RIETS Students May Face Eviction from Dorms

BY STEVEN MIOADOWNICK

With YU reveling in its high-
registrations level in decades,
and with racy expectations for
the year ahead, the Residence
Office is examining the possi-
bility of ejecting post-collegiate
kollel and snicha students from
the three Main Campus dorms,
and instead, housing them in
nearby apartments. The pros-
psect is receiving mixed reviews
from the approximately seven-
you-five students potentially af-
fected by the proposal.

While no concrete dorm fig-
ures are available yet under-
graduate dorm applications
are still being accepted and figures
from this year’s crop of Israel
students are still up in the air
Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz, Resi-
dents Hall Director, notes that
there has been an average in-
crease of twenty-five students
requesting dorm space per se-
mester over the past two years.
If the trend continues, massive
logistical problems could ensue
due to the dorms already
reaching their saturation point.
Rabbi Cheifetz promises, how-
ever, that “everyone will be ac-
 commodated” in the upcoming
 term.

RIETS students discovered
their tentative status when sev-
eral of them unsuccessfully at-\ttempted to obtain dorm appli-
cations from the Residence
Halls Office. They were instead
informed of the potential prob-
lem and instructed to wait until
the undergraduate application
process is completed. Mean-
while, Rabbi Cheifetz began
compiling a separate list of the
names, dorm rooms, and phone
numbers of RIETS students re-
questing dorm space. Dorm
 counselors who are RIETS stu-
dents will not be affected by
the space constrictions.

Only when the undergradu-
ate dorm numbers for 1995-6
are finalized, probably within
the next two weeks, will it be
determined if the evictions are
necessary. One residence offi-
cial speculated that if there will
be enough space left over for
some, a lottery will be held.

A Brandeis University junior,
Flatow had taken a six-
month leave of absence to study
at the Nishmat yeshiva in Jerus-
alem. She had attended the
Frish School and lived in West
Orange, New Jersey. Alisa Fla-
 tow’s background was identi-
cial to that of the typical YU
student; her death removed the
barrier separating the tumultu-
ous Israeli peace process from
the comfortable lives of Ameri-
can Jews, “It could have been
one of us.”

But as more information
trickled in from YU students
and faculty, the reality sunk in,
“Was she one of us.” Flatow
was traveling to the Gaza resort
with Chavie Levine, SCW ’94,
and Kesari Ruza, SCW ’93, who
both miraculously survived.

The first news of the attack
reached America through a
frantic telephone call placed by
Levine to her sister and broth-
er-in-law, a YU kollel member,
in Washington Heights. FLatow
roommates at Nishmat had brothers and boyfriends at

Death of Alisa Flatow Hits Home for YU Students

Controversial Ruling Permits Organ Donation

BY STEVEN MIOADOWNICK

The news of a Jewish trage-
dy like a terrorist attack in Isra-
el has always affected students
at Yeshiva College. But more
than any other tragedy that has
transpired in Israel over the past
two years, the murder of Alisa
Flatow on April 9 prompted an
unprecedented outpouring of
grief and solidarity.

Alisa Flatow, 20, was killed
right before Pesach when a car
filled with explosives rammed
into the Egged bus she was trav-
elling on from Ashkelon to Gush
Katif. Six Israeli soldiers also
died in the blast.

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Commentator Wins ADL Journalism Award

BY MOSHE I. KINDERLEHRER

On Tuesday, April 4, The
Commentator took third place in
the first-ever ADL Anti-Defa-
nation League) – Best Myerson
Campus Journalism Award. The
$500 prize was granted for the
1994 editorial entitled
“Looking Out From Where He
Sat.”

The award-winning editori-
al, which appeared in Volume
58, Issue 10, on March 10, 1994,

sharply condemned the atroci-
ities committed by Dr. Baruch
Goldstein, the YCMalum who
opened fire in the Me’arat
HaMachpela (Cave of the Patri-
archs) in Hebron, killing a num-
ber of Muslim shoppers.

The editorial placed third in the
editorial/opinion section of the
content, behind entries from the
Columbia and CUNY student
newspapers.

The Co-Editor-in-Chief of
last year’s Commentator, Rob-
cert Fagin, accepted the award
on behalf of the newspaper at a
ceremony held in the ADL’s
headquarters in Manhattan.

The entry was submitted by Fagin
and his Co-Editor, Sender Co-
hen, in June of last year. The
two former editors received a
check for $250 and the newspa-
per received the other $250 of
the $500 third place prize.

Plaques commemorating the
third place finish were also
continued on page 14

Yom Hazatzmaut and Yom
Hatzikaron, page 4

Robert Nozick Lectures at
Stern, page 8

A new proposal plans to close the 148th and Overlook subway
station between 12 midnight and 6 am every morning.
Just Think

As students exited their shiur rooms two weeks ago, many fervently echoed the opinions expressed by their Rebbeim regarding Hameveser's latest "controversial" issue. "Apikorus," "Arayos," and "censorship" were only some of the epithets reverberating through YU hallways. Frighteningly, many such vocal and opinionated individuals had not even read the article for themselves. By his own admission, SOY president Yitzchak Book had threatened to cut the paper's funding based merely on hearsay, without ever reading the controversial article.

The student reaction evoked by Hameveser helps illuminate a more prevalent danger permeating throughout the university: the students' propensity for forming ideas and opinions based on their observation of others. Too often, students avoid enrolling in classes or in taking talented professors for they are told by others that the professor is "tough" or "unfair." Too often, students shun YC-Stem social events because of the "double standard." I'm a little protective of their turf. From this Salanter "mafia" I learned the finer points of switchblades, zippers, and the art of intimidation. I never knew such Jewish kids existed who could fight their way out of a dead end alley against Shkutzim twice their size without losing a "kipa." When my admiration for the Salanter gang turned to emulation, Rabbi Bernstein publicly announced my name change to "Scrappy." To this day, my old classmates still remind me. The old Salanter street fighters now do battle in the operating rooms, the courtrooms and the classrooms. "Rocky Louie," as we fondly called him, should be very proud. Rabbi Barry J. Kanovich

The Double Standard

To the editor:

Recently, I needed a means of transportation to get downtown. I decided that since I did not want to take the subway, that I would acquire as to if I being an MTA student, was allowed to take the shuttle to Stern. After going to one of the security posts on campus I was informed that although I was an MTA student I was permitted to take the shuttle to Stern. After I had completed my classes for the day I went to catch the shuttle. Upon my boarding the shuttle I was asked to present my ID. The driver informed me that since I was an MTA student that I would have to get approval from my 'supervisor' in order to ride the shuttle. After getting over my anger, I thought about the problem that had just faced me, and I realized yet another example of the 'double standard'. I'm a little confused how come YC students are allotted the privilege to ride the vehicles that are provided for the MTA students for a nominal fee, whereas MTA students, on the other hand, are not even given the option to ride the University's vehicles. Maybe my logic is a little faulty but I really don't see the difference between the two cases.

Shalom Schwartz, MTA '96

Remembering Rabbi Bernstein

To the editor:

Your obituary of March 29th by Dov Simons brought forth fond memories of Rabbi Dr. Louis Bernstein. He was my first teacher of "Tanakh" when I entered "T.A." in 1955; he was animated, enthusiastic, demanding, and scholarly.

