

# THE COMMENTATOR

The Independent Student Newspaper of Yeshiva University

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ISSUE NO. 9

## YU To Lift Mask Mandate In Most Indoor Spaces



By CHAIM BOOK

*This article was published online on Feb. 24.*

YU will lift its university-wide mask mandate in most indoor spaces on the Beren and Wilf campuses beginning Monday, Feb. 28, the COVID Monitoring Team announced to students in an email on Feb. 24.

The mandate will remain in effect in classrooms, unless a professor decides otherwise, and on the YU Shuttle. Students with vaccine or booster exemptions must continue to wear masks as usual. Additionally, the email noted, Cardozo School of Law and Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology still have the mandate in place. Students are still required to test each week in YU's campus testing centers.

This move comes as COVID-19 restrictions gradually ease up across New York City (NYC) and cases remain consistently low, including on campus. According to the YU COVID-19 Tracker, there have been only two positive cases out of over 1,200 tests on both Wilf and Beren campuses between Feb 13-18. Some NYC universities, such as New York University, still have mask mandates in place.

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The new policy will take effect Monday, Feb. 28.

MICAH PAVA

## Winter Break Shortened By Three Days In 2022-23 Calendar

By JONATHAN LEVIN

*This article was published online on Feb. 24.*

Yeshiva University's winter break next year will be 11 days, three days shorter than this current year's 14-day intersession, according to the 2022-23 academic calendar.

The calendar, recently uploaded to YU's website, lists intersession as beginning on Shabbat, Jan. 7, 2023 through Tuesday, Jan. 17, giving students a week-and-a-half break between semesters. This year, intersession began on Monday, Jan. 10 and went through Sunday, Jan. 23, giving students nearly two complete weeks. Students were not notified by the university about the calendar's posting.

A Commentator analysis of next year's calendar timing of the *chagim* and legal holidays — and its effects on study days and finals — found that there is a three-day difference in available class days between this year and the next. While YU did not confirm it, this variation may account for the shorter winter break.

University Registrar Jennifer Spiegel told The Commentator: "Each semester, in order to comply with aid and accreditation requirements, we are required to have 15 weeks of instruction, including exam week,

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Wilf Campus Office of the Registrar

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# FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

## We Say We Love LGBTQ Jews. Do We Really Mean It?

By SRULI FRUCHTER

"You want to know what was hilarious?" the student seated behind me in *shiur* asked. "That someone threw out The Commentator issues." Unsure if he was joking, I asked him what he meant. "Because of the gay article," he mockingly replied. "That doesn't belong in a yeshiva."

That "gay article" referred to a profile I wrote for The Commentator on how LGBTQ students at YU navigate their religious identities, which made the front page of the fall semester's last issue. Only one day after that issue was printed and distributed, hundreds of copies were thrown away by a YU student who was later caught. This, the student in my *shiur* believed, was hilarious; it was the poetic justice a "gay article" deserved.

It's important to note that the profile did not concern halachic issues. The featured students were not threatening to uproot Torah. They were not calling to abandon Orthodoxy. They were not even engaging with the contentious discussions Orthodoxy is facing today. Instead, the students spoke about their connections to Judaism, the reasons they love learning Torah and the comfort they find in community. And they did speak about their experiences as LGBTQ Jews, and the discrimination and hardships they faced as a result. But, according to my classmate, none of that belongs in a yeshiva.

This interaction came on the heels of oral arguments in the ongoing LGBTQ discrimination suit against YU, which asks the court to decide if YU must allow students to form a

university-sanctioned LGBTQ club. To be clear: This article is not addressing matters of the Pride Alliance, the law, *halakha* or the intricacies of that case. My concern rather lies with the message of that student's comment.

