HECHT TO ASSUME REINS OF FLOUNDERING MTA

MOVE SEEN AS A STABILIZING INFLUENCE

BY JASON CYRULNIK

As MIT continues to recover from a tumultuous past four months, the University appointed Rabbi Dr. Michael Hecht to the post of Acting Dean at Yeshiva University High Schools, effective July 1. The move came as a pleasant surprise to many faculty members, students and parents who have awaited indications that MTA’s situation would stabilize.

Hecht, current associate dean of Yeshiva College and TMSTA Rebbe, has been hailed by many as a polymath whose vision can spell success for the floundering institution.

Hecht was approached by President Norman Lamm two weeks before Passover and asked his personal belongings, and lifted his laptop computer.

Morgenstern Hall, sifted through remaining before his graduation, recounts that his initial response to theft of personal belongings."

After all, his numerous responsibilities at the time had already left him overworked, as students who have tried to set up an appointment with the dean, professor, and Rebbe outside of class have noticed over the years.

Hecht did, however, promise Lamm that he knew it to the institution to sleep on the offer. He recalls a long night of thought and discussion that ultimately led him to realize that "the school meant a lot to him." According to Hecht, taking the job was a true expression of consistency by he recalls having turned down many prestigious jobs in the past in order to remain in the high school.

Accordingly, to Hecht, this was another step toward maintaining that commitment.

The way he saw it, MTA needed someone with history and vision. Rabbi Lamm and the newly formed board seemed to agree.

Hecht began his teaching career as Talmud teacher at MTA back in 1963, a time that he remembers vividly. Back then, according to the Dean, the University’s two crowning jewels were RETS, a result of its affiliation with the Rav, and its high school. MTA, Hecht elaborated, explained Hecht, "that MTA no longer plays that role."

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With that historical perspective
Littleton and Love

We are hurt and dismayed by the madness that recently surfaced in Littleton, Colorado. Regrettably, the Columbine High School tragedy seems not to be an isolated incident; instead, it seems to be part of some lingering illness amongst us. It is time for a reassessment of what Jung termed the "collective unconscious" of this nation.

Violence has become commonplace in our daily lives. Though most of us do not witness actual murders on a daily basis, we engage in violence regularly in the form of TV shows, movies, newspapers or video games. Many of us even descend into virtual reality to shoot other people in our spare time. A wise man once said that if thirty seconds of a soap commercial sells soap, then two hours of violence sells violence. However, it is simplistic to believe that the media are the sole cause of this escalation in violence and evil. The media are little more than a reflection of what we wish to see and hear.

The real question seems to be, why do we think that violence is cool? Why are we so influenced by the Steven Kings and the Steven Segals, the Tupacs and Jerry Springers of the world? Gun control or a ban on trench coats will not eliminate violence. So do we so to treat the symptom and not the underlying illness.

The real culprit is the loss of both self-love and appreciation for peace. A human being cannot be expected to love others unless he first loves himself, to be utterly in love with the life force coursing through him. Love is a wonderfully infectious disease. Parents must love their children and imbue them with a love of themselves and a love for others.

Rabbi Akiva teaches us that "Yesharta l'veisah, l'kamotah, "Love thy neighbor as thyself," is the most important concept in the Torah. "Yesharta l'veisah, l'kamotah" means that one must see himself in the other; he must love him because he is him.

Parents and teachers must also teach children what true happiness is, happiness that comes from being a go-far, praying away from violence, and speaking so that we may hear how the voices of those who know are all about? Where are the disciples of Aaron, who loved peace and pursued it?

Instead of one global community we have become lonely individuals, detached from our humanity and our neighbors. The young killers in Littleton had no love for themselves or for their neighbors, they were detached from their own humanity. Their time was spent in aimless brooding or the occasional video game killings spree. They knew not where true happiness lies, nor did they know the love that made their lives.

Let the cries of the dead not fall on deaf ears. Let this time be a time of reflection and change. Let us embrace the other in an attempt to infect the world with love and harmony. In light of these miracles, we must reevaluate every relationship in our lives - do we give enough? Are we patient enough, do we love enough?

Let us also lobby for a shift away from the violence that plagues the silver screen and literature in favor of positive thinking and images of true happiness. We, as a nation, must modify our habits so that they may effect the values that are integral to a better world and a better life.

We must remember, as Erich Fromm realized, "Love is the only answer to the human dilemma."

Summer Daze

Of late, Yeshiva College has begun stepping up the stringency of its policies governing transfer credit acceptance. These policies, motivated by concern for the quality of student education, are laudable, even necessary despite the inconveniences they pose for students who wish to complete summer courses elsewhere.

Regrettably, the administration has not consulted with the student body, the faculty, or the administration of Yeshiva before making changes to its schedule of transfer credit policies. To make matters worse, the changes have been made at the last minute, leaving students who had already made plans to complete summer course work with no option but to enroll in the fall.

We believe that the administration should reconsider its decision and allow students to continue their studies during the summer months. This is a crucial period for many students, who may not be able to afford to take a year off. We urge the administration to reconsider its position and to allow students to continue their studies during the summer months.
The trouble with our current foreign policy in the Balkans was summed up neatly by Wesley K. Clark, NATO's Supreme Commander. According to the general, "What made General Clark, beamng with American naughtiness, said that the Serbs had never seen a force comparable to the combined military strength of NATO and implied that American might and moral superiority would be sufficient to cause the Serbs to bow to NATO's whims. Yet NATO's bombing campaign against the Serbs is an ill-conceived incursion that is ultimately destined to result in an ignominious and embarrassing failure.

Clark, who was first in his class at West Point and a Rhodes Scholar, neglected to mention the five years of Nazi aggression that the Serbs successfully resisted. Unlike the current bombing campaign with its neat little surgical strikes that try to minimize "collateral damage," the Nazis tried to eradicate and seed the Serbs and the Serbs did perish. Civilian and military targets, men, women or children. Yet they lost. NATO, on the other hand, pales in comparison to the Nazi war machine, because it is never operable in such an inhuman way and stomach the consequences the Nazis did. Clark's arrogant and uninformed manner, no doubt bolstered by the Gulf War, in which the US was lulled into a false sense of supremacy, can only result in arrogant and uninformed acts. Rest assured, NATO's continued bombing and aggression in the Balkans is planned to escalate the violence and would cause the Serbian people, unite in solidarity behind their leader Slobodan Milosevic. They knew that bombing this sovereign nation would only harden it like a boiled egg and cement the Serbs of the NATO's solution which they successfully fought off.

