Record Enrollment Leads to Creation of
“Independent Housing Program”

BY MORDECHAI FISHMAN

The Fall ’97 semester is shaping up to set a record in enrollment forcing the Office of Residence Halls to place students in apartment buildings neighboring the YU campus in lieu of housing them in the dormitories. The Dean of Admissions, Michael Kranzler, conservatively estimates that there will be approximately 1060 undergraduate male students on the uptown campus. The three dorms currently in use can only hold roughly 850 students. In addition, instead of the average age of 72 to 82 percent of students who usually request University housing, this year it is estimated that 89 to 93 percent of students have requested that the University provide them with a roof over their heads. To compound matters, an understanding between YCSC and the administration precludes using the student lounges as residential space. The combination of the above mentioned factors and the lack of dormitory space forced University administrators to scramble to attempt to find a solution to the housing crisis. Because of the rolling nature of enrollment, the magnitude of the problem was not clarified until the last moment, leaving little available time to search for alternative options.

To alleviate the overflow in the dormitories, the Office of Residence Halls designated two apartment buildings, one at 475 West 186 Street, and another at 480 West 187 Street, as the “Independent Housing Program.” According to Emer Nulman, Dean of Students, these apartment buildings are not owned by Yeshiva University, but the University controls the leases to a number of apartments. These apartments were previously occupied by Smicha students, and will now be filled with undergraduates chosen by the Office of Residence Halls.

The exact number of students to be housed in these apartments is still unknown, the number of apartments available is.

Continued on page 10

RIETS Celebrates Centennial Anniversary

BY NIR KNOLL

On May 28, 1997, approximately 803 members of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) and Yeshiva University faculty assembled at the Grand Hyatt in New York City to celebrate the Centennial anniversary of RIETS. The joyous evening consisted of a Centennial Convocation and dinner.

During the convocation, RIETS presented 161 Centennial Medallion Awards to major supporters and their families in recognition of cumulative contributions of $100,00 to $5 million that have sustained the institution over the past 100 years. In addition, during the Dinner, 348 Centennial Awards were given out to supporters who have contributed between $25,000 to $99,999.

Robert M. Beren, a member of the YU Board of Trustees and general chairman of the event, was the principal recipient of the highest Centennial Medallion Award, the Platinum version. Also, as sole trustee of the Israel Henry Beren Charitable Trust, named for his late uncle, Beren formally announced the endowment of the Israel Henry Beren Institute for Higher Talmudic Studies at RIETS. Dr. Abraham M. Mann, Director of Development for RIETS, explained that the “institute’s objective is to produce excellent Rabbinic leaders and talmidei chachamim with extensive knowledge of the Jewish community, leadership abilities and broad general knowledge of Torah.”

As the evening program continued, a Rabbi Henoch and Sara D. Berman Chair in Talmud at the RIETS affiliated Caroline and Joseph S. Gruss Institute in Jerusalem. Rav Aharon Lichtenstein, the director of the Gruss Institute and Rosh Yeshiva of Gush, is the inaugural occupant of this newly endowed chair. The program was also highlighted by prayer recitals from Cantors Sherwood Goffin of Lincoln Square Synagogue and Joseph Malovanv of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue. Both are also faculty members at RIETS’ Philip and Sarah Belz School of Jewish Music.

Also honored was Rabbi Norman Lamm, President and Rosh Hayeshiva of YU, on the occasion of his 20th year as president of YU and RIETS. He delivered a Centennial Address concerning the current and future mission of RIETS. Rabbi Lamm noted that “we who study and teach at Yeshiva essentially live in a private community—a marvelous enclave, one of study and thought and research, of vibrant ideas and creative concepts and novel interpretations and spiritual growth, all on the very highest levels. But it is an enclave, not a cave; we are not hermetically sealed off from the world.” Rabbi Lamm also stated that “unquestionably, the great mission and prime emphasis of RIETS is Torah lishma—the study of Torah for its own sake.” Our credo is and must remain that Torah is the highest and most sublime ideal of Am Yisroel, that study of Torah is the noblest occupation, that the Torah way of life is worthy of the most demanding sacrifice.” However, he explained that the “Torah is not incompatible with a cre
Participation

Few undergraduate students bear the same academic burdens as a student in Yeshiva University. While other colleagues may spend three hours a day in a classroom, a YU student can easily spend three times that amount attending class. He not only adds a significant amount of school-work outside the classroom, but reduces the time available for him to complete this work.

