

COMMENTATOR

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BIBI TO LECTURE AT YU

BY ALEX TRAIMAN

In a continued effort to secure contemporary speakers at Yeshiva, the University has slated former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to present multiple lectures, speaking at both the undergraduate campuses as well as the in Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

Netanyahu will make his first YU appearance at Cardozo's Moot Court Room on October 7 at 4:30PM, where the former Prime Minister will address "The Past Century into the New Millenium." During the lecture, Netanyahu will focus on the implications of current international relations, in particular, his hopes and concerns for the State of Israel as it enters the new millenium. He will then be honored as a guest at the annual Cardozo board meeting and dinner.

Chairman Earle Mack, of the Cardozo School of Law Board of Directors asserted, "It is with great honor that the students, faculty, board of directors, and staff of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law will receive former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Throughout his administration, Prime Minister Netanyahu was a stalwart advocate of achieving peace with security and respect for Israel. His visit celebrates Cardozo Law School's heritage as a leading institution of legal discourse in the United States."

On November 17, Netanyahu is purported to venture to Yeshiva's undergraduate campuses to present the first in a series of guest lectures at the Stern College for Women during the Wednesday club hour of 2:35PM - 3:25PM. The downtown lecture will be given to only a select group of students under the auspices of the honors program. A topic for the session will remain unannounced and will be left completely in the hands of the former Head of State.

Stern College for Women Dean Karen Bacon, pleased by the announcement, proclaimed, "In the past, Yeshiva has played host to many prominent Israeli officials. By doing so, Yeshiva spans the distance between American Jewry and the

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ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER EHUD BARAK INVITED TO KEYNOTE HANUKKAH DINNER

BY ALEX TRAIMAN

Sources within the administration have confirmed that Prime Minister Ehud Barak has been invited to receive an honorary degree and present the keynote address at the reception following the Yeshiva University Seventy-Fifth Annual Hanukkah Convocation in mid-December.

Barak will highlight an already impressive list of Honorary Degree recipients including the Honorable George Pataki, Governor of Yeshiva's home state of New York. Other degree recipients include YU philanthropists Mrs. Marilyn Katz, Mrs. Rae Kushner, Mr. Jay Schottenstein, Mrs. Jeanie Schottenstein, and Dr. Edward L. Steinberg.

The annual dinner serves as one of Yeshiva's primary fundraising events during the academic year, and is once again highlighted by high profile speakers. Past Hanukkah dinners have featured such pronounced speakers as: Teddy Koliek, Mayor of Jerusalem '90; William Safire, New York Times Op-Ed Columnist '91; Colin Powell,



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, '92; Jack Kemp, United States Senator, '93; Robert Dole, United States Senator, '94; Al Gore, United States Vice President, '95; Christine Todd Whitman, Governor of New Jersey, '96; Daniel Kurtzer, United States Ambassador to Egypt, '97; and most recently Vartan Gregorian, Chairman of the Carnegie Foundation, '98.

Barak has yet to officially accept the invitation and add his name to the prestigious list of Hanukkah

Dinner speakers, but university sources speculate that all indications lead to the Prime Minister indeed attending the function, receiving an honorary degree and highlighting an already impressive evening.

The University's invitation to such a high profile individual is consistent with Yeshiva's new initiative to bring in contemporary speakers of great interest to the student body, although only a limited number of students will be in attendance due to the fundraising nature of the event.

As presently scheduled, Governor Pataki will speak at the Convocation ceremony upon receiving his honorary award. Prime Minister Barak who may or may not be in attendance at the convocation would then present the keynote speech at the dinner following the ceremony.

Aton Holzer, President of SOY stated, "I feel that this is a very positive development for our university, and will serve the crucial aim of underscoring Yeshiva's deeply felt affinity with Israeli Jewry."

Rosen Resigns Yet Again This Time He "Swears it's for Real"



BY MORDECHAI FISHMAN

David Rosen, Director of the Yeshiva University Department of Public Relations, has once again announced his resignation and is leaving YU to head the PR department at Emerson College, a communications and performing arts school in Boston. Rosen's departure leaves a sizable void at the helm of YUPR during a time of consequential transition for the University.

YUPR was founded by a man Rosen calls "a living legend," Sam Hartstein. Created by Hartstein in 1943 and headed by him for more than fifty years, YUPR grew from a single desk in 1947 to the series of offices and studios staffed by nearly 30 people on the fourth floor of

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Student Dormitory Keys Still Found to Access Sensitive Belfer Areas

BY AARON KLEIN

In May 1998, a *Commentator* probe revealed that several students' dormitory closet keys effectively served as pass keys affording them access to various rooms in Belfer Hall including professors' offices, computer centers, classrooms, laboratories that contain hazardous material, electric closets, and stairwells on all floors of the building. The Department of Facilities Management immediately announced that the problem would be addressed by the start of the 1998-99 academic year.

The *Commentator* has recently learned that no new locks have

been installed on the doors of Belfer Hall, and that student dormitory keys can still open the same sensitive Belfer areas that had been surreptitiously accessed two years before. According to campus security officials, this finding poses a significant safety and security concern. When informed of these findings, Mr. Don Sommers, Chief of University Security, reacted with astonishment and subsequently asserted that "Since the laboratories containing potentially deadly materials are involved, this is a very dangerous situation."

After they were initially alerted

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COMMENTATOR

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To the students of Yeshiva University,

Orientation 1999 was a phenomenal success. Starting with a flawless check-in for incoming students, a barbecue, a book discussion, and a shiur by our esteemed President Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, students immediately felt at home and comfortable within the Yeshiva University environment.

Every event was sold out in record time with unprecedented attendance for each student activity. The opening event featured 400 undergraduate students on a Circle Line dinner cruise around Manhattan with live entertainment provided by Aish Orchestra. This event set the tone for the rest of the orientation activities. Our second event featured an outing at Yankee Stadium, where 230 Yeshiva University undergraduate students were on hand to witness the Bronx Bombers take on the Oakland Athletics in front of a packed Yankee Stadium crowd. On Thursday evening, 230 Yeshiva University undergraduate students brought down the house at the hit off-Broadway production *Stomp*. Shabbos, too, took on a unique quality with 400 plus students participating. The special inaugural Shabbos program was enhanced by the presence of Rabbi Blau and Rabbi Goldwicht. On Motzei Shabbos, Rabbi Willig led an uplifting kumsitz, which established the mood for Slichot later that evening. The final event of orientation, a relaxing day at Six Flags Great Adventure, was attended by 200 undergraduate students. After being transported to the amusement park in comfortable coach buses, and eating complimentary lunches provided by the Yeshiva University food services committee, students enjoyed a day of leisure in anticipation of the upcoming semester.

We would like to thank our governing YCSC board, Jonathan Mell, Dov Brandstatter, Chaim Schneider and Aryeh Goldberg, for all their help and assistance in making Orientation 1999 an unprecedented success. We would like to thank our orientation staff and all the R.A.'s for all their hard work. In addition we would like to thank our counterparts at Stern College, Miriam Grossman and Zoya Mardakhayev, and SCWSC, for their contributions to Orientation 1999.

