Amendments Proposed to Change YCSC Constitution

BY ASH KAHN
On Sunday night, March 30, the Constitutional Amendments Committee of Yeshiva College met in the Rubin Shul to discuss various amendments to be voted on in this Thursday’s elections. Only fifteen students participated in this meeting, which was to ostensibly decide on a new future for the YCSC. Jason Buskin, president of the Student Council ran the meeting along with Yosef Rothstein who helped write the proposed amendments.

Out of the proposed amendments, only two will be put forth before the student body for ratification on Thursday. However, they both significantly alter the current Constitution. Amendment XXXIII repeals Article XII, Section 2 of the Constitution which mandated that “the original body of the Constitution shall remain unedited.”

Repealing this article would then allow the sweeping changes that were proposed at the meeting to be added to the Constitution. The second proposed Amendment XXXIII replaces Article 13 Section 2 of the YCSC Constitution. President YCSC council shall allow for an amendment process to be extended to the end of the semester if it shall introduce a major change.

(2) A major change shall be defined as either a change in the structure of YCSC of one or its powers.

(3) For these amendments to pass a 3/5 vote of the student body voting is needed.

It will extend the amendment deadline past this Thursday to allow the changes discussed at Sunday’s meeting to go before the student body for a referendum at the end of the semester. In fact, the Amendments Committee is proposing a new amended Constitution.

Professor Wonders Why She Wasn’t Paid

BY NOAH STREET
Perused after not receiving her paycheck for two months and deciding to rectify the situation, Dr. Ariella Brown, an adjunct professor of English, left her English Composition class early to discuss matters with the YC administration.

Dr. Brown began teaching her first composition class of the day on Monday, March 24. At the beginning of her second class she informed her students that she had not been paid for the past two months and that she needed to confer with a fellow professor about her situation. She left the room and upon return informed her students that the remainder of her class was canceled. She then proceeded to the dean’s office to discuss her situation. Apparently, Dr. Brown is not alone. The Commentator has learned of several other adjuncts that were not paid on time.

When The Commentator broached the subject of Dr. Brown and the other unpaid adjuncts, Yeshiva College Dean Norman Adler responded that the situation had been continued on page 6

Student Court Called To Action

Rules Against YCSC Canvassing Committee

BY NOAH STREET
In a decision rendered by the Student Court, Daniel Berkowitz, an SSBS junior, has been allowed to run as a third candidate in the SSBS presidential race.

Berkowitz initially petitioned to vie for the senior class presidency, but after receiving misinformation from Yosef Rothstein, chair of the Student Council Committee, Berkowitz requested that he be allowed to run in another election.

Approximately 11:50pm on Thursday, March 30, ten minutes before the petitioning deadline, Daniel Berkowitz asked Rothstein, if at that point in time, he was more than one person bidding for the senior class presidency. Rothstein flipped through the petitions and found only one candidate, Aylon Glaser. Upon hearing this, Berkowitz submitted his petition for the position.

In actuality, however, there was another candidate, Daniel Schwartz, but Rothstein had mistakenly placed Schwartz’s petition in his desk, away from the other petitions that were in front of him when Berkowitz had queried about his adversaries. Incidentally the canvassing committee overturned its initial decision not to disclose the names of petitioners before the deadline. Rothstein explained that the practice was allowed for two reasons: “To allow candidates to see which positions they could possibly win and to encourage them to be participants in YCSC council. Also there was a lack of talk about the elections. No one was getting involved, nobody cared. We decided to disclose the names to try to encourage people to get involved. We actually had positions that nobody was running for.”

On Sunday, Berkowitz received news about the existence of a second candidate bidding for senior class presidency. Upon hearing this information, he requested that Rothstein allow him to switch his presidential bid to a different race. “I figured I'd be competition if there was just one person running (for senior class president),” said Berkowitz. “When I realized that wasn't the case, I decided to run for SSBS president. I had known earlier that there was more than one person in the [senior class president] race. I would have run for SSBS president because there is so much more that can be done.”

Rothstein admitted that he provided Berkowitz with misinformation, “I didn’t realize that it changed his presidential bid. ‘I had screwed up, but the rules are clear, that he [Berkowitz] couldn’t switch’. Berkowitz had then taken Rothstein to the Student Court.

Rothstein immediately petitioned for and was granted a sealing of the trial. Explaining his actions, Rothstein stated that, “It was my fault and I felt I would have to own it. The goal of closing the case was to diminish any backlash towards Daniel. In years past there has been a backlash against the candidates whenever the court has ruled against the canvassing committee.” Rothstein also continued on page 15

YCSC Cancels Purim Concert

Cites Student Lack Of Interest As Reason

BY ARI EISEN
Just one day before its planned “post-Purim concert,” the Yeshiva College Student Council canceled the event due to poor ticket sales. The concert, scheduled to take place on Thursday, March 27, at Lamport Auditorium was to feature Merdechai Ben David and Shloime Dachs.

According to Howie Mazin, the Box Office Manager of the concert, only three hundred seventy-five out of the approximate thousand tickets available for purchase for the concert were sold by the Tuesday night preceding the concert. After an all day storm-destroying session by YCSC President Jason Buskin and vice-president Netanel Lebowitz, the decision to cancel the event was made by Buskin as “one of the hardest decisions I’ve had to make as Pres.” - was made so that the student council could avoid a huge monetary loss.

Lebowitz explained, “We wanted to go on with the concert, but it would’ve been financially suicide had we done so.” Buskin added, “In addition to our responsibility to provide events and activities for the student body, it is also our responsibility to be fiscally responsible with the student body activity money which is in our budget.”

Though YCSC did pay Merdechai Ben David a non-refundable deposit for his scheduled performance, MB did choose to return the money to the student council in the form of credit for a possible future engagement at YU. Thus, Buskin emphasized, “The amount we will lose for canceling the concert is insignificant compared to the amount we would’ve profited if we had the concert with the limited ticket sales.”

When asked if YCSC could have done more to interest students in the concert, Buskin responded, “We did the same advertising we did last time. It just didn’t work.” Lebowitz commented, “We were elected, our responsibility is to put on events. We had an idea, and in essence, the student body rejected it.”

Lebowitz admitted that a greater effort could have been done to publicize the concert. “We could have advertised more outside of YU and sold the seats three times over, but the point of the concert was that it should be a concert for the students of YU and not for the Jewish community at large.”

Many on campus believe no amount of advertising could have filled the seats of Lamport Auditorium. YC Senior Yosef Rothstein said, “It’s just another example of YU students not car-
Reinventing Apathy

With one candidate running for YCSC president, one candidate running for YCSC secretary, and one candidate running for senior class vice-president, we have little to be proud of. Rather than competing positions of student leadership, they are virtually given away to anyone who'll claim them.

Those elected to these positions wield tremendous power; power to affect the lives of each and every individual on campus, power to change the University. Yet YU students have the opportunity to produce change and act upon their own and fellow students' complaints about the college, they fail miserably.

The fact that the aforementioned positions will be filled by unopposed candidates cannot be rectified, but the future need not parallel the past. Various campus clubs will be holding elections in the next couple of weeks. Vote for these positions. Next year when student government elections are held, compete for the positions. Even if you fail in your bid for elected office, you will walk away with the knowledge that you were not apathetic. You made an attempt to change student life on campus.

Pirkei Avot teaches us "In a place where there are no men, strive to be a man." Let us live up to this challenge.

Changing The Rules In The Middle Of The Game

Article XIII of the Yeshiva College Student Council Constitution clearly sets the guidelines for passing amendments to the Constitution. It states that the Constitutional Amendments Committee must convene a Constitutional Amendments Convention prior to March 1st of the year "with the purpose of bringing to light all potential motions and amendments to the YCSC Constitution," and providing an opportunity for students to propose their own amendments. In addition, according to the Constitution, by March 15th, YCSC is to decide by majority vote which amendments are to present to the student body for ratification. All amendments approved by majority vote are then required to be presented to the student body prior to the YCSC General Elections.

These guidelines were added as amendments to the Constitution several years ago to ensure that any future amendments to the Constitution would be made with the full knowledge and consent of the student body. The students would be informed of the proposed amendments and would then be able to choose whether or not to amend their Constitution. Each of the three aforementioned stipulations has been ignored by YCSC and the Amendments Committee this year. There has been no Amendments Convention. There was no YCSC vote to decide which amendments to put to the students for a vote. And absolutely no effort was made to present the proposed amendments to the student body before the elections. (In previous years, YCSC has placed copies of the proposed amendments in students' mailboxes). As a result, only those students privy to being on the Constitutional Amendments Committee have a clue as to what amendments are to be voted on in this year's elections.

