MYP Announces Compulsory Credit For Next Year

Unilateral Decision Angers Many

BY MOSHE I. KINDERLEHRER

Last week, the MYP administration announced that for the fall 1995 semester, all MYP students will have to transfer at least one credit from MYP to their YC transcripts. The change in policy, which has already set off considerable debate among the MYP student body, is designed to increase order and fair attendance and ensure that the students take their learning in YMP more seriously.

Speaking to The Commentator last week, R. Zevulun Charlop, the Dean of RIETS and MYP, announced the new credit policy. He explained that motivation for initiating the mandatory credit program stemmed from a "need for accountability" on the part of MYP students. "We (MYP) must have some form of leverage over students with poor attendance records," R. Charlop pointed out. He stressed that the MYP administration has no wish "to penalize anyone" by enacting the change. Furthermore, he emphasized repeatedly that this latest move is only one of a number of steps MYP has taken in recent months in an effort to make the program better. "We view this in tandem with the implementation of the Three-Syn Mashghichim and Shoulim U'meidinhim," he stressed.

He went on to explain how these appointments and recent initiatives such as computerized attendance monitoring have their origin in the results of the MYP survey conducted more than three semesters ago by then-MYP students Eitan Mayer and Yitzy Schechter. While the results of the survey remain unpublished, R. Charlop explained much of the impetus continued on page 13

Dormitories Full Next Semester

BY JOSH ENGLARD

Faced with YU's highest enrollment in years - and a strong contingent of students coming from Israel after a half-Shana Bet, all three residence halls will be filled to capacity next semester. However, no major changes will be necessary and all students will have room under the current arrangement.

With fall enrollment on the rise, the floor and inter dormitory vacancies this semester as opposed to the seventy-five students (many of whom are already in the shirui anyway) will not change significantly. But the low number of potential enrollees invites an emphasis on questions regarding the purpose of BMP. One intended advantage is to combine the time flexibility of BMP (the new program ends at 1:00) with the "Beit Medrash atmosphere" of YP. Another reason offered by members of the Administration is that the new program will attract more students to YU. But to many students, minor modifications such as this one accomplish little. One YC Junior remarked that "if they [the administration] think this is going to attract more students to YU, they're crazy. What person who is not already here is going to come now for this?" These students feel that the energy and money dedicated to the creation of BMP would have been better spent on enriching the existing programs.

There are, however, some students who feel that pre-judging BMP is unfair. And the Administration is open to suggestions - they view this semester as experimental and will modify the program if they deem it necessary.

The question as to the future of the dorms still exists: What will be done if enrollment continues to increase? During past housing shortages, the floor lounges in Morgenstern Hall have been utilized as dormitory rooms and some rooms in Rubin and Muss Halls were "tripled up." "Using the study halls [in Morg] seems to be an obvious option," says Rabbi Cheifetz. "However, we would be very reluctant to do that as we consider it important that the students have a place to study and socialize." While conceding that there have been discussions about contingency plans for more dorm space, Rabbi Cheifetz emphatically stated that they are nothing more than discussions. "We are not planning [any changes] at the present time."
Credit Where No Credit is Due

The administrators of MYP and Academic Affairs have joined forces to find a solution to MYP’s age-old problems. They have decided that mandatory transfer of credit is the answer. Sadly, their “solution” of holding credits and transcripts over students’ heads, a mere stopgap measure, will not only hurt the student body and the University, it will also undermine the quality of the very program it aims to bolster. Moreover, the Administration’s unilateral method of decision-making, without even so much as mentioning the idea to any student leaders, is a slap in the face of every member of the student body.

With the current concern over the academic reputation of Yeshiva College, requiring additional MYP credits on a transcript will only further the perception of the YU education as narrow and incomprehensive. More importantly, the widely disparate grading methods employed in different subjects will force many students to choose their rebbe based on his grading practices rather than the suitability of his shiur to their individual learning. Conversely, rebbeim might feel pressured by their talmidim to inflate grades, rendering both the grades and the credit meaningless.

The most disturbing element of this decision is its complete omission of students from any role in the process. Administrating by fiat has no place in Yeshiva College; it merely increases the tension between administration and students. Perhaps if student input had been solicited in this instance, it would have been possible to avoid the shortsighted policy that has been implemented. Rather than debate ideas without any potential for substantive impact, we expect that the MYP administration will take steps to create a policy acceptable to both itself and the MYP students in whose best interests it is expected to act.

Senators: Time For a Change

The very title of the Student Senate implies that it performs some sort of legislative function, more than just that of a mere advisory body. However, in Yeshiva College, the Senate, which has been making headlines recently for its discussions on Israel credit, has no such powers. Composed of students, faculty, alumni, and administration members, it simply discusses, studies, and makes recommendations on issues of concern to the campus community.

The Student Senate emerged as the result of pressure by students during the last sixties for more involvement in the formation of university policy. Over the years it has accomplished numerous achievements, including the development of the Writing Center as well as the recent hiring of a full-time computer-room operator. Yet these accomplishments do not cover up the absence of any Administration members from last Thursday’s meeting.

Rather than debate ideas without any potential for substantive impact, the Senate should reconstitute itself in the form of an academic affairs umbrella organization which would oversee any academically-related committees such as those listed above. This would simultaneously sharpen its focus as well as keep it abreast of related developments on campus. It would regenerate the purpose and function of an important student-faculty-administration body sorely in need of renewal.

Show Some Derech Eretz

To the Editor:

I’m sure that the entire school empathizes with YCSC President Daniel Billig when he wished that “these people [Roshei Yeshiva]” were more “in line on these issues.” Maybe the university should begin by only those right those rebbeim that conform to Mr. Billig’s high standards, especially in regard to programs like the recent Channukah social event. (Oops — scratch the social!) Although we can certainly debate halachic opinions, the right to differ ends when disagreement becomes disparaging chutzpah, a line which the YCSC president clearly crossed.

To expect our rebbeim to demean themselves and the values they represent to satisfy others tastes is ridiculous. Perhaps the different parts of this university should co-operate in future activities in a ne’efrot to make them acceptable to everybody. We must realize, however, that this institution exists for only one reason and undermining the respect that the yeshiva deserves does not contribute to the welfare of the university. An apology is definitely in order.

Thank you,
Eli Greenbaum

Editor’s Note: Please be aware that Mr. Billig did apologize for his inappropriate tone, both publicly and in his letter in this issue.
ATTENTION!!!

The Guide to the Perplexed mistakenly printed the wrong phone and room numbers of the Hatzola EMT at YC and SCW. The following are the correct listings:

Jewish Student 973-3088
Yitz Levenbrown M6319 781-3135
Elly Berlin Bu209 740-7854
Avit Hornstein M6318 740-8772
Hillel Weiner M6314 781-0896
Matt Edelson 905-48 927-4312

STERN EMT

Dafna Kalish Br20a 213-8041

From the Executive Editor's Desk

SIDNEY A. SINGER

Open up the pages of any official YU literature and you will surely find the phrase "YU Community" floating around. Yet ask anyone on this campus to clarify the exact meaning of that term, and their responses will surely leave you disappointed. They do not understand what the word "community" pur- sues the limitations set by the dictio- nary. It connotes not only shared geog- raphy, university, and government, but a sense of mutual respect between its participants, of working together toward a greater societal good. Does our own campus, particularly Yeshiva College, conjure up such images?

Within the homogeneity of our stu- dent body lies a diversity dividing us beyond mere titles and categories. De- spite our similar backgrounds and lev- els of religious observance, significant tension lingers between the members of the various Jewish studies programs, both as groups and individuals. Even a small, intimate minyan of only eleven people in which I recently dated could not escape the unpleasant looks and isolating comments exchanged between the YP and IBC students present. Those who have spent even one semester here know this example does not belie the trend.

The answer to the problem of community may lie in how we tackle another perennial question, that of yeshiva vs. university. During the last five se- mesters on campus, I have witnessed many students invest their efforts pri- marily in learning and Judaic studies. Many others have committed them- selves exclusively to university studies, ignoring the yeshiva aspect. Still others have at- tempting to perform the high-wire act of balancing the two.

