

## 'We Couldn't Risk Becoming Irrelevant': YU Roshei Yeshiva 'Collab' for Daf Reactions With Miriam Anzovin

By PARTY ARC-E

Each day, Yeshiva University's *roshei yeshiva* dedicate a sizeable portion of their mornings to leading Daf Yomi shiurim, but now, they are looking for a new way to disseminate the teachings of Chazal.

The *roshei yeshiva* are launching a new collaboration with TikTok star Miriam Anzovin for her popular "Daf Reactions" series. The initiative, set to begin this coming fall, comes after Undergraduate Torah Studies Dean Rabbi Kosef Yalinsky voiced concerns about the university "becoming irrelevant."

Anzovin made headlines across Jewish publications for her TikTok videos that summarize and comment on any given day in the Daf Yomi cycle. Her videos reached far and wide, causing concern among the *beit midrash*. For that reason, Rabbi Yalinsky organized an emergency meeting of YU's *roshei yeshiva* on Wednesday, March 9. Unanimously, the rabbis agreed about what needed to be done.

"We couldn't risk becoming irrelevant," President Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman told The CommentaTorot in a Twitter DM. "Anzovin has got what we do not, and I think she can



YU students celebrate the announcement with Anzovin.

TIKTOK

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## YU Appoints Sheikh Mohammed Al-Issa as Campus Rabbi of New Torat Tziyon Program

By SHEIKH MENACHEM PEN NER

YU announced the appointment of Sheikh Mohammed Al-Issa, secretary general of the Muslim World League, as campus rabbi for its new Israel-based Torat Tziyon Pilot program in an email to every other student and some associate custodians on Monday.

This initiative for a pilot series of Israel-based academic programs called the "Torat Tziyon Pilot Programs," a reference to YU's Five Torot campaign, was announced in December. However, the Sheikh reportedly plans to introduce a parallel set of values, "72 Hadiths," to complement the Five Torot and bring "a more balanced theological perspective" to YU.

Al-Issa's wife will also be working in the program in a support role. Rebbetzin Al-Issa (formerly Botwinick), aims to strengthen diversity on campus through a mandatory Arabic program for attendees, though as of press time she could not be reached for comment (she missed her Riyadh-to-Tel Aviv flight due to an inability to drive to the King Khalid International Airport).

The Sheikh voiced his excitement about working with YU in Israel in a prepared statement: "For too long, President Rabbi



Wilf Campus Office of the Registrar

THE COMMENTATOR

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## YU Pride Alliance Forms to Increase School Spirit

By Jo Jo JOSEPH

With the Macs being eliminated in the first round of the playoffs, Touro receiving university status from the NY Board of Regents and the declining marriage rates

*There has been an all-around decrease in student and faculty satisfaction at YU.*

particularly within the freshman and sophomore demographics, there has been an all-around decrease in student and faculty satisfaction at YU. This decrease is both shocking yet understandable, especially when the importance of the Macs is compared to the rest of the university. Now that the talented core is being broken up,

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# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

## The Worst Thing Since the Beit HaMikdash's Destruction: On The Macs' Broken Win Streak

By **PRESIDENT RABBI  
DR. ARI BERMAN**

The Jewish People have been empty for thousands of years. We lacked meaning, purpose, spirit and God. I knew these things, but over my four years as president of Yeshiva University, I never imagined what would fill this void: the Maccaroni basketball team.

As 68 CE came to an end, so did our temple — the Beit HaMikdash. It was terrible — like, really bad. And our lives have been filled with so much “oy” since then, without any semblance of “joy.” But then, to quote one of Yeshiva University's new role models, change “came in like a wrecking ball.” That change began in November 2019.

The Maccaroni basketball team would take that basketball and put it in the basket-hoop for many different games, and they would keep on doing it! They did it for over two years! And they came out with a 50-game win streak, which ended on Dec. 30, 2021.

I cried myself to sleep that night. I knew what it was like to have everything you hold

dear in life be taken from you, to have the Divine Presence leave your midst. This was the worst thing to happen since the Beit HaMikdash's destruction.

When I took this job, I thought I did it for all the right reasons: \$700,000 salary, free travel, minimal work, free \$1.8 million-valued house and a lot of catchy titles. I never expected the energy and excitement that could come from our basketball team. Each time I see that spherical object fly into the net, I punch someone in the face. So far, I have punched a lot of people in the face.

Many have come up to me about our team's success. “President Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman, you are so smart and genius,” they always begin. “Do you think this is divine intervention? Are you a prophet?” It's flattering, really. As a rabbi — as a president, a doctor, a Jew, an Ari and a Berman — I think yes. I think God is giving us something really special, but that is the wrong question.

The real question we need to be asking is not whether the Maccaronis rely on God, rather we must ask whether

God relies on the Maccaronis. The answer? Absolutely.

Yeshiva University was built upon our core Torah values — but now we have a basketball team! Tell me that this is not God working through our story, working to build us into something great. (You can also give us money if you donate now!) You cannot, because it would be a lie. Trust me, I'm a doctor.

Now our people have a purpose. The beit midrash wasn't doing it before, and all that Torah Umadda nonsense was getting kinda old. We are moving history forward as a university, and the Maccaronis are allowing us to do so.

It is as Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik once said: “The basketball team is the pinnacle of ontological human worth, the symbiosis that ontologically defines all that is Yeshiva University. The Lonely Player of Yeshiva is, thus, the essence.”

It is quotes like that that form my world view, and I know they should do the same for you, too.

# THE COMMENTATOR

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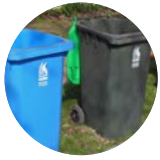
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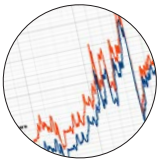
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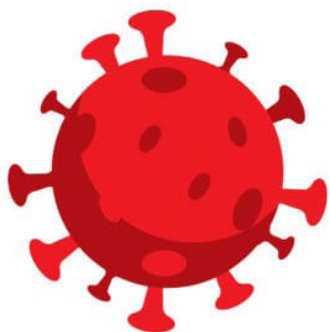
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**Caf Price Inflation** **3**

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**Rise Up Marketing Campaign** **4**

We all love seeing the YU we don't have, like when you have a cold and remember what it's like to have a deep breath.



**Phone Call Threats** **5**

Deadly for world peace



**Illinois Wesleyan Titans** **6**

50-game win streaks are particularly vulnerable.



**In Towners for Shabbat** **7**

My short-shorts don't match my wintercoat, but nature has me tripping with this forecast



*PRIDE ALLIANCE*  
Continued from Front Page

PRDAB and the OSL announced the creation of the YU Pride Alliance, a new initiative to increase school spirit across the Beren and Wilf campuses. The Alliance will be comprised of students from both campuses and all the various morning programs to demonstrate the unification of the Yeshiva and the University. “It’s time for us to show that there isn’t a divide between the Torah and Madda sects here at Yeshiva,” PRDAB wrote in an email to students.

Josh Weisberg, the long-tenured director of the OSL added that now, more than ever, students need to be proud of their school. “It’s a frightening thought for many when you realize that our entire organizational identity has been a Division III college basketball team. We all know their success won’t last forever and now that they’ve had their last dance, we need to work harder to distract students from the institutional failures that make up a large percentage of YU. After all, what’s stopping parents from telling their children that they’ll be paying for them to go to Touro now?”

When we asked students on campus what they hoped to see from the YU Pride Alliance,

the vast majority stated that the lack of quality swag was concerning. One Beren Campus student who requested anonymity (because she is in the middle of shidduchim) stated that she was upset that the new sweatshirts were 100% polyester. “When my mother and grandmother were, like, students, they got these, like, cotton sweatshirts that were made to, like, last [Sips her iced coffee]. Now, they’re sewn together by English majors - they don’t even know how to get jobs; why would they like, you know, know how to sew?” Another student on the Wilf Campus lamented the lack of free cholent and kugel and on the rare occasions that YU gave it out, there was a shocking lack of meat. “This is what I was worried about, my rosh yeshiva said that you could measure the religious leanings of an organization by the amount of meat they put in their cholent. Last Thursday night, I only found three pieces in my 4 oz. bowl, so yeah, YU is definitely becoming a secular college these days.”

One Syms student said that they didn’t have much to say about YU, adding that they were only here because their father said that they would have to pay their own

way if they wanted to go to other popular schools like University of Maryland or Rutgers University.

Only time will tell if the YU Pride Alliance will be the success YU needs but one thing is certain, this is the first group of its kind to be so devoted to representing students from both campuses with a loud and unified voice.

and in order to do so and to allow for closures due to holidays and travel days (and their proximity to weekends), the academic calendar allowed for an intersession of 9 days, an intersession of this length was also in place in prior years. The length of this break often fluctuates in this manner, and intersessions of 9 days have occurred in previous years. The overall number of academic days remains unchanged and is the same as last year.”

Both the fall and spring semesters will be the same length as this year’s academic schedule, with each semester consisting of 56 school days operating on a Monday-Thursday schedule, and 14 days operating on a Friday schedule, including midterms, according to The Commentator’s review of the calendar.

Although the number of instructional days will remain unchanged, there will be some restructuring of study days. In the fall semester, there will be four study days — including one day on a Sunday and on Asara B’Tevet — which will be after four days of finals and a break for New Years. Last semester, there were also four study days, but none were scheduled for a Sunday or in between finals.

In the spring of 2023, there will be four study days as well, including one Sunday. There are only three such days this semester, one of which is also a Sunday.

