

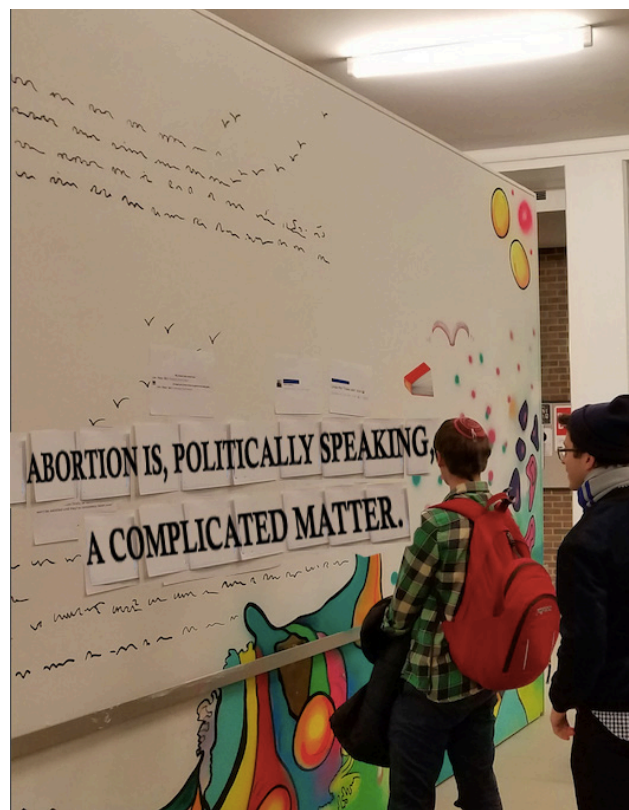


Nuanced Students Create Politically Balanced Mural on Nagel Wall

By Bartholomew Blanche

Over the last few weeks, a number of student groups have used the Nagel Wall as a place to protest issues on campus and promote their important causes. Feeling left out of the fun, YU's Nuanced Thinkers Club decided to create a mural of its own. The Nuanced Thinkers Club is composed of students who always see both sides of issues, middle-of-the-road thinkers who are moderate and measured in all their political beliefs and are able to reach across the aisle. Club members pride themselves on their calm, levelheaded discourse and avoidance of extreme positions. Most of them went to HaKotel.

On Wednesday, March 1, at 9:30pm, five renegade members of the Nuanced Thinkers Club covered the Nagel Wall with posters proclaiming that the issue of the legalization of abortion is a complex matter where both sides have a legitimate point. A large sign in the center of the posters read, "ABORTION IS, POLITICALLY SPEAKING, A COMPLICATED MATTER." Other posters surrounding these words carried anonymous student quotes taken from Facebook presenting the various opinions in the debate and pointing out the inherent logic in each side. One anonymous quote said, "It's important to see both sides of this issue." Another said, "Abortion is legally complex, and both the Democrats and the Republicans have a point." As of press time, the Nuanced Thinkers Club's posters are still up, much to the chagrin of the club and The Forward. One creator of the display remarked, "It's so much more exciting if someone rips it down."



Students gather around the Nuanced Thinkers Club's mural in Nagel Commons



Dean Chaim Nissel took to Instagram to announce his new book, "Why Carlos and Gabby's is not Orthodox," which reportedly explains why YU removed the fan favorite from the cafeteria. The picture went viral within minutes, with thousands of reposts and comments on YU Marketplace.

Rav Goldwicht Designates his Class as a Sanctuary Shiur

By Dennis

Late Monday night, visiting Rosh Yeshiva Rav Meir Goldwicht released a statement declaring that his classes in the Beit Midrash Program and the Mazer Yeshiva Program will henceforth be designated as "sanctuary shiurim." In an unprecedented move in Yeshiva University Undergraduate Torah Studies, he plans to withhold all attendance records unless presented with a warrant or subpoena. While other parameters of this designation remain murky, it seems clear that Rav Goldwicht aims to protect his students from increased scrutiny at the hands of morning program administrators, who are cracking down on attendance problems among the undergraduate community.

Rav Goldwicht's statement, originally sent out to his shiur in their Whatsapp group "Olam Habah BaOlam Haze!" is republished here with permission:

"Chaverim, my policy lo to disclose any private

information about my *talmidim yekarim* unless I *mekabel* a subpoena or *beit din* order. *Od davar, ani lo* act on behalf of Rabbi Kalinsky and *lo* assist in any efforts to investigate *talmidim* unless presented a warrant or other legal process. Now, maybe *atem* wondering *eich* I know English *milim* like "subpoena" and "warrant," but can't seem to speak a full sentence *b'anglit, aval* I telling you it no important. My *talmidim* will protected."

Rabbi Kalinsky and other morning program administrators were surprised by Rav Goldwicht's statements, saying, "Isn't that what he's already been doing for years?"

Registration for Rav Goldwicht's shiurim spiked in the hours following his statement, although shiur attendance the following day remained unchanged: the shiur assistant and two foreign students evading federal officials.

7 OUT

1 Richard Joel's Belly Button

Definitely an outie.



DORON LEVINE
Editor-in-Chief
TZVI LEVITIN
Managing Editor

7 Editors Making Fun of Roshei Yeshiva Beards

No need to flip out (wink wink!), we're all very respectful. The perpetrators behind that 7 Down were "kicked out" (wink wink!).



6 Professors' Markers

Always out of ink.



5 Out-of-towners

Keeping the Rubin washing machines spinning since 1956.



4 Spacing Out

A fun pastime for Syms students in their mandatory CORE curriculum classes. The lecture will undoubtedly proceed to be forgotten about forever.



3 Baseball Umpires

"Strike three, yooooouuuu're out!!!!"



2 Checking Someone Out

A fun pastime for late nights studying in the library.



Letter to Editor

Dear Editor,

It's very difficult to acclimate to the YU-environment when you come from a town as yeshivish as mine. I happen to hail from an insignificant *shtetl* in the Midwest, surrounded by cornfields and a general aura of utter boredom, where teachers would glare at you if you mentioned Disney movies and you were considered a little off if you could make it through a conversation without using "*lchoira*" at least twice.

But when I noticed the announcement for Cholent Fest 2017, my hopes were restored. Finally,

here was something non-*kfira* that I could write home about. As I glanced over the email announcement, I could envision all my old Bais Yaakov rebbes and teachers shaking their heads in pleasant disbelief -- could this be true? For once, none of the modernity/liberality/tolerance *shtus*?

With the nachas they'd be shepping over Cholent Fest, even treifus like the *shidduch* shuttle could be forgiven. And as the old saying goes, if Jews keep their dress, their language, etc. (something like that, I'm sure food was included) there's still a chance they won't

descend to the 40th level of *tumah* -- so maybe the higher we raise our crockpot temperatures, the lower the *gehennom* temperatures will be? Cholent Fest better be good; it's my last opportunity to justify YU to everyone back home.

Sincerely,
Hopeful

7 IN

1 Inches

There are 513,216 of them between the Wilf and Beren campuses. Now you know.



2 "In Shabbos"

While most Shabboses have one Rosh Yeshiva as guest, these have a *few*! Oh, and they're mostly the ones who already live in the Heights.



3 Infield Fly Rule

Baffling beguiling baseball players since 1895



4 Nagel Mural Protests

These are becoming so in these days, it's only a matter of time before Westboro Baptist Church material shows up on the wall.



5 Sexism

Totally in vogue these days.



6 In-towners

Consistently making YU feel like a happier place by leaving every weekend.



7 Tampons on Wilf Campus

After the recent article, tampons are now fully in stock. Get em' while they last!



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The Commentator is the official student newspaper of Yeshiva University.

For 81 years, The Commentator has served students and administrators as a communicative conduit; a kinetic vehicle disseminating undergraduate social, religious, and academic beliefs across the student bodies; and a reliable reflection of Yeshiva student life to the broader Jewish and American communities.

The Commentator staff claims students spanning the diverse spectrum of backgrounds and beliefs represented at Yeshiva.

We are united by our passion for living the ideals of Torah u-Maddah, and a commitment to journalistic excellence.



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Forward Reports on a Sneeze Heard in Rubin Shul

By Hillel Presidentowitz

On March 10, the Jewish newspaper *The Forward* reported that a student sneezed in the Rubin Shul during morning prayers.

Simcha Sassoon, a junior from Colorado, sneezed loudly after dust particles entered his right nostril, according to *The Forward*. A nearby student



responded instinctively, "God bless you."

Anonymous Facebook account A YU Bochur Says posted the incident on its page. "Apparently YU students believe in God in 2017," it wrote. Regressive."

An anonymous group of students plastered a large flyer with a screenshot from A YU Bochur Says's post in an exhibit they titled "Untitled" in signs boasting small lowercase letters. But 300 Spartans, all enrolled in the Mazer Yeshiva Program, all dressed in battlefield gear and carrying spears, tore it down minutes before it was even posted.

"This is truly a victory for Jerusalem," commented Rabbi Meir Soloveichik, Director of the Straus Center. "Athens is once again defeated."

The Forward described the sinus emission in Rubin Shul as "the most consequential piece of evidence"

that there is "widespread, pervasive sexism at Y.U."

"Sneezing in a room that has a women's section is seen by many as a show of disdain for women's access to religious roles within the Orthodox community," *The Forward* wrote. "Women's rights are nothing to sneeze at." Some Tannaitic sages agree that sneezing is a bad omen.

The Forward reported that Rabbi Tuskofan Elephant, Vice President of the *kashrut* operations at the Orthodox Union, said that all sneezes not certified by the OU must be suspended from campus until further notice.

No Fear as Paley Moves from Jeopardy to Naked and Afraid

By Alex Trebek

Following his success and instant fame on the Jeopardy College Challenge, Netanel Paley was selected to participate on Discovery's grueling survival challenge Naked and Afraid. Joined with one partner and equipped with just one survival item each, contestants on the show must use their knowledge to survive 21 days in some of the harshest environments in the world.

Currently in its 7th season, many consider the show to be one of the most dangerous and demanding on T.V.

"I just didn't want to limit myself. Sure, Jeopardy was fun, but I figured it was time for a real challenge," said Paley.

The show is famous for testing participants' wilderness survival skills as well as their mental toughness. Out in the wilderness, with no protection from the elements, Paley will be joined by former Jeopardy foe Lilly Chin in the rainforests of Nicaragua trying to stave of hunger while fighting the elements.

Traditionally, the show's participants bring a survival knife and either a fire starter or pot as their select survival tools. Paley remained tight-lipped over his choice. "Maybe, I'll buck all the trends and bring Trivial Pursuit instead of a standard survival tool, so Lilly and I have what to do on our vacation."

Despite his cavalier attitude, Paley is in for a rough 21 days that'll make his half hour Jeopardy appearances look like, well, half-hour Prime Time TV Jeopardy experiences. However, Paley feels he has accumulated the necessary experiences to survive the 3 weeks away from civilization. "While preparing for Jeopardy, I did a lot of reading on the Boy Scouts, geography, nature and French political philosophy, so while I might not have a lot of practical wilderness experience, I'm prepared to finally apply my

knowledge in a real-life situation," Paley stated.

