Special Report: Behind the Books of the Seforim Sale

BY NICOLAS MUZIN

There are a lot of seforim at the seforim sale. And not only seforim, but tapes, English books, religious articles - a total of 29,249 items in all. And that figure is just the tip of the iceberg, because an 'item' can include a 16-volume set, and because the merchandise is constantly replenished during the three week sale. If everything goes as planned this year, the Seforim Sale and its parent establishment, the Student Organization of Yeshiva (SOY) could bring in almost one million dollars.

Although organizers insist that the Seforim Sale is not profit-oriented, one board member projected their net-profit at $90,000, approximately $20,000 of which will go to Tzedakah.

While the Seforim Sale started out as a way for Yeshiva students to purchase, at discounted prices, seforim they need for their learning, it has expanded into a major New York City event which offers over 3200 items of religious articles. Seferim S11le consumers, the Sale is geared specifically to Yeshiva students. The huge discounts explain why the Seforim Sale has inspired jealousy from local Jewish stores, while other dealers. Koenigsberg brags that even after their "slight markup," the Seforim Sale still sells merchandise at least 25% cheaper than retail price. Furthermore, the Seforim Sale provides rebeim, schools, and synagogues with a flat 5% discount.

"Which seforimstore do you know that is this large?" Koenigsberg exclaims as he motions around the room on the fifth floor which houses the Sale. "Which seforim store do you know that sells 200 cases of seforim in a year, let alone a month?"

The Seforim Sale has developed an extensive network, which is impressive even to business insiders. They are careful to respect their contacts, and vigorously refuse to disclose how much they pay for the merchandise. Daniel Davis, who chaired the Sale last year, recalls receiving a complaint from a distributor because he was selling a Soncino Gemarah on CD-ROM for $200, while other stores were selling it for $300. The distributor asked him why he would have to charge their vendors full retail when it is at least 25% cheaper than retail price. Fur-thermore, the Seforim Sale provides rebbeim, schools, and synagogues with a flat 5% discount.

Proposal would lengthen students’ stay on campus

BY STEVEN MIODOWNIK

This semester, groundbreaking legislation aimed at improving YU’s academic standards is expected to be voted into effect, restricting the amount of credits students may claim from their senior years in high school, summer school courses, CLEP and other exemption tests, and years in Israel.

Student senators and professors on the Academic Standards Committee are intent on lengthening the stay of YU students on campus, and hope a proposal for an "outside credit cap" will come to a vote of the full undergraduate faculty within the next few months. If such a law is then approved by President Lamm and the Board of Trustees, earning a YU degree in 2.5 years - a common feat for students returning to Israel for Shana Bet - would become considerably more difficult; the rule would prevent students from devising an elaborate graduation scheme involving high school AP test scores, college exemption examinations, outside summer school credits, and 32 Israel credits in order to pass through YU’s portals in five semesters. A grandfather clause would apply to current YU students and those currently enrolled in the Joint Israel Program.

The move to restrict outside credit on a grand scale follows last semester's abolishment of the Joint Israel Program.

Upcoming Faculty Vote May Limit Outside Credit

BY ARNON STORFER

The Blizzard which shut down the entire East Coast this past January also had its effects on Yeshiva College. Many students were forced to miss finals, and airport closings left out-of-towners stranded at YU’s Main Campus for days.

Starting on January 7th, more than two feet of snow fell on the New York Metropolitan area within 24 hours, rendering streets un navigable, effectively shutting down public transportation and causing the governors of both New York and New Jersey to declare a state of emergency forbidding cars to venture onto the roads. For YU employees who missed work on January 8th, however, the excuse was not good enough. University management decided instead that employees would have to charge their vacation time in order to get paid. And while the last remnants of the Blizzard of 1996 melted into the Harlem River, Yeshiva University management and employees sparked a storm of their own.

The decision came by way of a memo from Personnel Manager Michael Sperling, after a week of indecision by upper management on the status of the day. Referring to the university's "Weather and Other Emergencies" policy adopted on December 3, 1990, the memo explained that the policy was "for exactly the circumstances that existed last week." The decision caused an uproar from union 1199 members. A number of members sent letters of protest to management conveying their disgust and asking the university to reconsider its policy. Elina Smallwood-Homer, an employee in the YU Department of Development, argued that roads were closed as a result of the State of Emergency declared by Governors Pataki and Whitman of New York and New Jersey, respectively. Smallwood-Homer found it difficult to understand why she and her fellow workers should have been penalized for conditions beyond their control. Sylvia Santiago explained that she traveled to work from the Bronx on January 9 and 10 by foot, putting continued on page 9
In the Big Leagues Now

The Annual SOY Seforim Sale brings more visitors to our campus than any other event on the university calendar, focusing the community's attention on the role they play as marbitzei Torah in the New York region. Unfortunately, past seforim sales also appear to have been marked by financial mismanagement, exorbitant compensation for their student organizers and the absolute absence of any written guidelines governing the operation of what is now a million-dollar operation.

SOY vice-president Steven Reingold and his co-chairman Avi Koenigsberg deserve a yasher kochach for making some changes. They have pledged to restrict the much criticized food budget to a more reasonable $500. And while we do not have compensation for organizers of any student activity (and note that no other student leaders receive compensation), their commitment to reducing the amount of free seforim provided to the sale's organizers is at least a step in the right direction.

But the degree of attention paid to the appropriate financial and ethical management of the Seforim Sale should not depend on the predilections of that particular sale's organizers. The need for a coherent and consistent set of policies is evident.

Firstly, the Seforim Sale should use some of its profit to retain the services of a professional accountant. It is a larger operation than many small businesses and it should not and must not be managed by even the most competent non-professional. Second, organizers need to establish written guidelines for the sale's management, including a delineation of appropriate expenses and compensation. How hard someone works to earn their wage (read: seforim) should not depend on another student's judgment, but an objective standard. And lastly, the Seforim Sale, like any other student organization, should have a written budget, available for review by the student council.

In essence, the Seforim Sale is proud, and rightly so, of the success that it has built. Its organizers must realize, however, that by the student council. In essence, the Seforim Sale is proud, and rightly so, of the success that it has built. Its organizers must realize, however, that by the student council.

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The time is overdue for the higher echelons of this university to take note of the community's criticism and act on it. The community's objection to the financial mismanagement of the Seforim Sale is not a passing phase. It is a deep concern that has been expressed repeatedly over the past several years. We, as students, have a right to expect our university to address these issues and take steps to correct them.

We hope that the Seforim Sale will continue to be a successful event and that the community's concerns will be addressed. However, we also hope that this incident serves as a wake-up call for all organizations on campus to ensure that they are operating in a manner that is financially responsible and ethically sound.
From the Editor’s Desk

OWEN CYRULNIK

"Eisav will only fail by the hands of Yosef's descendants." — Beha' Batra 120b

"A son of fruitlessness is Yosef, a son of fruitlessness by a way..." — Breishis 49:22

Yeshiva University is an enigma, a synthesis of opposing values and beliefs, an experiment in Torah Umidrash. A commitment to that synthesis is the essence of YU's real and fundamental to its continued endurance. That is not to say, however, that there is no sacrifice. The dangers of secularization and assimilation are both potent and imminent. This past week, however, during a sicht musar in the Beis Mi-drash, The Commentator was attacked for focusing on secularistic values in the hope of casting a negative light on Yeshiva University. What our critics fail to realize is that such a blithe dismissal of secular values as incompatible with spirituality, that deviation from the dictates of spirituality, that assimilation and secular values as incompatible with spirituality, that deviation from the dictates of spirituality, might have entailed some assimilation, the formation and shaping of a Jewish character, a shallow biblical character, forsaking the synthesis of the secular and the spiritual, the first Yeshiva University.

