BY USHI SHAFRAN
On Oct. 25, the Yeshiva University Commentator once again ventured into the realm of cyberspace with the launching of a new World Wide Web site. The site can be browsed online at http://www.yucommenta­tor.com. It contains the full test of the most recently pub­lished edition of The Commentator along with an archive of recent back issues.

Towards the end of last year, The Commentator went on-line under the umbrella of the student-operated 501 Internet server. However, on July 8, the MIS department terminated the student serv­er, rendering the newspaper's site inaccessible and creating a void in cyberspace where The Commentator used to be.

To compensate for the loss of its technological window to the world, the Governing Board of The Commentator decided to create a website independent of the official YU server and removed from the possibility of administrati­ve tampering. A domain name was purchased, and two students, Josh Yuter and Ben Sandler, were enlisted to design the pages and serve as webmasters.

Yuter and Sandler invested their talents and energies to create a site that Editor-in-Chief Ari Kahn called "enter­aining and informative." Visitors to the site are greeted by a spinning graphic of the YU "Torch U’Maddah" shield, and The Commentator's newspaper banner. The homepage consists of concise summaries of the current edition's leading arti­cles and links to the various sections of the newspaper.

The complete text of each article is online and acces­si­ble from anywhere in the world via a computer and phone line.

Student reviews have been extremely favorable, with students and alumni logging on from all corners of the globe. Comparison to other YU webpages impelled one student to say, "it makes the YU Today site look like it is being run off an ancient calcula­tor." Executive Editor Ari Gruen said, "The Commie website provides a fresh alternative to the staid pages of the interactive Times and Journal.

The ability to access the newspaper from anywhere cannot be underestimated, according to News Editor Adam Moses. "Many alumni, especially those in Israel, will find this new service to be of immeasurable benefit as they are not presently afforded access to the YU pages and its contents with little difficulty."

Explaining the feasibility of penetrating the YU network, a number of technically inclined students stated that by buying a $15 cable from Radio Shack and adjusting the connections on one of the University's open phones, a student can easily build a "bridge" (a techni­cal term referring to a device that joins computer networks, mak­ing them act as a single network) that would give the student access to passwords whenever someone checks financial records or changes anyone's reg­is­tration on the internal network through the use of a readily available monitoring program called a sniffer.

In an effort to alert YU offi­ces and students of significant system flaws, The Commentator sent three YC students on a special assignment to secure the VC's most important systems and to penetrate the VC's network. The comment­ator's students were able to make an easy connection to BANNER, the grades computer, by using the same telnet program that many students use to check their email. At this point, the students had the opportunity to examine the grades of anyone on the YU network. In response to this demon­stration, a number of computer aficionados within the Department of Management Information Systems (MIS), the university department responsi­ble for the campus computer infrastructure, to find out how such an error could have gone undetected for so long. Arthur Myers, the director of MIS, tried to assuage the students' fears by explaining to them that "you're asking a question that... every­one's dealing with." He explained that the job of tight­ening up security never ends, since systems are constantly being attacked by people who find security flaws. To combat the problem, MIS has engaged a con­sultant firm, Trusted Information Systems, to review the University's security measures and to give seminars to University personnel about com­puter security.

However, some students have expressed their disappointment over the perceived lack of initia­tive taken by the MIS depart­ment in combating the weak­nesses of the YU computer system. Many students feel that it should not be their obligation to com­pensate for the inactivity of MIS officials. Commenting on this experiment, Josh Sporetti (YC '98) remarked, "It's tragic that students have to fight to give MIS much needed help."

KURTZER APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT
BY ADAM MOSES
Daniel C. Kurtzer, an alumnus and former Dean of VC, was nominated and confirmed to serve in the top United States position in Cairo. The career diplom­at will depart his post as acting Assistant Secretary of State and assume control of the Ambas­sadorial reins in Egypt later this year.

As part of a U.S. Department of State effort to fill open Ambassadorial positions in Israel, Jordan, and most recently as acting Secretary of State Madeleine Albright decided to give out­going U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Edward Walker the coveted Tel Aviv assignment to head off political machinations that she anticipated would result in the nomination of a candidate unac­ceptable to her. This left Egypt unoccupied as U.S. Ambassador for a brief stint as Dean of that school. At 28, he was the youngest career diplomat to ever serve the University. In a quirk of YU history, he signed his brother Benjamin's diploma at the 1979 Commencement Exercises.

Kurtzer then resumed his career in the foreign service. His previous experience included a stint as a Peace Corps volunteer teaching basic education in a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip. He returned to the United States and graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with a B.A. in history and from the University of Chicago with an M.A. in Near Eastern Studies. He subsequently enrolled in a Columbia University doctoral program in Middle East history. Upon receiving his Ph.D., Kurtzer embarked upon what would become a distinguished career in the United States Foreign Service and State Department.

In 1982, Kurtzer was transferred to Tel Aviv where he served as First Political Officer at the U.S. Embassy there. After four years in that position, Kurtzer returned to Washington where he served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence and Research in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. He later served as Principal Deputy Assistant Undersecretary of State for Intelligence and Research and most recently as acting Assistant Secretary of State until receiving his Ambassadorial appointment.

Kurtzer, his wife, and their three sons reside in Silver Spring, Maryland, a quiet suburban of Washington, D.C.
The fundamental value of a Democratic system is based on a government run for and by the people. Every year people express their dismay with how the country is run by voting for new officials or conveying their satisfaction through re-election.

Because Jews are a very small minority with very specific needs, it is crucial that we exercise our right to vote. Over the past few years, one of our communities' greatest strengths has been the percentage of people who make their way to the polls every Election Day.

Last year, YU officials urged students to vote in the presidential race, giving students off for election day. Additionally both professors and rabbis encouraged students to cast their vote.

This year, two major elections took place in the New York and New Jersey areas. However, many students at YU were unable to participate in the electoral process, since members of the administration decided that there was no reason to give students time off, despite the fact that many students reside in New York City and New Jersey.

Apparently the university has no qualms telling its students that local elections are not to be taken seriously. Such an attitude runs contrary to the mission of YU to prepare Jewish college students to enter secular society. If members of the administration view the role of YU to serve as the beacon for Torah U'Madah, they must encourage students to value their role in building the future of civil society. Hopefully, next year we will be able to take pride in the high percentage of students who vote in both national and local elections.

Oh MIS, Why Are My Records Insecure?

Is it asking too much to have YU protect its students' grades and financial records?

Both grades and student finance information have been available since registration began to anyone with knowledge of computers and networks. Until about a week ago, Banner (the system which currently contains financial records and grades and will soon contain alumni and admission records) and YULIS (the library information system) were connected, allowing any computer savvy student to record passwords. Then he would access the Banner system through any computer with telnet, and wreak havoc.

Last week, the network was disconnected and the computer savvy can no longer hack passwords from the library. However, there are other places in YU that have both YULIS and the Banner system near enough to have them interconnected and, 'shazam,' grades can be changed and records altered.

In this day and age of computer literacy, it is incumbent upon those who oversee computer systems to be completely aware of all security issues. 'I made a mistake' does not cut it when dealing with records of a serious nature.

Incidentally, MIS deserves little credit for disconnecting the network. In fact that was all they did. Instead, it was an honest and conscientious student who informed and explained to MIS that they had a "little" problem.

Perhaps next time MIS will not be so lucky.

With the Yom Tovim behind us and midterms upon us, the semester is kicking into high gear. It gives me great pleasure to announce that on Thursday, December 11, Yeshiva University will be playing host to our annual Chanukah Concert. This year's show promises to be a can't miss event starring two legendary performers Dedi and Mordechai Ben David. Tickets will be going on sale shortly so please take the time to elect your class representatives. Good luck to all who are running for positions.

This past Thursday many students took a break from their studies to spend the night at Chicago City Limits. The event, run by the Senior Class, was a great success. I would like to thank the Senior Class Board for their effort in putting together this wonderful evening. Coming up in the next month will be Junior and Sophomore Class events so take advantage of these great activities.

Another event that took place last week was Midnight Madness, the kickoff of the Mac's 97-98 season. I hope everyone in attendance enjoyed themselves as they were treated to free pizza and entertainment at the joint YCSC/ Athletic Department event. Speaking of the gym, we would like to thank the Office of Student Services and the Athletic Department for helping to make this possible.

These are just some of the things YCSC is working on. In addition our committee and clubs are in full swing and next few months should be exciting ones on campus. Best of luck on Midterms!

Sruli Tannenbaum
YCSC President
Midway through their Rosh Hashana piece, en route to its predictable conclusion, the Anglo-Jewish pundit flashes her knowledge of traditional lore. Let us not forget, she lectures, that the Torah reading for Rosh Hashana narrates the expulsion of Hagar and Ishmael, and that the commentators reproach Mother Sarah for her intolerance.

Of course the distinguished columnist has gotten it wrong. It is the previous episode (Breshit 16), in which Sarai torments Hagar and provokes her to run away, where Radak and Ramban ascribe sin to the matriarch. Sarah makes the mistake of allowing Ishmael to remain in the household, a point repeatedly made by Hazon, and that the Rishonim, certify no bumper-sticker lessons and garlands few.

Careful study reveals significant differences between Radak’s approach and Ramban’s. Among them:

1. How do we know that Sarai was wrong? According to Radak, we infer it from the angel’s assurance to Hagar that God has heard her distress, and that Ishmael will be a wild man (pere adam). The wild man Ishmael is destined to afflict the children of Israel, and Ramban’s typological approach entails that the historical outcome is precipitated by the deeds of the root.

2. Radak blames Sarai, Abram gives her a free hand in order to keep the peace (shelom buqil). Ramban states explicitly that Abram sinned too. He believes that Ramban’s divergence from his predecessor flows from his historiographical emphasis. If the sin is manifested in the punishment of the entire nation, then both Abraham and Sarah must be implicated in the guilt.

Almost twenty eventful years separate the incident in Lekeh Lekha from the sequel in Vayera. Ishmael has won a place in his father’s heart which even the promise of a son to Sarah cannot extinguish. The covenant of brit mila, in which Ishmael joins, has transformed Ishmael’s destiny as surely as it has occasioned the change of his name. Sarah too has a new name, and she has borne the son who will supersede Ishmael as the carrier of the covenantal message.