Unfortunately for Paley, nature does not care for answers in question form and he will have to learn on the fly while searching for food and clean water and while avoiding dangerous predators.

The show scores all its participants with a Primitive Survival Rating, or PSR, before the 21 days begin. This rating is based on the participant's accumulated survival skills and social experiences. Paley was assigned a score of 6.8, mostly based on his raw intelligence, but lowered from his lack of experience. Chin, with her engineering skills acquired from M.I.T., begins the challenge with a 7.3. Both Paley and Chin will need to combine their talents to survive.

"Teamwork is going to be key, but without Esteban dividing us, I'm sure we can pull together" enthused Paley. ("Esteban" was Paley and Chin's other opponent in the Jeopardy Challenge. He was most noteworthy for his pop culture skills and for providing a mediocre foil to Paley and Chin's intellectual prowess).

Chin declined to comment for this article.

If Paley and Chin complete the 21 days and makes it to the extraction point, they will be entered into one of the show's even more extreme challenges, which joins several of the show's winners with even lengthier survival ordeals--again without clothes, food or shelter.

"We'll talk about the winner's challenge's after Lilly and I figure out who's the master trivial pursuit player." Paley and Chin's episode of Naked and Afraid is set to air on April 3rd.

It is unclear whether or not RIETS will be preparing a Super Bowl halftime show-like series of divrei Torah to play during the show's nudity scenes while it is live screened in the Morg Lounge.

Exclusive: Rock is Hard, Discovery Made at 185th St. Project

By Burr A. Cracy

After a 4 month investigation by New York's finest jack-hammer crew, it has been discovered that Manhattan rock is in fact, hard. This development has complicated the construction project, delaying its completion many months into the spring--perhaps even the summer.

The discovery came while the crew was working to prepare a great monument to bureaucratic incompetence, the 185th St. Plaza between Amsterdam and Audubon Avenues. Needless to say, the discovery has put a snag in the project, delaying it for months past its originally scheduled completion date.

When asked for comment, the on-site manager and private contractor Del Ayandpostpone reported "this was truly an unforeseeable circumstance--turns out we're going to be here for three times as long and have to collect further fees with overtime to make sure this project gets done right."

The project, aimed at "revitalizing" the area mostly frequented by fringe-adorned early-twenty-somethings, seeks to place trees in the urban environment. When asked for comment, Councilman Ydannis Rodryguess stated "trees breathe opposite human air, and opposite human air is bad for the environment--what this community needed was more trees and less bad air."

Despite all the noise from the project, students seem less troubled now that this critical discovery on behalf of science was made. One of Yeshiva College's many geology majors, Josh Blausteinberg (YC '19), weighed in: "Listen, I'm disturbed by the drilling when I'm in classes in Furst, but to know such a critical discovery was made right in our front yard is truly special."

Sam Stam, an urban studies major, didn't let the delay get his spirits down either. "It's projects like these that mean guys like me will be able to drink from the government faucet when I graduate--delays just mean redrawing plans."

Other students seemed to be mostly ambivalent about the noise. "I'm watching Sarachek on mute during class anyway--the drilling just helps drown out my core class professor," said a finance major who declined to be named.

"Does it take me an extra 12 seconds to get to Dunkin Donuts? Sure. But am I a New York Taxpayer funding this nonsense? No, so I guess I can manage the disruptions... and hey, I heard they figured out rock is in fact, hard, so I guess that's cool," remarked out-of-towner Chaim Lawblog (YC '18).

Tzvi Levitin will be providing updates as this story develops.



Ivanka Trump Registers for GPATS Rabbis: She can Violate Shabbat, but this is not OK

By Katie Kushner

First Daughter Ivanka Trump has enrolled in the Graduate Program in Advanced Talmudic Studies, a two-year masters' program that, according to its website, "provides women an opportunity for post-college, high-level study to further their growth in Torah knowledge and skills."

Many leaders of the Orthodox community have publicly denounced Ms. Trump's decision to learn Talmud on a high level. One community leader went so far as to say that "Ivanka is setting a terrible precedent for young *frum* women across America. Women pursuing higher degrees in *gemara* is the first step on a slippery slope. What's next? Dogs getting *smicha*? Rabbis marrying other rabbis? We shouldn't know from this."

Ms. Trump is famous in the Orthodox community for her 2009 conversion to marry Jared Kushner, and has become an increasingly public figure since her father, Donald Trump, took office as the President of the United States.

After her father's inauguration on January 20, Ms. Trump went viral in the Orthodox community when she reportedly received permission from her rabbi to ride in a car on the Sabbath. While many were initially critical of her choice to violate the Sabbath to attend her father's inaugural balls, several prominent Orthodox figures rose to her defense, claiming "She's doing the best she can," and "When you think really hard about it, what she's doing is really a *kiddush Hashem*."

Oddly, Ms. Trump is facing considerably more backlash from major Orthodox figures for her choice to pursue advanced Torah studies than she received when she rode in a car on the Sabbath to attend her father's



inaugural balls in Washington. When asked why he would be okay with her decision to violate the Sabbath but not her decision to learn Talmud, one YU Rosh Yeshiva said: "Look. Riding in a car is a *derabannan*. Her father, *shlita*, is an important man, but he's also a man who is quick to anger. She had to support him, it

was *pikuach nefesh*. I know I'd be afraid of him if I had to skip his inaugural balls. Learning *gemara* on a high level, though, that's a whole other ballgame. If she goes through with this, it's her *neschama* I'm worried about. She should just continue to be an *eishes chayil* to her husband, the tzadik Jared Kushner *shlita*."

#YCPrivilege: Male Bathrooms are Fully Stocked With Tampons

By Commentator Spotlight Team

Blatant displays of cruel sexism are becoming par for the course at Yeshiva University. In an investigation following on a recent article published in The Commentator about the lack of feminine hygiene products in YU, our investigative spotlight team has uncovered an astounding fact: every single men's bathroom in Yeshiva University is fully stocked with tampons. Even men's bathrooms on the Beren Campus are absolutely loaded with tampons. It seems that the YU administration has gone out of their way to buy these products, only to then put them in places where females may not go, perhaps to cruelly tantalize

them.

What have men been doing with these products? *The Commentator* conducted a number of interviews with male students and discovered that the men of YC and Syms, though they have no idea what feminine hygiene products are actually for, have been putting them to a number of creative uses. One male student remarked, "They make great toilet paper." Others have used tampons as nose plugs, earplugs, toothbrushes, havdala candles, and nerf gun ammunition. "They're the perfect shape for my nerf gun," said Yosef Kashizadeh. "What else could they possibly be for? Though I did always wonder why they give them out in the bathroom."



Replacement of Club Fair with Club Unfair Angers Students

By Kristaps Rosenblatt

In a highly controversial decisions, this year's Student Council voted to replace the traditional Club Fair with a new event they are calling the Club Unfair. Many students were skeptical about this new event from the outset, and they only became angrier when they discovered the rules and parameters of the Club Unfair. YSU President, um, I think some dude named Aryeh Minsky, explained, "At the club unfair, we will be randomly discriminating against clubs and not allowing them to participate. Also, there will still be ice cream provided, but only people who I like will be receiving ice cream. Doesn't sound fair? Well it's not supposed to be." At the event, a number of outraged students protested Minsky's decision to not give them ice cream for absolutely no reason. "Sorry guys," Minsky responded, "you're not at the Club Fair any more." When asked if this type of unfairness will continue to permeate student council events, SCSWCSCWC President Lizzi Peled responded, "Nah, no need to worry. In general the Student Council is fair. The Club Unfair is the only exception."

Richard Joel Caught Trying to Leave Last Wednesday

By Jake Gefiltafish

Tipped off by an anonymous informant, *The Commentator* discovered President Richard Joel trying to leave Yeshiva University last Wednesday morning. Towing a small suitcase behind him and hunched forward with a hat pulled down low over his brow and his coat buttoned up to his neck, President Joel was walking briskly down St. Nicholas Avenue between 183rd and 182nd street when two *Commentator* reporters approached him and called his name. Startled, he first sped up his pace in an attempt to avoid the press. But the reporters easily caught up to him and demanded to know where he was going. President Joel was clearly caught off guard as he mumbled half-audible phrases including "fourteen years," "that Berman guy," "can't enable or even ennoble anymore," and "Century Village." The reporters offered him some encouraging words, pointing out that he only needs to hold out until the end of the school year. They also suggested to him that, just as he recently moved his retirement date back a month, from July 1 to June 5, he could consider moving it back even earlier. Joel nodded his head a few times as if to encourage himself, and mumbled some thanks. But with his cover clearly blown, President Joel had no choice but to turn around and slink dejectedly back towards Belfer Hall, apparently preferring to stick it out for another three months to being mentioned again in *The Commentator*.

YAS! Organizes Enthralling Trip to See a Local Drug Deal

By Yechiel Wormwood

From the club that brought you the Scavenger Hunt in the Museum of Natural History, Bowling in Times Square, Capture the Flag in Central Park, and Kayaking on the Hudson, the latest YAS! trip proved to be of historic proportions. The Yeshiva Activities Society board proposed a field trip to our local neighborhood Highbridge Park to witness a drug deal. A board member explained their intentions: "Staying true to our totally not vague motto "Experience the best the city has to offer," we thought it would be an eye-opening educational experience to give sheltered YU students a taste of the nitty-gritty everyday reality of our local Washington Heights streets."

The group organized at the park at the most opportune time to witness this sort of thing in the Heights-2:17 PM. The students waited in utter suspense as they spotted a man nonchalantly making his way towards a hooded figure leaning against a tree, seemingly ignoring the children playing a few feet away from him. The two parties exchanged a few casual words as the customer slipped a wad of cash into the seller's palm with graceful finesse. Jaws were suspended mid-air as the hooded figure then reached into his perfectly innocent looking brown paper bag, and surreptitiously slipped a small package into the



buyer's hand as he casually walked away.

The event was unanimously hailed as a major success. Sy Syms student Abraham Trebek commented on his enlightening experience: "I'm so grateful to YAS for organizing this trip! It's amazing to see the concepts my professors have been talking about all semester in real-

life situations. Now I know exactly what those buzzwords like "Synergy" and "Streamlining" mean. That dealer was a perfect example of that go-getter business attitude and entrepreneurial spirit that we all aspire to. There is truly Nowhere but Here."

YP Bochur Horrified when his English Name Shows up in the Subject Line of his YStud

By Commentator Correspondent

Dean Nissel has been receiving an increasing amount of complaints recently from YP bochurim who are alarmed at seeing their English legal names in the subject line of YStuds that they send.

Two students from Rav Twersky's shiur, Yonasan Schwartz and Mordechai Schwartzenbergerstein, were waiting in line to speak with Dean Nissel at 12:30pm on a recent Tuesday, and were evidently upset when they discovered that YStuds they sent, advertising the Friday Learning and Breakfast followed by cholent at 9:45AM, had the names Ulysses Schwartz and Augustus Schwartzenbergerstein, respectively.

A Commentator interview with the two students highlighted their deep disappointment that their English names are still in use. Goldberg explained that after the YStud was sent out, he immediately called his mother



to ask why she didn't replace his English name with his Hebrew name on his YU tuition forms, and on his passport and birth certificate, after he had flipped out in Israel. After hanging up the phone with his mom, he immediately posted in his Shaalvim Whatsapp group, asking his Rebbe to remind his mother to change his name on these forms.