At times it seems as if Yosef was a son of assimilation, a product almost metaphysical in nature which endeared him to all those with whom he came in contact. And Yosef was well aware of his blessing; in fact, according to Chazal he was not shy of flaunting his beauty and of putting great emphasis upon its preservation, sometimes almost to absurd extremes. At times it seems as if Yosef was a shallow biblical character, forsaking the spiritual for the physical, obsessing on the details but ignoring the big picture.

Yosef's name, however, has been perpetuated through the generations as Yosef HaTzaddik - Yosef the righteous - because he managed to successfully synthesize his pagan secular gifts with his religion and spirituality. That is an extraordinary secular gift; the details but ignoring the big picture.

Unfortunately, however, this argument is never recognized until it is too late. Yosef's brothers rejected his secularism out of hand; they perceived him as a danger to the Jewish people and they undertook to remove that danger from their midst. In the process, however, they committed a grave error. Yosef's intention was not to destroy a nation but to build one. Yosef was a true Tzaddik, he was able to synthesize the spiritual and the secular. And while Yosef's vision did endure in the end - the Jewish nation survived because of his vision - the course of Jewish history was irrevocably and tragically altered; the galus mitzrayim, Egyptian slavery, had become a necessity.

By rejecting, out of hand, values in which we earnestly believe, and by publicly and sarcastically denigrating decisions over which we agonize, our critics on the right, and specifically within the ranks of our respected Roshei Yeshiva do us a great disservice. More importantly, however, they fail to learn the lesson of history, instead choosing to repeat the tragic mistake of Yosef's brothers. Never do they engage us in a dialogue which is meaningful and based on mutual respect. They refuse to acknowledge the fundamental point that we share in common - a commitment to YU, even if we achieve that goal through variant means. By fighting us instead of guiding us, they not only contribute to the problem instead of the solution. They promote divisiveness and dissension within our own YU community. Our critics fail to see the forest for the trees. Their zealous efforts threaten to destroy the very institution that they so hard to protect.

but his position allowed him to do much for K'tal Yisroel.

So too, The Commentator. Our student newspaper and student councils are necessary to establish Yeshiva University as a legitimate institution in the eyes of the world; adherence to admittedly secular codes of journalistic values and ethics is just as essential. A story, for example, exposing students caught cheating in courses here at Yeshiva College was never recognized until it is too late. The Commentator did not publish this story, but its position allowed it to do much for K'tal Yisroel.

I believe that it is incumbent upon our YU community to combat the prejudices that poison the minds of our students. As Jews, we can certainly understand the harsh effects of anti-Semitism on our people. Surely, we can find a parallel in and understand the harsh effects of racism on people of color. I am proud that a few YC students have already begun to work on breaking down racist attitudes and on building a relationship with the children from the Dominican Republic residing in the surrounding Washington Heights community. The YC Council on Racial Harmony brings together students from City College and YC to discuss Jewish-Black tensions. The Communal Literacy Club has been working with local junior high school students to help them improve their reading skills. Both of these initiatives are positivewattempts to build bridges and alter attitudes.

It is notable that to open our spring semester, on Monday evening January 22nd, in the Main Beis Medrash, our Maskiach Ruchani, Rav Yosef Blau Shlita, spoke out on "The Treatment of non-religious Jews and non-Jews." In order to further deepen our knowledge and sensitivity, on February 28th at 8 PM at the Rubin Shul, YU's Torah U-Madfa Project, YCSC and the YC Council on Racial Harmony, will be sponsoring a student symposium on the topic of "The Concept of Am HaNoach and the Status of the Non-Jew."

The featured speakers will be Eli Duker and Yair Silverman. The participation of students, faculty and administrators alike will be a major step in coming to grips with our attitudes towards others and hopefully will stimulate a process of introspection for all who attend.

I hope that we as Orthodox Jews will fully appreciate the unprecedented tolerance and opportunity which we have been afforded in this country. At the same time we must not shackle ourselves with the chains of intolerance. Our exposure to the growing racist atmosphere of our society should not overwhelm our more noble impulses. While we must be for ourselves, that does not preclude compassion, understanding and acceptance of others.

Martin Luther King Jr. told us something that we need to hear anew. He said, "We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In the unfolding of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late."

Let's not deny our prejudice. Rather let us now confront it and move forward.

Message From the YCSC President

“There is little hope for us unless we become tough-minded enough to break loose from the shackles of prejudice, half-truths, and downright ignorance.” — Martin Luther King Jr.

Racism is a part of American life and has been for over 200 years. Therefore, it is inevitable that racism should exist among all groups in our country, including among students at Yeshiva College.

I believe that it is incumbent upon our YU community to combat the prejudices that poison the minds of our students. As Jews, we can certainly understand the harsh effects of anti-Semitism on our people. Surely, we can find a parallel in and understand the harsh effects of racism on people of color.

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Demict Affairs agreed that we should instead make a list of schools that are acceptable for credit and those not acceptable.

There are many community colleges offering poor programs over the summer. At the same time, there are still good schools that should not have been banned.

Unfortunately, the majority of the Academic Standards Committee did not feel the same way.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Belgrade

Student Committee Co-Chair

Academic Standards
Yeshiva College

IBC Hebrew: A Haven for MYP Students

by Ari Green

The beginning of the Spring semester has focused attention on the approximately 15% of MYP seniors who plan to complete their YC Hebrew requirement by taking courses in IBC. Students attempting to enroll in the IBC Hebrew courses have met with resistance, many who are spending their last semester at YC and need to fulfill the requirement to qualify for graduation. YC administrators are trying to weed out the cases of real need in an attempt to limit the practice for the future.

Page thirty-six of the latest Yeshiva University Undergraduate Catalogue states: "Students may not register for any courses at Yeshiva College or Sy Syms School during time designated for MYP studies." This would seem to imply that MYP students are forbidden to take any non-MYP classes during the 9AM to 12PM Beis Midrash (preparation) as well as the 1PM - 2:30PM shiur (lecture). However, a strict reading of the text does leave some room for a more liberal interpretation, as only YC and Sy Syms classes are specifically mentioned as forbidden, perhaps allowing students to opt for IBC courses.

Perhaps. Consider that approximately 15% of seniors enrolled in the Mazer Yeshiva Program fulfill part of their YC Hebrew requirements by taking courses in IBC. This action is officially frowned upon by MYP and YC administrations, with one administration labeling it "an absolute farce."

Currently, some twenty-one seniors are caught in this loophole, with seventeen taking IBC Hebrew classes, three students taking Jewish History, and one student taking Bible. The drawback to this is the loss of a significant portion of seder time. All IBC classes, except for Talmud, meet twice a week with each session ranging in length between an hour and forty minutes. The absolute minimum amount of time an MYP student must miss in order to take IBC courses is forty minutes. However, due to the IBC course schedule, some of the students miss over three hours of Beis Midrash time.

In light of these numbers, the administration has restricted those MYP students allowed to take IBC courses to seniors who can demonstrate exceptional need. Therefore, with rare exception, all MYP students in IBC classes are seniors who need to fulfill their requirements so that they can graduate on time but cannot fit the required course into their afternoon schedule. This may be due to a scheduling conflict with another requirement or due to the seventeen-and-a-half maximum credit cap enforced in YC and Sy Syms.

Before applying for approval through the Yeshiva College Dean's office, all MYP students interested in taking IBC courses are first cleared by the Yeshiva Program's Dean's office which permits the student to miss seder time. Rabbi Chaim Bronstein, Administrator of the Yeshiva Program, said "This is not something we encourage, but given the realities of life at YU, it makes it more manageable for some of our students." He added that leaving the option open for MYP students to take IBC courses can even be looked at in a positive light, as it ensures that those students who would consider leaving the Ye shiva Program entirely in order to more easily satisfy their Jewish studies requirements instead choose to remain in MYP.

