Tenure Revisions Proposed

Part 1 of a Series on Faculty -- Administration Relations

by Sender Cohen

One of the least well-known and least understood policies at our university is the one governing tenure. Most students have heard the term, but do not understand the serious implications it has for the faculty and for their educations. A university's tenure policy gives it the opportunity to foster academic excellence, reward outstanding professors, and protect academic freedom.

The University only awards tenure to full-time appointees with the academic rank of professor, associate professor or assistant professor. Seven years of teaching experience is required for tenure, including prior service at other universities with comparable standards. Recently, Dr. Avery Horowitz, a professor of economics, was denied tenure by the University. The reasoning behind the denial is unclear. Dr. Joshua Bacon, a member of the division committee that evaluated Dr. Horowitz, said that he "doesn't know specifically why Dr. [Horowitz] was denied." Executive Vice President Dr. Egon Brenner declined to discuss the issue, stating that he "can't discuss their personnel matters." Dr. Horowitz stated that he too is unsure exactly why tenure was denied. "The division was kind enough to send me a copy of the letter they sent to the administration; that is the extent of my knowledge of the decision." YC Junior Eyal Feiler expressed amazement at being denied tenure. "Ridiculous that a teacher as good as he, is not rewarded for his efforts." One professor, who requested anonymity, pointed out that due to YU's censure by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), a faculty member who is denied tenure is required to go through a grievance procedures, as is an accepted option at most other universities.

YU was put under censure for not complying with AAUP rules, when it released a number of tenure faculty members under the control of the Belter Graduate School of Science. At YU, tenure is granted on the basis of three criteria: publications, research and other loads on their professors, effectiveness; and service to the university and profession. To receive tenure, a professor must be outstanding in two categories and competent in the third, naming the. However, many faculty members noted that in reality, publication has been emphasized more than the other two criteria.

Despite the importance of publication, it is unofficially accepted that less quality is expected at YU than in many other universities due to the unusually heavy teaching load placed on many professors. Because of time constraints, articles and books are usually more commonplace than monographs and books. Other universities, such as Harvard, which impose lighter teaching loads on their professors, require publication of two books before a professor can even be appointed to the position of tenured associate professor.

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Rosenbaum Urges Activism

by Jonathan Schloss

Calling the Crown Heights riots a pogrom, Norman Rosenbaum, the brother of murder victim Yankel Rosenbaum, addressed a capacity audience of over 600 students, alumni, faculty, and members of the press in the aftermath of the acquittal of murder suspect Lemrick Nelson. Crown Heights attorney Frank Snitow spoke prior to Rosenbaum at the Monday night lecture, focusing on the basis for the lawsuit which the Crown Heights Community has filed against New York City.

Snitow stressed that the purpose of the lawsuit filed last week against the City of New York, the New York Police Department, the Mayor, and the former Police Commissioner by the estate of Yankel Rosenbaum and the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council is to "strip away, to bare, so that all can see a double standard that will come to destroy the city" if it is left unchecked. The plaintiffs reiterated that they are not affiliated with any political party or candidate for mayor and that the suit has been filed to affect next year's mayoral election.

To characterize the suit as a racist attack on an African-American Mayor is "inaccurate," claimed Snitow. He further remarked that the Crown Heights Community has repudiated a poster of Mayor Dinkins as a "murderer." While Snitow agrees that Dinkins is not a murderer, he believes that it is a "damnable lie" to say that the NYTD could not react to the riots in Crown Heights for three days. "He [Dinkins] is accountable and it's not racist to call him accountable for his failure to act.

For his part, Rosenbaum called the riots the "most repugnant example of Anti-Semitism to confront us ... notwithstanding the lessons of Hitler." He said that his outspokenness since Lemrick Nelson's acquittal is solely in the interest of justice. Asserting that the principles of justice are necessary for society to survive, he, therefore, claimed that the issue at hand is not Jewish-American relations. "Every time the Mayor wants to divert [attention from the real issue] and is supported by self-interested, self-elected Jewish 'leaders,' I'll drag 'em back to that issue [justice]."... If continued on page 9

Millner Obtains Reparations for WWII Victims

by Joel Haber

Through the personal efforts of YU Senior Vice President Dr. Israel Miller, the German government recently signed an agreement to compensate Jewish Holocaust victims from Russia and Eastern Europe.

Miller, acting as Chairman of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, announced the accord on November 6th. Signed in Bonn, the arrangement will benefit those war victims from Communist countries who were previously unable to apply for reparations.

The West German government began restitution in 1952, and over 160,000 Jews still receive monthly payments. The East German government, while compensating the few Jewish and gentile war victims on their own territory, never paid its fair share in the worldwide reparations.

Miller's actions on behalf of Jewish Holocaust victims began 16 years ago when he was President of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations. When the U.S. initiated diplomatic relations with the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), he met with then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to discuss reparation. Secretary of State for European Affairs David Hartman to discuss American indifference to East Germany's gross neglect during its post-war duties. Miller termed this oversight an "immoral act on the part of our country." Due to his intervention, a paragraph was added into the treaty, forcing the GDR to agree to conversations with the Jewish community on a non-government level.

Before becoming the Claims Conference Chairman (following the death of previous chairman Nachum Goldman in 1984), Miller, accepted, on behalf of the Conference, the responsibility of representing the survivor community to the German government. Little transpired in the following years until Miller met with President Honecker four years ago. Miller received an invitation to attend the celebrations commemorating the 750th anniversary of Berlin. He accepted on the conditions that he be granted an audience with Honecker and be permitted to visit Buchenwald.