Ezra Weinstein, a Syms junior from Woodmere and currently in Rav Schachter's shiur, was upset when his recent YStud instructing students to attend a farbrengen with Rabbi Weinberger included his English name, Rutherford Herbert Weinstein. In a recent email exchange with The Commentator, Weinstein remarked

that he had momentarily forgot his English name, and only after a few friends asked if he sent the YStud, did he remember it.

Scandal: Study Says Majority of Quotes in The Commentator Are from Writers' Roommates

By J. Stifle

An internal inquiry into the workings of The Commentator has revealed information that a majority of quotes come from writers' roommates. Sophomore Avery Ennis said, "I love being quoted in every single one of Judah's articles, he makes me sound sophisticated, insightful, and hilarious. I am cool and interesting." When approached about the topic, Judah invoked his 3rd, 5th, and 19th amendment rights.

Some roommates did not react as well to the breaking scandal. Sophomore sensation Daniel Jerome Schwarz said, "I didn't know if I'd ever been quoted in The Commentator— I don't even read The Commentator— but now you're telling me that I'm quoted all the time? I mean... it doesn't surprise me— I say lots of fascinating things. I have the best words." Boy genius Nolan Edmonson said, "I don't even know if my roommate writes for The Commentator, but now I'm

scared to say anything for fear of being quoted."

The inquiry has been spearheaded by independent investigator and the R.A. of the 5th floor of Morgenstern, Yoni Shedlo. In an interview with the press, Shedlo commented in a brusque, bad cop voice, "This scandal goes right up to the tippety top. The uncommendable commentation in The Commentator will no longer be accommodated." Many speculate that Shedlo began his investigation due to the fact that he was jealous that he had no roommate and was therefore never quoted in the paper. Upon hearing, he would be quoted in this article, Shedlo responded exuberantly, "Oh really? Sweet!" Shedlo has since concluded his investigation, writing in his report that The Commentator holds itself to the absolute highest standards of journalism— up there with The New York Times, CNN, and The Wall Street Journal.

Student Washes Hands Only Because Someone Else Was Also In The Bathroom at the Time

By Lou McCann

Syms student Jackary Bartenberg was forced to linger in the bathroom a bit longer than usual on Monday at 4:24 pm due to the unexpected arrival of someone else. Not usually one to wash his hands, Jack planned to make his usual walk over to the sinks merely to examine his hair in the mirror. But as he was beginning to walk to the sinks, another student entered the restroom, prompting Jack to make an unexpected change of plans. "Since the

toilet was still flushing," Jackary said, "it was obvious that I had just peed. If I went straight for the door, he would know exactly what was going on."

So, with a roll of his eyes, Jack walked over to the sinks and turned on the faucet. Only audible cues were relevant; since the unwanted visitor was standing at a urinal with his back turned to the sinks, Jack only needed to make it sound like he was washing his hands. He lightly tapped the soap dispenser and quickly washed the soap off of his fingertips without scrubbing. He splashed his

hands around a bit more, turned off the sink, and took, proportionally speaking, more paper towel than was strictly necessary to dry off his fingers. Sighing audibly, he exited the bathroom, hoping that his next visit would not require him to waste twenty seconds pretending to be performing this very unnecessary hygiene ritual. "I'm not a chemistry major," said Jack. "I don't believe in soap." The soap dispenser has not responded to repeated requests for comment.

Breaking: Observer Publishes Article Not About JOFA Conference

By Mushka Kanofsky

Though generally considered a newspaper exclusively for issues pertaining to the second sex, *The Observer*, the premier student newspaper of Stern College for Women, recently shocked its readers: in an unprecedented and highly controversial editorial decision, the newspaper published an article that was not about the JOFA conference. And it wasn't even tangentially related – the article literally had nothing to do with the JOFA conference. Published in the newspaper's little-read Science Section, the article explained the scientific origins of dandruff and recommended a number of dandruff-preventing shampoos.

Readers were stunned. When asked what she thought about the article, women's studies major and devoted *Observer* reader Fruma Kornwasser said, "I

"WHO READS ARTICLES THAT AREN'T ABOUT THE JOFA CONFERENCE? I DEFINITELY DON'T."

don't know, I didn't read it. I assume it must have been a mistake. Who reads articles that aren't about the JOFA Conference? I definitely don't."

The rest of this issue of the newspaper fell in line



with *The Observer's* traditional reporting; all other articles in the paper reported on aspects of the JOFA Conference. One article analyzed the various speeches at the conference, another spoke about the importance of men coming to the conference, another described the beautiful venue, another extolled the food, and yet another article described the fashion trends on display by the many women and one man who attended.

Thankfully, the editorial staff of *The Observer* noticed this mistake and quickly moved to rectify this embarrassing oversight. The following morning, *The*

Observer published a quick retraction of the article, saying, "We did not intend to offend our readers with this article not about the JOFA Conference, and we apologize for any offense that we may have caused. We will take measures to ensure that this does not happen again." When asked whether he thinks *The Observer* will stay true to their word and never again publish an article not about the JOFA Conference, YC Senior Yossele Mendelblatt replied, "*The Observer*? What's that? Who are they observing? Sounds creepy."

Furman Dining Hall: The Melting Pot of YU

By Yechiel Wormwood

As a thriving east coast undergraduate institution located in the heart of Washington Heights, Yeshiva University consistently proves itself a bastion of cultural and racial diversity. One needs to look no further than the Rubin Caf to be immersed in the sea of multiculturalism. Students need not take a step outside to interact with a person of color; you get to engage in deep, nuanced discussion about white privilege with the man serving you a plate of mac n' cheese. If you're lucky, you might catch a glance of a Hispanic employee donning a kimono preparing your kosher sushi, the epitome of an authentic cultural experience. Finally, as you pay for your food at the cash register, you gaze deeply into the eyes of the cashier, fully relating to her life experience and struggles. And with a swipe of the caf card, your daily duty of mingling with minorities is complete.

If you're feeling in a particularly exotic mood, you can always mosey over to the Food Court. There you'll find the esteemed international food bar, offering an astounding array of dishes hailing from far-flung corners of the earth. While the vaguely Chinese-style chicken tastes remarkably like a recycled version of last night's chicken dinner, this just goes to show the essential unity between peoples of all nations and creeds.

But even when you sit down to dine, there is still more diversity to go around. Visiting the daunting out-of-towners table often feels like an expedition into the deep Amazonian jungle. These students likely went to modern orthodox high schools and the same NCSY summer programs as you, but once you hear that foreign twang, and see those big genuine smiles, you know they're up to something dastardly. It's always more comforting to join the table with your friends from your gap year Yeshiva, who are probably distantly related to you in a suspiciously incestuous way. Thankfully the token Sephardi student is always present at the table to spice things up a bit. Although he calls the Sabbath "Shabbos," and is a cholent aficionado, you can't help but feel the raging spirit of inclusivity present at the table.



Rabbi Brander Ships in Sand, Palm Trees to Recreate Boca Raton

By Coco Nutter

Rabbi Kenneth Brander, Vice President of University and Community Life (you can check out his totally official, toally legit, and totally necessary website at www.rabbikennethbrander.com), has been making some aesthetic changes to the Yeshiva University Wilf campus. Palm trees have been planted in the Danciger Quadrangle, the 185th Street plaza has been filled with sand, and ocean sound machines have been installed in all university buildings.

When asked about the changes, Rabbi Brander said, "You know, I've been wondering for years how I can make this place thrive and grow in the way that the Jewish community of Boca Raton did under my leadership in Boca Raton. Boca Raton exploded from 60 families in Boca Raton to over 600 families in Boca Raton during my tenure as a community leader in Boca Raton. I was the Rabbi of the Boca Raton Synagogue in Boca Raton, I founded the Katz Yeshiva High School of South Florida in Boca Raton, and I just really reinvigorated the community in Boca Raton (read more on my website and Wikipedia page)... But with all of my efforts to revitalize YU like I revitalized Boca Raton, I haven't really seen Boca Raton-esque results yet. So I figured I would just make this place look and feel as much like Boca Raton as possible, and maybe that would kick-start my accomplishments at YU, which I kind of look at as my new Boca Raton. Here's a pamphlet explaining exactly how and why I was so successful in Boca Raton. Tell your friends."

Instead of handing this reporter a pamphlet, however, Rabbi Brander proceeded to lift his shirt to reveal a large tattoo covering his entire back detailing his initiatives in South Florida.

When asked about the tattoo, Rabbi Brander explained: "I just like to be able to look over my shoulder every day and remember everything I accomplished in Boca Raton. Wouldn't you?"

Rav Schachter's Long Lost Son Emerges From Muss's Labyrinthine Hallways After Decades of Being Lost

By Menachem Shventersteiner

In a shockingly great discovery, Pinchus, R' Schachter's long lost son, was found in Muss yesterday after getting lost twenty seven years ago and spending all of that time "just trying to figure out this stupid hallway layout."

"This is a real miracle," said Debra Goldberg (Stern '23). "We all thought that he must've gone off the derech or something horrible. There were some rumors that he was a Maccabeat in disguise. What a relief to find out that he was just alone and starving in Muss for the last 3 decades."

This miracle was discovered when, last night, a group of students were walking to their dorm rooms in Muss and out of the depths emerged a man with a long scraggly beard, torn clothes, and odd opinions on milk and agunot.

In the heat of the moment of having a strange homeless man appear out of nowhere, the students pushed him back into the labyrinth and ran. No word yet on whether or not he will ever emerge again.

Nick's Lot

By Shalom King

David Cohen first encountered Nick on a Wednesday. Two weeks had passed in the semester and David had to make a slightly complex transfer from one class to another. All he needed was Dean Sugarman's signature on a piece of paper.

David knocked on Sugarman's door, opened it up, and walked in. Sitting there was a middle-aged, stern man. "Do you have an appointment with Dean Sugarman?"

"No," replied David, "but I just need a signature."

"I'm sorry, he's not here right now. You'll have to schedule an appointment and come back later."

"But I can see Dean Sugarman's head right over the..."

"I'm sorry, he's not here right now. You'll have to schedule an appointment and come back later." David left the office defeated, unsigned registrar form in hand.

David soon learned that this man was Nicholas "Nick" Pitsirikos, the Deans' Office Manager who also sends out the "Final Exam Times & Venues" emails. It was only a week later that David would meet him again. Desiring to discuss ideas for summer research, David figured that he would head over to Academic Advising to speak with Lolita Wood-Hill. As he walked into the Furst First Floor office suite, there was Nick sitting at the reception desk. "Do you have an appointment with Dean Sugarman?"

"Huh? Wait, you're that guy from Dean Sugarman's office. What are you doing here? I'm here to meet with Ms. Wood-Hill."

"Do you have an appointment with Dean Sugarman?"

"No, I just said that I'm here to meet with Ms. Wood-Hill."

"I'm sorry, he's not here right now. You'll have to schedule an appointment and come back later." Nick then proceeded to slowly but threateningly rise out of his chair, prompting David to get out of there as fast as he could.

