Undergraduate Honors College To Begin Implementation in Fall '97

BY MORDECHAI FISHMAN

The quest for academic excellence at Yeshiva University is a constant crusade. Every segment of the University community, from the trustees to the student body, agree that energies must be directed to attaining that goal. The actual policies implemented are less unanimously decided upon, and often cause dissension between the various elements of the University.

Recent rumors about the imminent creation of an "Honors College," or honors program, have already caused rumblings on campus, with members of the faculty, administration, and student body taking positions on either side of the issues.

The honors program is envisioned by its proponents as a tool to improve the general academic environment at YU, as a means to correct the perceived flaws in the current curriculum. The program's purpose is to combine selected members of the student body with outstanding members of the faculty, and engender more intense study with-in assorted subjects and interdisciplinary fields. It is felt that such a program will better serve to maximize the intellectual potential of gifted students.

The honors program will consist of two groups of students, "Honors Scholars," and "Honors Students." The scholars will be composed of 20 to 40 selected students in a given year who will be required to remain on campus for a minimum of three years, participate in seminars and independent study outside the classroom and engage in a summer internships or research fellowship in the student's particular field. A senior thesis paper would be required in each year.

Implementation in Fall '97

MYP/RIETS Rosh Yeshiva, R' Romm Passes Away

BY NOAH STREIT

In a mournful event, MYP/RIETS Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Shimon Romm passed away yesterday at the age of eighty-nine. A Levaya was held at 2:30 the same afternoon attracting close to 1,000 people.

After almost a half century of teaching at YU, R' Romm, a resident of Washington Heights, was set to retire at the end of this year. His post-retirement goals, to live in Israel and publish some of his works, were unfortunate-served short. At about 6:40 on March 4th, R' Romm awoke to chest pains. Having a pacemaker and preexisting heart condition, he was accustomed to this sort of pain. Thus he took a nitroglycerin tablet and returned to sleep. Afternot arising at his usual time, his wife attempted to wake him and realized that he was not responding. Hatzalah arrived and he was later declared to have died from heart failure at about 7:30.

A sorrowful crowd of about 1,000 attended the Levaya services held in YU's Nathan Lamport Auditorium. In attendance were University and High School students, fellow Roshei Yeshiva, faculty and family.

The ceremony began with an emotion filled reading of a Psalm, followed by an address from YU President, Norman Lamm. Dr. Lamm articulated the importance of identifying and revealing the traits and deeds of the deceased.

Rabbi Shimon Romm's death was followed by an address from YU President, Norman Lamm. Dr. Lamm articulated the importance of identifying and revealing the traits and deeds of the deceased.

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The Grand Illusion

In an attempt to cure the academic ills of Yeshiva College which Dean Adler feels is two decades behind the finest liberal arts programs in the country, the Dean is promoting a snake-oil serum which he touts as the only remedy.

However, treating these ills with an elixir such as the honors college, will, like the snake oil, prove to exacerbate the current condition of Yeshiva College.

Dean Adler’s proposal creates the impression that the College’s curriculum will undergo major improvements that will benefit all students. In reality, these changes may only benefit the approximate-ly one hundred students accepted into the honors program. The remaining 900 students on campus will be left with the current, decades old curriculum... Or worse.

Separating the College’s top professors from the rank and file instructors, leaves students not enrolled in the honors program with a curriculum that at best remains twenty years outdated, and a faculty with additional responsibilities. These responsibilities will necessarily take time away from the current attention professors can afford to give their students.

A revamped curriculum is clearly needed at YC. But limiting its access to ten percent of the campus population robs the remaining students of an opportunity to attain a truly higher education.

We urge the YC administration to refocus their energies, and initiate a real effort toward securing a brighter academic future for all its students. Everyone figured out the snake-oil sham eventually.

Torah, Madda & Common Sense

Recently, the Jewish world learned of Howard Shapiro, an Ortho-doxy Jew with strong anti-peace process views, who allegedly planted a pipe bomb in a Conservative synagogue where former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres was to speak.

Shapiro notified the police of the explosive device just hours before the speech, identifying himself as a member of an Islamic terrorist group in an effort to create a backlash against the Arab community and ultimately halt the peace process.

Whether Shapiro actually expected the device to detonate, or simply serve as a scare tactic is a side point.

What is of much greater concern is that this incident represents the third act of terror committed by an Orthodox Jew schooled in the philosophy of Torah U'Madda.

Tragically, the lesson that terror lies outside the pale of Judaism and civilized society has not been internalized.

This emerging trend of violent acts perpetrated by “religious” Jews places Torah observant Judaism into the realm of other religions that we as have deplored as failing to civilize man. That we should tolerate the views of others, at least to the point where we resist resorting to violence, is a lesson that needs to be drilled into the minds of every student passing through our educational system from the first day they enter, and not something spoken of in an occasional lecture.

Finally, time enough for both!
The Commentator Launches New Online Site

BY ADAM MOSES

The Commentator has once again joined the burgeoning ranks of prominent collegiate newspapers who provide their newspapers to readers around the globe via the World Wide Web. This development marks an eagerly anticipated renaissance of the online version of the official undergraduate newspaper of Yeshiva University, www.yuserv.net. The site address is http://www.yuserv.net.

Before moving to its current home, The Commentator Online spent a short stay on the Jerusalem One server where the newspaper was mailed electronically to a membership list, and nearly a year as a print edition on the campus of Yeshiva University's campus. This move, patterned after the websites of major New York City newspapers to readers around the globe, was made possible by the technical pioneering to feverish efforts to the printed version. The Jerusalem One server, where The Commentator Online spent its current home, was a perfect vehicle to launch the printed version. The site is expected to s

An Orthodox Minyan in Northern Yonkers needs help with its minyan on Yom Kippur.

We are looking for anyone who can make a one-time, monthly or bi-monthly commitment to come and spend Shabbos. For more information call Ori at 795-8739

MESSAGE FROM THE YCSC PRESIDENT

JASON BUSKIN

At our last meeting we were pleased to announce that in the coming months the Yeshiva Daily will be permanently hung in a new home. We will like to thank our colleagues on the Student Life Committee for their assistance in making this possible. Additionally I would like to thank Dr. Nulman and Mr. Rosengarten for their assistance in the entire process.

