



# Yeshiva University **Observer**

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## *Special Report: Uproar Over Presidential Candidate*

### **Board Members Debate Search Committee's Recommendation**

*Zakheim Likely to Withdraw*

By Adina Levine

Only a few days after the *Jewish Week* reported under secretary of defense Dov S. Zakheim as the potential presidential candidate, successive board meetings of RIETS and the Board of Trustees were held to discuss the nomination of Zakheim. Amidst substantial opposition from students and RIETS board members, *Observer* sources allege that Zakheim has already unofficially withdrawn his application.

Nevertheless, Chairman of the YU Board of Trustees Robert Beren stressed that from his perspective, Zakheim is still a candidate.

"At the moment, he's the only candidate," asserted Robert Beren, Director of the YU Board of Trustees. A Board of Trustees meeting is slated to meet for their quarterly meeting today to further discuss the presidential candidacy.

In order to be instated as the President of Yeshiva University and RIETS, Zakheim would need to be accepted by

both the Yeshiva Board of Trustees and the RIETS Board. Though the RIETS Board has not yet officially voted, vehement viewpoints were posited in the meeting held yesterday.

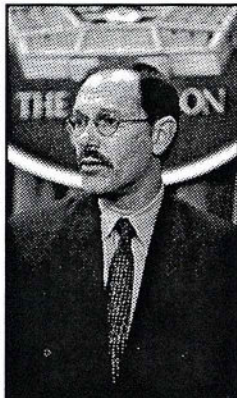
"If he wants the position, there will be a lot of arguing between the YU Board of

Trustees and the RIETS board," commented one RIETS Board member. "There might be enough pressure because there was all this brew how to prevent his appointment."

Zakheim first met with RIETS Board members at an informal luncheon following the Chag Hasmichah on Sunday. Board members questioned him on his religious back-

ground, and many emerged with doubts as to Zakheim's qualifications. "Zakheim was somewhat disappointed as a consequence of some of the things he heard when he was here on Sunday," commented Beren. "He feels the currents here at Yeshiva may be against him - possibly from the students. He received the hand-

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*Zakheim unofficially withdraws candidacy*

### **Selection of Candidate Threatens to Split President and Rosh Yeshiva**

*Yeshiva's Religious  
Character Jeopardized*

By Miriam Colton

The recommendation of Dov S. Zakheim as Yeshiva University president threatened to split the roles of president and rosh yeshiva, rejecting a union that has been in place since Yeshiva's inception as an integral part of its religious character. Though Zakheim has allegedly withdrawn his candidacy as of press, the issues that it brought to the forefront must be settled before another nomination is made

Many rebbeim were outraged by such an option, and firmly uphold the status quo of a unified rosh yeshiva and president. "I don't think splitting the roles is a good idea," said Rabbi Hershel Schachter, a rosh yeshiva at RIETS. "It will become like a secular university, so why invest so much Jewish money in it?"

Legally a quasi-separate institution because of its religious character, RIETS could reject the choice of the new president and split from Yeshiva to form a separate institution with its own president, although the possibility does not seem likely. Nevertheless, if a suitable candidate is not selected, RIETS



*The search for Rabbi Lamm's replacement raises questions of a split presidency*

ultimately could break away, leaving Yeshiva devoid of its religious character.

"In the past YU and RIETS have been legally distinct, but we have understood all along, that spiritually and functionally we worked together in mutual respect," said Rabbi Norman Lamm at the quadrennial Chag HaSemichah (ordination ceremony) at Yeshiva this Sunday.

While Rabbi Lamm, who supposedly was not informed of Zakheim's candidacy until last week, decried the splitting of the role of president and rosh yeshiva. He received a standing ovation, lead by the roshei yeshiva. "RIETS is the neshama, the soul," said Rabbi Lamm "Together, YU

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## EDITORIAL: A BROADER ISSUE

The secrecy was shattered. After months of investing time and money into the detailed presidential search process, a surprise name emerged. The rumors had predicted rabbinical figures or internal administrators, but the final candidate was neither. As the Yeshiva community revolted at the idea, two fundamentally polar views of the president's role surfaced.

The scandal and uproar lay not in the fact that it was Zakheim himself, rather that he was a candidate for president of Yeshiva. The real scandal is the break from the tradition of maintaining a unified presidency, and the burgeoning rift between the Board's vision and the community's expectations.

