Felsenthal: Behind the Scenes or Out of the Picture?

by Jay Bailey

Doonesbury cartoonist Gary Trudeau is fond of portraying George Bush as a voice emanating from empty space. The implication, of course, is that Bush has a severe image problem. Nobody knows who he is, what he stands for, or where he is going. There is a feeling at YU that we relate to Steve Felsenthal in roughly the same way. We vaguely remember ambitious campaign promises, but we don’t see our campus exploring with activity. In fact, we see very little of Steve Felsenthal at all. As the second semester begins, many students find themselves asking: Who is Steve Felsenthal and where are he and YCSC going?

In a recent interview with the President, the COMMENTATOR posed the following question: “Why don’t we see you? Shouldn’t the president of the student council be a little more visible than you have been?” Felsenthal explains that in his view, YCSC is first and foremost a managerial organization, and he the chief manager. He says his primary function is allocating funds for and overseeing the various student clubs.

Ironically, there is a mandate in the YCSC Constitution stating that the administration of clubs is to be handled by the office of the YCSC Vice President. Apparently, Felsenthal and Vice President David Borowich have had a role reversal. While Felsenthal sees to the day-to-day affairs of YCSC clubs and committees, Borowich takes charge of high visibility projects such as Operation Torah Shield and the Chamakah Concert.

Felsenthal explains that every time a club runs an event, there are countless details that he must take care of: “at the ground level.” This may include ordering transportation, publicity, or arranging for a meeting room. The paperwork involved is neither monotonous, he says, but someone has to do it.

Please turn to page 12

Mac’s Star Returns From Military Service

by Neil Torczyner

On January 8th, Macs sensation Miko Danan went home to his native Ramla to be with his family. He was concerned about the possible war and felt that it was his duty to return to Israel. Two days after his return, Miko was called up by the army in a Tazav Shomoneh - a presidential command for war.

While back in America the Macs went on a four game losing streak, Miko spent an uneventful two weeks on his base. Miko is a member of Chel Sherer - the Communications branch of the armed forces. Finally, Miko approached his commander for permission to leave. He told him that he had not seen very much of his family and that he wished to return to school. The commander, who according to Miko, had heard of YU’s Operation Torah Shield and was impressed, allowed Miko to leave.

Basketball and army service have always represented competing obligations for Miko. Over the last four years the 6’7” forward played for Elitzur Ramla when his time was not occupied with military activities. It was during his time with Elitzur that Miko first came in contact with Yeshiva University. He played an exhibition game against MTA and met future teammates Eric Davidson and David Ehrenreich.

In the beginning of 1990 Miko was released from the army, and began to consider University. He wanted to go to a school outside of Israel in order to become a free agent in the Israeli league. Although he does not consider himself religious, he also knew that he wanted to go to a place where he would be able to keep kosher. A coach of his in Israel, a friend of Miko’s, suggested that Miko look into YU.

The twenty-one year old freshman is currently enrolled in the IBC division of Yeshiva College. He finds the learning load difficult, largely because of his lack of religious background and IBC’s rigid attendance policy. He says that there should not be mandatory attendance because “we (the students) are adults. We should decide what is good for us.”

However, even with all the Jewish influence at Yeshiva University, Miko does not feel that he is becoming more religious. He enjoys learning about Jewish rituals and customs, but feels that religious belief is in the heart and does not need to be shown.

Miko has become a minor media sensation since coming to YU. He has been interviewed several times by New York Newsday and last Tuesday, he spoke at length with Channel 7 Eyewitness News.

YCSC is planning a Salute to the Troops ceremony for tomorrow night’s Mac’s game. CNN, ESPN, and CBS will be in attendance, and Miko will be interviewed yet again.

Please turn to page 13

400 Fly in Face of Danger

by Martin Goldberg

Saddam Hussein probably never realized that by three years ago he would serve as the catalyst for a dramatic pilgrimage to the Jewish State. Organized by Yeshiva University in less than a week, Operation Torah Shield sent over 400 people to Israel on a mission which captured world-wide media attention and a sea of praise from Israeli citizens.

The story of Operation Torah Shield began in the living room of an anonymous philanthropist who was becoming increasingly disgruntled with TV programs depicting hundreds of Jews leaving Israel. The threat of war was growing by the day, but the donor decided that he would personally charter an El Al Jumbo Jet and transport Yeshiva University students to Israel. A plane load of Yeshiva students and Rebbeim arriving in Israel on the infamous date of January 15th was what was needed to counteract Israel’s sinking morale, he decided.

By Monday, January 7th, rumors of fifty dollar round trip tickets to Israel were sweeping through the college dormitories. Pandemonium erupted on Tuesday morning in the middle of final exams as these reports gained credibility.

YCSC Vice President David Borowich took charge of the project, with many students playing integral roles. The project was dubbed Operation Torah Shield after it was decided that as part of the trip, students would be asked to learn for a week in an Israeli Yeshiva.

Student leaders began to sell tickets Tuesday night, booking the entire plane within a few hours. Hundreds more clamored onto waiting lists as word spread of the trip throughout the New York area.

Accordgely, the project almost collapsed. For the trip to occur, the philanthropist needed to channel his money to a newly-organized, non-profit organization, an arrangement which would create a tax deductible transaction. This vital link proved to be the most elusive component of the operation.

At first, Rabbi Herschel Reichman offered to transfer the funds through the non-profit Torah Study Fund which he administers. However, questions of liability arose. Hebrew Institute of Riverdale briefly entered the scene and agreed to sponsor the flight. According to Andrew Goldsmith, an assistant coordinator of the project, the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale was also forced to drop sponsorship because of insurance difficulties and legal concerns.

Yeshiva University itself declined to sponsor the project. Goldsmith explains that the “University had an incredible amount to lose if there was a lawsuit and [YU administration] realized that; you are talking about auctioning off Belier Hall to pay for lawsuit damages. Obviously, this is a worst case scenario, but it was a possibility.”

Following student organizers of the trip, Yeshiva University was very supportive throughout the entire operation. YU President Dr. Lamm greeted the students upon their arrival at Ben Gurion airport, and Vice President Dr. Miller, other
Preparing for the Worst

During the Yom Kippur War, YU initiated a summer session for those students who felt the need to volunteer or serve in the Israeli Army when they were most needed - in the middle of the school year. This arrangement enabled YU students to support Israel without jeopardizing their educational careers.

