Tannenbaum Elected New YCSC President

Schreiber, Mazin & Glass Form Balance of Executive Board

BY ADAM MORAES

As the Thursday, April 4, YCSC elections drew to a close, the bulk of the offices sought were filled. The frenzied day of last-minute politicking and rhetoric was as marred by some questionable conduct, both before and during elections.

The YCSC presidential office was claimed by the unopposed Snuki Tannenbaum. Efforts to advance a serious run-in challenge for the presidency fizzled as the election approached and Tannenbaum enjoyed an easy victory.

One YC student who was particularly appalled by the prospect of the most influential elected position in the undergraduate student government being attained without opposition, took to the sidewalk in front of Morgenstern Residence Hall with a megaphone to express his sentiment on the matter. Evan Kevelson indicated his belief that "YCSC is a dictatorship keeping its own people in power and not giving people choices for candidacy." Kevelson repeatedly demanded that voters write him in as YCSC President. This display continued with Kevelson barking his anti-YCSC diatribe for a number of hours until he was detained by YU's security forces. They instructed him to suspend usage of his megaphone.

Kahn, Streit Elected Commentary Editors-in-Chief

BY JASON IVES

The Governing Board of the Commentator has elected Ari Kahn and Noah Streit Editors-in-Chief of Volume LXIII. Ari Gruen will round out the Executive Board as Executive Editor. The election marks the fifth time in six years that two people will sit at the helm of the Commentator.

They take over from graduating Senior Joshua Feldman and Arnon Storfer.

Streit is a California native and alumnus of YULA. After graduating, he spent a semester at UCLA, transferring to YU for the Spring 1996 semester. A dedicated worker for the Commentator since his sophomore year, he has served one semester as a Staff Writer, Associate News Editor, and News Editor, during which he detailed the battle surrounding the Scheiber fortune, as well as the plight of University professors who are underpaid.

Kahn, who hails from Long Island, has also served on the Commentator's editorial board. He brings experience to the editor-in-chief position, serving in the same position at the YUJOURNAL during high school. Kahn spent one year learning at Sha'arvim, settling at YU thereafter. Though currently serving as Features Editor, he has written his share of memorable stories as Associate Features Editor and as a Features Writer. He has become a household name with his in-depth and analytical styles of writing, and is best known for his expose on the academic attitudes of students at YU, as well as a behind the scenes look at how US News and World Reports rated Yeshiva University as the 45th ranked university in the Nation.

Both Kahn and Streit are confident about the future of the Commentator. Kahn commented that "during my time with the newspaper I have been exposed to virtually every aspect involved in producing a quality news paper. With the help of the rest of the staff, I am confident that my co-editor Noah and I will be able to continue this long standing tradition." Streit said, "From my first semester on campus, I remember looking towards The Commentator to continue on page 4 of the manuscript.
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The University's recent decision to shut down the student-operated Internet server will result in the termination of Internet web space for student-run services including The Commentator online site. This is the most recent manifestation of an ongoing sequence of administrative footdragging on the matter of Internet policy. Over the course of the past two years, the University has neglected to formulate a formal policy on Internet service despite strenuous efforts by its student organizations to achieve a clarification of the matter. What is most alarming about the trend that has been established by the administration is what this lack of definitive action represents in the context of the University's view of technological advances and their relevance to the educational climate. While most American universities are spiraling upwards with ethernet connections in every dormitory room and personal websites for students, Yeshiva University sprawls downwards into the quagmire of technological ineptitude. While the Commentator can parley its well developed website into a commercially lucrative independent venture, the precedent established serves to indicate that Yeshiva University is more interested in suppressing student activity and expression than facilitating technological advance that would benefit students.

Who's Watching the Watchmen?

It should go without saying that Yeshiva University vigilantly follows the strict standards of Halacha. It should also go without saying that those placed in charge of ensuring that these standards are upheld must perform their job with the zrizus, effort, that corresponds to their great responsibility. Yet when the cafeteria on our campus faced a crisis that many kosher kitchens face at one time or another, it was left up to a student initiative to ensure time and time again that no one was purchasing treif from the cafeteria.

With the tremendous pressures and responsibilities that the undergraduates face, it is unconscionable to expect them to take on the additional burden of making sure what they are eating is kosher every time they want to purchase any food from the cafeteria. That is why the University has a system in place with mashgichim in the kitchen at all times and a separate head mashgiach who schedules the mashgichim and arranges that all food deliveries are supervised. The head mashgiach is charged with investigating the kashruth of all products coming into the kitchen. This system is only as effective as the individuals who regard themselves as watchmen for the students. Repeatedly, though, they failed to put forth the required effort. It fell to a student to find out that chefs were using a seasoning that they were told not to use, and then to determine that this seasoning had animal fat as a "natural flavor."

Every student is virtually forced to consume $1300 worth of food each year in the cafeteria. Clearly, the laxity in supervision has significantly reduced the confidence level students have in the YU Department of Food Services to provide kosher food. We call on the YU Administration to refund, without question, the amount of money remaining on the caf card of any student who has doubts as to the kosher of the cafeteria.
On Wednesday, April 12, students were invited to the ever popular "Dorm Talks" lecture series featuring University President Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm. Over the course of his 2 hour oration, entitled "Jews and Jew -Relating to Jews Who Don't Share Our Religious Perspectives," Rabbi Lamm carefully explained the importance of kiruv, the process doctors, lawyers, not just shop owners, should boldly predict that when these populations are engaged, the impact will be truly significant. Rabbi Lamm claimed, "It is not indicative of a failure in the movement," noting that "Chassidim are rude too."

