FBI Agents round up suspected drug dealers

Police, FBI Bust 20 Local Drug Dealers

BY DANIEL RUBIN

On Thursday, October 10, YU students and faculty were treated to a somber, high-stakes drama as scores of FBI agents and special task-force police officers descended upon the campus and cracked no less than three drug rings while arresting twenty suspects. But while the drug gangs and the bust had no physical impact on anyone from YU, a subsequent article in the New York Daily News declared that Yeshiva students were “frightened” and that the gangs had been “long terrorizing its (YU’s) students.”

A press release from the office of the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York announced that twenty members of three major retail drug distribution organizations operating “near Yeshiva University” have been charged in three separate indictments with conspiracy to distribute either cocaine, crack or heroin in the vicinity of 186th Street and Audubon Avenue, from approximately August 1985 to the present. The alleged heads of the three organizations—Ruben Perez Rodriguez, a.k.a. “Pito,” Santiago Diaz, a.k.a. “Chago,” and Hector Encarnacon, a.k.a. “Capitan”—have all been indicted, as have a number of their workers.

Over the course of the investigation, 150 grams of crack, more than three kilograms of cocaine, and two handguns were purchased or seized by confidential informants and agents. Convicted, each defendant faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

In a project designed to honor one of the great gedolim in YU history, the Student Organization of Yeshiva (SOY) has commissioned the writing of a Sefer Torah to be donated to the Beis Medrash in memory of Harav Dovid Lifshitz ZT”L, a giant in Torah who taught at YU for over 50 years.

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Reb Dovid had a tremendous impact not only on his students, but on hundreds of other students who sought his advice, or were inspired by his presence on campus. He is remembered for his famous “Tzavei” dance, which was the highlight of Purim and Chanukah chaggis. “Great Talmidei Chachamim are looked upon as Sifrei Torah,” explained Rav Zevulun Charlop, Dean of RIETS.

Reb Dovid was born in Minsk, Russia in 1906. After learning with Rav Shimon Shkop and receiving Semikhah in the Mirrer Yeshiva, he became the chief rabbi of Suwalk, Poland at the age of 29. In 1939, Reb Dovid escaped the Germans and, together with his wife and two daughters, immigrated to America. He was one of the top fifty schools in the country, and many of his students, including the dean of RIETS, are still on the faculty. Neiss said.

Marking the beginning of a concerted effort by the Student Council to revamp campus life, YCSC held a formal club fair as a forum for students to explore the opportunities for involvement in extracurricular activities. The fair, held on October 15 in Belser Hall’s Weisberg Commons, was the first of its kind in school history, with all registered clubs and societies participating.

In previous years, campus clubs presented themselves to students during freshman orientation, immediately preceding fall semester. The system was fraught with disarray, as student council leaders couldn’t identify club leaders due to the disorganization within the clubs at the start of the year, and many clubs, it was found, existed on paper alone.

Through its decision to introduce students to school clubs in a more structured manner, YCSC hoped to allow club leaders to get their act together in order to showcase their soci-
Make it a Habit

Over the course of the next two weeks, hundreds of editorials will be offered endorsing numerous candidates currently campaigning for political office. Though journalistic expediency would suggest that the Commentator endorse its own candidates, we feel that it is more important to emphasize a more fundamental issue—the vote itself.

For many students, this election represents the first time that they can participate in the political process. As a consequence of this inexperience, many may decide to shy away from the polling booths. However, apathy that results from unfamiliarity is inexcusable. Voting is an activity that should be embraced, not ignored simply because the process itself is foreign.

In fact, no reason can be given to justify not voting. The issues that separate the two candidates are clear. For the first time in many years the results of the election will drastically impact policy both at home and abroad. Issues such as welfare and tax reform, education, and the course of the peace process in the Middle East, will all be affected by the candidate who is elected to occupy the Oval Office.

With such important issues at hand, it is essential that you cast your vote.

In recognition of the importance of this election, the University administration has decided to cancel classes to allow students to vote. We implore students to take advantage of this opportunity and show up at their designated voting locations on November 5. Though it would be much easier to make use of the time off to catch up on some neglected schoolwork, push it off one more day and do something that will really impact your future. Get out and vote.

The Company We Keep

Though no YU students were involved on the area drug bust two weeks ago, the event was significant nonetheless, revealing once again to those who had any doubts, exactly what type of neighborhood we live in. In the words of one FBI agent, Washington Heights is the most drug-infested neighborhood in the Western Hemisphere.

Not that the administration doesn’t know this. In response, they have mounted a massive, multi-million dollar effort to guard entrance to each building and to promote a strong police presence on campus. Nonetheless, there is a sense of vulnerability, where students are left to wonder when they might see something they shouldn’t have, or walk across the wrong territorial line drawn out by the neighborhood drug rings.

Take a look at the Schottenstein building. Long underused by students because it is a block and a half away from the rest of the campus, Schottenstein was intended to be a center of activity where clubs could meet and students could go to relax. Yet, no student in their right mind would use Schottenstein, when they have to walk through mobs of locals who stand on street corners at all hours of the day and night. What is so exciting about standing on a street corner? After last week’s bust, there is no doubt why these people love the great outdoors.

In response to concerns raised by numerous students, the Office of the Dean of Students called a meeting last week between security officials and student leaders. The meeting, which was delayed a half hour because members of the administration didn’t show up, quickly degenerated into a comic session, with one security official making light of students’ concerns.

It is time for the University to “take back its streets” and give students a safe campus.
LE  TTH S  "THE CAFE: STYLE AND SUBSTANCE"

To the Editor:

For a number of years now I have sensed that the Commentator likes to complain, yet I find that this year outpaces previous editions by far. While this thought dismays me, my analysis of the evidence indicates to me that the board of the Commentator is not interested in editorial continuity or the search for ever elusive truth. On the contrary, I am forced to conclude that it seeks to engage in perpetual grumbling, to always find fault, regardless whether or not any exists.

Case in point: two articles in your last issue (September 4, 1996) which have as their focus the renovation of the cafeteria. The first, an editorial entitled "A Time and Place for Everything," began with a "heartfelt" thank you to the administration for nearly everything under the sun, from the installation of new elevators in Belfer Hall, to the renovation of the cafeteria.

The editorial, however, soon adopted a more negative, skeptical, tone, asking why such refurbishment, for which it had just heartily thanked the administration, was necessary. "Un fortunately," the muddled argument of the editorial continued, "the renovation doesn't make the lines any shorter or the food any better; if anything it merely enhances the aesthetic quality of the mealt ime experience" (emphasis added). I wish to address the final charge before I return to the first two. One wonders what surroundings the editors would prefer to dine in. I am certain I speak for the majority of people when I say that the aesthetic quality of my surroundings has a definite effect on my appetite. This complaint seems all the more inane as it was composed by an editorial board which charged me with the task of investigating and writing about the Furman Dining Hall only last spring. (May 7, 1996) Accusing the Department of Food Services of not providing an appetizing environment, the article notes the pre-renovation Furman to the Kalman Dining Hall at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, which, I wrote, "has very modern decor, emitting a feeling of cleanliness... The atmosphere created was one of serenity in otherwise hectic surroundings.

Admittedly, I approached the subject of my article with a negative bias. My research, reported in last spring's article, caused me to reevaluate my position. I found that the Y.U. Food Services prices were comparable to those at other university dining halls, its food cheaper than most by something to the tune of 33%-50%, and its food quality equal or better. To return to the first point raised by the editorial, that the remodeling does not make the lines any shorter, I found it remarkable that an article justifiably entitled "Cafeteria. Dormitory Lounges Revamped and Restyled" stated the exact opposite. "The food court," it stated, "was pushed back to the corner of the far wall and enclosed in glass, in order to eliminate the problem of a food line blocking the entrance and exit."

And, in fact, the remodeling of the cafeteria and utilizing previously underused space, the article concludes, is the "tension behind the same article proved the editorial's implied charge that nothing was done to improve the food quality also inaccurately reports that "new cooks joined the kitchen staff over the summer."

While it is true that new cooks do not guarantee a higher grade of food, it has been expended in an attempt to improve the product.

The article itself, despite contradictions, contained some silly cafeteria critique of its own. Wishing to make an issue of the bright new paint scheme, the article quoted a Y.C. senior as describing it as "annoying and nauseating." Despite the Commentator's treatment of the Y.C. senior's dramatic utterance as that of an art critic, I found that most students, although at first shocked by the change from the previous dull industrial colors, soon grew accustomed to, and "(gasp!) found attractive, the new paint.

It was the last line of the editorial, however, which I found more disturbing than all that had come before. In it, the editors suggest in a sarcastically apologetic manner that the money used for the remodeling of the cafeteria "could have been better spent... initiating an honors program or improving facilities..." While these are both worthwhile goals, a modernized cafeteria raises the question of why they would benefit from its limited resources. While an honors college would benefit an elite, and a new scholarship a handful of lucky students, a modernized cafeteria raises the quality of life for everyone at Yeshiva. It is dismaying that the Commentator would chose to report as it did rather than recognize the University's efforts. The remodeling of the dining hall, the addition of air conditioning, the attention to detail, such as the installation of modern halogen backlighting, and the reno vation of the cafeteria's ground floor restrooms all point to the extraordinary effort on the part of the administration in general, and Facilities Management and Food Services in particular, to provide the students and staff of the University with comfortable surroundings.

It is time for the Commentator to stop complaining. The addition of the cafe tray, the inclusion of the name of the cafeteria on the menu, the installation of modern restrooms and air conditioning, the improvements in the cafeteria's aesthetics are only a few of the changes proposed by the editorial board which charged me with the task of investigating and writing about the Furman Dining Hall.

Shimon Oppenheim
Y.C.'97

--- Editor's Note: Shimon Oppenheim is currently the treasurer of the Yeshiva College Student Council. Last year as a features writer for The Commentator he authored a highly critical investigative report on food services entitled "Stomach Aches." The article begins, "Take a walk down the serving aisles of either undergraduate cafeteria, and more often than not, the sound of grumbling will greet your ears. Poor selection, unappetizing dishes, high prices, frequent rate hikes, and lack of cleanliness are the charges most frequently leveled at the dining hall... What keeps this much maligned department going?" Later in the article Oppenheim writes, "Student complaints that the caf practices are unsanitary seem to be grounded in fact. Shabbos waiters claim to see roaches, sometimes licking dead on their backs, in the kitchen. At this year's orientation barbecue, students witnessed waitresses picking forks up off the floor where they had dropped them, and then setting them back on the tables for use by unsuspecting students. It is interesting to note, that in his two page feature, Oppenheim fails to mention the decor of the cafeteria as an area which could use improvement. We must wonder, therefore, why he feels it was important for the administration to pour massive resources into this area.

To the Editor:

I wholeheartedly agree with the Commentator's editorial A Time and Place For Everything. The remodeling of the cafeteria does nothing to improve the quality of food offered by food services, which is long overdue. The numerous turnstiles placed near the food lines are merely an obstacle pushed out of the way by many students. Perhaps the money spent on remodeling the cafeteria could have been used to purchase ingredients for lunch other than pasta and cheese. Maybe we could have yogurt cups with normal flavors such as blueberry, strawberry, or raspberry, rather than the orange, lemon, or chocolate flavors I never saw until I came to YU. Maybe food services could install a second pop dispenser in the new "food court" instead of making students walk all the way out of the cafeteria and then down the hall just to get a coke.

But hey, at least the caf looks beautiful.

Yudy Sheinfeld
SSSB '98

To the Editor:

Kudos to the Commentator for being right on target in their September 4 editorial A Time and Place For Everything. It is about time that something is done about the menu offered to students, rather than the surroundings in which they eat. The food is as indigestible to day as it was before the renovations, maybe more. Granted the cafeteria is better lit, but who wants to see the oil glistening at the top of my bowl as it separates from my soup. The feeble attempts at altering the menu are embarrassing. Noodles and cheese are noodles and cheese and cheese. Taste buds don't see, they taste. If nothing is going to be done, be it as it may, but don't force students on the meal plan, you can be sure they aren't getting their balanced diet.