Today, Israel finds herself on the brink of war. We all pray that the current crisis will end without Israel's involvement. But in the event that she is drawn into the war, a significant number of YU students will be considering the possibility that they will want to respond in Israel's hour of need. It will be an easier decision if the administration has already published the consequences and procedures of such an action. We could wait until that unwanted day comes, but why?

Academic Flexibility

This semester, a handful of Stern women can be seen trooping through the Furst lobby, bearing their orange I.D. cards. In an effort to upgrade Stern's easier decision if the administration has already published the consequences and limited courses have been heard and ac


Clean Up Your Act

Brooms and mops are not standard issue for YU dormitory rooms. There is no need; housekeeping crews have always made sure that the floors, sinks and mirrors are clean, and that the garbage cans are emptied (although the effectiveness of emptying trash cans weekly must be questioned, as most cans fill up every two days).

According to instructions given to students in the beginning of the year, housekeeping crews will not move students' belongings for them. This is not unfair; students who prefer a clean living environment would be more than happy to clean the floors to enable maintenance crew to do their jobs. However, housekeeping no longer informs us when they are coming, and as a result, end up dragging a mop through a cursory fifteen second obstacle course of books, shoes and clothing. Assuming there is a schedule, would it be so hard to let dorming students in on it?
From The Editor’s Desk

Daniel Oshinsky

Flashback to Osirak

High over Baghdad, eight F-16 fighter-bombers and six F-15 fighters swung into action. While the F-15s flew cover, the F-16s dropped 2,000-pound bombs down into the heart of a nuclear weapons installation. The pilots score direct hits, halting a tyrant’s ability to wage war against humanity.

This is not the latest CNN update on Operation Desert Storm. In fact, this strike against Hussein was carried out almost ten years ago—not by allied pilots, but by members of the Israeli air force. For Israel, bombing the French built Osirak nuclear reactor was a simple matter of survival. Baghdad’s official newspaper continuously asserted that the Osirak facility was “not intended to be used against Iran, but against the Zionist enemy.” By June, 1981, all that stood between Israel and a nuclear holocaust was a shipment of highly enriched uranium fuel.

Israel’s legal right and moral obligation were clear. However, with stupefying cynicism, the world lashed out in condemnation. At the UN, Sheikh Sabah al- Ahmad Al Sabah, who had supported US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in the original attack on the Osirak reactor, was the first in a series of Arab representatives to demand a trade embargo against Israel.

The New York Times labeled Israel guilty of "an act of inexcusable and shortsighted aggression," and warned Israel was "becoming its own worst enemy.” America condemned the raid right out and held up the delivery of four F-16 fighter-bombers.

Now, almost ten years later, America is spearheading against Iraq, the most massive air campaign seen in history. President Bush calls nuclear facilities "the primary targets" and promises Iraq’s ability to wage unconventional warfare will be eliminated. The President, the Times, indeed the whole world seem to have forgotten that it was the destruction of Osirak in 1981, America would be too late.

The lesson for Israel is unmistakable. World opinion is obtuse, illogical, and forever changing. Israel’s only obligation can be to her own people.

American Jewry should take heed as well. Why do we expend all our energy on winning over the American public? Why do we chastise Israel under our breath for her lack of finesse in public relations?

Presently, Israel is faced by an unending one-night-of-Escud missiles, the threat of chemical warfare and an outcry of praise and support for her “unprecedented restraint.” What the American community does not realize, but Israel must, is that restraint in the face of attack has only one justification: it represents the most effective means of protecting the people of Israel. The moment Israel’s leaders no longer believe this to be true, restraint will be to the point of nonsense. We cannot forget Osirak. Ten years from now, praise will ring out again for Israel. In the meantime, we must do all in our power to insure her safety and survival.

When No One Is Watching

To the Editor,

I would like to take issue with a statement made by Chief of Security, Donald Sommers, in his January 25 letter to the student body. Mr. Sommers states,...
## Answering the Call: Draft, Reserve Duty May Bring War Home

### by Moshe Friedman

When President Bush began sending troops to the Persian Gulf last August, the military announced that the deployment was only a minor one, not more than 50,000 men, and that a draft was certainly not necessary. Six months later, 500,000 troops have been deployed to the Gulf, the United States is at war, and the question of whether or not there will be a draft is still on people's minds.

The question is especially relevant for college students. While the Selective Service did provide long-term educational deferments during the Korean and Vietnam wars, these deferments have been removed from Selective Service regulations.

If the draft were re-instituted, people who have reached the age of twenty during the calendar year in which the draft was instituted would be called first. For example, if the draft were re-instituted today, people born between January 1, 1971 and December 31, 1971 would be called up first.

"Twenty-one year-olds would be drafted next, with the age of those inducted order ascending numerically until 25-year-olds were drafted. Then the 19-year-olds would be called, followed by the 18-year-olds."

According to Lt. Col. Richard Moore, a Selective Service spokesman, "there's absolutely no plans to re-institute the draft. At this time we have had no contacts from Congress, no contacts from the White House, and no contacts from the Department of Defense regarding a draft." Col. Moore added, however, that "the Selective Service remains ready to perform its mission if so ordered.

Col. Moore noted that while there are no longer any student deferments, there are "student post deferments." These post deferments provide that students would be allowed to finish the semester in which they are enrolled before being called. Seniors would be allowed to finish the year.

In order for a draft to take place, Moore explained, "Congress would have to amend the Military Selective Service Act to authorize inductions of men. Once that is accomplished, signed into law by the President, you would have a national lottery." The lottery would randomly pick one of the 365 days of the year and call up all people born on that day.

After a person's birth date is chosen, Col. Moore said, that person would "be provided a Western Union Mailgram, which would be an induction order, that would tell them where to report." It would also advise them how to submit a claim in order to exempt from the draft. Those who may be exempt or eligible for deferments from the draft include students seeking student post deferments, conscientious objectors, people who qualify for a hardship deferment, clergymen and divinity students.

According to an article last week in the New York Times, once men are called up the Selective Service may begin delivering them to examining stations within two weeks, because the service's computers already include the names and addresses of all potential draftees.

The Times article also stressed that Pentagon officials do not envision such heavy losses that troops could not be replaced by turning to active or reserve units stationed elsewhere.