Yet, extra-curricular life on campus continues to thrive. We have clubs and societies for every person and every interest. All you have to do is figure out which ones you will enjoy or which ones can help you grow. Participation is as easy as showing up to the event of your choosing.

For those with a little more motivation, participation is not limited to mere attendance. The opportunity to plan, organize, and supervise the events alongside your fellow students is open to all with a sense of responsibility. The contributions you make to your club or society benefits everyone attending the event, creating an extra-curricular atmosphere which in turn benefits the entire student body.

We urge everyone to set aside time in their schedules to take advantage of the opportunities provided by all the extra-curricular activities.

I would like to welcome all new students to Yeshiva University. I hope you find your stay here an enjoyable and satisfying one. Also a hearty welcome back to all returning students. This year promises to be an exciting one for the Yeshiva College Student Council and the student body.

Over the summer months we have been hard at work preparing for orientation and encourage all students to take advantage of the activities being offered over the first few weeks of school. A tremendous thank you goes to Orientation Chairman Dror Barber and his entire staff for their amazing efforts. I would also like to extend my appreciation to The Office of Student Services, their assistance has made it possible for all new students to receive free T-shirts and for YCSC to offer the incredible array of orientation activities for student benefit. Also I would like to thank Dean Michael Kranzler and The Office of Admissions for their assistance. Additionally I’d like to thank last year’s president Jason Buskin for his help.

Rest assured Orientation is just the beginning of an exciting year of programs and activities. YCSC is beginning to plan for the entire year and will shortly be budgeting clubs for their activities. Also look for signs about how you can get involved in student government. Freshmen and Sophomore class elections are right around the corner.

YCSC have also been working with the school on a number of campus improvements and I am pleased to announce that the weight room will be refurbished in the coming months. Other changes to take note of are the new acceptance of credit cards in the Office of Student Finances and the Israeli Flag which will be flying permanently on campus. These improvements are some of the final accomplishments of my predecessor and mentor Jason Buskin and YCSC ‘96 - ’97 and I would like to express my deepest gratitude and congratulations on a magnificent job. Jason, you are the best. Thanks for getting me where I am today.

Now as we look ahead to this year I would like to invite everyone to take part in student council activities and to give me your input and feedback. Get to know members of your student council, we’re here to help. Have a great year!!

Sruli Tannenbaum
YCSC President ’97 - ’98

Message From The

YCSC President

Sruli Tannenbaum

I would like to welcome all new students to Yeshiva University. I hope you find your stay here an enjoyable and satisfying one. Also a hearty welcome back to all returning students. This year promises to be an exciting one for the Yeshiva College Student Council and the student body.

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Sruli Tannenbaum
YCSC President ’97 - ’98
Over the summer many have asked me a seemingly simple question - what is the purpose of The Commentator? Some­what piously I often answered, "muck­raking, yellow journalism and a bit o' controversy," although sometimes, for some unat­thorizable reason, they took me quite seriously.

However, realizing the gravity of this question I should like to attempt an an­swer in this inaugural issue of the 1997­98 school year to the readers of this fine paper. The purpose of The Commentator is knowledge, knowledge for the student about that which transpires at Yeshiva University. Obviously there will be coverage of all the positive events that come to pass - events planned by the different clubs and councils, celebrations and com­memorations etc. But there will also be coverage of the negative, not for the purpose of muckraking or stirring up controversy, rather to hold questionable events and activities up to the light. If an administrator commits a questionable act, we will investigate and report on it. If a student commits a suspect act we shall do the same. If the dubious act is perpet­rated by a professor or Rabbi then we will account for that act as well. This is not a declaration of war, rather a promise of knowledge, a promise of truth.

I wish each and every one of you a happy and blessed new year, one filled with love of learning, passion for Torah, clarity of thought, health of body and spirit, and creativity in the adventure of acquiring not only knowledge but also wisdom.

The faculty and students of Yeshiva University have made many contributions, of varying degrees and importance, in many fields and in many disciplines. But if we were to focus on what is perhaps Yeshiva's unique contribution, it would be this: that we have endeavored to provide a legal education within the context of moral and spiritual affirmations that provides intellectual leadership in Jewish thought and learning and culture in a broad and deepest sense, we have learned and taught that such profound Jewish commitments need not be conflicting and tribal, but can offer illumination and illumination on the highest aspirations of all human beings, on that which inspires every man and woman on the face of the earth.