The nomination of Zakheim provoked underlying questions. What will Yeshiva's religious direction and culture become as the university continues grows? Is Zionism an integral ideal of our community? Does Yeshiva's future lie in its administrative capabilities or in its synthesis of Jewish and secular studies? Will Torah U'madda leave with Rabbi Lamm?

We stand at the crossroads of Yeshiva history, having traveled a well-worn path of three successful presidencies. We look to the historical legacies of the previous presidencies of Revel, Belkin and Lamm as our models for the next president. The decisions made in the next few days, weeks and months will forge a path for Yeshiva. If the needs of the community aren't met and Torah study isn't placed at the forefront of our future, ultimately there might not be a Yeshiva.

## The Observer

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## The Observer

Wishes the Entire  
Yeshiva Community

A Chag Kasher V'Samayach



# Questions Raised by Candidate Nominee

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and RIETS form a living organism. If they are separated, YU is a body without a soul, a corpse, and RIETS but a ghost."

The selection committee charged with finding a replacement for Rabbi Lamm, faced the daunting task of unearthing a candidate to fill the dual role of president and rosh yeshiva. Rabbi Lamm, and his two predecessors, Dr. Bernard Revel and Dr. Samuel Belkin, occupied both positions. However, as Yeshiva has grown exponentially in the past years, finding a man capable of being an administrator and fundraiser for the position of president, as well as being a religious and academic scholar, seems almost impossible; some type of split appears inevitable.

A possible solution to this conundrum would be to hire a president/rosh yeshiva as well as an administrator whose title is executive vice president. The president would be a religious leader and spokesman with ultimate authority, while the executive vice president would be in charge of the daily operation and finances of the university.

The selection of Zakheim as a leading candidate indicates that the search committee did not favor the aforementioned solution, and instead opted to split the roles of president and rosh yeshiva. It seemed to be looking for an ultimate administrator, and many are worried that this indicates a tendency toward secularization.

"Zakheim best fulfilled what we were looking for," said Robert Beren, chairman of the Yeshiva Board of Trustees. "We would like to see a strong administrator. There is a lot of growth needed, and would like to see the president lead the way."

Indeed, the presidential search committee letter sent out during the summer called for "an individual of high intellectual distinction with proven qualities of leadership." It did not mention scholarly Torah erudition and spiritual stature.

While other names had been bandied about as potential candidates, such as Rabbi J.J. Shachter or Rabbi Hershel Billel, it had been rumored that those rabbis were either not interested or not suitable for the position. Rabbis who have both smicha and a PhD, such as Yeshiva professors David Berger, David Schnall and David Shatz were suggested, but seemingly ruled out. "They didn't find anyone they were comfortable with," said one RIETS board member. Now, many are beginning to wonder if such rabbis were ever seriously considered.

"We want to preserve the religious

character of the institution," said Mashgiach Ruchani Rabbi Yosef Blau, who is a strong proponent of maintaining a unified presidency. "The suggested option sounds like a university with a theological seminary on the side."

Some in the Yeshiva community argue that a majority of the members of the search committee and the Yeshiva board of trustees are irreligious, and might not grasp the significance of maintaining a dual position.

Historically, the president of Yeshiva, the largest and oldest Jewish university, represented the religious ideals of the university. "The president of YU is the Modern Orthodox spokesman for Jewry in this country," said Rabbi Blau.

"You can ask any Jew, even the most charedi ones, and they'll all admit that Rabbi Lamm has been leader of Modern Orthodoxy in America," said one rosh yeshiva.

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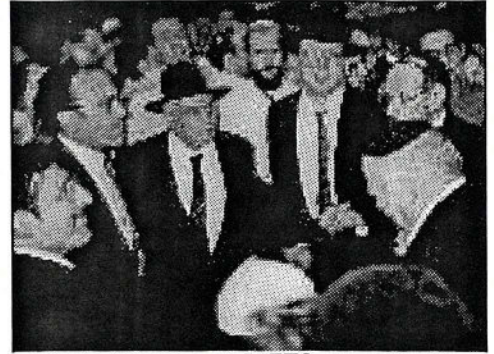
**The Board seemed to be looking for an ultimate administrator, and many are worried that this indicates a tendency toward secularization.**

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Aside from having published a few articles in the *Sh'ma Journal*, a pluralistic monthly publication addressing Jewish concerns in today's society, Zakheim is virtually unknown in the religious world of scholarship and Torah study. According to *Observer* sources Zakheim received *smicha* from a private rabbi, which while credible, would not be acceptable for admission into a rabbinic organization like the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA).

