ARTS FESTIVAL 2000
Record Number of Students Attend
BY RAMI COHEN

Drawing over one thousand people, the fourth annual YGSCW Arts Festival has come and gone, securing for itself a place in Yeshiva tradition for years to come. Despite many changes made to this year's program, Arts Festival 2000 proved to be the most successful to date.

Yeshiva director could not have been happier with the results of the event. Steven T. Weiss of Yeshiva College, and Rebecca Leicht of Stern College for Women shared the burden as co-directors of the festival, as this year's festival was co-sponsored by Stern College for Women and Yeshiva College. Past festivals were sponsored solely by Yeshiva College.

Festival 2000 kicked off with a student-concert, now slated to be the perennial "opening event" due to its tremendous success. The concert attracted the largest audience of any event, with over three hundred in attendance in Weissberg Commons. Students gave powerful performances, demonstrating the wide range of musical talent in Yeshiva University. The concert included a blend of original music and energetic performance. Hillel Glazer, a YC junior, performed "Jerusalem Stone," an original piece about a Russian immigrant's return to Israel, to the outstanding harmonica accompaniment of Aviand Friedman. Other highlights of the concert included Yakov Fleischmann, Eli Koh, and Danny Zwillinger's performance of Hendrix's "Little Wing.""I feel personally slighted by Gottesman," said Rabbi Hershel Schachter. "They've lost allashame of themselves."

The announcement follows a series of resignations by various upper-level administrators, including Dr. Efrem Nulman, University Dean of Students, Dr. Paul Vinkl, Dean of Cardozo School of Law, Dr. David Nirenberg, Dean of SYMS School of Business, and Rabbi Mevin Davis, University Registrar. Gottesman expressed hope that his resignation will spark other administrators to resign as well, so that the University may continue to grow and promote positive change. He said, "I felt for the good of the institution a rotation of Chairmen, not only on my level, but on the level of the individuals school is appropriate and almost a necessity in order to keep a flow of fresh ideas moving. The example I set has [already] resulted in changes at Ferkauf, Stern and Einstein with respect to the Board, Chairman, Committee Chairman.

BY AARON KLEIN

Yeshiva Chairman Resigns
Encourages Others to Follow
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Encourages Others to Follow
BY AARON KLEIN

David S. Gottesman, who has served Yeshiva as Chairman of the Board for seven years, announced his resignation last week effective June, 2000. Robert M. Beren, current Vice-Chairman, will be assuming the Chairmanship upon Gottesman's withdrawal from office.

The announcement follows a series of resignations by various upper-level administrators, including Dr. Efrem Nulman, University Dean of Students, Dr. Paul Vinkl, Dean of Cardozo School of Law, Dr. David Nirenberg, Dean of SYMS School of Business, and Rabbi Mevin Davis, University Registrar.

Gottesman expressed hope that his resignation will spark other administrators to resign as well, so that the University may continue to grow and promote positive change. He said, "I felt for the good of the institution a rotation of Chairmen, not only on my level, but on the level of the individuals school is appropriate and almost a necessity in order to keep a flow of fresh ideas moving. The example I set has [already] resulted in changes at Ferkauf, Stern and Einstein with respect to the Board, Chairman, Committee Chairman.

BY JASON CYRULNIK

The Commentator is split over the details of the article, expressed and regret over contributing to this year's edition. "Had I known such an article would be in here, I would never have written anything for them," said Schachter. "They've lost all tradition and should be ashamed of themselves. They are stealing money from the Yeshiva; this is not what they're being paid to print."

Aaron Kolse, coeditor-in-chief of Beit Yitzchak, said he knew the article would generate debate, but decided to publish it anyway. "To see what the response would be, I wanted to test the waters a little. The response that followed, he said, was not at all what he expected.

Halwani, all of whom are associated with the Jewish Theological Seminary. Rabbi Hershel Schachter, who works in Beit Yitzchak are said to have greatly increased its sales, told

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Pope's Personal Pilgrimage Perceived as Productive

Pope John Paul II recently ended his six day personal pilgrimage to Israel, with some words he uttered at the Kotel, the Western Wall in Jerusalem. He said: "G-d of our fathers, you chose Abraham and his descendants to bring your name to the nations. We are deeply saddened by the behavior of those who in the course of history have caused these children of yours to suffer. And asking your forgiveness, we wish to commit ourselves to genuine brotherhood with the people of the covenant. Jerusalem, 26.3.2000. Joannes Paulus II." These sentiments should be applauded by the Jewish community and would earn credit for their reconciliatory message and moving tenor. Moreover, the Pope's trip to the sites of the Bible was spiritually inspiring to much of the world.

At Yad Vashem the Pope apologized for the members of the Catholic Church who had persecuted the Jews with reference to the Holocaust, uttering the word "shoah. There, at the memorial, Pope John Paul met a group of Jews who had known him as a young man. This trip to Israel has left warm images in the minds of some Jews, while in others' his pro-Palestinian stance drew skepticism. But with the student council elections looming, this concept of "keeping the process clean" is something we can easily change through committees, clubs, and, of course, our newspaper. This power is great in size and quality. I think that in order to gain the most insight into these ideas, it might be beneficial to look to the great writers, philosophers, and thinkers of our time, and our Firefather's times.

As Plato, or shall we say the confines of the Vatican are closed. The Pope should not interfere in our internal affairs or meddle in such issues as the status of Jerusalem. Pope John Paul's trip to Israel has impressed us and was a seminal moment in the relationship between Catholics and Jews. But we must remember that many wrongs perpetrated by the Church have yet to be righted, and objects taken from us have yet to be returned.

The Commentator: an independently operated student publication funded by the Yeshiva College Student Council and published on a bi-weekly basis during the academic year. The views expressed in the columns herein are those of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Commentator, the student body, the faculty, or the administration of Yeshiva University. We do not necessarily endorse any of the products or services advertised in these pages. Copyright 1999, Volume 64, The Commentator. One issue free, $1.00 for each additional issue.

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NEWS EDITOR

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FEATURES EDITOR

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LAYOUT EDITOR

DUDE FEUER
SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

DAVID WALLACH
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Greg Samuels

JULY 23, 2000

11 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!
I've been involved with The Commentator since my arrival here three years ago, and have since been engaged by a situation that beocks itself on an almost daily basis: “What's wrong with some of the administrators?” At certain times I view the administration as a collective body of grumpy men who by nature dislike professors and treat students like migrant workers who happen to be passing through. They are to me an enigma of the most complex design, often acting with no regard for the interests of students or even of themselves. Sometimes, though, select administrators have been very resourceful, exercising rational behavior, interacting properly with other human beings, and occasionally initiating excellent programs that help boost our institution.

I have wondered what it is that causes administrators to do certain things, which sinful forces are summoned to provide them with the necessary inspiration to carry out some of their often ill-advised actions. But after years of debate and thorough analysis, I am proud to announce that I've finally figured it out - some administrators are simply a few pennies short a dollar.

Sometimes the thoughts and actions of administrators have manifested a breadth of postage stamps. Take the S.O.Y. Seferim Sale for example. Over ten thousand Jews make their way to 1111 Hall to browse the many books and religious articles. This is an incredible opportunity for Yeshiva - an institution that pours millions each year into its public relations department - to flaunt itself to the many visitors who come from all over.

The administration should be capitalizing on this event and not use it to snatch prospective students and benefactors, influencing them with the pro-Yeshiva propaganda we have all come to know and love. Instead, Facilities has interfered with every aspect of the sale, from securing the room to obtaining the bookshelves to the utilization of postage stamps. Take the S.O.Y. Seferim Sale for example. Over thousand Jews make their way to 1111 Hall to browse the many books and religious articles. This is an incredible opportunity for Yeshiva - an institution that pours millions each year into its public relations department - to flaunt itself to the many visitors who come from all over.

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The State of The State

THE PUPIL
Yishai Fleisher

I can think of few topics that are more commonly and hotly debated than Jewish education. Indeed, the recent spate of "troubled teens" incidents has brought more attention to the various shortcomings of Jewish education. No single factor can be held accountable for the rising percentage of so-called "at-risk" youth, as the problem has infiltrated all brands of Jewry. Nevertheless, there is this quasi-rationalization that schools should be doing "something" about it.

Driven by public relations factors and a genuine concern for their students, many schools have cracked down on student privileges to protect them from perceived dangers. While the goal is certainly noble, the rules have become increasingly extreme, to the point of counter-productivity and occa­sional absurdity.

A couple of examples: flee free to play (along with a public渲school) for boys in New York has threatened students with expulsion for being caught eating in a nearby pizza place. After all, females eat in the very same establishment. Eventually a compromise was reached, and students are now allowed to order in on Wednesday nights. Local eateries in many communities have been forced to restrict customers from entering. Were such a thing even possible the ordinary right due to administrative panic. As part of the competitive frenzy sweeping the city, intrusive regulations only compound the problem. Noticeable, I don’t believe in the abolition of all rules, but the chains can be loosened just a little. Let the poor kids get a slice of pizza.

As part of the competitive frenzy between schools, which might be indirectly linked to the troubled teens situation, stu­dents can be turned down for all kinds of unjustifiable reasons. Some schools base their opinion of current and prospective students on superficial judgments of the applicants’ mothers. For example, the aforemen­tioned girls school rejects applicants if the applicant’s mother does not cover her hair. Now, I’m all for encouraging people to observe Halakha, but this sort of attitude is simply perverse.