The US has completely ruined its credibility as an impartial mediator in this internal conflict and instead has chosen to demonize the Serbs. The US, which hypocritically picks and chooses its "humanitarian" missions according to its national interests, arms the Turks in their war against the Kurdish minority and chooses to neglect human rights problems all over Africa, in Columbia, Afghanistan, and many other locales across the globe. Did the US dare intervene in Chechnya when the Russians were bloodily suppressing the Chechens, or when they had established their ethnic cleansing of the Kosovar Albanians. General Clark reluctantly admitted that it was "entirely predictable" this would happen. It is apparent that the Clinton Administration knew the bombing would escalate the violence and would cause the Serbian people, unite in solidarity behind their leader Slobodan Milosevic. They knew that bombing this sovereign nation would only harden it like a boiled egg and cement the Serbs of the NATO's solution which they successfully fought off.

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Orthodox Jews. Integral to each of these holidays is the date that G-d took the Jews out of Egypt. Shavuot, on the sixth of Sivan, commemorates G-d's revelation to the Israel people on Mount Sinai. The Purim holiday, is the date that G-d revealed to the Jews their destiny. Pesach, or Passover, which starts the Passover holiday, is the date that G-d took the Jews out of Egypt. Shavuot, on the sixth of Sivan, commemorates G-d's revelation to the Israel people on Mount Sinai. The Purim holiday, is the date that G-d revealed to the Jews their destiny. Pesach, or Passover, which starts the Passover holiday, is the date that G-d took the Jews out of Egypt.

There is no question that the existence of an autonomous Jewish presence in Israel and the opportunities for religious service it provides demand an declaration of gratitude to G-d; the problem, it seems to me, is the manner of expression that was chosen. Would any rational person argue that the declaration of Independence could be interpreted as a momentous event in Jewish history, nor a momentous event in Jewish history nor a momentous event in Jewish history. However, I have been troubled by the manner rational and reasonable behind many people's extraordinary decisions. Many people in this world were extremely unhappy, when Dr. Josep

As would be expected, many College students have expressed concern as to who will fill his role next year as Assistant Dean of YC. However, I have been troubled by the reason behind many people's extraordinary decisions. Many people in this world were extremely unhappy, when Dr. Josep...
Finally
BY HADAR WEISS

Some of my friends are doing the coolest stuff in college. Some are at Penn, some at Columbia, some at Brandeis, and, as one would imagine, there's a lot to do in these colleges to keep oneself busy.

Some are doing cool stuff here at VU, whether uptown or at Stern. For example, guys are involved in various things like YMIR and spend their spare time in Russia being mekarev other Yiddin, while others head to Australia with Counterpoint, while others participate in.

Then there's Kim Glassman at Stern, who just wrote an original screenplay that was produced on May 3rd at 8 PM in Koch Auditorium.

Why is this remarkable? Here in college, especially at VU, we can't really make movies or productions, instead, we put on plays. In the past, there have been YCDS and SCWDS productions, both of which traditionally involved a faculty advisor. Yet this year, Stern has led the way into a new era of independent theater. What is this? It's good theater.

I considered the possibility of a completely student-run production here at VU. I talked to some of the people involved in YCDS earlier this year, who informed me that guys here practically refuse to take stage direction from Dr. Beukas, who has been directing for many a year. Now imagine a student taking the pill, who don't listen to Doc, paying attention to a fellow offended, it's just that after a while, people

The reaction of the typical VU guy is there will be poetry readings and art on display, with a special mini-Arts Festival: Instead of the usual "Sternbucks" that go on (reminded so because Starbucks will actually donate food and java to groups for free if the y're good at meetings, and their name is merged with Stern) like singing and various short performances, there will be poetry readings and art on display. So those guys that go down for the play, which again starts at 8 PM, whatever is left on display can be seen after the play possibly including a short film made by Stern student Nikki Paley, who also studied at the School for Visual Arts.

To sum up, I urge all students, including those I called frummies earlier, to go down and see this play and I welcome all letters to the editor.

The Commentator welcomes letters from its readers.

Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number.

Students should include the school in which they are enrolled and expected date of graduation.

The Commentator reserves the right to edit all letters for syntax, content, and length.
Students Support Zucker

To The Editor:

I was shocked to hear that Dr. Ross Zucker was not granted tenure. In my time on campus he was the most professional and informative class I have attended, bar none. No professor comes to class as prepared, nor knows his or her field nearly as well as Dr. Zucker knows his, and very few are able to maintain the type of student/professor relationship outside of class that is status quo for Dr. Zucker. Dr. Zucker is one of the most well published professors that this university employs, and access to his work on economic redistributive justice, whether one agrees with it or not, has made the political science department of YU as good as it is today. I am ashamed to be part of a university that could neglect to recognize this, and am appalled that he will not be returning to the university.

Noach D. Roth
CC '10

To see who Dr. Zucker is outside of class, and found even more so that he is always available. As a former student and student leader, I would say that the administration once again is not listening to the collective voices of the students and are therefore losing one of the most popular professors that YU has seen in quite some time. In the future, I would seriously urge the administration of this institution to listen to the voices of the most important people—the students!

Joseph Glass
YC '18

In Defense Of Tamir

To The Editor:

It is totally inappropriate for Yeshai Fleisher to attack a High School student because the media has made him a celebrity. While this is a subject of a significant segment of Orthodox Jews, the cynical way in which they were presented leads me to believe that he is motivated by jealously, malice or has nothing better to write about. Many Jews are celebrated as Jews because of achievements or talents that are not Torah-based, but are rather in other fields, such as Steven Spielberg, Michael Eisner and others in entertainment, or the Reichman family and countless other millionaires in business. Don't criticize a high school kid for being a great ballplayer. Focus on the way he has stood up for the observance of mitzvot, and be happy when another Jew succeeds. That is the teaching of Rabbi Akiva.

Avrum Aaron
YC '94

Yasher Koach

To The Editor:

A special group of people get together every Thursday afternoon at 2:30 at the Comfort Inn and Amsterdam. They hop into a few cars from the local San Juan Family car service at around 2:55 and off they go to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, at 168th and Broadway. Their name: The YU Bikur Cholim Club. Their mission: to bring happiness, support, and by being close to Jewish and other patients at the hospital.

This club is open to every student at YU and, indeed, all kinds of students participate in the event every week. I had the privilege to be one of the Bikur Cholim Club coordinators over the past year and I am writing this to publicly acknowledge and cheer on the club and all the students who have gone to hospital visitations during past semesters.

Nothing physical can buy what these students bring to the hospital every week. Every person has a few minutes to lift spirits, support, encourage, comfort, or just to "be there" for any of the patients that they will meet that day. It is a beautiful operation done every week by donating 50 minutes of the schedule and giving some personal energy. To the club, and to everyone involved in Bikur Cholim, a great "Yasher Koach" is due.