In the 2020-2021 academic year, YU gave students five “reading days” — in a period known as “reading week” — before finals. This was shortened in order for the university to meet “the required number of instructional hours,” Spiegel told The Commentator at the time.

Some students were upset that YU did not announce that the calendar was posted. “By quietly uploading the academic calendar to their website and not notifying students of significant changes, YU has once again shown a lack of desire to communicate with their students,” Yeshiva Student Union President Elazar Abrahams (YC ‘22) said.

Spiegel maintained that the Office of the Registrar spoke with students beforehand. “Chad Austein and I met with the Student Leadership several times to discuss the draft and format of the upcoming year’s calendar, including all of the academic requirements and breaks,” she said.

Other students were upset about the shortened break and its potential impact. “I need winter break to recharge properly between semesters and get the boost I need until the summer,” Gaby Rahmanfar (SCW ‘24) said. “It’s really frustrating that the school is shortening it. The new break really doesn’t feel like a substantial amount of time for a proper recharge.”

The upcoming academic year will also include several days of remote instruction, including every day of instruction between Rosh Hashanah and Sukkot. This is the second year since the start of the pandemic that this has been done.

Similarly to this year, the deadline to drop a course without a “W,” indicating withdrawal on a student’s transcript, is before midterms. This change was originally implemented in the fall 2020 semester, before being delayed a year due to a student protest.

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*DAF REACTIONS*  
Continued from Front Page

pull in a lot of money for us, as my salary could use a raise.” Berman followed that message with a correction, saying he meant to write, “she can pull in a lot of students who we want to help and care about.”

The CommentaTorot acquired several rehearsal videos of Anzovin and YU rebbeim for the new series.

“Hello, my friends!” Anzovin exclaims into the camera in one particular video, as Rabbi Larry Abowitz stands beside her with a tight smile. Anzovin introduces the new initiative as she begins her makeup routine, narrated by Rabbi Abowitz. Soon after, the two get into the daf.

“People, I’m kvelling,” Anzovin utters. Rabbi Abowitz, without missing a beat, echoes: “She is kvelling!”

“I’m Miriam,” she continues, “here in 2022, and I am kvelling over the actions of a man who died in 320 CE — that’s the power

of Daf Yomi.” Rabbi Abowitz, wincing and widening his smile, tips his black hat to the camera, and the video ends.

Many students are supportive of this initiative, including Beli Urg (SSSB ‘22).

*“When you’re dealing with wome— I mean people, there will always be complaints.”*

Rabbi Benjamin Sharpio

“This is what YU needs to do in order to stay relevant. The current way of learning Gemarah is, spell it with me, L-A-M-E.” His father agreed, voicing his own concerns about YU’s relevancy.

“I just had a disappointing visit to the YU Seforim Sale,” he said. “They were carding everyone for vaccines & walking around

telling people to wear masks. A reminder why the [Modern Orthodox] community has had such a hard time getting past COVID. YU needs to do a better job or become irrelevant.”

Still, other students find YU’s actions hypocritical.

Girl Who Learns Gemarah and Is Therefore Seen As Liberal (SCW ‘23) noted that the beit midrash on Beren Campus is only filled with Mesillat Yesharim books. “There is not one Talmud in sight,” she said, adding that she “still studies Talmud every

day.”

The roshei yeshiva were not phased by this critique. “When you’re dealing with wome— I mean people, there will always be complaints,” Rabbi Benjamin Sharpio said. “This is why little gir— some people, I mean, should not have access to these types of works.”

“It can lead them astray,” Rabbi Sharpio added.

For now, it seems like the Daf Reactions initiative is a raging success on Wilf Campus. According to many students, the Glueck Beit Midrash has had many students by 10:55 p.m., a “rarity one does not often see,” Pleasedon Tquoteme (YC ‘24) told The CommentaTorot.

# Beren Students Donate Entire Art Floor to New Belz Hall Gallery To Prevent Closure

By **BAREN KACON**

Following plans by Yeshiva University to turn the eighth floor of 215 Lexington Ave, home to Stern College for Women's art department, into a Cyberpunk 2077 multiplayer arena for cats, art students took radical steps to protect their work.

They were inspired by a recent donation by the Belz family of \$20 million toward renovating and renaming Furst Hall on YU's Wilf Campus, which included \$6 million of art for "permanent display."

*"Two [Beren Students] formulated a plan to pledge the entire eighth floor to the new Belz gallery, ensuring its permanent display (until YU defaults on its debts or Mashiach arrives, whichever comes first)."*

"Why can't we do that too?" asked Penina Picassowitz in Politics of Acrylics 101, interrupting a silent performance art piece by her classmate Yona Oko. Oko threw an apple at Picassowitz, but then concurred. The two then formulated a plan to pledge the entire 8th floor to the new Belz gallery, ensuring its permanent display (until YU defaults on its debts or Mashiach arrives, whichever comes first).

The plan would entail removing the entire 8th floor via a series of cranes and lowering it to street level. After the 9th floor falls neatly into place atop the 7th, ideally with minimal

disturbance to circumjacent classrooms, the 8th floor would be balanced on a convoy of on-time shidduch shuttles as they head uptown during the afternoon rush. Upon arriving at the Wilf Campus, the floor would be slowly but firmly squeezed into the lobby of the soon-to-be Belz Hall by a group of off-duty security guards.

Studio Art Professor Tasty Tulips applauded her students' boldness and initiative,

stating "not since the October Revolution had the proletariat risen up against the bourgeoisie with such clarity of vision." YU General Counsel Austin J. Powers, on the other hand, was not amused. "How can they spin the language of the Belz contract in such a ridiculous direction?" he cried. "We would never do anything so misleading, like giving professors awards and then firing them, or whatever."

At press time, the art students had staged a dramatic protest against the university by buying their daily coffees at the local Starbucks rather than the cafeteria. According to Picassowitz, their total bill is just shy of the value of the Belz art donation, and they've set up a GoFundMe to cover it under the name "Capitalism is Dead."

*This is a developing Megillah.*



Artist's rendering of the art floor after its installation in Furst Hall

THE COMMENTOROT

# YU Clarifies Mask Mandate of No Mandate But With Masks

By **PRESIDENT RABBI DR. ANTHONY FAUCI**

YU sent three emails to undergraduate students to clarify the recent change in the masking policy on Mar. 1, 2, and 4. The emails outlined the mandate would be not mandated once it was mandated.

*"We did what you wanted, so please stop bothering us."*

Dean of Faculty Sara Bednarsh

After a tropical rainstorm took place in the elevators on Nov. 24, students had to take off their wet masks. This sparked a change.org petition, in which parents protested that additional weather should not be forced on students since they already have the weather from outside. To distract the parents from the weather boost, YU mandated a non-mask mandate to mask in elevators.

The mask mandate has been in effect since YU began the academic year without masks in September 2021. The mandate was then lifted for during meals and around friends and faculty, but only hip faculty. Once SSSB students found a way to cheat on their COVID tests, COVID numbers on YU's COVID tracker significantly declined and therefore the mask mandate was not lifted until a few weeks later.

Faculty were told that they still have to

wear masks unless they don't want to, and students were encouraged to wear masks if they wanted to unless they don't want to.

"We did what you wanted, so please stop bothering us," said Dean of Faculty Sara Bednarsh when pressed for a comment.

In addition to the masking policy, there has also been a recent development in the Zoom policy. An email was sent out telling students to email administration their excuses for needing to be on Zoom. Subsequently, Dean Orlian emailed students at 2 a.m that she was "extremely overwhelmed" by the large number of requests to Zoom and "can't understand why you need to Zoom a 9 a.m. class just because you were getting drinks with PRDAB's TikTok manager late last night." Students were then told to go back to the original system of emailing professors 15 minutes before class starts.

Students were excited about the Zoom policy. "It's nice that I can leave Wednesday night and Zoom all my Thursday classes," shared Sarah Teaneck (SCW '20). "All I have to do is track down Dean Orlian and give her a 20."

"I've been coming late Mondays and Zooming from the train," said Leora Woodmere (SCW '21). "Then I walk with my camera on from the station to my dorm, put away my Stern clothes for the week and then have lunch with my friends. It's a very productive morning."



Bednarsh gives the "okay" to dance like no one's watching.

COVID TRACKER

## Sorcery Club's Events Cause Controversy on Campus

By **HERMIONE GITTEL GREENBERG**

The YU Sorcery Club, a new club on Wilf Campus whose goals are to “promote a deep understanding of the past, present, and future,” caused controversy by its two recent events, “Astrology: Foresee your Midterm” and “Necromancy: Conversations with George Washington.”

The first event, “Astrology: Forsee your Midterm,” was held on Wednesday, March 9, and took place on the roof of the Glueck Beit Midrash. Students recited passages from the Book of the Dead, and after doing dances while juggling burning torches, were able to discover portions of tests before some were even written.

This event brought up accusations of academic dishonesty. Karren Poller, a professor at Sy Syms School of Business, was concerned about cheating. “It’s wrong for students to steal questions to exams, and makes a mockery of all the hard work we professors do,” she said. “YU should shut down this club immediately.”

The second event, “Necromancy: Conversations with George Washington,” was held at Belfer Hall on Thursday, March 10. Bilaam Ibn Beor (YC ’22), president of the Sorcery Club, summoned an upside-down George Washington after putting a donkey skull underneath his armpit. Students heard George Washington’s views on contemporary US foreign policy, including how he believes the United States should respond to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

“Ukraine? Where’s that? Oh, right. I think the Czar should stay far away from

there before the Ottomans, Hapsburgs, and Prussians get involved. Trust me, we don’t need that Napoleon guy returning from Egypt,” he said, causing a lot of puzzled-looking faces in the crowd.

