

The Commentator

YESHIVA COLLEGE

309

VOLUME I

MARCH 1st, 1935

Number 1.

COUNCIL FORMS DORM COMMITTEE

Petegorsky Hits S. O. Y. Leadership in Council

Gathered for the first Council meeting of the spring term, the Student Council, after a long and heated discussion, passed a resolution to form a committee to have jurisdiction over all dormitory affairs as far as student regulation is concerned.

The main difficulty around which the whole issue revolved was whether the Council should enrich on dormitory affairs which hitherto have been under the exclusive jurisdiction of the S.O.Y. When asked, after this as to the reason for such an unprecedented step in council administration, Davis Petegorsky, '35, President of the Student Council, and staunch proponent of the measure, declared: "We are establishing the committee in response to appeals from many students to bring about the same efficiency and thoroughness on dormitory problems as have characterized the work of the Student Council in the other activities it has taken part in this year."

Those who opposed the measure in the final vote, agreed that the S.O.Y. dormitory committee had not been at all as active and as cooperative in the past, as it could have been. Still they insisted that it was strictly a matter of the S.O.Y., and that the Council was setting a bad precedent in taking the functions of the other organization which until now had been recognized as the sole authority in dormitory affairs. The opposing members maintained that all complaints should have been addressed to the S.O.Y. which could have brought

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YESHIVA TO HAVE SEMITICS DEPARTMENT

Definite plans toward the establishment of a department of Semitic Languages in Yeshiva College have been announced this week. Courses in the various Semitic languages will be given by outstanding scholars in the Fall Term of 1935, it was revealed.

Although the faculty of the Semitic Languages Department is not as yet definite, it is expected that among its members there will be a number of Yeshiva alumni.

According to present anticipations, Dr. P. Churgin, Dean of the Teachers' Institute, will teach Syriac. Arabic will be taught by Dr. Schwartz, of Long Island University, and it is expected that the well-known Professor Zeitlin, of Dropsie College, will teach the history of these languages. In addition to these subjects, a course on Talmudic literature will be offered, to be taught by Dr. Belkan.

In connection with these new studies a course in Greek will be started, and will be under the direction of Dr. Spiro.

Dr. Schwartz, Dr. Belkan and Dr. Spiro are graduates of the Yeshiva.

UNIVERSITY CLUB HEARS Dr. POOL

The Jewish University Club, formed under the auspices of the Women's Branch of the Union of Orthodox Congregations of America, held its third meeting on Monday night, February 25, at the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, 100 Central Park West.

The guest speaker of the evening was Rabbi David de Sola Pool who presented an interesting and pertinent lecture on "The Relationship Between Judaism and Fascism." Pointing out that Judaism and Fascism are incompatible because of the steady trend of Jewish thought and customs against it. Rabbi Pool also emphasized that Fascism and also Communism, which, he contends, is nothing but another manifestation of the same spirit, have nothing in their ideology to offer the Jew. He further stressed that the former is continually striving to deprive the Jew of his political rights

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ALUMNI DRAW SEASON PLANS

Theatre Party March 7th

At the third meeting of the Alumni of Yeshiva College held in the reception room of the College dormitory on Sunday afternoon, February 24, final plans were drawn up for an Alumni Theatre Party. Opinions were also heard as to the proposed dinner dance to be given on commencement eve, by the Alumni. Assuming the gavel of President in the absence of Lewis Engleberg, president of Alumni '32 and Rabbi Mendel Lewittes '32, vice president, Israel Freedman '33, called on Alumnus Sid Green '34, who gave a report on the activities of the Theatre Committee, and announced that "Awake and Sing," had been chosen as the best play for the affair.

"Monroe Doctrine" Urged by Friedman, Head of Students Organization of Yeshiva

The resolution adopted by the College Student Council announcing the formation of a new dormitory committee to function exclusively as a college activity brought a cry of "Hands off our affairs" from Israel E. Friedman, '33, president of the Students Organization of the Yeshiva.