As Sarah objects to the presence of the handmaiden and her son in the covenantal household, her voice may retain something of the old resentment, when the pregnant Hagar made light of her mistress, but the overriding issue is safeguarding Isaac’s future. Abraham hesitates, he is much concerned for his grief: the corruption of Ishmael and Sarah’s demand that he be expelled. The tragedy of Abraham is that both reasons apply. When those to whom we are devoted go to the bad we don’t stop caring about them. Love tinged with regret takes on an added edge of desperation. Nor is regret dissolved when we must loosen our ties to a wayward individual. The direction he will take in life, are established.

Actions have consequences, which may be mitigated but not always averted.

The pundit with whom we began rushes past the Rishonim to make her point about the need to make Judaism more clubby and inclusive. Others mobilize the parashah in the service of their pet ideas about Israel and the Arabs. I suspect that my discomfort with all such performances is rooted less in rejection of their agendas, or even in their errors of fact and reasoning, than in their fundamental shallowness. The Torah that I read, like that studied by Hazon and the Rishonim, certifies no bumper sticker lessons and garlands few unwounded heroes. Though Hazon refer to a subsequent reconciliation, Abraham, for now, must absorb the complex lessons of his failure with Ishmael. And then, having sacrificed his relationship with one son for the sake of the other, he must set forth to sacrifice the remaining son, the beloved son, to fulfill the inescapable will of God.

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YC Students Launch Independent Web Server
Administration's Lagging Impetus for Autonomous Server

BY ADAM MOSHE

Upon reaching an impasse in negotiations with the administration over Internet policy, the Yeshiva University Computer Society recently unveiled an initiative to establish an independent World Wide Web server to satisfy the computing and educational requirements of the University student populace. Continued administrative indifference to the essential computing needs of the University compelled the decision to break with the existing YU server, according to YUCS officials.

The nascent student-operated server is nearing completion according to YUCS co-vice president Ben Sandler. "It is functional but not accessible. We expect the final details to be resolved soon."

YUCS president Menachem Berkowitz reported that his society had contacted "an outside source, who will remain nameless, and got an electrical and network socket. We will be plugging in a computer obtained independently and reestablishing a server similar to 501 which is only slightly related to YUPR, the student-operated Internet server."

Repeated meetings with Yeshiva College Dean Norman Adler over the course of the previous few months since the University's Department of Management Information Systems had decided to pull the plug on the previous student-operated Internet server (known as 501) yielded little in the way of results satisfactory to YUCS.

Adler maintained that unsubstantiated allegations of student hacking from 501 branded the Computer Society and its leadership "irresponsible" and precluded granting the students server privileges on the University site. The matter came to a head during a November 5 meeting between Adler and YUCS representatives Sandler and Josh Yaker.

"Adler pronounced that no progress could be made toward resolution of the server request in light of the resignation of David Rosen from the post of Director of Yeshiva University Public Relations. YUPR has traditionally retained nominal control over the operations of the YU server. Adler reasoned that no decisions can be made by this Department until a successor is found for Rosen."

Computer Society co-vice president and member Shmuel Reinman, upset at the connection suggested by Adler, stated, "Are we to believe that YUPR can no longer make any decisions or operate at all until Rosen is replaced? The idea that no decisions can be made about the server which is only slightly related to YUPR, until it is fully staffed is ridiculous."

Berkowitz wished to emphasize that YUCS decided to "set up an independent server only because administrative red tape made our task impossible. We'd prefer to be on the school server but that does not appear to be possible any time soon."

The purpose of the new server is to provide students with the resources that the University has chosen to deny us."

Midnight Madness '97 in the Max Stern Athletic Center

500 STUDENTS ATTEND CAREER FAIR
SOME DISAPPOINTED BY LACK OF SELECTION

BY NETANIEL NEWBERG

Approximately 500 students from Yeshiva College, Stern College for Women, and Syms School of Business participated in Career Fair '97, held in Belter Hall in the Weissberg Commons. The purpose of the career fair, as explained by Assistant Dean of SSSB Ina Jaskoll, is "for students to explore different career opportunities and network for summer and full-time internships and jobs."

Upon entering the fair, students were asked to fill out cards stating their personal information and career interests. For their convenience, students were given booklets listing every booth in the fair along with its type of field. The fields represented included: accounting, advertising, public relations, finance, graduate schools, health care, Jewish communal services, law and government, management and others.

As in the past couple of years, students showed overwhelming interest in representatives from the financial sector. University Sports Publications (USP) booth seemed to generate a lot of student interest as well. The purpose of USP is to produce magazines about college sports teams. "Our main goal is to generate advertising sales revenue," said Jeff Botwinick, USP's representative.

One organization that can boast few YU alumni made its first appearance. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) set up camp to seek applicants for its Language Specialists Unit. To the chagrin of many aspiring G-men, the FBI was not looking for any special agents.

Reactions to the fair were mixed. Norman Adler, Dean of Yeshiva College, said, "I think it was a success. We're starting to really get our students going. There will be follow up fairs in the spring for physics, psychology, and other fields."

Danny Nasimini (class of '98) said, "It helped assure you a lot of contacts and a wealth of information." Heidi Baker (class of 2000) said, "There were lots of opportunities. Even though I am only a sophomore, I was able to receive a lot of information about jobs."

On the other hand, many students expressed disappointment that an event billed as a career fair for liberal arts majors had almost exclusively business representatives. Of the approximately 150 booths, less than 10 were devoted to government, general consulting, advertising, public relations, and other fields considered to be of greatest interest to liberal arts majors. Shua Spotts (YC '98) remarked, "It didn't cater to liberal arts majors as much as I hoped it would." Rivka Ross (SCW '98) said, "I was hoping to see more job offers in the health field, and Ephraim Shapiro (YC '99) commented, "Is there anything here besides accounting jobs?"
Just after midnight on November 9, official public campaigning for the YCSC freshman and sophomore elections finally began. The elections were originally scheduled for October 25, but technical difficulties forced a lengthy delay until Thursday, November 13.

The postponement was due to complications in the implementation of the new BANNER system in the Office of the Registrar. This prevented officials from completing the official class rosters before the scheduled commencement of the election process. At the time, YCSC officials led by Dave Barber, Chairman of the Canvassing Committee, decided that it would not be prudent to go ahead with the preliminary stages of the elections. His primary concern was the requirement of prospective candidates to garner signatures from at least one third of their classmates. Barber felt that updated and accurate lists were necessary for successful fulfillment of this signature collection; and therefore all college classes would be canvassed in abeyance until these documents could be procured.

Following the break for the holidays, the office of Associate Registrar had finally submitted a copy of the class rosters to the Canvassing Committee. However, Barber noticed that these lists contained numerous errors. He had solicited the help of the students who were currently on the Joint Israel Program. He then made the decision to facilitate the efforts of candidates by utilizing dormitory records and assembling these lists to them in place of the faulty rosters obtained from the Registrar.

The positions to be filled on Thursday for the first time together are the positions of freshman class, sophomore class, and junior class presidents, vice-president, and secretary/treasurer. In the freshman class, Pinchas Shapiro and Aryeh Lightstone are the candidates who are running, while Paul Starkman and Brian Glass are each running unopposed for the positions of vice-president and secretary/treasurer respectively. Concerning the single candidate races, Barber explained, “It is not uncommon for the relatively small freshman class to fail to produce competitive elections.”

Five candidates qualified for appearance on the sophomore class presidential ballot. They include Naftali Nadler, Chaim Loike, Benjamin J. Mantell, Ari Romanoff, and Dov Brandstatter. The vice-president position is being sought by four official candidates, the five Newman Shamsian, Ari Weisen, Aviad Goldwicht, and Eliah Kaplan. Josh Kletz is the sole candidate running for the position of secretary/treasurer.

By Sunday afternoon, campaign posters covered the walls of the various dormitories. Signs, computer generated posters and most noticeable on the bulletin boards on each level of the residence halls. They were often in bright colors in order to attract the attention of students and gain recognition. Some of these signs attempted to illustrate candidates’ platforms while others were less elaborate and simply directed students to vote for specific candidates.

The Canvassing Committee claimed that other than a few isolated complaints, it has been a clean election. Barber said that YCSC looks forward to working with the elected officials to help them fulfill their obligations.

With regard to the prospective voters, Barber stated, “I urge all freshmen and sophomores to take five minutes out of their daily activities to complete the necessary steps to vote. The polling station will be open on Thursday, 12:00 PM-3:45 PM, in the Rubin Lobby.

Candidate Platforms

Freshman Class President

Pinchas Shapiro

He believes he can successfully and efficiently manage the new class goals. Plans include the following:

1. The creation of a billboard with information about the need for and availability of YU’s adoption of new educational models.

2. A focus on the support of new students.

3. The appointment of a new student advisor.

Sophomore Class President

Naftali Nadler

Believes he can successfully and efficiently manage the new class goals. Plans include the following:

1. A focus on the support of new students.

2. A plan to expand the role of the sophomore council.

3. A plan to act as a representative to involve and encourage student activities.

4. A plan to make University benefits more accessible to students by extending hours at the library, computer room, and recreational facilities.

5. A plan to improve social events and fund raisers.

6. A plan to make the campus more attractive.

7. A plan to ensure that every student has an opportunity to succeed.

8. A plan to ensure that every student has an opportunity to succeed.

9. A plan to ensure that every student has an opportunity to succeed.

10. A plan to ensure that every student has an opportunity to succeed.

The Yeshiva University Debate Society

In its first official competition, the recently formed Yeshiva University Debate Society (YUDS) eclipsed its competition and emerged as the undisputed victor. The tournament, which was held at Queens College on October 7th, was an official tournament of the Public Forum Debate League (PFDL).

The tournament focused on the topic of whether or not the United States should continue international treaties to ban the use of antipersonnel landmines. Of the five awards that were given at the tournament, YUDS came back with four. Vice President, Heather Goldstein and YUDS’ President, Pinchas Shapiro, received honorable mentions. The Society’s Yeshiva College Executive Officer, Elan Weinreb, took second place, and the team’s Stern Executive Officer, Sarah Balch, received first place for her efforts.

This victory was an unprecedented accomplishment in the PFDL First Place. The League’s founder and director, Andrew Jacobs, referred to YUDS as “PFDL’s new powerhouse.” Sarah Balch’s first place victory also marks the first time that a Stern student has taken first place in a debate competition.

The society was officially formed on September 24, 1997 at a late-night meeting. Although YU, unlike many other universities, lacks a debate coach and a department that directly addresses the needs of a debate society, YUDS has been able to accomplish more than many other University student organizations so far this year.