Assistant Dean Avery Horowitz suggested, on the other hand, that if MYP students realize that if they take Hebrew in IBC, they have the choice of simplifying their schedule by point average, and perhaps inspires a less than full effort on the student's part.

Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, Dean of the Yeshiva Program, pointed out that he would certainly prefer that it was not necessary. However, if this requirement presents a student's only impediment to graduation then he would approve the request.

Dr. Norman Adler, Dean of Yeshiva College, commented that the number of MYP students asking to take IBC courses makes one wonder why so many students push off fulfilling their Hebrew requirements until their last year on campus. Adler, however, has no intention of eliminating the option for MYP students to take IBC courses under extenuating circumstances, "I do not believe in educating students to fail, if at all possible, " he said.

Although Rabbi Adler has no plans to make it easier for students to take Hebrew in IBC, he has stated that he would be open to a "musical chairs" arrangement if there is "real" need from both IBC and YC students.

IBC Hebrew: A Haven for MYP Students

Campus News

8:30 Morg Minyan Abolished

New minyan immediately established on second floor

by Michael J. Belgrade

When university officials designated the Morg shul to function this semester as a daily "beit midrash" for all SBFM students and MYP freshmen shiurim, they in turn discontinued the traditional 8:30 morning minyan due to an obvious logistical conflict - morning seder must begin at 900 AM sharp. In the popular minyan's place, two new 8:30 morning congregations were founded. One in the Rubin shul and another in the second floor Morg lounge.

The decision to disband the Morg minyan was made by Mashgiach Ruchani Yosef Blau, who last year disbanded an unofficial 8:30 Rubin Shul minyan. R. Blau told The Commentator that he disapproved of last year's Rubin minyan since he only deemed appropriate one official 8:30 minyan on campus and not two.

Rabbi Blau explored several additional options of salvaging the Morg minyan before making his ultimate decision. One alternative involved a simple two-for-one switch - moving both the 7:45 and 8:30 minyanim from Morg Shul to Morg Lounge, and translocating the 8:10 lounge minyan downstairs to the Morg shul. The idea was rejected, however, because the process involved tampering with three minyanim rather than one. Furthermore, certain MYP Roshei Yeshiva had expressed discomfort with the notion of students praying every day in a "lounge" instead of a shul, and did not wish to increase the number of lounge minyanim in YU.

Some rabbein and talmidei decry the existence of all 8:30 minyanim because it necessitates tardiness to MYP seder, BM shir, and SBS and IBC classes. Others believe, however, that while the schedule says 900, one can arrive later. One MYP student said, "Seder doesn't really start till 9:15, anyway."

The University converted the shul to a Beit Midrash at the end of last semester as a temporary solution to the lack of unified 'learning' space created by the exponentially growing student population. Until now, many morning sedarim of various shiurim were dispersed amongst various classrooms in Furst Hall. Student leaders, last semester, discussed with administrators several alternative Beit Midrash space solutions, such as converting Furst 501 or adding narrower tables to the Main Beit midrash, but in the end, the University opted to convert Morg Shul by simply adding a few tables.

IBC To Draw Lots on Purim

by Heshy Willig

IBC will add to this year's Purim festivities by sponsoring a raffle in which the grand prize will be two round-trip tickets to Israel. Second and third prizes will be fully paid dinners for two at Levana's and La Marais, respectively. The cost per ticket will be ten dollars, and no more than 500 tickets will be sold.

According to IBC President Rich Grossman, the idea of a raffle was realized in an effort to bolster IBC student participation in Purim activities. Grossman's student council determined that holding a drawing during the popular SOY sponsored chagigah should entice IBC students to participate in the other holiday festivities. The exact time of the raffle still needs to be decided.

Profits generated by the raffle will help fund future IBC events, such as a possible trip to the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.
Campus Bursting At Seams

Fourth Dorm Is Sought

BY ERIC ASHKENAZI

You don't have to be a math major to figure it out. Take a campus with dorms filled to capacity, add 74 new students to the equation, and you have a serious overcrowding problem. University administrators have dealt with this problem by forcing the new arrivals into dorm rooms already occupied by one and sometimes two students. These living conditions, along with last semester's decision to relocate all semicha students to outside apartments, have driven student leaders vowing to prevent the floor lounges from being converted into dorm rooms, administrators found creative new places to house students in the existing dorms.

One such place, on the first floor of Rubin opposite R. Ahron Soloveitchik's apartment and down the hall from R. Joshua Chernow's residence, illustrates the desperate nature of this search.

Many incoming students, returning from half of Shana Bet in Israel, were unable to choose their roommates and were paired with one or two strangers for the remainder of the school year. For the time being, all students who requested university housing have been satisfied in this innovative manner, but the outlook for the future is uncertain. If enrollment increases, any possible problems in their obtaining housing due to overcrowding.

According to University Dean of Students Efrem Nulman, there are a number of options which are being investigated. One possibility which is being examined by the YC Board of Directors and the Student Life Committee is the purchase of another building in close proximity to the campus that would serve as an additional residence hall.

Nulman added that "students should be involved in the process" as they were during Stern College's recent purchase of a dormitory facility, when "students viewed the building before any decisions were made." A convenient housing solution could lie in the nearby buildings where semicha students and kollels families reside. YU has slowly been taking control of apartments in those buildings in order to develop its Washington Heights community, and this consolidated effort could continue for undergraduates as well.

Commuting?

Yet another alternative is to have students commute. Nulman stresses, however, that this "is not a pleasant option, since YU is a residential college" and dorming adds much to the college experience. Nulman also said that currently there is no housing shortage, and rooms in which students were tripled were designed for three people. For the near future he suggests that students apply for dormitory housing early and meet all dorm application deadlines to avoid any possible problems in their obtaining housing due to overcrowding.

Hal Finally Replaced

BY JOSHUA M. FELDMAN

After a search process which spanned an entire semester, the Office of Career and Placement Services has announced the addition of Marjorie Rubins as Placement Coordinator. Rubins fills the position left vacant by Hal Tannenbaum.

"With 33 years of counseling and education, Rubins comes to YU ..." said Tannenbaum.

"Her credentials in counseling and education are impressive," said Rubins. Rubins will have a tough act to follow. Until this very day, Tannenbaum had boasted a 99% placement rating, quite a feat, for an office operating with a three person staff.

Rubins had already been a part of the Placement Office overnight. The hiring process was long and tedious. Candidates for the position were screened through the personnel office. Official candidate materials were found, Jaskoll conducted an interview, and personal references were checked. Tannenbaum then interviewed the finalists and presented his choice to the administration.

"I was pleased with the resumes," said Tannenbaum. "Rubins will be a great addition to the Placement Office staff. If anything, the process was too easy."

Semicha Apartment Living Conditions Still Not Improved

Committee Formed to Alleviate Problems

BY EZRA TUCHMAN

Washington Heights has long been associated with crime, fixed-income housing, and a pesky rodent population. For the most part, students at Yeshiva College have been able to avoid contact with the realities of the inner city by taking advantage of the three on-campus dormitories. However, for 65 RIETS students relocated to nearby apartment complexes, life in the "hood" has become a frightening reality. The overcrowding of the undergraduate dorms has forced these graduate students to take residence in cramped, often mice and roach infested apartments. Some of them are as far from campus as 182nd Street, and all are lacking in basic amenities such as light fixtures, light bulbs, garbage cans, clothes dressers, and work desks.

