Dole Pledges Support for Israel at Channukah Dinner

BY MOSHE L. KINDERLEHER

Two Sundays ago, YU held its annual Channukah Dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, bestowing honorary doctorates on incoming Senate majority leader Robert Dole and eight others. Over two thousand people attended the event.

At the Academic Convocation preceding the dinner, Senator Dole, in his first appearance in New York City since the recent elections, began by extending congratulations to YU President Dr. Norman Lamm for reaching the 18th year of his presidency. Noting the symbolism in the number eighteen, Dole went on to wish both Dr. Lamm and the University "long life and continued success." Speaking softly to the packed room, Dole utilized the podium opportunity to pledge continued US support for Israel in the incoming Republican-led Congress. Drawing much applause, Dole noted, "Simply put, we have no closer ally than Israel...And there can be no doubt US assistance is vital to our shared interests and values in a region unfortunately not noted for freedom and democracy." Raising the issue of the ongoing peace talks, Dole first praised the "historic progress" achieved so far with the Palestinians and Jordan's King Hussein. He then went on to qualify the steps taken so far, pointing out that "Israel still faces many serious threats. Many Palestinians still do not accept the right of Israelis to live in peace and security...The benefits of peace with the PLO remain illusory."

Citing serious concerns about the fiscal accountability of the Palestinian Authority in administering the hundreds of millions of dollars pledged by the international community, Dole suggested that ways be developed to "deliver aid directly to the Palestinian people." He did not divulge any details describing how such a procedure would work.

The senator also noted that any peace agreement reached with Syria would have to be backed up by "deeds and not words," calling upon Syria's President Hafez Assad to pursue peace as a "strategic course rather than a tactical opportu­nity," as for US involvement in maintaining any peace agreement reached with Syria, Dole continued on page 9.
A Dose of Discipline for Midterms

The recent period of midterm examinations which unofficially began in mid-November still continues. We have documented how the absence of some form of schedule for these tests hurts the student body. Aside from the imbalance when one student faces five exams within five days while another faces five within five weeks - problems of a different nature arise. Many students virtually eliminate their social lives during this four or five week period. Since an exam "is always around the corner," Attendance in seder and shiur tends to decline somewhat as exams loom closer. Students often spend valuable research time for papers due later in the semester on late-November or early-December midterms, even during a regular academic year. And, as any club leader or elected student official will attest, finding an event date convenient for even a significant portion of the student body can prove quite challenging, if not impossible.

The current format benefits the faculty by offering them the flexibility necessary for some courses. But enough is enough! The few classes that truly require the extra time do not justify the unnecessary burden placed on students. We propose that student leaders and the Administration work together quickly to develop a plan which will designate two weeks in November and March as the official scheduling period of midterms (the recent week and a half before Thanksgiving, for example, constituted a perfect opportunity); different sections could be assigned different days, similar to the final exam schedule, to prevent any serious overlapping. This proposal would significantly limit the inequality and lack of fairness in terms of scheduling. It would provide students with the proper time necessary to devote to researching full-semester papers. It would put the entire college on a fairly uniform schedule, allowing student leaders to more successfully provide events and opportunities. And while it may not eliminate seder and seder absences entirely, it will certainly increase the potential for attendance during the two weeks no longer used for midterms.

The kings need to be ironed out, but this constitutes a viable alternative to the present situation. However, the responsibility lies with the student body to demand this or any other change of its student leaders and the Administration. Otherwise, we might be studying for midterms at the wrong end of the year.

Dial 1-800-YU-SECURITY

It's 2 AM. You emerge from the subway terminal into the eerie nighttime darkness of Washington Heights. You approach the public phone and pick it up, all the while fishing in your pocket for a quarter so you can call the security van to pick you up. No quarter. Leery of yet another $1.50 charge on your calling card, you opt to walk back to campus.

While not the stuff of horror films, a walk from the A train to the dorm is not recommended for those concerned about their personal safety. Making the van easier to get aboard of is an important step. It's time for the Department of Security to explore the possibility of instituting a round-the-clock 800 number for students to call when in need of a pick-up. The cost would not be significant, but the improvement in student safety would be immeasurable.
Cutting Credits No Solution

To the Editor:

While I felt that many good points were raised to support the suggestion of cutting down on these credits, I don’t believe that this is the solution to YU’s academic problems. First of all, my experience has shown that YU isn’t even giving these credits enough value. A student needs a two year or two and a half year college. Many of my friends did early admissions (which I don’t consider a serious year of college), but got credit from YU, took a few CLEPS, and didn’t summer school (and not particularly high level courses at that). While YU has been cutting down on these “garbage” credits, I think there is still a way to go before they are completely eliminated. I would suggest that any college make sure that it is actually a better education, ultimately the problem lies with the student’s attitude towards college. I can’t speak for all of the student body, but I meet all too many people whose one concern is to get the maximum number of A’s for the minimum amount of work. If YU is to become a serious academic institution, I hope that Yeshivah has to have to want that change; I’m afraid that this is far from the case right now.

Yakov Blau
YC ’93, RIETS ’95

The Plight of Al Linder

To the Editor:

In my concern, as concerned as any fellow student who is aware of what I know. This letter is in reference to the well known Jew who collects tezda- ka in front of Muss and Furstalls. An article was written on him in The Plight of the article of The Commentator last year. While I’m sure your article has helped bring his need to the attention of many, he still remains solely a victim of the well being of him and his family. What’s amazing is that MTA, an affiliate of Y.U., is in a position to help him for what it has directly caused, yet it shrugs its shoulders with regretful ‘apathy’.

Near the end of last year’s school semester, the report was filed that day by the school September 14, 1994) an MTA student accidently threw a basketball across Amsterdam Avenue to the MTA side hitting Mr. Al Linder in the face, breaking his nose and bruising his eye. Rabbi Meir Orten and one of the (local) policemen stationed at the corner were eyewitnesses to the accident. Now, while the MTA denies that it was an accident, the High School has turned the other way. We can understand the frightful position of the situation. We can find no fault. Mr. Linder has gone repeatedly to the school administration with requests of assistance - he has increasingly been given the run around. In the meantime, he is suffering from double vision in his left eye, and his nose is healing slightly crookedly. Obviously, he can’t breathe through his nose.

The simple facts are that if it was someone in a stronger position - one in which the school could not - or would not - choose to ignore, the reparations would be taken care of. Aside from everything else, MTA and YU are yeshi- vot, (obviously under a very liberal defi- nition). Let’s not talk about following in the giant footsteps of the Rav TZ L or Reb Dovid Lipshutz TZ L. We’re dealing with simple honesty and compas- sion for a fellow human being, who is also Jewish; As it turns out, we’re also dealing with the law. Mr. Linder has spoken to a lawyer and has been informed that since the incident oc- curred during school hours the school is responsible. Although Mr. Linder is hesitant to sue, considering the fair treatment he has received in the past, MTA, if it continues to shirk its obligation, may force him to.

In the meantime, Mr. Linder struggles to survive. Mr. Linder suffers from acute diabetes in the veins, through theetzeda he received, Mr. Linder was able to pay for his treatment. Unfortunately, however, this was at the cost of paying the rent. Mr. Linder spent nine days homeless, and this has not only exacerbated his leg illness, but further, his ten year old daughter (who has been the main thing since been cured, through medicine) through the cold nights they spent locked out of their apartment. Because of ex- tenuating circumstances, Mr. Linder has been prevented from starting a movie theater; thus additional monies entitled to him were lost as a direct result of the accident.

At the end, it is up to the generous students of MTA and YU to uplift our friend, and provide for his basic needs; and further, to ensure that the school is obligated to pay - to receive payment. It is not for us to question, or for care for that matter, why he cannot pro- vide for himself. Rather, it is an obliga- tion of every MTA student to support this fellow in need - the world is built on Chesed (Midrash Tefillim). Further, “We are duty-bound to be more careful about the conduct of our charity than about all the other positive commandments: for charity is a distinguishing characteristic of the descendants of Avraham” (Sefer HaAvront). Thus, why would Mr. Linder suffer from the regretful treatment he received? The Shabbos goy is not a charity. Mr. Linder has not been treated fairly and surely, this is not only an injustice, it is a failure of MTA and YU to aid their fellow students.