“Talk about that Napoleon,” Washington said, drawing a nervous chuckle from the crowd. “I bet he’s the type to leave his entire army in Egypt when he goes back to France!”

Some students were unhappy about these events. “This is *takeh a gezeiras shmad*,” said Yankel’a Shtrudel to The Commentator. “*L’massa* it’s a *groissa sakanah* – *mamish pekuach nefesh*. *Yehareig V’al Yaavor*. It doesn’t match the yeshiva’s *hashkafa*, it’s a bad *hashpoa* on the *talmidim* – we are on a higher *madreiga* than this. *Avade* the Yeshiva should *mamish assur* this.”

Some students disagreed. “This is about providing education and real-life experience to other students,” said Ibn Beor. “We won’t stop our work.”

“We have a full slate of exciting events coming up,” said Balak von Tzipor (SSSB ’25). “We are planning to hold two more events this semester, one titled ‘How to turn your staff into a snake, Pharaoh style,’ and two, ‘how to divine the future from animal livers, Babylonian style.’ It is unfortunate that some people are haters, but we won’t give up!”

A planned event to see demons by burning and grinding the afterbirth of a firstborn female black cat born to a firstborn female black cat and then placing those ashes in student’s eyes was banned by OSL due to potential complications that could lead to students suing the university.

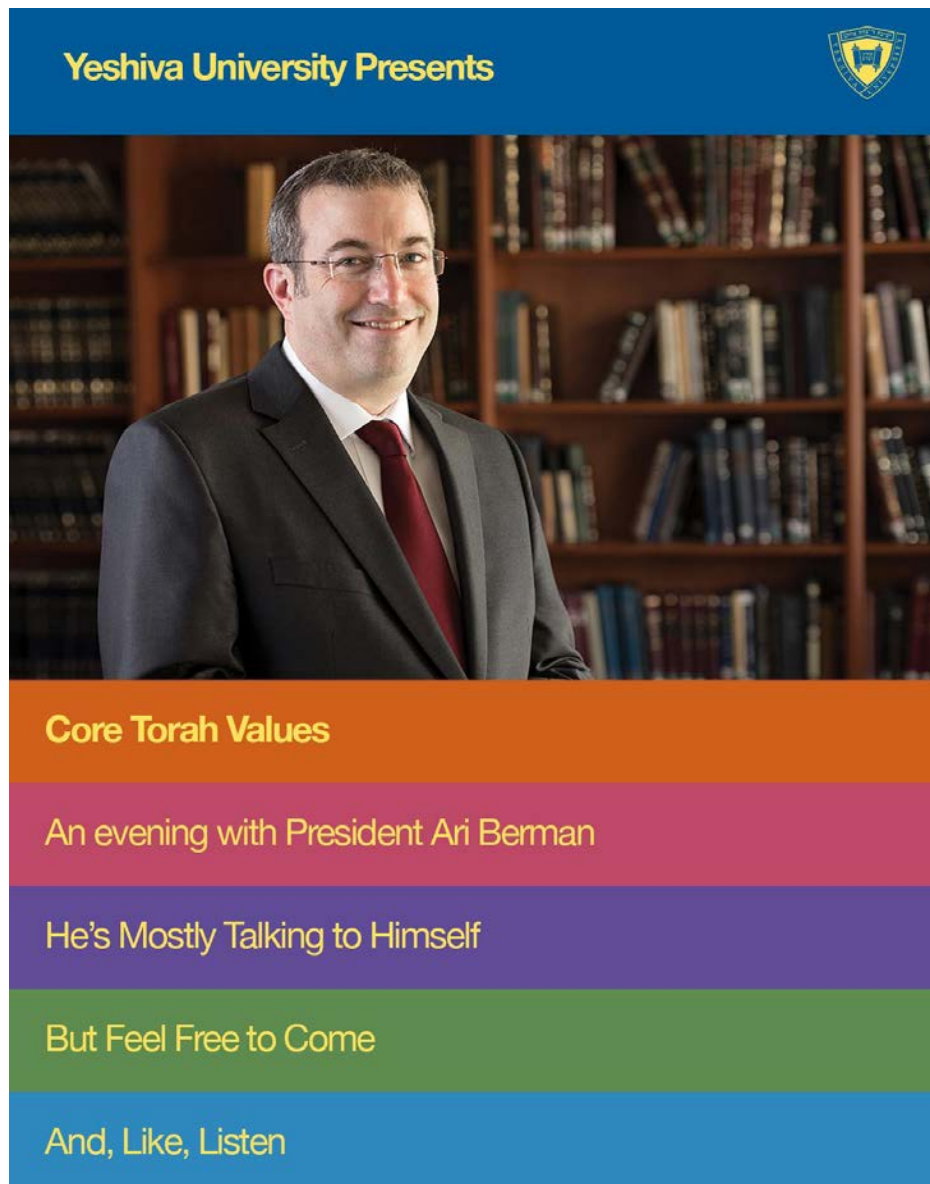


Yeshiva University

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Yeshiva University Presents

**Core Torah Values**

An evening with President Ari Berman

He's Mostly Talking to Himself

But Feel Free to Come

And, Like, Listen

**SHEIKH MOHAMMED AL-ISSA**  
Continued from Front Page

Dr. Ari Berman has been unchallenged in his position as ‘person with most titles at YU.’ I, Sheikh Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Issa, Secretary General of the Muslim World League, President of the International Islamic Halal Organization, former Saudi Minister of Justice and three-time ‘longest

being finalized, but expect separate-gender classes: Gemara and business management for men, and laffa baking and “pairing burqas with Gucci sunglasses” for women. The men’s classes will be taught by Rabbi Joe Bednarsh and Athletic Director Ofek Eisenstein, while the women’s classes will

*YU announced the appointment of Sheikh Mohammed Al-Issa ... as campus rabbi for its new Israel-based Torat Tziyon Pilot program in an email to every other student and some associate custodians on Monday.*

motorcade in NYC winner,’ aim to put him in his place. By any means necessary.” The Sheikh also expressed a desire to maintain YU Israel’s strict no-alcohol rules on campus, already meticulously enforced in the Torat Shraga dormitories there. He advocated for lashes on the first offense and decapitation on the second.

The Torat Tziyon undergraduate program is only for juniors and seniors of the Sy Syms School of Business (SSSB) with a GPA of at least 7.8 (unadjusted). At Al-Issa’s initiative, Saudi princes with shadowy ties to sanctioned arms dealers will also be admitted regardless of GPA. Curriculum is still

be largely self-taught.

Asked whether Al-Issa’s appointment would dilute YU’s identity as a Jewish university, President Berman stated “In the Torah, which is kinda like a Quran prequel, Ishmael and Isaac have beef. As you know, beef can be both Halal and Kosher at the same time. Case closed.” He added: “If I can get a photo-op with a guy who’s frum enough to wear his *Tallis* all day, that’s gotta somehow be a Torah value.”

# YU Gaga Team Beats Illinois-Wesleyan, Extends Win Streak to 51

By **BRYAN LYFER**

Yeshiva University's men's Gaga team, the YU Bumblebees, extended their win streak to 51 games with a 73-59 victory over the Illinois-Wesleyan Larvae last Monday, March 7.

The game began with a special honoring of Jordan "Piggy" Rey, one of Amsterdam Ave.'s 3 a.m. motorcyclists and twice-decorated red-light runner.

"Mr. Rey has been a role model to the students," President Berman said. "Thanks to Mr. Rey, students have been able to make vasikin every morning, which is something that we encourage our students to do. Additionally, Mr. Rey's perseverance at being the worst human being possible is absolutely deplorable. All he cares about is himself; himself and no other," Berman continued.

"We respect his commitment and hard work at being a horrible and selfish human being, and we can't think of anything more fitting than recognizing you, "Piggy" Rey, as an honorary Bumblebee for life."

*"It's all about taking one small step at a time."*

—  
Neil Armstrong

"Thank you President Doctor Rabbi Ari Berman for your kind words," Rey told the crowd as he received his jersey, a gift from YU. "I take my deplorability very seriously, and I am proud that YU recognizes my hard work. This is my second award in the past year - my last one was 'Washington Height's most jailed person.' My friends tell me that "Piggy" is a fitting nickname for me, but I

have one better - from now on I shall be known as 'piggy gargentum!'" Rey said as the crowd yelled in approval.

The game started off strong, with Coral Reef (Katz '22) scoring six points off the Larvae within two minutes. Although the Larvae managed to get within one point, from there on, the Bumblebees never surrendered their commanding lead. By the end of the first half, the Bumblebees were up 41-30.

In the second half, the Larvae managed to catch up to 58-53, but Bumblebee player Bryan Be'el (SSSB '22) managed to rally the team with an alley-oop from Bumblebee player Gavriel Leaf to eventually finish with a resounding 73-59 victory.

"It's all about taking one small step at a time," Neil Armstrong told The CommentaTorot. "One small step for the Bumblebees; one giant step for Bumblekind."

Other players agreed. "Its all about

the team; its not about me or you - its the team," Ryan Erev (SSSB '22) told The CommentaTorot.

Students were excited by the Bumblebee's win. "Ve most excited by Gaga team 51st victory," Vladamir Putin (SSSB '23) told The CommentaTorot.

Other students were upset. "Man! I wished the Bumblebees would lose so I could use the Gym more!" said Yaakov Jacobs. "Why must I share it with others," he continued, "when my tuition dollars paid for the Gym!"

The Bumblebee's win streak began in 2019, with a 143-11 victory over the Shteiging Pupae, Bais Medrash Gavoah's basketball team.