For some reason these same zealots have never forbidden a wealthy parent from pick­ing up her child in a Lexus (let alone allow­ing the child to drive the Lexus) because this display of materialism sets a bad example. I find this very ironic. Everyone who’s looking for a fast-acting solution to the troubled teens situation is misguided by desperation, because it is up to each individual teen to make the right decisions. All anyone can do is set a decent example, which many teachers themselves fail to do, and try to nudge others in the right direction. Imposing sweeping, intrusive regulations only con­pounds the problem.

MIXED NUTS
Chananya Weissman

I\'m not sure how many people you are offering your opinions on classes and professors you have taken.

Surf to the Professor Message Board or discuss the mesorah issue at the Mesorah Message Board www.yucommentator.com

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Mr. Andrew Leibowitz
Coordinator of Student Services
FH 419
960-5480

Dr. Chaim Nissel
Director, Housing & Psychological Services
MO 104
960-5249
Uninformed Statements

To the Editors:

I was dismayed to see the uninformed statements that appeared in your issue of February 21, 2000 relating to the President's Circle and its historical contributions to The Commentator's costs. You seem to have been under the impression that (i) the President's Circle is obligated to continue to provide funds to particular student projects indefinitely and (ii) the University Administration has some special insight into the reasons underlying our funding decisions. Neither impression is correct.

Over the years, if your article pointed out, we have provided significant amounts of money to The Commentator in response to specific requests for equipment upgrades, the publication of special issues, or a specified short-term budget shortfall. By no means has this been an automatic or even an annual occurrence. Every year, we assess a wide variety of requests for funding and try to respond where we think the need is greatest or where opportunities for creativity, new projects or growth can be found. This is why your request simply stated that "this pricey operation could use additional funds to improve even more." Accordingly, as compared to other student projects brought to our attention, funding The Commentator did not engender any real sense of need, innovation or urgency. The President's Circle has the discretion to devote its funding as it wishes and exercised that discretion.

Second, I do not know where anyone got the impression that any member of the University Administration is aware of the basis for our decisions, or that those decisions are based on the content of your newspaper. At no time is any member of the University Administration a party to our decisions. (As you know, the Dean of Students facilitates the presentation of proposals to us, but he does not participate in our deliberations.) Any views of members of the Administration that are quoted in your article are mere, uninformed, speculation.

As a former News and Executive Editor of The Commentator, which has been reading it for over twenty years, I can assure you that the Commentator always has been, and, I hope, always will be, eager to embrace difficult issues and positions. Perhaps surprisingly, however, I am not aware of any decision by the President's Circle on the provision of funds to The Commentator that was based on the content of the newspaper. Whether I agree with positions taken by the current editorial board is irrelevant to the commitment the President's Circle shares, to the continued existence and independence of the official undergraduate newspaper of Yeshiva University. I sincerely hope that you come to understand the basis behind the decision we made, and I look forward to a resumption of the more cordial relationship that The Commentator and the President's Circle have shared in the past.

Louis Tuchman
Co-Chair, President's Circle

Editors note:

Student council was told by the Office of Student Services to "keep the outline as general and brief as possible" because it was merely a proposed to be edited, at the very least, before it was published. Louis Tuchman's comments were made to The Observer, whose so-called "whopping" allocation, alluded to in your article, only begins to redress that imbalance.

Lastly, I am struck by the fact that no one who participated in the preparation of the article in question thought it appropriate to contact the President's Circle itself with regard to the position attributed to it. You alude to the "tight lid" kept on our decision-making process, our "failure to release an official comment" and our "immaturity." Despite the fact that we do not have any obligation to disclose our private deliberations to you, it would have been nice to note that you never received any comment from us. I understand that you attempted to reach us through Rabbi Lamm's office, but we are not part of the University proper and cannot be reached through the University switchboard.

I will note, with what I hope is taken as humor, that student leaders who have sought our funding in the past have had no trouble in tracking us down.

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Racism and Bigotry

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Co-Chair, President's Circle

To the Editor:

Most people don't read restaurant reviews. For the sake of Yeshiva University, I hope few read the review of Polanco, printed in the last edition of The Commentator. Unfortunately, I couldn't tell you what the reviewer thought of the place. In fact, I couldn't get past the first line. It read as follows: "What do you think of when you hear about Mexico? The first things that come to my mind are little men with mustaches, cheap labor and contaminated water."

Repeating the phrase makes me ill. But there it was, staring back at me while I read a newspaper that purports to at least be minimally concerned with morality. For a paper troubled by such lofty ethical issues such as freedom of the press, it seems there is a basic decency that is overlooked, time and again. The blatantly racist word and tone of the article, seemingly benign as it is merely a restaurant review, implies that whatever embarrassment felt by the administration of Yeshiva University, at those times when its undergraduate newspaper is taken off racks and shelves, is founded in a sad reality. If this reality mirrors a bigotry so often found in concentrated Orthodox places (those so many of us recognize but fail to fully address), then we are all to blame. However, the article itself is not the responsibility of the general Orthodox community, rather that of a small portion of the student body at Yeshiva College. These students, appointed to inform and reflect on weekly issues and goings-on in the university, now carry with their position the shame of intolerance which should not be placed on the shoulders of the student body they are presumed to represent. I find it appalling that a thoroughly prejudiced, close-minded view such as this be held. More unfortunate, however, is that it be found printed in a newspaper, if I may use the term loosely, that is supposed to be edited, at the very least, before published.

But, you know, if I began my letter with "What do you think of when you hear about yeshiva? The first things that come to my mind are little men with long beards, big noses and money in their pockets" I'd probably get more publicity and isn't that what journalism's all about?

Rebecca Leicht
SCW '00
Not Always A Kodak Moment

To the Editors:
I have been a student at Yeshiva University for almost a full term now. The one thing I noticed most about the Commentator is that it is a huge advertisement for its editors. I have a hard time flipping through the pages and not finding a photo of Aaron or Alex or some other editor. There is much more to the student body than the "all important" Commie staff. It would be nice to see a photo of actual campus activities. Just because you took a photo of yourself on campus doing something does not mean you publish it.

Jonathan Kraut
SSSB '03

Censorship Practices

To the Editors:
I am dismayed by the recent controversy in RIETS concerning the Beit Yitzchok. If the Beit Yitzchok is a publication of the students in SOY, then why should the Roshei Yeshiva feel that they have free reign to exert editorial control whenever it offends their sensibilities, religious, aesthetic, or otherwise? If the current plan goes through to have the editors handpicked by the Roshei Yeshiva, then the Beit Yitzchok should no longer be properly called "published by the Student Organization of Yeshiva," but rather "published by the Rabbeim of RIETS (with technical help by the students of SOY)." And furthermore, why should student funds be used to pay the cost of publishing a publication when it is stripped out of the hands of the Talmidim?

Jonathan Winchester
YC/MYP '97

Purim Fun

To the Editors:
Saw the issue; glad you are maintaining the traditional low standards for this once-a-year extravaganza.

Dr. Norman Adler
Dean of Yeshiva College

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.
Catch the hooplah!
The top Jewish high schools basketball teams in the nation will battle it out at the Yeshiva University Red Sarachek High School Basketball Tournament 2000

Thursday, April 6 – Monday, April 10, 2000

Akiva Hebrew Day School – Southfield, MI
Ben Lipson Hillel – North Miami Beach, FL
Block Yeshiva High School – St. Louis, MO
Columbus Torah Academy – Columbus, OH
Cooper Yeshiva High School – Memphis, TN
Fuchs Bet Sefer Mizrachi – University Heights, OH
Hebrew Academy of Greater Miami – Miami Beach, FL
Hillel Academy of Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh, PA
Hillel Yeshiva High School – Ocean, NJ
Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy – Overland Park, KS
Ida Crown Jewish Academy – Chicago, IL
Maimonides School – Brookline, MA
MTA – New York, NY
Robert M. Beren Academy – Houston, TX
Shalhevet High School – Los Angeles, CA
The Yeshiva High School – Boca Raton, FL
Valley Torah High School – North Hollywood, CA
YULA – Los Angeles, CA

First Round Thursday, April 6, 2000
11:00AM Ida Crown Jewish Academy vs. Mesivta of Greater Pittsburgh
12:30PM YULA vs. Akiva Hebrew Day School
2:00PM Shalhevet High School vs. Fuchs Bet Sefer Mizrachi
3:30PM Robert M. Beren Hebrew Academy vs. Block Yeshiva High School
5:00PM Cooper Yeshiva High School vs. The Yeshiva High School
6:30PM Hebrew Academy of Miami vs. Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy
8:00PM Ben Lipson Hillel vs. Columbus Torah Academy
9:30PM Valley Torah High School vs. Maimonides School
Over the past eighteen months, it seems that almost every article in just about every section of every newspaper features a take on either investing or the stock market. Individually, the two areas of interest are portrayed in a positive light. The Internet is ushering in a wave of ideas, to which people can connect without regard to location, schedule or social class. The stock market continues to rise to that point that everyone can become rich without having to work.

