Union Accuses Administration of Ignoring Asbestos

BY NICK MUZIN

Students, faculty, and University employees have been exposed to asbestos in Belfer Hall and in the Pollack Library through negligence and carelessness on the part of the YU administration, according to members of the employees' union. These concerns, raised at last week's Section 1199 meeting were directed at specific members of the administration who are believed to have covertly covered up evidence of the asbestos leakage.

Asbestos is a mineral silicate that was used extensively between 1940 and the late 1970's for insulation. It has been associated with lung cancer and pleural scarring, and its use has been prohibited in most situations since the late 1970's. From June through August of this past year, the light fixtures in the library were changed to put in reflectors that would minimize the amount of bulbs used. In some instances the drilling necessary to attach the fixtures went into the ceiling where previously encapsulated asbestos was released into the library.

"Because of the unique ventilation system in the library, the asbestos particles were drawn through the vents where they were recirculated throughout the museum and library," said Rodney Hart, maintenance worker.

Faculty Raises Cut by 25%

BY STEVEN MIDDOWNIK

In what is seen as a prudent financial move by some and a miscarriage of justice by others, the average pay raise of all undergraduate YU professors has been reduced to 3% from the 4% figure of past years. The controversial decision, which was made in August by the Board of Trustees with recommendations from Dr. Sheldon E. Socol, Vice President for Business Affairs, has ignited the anger of an increasingly distressed faculty.

Exasperated professors are questioning the priorities of the administration due to its cutbacks in an era of university growth; the raise decrease comes during a chapter of YU's history that has seen an unparalleled increase in enrollment on both campuses and well-publicized acknowledgements of large donations to the school. As several professors admitted, faculty morale is at an all-time low.

The figure of an average raise of 3%, which means that some professors received even less than 3% while some received more, was not the original raise determination. The deans of the undergraduate schools, Drs. Norman Rosenfeld and Karen Bacon for YC and SCV, Harold Nierenberg for SSSB, Rabbi Zevulun Charlop for MTP, and Rabbi Michael Shmidman for IBC and IJS, were originally instructed by Dr. William Schwartz, Vice President for Academic Affairs, to prepare detailed proposals for raises at a meeting of the Search Committee, chaired by Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. William Schwartz, last met on October 28 to interview an unspecified number of new candidates for the deanship. At the meeting, the committee examined the candidates and discussed them, ultimately agreeing to submit its latest recommendations to President Lamm for consideration.

Schwartz refused to confirm that a meeting of the Search Committee had taken place on October 28, but he did note that "any meeting that would have taken place was productive and fruitful." Explained Schwartz, "We have a number of candidates under consideration and the process is still an ongoing one." Citing the need for confidentiality and for preserving the integrity of the search process, Schwartz was insistent in refusing to confirm that the Search Committee had even met on Oct 28, much less provide any other details about the meeting.

Dr. Schwartz Attacks The Commentator

The names of the candidates continued on page 10
Consider the Consequences

This past August's announcement of a reduction in the average pay raise of all undergraduate YU professors from the traditional 4% to 3% marks yet another blow to the faculty in an often contentious and dispute-ridden relationship between the Administration and its professors. There's a long history of bad blood between the two sides, going back to the highly publicized Supreme Court case in 1980, which legally prevented the faculty from unionizing, acting as a collective bargaining unit.

Although the Administration claims that the cuts are motivated by economics, it is impossible to dismiss the faculty's claims of mistreatment, disdain, and disrespect. A university's faculty is one of its most important resources and YU's faculty is no exception. Yet our faculty does not have the legal right or the capability to act from a position of strength in dealing with the University Administration, resulting in pay raise reductions such as the one passed in August.

Administrative issues aside, the YU faculty feels unappreciated and underpaid. Moreover, experience dictates that an embittered faculty is an ineffective faculty. And while disputes between teachers and administrators continue to escalate, we can all guess who will be hurt the most — that's right, the students. It's time that YU administration took its mind off of money and applied its considerable efforts to furthering our education.

Dorm Talks or YP Talks

At Dorm Talks this past Wednesday night in the Morg Lounge, students got a chance to hear some straight talk on the issue of Kiddush Hashem from two MYP Roshei Yeshiva, Rav Hershel Schacter and Rav Abba Bronspeigel. Attended by well over one hundred students, the theme of the evening was: Is there Halacha Beyond Halacha? By all accounts, the session was a successful one, enjoying excellent participation from the student audience. Commendations are in order for those who helped put the even together. They are: Rabbi Joshua Cheslevitz, the Coordinator, Rav Yosef Blau, the Moderator, and Elana Mayer, who created the scenarios which Dorm Talks centered on.

Looking at the poster advertising Dorm Talks, one could not help but notice the large number of co-sponsoring organizations of the event. YCSC, Sov. IBC, JSSC, IBSCC, ISSC, as well as The Commentator and Hanayamin, were all listed as co-sponsors. However, the crowd sitting in the lounge that night was composed primarily of MYP students. Few IBC and JSS students were in evidence.

Why? One reason is that the event wasn't geared to students in all the Jewish Studies schools. The style and manner in which the panelists addressed the scenarios were highly reminiscent of an MYP shiur, something a student from IBC or JSS would have difficulty handling or appreciating. Ideally, Dorm Talks should attract students from all the Jewish divisions and allow for all to join in, not merely be an opportunity for MYP students to speak to their rebbeim on topics beyond Gemara.

Dorm Talks, without a doubt, is an invaluable opportunity for informal interaction between students and their Rebbeim. But to be truly effective, it cannot be just a "YP Talks," but a meaningful and inclusive "Dorm Talks." We all live here, don't we?

Wake Up, MYP

To the editor:

When we wake up and realize that the MYP track does not demand all of the hours between 9 and 3? First, this includes a lunch break, lasting for a minimum of 45 minutes and, for some shiurim, a full hour. So now let's say, for comparison purposes, 9-2:30: Still, no shiur ends at 2:45, not 3:00. And for most shiurim this includes mincha, so the shiur itself lasts only until 2:30, with the next half hour consisting of mincha and then a short break to trek down to Belfer Hall for SPS classes. (And we can trust that the roshes yeshiva in MYP who currently go past their time allocation would do the same in GBMP). So now we are down 1:45. Finally, as was noted in the last issue of The Commentator ("Rav Blau disbands8:30 minyan"); "Agoodportion of YP doesn't show up until at least 9:15 or 9:30."

The Golding BMP will have mandatory classes beginning at 9:00, so we can expect GBMP students to be sitting in an extra 15-30 minutes at that end. What is the final balance? Most MYP students will be learning somewhere around 20-30 minutes more per day (except for Thursday and Sunday). On Thursday, GBMP will presumably finish at the same time as MYP; on Sunday, GBMP is scheduled not to meet at all. I agree that it is not ideal to build a Yeshiva program with only 4 days of shiur; however, I believe that this is a point which should be argued separately from the fundamental9-1 restructuring that I am dealing with here.)

Does 30 minutes per day constitute a massive reduction in time requirements? Does 30 minutes per day constitute a "destruction of the Yeshiva"? No! What does this constitute? A program in which the average YC student, instead of receiving 2 years of intense gemara b'yun and little else, now will enter the professional world with a well-rounded Jewish education, having explored areas of halacha and hashkafa, as well as having had a significant taste of gemara b'yun.

And another thing - it is well known that sleep is essential to our living. While we may not agree on the exact number of sleep hours required, we all agree that sleep is a necessity for the body to function properly. When we wake up in the morning, we feel refreshed and ready to face the day. However, when we go to bed at night, we also need that same restful sleep to recharge our bodies.

At Dorm Talks, students were able to hear some straight talk on the issue of Kiddush Hashem. The panelists shared their insights and experiences, and many students were able to relate to their personal experiences. It is important for students to have these opportunities to learn and grow.

In conclusion, Dorm Talks is an invaluable opportunity for informal interaction between students and their Rebbeim. It is a chance for students to hear straight talk on important issues and learn from the experiences of others. However, it is important for Dorm Talks to be inclusive and not just geared towards MYP students. Let's make sure that all students have the chance to participate and learn from these valuable discussions.

Avi Shidman, YC '96
A Toava Cannot be Tolerated Within the Walls of YU
To The Editor:
How is it that Yeshiva University can allow a Gay and Lesbian organization to be granted office space at Cardozo School of Law if “Under no circumstances can Judaism suffer homosexualism as a tolerated...to assent to the organization of separate ‘gay’ groups under Jewish auspices makes no more sense, Jewishly, than to suffer the formation of synagogues that cater exclusively to idol worshipers, adulterers, gossips, tax evaders, or Subbath violators. Indeed, it makes less sense.” (Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, 1974 Year Book of the Encyclopaedia Judaica).

As long as Cardozo remains part of Yeshiva University, and Yeshiva University claims to be the tenets of Torah Judaism, it is improper to sanction and support a student organization which actively promotes behavior that the Torah characterizes as a ‘Toava’. The crux of the issue is not that we cannot accept homosexuals as individuals, but that we cannot support them organizationally with funds and facilities. Cardozo should either act in accordance with Jewish principles, or formally remove the name ‘Yeshiva University College’ from its doors.