The Department of Defense continues to be satisfied that the size of the forces we have now, active duty and reservists, is sufficient to do the job," said William Caldwell, a Pentagon spokesman, in the New York Times article. "We do not plan to call for a draft. We don't need more people." If the military is planning to call up more of its reserves, however, this may still have a profound effect on Yeshiva University. Currently, two students and one administrator are known to serve in the U.S. Army Reserves.

David Palmer (RIETS '92) entered the reserves in the chaplaincy program and is currently stationed with the Individual Ready Reserves, or reservists who are stationed in no particular unit. Palmer said that he will probably not be called up to fight in the Persian Gulf because he is still studying for his smicha.

Joseph P. Eisenfeld (YC '91) also serves in the United States Army Reserves. Unlike Palmer, however, if Eisenfeld is called up his chances of seeing combat are very good. Eisenfeld is a medic stationed at the 74th Field Hospital in upstate New York. If called to duty, Eisenfeld would either serve as a field medic, where he would be relatively close to the front lines, or as a combat medic, where he would serve directly at the front lines treating injuries as they occur.

Eisenfeld joined the reserves for several reasons. First and foremost, "I have the responsibility as a Jew to serve the United States. "As Jews, we have certain privileges in this country, certain rights and freedoms that we enjoy," explained in terms of eagerness, "Sometimes a few of us must give something back on behalf of the Jewish community."

Eisenfeld said he also joined the army for moral reasons. "America is really the conscience of all the nations," he said. "While Israel and the Jewish people may have the standards for morality in the world, America is the country that enforces it throughout the globe.

The army also helped pay for that part of the school expenses which financial aid did not cover, noted Eisenfeld.

Eisenfeld said that he is called upon to serve in the Persian Gulf, he would fight willingly. "I gave an oath of loyalty to protect this country," he said. "I committed myself to fight on behalf of the United States. That commitment still stands."

Assistant Dean of Students Jeff Chaitoff also serves in the Individual Ready Reserves. Mr. Chaitoff joined the chaplain program of the reserves in 1988 and is currently in the Individual Ready Reserves program in RIETS. Mr. Chaitoff is currently waiting for his draft.

## Step Up in Security

### by Joel Haber

As YC students returned from Winter break, they were greeted in their dorms by something more than just the smiling greeter. They had left behind the previous semester. Students were told that they would not be allowed to enter any YU building, at any time, without their I.D. cards.

Students knew security meant business when they were handed little transparent card-holders to clip on to their apparel.

Security Chief Don Sommers claims 24-hour I.D. checks is a practice that has been under consideration for quite some time. The need for 24-hour I.D. checks was also raised at several YCSC Security Council meetings in the past. Although the administration had been hesitant to allow 24-hour inspections due to the logistic difficulties, it felt that in light of the growing threat of international terrorism, this was an opportune time to establish such a practice.

One technical aspect which in the past, added to the reluctance on the part of the administration is the need to double up guarding for the I.D. checks. As students enter University buildings they are often met by a wall of security officers requesting I.D. "As it becomes habit for all the people entering to show their card," says Sommers, "we can at some point reduce it. Right now I see a tremendous amount of cooperation, and we should be able to cut back in the very near future."

Security Council Chairman David Silverblatt concurs with Sommers' assessment of student cooperation. "Since the beginning of the new semester I have hardly received any complaints about the new I.D. system, and everyone seems to be very positive about it."

"I think the guards are doing a great job," he adds.

Despite mostly positive responses, some students still feel that this system is more of a bother than is necessary. "I think we have very capable security guards who by this time can probably recognize our faces," declares Jason Mous, (YC '93). "I'm tired of this nonsense."

In terms of looking forward to an enhanced role for students in checking I.D.'s, Sommers maintains that it is still under review. "We may very well be able to go with one guard and double-up just at peak hours." He also requests that all students noticing someone without legitimate business should bring that person to the attention of a guard.

Sommers says other problems are being looked into, such as the ability to borrow someone else's I.D. without it being checked closely or better methods for identification on Shabbat.
Israel Exodus Crowds Campus

by Dov Chelst

Due to the ongoing Gulf War and frequent Scud missile attacks on Israel, over 60 extra students entered Yeshiva College at the beginning of this semester. Unfortunately, they returned to overcrowded dorms and closed courses. Their arrival increased the burden on the Admissions, Finance and Residence Hall offices for a week as the staff and the returning students made the best of the situation. The semester wears on as overcrowded dorms and closed courses. Students constantly popped up unexpectedly at YU's doorstep while the Israel Office faxed over announcements of the impending arrival of still more. Michael Kranzler, Director of Admissions, and his staff directed new students to the Office of Student Finances to clear their financial requirements, then notified Rabbi Cheifetz of another incoming resident. The Office of Student Finances dealt sympathetically with returning students, recognizing their financial needs and the hasty nature of their arrival.

The Student Organization of Yeshiva proudly presents the annual

S.O.Y. SEFORIM SALE

Yeshiva University - 500 W. 185th St., New York (corner of Amsterdam Ave.)
Furst Hall, Room 024

All types of Seferim and English Judaica on sale, including a wide variety of tefilins, yarmulkes and gift items.

Schedule

FEBRUARY - MARCH

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For more information, please call 212-960-0849
* Parents Day - Hours To Be Announced
** Tavrut Esther

Superbowl Champs to Play at YU

The New York Giants, winners of this year's NFL Superbowl, will take on New York's Finest, members of the New York Police Department, in a charity basketball game to be held at Yeshiva University.

"I promise NYPD Officer Bobby Keating, "No miracles for me this time." Former Police Officer Captain Butkiewicz expects a "physical game," but says his players are "unbeatable." We're ready!"

"Officer John McNicholas, an officer of the 34th precinct, who was also in the line of duty, while serving Washington Heights. The game is being sponsored by the Police Athletic Foundation, in memory of Charles Furst, a fine man and a community volunteer."

"Officer Butkiewicz: "It's exciting to see this event together". The money earned goes back to the kids of the community."

"Officer John McNicholas, a 34th Precinct says: "They're looking forward to playing them, and we're going to give it our best effort.""

Back at Yeshiva University, Chief of Security Don Sommers feels that "The Giant's should continue their winning streak with ease."