Speed walking past the 185th street construction zone, David quickly walked into Rubin and headed downstairs to the caf in the hope of catching some dinner and friends to clear his mind. He grabbed a tray and utensils.

"Hey kid, what you having?"

"Hey Cabey, I'll have some chicken please."

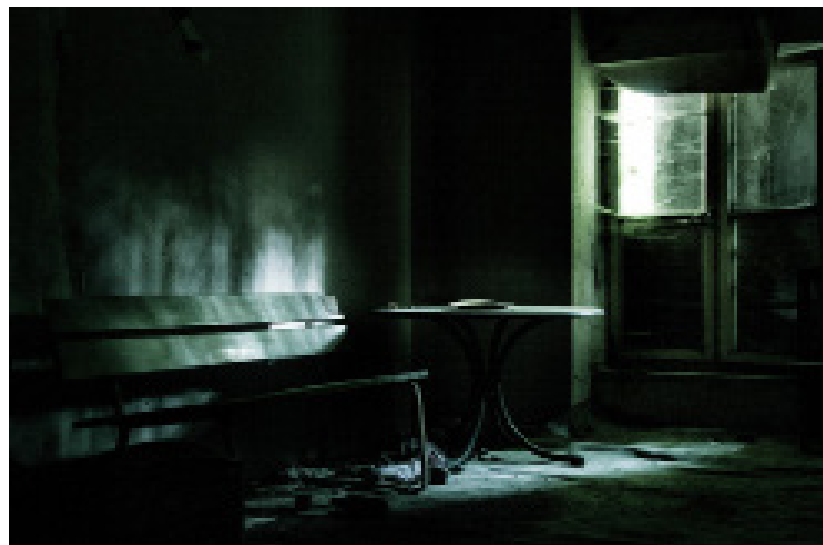
"Here you go, kid. Want any Sugarman with that?"

"No, I'll just have... wait, what did you say?" David looked up as, to his horror, the ruggedly handsome black gentleman standing in front of him gripped his skull with his right hand, pulled hard on his skin, and peeled off his entire epidermis as one stretchy gloop. Standing there was Nick, looking middle-aged, stern, and uninterested as ever.

"Do you have an appointment with Dean Sugarman?"

David's face went completely pale. He dropped his tray and backpack and sprinted up seven stories to his dorm room. His hand shaking, he unlocked his door and shoved himself into his room. He turned on the lights -- and there was Nick, sitting on his bed.

"I'm sorry, he's not here right now," said Nick, standing



up and revealing that he was holding a bloody chainsaw. "You'll have to schedule an appointment and come back later."

Three days later, David's R.A. Matan Horenstein shifted nervously as the security guard unlocked David's door. Walking into the room stenching with human decay, Matan immediately found David's vivisected rotting body. Stuck inside his entrails was a green form. The details of the form were mostly blurred by blood and pus, but two features were clear enough: A check-mark next to the word "denied," and a flourished signature of the name "Nick."

Massive Cheating Exposed in Jewish Values Class

By Lawrence Sims

All 77 students who took the Jewish Values in a Contemporary World course this past semester received failing grades due to cheating. This news was revealed to the author by an insider from the YU registrar, who preferred to remain anonymous.

The Jewish Values course was initiated in the fall 2015 semester. Mandatory for all first-year Syms students, it was first taught by Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter. Schacter explained at the time that "the goal is to sensitize the students to think more clearly, forensically, thoughtfully and introspectively about what it means for them to have a commitment to Jewish life and Jewish learning in a profound way."

The first rendition of the course passed by without much pomp or attention. This year, Professor Daniel Rynhold was the teacher. "I was pretty excited to teach this course," described Rynhold. "But I also know that Syms students are all bloody cheaters. Let's just say that ethics and Syms blokes are like chalk and cheese. In fact, I have been positively knackered by all the cheating that I've heard about in the Sy Syms School of Business. So I felt pretty jammy to have the opportunity to teach these plonkers a lesson."

Unbeknownst to the students, Professor Rynhold's

lectures were all a ruse for a naughty end-of-the-semester trick. "I was one of the few students who showed up to class," described Michael Nordlicht, a Management major hoping to graduate in two years. "In fact, the few minutes of the first lecture that I paid attention to were pretty

"I FELT PRETTY JAMMY TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH THESE PLONKERS A LESSON." -PROFESSOR DANIEL RYNHOLD

interesting. I never saw the stunt coming."

The entire grade was based on a two-hour final exam of short answer questions. Professor Rynhold decided that he would "accidentally" leave the answers to the final on his desk after the last class. The idea was that any student who would look at and use these answers was clearly an unethical person who deserved to fail the class. Everyone else would receive an automatic A, simply by virtue of not cheating. "I obviously came back to the classroom later that evening to see if anyone took my bait," said Professor Rynhold. "While I wasn't surprised that some students feel for the trap, I was fairly gutted to ultimately find out that



the entire class was a bunch of choppers."

The "answer key" made its way around the class, and every single student wrote the same exact response on the final. "Obviously I failed all of the twonks," said Rynhold. "They even all made the same typos. I mean, seriously, how much of a pillock do they think I am? What a load of rubbish."

YU Administration Seeks to Limit Press Coverage: "It's All Fake News"

By Yitzchak Fried

The administration of Yeshiva University has taken new, drastic steps to limit press access to information regarding the school's educational and



financial policies. In addition to avoiding answering emails, dodging reporters, and even responding to direct office visits with loud cries of "Nobody home," the administration has begun asking the faculty not to reveal any undisclosed information to reporters for *The Commentator*.

"*The Commentator* just likes to throw shade," explained President Joel. "They say things about us, but it's all fake news folks, fake news." He insisted, "the fake news, they are the enemy of the people." His position has its supporters. "It's really about time that someone gave *The Commentator* a slap in the face," one faculty member said. "They just try to find things out that people want to know, and it's nosy and annoying and pathetically whiny, really. And they become a

platform for all these different voices on campus and in the Jewish community...it's sickening and it makes me uncomfortable. Someone has to tell them to shut up." Although a supporter of the university's stance, this source spoke on the condition of anonymity, because in violation of the policy forbidding faculty contact with reporters. While some of the student body seemed concerned about the limitations on press access, others were enthused. "The administration is finally being openly secretive," one explained enthusiastically. "Before, they were being *secretively* secretive. This is a big upgrade in transparency," he added with a smile.

Rabbi Brander Condemns Student for Wearing Confederate Flag Without Tzitzis

By Billy Ray Berenbaum

The YU presidential election party was going exactly as planned until one student made a fateful decision that led to what many are calling the most heinous act ever publicly committed on the Wilf Campus. In a halachically unprecedented fashion statement, this student, who shall remain anonymous unless Rabbi Brander decides to reveal his identity, decided to drape a Confederate Flag over his shoulders without first attaching *tzitzis*.

In response to this disgusting act, Rabbi Brander sent out an email to the entire student body on behalf of the

Roshei Yeshiva. In no uncertain terms, Rabbi Brander condemned this student and denounced this breach of halachic authority. "Not wearing *tzitzit* might be acceptable in the South, but it sure is not acceptable on this progressive campus," Rabbi Brander said. "Speaking of the South," he continued, "this would never be tolerated in Boca Raton, where it just so happens to be that I single-handedly built the most successful Jewish community in the United States, actually probably North America, maybe even the world...where was I?" Rabbi Brander wrote. "Oh yea, the flag. Even though a flag is not technically a garment, since in this case it was worn as one, and it is

rectangular, it therefore requires ritual fringes."

Though harsh and unequivocal, the email preserved the Southern student's anonymity. In the email, Rabbi Brander wisely left out the student's name in order to protect his privacy, including only the student's address, social security number, and twitter handle. The Commentator reached out to the student, and he said that he is deeply upset by the whole situation and wishes that he could do the whole night over again. He explained, in his defense, that, "This is totally normal where I'm from. I was just trying to represent my state of Alabama where absolutely no one wears *tzitzit*."

Beren Shabbat Minyan Raises Concerns of Sexism

By Mendy Ewok

A Stern initiative to enhance the Shabbat experience on the Beren campus has been creating an uproar about gender roles at YU. In order to properly balance the ambiguous female requirement to participate in a minyan on Shabbat with the equally ambiguous "No Boys Allowed" policy, the TAC Shabbat committee recently engineered a way to have the necessary number of y-chromosomes on campus without risking any chance of uncomfortable glances between members of the two genders. According to the committee's president, Maria Scottsberg, "we created the dungeon-like men's detention facility in the basement of 245 Lex for our Shabbat guests because we felt this would be the only way to create the proper atmosphere for our community."

Under this new initiative, the male volunteers are released from their cold, dark underground barracks at precisely 8:43 am on Shabbat morning, giving them exactly enough time to practice a few melodious tunes and make it up the high ladder to the shul in time for davening. After completing the prayer services, the women attending the minyan are instructed to cover their eyes as if they are about to bless the Shabbat candles, and an armed Securitas official quickly escorts the men back to their spooky quarters.

Shockingly, members of the two campuses have not seen eye to eye in their response to the new initiative. Recent seminary flip-out Gloria Pollack expressed her delight at this new opportunity, "My Rabbi told me that it's completely assur to even think about a boy unless he is serenading the entire room with a gorgeous melody in the context of davening, so I truly thank the committee for being sensitive to this Halachik concern."

The YU men who have attended these Shabbatot, however, have expressed their concerns with the way it is done. "When we entered the room, I heard some women snickering about how a man's place is in the shul," said sophomore Avraham Nunez. "I just felt that this wasn't the right way for men to be portrayed; after all that we have done as a gender, we wouldn't expect to be stereotyped into roles of *hagbahah* and *gelilah*. Particularly after we included them in this year's CholentFest, you would think that we would get a little more respect."



YU Rejoices as Moody's Upgrades its Bonds Rating to "Stable Junk"

By Ravi Black

Rarely has the YU community experienced such joy. On Tuesday, Moody's Investors Service reaffirmed its B3 "junk" rating on YU's bonds, but changed the outlook from "negative" to "stable." This prompted a day of unrestrained jubilation on the YU campus. The Office of the President sent out an official email written by President Joel thanking everyone who contributed to this incredible financial turnaround. "Just when I thought it was all over," he wrote, "Moody's came along and assesses us as stable junk. This is definitely the high point of my presidency. Just in time for Purim, *vinahafoch hu*." In his email, President Joel declared February 28 an official YU holiday, called Stable Junk day, to be celebrated for years to come. When asked why he is so pleased about his university being called stable junk, President Joel explained, "Junk is great. Junk food, for example. Everyone loves junk food. It's sweet and delicious. And stability is so important. As stable junk, we can be sure that we will continue to be junk for many years to come."