When the two areas intersect, however, excitement rises to a fever pitch and a dangerous edge emerges. There are two popular "combination" stories that have surfaced. First, we find continued focus placed on the performance of Internet stocks. Investments in the stock market have historically doubled in value every six years on the average, but investments in Internet stocks seem to double every day. On the other side of the equation stand stories that feature the rise of on-line investing. Stock investors flock to the Internet for every new tidbit, culminating in an insistent cycle. Investors look to the Internet, pushing up the value of Internet stocks, causing people to invest in those rising stocks, thus leading even more people to turn to the Internet to invest.

Traditional investors buy stocks for the earnings that a company's figures represent. In light of this simple fact, turning our attention to Internet stocks reveals a surprising fact. Most Internet stocks have negative earnings (i.e. they lose money) and negligible tangible assets. Accordingly, we find that investors are discarding the traditional sources of value and are turning to Internet companies for their potential. In truth, however, the revenues do not belong to shareholders. Worse yet, most Internet companies are losing a percentage of their revenue from other Internet companies making the whole thing seem like a shell game. Other Internet companies making the whole thing seem like a shell game. Other Internet companies making the whole thing seem like a shell game.

Stripped of the excitement, the picture is not so wild. There are a few Internet companies with large capital values, companies with little economic substance and high stock prices. But these are small companies, a minor fronth on the market. The Internet companies with large total market values are substantial companies, despite the fact that many of them generate negative earnings. Amazon.com, for example, loses a lot of money, but they also sell a lot of books, collecting real revenue from real people, instead of their losses resulting from their primary industrial goal - book sales - they result from Amazon.com's constant expansion into new realms. It is a risky bet that they can turn these new areas of businesses to profitability, but such success is not out of the question and sometimes worth the risk.

On-line investing is also less exciting than it is usually portrayed. There are a lot of wild daytraders, scams and investment nonsense on the Internet. But, the total dollar volume trading, after all, is still over a trillion dollars daily. Overall, the Internet has served as an enor- mous advance for serious investors with large amounts of money. It is a funda- mental investor - one who is concerned with earnings, cash flow, assets, real people doing real work earning real cash - who

takes true advantage of the Internet. Four hours on the Internet today can yield the kind of information about a company that, in the days of old would have taken weeks to gather. True, there are further steps that need be taken in responsibly investigating a company. Professional investors often need to meet with various streams of people - management, supplier, customers, competition, investor experts. And admittedly, this step still takes weeks or months. But, the amount of time that the entire process requires has been significantly reduced in this new age. For example, typically follow a company for six to eight months before deciding to buy, whereas the period was eight to twelve months before the advent of the Internet.

About a year ago I started my own Internet company. This was the product of the professional investment of a finance professor; if everyone says Internet stocks are overvalued, then business sense would dictate that we create more Internet stock. But, the deepest motivation behind my decision was the hope of packaging (for a profit of course) the good and useful aspects of Internet investing that are all too often overlooked in all the hype. Hundreds of companies were spending billions of dollars to chase small amounts of money, and in some cases no identifiable amount of money at all. But, no one was serving the big money on the Internet, serious Investors looking for serious help.

Before going any further, I must include an important disclaimer. My company involves a public mutual fund. It is a completely separate operation from all the other Internet companies making the whole thing seem like a shell game. In fact, my decision was the hope of packaging (for a profit of course) the good and useful aspects of Internet investing that are all too often overlooked in all the hype. Hundreds of companies were spending billions of dollars to chase small amounts of money, and in some cases no identifiable amount of money at all. But, no one was serving the big money on the Internet, serious Investors looking for serious help.

Once the Fund gets its 5%, I will announce the company at the eRaider web- site and invite all target company share- holders to come to my message boards and discuss the company. I will publish a full professional analysis of the company at the site, and I have hired 36 expert moderators (business school professors and experienced takeover professionals) to add content and participate in discussions.

I believe that I can get between 25% and 40% of the shareholders at my message boards, while management, insiders and institutions will hold less than 15% of the stock market. Of course, the posters...
Yeshiva University Teams With On-line Job Sources

BY AVI BOISSEN

To further aid the student body of Yeshiva University in their collective job hunt, the Office of Placement and Career Services has teamed up with Jobtrak.com, the largest and most popular online job listing service in the college market. Yeshiva University is now one of the many well-respected institutions to become a part of Jobtrak’s database system, which is used by many of the top firms for recruiting purposes.

Currently, Yeshiva University Office of Placement and Career Services coordinates on-campus interviews for its graduating students, bringing employers to campus to conduct recruitment interviews with qualified candidates. Students can obtain assistance in identifying career areas in their chosen career, learning about career options, obtaining general information about a variety of specific careers, identifying potential employers, learning about positions available in specific geographic areas and preparing for on-campus interviews.

Jobtrak.com is an Internet company which provides a job posting and resume database service accessible to its students and alumni 24 hours a day via the Internet. Jobtrak is used by over 400,000 employers and is accessed daily by over 35,000 students and alumni. Unlike other job listing websites, Jobtrak.com has a password-protected database that can only be accessed by students and alumni of partner schools. This security allows employers to target their recruitment efforts nation wide, assuring them a highly qualified, extremely motivated pool of candidates. The service is provided for free to students and alumni while employers pay a nominal fee to post their positions.

“We are thrilled about partnering with Jobtrak.com,” said Robert Lubin, Assistant Director of Placement and Career Services at Yeshiva University. “Utilizing our Jobtrak.com database will give our students many job opportunities, access to more career resources and will make them more marketable for the new millennium.”

In addition to the job listing and resume database, other features of Yeshiva University/Jobtrak.com systems include Career Forums, where students can post questions to college counselors and employers; the Career Contact Network, which allows students to find mentors in a diverse number of career fields; and the Job Search Guide, which includes tips on everything from how to write a resume to negotiate a salary.

The students of Yeshiva University are also very enthusiastic about this new opportunity. As Jeremy Frankel, an SSSB student stated: “The OPCG has always done a great job finding students both internships and permanent jobs, however, they can only do so much. Now, with Jobtrak.com, students such as myself who are currently in the process of looking for the right job, will have many more opportunities and choices.” All of Yeshiva University’s students and alumni are strongly encouraged to use the site. For more information about Jobtrak, and help in accessing the site, please contact the Office of Placement and Career Services.

Next Saturday, March 25, 2000, Yeshiva University will host its first annual Israel Career Night Mixes Economic Policy With Aliyah.

In what was sure to be a sign of relief to start the night off, guest speaker of the Israel Career Night, Daniel Schwartz, the Director of Tehilla, the Division of Israel Economic Mission said: “The Israeli economy is doing very well.” With a Gross Domestic Product of $100 billion, its economy is doing very well indeed. Such was the beginning of Yeshiva University Israel Career Fair, jointly sponsored by Yeshiva College and Stern College Israel Club, along with the Office of Placement and Career Services.

The economy, according to Schwartz, has been healthy for a variety of reasons. The nation has a flat 6% growth rate, and has curbed inflation down to a modest 10%, a long way off from the catastrophic 185% in the 1980’s. The shekel is now fully convertible. As for its long term goals, the Government is interested in cutting its deficit in half from $14 billion. Their exports have also shifted to match world trends. The high-tech area is the source of growth now, as opposed to agriculture, a mere two decades ago. The reason for the shift, Schwartz explained, was twofold: Firstly, there has been a rather successful transition for people who worked in the military, who, with knowledge of electronics and encryption, end up working on tech startups. Secondly, the influx of immigrants with a science and engineering background has given the economy a much needed shot in the arm to advance into the next millennium. The statistic is that of every 10,000 people, 1,35 are scientists or engineers, a ratio twice as large as that of in the United States.

The role of the Israel’s Economic Mission is to attract capital, stock exchange involvement, and United Nation procurement from countries around the world, including the United States. Strong relationships are established between North American firms and Israeli companies, and each new success makes it that much easier to bring in more foreign investment. Companies such as Johnson & Johnson, Motorola, Volkswagen, and Intel have offices in Israel, assisting the already growing industries of software, Internet, telecommunication, and biomedicine.

Among the representative organizations were Hebrew University, Ben-Gurion University, the Aliyah Centers, Yavneh Olami, and Tehilla, all of which provided information on immigration, job opportunities, and research and business, and this event was able to culminate these points.

The Swiss community supported the event with a variety of different stands. From Israel’s Economic Mission, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of health, The Ministry of Education, and many more.

Once upon a time, there was a place that did not know that oversize was old fashioned or that Love and Care were not really ingredients. That place still exists and it is called…

Grandma’s Cookie Jar.

www.GrandmasCookieJar.com

2551 AMSTERDAM AVE. (BTW. 186th & 187th STS.) NEW YORK, NY 10033
(212) 588-4855 KOSHER-D
Tens. Hundreds. Thousands. The number of Internet booksellers has expanded at an exponential rate. While only time will tell who will survive, the advantages to the consumer are readily apparent. A veritable price war has been taking place to weed out the weak, mom-and-pop type Internet sites and leave only the online behemoths such as Amazon and Barnes and Noble. The question is no longer whether or not one will save money by purchasing books online, but how much? Where can a student go to get the cheapest prices on textbooks? How do the online prices compare to our local Posman’s Bookstore? What emerges is a battle that pits the brick and mortar store against the multitudes of online book sites. Who will emerge victorious is more than a battle won. It is a matter of survival of the cheapest.

