Martilla & Kiley

Release Survey

by Ryan S. Karben

A May 1993 survey of YC students designed to shape new recruitment techniques has spurred optimism about the school’s prospects for growth, and confidence that they can overcome the deep dissatisfaction with the University’s administration expressed by respondents.

The survey, completed by 57% of the student body, was conducted by the Boston-based firm of Martilla and Kiley. It points to the growing positive influence the Israel experience on YC’s recruitment pool, and reinforces the notion that the school’s values and philosophy, rather than its academic program or reputation, attract students to YC.

Associate Director of Admissions Michael Kranzler, who is responsible for YU’s undergraduate recruitment program, said that while the report contained “few surprises,” it is “extremely valuable as part of an ongoing effort to attract more qualified students to the College.”

The report recommends that YU use a more “values-oriented” approach to recruitment, citing the 68% of respondents who said that completing their college education in an Orthodox Jewish environment was the “most important” factor in their decision to come to YU.

There were notable concerns about YC’s academic program, with 53% of students saying academic concerns gave them greatest cause for hesitancy about attending YU.

Administrators say those concerns are being addressed, and expect the hiring of a new Academic Vice President to greatly aid the process. As part of the University’s official note continued on page 11

YU APPOINTS DAVID GOTTESMAN CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

by Yehuda Fruchter

Over the summer, David Gottesman, son of former trustee Benjamin Gottesman, and himself a member of the Board of Trustees since 1979, was elected to the position of Chairman of the Board of YU. He succeeds the late Ludwig Jesselson.

With his election, Gottesman continues in his family’s tradition of holding leadership positions at Yeshiva University.

Mendel Gottesman, David Gottesman’s grandfather, emigrated to the United States from Hungary in the 1880s. In the early 1920s, as Vice Chairman of the Yeshiva College Endowment Foundation, he headed a group of leaders who wished to move the University’s campus from the Lower East Side of New York to Washington Heights. At the conclusion of the move, Mendel Gottesman founded the Yeshiva College Endowment Foundation, and became its first benefactor with a gift of $50,000.

Through the years, the Gottesman family has given generously to the University, and they continue to support the institution.

Gottesman’s appointment comes at a time when the University is facing a number of challenges, including the need to attract more qualified students and to improve the quality of education.

“I am excited to have David take on this role,” said Dr. David Zwiebel, President of Yeshiva University. “He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the position, and I am confident that he will guide the University to continued success.” continued on page 13

FOCUS

- 68% of respondents described themselves as “modern Orthodox.”
- 26% described themselves as “right-wing Orthodox.”
- 63% of YC students have a family member that once attended the University.
- 37% of students applied only to YU.
- 73% of students spent one year in Israel; 35% spent two years.
- On a seven-point scale, 15% of students “strongly agree” that they will encourage their own children to go to YU; 59% were neutral, and 24% “strongly disagree” that they would do so.
- 60% of students said that YU was their first choice for college.
- 39% of students plan to make aliya; 17% said that they would not make aliya, and 44% said that they were not sure.
- 63% of the respondents said that the Administration of YU does not care about them; 60% of the respondents said that the Administration does not understand them.

YC Cracks Down On CLEPs

Ten Subjects to be Phased Out

by Sandor Bak

In a move aimed at bolstering the quality of education at the University, the Academic Standards Committee has decided to reduce the number of College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests for which YC will grant credit.

Beginning with the spring semester, CLEP exams in ten subjects will no longer be recognized.

YC Associate Dean Michael Hecht chaired the July 15, 1993 meeting at which the new policy was adopted. He explained that the Academic Standards Committee reviewed the CLEP tests in all courses and found that only a few meet University requirements. The College will continue to recognize the General Biology, General Chemistry, Introduction to Microeconomics and Macroeconomics, Calculus, and Foreign Language exams.

The administration’s decision has been met with mixed reaction on campus, with many students calling the move long overdue. Others, however, view the CLEP exams as a legitimate way to bypass introductory level classes in subjects they know.

Several students spoke candidly of having taken numerous CLEP exams with no background in the subject area, and bemoaning through with “twenty minutes of studying the night before the test.” Hecht noted that many students have come over to me after taking the exams and told me that the tests were too simple and fell short of college-level work.

YC Dean Norman Rosenfeld affirmed Dean Hecht’s comments and explained the decision as a way to “protect academic standards.” However, he did note, “The reason for permitting the CLEPs in the Fall semester is so as not to impose undue burden on students who were counting on these CLEPs for their graduation.”

Dr. Henry Silvert, Professor of Sociology, believes the move will work to the students’ advantage in the long run. “Students who “CLEP” an introductory course end up hurting themselves,” he maintained. “In an introductory course, a student gains a foundation for all future classes he will take in that subject. There is no way that can be learned by simply preparing for a CLEP test.” continued on page 11

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Former Dean of Boston U. Law

Appointed Academic VP

by Gene Alperovich

In a long awaited decision, YU President Norman H. Lamm announced on September 8, 1993 the appointment of Dr. William Schwartz as the new Academic VP for Academic Affairs. Dr. Schwartz, who will replace the retiring Dr. Egon Brenner, will officially assume his post on October 11, 1993.

The former Dean of the Boston University School of Law, Dr. Schwartz has served as counsel to the nation’s oldest law firm, Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft, since 1988. In addition, Dr. Schwartz is a University Professor at YU, a Board Trustee of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, and an Associate Director of Admissions Michael Kranzler, who is responsible for YU’s undergraduate recruitment program, said that while the report contained “few surprises,” it is “extremely valuable as part of an ongoing effort to attract more qualified students to the College.”

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Welcome, Mr. Gottesman

We applaud the choice of David Gottesman as the new Chairman of the Board of Yeshiva University. He and his family have long played an outstanding role in supporting the growth of this institution. The unfortunate passing of many benefactors of Yeshiva University has left the Board with the opportunity to restructure itself. The alumni base of YU is, in general, still too young to have profoundly made its mark in the world and the Jewish community. Yet, many of them are of substantial means and influence and could, if given the chance, play an outstanding role on the Board. The University’s need to court outsiders for the Board is understandable and even commendable; but alumni of the undergraduate colleges have a deeper understanding of, and commitment to, this University. At the outset of his tenure as Chairman of the Board, we urge Mr. Gottesman to create a Board in which the alumni are more involved. The Board could be restructured to include a set number of alumni members and general board members. The alumni members would be elected by their peers from a slate nominated by the Board, while the general members would continue to be drawn from the community as a whole. We feel that such a board would best be able to serve the University with the expertise, resources, and commitment that Yeshiva needs.

On Clobbering the CLEPs

Kudos to the College for eliminating all of the easier CLEPs. To put it bluntly, these CLEPs were a joke. For example, it was not uncommon for students to take the psychology or sociology CLEP without having studied, and still receive full credit. CLEPs such as these hurt the reputation of the College. Many students have relied on CLEPs as a means of spending less time on campus so that they might spend more time in Israel learning, and that is certainly going to cause much grumbling, but on this matter we stand behind Yeshiva needs.

Responsa

Two Sides to Every Story

To the Editor,

This letter is being written in response to the very vocal anti-peace movement taking place on the Yeshiva College campus. The anti-peace movement currently has two flyers flooding our hallways. One flyer tells us the “real deal” about peace with the PLO. It informs our student body of little known facts about the peace treaty, like the PLO won’t settle for just Gaza and Jericho and that we are abandoning 100,000 Jews. The other flyer lists a number of “facts” and calls on us to gather and demonstrate not to return Gaza and Jericho in a time of war. It informs our student body of little known facts about the peace treaty, like the PLO will not make peace unless they have some land they can call their own. We do not claim to know any sensational facts, (like the flyer which stated it’s 18 minutes from Jericho to Jerusalem) however, I feel that I have the right to express an opposing opinion without succumbing to cheap propaganda tricks.
YC and SSSB Career Services Merge

by Ari Hirt

After years of autonomous existence, the Career Services office of Yeshiva College has merged with the SSSB Job Placement office in an effort to mold a more cohesive team catering to both Yeshiva College and SSSB students.

Such an effort, aimed at an increase in office hours and necessitating an additional staff member, will provide all undergraduate students with the opportunity to be part of a well-equipped career services team, located in Belzer Hall, ready to assist in career counseling and job placement. Dr. Harold Nierenberg, Dean of SSSB, remarked, "for career services to be located in an area where job placement information is available is a major advantage.

The Career Services office, established eight years ago in Forst Hall, has been the primary place to go for students in YC seeking career advice. However, students seeking guidance would very often also solicit advice on job opportunities from SSSB's Job Placement office. As a result of separate offices and locations, conflict and miscommunication arose.