The Yeshiva University Debate Society has had support from Dr. Richard Heller, Adjunct Professor of Speech and Drama, who has advised Elan Weinreb, one of the Society’s founders. Furthermore, the Chairman of YU’s Speech Department, Dr. Anthony Beukas, has provided the society with Speech Department resources, further enhancing the society’s publicity capabilities. In addition, YUDS has found an ally in Shuli Tannenbaum, President of YCSC. Shuli has supported YUDS from the start and has mitigated certain bureaucratic problems that threatened the society’s existence.

Besides the tournament on October 7th, YUDS has participated in one other event. Tuesday, November 4th, YUDS attended another competition at Queens College. In contrast to the debate in October, where YUDS had fifteen members in attendance, only three members were able to attend this tournament due to scheduling difficulties. Nevertheless, YUDS managed to bring back two awards. Greg Samuels, a first time debater for YUDS, received an honorable mention and Pinchas Shapiro, one of the society’s founders and current President, took third place.

When asked to comment on the team’s most recent victory and on the success of the society in general, Elan Weinreb said, “Baruch Hashem. We’ve come so far so fast. First, we set an enrollment record at the Club Fair. Then, with only two days of preparation, we take home first and second place trophies and two honorable mentions from the October tournament. Finally, our third place victory at the November tournament shows that even under the pressure of midterms, YUDS is still a formidable team. With God’s help, these victories will be the first of many to come. Kol Hakavod to everyone who contributed to the team’s success, both on and off the verbal battlefield. May we go from strength to strength.”

The society plans to do just that. On November 16th, YUDS will be in attendance at a tournament held at NYU. In preparation for this tournament, the team will be conducting a practice debate on November 13th at Stern. After other schools in the league expressed interest in holding this “preparation,” YUDS’ executive board voted to open it up to anyone who wished to come.

The Public Forum Debate League is a complex league which offers two divisions of debate: Impromptu and Limited Research Debate. Impromptu debate emphasizes critical thinking under pressure. Debaters are given five minutes to prepare affirmative or negative arguments on a controversial topic. When the five minutes are up, debate begins with the affirmative speaker. Limited Research Debate emphasizes critical analysis of a selection of readingMaterial given to debaters one week before a competition. Competitors are required to prepare extensive cases for both the affirmative and negative sides. In the near future, YUDS plans to offer additional, more advanced debate formats.

YUDS is always looking for new recruits. YUDS’ membership, which is currently at over eighty, is constantly growing. Experience is not a prerequisite for joining the society. YUDS will train any member of Yeshiva University’s undergraduate student body who is interested in debate. If you are interested in joining, please contact any member of the society or visit the YUDS’ web page at http://debatemyu.base or request information via e-mail at yuddebate@hotmail.com.
HONORS COLLEGE VISION FIZZLES
ADLER OFFERS A TONED DOWN ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM
BY OREN MARCUS

Contrary to announcements last year of the implementation of an "Honors College" this semester, Yeshiva College Dean Norman Adler recently asserted that no such plan will be carried out. Adler indicated his intention to create an "Honors Program" with a small selection of courses rather than an independent Honors College.

Adler stressed that he never had plans for an Honors College and suggested that such reports originated elsewhere. He explained that he wanted it to be strictly a program, and not an independent college, in order to allow all students to take the advanced courses. "Any student may take an honors course, and there are no prerequisites for these courses," commented Adler, though he quickly added that, "Once in the course the student would have to keep up with the extra workload."

"I feel that this program will place YU at the forefront of national liberal arts education," remarked Dean Adler in his description of the benefits of such a program. Progress appears slow as at the present time only one "honors" class is being offered, with a second one planned for next semester. However, many students appeared to be unaware of the program. When approached, Neal Anker, a YC senior, remarked, "What honors college? I've never heard anything about an honors college."

The honors course being offered this semester is entitled "Crisis of Modernity" and is being taught by Dr. Ruth Bevan and Dr. Ellen Schreker. Bevan explained, "This is a course that is taught on a more sophisticated level. It is open for all students, but they must be prepared to put in extra work. It has been a fine experience for myself, Dr. Schreker, and the students."

The course, which is run like a seminar, stresses discussion, "classic" readings, and writing. Bevan explained that students would be graded for the content of their papers as well as the quality of their writing. The students don't automatically receive an honors credit for the course, but were given the option of an extra writing project to receive extra credit. "I feel that this class will help to better prepare our students for graduate school," remarked Bevan.

Not all students, however, agreed with this assessment. One student who enrolled in the class and wishes to remain unnamed, commented, "The class wasn't anything special. There was a lot of reading, and some papers, but everyone just sat around attempting to seem philosophical when really the class did not have much substance."

Next semester, the curriculum will be expanded to include a second honors class. The class will be taught by Dr. Joan Haur and will cover the Arthurian legend from King Arthur to Star Wars. The class will involve the use of the Internet to view manuscripts from other countries.

Adler portrayed a program that would expand from the single courses offered this year to one that would "permeate the rest of the curriculum. I would like to have writing in every class. We want to stress literacy and critical thinking," described Adler. He felt that with such a program implemented over the next few years YU would soon offer "an education that cannot be touched by anyone."

Adler denied previous reports that a specific donor was lined up to put his name on the proposed Honors College. He explained that YU is applying for funding but did not specify how it would be used.

While many students remain enthusiastic about the prospect of a more extensive honors program, some wonder why announcements were made last year without an accompanying definitive plan for action. Oren Wener, a YC junior, remarked, "I had heard about the Honors College last year but was wondering what happened to it."

Dramatics Society to perform Ghetto
BY YAIR OPPENHEIM

The Yeshiva College Dramatics Society is working on its 65th production under Dr. Anthony Brekus’ supervision. The play for this semester is Ghetto, by Israeli playwright Joshua Sobol. It concerns the development of a Jewish theater troupe in the Vilna Ghetto, circa 1942. Among the highlights are a number of musical numbers, including Gershwins in Yiddish, as well as few dance ensembles. This is considered to be the largest YCDS production in quite a few years, with respect to the cast and crew size.

"The play presents a look at life in the ghetto through the eyes of both the population and its leaders," says Shalom Berson, stage manager of the production. In addition to a large cast, the fall production will showcase numerous technical renovations to the Schottenstein Theater. When asked to expand on this, Steve Mauner, YCDS president mentioned: "people should come and see the play and they won’t be disappointed."

Currents the cast and crew are putting in twelve hour weeks preparing for the largest and most complex show in twenty years. All involved have met extra hours to work on the production and to learn the songs. This production will also exhibit live musical accompaniment, consisting of a saxophone, a clarinet, and a keyboard, and could always accept any help to offered in this field as posted signs indicate. Tickets will be on sale in a matter of weeks. For more information check out the YCDS web-site at www.geocities.com/Broadway/Stage/5758.

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Commencement 1998

SENIORS, HAVE YOU FILED FOR GRADUATION?
IF NOT, PICK UP KIT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR ON YOUR CAMPUS
Believe it or not, it is the only one of the 185 member countries in the United Nations Security Council, that the key deliberative group of the world body. Even Iran is eligible. So is Iran. And so, too, are Cuba, Libya, North Korea, Sudan, Turkey and Syria.

Why is it that these seven nations, all cutover by the U.S. State Department as sponsors of terrorism, are eligible to serve rotating terms in the Security Council, yet Iran, a democratic nation and member of the UN since 1950, is not?

To be eligible for election, a country must belong to a regional group. Every UN member state—from the smallest to the largest—is included in one of the five regional groups. By geography, Israel should be part of the Asian block; but such countries as Iraq and Saudi Arabia have prevented its entry for decades.

The UN Charter proclaims "the equal rights of nations large and small." But only Iran among all UN members is denied the right to belong to any regional group. As a temporary measure, Israel has sought acceptance in the West European and Others Group (WEOG), which includes not only the democracies of Western Europe but also Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Turkey and the United States. Here, too, despite the support of several countries, including the U.S., Israel still has not been admitted.

Thus, without membership in a regional group, Israel can never be elected to serve a term on the Security Council or, for that matter, to the other most important bodies of the UN system, such as the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the World Court, UNICEF and the Commission on Human Rights.

What should you do? Make yourself heard!

Let the UN Secretary General, the European Union Presidency and the American Ambassador to the UN know how you feel. Send an e-mail message through our website at www.ajc.org, or please contact us for more information about the UN and Israel.

The American Jewish Committee
Robert S.数字
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DISCOVER
Harvard Professor Lectures at Reavel

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

The annual Bernard Revel Graduate School Gilbert Klapperman lecture series began November 5 with a lecture by James Kugel entitled "The Heavenly Shabbos Goy and Other Creative Uses of Ancient Biblical Interpretation".

Kugel is a professor at both Harvard and Bar Ilan Universities and the author of numerous books and articles on the Bible and its commentators including The Idea of Biblical Poetry and In Potiphar's House. He addressed focused on Biblical interpretation as seen through the literature of the Second Temple period and the early Christian era.

Although the earliest Jewish commentary, Bereshit Rabbah, was not published until at least the second half of the first millennium, Kugel argued that the Jewish interpretive traditions are much older, quite possibly extending back to the early Second Temple period. Current academic opinion points to a stronger distinction between Second Temple and Rabinic (the forerunner of modern) Judaism. Drawing upon a wide selection of texts, including volumes from the Apocalypse, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the new Testament, he demonstrated that there was never a point when the Hebrew Bible existed without some form of exegesis to resolve the literary and linguistic difficulties and that many issues later discussed in Midrash are implicitly raised much earlier.

Unlike the question and answer format familiar to most from exposure to medieval commentators and midrashim, the style of these texts was exclusively a didactic one. They were written to present more familiar story from the Bible so that problems addressed by the author must be inferred by the modern reader.

The lecture was well attended by students and faculty from BRGS, RIETS and the undergraduate libraries.

Response to Kugel was mixed. Some felt that the premise of the lecture was flawed to the extent that any had an introduction to Bible course while others enjoyed the topic and presentation which is at the cutting edge of academic Biblical scholarship.

Future Klapperman lectures for this semester will include talks by Dr. Joel Kramer, November 23, at SCW entitled "Maimonides' Life as Reflecting in the Cairo Geniza" and by Dr. Daniel Lasker, December 3, at the uptown campus on "The Philosophical Aspects of the Jewish-Christian encounter in the Middle Ages."