Students, faculty, and rabbis have debated this question for years, and have presented many convincing argu- ments on both sides of the issue. That the question still lingers and will re- main as such for years does not negate our daily existence in the very institu- tion around which the discussion re- volves. On the contrary, a practical ap- proach demands tolerance for the plu- rality of ideas on the issue. Even a the- oretical victor in the debate would not alter the reality for the common stu- dent: YU presents students with a bal- ance of both institutions, and leaves it up to the individual to tip the scales in the favor of his desired direction. The question of yeshiva vs. university is something that the students themselves provides the stron- gest proof. The mold remains the same, but the body onto which it conforms changes constantly.

Why must we react with such a defensive and condemning attitude toward a new Jewish studies pro- gram? Should a talim student who wants to trade, in his opinion, quantity for quality, not have that choice? If stu- dents in alternate Judaic studies pro- grams consistently displayed and ac- cepted with mutual respect for their peers, it would teach and exemptify a level of derech eretz riving any taught in the classroom.

The chagigot of Purim and Yom Ha'atzmaut reflect such sentiment. On those days, virtually the entire student body unites in celebration of great moments in Jewish history. Re- gardless of appearance, attitude, or any other potentially "damaging" characteristic, everyone participates together in wild jubilation of these already festive occasions. The only requirement for attendance, ap- parently, is checking one's judge- ment at the door.

On a much sadder note, as Rabbi Lamm pointed out in his recent Dorrn Talks lecture, the tragic saga of Nach- man Waxman, z"l, united all of Klal Yisrael. Jews of all levels of observ- ance came together at the Kotel to pray on his behalf; women who had never previously shabbat candles lit for Mrs. Waxman's request, lighting candles that Friday night for the soldier then-held captive. Rabbi Lamm verbalized the sentiments of many Jews around the world follow- ing Nachman's devastating murder, namely, that it should not take a trag- edy to unite the Jewish people.

Similarly, moments of great sincha should not constitute the only times we on our own campus act as a true com- munity. We must recognize and accept the notion of the individual choice of the Yeshiva University student. Other- wise, we will inevitably continue our self-defeating judgmental patterns of good and evil. Our time for judging has long since passed; the time for acceptance is well overdue.

It is hard to believe but the snow hasn't fallen even once. That's how this winter feels to me as I look back on some of its finer moments. We have a record number of stu- dents on campus and that meant a lot of work providing top-notch student coun- seling services for each and every one of them. We started off in June going to meetings about student life and Orienta- tion and that early effort paid off. The running of the Yeshiva College was already well run and, beginning next semester there will be extended hours in the Gym (until 2am on Thursdays) and in the Pool.

Who can forget the great events we have enjoyed; whether it was shooting lasers at Sportsworld, getting lost in New York, prancing on the rink, or any other event? On Chanukah we all came to- gether for an achdut event of singing dancing and eating. I would like to thank all the students who participated and our very devoted Alumni Associations for their gener- ous support. I would also like to apol- ogize to the Rebbein, because in a moment of frustration I referred to him disrespectfully. It is my hope that next semester, on Purim and Yom Haatz- maot, we can all work together in achieving our goal of a totally Achdut event.

I hope you have a wonderful vaca- tion and I look forward to another ex- citing year filled with Elections, Speakers, and events.

Sincerely,

David Blau
Phone: 781-8139 Mo224

LETTERS' TO THE EDITOR

Retroactive Credit for Israel

To the Editor:

I'm a freshman. I "did" early ad- missions students. I'm "serious." And I'm mad.

There are quite a number of early admissions students in YU. We are "serious" students- most of us bear the full burden of 17.5 credits- and most of us plan to attend yeshivot in Eretz Yisrael in the coming year. YU has seen fit to encourage our attend- ance of these yeshivot by awarding 32 credits for the year spent in Eretz Yisrael, presumably because it is a year spent in the acquisition of a "true" Torah knowledge and the enhancing of Torah understanding, a year in which students and prospective students of- ten acquire precious insight and mu- tuality. The feedback to this program has, by and large, been positive- the Beit Midrash is packed "to the gills," so to speak, and enrollment is boom- ing as never before. Our student body is mature and sophisticated; our nu- merous student publications and ac- tivities attest to the fact that we can express ourselves eloquently and ef- fectively. Why seek to change all that?

Enter the U.S. News and World Re- port. The weekly news-magazine has featured a rating of major colleges and universities for at least the past six years, and YU has consistently ranked in the "third quartile." For some odd reason, the low ranking (107) has be- gun to perturb us only this year. Now gun to perturb us only this year. Now gun to perturb us only this year. Now that we have decided to seek to improve our academic standing, and the Sen- ate has decided to make that decision only after the stu- dents would initially embark on a new curriculum by which the Israel credits will be added to the transcript only after a subsequent year spent at Yeshiva Uni- versity? It is my hope that next semester, on Purim and Yom Haatz- maot, we can all work together in achieving our goal of a totally Achdut event.

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Message From the YCSC President

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New Dean Visits Campus

BY MOSHE L. KINDERLEHRER

On Dec. 22, two Thursdays ago, the newly appointed YC dean, Dr. Norman T. Adler, paid an official visit to the YC campus. Meeting with administrators, students and faculty, the new dean spent his day trying to familiarize himself with the uptown campus.

Adler, currently a Vice Provost at Northeastern University in Boston, was escorted around the campus by SSSB Dean and YC Dean Ad-Inerim Dr. Harold Nierenberg. Nierenberg arranged a number of meetings for the incoming dean with students, faculty, as well as with his future colleagues in the Dean’s Office. He also met with prospective YC students from HANC (Hebrew Academy of Nassau County).

Talks With Students

In the morning, Adler met with a select group of four YC students in a conference room on the Dean’s Office. The discussions to the meeting was to feel out the concerns of the YC student body and to determine some of their attitudes and opinions on a number of issues. During the ensuing dialogue, he expressed tremendous pleasure at the opportunity to come to YC. He praised the quality and the intellectual level of the students he has come across so far in YC.

Among the matters discussed in the hourlong meeting was the issue of Tohar U’madda. Adler was interested in learning how students understood the integration of a dual curriculum and pursuing career goals. The meeting also touched upon the importance of Israel credit and the role and function of the Senate.

Adler promised to try and make the YC experience more enjoyable and “fun” in the future. He also noted how he felt confident of his ability to attract more students, faculty, as well as with his future colleagues in the Dean’s Office. He also met with a select group of four YC students in a conference room on the Dean’s Office. The discussions to the meeting was to feel out the concerns of the YC student body and to determine some of their attitudes and opinions on a number of issues. During the ensuing dialogue, he expressed tremendous pleasure at the opportunity to come to YC. He praised the quality and the intellectual level of the students he has come across so far in YC.

Adler is officially scheduled to arrive on the YC campus as dean in mid-March. Till then, he plans to visit the campus a few more times and hold more meetings with small groups of students, enabling him to learn as much as possible about the student body he stands to inherit in the future.

Holiday Blood Drive at YC

BY JOSH EPESTEIN

A successful second round of the Yeshiva College blood drive came to a close last Tuesday, providing a much needed boost to the New York area’s blood bank.

The drive, originally planned for early January, was moved up at the request of the New York Blood Center, because according to YC senior Samson Fine, co-coordinator of the blood drive, “the holiday season is the busiest time of the year for blood leaving the bank and also the slowest for donors.” Long-time New York Blood Center volunteer Consuela Gutierrezina echoed Fine and added that YU was one of the few institutions at the time to open during the holiday season.

To help make this year’s drive even more successful than years past, Fine and fellow co-coordinator Azriel Hirshfeld formed a volunteer force for the purpose of spreading the word easily and effectively. Their concerted efforts were rewarded with a large turnout. Some students also attributed the drive’s success to the fact that this drive scheduled hours during lunch as well as club hour, allowing more people to donate without missing class.

Gutierrezina, a four-year veteran of blood drives at YU, was especially pleased with this particular drive. “Ye­shiva students should realize how big a ‘mistake’ this is to New York City during the holiday season.”

One student, freshly bandaged, rushed back to class after donating, but not before he stopped to explain his reasons for donating: “How could I not give? After all, ‘Tis the season for giving.”

