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Dr. Zucker Denied Tenure

Student Outcry and Administrative Waffling Follow

by Commentator Staff

During the second week of March, Dr. Ross Zucker, Assistant Professor of Political Science, was denied tenure and informed that his contract with the University would not be renewed. This marked the conclusion of a six year period of instruction during which Zucker developed a large student following at both the Uptown and Midtown campuses. Dr. Zucker declined to comment for this article.

Prominent student displeasure with the Faculty Committee on Tenure's decision was in evidence on the Uptown Campus. Yonatan Bendheim, a YC senior and member of the political science department, was quoted as saying, "I am very disappointed with the decision of the committee. Nothing major was gained compared to what we have lost.

On a more intellectual level, it seems that the university is not aware of the fact that political science has evolved into a science. This is more of a historical decision than a scientific one."

Tenure at YU

by Chaim Schneider

Academic freedom is important to all professors. The desire to break free from the strict regulations that they face as employees of a university is particularly intense at YU where pressure is exerted by both the secular administration as well as the Judaic influences on campus. But for those professors who excel in their disciplines and find favor among their students and professional colleagues, tenure is the key that unlocks the gates of autonomy on campus.

At the outset of a sixth year of teaching, professors are independently reviewed as candidates for tenure by committees of previously tenured members of their division within the University. By dividing the YU into three divisions (Humanities, Jewish Studies, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences), and establishing separate divisions for SS69 and each of its five graduate programs, YU has divided the tenure review process into distinct parameters for each division. This allows a candidate to have an in-depth, personal, thorough review of his work.

Dr. Sheldon Gelman, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, observed, "Five to six tenured faculty members from within each division comprise each committee, which has the responsibility of reviewing all the materials submitted by the candidate, reviewing all of the student work of the student, and forwarding their recommendation to the faculty committee, which will subsequently decide the candidate's status.

The committee then forwards its recommendation to the university's Board of Trustees for final decision."

YU Dissolves MTA Board, Dismisses Principal, Threatens Senior Rabbis

Shake Up Undermines Lamm's Statement of Support for High School

by Jason Yirluni

Less than one week following the official announcement of YU's decision to keep the Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy high school open, the University resolved not to renew the contract of current Principal Rabbi Michael Taubes. Days later on March 24, Mr. Elliott Gibber, Director of the MTA Board, reported that his Board had been disbanded by Yeshiva University.

The March 10th announcement of support for MTA issued from Rabbi Norman Lamm and RIETS Chairman Judah Feinerman in the form of a press release entitled "Open Letter to Members and Supporters of the Yeshiva University High Schools Community" announced that the high school "will continue to operate on the University's Main Campus...as a part of [our] commitment to its historic mission of excellence in Jewish education." That "historic mission," however, seems to be in serious jeopardy as the doubt associated with the sincerity of the University's commitment frightens away prospective parents.

The removal of both Taubes and Gibber came as a sudden shock to parents and students who were looking for reassurance that MTA would have a stable future. Lamm contacted Taubes, the current principal of MTA, via telephone and effectively fired him. Lamm thanked Taubes for his service and dedication during his time at the school and informed him that his services would not be needed for the coming year and that his contract was not being renewed.

Gibber, the energetic and outgoing chairman of the high school's board, had compiled many aspects of MTA's administrative function for the use of his students and faculty. The board's decision to dissolve his position as a member of the MTA Board will have a direct impact on the future of the high school.

HONORS PROGRAM FRAMEWORK ADOPTED

by Yehuda Burns

At a historic meeting this past Wednesday, the Yeshiva College faculty formally approved the structure of the honors program which may be put in place as early as next year. The structure came out of months of tireless Honors Committee meetings among students, faculty, and administrators. The program revolves around several components. Primary is the founding of an honors track in academic disciplines and the enrichment of a select group of students. In concert with this goal is the generalized maturation of the YC curriculum through the development of both honors and non-honors courses that will be added to the list of course offerings.

To achieve this, the University has committed to hiring new faculty members in all academic areas to fulfill both scholarship and curricular roles. In turn, existing faculty members will also receive additional assistance to help, in the words of the program's mission statement, "promote intellectual challenge to students."

Finally, through the development of cultural enrichment programs, students and faculty together will have an opportunity to participate in and attend a variety of cultural events in and around New York City.

The academic structure of the honors program, which has been the source of discussion over the past several months, includes avenues for allowing non-honors students to participate in the cultural events as well as take nearly any honors course offered within the College. In addition, considerations specific to honors-only students will help develop the tools of scholarship and sensitivity that are viewed as the hallmarks of the Yeshiva College honors education.

The honors curriculum is as follows: First year students will be required to take a series of survey courses, termed H1 and H2, that will supplement the current English composition distribution requirement. These courses will, through intensive writing and analysis assignments, develop tools of academic scholarship and composition in the areas of literature and humanities. A third survey course, H3, must be chosen as an elective in the following year from special honors survey courses in the natural or social sciences divisions, Jewish studies or mathematics. A...
Zucker Tenure Debacle

We gravely regret the Faculty Committee on Tenure's decision to deny Dr. Ross Zucker tenure.

On the substantive question of Dr. Zucker's quality of instruction and academic performance, we report with unwavering confidence that he is among the most accomplished, talented academicians the College has to offer. Dr. Zucker has an impressive record of scholarly publication. His lectures are a sort of theoretical poetry, an intellectual nirvana for the soul of seeking political science/philosophy student. I am not extolling a mastery of the subject matter that he presents in his classes. His preparedness assures that his lectures are both thorough and clear. Dr. Zucker's broad understanding of political science and its many related concerns enables him to be responsive to student ideas and questions.

Dr. Zucker has the rare ability to blend complex subject matter with engaging and cogent presentation. His dynamic lectures make accessible to his students even the most esoteric of texts.

Dr. Zucker is not limited to presenting the ideas of others in his courses. Dr. Zucker's independent research allows him to present innovative, original ideas that enhance the quality of his classes. This in turn fosters in his students an appreciation for the power of ideas and, importantly, a desire to develop their own.

To his students, Dr. Zucker is not just a talented professor concerned only with his research, rather he is a warm, approachable man who shows real concern for his students' academic and personal development. Dr. Zucker provides his students with his home phone number and encourages them to make use of it. He is available to students well beyond office hours and is even willing to meet with them over the weekend. His relationship with students continues well beyond their days at Yeshiva University.

These considerations incline us to question the foundation for the Committee on Tenure's denial of Dr. Zucker's bid for tenure. We do not believe reasons of substance may be advanced to support this denial decision. It is scarcely a secret that contention exists among some members of the College's faculty. At some points, some of these individuals have speculated that the Committee on Tenure's findings were in some way obscured by personal calculations peripheral to the College's interest in academic quality. We believe that contentions of this kind exist among the most prominent professors who in fact may have precluded the College to make use of faculty resources that are available to it. We believe that here lies a serious case for the College's advancement of higher education.
The Ross Zucker Tenure Travesty

I've written a lot this year as a columnist for The Commentator. In my capacity as an undergraduate voice, I've explored many topics of cultural and Jewish concern. But no issue has stirred me as much as the one I am presently going to write about - the Ross Zucker Tenure Travesty.

Ross Zucker - the subject of this travesty - is a philosophy professor at Yeshiva University. While he has not spoken to me personally, I have heard of his reputation. Zucker's contributions to the field of philosophy are not small. He has authored numerous articles in respected journals and has presented papers at conferences. His work is respected by his peers. Zucker is also known for his dedication to his students. He is sincerely receptive to student ideas, and his office hours are inviting. Zucker is a professor who values the input of his students.

However, the issue of Zucker's tenure has been a point of contention for many. The Tenure Committee, which is responsible for evaluating professors for tenure, has been criticized for its handling of Zucker's case. The Committee's decision to deny Zucker tenure has been met with protests and petitions from students and faculty members.

