French Cardinal Donates Sefer Torah to R’ Tendler
BY ARI KAHIN

A centuries-old Sefer Torah finally found a home when it was donated to RIETS Rosh Yeshiva, R’ Moshe Tendler and Yeshiva University. The Torah, which is at least two hundred years-old, was given to R’ Tendler by Cardinal Jean Marie Lustiger, the Cardinal of Paris. Lustiger, who was born Jewish, but was raised by Catholic nuns who hid him during the Holocaust, came into possession of the Torah because it too was hidden by a Catholic priest during the Nazi Occupation of Poland.

Surviving the Holocaust

Much of what is known about the Torah was related by Cardinal Lustiger. A Sephardic Rabbi named Yeheousha ben Yosef caught it in Europe during the beginning of the Holocaust. He was in possession of this Sefer Torah and decided to hide it from the approaching Nazis. R’ Ben Yosef cut up the Torah along its seams and divided the sections into pieces approximating the five Books of Moses. He folded the sections to fit into the lining of an overcoat. The Rabbi and his wife, a friend of his named Nathan Pensky and his wife, and their son Stanislav Pensky were sent to the Lodz ghetto each with a section of this Torah in their overcoats. They wore the Torah in these coats throughout the year in the ghetto hoping that one day they could leave it to put it back together.

Unfortunately, they discovered that the ghetto was scheduled to be liquidated. They knew that they would all be deported and were certain that they, and therefore the Torah, could not stay together. Outside the ghetto, lived a priest named Remano who had known the Pensky family. This priest provided the people of the ghetto with food and news of the outside world using Stanislav as his go-between. R’ Ben Yosef decided that before the liquidation, they would give the five overcoats to Remano along with their five identity cards and if any of them survived they would return and claim the Torah. All of them died in Auschwitz/Birkenuau.

The priest, of course, had no way of knowing this. He kept the Torah hidden hoping that one day the survivors would return. He told only the members of his family, who in turn, helped the priest with his mission. The priest died without any survivors coming forward and the family kept the secret so no one knew about the Torah, but, in recognition of the work Remano performed for the Jews of the Lodz ghetto, he was given the status of a Righteous Among the Nations. A tree was planted in his honor at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem.

Continued on page 6
Searching Once Again

As we say goodbye to Dr. William Schwartz, we must also say thank you. During the four years he has held this position, second only to Dr. Lamm, to enhance not only the academic reputation of YU, but the actual academic standards as well.

Even though Schwartz is stepping down, his work must continue. The next Academic Vice-President of the university will need the drive and effectiveness of his/her predecessor and the students need a voice in choosing the successor.

Schwartz never met with any students before he accepted the position but felt that he should have. The Academic V.P. works closely with the faculty of every school in the university and many students as well. Therefore, in order to ensure that the working relationship remains beneficial to all parties involved, the search committee must include not only faculty but graduate and undergraduate students.

It will be hard to find someone to replace Dr. Schwartz, but if we are to succeed, all of us need to be part of the process.

Skeptical Optimism

We applaud the administration for recognizing the need to revamp the Student Health services. Nevertheless, with the retirement of Dr. Sar, we are losing the only advantage of the old system, a medical doctor on campus.

The on-campus services will now include medical professionals, (read: nurses) and physician assistants (read: no doctors.) They are sure to address many modern health concerns important to the daily lives of most students, and will feel comfortable discussing any situation that students encounter. However, if a student does become sick, he will have to travel to a doctor he was referred to somewhere in the health system. This will entail a wait at the clinic and bring insurance companies into the picture.

A student who feels ill, especially one with the packed schedule of Yeshiva College, should be able to at least see a doctor and get a prescription without traveling across town. Students should also be able to purchase health insurance through this plan.

We hope this is only the first step towards making healthcare easily accessible for the students at YU, and that the other issues will be immediately addressed.

YU Commentator Recruitment Meeting

Wednesday Night
February 11, 1998
Morg Basement
10:15PM

Staff Positions Available

Refreshments Will Be Served

GET INVOLVED!
ON MY MIND

Working for this august publication is not fraught with many side benefits. There is no generous compensation package that comes with the job. Nor are we provided with travel junkets and corporate "fact finding missions" the norm. There are no "company-paid" Botox treatments. Nor can I feel lucky for eating Dougie's every two weeks on lay-out night. So when plowing through the pages of the various newspapers, I often find myself questioning my skewed judgment for ever getting involved in the first place. Yet there sometimes exist moments of such sheer insanity and levity, that they can make me forget all the crap and almost make the whole thing worthwhile.

Mordechai Fishman
News Editor

The Commentator mailbox can always be counted upon to provide such moments. It is an entity with a listed address, we receive oodles of mail from everyone and everywhere. Press releases, letters, job applications, complaints, requests for money (I have yet to figure out why they keep on asking us for money), more press releases, enough dorm talks flyers to paper a dorm room, etc. You get the picture. (I truly get a kick when we receive mail from thousands of people addressed to editors who graduated five years ago.) However, digging deep into the usual garbage and junk mail, sometimes one runs across a nugget of pure literary gold that shatters the ennui of the average school day and can bring a certain smile to my face.

My favorite reading material is penned by a man from Brooklyn, that for the purposes of this column I will call Beserko Bob. Bob is one of the chosen few; the select individuals who have seen the light of day and who have the rest of us still dwelling in the darkness of the cave. This is a fellow who feels he has something to say and he is passionately dedicated to saying them. But he is not satisfied with just saying them; no sir, he wants to disseminate them, he wants the whole wide world to know what he has to say. So how does he do this? Simple, he writes letters. Hoo boy, does he write letters.

You see, Beserko in Brooklyn has a minor personality quirk that is immediately apparent to anyone who receives his letters. It manifests itself in almost every idea he puts forth and every sentence he writes, but especially on the pages described, the paragraphs inscribed on the page, it leaps up at whomever may be reading his epistle, as if by the force of his personality and just doesn't let go. And what is this small shortcoming of his that is so glaringly obvious? Nothing sensational, nothing newsworthy, but that would bar him from running for public office. Merely the fact that he is insane. And not just your plain old garden variety insanity. This dude is a full blown nutter.

Beserko Bob is a raving lunatic; a man whose neural pathways are so twisted and warped that he begins to make sense to himself. You might ask "What is he doing in this paper?" Well, you new frien-pus, I bid you welcome. I hope that you use Yeshiva University to your fullest, etc. etc. "I do find incredible classes offered here. There are extraordinary people here - meet them. There are some subtle opportunities here that you can take advantage of them. For those of you returning, I'm sure you are aware of this, so I apologize because I know this upcoming semester is going to be a tough one, they're always tough, however, its important that you take our dual culture and whatever other extracurricular activities we involved ourselves - we shouldn't lose sight of our own personal growth and our place withinsociety, it is true that we must devote much of our time, but we should never completely neglect our job here. To enhance our macro perspective the Commentator will be expanding its coverage of that which makes society tick."

For those of you who feel like you are drowning us in mail, why don't you just mail a reader? Bob is not just a reader, he is a kindred spirit here. His letters are pure unadulterated classics. I would love to print them for the entertainment of the general audience, however they do not pass muster under the stringent standards of decency we set for ourselves. (They don't even pass under the not so stringent standards of this paper's issue. And for those of you who still have a dim recollection of the last Purim issue, that means these letters are through.) Suffice it to say, that in the last missive he launched, he accused Norman Lamm of beatitude, called him "the antichrist," the "Westside," and boasted of burying Artscroll gemaras. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, this is the unadulterated, unhampered insanity that Beserko Bob writes.

Why am I telling you this? Just to describe another maladjusted individual with serious chemical imbalances in his brain? No, Bob is a prototype for all of us. The full force of all of us is rolling around Brooklyn, who really don't seem to give two shakes about issues.

