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NEW BUILDING TO BE CONSTRUCTED AT MAIN CAMPUS

BY JASON CYTULNIK

An eight million dollar donation from philanthropist Jacob Glueck will be utilized to erect a new building on the uptown campus since the addition of the Max Stern Athletic Center, constructed in 1982. The new structure marks Yeshiva’s ongoing commitment to remain in the Washington Heights location for years to come.

Parking Lot A, situated directly behind the library on W185th Street between Amsterdam and Audubon Avenues, has been selected to house the new facility.

The specific location will enable a connection to the University Library, a feature which would allow students easy access to and from both buildings. Whetever or not the two buildings will match in their architectural styles is yet to be seen, but it is certain the center will fit in the ecclectic works that comrise the uptown campus.

The new building is an encouraging idea in the minds of both students and administrators; however, most students anticipated that any new building on the uptown campus would serve to help alleviate the ongoing men’s housing crisis. Only one year ago, President Norman Lamm announced to students that a new dormitory would sit atop the list of priorities for upcoming University construction projects. In response to questions from students regarding the promise, Rabbi Lamm was quick to respond that a dormitory could not be built with the donated money, as the funds were earmarked by Glueck for “Torah purposes.”

Unfortunately, many are worried that the university officials may not be following through on the specific intentions that Glueck had expressed for his contribution. A high-level university administrator informed the Commentator that the contract being drawn up between Glueck and the university was indeed “extremely vague, thus leaving open the possibility of misusing the funds after they are transferred.” One Yeshiva administrator points to the obvious, dismissing such suspicions: “Why would we require an eight million dollar, five story building from which to run a technological medash - something that would seem to require only a couple of

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Undergraduate Professors Voice Complaints Over Low Salaries

BY PINCHAS SHAPIRO

Thirty-two senior professors of Yeshiva College and the Stern College for Women submitted a formal complaint to the University expressing their extreme disappointment with the inadequate salary increments received this year. The letter sent directly to University President, Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm on September 14, 1999 addresses the unfilled university commitment to bring salaries “into line with those of comparable institutions.”

For yet another year, Yeshiva’s most senior undergraduate faculty find their salaries lagging far behind that of professors working at comparable institutions. During the last academic year, the average undergraduate senior professor salary in Yeshiva was $67,342, a figure that lags far behind the $86,600 senior professors in comparable Amherst College receive. Every year the administration examines Yeshiva’s salaries with comparable institutions in terms of size, geographic location, and other factors to determine where we reside in reference to other colleges. This year, Amherst was figured to be the most comparable school to Yeshiva.

Yeshiva University undergraduate salaries have suffered since the debt and inflation days of the seventies, and although the endowment since then has grown from practically nothing to over

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University Registrar Submits Resignation

BY PINCHAS SHAPIRO

At the alleged urging of university officials, Rabbi Melvin Davis, University Registrar, submitted his resignation three weeks ago effective the end of the fall semester. Currently, no specific plan for a replacement or for the future of the office has been made available.

According to administrative officials, Davis was called into the office of Dr. John B. Fisher, Director of Enrollment Management, three weeks ago and was informed that his services were no longer needed at Yeshiva. Davis was then

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Bibi Visits Yeshiva

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

Former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave the first in a series of guest lectures on October 7 at the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law, speaking to a full house in the Most Court Room on “Bringing the Past Century into the New Millennium.”

On November 17, Netanyahu has scheduled to present the second guest lecture at the Stern College for Women, to a select group of students under the auspices of the honors program. On the following day, Netanyahu will present a similar speech to Yeshiva College honors students, before giving a lecture later that evening in Lampert Auditorium open to all undergradu-
we can. There are other events throughout the dedicated work of Naftali Olivestone and Dov Brandstatter, who worked tirelessly to pull along with the Resident Advisors, we, as students and campus residents, have our bases covered.

Nulman, Dean Mr. Himber, and Mr. Andrew Leibowitz compose the Office of Student Services,

approaching," he said. "Then you show the banana peel; then you show the fat lady and the show the fat lady.

"How, for example, could I make a fat lady, walking down Fifth Avenue, slip on a banana peel

Charles MacArthur, a playwright, had once been brought to Hollywood to do a screenplay,

"Neither," without a moment's hesitation. "You show the fat lady

Chaplin responded, "Neither," without a moment's hesitation. "You show the fat lady

Our administration is here to help us watch out for these, less obvious hazards. Dean Dr.

repairing our reputation.

China, and if we don't grasp that point, the phrase "American university"

It is horrible and unfortunate that our professors do not receive paychecks commensurate to their worth, but the situation stretches far beyond the mistreatment of university employees. The low salaries and heavy coursework burden also serve as a deterrent to qualified professors who may consider employment at Yeshiva in the future, further hindering Yeshiva's ability to raise its academic reputation.

It is now to the Deans of Yeshiva and Stern College, along with Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Morton Lowengrub, to take the burden upon themselves to push for the welfare of our professors. We have already seen Dr. Lowengrub's ability to stand for the academic process by acting to rectify the many problems which the registrar's office has been facing. We hope that Dr. Lowengrub will again defend the academic process and set the salaries of our professors back on track.
Here's Some Food for Thought

Like many college students, I like to eat. I enjoy barbecued chicken, turkey sandwiches, stuffed peppers, waffles, onion, veal, tuna, salad, steak, fried vegetables, and just about any other cuisine that is considered somewhat palatable. Thankfully I have been blessed with one of those teenage stomachs, allowing me to consume large quantities of food without ever having to worry about an unwanted increase in weight.

For many, my appetite and metabolism would serve as a glorified blessing. This is certainly the way I used to feel about my particular eating habits until the memorable day I unsuccessfully arrived at Yeshiva University and tasted the cafeteria food for the first time. I have since learned to fear mealtime, to view it as a necessary tribulation that I must exhaustively endure three times per day. Since all dorming students are required to purchase their meals in advance, and since eating out remains an extremely expensive expedition, we are each forced to withstand the torment that dining in our cafeteria has become. I personally don't eat there to enjoy a meal, but simply to survive - to nourish my body with some form of basic matter that is at least recognized as storable energy on a microbiologic level.

In my three years residence at this prestigious institution, I have yet to witness any substantial change with regard to the quality, pricing or variety of the food, and I find that entirely unacceptable. Breakfast is the only decent meal offered in the caf, perhaps because it primarily consists of packaged and pre-cooked items. Lunch seems to always include greasy noodles and that same sorrowful freezer-dried fish we have all come to dread. I occasionally frequent the caf at lunchtime for the entertainment value - I think the chef's attempt to personify that fish is hilarious: sometimes it's baked with spaghetti sauce and becomes "Poisson de tomate," on other days they adventurously throw in some lemon, coining it "citrus fish." But, as my grandfather says, "You can paint a Chevy pink, you can wax it, you can give it a spit-shine, when you're finished it's still gonna be a Chevy." Divine is consistently composed of seasoned Shabbos leftovers and the feathered chicken that has over the years become a YU trademark.

It is interesting to note that there was a period in which Yeshiva featured some of the finest kosher cooking in the city. From the late sixties to the early eighties, a man named Mr. Parker ran the kitchen, and Jews from all over Manhattan flocked to Yeshiva for a fine meal. However, Mr. Parker left the university to start his own catering service, and it is now almost impossible for me to conceive of a time when people willingly ate in our cafeteria. Perhaps with some new ideas you will generate a menu based on variety, substance and health-awareness.

