YU GARNERS TOP FIFTY STATUS FOR FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

BY PINCHAS SHAPIRO

For the fourth year in a row, Yeshiva University appeared in the first tier of US News and World Report's ranking of the top national universities in the United States. Dropping two places from its number forty-two listing last year, Yeshiva fell to number forty-five. Ranked alongside four other universities, Yeshiva was tied with Tulane University of California-Santa Barbara, University of Texas-Austin, and the University of Washington.

“Of all the names that US News has again rated Yeshiva University as a top-tier university,” said President and Rosh HaYeshiva Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm of the new rankings, “we have an outstanding faculty and a dedicated group of deans and administrators. Their hard work is reflected in this continuing recognition of the excellence of our academic programs. The rating also reflects enhancements we have made and scholarships we are able to provide thanks to the strong support we continue to receive from so many alumni and friends.”

U.S. News took into account a broad array of considerations including academic reputation, student SAT performance, financial resources, distribution of class size, relative selectivity, graduation rate, alumni giving rate, and other considerations in compiling its list. In most areas, Yeshiva maintained poor ratings, with only a few topics ranking high. This year’s academic performance revealed some lopsided figures. Of first tier universities, Yeshiva tied only with Wake Forest in boasting the lowest proportion of students with enrollments of over fifty students. On the flip side, Yeshiva’s reputation rank, the average rating of the quality of a school’s academic programs as evaluated by officials at similar institutions, mimicked last year’s performance by posting a mere 3.0 on a five-point scale. This number once again lagged behind all other top fifty universities.

Rabbi Cohen Appointed MYP Rosh Yeshiva

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

Ray Yitzchak Cohen, who, for decades has served as both maggid shiur and mashgiach ruchani at MTA, was recently named Rosh Hafshiya of MYP by Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, Dean of MYP and RIETS. Rabbi Cohen will be shifting primary roles from the high school to MYP, and in the process devoting more time to the college than he has been able to afford in the past.

Charlop explained, “The reorganization of the high school gave the Yeshiva an opportunity to look at the entire picture, and one of the focus fell upon Rabbi Cohen, who has been a very precious resource, not only to the high school but to the entire Yeshiva.” That focus led to the decision to capitalize on Rabbi Cohen’s distinct personality, to fill a void in the educational system. Of the position, Rabbi Cohen was lacking in the Yeshiva Beis Medrash during the hours that Rabbi Cohen had to devote to the high school. According to Charlop, Rabbi Cohen’s “unique style is reminiscent of the late Rav David Lifshitz zt”l, a former YU Rosh Hafshiya. Both have succeeded in developing an extremely strong affinity with a distinct group of followers who respond very well to the methodologies employed by the rebbeim.

It is for this reason Charlop asserts that the Rosh Hafshiya role assumed by Ray Cohen will be somewhat unlike the traditional position held by the other MYP Rosh Hafshiya, Rabbi Zevulun Charlop. Rosh Yeshiva, will be giving a shiru, but will not be assigned talmidim from the outset. Instead, the RIETS office deems his to be an “open shiru.”

On Wednesday August 18, a construction worker plummeted eighteen stories to the roof of Belfer Hall to his death after a scaffolding collapsed. The worker, thirty-two-year-old Marek Soltys, frequently appeared on the Main Campus participating in many campus construction projects. The worker, a top tier university student, fell behind Sanford, the university’s faculty compensation level also merits attention. This figure considers a university’s faculty compensation level, proportion of faculty members with Ph.D. degrees, proportion of full-time faculty members, student/faculty ratio, and class size distribution. Yeshiva fell fourteen places behind Stanford, the school it was previously tied with in this category, and fell behind Brown, Columbia and Dartmouth in this area, three schools that it was lying behind in last year’s scoring.

Sources within the university believe that all of the ropes used to hold the scaffolding in place may have snapped, pulling the victim from the roof which apparently hit Mr. Soltys causing the ensuing fall.

Former YCSC President Sruli Tannenbaum, ‘98, knew Mr. Soltys from his work on campus. “He was on of those guys who were really nice and helpful. He put himself out for the students when we needed him.” On one occasion, when the Yeshiva College Dramatics Society needed stage work done, Mr. Soltys was the one to call. “When I was about forty feet from the body, which at that time was covered with a yellow sheet, the wind blew the sheet up and I saw the mangled body. It was truly a horrible sight - one that I would hope to never again see.”

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A Matter Of Truth

The New York Times recently published a front page article featuring a major and unfortunate revision in Israeli text books that has stirred controversy throughout the world. Secularist theory has spread to all new texts being introduced into the Israeli public school system. For example, scholars are now teaching Israeli youngsters that, "On nearly every front and in nearly every battle (of the War of Independence), the Jewish side had the advantage over the Arabs in terms of planning, organization...and in the number of trained fighters who participated."

Aside from asserting a gross distortion of facts - such as minimizing the disparity in numbers between the 650,000 Jews versus the combined 40 million Arabs - this sort of "New History" makes room for an "education" that is not necessarily truthful or accurate.

It is one thing to teach elementary and high school children about historic cruelty, however these new books actually justify the changing of recorded facts. Any soldier who was killed in the battle would surely affirm that the War of Independence was nothing short of a miracle.

This new method of teaching is viewed as a biting insult to Modern Orthodoxy. An entire generation of Israel's are now receiving a new history of their country - a history that doesn't include Hashem, Torah, or any concept of kedusha Eretz Yisroel whatsoever.

The Israeli Ministry of Education has effectively enlarged the already wide gap that exists between the religious and non-religious. Although supporters of the "New History," such as Eyal Naveh, a professor of history at Hebrew University, claim "this marks a higher level in Israel's maturity," there is a lack of responsibility on the side of these supporters: They have failed to include input from any traditional scholars.

It is truly a sad, sad time when political, religious, and philosophical controversy is brought into kindergarten classrooms.

Human Dignity and Respect

The recent stories reported within this publication reveal some very cruel events transpiring at this university. Perhaps even more shocking are the events we have yet to report. The vindictive nature of this institution and the deceitful manner in which many issues have been handled is not just upsetting, it's downright frightening.

This is not to say that all professionals who have the misfortune of being caught in this university's web of destruction are evil. There are many moral individuals who grace the halls of Belfer and Furst, but rest assured that individuals who grace the halls of Belfer and Furst, but rest assured that...
Cleaning The Slate

In the beginning of the summer, I had the opportunity to browse through The Commentator archives dating back to the monumental first edition in 1935. I was surprised by some of what I read; it seems as though Yeshiva University used to be a fun and peaceful institution where students and administration would make important decisions together.