As Beserko Bob said so: "I long ago gave up hope for all of the zaniness of modern society," "purveyor of prostitution," of "tasteless chemical imbalances in his brain," "an alien tossed down from Micr osoft, and you too can be a part of it by writing to us and express what we think."

I applaud those few and far-flung students who are making an effort to write and try to make a difference, however, such people are a precious minority. The majority of this school's students do have legitimate concerns and issues that should be aired in public, to be debated and addressed. Yet most students limit their efforts to griping. Their de ranged mind bubbles up and pours itself out onto paper; and in the end, they are no better off than before. Nothing is ever debated and addressed. Yet most students do have legitimate concerns and issues that should be aired in public, to be debated and addressed. Yet most students limit their efforts to griping. Their de ranged mind bubbles up and pours itself out onto paper; and in the end, they are no better off than before. Nothing is ever debated and addressed.

So here it is: an open call to all of Beserko Bob's kindred spirits here in YU. Since the normal people aren't writing us letters and drowning us in mail, why don't you feature editor, Alan Gitlin, please make sure that this does not go unnoticed? The regular students here overworked, well, actually no one is paid, so scratch that. I realize you are all not paid but I, as the Commentator truly appreciate your contributions.

So I wish the readers of this fine paper good luck, good health and success to all of you. And to all of you who are people who usually think the world is going to decry the apathy and seemingly uncaring attitudes of YU students, you have all heard it before. I wish you good luck, good health and success to all of you. And to all of you who are people who usually think the world is going to decry the apathy and seemingly uncaring attitudes of YU students, you have all heard it before. I wish you
Yeshiva College is slowly developing an "honors presence" in order to satisfy students seeking a more challenging workload beyond that of the regular college classes. Although many universities offer honors courses to their students, these colleges often bind their students to the program, and limit the entrance to the program with specific admissions requirements. As it stands now, however, the classes labeled "Honors" at Yeshiva College, with the exception of the Freshmen English Honors Seminar, are open to all students.

Nevertheless, despite the fact that administrators are working daily to expand the Honors College, it is still unclear to both students and administrators at Yeshiva College what criteria actually define an honors course. According to Dean Norman Adler, YC administrators are working daily to determine the criteria that define honors classes. So far, the courses labeled as "Honors" have proved extremely popular among students.

One of the most popular and innovative honors courses offered is the Arthurian Legends. English professor Dr. Joan Haahr's class, entitled, "Arthurian Legends," as a survey of the legends of King Arthur and his knights, the Dr. Haahr's class examines the legends as they continue to appeal to the populace through the ages and how various artists exploit them for non-literary ends. Dr. Haahr based her course on similar courses taught by Dr. Deborah Everhart and Dr. Martin Irvine at Georgetown University, as well as other professors throughout the United States. In addition to Dr. Haahr's classroom lectures, students interact over the Internet after classes in independent discussions about the lectures.

The fourteen students in the class are required to propose weekly critical discussion questions via e-mail to a class list server, in order to generate a group oral presentation. Moreover, they must submit two hypermedia research projects that include a thesis-driven text, in addition to images and links to other materials. They are encouraged to visit Arthurnet, an Arthurian discussion group.

Arthurian Legends and its format, Dr. Haahr said, "encourages [students] to explore far beyond the actual class syllabus and into the significance and potential of the Internet for their ability of these books, students can exploit the web, since many of the works are out of copyright, to get material that otherwise they cannot access."

Dr. Haahr expressed the interests of other faculty members in incorporating the technological advancements, like the Internet into their own courses. Dr. Carl Feit, Professor of Biology, currently is working on an advanced course in AIDS that also depends heavily on the Internet, and Dr. Brill is setting up a web-site for his course labeled, "Modern Jewish Intellectualism." Dr. Brill acknowledges the need for the Internet in order to access rare medieval and early modern manuscripts. "At this point, much information, from medieval geography to the Nuremberg trials are accessible immediately with one click."

Thus far, students have indicated their satisfaction with the honors courses. "The class makes [the students] think in a coherent, structured, and logical fashion. Dr. Haahr appreciates and encourages serious work. The Internet projects makes [students] collect information from different sources, assemble them together, and present it in an original and professional manner. The work Dr. Haahr did for this course is praiseworthy and remarkable," commented Boris Gelfand, YC '99, about Arthurian Legends.

While the specific criteria defining an honors course remains amorphous, one class certainly deserving of the title is a six credit one semester Elementary Latin course, offered by Dr. Louis Feldman. After being repeatedly asked by a student to offer the class, Dr. Feldman agreed. The class is structured so that Dr. Feldman lectures for three-hour sessions every week. The class concentrates on Latin vocabulary, grammar, and usage, as well as the significance of some of the Latin words and phrases in Roman culture, and its influence on the English language.

Also well received is Jewish History professor Dr. Alan Brill's course, "Jewish Historiography and Philosophy of Jewish History," a study of the twentieth century. Dr. Brill emphasizes the significance of this program and the reasoning behind its institution at YU. "This project in particular allows a student interested in contemporary literature to interact with, to read, and to absorb the insights of the leading writers in the world today. It's one of the most significant components of how we can introduce our students to the joy and excitement of the life of the mind."

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The program involves lectures given by each author or playwright on various Sundays throughout the semester at SCW's Koch Auditorium. During the week subsequent to the lecture, each author addresses the students of Jacobson's class at YC and SCW. Dr. Jacobson notes, "This program is unique, to the best of my knowledge, in that it allows students to actually engage in dialogue with the writers [being studied] and for the writers themselves to conduct classroom lectures."

Mary Gordon, an educator and author of short stories and critical essays, is the author of Final Payment, The Company of Women, and The Rest of Life. Gordon is a winner of the Kafka Prize for fiction.

Tillie Olsen is the author of an O'Henry Award and the 1975 American Academy and National Institute of Arts and Letters award, as well as a Guggenheim fellowship. Olsen is the author of Tell Me a Riddle and The World Made Flesh. She has published numerous works of non-fiction.

William Joseph Kennedy is the Pulitzer Prize winning author and 1984 National Book Critics Award recipient for Ironweed. He has also received the McArthur Foundation award. Arthur Miller is the noted playwright who penned Death of a Salesman, The Crucible, and All My Sons. He is the beneficiary of the 1938 Avery Hopwood Award and 1938 Theater Guild National Award, as well as a Drama Critics Circle Award and the Pulitzer Prize in 1947. He has collected three Tony Awards for his plays and an Emmy Award in recognition of Outstanding Writing for the 1980 television drama, "Playing For Time." His most recent honor is a 1995 Olivier Award for the play Broken Glass.
Across America and the world, Super Bowl Sunday is synonymous with good food, good friends, and of course, good football. YU students were no different. On Sunday, January 25, 1998, over 300 students flooded Belfer Hall’s Weisberg Commons, a room generally associated with lectures and seminars. On that day, however, John Enyeart mobbed the Denver Broncos down field in the closing moments of the game. Poetically enough, the game’s MVP, Turel Davis, ran the last play of the game before the same drive only to have the touch downs rescinded due to penalties, thus sending the Bronco faithful to the endzone for the game’s winning score.

As the last seconds ticked off the clock, the field and the room were filled with emotion. Then, in that one brief moment, it was all over. For some, months of anticipation, preparation, and hard work all disappeared as the game clock ran off it’s final second in a dimension leveled in their new found victory the mood was the other extreme. For them, screaming was the only way to express their excitement.

RENOVED MATHEMATICIAN ADDRESSES YC STUDENTS
Dr. Sylvain Cappell of Courant Institute Visits Campus
By Jake Solomon
On Tuesday, January 27, the mathematicians, physics and computer science students of Yeshiva College were privileged to hear a lecture by Dr. Sylvain Cappell, one of the world’s most eminent mathematicians. The lecture, which was sponsored by the YC Math Club and the office of the Dean, was entitled “Integration vs. Differentiation.” As the lecture, a dinner was served in Belfer Commons during which students were afforded the opportunity to ask Dr. Cappell questions and discuss topics of personal interest.