Two things stand out in my memory. In 1956, when the Suez War broke out, we spent many days crowded around Rabbi Bernstein's desk listening to his portable radio (smuggled in under the ever watchful eye of Dr. Norman Abrams) for every update from the battlefield. It was my first lesson in the price of "Zionism."

In my freshman year I met, for the first time in my life, youngsters from the Bronx. They were tough, street-wise and protective of their turf. From this Salanter "mafia" I learned the finer points of switchblades, zippers, and the art of intimidation. I never knew such Jewish kids existed who could fight their way out of a dead end alley against "Shkutzim" twice their size without losing a "kipa." When my admiration for the Salanter gang turned to emulation, Rabbi Bernstein publicly announced my name change to "Scrappy." To this day, my old classmates still remind me. The old Salanter street fighters now do battle in the operating rooms, the courtrooms and the classrooms. "Rocky Louie," as we fondly called him, should be very proud. Rabbi Barry J. Kanovich

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Shalom Schwartz, MTA '96
Hegel envisioned time as a progression whose unfolding we cannot understand after it has passed. He represented this theory with his now famous line, “The owl of Minerva spreads its wings with the coming of dusk.” It is the argument of Rabbi Weinberg (quotation abeove), and of Judaism in general, that time serves a much different function.

Several fascinating insights into time can be derived from the observance of the new month teaching that the Jews during the months bidding farewell to the paper. Memories all run together, bits of each flowing and fading into the next, combining to form one, jumbled array of images. Sadly, this incoherent and swiftly fading mass is what I will be taking with me after graduation.

For what its worth, as we take over the mantle of leadership of the Commentator, my co-editor Ari Hirt and I are quite aware of the tradition to which we are heir. The publication of this issue represents the beginning of the sixtieth volume of the Commentator, and it is also the first issue of the 1994-95 academic year. This is the time of year when newly elected student leaders begin to take their positions. The new C. President has a column in this issue, as does the outgoing president. Closer to our own hearts, the outgoing editors are both saluted in an editorial in this issue, and have also written columns bidding farewell to the paper. These past leaders and those of us who take over for them do our part to make students aware of the tradition in which they participate. Part of the mission of The Commentator this year will be to attempt, difficult though it might seem, to transcend Hegel’s limitations and embrace the message taught by Rabbi Weinberg, to see and to portray the history of this University as a spiral that is shaped by the students around whom it whirls. And it is at the same time to make those students proud of that tradition. It will be part of our mission to ensure that, at least here at YU, Hegel’s owl of minerva can spread its wings at the dawn of history rather than waiting until dusk has overtaken those of us who shape that history.

Executive Editor Emeritus

SIBNADY SINGER

I first stumbled across a copy of The Commentator on the floor of a friend’s room during my second year in Israel. Unaware of very much about this institution (including my eventual enrollment) and even less about its newspaper, neither the fancy Old English of the masthead nor the newspaper’s text impressed me. My attitude did not change much upon my arrival here. When I opened the pages of The Commentator as a student for the first time and noticed the title of “executive editor” on page three, I was shocked, and my YU newspaper could stoop to making fancy titles simply to give their friends high positions.

Needless to say, I think I owe some people an apology. However, I spent quite a bit of time apologizing to myself early on in my collegiate career here. After spending a shabbat at Columbia, I found myself rationalizing unsuccessfully why not to consider transferring. Many friends and fellow students related similar experiences after visiting other fine universities. I cannot speak for those friends and fellow students. But six semesters later, I have made the right choice in staying here. We hear it over and over again, but it bears repeating: YU affords us an opportunity unavailable anywhere else. No other university shares a campus and an identity with such a large and intense yeshiva. And notwithstanding the size of this institution, yeshiva and university claim to a university of this size or quality, with many faculty members coming straight from the yeshiva. Without doubt, there are better schools than YU. And probably even better yeshivot. But none with a better combination. Our academic and spiritual home is living proof of the old cliché, that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

The Commentator's masthead and its newspaper's text impressed me. But this newspaper did not need me before I arrived, and it certainly will not miss me when I have left. Far better and more qualified students have had and will hold my former positions. They will write far more eloquently than I have ever managed to scam my way into writing a semiregular column. Somewhere in all this, of course, I came to respect the name of The Commentator.

Positions are still available for The Commentator, Volume LX

All those who interested, please contact:
Owen Cyrulnik
795-1431
Ari Hirt
927-7947

Don’t miss Dorn Talks this Wednesday night in Rubin Shul! Speaker: Rabbi Norman Lamm

The Aharon Heller Library will be dedicated at this time.

Ivy on the walls or a colonial puritan on the campus for more than six years and I have watched as the practice of making fun of the facilities and a higher education here at YU has become more and more popular. Are there problems at Yeshiva College? Absolutely. And will the Commentator plaster those problems all over the front page of the newspaper? Probably. That is our job. But that should be irrelevant. Students should be cognizant of the opinion of others and that they are a part. They should take pride in the fact that they attend YU, and they should express that pride to each other and to the outside world as well. All too often, we succumb to the level of Hegel. We recognize history after it has already become history; we understand the importance of events only when it is too late to appreciate that importance.

As I and my classmates set about preparing for the “post-YU” world—the way we now refer to the hazy period after graduation—I cannot help but look back on several years of blunders, finals, chavrusas, basketball games, late nights, and papers. Memories all run together, bits of each flowing and fading into the next, combining to form one, jumbled array of images. Sadly, this incoherent and swiftly fading mass is what I will be taking with me after graduation.

Editor Emeritus

MOHIE I. KINDLERLEHRER

Yeshiva College... YU. This week’s talk. My major is nearly complete; my requirements long over; MFAF’s taken; and I should probably stop by the Placement Office. Life is finally coming together. My parents will immedi­ately express that my graduation tickets have arrived in the mail. Apparently, my formal college education is at an end. Hard to believe.

As and I my classmates set about preparing for the “post-YU” world—the way we now refer to the hazy period after graduation—I cannot help but look back on several years of blunders, finals, chavrusas, basketball games, late nights, and papers. Memories all run together, bits of each flowing and fading into the next, combining to form one, jumbled array of images. Sadly, this incoherent and swiftly fading mass is what I will be taking with me after graduation.

The Commentator

As early as my high school years in MTA, The Commentator drew me. Even back then, I knew I would be working for this newspaper. From the time I stepped onto the campus as a YC stu­dent, I was writing for it. Since then, it has been practically my only extracurricular activity. Along the way, The Commentator became the guiding force and focal point for my years here. As my roommates and friends will readily at­test, it has fundamentally shaped, if not dominated, my YU experience.

And mostly, it has been an invaluable out-of-classroom learning experience. I have learned a tremendous amount about how our university works; about those with whom we interact. I have learned about those who they work for— the students. As well, I have learned about myself, my abilities, my strengths, and my short­comings. It is not easy.