I struggle every day to find the driving force that sent me to Yeshiva, and it is only fair that I struggle with my classmates - why we are here along with the plethora of different characters that make up the college I will one day call my alma mater. There are students that spent every day of their educations in private religious institutions, while public school dwellers also inhabit our campus. Students spending a year at various Yeshivot in Israel now share the same college as those never stepping foot in our Holy Land. English and Hebrew are not the only tongues spoken on the YU campus. Russian, French, Spanish, Arabic as well as many other assorted languages are familiar sounds to Yeshiva students. There are Chabad and Chassidic contingencies as well as those few that try their best to steer clear of religious observance. Yeshiva sports 'gym rats' and those unfit for physical activity. There are the big wigs on campus, and there are anti-big wigs as well. There are students taking part in various clubs and activities while some are focused only on school work. There are the guys who will dress only in slacks and solid button down shirts, but there are others who will occasionally wear t-shirts, plaid or even sweats.

The Commentator is a student run publication that provides Yeshiva students with a voice, a forum to express their opinions and views. We strive to provide a diverse collection of articles that represent the different faiths and backgrounds of our student body. There are no religious, political, or social issues that are off-limits. We welcome all perspectives and encourage open dialogue.

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as such, God had to present it to him in a phys-
ical manifestation. The keshet inheres in our
hearts, as well; we may not dismiss others,
regardless of their demeanor or their activities,
there is hope. The waters will recede, and when
they do, a better world will emerge. Rav
Charlop, Rav Hochberg, Rav Reichman and Rav
Schachter, who have helped make our
Lounge, our Torah speaks specifically to you;
and to The Commentator, for assisting us in
transmitting the message of Parshat Noach is clear: there is hope. The waters will recede, and when they do, a better world will emerge. Rav Charlop, Rav Hochberg, Rav Reichman and Rav Schachter, who have helped make our
Lounge, our Torah speaks specifically to you;
Late at night, I was walking around campus dejected and sour after the usual day of dreary classes, dreary weather and dreary people. The drab neighborhood and the morose architecture surrounding me added to my somber spirits, and at that moment my only thoughts were to get to my apartment to my somber spirits, and at that moment my dreary classes, dreary weather and dreary...

Join the circle dance with a feeling of com­...thing too much I headed straight for the moral house and wished him luck, leaving the scene rejuvenated and happy.

For me those are the beautiful moments of the past. The moments where our classical values come together with simcha and spontaneity. The moments when people around here smile effortlessly and throw off the yoke of rigidity that has crept up on their beings. Yet these days, as I am sure many of you have noticed, those wonderful moments are occurring at rarer and rarer intervals. There is an uptightness in the air that is suffocating our very lives. What's wrong here?

Could this uptightness and rigidity be a result of our generation's anxiety regarding 'making it' in the real world? We are constantly trying to figure out our next step and calculate every move as to have the right resume, the right grad school and the right job. We are almost never alive in the present, only thoughts were to get to my apartment to my somber spirits, and at that moment my dreary classes, dreary weather and dreary...

But suddenly from afar I heard the lively beat of the tarbuka drums and voices singing and finish some dreadfully monotonous moments are occurring at rarer and rarer intervals. We have shirked our responsibility! Maybe, if the amnesia cloud...
It Could Be Worse

To the Editors:

I was amused by your news story about keys opening the wrong doors at YU. When I was studying at YU between 1987 and 1992 it was well-known that the keys in use were capable of opening doors in Seifer Hall as well as the Stern College School Building. I remember once giving a speech in Dr. Beukas’ speech class on breaching YU Security; the speech was easy to write, but was so funny that along with the listeners, I began laughing during the speech, which Dr. Beukas told me was not the preferred way to give a speech.

Maybe it makes sense to change the locks?

Sam Michaelson
YC 1992

Deep Freeze

To the Editors:

It was a dark and stormy night when I last wrote an essay on a YU library computer. I did a wonderful job, if I do say so myself. Several thousand words and a catchy title. Yeah, life was good.

And that’s when the library computer got me. No, it did not sneak up from behind to bite me, but it soon became a pain nonetheless. My computer didn’t want to print. I shrugged it off and merrily attempted to save my essay on a disk, so as to print the paper from another computer. The computer just laughed at me and said, “Nope, I can’t read your disk at the present time.” No further instructions, certainly no apology forthwith. Coming. No big deal, really. It’s the ’90s, and I can email it to myself at, that’s right, another library computer! “No can do,” said the computer with a smirk, “I’m really not in the mood to connect you to the Internet.”

Well, when have the library computers EVER been in the mood?

Shloime Weiss
YC 2003
I was on the debate team in high school, and people told me I should wear a tie to the debates. "It's only proper," they said. "The judges will think there's something wrong with you if you don't wear a tie," they asserted. So I wore a tie. One with pictures of vegetables and a few recipes for G-d-knows-what. It was a pretty cool tie.

The judge of one of the rounds was a nice woman who was absolutely hypnотized by my tie. There I was, pleading that citizens between the ages of 18 and 25 should not be given batons and made into an auxiliary police force (honest!), and her eyes were riveted on a garlic, a tomato, and a palate-pleasing possibility. We lost that particular round.

The following year I declined to stay on the team and have had a sour view of the whole "sport" of debating ever since. One would naturally assume that my negative side. Indeed, anyone who's ever debated after all, not for arriving at truthful conclu��

In principle, debating is supposed to transcend. It is supposed to transcend.

A popular form of debate nowadays is blind style. A topic is chosen in advance, but the participants don't find out which side they must support until the time of debate itself. The idea, of course, is to teach people to see both sides of an issue and build a case respectively. The result is that what should be a legitimate discussion becomes a sham. Both sides can conceivably be arguing for what they intensely disagree with, yet they must fight and plead all the same. Their faces belie the convictions of their heart as they attack their own beliefs. What's the point? Do they really learn to give credence to the opposition, or merely to play poker just long enough to win the attention of the judge?

And what of this judge? This supposed idealized, impartial representative of the common man is not there to arrive at the truth, whatever that may be, but to award smooth speech, swagger, impeccable looks, and a killer instinct. The meaning of the words is secondary to the package they come in. Just the sort of thing true debate is supposed to transcend.

In an ideal situation, if one side were to find themselves arguing for something crazy, say, that people with brown hair and green eyes should be fairly represented in television sitcoms, that side would have a near-impossible time winning the debate. As it is, all they need to do is dress well, speak well, and bristle the other side, and they stand a fighting chance. After all, moderated debate neither educates the participants nor clarifies anyone's beliefs. It teaches them to be convincing liars.

In judging these cases, overall, the

the Student Court!

Although it has often been neglected in recent years, the Student Court is one of the most significant student organizations here on campus. In adjudicating any and all disputes, regardless of nature, that students deem appropriate to be brought in front of the Court, its role has the potential to be an integral part of student life, if students so desire.

The Court consists of a Chief Justice, an associate justice, two senior justices and one Junior Justice. A clerk is appointed to keep records of all the proceedings of the court. The Court is selected on the basis of their impartiality and ability to serve the student body morally and honestly. Its jurisdiction is wide-ranging, from all activities sponsored by YCSC and its subsidiaries (class boards, clubs, committees, etc.) to all students who are acting as spectators at all Yeshiva College athletic events. In fact, the power of the Court is such that it can enforce its subpoenas by means of disciplinary action against those who do not appear.