Levi Smith
YC '00

Give Me Credit Where Credit Is Due

To The Editor:

I attended the YU bowling tournament and was as happy as anyone else to see the large turnout. The way I looked at it was "Hey, more people for me to beat," but in the end the program's proud organizers got the best of my teammates and me. The only article at the top of The Commentator's sports page spoke well of the deserving hosts and even quoted the opinions of two of the tournament's losers, who correctly noted that the event was a success and the balls at the alley were particularly hard to bowl with. Bravo. Did anybody else want to catch the good winner, or was this a large tournament? Which of the eight shining faces in the picture, only four of whom earned their trophies, came in first place? Well, I know the secret answer and because I believe I should take credit for what I've done, no more and no less, I shall share those names with you.

Shmuel Sorkin
YC '99

"Shocked and Offended"

To The Editor:

I was shocked and offended by both the tone and content of Mordechai Fishman's March 23rd column concerning the Yeshiva University High Schools. As a central figure in the events discussed in the column, I can tell you from first-hand knowledge that the tale Mr. Fishman spins is more fiction than fact. In addition by prefacing his interpenetra tie and inaccurate remarks by professing his love of Yeshiva University and respect for its esteemed president, he adds insult to injury. Mr. Fishman's assertion that 'blame for the current fiasco' rests "at the doorstep" of President Lamm is not only disrespectful, it is patently false. To begin with, there is no "fiasco." There has been controversy, and opinions have differed. But the issues have been resolved. Our high schools are not only being strengthened by, among other things, enhancing the governance structure, but also for this turnaround resides with Dr. Lamm.

The program to strengthen the Yeshiva University high schools includes a commitment by the Board of Trustees of Rabbi Issac Reichman, and Ellen Bruson. The Elchanan Theological Seminary to assume a more interactive role in supporting the schools. To accomplish this objective, RIES has established an interim steering committee as the successor to the High Schools Board, which I had previously chaired. Mr. Fishman claims that I first learned that the High Schools Board would be replaced from a student at a game. This is pure fiction. Officials had discussed the reorga nization with me in advance, and I support it wholeheartedly. Along with other members of the former High Schools Board, I will continue working to build support for both the Mantra Stem Talmudical Academy for Boys and the Samuel H. Wang Yeshiva University High School for Girls.

To watch this institution be dragged down into the mud time and time again for no other reason than petty personal vendettas and half-witted cookamakie posturing is torture of the worst kind, Mr. Fishman writes.

At last we agree.

Eliot Giber
Chairman, Interim Steering Committee Yeshiva University High School

Mordechai Fishman replies:

Strange bedfellows indeed. I stand by my version of the events.
We Can Have Ethernet

To the Editor:

Since I started here at YU this past September, I have seen numerous articles in The Commentator dealing with Yeshiva University's focusing its resources on public relations and not on its students. Unfortunately, as many articles as have been written do not seem to be enough. Being a computer systems analyst in my free time, my biggest concern and complaint is the computer resources (or lack thereof) that the University offers.

When I was a senior in high school (back in 1997, I visited a friend of mine at Brandeis University. His dorm room, like every other one on the campus, had a 10 megabit per second Ethernet connection to the school's network, which had an extremely fast connection to the internet backbone. Brandeis' connection to the internet was never slow; recall connecting to web sites and downloading files at 20x per second during peak usage hours. From the computer centers, file transfers between machines on the local network and the internet were amassing quickly. There were also zip graphics in color at the estimated time of 5 minutes. I often worked with networking technicians and set up networks for the students. Furthermore, Brandeis' computer centers offered Windows 95, Windows NT, and Mac workstations and were open 24 hours a day.

Ever since YU was ranked the 42nd best college by US News and World Report, Yeshiva Review, Yeshiva University Today, and just about every other University-run publication have been priding themselves on this ranking. The question is if YU has any intentions of trying to live up to its ranking or not. I spoke with individuals from the University's MIS department about upgrading the school's internet connection and expanding the network to the dormitories, and was told that once Belfer and Furth Halls are completely wired, then plans will start for the dormitories. With the way things run around here, that probably means another three years until the work is completed. One positive answer that I have received is that there are already plans to upgrade the university's internet access bandwidth from the current T1 line which shared YU, AECOM, and Stern. The upgrade would hopefully bring the YU computer labs up to par with the 33.6 modem. I'm still waiting for anything to happen.

All this having been said, my concerns are as follows: From what I hear (and I consider my sources pretty accurate), YU is one of the worst schools in the country. We are (supposedly) among the top 50 colleges in the nation. What is the administration waiting for? Enough of the 'We're working on it plans' excuses. I have worked with hiring technicians and set up networks before. If funds are laid out and a plan is designed and executed, a better computer network can actually be a reality. This is something that will take years to put into effect. Believe it or not, it is physically possible to have the network up and running by the Fall 99 semester!

But until all the barriers are torn down and the YU computer network is brought up to date (or even within a few years of what it should be), I'll rely on my trusty old 33.6 modem to serve my needs.

Morris Tabush
YC '01

Klein, Traiman Appointed
Continued from page 1

The position of President and Reb Hafteh Shiva is a form of public office. I don't have to be the one to tell you that as such the person who holds that office is open to public ridicule. Apparently, I do have to be the one to tell you that this is the way one expects James Carville to express his opinion, not a benetah.

I am not suggesting that you turn the pages of The Commentator into Yeshiva Today. I am suggesting that you be more respectful of how you go about making your point. You are entitled to your opinion. You are entitled to express your opinion. But in so doing, you are not entitled to commit character assassination.

An educated ben torah identifies the idea with which he disagrees, and argues the point based on its merits as a good idea or a bad one. Enough Musarr.

The bottom line is that your vicious attack on our esteemed President and Reb Hafteh Shiva is equal to murder. Your flagrant disregard for our office, intelligence and personal feelings is unprecedented. You should be thankful when you to sling mud: your hands are always dirty afterwards.

Joshua M Feldman
SSSB '97
Commentator Editor-in-Chief '96-'97

Mudslinging and Character Assassination

To the Editor:

I write this letter with much trepidation and fear. I write under these circumstances because I fear that I am lending credence to your words by dignifying them with a response. However, I feel as an Editor of The Commentator, it is my responsibility to speak out.

I do not wish this forum to be used to rehash or re-debate the merits of the University's decision regarding the future of MTA. Like you, Mr. Editor, I didn't go to MTA. So while I might have an opinion, I don't think it is my place to express it publicly, and to be frank, I don't really care.

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Dean Hecht to Assume Role

Continued from page 1

trends have already played their course, and any additional changes including exploding populations of various Jewish communities can only help.