Some argue that Zucker's work is not valued enough by the university. Others argue that the Committee's decision was based on politics rather than academic merit. The case of Dr. Zucker is a test of the ability of Yeshiva University to maintain academic integrity in the face of political pressure.

As a past and greatly appreciative student of Dr. Zucker, I feel strongly about this issue. The university community cannot afford to compromise on academic standards. Zucker's contributions to the field of philosophy are significant, and he deserves tenure.

The Ross Zucker Tenure Travesty is a symbol of the struggle between academic integrity and political pressure. It is a testament to the importance of maintaining a culture of respect and appreciation for academic excellence. As a member of the university community, I am committed to ensuring that academic standards are upheld and that professors like Dr. Zucker are not denied the recognition they deserve.
We Modern Orthodox Jews walk a fine line. We are involved in the modern world, yet maintain our allegiance to halakha. How do we create our own system of boundaries that clarify our positions vis-à-vis halakha and society. Our viewing habits are a prime example of the failure of Modern Orthodoxy to maintain this proper balance.

Television is an entrenched reality of the Modern Orthodox life style. We must, however, learn to use the remote more selectively. There is a nifty little button on most modern TVs enabling you to select those channels that you deem worthy, but the button is sorely underused. This button serves a function similar to halakha — it enables you to filter out the bad while keeping in the good. Most TV programming today is bereft of content and lacking any intellectual value. So select a button should be used to keep programming such as the Discovery Channel, the History Channel, PBS, CNN, TLC (and my personal favorites) C-Span land it on the screen.

You might criticize this list and call it subjective. However, subjectivity is precisely what is needed to remedy our viewing assimilation. All programming is not created equal, and it is high time that we honestly assess what it is that we are watching. Television and movies desensitize us to violence and immorality, and take away precious time from pro-active and creative endeavors that could be achieved by every single one of us. Ironically, the information age fills our minds with the mundane and the inane, and can actually be detrimental to our mental growth.

Other forms of media should be subject to the same rigorous vetting as well. Rags like the National Enquirer represent the extreme in intellectually dishonest publications, however, publications ranging from Sports Illustrated to People Magazine have a similar corrupting effect on our brains. So too, many of the Jewish newspapers and magazines suffer from the disease of stupidly and intellectual dishonesty.

So be subjective in what you bring with you into the bath­

room. Read The New York Times, The New Republic, Commentary, The Urne Reader, The Economist, The Forward, Harriet, and even Newsweek and Time. Listen to progressive and constructive radio, such as National Public Radio (820AM and 93.9 FM) and the great college stuff on the lower end of the FM dial. (88.3 is a great member-supported [aʃt station].) On the television stick to the certain channels that are worth your time. Be honest with yourself about what you watch and become subjective in what you choose. Do your mind a favor, filter out the junk and don’t waste your time, and please support public broadcasting.

Student Soap Box

BY DANIEL DRABKIN

The ideals embodied by the words Torah U'Maddo are crumbling. As a high school student, I was recruited to Yeshiva University with the idea of joining a Yeshiva and college where the best of the Torah is uniting with the best of Maddo. The combination of these two ideals not only form an institution, but serve as a philosophy to guide myself throughout my life. However, this institution has spent three years watching as a once glorious institution now wallows in the muck of self-improvement and is concerned with the preservation of its glorious presence as an academic and spiritual institution.

We Modern Orthodox Jews walk a fine line. We are involved in the modern world, yet maintain our allegiance to halakha. How do we create our own system of boundaries that clarify our positions vis-à-vis halakha and society. Our viewing habits are a prime example of the failure of Modern Orthodoxy to maintain this proper balance.

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A Sanitary Sanity

BY JONATHAN WULFMAN

It is a little known fact on our campus that in the southern hemisphere, water spins counterclockwise when a toilet is flushed. It is an even lesser known fact on our campuses that in our own hemisphere, water spins clockwise when a toilet is flushed. By bringing up these facts, I do not wish to test your knowledge of trivia. My reason for bringing up these "highly pertinent" issues that affects all of us on this campus.

The issue I am referring to is the lack of toilet flushing that goes on in our bath­

rooms. No matter what building you are in, you do not have to look too far to find a toilet that still contains what a previous user has left behind. I am not quite sure what the problem is with certain people that they feel they have to show the world what happens to yesterday's lunch. Frankly, most people, even our infamous Syms students, already know what goes on and do not need the biology lesson.

For the past few months I have been trying to rationalize why people would feel someone else wants to see their "fruits of labor." I can remember back in summer camp when a friend of mine ran out of the bathroom with his pants around his ankles, yelling for all to come see the size of what came out of him. Could it be that my peers are just proud and want to show off their handiwork? Then I remember that I was wearing the same thing. It then hit me how given this in summer camp, and surely my nature, college-aged peers do not find it cool to show everyone how they clogged the drain.

My next thought was, maybe YU's rank­

in U.S. News and World Report was going to the students' heads. Years back, Yeshiva did not have the best reputation among the other universities in the United States. Perhaps, in a united effort, the students on our campus have decided to show the world that YU is not going down the toilet by actu­

ally not sending anything down the toilet. But then I realized that civilized individuals such as ourselves would come up with a "cleaner" display of school spirit.

Not flushing toilets has actually had a few advantages for me. All the insects that used to hang around my room and pester me are attracted to the odor coming from the bathroom and now only bother me while I'm taking care of my needs and not while I'm sitting in my room. The un-flush­

ing has also given me the chance to brush up on Spanish explicitities that I hear the nice man who comes to clean our bathrooms utterly on a daily basis.

This is a very serious issue. It looks very bad upon all of us when a visitor to our school must hold back their natural urges because they are too disgusted to use our bathrooms. The problem is not just con­

fined to Rubin Hall where I live. Whether you are in a dorm, Furst Hall, Belfer Hall, or the library, you are bound to run into an un­

empted bathroom fixture of some sort. It is not only disgusting. It is very embarrassing and demeaning to your fellow students.

So, for those of you who are unaware of the procedure, whenever you are finished using one of Yeshiva's fine porcelain bowls, stand up, turn around, take hold of the lever attached to the upper left hand side of the rear of the toilet, and pull it down until all the "files you have downloaded" are erased from the public "hard-drives." By following these simple instructions, we will all be able to live in a clean and sanitary environment and no longer have to dread taking care of our needs.
It's Just A Game

Gus’s Corner
Alex Traiman

The 1999 Red Sarachek High School Basketball Tournament was a success for all those who attended as well as those who spent hundreds of hours putting together the annual tourney. Despite a couple of holes in the tournament plans, (in the roof to be exact — much gratitude to facilities management for their ability to swiftly improvise), the program went from beginning to end without flaw.

While basketball was being played and a well executed plan was being carried out to practical perfection, there was one aspect of the tournament that was indeed terribly flawed: the state of Yeshiva high school basketball at the turn of the 20th century.

Players in the tournament ranged from last-round picks in recenst ball to overrated potential superstars. This playing field was anything but level. Teams spanned from the talented and skill-driven Yeshiva Hague powerhouse to the inept and uncoordinated collections struggling merely to get the ball across the mid court line.

High school coaches in the tournament ranged from mild-mannered gentlemen dressed in business attire, to recent college grads dressed like they had just rolled out of bed, to raving lunatics anoying the officials and everyone else in attendance, to those incompetent and unable to coach their son's recreation league team.

Some coaches, instead of players some coaches constructively criticized their players, some guided their inexperienced students of the sport through the game step by step, and one even screamed at players for taking wide open lay-ups when better players farther from the basket were triple teeked — claiming that this was not Christmas, and certain better players should not be playing Santa Claus.