The question begs to be asked: Why have the student council and the Amendments Committee blatantly ignored those guidelines added to the Constitution to ensure that the student body is capable of making an informed decision about changes to their Constitution?

Perhaps the answer to that question lies in a careful analysis of this year's proposed amendments.

Amendment XXXII repeals Article XIII, Section 2, that states that "the original body of this Constitution shall remain unaltered or changed in any manner." Now, why would anyone want to repeal such a section of the Constitution? Perhaps someone has some wholesale revisions in mind in addition to the two being considered on Thursday? How would such revisions to the Constitution be made if the General Elections are only one day away? Enter Amendment XXXIII, the second proposed amendment.

This new amendment would grant the President of YCSC the power to "allow for an amendment process to be extended to the end of a semester if it shall introduce a major change." A major change is defined as "a change in the structure of YCSC or one of its powers." In other words, the Constitution would be able to be changed at any time of the year, as long as the President felt the need to make a "major change."

In sum, these two proposed amendments would grant YCSC, and particularly the President, unprecedented powers to attempt to change the Constitution in any way they see fit. And what exactly do YU's current student leaders have in mind for our Constitution should these proposed amendments pass on Thursday?

One clause the Amendments Committee would like to see added to the Constitution gives the President of YCSC "discretionary powers to take unilateral action if such action is necessary." A President with such broad powers is in nobody's best interest - except perhaps for his own.

Because YCSC and the Amendments Committee have shown that they have no problem ignoring those clauses in the Constitution which ensure that the student body has a say in and is adequately informed of any changes to the Constitution, they cannot be trusted to advocate changes that are in the students best interests.

Do yourselves and your fellow students a favor. Don't vote to approve the proposed amendments to the Constitution on election day.
From the Editor’s Desk

ARNON STORFER

This past week The Commentator received a tremendous amount of feedback regarding its last publication, a spoof of The Commentator dubbed Norman Adler’s Terminator. Apparently, at least one administrator, as well as a number of students both at the Stern College for Women and Yeshiva College were personally offended by portions of Norman Adler’s Terminator’s contents.

As Editor in Chief, I was present with a dilemma. I could respond to the allegations outside of the pages of The Commentator, which would serve as some measure of “damage control” by not allowing unnecessary exposure to an issue whose production run was limited to delivery to both undergraduate campuses rather than the greater Jewish community and whose content was seen as offensive to some. The second alternative would be to address the publication during the next issue of The Commentator. Because The Commentator has always claimed to serve as a forum for the responsible dissemination of timely news and personal opinions, and because two letters to the editor were submitted for publication about Norman Adler’s Terminator, I find it necessary to publish a clarification as the Editor in Chief.

The Commentator was criticized for its Purim article entitled “Prospective Stern Students Rumble Down 34th Street” a parody on the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey circus animals that annually parade down 34th street on their way to the Madison Square Garden, as well as a mock advertisement offering behavioral psychologist and YC Dean Norman Adler’s academic works on sexual behaviors of rats.

The Commentator is conscious of and sensitive to the perceived societal norms that pressure women to conform to certain shapes and sizes in order to be accepted, as well as the tragic disorders such pressures cause. We also respect the field of behavioral psychology and are aware of its legitimacy and purpose. Yes, the objective of The Commentator’s publication of a Purim issue is, no doubt, to razz, to parody, and to jest. The objective is not to forbid, act in malaise, pray on the misfortune of others, or circulate any material that would be taken as anything less than friendly tongue-in-cheek humor. The intentions behind this year’s issue were no different.

Ironically, it is just those individuals who submitted letters to the editor that I find myself lauding. While hundreds of students espoused their two-cent opinions within their own insular enclaves, with some calling for the editors in chief of The Commentator to step down and others calling for The Commentator as an entity to dissolve, these two individuals recognized the true function and importance of a newspaper.

The failure to speak out, be it on philosophical ideologies or simple grievances, is not limited to Norman Adler’s Terminator. University Representative, in large measure, has been silent on issues which have monumental significance and are currently being discussed.

Although grumbling about a veritable plethora of student issues on campus has become a quasi national pastime for YU students, when elections roll around and positions of principle importance like the YCSC presidency avail themselves, one individual steps forth and runs unopposed.

Kierkegaard once said “People hardly ever make use of the freedom they have, for example, freedom of thought; instead they demand freedom of speech as a compensation.” I wonder what Kierkegaard would have thought of YU.

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Final Phases of Dining Hall Renovation Underway

BY MORECHAI FISHMAN

Residents of Rubin Hall awoke last Monday to the sound of construction outside their windows, as the renovation of the Furman Dining Hall continued with the refurbishing of the dining hall's roof.

In a letter dated March 10, Dr. Jacqueline Kurtz, Safety Specialist in the Department of Environmental Health and Safety of Yeshiva University, explained that the work is needed to protect the newly renovated dining hall from the spring rains, and to install a new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system for the cafeteria. The letter detailed the fact that a quantity of the roofing material contained non-friable asbestos, a type not likely to become airborne, but that nevertheless, "all appropriate precautions will be taken to protect the health of our community during this project." These precautions included air sampling both outside and in Rubin Hall, and the opportunity for any student affected by the smell of tar to request a temporary room change.

The work is being done by assorted contractors, who according to Dr. Kurtz, are "experts in this type of work." The asbestos removal is being performed by Topline Asbestos Inc., while the re-roofing is being done by Jarrick Roofing, a company YU has done extensive work with in the past. An independent consultant, Gramercy Asbestos, was brought in as well, to sample the air and check on the safety of the project.

Even with the forewarning, residents of Rubin Hall were still disturbed by the construction. Most student complaints focused on the inability to open windows due to the rain smell of the melted tar. One student was adversely affected by the fumes, and complaining of nausea and headaches, was given temporary housing on the bottom floor of Rubin Hall.

Joseph Dyckman, YC'99, whose room is located over the roof, contacted the administration to get questions answered. "Why weren't they done during the Passover break when students are absent from the campus? Instead, I have to wake up every morning with the smell of tar in my face."

Director of Facilities Management, Jeffrey Rosenberg, defended the scheduling and explained some of the difficulties involved: "In light of the environmental concerns, we wanted to do this work in a manner consistent with the recommendation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration."

Director of Facilities Management, Jeffrey Rosenberg, defended the scheduling and explained some of the difficulties involved: "In light of the environmental concerns, we wanted to do this work in a manner consistent with the recommendation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration."

Dean watch

BY JJ LANDO

With the academic year rapidly drawing to a close, those in the Yeshiva College Office of the Dean, who will replace the current Assis- tant Dean Aviery Horowitz, who will be vacating the position at year's end, have not yet made a decision on his replacement.

Though no formal candidates have been introduced, The Commentator has learned that Assistant Dean of the Sy Zysman School of Social Work, Dr. Efrim Nulman, may serve as a temporary replacement.

YC Dean Norman Adler affirmed that students would be informed of progress on the search process as events unfold and stated that "the normal per- sonnel procedures are being engaged."

Dean of Students Dr. Efrem Nulman

Mazal Tov to:
Arveh Simmons & Shira Rosen
David Greenstone & Shira Spodek
on their recent engagements

Sternlicht Honored at Farewell Reception

BY ARIVA HERFIELD

Yeshiva University faculty and administration met in the Gottesman Library last week to honor psychology professor, Dr. Manny Sternlicht, who is retiring at the end of this year. At the informal event, many spoke of their personal experiences with the psychologist over the years. The professors and faculty then honored Dr. Sternlicht for his many accomplishments by presenting him with a plaque and silver Havdallah set. The plaque congratulated Dr. Sternlicht for serving with "distinction and good cheer," and for being an "exemplary col- league."

When Dr. Sternlicht was called on to speak, he said, "If you are here since 1958, it is not for the salary and not for the parking privileges — it is for the students." Dr. Sternlicht then asked Dr. Beukas to read a letter from a student who had taken classes with him in 1968, and recently wrote to him when he heard that he was retiring. As Dr. Beukas read the letter, in which the student thanked Dr. Sternlicht for shaping his "therapeutic potential and per- sonal soul," Dr. Sternlicht looked visibly shaken and seemed near tears.

