Mandatory MYP Credit Flounders

Rabbi Charlop Vows to “Fight Until The End”

BY MEIR ZEITCHIK

Despite ambitious efforts by MYP Dean Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, the proposal for a mandatory shiur credit may be gasping its final breaths. In a closed February 9 meeting called by Vice President of Academic Affairs William Schwartz, select members of three distinct groups, the YC/SSSB faculty, the YC/SSSB administration, and the students (represented by SOY president Yitzchak Book) aired their respective views on the issue. The meeting had no binding effect; feelings were gauged and many different ideas were exchanged.

The message that emerged, however, was clear and irrefutable – a mandatory shiur credit is both impractical and illogical according to nearly everyone in all three of these groups. As Book pointed out: “This is not the ideal way to enhance the ruach hatorah of the yeshiva.”

Interestingly enough, the actual decision rests solely in the hands of a fourth group - the MYP administration. In fact, they have already voted to compel students to exercise their option to take shiur for credit next year. Technically, this is well within their jurisdiction.

The problem, however, is a practical one. Neither the YC/SSSB faculty nor administration seems willing to allow students to exceed the 17.5 credit limit. If MYP still decides to go ahead with their initiative to force students to take shiur for credit, students would only be able to take 16.5 credits, or four classes besides Bible, instead of the five many students currently choose to take. But it is unlikely that they would go ahead with their continued on page 7.

YU in Midst of Turmoil Over Gay Club at Cardozo

Media Attention Puts Issue in the Spotlight

BY OWEN CYRULNIK

A recent slew of news articles highlighting the recently-founded Gay & Lesbian club at Cardozo Law School has placed Yeshiva University in the midst of a public relations nightmare. University officials are placed in a “damned if you do; damned if you don’t” position, faced with the option of offending rebbeim and religious students or alienating the secular students and faculty in the law schools.

The first, and perhaps most damaging of the stories appeared in the Israeli edition of Hamsarit on January 6. The story, which featured a large picture of YU President Dr. Norman Lamm, explained the legal quandary that YU faces, given its nature as a religious institution and its status as a non-sectarian University. The story focused some attention on the incident which began the entire controversy - the incident in which a speaker at last year’s Cardozo graduation, Michael Kay, thanked his homosexual partner from the podium. Ma’ariv quoted Kay saying that he did not intend, with his one innocent statement, to cause any difficulties. The most controversial part of the article quotes Director of Public Relations David Rosen as saying that he does not “condemn” gays. In reality, Mr. Rosen had said that he does not “condone” gays; the error caused a significant change in the meaning of the story. Some faculty members claim that in effect, Dr. Schwartz denied that any decision had been made. Some faculty members indicated that in the end of the meeting it was still unclear to them what the final decision was. When asked last week whether or not he had originally approved the MYP decision, Dr. Schwartz noted that “it is not my ultimate obligation or function or jurisdiction...that is a matter for MYP and for the college.” However, at the time of the announcement, the Dean of MYP/RETS, Rav Zevulun Charlop, declared that the decision to implement the credit had been approved by Schwartz, a claim he reiterated this past week.

“An A Reasonable Decision”

Regarding the MYP administration’s decision, Schwartz explained that he interprets “the college policy [YC’s current policy], that a student has the option to transfer up to three credits per semester from MYP to YC, as saying that MYP can say to its students if you have the option of transferring so many credits, we are mandating you to do so, and if the college says we give you this option, then I interpret that legally as saying that MYP can continued on page 11.

Yeshiva College Faculty Fights Back

BY JOSH FINE

In the last week of December, the MYP administration announced that for the Fall 1995 semester, all MYP students would have to transfer at least one credit from MYP to their YC transcripts. The announcement took many YC faculty by surprise and upset members of the faculty who were disturbed that the YC faculty had not been consulted on an academic issue involving YC.

Many faculty members admit first learning that any decision had been made by reading the January 4 edition of The Commentator. At the January 7 FAUS (Faculty Association of Undergraduate Schools) meeting, statements were directed at Dr. Schwartz in an attempt to figure out whether or not a decision had been made regarding the MYP mandatory credit. Some faculty members claim that, in effect, Dr. Schwartz denied that any decision had been made. Other faculty members indicated that by the end of the meeting it was still unclear to them what the final decision was. When asked last week whether or not he had originally approved the MYP decision, Dr. Schwartz noted that “it is not my ultimate obligation or function or jurisdiction...that is a matter for MYP and for the college.” However, at the time of the announcement, the Dean of MYP/RETS, Rav Zevulun Charlop, declared that the decision to implement the credit had been approved by Schwartz, a claim he reiterated this past week.

The Maccs entering Madison Square Garden before their February 1 match up against IAC powerhouse NJIT. See coverage on back page.
Enough is Enough

Much media attention has been focused recently on the issue of the newly founded Gay and Lesbian Club at YU's Cardozo Law School. For example, the Israeli newspaper, Maariv, recently ran a two page spread on the issue, headlined "Yeshiva University — Coming Out of the Closet." For many, this matter has been used as a springboard from which to criticize YU and its philosophy of Torah U-Madda. Unfortunately, most often those who are attacking neither know, nor care to find out, all the facts of this complicated issue. This phenomenon has been taking place throughout the history of YU, well before the creation of any Gay Club at Cardozo, and will undoubtedly continue in the future.

The truth is, however, that the creation of a homosexual club by fourteen Cardozo law students does not affect the day to day operations of our university. Certainly, the issue is not a minor one. It raises many compelling questions about YU's identity as a "university under Orthodox auspices." Without minimizing the halachic and symbolic implications of the issue, it should not be allowed to damage the make-up and overall educational vision of our institution.