"I had qualms about going into a concentration camp if they don't have to go to Germany, should not go. But if you go, you ought to pay to the kedosim." Little was accomplished in the negotiations with Honecker. Then, following the destruction of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the reunification of the two Germanies, Miller again approached the State Department. He met with then Secretary of State James Baker and then Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs. They assured him that the German government honor their obligations to the survivor community. As a result, Article 10 of the accord written into the German Uniform Act for the Claims Conference as the "heirs" to any unclaimed Jewish property, was continued on page 11

Dinner to Honor Powell and Herzog

by Eric M. Creizen

Following its tradition of honoring high-profile, influential speakers, the YU Hanukkah Dinner will honor Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Colin Powell, and Israeli President Chaim Herzog at a December 20 dinner at the elegant Waldorf Astoria hotel in midtown Manhattan. The dinner, which costs $500 per person/$5000 per table, is "the culminating event of the year for the development of Yeshiva University," according to Mr. David Zysman, Vice President for Development.

The evening will begin with a convocation, at which honorary doctoral degrees will be granted to distinguished recipients. This will be followed by the banquet, which will feature an address from one of the honored guests. The purpose of the Hanukkah Dinner is to raise funds for the school, although Zysman explained that "most of the funds are raised in advance of the event."

Although some Administrators initially expressed concern that donations would decrease due to the recession, Zysman expressed his satisfaction with this year's returns. "We are running way ahead of last year in terms of fundraising. We would have been 'Wanted,'"... If continued on page 10
Presidential Propaganda

Public relations is an important tool for any institution. Good P.R., even when it creatively reinterprets the truth, can significantly aid fundraising, activities and augment the good name of an institution. However, the 1991-1992 YU President's Report prepared by President Lamm crosses the line.

Page 6 of the report details what is termed, "The Trial and Triumph of Bernard Revel Graduate School." President Lamm writes, "We, unlike other schools, could not afford... to rethink who we are." He later proceeds to enumerate those responsible for the survival of BRGS stating, "The School certainly would not have survived without YU's supporters, particularly those who now constitute the First Board of Directors of BRGS." He continues, "Revel's continuance also owes a debt of gratitude to the important recommendations of Prof. Marvin Fox and Prof Sid Leiman...[of] the special task force [emphasis added] formed last winter.

It is time to tell the truth. We have heard (PR releases, Alumni Reviews, President's Report) of nausum of everyone's heroes except for the real heroes, the students. Consipicuously absent from the Report are the true supporters and heroes, people like The Committee to Preserve Revel, the hundreds of student supporters, and The Commentator. The Administration was willing, in the words of Rabbi Lamm, "to rethink" who they were. It was the students who stood hard and fast on their principles.

In an editorial entitled "Anger Without Aggression" (11/12/92), The Commentator criticized Rabbi Avi Weiss for an alleged "attack" on the news crew of Lou Young of WNBC/New York, based on our understanding of an NBC news report of 10/29/92. While prior to publication The Commentator had attempted to verify the story, it has now become clear that Rabbi Weiss was not personally involved in the reported altercation and that, on the contrary, he had served as a moderating force, preventing the outbreak of violence.

WE WOULD LIKE TO SINCERELY APOLOGIZE TO RABBI WEISS FOR THIS GRIEVIOUS ERROR AND THE INJURY DONE TO HIM, AND ASSURE HIM THAT THERE WAS NO MALICE INTENDED IN OUR CHARGES.

We have withdrawn from further circulation all available copies of the 11/12 issue of The Commentator, and we request of all who have such copies not to circulate the editorial. After our issue went to print we discovered that, on October 30, NBC News ran a new story on the incident indicating that Rabbi Weiss was a calming influence and on November 9, formally "retracted" the original October 29 story. Following the publication of our editorial, The Commentator spoke with Lou Young, the reporter who covered the incident. Mr. Young said that NBC News had already issued a "clarification". According to Young, "the clarification indicated that he [Rabbi Weiss] was there, that he had tried to calm some people and that the other parties were involved in the violence, and we wanted to make that clear."

We deeply regret our unfortunate mistake.

Senate Under Siege

The Yeshiva College Uptown Senate is possibly the most maligncd body on campus. While it is far from perfect, it is also the only opportunity for students, faculty and administrators to interact in discussion of university policy.

However, despite the incredible potential for positive change which this organ represents, the Senate finds itself hindered at every turn by, ironically, its own members. Some Senators are known for constantly denigrating the Senate and its usefulness, while others do not even deign to attend meetings. Under conditions like these, the Senate can hardly be expected to accomplish anything.

If people consider the recommendations of the Senate worthless, it is because Senators in the administration have conveyed their insignificant in word and action (inaction). If we want an active, powerful Senate which has a chance to make a difference, then we must appoint people to its seats who believe in its mission and its ability to accomplish its goals.
From The Editor’s Desk

Just Someone to Talk To...