I will never forget the heartwarming feeling of satisfaction I derived from watching the entire campus holding, researching, and discussing The Commentator. This is the place where we had the power to shape public opinion. This is the newspaper that rocked the campus this year: the dean search process, the death of Abon Heller, the Cardozo controversy, to name a few. The Commentator is the voice of, a uniue opportu­nity unavailable anywhere else. No other university shares a campus and an identity with such a large and intense yeshiva. And notwithstanding the size of this institution, yeshiva and university claim to a university of this size or quality, with many faculty members coming straight from the yeshiva. Undoubt­edly, there are better schools than YU. And probably even better yeshivot. But none with a better combination. Our academic and spiritual home is living proof of the old cliché, that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. On a more personal level, YU present­ed me with the chance to contribute to the student newspaper far more than I might have at another university. After working on this newspaper, I return home and find it easier to understand my high school friends who so strongly imprints his mark here with his now famous line, “The owl of Minerva spreads its wings with the coming of dusk.” It is the argument of Rabbi Weinberg (quotation above), and of Judaism in general, that time serves a much different function.
Aryeh Gross, a JEC student, was in the gym where Aaron had played. "As Benji Reich, Aaron's close friend, introduced the teams, the play of the evening's occasion, the atmosphere pressed that "his friends came out for his friends all wore Boston Celtic-green jerseys emblazoned with the words "Aaron's game' and the number 33, which he described as something very important. Rabbi Malafsky was also pleased with the turnout and the atmosphere, which he described as something unique and personalized. YC student Yair Silverstein, a veteran of the Israel Defense Forces, told his personal story of those who served alongside him and were injured or killed. Pelta also arranged for translations of Hebrew poems and songs so that everyone would benefit from their meaning.

An extra special dimension to the program was YC Senior Danny Najman's powerful and moving rendition of Ballada Chovesh - the Ballad to the Army Medic, a portrayal of a wounded soldier and a medic who comes to his aid. As the battle intensifies, the wounded soldier calls out to the chovesh to leave and save himself, but the medic refuses and remains with him throughout the battle, sacrificing his life for the life of his brother by shielding him with his own body.

After the performance, Rav Goldwicht ushered in Israeli Independence Day with words of Torah. His main message was the importance of faith in Hashem; all troubles in Israel are a result of lack of faith. He quoted the passage from T'hillim 37:3, "Trust in Hashem and do good, dwell in the land and harbor faith."

Following the special ma'ariv for Yom Ha'atzmaut, Neshoma Orchestra struck up the band and there was an incredible surge of nauch. Many rebeim and professors attended the celebration, including Rav Romm, Rav Blau, Rav Schmeld- man, Rav Reichman, Rav Ollman, economics professor Dr. Kanovsky, Hebrew professor Dr. Schneider, and biology professor Dr. Danishevsky who let his lab out early in order for all to attend the event. There were, however, some faculty members who were noticeably absent, including some YU students and alumni who gave their services to the State of Israel, some of whom unfortunately died in the line of duty. Arie Pelta, President of the Israel Club which co-sponsored the ceremony, in honor of the men and women who died fighting in the defense of Israel, immediately preceded the celebration. YC Junior Itamar Lamm will speak on marriage, aliyah, and unhyrcultars.

In addition, three students have been accepted to Harvard Law School, up from last year's two, and several others remain on the waiting list. Furthermore, the number of YC/SSB graduates who have been and will be accepted to Columbia, NYU, and University of Chicago Law Schools is expected to exceed last year's totals of six, nine, and none, respectively, according to Dean Hecht.

Hecht further gave his assurance that he will be working through the summer to help all applicants get into the best possible school.
Hillel Cohen Elected SOY President

BY MENASHI SHAPIRO

At the end of a tight and exciting election, Hillel Cohen was elected as SOY president for the academic year 1995-96. This surprised some who felt that the blitzkrieg campaign of Scott Chudnoff would be hard to match; apparently, it was not enough as Cohen garnered the majority of the votes cast. Cohen also beat out Daniel Kahn, who ran a creative campaign that featured a proposed computerized shidduch service.

Rounding out the rest of the executive board are vice president Stephen Reingold, who ran unopposed, secretary Jeremy Kurz, and treasurer Chaim Haas.

Cohen's platform placed strong emphasis on improving the atmosphere of shabbat in YU and helping to restock the seforim. His campaign featured placards invoking the sayings of Haas.

On a more positive note, there have been some real improvements. "Our students are better prepared to absorb the sweeping breakthroughs in the sciences," said Dr. Karen Bacon, Dean of Stern College. "Our students must have access to the newest technologies and equipment, of critical importance." By the $500,000 remainder annuity trust endowed by Mrs. Rachel Sussman, the el Sussman Laboratory will be funded for the purpose of broadening our students' educational options. To this end, a new Writing minor was instituted, and a course specifically focusing on Israeli politics will be offered in the fall.

At least part of the registration process took on a humorous quality as YC's newest student, Moshe Talmd, whose name was filled in as an example on every registration booklet, has caused much evidence of his ability to lead. Playing with his name Chudnoff, he left his mark on the campaign with the popular slogan, "Unlike a feline, I'm a student," a mantra that was chanted, in frog-like manner, throughout the campus.

"It was a very well run campaign, and all candidates did a great job," proclaimed an ecstatic Cohen following the election. "I hope they will join the administration so we can all work together." However, was there a minor problem? "We had been avoided had Sussman been available for discussion." He had to deal with the situation in a very fair and consistent manner, and did not have a chance to speak to [Sussman] until the day before the election, he had to choose only one candidate in his campaign that attracted interest, but failed to make much of a difference in the end.

Candidate in Israeli Army

Perhaps even more pronounced than any issue related to the elections was the "on-and-off-and-on-again" candidacy of J.J. Sussman, currently in Israel, having just completed his service in Machal. Sussman had organized a campaign committee headed by Ephraim Leibtag that originally garnered much needed support for his candidacy of J.J. Sussman, currently in Israel, having just completed his service in Machal. Sussman had organized a campaign committee headed by Ephraim Leibtag that originally garnered much needed support for his candidacy.

Sussman camp argued that a waiver had been granted for the remaining signatures. However, there was still time to scrounge for more signatures, a fact which made the situation somewhat muddled. Book cited this as a misunderstanding and said that Sussman's campaign had not made much of a difference.

"We had to deal with the situation in a very fair and consistent manner, and did not have a chance to speak to [Sussman] until the day before the election," he said. "I had to choose only one candidate in his campaign that attracted interest, but failed to make much of a difference in the end."
Fine Pledges to Conquer Student Apathy

BY DAVID SWIDLER

He will only take office on May 31. But over the last few weeks, newly-elected YCSC President Josh Fine has been a busy man. In his quest to make student government more inclusive, he has called for a restructuring of the way the Council has been run in the past. In this time, there has been discussion of creating a greater student voice in administrative decisions. One of the problems, said Fine in an interview with The Commentator, is that student representatives on various administrative committees are often ill-prepared to discuss the issues raised at meetings. The student administration representatives on these committees have the opportunity to meet, discuss, and, plan beforehand how they intend to present the issues at meetings. There is no reason, says Fine, why the students shouldn't do the same. Therefore, he has proposed a slight change in the system that would necessitate student representatives attend the meetings, but would meet with fellow students beforehand, members of a student committee, to coordinate their "strategy," as it were, if need be. One of the reasons that student government has been so closed in the past, says Fine, is that the people aspiring to certain projects had a tendency to select their close friends to assist them. Fine promises greater publicity and more openness in next year's student council activities, including the Guide and Masmid.

Channukah planning has started. The key to having a successful year, asserts Fine, is proper planning. To that end, YCSC is starting right away new projects for the entire next year. For example, the annual Channukah concert is an expensive and time-consuming endeavor, to arrange it, YCSC has to plan in advance. YCSC has been in touch with this counter-part at Stern College, and they are coordinating their efforts in this regard. One of the proposed events is "intentional suicide," as it were, to help students understand the events which led to the Holocaust's onset. This type of planning will help the students understand the dangers of the Holocaust and how they can avoid it.