MTA Joint Program Receives Report Card

BY NICK MUZIN

The first semester of a new MTA program that enables on-campus high school seniors to enroll in courses in the college has met with a mixture of success and failure. Though a number of students have dropped out of their courses, and others are receiving below-average grades, many are succeeding and are pleased with the opportunity that has been made available to them. There have been no instances of students misbehaving in class or detracting from the “academic atmosphere” of the college.

Benjamin Gelman, who is enrolled in Genetics and Physics, finds the college courses challenging but not overwhelming. He is pleased with the program overall, but mentioned some areas that need improvement: “There are some scheduling conflicts and mistakes in enrollment. A friend of mine wanted to enroll in Statistics, was enrolled in Economics, and isn’t doing well. He shouldn’t have been forced into a course he didn’t want to take.”

Rabbi Ellis Block, assistant principal of MTA, explains that a small number of high-schoolers have been having trouble in their courses and they have handled it very well. “Those students who are not successful don’t reflect on the selection criteria.”

One student called the program a “sham and a feeble attempt to try and persuade MTA students to go to YU. I’ve applied to Cornell and MIT and don’t plan on staying here. This is their last-ditch attempt to save my tuition dollars.”

Most students, however, are extremely pleased with the program. Rabbi Bloch observed that “it has generated a lot of interest and excitement at MTA and that it is a good thing.” He stressed that there had been instances where college professors were keeping their classes in check, but for their high school classes. He informed the high school teachers that they would have to make accommodations for these students. “We realize that we are guests in the University and that it is a good thing. He stressed that there had been instances where college professors were keeping their classes in check, but for their high school classes. He informed the high school teachers that they would have to make accommodations for these students. “We realize that we are guests in the University and that it is a good thing.” He stressed that there had been instances where college professors were keeping their classes in check, but for their high school classes. He informed the high school teachers that they would have to make accommodations for these students. “We realize that we are guests in the University and that it is a good thing.” He stressed that there had been instances where college professors were keeping their classes in check, but for their high school classes. He informed the high school teachers that they would have to make accommodations for these students. “We realize that we are guests in the University and that it is a good thing.” He stressed that there had been instances where college professors were keeping their classes in check, but for their high school classes. He informed the high school teachers that they would have to make accommodations for these students. “We realize that we are guests in the University and that it is a good thing.”

Gift of T-Shirts to Faculty

Sparks Controversy

BY DOV SIMONS

As a special holiday bonus this Chanukah, the Yeshiva University Department of Personnel offered its employees free t-shirts. The gray shirts, emblazoned with the Yeshiva University name and emblem in blue, raised some eyebrows among the faculty who questioned the gift’s appropriateness for members of a serious academic institution.

Mike Sperling, speaking for the Office of Facilities Management and Personnel, said, “We tried to come up with something everyone could use and appreciate.” The t-shirts were distributed to everyone on the payroll, including college faculty, staff and rebbeim. Sperling said such mementos are nothing new, but another example of the “little gifts or souvenirs that we have been giving out around Chanukah time.” In the past, the Department of Personnel distributed coffee mugs and cakes.

Faculty members found the gifts to be amusing. When asked about the t-shirts, many professors just smiled or started laughing, with one adding, “it made good joke material.” Most professors refused to comment on the t-shirts, many saying something to the effect that they had “better things to get in trouble for.”

An anonymous memo circulated among faculty members that reflected these sentiments. Faculty morale has been at a nadir since the lower than expected 3% pay raise the faculty received this fall. The memo joked of future Administration plans for compensation, such as a twenty cent pay raise due in 1997, and other gifts expected over the next few years, including upgrade certificates on Air Jordans, AIDS prevention devices, and Shmura Matza with a Pyramid-K hashgachah.

Rosengarten, in a memo to the Dean’s office, stated that “the best of intentions are at times misunderstood.” He added that the t-shirts “did not mean to offend anyone. We can only apologize. We are sensitive to and respect the very special nature status of the Roshei Yeshiva and faculty.” Mike Sperling added that the t-shirts could be given to children, and need not necessarily be worn by the professors themselves.
Three Political Leaders Address Yeshiva University Students

by Michael J. Belgrade

This past Wednesday, December 28, three eminent members of the political world spoke to students of Yeshiva University about jobs in Government and Politics. The meeting was one in a series being conducted as part of a “Career Forum” to let students at Yeshiva University learn about what job opportunities await them after graduation. Over 50 students from both YC and SCW attended.

The event was sponsored by various groups, including the Office of Placement and Career Services, the J.P. Dunn Political Science Society of YC and YCSC, The Orthodox Student League, and The Committee on Jewish Affairs. The event was personally coordinated by YC Senior Yitzhak Bak, President of the Political Science Society.

The three speakers invited by Bak were Dr. David Luchins, Ms. Suri Kasirer, and Mr. Bruce Teitelbaum. Luchins, a graduate of Yeshiva College, is the Senior Assistant to Senator Daniel P. Moynihan of New York. Kasirer, a graduate of Stern College for Women, was special assistant for Jewish Affairs to former Gov. Mario M. Cuomo. Teitelbaum is currently the Deputy Chief of Staff to Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani.

One of Bruce Teitelbaum’s first points that one did not need to be a political scientist in general to involve himself with politics. Additionally, he stressed that volunteering to work for a candidate you support is very important in order to start a career in the political field. His work has enabled him to meet political personalities such as Nelson Mandella, Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres, and May­or of New York City.

The event was very successful for the students as well. The three political leaders pointed out that there are other fields either in the private sector or in government to go into afterwards. Additionally, if the person did a good job, one can be sure that there will be job opportunities given to them from other candidates. Other questions that were raised included what skills were needed to go into politics and what job opportunities for Americans were available for those who want to be involved politically in Israel.

The Guide is Here ... Finally (Almost)

by Ryan S. Kaben

After months of delay, denial, and gloom, the Guide to the Perplexed made its Main Campus debut this week, elic­iting cheers from the socially chal­lenged and providing much pleasure from still disgruntled students.

“It’s about time,” said YC senior Barry Horowitz, who was forced to create his own “Guide” on a now well­worn­sheet­full­of­leaf­less­paper. “It’s not as if this year’s ‘Guide’ is so impressive as to justify such a delay. There’s no excuse.”

As of press time, however, only half of the YU students had received their copies, as floors 3-8 of Morgenstern Hall, and some floors in Rubin were still “Guideless.” Many residents of the upper­floors of Morgenstern were particularly incensed that only the 2nd floor of the dorm had received their copy. YC sophomore Elie Borger, a tenant of the 8th floor of Morg, complained that at the current rate he could expect to receive his Guide sometime in the Spring semester. “I would have called someone to complain about the situation,” he explained, “but I don’t have their phone number.”

Running 261 pages in length, this year’s blue, white and green compendium of phone numbers, restaurant addresses and sightseeing suggestions is quite different from previous editions of the campus­life staple. The most significant addition is a copy of the YCSC Constitution in the closing pages of the binder, an innovation introduced by YCSC President Daniel Billig.

The Guides were hand­delivered to Stern College by Billig last Wednes­day and arrived in some Mus dorms on Thursday and Friday and in Rubin and Morg early this week. Students, who were bewildered by the Guide’s erratic distribution pattern, were none­theless grateful for its successful land­ ing.

“Prospective social life has been an utter and absolute disaster,” said one soph­omore. “The Guide is a lifeline, a buoy for those who might otherwise be with­out social hope. I don’t want to think of all the might­have­been­s that will never be because of the delay. But better late than never.”

The steed publication of this year’s Guide at times seemed to read like a novel. The delay was alternately blamed on the amount of informa­tion to be compiled, budget problems, personality conflicts, inept printers and lazy binders. And, after all the effort, there were still errors, such as the “Guide to the Perplexed” heading that ran across the top of the entire phone directory. And many students wanted to know why attendance at “Stren College” was a negative trait for a mate.

To most students, though, the intrigue didn’t matter much. They just wanted their Guides. “I know this might sound funny,” junior Joey Lif­shitz said, “but the absence of the Guide caused me real agmas nefesh. It was very frustrating not to be able to track down my friends.”

Rena May is just happy students finally have their Guide. When reached by a reporter at a number dinner in the pages of the Guide, she said simply, “Thank G-d it’s over.”

Plans to distribute a list of phone numbers and addresses for students who arrive next semester are still un­clear.