The Red Sarachek Tournament placed each of these teams and each of these coaches on the same court for five consecutive days, leading many to question the state of high school basketball today. Why the disparity of quality play on and off the court between the teams? Why the disparity between coaching philosophies? Why did some players seem to work hard in the spirit of the game, while others appeared to be working harder than they ever have in any aspect of life, as if this really is more than just a game? And why did one player get press conferences in his honor, while some players neither had their names called on the public address system even once.

The disparity of the teams involved speaks for the sad state of physical education in Yeshiva schools. While throughout high school some have to suffer through Phys Ed five times a week, it would be sur-

Thank You Student Services

To the Editor:
As was reported in your previous articles and indeed is true, certain members of this administration adamantly opposed the Seforim Sale. Yet there were other members of the administration that were as helpful as could be. We at the Seforim Sale would like to take the opportunity to publicly thank the Department of Student Services for insuring that the Seforim Sale was able to operate this year.

After many of us had spent hundreds of hours preparing for the sale, we were informed in early January that the University did not want the sale. As we tried to meet with the people opposing the sale, we were consistently stonewalled. Feeling betrayed (we could have been informed of the cancellation before we started our preparation) and unappreciated, we turned to Deans Efron Nulman, David Himber, and Coordinator of Student Services Andrew Leibowitz for help. In face of strong opposition from this administration, they insisted that the sale was a positive force on this campus.

Additionally, they facilitated the processing of all requests related to the needs of the Sale. In short, without their assistance the Sale would not have been able to happen.

Amichai Erdfarb
Chairman
SOF Seforim ‘99

Hussein’s Legacy

To the Editor:
I found that Yehuda Burns’ story regarding King Hussein had significant omissions regarding the treatment of Israel by Jordan under Hussein’s reign. Burns fails to mention that under Hussein’s leadership between 1948-1967, the Jordanians desecrated many of the Jewish holy sites in the old city. Burns also claims that Hussein was “coned” into the Six-Day War. Hussein was not conned into anything. He willingly joined the other Arab nations in an attempt to wipe Israel off the map.

Additionally, I was shocked that Burns, a Yeshiva University student, would uphold the anti-Israel sentiment shared by the vast majority of today’s media and refer to Yehuda and the Shamron as the “West Bank” (Burns did so three times in his article). I hope that the YU community and the YU University student body was offended by this discrepancy.

Josh Hasten
YU, ’98

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE LIMITLESS.

THE COMMENTATOR welcomes letters from its readers. Letters must include the writer’s name, address and telephone number.

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Students should include the school in which they are enrolled and expected date of graduation.

THE COMMENTATOR reserves the right to edit all letters for syntax, content, and length.

The Commentator
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To the Editor:

How does Yeshiva University reward its best professors? Does it express appreciation? Does it show its respect? Does it—let us save this thought—offer them a pay raise? The answer to all of these is of course not. It does them a pale disservice. The appointment at Dr. Ross Zucker's faculty position at the Honors College, it is outrageous and quite particularly troubling. First of all, the department of political science is one of the finest, most dedicated and knowledgeable teachers within YU who is extremely knowledgeable and successful in his field. He is a teacher who is extremely wonderful, then. why was he not granted tenure? The answer to all of these is of course not. It does them a pale disservice. The appointment at Dr. Ross Zucker's political science department has recently been fired. Dr. Zucker is a scholar par excellence, he is both a fine person and an excellent teacher. Dr. Zucker is able to bring the best out in his students and inspires them to bring their best efforts to class. Requiring a heavy workload is sometimes a regrettable fact of life, but why should this fact in any way make the administration believe that it has the right to dismiss a professor's value since they themselves never attended his or her class. It is for this reason that we, the students, must speak up on our mentor's behalf and force the administration to realize their error before it is too late. With more professors like Dr. Zucker, this institution would surely be a much better place. The students have spoken.

Monty Seckler and Seth Grauer
YC '92

To the Editor:

I am writing this in the hope that the cries of the political science students and those of the entire student body of the Yeshiva University will be heard. It has come to the attention of the students that Dr. Ross Zucker is no longer wanted by the administration of Yeshiva University. The reasons for this do not seem to have any sort of foundation. To see how much Dr. Zucker is loved by his students and his discipline, I encourage all those who care about Yeshiva: Voice your outrage over this foolish and harmful action—-one which harms the all around well-being of Yeshiva as a purveyor of Torah and the advancement of academic excellence at a time when it claims to be advancing both. To those who care about Yeshiva: Voice your outrage over this foolish and harmful action—one which harms the all around well-being of Yeshiva as a purveyor of Torah and the advancement of academic excellence at a time when it claims to be advancing both.

Elliot Lowenstein
YC '98

Yeshiva University is an intellectual force that cannot, and will not, be replaced. I would like to express my shock and disappointment at the loss of one of the cornerstones of the political science department. It has come to our attention that Dr. Ross Zucker of the political science department has recently been fired. Dr. Zucker is a leader in his field, and his teachings have taught me far more. It is a shame that—unless YU gets a grip of its senses—future students will not have the same opportunity.

Yitzchak Soloveichik
YC '02

To the Editor:

The administration of Yeshiva University is lucky because the student body is a dis-tracted and overburdened bunch. With our double curriculum and myriad of other concerns, few can simply find the time to express their concerns and opinions over the decisions being made affecting our academic careers. The administration has been very perceptible in its acknowledgment of this reality and has used it to act with impunity in its unilateral decisions affecting the student body. Why should the administration be concerned? Sure there may be some initial outburst of outrage, however, the administration understands well that the students' indignation will only last until we are faced with our next mid-term examination or shirius bechina.

And so we arrive at the most recent decision of the administration: to deny tenure to Dr. Ross Zucker thereby ending his teaching career at Yeshiva University. I will not go into the fact that Dr. Zucker, like no other professor I have encountered in YU, has shown a true concern for his students, nor will I explain how he has taught me to critically critique and challenge ideas and at the same time nurture the ability of myself and many others to create ideas of our own. What I do want to point out is that usually, the student body has been totally left out of a decision that will so greatly affect the quality of our educational experience. WHAT ABOUT US?

Why are we not part of the process that is supposed to be for our own benefit? Dr. Zucker's caring and committed nature. He is available whenever a student needs to do is to attend one of his lectures. It will become obvious that Dr. Zucker is a political scientist's political scientist. The vast knowledge that he has acquired, his skills on both the uptown and midtown campuses is truly unparalleled. I know of no other professor that makes time for his accepted students like Dr. Zucker. It is not often that professors

Netanel Benhaim
YC '99

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the news that Dr. Ross Zucker will no longer teach at Yeshiva University. As a graduate of YU with a BA in Political Science, I must say that I was disgusted with the notion of Dr. Zucker no longer being part of already anemic Political Science staff. Aside from the fact that there are so few professors in the Political Science department at Yeshiva College, Dr. Zucker is especially unique. Each lesson by Dr. Zucker is beautifully woven with the texts, current events and student input. Most importantly, no other teacher that I have ever taken shows so much care and devotion to student. He is always available at school and at home for each student, with help in his class, other classes, to help get a job or to just talk. If Political Science is losing a teacher like Dr. Zucker, they lose the entire experience.

Besseal Benhaim
YC '99

To the Editor:

The administration of Yeshiva University has taken advantage of its monopolistic hold of this student body. It is quite clear that there are few alternatives for a student who wants the type of education offered by YU. Why should the administration care how we are treated? It knows we are not going anywhere. Why should the facility of management care how small it makes us feel? What are we going to do, leave? Why should the registrar's office be concerned about treating us as adults? What are we going to do, transfer? (Not when it takes 6 weeks to get a transcript sent out.)

And so the student's predicament at YU will continue to endure; it will endure until a day that the administration comes to realize that the student body of Yeshiva University deserves to be part of a reciprocal relationship. A relationship in which the student body begins to view us as consumers and not as pawns. A relationship in which the ability of the students to pay their tuition dollars and in return get shown a little bit of respect. I only wonder how long it will take for the administration to realize that our opinion matters. How long will it take for it to realize that without its students, YU is nothing?