Among the students most disturbed by these living conditions are Moshe Kinderlehrer and Uni Schechterman, both of whom graduated from Yeshiva College last year and are currently studying for their ordinations. In Schechterman's view, the Yeshiva administration is taking advantage of the apartment residents. As he put it, "Each person in an apartment must pay $300 a month in rent. That is $1500 for each apartment. If they (the administration) only pay Paddock Management $610 per month for the use of the apartment, they are making a large profit. They should at least ease some of the overcrowding and pay for our light bulbs, toilet paper, and cleaning materials, stuff that every dorm student is entitled to."

To advance their cause, Schechterman and Kinderlehrer, a former Editor-in-Chief of The Commentator and a veteran of internal Yeshiva politics, formed a building committee and asked to meet with University Dean of Students Dr. Efrem Nulman. According to both Kinderlehrer and Schechterman, Nulman responded to their grievances with a sincere commitment to alleviate the poor conditions. He appointed Associate David Himber to personally oversee the necessary improvements, and instructed officials at Facilities Management to provide the apartment residents with light bulbs, desks, and garbage cans.

However, despite Nulman's promises and Himber's involvement, the administration has acted slowly and without apparent concern. Although desks were ordered in September, they did not arrive until mid-January. Only one garbage can was purchased per apartment, while several apartments still lack light bulbs and toilet paper and are overrun by roaches and rats. Apartment residents are angered that despite several meetings between themselves and the administration, conditions have not improved to their satisfaction.

Nulman reiterated the administration's commitment to provide the apartment residents with the necessary equipment to maintain cleanliness and adequate living conditions. And although Nulman did not wish to minimize the concerns of the building committee, he did point out that apartment residents do enjoy several amenities that dormitory residents do not, including a refrigerator and a full bath.

He also asserted that the living space for each person in the apartments is not smaller than that in a two person dormitory room. Nulman did promise to review the situation and plan more effectively for the future, "We've both lived through a year of experience. We will certainly learn from it and plan much more effectively."

Kinderlehrer and Schechterman remain cautiously optimistic. As Semicha students they recognize that they must remain in YU housing for at least two more years, and they do not wish to live under adverse conditions any longer than necessary. Shraga Goldenhirsh, the current Junior Class Vice President has expressed his support for the building committee's cause, "It would be a travesty if students refrained from entering Semicha because of the living conditions of the apartments. I can't understand how people who learn all day are treated like second class citizens. They are the future Gedolei of our community."
Bookstore Managers Accused of Antagonistic Customer Service

Fine Threatens to Initiate Second Store

By Jason Buskin

The complaints resurface every semester without fail. They continue for roughly two weeks and die down, except for an occasional murmur, as the semester proceeds and students attempt to resell their “used” books. The focus of these complaints is the bookstore.

Students have long asked for something to be done regarding issues such as inconvenient hours, book prices and a general feeling that service within the store leaves much to be desired.

Although many students have been loud in their complaints, in the past, little has been done to address the issues. The only reasonable alternative has been to go shopping at Barnes & Noble. However, as Junior Owen Waxman says, “I would go to Barnes & Noble but the reality is it is more convenient to go here.”

The reality is that the Collegiate Bookstore on campus is the only viable option to students at YC and many would like to see its problems addressed. In fact, YCSC has been investigating many of these problems since the summer.

At a Student Life Committee meeting this summer, YCSC President Josh Fine addressed the subject of the bookstore, suggesting the possibility of initiating a student-run store if the problems could not be properly addressed.

In a November meeting, Fine presented his grips, including reports of unfriendly service and inconvenient hours to Collegiate Book Stores Regional Manager Herb Glantz. Glantz then proceeded to meet with book store personnel at the beginning of the new semester.

However, Ed Fisher, the bookstore manager, maintains that changes are not necessary. When questioned about the reports of unfriendly service he responded that while he is normally friendly, “If students are unfriendly and abrupt I will be too.” He added that if there are 10-15 people in the store, all demanding his attention, he will react abruptly.

Fisher’s manner of dealing with students still continues to bother some, for example Yehuda Wolf, who is in his first semester on campus. Wolf says, “The first time I was in the store one of the employees blew up at a student for not being able to find a book.” Others, however, have had more positive experiences. SSSB student Aaron Leff says he has never had a problem in the bookstore, simply saying “please” and “thank you” has always worked for him.

The issue of extending the bookstore’s hours to accommodate the schedules of YU students, has been addressed by lengthening the store’s hours during the opening weeks of the semester. Fine says he is working to have the store sustain these hours throughout the semester, and not just for the first few weeks. As for complaints of high prices, Fisher can do no more than shrug his shoulders as he explains that the prices are set by Collegiate Book Stores and communicated to the individual stores in the form of standardized charts; although he does admit that chart prices vary for the different stores.

Fine maintains that if decent progress is not made, he will proceed with plans to begin a student run bookstore. Fisher lauds upon hearing this. “Go right ahead,” he says. He points to the YCSC sign above the store and explains that the store used to be student run, and did not last; neither did Barnes & Noble who replaced them and lasted only six months. For most students, however, there is no difference. As YC Junior Ari Eckman puts it, “I just want my books as cheaply and as quickly as possible.”

Notorious College Bookstore employees caught taking a rare break for some healthy “fresh air”.

Open Meetings Cover Variety Of Issues

BY NACHUM LAMM

The Yeshiva College Student Council held open meetings for the first time this school year, on January 23 and January 31. The first meeting, held in the second floor Bob’s lounge, attracted about forty students. Future class activities were discussed, and a variety of issues and proposals were suggested.

Beit Midrash Committee

A new Beit Midrash Committee, chaired by Jonathan Neiss, was specially formed to deal with issues involving the overcrowded Beit Midrash. Neiss reported a high level of student interest in the committee, as over thirty students applied to join within a week. The committee will report to all six student councils.

Senior Class President

Also on the agenda was the question of what to do with the position of senior class president, which was left vacant when the incumbent, Chen Leiber, graduated in January. Josh Fine appointed Chaim Huss, who is currently the senior class vice president to act as the temporary president. Huss, with the council’s approval, then appointed Danny Najman as his temporary vice president. Elections will be held in two weeks, in conjunction with the vote on senior awards.

Senior Awards

Establishing qualifications for senior awards was also discussed. Eventually, the council voted on favor of a proposal which requires students seeking an award to submit a “resume” with their qualifications. Other suggestions included requiring faculty recommendations (Fine) and having two other students write supporting letters (VP Dov Simons). Simons also announced his intention to explore the possibility of granting extracurricular “credit” that would be listed on the awards ballot and student records.

Morg Mart

A vote was taken to officially remove Morg Mart management from the Joint Business Society, which had failed to open it in the first semester. Morg Mart was summarily handed over to the new campus chapter of the American Marketing Association and SSSB President Sam Wald.

New clubs rejected

The Dental Society was voted to be abolished as the society failed to organize. Nothing in the fall semester changed the council is legally unable to remove club officers, it chose to dissolve the society and create a new one headed by Daniel Kraft, a new president.

Two new clubs were then proposed and summarily rejected. Chaim Lazar, SSSB ’96, proposed a new “Goodwill Society,” which would distribute clothes and food to those in need. Many in attendance wanted to know the necessity of such a society when a Philanthropy Club is already active. Simons pointed out that there are already over fifty active clubs, many with redundant activities. The council voted to give the new society only one semester to prove itself and the Philanthropy Club decides whether to incorporate Goodwill’s activities into its own.

A similar solution was found for Adam Berkowitz’ proposed “Poetry Society,” which, while receiving no funds from YCSC, would function under its name in participation in a nationwide poetry journal, “Spires.” Again, the club was granted status only until June 1st, when the matter will come up for review.