Year: 2003
Place: Weissberg Commons, Belfer Hall
Occasion: Tenth reunion of the 1993 graduating class

Marki: David, so good to see you. It’s been a long time.
David: Likewise. I miss those days of late-night scampering around Israel together while we were at the same yeshiva, and sitting next to you on the couch at 6:10 am on a daily basis.
Marki: So, are you married yet?
David: Yep. Five years. In fact, I have two kids already. How ’bout you?
Marki: Married seven years and I also have two kids. Where are you living?
David: Queens. We’re really like it here.
Marki: Say, didn’t I see you working out of your pants, that is, after we came back from Israel (knuckle)?
David: Well, yes.
Marki: And I take the learning in one of the ba’im medrashim in Queens?
David: Well, not really.
Marki: What do you mean, not really?
David: You were one of the more serious guys Jewish Studies when we were at YU.
Marki: Um, you see Dave, I’m not sure how to say... but I’m not really religious anymore.
David: When did this happen?
Marki: Almost immediately after leaving YU.
David: But why Marki? I don’t understand?
Marki: You see, after returning from Israel, I had a lot of questions, you know about religion, halacha, and God, but there was never anyone to answer these questions.
David: What do you mean? About what the rebbeim? The Guidance officer and forums like “dorm talks” and others?
Marki: No, you see, none of this talked to me. The rebbeim weren’t around or easily accessible for the most part. Sure, they were there during shiur or class but otherwise, during “down time,” they weren’t. You know how we were in college; we took advantage of what was convenient, but if we had to really search, we never did anything. And don’t tell, that’s the point they simply talk to the dorm halls. Many of the topics were impractical or irrelevant, and the important ones. I always emerged feeling that I had been talked to. I mean, there was a serious communication gap between the rabbi and most of us. They just didn’t get it. We weren’t like the turim, “act now, and don’t talk.”
David: Some questions and the guidance officer. I didn’t have a lot of problems for them. I was a normal guy and consequently they weren’t interested.
Marki: But all you had to do was exert a little effort speak out some advice from the mishagach, the jest of Jewish studies or the rebbeim.
David: You remember, very few students have the character to take the initiative to ask the rebbe, the mishagach, the chabad? Sure, they再生 around some and somewhere, but they’re not readily available. Furthermore, the mishagach is only one man, he can’t possibly talk to the whole student body, and the person that he is only responsible for MVP. And others, they’re just not really around.
Marki: I found answers and guidance from rabbis. Sure, I looked, but the results speak for themselves. It is there if you want it enough.
David: You say that in retrospect. At the time, was there enough energy? The Rabbis have a responsibility to see that I avail myself of their experience and their perspective. There were very few, who were like you and I, who took advantage of to see what the other rabbi is thinking.
Marki: I was told that I was looked at some as a “rascal” who is antisemitic and irresponsible, as was Councilman Noach Dear’s charge that David Dinkins is anti-Semitic, a charge that was deliberately leaked to the press and blocking a resolution condemning the Crown Heights verdict.

Dinkins: More Friend Than Foe

To the Editor,

The accusations are flying and the Commentator has joined the fray. I am extraordinarily disappointed with the editorial “Graceless at Grace.” The charges that David Dinkins has antisemitic leanings and is a “rascal” are pernicious and irresponsible, as was Councilman Noach Dear’s charge that David Dinkins is anti-Semitic. With this article, the Editor of the Commentator become one of the incident that will do irreparable damage to newspapers is called into question: Has the Commentator become one of the bad apples? Shouldn’t the Commentator be held to a higher standard?

The Commentator did not rely on “a single source” for its article. Adding to the reader’s deception was the fact that the article was not an Op-Ed in the vain that the piece was not an Op-Ed. It was an article based on several interviews. Although there are always a few narrow-minded individuals who do not possess ideal character traits, Baruch Hashem in Yeshiva’s community there are many positive things happening that we can all be proud of. During the period that I was president of the Sephardic Club, I have come to realize more and more that Yeshiva and its students have done a marvelous job helping Sephardic students in my community. I am personally aware of Dr. Lamm’s sincere concern for the needs of our new Sephardic immigrants. I can proudly announce that he is well respected in the different Sephardic communities in New York and outside the Metropolitan area. I can tell you that...
CAMPUS NEWS

Easier way to Get an "A"

Addressing a classroom of mostly freshman and sophomore students during club hour on Thursday, November 12, Rabbi Yehuda Fine, highlighted the value of certain scholastic strategies found in the popular academic self-help videotape "Where There's A Will, There's An 'A'."

Rabbi Fine, a YC guidance counselor, noted the importance of budgeting one's time and studying actively. He explained that people usually remember with greater clarity the first and last pieces of data studied. Therefore, according to Fine, studying in smaller time units with frequent breaks often results in more efficient memory absorption than if one were to engage in two or three hour stretches of nonstop studying.

Urging students to maximize their time, Fine explained that the amount of time an average person spends waiting in line throughout one's life equals five years. By disciplining oneself to employ such otherwise wasted time for meaningful students can prepare for exams more productively.

"Treat exams like athletic events," Fine remarked, emphasizing the importance of entering an exam well-rested. Positive affirmation is another critical aspect of successful test-taking, according to Fine. He commented, "What you think about in your mind, manifests out in reality."

-- Marty Goldberg

Spirits, Sparks, and Soups

Approximately 30 YC students gathered on Monday, November 9 to hear Dr. Dominick Pupura, Dean of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, deliver a lecture on the development and diversity of Neuroscience. Slides and diagrams accompanied the Sigma Delta Chi lecturer, entitled "Problems and Perspectives in Neuroscience".

Dr. Pupura traced the development of the field of Neuroscience, dividing it into three time periods. The first period, the Era of Spirits, spanned from classical times to the mid-18th century. The study of neurology then focused upon trying to remove evil spirits from the body by extracting the portion of the brain where the evil was concentrated.

The Era of Sparks, which ended in 1952, centered on the study of muscle stimulation. During that period, scientists extensively researched electrical stimulation and nerve function.

The final period, labeled the Period of Soups, researched chemical transmissions. These transmissions involve, among other things, the release of chemical reagents in synaptic clefts.