Danny Nagler
Y.C.'97

Additional Letters To
The Editor can be found on Page 22

Comments? E-mail us!
commie@y1.yn.edu
A tangible aura of ambition pervaded Weissberg Commons on the Wednesday night preceding SUU's break. Droves of prospective accountants enrolled in Sy Syms' School of Business, adorning in dapper business attire, strolled around booths representing some of the largest and most prestigious accounting firms in the region. The event, billed as "Big Six Night," is one of the cornerstone exercises orchestrated by the Office of Placement and Career Services to facilitate employment for graduates of Yeshiva University undergraduate schools.

The specific objective of the evening was to provide students with the opportunity to establish and foster ties with representatives from major accounting firms with which they may be interviewing at a subsequent point and gain some degree of familiarity with their hiring practices and employment expectations. At the commencement of the event, the 100 or so Sy Syms students appeared to be somewhat intimidated by the presence of the brass, but this anxiety visibly dissipated as the evening progressed and students became more comfortable with the format.

Although there was some dissent over which was the best firm by which to be employed, all present agreed that the evening was a success. Assistant Dean of SSSEI, Iris Jaskoll, remarked that the evening was a "major event with a format that works well."

There was a very good showing with a large number of people in attendance. Students from the School of Business, by the presence of the brass, expressed their gratitude to the Office of Placement for its critical role in arranging opportunities for us to meet with important representatives from the Big Six firms, many of whom are alumni of Sy Syms.

These responses, although impressively favorable, were anticipated and exclusively represented one side of the equation. A more integral measurement of the success of the evening was the response of the firms represented. The response, by any objective standard, was remarkable. Of approximately ten Commentator interviews conducted with firm representatives, all were pleased by SSSEI and its students.

Darlene Shea, Senior Personnel Director for Price Waterhouse, is responsible in large part for final hiring decisions for her firm. She reflected on the caliber of Sy Syms graduates employed by Price Waterhouse: "We find that Sy Syms graduates tend to be very persistent, tenacious, incredibly academically gifted, directed, motivated... realistic and pro-active... they are absolutely adequately prepared... I don't mean to suggest that we don't get good people from other schools, but over the past few years, some of our best people have come to us from Sy Syms. That's why we keep coming back [for continued recruiting efforts]."

This incredible corporate validation appeared to substantiate unequivocally the success of the evening and the Sy Syms program as a whole. Jaskoll anticipated this response and he remarked, "they [the accounting firms] want the best, and we have them."
High Hopes for New Observatory

BY MATTHYOHU BALAS

In the not too distant future, possibly as early as February 1997, YU will be the home of a new state-of-the-art observatory. The observatory will house several high-tech telescopes available for use by the YU student body. In addition, an introductory course in astronomy taught by one of the Physics professors on campus—Dr. Cwilich, Dr. Otway, or Dr. Kaplan—will be available to YU students.

Last year,YC Physics professor Dr. Otway suggested that he compliment its Physics department by offering courses in astronomy. As a result, plans for constructing an observatory on the YU campus were drawn up by the YC Physics professors, Dr. Cwilich and Dr. Otway, with the help of Dean Adler, Dr. Brandwein, the Director of Laboratories and Science, and YC Biology professor, Dr. Feit. They decided upon a weather-protected, domed refractor telescope on the roof of Belfer Hall, the highest point in Manhattan, and a fully computerized and automated observatory in room 1610.

The observatory will also consist of mobile auxiliary telescopes which students will utilize for elementary observation like viewing the moon through a window. The domed refractor telescope will be operated from the roof of Belfer and used for viewing planets. A charge coupled device will be used to transmit images from a camera on the telescope to a new computer screen with high graphic capabilities in the observatory allowing students to measure distances of celestial bodies. After the images are transferred to the computers, students will be able to print and download them.

In the future, YU may put the recorded astronomical images on the Internet, giving others access to the observations seen in the classroom.

The cost of constructing the observatory is $25,000, which the Physics department received in the will of a major benefactor, Mr. Abush. "In his will," Dr. Cwilich said, "Mr. Abush specified that the money should be used to purchase a telescope." Since the donation exceeded the cost of one telescope, the directors of the project ordered several of the high-tech telescopes from the Meade Company in Northern California. YU has already received the auxiliary telescopes, and the domed refractor telescope will be affixed and wired by February 1997.

The observatory will be used mainly for an introductory Astronomy course, consisting of a lecture and a laboratory session, that may fulfill the Science requirement at YC. The course will be taught by one of Yeshiva College's Physics professors—Dr. Cwilich, who is proficient in theoretical astrophysics, Dr. Otway, who is accomplished in the field of celestial mechanics, or Dr. Kaplan, who is an expert in research and experimental astronomy and its applications. Based on student interest, more advanced courses in astronomy may be offered and credited towards the Physics or Mathematics departments.

The YU professors are planning to extend the use of the observatory to outsiders by forming ties with other astronomy institutions. Over the summer, Dean Adler, Dr. Cwilich, and Dr. Otway met with a representative from the planetarium of the Museum of Natural History to discuss a potential relationship with the museum. The museum does not currently have enough room to facilitate a high-tech observatory and is undergoing renovations. Its directors are interested in having access to celestial recordings from outside sources until their renovations are completed. Dr. Cwilich is excited about the opportunity to deal with the museum as he hopes it will boost the reputation of YU. Also, the museum may send astronomy experts to lecture on the YU campus, thereby advancing the educational atmosphere of the university.

The anticipated opening of the new observatory has also excited the members of the Astronomy Club. According to Mikhail Serebrovsky, the Astronomy Club President, "Last year was a 'preamble' to the club. Students seemed very interested in astronomy, and even some built their own telescopes." This year, with the arrival of the new equipment, the club should grow tremendously.

BMP Revisited

Seeing Success in the Beis Medrash

BY ALAN A. EWIT

The Stone Beit Medrash Program, only in its second year of existence, has experienced a meteoric rise in enrollment. The program, known popularly as BMP, has grown this year to 120 students from last year's class of 27. The program was initiated last year in order to allow talminim who coincide with time-constraints in their schedules, to maintain a Yeshiva level of learning, while finishing each day at 1:00 PM. Students in the University Hebrew Academy Yeshiva Program aren't dismissed until 3:00 PM.

Rabbi Tzvi Sobolofsky, who lectures at Beis Medrash, attributes its "diversification" aspect. He believes that some serious talmidim, including those who had spent time learning in Israel, choose it over the Master Yeshiva Program because it offers the opportunity to combine Jewish education and a "top-rate" course. He enjoys the fact that approximately once every two weeks, Rav Goldwicht or another top MYP rebbe lectures to BMP students. After learning in Israel for one year, Feldman enrolled in BMC, but switched last semester to BMP because he was looking for "more of the yeshivish atmosphere.

He is very enthusiastic about his decision. "BMP incorporates the best aspects of MYP and other programs," Feldman said.

Another bonus is that the schedule allows students to finish their Jewish studies “at easy enough time to take English courses at 1:30 PM.”

At the same time, the President of BMP is critical of the fact that the student council, which was formed at the beginning of this last semester, has not received any funding whatsoever, neither in 1995 nor this year. BMP was “ordered the IBC umbrella” originally, explains Feldman.

"These students pay their dues as anybody else does,” he explained, “and it’s unfortunate that we are not getting the pay for the work we are doing describing the situation as ‘a big problem’.” Feldman assures that getting money is their council’s “first priority.”

By February 1997, the Stone Beit Medrash Program will be an elective at Yeshiva and Yeshiyot. It may be offered in the future.

Attention YC/SSSB Students

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or stop by Belfer Hall Room 317

Rav Meir Goldwicht, main proponent and founder of the BMP program, lectures to his students

after a student completes his course of study, he may transfer one or two credits as an elective to Yeshiva College or Sy Syms School of Business. In order to be admitted to the program, students are interviewed by the Dean of the program, Rav Michael Silshidman and must pass an oral entrance exam designed to determine their comprehension of specific Talmudic passages and commentaries. BMP students attend halachic or hashkafa shiurim, after which they attend sedar, held in the "BMP Halachic Forum," located in the Morgenset basin shul. Rav Sobolofsky points out that this particular study hall used to serve both MYP and other programs, but that used to occupy it has now moved to the recently-opened Klein Hall.

Labe Feldman, President of the BMP Student Council characterizes his shiur (Rav Hirsch’s) as "top-rate." He enjoys the fact that approximately once every two weeks, Rav Goldwicht or another top MYP rebbe lectures to BMP students. After learning in Israel for one year, Feldman enrolled in BMC, but switched last semester to BMP because he was looking for "more of the yeshivish atmosphere.

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The Washington Heights Campus:
Is It Time for a Move?

BY YONI BAK AND NICK KNOLL

In the advertisement which was published in Jewish newspapers last week, YU celebrated its high ranking in the US News & World Report by stating: "Sometimes you can tell the quality of an institution by the company it keeps." Yet if you look around on campus, the company we keep is not bright minds from Harvard and Princeton; rather, it is the company of drug dealers, prostitutes, and illegal immigrants. These observations were particularly clear last week when the FBI chose our campus as the "collecting site" for its roundup of criminals. In light of this event, many students have begun to wonder anew why we are on this campus, and whether or not it is time for YU to pack its bags in search of a kinder, gentler campus.

In a short essay entitled "The New Yeshiva Buildings," the chairman of YU's building committee in 1929, Harry Fischel, explained that YU was moving from the lower East Side to Washington Heights "because of the greater space required, and the need of surroundings more befitting the character of the proposed great institution."

In 1929 Yeshiva University moved its main campus to this area of Washington Heights, thus beginning the process of building this campus, in which over 1000 students now study. The presence of YU invigorated the neighborhood, creating an influx of Jewish settlement. In 1941, with the presence of Rav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik ZTL, the Washington Heights campus became a center of Jewish learning and secular study.

Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz, residence director at YU, recalled the 1950's and 60's as a time that witnessed an active and large Jewish community throughout Washington Heights.

The community at that time lived without fears of being mugged or assaulted. With most of the rabbeinim living on the campus, a Yeshiva environment was created, with rabbeinim able to invite talmidim to their houses for shabbos and always available to develop a keshet with their students. Rabbi Cheifetz reminisced about a time when he, his family and students would take a leisurely stroll to High Bridge Park, behind what is now Belfer Hall, to study or just relax on the grass. "Every Rosh Hashana the Washington Bridge was flooded with Jews going to Washington Heights and the West Bronx meeting for tashlich services."

However, in the 1970's and 80's the community began to deteriorate. As crime began to rise, the Jews of Washington Heights joined the "Great White Flight," as they moved their families to suburbs such as New Rochelle, Englewood, and Teaneck. YU was left as the only remnant of the old Jewish Community. Yeshiva students were the only Jews walking the neighborhood along Amsterdam Avenue between 181st and 187th Street.

What's more, for the first time ever security had become a serious concern on the main campus. No longer could one take a leisurely stroll to the "A" train without fears of being mugged or assaulted. A system of security vans was instituted to allow students safe passage to the subway stations in the area in an attempt to assuage these fears.

Rabbi Cheifetz noted that one of the advantages of keeping the campus in Manhattan is that students are just a subway ride away from the center of the richest culture and history in the world. Rabbi Cheifetz also stated that it is unfortunate that YU students do not take advantage of the cultural opportunities in Washington Heights, such as the Cloisters Museum, Fort Tryon Park, and the Yeshiva University Museum. In addition, Rabbi Cheifetz mentioned the various chassidic performances in the Belz School of Music throughout the year.

Associate Dean Michael Hecht stated that "it is very hard to maintain a nice campus in an urban setting. However, to a certain extent there is a sense of security, although I'm not sure that our students feel it. When you walk into this room [the Dean's office], you realize clearly security is a concern, but I'm very comfortable with what we have, twenty four hour and 365 days is very impressive."