IBC, Racial Harmony Students Visit Holocaust Museum

CCNY and YU Students share experiences

BY NACHUM LAMM

Fifty YU students took an all-day trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. on Sunday, April 30. The trip, planned to coincide with the week of Yom Hashoa, was sponsored by the IBC and JSS Student Councils and the Racial Harmony councils of CCNY and the City College of New York (CCNY). It was the second event held on CCNY's campus this semester. The trip included about twenty IBC and CCNY students, as well as Catholic students from both schools benefited greatly from each other's presence. They learned from each other's experiences in the past and in the present.

The trip included a tour of the Holocaust Museum, followed by a visit to the African-American Museum. Following a three-hour tour of the Holocaust Museum, students went on an exhibit of African-American art at the Smithsonian Institution. Following dinner in Baltimore, the students returned to New York, arriving at midnight.

Originally, the student council and racial harmony trips were planned separately, but were merged the week before out of convenience. According to

Katz Receives Publishers Award

Holocaust scholar Steven T. Katz, a visiting Professor at YU through 1996, recently received the outstanding scholarly work of philosophy and religion award for 1994. This accolade, given by the Association of American Publishers, was for volume one of Dr. Katz's three-volume endeavor, The Holocaust in Historical Context (Volumes II and III are expected to be published later this year).

Dr. Katz argues that the Holocaust is the only true genocide to occur in history; for supporting evidence, he makes use of over seven-thousand manuscript pages and three-thousand footnotes in eleven different languages. He concludes that mass murders and brutalities as the slavery in ancient Greece and Rome, the European witch craze, and the persecution of religious heretics and homosexuals, from being considered 'true' genocides. Katz believes the idea that differentiates the Holocaust and the aforementioned events is "intentionality -- a definitive plan by Hitler to rid the world of the Jewish population." By comparing the Holocaust to recent events that are generally considered barbaric, Katz attempts to ill- illuminates the severe inhumanity of the Nazi's actions.

Katz, a Cornell professor, will be teaching courses in Jewish philosophy and history next semester as he continues his stay at YU.

Student register in the new Furst Hall Office of the Registrar

Change of Address for Registrar’s Office

BY KENNY WEINBLATT

For years the office of the registrar was located in room 125, the last room on the first floor of Furst Hall. However, just this week the Office of Registration moved to a newly re-constructed room across the hall. The immediate benefit is the additional space, convenience for the students and easier access to Registration files, which is now consolidated in the old Registrar Room.

The registrar's office took the place of the office of admissions, which moved to the fourth floor, completing a long chain of moves of administrative offices. The most useful conveniences now for the students in the new office are the new enter and exit doors. The student now can enter one door and exit a second door, making it easier for the employees to aid the students. The new office has a larger processing area, along with larger counter space. The move was completed in time for last week's fall registration.

Rabbi Melvin Davis, director of enrollment management, is optimistic that events will flow smoothly with the move. He hopes that the fall registration will run without a hitch, and that there will be no dislocation now that the registration process will be on the first floor instead of the fifth. Amongst the many advantages, Rabbi Davis listed the unnecessary wait for the elevator along with the relative proximity of the Deans and advisors. "The University has put in a lot of resources in this move, and we hope it will pay off in improved services for the student," said Rabbi Davis.
Shiur Credit Proposal to Die a Silent Death

By MEIR S. ZEITCHIK

After months of informal debate, editorials in the Commentator and Hamevaser, and several high-level meetings between administration and faculty, the cloudy fate of the proposed mandatory shiur credit is clearing up. And what appears to be emerging, say many individuals involved in the decision-making process, does not bode well for the much-scrutinized credit proposal.

"Many members of the faculty and administration wouldn't mind if the proposal is allowed to die a graceful death," said Associate Yeshiva College Dean Michael Hecht.

Supporting Hecht's pessimistic claim about the credit is the fact that there have been no formal meetings between administration and faculty to discuss the issue since February. There have been no meetings; no one has presented us with any proposal," noted Biology professor and meeting attendee Carl Feit. As a result, Feit believes the entire issue is "not going anywhere."

In addition to the lack of formal debate on the matter, many key players in the discussion have expressed doubt as to the efficacy of the proposal. "I can't see how it's going to help," said Director of Enrollment Management Melvin D. Feit. "I can't see how it's going to work, however, to placate members of the college faculty. These teachers fear that they are further limiting the educational opportunities at the college by forcing students to transfer credit without simultaneously reducing Israel credit."

"I don't think he would exercise what he believes to be his legal right to force the transfer of the credit against the wishes of the YC faculty and administration, he responded by saying that this was not the ideal situation. "We're moving toward an approbation of the credit itself, he said. But, he added significantly, "If I feel that we have to do it that way, [without approval], we will.""

The legality of such a move is disputable. While Yeshiva College, under current rules must approve up to three credits from MYF if a student chooses to transfer them, some academic officials have expressed doubt that MYF were to mandate a transfer. And even if the move is legal, noted these administrators, there would be little hope of convincing the College from changing the rules to prevent the transfer from taking effect.

Student leaders are also skeptical about the survival of the credit. "I don't think it's happening," said SOY president and student representative Yitzchak Book. "Let's start all over again."
Rav Twersky Assumes Rav’s Chair at Memorial Shiur

By Daniel Herrmann

On Sunday, April 30, R. Meir Twersky delivered the first annual Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik Memorial Shiur on the occasion of his investiture as Chairholder of the Leib Merkin Distinguished Chair in Talmud. The chair, endowed by Herman Merkin in the name of his father, was formerly held by the Rav, Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, whose second yahrtzeit was marked over Pesach.

The ceremony began with MYP Dean Rabbi Avraham Charlop, who discussed the Rav’s long tradition of giving masterful yartziet shiurim in memory of his father, and how fitting it was that a shiur be given in his memory by R. Twersky, the Rav’s grandson.

Rabbi Norman Lamtm then introduced Mr. Merkin, who briefly addressed the audience. Rabbi Twersky then gave the hour-long memorial shiur, in which he discussed issues pertaining to the mitzvah of t’fillah particularly the importance of t’fillah b’tzibur, based on a difficult gemara in Masecht Brachos. The ceremony attracted over 300 people, including many alumni and other distinguished guests, and was attended by all of the Roshei Yeshiva.

Yom Hashoah Memorial Held in Belfer Commons

By Nachum Lamm

On Wednesday night, April 26, Zachor, the YU Association for the Furtherance of Holocaust Studies, held “An Evening of Memorial for Children of the Holocaust” in Belfer Commons. The event, which was co-sponsored by YCSC, SCWOC, SOY, IBC, JSS, and TAC, drew about 250 YU and Stern students.

Shoshana Markovitz, president of Zachor, introduced the keynote speaker, Mr. Lee Potazynski, who is a research associate at the Holocaust Research Center and Archives at Queensboro Community College and himself a survivor of seven concentration camps. Markovitz spoke of the tragedy of the children of the Holocaust, both of those who perished and of those who were “forced to prematurely grow up.”