Dr. Sternlicht has taught at Yeshiva University for over 30 years, and currently teaches classes in Abnormal, Clinical, and Developmental Psychology. Upon retiring, he plans to devote more time to his private practice.
University Still Charging Student Clubs “Room Fees”

BY MONTICELLA FEINMAN

While an amenable solution continues to be worked out between YC Student Leaders and University Administrators, clubs continue to pay room fees.

Every event staged by a student council or associated club that uses a university facility, is charged a “room fee” by Facilities Management. This money is paid by the student councils, and comprises the primary expense for most student activities. The amount is not predetermined, nor is there a set rental fee for various classrooms. Rather, the student councils receive a bill after the event is over and the Department of Facilities Management has calculated how much the council will be charged for the private facility.

This system has led to misunderstandings and complaints between student leaders and the administration. “Hundreds of dollars can be saved from the student council budget, if we did not have to pay to use empty classrooms,” exclaimed President of YCSC Jason Buskin, who has long been upset about the current method of payment for classroom usage. Buskin estimated the amount paid by YCSC in room fees, as anywhere from five to ten percent of the total student council budget. “It has taken all year, but I feel that we are moving toward a solution,” said Buskin, and he expressed hope that another system can be found that would work toward the satisfaction of all parties involved.

IBC president Bryan Ashenberg was perturbed as well. “They are charging you more, and this causes increasing difficulty to hold down expenses. Student councils should be using money for what it was given for, running events for the students.” He stressed the fact that the sums charged are only known to Facilities Management and that no estimate is given, as “flaws in the system.” Ashenberg pointed to recent IBC events, the IBC dinner, as an example of the problem. The event was held in Furst room 501, rather than in Weisberg Commons, and he is still unsure of how much more the administration will be charging for using the room, despite it being across the street from the University kitchen. “They really hope they come up with something,” Ashenberg stated, noting that “YU needs less red tape, not more.”

Dean of Students Efrem Nulman defended the present system of payment, but acknowledged that “students are not happy with the approach.” “The University treats student budgets just like everything else,” he said, stating the official payment policy of the administration, that student councils must pay their fair share for the usage of facilities. “Is this the best system? Maybe. We are currently looking at the problem with the Student Life Committee, and we hope to find a solution how to deal with it.”

IBC Luncheon a Success

BY MATTHYAEI BALEY

The IBC Student Council sprung into action last week hosting its second event of the year, a Post-Purim luncheon. The student turnout for the March 25 event was impressive, with IBC Secretary Gary Strong estimating that over one hundred and forty students participated. According to Strong, the turnout of the event surpassed that of the Hannukah luncheon, “because we [BCSC] did a much better job at publicizing the event and letting the students know about it.”

Teachers Unpaid Due To Budget Glitch

continued from page one

The program featured speeches from bible professor Rabbi Allen Schwartz and Dean of the BIM, IBC and JSS programs, Rabbi Michael Schmidman. They appealed to the students to “step forth” and accept the responsibility of leading the Jewish community into the twenty-first century. Students were pleased with the program, particularly the free food and gifts that were distributed. One IBC student commented, “last year we didn’t have any IBC programs, but this year the student council has already organized two events.”

corrected

Bernard Pittinski, Director of University Finance said that “it was nothing more than a fault in the system.” He explained that each semester adjuncts are rehired, after which the Dean sends a pay slip to Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. William Schwartz. Pending Schwartz’s approval, the memorandum is sent to the finance office which issues the payroll. According to Pittinski, because adjuncts are hired on a semester basis, the paperwork can be lost or confused.

“Bot,” Pittinski stated, “if a faculty member misses a payroll cycle, we issue hand checks. We don’t make them wait until the next cycle.”

Federal Judge Addresses YU Students

BY YITZHAK FLEISHER

Judge Michael B. Mukasey, who presided over the infamous 1995 trial and sentencing of then-Student Omar Abdel-Aal, was the keynote speaker at YU’s Student Union last Monday night.

Regarding the Suspects, Mukasey contrasted the comments of participants, and recognizing the chance for a fair trial.

An Evening With Dr. Soloveitchik

BY NATE WIENER

Over three hundred men and women gathered in Weisberg Commons for an evening with Dr. Hayim Soloveitchik, professor of medieval history in YU’s Bernard Revel School of Jewish Studies, and his article “Rapture and Re-construction: The Transformation of Contemporary Orthodox.”

During the dinner, Dr. Soloveitchik spoke of his motivation to write his acclaimed article. He explained that he was perplexed by the change that has taken place in the religious practices of the younger generation, that have caused him, in many instances, to recognize the new face of Judaism.

For example, Dr. Soloveitchik pointed out that nowhere in Yoreh Da‘ah is the topic of separate meat and dairy dishes discussed with the exception of a law concerning the separation of Passover dishes from dishes used throughout the year. The absence of information lies in the fact that the laws of the “kitchen” were transferred from mother to daughter. Today, the laws of Kzurat are transmitted primarily through books rather than from mother to daughter.

Citing other examples of change that had occurred within his lifetime, Dr. Soloveitchik mentioned that orthodox Judaism from one end of the spectrum to the other, has absorbed American culture. Kosher dining has gone from the “kosher deli” experience to thousands of choices from different ethnic backgrounds. As another example, Jewish music had adapted a rock-and-roll beat albeit the predominance of liturgical language.

Dr. Soloveitchik’s explanation that the transformation of contemporary Orthodoxy was a combination of migration (to America) and cultivation (with America). “Whereas assimilation is a conscious attempt of a sub-group to adopt the lifestyle of a dominant group, cultivation is an unconscious process,” he said. “With cultivation, a group begins to act like its host society...it’s difficult, even impossible, to resist,” even the most right wing of group is susceptible.

After the initial address, Dr. Soloveitchik fielded questions that students had prepared for the event. In reference to arising discontent among some orthodox women towards their religion, he stated that sixty years ago, before the advent of the technological revolution, women’s “issues” were largely irrelevant because of her indispensability to her household and family. Now that the women’s indispensability in the household has been diminished because of advances in technology, the woman needs to regain her identity. Hence many women are looking towards religion to fulfill that need.
The Student Organization of Yeshiva cordially invites the entire community to a HACHNOSAS SEFER TORAH in memory of HARAV DOVID LIFSHITZ ZT"L.

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When a Noun Isn’t a Noun And A Verb Isn’t A Verb. YC Linguistics Professor Reexamines Traditional English Grammar

BY AKIVA HERZFIELD

For years you have been ingrained with grammatical rules, and told what is correct and what is not. In elementary school, you learned about nouns, adjectives, and verbs. In high school you studied the predicate nominative, predicate adjective, and subjunctive. Yet, have you ever stopped to think about whether those classifications really exist: “Is there really a noun? Are there really verbs?”

“No!” declares Dr. Huffman, professor of linguistics at City University of New York and instructor in classes of Yiddish and Linguistics at Yeshiva. Grammarians did not create the language we speak, and, according to Dr. Huffman, their attempt to explain how language operates is a failure.

Dr. Huffman is a Yeshiva alumnum, who, like other prominent University graduates like Dr. Bernstein and Rabbi Riskin, studied Classical Languages under Dr. Feldman when he attended the school. Huffman is fluent in six languages, and by his latest guess has read or glanced at twenty other languages. Today, Dr. Huffman represents Columbia School grammarians, iconoclasts in the linguistic science, who reject traditional approaches to grammar, approaches once seen as fact. He stands at the cutting edge of new developments in the linguistic science, and his numerous articles are discussed nightly on the World Wide Web.

The theories of the Columbia School and Dr. Huffman are controversial because they shift the structure of language from a rule-based format to one that relies upon the human ability to jump to conclusions. For instance, while traditional grammarians view the word “book” as a noun, when a person looks for a flight on an airplane, “book” is seen as a different word in the verb class, notwithstanding the notable similarities. Huffman, however, says this is poppycock: even a child can see the sharp similarities between the two. Therefore, the Columbia School posits one word for book, and its meaning is dependent on the context and other factors.