More Religious, Less Religious
The institution on the coeds dealt with the opposite end of the spectrum - the non-Jews whose views are more liberal than our own. Rabbi Lamm began by clearly declaring his position that the rabbinical approach to "isn't some Judaism better than none? My answer is an answer that is unequivocal: 'Yes.' He added that "we are dealing with" and "not even discussing the body, but the neshama." Faced with the dilemma of identifying a theoretical Jewish consensus in affiliation with "Conservative or, Jews for Jesus, or they follow Ashkenazim or Americanism," the Rabbi Lamm said simply "I know my choice."

On Pluralism
"Pluralism" Rabbi Lamm referred to as a buzzword..."In America, and along with religious pluralism I mean the recognition of the rights of non-Jews to practice their religions in the public sphere ...[as] a buzzword ... as a symbol." Rabbi Lamm noted that "it's "conduct and attitude that wins people."

Individual Responsibility
Finally, Rabbi Lamm distinguished between the secular and Jewish view on the rights and responsibilities of the society. Marking that "men are men ...and women are...[as] gender differentiation...[so are] different laws...Separate but equal is unequal in the Supreme Court,...but we disagree. [With regard to] blacks and whites, yes [there is inequality]...But men and women have different obligations." Rabbi Lamm concluded by saying that "we have to as individuals...step...simply in order to eradicate...[and] know what not to do...and what is has to be tolerated..." Rabbi Lamm provided an example of an instance in which he himself had to offer such restraint when he was asked during a panel discussion about the Jewish community in India. He related that some of the Jews in the southern region of India have adopted Hindu practices and philosophies of reincarnation and quasi-idolatry in addition to their Jewish observance. As a result, one of the more common questions asked during the session was regarding his speaking engagements which was the Jewish take on such ideas. Despite the fact that there does exist a biblical writing suggesting [unrelated], "[If a] moral obligation to keep Jews," Rabbi Lamm adjured the audience to make sure they wouldn't "instantiate, solid denounce the idea." In a final, one-sentence summation of Rabbi Lamm's advice for optimal kiruv, the Rabbi said, "When you love, you have a greater impact."
Buskin, Fine Receive Senior Awards

By COMMENTATOR STAFF

After a year of tile-laying by seniors and professors, the Senior class cast ballots for Senior class awards, which recognize students for various aspects of service they have provided. YCSC president Jason Buskin and former YCSC president Josh Fine received the student awards and Political Science Professor Ross Zucker was awarded the Professor of the Year award.

The award process consisted of candidates nominating themselves for the awards, and writing an essay on why they felt themselves deserving of the award. The members of the Senior class then voted. They also voted for an outstanding faculty member, one from Yeshiva College, and one from the Sy Syms School of Business.

In recognition of this service and dedication to the student body of Yeshiva University, Buskin was chosen for the "Philip Leiberman Service to Yeshiva University" award. Fine was named to the Senior class for choosing him, Buskin said, "It is extremely nice to be recognized by my peers, and it is truly an honor. It is a really nice finish to my tenure as YCSC president."

Joshua Fine, past president of YCSC, was chosen for the "Seven Gladstein Service to the Jewish Community" award. He was recognized by the Senior class as one who demonstrated his time and energy to the entire Jewish community, and truly made an impact in the lives of others.

Professor Zucker received an award for his dedication and hard work, and his constant level of excellence in teaching. The Senior also chose Professor Joel Hochman of SSSB. Their selection was negotiated, though they were told that an election was not considered, and they settled on an election exclusively for SSSB Seniors, and not from the entire senior class voting.

YU's Annual Commencement Exercises to Feature Chief Rabbi of Britain

By LLONCO

Yeshiva University will hold its 66th annual commencement exercises Thursday, May 22, at 11 A.M. in the Theater at Madison Square Garden. The Chief Rabbi of the British Commonwealth, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, will address the graduating students and will be one of the fewvehement individuals to receive honorary doctorates.

Sacks is the Chief Rabbi of Great Britain's United Synagogue in 1939 at only 41 years of age. He is a renowned author of works on Jewish thought, philosophy and the Talmud. University President Rabbi Norman Lamm, who will be presenting the honorary degrees, stated that Sacks "worked tirelessly and with an extraordinary sense of how to guide the people for a thousand of years."

About one thousand diplomas will be presented at the May 22 commencement exercises.

The Albert Einstein College of Medicine will have its 39th Annual Commencement on June 5 at the Jack and Pearl Resnick Square Garden. The Chief Rabbi of the British Commonwealth, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, will address the graduating students and will be one of the fewhearing individuals to receive honorary doctorates.

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Rabbi Willig Addresses Large Crowd
On Women's Obligation at the Seder

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

Addressing more than four hundred people in Weissberg Commons, comprised of students from Yeshiva College, Stern College, and members of the community, MYP Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Michael Willig gave a shiur on the topic of “A Woman's Halachic obligations at the Seder.”

Rabbi Willig began by dedicating his shiur to the late Rabbi Shimon Romm ZT"L, the longtime MYP Rosh Yeshiva.

After encapsulating the Halachic obligations of the Seder, R’ Willig delineated which are applicable to women, and the Halachic reasoning behind these injunctions. He stated, that even though some of these mitzvot are time-related, which would negate a woman’s obligation to perform them, there may be reasons why women would be obligated to perform them, and perhaps the woman’s obligation may be construed as an ekartolot, or biblical, rather than rabbinical obligations.

Using a four-step approach to various rulings in the Rambam and in the Sefer Hachinuch, R’ Willig systematically reviewed each mitzvah, and its possible ramifications for women. He stated each opinion, and used a touch of “Brisker” methodology to derive his conclusions for each one. The Rabbi also took the opportunity to state his own Halachic rulings on the topic, and to give his opinion to the assembled masses.