Michael Fragin YC ’95

No Pencils in Store
Letter to the Editor: I just don’t get it. The Caf store located in the basement of Rubin Hall doesn’t sell #2 pencils. They stress such a necessity for conducting normal student life. How does the administration expect us to pass our SCANTRON exams and succeed through college if they don’t provide us or make accessible such necessary tools as a #2 pencil. The Caf store sells almost everything else - instant chili peppers, menorrhaw wicks, Pez dispensers, toilet paper, baby powder, fat free flat breads, Mentadent, Jhirmack Nutri-Body Bodifying Shampoo, Cankaid Oral Antiseptic, Wipeez Refreshing Towelettes, and Suave Strawberry Essence Shampoo—but still no #2 pencils. I just don’t get it.

Benyamin Cohen
YC Junior

Official Newspaper of YC
To the Editor: My expectation of the Yesterbezeileur is as the “official undergraduate newspaper of Yeshiva College” concerning itself only with topics that are relevant to YC.

Concerning the Commentator’s previous issue (vol. LIX no.3) “Gays at Cardozo,” I found the subject irrelevant at YC. Cardozo is a YU graduate school under different auspices. Even the topic of “Gay Clubs in Wurtzelweiler” is at least on YC campus to receive the attention of the undergraduate school but Cardozo is not even in the same location. I am not saying that the article is not discussing an important issue, but should not concern The Commentator.

Zach Hepner
YC Junior

There’s More to the Golding Beit Midrash Program
To the editor: Your recent coverage of the Golding Beit Medrash Program seems to portray it as a travesty perpetrated by the secularist faction in the Yeshiva in an attempt to emphasize Gemara in favor of Hashkafah, and to abbreviate our Torah studies. Indeed, one Rosenbush has been quoted as saying that the new program was “the beginning of the Churban of this Yeshiva.”

At first, I tended to agree with this sentiment; GRBP seemed to be no more than a cop-out, a way out of Gemara and serious learning. However, after the experience last week of attending the new program, I am certain that a proper system of guidance in the areas of hashkafa would have changed the views of the these Yeshiva boys and alumni who have gone off the derech.

I am certain that a proper system of guidance in the areas of hashkafa would have proven quite meaningful. If Stern is entitled to a Hashkafa program, so is YC. What good is the study of Torah without the understanding that it is Torah Hashem?

Atton Holzer YC ’98

Issues of The Commentator Can Now Be Found on the Internet
The Commentator Can Be Accessed by Gopher at gopher.jerusaleml.datasrv.co.il.

The Commentator is also available via internet mailing list - Send the message subscribe commie name to listserv@jerusaleml.datasrv.co.il

Questions regarding the new service can be directed to The Commentator at commie@y1.yu.edu
YC Receives $2.3 Million For Judaic Studies

BY JOSH EPSTEIN

Robert M. Beren, a business leader and long time benefactor of YU, has recently donated $2.3 million to the Judaic Studies department at YC. The endowment, according to a university-wide press release, will provide the means to support and sustain the rabbis and education in the current department, which includes all the Bible, Hebrew, and Jewish History courses. The current classes will continue in the same fashion, but will now be known as the Robert M. Beren Department of Jewish Studies.

Dr. William Schwartz, Vice President for Academic Affairs, will oversee the funds and also attempt to enlarge the department with guest instructors and a larger variety of courses. Currently there are over sixty courses in all fields of Judaic study taught by fifteen full-time faculty members.

Beren, of Wichita, Kansas, is an independent oil and gas producer. He has been a member of the YU Board of Trustees since 1989. In awarding a Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Beren, YU President Dr. Norman Lamatt attested to his "stalwart dedication to the creative advancement of education and scholarship at the University."

English Honor Society Symposium

BY DANIEL RUBIN

In the first of what it hopes will be many such gatherings on contemporary British and American literature, the English Honor Society held a symposium on November 1 to discuss Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper."

A small group of students from YC, SSIB, and SCW attended, along with English professor Dr. William Lee. English Honors Society President David Schertz said that more students expressed an opportunity to discuss literature "lishma" in a relaxed, non-classroom atmosphere where there is no lecturer and no single correct way to examine the narrative. The Society hopes to attract more students to events such as film-screenings, a symposium with an established writer, and even a Broadway show. Schertz pointed out that while these functions are mostly still ideas and would not be held until next semester, he is optimistic that they will take place and will be successful.

Questions remain, though, as to whether the Society can afford all of these events and its annual literary journal Kol, with a $1400 budget. Schertz said that if the costs do end up exceeding $1400, he trusts that YCSC will allocate more money to the Society, provided that the Society's functions up to that point will have been successful.

Dorm Talks Tackle Halacha Beyond Halacha

BY LOWELL BARON

In the first Dorm Talks program of the semester, MYP Roshei Yeshiva Rav Hershel Schachter and Rav Abba Bromspiegel discussed four scenarios relating to the Jew's interaction with the world before a crowd of nearly two hundred in the Morg Lounge. Mashgiach Ruchani Rabbi Yosef Blau moderated the program.

The formal title of the evening, "Is There Halacha Beyond Halacha?" was described by Rabbi Schachter as a way to explore the halachic in specific cases where the Shulchan Aruch does not comment. The question, he said, was not if there was halachic in these obscure cases as the title "Is there Halacha beyond Halacha?" seemed to imply.

Much of the session addressed a scenario concerning the proper reaction Orthadox Jews must take towards crimes committed by Jews. Rabbi Bromspiegel, in his response, quoted a passuk that instructs against publicizing Jewish tragedies because this would give non-Jews reason to rejoice. He condemned those who placed the ad in the New York Times denouncing Dr. Baruch Goldstein's actions in Hebron, claiming that this was just publicizing his act giving "son'ei Yisrael reason to rejoice." However, in response to a question, Rabbi Bromspiegel differentiated between "myesy" students, who wanted the public to support the homosexual student group at Cardozo within the Yeshiva, namely through an article in The Commentator, which he said should be done, as long as it is kept within the Yeshiva walls.

In an open question and answer period, the rebbeim touched on a number of topics. Regarding the ever-popular matter of dubbing tapes, Rabbi Schachter gave ahetnerin specific cases where the tape is so expensive that one would never buy it. However, he did warn that one must be extremely careful to be honest with himself.

Questions concerning Rabbi Blau's termination of the Rubin 8:30 Minyan also arose, though he said he was "only moderating," and directed the question to Rabbi Schachter. In cases of waking up late, R. Schachter said that one should try to make a minyan on one of the dorm floors but not in public.

Those students who attended, mostly MYP students, were treated to a buffet of cookies, crackers, gefilte fish balls and chickpeas.
The Guide is Free
Anonymous Donor Subsidizes $900 Cost

BY MOISHE I. KINDERLEHRER

In a late-breaking development, YCSC President Daniel Billig announced this past Sunday that the ‘Perpleused’ would be free for YC students, overturning an earlier decision by YCSC to charge $1 for the traditionally free student newspaper. Explaining how he had spent the last two weeks searching for a donor to subsidize the publication of the Guide, Billig noted that the donation became official this past Thursday. The donation, approximately $900, is being given by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. On behalf of the student body, Billig thanked the unknown benefactor for the gift.

"If we could avoid charging for the Guide, we certainly would...now we won’t have to," stated Billig. However, Guide editor-in-chief of the Guide to the Perpleused, affirmed that the Guide will certainly be released by Thanksgiving time.

Guide Out Around Thanksgiving
The Guide, which just went to the printer last week, is due to come out by the end of November. Josh endroff, the editor-in-chief of the Guide to the Perpleused, affirmed that the Guide will indeed be released by Thanksgiving time. "It was a dumb idea -- to charge for the Guide," endroff said. "We had to do something to keep the paper free for YC students, and charging for it just wouldn't work."

Perplexed, affirmed that the Guide will certainly be released by Thanksgiving time. "It really depends on the budget situation will be," said Billig. Student response to the announcement was overwhelming. "Wow! awesome! It’s going to be great," said Yosef Crystal. "It’s an extremely relaxed and friendly atmosphere," remarked YC senior Yosef Crystal.

President Daniel Billig announced this aid in recovering the cost. "It really Perplexed would be free for YC students, budget situation will be," said Billig. Past Sunday that the Guide to the depends, from year-to-year, what the printer last week, is due to come out by the end of November. The donation became official this past Thursday. The donation, approximately $900, is being given by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. On behalf of the student body, Billig thanked the unknown benefactor for the gift.

"If we could avoid charging for the Guide, we certainly would...now we won’t have to," stated Billig. However, he did note that he was not, in principle, against charging for the Guide and indicated that future student councils would probably have to charge for it to aid in recovering the cost. "It really depends, from year-to-year, what the budget situation will be," said Billig. Student response to the announcement was overwhelming. "Wow! awesome! It’s going to be great," said Yosef Crystal. "It’s an extremely relaxed and friendly atmosphere," remarked YC senior Yosef Crystal.