It has been unfortunate that in past years, students may not have been aware that the Student Court exists, and if they did, they often confused it with the Student Senate, is a judicial body determined to adjudicate any conflict brought to the Court and deal with all students violating the administration's rules and regulations concerning extracurricular activi-

In discussing his hopes for this year's Student Court, Ari Wiesen, the Chief Justice, told me that he hopes students this year we become more aware of its existence. He said that it would be very nice for students to be able to come to the Court with the hope of something being accomplished quickly and effectively.

If the usage of the Court is augmented here on campus, I think the potential gain for the entire student body will be noticeable. In addition, it is important that everyone see stu-

wards who impartially demonstrate the desire to maintain a peaceful and congenial student body in judging these cases. Overall, the Court aims to ensure that harmonious relationships are maintained amongst members of the student body in hopes that people will

Why Debate Teams Are Bad

BY CHARANAY WEISSMAN

knows that it's bad tactics to allow the other guy to speak uninterrupted during the cross examination. Doing so allows the judges to listen to their side and, G-d forbid, possibly find merit in what they have to say.

The following year I declined to stay on the team and have had a sour view of the whole "sport" of debating ever since. One would naturally assume that my negative side. Indeed, anyone who's ever debated after all, not for arriving at truthful conclu-

In principle, debating is supposed to enhance one's research and speaking abili­

Development and presentation of cogent arguments. In

Education to the participants, and that my debating provides greater detriment than benefit to the debates. "It's only proper," they said. "The judges will think there's something wrong with you if you don't wear a tie," they asserted. So I wore a tie. One with pictures of vegetables and a few recipes for G-d-knows-what. It was a pretty cool tie.

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High Speed Internet Access
BY CHAIM JASKOLL

Last month we discussed the promises of high-speed internet access using Cable technologies. Now we will continue our talk on the exciting world of DSL.

DSL, or Digital Subscriber Lines, is a technology that uses the existing copper wire from the POTS (Plain Old Telephone System) in your house, running at a different frequency than your phone conversations. This service, which is usually provided by the local Telephone Companies (large companies like Southwestern Bell, Pacific Bell, Bell Atlantic, BellSouth, USWest, Ameritech and GTE), the new, competitive telephone companies (created after The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was passed), an ISP (Internet Service Provider), supports up to 8.1 mbps downstream speeds if you’re close enough to a CO (Central Office) or switch. That’s five times faster than a T-1!

However, the type of service we are going to focus on is ADSL, the one most often found in residential areas. Asynchronous DSL, in difference to Synchronoues DSL, is unique in that it reserves more bandwidth going down toward the user and less upstream, an ideal situation for most home users.

Performance is spectacular with 144 kbps - 1.5 mbps/120 kbps - 1.1 mbps speeds at prices ranging from $50 to $190 a month. Not included in this price are installation costs ($100 - $500), a digital modem (“terminal adapter”) ($300 - $600), and a network interface card ($25).

Yet, an industry standard that should be out shortly, G. Lite (formerly Universal ADSL), promises to eliminate the incompatibility issues and high prices found with existing ADSL service. G. Lite will not require the phone company to send a technician over to your house, eliminating the installation costs, and, furthermore, G. Lite modems can cost as little as $200. Indeed, most of the major modern manufacturers have adhered to this standard, and you should be able to hit the shelves soon (Compaq, IBM, and Dell have already offered them as “on-board chip” options). Although somewhat slower than traditional ADSL (max is 1.5 mbps/384 kbps), G. Lite service costs far less, with monthly charges right now set at $50 - $80 and looking to drop to the $30 range at the end of the year 2000.

ADSL’s biggest setback is that the technology requires a distance of less than 18,000 feet (2.8 miles) from your telephone company’s nearest switch or CO. Which means either you got it or you don’t. But don’t worry; most rural and urban users in the NY/NJ area shouldn’t have that problem. The most exciting feature of ADSL (besides its speed) is that, as opposed to Cable technologies, there is no sharing. Each user has a direct connection to the Internet, which means your speeds won’t decrease just because your neighbor is on the net all day; and that your security won’t be compromised just because your neighbor is a MIS major.

In conclusion, although both Cable and ADSL technologies have finally provided high-speed Internet access at competitive costs, the availability in your specific area might be limited at the present. For example, no companies presently provide service in the thriving business district of Washington Heights, although some companies have promised service by October/November. Yet, some areas of Long Island already have $30/month Cable access from Optimum Online (www.cablevision.com), a local cable TV provider.

Bell Atlantic (www.bellatlantic.com) is also starting its own DSL service, InfoSpeed DSL, in the metropolitan area at a very competitive price of $50/ month (for 384 kbps/128 kbps service). A great place to check the availability in your area, including the distance of your house from the nearest switch or central office, is www.getspeed.com, which keeps a database of many different Cable and DSL providers. Most other companies (www.redconnect.net, www.flash.com, www.bway.net) will tell you if there is service in your area, or will contact you when it becomes available.

A final note: if you do decide to get one of these services and want to set it up on a home network, make sure you find out about their policies regarding multiple users in residential plans. Some companies support it, others forbid it, and still others allow it but won’t support it. And remember that you will still need a hub, LAN bridge, and proxy server to make your Internet connection network-able, though there are some all-in-one products known as residential gateways just emerging in the market that can make this step easier.

Next month we will hopefully discuss SPAM and methods of fighting it.

Any questions or comments? Please send an email to commie@ymail.yu.edu.

SOY and TAC Begin Rosh Chodesh Shiur Series
BY MOSHE SCHMOLER

On Wednesday evening, October 6th, two hundred fifty students packed into Weisberg Commons for a joint SOY/TAC Shiur. The shiur served as the initiation to a monthly Rosh Hodesh lecture series. The featured speakers were Rav Hochberg and Rav Schachter.

Rav Hochberg gave a moving lecture on the Tzemi Ziskin between a man and a woman. It was one of many noted that the shiur almost paralleled a lecture from the hit book “Men Are From Mars Women Are From Venus.” Rav Schachter spoke about Megilat Kohelet, focusing on the reason Kohelet tells us there is an impetus behind everything in this world. Rav Schachter emphasized, “even spider webs were created for a reason because they saved David HaMelech.” From this we can see that everything has its purpose.” After Schachter’s riveting shiur, Douglas was served to the crowd.

When asked why he started a coed shiur, Atan Holzer, President of SOY, answered: “The singles problem in the Jewish community has reached epic proportions, and SOY must take the initiative in addressing this issue.”

This shiur has only been a small representation of what SOY has done this year. For the first time ever, a JSS Rabbi gave the Wednesday night study session in the Main Medrash. Students expressed their satisfaction in the fact that Rav Yudin was able to be appreciated by the entire Hesha, not only JSS students. The students also noted that SOY in conjunction with the other Judaic studies student councils, has been trying to infuse more achdut into YU further enhancing the “yeshiva” aspect of Yeshiva University.