Linguistics is one of the few scientific fields yet to be fully explored. Before Ferdinand de Saussure revolutionized the science in the early twentieth century, the most monumental discoveries in linguistics were a product of the Classical era, two thousand years ago, when men danced around in togas slaughtering pigs to Jupiter. During the Enlightenment, when other sciences began to more rapidly evolve, linguistics languished behind. Now men like Dr. Huffman are altering and reinventing the face of linguistics.

The problems with traditional grammar are many, and Columbia School grammarians believe that the problem lies at its very foundation. Indeed, they say it extends all the way back to the Greeks, who thought the sentence was connected to human thought and could be divided into categories. Whereas today’s scholars have reevaluated other aspects of Greek thought (the sun revolving around the earth, the heart creating new blood, the gods, etc.), many continue to believe that the sentence is the fundamental unit of language and consists of separate classes. For Huffman, and all other Columbia School linguists, this is an incorrect assumption.

At Yeshiva College, Huffman teaches his students that they must reevaluate that which they have been indoctrinated with since childhood. No verbs; no nouns; no commas. These ideas sound outrageous at first, but eventually they make sense. For instance, according to Huffman there are only two tenses in English, “past” and “non past”; the present tense is discarded. It sounds remarkable, but observe the verb work in two different sentences: This week I work in Manhattan/ Next week I work in Brooklyn. While the verb work is traditionally seen as present tense, it is only procrastinators who see next week as the present.

Dr. Huffman’s philosophy is gaining recognition in today’s linguistic societies, although at first many were reluctant to listen. Dean Adler believes that the school is “fortunate” to have Dr. Huffman and “a first rate program in linguistics; because the science is emerging as a modern and important field.”

Thinking of joining Huffman’s class and becoming a rebellious linguist? Consider a few things. First, if you only have room for requirements, the class cannot help at all. It’s a two semester course, but the second semester will neither fulfill a requirement nor even count as credit for an English major. Attendance for the course is mandatory; really mandatory! However, the biggest obstacle toward taking the course is that it runs on a two year cycle and won’t be taught next year. Nevertheless, if you get excited over verbs or nouns, want to study with an erudite professor, or just want to yell at your high school English teacher, Yeshiva College has a linguist waiting for YOU.

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OKAY TO MAIL AT:
Constitutional Amendments Committee Set To Revamp
YCSC Constitution
continued from page one

Constitution not just a few amendments. The president of the new constitution reveals the first difference: the name of the new entity will be the Yeshiva University Student Council-Main Campus. "The bottom line is that the student council is the representative body for all the undergraduate students on the Main Campus," said Buskin. The name was changed from Yeshiva College Student Council to Yeshiva University Student Council because "we felt the name should reflect what the student council is," according to a committee, the YCSA Student Association, which is supposed to be affiliated with the YCSC, was being recognized as a separate entity by students. The change clarifies the Student Council's role as incorporating everyone on campus.

Another change in the Constitution presented the Bar Mitzvah Rule. The requirement is for the executive board to reside in the most populated dorm on campus. The Bar Mitzvah Rule was created so that house students would become the primary residence by default. Many at the meeting objected to this, but most in attendance did not know what possible restrictions on the executive board. From one executive board couple of years, the executive board would have a rotating and non-binding agenda. Most feel that after the Bar Mitzvah rule, no allowing for constant interaction is how Buskin resolved these objections. Yet students feel that the board should have a matter of choice as long as they are in one dorm. The debate is expected to be an issue in the coming year. When the new council is elected and the new Constitution comes up for ratification.

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Purim Concert Cancelled
Due To Lack Of Interest
continued from page one

ing about the events run on campus for them." "YU students need to support the activities of their councils, because the councils are doing this for them," declared Bryan Ashenbberg, President of the IBC Student Council. "Any student event is only as successful as the students make it." Other students rejected the reasoning of rampant student apathy and suggested alternative reasons for the failure of the concert. A common complaint on campus was that the timing of the concert was poor. "The Purim chagiga was enough partying for one week," commented Adam Starr, a Yeshiva College Senior. Others pointed that lack of interest was due to the preponderance of concerts over the same weekend; performances by Abraham Fried in Englewood, New Jersey, and by Dedi in a concert at Queens College.

YC Senior Jeff Beer attributed his decision not to attend the concert to the intense social pressure present at many joint YU/ Stern events. He commented, "I couldn't figure out what to wear." Howie Mazin reported, "The feeling got was that many students were just not interested in hearing MBD perform." He suggested that Yeshiva University students still remember MBD's disastrous performance at Kibbutz Sha'arei Zion, Israel, several years ago. The concert there was delayed for several hours as MBD first showed up late for the event and then made the several thousand attendees of the concert wait for approximately two hours as he directed a separation of the sexes in the crowd (He apparently would not sing to a mixed audience).

Regardless of the reasons for students' decisions not to attend the concert, the students who wanted to enjoy a night of Jewish musical at YU were disappointed to hear of YCSC's decision to cancel the concert. Carl Hochhauser, a YC Senior who purchased a fifth-row ticket for the performance, lamented, "from the deepest chasms of my soul, I am disappointed that a greater contingent of my fellow students did not avail themselves of the wonderful musical opportunity dropped off at their doorstep. In addition, my heart goes out to Netanel and Jason for their time and effort that went for naught; I hope their frustration soon passes."

Eric Tellier, another YC Senior, complained, "They got my hopes up, and then they just didn't come through."

Mazin promised that those who purchased tickets will have their money refunded within the coming week. He also wished to remind students to hold on to their tickets, as only those who present tickets will have their money returned to them.

As for next year, Lebowitz is optimistic that future spring concerts can succeed. "Maybe now that we introduced the idea, perhaps it will be a success next year," Buskin echoed his vice-president: "Next year if people are expecting it, it could work."
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YCSC PRESIDENT (UNOPPOSED)

SRULI TANNENBAUM

Experience:
Chairman of the Shabbat Enhancement Committee; Chairman of the Blood Drive (two years); Member of the Student Life Committee; Coordinated many major activities (Super Bowl Party); Received YCSC recognition for commitment to student council activities.

Platform:
- Arrange for study halls in Rubin Residence Hall
- Keep Rubin Lounge open for longer hours
- Revamp Muss Residence Hall and open a Muss Mart
- Provide modern desks for Furtz Hall
- Work with Registrar's office to expedite registration
- Make University offices fully accessible to students
- Work with Food Services to enhance cafeteria service and quality
- Extend library hours and open library on Monday night
- Ensure student clubs are active and provide activities of interest to students
- Solution to divided Beit Midrash scenario

YCSC VICE PRESIDENT (2)
1. MARK POSNER
2. DAVID SCHREIBER

YCSC TREASURER (2)
1. JOSEPH GLASS
2. JOSHUA LANDA

YCSC SECRETARY (UNOPPOSED)
1. HOWARD MAZIN

SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT (2)
1. AYLAN GLASER
2. DAVID SCHWARTZ

SENIOR CLASS V.P. (UNOPPOSED)
1. JONATHAN ROSMAN

SENIOR CLASS TRES./SECRETARY
1. ELLIOT LOWENSTEIN

JUNIOR CLASS PRESIDENT (3)
1. JEFF BANDER
2. JOSEPH DYCKMAN
3. MORRIS ELBAZ

JUNIOR CLASS V.P. (2)
1. CHARLES COHEN
2. HILLEL ZINKIN

JUNIOR CLASS TRES./SECRETARY (2)
1. ARI FARKAS
2. ERIC SHUBERT

Student Council Hop

BY ADAM MOSES

On Tuesday, April 1, the Morgenthotel Residence Hall lounge was rocked by tumultuous, frequently disorderly activity as the annual pledging debate, moderated by The Commentator, was conducted before approximately 90 students. Participants included prospects for the YCSC presidency, vice presidency, and SSBB

The ceremony commenced with an presentation address by Jacob Basch, the current student council president. Basch focused on the importance of student involvement in university affairs, and opened the floor to questions from the floor. The debate was characterized by colorful, passionate oratory and intense debate.

Subsequent candidates were introduced, each expressing their vision for the future of the student council. The debate was accompanied by a lively atmosphere, with students cheering and shouting in support of their favorite candidates.

Candidates for YCSC, SSBB, and SOY elected offices have begun campaigning in earnest for the upcoming elections. Candidates are expected to run on platforms addressing issues such as academic freedom, student rights, and university governance. The contest promises to be fierce, with candidates vying to secure the majority of the student vote.

SOY PRI

1. MENACHEM LUFTGLASS

"Putting the yeshiva back into Yeshiva."