Journalism Course Makes Impact

BY YERACHMIEL SCHNEIDER

While most campus residents usually ignore the day-to-day events that occur beyond Amsterdam Avenue, there are six students who periodically venture into Washington Heights in the hope of sniffing out a good story. And they should—it’s their class assignment.

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Professor Hornblass instructs the "reporters" to go into the surrounding neighborhood and seek out newsworthy events. According to Seiferas, the class "hangs out with homeless people and cops. He [Hornblass] brings in his own "old sage" to guide them through the process.

There are four more such lectures scheduled to be given, among them a seminar given last night by YU alumnus Ari Goldman, a former Times religion writer, author, and teacher at the Columbia School of Journalism.

Former YC Dean Norman Rosenfeld highlighted one practical benefit to the course. "It could really open students eyes to interesting new career paths," he noted.

Controversy Surrounds Dole’s Speaking at Dinner

BY MINAHARE SHAPIRO

The administration’s decision to confer a Doctor of Humane Letters degree on Sen. Robert Dole (R-KS) has raised concern among members of the student body who have questioned the decision to confer such a high honor to an individual who has been criticized for having a less than satisfactory record on issues of importance to the Jewish community.

Some members of the student body have expressed concern about the decision to confer the degree to the former Senator. "We are very concerned about the implications of this decision on the future of the University. The administration has a responsibility to ensure that the University’s image is not compromised by such decisions," said one member of the student body.

"If we could avoid charging for the Guide, we certainly would...now we won’t have to," stated Billig. However, he did note that he was not, in principle, against charging for the Guide and indicated that future student councils would probably have to charge for it to aid in recovering the cost. "It really depends, from year-to-year, what the budget situation will be," said Billig. Student response to the announcement was overwhelming. "Wow! awesome! It’s going to be great," said Yosef Crystal. "It’s an extremely relaxed and friendly atmosphere," remarked YC senior Yosef Crystal.

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Controversial Posters in Dorms Taken Down

BY EPHRAIM LEBTAG

Angered by the unauthorized posting of signs by the Committee for Jewish Affairs nearly two weeks ago, YCSC President Daniel Billig ordered these signs to be removed. As a result, signs bearing the names of a YCSC-supported club or society must be approved by YCSC before they are posted. Although in previous cases signs have been conducted without official approval, they are generally just a simple change of some kind. Here, they are a misrepresentation, because as a YCSC committee, the Committee for Jewish Affairs must represent the views of the entire student body and not just those of the "Yeshiva." Therefore, Billig felt that the poster's tone was inflammatory and would have had no practical benefit, especially considering the fact that the dinner will take place in just a few weeks.

The signs were also problematic because one of the fundamental 'mission statements' of the YU is to make sure that "Protesting or disapproving of policy in the school should only be done with just cause and accompanied by alternative solutions for the problem." Because an alternative was not given, the signs were deemed unacceptable.

When questioned on the matter, Fine responded in a conciliatory tone. "After I spoke with Daniel (Billig), and he made it clear that this type of sign was not acceptable, I had no problem removing them." He did, however, offer an explanation of his motives. "I do want to make it clear that the signs were not put up to anger the administration, but rather to raise the issue of the selection of Rabin and Dole on the campus," he said.

As for alternative solutions, Billig offered one of his own to Fine. He suggested a survey be conducted in order to better examine the feelings of the student body regarding the issue. If the survey results were not to the satisfaction of the student body, Billig said he would support a committee to be appointed to the framework of the schedule. The survey results will then be used to make the necessary changes to the schedule.

However, there were other technicalities that made the weekend more difficult than it already was. To begin with, one of the cars that left from the Main Campus got in to a car accident right on the corner of Laurel Hill and 18th street. Furthermore, another car had to be picked up in Brooklyn which led to a three-hour delay. A third of the team could not even show up for the opening ceremonies due to the accident.

Five YU members from the J.P. Dunne Political Science Society took part in the University of Pennsylvania Model United Nations Conference (UPMUNC) at the Valley Forge Convention Center in Pennsylvania. Universities from around the country joined the Model UN held this past weekend. YU represented the countries of Lithuania, Bahrain, and Turkey. Although the team involved themselves as much as they could, there was still some disappointment in that the team could not involve themselves completely in the UPMUNC.

The schedule itself made it very difficult for the YU contingency to be involved. While they were able to attend Thursday night for opening ceremonies and the first committee session, they had to be at the second committee by Friday due to the early Shabbat. Additionally, three out of the six committee conferences were on Shabbat itself that the contingency could not join. The team did not take the convention as happening, the team still had a good time. It turned out that thirty percent or more of the students disapproved of the team's approach. He would also recommend that student leaders have more of a say in these types of decisions in the future. Fine concurred and expressed hope that the "forthcoming survey will enable students to have input into the selection process to prevent such a travesty from happening again."
Op-Ed: Joint Israel Credits Hit YU Where it Counts: Its Students

BY SANDOOK BAK

U.S. News and World Report recently published a ranking of America's best universities. Among the 220 schools included in the list, YU placed very mediocrely at 107th. As much as our departments of admissions and public relations would like to dismiss this ranking as "totally inaccurate," the truth is, their predictions that "it appears just right for our college." While those who are familiar with the school know of its many strong, distinguishing qualities, clearly we are no Harvard. At the present, we are no Columbia. In fact, according to U.S. News, we are not even Oregon State College. Of course, we could dismiss the ranking as meaningless and of absolutely no value. We could, or we could believe, as U.S. News writes, that "fairly or unfairly, the name of a top-ranked college or university opens more doors to jobs and graduate schools than does the name of a school in the bottom right." Right now, YU has the reputation of a second-rate medium school. One might speculate that the level of a school is simply a reflection of the intellectual level of its student body. Well, according to U.S. News. The article reports that the average SAT scores of YU's student is 1188, a very respectable figure that is much higher than the corresponding student score in any of the other average schools. Of course, no YU student needs the U.S. News and World Report to tell him that there are many bright and talented students on our campus. By simply sitting in on any of the upper-level courses or seminars offered here, anyone can see that our students excel on an average intellectual level.

Yeshiva University is a three-year college. I don't know the exact figure, but the situation is clear. There are very few students who spend four years on the YU campus. While most students spend three years in the college, it is becoming increasingly common for students to graduate after only two and a half or even two years. What allows for this phenomenon is YU's policy of granting a full year of credits for the year spent in Israel. According to the survey conducted on this campus last year, over 75% of YU students have spent at least a year studying in Israel. The positive side to this phenomenon is obvious. However, one still must question the wisdom of granting 32 credits for this year of learning. 'A student in Israel spends a full day, perhaps as much as twelve hours learning. The Yeshiva Program in YU runs from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily, six hours, maximum number of credits; that a student may transfer from MYP to YC is three per semester. By that same formula, for each semester spent learning in Israel a student should be granted a maximum of six credits, or twelve for the fullyear. Certainly, many will argue that the time spent learning in YU cannot be compared to that of an Yeshiva in Israel. However, while there may be some truth to that argument, it should have absolutely no bearing on YU's credit-granting policy. Clearly, a three-credit summer course taken at Princeton is on a different level than a similar course offered at a local community college, yet YU grants the same three credits in both cases.

The advantages of having students spend four, rather than three years at YU may be lost on many students and on many of their financially-minded parents; but these advantages are undeniable. Fourth year students would rejuvenate existing, underpopulated courses and prompt various departments to offer additional advanced courses. This, in turn, could lead to the expansion of our faculty, with new scholars adding to the intellectual quality of the college. Existing faculty members, as well, would probably gain additional enthusiasm from the opportunity to teach a wider variety of courses and more advanced students than are found in the basic first and second year core courses. Finally, the students would benefit as well. Aside from the change that take more challenging courses and the reflected glory obtained from having attended a school that ranks in the above-mentioned category, there are additional benefits as well. As Dr. Hefetz often pointed out in his capacity as pre-law advisor, law schools are clearly more favorably inclined toward students who have completed a full four-year college. As seniors at their current college than they are toward students who apply with a record of only four or five semesters. And it is easy to surmise that this applies to many other professional and graduate schools as well.

Many will argue against the implementation of such a policy on the notion that it would inevitably lead to a reduction in time students spend involved in Jewish studies. In reality, however, this policy would have the opposite effect. Were students to spend another year taking courses on the YU campus, they would also be spending another more year involved in learning had this be the case. If it appears, therefore, that such a policy would have the effect of any other reduction-policy. In the end, the entire campus would emerge strengthened.

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Klein Elected Freshman Class President

BY STUART MILSTEIN

With this year's freshman class election over, representation on the student body in the student council is now complete as Jonathan Klein will occupy the position of freshman class president. Dror Barber was elected vice president, and Uri Goldstein will serve as the freshman class secretary/treasurer.

Klein easily won the presidency because, to his surprise, he ran unopposed. Until the day of the election Klein thought he would be running against Avi Factor, who had received the necessary nominating signatures and had begun hanging up signs. "I found out in the voting booth that he wasn't running," said Klein. Only Klein's name showed on the ballot, and when the votes were counted, Klein's name emerged as the only one on the ballot.