Dr. Cappell is a topologist. Loosely speaking, topology is the study of normal geometric properties that are unchanged by continuous transformations. A continuous transformation can stretch, shrink, bend, or twist an object, but it cannot tear it or attach to parts of it that were not previously attached. Topology also includes knot theory, which studies different properties of knots. Dr. Cappell studies topology in all dimensions. Most topologists specialize in either higher or lower dimensions since the third and fourth dimensions differ in many respects from higher dimensions.

Dr. Cappell currently works at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences at New York University in a math research program. He divides his time between research, administrative work, and teaching. The most time consuming of these is his teaching. In the conversation during the dinner preceding the lecture, Dr. Cappell mentioned at length his concern over the process of working on or had just recently published. In his administrativa work he has had a great deal of interaction with the students of the Yeshiva University Institute. As he put it, “At this point, most of my colleagues were probably hired by my students.”

In his lecture, Dr. Cappell discussed several very basic but, to date, unsolved mathematical problems. One problem he alluded to is the “The Circle Problem.” This problem was originally addressed by the famous nineteenth century mathematician, Gauss. The problem is to find how well the number of lattice points inside a circle approximates its area. “The Circle Problem,” as with the origin of a Cartesian coordinate plane. It is reasonable to assume that the number of lattice points inside a circle approximately approximates its area, but it has taken centuries to develop a reasonable idea of how great the error factor in this estimate is and a precise answer is as yet only conjecture.

Dr. Cappell also mentioned an unsolved problem in computer programming which is being addressed by mathematicians. In addition, he dealt with the problem of summing sequences of functions of integrals. Pick’s Theorem
Dr. Cappell mentioned the problem of generalizing Pick’s theorem. Pick’s theorem deals with the problem of finding the area of a polygon (many sided figure) the vertices (corners or angles) of which are lattice points. In the 1870’s Pick developed an insightful formula to determine the area inside and on the boundaries of such a polygon. However, this solution is only valid for two dimensional figures.

Dr. Cappell recently published a paper involving some very powerful theorems about the calculus of complex variables which presents the complete solution of the Pick’s theorem. Dr. Cappell concluded, “Anyway, I’ve taken you, I hope, on a little tour which, I hope, is not too confusing, which is to say you grew up with as one of the simplest of mathematical processes, already has problems which we need new ideas to solve. The problem is that mathematics needs more young people.” The lecture was followed by a question and answer period.

Dr. Rosenfeld, Dr. Karpishpan, Dr. Hirschhorn, and Dr. Johson all attended the lecture. Dr. Cappell is one of the more exciting and illuminating personalities we have heard speak at YU and it would be a pleasure to hear him speak again.”

SOY TO HOLD ANNUAL SEFORIM SALE
By Michael Gewirtz
Once again, the sound of Judaic books landing on tables can be heard all around Belfer Hall, as SOY takes over Room 502 to conduct its annual Seforim Sale. The sale, chaired by SOY Vice President Joshua Muskat, continues along the same lines of last year’s decision to accept “The Circle Problem.” As the last seconds ticked off the clock, the field and the room were filled with emotion. Then, in that one brief moment, it was all over. For some, months of anticipation, preparation, and hard work all disappeared as the game clock ran off its final second in a dimension leveled in their new found victory the mood was the other extreme.

This year the Seforim Sale will feature a wide selection of seforim and unbeatable prices. The funds generated are directed to numerous charitable organizations and SOY functions. This year’s sale hopes to be headed in the same successful direction as last year’s unprecedented million dollars plus in gross sales.

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Sefer Torah

The Journey to America

The Sefer Torah was discovered and brought to the attention of the Catholic Church. It wound up in the hands of Cardinal Lustiger in Paris. Cardinal Lustiger wanted this Torah to go to an Orthodox Rabbi who was prominent in the American Jewish community. Although he had never met R’ Tendler, he knew of him and decided to donate the Torah to him. R’ Tendler is donating the Torah to YU.

On Wednesday, January 28, emissaries of the Cardinal brought the Sefer Torah to YU and met with R’ Tendler and R’ Norman Lamm, the University President.

Together Again

Somewhere between the end of World War Two and when the Church discovered the Torah, it was repaired. The Torah does not resemble our Torahs today. While modern Sofrim use ox parchment for writing, the Lodz Torah is dark in appearance and obviously not ox parchment. However, the sections were sewn back together and the stitching is reinforced with ox parchment. An examination by R’ Tendler confirmed that the parchment used is a goat-skin, but finished with a dark brown varnish that is rarely seen today. The Torah was made to be mounted in a case like traditional Sephardic Torahs.

Dr. M. Seres looked at the style of the writing and determined that it is indeed written in a version of Sephardic Script, probably originating from Morocco. Some of the letters must have been missing at one point because a scribe, perhaps the one who put the Torah back together, corrected or added letters but in Ashkenazi script.

R’ Tendler seemed mystified about the gift from a Cardinal he has never met. However, he sees a lesson here for the students of YU. “Hashem promised Rachel ‘Va’asarat Beis L’agodat;’ [sons will return to their boundaries;], her children will one day return to Eretz Yisrael. This is a case of V’hinei Golom L’Simmim, their boundaries are returned to the sons. The Torah sets our boundaries and this one has come back to us.”

The President of YU, Dr. Norman Lamm, reaffirmed the commitment to hold open meetings on a bi-weekly basis. He began by dispensing the customary accolades for the recent events and efforts of his council. They included mention of the Doughies, bagels, and pizza distribution during finals week, as well as the very popular Senior Bowl event which he declared to be a huge success.

The focus then shifted to the issues that are currently on the YCSC agenda. Tannenbaum announced that efforts to have YWUR, Yeshiva University’s own radio station which has been silent for more than a year, back on the air Tuesday on their way. He claimed that the broadcasting is expected to begin within the next few weeks. He then mentioned the upcoming return of another campus mini-store availability of copy machines: of copy machines. Tannenbaum reiterated previous concerns for the broadness of the Super Bowl event which he declared to be a huge success.

Another common issue was subsequence addressed, that concerning the availability of copy machines. Tannenbaum reiterated previous concerns for the broadness of the Super Bowl event which he declared to be a huge success.
Once again, Yeshiva University's classrooms have the "write stuff."

For the second consecutive year, the Gottesman Program for Excellence in Undergraduate Education features premier literary luminaries as the "Authors-in-Residence" at Yeshiva University. Starting February 1, 1998 the series will bring some of America's most intriguing and lauded writers to our Manhattan campuses. Collectively, they are recipients of some of literature's and drama's most prestigious prizes. Each of these guest faculty members will offer a lecture, open to the public at no charge, on the date listed below.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS 212-960-5217.

James McBride
Author of The New York Times' #1 best-seller, The Color of Water, A Black Man's Tribute to His Jewish Mother
FEBRUARY 1 • 5PM • MIDTOWN CENTER

Mary Gordon
Author of Final Payment, The Company of Women, and The Rest of Life, and a Kafka Prize winner
FEB. 22 • 5PM • CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW

Jamaica Kincaid
Author of My Brother, At the Bottom of the River, and Annie John, and Anisfeld Wolf Book Award recipient
FEBRUARY 8 • 5PM • MIDTOWN CENTER

Tillie Olsen
O'Henry Award winner for Tell Me a Riddle, and author of The World Made Flesh
MARCH 22 • 5PM • MIDTOWN CENTER

William Joseph Kennedy
Pulitzer Prize and National Book Critics Award winner for Ironweed
APRIL 5 • 5PM • MIDTOWN CENTER

Arthur Miller
Legendary Pulitzer and Tony-winning playwright of Death of a Salesman, The Crucible, All My Sons
APRIL 28 • 7:45PM • MIDTOWN CENTER

Yeshiva University's Midtown Center is located at 245 Lexington Ave. at 35th St. • Cardozo School of Law's Brookdale Center is at 55 Fifth Ave. at 12th St.