Yonatan Bendheim
YC '99

I am shocked to have heard that Dr. Ross Zucker will not be teaching in YU for an extended period of time. Rumor has it that Fall '99 will be his last semester here. As a political science major, I find this news particularly troubling. First of all, the department's loss is YU's loss. Anyone who takes a look at YU's political science department reaches the conclusion that it needs to be expanded, and for some reason YU is about to let go of one of the cornerstones of the department. Secondly, and more importantl, Dr. Zucker is a leader in his field, and his absence will shake up this school dramatically. All of our political science professors are wonderful, but Dr. Zucker is special. He devotes so much time to his students, giving them an understanding of a political scientist's methodology and the importance of his life. We recently took the MFAT for political science. In earnest, 80 percent of the questions came right out of his courses. I had the great opportunity to learn with him while studying at YU. Please, do not deny this privilege to future students.

Netanel Benhaim
YC '99

Torgor K. Soyer

Dpareded towards the twenty-first cen-

March 23, 1999

WWW.YUCOM MENTATOR.COM/v63i9/letters/response.shtml
Students Defend Zucker, Professor Denied Tenure

To the Editor:

Recently it has come to our attention that Political Science professor Dr. Ross Zucker has been fired from his academic position. This comes as quite a shock to those of us who have had the privilege of taking classes with Dr. Zucker and believe him to be an excellent pedagogue. He cares greatly about his students and has a tremendous impact upon them as well. He is extremely knowledgeable not only within his field of political science, but also within other areas such as economics. He is in the process of publishing a book that captures this synthesis, redefining democratic government through an economic approach. Furthermore he has published in a variety of scholarly journals and continues to do so.

Professors like Dr. Zucker provide Yeshiva University with an academic environment that is unfortunately often absent in this institution. To achieve the academic excellence that many of us desire, more professors like Dr. Zucker are needed. I suggest, that instead of presenting Dr. Zucker with a notice of termination, the university grant him tenuring, bestowing upon him the gift that he truly deserves.

Meir Katz
YC ‘01

Put Your Money on This

To the Editor:

I write to correct some imprecise facts or misinterpretations in Chaim Schneider’s otherwise thoughtful and valuable article regarding gambling on the Yeshiva College campus (March 9, 1999). Let me be the first to agree with the basic premise of Mr. Schneider’s article; gambling, particularly sports betting, is wide-spread at Yeshiva College. Any doubts I might have had about that were quickly dispelled by my strong interest in this year’s “March Madness” and the omnipresent tournament pool betting sheets. Indeed, numerous inquiries to my office about “the tournament pool” would really be about the betting pool rather than the MarchATCH tournament and young Tamar Goodman. I can only hope that Dean of Students Nulman is accurate in his assessment that gambling is less prevalent on our campus than at most universities.

Gambling, especially participating in sports contests, is a major concern to the NCAA and all other intercollegiate athletics professionals. This concern is largely in response to the all-too-common betting scandals involving intercollegiate teams, dating as far back as the 1940s and as recently as last year. The next “scandal” is surely just ahead.

To help prevent sport gambling and its potentially insidious effect on intercollegiate athletics, the NCAA, among other things, requires that each athlete be educated about the dangers of and the illegality of sports betting. A large part of that effort involves the Athletic Director meeting with each team before the start of their season to discuss this issue, as well as others (eligibility regulations, drug abuse, etc.). The meetings culminate with each student athlete signing forms attesting to their understanding of and agreement to adhere to the NCAA regulations.

Because of my personal background and history with City College of New York, the gambling issue is especially relevant to me. City College’s basketball team was at the center of America’s worst collegiate point-shaving scandal in 1951. In that sorry episode, many of the nation’s best college basketball teams and players were implicated in point-shaving and the dumping of games over a period of several years. Sadly, even the once-in-a-lifetime achievements of the 1949-50 CUNY team, winners of both the NCAA and NIT championships, were tarnished by the revelations from that scandal. Partially for that reason, in my pre-season meeting with the Macs, I showed them a copy of the HBO documentary, "The Dumpers” by other alumni, even after productive lives and careers. Perhaps the only good thing to have evolved from that scandal was that City College and other CUNY school de-emphasized athletics, no longer competing in big-time, big-money, scholar- ship intercollegiate athletics.

As the Director of Athletics, I take sports gambling to be a serious issue and one which I, all our coaches, must constantly be alert to. Much as I appreciate the work of Mr. Schneider, we will continue to educate student athletes about the perils and problems of gambling because it is necessary, even regulated, not because of the Commentator article. The article does, however, contribute to a campus-wide recognition of a potentially serious issue for all students and faculty. I do thank Mr. Schneider and the Commentator.

Dr. Richard Zeman
Director of Athletics & Physical Education

Rav Schachter Clarifies

To the Editor:

As a rule, I do not allow myself to be interviewed by newspapers. One's position on sensitive issues is usually misrepresented by a short quotation taken out of context of one's entire position.

When the writer for The Commentator approached me several weeks ago to speak about Ethel, my initial reaction was to avoid granting him an interview for the above reason. But when he told me that he only had a quote from Rav Tendler, I was concerned lest it appear that the other rabbis in the Ethel are not in agreement with Rav Tendler in his opposition to Ethel. I felt compelled to agree and make some statement. I was most surprised to hear last week that some people had the impression, after reading the article in the March 30th edition of The Commentator, that I was disagreeing with Rav Tendler and was thus a fellow rabbinate. Allow me to state again briefly my position.

Although the hakshah does not change, the world is always changing. In every generation we shall have to deal with new situations. In former generations, we have been required because changing circumstances have caused the shas to be so different as to require substantial modification. This is the theme of the introduction to my book, "Educated Pacifist.” It is for this reason that new guidelines of policies of authorities are still being published in every generation to determine how the immutable hakshah relates to new circumstances. And this is exactly what the student group is dealing with.

The challenge and the engangement are most commendable, but only for those who qualify as poskim. This is exactly what Rav Soloveitchik and Rav Moshe Feinstein worked on--how to translate the Torah principles into contemporary terms and how to apply the timeless Torah laws to the changing times. The Shulchan Aruch (Yoreh Deah 242:13) quotes from the Rambam that Talmei Chachomim are not to question and nonetheless issue their opinions on hakshah matters are "responsible for causing rifts in the Jewish people, destroying the world, and causing the light of the Torah to become extinguished.”

In the days of R. Akiva Eger and the Chasam Sofer, the Reform movement consulted two rabids, who introduced changes in religious observance based on the Shulchan Aruch, but without consultation with the rabbis who were clearly greater than they were. There was a clear tradition in pods. When that tradition is not adhered to, one is in violation of Torah law.

Rabbi Herschel Schachter
The author is a Rosh Yeshiva at Yeshiva University's affiliated Rabbinical School—Ethicon Theological Seminary

Leitner Picks Issue

To the Editors:

I am writing in response to a recent article by Aaron Klein entitled "Yeshiva College Arts Festival: Behind The Scenes With Yoni Leitner." For this piece, Klein interviewed me about my experiences filming the Arts Festival. Overall, I think the article was quite good and I am truly grateful that Aaron wrote it.

However, in the article, Aaron poses the question, "Was making this video difficult? What did you learn from this experience?" As my response, he writes, "It was very difficult. I had to cut so many scenes out because people constantly slapped their noses in the background. It was so hard to find a scene where someone actually wasn't picking their nose..." While I did say this in passing at some point during our interview, what I really meant from this experience was that there is a surprisingly large number of extremely talented students who would not have had the chance to make themselves known had the Arts Festival not taken place. I understand that this journalistic mix-up was done innocently and there are no hard feelings. I just hope that next time the editors of this forum will be more careful.

