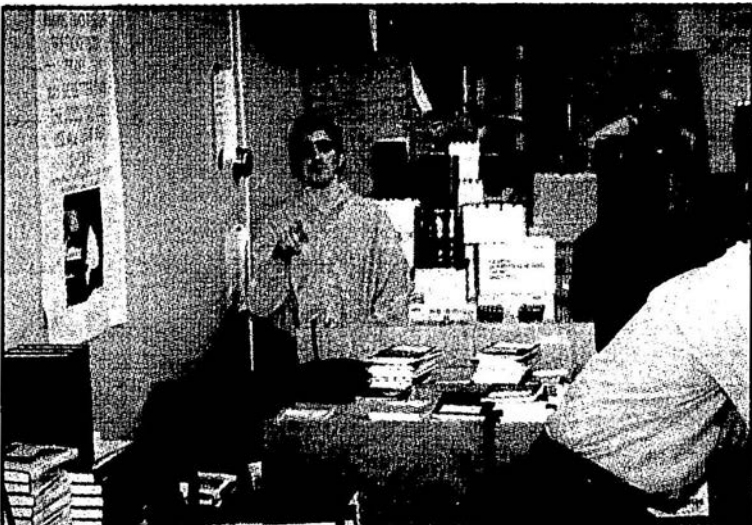


COMMENTATOR

February 21, 2000/15 Adar Aleph 5760

The Official Newspaper of Yeshiva University

Volume LXIV Issue 7



"SOY Wants You!" says *COMMIE* Webmaster, Ephraim Shapiro at the SOY Seforim Sale

YESHIVA ANNOUNCES GRADUATE PROGRAM IN JEWISH STUDIES FOR WOMEN

BY PINCHAS SHAPIRO

On February 18, Rabbi Norman Lamm, esteemed president of Yeshiva University, announced the establishment of a two-year graduate program for women in *Torah She-Ba'al Peh* - Oral Law. The program, which has been in the planning stages for some time, is being sponsored by a grant from

The Avi Chai Foundation, a private foundation established in 1984 and endowed by the late Zalman C. Bernstein.

Those students who complete the two-year advanced learning program will be awarded a certificate. Students desiring to simultaneously pursue a Master's degree in Jewish education will have the option of enrolling in evening courses, tuition-free, at the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration. Upon completion of 18 credits of course work in Azrieli, a semester of student teaching and a comprehensive exam, students will earn a Master's degree in Jewish education.

The current proposal will make the program extremely competitive by limiting admission to up to ten new students each year. Entering students will be expected to have completed at least two years of college-level Talmud study and to have acquired appropriate textual skills in Aramaic and the Talmudic texts. However, it is not clear what would constitute the equivalent to two years of college-level Talmud study outside of Stern College.

Although graduates of other universities who possess the requisite strong textual skills and commitment to intensive study

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Commentator Acquires SSSB Exchange

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

Further distinguishing itself as the premier Yeshiva student publication, *The Commentator* has recently acquired the official newspaper of Sy Syms School of Business, *The Exchange*. The merger, which looks to prove valuable to both organizations, will alleviate monetary concerns for *The Exchange* while strengthening the breadth of *The Commentator's* coverage.

Upon acquisition, *The Exchange* which has only published one edition in the past year was officially disbanded, in favor of a business journal of the same name to be published at the end of the school year.

The Commentator has committed itself to covering all aspects of the business school with the addition of a new business section to be

instituted in the upcoming issue of the *Commie*. The "Exchange Section" will be run by new *Commentator* associate business editors Eric Sigman and Avi Bossewitch.

The Exchange, the brainchild of former YCSC President, Jason Buskin, has scarcely published over the paper's brief four-year history. Due to a lack of equipment and funding, the SSSB newspaper has been unable to publish with any regularity over the past two years. It was this factor that led Yair Oppenheim, a previous editor, to approach *The Commentator* with the proposition of a takeover. Oppenheim stated, "With *The*



COMMENTATOR Editors-in-Chief Aaron Klein and Alex Traiman, Happy to Acquire *THE EXCHANGE*.

Commentator interested in a business section, and *The Exchange* journal not coming out until the end of the year, something had to be done and this was a perfect fit."

Current *Exchange* editors Yossi Knoll and Elijah Kaplan, who will continue to supervise *The Exchange* Journal, now a subsidiary of *The Commentator* -were also excited

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Cardozo Dean Resigns Trend of Resignations Continues to Paralyze Yeshiva

BY PINCHAS SHAPIRO

In a letter to University President Rabbi Norman Lamm, Paul-R. Verkuil, Dean of Yeshiva University's Cardozo School of Law, informed the university administration that he would not be renewing his contract after it expires June 30th of this year. The letter, dated January 5th, cited personal reasons for the decision not to opt for an extension.

Verkuil, who officially declined a contract extension with Yeshiva to continue as dean of the Law School after the date of his contract's termination, plans to stay on as a member of the faculty and will expand his teaching curriculum. Verkuil has also offered to remain acting dean of the law school until a search committee completes its selection of a new dean.

Additionally, Associate Dean Michael Herz confirmed that he too will be leaving his office following the end of this academic year. Upon completion of his term as dean, Herz plans to visit another law school for at least a year with the intention of returning to Cardozo as a member of the faculty after his sabbatical.



A well respected and formidable legal mind, Verkuil began at Cardozo in 1997. Before he came to the law school Verkuil was a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University. He also worked administratively as Dean of Tulane Law School and President of the College of William and Mary.

"Now I could spend more time teaching and working on some research projects," said Verkuil explaining the impetus behind his opting out of a contract extension. "Dr. Lamm and my fellow col-

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Yeshiva Confiscates New York Times

BY AARON KLEIN

A recent *Commentator* probe has revealed that Yeshiva's Department of Facilities Management has been allegedly confiscating *New York Times* vending machines from their respective Uptown campus locations. The machines, which are the sole property of *The New York Times* and have been missing for months, were found this week in a restricted access Facilities storage room.

According to Eric Schubert, an IBC/YC Senior and the previous *New York Times* Sales Manager for Yeshiva, the machine confiscation began in October 1998 when a

machine that had been chained to a post at 185th Street and Amsterdam Avenue mysteriously disappeared during Sukkot vacation.

"When I came back," explains Schubert, "the machine was gone and no department in YU would take responsibility for its disappearance. I found it hard to believe that anyone from the neighborhood would steal a seventy-five pound vending machine that was chained to a metal post"

The Times was immediately informed of the machine's alleged confiscation, promptly replacing it with a new machine that was

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A confiscated NY Times Machine in well-secured facilities storage.

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YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

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500 West 185th Street, New York, NY 10033,
E-Mail: commie@yucomentator.com.
Telephone/Fax : (212) 928-8637.

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AARON KLEIN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ALEX TRAIMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

PINCHAS SHAPIRO
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

EPHRAIM SHAPIRO
WEBMASTER

JASON CYRULNIK
NEWS EDITOR

SHMULI SINGER
FEATURES EDITOR

ARI ELLENBERG
LAYOUT EDITOR

YISHAI FLEISHER
FORUM EDITOR

DUDI FEUER
SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

HADAR WEISS
COPY EDITOR

DAVID WALLACH
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

EDMUNDO ROSENBERG
BUSINESS EDITOR

MARC SCHMERLER
BUSINESS EDITOR

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Business
News
Photography
Sports

David Swedarsky
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*The Entire Yeshiva Community Mourns
the Loss of Irving J. Stone.*

*May the Almighty comfort you among
the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.*



**MESSAGE FROM THE
YCSC PRESIDENT
JON MELL**

Some of you may have seen signs around campus that say, "This is what we've accomplished so far," referring to the accomplishments of Yeshiva College Student Council. But what have we really done? These signs are not to get your attention. There is so much more that needs to be done -- so very much more that there always will be so much more. But I think the hard working members of each of the YCSC boards (from the Athletic Committee to the Academic Standards Committee to the Canvassing Committee) have shown the entire university what students that care can accomplish.

I think there is something in the air around campus and I think it comes from more than a few achievements of the student councils. In fact, these achievements are only symptoms of what I feel in the air. School pride.. It smells, great. When we unite on any number of issues, we see that it gets things done. I am Mell. And right now we are back up in the U.S. News rankings, we have the pride of boasting an NCAA winning basketball team, a wonderful Museum, a controversial newspaper, and our campus looks greater than it ever has before, so very much greater. I'm not saying every student has to work to help Our University look and feel great, so very, very great. I am saying the following: It is the duty, obligation, mission, responsibility, charge, chiyuv, and achrayus of every student who sets foot on our campus to take upon themselves one thing: school pride. There is so much to be proud of, so very very much. And this feeling can have such far-reaching effects. I'm not saying our dorms will magically be etherneted, nor am I saying the food service will change overnight. But, I think many students would be surprised to see what a difference such pride can have, in more spiritual ways.

What's another example of something to hold high? How many of us realize the degree to which our University is held in the Torah world and in the world of global Judaism? We sit on top of Manhattan under what a very good friend of mine calls, "The largest umbrella in Orthodox Judaism, and perhaps all of Judaism." We have so much to take advantage of, so very much besides the nice gym, the hours of the Caf Store and of course the Museum.

As we walk around campus over these next few weeks, let's -- each of us -- hold hands ourselves a little higher; when we sit in class, why don't we sit a bit straighter; and when we're asked where we go to school, rather than mumbling, "yesh...something," say it proud: "Yeshiva University" (And, as another good friend of mine says, "GO MACSI!")

EDITORIALS

A Vicious Circle

The President's Circle, a University entity that finances student clubs and organizations, has elected for the first time ever not to direct funds to *The Commentator*, the strongest advocate of student rights within Yeshiva. The Circle's decision, which effectively hampers the newspaper's ability to serve the student populace, comes after a well-publicized confrontation between the *Commentator* and the President's office.

The Circle has generously donated to such canonical entities as *The Observer*, Student Organization of Yeshiva and the Yeshiva College Dramatics Society, yet the President's circle would not give *The Commentator* a dime.

One of the single most important charges of this newspaper is to serve as the forum for discussion of positive and negative university practices, ensuring the perpetuation of student rights. Consequently, it becomes our charge to report thoroughly and factually on any instance of administrative abuse. Unfortunately, *The Commentator* this year has had the disheartening task of reporting on many such instances. These many articles have predictably initiated a series of tense confrontations between the President's office and members of this publication.

It is sad that the Presidents Circle has refused to allot monies to this publication because we have successfully carried out our charge. Student newspapers should not be censored and subsequently punished monetarily because student views differ with those of the administration. To take such punitive measures is quite simply immature. We hope that members of the Circle rethink their decision while maintaining some level of objectivity, and correct an obvious and glaring error in judgement affecting all students of our seemingly ethical institution.

**FROM THE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

ALEX TRAIMAN

Is it Really Amusing?

We are truly in a funky place at Yeshiva. Administrators are resigning, or so we are told. Students, running around like chickens without heads, attempting to squeeze a weeks worth of activities into one day, are accused of apathy. And to put the icing on the cake, students are chastising the resigning administration for taking advantage of the students' apathetic lifestyles.

Security guards check students' identification cards, while non-Jews walk in and out of University buildings completely unchecked. Facilities workers, who are paid solely to clean up our messes, yell at students for living like collegiate slob. And of course, university employees drive Daihatsus on our pedestrian walkway.

Benefactors are catered to, while students are simply part of the business. Students often take advantage of faculty members. Faculty members are at odds with the administration, and the administration could do without the student's newspaper (especially when they report on benefactors).

Students living in this often cruddy uptown neighborhood are envious of the those who get to live in the always beautiful midtown. Those who live in gorgeous midtown are envious of a quasi-campus, even if it is in an undesirable neighborhood. And we all fight for van space to connect the hundred fifty blocks separating our undergraduate campuses.

While students at other schools are studying, we are in class. While students at other schools are partying, we are studying. While students at other schools are sleeping, we are on the phone or surfing the web. When students at other schools are on the phone or surfing the web, we are in class again. Hey, when do we get to sleep?

Avi has been on four dates with Leah and is ready to get engaged. Eli has been going out with Shaindy for five years, but is scared to commit. Chaim is wondering how he managed to get through college in 2.8 years without dating a single girl.

Yeshiva is proud to boast top-tier status in US News and World Report, but nobody is quite sure why we are ranked on the same

page as Princeton and Harvard. Top-tier rankings boost enrollment. Boosted enrollment increases class sizes. Increased class sizes decrease student/faculty ratios. Decreased student/faculty ratios negatively affect top-tier rankings. In the mean time students barely have a dorm room to sleep, and faculty members can barely afford to put a roof over their heads.

Students charge *The Commie* with defending the students' rights. *The Commie* charges the administration to enforce the students' rights. The administration charges the students, right?

All of this makes me really, really, really angry. All the aforementioned examples make me tick. I am starting to boil. I can't take it. What is the matter with this place? What is going on here?

The truth of it is, this funky place is actually hilarious. Take a step back, and look at what goes on here from afar. It is rather amusing. This school provides more laughs for me than a barrel of monkeys.

I used to get charged up about issues. Okay, okay, I still do, sometimes. After all, it is my job. But instead of constantly fighting to enjoy my college experience, I realize that it is quite enjoyable to watch the fighting around me. It's also enjoyable to slow down and let the unexplainable occurrences at this university simply occur, for no rhyme or reason. And besides, let's face it, there really are a few truly terrific things about our funky little university.

Amazingly enough, I would venture to suggest that approximately 95 percent of all students, faculty and administrators are actually nice people, who are well intentioned (give or take ten to fifteen percent on any one day). Hey, even this newspaper is well intentioned--most of the time.

In conclusion, when it seems as if this place is getting you down, take a deep breath. Realize the entertainment Yeshiva provides for all its inhabitants on a daily basis. Learn to appreciate the humor. Humor has been known to be a successful remedy for stress. And who knows, if we all manage to lose a little stress, we just may make our stays here a little more amusing.



MESSAGE FROM THE SOY PRESIDENT ATON HOLZER

Rav Joseph B. Soloveitchik zt"l noted that the grouping of the vessels of the interior of the Mishkan, the Tabernacle, in the Torah portions of Terumah and Tetzaveh – the isolation of the Aron (ark of the covenant), Shulchan (showbread table) and Menorah (candelabrum) from the Mizbeyach HaZahav (golden incense altar) – highlights the dual nature of the Jewish sanctuary. At once, the Mishkan is a house of God in the most literal sense, a residence containing an ark (a chair or bed of sorts), a table and a lamp for, as it were, His use, and at the same time, it forms the focus of Jewish existence. Concomitant with serving God, the Mishkan serves the Jewish people; the sanctuary is of supreme significance as the sole site for our service and sacrifices, the exclusive platform upon which the Jew can most directly demonstrate his devotion to his Deity. His home ought to become our home, and we aspire that ours may become His; hence, the Jewish Tabernacle forms a nexus between the 'upper realms' and each individual Jew and Jewish home.

Each of the Korbanot (sacrifices) convey a different expression of devotion to God, and even the two Mizbachot (altars) of the sanctuary represent two variant aspects of the human existence that must be offered to the Almighty. Lectures and writings of the Slonimer Rebbe shlit"l, the Netivot Shalom, express the idea that while the Mizbeyach HaNechoshet – the outer, copper altar upon which sacrifices were brought – represents man's consecration of his physical body and capabilities, the Mizbeyach HaZahav – the inner, golden altar which was reserved for ketoret, incense – represents man's consecration of his soul, his spiritual, intangible inner being; man must muster both his spiritual and physical talents in the service of G-d.

Seforim Sale 2000 has provided, perhaps, a perfect portrayal of the Slonimer's ideal. A committed cadre of individuals have dedicated their bodies – schlepping boxes, labeling books, and engaging in all forms of manual labor – and souls – assisting customers, ordering and reordering titles, and arranging books in a logical and aesthetically pleasing manner. Led by Amichai Erdfarb, Jeff Weiss, Shmuel Popper, Shaya Potter, Alan Boshnack, Yehoshua Kramer, Ephraim Shapiro, Gary Snitow, Simcha Fuld, Josh Swedarsky, Yevgeniy Gokhman, Stephen Tolany, Yonah Berman and Uri and Simcha Goldstein, a group of highly talented men and several women (with special thanks to Shlomit Zauderer and the Torah Activities Council of SCW) have consecrated themselves to the glorification and expansion of God's current sanctuary, His Torah – mi-yom she-charav beit ha-mikdash ain lo le-hakadosh baruch hu be-olamo ela daled amot

shel halakhah.

Another aspect of human consecration exists, one that represents perhaps the highest level of dedication to the Divine; we are bidden to express our love for God be-chul levavcha, u've-chul nafshecha u've-chul me'odecha, with all our hearts, souls and... monetary resources! Me'odecha seems, at first, somewhat anticlimactic; Rashi already noted the difficulty in offering the comment yesh lekha adam she-mamono chaviv alav mi-gufo. One might, perhaps, suggest that even greater than sacrificing one's being, or the representative thereof, is offering one's hard-earned accomplishments; man's true self is revealed in the fruits of his labor, the nature of the works into which he has poured his sweat and tears. No more appropriate formulation could serve to begin the Tabernacle portion than viyikchu li terumah, the directive to collect private donations, to channel the ultimate concretizations of the varieties of human personalities – man's handiwork – into the service of the Divine.

My thoughts are that perhaps the best paradigm of this phenomenon may be seen in the example of the President's Circle, whose generous gifts to our organization betray the deepest love and commitment to Yeshiva Students and the furtherance of Torah and its values among them; in sharing their own resources with the student organizations, they have formed the adanim of our Mishkan, the foundation-sockets (derived from the machatzit ha-shekel contribution) upon which we hope to build a legacy of innovative programming and services for ours and future generations of talmidim.

A hearty Hakaras HaTov to the A-team, to David Regev (Hamin), David Mahler (Mussar), Moshe Farkash (Refreshments), Ezra Starr, Ephraim Shapiro. Roaring thanks to Jonathan Strauss (Publicity), Yoni Sherizen and Avi Billet (Shpiel). Randy thanks to Judah Goldberg (Special Events), Jonathan Gross (Bagels, TTL), Akiva Novetsky and Yitz Motzen (Torah Tape Library), Chaim Strauchler (Mima'amakim Journal), Ben Breda (SOY Chesed Club) and Jeremy Frenkel (SOY-Yad Ozer Tzedakah Committee). Yasher Koach to Dov Karoll, David Polsky, Jeff Bander and Yehuda Balsam and to The Commentator, Andrew Leibowitz, the Offices of Student Services, and Facilities Management, Security and Housekeeping, Deans Nulman and Hember, and Jeffrey Rosengarten, Jeff Socol, Paula Baumser and Robert Valespie. My heart extends to Rav Lamm, Rav Blau, Rav Bronstein, Rav Charlop, Rav Feldman, Rav M. Kahn, Rav Neuburger, Rav Reichman, Rav Rosensweig, Rav Sacks, Rav Taragin, Rav Twersky and Rav Willig. Each of whose standards spur us to scale the summits of scholarship and sanctity.

Un-Conscience

THE PUPIL Yishai Fleisher



I was talking to a friend of mine and explaining to him the perils of combat parachuting. Particularly, I was describing the danger that a jumper faces when his ripcord refuses to detach itself from the plane. This scenario plays itself out rarely, but nevertheless paratroopers are trained for such an eventuality. When it does happen, the jumper, still connected to the aircraft, is knocked about mercilessly against the plane's fuselage by the buffeting winds. In order to free him, the plane's crew must cut the ropes binding the jumper to the aircraft at which time he releases his backup parachute. However, the real danger in that situation is that of the jumper losing consciousness. If the soldier is rendered unconscious by the blows to his body, he will not be able to deploy his auxiliary chute and will plummet to his death.

Upon hearing my graphic illustration of these events and imagining himself in the boots of an ill-fated paratrooper, my friend came out with one of the most astonishing statements I have ever heard in my life. He said to me in a frank and straightforward tone: "I'd rather be unconscious than afraid."

What a philosophy. It is estimated that in the twentieth century one hundred and thirty five million people died violent deaths. One hundred and thirty five million!! Are we not aware of this figure? Have not our own people contributed generously to this number? And yet we are not even slightly concerned about the state of our world nor do we sit around discussing possible avenues of betterment and change. Nah, they can go to hell for all we care. We would rather engage ourselves with pretty pictures on television, the beautiful stars, the gifted athletes, the talented pop artists. Oh what a wonderful world we live in, a dream world of economic prosperity and plenty of entertainment. Ours is an opium den of an existence where the eyelids grow heavy from drug-induced images and the safety nurturing our dreams is nothing but a lie. Nothing embodies our mode of living better than "I'd rather be unconscious than afraid."

Our fear is the fear of responsibility. We fear the incredible burden which an opening of our eyes to the world's problems would entail, and therefore choose to remain in a state of unconsciousness to block out these fears and responsibilities. Unlike the hapless jumper rendered unconscious by circumstance, we embrace our catatonic state, we want it, we revel in it. For we know that to look reality straight in the eye is to be ashamed of the unconscionable neglect which we have shown the world. Self-imposed unconsciousness is the only way to explain our complacency in the face of one hundred and thirty five million dead.

And as Jews we should be especially aware of the world's plight for we are charged with being "a light unto the nations." Have you ever thought about what this means? The influence our religion has had on the world is immense; our monotheistic ideas have taken root all over the world while paganism and its decadent ideals have been

nearly eradicated. That role, however, was mainly a passive one, since it was our unflinching self-confidence in the truth we possessed that served as the inspiration for other faiths, rather than a policy of outreach and proselytization. And yet there has also been an active role which we have played. This planet has been graced with remarkable Jewish men and women who have shaped the fate of man kind. From Moses to Golda Meir, it has been individuals from the family of Israel, who have brought light unto our world. Indeed we have been blessed by our God with extraordinary gifts and talents, and though this sort of boasting may seem ego-centric, it comes with a realization that the talents given to us were meant to be used for a G-dly purpose and the promotion of our values.

A man is unconscious when he is lacking awareness and the capacity for sensory perception. In other words, he is unaware of the forces which are acting upon him. As a Jewish society, we are similarly unaware of the great force that is acting upon us – the force of history. What more tangible proof does any Jew need in order to understand his place in history than the establishment of Medinat Yisrael. We are indescribably privileged to be living in times of revelation, times which have come about through the prayers of our people for generations. Those who do not concede the miraculous nature and the revelation of God's hand in the establishment of Israel are either blind men or liars. Our God is beckoning us into his embrace, with outstretched arms he awaits for us! It is high time the Orthodox world began an intense conversation about going back home instead of the shameful sleepy yawn that we are witness to today.

A parable for our discussion: The word of God came to Yona and commanded him to prophesy against Nineve, but Yona wished to escape the presence of the Lord and boarded a ship to Tarshish. "But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship seemed likely to be wrecked. Then the mariners were afraid and cried every man to his god... But Yona was gone down into the recesses of the ship; and he lay down and was fast asleep. So the shipmaster came to him, and said to him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? Arise, call upon thy God, perhaps G-d will think upon us, that we perish not" (Jonah 1:4 - 6).

The ship mentioned in the story is a metaphor for our world which at times 'seems likely to be wrecked,' and the aforementioned 'sleeper' is an apt description for our unconscious selves. But the 'shipmaster,' that is God, who calls for our awakening to do his bidding. How dare we sleep in light of our mission? How dare we remain unconscious when we have so much to do?

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FORUM

OPINION

In Search of Leaders

The less keen among you will read this article and wonder why I'm making such a big deal out of nothing. I hope to forestall this narrow criticism by discouraging it at the outset.

I'm concerned about how hard it is to find anyone willing, even in the direst of circumstances, to be a shliach tzibbur. This collective apathy is not confined to Yeshiva University; it is a problem throughout world Jewry. We've all been to minyans that have started five or more minutes late because no one was interested in leading.

Why is it that no one wants to go up there? Is it modesty? I have never experienced such a widespread manifestation of modesty outside of shul, so I find it hard to believe that this is the impediment. Could it be fear, or shyness? Judging by the number of backseat chazans during hallel and other parts of davening, there seems to be no shortage of people with adequate voices and ability. And everyone is ambitious enough to complain about the speed of the davening one way or the other.

As a gabbai at one of the minyans at YU, reactions to my offers (I refuse to think of them as requests) for people to lead have been met with emphatic shakes of the head, shocked laughter, and dismissive waves of the hand. I don't know how many people the medical staff at YU treats for sore throats, but they should set up a booth in the Morg basement. I'm still waiting for someone to turn me down because of a splinter or an ingrown toenail. Some people are afraid of standing out in public, some people stutter, and others can't read fluently. These are all valid reasons to be reluctant to daven for the amud, but such afflictions are far from universal.

The real cause of the situation is obvious: people simply don't want to be bothered. Leading a congregation for even part of a tefilla - usually we have to divide up the responsibilities among several people - is considered an insufferable burden, a terrible annoyance to be refused unless there's absolutely "no one else". I've never attended a non-Jewish prayer service, but I wonder if a similar predicament exists there as well. I imagine that, on the contrary, people consider it an honor to actively participate in their version of services.