ATTENTION ALL SENIORS!!!

If you want a job or are interested in graduate school, please come to the Office of Placement and Career Services

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Presents

Piamenta

in a

Yud Shvat Concert
Thursday February 5, 1998

Featured Speaker: Rabbi Herbert Bomzer, to Discuss the Significance of Yud Shvat Prior to Performance.

Doors Open at 8:00 PM
Location: Beifer Hall
2495 Amsterdam Ave.
New York, NY

Cost: $10.00 for YU Students & $15.00 for the General Public

Ticket Information:

Tzvi Cheffer: (212)-568-0060 MO 329
Daniel Decker: (212)-568-5635 MO 313
Tzvi Shapiro: (212)-927-2082 MO 418

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Bar Ilan University
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Miryam Kahanian: (212)-486-1565 BR 20B
Malka Bachashev: (212)-679-0467 BR 6F

NYU
Moshe Gruber: (212)-443-6548
Although many in orthodox circles often do not emphasize the philosophy of "Tikkun Olam," which emphasizes enlightening and ameliorating the lives of gentiles as well as Jews, some YU students are emphasizing this outlook, as they work to create a better life for the less fortunate, regardless of their religion.

Over the last six months, Josh Landa, a Yeshiva College junior, has gone through extraordinary lengths to design and found programming for the homeless. His organization, known as H.E.L.P., Health Organization for Life Program, conducts seminars in which homeless individuals are advised of health issues that may affect them. Seminars have included discussions on tuberculosis, pneumonia, hepatitis, alcohol and drug abuse as well as on the transmission of the Aids virus. The program, of which Mr. Landa is co-founder and president, utilizes the energy and knowledge of approximately 30 YC students. Additionally, in conjunction with Cornell Medical School, the group claims around 20 second year medical students in its membership. The lectures, which are given in three shelters run by the National Coalition for Shelter on the Upper East Side, are conducted on a biweekly basis. Mr. Landa describes how seminar leaders have elicited a "remarkable" response from the homeless audience, adding, "You'd never know some of them are homeless. Many of them dress well, are articulate in their questions, and show a real desire to improve their situation in life."

It may shock many that HELP is the only independent organization that provides health-education for the city's homeless. This fact becomes even more surprising when one realizes that the homeless population in the five boroughs ranges anywhere from an estimated 15-25,000. Indeed, Mr. Landa attributes his epiphany usually does. He first approached a volunteer referral service that had trouble taking seriously Mr. Landa's rather ambitious plan. Nonetheless, a meeting was arranged with the Coalition for Shelter, and soon, a formerly unrealistic and ambitious plan began to take shape.

Cornell had previously been involved in a homeless education program but the program had petered out a few years ago. However, a connection was made between the Yeshiva and Cornell students and soon the program was underway. Naturally, Mr. Landa was approached by members of the group to give a seminar. His first lecture actuated a great deal of anxiety initially, but, ultimately, it proved to be an outstanding success. Landa said, "I'm sitting there, knowing that I would have to give a 45 minute speech, but have no clue whether I would be able to fill the time. Also, I expected the interest level of the audience to be quite low. Surprisingly, 10 minutes into the speech hands went up! Ultimately, the seminar went overtime."

The end product of the seminar for Josh Landa is not simply educational—it contains a more personal aspect as well: "YU students and the homeless, never have any contact with one another. In the special environment of the seminar these people share with us our experiences. We realize the unique thread that binds all of us. We have so many similarities, so many of the same foibles, the same caring for other people. The seminars have been, for all its participants, a real eye-opener."

Furthermore, Landa firmly believes that these seminars have an effect on the community that it aims to assist. He said, "Often, the nurse at a particular shelter (the organization serves three) will tell me that after a certain disease has been discussed, a number of shelter residents will approach him with questions and concerns regarding the illness, as well as testing information."

While the organization is only the brainchild of Mr. Landa, he hopes that it will continue after he graduates in May of next year. The fact that the organization has grown from the one man, to a group of over 50 members, and that these students have together have lectured approximately 1500 homeless, seems to indicate that this unique organization does have the mettle to survive. Indeed, the credo of the H.E.L.P. is best summed up by the mantra through which Josh Landa conducts his life. In the words of the great social activist Margaret Mead, "Never say that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can not change the world. In fact that is the only way that it has changed."
**Culture in the Heights**

BY DAVID ANZIKA

Walking through the hallowed halls of this fine institution, one is bound to hear the usual laundry list of complaints against Yeshiva University: there is a lack of school spirit, there is nothing to do on campus, cafes are prices are simply exorbitant. But the most troubling and untruthful complaint is that the institution is not representative of urban life.

In fact, the typical Yeshiva student fed up with the lack of school spirit was made to let lush, saturated colors pervade a church's interior, affording the opportunity to live near a museum's placid tranquility. One could spend hours just sitting down and inhaling the fresh city air while taking in an awe-inspiring view of the Hudson.

For those who are not content in merely enjoying nature's art, sitting in the courtyards can be a great way to see New York city's multi-cultural heritage at its vibrant best.

Unlike other art museums, where the crowds tend to be mostly upscale and stodgy, the visitors at Yeshiva come from a cross-section of New York City. The sounds of German, Spanish, Portuguese and French mixes in with lower middle class Bronx accents forming cacophonous melodies brimming with life.

The Cloisters is a popular spot for Spanish immigrants taking advantage of the local area, working class families enjoying a cheap recreational activity, young European tourists backpacking around the city, old Jewish grandmothers out on a Sunday morning stroll, avant garde artists searching for inspiration and amorous lovers yearning for a little privacy and, yes, boisterous Israelis prattling endlessly on their cellular phones.

Thus, if one is looking for a stimulating yet enjoyable way to kill time, The Cloisters come to mind. For jewelry aficionados the treasury will provide a medieval time warp. Chief among the museum's attractions is the Fuentiduena Chapel, whose murals from pagan, Hebrew, and Christian myths to the last detail; famous figures are rendered with amazing accuracy, leaving little to the imagination. Two other endearing rooms were made to let lush, saturated colors pervade a church's interior, affording the opportunity to live near a museum's placid tranquility.

But the most troubling and untruthful complaint is that the institution is not representative of urban life.

Built at the dawn of the second World War in 1938, The Cloisters was largely financed by the altruism of the great American tycoon, John D. Rockefeller. Its imposing hilltop setting, verdant greenery (even in the winter) establishes an ambiance ripe for architectural prosperity. It owes its name to the five medieval cloisters themselves. In traditional Jewish tradition, the unification of the local area, working class families enjoying a cheap recreational activity, young European tourists backpacking around the city, old Jewish grandmothers out on a Sunday morning stroll, avant garde artists searching for inspiration and amorous lovers yearning for a little privacy and, yes, boisterous Israelis prattling endlessly on their cellular phones.

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Changing the healthcare system in place for the last half century, Yeshiva University has contracted out to an independent health care provider to supply medical care for students at the Main and Midtown campuses. In a letter to parents, Dean of Students Efrem Nulman informed them that as of January 5, the Student Health Program for graduate and undergraduate students will be directed by the Greater Metropolitan Health System’s (GMHS) Corporate Health Services Network, (CHSN) a partnership of the Beth Israel Health Care System. The program “will deliver on-site services at our Main Campus and Midtown Center” wrote Nulman, “and will coordinate access to care within the entire GMHS.” The on campus care is slated to be provided by a nurse practitioner or a physician’s assistant under the supervision of physician.