In perhaps the only positive result of the past half year’s debate, Hecht points out that a number of YU administrators studied in depth MTA’s place in the Jewish community and more precisely within the YU community. According to Hecht, they came to the realization of the vital role MTA plays in the community and particularly Yeshiva, as the most important feeder school to the YU College. The studies cited disproportionate numbers of MTA students in the top percentiles of YU performers in both the yeshiva and the College, and as YU academic scholarship recipients.

For Hecht, such figures suggest that there is what to salvage and build upon. Such a building must, however, remain focused: “We don’t want to out-Ramaz Ramaz – there is a different constituency than we plan to target for MTA.”

MTA has what Hecht sees as the “strongest Talmud program” among centrist yeshiva high schools – a function of its unparalleled staff of Rebbeim. Additionally, the YU Roshei Yeshiva share a strong interest in improving the farah atmosphere at MTA, something that is apparent to one YC student in the “enormous support that the Roshei Yeshiva offer during the weeks of uncertainty as to MTA’s future.”

Lastly, Hecht points to his intention to more clearly define the strong secular studies opportunities available to MTA students through its high school’s connection with the College. The ability to take “first rate classes” is unique, a comment specifically designed to exclude what he deemed “phony joint programs” that exist between other yeshivas and community colleges.

Most important to Hecht, and perhaps to the parents, faculty, and student body, is the fact that the perception of MTA’s advantages over other area yeshiva high schools is “shared by Rabbi Lamm, the Board, and Dr. Socol.”

When asked to outline tangible changes he wished to pursue, Hecht pointed to more selective admission criteria as being his first objective: “You don’t have to be Reb Chaim or Einstein to get in … but you will need the appropriate commitment, desire, and menschlichkeit.” He admits that this might mean downsizing, something that he is ready to do if necessary. “I’m not worried about the numbers,” he stressed.

Reaction to the appointment ranged from shear excitement to muffled optimism. “He’s the right man for the job,” one MTA alumnus stressed. “Ever since they announced that the institution was in trouble, I didn’t think that MTA would be able to rescue itself from the jaws of defeat. This might be their only hope.”

In truth, numbers for the incoming class echo the alumni’s enthusiasm. Source within Yeshiva told The Commentator that freshman enrollment almost doubled within in days of the Hecht appointment. “He adds stability to an institution that desperately needed it,” explained one currently active MTA parent.

On the subject of stability, Hecht agrees. He points out that although he was careful to only accept a job as Acting Dean, and only agreed on a limited one year deal, he promised to stay on “as long as it takes” to turn the institution back into the power that it once was, provided that the University continues to show the same commitment to his ideas that it has already begun to display.

If Dr. Lamm’s current enthusiasm can serve as a measuring stick of his commitment to Hecht’s ideas, the situation looks promising. Having deemed Hecht “an accomplished scholar of both Talmud and the law, an outstanding teacher, and able administrator,” Lamm is sure that “parents, students, faculty, and administrators can rest assured that the highest academic standards will be maintained in both Jewish and general studies.”

Lamm, in conjunction with the Board, is currently searching for a permanent pal for MTA. The Search Committee has what he deems “a superb candidate” in mind.

While many see the recent appointment as an end to an ugly period for MTA, Hecht deems it a beginning. Things will change for both MTA and YU. Hecht will relinquish his position as Associate Dean at the College and admits that his perennial class in law at YC is in jeopardy. He will, however, remain MTA Rebbe, Yeshiva Pre-Law Advisor, and Chairman of the Scholarship Selection Committee.

Regarding other staff changes at MTA, Hecht denied the rumors that have circulated in the past month. Long-time members of the MTA faculty are scheduled to remain as integral players in a group that promises to help Hecht and MTA administrators realize their vision.

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YUCS Hosts Game Developer

BY BEN SAMOLER

On Monday, April 19, the Computer Science Society of YC and SCW hosted an evening with Eric Goldberg, CEO of Crossover Technologies, in the Ivy Center on the Midtown campus. Goldberg is the founder and driving force behind Crossover, the only pure developer of computer games in New York City.

A highly respected figure in the game development community, Goldberg acknowledged that he did not know much about college – he never went. Goldberg then discussed how to enter the games industry which is unique in the computer world. Unlike many other technical areas, there are many more people who would like to develop games than there are positions available. He also discussed the process of designing and developing games, including the layout of the boards, the approach of the characters, and the story behind the game.

The latter part of the talk was focused on the newest trend in computer games, Internet-based games. The games cannot support the heavy graphics that traditional games support, but they have the advantage of involving and connecting many people. Goldberg commended that a new game, which involved negotiation between players, may very well encourage game players to develop otherwise-lacking social skills.

The event attracted approximately 50 programmers and game enthusiasts, the vast majority of whom came from Yeshiva’s male-dominated Uptown Campus. Several students involved in video game development asked detailed questions both during and after the lecture.

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Commemencement

Wednesday May 26

11:00 am

The Theater

Madison Square Garden

You will NOT receive your tickets and cap and gown if you have not filed for graduation with the Registrar on your campus!!
translate into windsfalls over the long run. In fact, it seems as if the thieves left no stone unturned. "When I returned to my room after vacation I found $20 in change missing. It's a shame that we have to worry about keeping an eye on those people who are here to ensure the well-being of the students," YCSC President, Donald Sanders. The question of responsibility is one that has left student's uncertain about the University's response. The Security Office quickly informed the victims that the University is not, under any circumstances, liable for thefts. However, the victims were quick to point out the inherent fault in the school's policy. Since students had no access to their dormitories during vacation, and since university employees were the only individuals allowed to enter buildings (to perform fire and safety inspections under the authority of Security), the victims cannot be held accountable for their own losses.

University Risk Manager Paul Goldschmidt, however, assented. "Personal property of students is something that YU is not insured for. Obviously a thief is liable for what he steals. Nevertheless, the homeowner's insurance policies that students' parents have often cover their property even away from the home. Students should be aware of such provisions."

This statement, though was of little consequence to those who now have to buy themselves replacing and paying for lost items. In addition, student's dismissed the way in which the University reflected their inquiries as petty, bringing little comfort to those searching for answers.

Although no solution exists to resolve the dilemma, an ideal step would be the apprehension of those responsible for the thefts. An "intense" investigation was undertaken by Security immediately after the report of the thefts while Chief of Security, Donald Sommers will not release an official comment until the completion of the investigation, an inside source reported that a favorable conclusion to the case is near.

University protocols grant Security access to all dorm rooms in order to perform fire and safety inspections, with captains and lieutenant granted munch responsibilities. The role of the searches includes turning off lights, closing windows, locking doors, and eliminating open cards. Precise records are maintained tracking those individuals who perform such inspections as well as those who perform any necessary maintenance work in specific rooms.