*If we are serious when we proclaim to love our fellow Jews, then our yeshiva should be a place for every single Jew. But unless we genuinely want that to be the case, it won't be.*

"Our LGBTQ+ students are our sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, family and friends," President Ari Berman told The Commentator in September 2020. "At the heart of our Jewish values is love — love for God and love for each of His children." Our *rebbeim* echo that same sentiment when speaking about LGBTQ issues, urging us to "love every Jew." We say the same things among ourselves. But if that's the case, if we should be loving our fellow students as we are expected to love everyone else, why don't we?

Rambam tells us in his *Mishneh Torah* that the *mitzvah* to love our fellow Jew is a *mitzvah* of action, and while we may vocalize messages of inclusion and acceptance, our actions sound the loudest message of all. In more ways than one, we position

ourselves as the gatekeepers that refuse to welcome those who differ in ways that make us uncomfortable. At the same time, we watch in astonishment as those same people leave Orthodoxy; we push people so hard that they have no choice to stay, and we're doing the same thing to LGBTQ Jews.

You need not take my word that this is the case — take it from LGBTQ students themselves. At a YU-sponsored panel of LGBTQ students and alumni held roughly one year ago, one of the students said as much: "After what I and many others felt was repeated discrimination by the administration at this school, I realized that I didn't reject Judaism and I didn't reject the Orthodox community. They rejected me." In one article, six former and current YU students said homophobic comments were "common at YU." If our goal is to love our fellow Jews, then we're failing miserably.

Of course, we cannot blame every person in the community for LGBTQ discrimination; there are many who have taken tremendous and successful strides to create inclusive and welcoming spaces for LGBTQ Jews. At the same time, we would be foolish to misappropriate those cases and claim that no problems exist at all.

This year, things have been rather quiet regarding LGBTQ issues at YU, mainly because they are being handled in court. The presiding judge is expected to return a decision within the next few months, ruling on whether YU must allow the Pride Alliance to be an official campus club. The court is handling issues from a legal standpoint

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## Before We Judge YU, We Need The Facts

By SHLOMIT EBBIN

The calendar for the 2022-23 academic year was recently released, and with it came uproar. Winter break, instead of being 14 days as it was this year, will only be 11. As my fellow editors and I scrutinized the calendar, we found that the start and end dates for this year are Aug. 25 and May 25, and the start and end dates for next year are Aug. 24 and May 24, indicating that the academic year takes up the exact same number of days. We calculated that each semester included 28 classes for each course, which is the same as this year. We noticed the holiday schedule is a little crazy next year, the most notable being Pesach 2022 takes up 11 days, while Pesach 2023 takes up 13. There. Those are the missing winter break days.

I have found in my years at YU that many students are quick to blame the

university when something changes for the worse. I am guilty of this myself sometimes. Perhaps it is something all students tend to feel toward their institutions. This is not to say that YU is innocent in all regards; however, what I find most disappointing is when YU does something to the benefit of

*What I find most disappointing is when YU does something to the benefit of their students, we often not only fail to recognize it, but even believe it is to our detriment.*

their students, we often not only fail to recognize it but even believe it is to our detriment.

This past week it felt like the entire United States was off for Presidents' Day — except for YU. I asked my aggrieved friends if they would rather have off for Presidents' Day but have midterms on *Ta'anit Esther* or Purim. I am grateful to be given off for the *chagim* every year, and I am sure that most of my peers would say the same. On a day when everyone else gets a day off, we forget that YU carefully plans the calendar around the *chagim*, even inserting remote instruction days so that we can spend more time at home with our families.

Now, I'm an editor for the news section of The Commentator. I consider it the responsibility of the newspaper, specifically of the news section, to report hard facts to the student body.

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# THE COMMENTATOR

2021-2022

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*For 87 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 Umadda, and a commitment to journalistic excellence.*

*Read more at [yucommentator.org](http://yucommentator.org)*



**1 The Macs got their swagger back**  
As of this 7upping, the team is competing for the ship.



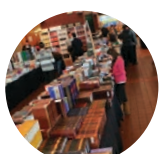
**2 Ray Allen meets PDRAB**  
The opportunity to meet none other than President Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman was surely extraordinary.