Experience:
Washington internship; General experience in matters of yeshiva organization.

Platform:
- Reassert the yeshiva experience so that students truly learn serioiusly at YU
- Establish forum with rabbis discussing Torah principles in contemporary society.
- Delve musser in Eli’s to motivate students for successful learning
- Shulim on Halacha, Hashkafah, and Yer Torah
- Shabbatons oriented to all, not simply a single yeshiva
- Lectures of an intellectual character on Torah U’Mada and other matters of importance to students
- Institute Rush Chodesh program with speakers and food
- Revamp supply of seforim in the Beit Midrash
- Return Seforim Store to its roots with less diversity of books and greater focus on gemara and classical Talmudic meforshim
SSSB PRESIDENT (3)
1. DANIEL BERKOWITZ
   Experience:
   Chairman of Cafeteria Committee; President of Israel Club; Layout Editor of the
   Exchange.
   Platform:
   - Jobs: improve knowledge of job market by increasing career fairs and career nights
   - Classes: increase sections so that students are not locked out of crucial classes
   - Increase number of full-time professors
   - Increase variety and quantity of courses
   - Increase alumni involvement in the school
   - Develop mentoring program

2. SIMCHA GISSINGER
   "Elect the man you’d want representing you to a potential employer."
   Experience:
   Vice President of the Joint Business Society; Managing Editor of the Max Investment
   Club newsletter; Instrumental in opening and managing the profitable Morg Mart;
   Staff Writer for the Exchange; Business Staff for the Guide to the Perplexed; Freelance
   business tutor.
   Platform:
   - Create better ties between SSSB students and YU’s successful alumni in the
     business world
   - Establish a mentoring program for student professional development
   - Lecture series on challenges confronted by Inni Tov in the business place
   - More the Community Tax Aid Program to the YU campus
   - Abolish the exit paper requirement for students taking the CPA or CFA examina-
     tions
   - Create a marketing and MIS arrangement with corporations whereby YU stu-
     dents will be able to undertake volunteer assignments
   - Arrange for more orderly SSSB registration process with multiple deans approv-
     ing courses
   - Arranging for more interview preparation and advisement

3. HESHY WILLIG
   "It’s not just your education, it’s your future"
   Experience:
   Editor-in-Chief of The Guide to the Perplexed; Staff Writer for the Exchange; SSSB Tutor;
   Former Associate Research Editor of The Commentator; Chairman of the YC Arts
   Festival.
   Platform:
   - Improve SSSB registration and create an advisement center
   - Improve tutoring program
   - Advanced projects with professors outside of class
   - Student-faculty mixers
   - Increase scope of student club activities
   - Bring Community Tax Aid to YU
   - Establish Muss Mart
   - Establish mentoring program with alumni and professors
   - Strengthen student interviewing and writing skills
   - More executives and distinguished speakers
   - Jewish business ethics lectures delivered by prominent rabbis
   - Lecture series addressing current issues affecting business

SSSB VP. (2)
1. JOSHUA KLAN
2. DANNY NASSIMI

SSSB TREASURER (4)
1. RON FINBERG
2. JONATHAN TEITELBAUM
3. AVIAD GOLDWICH
4. DANIEL DRABKIN

SSSB SECRETARY (2)
1. MICHAEL GEWIRTZ
2. URI SAVA

FULS Gather for Debate

Baum categorically denied that he shocked any responsibility.

The YCSC vice presidential candidates respon-
se to a probe about intended direction for the
YU Academic agenda. Posner expressed his
objection to the outside credit cap imposed on
credit. He stressed a desire to relax the
parameters elected. Additionally, Posner sug-
gested that hiring additional staff or a profes-
sional was not a viable solution. He suggested
that faculty representatives familiar with
students' majors

Schreiber expressed his interest in establish-
ing an alumni operated advisory service. He
believed in a professional hired outside of
YU. Posner responded that he would
work to establish the advisory service.

The SSSB candidates did not conform to
each other's ideas. Posner stated that he
would continue to work on the issue. Schreiber
expressed interest in the idea of a profes-
sionally hired person.

When asked to how he viewed student
involvement in school activities, Baum stated
that many students are not involved and that
this is unacceptable. He stated that he
would continue to work on the issue.

The candidates also discussed the
academic agenda. Baum stated that he
would not hamper the academic agenda by
imposing a cap. Posner expressed his
objection to the outside credit cap imposed on
credit. He stressed a desire to relax the
parameters elected.

SSSB IDENT (2)

2. DROR BARBER
   "Memahz sheph $uvekto ura."
   Experience:
   Freshman Class Vice President; Vice President of Communal Affairs
   Committee; Member of Registrar’s Committee; Participated in Open House recruiting
   function and Orientation.
   Platform:
   - Refurbish main Beit Medrash
   - Attempt to raise $100,000 for road work
   - Weekly hashkafa shiurim by Roehl Yehuda
   - Reinstitute Geshur: intellectual journal for annual publication
   - Establish a monthly SOY publication
   - Foster connection between students and student council
   - Establish MYP breakfasts and luncheons like IBC and JSS
   - Provide greater interaction between R' Charlop and R' Blaus and students
   - Increased beneficial contact between succulent students and undergraduate stu-
   dents
The Yeshiva College Dramatics Society

presents

Ordinary People

Showtimes

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Rabbis Declare Reform and Conservative Movement “Not Judaism”

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

In a press conference that had been expected for a week, the Agudah Rabbonim of the United States and Canada came out with a statement denouncing the Reform and Conservative movements.

"The Reform and Conservative are not Judaism at all," asserted Rabbi Hersh Ginsburg, the acting chairman of the association, "While their adherents are Jews, their religion is not Judaism."

The statement was first reported in the press as declaring the Reform and Conservative movement "not Jewish," an impression corrected by the press conference held at the Hilton Hotel in Manhattan.

The announcement came one day before a conversion bill passed in the Israeli Knesset outlawing reform and conservative conversions conducted inside Israel. Many believe the announcement was part of the war against pluralism in Israel and an attempt to prevent the Israeli government from legitimizing and recognizing the movements.

However, members of the Agudah Rabbonim said this statement was motivated by a desire to see the estranged Jews "abandon their erroneous ways."

"The hope in America is that the many Jews now affiliated with the Reform and Conservative movements will...rethink their continued associations," Rabbi David Hollander, who serves on the executive board of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis, told The Los Angeles Times. "They are being told they are being taught Judaism...It's a deception of innocent Jews."

The Los Angeles Times quoted a statement by the Agudah Rabbonim, describing its ruling as "a clarion call that, despite their brazen usurpation of the titles 'Judaism,' 'Jewish heritage,' 'Jewish tradition' and 'Jewish continuity', Reform and Conservative are not Judaism at all. They are outside of Torah and outside of Judaism."

The Rabbinical Council of America and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, put forth their own statement to repudiate the declaration "issued by the Agudah HaRabbonim (the Union of Orthodox Rabbis) which calls into question the validity of the Jewish identity of the vast majority of American Jews."

In their statement the OU said: "This hurtful public pronouncement flies in the face of Jewish peoplehood, particularly at a time when the holiday of Purim emphasizes the common fate and destiny of all the Jewish people... Despite divisions on core theological issues, they are still to be considered disagreements within the family."

"We must never lose sight of our strong sense of unity as Jews and as one people," the RCA added, "Torelessly emphasize the issues that divide and thus seemingly delegitimize large numbers of Jews harms the efforts of all who seek resolution to the difficult issues facing world Jewry. We call upon all responsible leaders to exercise restraint in statements so that despite the issues that divide us we may still remain united as one people."

"We would not make such a statement or engage in such activity," said Rabbi Ralph Grossman, president of the Orthodo Rabbinical Council of America. "Anything that can be interpreted as a disinfranchisement of Jews in any way is absolutely unjustified and uncalled for."

"Yet the RCA sees no paradox in opposing "disenfranchisement" and supporting the conversion bill, which the Reform movement says would separate its converts from the Jewish people."

"Conversion is a Halachic issue," said Rabbi Steven Dworken, director of the RCA. "We are not saying a Reform Jew is not a Jew."

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Please for further '97 Summer Sessions catalog (available late March)

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U2: Pop

Upon listening to the new U2 album POP, I'm reminded of an article in the March 24th issue of The New Yorker in which Louis Menand writes of "The Iron Law of Stardom," a rule which dictates that the stardom of a celebrity is a phenomenon that cannot extend for a period greater than three years.