Most people are unaware of the effort, commitment, dedication and guidance provided by the administration in planning and coordinating the many events that occur all over the campuses throughout orientation. Orientation '99 would not have been as successful as it was without the help of Dean Nulman, Dean Himber, Andrew Leibowitz, Sharon, and Madeline. Had it not been for their creative ideas, sleepless nights, and overwhelming support and confidence, Orientation '99 would not have happened. Their continuous hard work and effort has not only manifested itself in a successful orientation program, but in many aspects of student life as well. The Office of the Dean of Students, and Student Services, have made our lives and experiences as students easier and more enjoyable in our three years on campus. We would therefore like to publicly thank them for being more than just Deans, but also our friends.

Wishing you all a happy new year,
K'tiva v'chatima tova,

Moish Schmerler

Moish Schmerler

Ari Wiesen

Ari Wiesen

Chairmen, Orientation 1999

Empty Chamber

As part of Orientation, Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, President and Rosh Yeshiva of our esteemed university, delivered an impassioned lecture in which he used stories in the Talmud to derive the proper respect that one must demonstrate toward their fellow man. He stood at the podium and lectured in the Main Beit Medrash to an abject crowd of less than eighty students and faculty members. The large room remained abandoned throughout the speech as most students had evidently been occupied by more important tasks. Lamm's speech had been very well publicized in both the Orientation booklets and with signs posted throughout the university.

The fact that most students chose to not attend the lecture is at once a biting insult to Rabbi Lamm and confirmation of the apathy and indifference that tends to permeate the student body. Perhaps most disgraceful is the fact that over fifty students were visibly sitting in the room directly across from the Beit Medrash, none of them caring to attend the speech. So desperate was Dean Adler to recruit more students to the distinguished oration that he went to Morgenstern Hall lounge and begged the students watching television to grace the empty expanse in which Rabbi Lamm patiently awaited.

In the recent years, Rabbi Lamm's Orientation speech filled the Beit Medrash to capacity, yet this year the room somehow remained bereft of interested disciples. The students of Yeshiva should be completely ashamed of themselves as they have successfully demonstrated their gross disrespect for a brilliant man currently serving as both religious and secular leader of this university, as well as a lack of appreciation for the privileged education being offered. We sincerely hope that the less than mediocre turnout was merely some gross accident, and this event does not serve as a symbolic launch for a dispirited and inactive year on the part of the student body.



Still A Matter of Life and Death

Last week, an unfortunate accident occurred in which a Wurzweiler student crossing Amsterdam Avenue was hit by a truck making a right turn onto what has become our university freeway. Following last year's litany of serious accidents at the corner of 185th and Amsterdam, we must once again demand action in unequivocal terms. The most effective way to ensure student safety from vehicular aggression on campus is to close the stretch of Amsterdam Avenue that bisects Yeshiva College's quasi-campus. In the interest of student safety, reroute the city buses and keep the intoxicated demolition derby drivers off the cursed street!!

As has become conspicuously evident of late, the original intent for this extremely well-planned campus was to have the relevant block of Amsterdam closed not only to through traffic, but fully integrated as a vibrant campus center for student use.

We find it unacceptable that nothing substantial has been done to remedy this dangerous condition and that another Yeshiva University student had to suffer because of the University's capacious failure: Why does the University insist on waiting patiently for tragedy, G-d forbid, before making any effort to protect its charges?

**The Yeshiva University
Community extends its
heartfelt condolences to
Rabbi Zevulun Charlop
on the loss of
his beloved wife Judith.
May the Almighty comfort you
among the mourners
of Zion and Jerusalem.**



FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

AARON KLEIN



MESSAGE FROM THE SOY PRESIDENT

ATON HOLZER

All His Men To War

Rosh Hashanah found me sitting uneasily in an air conditioned *shul*, trying to absorb the exquisite prayers and watch as the radiant words floated majestically from the lips of the congregates into the mysterious depths of the heavenly universe. My eyes remained focused on the pages that rested before me, but my thoughts constantly wondered: concentration proved a daunting feat because I remained conscious of the salient fact that my nation unwillingly engaged itself at war.

Tragedy has been forcefully positioned at the epicenter of Jewish culture and it lurks there strategically like a virus that attacks the instant we turn our backs. Just as we look forward to the initiation of a new peace agreement, a bomb explodes in Israel; we enjoy the religious freedom granted to us in America when a devoted member of Aryan Nations sprays seventy rounds of ammunition through a Jewish community center; we celebrate our sacred heritage with pride right before a synagogue is burned to the ground.

Jews are being assaulted from both sides - there are those who wish to destroy us and those who wish to "save" us. To me, the latter is most disturbing.

The Southern Baptist International Mission Board recently launched an aggressive campaign to convert Jews to Christianity with the publication of a prayer book released to over 40,000 churches nationwide on Rosh Hashanah. Filled with photos of Rabbis and Jewish holy sites, the booklet offers tips on how to evangelize Jews on these "ten holy days" which began September 11. "Pray each day for Jewish individuals you know by name," it suggests. "As the shofar is sounded, Jews will be asked to remember Abraham's call to sacrifice his son Isaac. Ask God to reveal his own fatherly sacrifice..."

These missionaries seek to destroy the Jewish nation. In my opinion, they are more cunning than the barbarous Nazis who at least announced publicly their hatred toward Jews. Protestant spokesman Mark Kelley described his dream in which "all Jews see the light and convert to Christianity." "It's not a genocide," he dutifully explains, "it's a fulfillment."

By releasing these books, the church has essentially initiated an international holocaust against us. Do not be fooled by the manner in which they attempt to remove the Jewish nation from the face of the earth. They simply deliver their poisonous gas and crematoriums in attractive packages that resonate with a blinding sense of willed knavery. They judiciously beautify their gas chambers with the attractive decor of flowers and silk. The hoped-for success of the Protestant conversion strategy rests on one assumption that currently holds true: the great majority of Jews are secular or atheist. Missionaries therefore stalk unsuspecting Jews in an attempt to teach them the "truth," effectively luring them into the gaudy undersurface of Christianity. They attempt to befriend the Jewish secularist as they slowly expose his spirit and gradually fill the cannular void with a "newer, better religion."

This situation is one of grave concern and we must retaliate before it is too late. In order to formulate an appropriate response to these recent attacks, we must first look at our history by embarking on a grand tour of recollection, by humming the tunes of all those frustrating anthems that sent us marching so resolutely toward our universal destinies. In so many cases, it can be argued that tragedy and loss of Jewish spirit could have been prevented by strong guidance, education and unity. Three entities that are not easily attained.

Yeshiva University, as an internationally renowned Jewish institution, has demonstrated the power to produce monumental change. We possess the financial resources, religious leadership and educated personnel to construct a passageway through which to lead others.

Each of us can significantly impact Jewish culture. YU is not merely a four year college, it's an education with strings attached. By receiving religious instruction, it becomes our duty as cherished citizens of a threatened society to uphold substantial leadership positions in the Jewish community and in the world at large.

The stereotypical Yeshiva student tends to settle for mediocrity, but this will not suffice anymore. Furthermore, it is not enough that we become doctors, lawyers and accountants, we must become the chiefs of surgery, senators and CEO's while maintaining our religious identity so we may serve as role models and influence those in power.

Things do not look good for the Jews as we approach the new millennium. We find ourselves constantly under attack and threatened by internal discord. It is time to unite and time to educate before we are lost in the confounding expanse of ignorance and disharmony. We are charged with a consequential mission upon which rests the fate of the Jewish people. If we do not carry out this responsibility with diligence and commitment, the outcome may be disastrous.



MESSAGE FROM THE YCSC PRESIDENT

JONATHAN MELL

For the students of Yeshiva University, opportunity knocks these next few weeks.