Dr. Pupura devoted the second half of his talk to his 10 Principles of Neuroscience. These include nerve impulses, sensory information, homeostatic mechanisms, emotions, and behavior."

--Azigder Butler

Pesak, the Sephardic Way

The Sephardic Club kicked off its evening cultural and educational program with "Darke Pesak," a lecture by Rabbi Eliahu Benaim, a prominent Rav in the New York Sephardic Community and around the world. Speaking to a mixed crowd of SCW and YC undergraduates about the process of reaching Halachic decisions, Rabbi Benaim delivered his lecture in Hebrew, a language he remarked, "that all YU students understand."

Daniel Hakimi, President of the Sephardic Club, explained that the purpose of the event was to "have a different type of Talmid Chacham speak at the Yeshiva and to increase interaction among students from all different backgrounds."

Gene Alperovich, a sophomore from Brookline, Massachusetts, attended "Darke Pesak" to hear a Sephardi perspective on Halachic matters, and was not disappointed. "I thought it was pretty interesting," he remarked.

Although the crowd filled more than two thirds of the Rubin Shul, Hakimi was not entirely satisfied with the turnout. "It was good, but I expected more people to show for such a great Rabbi," Hakimi looks forward to upcoming programs, however, and expects audiences to grow as the year progresses.

--Eric Creitzman
Tagar Trio
Stress: No Land For Peace
by Ari Rosenstein

On Tuesday night, November 17, the TAGAR Club presented a group of speakers and a visual demonstration on the topic, “Can Israel Survive Peace?” The three speakers addressed approximately 50 students regarding the importance of the occupied territories to Israeli security.

Graphically illustrating the importance of the Gaza strip through a video and a model of the Middle East, Glen Mores, the representative of Likud Jewish tendency to cast a vote based on Jewish involvement in politics to the Yeshiva Har Etzion deliver an hour-long address. Commenting on the speech, Mark Bleiweiss remarked that the Rav cited proofs such as the importance of the Gaza strip through a video and a model of the Middle East, and missing prisoners of war.

The second speaker, David Wiliger, the National Coordinator of TAGAR, addressed the issue of Israeli captives and the necessity to protect oneself from foreign security.

Finally, Mordechai Levy, President of the Jewish Defense League, discussed the importance of Jews in galut and the necessity to protect oneself from foreign peoples through the use of force, if need be.

Jerald Darvishzadeh, President of the Tagar Trio, STress: No Land For Peace, and Ron Arad name tags will be sold.

Torah
U'Politics
by Lavi Greenspan

On Monday night, November 23, Rav Aharon Lichtenstein addressed a crowd of YC and SCW students on the role of in politics. The crowd gathered in the auditorium to hear the Rosh Yeshiva deliver a D’var Torah in Shabbat on the holiness of Eretz Yisrael. Hershel Schachter delivered a D’var Torah on the holiness of Eretz Yisrael. Later, Rabbi Robert S. Hirt, Vice-President for Administration at RIETS, spoke on the “educational vision and mission of Torah U-Madda.”

Dr. Noam Shudovsky of Ramaz High School and Dr. Richard Geldard, Director of General Studies at Yeshiva University High School (VHHS), addressed the participants on fundraising. In addition, Dr. Geldard discussed his academic expectations for incoming high school students, specifically, their below-average math and English skills. Dr. Shudovsky remarked afterwards that “our goal was to keep everyone [the participants] excited and involved; otherwise, they don’t stay focused.” She expressed her satisfaction with the mission’s success and pledged to continue the program on an annual basis.
The History of Sephardic Programs at YU

by Rabbi M. Serels

The Origins

This year, Sephardim around the world mark a most significant milestone in their history - the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of the Jews from Spain. Sephardic Jews take great pride in the fact that they survived that terrible period and have since thrived and prospered, all the while preserving the rich traditions which comprise their glorious heritage.

Yeshiva University has been a prime force in the development of educational and service programs to preserve and foster these wondrous traditions. Just as the growth of Yeshiva University epitomizes the postwar resurgence of the Jewish people, the growth of Sephardic programming at the University is a manifestation of the vision and leadership of The Sephardic Jewry as a historic and vital component of the Jewish community.

Joseph M. Papa, the noted authority on the Sephardic Jewish Community in America, reports that the early vision for the founding of the Sephardic Studies programs at Yeshiva came from the Sephardim themselves who expressed their deep concern for the need to preserve the survival of Sephardic culture and the Sephardic religious heritage through the training of Sephardic rabbis and leaders. This had been expressed in the 1950's and early 1960's by the leadership of The Central Sephardic Community of America. It took some time for the impact of these needs to be effectively communicated and understood. Ultimately, it was Yeshiva University that responded in a direct and dramatic manner to fulfill these noble needs.

The University's Sephardic programs were founded in 1964 through the establishment of a program responsive to the Sephardim. Rabbi Dr. Solomon Gaon, then Chief Rabbi of Sephardic Congregations of the British Commonwealth, and the stalwart efforts of Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky, later President of YU, brought the Sephardic Program to the University.

Professional Leadership

It was in 1964 that The Haham, Dr. Gaon, was invited as Visiting Professor to Yeshiva University. Rabbi Gaon then enlisted Hyman J. Campeas in launching The American Sephardi, a publication of the University's Sephardic Studies Program, of which Mr. Campeas was Founding Editor. The publication gradually developed into a major scholarly journal under the brilliant editorship of Professor Herman P. Salomon. The Sephardic Program itself gained equal recognition in the component of the Jewish community. It took some time for the University to become a focal point of the Sephardic Community. The series of lectures on "The Sephardim and the Holocaust," "The Sephardim in the Diaspora," "The Sephardim and the Holocaust," etc., have made Yeshiva University a focal point of the Sephardic Community, the chair is now filled with an outstanding scholar.