The only way for stars to lengthen their stay in the sunlight, contends Menand, is to undergo a transformation that maintains the star's status of being on perfect congruence with the way the world happens to be. Menand cites the Beatles' metamorphosis from lovable mop tops (1964-67) to hippie artists (1967-70) as proof. This transformation holds true for U2 and their newest album POP. The band once again confirmed that this change is for the better; a metamorphosis that will grant them their craved place in the sun as well as further establish them as one of a handful of artistically vital bands among a backdrop of mindless frat rock, marketed madness, and one hit no-wonders.

Like the Beatles circa Sgt. Pepper, U2 has embraced the innovative technology available in studio recording without straying from their legacy of solid song structure and impassioned vocals. Bono's lyrics are as topical as ever as he has crafted a thematically consistent album that vacillates between anguish over the emptiness of the material world (Discotheque, Playboy Mansion, Miami) and hope to transcend the mire and find spiritual fulfillment (Angels, Gone, Wake-Up Dead Man).

Musically, however, is where the album shines its brightest. Having proven that they can construct obviously perfect rock 'n' roll with "The Unforgettable Fire" and "Achtung Baby," U2 decided to make a more subtle and creatively satisfying route to musical bliss by crafting an album of innovative and distinct songs that draw from different progressive musical genres to overpower your senses.

With Discotheque and Mobs, the band tries their hand in the techno world of Chemical Brothers and Prodigy to create a double-tracked drum wall of sound that even Phil Spector wouldn't be able to scale. On the other end of the sonic spectrum, The Edge fashioned the delicate ambient guitar lines of Velvet Dress to syncope with your heart and lungs creating a pulsation of unprecedented sublimity in U2's song. Miami resonates with trip-hop tension, Gone and Do You Feel Loved use baggy British beats and overdriven guitar lines that shred through your body and embed themselves in your soul.

The album, chock full of bells and whistles, distorted vocals, bleeps, and backwash sounds courtesy of co-producer/dancer guru Howie B make POP an aural feast, but a quick listen to Starting at the Sun, Last Night on Earth, or Gone makes it clear that U2 hasn't really strayed from their goal of producing driven, soulful songs. They've just taken more time and effort and given us more to listen to as a result.

From their first album and throughout their career, the members of U2, all devout Catholics, have made the search for God a prominent theme of their work. With POP, they've gotten closer to finding what they're looking for in "the details."
Berkowitz Declares
SSSB Candidacy
continued from page one

chose not to invite any other candidates to the trial because, "If I thought that their presence would have made a difference I would have invited them."

The court, presided over by Justices Daniel Black, Isaac Zimmerman and Daniel Lowe, ruled in Berkowitz’ favor allowing him the “right” to choose between YCSS, SSSB and Senior Class presidency. According to Rothstein in the court decided in Berkowitz’ favor, because Berkowitz had "relied... directly on my information and the fact that he had received misinformation was unfair." However he was limited to presidential bids, because Berkowitz’s reasoning behind his bid for senior class president was based on the fact that the president poses decision making powers that other people on the board do not possess.

Candidate Response
Both SSSB presidential candidates, Simcha Gissinger and Heshy Willig were incensed by the addition of Berkowitz to their race and by the sealing of the trial. "I find it a little strange and very self-serving to hear about another candidate hopping around between elections based solely on where he has the best chances of winning," said Gissinger. Concurring with Gissinger’s statement, Willig said “Winning is not something you throw around lightly.”

Courtroom Controversy
Several eyebrows were raised when it became known that Ira Tannenbaum, the unopposed candidate for YCSS president, clerked recorded information at the trial for the Student Court. Some students felt that he may have wanted to have a hand in the SSSB elections. Rothstein assured The Commentator that “there was an agreement between Sruni and myself. Nothing would be handed into the justices with out my first looking it over. Also, he wasn’t allowed to be alone with the justices.”

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The Experiment Never Dies: On Religious Pluralism in Judaism

BY RARE MOSE DORDOV

Pluralism has a special appeal to those raised in the democratic ethos of the United States of America. It seems to be "fair," "tolerant," and "open-minded." To those committed to the halachic tradition, "pluralism" disguises deviant behavior, many of which are anathema to Torah Law and Custom. In its current usage, the appeal for pluralism in Judaism is an attempt to legitimize Reform Judaism and its derivatives, Conservative and Reconstructionist Jewish denominations. Reform is a century old experiment in adapting Judaism to the demands of modern society. After a hundred years, it is time for a summation and evaluation of this experiment:
1) They alone among the great religions deny the Divine origin of the Torah, the Five Books of Moses.
2) Sixty plus percent of their children marry outside our faith often with a Reform clergyman officiating.
3) Jewish Law, as it's revelation at Mount Sinai, defined a Jew as one born to a Jewish mother. Reform redefined a Jew as one born also to a patrilineal descendant of a person with Jewish membership in order to bolster their thinning ranks.
4) By rejecting the Jewish laws of divorce, they have splintered our nation into two "biologically" distinct groups. If two groups sharing the same ecological niche cannot interbreed, they become two distinct species. By refusing to accede to the plea of Orthodox leadership to require a Jewish divorce (Gittin), they have raised the specter of amoral bastardy over every child born to a woman who remarried. Neither her children nor any of the descendants can ever marry within the Torah-true community. This irrational disdain for Torah Law and for its adherents, has led to an irreparable split.
5) Reform continues to undermine Orthodoxy, especially with the younger generation.
6) Their clergy can profess to be non-theist, i.e. deny the existence of G-d. The only god they honor is "autonomy." 7) In violation of the morals and ethics of Torah Judaism, they have declared the Gay style of life a legitimate alternative to the heterosexual family life style. They carry Judaism as legitimate religious functionaries.
8) They have declared non-marital sex as a matter of personal conscience not a sin. Instruct UJ students to perform religious rituals that has given up on morality as not found its way to oblivion.
9) Incredibly, there are those who identify themselves with Orthodox Jewery, yet support the demand for pluralism in Israeli society. They intentionally blur the demarcation lines between Judaism and secular humanism. Their efforts to legitimize Reform marriage and conversion cast doubt on their own commitment to the Halachic process which is the essence of Torah Judaism. How can they ignore the dictates of history that Reform has been an abject failure when measured by Jewish survival? Reform has been responsible for the disappearance of millions of Jews since the end of World War II. Demographic expectations were not realized because their children married-out, and their grand-children left us a commotion of faith, and Orthodoxy, or simply "dropped-out" and no longer identify themselves with any religion. No rationalizing can turn away the accusatory fingers of history and the devastating charge "Reform leaders" you have failed the G-d and the people of Israel and must suffer never to participate in the majestic destiny of Am Yisroel unless you renounce the slogan of our faith.
Reform is no longer a Jewish faith. Its agenda is that of Liberal/Lelt secular humanism. The laity who comprise the Reform movement are secularized, estranged Jews who drifted away from the beliefs and practices of Judaism. We simply cannot suffer the loss of the majority of surviving Jews. In the words of Rabbis, Reform requires a minimum critical mass. We must hope that the pluralism debate may yet serve a useful purpose. It will inform the laity who have identified with the Reform movement of the true meaning and moral standards of this failed experiment. When informed, they will naturally consent to substitute Liberal/Lelt secular humanism for Judaism even if they lack the discipline for full Halachic commitment.

On Conformity

BY ADAM MOSES

It is probable that our lives will bring us in contact with a veritable myriad of individuals who espouse beliefs inconsistent with, even antithetical to, those we maintain. This should not be viewed as an inevitable catastrophic confrontation of irrevocably disparate convictions, rather as an opportunity to eschew the rigid, ubiquitous dogmatism that frequently pervades insular environments characterized by virtual isolation. This exposure, if exploited efficaciously, should provide us with an avenue for independent ascertainment and securing our true beliefs on many crucial life issues.

As we progress through that great social homogenizer that is Yeshiva University, it is essential to recognize that diversity is not iniquitous. Indeed, encounter with beliefs not reflective of our own preconceived notions must not be limited to post-collegiate experience. Following years of incessant formulistic philosophical indoctrination, objective evaluation of differing perspectives can hardly expect to receive a competitive standing with the product of accumulated institutional indoctrination. The conformity that plagues the student populace of YU threatens to stymie the healthy social individualism that should accompany a university campus experience purporting to take seriously the charge of personal student development. This is arguably the raison d’etre of any reasonable university. Aaldus Huxley’s observations of the nature of mass repression are relevant.