Mr. Potazynski, currently at work on a 31 volume collection of articles from the Holocaust period, spoke of his own experiences during that horrible time. He began with the brutal occupation of his native Poland in 1939, when he was seven years old. From that point on, the situation in Europe deteriorated until August 1942, when all the Jews were rounded up and separated by age. Potazynski recalled that although he was placed in a group of children and elderly, his grandfather advised him to run to the adult group. When the members of this group were ordered to sit on the ground, Mr. Potazynski kneeled and passed for an adult, and probably, in so doing, saved his own life by escaping the immediate executions of the elderly and the children.

Potazynski went on to discuss his experiences in the camps, ending with the story of his liberation by American soldiers fifty years ago, his return to Poland a year later, and his final departure from Europe in November of 1946.

The next speaker was Chani Weiser, a SCW student who spoke of her experiences as the granddaughter of survivors. She spoke of how ordinary events can take on completely different meanings when living in a family like hers, whether it be references to the grandparents or parents’ parents, or the celebration of the first Bar Mitzvah of a survivor’s grandchild. She also spoke of how her goals in life have been affected by these events, and concluded by speaking of acts of spiritual heroism in the concentration camps.

The memorial concluded with the lighting of six memorial candles by student leaders and organizers of the evening and the singing of Kel Maleh and a K'nish by Belz student Shmulie Pinels. Following this ceremony, students examined the exhibits on the walls of the room which detailed the history of the Holocaust.

Roth Scholars Chosen

By Daniel Rubin

Eight YU pre-med students have been selected as RothInstitute Scholars for undergraduate summer research at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Michael Nelson, Elliot Paul, Issac Sasson, and Ian Stein from YC, and Ilana Barber, Caren Gottlieb, Lauren Insel, and Azita Simon from SCW are the beneficiaries who will be spending the summer getting important headstarts on their careers. In the past the Roth program has served as a de-facto one-way ticket to acceptance at Albert Einstein. The program is directed by the school’s graduate office.

The students will perform research in the appropriate laboratories at Einstein based upon their interests and will receive $2000 stipends, in addition to being put up at a dorm, if necessary, at no cost. The students were chosen out of a field of twenty-two applicants from YC and Stern through a selection process involving a written application with a short essay on professional goals, examination of all grades in the sciences, and two interviews conducted by Drs. Lea Blau and Joseph Dechant for YC students and Drs. Raji Viswanathan and Barry B. Potvin for Stern applicants.

When asked for his reaction on being accepted to the program, Ian Stein echoed the sentiments of all those selected: “I’m ecstatic about the fact that I got it and I hope I’ll have a productive summer. The competition was very stiff and it was unfortunate that there were so few spaces, because all those who applied were top quality students.”

IBC Reading Week

By Nachum Lamm

Students at IBC will have their own reading week this year, according to incoming IBCSC president Richie Grossman. This change from previous years, when IBC finals were given during YC/SSSB reading week, will grant IBC students more time to study for their other finals.

According to current IBCSC president Steven Gordon, the change came as a result of the Board of Directors choosing IBC as the school to be examined in its annual report. Student representatives raised the issue with the Board and the administration, and the beginning of finals were changed from the Thursday before reading week to the previous Tuesday. The only negative result of the change is the probable cancellation of a picnic planned by the sophomore class for Lag B’omer, as it conflicts with this new finals schedule.

Nozick Delivers Annual Rogoff Lecture

By Nick Muzin

Dr. Robert Nozick, a professor at Harvard University and a nationally-acclaimed philosopher, delivered the Hillel Rogoff Memorial Lecture on May 1. The lecture, which took place at Stern’s Koch Auditorium and was entitled “The Nature of Reality,” drew a modest crowd of students, professors, YU supporters and alumni.

Nozick, together with Nobel Laureate Ronald Hoffman, will be teaching at YC and SCW in the coming year as part of the Gotteeman Program for Academic Excellence. The Gotteeman Program brings renowned scholars to YU to lecture in semester- long undergraduate courses.

For Nozick, it is a voyage well-traveled. He is the author of A Theory of Justice, State, and Loyality, winner of the 1973 National Book Award, Philosophical Explanations: The Examined Life, and The Nature of Rationality, among other acclaimed works. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Philosophy and Public Affairs.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. William Schwartz opened the evening by saying Nozick’s appearance and employment at YU reaffirmed the notion that “academic excellence is a voyage, not a harbor.”
Message From the YCSC President

Gentlemen,

My time to serve you is coming to an end. It has been two good years for the students, filled with many accomplishments, but there is still much more to be done. Your future looks good. With some young fresh student leadership in Josh Fine and Sam Wald there is no question that student life will prosper more than ever in the year to come.

Two years ago I asked you to give me a chance to represent you as your executive secretary. I brought with me a honest heart, but the one underlying them all was my catch phrase Letting you experience an education rather than fight for one. You the students gave me the chance; I so desired by choosing me, the younger candidate. I made it my business to do three things: Not to let you down, provide better services for you, and listen and learn so that I may be an even more effective student leader in my bid for the presidency. Some of those services include the academic advisement center, improved registration procedures (with the advent of the new computer system in Fall ’95 it will get even better), and more variety at breakfast on campus. Before we take our finals, I want to briefly review the campaign. These issues ranged from basic quality of life issues to the relucrance of students to get involved because of their feelings that access to meaningful participation is limited to those who are popular or a part of the inner circle of students who run everything at our college. Well, I have a commitment to making sure that we have a “new day” at Yeshiva College. As I promised in my campaign, I will work tirelessly to address quality of student life issues and create a more open and inclusive process for student access to and participation in student activities. I intend to break the pattern of elected leaders promoting a small group of friends to serve in many roles. I believe strongly in recruiting and encouraging a richer diversity of student leadership. Groups and individuals who have been subtly excluded from involvement in decisions affecting their lives as Yeshiva College students should feel that a part of student life is a right, not a privilege. Those who have been left out are not going to be left out anymore.

How effective will our student government be next year? I think it is quite clear, that the answer may be in each student’s perception of his role as a student on the Yeshiva College Campus. The more students get directly involved in the campus, the more likely we are to succeed. I am convinced that students working together can make the Yeshiva College administration and faculty responsive to their needs and wants. As your President, I am determined to provide the strong leadership we will need to achieve the improvements for which we strive. As we look forward to the new year at Yeshiva College, it’s clear that what we really need is change and believe me—it’s coming!

Good luck on your finals and have an enjoyable summer!

Josh Fine
YCSC President ’95-96

Message From the YCSC President Elect

In the words of Edmund Burke, “All that takes for evil to triumph is for good people to be silent.” The evil on our campus is apathy, that insidious disease which paralyzes the healthy young men and enervates the creative spirit. As the 1994-1995 school year is coming to a close we need to confront those issues which irk us and resolve to make the necessary changes in how student affairs are conducted. By doing so, we will enter into the new year with a clear slate onto which we will write a new history for Yeshiva College. In the past, the student body let these issues go uncontested, because they felt that there was no hope to resolve the problems that they were experiencing. The result has been an apathetic student body that is forever blaming its problems and frustrations on the faculty and administration and on situations beyond their control. Also, it does not take more than a few days for Freshmen to contract the disease of apathy that is so pervasive on campus. Before we take our next final and begin to enjoy the summer, I suggest that ways to combat student apathy should be examined, and put to task next year. The most logical way for students who are unhappy with what their college currently offers them, is for them to speak up and to become vocal about what is bothering them. It is true that not every student feels that he has the time or that he is the right person to speak up. He may argue that student representatives have been elected to serve that function. How about it, students, is there a time for our student body to face up to the fact that although the structure is in place for the exercise of a powerful student voice at Yeshiva College, student inaction renders that voice weak.