However, it remains uncertain whether anyone other than the appointed security guards entered locked dorm rooms during the vacations. And that may be where the resolution to these crimes lies. Stan said, "I think that in order for YU to maintain its reputation as a school students feel safe attending, the administration must make sure that this type of inside job does not happen again. I never thought this could happen at YU and now there's a little fear because the school says they are not liable for the actions of those who are given the keys to my room. The whole situation just doesn't seem fair."

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For complete schedule and details on how you may register by telethon April 9-May 3 Cal or e-mail, or U.S. mail coupon today for the '99 Summer Sessions catalog, which will be available late March. There will be additional opportunities to register by telethon May 18-August 8. Registration must be completed prior to the beginning date of the course.

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Please forward the '99 Summer Sessions catalog (available late March):

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Herdng the Masses

Junior Class race promises some interesting line-ups featuring a relatively diverse group of candidates, with some competition for seats. Five different juniors are vying for their class presidency. They are Shlomo Herman, Randy Modell, Menachem Feit, Tzvi Meyer, and Adam Cohen. The tightly bunched field has spawned various interesting platforms that have kept. Juniors captivated and eagerly awaiting the next wave of flyers to hit the bulletin boards. For VP the candidates are Monty Stecher, Josh Somoronski, and Eric Distenfelder, while Mikey Butler and Barry Buckley are dicing it out for secretary/treasurer.

In other races, the SOY board elections are unique this year, as the majority of the candidates running will not be undergraduates next year, but rather Semikha students. The elder statesman of the presidential contest is Ben Reizen, a graduate of both YC and Cardozo, who is currently enrolled in Semikha. Opposing him are Chaim Loike, SOY's current Vice-President of Business Affairs, Shlomo Trouder, YCSC's current Secretary, and Aton Holzer, the holder of the senior class and the current editor-in-chief of Ha'Movev. In contrast to years past the elections for the SBMP and IBC boards are all but over before they began, as every candidate is running unopposed. In the SBMP race, it is Ari Lavanian and Alon Stavisky against Moish Schmerler for that class' presidency. Josh Swedarsky is going up against Akiva Marcus for Senior Class VP, while Joshua Hersh is running unopposed for the joint Secretary/Treasurer positions.

Continued from page 1
I am looking forward to being your YCSC President next year. I have been actively involved in YU life, and I look for­
ward to further applying my knowledge, skills and talents to the quality of student life.

I feel that through my participation in YCSC’s production of Lord of the Rings, I have the necessary experience to

As a Senator on the YCSC Student/Faculty Senate, I have worked with student and administrative leaders to take a bold

As the President of the Inter-Campus Social Committee (ICSC), I have had the opportunity to work to

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YCSV ELECTIONS

CANDIDATES FOR JUNIOR CLASS PRESIDENT

ADAM COHEN

With my life in utter disarray, I am merely searching for some direction. Throwing my name into the upcoming election may be the stepping-off place from where my life will really take flight. If I do indeed get elected, I plan on modeling my stay in office after that of our dear President Clinton; his hands on approach seem to be highly successful.

With no prior experience on YC Student Council, I'm just a lonely suburban kid looking for my big break. If elected, I plan on doing some really positive things for the Yeshiva and my fellow peers. For me, it is not enough to see Yeshiva University ranked upon the number 42 ranking in the nation. As my parents always tell me, "Strive to be the best and maybe one day you'll end up like us." These heart-warming words of wisdom serve not only as the very basis for my life, but for my campaign as well.

SHLOMO HERMAN

Hi, my name is Shlomo Herman, and I would like to be your Junior Class President next year. While my name here is too limited to list my entire platform, credentials, and experience, here are only some of the things that I will do for you: I am an active Junior Class representative to the Student Council and the administration, work with the Student Council on all issues of concern, arrange open meetings for the Junior Class with the Dean and Guidance Committee to discuss graduate school, fellowship, and career opportunities, and plan many exciting events for the Junior Class. I want things to get done here at YU; so should you. So, on April 28th, go out and vote for a Junior Class President who can, and will, get the job done right - Shlomo Herman!

TUVY MEYER

First, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Tuvy Meyer and I feel I am worthy candidate for President of the junior class. I am currently involved in many extra curricular activities, including the Varsity Basketball Team. I believe that I can handle the pressure and responsibility of being the President based on my past leadership experiences. (References available upon request)

Second, as President I plan to enter the position of authority where I will be able to improve the standards of living for the junior class. With the scheduling of events that make one's time spent on campus more amicable, I will create an atmosphere conducive to learning and an enjoyable college experience. Thank you for your time spent reading this blurb, and do not forget to vote on Tuesday.

Monty Stechler is also a candidate for junior class vice president.

MY NAME IS MIKKY BUTLER, AND I AM RUNNING FOR THE DUPLl CATION position of Secretary/ Treasurer in the Junior Class. I am a hardworking finance major in Political Science with a minor in Business. I have taken course work relevant to this position and have an excellent understanding of accounting and management information science. I am familiar with the editors of the esteemed campus periodicals such as the Guide Post (yes, there was a Part Ill) and the YU Midnight Times. I am on the Resident Liaison Council, as the student liaison to Dorm Talks and have worked closely with many student Leaders. Please remember MIKKY BUTLER for your vote for JUNIOR CLASS SECRETARY/TREASURER. There is a BUTLER in your future.

BARRY BUCKMAN

Hi. My name is Barry Buckman and I am running for junior class Secretary Treasurer. Recently, while running around YU desper­ately trying to obtain enough signatures to run in this election, someone gave me an ultimatum. He told me that he will vote for me on condition that I, as Secretary Treasurer of the junior class, would make sure that by next year we had a soda machine on every floor in Mus, Mord, and Rubin. While having this would be really nice, I'm not about to start making promises I know I can't keep, such as having a removable dorm that closely reached Amsterdam Avenue during the day and the next subway stop under Morg, or a helicopter that leaves from the top of Belfer and takes you to many New York landmarks such as the World Trade Center. Instead, I'll tell you a little bit about myself and why I deserve your vote.