As the inevitable tensions that rise between Torah and Middah, between the idea of a self-regulating ancient people with its sacred tradition and the search for universal knowledge, such conflicts are not fatal. Granted that we have not achieved full coherence amongst all our various schools (and probably never will), some general principles emerge which, even if disputed by some, are of value to all: that the pursuit of both knowledge and holiness, while acknowledging the profundity of both, are not based upon the near collapse of all thought in the face of the weight of Torah. Here, thank God, our students have thought, and thought well. They will emerge with a degree, but it will be implemented in conjunction with and by virtue of what they have learned, to think, to absorb - what you've learned, you can learn from them only if you invest the time and the same kind of effort. We will strive to avoid the doctrine of accepting unexamined ideas, and be prepared to re­concile our view of Torah with what the world is like and with our view of the world. This is what Torah demands of us.

Go to your classes with open minds, open eyes to bias and report with objectivity. Please keep in mind that we are a news­ful paper we can convey the written word, while at the same time doing our best to provide a broad and deep perspective on what is happening around us.

This is for your input If you have a comment about anything in the paper, feel free to let us know. We welcome your opinions and queries, and your criticism will be used to improve the paper. If you have a question or a story idea, please let us know. We will try our best to address it. Thank you for your support and for your contributions to the paper.

Noah Streit
Yeshiva College

New Faculty Appointments

BY ADAM MORGES

The University recently announced faculty appointments for the upcoming semester. The following are brief academic sketches of those named:

- Rabbi Yaakov Weisbrot - Held the post of S'gan Mahshiah in YCSC. Appointed professor at YU. He received his yabbinic ordination from RIETS in 1993. He served as co-editor of Zichen Harav and editor of Beit Yitchak. He was a doctoral candidate in Hebrew and Jewish studies at New York University. He holds a master's degree in American Jewish History from Bernard Revel Graduate School and graduated summa cum laude from Yeshiva College.

- Rabbi Jacob Haber - Instructor in the Stone Beit Midrash Program. At the RIETS, he served as the head of the Gershon Gluck College of Talmudic Studies. He is the author of three books and has been a guest lecturer at Harvard. He received his yabbinic ordination from YU. He has been serving as the assistant director of the Writing Center at YU.

- Dr. Deborah Y. Cohen - Held the position of an adjunct assistant professor at YU during the spring semester. Appointed assistant professor at BBST. Holds a Ph.D. in marketing and M.B.A. in marketing from New York Institute of Technology. Received B.A. from SUNY Albany.

- Dr. Karen Taylor Stewart - Appointed assistant professor of psychology at YU. A clinical psychologist with a primary area of specialization in the biological basis of human behavior. Served as a senior fellow at the National Research Council, Johnson Space Center, Biomedical Operations and Research Center, Houston, Texas. Worked in the area of mood disorders and biological rhythms. B.A. from Princeton University. Holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Pennsylvania.

- Ms. Lauren Fitzgerald - Appointed instructor of communications at YU and director of the Yeshiva College Writing Center. A Ph.D. candidate in English literature at New York University. Graduated of the University of Tel-Aviv. Taught the first course in the Bar-Ilan College where she directed the Erica Mann Jong Writing Center and serving as the director of the Writing Program.

Assistant Dean’s Position Still Vacant

BY ADAM MORGES

As the 1997-1998 academic year is ushered in, Yeshiva College’s Assistant Dean position remains unclaimed. A successor for acting Assistant Dean Avery Horowitz has not been secured and uncertainty remains as to when a satisfactory candidate will be located.

Doling out the review of previous year TheCommentator reported YCSC Norman Dean’s mid-semester decision to terminate current Assistant Dean Avery Horowitz, Horowitz, however, remained in his Assistant Dean position for the duration and is currently serving in that capacity. No indications of formal efforts to replace him materialized until the conclusion of the year as students were leaving the University for the summer.

Over the summer, administrators and a student advisory panel, comprised of a number of elected student leaders, including YCSC president Shulam Tannenbaum, interviewed four prospective candidates for Horowitz’s seat, according to Adler. None passed the screening process.