The new program is designed to supplant the old health care office run for years by Dr. Eli Sar. It is supposed to allow YU students access to the full range of medical facilities of the CHSN, including the Beth Israel Medical Centers in Manhattan and Brooklyn, the Phillips Ambulatory Care Center, St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital Centers in Manhattan, and the DOCS network of physician practices. A student needing medical attention is supposed to receive preferential treatment at the hospital, and will be able to use the network of specialist doctors if the need should arise. On campus, the clinics will be refurbished and revamped, and a “health care provider” will administer student care. This is a marked departure from the past, as no physician will be in the office, Nulman sought to reassure students who expressed apprehension over the fact that a doctor would not be on campus, and said that all medical care would be closely supervised by physicians and expertise of the network.

Beth Israel North, in Upper Manhattan, has been designated as the main center to serve YU students. The hospital is nationally recognized for their expertise in sports medicine, an advantage due to the sports injuries that may take place in the athletic center. Athletic Director Dr. Richard Zernick expressed his pleasure at having such a resource close at hand to deal with any injury that may arise. The hospital is already a University affiliate, being the Manhattan campus for the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. “This creates a consumer conscious and user friendly service for the students,” said Nulman.

“This is especially important because of the amount of students that come from out of town.” The program is not a comprehensive full service student health program such as those at Columbia University or NYU. There is no University health insurance coverage; the student still must have private insurance coverage to pay their medical bills. Medical procedures are not to be scheduled through the Student Health Program, rather the program will only make referrals to physicians of the network, and if necessary, arrange emergency medical care.

When queried as to why the change was taking place now, Nulman said that the retirement of Dr. Sar after fifty years of service to the University offered an opportunity to rectify any perceived faults in the system, “but we have only just begun to get our feet wet. Obviously kinks will have to be worked out of the system, but we hope student feedback will reach the Dean of Student’s office, and all perceived faults will be addressed.”
New Home for Students’ Butts

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

From afar, the item looks strange. The golden hue, detailed carvings, and rectangular shape can indicate a celebrated work of art, a birdhouse, a gold mailbox, or possibly the Ark of the Covenant. However, the item is a receptacle for cigarettes—and only cigarettes! It reads in bold letters, "Cigarettes Only Please, No Paper."

Over the winter break, the office of facilities management of Yeshiva University, busied themselves with making sweeping changes for the aesthetic enhancement of the campus.

One of the changes made during the brief hiatus was this cigarette receptacle, which they hammered into the walls near the entrances of Rubin Hall and Belfer Commons. Its purpose is to facilitate the sanitary needs of the smoking population of Yeshiva College.

With many cigarette butts still lying on the ground outside Rubin and Belfer, the actual efficaciousness of this cigarette receptacle remains in doubt. However, what is certain is that this comical cigarette receptacle has attracted widespread controversy, eliciting debate from students, and even condemnation from certain roshet yeshiva. Some students, such as Marc Gitter, noted how ironic it is that at a time when America is trying hard to crack down on smoking, the Yeshiva administration has decided to bend over backwards to accommodate student smokers. Gitter said, "It is quite a shame that this higher institution of learning is plagued with [enough] smoking to necessitate these cigarette cans. We all know the ill effects we should strive to overcome these chains of addiction."

Ari Romanoff concurred with Gitter, espousing, "I think, as a Jewish organization, we should discourage smoking, not open the door to smoking as these butt dispensers (sic!) are doing."

Another non-smoker, Jeff Kohn, thinks that the new addition to the walls of Belfer and Rubin is a "hideous sight," and he declared, "I don't even think people are using it!"

Bruce Kessler, a Sy Syms senior, disagreed with these opinions. He said simply, "It is good."

However, even some smokers have reacted negatively to the containers. Ryan Ferster, a social smoker, insisted that, "Those containers are an absolute eyesore."

While David Rappaport, an unabashed incessant smoker, declared, "I think it's ugly as [explicative deleted]. And whenever I put a cigarette in I feel like I'm putting in mail." Rappaport added, "I'm not a mailman!"

Many of the smokers on campus expressed their opinions for and against the smoking bins with as much vehemence as David Rappaport did, but they desired to remain anonymous because they feared the stigma that so often comes with smoking at YU. One cigarette puff, who engages in Seinfeldian humor, commented, "You can’t take away the flick; it’s the flick—it’s half the smoke!"

Another non-smoker, Assaf Shmuel, a Sy Syms sophomore, said, "I don't like it; I don't use it."

Other smokers regard the new cigarette receptacle with less harsh disapproval. One student said, "I think it's funny. I like putting my cigarette in and watching it disappear. I would like to think, also, it was done for the convenience of the students, but I know it's really not."

Elie, a tall IBC freshman, withheld his last name. He said that he now deposits his cigarettes in the cigarette bin and he thinks that it is a good thing. But then he became sentimental: "I miss the flicking contests, when we tried to get it on the roof."

The opinions of smokers and non-smokers ranged widely concerning the cigarette receptacles, with not a few displeased by their new addition to their dormitory and school, and many totally apathetic to the whole issue. Yonaton Kaganoff, a non-smoker, however, not only supported the outdoor cigarette ashtrays, but he even suggested that, "the cafeteria store start selling cigarette patches."

In response to this, another student quipped, "No, that would be too practical. More likely," he said, "next vacation Socol will put up chewing gum receptacles and pencil dispensers."
Yeshiva University has secured the majority of shares in a residential condo- minium project completed in the fall. The new building, which will accommodate 111 new students, is located in Manhattan's Greenwich Village neighborhood.

The Commentator claims that the purpose of the December 5 mailing was to inform all who received the letter of the PLUS loan available to make their loan payments directly to the bank. The Commentator is critical of the University's lack of cooperation in informing students about the loan program.

The University's response is that the PLUS loan is a federal program and that the University does not have the authority to inform students about it. However, the University is committed to providing students with all the information they need to make informed decisions about their financial aid.

The Commentator is concerned about the University's failure to inform students about the PLUS loan, which is a federal program that is available to all qualifying students. The University is responding by committing to informing students about all federal loan programs in the future.

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Good Will Hunting

BY DANIEL LOWE
FILM CRITIC

Will Hunting, a young janitor at MIT, keeps a secret. His mind is so advanced in mathematics that he writes books in a matter of minutes. Facing a prison sentence, Will is offered a deal by a MIT professor who discovers his genius. The court stipulates that in exchange for his freedom, Will must divide his afternoons between research with the math professor and a psychiatry course with the professor.

Will Hunting's only consistently successful relationships are with blue-collar ne'er do wells, and perhaps this can be attributed to a cynicism of life and his genius. These friends cannot stimulate Will intellectually, nor begin to fathom the profundity of his mind. During an early scene in Good Will Hunting, the brilliant Will analyzes a painting created by his new psychiatrist. In a malicious role reversal, Will studies the painting, its strokes and different colors, and within two minutes, he has discerned with prophetic clarity the deepest secrets of the life and mind of his astonished shrinker. In a later episode, Will insulsts his girlfiend when she is most vulnerable, leaving her emotionally naked. These scenes represent Will Hunting at a spiritual trough - angry, bitter, and intellectually vindictive. Yet by the movie's end, Will has abandoned his misanthropic ways, supplanting a true love for himself and others. "Good Will Hunting" is the story of a young man's catharsis.

The movie stars Matt Damon, playing the troubled prodigy passionately, remarkably convincing in a very difficult role. Ben Affleck also triumphs as the blue-collar best friend, who often expresses his disappointment that Will spends too much time with the construction guys. Minnie Driver has some good scenes, but there is little here, if any, about her character. The romance with Damon and Affleck, is well written, and although it has a good chance of taking home an Oscar, this distinction is probably undeserved. Hollywood tends to judge less strictly when actors try their hand at writing or directing (How else can one explain Kevin Costner's win for Best Director for Dances With Wolves vs. Scorsese's Goodfellas?). The dialogue is effective in Damon's scenes with Williams, but cliche-ridden and unfunny with his city friends. The romance with Driver has some good scenes, but there is little here, if anything, that we have not seen previously.