With the onset of Internet commerce, many online retailers have felt it necessary to search Individual sites. It is here that a net­ surfing savvy student money saving activity begins. The cornerstone of universities has always been the campus bookstore. It was a place where students would gather to purchase school paraphernalia, to buy textbooks, and to peruse through the latest popular book offerings. With the evolution of dot-coms, this is no longer the case. Students have realized the exorbitant prices they are paying at the local campus bookstore. If one “can save $40 online on a single book, what is to stop him from doing so?” The result is an ominous one indeed. If the local bookstore cannot sell textbooks, how will it keep its doors open?

Those who are familiar with e-commerce, will recognize the name MySimon.com. MySimon is a comparison shopper on a variety of product categories with the goal being to find the lowest price on any product online. There exists a textbook specific site with the same function as MySimon. The Web site is called Addall.com. One can enter any information about a textbook and receive the price on that book from a variety of book sites online. This enables the student to comparison shop just one site, saving hours that would have been spent searching individual sites. It is here that a net­ savvy student money saving activity begins.

Let us chart the path of a single textbook for $66. It is offered new at the bookstore for $90. How much would he save online? Enter Addall.com. The site asked to enter a shipping destination, currency to quote the price in, and one of four search methods: Author, ISBN number, Title or Keyword. For this text the student entered the ISBN number (found on the inside cover and on the back of the book) and hit enter. Addall.com then searched 34 different online book sellers and churned out for him, in price order, the offered price for the text, broken down into the text price and shipping told him if the text was in stock and how long it would take to ship. The student found the lowest price NEW was $57.65, including ship­ ping! A savings of over $30 off the new price and even $8.35 less than the used price as offered by Posman! Addall.com also offers a search for used books, but generally turns up older, outdated editions of the text.

There is an added twist thrown in by larg­ er online booksellers. Discount codes. Varsitybooks.com is an example of a larger online bookseller that is geared toward the college student. They offer a number of pro­ motional codes that a customer can enter to receive special discounts, including free ship­ ping and $20 off of a purchase of $50 or more. These discounts seriously increase a students savings. According to Joshua Rosman, Varsity’s Campus Representative, “We can provide savings of up to 40% off the distributors suggested price because of low overhead. Because we are on the web, we don’t have the high costs of a conventional bookstore.”

With the explosion of e-commerce, these discount textbook vendors will not be fading away into the night. They are a real force that all campus bookstores, Posmans included, must reckon with. While Posmans has spent the past two semesters expanding into a larger campus presence here at YU, students in universities across the country have discovered the pleasures of buying their text­ books online. Whether through Bigwords.com, Varsitybooks.com, Textbooks.com, or even Barnes and Noble.com, the dot coms have flown out of nowhere and are threatening to knock out the venerable campus bookstore. Who will emerge victorious is more than a battle won. It is a matter of survival of the cheapest.

ATTENTION ALL GRADUATING SENIORS!

Please see Mr. Andrew Leibowitz in the Office of Student Services, located in Rosamans 4th Floor, Room 419, to pick up invitations for the Honors Convocation.

An Important Note: The invitations are to announce your forthcoming graduation to family and friends and ARE NOT INVITATIONS TO ENTER THE THEATER AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN.

Tickets to graduation will be distributed on May 10th and May 11th along with your caps and gowns.

Posman’s vs. The Dot-Coms

BY JOEL R. FOGEL

The question is no longer whether or not one will save money by purchasing books online, but how much? Where can a student go to get the cheapest prices on textbooks? How do the online prices compare to our local Posman’s Bookstore? What emerges is a battle that pits the brick and mortar store against the multitudes of online book sites. Who will emerge victorious is more than a battle won. It is a matter of survival of the cheapest.

With the onset of Internet commerce, many online retailers have felt it necessary to search Individual sites. It is here that a net­ surfing savvy student money saving activity begins. The cornerstone of universities has always been the campus bookstore. It was a place where students would gather to purchase school paraphernalia, to buy textbooks, and to peruse through the latest popular book offerings. With the evolution of dot-coms, this is no longer the case. Students have realized the exorbitant prices they are paying at the local campus bookstore. If one “can save $40 online on a single book, what is to stop him from doing so?” The result is an ominous one indeed. If the local bookstore cannot sell textbooks, how will it keep its doors open?

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ELECTION
DAY 2000
ROCK
THE VOTE!

ALL STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD

THURSDAY
MARCH 30, 2000

POLS OPEN 11:00AM
POLS CLOSE 4:00PM

MORG LOUNGE

PLEASE BRING VALID SPRING 2000 STUDENT ID.

Marc Cohen
Marc Cohen is a finance major at SSSB, with an expected graduation of May 01'. He currently attends class full-time, 2 days a week and is employed by some Syrian guy selling professional digital equipment. Additionally, he is actively involved with an Internet start-up company, Diggithril.com, as a strategy consultant. Marc's ultimate professional goal is to be involved with a venture capital at private placement. His immediate concerns are for the improvement of the Sy Syms School of Business. While able to recognize many strong qualities of Sy Syms curriculum, Marc notices a lack of practical experienced offered by the school. He hopes to solve this problem through various workshops and seminars encouraging on-site work at major firms, class activity and through promoting even minimal work experience throughout the academic year.

Ari Kellman
I have long prioritized the value of experience. As students become better acquainted with the system, they come to recognize the importance of a thorough understanding of the inner workings of the University and the way in which improvements can be brought about most effectively. It is for this reason that I have worked hard for 3 years, first as a concerned student and now as the Vice-President of the business school to learn the ways of this University and the most effective methods of accomplishing my goals. Aside from the experience, I believe what will make me a good President is my indisputable desire to work toward the universal goal of making Yeshiva University, and more specifically the Sy Syms School of Business, a true 'Top Tier' school. I do not need this position, and I am not looking for a title to fill my resume. Rather, I seek synthesis of our student voice to achieve those deeds that we all require for better student life. There is no reason for the divisiveness that currently permeates our campus. We can work as a cohesive unit SSSB and YC students together to make YU a place that you would recommend to your friends and a place where you would be proud to say you are matriculated.

Dorian Levy
People ask me why I decided to run for Sy Syms' President. What they are really asking is if I am looking to pad my resume or if I actually might have another reason to run. Those students who do not know me often don't believe me when I tell them that I actually am running because I like YU and I would like to improve it. The mere fact that people are so taken aback by such a statement is one of the things that I would like to change. The idea of having school pride or school spirit seems to be a foreign one to many students here. I feel that with just a little more enthusiasm by the student body, YU can offer more than a convenient place to graduate in two years and hopefully pick up some Dougies along the way. School spirit is why I have been involved in the extracurricular life at YU to the degree that I have been. I've served on various committees (Orientation, Open House, school tours to name a few) for no other reason than it helped the school. I do the sports editing for the paper because I am usually at most of the games and I felt that I could transmit a little of the spirit of the games to others. I am chairing the annual Sy Syms dinner because I feel that it is an important event and I would like to help make it even better way that I can. I serve as the Junior Class President because I feel that I can relate to many of my classmates and if I can be of service to them, I feel obliged. I painted my face and got ejected from the YU Macs playoff game because, all right, I really don't have a good excuse for that, but I meant well.

On Thursday, the SSSB student body has a chance to pick a president that will hopefully be able to lead them as well. I feel that I could transmit a little of the spirit of the games to others. I am chairing the annual Sy Syms dinner because I feel that it is an important event and I would like to help make it even better way that I can. I serve as the Junior Class President because I feel that I can relate to many of my classmates and if I can be of service to them, I feel obliged. I painted my face and got ejected from the YU Macs playoff game because, all right, I really don't have a good excuse for that, but I meant well.

On Thursday, the SSSB student body has a chance to pick a president that will hopefully be able to lead them as well. I feel that I am the best candidate for the job. In terms of a platform, I hope to bring academic advisors to Sy Syms, a prominent senior and freshman/sophomore counseling/guidance system, and a streamlined recruiting process. But the main thing that I want to bring to Sy Syms is a little more school spirit for a school and student population that deserves it. On Thursday, please give me that chance. Please vote for Dorian Levy for SSSB President.
IBC student, my philosophy is to be and they were never addressed before. The university should help students feel more connected to both the campus and the university. It needs to be more open to serve the students and to provide us with our needs. In the cafeteria issue - we deserve a variety of better food with cheaper prices, which can be achieved by making the meal plan optional. We need to cut the lines and the bureaucracy in the registrar and deans' office and deserve to have the teachers' evaluations form in order to make better academic decisions. We also deserve new opportunities to hear interesting speakers. This wonderful place combines the light of Torah with college education. This is a combination that does not exist anywhere else in the world and many times the administration is not aware and does not understand our special needs in this unique place.

Our true desire is to be all part of one place. Every student deserves to have an opportunity for individual development in the program that fits him best. On the other hand we all want to feel part of the place where we live and that, I want to offer a few things for all the students of Yeshiva. New classes about the history of the State of Israel, for example, are a necessity in this Jewish school with all the potential candidates for Aliya. Joint events with other students from other universities such as NYU and Columbia can also help achieve the same goal of unifying the student body while helping the social life as well. We should have more events that enrich us.

