January 27, as the registrar was fense of Marrin's decision to cancel classes. "It really was impossible to properly concentrate on the lecture."

Marrin cited the height of the disturbance to be one instance in which the workers were banging a sledgehammer into the first-floor ceiling right below his desk chair. While Lee didn't mention such a disturbance, he did interrupt his class to inquire whether the work could be done at a different time.

"Teaching is something that should be done in a university and it's not good that this noise prevents us from doing just that," declared Lee. "On the occasion that there will be such disturbances, the faculty should be informed ahead of time."

The purpose of a university is to learn and it's difficult to learn in this setting," affirmed Marrin. "There must be a way to schedule the work so that the worst noise doesn't impede in the midst of classes."

According to Assistant Director of Facilities Management Pedro Gonzalez, standard procedure for coordinating construction with classes is to look at the course schedule and attempt to schedule work during times when there are few classes. However, Gonzalez pointed out that because of union regulations, construction during the night is difficult to schedule, and therefore, on occasion, there are resulting disturbances to classes.

Gonzalez mentioned that he did not know the particulars of the situation and referred such questions to Director of Facilities Management Jeffrey Socol. For his part, refused to provide any details, declaring that he doesn't give interviews to the press.

"To Dr. Marrin's credit, there was nothing else to do," said History major Joel Kruger in defense of Marrin's decision to cancel classes. "It really was impossible to properly concentrate on the lecture."

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What came first, the facilities or the education?

Yeshiva University was not designed by the likes of Herod or Frank Lloyd Wright. The buildings on the undergraduate uptown main campus are old and are in need of constant attention and repair. Facilities Management's mission is to provide continual upkeep and perform the upgrades necessary for the entire campus, but not at the expense of any individual student's education, let alone the education of a classroom full of students.

Over the past several weeks, Facilities Management has displayed a complete disregard and lack of concern towards the YU student's education. At any moment, a YC teacher's voice is being drowned out by the banging of sledghammers and the screechings of drills. Classes have suffered because of the excessive noise pollution.

The disturbances have become so overwhelming that one professor, unable to teach over the ruckus, cancelled his class outright. To avoid any further noise disturbance, he attempted to relocate his next class. Unable to find a suitable alternative room with the aide of the Office of the Registrar, the professor was forced to cancel his next class too.

These activities can not continue. While any upkeep and upgrade is important, especially technological upgrades which will enhance the productivity YU, all maintenance and construction should, under no circumstance, conflict with scheduled classes. If, for some bizarre reason, there is no other alternative, professors and students deserve the courtesy of being notified about the pending noise prior to repairs and be relocated to quiet classrooms.
From the Editor’s Desk

Joshua M. Feldman

I was interviewing for a job this past week, answering the typical myriad of questions asked of candidates for employment, when the interviewer cut me off, and asked me why, of all the extracurricular activities available at Yeshiva, I had chosen to affiliate myself with The Commentator. I was slightly taken aback by his question, since after answering him with the words that he wanted to hear, I began to think about what it really is that lured me to this assignment.

I began my tenure with The Commentator as the Associate Technical Editor, bringing the newspaper transferring the page layout to the internet in the form of a list of articles. Doing a member of the Governing Board of the paper as the Layout Editor, and after a short stint as Managing Editor, moved into the Commentary Chairperson—in Chief position. I always thought that the role of the Editor was just to work with the Governing Board in bringing the news of yeshiva University to the undergraduate student body. I was wrong.

In my short time as Editor, my experiences have been much broader. I have learned that it is all about people; getting to know them, building relationships with them, and whether it be to clarify a point or challenge an opinion, by questioning the information that they are giving me.

The Torah tells us, “ki y’ shakha binachama chasam herelim va’mor,” in reference to the peach haggadas. Chazal teach us that the freedom that we discuss through the haggadas on Peach night, is the ability to constantly ask questions and get answers; something that one can do while in slavery.

The recent question posed to the Orthodox rabbinate regarding the halachic issue of hashkafic role of women in religious Judaism is a perfect example of just how important it is to constantly question, take poses, and re-questions. From the Torah, tor Chazal, and through contemporary personalities like the Rav, Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, and Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Aurbach, hashkafic personal characteristics have upheld the tradition of asking questions and giving answers. It is this tremendous ability to question and think that has turned both our institution and our religion into greatness.

Throughout most of our academic lives, we are taught not just what to learn, but how to learn. Exams such as the SAT’s, GMAT’s, and GRE’s measure students on not only what they know, but how they come to know it. We are tested on the process of learning, and not just knowledge.

Sometimes, however, we forget how to think for ourselves. We are so used to sitting in yeshiva hearing what the rebbe has to say, whether it is on gemara, hashkafa, or even a current event, and not challenging it, that we seem to forget that we are only hearing one point of view; that we are only seeing one pixel of a much larger image. Often, we walk around mimicking what the rebbe had to say, but not mimicking the process by which the rebbe came to say it.

So, after thinking about it for some time, I have an answer for the next interview.

Fortunately or unfortunately, depending on your outlook, The Commentator, as one of its previous Editor’s once put it, is the place to find, defend, modify, commend, condemn, or debate the current pressing issues on campus and around the world.” Overall, the paper represents a leadership, sixteen pages of information, conversation, and of course, controversy.

Through my involvement with The Commentator I have learned how to work as a team member in any environment. It has allowed me to truly experience college; not in the specific knowledge that I have, through constant questioning, been able to formulate for myself and for the papers. The Commentator has actually granted me the ability to think for myself, and to understand other people’s perspectives, be they rabbeinu, teachers, deans, or fellow students.

In the past two weeks walking around our small campus from class to class, I have heard many conversations about the recent uprise in Orthodox Jewish politics; the questioning of the woman’s role in Judaism in the 1990’s. I’m not trying to use this forum to debate the issue. I am simply wondering whether some of the bochrim in our yeshiva have intellectually and logically thought out their arguments, be they for or against, like our rebbeinu have. This type of open discussion could be heard throughout our campus last year with the news of a fraternity penetration the walls of our yeshiva.

I cannot conceive of what my college education would have been like, or what type of person I would be, if I had not picked up these analytical skills along the way. I hope, through my colleagues to find an activity that will allow them to do the same.