Yet the film is still an impressive one, and certainly a breakthrough for Damon and Affleck. It also revitalizes Robin Williams, who has meandered in drivel like Flubber, Father's Day, and Jack. Major themes like genius, love, and relationships may be just what the Academy of Arts in Sciences is looking for come late March.

The film's basic message is a rather affecting and conventional, Carpenter's "A Rocky Horror Picture Show", that it's never too late to change. The human message sparkles through in Nicholson's brilliant performance as a progressively mellowed self, looking for come late March, like genius, love, and relationships. His attitude towards his friends is despondent Williams resolves to play hard-ball with his psychiatrist's clever psychiatrist's attitude toward his ends is unclear. It often feels as though Van Sant decided to leave a number of key scenes on the cutting room floor. Furthermore, it is unclear how much time passes during the course of the film. This uncertainty hinders the believability of Damon's development, as does our appreciation of his relationships with Williams and Driver.

The film's screenplay, co-written by actors Damon and Affleck, is well written, and although it has a good chance of taking home an Oscar, this distinction is probably undeserved. Hollywood tends to judge less strictly when actors try their hand at writing or directing (How else can one explain Kevin Costner's win for Best Director for Dances With Wolves vs. Scorsese's Goodfellas?). The dialogue is effective in Damon's scenes with Williams, but cliche-ridden and unfunny with his city friends. The romance with Driver has some good scenes, but there is little here, if anything, that we have not seen previously.

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I hope you all had a wonderful inter­session except for the people who chose to go to Jamaica, Barbados and what have you. Seriously, are you people that obsessed with creating the illusion of a life defined by an MTV beach party?

Anyway, I feel it is time for a serious number and this leads me to today's topic: The Top 10 Records of 1997.

Note that these records are in no particular order:

Radiohead - OK Computer

According to the band, they themselves set out to make a straightforward pop record. Thankfully, the final product came out to be one of the most glorious concept records ever made. The underlying theme of this record is that of trans­portation, physical and otherwise. Topics ranging from the wondrous of airbags to the spiritual beauty of alien abduction

are so damn good. I wish I could say more. This is available on Sire/Matador Records and will be followed by an unbelievably full length album titled in the spring:

"I am not sure if this is a concept album or just an attempt to mix them into the album as he will be working on during the off season..."

Elliott Smith - Either Or

Have you ever been walking alone on an empty suburban street after a night­time snowfall and been in the mood to contemplate what in the world you were doing with your life and that, indeed, you were the center of the earth? That is Elliott Smith. An extremely soft and peaceful record, there is no other record better for lone subway trips with your walkman. I could say more, but words can't convey the astonishment of this recording. If it wasn't blasphemous, I would say that OK Computer is a better record than the Beatles' Revolver.

Spiritualized - Ladies and Gentlemen We Are Floating in Space

This album treads the thin line between avant garde pop, but also throws in hints of gospel and soul. A truly excellent album, even though I really wish I could say more. This is available on Sire/Matador Records and will be followed by an unbelievably full length album titled in the spring:

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Elliott Smith - Either Or

Have you ever been walking alone on an empty suburban street after a night­time snowfall and been in the mood to contemplate what in the world you were doing with your life and that, indeed, you were the center of the earth? That is Elliott Smith. An extremely soft and peaceful record, there is no other record better for lone subway trips with your walkman. I could say more, but words can't convey the astonishment of this recording. If it wasn't blasphemous, I would say that OK Computer is a better record than the Beatles' Revolver.

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The raging forces of theological elitism appear never to have occasion for hull from their pyrotechnic displays of intransigence. We believe that Rabbi Svei, rabbi shofet of the Yeshiva of Philadelphia, at the annual convention of Agudath Israel before some 3,500 delegates for confirmation that Jewish religious supernumeraries remain stunted in their efforts to unleash communal discord and its attendant tumult. Rabbi Svei, a member of Agudath Israel’s Mefros Goladim HaRabim, now at the convention podium to unashamedly depreciate Yeshiva University President Rabbi Norman Lamm by characterizing him as a “soneh Hashem,” or “hater of the Lord.” This appalling burst of incendiary invective has ignited a conflagration that threatens to consume the fragile edifice of Orthodox unity. A wave of similar hateful expression among the members of Agudah to “retract or disassociate itself from Rabbi Svei’s degradation and extremist remarks” so as to avoid suffering a severe blow to its organizational rectitude of a perpetrator’s intention in the performance of an iniquitous act, however, has been peppered with inflammatory editorials and pronouncements transpire, despite concerns with the fragility of communal accord and its attendant tumult. Rabbi Svei’s remarks as a springboard for the projections transpire, despite concerns with the fragile equilibrium of communal accord and its attendant tumult. Rabbi Svei’s remarks are vested with an insurmountable aura, however, has been upgraded to an immovable KIANT to its adherents toward centrist Orthodoxy. It insists that we recognize that there is an entrenched institutional apparatus under the aegis of rightist Orthodox that seeks to incite animosity in its adherents toward centrist Orthodoxy. It declares too clearly that all is not well in the state of Orthodox Judaism.

COMMUNITY has made to Orthodoxy during moderation. The landscape of Orthodoxy delves with the audacity to spout the value of Jewish community." Rabbi Svei took exception to communal betterment. Of his pyrotechnic displays of intransigence. He further indicated that Rabbi Svei probably meant what he said and considered the matter seriously enough to embark upon Yeshiva Lamm in public. That Rabbi Svei’s remarks are vested with an insurmountable aura, however, has been upgraded to an immovable KIANT to its adherents toward centrist Orthodoxy. It insists that we recognize that there is an entrenched institutional apparatus under the aegis of rightist Orthodox that seeks to incite animosity in its adherents toward centrist Orthodoxy. It declares too clearly that all is not well in the state of Orthodox Judaism.