Two MTA Brothers Hit By Cop Car

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

On Monday, April 7, Jon and Eli Shillowitz, students at The Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy, the high school affiliate of Yeshiva University, were hit by an NYPD squad car which ran a red light. The two students were rushed to Columbia Presbyterian where they were treated and x-rayed. According to Jon and his brother into neck braces. Although the brothers said that they felt fine, it is Hatzolah’s policy to take all minor injuries to the hospital unless a guardian signs a release form.

The brothers were then transported to Columbia Presbyterian where they were both treated and x-rayed. According to Jon they were both “fine,” and were returned by their father to their dorm room later that evening.

Jon told The Commentator that there would be no charges filed against the police department, although he did notice on the following evening, that another police vehicle from the 34th Precinct ran a red light without its sirens audible or lights visible. The police department was unavailable for comment.

YCSC Throws NCAA Bash

By Sam Ritter

Following the formula of its successful Superbowl party in January, YCSC threw a second, comparable bash, this time celebrating the NCAA Division One Mens’ Basketball Championship game which featured the University of Kentucky and Arizona Wildcats who faced off. Students were provided with hoagies and buffalo wings from Dougie’s Free of charge.

Once the food was disposed of, students gathered at the big screen television, hoping their favorite team would be the victor—especially those who had money riding on the game. After each basket half the crowd seemed to jump up in sheer joy while the other half moaned in agony. The two teams were neck and neck throughout the entire game, leaving the fans holding onto their seats.

During halftime a raffle was held to aid the Israeli based charity Yad Ezra. Money raised was earmarked to help facilitate the celebration of Pesach by many poor families in Israel. The grand prize went to Yaacov Weinstein who won two round-trip tickets to Israel.
SOY Presidential Elections Marred by Controversy

New Elections April 16

BY OAHMAN HOSANG

After reports of a debate and scandal, the results of the April E30 SOY presidential election were reviewed. Students had an opportunity to vote on April 16, this time only one candidate, Menachem Luftglass, will appear on the ballot.

On Tuesday night, April 1, Anyh Sheinbein, who was one of three candidates in the presidential race, removed his name from the ballot. The current SOY Vice President stated that he was the victim of specific malicious practices, such as the removal of his campaign signs from the bulletin board. However, he was aware of such activities on Saturday. Sheinbein claims that they had decided to invalidate the election. Rather, he attributed his action to a reconsideration of the adverse effects that the time-consuming position would have had on him should he have been selected.

A second candidate for the presidential post, Dror Barber, also claimed to be the victim of similar acts aimed at sabotaging his campaign. According to a list of events submitted by Barber to The Commentator, on Tuesday night, Barber went to the door of the SOY Board and informed them of the incidents. Barber’s staff put up campaign signs. Four of these signs were later noticed by that they had been removed. This occurred again on Sunday night.

On Tuesday night, Barber’s campaign noticed that the signs put up prior to that night’s debate had been removed, with the exception of two signs. These two signs had been placed by someone who had scrawled sarcastic references to the content of the signs.

The following morning, Barber went to the current SOY President Jonathan Neiss and informed him of these events. Barber also told Neiss of a witness’ report to Barber that the SOY Secretary, Mr. Dov Siegman, had been responsible for removing and defacing the signs. Siegman denied any signs. However, he admitted to writing sarcastic remarks on four such signs prior to the new­

Although he admitted he was frustrated by these actions, Sheinbein claims that they did not directly affect his decision to drop out of the race. Rather, he attributed his action to a reconsideration of the adverse effects that the time-consuming position would have had on him should he have been selected.

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Caf Hashgacha Comes Under Fire
continued from page one

In disposable aluminum trays, there was no need to spray the pots and pans in the kitchen. However, Rabbi Reiss did mention that he had “any of the beaters and serving utensils that had gone into any contact with the rice kasherim immediately.”

Despite these measures, many students have complained about the lack of initiative taken by cafeteria officials upon being notified of the absence of certification of Kashrus. These students feel that the phone calls to the Uncle Ben’s plant should have been made by YU officials immediately.

One of Many Problems
This development comes as just the latest in a series of smaller concerns that have been festering over the past year. Earlier, a number of YU students noticed that the cafeteria has been using products that have hashgachot from certain organizations that are not accepted by a large portion of the student body. Although these students were given assurances that these hashgachot have been accepted by many legitimate Orthodox rabbinim, the student still felt that as a yeshiva student, he should have been higher than regular students have complained that “we are in a yeshiva with lower standards than those that are accepted by the majority of students.”

In another unrelated incident, some students discovered that some of the labels of the Healthy Trends brand Juice Blend in the cafeteria, stated that the product contained grape juice which is not permissible from a kashrut standpoint. In addition, YU officials have given the Kaharian Committee with a list of hashgachot that are not accepted by a large portion of the students. Provide the Kaharian Committee with a list of acceptable hashgachot from the product two weeks after his inspection. Rabbi Sherez responded immediately by contacting the company and finding out that the company had indeed changed the ingredients in its product. After the Kaharian Committee had removed the product, the cashier’s assistant called Rabbi Sherez of their discovery. Rabbi Sherez responded immediately by contacting the company and finding out that the company had indeed changed the ingredients in its product two weeks after his inspection. Rabbi Sherez informed the Kaharian Committee that he had “any of the beaters and serving utensils that had gone into any contact with the rice kasherim immediately.”

The growing problems in the cafeteria have been festering over the past year. Al­ though these students were given assurance that these hashgachot have been accepted by many legitimate Orthodox rabbinim, the student still felt that as a yeshiva student, he should have been higher than regular students have complained that “we are in a yeshiva with lower standards than those that are accepted by the majority of students.”

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The Kaharian Committee, Rabbi Reiss, and YU officials. At the meeting, according to committee members, Rabbi Reiss agreed to quietly stop using certain hashgachot that are not accepted by a large portion of the students. Provide the Kaharian Committee with a list of hashgachot that are not accepted by the YU cafeteria, and maintain stricter guidelines for checking vegetables for bugs. However, many committee members felt that the questionable rice seasonings. This led to the calling of an emergency meeting between members of the SOY Kashrus Committee, Rabbi Reiss, and YU officials.