Where is WYUR?

BY SHAVA SHITEN

Yeshiva University’s radio station, WYUR, ceased broadcasting over a year ago and has been off the air since. However, recent developments raise the possibility of finally acquiring the funding and equipment to revive the station and bring WYUR back.

WYUR broke from the third floor of the Schottenstein Building. For students interested in broadcasting or musical careers, WYUR gave them the chance to learn and showcase their talents to the world. Its playlist consisted of everything from alternative music hours to comedy and variety shows, with a measured dose of religion tossed in as well. Many students considered it not only a entertaining diversion, but a necessity as well, and questioned why it had been off the air for over a year.

According to the president of YSC, Daniel Tannenbaum, the decision to go off the air was "due to major technical problems that have occurred. The equipment involved with broadcasting is in a terrible working condition." Tannenbaum stressed that the problems are not minor ones that can be fixed by students alone, and that "in the past, all at once in order to have the entire station operational." The station’s manager, Neil Berman, said that he “had great hopes for WYUR last year and was working very hard on making it the best station in the history of YU.” Last year, he held the station running for a little while but it could not be heard in Rubin or Morgenstern Halls, because the transmitter was unplugged for the winter. The only reason reception was received in Music Hall was because its transmitter was unplugged by a janitor, which had shorted them out. The only reason reception was received in Music Hall was because its transmitter was unplugged for the winter. The only reason reception was received in Music Hall was because its transmitter was unplugged for the winter. The only reason reception was received in Music Hall was because its transmitter was unplugged for the winter. The only reason reception was received in Music Hall was because its transmitter was unplugged for the winter. The only reason reception was received in Music Hall was because its transmitter was unplugged for the winter. The only reason reception was received in Music Hall was because its transmitter was unplugged for the winter. The only reason reception was received in Music Hall was because its transmitter was unplugged for the winter.

The question remains, however, as to when the station will reappear. According to Tannenbaum, lack of financing to replace or repair the equipment was a problem that needed addressing, but the President’s Circle has now committed in principle to funding the station’s repair. The exact amount of money that the station needs is yet to be decided, but Tannenbaum expressed confidence that the matter will be “taken care of.”

Berman concurred with Tannenbaum and said that he felt at one point that WYUR would never be revived. But after the recent developments, he has “a very positive outlook on the situation,” and that we could be looking at the station possibly working at full force in the beginning of the second semester.

Computerized Catalog Introduced in Library

BY BRENT KESSLER

After great delay, Yeshiva University has electronically cataloged its library books, frequently used through the Mendel Gottesman Library of Hebrews/Judaica, and The Pollack-Landowne Bloom Library.

Termed YULIS (Yeshiva University Library Information System), the computerized catalogue system allows students to search for books, journals, microfilms, and videos in YU’s various libraries by title, author, subject, or keyword. Users are supplied with information about items that match the criteria of their searches.

YULIS is capable of operating in both English and Hebrew. The Hebrew capacity is useful for those seeking sefarim. Many non-University databases will also be accessible through the system.

YULIS is a significant step forward for the library. In the past, students would spend hours combing through books and searching libraries for their favorite topics. With YULIS, students can search for books, journals, microfilms, and videos from the comfort of their own homes.

What are you doing next year? SHE’ARIM may be for you.

BY SHAYA SHTERN

Do you love learning—especially Jewish texts? Would you like to spend your next year on an academic adventure in an exciting, diverse environment? SHE’ARIM may be for you.

We are looking for a few knowledgeable, bright, and committed Jewish women and men to apply for a SHE’ARIM fellowship.

SHE’ARIM (Hebrew for “Angles”) is a unique experience for Jewish women and men. SHE’ARIM students live and learn in a co-ed environment in the heart of New York City. SHE’ARIM offers a comprehensive learning opportunity for its students, allowing them to study, grow, and explore in an environment that is rich in Jewish tradition and culture.

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SHE’ARIM is committed to providing a supportive and inclusive environment for all students, regardless of background or experience. Whether you are a returning student or a first-time learner, SHE’ARIM is a place where you can thrive.

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Students Take Time Out for Laughs

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

Laughter was the best medicine for relaxation from midterms for a group of 65 YC and SCW students who attended "Chicago City Limits," New York's longest running comedy revue.

On Thursday, November 7, the Senior Class Student Council (YCSC) led a trip to the critically acclaimed comedy show. The ninety-minute performance was a combination of planned skits and improvisational routines in which the audience was asked to come up with everyday words or phrases which served as the basis for each performance.

We are an improvisational theater company that has been performing continuously since 1980," an actor from the show said. "We create the themes of our performances on-the-spot based on audience suggestions, so it's a very fun, interactive theater form.

The unpredictable nature of the improvisational technique impressed the students greatly. They were astounded at how quickly the cast was able to take a simple word like "balloon" and act out an entertaining 5-minute story based on the word.

"I was amazed at how easily the actors were able to use words given to them by the audience and make humorous acts out of them," Josh Swedarsky, SSEC '00, said.

Nevertheless, several skits stood out among the students as exceptionally funny. Humorous parodies of popular songs from the 1980's, the television show "Jeopardy," and annoying telephone telemarketers, brought smiles to most of the students' faces.

"My favorite skit was about a man who changed long-distance carriers, and every time he talked to one company, another one would be on the other line. In the end they threatened to kill his girlfriend," Greg Samuel, SSEC '01, said. "I went through a similar, though not as serious, experience when connecting my phone line earlier this year."

Others found humor in specific personal experiences rather than particular skits. The cast of six included two women and four men, each of whom displayed a wide variety of comedic and acting skills.

I really enjoyed watching the nerdy guy with the big hair. He was very talented, and made a lot of hilarious jokes," a SCW junior said.

However, some students also felt that the show had its downsides. While most of the audience left with smiles on their faces, a few students thought that although the range of the actors was impressive, the quality of the improvisational skits was hampered by the auditor's poor suggestions of topics.

The skits that were planned in advance were funny, but the audience participation wasn't as funny, and the cast didn't have much to work off of. So most of the jokes based on the audience were pretty boring," Jonathan Gordon, SSEC '01, said.

Overall, the show served its purposes; the YCSC tried to plan a fun, relaxing event that both YC and SCW students would enjoy. Many more events are in their planning stages by the YCSC for this school year. They hope to continue to stage social events as a way of enhancing the little free time which students have.

"These events give the guys and the women the opportunity to meet in an informal setting, and we will do our best to plan more social events like this one. Although we were in the middle of midterms, we still had a good turnout," YCSC President Srilal Ramnathan, SSEC '98 said.

Coordinators of the event were pleased at the positive reactions of the students to the show. Everyone who attended enjoyed various aspects of the show and it seemed to be a much-needed break from the pressures of college.

YCSC Treasurer Joseph Class, YC '98, said, "We had a great event. It was a nice way to increase student participation, while giving us a much-needed break during midterms, when relaxation is at a premium."
Elections ‘97 (“To Vote, or Not to Vote”)  

Personal Reflections

BY YEHUDA BURNS

A simple glance at the school calendar said it all. Tuesday, November 4: “Election Day, regular classes.” Looking back at old issues of the Commentator, one finds election stories of student protests and rallies. Their goal: to give students a chance to express their political convictions and stand up for what they believed was right. But it seems as if this year’s elections found YU students in an entirely different mood.

In contrast to the average YU student, there were people who actually voted on November 4. The incumbent, Rudolph Giuliani, ran away with a landslide victory in the New York City mayoral race. The New Jersey gubernatorial campaign came down to the wire. Local elections however, left many in the dark and few were aware of the four crucial questions that appeared on the ballot throughout New York State.

After barely eking out a victory against Al Sharpton in the Democratic primary, Ruth Messinger waged a weak campaign focused primarily on portraying Rudy Giuliani as a bully, unfit to run the city. She focused on issues such as the demise of the public school system, police brutality, scarcity of jobs and the general quality of life in the city. Ms. Messinger depicted a City Hall apathetic towards the people, where ambition counted more than the electorate.

Meanwhile, Mayor Giuliani simply stood by his record. He reduced crime, reduced the cities debt, and greatly improved the quality of life in New York. Perhaps his most significant achievement was that people felt better about living in, and coming to New York City. He brought the city out of the nation’s doghouse and turned it into one of the “top ranked” cities in the nation. In seeking a second term, he promised a further reduction in crime and a major battle against drug infiltration into nearly every corner of the city. His landslide win gives him the mandate he needs to mold the city in his image.

In New Jersey, Christine Whitman took it down to the wire again. After defeating Jim Florio by only one percentage point four years ago, she made good on her promise to cut income taxes and her popularity soared. The strength of the state’s economy helped catapult her to the political forefront of the Republican party, with many considering her a strong leader capable of taking on national responsibilities.

Her challenger, the little known state senator James E. McGreevey fought a pointed campaign based on pocketbook issues. He picked on New Jersey’s high auto insurance rates and property taxes, even though polls showed that most people didn’t trust him to lower rates either. His relentless attacks gave Whitman a run for her money, and her near margin of victory, again only one percentage point, may cost her the national spotlight.

So, what happened at YU? Food Services was on limited duty throughout the day. This gave their employees ample time to vote, an opportunity that most took advantage of. Several students proudly announced to their friends how they went home the night before, so that they could cast their ballots. And many professors made it their business to stop by their local polling stations before coming in for the day.

But what about the majority of students?

For starters, a surprisingly large number of students are not even registered to vote. This is significant, because in many local races the old motto really holds true: “Every vote counts.” When asked why they had not registered, many said that they did not know how to register. Others said that they had no time, or just didn’t care. One student, embarrassed by the question, answered “I didn’t even know I had to register to vote.”

Among those who are registered, many students simply did not vote. The reason why would seem to be clear - all the students were in school. Last year, classes were canceled for election day and most people took advantage of the time off to vote. This year was not a national election and therefore, apparently, did not merit a day off. Some speculated that since students didn’t care to vote, the administration merely echoed their perspective.

Assistant Dean Michael Hecht explained that the reason was more practical. “Due to the construction of this year’s Jewish calendar, scheduling becomes an issue. Most students would rather have an extra day of intercession.”