Throughout the academic year, the administration used to host "smokers" - lively parties in which faculty members (including the president) and students would assemble in a large room to socialize, discuss issues pertaining to the welfare of Yeshiva, sing and smoke thousands of university-supplied cigarettes. Students were granted such power and influence that if they collectively disapproved of a faculty or administration member (and in one documented case, a dean), that member was relieved of his/her position. It is remarkably difficult to believe that we now attend the phantom university I read about in the old papers.

In more recent years, The Commentator has been forced to maintain a somewhat schizophrenic relationship with the administration of Yeshiva University. It's the mission of this esteemed publication to incessantly defend the rights of the students and to heatedly campaign for an improved quality of life both on and off campus. This charge often requires the editors to act ruthlessly - to frequently expose university voids while hoping that our unremitting trials lead to rectification of the existing problem. We usually fly the first missile in a strategic battle of words directed to the administration that has seemingly now exists. Unfortunately, in fulfilling our civic duties, we have acquired a reputation for embodying all that is negative and despairing about this college. Moreover, we sometimes make enemies of the very people whose help we may later solicit.

I believe that this prevailing philosophy, which has lately served as the trademark of The Commentator, is in need of immediate reconstruction. It is unsuitable to wage war on a country without first negotiating a peace agreement; it is far more resourceful to work with the administration to find a common ground between the seemingly deviant factions that exist within the consecrated walls of Yeshiva. However, the full assistance and cooperation of everyone is required before we can accomplish such a lofty goal:

The students must speak in a singular and contemporaneously immutable voice; we must prove that we are serious about reclaiming this university as ours. We should do so respectfully and patiently; only after using honey may we resort to vinegar.

The administration should see that it's the students who will make or break the institution. Some of the issues we wish to tackle this year include an ethernet connection in the dormitories, and the knowledge to offer suggestions that will serve everyone's interests. Whether it be through letters to the administration, rallies, whatever the method, it is time bring the ideas to the table. It is time to set forth our demands.

The teaching faculty is asked to realize that they maintain a dual position in the University food chain, serving as influential organs to both the students and the administration. They have the distinct ability to notice problems, the power to address them through proper channels, and the knowledge to offer suggestions that will serve everyone's interests.

Some of the issues we wish to tackle this year include an ethernet connection in the dormitories, improved cafeteria service with higher quality food and lower prices, and improved communication between the students and the faculty/administration. We also hope to infuse a more positive attitude into the veins of this university, and bring about all of these changes with the help of the entire YU family.

From this point on, The Commentator hopes to work with the administration to bring Yeshiva University into the next millennium as a changed body, a university bereft of inner-fighting, unnecessary politics, or belligerent acts of any kind. A university that raises its students to the top priority, not merely as migrant workers who happen to be passing through.

We are about to embark on a journey filled with magnificent shades and staining colors. With the start of the new academic year comes a plethora of hope and possibility. I urge all of you to join me in this campaign to take back our university and to create a more peaceful atmosphere in which to prosper and grow. I beseech the administration to realize the wonderful opportunity being offered to them, and to take full advantage by stepping forward and extending their hands in an effort to bolster a university that is so inconceivably rich in promise.
Message From The University President

RABBI DR. NORMAN LAHM

Last Opportunities:
A Rosh Hashanah Message

Shalom Lheveken to all students, old and new, as your faculties and administration welcome you (back) to our undergraduate campuses.

We are proud of you, our student body. You have entrusted us to your academic development and Jewish growth, and we have every intention of fulfilling our responsibilities to you. It is our interest and the interest of the entire Jewish community that you mature in personality, improve in character, express latent talents, and grow in both Torah and Madaa - and in yirat shamayim.

In order to accomplish that, we have provided you with improved facilities, experienced counseling and, above all, an outstanding faculty in both the academic and Torah spheres. Yeshiva University has been recognized throughout the country, and beyond, as a first-rate institution of higher education and as a Torah institution of the highest caliber. And this year, for the first time officially, we have a superb Honors Program that will be available to both Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women.

This means that you have before you unparalleled opportunities to grow in all facets of your life, to learn at the feet of masters, to elevate your aspirations, to find meaning in your existence. It would be tragic if you allowed yourselves to be distracted from such lofty goals by wasting time or indulgence in non-productive conduct that is the mark of lingering immaturity. Someone once asked the Gerer Rebbe - the great Hasidic teacher known by his holachic work, "The Rabbashis Ha-Ram" - why is it that the one point in the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur service that provokes most emotional, that more than any other prayer evokes tears from serious worshiper, is the paragraph that begins that begins with Adam yezoos va'afar ve'elafo lofmar, 'man's origin is dust and his end is dust.' Since we live as we came, we have lost nothing, so why cry? His wise answer was: True, man's origin is dust, but he was endowed by his Creator with the capacity to elevate that dust to Heaven, to break out of the inexorable biological cycle and achieve spiritual eminence. Failure to avail yourself of this priceless opportunity is something to weep about and wail.

So, cape diem, seize the opportunities that yeshiva offers you. Exploit them - for your own benefit and the greater glory of Torah, Am Yisroel, and all humanity.

You have my best wishes for a ked'ha vhahmah tovah.

Message From The VYSC President

JONATHAN MELL

Dear Friends,

As we begin this new school year, I invite you to take a moment to join me in expressing gratitude with regard to the vast opportunities that were available to us whether working, learning, or relaxing; do not forget to thank those who provided us with opportunities for growth and enlightenment.

Gratitude should also be expressed to the two coordinators of Orientation '99 for their hard work in planning what has so far been a fantastic orientation. Ari Wiesen and Moishe Schmerler worked painstakingly throughout the summer to plan the weeklong celebration and welcome to those new students joining us. Their hard work, synthesized with the vital presence of Andrew Liebowitz and the Office of Student Services, has certainly not gone unnoticed. All of the Resident Advisors, as well, have been working hard to help create a welcoming Orientation '99 environment, and I would like to thank them.

I'd like to welcome all the new students to campus. Whether you're joining us from Israel, high school, or another college, I am confident that you will find that YU is place of opportunity and community. The faculty and administration truly desire our involvement and input, so be sure to utilize your student resources. We'll be sure to keep them at your caseless disposal.

From Yeshiva College Student Council's interaction with the administration this summer, we have paved the path for a prosperous year. Combining new technology with an old medium, we are proud to reintroduce WYUR, the radio voice of Yeshiva University students.