Dr. Lamm Addresses Distinguished Scholars

by Owen Cyrulnik

On December 19, 1994, YU held a dinner for Golding and Rudin Distin­guished scholars in Belzer Commons. The keynote speaker of the evening was YU President Dr. Norman Lamm who spoke about the relationship between Chassidism and Misnagdim.

The dinner was attended by Disting­uished Scholars from both YC and SCW. Also present were Dr. William Schwartz, Academic Vice President, Dr. Harold Nierenberg, and Professor J. Bacon, the Deans of YC and SCW, and Dr. Michael Hecht, Associate Dean of YC. Dr. David Shatz, the mentor of the Distinguished Scholars’ program, acted as the master of ceremonies. Dr. Schwartz spoke briefly congratulating the scholars on their achievements and emphasizing the role that they would play in the future of the Jewish community.

Dr. Shatz then introduced Dr. Lamm, highlighting the academic scholarship for which he had been kno­won before accepting the presidency 18 years ago. Dr. Lamm’s lecture was both entertaining and engrossing. He began by thanking Dr. Shatz for “the most recent introduction” he had ever received.

Dr. Lamm, who attended de­spite an injured left arm, presented a brief history of the rise of chassidism, and the misnagdic opposition. He progressed into modern times when, in a tentative tone, he argued that the two groups should come together in a united front. Dr. Lamm pointed out that of the many differences that exist between them, they have a common interest in the formative years of chassidism, the current incarnation is really much of a compromise. In fact, he argued that even the radical concepts of a chassidic rebbe, so opposed by misnagdics, are found in the current Yeshiva world in the form of Roshei Yeshiva. Dr. Lamm argued, is a replacement for the role of the Rebbe.

The evening also served to cele­brate Dr. Lamm’s birthday, and his office provided a birthday cake.
Asbestos Still Clouding YC Campus

BY SANDOR BAK

Despite assertions by the Department of Facilities Management that the problems have been cleared up, a delegate from Lock's, the off-campus credit task force, reported that the off-campus credit issue is still “a pesky problem” due to the absence of any off-campus credit task force members present for the meeting.

The delegate, speaking on condition of anonymity, “because I don’t want to get fired by Jeff Socol [Assistant Director of Facilities Management],” pointed out that the previous meeting attracted very little attention from the administration at the meeting. Lee proposed delaying the vote on the off-campus credit issue, which still leaves a vote, the formation of a task force, and its research to be “very concerned with the quality of the task force,” and its research to be “very concerned with the quality of the task force.”

Additionally, jumping off of benches and roller-blading on the campus walk area for recreation and exercise, were stopped by security. Fliers have been sent by YU Security to residents in the neighborhood asking them not to skate on the walk.

The new policy does not seem to have had much of an effect on the neighborhood youths who still rollerblade on the walk at night. One neighborhood youth who rollerblades frequently with his friends on the walk told The Commentator that YU Security has never prevented them from rollerblading.

Daniel Forman Named VP of Development

BY DANIEL RUBIN

President Norman Lamm has announced that Daniel T. Forman, currently the Executive Director of Capital and Annual Campaigns for the United Jewish Appeal-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, will succeed David Zysman as YU’s Vice President for Development. Mr. Zysman retired at the end of the calendar year; Mr. Forman’s appointment is effective February 6.

Zysman stressed that he was “very happy at Yeshiva University. These last twelve years have been the happiest years professionally in my life. Dr. Lamm and the board tried in every way to convince me not to leave...[but the time to retire] has come.”

At the time of his 1982 hiring, Zysman was the campaign director for State of Israel Bonds, and was offered positions at YU, UIA, and Hebrew University. Mr. Zysman took the job at YU because “YU is very important to Jewish life and the continuity of the Jewish...people...because YU has a special mission to perform.” During his tenure, Zysman helped establish the Belz Center for Jewish Education and the Sy Syms School of Business through solicitation of donations of at least one million dollars each from 170 different benefactors.

Forman, a summa cum laude graduate of SUNY-Buffalo with a masters degree from the Graduate School of Social Work at Boston University, has taught at a number of institutions, including Boston University, Brandeis University, and YU’s Wurzweiler School of Social Work. He has been with the UJA-Federation for eleven years and has had full responsibility for the design, creation, and management of its $1.2 billion Capital Campaign. He also oversees the solicitation activities of Boston University, Brandeis University, and YU’s Wurzweiler School of Social Work. He has been with the UJA-Federation for eleven years and has had full responsibility for the design, creation, and management of its $1.2 billion Capital Campaign. He also oversees the solicitation activities of Boston University, Brandeis University, and YU’s Wurzweiler School of Social Work. He has been with the UJA-Federation for eleven years and has had full responsibility for the design, creation, and management of its $1.2 billion Capital Campaign. He also oversees the solicitation activities of Boston University, Brandeis University, and YU’s Wurzweiler School of Social Work. He has been with the UJA-Federation for eleven years and has had full responsibility for the design, creation, and management of its $1.2 billion Capital Campaign. He also oversees the solicitation activities of Boston University, Brandeis University, and YU’s Wurzweiler School of Social Work. He has been with the UJA-Federation for eleven years and has had full responsibility for the design, creation, and management of its $1.2 billion Capital Campaign. He also oversees the solicitation activities of Boston University, Brandeis University, and YU’s Wurzweiler School of Social Work. He has been with the UJA-Federation for eleven years and has had full responsibility for the design, creation, and management of its $1.2 billion Capital Campaign. He also oversees the solicitation activities of Boston University, Brandeis University, and YU’s Wurzweiler School of Social Work. He has been with the UJA-Federation for eleven years and has had full responsibility for the design, creation, and management of its $1.2 billion Capital Campaign. He also oversees the solicitation activities of Boston University, Brandeis University, and YU’s Wurzweiler School of Social Work. He has been with the UJA-Federation for eleven years and has had full responsibility for the design, creation, and management of its $1.2 billion Capital Campaign. He also oversees the solicitation activities of Boston University, Brandeis University, and YU’s Wurzweiler School of Social Work. He has been with the UJA-Federation for eleven years and has had full responsibility for the design, creation, and management of its $1.2 billion Capital Campaign. He also oversees the solicitation activities of Boston University, Brandeis University, and YU’s Wurzweiler School of Social Work. He has been with the UJA-Federation for eleven years and has had full responsibility for the design, creation, and management of its $1.2 billion Capital Campaign. He also oversees the solicitation activities of Boston University, Brandeis University, and YU’s Wurzweiler School of Social Work. He has been with the UJA-Federation for eleven years and has had full responsibility for the design, creation, and management of its $1.2 billion Capital Campaign. He also oversees the solicitation activities of Boston University, Brandeis University, and YU’s Wurzweiler School of Social Work. He has been with the UJA-Federation for eleven years and has had full responsibility for the design, creation, and management of its $1.2 billion Capital Campaign. He also oversees the solicitation activities of Boston University, Brandeis University, and YU’s Wurzweiler School of Social Work. He has been with the UJA-Federation for eleven years and has had full responsibility for the design, creation, and management of its $1.2 billion Capital Campaign. He also oversees the solicitation activities of Boston University, Brandeis University, and YU’s Wurzweiler

Senate Poised To Form Task Force on Off Campus Credit

Israel Credit Debate Widens

BY MEIR ZEITCHIK

Hoping to raise the academic standard of YU, the Senate reached a general consensus in its December 29 assembly, albeit without a vote, that a task force was necessary to investigate off-campus credit. The discussion, which began in a December 1 meeting about the effects of the Joint Israel Program credit system, has ballooned into a debate over the negative academic impact of off-campus credits in general and what measures should be taken to limit them. The discussion now revolves around the value of a wide range of credits, from AP courses to CLEPS, summer programs to college internships.

For several minutes a task force vote, which Senate Chairman Richie Socol called “controversial” due to the absence of all administration members who normally attend, appeared likely. But So­ col backed off, stating that the issue was now on the agenda and would be “fully debated” due to the absence of any off-campus credit task force members present at the meeting.

The Interim of YC Harold Nierenberg noted that meeting SSSB dean and Dean Ad­ ministration members be present for the meeting, Lee proposed delaying the vote on the off-campus credit issue, which still leaves a vote, the formation of a task force, and its research to be “very concerned with the quality of the task force,” and its research to be “very concerned with the quality of the task force.”