It wasn't always this way. I know this, since there's a halacha that one should turn down an offer to lead the tefilla unless he is asked repeatedly. If there is one halacha with which the entire nation is unfailingly

MIXED NUTS

Chananya Weissman

machmir, this is it. Eating before Yom Kippur is a distant second. It seems, then, that Judaism also considers it an honor to be a shliach tzibur. It's Jews who don't. Even the few gallant people who are willing to do the job, do it grudgingly. Under the circumstances, I believe that it is unnecessary, even improper, to refuse a gabbai's offer to lead for reasons of modesty.

One day last year I was present at a minyan for shacharit that I normally did not attend. After pesukei dezimra the chazan decided he'd had enough and walked away (I think he wanted to force someone else to contribute). None of the dozen or so mannequins in the room took his place. One minute went by, and another. Everyone just sat there, looking around out of the corners of their eyes, seemingly oblivious to the fact that someone needed to get up there and daven. After another couple of awkward minutes I witnessed something absolutely shocking. One guy suddenly continued on by himself. Another scooped up his tefillin bag and left the room, heading across the street to a minyan that started fifteen minutes after this one. True story! I watched in amazement as moments later the minyan fell apart, the rest of the "participants" either leaving or finishing on their own. They had all chosen to let their minyan disband rather than assume the slightest responsibility for its continuation.

I see I have exposed myself to charges of hypocrisy. Why didn't I go up there and save the day? I did consider it at the time, but decided to let them take care of their own minyan. Whether you regard davening for the amud an honor, or, more likely, a chore, everyone should feel some sense of responsibility to make their minyan work. I was waiting for someone, anyone, to finally take the initiative and show some spirit. I have not returned to that minyan.

Jews should know better, especially the educated ones. You don't have to jump out of your shoes with enthusiasm for the davening, but you should accept offers to lead as eagerly as you accept aliyot. If you think about it, the former is clearly a superior honor. Just a little more work. But that's the idea.

Directed Study: Not an Option

I hate discussing problems without having thought of a solution, whether completely practical or not, yet occasionally it is worthwhile to mention difficulties encountered if only so that other people know of its existence.

This being my fourth full year in Yeshiva University, I discovered that my choices for courses in my major this semester were extremely limited, and I therefore attempted to take a Direct Study. A Direct Study is a course offered at YU that is not being offered this semester (or for a student who can't make the official class time), which a student wishes to study. A student needs merely to get a faculty member to agree to meet privately with the student in a tutor fashion and the student can cover all the material normally covered in the course. Depending on the course, the student will probably get more out of it, as the pace will be set by that single student and the lectures or discussions are one-on-one with a member of our excellent faculty.

Unfortunately, however, it is not the simplest feat in the world to get a faculty member to agree to a Direct Study as all full-time professors at YU are obligated by contract to teach four courses. Most other universities require only three courses per professor, however YU gets the most out of each faculty member. I would think that the ramifications of YU's ability to push each professor to the limit is that no professor has time for anything beyond preparing for class and grading papers and exams.

What I find amazing is how much time the professors give to extra-curricular activities. There are a decent number of faculty on the Senate, others who work on the Honors Program, and still more who donate time to the academic advisement center. This does not even include the weekly department head, or cluster head meetings that go on or the office hours they put in, and to be honest,

Hadar Weiss

Copy Editor

I don't think I know even half of what the professors do. Some professors even overlap in these extra duties.

I have to say that I am extremely grateful to the faculty for all they do to continually improve my university. I know that the compensation they receive for their actions is woefully poor compared to that given to professors at other universities, and I am therefore even more-so appreciative of their devotion to the school and the students.

One effect is that no professor has time to agree to a Direct Study. Some professors that I spoke to about the possibility mentioned that the time factor was the largest problem, and that they'd be willing to overlook the practically non-existent pay given. Professors, in a Direct Study, must put in the same amount of time as a full class, both in preparation and in lecturing the student. How much did one professor I spoke to net the last time? A whopping \$75. Impressive, isn't it?

The fact that most professors I spoke were willing to consider agreeing if not for the fact that they had no time, even in lieu of the lacking stipend, is again a tribute to the dedication of the faculty to the students. Yet, it was most frustrating to ask one faculty member after the next about the course I wanted to take only to be told that no-one had time.

There were some faculty members who had time, but they were adjunct professors and therefore not allowed to give a Direct Study.

I see this as a problem. Students should have this possibility available to them in more than the promise of the course catalog.

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FORUM

LETTERS

The Exchange: An open letter to the students of SSSB

To the Editor:

Without a doubt, there is much explaining to do. *The Exchange* was started about five years ago by Jason Buskin, to act as the student newspaper of the Sy Syms School of Business. As the proportion of Syms students in the University in relation to YC students continues to grow, it was reason enough, even back then, to provide a paper for that school to focus on SSSB events, often eclipsed by YC activities in the *Commentator* (student election coverage for example), as well as act as a forum for students to write about business related topics. The paper filled a niche.

Three years ago, a successful attempt was made by my predecessor, Michael Insel, at beefing up the paper by pumping out the fluff. Gone were the cover stories on the Sy Syms shabbaton success, and in came articles on leveraged buyouts, management concepts and computer consulting. Replacing that problem were the management difficulties that arose. Soon after I became the Editor-in Chief, half of my staff dropped out, as the upper echelons of the staff were comprised of seniors graduating in mid-year, and my Co-Editor-in Chief left in frustration from the lack of financial support given to us by various administrative and alumni sources, as it affected running the paper.

This lack of support was unconscionable, as the successful image of the paper was great PR for companies coming to recruit at YU, as it reflected the caliber of participating students and raised the image of the school. Yet, nobody felt it a pressing need to fund a school paper representing half of the student body on both campuses. It was quite difficult to repay publishing costs and even more difficult to grow. We had no equipment, so we resorted to using the *Commentator* office, which hampered our production schedule to say the least. For any of you that remember, this made the front page of the *Commentator*. In short, it was ugly. I managed to publish on a monthly basis at one point for more than half a year, and it reflected in the reactions we received; it was a high quality paper, people read it, wanted to write, and always asked about when the next issue would be published. That was proof enough of the power that was wielded. Unfortunately, this didn't last long, as I soon hired people who worked hard, yet had very little idea of how to run a newspaper.

Our publishing schedule suffered, and soon it was time to let new (and still current) Editors-in Chief, David Knoll and Elijah Kaplan take their turn. They were plagued by the same financial issues, as there was only so much help the SSSBSC could provide. In addition, fortunately or unfortunately, they decided to change the paper by removing even the respectable school related articles, and turning the paper into a journal, so that the *Exchange*

could even look more professional. I couldn't contest this decision, as they were the most and only qualified people for the job. This led them to respond to any complaints about non-publication with the valid alibi of it being a journal and therefore there was no need to publish as often. They were and are, in fact, doing their work of collecting articles for the journal over this year, but the practical point is that in the meantime, there was technically no *Exchange*, so I was powerless to stop them.

Opportunities for students to write smaller, low-key articles were lost, and soon people forgot about the paper. That was the first problem. The second problem was that I was soon notified that the *Commentator* was interested in starting up a business section. This would be an embarrassment to the *Exchange*, and with both of those pressing issues in the air, something had to be done.

I approached Aaron Klein with the idea of making the *Exchange* part of the *Commentator* - basically allowing the *Commentator* to acquire us in a merger. It should be noted that the idea was entirely mine, and not a strong-arm tactic of the *Commentator* to crush the *Exchange* in an embarrassing defeat. It was the most practical solution and provides short-term and long term benefits, so it's not some quick-fix solution done in haste with no regard for consequence. We'd be able to publish the *Exchange* as the *Exchange inside the Commentator*, a paper within a paper, instead of it just being "the business section".

This gives us a permanent publishing schedule with zero interruption, the ability to use resources such as computers, their web site for archives, and saves us financially, as all costs would simply be included under the *Commentator's* publishing costs. The money used to publish the *Exchange* from the SSSBSC budget can now be used towards the journal for the end of the year, ensuring that it goes off without a hitch. David and Elijah will still be Editors-in-Chief of that, and I'll have the opportunity of supervising the operation in the *Commentator* in order that it succeeds.

I've managed to put the *Exchange* in the hands of people I trust, and important opinions are by my side. I've been given full consent from Yossi Knoll, the President of the SSSB Student Council, and have the blessing of Elijah and David in starting out this venture. And if we ever decide to self-publish down the line, the *Commentator* will allow us to do that, so there's no damage done. My thanks goes out to Aaron Klein for being receptive and professional in his actions.

I leave one message for SSSB students: *The Exchange* is back - so start writing.

Yair Oppenheim
SSSB '00

Think Before You Write

To the Editor:

As a person who visits YU from time to time, I usually enjoy reading your newspaper. The articles are usually interesting and stimulating. However I have to say that I was quite disappointed at the article in this past issue, "Curtains Closed on Co-ed Plays" It was apparent that the author was ignorant in both the areas of classic theater AND Halachah. It is well known that in the times when Shakespeare first directed and produced his own plays, in his own theatre, there was no such thing as a part played by a female. So as for the author's challenge to find a play that can exclude women, why you can ask Bill Shakespeare himself I'm sure he'd be willing to answer that.

As far as your proofs dealing with the halachik aspect, who is this prominent rav that gave this p'sak, what is his name? Where

are his mikoros for such an opinion, the ramifications of such a question were very ambiguously if at all discussed in the article. As far as the fact that NCSY is supported by "Yeshivish" people who participate in Coed situations, you cannot compare a kiruv institution to an educational one. The heter for such things was ONLY given for kiruv, therefore, that has nothing to do with YU coed plays. As far as the fear that this will spark discussions amongst the rebbeim, I disagree, this is a major issue. To some of klal yisroel, halachah still remains a higher priority than entertainment. I am relieved, however that such a play will not be occurring, and I hope that this policy continues in the future.

Alter Yudin
Yeshivas Mir '00

Please, Lay Off the Lamm

To the Editor:

As a graduate of Yeshiva College, RIETS, and Ferkauf Graduate School, and as an active

alumnus of Yeshiva University, I am terribly shocked and disappointed with the *Commentator's* attack against Dr. Lamm, and the administration. In addition, the continued publicity attacks and allegations expressed and found in the *Jewish Week*, *The Forward*, and *The New York Times* serve no purpose but to slander the administration of Yeshiva University.

The lack of respect given and shown by the *Commentator* toward our President Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm is unjustified. I tend to forget about our religious belief, our Torah learning which calls for the obligation of "Derech Eretz Kadmah LaTorah."

I have known Dr. Lamm since 1977, and Dr. Lamm must be credited for my pursuing my religious and secular education at Yeshiva University. It was Dr. Lamm during the first year of his presidency, who invited me to come to Yeshiva. For this, I am grateful.

My undergraduate, graduate, and studies at RIETS have been extraordinary. I have also benefitted a great deal from my relationships with Roshei Yeshiva, faculty members, and administrators.

Beyond the classroom walls, I continue my involvement through the YCAA in expanding and strengthening its programs. I support Dr. Lamm and the administration's work in strengthening our Yeshiva University into higher academic standards as well as financial security.

For the past twenty-three years, YU has grown in every area under Dr. Lamm's leadership. As students, alumni, faculty, Roshei HaYeshiva, and administrators, we owe our deepest appreciation to Dr. Lamm for his hard work and vision in making Yeshiva University an outstanding and successful institution of higher learning.

I find the language used in the attacks to be inappropriate, disrespectful and harsh.

In the future, if students of YU feel that the administration is not addressing their needs, a line of communication should be opened, and the problems worked out in private, not for all of the world to read.

I ask that all of us show our Hakaros Hatov toward our president Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm and be thankful for receiving a valuable education at YU.

Stuart Verstandig
President-Yeshiva College Alumni Association
YC '80, FGS '83, RIETS '84

THE COMMENTATOR

welcomes letters from its readers.

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.

The Commentator

500 W. 185th St.

New York, NY 10033

commie@yucommentator.com

FORUM

LETTERS

A Neighbors Tribute: The Stone Legacy

To the Editor:

Recently, the *Commentator* published an article listing the top ten Jews of the past century. Though I hold the utmost respect for those mentioned, I feel that one man in particular was overlooked - Irving J. Stone. Sometimes it's only after the passing of such a great man that we realize the impact he has made. Insofar as Jewish education is concerned, there was no other person more influential than him in its establishment.

Rabbi Dr. Lamm called him a "Gentle Giant" at his levaya. He was a giant in his actions, yet gentle in their execution. The Stone Chumash and Stone Beit Midrash Program notwithstanding, many Jews may have probably never heard of Irving Stone, but most have no doubt been affected by him. Many would not be religious today had it not been for his many wonderful deeds.

As a native Clevelander, I have known of Irving Stone for all my life. Even though I met him personally only a handful of times, I feel as though I have lost a father and a teacher. The local day school, the Hebrew Academy of Cleveland, was only made possible by his generosity. He donated a tremendous amount of funds to take the school out of the red every year. It is also because of his advocacy, that Jewish foun-

dations throughout the country now fund local Jewish schools. He recognized the importance of Jewish education and did everything in his power to make sure Jewish youth would have their opportunity to learn.

Irving Stone was the cornerstone in maintaining Yiddishkite. He also had a deep devotion for a Jewish state, giving much support toward Israeli Bonds. Understanding the need for kiruv, NCSY is forever grateful to him for the financial provisions that made its work possible. Closest to his heart, though, is his support of Yeshiva University. He has always stood as one of the top benefactors of our institution, providing funds to start the Stone Beit Midrash Program, which, without his support, would not have existed. This man has a legacy that will live forever, and we carry that legacy. Each and every one of us owes much gratitude towards this tzaddik. We have all benefited from his help, either directly or indirectly. It is our responsibility to make sure that Yiddishkite and Jewish education continue to flourish from the many many seeds this man has planted throughout the world.

Pinchas Mikhli
YC '00

Roar Lion Roar

To the Editor:

I'd like to express my absolute disgust in reading Yair Hakak's letter in response to an article published about the new yeshiva that opened at Columbia. What seemed to be an absolutely appropriate argument focused on the unprofessional construction of the article and its quotes, shifted into an irrelevant diatribe laden with hackneyed stereotypes, in an apparent attempt at reviving the (mythical?) contempt between Columbia University and Yeshiva University. It is amazing how Mr. Hakak has the gall and the arrogance to assume that he actually speaks for the entire Columbia community as their shining knight. What makes this even more interesting is that the Columbia students whom I spoke to, respectable people in their own right, laughed it off with a casual smirk, which is a far cry from the holy war arising from a distorted perception on Mr. Hakak's part. It's certainly ironic how Mr. Hakak falls prey to his own accusations, as he jumps to attack on the assumption that the writer of the article and those quoted inside, speak for the entire YU community, yet has no problem putting words in the mouths of other Columbia students.

I'm sure I can imagine the glee Mr. Hakak felt while engaging readers with his witty double entendre and dark humor in his rhetorical repartee, and though it's a sure sign of his sharpness in rhetoric, what is most notably absent is the logic. That the majority of the article puts the news in the most positive light, with the exception of the student quotes is not enough, and goes unmentioned in Mr. Hakak's letter, likely putting much gossip about it out of context. According to Mr. Hakak's perception of the situation, it appears that now the entire arti-

cle seems to communicate a student consensus that going to a secular school is morally reprehensible. To go to such great lengths at thinking that YU students actually have Columbia students on their mind in such a bad light, and constantly, as Mr. Hakak implies that this has gone on for a while, is more an act of delusion than reason. I'm sure people disapprove of this, but to think that this attitude pervades the entire student body and is aimed directly and only at Columbia is pure paranoia. There are people on both campuses that hold each other in the highest regard, and I am among them, though Mr. Hakak seems to feel that these people do not exist.

Speaking of Mr. Hakak's interesting perspective on things, since I can assume that's the comments Mr. Hakak makes are at the least his own, I'm sure we can all find his insight into the mitzvah of hachnasat orchim fascinating as he mentions: "that doesn't stop the YC guys from filling our Shabbat morning davening and poking their heads over the mechitza."

Well, speaking for myself, I'll say: Here's to you, good neighbor. This immature attitude belongs in the playground. The letter was distasteful, inappropriate, and certainly undiplomatic, as it just promotes hatred between people. It is quite a shame, as this letter, with solely the poor quotes as its focus, would have surely made its point. Yes, the quotes were a travesty, but that shame remains on the writer and those quoted. Understand that Columbia isn't the king of the jungle, and neither is YU.

Live and let live.

Yair Oppenheim
SSSB '00

Roar Continued...

To the Editors:

In Mr. Yair Hakak's letter regarding life at Columbia, he brings up several concepts in that seem to me quite troubling. Yair, you mention immersion in secular culture, attending a "real college," and theological argument with those of under-developed proboscis. You seem to believe that all of these are great things, to be sought-after, and that, upon attaining/achieving these things, one has become a better person, a person more worthy of praise.

You uphold a communion between Jews and non-Jews as something greater than maintaining a cadre only of Jewish friends. Why, I wonder, is your relationship with your non-Jewish floormate more valuable than mine with my Jewish floormate? Is it that he will buy a pretzel on the street? That he will go to church on Sunday? That he will return to his room and engage in certain activities that Judaism does not accept? I don't argue that there is some value to knowing him - there almost definitely is. I strongly question, though, the idea that a relationship with him is more valuable than one with a Jew. The fact that you place greater value upon inter-religious relationships is very scary.

You praise your University as a place where one can attend a "real college." What makes your college real and mine false? Is it your fornicating floormates? Your hedonistic parties? Your studio art classes with nude models? Is it my many minyanim? Is it my Batei Midrash, which consume so much of the space available at my college? Is it my classes that often contain tangential discussions in which we discuss how the material at hand can help us achieve something of a better understanding of ourselves as Jews? Some kids here will, at times, speak of "real colleges," as in the quote that you mentioned, with some praise. It has been my experience that these comments generally come when a student has a frustration with an aspect of the system but these moments are exceptions to the rule, and we often look back at those moments and think, "well, I'd still rather be here."

You claim that we need, for some reason, to exercise our brains by defending Judaism to a "hostile audience." Yair, you're not the Rambam, and you're not facing expulsion. What is there to gain? Are you leading the world's people to some great religious epiphany? Are you converting the seventy

nations of the world? Yair, no great self-improvement is achieved through convincing a non-Jew that your religious thoughts are rational; that time could be spent in a far more productive fashion.

You believe there is some greater sense of the essence of Judaism that is obtained by arguing theology with non-Jews. My friend, when you want to obtain a greater understanding of a piece of literature, do you seek advice from someone who has not yet learned to read? Arguing the basics of monotheism, or of Jewish philosophy, with someone who has little, if any, sense of the rest of the more basic concepts of Judaism can hardly be considered the best way to come to higher levels of understanding of these concepts. I argue theology and concepts with someone from down the hall, as do you. However, when I do so, it is with someone who wears a Yarmulka on his head and tzitzis on his body; it is with someone who has battled with these concepts all his life and has not given up. And then the points of contention in our argument are also different: we don't argue about the validity of Judaism, we argue about a proper way to approach kiruv, about a specific commentary on the chumash or gemara, about hashkafa. Yair, you are probably roundabouts 20-years-old, perhaps even older; if you haven't yet accepted revelation at Sinai as truth, if you don't believe in the concepts presented in the Ani Maamin's, you must realize that it's about time to come to a decision. You stand the chance of spending the rest of your life maintaining a wavering devotion to a religion that you won't understand. It's time to drop the youthful questioning and pick up a sefer. To be short, it is time for you to grow up.

I don't claim that YU doesn't have its problems. In fact, I've gotten to see most of them in a very personal fashion. And I don't claim that Columbia doesn't have its upside. I'll even venture to say that there is the possibility that Columbia is a better place than YU to gain one's higher education; I don't believe that statement, but I'll leave the possibility open. What I do challenge are your defenses of your decision, which I happen to hear quite often. It makes me concerned to know that there are Jews out there who think as you do.

Steven I. Weiss
YC/JSS Junior

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WMUR

80's Music
 90's Rock
 Sports
 Sports
 Talk
 Talk
 Music

Monday

8:00-9:00 Nadav Sapeika
 9:00-10:00 Pinky Shapiro
 10:00-11:00 Jonathan Mantell
 11:00-12:00 John Morse
 12:00-1:00 Shimmy Steinmetz & Noach Bernstein
 1:00-2:00 Yaakov Fleischman

IS

80's Music
 Political Talk
 Talk/Music
 R&B/Rap Music
 Jewish Music
 Guitar Rock

Tuesday

8:00-9:00 Riki Bodner & Yael
 9:00-10:00 Hadar Weiss & Matthew Rosen
 10:00-10:30 Shira Graber & Franky Ehrenberg
 10:30-11:00 Franky Ehrenberg
 11:00-12:00 Eddie Djoudjati & Daniel Esses
 12:00-1:00 Mark Stern
 1:00-2:00 Heshy Lewis

BACK

80's Music
 Jamband Music
 Talk/ New Alternative
 Talk
 Talk
 Jamband Music
 Independent Rock

Wednesday

8:00-9:00 Aryeh Baronofsky
 9:00-10:00 Amelia Letvin and Leah Rolef
 10:00-11:00 Eli Gurock & Mike Bruckner
 11:00-12:00 Yishai Fleischer & Alex Traiman
 12:00-1:00 Alex Katz & Noam Greenberg
 1:00-2:00 Levy Pavlovsky & Jeff Feit

BABY!

80's Music
 Music
 Talk
 Talk
 Jewish Music
 Techno/Metal

Thursday

8:00-9:00 Shimmy Greenstein
 9:00-10:00 Yitz Brilliant
 10:00-11:00 Gabey Seghi & Adam Mermles
 11:00-12:00 Ari Schick
 12:00-1:00 Ari Propis
 1:00-2:00 Shlomo Schwartzbard

530AM

80's Music
 Music
 Talk
 Free YU
 Talk
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FORUM

OPINION

Student Soap Box

What I Think of *THE COMMENTATOR*

BY ERIC GUTMAN

It seems that there are three main controversies surrounding *The Commentator*: how it criticizes the college administration, how it criticizes student council, and that it appears to be rather left-wing from a hashkafic standpoint - which according to many, greatly affects its content. Each party involved has responded in its own way, making for some interesting attitudes and occurrences surrounding the sixty-four year old paper. Let it be noted that I am not, nor have I ever been a staff member of the *Commentator*; however, being a third-party observer to some of the action which has engulfed the paper over the last year-and-a-half has left me with some thoughts which I intend to elaborate below.

The first two controversies are somewhat similar: how *The Commentator* criticizes the college administration and student council, although the former seems far more prevalent than the latter; in fact, *The Commentator* has remained relatively silent this year in regard to student council, while appearing to unleash its full fury on the administration. However, over the past year-and-a-half, both have been sharply scrutinized by the paper, and not surprisingly, both have responded rather similarly by attempting to silence "the most powerful student voice on campus."

We are all familiar with the infamous newspaper-removal actions of the administration, and for those who do not remember, the proposed amendments to the YCSC constitution which came out of nowhere and surprised us all on election day last year by attempting to make student council *The Commentator's* sole publisher. Such a role would certainly have given student council the power to partially silence, or censor, the newspaper. (Other interesting actions taken by student council against the paper occurred behind-the-scenes; however, they will not be put into print.)

Though the feud between the paper and the administration appears to have died down, and that between *The Commentator* and student council seems relatively non-existent this year, the roots are most certainly there, since they tend to be omnipresent wherever the domain of authority and government crosses with that of the press. Thus, it is important, in this time of relative tranquility, to elaborate on a few thoughts. Rabbi Lamm did so during dorm talks with regard to criticizing the administration. The topic has been much discussed and elaborated; therefore, remarks on this subject will be omitted.

It is important to note that Student Council officers ran for office, and in so doing, placed themselves in the public domain, and are thereby subject to public scrutiny (as per their public positions, not their public lives), just as any politician is. Even I, simply by writing in the student newspaper, and putting myself in the pub-

lic domain, subject to criticism from those who dislike this article. Within the bounds of decency, freedom of the press is absolutely essential in any democratic society, even if the press may say that which is hostile. The fact is undeniable. *The Commie* is highly critical. However, taking away its voice is far more dangerous to our college community than even the worst trash it can print.

The removal of freedom of the press is reminiscent of the most despised forms of government in the world: communism and dictatorship. *Lehavdil*, the world has seen time and time again (including present-day Cuba and the former Soviet Union), the negative effects on civilian lives caused by these types of governments. On a much smaller scale, in the interest of the student body, the University must always remain a limited democracy, the limit being the guiding theocracy. But much of the criticism of student council last year, both in *The Commentator* and outside it, was quite undeserved. Such has no place in journalism or society at large, democracy or not. So please, before putting a critical thought into print, make sure its responsible.

This brings me to my last point. Often, there are complaints that *The Commentator* is too left-wing religiously, and contains content which is anti-Torah. While this may be the case, there are many who spend time reading every line of the paper, and then writing a letter to the editor which proclaims it as pure trash, yet they never contribute prior-facto. If one peruses through different newspapers from around the country, it is quite apparent that each has its own opinions about different issues, and obviously, those opinions belong to the staff and contributors of the different papers (since they are the ones writing the articles and columns which contain the opinions).