Israeli flag on campus

Ariel Siegel raised the issue of having an Israeli flag on campus. Siegel stated that from his conversations with YU administration, he saw no reason not to have a flag. He and Israeli Club President Ari Pelta showed pictures they dug up from YU’s archives in which the Israeli flag was flown from the main building. Many students expressed discussion and curiosity, but a few students citing fears of accusations of dual loyalty and anti-Semitism. Fine pushed resolution of the issue off until the next meeting, scheduled for February 14.

Rabbi Blau Denies Campus Racism

In a letter to the campus community, Rabbi Blau addressed the issue of racism on campus. Rabbi Blau explained that he had received a letter from a student who expressed concern regarding attitudes on campus that are racist and the language used, which was disturbing. Rabbi Blau addressed the issue of racism on campus and the criticism of these attitudes had to be forcefully expressed. "Let’s talk about the issue."
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Ilana Adler, Avital Amini, Dina Bogner, Rachel Galitzer, Sabina Krich, Emily Amie Witty
MFATs: Who, Why, and When?

by Josh Rifkind

It's the third of the big three 'M' exams that students worry about, or at least hear about, during their journey through a Yeshiva College education. There's MCAT, the pre-med students' nightmare; MFAT, the Yeshiva Program's noble attempt to make students learn Mishna Berurah; and last but not least, the MFAT.

The Major Field Achievement Test, taken in March of the graduating year (or December for Jan. graduates) is the primary exit exam at Yeshiva University. It is a standardized test given by YU in those departments in which it is applicable. In those major fields in which there is no MCAT, e.g. Classical Philosophy, Speech, and Jewish Studies, students write a departmental exam. The GRE's, written by students going to graduate school, can also be used to substitute for the MFAT.

In the past, Middle States, an accrediting agency, and the New York State Education Department have recommended Yeshiva University for initiating the MFAT, which is not required at many Princeton, has become stale. Thus he'd do so "will not be messed up", but may populate positions of leadership with students who fail to Yeshiva University students would then write a departmental exam. The gesture would be an elective thesis or a 'capstone course" that includes a variety of disciplines such as psychology, biology, or philosophy. The thesis would be an elective but it could also be a student research seminar. Dean Adler believes that the thesis would be a requirement for all students to write a thesis, which is still in practice at Princeton, has become stale. Thus he'd like to maintain the MFAT at YU while also allowing students other options.

Adler maintains that "YU students have no time to think about the future and an elective thesis would help students formulate careers in government and in applied economics. Yeshiva University students would thus populate positions of leadership with Jewish students and individuals with other backgrounds." Most students agree with the educational motives of the MFAT, but look upon it as an extraneous requirement which does not achieve its purpose, since to pass you need not only fail in the top 66 percentile. Naftali Feldman, a computer major, quipped, "A student goes through three or four years at Yeshiva University taking many courses in his major. If he does not remember anything from all that he has learned, how is the MFAT going to help him remember the information for ten or more years from now, let alone twenty or thirty years in the future? If a student is smart and has done well at YU then he will certainly do well on another standardized test!"

This year's May graduates will write the MFAT on Friday, March 26, 1996. Deadlines for registration is February 26, 1996 and costs $24 dollars.

Mazel Tov to:

Patrick Amar and Leah Gilad
Steven Burg and Rachel Kosher
Akiva Davis and Sara Weiss
Shlomie Herschmann and Avigal Lautich
Mindy Jesselson and Laurie Birmach
Jonathan Knapp and Leah Schacter
A student writer
Avi Schindler and Shir Doron-Hiltz
David Schwartz and Miriam Rosman
Shmuel Silberman and Aviva Gurrell
Steve Smith and Yael Sudberg
Robert Teichman and Keri Kaufler
Hillel Wiener and Rishi Roth

On Their Recent Engagements

Junior Class Bowling Trip a Gutter Ball

by Heidy Wille

The first two weeks of this semester have been marked by several YCSC class events, including two open student council meetings and a junior class trip to Bowl-Mer Lane in Greenwich Village. Following on the heels of his seminars in which these events were notably lacking, student council's task seems no longer to be in running the events, but in convincing students to attend.

The highly-publicized junior class bowling event held Thursday, January 25, was a flop. Planners had boasted that since schoolwork had not yet piled up, the event would draw a large crowd. But gauging by the 14 students in attendance of whom 9 students numbered four, they were obviously mistaken. Even the YC Senior Class President, Vice-president, and Secretary/Treasurer were not able to attend.

Debbie Bielor, president of the junior class at Stern, said attendance was mandatory for her board except under special circumstances. Shraga Goldenhersh, YC Junior Class President had been unable to attend because of a prior engagement. Levine claimed he didn't even know the final details of the event and when he saw the signs he was no longer available. Bennet, who did not take part in planning the event, could not be reached for comment. According to YCSC Vice-president Dov Simons, "Mr. Bennet has not attended YCSC meetings and has been asked to organize events and refused. If he is not going to do his job, maybe someone else can borrow it."

Lack of adequate publicity was not to be blamed for the poor attendance at the bowling alley. Signs were placed on both the main campus and at Stern. Additionally, at Stern, people went door-to-door informing people of the event and requesting their attendance. Bielor maintains that while planning for a canceled skating trip in December, a number of people had indicated preference for a bowling event as opposed to a skating event.

With a number of other conflicting events due to occur the same evening, these events included a gala concert at Columbia University, a pair of weddings, and a Steva Brachot, all of which the students were attending. A student who attended the event that they otherwise might have attended. Bielor also attributed the low turnout to an unfortunate apology among the students and a general lack of excitement regarding school activities.

Goldenhersh, not as concerned, attributed the low participation to an understandable lack of interest in YCSC-sponsored events. He maintains, "The main reason that guys didn't go is because of high school work. Of course, Halil's parents were out for the evening, that couldn't have been too much to worry about."

The students also attributed the low attendance to the fact that they are more concerned about their studies and less about YCSC events. This is also an opinion shared by the students. While she had a good time, she remained concerned about the low turnout and participation of the class.

yeshiva university COMING EVENT

MAY 22

DID YOU APPLY?
DID YOU RECEIVE A RECEIPT?
IF NOT, GO TO REGISTRAR ON YOUR CAMPUS
Union Demands Pay for Snow Day
continued from page one

herself in grave danger by walking along highways as public transportation was non operational, but that it was impossible on January 8.

Union members pointed to their fellow chapter members who were employed at Columbia University and were paid for a full day's work, despite their absence. In addition, they cited a press release issued by Governor Christie Whitman of New Jersey, home to a number of employees, in which the governor took responsibility for the road closures stating, "We banned unnecessary road travel from Sunday through Tuesday morning because the roads were perilous..." Whitman appealed to those employers in the private sector who are withholding pay for those who could not get to work while travel restrictions were in place stating, "If ever there was a time to put human life above the bottom line, it was last Sunday and Monday," The governor said that she was "stunned to learn that so many employers were taking such a hard line."

In an interview, Sperling stated that he was unmoved by the union's grievances. He stated that the vacation time allotted to YU staff is quite generous, given that they have four full weeks of vacation in addition to their time off for Jewish holidays: Such a policy makes possible the enforcement of policies such as the one implemented on January 8. Sperling stressed that the university did not try to jeopardize anyone's health nor did they penalize anyone for not showing up to work. He contends that the university did its utmost to accommodate employees as much as possible within the boundaries of the policy, including the forwarding of vacation time to those needing it, rewarding those who showed up on January 8 with a $25 bonus, and payment for a full day of work for those who left early that day.