Don Sommers, a former New York City Chief of Police and chief of security at YU, stated that "I don't think we need to worry about the state of our campus here in regard to security."

Sommers stated that although in the past their have been a couple of muggings, "I can't remember when the last one took place." Dean Hecht added that "in other college campuses people do not feel the kind of sense of security that our students feel."

Hecht described our campus today as "an oasis."

However, recent events have put doubts in the minds of students. On September 20, police apprehended two men right next to the college bookstore for robbing a local apartment. And last Thursday there was a major drug bust on Audubon Avenue and 185th Street.

With the rising security concerns many may wonder if there is any possibility of YU moving to a more rural and secure setting. According to sources, in the 1970's YU was offered the possibility of receiving a suburban campus in New Jersey around the area of Fairleigh Dickinson University. At that time much of the present campus was not yet in existence. However, in order to make the plan to move to FDU's campus economically viable it would have been necessary to create a mixed campus between YC and Stern College for Women. Such a move according to sources "would have undermined the Yeshiva aspect on which YU prides itself."

In addition, New York City had offered YU financial aid to remain in Washington Heights in order to continue benefiting the neighborhood. However, one source stated that "I don't think we could have ever seriously considered moving out of New York State because of the financial considerations New York State provides."

Don Sommers stated that "twenty-five years ago, people were thinking of moving. But now that [YU] has made such a huge investment in this campus, I don't think so. We are here for the long term now."

For better or for worse.
The drug bust was indeed a sight to see for the many onlookers, perhaps on their way to Thursday afternoon Bible classes. A myriad of agents and police officers rushed to the area between 184th and 186th streets and St. Nicholas and Amsterdam Avenues and quickly closed off the vicinity to any incoming vehicles or pedestrians. After the area was sealed, the agents stormed the cafe, on the corner of 185th and Audubon, the laboratory just down the street, and four apartments at 408 Audubon, the headquarters of the narcotics gang. The agents gathered approximately 40 suspects and lined them up against the fence of the adjacent state and city police officers. While the bust appeared to be an almost random round-up of felons, the agents had already pieced together the operation. The Valuette added that no one from YU was ever put in harm's way, as the police responded in massive numbers and all the suspects were searched before being lined up outside.

YU Chief of Security Donald Summers reinforced this statement, and added that there was nothing he could do to help, as the FBI did not inform him in advance of their plans for the bust. He also noted that these gangs do not pose any future threats, as the FBI penetrated their internal structures and sealed the properties where the operations took place. Summers further revealed that this bust was the result of many months of investigation and planning. As part of the FBI's program aimed at ridding urban environments of drug dealers and gangs that have created a stronghold in these areas. As part of the program, Summers explained, meetings have been conducted between September and July to discuss how to combat the issue. In conjunction with politicians and other community leaders at local assembly points like the YMHA, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, and the community board. The meetings were convened in order to find a solution to the ongoing drug problem and also to send a strong message to the drug dealers, which obviously went unheeded. A well-informed source who wished to remain anonymous added that the program is "excellent" and "will be here for an extended period of time."

YU Involvement in Dispute

There were hints, however, that YU took a more active role in the drug bust and in fact pushed for the authorities to aim their first drug bust at the immediate YU vicinity, which may have been what prompted the references to YU in the Daily News article. Summers vehemently denied this, saying the bust had "nothing to do with YU" and that "it's beneficial to the whole community." Public Relations Director David Rosen added that he was "very concerned about the Daily News article because it was grossly inaccurate, inflammatory (and) simply not true."

The Daily News article asserted that "YU students were so frightened that they routinely left the campus only with security escorts - even when traveling just a few blocks." Rosen explained that the entire incident, including the FRU article, is just a "momentary blip on the screen that will have no lasting impact on the perception of YU."

"He admitted that the FRU department debated writing a letter to the editor, but decided against it because "any attempt to correct it after the fact would only draw attention to it."

"Furthermore, Rosen said that he was not too worried about the effects of the article because "most of the people associated with YU don't read the Daily News."

As for the image of suspects with their hands up against the wall of the Gottesman Library, Rosen acknowledged that he "rather it took place somewhere else, but the police are doing their job, and my own personal observation is that they did a very proficient and professional job."

He also warned that he is "concerned with The Commentator itself, which could be the greatest PR problem. I hope The Commentator will exercise more care and discretion, because it reaches more YU people and one would hope more credibility than the Daily News."

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Ohavei Shalom
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Distributes your contribution through distinguished gabbai'im to needy families in Israel before Pesach, as well as before Shavuot, the Yomim Noraim, and Sukkot - in a word, throughout the year.

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Come Show Off

The Chemistry & Physics Clubs & YURG present
The Yeshiva University Undergraduate Research Poster Presentation
Displaying Student & Faculty Research
Open to Members of all Disciplines
Abstracts (150-200 Word Description of Research) Must Be Submitted by Thursday
Sample Posters Are Displayed in the Lobbies of Rubin and Furst Hall
Prizes Will be Awarded For Excellent Posters
Poster Session Will Be Held On Thursday, November 7
Fursh Hall Lobby 2:45 pm - 3:45pm
For more info and Abstract Submission Contact:
Ofer Melamed RU 708 (927-5287)
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Blood Drive Draws 130 Students

Organizers Make up for First Day Troubles

by Jonathan Tiger

Continuing the successes of previous campaigns, the Blood Drive Committee reported very successful numbers for the most recent campus blood drive despite a temporary change of location that threatened turnout. The Committee announced that over 120 students participated in the October 14 event, attaining their goal of reaching a two-day campaign. The blood drives are sponsored and performed by New York Blood Services, and are held on YU’s uptown campus.

In the past, a phone line and modem will be needed by the faculty to take advantage of this service. Students will need his own computer to access his account. This is because a phone line and modem will be necessary to dial into the IBM mainframe, meaning that the student will have to “log on” from his/her dorm room or apartment.

The possibility of terminating the outdated server is evidence of the administration’s eagerness to keep pace with the advancing technologies of cyberspace.

According to George Sullivan, Associate Director of the MIS department at YU, MIS officials decided to charge students per semester due to the uncertainty of the future of the YU server.

Indeed, the Blood Drive Committee’s fears were validated when only 40 students showed, a disappointing figure given the blood drive’s goal and its usual achievement of 65-70.

By the second day, the furniture situation in the Morgensen lounge was working out - it was decided by university officials that new furniture could be moved in just as well as new furniture and the drive moved to the centrally located lounge. Students responded accordingly, with participation dramatically increasing to 86, bringing the total to almost 130.

Following the sharp increase in turnout on the second day, Kathleen Rossi, a phlebotomist from the New York Blood Center, who worked at the drive said, “I find it very honorable that so many students are willing to donate their invaluable time to help save the lives of others through this blood drive.”

The sharp rise in second-day participation was partly attributed to a public announcement made that morning by MYP Mashgiach Rabbi Yosef Blau, in which R. Blau exhorted students to donate blood in wake of theUAdisputingturnout.

The blood drives held on YU’s campus in recent years have been enormously successful, particularly when the turnover is gauged by the percent-base, or the percentage of the respective institution that each pool of participants comprises. Participation in the YU blood drive for the second year, YU generally has a percent-base of 15. Drives held at Citibank, for example, have a percent-base turnover of 50.

Over the past two years, the Blood Drive Committee has received awards from New York Blood Services for the unusually high amount of donations from its student body. Additionally, the blood drive was written up in the inaugural issue of New York Blood Services’ Newsletter as an example of how to run a good blood drive.

Yeshiva University blood drives are considered to be so successful that Mr. Tannenbaum and Mr. Shindel were asked by the Service to lecture organizers at Columbia University and In New Jersey about the techniques of executing a successful drive.

Tannenbaum and Shindel urge anyone interested in helping to continue the college’s blood drive’s history of success to please contact them.

New Internet Server to Come to YU
Administration Strikes Deal With IBM

by Boaz Kurtis

In a long anticipated move, the Management Information Systems Department of YU and the Office of Student Services have offered students another option for connecting to the Internet by making available a new IBM service which will offer graphics in addition to text. The current YU server, known as YU1, is a text-based service.

Administration officials expect the new option to increase students’ interest in the Internet, an increasingly present force in academics. “We are anticipating students and faculty to take advantage of this offer,” said Arthur Meyers, Director of the MIS Department.

As an added incentive for students to obtain an account with IBM’s server, the school is offering to reimburse students for the $10 registration fee charged by IBM for its service.

Also, the school has provided the start-up software at no cost; normally the disks cost about $3.

There are a variety of differences between the IBM and YU1 servers.

While the most notable distinction is the capability of the IBM server to display graphics, there are several other important differences that will affect students’ decisions as to which service to use.

A student subscribing to the IBM service will need his own computer to access his account. This is because a phone line and modem will be necessary to dial into the IBM mainframe, meaning that the student will have to “log on” from his/her dorm room or apartment. YU1 accounts, on the other hand, can be accessed directly from the university’s computer labs.

The IBM account, in addition to the $10 registration fee, will cost $12.95 per month for 50 hours of access time and $17.95 per month for unlimited access time. As of this semester, students opening new YU1 accounts will be charged $25 per semester for the service. In the past, there was a one-time fee of $50 for an account on YU1 which the student then had access to for the rest of his college career at YU.

According to George Sullivan, Associate Director of the MIS department at YU, MIS officials decided to charge students per semester due to the uncertainty of the future of the YU server.

The possibility of terminating the outdated server is evidence of the administration’s eagerness to keep pace with the advancing technologies of cyberspace. “The world of computers and the Internet is exploding on a daily basis and we felt the need to provide the students with the [IBM] service,” said David Himber, Associate Dean of the Office of Student Services.

The MIS department officially took control over the academic computer operations and laboratories on July 1. The department subsequently supplied the computer labs with 45 new machines, fully equipped with Windows ‘95 and access to the World Wide Web via Microsoft Explorer.

In addition, a new host of computers has been installed in the Gottesman Library, with fiber-optic wiring already in place underground as the terminals will soon be connected to the Internet.

Plans are also in store to computerize the library’s catalog database. Traditional card catalog, such as those in the Pollack and Gottesman libraries, have been virtually obsolete in public and university libraries for at least five years.
Morg Mart To Open Its Doors

BY STEVEN BE RNSTEIN

After an absence of over two years, Yeshiva University students will once again have an alternative to the cafe store: Morg Mart will reopen its doors in the basement of the Morgenstern Dormitory this week. Morg Mart, a service of the Joint Business Society (JBS), under the auspices of its president, Doron Katz, will feature all sorts of goodies for the late night hungry student.

Morg Mart, though not a novelty to YU, has been completely refurbished, repainted and restocked, will reopen this week. However, a lot of hard work and effort from the members of the JBS has brought the store new life. Morg Mart, having been completely refurbished, repainted and restocked, will reopen this week. However, a lot of hard work and effort from the members of the JBS has brought the store new life.

Morg Mart is run by students, for students. "We hope to create a social environment where students can enjoy themselves." Stressing the importance of student support, Doron said, "Morg Mart is run by students, for students and will only work if students support it." The Joint Business Society (JBS), was created to encourage and help entrepreneur ship on campus. Though their focus, as of late, has been solely on Morg Mart, they encourage students to offer ideas and help make these ideas a reality. Also "through the programs created by the JBS," said Doron, "students will develop hands on experience in management, accounting and organizational skills."

Open nightly, Sundays through Wednesdays, from 10:15 until 11:15, Katz promises that Morg Mart will feature, "a homely atmosphere and lots of great food." Some items to be featured in the store include: Coke, Snapple, Tropicanna juices, candy bars, Drake's and Entenmann's cakes, potato chips, ice-cream and various frozen goods. In addition students can expect a fresh supply of wings from Dougie's restaurant and other savory foods from Chopstix's restaurant. A microwave, toaster oven, and television will all be available for use by the customer.