Also conspicuously absent at the meeting were absent members of the Senate, especially vo­ cal on this issue, and English professor Dr. William Lee. At the previous meet­ ing, Lee proposed delaying the vote on an off-campus credit task force until the end of the semester, stating that the off-campus credit issue could be debated further. The total lack of representa­ tion from the administration at the meeting was particularly striking, given the fact that the previous meeting attracted very little attention from the administration at the meeting. Lee proposed delaying the vote on the off-campus credit issue, which still leaves a vote, the formation of a task force, and its research to be “very concerned with the quality of the task force,” and its research to be “very concerned with the quality of the task force.”

Dr. Cwilich remarked, who spoke at the meeting, said that the number of individuals and groups dispersed with the responsibility of making an inquiry, a substantial change in YU’s credit policy would require the YU President, and the Senate is clearly divided over the areas any such body should be required to explore. Outgoing Senate musician Michael Kupferman noted that a single task force charged with the heavy responsibility of exploring all outside credit would be “too much of an undertaking,” and suggested concentrating several groups, each with their own spec­ ific focus. A second stream of thinking believes that because all types of outside credit adversely affect the academic standing of the University in similar ways, only one task force should be as­ signed to investigate the matter. “The report should be unified,” commented Bible and Philosophy professor Rabbi Shalom Carmy, although he did suggest a division of labor to increase the task force’s efficiency.

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Rollerblading Banned in Mall

BY MICHAEL J. BERGEAD

YU students on the Main Campus have been told not to roller-skate or rollerblade on the campus walk area that runs on Amsterdam Avenue between 184th and 186th Streets. The move, initiated by the YU Department of Safety and Security, is in response to accidents that have occurred when “skat­ ers” bump into pedestrians sitting on the benches or walking in the area. Additionally, jumping off of benches and chairs while skating has caused substantial damage to YU property.

Security has already enforced this rule: YU students Martin Tollinsky and Avi Horstein, who have normally roller­ bladed on the walk for recreation and exercise, were stopped by security. Flies have been sent by YU Security to residents in the neighborhood asking them not to skate on the walk.

The new policy does not seem to have had much of an effect on the neighborhood youths who still roller­ blade on the walk at night. One neighbor­ hood youth who rollerblades frequently with his friends on the walk told The Commentator that YU Security has never prevented them from rollerblading.

On December 13, 1994, Dorm Talks featured Dr. Norman Lamm addressing the issues of Aaron Heller’s untimely passing. Dr. Lamm, by use of both personal and biblical examples, stressed the ways in which the tragedy had impacted on our lives.
Group Gives Students Their Day In Court

BY NACHUM LAMM

Although many students are unaware of its precise function or even of its existence, the Student Court is preparing to convene in the near-future. The seven-member court, which has not heard a case this semester, is empowered to judge cases involving the student council, clubs, athletics, and other extracurricular activities, as well as disputes between students.

Complaints may be submitted by students to the Dean of Students, who, along with Chief Justice Brian Grosberg, determines whether the court should take action.

Residence Council Looks Out For Students

BY AARON KLEIN

Over the course of the fall semester, the Residence Council of Yeshiva University has begun to take an active role in the university’s affairs.

The Residence Council, comprised of a representative from every floor of the three dorms, serves as an intermediary between the students and the various student councils. The hope is that since these representatives will have more access to the students than the class representatives, they can more effectively improve the status quo.

Door-to-Door Info Service

The Residence Council is faced with the responsibility of becoming acquainted with the students on each floor and of obtaining feedback from them concerning different affairs in the university.

This project, dubbed “The Door to Door Informational Service” serves two purposes. Firstly, it helps to inform the students of the current activities of the Student Council. The second purpose is to enable the students to make suggestions and register complaints with the Student Council. The floor representatives have already begun to go to each room and distribute a form giving the students the opportunity to voice opinions concerning different aspects of the university.

But perhaps the most moving speech of the entire night came from Mrs. Klausner herself. She pointed out that in his memory. The speakers at the solemn event, held at Congregation Ahavas Achim in Ahron’s community of West Orange, New Jersey, emphasized Ahron’s easy-going manner and peaceful disposition.

Tribute Paid To Aaron Heller

BY HILLEL COHEN

Klauser, noted that she could not recall one instance in which Aaron spoke lason haora.

Several close friends also spoke at the emotion-filled occasion. Barry Goldfisher described Aaron’s popularity among fellow students and classmates.

Klauser stressed the impact Ahron had made on him personally: “He was like a brother… I will never forget him,” he noted.

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“Tribute Paid To Aaron Heller” by Y. U. students and faculty joined relatives and friends to complete the six tractates of the Mishna. The Residen Council put it, “Our goal is to improve the general quality of life in the residence halls.”
BY JOSH FINE

As the fall semester comes to a close, the student council leaders, “What have you done for us lately?” Three criteria should be focused upon in order to evaluate the effectiveness of this year’s Student Council: the council’s accomplishments; the students’ perceptions of the council; and the student leaders’ relationship with the administration, always crucial for a successful council.

YCSC student leaders feel that their commitment to the students was clearly evident throughout the fall semester. As YCSC President Daniel Billig says, “we have run a very good program of activities, from class events, student council events, to the opening shabbaton, that were unbelievably successful, with some minor unfortunate exceptions.” He calls this a “pride semester,” a great semester of providing events with relaxed social atmospheres for people to meet each other and have a good time. In reviewing his accomplishments, he points to an efficient student council—what Billig believes to be true of him and his council—“that both functionally and politically, Billig and his board have been supportive and helpful in all aspects.” Likewise, Philanthropy Society Co-President Ziv Mendelson states, “our funding basically comes from YCSC and we’d like to thank them for giving us an allocation...our financial needs are tremendous and we’re still desperately looking for outside help.”

One requirement of an effective college student council is for its leaders to maintain a good working relationship with the college’s administration. Billig relates that coming into this year and towards the end of last year, “I was really involved with the Administration... Internally of the upper echelons from the President’s Circle and the Board of Trustees, I know them all personally, so everybody knew I had connections, and in terms of pulling something big off, I would have better chances than anyone.”

Billig acknowledges that at the beginning of this year, many students perceived that he had fallen out of favor with the college administration because of his demeanor. “I was walking in there all-business, I was not smiling, I was just trying to get my points across,” comments Billig. However, he says that now he feels that “those rumors, and they were rumors, have been dispelled.”

In reference to the Israel Club’s accusatory remarks, Billig admits that there were some discrepancies between YCSC and the Israel Club as to which monies would pay for speakers or shabbaton. Billig relates that YCSC currently won’t give the club money to run programs. “He feels that ‘those rumors, and they were rumors, have been dispelled.’”

In the review of the upcoming semester, Billig readily boasts about his board’s accomplishments. He set out to do, students will then say, “I’m looking forward to a lot more from the Israel Club next semester.” As far as Yom Ha’atzmaut is concerned, Billig adds that the Israel Club will not be involved in the event’s funding. Supporting YCSC leadership, YC Dramatics Society president Steven J. Kaye and Martin Tollinsky, the society’s treasurer, agree that “both financially and politically, Billig and his board have been supportive and helpful in all aspects.”

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Critical of his personal leadership style, Billig insists, “I am a no-nonsense guy, and I don’t have patience for kidding around when a thousand students need something. I mean you won’t see me laugh or smile in a Student Life (Committee) meeting, unless I’m making my own joke.” However, he thinks that the all-business approach has really paid off, and that the relationship he has right now with the Office of the Dean of Students and with other administrators is “really excellent.”

Dean of Students Efrem Nulman comments, “I think that Billig and his administration have maintained a positive working relationship.” He added that some of this year’s Student Council’s innovations have been implemented, and that “the student body should be grateful that they have the student leaders they do.”

In order to ascertain the pulse of the student body so as to ensure that its views may be elucidated by its representatives, YCSC has been holding open student council meetings once every three weeks this semester. In this way, members of YC’s student body may express their opinions and ideas publicly and directly to their elected representatives. YCSC Secretary Jeremy Lustman commented that “these meetings are evidence of a ‘new attitude’ towards much more student involvement.”