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Schottenstein, A Once Vibrant Yeshiva

To the Editor:

I was both fascinated and disturbed by the article you wrote regarding the misuse of the Schottenstein Center (11/15/94). I currently attend choir re- hearsals at the Belz Music School every Wednesday. Every time I walk past room 212, I am reminded of how played with huge blocks in the corner of that same room about 30 years ago when I was in kindergarden at Yeshiva Solove- ichik. I used that same room when I was in eighth grade, as well. Nearly every corner of the building echoes memories of the wonderful educational experience I had in that building for seven years. I recall visions of all my teachers lecturing and disciplining, and you always filled with my classmates rushing to enter the classroom before the 8:40 bell. The shul was used on a daily basis. From the shul, we had the opportunity to be in the shul at 8 A.M. for Shacharit. Then, there were the seemingly endless school “assemblies” which we had before every Shabbos by the Chumash and torah. But Sh’bat at that time was less formal than those presented are merely a few examples of how the shul was a vibrant place of creativity and learning; in the shul was gathered in the shul to hear the head rabbinic song “Shalom Yeledim” in his hoarse strained voice. Though we got tired of listening to his bad singing, we loved the acoustics and the sheer beauty that the shul possesses.

On one side, I am encouraged that after being closed and abandoned for so many years, YU decided to purchase the building, and it is once again being used for Jewish purposes, rather than having been left to the neighborhood vandals and drug dealers. On the other side, I am disturbed that the building, and, particularly, the shul, is severely undervalued. Today, there are very few of the “older” shul’s left. Shebeels rise in nearly every person’s home, and anyone can take an ordinary room and turn it into a minyan. There is a lot to be said about a huge struc- ture being a hashkama chazakah, but it’s not because it has no place in the re- membering of how it was Yeshiva Soloveichik and the building and the shul dear to us. Aside from Yeshivas Soloveichik, University once again places high priori- ty on restoring the use of all the building’s facilities to their maximal use.

Daniel Feldman

Stand Up for Kiddush Hashem

To the Editor:

Apparently, as opposed to what they are to the existence of gay clubs in YU, most people feel compelled to remain silent for fear of the backlash. This is a public, not a private debate.

In light of the recent elections, in which voters expressed their disgust with govern- ment intrusion into the lives of citi- zens, especially it pertains to endorse- ment of what most Americans consider deviant behavior, would it not be a great Kiddush Hashem if Yeshiva University would challenge this intrusion into our religious and personal affairs by the government? Would it not cause the decent, hardworking American majori- ty to look upon YU- and Orthodox Jews in general- as people willing, under govern- ment tolerance, but stands to up for Kiddush Hashem.

It would serve the administration well to not only consider what is “practical”, but what our religion- and Hashem- call on us to do. The Chetoremenstand- ing up against the tzarot of their time was not “practical” either but look what happened when they stood up for Juda- sm.

Nachum Lamm
YC ’97
Calendar Events

YC Basketball vs. Mt. Saint Vincent
8 PM — Away

Thursday, Dec. 15.
Sigma Delta Rho Speaker — AECOM Club Hour
Ice Skating sponsored by Freshman Class
7:30 PM — Rivergate Ice Rink

Friday, Saturday, Dec. 16-17.
Chemistry Club Speaker — Dr. Beer

Monday, Dec. 19.
Dramatics Society Play
8 PM — SAC

Wednesday, Dec. 21.
SSSB Business Halacha Night
with Rav Schacter
8-10 PM — Rubin Shul
Blood Drive — Morg Lounge
Dramatics Society Play
9 PM — Schottenstein Theater

Thursday, Dec. 22.
Blood Drive — Morg Lounge

Wednesday, Dec. 28.
YC Basketball vs. Alumni
7:30 PM — MSAC
Dramatics Society Play
9 PM — Schottenstein Theater

Mazal Tov
Jeff Waldman & Arona Bienenstock
Eitan Meyer & Sally Rosen
on their recent engagements

YC Alumnus Assemblyman Polonetsky Addresses Students
BY DANIEL RUBIN

Last Wednesday, Jules Polonetsky, one of the youngest members of the New York State Assembly, spoke with over a dozen YC and SCW students about the importance of political activism. The Brooklyn Democrat, a member of the YC class of ’86, was invited by YC College Democrats Chairperson Ryan Karben.

Polonetsky told the group, which was gathered informally around a table in Furst Hall’s fifth floor conference room, about his involvement in the creation of the Kiryas Joel school district for handicapped Satmar children, his participation in the fight to allow kipot in the military and his current efforts to ban hate groups, such as the Nation of Islam, from receiving any government funding.

Polonetsky’s move on the latter front was sparked by his discovery that the group, which is run by Minister Louis Farakhan, is being paid to provide security at a housing project in his district. Nation of Islam members recently picketed Polonetsky’s office denouncing his efforts and holding placards reading “Farakhan Yes, Polonetsky No.”

A graduate of the New York University School of Law, the twenty-nine year old assemblyman worked as an assistant to Congressmen Stephen Solarz and Charles Schumer before his election to his current post last February. He was elected to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Howard Lasher, who was elected to the New York City Council.

Polonetsky urged all students interested in running for office in the future to “put some roots down” in their own communities by volunteering on campaigns for other officials. He stressed the importance of person-to-person politicking, claiming that the best route to victory still runs through senior centers and subway stops.

Students who attended were pleased. Senior student Oswin Bieganek, an assistant to Queens Assemblywoman Melinda Katz, said “it’s very good to see someone who graduated from YU who is able to balance Jewish interests with the interest of the general electorate — and do it well.”

Pool Experiencing Technical Difficulties
BY SETH DYM

For over three years the Gottesman pool has been one of the finer structures on the uptown campus, attracting swimmers to its glistering water and causing many a Stern Woman to be jealous. But recently, this wonder of modern aquatics has been nothing but an olympic-sized headache for both the winners and the staff charged with the responsibility of maintaining it. The troubles began on Tuesday, November 29 when the filter malfunctioned, causing it to be shut down temporary. The pool reopened a few days later, but swimmers emerged complaining of stingy ting and burning sensations in their eyes which were apparently caused by an excess amount of chlorine. Meetings have been convened and the technical crew has begun work to remedy the problem, but as of press time the pool remains closed.

For many students the latest developments have been of little significance. Others, however, are extremely disturbed by this current state of affairs. YC Sophomore Ron Markovitz remarked that he felt “very sad” by the shutdown. Other students feeling the effects are those Jacuzzi users who revel in the hot bath after a vigorous workout or a rough basketball game. Most students, however, have little reason to despair. As Lifeguard Jay Lisker explained, “While the pool closing saddens me, we’ve weathered this type of thing before, and I have no doubt that the pool will soon be available to all students who wish to use it.”

Ferkauf Dean Addresses Psychology Students
BY MEIR ZEFFICH

To placate the fears of prospective psychology students, the psychology clubs of YC and SCW hosted the associate dean of Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology, Dr. Lawrence Siegel, last month. Dr. Siegel, a key figure in the admissions process at the school, spoke on various issues relevant to that topic.

While emphasizing the importance of GPA in gaining admissions to graduate school, Dr. Siegel noted the significance of many other factors, most prominent among them, the GRE’s. “Due to the large variability in undergraduate programs, the GRE serves as an equalizer of sorts in the admissions process,” he said. Siegel stressed the importance of clinical experience in gaining entrance to graduate school and he also downplayed the importance of extra-curricular activities, particularly those not directly related to psychology.

Despite the large number of factors which would enhance a person’s chance of getting in, he noted the recent phenomenon of graduate schools like psychology and medical schools becoming increasingly difficult to gain admissions. “Medical schools used to be a one-in-two chance of getting in, now they’re lower.” He pointed out that because of the relatively small number of doctoral programs in psychology, gaining admissions to them is probably even more difficult.

Siegel recognized the fact that costs were almost as high as medical schools, even though students who complete a doctorate in psychology earn far less than medical doctors, on the average.

The dean also pointed out a quirky tendency to psychology graduate schools, specifically those in the New York area, namely, that the younger an applicant is, the more difficulty he or she will have in getting into a program. “There is an inexplicable age bias in graduate schools, specifically in New York and California,” commented Dr. Siegel. He pointed out that very often it may be in a student’s best interests for a student fresh out of college to delay the application process and put some work experience under his/her belt before they apply. If a student does choose to apply right away and doesn’t make it, he said, “it will be a strike against them when applying later in life.”

The common denominator among those students attending the program was that it was a great success. As one psychology student remarked: “Many people feel that if you’re not in one of the ‘fast track’ majors such as accounting or computers, little concern should be given to allay your fears, since you’re not going straight into the job market anyway. This program went long lengths to refute that wrongheaded idea.”
Asbestos Allegations Spread to Muss Hall

By Nick Muzin

Asbestos leakage took place last year on the fourth floor of Muss Hall and the Administration did not deem it necessary to inform the occupants of the room in which it occurred, The Commentator has learned.