I would like to thank all the students who came to our last open YCSC meeting, your ideas and suggestions were very much appreciated. In the next few weeks, we will be having another meeting, and I would like to encourage all students to drop in and give us their input.

On February 3, YCSC greeted several hundred students, who came to cheer for the Macs as they played NJIT, by handing out free gifts (pom poms and foam #1 hands). Last Sunday, the Ski Club held a successful trip, sponsored by YCSC, and another trip is on the way.

Last Thursday, the Freshman Class ran a successful ice skating event at Rockefeller Center. Thanks to Josh Klein and Jason Yablon for their efforts in planning the evening. In the works from the other class councils are Shoich Manot sponsored by the Sophomore Class and in two weeks the Senior and Junior Classes are sponsoring a Shabbaton at Stern. Also, this Shabbat don’t miss the YCDS/WYUR sponsored Shabbaton at Stern. The weekend is complete with a Friday afternoon trip to the Museum of TV and Broadcasting and a Saturday night activity.

Thank you to Daniel Berkowitz and Michael Sonntag, the chairman of the Food Service Committee, who have been hard at work the past few weeks addressing student complaints. Also, thanks to Michael Susman and the Library Committee, who after meeting last week will begin addressing student ideas.

Many more events and programs are in the works for the remainder of the semester, including plans for Yom Hashoah and Yom Ha’atzmaut. Plus, after the success of the trip to see Star Wars, look for info this week on tickets to see Empire Strikes Back this weekend.

Lastly, in the coming weeks look for YCSC on the Web! Jason Buskin YCSC President ’96 - ’97
YCSC Holds Semester’s First Open Meeting

By Jack Almo

With an itemized agenda, full board support, and an authoritative tone, YCSC president Jason Buskin commenced the first Student Council general meeting of the new semester. A lively crowd of approximately thirty students attended the open meeting in the Morgenstern Hall basement on Tuesday, February 4th to show their support and voice their concerns.

Buskin began by commending Senior Class vice-president Rocky Schechter and his supporting staff for organizing a successful book exchange. Though mitigating the sales pull of the campus bookstore, the book exchange allowed for advantageous pricing for both buyers and sellers of used books. Buskin asked that the records and organizational procedures used for the compilation of the massive three hundred book data base be entered into the YCSC files for future reference.

The Super Bowl extravaganza was deemed the highlight of the evening. Buskin informed students in attendance that YCSC is currently negotiations with the Dean’s office to cater a similar event for the upcoming NCA.A final four championship. Buskin also recognized the Star Trek Club, and Andy Weiss in particular, for organizing a trip back in time to view the original Star Wars film. Over 1000 people attended the YCSC subsidized trip to the United States Holocaust Museum.

Class president Rocky Schechter and Mark Posner proposed a Washington D.C. Shabbaton that gained the widespread support of the crowd present at the meeting. The proposed trip to the nation’s capital is slated for sometime in March. Tentative plans call for students to meet with political leaders and to stay at a nearby campus site during the course of the Shabbaton. A trip to the United States Holocaust Museum is likely to be scheduled as a Sunday event.

The second half of the YCSC meeting was a time for students to voice their concerns. Jeff Bander and Jason Yablonski reported the results of a survey of students living in Muss Hall, assessing their desire for a big-screen TV. The majority of students would not approve the proposition to purchase a new TV for Muss Hall due to “religious reasons.” However, students living in Muss did request a food service for their second-floor lounge. Buskin informed the Muss spokesmen that if volunteers would be willing to organize and operate the proposed Muss Mart, then YCSC would support their efforts.

Other student concerns ranged from problems that exist in the Department of Food Services, such as the lack of low-fat items in the cafeteria and the need for fresher and hotter meals, to the limited operational hours of the MSAC lounge located in Rubin Hall. The YCSC executive board will meet with the YU Food Services management this week to voice student opinions.

The YCSC representatives concluded the session, by reiterating that involvement of the student body is welcome and strongly encouraged.

Academic Standards Committee Reviewing Hebrew Requirements

By Josh Ytuer

Scholastic integrity was the issue discussed by the Academic Standards Committee (ASC) last week at its first meeting of the year. Of primary concern to the Committee is the current Hebrew Language requirement of students at the Upshans campus.

Dr. Michael Hetch, the chairman of the Committee and Associate Dean of Yeshiva College, expressed concern as to whether the Hebrew requirements reflect the background of the students. Initially, the students in MYP have had a deficiency in Hebrew. This is not necessarily the case anymore.”

Dean Hetch explained that while students enrolled in the Mizra Yeshiva Program (MYP) and the Stone Beit Medrash Program (SBMP) may not be required to enroll in Intermediate Hebrew, Hebrew classes offered in the Isaac Breuer College (IBC) and the James Striar School (SS) may be required. “We would like to set up a system that would meet student needs and at the same time prevent student abuse,” referring to those who enroll in the more basic IBC and SS Hebrew courses to fulfill their requirements.

To that end, the ASC has formed a subcommittee, comprised of Bible professor Dr. Moshe Bernstein, University Registrar Mr. Melvin Davis, Hebrew professor Dr. Shmuel Schneider and student representative Owen Cyrlnik, whose purpose is to further examine the current situation and proposesolutions to the Committee.

The ASC devoted the balance of its time together discussing the new credit cap, a highly contested issue, which will become a reality for the entering freshman class. According to the new standards, students will be required to take a minimum of 84 credits on campus before they may graduate.

Yum Yum Shoppe Unexpectedly Closes

By Nate Weiner

After seven years of operation, Yum Yum Shoppe, the deli/grocery on Amsterdam Avenue between 184th and 185th streets, unexpectedly closed its doors. Irwin Raskin, Yum Yum’s proprietor, attributed the abrupt closure to lack of funds for renewal of his lease.

Yum Yum’s opening in December of 1990 came just one year after implementation of YU’s mandatory meal plan and succeeded the previous deli/grocery, Habodega. Though both the YU Food Service Department and Raskin vigorously denied allegations, rumors surrounding the closure centered around the effects of YU’s mandatory meal plan and its own Caf Store on Yum Yum’s business. Sources at the Caf claimed that at one time they had even offered to place Yum Yum on the “Gold Card,” an extinct version of the current cafeteria debit card that for an additional sum of money could be utilized at the nearby Time Out dairy restaurant.