With no attempt to cover his indignation at this new move of the College Council, Israel Friedman plainly expressed himself. "This intrusion in our internal affairs is not welcome. We are quite able to cope with all dormitory problems through our own administration and need no outside interference."

When the reasons for the formation of the College Council Committee were pointed out to him, and especially the claim that the standing committee had been inattentive to student needs, and

YESHIVA COLLEGE OFFER COURSE IN TEACHING GENERAL METHODS OF HEBREW

JOINT EXERCISES FOR YESHIVA AND BETH MEDRASH

A long-established custom of the Yeshiva will be resumed for the first time in a number of years when the joint ordination and commencement of Rabbinical and Teacher's Institute graduates is held at the Auditorium on March 26.

The occasion commands special interest at the present time in view of the fact that a joint commencement of the sort has not been held since 1930. Candidates for the rabbinate have not been publicly ordained since that time, and commencement exercises have not taken place for two years.

Outstanding personalities in New York Jewry have been invited to participate in the event, and it is expected that the auditorium will be well filled.

The ceremonies will be conducted by President Bernard Revel, who will bestow licenses on the graduates. Following the exercises, a dinner is to be held in honor of the graduates. The ordination dinner will take place in the Yeshiva Building, and will be attended by representatives from all metropolitan congregations.

STUDENT BANK STARTED

Continuing the efforts to foster a fuller student life in Yeshiva College, the Student Council has added to its ever increasing list of student's facilities a students' depository. Established for the purpose of fulfilling the regular functions of a students' bank, as safeguarding of student funds and cashing of checks, the depository bids fair to fill a long-felt need of the student body.

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New Course Will Train High School Teachers at Request of Board of Education

Following a recent ruling of the Board of Education of New York City prescribing Hebrew as a regular language in all secondary schools, Yeshiva College has announced that it will offer a new course this term, to be called General Methods of Teaching Hebrew in Secondary Schools.

The course is to be given at the request of the Board of Education which feels that it has neither the experience nor the facilities for such a course. It is for this reason, according to reliable sources, that the leading theological seminaries of the city have been chosen to blaze the new educational trail, which eventually will be taken over by the city.

Course Prerequisite

All candidates for licenses as Hebrew teachers in New York City secondary schools must have this new course as a prerequisite, in addition to the other required subjects.

Since the first examinations for licenses as Hebrew teachers will be given this coming March, those candidates taking the new course will not be exempted. In the future, however, no applicants will be considered for a license unless this course has already been taken.

Latest information from the administration indicates that the course will extend over the term and will consist of one lecture a week on every Sunday from 4:00 P. M. until 6:00 P. M., unless there is a change in the schedule. Efforts by the administration are being made to secure Mr. Samuel Rachowitz, head of the French and Hebrew departments of Abraham Lincoln High School, to present the course. All will depend, however, on the registration.

Already over thirty applications have been received for registration in the course, and a much larger group is expected to join before the course officially opens.

If registration continues at the present rate which has been quite surprising for such a specialized field, the opening class will contain well over fifty prospective Hebrew teachers.

Center To Be Used

Although it had originally been understood that the course would take place in the Yeshiva College Building, latest plans indicate that the facilities of the Jewish Center of 86th Street will be used, since the Center is more centrally located, and is much more easily accessible to students from all parts of the city.

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The Commentator

Official Undergraduate Newspaper of
YESHIVA COLLEGE

Published twice monthly throughout the College year at Yeshiva College
Washington Heights, New York City

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The Executive Committee of Student Council assumes full responsibility for all statements contained in the editorial columns of this newspaper.
Published at the Yorkville Printery, 206 East 85th Street, New York City.

EDITORIALS

Let No Quibbling Daunt Us

It is a matter of considerable surprise to us that the participation of orthodox Jewry in commemorating the eight hundredth anniversary of the birth of one of the most illustrious Jews in history is being denounced in certain well-known orthodox circles and Rabbinic journals. Exclusive celebration of the Maimonides festival by non-Orthodox groups will most certainly result in the presentation to the world of a distorted view of Maimonides. In the participation of our own orthodox groups in the celebration we had hoped to see a powerful force working for a proper appreciation and interpretation of one of the profoundest Talmudists and philosophers Judaism has ever known. It would afford as well, we believe, an excellent opportunity for an integration of our understanding of one who synthesized within his own personality all phases of Jewish life. We therefore hailed the announcement by Yeshiva College some time ago of the very fine series of lectures on every aspect of Maimonides by the most eminent Orthodox authorities, that it had scheduled for the Spring Term.