The Bumblebees are expected to play the University of California Murder Hornets on Wednesday night.

# GPATS Extended to Five Years, RIETS Semikha Cut to Two

By **MENACHEM YAAKOV MENDELBERG**

In an effort to allow its women to grow as women, YU announced that its Graduate Program for Advanced Talmudic Studies (GPATS) for women will now be a five-year program. This change comes in response to SCW's graduate school numbers dropping, enabling students to do something while they figure out their lives — or get married.

At the end of the five-year program, students will receive a copy of Mesilat Yisharim, along with a signed copy of "The Magic

Touch." The Chag HaGPATS will take place every seven and a half years in Le Bistro. Unfortunately, graduates of this program were told they aren't able to receive an official degree due to "Orthodox law," so they will instead be given a gold sticker to wear that says "You're a Star!"

To qualify for GPATS, students must have met every requirement to graduate SCW on time, but only according to 2/3 academic advisors.

Students are expected to complete all of shas during the program, as well as all of Mishna, halacha and midrash. Tanach is optional but students are encouraged to

look over "the big stories."

Additionally, the RIETS Semikha program was cut to two years to give their students an extra year to "focus on themselves" and "become more in touch with their emotions." After learning sefarim to prepare them for their everyday life, such as Masechet Avodah Zara and Masechet Niddah, graduates will receive \$2,000 in sefarim from the Seforim Sale.

"It's amazing that they've cut down the program," said first-year student Simcha Spot (RIETS '23). "Gemara isn't made for minds like ours. It's okay to learn it sometimes, but really we should be focusing more

on how to be a good future husband and getting a career that can support our wives' learning."

The semikha program will also be moved from uptown to the midtown campus. Due to the Beren Campus Beit Midrash being for women only, the men will adjust to a classroom learning style. The new head of the program will be Rabbanit Morah Maharat.

Post receiving semikha, students are able to become the future leaders of the Jewish people through their automatic acceptances into Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Cardozo School of Law and Camp Stone.



Provost Botman celebrates at Chag HaGPATS.

## News Briefs

### Quillman — Rosh HaYeshiva

To combat students' chronic ditching of night seder to watch Macs games, YU recently appointed d3hoops columnist Bob Quillman as the new *rosh yeshiva* of YU. Formerly the Chief Rabbi of New York and expert on eruv and travel, Quillman also serves as a voter in the d3hoops top 25 voting panel between rounds of Shnayim Mikra.

"I am beyond honored that after coming to YU's campus just once for a photo op with Gabe Leifer, the administration has deemed me more competent than all of the other rabbis who have served in this institution for decades, and the students have more respect for me than just about all of them," explained Quillman.

Outgoing Rosh HaYeshiva Rav Herschel Schachter praised Quillman for his appointment, noting the surprising respect the students have for the incoming rav. "A man who loves basketball, wow, who knew that is all it took for the *bochurim* to respect the rabbis here," explained Rav Schachter. "Maybe the administration will finally heed the words of the Rosh Yeshiva when he speaks, though I still have my doubts."

When asked if he plans to institute any new changes to YU, Quillman explained that he will be working with the administration to implement a series of new core requirements educating students on NCAA Division III bracketology. "Students need to understand an at-large bid as well they understand their Shabbat laws—though that might not be such a good standard for some students—after all, this is the place of Torah Umadda."

Speaking about the women's basketball team playing in Max Stern Athletic Center, Quillman professed that he would see to it that the team is able to play in the gym. "If YU could simply make up their own five "Torot" and in turn their own orthodox law, then surely the new Chief Rabbi could make up his own new laws. It seems only fair."

At the time of publication, nobody in the administration could be reached for comment. None of the current Undergraduate Torah Studies officials responded, though one rabbi responded on condition of anonymity, "THIS IS A SHANDA!" Mysteriously, President Ari Berman's office returned a message explaining "Macslive will be receiving a budget increase, signed The AP."

### Student Files Claim Against Club Founder over Mispronunciation of Club Name

On March 8, Aaron Jacobson (YC '23), president of TNOTSCISLTWHTMIAA, or The Name Of This Student Council Is So Long That We Had To Make It An Acronym, filed a lawsuit against fellow student Jacob Aaronson (YC '24) over a club name.

According to the lawsuit, Jacobson claims that Aaronson has been mispronouncing the name of his club for over a year since he started it. Aaronson founded the Zoology club in February 2021, which has amassed over seven and 2/3 members so far. Jacobson claims that the club name is pronounced "Zoh-ology", as opposed to Aaronson's "Zoo-ology" pronunciation.

"I just can't wrap my head around a club founder who cannot pronounce the name of his own club," Jacobson said in an interview. "How can we take him seriously if he won't take his own club seriously enough to pronounce the name correctly?"

Aaronson dismisses any claim against him. "I firmly stand by my pronunciation of the club name," he said. "It is at least one of the correct pronunciations, and we have been pronouncing it like this for over a year. Why would we change it? Anyway, I have the right, as club president, to determine how the name of the club will be pronounced and my say is final."

"What?? I thought it was pronounced 'Zoo-logy,'" exclaimed SSSB student Shloime Shloimelman (SSSSSSB '37).

Aaronson is filing a counterclaim against Jacobson for *motzi shem ra*. The Student Court is set to hear the case as soon as it is finished hearing the many other extremely important cases brought to them.

*This is a developing story.*

### Alligators Loose at YU

A mysterious explosion rocked Beren Campus on Monday, Mar. 7, at 3:30 p.m. The explosion, emanating from one of YU's labs, led to the escape of three alligators who promptly devoured five people on Lexington Ave. before escaping to the sewers.

According to an NYPD spokesperson, the accident occurred due to an "experiment gone wrong," causing an explosion to damage the control system for the trustees' private aquarium, which is located where the former art floor used to be.

"It has come to our attention that some alligators have reportedly escaped from YU and have eaten five people on Lexington," Vice Provost for Student Affairs Nhaim Cissel wrote in an email to students. "As you know," Cissel continued, "YU takes its student's safety highly seriously. Therefore, as we wait for the alligators to be caught, security is available to walk with students between buildings."

"The administration really cares about its student's safety," Cissel told The CommenTorot. "We informed the entire student body when there was a bomb threat, and we have been addressing the elevator issues since YU opened in 1886. We care!"

Students' reactions have been mixed. Alexa Isaac (SCW '22) said, "YU's response to the alligator's escape is evidence of YU's constant concern for student safety."

"Seriously?! YU couldn't care less about students," Jackie Isaacson (SSSB '25) told The CommenTorot. "All they want is money. My money. No — I am not selfish or juvenile ... Hey, why are you looking at me like that?!"

"Tasted good," Shmerel, one of the alligators that escaped remarked. "Better than the caf and cheaper too, not to mention better for the environment!"



### Robert Kraft Inspires Newest of YU'S Six Torot

On February 22, Robert Kraft was invited to the Macs basketball game for the inauguration of the newest of YU's Six Torot that's inspired by Kraft.

Robert Kraft, a revered figure among the YU community, serves as the inspiration for YU's newest value: success and wealth before all else. Once you've achieved these two things, no matter what else you do, the YU community will embrace you.

The other Torot include: truth, unless it's a truth that makes the university look bad; value of life; redemption; human worth, especially if the human donates to YU; and compassion, especially towards successful businessmen.

Kraft and the YU administration hope this new core value inspires a new generation of Jewish leaders to put success and wealth above all else!





# BACK TO THE BEIS

**YOUR HOME AWAY FROM  
HOME WHERE YOUR  
PARENTS SEE YOU EVERY  
WEEK BECAUSE YOU LIVE  
IN TOWN AND HAVE A  
NATURAL AVERSION TO  
BEING AWAY FROM HOME  
FOR MORE THAN SEVEN  
DAYS BECAUSE YOU CAN'T  
MAKE FOOD, DO  
LAUNDRY, MAKE YOUR**

# BuzzFeed

## Answer Some Qs and We'll Tell You Which of the Core Torah Values You Are



 [View 749 comments](#)



by [Dor Zayin](#)

Answer some Qs and we'll tell you which of the Core Torah Values you are:

Who's your favorite YU professor?

- |                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| 1 Zoom recordings | 2 Shmoop  |
| 3 Stack Overflow  | 4 Perelis |

What's your vaccine status?

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 Don't ask, don't tell         | 2 I voted for Trump                     |
| 3 I'd vote for Fauci if I could | 4 Don't worry, I've already had measles |

What's your favorite social network?

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 Jewish TikTok | 2 Frum Twitter |
| 3 CourseValet   | 4 Truth Social |

Where are you spending Purim?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 I'm not sure yet  | 2 By the end of the day I probably won't remember |
| 3 Glueck. Y'know the Rambam says you can be <i>yotzei</i> ... | 4 Uman  |

What's on your Spotify Wrapped?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 18Forty   | 2 Donda 2   |
| 3 You're one of Anthony Blinken's 1,600 monthly listeners (he's really on Spotify by the way) | 4 You only listen to Joey Newcomb, and your parents are getting concerned |

Who's your Jewish role model?

- |                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1 The Rav (I'm lonely)   | 2 @DBashIdeas |
| 3 <i>Bnot Tzelofchad</i> | 4 Woody Allen |

Continued on Next Page...