According to Adler, the incoming Assistant Dean must cohere with the envisioned direction for the future of YU. This, he elaborated, is characterized by a commitment to making the Office of the Dean “a user-friendly environment that students can feel comfortable approaching.”

Additionally, Adler marked the future Assistant Dean must possess the ability to “infuse the school with intellectual excitement.”

Adler also indicated that it had been agreed that theological factors would not play a role in the consideration of candidates for the Assistant Dean post. This would appear to pave the path for hiring the first non-Orthodox or non-Jewish YC administrator in recent memory.

YU Graduates Place Well Across the Board

BY NIE KUOL

Reports of acceptances of many YU students to top notch graduate schools and business firms indicate another stellar performance by graduates of this past year.

The final count of law school acceptances has demonstrated that YU students have successfully continued the tradition of getting into the best law schools in America. Over seven students achieved LSAT scores in the 99th percentile and an additional six students received scores that placed them above the 95th percentile. The mean LSAT score achieved by YC/SSB placed it in the 98th percentile.

This year’s impressive LSAT results translated into the acceptance of all 40 YC/SSB applicants to at least one American Bar Association accredited law school, including 4 acceptances to Harvard Law School, 7 acceptances to Columbia Law School, 9 acceptances to NYU, and 1 acceptance to the University of Pennsylvania.

In addition, YU students garnered a number of acceptances to respected medical schools across America. Of the 57 YU students who applied to Medical School, 46 have already been accepted. This figure represents an acceptance rate of approximately 80%. YU students were able to secure spots in some of the finest medical schools in America with 2 acceptances to Yale Medical School one of which was for its esteemed MD/Ph.D. program, one acceptance to Harvard, and 19 acceptances to AECOM.

YU students did much better on the MCAT than they did the previous year. The average scores were 8.8 in verbal reasoning, and 10 or more in both the physical sciences and biological sciences. This amount to an average total score of just under thirty for the first time in the history of YU. This year, the national mean average was 8.0 on the verbal reasoning, 8.3 on the physical sciences, and 8.5 on the biological sciences.

Commenting on the prospects of the up-and-coming class, Dr. Weisbrodt, the pre-med advisor at YU, stated “that the future looks very bright.” In addition, Dr. Weisbrodt stated that he would continue to meet with the Dean’s Admissions at the top medical schools in the U.S., she has over the past 7 years, to ensure that YU students are recognized by these prestigious institutions.

As for those students who chose to enter the business world directly, administrators at 5y Sym’s School of Business reported that of the 129 students who applied for full time jobs last year, 119 have been placed. This amounts to a placement rate of 92%. Approximately 96% of the accepting graduates have received jobs. Of these accounting graduates, about half went on to join the staff of Big Six accounting firms. In addition, 100% of those students looking for work in the Management Information Systems field have been successfully placed.

Regarding the few students who have not yet placed, Ira Jaskoll, Assistant Dean of SSIP explained that, “Within a month or two we should have a job for everyone. Usually, we will get close to 100% placement by October.” In addition, Jaskoll wished to emphasize that SSIP “will work with every student until they are placed.”

Tuition Via Visa

BY MORTON FRANKIN

Ushering the Office of Student Finances into the realm of electronic payment, Yeshiva University has instituted a new credit card payment option for the fall ‘97 semester.

The initiative to arrange credit card payment was a project of the Student Life Committee, led by then president of YCSC, Jason Buskin. According to Buskin, it was originally envisioned to make the students’ life easier, by allowing them to pay for minor expenses such as additions to the caf card, or fees in the Student Finance office for matters such as transcripts or housing. But once the system was in place, it was broadened to include tuition payments as well. "I am extremely happy that the hard work put in by the members of YCSC, the Student Life Committee, and the employees of the Student Finance office has paid off," said Buskin. "This new system is a win for all students as well as parents for years to come."

According to Neal Harris, Director of the Office of Student Finances, 501 students have already utilized the credit card option to pay their tuition, 293 uptown, and the remainder at the Midtown campus. "I would say it has moved very well," said Buskin. "We will close to 100% placement by October." In addition, Jaskoll wished to emphasize that SSIP "will work with every student until they are placed."
The Yeshiva College Student Council and the Office of Student Services are proud to present

**Orientation '97**

**Featuring:**

- Tuesday 8/26: Cruise With Dougies
- Thursday 8/28: Stomp
- Sunday 8/31: Great Adventure
- Thursday 9/4: Yankees v. Orioles

Don't Miss Out!