The bickerings of certain groups, however, have thrown a monkey-wrench into the works. They would have us continue our policy of "splendid isolation," sit back with folded hands while those furthest from the spirit of Maimonides commemorate his anniversary and leave interpretation and discussion of his doctrines to those who are least capable of appreciating their true Jewish meaning and value.

We must not allow ourselves to be daunted by such criticism. We sincerely hope that the petty quibbling to which these groups have stooped will not deter the authorities of Yeshiva College from carrying out their praiseworthy plans for a fitting celebration of Maimonides' anniversary and a true Orthodox appreciation of his genius.

How Long Will Orthodoxy Slumber?

Of the many paradoxes that exist in Jewish life today, the strangest and most disheartening is the fact that the group within the Zionist Organization that most violently opposes the introduction into Palestine of any semblance of traditional Jewish life should enlist among its supporters so many of the religious leaders of this country. The announcement of the Rabbinical Assembly of the Jewish Theological Seminary that it had voted at its last conference a resolution heartily endorsing the work of the Histadruth follows closely upon the decision of the Central Conference of American Rabbis to actively support the most anti-religious faction in the Holy Land.

However, it is not the inconsistency of the professional Histadruth agitators in this country that concerns us as much as does the statement in the press of the Rabbinical Assembly in apologizing for its stand. Among other things, the Assembly declares:

"That we are emphatically opposed to the introduction of any form of anti-religious teaching into Palestinian schools, we nevertheless know it to be a fact that the Histadruth and its affiliated organizations have always respected and been sympathetic to traditional Judaism."

It is totally incomprehensible to us how any body of responsible religious leaders, while voicing its desires to see Palestine develop along traditionally Jewish lines, can, in the same breath, give its approval to the faction, which beyond any shadow of a doubt, has been mainly responsible for the establishment of the present anti-religious tendencies prevailing in Palestine.

What concerns us most, however, is the fact that we Orthodox Jews continue to slumber, blissfully unaware of the threatening danger. It is a fact that there are in Palestine today organized groups which, while insisting on the establishment of an enlightened social order on

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL BOX

To the Editor of The Commentator.
Dear Sir:-

It is a source of gratification to me to know that the student body sees the need of a medium for expressing and reflecting the thought and spirit of the students through a school publication. I trust that The Commentator will serve as a link between the students and the faculty. I hope that the paper will live up to the high standards of achievement of all the other activities entered into by our student body.

May all its aims, efforts and results be crowned with success, and may it become a lasting and increasingly useful organ of expression of Yeshiva College spirit.

(Shelley R. Safir)

To the Editor of The Commentator.
Dear Sir:

On Thursday Evening, March 7, 1935, the Alumni Association of Yeshiva College is sponsoring a theatre party at the Morosco Theatre. The play is, "Awake and Sing," the action of which revolves about the complexities and comedies of the life of a Jewish family in the Bronx. Since the proceeds from the sale of tickets will be devoted to a specific department in the college, I will deem it incumbent upon the student body to support the Alumni in this enterprise. There are a number of tickets left at, \$1.10, and because of the shortness of time, they must be disposed of within the next two days. May I call upon the students, through your paper, to purchase tickets, as soon as possible from Mr. Petegorsky of the Senior Class, or from any member of the Alumni Association.

Respectfully yours,
Israel Uppin,

Chairman of Theatre Committee

To the Editor of The Commentator.
Dear Sir:

In our days of the beginnings of Yeshiva College we, too, had fond hopes of making ours a true College, with a fine variety of extra-curricular activities, clubs and societies to relieve the monotony of mere academic existence. Yet these dreams remained but pious wishes; we were too busy being "pioneers" in a great educational endeavor. We left to you the task of going "collegiate" in real style. And you have done well! What a glorious melange of humming activities greets my eye as I pass your "Bulletin Board." Congratulations! Especially for this your latest undertaking, "The Commentator," do you deserve commendation.