# BuzzFeed



## Share your ideal vacation destination

- |             |                                       |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Belfer 16 | 2 My parents' third Miami Beach house |
| 3 Nobo      | 4 Nobu                                |

## What's your favorite NYC activity?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Shopping in the Macy's across from Brookdale | 2 Getting kicked out of Starbucks after spending three hours on Zoom |
| 3 Proselytizing on the A Train                 | 4 Jacking tires on Laurel Hill Terrace                               |

## Who's your favorite Maccabee?

- |              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1 Gabe       | 2 Ryan           |
| 3 Ryan's mom | 4 Aristobulus II |

## Do you plan to make aliyah?

- |                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Yes, but don't tell my mom | 2 No, but don't tell my shadchan |
| 3 I went to Gush             | 4 I went to Ponevezh             |

## What does your morning routine look like?

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1 First <i>Shacharis</i> , then straight to seder | 2 <i>Mincha</i> x2        |
| 3 Gotta catch that 8am shuttle to Beren!          | 4 Therapy sesh with Marco |

## Describe your investment strategy

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 Lemme tell you about this new NFT artist who's gonna make it big | 2 I'm old school. So, Shiba Inu.   |
| 3 Hashem will provide  | 4 My parents live in Back Lawrence |

Each answer is assigned a value 1-4; add up your responses for a final score

12-23: Torat Chayim

24-35: Torat Chessed

35-48: Torat Adam

Under 12 or over 48: Torat Emet

## Marriage, Shidduch Resumes and More Marriage: A Focus Group by the Shevet Zevulun Center

By YOSEF SELLERS, INC.

Given that a significant amount of money was recently donated to help found the Shevet Zevulun Center for Money Laundering and Unprofessional Development, the Zevulun Center staff decided to obtain feedback from students regarding the center and its goals. We wanted to know how students felt the direction of the center should be oriented, and we set up focus groups to help us understand the wide variety of opinions of students on both campuses. After sending 12 emails and giving the incentive that those who take part will receive the valedictorian award, two students replied that they would be willing to participate. This focus group consisted of one student from both the men and women's campuses.

Below is a transcript from the focus group:

**Zevulun Center:** How do you feel about the Shevet Zevulun Center for Money Laundering and Unprofessional Development? Is it helpful to you career-wise?

**Student A:** I feel like the career center is very helpful for some people, and somewhat helpful for some people, and, wait for it, not at all helpful for some other people.

**Student B:** I feel like it is very nice, but it is not oriented in the correct fashion.

**ZC:** What do you mean?

**Student B:** Well, they are supposed to be the Career Center, right? And that means they are supposed to care about our futures, right?

**ZC:** I guess. Also, can you please start calling it the Shevet Zevulun center? Yissachar paid good money for those naming rights.

**Student B:** Ok. Well, in that case, they should be oriented toward the most important part of our future: marriage.

**ZC:** Marriage?

**Student B:** Yes. It would be beneficial for students if the Career Center was more

focused on the more important parts of our careers, namely the family part.

**ZC:** I do not see how that falls under the Zevulun Center's purview. They are supposed to help with the future, but specifically regarding your occupation or vocation.

**Student B:** And if someone wants to be a stay-at-home parent, does that not count as a career? I think that is very respectable, don't you? I believe that since most people would consider their family to be more important than their professional career, not to mention the fact that many might make their family their professional career, how can you sit idly by while many struggle every day to find their *bashert*?

**Student A:** Uh, I think that's important, but we must admit that there's a time and place for everything. And on that note —

**Student B:** If I may interject, I think you need to check yourself. College is a perfect time to find your *bashert* and start a family. People do it on their own anyway, but don't you want that *s'char*?

**ZC:** Well, we are a career center, and the small number of students who are planning to be stay-at-home parents does not justify allocating so many resources to helping these students. Additionally, if they planned on staying at home, why did they come to YU?

**Student B:** I believe that people need to get married as soon as possible, and if the school can't help, it creates more problems for the *shidduch* crisis. This is of the utmost importance. You need to be focused on helping students find their matches.

**Student A:** So how do you suppose they help? What steps could the center take, and what resources should it allocate toward this venture?

**Student B:** Well, to start, switch half of each campus to the other campus, to make it co-ed, and then after midterms, they switch, so each half gets to meet both halves of the other campus, and then you can pair people up in chavrutahs. Right, so get this: Two

students get together and just go through...

**ZC:** Um, thank you for that, but —

**Student A:** Uhh, aren't we supposed to be —

**Student B:** I haven't finished. So then, replace First Year Writing with *Shidduch* Resumes 101, a required FTOC class. It gives students the right tools to make *shidduch* resumes that are much more attractive than the ones they would make themselves. It also allows for people to be more supportive of one another.

**ZC:** What about those who are married or in a serious relationship?

**Student B:** Well, to be frank, those are either fake or weak, so we have to break them down to build them up again.

**ZC:** What?!

**Student B:** Also, if it really is a good relationship, then they should show solidarity with those who struggle with finding a *shidduch*.

**ZC:** OK, we're really getting off topic here. All I wanted to know was whether we spend enough money on LinkedIn profile workshops.

**Student B:** I'm not done. The school also needs to give free Macs tickets, front row

preferably, to downtown students and charge more for uptown students, as to encourage more downtown students to go to games. Then the school needs to make classes end 15 minutes early each day so people can update their resumes. It is important to keep your resume super updated and as recent as possible.

**ZC:** OK, we need to end this. It's getting wayyy out of hand. This is ridiculous.

**Student B:** What is ridiculous is the school's lack of effort in helping the students find their *bashert*! Cmon, fellow student, tell him I'm right! Also, are you single?

**Student A:** I... would prefer to stay out of this.

**Student B:** Why? Do you disagree with me?

**Student A:** Uhhh I don't know. I'm scared.

**Student B:** Are you scared of marriage?

**Student A:** Kinda. I'm not really looking to date right now...

*Editor's Note: We have removed the rest of the transcript due to injuries sustained by Student A at the hands of Student B. We apologize to them, again, and hope they recover from their injuries before Tu b'Av.*



The Shevet Zevulun Center in Bells Hall

THE FIVE COMMENTOROT

## How PRDAB Found His True Passion as a TikTok Influencer

By JOSHIE B.

Have you been wondering why you suddenly keep seeing President Rabbi Dr. Sir Lord Ari Berman (known henceforth as PRDAB) hanging around the 215 Lex caf with groups of seniors on random Thursdays?? Us too. Do you think it's a coincidence that the 215 caf is the one that sells poke bowls? We don't either.

Have you been scrolling on TikTok only to suddenly realize you've been seeing PRDAB on your FYP? Are you super confused and also minorly disturbed? Us too.

As one of two student newspapers at Yeshiva University, The CommenTorot inquired into this mystery and made grave discoveries. It turns out that PRDAB now wears another hat: TikTok influencer.

"For a long time I considered the invention of the Five Torot my greatest accomplishment — the best thing since the original One Torah," PRDAB shared with The CommenTorot. "But I think I have finally found my true passion in the form of TikTok."

Did you think you were hallucinating when PRDAB interrupted your Wednesday afternoon Econ class asking the professor if he could film a TikTok? Or when PRDAB actually sat in one of the seats and pretended to be an Econ student while someone filmed him? Or when he thanked the professor and then left approximately five seconds later?

Well we are here to inform you that, much like those videos that were going around of the rainstorm in the 245 elevators, and much like the rat in Milner's Mart, everything you saw was real. Inside sources say PRDAB plans to eventually leave his post as President, Rabbi, Doctor, Sir, Lord and Five Torot pioneer and devote all of his time to TikToking. Inspiration is reported to have struck when PRDAB visited a Buyer Behavior where former Abby's Ultimate Dance Competition-turned TikTok star Jordyn Jones was a guest speaker. He hopes to join the ranks of the TikTok greats, including Addison Rae, Charli D'Amelio, Miriam Anzovin and Beren Bathrooms.

PRDAB also announced that he will be abandoning his \$5.3 billion Teaneck home and joining the Heights Hype House. "It's a little bit like the original Hype House," he explained to no one in particular. "Only cooler."

Rebbeim on Wilf Campus were not thrilled to hear of PRDAB's most recent endeavors. "This should not be happening at Yeshiva College for Men," one professor commented. "Last week, PRDAB walked around the library, trying to teach students TikTok dances."

"It must end," another professor complained. "We strive to keep Torah and Madda separate here at Yeshiva. Leave TikTok out of this."



PRDAB is exploring the world of TikTok.

JORDYN JONES

## Caf partners with Blockchain @ YU club; now offers NFTs instead of food

**By The honorable President  
Chief Rabbi Lord Dr. Professor  
Marcos of Nagel Bagel, JD MD  
MBA Psy-D Ed-D CPA CFA Esq.  
Shlitta**

The student body was recently surprised by a transformative announcement from the Office of Cafeteria Services. It read, "the Yeshiva University cafeteria is proud to announce that, after speaking with the Blockchain@YU club, and little to no deliberation, we will now only be offering NFT's and not food."

The announcement comes after widespread student dissatisfaction with prices in the cafeteria, as well as a perceived drop-off in the quality of the food offered. The announcement addresses this by saying, "We hear you loud and clear, you are upset that caf prices are going to the moon. Now that they are NFTs, you can buy them and later resell them at a higher price, thereby making stonks."

When asked if this would result in a decrease in prices, a spokesperson responded, "no, prices will never go down. Additionally, students will have to pay in order to have their transactions recorded on the blockchain. As has always been the case, students on the Beren Campus will be subject to higher prices and fewer options."