Be a Part of the Greatest Orientation Ever.
GREETINGS FROM THE DEANS

YC - Dr. Norman Adler

Welcome - you are about to embark on one of the most fascinating journeys of your life: the systematic exploration of the life of the mind within the metaphysical context of Torah. Having chosen Yeshiva College you have made a commitment to Jewish values and, at the same time, to the best of what a liberal arts education can be. Today, America offers over two thousand institutions of post-secondary education (with more than twelve million students enrolled). There are liberal arts colleges, graduate and research universities, technical schools, art institutes, music conservatories, and a variety of vocational training schools from which the potential student may choose. Your choice is unique; there is no other model like Yeshiva College.

You will be offered the opportunity to grow spiritually, psychologically, and intellectually. We are a classic liberal arts college - with its small size, attention to every student, and its emphasis on critical thinking and writing. We are also a research university - with world-famous scholars. We are a pre-professional training school - with hundreds of course entries each semester, an array of special lectures throughout the year in various fields, and a number of special lectures; and a number of special lectures and events will follow this evening of intellectual initiation. Let me conclude how I began - with a quote from President Lamm: "I echo what President Lamm has said: do not rush. Savor the learning. In the dialectic that is Torah U'madda, there is no other model like Yeshiva College.

Any student heading for college today must make choices. For Jewish students, these include how one becomes involved in a discussion of Torah values. The American educational system, especially higher education, has traditionally provided ethnic groups access to the broader society and the chance to assume leadership positions therein. The cultural cost of entrance is sometimes high though - sometimes too high. It can lead to assimilation and loss of established religious and cultural values. At Yeshiva College, our educational goal is to furnish you with the tools to survive and succeed in the increasingly multicultural world of the diaspora - while nurturing your adherence to our tradition. There is no other school like this.

There is no other model like Yeshiva College.

This year we are continuing our commitment to your basic learning with our orientation week in which we will gather to discuss Berthold Brecht's classic play Galileo. The evening devoted to the play is a fitting inauguration of your academic year. We will hear dramatic readings from the text, be addressed by President Lamm, and become involved in a discussion of the interaction between science and religion with our faculty and our visiting Nobel Laureate Roald Hoffmann.

I look forward to meeting with you. Best wishes for a successful and rewarding year.

Harold Nierenberg, Ph.D.

SSSB - Dr. Harold Nierenberg

Dear Students,

On behalf of the Faculty, Staff and Administration of the Sy Syms School of Business, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Yeshiva University. The 1997-98 academic year promises to be an exciting one for the Sy Syms School of Business and we all look forward to making this an exciting and productive year for all of you.

Attending Yeshiva University is an important milestone in your life, and the privilege of studying at the Sy Syms School of Business provides you with a Torah U'madda opportunity that will last you a lifetime. It is up to you to make the most of it.

Please don't fail to avail yourself of all the services we have to offer. Whether it be program guidance, career guidance, placement, or any question or problem of a general nature, all of us at the Sy Syms School of Business are committed to helping you succeed.

On a personal level, I am always available to any student who wishes to see me and I welcome and look forward to meeting with you. Best wishes for a successful and rewarding year.

Harold Nierenberg, Ph.D.

ATTENTION SENIORS!

Office of Placement & Career Services

presents

PLACEMENT ORIENTATION

This workshop is required for Accounting Seniors who are interested in seeking employment after graduation and plan on participating in our On-Campus Recruiting Program.

Monday, September 2, 1997 at 8:00 p.m.

Belfer Hall Room 502

Bus leaves Brookdale Dorm at 7:00 p.m.

Office of Placement & Career Services

BH 419, 415/MID 923, 905

960-0845/340-7783, 7763
School's starting—and so are the savings at Barnes & Noble 18th Street.

WEEK ONE
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- 5% off all new/used textbooks (not including medical books)

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15% off all editions of Black's Law Dictionaries

WEEK TWO
AUG 31–SEP 6
- 5% off all new/used textbooks (not including medical books)

10% off all school supplies

15% off all backpacks

WEEK THREE
SEP 7–SEP 13
- 5% off all new/used textbooks (not including medical books)

10% off all school supplies

15% off Meigs Accounting, 10th Edition

WEEK FOUR
SEP 14–SEP 20
- 5% off all new/used textbooks (not including medical books)

10% off all school supplies

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Offer valid only at Barnes & Noble 18th Street.