"To make them more morals, more homogeneously subhuman, he assembled them, by the thousands and the tens of thousands, in cast halls and arenas, where individuals could lose their personal humanity, and be merged with the crowd." Such coercively imposed uniformity is profoundly abhorrent to us when reflected upon from a detached perspective; how perverse that conformity should be voluntarily assumed and even propounded as virtuous by boys in the University when applied to social practices and philosophical orientation.

Properly understood, the status of a mere expensive luxury and finds its presence as essential to the very personhood of man. This sentiment is more vividly captured in the quixotic-philosophical, hackneyed, yet poignant lyrics of the famous Offspring: "Who observes an alarming social trend and suggest a viable means of contesting with it. "Where they lead, / You will follow. / And if you look / You’ll be doing what they say. / And if you look alive / You’ll be singled out and tried. / If you take home anything / Let it be you will to think." One will almost invariably find himself under the sphere of influence of some herculean force wishing to exert his dominating power over the compliant mass in order to attain its goals. Assuming one could achieve this will force us always be the core of least resistance. Deviation from the course dictated by this force will entail ostracism and consequently, we are conferring upon seemingly anozious duty. The only resource that can assure an opportunity for individualistic exercise is the ability to formulate one’s own independent thoughts.

The aforementioned is an objection to the prevalent on-campus trends of mindless passivity, capricious acceptance of foveugue morals, and complete social apathy. These trends are not only deconcerting but indeed morally repugnant in that it threatens to deleteriously impact upon the very fabric of personal humanity by abrogating any authentic sense of individualism. How many UJ undergraduates have seriously cogitated on the matter of their deeply held convictions and those of others in a comparative context? How many have failed to completely demand those professed philosophical perspective differing even minutely from their own on the basis of their own prioritisation and random assumption? To what extent can it realistically be contended that this be a reduction in the number of their personal convictions and not those of the oft misguided masses? To be certain, it is an element of the international and individual philosophical conformity associated with the essential tenets of Jewish doctrine. This, however, must not be confused with gratuitous and mindless collection of proofs falsely justified under the ascertainment of subjective religious observation. These duplicitous rationalizations for certain religious practices serve as mere cover for anachronistic, anachronistic in our lives. The superficial, external, and physical accouterments in no ways correctly associated with level of observance must not be lighted with a waxen candle. Many of our students are simply merely wishing to project the image of strenuous religious commitment despite a lack of commitment and internalism. Physical symbols to me are but a mere appendage to the intended.
Dial 911
To the Editor:
The Hatzolah Volunteer Ambulance Corps of Washington Heights/Inwood provides a service which is indispensable. The volunteers of Hatzolah deserve credit for the hard work and dedication that they devote to both their corps and the community.
Nonetheless, there are many problems with the Hatzolah of the Washington Heights region and, indeed, those in many areas which are often ignored or overlooked. Although each member of Hatzolah of Washington Heights must take and successfully pass a New York State certified emergency medical technician (EMT) course and must undergo a Hatzolah "training program," their certifications do not mean that they are competent enough to be the service that we care providers. Many of Hatzolah of Washington Heights EMT's are new, having recently completed a course. Although they possess classroom training, they do not, in my opinion, have the adequate field experience. Thank Goodness Hatzolah of Washington Heights does not receive many calls, however the limited number of decisions which can be made similar and thus don't give the Hatzolah EMT's in Washington Heights the continued experience they need. The Washington Heights Hatzolah EMT's rarely respond to motor vehicle accidents, drug overdoses, poisonings, and stabbings.
I was shocked to read the Hatzolah article published in The Commentator on March 6, 1997. Mr. Faber states that "YU security helps transport injured persons to the hospital for x-rays, on occasions where Hatzolah needs the ambulance to take care of bigger emergencies." What gives Mr. Faber and Hatzolah the right to release an injured student to YU security who are not emergency medical technicians and who do not have an ambulance? Are they to determine what is a "bigger emergency?" Emergency Medical Technicians do not have the training or the right to determine what is and is not an emergency and who is and who is not an emergency patient. If someone answers to the fact that an obvious feel that it is an emergency. Despite the nice spin you put on the Washington Heights Hatzolah members, your article to insult anyone who is the expert requires professionalism at all times. When I see YU Hatzolah members walking around campus, holding conversations on their emergency radios when they are unrelated to the events and/ or laughing and joking around, it decreases their credibility in my eyes. One Hatzolah member stated to me that "it doesn’t matter how I act, as long as I’m professional while on a call." Is this the person you want working on you or a family member during a time of need?
Granted, Hatzolah of Washington Heights has excellent response times and is a free service; FENNY EMS costs money. But when your life is on the line, what matters? Does it matter that your EMT has "Competence?" It’s something to think about. If it’s your life on the line who would you call? If it’s me, G-d forbid, DIAL 911. Yours in first-aid,
Eric M. Orgen, EMT-D
SSSB ‘98

Thanks, But No Thanks
To the Editor:
In the March 6, 1997 issue of The Commentator an article was written about Hatzolah. The gentleman interviewed for this article, Yossi Faber, made it clear that the article must be approved before it is printed. This did not happen.
Hatzolah is the service that takes every step possible to avoid publicity. Our services are unique, are offered to a small segment of the New York community, and is the less that is written about us the better. In reading your paper, you note that we are now on the WWW further publicizing your articles. The requirements to have the proposed article approved is a basic right that should not have been violated. We ask that you explain why the commitment to show the intended article to our coordinators was not fulfilled. In addition, the article has a number of inaccuracies. We ask that you make a note that no article be written about our organization without the specific approval of the coordinators.
No argument, any other statement should be made to the public regarding our organization without the express approval of our coordinators.
Sincerely,
Sam Benson
Yaakov Lownthal
Yaakov Monoker
Coordinators
Washington Heights Hatzolah

In Support of the Honors College
To the Editor:
I am surprised at the utter lack of enthusiasm expressed by the student body and faculty towards Dean Adler's proposal of a scholars college at yeshiva. Adler's proposal is a product of his most important asset and perhaps the reason behind his appointment to YC; his innovation. For several years past, students complained and administration and faculty have muddled as school morale and academic standings lay well below Yeshiva College's potential. The efforts that Dean Adler has contributed to revitalizing and building our school are critical to our own education and personal growth in our college years. Regarding the Scholar's College, in particular, I admit there may be details subject to criticism and negotiation. I suggest:
The Scholar's college should not be an entity separate from YC.
All YC students should be allowed to enroll in those classes.
Only those students who have fulfilled a determined number of credits within the "scholar's courses," and are recommended by the faculty, are offered to graduate as an "honors scholar," or "scholar." All such graduates are subject to acceptance of an exit thesis.
A joint committee of students, administration and faculty will determine the nature of the courses and the faculty who will teach them.
Appropriate compensation to the faculty will be determined by negotiation between the faculty and administration.
These factors, if accepted by Dean Adler, should allay virtually all concerns presented in the previous Commentator.
Nevertheless, blatant notions of mistrust and pessimism are the very sentiments that formed the past stagnation. I suggest to those students who find fault in the proposal, discuss their opinions with the student council and work proper channels to make student concerns University policy. The dissenting faculty, who chose to muffle a speech of grumbling and discontent, instead of showing a mature example, should rather face themselves some more purposeful occupation within our school.
I, for one, am most pleased with Dean Adler and welcome his suggestion with an equal share of enthusiasm and concern for our University's growth. In the short time that Dean Adler has been in office, our academic standing have overwhelmingly improved, and a rise in student morale has begun. I suggest that we encourage this growth and offer our input in ensuring its proper path and success. Yasher Koach, Dean.

Stephen Reingold
YC '96
YU: For You, For Me, For Everybody

To the Editor:

As I opened the most recent issue of The Commentator, I read about the usual criticisms of Yeshiva University being a vocational school and how the academic standards are lacking. I feel it is about time that someone stands up and supports Yeshiva University and what it stands for. People seem to forget that there are seven Ivy League universities and an abundance of Yeshivas, but only one Yeshiva University. Only at YU can you debate a Taflos and discuss Thomas Paine's Common Sense in the same day.