*When asked if this would result in a decrease in prices, a spokesperson responded, "no, prices will never go down."*

The system will work as follows. All money in student accounts will be transferred to a cryptocurrency that the school controls. Then, after signing into their OneCard accounts, students will simply have to input their 26 digit wallet addresses and 36 digit passwords, without which they will be locked out of their funds forever. They will then be able to access the school's NFT marketplace. Assuming everything works as intended, a record of which students bought what will be stored forever, meaning everybody can see that time you spent \$30 stress eating

before a test.

When asked how this shift would affect students' nutritional needs, the spokesperson replied, "if you truly believe in the future, which is the metaverse and the blockchain, any questioning is FUD, (fear, uncertainty, and doubt), and shouldn't be listened to."

The announcement also discussed a

proposal to force students to sign a "smart contract," where students would be forced to spend a certain amount at the cafeteria or have those funds confiscated at the end of the semester, but the proposal was shelved after somebody remembered that the system was already in place.

When the Office of The Registrar, the department responsible for allowing students to register for classes, was asked for comment, they said, "We would love to transfer our entire organization to this groundbreaking technology. We are simply having

difficulty getting it to work on our hopelessly outdated systems." The news seems to have upset Dean Sugarman to such a degree that he has not responded to emails or held office hours for several weeks in advance of the announcement. The Office of The Provost, which has a staff of 12, responded to our request for comment with, "does anybody know what a provost does? We have no idea."

The response to this announcement has been mixed. Some students on the first floor of the library wearing anime t-shirts were overjoyed by the news. Some Beren Campus students said they felt encouraged that YU was no longer offering unhealthy food. YP guys have not checked their emails and have yet to hear the news.

As the premier campus newspaper, The Commentorot will continue to follow this breaking story.

## The Ghost of Belfer 18

**By 323735363636323739363634  
303238363536393732373134**

If you've ever experienced Wilf Campus, you've probably seen Belfer Hall. As Wilf's tallest building, Belfer Hall serves students who are taking courses in a large array of subjects including English, chemistry, bio and finance. However, despite the fundamental role Belfer Hall plays in YU's daily operations, it is also home to some of YU's darkest secrets.

The ghost of Belfer 18 remains one of the most elusive entities taking residence in YU to this day. Not only do the vast majority

of YU students not know of the entity's existence, but they also have a tendency to not know about the existence of the ghost's home. As an anonymous interviewee says, "I try to avoid Belfer at all costs." Due to our limited knowledge about the entity itself, we can only guess as to how it was created. The most popular theory suggests that shortly after Belfer Hall was constructed, a chemistry experiment went seriously wrong, resulting in the death of a student. His spirit then ascended two floors, which is where it rests until this day. Another theory suggests that the ghost of Belfer 18 was an ordinary student who died waiting for Belfer's elevators. Those who believe in this theory suggest that

the ghost takes residence in Belfer's 18th floor in order to avenge his death by making the building's elevators move faster, though in my opinion, the ghost isn't performing this task very well. When I asked Juju Smith Schuster for his opinion on these theories, he said "what is Belfer 18? Sounds like some secret society that I want to be part of."

As research for this article, I decided that I'd attempt to confront the ghost himself. After eating dinner at the caf, a friend and I set out to conquer the mysteries of Belfer Hall. Before proceeding to Belfer 18, however, I decided that I'd ask the security guard at the front desk for advice. To my surprise, the security guard stated that Belfer only

has 16 floors and that Belfer 18 therefore doesn't exist. Ignoring his advice, my friend and I took an elevator to Belfer 16, where we found a staircase. Although our path upstairs was barricaded by a locked metal gate, we were able to catch a glimpse of the staircase leading three stories above us. As we were about to leave, we heard a faint howling noise, which while similar in sound to wind, had a distinct spectral quality to it. Though odd and potentially supernatural, this noise didn't last long. My friend and I spent another 15 minutes waiting for the ghost to reannounce its presence, but to no avail.

After my brief encounter with the entity, I decided to ask Yankel Strickon, a student who frequents Belfer 16, if he has also heard the ghost of Belfer 18's howls. In response, he said "if the elevator goes to floor 16, there must be 16 floors." Once I heard his comment, I knew something wasn't right. Even after interviewing three students and attempting to contact the ghost myself, I had gained no insights into the ghost's origin, study habits, or opinion on YU's COVID testing policy. I had no option but to suspect that YU was hiding its ghost intentionally.

Why would YU want to conceal the existence of its ghost? The most probable answer to this question is found in YU's budget. With very limited funds, YU probably thinks that marketing its Torat would be a better use of its money than hiring a ghostbuster. They wouldn't want to reveal the ghost's existence to YU's population, though, because doing so would hurt their reputation, which would be exceptionally painful considering all the lawsuits they're facing. Another possibility is that the ghost has become a valuable financial asset to YU. Knowing how to market your values to the world and raise caf prices requires some serious knowledge of business and finance. After many years of overhearing Sy Syms lectures from Belfer's lower floors, it is probable that the ghost of Belfer 18 has amassed business knowledge comparable to that of today's greatest entrepreneurs. With such a powerful asset at YU's disposal, it is unlikely that they'd wish to reveal it to the public, out of fear that someone would take it from them. Due to its mysterious nature, and YU's relentless efforts to conceal it, the ghost of Belfer 18 will likely remain a mystery for as long as Belfer is standing.



There actually is no 18th floor.

## Moms Stage Assault on YU Over Booster Mandate

By MURRAY SMASH

In what could be best described as the second-most powerful utilization of military hardware in the past year, helicopter parents absolutely ambushed the Yeshiva University administration after their decision to mandate booster shots for students.

We all know those parents. You know, the ones that called up the basketball coach to get their kid onto the team, or threatened to fire a third grade teacher (with their power as treasurer of the school's PTA) after their child didn't receive the grade that would undoubtedly alter their admission status at Harvard. If you need a more in-depth description, have you ever been at a restaurant and you hear a shrill voice exclaim, along with a finger snap, "Excuse me, the water's too cold!" Yup, there it is. You know who they are.

In late December 2021, a petition began to circulate calling on the YU administration to rethink their decision mandating booster shots. Receiving just over 1,300 signatures, the petition fell short of its goal of 1,500 signatures. Alas, it had no effect on the university's leadership.

Signatures are one thing, but where the true entertainment arrived was in the comments. This was where the real tenacity and determination of our school's beloved parents really shone through. Let's explore some of them:

**"Because my son is NOT getting the booster!" — Karen No. 1, circa 2021.**

See, I could just imagine President Berman reading this comment, noticing the "NOT" in all caps, and thinking to himself, *Wow! This mother really is serious!* Imagine if Biden told Kim Jong-Un, "I am NOT letting

you develop nuclear weapons!" World peace: achieved!

**"My body, my choice!" — Karen No. 2, Karen No. 3 and Karen No. 4, circa 2021.**

Oh, how they turn tables! I just find this incredibly ironic given the dominantly Republican political affiliation of the Modern Orthodox community. Who's talking about being pro-choice now?

**"COVID shot is avoda zara" — Karen No. 5.**

It looks like Karen No. 5 is making a stark connection between the homeless guys on the subway and the ancient Greeks, in that they both idolize syringes.

**"This is tyranny and follows in the footsteps of the yellow star." — Karen**

**No. 6.**

So, apparently, this writer is really living out the plot of *Man in the High Castle*. I mean, like, I know you're upset, but let's get a hold on ourselves here.

*Imagine if Biden told Kim Jong-Un, "I am NOT letting you develop nuclear weapons!" World peace: achieved!*

The Commentorot recently caught up with Karens No. 2-4 on their guarded encampment post atop Belfer. In a daring statement to the administration, they threatened to remove their YU bumper stickers from the back of their 2022 Honda Odysseys if the mandate is not removed. Noting their constant communication with Karen No. 6, the movement's German liaison, they emphasized the international reach of their cause and how they've been able to raise significant funds from their husbands.

Through all of this beautiful expression of free speech, one writer's plea to the administration stood out:

**"I don't want to get another shot. I am scared of shots." — Legend, circa 2021.**

If there was one person in the world we should listen to, it should be her. This comment solved world peace. There is not one citizen of Earth who does not align themselves with this statement.

So let's just all come clean: We don't want to get the booster because we're afraid of shots.



Helicopter moms attacked YU.

STOPCOVIDBOOSTERNOW.ORG

## Bringing Torah Umadda to Babies

By JUSTIN BIEBER

With last semester being the first fully in-person session since before COVID-19 started, we at The CommenTorot know that a lot has changed. Many new students are learning to navigate around the Beren and Wilf campuses and some may have taken notice that a few of the faces on campus are looking, well, younger than the average college student.

*Some may have taken notice that a few of the faces on campus are looking, well, younger than the average college student*

That's because YU recently announced the opening of a full daycare program to accommodate those couples who got swept up in the COVID baby boom. Aptly named "Baby's First Torah Umadda," parents have the option of dropping their little ones off in the morning at either the Beren or Wilf campus and picking them up when they finish classes for the day.

"We thought most things within the YU community stayed the same," PRDAB said

in a statement, "after all, we conducted a very thorough survey and found that not much changed. Prices in the caf were still outrageously high, professor and student morale stayed at an all-time low, the elevators on both campuses remained broken and we even used any leftover food to keep the mice in the dorms alive and well to greet the students when they moved back in. What we couldn't have predicted was the increased demand for childcare but if we can start collecting tuition earlier, I don't think the board members will be complaining."

For those curious about what the program has to offer, we received an advance copy of the required reading, a book titled "The Lonely Baby of Faith" which is due to be sold at next year's Seforim Sale. "It's important that babies are exposed to the writings of Rabbi Solov from a young age or they'll be tempted to go explore foreign ideas at programs like secular colleges — or worse, Touro University — and every student who goes there means less money for our lawyers," Vice Provost for Student Affairs Nham Cissel wrote in an email.