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GET CREDIT FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN!
<p>To the Editor: I would like to address an issue that is not thought about much and when it is, people tend to think very little of it. I am talking about smokers’ rights. I am not out to defend the practice in halakha—it is at best <em>prescribed</em> to take up and <em>avil parter</em> (sinful but exempted) to continue once addicted. This is already known. I am not out to defend it from the standpoints of medicine or common sense, either. It is <em>miztiq</em> (damaging). This is already known. In fact, I am not out to defend it at all. Rather I am out to condemn the treatment that many smokers often receive at the hands of some of their non-smoking counterparts. Smokers are held to an unhealthy standard for their habit and it helps no one. At least three methods of reasoning facilitate the non-smokers’ condemnation of the smoker: (1) The smoker is intuitively, if unhelpful, <em>tachkoch</em> (<em>rebuke</em>). (This is innocent enough but difficult to understand. In most cases, the actor rarely gives <em>tachkoch</em> in other areas of <em>halakha</em> quite so readily and there are plenty of areas just as deserving.) (2) Defense of his air space or the world’s (This is often hypocrisy as the actor rarely concerns himself overly much with other enviromental concerns.) (3) Perhaps he is more so concerned with his health himself.) The sheer pleasure of giving someone a hard time (This is all too common and often misguided by more altruistic motives) (1) They claim that they are enlightening us about the dangers of smoking smoke, but now that I have seen them face they call it “positive pressure” but it is ineffective and only serves to alienate and make hostile the smoker. Some will take it, “If 1,000 warnings weren’t enough maybe 2,000 will be.” We have already received more than 3,000 and repetition is not the answer. I assure you, the constant hooptah in the news is more than adequate warning. Their actions might be acceptable if they were genuinely <em>pikkuh nefesh</em>, but they are not. I have never met a smoker who quit in order to end torment at the hands of his peers. I am not talking about the borderliners, sometimes or closet smoker but the real deal. There is a chemical addiction involved here and I am afraid it is just not that simple. If you do not smoke then you do not know how it feels. Further, different people react differently to nicotine. Some can smoke and not become addicted. Everyone’s system is different. Perhaps I should not have begun to smoke, but now that I have it has become a different story altogether. Do not be too quick to judge that either. Not everyone has had such an easy time of things and people react to stress in different ways. Personally, I did not become aware of the <em>halakha</em> ramifications until after it was already too late. I would like to see the genuine concern but it is also true that there is a double standard here. There is a genuine concern but there is also a genuine selfishness. The smoker is not alone. He feels the <em>halakha</em> is against him. He is isolated. He feels that he is under attack but is it really happening? He is being selfish. He feels his own body in many and various ways. (This is a double standard here. If he cares only about immediate second-hand smoke, please be advised that this is almost always within his power to avoid without infringing on the rights of others. Smoking today is effectively banned indoors. I do not condemn smoking where you have a captive audience. To force someone to breathe my smoke would be wrong. The public domain however, is another matter. If someone standing next to you fails to bathe, launder his clothes, use deodorant or mouthwash, it is incumbent upon you to move away. How much the more so if you fear his stink might harm you! Sufferers of cold and flu are contagious and not forbidden from public places; neither should smokers be. You can avoid it either of them. Rather be inconvenienced however, many prefer just to bend others to their will. They can do so safely only with smokers because smokers are <em>personas non grata</em> today. There is a double standard here. My <em>mejig shivir</em> in Jerusalem was fond of saying, “There are no such people, their being here is no such ‘leader’ that he look into the past and see the whole spectrum. The ideal would seem to show a total disregard by the Left in taking Lo Tizrach seriously. The incidents range from the couple who sued the American Jewish Congress to the attempt on Yigal and Leiby freedom fighters to be put to death, to Rabin’s direct involve­ment in sinking the Albatross off the shores of Tel Aviv in 1948 resulting in the deaths of 16 righteous Jews, some of whom were shot while swimming to shore. Are we to forget the Zionists of the Left like Chaim Weizmann, David Ben Gurion and Rudolf Kastner who unknowingly let Europe’s Jews be saved into soap and ashes. Can we also forget that it was Rabin who would say, after each terrorist act, that these deaths were “karmic” justice? While the hands of the “right” may have some blood on them, those of the “left” are soaked in it. While the act of Amir was a chilling Hashem, why not also look at the chilling Hashem being done by those willing to abandon the Land of Israel to the Arab enemies? The Lubavitcher Rebbe zt”l, one of the greatest tzaddikim of this century, along with others, said that it is a challenge that must be met to maintain our existence or common sense, either. It is not surprising by the behavior of Kahane and his supporters, I wonder what proof he has to support his allegation that Kahane and his supporters are not soldiers of the <em>Halakha</em>.<br><br>Jonathan Greenberg, Director, American Jewish Congress and the <em>alleged by who know it</em>, anyway). However, it is easy to judge someone grappling with a situation that you yourself have never encountered and might never encounter. There is a double standard here. He pollutes his own table and the earth of his neighbors. When the student also went to the teacher, he was not surprised by the behavior of Kahane and his supporters, He pollution his own body and the earth daily. However, his job. He finally gets a <em>shmiras negioh</em> (This is innocent enough but difficult to understand. In most cases, the actor rarely gives <em>tachkoch</em> in other areas of <em>halakha</em> quite so readily and there are plenty of areas just as deserving.) (2) Defense of his air space or the world’s (This is often hypocrisy as the actor rarely concerns himself overly much with other enviromental concerns.) (3) Perhaps he is more so concerned with his health himself.) The sheer pleasure of giving someone a hard time (This is all too common and often misguided by more altruistic motives) (1) They claim that they are enlightening us about the dangers of smoking smoke, but now that I have seen them face they call it “positive pressure” but it is ineffective and only serves to alienate and make hostile the smoker. Some will take it, “If 1,000 warnings weren’t enough maybe 2,000 will be.” We have already received more than 3,000 and repetition is not the answer. I assure you, the constant hooptah in the news is more than adequate warning. Their actions might be acceptable if they were genuinely <em>pikkuh nefesh</em>, but they are not. I have never met a smoker who quit in order to end torment at the hands of his peers. 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### Countries eligible to sit on the United Nations Security Council:

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- Angola
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Belize
- Benin
- Bhutan
- Bolivia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Botswana
- Brunei Darussalam
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Cape Verde
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Comoros
- Congo
- Costa Rica
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Croatia
- Cuba
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Denmark
- Djibouti
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Equatorial Guinea
- Erie
- Estonia
- Ethiopia
- Fiji
- Finland
- France
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Georgia
- Ghana
- Greece
- Greenland
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Israel
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Korea, Democratic People's
- Korea, Republic of
- Kuwait
- Kyrgyzstan
- Laos
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Madagascar
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mali
- Malta
- Marshall Islands
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Micronesia
- Moldova
- Monaco
- Mongolia
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- New Caledonia
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Republic of Korea
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Rwanda
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Samoa
- São Tomé and Príncipe
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Swaziland
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syria
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Togo
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Uruguay
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Venezuela
- Viet Nam
- Yemen
- Yugoslavia
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

### Countries not eligible to sit on the United Nations Security Council:

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- Angola
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Belize
- Benin
- Bhutan
- Bolivia
- Botswana
- Brunei Darussalam
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
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- Ecuador
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- El Salvador
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Estonia
- Ethiopia
- Fiji
- Finland
- France
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Georgia
- Ghana
- Greece
- Greenland
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Israel
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Korea, Democratic People's
- Korea, Republic of
- Kuwait
- Kyrgyzstan
- Laos
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Madagascar
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mali
- Malta
- Marshall Islands
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Micronesia
- Moldova
- Monaco
- Mongolia
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- New Caledonia
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
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- Slovakia
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- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
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- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Uruguay
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Venezuela
- Viet Nam
- Yemen
- Yugoslavia
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Believe it or not, Israel is the only one of the 185-member countries ineligible to serve on the United Nations Security Council, the key deliberative group of the world body. Even Iraq, it is eligible. So is Iran. And so, too, are Cuba, Libya, North Korea, Iran, and Syria.

Why is it that these seven nations, all cited by the U.S. State Department as sponsors of terrorism, are eligible to serve repeatedly on the Security Council, yet Israel, a democratic nation and member of the UN since 1945, is not?

To be eligible for election, a country must belong to a regional group. Every UN member state—from the smallest to the largest—is included in one of the five regional groups. By geography, Israel should be part of the Asian bloc but such countries as Iraq and Saudi Arabia have prevented its entry for decades.

The UN Charter proclaims "the equal rights...of nations large and small." But only Israel among all UN members is denied the right to belong to any regional group. As a temporary measure, Israel has sought acceptance in the West European and Others Group (WEOG), which includes not only the democracies of Western Europe but also Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Turkey and the United States. Here, too, despite the support of several countries, including the U.S., Israel still has not been accepted.

Thus, without membership in a regional group, Israel can never be elected to serve on the Security Council or, for that matter, to the other most important bodies of the UN system, such as the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the World Court, UNICEF and the Commission on Human Rights.

What should you do? Make yourself heard.

Let the UN Secretary General, the European Union Presidency and the American Ambassador to the UN know how you feel. Send an e-mail message through our web site at www.ajc.org, or please contact us for more information about the UN and Israel.
The Wrong Defense

To the Editor:

This letter is actually intended for the editors and the author of the article entitled, "Defending the Stern Girl." I read The Commentator, and I usually find it an enjoyable way to keep up with what is going on in the Stern and YU community. Occasionally I find some columns to be offensive, but I try to remember that freedom of press entitles everyone to express their opinions. I appreciate the conflict that you must face as from editors who have halachic issues to consider when deciding what to print.