Survey Indicates Widespread Dissatisfaction

In the recent Magenta and Keye Report (see page 1), student dissatisfaction concerning Yeshiva University's Career Services Office was revealed. Such criticism was expressed despite both the high job placement rate enjoyed by the Placement office and verbalized student admiration of the current faculty - Hal Tannenbaum, Adrienne Wolf and Naomi Kapp. Such a result indicates the students' needs of improved communication between the two career offices, the University decided to merge the YC Career office with the SSSB Placement office, while maintaining the popular faculty of both centers. Dean of Students Dr. Efrem Nulman commented that, "the intent here was to demonstrate commitment in responding to students needs and desires.

Kapp Hired Full Time

The combined office requires additional staff as well as longer hours from the current faculty members. To resolve the additional burden, Naomi Kapp was now hired as a full-time employee, making her guidance counseling more accessible to students; she will share her time between the upnton and downtown campuses. In addition, the University is currently in the process of adding a fourth member to their career services staff, primarily to guarantee daily availability of at least two members on the Yeshiva College and on the Stern College for Women campuses.

Constant Availability to Students

Although the new office addresses both career counseling and job placement, Naomi Kapp will now continue to specialize in career guidance, and Hal Tannenbaum and Adrienne Wolf will concentrate on job placement. However, Mr. Tannenbaum expressed confidence that any staff member is capable in assisting a student in all areas. Mr. Tannenbaum said that, "the constant availability of three full time professionals covering two campuses," will be the forte of the united career office.

Dean Jaskoll, Associate Dean of SSB, commented on the new, consolidated career services office, saying that "if it proves to have any problems, it will meet at least once with each person," then he is "certain that the office will achieve its goals." The combined career services office will be administered by the Sy Syms School of Business.

Summer School Returns to YU

by Stuart Milsstein

This past summer, Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women reinstated their summer school programs, offering chemistry and physics courses taught by Yeshiva University professors. Overall, the faculty, administration, and students, deemed the summer school program a success.

When the program was first proposed, professors were skeptical as to how successful the classes would be. They were concerned. According to professors, constraints that the shortened summer session would pose. Dr. Raji Viswanathan, the chemistry professor who taught the summer course, observed, "I was apprehensive because of the limited time." Dr. Gabriel Cwicib, the professor of the physics class, said that he was "alarmed because they would never cover a year in ten weeks; each day of the summer is like a week in the regular semester."

From the administrative side there were also concerns. Professor Cwicib, who was eager to begin the summer courses, noted that the Administration was afraid that there would not be enough interest, and that Yeshiva College was too expensive as compared to other college summer programs.

After the session was over, everyone had positive feelings about the program. Both professors Viswanathan and Cwicib proclaimed that the courses "were extremely well." A total of forty students participated in the two classes. Department Chairman, Dr. Ronich predicted that a number exceeded expectations. Professor Cwicib was also pleased, "considering this was the first time in a while that summer school has been offered."

The students attending the summer session felt that, despite the time constraints, they accomplished just as much as they would have in a regular semester course, and found it to be worthwhile. "It allowed us to take courses in a familiar place with professors who we know," said one YC junior. Another student commented, "It allowed me to finish all of my sciences at one university before my MCATs."

Professor Cwicib was also pleased that he covered more material than he would have during a regular semester. He explained that one of the reasons this was possible was because he made sure that the students did not fall behind because it would be too difficult to catch up.

The summer school session was a revival of a summer session that existed during the mid 1980s. The purpose of the summer session that existed then, and the past one, was "mainly for pre-med students to be able to take their required sciences in Yeshiva University without staying any extraformers," explained Dean Rosenfeld. Viswanathan added that a summer session "allows the University to insurc a sufficient knowledge of chemistry so the student can proceed to take organic chemistry. It also eliminates the worry of students choosing easy schools for the summer."

Cwicib said that "medical schools prefer if students take all their sciences at one school. Summer school makes this advantage possible."

Mixed Classes

A unique characteristic about the YU summer program was that the Yeshiva College men and the Stern College women had classes together. Regarding the co-ed classes, Cwicib remarked that the class became very friendly, mainly because of the long hours that everyone spent together. He also said, "I was interested in seeing if the boys get more attention because they are more attentional, but I felt that this did not occur."

Viswanathan added that she noticed no difference having a mixed class.

Regarding next summer, Dean Rosenfeld, and Professors Cwicib and Viswanathan expressed hope that the summer program will continue, with the possibility of adding biology to the list of available courses.
Dr. Avery Horowitz explaining his plans for the Assistant Dean's office

Dr. Avery Horowitz, a former professor of economics at YU, has been appointed the new Assistant Dean at Yeshiva College. The position of Assistant Dean became available late last semester, when former Assistant to the Dean David Rosenberg decided to vacate the administrative post after six years of service. "It was simply time for a change," said Rosenberg. Rosenberg is now the Assistant Dean at Eugene Lang College, a division of the New School of Social Research.

In describing his qualifications for the job, Assistant Dean Horowitz noted, "having taught here makes it easier to understand problems that might arise." As Assistant Dean, Horowitz hopes to make the school more welcoming and more approachable. "Students are users of this office," he said. "Hopefully, I would like to make students comfortable coming and coming back. . . . the term user 'friendly' comes to mind."

Towards this goal, Horowitz has plans to make the information students need more readily available. For instance, he has consolidated the data on courses and majors found in the YU Undergraduate Catalog. The requirements and courses offered in each major are now listed together. For first year students, Horowitz compiled a list of all introductory level courses and a scheduling grid that shows the hours of a typical YU work week.

A.S.A.P. Comes to YU

On Wednesday September 8, 1993, members of American Students to Activate Pride (A.S.A.P.), a division of Aish HaTorah, met with Yeshiva College students to discuss events in Crown Heights. A.S.A.P. member and YC student Ari Roth explained that, "as the leaders of Jewish students in New York, YU students cannot sit by and let the riots be painted a Lubavitch issue and not our concern. For if we do, the next time might be at our footsteps." YC president Danny Gurell agreed to help A.S.A.P. Directly afterward, A.S.P. member and former Felshsenthal arrange a seminar at YU on October 18, 1993. Invited speakers include Alan Dershowitz and Curtis Silva.

D. Alex Bailey

S.O.Y. Hosts Elul Minyan

On Thursday, September 9, 1993, over 200 students turned out for a 7:40 a.m. "Elul Minyan" sponsored by S.O.Y. in the main Beis Medrash. Attendees of the minyan were treated to a free breakfast of doughnuts and orange juice.

In the days prior to the minyan, signs went up in the dorms inviting all students from YP, IBC, and JSS to attend. Last semester, a number of similar minyanim had been held. The idea behind the previous minyanim and this most recent one, explained S.O.Y. President Lavi Greenspan, is "to try to create a unity in the yeshiva." He went on to explain that davening together in the main Beis Medrash is one way in which this unity could be achieved.

Greenspan went on to note that he was pleased with the "decent turnout." Other students at the minyan voiced similar positive sentiment about the minyan and what it hopes to achieve. MYP/YC junior Jonathan Rosenblum, added, "I feel that it is important, especially in Elul, that there should be more of a yeshiva atmosphere. This minyan is a way to do that."

On the downside, Greenspan did note that S.O.Y., in organizing the event, did not coordinate the planning of the minyan with the JSS student body, which hasn't been aware of this minyan offering free breakfast to all who attend. He promised that next time more of a yeshiva atmosphere would be planned. S.O.Y. would coordinate with JSS and thus enable the JSS students to attend the minyan.

More Minyanim In The Future

Greenspan pledged to organize other minyanim at regular intervals over the course of the next two semesters. Most likely, he asserted, they will occur once a month, possibly on each Shabbat. Signs promoting the minyanim would be put up in all the dorms to ensure that all students would be aware of them.

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Jonathan Schloss
MTA Seeks Closer Relationship with YC
by Howie Beiglman

Rabbi Gedalya Finkelstein, the principal of MTA, Yeshiva University's High School for Boys, is set to initiate a number of programs which are aimed at improving the high school's relations with Yeshiva College and the high school. Rabbi Finkelstein stated that, "the basic aim is to allow the high school and college and other parts and parts of the Yeshiva to be part of one family, one mishpacha."

He plans to have the high school help make YC events such as the blood drive, the annual Chanukah concert, and other fundraisers more successful. This would be accomplished by increasing high school participation in these events, and by having high school help publicize these events. A second aspect of the program involves having both rabbis and professors speak to the high school's students on various topics. "Having students with individual areas of expertise. The third and final phase of the program is the volunteer mentor program. This program would have college students paired with high school students for tutelage, guidance, or general studies. Furthermore, college students would volunteer to be so-called 'big brothers' to the high school students.