Beit Medrash. Students expressed their satisfaction in the fact that Rav Yudin was able to be appreciated by the entire Hesha, not only JSS students. The students also noted that SOY in conjunction with the other Judaic studies student councils, has been trying to infuse more achdut into YU further enhancing the “yeshiva” aspect of Yeshiva University.
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- CAJUN SPICED TUNA STEAK
It's a Sensation!

by Zohar Azoulay

"The context of this exhibition may cause shock, vomiting, confusion, panic, euphoria and anxiety. If you suffer from high blood pressure, a nervous disorder or palpitation, you should consult your doctor. It includes material that is considered by African artist Chris Ofili. It is considered by some pieces in the exhibition as "sick stuff." The artist used elephant dung to represent the Virgin Mary. It is considered by many to be profanity due to the fact that the artist claimed to have deeper meaning to his works. Some art critics claimed he wanted to shock for shock's sake alone, while activists at animal rights groups protested against the very killing of the animals. However, the artist emphasized the idea that empty spaces are actually "something" rather than "nothing" in two of her art portraits of the virgin are more sexually charged than his work.

Sensation also includes some very provocative and disturbing pieces such as a sculpture of multiple naked children whose facial features were replaced with sexual organs. There also is a sculpture of men hanging in various positions with their genitalia exposed. Shocking! Indeed! But the artist explains that the former piece was inspired by the Dalí painting of a woman with a long camera and letting it go all the way to the toilet and then all the way back to the mouth. It gives one the notion of digestion and regurgitation. The artist also uses the title with sexual connotation. Another artist made a bust sculpted out of plastering the empty spaces beneath chairs, the spaces no one thinks exist but also the ones children use to crawl into.

Thinking through the issue, one must remember that fratern in the streets; in this case, it would be considered as art because it created by the artist and is on display in a museum. In another piece, we see a portrait of "Virgin Mary" by African artist Chris Ofili. It is considered by many to be profanity due to the fact that the artist used elephant dung to represent the Virgin Mary. The artist stated that he wanted to show that his art comes from nature. In the background of this piece, pornographic picture cuts are used to decorate the portrait. At first glance, they look like innocent abstract forms. However, Ofili correctly claimed that classical portraits of the virgin are more sexually charged than his work.

Another piece that is widely criticized is a portrait of "Virgin Mary" by African artist Chris Ofili. It is considered by many to be profanity due to the fact that the artist used elephant dung to represent the Virgin Mary. The artist stated that he wanted to show that his art comes from nature. In the background of this piece, pornographic picture cuts are used to decorate the portrait. At first glance, they look like innocent abstract forms. However, Ofili correctly claimed that classical portraits of the virgin are more sexually charged than his work.

The exhibit also contains extremely detailed sculptures and pieces that really make us think. One artist managed to capture the idea that empty spaces are actually "something" rather than "nothing" in two of her art portraits of the virgin are more sexually charged than his work.

Sensation is an exhibition that will blow your mind away. Personally, I think I will not be able to look at art in the same way ever again. If you haven't seen Sensation, you haven't yet seen the full scope of art.
American Beauty
Starring: Kevin Spacey and Annette Bening
BY YAIR OPPENHEIM

The American family as depicted by movies, television and books over the past century has gone through an unnecessary amount of permutation and image makeovers. We no longer know who we are; that which has typified us now exists as myth. Fortunately, the only way to awake oneself from the “American dream” is to have a mid-life crisis. It is that very self-consciousness that permits one’s self-examination in an objective manner; it shatters the rose-tinted glasses, and Lester Burnam just woke up.

Lester Burnam (played by Kevin Spacey) has sunk into depression. He doesn’t have the best marriage and has lost his connection to his daughter. He also becomes infatuated with his daughter’s friend. His wife Carolyn (played by Annette Bening) is a phony who doesn’t appreciate life. She believes that a professional image should be used to keep emotions bottled up. Their daughter Jane is having an adolescent identity crisis.

Things begin to change when the Burnams get new neighbors. The Fitts are not the average family either, but they don’t live with the facade of the Burnams. Colonel Fitts is a homeless military man. His wife is an unappreciated shell of a former self. Their son Ricky (played by Wes Bentley) is trying to fly normally after being institutionalized by his parents.

Once Lester meets Ricky his life turns around. Lester no longer feels that he should conform to what society or his family wants of him. He wants to truly enjoy life; subject only to his desires, not someone else’s restrictions. Trouble is impending. Kevin Spacey takes a juicy role and stretches his character to the seams, infusing it with true, bitter sincerity as he laughs at his life. It is his best on-screen performance yet.

His role in “The Usual Suspects” was cool, and his role in “LA Confidential” was charming, but Lester Burnam lights up the screen. The minute details that Spacey uses are precisely what makes him likeable. His facial expressions make him more endearing. Annette Bening comically overacts in a very effective performance on her part. Perhaps it was a bit over the top, but certainly not for someone experiencing a nervous breakdown. The surprise of the film is Wes Bentley. He exhibits a wry smile with every sentence, perhaps as a mark left from the military hospital, or perhaps due to his cynical view on life. It marks his performance so much that it seems to give him assurance, confidence, and a clarity which the other characters lack.

The direction of the film is quite effective. Sam Mendes has made the shift from directing in the theater to directing on film. His role in “The Usual Suspects” was cool, and his role in “LA Confidential” was charming, but Lester Burnam lights up the screen. The minute details that Spacey uses are precisely what makes him likeable. His facial expressions make him more endearing. Annette Bening comically overacts in a very effective performance on her part. Perhaps it was a bit over the top, but certainly not for someone experiencing a nervous breakdown. The surprise of the film is Wes Bentley. He exhibits a wry smile with every sentence, perhaps as a mark left from the military hospital, or perhaps due to his cynical view on life. It marks his performance so much that it seems to give him assurance, confidence, and a clarity which the other characters lack.

The message of the film is quite clear - re-examine your life and make the changes that you want. You’ll be amazed at the results and at how easily you can soon touch others. That said, it seems practically impossible for all of these characters to suddenly hit the extremes of their personalities. The ridiculousness of the situation is clearly what makes Spacey so cynical in the film. For anyone to reach their edge would take more than mere coincidence would allow. It raises the question of whether Americans are really like this, which is a provoking issue. The film is clearly an Oscar contender and definitely one of the best dramas of the year.

Three Kings
Starring: George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg and Ice Cube
BY YAIR OPPENHEIM

Slipping into G.I.Joe mode, George Clooney takes Ice Cube and Mark Wahlberg hunting for Kuwaiti gold stolen by Sadaam Hussein. This turns out to be a life changing experience for all involved. Three Kings manages to depict the Persian Gulf War rather effectively, which is impressive, given that the film takes place after the war has ended. Unconventional is an understatement.

The film begins with the cease-fire in Iraq. We are invited to witness some of the wild victory parties made by soldiers who didn’t know why they were there. The situation forces the American withdrawal from Kuwait, leaving citizens to fend for themselves, with only verbal support from President Bush to lift their spirits. Civilians are still under the rule of Saddam’s remaining underlings, and though the bombing has stopped, the terror remains. Sadaam’s soldiers simply ignore any US soldier presence. What thrills this film into high gear is the underlying morality question: find the gold and go, or stay and fight the war the United States has abandoned.

George Clooney is, simply put: G.I.Joe, a role that he was born for. Most of Clooney’s characters have always been unshaven rough looking men who deserve conviction and trust. Typically any testosterone based film full of men in uniforms holding firearms, is inherently cool, but this is Clooney’s forte. Mark Wahlberg and Ice Cube add diversity to the mix, each contributing personalitites that make the situations more exciting.