Many also claim that a candidate like Zakheim is not qualified to be a Jewish communal leader of such magnitude. They point to the fact that Zakheim has never played a key role in the Jewish community. "I find it very surprising that the search committee came up with a person not known to the Jewish community," said Rabbi Hershel Schachter.

In contrast, Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, Chief Rabbi of Efrat, originally suggested as a possible candidate, was labeled by some as too liberal for Yeshiva. However, Riskin like many other possible candidates, has devoted decades to the Jewish community



*Roshei Yeshiva at RIETS are critical to Yeshiva's mission as a Jewish university*

and has taken public stands on most issues in the Modern Orthodox world.

"We have no way of knowing where Zakheim stands on any issue of Modern Orthodoxy," explained Rabbi Blau. "What a risk to take."

Beren's response was that any appointee could establish himself as a spokesman of Modern Orthodoxy and that anyone, including Lamm, "has to earn his way as leader of Modern Orthodoxy."

Were the presidency to be split with Rabbi Lamm remaining as rosh yeshiva, the president of Yeshiva and RIETS would retain ultimate power. The Rosh Yeshiva would remain a type of religious figurehead, but the president would have real authority in setting policy such as the hiring of rebbeim, deans and administrators, guidelines for retirement age, and expanding our cutting university programs. "The one who controls the money controls a lot," explained Rabbi Blau.

While the Yeshiva Board technically oversees the president, it generally does not get involved in the policy-making of the university.

Some have also wondered why Zakheim would want to leave a powerful administrative position in Washington D.C., in which he has control over billions of dollars at the Pentagon, for the smaller administrative position of president of Yeshiva. "He obviously is not just switching roles as an administrator, but wants to be something more," insisted one Yeshiva insider. "He wants to be the king of the Jews."

Due to the uproar, Zakheim has allegedly withdrawn his candidacy. But the nomination has brought to the fore the possibility of separating the roles of rosh yeshiva and president, and reveals the conflicting goals of the search committee and the Yeshiva community. The real issue, finally being forced into public discussion after months of secrecy, is which qualifications are essential in the next president.



# Bio of Dov Zakheim: What the Board was Looking For

By Caryn Litt

**D**ov S. Zakheim has spent the last thirty years accumulating a wealth of experience in and knowledge of foreign affairs and national security.

Even Zakheim's being an Orthodox Jew - one who attended Jew's College in London and received rabbinical ordination in 1973 - did not interfere with his drive to support the best interests of the United States. Indeed, Zakheim has been criticized for consistently refusing to support Israel when her interests conflicted with the United States'.

In 1983, Zakheim, 52, incurred the disapproval of Israeli and Jewish-American leaders when he led the opposition to the production of Israel's Lavi jet fighter plane. Leading a Pentagon investigation team, Zakheim found that the program would require the investment of billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars, and learned that Israel was planning to sell the Lavi to other countries in competition with the U.S. Jewish leaders were also disappointed when, in the early 1990's, Zakheim chose to support the sale of F-15 fighter planes to Saudi Arabia. Always a promoter of overseas arms sales, Zakheim was at that time serving as a consultant to McDonnell Douglas, the company that manufactured the F-15s. He argued on behalf of the company that if

the U.S. did not make the sale, thousands of workers would lose their jobs, hurting the economy. A 1993 Baltimore Sun article reported that McDonnell Douglas specifically hired Zakheim, an Orthodox Jew, "to help mollify potential Israeli opposition to the sale."

Zakheim has consistently been concerned with protecting the U.S.'s budget and resources from the encroaching Middle East peace process. When Israel and Syria edged toward an agreement in the mid-1990's, Zakheim decried the fact that Israel might expect the U.S. to pay for Israel's expense in withdrawing from the Golan Heights.