In reply to I live in Teaneck, NJ, and went to high school at TABC before attending Yeshiva University and Rubin last year. In the short time I've spent here, I've already been in YC, SSBB, BIC, and IBC, so I know a lot about how many areas of YU work. While I feel that there are many aspects of the numerous paragraphs would be nice, my more realistic goals would include trips, shabbatminim, tournaments & competitions, or whatever worthy suggestions come my way. So remember, when voting for junior class Secretary Treasurer, LEAVE THE BUCKS TO BUCKMAN.
The most important things that people should keep in mind when choosing a president for SOY is the candidate's experience with his dedication to, and his commitment to SOY and YU. SOY is a vital part of the YU community involved in all aspects of life at YU. I have been at YU for eight years and since my freshman year in 1991 upon my return from Yeshivah Kerem B’Yavneh. After graduating from YC in 1994, I went on to YU’s Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, during which time I also continued learning in RIETS. After earning my Juris Doctor from Cardozo in 1999, I returned to TIS full time to finish my semikah studies. When I looked back on my year, I realized that there was one part of this institution that is not given the credence and recognition that it deserves, and, in addition, is perhaps the least understood by those who do not spend time there. This part of the institution is the student government. As a person who spent two years studying Torah in Eretz Yisrael, I could not help but notice the absence of Student government in the life of the YU community. I have been involved in all aspects of student government for all eight years at YU; four of these years as a member of the Board of Directors and all eight years as an ordering and inventory manager. I helped run the Rachnosa Sefer Torah projects in memory of both The Rav, zt”l, and Hafetz Dovid Lifshitz, zt”l. I was Chairman of the Special Committee on the Student Organization of YU for four years, I was also Executive Editor of Emek Torah and have worked extensively with many of the Roshei Yeshiva, shlit”a, on a variety of projects and programs. (For a more complete list of my activities these last few years, or more) I would like to see RIETS have a greater presence on the internet, in the form of both written text as well as lectures and shiurim available in audio format. I would like to see SOY publishing more works of interest and necessity to the Jewish community, such as updating and reprinting "The Kashrus Handbook" and collections of shiurim from our rabbim. I would, if elected, increase the availability of software programs such as the Bar-llan Responsa Project and the Judaic Archives to the student body by placing computers in close proximity to the batei medrash. I would also like to see a greater student input in the various happenings in YU. A university’s prime resource is its students and, as such, we should have a greater say in the decisions that affect us. For this we need a president who has a proven track record in dealing with the administration in its various forms, be it with the deans’ offices, student services, or supporting facilities and services management.

All of these activities, done because I have an immense feeling of affection for SOY, RIETS, and YU as a whole, give me the experience and understanding to run SOY, I believe, most effectively.

I am the only candidate for the presidency who has a history of organizing and running successful events, programs, and projects for SOY in order to be able to competently administer SOY, but what’s the candidate’s vision for the future?

This is an important question. My goals are as follows: If elected, I would work towards increasing the amount of student involvement in the YU community, as I have seen in the past four years. I would like to see a greater exposure to the various academic opportunities available to have a wide range of students to help me. I would like to see RIETS have a greater presence on the internet, in the form of both written text as well as lectures and shiurim available in audio format. I would like to see SOY publishing more works of interest and necessity to the Jewish community, such as updating and reprinting "The Kashrus Handbook" and collections of shiurim from our rabbim. I would, if elected, increase the availability of software programs such as the Bar-llan Responsa Project and the Judaic Archives to the student body by placing computers in close proximity to the batei medrash. I would also like to see a greater student input in the various happenings in YU. A university’s prime resource is its students and, as such, we should have a greater say in the decisions that affect us. For this we need a president who has a proven track record in dealing with the administration in its various forms, be it with the deans’ offices, student services, or supporting facilities and services management.

This election should not be a popularity contest. A candidate should be someone in for-
The Yeshiva College Student Council is charged with the consequential mission of representing the interests of the student body in all collective dealings with the administration and faculty of Yeshiva College. They are further responsible for the coordination of extra-curricular activities and enhancement of student life on campus. Committee members are granted a tremendous amount of power and influence, and are seemingly capable of generating extensive change within this university.

Last year, as part of his election campaign, Dror Barber listed in The Commentator several major ideas that would serve as focus of his administration should he be elected President of the Yeshiva College Student Council. Barber and other council members have now been in office for almost a year, and we recently asked them to discuss their major accomplishments as well as explain the obstacles that impeded their efforts to do more.

Among the objectives initially set forth by Barber were the following: A large-scale effort to bring the Planning and Development Center with the introduction of advisors specializing in particular majors; procuring empty YU Museum space to create a 24-hour study hall, reference library, and computer center; making the Food Services Department a top priority in order to improve the quality, quantity and price of cafeteria food; shuttle service to airports for out-of-town students; creating a course evaluation booklet published by the students, for students; wiring the dorms for Ethernet and an intra-college phone system; and improving the communication between YCSC and students through more frequent meetings. Finally, as one of the major promises of his election campaign, Barber stated last year, "I have already spent many an hour as Chairman of the Registrar's Committee developing a system for off-line registration. I intend to monitor and secure the implementation of this program, already guaranteed by the administration." 

YCSC officials assert that as a direct result of the pressure they placed on administrators, funds have been allocated for the development of a new Academic Advisement Center. The Academic Deans Office has interviewed and successfully hired a director for this center. It is being designed that by next semester the new and improved Academic Advisement Center will be up and running, mainly through the efforts of this year's student council.

The YU Museum has not yet finalized a definitive plan for its relocation therefore YCSC maintains that they are not able to find space for a 24-hour study hall. "The Student Council had to wait until the Museum informs us of their decision. Simply, until we get out, we can't get in!"

The Food Services Committee, headed by Doron Brandstetter, has met with Jake Levine, Associate Director of Food Services, on a regular basis. However, as is YU tradition, many students have complained that they have found no tangible improvement in the quality or pricing of the cafeteria food.

Barber claims that "they've been working on the problem, but the menus are set out a year ahead, so our work this year will be more clearly evident in what the Caf serves next year." Listed as the Committee's current accomplishment is that "this year we successfully pressured the Cafeteria management into allowing students to substitute soup in place of their side dish!"

One noticeable improvement was the execution of an airport service rebate program through which students are given discounted rides to JFK and LaGuardia. YCSC helped nearly fifty students get subsidized rides to airports and other out-of-town destinations. Barber announced, "if students give us enough notice, we can arrange full van and taxi service to area airports."

Despite the campaign promise, no student published course booklet has yet been distributed. YCSC has, however, helped with the establishment of a Mesorah Committee that has been advertised throughout the administration. Many promises have been realized. Eric Schubert, Senior Class Vice-President, recognized that "the administration may have given student council certain powers, but I think the board of YCSC and the administration are still working on the security involved with the implementation of such a process. However, there has been a noticeable improvement about the on-campus registration process...we can only look forward to bigger and better things." Many students have recognized the achievement of the Student Activities Club, headed by Moshie Singer and Shimon Herman. Events planned by the club include trips to see "Footloose," "Les Miserables," and "Waiting Mister Green." Singer explains that "we plan our own events and go for YCSC funding."