As a result of management's decision on January 8, Union 199 met on Thursday, January 25 to discuss possible actions. It was decided that the union would deliver a petition in protest to the Administration Mr. Jeffrey Rosengarten, the author and critic of, "A Survivor's Tale: Jane Smiley, a Pulitzer Prize and National Book Critics Award winner, poet and novelist Cynthia Ozick, William Friedkin, the Academy Award-winning screenwriter and director of the films The Exorcist and Jule, Grace Paley, a National Book Critics Award nominee, and Richard Rodriguez, an essayist with the Macul/Literary News Hour, and contributor to numerous national publications.

In addition, the course will feature husband and wife authors Jonathan and Faye Kellerman, an Orthodox couple who have written many award-winning New York Times bestsellers. The Kellermans will spend one week at YU, keynoteing a public lecture and giving two lectures in the class.

"We are trying to make literature feel much less an abstraction, and therefore are providing a forum for interaction with authors who have come not to lecture about material, but to be the material," commented English Professor, Dr. Jerome Jacobson.

These speaking personalities were chosen so as to present an example of the diversity of the different types of media which exist," observed Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Dr. William Schwartz. "Just look, we have the media of film, the novel, and even the cartoon."

The writers were chosen because they have a reputation for being enthusiastic about working with students and exciting lecturers.

Schwartz described the conception of the course as the result of a cooperative effort by the faculty and the deans.

"During a round of meetings, people were proposing various [and the concept emerged; 'Let's build a course around invited lecturers'] 

The course, which can be used to fulfill the second part of the literature requirement at Yeshiva College, will still be based around a "conventional course with papers and exams," warned Professor Jacobson.

During the week of residence, the works of the respective lecturer will be the focus of classroom discussion; however, when an author is not in residence, other writers' works will be assigned. The course has been described by Schwartz as "a Harvard and Yale-type course."

The Gottesman program, funded by Chairman of the YU Board of Trustees Dr. David S. Gottesman and his wife, Dr. Ruth Gottzman, is now in its second year. The program has brought such distinguished scholars as Professor Rosal Hoffman, a Nobel Laureate in Chemistry; Professor Robert Nozick of Harvard University, and Professors Walt and Elisabeth Rostow, the former National Security Advisor, and Dean of the Lyndon Johnson School of Government at the University of Texas, respectively, to lecture at the university.

Award-Winning Writers to Lecture in New Lit Course
Sale Chairmen Seek To Correct Past Misappropriations

continued from page one

looses ever year during the Sale. Some dealers have applied pressure through YU board members to abolish the Sale. Others argue that the Seforim Sale was tolerable when it lasted only ten days, whereas now it cuts off almost a month of profits. The Sale organizers explain that this year they decided to extend the dates of the Sale to include four Sundays since their opening Sunday—which normally brings in 40% of their revenues—conflicts this year with the HASC concert and with the wedding of Rabbi Yechiel Adler.

The Sale brings in over 40 publishers and distributors including Feldheim, Morrow and Artscroll as well as seforim published by the YU Press in connection with the IR department. They also sell seforim for YU scholars, such as R. Aharon Kahn, Rabbi Levine, and Rabbi Yonason Sacks. This year they’re releasing, for the first time a book by past YU president Samuel Belkin about Midrashim.

Money that is raised in the Seforim Sale is passed on to SOY, which uses it since their opening Sunday—which normally brings in 40% of their revenues—conflicts this year with the HASC concert and with the wedding of Rabbi Yechiel Adler.

Part of this difference is accounted for by a practice in which organizers of the Seforim Sale have been taking compensation—some repayment, in the form of seforim, for their efforts in the Sale. While no one is clear how it started, the board, which this year includes 5 students (ranging in the past from 10-15), are permitted to take home up to $1000 worth of seforim at cost of price, which means that their real value in a typical NYC bookstore can be almost double that figure. The other 40-50 helpers and floor managers who work on the Sale, both from YC and Stern, also receive seforim at a rate of $2-3 an hour, either at cost or at price, depending on how many hours they have worked.

"To ask why [we take compensation] is absurd and ludicrous," explains Davis. "The compensation is part of the overhead. People involved in the Sale work 24 hour days for two and a half months and then 12 hour days for another two months in organizing the Sale.

"Without compensation the sale couldn’t run," insists Reingold. "We wouldn’t be able to get people to work on it. You couldn’t imagine the work involved in the Sale. The money we’re getting is nothing compared to the time we put in—it’s pennies an hour."

Ari Rosenthal, Sale Board member, recalls that last year on opening weekend, he found himself working nonstop on the fifth floor of Belfer from Saturday night until Monday morning, when someone relieved him so he could get some sleep.

Reingold, a pre-med student who has had "no spare time since November," added that "running the sale is a thankless job and has meant nothing on my resume." He agreed to run the Sale because "I know I’m spreading Torah. People who couldn’t otherwise afford seforim, now can buy. Others expand their budget to buy more because they know they are getting such good value."

Still, Sale organizers are hard pressed to explain why they make money from the Sale, while leaders of other student causes, who put in comparable time and effort, are not compensated.

"From a legal perspective, students who work are allowed to be compensated," asserts Assistant Dean of Students Jeffrey Chaitoff, who oversees the Seforim Sale. "Some universities pay their student council presidents and newspaper editors. We choose not to.

"The compensation is just a little something at the end. It probably started because such a great profit was being made," says Reingold, who pointed to this year’s $90,000 in profits. "We complained that we weren’t getting paid, but we got paid," says Sale Treasurer Chaim Haas, with a knowing nod. "We got paid in food, in seforim. We had soda coming out of our ears." Reingold maintains that all of that is changing this year.

"The compensation this year is being lowered by at least 50%. There’s no account at Yum-Yum’s. We will spend no more than $500 on food, total."

"We felt that the compensation in past years had become excessive," says Koensigberg. "We felt those working on the Sale lost the Torah (pur pose) for the Sale. I always saw myself as someone who was being marbitz (spreading) Torah.

In order to make his work on the Sale more meaningful, Koensigberg is waiving his right to take home $1000 of merchandise. The marbitz Torah argument has been used by those working on the Sale to justify missing seder to work on the Sale, and allowing girls to come up from Stern to pitch in to the efforts. And it is also central to the justification for paying the workers - the Sale is a way for them to earn seforim they couldn’t otherwise afford.

"I can’t be YU Man," confesses Avi Koensigberg, referring to his rebbe, who is an unofficial advisor to the Sale, "I can’t give shiur to a group of students. But this is my way of spreading Torah."

...continued from page one...
Dr. Ruth A. Bevan, professor and chairman of Political Science, has returned to Yeshiva College this semester after a sabbatical in Bulgaria. Taking advantage of an International Research Exchange grant awarded to Bevan by the State Department and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the professor engaged in what she termed systematically expanding her horizons in Eastern Europe. Earlier in her career, Bevan was unable to visit the area as entry was extremely difficult and limited. However, since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Bevan has been to the former Czechoslovakia, the former Soviet Union, Bulgaria, and now Bulgaria. She feels that she has gotten a better sense for their problems and gained insight into their social and political systems.

The bulk of Bevan's research focused on the Jewish communities of Sofia and Plozdiv, two of Bulgaria's larger cities, where she interviewed Jewish survivors of the Holocaust. As much as she forward to bringing to the classroom what she gained this past semester through her conversations with the people there, Dr. Bevan was even more fascinated by the desire of almost everyone there to connect with the West. Many people in Bulgaria really wanted to identify more with the United States, and Dr. Bevan said that she is representative of that link for them.

Bevan found the geography of Bulgaria to be especially interesting. Resting on the border between Turkey and Russia, Bulgaria has always been subject to invasion. Today, it can be considered the fence between Eastern and Western Civilization, politically torn between NATO and not offending the neighboring Russia. She noticed this cultural blend in many of the Bulgarian habits and lifestyles, commenting that her communication there was conducted in a mixture of English, German, and French.