Program Will begin at 9:30 P.M.
In Weissberg Commons
Pizza and Refreshments will be served

Message From The SOY President

ATON HOLNER

Our revered Rebbe, Rav Joseph B. Soloveitchik, zt"h, noted that the liturgy of the Yamim Noraim reflect two major themes. The period that we now enter is perceived by us, as in Coronation of Heaven, in which we are coronated as kings, and one in which we stand before Him in judgment best conveyed in afilfornin. As such, two perspectives emerge in our pizyot with regard to the Divine. While some of our high holiday liturgy focus on Divine mercy, other pizyot focus on Divine retribution. For example, the inner, keter ayin, of a tree is matchless in its range and depth of Torah scholarship and peerless as concerns the erudition of its Rabbeim and staff; nonetheless, we are not merely engaging in one-time acts of avodat Hashem (though that would certainly be sufficient); we are building ourselves as Torah personalities, inculcating within ourselves the dedication that will remain with us throughout our lives. The projects that we begin here infuse our lives with meaning, and they alone will remain with us during and after our attainment of all our mundane, secular goals. Contrary to the spurious claims of its detractors, our Yeshiva, Yehiva Rebbeinu Yitzchok Elchanan, is matchless in its range and depth of Torah scholarship and peerless as concerns the erudition of its Rabbeim and staff; nonetheless, some make the terrible mistake of focusing all their energies toward pursuing of their careers in the precious few years they are afforded as this unique Makom Torah. Don't miss out on your life's single greatest opportunity. This Elul be sure to attend our "Toward Teshab, Series," Sichot Meirav and our Labor Day Yom Tois, Come to the Massive Mishmar; stay at YU for Selichot and Shabbat Shuvah, if not Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Look for signs detailing future events. Get involved in our publications - Enayim LaTorah, Beli Yitzchok, Hamevasek, Nachalak, Bein Koslei Ha'Teshiva, Orchos Aliyah and Gesher, and our new Zaniron and Hagaggadah; be active in our committees, be they Selafin, Saleh, Chagigah, Special Events, Political Action, Chessed, Kinue, and so forth. If you perceive a deficiency, take the initiative and create a committee to address it. Please don't hesitate to assist me or any member of our most competent board - Aryeh Montis, Adam Scherer and Avi Oppenheimer - with your suggestions and ideas.

To paraphrase the pizyot: Elevate yourself by allowing Him to rejoice in your work. Join us.

Paraphrase of Moshe's blessing upon the completion of the Mishkan, the symbol of avoda Hashem par excellence, could aptly serve as our own prayer as we embark upon our own journey in avodat Hashem: Yehi ratzon she-tishreh Chatzi lakhem be-tov, she-elev shall Hashem Eilekina aminu ve-ma'aseh yadeinu konenah a/einu, u-ma'aseyadeinu konenehu.

This Motzei Shabbat

with

RABBI MORDECHAI WILLIG

Program Will begin at 9:30 P.M.
In Weissberg Commons

This Motzei Shabbat will be dedicated to Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women events.

For the students - of Yeshiva University.

In Weissberg Commons

Program Will begin at 9:30 P.M.
Pizza and Refreshments will be served
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Sun: Alumni-Student Yom Iyun 11:00, Rav Tzvi Avin Rehberger 9:40, Rav Aharon Yehudah 8:40.
Mon: Tzom Gedalyah 7:40 PM.
Tue: Yom Iyun 9:40 PM.
Wed: Opening Shabbos 9:40 PM.
Thu: Opening Shabbos 9:40 PM.

**Rosh Hashanah** 1 Eilul 5760
**Yom Kippur** 2 Eilul 5760
**Sukkot** 9 Eilul 5760
**Sukkot** 17 Eilul 5760
**Sukkot** 25 Eilul 5760

**Pesach** 14 Nisan 5760
**Passover** 22 Nisan 5760

**Shavuos** 3 Tishrei 5760
**Shavuos** 11 Tishrei 5760

**Rosh Hashanah** 1 Eilul 5761
Say No to the War on Drugs

Yishai Fleisher

Drugs. Our esteemed President used them. The Vice President used them. Our leading Republican candidate for the position of Commander-in-Chief used them. We know of these politicians insufferable lying and dissembling, their pathetic attempts to sweep this issue under the rug and change the subject. We know Clinton claims to have never used drugs. We know Bush's ambiguous attempts at denial: "I was young and irresponsible." Yet we also know how tough these leaders have been on drug offenders. Bush is the Governor who instigated the harshest legislation in the nation for first time drug offenders, and for his part, Clinton has been the toughest president on drugs since Nancy Reagan roamed the halls of the White House with her "Just Say No" chants. Their hypocrisy, and the general hypocrisy of the baby-boomer generation concerning drug usage, is rampant. Constantly parade slogans saying drugs are only for losers while they, drug users themselves, occupy the top echelons of our government and society. Obviously drugs aren't only for losers.

So why do they do it? Why do those same people who use drugs then turn around and become the sternest enforcers of our country's muddled drug policy? Why do they insist that hand-to-hand struggle with the subject matter perpetuate the needless destruction of whole segments of society in the name of public morality? The answer, of course, they say, is the madness of Prohibition! The bootleggers and criminal gangs, the speakeasies and gangster parties... alcohol is a serious and dangerous drug. The majority of traffic fatalities and domestic abuse incidents today involve alcohol. But Prohibition did absolutely nothing in curtailing the social ills they were supposed to truly eradicate, rocketing crime rates, and was eventually and rightfully repealed. Today alcohol is legal, licensed and regulated, as it should be, and the taxes upon alcoholic beverages are generating billions of dollars for the government. On the other hand, over half of the 1.8 million inmates in our jails are non-violent drug offenders, hundreds of billions of dollars are wasted in waging this crazy war, and individual liberties are constantly violated. The war on drugs is the Prohibition of today, creating an entire criminal underclass of traffickers and dealers. But we have forsaken the lessons of history we have fallen prey to our government's lies and propaganda.

Drugs are not necessarily good for you or for society as a whole, but that does not give the government the right to criminalize them. Cigarettes kill your lungs. Alcohol kills your liver. Video games will rot your mind. Yet they are all legal. Should our government be allowed to make arbitrary distinctions on what is or is not morally permissible?

When speaking of drug legalization, a differentiation must be made between destructive killer drugs and those that are not. Cocaine, heroin, and similar substances are addictive, addictive, and immediately destructive. A valid case can be made to place these drugs outside the legal sphere. But other drugs, like marijuana, should be legalized, licensed, and taxed by our government. This would put traffickers and pushers out of business, it would make drugs safe for those who choose to use them, and it would keep regular folks who use drugs (like baby-boomers, presidents, and college kids) out of our jails.

The drug epidemic affects the Jewish community as well. More Jewish kids are being thrown out of their educational institutions using drugs today than ever before. That includes our very own YU high school, TSSTA. There is a serious drug problem among our youth that nobody seems to acknowledge. Yeshiva kids on Long Island with rich parents and warm loving homes know more about drug consumption than Timothy Leary's ghost. Yet we condone throwing these kids to the dogs, we call them drug addicts. If the lives of these kids is thrown out of a Jewish institution, almost none other will accept him. He goes to public school where he learns no Torah and probably gets a better education in drugs then he ever had in Yeshiva. Is that any way to deal with our own? Send them to public school, have a talk with them, put them on suspension, but just keep in mind that he's probably just a kid caught up in a bad circle. And experimenting (Clinton, Gore, Bush) with some pot.