According to Raskin, “This has nothing to do with YU. It’s between me and my landlord. The landlord wanted an astro­nomical fee for the new lease, which I simply refused to pay… I am still negoti­ating with my landlord to lower the lease fee.”

Students Left Short Changed?

With the Yum Yum Shoppe stockpiling a wide variety of snack foods, and located just across the street from YU residence halls, many students opted to create pre­paid “tabs” with the store. These students claim that they have not been contacted by Raskin since the closure. Yossi Lewis, a YU student and his brother, an MTA student, both had prepaid accounts at Yum Yum which they can no longer access. “I entered the store a week before it closed and commented on how empty it looked. The response given by the employees was not to worry. Then the next week the store closed and my brother and I are out about $85.”

Several other students reported similar stories, one student in particular was reported to have to have opened an account in excess of $300. The Commentator has also learned that Raskin owes a rather large sum of money to the “Chof K,” which provides kosher certification for Yum Yum. Raskin did not comment on these allegations and still maintains that he “hopes to reopen Yum Yum sometime soon.”
In an event designed to create a sense of unity among Sy Syms School of Business' student body, the School's student council held what turned out to be a wildly successful shabbaton attended by an estimated 200 people. The shabbaton was held on the Stern campus and featured MPR Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Meir Goldwicht as its guest lecturer.

Organizers of the event, which took place over the weekend of January 31, were pleased with the outcome. Bennett Schachter, President of the Sy Syms student body at the Main Campus, pointed out that "in terms of sheer numbers, the shabbaton was a tremendous achievement. Never has there been a joint YU-Stern shabbaton that was so well attended."

The success of the shabbaton was attributed, in large measure, to the ever popular Rabbi Goldwicht. As one student stated, "Rabbi Goldwicht's presence was an impetus for many students to attend the shabbaton."

President of the Sy Syms student body at the Main Campus, Michelle Stein, noted that Rabbi Goldwicht was "articulate as well as eloquent. He was the key to the entire shabbaton." One attendee, Yoel Feiler, concurred, feeling that "Rav Goldwicht's lectures gave weight to the Torah U'madda philosophy at Yeshiva University."

Many wish to turn the success of the shabbaton into the beginning of something positive. Schachter pointed out that "often guys' aren't enthusiastic about going downtown for a Shabbaton, but in retrospect, all who attended had a great time. We should see this success as an example for future shabbatons. This should be seen as an opportunity to continue to feature such Rebbeim as Rav Goldwicht at the Shabbatons so that it will benefit the student body."

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YC Holds First Ever Arts Festival

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

YU was treated to a dose of campus-wide culture during the first annual Yeshiva College Arts Festival. Under the auspices of Yeshiva College Dean Norman Adler and Director of the Arts Festival and YC senior, Heshy Willig, the festival combined performing and visual arts into a three night extravaganza for over 50 YU and Stern students each evening.

On Monday night, aspiring poets from YU and Stern showed up to verbally exhibit their work. In most instances, the problems that each business faced must have been more internal than foreign. Some problems were related to low wages, while global impacts have been attributed, in large measure, to the ever popular Rabbi Goldwicht. As one student stated, "Rabbi Goldwicht's presence was an impetus for many students to attend the shabbaton."

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'97 Brody Lecture Features MIT's Professor Krugman

BY MICHAEL SAMUELS

Dr. Paul Krugman, an internationally renowned professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was the featured speaker at the Dr. Alexander Brody Lecture held on February 5.

Reflecting on Dr. Brody, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. William Schwartz, said that having taught at YU for thirty-four years, Professor Brody was the first major innovator at the University.

"He was a one man band, having had degrees in law, economics, and history, that could have taught the whole curriculum at YU."

Dr. Krugman is the latest world-class economist to speak at the annual event, and follows such notables as Drs. Robert Solow and Robert Fogel, recipients of the Nobel prizes, respectively.

Dr. Joseph Stiglitz, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers to the President, and at least three other Nobel laureates, all of whose work continues to push the outer limits in a field held dear to Dr. Alexander Brody.

Acknowledging Dr. Brody's work in international trade and finance, one of the founders of the "new trade theory," as well as the author of 16 books and 100 articles, Dr. Krugman was awarded the American Economic Association's 1991 John Bates Clark Medal, a prize given biennially to "that economist under 40 who is said to have made a significant contribution to economic knowledge."

In his speech, Dr. Krugman addressed the topic of globalization and its role in the world's economic problems. Initially, he explained that the world is ruled by conventional wisdom as the good ideas usually surface and the bad ideas fall. He reminded the students and faculty members in attendance that sometimes conventional wisdom is so strong that people often "seethe world through special glasses," implying that while global impacts are a "real story," they're not the "central story."

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RIETS Rosh HaYeshiva Interprets & Edits 12th Century Bible Commentary

BY MOSHE KINERLEHNER

After centuries of obscurity, the commentary of Rabbenu Meyuchas ben Elijah on the Book of Vayikra (Leviticus) is now accessible to the public due to the efforts of RIETS Rosh HaYeshiva, Rabbi Michael Katz.

The recently published commentary represents six years of work for Rabbi Katz, who rescued the manuscript of the ancient commentary thirty years ago from the Hebrew and Samaritan section of the British Museum, where it had been gathering dust. The manuscript he discovered was a 15th century handwritten copy of Rabbenu Meyuchas's work on the Torah (Pentateuch).

The 700-year old commentary differs significantly from other commentaries in its treatment of the Biblical text and the oral or Rabbinic tradition as one unit. Unlike the commentators who preceded him, he combines each posuk (verse) with Halacha, noting all the Halachot which pertain to the theme of the posuk (verse).

