Rabbi A. Seigel Contends Mixed Marriages Serve As Compromise For Both Extremes

By David Gleicher

One of American Jewry’s greatest problems is that of intermarriage. Rabbis and lay leaders of all three branches of Judaism cry out daily about the dangers and many solutions to the growing problem are offered. However, not all rabbis feel the same about mixed marriages. Rabbi Arthur Seigel, rabbi of Riverdale Temple (Reform) contends that in some cases mixed marriages are as good as, if not better than, regular Jewish marriages.

Rabbi Seigel’s background is as interesting as different as his views. Originally from Milwaukee, Rabbi Seigel came to YU in 1957 often becoming friendly with a local Orthodox rabbi. He left after one year: “Not coming from an Orthodox background I had many religious questions. No one there answered them to my satisfaction. I got responses like ‘Have faith,’ ‘Think more,’ etc., but no serious answers that I could accept.” After his graduation from University of Wisconsin, Rabbi Seigel went to the Union College where he was ordained. For the past 35 years, he has been with Riverdale Temple.

Rabbi Seigel performs in interesting situations. The non-Jew must accept his wife and live within the Jewish community, and the children must be raised as Jews. He told of a Gentile mother-in-law in which the mother was a Gentile. ‘In those cases, how could the children be considered Jewish?’

Seigel: “According to Orthodox halacha, the children aren’t Jewish. However, the Reform movement recognizes children who are raised as Jews to be as Jewish as children who were born into the religion. I realize that Orthodoxy won’t recognize children of such intermarriages as Jewish, but then again, Orthodox doesn’t recognize many other Reform practices.”

Rabbi Seigel says that he is not pro-intermarriage: “Lechatchila, mixed marriages are bad, but if N’Harav, if it happens, we must make the best out of the situation.”

It seems that intermarriages occur because of romantic love and not because the Jews want to turn their back on the community Judaism. Therefore, Seigel feels that mixed couples, including the non-Jewish partner, shouldn’t be barred from the community. He (the non-Jew) may even join the temple (and there are such non-Jewish members in Riverdale Temple).

Although a solution, some rabbis seem to have an anomaly.

(Continued on Page 3

Dr. Greenberg Advances Radical Thesis in Explaining Significance of Holocaust

By Avi Bitton

Thirty years ago a handful of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto rose in armed rebellion against their Nazi oppressors. In memory of that heroic stand and in memory of the six million Jews murdered by the Nazi regime, the Yeshiva community established the twenty seventh of Nissan as Yom Hashoah. The commemoration service at Yeshiva was highlighted by an address by Rabbi Irving Greenberg, chairman of the Rabbinic Studies Department of City College and past member of the YU faculty.

During his stay at Yeshiva Rabbi Greenberg taught courses related to the Holocaust.

After Auschwitz

“God and Man after Auschwitz” was Rabbi Greenberg’s topic as he proceeded by showing how the Holocaust changed what it means to be a Jew. Among the several explanations he gave, the rabbi especially emphasized the Jews’ need to recreate the Tzelem Elokim that he defaced and attempted to destroy—and thereby reaffirm God’s glory. The overwhelming act of creation and divine life is the greatest affirmation of emanam Hashem.

Re-directing Thought

Another important lesson of the Holocaust is that Jews must establish new methods of making judgments, new criteria and priorities. "Judgments must be made for Jewish survival-this must be our overriding criterion when judging anything." The oft-repeated question—is it good for the Jews?—must play a dominant role in directing Jewish thought and action.

The enormous importance of Jewish survival may force certain self-destructive actions on the part of the American Jewish people. Instead of following the example of other diaspora Jews, they must avoid the fifth column situation. The two major problems of the time are anti-Semitism and assimilation. We now have a unique opportunity to lift the burden of the Diaspora, for it ended the Jew's status as a 'chosen people' and led to the Diaspora. For the first time, the Jew is considered a member of the world community and is given equal status with non-Jews in the countries of his choice. The time has come for Jews to free themselves from the yoke of anti-Semitism and to assert their full rights as citizens of the nations in which they reside. If we fail to do so, we risk losing our identity as a nation and our place in the world community.