The advantages of having students spend four, rather than three years at YU may be lost on many students and on many of their financially-minded parents; but these advantages are undeniable. Fourth year students would rejuvenate existing, underpopulated courses and prompt various departments to offer additional advanced courses. This, in turn, could lead to the expansion of our faculty, with new scholars adding to the intellectual quality of the college. Existing faculty members, as well, would probably gain additional enthusiasm from the opportunity to teach a wider variety of courses and more advanced students than are found in the basic first and second year core courses. Finally, the students would benefit as well. Aside from the change that take more challenging courses and the reflected glory obtained from having attended a school that ranks in the above-mentioned category, there are additional benefits as well. As Dr. Hefetz often pointed out in his capacity as pre-law advisor, law schools are clearly more favorably inclined toward students who have completed a full four-year college. As seniors at their current college than they are toward students who apply with a record of only four or five semesters. And it is easy to surmise that this applies to many other professional and graduate schools as well.

The sign read: "Yeshiva University Residence Halls; Important Notice: Shalash Seudos henceforth is free for all students even if you do not sign up for the other meals. Just come to Shalash Seudos! (Compliments of the President's Circle)." Students took advantage of this unprecedented offer, and one of the results was a sign posted the following week, which said: "Notice of Clarification: Any student or his guest who wishes to participate in Shalash Seudos (Compliments of the President's Circle) must obtain an authorization card from the dorm office each Wednesday, and then make a reservation in the cafeteria by 7:30 PM on Wed., after which there is a $5.00 late fee. No walk-ins to Shalash Seudos will be allowed - reservations must be made in advance.

The second sign went up at the urging of the Food Services Department, with the explanation that it had to know in advance how much food to prepare. Associate Director of Food Services Jacob Lieberman, when asked if this was prompted by a glut of unexpected guests for Seuda Sh'lishit, commented that the number of uninvited guests was irrelevant; if even one student who had made reservations -- and paid for his meals-- was deprived because someone else came in without arranging it beforehand, the sign would be justified. The first sign, he said, had been posted without consulting Food Services, and this is what caused the need for the subsequent clarification.

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President's Circle Sponsors Free Shalosh Seudos

BY DAVID SWIDLER

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African-American Professors Nowhere To Be Found

Dean Denies Discrimination is the Reason

by MEIR ZEITCHIK

Yeshiva University's undergraduate schools are not noted for their racially diverse student bodies. It is generally the perception of many that there is a lack of African-American professors on campus.

The lack of African-American professors at YC/SSSB is a complex issue. Many factors contribute to this phenomenon, but the essential question is where the responsibility really lies—on the shoulders of qualified African-American professors, who, for whatever reason, choose not to apply for positions here; or on the YU administration, who may subtly and even subconsciousl discourage them from applying. There is also the possibility of an interplay between the two, creating a vicious cycle of sorts.

As for the possibility that the school engages in discrimination in its hiring practices, Dean of SSSB and Dean Ad Interim of YC Harold Nierenberg emphatically rejects the notion. "There is no discrimination here," he stated.

In a course of this nature, one which is considerably less diverse than a school like NYU or Columbia. It is conceivable that an African-American professor would prefer to teach at a more heterogeneous institution. And while it could be argued that an African-American professor may see a challenge or even a moral responsibility tobridge the gap between the Jewish community and the African-American community, that possibility remains unlikely. Many professors feel they have considerably more to offer their own community and in many cases positions at the Jewish college meeting their own community demands greater.

While some professors feel they have considerably more to offer their own community and in many cases positions at a more heterogeneous institution would be a better fit, others feel that the Jewish college meeting their own community demands greater.

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However, it is important to note that relatively few qualified African-American professors apply for positions in the undergraduate schools. According to English professor Dr. Will Lee, who has sorted through hundreds of applications for positions in the English department, "no candidate has ever come out of the shortlist who interviewed." The lack of applicants may be an inexcusable fact, but the reasons are considerably murkier. While it is true that proportionally the number of doctorally qualified instructors in general is lower among the African-American population than among the white population, other New York area schools such as New York University and Columbia still manage to have a significant amount of African-American professors on their staff.

Explanations for this discrepancy abound. YC/SSSB caters to a very specific student body, one which is considerably less diverse than a school like NYU or Columbia. It is conceivable that an African-American professor would prefer to teach at a more heterogeneous institution. And while it could be argued that an African-American professor may see a challenge or even a moral responsibility tobridge the gap between the Jewish community and the African-American community, that possibility remains unlikely. Many professors feel they have considerably more to offer their own community and in many cases positions at a more heterogeneous institution would be a better fit, others feel that the Jewish college meeting their own community demands greater.

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Prospective Students Upbeat About Future at YU Open House

BY ANDREW DAVIDSON

The annual YU Open House, a half-day function designed to inform potential YU students about the various programs available to them, took place this past Sunday, November 13. Besides faculty members and deans, the open house committee, consisting of over twenty students, was on hand to ensure the smooth running of the program, answer any questions parents had and to speak to potential students about various campus activities.

Positive Attitude Displayed

The attitude of the numerous high school seniors present was very positive. One MTA senior was impressed that, "YU would set up a complete program to inform us about the numerous activities and possibilities available. My initial negative feelings toward YU have been turned completely around. I spoke with numerous faculty members and each was helpful in answering all my inquiries about college." The morning program apparently changed quite a number of negative attitudes.

For example, Shachar Minkove, a senior at the Hebrew Academy of Greater Washington, traveled here for the Open House, and was not disappointed. Having an older brother here at YU, he felt, "YU is the perfect place for students to excel in both Judaic and secular studies, while at the same time enjoying a great college life. The diverse programs available really impressed me." Others were happily surprised by the overwhelming friendliness that current YU students displayed. "Besides answering my basic questions about the dual program and classes," stated a current HAFTR senior, "it was very relieving to find out that there is still time to relax, play ball, or just hang out with friends. I was concerned that with such long hours, it would be all work and no play."

First Ever Free Science Tutoring Service Set to Begin

BY EPHRAIM LEIBTAG

For the first time ever, Yeshiva College will have free tutorial services in all the science courses offered. After discussions and consultations with members of the administration, science professors, student leaders, and many students struggling in their coursework, it was determined that establishing this program was a necessity. Beginning immediately, the tutoring will be given by students who have previously taken the respective courses and have been approved by specific professors who are currently teaching the courses. Two YC students, senior Mayer Leiter and junior Avraham Skiba spearheaded the project and organized support from the administration and student government.

After talking to some current pre-med students they got the impression that there was a large need for tutoring, especially for the math-based science courses. If successful, the tutoring service will be expanded to other departments to better serve the needs of the student body. "We hope to establish the service this year as a model for future years and set a precedent for students in years to come," commented Leiter, "By having experienced tutors who will be compensated by the school, and who have already taken the courses they are tutoring in, I believe the program will help many students."

The only possible drawback to the program is the students currently tutoring on their own who may have to charge a lower price or even may lose their jobs because of it. However, the overall gain for the majority of the students will definitely be beneficial.

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Dean Absence Takes its Toll on Yeshiva College

BY OREN KEISER

As the school year passes and a permanent Yeshiva College dean has not been named, questions arise concerning how the students, teachers and administrators of YC are being affected by the slow process of hiring a new dean. How long can YC and SSSB go on sharing Dean Nierenberg?

Many students do not notice the absence of a full time dean, but for them it may not be aware of the dean's role. Dr. Michael Hecht, Associate Dean of YC, described the role of the dean as follows: "He is a leader, he sets the tone, involved in the nitty-gritty administration and planning for the future."

Now, these responsibilities have fallen on the lap of Dean Nierenberg, the permanent dean of the SY Syns School of Business. These double duties have forced Nierenberg to divide his time between his SSSB dean's chair on the fourth floor of Belfer and the YC dean's office on the first floor of Furst Hall. Imagine how hectic that must make things for Dean Nierenberg. Dr. Nierenberg admits that its a bit hectic running back and forth, but really its just a question of dividing his time well.

Time is precious to Dr. Nierenberg right now. "I budget my time better. Time management is most important now," he said, "but this could not be done without the dedicated assistance of SSSB Assistant Dean Jaskoll, YC Assistant Dean Horowitz and Associate Dean Hecht, the secretaries and the Registrar's Office."

Another concern was that Dean Nierenberg would not be able to meet the needs of both students and teachers in SSSB. However, Dean Nierenberg insisted that this has not been a problem: "Nothing has been taken away from SSSB, every student or teacher that has asked to see me has been able to."

YC Running Smoothly

So far, the administration is pleased with how the school is running in the interim period. Registration and the opening of the new Academic Advisement Center, two areas in which the new program has a direct role, bumbled the obstacle of no dean. Dean Hecht added, "Registration ran as smoothly as any other year, students were not at all worried, they knew that the new Academic Advisement Center, opened by the Dean's Office this semester, has begun well."

The Dean's Office believes that students have not been slowed down in any way by the situation. "On the whole, students have not suffered," said Dean Hecht. While lines might be a little longer at the office, accessibility has not been a problem for students or teachers.

Future Planning Halted

Although both students and teachers say that their immediate needs are being fulfilled and that day to day operations are running well, all believe that it is not healthy for YC to be without a dean for much longer.