Of special interest to scholars, Rabbi Katz notes that Rabbi Meyuchas sought to protect the Oral Law tradition from attacks by the Karaites, a Jewish sect which categorically rejected the Rabbinic tradition. The Jewish community at the time of Rabbi Meyuchas was deeply divided by the conflict between the adherents of the Rabbinic tradition and the Karaites. Rabbi Katz suggests that the entire commentary is possibly a refutation of the Karaite views, as its main approach is to demonstrate the derivation of Rabbinic law from the text of the Torah. Jewish religious life during the Byzantine period was also under ideological siege from Christian missionaries and crusaders, who bitterly attacked the authority of the Rabbinic tradition because it rejected the Christian view that the advent of the savior had been foretold in the Bible.

"The significance of this achievement," noted University President Dr. Norman Lamm, "lies not only in making the d'oeuvre of this thirteenth century giant available to scholars of Bible and Talmud, but also in the goal of Rabbenu Meyuchas in his anti-kartitic polemic, to demonstrate the fundamental unity of the Bible and Talmud."

Rabbi Katz earlier edited the highly respected commentary of Rabbi Meyuchas on the Book of Devarim (Deuteronomy) which was published by Mossad Harav Kook in 1968. Born in Grodno, Poland and the son of the renowned scholar Rabbi Reuven Katz, who became Chief Rabbi of Rechovot, Rabbi Katz obtained his Semicha from the Rabbis Avraham Yitzchak Kook and Yitzchak Isaac Herzog, then Chief Rabbi of Israel; Rabbi Avigdor Amiel, the Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv; and Rabbi Yasser Zalman Meltzer of Eitz Chaim Yeshiva in Jerusalem. He also earned a teacher's license in Tanakh (Bible) and Jewish philosophy at Hebrew University.

In 1940, then YU president Dr. Bernard Revel recruited him to teach Talmud and attend college here. After earning his BA from Yeshiva College in 1945 he was named to the RIETS faculty and three years later became the first Rosh HaYeshiva to be appointed to the Bible faculty at YC. In 1963, he received his doctorate from the YU's Bernard Revel Graduate School, writing his dissertation on the commentary of Rabbenu Meyuchas.

Rabbi Katz was awarded the Distinguished Rabbinic Alumnus Award in 1995 for his 50 years of devotion to YU's RIETS Rosh HaYeshiva. Now in his 51st year of teaching and one of the most highly loved and respected Roshei Hayeshiva of RIETS, Rabbi Katz continues to give his daily Chulin Shiur in the Semicha program.

The commentary has been published by Ktav Publishing House and is available at the ongoing SOY Seforim Sale.

ATTENTION ALL JUNIORS AND SENIORS:

If you plan on graduating in January or May 1998

Please make an appointment to see an academic advisor for your senior check
Over the past few years, the world wide web and online services have grown far beyond expectation. As access to the net becomes as commonplace as television, it is no surprise that its varying potential is constantly being pushed to new envelopes.

According to the site, the Jewish Singles section of Links Online (www.jlinks.com) is ready to offer the Jewish singles community an exciting opportunity to meet and find people like you. Links Online's main feature is its Profile and Search questionnaire. Members of the site can provide as well - for a small additional fee, of course - personal mailboxes, live chat, extensive user profiles, and powerful search engines.

If you still haven't found your perfect cybergirt, a new startup in the field of online Jewish dating called LinksOnline (www.jlinks.com) is ready to offer the services. The site describes itself as "the most popular place to meet young, observant Jewish singles without having to set up! Not a shiduch service nor a service or a Matchmaker System is a complex service that claims to cater to Jewish singles. This service is only three months old and includes unlimited time on the service which in some cases can meet while the Matchmaker service allows members, for a $25 fee, to place an ad and a picture which can then be browsed by other members.

Another service calls itself the Jewish Singles Connection (www.jse.com/jsc). The service offers links to Jewish singles groups, college organizations, personal and professional services, and, as well as a multifaceted singles area which features two live chat rooms and a Matchmaker service. The chat rooms provide a relaxed atmosphere in which singles can meet while the Matchmaker service allows members, for a $25 fee, to place an ad and a picture which can then be browsed by other members.

The message on the site states that there is "an opportunity to utilize the new communications paradigm...the Internet...We hope that our new paradigm and course of the latest technology and your interaction with it will bring personal rewards both for you and indirectly for the Jewish people." Other services available to internet users at no cost include the Jewish Singles Mailing List, JSML, (www.tcginc.com/jds/1985/jsml/) and the Jewish Matchmaker System (www.yenta.email). JSML is, as its name implies, a mailing list of Jewish Singles while the Jewish Matchmaker System is a complex service that claims to cater to Jewish singles. "This service is only three months old and includes unlimited time on the service which in some cases can meet while the Matchmaker service allows members, for a $25 fee, to place an ad and a picture which can then be browsed by other members.

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The most detailed section of the profile and search is the observance section in which one must detail his/her years of Jewish study in Israel. A future goal section in which areas such as one's desire to make Aliyah are also covered. "You knew that, "you never know who you are going to meet and what they are or who they are. And you get your emotions worked up...and you are disappointed in them or they are disappointed in you."

The online services seem to have one very glaring technical difficulty there is no way to verify the honesty and sincerity of the different users. Links Online does offer the following encouragement for its members: "Please be accurate and honest; after all we use the Internet only for its technology, while our morals come from the Torah." Though much caution is obviously warranted when meeting people online or via online services, the potential for success does exist. Both AOL's Matchmaker and the Jewish Singles Connection claim that eight marriages have been reported to their respective services by their users, and both services believe that matches such as those can be made with eyebrow preparations to report their successes. Like it or not, Jewish online dating services have arrived and are taking the internet by storm.

Yente, start looking for a new profession!

Yeshiva College Student Council

Calendar of Events

YCSC Working for You!

Mar 8 Shabbaton at Stern: Sponsored by the Sophomore Class
Mar 17 7:00 PM Pre-Law Speaker: Rabbi Shul
Mar 25 7:00 PM Pre-Law Speaker: Rabbi Shul

Reminder: The YC Peer Tutoring Program is fully operational for Spring 1997

Course Contests:

- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Hebrew
- Math
- Music

Prof. de'Vinci: The New Art of Drawing.