Among those people Rabbi Finkelstein said he would be approaching, are Yeshiva College Dean Norman Rosenfeld and YC President Daniel Gurel. Both have declined to comment on the specifics of the program since nothing has been made official, and talks are still in their formative stages. However, both Rosenfeld and Gurel expressed their full support for the initiative. Rosenfeld asserted, "It is certainly beneficial to the high school, and if it causes the college to be seen as YU students as well, then it's great." Gurel said that "I believe that it will benefit the college, the high school, and the student body at YC."

Mr. Michael Kranzler, Associate Director of Admissions at Yeshiva College, also voiced his support for the initiative. "I'm pro it. I'm for it. MTA is our biggest feeder school. Anything that might make recruitment easier, I'm for.

Student reaction to the planned initiatives was primarily optimistic. YU Junior Anson Hecht believes that "It's a good program. It allows high school students to benefit from the experience of those older than they."

YU Junior Andrew Siegel thought the idea was "good," but added, "I'm concerned about how the use of facilities will be affected." However, Dean Rosenfeld, in response to the above concern, stated that "our level of facilities use by the high school is at the level it should remain at."

--- Don Simons

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Students Continue Efforts to Enhance MYP, RIETS

Last year, a number of individuals took it upon themselves to evaluate the various issues perceived to affect the performance of the "everygraduate Program and RIETS. A major part of this effort was a survey conducted by students Eitan Mayer and Yitzy Schechter.

The survey, designed to identify and bring to light certain possible trouble spots in the Yeshiva Program, dealt with such topics as attendance in the high school, the academic and involvement of the rabbim with their talmidim, and the students' opinion on certain programs that might enhance the quality of the Yeshiva. Designed to be user-friendly, the survey received a respectable 56% return from the students.

As of yet, the official results haven't been released to the administration or S.O.Y. However, the conductors of the survey have had numerous discussions with Rabbi Blau, Rabbi Chartist, and S.O.Y. leaders.

Benji Taragin, S.O.Y. Treasurer, claims that these discussions are playing a major role regarding S.O.Y. policies and programs planned for this year, such as the sicht mussar, special sfellaif together as a yeshiva, and a greater emphasis on shabbos in yeshiva. Rabbi Blau commented that it is impossible to say whether the survey, or its organizers’ conversations with the Administration, has brought about any tangible results.

Rabbi Blau pointed out that an analysis of other people's impact on this point would be premature, due to the fact that the results have yet to be released.

--- Ilan Huber

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Rabbi Miller Recovering from Heart Attack

Rabbi Dr. Israel Miller, Senior Vice-President of Yeshiva University, suffered a heart attack yesterday, though he warns that the recovery from the kind of surgery Miller underwent takes time.

She continued, "He is making a full recovery, and plans to resume all former positions. He is currently unable to attend the University, and is expected to return after the holidays."

Owgang added that, "he has no intentions of giving anything up. He graduated and received his 'mich' here. Yeshiva is his first love."

--- Don Simons

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Dean of Students’ Office Introduces Student Sourcebooks

In years past, informational resources such as the “Neighborhood Guide” and a pamphlet describing student services were accepted by Yeshiva University.

In fact, twenty out of these fifty-eight students were accepted to Harvard, twelve to Stanford, nine to Columbia, six to MIT, and eight to Penn. "I am most impressed with the better than ninety percent high placement rates. The acceptance rate we have come to expect," remarked Assistant Dean of SSSB Ira Tannenbaum, placement coordinator at YU.

The survey, which the students received in preparation for the LSAT, was sponsored by several groups, including Kahane Chai, Israel Action Alliance, and the United Jewish Coalition. The keynote speaker was Councilman Dov Hikind, who stressed that "if Israel allows Palestine to form a state, the future will be only tragedy in the future."

--- Yisroel M. Holcer

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Students at Rally Oppose Peace Plan

On Sunday afternoon, September 19, 1993 approximately 25 YU students joined hundreds of other Jews at a rally to protest the Israeli-PLO peace agreement. The rally, held at the Israeli Consulate on Second Avenue and 42nd Street, was sponsored by several groups, including Kahane Chai, Israel Action Alliance, and the United Jewish Coalition. The keynote speaker was Councilman Dov Hikind, who stressed that “if Israel allows Palestine to form a state, the future will be only tragedy in the future.”

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YC/SSSB Boost High Placement Rates for ’93

by Yosef Bednarsh

With a demand for fewer and more talented workers, as well as a stagnant job market, college students face more competition for jobs than ever before. If the past is any indication of the future, YU students will continue to have little to worry about. In his 1993 pre-law advisory report, Dean Michael Hecht states that fifty-five out of fifty-eight students got in to Columbia, ten to Penn, and one to Yale. “I am most impressed with the better than ninety percent high placement rates. The acceptance rate we have come to expect.”

--- Ilan Huber

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--- Yisroel M. Holcer
**ALUMNI NEWS**

**Time, Light, and Tremors**

by Judah Levine

I graduated from Yeshiva High School in 1956 and Yeshiva College in 1960 with a major in Physics. I chose to attend the Graduate School of New York University because they offered me a teaching assistantship, while most other schools offered only nine month appointments. I received a Ph.D. from NYU in 1966. Six years is a typical time interval for an experimental Ph.D. both then and now - two years of course work and four years for dissertation research. Most Ph.D.'s who are interested in a career in research or in university-level teaching look for a post-doctoral appointment after they complete their Ph.D. degree. I was offered a permanent position at the University of Colorado - one year at Oxford University and a second two year appointment at the University of Colorado.

I was offered a permanent position at the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) in Boulder, Colorado in 1969 after the conclusion of my second post-doctoral appointment. The NBS, which was later renamed the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in 1988, has programs ranging from basic teaching on new standards to career development for Ph.D.'s. My first project at NBS was to develop a new measurement for the velocity of light. One of my current research interests involves measuring small motions of the earth near plate boundaries such as the San Andreas Fault Zone of California. These measurements are useful for understanding plate tectonics and may be helpful in predicting earthquakes.

In addition to my work in geophysics, I am also involved in operating the services of primary time standards at NIST and in devising better ways of measuring time and frequency, and of disseminating these quantities to users. I have worked on a system to transmit a timing signal via digital using dial-up telephone lines, for example, and I am currently working on a similar system that uses wide-area computer networks.

It is difficult to predict what the scientific job market will be like six or eight years from now, when many of you will have completed graduate school. There will always be jobs for the best and the brightest, although the general outlook for the moment is not good. The current Administration is proposing substantial increases in many areas of science, but it is too early to know what effect these changes may have.

I wish you all the best of luck in your careers, and I will be happy to reply to any questions you may have about a career in science.

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**Two New Sephardic Rebbes Appointed**

by David Schertz

In the past few months, Yeshiva University has added two new Sephardic rabbis. Rabbi Ze'ev Michael Lieberman has been appointed to the Maxwell R. Maybaum Memorial Chair in Talmud and Sephardic Codes at RIETS. In the undergraduate MYP program, Rabbi Eliezer Ben-Haim has been chosen as the first Sephardic rabbi to give a daily shiur.

Rabbi Lieberman received a Ph.D. from RIETS and earned his doctorate from what was then the University’s Graduate School of Education. He has taught extensively in numerous services for YU’s graduate and undergraduate programs. He will be replacing the Hakham, Dr. Solomon Gaon, the Chief Rabbi of the World Sephardic Federation, who recently ended his association with YU after 29 years.

Rabbi Lieberman has been appointed to the position as rav of Mashad. The Jews of Mashad, until 50 years ago, had been at NBS /NIST ever since 1956, working on a system to transmit a timing signal via digital using dial-up telephone lines, for example, and I am currently working on a similar system that uses wide-area computer networks.

It is difficult to predict what the scientific job market will be like six or eight years from now, when many of you will have completed graduate school. There will always be jobs for the best and the brightest, although the general outlook for the moment is not good. The current Administration is proposing substantial increases in many areas of science, but it is too early to know what effect these changes may have.

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**Best Wishes for a Shana Tova!**

by Isaac Sasson

Neighborhood unrest following the violent death of a community member has become a familiar and frightening story in Washington Heights. This summer however, the 36th Precinct became the unfortunate victim in a new wave of civil strife that roared the neighborhood around YU.

After a frigid, frightful evening of extinguishing burning automobiles and trash cans on the evening of July 9, 1993, firefighters returning to their station at 187th Street and Audubon Avenue had a blazing Molotov cocktail barred at the side window of their fire truck. The cab of the fire truck exploded on the corner of 187th and Audubon Avenue, killing two firefighters, another two firefighters rushed from the flames. Two of the officers suffered second and third degree burns to their faces, ears, and hands.

The attack was a result of unrest stemming from the accidental death of motorcyclist Alfred Soto, who was killed earlier in the evening in a hit and run crash on Fort George Hill Road in a head-on collision with a police car, traveling the wrong way on a one-way street. Rumors quickly spread through Washington Heights that Soto had been intentionally run down by the speeding police car.