One of the major responsibilities of any dean is to plan for the future. In the absence of a permanent YC dean, this planning has come to a halt. An intern interim dean, Dean Nierenberg is quite open vis-à-vis his feelings about directing YC's future. He won't. "I'm not involved in long term policy, because I can't follow through or complete such projects," he said. Dean Hecht added. "In the long run its bad. Future planning is not being done right now, although Dean Nierenberg has brought a fresh perspective with him."

Long range decisions are a major concern of the faculty. New courses, lab equipment, and other improvements are all overseen by the dean and now many of these programs are on hold. However, Dean Nierenberg stated, "Announcements of all that have been developing should really wait for a new dean, but nothing is on hold."

Rather, he claimed, new ideas are being worked on at the departmental level. But nothing will be done officially until a new dean is in place. How long these programs will remain on hold without taking a toll on the future of YC, is a disturbing thought to many faculty.

A History of Interim Deans

This is not the first time that YC has been without a full-time dean. When dean of YCDr. Daniel Kurzweil resigned in the late 1970's, it took fourteen months until Dean Rosenfeld was hired. During that 14-month period, Dean Hecht filled in as Interim Dean of YC. While he enjoyed his time as Dean, Hecht is sure that it is not a position he would like to hold full-time. "My real love is teaching," he said. "I don't find being a dean fully, personally satisfying. You don't get the same gratification you get from giving a good shiur or a good lecture in Constitutional Law."

The history raises another question, how long will it be until a new dean is in place in YC? Will it be 14 months? How can one take the school seriously when it does not fill one of its top leadership positions? "It shouldn't continue past this semester," responded Dean Hecht. Dean Nierenberg added that he was ready to serve as dean of YC so long as it takes to find the right man for the job. He said "I am prepared to be of assistance as long as required. I have every reason to believe a new dean in the help is very possible."

However, Dean Nierenberg was not sure about saying he is looking forward to the day when he could return solely to teaching and "enjoy challenges, new things, and problem-solving but I look forward to a short tenure at YC."

The Golden Beit Medrash Program

Poll Results

Nearly a quarter of YC Polled

BY DOV SIMONS

From the day it was announced, questions and doubts have shadowed the new Golding Beit Midrash Program (GBMP).

Some Rebbeim in the Mazer Yeshiva Program fear that talmidim switching into the newer program will weaken the scheduling and program for the fourth track. Some Rebbeim and teachers, however, believe that the GBMP would offer its talmidim a larger margin, 41% to 35% of the students in MYP who consider "possibly" or "probably" transferring, as compared to 14% of the IBC students. Results from IBC students indicate that the GBMP would cut a significant portion of the current IBC population - 24% are probably transferring, and is a definite option for another 12%.

Inall, 24 respondents would definitely transfer in, 41 would probably do so, 52 would possibly switch, 35 would probably not, and 120 would definitely not transfer.

Would You Switch? A Breakdown of the Responses

JSS Students

- 76% Definite No Transfer
- 24% Definite Yes Transfer
- 17% Probable No Transfer
- 22% Probable Yes Transfer
- 12% Possibly Yes Transfer

IBC Students

- 41% Definite No Transfer
- 35% Definite Yes Transfer
- 41% Probable No Transfer
- 47% Probable Yes Transfer
- 12% Possibly Yes Transfer

MYP Students

- 41% Definite No Transfer
- 52% Definite Yes Transfer
- 35% Probable No Transfer
- 47% Probable Yes Transfer
- 24% Possibly Yes Transfer
The Making of An Academic Reputation

BY ARI HERT

Paris has a reputation for culture; Beverly Hills has a reputation for luxury. The Kennedy family has a reputation for prominence; by contrast, the Soloveichik family has a reputation for righteousness and wisdom. Like people and places, reputation is something that makes or breaks a university. The magazine U.S. News and World Report recently ranked Yeshiva University as the 107th rated undergraduate college. Is this the only factor that determines how we use when evaluating our reputation? Hopefully not. It is therefore crucial for all members of the Yeshiva University community to realize in an understanding as to what criteria shape an academic reputation - for it is this reputation which will help determine the future of the university and its students.

Most faculty and administrative members at Yeshiva University agree that the core of an academic reputation lies in the quality of the faculty and success of its student body. A University is, in essence, judged by the products that it creates. The most objective standards external observers could use in judging the quality of YU's student body is whether or not the students get into advanced professional and graduate programs. Once they do get accepted, the question becomes, what sort of programs can the student bodies of YU enter? The presence of the best students indicates that, "because of the dual program and work habits they develop in this school, almost all students leaving Yeshiva are better prepared for either graduate school or high level job, enhancing our reputation.

The reputation of a university's faculty is of equal importance. An outsider looks at a university's faculty and asks two questions - which names do I recognize and which articles have these professors published. Otherwise, people have no avenue for accurate evaluation as these "critics" do not attend the actual classes and pass judgement on the professor's actual teaching ability. "It's a pity and a shame that our students have to go to other schools and our constituency do not know to what extent our undergraduate faculty are published faculty," decries Dr. Carlo Feit, Professor of Biology at Yeshiva College. "YU Public Relations never talks about our own faculty and what they publish. Even the students who take these teachers do not realize that these are people who are doing scholarly research and are publishing in the best journals in their field."

Dr. Efrem Nulman, Dean of Students at YU, also points towards YU Public Relation's lack of academic exposure. He explains that until now YUPR publications focused solely on the academic activities and the fund raising activities of YU. Mr. David Rosen, director of Public Relations concedes that because of this trend YU's academic reputation was not cast in the most favorable light. "We could do more things in our own publications and press releases to stress the academic side of the University," expresses Rosen.

Being that the accomplishments and endeavors of the student body and faculty comprise the core of an academic reputation, Public Relations is trying to incorporate the faculty and students in their PR publications such as Yeshiva University Today and Yeshiva Review. But these magazines are mainly internal - they are edited by faculty, parents, or and donors. This type of PR merely reinforces a name within a market of people already familiar with YU.

However, in order for the publications to bolster YU's academic reputation, they must reach the outside academic community. According to Rosen, Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. William Schwartz is encouraging PR to send Yeshiva University Today to the Presidents and Deans of other colleges. Dr. Schwartz feels that if we send reams of material presenting YU in a favorable light it could only elevate the college's reputation.

Effects of Being 3 Year College

While YU Public Relations tries to increase the University's academic exposure, most faculty members and administrators at Yeshiva College are quicker to point out a more serious problem affecting the University's academic reputation - the prevalence of students graduating in YU in 3 years or less. "There are twenty-four hours even in a day of a YC student, and to spend 6-8 hours a day in intensive Torah study must mean something," explains Dr. Michael Hecht, associate dean of Yeshiva College. "To try to cram everything in two-and-a-half years is counterproductive and is a problem we all face.

Dr. Feit agrees that the only way to increase the academic standards of the school is by increasing the enrollment of students in Yeshiva. If students were here for four years they would be able to take more advanced courses, making them more educated and better prepared to succeed in their future endeavors. When students spend only three years in college, Dr. Will Lee believes that, "students are losing a breadth and depth of education. This is a tremendous lack of semesters on campus not only deprives the students from taking full advantage of what YU has to offer, but it also handicaps the professors' abilities to deliver fully. In order to expect quality work, teachers cannot assign students taking six courses the same amount of homework they would if they were taking three courses. Indeed, Dean Hecht feels that the effects of being a three-year college could reflect poorly on YU's reputation. In the past, deans of law schools have questioned Dr. Hecht on students who appear to be of high caliber but who have a minimal number of semesters tucked under their belt.

Cut Down Israel Credit?

Should the credits from Israel be abolished or at least diminished? Should the requirements at YU be increased? If the academic reputation of YU is being jeopardized then "Yes," something should be done. "I think we have to cut down the credits," suggests Dr. Feit, "not at once but I do think we have to start selling this idea to the yeshivas in Israel and to the students going to Israel."

Dean Hecht concurs that the 32 credits granted to students studying in Yeshiva for a year in Israel must be re-examined. "It has been part of the culture to go to Israel, that students would still go." Would YU be willing to take such a risk for the benefit of education? After all, the Joint-Israel program is one of the major attractions for many of the students enrolled at YC. In the last couple years Israel has become an increasingly greater market for YU recruitment. Certainly, every member of the faculty wants to increase the standards, but every member of the faculty also wants to increase his job. A healthy enrollment. Yeshiva Colleges on campus; lessening tuition could also weaken the quality of the school.

Contrary to the majority of professors and administrators, Dean Nulman strongly opposes the idea of cutting back on Israel credit. "It is a terrible idea. By taking away the Israel credit, we, as an institution are saying that we do not value it." Since many students are financially incapable of staying in YU for four years and spend a year in Israel, Nulman feels that YU has an obligation to not make it more difficult on students who are already facing tough times.

In the past, in an effort to better our academic reputation, YU instituted the plus-minus system and raised the standards of academic honors - such as Dean's List, Summa Cum Laudae, and Magna Cum Laudae. Should these actions be taken again?