A SSBB senior who refused to be named came forward with a story that strengthens allegations of Administration secrecy relating to asbestos last spring, as the student was walking in the fourth floor hallway of Muss, he noticed men wearing masks working on pipework in the attic. “I asked what was going on and was told that asbestos was being worked on,” he said. “I was shocked to learn that there was asbestos being worked on in the middle of a residence hall.”

The student, who is not authorized to discuss the matter, said that he informed the student leaders of the school of the incident and they were concerned about the safety of the occupants of the room.

On Tuesday night, Dec. 6, approximately twenty-five YC and SCW students and student leaders gathered in the library to discuss the issue of asbestos in Muss Hall.

YU President Daniel Billig expressed his concern about the matter and agreed to meet with the students on Wednesday afternoon to discuss the issue.

The meeting was opened by YU Dean of Students Efram Nulman. He thanked the students for their concern and promised to take action to ensure the safety of all students in the residence halls.

The meeting concluded with a vote of support for the students who have been working to raise awareness about the issue of asbestos in Muss Hall.

Student Leaders Visit Rabbi Lamm at Home

By Moshe I. Kindlerlehrer

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Problems Cause Delay of Guide

By Owen Cyrilwik

Students on both the YC and SCW campuses have grown impatient at the amount of time taken to publish the Guide to the Perplexed. Originally due out around Thanksgiving, as of press time the Guide was not ready to leave the printing process. Editors-in-chief Joshua Hosseinoff and Rena May attribute much of the recent delays to a misunderstanding with the company that is printing the Guide, Moriah Offset.

According to Hosseinoff, the Guide, with the exception of 10 pages, was first delivered to the printer on October 27. The final 10 pages were mainly ads that Hosseinoff planned to finish within the next few days. By November 3, those last pages were printed and delivered to the printer. Hosseinoff explained that Moriah Offset had assured him that the Guide could be printed in about three weeks, leaving enough time for it to be out by Thanksgiving.

Further delays, however, were the result of a misunderstanding between the editors and Moriah Offset. On November 3, when Hosseinoff delivered the final material, the printer informed him that the original quote that the Guide editors had received did not cover the high cost of printing. Hosseinoff insists that there was no misunderstanding and planned to print. In order to publish the Guide within the limited budget requirements, the design had to be changed. This redesigning was finished on November 7, and on November 10, Hosseinoff again delivered the completed Guide to the printer. He expects that the Guide will be ready for distribution sometime this week, possibly even today.

The long delays in the Guide’s publication have also prompted some to criticize the management policies of the Editors.

YCSC President Daniel Billig remarked that part of the cause for the delay was that “the project wasn’t under optimum management.” Billig explained that in a project such as the Guide, it is sometimes necessary to trade management expertise for technical experience.

Hosseinoff has also been personally criticized, particularly by his co-editor, Rena May, for his inability to share responsibility and to delegate authority. May has continually been frustrated by Hosseinoff’s habit of suddenly shutting her out of much of the production process by failing to return phone calls and by not keeping her informed. She believes that an earlier distribution would have been possible if Hosseinoff had been able to more effectively include his co-editor and staff in the entire production process.

Hosseinoff, however, denied the assertion that his actions are the cause of the Guide’s delay. He points out that had the production process begun as it was planned, the Guide would have been published much sooner. Hosseinoff does admit that there are times when he is hard to reach, or difficult to work with. But as far as delegating responsibility, he believes that when approaching the final stages of production, having a large number of people working is not an asset.

Student Leaders Visit Rabbi Lamm at Home

By Moshe I. Kindlerlehrer

On Tuesday night, Dec. 6, approximately twenty-five YC and SCW students and student leaders gathered in the library to discuss the issue of asbestos in Muss Hall.

Dr. Lamm assured those present that the problem was doing everything it could to find both living space and academic space for the rapidly growing Stern population.

The long delays in the Guide’s publication have prompted some to criticize its management process. By failing to return phone calls and by not keeping his editor informed of the asbestos situation, Hosseinoff has been personally criticized, particularly by his co-editor, Rena May, for his inability to share responsibility and to delegate authority.

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By Meir Zaitchik and Steven Middownik

In a move intended to make the YU Joint Israel Program more credible, the university is expanding the program to include an optional Hebrew exemption test. Additionally, professors, administrators, and members of the Student Senate, in a December 1 meeting, raised the possibility of cutting back on some of the elective Israel credits in favor of a more formal Hebrew requirement. Under the terms of one such proposal, students on the Joint Program would only receive twenty-six credits for passing the program in a yeshiva in Israel; to obtain the remaining six credits students would be required to take a Hebrew exemption test similar to the one offered on campus each semester. All proposals were at least partially motivated by strong suffering from a lack of credibility. The program, in its current form exists not more than a regular year of college, "as part of a student's year in Israel we are sending the wrong signal to both students and the rest of the world about what the Israel Program is really all about - a year of learning, fulfillment, a year that students are not burdened by all the challenges they must later face at YU and in the 'real world.'"

The senate floated the possibility of a special seminar for seniors, acknowledging the amount of credits students receive in Israel after Student Senate chairman Richard Solomon handed out copies of Commentator News Editor Sandor Baks November 15 op-ed piece calling for a crackdown. Dr. Schwartz attributed YU's low US News World Report academic ranking (107), which was cited in Baks article, at least partly to the YU Joint Israel program - students sign up for the program with no intention of ever attending YU, resulting in a decrease in the student body and, consequently, a lower academic ranking.

English professor Dr. William Lee, a member of the senate, acknowledged his belief that the Israel program as it currently exists is in need of modification but noted that it is a "sensitive topic" and must be approached very carefully. He suggested holding off discussion on the issue until a later date. While it is unclear why the issue will become less sensitive in the future, one senate member speculated that the reasoning will be a possible domino effect. He suggested YU's Joint Israel program - students sign up for the program with no intention of ever attending YU, resulting in a decrease in the student body and, consequently, a lower academic ranking.

Dr. Schwartz described adding a Hebrew exemption option as a "start" to modifying the Israel Program. "What worries me is a possible domino effect. It starts with Hebrew courses and in the end the Israel Program is reduced to nothing more than a regular year of college," noted Student Senate member Steven Greenfield. Greenfield's concerns were proven justified when Student Senate professor rendered an opinion poll, that what should follow a YU-mandated Hebrew curriculum is the instituting of math and other secular courses to help round out the thirty-two Israel credits. "The message is clearly more important than the substance," noted one senate member, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "By giving a Hebrew course as part of a student's year in Israel we are sending the wrong signal to both students and the rest of the world about what the Israel Program is really all about - a year of learning, fulfillment, a year that students are not burdened by all the challenges they must later face at YU and in the 'real world.'"

The move is designed to allow students to fulfill requirements earlier, thereby easing the course load and increasing flexibility once they arrive on the YU campuses. The move also signifies a response to the Middle States Accrediting Association's charges of a lack of credibility. As part of the plan, students will be permitted to take the examination even if they do not attend any courses in addition. YU will still be accepting test scores from the "Yerushalmi" test administered by Hebrew University that many students have taken advantage of in the past.

Hebrew professor Dr. Sam Schneider, the coordinator of the initiative, has revamped the entire curriculum, and copies of the new syllabi have been sent to the affiliate schools. Schneider is not concerned that so many students will exempt themselves in Israel that the number of courses currently offered in New York would have to be reduced. Questions remain, however. Will the yeshivot be receptive to the move, which could impinge on their respective purposes, styles, or schedules?

Dr. Schwartz is confident that "more enlightened yeshivot will see common sense in the policy. It is meritorious and appropriate to learn Hebrew in Israel." Dr. Schneider, too, was confident that if the yeshivot would not see the wisdom in devoting time to teaching Hebrew, pressure from YU Israeli students themselves would bring change. Schwartz acknowledged, however, that there could be some resistance from the yeshivah, noting that YU administrators will be making sure that the new program is, indeed, being implemented when they visit Israel in January.

The move has been lauded by many students, who feel that the Hebrew option will provide an additional incentive for students to go to Israel in the first place. Dean Jaskoll concurred, and noted that the year in Israel is the most important factor in a student's coming to YU. Strengthening the Israeli program would invariable strengthen YU's student body. Others students, however, are skeptical of the whole process and agree with Greenfield that any change in the Joint Israel Program would, as one student claimed, "open the floodgates" of more radical restructuring in the future.

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Posters Distributed Highlighting Student Activities

In an effort to increase student awareness and pride, the Dean of Students' office, in conjunction with the leadership of the various student councils, has recently issued a poster to YC and SCW students and their parents outlining the wide variety of student clubs and publications available to undergraduates.