Barber pointed out that the Club is "no more than a committee of the student council." The students involved in planning these events are interested in assuming a leadership role even though they don't want to be elected members of student council. Barber concluded by stating, "I am proud of the hard work done by the Executive and Class Boards. As is generally the case, we could not accomplish every one of our objectives...but the behind the scenes work which so often goes unappreciated is a testament to our hard work, even though most people never hear of it. I am fully confident that next year's student council will come up with new ideas and even greater motivation."
Yom HaZikaron/Yom HaAtzmaut Ceremonies Rock Weissberg Commons

by Zev Stoe

On the fourth of Iyar, 5759, Yeshiva University celebrated the independence of Israel with the 12th annual Yom HaZikaron Tokes Yom HaAtzmaut Chagigah. The function, held in Weissberg Commons, was sponsored by the Israel Clubs of YC and SCW, YCSC, TAC, SCWSC, SDF, and Be'ni Akiva. The program recognized Israeli politics and religion, and celebrated their synthesis as a defining element of contemporary Jewish culture.

The first part of the program was the tekel, or commemorative ceremony, which memorialized the soldiers who fell while defending the Promised Land. Eric Freeman, YC ’95, sang Ana Lo HaChoveshes as students solemnly marched down Weissberg’s center aisle carrying Israeli flags. These students were directed to the front of the room where they each light a remembrance candle. The audience members stood at attention and sang Ha’Atika. Hadar Weiss, President of the Israel Club, then invited three groups of students to recite poetry in both Hebrew and English. Afterwards, Lt. Colonel David Raz, a retired veteran of the Six Day War and the Yom Kippur War, spoke of his experiences in Tashel, the Israeli Defense Force. Students were visibly moved by his bitter-sweet tale of devotion to his country and the losses sustained in the heat of battle. Following Raz’s presentation, Rabbi Shlomo Goldwicht delivered a d’var Torah in Hebrew tying Parshat Chadashim and the story of shabbat to the Jewish homeland. Elizabeth Stuber, SCW ’01, said, “even though I wasn’t zocheh to be in Eretz Yisra’el this Yrav, Goldwicht’s speech made me feel like I was there.” Finally, those in attendance sang Ani Ma’amin as students prepared the room for Maariv. The Maariv program, which followed a Seder Yom HaAtzmaut, featured a number of additional activities in the room for Maariv.

The first part of Raz’s presentation, Rav Meir Freeman, VA ’00 said, “At first it was tough working with the thought of beginning a massive undertaking with no knowing if we would be able to print a yearbook. But with each additional ad new hope arose.”

Beginning the year without a layout editor, The Masmid was able to enlist Yossi Pinsker to fulfill the layout duties. “A lot of credit goes Yossi Pinsker,” said Drabkin. “He not only dedicated his days and nights to this major undertaking, he believed in the project from day one.”

Seniors and underclassmen alike are waiting to see the end product. “I will enjoy looking at a yearbook that looks at years from now and remember the crazy times I had here in YU,” said Donny Rose, YC ’00. “I look forward to receiving a heirloom I’ll be proud to show my grandchildren.”

YCS would like to thank the office of Student Services, JeffSucot and Facilities and Dr. Richard Kerns and Athletics for all their help running the first ever Yom HaAtzmaut carnival. The carnival could not have succeeded without their help.

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REWRITING HISTORY: MASMID ACTUALLY SCHEDULED TO APPEAR

by Commentary Staff

In a refreshing change from years past, this year’s volume of YU’s undergraduate yearbook, The Masmid, not only existed but is actually on schedule to be published in September, and distributed to graduated seniors soon thereafter.

Led by Editor-in-Chief Daniel Drabkin and Executive Editor Metzabiha Balas, The Masmid has been totally revamped and redesigned with a modern layout and sharper photos. New features and sections have been added, and the pictorials of the Senior Dinner and Graduation will be full color.

The yearbook is fully supported by advertising revenue, and after the Office of Student Services denied the yearbook any financial support and YCSC was unable to come up with additional funds. Over $25,000 has already been raised to subsidize the printing costs associated with producing a high-quality product.

A flurry of signs bombard the campus from shy ones, as every bulletin board on campus exhibited signs to take their portraits, purchase ads, and visit the Masimid web site to fill out their biographies. “I think we posted more signs this year than most clubs have in their entire history,” said Drabkin. “220 students were photographed from a pool of 260 potential seniors, a higher percentage than in previous years.”

A major innovation was enabling students to file their biographies online. The Yeshiva University Computer Society worked together with the YU administration and the Masmid staff to fulfill the layout duties. “A lot of credit goes Yossi Pinsker,” said Drabkin. “He not only dedicated his days and nights to this major undertaking, he believed in the project from day one.”

Seniors and underclassmen alike are waiting to see the end product. “I will enjoy looking at a yearbook that looks at years from now and remember the crazy times I had here in YU,” said Donny Rose, YC ’00. “I look forward to receiving a heirloom I’ll be proud to show my grandchildren.”
The second Dorm Talks of the Spring 1999 Semester took place Monday evening, April 26, 1999. Featuring Rosh HaYeshiva Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, the Dorm talks were moderated by Rabbi Yosef Buz and Coordinated by Rabbi Joshua Chelietz.

The evening began with a tribute by Rabbi Lamm to Rabbi Chelietz, who is retiring after 38 years of service to Yeshiva University. Rabbi Lamm noted that in serving 10 generations of students, Rabbi Chelietz added stability to the school which will be sorely missed.

The talk then continued with the first topic, which discussed a student who does not feel motivated by traditional Talmud study and wishes to concentrate on Biblical commentaries. Rabbi Lamm mentioned that he had once addressed BIC students, and assured them that they had no reason to feel inferior if they did not have "gemara kips." In response, he presented with a mug emblazoned with "Gemara Kup." He recommended trying a change in Rebbe or havira in order to better inspire yourself to learning. He also noted that no beginning is easy and one should not give up without a struggle.

That having been said, he went on to discuss the Rambam's suggested breakup of your learning time into one-third written Torah, one-third oral Torah, and one-third expounding on your learning, also known as Gemara. He noted that Biblical commentaries and Mishna are considered to be in the corpus of the oral Torah. Several reasons were given for spending the majority of your time on Gemara. Rabbi Lamm noted that many in Israel are not interested in our Torah. There are also many aspects of the religious community, such as dishonesty and a desire to "take and not give," that dent our community. He urged an end to religious legislation in Israel, as we will have more success with hashpachah (influence), rather than with kllah (force).