YCSC is currently working on addressing various issues within the Office of the Registrar. A group of students headed by YCSC Sr. Class VP Rocky Schechter are in the process of meeting with the administration and evaluating the current system.

The Senior Class is busy at the moment with Senior awards, don't forget to vote next Thursday. They are also hard at work planning the Senior Dinner which promises to be the best ever.

Finally, come out this Wednesday night and support the MAC as they begin the ECAC Tournament. The bus leaves for the College of Staten Island at 6:30 P.M. Help support your team!

These are just some of the items we are busy with, as we move towards the end of the year. Keep sending us your inputs, whether by email (YCSC@ymail.yu.edu), or by stopping by my room (Morg 224), and let YCSC know what you're thinking.

Yours Truly,
Jason Buskin
YCSC President, 1996-97

The Commentator Online's new home. Check us out at http://www.yuserv.net/commie.
New York Blood Services once again came to YU where students openly donated much needed blood. The University has been cited for heading the call when shortages arise.

YU Students Participate in Yale Model Knesset

BY NUR KNOLL

Over the weekend of February 20-23, twelve Yeshiva and fourteen Stern College students participated in the fourth annual Yale Model Israeli Knesset (YMIK). YU students joined with forty-five Jewish students from the University of Pennsylvania, as well as George Washington, and Columbia Universities, to debate the future of Israel as it approaches the 21st century. Each delegate was assigned a specific party and committee to represent during discussions on topics ranging from the legalization of marijuana to the future of the Middle East peace process.

Upon their arrival on Thursday night, the impact of the YU students was felt immediately as they helped the Yale Orthodox community complete a rare Maariv minyan. After dawnning, YMIK officials began with the presentation of the 1997 YMIK video featuring an official welcome from Labor Party leader Shimon Peres. The event concluded with an introductory plenary session, during which representatives of the Student Life Committee, the Dean's offices, and the Israeli flag were raised.

On Saturday evening, the YMIK delegates went to the Chabad House to take part in the annual Yamim Noraim application. The event concluded with an informal party on stage.

On Sunday morning, the YMIK directors led their colleagues to the Yale Hillel House. The event concluded with a traditional meal run by the Yale Chabad Community.

The YMIK organizers were assigned party caucuses and the beginning of the general plenary sessions. Of interest to the YU delegation was the presentation of the Israeli Model Knesset, which was attended by the delegation.

Yeshiva College Student Council announced plans for YU's first ever Spring concert to be held on Thursday night, March 27. The event's featured performer will be Jewish music legend Mordechai Ben David.

At its most recent open meeting, the Yeshiva College Student Council announced plans for YU's first ever Spring concert to be held on Thursday night, March 27. The event's featured performer will be Jewish music legend Mordechai Ben David.

President Jason Buskin explained the council's decision to run another concert: "Wasewas how much the student body liked the first concert. What better way to thank the student body than to put on another show."

YMIK vice-president Natanel Lebowitz added, "Work is being done to find an opening act." Referring to Devil's "surprise" appearance at this year's Chanukah concert, Lebowitz commented, "If we get an opening act, it will not be a surprise; he will be announced."

According to Lebowitz and Buskin, the concert will be held at MTA's Laramport Auditorium with seating arrangements similar to the setup at this year's Chanukah concert - there will be separate as well as mixed seating areas. Tickets will be going on sale shortly.

New Registrar Committee Formed

A Registrar Committee consisting of six students will be formed to meet with the Student Life Committee, the Dean's Office, and the Registrar. According to YCDS President Jason Buskin, "It's sole purpose will be to deal with student complaints about the registration process."

Unlike the futile attempts of student councils of years past at improving the harrowing registration process, Buskin declared that he is "taking a special interest in making sure the suggestions of the committee are actually implemented."

Israeli Flag To Be Raised on Campus

According to Buskin, by this summer, after many months of meetings with the Dean's Office and the Department of Facilities Management, the Israeli flag will finally be raised on YU's campus.

On April 5-10, the Yeshiva College Dramatics Society will once again enter the limelight as it performs Judith Guest's Ordinary People.

As described by Dr. Beukas, the sets succeed in their attempt to create beautiful sets. Besides, it was time to do it very well."
YU Hosts Conference On African-American and Jewish Relations

by Benjamin Balint

Black and Jewish leaders alike have long fretted over the seeming lack of open dialogue and trusting cooperation between the members of the two prominent minority groups. Dubbing itself “African Americans and Jews: A Dialogue for the 21st Century,” the conference held this week at YU’s Main Campus attempted to bridge this lack of genuine communication. Sponsored by The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, the World Jewish Congress, and the Wurzweiler School of Social Work, the event drew approximately 300 registered participants and 100 students to Belfer Hall on Tuesday, March 4 to explore the diversity of black-Jewish relations in the United States.

Invoking concepts such as darchei shalom and tolerance bein adam lechadam, Rabbi Norman Lamm set the tone in his brief opening remarks by characterizing the conference as a meeting of the “rational, moderate centers” of the two communities, a meeting which neither “political,” nor “academic, in the pejorative sense.”

Rabbi Marc Shneier, President of The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, described the atmosphere of holding the conference at Yeshiva University, which, in his words, espouses “theology of social justice.” He quoted extensively from a compiled catalogue of recent instances of co-operations and conflicts between blacks and Jews in this country.

Current Manhattan Borough President and Democratic candidate for Mayor of New York Ruth Messinger, after an afternoon of rhetorical use of street epigraphy and generalization that somehow blamed much of the “cross-antagonisms” between the two communities on the perception that in city of 170 distinct ethnic groups, resources are scarce and that one group’s gain is another’s loss.

Meanwhile, Gary Rosenblatt debunked the myth of a glorious heyday of black-Jewish cooperation, represented in the popular mind by the image of A.J. Hechtel and Martin Luther King marching in arm for civil rights. Black-Jewish relations were never extremely warm, he observed, nor have they deteriorated recently as drastically as some reactionaries would have us believe.