As returning students know, and as new students will soon find out, this time of our year is magical, for more reasons than one. Academically, we enter new classes with a new schedule; socially, there are new people on campus everywhere; on campus there are beautiful improvements wherever we turn; and, finally, spiritually, Elul is a time of renewed soul and revitalized determination.

As we enter this New Year, I'd like to consider what we might learn from Yom Kippur. Yom HaKippurim is the time for us to rethink our priorities, but more importantly, understand that our abilities are truly limitless. In Pirkei Avos, 5:27, the Mishna tells us, "L'fumi tzaara agra" - "According to the effort is the reward." We are taught to emphasize the effort, and this is how to properly gauge success. The final outcome becomes less important

move beyond our past failures.

This time of year, I am formally knocking on every door in the university. We have been blessed here with a club for almost any interest, and I speak on behalf of your Yeshiva College Student Council when I say that we are willing to try to support any new ones! This is the time, and this is the place. Also, coming soon will be the elections for the Freshman and Sophomore classes. These positions, too, are great ways for students to get involved in improving student life.

Dormitory floor life is an integral part of campus life, and I am pleased to announce that YCSC will be sponsoring enhanced floor parties for every floor, so be on the lookout for details and be sure to stay in touch with your Resident Advisors. They can truly be great resources for anything from awareness of campus activities to academic advisement.

I'd like to briefly mention Orientation, once again, and for-

I would like to begin my column with *hakarot ha-tov*, an expression of gratitude to all those who contributed to make Elul in Yeshiva perhaps the most successful on record. First and foremost, my most capable board - Aryeh Morris, Adam Scheier and Avi Oppenheimer; also, our talented committee heads - Amichai Erdfarb (Seforim), Jonathan Gross and Donny Rose (Bagels), Ben Skydell and Azik Schwechter (Cholent and Mussar), and of course, Ephraim Shapiro (Web), as well as our Gabbaim, Yechiel Morris and Rachmiel Rothberger, all of whom put in much effort this month to ensure the success of our endeavors. I need also mention our sisters at TAC, and Shlomit Zauderer at their helm, who were all instrumental in ensuring the success of our Toward Tishrei *shiur* and have been generally helpful and synergetic. Thanks must also be expressed to Andrew Leibowitz and the Office of Student Services, as well as Stu Verstandig (YC Alumni) and Alumni Affairs, as well as Dr. Nissel, Rabbi Spivak and Residence Halls, and Facilities Management and Security; without their cooperation and counsel, all of our undertakings would have proven futile. Finally, *acharon acharon chaviv*, special recognition to the Rabbeim who participated in our programs - Rav Blau, Rav Y. Cohen, Rav Goldwicht, Rav Kahn, Rav Neuburger, Rav Reichman, Rav H. Schachter, Rav Tandler, Rav Willig and Rav Yudin; your involvement has immeasurably intensified our *ru'ach ha-yeshiva*.

Sukkot is upon us. The festival of booth's rituals stand among the most puzzling of the time-bound commandments in the Jewish calendar; each of us will soon take the *arba minim*, the four species, and unite them and shake them to and fro, possibly in a thatched hut built for the occasion. What is the meaning of Sukkot?

Rav Joseph B. Soloveitchik zt"l noted that the central theme of Sukkot is unification. Midrash Rabbah notes three possibilities as to the symbolism of the four minim - either they reflect parts of the human anatomy, the human personality shattered by sin throughout the year and reunited by repentance on Yom Kippur; they may reflect the *Avot*, and as such, their *igud* underscores the importance of identification and union with Jewish history. Finally, they may reflect four types of Jews - those with *ta'am* and *reyach*, pleasant taste and smell, i.e., Torah and good deeds, as symbolized by the *ethrog*; those with *ta'am* and no *reyach*, as symbolized by the *lulav*; those with *reyach* but no *ta'am*, as epitomized by the *hadas*, and those with neither, as repre-

sented by the *arava*. The Torah enjoins us to unite the species in an *egged* and thereby symbolically unify Jews of all stripes, from all backgrounds and with diverse approaches. The Sukkah, too, is a symbol of this form of unity, as is expressed in a Halakhic ruling in the Talmud (Sukkah 27b): "...All the residents of Israel shall dwell in Sukkot - this teaches that all of Israel is worthy to sit under one Sukkah." The Zohar develops the idea of Sukkah as *tziia d'mehemnuta*, the shadow of faith; as Jews, we are all share a common destiny, but we must not fear, for we dwell in the shadow of the Almighty. Sukkot is the festival of Jewish unity.

The lesson of Sukkot is most important in our context. At Yeshiva University, we have those who possess *ta'am*, those who make the most of their opportunity at Yeshiva to better themselves in scholarship and personal piety, whose accomplishments can best be appreciated by conversing with them and 'tasting' the riches they have accumulated. Others exude *reyach* - they are active in numerous clubs and assume leadership positions, doing their utmost to smooth the rough edges of student life; their accomplishments are perceptible to all, even those with whom they maintain little contact. Lamentably, there is often a tendency for the *lulav* to look askance at the *hadas*, to assert that the latter's time would be better spent in study; likewise, *hadasim* are often critical of *lulavim* for their minimal involvement and sincere passion for personal advancement, which the former often perceive as affectation. Yet, both paradigms are absolutely necessary; not everyone can be an *ethrog*, and it is important to invest one's God-given talents in the area in which one can expect to excel. Our student body constitutes an abject paradox; we are at once the least diverse and yet perhaps the most diverse a group of students ever assembled. We all hail from a single general ethnic group, yet we allow our mostly artificial distinctions to carve us into interlocking pieces of which ne'er the twain shall meet.

The challenge of Sukkot is clear. We must weld together the scraps riven asunder by our ignorance or apathy; *hadasim* must engage *lulavim* in, at the very least, conversation, and vice-versa. If you are a Yeshiva University student, the worlds of the Beis Midrash, Library and the MSAC are open to you; make an effort to familiarize yourself with the denizens of each. If you are not an *ethrog*, at least be sure that you are an agent of reconciliation, that you are firmly within the *egged* that binds us all.

because that rests in the hands of Hashem, and Yom Kippur is about exactly this: stopping ourselves from saying, "I can't," and telling ourselves, "I will." Hashem gives us the opportunity to declare our abilities to do, and to

formally express our gratitude towards the Deans of Students, Dr. Nulman and Mr. Hember for their assistance and sponsorship, and once again thank Mr. Andrew Leibowitz for his involvement.

Also, I would like to say thank you to Mr. Jeffrey Rosengarten and all the offices of Supporting Services for their hard efforts in renovating our gym, and for their continued support and interest in improving student life in general. They are the catalysts that truly beautify YU, and make college life here more superior every year.

Finally, congratulations to Eli Gurock and the entire staff of WYUR, who will be officially on-line this week, with programming ranging from political interest to music. Be sure to tune in to 530 AM.

In the last issue of *The Commentator*, the Editors-in-Chief expressed their renewed desire to work with the administration, and I would just like to add that we are excited about this re-established team. We'll be working together to make life better for every student on and off campus.