One of Billig’s most recent innovations is the “Info Service.” The service involves members of the Resident Council (made up of representatives from each of the three dorms) and members of YCSC, knocking door to door, to discover the complaints and suggestions of the student body. In the future, the “Info Service” will seek student feedback on ideas which the student council plans on enacting.

All members of YCSC agree that the student body was “very much involved” in the semester, the things that the council has been working on for them throughout the fall semester. Billig alluded to more than just one idea in improving the quality of student life: “I’ve been meeting with the Student Life Committee since June, to get extended hours at the pool (from 3-6 PM Sun.-Thurs.), the gym opened on Thursday nights ‘till 2 AM, to renovate the Morg arcade room, to bring the TV down there, and to make sure there’s a place for students to study after 1 AM (when the library is closed) in each dorm.”

He admits that although it’s been a slow process attempting to achieve these goals, “hopefully all of these things will come to fruition next semester.” He ends that when he has accomplished all that he set out to do, students will then say, “Billig and his administration did that.”

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**How Time Flies...**

*by Dovy Simons*

About fifty minutes into class, YC Junior Elie Finkel shouted, “Oh my G-d!” He had suddenly realized that an hour and a half of lecture had passed.

Long classes such as Organic Chemistry, International Politics, Cost Accounting, and Multivariable Calculus are pitfalls in Yeshiva academia. Running over two hours straight, they are class every student tries to avoid, only to end up plugging in face first.

Organic Chemistry is a particularly sore example. All pre-med students are required to sit idly through unending hours watching the infinite molecular combinations explode in a million combinations. Each class session lasts one hour and fifty minutes, totaling three hours and forty minutes per week. The subject is very complex, and poor teaching of the material is vast amounts of time. The result, as one student phrases it, is a class like a beleaguered and belabored, root canal. “It’s a problem; I know. The classes are longer than usual,” says Dr. Irving Borowitz, Professor of Organic Chemistry.

Students like Jacob Rosenberg also see problems with the extended lecture marathons. “An hour and a half pass by and you just can’t sit there anymore. It’s a life like, a New York City Marathon. A half a hour I’m jumping out of my seat.”

Dr. Finkel, though, has no choice but to teach only once a week on Tuesday nights. “I taught two classes two nights a week,” explains Dr. Finkel. “But when I assumed the Associate Deanship at Hofstra, we worked this out. I am grateful for the decision of Dean Bacon at Stern and former Dean Rosenfeld at YC to accommodate me.”

Finkel points out one advantage to teaching so late in the second period of time. “The class is relatively uninterrupted. When there is a two day break between classes, the professor must spend some time explaining the class to recapture material covered last time. This problem is avoided with long classes.”

Dr. Yakov Karpishpan, Professor of Mathematics, concurs with Finkel. Running on the added value of lengthy lectures. He feels that with a solid block of time, students have the opportunity to delve into complex subjects that could only be touched upon in 50 minutes. “I would say a couple of words and that would be it.” Dr. Karpishpan notes as an example how his class was able to discuss the proofs to Kepler’s laws of planetary motion.

Both professors and students try to make the best of the advantage. YC Junior Mattis Brandwein, a student in Dr. Charles Sone’s two hour Cost Accounting class, feels that “Since Dr. Sone is so good and knowledgeable, it is a good relationship with the students, the time runs quickly.”

Jeremy Lustman feels that his International Politics class “isn’t really two and a half-hour classes.” He explains that the latest starts, as well as a five minute break in the middle, help break up the time. Dr. Sone also provides a similar tactic. As an accounting major Richie Grossman said, “He gives us a five minute break to compose ourselves.”

Dr. Karpishpan simply relies on the material itself to keep his students involved in the class. “It’s bound to interest you, even if it appears hard. For the teacher it goes fast. Maybe it’s for the students’ benefit.”

Steven Talony comments about his Calculus class that “conceptual and abstract math courses do not require vigorous note taking. An extended class length is not a problem because of the content and the pace of the teaching.”

**NIGHT School**

*by Ari Hirt*

In the mornings “Daryl” works at least twenty hours a week as a salesperson for a small company in the twospace. “If the time rolls around, he returns to school in an effort to complete an accounting degree. "Daryl" is the alias for a student in the accounting major. By the time the roll is due, some of the students interviewed in this article, must remain anonymous, for he is also officially enrolled in the Mazer Yeshiva Program.

Working as a student is not an unheard of phenomenon in the college world, but YU undergraduates managing to juggle a dual curriculum as well as joining the American work force would seem an impossible endeavor. Whether the morning job, shiur, or classes in the afternoon, something must be sacrificed.

A number of students like Daryl exist in YU who feel that they must seize every opportunity to get ahead and obtain an edge for getting a job in the future, even if they must work in the mornings at the cost of ourder or shiur, and in turn, abuse the Mazer Yeshiva Program’s system of trust.

Like Daryl, "Tim" is an employee of a small New York company which works Monday and Wednesday mornings, instead of attending MYP morning seder. "I feel that we start out with a handicap, being that other students have good jobs experience. Not only does he feel that he has 'got it made' in terms of getting a job coming out of YU, but he also believes that working during the mornings is a benefit. "I do what I do to get ahead." Tim has found ways to compromise his afternoon schedule rather than his Jewish studies obligations in order to accommodate a daily working schedule. Steve Unterberg, a Sy Syms MIS major, worked a twenty hour work last year. He managed a Computer Local Area Network (LAN) at Dunn & Bradstreet, the world's largest business information company. Consequently, he may need to stay out of YU, but he also believes that working in the mornings is a "steal." He comments, "Everyone should do what they feel is best for them," remarks Daryl. "I do what I do to get ahead.""
Message From the SSSB President

By Steven Miodownik

In a Rubin Shul packed with men and women last Wednesday night, MYP Rosh Yeshiva R. Herschel Schachter discussed the problems confronting students who too often make difficult decisions involving business and halacha. By first expounding on Jewish business ethics, and then entertaining many questions on the subject, R. Schachter provided many insights into what the attitude and practices of a Jew in the business world should be.

The SSSB Business and Halacha Forum, which was broadcast live on WYUR, dispelled the notion of incompatibility between the two areas. R. Schachter noted the sobering fact that many American business and economic practices contradict the Torah and justice. For instance, halacha has no concept of bankruptcy legislation that exempts one from repaying debts. It is questionable, therefore, if filing for bankruptcy would allow one Jew to default on an obligation to a fellow Jew. Similarly, the concept of free enterprise that Americans take for granted is highly restricted in halacha, where the prohibition of “hasagot g’vul” severely limits the entreprenuer’s right to impinge on another Jew’s business.

R. Schachter contrasted the Jewish business ethic with its secular counterpart by classifying halacha as divinely-ordained principles, as opposed to mere concessions in the spirit of fairness. As such, Jewish definitions of theft and usury are extremely strict. The prohibition of “riḥot” prevents charging interest, even if it is in line with the rate of inflation. The prohibition of stealing includes trying to woo the potential business partner of another Jew away from him, even before any papers are signed.

More applicable to the student body were questions regarding the interview process. R. Schachter lambasted those who would misrepresent themselves to a potential employer by failing to reveal that they are shomer shabbat, and consequently unable to work some Friday afternoons. Tact is required under false pretenses, for example when one plans to quit after the summer, would be considered “out of order.” Regarding the famous handshake that the business world lives by, R. Schachter felt there was no problem with men and women touching in that manner because of its commonality in the American workplace.

During the question-and-answer session students posed a wide array of questions to R. Schachter. Among R. Schachter’s responses were as follows: It is improper to attend a company Christmas party, unless it is to quickly pick up a bonus check. Professors who miss class are stealing parents’ tuition dollars, but students who cut class are not. Advertising? Permissible as long as it is not filed under false pretenses, for example when one plans to quit after the summer, would be considered “out of order.”

As the year comes to a close, R. Schachter asked students to continue to practice and constantly review the complex laws of business that comprise a good portion of the Shulchan Aruch.

R. Schachter concluded his discussion by exhorting students to seek advice and participate in seminars held by the SSSB and constantly review the complex laws of business that comprise a good portion of the Shulchan Aruch.

Rav Schachter Tackles Business and Halacha
Fifth Year Student at YU?