Previously, during the summer of 1992, a young Dominican man was shot in a conflict with a police officer. The rioting which ensued caused several deaths and hundreds of injuries. The situation in the northern part of the city was precarious for more than a week while chaos ruled the streets of Washington Heights. It took more than 1,000 officers to return everything to normal.

Many of the students interviewed on the uptown campus felt little change in the state of security on campus as a result of the recent unrest. Yet, some students were more cautious. “I’m glad they [the security guards] are here, but there is a limit to what they can do,” said Jonathan Malins, a YU sophomore. “They [the security guards] are not looking anything, but I just wish there was more that could be done,” added Michael Smigel, a sophomore in his first year on the JC.

In response to a claim by some students that if a riot were to break out and spill onto campus, security would not be prepared to handle the situation, Don Summitt, Chief of Security, stated that, “we are always prepared to deal with a riot and any other crisis situation. The campus would be flooded with cops in a moment’s notice.” He said that there was no need to change the security because the campus was not threatened in any fashion. “In fact, it was one of our most significant responses to the police attack on the fire truck. The [assistant] had been standing on the corner of 187th and Broadway when the incident took place, and he was on the scene in moments.”

During the last week of the summer, when the violence reached 187th and 190th streets, the police used JCB as a base of operations, said Summitt. There was a police detail in front of Belter Hall, and “not one person came near the campus.”

The security office is always welcome to suggestions on improving security, Sommers stated. “You would not see us like a stopwatch, we get a call and how much more we need. We receive suggestions from the guards everyday about daily patrol coverage.” There is a Student Security Council which brings matters to the security office on behalf of the student body. “It is a two way street,” Sommers noted, “You are our eyes and ears. We need you to help in the battle against crime.”

Morris Beun, a senior, pessimistic about his safety in the neighborhood, noted that, “when we look at the guards, we have no way of telling if they are trained.” Yet according to Summitt, Burns Security Guards have more training than any other institution, as well as a high number of supervisors on duty, and they are trained in emergency response, bomb threats, and any other compromise to the security of the students. Sommers added, “Their main job to prohibit intruders and communicate with supervisors.”

He added that the safety of the students is their number one priority. In addition to the normal training which they receive from the security agency, many of the guards have been police officers in the Dominican Republic. Guards do not carry guns due to “liability” and are trained in the security agency. Sommers said.

“I’m pleased about security, but not 100% pleased. We are always seeking ways to improve things,” said Sommers. Security at [the JC and SCW] is “better here than most other places. There is no comparison.” In addition to the security guards, there are two police officers which are assigned to patrol the JC for twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. “We are in close contact with police officials from the NYPD as well as federal forces,” Sommers noted.

One student commented that, in general, was “afraid, but felt safe” about the situation. He explained that, while the highest homicide rate in NYC “they [security] install a feeling of security...they are around twenty-four hours a day, all uniformed. The community members look at them as authority figures.”

Judah Levine is a Physicist working at the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Rabbi Levine has been chosen as the first Sephardic rabbi to give a daily shiur. Rabbi Lieberman received a Ph.D. from RIETS and earned his doctorate from what was then the University’s Graduate School of Education. He has taught extensively in numerous services for YU’s graduate and undergraduate programs. He will be replacing the Hakham, Dr. Solomon Gaon, the Chief Rabbi of the World Sephardic Federation, who recently ended his association with YU after 29 years.

Rabbi Lieberman explained that although his heritage is Ashkenazic, he was persuaded into becoming a Sephardic rav by his shul, Congregation Beit Torah of Midwood, Brooklyn. He had originally come for a Bar Mitzvah and was asked to speak since the shul had no rav. That speech eventually led to an offer to become the shul’s rav. Apart from helping everyone “all over again” according to Sephardi halakha, Rabbi Lieberman accepted the shul’s offer and has remained at Beit Torah for over 30 years.

Rabbi Ben-Haim, the second addition to the YU faculty, grew up in Israel and studied under one of the former chief rabbis of Israel, Rabbi Isaac Nissim. He received his degree in Jewish education from Beit Medrash Lamorim. After teaching there for a number of years, Rabbi Ben-Haim moved to Iran in the mid-1970s to accept the position as rav of Mashad. The Jews of Mashad, until 50 years ago, had been chosen as the first Sephardic rabbi to give a daily shiur.

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September 21, 1993
In Memoriam: Rabbi Dovid Lifshitz, 1906-1993

Personal Reminiscences about Rav Dovid Lifshitz

By Dr. Fred Rosner

On July 1, 1949, my family and I arrived in New York harbor on the steamship Washington from Ostende, Belgium. The next day my father took me to the main Yeshiva University building on Amsterdam Avenue, now known as Tannenbaum Hall, between 186th and 187th Street. I was thirteen years old, and had already completed two years of secular high school in Europe. I had very limited knowledge of Jewish studies, having spent World War II separated from my parents, in a non-observant home for Jewish refugee children in northern England. The registrar for Talmudical Academy, Y.U.'s high school, was Mr. Norman Abrams, who said that my limited Hebrew studies background made it impossible for me to be registered as a junior in T.A.'s high school. He sent my father and me to Yeshiva Soloveitchik (now the Schottenstein Center) which was a Jewish elementary school. I could not be registered there either because I was far too advanced in English studies.

We were turned to the main Y.U. building and entered the Beit Hamedrash to ponder my predicament. It was ghostly hot on that summer morning with very few students around. Rabbi Dovid Lifshitz was removing his tallit and tefillin after the morning prayers. He called us over and inquired about us. We told him that we had just arrived from Europe, that most of our family was murdered by the Nazis in Auschwitz, that I was raised in a non-religious Jewish hostel throughout that summer. I was - affirmative. "Then you are admitted to Yeshiva University, is the Director of Medicine at Queens Hospital Center, and is an Assistant Registrar for Talmudical Academy, Y.U's Jewish elementary school. I could not be registered there either because I was far too advanced in English studies.

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By Chaim I. Waxman

It is difficult to even attempt to characterize my late father-in-law and rebbe, z’l, especially in a brief article. Nevertheless, it occurs to me that it would be quite accurate to say that he was an extremely rare individual who had internalized and operationalized the entirety of what is written in the first Mishnah in Menachet Pe’ah, and recited every morning at the beginning of the bechoros hashachar: “These are the words that a man can’t reap the benefits in this world...”

Kibud Av V’aim

My father-in-law always spoke with great love and reverence for his parents, and it was obvious both from how he spoke of them and from the way his sisters spoke of their relationship, that he fulfilled the mitzvah of kibud av u’aim to its fullest. He also treated his mother-in-law with great love, great care, and respect, and went as far as humanly possible to save her during the war. His knov for his father-in-law was evident in the way that he guarded his manuscript throughout his wartime ordeal, and then spent many years in meticulous editing, so that he could publish Sefer Minchas Yoel and know that it was as perfect as could be.

Haskamos Beis Hamedrash

Coming to the Beis Hamedrash early for t’fillah was almost a “fixation” with him. He was always the first one to get up, and he was ready to leave the house long before was actually necessary. I always knew that when we stayed over, I had to be up extra early in order to accompany him to the Beis Medrash. During the early stages of his recent illness, he would get up in the middle of the night and try to get dressed in order not to be late for t’fillah.

Hachnasos Orchos

Whenever he saw a guest, he would invite that person home for a meal. I recall many times when my father-in-law completely surprised my mother-in-law; she should live and be well, with a guest or two on Shabbos or Yom Tov, or during the week. More than once, part of our meal went to the completely unexpected guest. The fact that there was no time to prepare food or that there was simply no room for the guest was simply not a factor to be considered for my father-in-law, z’l. My mother-in-law, she should live and be well, would joke about their home being like that of the woman who would awaken their children saying: “Get up. Your bed now has to be used as the table.” She would always remind us to be prepared to say that we’re no longer hungry, in case “der Papa” brought home unexpected guests.

Concentration on T’fillah

His concentration on the tefillah was obvious to anyone who saw him during t’fillah, and was a source of inspiration to generations of students. Who can forget his awesome rendering of Avinu Malkinu on Yom Kippur, or his Neiluim on Succot when he shook his lulav with every fiber in his body? Even during his terrible illness, he made every attempt to daven every day for as long as possible. Last Yom Kippur, when he was already quite sick, he spent the entire day in the Beis Medrash and followed along with me as I sat next to him and said the t’fillah aloud for him.

Learning Torah Above All

Every one of his talmidim can testify that this was the case for him, especially those who suggested that they were going into a profession other than Torah and Jewish education. However, as my wife and I indicated in the hesped at the levayah, even though he may have given some a difficult time, he was always proud of their achievements.