Ofer Mela'd 792-5877
Ofer Mela'd 792-5877

Ofer Mela'd 792-5877
Ofer Mela'd 792-5877
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Ofer Mela'd 792-5877
Ofer Mela'd 792-5877
Ofer Mela'd 792-5877

Spanish

Elias Zachy 740-5780

All Other Classes, contact: Eric London 740-2507
Dr. Manny Sternlicht, chair of YU's psychology department, will hang in his resignation at the semester's end. Sternlicht, serving his thirty-first year as a full-time professor, asserted that allegations premising his departure upon pressure from the administration are erroneous.

"There was no pressure placed on me to leave," said Sternlicht. "The reason I've decided to move on is that I am unhappy with the current administration."

Sternlicht's "unhappiness" stems from his claims that the Dean's Office misused the statistics from the student evaluations making him one of five professors who were refused a pay raise this semester. According to Sternlicht, the professors are not privy to the actual evaluation forms, but they may view the data. Upon his request, data for three of the four classes he taught were shown to him, but data for "one of my classes from the fall semester as well as for the last four or five years miraculously vanished."

Based upon the data from the three classes from last semester, Sternlicht believed he was unfairly placed in the third tier and therefore received no raise. "I misused the statistics... and placed me in the third tier when I am in fact in the fourth tier and therefore received no raise. "They told me that not only is Sternlicht a boring and obscure lecturer, but that he is relentlessly unyielding to the needs of the students. Jesse son related an incident last semester in which he was unable to complete his paper on time as his wife fainted and was hospitalized the day before the paper was due.

"He said 'a deadline is a deadline;' recalled Jesse son, a pre-med psychology major. "When I asked him if it would be different if I were in the hospital, he said maybe. I think that this is an incredible insensitive reaction."

Even the students with more positive opinions of Sternlicht expressed an awareness of his poor reputation. "I don't understand a lot of the things people say about him," expressed psychology major Aaron Rabinowitz, IBC/Y'97. "I worked hard when I took him, learned a lot, and got a good grade. He teaches the material well, asks provocative questions, and makes you think. He taught me to clarify what I say and what I mean."

Psychology major Ross Rothenberg, SBMP/Y'98, stated that Sternlicht's challenge to students has held up his claims that the Dean's Office manipulated statistics from the student evaluations.

"People say that material is outdated." He always tells them to look it up and consider expanding his clinical practice in a precedent state of transition.

Dr. Manny Sternlicht

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Anshe Chesed

February 19, 1997
Scot Elliot's bold, original and ultimately flawed staging of the Chekhov classic, Three Sisters, should have been far better. Beautifully staged and well lit, this attractive production is greatly assisted by a plethora of star power as actors such as Amy Irving, Jeanne Tripplehorn, Lili Taylor, Eric Stoltz and比利 Crup who lend their collective hands to the production. However, despite their acclaimed acting chops, they are hurt by incongruous staging and, for the most part, are emotionally distant in their performances. Elliot's production fails to consistently pull the viewer into Chekhov's narcissistic universe, choosing instead to stage "climactic" monologues where expression and feeling should have sufficed. When I left the Roundabout Theater (after nearly three and a half hours), this play failed to move me, and that, is a testament to my disappointment.

Mr. Elliot, an acclaimed Broadway director, who is also currently signed at Universal, should not be only faulted for his valiant effort. Working with little time and a constrained budget, Elliot has succeeded at staging an imaginative version of the Chekhov classic. He has drawn out fine performances from actors such as Amy Irving (as the oldest sister, Olga), David Strathairn (as the soldier, Vershinin) and especially, the explosively as well as film, is to move the audience from mistimed soliloquies and awkward chemistry, probably due to lack of practice, further inhibiting the production.

However, despite these problems, Elliot's Three Sisters is, at times, quite exhilarating. Whenever Ms. Flockhart's Natasha enters the stage, she literally blows the rest of the cast into the first row. A self-satisfied hedonist, Mikhail's Natasha is a perfect characterization of a Chekhov character - she is all verve and bite. She is stunning and completely conscious of her seductive affect on others, as personified by her slowly, glowing smile when a table of men stand in her acknowledgement. Ms. Flockhart's Natasha is all emotion - in last year's The Birdcage, is a real find as well as the integral central character in this production.

The highly touted cast, led by the "Three Sisters" themselves, film stars Jeanne Tripplehorn, Lili Taylor and Amy Irving, have the difficult task of brooding, as Chekhov's "heroes" tend to do, with their emotions. Of the three, Irving's Olga makes out best, especially in the opening scenes as the proud head of her household. Irving's portrayal of Olga's descent from mistress to has been is believable. Tripplehorn, a gorgeous brunette who is usually reduced on celluloid to portraying dull, helpless love interests to stars such as Tom Cruise and Kevin Costner, tends to have a pouty, impervious sneer on her face. Taylor, who has recently been upstaged as the "Indie Queen" by Parker Posey, is far too desperate in a negative, if not annoying way. Taylor also is completely overwhelmed by Tripplehorn and Irving in her acknowledgement. Ms. Flockhart, best known for her support role in Three Sisters, has been named the educational director of this new department established under the jurisdiction of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS). Although he is now on leave from his teaching duties in order to work full time in his new role, Dr. Sokolow has been a member of the YU faculty since 1972. He has taught primarily at Stern for the past ten years, lecturing in Tanach and Jewish education. Additionally, Dr. Sokolow has extensive experience in curricular development and in-service training service. An independent network of day schools and high schools known as the International Council of Dati Tzion schools (Dati) will be joining Yeshiva University's ESP. These Dati Schools, according to Dr. Sokolow, "have gotten together over the course of the past year, and have enjoyed a variety of administrative, organizational and financial services." This "joint venture," as Dr. Sokolow calls it, will be called Torati and will provide interested schools with assistance in curriculum development and in-service training programs for their teachers.

Cooperating with ESP and Dati are two other educational organizations: the Torah Education Network. Dr. Sokolow, however, observed that this new program, Torati, will have "a more ambitious and broader scope."

Included among the many curricular projects that Dr. Sokolow is developing, are programs involving religious Zionism and the yahrtzeit of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik. Toward this end, ESP aims to provide school with educational materials and speakers in order to have suitable resources for these valuable activities."