The 21'x21' multi-colored poster, complete with photos and quotes, lists eight categories of student activities - leadership, Jewish life, service, campus communications, sports, performing professions, arts, and interest groups.

Dr. Elef Nimlan, Dean of Students at YC and SCW, told The Commentator that he believes the poster is "in keeping with the successes of our own students; third, to encourage students to continue in their involvement and to encourage others to become more involved."

When asked why he distributed the posters to the parents, Dean Nimlan explained that "we wanted the parents to know what their sons and daughters were accomplishing. The parents would have accomplished our objective. Does it do all? One item can't accomplish it all in life, but [the poster] must give the effort."
President Lamm Speaks

BY CHRIS N. KIISLE

Instead of second period classes on Tuesday morning Dec. 5, University President Rabbi Dr. Shmuel Lamm held a "town hall" meeting for IBC and JSS students. The unprecedented event gave IBC and JSS students an opportunity to address any questions they had for the president in an informal atmosphere.

The meeting opened with short introductory remarks from IBC and JSS Dean, Mr. Michael Shmidman. IBC President Jacob Freeman, and IBC President Adam Cohen. Dr. Lamm then made his opening remarks, in which he called for the students to take advantage of the time they have now to focus on Judaic Studies. He also reminded students that those who do not continue to learn after their stay at YU have full time money study programs even if they got all A's in their courses. He also pointed out that YU students should take full advantage of their secular courses, noting that college is a time when students should be looking to expand their minds instead of their wallets.

Dr. Lamm then opened the floor to questions, many of which addressed the frustration felt by IBC and JSS students who believe that their programs are looked down upon by MYP students and administration. Dr. Lamm responded that these feelings are not shared by the administration and said he felt sorry for any MYP student who feels a need to boost his ego by claiming superiority to IBC and JSS students. "We are all one Yeshiva," he remarked, "we are equal." However, Dr. Lamm also stated that IBC and JSS students have a history of being "over serious" to such comments.

Rabbi Lamm also offered an explanation of his controversial statement at last week's Dorn Talks that IBC and JSS students "do not have a Gemara Kap." He argued that this was not meant as an insult, rather his intentions were that MYP students have more of an affinity for General while IBC and JSS students prefer to dedicate themselves to a broader range of Jewish learning.

Put On Defensive
Dr. Lamm was also put on the defensive when he fielded questions regarding possible discrimination directed at IBC and JSS students by the administration. One student asked why the administration, which had been MYI, Dr. Lamm responded that he had no knowledge of that and that he will look into it to make sure there is no discrimination in the selection process. Another student questioned why, at least according to one rabbis, "if an IBC or JSS student wants to be admitted to RIETS, he had to be enrolled in MYP." Dr. Lamm said that he was very concerned about applications to RIETS from IBC, but the student must first spend a summer in the Beit Midrash Program. Dr. Lamm also promised Rabbi Allen Schwartz that he would look into why the 5% disqualification for Rabbis at the Shvil Sofarim acad does not include IBC's and JSS Rabbi's. Rabbi Lamm was also faced with explaining matters of academic interest. Regarding YU's low rating in the most recent edition of US News and World Report, Dr. Lamm said that "on my long list of problems in the University, the ranking doesn't even make the bottom of the list." Dr. Lamm declined to answer other guest questions suggesting that students wait for the arrival of the new Dean and take up those issues with him.

Students Pleased By Opportunity, Not by Responses
After the meeting most students were extremely pleased with the opportunity to discuss important issues with Dr. Lamm. Many said they were looking forward to a similar gathering next semester.

However, some students felt that Dr. Lamm did not answer their questions directly. "He was very diplomatic in his answers," remarked Jonathan Schblitz. Other students wondered why an apparently important question such as the school's ranking doesn't bother Dr. Lamm. Still others felt that Dr. Lamm's attempt to excuse his past remarks such as the one at last year's Dorn Talks failed to respond to their complaints adequately only belittled IBC and JSS students and exacerbated the situation.

Definite Plans Announced For Golding Program

BY EPHRAIM LEIBTAG

Without less than two months remaining before the beginning of the spring semester, plans for the Golding Beit Midrash Program are now being finalized. Among the new developments are the naming of two Kollel Elyon members to positions in the program and formal plans to interview interested students.

Dean of Undergraduate Jewish Studies Programs, Rabbi Michael Shmidman, announced that two members of YU Kollel Elyon, Rabbi Tzvi Sobolofsky and Rabbi David Hirsch have been selected to teach the two-a-week halachic shiurim and may eventually teach a regular shiur. Rabbi Hirsch and Sobolofsky have been named to the position of beth midrash hadashim u' meshitvim.

Interviews To Take Place Soon
Rabbi Shmidman also announced plans for interviews, tentatively scheduled for the next two to three weeks, to determine students' motivations for entering the program. He emphasized that entry into the program will not be automatic, rather, prospective students will have to demonstrate sufficient desire to be accepted. At this point, Rabbi Shmidman expects there to be about 25 to 40 students entering the program, but these numbers could change considerably in the next few weeks based on the interview process.

Beit Midrash Overloaded?
One unresolved issue is the question of where students in the program will be learning during morning sedar. This is partly due to the fact that it is still unknown whether the majority of students will be coming from IBC or MYP. Thus, no one is sure how much space in the Beit Medrash will be needed. If the majority of students switching are from IBC, they would probably remain in their current ketomets. However, to suit the needs of students from IBC or YF currently without a ketomet, other options must be explored. Ideally, all the students would sit in the Main Beit Medrash, helping to enhance the learning experience as well as unite the new program with the more established Ye shiva program. However, that is long- er feasible with the current overcrowd ing in the Beit Medrash. Suggestions have included using the Shenk Shul in Schottenstein or other rooms within the Main Building. Still, there has been no definite word as of yet addressing the potential space problem.

Registrar to Gain Space

BY MICHAEL J. BELGRADE

In a long overdue move that staff members believe vital to administrative effectiveness, the Office of the Registrar will be expanding its office space to the other side of the hallway on the first floor of Furst Hall. The space was formerly occupied by the Admissions Office, which has since moved to the north floor. The Office of Student Finances will also gain three rooms in the newly reconstructed office area.

The purpose of the expansion is to make the current system more efficient. Staff currently engaged in handling transcripts and archiving will move into the new office space. More student registration activities will take place at the actual office instead of Room 502 in Belzer Hall.

Melvin H. Davis, YU registrar and enrollment officer, stated that the target date for completion of the new offices is either during intersession or in February. However, he also mentioned that there was no reason to "rush" the job either. Most of the deconstructing of the rooms has been done — walls have been torn down and pipes taken out. That is left in completion of the electronic and phone wiring. Additionally, the front of the office will have two doors, one going in and the other going out. Thus, during registration, students will be able to line up to choose their courses with out the in-between traffic that was common in the old registrar's office.

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The Grilling Before the Gold

BY STUART MILSTEIN

If you had a stack of questioners as tall as the World Trade Center would they be able to fit in an office and why? A truck 21 feet tall full of supplies needs to pass under a bridge whose clearance is only 15 feet. How can it get by? To most people, these questions seem esoteric and pointless, but to many students participating in a series of on-campus interviews arranged by the YU Placement Office, the answers might be the difference between getting a job and remaining unemployed.

On-campus interviews are conducted by different firms offering various business opportunities who send recruiters to interview on the YU campus. Through this service, students avoid much of the hassle involved in the job search process. Often, students can get a job through the YU campus, which on-campus firms would need to mail in resumes, follow up to be sure they were received, and hope that they will be called back. Jack Berlin, a junior, explained, "If they receive an interview, the student would then be required to travel to the firm's office. When the interviews are over, the placement office usually handles a form convenient for the student.

By meeting with the placement office dent through the on-campus interviewing representatives provide feedback about the students' performances and mistakes,needed for future interviews. Some students, however, feel that the process is incomplete because, as Glen Pfeiffer, a YU senior explained, "That they say you did great and when you get a rejection letter it does not match what they are saying. It would be better if they tell you why you were rejected to help you in the future."

Pfeiffer feels that one of the biggest advantages to on-campus interviews is that one need not worry about wearing a kippa and "if you're wearing a kippa in an interview then you get to wear a kippa on the job."

Having interviews at YU also has a downside. Explains Ar. Feldman, an accounting major, "It's you and society and you're not the only one constant by students walking back and forth. They even walk into the growing room which is not really appropriate."