BY DAVID SCHERTZ

While most YU students complete their college requirements with three years or less on campus, and while the YU Senate grapples with means of luring students to extend their stay as undergraduates, YC Senior Ahron Herring is currently completing his fifth year on campus. Herring will be leaving YU with a triple major in physics, math, and computer science, and explains that “because I took different fields I got a broad view and I got to see how they’re related.” Herring explains that he does not regret staying five years, a decision which was completely voluntary. “We only get a short time in our lives to get a formal education, and I wanted to make it worthwhile,” he notes. 

Herring admits that a fifth year is not possible or practical for most YU students. However, he entered YU under extraordinary circumstances. Since he skipped two grades, he began his college career as an early admissions freshman at the age of fifteen. Therefore, even with the extra year, Herring will still graduate at the age of twenty.

Although Herring did not originally intend to stay at YC for five years, he realized after four years of course work in physics that he was just a few credits away from completing second and third majors in computer science and mathematics. “I realized that I was so close that I might as well stay.”

Staying for so long does have its disadvantages. For one, Herring is concerned about the additional financial investment that comes with an extra year of college. In addition, all of his classmates and many of his friends have already graduated and moved on to the next stage of their educations or careers. However, he feels that the extra semesters have allowed him to take courses he ordinarily would not have had the time to take.

Unjustified Anonymity

To the Editor:

The anonymous writer who spotlighted the plight of Al Linder in the December 14, 1994 issue obviously is not interested in helping him. While advocating “chead” for Mr. Linder, he manages to vilify R.I.E.T.S. and M.T.A. students. However, he feels that the extra semesters have allowed him to take courses he ordinarily would not have had the time to take.

Simply increase the redeemable deposit that already exists (currently 500 dollars) to a lofty sum that will insure that the student returns to YU? Second, I feel that the initially negative response of the Senate in this area is indicative of a much greater problem—namely, that the freshman class is not at all represented nor is allowed to be represented on the student Senate (one year of previous residence is a prerequisite for membership). The body that is to decide our fate ought to represent our opinions, as well; it is unfair to expect even those who have previously experienced the benefits of the Israel program to be altruistic or to be understanding toward those who have not yet enjoyed that privilege. We have valid ideas too; contrary to Mr. Blau’s sentiments, we are “serious” college students and, in the interest of fairness and equality, we ought to have a say in that which will affect us most directly.

Aton Holzer, YC ’98

No Freshmen on Senate

continued from page 3

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Simply increase the redeemable deposit that already exists (currently 500 dollars) to a lofty sum that will insure that the student returns to YU? Second, I feel that the initially negative response of the Senate in this area is indicative of a much greater problem—namely, that the freshman class is not at all represented nor is allowed to be represented on the student Senate (one year of previous residence is a prerequisite for membership). The body that is to decide our fate ought to represent our opinions, as well; it is unfair to expect even those who have previously experienced the benefits of the Israel program to be altruistic or to be understanding toward those who have not yet enjoyed that privilege. We have valid ideas too; contrary to Mr. Blau’s sentiments, we are “serious” college students and, in the interest of fairness and equality, we ought to have a say in that which will affect us most directly.

Aton Holzer, YC ’98

Unjustified Anonymity

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OBITUARY: SOLOMON GAON

Sephardic Leader and YU Visionary Passes Away At 82

BY STEVEN MOODOWNIIK

Dr. Solomon Gaon, a longtime professor of Sephardic Studies and the founding director of the Jacob E. Safra Institute of Sephardic Studies died of pneumonia at 82 on December 21st at Mount Sinai Medical Center. Buried in Israel, he leaves behind a legacy of scholarship, accomplishment and community service.

Born in Travnik, Yugoslavia in 1912, Dr. Gaon studied at the Yeshiva of Sarajevo, later moving to England for study at the University of London. He received a B.A. in 1948 from Jews' College in London and a year later was named Chacham of the Spanish and Portuguese Congregations of the British Commonwealth. The Chacham became associated with YU in 1962, when he was asked to establish Sephardic programs and activities for the school’s burgeoning Sephardic population. Dr. Gaon was the inaugural occupant of the Maxwell R. Maybaum Chair in Talmud and Sephardic Codes and a was a rosh yeshiva at RIETS. He became a professor in 1976 and only recently retired from that position.

Concurrent with the Chacham’s career at YU was his illustrious presence on the international scene. Dr. Gaon was president of the Union of Sephardic Congregations of the United States and Canada, president of the American Society of Sephardic Studies, and was an Honorary Governor-for-Life at Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1966. Dr. Gaon dedicated Minhat Shlomo, a commentary on the sidur of Spanish and Portuguese Jews, and numerous articles in respected journals. He co-edited “Sephardim and the Holocaust” (New York, 1987), the second volume of which will be published in 1995. According to Vice President for University Affairs Dr. Herbert C. Dobrin- sky, an azarah service is planned for Sunday afternoon, February 5, in Lornport Auditorium. The commemoration will be for a man who, as President Norman Lamm stated, was “a much-admired, stalwart, and respected leader of Sephardic Jewry of the Diaspora. He brought to us at Yeshiva the gift of his personality, experience, and, above all, his inspired and irrepressible optimism.”

Dr. Solomon Gaon, z”l

The ceremony was King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain and Israeli President Chaim Herzog.

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Potluck: To Chance or Not to Chance?

BY OREN KEISER

If you were on campus last year, perhaps you remembered the mad scramble of students running around trying to find names to list on their housing request form for roommates. In Israel, the “scramble” for the upcoming year is not that different, with students calling back and forth between yeshivot, trying to resolve with whom to live. There is a major aversion on the part of the students in going “potluck” and leaving their dorm room requests forms empty. In fact, out of all the students on campus last year, only approximately 5% of them handed in dorm request forms without a mutual request.

Ask around campus, and you’ll probably hear that the number one reason why students don’t want to go potluck is fear. Most see everyone else pairing up and are afraid that all desirable roommates will be snagged. David Ruditsky, a SSIB junior, comments, “I was thinking about going potluck, but I decided I better find a roommate when I saw everyone else looking for one. I was afraid of what would be left over.”

One student, requesting anonymity, reflects, “The students seems to be having control over the choice of who they are going live with. "It was safer to pick for myself than to let someone pick for me. So when I was asked if I wanted to live with a seemingly amenable person, I decided that it would be safer to agree to room with him than to go potluck,” remarked Stephen Stern, a YC junior. However, what happens to those few who do go for the luck of the draw? Probably the most important thing to point out is that those who settle down with is not a matter of luck. Rather, the housing office spends time making each pair, trying to match roommates by personality and schedules. Often, the office spends the summer months calling all over the country to ask students what they think about a proposed roommate, giving each the other telephone number so that the students can introduce themselves to each other. A lot of consideration goes into in each pairing before roommates are put together; calling it “potluck” doesn’t really do justice to the system.

Perhaps the only students who really go potluck are the students who seem to show up at YC a week before the semester, or perhaps, even a week into the semester. These students have the luck of the draw, trying to find a spot in the dorms after the rooms have all been given out.

After talking with students who allow the Housing Office to choose their roommates, the majority will say that the situations have worked well. Avi Factor, a YC freshman who went potluck, is extremely happy with his roommate. “He’s leading me down the right path. I’m really happy with how things ended up,” Factor exclaimed with a smile.

In fact, a number of students have come down to thank the office for setting them up. Many remark that they have found in their roommate a friend for life. “I have a number of letters from students thanking me for setting up close friend systems. It’s a very satisfying feeling,” stated Mrs. Judas of the Housing office.

Others are less optimistic about the roommates they have been put with. One student, requesting anonymity, remarks, “We get along fine. We don’t do much together, or talk so much, but we don’t get into each other’s way. I guess I would say that it’s worked out all right, not great.”

When asked if he would go potluck again next year, the student replied, “I’d rather not. It seems to me that it’s better to pick for yourself so that you can be sure you’ll get along. That way you can be sure that the person you live with will be more than a roommate, he’ll also be a friend.” This statement fits the general trend here at YC. No matter how many good matches the housing office can put together, few students will take the chance.
Yeshiva University Credit To Systematize and Heighten Level of Education

continued from page one

Students Upset

However, many MYP students are upset over the prospect of being forced to take MYP for credit. As Daniel Rosenfeld, an MYP/SSSB junior put it: "I think it takes away from the talmudic aspect of learning." He added, "I also think it also widens the gap between learning in Israel, which is done in an unpressured environment and the learning here, which will now only have more pressure...This will not help the guys who are coming in every day...For those who aren't coming in every day, it's the job of the Shaulim U'meishivim to check up on them."