**3 YU Mask Policy**  
Like YU's financial security, it never really existed.



**4 Golan and Grandma's return to the Caf Card**  
A sad, sad day for the overpriced waffles in the caf.



**5 Seforim Sale Extension**  
Sponsored by YUConnects — got to get those shidduch numbers up, right?



**6 Super Bowl**  
The only bowl better than the caf's poke bowl.



**7 Israel Open Borders**  
For now...

# 7 UP NMODZ 7 DOWN

## Has YU become irrelevant?

Has anyone let PRDAB know yet? I think he's somewhere other than YU right now...

## Robert Kraft and the Macs

2019: Banner removed from YU. 2022: Honored by YU. How's that for a comeback?

## Scalped Macs Tickets

If the caf weren't so overpriced, we would be shooketh by the \$150 ticket offers.

## New Zoom Policy

Does getting a note from PRDAB count as a doctor's note?  
I'm allergic to classes that don't teach the Five Torot

## Shortened 2023 Winter Break

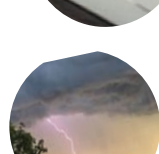
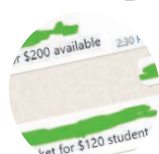
Now instead of having 15% of a regular college break, we get 10! Thanks YU!

## Fake COVID Tests

From cheating on tests to cheating on [COVID] tests

## Weather

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



*EBBIN EDITORIAL  
Continued from Page 2*

Unfortunately, there will always be bad news, such as lawsuits, dangerous elevator malfunctions and gender pay gaps. However, I much prefer to write articles about YU's taking steps to ensure students' safety, the university's jumping eight spots in the U.S. News and World Report and its bringing minyanim back to Beren Campus. I love writing about news in which YU is "the good guy," because feeling positive toward one's university makes for a much happier college experience.

I have often said that I write for news because there is no creativity required — just facts, no opinions. But when I introduced myself to Assistant Dean of Students Sara Asher, she drew my attention to some "creativity" common in Commentator news pieces. Asher told me she thinks it's great that student-run, independent newspapers exist at YU, but sometimes she questioned if we had to phrase things the way we did. I tried explaining that I write for news, with the goal of being objective and impartial. But of course I know there's no way to be completely unbiased, even in the news section.

That's not to say we don't try. I remember having a long conversation with Editor-in-Chief Sruli Fruchter about the article he was writing on Judge Kotler's denying the Pride Alliance's request for a preliminary injunction. The original title was "Court Temporarily Allows YU to Deny LGBTQ Club on Campus," but we settled on "Judge Denies Plaintiffs' Request Requiring YU to Allow LGBTQ Club While Discrimination Case Continues in Court." The difference in these titles is that one suggests YU asked to continue denying the LGBTQ club — which was not the case — and the other implies YU did not initiate this decision.

Interactions with administrators have made me realize that the issue of blaming YU is partly the fault of the newspaper, which may sometimes word things in a way that paints the university in a negative light according to our own biases. Is this my letter to the editor that we have to be better with our titles? I guess so, if you can write a letter to the editor to yourself.

As a news editor, I have information on the best and worst of YU. I've had the privilege of talking to deans and gaining a better understanding of the bigger picture and what goes on behind the scenes. There are lots of flaws in every system, and YU is no exception. It's important for administrators to be upfront with students about why things change, but it's equally important for students to take advantage of opportunities that can provide them with information. I encourage you to go to open forums, ask questions and read the newspapers before jumping to conclusions, and we promise to try our best to give you the real, hard facts.

*FRUCHTER EDITORIAL  
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— and you can be sure that its ruling will have significant implications for the future of YU. But all of that is irrelevant to this point.

Right now, we are not making space for LGBTQ Jews, "our sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, family and friends," to feel and be loved. This is not about New York City law. This is about Jewish law. It's about making a community open to diverse Jews, a community where everyone knows that they are welcome. If we are serious when we proclaim to love our fellow Jews, then our yeshiva should be a place for every single Jew. But unless we genuinely want that to be the case, it won't be.