Realizing the long standing complaints about the expensive prices provided by the cafeteria, the Joint Business Society has promised to make Morg Mart prices very reasonable.

Simcha Gissinger, Vice President of the Joint Business Society said that in addition to providing food and drinks "We hope to create a social environment where students can enjoy themselves." Stressing the importance of student support, Doron said, "Morg Mart is run by students, for students and will only work if students support it."

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LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION
The story behind dorm assignments

BY NADIA STREET

Among the most integral parts of a student's success on campus is happiness with his accommodations. Complaints with a roommate, floor, or building can be detrimental.

This may become the cause of unneeded stress, cause a deterioration in classroom performance and lead to a general unhappiness with one's entire university experience. Some of these effects can be avoided on larger campuses, but at our university, there are few places aside from a dorm room that can provide privacy and solace. Thus, it stands to reason that those working in the Dorn office hold some of the most important positions on campus.

The Dorm office is presided over by Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz. He is flanked by three head Residential Advisors (RAs), Ryan Hyman, Ari Bockoff and Yoni Kriiss. Each floor has its own RA, as well. Every year, along with the head RAs, R' Cheifetz makes crucial decisions, namely where each of the students will live for the upcoming year.

As with any office wielding this sort of power, accusations and allegations abound. Cries of "why was I placed in this building?" or "why was I placed on higher floors, as opposed to the more desirable lower floor?" are frequently heard at the beginning of every semester. Obviously, the process of dorm and room assignments is a tedious one. Rabbi Cheifetz and Michael Iramson, who resigned earlier this year, worked together to assign rooms for the fall semester.

Branson was replaced by new head RA, Ryan Hyman, after assignments were made.

According to Hyman, there are three major factors determining dorm assignments: "The first factor is your choice of roommate, [which] we try to accommodate as best we can... The next thing we look at is where you were in the past. If you request the same room, you do have priority, but it's not a binding priority. If we feel someone else should be put in the room, we will do that... The third factor is Shabbat. If you are going to be in one of the higher floors, as opposed to the more desirable lower floors. In fact, Rabbi Cheifetz stated that seniority does not even entitle a student to the building of his choice. "Potentially, there is a time limit a student can spend in a particular building. If he no longer fits the criteria, then we may move him, no matter how long he's been in the building."

What other criteria factor into dorm assignments? R' Cheifetz explained that if you do not specify a roommate, or if for some reason you and your request cannot be placed together, then the dorm office makes the decision for you. "Personal interests, nationality and level of religiosity are all factored in to the decision." However, many charge that the process is cursory and in some cases superficial. One student, who asked not to be named, complained of a complete and total mismatch, "I don't know what possessed them to put us together. Rabbi Cheifetz defended his office, "We put a lot of time into choosing roommates. We weigh all the factors very carefully, before making a decision."

As far as building assignments are concerned, "Seniors are generally placed in Mord, and incoming students are often divided up between Muss and Rubins. Unless, of course, a request is made for another building, in which case we try to accommodate [the student], said Rabbi Cheifetz.

Both this year and in years past, there have been numerous grievances about certain homogenous floors. Two frequent complaints have been about floors either containing members of a specific nationality or of a specific Yeshiva. According to Rabbi Cheifetz, "There are some floors known as Avrahamim haf itim or KBY floors, but this is not intended. Usually, if you take a closer look, you'll find that the floor is actually a mixture. We will not place Sha'alavim guys on one floor, because we don't want to create cliques." Hyman, agreeing with R' Cheifetz, said, "Homogeneity of floors is not a conscious decision," and he stressed that their goal is to create a mixture of students, with different backgrounds.

Notwithstanding the complaints and accusations RAs and Rabbi Cheifetz put a great deal of time and effort into their job. During the year, both the head RA and R' Cheifetz are on call 24 hours a day. Throughout the summer, the head RA and Rabbi Cheifetz work every day to prepare the dormitory assignments for the upcoming year.

In spite of the hard work, the dorm office is always inundated with complaints, problems and requests. According to Hyman, "If a problem comes up, we try to deal with it that week. We look into every detail and see if the complaint is really warranted."

Nevertheless, some feel that the dorm office, like any other YU office, is a bureaucracy. One student told The Commentator, "Last year, from the point I filed a complaint, to the point that action was finally taken, five weeks passed. Five weeks is a terribly long time to live in a situation that was more than just a little uncomfortable. For this to happen to anyone is ridiculous, but for it to happen to someone who is not from the New York area is especially problematic, because an out-of-towner's room is his safe haven. "Although five weeks is not indicative of the time it usually takes to process a complaint, many of those interviewed have said that the average processing time is well beyond a week.

Finally, there have also been allegations that RA's choose their friends to reside on their floor, thereby eliminating objectivity from the decision process. "This is not true and notvalid," stated Rabbi Cheifetz. "I ask counselors to try to recruit guys to their floor, guys who will get along with the floor in terms of learning, helping and providing moral support. It might seem like they are choosing their pals, but obviously they are going to choose people they know."

Yeshiva College Student Council
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, October 23, 1996
Sephardic Club event with speaker at Colben restaurant 43 West 39 Street between 39 and 40 Avenue at 9:00 p.m. contact Nouri Zaliha at 520-4355

Sunday, October 27, 1996
Outdoors Club- Bike tour along the Palisades for more information contact Rafi Schorr at 520-4645

Sunday, October 27, 1996
Midnight Madness- come meet the '96-97 Maccas at 11:30p.m. at the MSAC- refreshments to be served and contests to be held.

Thursday, October 31, 1996
Torah U'madda Project speaker- Dr. Carl Feit "The Heaven and Earth and All Their Host: The Contemplation of Extra-terrestrial life" 2:45 Rubin Shul

Thursday, October 31, 1996
YCSC/SCWSC presents Chicago City Limits price $10 including transportation- all invited- sponsored by Sophomore & Junior class contact Rafi Schorr at 520-4645

Sunday, November 3, 1996
Art Club presents a trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art- for more information contact Moussa Sweid Hailabi at 822-740-1783

YCSC Election Results
Sophomore:
Pres.- Howard Ahramah V.P.- Joseph Deckman Sec./Treas.- Jeff Ganders

Freshman:
Pres.- Joshua Klein V.P.- Jason Yablon Sec./Treas.- Ephraim Gabbai

YCS Working For You!
YCSC in conjunction with the Dean's office is running a peer tutoring program. Contact Eric London for more information-Ru 205 740-2507

Bikur Cholim leaves every Club hour to Columbia Presbyterian- To go, contact Teddy Scher at 623-927-1572

Morg Mart opens this week in the Morgenstern Dormitory- Basement

The Guide is out. Contact Heshy Willig for your copy. Mo 520-568-3151

Questions or comments, let us know, e-mail YCSC at YCS@pol.edu

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THE ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE

BY ADAM MOSES

In just two weeks, many students on campus will be voting in their first ever presidential election. In a University where politics plays a part of everyday life, the election provides yet another opportunity for students to discuss, debate, and take an active role in fronting issues affecting the entire country.

Yeshiva College Dean Norman Adler commented that he "looks forward to the elections because they engage the students in their education...Part of the education of the mind is to do something active...this is incorporated in the inspired debates and involved discussions which students participate in around election time."

Some students, however, find it difficult to be excited by what they expect to be a less than satisfying showdown. They view a Clinton victory in the upcoming elections as a fait accompli and thus consider the entire process "a waste of time since it's a blowout."

As would be anticipated, students are split on who to vote for. A majority of students interviewed supported Clinton, however, a strong minority expressed support for Dole. One almost universal opinion of the students and faculty members was that no candidate options was a good option and that voters were forced to select from the proverbial "lesser of two evils."

Mike Weisselbaum, a YC junior, commented: "I'm really disappointed with the selections that we have to choose from. It says something about the state of affairs in the country today when the quality of the candidates is as poor as it is."

Not only YC students were disaffected with the candidates, professors reflected this attitude as well.

Dr. Anthony Beuver, Head of the Speech Department, was concerned that "somehow still has a consciousness of justice that can be appealed to." She believes that "a reasonable majority of professors are Clinton-leaning, although there are a few who are very obviously on the other side of the fence."

One such professor, Rabbi Dr. Moshe Tendler, was disappointed with President Clinton's handling of Israel's recent "tunnel crisis." Rabbi Tendler feels that Clinton should have clarified to reporters that the Arab rioting was "not a protest against the archaeological excavations, and merely an excuse for their actions."

The fact that Clinton knew this, yet did not mention it in his address "shows a lack of integrity, and proves to me that Clinton is not a true friend of Israel."

Rabbi Tendler also has problems with the Dole camp, and feels that neither of the choices are perfect.

One common theme reflecting the divide of public opinion at Yeshiva, is the universal desire for the democratic process to work effectively.

Whether talking to supporters of Clinton or Dole, to the politically inspired or the apathetic, to those who viewed the caliber of the candidates as dubious or the entire shift in the system as foreboding, all agree that it is both theoretically possible for our democratic system to work and imperative that it does.

On Israel

Many students placed unparalleled importance on a candidate's positions on Israel in influencing their vote. "If the candidate has a favorable Israel policy, he has my vote," remarked Sean Rosenblum '97 YC sophomore. Most students agreed that Jerusalem should be retained under the jurisdiction of the state of Israel and that the United States should not not seek to formally recognize this status. "It's ludicrous for the United States not to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel," asserted Michael Gewirtz, a YC sophmore.

Clinton's policy toward Israel has evoked different responses by American Jews. He has provided strong support for the Israeli government's attempts to achieve peace with its Arab neighbors. This support, however, has generally been predicated on the process established by the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his left-wing coalition. During Labor government rule, American-Israeli relations reached arguably unprecedented levels of cordiality. Much of this, though, was attributable to the personal relationship between Clinton and Rabin, and the potential threat of this possibly being the last election to the American democratic process."

Despite her concerns, Bevan still feels comfortable voting for President Clinton, believing that "he somehow still has a consciousness of justice that can be appealed to." She believes that "a reasonable majority of professors are Clinton-leaning, although there are a few who are very obviously on the other side of the fence."

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Clinton continues to support the land-for-peace principle. Earlier this month, he re­jected himself to a potential political sacrifice by hosting a Netanyahu-Arafat summit without assurance of Israeli concess­ions. Clinton continues to support the land-for-peace principle. Earlier this month, he rejected himself to a potential political sacrifice by hosting a Netanyahu-Arafat summit without assurance of Israeli concessions. Clinton continues to support the land-for-peace principle. Earlier this month, he rejected himself to a potential political sacrifice by hosting a Netanyahu-Arafat summit without assurance of Israeli concessions.

On Education and Student Issues

"Both candidates have some worthwhile ideas on financing higher education. They obviously realize that this is a vital issue for many students," commented Brent Kessler, a YC sophomore.

Education as an issue, is of integral value to the YU Financial Aid Office.

Records reflect that more than three-quarters of students receive some form of financial aid from either the University, the government, or both.

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families with incomes below $85,000 would be eligible to deduct student loan interest from taxable income. Dole also favors penalty-free IRA withdrawals for higher education expenses. Moreover, a family would save $500 per year on federal taxes for every child. Dole also supported tax-free education grants from employers to permanently extend the employer-provided educational assistance for undergraduate education.

Dole's most innovative and controversial program is the Opportunity Scholarship program. Through this program, four million middle and low-income families would receive educational grants of $1,000 to $1,500 for four years, enabling them to select to enroll their children in private or parochial schools if they wish to do so.

Dole's Opportunity Scholarship received the emphatic commendation of Elliott Gagnonrow, a senior political science major, who referred to it as "one of the three cornerstones of Bob Dole's domestic policy, and a convincing reason to support him."

Others disagreed, arguing that diverting funding and students from the public school system would serve to further destabilize a system that cannot afford to sustain any more losses. Aharon Weinstein, a YC junior, commented that "it would be tragic to our public school system to enact a program such as the Opportunity Scholarship proposed by Dole."