It is obvious to us that neither Dr. Lamm nor any other University official intends to promote homosexuality. Obviously, YU's critics would be quieted if YU attempted some form of legal action to ban the group. We, too, would feel better knowing that YU attempted to take some action on the issue, but we recognize the complexity of the issue — having both economic and legal ramifications. We commend Dr. Lamm for his tactful approach to this situation, not allowing himself to be lured into open debate with those parties who look for any opportunity to criticize our university.

Hopefuly, with this issue will be forgotten and we can once again focus on the long-standing, relevant issues: the advancement of the Torah U-Madda quality of its instructors in Fall 1995 and then dropped the sport entirely unless the university there are between 10 to 15 thousand young men to choose from. In addition, where other coaches have four years to develop players, Coach Harp- The views expressed in these columns are those of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Commentator, the student body, the faculty, or the Administration of Yeshiva University. We do not endorse any of the products or services advertised in these pages. Copyright 1994 The Commentator.

Bye-Bye Lounges

Since the student population on the Main Campus has now reached its limit, Rabbi Chaifetz, Director of Residence Halls, confirms that by next year most of the Morg floor lounges will be converted into bedrooms in order to alleviate the lack of dormitory space. Such an initiative signifies the University's flagrant disregard towards providing a quality lifestyle for the students currently enrolled in the College and living in the dormitories.

In university dormitories throughout the world, study areas and decorat- ed lounges furnished with carpet, sofas, and televisions number at least one per floor. Here, on the Yeshiva University Main Campus, a college where over nine hundred students reside within three dormitories, only Morgen­ stern Hall can lay claim to having floor lounges. These "laps of luxury" are each equipped with wobbly tables standing on three legs, one or two ancient folding chairs, broken window blinds, barren white walls, dirty tile floors, and acoustics that can turn a whisper into a shout. These inadequacies should infuriate the Morgenstern, Rubin, and Muss families: after all, didn't they intend to provide the students with a "home" for nine months of the year - not merely a building of cubicles filled with beds and desks?

Student leaders, including YSC and the Residence Council, should not sit idly by as the Administration casually eliminates the lounges. Rather, they should call for a halt to any such plans and instead implement an immediate upgrade of those rooms for the benefit of the students currently living in the dorms. Rooms should be designated on every floor of Rubin and Muss Halls for this very purpose.

The university's claim of high enrollment does not justify its abuse of our living conditions. Even the most optimistic YU admissions officer would concede to an eventual space constraint. We support increased YC enrollment but not at the cost of stripping us bare of the few conveniences we have.

Beating Brooklyn

To the editor,

As I glanced through the sports section of the N.Y. Times on Tuesday Dec. 20 1994 I noticed in the men's basketball results that Yeshiva defeated Brooklyn College 76 to 72. What a terrific accomplishment for both players and coach.

The last time YU defeated Brooklyn College was when I was a member of the team in 1970, and we played the game at our 'home court' at the former N.Y. University gym across the river in the Bronx. Yes, just as Yeshiva has had its ups and downs, so has Brooklyn College which went from Division I to Division III and then dropped the sport entirely until this year.

What makes the victory more gratifying is that Coach Halpert has to assemble a team from a college of approximately 1000, where at Brooklyn or any other city university there are between 10 to 15 thousand young men to choose from. In addition, where other coaches have four years to develop players, Coach Halpert very often has three years to work with student athletes due to the year in Israel.

In spite of the lack of practice time, financial limitations, nonexistent recruiting and a poor Yeshiva High School league to draw players from, Coach Harp­

When our student athletes take the floor they represent the Jewish Community and the least we can do is support them.

Member:

Alan E. Blumenthal
YC '70

There Will Be a Blood Drive
Next Monday and Tuesday
From 10:30am to 4:00pm
in Morg Lounge.
From the Editor's Desk

MOSES I. KINDERLEHRER

Below is a fictional account of a Com­mentator Governing Board meeting: (The setting: In a dorm room high up in the Morg, the members of the Board have been tossing around a number of editorial ideas and are now searching for some consensus on one issue in particular.)

Member 1: "Are we in agreement on the issue here? Is there any consensus here? We've been here for over an hour and about the only thing we've succeeded so far has been to scad all the soda and cookies."

Member 2: "I think we have all sort of agreement a half-hour ago, but it kind of got lost in the last ten minutes or so, amidst all the rhetoric, phone calls, and guys banging on the door."

M1: "Well, we have to be in accord on this in order to write something. Let's make our focus somewhat. I think we should be saying (material deleted)..... so is that clear?"

Member 3: "No, it certainly isn't. You're contradicting yourself and the truth is, that really isn't the core issue here. Where have you been?"

M1: "I've been here the whole time, thank you. You aren't seeing the bigger picture. There's no contradiction between those two ideas. There has to be a way for us to incorporate both of them into a coherent statement...Can you pass me a cup?"

Member 4: "Don't bother, there's no more Coke left."

Member 5: "What? Who finished it up? There should have been enough to last the whole meeting!"

"None of us expected the meeting to last till 2 in the morning!!! Can't we just get this over and get out of here? Let's just have someone write it and we'll take a look at it on layout night."

Member 6: "Hey, now there's something I think we can all agree on."

The meeting continued like this for some time. Eventually, the long-sought "consensus" was reached, the editorial was somewhat written, and the paper went to print.

Of course, the above is a comic exaggeration of what actually transpires at meetings of the Governing Board. However, it does impart some of the flavor of our meetings and allows the readers a glimpse into the closed-door world of The Commentator.

In years past, the tradition of Governing Board meetings had become neglectful and the notion of a true "Governing Board" had become a fiction. This year, we decided to resurrect the "Governing Board." We decided to meet regularly before each issue to discuss editorials, our staff, student attitudes, campus events, YU, and the newspaper in general. I saw these meetings as a chance for all of us to sit down, communicate with each other and exchange ideas. The meetings would also serve to keep the different editors abreast of the others' projects.