Yoni Leitner
SSBS/53 '01
A Tamir Fan

To the Editor:

I am a seventh grade student at another Orthodox Jewish High School in Baltimore called Beth Tfiloh. Unfortunately, I am one of the last few real Tamir fans in my class. I have been hearing many of my friends tell me that the fact that he is exploiting himself as not a basketball player but a Jew is not "Al Kiddush Hashem". I have read numerous student articles that complain about his arrogance and his love for fame and not the game. I was interested in reading Josh Abraham's opinion,

Tamir Defended

To the Editor:

Yishai Fleisher's column "Meet Tamir Goodman II" was one of the most thoughtless and reckless pieces of writing that I have ever read. Aside from the fact that it attacks a seventeen-year-old boy, it also misrepresents the situation as it exists. Quite often, Tamir Goodman has used his position of fame to be a positive example to Jews. He told me that many lawyers have approached him to ask him to help them. But they had trouble to work because of his positive influence. What a positive role model he was when he bent down to pick up his yarmulke in the middle of the game, with 1300 people watching him. In addition, I had the chance to talk to Tamir's coach after one of his games, and I asked him about the possibility of Tamir's attending Yeshiva instead of Maryland. His response was a snicker, asking me if I had read Fleisher's column in The Commentator. I wonder if Mr. Fleisher realizes that he may have contributed to a Jewish soul attending Mary-Land, and not Yeshiva. Not exactly what he intended, but because he was so holier-than-thou attitude ended up pushing a Jewish child away from Torah. Good job, slick.

Adam Cohen
YC '01

To the Editor:

It's totally inappropriate to attack a High School student because the media has made him a celebrity. While Yishai Fleisher's arguments may resonate with a significant segment of Orthodox Jews, the cynical way in which they are presented leads me to believe that he is motivated by jealousy, malice, or has nothing better to write about. Many Jews are celebrated as Jews because of achievements or talents that are not Torah-based but are rather in other fields such as Steven Spielberg, Michael Eisner and others in the entertainment field, or the Reichman family and countless other millionaires in the business field. Don't criticize a high school kid for being a great ballplayer. Focus on the way he has stood up for the observance of mitzvos. Also, be happy when another Jew succeeds. That is the teaching of Rabbi Akiva.

Avrum Aaron
YC '91

To the Editor:

I believe that a person becomes famous because his/her fans make him/her famous, as is the case with Tamir. I don't believe he is being ranked out by Yishai Fleisher. Tamir Goodman, just like every other Jewish kid who plays high school ball, is it for the fun of the game. He unlike every other kid though, is a superior ball player who has people traveling hours just to see him play. Is it his fault that society has made him into a hero, is it his fault he's a great ballplayer and that people want to watch him play ball? He's just an average 17-year-old (although his basketball talent are obviously above average) who is having the same problems we all had as 17-year-olds and I'm sure he doesn't need someone like a holier-than-thou Yishai Fleisher to tell him that he is doing something wrong. I don't believe Yishai has ever met my friend Tamir, because if he had, he probably wouldn't be trying to berate him or even be mivyaehim him berabim.

I would also like to expect that The Commentator would read the columns they put into their newspaper because a journalist is supposed to be informed and I don't believe that the article "Meet Tamir Goodman II" was written by an informed columnist.

Simcha Feld
YC '98

To the Editor:

Concerning Yishai Fleisher's column on Tamir Goodman, although the story dealt with many sad truths presently facing the Jewish community, and although I agree with the column's basic content, that does not excuse the fact that these points were brought about through blatant dishonesty, and, as such, is nothing more than a 

Todd Davidovitz
YC '00

Moses' Liberal Farce

To the Editor:

I am impressed with Mr. Moses' erudition and eloquence, but appalled at his apparent lack of respect for Yeshiva and its leaders. Liberal Orthodoxy is a farcical misrepresentation. It seems to foster ideals akin to the Reform and Conservative movements, rather than supporting and bolstering Torah-true Judaism.

Moses decides the suburban neo-shitai model, but Jewish communal life requires such closeness, as shuls and yeshivot must be within walking distance of residents, and residents must be numerous enough to populate these institutions. Or does Moses feel that liberal Orthodox Jews should head out to Dobbs Ferry or outer Ulster to pursue misyanim-free lives?

Centrist Orthodoxy, a model that includes committed Jews from every side of the coin (also defined as "normal") stays comfortably distant from the political extremes of Agudah and the holichai dysfunction of liberalism. That is precisely the mode of Judaism Yeshiva espouses and promotes. Admirably.

Michael Steinhart
New York

Clergy Confidentiality Revisited

To the Editor:

Your recent article regarding the lawsuit against Orthodox rabbis alleging improper breaches of confidentiality was somewhat sparse on the complexities of the facts underlying this specific case and the issues of halakho and secular law implicated therein.

In the former category, a critical point of dispute in this case is whether a legal requirement to maintain confidentiality ever arose from the conversations between the respective rabbis and the plaintiff, since the rabbis allege that third parties were present during their meetings with the plaintiff. If that is true, confidentiality did not 'attach' under secular law's requirements.

As to the complex legal issues - Jewish and secular - your readers may be best referred to a written analysis produced by the Belt Din of America and the Orthodox Union's Institute for Public Affairs. This document is most easily accessible via the Internet at www.jewishlaw.com.

Nathan Diament
YC '88

The author is the director of the Orthodox Union's Institute for Public Affairs.

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SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS
**The Comedown Queen**

BY ELI GERROCK

The '90s have not been particularly kind to folk music. What with Bob Dylan's health problems, Ani Difranco's bastardization of the genre, Cal Stevens going nuts, and the total apathy towards Peter, Paul and Mary's constant tours; it seems that folk music is dying. America needs something to revive it. Folk music is in desperate need for someone one to come along and save it. Basically, folk music needs a new hero. That hero is here and her name is Beth Orton.

Beth is the last person anyone would look to revive American folk music. She's Brit, she hates coffee, and she is best known for her work with techno music. But as all true heroes do, she turns her negatives into positives. She has taken her knowledge of techno music and applied it to her beloved folk music.

Beth plays classic folk music, coupled with trance beats and trip-hop. On her new album Central Reservation, Beth shows how well these two genres of music relate to each other. Beth hasn't been the first to try to blend folk and techno, but she is the first to truly succeed. I wonder how many of you out there remember a group called Ruby. They were alright, but too pop-ish (which is a bad thing). They did a pop song, then a techno song, but they never were able to combine the two styles like Beth does.

In her songs, Beth weaves the two styles as if they were meant to be together. The best example of this is in her song "Couldn't Cause Me Harm," where she plays a slide guitar over a trippy dance beat, while in the background an electric guitar lays the rhythm and bongos keeps the beat. The song is danceable and chillable at the same time. Beth's lyrics and voice swings circles around the music, causing it to go from sweet to crazy, till it seems like there is no difference between the two.

Beth's music is not the perfect music to listen to at a club, it's the type of music to listen to after the club. She's similar in style and round to a band I once heard called "Early Sunday Mornings." She plays perfect chill-out music. The club scene in London even gave her a name, "The Comedown Queen" for reasons which are obvious once you listen to her.

Beth has been gathering a lot of acclaim lately, and much of it is well deserved. She won two Brit awards and was AOL's artist of the month for the month of February. Both Spin and Rolling Stone gave Central Reservation praises, and I would like to go on record as saying for once, the music critics are correct. Beth Orton is not only where folk music needs to go, but where it will.

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**Analyte This**

Starring Robert De Niro and Billy Crystal

BY YAR OFFENHEIM

"Donning" his native Italian accent and adding a pinch of Brooklynese, Robert De Niro returns to his mafia roots, dragging along Billy Crystal in Harold Ramis' "Analyze This," a successful attempt at pairing two familiar actors and harping on their eccentricities.