Alumnus '32

which our friends in the Reform and Conservative Camps place so much emphasis, draw their inspiration from and remain steadfast to the principles of Orthodox Judaism. Despite this, not one of the many Orthodox Rabbinical Organizations has raised its voice in their support. It is time that we realized that not through protest and clamor but only by an active and militant support of the existing creative orthodox forces in Palestine can the land be rebuilt in the spirit of traditional Judaism.

WE SEEM TO SEE

Sketches of Yeshiva Life

By ASHER BLOCH

From the ancient days of Cain, the first fugitive and vagabond, to our own contemporary Hauptmann affair, man-hunting has always served to arouse a high-pitched dramatic interest. The very mention of the word is ample stimulation to send the blood coursing through one's veins in adventurous excitement. But all these are child's play to a more breath-taking search which looms daily on the horizon of the Yeshiva precinct.

At 9:05 promptly (sometimes 20 or 30 minutes later) every morning (except Saturdays, Jewish and other holidays, and some week-ends) a rumor leaks out of the office to the effect that the mail has just mysteriously disappeared and is probably roaming at large on Yeshiva grounds. By verbal relay the dispatch is speedily circulated to various strategic points in the building, and soon a small force of Yeshiva minutemen or militia (consisting of veteran mail-seekers) are on their way, in the spirit of '76, in search of mail. Thus begins the daily "mail hunt" which continues in different parts of the building until sundown.

Yeshiva Police and Defectives

Our camera has recorded the following typical morning scene:

A struts into the Beth HaMedrash at 9:15 in high spirits and parks on a bench. He sways to and fro over his gemorah for several seconds, then, with a sudden jerk, halts and exclaims: "the mail."

He turns and grasps B by the lapel. "Who has it?"

B believes he heard C say that X expected to get it.

A races into the Schul, only to discover that it was a false alarm. Undaunted, he resumes the hunt. Within 10 minutes, another clue! D reports that Y was last seen a few minutes ago on the fourth floor, heading east, distributing papers which answer the description of ordinary mail. A pursues towards the dormitory division, but returns no more that morning. Explanations unavailable . . .

Of course, there are occasional instances when a letter is delivered on time. These are historical events of Yeshiva-wide importance. Ordinarily, when a letter or post-card is captured, after a strenuous search, its mutilated condition is striking evidence of its varied experiences. The stamp quite frequently has been removed by unknown persons addicted to philately, at times along with a goodly portion of the envelope and its contents.

Real Male-Men

However, the most interesting phase of this most unique mail system is yet to be told, and that is the amazingly rapid succession of postmasters. Practically every week sees a new one in the saddle—in command of the "Phoney express." The least remote analogy would be the turnover of Mexican Presidents or a chapter out of Kings: And another king arose, reigned for seven days and was dethroned. And then another and still another . . .

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Yelps Mere Music, Students Find

Dormitory students were startled the other evening by a succession of unearthly howls, groans and yelps, faintly reminiscent of stegosauri in agony. The consensus of opinion seems to have been that, from trumpets and fiddles, the boys had taken to harboring such pets as colic-stricken calves.

Investigation, however, proved otherwise. As the disorder seemed to center about the second floor social hall, several of the more adventurous souls directed their attention thither. The disturbance proved to be nothing but several fine specimens of pure oriental music which Dr. Damon was demonstrating in his course in music appreciation. It appears that oriental music is not one of the more highly valued forms of social entertainment in Yeshiva College.

WE SEEM TO SEE

(Continued from page 2)

Once a master displayed remarkable courage and audacity in maintaining his post for more than the usual tenure of office. Before long it was whispered about that Yeshiva would soon be the stage for a brutal lynching (or "Mash-kanteh," in milder termology)—and the postmaster peacefully resigned. Owing to this precarious notoriety, the installation of a new postmaster is usually shrouded in mysterious uncertainty. These officials, too, are highly inefficient and egotistic. Therefore, whenever one expects a decisive letter from his lady-friend, he deems it most advisable to become a mail-carrier for that week, or else . . .