For the most part, it's been a resounding success.

Granted, the meetings can grow long and the issues confused. Though we may snipe at each other, interrupt each other, and lack the needed consensus on even the simplest matter, it has served its primary goal. Now, each Governing Board member, I hope, knows that he has an important say in the operations of the newspaper. Achieving that alone has been worth the pain and effort we have put forth for a lifetime as a subscriber."

OBITUARY

KBY Rosh Yeshiva:
Rav Chaim Goldvicht

BY MENASHI SHAFRIU

Rav Chaim Yaakov Goldvicht, the founding Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivat Kerem BÝYavneh, passed away this past week, after a lifetime that saw him become one of this generation's foremost Torah giants.

As the pioneer of the "Hadar" movement, his yeshiva was the first of its kind to combine Torah learning with service in the Israeli Defense Forces, and the yeshiva grew from the initial twelve, to hundreds, many of whom are now leaders and gedolim in the world Jewry. The yeshivah leader has forged a lasting link between the army and the yeshiva world, a bond whose essence is rooted in the survival of Am Yisrael in Eretz Yisrael.

Of those who had the luxury of spending a lot of time with him, many have been acutely "... by his wisdom as we ~ having been able to benefit from his keen insight..." matters.

Rabbi Meir Orland, Syan Mashor of recalled his concern for the welfare of other soldiers in addition to his own.talmidim. "Having just talmidim to the many wars Israel has fought, he was especially saddened every time news of another terrorist death," said Rabbi Orland adding that, "He never wanted it to be that we should come to trivialize these matters, one life is a life and nothing less.

Rabbi Yisroel Kaminetzky, a rebbe at MTA, remembered how he would always carry and present himself in an orderly fashion. "A leader, a talmid chacham, has to be neat and put together, something he learned from the Brisker Rav."

Zvi Romm a YC senior and a recent talmid at Kerem BÝYavneh reminisced how he at the same time could maintain the stern conviction required of a Rosh Yeshiva, and then show compassion and concern in a specific manner. "He would be there to present himself in a manner that epitomized the distance and dignity of Rav Kook While at the same time sitting with him, one could feel the personal warmth he felt towards his talmidim," said Romm.

It was his ability to lead and to teach, that placed him on such a high pedestal. He was recognized universally for his scholarship as well as his dynamic personality. Few possessed the unique ability of being able to combine the intracies of halachic dispute with the homilies of aggadic interpretation, sometimes he so eloquently put forth for a lifetime as a Torah luminary, as they would watch torah come to life in his glowing smile that would accompany every new chiddush and plait that he would present before them.

Impact On YU

MJP: Rosh Yeshiva Rav Willig pointed out in his Hesdah for the Rosh Yeshiva last Tuesday night in the Main Beit Midrash that "our yeshiva is forever indebted to him. When the year in Israel first became popular, Rav Willig noted, Kerem BÝYavneh was the first to have a program for yeshiva students, other yeshivas followed suit, creating numerous atmospheres for talmidim to feel comfortable in. "They returned from Israel to this Beit Midrash and filled it up," remarked Rav Willig and he continued, "Only in the yeshiva of the the Betes Midrash in Israel, the yeshiva has remained in part, our yeshiva felt most comfortable. Rav Goldvicht and his followers were able to reach them so they could come back as B'nai Torah." It was a result of his initial leadership and tutelage that saw a rebirth of a large-scale Hanaite within the walls of this yeshiva.

Rav Goldvicht, zl', whose Torah lives on in his talmidim and those who read his seforim, put forth a legacy of true achdut, imparted to all, as the face of a very sectarian and politicalized world, maintained apolitical and continually brought Torah into the lives of so many, as his sphere of influence was far reaching.

Mazel Tov to

- Oren Meyers and Hadassah Granatstein
- David Rosenfeld and Sima Singer
- Jeremy Strauss and Meryl Rosenfeld
- Zvi Kahn and Karen Marcus
- Gary Elbaum and Gila Horowitz
- Mayer Leiter and Grunny Weinstock
- Burry Sirote and Lea Operman
- Steven Unterberg and Amy Cohn

on their respective engagements
The annual Student Organization of Yeshiva Seforim Sale opened its doors on Sunday, hoping to set off a two-week seforim buying frenzy. Seforim Sale co­ordinator Donny Davis noted that this is to be the biggest and most comprehen­sive sale ever organized. The current inventory is marked at a record 3500 titles, including not only a large selec­tion of seforim but many items of Juda­ica, tapes, and other products. For the first time ever the Sale will even contain a full line of CD ROM and other elec­tronic Judaic software. “This year’s event,” explains Davis, “was an exhaust­ive effort which began the day last year’s sale ended. We evaluated both their mistakes and successes while correcting and enhancing them with our own cre­ative ideas.” Or, in the words of SOY President Yitzchak Book: “This year’s book sale will have more books than any other book sale in Yeshiva University’s history!”

The purpose of the Sale is to serve as a primary source of funds for SOY. Book explained that the profits pay for Shab­baton and speakers as well as the Chag­munist division at strategic points, we were able to control the flow of people on the line,” explained Mr. Davis, while noting that it also en­abled them to “allocate the flow of people who were not there to register.”

Other simple yet significant changes included the installation of a laser printer and a new, cleaner add-drop form.

But not all aspects of registration were rosy. One major difficulty was the fact that registration coincided with the YC/ SSSB deans’ annual trip to Israel. With a number of deans absent, the manpower shortage inevitably resulted in a failure to adequately meet all of the students’ needs, as large groups of students swamped the offices of YC and SSSB Assistant Deans Horowitz and Jas­koll. The problem was exacerbated by the fact that there was currently no YC dean on campus as the dean usually responds to student inquiries and dif­ficulties.