As far as the film’s accuracy concerning the Persian Gulf War; though it is a fictional situation, the movie is rather accurate as far as the tone it sets and the details it displays. There is strong emphasis put on President Bush’s poor involvement in patching up Kuwaiti lives, gas attacks, and violations of the civil rights of citizens by Sadaam’s Army. No stone is left unturned, as characters are aware of the capitalist nature of the oil war.

Three Kings manages to step over any cliches that could possibly be as compelling. David O’Russell’s script and direction make for a very stylist film with the most notable scene being the “inside” look at the damage a bullet causes upon entry into the human body.

The film manages to be entertaining, original, and effective in expressing its message to the public about what the war was really like. The only other big-budget feature film to tackle Operation Desert Storm was “Courage Under Fire,” starring Denzel Washington and directed by Ed Zwick (“Glory,” “Legends Of The Fall”). Courage was a great film as well, but its moral message could have been packaged around any war. Three Kings is one of the best films of the year. It would be hard to find another Desert Storm film that could possibly be as compelling.
Americana
BY MATTHEW ROSEN

I step out of my apartment and turn to lock the door. I walk down the hallway and not at one of the other people in the building. I consider how fortunate I am to be in an almost completely Orthodox apartment building in a predominantly Orthodox neighborhood. Not everyone in the building is Jewish nor is the neighborhood entirely without its other religions, but by in large we live symbiotically, tolerating each other's unique practices.

But as I walk up the street the change can be seen immediately. There is garbage on the street, the passing cars with their never ending bass pounding rhythms chorusing up into the air. I am now only a ten minute walk from where I started out and it seems like another world. An eclectic mix of shop peddlers are displaying their wares out in the street for all the pedestrians to sample. A man on the street corner asks me to spare some change for the bus. The store in front of me is advertising compact discs and calling cards. I keep walking.

I stop in at the local Blockbuster to see about picking up a movie, but leave unsatisfied. I grab a bus into the heart of the city and marvel at the building under construction on the corner. I am treated to the rare pleasure of hearing a conversation in English. The advertisements affirm that I am appropriately dressed in the latest fashion trend and that I am using the wrong internet provider. The radio on the bus is playing yet another generic pop-culture overnight-hit song that sounds like every other song on the Top 40.

On my most recent trip to the Holy Land I realized the blatant presence of American culture that has embedded itself in our most holy city. Please, I do not mean for this column to mislead. I happen to consider our generation's brand of Americana to be one of the more devastating, and funnier, the results turn out to be. The fool joyfully relates that his construction of the Eiffel tower required 346,472 sticks, 37 tubes of glue and eight months' worth of work to complete.

The fun begins when Pignon arrives at Pierre's lavishly appointed apartment for tea in order for his supposed patron can check out this "A-1 idiot" before the dinner. Unfortunately Pierre badly wrenches his back playing golf the day of the dinner and so irritates his wife, who objects to him playing the game that she decides to leave him. This sets up one of the funniest routines I have ever seen, in which Pignon manages to alienate both Pierre's wife and mistress, as well as deliver him in to the hands of the most formidable tax inspector in France.

Pignon is the most well-meaning of individuals. He'd love to help Bouchant, but this timid man turns out to be a world-class blunderer, someone with a gift for doing the worst possible thing at any given moment. The more he tries to assist his new friend, the more devastating, and funny, the results turn out to be. The role of Pignon, the bumbling idiot, is superbly acted. It seems as though Jacques Villaret was born for the role. It is easy to imagine anyone else performing it nearly as well. Equally as good is Daniel Prevost's portrayal of a ferret like tax auditor. He is able to bring riotous laughter with the slightest of glances. Steven Spielberg has purchased the rights to make his own version of The Dinner Game for DreamWorks. It is speculated, as a vehicle for Robin Williams. Although Williams is an excellent actor, the Hollywood propensity for sanitizing European imports will undoubtedly end up destroying this fine film.

The Dinner Game is a clever farce with impeccable timing and marvelous actors who have great chemistry. The film is currently playing at the Paris Theater located at: 4 W 58th St (Between 5th and 6th Aves), (212) 688-3800.
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Student Services Gets Techno

BY SCOTT NADEL

Many students are turning to and embracing technology in all aspects of their lives, and accordingly The Office of Student services has recently outstretched its hand to reach students through the Internet. Andrew Leibowitz, Coordinator of Student Services, has launched a website dedicated exclusively to the students. "This is just another way to reach out to students and make them aware of all the services that are available to them," says Leibowitz.

The services included in this website, among many, are links to the university's administration, health services, counseling, athletics, housing and student government. In addition, there is a site specifically geared toward parents of students. Within this site are articles by the counseling staff with tips on how to communicate with one's child while they are away at college.

Important to mention is the portion of the website deemed "Lebo's Corner." This is a forum used by Andrew Leibowitz to inform students of upcoming events and feedback on recent events with pictures and reviews. Additionally, the site is updated frequently to inform students of all events as they are planned. Also, links enable students to directly email the entire student services staff with problems, concerns and comments. Students can be assured that emails will be kept confidential and will be responded to promptly. If an email response is not sufficient, Leibowitz explains that he will "ask the person to give me a call or invite them to come and see me." The site also contains a section called "Beth's Corner" for Stern College students to contact Beth Hait, the Stern College Coordinator of Student Services, and a link to email her with specific questions related to Stern life.

Leibowitz adds, "To me, the Website is important in that it's a way for both Yeshiva College Syms students as well as Stern College students to be made aware of the many events and services that are offered to them." In addition to all of these new technological innovations, Mr. Leibowitz has initiated a program called "Munchies with Lebo." This program is intended to allow new students to get to know each other, and more importantly Andrew Leibowitz, while becoming aware of the services provided by the Office of Student Services, over a school sponsored lunch. The program is specifically aimed to ensure the transition into college life for the students is a smooth one.

The website's address is http://www.yu.edu/studentservices. Andrew Leibowitz can be contacted at (212) 960-5480, or via email at alebowiz@ymail.yu.edu. All are welcome to stop in and see him in Furst hall room 419.

DEBATE TEAM READY TO GO

BY BRYAN KINZIRUNNER

For the third straight year, the Yeshiva University Debate Society (YUDS) will be competing in the Public Forum Debate League (PFDL). Andrew Jacobs, a renowned debate coach known throughout the local debate world and founder of the once three team league of Rochester Community College, Queens College, and YU, has watched the PFDL grow tremendously, now including such prestigious institutions as Columbia, New York University, Binghamton, Lehigh, and Cornell.

Rabbi Lamm Publishes New Book on Hasidism

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, President of Yeshiva University, recently authored a book entitled "The Religious Thought of Hasidism," which was published in September to high praise in scholarly and literary circles. In eighteen chapters, topics are arranged and preceded by introductions. "Hasidism" includes almost four hundred selections from works of over thirty Hasidic masters.

Among the topics surveyed in the book are God-faith and providence, the soul and the world of the righteous, and the study of Torah and the use of the Torah. The book also covers the first three generations of Hasidic masters, including the Baal Shem Tov, Rabi Nachman, the Maggid of Mezirech, and Rabbi Yosef of Polenovye.

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New Building continued from page 1

BY SHMULI SINGER

Are you worried about security finding that button on the dorm fridge? Have you ever expressed a desire to arm your own beit? Many on campus feel that a new Torah community, some equipment, and a number of system administrators for maintenance? More disturbing to some, is that only the two lower floors of the center will be utilized for Torah or technological purposes. The three upper floors will be filled with administrative or faculty offices, clearly a slight of Glueck’s specific intentions for the building.