The film places Robert De Niro in the role of Paul Vitti, head of a New York crime family in a compromising situation: he is experiencing anxiety attacks. His best friend gets whacked by a rival crime family (headed by Chazz Palminteri), who will also be attending a mafia don meeting that De Niro is afraid of attending. In the midst of all this, Billy Crystal plays Dr. Ben Sobel, a middle-aged psychiatrist with a short-mart son, a father with a name he will never live up to, and a fiancé who is preparing for their wedding. He meets an "associate" of Vitti's in a fender-bender. As soon as Crystal passes over his business card, he signs over his life to the mob. Soon, Crystal is losing his time to an imposing client, and as the shenanigans get more consequential, the harder it is for Crystal to pull out of his deal. It's not easy to cure a patient who doesn't know he's sick.

Making session progress while kid-napping, assigning hits, and interrogating double-crossers is no piece of cake either. As the scales are tipped, De Niro's life gets better, while Crystal's lies in ruins.

As all of this is going on, we get the special treats which the movie unflinchingly pounds out into our heads: De Niro playing off of Crystal in no holds barred shrink-sessions, which are as funny as they get. It is difficult to explain how funny these situations are -- it's enough to say that it's worth the price of admission to see De Niro cry. De Niro is no stranger to his role, since he is spoofing his past roles in mafia films such as "The Godfather Part II" and "Goodfellas." It's a role not unlike that of Marlon Brandos in "The Freshman," another recommended film, in which he spoofs his role in "The Godfather." De Niro is also no stranger to the realm of comedy, with both "The King of Comedy" as well as "Wag the Dog" under his belt. What De Niro brings to the comic characters that he plays is a psychological flaw, which is a valid acting method with regard to comedy. The only way for an actor to be funny is to make himself the odd man out; there must be something wrong with him. In this case it's the failure to think outside of his close-minded desensitized mafia life.

He's the lonely one and everyone else is crazy. Similarly, stand-up comedians always talk about how odd such and such a topic is. It's a traditional method that works. The pole opposite of this type of comedy, the opposite of what De Niro does is deadpan comedy. That's exactly what Crystal does and is famous for. He's the normal receptacle of the abnormal; the sarcastic voice of reason in a play of the absurd.

The fact that De Niro and Crystal have such great timing while playing off each other is the luck of the draw. Coincidentally, the two actors were quite hesitant to work with each other for the fear of backfiring when combining De Niro's serious type with Crystal's softer side. The fact that the film worked so well is pure chance, since Harold Ramis has always been walking the tightrope between having a hit or a miss. He's written and directed hits like "Animal House," "Caddyshack" and "Groundhog Day," yet he's had his misses with "Multiplicity," "Club Paradise," and "Stuart Saves His Family." Though most of the film's secondary characters are composites of card-board and styrofoam, with the exception of De Niro's associate "Jelly," what makes this film so appealing is the fact that you have two icons of Hollywood whose film personalities overlap their roles from film to film, and such familiarity makes this comedy rock solid and refreshing.
Footloose

BY STEVEN BERNESTON

I really don’t think that it’s necessary to write a seventy-five hundred and fifty word review of “Footloose” when I can sum up the entire play in one word – energy. From the moment the actors pull up the makeshift curtain until the finale, “Footloose” is a pure adrenaline rush. This energy is what makes “Footloose” work so well. The actors are so energized that the audience literally feeds off them. In return, through their applause and foot tapping, the audience throws that energy right back at them. This relatively intimate exchange between the players and audience is so exciting. It has been years since I have felt this type of energy in a theatrical production.

“Footloose” does not get its energy exclusively from the actors. The technical elements of this play also added a great deal to the overall liveliness of the production. One such element is the use of color in the lighting and in the set design. “Footloose” is a play about finding the spirituality in the seemingly most profane of things. To emphasize the conflict between the holy and the worldly each scene has a different color scheme. Light tones of yellow and whites are used in the more religious scenes giving the audience a sense of the spiritual. A feeling of the secular is brought about through the use of deep blue colors and flashy neon lights. In addition, pure unabulated primary colors are used in the school scenes in order to represent the innocence of youth.

“Footloose”’s music is just as colorful. The show borrows four or five songs from the soundtrack of the film upon which it is based. The original songs written for the stage production were stylistically based upon the title song, “FoBase.” I think that the original song writing for this play is fantastic. My main problem with “Footloose” music, however, is that I did not feel that the songs belonged together as a set. That is to say, although each song must be unique for its own individual scene, a show’s music as a whole must share a common style. This is a large problem that comes with assembling as musical based upon the tunes of multiple artists. The musical awkwardness is most apparent in the large song “Almost Paradise.” Beautiful as it is and as much as it worked in its own scene the ballad does not seem to fit with the rest of the music in the play. Despite this minor flaw, “Footloose” is pure hand clapping, toe tapping, bootsy locking energy-filled fun.

Adding to this fun, though not noticed by the majority of the audience, is “Footloose” eccentric conductor. Dressed in a hot pink polka dot suit and leading his orchestra by head banging his Sampson-ish long hair, the conductor is just as much fun to watch as the actors. His energy is just on of many examples of how much energy was put into this production by the entire cast and crew. Their hard work has paid off. “Footloose” is one of the best shows on Broadway this season.

Footloose

By Dean Pitchford and Walter Bobbie

Music

Lyrics by Dean Pitchford

With songs by Eric Carmen, Sammy Hagar,

Kenny Loggins and Jim Steinman

Richard Rodgers Theater

226 W 46th St.

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226 W 46th St.
Tenure at YU
Continued from page 1

Dr. Zucker Denied Tenure
Continued from page 1

The Tenure Committee's decision was handed down despite the strong support voiced by Zucker's many student supporters. Fifty students signed an enthusiastic letter of support recommending that the Tenure Committee accept Dr. Zucker's bid for tenure. An important consideration in tenure evaluation is the quality and quantity of the petitioner's scholarly publications. Dr. Zucker's supporters point out that he boasts impressive publishing credentials, including articles in refereed journals such as Science and Nature and scholarly journals since 1993 and one forthcoming this year. Dr. Zucker also has recently received several猖 discrimination, the committee to examine. However, there are no precise guidelines that must be followed in all cases; we must abide by the rules set by the Senate. Who come up for tenure review submitted their teaching proficiency, publication of either books or articles, and faculty citizenship for the committee to examine. University, and even in universities where there is a variety of committees and boards, students are exhausted from the tenure process. But Gelman and the administration quickly overturned that novel idea, rationalizing that students who attend university for a few years should not become involved in tenured decisions unless they are going to spend a long time trying to come up with quantifiable results. People must have published entitling them to the status of a professor, in which their otherwise might not take, forming the fundamental stepping stone that facilitates the process of building an ordinary university into an esteemed institution of higher learning.

evaluations, semester-by-semester and course-by-course, and performing in-class observations of all of the candidates.

However, the objective ideal espoused by the University in granting tenure is clearly difficult, perhaps impossible, to maintain. This standardized approach, while allowing the tenure committee to make decisions on a fairly structured arrangement, grants each committee leeway in its methodology of judging the professors. "There are no concrete guidelines that must be followed in all cases; we must abide by the rules set by the Senate. How faculties feel excluded from the tenure decision-making process, Gelman shrugged and objected. According to Gelman, student course evaluation forms comprise an important element of the tenure review. Gelman insisted that students do not take course evaluation forms seriously enough although he could elaborate on why he felt this way. Gelman further suggested that in-class student response to tenure Committee observed lectures is consid- ered in the review process. Quite in keeping with the University's veil of secrecy behind which the Tenure Committee's decisions were shrouded, the foundation of the Committee's judgment has not been revealed to students. Bendheim believes that tenure reviews are "final in the sense that no outside body has the right to contest a decision." YU administrators condemn efforts to publicize, in the expert opinion of time. The tenure process is awkward in a large part because it's a personal matter, not merely an academic matter, and even in universities where there is a variety of committees and boards, students are exhausted from the tenure process. The faculty members don't necessarily have a faculty with a very heavy teaching load, which they otherwise might not take, forming the fundamental stepping stone that facilitates the process of building an ordinary university into an esteemed institution of higher learning.