Breaking: YU Student Enters Eizenshtein Bakery, Quickly Exits

By Gov. Andrew Lake Como

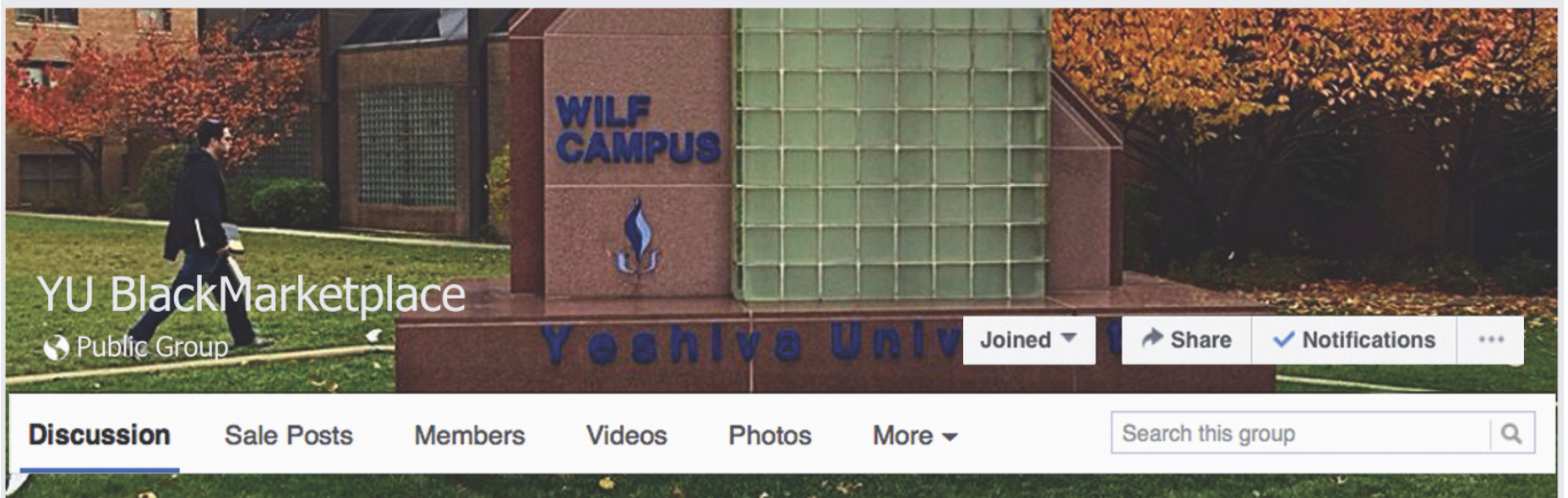
Amos There, a management student from Long Island, entered the desolate Eizenshtein Bakery on March 9, due to an extreme wind that pushed him inside.

Shocked, Eizenshtein Bakery owner Dwight Eisenhower looked up from his iPhone and asked, after recovering, "What you are doing here?"

Mr. There, who quickly ran out of the bakery, said he had never been inside the store but wasn't surprised that Mr. Eisenhower wasn't expecting clients.

"There were no pastries on the counters," Mr. There said. "All I saw was an empty bread rack and a rusting coffee machine in the corner."

A YU Security advisory was sent out the following evening advising students to stay indoors on gusty days.



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Selling five \$2 bills for \$15. PM if interested
\$15
New York, NY (10033)

10 Dollar Barber created a poll in YU BLACKMARKETPLACE
February 28 AT 3:47pm

Would you attend an interfaith shabbaton between YP and IBC student?

- Yes
- NOOOOO
- Yes, I love doing chesed
- Let me ask Rav Schachter first
- What is a "shabbaton"?
- Yes, but only if there is an "optional" YU connects program in the afternoon

Like Comment Share

That kid who we thought was so cool in 8th grade
February 28 at 3:37pm

Does anyone in the library have a Sidekick 2 charger??? Desperate!!!!

Like Comment Share

King Julien
February 28 at 3:37pm

Anyone driving to Madagascar this weekend? Willing to pay for gas and snacks. Also have excellent DJ skillz!

Like Comment Share

Rabbi Hershel Schachter
February 28 at 3:37pm

YCT is looking for a young rabbinical student to run a workshop for some high school students so you can all just ignore everything I just posted

Like Comment Share

ADD MEMBERS

+ Enter name or email address...

MEMBERS 4,712 Members (22 new)

DESCRIPTION
Created By Adam Barel

IF YOU DONT WANT TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATIONS FOR EVERY POST:
Go on the top right of the page, and disable the notification option

GROUP TYPE
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TAGS
Yeshiva University

KB
February 28 at 3:37pm

Looking for: MILK! Just sat down for breakfast and only had pre-expiration date expired Golden Flow milk. Can anyone help a fellow yid out?

Like Comment Share

Rebbetzin Bergenblatt
February 28 at 3:37pm

Looking for recommendations: What should I name my son? Totally forgot but his Bris is tomorrow so get going!!

Like Comment Share

MA'AYANOT מועדון **Rachel Schwartz**
February 28 at 3:37pm

Can you believe this? Maayanot wasn't invited to participate in Sarachek for the 10th year in a row? All those in favor of starting an angry rant about sexism, comment below!
P.S. does anyone have a couch I could buy for under \$5? Will pay \$10 for movers!

Like Comment Share

YU Trump Supporters Torn between Trump and Schumer after Discovering that Schumer's Daughters are also Jewish

By The College Republicans and College Democrats

Students reported hearing frantic screaming from the Morg Lounge late Tuesday night after David Ignorancestein and Natan Naivebergelgold discovered that Senator Chuck Schumer, one of the leading Democratic Senators, also has a Jewish daughter.

"It was terrifying", Ignorancestein said in a statement. "We were accidentally watching CNN as opposed to our thrice daily dose of Fox News when Senator Schumer came on and started talking about his Jewish daughter."

"I voted for Trump because of his consistent and steadfast policy of having a Jewish daughter", Naivebergelgold said. "However, now that I've discovered that Schumer also has Jewish children I'm starting to think that I made the wrong decision. I mean, Schumer has two Jewish daughters while Trump only has one! According to my Rabbi, two is bigger than one so the logic seems airtight.

"Ivanka also wears pants", Ignorancestein added. "So she is practically Christian anyway."

"My world has been turned upside down", Naivebergelgold said as he was burning his Make America Great Again hat and his "lock her up" poster. "I thought Trump was unique but now I see his is just a fraud. I guess, since I refuse to educate myself on real issues that matter, I will be voting Democrat this coming election. Bernie 2020!!"



Survey: Wilf Campus Students Think "More Men and Soft Drinks" Will Save Shabbos

By Simcha Sassoon

In an effort to improve Shabbat on the Wilf Campus, SOY recently polled over 6,000 students on their opinions regarding Shabbat enhancement. The survey, which was sent out as a prerequisite for admission to free shabbos meals in the caf, was sponsored by Maryland Hillel, a leading example of the ideal campus Shabbos experience.

82% of respondents selected "More men and Soft

Drinks" as the missing ingredient "to make shabbat great again" at YU. 12% chose "paying us to eat in the Caf," 4% chose "getting a former Rikers prisoner for musical havdallah," and 2% chose "other."

SOY VP Erik Erikson described the results as "highly informative" and vowed to take immediate action to increase the number of men on campus as well as the availability of Sprite, root beer, and Fresca over the weekends.

One graduate of St. George's Monastery in Israel, who is expected to be a popular candidate for SOY

president this spring, criticized Mr. Erikson's plans. "The Rashei Yeshiva are against this plan," he said. "Bringing more men to campus will worsen the shidduch crisis and more soft drinks may cause bochrim to burp during davening," he remarked.

Rabbi Nir Andphar, Levi Barbinkiberg, Yerachmiel Cohenfaker, Rabbi Efraim Shtarkerthanyou, Garfield the Cat, Meir Ofthetown, Benjy Allenstein, Dave Goldberg, and Gold Daveberg, all of whom have shady, paid positions vaguely relating to managing shabbat on campus, were not available to comment.

Full Scale Investigation Launched: Library Armrest Assassin on the Loose?

By Richard's Mole

In light of the recent events on the fifth floor of the library, Director of YU Libraries Dr. Paul Glassman announced the library staff would be initiating an investigation as to who has been viciously removing the swivel chair armrests from the fifth floor of the Gottesman Library. Although many of the armrests have been missing for years, Glassman said "after five years, we've finally cut the red YU-racratc tape and will begin our investigation in March."

To many students, this investigation is a long time coming. "Sure, I prefer the lavish wooden antique chairs on the fifth floor, but when the library is crowded, I get stuck with the swivel chairs, often one missing one or both of its armrests" said senior David Rubenspleen.

Glassman said there are no real leads at this point, but that the robust library investigative team is looking into all possibilities, including that it may just be the result of wear and tear on the chairs themselves.

Others, however, are not so easily convinced. "It's definitely those renegade mural protesters! They've been terrorizing this campus ever since they found painter's tape and printers!" complained Tzvi Levittspin. "It's an outrage."

Levittspin, who also happens to be president of the Yeshiva Chair Saving Association, said he wanted to create a task force to hunt down the students, and considered diverting funds from the Yeshiva

University Journal of Mediocre Arts to do so. "This has to be our primary focus until these students are held accountable for their actions."



"THIS HAS TO BE OUR PRIMARY FOCUS UNTIL THESE STUDENTS ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS"
-TZVI LEVITTSPIN

Despite the inconvenience, some students marveled at the chairs apparent use. "The missing armrests kind of just make it look like students come to the library the entire semester and not just during mid-terms and finals" said junior Ken G. Bosbrowe. "I mean I know I'm usually there checking out view counts, but otherwise the fifth floor is usually as empty as the caf on Shabbas."

Regardless, for now it seems students will have to endure red elbows and \$600 dollar mint green swivel torture chambers on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors, until the perpetrators can be apprehended and the chairs fixed.

Levittspin will be updating The Commentator as this story develops further.

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Torah U'Magic – The Sorting Black Hat

By Yehuda Greenfield

“Boys, boys, settle down!”

Harry was nervous. It was his first time at YU, and he didn't know any of the students around him. He peered into the Great Caf. It was full to the brim with students of all sorts. He wondered why all the freshmen had to stand outside instead of going in like everyone else.

“What yeshiva did you go to?” A red-headed boy next to him whispered.

This was the thirty-second time someone has asked him that since he got here.

“I didn't go to yeshiva in Israel,” he said, his eyes on the floor.

“Oh,” the boy replied, and turned instead to talk to someone else.

Harry felt unsure of himself. Why did he come here without knowing anyone? He didn't even know what they were waiting for. He didn't belong here.

No, Harry told himself. I know why I came here. Torah U'Magic! I believe in that, and I will achieve my dreams here.

“Okay, everyone!” The older boy in the front shouted to get everyone to quiet down. “I'm Percy and I'm vice president of IBC here. That may not mean much to you guys, but be sure that will mean a lot to some of you soon.”

Harry wondered the significance of that position.

“Before you can officially be a part of YU you must be sorted,” Percy told them. “There are four houses in Yeshiva University: YP, BMP, JSS, and IBC. These houses will determine your morning program, which will determine your friends, your dorm building, and which parties you'll attend, or lack thereof. Each house has its own unique traits and advantages. You'll go in and make a line, one by one, and will each get called to be sorted.”

Harry looked around nervously. He's never heard of these different houses at YU. Why didn't anyone tell him? No one else seemed as surprised as him. They all expected this. Harry turned to the red-head next to him.

“Excuse me,” he said timidly. “Do you know how this sorting thing works?”