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Record Number of Students Attend YUNMUN VII
31 High Schools And 460 Student Delegates Attend

BY ADAM MOSES


The event, while heavily subsidized by the Office of Admissions and nominally under its jurisdiction, in reality relied almost exclusively on Yeshiva University undergraduates for its organization and execution. Some 60 YU students comprised the secretariat and corps of committee chairmen, assistants, and rapporteurs. Their voluntary efforts were integral to the success of the event.

Each high school sent a delegation, representing one or more countries on an array of committees, patterned after the structure of the United Nations. In the same vein, committee sessions were conducted with regulations that closely approximated those used in the United Nations. YUNMUN Secretary-General and SCW senior Joelle Tollinsky called the quen.

There was no denying the scale or the success of the conference. The events of the opening of committee sessions were approximated those used in the United Nations. General and Security Council. The opening ceremonies were held with the calibcr of the public facilities and conference rooms, some found the decor of the guest rooms to be reminiscent of a 70's polyester nightmare. The stellar quality of the catered food compensated for any misgivings over the retro guest rooms.

As dinner and Maariv, the opening ceremonies were held with an impassioned address by Rabbi Benjamin Blech, YU instructor of Talmud, who encouraged delegates to seek truth and strive for a "world free of strife." The Secretary-General also spoke, setting the stage for the opening of committee sessions. The first committee sessions primarily addressed procedural matters and served to whet delegate appetites for the substantive debates that ensued the subsequent day.

Monday, witnessed marathon committee sessions throughout the day punctuated only by prayers, shiurim, and meals. Delegates exhibited their tenacity and perseverance in heated debates that lasted many hours and yielded insightful resolutions. The competitive tension of the proceedings was tangible as delegates competed for their respective committee gavels given to the top delegate in each committee and consistently delivered effective and eloquent speeches. The conclusion of committee sessions at 11:00 pm on Monday night, the results of the competition were largely decided.

As delegates packed their bags to make the trek back to their respective cities, they appeared to have thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Under-Secretary-General and YC senior Josh Fine said, "YUNMUN VII was a tremendous success because it fulfilled its major goals: providing its participants with an intellectual challenge, an opportunity to meet other students from across the country, and just plain fun."
Blu Greenberg, chairwoman of the conference, deliberately soft-spoken, opened the conference by painting a typological description of the Orthodox feminist as a woman full of confidence that “halacha has the capacity to incorporate women’s needs,” and one who, since “her life is defined by halacha,” performs “no antinomian acts.” To an enthusiastic ovation, she called for halachic innovation, and declared that “where there is a rabbinic will, there is a halachic way.” Concluding with a long litany of rhetorical questions, Ms. Greenberg, like the event itself, was ultimately more successful in raising significant and challenging questions than in suggesting specific answers or concrete proposals. The agenda did not seem to lend itself to the free flow of clashing ideas, but neither did the conference as a whole articulate aresponsive, coherent position, only an amorphous constellation of similar inclinations.

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Over an elegant lunch, at the conclusion of the conference, Rabbi Avi Weiss, assistant professor of Judaic Studies at Stern College, delivered a forceful and carefully constructed thirty-five-minute speech, under the title of “Halachic Windows of Opportunity.” Clearly unportable with some of the conference’s assertions of rhetoric, Rabbi Weiss warned against directing unproductive acrimony towards the rabbinate, and said that “denigrating k’vod ha’rabanut is unacceptable.” He also sounded a cautionary note against those for whom gender is the cornerstone of identity: “One’s relationship to God is at the core of one’s existence. Gender is a significant element in defining who we are, but it is not the foundation of one’s being.”

He reproached the liberal “left” for being “superficial and unbalanced,” and the conservative “right” for “confusing public policy with halacha.” Invoking authorities from Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik to the Rav, Rabbi Weiss asked that “we’ve done more here in five months than in two and a half years at my previous job,” proclaimed Adler. “It’s a shame that there isn’t more of this kind of compromise and cooperation.”

In contrast to Socol, Dean Adler shed some light on the situation as he pointed out that this is the first time that the college has undertaken anything of this scale. Adler noted that there is generally a good relationship between plant management and the faculties, and that although there are some bumps along the way, ultimately the college will be better for it. “We’ve done more here in five months than in two and a half years at my previous job,” proclaimed Adler. “It’s a shame that there isn’t more of this kind of compromise and cooperation.”
Dear Students,

On behalf of the Office of the Dean of Students, we would like to welcome our returning and new students for the Spring 1997 semester.

Adjusting to college life can be both exciting and challenging. The staff of the Office of Student Services is committed to helping you through these challenging times. Whether you require assistance through the complexities of registration and academic life; guidance or advice regarding career opportunities, graduate and professional schools; or development of job search techniques, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR EXPERTISE. If you are in need of counseling or even a reassuring hand, we encourage you to meet with our caring staff to discuss your needs and concerns.

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU FEEL FRUSTRATED AND OVERWHELMED. We encourage you to take full advantage of these services so that your college years can be most productive and rewarding.

As the semester begins, we wish you continued success.

Hatzlachah Rabbah,

Efrem Nulman
University Dean of Students
FH 428 - (212) 960-5330

David Himber
Associate Dean of Students
FH 427 - (212) 960-5480

Rabbi Adam Miller
Coordinator of Student Services
FH 431 - (212) 960-5480

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Rabbi Elchanan Adler
(General Guidance)
M 110

Rabbi Yosef Blau
(General Guidance)
FH 419

Dr. Stefan Bosworth
(Pre-Health Advisement)
FH 419

Rabbi Joshua Cheifetz
(Dormitory Concerns/Personal Guidance)
MO 104

Rabbi Yehezkel Fine
(Academic Skills/Personal Guidance)
FH 419

Mrs. Laura Harry, RN
(Medical Services)
RH 110

Dr. Michael Hecht
(Pre-law/Academic Advisement)
FH 104

Dr. Avery Horowitz
(Assistant Dean, YC
(Academic Guidance)
FH 103

Prof. Ira Jaskoll
(Advisement, SSSB
(Career Services Director)
BH 421

Ms. Naomi Kapp
(Career Services)
BH 421

Rabbi Eliahi Kohnigberg
(General Guidance)
M 110

Rabbi David Tahl
(General Guidance)
M 110

Ms. Marjorie Rubins
(Career Placement)
BH 419

Dr. El Sar, M.D.
(Medical Services)
RH 110

Rabbi Dr. M. Mitchell Serels
(Sephardic Student Advisement/International Student Advisement)
FH 419