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MTA Staff Shakeup

Continued from page 1

To the best of my knowledge, he informed The Commentator, "no Rebbeim or secular fac­ulty members have been fired (in recent weeks)."

Some late MTA insiders point to the phone calls, or lack thereof, as proof positive of YU's official stance of "firing" the other Rebbeim, but in truth hiding their clear desire to forego renewal of their contracts.

MTA's Future alumni and other concerned community members have actively involved themselves in an attempt to right the high school's course. On March 24, petition letters were organized by YU undergrad­uate students. The letters express support for the recent decision announced by Rabbi Lamm to keep MTA's doors open, but call for an end to the recent efforts to retroact the high school's staff including a specific request for the reinstatement of Rabbi Taubes as principal of the high school.

The petitioners point to the need for stability. It is this last point that has pushed many potential signatories away from the "protest." One such student, when approached by an activist asking him to sign, reacted in utter amazement: "Who am I, better yet who are you, to ask the President to reinstate one of his employees? I have no idea as to what precipitated the recent decision, but that ignorance on my part can't possibly become turned into careless protest against a move that I have no business making."

Despite this caution, the letters made their way from class to class gathering significant support from the student body. Students who supported the petition point to rumors behind the dismissal that have swayed them.

"More academic resources and facilities could be made available for students who are interested in majoring in Jewish studies," one student stated. "This move could put MTA on par with other Jewish institutions or secular high schools." Another student added, "The move could prevent MTA from becoming irrelevant to the Yeshiva community."

"If YU really wants to maintain its competitive edge, it needs to divest MTA of its Jewish studies," a third student argued. "MTA's current situation was being handled. Taubes' public voicing of his dissatisfaction was viewed by the University as unwarranted and improper, prodding it to move to dismiss the principal."

Yeshiva University Public Relations Department refused to comment on Taubes' status or its relationship to the now infamous Jewish studies. Two days after word of Taubes' dismissal became public, discussion of a University decision to let several of MTA's more experienced faculty go was surfacied. The Commentator has learned that over the past couple of weeks YU administrators have con­ tacted some members the MTA Jewish Studies staff to inform them of their future job security and reassure them that the past months closure concerns had been put to rest. Some observers saw the University's fail­ure to contact certain MTA Rebbeim as an indication of their lame duck status.

Mainstream of the yeshiva including Rabbin Dovy Daltz, Yitzchak Cohen, Alfred Cohen, Shaul Yagid, and Meir Schiller were not contacted and are thought to be faced with possible terminations.

YUPR Director David Rosen refused to confirm any impending MTA faculty dismissals.

Honors Program

Continued from page 1

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Sponsored by the Yeshiva College Chemistry Club, Stern College Chemistry Club, the Yeshiva College Dean's Office and YCSC


YEC Wins Again! 100% Takeback: The YU Debate Society was victorious this past Wednesday night at a PFD (Public Forum Debate League) impromptu tournamen at Queens College. Participating teams included Queens, YU, Rockland and NYU. Sarah Friedman won first place, Team captain Eran Weizberg was awarded second place, and Ora Brandwein took home third place.

RAFFLE: Raffle with proceeds going to Torchmi Shabbos-help pay for seferim for poor families. Just $5 a ticket. Buy Tickets from Aharon Kolles, Ru 719, Ben Gormsa, Mu 430, Danny Cohen, Mu 362. Raffle to be held on Sunday March 28th.

SHABBAT HAGADOL: March 26-27, Parshat Ztav. Come spend Shabbat Hagadol with Rav Melech Schachter and Rav Yosef Blau will give the Shabbat Hagadol and benefit package (mid 30's ).

Pesach Food Drive: Anyone who wishes to assist in the 5759 Pesach Food Drive, in any capacity, please contact Yonatan Kaganoff @ 543-3951 or email ykganof@yimail.yu.edu.

YUC: There will be a course in web page creation and design starting Monday, April 12, at 9:00 pm in Room 418 of the Midtown Center. Please contact Chaya Greenpant at greenspap@yuc if you are interested in attending.


Pesach Food Drive: Anyone who wishes to assist in the 5759 Pesach Food Drive, in any capacity, please contact Yonatan Kaganoff @ 543-3951 or email ykganof@yimail.yu.edu.

SCFI: The Sci Fi club presents upcoming events: April 1: Metropolis; April 29: Dark City May 6: Lord of the Rings (Bakshi, of course); 11, 12, 13: Star Wars Trilogy. Because all forms of scholarship are important, we intend to showcase critical essays detailing the movies of the month. For more information about YCSC, please e-mail Ben Franz at avnersheim@hotmail.com.

OPCS: There will be an Education Career Forum taking place on Wednesday, March 24, 1999 at 8:00 PM at the Midtown Center Campus in Room 518. A NYC Board of Education representative will be speaking about requirements and opportunities for undergraduates interested in such positions as: Speech & Hearing Specialist, Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Early Childhood Education, and Special Education. This workshop is open to all students and majors. A van will be leaving the YU Bookstore at 7:45 p.m.

Interested in a summer internship? Worried about a career? Need more information? Pick up your copy of the Professional Portfolio. Copies can be found in the lobby of Furst Hall, Morg and Belfer Hall, room 417.

Israel Club: The YCSC and SCWSC Israel Clubs invite everyone to participate in the Israel Club shabbaton. It will take place April 16-17 in Teaneck at the weekend of Tzita/Motza, also Shabbat Rosh Chodesh. For details contact Hadar Weiss @ 781-3128.

Commencement: If you are a graduating senior, please come by the Campus Bulletin Board? Email the YCSC. Are you Pre Med? Are you a science major? If you are interested in writing an article for the Alpha Delta Epsilon Pre Med Journal or the Sigma Delta Rho science research Journal, Please contact Matt Katzman, Morg 528 as soon as possible.

SAVE A LIFE: Students interested in participating in the annual bone marrow drive are urged to attend a committee meeting this Thursday evening at 10:15 in the moron basement and bring your photo id, filling out the form and donating any questions, contact Marc Gilger @ 923-5081 or Yitz Motzen @ 927-7967.

This semester's Yeshiva College Methods of Social Research class is piloting an interactive questionnaire on the Internet. We are trying to determine how well we can efficiently and broadly survey people. Please help us out by doing two things: completing the form and requesting others to do so too.

Do you want your event or listing in the Campus Bulletin Board? Email the particulars to commie@yuc.com.
March Madness Hits YU:
MTA Lions Dominate Sarachek Tournament
Lions Capture Yeshiva League Title at Meadowlands

A balanced offense and stifling defense led the MTA Lions to the championship of the eighteenth annual Red Sarachek Tournament at Yeshiva University. The team won all three of its games by at least 12 points, topping Hilil Community High School of Miami 46-27 in the title game.

The 18-team, five-day tournament drew packed crowds at the Max Stern Athletic Center for many of the games including Sunday's semifinal games, the championship game on Monday and all four games played by Talmudic Academy of Baltimore. The TA Warriors were led by the junior sensation Tamir Goodman, who has verbally committed to attend the University of Maryland on a basketball scholarship.

Goodman set Sarachek records for most points in a game (53), tournament (143) and highest scoring average (35.8 ppg) for the Warriors, who finished in seventh place. His 53 points came in what observers called the most exciting game in the tournament's eight-year history, a 90-88 overtime loss to Valley Torah High School in the quarterfinals. Goodman's pull-up three-pointer sent the game into overtime, but the Wolfpack's pressure defense helped Valley Torah win in the extra session.

It was the fifth time the host school appeared in the title game and third championship for MTA, which also won the Sarachek Tournament in 1992 and 1995.

In the quarterfinals, the Lions beat Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy of Kansas City, 53-41. In the semifinals they avenged their loss in last year's championship game by defeating YULA 60-44.