I am aware the column space is limited; still I would like to finish with what I have opened. I live in two worlds; in the United States, among my friends in Yeshiva, and in Israel, where I grew up. I have the good things of both of these worlds. I want every student to feel comfortable with what I do and with the fact that I represent him. This is what I am asking to have. I want to be in the best way I can, to make sure that students will benefit from it and that we will make "mekadesh shem shanaim" in our deeds.

As a member of various extra-curricular activities, I have had the chance to meet many people. Often times, as I would talk to these new acquaintances, the conversation would shift to how we don't care about a certain thing in this school.

As the list was quickly growing, it finally dawned on me: to effect change I was going to have to do it myself by becoming President of YCSC.

Many of you may find my campaign ideas appealing, and that's because it's you who asked for it. You see, as the people I spoke to complained, I mentally took note of their complaints. The suggestions that I thought were most feasible became my campaign promises. That's why I promise you that I will replace the lousy TVs in the lounge with new HDTVs. There is no reason in the world why I can't start a new YCSC newsletter to let you know how hard I am working for you. Similarly, I can set up a YCSC website that will be updated often to give you up-to-date news of current events, as well as help me get a feel for what the students are feeling. I can promise to work on the parking predicament in this school, because anyone with a car knows that finding parking under the current circumstances is a very arduous task. I can work hard with the administration with the goal of improving the areas of education that have suffered recently due to the lack of sufficient funding to the various departments. The list goes on and on, but I want to continue with what's best for the student.

Before you go to vote, ask your self the following questions:

- Do you have any active and better funded clubs? Do you want Ethernet in the dorms? Do you want more free bowling? Do you want an improved WYU with better equipment and better facilities? Do you want free shuttle service to the airports? Do you want the library open on Saturday nights? Do you want longer weekend hours in the gym? Do you want more Midtown shuttles on the weekends?

- Do you want a candidate who is there to serve the students and not himself? Do you want real change in the Caf? Do you want a better YU?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you should ask yourself one more question: Who is the one candidate who will bring all this to you?

The only answer is the candidate whose record clearly displays his ability to do this - and much more, if you allow him... AYEKH GOLDBERG.
Yeshiva College Dramatics Society
35th Anniversary Season
presents
our spring 2000 production

GOD'S FAVORITE

a comedy
by Neil Simon

PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH SAMUEL FRENCH INC.

SCHOTTENSTEIN THEATER
560 West 185th Street Between Audubon and St. Nicholas

SHOWTIMES
Saturday, April 1, 9:00 PM
Sunday, April 2, 3:00 PM
Monday, April 3, 9:00 PM
Tuesday, April 4, 9:00 PM
Wednesday, April 5, 9:00 PM
Thursday, April 6, 9:00 PM

TICKETS
Eric Schubert
Box Office Manager, RU 402
24 Hour Ticket Hotline:
(212) 960-0103
Stern Box Office:
Jenny Benn 684-2781 BR 7E
Arona Schneider 683-1172 BR 5G

ADMISSION: $5.00
Interview With Ben younger, Director of "The Boiler"

Up-and-coming talent Ben Younger, the writer/direc-
tor of New Line Cinema’s hit film “The Boiler Room,” has
developed a great deal of notoriety, much attention, in recent weeks. His new release, which stars Giovanni Ribisi, Vin Diesel, and teen-heart-throb Ben Affleck was well received by audiences, and served as a major spin-off in Younger’s contiguous trek onto the Hollywood scene. Below is an exclusive interview conducted by The Commentator’s Senior Film Correspondent, Yair Oppenheim.

The Commentator: What led you to write the script for the ‘Boiler Room’?

Ben Younger: Well, when I was considering the idea of writing a script, I took my job at the comptroller’s office: I was in politics, working for Alan Hevesi, and then I just decided to try something different. I decided to become a grip, working as a grip, but I had to make a move, so I interviewed at this job, and that’s how I found this world.

Commenter: What did you do to substitute for not going to film school?

BY: By gripping. I’ve always preferred the experi-
enced route as opposed to the academic one. I learn better on the job, and I’ve had hired on as an assistant to someone telling me “Let me teach you how to do it in theory - look at all these other people who did it, and then you can go try it.” I had no preconceived notions of how to be a filmmaker; I knew nothing. So the only actual education I had, was going to the video store and renting movies - it’s very liberating because you can see what works and what doesn’t work. I want to tell a story, and you feel your way through it and you make some mistakes, that perhaps some film school gradu-
ates would have no connection to their heritage. People can ques-
tify themselves, being a Jew is so much of my identity, it’s so

Commenter: How did you get from that point to acquiring an agent?

BY: Well, by working as a grip you meet a lot of pro-
ducers, or its up to you to do that. Rather than just do your job, you can also “schmooze” with them during lunch. I definitely did the latter. I talked to everyone
cuter on every job. I wasn’t shameless about it; I had
tact when I did it, but I definitely made a connection, an impression, got a phone number and said “I’m going to be sending you a script.” What was funny, was that in the end, with all the connections that I had made, it turns out that this guy I met at a restaurant I was wait-
ing at, Steve Kerpes, a writer, was the one who ended up helping me out. He just asked me if there was any-
thing I could show his agent - and the X was this short film. There are several possible explanations.

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**The Boiler Room**

Starring: Giovanni Ribisi, Vin Diesel and Ben Affleck

BY YAR OPPERHEIM

With the flurry of hype hovering over the rising Dow Jones average, along with the onslaught of on-line trading, the world of money is looking better than ever in the jaded eyes of greedy youth. And what better to introduce them to the evils of money as Seth tries to make sense of it all, never knowing how exponentially complicated his life has now become. Money is clearly an object, as his supervisor Jim Young (played remarkably well by Ben Affleck) says: "After your third year in the firm, you will be a—ing millionaire." Not to mention that the pressure is high to "always be closing" deals with potential clients. After finding a powerful over the phone, seems perfectly in sync with how he truly must become someone else when making a call. Written and directed in style by newcomer Ben Younger, Boiler Room offers a welcome return to a genre absent for so long from the cinema, and is a welcome treat after a nice cold call.

The acting in the film is due praise mostly because of the perfect casting for the many roles involved. By far, the most entertaining character in the film is Ben Affleck's Jim Young, who, in one of his best roles to date, perfectly encompasses the "tussing, nouveau-riche Long Island white trash" persona, that is a Michael Douglas (of the film Wall Street) wannabe. Vin Diesel's role as Seth's mentor/friend Chris is electric as he nearly steals the show every scene he's in. Notable is Giovanni's Ribisi's performance as Seth, which, though may seem unconvincing, of how such a mild-mannered boy could possibly transform into a powerhouse over the phone, seems perfectly in sync with how he truly must become someone else when making a call.

The film puts the "boiler room" operation in a realistic light, pausing its visceral reality with its harsh consequences, leaving its protagonist once again trying to judge what's wrong with a little more money, a little more lying, and a little more insensitivity. The ethical/moral dilemmas abound long from the cinema, and is a welcome return to a genre absent for so long from the cinema, and is a welcome treat after a nice cold call.
An Interview with the Editors-in-Chief of The Commentator

AUTHORS NOTE—The following is a special editorial contributed to The Commentator. The concept, content, editing, and question selection are the sole responsibility of the editors, who are not members of The Commentator. The only part played by the newspaper itself aside from the actual publishing was the agreement to the interviews, which took place separately, to ensure accuracy of responses.

BY ERIC GUTMAN

EG: Do you feel a newspaper should be objective?
AK: Define objectivity.
EG: Without personal opinion.
AK: Many consider objectivity a policy that a paper be to one hundred percent objective. Personal opinions are always insinuated into the articles, whether by the editors or by the writers themselves. I think you shouldn't use the word 'objective,' but 'responsible.'

AT: No. If a newspaper were objective, however, sometimes when the paper has an agenda, it is important to be able to get its message across.

EG: Do you think the lack of objectivity is good, or just incidental?
AK: There is no such thing as objectivity. The word 'true,' it doesn't exist anywhere.

EG: It's not the ideal goal of a newspaper?
AK: You try to be as close to the communal standards of 'objectivity' as possible.

AT: That's not a correct question. Do you make any attempt whatsoever to keep your newspaper objective as a whole, or is it merely a forum for you and the rest of the government?

AT: No, we go in with a fairly objective approach. However, we do take a subjective stance on many occasions.

AK: Absolutely not. One of the problems here is that there are a lot of details in each story that we know about that the general student body does not. There are so many different sides to each story, so many behind-the-scenes things we see that people don't see. So when we angle a story a certain way, people think we're being insincere in our own political views, but we're really drawing a lot from a whole we can't put into print.

EG: How much do you think a writer's slant affects an article?
AK: A writer's slant affects an article one hundred percent.

AT: The job of a journalist is to look at and sum up a story, see what happened and synthesize, so if the writer knows what's happening then his angle is going to be the 'correct' angle. It usually affects a story greatly because we're looking at the situation through his eyes, not our own.

EG: When you are deciding which articles to put in the paper, do you specifically look for controversy, just to make The Commentator more "juicy?"