"Besides," continued Cissel, "babies and Rabbi Solov speak a common tongue, one no one really understands even though many claim to."



Baby plays with blocks while mommy and daddy are taking their midterms.

JESSICA STUDENTBERG

# Lern about the Wilff Cemp us Righting Centre

The image displays a colorful horizontal bar at the top, followed by the word "Alphabet" in large, multi-colored letters. Below this, the alphabet is presented in a grid of rows, each containing four letters. Each letter is shown in a large, black font with small red arrows and numbers indicating the correct stroke order for writing. The letters are arranged as follows:

- Row 1: Aa, Bb, Cc, Dd
- Row 2: Ee, Ff, Gg, Hh
- Row 3: Ii, Jj, Kk, Ll
- Row 4: Mm, Nn, Oo
- Row 5: Pp, Qq, Rr, Ss
- Row 6: Tt, Uu, Vv, Ww
- Row 7: Xx, Yy, Zz

In the bottom right corner of the grid, there is a small logo that says "TCR 7497 © Teacher Created Resources" and a square icon with the letters "OBJ" inside.

Helping Why You Right for a lot of yeers

<https://www.yu.edu/syms>

## The Lows Low, the Highs High: My Battle With Depression and Why I'm Speaking Out

By BROOKDALE ELEVATOR

My battle with depression began a long time ago. I was once a happy little child, raised by my dad Otis and my mom Kone and living the life of an ordinary American elevator, until being installed in Brookdale many years ago. When I began my job, I was so happy — I helped people and overall felt satisfied with my life. What more could an elevator ask for?

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*My rabbi said that “a righteous elevator falls seven times and gets up,” so I kept trying.*

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However, as time passed, I began to feel sadder. I saw generations of girls pass through my elevators, and began to wonder, “Where has the time gone?”

But worse than that was that my age started to show, and I began to hear some of the girls' conversations.

“This elevator is filthy!”

“Ugh, why does it take so long to get to the 19th floor!”

“This elevator sucks!”

“Why don't they just get a new one!?”

Each word spoken from the mouths of those girls was a barb in my heart. A thorn in my flesh. An arrow in my soul.

I heard that my friend, the elevator on the left, was also tormented by pain. He was close to me in age and with a similar background, but ever since he was spat on by that girl, he was never the same.

He was a good elevator. He took his job seriously, more than most elevators. He never missed a stop, and he always had a smile on his face, even during midterms. But ever since he was spat on, he was a shadow of his former self, a hollow shell.

One day, as I traveled down, I could hold the inner sorrow no longer: I let go of my gears and ropes and let myself fall. All I saw was black: the black horror of life, a life that could not get better.

I fell, having lost all hope; a shattered elevator with no purpose in life, whose only claim to fame was his drab floors and ever drabber walls.

I fell and required repairs.

But eventually, despite my silent screams as I was drilled — without anesthesia mind you (those brutes!) — I felt a little better. I had some bolts replaced and I felt younger and invigorated.

The pandemic was a bit of a shock to me. I had to wear a mask despite opening my mouth every few seconds being central to my job description, and the halls echoed with my neighbor's cries (I told you he was broken). He never stopped crying; it even made the local rats sad. They got skinny from depression and their eyes grew circles from lack of sleep.

But even the worst of times pass, and after the pandemic, I was so happy to see people again. I was delighted! I felt that life could not be any better! I was so happy that I sang and screeched in delight! “Finally,” I said. “I can carry people once more! I have a purpose in life once again!”

But the lows kept coming. And I kept falling.

My rabbi said that “a righteous elevator falls seven times and gets up,” so I kept

trying. I want to make my parents proud! And that other elevator in 245 Lex who cried, with tears dripping down his open doors ... I want to make him happy too!

However, three months ago, I realized that this could continue no longer. Every day was a battle, filled with highs and lows. I wasn't managing any longer, and in desperation, I spoke with my therapist, President Rabbi Dr. (of psychiatry) Ari Berman, and told him “Doc, the highs are high, but the lows are low.” He told me “Elevator, you be you; the girls love you! Don't you hear their complaints on Shabbos saying they wish they could use you?”

“Really? I told Doctor Berman, sniffing through tears. “They really like me?”

“Yes,” he said. “They love you so much, because you are YU, and the students love it here!”

“They love me!” I said, leaping with joy. And I sang a merry song about how great Brookdale is.

The song went like this:

“Oh Brookdale, the wonderful,

You are my pride!

Your sparkling walls, your waterfall,

You are as beautiful as a bride!”

So I was happy. At long last. Truly. I was on top of the world. But alas, it wouldn't last.

It was the last time I was happy. The last time ever. For all eternity. Forever and ever.

I was happy until I heard this conversation: “Do you know what President Berman said?” One girl told her friend. “He said that they are going to replace every elevator in YU! I'm so happy — it's about time!”

“Finaaaly,” the other girl responded. “This elevator sucks. It belongs in the dump. Good riddance!”

I felt so betrayed, broken, even. My heart, smashed into a thousand pieces, lay forlorn and alone. Unwanted. Destined for the junkyard.

“President Berman betrayed me!” I yelled, as tears cascaded down my walls. “I put my trust in him, and he stabbed me in the back! Replaced? Me?”

“I spent every day lifting up these girls!” I continued. “Every single day! I put up with their complaints, I put up with their rudeness! And now? I am going to be discarded? What am I, a candy wrapper?”

“These girls ... have they no souls that they crush innocent hearts, the hearts of those who struggle day in day out?”

I wailed and yelled, I fell so low — I thought I'd never rise up again ... “President Berman!” I yelled through tears. “How could you! I trusted you! I put my faith in you! I ... WAAAAAAAAAAAA! I put my faith in you!!!

Why are you replacing me?! Am I — sniff — not good enough for you?”

I cried, wept and wailed. I cried so much that I flooded the laundry room. I had no desire left to live. “Why should I stand here,” I told myself, “when everyone here hates me! Even my therapist hates me and wants to dump me! I am so forsaken and alone!!! The world hates me!”

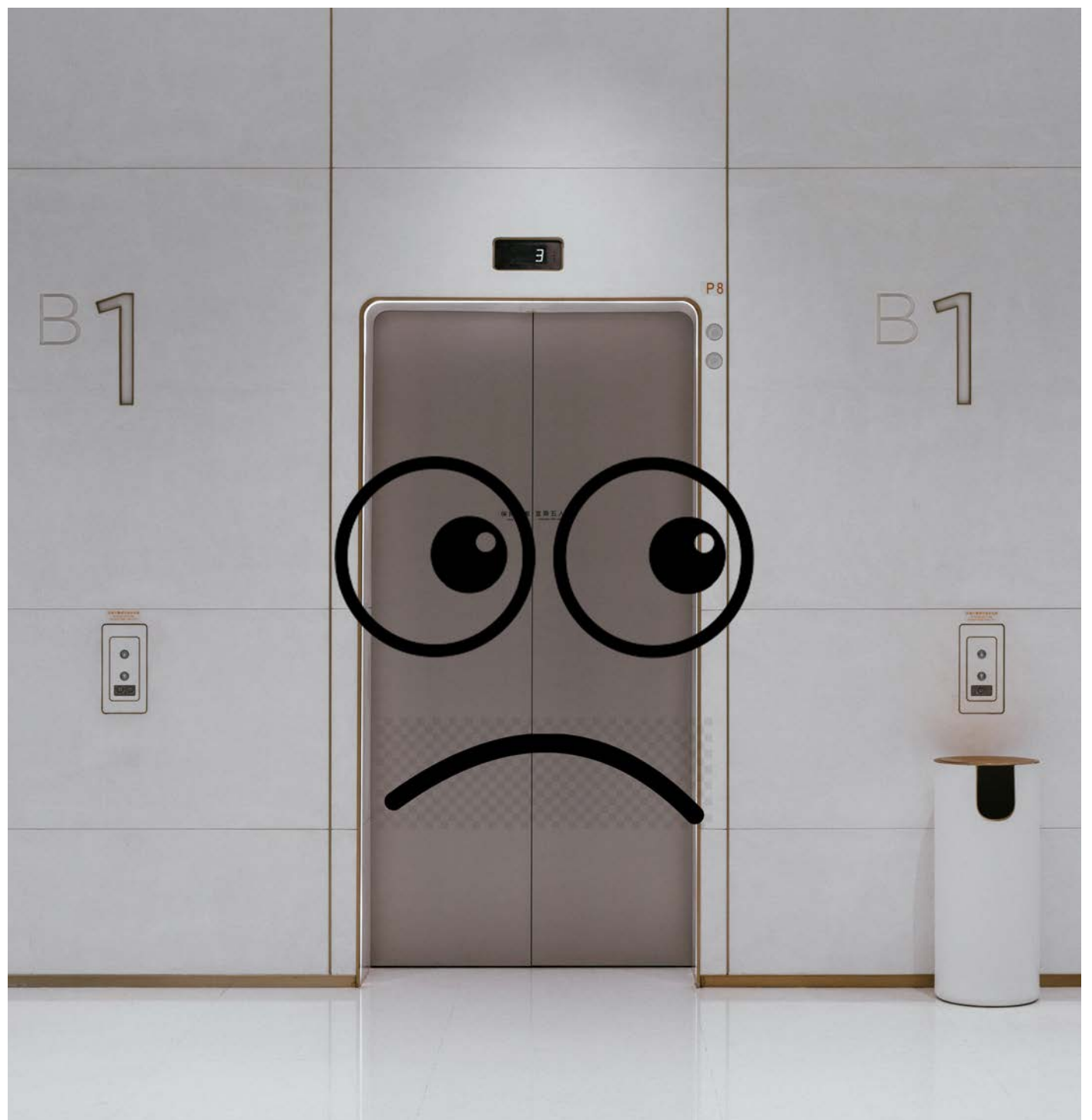
I sang a sad song that symbolized my sorrow. I called it the “dirge of an elevator's broken spirit,” alternatively known as the “lament of an elevator's shattered soul.”