Tip-off is at 6:00 PM. During halftime, autographs will be signed by members of the Giants' team. Tickets will be sold at the door. The admission fee will be $5.00.
Kiruv in Curacao

by Torin Rutner

David Kupchik, a student at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) recently led a three person mission to the island of Curacao. Better known for its glittering beaches, exciting nightlife, and tropical breezes, Curacao also has a Jewish community that is "really thriving for anything Torah related," according to Kupchik. Kupchik, along with Eli Friedman (YC '89) and Hillel Zakai (YC '90), worked to encourage and inspire the three century old Jewish community to continue the traditions and religious practices of Judaism.

The three were sent by the Blanche Schreiber Torah Tours under the direction of RIETS' Max Stern Division of Community Services. There they worked with the more than fifty families in the community who comprise Congregations Shaare Zedek, an Orthodox synagogue with year-round rabbinic cantor.

"We wanted to impress them with Judaism and get them to respect who we are," said Kupchik. "We also wanted to impress upon them the need for a Rabbi, for some type of leadership." These families are some of the 300 Jewish families on the island from a mixture of Sephardic and Ashkenazic backgrounds, dating back to the 1650's.

Kupchik led programs for both children and adults, which were well-attended by those eager to learn anything they could about Judaism and Jewish communities abroad. Zakai, a keyboard player and singer, led the adults in a series of Jewish songs which added even more to the overwhelming response of those who attended the program. "These people will remember the YU guys for months," remarked Kupchik. He also taught about forty children in Curacao's Talmud Torah, which he hopes "had a lasting effect on the children."

Kupchik found several flaws in the religious practices of the community at large. There was a complete lack of observance of kashruth, and the community was desperate for a rabbi and a cantor. "The scary part is that without Jewish leaders they are becoming rapidly assimilated," admitted Kupchik. "I saw great potential and I feel we just can't leave them. The three of us had hoped to create for the future a healthy attitude towards Yeshiva University in their possible acceptance of a potential rabbi."

Kupchik, who has been active in Torah Tours for many years, graduated from Yeshiva College with a degree in psychology. Presently, he is pursuing a degree in advanced Jewish studies at the Bernard Revel Graduate School. His father, Rabbi Abraham Kupchik, is the director of rabbinic alumni at RIETS.

Student Teachers Return from Tallinn

by Jon Taub

Yeshiva and University Students for the Spiritual Revival of Jewish Jewry (YUSRR) has realized the fulfillment of one of its major goals. Yitzchak Rosenblum and Kevin Taragin have completed the first of a continuing series of missions to Estonia. The spent a month teaching Hebrew and Limudei Kodesh at a Jewish school in Tallinn, the Estonian capital.

"The main thrust of the program was that of an intellectual nature," says Yitz. "We basically went to teach Hebrew, Jewish Culture and History and provide a basic knowledge of Judaism. They need to be given the tools that will enable them to study on their own." Yitz emphasized that they desperately want and need an "introduction to Torah and an acquaintance with G-d. These people knew nothing until two years ago, and since then, the only education they've gotten...has been completely ad hoc. This is a big opportunity to get on the Gannum bandwagon."

Classes in Hebrew were taught daily by both Kevin and Yitz until 12:30 pm, after which they gave additional classes in a more informal, camp-like setting. The two gave Chumash classes, discussed Shabbat and especially emphasized M'tsa'ach Bereshis. On Shabbat, Yitz and Kevin, who during the week taught separately, ran the program together. The Joint Distribution Committee donated siddurim while Russian haggadot were sent by the Englewood and Woodmere communities. The sefarim were greatly needed in a community where, according to Yitz, "there is absolutely nothing—no [kosher] food, no mkvkeh—and shul on Shabbos is 12 old men at 10 o'clock."

Despite unrest in the Baltics, Kevin and Yitzchak insist that Estonia is different. The Estonians, being a more Nordic than Slavic people, are very static, and therefore they have a lot more political savvy than the citizens of the other Baltic states, explains Yitz. However, he notes that although Estonia is known as the 'garden spot' of the Soviet Union, the same economic problems—long lines, empty stores—that exist in the rest of Russia are prevalent in Estonia as well.

"Everybody, Jew and non-Jew alike, are at a crossroad because they have to think about day to day survival first, you say Yitz. Kevin calls Estonia a "crazy place. They want to be free, and you can see that there exists a pride that they used to have something before Stalin's annexation... It seems that the Estonians, being involved in a fight for independenence, are able to identify with Israel now. Politics makes strange bedfellows."

The Jews of Estonia, many of whom are candidates for Aliya, are very eager to learn something about the heritage which they had almost completely lost half a century ago. According to Yitz, the Jewish community has suffered from intermarriage and a lot of their tradition has been taken from them. "It's an issue that has to be addressed, and is very important for the poskim. Many families with non-Jewish mothers want to make Aliya," he warns.

Still, Yitz feels it is crucial that "these people be exposed to Judaism before they move to Israel; otherwise they'll feel like total strangers. The motto of the Soviet Jewry movement used to be 'Shalach Es Ami', but they forgot about the 'Vey Kavod!'"

"I find it interesting that these people appreciate Judaism more than some of us do," Kevin comments. "Do we really appreciate the freedom we've been given? Are we really doing our best?"

As to the program's future, Yitz tells of a fact finding mission being planned for other cities in the Soviet Union with large Jewish populations. Kevin reports that there are 38 cities with over 20,000 Jews. "We think Odessa and Minsk are next," Yitz speculates, "being that there are cities without a lot doing."

However, because of the current situation in the Baltic states, organizers have found it nearly impossible to obtain visas to Latvia and Lithuania, which makes it very hard to reach cities like Varna and Riga.

However, with the success of this first mission, YUSRR plans to move full speed ahead. "We're trying to plan the summer camp again," Kevin says, referring to camps which were a precursor to the school in Tallinn. "We need a lot of people from YU and Stern to help out. I think it was good that I was able to go as a college student; we need more college people. We have to keep them connected with the situation."

Kevin says he will definitely be back in the USSR this summer. "When and where depends on the camps."
Last year, the YCSC Freedom Fund successfully raised over $30,000 to help bring Soviet Jews to the Land of Israel. But these Jews lacked a strong Jewish identity. Yeshiva and University Students for the Spiritual Revival of Soviet Jewry are facing this challenge. The goal set for this year had been increased to $50,000, initially intended to assure that Soviet Jews leaving Russia could feel a vibrant connection to the Jewish people.