AK: No. At all. We don't look for controversy; it comes to us. As the student newspaper, we are a platform for concerned students.

EG: With an interview of Benjamin Netanyahu under its belt, maintained it does not adhere to. Do you believe these standards?

AT: I do feel that it is my responsibility to speak for the student body.

EG: In the first Issue of the fall 1999 semester, there was a large article about The Commentator. Its editors-in-chief are Juniors, while the administration is inevitably going to cause a certain backlash. How do you feel about this? Does this run The Commentator's otherwise good name?

AT: Yes, I think that because of our reporting on those issues that were going to affect the rest of us this year. The administration has been previously trying to control student rights, and this year was taker a bandstand, and saying they're not going to get away with it. It's the first time in recent memory the administration has ever had to answer to The Commentator.

EG: During dorm talks, Rabbi Lamm made the strong point that The Commentator does not reflect the views of every student in the yeshiva. It's editor-in-chief, Jayman's opinion that the administration is inevitably going to cause a certain backlash. The students can now walk around like The Commentator is the only part they are being the official newspaper that we've done has negatively affected student life. I think the administration has reacted positively to our issues.

EG: How does exposing the administration help the student body?

AT: I do think that we've ever truly exposed the administration. We certainly never exposed any of the private practices of any of the administration's members. It is really a shame that the dis-appearing Commentators, New York Times boxes, etc. We're not exposing anything. These are things students have raised complaints about, and we're just putting them in print.

AT: Do you feel that it is at all hypocritical that while The Commentator is so fond of exposing corruption within the administration, both its editors-in-chief are Juniors, while the VCS constitution clearly states that 'the editor-in-chief of The Commentator must be a senior?'

AT: Both myself and Aaron have spent more than a number of seasons on campus, and our experience is equal to that of a senior. I feel that Aaron and myself are far from being the most well-qualified people for the job, despite our junior status. With its articles, as well as its correspondence with the New York Times, this year The Commentator has caused the University much embarrassment, cost it a great deal of money, and was indirectly responsible for the forking of at least one administration official. That's this year's job? Does this actually make you feel proud?

AT: I don't think that our job is to force administrators out of their offices, nor do I think that The Commentator's job is to defend the rights of the student body, and I think that we've done that pretty well this year. Any defense of student rights is a defense of The Commentator's administration is inevitably going to cause a certain backlash.

EG: Final question—what would you say to somebody who says to you that The Commentator?

AT: I would tell them to open it up and read it. There are many worthwhile issues discussed within its pages, and there will never be a newspaper with which nobody takes offense to any of its articles. Over all, you have a valuable forum for the student body.

AK: I wouldn't respond.

"Because you feel better, you shall be judged."

*[Pirkei Avos 2:7 (Interpretation)*]
AN INSIDE LOOK AT GETGRAD.COM

BY JOEL R. FOGEL

By now we have all gone through the nail-biting experience of retrieving our grades online from GetGrades.com. This service is essentially an extension of the Registrar’s office initiative online. The system is very user-friendly and simple to use, with good instructions on how to navigate the system. By clicking on the “My Grades” tab, the student is able to access their grades directly. The grading system is straightforward and easy to understand.

The major advantage of GETGRAD.COM is that it provides access to grades in a timely manner. Grades are posted online as soon as they are received, which means that students can check their grades at any time, day or night. This is especially useful for students who have exams or deadlines coming up and need to know their grades as soon as possible.

The system is also very secure, with multiple layers of encryption to protect student information. This means that students can rest assured that their grades and personal information are safe.

One drawback of the system is that it does not include directed or independent study classes, nor does it take into account study classes, nor does it take into account final grades. These forms are submitted to the Registrar’s office, and the posting of grades is not automatic. Therefore, students need to check with the Registrar’s office to ensure that their grades have been posted.

In addition, the system does not include grades entered into grading software. This means that if a student is enrolled in a course that uses grading software, they will not be able to access their grades through GETGRAD.COM.

Overall, GETGRAD.COM is a convenient and user-friendly system that provides timely access to grades. However, there are some limitations to the system, such as the exclusion of directed or independent study classes and study grades. Despite these limitations, GETGRAD.COM remains a valuable tool for students who need to check their grades quickly and easily.
‘Mentally Chill’ Rocks Campus Despite Administrative Obstruction

BY COMMENTATOR STAFF

"Mentally Chill." Ambiguous as it first sounds, these two words brought new meaning to the lives of hundreds of Yeshiva University students and faculty on Monday, March the 27th. Mental Illness Awareness Day saw the dissemination of information tearing down the brutal walls of societal stigma towards the mentally ill, and the raising of awareness to the mental illness crisis. counselors, also serves as the head of the dormitory. The program has been highly successful. During its first semester, one hundred students out of a student body of twelve hundred contacted the service for help. The director of the program, Fred Kreizman, commented, "I am extremely happy that peer counseling has gotten off to a successful start, and I hope it continues to help students in any way it can for many years to come."

The counselors are usually active members of the student body and are well-known and well-liked. The students can consider the entire list of counselors in hope of choosing the one with whom they feel most comfortable speaking. The matter remains confidential even among the counselors themselves. This way, if a student has a friend on the council he can avoid contact with that friend if he so desires.

The counselors choose to deal with any issues that they feel equipped to handle. If the particular student concern is about biopsychosocial capabilities, they may offer the service to either Dr. Nulman or Dr. Nada Beth Glick (academic problems) without mentioning names. In extreme cases, a psychologist is recommended. The first meeting always results in a follow-up call by the counselors to make sure the students are doing okay and that the problem has been adequately addressed. In the instance of academic concerns, it can be arranged for the student to meet with a tutor periodically.

Thus far in its first year, the peer counseling program has been highly successful. During its first semester, one hundred students out of a student body of twelve hundred contacted the service for help. The director of the program, Fred Kreizman, commented, "I am extremely happy that peer counseling has gotten off to a successful start, and I hope it continues to help students in any way it can for many years to come."

The Peer Counseling service does not plan to stop here. Including its latest round of successes, the counselors and members of the Yeshiva community are hopeful of further expansion in the near future. The counselors have already approached the academic Dean Efrem Nu Iman, although extremely trustworthy in his role as head of student services, has a direct connection with disciplinary action. As a result, students often feel that revealing certain information to the two administrators as well as the mental illness counselors are, they might be detrimental to their college careers.

Consequently, the idea of peer counseling emerged a couple of years ago because it was thought that there were numerous students who needed to talk and did not have the proper channels for doing so. Before the advent of the program, there were only two confidants to whom students could turn, both of whom were handicapped by their administrative duties. Dr. Nulman, Yeshiva's student psychologist, also serves as the head of the dormitory. Dean Efrem Nu Iman, although extremely trustworthy in his role as head of student services, has a direct connection with disciplinary action. As a result, students often feel that revealing certain information to the two administrators as well as the mental illness counselors are, they might be detrimental to their college careers.

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Gottesman continued from page 1

what I had expected." Stern, in defense of his work, confirmed that "I went over the article with Shamma Yehuda Friedman, the world's leading tal­ mudist, who found it difficult to see it as sound and convincing. We [Katz and I] tried to follow in Yeshiva's Torah U'mada tradition and give something positive and meaningful to the public as a whole.

Perhaps most disturbing are reports that some eleven boxes containing the newly published sefer were removed from this year's SOY Seforim Sale. Sales manager President Scott Nadel, stated, "Now they're only left in the freight elevator and taken by other complaints they had against this year's edition, which was about half the size of the previous year's edition, which was about half the size of the previous year's edition, but was not published until February. Further, the administration expressed their disappointment with the lateness of the book, which was scheduled for printing in June, but was not published until February. As a result, the volume carries the date '5769,' the current Hebrew year, the administra­tion feels that it should have been dated 5759, the year in which it was supposed to appear, in order to keep the integrity of the series intact.

Koller explained that "the delay was caused by negligence and laxness on our part." He attributes his failure to include a tribute page for the donors to a "lack of com­munication between the students and the administration" although the page was included in prior years. He concedes that this year's edition, which was about half the size of those from previous years, "did not turn out as planned.

Koller would not comment on Facilities' removal of the publication, but admits that "I now think the controversial article didn't belong in Beit Yitzchak." You find the right girl.

We will help you close the deal by finding you the perfect diamond.

As a father of a Stern Graduate (and the father-in-law of a Yeshiva College Graduate), I know how challenging it can be to satisfy a girl's taste.

We can supply you with any shape and size diamond at wholesale prices worldwide.

We can also supply you with any style mounting.

And, most importantly, we will help you please not only your fiancée, but your future-in-laws as well!

Professor Fired continued from page 1

at times gave way to very candid discus­sions and his concern for his students. Feinber g had submitted to demands to attempt Feinberg's antics have changed this semes­ter. While the official class hours spanned until 8 o'clock at night, Feinberg rarely, if ever, left his office building and often as late as 10:30. On his own time he instructed students personally, driven by the promise that he saw in each one and his devotion to his students. Feinberg's sig­nular personality was what drew many of the students to carve their schedules to accommodate his energy levels.

Feinberg, however, points to other fac­tors that contributed to his decision to address some off-color topics in class and his way of expressing a particular feeling that he was trying to pinpoint — a methodology that he feels is closely con­nected to his methodology.