Nevertheless, a sense of optimism still permeates the administration. Rabbi Yosef Blau, Mashgiach Ruchani and University Guidance Counselor, stressed, “The fact that Yeshiva is doing something in technology is truly exciting in that it opens wonderful opportunities. Yeshiva University has tremendous internal resources both in terms of its Torah personalities and its technological connections – a feature that might truly enable something new to be realized.”

Many on campus feel that a new Torah center may not be necessary at all, and they would rather see the donated funds devoted to the more traditional Torah-related avenues, like improvement of the current Beit Medrash. While the university’s Main Beit Medrash was renovated and beautified only last year, space considerations and acoustic problems still plague Yeshiva’s religious focal point. During this year’s Yom Kippur services, over thirty Yeshiva students were locked out of the Beit Medrash by security due to a capacity crowd, with fire hazards cited as the primary concern. Security was monitoring the “hazardous situation” closely, even though the chances that a fire marshal might come to inspect Yeshiva on Yom Kippur were highly unlikely. Acoustic problems in the Beit Medrash resulted in the moving of the shiurim izhab from his traditional spot in the front of the room during this year’s Yom Nosar services to the middle of the room, where he could be heard by those sitting in back.

Discussions as to the application of the funds between Glueck and the University ensued, and the idea to combine technology and the study of Torah rose to the forefront. The result was what had originally been characterized as a “Virtual Beit Medrash,” and was later revised to the more encompassing technological Tower center.

Lamm deemed such a facility as “the first of its kind,” mirroring the unique nature of its donor, characterized by Rabbi Zevalin Charlop, Dean of RIETS, as “an extraordinary and unique human being.”

Dr. Satmar Hasid, who has taken the initiative to lead meaningful lives in both the religious and secular worlds, Glueck has succeeded in leading what those close to him call “an exemplary life” as a devoted religious Jew coupled with an apt and successful approach to the business world. Glueck has always been a fond supporter of Yeshiva.

A close friend of both Rabbi Lamm and Rabbi Charlop, Glueck has been affiliated with Yeshiva for quite some time. Less than two years ago, Mr. Glueck was awarded the premier honor that RIETS bestows at its Chag Hashemich – the Elz Chaim (treet of Life) Award. The Elz Chaim award typically recognizes the philanthropic efforts of Yeshiva’s most prominent donors. Many believed that the choice of Glueck as the recipient of the award was foreordained due to his monumental contribution to our university. Apparently 1999 wasn’t the first time Glueck had met with Yeshiva’s representatives to discuss a possible donation. Several years ago, the generous philanthropist discussed a possible donation. At that time, Glueck was reportedly interested in funding a Torah-related project, more specifically the construction of a new and improved Beit Medrash. That effort was aborted however, when the amount of funding available from Glueck failed to match Yeshiva’s monetary needs for implementing such a plan. After remaining stagnant for several years, Glueck met with University officials once again, this time willing to contribute the amounts necessary to fund such a large project. An eight million dollar donation was arranged, one quarter of which has already been sitting in the Glueck’s YU account. That effort was aborted however, when the amount of funding available from Glueck failed to match Yeshiva’s monetary needs for implementing such a plan. After remaining stagnant for several years, Glueck met with University officials once again, this time willing to contribute the amounts necessary to fund such a large project. An eight million dollar donation was arranged, one quarter of which has already been sitting in the Glueck’s YU account. That effort was aborted however, when the amount of funding available from Glueck failed to match Yeshiva’s monetary needs for implementing such a plan. After remaining stagnant for several years, Glueck met with University officials once again, this time willing to contribute the amounts necessary to fund such a large project. An eight million dollar donation was arranged, one quarter of which has already been sitting in the Glueck’s YU account. That effort was aborted however, when the amount of funding available from Glueck failed to match Yeshiva’s monetary needs for implementing such a plan. After remaining stagnant for several years, Glueck met with University officials once again, this time willing to contribute the amounts necessary to fund such a large project. An eight million dollar donation was arranged, one quarter of which has already been sitting in the...
with the food quality were recent Israeli returnees, and admitted that the food was only good relative to what they are used to while studying abroad. "I'm not saying that the food here is objectively so good," said Shmulik Singer, who attended Kol Torah, "but it's worlds better than what we were served in Israel." The mixed response concerning food quantity can be attributed to the difference in the size of individual appetites. One student, who considered himself satisfied with the amount of food served, based his response on what he called "the inordinate and insatiable amount of fries served with the main dish at dinner."

The most glaring inadequacy revealed by the survey was the Cafeteria prices. Breakfast, consisting of cereal, a roll or powdered eggs, and something to drink, costs on average over six dollars. In comparison, at Grandma's Cookie Jar, a bagel with cream cheese, along with a pastry and a drink cost less than four dollars. A similar cost disparity exists with lunch and dinner. Both meals can cost upwards of eight dollars, while two slices of pizza and a drink run about four dollars at Time Out. "At Columbia University, dinner costs about seven dollars, and it's all you can eat," said Harid Weiss, who noted that the food quality at Columbia is superior as well.

The only positive result of the survey was the complete satisfaction with the service provided by the staff. "Yeah, like the people working at the Caf, said David Feld, "but service with a smile can only get you so far."

The survey was conducted last week and the results will be distributed soon as YU staff will begin to implement the suggestions given by the students. According to one student, "the food is bad and the prices are even worse."

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Professors Salaries continued from page 1

by the University's operating deficit. This is in stark contrast to Yeshiva's 1998 financial reports as documented in its 990 Tax Form, which records the University's total expenditures in the year ending June 30, 1998 as $118,650,697 less than its total revenue, a significant operating surplus.

The letter, which was also sent to Dr. Sheldon Socol, Vice President of Business Affairs at Yeshiva; Dr. Morton Lowengrub, Vice President of Academic Affairs; and Dr. David Gottesman, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, came after frustrated faculty members were dealt another blow in their struggle for just salaries. With the creation of an honors college and a teaching load that surpasses that of many institutions, a decrease in the raise percentage was not expected. In fact, it came as a shock to many faculty members who are facing pensions that are extremely low.

With money placed in retirement plans based on matching funds, professors maintain that they have no power to seek pension plans to complement their insufficient salaries.

This is of grave concern to faculty who have been here for many years. "I can't even think of my next job," said one faculty member, "I can't afford it," said one professor who remembers the days of salary freezes and five course semesters.

Another letter was only signed by senior professors, adjunct, assistant, and associate professors are not immune from Yeshiva salary woes. While Yeshiva College and Yeshiva University fought so hard to call us management or not, the junior staff's salaries are initially "competitive," many professors expressed that their salaries do not remain so throughout their tenures at Yeshiva. "Entry level salaries are very competitive, but the longer you stay, the worse off you are when aligned with comparable institutions," remarked one junior faculty member. Because there is no pay step structure, associate, assistant and adjunct professor salaries do not remain competitive as pay rates are not raised at increments similar to other institutions.

In addition to the absence of the junior staff, the letter expressing faculty dissatisfaction was not signed by any professor who had personnel decisions pending from administrators who have the power to affect those decisions," explained a professor. This senior professor pointed to Dr. Sheldon Socol, as "the one most feared by faculty, because every decision within his paychecks. The lack of faculty influence over personnel decisions pending) from administration who have the power to affect faculty and administration. The university's ability to execute everyday tasks has suffered the equivalent to senior check, quick processing, wrong or not. The equivalent to senior check, quick processing, wrong or not. The equivalent to senior check, quick processing, wrong or not.