Dean Hecht had hoped to delay the trip so as to avoid these problems, but had no viable alternative. “We did not want to go at this time, but rather a week later, but due to the calendar this year as well as the need to be in sync with the yeshivot in Israel, it was imperative that Dean Nierenberg and I left when we did,” explained Hecht. While he ac­nowledged the difficulties created by the situation, he felt that the impact of their absences was lessened by the aca­demic adviser center as well as the presence of Deans Horowitz and Jaskoll. And he stressed that despite being six thousand miles away both he and Dean Nierenberg were still very much a part of the process. “Myself or Dean Nierenberg were in contact with Dean Horowitz at least once a day, mak­ing decisions and opening courses,” he explained, while also commending Dean Horowitz for doing “an excellent job.”

Some students voiced other com­plaints. One curious case involved stu­dents who had taken the first of two English Comp classes with a particular teacher in the fall only to find out that they were locked out of the second half of the class with the same teacher. “For courses like this you should be allowed to attend the same professor for both semesters,” lamented one of the students who struggled in vain to gain access to the course.

Others expressed dissatisfaction over a longstanding tradition at registration—namely, the advantage held by students who assist in the process. “Just because you work registration is not a reason to gain an unfair advantage over seniors, who have waited a long time to get into some courses and who need something specific to graduate,” said one disgrun­tled senior.

These problems notwithstanding, most students agreed that registration was a smoother process than it has been in the past. As SSSB Senior Menachem Gelb­tuch put it, “This year I went right through, while I previously waited sometimes even close to an hour”, com­mented SSSB senior Menachem Gelb­tuch. And YC junior Elisah Graff bub­bled that he had “found the registration pro­cess to be surprisingly smooth and has­sle-free.”

The tribute was attended incitation of Te­hillim, Drashas, and speeches by Dr. Gaon’s colleagues and students, some coming from as far as England and Spain. Rabbi Mitchell Serels, Sephardic Stud­ies professor and close personal talmid of Dr. Gaon, delivered a particularly heartfelt tribute. Dr. Norman Lanum, discussed the significance of Torah wis­dom and drew a comparison between Dr. Gaon, and his famous namesake, King Solomon.

Dr. Gaon made pursuit of Chochma (wisdom) his highest challenge in life,” Dr. Lanum said, “as it says in the passuk that the Lord gave wisdom to Solomon.”

The tribute was attended by numer­ous dignitaries, including past presi­dents of the Rabbinical Council of Amer­ica, and Mr. Jose Emmanuel, an ambas­sador from Spain. Guests were later treat­ed to free admission to YU’s Museum of Treasures of Dubrovnik Exhibit in hon­or of Dr. Gaon.
High Schoolers In IBC, JSS, Faring Poorly

BY DANIEL RUBIN

The Commentator has learned that of the dozen MTA students who were placed in IBC and JSS classes, about half have returned to F, including all four MTA students who were placed in Rabbi Wohlgelernter's shiur and failed the final exam. Rabbi Wohlgelernter and the MTU program did not work in his case and "has to be rethought." Nevertheless, Rabbi Ellis Bloch, Assistant Principal of MTA and a co-founder of the program along with IBC and JSS Dean Michael Shmidman, called the program a "tremendous success." He pointed out that the students who were placed in IBC and JSS, and nearly all of them, had no previous experience with learning in a Jewish setting. Shmidman explained that the students who were placed in Baverages. Rabbi Bloch explained, however, that it was a gross miscalculation on the part of the organizers of the program not to foresee the failing grades. He expressed regret that the students who were placed in IBC were "the individual students" and stated that it was the first time there has been one hundred percent occupancy since those improvements. In addition, not all students were able to accommodate in the dorm prop. Due to last minute enrollments, the residence population exceeded normal dormitory capacity. In order to remedy the problem, two additional rooms were utilized, the second-floor student lounge in Morgenstern Hall and a guest suite in Rubin Hall. The second-floor lounge was recommended for student use by Facilites Management because it already had phone jacks installed. In addition to securing additional space for arriving students, the Office of Residence Halls attempted to create empty rooms by consolidating solitary residence students and 59 students from RIETS. Although the dormitories have been full for many years, which added sixty beds to the dormitories at 787 undergraduate dormitory capacity. In order to remedy the problem, two additional rooms were accommodated roommate requests. According to Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz, Director of the Residence Halls, "we were 100% successful in our attempt." He added that there has not been a single complaint yet. Of the 63 new undergraduate students in the dormitories, there are 56 returnees from Israel, two early admission students, and two former apartment residents.

Dorms Over 100% Capacity

BY JOSH ENGEL

With the entrance of over sixty new students into the dormitories this semester, the Residence Halls are at over 100% occupancy, eliciting cheers from university officials pleased with higher enrollment but generating some frustration from students lamenting the loss of the lounge on their floor and breathing room in the elevator. There are presently 846 students in the dormitories - 787 undergraduate students and 59 students from RIETS. Although the dormitories have been full for many years, which added sixty beds to the dormitories, the Residence Halls are at over 100% occupancy, eliciting cheers from university officials pleased with higher enrollment but generating some frustration from students lamenting the loss of the lounge on their floor and breathing room in the elevator.