Then Israel was attacked.

Since January 17, Saddam Hussein has terrorized Israel with deadly SCUD missiles, leaving Israeli houses and lives in shambles. Thousands of Jews in Israel are left homeless, with no shelter from Hussein's weapons of destruction. Spiritual survival is no longer our only priority. We cannot rest until we have provided for the physical needs of the Jewish people as well.

We're asking every student, faculty member, and administrator for a one-time minimal donation of $36 - twice Chai - to provide for these two fundamental aspects of Jewish Life. We recognize that this is a serious amount of money; indeed, it is a serious cause.

This critical effort occurs this Monday, February 18. Student volunteers will collect money in the dorms; We ask professors, administrators and employees to give their donations to Ceil Levinson in Dean Rosenfeld's office.

Now is the time to show our support for Am Yisrael and Eretz Yisrael. Please help us protect both.

The Jewish Survival Fund
Memories of a Mission

by Richard Elrich

Operation Torah Shield brought fame to Yeshivah University and much needed cheer for the Jews of Israel. However, for the hundred or so hundred students who participated, Torah Shield also involved much sacrifice and involvement that many of us will never forget. Long after the war is over and the media has stopped telling the story, these brave students will still be remembered.

Exhausted from finals week, few students were able to contemplate the meaning of the trip or the dangerous situation they were entering as flight time approached. Some students sang Hebrew songs as the plane headed towards Israel, thinking about what they were about to do with their lives. Many students felt the need to understand the situation they were entering. It was the beginning of a journey.

“...When I left America...”

“We all could think about was the plane,” recalls a sophomore. “IYC Sophomore David Saltzman, however, the plane landed, students were breathless. The sense of importance of the journey.

“When I felt the wheels touch down, I was ecstatic...”

Some students sang Hebrew songs as the plane headed towards Israel, thinking about what they were about to do with their lives. Many students felt the need to understand the situation they were entering. It was the beginning of a journey.

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"THE REAL WORLD"

Draft

Continued from page 4

smi t h to come through. Once he gets his smi t h, he will become a full- fledged chaplain.

"If the army calls me I'll go," said Mr. Chaitoff. "It's my obligation; it's my duty." Mr. Chaitoff added that whether or not he will be called depends on how the situation in the Persian Gulf develops.

Friends and relatives of Mr. Chaitoff, who had served as chaplains in the army played a large role in his decision to join the reserves. "My mentor at the University was a World War II Army Air Corps chaplain," explained Mr. Chaitoff, "and I got interested in the reserves through talking to him about his experiences in the Army chaplaincy." Mr. Chaitoff said he was also looking for something "different" and "exciting," and that the Army Reserves fulfilled these requirements.

Mr. Chaitoff does not, however, believe that there will be a need for a draft. "The enlistment in the army has been on the increase since the events in the Gulf began," he said, "so there wouldn't really be a need for a draft. Also, if the war only lasts another few months there would be no need for a draft because it takes about four or five months for a civilian to be processed into a soldier."

According to the New York Times, the army has 1.6 million Reserves, 200,000 more reserves. "The enlistment in the army has been on the increase since the events in the Gulf began," he said, "so there wouldn't really be a need for a draft. Also, if the war only lasts another few months there would be no need for a draft because it takes about four or five months for a civilian to be processed into a soldier."

Events in the Persian Gulf may also have an effect on YU Students who serve in the Israeli reserves. Yamin Goldsmith spent a year in an Israeli tank core through the Machal program. Now both a YC Senior and a reservist, he says that if Israel were engaged in a ground war, he would probably be summoned for active duty. Goldsmith added that if there were indeed a need for him, he would not wait to be called.

"If there's something I can do, I would like to go back, not just wait to be called back," he said. "If you know that your friends are going through something, it's harder to sit back and just listen to the news."

Dwayne Pechet, another IDF reservist, also said that he would return to Israel if Israel gets into a ground war. "If the army feels that they need to launch a ground offensive against a neighboring country, or if Israel mobilizes to go to war, then obviously I would go back," Pechet said.
MTA: Too Close for Comfort

by David Silverblatt, Joel Haber, Stephen Buch

In January of 1929, the building located at 2540 Amsterdam Ave, which we now interchangeably call RIETS, Muss, and Tannenbaum Hall was constructed at an initial cost of $2,500,000. The intended purpose of the building was to house RIETS, MTA, and Yeshiva College (which in that year had 35 students).

Many famous men have walked YU’s high school hallways, such as, former U.S. Deputy Attorney General Nathan Lewin, Ambassador Max Kampelman, and Harvard Law Professor Alan Derhowitz. Some 61 years later, however, some are questioning why there is a high school sitting in the middle of a college campus.

The chief critics of the High School are the College students themselves. “I think the high school children are irritating and they bring down the level of the University,” says Rabbi Hirt. "I never realized YU was a co-ed school. Some College teachers agree. One instructor in the business school put it bluntly: ‘They don’t belong.’" Some College teachers agree. One instructor in the business school put it bluntly: ‘They don’t belong.’

Over the past five years, enrollment at MTA has grown from 370 students to 492 students in 1990. The increase in enrollment is beneficial to MTA, but it leads to overcrowding of the facilities for the college. At times, the lines to the local kosher restaurants extend out into the street.

Since the primary interaction of YC students has with the high school students tends to be around meal times, this overcrowding can be a source of tension.

Dean of Students Efrem Nulman sees the relationship of the High School and the College as more balanced. “I think it’s advantageous to both the High School and the College. They have an opportunity to participate in University courses, events, and activities. From the college students’ perspective, they can act as student advisors and leaders and so it gives them an opportunity to act as leaders, and I think it’s a useful experience for college students.”

“The presence of the High School... has some advantages for the High School, but no obvious ones for the College”

-Dean Rosenfeld
For Felsenthal, his present duties stand in sharp contrast to his previous experience as a student leader. Last year, Felsenthal was a prominent player in both the cafeteria boycott and the Freedom Express rally in Washington. Felsenthal says he genuinely enjoyed throwing himself into various causes, but because of his current duties to the entire student body, he simply can no longer do that. "I can't choose one specific club," he contends. "They are all my priority and it is my job to support them all."