My Father (in-Law), My Rebbe

The author’s son, Rabbi Ari Waxman, eulogizes his grandfather in Jerusalem. Photo by Judah S. Harris

Continued on page 9
Continued from page 8

He would beam when he said, “This doctor” or “This lawyer was my talmid.” In terms of my own personal experience, he encouraged me to enter either chinuch or the Rabbinate, but when he blurted out, “I wanted to be a sociologist,” he encouraged me to undertake my graduate courses and my dissertation seriously. Through that, I assume, during the writing of my dissertation, he would frequently ask me about my progress. He took interest in the subject matter with which I was involved, even if he didn’t always quite understand all of its intricacies. And to all of his talmidim who went into other fields, his questions were always the same; “Are you keeping up with your learning now?” His dedication to learning and prepare for the forthcoming Seder as soon as they return home from shul, always took a relatively long time until he began. For years I thought it was a matter of his penchant for perfection in preparing for the Seder, but then I came to realize that he felt that he had to wait to begin later just in case there would be someone in the neighborhood with a question for him. This was probably a carryover from his days at the Rav of Swulow; it is mentioned in the halakha that the Rav waits until everyone else begins their Seder in the event of a question. And with all of that, there was incredible humanity. He was not only exacting in the observance on mitzvos. He was also meticulous in the observance of the birthdays of each of his children and grandchildren, blessing every Friday night, in being a father and grandfather to them according to the appropriate age-level. He was rebbe-father figure to several generations of students. He established a unique, personal relationship with each talmid which extended long beyond the years in Yeshiva. On every Chilul ha-mayom and Purim, the house was full of talmidim who came with their spouses and children, and sometimes even grandchildren, to visit Rebbe. And Rebbe spoke with each one, man, woman, and child, on a very personal level. He was a very unique combination of Rav and Rosh Yeshiva, Tzadik, and Gaon, a Rebbe-Rabbi to several generations of students.

The dictum, “Havai zahir b’mitzva kalah k’bechamurah” ... was also one which he internalized to its fullest.

It is Never Enough

by Moshe Neiss

It was late spring when I visited Rav Lifshitz, “at his home.” As I got up to leave, Rav Lifshitz took my arm and, as always, began to accompany me to the door. Not wanting to impose on him, I said, “Rabbi, I think I’ll go now.” But when I was more firmly, he looked at me and replied, “To masuk.” These were his last words to me.

Little did I realize twenty-nine years ago when I first met Mordechai Harav, David Lifshitz that this man would impact so greatly on my life. My father, who was a talmid of Rav Lifshitz in the 1940s, was proud to introduce me to his rebbe on my first day at MTA. Although I was somewhat intimidated, I sensed the love and warmth radiating from Rav Lifshitz. My wife and I would visit often with the Rav and the Rebetzin. Rav Lifshitz showed great sensitivity and made my wife feel quite welcome. Rav Lifshitz would enter the room with a word of greeting to me, and then give his absolute attention to my wife, inquiring in depth about the family as well as about her doctoral studies in psychology, which she was then pursuing. The word “perfunctory” did not exist for Rav Lifshitz; he was thorough in all of his undertakings. A few times a year, we would take our children to receive Rav Lifshitz’s bracha. After dispensing chocolates (only with parental approval) and precisely bringing in an armful of toys to occupy the youngsters, he would discuss a wide range of topics with us. He would gather the children on his lap, have them join in the singing of “haneynu” and tell them how much he loved them. He once pleased our son, David, then four years old, by telling him, “My name is also David?” I told my son that since Rav Lifshitz represented a fading era and they should savor every moment spent with him.

Few of us can aspire to be Rav Lifshitz’s level of Torah mastery, but what excuse have we for not approaching his level of “midot”? I remember a chag hamishmcha where I observed Rav Lifshitz stand to present each and every person, men or women, old or young, who approached his table. It was standard practice for Rav Lifshitz to profusely thank a cab driver for seeing him off to his destination. The very essence of Rav Lifshitz was “tov habriot.”

Many of my recollections of Rav Lifshitz are anecdotal for public consumption, but I would like to share the following story. A few years ago, during one of my wife’s pregnancies, a question arose regarding the upcoming fast of Yom Kippur. I wrote to Rav Lifshitz who was in Israel at the time. Three nights before (Yom Kippur, at about 10:30 PM, Rav Lifshitz telephoned. The first two minutes were spent apologizing for calling so late with no mention made of the fact that in Israel it was quite early in the morning. Rav Lifshitz reviewed with me twice the pertinent shimunah in Shulchan Aruch dealing with my question. Then, Rav Lifshitz had me repeat the halachah. Rav Lifshitz then asked me not to bring my wife and again reviewed the details with her. There was to be no possibility of error. Needless to say, Rav Lifshitz called again after Yom Kippur to make sure all was well.

The Editors have requested an impossible form. One cannot simply describe Rav Lifshitz. It is impossible to capture in words how Rav Lifshitz was able to restore the flagging spirits of a talmid by admonishing, “assur Ishiytesh.” Rav Lifshitz was insistent that each person think positively about one’s self and one’s abilities. His presence had a truly magical quality which defies written description. His loss is devastating to his talmidim and to our yeshiva. There will be many articles and accounts about Mordechai Harav Davide Lifshitz z’l, but only one thing can be said about them with certainty- “L’ma shirah.”
The Cuban government has, for the first time, granted a visa to a Jewish Cuban, David Said Levy, to come to America and study rabbinics. The following is an interview with Levy, currently a student at YU, translated from Spanish by Avraham Benhamu. The interview was conducted by Commentator Associate Editor Ari Listowski.