If more right-wing students contributed to *The Commie*, it would certainly be more right-wing. Even the editors-in-chief see the need for this. In a conversation with Alex Traiman last year (he was already installed as co-editor-in-chief at the time), he told me that, "Aaron and I feel that every newspaper, in order to be successful, must reflect, to some degree, the opinions and thoughts of everybody it represents. Likewise, *The Commentator* is going to have to be more central if it is going to be successful, but it's pretty hard [to centralize it] because very few guys who are more right-wing contribute. There's nothing to balance the paper."

Obviously, this does not pertain to those who have practically no interest in *The Commentator*. They certainly should not feel the need to involve themselves. But for those who have an interest in reading the paper, and who care enough about it to write in a complaint, I urge you to contribute, and thereby make "the most powerful student voice on campus" more right-wing.

The Golan: Not a Religious Issue??

BY EZRA LEVIN

I couldn't help noticing that *The Commentator* reprinted Rabbi Blau's article from the *Jewish Week* entitled "Peace with Syria-Not a Religious Issue." With all the kavod in the world, in addition to the acknowledgment of my own insurmountable ignorance, I just wish to ponder for a moment what the purpose of such an article is.

What exactly is not a religious issue about Jews being uprooted from the Land of Israel simply because they are Jews? What if Jews were being forcibly removed from Elizabeth, New Jersey? Would that be a religious issue?

The article cites "many prominent religious authorities" such as Rav Ovadia Yosef, as endorsing the Land-for-Peace equation. First of all, I fail to see how these p'sakim demonstrate that the hand-over of the Golan is not a religious issue. In addition, the Ichud Harabanim, headed by Rav Avraham Shapira and representing some 1,200 Rabbanim worldwide including Rav Aharon Soloveitchick, ruled a couple weeks ago that the Golan was very much a religious issue. I also implore upon everyone to read Rav Ovadia Yosef's full psak on Land-for-Peace for themselves and see what his requirements are for a ruling of pikuach nefesh—namely, a unanimous agreement by Israel's generals that Jewish lives will be saved by abandoning the land in question. There is absolutely no consensus today, or in any years past that withdrawal from the Golan will save lives. One of Israel's most celebrated and peace-oriented generals once said, "Withdrawal from the Golan is unthinkable, even in times of peace. Anyone considering withdrawal from the Golan Heights would be abandoning Israel's security!" This great general was the late Yitzchak Rabin. Another equally esteemed general stated "From a military standpoint, the IDF must retain control of the Golan Heights, even in peace time." This man went on to become Israel's present prime minister. There is no shortage of military elite who abhor the notion of surrendering the Golan Heights.

I understand the point of the article is to grant permission to those who believe that trading the Golan for an intangible guarantee of peace, to not have to feel that their views run askew from what is halachically correct. While at times like these I wish I had smicha and every p'sak I have ever read in front of me, the truth is that I have neither. I can merely point out that the presentation of these Rabbinical statements causes them to appear as endorsements of the current process—which they are not.

The people living in the Golan were actively encouraged by every Labor and Likud government to settle the land.

These are Jews that have built houses from scratch.

Jews that have huddled in bomb shelters.

Jews that have not yet been lulled to sleep by "post-Zionism."

Jews, many of whom do indeed believe that the State of Israel signifies the potential to bring Moshiach in our times.

"If all messianic assumptions are eliminated," as the article proposes would bridge the religious/secular gap in perception, then we had all better tear out the Rambam's 13 Ikarim from our siddurim along with a whole slew of brachot from the *Amida*. While we are at it, we might as well put all of Rav Kook's holy seforim into the geniza seeing as he seems to feel that everything about the Land of Israel is indeed a "religious issue."

I am not writing this to engage in a halachic debate. I simply am alarmed at the fact that, while many in the YU community considered the ethnic-cleansing in Kosovo to be a religious issue, the same forced transfer can stoically be deemed "not a religious issue" despite the fact that the result of a withdrawal will be the unavoidable, unimaginable pain and suffering of fellow Jews. Please. Please let us elevate our thinking on the Golan issue to a realization that these are fellow Jews who may very well be removed from their homes, which will be handed over to a dictator who is responsible for countless Jewish deaths. This is a religious issue. The least we can do is to acknowledge that.

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to sharing student viewpoints
with the broader University community.
Preliminary drafts may be sent to:
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<p>Gallery Talk and Tour 7 p.m. YU Museum (Uptown) 2520 Amsterdam Ave. <i>Tour with the artists themselves as they speak about their works</i></p> <p>27</p>	<p>Jazz and Classical Concert 8 p.m. Schottenstein Recital Room (Uptown) <i>Lend your ears to the calming rhythm of student musical talent</i></p> <p>28</p>	<p>A Night of One-Acts 8 p.m. Koch Auditorium (Midtown) 245 Lex. <i>No biz like show biz... See original student scripts performed</i></p> <p>29</p>	<p>Prose Reading 8 p.m. Furst Hall Room 535 (Uptown) 500 W.185th <i>'To the Reader that tak'st my book in hand: To read it well: that is, to understand.'</i> Ben Jonson</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Closing Ceremony 7 p.m. Weissberg Commons (Uptown) 2495 Amsterdam <i>A tribute to the 150 streets between our campuses plus a closing ceremony</i></p> <p>2</p>

- * Visit the Art Gallery at the YU Museum displaying the works of YC/SCW students for the whole two weeks.
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Wurzweiler Graduate Under Investigation, Charged with Multiple Offenses

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

A Paramus social worker and graduate of Yeshiva University's Wurzweiler School of Social Work, who counseled clients about weight loss and alcoholism, has temporarily given up his license after New Jersey officials claimed he milked insurers out of more than \$60,000, pretended to hold a doctoral degree, and allowed employees to hand out the diet-drug combination fen-phen.

Arthur R. Dinkel Jr., owner of Integrated Psychotherapy Institute Inc. and Integrated Health Systems Inc., faces an eleven-count complaint from the New Jersey State Attorney General. The complaint states that Dinkel routinely misrepresented himself as "Dr. Dinkel," possessing a doctorate in social work or psychology, although his highest academic credential is a master's in social work obtained from Yeshiva.

The state Board of Social Work Examiners, which licenses social workers, issued a statement saying Dinkel agreed not to practice, pending a full hearing on the charges, and was allowed three weeks to transfer patients.

Daniel Shapiro, Dinkel's attorney, said the license suspension would take effect February 9th. "We will meet the charges head on," the lawyer clamored. Although a hearing date has not been set, Shapiro maintains that Dinkel completed the course work for his doctorate but did not

finish his dissertation.

Dinkel is alleged to have used the names and drug-registration numbers of two doctors who temporarily worked for him as independent contractors. He is accused of using the data to set up accounts with pharmaceutical companies so he could receive prescription drugs. These included thousands of tablets of phentermine and Pondimin, popularly known as fen-phen, the complaint says. Dinkel then allegedly allowed his secretary to dispense the drugs to patients.

The complaint further charges that Dinkel also allegedly used the name of a third doctor, Anthony Scimone, to bill insurance companies for services never provided. Scimone and the two other doctors "were completely unaware of Dinkel's actions, and are not under suspicion," said Jennifer Salvato, a spokeswoman for the state Division of Consumer Affairs.

"We are always concerned when we learn that controlled dangerous substances are allegedly being dispensed by unauthorized individuals," said Mark Herr, consumer affairs commissioner. Last year a jury in Mississippi found that those who used the diet-drug cocktail increased their risk of heart and lung damage.

In addition, Dinkel is charged with hiring six women who were past or present clients, a violation of professional standards. He also allowed at least four unlicensed staff members to provide social-work services, the complaint concludes.

Twelve Trapped in Belfer Elevator on First Day of Semester

BY JONATHAN MINKOVE

On Monday, January 24th, the first day of the new semester, YC/IBC student Dov Pickholtz intended to arrive early to class. Sometimes plans do not go as expected, and on this day Dov's well intended attempt at punctuality was stalled. At 2:45 Pickholtz, proud that he would be fifteen minutes early to class, entered the middle elevator in Belfer Hall along with eleven other students. But then the unthinkable happened - between floors 1 and 2 the elevator came to a sudden halt. The students called security from the elevator phone and were told that a technician was on the way.

Pickholtz explained, "We were all relaxed and cracking jokes. Ten minutes had passed, we buzzed again and they told us that we will be out in 2-5 minutes. A small, elderly lady was not so relaxed and she continued to press the call button every couple of minutes."

As those packed within the enclosure awaited rescue, occupants with cell phones made quick use of them. A vice president of fundraising, who happened to be on the elevator, called Jeff Socol's office to make sure he was aware of the situation and to see how long it would take for the rescue operation. One student used his cell phone simply to say hello to his father before casually mentioning that he was calling from a stalled elevator.

Another ten minutes had passed, but

surprisingly almost everyone kept their cool. Pickholtz tried to pull a Bruce Willis by opening the elevator doors with his bare hands. Much to his surprise the doors easily opened. He peered down and saw the technicians working, and they hollered up to him to immediately shut the doors. While the elderly lady continued to periodically hit the call button, most people were cracking jokes and even planning a reunion for themselves. The brunt of many of these jokes was none other than SSSB/JSS Sophomore, Simon Landsberg. Simon was the last to enter the elevator as the doors were about to close. Because of this he became the scapegoat on the trip. "People were jokingly calling me the cause because I was the last to enter," said Landsberg. "I laughed at these cracks but I felt guilty afterward because of my past history with elevators." Simon was referring to an elevator stoppage that he endured at the 181st Street train station for an hour and a quarter.

This time, Landsberg and the rest of the elevator passengers would have a significantly shorter bonding period. After forty-five minutes, the elevator began moving again and returned to the first floor. The group quickly celebrated and everyone took the stairs to complete the journey that had begun at 2:45.

Security and Facilities Management were as usual unavailable for comment, but Pickholtz assures us all that "It was no one's fault; just a funny thing that happened."

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Trading, Writing, and 'Rithmetic Stock Madness Takes Hold of YU

BY SHMULI SINGER

The next time you're on a computer in the library, glance over at the screen next to you. Chances are, your neighbor is day trading. The fast paced industry of Datek and Etrade has infiltrated YU to the extent that there are numerous people checking the market, researching hot stocks, or executing lightning fast trades on YU public computers at any given time of the business day.

Day traders seldom hold on to stocks for very long, seeking rather to make money on hourly or daily fluctuations in stock prices. "People don't realize how many highly active traders there are in Yeshiva," says Alan Friedman, president of YU and Stern's Max Investment Club, "the get-rich-quick mentality of the modern investor has taken hold in this University, as it has everywhere else." Friedman is careful to distinguish actual day traders, who buy and sell stock on the same day, from "very active traders," who tend to hold positions for longer periods of time. Both types of investors seek a quick profit instead of a conservative, long-term strategy.

Ilya Rogol, a Sy Syms Junior provides an example of the former. "I trade every day," says Rogol, who achieved a 440 percent return on his investments in a recent mock investment contest. "I do hold positions as well, but I certainly day trade, both in the Beifer computer room and in the library." Rogol estimates that there are 3 or 4 other real day traders in YU, while more than 50 students actively trade.

The inherent risk in day trading often garners it unflattering comparisons to gambling. "I would never day trade," says one YC sophomore. "It's too easy to lose a lot of money. I prefer to put my money in for the long haul, since it's much safer."

Even students more partial to active trading suggest extreme caution. "To successfully day trade," opines Friedman, "one needs to have an understanding in so many other investment vehicles, that when you do understand them, you tend to not want to day trade. On that note, I occasionally day

trade."

Naftali Nadel, a Sy Syms senior, laughs at the idea of day trading in YU. "To truly day trade," says Nadel, "you need special expensive software to fully take advantage of the price fluctuations. The only place you find this is in a day trading firm, but certainly not on a college campus." Nadel reveals that he plans on working for one such firm after graduation. "My personal involvement in the market is a half-hour of trading and researching per day," continues Nadel. "I'm somewhat of an active trader, but my time is limited due to school, which is why I want to day trade full time." Nadel places the number of active traders in YU at about 40, and says that he used to trade on the 11th floor of Beifer, but has since switched to his room.

Dvir Weinberg, Sy Syms senior, contests Nadel's exclusionary view of day trading. "I consider myself very active," admits Weinberg, who often trades in the library and in Belfer, "and I know it's possible to day trade through a program called Datek Streamer, which gives real time quotes." Weinberg lowers the estimate of active traders in YU to 15, with another 3 bona fide day traders.

So does all of this market watching affect school performance? "Absolutely not," says Weinberg, "I'd never flunk a test or cut a class to trade." What it does do, he continues, "is affect your mindset. If you're making money, you're happy and relaxed, but when you have a bad day, it hurts. You're not in great position to work at full efficiency."

Other students are less exemplary at separating school from trading. "In the morning," says Rogol, who is in JSS, "checking stocks interferes with shiur. In the afternoon, you sometimes need to cut classes. They say YU students have a dual curriculum, and that they have to balance their time, so traders just have a third thing to balance as well." Rogol admits that he occasionally focuses more energy and time on trading than on his studies. "Yes, school is important," he says, "but the market goes on no matter what."

YUNMUN 2000 Successfully Staged

BY JOSHUA SUMMERS

This year's Yeshiva University National Model United Nations (YUNMUN) was held in the Seasons Resort in Vernon, NJ, from February 6 - 8, and marked the tenth anniversary of the conference. The conference was run by the Office of Admissions and was headed by Ryan Hyman.

Shlomo Troodler, the Secretary General of YUNMUN X, started preparations as early as April 1999 and as his first order of business, appointed Jason Cyrulnik, Shira Tuchman, and Rechelle Winkler as his Under-Secretary Generals.

The Conference began with a relaxing Shabbos at the resort attended by the Secretary Generals, the Technical Coordinator, Ari Kellman, and a number of chairs. Shabbos gave a chance for those heading the upcoming event to relax and become better acquainted with each other. This proved to be a success, as all had a fun weekend. It seemed that the conference was getting off to a great start.

Saturday night more YU and Stern people showed up to help with final preparations to ensure the success of what was to be the largest conference ever, as more than seven hundred people were expected the next day.

Sunday, after many of the students settled in to their rooms, the conference was opened with a luxurious dinner, followed by

opening remarks from the Dean of Stern College, Dr. Karen Bacon. This set the tone for the next couple of days, as students jumped out of their seats and were ready for the privileged task of solving many of the world's problems.

One of the changes made in this year's conference was the introduction of a crisis committee. The crisis committee's task was to come up with interesting and challenging emergencies for specific committees to handle. Thanks to this newly founded committee, YUNMUN X saw, among other things, the assassination of Saddam Hussein, and a coup in Haiti. These challenges were met with the utmost distinction and tranquility as the delegates were excited to partake in such events.

After five committee sessions and two prestigious speakers, YUNMUN X closed with an awards ceremony, handing out individual awards to exemplary delegates and the Best Delegation award to YULA, who represented the country of China. YUNMUN X was a huge success as delegates were reported as saying "I can't wait 'til next year!!!" YUNMUN X could not have been possible without the help of all of the YU and Stern students who put in much time and effort to ensure its success. Once again, YU rose to the occasion as they provided an intellectually stimulating and joyful time for all who participated.



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ARTS & CULTURE

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Polanco

BY AVRUMIE KAHN

What do you think of when you hear about Mexico? The first things that come to my mind are little men with mustaches, cheap labor, and contaminated water. However, a little restaurant on the upper West Side of Manhattan portrays Mexico through the fabulous vehicle known as food. Polanco is a Glatt Kosher Mexican Restaurant designed to give one the feeling of a traditional Mexicano setting. Polanco comes complete with Spanish-Mexican music, miniature cactus plants on each table, and even an authentic Mexican, to serve as your waiter.

To start, every table has tortilla chips and FRESH salsa, nothing spicy about it, but nonetheless fresh. To start off I ordered Tacos Polanco as an aperivos (appetizer). It consisted of two soft corn tortillas topped with chicken and ground beef, or one of each. The chicken came served cooked with onions, green and red tomatoes, and covered in salsa verde. The chicken was very tender and moist. The beef is cooked with potatoes, onions, tomatoes, plantains and raisins, topped with salsa roja. The taco was very sweet, which complemented the chicken. I was however disappointed in the level of spiciness (new word) of the food, and asked the waiter for the spiciest sauce he had. Two minutes later he returned with a dish filled with a smoky flavored hot sauce. Great taste to the sauce, but it only had a little kick, i.e. not habanero worthy.

I looked to see what kind of unusual foods were on the menu, and believe it or not I found Lengua, which is cooked tongue with onions, tomatoes, mushrooms, and Chile poblano, served with two soft tortillas. I was extremely happy to see that it came served in an appealing fashion, and that the tongue was sliced nice and thick. It took on a unique flavor as far as tongue goes. Usually it is either pickled or in a sweet sauce, this had a delicious tomato-onion flavor.

The soup of the day was Garlic Soup, a combination of tomato, garlic, and egg. Very tasteful, sweet but with a kick of garlic in the aftertaste.

As far as the main course goes, you can go three ways: Staying with Chicken and/or Meat (both served Mexican Style), or go for the Fajitas. The Fajitas come served with either chicken, meat or mixed. They are

served still sizzling off the grill with sautéed vegetables and a side of guacamole and Pico de gallo (like an Israeli salad). Of course Fajitas are eaten in flour tortillas, so part of the fun is making your own tortillas. The Fajitas were sloppy to make, and sloppy to eat, but that is the best way to enjoy your food. And besides, it's Mexican.

If you like chicken, the Pollo al Chipotle comes highly recommended. It consists of two grilled cutlets, bathed in Chile Chipotle sauce, it was moist with a little kick from the Chile. This dish is O.K. if you are forced to eat chicken or are afraid to try anything else, but as always MEAT is the way to go.

I was curious as to how they would make a kosher Mexican steak (cow is different than dog), but the moment of truth arrived, a rib-eye steak was served drowned in a blood red guajillo sauce, topped with mushrooms and onions. The steak was apparently marinated in a Chile sauce, and retained the grilled flavor, even though it was floating in guajillo sauce.

So, for those keeping counts, if you want to go for a steak, Polanco makes delicious moist steak, that is ranking in my top 3 moistest steaks available in Manhattan.

To wash down the meal, I ordered a Negra Modelo, a black beer imported from Mexico, and a Banana Chimichanga for dessert. The Chimichanga is a flaky pastry puff stuffed with banana and chocolate chips and fried. It was a nice greasy ending to a greasy, sloppy, delicious Mexican meal.

Note: Polanco has an all you can eat on Monday nights in two shifts.

Ambiance: Mexican motif, Mexican music, and heavy smell of Chile and refried beans when you walk into restaurant.

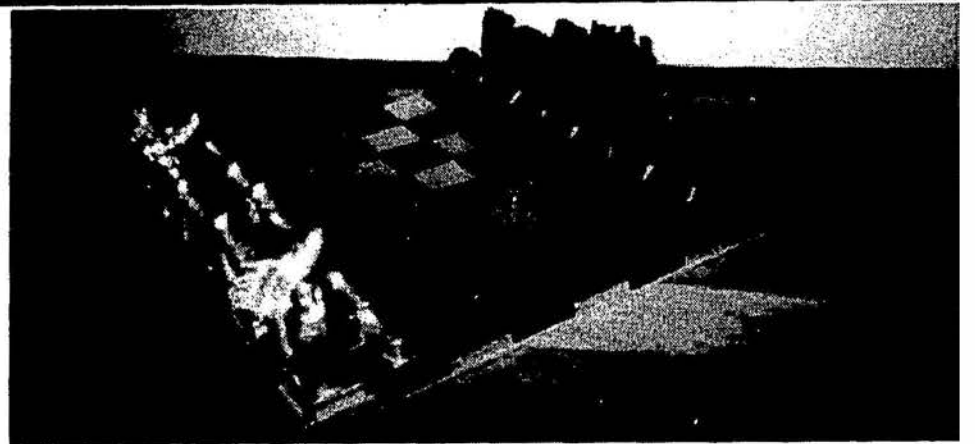
Food: Nice portions, very tasty, not as spicy as you might think Mexican food is. Also, nice variety of different dishes to chose from.

Prices: Surprisingly cheap for Manhattan. Main dishes run from \$12.95 to \$17.95. All major credit cards accepted.

Kosherut: Under strict supervision of the O-K. Mashgiach on premises.

Wheelchair Accessibility: Except for a little step to get into restaurant, all of restaurant is on one floor and accessible. (Including bathroom).

Overall Rating: *** A great place to go out and eat, relax, and even learn about another culture.



Art's Festival continued from page 24

The next event, scheduled for Monday night at 8, will be a poetry reading held at Stern's Ivry Student Center. "We're envisioning a relaxed atmosphere," remarked Shira Kaufman, a member of the literature committee. "The event will consist of students reading their own poetry, which can often be extremely emotive and expressive. The event should be great for poets and non-poets alike. We're also serving sushi, which should be big draw as well as fit with the ambiance of the event."

Tuesday's event will focus on the nascent Yeshiva University Film Society, whose first production, a movie produced and directed by Yoni Leitner, will air in Weissberg Commons. Leitner will follow the movie with a discussion of his work, and the event will conclude with a number of live dramatic monologues by various students.

In an innovative move, Wednesday's event, a concert starring female musicians and vocalists, will be open only to women, in an attempt to provide a stage for female vocal talent while avoiding the problems of *kol isha*, which have long been debated within the pages of this publication. The concert, to be held in Koch Auditorium, owes its existence to the vision of Rebecca Leicht festival co-director, and Ravital Kranzler, a member of the music committee.

The visual arts exhibit, a gallery of original student paintings, drawings and sculptures, will be open to public viewing in the YU Museum throughout the two weeks of the festival. On Sunday at 7PM, the action will shift back uptown for "Gallery Talks," where student artists will lead visitors on a tour of the exhibit while discussing their artwork. "A lot of the work is high-caliber, and is worthy of being displayed in any museum," noted Jon Kessler, a member of the visual arts committee. "Our gallery should be a phenomenal collection, and our discussion event should give the viewers an idea of what the artists intended when they created their work."

Orchestrated music will take the stage on

Monday night on the Main Campus. The classical and jazz ensembles, under the adept leadership of YC music professor, Dr. Noyes Bartholomew, will display their virtuosity in Schottenstein Hall beginning at 8 p.m.

Tuesday night will provide another novelty, as the drama committee presents the first ever presentation of an original YC script as part of "A Night of One Acts." The event will feature four one-act plays written and performed by YU and Stern students, and will take place in Koch Auditorium at Stern. It also will be the first time in memory that YU will witness student acting produced independently of the YU Drama Societies.

Student writers will step into the spotlight again on Wednesday night, at an original short-story reading in Room 535 of Furst Hall. "We should have about twelve great writers, including Aaron Klein, reading their stories," predicted literature committee member Avi Gitler, "and if you think Times Square on New Year's Eve was crowded, wait until you see our event."

The Arts Festival will come to a close on Thursday night, with a multimedia presentation at Weissberg Commons. The event, entitled "150 Blocks/150 Shots," will present numerous perspectives of the six miles of New York City separating YU and Stern. "The event is a tribute to the University's connection with the City," explained Leicht, who originally proposed the idea. "But more importantly," she continued, "the project is a tangible illustration of the connection the two Yeshiva University campuses share; a connection that derives strength from the medium of the City, and the educational and cultural concept it provides."

The exhibition will be followed by a ceremony recognizing the contributing artists and organizers of the festival. Festival planners point out that the arts exhibition will not end with the closing event. The festival website (www.yu.edu/yeshivacollege/arts/index.html) will display much of the featured work on an archive page.

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FILM REVIEWS



The Green Mile

Starring: Tom Hanks

BY YAIR OPPENHEIM

To Paul Edgecomb (Tom Hanks), the Green Mile is not death row; it's a state of being, a place of good feelings, where guards must be on their best behavior to help prisoners stay calm before their execution. To prisoners, it's the green stretch of floor that leads to the electric chair, where the waiting kills you more than the dying. This is the premise for the film, based on the pulp fiction story written by Stephen King of the same title.

Tom Hanks plays Paul Edgecomb, a thirty year old man working as a security guard on death row during the Great Depression. Curiosity is aroused by the staff one day as a seven foot tall black man named John Coffey (played by Michael Duncan) is brought in on the charge of the brutal murder of two young girls. What surprises everyone is that this man is not a cruel Goliath, but a gentle giant with the mind of a child, who at all inspection wouldn't hurt a living soul. With further investigation still pointing the crime to him, fighting off sympathy, Paul soon discovers that Coffey is a healer, with supernatur-

al powers. Difficulties soon arise as Paul tries to use Coffey to help those in need, while trying to stop his execution. The issue is complicated by having to deal with the usual psychotic prisoners, including a sadistic prison guard.

Tom Hanks once again reasserts his acting abilities to the audience enough so that pairing the word fantastic to his name can only seem redundant. The rest of the cast works well as an ensemble, a testament to director Frank Darabont's natural talent with actors.