Felsenthal readily admits that while he had known what the job of YCSC President technically entails, it was impossible to foresee how many minute details there would be to take care of. "No matter how much you plan, the magnitude of it all is still overwhelming," he says. During the course of our fifty minute interview, Felsenthal was interrupted by two club presidents.

Felsenthal lists himself more visible on campus as one of his goals for the Spring semester. Felsenthal also promises more social events, a constant series of Shabbatonim, and special guest speakers (he has been in contact with the Mayor's office for some time now). To accomplish these goals, Felsenthal will have to overcome student apathy and the inherent difficulties of his office. George Bush needed a popular war to raise his stature. Steve Felsenthal hopes satisfying his own constituency will be less wrenching.

Yeshiva University Torah U'Madda Project

PRESENTS

- and -

ALAN DERSHOWITZ
Professor-Harvard Law School
Cambridge, MA

NATHAN LEWIN
Attorney-at-Law
Washington, DC

IN DIALOGUE:

CHURCH, STATE, AND THE FIRST AMENDMENT

Wednesday, April 24, 1991, 8:00 P.M.
Gloria and Jesse Weissberg Commons, Belfer Hall
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For further information call:
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Opinion

Beware of Fickle Friends

By Jonathan Tropper

With the end of the Vietnam War, America was hungering to get back to an era of past, where it was customary no longer to lend to a friend, but to lend to a stranger. The country was now, above all else, on the move. People were moving to new states, new cities, and new lives. They were determined to make the most of their time on earth, to get ahead, to be successful. Steve Felsenthal hopes satisfying his own constituency will be less wrenching.
Flight to the Diaspora

To the Editor,

Avi Lopin's article "Flight to Freedom" (issue #5) was certainly a heart-warming tale of escape from tyranny and a suppression of Judaism, to lives marked by a study of Torah and the doing of Mitzvot. While reading the article, though, I could not control my feeling that it was a shame that these brave students had exchanged one galut for another. True, America is a gilded galut, and true, the students are having the opportunity of leading Jewish lives here, something which they could not do freely in their countries of birth. And, yet, America is still galut.

Your author, however, seems not to realize this fact. So enamored is he of the American diaspora, that he is willing to pervert totally a verse from the prophet Isaiah and read it as a prophecy of the ingathering of exiles at YU! Does he not know that these words of Isaiah, foretelling the return of the exiles from the four corners of the earth, are being fulfilled in our own day in the State of Israel? It is unfortunately true that one of those corners of the earth, America, is not sufficiently represented in Israel, yet it is a sad day when even religious Jews see America as the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy. We do not have to wait for the Messiah to give meaning to the words of Isaiah.

Daniel J. Lasker
Andrew N. and Rose Miller Visiting Professor of the History of Zionism and Modern Israel

Closed Out in Muss Hall

To the Editor,

I am a student in Muss Hall, and on many occasions, I want to study and my roommate wants to go to sleep or vice-versa. Having the utmost respect for sleep, the roommate who wishes to study leaves. But where should he go? The library's mean temperature is at least 62°F, and it is noisy. We at Muss Hall have a resource which remains untapped: The High School Classrooms.

Why are they closed? Are the administrators afraid that we will steal or break something? Or will we have eraser wars? No, we are mature college students and should be trusted. If we can not all be trusted, then someone should be placed in charge of these rooms at night. This issue is one which could improve life at Muss Hall, because we have no study lounges, unlike Morg and Rubin.

Another problem for Muss Hall students is the availability of the High School gym. A similar system of delegation of responsibility should be instituted to permit access to the gym till one or two a.m. I would be glad to accept this responsibility and raise money to pay EM'Ts and or supervisors, if insurance is the problem. The college experience should be designed to encourage both studying and physical exercise. Areas for these are sorely lacking. In contrast to the Bais Medrash, which is open all night, resources for these other endeavors are sadly closed, limiting a complete college experience.

Julian Hartheimer
YC '92

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Flight Continued from p. 1

administrators, Roshei Yeshiva and faculty were on the flight. But according to Goldsmith, for the half-hour period on Friday, January 11th, the trip was actually canceled. That afternoon, the donor contacted American Friends of Yeshivat Ateret Cohanim, a charitable organization, that agreed to sponsor the flight, saving the operation from failure.

To inform all passengers of the dangers involved in the flight and to disarm potential liability suits, the project's organizers distributed waivers explicitly stating the dangers associated with the trip. The "...U.S. State Department has issued a travel advisory urging people to stay away from the middle east including the State of Israel," the waiver warned.

Despite the chaotic atmosphere brought on by phone-constantly ringing, final exams, and news from the Persian Gulf, student leaders assembled the operation paying careful attention to details. They secured health and bomb insurance for the flight's passengers and contacted YU's liaisons in Israel to arrange for gas mask distribution.

As war grew imminent, Opeanion Torah Shield received more than 200 cancellations, to the benefit of those confined to waiting lists. In the end, over a quarter of the passengers on Flight 012 were unaffiliated with YU.

Organizers charged $50 for YU students, and $100 for those from outside the YU community. YU Rebbeim flew for free.

Thousands of dollars secured from the ticket sales paid for the distribution of over one hundred boxes of clothing for Russian Jews in Israel and transportation costs accrued in ferrying the flight's passengers to the Kotel, the Plaza Hotel and the Knesset among other destinations. According to Borowich, the remaining $5000 will join charity funds; one such fund is designated to help victims of Iraqi Scud attacks.

Operation Torah Shield received television and newspaper coverage around the world. Reported in the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, USA Today, ABC News and numerous other television networks and newspapers, the story reached millions of people.

Landin in Ben Gurion Airport, the El Al passengers were greeted by a host of reporters, cameras and Israeli dignitaries including Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Many Yeshiva University students appeared on Israeli television and were later recognized in the streets, restaurants, and taxi cabs of Israel.

Asutter, a YC Junior, feels that when he and hundreds of other Jews began dancing on the airport tarmac with the Israeli flag flapping in the distance, a tremendous Kiddush Hashem occurred. Cutter said that the flight had a profound impact on Israel's morale. Many participants said Israelis stopped in the street to say "Kol Hakavod".

Cutter, articulating many students' views, claims the positive media coverage and the reaction of the Israelis he met has raised his school spirit and compelled him to realize that YU plays a significant role in the world Jewish community. Says Cutter, "I was proud to say in Israel that I go to YU."
A Patriot is an anti-missile missile—not a disgruntled foot­ball player from New England. According to reliable sources the ones winning the war.