Feinberg points to the wide array of stu­dents that his classes have addressed as the most important factor in explaining some of his behavior. He feels that the availability of psychiatric medication that he currently takes, and never-to-be future students.

"Dr. Feinberg has an Incredibly deep founda­tion of knowledge to offer his students ... and I am just proud of his accomplishments, he concludes."
As Trading Deadline Looms, Islanders Face Crucial Decisions

by Adam Cohen and Michael Levy

The once effervescent aura around an NHL dressing room transforms into one of doubtful contemplation and conspicuous silence. Where once the voices of heroes, their minds elsewhere, retracing the game and wondering whether their errors will earn them a one-way ticket out of town. The trading deadline approaches, every player's future is put into jeopardy. No player, especially those who play for contenders, want to be told that they have to leave their home of the only home. That they have to tell their wives that their lives have been uprooted and their children now must go to school in another climate. That they have to make new friends in new dressing rooms with new management and even new fans.

If the prototypical player gets this quota unrestricted free agent status at the end of the season, New York Islanders are doubly burdened. The Isles are the only New York team with serious payroll considerations despite the fact they sported one of the smallest payrolls in the league. In fact, since the season has started, with the trading of Gino Odjick, Tony Hrkac, and the release of Richard Pillon, the average age of an Islanders roster decreased months from 23.5 to 24.8 years. Veterans are hard to come by on the Island, so rare, in fact, that the captain is 25 years and fresh off 10 years of age mediocrity. You can't sign players like the emerging rookie Tim Connolly, 18, look up to those team leaders. In an interview a few weeks ago, Connolly himself claimed that veterans such as Claude Lapointe and Kenny Jonsson are instrumental in his development. But as March 14, the day he was 18, arrive, the masses of young, sporadic players who have become the binding glue of a team badly in need of a strong nucleus and a concrete, identifying vision, have heads in a new house which have been mentioned repeatedly throughout The NHL rumor mill.

These rumors are linked to Lapointe's unrestricted free agency and the Islanders have undergone a complete renovation. They have slowly built through trades and the draft, an outstanding collection of young talent; the best in hockey, some experts claim. But an excess of youth and a seeming period of latency translate to a few lean years of immaturity, many losses, and poor attendance. This is all done in the hope of future success and the process has worked well for teams such as Ottawa, St. Louis, Toronto, and San Jose.

"Our number one concern is not winning and a few years ago, Connolly himself thought that the Islanders have a team of young talent. They are the onlookers, not the owners. New York Islanders have relaxed if they become a new leader in the Islanders. Above all, but he is still at the peak of his development. He is the veteran of the Islanders and the one who have been in the league a long time and this is the reason why they will end up in the NHL.

Mike Keenan, a Stanley Cup winning coach with the Rangers, is now the color commentator for the Ottawa Senators' local broadcast on CTV Sportsnet. Keenan recently told the Commentator that he might have a different approach than the current Islanders management if he were in charge. "You can't continue to build a winning team when you trade all your veteran players," Keenan remarked. "It will definitely upset the chemistry of the group if [Lapointe and Jonsson] are traded."

When asked how important it is for rookie players, Keenan stated "It is the only development. Professional players absolutely need veterans to teach them the ropes. Things like the veteran's role in the development of the young players is important."

Keenan, then, realizes that management may have no choice; if ownership puts a strong lid on the amount of spending, the Islanders may have their hand forced in the matter. "The decision is mainly a management one... the ownership needs to protect their budget and management... but we don't want to do it we'll have to if the ownership says so."

That would be a shame, though. Keenan sees the Islanders the way most of the league see them, tough, talented, and raw. With the addition of some key pieces, the Islanders could compete with the rest of the teams in the league. That has to come around in the least, in which they realize that the rebuilding is over. Development of the younger players is important, but to do that you have to get some older players."

You also need older players to win, he added.

And so the saga continues. Islander fans are hoping that management decides to do what's best for the players, and not for the pocketbook. The Islander fans have not been doing their part, with attendance extremely sparse in the Coliseum. But they have shown they will come out for a winner. 25,000 tickets sold out for the Flyers when the Islanders legends played the Philadelphia old-timers. The exit of Ian McDonald and Brian Leetch has left the Coliseum once again traffic filled as Islander fans showed up in droves to be reminded again of what it was like when the Islanders were not only competitive but won four straight Stanley Cups. There was an atmosphere of hope in that air that if ownership would just be willing to spend the money, the Islanders could come back to Nassau to watch their beloved Islanders.

"Adam Cohen and Michael Levy take your calls and talk sports, Sunday Nights at 11-12 on NYUR 530 AM."
Macs v. Dolphins: A Rare Classic

BY BENNY ROSENBERG

The Yeshiva Macs playoff game against the Mount St. Vincent Dolphins proved to be one of the most well attended in Yeshiva history. The crowd of anxious fans certainly got their money's worth. To put it mildly, it was an exciting game. More accurately, in the words of one YC Junior, it was "the most incredible game witnessed at the Max Stern Athletic Center in years." People flooded the running track above the gym to join the capacity crowd on the floor of the MSAC to witness the beginning of what many hoped would be a tear through the playoff field.

This was the type of game that we all hope to witness when we go to watch a Knicks game at the Garden. Most fans came to witness what they thought would be a dominating Yeshiva squad victory. Undoubtedly, the highflying Macs were expected to manhandle the 7th seeded Dolphins with relative ease. But, that's exactly why the game must be played. Not expected to manhandle the Mount St. Vincent Dolphins proved to be a farcical attempt by Yossi Gev. Naturally, Gev proved to be automatic, hitting both of his attempts at the line. With those shots, the Macs found themselves down by a mere one point, securing their first lead of the game. Compounding matters, the YU fans rose up to the challenge, and rose to their feet in utter silence said it all.

In the second half, the game really took off. The gym filled with Mac cheers as the end of regulation neared. The announcers who called the game for the broadcast on WYUR recall that they could hardly hear each other speak. While students had papers due the next day, and midterms to study for, the game seemed to rise to the forefront of everyone's agenda. It was a long, arduous battle. Every time the Macs came within five points, it seemed like the Dolphins would extend the lead to seven. Eventually though, the Macs cut the margin even further. As one watched this epic unfold, one couldn't help but notice that the game promised to go down in the annals of Mac history as a rare classic.

With 18 seconds left in the game, the Macs found themselves down by a mere one point, and the game seemed to hinge upon two upcoming free throws to be attempted by Yossi Gev. Naturally, Gev proved to be automatic, hitting both of his attempts at the line. With those shots, the Macs went up by one point, securing their first lead of the game. Compounding matters, the YU fans rose up to the challenge, and rose to their feet in utter silence said it all. And so the heartbreaker ended, killing the Mac run through the playoffs in its early stages. Truth be told, however, no one seems to care about the loss anymore. Instead, accounts of the incredible game are being remembered to this day; the fans seem to appreciate the memorable game for the excitement that it provided. The fact is that this game brought everyone to the gym for one great night. Few events have ever brought the student body closer together than this exciting playoff match.

On this night, the Yeshiva Macs basketball team provided a lot more than what most could have possibly imagined.

By DORIÁN LEVY

The Difference Between Disappointment and Exhilaration

As most of you already know, the YU Macs lost in the first round of the Skyline conference basketball playoffs. Many students, though disappointed, were not overly surprised. After all, this was only YU's first year in the ECAC, and that being considered they performed pretty well. A playoff run would seem to have exceeded the expectations of Mac fans. It was a close game, decided by one only point, and though it was a very entertaining game, it was obviously not meant to be. Nothing could have been done to avoid the playoff heartbreak. Nothing different could have succeeded in averting the loss to an obviously highly talented and dominating team. Right?

Unfortunately, it seems that this judgement is far from being equally true. Based on all of the reports of our friends who are not in YU, it would seem that "YU Life" leaves much to be desired. The idea of NYU converging on Six Points packed into a room and yelling with every play, really paints an exciting picture. Yet, despite a great game this year, the YU Macs have failed to do what the Douglas Superbowl party would probably be the Douglas.

Perhaps this phenomenon is not a criticism of the effort of YU administration, or even Student Services and Student Board. But instead a reflection of the potential of a small, incredibly divided college, in which half of the student body refuses to recognize the other, and the other half couldn't care less. What type of pep rally can be organized for a lowly Division three, religious school? NYU, Rutgers, and other large schools clearly succeed in planning electrifying functions due to the large crowds to which they can appeal. More people means more noise, which means more excitement, which means more reason to come, which means more positive events. Perhaps this is the explanation for YU's failure, right?