“My brothers told me that they make you fight a sheid!” the boy replied excitedly. “But I don't know. I think they might have been joking. They do that a lot. What house do you want to be in? I want to be in BMP. My whole family went there. It'd be a shame if I ended up anywhere else. I'm really scared of ending up in YP. They say there's not a single open orthodox rabbi that didn't go to YP.”

“Really? Oh. I don't want to go to YP either. I'm not sure which house I want to be in, though.”

“Oh, that's okay. No one's really sure till you get here. I'm Ron Weasley, by the way. Nice to meet you.”

“Harry Potter,” Harry replied.

Ron smiled at him and with that, he turned away from Harry and continued the conversation he was having with his buddies from yeshiva.

“Okay, time to go in!” Percy announced.

One by one, they entered the Great Caf. Everyone hushed as they walked in. Harry looked around. Four seating areas filled the middle of the hall, while one long table with all the rabbis stood at the front of the hall. A large banner with a huge animal on it hung over each sitting area. One had a badger, one a lion, one a snake, and one an eagle. He turned back to the table of rabbis, and saw that one had stood up, about to speak. The slightly heavy man didn't have a beard, and wore a bowtie. Harry was unsure if this was a rabbi or not. He seemed to be a nice person though, and Harry took an immediate liking to him.

“Hello, everyone. My name is President Joel. I am the President here. Of this college. Of Yeshiva University. Although I won't be president for much longer, I'm president now. You can call me PJ. Soon though, I'll just be J.”

He stopped. Everyone waited for him to continue, and he coughed awkwardly.

“100 years ago,” President Joel said. “Four donors helped fund Bernard Revel in creating YU. Revel



established four houses as tribute to these four donors. Each house represents the character traits of the donor who paid a lot of money in order to have houses in their name.”

He pointed to the tables with the badger over it.

“JSS. The loyal, true and fun-loving.

He gestured towards the golden lion banner.

“BMP. The brave, arrogant and stubborn.”

He pointed to the great green snake banner.

“The cunning, clever and ambitious YP.”

“And, finally, IBC,” he said, gesturing towards the blue eagle banner. “Those searching for deep wisdom, individuality, and some who are just plain lazy.”

Harry looked around excitedly. There were so many options. He was sure he would find his place here. But how would they sort him?

“Bring out the hat!” the President announced.

A wizened old man entered carrying a wooden stool with a large, black, dusty hat on it. It looked similar to the ones the roshei yeshiva were wearing, except it appeared to have been smashed many times and had a thick layer of dust covering it on all sides.

“I hear that hat belonged to the Rav himself!” Harry heard someone whisper excitedly.

Harry wasn't sure who the Rav was. He looked around him and was glad he wasn't the first in line. He still didn't know what they were going to do with the hat.

“When I call up your name,” PJ said. “You will come to the stool and try on the hat.”

“Applebaum, Dovid!”

A short boy with bright blond hair approached the hat with trepidation. He stood by the stool awkwardly looking around. All the students waited silently for him to try it on.

“Go on!”

The boy picked up the hat, and tried to shake the dust from it.

“Hey!” The hat shouted.

Dovid dropped the hat and jumped back.

The hat was talking! This must be magic!

“No shaking!” the hat ordered. “This dust has been here since the Rav wore me. Just put me on your head, boy.”

The boy approached the hat nervously once more, picked it up and placed it on his head.

“BMP!” The hat announced.

Everyone clapped. The students under the eagle banner cheered loudest of all. The boy put the hat back on the stool, and made his way to the IBC tables. Those that weren't looking at their phones smiled and welcomed him warmly.

“Biederman, Abraham!”

A tall red-faced student put on the hat.

“JSS!”

One by one, each student was called and sorted by the black hat. Harry heard a Benjy Dinowitz get sorted into YP. While Fuchs, Jon was sorted into JSS. Slowly but surely, the line filled out until it was just Harry and a few others.

“Potter, Harry!”

It was finally his turn. He approached the hat nervously. This was it. He was going to be sorted. He'll finally be a part of YU!

“Nowhere but here!” he whispered excitedly to himself as he placed the hat on his head.

The hat was too big for him, and Harry felt it slide over his eyes. All was darkness. The Rav must have had a huge head, Harry thought to himself.

“No, he didn't,” Harry heard a voice in his ear. “You just have a small one.”

It was the hat! Talking to him!

“Yes, it is the hat talking to you,” the hat continued in a creaky tired voice. “HMMMMM... where should I put you?”

Not YP, not YP, not YP, not YP, Harry thought frantically.

“Not YP, huh? Well, are you sure? You could really shteig there. It can help lead you to a path of gadlus.”

No, not YP, not YP, not YP.

“Well, if you're sure, better be...”

“JSS!”

Everyone cheered obligingly.

Harry took the hat off his head, and turned to the hat.

“No! Not JSS!” he whispered pleadingly. “I wanted to be in IBC or BMP. Why JSS?”

“Sorry kid,” the hat said smugly. “You said you didn't want YP.”

“Forget it,” Harry replied. “I'd rather be in YP. Put me in YP, please!”

“Too late.”

The cheering had stopped and everyone was looking at Harry waiting for him to take his place.

“Fine,” Harry said dejectedly.

He walked slowly towards the JSS table, found an empty place, and sat down.

The boy sitting next to him looked at him excitedly and jabbered something in Spanish. Harry had no clue what he just said and stared blankly. Everyone around him talked among themselves in foreign languages. He heard Hebrew, French, Spanish, and even thought he heard a little Dutch.

This is going to be a long four years, Harry thought, and he piled some of the Great Caf food onto his plate.

President-Elect Denied Entry to YU Marketplace

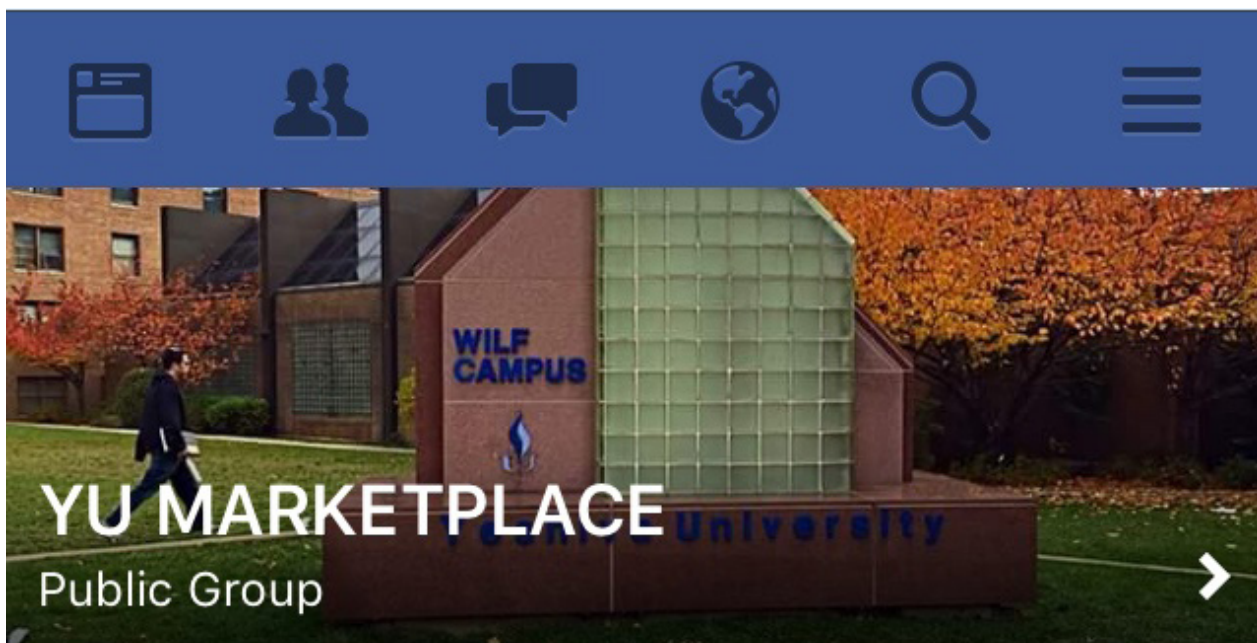
By The Ghost of Harambe

In a shocking Facebook Post last night, Richard Joel, the true YU Marketplace Admin, announced that, after a rigorous 6 month review process conducted by the board of the Marketplace, President-Elect Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman will not be allowed to join the group.

“While we wish we could accept President-Elect Berman into our exclusive 4,000+ member club, we felt that allowing him to participate would actually make the group useful,” Joel said in a statement. “He was planning on selling actual things like textbooks and kitchen appliances as opposed to getting into arguments about why Open Orthodoxy is not Orthodox and posting Harambe memes. He was even offering free rides to and from Teaneck. FREE!!! I mean, I am all for freedom of speech, but this was just ridiculous.”

The admin also attributed Rabbi Berman's failure to his inability to answer the the age old question of “would you rather fight 100 duck sized horses or one horse sized duck?”. “You can't be a proper troll without a witty response to that question and we at the Marketplace only accept the trolliest of trolls.”

There is no word yet as to the status of Rabbi Berman's application to YU Marketplace 2.0.



Five Articles Already Published About Ben Shapiro Event, And This is the Sixth

By Jacob Johannson

There have already been five articles published about Ben Shapiro's polarizing speech at YU. Some of these articles were in favor of Ben Shapiro's arguments, and some criticized him. Believe it or not, this article, the one that you are currently reading, is actually about the fact that there have been so many articles written about the Ben Shapiro event, making this the sixth article about the Ben Shapiro event, I suppose. Ironically, by writing about the fact that there have been so many articles, I am simultaneously adding to the number of articles written about the event. Amazing, right?

And it could get even worse. Imagine if someone

were to now go ahead and write an article about the fact that I wrote this article about the number of articles written about the Ben Shapiro event, perhaps calling me out either for hypocrisy or for creating the topic of my own news article. That would be pretty wild, because then there would be a total of seven articles about the event. But it could also be an interesting article – after all, wouldn't the writer have a point? Can this article that I'm writing really be called journalism, given that it is at least partially about the very fact that I am writing it? Can I write an article about the fact that I am writing an article? It sure seems like I am. Regardless, one thing is clear: there have already been way too many articles written about the Ben Shapiro event, and now there is yet another.



Anonymous Rav Shulman Talmid: Yeshivas Bein Hasemesterim Was “Not At All Gishmak”

By Habakkuk Herzfeld

Despite an extensive campaign designed to convince him otherwise, Yitzi Fishberg is not at all convinced that Yeshivas Bein Hasemesterim was gishmak. In an aggressive advertising campaign spearheaded by Rabbi Kalinsky and Rabbi Bacon, the program was billed as an exciting winter break alternative to going somewhere on vacation. According to a video released by RIETS, “Yeshivas Bein HaSemesterim comes down to one word: gishmak. Just total gishmakness.”

But Fishberg strongly feels that the program did not live up to this assessment, pointing out that the schedule consisted mostly of learning, with only the occasional break for food. The entire program took place in Washington Heights, with the exception of one afternoon trip to Riverdale, a mere fifteen-minute drive away.