In response to several questions at the end, Rabbi Lamm expounded on the role of democracy in Israel. He bemoaned the invasion of American culture and politics into our society and stressed that some distinctions must be maintained to keep Israel a Jewish state. But nonetheless, they must remain a democracy, and thus he rejected the idea of passing a law to require the prime minister to be Jewish. Among other suggestions to maintain a Jewish majority, Rabbi Lamm suggested a Palestinian state as a solution. With regards to the popular issue of marriage in Israel, Rabbi Lamm noted that every country has restrictions on marriage, and that the Jewish state is entitled to them as well. Lamm indicated however, that some restrictions, such as those concerning a Rohen and a divorce, may need to be rethought.

Students enjoyed the opportunity to interact with Rabbi Lamm and discuss the pertinent issues of the day. Mahdyah Alas, IC/BIC senior, "It was a shame Mordechai Levovitz didn't speak up. Nonetheless, I found it interesting."
Senior Dinner

The Yeshiva University Senior Dinner will be held May 25th, also the 11th of Sivan in the Skylight Ballroom of The Puck Building, 295 Lafayette Street, here in New York City.

Cocktails are at 6 pm, and the dinner at 7 pm.

Couvert: $30 before May 10th; $35 after.

To reserve a spot, call either:
Jennie Weiss at 779-0327 or Aton Holzer at 923-1742.

Black Tie Optional
A Breath of Fresh Air for Kosher Food

Avrumie Kahn

While not being a place for children, L'Infini was artistry of Dulal Hoque, as well as a reputable place to get an exquisite meal. Hoque, the Muslim Master of Kosher food, is well educated and versed in the fine art of cooking. He claims French haute cuisine as his personal specialty, having studied under world-class masters in Quebec and elsewhere. When asked how it feels to be cooking kosher, Hoque replied, "I obviously cannot use cream or butter, but it's not much different because I don't eat pork. However, the Rabbi's don't let me use certain herbs because they are too hard to clean."

Regrettably, the steak did cost a fortune, but let me just say "it was worth every penny." Other items on the menu are more reasonably priced, and it is worth mentioning that the fish chitah under the supervision of the Crown Heights Beis Din. While not being a place for children, Infini is artistry of Dulal Hoque, as well as a reputable place to get an exquisite meal. Atmosphere: Formal, yet relaxed. The dining room is pleasant, with the high ceilings and spacious layout allowing for private conversation. The rousing violinist also played the piano, providing a counterpart to the relaxing music in the background.

Price: Appetizers are reasonably priced between nine to twelve dollars. The entrees are more steeply priced, starting at eighteen and up. A Breath of Fresh Air for Kosher Food. A Breath of Fresh Air for Kosher Food.

A Breath of Fresh Air for Kosher Food. A Breath of Fresh Air for Kosher Food.
MANY THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO TURNED OUT FOR THE ANNUAL BONE MARROW DRIVE!

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ASSUME YOUR PLACE IN YU HISTORY
YC to Offer Summer Physics and Culture Course in Italy

BY AARON KLEIN

As part of the new Yeshiva College Honors Program, a physics course is being offered this summer that will allow students to spend two weeks in Florence, Italy, to study some of the greats in the fields of Galileo and Italian Jewish Culture of the Renaissance Period. The five credit course will cover the history and philosophy of the development of physics in Italy and will help students understand that Kosher facilities and Shabbat arrangements, and synchronous activities are priorities for the course. The course will also teach a Shabbat to the students each morning.

Dr. Daffel confirmed that there are currently fifteen students interested in the program. Indeed, this is a very interesting opportunity for YU students to learn science in a unique cultural and social environment.

On March 17, the Middle East Society invited students to participate in an interactive discussion with Samir Amin, a Palestinian graduate student in political science at Columbia University. The event was thought to be without precedent, at Yeshiva University. Yishai Fleisher, head of the Middle East Society, explained that the society’s function is to provide an intellectually honest forum to discuss issues vital to the Jewish people and the Middle East. Over fifty students from the Upward and Midtown campuses attended, packing into the apartment of Benj. Ieff and Benj. Schiller. The administration would not allow the event to be held on campus, therefore a decision was made to take the meeting in a student apartment. Participants were greeted with a Middle Eastern ambiance, complete with Arabic style music and an array of Arabian rugs and pillows. Additionally, a buffet of homemade pastas, falafel, and other Middle Eastern food, was prepared by Shalomi of Time Out Pizza.

After opening remarks by Fleisher, Amin delivered his message to an attentive audience. Seating several years ago such an event could not have taken place at YU, he was very encouraged by the progress that has been made.

Amin recounted that for all back as he can remember, he has witnessed the fighting between Israelis and Palestinians. He credited the intifada as a major breakthrough in bringing awareness to Israelis that Palestinians are not seeking the destruction of Israel. Rather, he suggested, they simply seek independence. Award did advocate violence in furthering the Palestinian cause. Instead he encouraged efforts to educate, understand, and experience the other.

Having experienced much personal imposition as a result of instability on the West Bank, as his university was closed for four years during his undergraduate studies, Amin sees the conflict as an impetus. "We’ve paid the stage of peace," Amin said. "It is irreversible now we will need to work together for solutions in agreement to solve the techniques." Award’s message to YU students was succinct. He places a great responsibility on the younger generation to not repeat earlier generation’s mistakes of fighting in vain. He sees striving for this cause as his calling in life, and the reason he is pursuing an advanced education in political science.

Following Award’s monologue, the floor opened for an assortment of student questions. The questions addressed included such provocative issues as how to deal with the I.D.O and right-wing Palestinian elements, what he thinks of Arafat, whether the peace process thus far has involved fair compromises, and the status Jerusalem would assume with the creation of a Palestinian state.

Throughout his answer, Samir maintained a stance of peaceful inclusion of all races and religions emphasizing that the students will be worthwhile for everyone. He did criticize the Israeli government for keeping their part of the bargain and being too concerned with elections. Not reserving his criticism for the Israelis alone, he did express a dislike of Arafat as a double-talker, yet one who can accomplish more with the Palestinians than anyone else due to his experience and past.

When asked about Palestinian youth pushing for peace, Award indicated that the younger generation knows that they will have much better opportunities than their parent and grandparents if real peace is attained. They are very much at stake, he said, in being able to live normal lives.

Fleisher organized the event with the help of Dr. Marc Weinberger of the political science department, who acquainted Yishai with Award. She suggested that Award would be appropriate for such a discussion because he is an open-minded, thoughtful, and well-educated graduate student in Columbia with a future in Middle East scholarship.

El Grosh, a YC student, expressed the importance he places in Middle Eastern issues, commenting: "I was willing to miss Beverly Hills 90210 for this." Fleisher viewed the event as a significant success. Often, he said, important issues such as these are given low intellectual priority on campus. He viewed the event as "taking back the Middle East for us.”