Under the enthusiastic and munificent leadership of the late Col. J.S. Elyachar, the late Mr. Salvo Arias, and Dr. Joseph Aides, the world's first Professorial Chair in Sephardic Studies was established at Yeshiva University. Prof. Hayyim Cohen of the Hebrew University in Israel was the inaugural occupant. The Haham, Dr. Solomon Gaon, also occupied the chair until his retirement this past May. Thanks to the participation of many generous leaders of the Sephardic community, the chair is now funded.

The magnificent efforts of Edmund J.S. Elyachar provided the University's ability to sustain Sephardic programming through his gift to endow the Sephardic Studies Program as the Jacob E. Safra Foundation has empowered the Sephardic Council of Prof. Hayyim Cohen of the Hebrew University in Israel was the inaugural occupant. The Haham, Dr. Solomon Gaon, also occupied the chair until his retirement this past May. Thanks to the participation of many generous leaders of the Sephardic community, the chair is now funded.

The Sephardic Reference Room, on the fourth floor of the Graduate Library, is a preeminent resource. It houses the largest Ladin collection outside the State of Israel. Thirty-seven different professors have taught Sephardic courses at the various schools. While more courses are offered now than ever before, there is still room for improvement.

When a student at RIETS, I was of one who was involved in the Sephardic programming. Today there are fourteen students. Ourrabinic alumni serve as leaders in the United States, Canada, and the British Commonwealth, and the Sephardic Studies Program is the focal point of the Sephardic Community.

But the programs need to be reviewed, critized, and improved upon in order to meet the greatest demands of today's sophisticated Sephardic students and to meet the criteria of interest of Sephardic students. The greatest pleasure for all of us is to see many Sephardic students learning, studying, and developing at Yeshiva University. To see Sephardic students assuming leadership roles throughout campus life makes me think of the leadership role they will assume after they graduate. These Sephardic men and women of Yeshiva University, dedicated to their heritage and proud of their institution, are our future, and they ensure our continuity.
Sephardic Club: Always Active

by Joey Nassbaum

Boasting approximately 150 members, the Sephardic Club is the largest on-campus club at Yeshiva College. On a day to day basis, they are extremely active around YU, scheduling of Mussar related to the week's Parasha. As I join the club, membership is extremely active around YU, scheduling of Mussar related to the week's Parasha.

The club is designed to educate Sephardic youth in their traditions and serve the needs of Sephardic community members. The club organizes menstrual hygiene and Ashkenazic students to study this venerable component of Jewish tradition.

Course offerings this past year consisted of 20 courses, including Sephardic philosophy, hakhamim, music, jurisprudence, history, and languages. Thirteen of these courses were offered through the Philip and Sarah Stern College for Women (two courses) and RIETS (two courses).

The Institute of Yemenite Studies, a branch of the Safra Institute, was established several years ago to offer courses on Yemenite history, culture, and tradition. The Maybaum Sephardic Fellowship Program provides financial assistance to RIETS students of Sephardic heritage who plan to serve as rabbinic leaders in Sephardic communal life. This program also provides a total of over one million dollars in financial aid to Sephardic students each year.

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Weiss Editorial Stirs Protest
by Jamin Koslowe

An editorial in the last issue of The Commentator mistakenly criticizing Rabbi Avi Weiss, Professor of Judaic Studies at SCW, for an alleged "attack" on WNBC News/New York reporter Lou Young precipitated a flurry of student and faculty protest. The Commentator's claim that Weiss caused a "Chillul Hashem" by protesting the Yankel Rosenbaum killing in a violent manner, spurred the outburst.

Within hours of publication on November 12, The Commentator began receiving calls from students protesting the Weiss editorial. Several students disputed the facts cited in the editorial, while others criticized The Commentator for publicly criticizing Rabbi Weiss even if he had attacked Mr. Young.

On Monday, November 16, Rabbi Weiss and Rabbi Saul Berman, Professor of Judaic Studies at SCW, summoned SCW students for an assembly in the sixth floor Beit Medrash. According to SCWSC President Adeeva Laya Graubard, approximately 80 women attended the assembly, during which Rabbi Weiss and Rabbi Berman strongly disputed the facts cited in the editorial, while others criticized the Weiss editorial. Several students commented to their non-violence and claimed that Rabbi Weiss had violated many halachot for falsely accusing Rabbi Weiss of such an attack is incomprehensible given his past record. Rabbi Berman explained his decision to confiscate the newspapers at SCW by likening the editorial to a piece of pornography, which is "forbidden to read, and [forbidden] to distribute." Rabbi Berman later returned the confiscated newspapers to The Observer, which is responsible for distributing The Commentator on the SCW campus. He stressed, however, that he remains opposed to further distribution of that issue of The Commentator.

The Commentator maintains that they only chastised Rabbi Weiss for the attack, which occurred during a protest on the night of the Crown Heights verdict, after the initial news report by Lou Young, and after corroborating the story with several sources. According to the newspaper, they attempted to contact Rabbi Weiss before going to press, but calls to his office were not returned and they were unaware that Mr. Young had later retracted his initial story.

The Commentator's Co-Editor-in-Chief Michael Z. Kellman stated, "While I recognize Rabbi Berman's concern regarding the ramifications of further distribution of our editorial, I feel that once the retraction/apology has been issued, the merit of the rest of that edition of The Commentator should outweigh the possible harm of the misleading editorial." Kellman added that he "hopes we can put this incident behind us as soon as possible."