Other Issues

On the issue of crime, both Clinton and Dole have expressed similar sentiments regarding the necessity to curb violence. Clinton has embraced extending the Brady Law's seven-day firearm waiting period to cover domestic violence offenders in addition to the already prohibited felons and fugitives. He has urged a ban on the production of "cop-killer" bullets that pierce police vests, and has also called for a national non-emergency police number to be used in non-life-threatening situations.

Dole also favors an extension of the Brady Bill, however he proposes extending it to adults convicted of violent offenses when they were juveniles. A few days after signing the Brady Bill with a plan to allow instant background checks on prospective firearm purchasers and thus eliminating the waiting period entirely, Dole has also vowed to double federal funding for state prison construction over the next four years. Finally, Dole has indicated that he will seek a federal initiative to try juveniles thirteen and older as adults if they have committed "violent" crimes such as murder and rape.

Abortion has been a thorny issue with division among Americans than any other issue in the past decade. This past year, the House and Senate voted to outlaw "partial-birth abortions," a procedure in which late-term pregnancies are aborted by pulling out the fetuses feet first, bursting the skull open and literally vacuuming out the fetal brains. Clinton vetoed the bill, insisting that an amendment be added to allow for the procedure in cases where the mother's life is at stake. The move was perceived as a drastic shift to the left for Clinton, and in the Vice-Presidential debate two weeks ago, Vice-President Al Gore reinforced this position, saying "we would never take away a woman's right to choose.

Bob Dole has traditionally been aligned with the pro-life flank, although on a Sunday morning talk show last year, Dole, in a move perhaps calculated to attract the female vote, attempted to shift more toward the center on the issue. Vice-Presidential candidate Jack Kemp also admitted in the debate that a constitutional ban on abortion would probably never happen, and that Republicans would try to use persuasion as opposed to force to convince others not to perform abortions.

Affirmative action has strongly divided Americans. The program was instituted to promote fairness and equal opportunity in the workplace for people of all races. Many feel, however, that the result has been "reverse discrimination," where individuals of minority races are given jobs in lieu of whites with better credentials simply to fulfill the quota of the program. Clinton insists that affirmative action is essentially a good program that needs revision, not dissolution. However, he has not taken much action, if any, to correct the problem. While it is not immediately clear what Dole would do with affirmative action if elected, Republicans would surely mount the pressure on him to diminish the program entirely.

As for taxation, Clinton has proposed an exemption from capital gains taxes on the sale of homes under $500,000 for joint filers and $250,000 for single filers. The President also favors a $500 per child tax credit for every child under 13 whose parents earn less than $75,000 a year.

Perhaps the most prominent aspect of Dole's platform, and the element he most frequently invokes is the prospective supporter, is the fifteen percent income tax cut. It is arguably the cornerstone of his efforts to achieve widespread popular appeal. He proposes to pay for it by cutting in other areas of federal budget. Dole has supported the $500-per-child tax credit for every dependent child under 18, however, the ceiling on parental income would be $115,000 for dual filers and $75,000 for single filers. He has also favored an increase in the capital gains tax exemption for homeowners. His plan differs slightly from Clinton's, but it also allows an exemption of up to $500,000. Dole would also halve the capital gains tax on all non-home transactions.

Welfare reform came under new public scrutiny over the past few months because of legislative consideration of a Republican-sponsored welfare reform bill. Clinton diplomatically navigated his way through a potentially debilitating conflict by signing the bill with "significant reservations" and committing to repeal or amend certain objectionable provisions if elected to a second term. While Clinton's more liberal constituents and supporters were annoyed by his signing the bill, Dole appeared to follow his more liberal vision in his second term. Clinton's signing the bill was of paramount importance in preventing Republican attacks on his inability to pass legislation to which he previously committed.

Under Clinton's Welfare-to-Work program, former welfare recipients, employers, and local businesses would receive some new benefits to compensate for the void generated by the welfare reform bill. Direct monetary benefits would be provided to companies in the public and private sector to facilitate employment of those deemed by the White House as the "1 million hardest-to-employ welfare recipients."

Tax benefits for employers hiring former welfare recipients would be provided under the revised plan. Through the Brownfield initiative and the Community Development Financial Institution, additional funds would be allocated to provide tax incentives to enhance economically distressed regions. Much of what Dole espouses about welfare reform has been adopted; the welfare reform bill effectively negating any philosophical distinction between the two candidates. He would, however, propose certain changes in the bill if elected. He would support efforts to suspend or reevaluate the eligibility of welfare recipients for status legitimate for illegal or controlled substance usage. Dole would also advance programs to prevent welfare fraud through the Rehabilitation of fingerprint identification systems.

Clinton's Environmental policies include cleaning up toxic waste dumps and giving protection agencies added authority to oversee the massive effort. Dole supports "policies to keep our environment safe and clean." He has not, however, advanced any concrete legislative proposals or expressed any definitive parameters for attaining this goal. This is probably because of his conception that the current condition of the environment is not as dire as many liberals tend to assert. Dole has also expressed conceptual support for developing non-polluting electric vehicles.
The proposed tax cut would be an expense of $2.9 billion over six years for this term which Dole favors increasing the estate tax exemption for businesses. He believes that this will allow family-owned businesses to stay in their respective families.

Dole has proposed a program to reduce auto insurance premiums by an average of $221 by lowering legal expenditures due to lawsuits. Under the proposal, some policies would cover "pain and suffering" while others would exclusively cover "economic damage." Dole plans to drastically revamp the Internal Revenue Service, which he perceives as being fraught with gratuitous bureaucracy. He intends to eliminate many jobs that he believes are unnecessary and simplify the filing process for federal taxes.

Dole has also integrated policy on illegal drug usage into his platform. He cites the increase in drug usage as a clear substantiation that the "war on drugs" as pursued by Clinton has failed, and claims that if he is elected, he will make it a critical priority that 1,000 new community-based, anti-drug coalitions are established, using federal seed money if necessary. He would seek assistance from the private sector for this program. Dole has criticized Clinton for not adequately funding the drug czar's office, and has committed to fully funding this office. Dole also favors reforming federal drug treatment programs by shifting many of the treatment programs to religious institutions. He believes this measure would mitigate unnecessary bureaucracy in the existing federal programs.

Dole has expressed interest in limiting punitive damage awards to $250,000 or three times economic damages in an effort to revitalize the "spirit of innovation and enterprise that made America strong." He has asserted this type of tort reform will engender a much greater degree of technological innovation and allow the United States to maintain its position at the forefront of the field of emerging technological development.

Finally, Dole seeks a constitutional amendment establishing a two-term limit for senators and a six-term limit for House members in an effort to reduce the number of career politicians in Congress.

On the balanced budget issue, Dole frequently alludes that Clinton is a "tax-and-spend liberal" whose current platform reflects a continued desire to pursue this course despite his quasi-conservative rhetoric. Dole cites Clinton's proposed spending initiatives for this term which amount to a projected $115.5 billion over the course of the subsequent six years. Dole's new spending measures amount to a paltry $2.9 billion over six years, however, his proposed tax cut would be an expense of $338 billion over six years. Clinton has repeatedly attacked Dole for an unrealistic effort to sharply reduce taxes while balancing the budget. Clinton asserts that it is virtually impossible to achieve both objectives simultaneously without sacrificing crucial government services. Dole responds that all that will be sacrificed is unnecessary governmental bureaucracy, which must ultimately be terminated anyhow.

Candidates' Background
Both Bill Clinton and Bob Dole were raised in rural and relatively impov­ erished households in the American South and midwest, respectively. While both hold law degrees, they are both career politicians for all intents and purposes. Clinton did, however, serve as a professor at University of Arkansas Law School for a number of years prior to formally entering the political realm. Clinton attended a battery of prestigious institutions including Georgetown as an undergraduate, Yale Law School, and was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University. By contrast, Dole attended University of Kansas and Washburn University.

Last term, Clinton entered office as the first American president to be born following World War II. Critics complicated matters for Clinton by emphasizing that he had not served in the military. A controversy cropped up regarding alleged efforts by Clinton to "dodge" Vietnam War era draft programs. This served to further deleteriously impact upon his image as a military command-in-chief, and served as a springboard for spontaneous ad hominem as­saults on Clinton and, by extension, on virtually every policy he adopted of rele­vance to military affairs. Dole, how­ever, served a distinguished military career. He engaged in active service during World War II during which he sustained a severe injury on the battlefield. This active military component of Dole's personal experience serves to shore-up his military credentials and influence his personal and political doctrine to no inauspicious extent.

Clinton's meteoric political ascend­ancy occurred at a young age with a single term as Governor of Arkansas and his gubernatorial post in Arkansas in 1992. Dole's rise was more measured and deliberate. A controversy cropped up regarding the budget deficit when Ross Perot was excluded from eligibility for the Presidential Debates.

Campaign Strategies
With Bob Dole vying to retain the presidency against the challenge of Bill Clinton, enjoys a formidable lead according to virtually all recently released major polls. Despite this, Clinton proceeds with aggressive campaigning efforts across much of the United States. He has out­lined an ambitious, although unmarkable, platform premised on achieving significant progress in seven integral areas: Families, Economic Security, Crime and Drugs, Environment, Reinventing Government, and World Leadership.

Clinton's campaign rhetoric is deci­dely focused on past achievements during the course of the previous term. He has assumed the position of accomplished incumbent.

Despite this premise, Clinton has chosen to frame his candidacy within the context of confronting "significant chal­lenges" on a societal level and not exclu­sively resting on his laurels. His plat­form also reflects a compelling desire to assume a moderate stance to appeal to undecided and moderate swing-voters as well as disaffected Republicans. This course of action is prudent and has served to preempt some of Dole's more distinguishing political characteristics.

Dole's approach has been to charac­terize the previous four years of Clinton's administration as a "loser's term" espe­cially in terms of specific objectives with particular focus on economic and social conditions. His hallmark complaint is that there is a gargantuan amount of extraneous spending by the federal government which must be reduced and utilized to address taxation injustices and the budgetary imbalance.

Dole has also employed extensive negative campaigning measures in an effort to portray Clinton as an inexperienced, more liberal than he indicates, and a politician who has run a "photo-op" presidency. Dole has suf­fered from Clinton's consistently con­servative platform stances on a vari­ety of issues that generally comprise the bulwark of Republican policy posi­tions. Dole registered a moderate strategic victory when Ross Perot was excluded from eligibility for the Presidential Debates.
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the United States, where he was soon recruited to RIETS by the late Rabbi Samuel Belkin ZT"L. He served as president of Ezras Torah and on the presidium of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis. Rav Dovid lived in the Washington Heights area, right across the street from the Bais Medrash, and often welcomed talmidim into his home for shabbos. Rav Meir Goldvicht, also a neighbor of the Yeshiva, recalls spending many shabbosim with Rav Dovid and his rebbezin, who passed away just last year. After Reb Dovid's death, the Goldvichts would visit the Rebbezin every Friday night to make kiddush and sing zemiros.

"She always asked how the students were, what they were learning," Rav Gilanich recalled. "Reb Dovid and his wife lived in the Yeshiva 24 hours a day.

Rav Charlip, who recently gave a taped testimony about Reb Dovid for an autobiography series, explained that "Reb Dovid came to America dressed in a certain way and he never changed that way. He lived on the edge of the tension between Torah and Mada, but he always remained the Suvalker Rov." He was both a kainan (zealot) and a man of peace. He didn't allow the outside world to impact on him, yet he viewed everyone outside with generosity and understanding.

Rav Goldvicht remembers davening with Reb Dovid in the Yeshiva on Shabbos afternoon, and worrying that it would be too cloudy later that night for kiddush levana.

"Reb Dovid would always say 'Now it is shabbos. At night it will clear up.'" Rav Goldvicht recalled, "and sure enough, after night it would clear up for just enough time to say kiddush levana.

"To Reb Dovid the Torah was clear, mitzvos were clear, the goals of life were clear."

Rav Dovid celebrates a chagiga in the Bais Medrash, performing his famous "Tasnei" dance with Rav Herschel Schachter (left).