## Zharnest Promoted to Director of Undergraduate Recruitment

By RIVKA BENNUN

Marc Zharnest has been promoted to director of admissions and undergraduate high school recruitment. Zharnest took over as acting director of undergraduate admissions in September 2020 after the previous director, Geri Mansdorf, stepped down from the position.

As director, Zharnest's responsibilities include, but are not limited to, recruitment and admissions for all first-time and transfer students at YU. "This includes overseeing our top-notch and committed team of admissions counselors, planning and executing all events related to admissions, reviewing applications and crafting our overall admissions strategy," Zharnest shared with The Commentator. "I collaborate with administrators, faculty and

*"Being able to sit in my seat and oversee the admissions team for my alma mater is a true honor and privilege, one that I do not take for granted."*

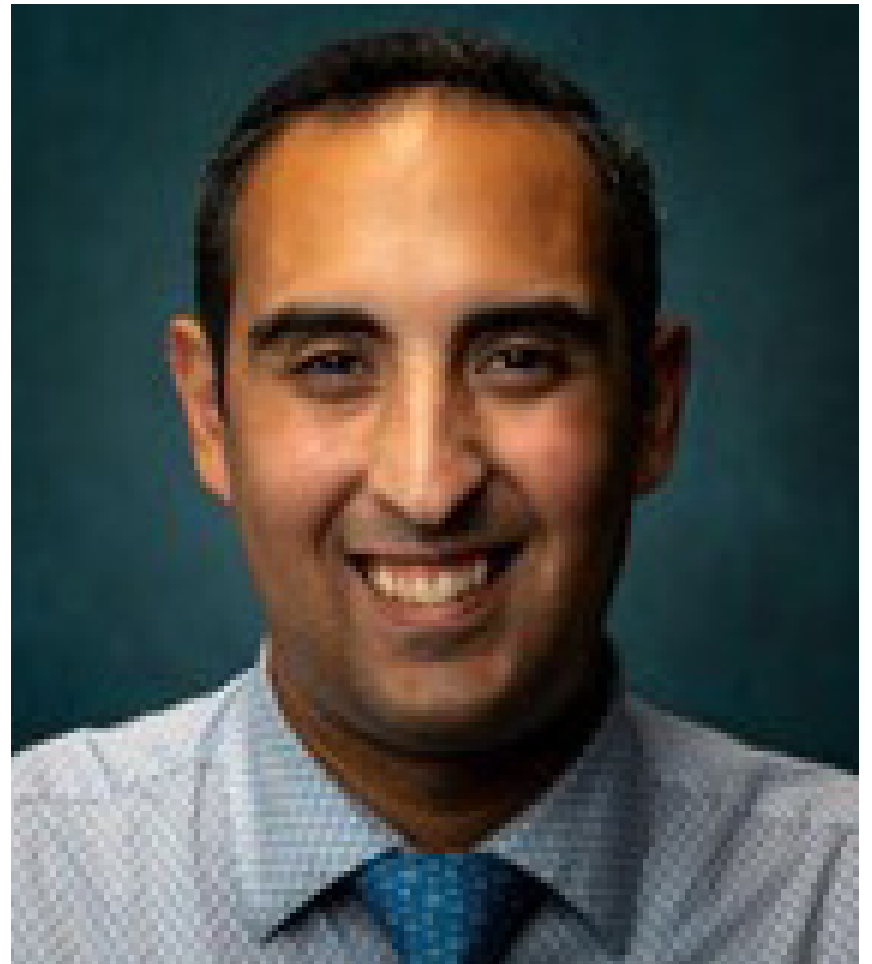
Director of Admissions and Undergraduate High School Recruitment Marc Zharnest

Zharnest previously worked as associate director of undergraduate admissions before assuming the role of acting director. He has a bachelor's degree in management from the Sy Syms School of Business (SSSB) and a master's degree in healthcare administration and management from Seton Hall University. From 2012 to 2014, he worked as the international director of outreach and recruitment for the James Striar School Mechinah program at YU, according to his LinkedIn profile. In July of 2017, Zharnest was promoted from assistant coach to head coach of the women's soccer team at YU.

other personalities at YU, all with the objective of recruiting students to YU."