Rabbi Reiss explained that the meeting was about whether or not there is a need for any further discussion. He said how to deal with the remaining products that had not been removed.

Rabbi Reiss explained to The Commentator that in Halacha there is a concept that would not be necessary to deal with any matters of what is forbidden we can rely on the testimony of one witness and therefore to say that “whatever Rabbi Rabba says is not kosher is not a sin.” Nevertheless, out of respect to the students’ wishes, Rabbi Reiss stated that he has agreed to eliminate any of the products that they expressed to him as having hashkafah certification that many students do not follow such as those with Rabbi Rabba’s “Tri­ angle-K” certification. However, Rabbi Reiss added that this is no indication and should not cast dispersion on the legitimacy of this hashgachot “because we have no right to label someone as ma’achil treifos [one who eats non­ kosher].”

Commenting on this matter, officials at YU have stated that they appreciate the vigilance of the students, particularly David Danzer, in their efforts to help alleviate the complications in the cafeteria. In addition, YU officials have given their assurances to the students that there are no halachic problems with eating in the cafeteria and that whatever problems have come up “have been quickly rectified. And there will be a mechanism to fix them and prevent any mistakes that are possible even in the strictest kitchens.”

Rabbi Sherez was pleased to find out that the kitchen officials had removed the Healthy Trends brand Juice Blends right after receiving his initial phone call. Rabbi Sherez explained that this incident was a result of “federal regulations that allow a company to maintain a label even though it is misleading.” Rabbi Sherez was also very appreciative of the YU students who brought this problem to his attention.

These events led to the formation of the SOY Kashrus Committee consisting of MYP and Semicha students. David Danzer, a Semicha student at YU and the head of the committee stated that the committee was created to “address the Kashruth concerns of the students in an organized manner, and to act as a liaison between the students and food services on kashruth issues.” Two weeks ago, upon its inception, the committee had a meeting with YU officials and Rabbi Reiss. At the meeting, according to committee members, Rabbi Reiss agreed to quietly stop using certain hashgachot that are not accepted by a large portion of the students. Provide the Kaharian Committee with a list of hashgachot that are not accepted by the YU cafeteria, and maintain stricter guidelines for checking vegetables for bugs. However, many committee members felt that the questionable rice seasonings. This led to the calling of an emergency meeting between members of the SOY Kashrus Committee, Rabbi Reiss, and YU officials.

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Are you feeling the anxiety that all guys feel when they’re getting engaged?

You want to impress her and the in-laws with a beautiful diamond but have a limited budget.

Relax. You’re not alone, guys aren’t supposed to know about this stuff.

A few helpful hints

1. Find a reputable person who you can trust.
2. Spend wisely. It’s tricky because no two diamonds are alike. Two diamonds of the same size may vary widely in price.

This is one of life’s most special moments and you want to do it right.

Call me for more information on how to buy a diamond you’ll be proud of.

David Levy  -  G.I.A. Diamond Graduate
Diamond Dealers Club member
Major fine diamond & jewelry manufacturer

Papers in Political Science
Wanted

The Clarion
The scholarly journal of the JP DUNNER POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY is currently accepting work in all areas of political science for publication.

For more info, please contact:
Arnon Storfer or Daniel Anziska
(212) 927-8848  (212) 928-1553
Twenty-five Yeshiva University undergraduate students joined more than 1000 students from more than 125 college campuses and over 1200 Jewish community activists from across the country at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's (AIPAC) 38th Annual Policy Conference in Washington, DC April 6-8.

The annual conference featured distinguished speakers, including Al Gore, Newt Gingrich, and Benjamin Netanyahu, who served as prime minister of Israel and is currently a leading critic of the Palestinian Authority's actions. The conference also featured a quick overview of the history and current political landscape of the Middle East, with a focus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The conference was divided into several sessions, each focusing on a different aspect of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Middle East peace process. The opening plenary featured a keynote address by Vice President Al Gore, who discussed the importance of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the need for a peaceful resolution. Mr. Gore also highlighted the role of the United States in the peace process and the importance of continued American support for Israel.

The Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, delivered a keynote address on the state of the Middle East and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Mr. Netanyahu emphasized the importance of the two-state solution and the need for both Israel and the Palestinian Authority to make concessions in order to achieve peace. He also highlighted the importance of American leadership in the peace process and the need for continued American support for Israel.

A panel discussion on the current political climate in Israel featured former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who has served as both prime minister and foreign minister of Israel. Mr. Sharon discussed the current political landscape in Israel and the challenges facing the country.

The final plenary featured a keynote address by the former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, who served as both prime minister and foreign minister of Israel. Mr. Barak discussed the challenges facing the country and the need for continued American support for Israel.

The conference concluded with a banquet, which featured live music and dancing, and a closing plenary address by the current Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.
A letter was sent out by Schachter, where he attempted to clarify the reasons for the cancellation. “The blame for the cancellation of last week’s elections rests on the Canvassing Committee, on which I held an authoritative position. We on the Canvassing Committee felt that we were biased from our involvement in the campaign, and therefore we expressed our concern that the elections were run incompetently. We believed that we had acted in a manner that would have ‘significantly altered the playing field’ and changed the outcome of the election.”

The next elections are to be held solely under the auspices of SSWB, with Schachter and the SSB executive board in charge of the campaign. The candidates agreed on a compromise date of April 16, for the new elections. When asked if the scheduling was chosen to preclude The Commentator from covering the elections, Schachter answered “We all preferred it to be before, as to concentrate on the candidates, and not what happened before.”