Today, everyone at YU agrees that grades and honors are merely cosmetic components of an academic reputation. "The question is, "Does it mean anything?" said Dr. Lee. "Do good institutions let our students go? Do they succeed in what they are doing?" Then, Dr. Lee feels that the standards for grades and honors definitely should not be raised.

In conclusion, the images that people or places cast on the public, is the single most important factor in determining the success or failure of anyone or anything. A restaurant may serve the most appetizing dishes, but if its reputation is for its customers to frequently suffer from food poisoning, the establishment is likely to fail. Likewise, Yeshiva University serves the public an 'entree' of faculty and students. It is the quality of this academic platter that will determine the reputation of the University.
Morg Lounge Refurbishing, Not Much Expected

BY NACHUM LAMM

They've been used for just about everything—studying, club meetings, even an impromptu engagement party. But because the floor lounges in Morg very often contain little more than some uneven tables and rusty chairs, if anything at all, there are a growing number of voices calling for widespread improvements of these lounges.

While the idea has been well received by many Morg residents, with one club president even suggesting that refurbished lounges could be used for club meetings, YCSC President Daniel Billig stated it was not a high priority. Indeed, according to Director of Residence Halls Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz, the refurbishment of the floor lounges has been on the agenda of the student residence council for sometime, but other matters, including the construction of a lounge on the second floor of Muss Hall, have taken precedence. One resident advisor, however, noted that the renovations would be relatively simple, especially considering the fact that there is a wealth of excess furniture currently being stored in the basement of the Morg.

Other suggestions include less radical and relatively inexpensive redecorating such as putting posters on the walls and carpeting the rooms. Students believe these changes will create more positive interaction between-floormates who rarely see each other as well as giving students a place to relax other than their cramped sleeping quarters or the more public lobby lounge.

Reservations to possible improvements were expressed by a number of students. One student, echoing Rabbi Cheifetz, stated that floor lounges should first be constructed for Muss and Rubin before the focus shifts to Morg, where lounges already exist. Others feared that an increased "social" usage of the lounges—for example, the introduction of televisions—would disturb the many students who use the lounges to study. To avoid such a problem, Morg resident Ahron Herring suggested alternates for "study" and "social" lounges.

Other fears voiced included the possibility that an increase in lounge usage would disturb those in adjoining rooms, and that without adequate supervision, furniture and other items put in the lounges could be subject to vandalism and theft.

Schottenstein Center, Still Overlooked and Underused

BY SETH GROSSMAN

Located on 185th Street, one block up from Furst Hall, YU's Schottenstein Student Center is a five-story building with a very lonely story. Despite being endowed with modern classrooms and gathering places, it is, perhaps, the most underused building on the main campus.

Before being acquired by YU, the architecturally impressive edifice was the Rabbi Moses Soloveitchik Yeshiva. In 1983, when the yeshiva was forced to sell the building because of financial difficulties, YU acquired it, fearing the overly commercial complex would be purchased by a church. It was then refurbished through the generosity of philanthropist and YU Board member Jay Schottenstein.

The Schottenstein Center is quite a large structure. It boasts many offices and classrooms, a furnished lounge, a large theater, and even a shul. Art and music classes take place on the second and fourth floors, as well as drama and art and departmentsal Schottenstein houses. The Commentator, WYUR, and Hamevaer staffs maintain offices on the third floor.

Majestic Shul A Storage Room

The rest of the building, on the other hand, is rarely utilized. The shul in Schottenstein, called the Shenk Shul, which can hold over 300 people, has not been used for years. An intriguing possibility, proposed two years ago, was to turn the shul into a new Beit Midrash and alleviate overcrowding in other buildings. Nothing has come of it. The shul is now used for storage.

The shul is not the only Schottenstein facility used inefficiently. Five or six classrooms are hardly ever occupied. The large theater, and even a shul. Art and music classrooms are hardly ever occupied.

Music, as well as drama and art classes take place on the second floor of Muss Hall, have taken precedence. One resident advisor, however, noted that the renovations would be relatively simple, especially considering the fact that there is a wealth of excess furniture currently being stored in the basement of the Morg.

Other suggestions include less radical and relatively inexpensive redecorating such as putting posters on the walls and carpeting the rooms. Students believe these changes will create more positive interaction between-floormates who rarely see each other as well as giving students a place to relax other than their cramped sleeping quarters or the more public lobby lounge.

Reservations to possible improvements were expressed by a number of students. One student, echoing Rabbi Cheifetz, stated that floor lounges should first be constructed for Muss and Rubin before the focus shifts to Morg, where lounges already exist. Others feared that an increased "social" usage of the lounges—for example, the introduction of televisions—would disturb the many students who use the lounges to study. To avoid such a problem, Morg resident Ahron Herring suggested alternates for "study" and "social" lounges.

Other fears voiced included the possibility that an increase in lounge usage would disturb those in adjoining rooms, and that without adequate supervision, furniture and other items put in the lounges could be subject to vandalism and theft.

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MYP Attendance-Taking Gains Attention

BY JOSH ENGLARD

Six weeks into the school year, the recently instituted attendance system in the Beit Midrash has gained the acceptance, if not the approval, of many MYP students. Under the system, each MYP student has a numbered makom kavua and attendance is taken daily by the Shoalim U’meishivim, Rabbis Jeremy Wieder and Elchanan Adler. The first few weeks of the semester caused confusion as students settled into the new system and adjusted to their shiurim and chavrutot. But according to Rabbi Wieder, the situation quickly stabilized and orderly attendance-taking has been possible. The Main Beit Midrash and adjacent rooms are monitored by Rabbi Wieder, while Rabbi Adler oversees the Furst Hall Beit Midrash and the nearby classrooms.

According to Rabbi Wieder, the main purposes of the attendance system is to identify the students who fall between the cracks and to provide an air of seriousness and order to the Beit Midrash. "We don't want to make the Beit Midrash like a police state, but we want to instill in the talmidim a sense of achrayus to be in seder," he explained.

The role of the mashgichim goes beyond mere attendance-taking. The rabbis converse with students and, if they notice that a student has consistently missed seder, they will approach him and see if he is having any problems. In addition, Rabbi Wieder has been known to inform MYP Roshei Yeshiva of low attendance in their specific shiurim.

Despite the ambitious intentions of the mashgichim, logistical problems have hampered smooth operation of the system. The lack of space in the Beit Midrash has caused problems in keeping track of students. Students are spread out over two buildings and numerous classrooms. Furthermore, some students who do not have designated seats tend to "float" from seat to seat and from room to room—making it more difficult to keep track of them. However, the assistant mashgichim have been endeavouring to establish their presence in the classrooms. In addition, they have started to contact students who are enrolled in the MYP program but do not appear on any attendance sheets.

The reaction to the attendance system has been mostly positive. "It's a good feeling to know that someone's watching over the Beit Midrash," said Ely Landsman, a MYP Junior who believes that there has been a definite improvement in attendance over last year.

One YP senior voiced his disapproval, however, over the transforming of "the yeshiva into a high school atmosphere" and the removal of "the lishmah out of seder."
Numerous years exhausting the field of research on sarcomas, in the Sloan Kettering Institute, the latter cells secreting the antibodies specific for his lab researchers at Cornell University and producing new hybrid cells. The hybrid to give are often of specific antibodies has become figure.

All cells of a specific tumor share proteins which make them distinguishable from normal cells of the same line. "Finding those few proteins is like looking for a needle in a haystack," states Dr. Feit.

Once these markers are found and isolated, the monoclonal antibodies can enter the host and locate all of the cells which have this specific protein, since the antibodies are chemically engineered to zero in on these proteins. However, before the antibodies are sent on their mission, a fluorescent molecule is attached, emitting certain wavelengths of UV light and serving as the antibodies' homing device.

Although the technique of cancer cell identification by means of monoclonal antibodies is prevalent in the scientific community, Dr. Feit's research is unique in that he deals specifically with sarcoma antigens, a topic so particular, that one could count the number of such active laboratories with two hands. The two main components of Dr. Feit's research include: searching for monoclonal antibodies specific to sarcoma cells and the subsequent attachment of toxins that could be carried to the cancerous cells and in turn, kill them without harming the normal functioning cells. "We have identified certain markers that are more or less specific for cancer cells, but nobody has found a marker that is absolutely specific for a cancer cell," explains Feit.

"Research is an area of science that demands patience," comments Dr. Feit, offering advice to future scientists. "We must be willing to repeat experiments over and over again and realize that if we are lucky, five to ten percent of what we are working on will actually be published and contribute to the growing field of science."

YU Prof
On Cutting
Edge of Cancer Research
by Jeremy Fine

While students at Yeshiva University are often very familiar with their professors' talents and abilities inside the classroom, many fail to recognize that these professors are active researchers as well as instructors. Yes, in their own ways, most professors carry a "dual curriculum." At the edge of the scientific front stands Dr. Carl Feit, head professor of the YC Biology department. "Ever since I was a child, I knew I was going to be involved in scientific research," remarks Dr. Feit as he reflects on his life.

Dr. Feit is working on a topic that less than ten major labs in the world are involved in - human sarcoma antigens, a type of tumor that develops in connective tissues. Before beginning his research on sarcoma, Dr. Feit spent numerous years exhausting the field of connective tissue differentiation in order to give himself an adequate background.