Relaxing in an endangered student lounge

YU Snares Dr. Steven Katz, Well Known Scholar, Temporarily

BY EPHRAIM LEIBSTEIN

Dr. Steven Katz, visiting Professor of Jewish History at Yeshiva University, has been appointed to the prestigious position of Executive Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Council, based in Washington, D.C. Currently on leave from Cornell University, the former Chairman of the Religion Department at Dartmouth University, Katz's temporary post at YC will be early in the year. Katz was effective in his new position at the beginning of the academic year. However, Rabbi Katz, a popular lecturer on the 1950's, when he grew close to the Rav, his rabbi at Congregation Moriah in Manhattan. Moved by both Rabbi Solovitch and the desire to assist the relatively small Jewish population in America, Mr. Katz dedicated himself to the furtherance of Jewish education in America. Mr. Katz taught at the city's most prominent institutions, including the Golding Foundation's board of directors has led forth that the Schupf gift be used for "scholarships, fellowships, and faculty enhancement."
Rift Widening Between Faculty and Administration Over Salaries

BY STEVEN MIODOWNIK

Faculty uproar over significant salary inequities reached a crescendo in recent weeks, signaling the further deterioration of already poor relations between the teachers and administration of Yeshiva University. YU's professors are becoming increasingly vocal about their self-proclaimed predicament, even as they soberly note that the university structure effectively reduces their influence over wage policy to a minimum.

The professors' contention that their wages rank considerably and embarrassingly lower than comparable institutions is one that has caused sparring for decades. But events of the past semester have served to heighten the professors in search for a way to fight back. The fall semester, which began with the announcement that average annual raises were reduced to an average 3%, and culminated with the professors receiving a T-shirt bonus that many found insensitive if not insulting, has seen the gulf in perception of reward for switching change in administration attitude and action. And only one week into this semester, the faculty's lack of influence in the decision-making process was once again leveled at YU President Dr. Leon Lamm for failing to make faculty salaries a top priority. Underlying all the rhetoric was "widespread faculty skepticism" regarding the administration's priorities and promises.

The "extremely low" salaries are a "source of tremendous concern and anxiety," admits English professor Joanne Jacobson. She stressed that the issue is not one of faculty ego or self-image, but of "academic reputation of the school plummeting." The fact that the entire faculty has remained intact also indicates that professors are unqualified to assume positions elsewhere, and consequently unworthy of the salaries allotted elsewhere. Professors label that outlook callous. "We stay," said Professor Stearns, "because we like the students and believe in the mission of the college. Not because we can't get jobs at other places." Professor Bartholomew explained that many faculty members have found their "niche" at YU, and are "very loyal to the institution. In the face of steady and consistent stress, they have continued to do scholarly work."

Administration Suggestions Rebuffed

Attempts by the administration to ameliorate the situation have done little to satisfy many faculty members. Dr. Schwartz's proposed formation of a Resource Allocation Committee, at least half of which would consist of professors, would not increase the likelihood of a salary increase, they say. Because all significant funds arrive at the university already earmarked for specific causes, a Resource Allocation Committee would have little authority to divert funds to faculty wages. Even while the administration acknowledges the need for unrestricted endowed funds — those not earmarked for students or infrastructure — there are no guarantees that those funds will ever be directed toward salary enhancements.

The most recent gift to the school, a $10 million donation from the Schupf Foundation, is an example of incoming funds the professors find too restricted to be of any benefit to them; the Schupf benefaction is specifically for Jewish studies. With money the most pressing concerns of the faculty, and with little hope of seeing any in the near future, professors have found few alternatives to pursue, and claim there are few sympathetic ears at Yeshiva University.

Incoming YC Dean Norman Adler has called higher salaries for faculty members of his top priorities when he takes the helm in mid-March.

Never Be Late to Shul Again...

Westminster Towers

Luxury living in a luxurious building, at an affordable rent, is what Westminster Towers is all about. Our location is a commuters dream. Large closets, custom kitchens, and spacious floorplans with laundry facilities on every floor, all blend to make your living experience a delight.

Spectacular Skyline Views...
BMP Off To Strong Start
26 Students Sign up for First Semester

BY AARON KLEIN

After much planning and anticipation, the Golding Beit Midrash Program has finally begun. The program, a mixture of shiur, seder, hashkafa, and halacha has been well received by both the students and faculty involved.

Twenty six students have thus far been accepted while numerous others have expressed interest in enrolling. Dr. Michael Shmidman, dean of IBC, JSS, and BMP is ecstatic about the program and is satisfied with the turnout, given the inconvenient starting date and lack of reputation.

Those who are closely involved with the fledgling BMP affirm that its greatest asset is its Rebbeim. Dean Shmidman noted, "The program's main strength is the perfect blend of Rebbeim that teach in the program and live the philosophy of the program."

Rav Goldwicht, in addition to his role as MYP Rosh Yeshiva gives shiur daily in Gemara; both he and Rabbi Elman teach Machshava. Both Rabbi Hirsch and Rabbi Sobolofsky coordinate shiur and seder.

Although some students were initially skeptical that the BMP would turn out to be a watered-down version of the traditional yeshiva program, the students have felt the learning to be one of the program's greatest strengths.

One student was thrilled with the uniqueness of the program. Eli Mandelbaum, a BMP junior stated, "It is dissimilar to IBC's class-like atmosphere, but there is more of a yeshiva atmosphere." According to Mandelbaum, the BMP has more of an Israeli atmosphere where he can learn different areas of Torah which were not available in IBC or JSS. He believes that learning halacha and Machshava are just as important as learning gemara and this new program allows for that option.

Another student who has been more than happy with the program is YCSC President, Daniel Biling. Billing is happy with the schedule and its' concentrated learning. The schedule runs straight from 9AM until 1PM, granting the students increased flexibility with their afternoon schedules.

Early communications with students in BMP indicated that they were required to register for one or two credits for transfer to YC. However, after much discussion the faculty has decided to give the students the option of partaking in the program without the mandatory transfer of credits. With this decision, the administration hopes that the program will develop an even more students in the future.

Reflections on the Final Scream
BY MIRI ZETCHIK

In the midst of finals at last semester, many students were surprised to find, an "Urgent" letter in their mailbox. The memo from the Residence Hall office, warned that seniors needed to participate in the "Finals Scream" (known by some as the "Primal Scream"), seemed to be somewhat ill-timed as it was distributed on the night before the last final. When most residents of Washington Heights had already gone to sleep.