Although Rabbi Weiss would not comment directly about the editorial, he expressed desire for a personal meeting with Commentator editors: "I am hopeful, in the spirit of Teshuva, that those involved sit down with me, so they understand how deeply pained I am."

Even before the assembly, petitions demanding that The Commentator print a retraction and apology to Rabbi Weiss for the editorial were circulated among SCW students. 175 women signed the petitions before rumors that The Commentator planned to print a letter of retraction and apology began to spread prompting the recall of the petitions.

On the Uptown campus, second year Semicha student Nosson Leiter, one of the most outspoken critics of The Commentator, reprimanded those responsible for the editorial for "in tolerably gross negligence." Because of halachic considerations, Leiter maintained that even had the facts been true, the editorial should not have been printed "unless a reliable and objective rabbinic authority would have allowed it." He further suggested that "those responsible [for the editorial] should do the honorable thing, and step down."

After confirming that the editorial was based on false information, The Commentator posted letters on Monday night acknowledging its mistake, and apologizing to Rabbi Weiss for the "grievous error and injustice done to him." Later that night, The Commentator received a letter from Rabbi Weiss' lawyer, Stanley Langer, outlining Rabbi Weiss' demands for: a mutually agreed upon letter of retraction and apology; the impounding and destruction of all issues of The Commentator not yet distributed; and the printing of the retraction and apology on the editorial page of the next issue of The Commentator. The Commentator subsequently removed the initial letters of retraction and apology, and solicited the legal services of attorney Charles Sims of Proskauer, Rose, Goetz and Mendelsohn to represent its interests in negotiations with Rabbi Weiss' lawyer. The next day, The Commentator posted a letter to its readers stating its intention to print retractions as soon as lawyers for the two sides could agree upon a text for a retraction.

Later in the week, anonymous open letters to the Editorial Board of The Commentator appeared on the uptown campus. These letters contained a new demand -- that the Editors-in-Chief and Executive Editor of The Commentator resign. Another unidentified protester shredded issues of The Commentator for use as toilet paper on the second floor of Muss Hall.
Reynolds Defended

by Ari Listowsky

Seven-Mazer Yeshiva Program (MYP) students recently met with Mr. Nahum Gordon, Chairman of the Jewish Studies Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) of the YC Board of Directors, to discuss what invitations to the meeting termed "the perception of the MYP program." According to Gordon, a YU alumnus, the AAC was formed by President Norman Lamm immediately seven years ago. The committee deals on a rotating basis with the MYP, IBC, and JSS programs. Gordon explained that the first step is a series of informal meetings between board members and students which allow the students to bring to the committee's attention their concerns about the school. The program is an excellent way to interact with administration and faculty, produces a report, and makes recommendations for improvement. Programs such as the Torah U'Madda project were created in part as a result of these recommendations.

The students representing the meeting were: SOY president Hillel Scheinfeld, Gedalyah Berger, Eitan Mayer, Ari Fitchut, Tzvi Shilohn, Jason Schwartz, and David Flatto. Gordon had asked for ten students who would constitute a representative cross-section of students in the MYP program and include student leaders as well. The seven who attended were a list of ten students submitted to Dean of MYP Rabbi Zevulun Charlop's office by Scheinfeld. Two students were unable to attend and one did not receive an invitation because of an oversight. Scheinfeld explained that he attempted to gather a group of students who would "reflect the spectrum of philosophies and Yiddishkeit in YP" and "show an understanding."

Turning to space constraints, the student representatives claimed that the Beis Medrash is too small for all of the students and some may stop attending because of the lack of seats. Additionally, the students maintained that the academic and social atmosphere is better and given with more structure. As Flatto explained, "students should not be able to take any asylum in shirur with easy or non-existent testing methods."

Although the students admitted that they entered the meeting filled with skepticism, most said that they came away with a positive feeling. Mr. Gordon stated that after the committee has met with the Administration and faculty and prepares a report, he will make the report's details known to the student body. This past Thursday night, Mr. Gordon made an open report on the discussion at a regular meeting of the Yeshiva College Board of Directors.

Rosenbaum continued from page 1

it's not politically expedient, that's too bad," he added emphatically.

Both Rosenbaum and Snitow highlighted the fact that the Crown Heights community has worked within the law. "Citing recent editorials in the New York Times, they pointed out that the students are muzzled by the press when they exercise their constitutional right to combat racism," Jews, are seen as complainers. Rosenbaum urged the audience to turn this negative stereotype into something positive by writing to government officials to raise public awareness. The comment came after the Holocaust was quoted. "If only we had been," concluded Rosenbaum. "We all stand together, when I'll ask you brother, you ask a brother."
Altercation at Stern College

by Commentator Staff

On Thursday, November 19, Associate Director of Facilities Management Jeff Socol and another supervisor were reportedly punched by a maintenance employee during a heated dispute at the SCW school building.

According to sources requesting anonymity, sometime in the late afternoon Socol began yelling at Patrick Agron for painting the wrong wall. Socol allegedly then proceeded to call Agron a “crack-head” and a “dope addict”, during the heated argument which ensued. According to Agron, Socol then reached for his gun, at which point Agron, feeling threatened, punched Socol in the face. Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosengarten categorically denied all of the charges and asserted that the painters were found in a part of the building different from where they were supposed to be and that they were simply asked why they were not in their assigned place.

Rosengarten stated that “No statements taken at the time of the incident have mention of a gun. There was no evidence that a gun was in any way involved.” He added that it was an “unprovoked and unexpected attack which took place as they [the supervisors] were leaving.”