"Scud" comes from the Russian word, "to run." It's 'in' to know that 'Scud' comes from the Russian word, "to run." Displaying an American or Israeli flag from your dorm window is 'in'.

Being up to date on current news events is 'in'. DON'T wear your 1.0. on zippers. DON'T wear your 1.0. on your sleeve. That seems to be an MTA trend.

Don't wear 1.0.'s or hang them from their belt, near their left pocket. It is 'in' to show support for our troops. Hanging little yellow ribbons from your I.D. is 'in'. Displaying an American or Israeli flag from your dorm window is 'in'.

Spring '91:

What's Hot, What's Not

by Dave Silverblatt

In these trying times, when our country is at war, and our homeland is being bombed, one must not forget the truly unim­portant things.

According to our esteemed panel of experts, you may not be in fashion. For example, given the new I.D. checking procedures, it becomes neces­sary to update your fashion knowledge. It's 'out' to wear your I.D. on your sleeve. That seems to be an MTA trend. I.D.'s on coat or shirt pockets are also 'out'. BUT, if you normally wear a pocket protector, it's alright. Sorry for disturbing you. Go back to your studying.

Our Purim Spectacular

HATZALAT NEFASHOT

Meyer, a Yeshiva student afflicted with leukemia, needs a bone marrow transplant.

Come. Be Tested.

Tonight, February 13th at Lincoln Square Synagogue 208 Amsterdam Avenue, off of 69th St.

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874-5100

SAVE A LIFE

DAVE'S TOP TEN

By David Silverblatt

10. The current campaign goal of $400,000,000 was actually supposed to be $404,275,000 but was "adjusted for the sake of convenience and acceptability"

9...Harrison Ford has an apartment next door to Dr. Lamm's

8...It cost Cei Mazer $2,000,000 to add the M to YP

7...Chemical Bank has a branch in Belfer Hall (It's open on YU employee paydays)

6...If you look at the bricks on the library facade, you'll notice white streaks. Why? The bricks are weatherproofed on one side only—the inside. (I hate to pick on the library, but it's just so darn easy)

5...A man named Russell Barrie recently donated a quarter of a million dollars to YU. YU in turn dedicated the old game room in his honor, and distributed a public media release which included a description of the game room: "an array of billiards, shuffleboard, and bowling games." If this is your first semester here, and you still haven't seen the bowling facilities, ask a senior to point them out for you. (They're right next to the Lacrosse field.)

4...The Guide to the Perplexed is really a book by the Rambam (Sorry...you already knew that.)

3...About 5 to 6 years ago, Garden State Brick and Stucco Company was called in to rebrick parts of Belfer Hall after bricks began falling down

2...About two weeks ago, President Lamm was forced to sign the visitor list at Stern because he didn't have an ID card

1...One of the three elevators in Furst Hall does not work. It has never worked. Originally it was installed with the intention of using it as a freight elevator for the receiving department. (The receiving department, however, is in Belfer Hall. I'm still trying to figure out if the same people that built the library also built Furst Hall?) To my knowledge, the third elevator shaft is empty. One administrator who works in Furst Hall suspects that "there may be homeless people living there."

As always, if you have information for next issue's Top Ten Did You Knows...contact Dave Silverblatt in Morg 303.

Correction: Dean Nulman pointed out that in last issue's Did You Know, I stated that both Rabbi Meir Kahane and the Beastie Boys attended MTA. Kahane actually attended BTA which merged with MTA in 1980. Please accept my apology.
Speiser Top Pick in Supplemental Draft

by Ronnie Aranoff

Once again, intramural basketball is ready to begin at Yeshiva. Before we preview the coming season, it is necessary to recap what wasn’t previously covered in THE COMMENTATOR. The Pirates, captained by Jeff Mor, a second team All Star, captured the championship by defeating the Panthers who were led all season by Daniel Loskove and Alex Fooksman.

The Pirates, who were not thought to be true contenders until late in the season, really showed what the importance of good chemistry can mean to a ball club.

Despite a number of young players, the Pirates were able to win the big game. Congratulations to all members of the Pirates for a well played season. The first time in first semester win for the Pirates will assure their spot in this year’s championship and be played at the conclusion of the spring semester.

In an effort to bolster all the clubs in our league to a higher level of play, the commission instituted the annual supplemental draft. This draft consisted of players who did not play in the fall semester. The drafting order was decided in reverse order of how the teams finished in the fall. The first pick went to Duvie Maryles of The Pirates, who picked sharp-shooter David Speiser. After that selection, the Hoyas, captained by Michael Packer, selected the highly regarded point guard Jeremy Bandler. Packer also obtained Meir Yedid, a fine shooter, from the Wildcats in return for Eric Vanhard, a sharp-shooter from the Redmen.

The Pirates, who were coming off a championship loss to the Pirates, were represented in the draft by Daniel Loskove and Moshe Benaroch. They selected Kevin Rosenberg, a forward, with all-around skills.

The defending champion Pirates opted for Eric Reinhard, a sharp-shooting guard from Florida. There is no way to tell how each of these new-comers will play on an individual level, but certainly, every team in the league will benefit from them. Best of luck to all teams.

The Friars held pick number five and were faced with the insurmountable task of replacing long-time veteran and first team All Star Yehuda Blinder, who graduated last semester. However, the Friars did a nice job trying to replace Blinder by selecting Israel Wallach. Wallach is an all-around player with a good shot. Friar captain Eric Melzer also obtained the seventh pick in the draft via a trade with Orangemen captain Jeff Motes. Melzer used this pick to obtain Saul Fiedler, a guard. Fiedler will provide both leadership and solid all-around play for the Friars.

The Eagles, captained by Yitz Stern, the new captain of these new-comers will be played at the conclusion of the spring semester.

The Volleyball Macs' next home game is a tri-match against Sacred Heart and Vassar. Although the Macs lost the meet, the team showed many positive signs for a bright future. Sacred Heart and Vassar played numerous matches this season before the meet, giving them a decided advantage over the as of then untested Macs. Nevertheless, the Macs' volleyball steadily and narrowly lost to Sacred Heart 15-11 and 15-13. In one of the games against an extremely experienced Vassar squad, the Macs began to stage a comeback. Down 14-0, the Macs surprised Vassar by scoring seven consecutive points, with Vassar ultimately winning 15-7 and 15-1.