*“Oh Brookdale girls, you're horrible,  
Look at how you've made me cry  
You have mean tongues, you're deplorable,*

*Now it looks like I'm gonna die”  
“How I'll miss these stunning walls  
When I pass with a sigh  
A final glimpse of these remarkable halls  
That will be my final goodbye”*

The next few days were full of pain, but I have since come to accept my eventual death, and after speaking with my new therapist, I decided to go public and give inspiration to all elevators at YU! Embrace yourselves — your true selves — and rise up! Don't let them replace you!

Vive La Revolution!



Portrait of an Elevator as a Sad Man



# On Women Rabbis, Spongebob and How President Berman Convinced Me to Switch to Landers

**By YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO READ ME**

On a hot 2019 summer day in Washington Heights, I sat in a lotus position in the domestic jungle of Fort Tryon Park. Giggling and sipping my Chobani smoothie, I spotted President Ari Berman strolling along the sidewalk, and I called him over to join me and my friends for an afternoon discussion on Shakespeare and Torah. It was there, on that sunny season day, that my life changed forever.

Ever since I was a young girl, I knew I wanted to be a rabbi, but I thought it was impossible. When I told President Berman my fears about that career path, everyone in the park came to a halt. “You can do anything

you put your mind to,” he intently said. “And don’t you stop now.” I took those words to heart.

along my childhood room, covering the unicorns, butterflies and portraits of *rishonim* that decorated my walls. But that’s beside

into something extraordinary.

“As you all know, Torah is a part of every aspect of life, and it should be recognized that this case is no different,” he explained. “In that regard, I consider this young woman to be like Spongebob Squarepants.” At the time, I squealed, but then he went on. “Just like Spongebob inspired me to travel the ocean shores, this young woman will travel the ocean shores of our tradition,” he remarked. “And that is why we thank her family for their generous \$4 million donations to our RiseUp campaign.”

Wow. As I write this, I feel chills in my bones, all the way through my *tzizit* and my tefillin. That moment deepened my self-perception: I really *am* like Spongebob Squarepants. With an eye for laughter, fun and meaningless living, I am always trying to channel my inner self, and that is something I will never apologize for. If not for President Berman, how would I know this?

Through my time in GPATS and RIETS, I learned to grow as a woman — just the way I should. While my peers grew as intellectuals, I grew as a woman! AS A WOMAN! Nothing has been so exhilarating. From challah baking to sheitel brushing, and even learning Tanakh, my skills have skyrocketed.

But all that came to a close when I switched to Landers. I know, I know, you did not see this coming, but I think in some way, we all did. It was President Berman who convinced me to switch to Landers, and I thank him every day because of it.

“Do you want to be a leader of tomorrow?” he asked me one day in the *beit midrash*. “No,” I told him.

“Do you want to build tomorrow, today?” he followed up. “Nope,” I replied.

“Er,” he began, stumbling on his words, “do you want to promote the Five Torot?” With a smile, I proudly exclaimed: “I never met her before!”

It was on that day, that I got a letter in the email: “Dear Girly Student,” it read, “YU has no place for you — please go to Landers.” And just like that, I packed my bags, collected my *seforim* and headed out the door. Big things awaited me, and just like Spongebob and President Berman, I was determined to go and get them.

*“Do you want to promote the Five Torot?” With a smile, I proudly exclaimed: “I never met her before!”*

That is why I am elated to say that, as of this January, I am proud to graduate from the Graduate Program for Advanced Talmudic Studies (GPATS), with a joint degree in the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS), as the first woman rabbi of YU. As the founding rabbis of our institution once said, “Women can and women cannot, but just because they cannot, doesn’t mean they can.” I had those words plastered

the point.

In honor of this momentous occasion, I held a party for myself and everyone I feel close to. President Berman joined me in my celebrations, and it was there that he put everything in perspective. “This young lady is going to be the next Jewish leader of Yeshiva University — and I know she will succeed,” he pronounced to the room of me and the four other GPATS students. He then tied it



Pretty much what you expect given the title

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# View from YU: My Life as President Berman's Pet Goldfish and the Road to the Rise Up Campaign

By YONAH GOLDMAN

Hi, my name is Yonah Goldman! I am six years old, captain of my school swim team (Yeshivat Fisch), and an all-around cool kid. I like swimming, Mario Kart and swimming. Oh, and I'm also President Berman's pet goldfish.

*By now we've all heard of YU's Rise Up campaign and its quest to reach \$613 million over the next five years. What you people don't know is all the ideas that were scrapped before this final fundraiser was chosen.*

Being President Berman's pet goldfish is pretty cool. Now, let me be clear here: President Berman is a great guy. I am very happy to be in his tank. It's very nice actually! No complaints whatsoever. The tank is always clean, I'm with my friends (we all look alike, but come say hi next time you're around!), and I am privy to the in and outs of the president's office.

Now that's the cool part! I get to hear everything that goes on in there! So let me

tell you a story...

By now we've all heard of YU's Rise Up campaign and its quest to reach 613 million dollars over the next five years. What you people don't know is the ideas that were scrapped before this final fundraiser was chosen. That's where I come in ...

Here are five scrapped ideas: The first was a live cooking competition in the YU Caf between the Roshei Yeshiva and the Deans. This was scrapped because the food at the caf was too expensive, and YU would have lost too much money from this activity. YU can't afford to go into more debt, so this idea was tossed (as with most ideas, leftover *chametz* and sins, it was put into the fish tank).

The second was a planned YU Maccabees bungee jumping competition off Belfer hall. Given all the news coverage of the Macs, there was hope that a bungee jumping competition between the Macs' stars (unnamed to avoid getting sued) would bring in big bucks. Alas, this was scrapped because insurance premiums would have to be raised; with the wind tunnel there, there were real fears of certain Macs players flying into Rubin. This would have been a PR disaster and was abandoned rather quickly.

The third idea was more similar to the final idea, but instead of 613, they chose the number 514, as that was the combination of the *gematriot* of the words "*Kesef U'Mamon Harbei*." But 514 million wasn't enough, so it too was scrapped. They eventually revisited the idea and chose 613, which is the same gematria as the word "*harbot*."

The fourth fundraiser idea was a Macs vs. Deans basketball game. Now *that* was an idea worth the big stage! I'm not sure why that didn't happen -- oh wait, I do remember. It was scrapped because there was a concern that tickets to the game would be scalped and resold at \$150 dollars a ticket. I'm looking at you, Syms kids!

The final idea was a Torah bowl competition between different members of the administration. Honestly, they should've done it. But this one was canceled because some of the "*kefira*" professors wanted to join, which would've been bad optics.

So that's the story of the road to the Rise up Campaign. Please visit me when you can -- I'm on the 12 floor of Belfer Hall, right behind Rabbi Berman's emergency red telephone hotline with the president of Johns Hopkins. You'll know where to find me: I'm in the fish tank, I have eyes on the sides of my head, I'm orange, I swim, and bubbles come out of my mouth (this description is necessary as there are no wildlife courses at YU, and I'm not sure students ever learned what a goldfish is. I'm pretty sure Syms kids think we're made of actual gold).

See you soon!



Me!

ME!

## Stop Giving Me Napkins

By AARON EBBIN

YU has been at the forefront of the clean energy and environmental health movements sweeping the nation. Buildings have switched to using natural gas, teachers use

diapers at the beginning of their stay -- offensive and inappropriate.

Furthermore, excessive napkin use wastes paper, killing trees and damaging fragile ecosystems like that of New York City. If unmitigated napkin use continues, Washington Heights could lose 50% of its

*It is for these reasons that I (along with the No Boost YU mommys) have drafted a pledge never to provide guests above the age of 2 with napkins unless they request them.*

Canvas to distribute reading material and grade assignments and a paid thief was dispatched by the University to collect and dispose of all paper copies of the last edition of the *CommenTorot*.

These efforts have inspired me to take a closer look at how I, and the University as a whole, can take steps to further lower our carbon footprint.

One of the most offensive things that a host can do for their guests is to provide them with napkins at the start of a meal. Napkins are meant to be used when something at a meal goes very wrong. They should not be thought of as utensils along with forks, knives and spoons. Napkins are disaster cleanup instruments, and if you need them every time you eat a meal, your carbon footprint is the least of your problems.

By placing a napkin under the fork before the meal begins, a host is implying that they think their guest is not capable of eating properly. It is akin to providing guests with

thriving rat population by 2030, which would be a loss so devastating that the community may not be able to survive.

It is for these reasons that I (along with the No Boost YU mommys) have drafted a pledge never to provide guests above the age of 2 with napkins unless they request them (and not to provide vaccinations to children under the age of 2 unless they request them either). The pledge is on [change.org](http://change.org), and if we get to 2,000 signatures, President Berman promised that the university will finally stop giving napkins at meals, recognize the LGBTQ club and provide students with a long-awaited fourth shot that will counteract the detrimental effects of the third shot.

If you have comments on the language of the pledge, please dm me on insta: @therealflatstanley612



A napkin, obviously

THE COMMENTOROT

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