The long-time department head is currently teaching three courses this semester at YU. She says she is quite pleased with the department in general, adding that the students responded well to the new adjuncts that filled out the course offerings during her absence. She looks forward to bringing to the classroom what she gained this past semester through her myriad of experiences.

### YCDS To Present 'I Hate Hamlet'

Amid controversy over funding, the Yeshiva College Dramatics Society has begun preparation for its upcoming production of *I Hate Hamlet*, scheduled to begin showing in less than two months. The play, which has been modified slightly from its original version, includes scenes from various Shakespearean works including *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Richard III*. YCDS Director Dr. Anthony Beukas has spent time editing the script to include more scenes from Shakespeare and to make the content more acceptable to an Orthodox audience.

Beukas explains that he chose this play because Shakespeare has enjoyed wild popularity, and YU students should be given the opportunity to experience a production of his material, at the same time, however, he indicated that many students would be turned off by a traditional Shakespearean production. *I Hate Hamlet* provides a suitable vehicle for appreciation of the Bard of Avon’s work without overloading the students’ brains with iambic pentameter and archaic English.

Funding concerns continue. So far, the production plans of *I Hate Hamlet* have progressed according to schedule. A number of unsettled issues, however, still plague the Dramatics Society. Earlier this year, Yeshiva College Student Council President Josh Fine, convinced the YU administration to supply funding for Theater Workshop, the course in which all participants in the play enroll. Fine claims that the course fails completely under the auspices of the YC speech department. In the past, YCDS has been considered a club under the umbrella of YCSC, and occupied a significant portion of the student council’s budget. The administration has allocated some of the necessary capital for this year’s productions, but the future source of YCDS funding remains uncertain.

Despite this potential dilemma, Beukas is optimistic about *I Hate Hamlet*. "I’m very excited about the whole thing," he said. This semester’s cast is larger than that of any previous production, and Beukas says he is stunned by the plethora of talent he has discovered at auditions.

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As the semester begins, we wish you continued success.

Hatzolah Rabbinoh,

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University Dean of Students

Rabbi Jeffrey Chaitoff
Assistant Dean of Students
Main Campus

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Associate Dean of Students

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(General Guidance)
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Senior President Leaves
Class Hanging

BY YUDI SHENFIELD

Amidst complex constitutional arguments and clarification, Chaim Huss has been appointed Senior Class President after the unexpected January graduation of the incumbent Oren Leiber.

Leiber's graduation came as a surprise to YSCC and his own board, although attempts to contact Leiber proved unsuccessful, the registrar's office confirmed that Leiber had applied for graduation.

Leiber's unexpected absence at this point in the year has left a large void. The senior class president is responsible for three major events: organizing the staff for Masmid, planning the senior event, and coordinating all aspects of the senior dinner. Initial preparations for Masmid and the senior event were accomplished by Leiber during the fall semester. The senior dinner, however, has yet to be tackled.

Selection of a new president became a top priority for YSCC.

Confusion over successor

On January 22, Chaim Huss, Lieber's vice-president, assumed the role of president. Shortly thereafter, questions about the procedures involved in filling the position arose. Article II, Section 6, Clause 7 of the lengthy YSCC constitution states, "If any class officer cannot assume his duties temporarily, the officer below him in rank shall fill the position. If the vacancy is permanent and occurs before March 1 an election shall be held within two weeks of succession to fill the position." Originally the clause was interpreted to mean that Chaim Huss would become acting President for two weeks as which time elections would be held to find a new president.

Prior to election day, YSCC wanted Huss to resign as vice president in order to simplify the election process and hold one election for both the vice-presidency and the presidency. Huss argued that it would be impossible to conduct an election for both offices, for there was no constitutional provision stating that he had to resign in order to run for president.

YSCC and Huss never reconciled their disagreement regarding the form of the election because the executive board clarified the constitution by referring to Article 2, Section 2, Clause 3, which states, "If for any reason the President can't assume his duties temporarily, the vice-president shall fill his position. If the President is permanently disabled before March 1, the vice-president shall succeed to the Presidencia and an election for a new vice-president shall be held within in two weeks."

Huss becomes President

Following the rules of the constitution, Chaim Huss formally became president of the senior class. Huss appointed Danny Najman as acting vice-president until the upcoming elections.

The elections won't be complicated by the canvassing committee and should take place within the next two weeks.

Vacation Hotspots:
YU Students on the Move

BY YONI FROGEL

The Blizzard of 1996 couldn't have come at a worse time. With vacation just two short days away, over two feet of snow buried the metropolitan area, clogging highways and shutting down airports. However, despite this inauspicious start most students eventually reached their desired destinations and settled in for some hard earned rest and relaxation.

During the break, Yeshiva College students traveled to all corners of the globe in search of the perfect resort spot. Some found their vacation Valhalla on the ski slopes. Yeshiva College senior Dov Segal, who spent his vacation conquering the mountains of Killington, Vermont, claims, "Nothing compares to the thrill of barreling down a steep slope at dangerously high speeds, except, perhaps, a midnight stroll through beautiful Washington Heights."

Despite this enthusiastic endorsement, many students opted for the sunshine and beaches of Miami and Puerto Rico. "It just doesn't feel like vacation unless I come home with the perfect tan," quipped Yeshiva College senior "John Doe." One group from Yeshiva College enjoyed the best of both worlds in Vail. Not only did they experience some of the most challenging ski trails in the world, they also returned to New York with killer tans courtesy of the Colorado Sunshine.

Some students spent their vacations in various Yeshivot in the United States and Israel. "I feel that winter break affords students a fantastic opportunity to learn full time for two weeks," said Yeshiva College junior David Lawrence, who spent his vacation in the Holy Land. Another popular destination for the Beit Midrash crowd was Ner Yisroel in Baltimore.

For many out of town students winter break is time to return home. Eli Duker, a native of Philadelphia, spent his vacation at home with his family. Duker described his vacation as "time split between Moreh Nevuchim and Montreal."

Other students chose to spend their vacation in community service. Barry Habib, a Yeshiva College senior who resides in Brooklyn, spent his break in New York delivering food to the homeless as part of the "Meals on Wheels" program. "Just couldn't justify selfishly spending my vacation at a resort," Habib explained. "While working for 'Meals on Wheels,' I helped make the lives of hundreds of destitute people a little bit more bearable."

Physics Professor
Lectures in the Holy Land

BY DAVID S. GREENBERG

Following the lead of dozens of YU students, physics professor Dr. Gabriel Cwilich flew to Israel during the winter break. His days there, however, were not spent in triumph but returning grounds of old. Instead, Cwilich moved up the Mediterranean coast successful and memorable.

Cwilich flew to Israel during the winter vacation to hear the physicists, all familiar with Aronov's work, move up the Mediterranean coast successful and memorable.

The senior class president is responsible for three major events: organizing the staff for Masmid, planning the senior event, and coordinating all aspects of the senior dinner. Initial preparations for Masmid and the senior event were accomplished by Leiber during the fall semester. The senior dinner, however, has yet to be tackled.

Selection of a new president became a top priority for YSCC.

Confusion over successor

On January 22, Chaim Huss, Lieber's vice-president, assumed the role of president. Shortly thereafter, questions about the procedures involved in filling the position arose. Article II, Section 6, Clause 7 of the lengthy YSCC constitution states, "If any class officer cannot assume his duties temporarily, the officer below him in rank shall fill the position. If the vacancy is permanent and occurs before March 1 an election shall be held within two weeks of succession to fill the position." Originally the clause was interpreted to mean that Chaim Huss would become acting President for two weeks as which time elections would be held to find a new president.