The Commentator: Approximately how many Jews are there in Cuba?
Levy: 1200.
The Commentator: Is the community made up of Sephardim or Ashkenazim?
Levy: Mostly Sephardim; there are both types, but most of the youth is Sephardi.
The Commentator: How did Jews originally come to Cuba?
Levy: They came during the time of Columbus, and at the beginning of the twentieth century. Then Syrians and Turks came, and at the beginning of the Second World War, there was immigration from Poland.
The Commentator: Why did the Jews remain in Cuba?
Levy: They liked it there.
The Commentator: Of the Jews that remained, how many still know that they're Jewish?
Levy: They all knew that they were Jewish but did not know what it meant to be Jewish until about three years ago when the Argentines and Mexicans started coming in to help them and to give them a little "chizuk."
The Commentator: Who were they? Shlchim.
Levy: Not shlchim. They came out of concern for the Jews of Cuba. Some of them were not religious; they came to teach Israeli dancing, Hebrew. They brought clothes, food, etc., it was just concerned communities that sent people over.
The Commentator: Is there a Chabad house in Cuba?
Levy: There is a Chabad school which was begun by Chabad. The Cubans began a Sunday school and they [Chabad] come to visit.
The Commentator: Is there a new beginning of Jewish awareness now?
Levy: Yes.
The Commentator: Is it a visible change?
Levy: Before I left, I realized that there was a revival of Jewish, especially among the youth, and I realized that it's in the youth where the force of the yidishkeit stands.
The Commentator: Do people go to shul more often?
Levy: They have a hundred [people] in shul last Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashana. You can see the revival on the chagim; people come more often to shul. As far as the daily minyan, that's still a problem. But as far as chagim, they come and they also are more involved in the parties they have, and whatever yiddishkeit [there is]... Six months ago, before I left, on Shabbat afternoon there were a hundred people.
The Commentator: How many shuls are there?
Levy: Four.
The Commentator: Are they Ashkenazi or Sephardi?
Levy: Two Ashkenaz and two Sephard, and the Ashkenazi ones have the Sephardic nusach.
The Commentator: What makes them Ashkenazi?
Levy: They were founded by Ashkenazim, but now pray nusach Sephard.
The Commentator: Are the shuls close to each other?
Levy: Two are in one zone, and two in another; both are in cities.
The Commentator: What are the occupations of most Jews?
Levy: The majority of them are doctors and professionals.
The Commentator: Is there a Jewish hierarchy, a chief rabbi or leader of the community?
Levy: There is no hierarchy, no chief rabbi or anything. In my shul, particularly, it's mostly [the] older people who rule. Many of [them] are in my shul, and my shul is the one that has a minyan every day. Out of the four shuls, my shul has the older people who help teach. Before I left, I left the few [Jewish] books I had in Spanish to the [Jewish] community because they were leaning towards Judaism. So I left them in charge, [to learn how to be schlichim tzibbur, and] to learn how to pray.
The Commentator: Did you have a problem with kosher food?
Levy: We had Pesach products shipped to us and that lasted for the whole year.
The Commentator: Do a lot of people keep kosher?
Levy: They are reviving that, but in these places you buy simple foods anywhere; they don't have snacks. If you want milk, you milk a cow.
The Commentator: What is the government's relationship with the Jews; are there restrictions on religion?
Levy: The government isn't involved; it's not like they allow shechita. It's like in all [of] Latin America - the government doesn't get involved because [with] shechita there is no problem because everybody kills their own animals... they kill animals for all reasons, like the Santeria ceremonies.
The Commentator: Is the Jewish population assimilated into the Gentile community?
Levy: There is no Jewish ghetto. The Commentator: Where did you live?
Levy: Havana.
The Commentator: What were your motivations to become a shochet?
Levy: They asked me to do it.
The Commentator: What previous involvement did you have in the Jewish community?
Levy: I was the one who was the most involved with yiddishkeit; I was a serious boy and was [the] most involved with the shul, so they asked me.
The Commentator: Was it your initiative to get involved?
Levy: It was self-motivated. My family tried to stop me; they said I should take my time and shouldn't rush into it. We started working in a synagogue, the older people were a little reluctant because they weren't used to having young people around them; in their generation, the parents didn't force their children to go to synagogue so they lost a generation there. My generation is trying to regain what they lost. Even though the older generation was reluctant at first, they now accept me.
The Commentator: What type of Jewish education did you receive?
Levy: We have Sunday school and at Sunday school they teach dancing, Hebrew, customs, and songs.
The Commentator: How many people attend this school?
Levy: About 50 every Sunday... now there should be more.
The Commentator: Is there only one school?
Levy: Yes, they were thinking of expanding to two days a week; now [class is] from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Sundays.
The Commentator: When did you start attending this school?
Levy: When I was 18; I went for 3 years; the school has been around for 8 years.
The Commentator: Did you do this while attending regular school?
Levy: No. Started after I had finished school.
The Commentator: What schooling did you do?
Levy: First I went to high school and then I got a degree in telecommunications.
The Commentator: Did you perform other services besides being a shochet?
Levy: I wasn't the only ba'al t'file [but] they pushed me to [daven] more because they were getting old and tired, but we tried to have rotations. One of the older people taught me to be a ba'al korei.
The Commentator: Were you the shochet for all of the kosher meat in Cuba?
Levy: Yes.
The Commentator: How did you get the idea to leave?
Levy: A businessman, Barry Katz, came to Cuba for the Pan-America Games and he went to visit the shul. When he was in the shul he asked the old people if they needed a rabbi and then he met me and wondered if they would give me up for a couple of years to go to New York or Israel to learn. They were willing to let me go and I was willing to come. Took a whole year for Barry Katz to work out the details and then it took a while to straighten out the paperwork, with Rabbi Sereis's help, and now I'm here.
The Commentator: Why YU?
Levy: It was Barry Katz who decided, and he made the very good choice; I'm very happy here.
The Commentator: Had you heard of YU beforehand?
Levy: I never thought that I would be studying at a yeshiva, let alone here.
The Commentator: Did you have apprehensions about leaving?
Levy: Since it took so long to work out the details, my parents had time to get used to the idea and they realized that it was for the benefit of the community. It wasn't a quick decision; there was time to sort things out.
The Commentator: What has the greatest impact on you?
Levy: It wasn't until I was 21 that I started to study shechita. I've been involved with shechita for a year and a half; they made me watch for half a year and after that the let me do the shechita. It was a very serious thing. It's possible that it had to do with the shechita [process] that I wouldn't be as involved as I am now; I wouldn't be here [in YU]. All of the responsibility that they placed on my shoulders made me feel the importance and the need for [the continuance of the customs].
The Commentator: Did you have any expectations regarding what America or YU would be like?
Levy: It's not really what people think. It's almost the same here as it is there, especially now that I moved to this neighborhood, especially here [it is even more like] it is there. They tried to dissuade me and [they] told me that New York is dangerous and a [that I would have] a hard time. [They told me that] I wouldn't like it. For the two years that I was in limbo I didn't waste my time thinking about what it would be like there. I was there to learn what was necessary to come here to YU. [I spent my time on] Tefillos.
The Commentator: What are you doing this summer?
Levy: [I am] studying hard... YU, computers, math, English, Hebrew.
The Commentator: Do you plan on returning to YU after your visa of two years is up?
Levy: I can go home twice [under the conditions of my visa], for Pesach and at the end of the year; then I will come back until I finish my goal to get semicha.
The Commentator: Is there anybody in particular that you want to thank?
Levy: I want to thank YU; I am very happy here. I would also like to thank Rabbi Sereis, and the students for being so friendly. Shama tova.
David Merklin, a resident of Copenhagen, is the first Danish student enrolled at Yeshiva University in forty-five years. His family was rescued from the Nazis, along with 7,200 other Jews, in the historic evacuation of Denmark which took place fifty years ago, in October of 1943.

The Commentator: What motivated you to come study at YU?
Merklin: I was an exchange student in Memphis four years ago, and I heard about YU. In my senior year in Danish high school I applied to Brandeis and YU, but I chose YU because I heard that Brandeis isn’t that “Jewish.”

The Commentator: Does your family have any prior connection to YU?
Merklin: None at all.

The Commentator: Do you plan to return to Denmark upon graduation?
Merklin: I really don’t know that yet. I have all my family in Denmark, but at the same time I wouldn’t mind making aliyah.

The Commentator: Tell us about the evacuation from the Nazis.
Merklin: Most of what I know was told to me by my grandparents and their relatives who were part of the evacuation. The Nazis occupied Denmark on April 9, 1940. Since the Danes weren’t particularly fond of the Germans, the Jews were relatively safe under the occupation. However, in late September, 1943, the Germans arrested the entire Danish police corps, and started to enforce more German policies. People started to get nervous, and there was a rumor that spread to all the Jews that they would be deported. People started to take fishing boats to Sweden and others went to the US and UK; the majority went to Sweden. It all happened very fast, but many members of my family had scary experiences that they still remember. When they heard the rumors, the majority of my relatives went to live with goyim in the outskirts of Copenhagen near the ocean. My grandfather’s brother had married a Danish girl, and her brother was one of the leaders of the Danish resistance movement. He arranged for a fishing boat to take them to Sweden. When night came, they went to the pier, but the guy who owned the boat had been paid in advance, and he took the money and got drunk so he couldn’t find the pier. My family could see and hear the boat, but they couldn’t get to it, so they had to go back to the house. They tried a couple of days later, and succeeded in getting to Sweden, where my father was born. Other members of my family were in a boat that sunk but they managed to get to Sweden anyway.

The Commentator: Tell us about the community in Copenhagen.
Merklin: There are approximately 6,000 Jews in Denmark, with almost all of them situated in Copenhagen. The community in Copenhagen is just like the rest of the communities in Scandinavia; struggling against assimilation. There are only two synagogues. One Modern Orthodox, and one that is more right-wing. There is a neighbor of Rabbi Israel Miller.

The Commentator: What is the Jewish day school in Copenhagen like?
Merklin: There are only two Jewish day schools with 250 kids, but it is not what would be called a Yeshiva here in the states, because it has all kinds of Jews attending it. There is no Jewish high school, so everyone must attend public high school. The community is shrinking because many people are making aliyah.

The Commentator: You mentioned that your father was a rabbi here in Copenhagen. He came to Copenhagen from Memphis.

Merklin: Yes. He is a rabbi here in New York, Rabbi Bamberger. He came here at about the same age as I did. He is a neighbor of Rabbi Israel Miller.

The Commentator: Tell us about the college you are attending.
Merklin: It is not what would be called a Yeshiva in 45 years. It was rescued from the Nazis, along with 7,200 other Jews, in the historic evacuation of Denmark which took place fifty years ago, in October of 1943.

TO ALL CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION
JAN ’94 MAY ’94 SEPT ’94

Commencement exercises will be held on Thursday, May 26, 11:00am in The Paramount at Madison Square Garden

Have you returned your completed graduation kit to the Office of the Registrar?

If your name is not on the Registrar’s computer listing:
• Cap and gown will not be ordered for you
• No tickets and instructions will be issued
• Your name will not be listed in the Commencement program

Continued from page 1

Socol Has Role in Implementing Survey Recommendations
Lamm’s Task Force on Undergraduate Male Enrollment, which was formed in response to a drop in YC enrollment. Marttila and Kiley also conducted focus groups with selected students, and surveyed all incoming students during orientation.

Nulman says he and University Vice President Dr. Sheldon Socol will be very engaged in implementing the report’s recommendations, and also intend to conduct a survey of individuals who chose not to attend YU.

YCSC President Daniel S. Gurell said the survey was a “good idea because it gave faculty and administration information about what students feel.” Gurell says he hopes greater efforts will be made to attract students with weaker religious backgrounds to the school.