Rosengarten maintains that Socol’s attacker, whom he refused to name, was a second time offender. He insisted that, according to witnesses, the attacker “acted weirdly and aggressively...lunged at the two supervisors with his fist and hit both men.”

Agron, who has been suspended indefinitely pending an investigation of the incident and a hearing, claimed that Socol was “a nasty man who is disrespectful to a lot of people and workers.” However, Agron was unwilling to discuss the event in detail before speaking to his union leadership.

Socol refused to comment on the incident.

Dinner

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the recession, but because of major gifts we are in a very desirable position.” Powell and Herzog join a stellar list of past speakers at the Hanukkah Dinner which has, in past years, featured Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, President George Bush, Vice President Dan Quayle, and former Secretary of State George Shultz. According to Zysman, Powell and Herzog were chosen because, “YU has always tried to present people of significance in both the American and the Israeli community.” Remarkably, both General Powell and President Herzog are attending the event without a speaker’s charge. They are coming, according to Zysman, “because they are honored to receive degrees and speak at Yeshiva University.” Zysman explained that the prestige of Yeshiva University, as well as its leadership’s familiarity with influential figures throughout the world, entices high-quality speakers to attend YU functions. Others slated to receive honorary doctoral degrees at this year’s Hanukkah Dinner are Nobel Prize nominee Dr. Jack Fishman, Earl Mack, Phil Rosen, and Anita Solies. President Herzog will not receive an honorary degree because he has received one from Yeshiva University in the past. However, he will be granted the first “Second Century Award”.

Approximately 1000 guests will be invited to the dinner, including: major donors to the University, famous Jewish personalities, Board members, YU leadership, and a select group of students.

The Student Councils of Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women present their Annual Chanukah Concert

starring Yerachmiel Begun and the Miami Boys Choir and Featuring Kol Achai

Thursday, December 17th, 1992, 7:30 p.m. Nathan Lamport Auditorium Yeshiva University Amsterdam Ave. & 186th St. N.Y. N.Y.

For information and tickets at YC contact:
Avraham Cohen 781-7987 Mo223
Reid Shapiro 795-7761
Barry Gelman 923-8979 Mo810
Carey Schreiber 740-3601 Ru223
Yehuda Poupko 781-4696 Mo307

For information and tickets at SCW contact:
Sylvia Haber 725-9473 Br3f
Leah Pleeter 532-5381 Br 7b
Adina Neikrug 481-8205 Br 7b
Pamela Schlanger 481-9509 Br 5c
Amy Bodoff 213-6571 Br 10e

Tickets $18.00 General Admission, $25.00 Reserved Seating, $40.00 V.I.P. Seating
Tenure

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The second criterion, teaching effectiveness, is measured in a number of ways. A portfolio containing recommendations by students, statistical summaries of student evaluations, and information on courses introduced and taught by the particular professor is submitted to the tenure committee.

Dr. Will Lee, professor of English, feels that Dr. Brenner has modified this evaluation procedure for the better; "Dr. Brenner has already changed the tenure procedures..." by asking for a portfolio for undergraduate appointments which automatically places more emphasis on teaching. I agree that teaching should be the first consideration in an undergraduate tenure decision."

The Student recommendations are essentially the same as those written by faculty for students applying to graduate school. Usually, junior and senior majors in a particular professor’s discipline are asked by him to write these letters. With the evaluation committee, the college on a question by question basis.

Peers reviews are also conducted in which deans or fellow faculty members observe classes and submit a report to the evaluation committee.

Information regarding the three criteria is compiled and evaluated by a committee composed of colleagues within the professor’s division. Their recommendation is then passed on to the deans and the Executive Vice President who make their own recommendations. These are all then forwarded to the President. In cases where the division committee and the deans/Executive Vice President both recommend the granting of tenure, the President virtually never disagrees.

When the reports are split, with one recommending tenure and the other recommending denial, the President will at times override the negative recommendation and grant tenure.

The uptown Senate is currently debating how much weight should be placed on teaching and general interaction with students. Many Senators would like to encourage professors to help the clubs, be more involved in extracurricular activities, and play a more prominent role in guiding students. Moreover, the Senate would like to place more emphasis on teaching in the tenure criteria. According to Rabbi Shalom Carmy, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Faculty-Student Interaction, "the goal is to foster greater faculty involvement in student matters without teachers having to worry about hurting their tenure chances because they will have less time to devote to scholarship. However, Carmy emphasized that "no matter what the Senate recommends, if the people making the decisions don’t believe in those suggestions, they won’t be factors in the tenure decision."

In addition to tenure, there are other areas where Yeshiva does not meet AAUP standards. The AAUP advocates the establishment of salary scales at universities, something which does not exist here. As a result, in the words of one professor, "since YU has no salary scale, no one is supposed to know what anyone makes, it is not a matter of public record, so YU makes the decisions about who gets what."

Many professors expressed regrets that YU does not adhere to AAUP standards. One faculty member commented that "a private university willing to undergo AAUP sanctions and suffer the consequences has a great deal of power over tenure." Another faculty member commented that YU has been hurt academically as a result of the censure. He said that YU has less prestige nationwide, and quality professors "may be turned off from coming to YU as a result of the censure."

This professor emphasized that "YU is a high quality college, but it could be better."