According to Hecht, this year’s midterm break is shorter than in previous years, and an extra day off would require cutting deeper into vacation to conform to Yom Tov’s awkward schedule. Dean Hecht said that he didn’t feel students were being cheated out of their vote since after all, anyone can register for an absentee ballot. Many students echoed Dean Hecht’s sentiments. One student remarked that “we already have a shorter break than most schools, so I don’t want to cut into it any more.” Others wouldn’t give in so easily. “We have off next Tuesday for Veteran’s Day. Are they trying to tell us that it’s more important to commemorate the past than to ensure a solid future?”

One student said that he felt bad that he couldn’t vote. “I had classes all day and there was no way I could reasonably make it home. I would have loved to vote but there just was not enough time.” This sentiment was echoed by many people who had made sure to be home last year to vote in the presidential election.

While many expressed regret, most New Yorkers didn’t feel all that bad once the votes were tallied. “As long as Giuliani won by such a large margin, I am confident that my vote was not the tie-breaker,” said Yitzchok Mosheh. “I was so sure of it that I never even worried.”

In contrast, many students from New Jersey regretted that they had not voted in such a close race. “It’s a good thing Christy won because if she would have lost I would have felt very guilty.” One person felt relief that he had to go back home, albeit for different reasons. “Once I was home I had to vote. But if I wasn’t already going home, no, I don’t think I would have made the extra effort.”

There were some brave souls who dared to buck the trend. Josh Posner gave up a ride from his home on Monday morning to drive in himself. This way he could drive back that night and vote the next morning. “I couldn’t vote last year because I was in Israel, and I wasn’t going to let this one get away,” Posner stated.

As for the absentee ballot, most people said that they simply forgot to register for them. One student remarked, “Sure I could have sent it in, but it just slipped my mind. Why can’t they keep them at all polling stations so I could go pick one up wherever I am?”

On top of student apathy towards voting in general, many expressed disappointment with the voting process, questioning the need to be home to vote. “Why do they make it so difficult to simply go out and vote?” remarked one student. “With so many close races and important issues on the ballot I’m a little disappointed.”

In fact, most students were not even aware of the questions that appeared on the ballot throughout New York State. Two important issues were being contended: whether to hold a constitutional convention to amend the State’s constitution, and whether to borrow nearly 2.5 billion dollars to help rebuild the public school system. Both were ultimately voted down. When queried on the issue, “What questions?” was the general response, but that response was largely in keeping with the general lack of information on the issues throughout the state.
Rabbis and Ayatollahs: Students From Iran

BY AKIVA HERZFELD

Iran—Demonized by the media, vilified by government officials, enthusiastically condemned by both the political pundit and the common citizen, it stands prominently among those nations that Americans most love to hate. Liable for condemnation by both the political pundit and the common citizen, it stands prominently among those nations that Americans most love to hate. Liable for condemning by both the political pundit and the common citizen, it stands prominently among those nations that Americans most love to hate.

However, as of the last census, 60 million people actually live there. 40% of these 60 million people are under the age of 15. An estimated 10,000,000 of these 60 million people, are Jews still populating Iran.

On the uptown campus of Yeshiva University, there are about twenty students whose families emigrated from Iran. In separate interviews with The Commentator, some of these students spoke of the situation in their former home. One student, whose family left in 1980, told The Commentator how Iran brutally escaped.

The student, who has all left Iran in the past three months, for reasons, discussed politics in Iran, the cultural differences, Iran and the United States, and the life for Jews in present day Iran.

A Melamed Tells His Story

Today, for the follower of Mid-East pol­itics, it sounds implausible that Jews and Iranians share anything in common. However, there is a historical link between the rich histories of these two peoples. Thousands of years ago, King Cyrus, after terminating Babylonian rule, permitted the Jews to return to Israel and rebuild the sacred Temple. Until the year 642 C.E., the Jews living under the Persian rule had ecological freedom in life, work, and business. Even after this, when Moslem rule was estab­lished, Jews such as Maimonides, were employed as court physicians or political advisors. While European governments either expelled or persecuted Jews, in Iran, Jews were permitted to live in a set of fairly moderate rules regulating the relationships between Jews and Moslems.

In 1946, under Reza Shah Pahlavi, the state of Iran gave de facto recognition to the Jews living in Iran. However, as of the last census, 60 million people actually live there. 40% of these 60 million people are under the age of 15. An estimated 10,000,000 of these 60 million people, are Jews still populating Iran.

The Commentator interviewed six other Iranian students at the class, there is no difference to the government in Iran, in Austria, they were allowed into the country. In Iran, they had limited options. They have to write on Shabbat.

Who are these leaders? Concerning the various differences between the two countries and the chal­lenges of being a Jew in Iran, the students agreed that their last names will be withheld, because they feared possible consequences for their parents in Iran.

A: The way the teachers behave in Iran, is different to us. In Iran, you can get permission to leave class. In Iran, you cannot chew gum in class. Here, you have to write on Shabbat.

C: Yes, we don't have Jews, and we do not have many other things also; but in Iran everyone is religious.

D: It wasn't so bad, even though you knew the government was there, you knew that people always keep the USA - just in time for the first day of the semester at YU. It was preferable to not be individualized.

After separate departures, they reunited in Austria. After a period of six months in Iran, they were allowed to return to the USA — just in time for the first day of the semester at YU.

To the student of Shiraz, Arash spoke at greater length concerning the various differences between the two countries and the chal­lenges of being a Jew in Iran.

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access to the printed version.” Prospective students can log on and get a feel for what happens on campus,” said Editor-in-Chief Noah Streit, who expressed his pleasure at being able to reach these potential students through the cybersite, and said “The online edition provides people en masse the opportunity to access what really transpires at YU.”

Attempts were made by the Commentator to find space on one of the officially sanctioned YU servers, but the administration rebuffed all requests to create the student newspaper web-page. Unlike virtually all other American universities, YU has a formal policy prohibiting student publications from appearing on the University’s central server. David Rosen, the former director of the Yeshiva University Department of Public Relations, strictly forbade any type of uncensored student literature from being posted on-line. This policy officially extended to The Commentator.

Commenting on the possibility of changing Rosen’s guidelines, Yvonne Hudson, the publications director of the PR Department, said that “We have had an established policy of not putting any student work, and we do not plan on moving any ahead in this area.” She indicated, that in her personal opinion, it is a good idea for The Commentator to be available on the web, however, she does not want to tamper with presisting University policy.

Webmaster Ben Sandler said, “Most major universities have sites on-line, however, Yeshiva University’s site will remain stagnant until it allows The Commentator onto the official university Internet site, and creates a forum in which students can voice their opinions without having to contend with censorship.”

Future plans for the site include an interactive forum, where students will be able to post bulletin board messages and participate in student debate. Links to other sites are to be added, and comments and death threats can be e-mailed to various staff members.

Iranians at YU

Continued from Previous Page

house! They start making trouble for us. (He laughs) But I’m going to change that. Another time, I am wearing a T-shirt written in English on the street. (Arash pulls off the T-shirt. It read, “Of Course Money Can Buy Everything. That’s Why There Are Credit Cards.”) and a policeman stopped me. He says, “Don’t wear it. Does it hurt anyone? This is not your culture.” I did not want trouble. I did not wear the T-shirt anymore."

Each day in America, Arash and Peyman heard something new about American society. For example, last week, Arash learned that males in America do not hold hands when they walk down the street. It is done in Iran. Arash is also beginning to overcome his problem of mixing up the pronouns “he” and “she.” Praise does not differentiate between the sexes in the third person singular pronoun. For Arash, being a student at YU means more than having to mention microphones, inconsequential details. It means having to do so, while trying to understand a whole new culture and grasp an entirely different viewpoint.

Brothers Discuss Life For Jews in Iran

After Khomeini secured power, one of the first things that he did was to liquidate ancient Islamic laws and practices. One law, reinstated said Jews could no longer build any new synagogues. Two brothers, Aram and Peyman, in their second year at YU, discussed what life is like for Jews in present-day Iran. To leave Iran, Aram and Peyman paid a deposit and never returned. They lived in New York for six months, and have been living in America for about two years. They insisted to give their last name to the newspaper” out of fear that an Iranian official see this issue of The Commentator, these might be possibile repercussions.

A: Peyman. Do moderns try to convert the Jews to Islam?

P: Jews usually can’t get very high in companies or anywhere. Wherever they are working they are trying to get rid of the Jews, so that indirectly they are trying to send them out. They don’t want the Jews to have any power.

C: What is the structure of the Jewish community in Iran today?

P: Since many Jews have moved out from Iran, the Jewish community is lacking in good leadership. For example, the best of them does not have any power. Most big banks, hotels and other businesses are run by Jews. There are still quite a few in the armed forces. Also, there is a Jewish school in Tehran.

A: A hulah and etrog are difficult to get. Each shul has only one or two, and everybody goes up and says a bracha (blessing).

C: What differences have you noticed between the Yeshivites in Iran and the Rabboim here at YU?

P: The first important and amazing thing that we saw was such a big Jewish community at YU, and the authority that they had. They are running a whole university here at YU, all the students are Jewish, and all the semiclaess are based around the Jewish. There are no secular classes on chagim you have off.

A: We really enjoy it. In Iran, if you want to get off, for you have to explain to them why it is. It is not very easy.

P: Saturday is the beginning of the week, which means it is the busiest, and most important day of the week. In Iran, I had to go to school on Saturday. I had teachers who expected the students to take notes and would get angry if you wouldn’t.

With so much space devoted to the opinions of the Iranians at YU, the question remains as to what other students think of them. One thing is certain: On a campus that often appears stale and homogenous to many, the Iranians, like other unique ethnic groups on campus, infuse an element of vitality into YU. The circle of their foreign tongue at times matches the sounds of the dormitory and library. Their features add color to an otherwise bland campus. They are an entity unto themselves: an entity a YU outsider might not notice, but once a YU student himself does.
The following are observations made by Computer Science major, Aryeh Sanders YC '98, after an in-depth study of the YU computer system. Sanders submitted a record of his experience to the Commentator:

Computer Lab Follies
To research the extent of the problems with computers in the labs, I decided to try to print a web page from 20 computers. I started by repairing one of the printers in the library in order to give the computer a fair chance. The results: 4 out of 10 library computers managed to print without playing with the settings, and 8 of the 10 in the labs on the 11th floor of Belfer. However, even among those that managed to print, 3 printed sideways, one had a broken mouse, and one shrunk the printout to one quarter of the paper size. Of those that did not get that far, some had mysterious errors; three computers stopped responding, one didn’t have a functioning copy of Netscape, and one didn’t have a printer driver installed. When I first arrived in the Belfer labs, neither printer was functioning. An MIS employee partially repaired one while I waited.