Many of the Rabbinic as well as Professors are well known in the academic world and can be reached by the students whenever needed. At what other university can one go to the dean's office, as I did last year, and make a lunch appointment with the dean. The camaraderie one can attain at Yeshiva University is unique to any other university. No, we don't have fraternity parties, instead we bond around a pan of Doughgles Wings.

A few weeks ago I was part of a group which met with a consulting firm to discuss what we did and did not like about YU. Many valid points were made, but one student really got to the crux of the problem. He explained that Yeshiva University is losing its focus. We are not Harvard and we are not Yeshiva. We are Yeshiva University, one of a kind. Granted, the Academic Standards could be improved, but I feel we are in good hands because the administration is taking an interest in building up the academic integrity. Dean Adler came from University of Pennsylvania, a school which people love to compare with YU. He knows what it takes to raise the Academic Standards. I hope the administration does not lose focus of its prime objective: to provide the best college education as well as the best religious education.

As another year quickly comes to a close, we should be thankful for all Yeshiva University has to offer. As we go out into the world, hopefully what we have gained from the YU experience will lead us on the right path. Remember, there are Rabbis around to answer each and every question. Yeshiva University is moving in the right direction, and this special environment should not be taken for granted.

Gary Strong
YU '96

Heretics

To the Editor:

Humor is a subjective thing. What one person considers funny, another may find tasteless, crass, and even vulgar. Such is the nature of the beast. Yet, when publishing a newspaper which represents the student body of an institution, a sensitivity to those people being represented is certainly in order. I refer to the recently published Purim edition of The Commentator, ironically named The Terminator. Homer.

What is and is not funny may be an issue for subjective debate. However, in your publication you cross far beyond the line of sensibility and taste. Using a picture taken at the scene of an accident where an individual was killed and others injured to make jokes reveals such a crude lack of judgment and moral consciousness, that it certainly puts into doubt whether the lessons of Torah and Judaism taught to you at Yeshiva have had any impact whatsoever. For what it's worth, an apology is in order, in addition to an effort to ensure that the emotional anguish you caused this year never happens in the future.

Sincerely,
Reuven Spitzer
YC '94
RIETS '97
ACS '97

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Student Elections Will be held on April 3
Student Council
Executive Board
President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Senior
Class
Junior
Class
Sy Syms
Student Council

Student Organization of Yeshiva
President
Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer

Names Must Be Submitted by March 26
Submit Names To: Yeshiva University, 318
Avi Lopchocki, March 26

There Will Be a Meeting on March 24 for all potential candidates.
For Official rules, See More or Rabbi Lobbis.
Want to hear p'khat on charedim and maskilim?

Not certain how to respond to liberal egalitarians or to Jews who don't think we're frum enough?

Then come to the Spring 1997

Dorm Talks

Rabbi Dr. N. Lamm

"Jew and Jew"
Relating to Jews who don't share our religious perspectives

Moderated by R. Y. Blau
Coordinated by R. J. Cheifetz

Wednesday, April 2
8:00pm, Morg Lounge

Sponsored by the Resident Council of YCSC,
all the Student Councils, and all the Newspapers
Season Wrap-up: Macs Earn Passing Grade

BY RON MARKOVITZ AND STEVEN ZOMBEK

This past season proved to be one of the best ever for the YU Macs basketball team. The Macs finished the season with a 15-6 record and their fourth ever ECAC post-season bid. The Macs played #13 seeded College of Staten Island, but were unable to overcome their size disadvantage and lack of depth. CS Island beat them 80-50.

1996-1997 Macs

Center Joel Jacobson proved to be the big man he is this year. He led the team in scoring and rebounding. He was one of the hardest working players on the team and took the brunt of the work in the paint with very little support in the second half of the season. He was the ECAC player of the week and would have been a likely candidate for accolades from the IAC if not for an injury. As a starter, Joe is a weapon with the full package: great outside shooting ability and a swoop of moves in the paint that often resulted in a field goal or a trip to the line, and the ability to run the floor much better after shooting a smooth follow through. Joel Jacobson should continue on to have another solid year as a senior next year.

Shooting guard Alan "Oak" Zaibert, a cornerstone of the Macs, had a superb season averaging 12 points, 5.5 rebounds, and 4.4 assists. He led the team in three-point and free throw percentage. Zaibert played 21 minutes a game, was great in the open court, and allowed the Macs to more effectively execute the inside game with the threat of his outside shooting often causing defenders to lose him. He always let his game do the talking and was upbeat about the Macs' chances even when down 23-2 and struggling against Baruch on December 9. He single-handedly brought the Macs back with five three-pointers and two clutch free throws to win the game. "Oak" will bring his natural leadership abilities and timely competitiveness back next year.

Yehudah "Ice-Man" Halpert set 21 games a year as a senior and played first in the Maccabiah basketball through and through. Averaging 3.6 assists, he effectively set up the Macs offense. "Ice-Man" got his nickname for his clutch free throw (78%) which helped the Macs win the 1987 Joseph's (JD) game.

Forward Neil Bronstein had a fine third year. Improving every year, this season he really stepped it up where the Macs needed him most. In defense and on the boards. Bronstein's short jumper as well as his ability to rebound (5 rpg) and break the opposing team's press were crucial to the team. A great role player, he posted a season high 16 points against Poly when the rest of the team struggled. Bronstein will be back next season for one more year.

Sixth man Ira "Rocks" Landman should have been nicknamed the "sparkplug," as he constantly ignited the team when on the floor. Throughout the year Landman showcased his sweet passing ability, proving to be a key player during the season's homestretch.

Center Alex Shakhmuratov, the "Shag" of the Macs, was arguably the team's most improved player. He gave the Macs an inside presence with his rebounding and shot blocking, and often forced opponents to alter their shots. Following a mid-season concussion that sidelined him for the remainder of the season, Shakhmuratov announced that he was transferring to another school.

After joining the team in plain clothes for the remainder of the season it appears as if he may have gotten bitten by the winning bug, and showed some interest in returning. If he does return, the sky is the limit for this 6'5" player. During his nine games, Shakhmuratov averaged nine points and six rebounds, and he remained the offensive boards. Brian Wein added 9 and 4 rebounds a game to the Macs offense during his short time actively were mostly defensive in nature. Wein after playing just 6 games for the Macs. As the team's most purely athletic player, Wein started the season in a more versatile role in the new up-tempo offense implemented by Coach Halpert.

Hopefully next year Brian will be back on the team's roster. The Macs game was largely attributable to their bench depth. Dovy For- man's dangerous three point ability was called upon to make some of the biggest buckets of the season.

If Moshe Abelesher played 40 minutes, he would average 40 points. Abelesher exhibited his ability to shoot three pointers and dribble the ball with the best. Joel Krueger and Gabe Lakser also played important roles in getting the players ready for games in practice. Stephen Kupferman rounded out the solid play of the team.

The Macs' future looks to be bright with Small Forward/Shooting Guard Marc Nadrich. Whatever you call him, Marc's "weird" shooting is a year was an unexpected lift for the team. Nadrich averaged 9.7 points and 3.5 rebounds playing 22 minutes a game.

Next year, look for Marc's fluid stroke to drop more jumpers as his opponents stare in wondertainment.

Coaching came to play a role just as important as the players themselves. Assistant Coach Evan Goldstein kept the Macs in tip-top shape with his offseason and voluntary conditioning workouts. Coach Jonathan Halpert, the win-ningest coach in YU history installed a new up-tempo style into his game plan, attacking opposing team's presses well and driving to the basket. The Macs' stingy defense allowed a mere 56 points per game. The team also out-assisted their opponents by a 315-182 margin for the season.

Tough Season Comes To An End

BY MIKE VOGLER

It's been a long year for the Macs Volleyball team. The loss of key players and lack of experience were key factors in the team's performance. Coach Jiang searched the entire season to find a definite starting line-up. Trying different players, both old and new, Coach Jiang mixed combinations having either two setters or three hitters at one point in the court.

Another problem faced by the Macs was the lack of experience which was expected to be filled by the co-captains. Returning players Ari Bandler, Ronen Lazar, and David Waksin provided extra motivation in much needed times, but a new players had difficulty adjusting to the league's rules and the team's style of play.

Headway was made as the season progressed, however it wasn't enough against the tough competition. The team hopes that with the return of most of their players, next year will prove to be more successful.