business school? Could it be that the roots of my deep detestation for SSSB lay not in any sort of reality but in the twisted, jingoistic recesses of my disturbed mind? After much introspection (it is the right time of the year after all) and careful consideration (as unbiased

as possible), I came to the definitive conclusion that the Sy Syms School of Business provides a valuable service.

Just not to its students.

Thank you Sy Syms for keeping your students out of my English classes.

I have little doubt that by drawing most of the sullen and disinterested out of Yeshiva College you have greatly contributed to the edu-

cations of the rest.

Thank you Sy Syms for lowering standards at your own institution.

By offering large classes on such topics as "The Dialectical

nuances of Working at Burger King" and "Culture and Creativity for Accounting Majors," you directly finance my self-indulgent second year Latin class with its fiscally irresponsible teacher to student ratio of 1:2. So...

Thank you Sy Syms for keeping us in

the black.

This symbiotic union faintly echoes the traditional Issachar/Zebulun accord, in which Zebulun engaged in business, enabling Issachar to learn. In a modern corollary, the Syms students now study business that I may study Classics. Thank you for this supreme academic sacrifice.

Balint reported in last year's article that while the total number of students attending Yeshiva University has risen over the past decade, the number of students enrolled in Yeshiva College has actually declined. I think I like this trend. It means that Syms is siphoning off our weaker students. It means that YC doesn't need an Honors college after all. YC is becoming an honors college, the honors college of the Business School.

To my great amusement, I recently discovered the Syms department store motto which asserts that "The educated consumer is (its) best customer." Ironically, YU's best customers are its least educated.

Again, thank you for being Sy Syms. Thank you for being our foil.

In this Style

10/6

ELISHA GOLDBERG



## Yeshiva College Student Council

### Upcoming Events:

September 15: Jules Polenetsky, candidate for New York City Public Advocate, speaks to YU students.  
September 16: Club Fair. Come check out the exciting clubs available to you this year.

Details to follow. Look for the signs.

# LETTERS

To the Editor

## Why am I Wet?

To the Editor:

I am very insulted by the insinuations made by Facilities Management concerning the personal hygiene of YU students, by their offering mandatory showers to all Rubin Hall residents between the hours of ten and one. After a full day of classes and Judaic studies, students do not need to be baptized by the Rubin Hall sprinkler system.

Almost everyone knows that most students return to their dorms after the conclusion of Ma'ariv in the Main Beis Medrash at 10:15pm. Apparently, this slight detail does not matter to the members of Facilities Management, considering that they have made sure that the brick path to Rubin is being watered at the exact same time. In addition, the sprinkler system is also set to operate until 1:00am as students continue to enter the dorms after studying in the library. Anyone who attempts to visit a friend in a different dorm must be prepared to take a shower.

What makes this situation even more frustrating is the fact that the sprinklers are not even aimed to actually water the grass. For some odd reason, each sprinkler is aimed at the pathway to Rubin and all of the patio in front of the Rubin dorm. It seems as if the sign warning students to "Keep off the Grass" applies to the sprinkler system as well, and facilities management feels that the grass growing in the cracks of the Rubin walkway must be preserved.

Fortunately, the solution to this problem is simple. Facilities management could learn from homeowners across America who use sprinklers to water their lawns in the early morning, when it is unlikely that someone will pass by in order to use their sprinkler as a substitute for their shower. Also, I think it would benefit both the students at YU and the grass, if the sprinklers were actually turned around to water the grass and not the walkway. As for showering, I think YU students can take care of that in the showers provided in their dormitories.

Yair Oppenheim  
SSSB '00

## This Shelf Ain't Big Enough for the Two of Us

To the Editor:

I recently had the occasion to visit the Yeshiva Campus with my 15 year old son, Yehudah. Many fond memories of my ten years at YU (1967—1978 from JSS through S'micha) came back as I showed him the Beis Ha Medrash.

I owe a great debt of gratitude to YU for offering me the opportunity to learn from such wonderful people as Rabbi Besdin and Rabbi Alpert (*Aleihem Hasholom*). In the last two decades, on many occasions, I have defended Rabbi Lamm and YU from attacks from the 'left' and the 'right'. It therefore pains me to have to write this letter of reproof. Please accept it as a form of love and concern for the Yeshiva and not as an attack.