With former Mayor David Dinkins in attendance, Rabbi Israel Singer, quoting Rabbi Joseph B. Solowich, stated that “Jews have no rights, human or civil; Jews have obligations,” and lamented them modern age’s “theology of strife” which, unlike Jewish thought, forcibly drives an artificial wedge between social obligations and rights.

And beneath the watchful gaze of SPAN television cameras, Kwei Marufmire, head of the NAACP, spoke with fustian grandiloquence not readily lending itself to synopsis. Addressing himself to opponents of the conference, Mr. Marufmire declared, "There are those who will say that a gathering here today is worthless, an experiment that need not take place. There is this apocalyptic drama of fear and contradiction that they play out in their own minds and we must reject that at every opportunity we can."

Finally, with the unmentioned specters of Sharpton and Farrakhon looming in the background, some in the audience noted the lack of representatives of a mainstream Jewish community, who, in constructive dialogue might have been a future option.

Others remained to avoid the all too prevalent clichés of cooperation and reconciliation, and to avoid the implicit paternalism of a conference so sponsored, organized and moderated exclusively by Jews.

A some RITs student concluded, “The conference was an important first step, but the final step by their very nature must be uncertain.”

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Metech Monaster, Proprietor
YURG Dismantled; Academic Activities Board Established

BY MORDECHAI FISHTMAN

Amidst questions of financing and jurisdiction, last month, Dean Adler abolished the controversial Yeshiva University Research Group. In its place, a Student Academic Activities Board has been established under the auspices of YCSC.

In a meeting which solidified the final stage of the creation of the Student Academic Activities Board last Thursday, Dean Adler met with YCSC president Jason Buskin, various student leaders, representatives of academic societies and faculty members. Buskin expressed the flaws and grievances felt by the student council towards YURG, particularly citing YCSC’s lack of jurisdiction over events and a “duplicity” of missions between YCSC and YURG.

Buskin expressed a desire to continue the present scope of activities, merely under the existing structure of YCSC and the academic clubs and committees. The club presidents, who were in attendance, uniformly endorsed Buskin’s position and pledged their support to any further projects that would continue to enhance the academic life of the student body.

Many of the attendees contrasted YURG’s initiative and success with certain notoriously inactive clubs and societies. Dean Adler noted that there is an apparent problem in the status quo of clubs and societies if YURG is filling their void.

To effectively curb this problem in the future, one member of the meeting proposed that Student Council embark on a radical policing of the clubs, and abolish those who would be deemed inactive. The active clubs would then work with the student council and the Dean’s office to facilitate the timely execution of co-curricular activities.

The activities will include mentoring in various fields with mock interviews, career nights and preparation for prestigious academic fellowships, such as the Rhodes and Fulbright scholarships. Also slated are co-curricular activities, such as the recent art festival and chemistry poster presentation.

Dean Adler additionally suggested the creation of a “Dead Poets Society” with readings from assorted disciplines such as Jewish theology and Greek classics, followed by discussion groups with members of the faculty.

In return for the resources of the Dean’s Office, Adler requested that representatives of the various academic societies meet bi-weekly, thereby guaranteeing constant communication between academic societies, YCSC and members of the faculty.

THE YESHIVA COLLEGE
PRE-LAW SOCIETY

PROUDLY PRESENTS:

JUDGE MICHAEL B. MUKASEY
U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE, SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF N.Y.

TOPIC: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LAW AND THE MEDIA

WHEN: MONDAY, MARCH 17, 7:00PM

WHERE: RUBIN SHUL

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

With these fares, your car won’t have to survive a trip to Boston or D.C. Just to the airport.

The Delta Shuttle
You’ll love the way we fly
YU Community Mourns Loss of Rosh Yeshiva

YU Community Mourns Loss of Rosh Yeshiva
continued from page one

deceased that are unknown to the public. He proceeded to praise R’ Romm as being a wonderfully kind, warm and gentle-hearted individual and possessing a brilliant and creative mind. Dr. Lamme Speis’es mirrored the sentiments of the other speakers and R’ Romm’s students.

R’ Meir Ginsburg, a representative from the Agudat then spoke to the morose crowd in Yiddish and praised R’ Romm’s ability to fill the dual roles of Rabbi and Rosh Yeshiva. Following R’ Ginsburg, R’ Charlop spoke of R’ Romm’s youth and sacrifice.

Mashgiach Ruchani, R’ Blau concluded the hespiyunim with an apropos Psalm about Moisei, “A man of G-d...”

Rosh Yeshiva R’ Reichman concluded the ceremony with a recitation Kel Mal Chaim.

The melancholic crowd then adjourned to Amsterdam Avenue and formed a procession following the hearse from 187th to 184th Streets. As the procession proceeded, an eerie silence overtook the normally noisy and boisterous Amsterdam Ave. Rebbezion Romm will accompany the body of her late husband to Israel where he will soon be buried.

R’ Romm grew up in Poland and studied in Slonim where he developed a close friendship with the late Dr. Samuel Belkin. Throughout his years as a student he was known as the “Vadeler Ilulai,” a talmudic genius. He was ordained by the renowned R’ Aharon Kotler in the Mir Yeshiva. During WWI, he escaped with his wife and yeshiva to Shanghai and reestablished the Mir Yeshiva. After dwelling in Mozambique, South Africa and Israel, he came to America in 1955 and was persuaded by his close childhood friend, Dr. Belkin, to stay and teach at Yeshiva University.

neses whose names are subscribed thereunto, and we the witnesses, as well as witnesses in her presence or in the presence of each other.” Additionally, “The Decedent lacked the testamentary capacity to make a will on October 9, 1975...” It is on these grounds that Donald and his sister have requested a trial by jury to vindicate their position.

Seth Rubenstein, special counsel to YU, explained that their “is no indication of any evidence,” in Donald’s favor, and “most probable cases are money-making schemes.” Furthermore, he pointed out that Anne wrote an earlier will which contained a virtually identical section appointing similar monies to YU, as did the 1975 will. When asked about the case present state, Rubenstein would only comment that “it is in Discovery” (the process whereby both parties exchange documents and evidence).