Of course someone in the administration was attempting to prevent the lesser known but equally important "Vacation Scream," the point of the memo appeared moot.

The letter itself evoked mixed reactions among the student body. Hurry Sirote, a YC senior and firm opponent of the "Scream," noted the adverse effects it had on the members of the surrounding community. It is a total childishness. I'd never do it, at least, I haven't done it since my first year."

While this position seems to be relatively uncontroversial, many students feel passionately about the "Scream." One "Scream" activist, known as a "Screamer," asserted somewhat inanely that he had as much a right to release the tensions of the surrounding community as had a right to sleep.

"The notion that the residents of Washington Heights are for some, unexplained reason entitled to more rights than the students of Yeshiva University is wrong, if not downright immoral.

This is just another example of reverse discrimination in our society." And the screamers go further to make the point that if students are relatively tame by comparison; at Harvard, for example, many students go out into the yard baring more than just their souls when the clock strikes twelve.

There are also some Screamers depressed by their peers, who, while seeming to engage in the same Screamming activity, fail to treat the deeper spiritual and emotional significance of their actions.

As YC senior Avi Shmidman explained, "Finals is a time when it's very easy to get caught up in amassing knowledge without questioning why we're spending so much time pursuing this end. The Scream is, in a sense, a questioning, a pause in the great intellectual experience to ask if it's all worth it."

An alternative explanation which has been offered is that human beings have a psychological need to find both a "release" of intellectual and emotional meaning in life. Many students feel that the emotional element is lost during intense intellectual periods like Finals week; the Scream is an attempt to regain that aspect.

It's unclear whether those who composed the memo were aware of the profound meaning contained within the Scream. The prevailing sentiment, at least among screamers, is that if they were aware of its significance they would have treated it with the respect it deserves. Until that time, however, the conflict will wage on.

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Investment Club
Looking to End Losses

BY ANDREW DAVIDSON

After enjoying sizable profits last year, YU's student Investment Club expected nothing less than similarly stellar results for this year. However, due to one or two problems of stock, the Investment Club was running an approximate 6% loss over last semester.

With over forty student investors, the club opened with $31,000 during the fall semester and eagerly invested in various stocks, including Tootsie Roll, Time-Warner, Lenmar, BioNet, and Celgene. However, the club has maintained $11,000 of uninvested funds in the hopes of finding new stocks in which to invest. When asked about the future, club co-president Adam Lowenstein responded, "Hopefully we will be able to break even by April or May and students may carry over the investments through the summer, possibly in low-risk stocks.

The investment club, an independent club with no faculty advisor, held four meetings last semester. Prior to those meetings, members were invited to research various stocks in order to propose stock purchase possibilities. Club rules state that in order to purchase a stock, 50% of the club must be present and it must be approved by 51% of the members present at the meeting. To date, only one or two stocks proposed by members not on the board have been voted in. Lowenstein and co-president Ezra Lightman look forward to increased participation and involvement by members in the future.

The Lightman-Lowenstein team's first step to recovery was to sell the poorly performing stocks. They hope that new and more profitable purchases will be made soon. "The current market environment," Lightman stated, "is filled with uncertainty, and volatility. However, with the correct approach, the returns are usually rewarding." Lowenstein added, "What is important to me is to make a little, not lose a lot!"

Joint NYU Dental Program
Announced

BY NACHUM LAMM

Possibly as early as the beginning of next semester, YC and SCW students will be able to pursue a career in dentistry through a new joint program with New York University.

The new curriculum is designed along the lines of several of YU's combined programs with other universities, including optometry (at SUNY), podiatry, nursing, and what Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. William Schwartz described as "a successful pre-engineering program with Columbia.

According to Schwartz, the administration is "anticipating a [student] need" by implementing the new program. Though there have not been many requests for this program, he continued, the goal is to increase student choices and options, thereby enriching the curriculum in general.

Dr. David Weisbrot, pre-health sciences advisor at YU, stated that in recent years the number of students entering dental school in the country has markedly decreased, while the number of dentists retiring has increased, leading to many open positions in the profession. This fact, combined with the increased difficulty in entering medical school, results in an increased demand for positions in dental school. Indeed, the number of YU students applying to dental school in the past two years has doubled. The new program is a direct response to this situation.

The program will require students to take three years of courses at YU, then switch into NYU's dental school. Provided that the student keeps his grades up, admission to NYU's dental school is guaranteed.

After one year in NYU, the student will receive a bachelor's degree from YU, and, after four years in NYU, will receive a DDS (dental) degree from NYU. The student will thus save a year from the usual eight years (undergraduate as well graduate) that it would take to earn the degree. Coupled with the fact that the student would be guaranteed admission into one of the top dental schools in the country, this program apparently provides numerous advantages.

According to Schwartz and Weisbrot, NYU's dental program was chosen for a number of reasons apart from its sterling reputation. In recent years, most YU dental students have applied there and NYU has allotted a number of full scholarships to YU, establishing a relationship between the schools. Weisbrot also stated that Jewish life at NYU is "quite satisfactory.

Finally, there are very few medical schools in the New York City area that offer a dental program (ARCOM has none).

The program has been mapped out by committees at NYU and YU, and is awaiting approval from NYU, which many see as imminent. The program could be available to students as soon as the fall, 1995 semester. Students may be able to enter as late as the beginning of their junior year. The joint dental program will typically require three years on campus.

Schwartz mentioned that other joint YU programs, such as occupational and physical therapy and audiology, are being planned.