Further impairing the office's ability to function was the departure of Associate Registrar Carol Roth's position still remains vacant and undefined. "The reason for the empty seat is something that is difficult to define. There is something that is wrong with the University MIS department has hampered this effort.

Small departments with limited numbers of full time faculty members have become an increasing phenomena on campus. Over fifty percent of this semester's courses are being taught by less-than-full-time professors.

Last year, the University called for an independent review of the Yeshiva College administrative departments. According to student professors, the recommendations for all departments showed that the college was understaffed while the teachers were overworked and underpaid. "Dr. Socol has the power to hire people," this faculty member. "We had independent people come in and review us, he heard what they had to say, but just chose not to listen.

This type of outside negative publicity not only reflects badly on the university's ability to execute everyday tasks. For years, the relationship between the administration and the faculty is straining. Stated one professor. This strain was described by one student who is a beginning faculty member. "When independent people come in and review us, he heard what they had to say, but just chose not to listen."

"The lack of faculty influence over salaries and other administrative decisions are manifest in a Supreme Court case that dates back twenty years. In the late seventies, Yeshiva faculty wanted to unionize to place themselves in position to negotiate with university management. The university filed an injunction to prevent this from occurring, and a case arose that the university won. The case of Zuckerman vs. the Supreme Court. The court ruled that university professors are in actually considered management, and therefore are prohibited from unionizing.

"It is simple ironic that while the University fought so hard to call us management, we have no influence over any aspects of the way to the Supreme Court. The court ruled that university professors are in actually considered management, and therefore are prohibited from unionizing. The equivalent to senior check, quick processing, wrong or not. The equivalent to senior check, quick processing, wrong or not.

The impetus behind the decision to force Davis' resignation is not clear. Not a single administrator was able to provide any satisfactory reason. Why Davis was asked to resign. There have been a great number of speculative reasons and conspiracies theories offered by many sources, none of which have been confirmed. However, one person was quoted as saying within the dean's office that noted the registrar's office has accumulated a track record of below par performance for some time.

Student sentiment against the registrar's office has existed in the past and has been expressed numerous times on campus. According to students present, the registrar's office was discussed in a negative light at recent meetings of the Student Life Committee. "Many of the people who are involved in the organization and day to day operation of the registrar's office. Students feel that the office is understaffed as well as poor service, two qualities that should not be tolerated in the world of academia," explained one administrator.

The University's general counsel, the Office of the University Registrar, which serves the entire Yeshiva community with the exception of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, has not had a dean on campus. The office's ability to execute everyday tasks has suffered the equivalent to senior check, quick processing, wrong or not. The equivalent to senior check, quick processing, wrong or not.

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The Department of Human Resources, he headed by Dr. Fisher was unavaiable for comment. When Davis resigned, not a sufficient amount of time to judge someone's worth or contribution to the institution," remarked one high level university employee.

Although Dr. Fisher informed Davis of his dismissal, many administrative officials maintain that Fisher could not have given Davis the notice so quickly. "Fisher is obviously the hatchet boy in this," asserted one high level administrator. "Hatchet boy for who is something that remains不清."
When Kerey Rogers threw ball four to Andreu Jones, walk­
ing off the field, the National League’s winning streak was over. Mets fans felt it was a state of dejection. After all, less than half an hour before the team that had come so far to win was just two outs away from forcing a game seven, Rogers once again went to the box to games to none. In a season of incredible twists and unlikely outcomes, it seemed that the most unlikely of all would be to lose a game they had fought so hard to win, that the game that swore the Braves, with their best pitcher on the mound, score five times before the second out of the inning was registered. Yet, the Mets came from behind, breaking the back of the Braves in separate occasions. It seemed for just a moment that the Amazin’s would pull off another miracle. Oddly enough Mets fans were disappointed that they didn’t lose.

But the season was a whole was not a disappointment. The Mets showed tremendous growth over this past year and despite losing the NLCS, they showed the courage and the determination that would prove to be a turning point and a turning stone.

This despite the fact that the Mets were dominated by the Braves, a better team, for the three years. They played the worst of baseball, living with the worst of the Braves. They were brutal rough series, losing three games by one run and the other by only two. In addition, the games they won were played with extreme pressure. When they were trying to avoid being embarrassed by getting swept or by being knocked out in five games. With one out in the bottom of the ninth inning of the series, the Braves had a nine to eight lead and the Mets had visions of a catastrophic collapse of unthinkable proportions, one that looked like it had never been matched in baseball history. No team down three games to none in a playoff series has ever come back to win the series.

This fact that the Mets, in particular, would leave a lasting impression on the baseball world. This year’s team was a different beast. It was thirteen years ago when the Mets won their last championship. In those years, every team that won a division, a playoff team that went to a last day of the season, despite winning ninety-eight games, often were In the playoffs that year, to win their last championship. In those years, time pitcher. At the end of this year, the Mets had 7 starting pitchers, one of whom was Adam Cohen takes your calls and talks sports on WYUR 530 AM, Sunday nights from 11 PM to 11:30 PM (212) 923-2471.

The fanbase, however, was different. The fans could feel the passion of the team. The fans could feel the passion of the team. The fans could feel the passion of the team. The fans could feel the passion of the team. The fans could feel the passion of the team. The fans could feel the passion of the team. The fans could feel the passion of the team. The fans could feel the passion of the team. The fans could feel the passion of the team. The fans could feel the passion of the team. The fans could feel the passion of the team.
White Garbed Men to the Rescue: YU Fencing Team

by HAOAR WEISS

Close your eyes and imagine walking through this lovely surrounding neighborhood of ours. Or actually go for a stroll through the Heights. Now picture a large man looming over you, swatting your face with a glove and challenging you to a duel. Wouldn’t you wish you knew how to fence?

There are three separate divisions in fencing split by the type of weapon one uses: saber, foil, and epee. Each differs slightly from the other two, yet the basic concept is the same, namely to prove that you could have killed your opponent if you had to. To accomplish that, you must score five touches on your opponent within the four-minute time slot allotted to each bout.

The two competitors face each other on a "strip" one meter wide and 14 meters long. If one backstrokes the other off the strip and steps fully off the strip with both feet, a touch is awarded to the other fencer.

In both saber and epee the concept of "leading the attack" applies. This means that the fencer who began the attack first, whether moving his body or weapon, has done so. If, on the other hand, the opponent defended, and then created his own attack and hits his opponent, then the second fencer is considered to have regained the attack and is awarded the point.

In epee, there is no rule limiting any weapon. It is the only weapon out of the three in which a double touch can be awarded, with each fencer gaining a point when the touches are scored simultaneously (within 1/120 of a second of one another). While fencing epee, the entire body qualifies as a target to score touches upon, and in fact it is looked highly upon to gain a touch in odd places such as the wrist or the toe.

In both foil and epee the touch must be scored by hitting the opponent with the tip of the blade, which depresses the springs contained within, closing an electrical circuit. The circuit in turn sends a signal along various wires and cables to a special box on a nearby table where a light turns red and a buzzer goes off alerting the official directing the bout that a touch has been scored.