THREE CHANCES TO WIN $300 WORTH OF TEXTBOOKS!

Three lucky winners will receive $300 worth of textbooks for the spring semester. To enter, just fill out your name, address and phone number and drop it off at the 18th Street Barnes & Noble. The drawing will be held on September 28th at 3:00 PM. You need not be present to win.

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
School: ____________________________________________
PhoneNumber: ________________________________________

Valid YU ID card must be presented
THURSDAY MAY 21 11 AM

THE THEATER
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

Commencement 1998

SENIORS, HAVE YOU FILED FOR GRADUATION?

IF NOT, PICK UP KIT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR ON YOUR CAMPUS
Dear Students of the Sy Syms School of Business,

As Syms begins its second decade, it will hopefully continue to carve out its niche in the competitive world of advanced business education. It has already proven its ability to produce qualified graduates who integrate their Torah U'mda'ah education into their daily lives and can therefore serve as an ohr lagoyim while functioning as successful professionals. One significant objective of this year's Sy Syms Student Association is to further that ability through the enhancement of the already strong education and reputation of the Sy Syms School of Business.

We have set out to achieve this end through various means. Through our work in conjunction with the Placement Office, a Yeshiva University Alumni Finance Network met for the first time ever over this past summer. We are presently in the preliminary stages of instituting a mentoring network between alumni and students. The program will initially concentrate solely on juniors majoring in finance, and will later expand to all areas of concentration at Sy Syms.

We've also invited certain alumni to speak on campus regarding differing issues in which they can share their expertise and experiences. An MIS exemption test has been created. Students who successfully pass the exam will be able to forego their rudimentary MIS class in favor of more advanced courses.

This year, we will be rigorously working to expand the performance, participation, and efficacy of the on campus Sy Syms tutoring, and Big Brother - Little Brother programs. We will also be working with the Accounting Society, American Marketing Association, Investment Club, Joint Business Society, MIS Society, and The Exchange to insure that previous successes are surpassed in this pivotal year for Sy Syms.

We have already begun to work on this year's business journal, which should prove to be a true testament to the quality of the Sy Syms education.

Our long-term outlook for the year encompasses the establishment of several other developmental and educational programs on campus that will hopefully provide for an understanding of and experience with the business world.

For the ensuing academic year to be as successful as we all hope it to be, the critical ingredient will be student involvement. From that end I sincerely request that you approach either myself, Josh Klovan, Jonathan Teitelbaum, or Michael Gewirtz, this years Sy Syms Student Council, with your suggestions, advice, critique, or questions concerning any Sy Syms activity or program that you deem appropriate for your involvement. Reception will take place at 8 PM on Tuesday, September 23, and all Sy Syms students are invited, and strongly encouraged to attend.

The evening will be meant to insure that students become further acquainted with the activities taking place through the Sy Syms School of Business over the ensuing year. Also, in accordance with the Shabbat of November 7-8 for this year's Sy Syms Shabbaton.

It is your participation that will ultimately determine the coming year's success, and will provide for the constant personification of the values that we all hold so dear.

With warm regards,

Simcha Gissinger
Housing Crisis  
continued from page one

but nearly 84 students received phone calls from members of the orientation committee informing them that they will be living in the new housing arrangements. “We were asked by Rabbi Cheifetz to help facilitate the residence office in informing the select students who have been chosen that they are moving to the apartments,” said Dror Barber, chairman of the orientation committee.

The orientation volunteers read from a prepared “Script for Orien-
tation Committee Telephone Calls” dated August 21, given to them by the Office of Residence Halls. The script indicated that there had been a “substantial increase in enrollment” and that “applications have exceeded the capacity of the residence halls.” It went on to iden-
tify the buildings chosen to house the students, and said that “These buildings have been occupied by our Smicha students during the past two years as well as Roshei Yeshi-
va, Kollel and other young couples, and their children, and other fami-
lies who are part of the YU commu-
nity.” “You are part of a selected group of students who will be liv-
ing in the apartments” continued the script, and informed the recipi-
ents that “All rules and regulations in the Residence Halls handbook are applicable to our Independent Housing Program.”