Rabbi Kenneth Wieder
(General Guidance)
M 110

Dr. David Welsbrot
(Pre-Health Advisement)
FH 419

Ms. Adrienne Wolff
(Career Placement)
BH 419

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Academic Advisement Center
FH 109

Professor Gabriel Cwilich
Professor Manfred Fuksa
Professor Yakkov Karpishpan
Professor William Lee
Professor Richard Koonin
Professor Thomas Onley
In the wake of the helicopter crash which took the lives of seventy-three Israeli soldiers, we offer our condolences to all of the families in mourning. What follows is a translation of a piece printed in Friday's Yedioth Achronot (and reprinted here with permission) written by Amram Mitzna, the mayor of Haifa and former OC Central Command. I feel that it captures the pain and emptiness that we all are experiencing in light of the tragedy:

I thought that my two hands had already encountered all possible pain and bereavement. These two hands that have comforted mothers. These two hands that have cared for orphans. These same two hands were now trembling. These two hands that have pulled the trigger of a tank's gun turret. These two hands that have evacuated the injured from gun-ridded battlefields. These same two hands were now trembling.

My hands were trembling as I waited anxiously for the phone call from my youngest son who is serving as an officer in the Paratroopers Brigade. I wasn't the only one. In thousands of homes all across Israel, just as in mine, people sat and waited for that comforting sound of the telephone's ring, while at the same time fearing that instead of a warm welcome on the door from the Katin Heil.

Our eyes were glued to the television. The images were deary indeed. We wept over the radio. With our ears, we listened to the voice of a newscaster Karmela Menashe, and with our other ear, we listened for the ring of the telephone. "When is he going to call already??" The time passed and the waiting seemed to last longer than eternity.

Bellin or Sarid. Articles in the Anglo-Jewish press and sera noticed the remarkable pattern of discovering Biblical verses which synagogues were buzzing with the discovery of mine, to the fateful knock that once heard, changed everything.

Asaf Cheifetz, the Chief of Police and an old friend of mine, appeared on the television screen. Our sons went through the rigorous basic training together. Asaf choked up voice he in	formed us that there were many fatalities. I was feeling dryness in my throat. Amiram Levine, OC Northern Command and also an old friend of mine, told us in a broken voice that there were about seventy dead. Mind-boggling.

"I was reminded of an article once read entitled: "Parents- Waiting In Fear." How true today. I was scared. I was just as every other father in this country during those tense moments — worried. I clutched with anger from my mind those apocalyptic thoughts that tried to seep in.

The telephone rang, "It's me," said Raz in a trembling voice. "Look out for your self," I told him as I passed the receiver to his mother. My hands were still trembling.

In seventy-three Israeli homes, the telephone never rang. In seventy-three Israeli homes, the only sound that we heard was that of the fateful knock on the door. The knock that didn't come, changed everything. The son, the father, the brother, will never pass through that door again. "He was taken in the helicopter tragedy."

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Biblical Prophecy and Israeli Events

BY RABBI YOSEF BLAU

After the tragic helicopter accident in which seventy-three Israeli soldiers lost their lives, synagogues were buzzing with the discovery that the verses interpreted previously by our sages in the previous week's haftarah had predicted the crash. This is the most recent manifestation of a pattern of discovering Biblical verses which are seen as describing key events occurring in Israel. Ovesuch verses were told to Prime Minister Rabin's assassination by someone named Amir, and another Binyamin Netanyahu defeated both Shimon Peres and Yosef(Yosi)Bellin or Sarid. Articles in the Anglo-Jewish press and sera noticing the remarkable pattern of discovering Biblical verses, can be interpreted properly, a verse in the timeless, eternal, continuous, and timeless prophecy are being fulfilled.

The Jewish people have been on an emotional rollercoaster since we became aware of the enormity of the devastation in the Holocaust. Israel's emergence as a nation, followed by the stunning victory of the Six Day War and the return to Israel of Russian and Ethiopian Jewry, has been balanced by increased assimilation and the loss of millions of Jews to intermarriage. Smaller Jewish communities are disappearing all over the world while we witness a massive return from the exile of two thousand years. Unable to find a rational explanation for all this occurring, many have turned to messianic speculations. Events are thereby explained in terms of the tension, fulfillment of prophetic visions or necessary components of the unfolding of the messianic process. Dealing with the complexities and inconsistencies of actual events is no longer necessary. For some in Lubavitch, the death of the Rebbe does not affect their dream of his being the Messiah; it creates a new doctrine of a resurrected messiah instead. For some rabbis of Gush Emunim in Israel, the agreement by Israeli government to return territory to Palestinian Arabs is temporary, as they are unholy.

Netanyahu will no be more successful than Rabin and Peres in delaying the completion of the emerging redemption. Most of the Jews who repeat these Biblical interpretations are not conscious of their messianic intentions. They are relieved, however, not having to face the difficulties in trying to come to terms with unchanged ideas. Avoiding dealing with questions that should lead to self-analysis and accepting that we do not know or understand the divine scheme of history, is an unhealthy denial. Judaism does not deny reality nor the mystery of life, it has given us a way of coping with reality. The laws of mourning accept the fullness of the loss and establish procedures that help us cope with it. We do not tell a mourner not to mourn because the departed has gone to a better world, even though we believe it so. A play on a verse in Yeshayahu adds nothing to our response to the tragedy but can serve to distract us from facing it.

This move away from rationalism also reflects the growing influence of a vague Chassidism as yeshivot no longer stress intellectual achievement. Torah study has become an act of religious piety and the kollelim a spiritual refuge from a hostile world. Realities of life are to be avoided not confronted. In the Sephardic world the kabalists who give out Kameyos and blessings are gaining prominence. The gap be­tween observant and non-observant is growing. This can be explained by the intellectual world, with our usual blind acceptance of the rational, intellectual elements within orthodoxy, we have an unusual opportunity to increase our influence.