Rabbi Greenberg stressed the importance of education and the need for Jews to take an active role in their own affairs. He argued that Jews should not remain passive observers, but should take an active role in their own survival. He emphasized the importance of Judaism as a source of identity and as a way of life. He also stressed the importance of education in instilling these values in the younger generation.

"No revolution is complete without its education. The time has come for Jews to free themselves from the yoke of anti-Semitism and to assert their full rights as citizens of the nations in which they reside. If we fail to do so, we risk losing our identity as a nation and our place in the world community."

Mr. Dreyfus then left the cello to join the piano, performing his farewell recital, the semi-annual Yeshiva University's Brisker Recital Hall, in which he was the soloist. He was accompanied by Mr. Levin, a talented pianist, who is a YP student and has been at Yeshiva for six years.

Mr. Dreyfus, a YP student majoring in political science, previously attended the Julliard School in New York, whose parents are also musicians, plans to enter Columbia University's Ph.D. program in musicology. He hopes to teach music on the college level, coupled with the performance of chamber music.

Mr. Levin, a talented pianist, is a math major attending YU. After graduation this June, he plans to pursue his studies in math and also enter the Semicha program.

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SOY Haggadah

This past Passover, hundreds of students and their families participated in their sedorim with a newly-published Passover Haggadah before them. The Haggadah, prepared by the Student Organization of Yeshiva (SOY), was a meaningful, important, and inexpensive publication. Congratulations are extended to SOY and the Haggadah editors and contributors for a job well done. With a few minor corrections, improvements, however, the Haggadah will be even further improved by next Passover.

Solidarity March

THE COMMENTATOR expresses its appreciation to Dr. Irving Greenberg and to the organizing committee for their presentation of their annual observance of the Solidarity March. Dr. Greenberg called for a reorientation of traditional Jewish thought toward admission of past guilt, with hope for concernred action in the future, and his eloquent message must not be forgotten. In addition to recognizing a past sin, tishuvah is not complete until the sinner once again comes across a similar situation in which he abandons his sinful behavior and replaces it with virtuous actions. Recognizing our sin of silence in the past, we are clearly obligated to action in the future.

Sunday May 6 is Solidarity Day, and with steadily rising Administration pressures to abandon the Jackson Amendment, it is every Jew’s religious duty to march on behalf of the liberation of our brethren in the Soviet Union. The lessons of history should be all the argument that is necessary to mobilizing each and every Yeshiva College and Stern College student to be at 70 Street between Lexington and Park Avenues at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday.

Tenure, Continued

THE COMMENTATOR, realizing the importance of the precedent-setting meeting between the Department of Student Council students, wishes to commend the Dean on the forthrightness of the discussion. From the direct statements made by the Dean a criterion for tenure faculty was firmly established: That a “degree” instructor is rated higher than a “teacher” (in terms of furthering his academic standards by publishing) could not be answered by the Dean. In this light, THE COMMENTATOR supports the reported move on the Senate floor that the Senate exercise its recommending power in promotion and hiring of faculty.

The previous issue’s editorial concerning Dr. Shami made use of the term graduate student. This refers only to student-teachers who have not passed their orals, and not to the second-year students who are eligible for the MA degree — all but dissertation — and one step away from their doctorate.

Due to a printer’s error, the following was omitted from the last issue of THE COMMENTATOR:

Ted Ness, properly agile and dashing as El Gallo, with an inherently good voice, suffered a few minor intonation errors. All in all, though, Mr. Ness gave a strong performance, and with further Dramatics Society experience, he stands an excellent chance of further refining his innate talents for future presentations.

One is never tempted to call Marvin Stern a bad actor, but his portrayal of The Boy did lack sufficient active interpretation. Though I have found opinions to the contrary, I was of the opinion that he had a small cause to be proud of. Nevertheless, I found myself presented with a neutral character who managed to evoke only neutre comments. This is clearly a case in which errors of omission proved costly. But, again, in this assessment I remain a small minority.

On the question of a DISSOLUTION五金 CHAIR in SEPHARDIC STUDIES has been recently established at Yeshiva University. Announced at the University’s Sephardic Heritage Institute’s annual meeting on April 8, the chair will be the first of its kind in America. This innovation will allow for an as-yet-unknown prominent scholar to teach at the university. The position was created after several prominent honorary doctors on Dr. Rene Cassin of Paris, recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1968, and President of the Alliance Israélite Universelle; and industry professionals expressed interest in the chair. The chair will be incorporated into the University’s Sephardic Studies and Community Activitites program.