At this time of recharged excitement, we need to always remember that Yom Kippur is a time to return. A time for us to, once again, dream the wildest of dreams and to consider following them through. *G'mar tov*. Rest up over the Sukkot break, and think about those things that we can accomplish

FORUM

LETTERS

Shedding Light

I have recently begun reading the Yeshiva University *Commentator*, and have found it to be quite feisty and entertaining. This letter is in reference to the article by Mordechai Levovitz in Volume 64 Issue 2, titled "Defending the 'Schmutz'"

This article highlights what is, or should be, the defining issue facing Modern Orthodoxy, or Torah U'Maddah. Which is - do these movements represent an authentic expression of the Judaic tradition, or are they uncomfortable compromises? Or, more explicitly, do the philosophies and ideologies

that they espouse genuinely spring from sources within Judaism, or are they actually an expression of modern secular culture and values, with some occasional Judaism forcibly grafted on to form an uneasy mixture?

With his article, Mordechai Levovitz has certainly shed some light on this sometimes ambiguous issue.

K'siva V'chasima Tova to all.

Yisroel Rubin
Lakewood, NJ

Good Job SOY

Dear the Editor:

In the past two years that I've enjoyed being on this campus as an undergraduate student, I've had the distinct unpleasurable experience of arriving at campus and finding my dorm lacking an integral utensil of everyday morning use for religious Jews: a cup for *Netilat Yedayim*.

My first year on campus the cups were in the rooms when we, the incoming students, arrived; the following two the cups were missing.

I wrote letters to *The Commentator* vainly attempting to enlighten the populace con-

cerning the dire plight of our daily hand-washing tradition; but alas, it seemed that SOY had greater concerns.

While I reside in an outside apartment this year, I still congratulate the board of SOY for returning to the proper custom of supplying the dorm rooms with washing cups, and I hope that this is only a sign of the good things they will accomplish this new year.

G'Mar Chatima Tova to you all.

Hadar Weiss
YC'00

Box Office Poison

Some things in life just mesh; peanut butter is nothing without jelly, and Oreos just don't cut it without the cream filling. What I can not understand is how one of these truisms has just failed, well, at least in YU. I have always thought that lots of people here are movie fans. Just walk down any of the cafeteria aisles and you'll hear the scoop on what is a great date movie. One would think people would take their enjoyment to the next level and take a class or two about films. This is sadly not the case.

What am I talking about? I'm speaking of Professor Sultani's classes. Prof. Sultani has been teaching film courses for years on at the uptown campus. Recently the attendance in his classes has dwindled, with only handfuls of people in a class. This should not be happening. Do people doubt the sophistication of the class? I should hope not, as Prof. Sultani is quite the academic, and his

classes are just as fascinating as Latin or Physics.

In a school whose students unfortunately pride themselves on apathy with the exceptions of Judaic studies, money and dating, the common observer may easily be led to believe that guys are 'afraid' of taking fun and intellectually stimulating classes. Students owe it to themselves to experiment with a fun class in their lives - and this is a perfect opportunity. If one feels movies are forbidden by religious doctrine, if one is worried about objectionable content in the class, there isn't any. This semester he's teaching History of Film 1, the Genre of the Western and Mass Media in Western Civilization. There's still time to join. I'll see you in class.

Yair Oppenheim
SSSB/IBC'00

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Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number.

Students should include the school in which they are enrolled and expected date of graduation.

THE COMMENTATOR reserves the right to edit all letters for syntax, content, and length.

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FORUM

OPINION

Student Soap Box

YU Life... Yeah We Have That

BY AVI SCHNEIDER

Well, YU is back and it brought everyone with it. After a vacation that seemed to vary between too long, too short, and just right, depending on who you ask - they're all back. All of them. Now when I say all, I mean all.

The preppies, the frumies, the jocks, and of course, lets not forget the staple of Yeshiva: the TV lounge people as they're commonly referred to by the anthropology department. All these people come together to form the beautiful collage of a student body that makes up the Yeshiva campus. With these different types of people on campus come different views about campus life and YU as a whole. I set out to gather peoples' feelings about the first few days of the new semester.

Living in Rubin myself, I took a short trip down the stairs to the fourth floor and knocked on a random door. The resident seemed to be getting ready to go out. You know, spiffing himself up, the whole deal. I said, "Hi, my name's Avi Schneider and I'm writing a student soap-box piece for *The Commentator* on the first few days of school. I was wondering if you wouldn't mind."

"Schools great," he replied, "the administration could be a little more organized."

I laughed, at least he was willing to talk to me. I asked him if he went on any of the events planned for orientation. He said

no, not because it's a pathetic thing to do, on the contrary, he felt it was very essential given the nature of many YU and Stern students. He said it was just more of a clique thing and he wasn't into that. He said that this was one of the reasons he liked YU. It's got all types so you can find your place.

In general he seemed to be enjoying his stay here.

After our nice little conversation, I headed outside to make my way to Furst for class. On the way I noticed someone sitting alone on a bench, enjoying his quiet time, eating a snack. I thought that there couldn't be a better time to be annoying so I approached him too. He seemed to take it well that I was there and even insisted that I wasn't bothering him. He was back from his *shana bet* in Israel. He said he was having a great time but he wasn't too thrilled with the orientation events. He thought the boat ride was a little degrading. He felt that the people on it could be a little more serious towards Judaism. He did make it clear though that he felt the trip was not an accurate representation of the *hashkafic* background of both colleges, rather a sample of a specific element. I don't believe he was being condescending. He was much more pleased with the Stomp play though.

In general, I feel the YU campus is filled with life. People say it isn't, but if they just open their eyes they'll see the light.

Peace For It's Own Sake

BY SCOTT NADEL

For the past seven months, hate crimes have insinuated themselves into the American landscape. If you were to turn on the news today, you would be hard pressed to distinguish it from that of the 60's. Lynching by police officers, rampant hate crimes, and violence spread through the streets like a fierce blaze.

We are at war with ourselves in America. It is an insidious war. One that is self-perpetuating. A white man is shot by a black, so out of rage he retaliates - hate is born. A Christian shoots a Jew - a Jew retaliates - intolerance is born.

Having just completed Rosh Hashanah, we are at a point where we should be forgiving - but not forgetting. We are the warriors in a fight to save the soul of America.

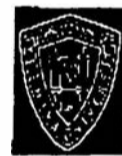
I know many of you have faced racism in your lives. I ask you to put down your hate and embrace love. Ghandi once said, "An eye for an eye will leave the whole world blind." And I certainly appreciate my eye sight.

As Jews, we have been charged by Hashem to be a light unto the nations. A people to whom all others can look up to for guidance. So it is with you, as we approach Yom Kippur to make a resolve to fight racism wherever it rears its hideous

head. To take a stand against all forms of intolerance. So many times, it is unfortunate that we do not speak out against something unless it affects us. We are a light unto the nation - and now it is time to throw on the high beams. By calling for justice everywhere, we are more assured that there will be justice for us. It is only inevitable, that slowly yet surely other groups will begin to follow our example.

Racism is an age-old problem, but I believe one aspect of Jewish culture has prepared and armed us with the only tool we need to overcome it - study. As college students, and more so as a people - we are a people of the book. To be Jewish is to study the Torah. To study Torah, is to study love. We need to arm not only ourselves, but also our fellow human beings with love - with the spirit of Torah. Through love, we shall be able to put an end to hatred.

But I warn you now - those who are brave enough to step to this challenge - this is not an easy task. It is a task I feel, however, that can be accomplished. As Churchill said during the Battle of Britain, "I have nothing to offer but blood, sweat, toil, and tears." My tears however, that I am promising - are going to be sweeter than any wine. For peace amongst our fellow human beings is truly a gift.