The real culprit behind the drug epidemic is the lack of self-value that kids today experience. The utter dearth of spirituality and fulfillment in their lives drives them to paths of escapism. To them drugs are the only means by which they can free their personalities of dreary reality to truly experience the flow of drugs we need only address that which makes the drugs initially attractive to kids. Once youngsters realize that there lives do have meaning and that every second of that life should be celebrated, then this nation will see a dramatic decrease in the sale of drugs. Too many parents and educators must realize that the problem is not only the nature of drugs themselves, but that the lives of those who take drugs are empty and without meaning, while the lives of those who don't are filled with meaning and purpose.

The most disturbing aspect of this unfortunate situation is that those students who do wish to direct - and I know at least a handful - cannot come forward and voice their wishes for more opportunity out of fear of being banned from the Yeshiva College Dramatic Society subculture. This is certainly the only case that I know of where, rather than being open to suggestion, the administration in question has created an environment where maintaining the status quo is more than encouraged, it's enforced. College life should not be closed off from opportunity, and those in charge should be more open to improvements, and less daunting towards suggestion. "break a leg" is only a figure of speech.

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Form

Yeshiva College Student Council

Student Soap Box

STUDENTS NEED LESS DIRECTION, MORE OPPORTUNITY

"Break A Leg" is Only a Figure of Speech!

BY BENJAMIN J. MANTELL

As a senior here at YU, I have become very proud of our campus and our faculty. You see, someone once called the college a "factory of opportunity," and Yeshiva University has always been just that. In my experience, the administration and faculty have always been responsive, even begginng for ideas that create opportunity for the enrichment of the YU student experience. In the years that I have been here, however, not once has a student even had the opportunity to direct a drama. This is an unhappy situation for the many students who either have established talent in play direction, or wish to explore such talent. Arguments against this claim include the actual lack of talent. However the purpose of college plays (or any extracurricular event for that manner) is not necessarily to give us the opportunity to show off our already existing talents, but rather to teach and to give us a chance to explore our skills. For example, in the Athletic Department I know that students who are amateur or not particularly skilled in a particular sport are absolutely given the chance to participate in sports. If you go to the golf course, and was still encouraged to go out with the team.) Another claim is the lack of space, only one stage. True. So either we could rotate and build our sets quickly (this is done at many other, much larger universities); or allow students to direct the one play each semester that our Yeshiva College Student Council already puts money towards!

The most disturbing aspect of this unfortunate situation is that those students who do wish to direct - and I know at least a handful - cannot come forward and voice their wishes for more opportunity out of fear of being banned from the Yeshiva College Dramatic Society subculture. This is certainly the only case that I know of where, rather than being open to suggestion, the administration in question has created an environment where maintaining the status quo is more than encouraged, it’s enforced. College life should not be closed off from opportunity, and those in charge should be more open to improvements, and less daunting towards suggestion. "break a leg" is only a figure of speech.

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Peer Counseling

A Confidential Service Sponsored by Yeshiva College Student Council

* Peer Counseling is available to all undergraduate male students at Yeshiva University.
* Our office is located in Schottenstein Center, Third Floor, Room 314 (SC 314).
* Counseling is available Monday through Thursday from 5:30 P.M. - 1:00 A.M.
* Peer Counselors are available by beeper (800-800-7759). Inform the operator that you would like to leave a message for "Fred Kreizman" or "Norman Shafar." Leave the time you would like to meet at SC 314 and a phone number if you would like a counselor to call you.

---

Peer Counselors

Fred Kreizman
Norman Shafar
Shayla Stern
John Finkelstein
Marc Schnerer
Marty Weinheber

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Counseling is aimed to provide a safe place for students to discuss their concerns.
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David Jaskoll
Director

Naomi Kapp
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Office of Placement & Career Services
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Mid-718

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move that will enable those students who have developed a close relationship with Rabbi Cohen to actively choose to join his shiur. Rabbi Dr. Michael Hecht, current Dean of MTA, envisions that decision to be a result of the special relationships that Rabbi Cohen has advanced with many of his former talmidim from their high school days or for decades.

While the move to shift Rabbi Cohen’s focus might excite many talmidim in the college, it has drawn some criticism from a number of Rabbi Cohen’s former high school talmidim who feel that others will miss out on what one of them deemed “the experience of a lifetime.” Being in Rabbi Cohen’s high school shiur, according to one MTA alum and current YU student, was indeed unforgettable. He can light the desire to remain in his capacity as MTA’s dean, a position that Charlop reiterates led to his decision to be Rav Mendel of the High School. One of the highest points of the year was the opportunity I had to go into Rav Zaks’ office and talk with him for an hour. This program had a tremendous impact on the limud hatorah in the high school. In short, I want Rabbi Cohen to be the Rav Mendel of the High School.

At the same time, Dean Hecht does recognize that Rabbi Cohen’s distinct style has had an impact both on the high school students and for his relationship with a wide array of high school students. According to Hecht, Rabbi Cohen’s charisma and the hadar panim he’s created to maximize the strengths of his faculty. In this case, Hecht feels that this is exactly what is being done. Hecht claims the niche that Rabbi Cohen connects with best is the upper echelon of students, who will be the primary focus of the bochen program. Regardless of the distinct style, Hecht is confident that Rabbi Cohen “has the charisma and the hadar panim” to assume a difficult, but essential role.

Regardless of this new role, one thing seems clear to everyone involved in the change; perhaps the most valuable role that any one can play is in providing a presence that can be felt by those around him. According to Rabbi Charlop, “no other Rebbe or talmid can match Rabbi Cohen’s hasmoda in the Beis Medrash itself - both day and night. Just his being there serves a profound contribution that neither the high school or college administration can afford to threaten.”

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By COMMENTATOR STAFF

Tamir Goodman, the orthodox high school basketball phenomenon whose non-binding basketball scholarship offer from the University of Maryland drew national attention last spring, has transferred to Takoma Academy, a Seventh-Day Adventist private school in Takoma Park, MD for his senior year. The announcement was made by his father, Karl Goodman, on August 13th while Tamir studied in Israel. Heralded in the news media as “Jewish Jordan,” Tamir previously attended Torah Academy of Baltimore. His father proclaimed, “I don’t think he can play Division 3 and 4 high school basketball anymore.”

Taking this quote literally, the national media reported that Tamir was leaving the Torah Academy because he wished to “step up his level of competition.” This however, is far from the entire truth.

Sources inform The Commentator that Goodman left Torah Academy because the high school closed their basketball program. Faced with high publicity and exuberant media attention, the yeshiva confronted a conflict that existed both externally and internally. Problems of how to handle the evolving media circus arose and were difficult to resolve, effectively ending what became the Tamir Goodman Saga.