When told of the results of this experiment, Myers told me, “I don’t doubt the statistics you gave me.” He, as well as other MIS personnel, blamed students who change the computer’s setup for the sorry state of the computer labs.

Myers explained that MIS is working on finding a way to refresh the computers automatically. As it stands, an MIS employee must repair every broken computer by hand, with problems appearing faster than they can be fixed. Recently, the school invested in removable hard drives that could be replaced easily, but several drives were stolen as the locks were easy to open.

At the beginning of the school year, I offered to set up a demonstration of a program that would refresh the computers over the network. Two weeks after sending a detailed proposal to MIS, I received a request to come and explain this proposal in person. When I completed my presentation, I was thanked for my efforts and told that someone would try to follow up on my suggestions. This took me until September, and since then I have not been contacted at all by the MIS department as to whether any changes have been made.

Can I have an operator please?
This year there has been no student operator program, whereby students would be available in the computer labs to fix problems and provide assistance. Myers stated that the program will still proceed with some revisions despite the late start. When students are finally selected for the program, they may have to commit to working more hours than in previous years.

Tangled Up In Webs
The status of web pages has been a sore point in Yeshiva University’s transition to the Computer Age. The web pages on www.yu.edu have stagnated over the past few years. In an effort to remedy this, the University has brought in Tom Deering, a consultant, to update the web site as well as the computer kiosks located in the lobby of Furst Hall. He has redesigned the web site, but the changes cannot be posted until they are approved by the Department of Public Relations.

Myers vowed as well, that teachers could post course materials on the YU web site if they could get approval from Public Relations.

Looking for Guidance
The back end of the “Guide to the Perplexed” correction forms, resides on a separate web server because MIS wanted to review the code for security reasons. Unfortunately, as their UNIX guru is now studying at the Grass Institute in Israel and only working part time, the review process was far too slow to be practical.

Installation Problems
In addition to the technical problems of the computer connections, MIS officials have also failed to protect the integrity of the hard drives of the school’s computers. Some students have installed software on most of the lab machines that allows them to run any program on the machine from anywhere. Moreover, some computers have two or three such programs installed, probably by competing groups of computer hackers. While conducting his research of the YU computer system, I discovered one program found on some of the machines allows people to connect with the standard telnet program, complete with a login name and password. Another program, installed on most of the lab machines allows anyone to run programs by typing “rsh machine_name command_name” from any UNIX account in the world. Unfortunately, under the standard operating procedure used by MIS officials, keeping the machines clear of such programs would take MIS employees to service each computer for fifty minutes each day.

Then, there are also programs that record keystrokes, convenient for collecting passwords as people log in to their email accounts.

Thanks to you, all sorts of everyday products are being made from recycled materials. And don’t forget to celebrate America Recycles Day on November 15th.

It would mean the world to us. For a free brochure, call 1-800-CALL-EDF or visit our web site at www.edf.org

Thanks for recycling, we greatly appreciate your willingness to protect the environment.
He made a statement by passing the bar.

Not entering one.
Dear Students:

At the beginning of the 1997-1998 academic year, we wrote an open letter to the Commentator regarding the range of counseling services offered to the student body and we encouraged you to take advantage of these services. Furthermore, we distributed a Student Services Source Book to you (if you did not get one come to the Office of Student Services-TH 419) and we mailed copies to your home, again urging students to become aware of these services and to call on our staff when necessary.

Don't be reluctant to turn to us before your concerns become overwhelming. WE ARE THINKING ABOUT YOU and are concerned about your well-being, both academically and personally. It is significant to note, that in addition to the various services described in your source books we have other consulting professionals who can counsel you as well. To learn more, call Adam Miller at 212-960-5480. Also, feel free to speak with our residence hall director and head resident assistants in order to be directed to the appropriate resources.

Our goal is to have every student feel we care for him. We want you to succeed in school and in life. We will not have all the answers but, at the very least, we guarantee you one thing—we'll try our best to direct and help you.

Good luck with your midterms!

Sincerely,

David Himber,
Associate Dean of Students

Dr. Efraim Nulman,
University Dean of Students
On November 4, 1995, Yitzchak Rabin was assassinated at the hands of a fellow Jew.

On March 1, 1922, Rabin was born to two Russian-born parents who had come to Israel with the aliyah of the early twentieth century. Rabin was born into a new generation of native Israelis; this was a generation which would be responsible for the building of the modern State of Israel.

Rabin attended primary school in Tel-Aviv and graduated from the Kadoorie Agricultural School in the Lower Galilee. He had been educated in order to build up the area called Palestine and turn the Balfour Declaration of 1917, and the dream of a Jewish State, into a reality.

In addition to participating in the new Israeli educational system, in 1940 Rabin joined the Palmach, an underground commando unit led by Moshe Dayan to fight British rule in Palestine. That year Rabin participated in the Palmach's operations in Syria. Rabin's performance in the Palmach was exemplary and in no time Rabin was promoted to platoon leader. In 1945, Rabin was a deputy commander in the operation that freed 200 illegal immigrants from the Atlit detention camp. Rabin continued to make great sacrifices for the dream of a Jewish State. In 1946 Rabin spent 6 months in a British detention camp in Rafiah with hundreds of other Jewish leaders who were arrested by the British in June, 1946 on a day that came to be known as “Black Saturday.”

On October 14, 1947, as the realization of a Jewish State in Israel became inevitable, Rabin moved up once again in the Palmach and was appointed deputy commanding officer serving directly under Yigal Allon. Rabin's military career continued as he lead the Harel Brigade in Operation Nachson to open the road to besieged Jerusalem, liberating the neighborhoods of Katamon and Shehalim. Rabin was appointed Deputy Commander of the Operation Horev, a successful counteroffensive that won control of the Negev and Elat. Finally, a glorious conclusion to his tour of duty in the pre-State of Israel period, Rabin joined the delegation which signed the armistice agreements between the newly created State of Israel and its Arab neighbors.

After graduating from the Staff College in Britain in 1953, Rabin returned to Israel to run the country that he had helped create. From 1954 to 1956 Rabin served as head of the Training Branch of Tazalah and was promoted to Brigadier General. He then served as OC Northern Command from 1956 until 1959 and as Chief Of Operations from 1959 to 1960. In 1961 Rabin was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff and eventually he became Tazalah's seventh Chief of Staff on January 1, 1964. As Chief of Staff, Rabin returned to Jerusalem when he led Israel to victory in the Six Day War. Rabin realized the dream he had prayed for since his days in the Palmach when he finally marched through the gates of the old city of Jerusalem as its liberator.

On January 1, 1968, Rabin retired from army service and entered the political sphere as the Israeli Ambassador to the United States until the spring of 1973. At that time, he was elected as a member of the Knesset and was appointed Minister of Labor in Golda Meir's government coalition. Upon Golda Meir's resignation on June 2, 1974, Rabin was chosen by the Labor Party as the new Prime Minister.

Rabin's administration put special emphasis on building up the Israeli economy, solving social problems and strengthening the IDF. Rabin began his period of peace when he signed disengagement agreements with Syria and Egypt in 1974 and 1975. In addition, Rabin signed the Memorandum of Understanding between Israel and the United States in order to strengthen the relationship between both governments. However, Rabin's emphasis on Israeli security never waned. In June 1976, it was Rabin's government which issued the orders for "Operation Thunderbolt," where Israeli commandos rescued over 100 Israelis who were hijacked aboard an Air France flight and forced to land in Entebbe airport in Uganda. Rabin's first tenure as Prime Minister ended when he was forced to resign due to a scandal concerning his wife Leah's illegal bank accounts in the United States.

After serving as a member of the Knesset and the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committees, Rabin was appointed Minister of Defense in 1984 in the National Unity Government of Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Shamir. In January, 1985, Rabin continued his attempts to maintain peace when he sent a proposal for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon and the establishment of a security zone in order to guarantee peace and security for the Jewish settlements along Israel's northern border. Rabin's service as Minister of Defense was also marked with the beginning of the Palestinian Intifada in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In response to this outbreak, Rabin ordered Israeli troops to "break the bones" of the insurgent Arabs. Later, as prime minister, Rabin would attempt to end these uprisings through peaceful negotiations.

In 1992, Rabin began his second tenure as prime minister of Israel. After being elected Chairman of the Labor Party in February of 1992, Rabin led the Labor Party to victory in the June Knesset elections and assumed the role of prime minister twenty-five years after he successfully led Israeli forces to victory in the Six Day War. Rabin had run under the platform of making peace with Israel's Arab neighbors and made that the main priority of his government.

Rabin began face-to-face negotiations with Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, in order to secure some kind of peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians. On September 13, 1993, Rabin stood on the White House lawn shaking the hands of Yasser Arafat after signing an accord outlining the first Israeli-PLO framework for autonomy in the West Bank, and Gaza Strip. As a result of his dedication to the "peace process" Rabin, Arafat, and Shimon Peres, the foreign minister of Israel, received the Nobel Peace Prize. However, Rabin's political decisions faced strident opposition back in Israel. After terrorist attacks by Hamas, large crowds of demonstrators uttering the words "Rabin hoged" (Rabin is a traitor) would taunt him as he walked down the street. This dissension did not deter Rabin from trying to attain his goal of strengthening the "peace process." Rabin continued to negotiate with Yasser Arafat eventually ending Jericho to Palestinian authority and creating a Palestinian police armed with Israeli guns. These same guns were later used against Israeli soldiers in the Palestinian uprisings last Success. On October 26, 1994, Rabin and King Hussein of Jordan signed a Treaty of Peace between the State of Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, thus ending the 66-year state of war between both nations. In his final act of peace, Rabin was a signatory of on Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip on September 28, 1995. Although Rabin's policies could be challenged, his honest intentions and commitment to peace could not be challenged.

On November 4, 1995, Rabin's push for peace came to an abrupt end. After speaking at a peace rally in Tel-Aviv's Kikar Malchei Yisrael, an icon for Yitzchak Rabin, Rabin fell to an assassin's bullet. Rabin left behind his Leah, children Dalia and Yuval, three grandchildren, and a belief in the possibility of peace between Israelis and Arabs.
Father of the Angels

THEATRE REVIEW
by YISHAI FLEISHER

The events portrayed in "Father Of
The Angels" span across a three day peri­
d. Armed with his YU education, he went on
and sent his two decide to go into the pizza business?