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Israeli Current Events

BY AARON KLEIN

Following a four-hour debate on September 5, ministers in Israel voted 21-2 in favor of the "Wye Two" accord which serves as Prime Minister Ehud Barak's first political deal since he took office in July. The deal effectively offers Palestinians self-rule in eleven percent of the West Bank, frees three hundred fifty Palestinian prisoners in two batches, and sets a September 2000 target date for reaching a final peace agreement. It also clears the way for intensified efforts to revive Israeli-Syrian talks which have been frozen since 1996.

The accord, signed by Barak and Palestinian President Yassar Arafat, and witnessed by U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and King Abdullah of Jordan, was immediately followed by spontaneous acts of terrorism. Car bombs exploded that day in two northern Israeli cities killing three people and injuring five.

Barak responded to the explosions by declaring that Israel would not tolerate "any kind of violence or terrorism against innocent civilians."

Israel's chief negotiator on the Wye Two deal, Gilad Sher, said the security of Israelis must reign supreme if there is going to be any push for peace. "Let me say that no peace process shall prevail over the personal security of the people of Israel," Sher said.

The Palestinian authority, accused by Israel's previous right wing government of doing too little to curb militants, affirmed that it remains committed to preventing violence. "I would like to express the Palestinian Authority's firm policy of zero tolerance for terror," echoed Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat.

Syria immediately criticized the revised

peace agreement between Israel and Palestine, saying it would never allow itself to be forced into such a deal. An editorial in a Syrian newspaper read, "We want a just and genuine peace and we absolutely reject being dragged into the game of agreements and accords...what was carried out and is still going on is extremely far from the basis of a real peace." The editorial added that Syria demands "full Israeli withdrawal from occupied lands" as a condition for peace.

Syrian President Hafez Assad had expressed willingness to resume the negotiations, but he demanded that they start at the point at which they were broken in 1996. Hafez claims that during the original peace talks, previous Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed to return the entire Golan Heights which had been captured by Israel in the 1967 Six Day War.

Israel maintains that Rabin never promised to return the entire Golan Heights, he merely inquired about the security arrangements and level of normalization Syria would agree to if Israel did ultimately consent to withdrawal from the strategic plateau.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa indicated that he expects Barak to forfeit the entire Golan. He stated, "We believe Barak belongs to the school of Rabin, and he is going to follow in his footsteps."

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright agreed that negotiations with Syria should be based on the principle of "land-for-peace," but she didn't comment on the Golan issue. A senior U.S. official close to the talks said Albright and other American mediators may shuttle in the weeks ahead to find a common ground for negotiations, even though Barak has repeatedly requested that America take a step back and allow the countries to negotiate themselves.

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LITERARY REVIEW

A Vaudeville of Devils

Moral Tales by Robert Girardi

REVIEWED BY MATTHEW ROSEN

Morality (Mo*ral"i*ty), n.; The relation of conformity or nonconformity to the moral standard or rule; quality of an intention, a character, an action, a principle, or a sentiment, when tried by the standard of right.

Judged against this stark definition, life's myriad choices become fixed in the glaring contrast of right or wrong, to be or not to be, as Hamlet questioned. Yet, in the more yielding passing of our day-to-day existence we discover the intricate tapestry of infinite possibilities, creating in it the maze of morale indecision which plague man. The tribulations increase exponentially as each new situation gives rise to an interminable cycle of corollaries and consequences.

It is the navigation of this intricate mental minefield to which Robert Girardi directs his most recent collection of short works. An eclectic assortment of seven short tales assembled to drown the reader in the well of moral depravity only to be driven to the zenith of rectitude.

The reader is plunged into the cold, Teutonic, Nazi front as it is perceived through the eyes of a SS officer commanded to execute the destruction of "subversive" artists in the heart of World War II. The reader is forced to grapple with the challenges that face this soldier as he tries to find justification to this senseless violence in "The Demons Tormenting *Untersturmführer* Hans Otto Graebner".

Girardi, navigating this twisted landscape, then hurls the reader across time and space to a corporate executive faced with endorsing a merger that will net him great personal fortune but at the expense of the workers that he maintains.

From a man who watches an exploding landscape from within a decadent macabre last supper, to two men searching for a mythical treasure at the bottom of the sea while competing for the love of the expedition leader's daughter, these seven tales charge the reader to stretch his/her capacity of reason to its furthest boundaries. It challenges the way in which the reader perceives his/her own daily occurrences and to re-examine the delicate equilibrium with which he/she maintain their own scales of morality.

In one of the most poignant works in the book, "The Defenestration of Aba Sid," the reader is asked to walk the precarious edge of morality that faces an attorney when he is given the undertaking of defending a mafia

king pin accused of murder. The story challenges the reader to determine how far must one go to give the benefit of innocence and at what expense is justice best served.

What work on morality would be complete without the inclusion of god? In "Sunday Evenings at Contessa Pasquali's," we are given the thought provoking insights of the author into the controversial realm of divine morality. We find his insights in the form of a priest lamenting over the hardships that face the soul when it departs the physical realm and is forced to account for the actions of the preceding week and to cast its gaze ahead at the opportunities and challenges of the forthcoming week. The priest comments, "God is the only remedy...without God the world is a vaudeville of devils. An absorbed carnival full of people fornicating to no purpose and shooting each other over a joke."

It is from this passage, which Robert Girardi takes the title for this work, "A Vaudeville of Devils" and provides a very fitting commentary on the state of societies' morals. In the end there has to be a higher authority to which one must concede. If not, then the fallible nature of mortal man will lead to no good end. No body of eternal morals can ever be conceived of flesh and blood, for no individual is ever above himself or herself to the extent that they are absolute and free of all prejudice and bias.

These narratives lead man to that extent. To discover that ultimately there will be a reckoning that will deem us responsible for our actions. Actions, which we are in turn, required to defend or at the very least justify. This delicate tapestry of morale struggle is spread out before us, the full spectrum of indecision here to be observed. In these seven tales, the reader is faced with challenges of every nature. The purpose must be beyond the pleasure of a good read; the purpose is for every man to discover that beacon of morality within him, to affix their moral compass to that point and in doing such, merit a salvation from this tumultuous labyrinth. Robert Girardi provides a gripping and diverse work that challenges the reader to examine the ethical status quo and to re-evaluate his or her own morality.

The morality of an action is founded in the freedom of that principle, by virtue of which it is in the agent's power, having all things ready and requisite to the performance of an action, either to perform or not perform it.

Eatin' in the Succah

BY AVRUMIE KAHN

chopped liver, etc.).

Everybody knows the feeling, sharp hunger pains, dryness of the mouth, and no food or drink in sight. Yes, it is Yom Tov morning, and we all know that on Yom Tov one must be happy, and that their ain't "Simcha ella Basar Veyayin".

We all know that there is nothing like home cooking, so if any of you reading this article are home for the holidays, I have a few ideas for an outside-outstanding succos meal.

Night is more difficult to plan for than the day meals; however, after dipping ones apple in the honey, a warm slice of salmon/gefilte fish, with a honey dill sauce will create a palate wielding appetizer to kick off the seudah, (Recommended to serve the fish cold for lunch the next day). The next item that will definitely combat that chill in the succah is of course Bubba's huge vat of chicken soup with matzo balls.

I know I'm usually full by this time, but as an ancient Chinese proverb says, "the meal must go on".