Jeremy Neiss was the tournament MVP and MTA senior starters Alan Shane and Mordy Blum were named tournament all-stars.


Two days after their Sarachek Tournament victory, the Lions capped off an 18-3 season with a 38-34 victory over HAFTR at the Meadowlands to win the 1999 Metropolitan Yeshiva High School Basketball League title. It was the school's first league championship since 1992.

Mordy Blum paced the team with 16 points and was the game MVP. Junior Mordy Faber hit the game's only three-pointer with 54 seconds remaining to put MTA ahead to stay.

Tournament All-Stars
Shmuel Bergman, Cooper Memphis
Ari Stein, Block St. Louis
Zev Reinitz, Akiva-Detroit
Daniel Medioni, Shalhevet
Ben Engelhart, HA Washington
Jon Fox, H A Miami
Ori Goldstein, Or Chaim-Toronto
Philip Serebrenick, Yeshiva-Atlanta
Natan Schwartz, Fuchs-Cleveland
Jeremy Fine, Ida Crown
Jaime Dweck, Magen David
Jason Kollander, HAFTR
Dan Krashin, Brand-Kansas City
Moshe Adler, YULA
Tzvi Wachman, Valley Torah
Mike Courtney, Hillel-Miami
Moldy Blum, MTA
Alan Shane, MTA

Tier I MVP - Jeremy Niess, MTA
Tier II MVP - Adam Braun, Ida Crown
Tier III MVP - Greg Katsman, HA Miami

All-Tournament Team
Tamir Goodman, TA Baltimore
Avi Hami, YULA
Edward Gurov, Valley Torah
Dani Bensimon, Hillel-Miami
Conversation with United States Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig

BY EZI BURNS

Recently, Richard Danzig was appointed Secretary of the U.S. Navy. The appointment marked the very first time a member of the Jewish faith has reached the commander level of one of the American Armed Forces directorates. The change is second in rank only to the Secretary of Defense.

Although a number of Jews, from Senators Arlen Specter and Joseph Lieberman to YU president Daniel Kurtzer, the U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, have in recent years climbed to positions of prominence in American government, Danzig’s appointment to a ranking military post is a much less common phenomenon.

At a recent, social function, The Commentator caught up with Danzig and spoke with him about his role as a military leader and a Jew in Washington.

Observing that the prestigious appointment was duly noted within the Jewish community, I asked Danzig if the effort he and his Judaism had played a significant role in his line of work. He pointed out that the executive of the military community is, in fact, quite similar to the Jewish community. Although some may think that the military’s “warrior mentality” is at odds with the Jewish train of thought, Danzig suggested that they share the same qualities of thoughtfulness and camaraderie, values integral both to military and religious lifestyles.

In addition, Danzig said, the idea of personal values is central to both communities. One of the Anshei L’Shabbos Cabal, he pointed out, is “On our courage and commitment,” a credo which would fit nicely with Jewish ideals, in terms of the role of government. Officially Danzig stressed that religion should not be part of anyone’s public persona and therefore involvement with both religious life and a civilian government presents no conflict.

Commenting, “personal religious values shouldn’t have any bearing on one’s public responsibilities.” Danzig pointed out that practically, the military tries to be close knit to people of all faiths, however, he emphasized the positive nature of a soldier might not be conducive to all Orthodox Jews. Although the military employs about 1,000 enlisted chaplains, many of them Orthodox Jews, the chance of meeting in religious roles might not be practical for Orthodox Jews due to their “emergency” nature. For example, he added, it would be quite difficult to be overly observant the laws of

THE COMMENTATOR
500 West 158th Street
New York, NY 10033

Richard Danzig (right) poses with Yehuda and Ezra Burns at a New York social function.

Kashmiri and Shaabir on a U.S. Naval vessel.

However, Danzig explained, despite the rough-and-tumble nature of the military, there are other opportunities available to the Armed Forces that are more open to members of all religious creeds.

Danzig himself, despite his clear official status, is a civilian, not an uniformed officer. Although his career in the field of management and policy is one involving the management of police departments. His work entailed a position in the Pentagon during Jimmy Carter’s administration in the late 70’s. During the Republican years Danzig returned toward law, but when the Clinton administration returned a Democrat to the White House, Danzig found himself back at the Pentagon.

It’s his own back story that the Danzigs see the entrance point for religious Jews with interest in the military, specifically administratively. Although his position as Secretary of the Navy is a civilian office, the military offers jobs for civilians; the positions range from administrators, scientists and doctors, teaches in military universities, to employed of military child care centers. He stressed, in addition, the role of reservists who have limited participation in regular military jobs and may be more easily able to maintain their religious observance.

As the evening drew to a close and Danzig prepared to leave, the sense of camaraderie with which he dealt with other Jewish leaders from all Jewish streams left the group that he is a spokesperson for Jews people generally in Washington.

YCSC Bowling Tournament

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

On Sunday March 14, the Yeshiva College Student Council sponsored a free student bowling tournament at Ball Park Lanes in the Bronx. Attended by approximately forty students, the turn out reflected a diverse slice of the YU student body united by their desire to bowl and have a good time.

The tournament consisted of four rounds, with each student bowling three games apiece. Yakoav Falk and his team won the tournament with a combined score of 500 for the series, and Falk had an individual tournament high scoring game of 216.

Hadar Weiss (VC ‘00), a participant, described the evening as “an amazing success.” Observing that “people had lots of fun,” Weiss also noted Falk’s victory. An incredible feat considering the alley used had lots of heavy balls.

Sending Clear Signals: Getting YU Radio Back on Air

BY DAVID MIRSKY

After three years of silence, Yeshiva University’s official radio station, WYUR, could soon be drifting the airwaves on both undergraduate and graduate campuses. A student led committee headed by Hadar Weiss successfully coordinated negotiations with Jeffrey Social, Director of Facilities Management, and B2 Atlantic, the communications provider to reestablish the station’s operability.

Confusing the radio broadcast to designated YU buildings, the organizers of the WYUR have managed to avoid the brazenous waters of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) red tape. Through the use of customized telephone wiring, WYUR steers clear of broadcast medium guidelines, rather serving essentially as an in-house public address system that can be picked up on any household radio within a few feet of the wiring.

Promising to fill a three-year-old chasm in undergraduate life at YU, the campus radio station is seen by many as an opportunity to revive campus life and student activity. Citing neglect and poor wiring as a cause of the station shut down about four years ago, organizers are optimistic that the updated and carefully planned wiring will provide years of reliable service as an effective student sounding board.

Weiss commented that they have commissioned LPB Manufacturers, the original station equipment provider, to provide the necessary transmitters and other broadcast devices. Dror Barber, YCSC President, explained that the station’s move from the underground parking lot to its present location in the Uptown Schottenstein student center significantly undermined the station’s wiring system. The administration, according to Valerie Barber, appears to the project benefitted to B2 Atlantic to overhaul the wiring with work to begin in the next few weeks. Funding will be provided by the University’s Board of Trustees as well as the Stern and Uptown student councils.

While the organizers are not sure when the rebroadcast will be ready for installation, the return of WYUR will usher in new opportunities for meaningful student expression, claims Alon Goldstein, will serve as station manager with programs ranging from popular Jewish and contemporary music hours to talk shows hosted by both Stern and Uptown students, undergraduates will be allowed to enjoy the direct characteristics of their fellow students unique freedom will be given to program content, ideas, governing board will be set up to state programs in line with the motives defining a YU student organization.

With innovative program ideas, such as plans to broadcast on-campus sporting and cultural events, the rejuvenated radio station will itself a welcome return to a rich and diverse undergraduate experience on both campuses. West, hoping everything will come together, hopes to see a successful and significant campus institution that will serve the expressive needs of all undergraduates for years to come.

March 23, 1999 © Nissan 5759

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