Prior to election day, YSCC wanted Huss to resign as vice president in order to simplify the election process and hold one election for both the vice-presidency and the presidency. Huss argued that it would be impossible to conduct an election for both offices, for there was no constitutional provision stating that he had to resign in order to run for president.

YSCC and Huss never reconciled their disagreement regarding the form of the election because the executive board clarified the constitution by referring to Article 2, Section 2, Clause 3, which states, "If for any reason the President can't assume his duties temporarily, the vice-president shall fill his position. If the President is permanently disabled before March 1, the vice-president shall succeed to the Presidentcy and an election for a new vice-president shall be held within in two weeks."

Huss becomes President

Following the rules of the constitution, Chaim Huss formally became president of the senior class. Huss appointed Danny Najman as acting vice-president until the upcoming elections.

The elections won't be complicated by the canvassing committee and should take place within the next two weeks.

Senior President Leaves
Class Hanging

BY YUDI SHENFIELD

Amidst complex constitutional arguments and clarification, Chaim Huss has been appointed Senior Class President after the unexpected January graduation of the incumbent Oren Leiber.

Leiber's graduation came as a surprise to YSCC and his own board, although attempts to contact Leiber proved unsuccessful, the registrar's office confirmed that Leiber had applied for graduation.

Leiber's unexpected absence at this point in the year has left a large void. The senior class president is responsible for three major events: organizing the staff for Masmid, planning the senior event, and coordinating all aspects of the senior dinner. Initial preparations for Masmid and the senior event were accomplished by Leiber during the fall semester. The senior dinner, however, has yet to be tackled.

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but you still have

time!

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Outside Credit Cap on the Way
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instructors, and the impractical wishes of the students themselves. Dean Hecht states that "there are financial implications that I am aware of," but "students must wake up to the fact that spending 25 years on campus is a "short-cut that ends up being a long-cut." The outside credit cap proposal, which will first be presented before the student and faculty members of the Senate next week, is expected to move up to the Academic Standards Committee by the end of February. R. Hecht says the faculty delegates, a vote of approval of the full YC - or YC and SSSB - faculty is only a formality. Dean Hecht notes, however, that a plan with such profound ramifications cannot be effected without the support of President Lamm and his Board of Trustees. Sources say that once an outside credit cap of 48-50 is established, its further reduction - perhaps to 40 credits - would be sought by the same legislative bodies when the initial resistance dissipates.

However, the cap was apparently already altered down to 40 credits in a senate proposal submitted for approval this past Monday night to the Student Committee on Academic Standards, chaired by Michael Belgrade. Furthermore, this proposal did not specify any grandfather clause nor any policy regarding transfer student. Before the committee votes on the matter, Belgrade wants to take the time to discuss and resolve these apparent discrepancies between the written and oral proposals. Belgrade also wants to ensure that students are adequately informed on these issues before the proposal goes to a vote. Meanwhile, Hecht and the cap's other endorsers expect several months of jockeying and dissent before their bill becomes law.
Macs Hit Memphis

The YU Macs took their show on the road to Memphis, Tennessee, January 18th to the 22nd, and were welcomed with open arms by the local Jewish community. For one weekend, the team felt bigger than Elvis.

The trip, made possible and coordinated by YU Athletic Director Steve Young and Memphis philanthropist Pace Cooper, was designed to expose Yeshiva University to the Memphis community. The team spent the Shabbos in the community and then played a basketball game against Rhodes College, a local division III college.

Over Shabbos, the Macs participated in davening at the Baron Hirsch Synagogue, attended a kiddush sponsored on their behalf, and stayed at various members’ households, who were extremely hospitable. On Friday night, the team, joined by community members, congregated for an Oneg Shabbos at Rabbi Grossman’s house. Everyone was quick to notice his different background. Rabbi Grossman was especially interested in the upbringings of Alex Shakhmurov, a native of Uzbekistan, Russia, and Alon Zaibert, who hails from Tel Aviv.

The group also gathered together on Shabbos at the shul for a panel discussion open to the whole congregation. The main topic of interest was whether it was appropriate for a Yeshiva-college to have itself any sports teams. Many different opinions were expressed by the team members and Coach Halpert from both Hatalchic and secular points of view, all agreeing with the necessity for a sports team. Rabbi Grossman expressed how impressed he was by the Macs as individuals representing YU, and as Jewish college basketball players.

On Monday, the Macs gave a basketball clinic at Cooper Yeshiva, showcasing their talent to the young kids. Back girls. There were drills on shooting, passing, and dribbling. The Macs then were off to Rhodes College for their 4:30 P.M. game. Although they were playing a road game some 1200 miles away from home, the Macs felt at home in the spanking new Rhodes gym, due to the fact that Cooper Yeshiva sent about 200 students to root them on against the Rhodes Lynx. The game was controlled by the Lynx for the most part as the Macs were obviously out of shape, and having played together as a team for about a month.

Overall, the trip was a success, as the players grew closer as a team and learned many things about each other as individuals. They gave the community of Memphis a good taste Yeshiva University products.

Yeshiva 84 St. Joseph’s (Brooklyn) 54

Joel Jacobson poured in a career high 27 points and grabbed 9 rebounds in the Macs rout of St. Joseph’s. The Macs went down early in the first half by 15 points until an offensive adjustment by the coaching staff freed up Jacobson who went on a tear to lead the Macs to their first winning streak of the season. Jacobson was 10 of 15 from the floor and 7 of 8 from the charity stripe. Back-up guard Neil Wiener did not play due to a separated shoulder, he is out indefinitely.

New Jersey Tech 91 Yeshiva 64

After two straight impressive victories, the Macs were brought back down to reality by losing to NJIT by 27 points. The only bright spot for the Mac’s was rookie small forward Brian Wein. Wein had his first double-double as a Mac with 12 points and 10 rebounds. The only other Mac in double figures was “Oak” Zaibert who chipped in 10 points. The Mac’s fell to 8-8.

Macs leading scorer Joel Jacobson goes for two at Madison Square Garden

Lakers Taste First Championship of ‘90s

The 1995 Fall Intramural Basketball Finals was played as advertised - an intense championship game fought out between the league’s two best teams - the Lakers and Sixers. In the end the Lakers, the “comeback kids” of Intramurals emerged victorious with a 50-38 final score. Captain David Samet contributed an MVP performance and received fine support from Josh Elstein, Mark Hecht, Steven Bransdorfer, Menachem Gelbtucht, as well as gutsy performances by point guard Bennett Shachter and Avi Wachsman.

With adept ball movement, timely buckets, and hard nosed defense the Lakers displayed all elements of a tightly played basketball game.

After a see-saw battle in the first half consisting of an abundance of offense, defense tightened up in the second half. Neither team was able to grasp a firm lead until the final minutes of the game when Samet converted key offensive rebounds into timely baskets and eventual victory.

The Lakers overcame losing their first two regular season games by winning nine consecutive games in what turned out to be a rampaging and resilient road to the first semester championship.

Rhodes College 72 Yeshiva 41

Four Macs scored in double figures as the Macs defeated Pratt Institute even with the team’s injured starting point guard, Barry Aranoff. The Macs floor leader went down during a routine drill in a practice before the game suffering a sprained ankle. Barry is expected to return before the playoffs. In his first start as a Mac, Neil Bronstein led all scorers with 16 points on 8 of 9 from the field. Captain Alan Levy contributed with 15 points and swingman Jacob Rosenberg chipped in 10 points on 4 of 5 shooting. Joel Jacobson continued to be a force down low with a 14 point, 15 rebound performance. The Macs led the whole way in an “impressive” victory.

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The Commentator

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