Other students are similarly dissatisfied with the on-campus interviewing at YU. "It's a farce," says one senior, "A SSBB senior who requested to remain anonymous. "You can't get a job through the YU office if you're a finance major." Many of the banks come as a favor to a "head honcho" who tells them to interview. Over the course of his interview, Pfeiffer said, "I would not have a YU student out of college. There is, however, one advantage to the on-campus interviews says to be the anonymous "You're a good prospect."

The YU Placement Office says that firms would not say anything to the contrary. May 50000. "If you have good feedback from the interviewers you may find it frustrating because the accounting interviews take place earlier. According to Pfeiffer, a firm has no reason to restrict interviewing before busy season in January while the finance firms start recruiting much later.

Hugh Felshub, MIS major, expressed a different concern: "They cram two interviews in one day and I'm concerned that the interviewer may be sessions of the student gets mixed up...each individual has his own qualifications."

Internal Competition

The largest disadvantage, however, facing YU students is that they are competing against Ivy League schools. When the interviewers say, "We'll take the Princeton guy," said YC senior John Schubin, "Face it—we're not the Ivies."

Daniel Ciment, a YC student, felt that the competition was immense. "The finite number of jobs are not only being filled up by students from the Ivies; other YU students also provide formidable competition. "There is a natural competition," explained Ciment, "and it doesn't really matter who wins."

Jack Berlin, a finance major, felt that the competition was more intense. "There is tremendous competition," he said, "because there are very few job opportunities and the best one wins." Most students do not share interviews of the answers because the questions are original and sharing comments causes them to become hackneyed; thus, nobody gains.

Because of the importance of the interview, the light with which you are treated is important, and the respect, even if they might not totally agree with the process. Pfeiffer said, "If you're being interviewed you must try to make you feel comfortable, and then they 'shoomest with you. Most students leave those interviews with feeling confident that they did well.

All of these interviews have common similarities, but each one has its unique form. The interview's format is generally the same, but the types of questions and the attitude can differ greatly. Pfeiffer, who is interviewing for a few companies, said that many of the interviews try to make you feel comfortable, and then they 'shoomest with you. Most students leave those interviews with feeling confident that they did well.

Greling Interviews

Other companies, especially finance firms, prefer 'grilling' interviews. According to Ciment, "They want to see how smart you are and how you handle pressure. There is nothing you can do to prepare. You just have to use your mind."

The grilling interview is the most nerve-racking but it's also the most exciting because you're experiencing something new," according to Feldman. "However, by now it's a no-brainer.

Although the interview officially begins in the interviewer's office, it actually starts in the greening room on the fourth floor. When the company representative, usually a YU alumna, "As a matter of fact," Pfeiffer stated, "one letter got a sign was signed by both the interviewer and the greeter." The evaluation, therefore, begins even before the interview.

Dorm Talks Deals with Faith and Trust

BY MANASHE SHAPIRO

Students packed the Rubin Shul this past Monday night for the second of this year's series of Dorm Talks, held業scher Nisimah Aaron Heller 5/1. The featured speaker was YU President Dr. Norman Lamm, who spoke on the delicate topic of "Issues of faith and trust in the face of tragedy."

Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz, the Dorm Talks coordinator, began by acknowledging the presence of Aaron's family, including Aaron's mother, who addressed the audience with a few stirring words at the conclusion of the talks. The decision to hold these talks in the stead of the larger and more centrally located Morgan lounge came partly out of tribute to Aaron Heller who, as moderator Rabbi Michael Shmidman, the moderator, pointed out, had died in Rubin's second floor. "It was Aaron's homebuilding that he looked forward to coming to daily: It was his home away from home," explained Shmidman.

Rabbi Lamm opened by discussing how he, too, had been forced to confront the death of someone close at a very early age, and how he was able to apply these experiences later on in his life. He then proceeded to differentiate between the various levels of faith one must grapple with when confronting tragic circumstances. Describing the philosophical conflict of "tzadik v'ra lo .. "— why good things happen to the wicked while years of reproach and neglect of the quoted Pirkei Avos where Emunah is described as an acknowledgment of G-d's justice. Morally, he noted, we are supposed to recognize our own mortality, and that it is important, as the gemara says, to worry over the loss of a friend and realize that G-d keeps his promises. The emotional aspect, he explained, is probably the hardest part of the experience. People are often left grasping for one last opportunity to say, "Worrying so powerful, yet, so weak," he added.

The Dorm Talks was crowded and many people were forced to stand in the back. The crowd was primarily composed of MYP students. However, this Dorm Talks was marked by a much stronger showing from IBC and JSS students, due largely to the presence of Dr. Lamm. Rabbi Cheifetz explained that "Dr. Lamm represents a broader cross-section of the student body, in that he appeals to everyone."

Another reason for the larger and more diverse turnout was its location: Rubin Hall. The Rubin building houses more students from JSS and IBC than any other dorm, and, as Rabbi Cheifetz explained, "We try to have representation from other Jewish Studies divisions just as we try to show the presence of Rabbi Shmidman, R. Cheifetz pointed out, helped.

The purpose of the evening, however, was not to highlight the differences in the many students in attendance but to bring them together with a discussion applicable to all. Dr. Lamm summed the night up when he discussed the model of the family of Nachshon Waxman, describing how throughout the whole week of the ordeal, the Israeli population was facing Yom Kippur. "Being a comparison to the tragedy of Aaron's death, he remarked, "Here we should come together as one Mishpacha, and in his Zekhut we should show our togetherness and emphasis common ties instead of differences."

Macs Manager Attacks The Commentator

BY ANDREW DAVIDSON

"In The Commentator pro or con in supporting YU's basketball team," quipped Markowitz, Macs team manager. "Any mention of the Macs team manager's thought were that with many new players, the picture was simply intended as a slight to the Macs. From speaking with (Macs team manager) Markowitz, the impression I received was that the furor he generated over the negative publicity was intended to help stir up fan support for the team. Though I sharply criticized his attack on The Commentator as being misguided, we both agreed to an understanding that The Commentator was not out to slight the Macs," explained Kinderlehrer.

Markowitz's harshest bearing was the impressing picture, however, compared it with last year's opening picture of the Macs, which depicted current coach, Alan Levy going up for a dunk. Sentiment was that the Levy picture was not good because the Macs, which depicted Levy, was shown at a very early age, and how he was able to apply these experiences later on in his life. He then proceeded to differentiate between the various levels of faith one must grapple with when confronting tragic circumstances. Describing the philosophical conflict of "tzadik v'ra lo .. " — why good things happen to the wicked while years of reproach and neglect of the quoted Pirkei Avos where Emunah is described as an acknowledgment of G-d's justice. Morally, he noted, we are supposed to recognize our own mortality, and that it is important, as the gemara says, to worry over the loss of a friend and realize that G-d keeps his promises. The emotional aspect, he explained, is probably the hardest part of the experience. People are often left grasping for one last opportunity to say, "Worrying so powerful, yet, so weak," he added.

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Markowitz, Macs team manager. "Any mention of the Macs with no permanent scarring. As Macs Manager attacks The Commentator, the team manager)
Channukah, with its requisite religious obligations and gymnastic extravagances, came rolling into YU two weeks ago, and students responded in a myriad of ways, illustrating the diversity of the student body.

On the second night of Chanukah, Monday, Nov. 28, SOY held its annual chagiga in the Main Beit Midrash. MYP Roshei Yeshiva Rav Aharon Kahn commenced the festivities at 8:00 by delivering a drasha on the Chassidic revolution, exhorting students to follow the Maccabee lead and unabashedly pursue the truth, even if it meant walking barefoot.

After Rav Kahn’s speech, Neuchomah Orchestra, a mainstay at YU musical events, took over. Soon, some 400 students were dancing in the Beit Midrash, accompanied by several other Roshei Yeshiva, including YU President Dr. Norman Lamm.

The frenzy, however, quickly died down as students began exiting in droves for the library and other study areas. The reason: midterms. After a 10:00 PM curfew, more and more students did attend during midterms, albeit for a short amount of time.

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Student Perception A Determining Factor in Reputation

BY ARI HIRT

As the question disseminated amongst the small gathering of successful attorneys, the professionals proudly tossed around the names of their respective alma maters - "Yale, Harvard, Stanford, Berkeley..."

"What about you, Joseph? Let me guess, you look like the 'Columbia' type."

"No, actually I attended YU," Joseph mumbled under his breath.

"Where?"

"NYU." repeated Joe in a clear distinct voice.

Yeshiva University undergraduates regularly achieve tremendous success in graduate schools as well as the business and professional worlds. These alumni possess the unique capability of proliferating the name and image of YU. Whenever they discuss the distinctive qualities of Yeshiva and relate their fond memories of the college to their colleagues, the reputation of YU only grows in the eyes of others.