He added that there are no quantifiable changes in his list of responsibilities now that he is director. "While I have been serving as the acting director, my philosophy has been to earn the job and not have it given to me, so while the acting part is gone, the job has been the same and that is to ensure that we bring in the right students," Zharnest said.

"Being able to sit in my seat and oversee the admissions team for my alma mater is a true honor and privilege, one that I do not take for granted," Zharnest said.



Marc Zharnest

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

## YU Releases Requirements, Schedule for Israel-Based Torat Tziyon Program

By CHAIM BOOK

YU released the requirements and schedule for the first cohort of students who will continue their studies in Israel in Fall 2022 as part of the Torat Tziyon Pilot program in an email to students on Sunday, Feb 6. The email also announced the appointment of Rav Josh and Rabbanit Margot Botwinick as rav and rabbanit of the Torat Tziyon campus.

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. The undergraduate program will be offering a specific set of courses and Torah learning schedule during its first semester based on data gathered through student surveys and different sessions since the December announcement. There are also

graduate programs for students in some of YU's graduate schools, details of which were not included in the email.

*"You have preached and taught aliya for so many years. Your students are finally internalizing it."*

Rav Josh and Rabbanit Margot Botwinick

According to the recently launched website, these programs will "continue to strengthen our connections with Israel by providing students—especially those interested in pursuing careers in Israel or making aliya—the full YU experience in Israel.

These new programs will further enhance our students' ability to build and refine core leadership and market-ready skills, while working closely with our faculty, staff, and alumni."

Rav and Rabbanit Botwinick expressed their excitement about working with YU in Israel. "We are in awe and inspired by the YU Board, President Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman, Dean Shoshana Schechter, Rabbi Kalinsky, Dr. Noam Wasserman and the YU administration for realizing how important this is," they said in a statement to The Commentator.

The undergraduate program is only for juniors and seniors of the Sy Syms School of Business (SSSB) with a GPA of at least 3.3 and who have spent at least two semesters at YU in New York. Despite over 50 students expressing "enthusiastic" interest, the program is limited to 20 participants.

In an effort to interest as many students as possible, the program will focus on offering afternoon courses that are typically taken late in SSSB but aren't major-specific. Courses will be taught by professors who have taught or are currently teaching in SSSB. Access to YU's counseling center, Shevet Glaubach Career Center and academic advisors will be available.

Students will have live, separate-gender classes with an accessible *beit midrash*. The men's Judaic Studies program will resemble YU's Mazer Yeshiva Program and Stone *Beit Midrash* Program, with learning in the mornings, including *chavruta* time in the *beit midrash*, followed by multiple *shiur* options. Advanced students will have the opportunity to join Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) Kollel Gemara *Shiurim*

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**MASK MANDATE LIFTED**  
*Continued from Front Page*

In their email, the COVID Monitoring Team noted that this decision was made "after consultation with our medical director and in line with the latest state health recommendations."

"As we gradually return to a robust, pre-pandemic campus atmosphere, we want to express our gratitude for your collective effort in helping to diminish the spread of the virus," the email stated. "Our YU values call us to put the needs of others first. Therefore, as always, our actions moving forward will prioritize the best interests of our community."

Although YU's mandate has been in effect since the second week of school, the university has struggled to enforce it on campus. As the fall semester neared completion, the university essentially stopped enforcing the mandate altogether, except for

security guards requesting students take a mask upon entering a building.