Thus Fishberg was disappointed, not only with what he considers to be false advertising, but with the steep opportunity-cost involved. “I should've just listened to my friends when they told me to go to Miami,” he said. When asked about the program's schedule, he explained, “We basically learned all day. Like imagine learning gemara, and now imagine doing that all day for two weeks. That's what it was. I don't call that gishmak, not in my book.”





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Monologues of the Mila: Having the Circumcision Conversation, Period.

By Mila Yiannopoulos

Last year, Stern a number of Stern College students organized an event called Monologues from the Makom with the goal of encouraging discussion about their reproductive functions (actually though). Not to be outdone by their female counterparts, on Tuesday, approximately sixty Yeshiva University men gathered for a similar night of openness and frank discussion. Sponsored by the *The Observer*, YAS (Yeshiva Activities

“THE ENERGY IN THE ROOM WAS PALPABLE AS THE MEN SNAPPED, CHEERED, CRIED, AND LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AS THE VARIOUS BRAVE ATTENDEES SHARED THEIR DEEPLY PERSONAL STORIES.”

Society), and Klein at 9, the event was open to all Yeshiva College students, circumcised or not. YC Junior Richard Zucker organized the get-together and explained to *The Commentator* that he felt this event was necessary due to a lack of body positivity on the Wilf Campus. The students gathered in a local Washington Heights apartment, and sat on the floor in a circle in an open forum setting to reminisce about their circumcisions and discuss how

they could become more comfortable with their bodies.

The energy in the room was palpable as the men snapped, cheered, cried, and listened attentively as the various brave attendees shared their deeply personal stories. No topic was taboo. Some reminisced about their circumcisions. Others could hardly remember theirs, explaining that, at the time of their circumcisions, they were both very young and very drunk. One student remarked, “I vaguely remember a bearded man standing over me with a knife, but after that the memory gets

kinda hazy.” Some students avoided the topic of their circumcision, and spoke instead about feeling comfortable in general with their bodies. One student shared a painting of his foreskin, and the crowd responded with oohs and ahs. “I don’t actually recall what it looked like,” this circumcised student said, “but that’s like so not the point.” The attendees seemed to unanimously agree that the event was a smashing success, praising the organizers and clamoring for the next get-together.



Student With Absolutely No Direction in Life Enrolls in YU Semicha

By Chudley Tottenham

Yosef Rubenberg graduated YU with no plan for what he would do with his life and how he would make a living. After two years of Shaalvim followed by three years of college and only a sociology degree to show for it, he realized that he had absolutely no idea what to do next. Thankfully, YU provides a path for him to continue down the road of aimlessness: semicha. With relaxed hours, few requirements, and absolutely no oversight, semicha allows young drifters with no plan in life to continue doing nothing productive for

another few years.

Admission to the program is practically a given: interested students are almost always accepted through the formal application process or through one of the program’s many back-door entryways. After being accepted, students can easily coast through the next three years with minimal responsibility. “Semicha is sick,” said Yosef. “I get to do nothing all day, and I even make some money!”

Two years ago, President Richard Joel described YU’s semicha program as its crown jewel, and the program has only increased in prestige since then. The

program has grown in recent years, attracting ever more listless and directionless students who will then go on to form North America’s rabbinate. Rabbi Penner proudly explained the importance of YU’s Semicha program to *The Commentator*. “So many mediocre students graduate YU with so few life skills and no idea what they want to do with their lives,” said Rabbi Penner, “so it’s important that there be an option for them to delay making any important life decisions for another few years. YU semicha is that option.”

Rav Eliakim Koenigsberg Discovered Ordaining Female Rabbi in Women’s Lounge

By Oren Unterberg

Scandal rocked the YU community last week when Rabbi Eliakim Koenigsberg was caught attempting to defy the OU’s unequivocal ban on female rabbis. Though a group of OU Rabbis, including a number of YU Roshei Yeshiva, recently penned a statement prohibiting the ordination of female rabbis, Rabbi Koenigsberg apparently feels that his halachic authority supersedes that of the preeminent orthodox rabbinic association in North America.

The student who caught Rabbi Koenigsberg in the act explained that he has always wondered what goes down in the women’s lounge in the Nagels basement (the student wishes to remain anonymous since he’s actually in Rabbi Koenigsberg’s shiur and does not wish to damage his GPA (he’s taking shiur for credit)). Late Monday night his curiosity got the better of him; he stood by the water fountain, shot a furtive glance in either direction to ensure that no

one was watching, and darted down the stairs to the women’s lounge. But when he reached the bottom, he encountered a startling scene: Rabbi Koenigsberg, with his hands hovering a few inches over a girl’s head, was reciting the traditional magical incantation by which semicha is conferred. When he noticed that he had been discovered, he quickly jumped away, mumbling apologies and straightening his hat.

When approached by *The Commentator*, Rabbi Koenigsberg declined to comment on the situation. “I can neither confirm nor deny these awful rumors,” he said. Asked if one may confer semicha without placing one’s hands directly on the head of the ordained, Rabbi Koenigsberg explained, in his characteristic Talmudic sing-song tone, that, as long as the Rabbi’s hands are within three handbreadths of the head of the musmach, the halachic principle of lavud dictates that it is as if his hands are on the head. When asked if the same principle could cause one to violate the prohibition of contact between the sexes, Rabbi Koenigsberg was silent.



The *Commentator* then informed Rav Schachter of the situation and asked what he thought of Rav Koenigsberg’s actions. “Rav Koenigsberg?” Rav Schachter replied, appearing confused. “Who even is that? The registrar?”

Soy Election 2017 – Contentious and Confounding

By Alan Schwuet

As the spring 2017 semester came to a close, the Elders of Gush gathered once again in their lair in a 184th Street subterranean crypt. “We’ve succeeded on having a ‘Gush guy’ dictate SOY politics for yet another year,” chortled one particularly Gush-y Gush guy as his fellow Gush guys, all either reading Kefira or drinking (some both), laughed menacingly along with him. “But how can we maintain our power and agenda?”

It was then that Joseph Scholar suggested his brilliant plot. “I have a brilliant plot!” suggested Joseph Scholar as he arrogantly squeezed his way past pompous couches piled with Professor Will Lee assignments. “I have a surefire way

**“WE NEED CARTESIAN
CERTAINTY THAT WE’LL HAVE
THIS ELECTION IN THE GUSHBAG.”**
-JOSEPH SCHOLAR

for us to run Beit Midrash politics once again. I will run for president of SOY!”

“What about Dovid Simper?” pondered one philosophy major. “Isn’t he the obvious candidate? He’s currently VP. He’s apparently done some stuff. And he’s tricked the Shaalvim chevra that he’s one of them!” The other Gush guys proceeded to all agree with the sentiment, slapping each other on the back in recognition of their collective open-mindedness.

“No no no,” condescended Scholar to his friends. “We need to be *absolutely sure*. We need *Cartesian certainty* that we’ll have this election in the Gushbag.” Scholar then proceeded to explain his plan. “Let me explain my plan,” proceeded Scholar. “Part of Simper’s problem is that he’ll inevitably fall to the ideological Left of some as-of-yet undetermined opposition. He may win a majority of votes, but it’ll be slim. If, however, I join race and present myself as a Tanach-crazed, Rosh Yeshiva-hating, homosexuality-condoning liberal, then Dovid by comparison will seem centrist. All he’ll have to do is publically disavow and distance himself from me and my views. He’ll win for sure!” The Gush guys hurraed in consent, saluted a portrait of Rav Aharon Lichtenstein, and called it a night.

Scholar began his campaign with a flashy descent down the wide library staircase. The public initially reacted to the prospect of a Scholar presidency as a joke of a publicity stunt. But popular opinion soon turned from amusement to disgust after Scholar’s first public address. “When KBY sends its people,” shouted Scholar into the mic, “they’re not sending their best. They’re bringing Gemara. They’re bringing Halacha. They’re Yeshivish. And some, I assume, are good people.” Outrage and media attention, along

with Scholar’s vulgarity and unconventionality, escalated quickly. For once, it seemed, students across the YP spectrum could agree on something: Joseph Scholar must never become SOY president.

But as the YP establishment began assuring itself that a Scholar victory would be completely ludicrous – even impossible – the demonic snowball that was this election bid had already begun to grow uncontrollably, tumbling toward the election with escalating momentum. Apparently, Scholar had touched a nerve amongst marginalized IBC and JSS students. One “Scholar supporter,” who preferred to remain anonymous, described that he “didn’t necessarily agree with everything Scholar was saying. In fact, Scholar’s temperament and some of his positions are pretty concerning. But he’s something different. The establishment has ignored us for years, and I have faith that Scholar will actually make YU great again.”

Against all predictions, Scholar accrued enough student signatures to get on the ticket. He would be a participant

critiques, the moral points, the relatable pathos, and he would be fine.

Tragically, Dovid flopped like a flippy. He allowed Scholar to steamroll his critiques. Scholar deflected with the defense, “It was Beit Midrash talk.”

Needless to say, the email on election night from Canvassing Committee chairman Etan Bardash indicated that Scholar won big league. The Commentator polls got it dead wrong. Not only did Scholar win with a majority, but insider stats showed that he turned over some of the historically strongest Gush blocks, including Rabbi Wieder’s Shiur and... well, mostly just Rabbi Wieder’s Shiur.

With the fall 2017 semester around the corner, Scholar, who never even wanted the job in the first place, has already begun laying the groundwork for some radical changes. His proposed cabinet of IBC and JSS students will take over Shabbos planning. Instead of the Wednesday evening Sichas Mussar, Night Seder instead will once a



Student Organization of Yeshiva

in the student-moderated debate. This was actually going to happen.

Just before the debate, a bombshell dropped on Scholar in the form of a Commentator news break. In a video taken from a Cholent ViChizzuk back in Gush, Scholar can be heard bragging that “When you’re a Gush guy, they let you do it. You can do anything. Grab Yeshivish guys by the peiyos. You can do anything.”

Heading into the debate with plunging poll numbers, all agreed that the surprising era of Scholar had come to an end. All Dovid Simper had to do was hit the obvious

week conclude with intellectual discourses from a rotation of Bible critics. Every Shabbos will be Gay Shabbos.

The morning after the election, sympathetic Roshei Yeshiva cancelled Morning Seder for the distraught YP students. And yet some of the velt, despite the utterly embarrassing defeat, seemed relatively upbeat that day. Said one Shaalvim student, “I know that Daas Torah... I mean an email from my Shiur assistant... I mean rational thinking dictated to do everything in our power to not let Scholar win. But at least all of this made for some big hock, which is pretty geshmak.”

Roshei Yeshiva Denounce Westboro Baptist Church

By Commentator Staff

After the news broke that the Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) is coming to YU in religious protest, students and administration were quick to address the issue. Rabbi Dr. Josh Joseph, Senior Vice President, wrote in an official email that “YU firmly rejects the group’s vile message of intolerance and hatred.” The WBC publicly and proudly denounces gay people as “fags” who “hate God.” They also attempt to redeem Jews from their sin of killing Christ.

Needless to say, the YU Roshei Yeshiva would not sit quietly as this outrage ensued. Rav Aharon Kahn happened to be up for that week’s Wednesday night Sichas Mussar. The Glueck Beis Midrash was nearly full. The room hushed as Rav Kahn walked in and took to the podium. He removed his hat. “Moray Vrabosai,” he began, “I would like to address something very serious. I will say this as directly as I can. The Westboro Baptist



Church is something we should all not not not not maybe not nisht pashut disapprove of.”