Illegal Threats Don’t Stymie IBC Elections

The Isaac Breuer College presidential campaign promised to be controversial with both Creative and Progressive students threatening to file suits against each other in student court. Sicklick alleged that Strong should not be eligible to vie for an IBC post since he was enrolled in a B.M/half the previous semester. Strong indicated that he would bring a counter-suit against Sicklick on the basis of his new halachic status. The IBC election required run for the IBC presidential post. Quid pro quo eventually became the routine pursued by both parties agreed to abstain from taking legal action against each other. Strong proceeded to defeat Sicklick in the election. Adam Bensley garnered the IBC VP position. The Treasurer slot went to Levi Goldberg. Kenneth Sicklick scored a decisive victory in his bid for the Secretary duties.

Election Recap

The YCSC Vice Presidential contest saw current junior Class President Daniel Schreiber defeat Mark Posner, president of the College Democrats. Joe Glass’ bid Schachter, and three other members of the eight-man Canvassing Committee; Avi Lopchinsky, Ari Bandier, and Matthew Rosen. They concluded that their actions had skewed the election results, and called in both candidates for consultation. They were given the option of cancelling the result or holding a new election. When asked if they wanted the original results to be valid, Schachter said that he wanted the results stand, and Willig added that he would bring a counter-cancellation of last week’s elections, rests on the Canvassing Committee, on which I held an authoritative position. We on the Canvassing Committee felt that we were biased from our involvement in the campaign, and therefore we expressed our concern that the elections were run incompetently. We believed that we had acted in a manner that would have ‘significantly altered the playing field’ and changed the outcome of the election.”

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The Yeshiva College Student Council
would like to thank
those who helped make this year
a tremendous success.

These offices have shown a willingness to help us run
successful events and resolve important student issues

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Office of Supporting Services
Facilities Management
Office of University Finances
Office of Safety and Security
Office of the Dean of Libraries
Office of the Dean of Yeshiva College
Office of the Residence Halls
Office of the Registrar
Department of Athletics

For their efforts we thank them.
ADL Calls on America Online to Remove KKK Site

BY ARI KHAN

In Cyberspace, the world of America Online is proclaimed as a Utopia. Tens of Millions of people throughout the world freely share ideas and information if they abide by a certain moral code prohibiting influences such as pornography and messages of racial or religious hatred. To Abraham Foxman, National Director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), America Online’s decision to host a website from one of the oldest organizations dedicated to hatred and racial bigotry comes as a surprise.

In a letter sent last week, Foxman expressed concern that America Online is hosting “The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan - Realm of Texas" website and does not regard the site as violating its terms of service. In the past, AOL has been very responsive to complaints about racism and bigotry from the ADL, which now calls “on AOL to adhere to their terms of service regarding material with equal vigilance as those regarding pornography.”

“The ‘Rules of the Road’ prohibit attacks based on a number of characteristics including ‘a person’s race, national origin, ethnicity or religion.’” The ADL chairman said in the letter to Steve Case, Chairman of America Online, Inc. “They clearly state that ‘hateful language...is not allowed.’”

“While the materials accessible through the Klan page may not contain explicit calls for violence,” continued Mr. Foxman, “they reflect hate, vulgarity and abuse far more profound and troubling. Hate, even with a face-lift, is as dangerous, repulsive and corrupting as the pornography you unhesitatingly remove.”

The KKK website goes through a white-washed history of the Klan, a racist movement that was formed in the South in the wake of the Civil War. According to the authors of the site, “It was out of these dismal conditions that six just and decent men of honor came together forming the Ku Klux Klan. Led by General Nathan Bedford Forest, by 1877 these courageous men had driven the troops back north. For a time they saved the White South from the tyranny of the Federal government, but it is affecting the nation as a whole.”

In addition to professing its purpose, the Klan is using the site to recruit new members. One part of the website reads, “Now, even as it was then, when the original Klansmen rode over the hills of the South, we begin again with a few courageous souls who are willing to stand up against the real enemy... It is our greatest desire that others, seeing our good works, may obtain the courage to join us in our efforts toward the final victory through White Christian Revi­al.”

A twenty-nine point political platform that calls for national laws banning abortion and homosexuality, a law banning the sale of American land to all foreigners “including Japanese, Arabs, and Jews,” a quarantine for all AIDS patients, and a law allowing the military to patrol our borders to prevent the entry of illegal aliens, also appears at that site.

The site also offers links to the official Klan homepage, an application for membership as well as links to other white-supremacist groups such as Aryan Nations, Stormfront, and the NAACP of America.

According to ADL, “the particular branch of the Klan using AOL preaches a pseudo-religion called ‘Identity Christianity’ that claims Jews are the spawn of Satan and all other non-Whites are ‘mud people’.”

“While we strongly believe in freedom of speech and do not advocate censorship on the Internet,” said Mr. Foxman, “we expect those companies which have created guidelines to adhere to them.”

AOL’s terms of service state that AOL, Inc., its affiliates and ICPs have the right “to remove content they deem, in their discretion, ‘harmful’ or ‘offensive’.” America Online has not responded publicly to the criticism from the ADL, but as of press time, the KKK website was still up and running.
Security Guards Feeling “Burned”

By Akiva Herzelfd

Slouched over in a somnambulant stupor, watching the buzz of surging crowds from behind the glass of the security desk, is a 6 foot 7” African-American, with build and strong features, with a prominent gold tooth and a shaved head. He is the hub of security operations on this floor, and the individual security guard, 8 security guards, and the working atmosphere is deplorable.

The complaints begin with the salary. The starting salary for a Yeshiva University security guard is a paltry $6 an hour, and the first pay raise does not arrive for at least one year. In contrast, their friends in maintenance earn around $12 an hour. The security guards must deal with the Board of Education pays its security guards $12.45 an hour as a starting salary. Most of these guards are willing to be interviewed anonymously, is simple: “the pay stinks, there is no job security, and the working atmosphere is deplorable.”