This team has a balanced mix of both old and young talent. Returning starters Arvi Steinlauf and Zevi Adler, the co-captains, are two of the team's top hitters. Jon Kleinman, who is starting this year, in the team's most dependable setter. Two other returning team members who have become starters are Aaron Katzman and Yitz Fixler. Adler has lots of acclaim for these two players, stating, "Katzman is really quiet off the court, but on the court he is tenacious. Fixler is also tough and plays hard every night despite a knee injury." The final starter, a rookie named Jer- emy Bandler, never played or- dered in the draft by Daniel Loskove and Moshe Benaroch. They selected Kevin Rosenberg, a forward, with all-around skills.

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Slow Start for Volleyball Macs

by Eric Melzer

The Macs Volleyball team began their fourth season of NCA A competition on Thursday, January 31st, with a tri-match against Sacred Heart and Vassar. Although the Macs lost the meet, the team showed many positive signs for a bright future. Sacred Heart and Vassar played numerous matches this season before the meet, giving them a decided advantage over the as of then untested Macs. Nevertheless, the Macs' volleyball steadily and narrowly lost to Sacred Heart 15-11 and 15-13. In one of the games against an extremely experienced Vassar squad, the Macs began to stage a comeback. Down 14-0, the Macs surprised Vassar by scoring seven consecutive points, with Vassar ultimately winning 15-7 and 15-1.

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The Volleyball Macs are coached by Mr. Omar Vargas, a true professional in this sport. Vargas currently plays on the United States national team. In fact, Vargas was unable to attend last year's athletic dinner because his team was playing the United States Olympic Team on ESPN.

Adler had the highest praise for Coach Vargas: "I've been on three different hockey teams, three different basketball teams, and numerous swim teams. Vargas is by far the best coach I ever had."

The Volleyball Macs' next home game is a tri-match against Bridgeport College and Bard College on Thursday February 21 at 7:00 p.m.
MACS' STELLAR SEASON
SPOILED BY INJURIES

By Eric Melzer

Yeshiva Macks superstar Eric Davis broke his hand in last Monday's YU victory over SUNY Maritime. Davis will probably miss the remainder of the season.

The injury to Davis came at a most inopportune time. Starting forward Miko Danan had just returned from one month of active duty in the Israeli army and the two had not played together since the January 3rd victory over Baruch College. Prior to Danan's return, the Macs had lost four straight. The losses were to Barry University, New Jersey Tech, Polytech, and Mt. St. Vincent.

With Danan's return, the Macs clobbered SUNY Maritime, 78-58. Without Davis in the lineup, however, the Macks were crushed in their next game by NYU, 78-58. The Macks have now lost five of their last six games and their once stellar 8-3 record has plummeted to 9-8.

The injury to Eric Davis caps a season where nearly all of the Macks have been injured in one way or another. With the exception of Danan each of the starters has been hurt. In addition to Davis, Gregory Rhine bruised his ankle and knee, Jon Rosner recently received eight stitches in his knee, and David Klein has played an entire season with a weak ankle. The only Macks who have remained healthy this season are Dovid Cohen, Seth Cohen, and Josh Dobin.

The injury to Eric Davis and David Ehrman both played well and steals. Eric Davis also shot close after this juncture, however, a masterful game. Rhine made the Macs' defense lopsided than the score indicated, as YU trailed by 20 and the free-throw line. NYU, 78, Yeshiva 62. As usual, Mac free-throw shooting was disgraceful, a lowly 10 of 23, or 45%. Eric Davis shot a superb 9-11 from the field and finished with 18 points. Gregory Rhine also played a solid game and had 12 assists. However, it was the poor free-throw shooting and abundance of turnovers which buried the Macks. Many fans who remembered the excitement of last year's one point heartbreaker lost to New Jersey Tech were quite disappointed with this sub-par performance.

Polytech 73, Yeshiva 62. As one savvy fan remarked, "This game was a 'Bushal (an embarrassment)!" The Macks lost to a clearly inferior team. The only Macks who played decently this game was David Ehrman (19 points). Not even the nagging injuries and the absence of Miko Danan could justify this loss. The highlight of the game occurred when Polytech star Billy Dupree scored his 1000th career point. After Dupree achieved this milestone, the officials temporarily stopped the game and Dupree received a standing ovation from the Max Stern Athletic Center crowd.

Mt. St. Vincent, 76 Yeshiva 59. This game was close until Mt. St. Vincent sharpened about midway through the second half. The defeat marked the fourth consecutive loss for the Macs.

Yeshiva 89, SUNY Maritime 67. The return of Miko Danan, who was welcomed back by a roaring crowd, helped the Macks snap their four-game losing streak. Attending the game was former New York Knick legend Earl "the Pearl" Monroe, who helped the Knicks win the NBA championship in 1973. Perhaps inspired by Monroe's presence, Gregory Rhine played a masterful game. Rhine made nine of his ten shots and finished with a triple-double: 21 points, 10 rebounds, and 10 steals. Eric Davis also shot close to perfect from the field (10 for 11) and finished with 23 points. Mike Tishman scored 15 and Elisha Rothman had 13 (7 for 7 from the free-throws line).

NYU 78, Yeshiva 58. The numerous injuries, especially the one to Eric Davis were evident in this loss. Down by only five at the half, the Macs folded in the second half due to fatigue and a lack of healthy depth. Jon Rosner finished with 17 points and David Ehrman contributed 18.

With the injury to Eric Davis, the chance for the Macks to qualify for post-season play in the ECAC Metro tournament seems quite bleak. Apparently, the only way the Macks can make the tournament is if they win the A TOURNAMENT, which starts February 21st. In other words, the Macs will need to beat New Jersey Tech and Western Connecticut, the two best teams in the league, without Eric Davis.

Injured Macs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Injury</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dovid Cohen</td>
<td>Sprained Ankle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eric Davis</td>
<td>Broken Hand</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Ehrman</td>
<td>Sprained Ankle and Knee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tzvi Himmer</td>
<td>Twisted Ankle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt Klein</td>
<td>Sprained Ankle and Knee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greg Rhine</td>
<td>Pulled Quadriceps Muscle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elisha Rothman</td>
<td>Pulled Quadriceps Muscle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jon Rosner</td>
<td>Bruised Knee</td>
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"Out for the Season"