Since the word of alumni is the outside world's only linkage to YU, current students' perceptions of YU's status in the world plays a crucial role in the University's reputation. These are the students who will be the future alumni; these are the students who will transmit theoutsideworld for producing high caliber students who are ad

Contrary to Koenigsberg, Associate Dean of YC, Dr. Michael Hecht, feels that YU's reputation improves the further one goes from YU. Hecht sees this phenomenon being a problem; "We suffer from a 'ghetto effect' and tend to lack self respect," states Dr. Hecht. Dr. William Schwartz agrees that there is a tendency for people to be very critical of what they are closest to and sometimes fail to see the bigger picture. As a "matter of self esteem I think everyone should recognize how good they are and how unique Yeshiva really is," proclaims Schwartz. "I think students are beginning to appreciate the institution to a far greater extent."

While administrators and faculty members address the students' failure to acclaim the University's reputation, Hal Tannenbaum and Adrienne Wolf, Assistant Directors of the Career Placement Office, point to the students' lack of school pride in job interviews. "Many times students do not sell themselves to the extent they should be sold," remarks Tannenbaum. Both Wolf and Tannenbaum explain that students, instead of bragging and boasting, tend to downplay the unique qualities of YU. "Initially, students don't see the differences of what we do and what othershools do," states Wolf, "but after interviewing they realize that YU is known as being special.

Although students seem to doubt YU's popularity in the business and academic arenas, many current students exhibit tremendous pride in going to YU. Unlike the successful lawyer in this article's introduction, students at YU say they are not reluctant to reveal their YU identities. "I am not embarrassed to say that I go to YU. I chose to attend YU over Georgetown University," remarks YC senior Raaj Rosenblatt. Dr. Nierenberg, Dean of SSSB and Interim Dean of YC, reiterates Rosenblatt's thoughts on students' pride in going to YU. "I know a significant number of our students who would have gone to Columbia, Princeton, Penn - yet they made a conscience decision to come here; why then would these students be embarrassed?" asks Nierenberg.

Although students say they are proud to wear a YU sweatshirt outside the University, Ben-Gurion University, which YU students often confront. Brody tells about an incident when his YU friends were hesitant to announce in front of students from other universities that they attended YU. Many times YU students sense a lack of respect from fellow college peers and therefore feel inferior. For this reason, Avi Koenigsberg maintains a prevalent lack of self pride amongst the YU alumni. "Graduate students and professionals are quicker to talk about which graduate school they attended than they are to mention YU," maintains Koenigsberg.

Alumni, however, must have the right perception of YU. In the U.S. News and World Report survey, YU ranked second highest in alumni support out of the tier one schools. 38% of the alumni contribute to the University.

While students struggle in answering these questions regarding our reputation - What makes us a reputation? What does the faculty contribute to our image? Are we respected? Is our name widely known? We must first realize that our outside reputation really stems from within ourselves; are we proud or are we ashamed to be in YU?
Communal Leader, Political Activist, Pledges to “Tell the OU’s Story”

For millions across America, Thanksgiving weekend is a time to reflect on their blessings and, surrounded by family and friends, take time to spend in Torah. And they give

until now there are many aspects. All of these

on one large organization that is able to represent

one of the most important goals for the community.

I believe Orthodox unity and a merger with NCYI is

something I want to do with the rest of my life.

program. Kiruv and harbatzas Torah—this

is something I want to do with the rest of my life.

that a kid goes to day school doesn't mean he is

outreach and collegiate outreach. In many areas of

senior citizen

kehillah.

The only way we can do this is if we

To me it's not just a

kehillah.

can't let them out there to be used as political pawns

that again is an internal matter. But they must guar­

antee to their voters—and that we, as American citizens,

have the right to be involved in the political process and

should do so in support of the democracy of Israel, of the

State of Israel, of the Medinah of Israel. We don't support political parties. That's not our job.

What are your priorities for the Orthodox Union?

The other major area is public relations. I always

believe in a community outreach. You and they went of kiddish hashukah...on principles. It does not make any sense in my mind to have two organizations, two dinners...two fundraising drives, two trips to Washington, two youth programs, when we could consolidate and work together for the kid.

MG: As President of HUVPAC, and Chair of the

Institute for Public Affairs, you played a major role in

defining and promoting the pro-Israel political agen­

ce of our community. It seems to define itself as a

community by community—Monsey, Flatbush, St. Lou­

due to the
didn't try. People are sophisticated. They

be like honest, sincere people. And in the end, it pays off.

honestly in how you deal with others, without looking

forkavod.

Each of us has that ability to influence our neighbors

newspapers, you have to vote and you have to spend

The Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, that

wrote for

be equally proud.

be a lawyer to be in public

ties. You don't have to go be a lawyer to be in public

policy, I'm not. You don't have to be a politician, I'm not.

If you act honestly in your business, if you act

You can't tell the Israeli government what to do.

That again is an internal matter. But they must guar­

antee the safety and security of those who have gone

there, who are our brothers and sisters and mothers

for the sake of the community and the State of Israel.

We don't tell Israel what to tell Assad, but Israel cannot

Congress to discuss it. That's not their business. That

We don't tell Israel what to tell Assad, but Israel cannot
tell the American community that we should not allow

Congress to discuss it. That's not their business. That

is the business of American citizens, taxpayers, we

should be a part of the process. So, we will never get

involved in the international affairs—we objected when

people did it with Begin and Shamir. We didn't work

now with Labor.

We encourage aliyah. We encourage an increased

U.S.-Israel relationship. We don't like internal bickering

in the community. We think there should be unity. And

the only way there can be is if we stick to the principles

Institute for Public Affairs, you played a major role in

move in that direction, to allocate funds, personnel, and

a great deal of effort to bring the story of the Union to

the American Jewish community. It is a story that

I am very proud of and anyone who will learn of it will

be very proud.

How can students prepare themselves for posi­
tions of communal leadership? How can they become the

next Dr. Mandell Ganchrow?

I think that is a very good question for this. First of all, I

was always an active citizen. Whether I was in YC

where I was the secretary of the Student Council, I

wrote for The Commentator, when I was in high school

I was president of the student body at Brooklyn T.

A. I've always felt that...no matter what you profession is

we still have a certain obligation to

The other major area is public relations. I always

believe in a community outreach. You and they went of

kiddish hashukah...on principles. It does not make any sense in my mind to have two organizations, two dinners...two fundraising drives, two trips to Washington, two youth programs, when we could consolidate and work together for the kid.

MG: As President of HUVPAC, and Chair of the

Institute for Public Affairs, you played a major role in

defining and promoting the pro-Israel political agen­

ce of our community. It seems to define itself as a

community by community—Monsey, Flatbush, St. Lou­
due to the

didn't try. People are sophisticated. They

be like honest, sincere people. And in the end, it pays off.

honestly in how you deal with others, without looking

forkavod.

Each of us has that ability to influence our neighbors

newspapers, you have to vote and you have to spend

The Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, that

wrote for

be equally proud.

be a lawyer to be in public

ties. You don't have to go be a lawyer to be in public

policy, I'm not. You don't have to be a politician, I'm not.

If you act honestly in your business, if you act

You can't tell the Israeli government what to do.

That again is an internal matter. But they must guar­

antee the safety and security of those who have gone

there, who are our brothers and sisters and mothers

for the sake of the community and the State of Israel.

We don't tell Israel what to tell Assad, but Israel cannot
tell the American community that we should not allow

Congress to discuss it. That's not their business. That

We don't tell Israel what to tell Assad, but Israel cannot
tell the American community that we should not allow

Congress to discuss it. That's not their business. That

is the business of American citizens, taxpayers, we

should be a part of the process. So, we will never get

involved in the international affairs—we objected when

people did it with Begin and Shamir. We didn't work

now with Labor.

We encourage aliyah. We encourage an increased

U.S.-Israel relationship. We don't like internal bickering

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New Dean Expected to Assume Position in March
continued from page one

cussed the deanship (with University officials) I came to understand more fully the special position it holds by virtue of its history and its unique dual curriculum as an expression of Torah U'Maddah."

Adler's appointment has focused student attention on the academic quality of Yeshiva College, perceived and real. Many are anxious to see a real strengthening of YC's academic program, even if it may come under Adler's tenure. Adler plans to visit YC regularly while it is important for students to Affairs, Dr. William Schwartz, said

President Lamm announced his decision to the Roshei Yeshiva prior to issuing a formal press release.