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Maccabees 1992-'93 -- The Players

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>POS.</th>
<th>HT.</th>
<th>WT.</th>
<th>HOME</th>
<th>KEY COMMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aaron, Dan</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6' 4&quot;</td>
<td>200 lbs</td>
<td>Mooney, NY</td>
<td>Strengths lie in his quickness and pure athleticism. Excellent defensive ability makes him an integral part of the Macs's defensively oriented offense.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Ami, Erez</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6' 0&quot;</td>
<td>155 lbs</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td>A point guard with good court sense and leadership qualities. Team Co-Captain. Needs to establish himself as a consistent offensive threat.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohen, David</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6' 0&quot;</td>
<td>170 lbs</td>
<td>Lawrence, NY</td>
<td>Second on team in scoring last year with 20 pgp. Deadly shooter when on, more effective, especially from behind the three point line.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dannan, Miko</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6' 4&quot;</td>
<td>200 lbs</td>
<td>Ramila, Israel</td>
<td>Excellent outside touch. Co-Captain. Improving all facets of his game. Can provide instant offensive spark when needed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dobin, Josh</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6' 1&quot;</td>
<td>190 lbs</td>
<td>Miami Beach, FL</td>
<td>Excellent point guard capable of playing either one or two spot. Needs to look for shot more often. Excellent penetrator with exceptional defensive ability.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dube, Michael</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6' 1&quot;</td>
<td>175 lbs</td>
<td>Philadelphia, PA</td>
<td>Intense player and crowd favorite. Capable of giving support from off the bench.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furst, Donny</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6' 0&quot;</td>
<td>170 lbs</td>
<td>Englewood, NJ</td>
<td>Talented point guard capable of playing either one or two spot. Needs to look for shot more often. Excellent penetrator with exceptional defensive ability.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jayinsky, Yose</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6' 0&quot;</td>
<td>190 lbs</td>
<td>Brooklyn, NY</td>
<td>The X Factor. Word on the street in Israel is that this guy can play. We are waiting to see.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levy, Alan</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6' 5&quot;</td>
<td>200 lbs</td>
<td>Ramila, Israel</td>
<td>The third of our Israeli imports. Brings a physical presence, but must adapt to the American style of play.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mehl, Igal</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6' 5&quot;</td>
<td>145 lbs</td>
<td>Brooklyn, NY</td>
<td>First year in the process of being transformed into a point guard. Brings a level of intensity to the team and possesses good natural ability.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neumann, Isaac</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6' 5&quot;</td>
<td>185 lbs</td>
<td>Winnipeg, Can.</td>
<td>Most fundamentally sound player on the Macs. Good rebounder and tough physically. Must take the open jumper to be effective.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose, Or</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6' 0&quot;</td>
<td>200 lbs</td>
<td>Hollywood, FL</td>
<td>One of the most powerful Maccabees. Solid contributor off the pine. Newcomers may cut into his minutes.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallach, Israel</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5' 10&quot;</td>
<td>155 lbs</td>
<td>Brooklyn, NY</td>
<td>A rookie with a potent outside shot and superb ability to take the ball to the hole. Tough on defense. Should help add quickness and scoring to the guard spot.</td>
<td></td>
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Veteran Volleyball Macs Look For More
by Commentator Sports Staff

Following last year's average Macs volleyball performance, a newer, younger team is seeking to improve on the 7-7 record of the 1992 season. With the departure of veteran players like Zevi Adler and Aaron Katzman, the Macs find themselves vulnerable at many positions, most notably at setter. Macs Volleyball coach Omar Vargas remarked, "A good setter is the departure of veteran players like team abounds with talent with many of his Rubin dorm room. But inside sources say that rookie follows:

unmatched intensity to the court, while Zevi Adler and Aaron Katzman, the year player from Silver Spring. As 1992's Jazz, sparked by the frontcourt of Silbiger, Bromberg, and rookie star Monday night, November 16, partly due this year's team. With the departure of floor captain, Bandier brings an to the hectic midterm schedule which permitted only 5 Celts to attend. The Daniel Gibber, dominated the weary Jason Horowitz (12 points) and Brian unable to keep up with the Jazz and their the most dramatic and exciting game of Celtics down the stretch. The Celtics

Wrestlers Split First Two
by Commentator Sports Staff

The wrestling season is off to an exhilarating start with two matches which have highlighted the team's strengths. The Macs have performed impressively, both on the road against Fordham University and at home versus SUNY Farmingdale.

Co-Captain Eddy Zinkin (134 lbs.) jumped started the Macs in their season opener with an intense, hard fought 6-0 shutout. He countered his opponents first attack and proceeded to take control. For the rest of the match, Zinkin dominated his opponent with arm-bar series and other upper body moves. In Zinkin's second match, against Farmingdale, he fought a tough battle that went the distance. He ran out of time and lost on points at the buzzer. And, despite a valiant effort, lost 21-28 to Farmingdale. "They were one of the toughest teams we will face this year," commented Zinkin.

Teddy Pearlman (158 lbs.) rendered his first opponent helpless. He immediately took him down with a "double-leg" takedown. Despite his tremendous power, Bernheim confounded his opponent by utilizing finesse and skill. He executed a picture perfect "arm-bar", setting him up for the pin in the second period. In his second match, Bernheim fought hard to defend against the relentless attacks of his opponent but was unable to exact a victory against the former state champion.

Teddy Pearlman (158 lbs.) subdued his opponent and pinned him with a "single leg" takedown against his Farmingdale opponent. He rebutted his opponent's attacks and eventually pinned him with a 3-point lead to the first period.

As a team, the wrestlers fought admirably. They beat Fordham University with a team score of 33-24 and, despite a valiant effort, lost 21-28 to Farmingdale. "They were one of the toughest teams we will face this year," commented Zinkin.

The Wrestling Macs next meet is December 2, against St. John's University.