A Superior Kosher Pizza

RESTAURANTS REVIEW
by MOISHECHAI FEIBMAN

Many a Yeshiva University student has
heard the old adage about graduating and
finding employment in the fast food
industry, especially if they are liberal arts
majors. For soine YU alumni that has
does not desist from plotting with the
British to halt the Jewish influx into
Palestine. The theme comes at the end
when Reb Yankev is accused of being a
traitor and murdered in cold blood by

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Recently, a slew of books, magazine articles, and news features, have been written about Generation X - the Quentin Tarantino quoting, Snakepole drinking, kick-butt loving, and popular culture obsessed generation (ages 29 and under), who have been weaned on a steady diet of campy sitcoms, second rate movies, and MTV. As jaded advertisement executives (who originally dreamt up the pejorative term), the media, and social pundits would like us to believe, young Americans today are slothful and insolent, lacking any ambitions or dreams. 

Generation X - the generation that prefers to be known as young people, are seen as the problem: they challenge the established order of society which is designed for the middle aged and the elderly. The question of whether the media and society are taking any note of these young people is of prime importance.

Peter Sacks, in his new and ultimately disappointing book, Generation X Goes To College, tries to examine young people today in an innovative way: by examining their daily practices in college. An ex-journalist turned college professor, Sacks falls hook, line, and sinker for the Generation X stereotype, writing: "We are the only generation that can give lip service to disinterested instruction, lackluster demeanors, and bad behavior, no matter how poor the quality, without any thought of retribution."

Sacks, his students, and readers are less witty than didactic. Indeed, one is left wondering why students would bother to buy a book to relating his daily travails as a university professor. Yearning to escape the "factory" (a derogatory title that he has adopted later on, turns into a humbling humiliating experience, his students' enthusiasm, to put it mildly, is lacking. Most are either apathetic or dull-witted; learning rudimentary journalistic skills or how to compose a coherent lead story are the farthest things from their minds. Sacks gives us the usual laundry list of complaints students continuously fail to hand assignments in on deadline. They put little, if any, work into their papers, yet demand sterling grades. As the students get lazier, Sacks grows increasingly flustered. He remains obstinate, refusing to succumb to the grade inflation bug: to him, sub par work deserves a sub par grade. Anything else would be intellectually dishonest and counterproductive. But the joke is on Sacks. When evaluation time comes around, the students reciprocate, getting revenge for all the bad grades handed out and the demanding workload. The evaluation forms contain little positive feedback. The students call him "arrogant" and "Professor" Sacks dismisses their complaints as sour grapes. However, the administration is not nearly as understanding, putting great credence in the harsh comments of the students. Although Sacks is fond of his students, his behavior towards them is unimpressive. His students are less witty than didactic. Indeed, one is left wondering why students would bother to buy a book to relating his daily travails as a university professor.

Sacks dedicates the first half of the book relating his daily travails as a university professor. Yearning to escape the antiseptic and impersonal environment of "the factory," a derogatory title that he has adopted later on, turns into a humbling humiliating experience, his students' enthusiasm, to put it mildly, is lacking. Most are either apathetic or dull-witted; learning rudimentary journalistic skills or how to compose a coherent lead story are the farthest things from their minds. Sacks gives us the usual laundry list of complaints students continuously fail to hand assignments in on deadline. They put little, if any, work into their papers, yet demand sterling grades. As the students get lazier, Sacks grows increasingly flustered. He remains obstinate, refusing to succumb to the grade inflation bug: to him, sub par work deserves a sub par grade. Anything else would be intellectually dishonest and counterproductive. But the joke is on Sacks. When evaluation time comes around, the students reciprocate, getting revenge for all the bad grades handed out and the demanding workload. The evaluation forms contain little positive feedback. The students call him "arrogant" and "Professor" Sacks dismisses their complaints as sour grapes. However, the administration is not nearly as understanding, putting great credence in the harsh comments of the students. Although Sacks is fond of his students, his behavior towards them is unimpressive. His students are less witty than didactic. Indeed, one is left wondering why students would bother to buy a book to relating his daily travails as a university professor.

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fill space, it only takes a matter of moments for an event to occur, so that the needs of the ex-reporter to be made a moment ago may not be an option a moment later. Travolta has no clue that this is the case, his intentional delay of a checkmate he render pushes him leagues away from that possibility. With an impending feel of a violent conclusion, the viewpoint is waiting for Hoffman to tell Travolta to end it.

The acting is particularly of interest in this film. John Travolta is cast against type as a dim-witted security guard, and surprisingly passes it off convincingly. The viewer can wait for Travolta to suddenly express a mean-spirited intelligence that could aid him in winning this game of fluctuating consequences.

Dustin Hoffman plays one of his most memorable character types in this film - the average Joe. In previous films such as Tootsie and Kramer vs. Kramer, his character is never noticed or taken seriously, which always ends up putting him in the no-win conflict. His serious desire for a checkmate, along with the fact that he is always surrounded by those with low attention spans, often leads him to provide the token emotional outburst, which some times isn’t even noticed either. The film provides two perfect examples: a clip which shows the first emotional confrontation between Hoffman and Alda, along with the end of the film itself.

Director Costa-Gavras, a French director, whose notable films in America have been 1969’s Z and 1982’s Missing, brings in a level of suspense that is just enough to indicate that time is running out. His direction focuses with pinpoint accuracy on the relationship between Travolta and Hoffman. The fact that they play well off each other makes the film memorable. It increases the level of intelligence of the film as Hoffman acts as a “brain” to Travolta. Their question-answer conversations are critical in this situation-consequence. Every time Travolta asks “what if,” Hoffman shoots it down. That technique is used by kosher avacado slice. It was not exactly an aesthetically pleasing slice of pizza, with big green half moons of avocado spread out on the mottled white background of the cheese. But I was pleasantly surprised, with the sharp flavor of the sauce and spices missing well with the cool creamy texture of the avocado slices. The avocado was fresh, even though it is not exactly peak avocado season here in New York. Other interesting topings mixes that create a harmonious mix of flavors for those so inclined are fresh roasted garlic and black Spanish olives, hot peppers and broccoli, and for the truly daring, sour cream and anchovies.

Pizza Cave serves fresh garden salads, and has various soup selections as well. The highlight of the meal, however, was a truly exquisite chocolate cheese cake, which was of the perfect texture: not too rich and not too dry. It had the exact balance needed between the luxurious chocolate and the sweet cheese, and it was worth making the trip downtown exclusively for cheese-cake. They serve other dessert pastries as well, and are planning on starting a breakfast menu including bagels and other morning munchies.

Its location is not exactly on Amsterdam Avenue across from Rubin Hall, but the Pizza Cave is still conveniently found on a kosher pie, and has a crust that is thinner than most. Along with the thin crust, they offer classic, deep dish, whole wheat, and stuffed crust pizza. But the Pizza Cave is truly in the pizza pie topping selection. Choices range from the de rigueur olive and mushrooms, to exotic specimens such as anchovies, squash, and goat cheese. In a fit of adventure (something I am not usually prone to), I tried an avocado slice. It was not exactly an aesthetically pleasing slice of pizza, with big green half moons of avocado spread out on the mottled white background of the cheese. But I was pleasantly surprised, with the sharp flavor of the sauce and spices missing well with the cool creamy texture of the avocado slices. The avocado was fresh, even though it is not exactly peak avocado season here in New York. Other interesting toppings mixes that create a harmonious mix of flavors for those so inclined are fresh roasted garlic and black Spanish olives, hot peppers and broccoli, and for the truly daring, sour cream and anchovies.

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A Quest for Spirituality

BY HILLEL LEVIN

Judaism is undoubtedly one of the most intense and religious religions in the world. Myriad of intense laws govern virtually every act that we do. Shouldn’t it follow that when we, more than anyone else, feel a direct connection with God? This is especially true when one considers the moral goals of our religion is to become “close to God”.

But, I must confess, I feel very little spirituality here at YU, and I would submit that I am not alone. We go through our days keeping as many halachot as we possibly can, but when we take stock we realize day after day, lungs clogged and raw, that if we stop being cynical for a few minutes and realize that spirituality is at the very core of our being, we can then perhaps understand the meaning of the prayer “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is One.”

I think there are a couple of ways to work towards spirituality. The first is through traditional Jewish avenues. For example, praying, studying, and self-improvement can be considered options for SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT.

However, I think that there is a more personal, equally viable way to find spiritual enlightenment. This involves an individual quest for meaning. For some, meditation may set the mood; for others, the answer may lie in a moment with nature (see the Ramabam); still others may find it best to simply read a book on the grass on a beautiful day. This approach, of course, is not tied directly to Judaism. At the same time, though, it can easily complement - and enhance - our Jewish devotion and practice.

Given these two seemingly accessible “roads” to spirituality, why do we all find it so difficult to feel a part of something greater, to feel God, to feel … anything? Well, we must be honest with ourselves. Judaism, as practiced today, does not lend us the opportunity for introspection. We are not allowed to feel the sense of meaning and purpose that is felt to be a part of our being. For example, the prayer of Tefillah: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is One.”

The spiritual gap between us and our ancestors is immense. Is it? We must not see it as a part of Judaism. None of our Rebbeim discuss meditation, nature, or reading a book as avenues through which we may express ourselves religiously. It is almost as though our Rebbeim don’t concern themselves with our spiritual developments once they involve anything beyond the strictest definitions of Jewish practice. The “intellectueals” with whom we may express our spiritual goals are not the average man. Most of us can still be considered “religious” if we follow the basic laws of our tradition, and yet we feel so far away from them.

There is an even greater barrier to spiritual development, one which is particularly evident here at YU: time. Simply put, we don’t have any. Who has time to think about what we are saying in the selichot, or to talk about YU at all? These books are the Shulchan Aruch and they contain the Halachot the average man needs for his average life. But we study Talmud, an often difficult text with only pragmatic purpose. We study not only for the sake of learning strict law, but also for the sake of learning the process behind it.

Continued on page 22
the Law. This ability to probe the Law's inner mechanics has led us to add Halachot to the Shulchan Aruch when cir-
cumstances, either due to the advent of new technology or situations that have never arisen before, need to be addressed from a Halakhic perspective. We have armed ourselves with the tools necessary to solve these problems.