YC Senior David Katz said that while it is important for students to have role models of Torah U'Maddah like Dr. Lamm and YC Associate Dean Michael Hecht, "this is a very positive move...We need to improve the college so we can have maddah on a real level, not a CLEP level.

Howard Paskowitz YC'96, says he is confident that the long dean search process has produced a quality appointment. "The dean does not have to be the epitome of Torah," he said, "that's why we have our roshet yeshiva, Rabbi Shmidman and others. Nobody goes to the dean with hashkafic questions." Even students who describe themselves as being "on the right" with respect to theological matters, are applauding Adler's appointment, pointing to his magna cum laude degree from Harvard and his numerous awards and fellowships.

Steven Tolany YC '96, who calls himself a member of YU's "yeshivish" community says that concern about Adler's ties to Orthodoxy are overblown. "There are a lot of issues that the zealous people should get upset about, this is not one of them. I am sure he will make a fine dean.

Adler plans to visit YC regularly between now and March, when his appointment takes effect. In the meantime Dean Ad Interim Dr. Harold Nierenberg will remain at the helm of both YC and SSSB.

YU's Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. William Schwartz, said Adler was selected on the basis of the "strong and enthusiastic" recommendation of the Decanal Search Committee and the unanimous endorsement of the Academic Affairs Committee of the University's Board of Trustees.

Repeating what has become the motto of his tenure, Schwartz said that "academic excellence is a voyage, not a harbor." He added that Adler "impressed us as a man who embodies academic excellence and exceptional vision.

A prolific writer, Adler has authored or coauthored four books and more than 100 scholarly articles, conference proceedings and abstracts. He is the coeditor of the Princeton University Press Monographs in Neurology.

Heights Journal" Debuts

With stories ranging from AIDS patients slashing their girlfriends to a heartfelt tribute to Aaron Heller, "The Heights Journal has come crashing onto the YU journalism scene. Published by the English Department's Print Journalism class twice a semester, the periodical aims to give students in the class reporting experience while at the same time providing a service to YU by showcasing their work.

Inspired by a Columbia Journalism's school community paper, the paper employs several unorthodox methods. Unlike most news publications where reporters are assigned specific stories and then proceed to both research and write about them, the reporters at 'The Heights Journal" are simply given a general topic and then attempt to locate a story which falls under that category. The hope is that this will sharpen the reporter's news-hunting abilities. Additionally, editorial positions rotate each issue so as to give students a better sense of the roles and responsibilities of various editors.

However unconventional the techniques, the instructor, Columbia Journalism School and YC alumnus, J.J. Hornbliss, seems to have found a formula for success. One neighborhood resident even called him recently to find out when the next issue would be printed. Not to worry, says reporter Alex Bailey, the next "Heights Journal" should hit the YU lobbies before the end of the semester.

‘Tis the Season’ for Enayim L’Torah

Enayim L’Torah, SOY’s weekly d’var torah publication, shocked students and rebbemik alike two weeks ago by printing a special Channukah edition in red and green. The festive display aroused the ire of many who viewed the offense as a "strong and unorthodox" scheme that has been used frequently for years.

"We thought that it was a mistake but the miracle of Channukah itself was an unexpected delight, the red and green, too," was unintentional and printed without prior knowledge of Enayim L’Torah editors. The printer, who was instructed to add any color to the special edition to enhance it, apparently chose a color scheme that has been used frequently for other printing jobs in recent weeks.

—Steven Miodownik

Learning at Night in the Dorms

For the past few weeks it has become common for the students of Rubin Hall to come down to Ma’ariv a few minutes early. The reason: a daily "two minute drill," which is actually a five minute Dvar Torah on the parsha given by head RA Michael Bramson. The daily shiur was the collective idea of the residential advisors of Rubin Hall, who felt that while Rubin Shul has traditionally been a place to daven and study, it has never really been used as a place of daily learning.

“Thought that it would be a good thing to make a setting of learning in Rubin Shul, and that it would add a big dimension to Rubin," commented Michael Bramson. "We thought that it would be a good thing to make a setting of learning in Rubin Shul, and that it would add a big dimension to Rubin," commented Michael Bramson. In the Morg, a new weekly shiur has been set for Monday nights from 10:10 to 10:30. The shiur, titled "Hashkafic Insights of the Parsha" is co-sponsored by SOY, BESCU, and SSSB. The shiur offers different speakers each week from among both the students and the Rebbemik. While both programs have started successfully, they are looking forward to increasing the attendance levels seen so far.

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The Commentator
Page 12
December 14, 1994
Proximity Breeds Popularity for the MTA Chavrusa Program

BY STEVEN MEDOWNIK

"THEY'RE RIGHT HERE," the signs proclaim, encouraging YU stud­

ents to participate in yet another extracurricular activity, and intro­

ducing a program that involves a rare degree of cooperation between YU and its on-cam­

pus high school-MTA. According to the upbeat participants, the MTA chavrusa program might be one of the most important and rewarding extracurricular activities on the Main Campus.

The sixty-seven MTA students who dorm on campus, unlike YU students, are required to learn in the Beit Midrash for at least four hours a week. For the past few years, YU students have been encouraged to spare the time and pair with high schoolers in their Torah study. Although results have been positive, there has always been a dearth of college volunteers for the positions.

This year marks the initiation of a more ambitious effort on the part of MTA officials to collaborate with college students in making the program successful. YC students Zvi Romm and Chaim Gottesman were asked to coordinate the chavrusas and immediately involved themselves in an intensive matchmaking and attendance-taking effort. The outcome has been the pairing of sixty out of the sixty-seven high schoolers with college students eager to share their knowledge and expertise, and perhaps do a little kiruv.

After all, as publicity posters declare, Kiev and Australia are not the only places that their learning includes just the shiur together or by forging ahead in a new tractate.

Indeed, most pairs of students have been encouraged to spare the morning shiur together or by forging ahead in a new tractate.

A continuation of last year's, emphasized that their learning includes just as much taking as giving. "I learn as much from my chavrusa as I do in shiur in the morning," he said. YC Sophomore Avi Pol- lak described his relationship with MTA Senior Daniel Eisenberg as "symbiotic."

According to Romm, the progress made at night can be crucial to the future learning of the high school students. The one-on-one situation is an excellent atmosphere for skill development, especially in the area of gemara. Indeed, most pairs of students spend a significant amount of time on gemara, either by reviewing the MTA morning shiur together or by forging ahead in a new tractate.

While the mandatory nature of the program would suggest that the MTA participants are less enthusiastic than their college counterparts, Romm noted that even without the requirement many MTA students would be in the Beit Midrash anyway. Other students admit that their presence in the Beit Midrash would be lacking if not for the program. Perhaps it is precisely because of these students that the college administrators volunteer their time to consider their task extremely important.

YC junior Gershon Seiferas commented that through chavrusa learning MTA students come to "understand what our yeshiva is about. They start to understand what distinguishes us from other universities."

Although seven high schoolers remain unaccounted for in the chavrusa scheme, Romm and Gottesman hope to correct the situation soon. Their difficult in doing so thus far is perplexing to some, especially because "THEY'RE RIGHT HERE."

What do Princeton, Cornell, Tartu University, and Muhlenberg College have in common? Geographic location? No. Name recognition? Hardly. Actually, they are a few of the schools that have hosted members of KIRUV, the college outreach program run by the Max Stern Division of Communal Services-RIETS. KIRUV is but one example of the ever-increasing number of outreach activities YU students run.

Designed to combat intermarriage and interdating on college campuses, KIRUV has conducted over 350 programs on 45 campuses in the last three years. The program attempts to foster positive Jewish identity within college students through programs, classes, shabbatim, and informal discussions.

In accordance with its motto of "teach don't preach," KIRUV uses a non-judgmental approach, combining intellectual discussions with nosh in its outreach programs. The shabbat program is an integral component of the KIRUV program. When the KIRUV staff spends a shabbat on a particular campus it provides the students with an authentic experience-including meals with enthusiastic davening. This gives the students an opportunity to explore Judaism or ask any questions they might have. In addition, KIRUV offers programs that deal with a specific themes like business ethics, Jewish holidays, and prayer. Classes are offered on a regular basis at certain colleges, including Coop­per Union and City College.

According to KIRUV director Barry Bender, on the whole, the program has been very successful. Some students who were exposed to the program are now dating someone in Israel while others have decided to keep a kosher home. Many have decided against ever marrying a non-jew or have decided to give their children a Jewish education.