Similarly, when the Wye agreement in 1998 proposed that members of the CIA be sent to Israel to ensure that the Israelis and Palestinians were keeping their agreements, Zakheim went on record as criticizing the proposal, claiming that intelligence resources should not be diverted from the U.S.'s priorities.

A Republican, Zakheim joined the Department of Defense in 1981, under then President Ronald Reagan. He was responsible for such tasks as preparing defense planning guidance for nuclear war. Zakheim, known as a conservative thinker on defense and national security issues, was invited, in 1999, to serve on the "Vulcans," a volunteer team of foreign poli-

cy experts that advised then Texas Governor George W. Bush on international affairs.

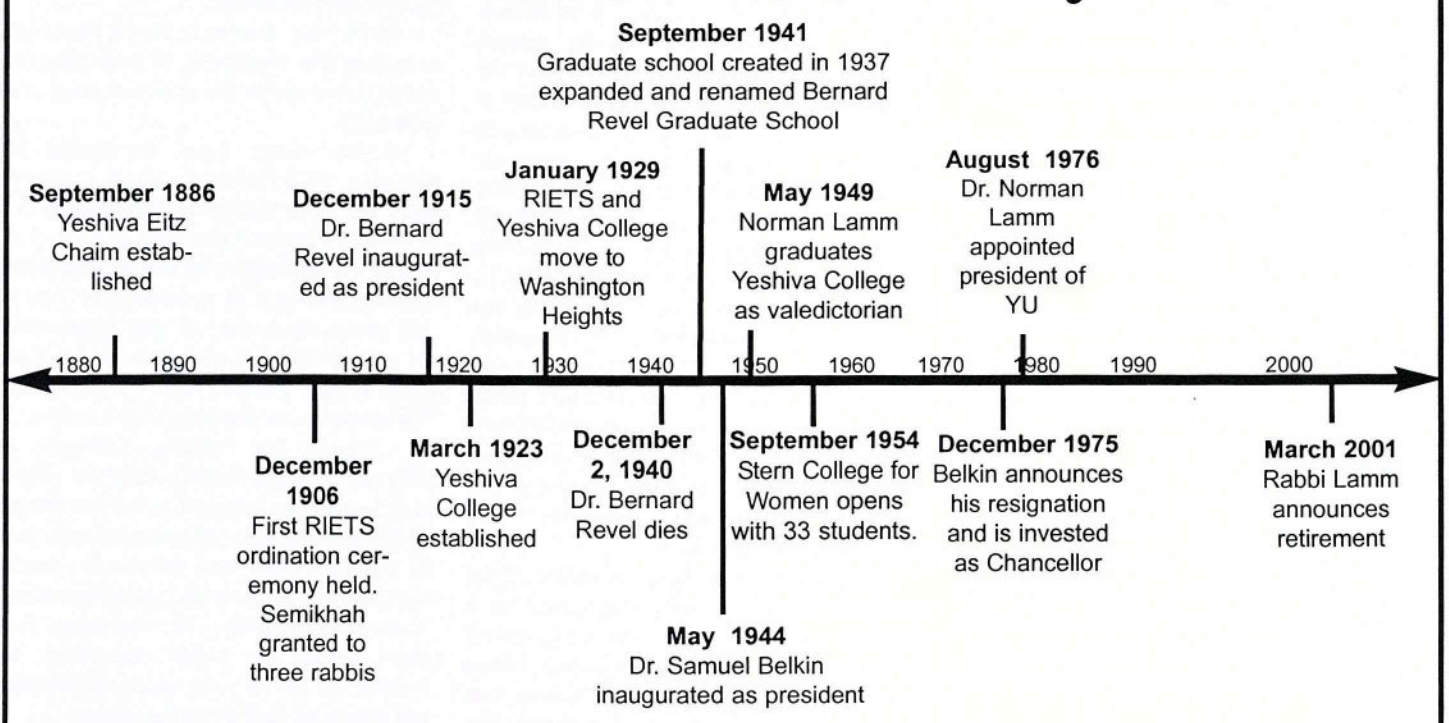
Zakheim was sworn in as the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Defense on May 4, 2001. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, impressed with Zakheim's experience with ballistic missile proliferation and his recognition of the importance of space in military affairs, had asked Zakheim to take on the position.