The most eye-grabbing performance here, though, is by Michael Duncan as John Coffey. The sheer amount of emotional focus and sensitivity expressed at the precise moments can bring the audience to tears, which is true talent, given his small amount of speaking lines.

Though Darabont is responsible for the Shawshank Redemption, another fine film, the two are completely different animals. The emotional conclusion is different in the films, due in part to a very low-key score by Thomas Newman rather than the truly inspiring cues he composed for Shawshank. The film is an all-around marvelous production, with attention given to every facet. The atmosphere of the period is felt in the characters, locations and costumes. Credit goes to the meticulous effort of

Darabont, whose script adaptation is one of the finest of the year, and whose sense of drama is impeccable. The film attempts to milk the most it can out of its actors, using the film's lengthy running time paired with the choice to shoot an inordinate amount of close-ups, to give emotional credibility to the characters, so that when a true eruption of feeling is necessary, it doesn't seem forced.

One crucial element in the film that seemed to be problematic is the fact that Stephen King wrote the story in segments, which, when adapted faithfully, stretch the scenes to a point where length is an understatement. However, the script is so rich in characterization, one could only hope for more "episodes" with the actors. Another rather touchy issue is the bookend-style prologue and epilogue scenes. The fact that another actor (Dabbs Greer), who did a fine job nonetheless, was chosen to play an older Paul Edgecomb rather than an makeup-aged Tom Hanks, undercuts the emotional trajectory of the film and clearly damages the segue into the epilogue. It's as if the film stop with Tom Hanks and continues with someone else. The epilogue itself is rather long, being that the plot makes it necessary to imply the passage of a long amount of time. All that aside, the film is one of the best of the year, an inspiring work of art.



The Hurricane

Starring Denzel Washington

BY YAIR OPPENHEIM

The American justice system is never without flaws. Justice isn't always blind and sometimes people do fall through the cracks. The story of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter exemplifies these missteps, yet manages to tell a tale of patience, friendship and survival. And with that, sporting a boxer's physique and his own personal charm, is none other than Denzel Washington, the title star.

Chronicling his life beginning with his career nearing a win of the World Middleweight Boxing title, Rubin Carter and a fellow fan get arrested for being suspected of going on a murderous rampage killing white people in a local bar, and soon, the racist paranoia exhibited by a particular detective sows seeds into the mind of the rest of the Justice system, and he is soon denounced as a true criminal, facing a life sentence in prison.

With nothing to do, and facing the difficulty of not being able to adapt, Carter decides to focus his energy on writing, as a way of keeping his mind sharp, and as the proper direction in taking his case to the public in the hope of a retrial. Years later, a boy named Lesra Martin, from sheer chance, finds the book at a book sale and is enamored by the topic, from the standpoint of it being an interesting story, but also from the view that he has much in common with Carter in the hardships they had to endure. A friendship is solidified through the mail, and soon Lesra ends up meeting Carter, staying in

touch, and even getting his mentors/caretakers involved in attempts to reopen the case.

What keeps this film going is the crackling energy that Denzel Washington brings to the screen. The actor gets the easy benefit of fleshing out his character due to his life story of jail taking up half of his life, rendering some powerful scenes for him, and he makes the most out of them, expressing eye-watering sentiment from the audience much before the final moments. The cast and script provide a competent presentation for the film, but don't

hide its fairly standard execution. There really isn't anything groundbreaking and innovative in this film that hasn't been done elsewhere. Norman Jewison, who has directed some well-received films such as "In The Heat Of The Night," and "Fiddler On The Roof," as well as some forgettable efforts such as "Other People's Money" and "Only You," clearly treads water with a paint-by-numbers style for the film. Though many of the events in the film did indeed occur, one can't help but notice the large amount of generic scenes and expected/forced emotional release. For example, Jewison has done so many trial sequences through his films that they are now his staple.



Much controversy has surrounded the film's poor transfer of the facts to the screen. In reality, there was no single paranoid police officer that was out to put Carter away; rather it was the justice system as a whole that acted this way toward him. Not much is detailed in the film of the fate of Carter's fan/friend who happened to receive the same sentence as Carter. These and other logistically real situations were eliminated and replaced with scenes that contained more dramatic impact and visual flair. The film is reduced to a feel good popcorn biopic, rather than the high art it could have technically been. Basic competency in general areas aside, Washington's acting is the one pole holding up the tent, and it's this very magnetic performance that ranks it among his best.

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Spring Orientation 2000

BY MATT KRIEGER

On Sunday, January 23rd, Yeshiva University welcomed over 100 new members to its ever expanding student body. To help make the often intimidating registration process as hassle-free as possible, a detailed and well organized Spring Orientation program was created. Brochures listing all the days events and pertinent information needed to help the students were distributed to all new arrivals on campus.

Andrew Leibowitz, Coordinator of Student Services on campus, said, "This year's Spring Orientation ran more efficiently than in years past-in no small part due to the care and consideration put into the construction of the hectic orientation schedule."

The Orientation Luncheon, graciously provided by the hard-working Food Services department, served as the official opening event. A beautiful buffet lunch was displayed and when the new students weren't devouring the free food, they had the opportunity to meet the deans of Sy Syms, Yeshiva College, and Student Services. Yalli Hakalier, a proud new member of the Sy Syms School of Business, remarked that the luncheon was a terrific way to begin his college career, and that he "is looking forward to more free food and personal attention in the future."

The main focus of the orientation was to familiarize the incoming students, many of whom have recently returned from schools in Israel, with their new Yeshiva. In this vein, various workshops, ranging from "How to keep safe in the Big, Bad City" to "How to Navigate the 5th floor of the Library," were held throughout the day.

Students who had not yet registered for classes were able to do so and many were

surprised by the ease at which such a daunting task was able to be completed. Ira Prochko, a new student from Lakewood, NJ, was quite impressed by the "order and professionalism demonstrated by the Registrar's office in processing my class selections."

The highlight of Spring Orientation 2000 was a festive dinner held in honor of all incoming students. This was the first year Yeshiva held such an event and it was received favorably by all in attendance. Everyone raved over the delicious spaghetti and meatball dinner, including the various student leaders in attendance - who were there not only to enjoy the free food, but also to inform the incoming students about the myriad of opportunities available to all who become involved in the vibrant student life on campus.

The opening Shabbos of the semester was an overwhelming success. Whether it was the great opportunity to hear Dr. Norman Lamm speak at the meals, or the lively concert given by Aspaklaria on Sat. night, a record number of students stayed in school for Shabbos. Food Services kept busy during orientation, stepping up once again and provided all Shabbos meals as well as a gala kiddish following davening on Shabbos morning.

Although Spring Orientation was not as comprehensive as Fall Orientation, it provided all the essential information to students - incoming or veteran- as well as making the new members of the student body feel as at home as possible. Leibowitz stressed that "all this is done in hopes of enabling the new students to begin their first college semester on the right foot and help insure that their stay here will be as successful and productive as possible."

Undergraduate Student Completes Shas



BY YAIR OPPENHEIM

With over one hundred people in attendance, February 7th marked the fourth time in Yeshiva history that the entire Talmud Bavli track had been completed by an undergraduate student. Eli Ozarowski, a Yeshiva College junior currently majoring in Psychology, was the center of the siyum, ending an eight year journey of spiritual enlightenment and intense commitment.

Beginning in 1992 at the age of thirteen, Eli recalls "I stayed by one of my high school rebbeim [Rabbi Appleman] for Shabbat, and he was learning Daf Yomi and encouraged me to join him. I enjoyed it very much and asked myself 'why can't I do this?'" Eli continued learning, then with his father, coinciding with his introduction to Talmud in school, and later continued alone.


One of the major difficulties Eli had to face was trying to balance the extra amount of learning with a double curriculum already consisting of limudei kodesh. Rabbi

Neuberger, Eli's rebbe in the Mazer Yeshiva Program, is constantly impressed by the fact that Eli's dedication never faltered even in his daily studies. "It's a great privilege for me," Rabbi Neuberger says, "to have a student like Eli, whose dedication to learning expresses itself both in the breadth of his learning as well as in the intensity with which he learns, and the depth of understanding to which he is committed".

At the event, Eli expressed the difficulty of remembering everything that he learned, though stressed the importance of going through Shas in order to get a well rounded talmudic experience. "It's not for everyone", he mentions, "and not everyone can or should do it, because you may not remember it all, as well as the simple fact that it's good to concentrate on one masechta (tractate) at a time. On the other hand, it does teach you the basic skills you need for Gemara, and by reviewing it more often, you'll remember it and sharpen your will to continue".

The siyum was not without emotional moments. Eli mentioned how it is learning and practice which will aid him in transferring the Torah tradition to his children. Eli is aspiring to continue in his father's footsteps and enter the rabbinate. His father, Rabbi Joseph Ozarowski, rabbi of the Elmont Jewish Center in Long Island as well as Chaplain of New York University Hospital, was present along with other close family members.

After the siyum ended, dozens lined the perimeter of the Main Belt Medrash, singing and dancing, followed by a celebratory. William Adler, a friend of Eli's, said, "It was a very enlightening experience to see so many of the b'nai yeshiva uniting in celebration of someone's great accomplishments, as well as inspiring, as it strengthens us in our own Torah studies".



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Inasense Concert Livens Yeshiva

BY YAKOV FLEISCHMANN

On January 27th, an Inasense concert, sponsored by the Chabad club was held in Beifer Hall's Weissberg Commons. Though certainly not one of the usual New York hot spots for an Inasense show, the Commons proved more than adequate for the evening's event.

Hillel Glazer, a junior at Yeshiva, opened at 9PM for Mark, Noah, Jay and C. He played six songs, all of which he wrote, and those in attendance, including relatives and friends, hoped that this would serve as another decisive step in his illustrious musical career.

The event became a Carlebach dominated evening for the eclectic band. Inasense played an amazing set and really got the crowd going with a dazzling guitar solo during "Dovid Melech Yisrael." About 150 turned out for the show and about that number remained at intermission. During the break between sets, students enjoyed refreshments and a half hour Dvar Torah from Rav Metzker. Although the D'var Torah helped to diminish the attendance,

Inasense took the stage again for its second and final set.

This set proved to be even better than the first. The band broke out with its staple - "The Ride" - a song off their second album. Inasense then continued the set, heavily dominated by a combination of their own songs and covers from other artists. Nevertheless, the band still played a few more Carlebach tunes including "Listen to You," which they dedicated to the Lebavitcher Rebbe. Toward the formal end of the second set, Inasense added "Sugaree," a Grateful Dead tune, bringing a smile to all the students' faces. The show closed in Kumzitz style - everyone sitting on the floor, eyes fixated on the band - as Noah and C played a few songs off their latest album "A tribute to Shlomo Calebach."

The evening was a huge success as the many students applauded the Chabad Club for bringing Inasense to Yeshiva University. Those students who missed the show can purchase a copy of it on the Inasense web site (www.inasense.com). The set list for this show and all other Inasense shows in the last year are also available on the web.

Former Yeshiva Professor Expected To Head Museum On Holocaust

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

The White House is expected to name Rabbi Irving "Yitz" Greenberg, former chairman of the Yeshiva University history department, Chairman of U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council. The council is the Presidentially appointed panel that oversees the highly successful and at times controversial U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The appointment of Greenberg could come as early as this week, according to sources familiar with the process. Greenberg, an Orthodox rabbi and leader in Holocaust education, is a member of the council and has been associated with the museum since its planning stages. He lives in New York and is president of the Jewish Life Network, an educational foundation committed to the renewal of American Jewish life.

Greenberg said, "It is an appointment at the president's sole discretion, and as far as I know, it hasn't happened yet. But if it happens, it would be an honor and privilege to serve, given the importance of the institution in American life."

If appointed, Greenberg would succeed Miles Lerman, the longtime chairman who resigned January 13th. When he told the President of his resignation, Lerman said, he outlined qualities the next leader should have, including "a national presence, a person who has the respect of the Jewish community and a person who has the trust of the survivor community." Lerman would

not confirm that Greenberg was a leading candidate, but said that Greenberg "is definitely one of the candidates that the President should be looking at."

As one of the museum's founders, Greenberg is familiar with the public praise and criticism it has received in its first six years. Lerman was roundly criticized last year by the National Academy of Public Administration for interference with the museum's day-to-day operations. Some of the controversies have drawn national attention, such as an invitation to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to visit the museum in 1998 (he declined, citing a scheduling conflict) and the appointment of a scholar who had compared modern Israelis to the Nazis as the head of the research division (he eventually declined the appointment).

Greenberg would bring an institutional understanding of the museum's mission and a long involvement with complex historical, religious and political questions.

Greenberg, who was born in Brooklyn and ordained in 1953 at the Beth Joseph Rabbinical Seminary, holds a PhD from Harvard. He is the past chairman of the History Department at Yeshiva and past chairman of the Department of Jewish Studies at the City University of New York. His writings, "Interpreters of Judaism in the Late Twentieth Century" and "Clouds of Smoke, Pillar of Fire: Judaism, Christianity, Modernity After the Holocaust," are considered classics in their field.

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Campus Clubs Remain Inactive Through Second Semester

YCSC Blames 'Student Apathy'

BY SHMULI SINGER

After the student council ran its annual club fair in October, the organization triumphantly proclaimed this year's slate of extracurricular clubs the largest and most varied in Yeshiva's history. In the interim however, the relative inactivity of most clubs on campus has deflated YCSC's initial optimism. The dormant club scene has inspired some activists to question the efficiency of the student council's policies towards extracurricular groups, while some YCSC brass has countered by accusing the Yeshiva student body of apathy.

The fall semester witnessed just a few events, centered around only a handful of clubs, such as the Debate Club, College Bowl, and the Chabad Club. Students have commented that most clubs failed to hold any meaningful activities, while some clubs did not even bother to contact students who expressed interest at the club fair. "I wrote my name down on a lot of the sign-up sheets at the club fair," remarked Joe Feuerstein, a YC sophomore, "but I haven't heard from these clubs since then. I don't think I've seen signs up for more than five events over the entire last semester. I was wondering if the clubs themselves are the problem, or if they are interested but not receiving funds from YCSC."

Dov Brandstatter, Vice President of YCSC, serves as the organization's liaison to the various clubs in YU. "We don't fund the clubs up front," explained Brandstatter, "They come to us, and present their plans for events, and then we allocate money for these events. Our job is to ensure that money is not misused, and we even try to foster club activity somewhat. Unfortunately, there are over 30 clubs, and we can't push each of them incessantly to hold events."

"To tell you the truth," continued Brandstatter, "we were a little disappointed with the poor showing this past semester, and we are in some way responsible, but

some of the blame should rest on the club leaders. Why are they not interested in holding more events?"

One noticeably quiet group, the Philosophy Club, attributed its latency to economic factors. "We felt our chief goal was to produce a philosophy journal in accordance with the long-standing tradition of our club," noted David Hain, club Vice President. "Our funding only allows us to pursue this goal at the expense of holding other events. A typical philosophy event would involve bringing in a guest lecturer, and that can cost upwards of a thousand dollars. We decided that our limited resources should be focused on publishing a journal instead of holding events. It would be great if we could do both, but I guess that isn't possible." Hain added that the club is currently accepting journal submissions, and hopes to go to press later in the semester.

In contrast to the general extracurricular malaise on campus, the Iranian Club has conducted numerous events, and plans to hold more. "When I started working for the club, I saw a lot of student interest in displaying the Iranian culture on campus, and even though we have a very small budget compared to other clubs, I tried to make the most of it," said club president Omid Nikrouz. "YCSC definitely didn't encourage us to hold events. We brought our plans to them and they were helpful, but we had to come to them first."

Brandstatter pointed to the Iranian Club as a paradigm of successful club activity. "They advertise well, and they are committed," he said. "The lack of success in most clubs can be attributed to poor advertising, among other things. We have talked about decreasing funding for those clubs that held events for a select few without advertising. Even those that do put signs up can suffer due to overcrowded signboards. The real issue here is one of leadership," he concluded. "Maybe YU just needs more interested student activists."

Filmmaking Class Started At YU

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

If you look closely these days, you'll see people shooting films on campus. No, the major studios have not deemed the Heights prime real estate. These directors are of the "young and budding" type, sporting heavy equipment consisting of 16mm film cameras, tripods and battery belts. These students are the guinea pigs of the newly established Filmmaking Techniques course under the Speech and Drama department. Dean Jesionowski, one of the leading forces behind the course's establishment, mentioned, "There is no doubt about the fact that student enthusiasm and interest was instrumental in our decision to offer the course. On another note, the notion of Jewish art is very close to Dean Adler's heart, and this, for him, was a way to foster that".

Students will be taught how to direct, edit, shoot, as well as learn the uses of sound, music and lighting. "It's an amazing opportunity finally afforded to us by the deans, who deserve all the thanks, to let students finally be able to add to their theoretical knowledge of film with real world experience", said Yair Oppenheim, a member of the class. Taught by two teachers, Melissa Hacker and Rick McKinney of NYU, the already over-

talled class of twelve will be separated into crews of four where each person will have the opportunity to work on nine films, as director, cinematographer, and production manager three times for each respective job. The films to be shot will reflect on the material being learned in the class, such as film concepts such as continuity, chase, documentary, parallel action, and sound effects as part of the syllabus.

When asked about his impression of the class and its goals, McKinney said, "The Filmmaking Techniques class is a wonderful opportunity for me. Since the class has evolved from the desire of the students to learn about film, there is a tangible and passionate excitement that is generated in class that is quite infectious. Given the technical intricacies of running a film production class, it is no small feat to start up a class like this from the ground up. But, thanks to Dean Jesionowski's care and hard work, everything is going quite smoothly. We will soon be seeing the results of our efforts, and I am looking forward to some exciting and unique filmmaking". How good will these films be? Everyone is entitled to find out, as there will be a mini-festival at the end of the semester where students will be able to showcase their films in front of the class and friends.

Mima'amakim—From The Depth

Creative Writing on Jewish Religious Experience

BY SIPAI KLEIN

Mima'amakim is a newly formed journal that is currently collecting religious creative materials in all literary form. The journal employs essays, literature, and art as media for fostering original thought about Judaism.

Mima'amakim does not define "Jewish religious experiences," but it instead invites its readers and writers to interpret "Jewish religious experience" for themselves. *Mima'amakim* also serves as an arena where individuals can publish their writing on their religious Jewish experience and

read other persons' work without exposure to profanities and sexually explicit materials.

This journal acts as a lens through which the Orthodox Jewish community can examine its religious and social aspirations. In addition to purely creative material, the journal includes essays and literature that examine religious experiences, social institutions of modern Jews, and religious creativity itself.

The deadline for submissions is March 15. For submissions, more information, and questions please contact Chaim Strauchler at cstrauch@yml.yu.edu.

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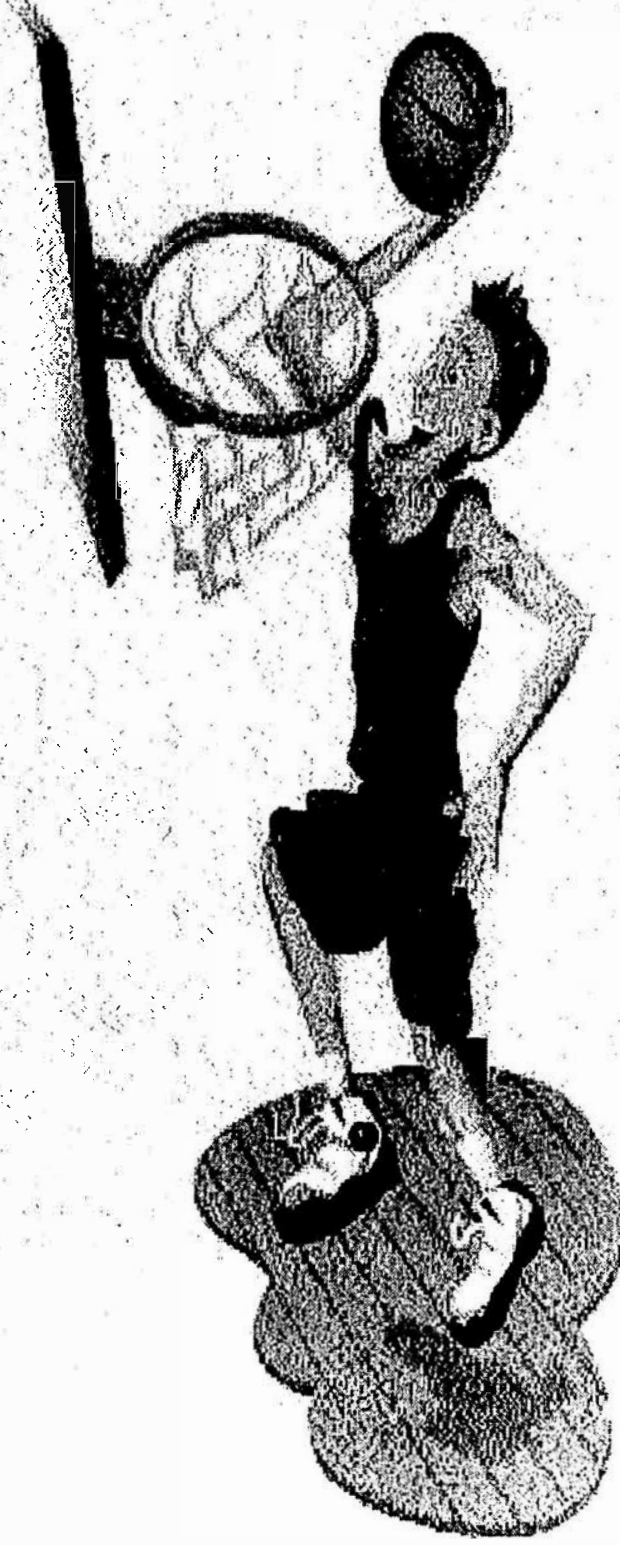
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Commie Acquires Exchange

continued from page 1

about the acquisition. Knoll stated, "In general we have to look out for cost saving methods among SSSB and YC projects, and the merger of *The Exchange* with *The Commentator* does that. It should have been done a long time ago." Kaplan, agreeing with Knoll's sentiments added, "It's great idea, as it should help relieve the dissention between YC and SSSB. It's one unit, not two opposing forces or papers on campus."

Commentator Editors, Aaron Klein and Alex Traiman are pleased with the acquisition. Traiman stated, "This merger truly solidifies *The Commentator* as the premier publication produced on any one of Yeshiva's many campuses." He continued "We look for-

ward to running a business section which will represent both men and women of the Sy Syms School of Business. Now that we officially represent more than one of Yeshiva's undergraduate schools, with women being added to the ambit of our purview, we can accurately call ourselves the official undergraduate student publication of Yeshiva, a title more fitting to the scope of our coverage."

Klein said of his co-editor's statements, "I agree."

New Exchange Section Editor, Eric Sigman, concluded, "Avi [Bossewitch] and I plan to keep the publishing consistent. That is our most pressing need."

New York Times Confiscated

continued from page 1

chained to 186th and Amsterdam because security would not allow it to be placed on 185th. "Security told me that Facilities wouldn't let *The Times* put the vending machine on 185th. I don't understand that at all," said Schubert. "They don't even own the land."

In April 1999, Facilities moved the vending machine from 186th and Amsterdam, placing it in Rubin Hall, and an additional machine was brought in for the Morgenstern Hall lobby. During Passover vacation, however, the machine from Morgenstern was allegedly removed by Facilities, once again without the permission of Schubert or *The New York Times*.

"This time I was very upset," asserted Schubert. "It was removed from inside a building, so I knew it had to have been Facilities." For the next few weeks, Schubert tried unsuccessfully to contact Jeffrey Socol, Director of Facilities Management, and Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services Administration. "I scheduled several meet-

ings with Rosengarten, but he didn't show up to any of them."

Both Socol and Rosengarten denied that the machines were removed. "I don't know what you're talking about," responded Socol to a reporter's query. But *The Commentator* this week gained access to a well-secured Facilities storage room on the "C" level of Belfer Hall, where the confiscated machines currently reside. After taking pictures of the stolen machines, *The Commentator* again approached Socol and Rosengarten, both of them refusing to comment on the situation.

Jane Cook, New York City Education Account Manager for *The Times*, said, "If for some reason Yeshiva didn't want our machines on campus, we should have been notified. The machines are *Times* property, and don't belong to Yeshiva University."

"Yeshiva has to learn that they can't go around confiscating *Commentators* and *New York Times* vending machines whenever they feel like it," stated Schubert. "It's just not normal."

Graduate Program for Women

continued from page 1

are encouraged to apply, the University anticipates that the majority of applicants to the program will be Stern College graduates. Those accepted as full-time students will be eligible to receive annual stipends of \$18,000.

The program continues Yeshiva University's contribution to the Jewish Community by adding to its existing higher education for women. "Yeshiva University, through its Stern College for Women, has been a perennial leader in educating Jewish women at the highest levels," said Rabbi Lamm. "This program represents a unique opportunity for women to continue their study of Talmud and Talmudic Literature beyond the college years. This initiative is directed toward outstanding students who are committed to pursuing advanced Jewish studies full time," continued Lamm.

Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel, the E. Billi Ivry Professor of Jewish History at Stern College for Women, will be the director of the program. He is also chairman of the Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies, a position he has held for 15 years. Rabbi Kanarfogel is a widely respected scholar in the field of medieval Jewish history and rabbinic literature and is author of two books and over 40 articles.

"This marks a significant new step for Yeshiva University and for the Jewish community as a whole," said Rabbi Kanarfogel. "It will enable an elite cadre of women to be better prepared to be leaders in Jewish

scholarship education."

An advisory committee, presently consisting of Rabbi Haym Soloveitchik, University Professor of Jewish History and Literature at the Bernard Revel Graduate School; Stern College for Women Dean Karen Bacon; and Rabbi Moshe Kahn, instructor of Talmud at Stern College, will work with Rabbi Kanarfogel to refine and implement the program.

The Talmud component of the curriculum will be taught by Rabbi Kahn, a leading figure in the growth and development of the Talmud and Oral Law program at Stern College. Rabbi Assaf Bednarsh who earned his bachelor's degree at Princeton University and was ordained by Yeshiva will present a regular *shiur* in *Halacha* as well as an accelerated overview of Talmudic literature or *bekiut*. Rabbi Bednarsh, who is completing his third year as a fellow of the Israel Henry Beren Institute for Higher Talmudic Studies, will serve as assistant to the director and student mentor.

Rounding out the curriculum will be weekly sessions in Jewish history and Jewish thought. In addition, speakers drawn primarily from RIETS *Roshei Yeshiva*, Yeshiva's Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine who have expertise in areas such as comparative law and medical ethics will periodically address the students. During the second year of the program, students will deliver weekly presentations to faculty and peers.

Apparent Murder-Suicide Shocks Student Population

Yeshiva Campus Train Stop Site of Disaster

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

On Saturday, February 5th, Thomas G. Neiford, a 23-year-old former Columbia student jumped from the subway platform in front of an oncoming "1" train at the 181st street station, dying instantly. The suicide came just hours after Kathleen A. Roskot, a popular sophomore athlete at Columbia and Nelford's girlfriend, was found murdered in her Columbia University dormitory in Morningside Heights.

The suicide is the second incident of death around Yeshiva University's uptown campus in recent weeks. Although the alleged murder-suicide did not involve any members of the Yeshiva community, its proximity to the campus and the involvement of the broader college community raises concerns and stirs fears.

The murder of Roskot is another in a string of tragedies that has rocked the college community this year. Beginning with the celebration-turned-tragedy in Texas and piquing with the fatal fire in Seton Hall, the sometimes impregnable boundaries of college campuses have now been torn down, exposing their unwilling residence to the pathologies of the outside world.

"The campus is shocked, deeply saddened and in mourning at the death of this young woman," said Virgil Renzulli, Columbia's Associate Vice President for Public Affairs.

The local police of the 34th precinct were unaware Saturday night that the suicide at the train station was related to the murder on Columbia's campus. The officers maintained that originally the suicide investigation was being handled by transit police. After watching the local news at eleven, they concluded that the precinct closest to Columbia would probably be handling the rest of the inquiry. The suicide caused the closure of the train station for a time Saturday and disrupted service there as well.

This tragic episode is one of three violent crimes committed on college campuses in the New York area this past week. Cross-gender attacks occurred both on the CW Post campus and in Westchester Community College. Late last week, a female CW Post student was raped by an unknown intruder as she showered in her campus dormitory. Just two days after the Columbia incident, a man, apparently enraged over the end of a relationship, shot a Westchester Community College student as she fled down the hallway of a campus school building. The man then dashed across campus to a small hill by the student center and fatally shot himself.

The woman, Joy Thomas, an 18-year-old student from Mount Vernon, suffered a superficial gunshot wound to the forehead. She was listed in critical condition at Westchester Medical Center, but a police spokesman said the injury was not life threatening. Regardless of how these incidents are independently explained, the brutalities of the outside world have permeated the protective walls of the college community.

Security officials in Yeshiva maintain that the student body is safe and that incidents such as these will not happen here. However, residents of Ruggles Hall, the Columbia dormitory in which Roskot was found, said that security at the dormitory was tight. Guards on duty 24 hours a day at the front entrances of Ruggles, and video cameras in the lobby and at a locked rear entrance record the comings and goings of everyone entering the building around the clock.

Ruggles Hall residents and other Columbia students are required to hand the guard a university-issued picture identification card, which is then swiped through a machine to ensure its authenticity. Nonresident visitors must also provide identification and must either be accompanied by a resident or have a resident's approval to enter.

On the Westchester Community College Campus unarmed guards patrol each of the many buildings on campus. Apparently a guard responded to the shooting at WCC last week, explained Dr. Julius Ford, a Vice President of the community college. Ford insisted that he did not know what action the guard took and that the university will review its security. Ford further explained that this was the first shooting on the 219-acre campus since it was founded in 1946.

In light of all the facts surrounding this case and the other attacks in neighboring colleges, Yeshiva students remain confident that the unlikely circumstances would not be repeated on this campus. "The current string of attacks on college campuses appear to all be cross-gender and do not seem probable to occur at YU," said Yoram Schwell a Yeshiva College Junior.

However Eduardo Delgado, a 22-year-old Columbia senior from Rye, N.Y., said of his fellow Ruggles Hall residents, "The mood is pretty surreal. I guess nobody really believes it could actually happen here."



Regina Benchs, a 21-year-old student from Putnam Valley said, "You hear stories about people spraying bullets at school, but you never realize you could be a part of it. You just don't feel safe."

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Yeshiva, Widow and Other Jewish Organizations Quarrel Over \$44 Million Estate

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

Yeshiva University and several Jewish organizations are fighting a legal battle with Tova Leidesdorf-Herling, the widow of multi-millionaire Erwin Herling, over the division of Herling's estate.

The Holocaust Museum In Washington, Jerusalem hospital Sha'arei Zedek are among the others claiming that they were promised more than \$40 million in charitable contributions from the estate of Erwin Herling, an international businessman and Holocaust survivor.

Herling's widow, sixty-four year-old Tova Leidesdorf-Herling asserts that her husband's Florida estate is worth far less than any amount the organizations claim. His estate now faces eight lawsuits filed during the last month in Miami-Dade Circuit Court.

Herling, 78, revised his will and named his wife as his sole beneficiary three days before he died last year in Miami Beach. The revised will, which states Herling was a resident of London and a citizen of Brazil, was filed in July in Miami-Dade Circuit Court.

Herling acquired his wealth through textile, real estate and financial investments in New York, England, Brazil and Israel, according to court papers. But exactly what is left of

Herling's assets in Florida is in dispute. Mrs. Herling, who received a \$4.5 million sapphire ring from her husband before they married in 1997, claims the only assets left in his name are a car and a penthouse condo worth about \$100,000.

But attorneys for Jewish institutions that were promised charitable contributions from Herling and his deceased first wife, Madeleine, said they will fight aggressively for the pledged millions, starting in Miami. "There's evidence he was a wealthy man who lived a very affluent lifestyle," said New York attorney Melvyn Weiss, representing the Sha'arei Zedek Medical Center In Jerusalem. "It's very suspicious she is not listing any assets in the estate. She may have surreptitiously put them elsewhere."

Among the assets Herling was believed to have real estate worldwide, several original "Old Master" and 19th Century Impressionist paintings, millions of dollars in jewelry and antiques, and ownership interests in various businesses.

"It's our job to find out what happened to those assets," said Weiss. "We're going to conduct investigations all over the world." Yeshiva General Council Bockstein and Director of Development Dan Forman were unable to comment on this issue.

Cardozo Professors Make Headlines Across the Country

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

Barry Scheck and Peter Neufeld, professors at Yeshiva University's Cardozo School of Law, are again making headlines across the country thanks to their Innocence Project, which uses DNA evidence in proving the innocence of convicted criminals. They join their colleague David Boies, an adjunct professor at Cardozo, who was recently named Professor of the Year by the National Law Journal.

Once part of O.J. Simpson's defense team, Scheck and Neufeld have made a crusade of exonerating the wrongly convicted; and no longer are Scheck and Neufeld defenders of the rich, rather the protectors of less fortunate. Through the Innocence Project, a program founded by Scheck and Neufeld in 1992 to lend support to the mostly poor and forgotten in prisons across the country, they use DNA evidence to overturn convictions. The Project, which is staffed largely by law students, currently handles more than 200 cases, with many of its clients on death row or serving life terms.

Yeshiva University bestowed the honor of Academic Program of the Year for the Innocence Project at the 75th Annual Hanukkah Dinner and Convocation in December. Last June, Professors Scheck and Neufeld convened a meeting of nineteen lawyers, including representatives of ten law schools, who came to Cardozo to learn how to start their own clinics and create curricula on wrongful convictions, creating the Innocence Network. "The goal of the Innocence Network is to transform what goes on in American legal education," said Scheck.

Calling him "the Michael Jordan of the courtroom," the National Law Journal named David Boies the NLJ lawyer of the year. He was selected for his successful representation of the United States Government in U.S. vs. Microsoft Corporation and for his work on several other antitrust cases this year. It was in these cases that he showed off his "singular gifts - a steel trap mind, a laser sharp memory, a head for chess and a skill with words - to raise the level of the game for all involved,"

coined the Journal. In its 1999 year-end issue, the weekly newspaper also mentioned death penalty reformers Scheck and Neufeld.

"It is remarkable that all three lawyers honored are associated with Cardozo," said Dean Paul R. Verkuil. "It makes clear what we have long known - the intellectual climate at Cardozo is led by exciting and challenging faculty who insure that our students are getting the finest legal education available."

Neufeld and Scheck met 20 years ago and teamed up to combine social activism with forensic science. Interestingly, when DNA testing was in its infancy, they attacked the science as unreliable - a tack used in the Simpson defense. But through the Innocence Project, they now embrace DNA as a vital tool for freeing wrongly convicted prisoners.

The project, which has made headlines since its inception, has been mimicked in law schools around the country. It has gained notoriety once again with the recent exoneration of Clyde Charles, a man who spent close to twenty years in jail for a crime the DNA evidence proved he did not commit.

Scheck and Neufeld have set out to rectify the apparent pathology within the justice system that has led to these wrongful convictions in the first place. As outlined in their book "Actual Innocence" (Doubleday) co-authored by New York Daily News columnist Dwyer, Scheck and Neufeld explain that since 1976, Illinois has executed twelve people while freeing thirteen from death row as innocent.

In the last decade, DNA tests have provided stone-cold proof that sixty-nine people were sent to prison or death row in North America for crimes they did not commit. According to the book, the number has been rising at a rate of more than one a month. To Scheck and Neufeld, what matters most is not how the wrongly convicted got out of jail, but how they got in. "How do you prevent another innocent man or woman from paying the ultimate penalty for a crime he or she did not commit?" asked Illinois Governor George Ryan, a Republican and death-penalty supporter. "Today I cannot answer that question."

Cardozo Dean Resigns

continued from page 1

leagues urged me to stay, but now, with less administrative duties I will have more time for my teaching, and more time for myself and my family," Verkuil continued.

Although Verkuil insisted that he was stepping down for personal reasons and stated that he enjoyed his time working at Cardozo, there were hints that he was unhappy with Yeshiva's treatment of the law school.

"I am glad that we now have an administrator like Lowengrub. We've needed more of a balance on the academic side," said Verkuil referring to Dr. Morton Lowengrub, the university's new Vice President of Academic Affairs. "Without him," Verkuil continued, "there has been more power and influence coming from the budgetary side." Verkuil was referring to Sheldon Socol, Vice President of Business Affairs, who in the past has displayed an authoritarian grip over the University's practices throughout its colleges and affiliated schools. Apparently, Verkuil believed the business office of the university's administration has had a greater impact on the academic tone of the law school than it should have.

Among Verkuil's more notable accomplishments, is his recent appointment by the American Bar Association to chair a committee charged with beginning the ambitious initiative of assessing the federal regulatory process and determining how it can be reformed to ensure better government. The ABA will focus on the Administrative

Procedure Act - essentially the constitution for the regulatory state. The APA, which was enacted in 1946 and has not been revised significantly since, categorizes governmental actions, sets forth the framework for rule-making and adjudication proceedings, creates rights for judicial review of agency actions, and establishes standards for the scope of review.

Undoubtedly, Verkuil is representative of the high caliber faculty and staff at Cardozo. However, Verkuil's letter is the fourth such announcement coming from a high-level university administrator since September. Although he is temporarily working in the office of the Academic Vice President, Rabbi Melvin Davis resigned as university registrar earlier this year. Dr. Harold Neirenberg, Dean of the Sy Syms School of Business announced his resignation last month and Dean of Students Dr. Efreim Nulman, too, resigned just after a large clash between students and administrators had seemed to be resolved. Assistant Registrar Lea Honigwachs, Assistant to the Dean of SSSB Dianne Persky, Professors Ross and Zilbert among others have also followed this trend of reassignment and resignation.

While administrative shuffling in universities is common place, it is not so usual in Yeshiva. In an institution where the President and the Vice President of Business Affairs have collectively a full century of time at the university between them, such movement is not common at all.

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Dead Man on Campus

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"How come we did not hear about this, isn't our safety important?" begged Avi Soroka a Yeshiva College Freshman. Echoing these thoughts, Brian Kinzbrunner a YC junior expressed disbelief at "the University's silence on the matter."

Dov Karoll, a RIETS student and a resident of RIETS housing, said, "As a resident of 36 Laurel Hill Terrace I am deeply concerned about my own safety and I hope that YU is too. Opening up the entrance behind Belfer and Rubin Halls would help alleviate this concern."

"Laurel Hill Terrace is not lit up well enough and students going back to their IHP and RIETS apartments after night seder should feel protected," urged Simcha Fuld, a Sy Syms Senior. Fuld emphasized that IHP apartments are equal to the dorms, yet for some reason the administration does not treat them as such. Elaborating on Simcha's concerns, many students questioned the lack of security in IHP and RIETS apartments. "Simply because they are living in YU's alternative to dorms should not mean that their lives are any less protected," said a library employee.

A few years ago a petition to place a guard booth on Laurel Hill Terrace for student protection was proposed and accepted. Indeed an additional booth was placed on the rear side of Belfer Hall. However, students now contend that the placement of this booth may have been more an action of University convenience than of student safety. The booth was built adjacent to the Belfer loading dock that accepts all incoming deliveries for the University. Highlighting the argument that it was not erected for student safety is the fact that it was placed directly across from an existing New York City Police Department booth.

Another complaint discussed at student life meetings is that the provisions made five years ago are no longer adequate at present. With the addition of IHP and an increasing number of people living in RIETS housing it would be logical to assume that security in those areas would increase as well. "The university will never preempt a problem. After long enough they will put a Band-Aid over the wound, but they will never get out of the way of the bullet; they're just too stubborn to

duck," explained one security official.

Another issue that this vicious murder raises is the University's current policy of locking off a passageway behind Belfer and Rubin Halls that would connect Laurel Hill Terrace with Amsterdam Avenue. The gate on Laurel Hill Terrace closes off residents of the street from the University's campus. Before the erection of the Max Stern Athletic Center and the Gottesman Pool, the University Campus extended through a grassy area past Laurel Hill Terrace. Students were able to engage in activity in the park beyond Laurel Hill Terrace that has fallen to a state of disrepair in years since the university closed off the area. Presumably, the basketball court behind the Strenger Residence Hall would be used if the gateway were opened as well.

When Yeshiva threw RIETS students out of the dorms five years ago the apartments on Laurel Hill Terrace became their new location. Soon after the move students petitioned to have the gateway opened so they would not have to trek around Laurel Hill Terrace, at times a dark and unsafe street at night.

For years, students have been baffled by the administrations stance on the gateway and the incorporation of more security staff. With the increase of IHP students on campus, the demand for these necessities has increased. Members of the Facilities Management refused to comment on this issue. Security officials, however, informed *The Commentator* that the murder was most likely drug related and that at no time were student lives in danger. "Security should be tighter than that, it could have been anybody," exclaimed Effi Billauer, a Sy Syms senior.

Many feel Yeshiva has repeatedly ignored student suggestions and complaints for them to heighten security and raise the quality of life for students who live in the quasi-dorm areas of the campus. "I would not like to think that Jeff (Socol) is ignoring student concerns. I mean safety and quality of life are serious issues. Either people are mistaking students for donors and are lying to them, or perhaps everyone is just too busy to remember student concerns," scornfully remarked one embittered professor.

President's Circle

continued from page 24

ter's allocation. The President's Circle has released no official comment on the reasoning behind their decision, but what is clear is that it is not a result of the Circle's affinity toward student journalism. *The Observer*, Stern College's student paper, was granted a whopping \$13,000 grant for new equipment and the like. Nor can one point to The Circle's general decision to tighten up on grants, considering the large sums of monies donated to organizations like Student Organization of Yeshiva and the Stern College Dramatic Society.

Obvious questions have now been raised as to what has caused the generous group to overlook *Commentator* needs entirely. While the President's Circle has kept a tight lid on the reasoning behind their recent decision, one high level administrative official points to the obvious. "The President's Circle can choose to give money to whomever they want," explained Assistant to the University President, Gladys Chernin. Chernin's frank remarks gave credence to what many view as the student body's greatest fears. She herself speculated that "the President's circle might not have appreciated *The Commentator's* efforts to constantly inform the student body on issues pertaining directly to those enrolled," and might have consequently decided to refrain from aiding their efforts.

It is this attitude that *Commentator* insiders point to as evidence of a lack of sincere administrative commitment to reversing past wrongdoings. Editors-in-Chief Aaron Klein and Alex Traiman expressed their deep disappointment on the matter. Klein stated "I view this move, which attempts to again silence student voices, to be incredibly immature on the part of the President's circle. I am saddened that they are now trying to hit us below the belt by minimizing our available funds." Traiman, at a loss for words, added, "It is simply deplorable."

Klein's remarks once again point to the constant rift that has been growing between an active student newspaper and a defensive administration. That growing rift culminated less than two months ago in the University's removal of newspapers from campus locations. After accepting responsibility for that mistake, the administration has failed to win credibility in the eyes of growing hoards of concerned students and faculty. Campus leaders have and continue to remain skeptical of the administration's commitment to allowing free speech to permeate Yeshiva University and particularly the pages of *The Commentator*. While the wounds from that episode continue to heal, it seems as though the President's Circle has only added salt to an already tenuous relationship.



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Yeshiva Sports

Baseball's Bigot

BY ADAM COHEN

Baseball made a bold move when it suspended John Rocker until May 1st. Rocker, the high-strung and highly talented closer for the Atlanta Braves, came under fire when quoted as making racist comments to *Sports Illustrated*.

"They turn from the wrong lane. They go 20 miles per hour. It makes me want -- Look! Look at this idiot! I guarantee you she's a Japanese woman."

"How bad are Asian women at driving?"

On ever playing for a New York team: "I would revere first. It's the most hectic, nerve-racking city. Imagine having to take the [Number] 7 train to the ballpark, looking like you're [riding through] Beirut next to some kid with purple hair next to some queer with AIDS right next to some dude who just got out of jail for the fourth time right next to some 20-year-old mom with four kids. It's depressing."

On New York City itself: "The biggest thing I don't like about New York are the foreigners. I'm not a very big fan of foreigners. You can walk an entire block in Times Square and not hear anybody speaking English. Asians and Koreans and Vietnamese and Indians and Russians and Spanish people and everything up there. How the hell did they get in this country?"

And that is just the beginning. He spits at a tollbooth because the gate doesn't go up right away. He swerves in and out of lanes at 72 miles per hour. He condemned Mets fans. He called a black teammate a "black monkey." The list goes on and on.

Rocker, mind you, never physically hurt anyone, nor did he infringe on anyone's civil rights. All he did was make public his personal views, views which society does not condone. Was his lengthy suspension warranted, or did Bud Selig cross the line? Many issues surround this question, and this column will attempt to explore those topics.

It seems, taken at first blush, that Rocker's first amendment rights were violated by this suspension. The southpaw simply made statements, and seemingly is being punished for what he said. Furthermore, one could argue that he is unfairly being kept from earning a living.

In fact, both of these defenses for Rocker are flawed. Freedom of speech does not apply here. The first amendment only protects him from the government -- that is, he cannot be thrown in jail for anything he says.

It does not apply to private business. Second, Rocker will be paid during his suspension, so in no way will he be kept from earning a living. Baseball was too smart to allow a Rocker-defender that argument. Instead, he will be fined \$20,000, or roughly 10% of his annual salary.

So Baseball has found a way to punish a man who made racist comments. It is perfectly legal for them to do so. But is it something that we, as Americans, should want to happen? Despite the fact that Rocker is not protected by the Bill of Rights, isn't free speech still a value that we as Americans hold dear? Is there really free speech if a person can get punished for what he says?

The truth is, it doesn't matter. Baseball is a private industry, and it wants the business of all minorities. That includes blacks and "Asians and Koreans and Vietnamese and Indians and Russians and Spanish people". It also includes Jews, who Rocker said nothing about in that article, but you can speculate about how he feels about that minority. Rocker's comments, therefore, have the potential of hurting Baseball's business. As such, Baseball has the right to take disciplinary action against him.

But will Rocker really be bad for business? Ask most GM's if they'd want Rocker, comments and all, on their team. Most would say yes. And won't the Mets sell more tickets to the games against the Braves now that Rocker has made those remarks, as opposed to before he said anything? Hint -- the Mets came close but did not sell out their late September series with the Braves last year. Do you think they'd sell out a game against the Braves this June had Rocker not said anything? Rocker will sell more tickets, and he will draw better ratings. So how can you say he is bad for Baseball?

The problem is much greater than Rocker himself. Rocker isn't being punished because his comments will hurt Baseball; he is being punished because had Selig let him off the hook, it would have looked as if Major League Baseball agreed with what he said. That, ultimately, is what it comes down to. By suspending Rocker with one of the longest suspensions in history, Baseball has let it be known that they do not condone bigotry. Can you imagine the outcry among minorities had Baseball kept silent? Baseball's silence would have hurt the game more than Rocker's foolish words. Even if the suspension is reduced by an arbitrator, which may happen, Selig will come off looking as the one who stood up for the minorities. And that is good for Baseball.

The Death of the Canadian Pro Hockey Team -- Who's to Blame?

BY MICHAEL LEVY

During the recent All-Star festivities in Toronto, hockey legend Wayne Gretzky explained the psyche of Canadians who, recently, upon hearing that the Canadian government would be distributing financial aid, erupted in a sea of outrage and protest.

"It's pretty simple," Gretzky said. "I mean, the whole country is based on hard-working, nine-to-five parents who do the best they can to provide for their families. A small percentage of the country is people who are making over a million dollars a year. The average person can't understand why people who are making five and six million a year need tax benefits. So it's pretty simple why they rallied against it, and how can you blame them? It's too hard for people to comprehend. If you are making \$30,000 or \$35,000 a year and working your rear end off, the last thing that I would vote for is giving a guy making \$5 million tax benefits." Of course, that's the way it usually has gone in professional sports. Owners say they can't compete on the field of play without new arenas and new revenue streams. They hold up local governments for aforementioned tax breaks and contributions and, failing that, move the team to another market that is willing to fulfill their wishes. Fans, upon seeing this, grow to disdain the owners and their apparent greed.

This is why Canada figures to lose three or four of its franchises to U.S. markets. All of this makes sense until one realizes that the American market is all but tapped out. Where are these teams to go? The hockey market is saturated enough as it is, especially with teams in Minnesota and Columbus starting play next season. But that's an entirely different problem altogether.

The sometimes emotionally warped Canadian media has skewered Gary Bettman, the NHL Commissioner under whose auspices the recent expansionary explosion has taken place. Newspaper columnists have blamed Bettman for not doing more for financially wrecked franchises in Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver. Bettman was similarly lambasted when the Quebec Nordiques moved to Colorado and the Winnipeg Jets morphed into the Phoenix Coyotes.

The problem does not lie in Bettman's inabilities. The problem lies in the average

Canadian's failure in paying attention to Economics 101. It's not Bettman's fault the Canadian dollar has been devalued. It's not his fault that the city council of Colorado made it more financially viable to operate a team within its city limits than the Quebec City council did. The Montreal Canadiens pay more in municipal and provincial taxes than all the American teams combined!

Look at the facts. Toronto and Montreal -- who are at practically no risk of whipping out the suntan lotion -- aside, the four other Canadian franchises pay over \$100 million in salaries. Under the axed plan, the government was to give the six teams \$13 million for three years. Without regard to the cyclical economic effects and the sociological advantages of a city having a professional sports team, let's look at the raw financial numbers. The highest tax bracket in Canada is 58%. That means that over the next three years (assuming the teams stay put), the Canadian government will be collecting over \$150 million in taxes from the player's salaries alone! Now, I'm not in SSSB but it seems to me, that a \$150 million dollars return on a \$39 million dollar investment isn't bad.


But that's not all. Add into the mix the notion that the teams themselves pay an enormous amount of tax. Figure that all other employees (ushers, personnel, etc...) all contribute to the Canadian tax base. Realize that every time a fan buys a jersey in a sporting goods store, he pays, on average, 13% in federal and provincial taxes.