Letters To the Editor

Dierent View

To the Editor:

Although I did not actively participate in the Stern College Speech Arts Forum presentation of The Children’s Hour, I am extremely outraged by Mr. Lovinger’s review of the play.

I was genuinely surprised of praise for only several of the actresses but had it not been fully awake I could not have seen a few worthwhile things.

I realized the play was not perfect but I do not think that it was deserving of the derision it received. Nor can I agree with the incessant references Mr. Lovinger used in describing the YU play, but, I will not stoop to my level by enumerating several incidents which I found to be less than perfect.

What bothered me the most was Mr. Lovinger’s attempts to alarm our fears of his dislike for YU students because they are quite distasteful as their speech was undeniably marked.

I would like to conclude with a quote from the Gemora-Baba Metzia, “Don’t laint your neighbor with a fault that you may have.”

Francine Siegel ’73

Mr. Lovinger replies: There is a significant difference between what Mr. Siegel writes and what Pollack and Gytesman libraries will hold a moratorium May 15. Any overdue books can be returned without fine.
The Legend Of Yeldorado, Part II

By Lenny Davis

The following text was downloaded from THE COMMENTATOR morgue files. It is, apparently, incomplete regarding columns 1, 6, and 8 of the LEGEND OF YELDORADO, a long-lost and ancient scroll. Further portions of the text were last printed in THE COMMENTATOR in April, 1966. I feel the time is now ripe to print it in its last column. — L.D.

... and thus, the kingdom of Yeldorado is the offshoot of a legend of Amole, lived in peace and happiness for 30 years. But the skies began to darken. Barbarian invasions threatened to overrun the kingdom and steal its valuable treasures. The kingdom of Yeldorado, though, was very fortunate in that it had a good king, and he wisely decided to enclose his kingdom within a tall, strong fortress. The king drew up expert plans and blueprints. And the good king's council approved the plans and gave the good king their full support. The strong and beautiful fortress was built, and for many years the kingdom was safe, protected from the barbarians. The kingdom thrived, the people prospered, and the culture blossomed.

The good king, therefore, was very pleased to see the fortress in place. So pleased was he that he rewarded those who helped build it—his chief architects, military advisors, and supply officers—by knightling them and appointing them Guardians of the Fortress. So perfect was the fortress, the good king had a model of it placed in the kingdom's public square for all to admire. "My fortress is perfect, I am very proud of it," said the good king.

Perfect was the fortress, the good king's pride swelled. And the king knighted them and appointed them in several months to a year, or can be spread over

The fortress was veiled very jealously and ravenously. The darkened Barbarian invasions were preparing to attack! The kingdom's public square for all to admire. "My fortress is perfect, I am very proud of it," said the good king.

Yet it were realized this potential. One reason is that we Jews have been so preoccupied with the details of how to insure our preservation, that we have ignored the more important questions of who and what are Jews as well as what being Jewish entails... The People of the Book know precious little about their books and their children know less. As a result, the cry heard throughout Jewish America is where have all the young Jews gone?

"Bold Jewish Venture"

Posing the question is Mr. Dennis Prager, who, at twenty-four, is an established authority and leading speaker on contemporary Jewish issues. Though at present there are a significant number of organizations attempting to answer that very question, their scope is limited. The only exception, so far, from the National Conference of Synagogue Youth and Yeshiva University has issued a message on theジュニアス・スケール "Juniors' Hineni"; all stress in-... The People of the Book know precious little about their books and their children know less. As a result, the cry heard throughout Jewish America is..."Where have all the young Jews gone?"

The Tze Ulmad presently offers a speaker service, the introduction of which is green with gratitude committed to Judaism and to the issues which affect it. The Tze Ulmad wishes to share the wealth of knowledge gathered by the Institute's young scholars with the Jewish community-at-large, in order to provide inspiration for further accomplishments. These speak across the denominational line of Reform, Conservative and Orthodox Judaism from various sides of the Jewish spectrum. Yet all share at least one thing in common: a total commitment to Judaism.