To carry out its work, KIRUV recruits students from YU, Stern, Columbia, and Barnard. Of the one hundred applications received this year, the program will accept twenty to thirty students. These volunteers will then undergo "language training"—delineating what to say and what not to say. However, Bender concedes that the results of kiruv training cannot compare to the expertise acquired from on-the-job experience. For those who were not chosen for hands-on kiruv work, there still exist numerous opportunities in a number of fields, including ad, desktop publishing, computer, and marketing.

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**Op-Ed:** The Israel Credit Dialogue is Disturbing

BY STEVEN MIODOWNIK

The Joint Israel Program as we know it is close to being altered. At a recent Student Senate meeting, administrators, professors, and students had an animated discussion about the future of the program. The thrust of their musings was not "should" the current program be refined, but "how" a policy change should be implemented without offending too many in the YU community.

What we should find offensive, however, is not that the issue of Israel credits has been brought to the table. The fact that YU grants a full 32 credits to its Israeli students certainly has an effect on the school. Rather, we must be distressed by the insensitivity of the policy makers who participate in senate gatherings. At the aforementioned senate meeting, after the vice president for academic affairs disclosed that YU is attempting to offer Hebrew courses for all its students in Israel, several professors contemplated offering math or other secular credits to meet out the 32 credits currently given. This ludicrous notion was immediately rejected, but the very fact that it was voiced suggests that there is something very wrong with the way decisions are made here, even before the debate begins.

The professors' suggestion is indicative of an ignorance of the importance of Israel that exists among influential individuals in Yeshiva. The professors who sit on the senate, several of them non-Jewish, one of whom had to inquire why, in fact, students go to Israel before commenting on the program, do not display a bias toward the religious nature of Israel. But the fact that they have so much say in religious matters, in an Orthodox institution no less, is frightening.

Disturbing, too, was the reaction, or lack thereof, of the student senators who were present at the meeting. During a conversation marked by confusion over Israeli "goris"/effect on YU, all but one student senator remained silent. Apparently, our representatives, many of whom attended Yeshiva in Israel, were not prepared to defend the values that many of us hold dear. Even if they do possess these values, commenting anonymously afterwards that they disagree with Israel professors who say that they are afraid to voice absolutely justifiable opinions. Are students afraid of appearing too "right wing" or to challenge the liberal Jewish identity? True, the professors only desire what they think is best for the students and the university, but the concept of trying to be encumbered by secular studies, should have been reinforced. The tragedy is that there exists a need to reinforce such a concept. The community comprise of thousands of students, of different races and religions, and a policy-maker of an institution supposedly dedicated to religion are completely focusing on the secular instead of achieving a delicate balance.

Israel credit, besides being an academic issue, is a religious issue because it precisely delineates YU's position on the inherent value of learning Torah. In addition, a windfall from tampering with the current program could be the discouraging of some from attending Yeshiva because of the YU policy-makers of an institution supposedly dedicated to religion are completely focusing on the secular instead of achieving a delicate balance.

Should be participating in the upcoming Senate meeting will be held during club this Thursday in Forst Hall, Room 539. Come watch the University part of which is taking place in the secular world dictates religious policy.
Macs Record at 3-6 continued from back page

Overtime was not exactly what the Macs desired because with the exception of a beautiful left-handed shot by Aranoff that gave the Macs a 2 point lead at 57-55, the Macs could not muster another point and were outscored 9-2 in the extra session. The Macs suffered a tough 64-57 loss that dropped their record to 3-6. There are still key games left to come, though: one against rival Mt. St. Vincent and one that will put the Macs face-to-face with former assistant coach Steve Podias and his new Brooklyn College squad.

Macs Fall to Stevens Tech

This past Saturday night, the Macs faced a tough opponent in long time division rival Stevens Tech. With a couple of minutes to go, the Macs seemed to have the game in hand as they led by eleven points. However, once again, the Macs proved that no lead is too safe as a defensive breakdown allowed Stevens Tech to come back and tie the game with just over twenty seconds to go. For a moment it seemed that the Macs would come out of this one with a victory as Aranoff hit one of two foul shots to put the Macs up one with twelve seconds left. The time-out gave Stevens Tech the opportunity to set up an inbound play which resulted in a 51-50 Stephens Tech victory. Levy scored 16 points and Rosenberg scored 9 in a losing effort for the Macs.

This Monday night’s game at Baruch, played as The Commentator was going to press, resulted in a 57-46 loss for the Macs. The Macs led by one at half time but fell behind by eleven with seven minutes remaining. They never regained the lead. The Macs were led by Levy’s 16 points.

Tide to Baruch

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Israeli Ambassador Addresses Political Science Students

by Michael J. Belgrade

This past Thursday, December 8, former Israel UN Ambassador Pinhas Eliau spoke to political science students on the relationship of Jews in the Diaspora to the State of Israel.

Dr. Ruth A. Bevan, Professor of Political Science and chairperson of the political science department, arranged to have the ambassador speak to the students.

In his presentation, the ambassador stressed that Israel has always had a concern for Jews throughout the world. Examples of where Israel took part in the welfare of the Jewish people include the plight of Soviet, Yemenite, and Syrian Jewry. Additionally, Israel took part in the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Spanish Inquisition.

Eliav also insisted that Diaspora Jews continue involving themselves with Israel, either politically or economically, through Israeli Bonds. The ambassador also stated that the relationship between American Jews and Israel is more intense than that of any other Diaspora nationality in the United States because of the unique character Israel has as being the only Jewish state on the planet.

The final point of Eliav’s presentation was that the international community will always relate Jews with the State of Israel; in essence, Jews and Israel are one and the same. Sometimes that can be positive, as Jews throughout the world can lobby their governments on behalf of the State of Israel. Unfortunately, there are negative aspects, too. Examples of those include terrorist activities at Jewish centers in the Diaspora that are aimed at hurting Israel.

Eliav has served the Israeli foreign service as ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations. Currently, he is a member of the Policy Planning Unit at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Although the ambassador spoke for only half an hour, students were able to ask him questions for almost an hour afterward.
Taubermen Triumph Over Hunter

BY ALAN EGOZI

It was nail biting time late last Thurs­
day night at Hunter College where the Yeshiva Taubermen came up with a pair of last minute victories to defeat Hunter. It was an even match up, and going into the third of three rounds of fencing, each squad was at a 3-3 tie, making it 5-5. Rob Williger of the saber squad put the Tauberman on top with a close 5-3 victory. However Linschutz took his only loss of the meet right after that to even it up again. In the last saber bout of the night, the captain, Jon Korn came up with another close 5-3 win to put the Tauberman on top again.

The foil squad, without a squad vic­
tory in two years, needed to come to­gether with two victories to keep Yeshi­va’s hope alive. However, the first bout was lost, putting Hunter up 4-3. Shim­shi Fixler, a veteran who has not fenced since last March, was substituted in for the next bout. Over the next five touches Hunter attained four. However, with the rest of the Tauberman at their feet cheering, Shimshi went on a roll. He overwhelmed the Hunter fencer, taking the next four straight touches to even it out at 4-4. It was up to Tzvika Nissel to bring the foil squad over the top. In a quick bout, he triumphed 5-0 to help the foil squad take their first victory of the year. Also noteworthy was squad lead­er, Joe Herman, who added two victo­ries for the team.

With the cumulative score of 13-11 it was epee’s turn. Only one victory was needed. However, this would prove to be a difficult task. Again, the Tauber­man lost their first bout. Next up was Shimon Oppenheimer, who was strug­gling. In the next seven touches, Hunter got four. However, a quick and clean thrust to the opponent’s arm evened the score at four. The entire room was at its feet, with each set of fans hollering cheers of encouragement to the fencers. It was over in seconds. Thirty seconds after the Director screamed fenced, there was one red light, Oppenheimer triumphed. When the Director pronounced Shimon victor, the team erupted.

Although the victory was secured, Co-Captain Reuben Levy still had to fence Hunter’s number one fencer, Joe “The Filter” Coffey. In an intense bout, Levy and Coffey were tied at 4-4 after eight touches. Matt Lieder even started “the wave” among the Taubermen - unheard of in the sophisticated fencing world. In his final action Captain Levy outmaneuvered his adversary, captured the victory and screamed at the top of his lungs, “Decaf­finated!”

The Taubermen’s win over Hunter continues an impressive Boston road trip where they followed up a 4-1 victory over Maritime with two wins on Sunday to keep Yeshiva’s hopes alive.

On a defensive note, the Tauberman have notched 64 steals in the past 4 games and have also blocked 24 shots in the past four games.

After an impressive Boston road trip, the Taubermen will have a tough time as they head up north to face the number one foil squad in the country. The Harvard Co-Captain, Steve Lifschitz, proved to be a formidable foe and still outscored the Tauberman on the way to a 5-3 victory.

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