As Chief Financial Officer, Zakheim's priority has been financial management. Because of the war in Afghanistan, his office has been forced to prepare five budgets in less than a year, including the recent \$20 billion supplemental war package.

Zakheim's regions of expertise are Western Europe, the Middle East, and East Asia, and he is considered an expert on domestic Israeli politics. He is frequently called on to provide Israeli political commentary as well as commentary on national defense and foreign policy issues. He has appeared on numerous television networks and programs, such as Larry King Live and the McNeil-Lehrer Newshour.

A graduate of Columbia University with a bachelor's in government, Zakheim earned his doctorate in economics and politics at Oxford.

## At the Crossroads... Yeshiva University Time Line





# Search Process May Need Reevaluation

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outs that were given out on Sunday."

The volatile nature of the current situation has created uncertainty, with critical decisions developing every hour. "I'm not sure it's helpful at this critical stage to emphasize one way or another what goes on because people have changing attitudes," asserted Beren. "One has to be patient during this process, and not jump to conclusions."

The presentation of Zakheim as the sole candidate violates the search committee's original goal to provide the board with multiple candidates for selection. The search committee was designed to significantly narrow the choices yet still presenting the Board with numerous options. On the other hand, this presentation of a single candidate creates a situation in which, if the Board rejects Zakheim, the search committee must resume its search.

"The initial hope as with most searches is that they will find two to three candidates," observed Dean Bacon. "But the reality is that it doesn't always happen."

The search committee maintains that the distinctiveness of Zakheim justified only recommending a single candidate. With his high qualifications in the eyes of the committee, there was no need to promote alternate candidates.

"I would say that he's a very strong candidate," suggested Beren. "He best filled what we were looking for."

As a financial maven who is the chief financial advisor to the Secretary of Defense, Zakheim represents a different mold than the three previous YU presidents. His extensive background is in economics distinguishes him from the Rabbinical legacies of Bernard Revel, Samuel Belkin and Norman Lamm. The suggestion of such a radically dissimilar

candidate have led some students to wonder whether the search committee looked for the epitome of Torah U'Madda and couldn't find anyone, or whether they never even looked for one, with the ultimate goal to have a president functioning as an administrator.

"Many universities are recruiting businessmen as their president," commented Dean Bacon. "Universities are being run more like businesses in order to maintain themselves fiscally."

The university claims it was following the model of Harvard, which recently underwent a similar presidential search process in which Lawrence H. Summers who served as secretary of the treasury of the United States was appointed

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**"If it was a  
trial balloon,  
the response has  
been unanimously  
negative."**

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president. Imitating this successful selection, the search committee has apparently turned toward financial knowledge as a credential in the selection process.

"I would be very pleased with the appointment of Zakheim as president," commented Dan Forman, Vice President for Development. "As a well respected national leader, he would open new doors for the university. He would help in development in addition to being academic leader."

Other sources have divulged that the appointment of such a capable money manager is with the goal of replacing Sheldon Socol as Vice President for Business Affairs. Presidential Search Committee Chairman Michael Jesselson declined comment.

The criticism against Zakheim erupted immediately as Zakheim's nomination presented a great surprise to many high level administrators. Many Yeshiva officials were unaware of Zakheim's candidacy until the Jewish Week article, as the search committee has remained a top secret assignment throughout the approximately nine months of the search. Marjorie Diener Blenden, member of the search committee, recalls how she was compelled to leave her notes in the committee's office rather than remove them for review due to the secrecy of the operation.

"As far as I know, no one on the committee leaked," asserted Blenden. "Or else, everyone else would have chopped off our heads."

The question of who gave the story to the press is of less concern than why it was leaked. One sentiment supposes that it was a proponent of Zakheim who wished to squelch resistance even before the appointment, to inform the community as to the benefits of the candidate as soon as possible.

"Leaks are designed to bring people to the fore," commented Dean Bacon. "Someone with such a strong public reputation would be bound to stimulate a community response."

Another possibility speculates that the story was propagated by an opponent of Zakheim in the hope that widespread backlash would prevent his appointment.

"Why the early release?" questioned RIETS Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Moshe Tendler. "If it was a trial balloon, the response has been unanimously negative."