The starting salary does not include such traditional Christian holidays as Easter, Good Friday, or Christmas. If a guard is promoted to lieutenant or a captain, his or her salary may exceed the Board of Education’s starting salary, but it is not easy to become either a lieutenant or a captain. One guard grumbled, “You could be here for years and not go anywhere, unless you’re a serious butt kisser.” And the guard continued, “I ain’t gonna be nobody’s kiss, do my job; I don’t need to do his for $6 an hour.”

The “vacation” does not include such traditional Christian holidays as Easter, Good Friday, and even Christmas. If the guard’s schedule dictates that he or she must work on those days, he or she must. The security guards, who can be fired at their supervisor’s whim, are more bitter about their job security than their pecuniary disbursements. Not one guard was willing to give his name away for inclusion in the article, neither the last name nor the first name, because each one feared his supervisor. One guard explained his predicament: “They make up this long list of rules; no eat, no smoke, no drink, no music, no read, no anything, and if you break one rule, then they fire you.” One guard was even told not to talk to students. Another security guard complained about the way justice is meted out. “No matter how long you come on time,” he said, “you come here one day five minutes late, and you in trouble.”

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“Trouble” means that the captain will write up a report concerning the security guard’s behavior. After a certain number of reports, the security guard is immediately terminated. If a captain or a superior does not like a security guard, that guard is stuck. In December six security guards complained about a captain who was not treating them fairly. They took their complaint to the highest authorities in the security administration. The captain who had complained about, Captain Morales, code named Charlie 1, still works here; however, five of the security guards who placed the complaint had been fired. The last remaining guard, Guzman, would not speak to The Commentator, The complaints continue. One guard grumbled, “You could be here for years and not go anywhere, unless you’re a serious butt kisser.” And the guard continued, “I ain’t gonna be nobody’s kiss, do my job; I don’t need to do his for $6 an hour.”

Mr. Russo is an ex-cop of sturdy build and strong features, with a disheveled, disheveled mass of hair. He is the representative for Burns security, which is an independent firm hired by Yeshiva University to contract paying millions of dollars to Burns. An unconfirmed statement said that YU pays $6 an hour for security man per hour; somewhere in the shuffle between YU, Burns, and the individual security guard, 8 dollars of pay per man is lost.

Mr. Russo was not available for any statistics, instead responding to the “false allegations,” presented by some security guards. Many times he inter­viewed college, and they leave. Ad­ditionally, he said, “There is no reason for guards at Yeshiva University of six dollars an hour. He explained that the starting salary can fluctuate if a guard is a con­cluded the vacations, “If there are 150 guards here, it is not my responsibility to make sure that they each file for vacation.”

One allegation which not only the administrators, but also many security guards responded to was the charge against Captain Morales. Morales is known as one of the most dependable guards not only by security guards, but also by students. Russo explained that sometimes there are personality conflicts which occur between an authority figure and the toiler. He did not feel that it was important that guards have an outlet to address their complaints without fear of becoming fired.

For any security guard, there is such a large turnover in guards because it is the nature of the industry. He said that this is the first job of some security guards, and sometimes they cannot handle it. Also, many of the guards here use it to help them pay for college, and when they graduate, they leave. Ad­ditionally, he said, “There is no reason for guards at Yeshiva University of six dollars an hour. He explained that the starting salary can fluctuate if a guard is a con­cluded the vacations, “If there are 150 guards here, it is not my responsibility to make sure that they each file for vacation.”

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Music Department Holds Packed Concerts

BY YOSEF LEVINE

The Recital Room on the second floor of the Schottenstein Center was packed for two straight nights this week as the Yeshiva University Music Department held their spring concerts.

On Sunday April 13, seven Yeshiva University students performed pieces by Bach, Bartok, Brahms, Levy, Mozart, and Mendelssohn in a Concert of Chamber Music. The event featured Eric Freeman and J.D. Shulman on the piano, Daniel Robbins and Edward Levy playing the clarinet, Yochanan Donath and Eli Pri tykin playing the violin and Richard Hidary playing the cello.

The next day, there was not even standing room when the Jazz Ensemble performed six pieces either composed or arranged by the directors of the group. SCW students Deborah Roth and Aliza Fox played flute, and Rachel Milner played the vibraphone and drums. Edward Levy played the alto saxophone and was accompanied by Daniel Robbins who also played the clarinet. Eric Freeman and Ari Paley graced the audience with their piano and keyboard bass performances, while Gregory Jaffe added some spunk to the recital on guitar. Dr. Noyes Bartholomew and Dr. Edward Levy direct both the Yeshiva University Jazz Ensemble and the Chamber Music Ensemble as part of their duties teaching the Performance and Interpretation class. They have co-directed since 1985 and enjoy their work immensely. "One of the things that attracts us to giving this class," said Dr. Bartholomew, "is the opportunity to compose and arrange music that explores jazz as an art form in the same way we compose music for classical chamber ensembles. That is to say, esthetic music that pushes the boundaries of more traditional styles."

Multitalented Rachel Milner, said that jazz is her favorite type of music and enjoys playing in the ensemble because, "There is nothing like playing in a group setting." The audiences seemed to enjoy both performances. Steven J. Bernstein a YC sophomore, asserted that, "Both the Chamber Music and Jazz Ensemble recitals were incredible. It is a treat to see fellow students perform."

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Administrative Rejection: The Story of An Arab’s Non-Visit to YU

Denischim, a student-run forum, recently extended a tentative invitation to Dr. James Zogby to speak at this university. Zogby, a prominent writer with impeccable credentials, is a member of the Democratic National Committee and the Council on Foreign Relations, and was appointed by Al Gore to lead Builders for Peace. One complication: he is also the President of the Arab American Institute. Yes, he is an Arab.