There are no official weight classifications in fencing, so that someone 5 feet tall and 100 pounds could fence against someone 6 feet tall and 200 pounds, but that is unlikely. Due to the flesh in which the weapon works, most fencers are divided into the weapons based on body build and height, not weight. The taller ones are placed in epee where the advantage of a long reach can be best exploited. Shorter, skinnier fencers are often placed in foil and epee because of the extreme target limitations. Those in between or with a stocky build usually fence saber since the entire blade can be used.

Fencing requires nine starters for the team, three in each of the three weapons. These three in each weapon fence in a rotation with the other two fencers from the other team for a total of 27 bouts per meet. Whichever team wins a minimum of 14 bouts wins the meet. The fencing team at YU currently has a double program: the NCAA and the Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Fencing Association (MACFA). Even though YU is a Division III school, the fencing team competes against all other schools, regardless of division, and has proven highly competitive and sometimes victorious against Division I schools. Every year the team goes to Boston for a weekend to participate in a "mega-meet" against five teams in one day, and fences against such colleges as Brandeis, MIT, North Carolina, Brown and Boston College. In the MACFA Conference a total of 15 universities from Virginia through New York compete against one another in a competition separate from the NCAA’s. MACFA holds its own championships at the end of the fencing season, as well as the NCAA conferences. Both of these are rotated with the corresponding conference. The best of the top teams from this conference include Haverford College, Johns Hopkins University, United States Military Academy (Army), Cornell, and the ever-so-popular the Stevens Technical College of New Jersey.

Last year, the YU epee squad finished atop the MACFA conference, earning the first conference championship for any Yeshiva sport. This year the team hopes for continued success.

SPRIES is currently accepting submissions for its Fall 1999 issue. Now in its sixth year, Spries is an inter-collegiate literary journal committed to publishing works of undergraduate students from colleges and universities around the country. Please provide a copy of your piece along with a short bio (500 words max) and a copy of your work. Please contact Brian Distenfeld at 781-5988.

SHATZEH

Anyone need clothing tested for Shatnez please see Moshe Schreck or Yaakov Gefner in the Beis Medrash or call Moshe @ 212-1029.

FLOOR HOCKEY

All those interested in Floor Hockey Intramurals Contact Eric Dizenfeld, daycare@ymail.com Brian Glass bdglass@ymail.com. Helmet with cage and gloves a must!

TANYA SHUR

The Chabad club announces its weekly Tanya Shur Wednesday, 9:00PM, at Deli Kasha, Spiritual Enrichment and free food! All Students Invited.

TORAH TAPE LIBRARY

The Torah Tape Library needs volunteers so that it can reopen. It is not a big job, but it is a big mitzvah! If you can volunteer or need more info, please speak to Yitz Motzen in Musr 269. (ymotzen@ymail.edu)

WRITING CENTER

Stumped? Afraid to approach that first paper? Do you like to broaden your creativity and writing skills? Writing Center Tutors are Ready, Willing, and Able to help you with any and all writing assignments. We can also help you compose internship and Grad school applications. The Yeshiva College Writing Center Furst Hall, Rm. 202

MASMID 2000

Resume looking a little short? Have some extra time on your hands? Want to help yourself and your class? The yearbook committee has openings, and we could use your resume, and your class by volunteering for a position.YOUR PLACE IN YU HISTORY! For information about openings please call Josh Swedarsky (212) 928-2050.

MONG MART

SNACKS, COLD DRINKS, HOT DOGS Wednesday Nights, Chinese Night Tuesday Night, Sub Night (More nightly specials coming after the holidays) Marg. Basement (off the side from Mong Basement Lounge)

ANYONE INTERESTED IN WORKING FOR MONG. MART THIS SEMESTER PLEASE SEE ELAN IN COMMUNITY LITERACY LAB.

YU TANACH JOURNAL

Submissions should focus on a theme, text, or parshah issue in tanahk. Tentative deadline is March 1, 2000. For more information, please contact Aaron Koller at koller@ymail.com.

6:45 AM MINYAN

Are you a working folk? Do you want to put in an extra sefer in the morning? Please consider joining us for a daily minyan at the crack of dawn 6:45AM, Monday through Thursday in the Mong Basement.

J.S.S. MINYAN

It's back and better than ever! J.S.S. minyan and breakfast. Time: Monday and Thursday - 7:00; Tuesday and Wednesday - 8:00. Place: Furst Hall Beis Medrash (7F). All Welcome!!! Free breakfast every day!!

YC DEANS’ OFFICE WEB MAVENS

Are you interested in working for the YC Deans’ office WebMavens? The WebMavens are looking for a few dedicated students interested in learning more about web publishing. If you’re interested in finding out more, email Doron Simon at dssimon@ymail.com.

COMMUNITY LITERACY PROGRAM REVIVED

All is taking is ONE MEAL A WEEK. The school is a block and a half past Belfer on Amsterdam Ave. You can tutor a student one-on-one, and if you want, you can have more of a mini-classroom with 6 students. One Hour A Week (if you want more, it can be arranged of course). You decide when in the school day you are available, and we will match you up with a student who needs you. This is a great opportunity to perform a community service, to make a kidush Hashem, to have a good time. We would like to start the Program soon, so please respond quickly. David Hain hain@ymail.com Or Robin robbin@ymail.com
CHANUKAH CONCERT TO ROCK LAMPORT WITH DEDI AND AVRAHAM FRIED
BY EPHRAIM SHAPIRO

After months of intense planning and preparation, the Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women Student Councils are proud to announce one of the most eagerly anticipated events of the year – the annual Chanukah Concert Extravaganza. An honor to school tradition, Chanukah Concert ’97 will undoubtedly continue in the YU trend of ensuring each year’s concert is better than its predecessor. Due to tireless efforts by Concert Coordinator, Nuraaf Olimoff, world-renowned singers Ahuvah Fiedler and Fried, the concert was secured to be co-headline a concert for the first time.

Fried, who headlined last year’s concert, will be returning to Lamport once again to help bring in the big-time world of YU audience. Fried, who headlined two years ago and is now enjoying a blossoming career in the music industry, is set to bring a high-energy performance to the audience.

On the flip side, Dedi, who performed at last year’s concert, is set to once again showcase his talent. Dedi, who is known for his unique style and energy, has been well-received by the YU community. His performance is sure to be a highlight of the evening.

The concert will be held in the YU Studio Theatre on December 7th, at 8:00 pm. Tickets are now on sale at the box office of the uptown and midtown campuses.

Yeshiva University Faced with Competition: New Yeshiva Established at Columbia
BY ERZA LEVIN

What does Columbia University have in common with our own venerable College? Often, we think of Harvard's greater student body, but Columbia University is actually a smaller school, with fewer students.

Columbia's new student body, however, is in for a treat with the arrival of Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women. The college's recent move to New York City has sparked a surge of excitement among students and faculty alike.

The new campus, located in the heart of Manhattan, offers a unique blend of Jewish education and a diverse curriculum. Students can choose from a wide range of courses, including courses in Jewish studies, business, science, and the arts.

In addition to the academic offerings, the new campus also features state-of-the-art facilities, including a library, a theater, and a gymnasium. The campus is designed to provide a rich and stimulating educational environment.

The move to New York City has also brought with it a new set of challenges. The college must navigate the competitive landscape of the city, while also maintaining its commitment to Jewish education.

Despite these challenges, the new campus is off to a strong start. Students and faculty are excited about the opportunities that await them in this new environment. The move to New York City is a testament to the college's commitment to excellence and innovation.