However, another attorney, Edward Edel, special counsel to the Scheiber Estate, mirroring the sentiments of several other attorneys working under YU auspices, commented that there would be “no settlement...We are trying to defeat their position and we hope to dispose of it before it reaches a trial by jury.” He further commented that Donald and suburban “are all ridiculous and nonsense. Why did it take Mr. Scheiber 20 years to realize the will was fraudulent?”

$22 Million Donation

Challenged By Scheiber Family
continued from page one

YC Dean Hires New Professors In Hope of Raising Academic Standards

BY JONATHAN BENEDICT

In a move that Yeshiva College Dean Norman Adler termed “another step closer to bringing the best religious, liberal arts college in the country,” five new professors have been added to the undergraduate faculty. The professors have filled positions in fields ranging from physics to finance.

These professional additions mark an effort that Dean Adler believes to be a major shift in YC’s teaching philosophy. “The faculty’s goal must be to give the students critical thinking skills, not simply convey ideas that can be understood through reading a book.”

The new professors have generally been well-received on campus. Many students concede, however, that they were unprepared for the rigorous course work demanded by these recent faculty additions.

Following is a brief curriculum vitae and comments on the professors’ previous contributions:

Dr. Gregory Arluck: Now a Professor of Economics at Yeshiva University, Dr. Arluck graduated from CUNY with a Ph.D. in economics in 1987. Dr. Arluck has a considerable experience teaching as well as working in the industry. During his four years at Brooklyn College, he taught Econometrics, Corporate Finance, and International Economics. In addition, Dr. Arluck has over ten years of experience as an industry economist with firms such as New York Telephone Company, National Economic Research Associates, and Corning Glass.

Dr. David Johnson: YU’s newest addition to the Philosophy department, he graduated with a Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1989, and has an impressive teaching resume which includes visiting positions at Wesleyan, William and Mary, Ohio State, and Syracuse. He spent last year as a Visiting Professor at UCLA. His particular academic specialties include epistemology and philosophical logic, upon which he has a number of scholarly essays published. Dr. Johnson finds the environment at YU highly conducive to learning philosophy due to the terms “the close ties between philosophy and the sciences.”

Mr. Chatham Ewing: Instructor of English Composition and director of the Writing Center at YU. He is presently completing a Ph.D. in English Literature at NYU. He has taught at NYU, Fordham University, and The College of New Rochelle.

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Yeshiva College Student Council

Yeshiva College Student Council

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

YCSC Working for You!

March 5 ECAC Tournament Playoffs!!!
Mac vs. College of Staten Island at Staten Island, 8:00 PM
Van leaving Athletic Office in Rubin Lobby @ 6:30,
Star Trek Club presents Star Trek V, Schottenstein 3rd floor.

March 6 10:30 PM Movie Night: Spaceballs, Schottenstein 3rd floor,
March 8 Sophomore Class and Israel Club Shabbaton, Stem College
March 16 Movie Trip: Return of the Jedi

March 17 7:30 PM Pre-Law Speaker: Federal Judge Michael McKenzie
“Relationship between Law and Media.” Rubin Shul

March 18 7:00 PM Torah U’Madda Lecture
Dr. Daniel Kurtzer, from the Department of Security,
speaking on Middle East Peace Talks.

March 27 MORDECAI BEN DAVID CONCERT!!!

March 29 Purim

Notices:
1. Yeshiva University Mesh Shorts are on sale for $10 Contact Eric London, RU205
2. Israel Club is Back! Contact Daniel Berkowitz for Details @ 568-5860
The Mastery Of Man Over Man

MSNBC Interviews R’ Tendler On The Nature Of Man

by Nik Knoll

The recent technological breakthrough of two Scottish embryologists who, for the first time, have managed to successfully clone a sheep from the DNA of an adult female, has forced modern science to grapple with an issue that it hoped would remain in the realms of Hollywood and the comic book industry.

“"We know that there is a human consciousness. We speak of it theologically as the G-dly image, a spark of divine.”

Plants have been cloned for decades and, in recent years, there have been successful attempts to clone amphibians. In the modern day, Rav Tendler expressed fears that doctors as “businessmen, they are no longer favored by most people. Especially not their patients.” He also discussed the possibility of cloning in science.

Rav Tendler regarded the experiment when two researchers at George Washington University fertilized a human egg and then divided it into two to demonstrate that they can produce two identical people. Justifying their experiment because they had worked with a flawed egg that had no chance for survival. Although this incident has raised ethical implications as the recent events in Scotland, Rav Tendler notes that “there isn’t a very significant difference” that the “Sheep wasn’t standing there. And I think the fact that he died it too sheep and we say he couldn’t do it for his needs,” citing a scenario such as creating a superior air force or a commando unit out of clones. In addition, Rav Tendler depicted the person who will attempt to clone himself as someone who might attempt to “spit on God” if he were to clone himself.

It’s All About Soul

In terms of the implications of creating a living being, Rav Tendler stated that “when man clones man all does is really skip generation. In other words, he chooses for his child his parents—it’s the grandparents that get to be the child.” Moreover, Rav Tendler argued that when cloning a person, in no way is man cloning or creating a soul. Rav Tendler strongly cautioned that the “danger of cloning per se is that man will modify his genetic material.”

“‘Our problem, right now, is can we trust people without a soul to clone?’ We are concerned that science has lost its soul.”

This biologic and medical ethics, Rav Moshe Tendler, on his view of cloning from both a scientific and Jewish perspective.

Rav Tendler clarified his position that “it’s the soul that’s missing.” For these reasons, Rav Tendler noted that in many scientific areas there is a consensus among scientists not to experiment with human beings because “they don’t trust themselves.”