It has been suggested that the girls in the office be employed, for they boast of easily and effectively handling "Yeshiva Male."

COUNCIL FORMS DORM COMMITTEE

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about all the necessary changes. In response to this point of view, Petegorsky showed the improbability that any remedial measures would emanate from the S.O.Y. Council, and heatedly remarked: "The deplorable inefficiency of the S.O.Y. in dealing with the many problems of the dormitory has made it clear that if we are to hope for any improvement in dormitory conditions, we cannot expect the S.O.Y., under whose jurisdiction this committee has been all these years, to effect any of these changes."

When closely questioned in Council as to the possibility of a conflict between the two committees and what the policy of the new Council Dormitory Staff would be, the president emphasized that he wholeheartedly invited co-operation or assistance of the S.O.Y. in improving the present conditions prevailing in the dormitory, "However," he added, "in view of the past record of the S.O.Y. I am extremely skeptical as to the possibility of any aid from this source."

In urging the passage of this motion, it was pointed out that the Council Committee would be invested with jurisdiction from the administration and that all infractions would be referred to the office, as contrasted to the previous committee, whose sole resources as far as compulsion was concerned consisted in the whip of prolific persuasion.

UNIVERSITY CLUB HEARS Dr. D. S. POOL

(Continued from Page 1)

by the abolition of all constitutions while the latter, as represented by the Russian System, ultimately means the starvation of the Jewish soul. The duty of the Jew today, Rabbi Pool emphasized, is to awaken America and every land where he yet has the opportunity of free speech, to the menace of Fascism and all its implications.

An informal session of the club followed, during which Mortimor Propp, president of the organization, heard suggestions for a proposed Purim gathering.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Wednesday, March 6th
7:30 P.M. Fortnightly meeting of Ibn Ezra Math Club.
- Saturday, March 9th
8:30 P.M. Mizrahi Social
- Sunday, March 10th
8:30 P.M. College Council Meeting
- Tuesday, March 12th
9:00 P.M. International Relations Club—Address: Miss A. Hubbard
- Saturday, March 16th
Basketball—Y. C. vs. Drake College
- Sunday, March 17th
8:30 P.M. Dramatic Society
- Thursday, March 21st
8:30 P.M. Debate—Y.C. vs. N.Y.U.

HEBREW TEACHERS' COURSE WILL OPEN

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The presentation of a course in General Methods of teaching Hebrew in the Secondary Schools represents the successful culmination of a struggle of many years' duration by leading religious and militant Hebraist forces to establish Hebrew as a fully accredited language in New York City public high schools.

A few years ago, trial courses were instituted in high schools situated in strategic sections of the city. The success of this venture and the marked attendance these courses in Elementary Hebrew received were a prime factor in determining the new policy of the Board of Education.

A new compound has been discovered by the Soph. chem. class. T12 SO4 is a very deadly acid at that. It gets under one's skin.

Student Bank Launched

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The depository, which is under the supervision of Mr. J. Matz, is open for deposits and withdrawals on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:30 to 1:30. The minimum for withdrawals is three dollars. Withdrawals of less than five dollars must be preceded by two hours notice; for all other withdrawals, twenty-four hour notice must be given.

Student Bank Books can be secured at the College Cooperative Store. Deposit and Withdrawal slips may be obtained from Mr. Matz in the General Business Office.

Students of the Academy, Yeshiva and Teachers Institute are invited to join college students in the use of this newly established facility of the Yeshiva College Student Council.

YESHIVA STUCK BY NEEDLE-MEN

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The turning point of the game came when the visitors beating us to it, sunk the ball through the loop before we could start our run of points. On the "Hole" the boys showed a lot of fight, but they must have been sewing their wild oats, because the only one who wasn't worn out at the end of the game was the time keeper—. The game ended with a final score of 17-21, favoring the outsiders. Sew what? ? (Darn these pins) (puns).

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