MYP/YC senior Evan Kroll also cast aspersions on the efficacy of the new credit requirement. "Both the YC aspect and the Yeshiva aspect are losing out because of it. Now the rebbeim will feel obligated to give good grades in order to ensure that their talmidim are in good standing. The rebbeim will make sure that the talmidim don't rebe the rebbe in turn, Judaism," he stated.

Yosef Crystal, an MYP/YC senior, was a little more receptive to the new credit policy. "It was put forth with good intentions but the talmidim in the more serious shiurim will see their GPAs suffer," Crystal pointed out.

An unnamed MYP student, who said he was a member of student forums which the exact credit requirement will come into conflict with the information being told to prospective students for the coming year. As of press time, the Office of Admissions acknowledged that prospective students were still being told that the MYP program does not have a compulsory credit requirement.

YC faculty members also took issue with the decision making process involved in approving the credit policy. One unnamed faculty member, a member of the YC Curriculum Committee, expressed his displeasure at the way the decision had been made without any faculty input. He argued that placing MYP credit on the YC transcript was an academic issue of tremendous significance to the faculty.

Student Forums Planned

Over the course of the next semester, R. Charlop pledged to hold student forums in which the exact credit parameters and concerns of the MYP student body would be addressed and explained.
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MTA New York City Transit Going your way
Macs Riding a Winning Streak
Continued from page 16

ful with his team in the future.

In the Mt. St. Vincent game, Joel Jacobson led the way with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Barry Aranoff had 10 points and 4 steals and Alan Levy had 12 rebounds and 3 steals.

Against Polytech Levy had 21 and 10 rebounds, Aranoff had 13, with 7 boards and 6 steals. Steven Kuperman had 10 points and 6 boards. The Macs were down by 11 but came back due to offense by Levy and key steals by Aranoff. Marc Saada hit a baseline jumper to tie the game and send it into overtime.

Notes: The Macs played their alumni last week and beat them by one in a hotly contested game. Be sure to catch a feature on the top twenty Macs of all time due out in about a month. Freshman Marc Saada continues to impress as he scored 12 points in only 11 minutes vs. Brooklyn. Alan Levy was named IAC Player of the Week.

Macs Beat Mount St. Vincent
Continued from page 16

untimely defensive breakdown, however, allowed MSV to pull within two points with five seconds to go. Aranoff then redeemed himself for his earlier mistake, hitting the second free throw to put the Macs up three. MSV's desperation shot fell short. The Macs had pulled off the unexpected, defeating MSV on the road, 63-60.

When asked after the game how the Macs contended with the Dolphin press when NJIT just caused them fits earlier this year, Halpert, emerging from the locker room after congratulating his players on a fine effort, commented that the NJIT press was quicker and faster, but more importantly, "our kids are much more mature one month into the season." Pointing to the Macs' youth and lack of experience, he lauded the individual performances of a number of players. "Or was fabulous, Joel was fabulous," he said, and also praised Steven Kuperman's strong play in the first half.

Halpert gave the team its strongest boost of confidence when he stated that despite MSV's ability to keep the game close, "I was never in doubt."

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Athletic Dept. Shoots and Scores
by MENASHE SHAPIRO

The athletic department at YU has always been relatively strong for a college of its size, offering a wide range of classes and participating in a number of NCAA Division III intercollegiate sports. Also, the ever-popular basketball intramural league and annual three-on-three tournament have always been highlights of the athletic department's efforts and continue this year as well. However, that has not been enough for Athletic Director Steven Young, who arrived at YU only a few short months ago has embarked on an ambitious plan to further enhance the program.

New innovations this year have been the Fencing team joining the Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Fencing Association, a conference that includes schools such as Army and Stevens Tech. Additionally, the men's swimming team at Madison Square Garden in February, the only Division III game to be played there all year. The scouting staff noted that the event was a great opportunity to showcase its strong swimming and diving teams. But probably the most dramatic change has been the arrival of the new volleyball coach, Shosheng Jiang, formerly of the coaching staff of the Chinese women's national team in 1992, and whom the Atlantic Journal Constitution has called the "Father of volleyball."

Part of the success of the department can be attributed to the commitment of the players and coaches. "The coaches are dedicated and have been doing it for a long time," explained Young who also praised the students for meeting the requirements of academic eligibility with relative ease. And the containment of costs has enabled Young to easily meet expenses like referees and travel for the various teams. Because of the prudent spending, he was even able to upgrade the practice of the golf team to include access to an indoor driving range.

Assistant AD Stan "The Man" Watson had only high praise for the new athletic director. "He is innovative and energetic and the transition from the previous director has gone very smoothly," he said while noting that Young has been a pleasure to work with.

Students seem pleased with what Young has accomplished as well. Sophomore Marc good Ira Landsman noted: "He did a great job on the Boston trip," referring to the basketball team's early season trip to Boston. "David Rasky, assistant coach of the Macs echoed the sentiment and commended Young on his scheduling, as well as the publicity of events all the teams have received. Perhaps Watson summed it up best when he said: "With this size school and all of its constraints, we are very happy with the direction the program is taking."

Good Luck on Finals!!

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**Last Minute Drama in Mt. St. Vincent Game**

*BY SYDNEY A. SINGER*

Losses in their previous two games is in which they blew leads in the last minute. A faster, bigger opponent featuring a 93-94 1st-team All-Conference player. Playing on the road in the crowded and cramped gymnasium of their hated conference rival, Mt. St. Vincent. Clearly, the Macs were the underdog. Yet after MSV jumped out to an 11-5 lead, the Macs went on a 14-2 run, capped off by 5th starter Steven Kupferman’s three-point-play, with slightly over six minutes to go in the first half. Heading into the locker room with a 30-21 halftime lead, the Macs left their handheld of fans present, including four members of The Commentator’s governing board, pleasantly surprised.

Repeatedly pressing the Macs as the second half began, MSV made their game plan for the remainder of the contest quite clear, challenging their less-conditioned opponent to prove they could withstand the pressure. Although the Macs broke the press consistently with few turnovers, the Dolphins did not let up. The Macs would have to fight to the wire.

The Macs’ lead seesawed most of the second half. Co-captain Or Rose's jump-shot following his strong drive to the basket put them up by 11 early in the half, but MSV responded with a 5-trun, and after a YU turnover, Coach Halpert called timeout. "They were out to keep us from scoring. That's what coach Halpert wanted."

Unfortunately for the Dolphins, the Macs learned from their mistakes, and apparently used the previous time-out to remind themselves of the errors of their most recent losses. With barely over a minute to go, Levy hit a tough fade-away to reestablish a four-point lead. Half a minute later, after pulling down a big defensive rebound, he hit two free throws to increase the lead to six. The team’s other veteran leader also stepped forward, hitting three of four shots from the free throw line in what should have iced the game. As continued on page 15

**Wrestling Team at 2-3**

*BY COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF*

The YU wrestling team fell to a record of 2-3, after losing two of their toughest matches in recent history. On Sunday December 18, SUNY Farmingdale came to the MSAC where they met a Macs team that was low on experience but high on heart. One of the rallying points of the meet came at the 158 lb. weight class with starter Dmitri Bosovik. In an incredibly exciting match with the lead switching back and forth, Dmitri found himself down one point with the clock running out of time. With just ten seconds left, he performed a difficult maneuver known as the head-and-arm throw leading to his successful pin.

The Macs next challenge came when they visited Middlesex County College. The team they were facing had placed often at state championships and on paper were perhaps the most formidable opponent they would face all year. Captain Daniel Sentell led the way with a first-period pin that quickly quieted the home crowd. In a short speech after the match he was quoted as saying, "Sometimes you just gotta pin 'em... fast to shut them up."

Unfortunately, also at this meet, co-captain Albert Sebag suffered a shoulder injury that put him out of action for an undetermined amount of time.

In other wrestling news, the Macs for the first time in years have an official scorer. Eli Ganchrow is now the new statistician behind the table. When coach Neil Eilman was asked about this new team "luxury", he responded with his usual pragmatism. "He has neat handwriting. "Nuff said."