Wayne Gretzky may have become a multi-millionaire through hockey, making more in a year than anyone else in his family pulled down in their lives. But you cannot ignore the facts. Government subsidies may not stop the teams from bolting south but, even if they delayed it for two years, it's an economically beneficial situation for Canadians. As Don Cherry said late last month, "Look for Ottawa to move next and then you'll see Vancouver moving to Seattle."

Don't blame Bettman. Don't blame the greedy players or the even greedier owners. Canadians need only blame themselves and their ignorance in modern economics. Finally, don't complain to me when cash for vital government services can't be found because the tax money once provided by the professional sports teams is now in the hands of the State Comptroller of Washington.



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Go Macs!

In Basketball, the New Has Replaced the Old

BY GREG SAMUELS

Saturday night, with great sound and fury, Vince Carter took MJ's torch, bringing an official beginning to a new era in the game of basketball. Most of us can remember Michael "Air" Jordan, the young prodigy, overtaking his teacher Dominique "The Human Highlight Reel" Wilkins to win his first slam dunk title. Jordan sailed from the free-throw line back in the 80's and onto posters garnishing the walls of millions of young boys. Jordan's legendary jam, now a fixture in every high school slam dunk competition, was innovative, exciting, and brought an official beginning to the era of three living legends: Bird, Magic, and Michael, as they became known. The three living legends have since retired, and returned to the game in different capacities. However, before they left, they served as heroes for a growing generation and left their marks on a game that has become great.

When Jordan, the last of the living legends, retired back in 1998, he did so without an apparent successor. The following summer, a lockout occurred, as the players and owners squabbled about money. In essence, the world forgot the very variables that had led the game to greatness. In a league devoid of leadership, David Stern, the Jewish voice of reason, prevailed. He brought the players and owners together to save the game that he had fallen in love with as a child. Then, the very thing that made the game great the first time, made it great again.

In interviews with Jordan, Magic, and Bird, all were asked the question of who made them fall in love with basketball. Invariably, they would all answer that growing up, they saw players like George Gervin, Dr. J, and Bill Russell on television. Seeing what feats other men deemed great by society could accomplish, they found inspiration to achieve greatness within themselves. Vince Carter, Tracy McGrady, and Steve Francis are the new stars of the league. They found their inspiration from men like Jordan, Magic, and Bird. Like their predecessors, they strive to bring basketball to a higher level.

Wilt Chamberlain brought the first slam-dunk to the game of basketball. Bill Russell made it exciting to play defense. Bob Cousy made dribbling an art form. In our generation, Magic taught us the grace of great passing, Bird taught us what sheer skill and determination can achieve, and MJ displayed to us true athletic feats of greatness. Jordan showed us last second heroics, by winning thirty-nine games at the buzzer, displaying

athleticism that made our jaws drop, and showed us that basketball was indeed a game of lofty dreams.

Saturday night, Vince Carter elevated the game to the next level. He slammed dunks that Jordan couldn't have even imagined. The true beauty of his mastery was best illustrated by the reactions of his fellow all-stars. Shaquille O'Neal was speechless following Carter's first dunk. Shaq's jaw had dropped and he couldn't believe what he had seen. Kevin Garnett and Chris Webber had their own video camera and refused to talk to interviewers while the competition was going on, because they were so enthralled. Alonzo Mourning, my pick at the half way point for this year's MVP, brought his daughter and screamed like a child from sheer excitement. On Saturday night, Vince Carter raised the bar for future generations.

First, Carter began with a mind boggling reverse 360 jam, that he finished with great authority. For his next dunk, he jumped from out of bounds, turned in the air, and slammed once again with authority. For his third and perhaps greatest dunk, he caught the ball in the air, put it between his legs, and jammed it home. He reached the finals with a perfect score of 100.

By this point in the competition, all of his competitors knew that they were experiencing greatness, and had essentially given up. The fans at the Oakland Coliseum were quiet when all of the other contestants dunked. They were waiting for more Vincemania to ensue. He would not disappoint. At a point when the coliseum was hush for his fourth dunk, the game was great and spectators were children once more.

Carter then ensued to perform what I believe to be the coolest thing that I've seen in a long time; Carter jammed the ball and then stuck his arm through the basket. He hung by his elbow for a few moments as he basked in what he had done. The expression on his face showed that he was just as much in awe of what he was able to do as we at home were. Finally, in his final dunk, with the title essentially already won, he did a dunk that carried with it great symbolism. He did Jordan's dunk from the free-throw line, only he did it his way—he did it two handed.

We are now in an age of a new brand of basketball. Its athleticism and mastery of gravity are mind-boggling. Vince Carter is the new Michael Jordan, and I am certain that counterparts will be quick in following. It's time now for us to just sit back and enjoy the show, as the cycle of basketball and life is hitting its stride.



Finally, a Super Bowl

BY BENNY ROSENBERG

Was there something strange going on or was it just me? The Tennessee Titans were playing the St. Louis Rams. A guy named Kurt Warner was starting as quarterback, and Dick Vermeil was emotionally stable. It seemed like a letdown of a Super Bowl from the very beginning. Fans are used to seeing the San Francisco and Denver powerhouses of years past slug it out. How can we look forward to a game featuring teams that recently started again after having left their respective cities?

Midway through the third quarter of the game, it seemed like our pessimism was justified. The score was 16-0 in favor of the Rams, and to make matters worse the television commercials weren't so great either (another .com commercial would have driven me insane). I figured that it was just a matter of time until the Rams ran up the score to 55 points, your typical score in what is supposed to be the big dance. But that's when the tide shifted, and Tennessee Head Coach Jeff Fisher finally started to use his battering ram, Eddie George. George ran and ran, and when he was done running, he ran some more, running for a whopping 77 yards in the second half alone.

The Titans pounded the Rams defense and sent them running for the hills. Then Steve McNair sparked the team with a long run that set up their first touchdown of the game. With the Titans slowly creeping back, our interest was restored. Suddenly, we were treated to a game that rarely lives up to its bill. No longer did we moan about which teams were playing, but rather we were overly concerned about whether or not the Titans could convert a first down on third and seven.

After Al Del Greco's field goal tied the score at 16 late in the 4th quarter, a Nuclear Bomb couldn't have pried us from our seats. However, a bomb is just what occurred next. Kurt Warner, the Rams' superhuman quarterback, launched a 73 yard touchdown strike to

Isaac Bruce on the very next play, sending us all into a frenzy. Is this a joke? Kurt Warner was stacking shelves at a grocery store just a few years ago. He used to use toilet paper rolls as footballs. Now, instead of throwing toilet paper rolls down aisle three, he was slinging a touchdown pass to all-pro wide receiver Isaac Bruce in the Super Bowl.

So the game ended there, right? WRONG. Steve McNair and the Titans came roaring back with one last drive. Keep in mind, this is the team that beat the Buffalo Bills on a last second miracle play that rivals the magic of the immaculate reception. The Titans began moving steadily upfield, refusing to go down. The only thing that could stop them now was time, and not the Rams' battered defense.

McNair stayed on his feet, and fought off defenders repeatedly. On one particular play, he shrugged off a freight train in the form of defensive end Kevin Carter, who just happened to lead the league with seventeen sacks in the regular season, and threw a gorgeous pass to receiver Kevin Dyson to set up the game's last play with six seconds left. The circumstances were enormous. Hollywood couldn't script a better football game. And so, with ten yards and six seconds left, McNair called Dyson's number again, and threw to him over the middle of the field. Dyson caught the ball, and was met ever so rudely at the two-yard line by Rams linebacker Mike Jones. Jones tackled Dyson and snuffed out his desperate lunge at the endzone as time ran out. All that separated the Titans from the championship was a mere three feet. Ouch.

However, it was a thrilling finish. Heck, for the first time ever, the game actually wasn't decided until the last minute. The Super Bowl hasn't been this close in ten years, when Scott Norwood's 48 yard field goal sailed wide right for the Buffalo Bills in the waning seconds against the New York Giants. So for a Super Bowl that was expected to fizzle like most others, we were finally treated to a classic, one that will be remembered for years to come.

Fencing Macs Impressively Start New Semester

BY SIMON LANDSMAN

The past two Sundays, on February 6th and 13th, the Yeshiva Macs fencing team travelled to two schools for the beginning of the second half of their season. The first weekend was spent in Boston, Mass., for a tournament hosted by Brandeis University. Much like the Baltimore trip of last semester, the team spent shabbat with families in the Brookline community. This was both needed and appreciated due to the long trip and the requirement to be in Waltham the next morning, at an early hour.

Saturday night, the team had time to relax and roam around; and roam they did. Some took advantage of the trolley system and ventured throughout Boston and the surrounding areas of Harvard Square, Cambridge, and Copley.

At Brandeis on Sunday, the Macs went up against the toughest competition of the season thus far. The team faced Brown University, Brandeis University, MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and Boston College. These teams represent a few of the best teams

in the northeast.

The foil squad put up an excellent fight of fleshing somersault to damper their opponents. With a broken blade flying, the sabre squad fought the good fight as well. The epee squad came out strong as before with starter fencers Steve Mellner and Alex Traiman holding astonishing records of 7-5 each. The team went up with the purpose of raising individual records to qualify for the NCAA championships next month.

This past Sunday, February 13th, the Macs drove to NJIT (New Jersey Institute of Technology) to fence both NJIT and Drew University. The squads took apart the opposing teams, showing their rightful place in the upper tier of the conference. They defeated NJIT 23-4, but lost at a close match 14-13 to Drew. The team plans to take the rest of their athletic season, which is very crucial, and mold it to their advantage. They look forward to making it again to the final rounds of the MACFA championships, keeping the epee trophy in the display case, and perhaps even adding another.

Ice Hockey at YU?

BY ARI KELLMAN

Let me let you in on a little secret: Yeshiva University has an Ice Hockey Club. Yes, that's right, good little Jewish boys play ice hockey. In fact it has been in the making for some time. In the spring of 1998, two students came to Yeshiva with an agenda. They each wanted to start a hockey team. Luckily, the students, Ronen Elefant and Mark Tenenbaum met each other on the first day of orientation. By the end of their first month here, plans were hatched to form an ice hockey team at Yeshiva. Two semesters later, in the Fall of 1999, this dream of theirs came to fruition when they, along with twelve other like-minded YU students joined a local men's ice hockey league in Englewood, NJ.

During that year and a half, countless hours and enormous efforts were spent on preparation and organization. The team, which at the time went by the name Yeshiva, played 2 games against a Synagogue team from Kehilath Jeshurun of Manhattan. In those games, Yeshiva was victorious, but continued quietly, unknown to the masses. Despite these games the Yeshiva Hockey club had a hankering for more games, and a more organized setting.

At the beginning of this academic year, the group got back together, with a few new additions to replace those who graduated and went looking for a more organized place to play. Mark and Ronen found a league in Englewood, recruited players and joined the league as the Lightning. The current team is a model of diversity and proves that you do not have to be from Canada to appreciate and/or play ice hockey. This diversity is best illustrated by its co-captains and founders, Mark and Ronen who are from Toronto, Canada and Hollywood, Florida respectively (yes, there is ice in Florida). The twelve other players include the goalies, Michael Silverberg from New Jersey, and Josh Platt from California. Our requisite Canadians, include Yoni Abenaim, Dov Fried, Shannon Kleinman and David Sandel. Nachum Lifschitz hails from Maryland, Yoni Sherizen from Michigan while the others, J.A. Bruckner, James Sepowitz, Ben Stern and Eric Taub are all residents of the Tri-State area. The coach of the team, Manhattan native Ari Kellman receives no compensation and works diligently to help make the team what it is today.

In our first season at Mackay we finished with a 7-5-2 record, won our division and made it to the final game of the championship. Unfortunately, due to the timing of the playoffs (during winter break) our team was severely depleted and lost. But we have returned for the arena's second season, changed our name to the Colt 45's, and are ready to avenge last season's heart-breaking loss.

The team has faced many obstacles along the way, including logistical (you try to organize fifteen people, all juggling a dual-curriculum along with all of their other responsibilities), and financial problems. We could not have not gotten to where we are today without the help we have received from YCSC, the YU Athletic Department, and Student Services due to our club status. Accomplishments notwithstanding, we are not content to stop with a club team in a men's league. We are currently lobbying the athletic department to make an official Yeshiva Ice Hockey team and until that happens we are looking for sponsorship and/or financial aid to help us continue. In our efforts to promote Ice Hockey at Yeshiva University.

The Macs Do Los Angeles

BY TUVY JOSEPH MEYER

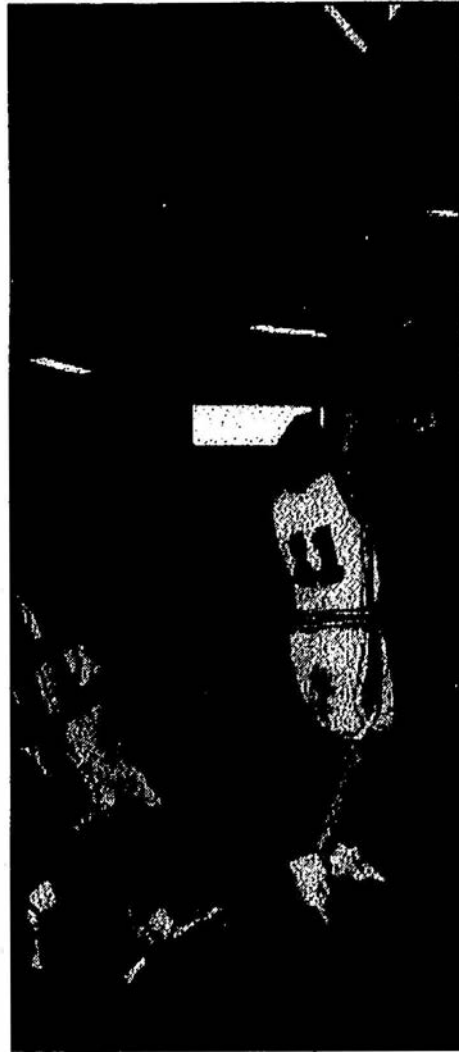
For the first time in Yeshiva University Basketball history, the Macabees traveled across the country to face two formidable opponents in California. The trip was moderately successful, earning the Macs a win and a loss, while the team enjoyed a fun-filled 6 days of winter vacation in sunny Los Angeles. The Macs returned from the trip with an 8-5 record, refreshed and ready to begin the second half of the season.

Now for an inside peek into the events that transpired during the Macs' stay in California: The Macs arrived in California on Thursday January 13, 2000 for what was touted as the "road trip to remember." The excitement was palpable as the Macs emerged from the airport to breathe the warm, although somewhat smog-infested, air of Los Angeles. After a quick check-in at the Holiday Inn Select located in Beverly Hills, where the team would be spending the 6 subsequent nights, the team went directly to the Santa Monica High School gymnasium for a two hour practice. After an exhausting practice Thursday night, followed by another one Friday morning, the team had some free time to see the city before settling in for a nice Shabbat hosted by the gracious and hospitable Jewish communities of Century City and Beverly Hills.

The team davened at the Young Israel of Century City, where they were warmly welcomed by Rabbi Muskin and the community. Meals were set up for Friday night and Shabbat day at the homes of local alumni who were kind enough to invite the members of the team and the accompanying staff. The entire team agreed that "the meals were an excellent hook-up."

After Shabbat, the team got a chance to walk around the city sporting their "duds" at some of the most exciting places in Los Angeles for an evening of wholesome good fun. The team was back early Saturday night in anticipation of the early Sunday morning practice at the local YMCA. After practice, the team had some free time to do as they pleased, so the team split up for an afternoon spent either at Universal Studios, playing golf, or just lounging and watching some football.

The next day the team faced Chapman University for an afternoon game on

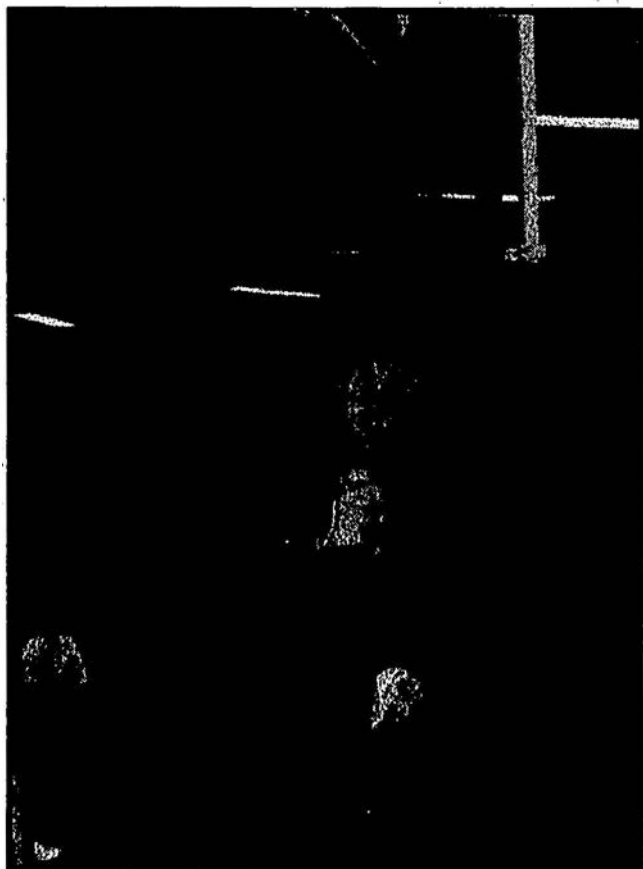


Martin Luther King Day, allowing members of the Jewish community to come out and root for their favorite Division III basketball team. After a strong start and a quick lead, the Macs' momentum slowed as the point differential dwindled, culminating in a Macs' loss, in a close, down to the wire game, by a score of 69-63.

Coming off the disappointing and heart-wrenching loss, most of the team felt the best way to spend the next day was at the "happiest place on earth," Disneyland. Though the famed Space Mountain was closed, the team focused their attention on the excellent water rides including Splash Mountain and the Canoes. A good time was had by all, even though many of the members of the team left with colds due to the dramatic decrease in temperature when the sun set and the stillwet clothes they wore.

On Wednesday, the team had some free time before their game against La Sierra University. The Macs visited some famous LA sites, including the Hollywood Walk of Fame, Rodeo Drive, Nagila Kosher Restaurant, and Venice Beach, before packing up and checking out. The Macs then went on to the game where they put on a strong performance as they edged out their opponents in a 67-53 victory. With feelings of mirth and merriment and an overall feeling of satisfaction, the team departed for the red-eye flight back to New York.

The feedback that the Athletics Department received from the community of Los Angeles, as well as all the participants of the trip, was extremely positive. Based on the success of this trip, the team hopes that they will have similar opportunities in the future to represent the Yeshiva in communities around the country and the world.



Yeshiva Sports

President's Circle Refuses to Fund Commentator

BY JASON CYRULNIK

The President's Circle, a University entity responsible for allocating yearly donations to campus organizations, recently announced that it will not contribute any funding for *The Commentator*, the official student publication of Yeshiva. The move was the first of its kind in recent history, and many student leaders now believe it to be a continuation of administrative attempts to silence Yeshiva's strongest student voice.

The President's Circle recently announced the allocation of some \$38,095 in funds to various YU student organizations and interests. Proposals detailing the need for funding and intended uses of donations were submitted by student leaders to the Circle. Just two weeks ago the President's Circle dispatched a spreadsheet that demarcated the appropriation of their funds.

The *Commentator's* proposal for funding

was included in what YCSC President Jonathan Mell deemed the Student Council's "succinct, but thorough" proposition. The President's Circle has in the past sustained an amiable relationship with Yeshiva University's official undergraduate newspaper. Their donations have allowed *The Commentator* to update their equipment and maintain the development of costly, but essential projects like their popular website. The continued expenses associated with these undertakings prompted the Yeshiva College Student Council to once again request some \$8,000 in grants for the coming semester.

It is against this backdrop that *Commentator* staff members were shocked to learn of the decision to entirely overlook funding for *The Commentator* in this semester's allocation. The President's Circle has

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New Building Opens At Stern

BY PINCHAS SHAPIRO

After months of dawdling, planning, working, and anticipation, Yeshiva University officially opened its new building at the Midtown campus. The building, located at 215 Lexington Avenue, was purchased by the University two years ago in an ongoing effort to expand its midtown campus.

The new building is in addition to the existing midtown center and the art annex which have been overflowing because of the great enrollment expansion Stern College experienced since the mid-nineties. The building will help alleviate the strain placed on the main center and the Stern administration, which has struggled in the past to find space for its ever-growing student body.

For the Spring semester, the bulk of English department classes were moved to the new location. This came as a surprise to both teachers and students who left for vacation thinking classes would resume in the overcrowded main center. To their delight, signs that were posted informed students that classes would be held in the new location, which features larger, well lit rooms.

Yeshiva owns the entire building at 215 Lexington Avenue, however presently only the lobby and seventh floor are being used. In addition to completing the second and third floors for classroom space, the university plans to include a dining area and stu-

dent lounge on the first floor. An escalator will run from the lobby to the third floor to alleviate elevator traffic. Although there are four elevators in the building, Yeshiva is only permitting its students to use one of them. Current plans are to complete these projects for the Fall 2000 semester.

Currently it is unclear what will be done with the present midtown center. It is also unclear precisely when the theater Yeshiva purchased two years ago will be functional. The University has installed a state-of-the-art sound system in the theater which will be used for lectures, concerts and Stern plays, however they declined to install a proper lighting system.

According to students who spoke with Mr. Rosengarten, he said that a consultant determined that it was "more cost-effective for the university to rent lights on a need basis than to install their own computerized system." This statement is in contrast to a *Commentator* inquiry that surveyed theater experts, lighting technicians and engineers, all of whom quickly concluded that the installation of a permanent lighting system would serve the building better and save the University money in the long term.

Most students seem to be excited about the new building. "It is a good start and I hope there is more to come," said April Simon, Stern College Student Council President.



Commie Staffers seen publicking at Yeshiva Trivia Bowl.

Yeshiva Students Ready for Arts Festival

BY SHMULI SINGER

Yeshiva's annual Arts Festival will open with a bang this Sunday, February 20th, as musicians from YU and Stern conduct a live concert in Weissberg Commons. The event will kick off two weeks of nightly events spotlighting student creative talent in all media including literature, visual arts, drama and music. This year's festival features a new twist, with events downtown as well as uptown. Another innovation is the equal administrative and organizational collaboration from both schools.

The festival is a celebration of the arts and creativity in both YU and Stern, explained Steven I. Weiss, this year's festival co-director. "Hopefully, it will provide a forum for student talent, while making this talent

available to other students. Our ultimate goal is to nurture the artistic sector at YU and Stern. We want to develop a higher quality of religious artist, one who will have much to offer the Jewish as well as artistic communities.

The first showcase of student talent, the opening concert, will display 10 musical acts. "The star attraction is definitely Alex Reamer's jazz band," said Yakov Fleishman, one of the music committee members. "We're expecting over 250 people, and the music should be amazing. The concert should provide a great jump-start to the entire festival." Fleishman also added that the refreshments will be Mexican-themed, with lots of tortillas and salsa.

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Man Murdered On Yeshiva Campus

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

Shortly after midnight, on January 16, Diego Rivera, twenty-three, of W. 140th St. was found dead inside a car on Laurel Hill Terrace. Police discovered the body with a gun shot wound to the head in the back seat of a 1990 Nissan in the area adjacent to the Yeshiva University Uptown Campus.

Long since the end of Washington Heights' days of being "New York City's war zone," this murder awakens specters of days past that have not entirely gone away. In the eighties and early nineties, Washington Heights was best known for drugs, crime and murder. A string of drive-by shootings and other outside threats led to the erection of blockades in front of Yeshiva's buildings and an increased security presence on campus.

With the nation's surging economy and the plummeting crime rate, Washington Heights has changed dramatically.

This murder raises concerns that have been brought to the attention of the Student Life Committee many times and that have been discussed on the pages of *The Commentator* for years. Additional security, better lighting and the incorporation of the Laurel Hill Terrace into Yeshiva's uptown campus have been the demands of students for the latter part of the past decade.

Coincidentally, the Facilities department issued a letter after the fire at Seton Hall addressing student concerns and informing them of their continued safety. However this incident was not made known to students.

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Students congregate in Weissberg Commons for the Super Bowl and FREE FOOD.

THE COMMENTATOR

500 West 185th Street

New York, NY 10033

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Brought To You By The Shabbos Queen.



"I defy any of you to wake up at four in the morning, look in the mirror and not think about alligators."

COMMENTATOR Acquires ObserveHer

BY COMMIE SUTRA

Further distinguishing itself as the premier Yeshiva student fornication, *The Commentator* has recently acquired the official Shidduh-begging tabloid of the College for Stern Girls, *The ObserveHer*. The hostile take over, which will only prove to dilute the masterful journalism found in the superior *Commentator* will place the mens' paper permanently on top of the girls paper. The *Commentator's* missionary outlook will alleviate some pressures and concerns of Stern Girls who could no longer bear to read the heinous piece of newsrag trash, known as the *ObserveHer*.