Nevertheless, Rav Tendler did state that cloning could help a couple in which the man is infertile by allowing doctors to insert the nucleus of his cell into his wife’s egg, although this would be at the expense of the wife’s genetic contribution. Rav Tendler noted that “We don’t know what the soul is.” We know that there is a human consciousness. We speak of it theologically as the Godly image, a spark of divinity. “He also mentioned that “there is a basic axiom or belief that in every individual is given a soul—a soul that can differentiate between good and evil.”

In the case of a done, Rav Tendler added that “there’s no doubt that this living being that will come out of cloning will have a deficiency in its soul. He’ll have no difficulty in his ethical nature, nothing has happened entirely except how you initiated the birth process.”

The one who will undertake to do this, who’ll clone himself will be someone that, who’ll decide the greatest contribution he can leave for the world is another one of himself. When most people think—that is may benot the greatest contribution.

As for the future of cloning Rav Tendler warned, “there’s a rule that has no exception—whatever can be done will be done. I believe that a human will be cloned, no doubt about it. The biggest question is when and by whom? But if indeed the technology is transferable to humans and no one who has studied the field doubts that it is transferable, it will be used by someone... And G-d is looking down, and smiling and saying ‘let’s see what those idiots are going to do with it.”

Rav Tendler depicted the person who the soul is. We know that there is a human consciousness. We speak of it theologically as the Godly image, a spark of divinity. “He also mentioned that “there is a basic axiom or belief that in every individual is given a soul—a soul that can differentiate between good and evil.”

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Or La’Goyim

While discussing whether Jews have a moral imperative to respond to this new phenomenon “is the light unto the nations”—that we have a lot of confidence in man, if the

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In the case of a done, Rav Tendler added that “there’s no doubt that this living being that will come out of cloning will have a deficiency in its soul. He’ll have no difficulty in his ethical nature, nothing has happened entirely except how you initiated the birth process.”

The one who will undertake to do this, who’ll clone himself will be someone that, who’ll decide the greatest contribution he can leave for the world is another one of himself.”

As for the future of cloning Rav Tendler warned, “there’s a rule that has no exception—whatever can be done will be done. I believe that a human will be cloned, no doubt about it. The biggest question is when and by whom? But if indeed the technology is transferable to humans and no one who has studied the field doubts that it is transferable, it will be used by someone... And G-d is looking down, and smiling and saying ‘let’s see what those idiots are going to do with it.”

Rav Tendler depicted the person who...
Students Petition Administration To Re-open Shenk Shul

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

Recently, a committee chaired by YC Sophomore Stephen Sokolow, was established to reopen the Shenk Shul in the Schottenstein Center. Shenk Shul was last utilized for a lecture series and a Parent’s Day Program, in 1989.

In the May 11, 1993 edition of The Commentator, it was reported that the Shenk Shul was “unused due to an accident…a section of the ceiling plaster in the synagogue de-laminated.” It was also reported that this resulted in a large chunk of the shul’s roof falling into the women’s balcony, and that fixing the ceiling and roof would take place during the summer of 1993. When the University would finish repairing the Shul, Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services Administration explained that its possible uses include holding Torah lectures, becoming an auxiliary beit medrash, or accommodating the minyan now being held across the street (popularly known as the “Sholeveitch minyan”).

However, almost a year and a half later, in the November 15, 1994 issue, The Commentator reported that the Shenk Shul remained closed to the students and utilized as a room for storage. Eventually, the University administration decided to renovate the Shenk Shul, giving it an entire makeover; making the necessary repairs as well as giving it a new paint job.

In the fall 1995 semester, student leaders raised the issue that there was not enough space to accommodate every student with a place to learn in a beit medrash, and that students were being forced to learn in classrooms in Furst Hall and in the Main Building. In December 1995, they met with RIETS Vice President Robert Hirt to discuss a temporary solution to the lack of space issue. Once again, there was discussion that Shenk Shul, although it could not be used temporarily due to its still being in the final stages of its renovations, would possibly be used as a third beit medrash starting the Fall 1996 semester. But, when students arrived on campus this past semester, they were welcomed with the news that the University administration had refurbished Klein Hall in Muss Dorm and turned it into the campus’ third beit medrash.

However, at the beginning of this semester with the doors to Shenk Shul still closed, Committee to Reopen the Shenk Shul Chairperson Stephen Sokolow claims that he found his first stumbling block at the hands of the Yeshiva College Student Council. Although Sokolow originally attempted to rally support under YCSC auspices, he has since become independent, because of perceived inaction by YCSC president, Jason Buskin.

Sokolow developed a five point proposal to reopen and utilize Shenk Shul. His proposal includes employing the synagogue for various lectures, Belzconcerts and minyanim. Sokolow gave his proposal to Buskin and assumed that Buskin would raise the issue at the following YCSC meeting. Much to Sokolow’s chagrin, the issue was not present in the minutes from that meeting. An upset Sokolow commented that “…this is a classic example of bureaucratic government at work. I was very disappointed with the response I received from Jason, because I personally asked Jason to place it on the agenda.”

Sokolow responded to his perception of Buskin’s inaction by declaring his committee independent of YCSC auspices. “The committee was evenly divided on whether or not to cut off our association with the Buskin administration, but after careful consideration it was decided that the issue is important enough to take such action.”

Refuting Sokolow’s charges that YCSC had ignored the issue, Buskin responded that “I told Sokolow that I’d bring it up. I did not specify which meeting. In fact, I raised the issue at a Student Life meeting with Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosengarten and University Dean of Students Efrem Nulman. Stephen was unaware, because there are no minutes for these meetings.”

Rosengarten and Nulman both informed Buskin that Shenk Shul will not be utilized until the “university” decides to do it right.

Many to Sokolow’s chagrin, the issue continues to concern YC students. Much to Sokolow’s chagrin, the issue continues to concern YC students.

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Located in the Schottenstein Center, the newly renovated Shenk Shul still sits dormant.
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Price of admission? You must have read the article, a copy of which can be obtained at the Dean’s office.

Mr. Robert Katz

Director of Academic Affairs

for

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YCDS Facing Extra "Ordinary" Problems

BY AMIR KAIN

With only four weeks remaining until opening night, a cursory glance around the Schottenstein Theater gives no indication of an upcoming performance. The set from last season lay unused during the now abandoned Inherit the Wind be- tin the floor and nailed to the walls ready to impale the next unsuspecting victim.