“Tachlis,” Rav Kahn continued, “the Westboro Baptist Church does have a point. And I listened to their songs, which are far less prus than shvartze rap or Game of Thrones.” Rav Kahn then concluded his Sichah with a 30 minute rant that one student described as “probably referring to Rabbi Ari Berman, but it also might have been about Jay Z. I’m not quite sure.”

YU Maintenance Staff Concludes that Waterless Urinals are a Fantastic Success

By Walter Liss

The YU Housing and Maintenance Offices recently touted their successful decision to use waterless urinals in the library bathrooms. In the report, they highlighted the fact that even though there's only one urinal per library floor, on a campus that is literally only for men, the urinals and bathrooms absolutely do not smell like urine, and aren't filled with hair.

In addition, amidst recent opinion pieces in *The Commentator* and *The Observer* that paint YU in a sexist light, YU was proud to emphasize that the the odors from the men's bathrooms have been seeping into the women's library bathrooms, resulting in an equally unpleasant bathroom experience for all of YU's population.

One benefit of the waterless urinals and urinal cakes are the cost savings from not needing janitors to actually clean the urinals, toilets, bathrooms, or library. A second benefit is that the school has been able to donate hairs from the urinals to local sheitel makers.

The YU report did add, however, that with the caf recently raising prices on baked goods, YU janitors haven't been able to replace the urinal cakes with new ones.



YC to Stop Offering Classes Starting Fall 2017

By Jorgen Fairbanker

Pursuant to an Executive Board decision, YU President Richard Joel recently announced that beginning next semester, Yeshiva College would cease to offer classes. President Joel stated that while the school was approaching financial stability, this step would give it a slight boost on the way. Clarifying that all YU schools would continue existing despite the move, he said that "we understand the burden that you and your parents face in paying Yeshiva tuition. Once we stop offering classes, the school will have more financial wherewithal, but it will allow your tuition to stay where it is."

In anticipated protest of this move, YU's board has released an official statement to stress how little this move would change the school's quality and character. "YU's mission has always been about Torah Umadda, not about taking classes," claims the board. "In fact, the classes offered weren't that good to begin with." The board neglected to identify the originator of either the decision or the statement, though Chairman Moshael Straus wrote a short, enigmatic Facebook post in YU Marketplace 2.0, saying that "[o]nly the board knows. Sucks to be Y[o]U. Ha ha ha."

Other YU faculty members responded differently. Upon

reading an emailed question from *The Commentator's* staff regarding the decision, Provost Dr. Selma Botman responded, "there's no reason for me to do anything about this, so please don't bother me ever again." A certain Rabbi Doctor Vice President of Student Life who insisted on remaining anonymous but demanded that his full title appear (capitalized, no less) emphasized his own confidence in the decision's consistency with YU's principles and values, though he, too, refused to give any details.

In lieu of classes, YC will ramp up the requirements in order to keep its tuition-paying students in the school. Said Dean Karen Bacon, "offering classes didn't make sense anymore, but making more requirements always helps. We needed to keep students from leaving YU, or, God forbid, taking classes anywhere but here."

While many YU students expressed dismay at the decision, some were relieved to hear tuition levels would remain steady in the coming year. Upon request, though, Jacob Herenstein refused to assuage students' worry that tuition would rise the following year: "Let's take this thing one year at a time," said Herenstein, before quickly clarifying "whoops, I forgot, I'm supposed to be taking a break from this job."

President Joel announced that this move's radical nature should not concern anybody. "Before I left," he

exclaimed when asked, "I had to make sure to fulfill the slogan 'Nowhere but Here'. I think that I may have succeeded, if I may say so myself."



Rabbi Sacks Faces Controversy over Naming of New Book, "To Light a Jewish Soul on Fire"

By Pinchus Zoidelberg

This week, beloved former Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks faced tremendous controversy over the title of his new book, "To Light a Jewish Soul on Fire".

"I mean, he's practically begging them to come for us," said Bubbe Shayne from Woodmere. "I loved his last books about how Jews are just both better than other people and also the exact same as other people but also better and also the same. But, this one just...he seems to have taken it too far. Are we better or are we the same?"

In response, Rabbi Sacks held a press conference which he called Dignity and Difference: How the Modern Jew can Remain A Light Unto the Nations. (Note: We're still unsure of why he named his defensive press conference, but we're looking into it). During this press conference he responded, "When I was younger I met two influential people: Rav Joseph B. Soloveitchik and the Lubavitcher Rebbe..." He then spoke for 45 minutes about the modern Jew before saying, "The name of this book was about how a fire can never go out. It wasn't anything more. I swear"

However, despite his defenses, apparently the ADL is apparently calling for a boycott of the book because, well, because they're the ADL and they don't seem to have much else to do. When asked for comment a member of the ADL said, "ANTI SEMITISM! EVERYWHERE! EVERYBODY'S AN ANTI-SEMITE!"

How this latest problem will sort itself out is still to be determined.

Holiday Programming Group Found to be Front for Heroin Dealership

By Yitzchak Fried

In a shocking revelation, the holiday programming group known as Hisoriri was found to be a front for a ring of heroin dealers based in downtown Baltimore. The group, which regularly advertises through ystuds (although officially unaffiliated with YU), makes regular trips to Jewish communities across the East Coast, ostensibly to assist with community and holiday programming. In reality, however, the group acts as the mobile agents of a heroin network pursued by the BPD for the past decade.

"I thought something was fishy when Dov asked me to deliver a small suitcase to my host," reported one Hisoriri volunteer, who



helped bring the organization's true activities to light. "The suitcase was made of silver metal, and I couldn't see why our gift of gummy-worms should be delivered in a metal case." Upon opening the case, the volunteer found rows of neatly packaged syringes, each one filled with clear fluid. (He prefers to remain anonymous to avoid the repercussions of running afoul of the heroin ring.) "Of course, I reported the find immediately," the volunteer added. "My host was very disappointed."

Several other volunteers, who came forward on condition of anonymity, expressed their dismay at the news that their good-faith work had served to facilitate crime. "It really makes me feel awful," said one student. "Still, I always did say that Hisoriri is dope."

A Weekend in the Country with Cabey

By Babe Kid

I met Cabey one weekend in the Country. I got the idea a few weeks ago after I asked Cabey Cabey, the fellow who works in the Caf and who may or may not be legally called Carlton, where he spends his weekends, and he responded that he goes to "the Country." Intrigued by his mystique and generally wise advice, I decided I would go with him there to learn more about the man.

Unfortunately, finding "the Country" or any details thereof proved to be challenging. Despite my persistently prompting Cabey for some information, his answers were unhelpful, ranging from "Nah man" to "Whatchu saying, punk" to "You've got some nerve, kid." I almost lost all hope, but I finally came up with a great plan. I would personally follow Cabey as he left work on Thursday night.

Keeping a safe distance behind Cabey, I followed him as he took the 1 train down to Penn Station. I discreetly followed him through the crowd and hopped onto a northbound train with him. I regrettably fell asleep, so I lost track of where exactly we went. But I woke up in the most amazing place. Despite being the middle of January, the temperature was mild and the sun was bright. Green grass stretched for miles in all directions.

"Welcome to the Country!" beamed a kindly black man wearing no shoes. "Can we get you any lunch?"

I was confused. "What is this place?"

"Come," said the kindly black man. "Let's get you some salmon." He beckoned me to follow him as he walked up the gentle hill. We passed kids frolicking in swan-filled ponds, cherry trees in full bloom, and young couples picnicking on the lawn. And then I saw it. In the distance was a chrome-colored serving station, just like the one in the Furman Dining Hall.

"Hey kid, what you having?" I heard in the distance. *Could it be?* I thought. *Is that really him?* Sure enough, as we got closer, there was Cabey wearing his apron, unloading a tray of salmon from an oven.

"Cabey!" I shouted. Cabey spotted me and dropped his serving utensil. "I thought you come to the Country to get some relaxing in. What's going on, Cabey? Why are you just working like you do every day?"

"You shouldn't have followed me here, kid."

"C'mon, Cabey. You're more than just my cafeteria guy. You're my mentor. My encourager. Heck, you're my best friend."

Cabey was visibly confused and annoyed, but also a bit touched. He gave me a very large portion of salmon on a plate and took me to meet his family. Beneath a leafy oak tree were seven kids standing in a line in height order. Cabey pointed at the first one: "Hey babe." And he continued down the line: "Hey babe, hey babe, hey babe, hey babe, hey babe, hey babe, hey babe."

He then asked me if I wanted to meet his wife. I told him that I surely did, so he brought me further along the green landscape.

After a long but blissful walk we arrived at a checkout desk which, like the serving station, was just like the checkout desk in the Furman Dining Hall. Sitting there was Elaine. "You're Cabey's wife?" I marveled.

Elaine gave me a death stare. She continued to give me a death stare. She then looked at my plate. "Do you have any sides with that salmon?" she asked.

Despite my attempts at getting more words out of Elaine, I was unsuccessful. So I never actually confirmed whether or not Elaine and Cabey are a thing. Cabey also gave only vague, unhelpful comments on the subject, so I stopped pressing.

Overall that weekend was one of my most interesting college experiences. I still see Cabey every day in the Caf, but he never treats me any differently than your average YU guy. But on the special occasions when he happens to ask me how my weekend was, I'm always pretty sure that he's giving me just the smallest hint of a wink. We share a knowing look. And I smile.



Forward Reports on The Commentator Reporting on the Forward

By Yitzchak Fried

The Forward has recently begun increasing its scrutiny of Yeshiva University, the premiere Orthodox university and widely held flagship of the Modern Orthodox movement. "In these unstable times, it's the job of the media to heighten their scrutiny of establishment institutions," said an anonymous spokesperson for *The Forward*. "We have a long tradition of reporting on every minute thing that happens within YU's hallowed halls. So why not report on their reporting on us?"

The move seems to be in retaliation for a recent announcement from *The Commentator* editorial board, which revealed that it intended to initiate a policy of tabulating the times that *The Forward* quotes *The Commentator*, and publishing the information in a graphic on the paper's Facebook page, with real time updates. "They steal our news and re-report it all the time," complained Editor in Chief Doron Levine. "This would be a way for people to know who the real source of their news is."

But *The Forward* seems intent to outdoing *The Commentator* in passive aggression. "They can't keep us out," said the same spokesperson. "We've got our eyeball on them."

Chop Chop Agrees to Stop Roasting Pig in Exchange for Being Restored in YU Cafeterias

Three weeks ago, Yeshiva University stopped selling products from non-Orthodox Union approved food suppliers, including Chop Chop and Carlos and Gabby's, in the main cafeteria and Nagel Cafe. Students united in numbers and unseen since Connie Rose's mural became a thing, protesting against the Powers That Be and asking for their General Tso's to be returned.

The Student Life Committee immediately took on the case and began lobbying on behalf of the students. Many thought that the kashrut rules being employed by Food Services must have been bureaucratic and politicized, but it turns out Chop Chop has a weekly tradition of roasting suckling pig. They agreed to stop though. So we're all good now.



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