Today, Feit spends much of his time in his lab in YU, while collaborating with researchers at Cornell University and the Sloan Kettering Institute, the latter one being one of the foremost institutions in the world for the study of cancer.

In these last ten years, the capability of making large and reproducible amounts of specific antibodies has become possible. These particular immunoglobins called monoclonal antibodies are crucial proteins in the study of cancer, because they recognize biological molecules with high precision. Recognition and isolation of cells and molecules are the basis for science research. Cancerous tumors are products of a single cell that goes "astray" and through cell division, produce an aggregate of thousands of cells. Until now, these lethal tumors have only been detectable by physical examination, namely by feeling for lumps. Monoclonal antibodies, however, may be able to be diagnose these tumors at much earlier and treatable stages. By a simple blood test, they would detect whether or not tumor cells were floating in the blood stream.

In order to produce these special antibodies, Dr. Feit removes the spleen of an immunized animal and dissociates it into single cells. The lymphocytes are then introduced to a cancer cell line, producing new hybrid cells. The hybrid cells secreting the antibodies specific for the antigen of interest are then separated out. These separated hybrid cells are cultured and produce the monoclonal antibodies used in his research. (See figure 1)

All cells of a specific tumor share the same characteristics since they originate from the same faulty cell. In these cancer cells there are a few select proteins which make them distinguishable from normal cells of the same line. "Finding those few proteins is like looking for a needle in a haystack," states Dr. Feit.

Once these markers are found and isolated, the monoclonal antibodies can enter the host and locate all of the cells which have this specific protein, since the antibodies are chemically engineered to zero in on these proteins. However, before the antibodies are sent on their mission, a fluorescent molecule is attached, emitting certain wavelengths of UV light and serving as the antibodies' homing device.

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"Research is an area of science that demands patience," comments Dr. Feit, offering advice to future scientists. "We must be willing to repeat experiments over and over again and realize that if we are lucky, five to ten percent of what we are working on will actually be published and contribute to the growing field of science."
2.9% Average Faculty Pay Raise Barely Covers Cost of Living

continued from page one

the 4% level. But only days before these proposals were due, in mid-August, the five deans received faxes from Sheldon Soocoi instructing them to reconfigure their proposals at the 3% level.

In Sandefeld, now a mathematics professor, explained that all faculty members do not receive the same raise because some are owed greater raises due to recognition of merit, correction of inequities, and contractual obligations. One such contractual obligation shifted a large portion of money from the raise pool of one professor who had earned a Ph.D. The honoring of commitments to some faculty members necessitates the reduction of raises for others. Roseneil noted that the amount the aforementioned professor received skewed the figure so much that a more accurate statistic is a 2.9% average raise.

Faculty members learned of the decision when they received notices from Dr. Schwartz in late August and their ire was being caught in a vicious cycle that will categorized her career as being "downwardly mobile," said she vacillates between feelings of "anger and hurt," while another lamented that YU "has no respect for the faculty."

Contempt For Administration

Many professors see the university as being caught in a vicious cycle that will ultimately also harm the students. "If more money went to the teachers, they would spend more time with the students," observed one professor, explaining that the low level of YU's salaries requires faculty members to take on second jobs and precludes full dedication to teaching and enlightening.

"A well-functioning, happy faculty can only help students," said another. "But here we feel a disdain or contempt of the administration for the faculty. They don't provide the resources necessary [for teaching]...and it's hurting the students more."

Many faculty members submit that the lowering of the raise levels would not be as much of an issue if YU professors were being paid on par with their colleagues in academia. Their assertion that YU salaries are considerably lower than those of other institutions was buttressed by a study co-authored by YC professor Dr. William Lee and Dr. Noyes Bartholomew. Their 12-page report, which compared YC/SCW faculty salaries to those of institutions comparable in type, location, quality of faculty, and quality of students, demonstrated that YU salaries were not competitive with those of similar schools. Presented to Dr. Egon Brenner, former Vice President for Academic Affairs, in February 1993, the thoroughly researched report concluded that "within every grouping of institutions and at every rank, YC/SCW salaries average considerably lower than those at comparable institutions." Specifically, YC/SCW salaries ranged from 10% to 40% lower at the instructor rank, and from 18% to 60% lower at the assistant, associate, and professorial ranks.

Lee and Bartholomew also wrote of the psychological results of their revelation: "Under the economic circumstances of YC/SCW, the commitment and professionalism of our faculty is remarkable. At the same time, their knowledge that salaries do not reflect the market value of their qualifications and experience carries with it some high indirect costs. The psychological results range from disinfection to stress to burnout."

According to Dr. Bartholomew, the report only "supported things we had already known." Faculty members were willing to reveal their base salaries for statistical purposes to rebut claims by the administration that YU professors were being paid a level below that of their colleagues in comparable schools.

The administration had always insisted, however, on comparing YU to the private, non-profit institutions in the Midwest, explained Bartholomew. In his analysis, though, he compared YU only to colleges in the metropolitan area or the Middle Atlantic region, where the cost of living is drastically higher.

Bartholomew was confident that the administration is well-aware that we are not paid very well, but that it does not seem willing to "invest in the teachers. The money must be found some way." Faculty members do seem to be flowing into the university, Dr. Schwartz denies that the bounty should translate into increased salaries. "Donated money is restricted," she said, explaining that most of the $40 million in the market endowment of last year was earmarked for students, not teachers. Donations can not always be directed towards budget purposes. Nor will the increase in enrollment, and with it, dollars, coming into the university, affect a salary increase, said Schwartz, because the university "is still in a deficit posture, even with the high enrollment."

In defending the average raise of 3%, Schwartz cited the slowing of the inflation rate and the higher cost of living increase over the past year. But many professors see the 3% raise as being below the inflation rate, and, in effect, a salary decrease. What troubles some more, however, is that the structure of the university prevents anything from being done. "We haven't influence here," commented one professor. "The administration is too removed from the teachers."

Faculty Dedicated To Yu

The rancor over salary inequity has yet to translate into concrete action on the part of faculty members. To explain why YU has not witnessed a large-scale exodus of professors, several professors touted the fierce dedication of the faculty to YU and its Torah U'Madda philosophy, despite the adverse conditions.

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Interviewed and the details of the Oct 28 meeting are, for the most part, a secret. However, The Commentator has learned from sources on the committee that Schwartz spent the first part of the meeting criticizing The Commentator for publishing the names of three candidates approved of by the committee in the early part of the summer. Also, Schwartz chastised the committee for failing to direct the money to The Commentator. Still unwilling this past Friday to confirm that he had ever attended the meeting, Schwartz sharply criticized the board of trustees for leaking the names to The Commentator.

New Dean Expected at Any Moment

continued from page one

To have a broad and representative committee as we did, and there has been consultation as well with even broader groups beyond the committee," he explained. "I think Doctor Lamm was one-hundred percent right in taking the time to deliberate," he concluded. He also voiced his hopes that a decision on the YC deanship will be made shortly.

Dr. Harold Nierenberg, currently serving as the Dean Ad-Interim of YC as well as the permanent dean of SSB, expressed his optimism about the deanship. "I'm pretty certain that a dean will be named before the end of the semester," he said, adding that he is "preparing to help the University in any way...someone has to assume the responsibility for YC and I've been asked to do it." So far, he has enjoyed his new role as YC dean. He explained, "It's hectic and challenging and it's certainly been an interesting experience for me. I'm definitely making an impact on YC." He also indicated that he would stay on, if necessary, as the YC dean if the new dean would be unable to take over at the beginning of the fall semester.

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continued from page one

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New Dean Expected at Any Moment
Mystery Symptoms Raise Questions Among Employees
continued from page one

licensed asbestos worker. "While normally asbestos remains airborne [and therefore dangerous] for only 48-72 hours after being disturbed, in this instance it was circulated countless times throughout the library," he said.

Most shocking of all is the claim that the administration deliberately used unlicensed personnel, including cafeteria workers, who were free during the summer, to do the work, when it had already trained some of its staff for this purpose. "An asbestos-licensed worker charges an additional $6/hour," explained one of the workers who did the drilling in the library and wishes to go unnamed, and they only work under special conditions: the area must be cordoned off, they must be wearing a mask, and the work must be done at night with no one around. My thought: these conditions they won't do the work because they know it is illegal. Instead we were called to do the work without masks, without proper equipment, in the middle of the day. We didn't even know what asbestos was or what it looked like; we couldn't refuse to do the job even though we knew we shouldn't be doing it.

Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services Administration, explains that the administration did not have the responsibility to assign licensed asbestos workers to deal with the situation because they had no idea that asbestos would be released.

When the librarians complained about working in the library while asbestos particles were flying around, the work was immediately stopped and continued at night with fully equipped asbestos experts. Facilities Management then called in Gramercy Asbestos Consulting Inc. who tested the air and found it to be within the Environmental Protection Agency's clean air limits.