Reins of Academic Computing Handed To MIS

BY JOSHUA M. FELDMAN

This past summer, Yeshiva's Distributed Systems assumed responsibility for the computer labs and Internet server on campus. According to Dr. John Neiss, director of MIS, the computer lab is part of the MIS Department's Information Services, the department's offices located in the Student Union. The MIS department oversees the campus computer network and provides services for students, faculty and staff.

The move from the Science Department to MIS has not gone without protest. At the beginning of the year, students did not have access to any of the computer labs. Chaim Haas, Head Student Operater, explained that "the minor delay gave MIS the amount of time needed to be certain that everything was fully operational for the students' return to classes.

Despite an advertising blitz that highlighted by lectures from Rav Herschel Schachter, head of the RIETS Kollel - entailed a ten dollar fee, a nominal price to pay considering the reinvigoration of the student clubs and activities. A Club Fair was held last week to showcase the opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities.

But when it comes to being on campus any longer than necessary, particularly over vacation time, students seem to shun the idea, many of the students who were expected to return to school and the learning of the UNIX system by the new MIS personnel.

Few Attend Simchat Torah in Yeshiva; SOY Not Discouraged

BY DAVID HERSH

Despite an advertising blitz that included flyers posted on dormitory and classroom bulletin boards, few students took advantage of the opportunity to spend Simchat Torah on campus, yet again marking a significant student disinterest in spending any free time in Washington Heights.

"Simchat torah was disappointing," said Jonathan Neiss, President of SOY, the student organization that helped put together the student holiday program. Neiss attributed the scarce number of students to the popularity of Torah Tours, an outreach program in which Yeshiva students travel to different cities too enrich the final days of Yom Tov for small Jewish communities.

Unofficial estimates indicated that approximately 30 students stayed on campus for Simchat Torah, which, together with Shemini Atzeret, constitutes the final two days of the Succot holiday.

Participation in the program — highlighted by lectures from Rav Herschel Shachter, head of the RIETS Kollel — entailed a ten dollar fee, a nominal price to pay considering the number of meals included over the course of the holiday, which coincided with the weekend of October 4-6. The Office of Student Affairs helped subsidize the event in an effort to attract more students.

Though the chances of heavy attendance were from the beginning hampered as the Simchat Torah weekend was within the College's own Succot vacation, programs like these have traditionally been plagued with sparse student interest.

For the past several years, there has been a program to spend Simchat Torah on campus, as well as Shavuot, all with virtually the same disappointing turnout.

There has been a renewed effort on behalf of the student council to make campus life more enjoyable, mainly evidenced by the reinvigoration of the student clubs and societies. A Club Fair was held last week to showcase the opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities.

But when it comes to being on campus any longer than necessary, particularly over vacation time, students seem to shun the idea, many reporting that they would like to spend the holiday with their families or simply relax in their homes. It is also widely felt that as long as the campus is not educational, students will not be encouraged to participate in campus-oriented programs over weekends and periods of vacation — time that could be otherwise be spent socializing. This is evidenced by the popularity among YU students to stay at the Upper West Side or Columbia University over certain weekends and holidays, particularly, Simchat Torah.

Nevertheless, SOY and the Office of Student Affairs will further try to increase the appeal of the campus programs, although it is unclear what further incentives remain to be offered.

SOY was successful, however, in their planning of Shabbos Breishis, the weekend of October 11-12. Over 250 students joined Rav Meir Twerski, Rav Meir Goldvich, and Rav Meir Schiller for the first shabbos of the new Jewish year.

Students were able to hear shiurim from the Rebbein and participate in a "Cholent tish" Friday night. "It was an unbelievable Shabbos, just as it always is," exclaimed Rabbi Katz, one of the many students who were extremely happy with their choice to remain in Yeshiva.

With the success of the Shabbos program, Neiss and SOY hope to plan many more such activities and Shabbos events in the weeks to come.
New Rules Give YU Boost
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cation? Not particularly...but," he bright- ened, "the fact is people read it." And these people will now think twice before shrugging off YU. A PR ad cam- paign has already begun in the New York area with advertisements in Jewish newspapers such as The Jewish Press, and The Jerusalem Post. The full page ad proclaims YU's new status as a first tier school and explains the significance of this ranking by listing some of the other first tier schools like Harvard, Yale, and Princeton. The intent of the ad is not only to solicit donations, but also to attract prospective students. How will this af- fect admissions? "Well," said Kranzler, "there are very few single factors that directly affect admissions. Things like this are just icing on the cake. In fact, we view ourselves as an upper tier school that finally got its due."

As proof that the system is not yet totally worked out, Kranzler pointed to some other schools that were not ranked in the first tier but felt should have been, such as SUNY Binghamton.

The Rankings

U.S. News ranks 229 schools that qualify as national universities. They divide the universities into four tiers based on their final rank. Schools 1-50 are first tier, 51-115 are second tier, 116-172 are third tier, and finally, 173-229 are the fourth tier schools. Schools ranked below the first tier do not have their final score or rank published but are listed in their tier in alphabetical order. Instead, these schools are sent their score and rank directly.

In 1994 YU ranked somewhere in the third tier. Last year YU moved up into the second tier and ranked in the low sixties. This year YU moved up to forty-five overall.

Robert Morse, the director of research for this U.S. News study explained that to understand why YU was able to move up sixty spots in two years, one must under- stand how the rankings work this year as compared to previous years.

The Methodology

U.S. News ranks colleges using a scor- ing system that gave the top school 100.0 points. That total score is derived from categories which made up a fixed per- centage of the possible 100 point total. Academic reputation, measured through a survey mailed to 4,200 college presi- dents, deans and admission directors, accounted for 25% of the total score. Select- "...if graduate schools are taking note."

Let's hope so.

Kranzler tends to agree with that as- sessment, asserting that, "We are small as a school and have very specific interests for a liberal arts college. People graduating from YU tend toward certain profes- sions such as medicine, law, accounting, and finance. A student who does not graviti- tate to one of these areas is very rare indeed."

Dr. Lee explained the significance of this in the rankings. He pointed out that since YU has no graduate school in the Arts and Sciences, this may affect not only the way students choose career paths, but also how the outsiders completing the U.S. News survey perceive YU. He further cites "certain insular aspects that serve a particular subculture at Yeshiva."

Dean Adler also feels that our aca- demic reputation suffers, "partly because of a delicate dynamic," in which we want to keep to ourselves, "partly because we are afraid of getting hurt."

In any case, since academic reputation is measured by people outside of YU, the simplest way to improve would be to make the school more widely known. Part of this goal has been accomplished by YU's emergence into the first tier. There will have to come from within.

Dean Adler explained that, "One of my roles is to expand the contact between Yeshiva and the academic world...As I bring in people from outside, we become known."

Towards this end he has invited the Vice President of the American Association of Colleges and Universities, along with the American Association of Higher Education and fellows from the Ameri- can Council on Education to visit YU. "I know the nature of the students," he as- serted, "and it's nice to see them come through to others. The depth of scholarship and intensity...of the students," leaves them impressed.

YU's new status as a first tier school means that graduate schools are taking note. "It is certainly impressive that we are ranked in the first tier, yet, with an aca- demic reputation ranked at 103, I wonder if graduate schools are taking note."

Let's hope so.
Student Council Gets Tough on Inactive Clubs

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mony properly. They hoped to take it more to club leaders that this year they will be watched closely to ensure their active participation in campus life. "The majority of clubs are people don't know [about]. There will be more of a push on clubs to do new things," said Yosef Rothstein YC '97, Clubs and Societies Coordinator.

Rothstein, along with Slurrl Tannenbaum YC '97, are the first ap­ pointees to the newly created position of Clubs and Societies Coordinator. They will be responsible for assisting clubs in carrying out activities and encouraging their leaders with fresh ideas for events. The creation of the new position of coordinator is yet another signal by YCSC President Jason Buskin that students who hold titles within organizations pur­ ported to provide campus activities will be held accountable for doing just that. "We were unsatisfied with what we saw in earlier years," commented Buskin. "We wanted to get all the clubs active and to do so in a formal setting."

New Clubs

A handful of fledgling clubs have emerged on campus for the '96-'97 school year. By far, the most popular of the new clubs is the Seinfeld Club, which has reported a list of 100 students who signed up for membership. The club's founder, Andrew Polonetsky, was inspired by the popularity of the television show and complained that it is the only offi­ cially recognized club that will not be granted money for operations. He does insist, though, that the club will nonethe­ less be active, meeting every Mon­ day, Tuesday, and Wednesday to watch old Seinfeld episodes together and dis­ cuss issues presented on the show.

The Star Trek Club, also new, will receive a budget. Its founder, Andrew Weiss, plans on renting old Star Trek movies and watching them at club meet­ ings. With the assistance of Vice Presi­ dent for Academic Affairs William Schwartz, a Trekkie himself, Weiss is working on plans to take his club mem­ bers to the premiere of the new Star Trek movie to be released in November. The Star Trek Club's faculty advisor will be SSSB Assistant Dean Ira Jaskoll.

The Outdoors Club and the Martial Arts Club are the other two first-timers on main campus. Outdoors' founder, Raphael Schorr (YC '99), wanted to ex­ ploit the plethora of opportunities for outdoor activities available in the North­ east, such as bicycling, whitewater raft­ ing, and backpacking. Mr. Schorr wasted no time in organizing his first event: a bicycle trip through Manhattan on October 20.

Matthew Rosen, founder of Martial Arts, is looking for students interested in the martial arts, as well as beginners interested in learning. Rosen was partly influenced to create his club because of the dangers present on the Washington Heights campus. "Yeshiva University students some­ times forget where they are because of the security present on campus," re­ marked Rosen, who's idea for the club was also inspired by his being recently mugged in Central Park.

With plenty of excitement being gen­ erated over the latest additions to the pool of clubs and societies, the seasoned clubs seemed to be overshadowed at the fair but nonetheless did receive equal amounts of student interest. Clubs like the Commentator, in its 61st year, Sigma Delta Rho, and the JP Dunnet Political Science Society still remain the most ven­ erable of the lot. All were accepting new members in order to increase their mem­ ber base — and operations — but also, in part, to find students who might ulti­ mately take over the reins of the club in the future.

Sigma Delta, now on campus for 11 years, has emerged as the pre-med club on campus in the wake of the recent inactivity of Alpha Epsilon Delta, the majority of the lot. All were accepting new students planning on attending medical school.

At no time during the fair, held from 8:30-10:00, was the crowd particularly large, but many a success. "It gave me a chance to see all the activities that are available to students on campus," noted Bernstein. "It shows us that there's more to YU than an academic environment and that extra­ curricular activities are available as well."

But there still does exist a feeling of indif­ ference, if not contempt, towards the clubs due to many clubs' previous failure to run interesting events or — in some extreme cases — a failure to organize any events at all. "As far as I'm concerned, the majority of the clubs in the school exist merely for people to pad their resumes," said Mendy Miller YC '98. "There seems to be a serious deficiency of true club activity."

It is clear that YCSC was aware that such attitudes were prevalent on campus when they decided to crack down on the idleness of many of the clubs. "The old clubs that didn't do anything last year will be monitored closely as to whether or not they are holding an ample number of events," said Buskin.

The YCSC Constitution states that if a club does not hold at least six meetings during the school year, the Student Council, with two-thirds vote, can dissolve the club the following year.
he emphasized the importance of prayer

By Ezra Tuchman

While millions of Americans gathered around pools and BBQ pits to celebrate the Labor Day Weekend, nearly one hundred and fifty students gathered in the YU Beit Midrash to participate in a Yom Iyun, a day of Torah study that would have otherwise been a day off. The program included lectures by Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, Rabbi Herschel Schachter, and Rabbi Meir Goldwicht.