Tamir plans to move to the orthodox community of Silver Spring, Maryland. Once there, he hopes to establish close relationships with local Rabbonim to maintain some semblance of Torah in his everyday life.

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University Dean of Students

Chaim Nissel
Director, Housing & Psychological Services

Andrew Leibowitz
Coordinator of Student Services

Office of the University Dean of Students
Office of Student Services
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The Editors-in-Chief of The Commentator obtained complimentary Woodstock tickets and press passes from the producers of Woodstock 99; below, you'll find a detailed account of this incredible experience.

The Scene: Woodstock 99 took place at Griffiss Park, a 3,600-acre decommissioned air force base in Rome, New York. Two majestic stages graced the large grounds—the east and west—set half a mile apart, allowing for two bands to play simultaneously. The east stage usually featured the “more popular” artists. At the middle of the site rested an old airplane hanger that had been converted into an Emerging Artist stage where new bands could showcase their talents to thousands of willing listeners.


Day One:

The first day found us furiously searching through the crowded grounds for an open campsite, walking for over an hour toting heavy camping equipment while live distantly continued their performance and Sheryl Crow prepared to take the east stage.

After finally locating a site that satisfied us, we decided to find the car and move it to a more convenient location. It was on this suspect journey that we learned just how massive the air force grounds are. We hiked empty fields that sprouted with strange buildings, we jumped across streams of water, we walked on an endless runway, we trailed several fences to dead ends, we followed the Woodstock gate around its many and curious corners, we took a “short cut,” we strode through an irritatingly infinite garden of parked vehicles. All this and we couldn’t find our car.

After walking for what seemed like hours, we decided to continue the impossible search another time and hurriedly sprinted toward the main stage to catch the end of Offspring’s punk-infused performance. They seemed to have most of the crowd swaying to their juvenile but honest lyrics.

The east grounds held well over a hundred fifty thousand people listening attentively to the music and watching the glorious sun set above us in an intoxicating dance of light and color. The people flocking at the front of the stage remained so submerged in the collective experience, they didn’t seem to care which band currently played. At the end of the east grounds, people sat on sun-stained grass, mostly talking to their group of friends while the music of Clinton sounded off in the background.

The energy level considerably lifted when Bush took the east stage and lead singer Gavin Rossdale—whom so many had doubted he knew he was at Woodstock—burst though it wasn’t a bad idea either.

There are definitely rationalizations for all of this, yet they are also flawed; true, the fact that viewers know the end is somehow intoxicating a voyeuristic way, yet the simple response is that road accidents have the same attraction to everyday people, but does anyone want to watch a family’s boring road trip just for the interesting five minutes of how they get it? There are fifteen good minutes that will catch the interest of audience members, genuine spooky moments in fact, but the slice is hardly justifiable for the rest of the pie unless it was done right. Make no mistake, the film could have been superb even in its experienced format; the filmmakers simply stretched the material for all it’s worth, and could have injected more suspense—even the psychological kind with showing to have much. Redundant scenes could have been replaced with more refreshing material to develop the film.

Other complaints lie in this film. It’s a great idea to use a home video camera to make things hit the audience as cinema verite—the back-lash though is that the sheer amount of home video use—especially during scenes where the actors are running around and the camera is shaking off much more than normal. This leads to viewers getting motion sickness from watching a shaking screen. If the film still sounds interesting by all means, indulge, though if this share of the Blair Witch is enough, avoid contact.

**The Blair Witch Project**

There was some thought put into protecting the reality of the film, which is the key. Consider the fact that the last half of the film is devoted to scenes of the trio getting lost. It’s tiresome and irritating to watch three people complain about the same things for about an hour. Checking one’s watch is certainly more entertaining. Walking out isn’t a bad idea either.

Making a bad film about a bad film is no excuse for mistake, the film could have been superb even in its basic concept as well. A bold move, truly, though for certain people, it will lower their interest and expectations. Honestly, once a man gets a death sentence penalty, is it more exciting to know that he gets the chair or lethal injection? The next big mistake lies in the concept as well. The choice moments of this remaining film are honestly disappointing at times; watching a film showing people filming a bad film is not on anyone’s must see list, at least not anyone normal.

FILM REVIEWS

*FIRE!* it on page 11

BY AARON KLEIN

The Blair Witch Project

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Defending the Schmutz

BY MORDCHEI LEVOVITZ

The resplendent fanfare of flickering lights, colorful images and psychedelic virtual reality decorating New York Times Square mirrors the even more resplendent and audacious array of people hurrying along through its busy streets. What is more astounding than the sheer number of people circulating this relatively small area is the incredible variety of people. The wealthy business man, homeless woman, working class father of three, rich Jewish liberal, African American activist, and of course Japanese tourist, seem to exist here symbolically, creating one great media driven equilibrium. Thousands of years of social racial and sexual barriers are completely obliterated within four city blocks. This is modern culture. Big cities like, New York, LA, Paris, and London help to create and cultivate modern culture by facilitating so many different types of people living together in such close proximity. In a communit

The Counting Crows sixty minute set. I am a big fan of the performance was immediately interrupted by the Woodstock crowd. Everyone was so excited that Woodstock was about to end. It would only be minutes before the festival was over and we could return to our tents and wash our hands. The concerts started in the afternoon, with Tragically Hip and the Dave Matthews Band offering one of the best performances of the festival. The third day of Woodstock, which featured all kinds of acts, was also the last. We were surprised when the nameless host came on stage, added lines on the spot. This didn't work, however, and most of the crowd entertained themselves while theavan customary array of heartily accepted this reality. Pluralism is just the post civil rights movement manifestation of freedom. It is the logical offspring of a seventeenth century concept of liberty and a later twentieth century concept of individuality. The societal notion that no culture, idea, or desire is more inherently ethically than another has become in itself a moral imperative. However, in a social climate in which the constituents are extensively different, pluralism is an inevitable phenomenon if society wants to protect its underlying convictions for justice for the individual. The greatest threat to such a community is prejudice, hate, intolerance, and most of the crowd entertained themselves while the third day of Woodstock, which featured all kinds of acts, was also the last. We were surprised when the nameless host came on stage, added lines on the spot. This didn't work, however, and most of the crowd entertained themselves while theavan customary array of heartily accepted this reality. Pluralism is just the post civil rights movement manifestation of freedom. It is the logical offspring of a seventeenth century concept of liberty and a later twentieth century concept of individuality. The societal notion that no culture, idea, or desire is more inherently ethically than another has become in itself a moral imperative. However, in a social climate in which the constituents are extensively different, pluralism is an inevitable phenomenon if society wants to protect its underlying convictions for justice for the individual. The greatest threat to such a community is prejudice, hate, intolerance, and
almost every Right-wing Jewish fundamentalist. All you need to do is walk into any Yeshiva schmooze and you'll hear a very different story about modern culture.