My son loves Jewish books. Therefore, I took him to the Jewish section of the Yeshiva's library. I was shocked and embarrassed that my son saw Christian books on the same shelves as Rishonim/Acharonim. How can you mix the two? These books supposedly teaching "Christian love," reminded us of the sad fact that my grandfather was clubbed to death in Hungary by a mob led by a Catholic priest at the end of WWII. It also reminded us of all the other atrocities perpetrated by them in the last 2000 years, in the name of their religion. Why can't you put these kinds of books and the *apikorsus* on the second floor? To YU's credit, the staff of the library includes some of the finest Jewish librarians who would be more than capable of deciding how to properly arrange the books.

Wishing you much success for continued *harbotzas Torah*.

Aurel Littmann  
YU '67-'78


## BACK-TO-SCHOOL BARGAINS

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### The Commentator

welcomes letters from its readers.

Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. Students should also include school enrolled in and graduation date.

The Commentator reserves the right to edit all letters for syntax and size.

The Commentator  
500 W. 185th St.  
New York, NY 10033  
commie@ymail.yu.edu



## Taking the Lunge High Hopes for Yeshiva Fencing

By AKIVA HERZFELD

Without fail, every Monday and Wednesday night, a group of young men in white tights descend into the basement of Furst Hall. Toiling together, they create a storm of clamor, smacking their weapons against each other's armor while yelling "en garde," or "touche!"

They are the Yeshiva University fencing team, and they are not to be laughed at.

Over the past few years, the fencing team has had more individual success stories than any other YU team. Last year alone, six fencers qualified for the NCAA regional championships and one fencer finished second team all-conference. Yekutiel Sandman, a bio major and second year fencer, attributed the success of Yeshiva fencers to their desire to win. "If you are on a dual curriculum, and then you join a sports

team, you have to be a committed individual - probably more committed than your opponent is."

The coaches of the fencing team, however, want more than individual success stories for the 97-98 season. With six returning starters from last year's team, they have high expectations. Assistant Coach Pete Rosas told the Sabre Squad, "I want to make a go for it this year." And Head Coach Arnie Messing has labored to schedule powerhouse squads from St. Johns and Princeton to fence YU.

There are three weapons in fencing - epee, sabre, and foil - and three starters for each weapon. This year, only the starters for the sabre weapon are set. Although over ten recruits have tried to obtain the last available starting positions, Coach Messing told the team, "There are openings." So, if you are a classicist, or you are tall, or you are just committed to winning, there still may time to join the fencing team.

## Records Were Made To Be Broken Reflections on the Sport of Running

By COACH STAN WATSON

The old adage "records were made to be broken," aptly describes what transpired at Yeshiva University's first cross-country meet in NYU's "Early Bird Invitational" at Van Cortlandt Park on September 2, 1997. Moshe Abehsera, affirmed the adage with a record breaking 30:32 time, eclipsing the longstanding 31:32 record set by Naftali Levin in 1989.

The race format was different, but interesting. It was a pairing race in a tag-team format which included 60 plus runners. The first runner ran 2.9 miles and then came back to "tag" his partner. The second runner then ran 2.9 miles and returned to tag the first runner who, after being tagged, completed the remaining two miles and tagged the second runner who completed his remaining two miles. Both runners had to complete a total of 5 miles in the two legs.

I'd like to extend a personal kudos to all 7 runners for making the early morning trek up to the world famous course. Yeshivas cast of leg(end)s included; Moshe Abehsera, Yitzchak Motzen (brother of legendary YU cross-country runner), Elias Zakay, Oren Wener, Adam Wieder, Joshua Kunis and Ari Sauer, who did not run, but was a tremendous help at the meet. Only 6 runners were needed due to the team up format. Moshe ran a 17 minutes plus a few seconds for the initial 2.9 miles, and finished with a strong 13 minutes, setting a new YU record.

Running is an integral part of every sport, although it often goes with-

out the recognition it deserves. Perhaps this can be attributed to its individualistic and intrinsic appeal. Only a fellow runner can truly understand the the appeal, benefit, and merit of running. Yet every sport of note has running as its most necessary component - Try walking to a full court or half court pass, walk around the bases slowly and well, one gets the idea (I hope).