Jaskoll Pens Letter to
Allay Job Fears

BY STUART MILSTEIN

Anxiety and nervousness among SSSB job applicants prompted a letter from SSSB Assistant Dean Ira Jaskoll reassuring them about their prospects for finding jobs in the current market conditions. The message assessing the job situation is "anticipating a [student] need" by implementing the new program. Though there have not been many requests for this program, he continued, the goal is to increase student choices and options, thereby enriching the curriculum in general.

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ATTENTION ALL SENIORS

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Yeshiva University
Office of Placement & Career Services

The Commentator
February 14, 1995
Meeting Planned Between
YU Lawyers and
Student Leaders
continued from page one

sentence. Rosen sent a letter to the paper and requested that it be printed, but the letter never appeared in print.

RIETS Takes Out Full Page Ad
In order to combat the negative public image created by the Ma'ariv article, the Roshei Yeshiva and the YU administration published a full page ad two issues later in Ma’ariv disavowing any affiliation between the Yeshiva and the homosexual groups. The ad ended with a lament of the fact that the Yeshiva even had to affirm such a foregone conclusion. It is notable, however, that the ad referred only to RIETS, and never once mentioned Yeshiva University. That is significant in that RIETS is, officially, an independent entity not affiliated with Yeshiva University and is not bound by any of the legal restrictions which apply to the non-sectarian University.

Shortly after the publication of the Ma’ariv article, the Jerusalem Post published a story on the same issue. The Post story, which ran on Friday, January 20, included a response from President Lamm, “As a Rabbi I cannot, and do not condone homosexual behavior ... but as President of a religious institution, it is my duty to ensure that the policies of the University conform to the applicable provisions of secular law, even in that RIETS is, officially, an nondenominational institution ... it is my duty to ensure that the policies of the University conform to the applicable provisions of secular law, even in the rare instances in which these may offend my own religious beliefs and personal convictions.”

Yeshiva University had enlisted some big name help in their attempts to deal with the issue. The law firm of Weil, Gotshal, one of the largest law firms in New York, is handling the very periphery, is already beginning to feel the effects. Stier still believes that YU could win if it took the issue to court. He contends that if a victory in court is possible, then the University has no choice but to proceed along that course.

Dean Efrem Nulman, the Dean of Students for the University, does not necessarily agree. According to Georgetown University officials, who waged just such a legal battle, the period was the worst in the University’s history. Nulman invoked images of gay-rights groups staging rallies on the Yeshiva College campus, and an enraged faculty at the graduate schools. Even at the relatively early stage, Nulman is having difficulty balancing the secular faculty against the religious elements of the University.

Yeshiva College, thought to be involved in this controversy only on the very periphery, is already beginning to feel the effects.

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Schwartz Moderating Discussion on MYP Credit
continued from page 1

proposal if it would limit students so severely.
Rabbi Charlop, however, is not prepared to give up so easily. "We have been wanting to do this for fifteen or twenty years now," he explained. He did not explicitly rule out the possibility of attempting this move even without the backing of either YC/SSSB students, faculty or administration. And Rabbi Charlop may have found an ally in Schwartz. In an attempt at reconciliation, Schwartz has presented himself as a neutral moderator of sorts at the February 9 meeting. But he also has given indications that he supports Charlop's stance, noting that there is "an anomaly in the whole situation [MYP]. The students spend a bulk of their day in the program. Why don't they receive credit for it?" This position contrasts sharply with that of former Dean of YC Norman Rosenfeld, who for years adamantly refused to support the mandatory credit on the grounds that it ran counter to the notion of "Torah Lishmah."

Various Reasons for Opposition
Many other reasons have been offered as to why the plan shouldn't be implemented. While the individuals opposing the idea are plentiful and run the gamut from Dean of IBC Shmidman to SSSB professor Moshe Pava to a great majority of students, their reasons are by no means identical. Some are worried by the fact that making credit an official part of MYP leaves it vulnerable to change. "I am concerned because the new proposal invites the idea of a committee like Academic Standards scrutinizing the MYP system," objected SOY President Book. Biology chairman Dr. Carl Feit, noted at the February 9 meeting that he is very concerned by the pressure a mandatory shiur credit will add to many students, who may already be overburdened with schoolwork. Still, others question the potential gain of such a measure. "It seems to me that this proposal will serve little purpose, it will only harm students who are in shiurim with stricter requirements. They will have to decide between transferring to another shiur and staying in their current one and suffering the consequenc-
es," noted a student in one of the more "strict" shiurim who requested anonymity. Rabbi Charlop, however, responds with a simple solution. Instead of grades given according to uniform criteria, they will be "handicapped" "stricter" shiurim who requested ano-
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Faculty Takes Steps to Reassert Control Over YC

mandate that. Perhaps, reasonable people can reach different conclusions, but I don’t see the MVP decision as an unreasonable one, per se. On the other hand, people can reasonably disagree with MVP, so there are reasonable arguments to be made on both sides of the question.”

Three Resolutions Passed

Interestingly, during the week of registration it became clear to faculty members that, in fact, the Office of the Registrar had adopted a policy of allowing students to register for up to 18.5 credits for the upcoming spring 1995 semester. In response to this finding, Biology Division head, Dr. Carl Feit called for the YC faculty to have an emergency meeting regarding this issue. At the Yeshiva College faculty meeting two weeks ago, three resolutions were passed, reasserting the faculty’s power when it comes to making academic decisions. The first resolution stated that “The mandatory transfer of credits to Yeshiva College from students enrolled at other divisions of the university affects in important ways the curriculum and requirements at the college, they have the right to choose not to graduate students who would adhere to a policy inconsistent with theirs.”

The second resolution stated that any proposed change in the number of credits awarded for a given course, upon obtaining divisional approval, must be forwarded to the YC Curriculum Committee, which then makes a recommendation to the entire YC faculty. Until faculty approval is obtained, no such changes shall be implemented.