Commonly, you will hear modern culture being called "the most morally corrupt culture the world has known." They claim that modern society is inherently perverse, and that the last traces of Divine nuisance are quickly becoming lost. In their eyes, modern culture is equatable to that of Sodom and Gomorra, or the generation of Noah. As a result, Jews are severed from God and all semblance of morality has been destroyed by God for being cultures imbued with sin and abomination.

Particularly in both the Yeshivish and Christian Right world, the inherent condition of this being the worst culture in history, has risen to the level of dogma.

To analyze this claim about modern culture is first to clarify what we should expect from a secular society and why. We need a basis from which to judge our actions and to determine what is the evil of harm. The right to free speech, the right to own property, the right not to be taken advantage of are all consensual rights that our society accepts. Religion aside, does our society respect the rights of others who resist the evil of harm but instead in each individual's inherent moral right to be free from the harm, the cultural norm of a society that society bestows its own moral status upon others.

We should expect even a secular society to give to each individual the right not to be taken advantage of physically, monetarily, or sexually by any other individual in that society. This is the bedrock for all of modern culture. Modern culture is the greatest and most moral gentile culture to grace the face of this earth.

The Rabbis' claim that this is the most morally corrupt culture in history, is intellectually insulting. Modern culture is the greatest and most moral gentile culture to grace the face of this earth.
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It's a safe bet to say that there will never again be a cinematic experience quite like Star Wars. Just think of the sheer amount of people who have drooled over this phenomenon and the generous phrases it has bestowed on pop-culture over the past thirty years (once the current trilogy ends). Sure there's Star Trek, but Star Wars has attracted all types of people with significantly less exposure or development. Can nine hours of a fan's life be determined by a film? Should it? Even more importantly, should our shameless craving for Star Wars be continued after the Phantom Menace? Is it really the best thing since ice cream? That, my young apprentice, you shall soon find out.

Okay, there are a certain batch of people who couldn't care less about what is in the mind of George Lucas, but some did question this man's abilities when he stepped back up to the plate. Sure, the ignorant people say, "It's Star Wars, so does it really matter?" But I don't know about you, I remember a young man who directed American Graffiti; he got nominated for a Best Director Oscar, like, eons before Star Wars, so be gone with you or I shall summon up the powers of the force and, like, become more powerful than you can imagine." And then there is also the crowd of "dark side" intellectuals who spouted things such as: "Empire was only good because Irving Kershner directed it; Lucas never had made that dark, and, Ewoks... I come on, Jedi sucked, just admit it." Unfortunately, The Phantom Menace will also be debated for a while. It's cool, but it's also uncouth - all in all, a very convoluted piece of work. The first thing anyone should realize is that aside from an occasional film from Steven Spielberg or James Cameron, there will NEVER be films quite like Star Wars made again. Lucas is only one of few directors that is actually interested in pushing the envelope (and spending lots of time in creating effects for the sake of story-enhancement), most directors don't spend their time thinking of imaginary aliens and are only interested in finishing a project, because most direct other people's scripts. There's a reason why Hollywood is the way it is today. What matters most is "Young and brilliant 20-somethings who want to direct their ultimate geek fantasy" simply because you don't often get films like Close Encounters, Terminator 2, or Star Wars, each written by its director. That said, the effects job done in this film is beyond discussion or argument. It sets a new benchmark in the realm of visual storytelling for decades on. The sheer amount of detail that Lucas layered The Phantom Menace with goes far beyond the effort and intelligence communicated by other directors in down-to-earth dramas. This, of course, going hand in hand with the mythologically framed world Lucas modeled after his mentor's work (Joseph Campbell's The Power of Myth), makes the trilogy far more accessible than it would have been as a mere visual spectacle.

This is where the Phantom Menace is somewhat lacking. Phantom lacks dramatic focus. Any fool who believes the sham win Best Picture is underserving of his high school diploma. We all remember those moments in the binary sunset in A New Hope, the opening in Empire for Luke to join the family — and whatever it was in Jedi that took your mind off the Ewoks. These were pieces of film making that justfied the trilogy as a work of art. Phantom has a scene where Anakin leaves his mother — can you say lack of emotion? What could have been a great scene was rushed and downright cold- forced.

Let's reexamine the beginning, shall we? The first ten minutes of the film, with those awful excuses for aliens, was poor film making. You'd think you were watching a made for cable B-movie. Phantom works as entertainment, but when you look closer, things don't work consistently. Anakin Skywalker, had a great role in the film; he was a young boy, who mature beyond his years, needed to reach into himself to feel the force. The first half of the movie proved that. The end of the film, where he has to stop the Invasi- on, suddenly has his character revert to some little squirt who saves the day by saying things like; "Whoa!" and who could forget the cliche, "I wonder what this button does?" Where was the closing of his eyes with the maturity that we were told he possessed? And then we get to Jar Jar. He must rank somewhere on the top ten list of "Worst Crimes in Cinema History." I don't know about you, but where I come from, you got the rest up if you ad- mit to liking him. This was an insult to the intelligence of the audience. Who was the target audience? There were love themes, character themes, all memory-less melodrama. They got too sentimental and backed up to the characters; they offered presence. If you wish to argue, try convincing 100 John Williams fans that the imperial March is pure dri- vel.

Now that a line of Star Wars fans are knocking at my door so that I can autograph their baseball bats with my liquid living essence, I shall state why this film could have been nominated for Best Picture. A change of heart? No. So why was this film a somewhat letdown? Because it was bad. Heaven's, no. It was great — it just could have been better. There were marks of true brill- iance, I, like many did, thought the Darth Vader theme was brilliant. You've got all the familiar faces - Yoda, C3PO, R2D2 and other such things that were inherent- ly cool. Phantom's pod race is just as classic as the Ben-Hur chariot race it paid homage to, the musical way to make characters accessible to the audi- ence. Character themes were the way to go. There were love themes, character themes, all memory-less melodrama. They got too sentimental and backed up to the characters; they offered presence. If you wish to argue, try convincing 100 John Williams fans that the imperial March is pure dri- vel.

There were love themes, character themes, all memory-less melodrama. They got too sentimental and backed up to the characters; they offered presence. If you wish to argue, try convincing 100 John Williams fans that the imperial March is pure dri- vel.
As we forcefully march into the twenty-first century, American society is becoming more and more reliant on computers and technology. The COMMENTATOR will now be running a Technology Column in every edition.

### High Speed Internet Access

Now that we're back from summer vacation, there is one question we will all be asking: "Why is this Internet connection so slow?" The answer, I believe, is simple. In comparison to the connection your summer internship (or computer camp for the lucky ones) boasted, the YU computer labs/libraries are painfully slow. And waiting for your 56 kbps (kilobits per second) modem in your dorm room to bring up a web page is out of the question.