There also exists in the sport of running a courtesy amongst coaches and fellow runners, an "etiquette" similar to that displayed in sports such as tennis and golf. This seems to be often absent from so called "major" sports, such as basketball, baseball, football, etc.

We at Yeshiva are in our first decade of "running the bridge" - the George Washington Bridge, and what a beautiful sight it is at night. It is difficult to prepare a competitive team on limited practice and without an outdoor 400 meter regulation track. However, I am so very proud of our cross-country team's performance over the last 10 years. This year the guys have the coach motivated and he loves the feeling. I give a special salute to Moshe and the 1997 cross-country runners.

Finally, Thursdays will be "bridge" night for the '97 team. While the basketballers are pounding the "rocks" on the MSAC hardwood, this year's determined harriers will be toeing the Washington Heights turf to try and make the running season a success. With their attitude, apparent fortitude and team spirit, they are already winners.

# YESHIVA SPORTS

## New Athletic Director to Replace Steven Young

By JEREMY KROLL

As the school year commences, the Yeshiva University Athletic Department finds itself without the services of Mr. Steven Young, its director for the past four years. Young has left his post at YU to become athletic director at The Dalton School. Taking his place is the highly regarded and esteemed Dr. Richard Zurnick, formerly athletic director at City College.

**Dr. Richard Zurnick**

A new age of Yeshiva University athletics is now underway via the guidance of Dr. Richard Zurnick, who brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the position of athletic director. He comes from City College where he served in various administrative capacities for over thirty years. He had been chairman of the physical education department since 1985 and eventually became that school's athletic director.

Zurnick also has previous ties to Assistant Athletic Director Stanley Watson. Watson was a student of Zurnick's at City College in 1982. Watson speaks very highly of his former teacher: "Dr. Zurnick is a very intelligent individual as well as diligent worker who will become a treasured asset at YU." Additionally, he has also been credited with adding many new programs to the physical education curriculum at City College.

**Steve Young**

Young came to YU from Columbia prep school, and instantly earned a reputation amongst his colleagues and players as an arduous worker who tackled any task no matter how difficult or tedious. Watson lauded Young's ability to balance his professional and personal life. "Steve was very hard working and meticulous in every facet of his job. He was also a great family man."

Amongst his players there was a profound sense of respect and defer-

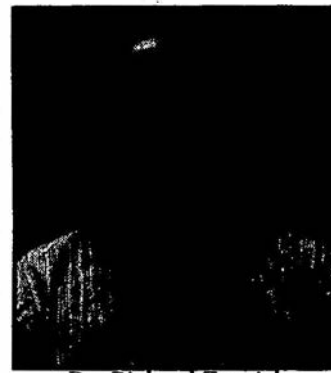
ence given to him, for they recognized the care and expertise that he put into his work. Joel Jacobson, a four year starter on the YU basketball team spoke admirably of his former athletic director. "Steve loved his job, the school and most of all his players. His office was always open for his players to come in and discuss anything at all. He was always happy to share advice or lend a helping hand. I think I echo all my teammates' thoughts when I say that Steve Young will be sorely missed. On a personal note, Mr. Young was like a father-figure to me."

Young's departure came as a result of family considerations and his intense longing to return to his roots as a prep school athletic director. "It was just time to move on. I really enjoy the high school level, and with forty-seven interscholastic sports here at The Dalton School, I am presented with new and exciting challenges. I feel that the vast number of athletics will allow my creative ener-

gies to thrive. This new position also permits me to be closer to my family, which is the top priority in my life."

During Young's short tenure at YU, the tennis and fencing teams combined to win four conference championships. Last year the basketball team advanced to the ECAC tournament finishing with a 15-5 record, its best single season record in some four decades. "I would like to think that I left Yeshiva University on a high note," said Young. "I think the progress that our athletic program made is evident in the four conference championships that we captured."

Young was most appreciative of those people that surrounded him in his stay at Yeshiva. "The kids I encountered at Yeshiva and Stern were great, my staff was second to none, and everyone was extremely cooperative. It was a sincere honor and pleasure to have been the athletic director at Yeshiva. I will reflect back at my years at YU with a great sense of pride and accomplishment."



Dr. Richard Zurnick

**The Commentator**  
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