Where were students during open-student-council meetings held this year? Why were approximately half of those students who are unhappy with what college students should feel that a part of student life is a right, not a privilege. Those who have been left out are not going to be left out anymore.

How effective will our student government be next year? I think it is quite clear, that the answer may be in each student’s perception of his role as a student on the Yeshiva College Campus. The more students get directly involved in the campus, the more likely we are to succeed. I am convinced that students working together can make the Yeshiva College administration and faculty responsive to their needs and wants. As your President, I am determined to provide the strong leadership we will need to achieve the improvements for which we strive. As we look forward to the new year at Yeshiva College, it’s clear that what we really need is change and believe me—it’s coming!

Good luck on your finals and have an enjoyable summer!

Josh Fine
YCSC President ’95-96

Mazel Tov:
David Price & Zeldie Schlackman
Joseph Gitler & Leila Koschitzky
Avi Hornstein & Tzippi Kilimnick

Good Luck on Finals!
Alumni Big Brother Networking Program

On Thursday April 27th, a group of Yeshiva College Alumni and YC/SSSB students met for an evening of networking at the upscale midtown restaurant What’s Cookin’.

The event was planned jointly by YCSC and the YC Alumni Association’s membership Committee, headed by Eric Cohen ’87. The purpose of the evening was to create a network where students can meet Alumni and get insight on the job market in all different professions. The Alumni did not just come for the benefit of the students; aside from the great food, the Alumni had a great opportunity to gain new clients and future employers from the other Alumni and students alike. The theory behind the network is that people who share a common background or experience are very likely to be of assistance to each other.

"We are planning another event for the Fall," says event organizer Jonathan Lifshutz. "I am really glad I went," said David Samet, who was on his way to an interview that he had arranged through the networking evening.

The group heard remarks from Emanuel Adler ’76, a partner in the corporate law firm Tenzer Greenblatt, who gave hearty advice to the students about balancing an orthodox lifestyle against the gentile needs in the business world. The event was attended by over thirty alumni and thirty students whose understanding of the business world will no doubt be enhanced by their experience.

Alumni Big Brother Networking Program

BY DANIEL BILLIG

Clubs Select New Leaders

As the school year winds down, the numerous clubs on campus are beginning to prepare for next year by choosing new presidents and boards.

This past Thursday, both the Accounting Society and the Joint Business Society held their annual elections. Josh Levine was victorious in his quest for president, edging out fellow Accounting major Noam Herman in the election.

The Joint Business Society chose Sy Symms student Shlomo Drazin as president, Economics major Ephraim Leibtag as vice president, and Richard Mensch as Secretary-Treasurer. Drazin will be continuing the work of outgoing president Mike Bazelon, who among other accomplishments, was instrumental in writing a new constitution for the Joint Business Society.

Next week the J.P. Dunnner Political Society will also be choosing its new President. As of press-time, the declared candidates were Michael Belgrade, Meir Zeitichik and Jeremy Lustman. The winner will replace graduating senior and former Commentator News Editor Sandor Bak. Bak revived this club by arranging for informative speakers and setting up other programs, such as political science shabbatonim.

The Accounting Society also had an extremely successful year, under the leadership of Moshe Jacobs. These successes include a Mock Interview Night and a Tax Night, which allowed students to help middle income families fill out their tax forms.

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When Best Isn’t Good Enough

Reflections on YC’s Academic Journey

By RYAN KARREN

The case for Yeshiva College often seems so easy to make. It is unsurpassed by the finest institution of its kind. It is also, however, the only institution of its kind, and there’s the rub. This has been a year of transition and challenge for YC, most notably at the academic level. Heightened by the search for a new dean, concerns about whether AAU standards and a reputation dominated not only Commentator headlines this year, but most substantive discussions about campus issues. The time, however, this discussion reached into the dorms, the apartments and even the Senate. Indeed this dialogue was driven, for the most part, by students and their concern over the academic maturity of this University. It was in the pages of The Commentator that the discussion about the real value of a full year of Israel credit began, as then-News Editor Sanford Bak argued for a no holds barred dialogue on whether those credits meet serious standards. And it was at meetings of the Senate (humming, hawing and backtracking) that the issue received a real hearing, if no satisfactory resolutions.

There has been a change. To the shock of many academic officials, last year’s decision to greatly reduce the number of CLEP tests for which YC would grant credit was greeted with applause, rather than disdain, by many students. U.S. News and World Report’s low ranking of YC angered students more than Pilsner. There was a sense of betrayal of sorts. Exactly what kind of education does one get here?

The past few months have sought to answer that question. Dean Norman Adler has pledged to bring new discipline and consistency to academic policy. New minors in Writing and American Studies broaden the options available to students. A commitment to faculty salary enhancement is welcomed by all concerned about the ability to Yeshiva college to attract and retain top-notch intellectual manpower.

Permanent talent. Not came classroom appearances by big-names from other places, but “home grown” professors to augment our overworked distinguished faculty.

Yes, a real education, Yeshiva College-style.

What does it mean? Well, to gain a sense of perspective compare a syllabus for a YC course to an “equivalent” course at Columbia. The reading list in Morningide Heights is three times as long, missing and more challenging? Certainly. Practical in YC? Not necessarily; this is no Columbia. But is not remedial college either and should not be a four-year pit-stop for those unable or unwilling to handle the challenge of other institutions. Balance must be sought and balance must be found. That is part of the new dean’s mission this summer.

Many YC professors argue (off the record, of course) that the problem is Sy Syn. The great evil Sy Syn...and moth. True, the business school has taken away students from the college, limiting the number of courses the college can offer. And, in all honesty, undergraduate business school is not where one goes to become a “man of the world.”

The whole focus of SSSB on hiring, rather than on academic growth, some argue, has polluted the intellectual environment on campus. With homage paid to the almighty dollar rather than Dickers or Descartes, many find it difficult to see how serious students can thrive here. But Sy Syn’s growth, though troubling on some level, is not the problem.

Dean Adler has begun to grasp the challenge before him. In articulating a vision of the Jew’s role in the world grounded in President Lamm’s Torah U’Maddah paradigm, he has drawn students, faculty and administrators to the heart of the academic challenge: What values, knowledge and perspective should a Yeshiva College education instill during the four years a student spends studying and writing in Europe.

The search for answers to these questions took a great step forward this year—large in measure because students cared. YC’s improvement, because it appears to be a demand of the students; mandatory credit will not be instituted for shiur because students believe it inimical to their intellectual and spiritual development.

A year of discussion and challenge. Faculty tempers flared. Public statements by top-level administrators were disavowed. And for a semester and a half, leadership was pathetically absent.

But the dialogue continues. What will become of Israel credit, CLEPs, standards and reputation? How will the faculty look in five years? Will the importance of an up-to-date course catalog ever be comprehended?

Who knows. But the very discussion has proven that YC can no longer survive as mom-and-pop education. Students and professors will no longer tolerate the absence of professionalism or administrative incompetence because “this is Yeshiva, what do you expect?”