The *ObserveHer* which has only published one quality issue in the past, was officially disbanded in favor of several quality empty pages to be published at least once every month or two.

Current *ObserveHer* editors Miriam Elcrass and Rachel Salmon-Holster, who are now officially without any worldly purpose other than to cater to each other's needs, were pleased but not satisfied to be acquired by their favorite Yeshiva publication. "We have always loved the *Commentator*. We

try to emulate them constantly," stated Elcrass. "When they modernized their layout, we did it. When they got on the web, we did it too. When they updated their website, we did it yet again and it was wonderful. We have been trying to be the *Commentator* since the beginning." Salmon-Holster added, "If you can't beat them, join them, or is that marry them? Like whatever."

Commentator Editors, Aaron Klein and Alex Traiman are pleased with the acquisition. Traiman stated, "This merger clearly, truly and definitely solidifies the *Commentator* as the number one, top, best, superior, premier publication produced and confiscated on the uptown male campus." He continued, "And quite frankly, much of that *ObserveHer* was just painful to read. I have enough problems already without being forced to see such crap."

Klein said of his co-editor's statements, "I agree. Plus it's about time I owned Rachel Soloman." Yeshiva's Public Relations Department refused to comment on this and every other *Commentator* contrived issue, and *Yeshiva Today* will be printed as usual.



And you thought we'd leave you out.

Yeshiva Surges to Second on US News & World Report Survey

BY DAVID ROSEN

For the fourth year in a row, Yeshiva University appeared in the first tier of *US News and World Report's* ranking of the top national universities in the United States. Continuing its frustratingly slow but steady rise, Yeshiva got a boost and climaxed just short of the top ranking. Ranked just behind Bob Jones University, Yeshiva placed ahead of Harvard, Yale, and Touro College, taking the number two spot nationally.

Factors affecting Yeshiva's quasi-miraculous ranking include campus size and beauty, diversity of student body, and the ability for students to speak freely on any subject they choose. Reportedly, bribery may also have played a role in Yeshiva's good fortune.

"We are pleased that *US News* has again rated Yeshiva University as a top tier university," said Yeshiva President and *Rosh HaYeshiva* 'Rabbi' Dr. Norman Lamm of the new rankings. "We have an outstanding underpaid faculty and a plethora fired administrators. They work harder than myself, which is reflected in this continuing recognition of the excellence of our fiscal programs.

Furthermore, I dare anyone to wake up at four in the morning, look in the mirror and not think about alligators."

"Let's see how long we can manage to keep it up. Those boys have been working harder and harder than ever," said Stormin' Norman Adler, Dean of Yeshiva College, referring to the ranking and not the rodent on his desk. Dean Joyce Jassiunohwskeyi said "I simply don't have the time for this." At which point her darling Phoebe Rocks said, "I don't see why the boys can't stay on top and even though they're *Yeshiva* boys they should be able to keep this going for at least a little while."

Initially, the now headless Yeshiva Public Relations Department said nothing on the issue. However, after realizing that no harm could come from touting Yeshiva's good fortune, Media Relations Headless Shulman declared, "No comment." Leaks from within the media relations department have informed this now dirty probe that Shulman then proceeded to fax an unauthorized letter to the *Jewish Week* and the *Forward*. One after another anonymous administrators came forward with fears that the

president's office would misuse the ranking for personal exploitations.

Word out of the president's office is that Yeshiva's aging and centenarian lay leader plans to hold a grudge against the newspaper for weeks until next month's norm talks when he will publicly and blatantly chastise the *Commentator* Editors for leaking the story to *YU Today*.

Observer editors grossly jealous of the *Commentator's* newfound attention begged to be chastised as well. In response the girls were ignored by the president's office and every other body within the university with any semblance of relevance. Reportedly, the President's Square gave the *Observer* thirteen thousand dollars to make short sleeve t-shirts and to be good girls.

As far as individual colleges are concerned the Sy Syms School of Business failed to make the grade, reportedly because mesorah was not published in time and the library was closed *motzei shabbos* just before the test. The College for Stern Girls was ranked just behind the Opus Dei Catholic Seminary and under the Barnyard School for Smarter Stern Girls.

COMMENTATOR CANCELS PURIM ISSUE

Lack of Subject Matter to Blame

BY APRIL SIMON

In a sad but harsh decision late last week, the Editorial board of Yeshiva's feisty campus newspaper, the *Commentator*, decided that they had absolutely no choice but to cancel the world famous Purim edition. Citing lack of subject matter, *Commie* editor Gus Gussman explained that "we usually poke fun at the administration, however there doesn't seem to be any left." Concurring with his astute observation, co-editor Aaron Klein said, "Maybe we should make the entire edition about us?" And so that's what they did.

"I am Mell," said Ben Mantell, self-proclaimed spokesman for

the conspicuously absent YCSC leader, Jon Smell. Mantell had originally pledged to help provide the *Commentator* with pertinent subjects to ruthlessly mock, but he soon realized that he didn't need to do anything at all.

When asked why he fired 99% of the YU administration, 'Rabbi' Norman Lamm, President of Centenarianism, explained that "I dare anybody to wake up at four o'clock in the morning, look at themselves in the mirror and not think about alligators." When asked to elaborate on what exactly he was talking about, Lamm said, "Look, out there, it's Ceil Levinson riding a giant eagle," and then dashed furiously for the door.

The *Commentator* then pro-

ceeded to get exceedingly inebriated while playing with semiautomatic weapons. "Maybe we can just make up administrators as we go along?" Offered Traiman, before downing some wild mushrooms from the cafeteria. "Let's just work with what little we have," suggested Klein before realizing that the only choice was to cancel the edition.

And so the Purim edition, for the first time in sixty-five years, was officially canceled and replaced by a newspaper entitled "The Confiscator" written solely by Jeffrey Rosengarten in an attempt to flaunt his pathological lying, delusions of grandeur and hideous mustache to the literary world.

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BY JASON CYRULNIK

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Commie Staffers seen publicizing at Yeshiva Trivia Bowl.

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Man Murdered On Yeshiva Campus

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

Shortly after midnight, on January 16, Diego Rivera, twenty-three, of W. 140th St. was found dead inside a car on Laurel Hill Terrace. Police discovered the body with a gun shot wound to the head in the back seat of a 1990 Nissan in the area adjacent to the Yeshiva University Uptown Campus.

Long since the end of Washington Heights' days of being "New York City's war zone," this murder awakens specters of days past that have not entirely gone away. In the eighties and early nineties, Washington Heights was best known for drugs, crime and murder. A string of drive-by shootings and other outside threats led to the erection of blockades in front of Yeshiva's buildings and an increased security presence on campus.

With the nation's surging economy and the plummeting crime rate, Washington Heights has changed dramatically.

This murder raises concerns that have been brought to the attention of the Student Life Committee many times and that have been discussed on the pages of *The Commentator* for years. Additional security, better lighting and the incorporation of the Laurel Hill Terrace into Yeshiva's uptown campus have been the demands of students for the latter part of the past decade.

Coincidentally, the Facilities department issued a letter after the fire at Seton Hall addressing student concerns and informing them of their continued safety. However this incident was not made known to students.

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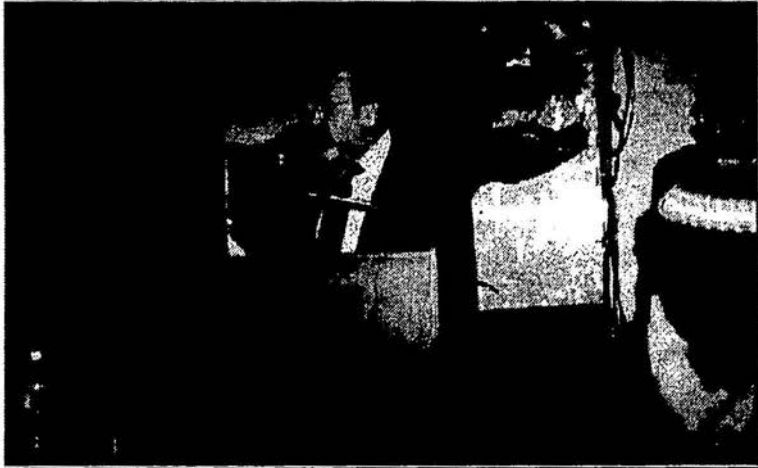


Students congregate in Weisberg Commons for the Super Bowl and FREE FOOD.

THE COMMENTATOR
500 West 185th Street
New York, NY 10033

CONFISCATOR

Brought To You By The Shabbos Queen



"I defy any of you to wake up at four in the morning, look in the mirror and not think about alligators."

COMMENTATOR Acquires ObserveHer

BY COMMIE SUTRA

Further distinguishing itself as the premier Yeshiva student fornication, *The Commentator* has recently acquired the official Shidduh-begging tabloid of the College for Stern Girls, *The ObserveHer*. The hostile take over, which will only prove to dilute the masterful journalism found in the superior *Commentator* will place the mens' paper permanently on top of the girls paper. The *Commentator's* missionary outlook will alleviate some pressures and concerns of Stern Girls who could no longer bear to read the heinous piece of newsrag trash, known as the *ObserveHer*.

The *ObserveHer* which has only published one quality issue in the past, was officially disbanded in favor of several quality empty pages to be published at least once every month or two.

Current *ObserveHer* editors Miriam Elcrass and Rachel Salmon-Holster, who are now officially without any worldly purpose other than to cater to each other's needs, were pleased but not satisfied to be acquired by their favorite Yeshiva publication. "We have always loved the *Commentator*. We

try to emulate them constantly," stated Elcrass. "When they modernized their layout, we did it too. When they got on the web, we did it too. When they updated their website, we did it yet again and it was wonderful. We have been trying to be the *Commentator* since the beginning." Salmon-Holster added, "If you can't beat them, join them, or is that marry them? Like whatever."

Commentator Editors, Aaron Klein and Alex Traiman are pleased with the acquisition. Traiman stated, "This merger clearly, truly and definitely solidifies the *Commentator* as the number one, top, best, superior, premier publication produced and confiscated on the uptown male campus." He continued, "And quite frankly, much of that *ObserveHer* was just painful to read. I have enough problems already without being forced to see such crap."

Klein said of his co-editor's statements, "I agree. Plus it's about time I owned Rachel Soloman." Yeshiva's Public Relations Department refused to comment on this and every other *Commentator* contrived issue, and *Yeshiva Today* will be printed as usual.



And you thought we'd leave you out.

Yeshiva Surges to Second on US News & World Report Survey

BY DAVID ROSEN

For the fourth year in a row, Yeshiva University appeared in the first tier of *US News and World Report's* ranking of the top national universities in the United States. Continuing its frustratingly slow but steady rise, Yeshiva got a boost and climaxed just short of the top ranking. Ranked just behind Bob Jones University, Yeshiva placed ahead of Harvard, Yale, and Touro College, taking the number two spot nationally.

Factors affecting Yeshiva's quasi-miraculous ranking include campus size and beauty, diversity of student body, and the ability for students to speak freely on any subject they choose. Reportedly, bribery may also have played a role in Yeshiva's good fortune.

"We are pleased that *US News* has again rated Yeshiva University as a top tier university," said Yeshiva President and *Rosh HaYeshiva* 'Rabbi' Dr. Norman Lamm of the new rankings. "We have an outstanding underpaid faculty and a plethora fired administrators. They work harder than myself, which is reflected in this continuing recognition of the excellence of our fiscal programs.

Furthermore, I dare anyone to wake up at four in the morning, look in the mirror and not think about alligators."

"Let's see how long we can manage to keep it up. Those boys have been working harder and harder than ever," said Stormin' Norman Adler, Dean of Yeshiva College, referring to the ranking and not the rodent on his desk. Dean Joyce Jassiunnohwskeyi said "I simply don't have the time for this." At which point her darling Phoebe Rocks said, "I don't see why the boys can't stay on top and even though they're *Yeshiva* boys they should be able to keep this going for at least a little while."

Initially, the now headless Yeshiva Public Relations Department said nothing on the issue. However, after realizing that no harm could come from touting Yeshiva's good fortune, Media Relations Headless Shulman declared, "No comment." Leaks from within the media relations department have informed this now dirty probe that Shulman then proceeded to fax an unauthorized letter to the *Jewish Week* and the *Forward*. One after another anonymous administrators came forward with fears that the

president's office would misuse the ranking for personal exploitations.

Word out of the president's office is that Yeshiva's aging and centenarian lay leader plans to hold a grudge against the newspaper for weeks until next month's norm talks when he will publically and blatantly chastise the *Commentator* Editors for leaking the story to *YU Today*.

Observer editors grossly jealous of the *Commentator's* newfound attention begged to be chastised as well. In response the girls were ignored by the president's office and every other body within the university with any semblance of relevance. Reportedly, the President's Square gave the *Observer* thirteen thousand dollars to make short sleeve t-shirts and to be good girls.

As far as individual colleges are concerned the Sy Syms School of Business failed to make the grade, reportedly because mesorah was not published in time and the library was closed *motzei shabbos* just before the test. The College for Stern Girls was ranked just behind the Opus Dei Catholic Seminary and under the Barnyard School for Smarter Stern Girls.

COMMENTATOR CANCELS PURIM ISSUE

Lack of Subject Matter to Blame

BY APRIL SIMON

In a sad but harsh decision late last week, the Editorial board of Yeshiva's feisty campus newspaper, the *Commentator*, decided that they had absolutely no choice but to cancel the world famous Purim edition. Citing lack of subject matter, *Commie* editor Gus Gussman explained that "we usually poke fun at the administration, however there doesn't seem to be any left." Concurring with his astute observation, co-editor Aaron Klein said, "Maybe we should make the entire edition about us?" And so that's what they did.

"I am Mell," said Ben Mantell, self-proclaimed spokesman for

the conspicuously absent YCSC leader, Jon Smell. Mantell had originally pledged to help provide the *Commentator* with pertinent subjects to ruthlessly mock, but he soon realized that he didn't need to do anything at all.

When asked why he fired 99% of the YU administration, 'Rabbi' Norman Lamm, President of Centenarianism, explained that "I dare anybody to wake up at four o'clock in the morning, look at themselves in the mirror and not think about alligators." When asked to elaborate on what exactly he was talking about, Lamm said, "Look, out there, it's Ceil Levinson riding a giant eagle," and then dashed furiously for the door. The *Commentator* then pro-

ceeded to get exceedingly inebriated while playing with semiautomatic weapons. "Maybe we can just make up administrators as we go along?" Offered Traiman, before downing some wild mushrooms from the cafeteria. "Let's just work with what little we have," suggested Klein before realizing that the only choice was to cancel the edition.

And so the Purim edition, for the first time in sixty-five years, was officially canceled and replaced by a newspaper entitled "The Confiscator" written solely by Jeffrey Rosengarten in an attempt to flaunt his pathological lying, delusions of grandeur and hideous mustache to the literary world.

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YESHIVA UNIVERSE

CONFISCATOR

501 W189th Street
 E-Mail: wehateyeshiva@hotmail.com
 Telephone/Fax: (900) 976-COMMIE (\$0.95 a minute)

An amorally operated public relations nightmare not funded by the President's circle and published on a bi-semesteral basis or whenever the heck we feel like it. The views expressed in the columns herein are those forcefully imposed on us and most definitely reflect the opinions of only Aaron Klein and occasionally Alex Traiman. The opinions do not represent the students' bodies, the faculty, or whatever is left of the administration especially Dr. Cwillich. ©Copyright SOY2K, Volume 8,000,000, *The Confiscator*. One issue free, \$1,850.00 for each additional issue.

AARON "CONFISCATED" KLEIN ARROGANT BASTARD	GUS "ERNIE" GUSSMAN MY HAIR IS OUT OF CONTROL
PINKY "THE BRAIN" SHAPIRO PRESIDENTIALLY CHALLENGED MUPPET	EPHRAIM "KERMIT" SHAPIRO MUPPET MASTER GENERAL
JASON "SCOOTER" CYRULNIK SPEEDY McFEELY	SHMULI "BOY" SINGER PRE-TEEN MUPPET BABY
ARI "GOTO" HELLENBERG THE PERPETUALLY MISSING MUPPET	YOSEF "MULE" LEVINE TERRIBLY BEATEN USELESS MESSIANIC MUPPET
YISHAI "ELMO" FLEISHER INNUENDO PASTOR OF THE MUPPETS	VIRTUAL DUDI "ZOOT" FEUER FLOPPY DISKED CYBER MUPPET
HADAR "BIG BIRD" WEISS WASHED UP ILLITERATE ZIONISTIC MUPPET	DAVID "GONZO" WALLACH SESAME STREET FLASHER
EDDIE "BRUNO" ROSENBERG MR. HOOPER	MOISHE "OOFNIK" SCHMERLER I LIVE IN A TRASH CAN AND DRABKIN'S MY ROOMIE

ASSOCIATE CONFISCATORS AND MUPPETS AT LARGE

None of your Business	Little Rubber Duckie Sweede
Email Clerk	Jannery Lara-Spammer
Culture	Yair Telly Oppenhimmier
Oscar The Grouch	Leo "Sea Monster" Taubes
Cookie Monster	April "Fozzie Bear" Simon Shlita
Paranoid Schizophrenics	Miriam and Rachel

THE CONFISCATOR ONLINE: [HTTP://WWW.YUCOMMENTATOR.COM](http://www.yucommentator.com)



**FROM THE SELF-PROCLAIMED
 RULER OF THE FREE WORLD**

AARON "BIBI HATER" KLEIN

Message in a Time Capsule: A Crack-Inspired Diatribe

I offer this message to all those browsing the *Confiscator* archives in hopes of discerning the quality of life at the turn of the millennium. All right, I'll admit, like every time I write my columns, I'm a little drunk right now.

In fact, I am so piss drunk it's not even funny. So I've retired to my room to write about the year. It was a strange year indeed, a kind of seasoning among the marshes, the migrating fowl and the students of Yeshiva. Don't tell anyone, but I think Alex slipped something in my drink because now I'm seeing smurfs.

So I'll just sit it off and write. I'll be fine; just as time heals the marsh grasses that wither and perish in the winter cold, so does it quell the storms that often threaten the human soul. Yes sir.


Wow, the sun is rising. It's setting again. My hands are getting jiggy. I think I can see the message in the chaotic flow of events that have conquered me. Yeah, this year we had a great time; a time when I became aware of the tides ebbing and flooding in accordance with the transcendental clockwork of the universe; a time of arrogantly inserting my picture on the front page of every edition; a time of pale, wafer thin moon in the early Washington Heights sky, of peeing in the plants outside the office, of misusing eight million dollars and of the last star to vanish with the coming

of the sun over the green waters.

My head is spinning now, the smurfs just turned into little Normy Lamms, and they're poking me with their pitch forks. Anyway, so it was a good time, for I have never followed the hunters into the woods or the fishermen up the river. I think I saw Phoebe Rock on television the other day, she was playing (I Dream of) Genie's evil sister. Speaking of secretaries, has anyone ever seen the MYP lady? Every time I see her, I feel like rubbing her head and making a wish upon a star. Oh, Shabbos, who's saying that?

I feel like I'm in a boat, the sole craft desecrating the steel gray waters. The marsh is anchoritic, reflective and brooding; Leo Taubes is off the deep end. He used to give out only "C"s, so we called him the "C" Monster, but now he's the Mother "F"er. Weeee... I'm on a canoe. I'm the only person in a vast stretch of water, the only index of civilization in the tenuous, light-inflected darkness of five o'clock in the morning. I actually think I'm going to throw up now.

I'm back. I feel a lot better. Holly Haahr teaches french what? My head is spinning, the little Normys are climbing up my legs and chirping something in German. I think I'm going to lie down for a few minutes. Hope you all have a Happy Purim, and don't forget the rodenticide!



MUSINGS OF THE ALLEGED YCSC PRESIDENT

JON SMELL

BY BENJAMIN J. MANTELL

Hello. My name is Mell. I am a CEO at Goldman Sachs. Some of you may know me. I like trees, skyscrapers are nice as well. Yesterday I was very very happy to walk down Amsterdam Avenue waving at all the many people. It was great, so very great that I think I'm going to do it, tomorrow again. My friend Ben is my friend. Him and I have done a lot of good things for you people and they smell great. Some of those things have not included lower prices in the caf, ethernet in the dorms, and a new speaker system in the gym. But I did do something, just ask Dov, he told me so. Before the end of the semester we have a very very great trip planned to the YU Museum. I never knew there was a museum on campus, but I really really look forward to going so very much, so very, very much.

I am M(ant)ell. Got Mell? Mell am I. I don't know... Am I Mell? Among my accomplishments is putting my name over Ben's column in every issue of the *Commentator*. But there is so much more to do. So very much more that there will always be so much more. To do. How do you do? I do just fine. I am Mell. It is Purim now, and in the spirit of doing the opposite, I will get out of bed.



got mell?

MISSING

ALLEGED YCSC PRESIDENT
Name: Jon Mell
Height: 4' 8"
Weight: 99 lbs.
Hair: Bleached
Eyes: Closed
 Last Seen in Estihana wearing Goldman Sachs t-shirt and IBC bib
IF FOUND, PLEASE RETURN TO BEN MANTELL
AHUVABEN@AOL.COM

CAMPUS BULLETIN BOARD

Attention JSS Students: Shabbos will once again be held this week from Friday night until one hour after sundown on Saturday. Elevators may not be used, television sets are strictly prohibited, and yarmulkes (foreign-looking round things) must be worn.

Student Council will be holding an open Student Council meeting. Yeah right, who are we kidding?

Student council will be hold a meeting. Yeah right, who are we kidding.

Bibi, please return my calls - Aaron.

Have you ever wanted to work for the Caff? Do you like horse meat? How about monster roaches? Maybe Brontosaurus legs? Contact Jake at 212-960-5400. If no answer, just look for Jannice.

For Sale: One pair of Ashkanaz t'fillin, barely used. Call Alex.

Wanted: One pair of Ashkanaz t'fillin, barely used. Call Aaron.

Missing: One pair of Ashkanaz t'fillin. Call Rabbi Rapp in the JSS office.

Ten more guys are requested for the monthly Russian minyan. Come on guys,

it's only once every four weeks!

Senior class seeks competent board to plan and execute dinner. Must have excellent extortion skills, highschool diploma or GED, and must be at least a Freshman in good or decent academic standing. Actually, anyone will do. Contact Moish "Oofnick" Schmerler because I'm not Mell.

Still looking for my marbles. -R.S.

Do you use drugs or alcohol? Do you party late at night? Are you irresponsible? If so, Office of Housing is looking for qualified RA's.

Wanted: Competent webmaster for Observer website. Contact dudi_and_ephram@yacommentator.com.

Attention Sy Syms & Stern students: The community literacy program is back! To sign up for a tutor, please call Mayra.

Wanted: Active student council for the 1999-2000 academic year. Please contact Yeshiva College. Second floor Morg residents need not apply.

Do you wanna make a lot of money doing nothing? Come work at the writing center! Call Fitz Gerald at 960-1234.

A Lame Purim Poem

Being that its Purim and we want people to laugh,
I think its high time we took a look at our staff.
Well start at the bottom with our helpers in the café,
And work it to the top to Shirley and Rabbi Rapp.

When your finished morning classes, still tired from last night,
Stomach is growling, decide to go get a bite.
You anyhow have to use that card up, and the choices you get,
Dry fish or macaroni, from men and women in a hairnet.

If you survived the experience and have time to spare,
You run out to your dorm room, apartment or lair.
Whether it be in Muss Hall, Morgenstern or Rubin,
Or an occasional visit to the office of Robert Lubin.

You get to your building look whose waiting at the front,
A burns security guard, where's your card you little runt.
I got you now, ha-ha, is your name on the list?
Finally, something to do; walkie-talkie, you run-he gets pissed.

Having an in with some of the office staff is playing your cards right,
Whether its Betty at the registrar, or Phoebe working late at night.
Dean Schmidman is always around if you need to talk,
Dean Jesonowski and Beth are the "not now's," go take a walk.

So as you can see, our staff is not so sound,
Its time we told them no more fooling around.
But I guess they now know if they are reading this letter,
So i'll just go now and hope things get better.

An Even Lamer Purim Song

To the tune of "We didn't Start the Fire."

CHORUS:

Did we Really Retire? We know that we were hired, some heard we might be fired.
We didn't plan to retire, We were always working while The Ax was lurking.

New Year, Ceil's Gone, Phoebe Rock keeps rocking on,
"David Rosen leaves again, this times it for good."

Tom Deering MIS. That department is a mess
Paul Scudato 13th floor, also left the hood.

Mell Davis Registrar, Caught Morales in the bar.
Leo Taubes fails us all, who needs him anyway?

Ross Zucker he's still here, but he won't be in a year.
Jen Berman, Tara Lara who's counting anyway?

CHORUS

Effie Nulman confiscated, Commentator's really hated.
Netanyahu's house was raided, Sarah's really pissed.

Syms loses Nierenberg, crashes like the Hindenberg.
Serels off to god knows where. Sefardim all feel dissed.