To excuse just the symptoms of the difficulties facing the Yeshiva College Dramatic Society as they endeavor to put on their own production of Ordinary People dramatized by Mary Gilmore, based on the novel by Judith Crist.

When questioned about the lack of noticeable progress on the set, YCDS president Allan Schwartz said, "The production of a show is a long and arduous process made up of myriad different yet difficult tasks. The final outcome is due to the hard work of just about every single team member. Unfortunately, our team cohesion is in a long-term hibernation in its current state of disarray. This team is not only comprised of YCDS people, but various other departments in the University."

Apparently this includes Facilities Management which is in charge of building the set and the Dean’s Office which allocates the funds.

"Our set is comprised of various scenes which are depicted rotating panels. Without the actual panels in place, the actors are having a difficult time envisioning their working environment. Therefore it is essential that it is completed as soon as possible," said Steve Maner, the Stage Manager for this production.

The plans were submitted several weeks ago but were put on hold because the old set was not removed until last week.

When asked if there were any efforts to speed up the construction, Schwartz said, "We worked hard with various groups but the lack of a set cannot be used as an excuse because the show must go on."

"It can have a detrimental effect on the performers. Not only can this be a lowering of morale because the crew does not see the show coming together, it can be extremely dangerous to the actors who are constantly moving around the set. Anyhow, the funds finally got to us last year's production of I Hate Hamlet realizes the potential dangers involved in the climbing, leaping, and swinging of the various actors. Without a set or practice room for an extended period of time, "Dimbert warns, "the actors face a dangerous situation."

"If progress is not made in the near future, the situation may be dangerous enough to cancel opening night."

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devastated bus and its horrified乘客, that TMSTA student Daniel Schon characterized as “worse than a horror movie.”

The two most seriously injured students, including Benedict Beckelid, were brought to Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital for treatment. Beckelid later underwent successful surgery for a possible blood clot in his brain, which later turned out to be a blood clot outside of the brain area. Three students were admitted to Harlem Hospital with less serious injuries. One student was treated for minor injuries at Metropolitan Hospital.

The driver of the minibus, Mikhail Liberman, was pronounced dead at the scene shortly after being extricated from the mangled minibus. The 52-year-old Boro Park driver had been an employee of All-Ride Transportation in Brooklyn for over two years.

The four occupants of the Dodge Intrepid were commuters from New Jersey enroute to work at the Korean Shin Han Bank in Manhattan. All four were transported to area hospitals for treatment and were expected to recover fully from their injuries.

Police and emergency medical service vehicles cordoned off traffic along the Harlem River Drive for some time following the B03 incident as they scrambled to complete their work on the scene. Traffic drew to a standstill on either side of the police blockade, intensifying the already substantial rush-hour jam.

**The Cause of The Crash**

Although the precise cause of the accident has yet to be conclusively determined, it appears that the slick road conditions played a crucial role. Witnesses report that the All-Ride minibus was traveling at an accelerated pace and repeatedly weaving between lanes prior to its loss of control. While state transportation and motor vehicle records indicate that neither All-Ride nor Liberman had records of significant safety violations, Liberman did receive two tickets for running red lights in 1994.

As the All-Ride minibus involved in the crash passed state inspection in October of 1996 and was not scheduled for any additional inspection until April, there is no immediate reason to presume mechanical error played a role in the accident.

**Student Response**

Response to the incident on TMSTA and YU fronts was swift and efficient, with teams of psychologists and counselors dispatched by the school to the hospitals treating students. An assembly was held during which TMSTA students were briefed on the tragic developments and the Fire Department had to be called to extinguish the minibus as it was engulfed in flames. One injury was sustained by a girl evacuating the van.

Mrs. Frolich, mother of Neil, reported that her son has had great difficulty sleeping, as he often wakes to nightmares. But she believes that the effects of the crash will prove to be temporary.

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**Hatzolah: Keeping the YU and Washington Heights Communities Healthy**

**By NEIL KNOLL**

It is 11 PM as Yossi Faber, theforties liaison tothe Washington Heights division of Hatzolah, enters the fourth floor of the Rubin Dormitory dressed in his EMT gear. The student for whom the call was made approaches Yossi and explains the problem. Yossi meticulously follows the instructions on his protocol book and cures the students incontro. Fortunately this student’s uncontrollable spasms of the diaphragm was not serious, but for the men and women of Hatzolah who face life-threatening situations on a daily basis, it usually is.

This is just one example of the services that the height students at YU, allow 24 hours a day, seven days a week, respond to.

The student for whom the call was made was treated, and the call was closed.

Several other calls followed, and the student volunteered to stay and help. The YU students do not limit themselves to doing class work; they are not going out of class because they have a particular aversion toom. They help others who need help, and they are not feeling well. They are not doing anything drastic and critical, they are just taking care of the people who need it.

Faber stated that the YU students have been making a difference for the community. They are not just doing class work, but they are helping others who need help. They are not feeling well, they are not doing anything drastic and critical, they are just taking care of the people who need it.

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Purim Contest: The Commentator is accepting submissions for this year's Purim Issue. Articles should be humorous and ideally relevant to Yeshiva University. Satirical Ads or cartoons are also acceptable. The best submissions will be awarded $50.00 Each.

Please send your work to commie@ymail.yu.edu or to Josh Feldman, Morg 203 or Arnon Storfer, 475 W186th St #5J

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The Demise Of The Big Budget Production

What can be said about an industry that only can generate genuine interest by releasing movies from twenty years ago? The recent spate of distinctly non-Hollywood Oscar selections such as *Fargo,* *Wag the Dog,* and the recent Academy Award winning film *Shine,* are examples of the new trend. It is apparent that self-loathing in Hollywood has become so predictable, so sanitized, at this stage lost all of its ability to challenge and intrigue an audience. Blame it on the market research laden decision making, out-of-touch studio executives and even audiences. After all, the majority of major studio releases are now extensively pre-screened and focus group tested. Studios and directors are revising films based on audience response, literally shaping their final product to the tastes of the masses. Yet, many of these films bomb with the public anyway.