Because of this unfortunate fact, our esteemed administration, after the requisite amount of inter-administrative haggling, intervened to declare that it would not permit Zogby to speak on campus. Barred. Vetoed. Verboten.

The ostensible reason cited by the administration for this prohibition was that Zogby’s appearance here might spark physical violence and/or may cause headaches for YU security.

This is a patently and absurdly specious excuse. YU does not exactly crackle with volatile political energy. Sometimes to our chagrin, YU is as far from the us such infantile fools as to be irrevocably swayed by an suave speaker? And are our political opinions so shallow that we fear any exposure to the “other side” could topple them? Clearly not.

More likely the administration simply decided to shy away from grappling with substantive and often controversial issues, so as not to “cause a stir.” To which I must retort: Is our education nothing but a protracted dusty snooze of complacency? Who needs the education which is made subject of Presidential Blue Ribbon Commissions and becomes the catch-word of choice; a day when tolerance is made to placate and please, which toys soft lullabies to our minds, which gobbles up by YU public relations like so many multicolored M&Ms; today the YU administration shamefully and embarrassingly failed that test, and its students have lost as a result.

The solution is certainly not to bar Zogby from our campus. The solution, quite simply, is to hear him and challenge him; to hear him and refute him; or to hear him and learn from him. God forbid our opinions suffer nuance and qualification as a result.

It has been said often enough: The true test of whether I affirm the value of free speech with my heart or with my lips only is whether I can countenance and tolerate speech which I personally abhor. Today, in this post-Goldstein and Amir era, a day when “tolerance” is made subject of Presidential Blue Ribbon Commissions and becomes the catch-word of choice; a day in a year haunted by Balkan Ghosts and a conference on black-Jewish relations and other safely bland things eagerly gobbled up by YU public relations like so many multicolored M&Ms; today the YU administration shamefully and embarrassingly failed that test, and its students have lost as a result.
An Open Letter To The Yeshiva Community

To The Editor:

This election year is one that will be remembered for years to come at YU. I will not go into the scandalous elections run by the YCSC Canvassing Committee. Everyone is tired of the chaotic and hap hazard fashion in which it was run. Instead, I would like to focus on SOY's elections for President. Being in YP, it brought me great alarm when I found out about the scandals that went on there.

First of all, I would like to state a matter of opinion. Although SOY is a student organization like any other at YU, I feel that SOY should be held to a level of values that is higher than any other organization at YU. This feeling stems from the Act that the Jewish studies organization students are taught. My grievance is not that SOY's focus should be Torah and Torah life activities, it is only fitting that it should be held to a high degree of correction.

Even though I have stated that SOY should be held to a higher standard, I am writing about matters that are in no way above the standard. My grievance is not that SOY did not do Liphnim m'horos ha'din, but that it did not even meet the minimum of its requirements to the students of Yeshiva.

It can be said that the SOY elections for President, from the beginning, had an air of unsportsmanlike competition that should never have a place in Yeshiva. There is no reason why a candidate's signs should be ripped off every bulletin board within two hours of their placement there at the kick off of election week on Motzai Shabbos. As a side point, it should be noted that this candidate's signs were the only signs approved and stamped by the SOY Canvassing Committee to be allowed to be placed on the bulletin boards.

Appropriately, the injustices aimed at this candidate, Dror Barber, did not end there. The events that followed were the most scandalous events that, to my knowledge, have ever occurred in an election at YU. I was appalled and shocked when I learned that a member of the SOY Executive Board was involved in actions directed towards Mr. Barber. The SOY Secretary was caught by, as I heard it, two individuals defacing Mr. Barber's signs. Although the Secretary was well aware of the nature of his actions, he failed to consider the repercussions of his actions on Mr. Barber. The SOY Secretary was caught by, as I heard it, two individuals defacing Mr. Barber's signs. Although the Secretary was well aware of the nature of his actions, he failed to consider the repercussions of his actions on Mr. Barber. The SOY Secretary was caught by, as I heard it, two individuals defacing Mr. Barber's signs. Although the Secretary was well aware of the nature of his actions, he failed to consider the repercussions of his actions on Mr. Barber.

Lifg lost to his worker's actions. An act such as ripping off every bulletin board within SOY's limits should be handled with the playing field so that Mr. Barber would have the opportunity to participate in a fair campaign.

Unfortunately, this was not the last of SOY's blunders. After it was discovered that Mr. Secretary was working for Mr. Barber's opponent, Menachem Luftglass, SOY had an even bigger reason to push for action. In fact, according to election rules, Luftglass should have been disqualified as a candidate. Constitu tion rules are very clear as to the responsibility of each candidate towards his campaign staff. Whether or not a candidate has knowledge of a perpetrator's actions, if the perpetrator is working on the candidate's behalf, the candidate's actions should be required to take full responsibility for his worker's actions. An act such as Mr. Secretary's, if done by Mr. Luftglass in his capacity as a member of the SOY, should have caused Mr. Secretary to be sprayed with shaving cream. It is the opinion of this writer that SOY should have been publicly admonished.

Besides being unethical, it was a clear violation of election rules, one that required immediate action. No one is allowed to stand in Morgenstern's entrance and hand out letters to students as they walk in to vote. What makes this violation even more remarkable is that it was done in public, in the presence and with the awareness of Menachem Luftglass. This violation should have caused SOY to act, but they didn't.

Only on Sunday, three days after the elections were over, did SOY realize that they might have erred in their judgment. The Board called for an "emergency" meeting on Monday. That morning, the Board, on its own, came to the conclusion that they did, in fact, ignore their responsibilities as an impartial committee charged with running elections. They called for a reelection. It should be noted that Mr. Barber was in no way part of this decision. Even though Mr. Barber was the only person violated and harmed by these events, his opinions did not matter to them. Mr. Barber would have never wanted a reelection.