Rabbi Charlop, Max and Marion Grill Dean of RIETS opened the program with a moving sermon on the spirituality of the body. Rav Shachter, renowned for his extensive knowledge of Talmud and commentaries, presented a comprehensive discourse expounding on various laws pertaining to the Shofar. Finally, Rav Goldwicht, a Rosh Yeshiva for both the MYP and BMP Programs, concluded the Yom Iyun by delivering a lecture in which he emphasized the importance of prayer on behalf of the congregation, by pointing to the differences in the supplications of Clamah and other Matriarchs.

Students and visitors complimented the Yeshiva administration’s decision to hold the event on Labor Day, allowing them to attend without missing class. Shlomo Drazin, a graduate of SSSB and an analyst for Toronto Dominion Bank, returned to YU to attend Yom Iyun. Drazin remarked, “While most of my colleagues spent the day at the beach or on the golf course, I feel spent my Labor Day in a more appropriate manner. It’s nice that so many other talmidim gave of their own time to participate in this program.”

Dov Siegman, secretary of the Student Organization of Yeshiva, which sponsored the event, was “happy that after all the work that went into organizing and publicizing this event, so many students took the opportunity to spend their Labor Day learning Torah.”

As always, Yeshiva University has the “write stuff”

By Gary Strong

For many Jewish college students, Simchat Torah is a time of happiness amid social events at universities across America. However, in recent years, more and more students from Yeshiva University have decided to enliven the Simchat Torah celebrations of Jewish communities around the country through their participation in Torah Tours. This year, over two hundred students from Yeshiva College, Stern and other colleges participated in Torah Tours.

Torah Tours is a program run through the Max Stern Division of Communal Services of YU in which students are sent to Jewish communities to spend the holiday with the members of those respective communities in an effort to energize the Holiday program. The day is run on Simchat Torah, Purim, as well as Shavuot.

Students had the option of requesting to be placed in a certain city in order to be with other friends or were simply sent to those areas that needed them most, with the cost of transportation subsidized by Torah Tours.

Simchat Torah served the purpose of adding an increased level of Ruach in communities where an awareness of Sukkot and Simchat Torah existed but were lacking in effervescence in celebrating the holiday. Students led singing, dancing, and other activities with the goal of encouraging all the community residents to partake in the spirit of the holiday.

Rabbi Bentzion Scheinfeld, the director of Torah Tours and other O'obech programs at YU, called this year’s service a resounding success. He was amazed that there were so many starved Jewish communities that were passionately invigorated by the leveling of the students.

Rabbi Scheinfeld has received letters of thanks from the rabbis of communities that Torah Tours visited - communities such as West Hartford, Connecticut and Memphis.

One thankful rabbi said, “The young men and women of Yeshiva University made all the difference in the world in terms of the level of enjoyment that the holiday brought to the members of my congregation. Even after services ended, many people wanted to stay at shul singing and dancing!”

In fact, some communities enjoyed the holiday program so much that they asked for students of Torah Tours to return for a shabbaton during the year.

Another rabbi added to this positive feedback by noting that the students were “wonderful ambassadors for YU and terrific role models for committed young Jewish men and women involved in learning, religious commitment, but ‘with it’ and ‘lebeneik.’”

Doron Simon YC ’98, was one of eight students - 4 boys and 4 girls - who went to Memphis. Four of the students, including Mr. Simon, held celebrations at a synagogue called Anshei Sephard while the other four went to the Baron Hirsch synagogue.

“I can’t speak for everyone but it is a great feeling to use your knowledge and love of Judaism in such a positive manner,” said Simon. “I know I made a difference and that will stay with me for a long time.”

Rabbi Scheinfeld mentioned that people achieve a certain fulfillment by incorporating facets of religion into their lives and enjoy the vibrancy that comes along with the faith.

He hopes that the positive experiences generated by the students of Torah Tours will leave the people in the communities visited with a positive Simchat Torah memory.
Professors Not Using Campus Bookstore

BY NIR KNOLL

Students this semester found themselves hunting around Manhattan to obtain the books they need for their courses (those in a handful of YCSC-proposed books have decided not to make use of the campus bookstore). Professors normally submit a list of the books they need to the bookstore so that students can conveniently pick them up. This year, however, many professors told their students to get their books elsewhere.

History professor Jeffrey Freedman explained his decision not to use the campus bookstore.

"The bookstore does not have a catalog of books in print, so I can’t go there with a list of books and ask which books are available and which are not. By the time they put through the request and get back to me, many weeks will have gone by," Dr. Freedman said. He decided not to continue using the bookstore for this year. Instead, Freedman ordered his books through another bookstore, which was able to provide him the services he needed.

Dr. Freedman has had this problem with the bookstore for over two years. This year he decided to give them another chance, but "realized that things hadn’t changed" and decided to go elsewhere.

Dr. Haddass Kossak, also a professor of History in YC, told her students this year to look elsewhere to purchase the books which are required for her history courses. Dr. Kossak explained that when she began teaching at YU, she used the bookstore, but felt that they were charging higher prices than many other bookstores in the area and didn’t want to force her students to pay such costs for her course.

Both Kossak and Freedman admitted that these grievances could well be out of the hands of the YC Bookstore’s owner.

Freedman felt that the problem are "not the fault of the employees of the bookstore here, rather it is the fact that they don’t have the technical equipment or the bibliographic market that can be found at Barnes and Noble or other stores. Also, Dr. Freedman stated that if he heard that the bookstore had improved this year he would definitely have no problem using it in the future.

Dr. Freedman suspects that this "problem is more serious in the Humanities and Social Sciences, where professors need a wide range of books, as opposed to the sciences, where you basically need one textbook and can order the same one every year."

In light of these events, Jech Glantz, the district manager of Collegiate Bookstores, stated that "in the past there was no liaison that contacted us about any of these problems, until that article was put in the paper about us last year."

Glantz was referring to last year’s Commentator article on the bookstore, which got the ball rolling in the effort to improve customer service. Glantz explained that the bookstores have been "trying to correct any problems in servicing the students.

"When we got the book lists [over the summer] I contacted the school and notified them that we are missing lists from certain departments, however we can’t contact the departments directly. We felt that people were going to other stores, but we did not know for sure," Glantz said.

In light of these events, Glantz defended the technological deficiencies of the Bookstore. "We are looking to computerize our whole company within the next few years. However, with a school this size it’s very hard to pay for the software and have a place to put it, in this [small] area. One of the things we are going to try to do is have a meeting with the school so that we can increase our hours and increase the items that we sell."

Glantz also added that the time that it takes for books to arrive is solely in the hands of UPS. He said that he had received no complaints from YU professors this term and that "every book order which we were made aware of before school started, was here on the first day of school."

Glantz are confident that none of the professors made their grievances known to the bookstore and feels that the decision made by some of the professors to use other stores to acquire books "harms the students, because now you have to go to other places to get their books instead of going across the street."

History major Andrew Wurzburger agreed with Glantz’s sentiments. "It is unfortunate that in order for teachers to insure that their courses go smoothly they must resort to sending their students across Manhattan."

KOSHER-D

GRANDMA'S COOKIE JAR

2551 AMSTERDAM AVENUE (BTWN 186-187 ST) NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10033 (212) 568-4855
Roberto Alomar: A Role Model?

BY DAVID SWIDLER

This year’s American League Championship Series between the New York Yankees and the Baltimore Orioles saw more than its share of controversy. Perhaps it was a good thing that Jeff Maier intercepted Derek Jeter’s fly ball to right field, because the ensuing publicity completely overshadowed the issue of Roberto Alomar. The bad seed of offense and slap-on-the-wrist penalty. Overshadowed as it was, however, the fiasco and the public reaction to it still reared its ugly head, even within the walls of Yeshiva University—though it waned, thankfully, as the series of games progressed.

In fact, a student on campus for watching these games was, for many students, Morg Lounge. Naturally, the majority of those watching were either Orioles or Yankees fans, and there was the expected banner between these two groups, most of it good-natured. Not too good-natured, however, was the student who wore a T-shirt labeled “Orioles Fan” and was watching the games in Morg Lounge to rally behind Roberto Alomar, perhaps out of sympathy, perhaps of a Baltimorean solidarity in a perceived sea of Yankees fans, or perhaps both or neither of these.

Nonetheless, it is troubling that these fans seemed not to care that they only made themselves look worse by cheering for Alomar.

More troubling, however, is the scary realization that if a member of the Yankees had committed an Alomar-like offense and been punished as lightly, many New Yorkers would see nothing wrong with cheering him on. It seems that winning has become such a lofty goal that fans will forgive almost any disgraceful act by a player as long as that player performs. The reaction has become one of, “He may be a sinner, but he’s our sinner.”

Many of us would like to believe that YU students would rise above such a lack of sportsmanship. This assumption betrays naïveté—we are to judge that Yankee fans have any more perspective than those Oriole fans who voted for Alomar.

The elimination of the Orioles from contention has not eliminated the bohmers thought from my consciousness, as ostensible exemplars of Jewish moral values, should strive for a higher standard than the world around us does, and not adopt the negative attitudes and assumptions of society at large. The concept of “Or Lagoyim” extends even to expressions of rivalry between sports teams, and we must make it more than just a gesture if we are to fulfill our designated role as “light unto the nations.”

Why Jews Should Vote for Dole

College Republicans Address The Issues

BY ELLIOT GANCHEW

In 1992 Bill Clinton campaigned on a resounding 85 percent of the Jewish vote in his victorious Presidential campaign. As Election Day nears, the Jewish community must take a careful look at the past 4 years later of the Embassy remains outside of Jerusalem, with construction on the new settlement policy. This is a preview of the Talmud, always begin on page two.

1. Jerusalem. Most Jews believe Jerusalem represents the pinnacle of our religion. In 1992 Bill Clinton campaigned on the issue of moving the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Yet four years later the Embassy remains outside of Israel’s capital. In 1995 Bob Dole introduced legislation in Congress demanding that the American Embassy be moved to Jerusalem, with construction on the new building to be finished no later than May 1999. Although huge majorities in both Houses passed the bill, Bill Clinton refused to sign it, thus allowing it to become law without his approval. As a result of this new law, 25 million dollars was set aside for construction, to start this year, but Bill Clinton has refused to use this money and allows this large sum to sit in limbo. Is this the behavior of a true friend? Under President Bob Dole, the Embassy will finally be relocated in Israel’s eternal undivided capital.

2. Relations With Netzerah. Perhaps saw Bill Clinton at his worst during the recent Presidential campaign in Israel. Furthermore, the Clinton factor for another reason: it is Kemp who has an excellent friendliness toward Netzerah and it was Kemp who insisted on meeting with Ariel Sharon when both were heads of Housing for their respective governments.

That meeting took place over the objection of James Baker. Jack Kemp was an incredible asset for the Jewish community as we try to keep pressure off Israel and allow the Palestinian government to govern as it sees fit.

5. School Choice. It is on this issue where the biggest gap lies between the Jewish community. Bob Dole strongly supports a plan which would give school vouchers to children to attend Jewish schools, including religious schools. Hundreds of Jewish parents who send their children to Jewish Day Schools or Yeshivot would gain a partial relief from the great financial burden that school tuition has become. This would be, in short, a financial bonanza for the Jewish community. President Clinton has repeatedly asserted that he is very much against any such voucher plan.

These issues and factors are simply too important to ignore. It is imperative for our community to be heard on Election Day. Stand up and demand that the Embassy be moved to its rightful home in Jerusalem. Choose the candidate who takes the security and sovereignty of Israel seriously, the candidate who will battle for the issues close to the Jewish heart. Choose Bob Dole.

When Dorem Talks

October 28, 8:00 PM
Morg Lounge

Dr. Lamm - Speaker
Dean Shomidman - Moderator
Rabbi Cheifetz - Coordinator
Israel's Turn At Bat

BY JOSEPH J. SUSSMAN

As the job search for graduating seniors intensifies, many of us face momentous decisions which are sure to impact the rest of our lives. Should I interview for a year off to learn? Do I want to go to graduate school? Should I go into investment banking or marketing? Unfortunately, one question all too rarely enters our decision-making process: "What are my options in Israel?"