Continued from page 1

CLEP Deadline: End of Fall Semester
The Academic Standards Committee, while defeating a proposal not to offer credit for any CLEP exam, directed the relevant departments to review the remaining credit-bearing exams to ensure that they meet University standards.

Credit will no longer be given after the fall semester for the CLEP test in American Government, American History I, American History II, Western Civilization I or Western Civilization II, General Psychology, Human Growth and Development, Educational Psychology, Computers and Data Processing, and Introductory Sociology.

Continued from page 1

Processing, and Introductory Sociology.
On the 18th of Nissan 5753, Maran HaRav Yosef Baer Soloveitchick, zt"l was taken from us, leaving a tremendous void in Torah leadership. The Student Organization of Yeshiva, as part of its effort to perpetuate the Rav's memory, has commissioned the writing of a Sefer Torah to be placed in our Beis Medrash. We invite you to participate with us in this meaningful endeavor.

The Talmud (Menachos 30A) states that one who writes even one letter of the Torah is regarded as if he has written the whole Torah himself.

The writing has already begun. The sefer will G-d willing be completed in time for the first yahrzeit.

TORAH DEDICATION FORM

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☐ Pasuk in Bereshis or Shemos $10
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☐ Seven P'sukim in Bereshis or Shemos $54
☐ A Perek in Vayikra, B'midbar or D'varim $180

Please make checks payable to RIETS; please send checks as soon as possible.
Please send to: Student Organization of Yeshiva, 2525 Amsterdam Avenue, Room 221, New York, NY 10033.
Receipts available upon request. Certificates will be issued for any donation over $100.
For more information, please call (212) 781-7971.

Excess funds will be used for SOY activities.
Ernst & Julio Down By The Schoolyard

"Why don't you start the column with some nice quote or something?"

"My moth..."

As told to Avi Suissa

Sing, oh Muse, sing to me. Sing of the Euthyphro things, oh Muse, sing to me.

Yesterday I took two teeth pulled. Count me unemotional. Twenty-two of my cheeks have been pulled, and while there is some degree of pain involved, my cheeks are not hurt. But then, some of the handiest things in life are difficult. In fact, last summer a, homely person (residentially challenged) accosted me on the street and exclaimed, "Shalam. I hear from suggested that they had fallen, and exclaimed, "Shalam. I heard from suggested that they had fallen, and accordingly wiser. Following this logic, couldn't they just as easily call it fat teeth or bald teeth?"

I am sitting on a park bench, and exclaimed, "Shalam. I have my wisdom teeth pulled six or seven times now, but I can stop at any time."

"Why do you start the column with some nice quote or something?"

"My mother..."

Dr. Schwartz Approved Unanimously

Continued from page 1

Gottesman and YU: A Family Tradition

Continued from page 1

It was the custom of Mendel Gottesman to visit the College every Sunday to converse with the students, and to assess the conditions of the Yeshiva.

David Gottesman’s father, Benjamin Gottesman, was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1925 to 1979. As a result of his interest in the University’s library system, Benjamin Gottesman, along with other family members, endowed the University’s Mendel Gottesman Library. In 1959, Benjamin Gottesman was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters as a tribute to his many years of service to the University, including his thirty year presidency of the institution’s Endowment Foundation.

David Gottesman was born on April 26, 1926, the second son of Benjamin and Esther Gottesman. After earning his B.A. from Trinity College in 1948, he went on to Harvard Business School where he received his M.B.A. in 1950. In 1964, he founded the First Manhattan Company, an investment research and management company, and has been its managing partner ever since. In addition to his being the Chairman of Yeshiva University’s Budget and Finance Committee and a member of the Executive and Investment Committees, David Gottesman has been a member of the Board since 1979. His most recent contribution to the University financed the construction of the Benjamin Gottesman Pool.

Mrs. Gottesman’s wife, Dr. Ruth (Levy) Gottesman, a widely recognized authority on learning disabilities in children and adults, is currently an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Director of Psycho-educational Services at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

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Dr. Schwartz Approved Unanimously

Continued from page 1

wife Bernice have two children, Robin Jacobs of Miami, and Alan of Boston. Dr. Brenner’s plans for retirement last spring spurred a nationwide search for a qualified successor. The Academic Vice President is responsible for a large portion of the University’s $260 million dollar annual budget, for the implementation of new academic programs, and for the hiring of new faculty. Additionally, he serves as the primary representative of the sixteen University graduate and undergraduate schools and affiliates, and spokesperson for the University’s general educational mission.

The University enlisted Heldrick & Struggles, a Washington-based consulting firm, in its three month screening of candidates. Applicants met with all University deans and senior administrators and with the Board of Trustees. According to Assistant to the President Gladys Cherry, Dr. Schwartz was approved unanimously by all involved parties from a condensed pool of "five or so."

While speculation abounds that current University administrators may have been considered for the position, SCW Dean Dr. Karen Bacon, a member of the interviewing committee, denied such reports.

Dr. Schwartz expressed both an appreciation of YU’s unique environment, "I don’t like to prejude the situation but we’re certainly going to take a fresh and objective look," Dr. Schwartz further emphasized a desire for input from "all relevant University constituencies" into decision-making processes, beginning with planned private and small-group sessions with students and faculty immediately upon his arrival.

Looking for a Meaningful Job?

The Yeshiva College Writing Center is looking for tutors. Pay begins at $6.50 per hour.

If you think you may be interested, see Professor Richard Nochimson in Furst 513 or Mrs. Nancy Rosenblum in Furst 202.
New Professors Join YU Faculty

by Tzvika Nissel

Over the summer, a number of new professors were added to the faculty of YU. Commenting to the University with much expertise and varied credentials, the new group of teachers has a rather diverse background.

Dr. Kenneth Danishefski, Assistant Professor of Biology, received his B.A. from Yeshiva College and his Ph.D. from S.U.N.Y. Danishefski returned to YU after five years of teaching at New York Medical College. His field of expertise is in Biological Chemistry, Cell Biology, and Molecular Biology. Besides teaching biology, Danishefski will be setting up an updated biology laboratory through the generosity of the Alexander Foundation. Dr. Kenneth Danishefski, Assistant Professor of Biology, received his B.A. from Yeshiva College and his Ph.D. from S.U.N.Y. Danishefski returned to YU after five years of teaching at New York Medical College. His field of expertise is in Biological Chemistry, Cell Biology, and Molecular Biology. Besides teaching biology, Danishefski will be setting up an updated biology laboratory through the generosity of the Alexander Foundation. From a number of different perspectives, the new group of teachers has a rather diverse background.

While Rosengarten hopes the storekeepers will ultimately pick up their share of the cost of running the gold card, YU is paying for all equipment costs for the first six months. A minimum sum was necessary in order to convince businesses to join the plan. The three hundred dollar figure was estimated to be the least amount a student who eats out occasionally would spend. Rosengarten expects that very few students who join the plan will not exhaust their account.

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The Administration rejected a plan to increase the general caf-card obligation to $1600, of which $300 could have been used at participating restaurants. First, he appreciated the emphasis at Stony Brook University on teaching as opposed to the stress of research in N.Y. U.; second, he preferred to teach in a liberal arts program rather than in a Business School, because in the former, he felt, the students are interested in learning, whereas in the latter, as he puts it "the kids just want to learn how to make money quick!"

Skorka was originally an engineer of highly classified nuclear submarines. He also invented a highly advanced solar powered energy device in response to the call for more environmentally friendly sources of power and electricity. Skorka left his "fieldwork," first, as he said, "I'm now my own boss," and second, because he believes in the ethical value of teaching. Skorka still follows up on some of his classified work.

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Dr. Ross Zucker, Assistant Professor of Political Science, earned his B.A. at Bennington and his Ph.D. at Yale. Dr. Zucker comes to Yeshiva from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, where he spent two years teaching. He is currently publishing a book that will be published by U.C. Press. Dr. Itzchak Miller, Associate Professor of Philosophy, received his B.A. and his Ph.D. at U.C.L.A. Miller taught at Stanford for a few years as a Visiting Associate Professor. He has also taught at M.I.T., Brandeis, and the University of Pennsylvania. His book on the philosopher Husserl, published by M.I.T. is a standard work on the subject.

Food Services Committee

The University's Executive Food Services Committee has increased food prices as much as 22% in an attempt to halt the rise in the cafeteria's deficit. The move was supported by YCSC President Daniel S. Garett, who defends his vote in favor of the hikes as an effort to prevent an increase in the caf-card obligation. "An increase in food prices serves the students better than raising the amount you need to spend in the caf," he said.

The professors were opposed by YC Dean Norman Rosenfeld. Dean Rosenfeld says that while some increases may be justified, he did not think it right to "burden students with double-digit price hikes" and was "very surprised when student leaders went along with the proposal."