Many posit that such a choice was caused by omissions on the part of the search committee in their composition. The nine people selected to

lead the search as well as the executive firm of Korn/Ferry International chartered to expand the thorough process did not adequately represent the needs of the Yeshiva community, according to Observer sources.

The first omission was that the Rosh Yeshiva of RIETS, an integral part to the presidential selection, were not included or consulted. "There's a sense of unease over the fact that the Rosh Yeshiva were not asked to participate in the final selection of the presidential candidate," commented Rabbi Tendler.

In addition, no faculty members were integrated into the nine-member selection committee, a deliberate decision that prevented bias as a consideration in the selection. Rather, faculty members participated in the drafting of the search letter. "No faculty had any input," English Professor Carole Silver remarked. "We sat around and talked about the criteria for selection. We were never involved in discussion of names."

Some professors were not disturbed that they weren't included in the search committee, shrugging it off "the way it is in all universities." When asked what impact the new president would have on her daily affairs, History Professor Ellen Schrecker responded that it would not really affect her. "Dr. Lamm is not very involved in the academic side of university," she asserted.

Some Rabbis refused to give their opinion, claiming that the Board members knew more than they did. "I'm going to leave the analysis to the people who know more than I do," asserted Rabbi Kanarfogel. When questioned specifically about Zakheim's religious qualifications, he remarked, "These are things the Yeshiva board will take into consideration."



The Yeshiva Community  
is Urged  
to Participate in  
a Yom Kippur Katan  
on  
Wednesday, March 13th,  
Erev Rosh Chodesh Nissan.

The day of prayer and fasting has been declared by  
the Chief Rabbinate of Israel,  
the Rabbinical Council of America and the Orthodox Union.

SCW will be having a group Mincha/Tehillim during club hour,  
2:30-3:30pm, in the Schottenstein Cultural Center.  
There will also be a Break-fast at 6:40 pm in Koch with Tehillim  
again and a guest speaker.

The Yom Kippur Katan order of prayers can be found in most siddurim.

*Our Sages state that in the month of Nissan we were redeemed and in Nissan we shall be redeemed in the future. May we hear only glad tidings and experience tranquility and salvation speedily in our days.*



## Zionist Ideals in a President

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Such a strong statement of Zakheim's prioritizing of America over Israel may run counter to Yeshiva ideology. "I don't think that's YU's position," said RIETS Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Herschel Schachter. "I would think that YU's thrust is in favor of Israel."

On the other hand, many question whether Zakheim's stance was indeed detrimental to Israel. "Just because he's against the Lavi doesn't mean he's against Israel," asserted Shayndi Raice, SCW junior, as she explained how the *Lavi* might have been an unnecessary drain on the Israeli economy. "But writing a book to defend himself, that's a bigger deal. His is a valid view among American Jewry, but with 1000 students studying in Israel, it's not YU's view."

Begun in 1983 as a joint effort between the Israeli embassy in Washington and notable U.S. congressmen, the *Lavi* proposal called for the sharing of specific advanced U.S. technologies and resources to support the Israelis in the production of the jet. Assigned by Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger to investigate the production of Israel's prized plane, Zakheim found that American interests would be harmed in promoting competition in their aerospace companies. Nevertheless, support for the program by the Israeli defense minister Moshe Arens overshadowed Zakheim's defenses.

History has not definitively determined whether Zakheim's actions were retrospectively in Israel's best interests or not, and thus some refrain from characterizing his actions as a obvious indicator of his political leanings regarding Israel. "Whether or not it was in Israel's best interest is open to differences of opinion," commented Dean Karen Bacon. "I have no reason to doubt his support for the state of Israel."

The issue is whether the Board members considered pro-Israel perspective a factor in their search. When questioned whether the suggestion of Zakheim represented a shift in Zionist policy, member of the search committee Majorie Diener Blenden maintained that Zakheim's political views were unique, and did not represent the broader issue of what the board was looking for. "If Zakheim does not become president, the question is moot," Blenden asserted. She added that it was not a critical issue because "I don't think there's a Jew around (excepting the Satmar) who doesn't

support Israel."

The issue for some is not the act of opposing the *Lavi*, but Zakheim's governmental position that inherently put him in that difficult position. "Someone who's been in a position where he need to make those kinds of statements is not person who can be a leader of klal yisroel," asserted Moshe Goodman, YC freshman, as he handed out flyers opposing Zakheim outside the Chag Hasmichah.