Problem solving figures prominently in Sir Carl Popper's Philosophy of Science. Popper theorizes that nearly all forms of progress - advancements in sci-
ence, in the arts and in an individual's personal life - are a result of someone's successful exhortation of the muses. In its most basic form, Popper's philosophy maintains that breakthroughs occur when an established theory is discarded in favor of a theory that fits the circum-
stance, data or subject matter. Thus, the creative process is the very heart of Popper's philosophy for there is often no natural progression from the old theory to the new; often a good deal of creativity is necessary. Popper's theory can be loosely demonstrated with the idiom "Build a better mousetrap and the world will beat on your door." According to this stance, data or subject matter. Thus, the natural progression from the old theory to a new idea will come along at some point.

In Sir Carl Popper's Philosophy of Science, the hard sciences and classics. I woke up one morning, my mind was filled with the realization that the principles of the Law. This ability to probe the Law's inner mechanics has enabled us to add Halachot to the Shulchan Aruch when circumstances, either due to the advent of new technology or situations that have never arisen before, need to be addressed from a Halakhic perspective. We have armed ourselves with the tools necessary to solve these problems.

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Growing Pains

To the Editor,

As we spend our days on this campus pre-occupied with midterms, many attempt to quickly pass through the cafeteria and to return to their studies in the library. Yet at the same time, even with the divided sections, the lines at dinnertime grow long. In the library too, there is a divided sections, the lines at dinnertime grow long. In the library too, there is a

Clarifications

To The Editor:

I am grateful to you for writing the article “RIETS Refuses to Place Musmach in Orthodox” in The Commentator of the sixth of Tishri, 5758. I would like to clarify a number of issues. I indeed did offer to assist Yeshiva University in the area of fundraising a number of times in the last two years. In the past I raised, and help to raise $1.5 million. This can be verified by speaking to the fundraising department. My recent offers were refused.

Rabbi Hirt infers that one who “identiﬁes himself Rabbinically” with other Jewish movements would not be considered as a candidate for orthodox congregations. Please note, I did not join the Rabbinical Assembly in 1974, but rather in the mid-1990’s. I was a member in good standing in the Rabbinical Council of America (R. C. A.) from 1974 - 1992. Therefore I do not understand his comments. How could this apply to me?

It also seems absurd to suggest that conservative synagogues affiliated with United Synagogue are, as Rabbi Hirt claims, “Orthodox with deviation.” Why should I not be considered an Orthodox Rabbi with deviation?

With regard to Rabbi Steven Dworkin, we all know that one merely needs to be considered himself Rabbinically” with other orthodox institutions. As Rabbi Hirt to become religious because I believed, and still do, that G-d gave us the Torah. I will not let anyone take that away from me. I earned A. A., B. A., M. S, and Ed. D. degrees, as well as Semicha in this won­derful institution of higher learning. I was taught by wonderful rabbis and profes­sors.

Instead of throwing away those rabbis who have supported YU, why not utilize them to motivate those who are not yet religious?

I hope this answers the questions posed in the article.

Rabbi Dr. Bernhard H. Rosenberg

Bivalval Mollusks, At YU?

To the Editor:

I read with pain and consternation Mr. Uri Goldstein’s article in the October 6th issue of The Commentator entitled “Cal and OU Supervisors.” Mr. Goldstein evidently interviewed his fellow students and reports that many of the students at YU are saddened by the demise of many of their favorite Caf dishes. Most noteworthy among these is the perennial scallops.”

Since scallops are bivalval mollusks similar to the clam and mussel, there is no doubt whatever that they are “trefe.” Indeed, one of Mr. Goldstein’s fellow student became so addicted to this forbid­den food that he made sure that on the day scallops were served he obtained a position at the head of the scallop queue.

I trust that Mr. Goldstein’s article does not reflect what did go on at the “caf,” that in truth and in fact the Biblical injunc­tion against eating scallop was not violat­ed at YU but the entire article is a poor attempt at humor. If the article is intended as a humorous piece we found the piece not only sophomoric but offensive. If indeed there are students at YU who delight in indulging in forbidden foods they would be wise to leave YU and enroll in a Reform or Conservative institution where I presume they can indulge in scal­lops to their hearts’ delight.

Submitted by a concerned grandfather (who Hashem-willing will attain his 87th birthday on the 2nd of November) of a Y.U. student.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Rose

*Editors Note* The “scallops” referred to in the article were in fact “vegetarian scal­lops.” We regret any confusion.
Out With the Old, In With the New
Weight Room Totally Refurbished

BY SHAI SAMET

After twelve years of wear and tear, the "Universal" brand equipment that has occupied the weight room since 1985 has finally been replaced with state-of-the-art "Powerline" brand machines from the athletic equipment company "Tuff Stuff."

Approximately three years ago, former athletic director Steve Young noticed the machines and had the upholstery on the machines fully restored. According to the Student Life Committee, however, the change in pads was not enough to maintain the efficiency of the worn-out equipment. The Committee expressed concerns for the safety of its users during the 1995-1996 school term and the subsequent year.

As a result, toward the end of last year, YU’s Facilities Department provided funds to Tuff Stuff and the administration of the athletics department requested that the entire stock of weights be replaced with new and more durable equipment. Dean of Students Efrem Nulman, and Assistant Dean of Students David Himber had no objections, and even agreed to finance the cost of the change estimated at over $30,000.

Young, then athletic director, directed the process of ordering new pieces of equipment from Action Fitness, a company that supposedly offered the lowest bid among the bidding vendors. Immediately upon arrival at YU, Dr. Richard Zernick, the new athletic director finished off the process by approving the batch that Mr. Young had already selected.

The new acquisitions consist of a newly designed and modernized duplicata for each machine initially stationed in the weight room, as well as state-of-the-art aerobic machines such as a stairmaster, treadmill, and three exercise bicycles. Dr. Zernick believes that "the total of five cardiovascular machines is the single, most important change and the main cause for an increase in weight room usage over the past week or so. Up until now," Zernick further noted, "the MSAC was lacking in equipment for cardiovascular fitness. The pool, gym, and running track do not quite do the job like the stair master will do."

Dr. Zernick also expressed his immense gratitude toward those who arranged the new set-up because it provides safer and easy-to-use machinery thereby enabling the athletes to maintain their physical fitness in their daily schedule.

The weight room reopened on Monday, November 3, and features such devices as the chest and horizontal leg press, knee flexion and extension, curl bar, bench press, lateral pull down, abdomen crunch, and a full line of free weights. The MSAC has trained and assisted athletic directory, added, "the wide variety of machines encompasses the cardiovascular and body workout."

Many students have already expressed their excitement over the new machines catering to those interested in muscle building and/or those preferring cardiovascular improvement. Even the experienced weight lifters have been impressed with the equipment and affirming diagrams which specify the muscles being used during different motions.

The "Tuff Stuff" products contain warranties ranging from 3-5 years depending on the machine type but are expected to last a lot longer than that, considering the twelve-year life span of their predecessors. Despite the entire renovation, Dr. Zernick informed students that the old equipment will temporarily be stored in the high school instead of being discarded. There has been talk about reconsidering the old equipment for use elsewhere, but a final decision has yet to be made.

Mulligans Awaiting Tee

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

It didn’t take long for this year’s golf squad to carry on the tradition that has linked Yeshiva University to year to year, namely the cancellation of the first golf meet scheduled in the fall.

The Mulligans were scheduled to play against NYU on Friday, September 19. In fact, all prospective team members anxiously prepped themselves for the meet considering last year’s stroke loss to NYU in a tough and/ or rainy weather day. Many students have already expressed their excitement over the new machines catering to those interested in muscle building and/or those preferring cardiovascular improvement.

The "Tuff Stuff" brand of equipment the MSAC has purchased demonstrates their abundance of talent, team spirit, and overall commitment. Despite finishing off with a 3-4 record, Coach Stan Watson was certainly not disappointed with his team’s performance. Watson acknowledged that in his ten years as coach, this particular season has proven to be the most satisfying and enjoyable one for him. No matter their current shortcomings, he truly believes that the team’s hard work and diligence will pay off in the long run.

On Sunday, November 2, the cross-country races competed in the 6th annual Halloween Invitational. The tournament hosted such fierce competitors as Polytechnic, Stevens Tech, Hudson Valley, and Yeshiva and included approximately 65 men and 35 women. Unfortunately, the strong wind and rain that day were the worst weather conditions that the Macs had ever faced. The muddy and slippery running surface, nonetheless, wasn’t enough to stop the brave men and women from completing their respective races of 5-miles and 3.1-miles.

"Attempts to accelerate were resisted with wind gusts and constant moisture," related Coach Watson. "The torrents of water drowned the runners, spectators, and coaches. Only an assembly holding 40 people withstood the weather and was thus used for the distribution of individual awards after the races."

Inspired by the nearly thirty thousand plus runners participating in the New York City Marathon on the same day, all nine team members for Yeshiva present at the tournament succeeded crossed the finish line; the race times were unavailable at press time. The YU runners were Yitz Motzen, Elias Zakay, David Minsky, Michael Ziddle, Adam Wiener, Ari Sauer, Eli Lifschutz, Oren Wener, and Paul (Pinkie) Mikhail, Moshe Abesheva, a 2nd year Mac star, did not compete due to a toe injury that sidelined him for part of the season.

On Sunday, November 9th, the Macs challenged the Polytechnic squad on yet another rainy and windy day. Surprisingly, though, the 5-mile race went down to the wire with Yeshiva's newest star Yitz Motzen finishing first in a remarkable time of 31:14, only 3 seconds, only eight seconds ahead of Polytechnic's R' Yitz. Motzen's tremendous talent, Watson estimates, will allow him to compete with the top runners among the former IAC teams and to lead his team to more victories in the upcoming year.

At the season's conclusion, Watson expressed his thanks to the team for a very successful, competitive, and consistent season, which produced great turnouts and efforts from the very first NYU "early bird" race to the final meets in November. Watson also gave special thanks to Alon Zaibert, Oren Wener, and Tech and Nick Russo for their help and friendship throughout the season.

Other YU Running News

The cross-country team was inspired by Dr. Curock, YC professor of Jewish history and Revel professor of Zionism and American history, upon completion of his tenure at the New York City Marathon. On behalf of Yeshiva University, however, the team wishes him many mojorous occasions like this one and the best of luck in future runs. Congratulations, Dr. Curock!