The cafeteria is currently $158,000 in the red - a marked decrease from the $552,000 deficit of pre-meal plan days. It is expected that the caf-card price will be raised next year. Effective this fall, prices on one of items increased between five and twenty percent to realize the caf Administration's goal of raw materials accounting for one-third of item prices. The cost of scallops, for example, shot up 22%.

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Caf Introduces “Gold Card”

Premium Plan Includes Local Vendors

by David Kelsey

In an attempt to broaden the range of uses for the "caf-card," YU is offering students an expanded caf-card, the "gold card," for an additional three hundred dollars. The extra money is placed in a separate account that can be used at participating restaurants where students will also receive a fifteen percent discount. Currently, one uptown and two downtown establishments have agreed to participate in the program -Mendy's, Great American Health Bar, and Time Out Pizza. As with the regular caf-card account, a student cannot reclaim his unused funds. Each restaurant had originally demanded exclusive participation in the plan. Director of Personnel and Supporting Services Administration Jeffrey Rosengarten explained, "we

of YU's plan is uncertain because we

lack the numbers. Expansion will depend on the extent of the success of the program."

Some students are suspicious of the Administration's motivation. JSS President Adam Balkany said, "I think it's a farce! It's just a play for thecaf to make more money, because the likelihood of students spending three hundred dollars in restaurants just isn't realistic."

While Rosengarten hopes the storekeepers will ultimately pick up their share of the cost of running the gold card, YU is paying for all equipment costs for the first six months. A minimum sum was necessary in order to convince businesses to join the plan. The three hundred dollar figure was estimated to be the least amount a student who eats out occasionally would spend. Rosengarten expects that very few students who join the plan will not exhaust their account.

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Dear Students,

On behalf of the Office of the Dean of Students, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome new and returning students, and offer our sincere wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

While all beginnings are difficult, they are also exciting and full of potential. The staff of the Department of Student Services shares a commitment to assist students through this challenging period. Whether you require assistance through the complexities of registration and academic life; guidance or advice regarding career opportunities, graduate and professional schools, or development of job search techniques, take advantage of our expertise. If you are in need of personal counseling or, even, a reassuring hand, we encourage you to meet with our professional and caring staff to discuss with them your needs and concerns.

Do not wait until you feel frustrated or overwhelmed. Please feel free to come by Furst Hall room 416 or contact us at 960-5330 or 960-5480 to schedule an appointment. We are here to help!

As the new academic semester begins, we wish you success in your endeavors—this year and throughout your education at Yeshiva University.

L'Shana tova tikatavu

Efrem Nulman
Dean of Students

Jeffrey Chaitoff
Assistant Dean of Students

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Rabbi Yosef Blau
(General Guidance)
FH-413

Mr. David Himber
(Academic Guidance)
FH-413

Mrs. Vivian Owgang
(International Student Advisement)
TH-106

Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz
(Dormitory Concerns/Personal Guidance)
MO-104

Dr. Avery Horowitz
Assistant Dean, YC
(Academic Guidance)
FH-103

Rabbi Dr. M. Mitchell Serels
(Sephardic Student Advisement)
FH-419

Rabbi Yehudah Fine
(Academic Skills/Personal Guidance)
FH-413

Prof. Ira Jaskoll
Assistant Dean, SSSB
(Career Services Director)
BH-421

Mr. Hal Tannenbaum
(Career Placement)
BH-419

Dr. Michael Hecht
Associate Dean, YC
(Pre-Law/Academic Advisement)
FH-104

Ms. Naomi Kapp
(Career Counselor)
BH-419

Dr. David Weisbrot
(Pre-Health Advisement)
FH-413

Ms. Adrienne Wolff
(Career Placement)
BH-419
Intramural Teams Drafted

by Adam Melzer

The Y.U. Basketball Intramural Draft was held with the season set to begin right after the Sukkot break. The following is a list of commissioners, advisers, and captains with their first round picks.

Intramural Adviser: Stan "X-Man" Watson
Commissioner: Adam Melzer
Assistant Commissioner: Barry Aranoff
Head of Officials: Yoni Epstein

Captains:
1. Brian Kardin; Eli Weiss (1st)
2. Richie Sokolov; Hillel Oblin (2nd)
3. Barry Aranoff; Shlomo Kimmol (3rd)
4. Donny Davis; Ranan Well (4th)
5. Daniel Lerer; Jeremy Fox (5th)
6. Ronan Zour; Assaf Tza (6th)
7. Jon Fisher; Avi Roth (7th)
8. Adam Melzer; Wes Kalmar (8th)
9. Avi Greensbaum; Avi Lyons (9th)

Young Appointed Athletic Director

by Erez Gilad

Stephen Young, former Athletic Director and Chairman of Physical Education at Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School, has been appointed Athletic Director of the Yeshiva University Undergraduate Schools. He replaces Dr. Gil Shevlin, who recently retired after six years in the post.

Young will be responsible for running intramural athletic programs, as well as instructional programs in physical education and both undergraduate colleges. Young hopes to arrange more intercollegiate games, possibly cross-country, and create new teams and clubs. Says Young, "my goal is to see things expanded; see where it's been, where it can go, and what improvements can be made."

In the brief time that he has been at YU, Young has found that the University’s athletic program was well maintained over the last several years. He is impressed with the high level of student interest in the intramural program, and praised Stanley Watson, Assistant to the Athletic Director, as the driving force behind the successful program. He also gave high marks to coaches, faculty and students.

Mr. Young’s appointment comes after a selective process involving a search committee, chaired by YC Dean Norman Rosengarten and composed of Mr. Jeffery Rosengarten, Dr. Jeffery Gurock, Dean Efrem Nulman, Coach Jonathan Halpert, and Dean Karen Bacon.

Following Dr. Shevlin’s resignation in early June, the committee advertised the position in The New York Times. Seven candidates were considered for the post.

Dean Rosengarten says Young was selected because of his impressive credentials and background. Young graduated from Clark University with a Bachelor of Arts degree and received a Master of Science degree in Physical Education with a concentration in Athletic Administration from Western Illinois University. Mr. Young also serves as Assistant Camp Director of the Riverdale YM-YWHA.

YC Dean Rosengarten believes that Mr. Young’s prior experience will help him acclimate to YU, and claims that conditions at a private school such as Columbia Prep closely resemble those at YU.

Reaction from the current faculty to the change in administration has been very positive. Stanley Watson, Assistant to the Athletic Director, believes that thus far the transition from Shevlin to Young has been a smooth one, and that he will do everything possible to keep it that way. Watson added that he will "miss Dr. Shevlin’s humanity and professionalism. I wish him well as I do Mr. Young."

Five New Players Join YU Macs

by Adam Melzer

This year, the Y.U. Macs were out for fresh blood to add to their roster. On September 13, 1993, a tryout was held, and after the smoke cleared, five new players were added to the basketball team. Hereewith, a list of the chosen:

1. Arkady Ibragimov - (H.A.F.T.R.)
A quick point guard with a good shooting touch; he will add the fast break to the Macs offense.

2. Ari Ciment - (Miami-Hebrew Academy - He played for Mitch Means so watch out!) A tall forward with a fine shooting touch. "Scary Airy" will add to the Macs perimeter game.

3. Jacob Rosenberg - (H.A.F.T.R.) A small forward who can hit the "three" consistently, and could potentially help the Macs with their rebounding.

4. Yehuda Halpert - (M.T.A.) A smart shooting guard with a good shooter’s touch and sound defense.


Player of the Issue

Name: Jason Horowitz
Height: 6'1 Weight: 169

Hobbies: Avid Sports Fan, Bagel Runs, Road Trips.

Jason Horowitz graduated from HAFTR High School in 1990. He played two years of varsity, culminating in a trip to Madison Square Garden for the championships. He averaged 11ppg, 4.5 blocks per game, and was named to the 1990 All Star Team. Following his graduation from HAFTR, Jason entered YU as a freshman in the fall of 1990. In that year, he was drafted in the first round of intramurals, which is not usual for a freshman. In his sophomore year, he was drafted #1 in the overall intramurals draft. He was the MVP of the spring semester, averaging 18ppg, 1 lrpg and 3.5 blocks per game. He was named to the 1991-92 All Star Team as well as to the 1991-92 All Defensive Team. He was also the one-on-one champion and teamed up with Andrew Leibowitz to win the two-on-two championship.

In his junior year, Jason led his team in most categories including points, rebounds, and shot blocking. Says Young, "my goal is to see things expanded; see what improvements can be made."

Taking all of that into perspective, I asked Jason to overview the upcoming season. He is an intramural co-captain with Andrew Leibowitz, and together they are looking to win a championship. They are looking for team players as well as blue collar players, and they hope that talent and desire, combined with a few shrewd draft picks, will lead them to that elusive title.

-- David Goldenberg

The Commentator
500 West 185th Street
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