This year has shown that students expect better. A lot better. From their teachers. Their administrators. And even of themselves.

Being the best of its kind is no longer a good enough.
Sumner Redstone Concludes Lecture Series

Viacom CEO Sumner Redstone spoke at Stern’s Koch Auditorium on Friday, April 28, culminating a lecture series whose first week began with Mr. Alan “ace” Greenberg and included prominent chairmen Edgar Bronfman and Sy. Sym. The first semester of the Ira and Doris Kukin Distinguished Lecture Series was deemed a success by its dozens of students on both campuses.

After being introduced by both Dr. Ira Schwartz and Dean Harold Nierenberg, Mr. Redstone began his thirty minute presentation by briefing the SSSB students on the history and growth of Viacom, as well as the recent purchases of Paramount and Blockbuster. Upon completion of the lecture, Mr. Redstone opened the floor to a one-hour question-and-answer session for students and faculty alike. Queries included those about company problems, such as how and when he handled criticism of other Jewish. Mr. Redstone responded with how he handled criticism of other protractions (notably Madonna’s on MTV and VH1), and how he handled criticism of other cable programs, specifically Beavis and Butthead.

Aside from business questions, SSSB student Alex Salomon inquired about Mr. Redstone’s involvement as chairman of a project fighting Anti-Semitism in Russia. The event which was “one of the highlights of the semester,” related his proud feelings on his participation in the seminar as well as his attempts to “bridge the gap between theory and practice in the real world.”

Controversial Hamevasser Issue Incites Campus Backlash

The publication of the April issue of Hamevasser, which appeared during the week preceding Pesach, has generated unusual controversy about its content and editorials. Several Rohai Yeshiva have publicly denounced the issue as bordering on heresy, and some have even called for an end to SOY funding of the scholarly journal. Others have praised the editors’ decision to bring a controversial topic to the attention of the publication’s readers, arguing that there is little benefit in refusing to address issues merely because some may find their discussion troubling.

The edition in question contained several controversial items, including illustrations of capital punishment scenes and a Mazel Tov Matching Game involving urazees. But the most severe criticism came in response to an article entitled “Sophistry and Diplomacy on ‘Women and Judaism.’” The article, which criticized the “different roles” approach to the woman’s role in Judaism, contained the assertion, “Judaism, in its original form (in both letter and spirit) is discriminatory; in the true sense of the (modern) term.”

When the edition was distributed on the Main Campus on Tuesday, April 11, its contents were immediately called to the attention of several Rohai Yeshiva, who expressed their outrage to both students and MYP Dean R. Zevulun Charlop. One Rohai Yeshiva labeled the controversial article as rhetoric of the “Reform or Conservative,” while another claimed that the Hamevasser’s dissemination could prove “more damaging than the yishuv issue.” In addition, R. Charlop was the recipient of a number of phone calls from alumni and others troubled by the issue.

Meir Zeitlich, the author of the controversial piece, says he did not intend to offend anyone with the article and is surprised by all the attention it has generated. And while he is glad that the issue of ‘women’s roles in Judaism’ has been raised on campus, he is somewhat disappointed by the way in which it has been handled by some rebeime. “The article may have had an emotional tone; it is, after all, an emotional topic,” said Zeitlich, “but I am disappointed that many rebeime did not take advantage of the opportunity to discuss the issue, instead of merely grandstanding and engaging in rhetoric.” Using harsh and vague labels like “kefrifah” is “not at all productive.”

While the strong language employed by Hamevasser’s critics has not been backed by any concrete motion to censor the Hamevasser or remove its editors from their positions, the fiery response seems to have borne of Hamevasser’s status as a product of yeshiva enmities. While Hamevasser has its own governing board and no faculty or Student Council advisor, it is under the rub of SOY and is viewed by many students and alumni as the more religious. English-language publication coming out of YU, although its content has sometimes been criticized in its thirty-four years.

SOY President Yitzchak Book, who has not read and does “not plan to read the article, said “he was appalled,” and “shocked,” and would have prevented the publication of the Hamevasser had he originally known its contents. However, there was no SOY attempt to physically remove copies of the newspaper from areas on the Main Campus. Due to logistical errors, however, stacks of the paper never reached the College Campus.

According to Craig Berkowitz, Hamevasser’s editor-in-chief, Hamevasser editors themselves removed stacks from the dorms before Pesach in order to prevent angry students from stealing and caching them, but not before one stack mysteriously vanished from the library. The disappearance of copies of Hamevasser from the dorms does not represent a backing down on the part of the editors; copies are still available from them upon request, explained Berkowitz.

With the money leftover in the Hamevasser budget, the editors will be publishing an abbreviated issue within the next two weeks to defend the newspaper and clarify the viewpoints expressed in it. In addition, Zeitlich will publish a defense of his viewpoint in that issue.

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The August MCAT also puts a major drain on medical school students. The tension on campus was palpable. Barry Habib, a YCSC presidential candidate recently quipped, "even I was nervous and I'm not taking the test until next year."

Preparation for the MCAT begins months in advance. Most Yeshiva students elected to shell out almost eight-hundred dollars to take the Kaplan review course, which conveniently had it's scheduled weekly lectures at YU. However, the bulk of the studying had to be done in the Kaplan's center located in midtown (sometimes referred to as the "house of pain"). At the center, Kaplans has thousands of practice questions available to it's students. These questions are important study tools since few actual MCATs have been released. YC pre-med students spent countless hours in the center, some have even become permanent fixtures there. While the hours spent listening to the teachers were long and tiresome, at least one student seemed to enjoy the social aspect of the center, "You see, there was this girl..."

For all students, balancing time between college course work and MCAT study was a very difficult task. Some were able to plan ahead and schedule a very light load this semester. Others, however, were forced into postponing the MCAT until August, when there was no absolute consensus as to the difficulty of the test, except that the "verbal section was impossible." YC senior Elie Grunstein said "I had a really tough schedule compounded with the vigorous and necessary MCAT study I felt like an overgrown pimple full of puss ready to burst," YC junior Jacob Rosenberg complained "it's unfair for science teachers to give exams a week or two before the MCAT."

There were those who could not perform the balancing act. Steven Stern had a most unusual response to the pressure of the immense study load; he dropped out of school to study for the MCAT full time. Others were forced to postpone taking the MCAT until August, when there was ample time to study. YC junior Azriel Hirschfeld said "I just couldn't handle it."

Taking the MCAT in August places the student at a decided disadvantage. Medical schools practice rolling admissions and any delay in MCAT score reports hurts the student's chances of being accepted. The August MCAT also puts a major damper on the summer. Aside from these purely practical considerations, the April MCAT also provides the student with the security of knowing that he can take the test over in August, and still apply for medical school in time for the following year. Some pessimistic students were planning on taking the test over again even before taking the April test. As he walked out of the test, Ezra Berry, a YC junior, exclaimed "one down, and one to go!"

Unfortunately, what has suffered the most from the intense MCAT preparation for some students was their health. Tyrus Ciment said "although I still attended seder and shiur for the most part, I was in a trance-like state, while my mind wandered to science, and I asked myself, what am I doing here?" Most missed either seder, shiur, or both during the weeks preceding the MCAT (and in some cases, for the entire semester). The Bet Midrash was witness to much confusion as talmidim searched for their pre-med chavrusas. YC/SSSB senior Menachem Gelbtuch claims he hasn't seen his chavrusa the entire semester.