After speaking with Mr. Barber, I learned that he felt that the Executive Board of SOY did not fulfill their obligations. He felt that he should not be forced to take part in a reelection because it would be unfair to him to have to make up for the fault of others. After running a clean and honest campaign there should be no reason for him to expend time, money, and energy in what he felt was an extraneous exercise.

It is the opinion of this writer that SOY wronged Mr. Barber. According to election rules Mr. Luftglass should not have been on the ballot. Mr. Secretary should have been publicly admonished. SOY should have apologized publicly to Mr. Barber for their lack of initiative in protecting his rights as a candidate. I am saddened by the fact that my personal choice for President was not given a fair chance in his campaign. Turning to my fellow YP students, I ask: How can a candidate involved in such a scandalous campaign "put the Yeshiva back into SOY?"

Sincerely,
Aylon Glaser
MY/PYC '98

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by COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF

Just three more matches remain before the end of what has been another undefeated campaign for the YU tennis team. With the majority of the season gone by, the tennis team has won its first 8 matches, running its winning streak to 26 over the past three years.

The first victim this season, Polytechnic, fell to the Macs by the final score of 8-1. Despite the 30 degree weather (without the wind chill), the Macs were victorious in all six singles matches including an exceptional performance by #3 seed Shai Samet. Having lost the first set 6-2 and trailing in the third 3-1, Samet fought back to win in three sets, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3. In fact, he managed to win a crucial point with an around-the-back shot that totally shocked his opponent. Other Mac stars Hasten, Zilbershteyn, Kraft, Hirt, and Langer all won in straight sets. The team finished strong, winning two of its three doubles matches.

The following Sunday, the Macs faced Manhattanville in even harsher weather conditions which included very strong winds. Although Chuck Slattery was surprising in both singles and doubles for Manhattanville, victories from Koslowe, Schwartz, and Rothman contributed to a 7-2 victory for Yeshiva.

As the weather slowly got warmer the Macs looked forward to playing Maritime, especially on their lego courts. Using his home court advantage, Maritime’s Ed Dohrman upset #1 seed Josh Hasten, his first loss in two years of singles for YU. In another dramatic match, #2 seed Shai Zilbershteyn used a combination of winners and first aid (on his aching opponent) to pull through in a three setter, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2. Overall, the 8-1 win moved the Macs to 3-0 on the season.

Playing their first match at home, the Macs swept Brooklyn college 9-0 with the help of first appearances by Schwartz and Rothman. The Macs then traveled to Stevens Tech a few days later, however, was no breeze. Five out of the six singles matches went the full three sets while two doubles matches went the full three sets as well. However, the team was victorious in both singles and doubles for Stevens Tech, victories from Koslowe and Schwartz.

At the Manhattanville Tournament in which Manhattanville, YU, St. Joseph’s, and SUNY Old Westbury competed. The #1 and #2 seeds of each team competed in the Flight A Singles, the #3 and #4 in Flight B Singles, and 5 and 6 in C; doubles competition consisted of two flights. With the exception of Flight A doubles, YU took home all the plaques by the end of the tournament. Hasten’s quest for the singles championship included overcoming match points with an around-the-back shot that totally shocked his opponent. In the finals, Langer prevailed in three sets against his own teammate, Shai Samet, while David Schwartz defeated Digiacomo of St. Joseph’s in the Flight C championship. To top it all off, Langer, along with Oren Koslowe, took home Flight B doubles and was thereby named MVP of the Tournament.

Most recently, the Macs added another 2 Wins by easily passing over John Jay College (9-0) and Mount St. Vincent College (9-0).

Finally, in spite of the fog and rain, the Macs traveled upstate for the IAC Tournament at Bard. Three teams did not show up due to the poor weather, but Yeshiva decided to fight it out with Bard and St. Joseph’s nonetheless. Unfortunately, Steve Langer could not challenge his opponent in the finals for Flight B singles before the rain started to fall again. Hasten, however, came up on top against his own teammate Samet, in the bid for Flight A Singles Champion. The rest of the competition was postponed for another, hopefully clearer day.

The biggest match of the year against NJIT has yet to be played, but the Macs are optimistic of its outcome and of the results of the final two matches of the year, Bard and York. Good Luck!

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BY COMMENTATOR SPORTS STAFF

Hopes to go undefeated for a third consecutive season almost came to an end versus St. Joseph’s, certainly the biggest scare of the year. With the score tied 4-4 and the last doubles match on the verge of ending, Coach Jon Bandier was pacing and turning afraid to watch the outcome. After making a tremendous comeback in singles to win (2-6, 6-4, 6-4), rookie David Schwartz came through in the clutch with his doubles partner, Oren Koslowe. Schwartz’s exceptional service game in the closing games earned him and Koslowe an 8-6 victory. Schwartz was awarded the game ball at the end of the match.

Next on the agenda was the Manhattanville Tournament in which Manhattanville, YU, St. Joseph’s, and SUNY Old Westbury competed. The #1 and #2 seeds of each team competed in the Flight A Singles, the #3 and #4 in Flight B Singles, and 5 and 6 in C; doubles competition consisted of two flights. With the exception of Flight A doubles, YU took home all the plaques by the end of the tournament. Hasten’s quest for the singles championship included overcoming match points with an around-the-back shot that totally shocked his opponent. In the finals, Langer prevailed in three sets against his own teammate, Shai Samet, while David Schwartz defeated Digiacomo of St. Joseph’s in the Flight C championship. To top it all off, Langer, along with Oren Koslowe, took home Flight B doubles and was thereby named MVP of the Tournament.

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