Rabbi Hecht joins the crew, Jesionowski - "not a Jew."
Cardozo dean resigns his post, Scheck makes news again.

Rabinowitz, says Cheerio, sixty years it's time to go.
Bronspigel of to Touro, The Lander School for Men.

CHORUS

Zilbert, Ross, MIS. Have you seen Rabbi Cheifetz?
Perrie Nordlicht left us too, Feinberg gets the boot.

Persky, Honigwachs, losers like the lady Macs.
Pocahontas says Shalom, who really gives a hoot?

Up for Tenure, years galore, he won't stay here anymore.
Danishefsky says goodbye, Gives in to Lander's Call.

Gottesman is leaving too, What the heck will Lamm Do?
Close the street, Lions roar WE CANT TAKE IT ANYMORE!

OPCS POSITIONS

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE:

Dean, Sy Syms School of Business.

Must have blood pressure, social security number and YU Semikha. Ira Jaskol need not apply. E-Mail Jannery Lara ten times with incredibly annoying messages that make absolutely no sense and are completely irrevelavant to this job opening.

Director, Public Relaions Department.

No experience required or wanted. Must be capable of being quoted on the record anonymously by official undergraduate newspaper. Be ready to leak all necessary information to The Commentator.

University Dean of Students.

Must be an expert in marijuana and other pertinent illegal substances. Should be willing to take responsibility in international newspapers for every University screw up. Annual Salary: \$1,850.00 - \$8,000,000.00

JACOB'S

LADDERS

It's Our Turn For Attention
... PLEASE!

To the self-proclaimed rulers of the universe:

We are on to you. We put out, a great paper and now everyone is out to get us. Why do you people always look at us funny? We know you're plotting something and when we figure out what it is, you're all going to be sorry. We're going to tell Rabbi Lamm on you.

It's not fair that you were put in the *New York Times* and we weren't. Will somebody please give us some attention? We both hear voices and see little bloody monsters hanging from our doorposts.

Stop staring at us already!

Miriam and Rachel

Tell it Like it is

To the Editors:

I couldn't help but notice that you featured a relatively clean article on Woodstock 99. What kind of reporting is that? Either present the realities of a situation or don't publish at all. I mean, do you actually expect us to believe that all you people did was interview singers and walk around a parking lot? I want to hear everything in its intricate, pornographic detail. With two hundred

thousand college students present, you must have seen or participated in something interesting. But then again, you are Yeshiva Boys.

So, editors, I implore you to write another article on the event, only this time tell it like it is.

Sincerely yours,
Shalom Carmy

An Administrative
Perspective

To the Editor:

We would like to write an open letter to all students: We read with interest every page of *The Commentator*. Your concerns certainly reach our ears. Please don't think we cold heartedly ignore student gripes and complaints.

But why are you guys so lazy? This institution is here for you, yet you just sit around and mope. Why can't you morons figure out how to register for classes? We shouldn't

need to simplify the process because you're all blithering idiots. You want us to close Amsterdam Avenue? Can't you learn to cross the street on your own? Look both ways, damn it!

Look, we don't care about you, but we're here to help in any way possible. So stop wasting your parents' money.

Sincerely yours,
The administration.

THE CONFISCATOR

could quite frankly do without letters from our pathetic readers.

However, if you must submit,

Letters should include the writer's name, address, fetish and credit card number.

THE CONFISCATOR represents the moral right, and may edit all letters for author, opinion, syntax, content, and girth.

The Confiscator

1850 W. 1850th St.

New York, NY 8000000

normylamm@alligator.com

I Asked you not to drop the

STUDENT SOAP BAR

So here I am again. A whole year later and still not one date. After my column in last year's Purim issue, I thought I might actually get a sympathy call. Absolutely nothing. Here I am, the very very good YU boy, about to graduate and no arm candy for senior dinner.

It seemed so easy at the beginning of the year. I decided to take the big plunge and go on the orientation cruise to maybe pick up a cute Freshie chick. What children! It's like I don't know that generation. My friends told me about the cute fifth year gal who was a sure thing, but I reminded them that I was still frum, even though I stopped going to shiur two years ago. The three to three sleep cycle has got me beat.

The Chanukah concert was a big investment for me. I actually found both cute Stern girls who weren't engaged yet (well, one had a broken engagement but no one is supposed to know that except her aunt who told me so because I checked her out real good). After a very nice conversation, I was about to suggest a date, when she jumped up and ran back to her seat in heated excitement as Shloime Dachs began to sing "that song!" I believe it was called "Hagalach

Hamoel Osee." Whatever.

On to the event of the year, the shidduchfest of the new millennium, the doozy of all singles events, where frum guy and the *aidle maidle* can converge without the slightest pretense - the SOY seforim Sale. It was really confusing this year. Last year, chick night was changed from Thursday to Wednesday because the really good girls decided that *Chas V'shalom* anyone should think they came for anything besides seforim if they came on Thursday so they came on Wednesday. That really confused me this year when Tuesday suddenly became chick night. I was about to pick up the last copy of that yellow *shidduch* guide (I had dashed across the room, jumped a table and decked some poor pathetic mother in my successful attempt to get to the last one), when I notice the new sequel to the timeless classic, "Finding your *Bashert*." What a dumb book.

So here I sit, on my soap bar on another lonely Purim, on my way to graduate, and no one upon which to bestow my MRS. Degree and a beautiful ring of cubic zirconium, you know they really are just like diamonds. YU really sucks.

THE CONFISCATOR

has unwillingly decided to accept your submissions for The Student Soapbar, a column dedicated to allowing students to freely express themselves as well as wet showers, since we are not sure why we accept the submissions, as nobody on the Commie staff really cares and we have our own evil agendas like most of the faculty and the administration, particularly, well it is not important who, but you know who you are and you may or may not have a really ugly mustache.

Anyway, submit away suckers.

pleasesubmittous@werealycare.com

Burns Security Guards Confiscate Commentators, Use publication as Rolling Paper

BY THE POPE

In a shocking news development, *The Commentator* has probed, probing that the recent confiscation of *Yeshiva Commentators* was the sole responsibility of the Burns Security guards themselves and not that of the administration. Our sources have learned that an insidious plot had made a wrong turn into a hellish inferno that might have sent the highest echelons of this University plunging right along with it.

After a few hard weeks of make-shift surveillance and with a group of dedicated students, the *Commentator* has learned that the Burns team has been stealing *Commentators* for the sole purpose of - yes, you guessed it - rolling massive joints. We were not surprised to know that our newspaper was perfect for rolling long sumptuous joints, but we were taken aback by the audacity of the guards who swore to love and protect us with all their heart and with all their soul. The plot thickened and erected when our sources divulged that these joints were actually prepared by the guards in order to blow the smoke at administrators who passed them by. They believed that by doing this they would help the sensu-

ally-repressed administrators give them a raise.

Our source who would only give his first name, Cheech, told us: "ye, iz like, you know, dey need to smoke cause they aint' no gettin none, and they's need it bad, man." Another even higher official within the Burns team, Chong, has told us that the *Commentators* were choice papers for smoking. He said it was due to their slow burn and had a flavor that reminded him of his brand back home.

Administrators were shocked when we confronted them and one had this to say: "I'm shocked, taken aback, and flatulent, I am impressed that Burns had such foresight and ability to take charge. In fact I never thought they could do anything at all." Cheech and Chong both verified that many a dark night have been spent sifening, stealing and rolling *Commentators* into a subtle blend of hash, Afgani, Northern Lights, Purple Haze, Chronics, Opium, and donkey dung. A more eloquent Burns man told us of one of those nights and described it as wild and tawdry. That night guards converged around a bonfire and paid homage to the sun god and then to Sammy Sosa. Then they smoked our precious *Commentators* like so many rolls of toilet paper.

Dancinger Quadrangle to be Moved Downtown

BY TY D. BOWL

For years considered the perennial uptown campus staple, the Dancinger Quadrangle is set to move downtown this spring. The quadrangle will become one of five new fixtures on the College for Stern Girls Midtown campus, a college devoted to the pampering of immature females.

The quadrangle, which currently occupies space in front of the Gottesman Pool and lies adjacent to Rubin Hall will remain in uptown operation only until enough money is stolen to complete the IHP expansion of green marine style tents and cots that will permanently solve Yeshiva's housing problem. The quad will then be transported to its new midtown location. There, it will double as a use-less parking lot and a grazing area for Stern Girls who need a place go after the hallowed halls of Macy's are closed to all farm animals.

The advantages of a new location represent the prime motivation behind the move: "Uptown we don't get the type of livestock we should. We get guys playing football and people cutting across the quad using it as a shortcut, but few individuals will actually stop and appreciate the quadrangle for the spaciousness of the grazing area and the healthful entree it can provide," explained Jeff Socol, University Director of Geometric Shapes. It is the walk-in crowd of heavy set Stern Girls that he believes will transform the quadrangle from the muddy field it is now to

a delectable dish, vibrant and thriving.

The quadrangle has already become an integral player in the educational system as it currently serves to teach Sy Syms students how to cut corners. In the past the quad taught property rights and demarcation lines as its existence provides a sound example of green land preservation in the big city. Many of these lessons will remain in operation at the quad's new location, but it will now be extended to a much larger student body.

In addition to increasing the quads reach, administrators hope the move will serve another function. The new location will enable the establishment of a program where food majors in the College for Stern Girls would be afforded the opportunity of interning on the facility, gaining invaluable hands-on experience in the everyday operation of an animal feeding ground.

Regarding plans for the vacated space, the current idea is to bury some of the skeletons from the collective university closet in the space and to construct a real, thriving, beautiful university campus on the forty yards in front of the MSACK. Such prospects were received well by students, who for the most part seemed relatively sad to see the quad leave. "While I'll miss the heavy petting and the almost surreal tinge that the quad added to our uptown campus," explained one YC junior, "the move seems to be in everyone's best interests. They are short on grazing space in midtown."



What would Rashi say about this?



WE MADE THE TIMES!! WE MADE THE TIMES!!

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

Subject: Network Upgrades

On Monday, January 24th, the YU network will be taken down for several hours for upgrades and maintenance, beginning at noon. Since that is the first day of classes, we thought it would be a perfect time to do work on the network. We also made it during the day, instead of at night, in order to maximize inconvenience. We plan to finish the upgrades by 6:00 pm, but we might screw up and everything will be down for days.

During the downtime, you will not be able to use the internet or email. However, your email will still be received. You will also not be able to print from the labs, or find a chair without a broken back. Actually, that has nothing to do with the network upgrades.

We hope that these upgrades will ensure better and faster internet access, until next Thursday, when we'll take it down again for more "upgrades."

**Dominick De La Rosa
Manager of Networking and Research
Management Information Services
Yeshiva University**



"Potato. P-O-T-A-T-O-E. Potato"

The New York Times

PROUDLY PRESENTS

A NEW VOLUME OF THE TORAH DOESN'T MADDAH PROJECT

MASIECHET BAVA COMMIE

הגזול עיתונים פרק ראשון בבא קמי ב

הגזול. בעלמו או אל ידי שליח: כשעת הגזילה. כגון בית פתוח ויש אומרים צמנצע ספרים: מכונת מכירה. של עיתונים: משלם כפל. מפני תיקון עולם: גמ' שפיר. אע"ף שלפעמים

כחבו על עניני ממשות אין חוששין למיעוט: נוי יורק טיימס. כל החדשות שראוי להדפסה: נקמה. מפני שמגלה מעשי גזילה בשיבה: מפני שדבריו סומרין זה אם זה. שראשי הישיבה אומרים שהגמרא נכתב צמקשה אחת ובית שמה פרידמן אומרים שמגילות מגילות נכתב: צמנצע ספרים. סוי ספרים סיי"ל צלע"ו: מצרוקלין. מונב"א: לא ילפינן. מפרש צפרק ארבעה נכנסו צפרנס: המצטר. מפרש לקמן: (רבינו גופו עהור מחפטר וילא צטהרה לעבוד צטורו קולג' לא פירש יומר מכאן ואילך לשון תלמידו ד"ר ג'וייס ג'סיוונסקי) וקבל שכר. אני לא מנינה למה תלמידי הישיבה כולם מצקשים שכר חפילו לשיעורי קץ וזה לכולי עלמא כאילו מלמדים אותם טיפלות ופשוט אין לי זמן לזה:

משלם כפל. פרש"י מפני תקון עולם צימיהן סהיו בקיאיין צתיקון עולם סייך למגור אבל לדידן אין לנו בקיאיין איך לתקן העולם ולא סייך למגור: גמ' נוי יורק טיימס לא

משלמים. ואם תאמר למה לא גזוהו עתוני "יו אם נוי" שפסלו ישיבתנו ל"שלדון אורדקס" ויש אומרים שחס גזוהו אי אפשר לפרנס שאלו נמלאים צמדרינה העליונה: גזלו. אמר ר' רייכמן לקח קרא וחזר לאו שמה גזילה אבל לקח אותה הציתה שמה גזילה ולמה מחזירין בכלל מפני שהם נמלאים צמבואת מורג וקפדו צעליהם וקשה לריץ שעיתוני פורים מותר לגזול סיס צחס ליצנות ופריצות דתנן שאין הלכתא צפוריא שנאמר על כן היהודים הפריצים היושנים צערי הפריצות מלמד שהכל שרי צפוריא (שיכורים ל:) ומחך ד"ר לי דאקור לגזול עיתוני פורים מסוס חופס הדיבור:



עיתונים וורקן לאשפה משלם כשעת הגזילה הגזול מכונת מכירה משלם כפל זה הכלל כל הגולנים משלמין כשעת הגזילה: גמ' עיתוני גברים אין עיתוני נשים לא עיתוני נשים מי קרי והתניא מעשה במעגל הנשיא שמשלם כסף לעיתוני נשים ולא משלם לעיתוני גברים אמר רב לא מפני שעיתוני נשים שפיר אלא כדי לעשות נחת רוח לנשים כמה דברים אמורים בעיתוני תלמידים אבל בעיתוני נוי יורק טיימס לא משלמים אמאי לא משלמים והא תנן הגזול מכונת מכירה משלם כפל אלא אם גזלו מפני נקמה אין לו דמים שלח להם אלקם לנשיאים קבעוני לדורות [ותנו לנו כסף] שלחו לו קנאה אתה מעורר עלינו לבין האומות שלח להם כבר כתונ: אני בניו יורק טיימס ובשבוע היהודי בקשו חכמים לגנוז ספר בית יצחק מפני שדבריו סותרין זה את זה ומפני מה לא גזוהו מפני שנמכרו בשולחן ראשי

הישיבה במצצע ספרים והא גזוהו חכמים לא גזוהו אלא האי צורבא מרבנן דאתא מצרוקלין גזוהו בקשו חכמים לגנוז ספר נחלה משום שנאמר כי לא נתן להם נחלה בתוך בני ישראל ומפני מה לא גזוהו משום שנאמר טובה חכמה עם נחלה והא גזוהו אלא אמר רב פרנס דברי קבלה לא ילפינן תנן המבשר לא היה ולא עתיד להיות ולמה קוראין עיתון כותב על חומי וקבל שכר מאי שכר אין כאן מקום להארי'

COMING SOON TO A SEFORIM SALE NEAR YOU:

Pachad Beit Yitzchak - Agmas Nefesh Harav - Bava Commie Wingding Edition

Every Remaining Yeshiva Administrator Resigns

BY BEN DOVER

In a string of completely unrelated incidents, every undergraduate dean in Yeshiva University resigned this morning. The mass exodus is characteristic of the resignations that have blessed the university this year. The resignations will eliminate all of the red tape that has plagued administrative decisions in the past and will also free up much needed space in the Main Building as well as in Furst and Belfer Hells.

The Yeshiva College Deans office was completely liquidated with Deans Adler and Joyce both leaving to undisclosed locations. Reportedly, they first had to remove the permanent locks that they had placed on their doors to keep students out. It has become clear that Dean Adler will resume his study and research of rodents behaving badly. "My last experiment went incredibly awry and I think I need to spend more time researching."

Dean Joyce grabbed her darling Phoebe Rocks as she darted past a crowd of MYP students. "I simply don't have time for this anymore," said Joyce, even though we didn't ask her to comment.

Dean Joyce's darling Phoebe Rocks will return to the silver screen in the role of a lifetime as "Xena Warrior Prince the Movie." Mattel has already bought the licence to market and promote the new Xena action figures. They will come with fifteen different hairstyles and they are reportedly the tallest action figures to date.

The Yeshiva College Deans office will continue to operate unhampered by the resignations. The work-study system that was set in place over the past two years will ensure that all functions of the office will continue to run at the same painstakingly slow and decrepit rate that they have in recent times. Dr. Noda Click's job description will expand once again and she will now be the overseer of the work study gang as they bilk the deans office of hardware and office supplies on a daily basis while collecting minimum wage checks for their inactivity.

Shirly Slander secretary of JSS, IBC and BMP told the *Confiscator* that Deans Schmidman and Rapp also resigned earlier today. Slander said she was unaware of Rapp's whereabouts but that "if you looked for the dopey guy with the only velvet yarmulka in IBC you might be able to find him." Slander said that Schmidman threw

up his arms at around 9:10 AM and said that he was going on a permanent search and that he would not return to his office until he was able to locate his marbles.

Dean Neirenberg had already announced his resignation and said that his departure from Belfer Hell this morning was merely to his midmorning nap so that he would not be cranky later on. Ira Jashole also resigned this morning, causing OPCS to announce that they have taken an incredible loss and Jannery Lara will immediately spam the ymail server to search for his replacement.

The most shocking of all the resignations this morning was that of Rabbis Harloop and Brainstoned. Reportedly the two were sick and tired of working for Yeshiva. Many factors contributed to their departure. One reason was the recent decision to break the gemara cycle and learn Bava Commie next year instead of a *moed*.

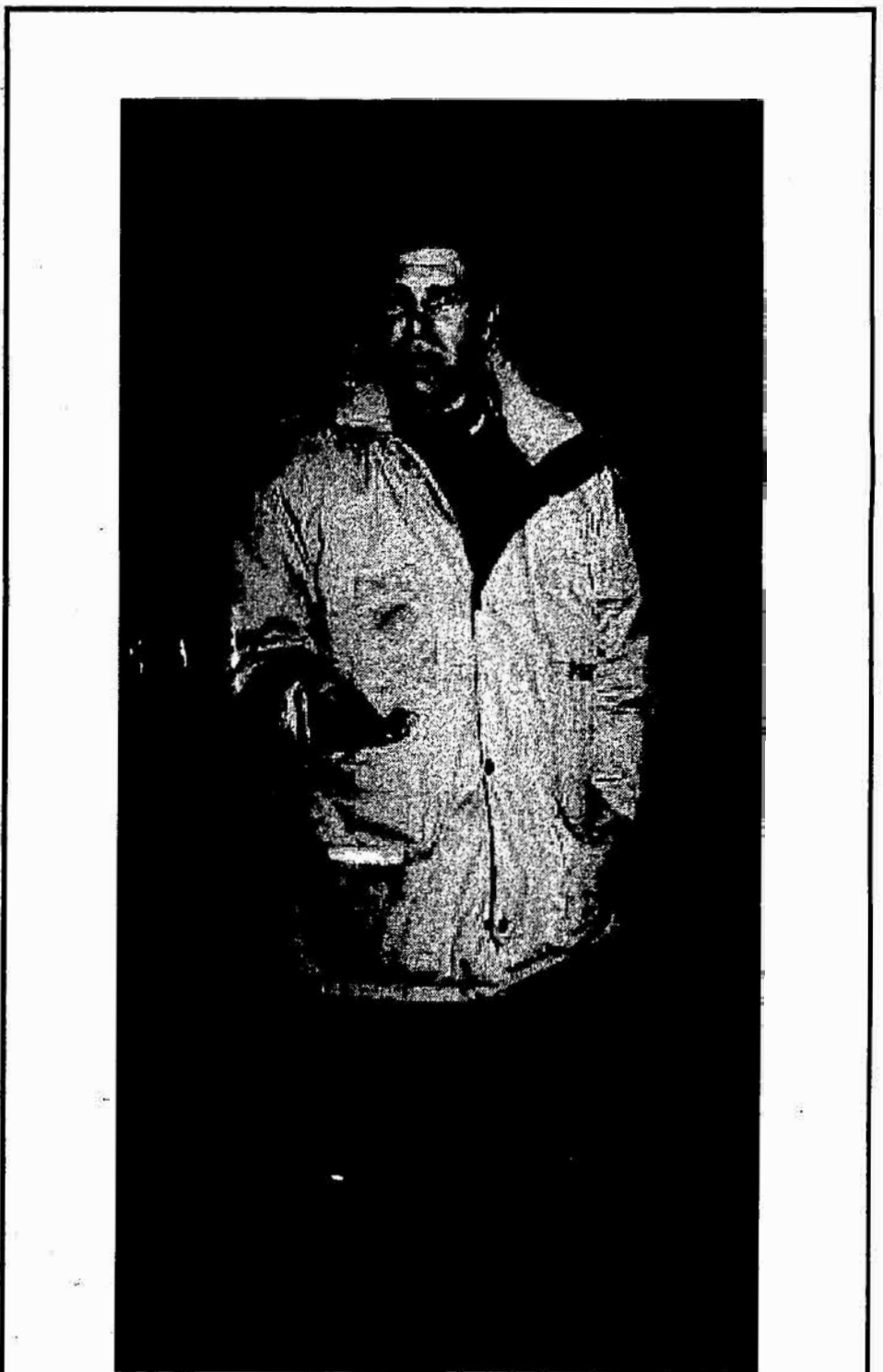
Sources have leaked to the *Confiscator* that Rabbi Harloop was in fact fired and did not resign. The reason behind the underhanded termination was that he did not heed 'Rabbi' Shamm's order to revoke Rabbi Cohen's Semikha when MTA threw him out for protesting the absurd decision the president made to shut down the high-school. "Had he just renounced Cohen's contribution to Judaism and proclaimed Shamm as the omnipresent ruler over all, Harloop would have been fine," explained one strategically placed blabber mouth.

Dispelling these rumors Harloop said "The Beit Medrash is too small, the perfume on my secretary is gonna kill me, and Aton Holster has done more for the Yeshiva in the past year than any of the Roshei Yeshiva have ever done. And besides, Bernice Lander is paying me twice what I am making now." Reportedly, Lander will allow Harloop to pursue his dream of launching a torah satellite into space. Brainstoned, already in space, will wait patiently for the arrival of the satellite.

The resignations are all merely coincidental and are not part of any plot to rid the university of administrators. One of the few remaining high, leveled administrators explained, "If there were such a plot, don't you think Shamm and Socol would be the first to go?" The office of the Academic Vice President will initiate search committees for all of the open positions and will hire Dan Forman to place really well designed and thought out advertisements for the jobs.



"Maybe we should do something else with the eight million?"



got
milk?

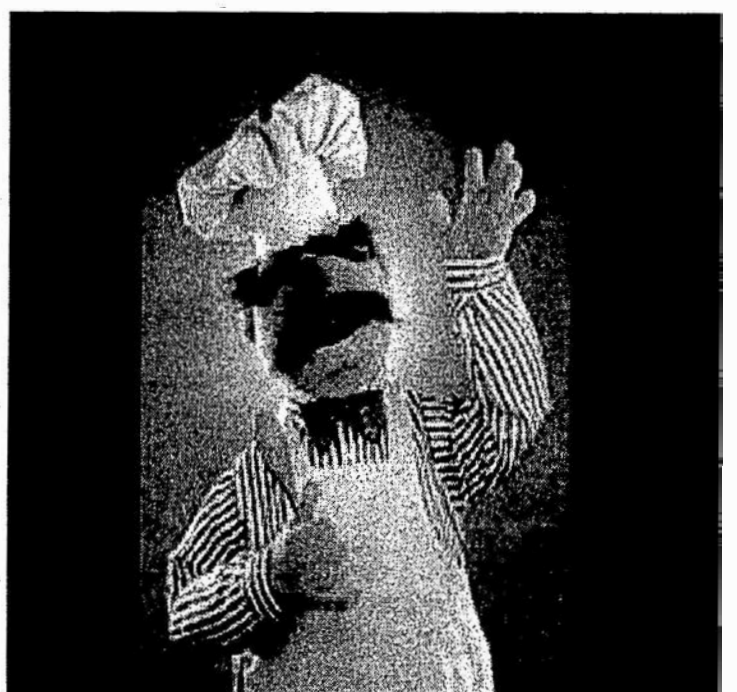


LET'S GO MACS!

CONFISCATE THIS!

The Discovery Channel & Lifetime
prevents
our fail production

THE
**STERNSKANK
REDEMPTION**



**CAMEO APPEARANCE
BY DR. CWILLICH**

A DRAMA OF FEMALE HYGIENE BY KAREN BACON AND EGGS

560 WEST 185th STREET BETWEEN DEAD CATS & POOLS OF URINE

starring **CAPTAIN JOSE MORALES** and **DEEDEE LAX**

SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY DEAN SHMIDMAN'S MARBLES

soundtrack not by **ASPAKLARIA** and **ROB THOMAS**

RUB A DUB DUB THANKS TO LOWENGRUB