A portion of the Smicha students who were formerly housed in these apartments have been moved to Stronger Hall, the MFA dormitory. The dorm only held 35 to 40 high school students, and the remaining beds in the 80 person capacity building are to be filled with Smicha students. The Smicha students are also being given the option of having the University find them outside apartments in the neighborhood to dwell in.

Daniel Fogel, a YF senior, is one of the students who is slated to be moved to the new apartments. According to Fogel, Rabbi Cheifetz called him two weeks before the start of the semester and asked him if he would consider moving to the apartments. After consultation with his roommate, he called Cheif-
etz and politely declined. “I asked him if there would be furniture, if there would be a dorm counselor, a caf card, security, maintenance, and all other amenities of the dorms, and all he would tell me was ‘I do not know.’” Fogel then called a friend who is a resident advisor, who assured him that he had a dorm room. He even found out his dorm room number, Morg 504. When he received a phone call from another member of the orientation staff in-
forming him that he was being moved, it came as a total surprise. He expressed his sentiments by say-
ing “If they wanted to kick me out, why ask me, and then move me re-
gardless of what I want?”

The criteria for selection remains unclear. Seniors who applied late for housing were considered prime candidates for transfer. According to Dean Nulman, the decisions were made by the Office of Resident Halls in conjunction with the resident advi-
sors. The Commentator was in-
formed by a resident advisor, that they were instructed to concentrate on YF students, who would be “model citizens.” Netanel Newberger, another student who was informed that he is to be moved, asked Rabbi Cheifetz how he was chosen. “I hand picked your name because you are a good kid” was the Rabbi’s re-
ponse.

Dean Nulman requested understand-
ing and forbearance from the student body while the details of the housing situation are being ironed out. “We need to be as flexi-
ble as possible with the students, and we hope that the students will be flexible with us.”

He acknowledged that there are student concerns, and assured the Commentator that the Office of the Dean of Students and the Student Life committee will address all com-
plaints, and take the necessary mea-
sures to correct any and all prob-
lems that may arise. Nulman ex-
plained that the Office of Residence Halls has been working around the clock in collaboration with himself and Assistant Dean David Himber to find the best solution to the hous-
ing crisis. “We knew there were going to be an excess amount of students, but we did not know the scope of the problem until recent-
ly.”

He stressed that the administra-
tion has been planning for this eventu-
ality, and that this did not catch them unaware. Arrangements such as security, maintenance, and dorm regulations will be finalized as the process continues, said Dean Nulman.

The apartments will have furni-
ture including a refrigerator, and they are equipped with a full bath-
room and shower. Residents will be re-
quired to participate in the cafe-
teria card program, and their apart-
ments are scheduled to be main-
tained by Facilities Management. The security arrangements have yet to be finalized, but the buildings are under the aegis of the security staff. There will be resident advisors located in the building, with the possi-
bility that they may be married residents of the building.
WASHINGTON REFLECTIONS

BY: ADAM MOIS

Ah, Washington...realm of unfulfilled rhetoric and grandiose schemes. I languished at my desk encapsulated in the malaise. The turbulent cohesion of aggressiveness, avarice, testosteronite, ineptitude, nothingness comprised the Washington observed. In this city realpolitik is not a realist principle of international diplomacy, it is a method of subverting colleagues to facilitate personal advance. Washington is a quagmire of artificiality and ethical depravity that on one level is abominable, but at the same time shimmers with an attraction that parallels one's initial impression of Nietzsche's conception of moral transvaluation - intuitively reprehensible, but fascinating and vigorous. What insights, if any, does this city bear?

I cannot claim with any sincerity that I reported to my Capitol Hill Internship this summer with lofty expectations of making a substantive contribution to the Senator for whom I was to work. Such an approach, I repeatedly assured myself, would merely engender disillusionment when I confronted the inevitable realization that the deluge of interns that engulf the Hill during June is to the political climate what humidity is to a Washington summer - unpleasant but unavoidable.

Armed with this pessimistic conviction - which I chose to call pragmatism - began my internship. My prognostication of a dearth of substantive work was borne out. While I received the departmental assignment I sought within the Senator's office and the charges I received were repeatedly characterized as "high level," interactivity, it was apparent to me almost immediately that my conception of a meaningful contribution was nonconsonant with that of the need to be the staff intern perceived to the letters of misguided constituents ignorantly voicing concern with sundry foreign affairs issues and I could write research memos that would never be read on the fiscal prudence of funding bilateral international development projects, but any discussion of a policy matter of even marginal practical import was categorically barred.