So to brace oneself before the onslaught of the main dish and some sides, I have created (along with my brother) what is known as a "KAHN-SALAD". This king of salads consists of a main body of lettuce, (iceberg or red leaf is recommended). Then in a separate bowl, mash up hard boiled eggs with fried onions with a dash of salt and pepper. Add all of these ingredients together and dress it up with a basic dip of ketchup and mayo. To make this salad simply out of your succah, add lots of spices (Mrs. Dash, garlic powder, and the like), as well as any personal favorites (deli,

When you are done eating this heavenly salad, the simcha comes out in the form in my personal favorite, a Rib Roast seared with garlic and then slowly cooked (preferably five to six bones). A fried potato kugel along with orzo and steamed asparagus, make for a great sidekick for the roast. For the vegetarians among you, I recommend some chicken schnitzel (fried), and if you are really a vegetarian, I recommend therapy.

To conclude this stomach bursting meal, before spending the night underneath the stars, a homemade brownie is in order. I recommend either one with peanut butter frosting, or my personal favorite, spicy Tabasco brownies, (no joke, it's a real gourmet dessert in the south).

After the night meal we all vow that we won't be able to eat for at least two weeks, but before we know it, our stomachs are rumbling in shul again the next morning. Here are some lunch menu ideas.

A novel idea which I can tell you from personal experience, is to make a barbecue. Set up Que with matchlight coals before Yom Tov, and simply transfer fire from one already lit. If this doesn't liven up your Yom Tov meal, as well as impress your guests, then nothing will (Or you are a vegetarian, which I'll remind you again to get therapy).

Some fresh fruit or some pareve ice cream/mousse makes a refreshing dessert, and keeps all in the succah (especially children) just a bit longer.

Remember that whatever one makes for the Seudah will be delicious and sweet, for a happy and healthy new year.

YCDS Begins Practice on New Production

BY HADAR WEISS

The Yeshiva College Dramatics Society has begun rehearsals for their upcoming Fall production *The Shawshank Redemption* – a stage version of the popular 1994 movie starring Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman, based on a novel written by Stephen King.

The premise of the play surrounds a character named Andy Dufresne (pronounced Du-frain), convicted of murdering his wife and his wife's lover in the mid-1940's, and sentenced to two consecutive life sentences to be served in the Shawshank prison, in his home state of Maine.

The play relates truths about life in jail that still ring true even fifty years later. The story effectively forces one to consider the processes we each use to judge others.

"This challenging screenplay has the potential to be one of YCDS's finest productions" said YCDS President Dov Pickholz, who also expressed his thanks to Dr. Beukas, the head of the Speech and Drama department and the director of the play, for choosing this script.

Rehearsals will run through the middle of December, with curtains going up for the first time on December 11th.

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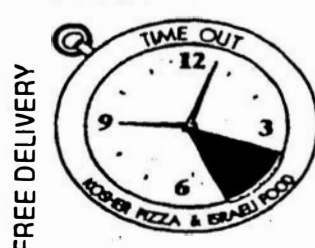
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FILM REVIEWS



**Run Lola Run:
You go girl!**

*Starring: Franka Polente and
Moritz Bleibtreu*

BY MAX LISKOVICH

Have you ever thought back to a particular day and wondered if perhaps just a small detail was changed the events of that day would have taken an entirely different course? It's an interesting proposition, one that is brilliantly explored by Tom Tykwer, in the German film *Run Lola Run*. *Lola* hit the big screen in the U. S. mid-June, and is still running in select theaters across the country.

Lola (Franka Polente) is a girl with a problem: her boyfriend, played by Moritz Bleibtreu, needs to deliver 100,000 German marks (\$60,000) that he got from a drug deal to his boss by noon. However, through an act of fate he is separated from the money. As late delivery is not an option, he calls Lola, who agrees to meet him cross-town in 20 minutes. Unfortunately, her Moped got stolen; rather than despair she chooses to use her feet. She runs...and runs...and runs, hence the title of the movie. However, since showing up at the meeting point is pointless

unless she has the money, she stops at the bank to ask her father for a quick loan Tykwer, who also wrote the screenplay, presents the rest of the story three times, each time with just one detail changed from the beginning of the plot. This results in three very different but equally intriguing outcomes.

Admittedly, the plot is a no-brainer and this movie lacks serious character development, and powerful dialogue. What makes this movie a winner is the interesting premise, amazing camera work, split second editing, spectacular animation, and a seat-vibrating techno soundtrack that's flawlessly integrated with the film. There are also some quasi-philosophical humor elements played out in the flashbacks. This film is for you if you are put off by Hollywood's formulaic shlock and desire to see something refreshing.

Run Lola Run is distributed in the US by Sony Pictures Classics. It is rated R, with running time of 81 minutes. The film is currently playing in Manhattan at Lincoln Plaza Cinemas (63rd and Broadway) and at The Angelica Film Center (Houston and Mercer).

The Sixth Sense



*Starring: Bruce Willis and
Haley Joel Osment*

BY YAIR OPPENHEIM

Everyone has gotten goose bumps from a movie at one point or another. Many horror films are shameless attempts to label films as scary by dumping cheap thrills on an audience. Often the shock is generated by a stranger hiding in the shadows only to spontaneously announce his presence. It's so refreshing for a true horror film to arrive after countless audiences pay good money in the hopes of satisfying their cravings. That said, *The Sixth Sense* is not your daddy's horror film.

The plot's abundance of surprising twists serves as a gripping element that essentially makes the movie work. A young boy named Cole (played by Haley Joel Osment) is being plagued by a supernatural force. It is up to a child psychologist, Dr. Malcolm Crowe (Bruce Willis) to heal the boy, solve the mystery and save his marriage before it falls apart. The story is developed to the point of believability and is somewhat original, save for the mild similarity to *The Exorcist* in which a young child is dealing with mysterious forces. The characters do not seem like cardboard and the situations are realistic and intriguing. The performances are top notch. It is especially refreshing to see Bruce Willis giving a performance imbued with concern and thoughtfulness. Haley Joel Osment, who plays the ten-year old Cole gives a tour-de-force worthy of an Oscar nomination. His moods and visions are mesmerizing. The script is filled with great ideas that scream for further exposition; often the audience is left wanting to know more, but frankly, explanation would slow the movie

down.

The script uses thrilling situations not merely for action sequences, but also to evoke poignant emotions. The first hour has surprisingly little going on, yet manages to glue the audience to the screen with mere intrigue. *Sense* is possibly the best scripted horror film written by its director M. Night Shyamalan. Shyamalan directs the film slickly, with a deftness that successfully keeps things creepy throughout the whole movie.

This film is frightening...it is terribly frightening. Being rated PG-13, it is no gore-fest, though still quite heavy on the corpses. The catch is that the film contains indelible images, striking enough to stay in your mind long after the movie is over. *The Sixth Sense* ranks among the best horror films of all time, best being in this case, qualitatively. A horror film with an Oscar-quality script and great acting is truly a novelty. *The Exorcist* is the only film *The Sixth Sense* can be compared to, given the quality and subject matter. Is it scarier than the *Exorcist*? Quite possibly in fact. While *Sixth Sense* is not Best Picture material, it may be scarier because it is more accessible to people. Many in 1973 were terrified of *The Exorcist*, simply because they thought it was real - many of these people were Christian; it hit home. The *Sense*, happily does not discriminate.