Goals and Projects

The Tze Ulmad faculty, which at present stands at eleven, dedicates themselves to the following goals and projects:

1. Educate young American Jews with an independent and responsible source of information and enlightened discussion. In these times of Jewish crisis, whether in Moscow, Jerusalem, or New York, American Jewry must be adequately informed, prudent and imaginatively led.

2. Reaching out to hundreds of thousands of Jews who either ignored or very inadequately informed about Judaism and Jewish life, the Tze Ulmad seeks to provide its service to new schools, under-financed colleges, and other youth groups at little or no cost to the organizations.

3. Seeking out and encouraging future communal and cultural leaders who can number of capable young Jews on the contemporary Jewish scene.

4. Communicating with non-Jewish communities and fostering good will, which is indispensable in insuring Jewish security in America. The Tze Ulmad will also relate with the utmost caution where we Jews stand and differ.

Diversified Speakers

Tze Ulmad's speakers range from Society of Youth, who has worked for two years with VISTA in Pittsburgh, was six months in Anti-Defamation League, served for two years as the director of the A. U. Israeli and is at the present time chairman of the Youth Committee for Peace and Democracy in the Middle East and vice-chairman of the Young People Socialist League to twenty-nine-year-old Democratic Socialist Tom Milstein, regarded...

Perhaps this can be accomplished through greater Jewish education. However, since ignorance is a fertile breeding ground, it must be dealt with. I believe in my way of dealing with the problem as well as other rabbis believe in theirs.

While Rabbi Siegel came across as an incredibly insightful that what he is doing is beneficial to the community. The rabbis are working with his methods because of a larger issue involved. Although many Reform practices (divorce, conversion, etc.) are not recognized by halacha, performances of these in-... The People of the Book know precious little about their books and their children know less. As a result, the cry heard throughout Jewish America is..."Where have all the young Jews gone?"

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Practice Key To Yucon Troubles; Predict Future Winning Record

By Alan Silverstein

If one were to read the final issue of last year's COMMENTATOR, he would have been able to speculate on the Yucon's 1972-73 hockey season, which was an exciting and adventurous one. With the Yucon's talented seniors: co-captains Terry Schmeckler and Shimmie, they can only imagine that the high expectations for this year's team will be realized.

The Yucon's 3-3-1 record, their performances in the last two games were quite encouraging. Sporting a dismal 1-3-2 record, the Yucon's proceeded to dominate Brooklyn Poly Tech, showing their offensive capability of having an 11-0 record, with five of those wins coming on forfeits. Yet, though none are deserving of a "Rookie of the Year" award, there is good potential for the future. It is the same kind of potential last year's losing Ellemen had to become this year's winning squad.

The rookies have gained their year of experience at minimal cost to the team's record, and, for the most part, have three years of maturing ahead of them. Thus, the Yucon's can only tell the good king, "Sire, my fortress is no longer perfect, no longer in a measure of excitement. It was mainly due to Terry's unique style, or at least the way Terry filled the gym for almost every home match. With those four, the Ellemen attained that enigmatic blend of whatever it is that makes it a winner.

The secret to the Ellemen's continuing success lies in the ability of the returning veterans to fill in for graduating seniors and reproduce that winning combination. Manny Ruchelman, Noah Klein, and Nate "Tiger" Schmeckler are examples of leadership and winning important matches.

(Continued from Page 3)

The Legend Of Yeldorado, Part II

Acts of barbarian sabotage increased, Yeldorado treasures were stolen, and rumors spread through the kingdom very quickly. The citizens of Yeldorado recognized the grave danger and they realized the fortress' vulnerability to the barbarian weapons. The brave citizens did not panic, however. The citizens went to the fortress guardians and pleaded, "O great lords, protect us or give us arms. We will defend the kingdom of Yeldorado ourselves."

But the fortress guardians dare not act. They could only tell the good king, "Sure, your fortress is still perfect." And the good king looked at his model and was very proud.

The good king's council, likewise, knew not of the barbarian threat to Yeldorado and its treasures. They did not see the ivory towers the council members could not see the grave danger. The council members believed that the good king whenever he told them, "My fortress is perfect. I am very proud"...