This year, the MCAT was administered on the day after Passach. Most people were happy to have the week prior to the test free to study, without the burden of class. Others, however, maintained that the MCAT ruined their Passach vacation. Most students tried to follow Kaplan's advice and relax and get a good night's sleep before the test. However, many attempted to cram physical formulas into their heads as they waited on line to be admitted to the test.

Conveniently, Yeshiva University was chosen as the lone Sunday test center in the Manhattan area (the test is supposed to be taken on Saturday). However, most YC students opted to take the test at centers closer to their homes. Only a handful returned to YU.

There was no absolute consensus as to the difficulty of the test, except that the "verbal section was impossible." YC senior Elie Grunstein said "it was the first verbal section I ever took that I couldn't finish." Most people agreed that the science sections were slightly easier, as David Kahn summed up "yeah, they were quite easy." There were exceptions to these opinions; Ari Walfish said "it was one of the easiest tests I have ever taken," while star Mac player Jake Rosenberg refused to comment.

One particular student, wishing to remain anonymous, seemed extremely bitter that there were different test versions. "You can do an unlimited amount of studying, but it's a joke because some tests were very specific (difficult) and some were general," he said.

Now that the MCAT is over, YU has returned to normal. Pre-med students await their scores, which should be back late in June, as they attempt to catch up in all their classes. SSSB senior Yechiel Weiner, seemingly upset, set, said "I enjoyed seeing those lazy pre-med students working!" The bet midrash is again at full capacity, and rumor has it that Mr. Gelbtuch found his chavrusa.
OBITUARY
Mr. Jack Nussbaum

BY STEVEN MODOWNIK

Jack Nussbaum, Director of Student Finances since 1974, lost his battle with cancer on April 22, passing away after years of dedicated service to the University at the age of 61. Colleagues from the finance office, as well as numerous administration officials, were deeply saddened by the death of Nussbaum, who was responsible for allowing the Jewish education of many YU students with financial difficulties.

"Jack Nussbaum enabled hundreds to go to school here and learn Torah," remembered former student Yakov Leibowitz. "He showed extreme compassion, and a sense of justice and equality." Co-workers who spoke with The Commentator regarded Mr. Nussbaum as a much-needed non-bureaucrat in a

Dorm Decision Expected Shortly continued from page one

are being singled out for elimination because many of them do not pay for dorm space, and the university would rather accommodate paying students. The possible alternative housing in apartments, said one source, would be the "first step" toward a future discontinuing of the traditional free board that has been provided to Kollel students. RIETS students additionally complained that a move to the apartments could cause them to be overcrowded, and some question exactly how close to campus those apartments will be. Yet another important concern is that a decision will be made in June, when many will no longer be on campus, effectively precluding student protest or input.

Several of the Kollel students interviewed by the Commentator found the news bittersweet. While acknowledging that the tight dorm conditions were the "offspring of a university growing at a healthy pace, the specter of being ousted from the dorms worried some who do not want to feel removed from campus life. "I want to feel like part of the yeshiva," remarked one smicha student. Another said the move represents the distancing of post-collegiates from the focal point of their yeshiva. Other students, however, said they would not mind being placed in apartments, assuming those apartments will be right on campus.

YU Students Mourn Loss of Friend continued from page one

continued from page one

have planned a memorial ceremony for her on Sunday evening in May at Flatow's home. This past Sunday, another service was held at Flatow's shul to make up for a mourning period cut short by Pesach.

Among the attendees was MVP Yosh Yashiv R. Moshe Tendler, who played a most crucial role in the Alisa Flatow story as the posek who authorized the donation of Flatow's heart, lungs, pancreas, liver, and corneas. Contacted early Monday morning by Rabbi Alvin Mar­cus, a RIETS musmach and spiritual leader of West Orange, Rabbi Tendler spoke via conference call to Stephen Flatow at his daughter's bedside in Soroka Hospital in Beersheva. After determining that there had been brain stem death, the two doctors permitted the removal of her organs, citing the ruling of Rav Moshe Feinstein. The recipient of one lung and the recipient of the pancreas have since passed away, however, and Rabbi Tendler is not surprised because d'var organ donors have the lowest transplant success rate.

The donation of Flatow's organs caused a media stir both in the United States and Israel. Although the ruling of Rav Moshe has been accepted, Rabbi Tendler explained, a stigma has been attached to the procedure due to the concept of "nibul ha'mait," desecration of the corpse. But pascal restitutions over­ rode nibul ha'mait, and Rabbi Tendler finds no excuse for the low donor rate among Orthodox Jews. He has championed the cause of organ donations in both countries, commented the "power of halacha l'maaseh." Flato­ tow was found the BS'D

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Wrestling Team Finishes on Top

COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF

In a season of ups and downs, the YU Wrestling Team has come a long way in its seventh year. Former coach Bandier, "The Macs showed consistency by beating against Middlesex County College, against new contender Lafayette. This was a repeat of success," remarked Bandier, "clinch the team's first IAC league title and undefeated season." The team clinched the team's first IAC league title and undefeated season. The team finished the year with a 9-0 record.

Over the season a number of individuals achieved nearly flawless records in playing singles. Co-captain Gabe Slotnick did not lose any of his seven matches, alternating play between the third and fourth seed. Freshman phenom Tavi Zilbershtein similarly cruised to an undefeated league record, and 6-1 overall as the #2/#3 seed. Ron Samet and Avram Ciment also concluded the season with impressive overall standings: 6-1, 5-1 records respectively.

The moment first year coach John Bandier evaluated the talent pool at tryouts he knew that he would have a solid team. Even though Bandier realized that he possessed a dominating team he tried to keep the team low key in order to sustain its competitive vigor. "I have never seen a team as deeply talented as this team," remarked the coach, a YC alum who also played on the tennis team seven years ago. "As a coach it was a luxury to shuffle three or four players who could all easily play at #1 or #2, and still have three other strong players at the five and six seeds," concluded Bandier.

The team's tremendous depth was most revealing during its victory over Bard College, a league match which took place during a week filled of midterms. When only five players showed, the team was forced to forfeit two matches since a minimal of six players are required for a match. Nevertheless, the team emerged victorious.

For weeks, both Coach Bandier and veteran players on the team hyped up the Stevens Tech match as the one serious hurdle standing in the way to perfection and IAC triumph. What was expected to be a nail-biting thriller turned out to be an 8-1 Yeshiva blowout. "Our guys played some of their best tennis that day," noted Bandier, "clearly, it was the season's best played tournament." David Samet, Michael Pfeiffer, Tavi Zilbershtein, Gabe Slotnick, Ron Samet, and Avram Ciment swept all six singles matches.

"With the return of virtually all of this year's team, next year promises to be a repeat of success," remarked Los Angeles native David Samet. In fact, Samet and YC senior Josh Segal are the only expected losses to the coming year's squad. However, the absence of Samet will surely be felt - he along with co-captain Gabe Slotnick were named to the IAC all-conference team.

YU Tennis Team Finishes Undefeated

As number one seed and team co-captain David Samet closed out his grueling three set match 6-4, 5-7, 6-3, against longtime rival Stevens Tech, not only did he seal victory over Stevens but also helped clinch the team's first ever IAC league title and undefeated season. The team finished the year with a 9-0 record.

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