The Sixth Sense also boasts a surprise ending that's guaranteed to knock the wind out of your sails. For those who relish these types of mysteries, let it be noted that it is much more satisfying than the twists in *Primal Fear* or *The Usual Suspects*. The ending in the film is part and parcel of the film's basic underlying concept. It will naturally lead into post-film discussions, testing the endings validity over each suspicious scene. The ending alone merits a second viewing of the film. In these days all you need to know is that witches are out, and corpses are in.

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Rosen Resigns

continued from page 1

Furst Hall. After Hartstein served YU for five decades, he retired to the position of Senior Advisor and passed the publicity torch to Rosen, calling him "the ultimate professional."

Rosen arrived at YU with an impressive public relations resume and extensive contacts in the media world. He spent ten years as a journalist in New England, during which he was a two-term president of the Massachusetts State House Press Association while working for publications such as the Boston Herald and Newsweek. Moving to the public relations field, Rosen worked as the Director of Public Information for the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and then as the Chief of Staff of former Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Murphy.

His true calling, however, Rosen found in the field of university public relations. He previously served as an Associate Vice-President for News and Public Relations at Harvard University, an Associate Vice-President for Public Affairs at the University of Chicago, and the Vice-President for Public Affairs at Brandeis University.

After leaving Brandeis in 1993, Rosen did consulting work for several colleges and nonprofit organization before he was recruited by YU. Soon after he arrived, he revamped and computerized the entire YUPR office, and redesigned the alumni magazine, updating its features and improving its graphics to

reflect the more modern standard for such publications. He also inaugurated a new university newspaper, the YU Today. "I created it as a house organ for people to rely on, and to be lively, informative, accurate, and positive," said Rosen. He enhanced the PR department at the Cardozo School of Law, and oversaw improvements in all of YUPR's five departments - graphics, media, photography, development, and Midtown.

Rosen presided over PR stories such as the Anne Scheiber inheritance, which he considers his largest coup in office. He convinced the University administration to hold off announcing the news of Scheiber's gift until the annual Hannukah dinner, magnifying the impact of the news and allowing YUPR to prep the media. The results were impressive, with widespread national media exposure, and international coverage reaching as far as China, which ran a segment about the gift on Chinese national television.

During Rosen's tenancy of the corner office on the fourth floor of Furst Hall, YU was transformed from a school perennially delegated to the bottom tier of academic rankings to a first tier school in the distinguished company of some of the finest institutions of higher learning in America. Rosen orchestrated the University's media blitz about its ascendance to the upper level of educational heights. "During my stay here in YU we have gone from a third tier school, to a second tier school, to a first tier school four years running," said Rosen. "We have also attained record undergraduate enrollment and greatly increased the size of the endowment. PR played a role in all this, but it has been a total team effort within the administration."

Rosen's modesty notwithstanding, many attribute these achievements primarily to the higher media profile of YU, and by proxy, to the work done by YUPR.

Rosen also directed damage control for PR disasters such as the controversy over organizations for gay and lesbian students at YU's graduate schools, which Rosen termed "a couple of students cranking this thing up and the religious right outside of YU seeing some advantage in being critical." Yet oftentimes Rosen's counsel was willfully ignored on a number of University decisions, leading to public relations nightmares and more damage control work for YUPR.

This is not the first time Rosen has left YU. During the Fall '97 semester Rosen left to go work at Howard Rubenstein and Associates, one of the pre-eminent public relations firms in the city. But after a short stint in the world of celebrity spin control, Rosen regretted his decision and requested his position back from President Norman Lamm, who acquiesced and reinstated Rosen as PR director.

But this time Rosen claims his resignation is final. Citing family issues as the main impetus behind his decision, Rosen, who resides in Boston and commuted every week to an apartment in midtown, expressed relief at finally being able to work in Boston and be with his family, including an expectant daughter.

"Yeshiva University is a great and important institution, and I have enjoyed working here," Rosen said. "I have grown as a professional and as a Jew, and this has enriched my life. I have enjoyed a close working relationship with Dr. Lamm and other senior administrators, faculty members and rabbis. I will miss many of them, but most of all, I will miss the students."



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Bibi to Lecture continued from page 1

official state of our people creating a tremendous bond which cannot be severed. It is a recognition of the importance and affection of the relationship which will hopefully continue to rapidly grow stronger."

Following his appearance at Stern on the 17th, Netanyahu will be speak twice at the Yeshiva College undergraduate campus on the preceding day. During the Thursday club hour, a smaller discussion will be offered to honors students. Later in the evening at 8:00PM, Netanyahu will speak at Weissberg Commons to a larger group of students. Sources specu-

late that this lecture on a formalized topic dealing directly with the current status of the peace process, will be open to all Yeshiva undergraduate students and faculty members.

Dr. Norman Adler, Dean of Yeshiva College, had little to add to the news stating, "We consider this a wonderful experience for our students to be granted the opportunity to hear a major Israeli political figure speak."

Unconfirmed reports insinuate that Mr. Netanyahu will continue to give guest lectures over upcoming semesters both here and at Columbia University.

Belfer Keys continued from page 1

to the problem in 1998, University officials speculated that a few master keys had been mistakenly distributed to students; accordingly, all dormitory locks and keys have been replaced. However some of the new Arrow keys can still open the majority of the Belfer doors. Furthermore, many of the Muss Hall closet keys, which have yet to be changed, can also open the doors of Belfer Hall.

It seems the Belfer keyholes maintain a general shape, and many similarly shaped keys are able to open those doors. A Yeshiva College professor recounted to his class how he once, absent-mindedly, successfully used his house key to open his University office door. The professor proceeded to inform the class that he has since discarded his office key and has been using the house key for both his home and his office.

Sommers emphasized that the Department of Facilities Management, not

the Department of Safety and Security, is responsible for the assignment of keys to the students and fully accountable for all matters concerning campus locks and keys. Facilities Management had previously promised to rectify the problem, yet the issue apparently remains a matter of grave concern.

Jeffery Socol, Associate Director of Facilities Management, would not comment on the situation. Several administrators did note that the obvious solution would be to change all the locks in Belfer Hall, but that this would be an extremely expensive expedition. As of now, a resolution has yet to be created or carried out. One thing is certain, though: The Department of Facilities Management will find themselves under pressure to more carefully monitor the distribution of keys and to quickly and effectively rectify the present situation.

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Shabbat Enhancement Committee

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ORIENTATION 1999



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TORAH TAPE LIBRARY
The Torah Tape Library needs volunteers so that it can reopen. It is not a big job, but it is a big mitzvah! If you can volunteer or need more info, please speak to Yitz Motzen in Muss 269. (ymotzen@ymail.yu.edu)

WRITING CENTER
Stumped? Afraid to approach that first paper? Or, would you like to broaden your creativity and writing skills? Writing Center Tutors are Ready, Willing, and Able to help you with any and all writing assignments. We can also help you compose Internship and Grad school applications. The Yeshiva College

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MORG MART
SNACKS, COLD DRINKS, HOT DOGS
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nightly special coming after the holidays) Morg. Basement (Off the side-from Morg. Basement Lounge) ANY-ONE INTERESTED IN WORKING FOR MORG.MART THIS SEMESTER PLEASE SEE ELAN IN RUBIN 225.

FENCING TEAM
The fencing team needs a manager for the 99-2000 season. Compensation of money/credit is available. For more info. see the athletic office.