Avraham Avinu, in Parshat Chayei Sarah, becomes the first Jewish businessman to enter Israel's real estate market. Quite symbolically, soon after he arrives in Israel, the first plot of land that Avraham purchases serves as the ultimate resting place for both him and his spouse. Moving into the gated amongst ourselves, rarely attempting to keep in touch with my boss from that of Froot Loops and we always congregate: "When I worked for the summer office came from a YU student." Most YU

Gabe Slosnick, SSB '96 and a former participant on the Gesher program re-marked: "When I worked for the summer in Israel, for the first time I felt engaged in the outcome of the game. Now, we have the freedom to integrate into Israeli society. I still keep in touch with my boss from that rest of our lives, that we should try planting in the future. It is now, as we go through college and commence our job search anyway, that we should try our luck in Israel. It is now, after completing ten years in Breit Akiva and NCSY, that we should practice what we've preached and try moving to Israel. The longer we wait the harder it becomes."

The new agreement signed with Bar Ilan University paves the way for YU students to earn an MBA at Bar Ilan also merits commendation. Now, students considering to earn an MBA at Bar Dan also merits commendation. Now, students considering the Placement Office for help of such events. It is where the students who must display interest in these types of programs. Only when the demand options in Israel?"

To the Editor:

Kudos to CAMERA for exposing the ridiculous slander that Israel is responsible for international terrorism ("CNN Mis-fires ..., September 4). Middle East terrorists have existed well before the State of Israel was established and continue to murder many innocent people that have no affiliation with Israel.

While serving as Israeli ambassador to the United Nations in 1985, Benyamin Netanyahu handed to the General Assembly an extensive list of anti-Israel bombings, assassinations, kidnappings and hijackings in only the previous month. Those targeted included diplomats, journalists, embassies and airline offices. Victims included Ira-

To the Editor:

It is easy to complain; therefore, here is my proposal. It is called "The One Book, One Number Program." Here is how I envision it. Each book in the library is assigned a number. The first book is called 1, the second 2. I'll start the numbering. Number one goes to a Tanach. Then every other Tanach should follow in sequential order. The shelves should maintain a se-quential order as well. Now under the new system, you look up Tanach 1 doesn't matter whether you need Hebrew, English, Spanish, Latin, or Klingonese. Each Tanach will have its own individual number. This plan will work as long as we don't run out of numbers. NASA assures us this will not happen in the near future. The way the world works with a small note reminding us of a saying in the Navy that applied to YU goes, "there's a right way, a wrong way, and a YU way." So, the next time you are looking for a comprehensive history of oak furniture in the 16th Century, remember there could have been a much easier way.

Aaron Lefk

CAMERA Clicks on Middle East

To the Editor:

It's ten thirty on a Wednesday night. After an excruciatingly long day of class, you are looking forward to finally relaxing. You have been up late studying the past four nights, and you are dying to just lie down and rest. As you step out of Furst Hall, you trying to find the Library. Yes, many a campus, one thing still remains unimproved - the Library. When I worked for an Israeli accounting firm this past summer, my international accounting skills vastly improved. By going out on audits, I saw firsthand many different companies all doing business in different areas of the economy. I established many contacts through networking that I hope to capitalize on in the future. Many of my friends who have worked in Israel for the summer have had similar experiences. On a resume, a job in Israel carries equal weight to an internship here in America. Sometimes, it carries even more weight, because of the international experience.

Summer job opportunities in Israel do exist, but somehow I just can't find out about them. Michael Eiseberg, YC '93 and currently the Vice President of Jerusalem Global Consultants, noted that he contacted several students and no one seemed interested. He said, "I have no idea how to find books in the Library. Yes, many a student, no doubt was trying to find a book. Going to the Library is like you average episode of "Mission Impossible." If you don't complete your mis-

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MESSAGE FROM THE YCSC PRESIDENT

Dear Students,

It is the wee hours of the morning as I sit down to write this article. YCSC at the moment is restructuring the manner in which we deal with all clubs and societies in order to assist them in any way possible throughout the semester, planning and implementing activities. Additionally we are examining different ways to address student complaints so that we can more efficiently deal with your problems. Our classes are in the process of planning events: don’t miss an evening at Chicago City Limits on Thursday October 31st. Now with the addition of the Sophomore and Freshman class representatives, we hope to get YCSC into full gear. Furthermore, this year marks the earliest date the Guide to the Perplexed directory has ever been published and the staff deserves a tremendous thank you. Morg Mart is opening this week for the first time in several years thanks to the hard work of the Joint Business Society. More events, surprises and campus improvements are on the way. Our hope is to publicize the events and activities as YCSC as much as possible, to keep you, the student, updated. We hope to continue to provide the types of events that you, the student, would want to attend. With this in mind, I request, no, I implore you, to demand better of us.

Yours Truly,
Jason Buskin

Mazel Tov to the following couples:

David Greenberg and Shira Feder
Yoni Kristt and Rieky Schramm
Gedalya Berger and Miriam Davis
Adam Sokol and Sure Besser
Tzvi Harrow and Devora Newman
Yitzi Shapiro and Estee Dombek
Jou Kroll and Jen Kolt
Matthew Rosen and Bena Falk
Saraya Sobol and Shana Lustnian

on their recent engagements.

The Editors-in-chief of the Guide to the Perplexed would like to thank their publishers

Yeshiva College Student Council and Stern College for Women Student Council

for sponsoring this publication for the students of Yeshiva University. In addition we would like to thank our advertisers for their additional support.

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*denotes a 10% discount to YU students and faculty
The New Macs
continued from back page

Volleyball Team
Looks To Improve

by Ron Markovitz

The YU Maccabees volleyball team is coming off a very disappointing season in which they had more losses than wins. With the core of the team returning and some great new editions, the team has a reason to be confident that they won’t have back-to-back losing seasons.

The Macs are coached by Shensheng Jiang, who formerly coached the Chinese Women’s Olympic Team, and is starting his third year as volleyball coach at YU. The players really have a lot of respect for him, and think he’s an excellent teacher of the sport even though at times there’s somewhat of a language barrier.

Third year member Carl Hochhauser has really improved his all-around game last year. He is really counting on his ability to serve well as well as spike the ball. Second year players are abundant on this year’s team. David Waknin is, according to teammate Russell Kimyagarov, “one of the best setters on the team and in the league.” He is also expected to play at some hitting positions too. Some team members feel that Ari Bandler has the most team spirit, and would make a great assistant coach. He has been known to cheer up those teammates of his who are not having a good day at practice.

Hailing from Toronto, Ronen Lazar is a merciless spiker. He also is also one of the best blockers that the team has.

The ‘biggest’ addition to the team is 6’6” Alex Shakhmurov, who also plays center for the basketball team. He should be a dominating force in the center with his height. A dangerous spiker, who also played volleyball in high school, Alex will make it tough for opponents to get the ball past his long arms.

One of the returning players is Russell Kimyagarov, who is playing his second year at Offside Spiker. He’s a hard hitter who has worked very hard to improve offensively and defensively. “Personally, I believe that the team is somewhat tougher this year.”

Fortunately, most of the starting players are returning, so through cooperation, we stand a good chance of winning this season.

Think you’ve heard them all? How’s this for a pick-up line!

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(1-888-987-2389)

Macs Basketball Preview '96-'97

by Ron Markovitz

Coming off a 13-12 season (7-6 in conference play) and a devastating post-season loss to Mt. St. Vincent, the YU Macs enters men’s basketball season, along with Head Coach Johnny Halpert, are faced with the loss of 7 players including top scorer Forward Alan Levy, sharpshooter Jake Rosenberg, and former Division III steals leader and floor general Barry Aranoff. Coach Halpert meticulously chose 4 talented new players to fill out the roster for a total of 12 players.

The burden of leadership will mainly fall upon the shoulders of the captains: 6’7” Senior Center Forward Joel Jacobson, 6’4” Senior Center Stephen “Kup” Kupferman, and 6’2” Senior Point Guard Yehuda Ham. Starting with the big men, Jacobson will probably start Power Forward due to the effectiveness of Kupferman at Center. Joel, in his third year with the Macs, is coming off a second solid season and looks to improve and return the team to the playoffs.

Stephen really stepped it up at the end of the season and in the playoffs, even after being sidelined for most of the season with an injury. Stephen having the potential to be 6’5” Sophomore master rebounding Center Alex “Shak” Shakhmurov.

At Small Forward, the Macs have two very talented athletes. 6’3” Senior Neil Bronstein, who is playing his third year for the Macs, should see major minutes due to his experience, steady play, and knowledge of the system. 6’4” Junior Brian “Air” Wein, who had some sparkling moments last year, seems physically and mentally ready to get the season started and will probably share time with Bronstein. Both players are exciting to watch on both sides of the court.

At Point Guard, Yehuda Halpert will have the responsibility of bringing up the ball. 5’10” Senior Ira Landsman will bring his nifty passing ability onto the court to substitute for Halpert. 6’4” Junior Alon “Oak” Zaibert will bring his range to the Shooting Guard position. Alon badly sprained his left ankle in the Mac’s first game.

He hopes to be available for the opening game in Boston against Massachusetts College of Pharmacy on November 23rd, otherwise Bronstein and Wein should pick up the slack by playing at the same time.

Among the new faces on the team, 6’2” Sophomore Marc Nadritch sticks out the most. A native of Staten Island, N.J., Marc should feel quite comfortable in the Max Stern Athletic Center having played against MTA in the Yeshiva League and in the Red Saracheh Tournament, in which he led his team in steals a couple of years ago. He’s a big guard with a good shooting touch, though he played down low in high school. As a guard he feels that he can contribute by getting inside and driving to the basket.

Rounding off the other new team members are three Guards: 6’3” Senior Bronstein and Wein should pick up the slack by playing at the same time.

Not Content to Rest on Laurels, Fencers Look Ahead

by Commentator Sports Staff

Some nineteen new recruits joined the seven returning veterans of the Yeshiva University fencing team at the fall 1996 season, held on August 29th. The fencing Maccabees looks to reach new heights on the heels of what some would say would be a tough act to follow.

The ‘95-’96 year fencing team set high standards for what can be expected of Yeshiva fencers. The team won their second consecutive Independent Athletic Conference championship, and the coaches feel that this years team has the potential to help train the new recruits, solidify and channel their team spirit, and make them a close-knit group.

The jewel in the team’s crown, however, was the qualification of six fencers, from all three weapons, to the NCAA Regional Championship, held at Wesley. Unprecedented in size, the delegation comprised of Reuben Levy, Tzvika Nissel, Shaun Azari, Shimon Oppenheim, Baltzar Beckeld, and Jack Cate, made a strong showing.

With the graduation of senior standouts Akiva Davis and captain Chaim Motzen, all the new members will have to make an immediate impact. Coach Stan Watson said, “I am very optimistic and excited about newcomers Shaan Elbaum, Howard Shapiro, Yossi Nissenfeld, and Joel Kirzner. They have showed tremendous potential.

With Senior member Michael Zelenetz injured and the IAC Championship about three weeks away, the team is working hard to prepare itself. Senior co-captain Michael Resnick remarked, "The mix of the veterans and newcomers will greatly strengthen our chances of winning the IAC this year. The new guys are also generating a lot of excitement for the future." With it’s Hilly wooded area and difficult and sometimes grueling terrain, Van Cortland Park, provides a challenging training course for the track team.

Because the park is the site for this years IAC championship, and all other sched­uled meets, Yeshiva has the advantage with it being their official home grounds.

The team has been practicing consistently, learning the Van Cortland course and accustomed themselves to it’s five mile length. Coach Watson expressed his optimism for the coming year by claiming, “I am confident that by the time the IAC Championship comes that this team can make some noise”.

The Yeshiva University Cross Country Team Makes Run for Title

Commentator Sports Staff

With the fall 1996 cross country season about to begin, many new faces along with the returning veterans are preparing to make themselves strong contenders in the IAC.

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