*Many students believe Zionism is an integral part of Yeshiva*

Zakheim's potential candidacy occurred simultaneously as the RIETS Chag Hasmichah, which contained a strong Israel affinity by having the President of Israel Moshe Katzav serve as the keynote speaker. "It is an honor to receive honorary doctorate and I accept it as token of your love and your devotion to the state of Israel," asserted Katzav in his keynote address. "The fact is that

the majority of your students and your faculty are strongly committed to the state."

Indeed, the flavor of some of the talks may have been more pro-Zionist than ordinary. Rabbi Lamm focused on aliya as a central message to inculcate to the musmachim. "Every graduate of Yeshiva should and at least does consider aliya as an option," asserted Rabbi Lamm in his RIETS Chag Hasmichah address. Some audience members supposed that Rabbi Lamm was harping on YU's Israel affiliation as a direct counter to Zakheim's standpoints.

Whether Yeshiva as an institution has taken a political stand regarding the state of Israel is uncertain, as its support for Israel is missing from its webpage mission statement. On the other hand, a majority of Rabbis and administrators wholeheartedly support the state, believing support for Israel to be an integral part of Yeshiva ideology. "One would certainly hope Yeshiva would be pro-Israel," asserted Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel, Director of Jewish studies at SCW.

Many students believe that unequivocal support for Israel is particularly important during the increased violence raging through Israel. As SCW senior Julie Pianko remarked, "With Israel in such a turbulent time, [not prioritizing support for Israel in the selection process] is a very bad message to send."

## Students Protest

*continued from page 8*

Board's hijacking this decision," said Amitai Bin-Nun, a YC sophomore who handed out flyers on Sunday. "What the Board has done is suggested someone without known ideologies."

"It's a contradiction because you're essentially saying that Torah U'madda can't exist, and that's the school's philosophy," said Abby Calm, SCW junior.

A minority of students were resigned to the idea of splitting the presidency. "I think they need to separate," said Chavi Kahn, an SCW senior. "You won't find any one individual who can be both rosh yeshiva and president."

The response to the Zakheim nomination with its implied division of the rosh yeshiva and president, has clearly differed at the midtown and uptown campuses. Many SCW students were unaware of the decision and its implications. All protests have occurred at the uptown campus and at the initiative of YC students, though the petition was supposed to circulate at midtown as well. This discrepancy is possibly due to the fact that RIETS, the rosh yeshiva and top administrators are all located uptown.

Ultimately, the consensus among students was dissatisfaction with the decisions of the presidential search committee.

"It's scary to think that Yeshiva would even consider a candidate whose political and religious views are unknown," said Chana Rosenblatt, a Revel student. "It is imperative for an institution like Yeshiva University, which prides itself on its religious devotion, to be completely certain of and confident in the shared values of the next president."

### The Observer

Welcomes All

Comments

Email Us at

[Observer@ymail.yu.edu](mailto:Observer@ymail.yu.edu)



# Yeshiva Community Advocates United Presidency *Students Unite in Opposition*

By Miriam Colton

The Yeshiva community has galvanized in opposition to the possible splitting of the president and rosh yeshiva roles. At an urgent meeting this morning, the rosh yeshivas of RIETS, while not releasing any public statement, committed to fight for a unified presidency. Regardless of whether Zakheim remains a candidate, the rosh yeshiva were distressed that the Board would even consider a candidate mandating the splitting of the presidency.

"I'm afraid that RIETS will become the divinity school of YU, rather than its *raison d'etre*," said Rabbi Moshe Tendler, Rosh Yeshiva at RIETS.

This sudden meeting came on the heels of massive student opposition that began on Sunday at the quadrennial Chag Hasmichah. About half a dozen YC students protested outside Lampport Auditorium at the uptown campus, handing out over 1,000 flyers calling for a united presidency.

"The next president of Yeshiva University must embody the ideal of Torah U'Madda on which the university was founded and which Presidents/Roshei HaYeshiva Revel, Belkin, and Lamm personified," stated the flyer distributed by the Student Organization for the Preservation of a Unified Yeshiva Presidency, lead by YC students.