6:45 AM MINYAN
Are you a working folk? Do you want to put in an extra seder in the morning? Planning on pulling an all

nighter for that paper? (Maybe you just want to avoid the lines in Grandma's or time out.) Join us for the Daily Minyan at the crack of dawn 6:45AM, Monday through Thursday in the Morg Basement.

J.S.S. MINYAN
It's back and better than ever! J.S.S. minyan and breakfast. Time: Monday and Thursday - 7:50; Tuesday and Wednesday - 8:00. Place: Furst Hall Beis Medrash (F301). All Welcome!!! Free breakfast every day!!!

YC DEANS' OFFICE WEB MAVENS
Are you interested in working for the YC Deans' office WebMavens? The

WebMavens are looking for a few dedicated students interested in learning more about web publishing. If you're interested in finding out more, email Doron Simon at dsi-mon@ymail.yu.edu.

YU ICE HOCKEY
Interested in playing on a YU Ice Hockey Team? email yuhockey@aol.com ASAP.

CAMPUS BULLETIN BOARD IS YOUR CLUB OR CLASS RUNNING A SPECIAL EVENT YOU'D LIKE TO PUBLICIZE? HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT YOU'D LIKE TO SEE ON THE CAMPUS BULLETIN BOARD? EMAIL THE PARTICULARS TO COMMIE@YUCOMMENTATOR.COM



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ALL STUDENTS ARE URGED TO ATTEND

Stern College Dean Attends White House Dinner

BY PINCHAS SHAPIRO

Dr. Karen Bacon, Dean of Stern College for Women, had the distinct honor and privilege of representing Yeshiva University by attending a state dinner at the White House in honor of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak. The affair, held on the evening of July 18, 1999, was attended by an impressive sampling of the elite among American Jewish leaders.

The dinner was attended by four hundred people, a fairly large list by state dinner standards. Dr. Bacon received a formal invitation from the White House after being informed of the event via a fax from the president's social secretary. Bacon still does not fully understand why she specifically was invited to attend. "I assume that I was chosen to represent Yeshiva University," she said.

Welcomed by the President and First Lady, guests were shuttled from the reception line to the Far Lawn where an erected tent had been set up to accommodate the large audience. The lavish tent was equipped with air-conditioning to combat the muggy Washington summer, the tables were exquisitely adorned and crystal chandeliers hung throughout the expanse.

Seated at a table with Hillary Clinton and Ehud Barak, Dr. Bacon and her son were surrounded by an impressive dinner company. Throughout the meal, the discussion ranged from the general and mundane to the technicalities of the peace process. "People tend to forget," commented Bacon, "that these are real people."

The dinner menu consisted of dairy selections, presumably because the evening fell

within the nine days that precede *Tisha B'Av* when it is customary for observant Jews to refrain from eating meat. Special certified kosher meals were offered and Bacon recalls, "I do not believe there was a single table that did not have a number of kosher meals."

Although the evening served as a dinner affair to honor Barak, the event was not bereft of ensuing politics. Throughout the evening, Mr. Barak seemed pragmatic and optimistic about the peace process and his new position as prime minister.

Barak delivered a passionate speech in which he mentioned his experiences as a soldier, and in graphic detail delineated his strong capabilities as a military leader while expressing his hope that such action will never have to be taken. As for his plans for the new peace, Barak said he felt that with truly open dialogue Israel can one day be free of all violence and terrorism.

Dr. Bacon felt the American government made a lasting impression on the Prime Minister. "The general feeling of the dinner was not that of 'leader to leader' but of 'friend to friend.' The overwhelming sense of comradery could be felt throughout the evening."

The Clinton administration extended its warmest welcome to the new Prime Minister. The dinner was part of an expanded weekend that would include meetings with high-level government officials and two days at Camp David with the First Family.

With regard to the evening, Bacon commented, "It was simply extraordinary. I had the sense that the White House was trying very hard to convey a message of support to the Prime Minister and his family."

"Morning of Learning" Draws Large Crowd

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

On Sunday September 6, The Yeshiva College Alumni Association, in conjunction with the Student Organization of Yeshiva, sponsored a free "Morning of Learning" program in preparation for the High Holidays. The event, which took place in the Main Beit Medrash, began with Shacharis at 8:45AM followed by coffee and cake. Two distinguished Roshai Yeshiva then delivered passionate speeches. Rav Yaakov Neuburger lectured on "Teshuvah Thoughts," and Rav Aharon

Kahn spoke on "Reflections on Slichot and Tekiat Shofar."

The event, which was open to all students, was the collective brainchild of SOY President Aton Holzer, and Stu Verstandig (YC '80), President of the Yeshiva College Alumni Association. The program was deemed a success by all involved and was attended by over two hundred students.

Excited with the prospect of planning more events of this nature, Holzer said, "The morning was a smashing success. I look forward to planning more events with the Alumni Association in the very near future."



YC Students enjoying a night on the town care of YCSC/SCWSC, anxiously awaiting the production of the offbeat, off Broadway show, STOMP.

Asbestos Removed From Muss Hall

BY PINCHAS SHAPIRO

This summer found the University commencing a series of construction and improvement projects, including the removal of asbestos from the aging Main Building. This removal was part of an ongoing process to rid the seventy-three year-old building of asbestos, a fireproof insulating agent used in structures built before 1980.

The actual task of removing the hazardous materials from the building took approximately two months to complete. Since asbestos only poses a serious health risk when airborne, the university decided to initiate the job after students vacated for summer recess.

The asbestos removal proved a complex task that required various workers to play critical roles in ensuring that the job was carried out in a safe and efficient manner. The University employs an in-house licensed asbestos removal staff; however, due to the magnitude of this particular cleanup an independent company was contracted to carry out the bulk of the work. A third company monitored the asbestos levels in the air to provide maximum safety for all involved.

Asbestos fiber was formerly used to insulate hot water and heating pipes in older buildings. Far superior to its flammable plastic and foam replacements, asbestos became obsolete only when it was found to pose health risks when air-born. The problem facing many buildings is that asbestos was initially used to insulate pipes that are now used for air-handling systems. This can potentially place the hazardous materials directly into the air supply. University offi-

cial have assured that this specific problem does not exist in the Main Building because the air handling systems are more modern and do not rely on the asbestos insulated piping.

When removing asbestos from the Main Building, Facilities Management attempted to locate the most obvious places asbestos was used, tracing heating and hot water pipes throughout the building.

Although Jeffery Socol, Associate Director of Facilities Management, refused to speak with *The Commentator*, sources within the administration have confirmed that a flood in the basement of the Main Building came as a result of the asbestos project. Apparently, when removing asbestos from a pipe underneath the stage in Lamport Auditorium, the pipe burst causing the flood. An unnamed administrative source added that the break came as a result of carelessness on the part of the contracted company, and a suit has been filed against them for the damages incurred by the flooding. However, there is no current indication that the contractor was negligent in the proper removal of all known asbestos within the building.

Although the project has been completed and no other "major" asbestos removal jobs are planned for the Main Building, it is presumed that some of the fiber still remains hidden within the walls. "The process might never be completely finished," said Jeffery Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Service Administration, "if it so happens that more asbestos is located, the university has a licensed team capable of dealing with the situation in a safe, timely fashion."



Lonely YC boys flock together on the Circle Line Cruise around Manhattan. (L to R.) Chaim Schneider, Ari Feldman, Jon Mell, Ari Kellman, Brian Glass, Pinky Shapiro, Josh Sweclarsky

THE COMMENTATOR

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