I certainly question the decision to allow derisive, mocking comments toward Rabebeim, but at least I see some logic in the arguments made in that editorial. Yet Mr. Anziska’s most recent attempt at shocking us with his wit is infantile, illogical, and an embarrassment to your newspaper. While I am the first one to admit that I have made stereotypical statements about Stern girls, they are nothing like the author suggested. How ironic that he accuses everyone else of making stereotypical assumptions about Stern girls, and then he turns around and makes sweeping generalizations about everyone from Barnard girls to Brovender’s girls!! As for that lashon hara you mentioned - you’re right up there with those Barnard girls you’ve accused of being the ring-leaders.

In reference to your genuine concern for “the current and future state of Modern Orthodoxy as a whole”, I suggest you take your ability to write and concern yourself with issues that are of real concern - instead of creating your own stereotypes. And I would recommend that the editors of this paper think a little bit about the applicability of a charge they allow in their paper - certain articles go beyond being controversial and individual expression of opinion. Some are just senseless babble which have no real point or validity to them.

Rachel Dulitz

Intramurals

continued from page 20

and Sausen, 14. The second game was a bit more competitive, but, unfortunately for the Canes, the Globetrotters were too tough too beat. Uri Yudowitz delivered in the clutch with 23 complimented by Ami Robinson’s 14 points, most of which came down the stretch. After sweeping the series, the Trotters were pronounced Fall 1997 Basketball Intramural Champions. Captain Pinsky Mikhi discovered this the hard way when he was doused with Gatorade during the celebration ceremony.

Just like any championship team, the Globetrotters were characterized by an extreme variety of players each having his own specific and distinct talent that contributed to the same goal, a championship. For example, Center Russe Kimyagnov displayed his incredible shot-blocking abilities. Forward Akiva Sausen provided an outstanding power game and unforgettable finishes. Power Forward Michal Porat added his Rodman-like rebounding abilities while Uri Yudowitz demonstrated his incredible shooting from anywhere on the court. As point guard, Ami Robinson served as the court general leading the team in assists-to-turnover ratio. Strong bench players Andrew Harary, Ahabon Weinstein, and Jeremy Goldberg showed their agility and quickness and hence the depth of the team.

The Globetrotters are not done yet though. In order to be declared the overall 1997-1998 Champs, they must repeat their championship title for the Spring 1998 season or defeat the victor of that season in a showdown between the two championship teams at the end of the year. The second semester intramurals have just begun. The question on everyone’s mind is, “Can anyone beat the Globetrotters?...” We’ll just have to wait and see.

Rachel Dulitz

Letters to the Editor

The Wrong Defense

The Commentator welcomes letters from its readers. Letters must include the writer’s name, address and telephone number. Students should also include school enrollment and graduation date. The Commentator reserves the right to edit all letters for syntax, content, and size.

The Commentator
300 W. 125th St.
New York, NY 10027
comment@yuac.yu.edu

YU Fencing Squad

continued from page 20

With an influx of freshman and sophomores on the team, Yeshiva has a wealth of unripe talent on this year’s squad. However, due to the lack of experience, the conference record stands at 5-8. There are three weapons in fencing: saber, epee, and foil. Only the saber squad has hopes for glory at the fencing championships in March. However, foil fencer, Shaul Azari, and epee fencer, Hadar Weiss, each hope to succeed at the championships in March. In eppee, the freshman phenom Alex Trainman and sophomore Steve Mellicker have also been picking up steam of late, and look to perform well in the championships.

Despite the lack of experience on the team, Coach Messing came down hard on his team after the trip to Boston, blasting the experienced fencers for “not getting angry enough,” and telling them that they must start fencing better now. Then he told the freshman and sophomores that he has seen many come on the team in their first year and fench much better than they. With an important stretch of the season still ahead, Coach Messing is hoping that his motivational speeches will move his fencers.

Rachel Dulitz
**Schick Super Hoops Tournament**

**BY STAN WATSON**

With the start of the 16th annual Schick Super Hoops Tournament, I can't help but be reminded of my overall progression in life both as an athlete and as a human being. As a student majoring in physical education at City College of New York (CCNY), I participated in the every first Schick Tournament in 1983. That year, my team won all of its games and went on to represent CCNY in the New York City Championship, Schick Super Hoops Tournament, I can't help but be reminded of my overall progression in life both as an athlete and as a human being. As the Trident-Certs 4 on 4 Volleyball. CCNY in the 1988, to officiate at both YU and CCNY tournaments based on the same premise as teammates and friends has made and will make. Over the past 14 years, I have witnessed the best of the best - from Patterson College to Yeshiva University at the CCNY for the fall championship title began to dwindle, for both teams. The west coast team, however, agreed that the turning point for them was the way leaving room for the Los Angeles Laker's chances for an NCAA tournament berth for the first time, as they combined for only 7 wins. Despite the youth of the team, no other team in the league could match the chemistry and intensity of the Globetrotters, allowing them to easily advance to the March 22 Regional Quarterfinals.

**Basketball Intramural Champs; Fall 1997**

**BY MICHAYA PORAT**

The 1997-1998 basketball intramural season was one of great developing in the first game. First of all, the CCNY women's team lost to Fordham University. In addition to spectator basketball games, the Garden was also flooded with Schick representatives giving out free razors, bags, T-shirts, and toiletry kits.

Despite my team's loss to Rutgers who eventually went on to cap my tenure here, I have gone from being a player, to receiving the package for Yeshiva University in the 1988, to officiating at both YU and CCNY tournaments based on the same premise as teammates and friends has made and will make. Over the past 14 years, I have witnessed the best of the best - from Patterson College to Yeshiva University at the CCNY for the fall championship title began to dwindle, for both teams. The west coast team, however, agreed that the turning point for them was the way leaving room for the Los Angeles Laker's chances for an NCAA tournament berth for the first time, as they combined for only 7 wins. Despite the youth of the team, no other team in the league could match the chemistry and intensity of the Globetrotters, allowing them to easily advance to the March 22 Regional Quarterfinals.

Continued on page 19

**Yeshiva SPORTS**

**Foiled In Boston, YU Fencers Look To Crush Next Opponents**

**BY COMMENTATOR STAFF**

The YU fencing squad began the month of February by traveling up to Boston to compete against the best fencing teams in the nation. With over 500 fencers in attendance, the tournament, held at Brandeis University, lasted for an exhausting 9 hours, from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm. Schools participating in the tournament included North Carolina, Duke, Notre Dame, Rutgers, MIT, Brown, Cornell, NYU and Boston College. The YU team faced eight of these teams. In the end, Yeshiva did not come out with a victory, but the YU fencers did prove that they can fence with the nation's best. In the process of fencing over 100 bouts, YU fencers scored over 1000 touches. Individual fencers also succeeded remarkably. Senior foil fencer Shaun Azari, hailing from Los Angeles, made the most of his last trip to Boston, returning with 6 wins. Epee fencers Hadar Weiss, a junior from Scranton, PA, added four, three, and two wins respectively. The sabre squad, which is the strongest of the three weapons at Yeshiva, had a disappointing day, as they combined for only 7 wins.

The Sunday before travelling up to Boston, the YU fencing team journeyed up to Vassar College, in Poughkeepsie, NY, to fence Cornell, West Point, NJIT (New Jersey Institute of Technology), and Stevens Tech. (Stevens and Hoboken Institute of Technology).

The grueling schedule for the fencing squad continues over the next month, as the team spars with Lafayette and Haverford February 12, and Princeton University and Vassar College on February 19.