In the third resolution, the YC faculty reaffirmed “its policy of placing a cap of 17.5 credits for any semester that a student is enrolled at the college, inclusive of any credits transferred from other divisions of the university.” It should be noted, that students who have recently attempted to take 18.5 credits for the spring 1995 semester had been rescinded.

When it came to faculty input into the MVP credit decision, V.P. of Academic Affairs, Dr. Schwartz noted that “to the extent that the faculty felt that there should be further input” he was in agreement and noted that he has begun to take steps to respond to that need. He asked SSBD Dean Neirenberg to invite the YC faculty to participate in a more deliberative process “where if they felt there was a need for further discussion there could be further discussion. Also, for them to designate representatives to a broad-based committee that would be looking into the subject.” Pursuant to that invitation, two members of the Yeshiva College faculty, a Sy Syms faculty member, the respective deans of both YC and Sy Syms, plus the deans of the undergraduate programs were invited to participate in a meeting to discuss the MVP decision last Thursday, February 9. Dr. Schwartz also suggested that there should be student representation at the meeting, to represent the student point of view, and therefore, SOY President, Yitzchak Book was also invited to participate in that meeting.

Faculty Now Involved

On Thursday afternoon, after the meeting, Dean Neirenberg did comment that as of yet “nothing has changed,” and that “the college policy of allowing up to three credits to be transferred to YC a semester still stands, but that the whole concept [of a making a credit mandatory] is still up for discussion.” He also stated clearly that any change made will never affect existing students, and that they may complete their requirements according to the college’s requirement policy that existed when they entered YC.” Dr. Feit commented that “now people realize that there is a process that has to be followed,” and he noted that he is “pleased that the procedure has been implemented.” Dr. Schwartz, when solicited for his thoughts about the meeting stated that “I can’t comment because we’re still in the process of meeting, but I thought that it was a productive and instructive meeting.”

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Macs at the Garden

BY ADAM MEUER

For one night the Macs felt like a Division I team. For one night the Macs got a taste of the mecca of basketball, the Garden. As well, for one night, The Commentator staff at the game felt like professional sports reporters. And for one night, WYUR was similar to WFAN.

The Macs came to MSG with plenty of nervous energy and excitement. For them and their fans who attended the game, there was a championship atmosphere in the air that seemed to add to the important meeting with division-leading NJIT. Watching the Macs warm up, it seemed that for many of them, this was the most important game of five on five that they would ever play in their lives.

Judging by the way the Macs came out of the opening gates, it was as if they were on a mission. They went on a 12-4 run to start the game and sent 15-1 NJIT into a very abrupt timeout. Those six minutes will be remembered by the Macs and their faithful fans for a very long time, as it sounded as though the Macs had just made it to the NCAA Final Four.

Unfortunately, the Macs had to play the remaining 34 minutes whereby they were thoroughly outplayed. “A fatigue factor set in,” star forward Alan Levy explained. (15 points, 3 blocks) “We were unable to maintain that high level of intensity.” Clarence Pierce, who has haunted the Macs in previous games, was all over the court (18 points) as he led NJIT to a 75-55 victory. Also, the Macs missed the presence of point guard Yehuda Halpert, who had to leave early in the first half of the game with a twisted ankle.

However, the Macs should take solace in that they shut down All-American Andrew South and played NJIT about even in the second half. The Macs’ backcourt of Barry Aranoff (12 points, 4 steals) and Jacob Rosenberg (11 points) held their own against a very quick NJIT backcourt. Joel Jacobson also scored 10 points.

As the final run approaches for the Macs, fans hope that the big thrill of playing in the Garden will translate into a strong showing in the post season. If those first six minutes are an indication of what could happen, it just might.

Macs Tennis - Hopes Alive for ‘95

BY JOSH WEINBERGER

With the arrival of the spring semester, the YU tennis team is gearing up for their long-awaited season. After coming off a 4-3 season last year, this season seems to be even more promising as the team looks stronger and better under their new head coach, Jonathan Bandier.

Coach Bandier, who played for the YU tennis team in the late 1980’s, bring his IAC experience to a very young group. Bandier believes that “it all comes down to the practices.” Coach Bandier feels confident with his singles players because of their individual talent. However, it is the doubles competition that wins championships. With only five practices remaining until the first match on March 12, Coach Bandier will have to combine all of the talent so that the players become comfortable with each other. So far, Coach is “pleased with what he has seen.”

When Coach Bandier took over in the beginning of the fall semester, the doors were left open for six new players. Enter Ron Samet - a Los Angeles native who, along with his brother, Captain David, brings his consistency and excellent drop shot. Ari Hirt, also an LA native, brings his strong serve and solid ground strokes to the new and improved team. He is followed up by the high-seeded prospect Tzvi Silverstein, an all-around solid player from Georgia, Russia. Also joining the team this season are David “Goldy” Goldenberg and his doubles partner Tzvi Rudman who add a new dimension to the meaning of doubles competition.

Two other new arrivals are Jonathan Heller and Avraham Ciment who add enthusiasm and consistency to an already strong team.

Co-captains David Samet and Gabe Slotnick continue to lead the team in their competitiveness and leadership. Slotnick’s new on-court attitude and excellent skills are crucial to the team’s success. He asserted, “with the mix of strong new players and experienced returnees, along with the hiring of a new head coach - this is our year.” The team also welcomes back the number oneseed from last year Michael Pfeiffer, an extremely steady and strong player. Returning sophomore Daniel Wolfson adds his on-court finesse and competitiveness, while second year players Jonathan Heller and Avraham Ciment bring their talent and experience to the court. The team also welcomes back the senior Josh Segal from medical school studies. His stylish play and attitude are expected to bring life and unity to a team with high hopes for success in the upcoming season.

The Commentator

500 West 185th Street
New York, NY 10033

BY JOSH WEINBERGER

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