Let us return to an intellectually aware orthodoxy unafraid of confronting reality. Torah scholarship that promotes analysis and differentiation instead of religious slogans and playing on biblical verses, can transform orthodoxy while reducing the hostility felt by the non-observant. This is a time of great opportunity as well as risk. Messianism is not the answer, nor a simplistic mysticism. The time is ripe for a renaissance of the intellectual world of the Lithuanian yeshiva.

Rabbi Blau is the Mashgiach Ruchani of Har veYeshivat Keter Torah in Brooklyn.
The fencing team is nearing the crucial part of its season, but already it is turning out to be a successful year. After the gloriously triumphant 95-0 season, this year's team will be left with only three returning starters. Nevertheless, the team fought hard in the beginning of the year, and the players meshed together. Senior Mark Schlossberg hopes to continue his tennis experience while being Kovacs's strong and powerful serve will be tough to beat. David Schwartz, the only "letty," should add some variety to the team. The team also looks forward to the never-again experience of a veteran player along with the new group of talented rookies. The fencing team now prepares for the NCAA championships and NCA competition, yet to come.

This year a few individuals hope to be selected to compete in the NCAA championships. In the previous season, the fencing team was a successful year. After the gloriously triumphant 95-0 season, this year's team will be left with only three returning starters. Nevertheless, the team fought hard in the beginning of the year, and the players meshed together. Senior Mark Schlossberg hopes to continue his tennis experience while being Kovacs's strong and powerful serve will be tough to beat. David Schwartz, the only "letty," should add some variety to the team. The team also looks forward to the never-again experience of a veteran player along with the new group of talented rookies. The fencing team now prepares for the NCAA championships and NCA competition, yet to come.

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En Garde: Yeshiva Fencing
Nears Homestretch
BY ADVA HIRSHFELD

In a game where sport is often dominated by exorcism, crookedness and money, fencing is one sport that holds up the gentlemanly qualities of humanity. Men in white tights line up facing one another, gallantly salute the opponent, and then don their masks preparing to fence. When the referee asks if they are ready, the players respond, “Yes sir; when do we begin?”

Armored with a sword of metal and protected by mask, the Yeshiva College student hackers, bashes, and bloody the opponent into submission; yet it is done gracefully, and with honor the best traditions. The invariable quality of the Yeshiva University student have in the past helped make the fencing team a very good one. For the past two years fencing has won the IAC and last year the Macs hand complement one another on their fencing ability. It is a sport that Yeshiva students excel at.

YU Basketball Intramural Update
BY COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF

Feeding off the excitement of the “battle of the unbeaters” featuring Grossman’s Clippers and Markovitz’s Knicks, last semester, and with additions to the league from the second semester’s supplemental draft, the league’s weaker teams have become stronger. The addition of such players as Chaim Zackheim to the 7ers, and Ami Rosen to the Grizzles, will vastly improve the teams. The runner up Knicks might have found the missing piece to the puzzle with the addition of power center Lenny Himmelrab.

Game Summaries from first 3 weeks of the Spring Semester:
Clippers 38 Knicks 62
The rematch of last semester’s final was not as breathtaking this time around. Without the services of Daniel Lowe, the Clippes played like their NBA counterparts. They played like their NBA counterparts from the get-go. The Raptors’ offense was led by Micha-

Raptors 39 Cavs 40
This game was a blowout from the get-go. The Lakers’ offense was led by Michael "The Waifer" Resnick, who had a triple-double, with 14 points, 10 rebounds, and 13 assists. David Kompel also contributed to the scoring frenzy with 12 points. The Grizzles were led by Jonathan “Snowee” Lifschutz who pitched in with 6 points and two early two-point throws, which proved crucial later in the game.

Grizzlies 34 Lakers 61

Tennis Team Hopes to Three-Peat
BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

Over the past two years, the YU tennis team has flourished with back-to-back league titles and an astonishing 18-0 match record. This year, under the leadership of Coach Jon Bandler and Captains Josh Hasten and Tsvi Zilbersheyt, the tennis Macs hope to remain undefeated for the season’s 11 matches.

From March through May in ‘95 and ‘96, the tennis Macs faced eighteen opposing teams and were victorious in each and every meet. It should be noted that the Macs 18-0 record is measured in terms of meets, not individual matches. Each meet consists of nine individual match-es, six singles and three doubles matches. To be victorious, each team must win the majority of these matches.

The players of each team are thus ranked by their coach in order to match each competitor with his equivalent. If either team lacks a player, it automatically constitutes a forfeit of one match. With such fierce opponents as Maritime, NJIT, and Steven’s Tech, has taken constant determination, team spirit and camaraderie to accomplish such a mission.

Well, it’s 1997, and the Macs are back for more. Although eight of the team’s seventeen players graduated last May, top seed Josh Hasten returns and will anchor a lineup that includes returning Mac stars Tsvi Zilbersheyt, Shai Samet, Edon Hirt, Doron Katz, and Daniel Kraft. Hirt, as the team’s most improved player, will get a chance to contribute more to the team than in the past. Samet also moved up in the rankings this year. In addition, the singles lineup will benefit from the arrival of rookie Steven Langer, an exchange student from Switzerland, who hit a big three with 2 seconds left, keeping the Macs 18-0 record is measured in terms of a mask, the Yeshiva College student hackers, bashes, and bloody the opponent into submission; yet it is done gracefully, and with honor the best traditions. The invariable quality of the Yeshiva University student have in the past helped make the fencing team a very good one. For the past two years fencing has won the IAC and last year the Macs knew that they faced a different team to put this behind them so they could move on to spar with some of the best teams in the nation, including NJIT, Boston College, Brandeis, and Brown. The meet was held at Brandeis University and many members of the team met old friends. However, the Jewish atmosphere and kosher food did not hold the team back. On Saturday, the Macs fenced Princeton and New Hampshire and lost two out of three matches.

Over the past few weeks the team has met with a hectic schedule including twelve teams, six singles and three doubles matches.

The Macs hope to remain undefeated this season. It should be noted that the Macs have flourished with back-to-back seasons.

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