Well, you're in luck. In the past, high-speed Internet connections were practically ruled out for residential customers. Each possibility was a dead end. The fastest option, a T-1 connection, boasted a whopping 1.5 mbps (megabits per second) speed, but costs upwards of $1000 a month. Next was ISDN, or Integrated Services Digital Network. Originally developed years before the Internet was born, ISDN became popular once again with the promise of providing the inexpensive net-access we all coveted. Well, it never happened. Although it was possible of achieving 128 kbps throughput (two channels) in a static solution (more about that later), high prices and limited service areas hindered its growth in the residential market.

Another recent underachiever was satellite-dish access. DirectPC had, and still has, a住宅 market. Another recent underachiever was satellite-dish access. DirectPC had, and still has, a residential market.

Well, it never happened. Although it was possible of achieving 128 kbps throughput (two channels) in a static solution (more about that later), high prices and limited service areas hindered its growth in the residential market.

Additionally, sharing access also means less security. Your neighborhood is like a small LAN (local area network), placing your computer at higher risk of attack (although I don't think the average home user has much to worry about.). Aside from its earlier introduction into the American market, Cable's success over DSL can also be attributed to its affordable pricing.

Depending on your desired speed and area, monthly charges can range from $30 - $55, which is great for people who are already paying $20 a month for 56k access. Additional costs include installation ($175 or free if you catch a promotion), a network interface card ($20 - $70), and a cable modem. Although I don't think the average home user has much to worry about (once again, this is a local area network), placing your computer at higher risk of attack (although I don't think the average home user has much to worry about.).

Next month we'll discuss DSL service, and what is means to us. Any questions or comments? Please email commie@ymail.yu.edu. Remember, if your question gets published you get a free subscription to The Commentator next month.

### ATTENTION STUDENTS!

**SIGN UP ONLINE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE GUIDE**

**THE YESHIVA & STERN COLLEGE STUDENT DIRECTORY**

**SURF TO:**

http://guide.yucs.org

and enter your information

**DON'T BE LEFT OUT!**

### US News & World Report Top 50 National Universities

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RESUMES are an employer's first impression of the student as job candidate, and as we know, first impressions can be quite important. A Career Planning & Placement Handbook is available in the OPCS and includes sample resumes, cover letters, and thank you letters. Students must complete adequate drafts of their individual resumes and cover letters before scheduling meetings with OPCS representatives. This permits us to focus our attention on the fine points of the cover letter, creating a better working product. It also permits us to reduce student's waiting time. It is our goal to be a representation of a student's academic, extracurricular, and work experience. Any detail that can be quantified quickly helps us to decide if there is a potential for us to place a student from company's hiring process, as well as that of the OPCS itself. Any misrepresentation would reflect negatively on both the student and the OPCS. In this regard, it is our goal to ensure that all students' factual history may safely allow us to place the student from the OPCS placement process.

General Planning
Formulating a game plan for your job/internship search involves an organized and concentrated effort to put a student's career opportunity comparable with their resumes. Sample cover letters are included in the handbook available in the OPCS. A cover letter is a student's opportunity to re-arrange upon the employer, and/or to add information not included in the resume due to space limitations. Meticulous care must be paid to the following: a) keeping the tone of the cover letter consistent with the resume; b) The ethical standards laid out in the previous section on resumes apply equally to cover letters. Any deviation from a student's factual history may disqualify a student from the OPCS placement process.

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was stymied by a number of factors. Last

needed replacement. Bell Atlantic laid new

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Some of the changes are expected to

Eli Gurock, the current men's Station

· as he quickly stuck his . head into

·ing · DJ audi tions next Tuesday and

As for the content of WYUR's programs, in

of the OPCS's own program if recruiting efforts

consider resumes submitted independently by

Generally, a job candidate should wait one and a half to two weeks for a response and then

as the university would have to register with

limits as to what can and cannot be said, broad­

the gym. According to the new Station

in the past all types of shows were given equal

According to the new Station

the services offered by the On-Campus and

appear to be uncoordinated. It is, therefore, very

the OPCS possesses an excellent placement record

way are usually doing so on an on­need basis and do not require regular cyclical hiring. Students may also submit resumes to companies listed in industry job indexes, newspaper help wanted sections, job websites, and through resumes distributed at job fairs.

A student should submit his/her approved resume and cover letter to a company/firm via mail or fax, and unless the latter is prohibited by

A relatively new interviewing technique

the OPCS provides preparatory mock inter­

Following an interview, it is imperative that a

Some companies use a mixture of both tra­

the interview questions a candidate should provide an answer with a detailed explanation of his/her con­

We look forward to seeing you!

WHY DO$ 800/WEEK EXTRA INCOME SOUND TO YOU?

A very small portion of college students have access to the services offered by the On-Campus or Resume Referral systems. Consider resumes submitted independently by students. In fact, the company/firm receiving an independent submission may think negatively of a YU student's cover letter.

The OPCS provides a preparatory mock interview before scheduled company/firm interviews take place. In a mock interview, a student will be asked questions of the type anticipated in an actual interview and given feedback regarding his/her strengths and suggested areas of improvement. Mock interviews will be conducted by the OPCS representative overseeing a student's discipline of study.

The OPCS possesses an excellent placement record and provides a wide variety of services and resources for students to use in preparing for interviews.

Closing

is the mission of the OPCS to assist every YU student with his/her individual job search from inception to successful completion. The OPCS possesses an excellent placement record and provides a wide variety of services and resources for students to use in preparing for interviews. Providing career advice and activating the campus network allows the OPCS to work closely with students to find career placement.

The OPCS is committed to assisting YU students with the successful attainment of exciting and fulfill­

websites, and through resumes distributed at job fairs. Some companies use a mixture of both tra­

On-Campus or Resume Referral systems seeking entry-level employees will not normally submit independent resumes. In fact, the company/firm receiving an independent submission may think negatively of a YU student's cover letter.

Generally, a job candidate should wait one and a half to two weeks for a response and then attempt to begin repairing the station, as he quickly stuck his head into the studio and sign up for a slot. Stop by, show us what you got," mustered Gurock, as he quickly stuck his head into The Commentator's office.

students in whom they are interested. It is therefore essential that students ensure that roommates and family members taking calls from potential employers be prepared to take notes on the opportunities offered by the On-Campus and Resume Referral systems of the OPCS.

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We look forward to seeing you!
Yeshiva College Dramatics Society

AUDITIONS!!!

TUESDAY NIGHT 9:00 P.M. SCHOTTENSTEIN THEATER
185th St. Right Before St. Nicholas Ave.

Yeshiva College Dramatics Society

Tech. Applications

TUESDAY NIGHT 9:00 P.M. SCHOTTENSTEIN THEATER
185th St. Right Before St. Nicholas Ave.

PRE-SELICHOT SHIURIM
Rav Meir Goldwright - 11:40 P.M.
Rav Yosef Blu - 12:15 A.M.
In the Main Beis Medrash Followed by Selichot
Orientation Shabbat ‘99 Don’t Miss It!