I now understand that Hollywood is looking to the boom ing "Indy" (Independent Feature Film) scene for answers. This past year alone; brilliant, highly original and ultimately profitable films have been released by Miramax (The English Patient, Sliding Sideways), Columbia (Lies, Breaking the Waves) and, both of highest of all, more mainstream Hollywood studio levels, as well as a wide assortment of smaller labels. It appears, at least for the moment, that Hollywood is becoming more autobiographical, personalized, lower budgeted films may be the way to go. Billie Bob Thornton, the Oscar nominated director, actor and writer of *Sling Blade* and the recently released *Sling Blade* has a character that he originated. He has been nimbly at the bedside of his character. While filming *Fargo* his old rival and nemesis on Stevens College. The Demise Of The Big Budget Production

The most successful independent director of the year, would do Hollywood some good. Leave the tests markets and Harvard business school graduates in a backwoods role to do risky films in the industry, a more balanced approach should be reached. Allowing the "Indy" directors to get a foothold into Hollywood, while retaining artistic integrity, would put the films in motion. But studio executives would be more risk adverse. A courageous albeit implausible idea. Meanwhile, one has to ask aloud abroad and in small theaters in order to find great films.

Swashbucklers Fight To The Finish

by COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF

Sunday, March 2: The YU fencing team fared in its most important event of the year - the Mid Atlantic Conference Fencing Association Championships. Hosted by Vassar College, the fencers fought a grueling 12 bouts, arriving at 8:00 AM and departing after 10:00 PM. The tournament provides an opportunity for both the team and the individuals to succeed, an opportunity seized by both the YU fencing team and the individual to succeed.

The numerous bouts allow fencers to recover their standings even if they get off to a shaky start. Foil fencer, Shaun Azari, began the day losing his first six matches and initially appeared to be out of sync, but staged a remarkable recovery winning his next seven. Eric Schubert also benefited from the many matches. After a mediocre regular season, Eric emerged in the championships, going 8-6 for the day.

Yakutiel Sandman went 10-4, dominating the other sabre fencers who seemed intimidated by his beard and large yarmulke. Sanzman, who will wed in one month, immediately dedicated the wins to his future wife. (Incidentally, the entire Yeshiva is invited to his wedding.) Mordechai Gluck also fencers surprisingly well. The most successful individual accomplishment of the day was turned in by Akiva Herzfeld, who finished in sixth place overall for the day and was recognized as a member of the Second Team All Conference. It was the first time that a assistant coach Pete Rosas, one of the best sabre coaches in the northeast, had a fencer from Yeshiva University finish that high in the standings. Herzfeld took home two medals and said that the honor was especially sweet since he beat his old rival and nemesis on Stevens Tech, Dick Muccio.

Shimon Oppenheim, a graduating senior and perhaps the best fencer at Yeshiva, had a disappointing day. After a remarkably successful season, with 33 wins and 9 losses, Shimon started the day off on the wrong foot and never fully recovered. He missed qualification for the finals by .019 points. However, the season is not over for Oppenheim. He will be going to the NCAAs held at Cornell this coming Sunday, March 9. Other Yeshiva hopefuls who may qualify include, Hadas "hot stuff" Weiss, Stuart Shindel, Shaun Azari, and Sabre fencers Akiva Herzfeld and Yakutiel Sandman. In past years, fencing team coach Amie Messing, has worked wonders towards convincing NCAAA officials to qualify Yeshiva fencers for the NCAA competition.
In Defense of Dr. Sternlicht

To The Editor:

Having been a student of Dr. Sternlicht's in eight classes over the past three years, I feel obligated to comment on last week's article ("Sternlicht Retires After 35 Years of Service"). One of my lecturers that I actually look forward to seeing twice a week, Dr. Sternlicht's lessons are always interesting and thought provoking. I can understand that Dr. Sternlicht may seem intimidating to some, for he demands intelligence and critical thinking, but in the long-run this is the best way to prepare a student for the real world.

I believe that the data from the student evaluation forms is the often skewed. Most students base their responses on the grades they receive, rather than on the professors teaching skills. Being that Dr. Sternlicht is by no means an "Easy A," many students get their revenge by filling out negative reports. Let's examine some of the typical evaluation questions, such as: did the teacher demonstrate a mastery of the subject, was the teacher well prepared for class, was the teacher available after class, and was the teacher a fair grader? There is no denying that Dr. Sternlicht has been in the field. The lectures are well organized, and Dr. Sternlicht is always prepared. Through my experience, Dr. Sternlicht has been a fair, if not lenient, grader, and he is always available after class for even lengthy discussions.

In response to Mr. Jesselson's comments, on the first day of classes, after assigning the term-paper, Dr. Sternlicht warns the students not to wait until the last minute to do the paper. He will then proceed to read a letter of excuses from a former student who missed the due date for the paper, and explain that there are no exceptions. Had Mr. Jesselson listened to this advice, he would not have had a problem.

It is extremely unfortunate that a 35 year relationship will come to an end on such negative terms. Dr. Sternlicht's departure marks a great loss to the University, as well as to future psychology majors.

Labe Feldman
YC '97

On track 13 there is a direct train to Auschwitz...

To The Editor:

A few weeks ago a family friend brought her fourteen year old son to the main train station in Zurich. She was sending him on a trip. He was wearing his black velvet yarmulke and was clearly distinguishable as a "Jew". A well dressed man approached them and pointed towards one of the tracks: "On track 13 there is a direct train to Auschwitz he said, "why don't you put your son on that one?"