The flyers also included a past Yeshiva newspaper article printed in 1970. The article summarizes the Rav's address to the Chag Hasmichah of that year, in which he decried any possible secularization of the Yeshiva administration and insisted on maintaining the religious character of the presidency. If the problem was not satisfactorily resolved, the Rav threatened that "then I no longer have a place in this yeshiva."

"A rosh yeshiva won't have any power," said Yoel Oz, a YC student who led the student opposition. "The position of rosh yeshiva would become marginal and perhaps even phased out. The result will be a lack of effective Jewish leadership."

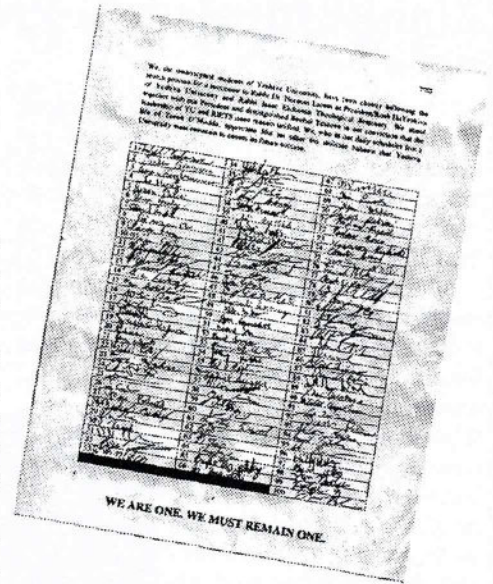
Students have drafted a petition to deliver to the Yeshiva Board stating that "the leadership of YU and RIETS must remain unified." With a goal of over 1,000 signatures, at press, over 500 names have

been collected. "We want the board to know where the student population is holding," said Avi Robinson, a YC junior who is organizing the petition.

Among the activities that the student body planned on organizing was a rally to be held on Thursday. Urged by some rosh yeshiva to avoid a strong antagonistic protest at this point, the organizers will most likely cancel the rally.

Most students who had some knowledge about the presidential process, expressed dismay that Zakheim was even an option. "I was extremely upset by the

*continued on page 7*

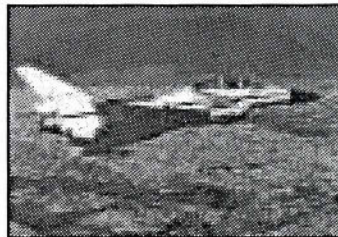


*Student petition in favor of unified president/rosh yeshiva circulates at Yeshiva*

## Search Committee Decision Questions Yeshiva's Devotion to Zionism

By Adina Levine

While championing political views that have possibly compromised Israel, Dov S. Zakheim supposedly represents the ideals that the search committee seeks in the next president. With his greatest political exposure occurring after his refutation of the Israeli *Lavi* fighter jet, Dr. Zakheim has emerged as a staunch American diplomat, arguably at the expense of Israeli interests. The question arises as to what extent the president of Yeshiva University, an American grounded institution, must support Israel.



*The Lavi*

"He's been identified as someone less than even-handed with Israel, somewhat of a hardliner leftist," commented Rabbi Moshe Tendler. "YU has been identified as a defender of Israel – which is a theological concept – and defenders of the state of Israel- which is a reality." Tendler supposed that Zakheim's political actions and Yeshiva's ideological stance could not coexist.

The conflict that distinguished Zakheim's political opinions was the dispute over the Israeli fighter aircraft, the *Lavi*. Zakheim ultimately opposed the

plane on the grounds that it was neither in America's best interests nor Israel's. Citing his desire to save American tax dollars as his primary motivation, American Jewry rioted against his decision, calling him a self-hating Jew, among other pejoratives.

In response, Zakheim published a book, *Flight of the Lavi*, in 1996 justifying his actions. Dedicated to Rabin, the work contains several controversial quotes that represent the polar extreme to supposed Yeshiva ideology. On the first page of his manuscript, Zakheim proclaims, "I felt, however, that the essence of Zionism was a belief that all Jews must return to Israel, and I could not subscribe to that belief."

That, however, was not the most notorious of Zakheim's opinions. "The loyalty issue had never bothered me before, or since, since I have always viewed myself as an American who is Jewish," he further writes. "There can be, and often are, differences between America and her close allies... When those differences arise, I view the issues at hand in American terms."

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