The Student Organization of Yeshiva
and the Yeshiva College Alumni Association
cordially invite the greater YU community
FOR

AMORNING OF LEARNING
IN PREPARATION FOR THE YAMIM NORA’IM

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1999

8:45 AM SHACHARIS, FOLLOWED BY COFFEE AND CAKE
Two Shiurim will be given:

10:00 AM Teshuvah Thoughts
BY Rav Yaakov Neuburger

11:00 AM Reflections on Selichos and Tekrias Shofar
BY Rav Aharon Kahn

THE MAIN BEIS MIDRASH
Yeshiva University • Main Building
2540 Amsterdam Avenue • New York, NY 10033
THURSDAY MAY 25 11 AM

THE THEATER
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

Commencement
2000

SENIORS, HAVE YOU FILED FOR GRADUATION?

IF NOT, PICK UP KIT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR ON YOUR CAMPUS
NEW BOOKSTORE TO OPEN ACROSS FROM BELFER HALL

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

Construction has officially been started for a new university bookstore to be located across from Belfer Hall. The large new store, Posman Books, which recently acquired ownership of the Collegiate Bookstore that currently exists at 185th and Amsterdam, is scheduled to open sometime during the fall semester. Although the property across from Belfer is owned by a private landlord, the University played an important role in locating the new store. Paid to do the empty space and brokered negotiations between the landlord and that company. Throughout the years, the building played host to several smaller stores including Yum Yum Shoppe Deli and a pizza shop. When the two stores left the Yeshiva campus, YU held several talks with the landlord to keep the area open so that a large store could ultimately move in.

The Department of Facilities Management searched for an appropriate store to occupy the vacated lot. Negotiations fell through with several major companies, including Mailboxes Etcetera, an international shipping company. After a year of talks, Posman Books, a small-chain bookstore that currently sells books to downtown Stern College and, agreed to open a store on our campus.

Thus far, the exterior has been removed, and a new storefront is currently being installed. The inside of the store will soon be demolished and completely remodeled. Old supplies from the current bookstore will be transferred to the new site, and many new books and other products will be brought in.

Some of the new products and services the bookstore will provide include a "trade book" section which will feature magazines, journals and books of interest to students and faculty. The store will also house a self-serve coffee station with snacks to allow students with free time to browse the books while sipping their beverage. Additionally, there will be an area for Imprinted YU items, a copy machine and a wider range of school supplies. Posman Books has pledged to specially order books that do not have in stock.

Maxene Posman, President and CEO of Posman Collegiate Bookstores commented, "We are pleased that Yeshiva, its students and faculty will soon have a bookstore equal in status to such a fine center of learning." Although the Manager and Assistant Manager of the store will be selected from professional personnel, Posman did mention the possibility of employing students to work in the store.

Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Facilities Management, said, "The University is pleased that negotiations between Posman and the landlord have reached completion. We anxiously await the opening of a store that will provide our students with high quality products and extensive services."

University Raises Caf Card $100 Per Semester

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

Yeshiva University's Department of Food Services recently started the raising the value of the "Caf Card" one hundred dollars beginning with the fall '99 semester. The raise from six hundred and fifty dollars to seven hundred and fifty dollars is the first increase in the card's starting value in almost a decade.

Many feel the increase serves as the Department of Food Services' temporary solution to a problem that arose last spring when swarms of students found themselves with insufficient funds on their debit cards with weeks remaining in the semester. The depletion of personal resources to pay for meals has been a constant problem for many students, however last spring was the first time the problem was widespread.

Faced with a dubious quality, marginal quantity and high pricing, outraged students demanded some form of change within the Food Services system. YCSC President Jonathan Miel, a champion for student issues, particularly the contentious Food Services debate, was instrumental in airing the student body's concerns. Miel commented, "YCSC hopes that despite the increase, the Department of Food Services will continue to work with us in our efforts to provide the students with the highest level of cafeteria service." In addition, most of the students had to cough up large funds late in the semester to replenish their card's value. With the new rate, students will begin each semester with an additional hundred dollars. As in the past, students will have to either spend thecaf dollars or forfeit any remaining money to Food Services at the end of the semester. With the new charge of seven hundred and fifty dollars, the "solution" for some students represents a great monetary loss.

However, new Food Services came to the increase is not clear, as about a dozen calls to Jake Leiberman, Director of Food Services, have not been returned. Nor is it known how that increase, seemingly the only tangible change made by Food Services for this academic year, addresses the various concerns of the student body.

As it stands, the increase will generate well over one hundred fifty thousand dollars in additional revenue every year. How the money will be spent is unclear and how this money will factor into solving the Department of Food Services' debt problem is also unclear, again due to the salient fact that The Commentator has not been able to establish contact with anyone in the department.

Nulman. Nulman, with Doctorate in Psychology, explained to the student councilors all pertinent legal issues, and advised them on how to best handle certain psychologically related situations. All cases that cannot be handled through normal channels can be referred to a health care professional at Beth Israel Center.

Kreizman commented, "Program is a friendly and confidential way to help individuals with personal problems. Students are encouraged to utilize these free services."

The program officially begins September 22, 1999. Peer Counselors are available by beeper at 1-800-770-7759. Students in need of a friendly ear are asked to inform the paging operator that they would like to reach the acceptance for "Fred Kreizman" or "Norman Shafir.

Spruced Up University Campuses Welcome Back Students

BY PINCHAS SHAPIRO

Yeshiva's attempt to modernize its Uptown infrastructure has brought many welcome changes to the century old campus. One cannot trek without being confronted by one of the many construction projects that have been undertaken since spring of last year.

The most glaring changes have taken place at The Max Stern Athletic Center. Firstly, the floor of the Fursten Gymnasium has been aesthetically updated to meet the needs of a "playoff contending Division Ill basketball team. The Gym floor was stripped and sanded in order that it could be later repainted in Yeshiva colors. The "paint" area under the main baske is now a bright royal blue, matching the Yeshiva crest in the middle of the floor. Mac's logos are on opposite ends of the floor, and end lines on the practice courts have been drawn. The floor was also given a new wax finish. The entire athletic center has received a new roof, and is currently awaiting a new speaker system.

The (Rubin) lounge it above the center has been recently renovated. The lounge is also equipped with new chairs, two new tables and bumpers pool tables.

Much needed changes have also been made to the Uptown dormitories, improving the aesthetics of the living quarters. The hallways of Rubin Hall have been re-carpeted, and the second and third floors receive new modernized closets and new floor tiling. The lobbies of Morgenstern Hall have received a new paint and design. Also in the Uptown Hall residences the floors are being refinished for a more comfortable environment. Elevation renewal in all Uptown campus buildings is almost complete.

Perhaps the most serious of the improve-