I am not even going to write about the Swissika graffiti and the Jewish children whose classmates in school ask them "So, how much money are you getting?" The Swiss tend to be very patriotic when it comes to defending their country, especially when it comes to defending their money. A Swiss Gentile would not differentiate between Jews. For an American Jew it is the same as a Swiss Jew. It is anathema to be a Swiss Jew. They are all the same. Nowonder they attack their own little community of Jews. We are not vulnerable. Polls show that the Swiss think that there are 10 times as many Jews living in their country than there really are. Why? Because we make noise! They think that all the Jewish banks are owned by Jews. Well, out of the hundreds of Swiss banks only very few are actually owned by Jews. The Swiss people have indicated that if the world will boycott the Jewish banks, then they will boycott all the Jewish businesses in their country.

So I could be a little more relaxed.

Joelle Bollag
SC '98

Stephen Reingold is unbelievable. Even though he is an extremely busy Semikha student, he still found time to contribute all his spare time to the sale. His experience and fun attitude kept the sale going as if it should.

Next, weertainly can not forget the "computer guys": Jack Cate, Nachi Klein, and Avi Turkel. They set up the computer system and (i.e. making sure that everyone is trying to get onto the computer). The Swiss banks are feeling. They feel that people are finally raising their voices and claiming their belongings. But on the other hand, as a Swiss Jew, I am scared. I am scared of Anti-Semitism and I am scared of my Swiss classmates who love to see Christians get hurt. I am scared, because they are feeling hatred already. It is easy for American Jews to raise their voices, there are thousands of miles away from the real happenings. They do not know what their Swiss counterparts are feeling. They feel fear! I had the opportunity to see this with my own eyes. My friends and family are afraid.

Making all the arrangements is unmanageable. Had it not been for him there would have been no credit cards at the sale. Next, a big thanks goes to the Executive Managers, Seforim Sale "97. The rate of Anti-Semitism has shot up. Discriminating letters of unbearable content arrive every day in piles and piles. "You Jews only want money! You own half the banks in Switzerland already anyway!" "Hitler should have finished his job!" "Go to Israel all of you, Arabat will take care of you!" Charming isn't it? I am not even going to write about the Southwest graffiti and the Jewish children whose classmates in school ask them "So, how much money are you getting?"

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SC '98

As the 1997 SOY Seforim Sale closes its doors for the year and the sale becomes just another statistic in the YU statistic book, we would like to express our gratitude to those that we feel feels are long overdue. As members of the executive staff of the SOY Seforim Sale we feel obligated to publicly thank those people who helped make the sale a huge success. The first person deserving thanks is Mitch Taranis. We have been working with Mitch since the sale began and without his endless hours and dedication to the sale nothing would have been possible. The amount of hours that went into calling all the distributors and getting financial incentives to attract a private bookstore to his campus, as well as to future psychology majors.

S. Rosin

Yasher Koach

To The Editor:

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S. Rosin
With their 15-5 regular season record and the least amount of losses since 1996, the YU Macs were invited, along with seven other teams, to the prestigious ECAC tournament; only the fourth time in YU basketball history. The team won three of its last four games beating CCNY 63-55, St. Joseph’s of Brooklyn 76-62, and Pratt 73-30, and losing a very close game to NJIT 61-55. After the NJIT loss, a last minute addition to the schedule, people associated with the team were concerned about the chances of making the ECAC, with only eight spots available.

Coach Halpert said that he was “hopeful and optimistic. It was tough to get in despite the record because there were a lot of other quality teams out there.” “The kids have done a wonderful job, it’s very gratifying getting in.”

The Macs, seeded eighth, will play the top seeded College of Staten Island Dolphins on this Wednesday at 8:00 PM in Willowbrook, Staten Island. Marc Nadritch, who hails from Willowbrook, Staten Island. Marc Nadritch, who hails from Willowbrook, Staten Island. Marc Nadritch, who hails from Willowbrook, Staten Island. Marc Nadritch, who hails from Willowbrook, Staten Island. Marc Nadritch, who hails from Willowbrook, Staten Island. Marc Nadritch, who hails from Willowbrook, Staten Island.

YU Macs Volleyball Season In Full Gear

BY MIKE VOGEL

After a semester of tough practices under the guidance of Coach Jiang, YU’s volleyball Macs started the season with a double-header which brought Cooper Union and Polytechnic to the Max Stern Athletic Center. The first three points of the match versus Cooper Union were scored by the Macs and as the game progressed, the Macs elevated their intensity for a great season opener. After many “spikes” and “digs,” the Macs easily won the first game, while Cooper Union prevailed the second game. The third game was a nail-biter with many lead changes throughout the game. Building a 14-13 lead, the Macs were in position for a commanding lead in the match. However, a bad call made by the referee on veteran captain Carl Hochhauser ended the game in favor of the Cooper Union team, who would go on to win both the third and fourth games to close out the match.

The other teams joining YU and CSI in the tourney are #2-Mt. St. Mary’s, #3-Drew, #4-NJIT, #5-John Jay, #6-Lehman, #7-Montclair St.

The Macs success has continued to receive media attention. They appeared in the New York Times twice, the Daily News and The Jewish Week. On February 10, the New York Times ran a blur on the Macs and Vic Ziegel, who covered the team at Madison Square Garden two years ago, featured them in his daily column titled “LIU, Yeshiva Dare to Dream.” He quotes Joel Jacobson asking Coach Halpert about the ECAC “What is our chance? We’d be delighted if we don’t go.”

And he gives Halpert’s response, “How can you say that? This team has character. We’ve won every close game we’ve been in. They work hard and play well together. If we finish 15-5, who needs a tournament to certify it as a good year? That’s backwards from everything wetly to teach.” Ziegel goes on to compare YU’s coach, who is dreaming about the NCAA tournament, and ends: “These coaches have nothing in common,” referring to their mentalities and aspirations. Moshe Abeles was locked when he first saw a large action photo of him being guarded by a player from Prattan page four in The Jewish Week. “I hit the right angle to teach,” he exclaimed. The Macs are really riding high these days and have found out that success feels great. The Macs fought hard, but their effort fell just short as they lost the first two games by only two points apiece. The SUNY finished the match strongly, easily winning the third game, handing the Macs their third loss.

Indeed, Coach Jiang’s faith in his team was finally rewarded with a strong three game at one victory over SUNY Maritime in the Macs’ sixth match of the season.