Of course, for me to have presumed that interns would issue binding policy advice to Senators or their staff members would have been simultaneously naive and supercilious. However, the preclusion of the opportunity to participate in even peripherally in intelligent analysis of policy formulation, innocuous as it sounds, represented to me the violent estrication of a meaningful element of the Capitol Hill Internship experience. Why did I continue? Why was I inclined to promote my own hindrance?

Although disconcerting, it was not surprising to me that interns were denied the opportunity to contribute productively to the political process. Other observations were less expected. After fording the tumultuous river of acrid tension generated by the unmitigated ambition that is the bloodstream of congressional staff, I encountered the stark reality that while everyone elsewhere seeks for position, few do any work of consequence. Everyone staff is subject to the unequivocal intellectual dominion of the Member of Congress. Anything they do, believe, assert, say, or write can be challenged and capriciously subordinated to the whim of the Member of Congress. More anxiety is evoked by the prospect of raising the ire of that omnipotent despot than by the failure of legislation supporting a vaunted ideal.

Sycophants exist everywhere; it is my contention that Washington has succeeded in breeding a unique species calibrated to be so repugnant as to assure that they are never eclipsed by any other sycophants. Why do they do it? Why does everyone submit to this inhibiting system?

Pragmatism and self-interest. These are the compelling factors motivating virtually every action in Washington. This is the city's poignantly simple, albeit disenchanting, lesson. The mindless drudgery, the personal humiliation, the abject subjugation, the moral harlotry - all are countenanced in the interest of the lofty aim of advancing self-interest. Interns on Capitol Hill are not paid. Instead, they are provided with exposure to this exhilarating spiral of power in an ethical wasteland. It is hoped that interns will be satisfied with this rank slice of decadence that is Washington. I was not.

One Hundred Years for RIETS continued from page one

ative life in the enormous variety of pursuits open to us in the modern life: in the arts and sciences and business and crafts and professions." Further clarifying the role of RIETS in a contemporary society, he stated that the "true legacy of RIETS, as the premier institution of Modern Orthodoxy, is therefore on service to the Jewish community... the adjective 'Modern' should not fool anyone. Our commitment to and the celebration signifies that we are celebrating. The celebration marks the 100th year of RIETS. Rabbi Charlop stated that this event is one of the major anniversaries and growth of RIETS, Rabbi Charlop stated that this is not a realist principle of international diplomacy, it is a method of subverting colleagues to facilitate personal advance. Washington is a quagmire of artificiality and ethical depravity that on one level is abominable, but at the same time shimmers with an attraction that parallels one's initial impression of Nietzsche's conception of moral transvaluation - intuitively reprehensible, but fascinating and vigorous. What insights, if any, does this city bear?

Rabbi Lamm also discussed the vast contribution of the Rav in shaping RIETS. He stated that "it is his legacy that must be preserved, expanded, and continued as a living tradition at Yeshiva University and RIETS. But - it must be one that is subject to the unequivocal intellectual dominion of the Member of Congress. Anything they do, believe, assert, say, or write can be challenged and capriciously subordinated to the whim of the Member of Congress. More anxiety is evoked by the prospect of raising the ire of that omnipotent despot than by the failure of legislation supporting a vaunted ideal. Sycophants exist everywhere; it is my contention that Washington has succeeded in breeding a unique species calibrated to be so repugnant as to assure that they are never eclipsed by any other sycophants. Why do they do it? Why does everyone submit to this inhibiting system?

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Dear Students,

On behalf of the Office of the Dean of Students, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome our returning and new students for the Fall 1997 semester.

Adjusting to college life can be both exciting and challenging. The staff of the Office of Student Services is committed to helping you through these challenging times. If you are in need of counseling or even a reassuring hand, we encourage you to meet with our caring staff to discuss your needs and concerns. Our student services source book provides you with useful information.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR EXPERTISE. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU FEEL FRUSTRATED AND OVERWHELMED. We encourage you to use our services so that your college years can be most productive and rewarding.

As a new semester begins, we wish you continued success in your endeavors.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year

Hatzlachah Rabbah,

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