Unions Test Show Dangerous Asbestos Levels
The union, however, collected a sample of dust from the floor under the area where the drilling had occurred and sent it to Applied Geoservice Consultants (AGS). The sample was found to contain 35% asbestos, a dangerous amount. AGS qualified the report, however, by saying that the sample was obtained "by personnel not under the direction of AGS" and therefore they "could not reliably substantiate the accuracy of the analytical result."

Rosengarten is not impressed. "Their report is not worth the paper it is written on," he said, "We know that the ceiling contains asbestos and anyone can take a sample from the ceiling, submit it to a lab and have it confirmed as asbestos."

When asked if he was suggesting that the union deliberately took an asbestos sample from an area about the hazardous work they Rosengarten responded "I would certainly hope not."

This clash is the second asbestos-related scandal this year. In April, secretaries and clerks in the payroll department walked off the job when work being done emitted asbestos particles into the sixth floor of Belier Hall. On the morning of April 21, the secretaries walked in to find their desks covered with dust that they believed to be asbestos.

"After going at my desk for a few hours I began feeling extremely sick," says Mildred Diaz, senior payroll clerk, "my throat was sore, my eyes were itchy and I had been allowing [with] us to went to the Personnel department [on the second floor] to complain, my symptoms began to subside. Infact, there were people who came on that day to be interviewed for a job in this department and they had to leave."

"It's a mystery to this day why the secretaries felt those symptoms," Rosengarten said. The Comptroller, "I don't know if those allegations have been verified."[Jeff Socol [Associate Director of Facilities Management] came down and told us that everything was fine and that we had nort to question the administration," claims Jeannette Resnick, payroll clerk, "When I asked him if it was okay for me to sit here, he replied, 'I'll tell you when it's unsafe for you to sit there.'" Jeff Socol refused to comment on this episode.

"They kept telling us that there was nothing wrong," Rosengarten told The Comptroller. "I don't know if that's true."

"But we can't make exceptions to the rule. And the rule is that anyone working on the ceilings must wear a mask." The women went to the payroll department to ask to be relocated for the day. When their request was denied, they walked off the job. That night, the women went to the payroll department and that night they were paid an additional six dollars an hour for asbestos related work.

"There was no asbestos leaking that day on the sixth floor and in reality there was no need for the men to wear the masks," explained Rosengarten. "There was no asbestos leaking that day on the sixth floor and in reality there was no need for the men to wear the masks."

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MTA New York City Transit Going your way
Despite NHL Lockout Hockey Lives on in YU

BY COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF

On October 12, YU hockey intramurals finally began in the Main Building's gymnasium. Captains Chaim Leffel and Ross Rothenberg squared off against each other in the opening week's first game. Leffel's team played a solid game with the scoring evenly distributed. With Ross' first round pick and last year's MVP, Mikey Fruchter, Leffel went down easily, 5-2.

The stars of the game were goalee Marc Mandell for his superb play in the net and Ross Rothenberg, who scored on a beautiful breakaway. In the late game, Oren Lieber's team edged Moshe Schreiber's team in overtime by a score of 5-4. Many felt that Schreiber's team was the only favorite with their highly potent offensive attack including Evan Borstein and Kenneth Ripstein. However, Team Lieber's relentless attack provided the margin of victory. The stars of the game were Team Schreiber's Brian "MER" Mermanstein, who netted a hat trick and Team Lieber's Greg Haber who scored two of his own. Week two featured Team Lieber vs. Team Leffel in the first game. Ron Friedman along with Lieber helped lead their team to a 7-4 victory and topped their record to 2-0. Leffel netted two for the losing cause. In the second game, Team Ross handed Team Schreiber their second straight defeat by a score of 7-4. Fruchter's goal and two spectacular assists, provided the scoring punch they needed, while Ross and Daniel Wolfson each added two goals.

Schreiber's team, David "LARRY" Lawrence scored all four goals in the losing effort.

Week three's action showed us more of the same, a Lieber victory and Schreiber loss. Lieber teamed with Ira Teichler to score two goals a piece and hand Team Ross their second loss of the season. Eric Sussman netted two in a losing effort. It seems as if Moshe Schreiber just can't pull his teams to victory in the regular season. Last year his team went 1-8 before winning in the playoffs and upsetting Borstein in the finals. His team now falls to 0-3 with their loss to Leffel. Naftali Bennett scored two to bring Leffel's record to 2-1 and Kenny Ripstein picked up two beautiful goals for Team Schreiber.

Intramural Season in Full Swing

Scores from 10/17-10/25

- Miami 55 Hickory 45
- Albany 39 Miami 36
- Miami 47 Long Island 41
- Miami 55 Hickory 45
- Albany 30 Terhune 35
- Albany 41 Rapid City 38
- Miami 43 Oolitic 38

In a matchup of roommates, Noah Lindenberg's Chiefs increased their record to 2-0 with a 41-32 win over David Dweck's Thunder. The Chiefs who might have the best front line in the league with Michael Dube, Sol Genet, and Hillel Cohn, were edged by Dube's 14 points. Sol Genet had another strong night, controlling the boards while adding 12 points. The Thunder, who dropped to 1-2 with the loss, were led by David Dweck's 11 points.

Playing without Ari Cement because of a finger injury, the Miami Juice lost their first game of the season, a 39-36 loss to the Patroons. Albany struggled but defeated the Ciment-less team with strong foul shooting down the stretch. The winners were led by Shlomo Kimmel's 17 points and Captain David Samet's 12 points. Albany is now 2-0, while the Juice fell to 1-1. In a game that featured two 1-0 teams, the Ithica Warriors survived a second half surge by the Oolitic Owls and prevailed 43-38. After jumping out to a 16-3 lead, the Warriors had to hold on to remain one of three undefeated teams. They were led by point guard Bennett Schachter's all around strong play (12 points, 2-3 from downtown).

Taubermen Off to a Strong Start

BY ALAN R. EGOZI

The Taubermen's '94-'95 season commenced with the M.A.C.P.A. (Mid-Atlantic Conference Fencing Association) megameet in John Hopkins University, Maryland this past weekend. Over Shabbat, the fencers stayed at various homes of YU alumni, some of whom are former Taubermen. Sunday afternoon proved to be a long and grueling day for the fencers, starting at 9:00 AM and concluding at 6:00 P.M. At themegameet, all found it to be a rewarding experience. Team coach Arnold Messing was not as successful as the other two were, it managed to come through with a respectable outing. Although the foil squad, led by Tzvika Nissel, was not as successful as the other two were, it had the best day with an 11-2 record.

The returning fencers had a better day as well, going 10-4. In the saber squad, co-captain Jon Korn finished 8-6. Although the foil squad, led by Tzvika Nissel, was not as successful as the other two were, it managed to come through with a respectable outing. Although novice fencers found it difficult to adjust to the strenuous megameet, all found it to be a rewarding experience. Team coach Arnold Messing made it clear to the team that the event was to be one of the most intense and that those that would be competing should use this as a learning experience. Coach Messing, commenting on the team's performance, said, "The team improved as the day progressed. I am hoping that this pattern remains consistent throughout the rest of the season." Hopefully, next Sunday when the team meets the universities of Cornell and Vassar, the foil squad will rise to the occasion as well.

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In the second game Ephraim Gerszberg's Miami Juice, the early favorites to win it all, matched up against Donny Davis' Hickory Huskers. On this night, the Huskers needed more than Jimmy Chitwood, because the Juice had two 1-0 teams, the Ithica Warriors survived a second half surge by the Oolitic Owls and prevailed 43-38. After jumping out to a 16-3 lead, the Warriors had to hold on to remain one of three undefeated teams. They were led by point guard Bennett Schachter's all around strong play (12 points, 2-3 from downtown).

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Resnick Places Second at IAC Marathon Sunday Cross-Country Run

BY JOSH FINE

The Yeshiva University Cross-Country Team participated in its final competition of the year, a five-mile track meet, held at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx this past Marathon Sunday, Nov. 6, 1994. Coached by Stan Watson, the track team made a strong showing, placing five of its six runners among the top ten. The members of the Independent Athletic Conference (IAC) that competed in the Marathon Sunday Cross-Country Run included Polytechnic University, New Jersey Institute of Technology and YU. When the race was over, YU had finished first, NJIT second, and Polytechnic placed third.

Meir Zeitchik, who had been attracting attention as YU's premiere cross-country runner, did not attend the track meet due to an exam. Michael Resnick, who's first run as a YC cross-country runner earned him a medal at the Third Annual Halloween Invitational, came in second. Resnick said that the team's future looks promising, especially after the training that the guys put in this year, running daily across the George Washington Bridge or in the streets of Washington Heights. He said that he felt that "this years' team, was the toughest-knit team he's had since he took over as track coach and that the guys were dedicated and dedication pays off with excellent results." Finally, he said, "it was the combination of the experienced runners and the very capable rookies that made this team so great."

Kudos to Coach Stan Watson for training YU's Cross-Country Team this season, one in which track team fans witnessed their team place third at the IAC Championship and place first in their last official track meet. They were especially thrilled by the emergence of two first year runners, Resnick and Zeitchik. Lastly, they can already look forward to next season, which will feature the YC Harriers as the most dominant team in the IAC along with a few trophies on the shelf as well.