As comforting as this would be, it is a farce. In truth, we have received numerous reminders that this hypothesis is far from correct. The playoff loss typifies the error of a such a theory. M. St. Vincent, the winners of the big playoff match, brought with them less than 100 fans. The hosting Yeshiva team was supported by some 600 fans. M. St. Vincent was the seventh seed in the playoffs; Yeshiva was the second. In the two prior meetings between the two teams, YU had successfully routed the Dolphins. Yet, from the start of the playoff game until the final 3 minutes, the outnum­bered visitors shamed the YU crowd, by cheering louder, longer, and more often. M. St. Vincent fans demonstrated that spirit and desire can conquer the obstacles of numerical obscurity and insignificance. By the time that the YU fans rose up to the challenge, and rise they definitely did as the MSAC reached double figures registered at YU, it was too late. The Macs were too far behind. Though they took the lead for a fleeting instant, one that would be lost seconds later on the game's final shot, never succeeding in building the type of lead that would have been secure from such a crushing defeat. One bucket. One bucket is as what separated a melancholy outcome from what could have been an euphoric evening. Try to imagine the scene that would have resulted from a YU victory. Hundreds of fans jumping in unison, tensons waving, rushing the court, stampeding the Burns security guards who futilely try to sustain order. A YU guy from Woodmere hugging the Russian JSS guy on his side, as the arts society and Gush guys exchange high fives! OK, maybe this is a slight exaggeration, but no one can deny that it would have been quite the thrill to have witnessed the monumental victory.

A member of the basketball team told me that homecourt advantage is normally considered to be a ten-point "headstart" for the home team. Unfortunately, they explained, nothing in the Macs had no such headstart. To the contrary, he maintained that the visiting fans may have served as Mt. St. Vincent's sixth man, contributing somewhat to the final outcome of the game. The Macs did not lose because of the crowd. The Macs lost because they played uninspired and they executed poorly. But, just the same, it would have been quite the thrill to have witnessed the monumental victory.

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FENCING TEAM IMPRESSIVELY CLOSES SEASON

BY LAWRENCE TEWNER

You may have seen them leaving on an early Sunday morning. You might have seen them arriving late on a Sunday night. Since the beginning of the semester, the members of YU's fencing team have devoted their every Sunday to compete. They also committed to an entire year of grueling practices Monday and Wednesday nights to ensure that their performance live up to expectations.

Their hard work paid off last Sunday, at Drew University. In their finest season in history, the men's fencing team stunned the Mid-Atlantic College Fencing Association (MACFA) by taking third place at the championships. Yeshiva beat many powerful teams, including Virginia Tech, Johns Hopkins, Drew, Haverford, and the University of Virginia. The MACS were only bested by MIT, Brandies, UNC, Brown, and Boston College. Akiva Hertzfeld, Micha Mandel, Steve Mellner, Yevgeny Pavlovskiy, Lawrence Tewner, Alex Traiman, Hadar Weiss, and Robert Zaretsky all qualified to advance to the MACFA championships and rank among the top ten fencers in the conference. Lawrence Tewner went 9-5 in the second pool and Robert Zaretsky went 10-4 in the third pool.

Because each fencer competes alone in his pool, it was not immediately apparent to team members that Yeshiva had performed so well in the overall competition. The whole team was happily surprised when they were called up to accept the third place award. Head Coach Arnold Messing and Assistant Coach Pete Rosas were ecstatic.

Both were proud of the hard work and dedication that they had witnessed from a team that succeeded in accomplishing more than any of the previous 14 teams that they have coached at Yeshiva. "Seeing one’s athletes dedicate themselves and succeed is the ultimate reward for a Coach; explained Rosas. The Assistant Coach pointed to more than the MACS' third place team finish and the individual achievement of the two all-conference fencers, but also to the qualification of a record number of team members for the NCAA championships. This year, eight fencers will advance to the NCAA regionals, an event that is scheduled to be held this weekend. The fencing team competes in both MACFA and the NCAA. Unlike MACFA where the entire team enters the championships, the NCAA requires that each fencer prove himself worthy of competing in the its regional tournament by winning a certain percentage of his bouts. These wins must come against tough NCAA schools, including MIT, Brandies, UNC, Brown, and Boston College.

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Though fencing is usually known as an individual sport, it was the excitement of the team as whole that inspired everyone to rise to the occasion. An important component of the team is the group of alternate fencers that did not compete much, but remained critical in ensuring the success of those who did. Fencing takes years of practice and the composite of younger fencers who often comprise the alternate squad, represent the future of Yeshiva fencing. With Hertzfeld, Weiss, and Mandel graduating this year, the fencing team can look to hear their names in the upcoming years. In epee, David Wallach and Yevgeny Veyler have both shown tremendous potential. Menachem Farber and Martin Weinheber in foil and Sabre respectively, have improved great lengths this year. Next year they will fill the spots of the graduating team members, ready to uphold yeshiva's increasingly rich tradition of fencing excellence.

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UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF K'HAL ADATH JESHURUN
Shapiro. The Sym's race, though smaller, promised to be equally intense, with Dorian Levy, Marc Cohen, and current Sym's VP. Ari Kellman running.

The success of this year's elections depends on the efforts of the canvassing committee, which has worked tirelessly to clarify the previously arcane and nebulous rules, while ensuring a stringent level of fairness. "In past years," explains committee co-chair Shalom Schwartz, "you had one sheet with all of the rules on it, many of which were unclear. This year, we have held numerous meetings to nail down the exact rules to avoid any controversy, especially with regard to clearly defined spending limits. Now each candidate will know exactly what he's allowed and not allowed to do."

Committee co-chair Moishe Singer added "and this election will be the fairest one in years. Aside from simplifying the voting procedure, we hope to have two neutral observers, one from YCSC and one from The Commentator, observing the ballots at all times, especially during the counting. Of course, we also have to thank Andrew Lebowitz and Andrea Burbank for their help in making this election as successful as possible."

The introductory remarks, which often seemed according to one observer, a YCSC presidential candidate, "unfocused and rambling," were interrupted on numerous occasions by audience outbursts. Azolay began by accusing his opponents of being vague, in contrast to his definite agenda, which offered what he called "relevant solutions to student problems." These included opening teacher evaluation forms to students, as well as running joint events with Jewish communities at other schools. Azolay concluded with a veiled jab at his opponents, noting only he was above suspicion of coveting the presidential job as a resume item.

Cohen spoke next, noting that his campaign centered on "fulfilling the students' desires," specifically referring to his plan for placing high-definition televisions in each of the student lounges. Goldberg followed this by promising to be "an active voice working for the student body and then proceeded to list his accomplishments as treasurer. He included his organization of this year's YCSC Bowling Tournament, as well as his work on "out-of-rooms committee Palacci's intro drew wild crowd approval, after he noted that most of the student body only knew him as a "man who makes people laugh, a man who loves to joke." He continued, however, that his serious side has "a dream of a united school." Shapiro concluded the disappointing introductory remarks with a lackluster call for renewing YCSC's role as "a conduit between the students and the administration."

Taking the podium, Commentator editor-in-chief Aaron Klein challenged Azolay to defend his candidacy in light of his lack of experience as a student leader. Azolay riposted with the observation that YCSC president need not be a politician, just a student representative. He concluded with another attack on Goldberg, remarking that his opponents merely had experience in running a bowling tournament.

The presidential hopefuls debating included current YCSC treasurer Areyeh Goldberg, Commentator sports writer Andrew Lebowitz, Commentator executive editor Pinky Shapiro, IBYC student Zohar Azolay and IBYC student YCSC president Pinky Shapiro. The Sym's race, though smaller, promised to be equally intense, with Dorian Levy, Marc Cohen, and current Sym's VP. Ari Kellman running.

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The Commentator editor Alex Traiman, sharing the podium with Klein, then turned to Shapiro, asking him how his involvement with The Commentator, which has been at odds with the administration over the past year, would affect his contact with administrators as YCSC president.

Shapiro responded that through his work at the newspaper, he had developed better relationships with administrators than any other candidate. "The administration is there for us," he explained, "we just have to know how to approach them, and do." Klein then asked the spotlight on Goldberg, referring the student body's "poor opinion of this year's YCSC," and asking why Goldberg, as a member of that council, deserved another chance in office. "I feel that I gained crucial experience over the past year," replied Goldberg, "and I am not new to the administrators, I know what buttons to push with them to get things done." Commentator editor Cohen, Traiman focused on his lack of experience in student government. Cohen defended his inexperience, adding that his goals were easily accomplishable with student council funding.

Many of the open questions from the audience essentially rehearsed the same questions asked earlier in the debate, although the candidates did provide some new insights in their answers. One original query, asked by YC Senior Guy Samuel, required the candidates to state the most positive contribution to YU they had made. Most of the candidates ducked the question, replying in general terms. Azolay explained that he achieved "many small things, not just one large thing." Goldberg ambiguously referred to his having "made a difference in the past," as Cohen and Palacci both replied that their campaigns were more about what they would do, and not what they had done... Shapiro provided a specific answer in this case, describing how as a member of the academic standards committee, he had prevented measures that would have invalidated any core requirements at summer school.

In another question, a student asked Azolay, Cohen and Palacci what had "suddenly filled them with a burning desire" to run for student office, considering their lack of such activity in the past. Azolay pointed out that he would not be graduating for another two years, giving him incentive to improve the school, since he would reap the benefits as well. Palacci struck to his position as an outsider, arguing that "Being involved doesn't mean having a fancy title. I consider myself important, I know everyone in the room!" Azolay again derided his opponents' experience as proof of their exclusive interest in their resumes, noting that he was "the last person anyone could call inactive on campus."

Candidates' positions aside, the overall tone of the debate did not improve some students. "Although the candidates represented themselves very well," said YC Sophomore Yona Berman, "I felt that many members of the audience were disrespectful and vulgar. I don't think their rowdy actions had any place in a debate."