*"As we gradually return to a robust, pre-pandemic campus atmosphere, we want to express our gratitude for your collective effort in helping to diminish the spread of the virus."*

The COVID Monitoring Team

Many students support the decision. "It's about time that it ended. We need to be able to fully go back to normal. There's still more to be done, but this is a step in the right direction," Student Organization of Yeshiva Public Relations Secretary Ezra Emerson (SSSB '23) told the Commentator.

Back in April, YU announced that all students needed to be vaccinated before Fall

2021, with few medical and religious exceptions. Initially, masks were not required

for vaccinated individuals who submitted a negative PCR test prior to move-in. After holding an emergency meeting on Aug. 24, the YU Faculty Council sent a resolution to the administration requesting that masks be mandated indoors for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status. That Sunday, Aug. 29, the university announced a temporary, indoor mask mandate in all campus

buildings, excluding residence halls and dining halls. At the end of the fall semester, with the onset of the Omicron variant and many students testing positive, students and staff were informed that they will be required to receive the booster shot before returning in the spring. The booster shot mandate was met with significant opposition from both parents and students.

Despite the easing of restrictions, the COVID Monitoring Team will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 across NYC and campus, the email noted. It also encouraged students who wish to continue wearing masks voluntarily, requesting "that the entire campus community respect and support all those who continue to wear masks going forward."

## Golan Heights Restaurant and Grandma's Pizza Rejoin YU's Onecard Program

By JONATHAN LEVIN

Grandma's Pizza and Golan Heights Israeli Grill & Restaurant have rejoined YU's OneCard Participating Vendor Dining Funds Program, Director of Dining Services Sam Chasen announced through two separate emails at the beginning of February.

*"I am very pleased that Grandma's and other restaurants on Amsterdam Ave. have partnered with YU to allow students to use the caf card as a way of purchasing food at their stores."*

Ozzie Jeselsohn (SSSB '23)

At some point over the last two years, both restaurants stopped participating in the program. The emails announcing Golan and Grandma's rejoining OneCard were sent on Feb. 2 and Feb. 7, respectively.

YU's program enables students to spend a portion of their cafeteria money, labeled as flex funds, at participating restaurants near the Wilf and Beren campuses. Purchases made through student caf cards also are not taxed, another incentive for students to order from participating restaurants.

Grandma's Pizza and Golan Heights join Chop Chop, Lake Como Pizza and Burgers & Grill as OneCard participating vendors on Wilf Campus. The participating vendors on Beren Campus include Kosher in Midtown and Tiberias. This change comes as some YU-based dining services reopen and expand their hours. The Sky Caf, located on the 12th floor of Belfer Hall, reopened this semester Monday through Thursday between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Additionally, Nagel Bagel added hours Sunday through Thursday between 7:45 -11:30 p.m.

"We are very happy to be back on the caf card. Been more busy, the students have been smiling. They're happy," a representative of Golan Heights said in a statement to The Commentator. "On our side, we haven't received any money [from YU] in 23 days of being on it. We're a little frustrated, but hopefully we will get it soon."

Students were excited about these developments. "I am very pleased that Grandma's and other restaurants on Amsterdam Ave. have partnered with YU to allow students to use the caf card as a way of purchasing food at their stores," Ozzie Jeselsohn (SSSB '23) told The Commentator. "Now that I don't have to spend extra money out of pocket, I have been able to frequent these restaurants more times than last semester."

As of publication, YU has not updated its list of participating vendors on its website.

Grandma's Pizza declined to comment to The Commentator.



Golan Heights and Grandma's Pizza on Amsterdam Ave.

THE COMMENTATOR

### TORAT TZIYON

Continued from Page 4

taught by Rabbi Asaf Bednarsh or Rabbi Chaim Eisenstein. Rabbi Reuven Berman and Rav Botwinick will teach *shiurim* exclusively for undergraduates.

The women's Judaic Studies program, overseen by Rabbanit Shani Taragin, will be different from the current schedule on Beren Campus with mornings exclusively dedicated for Judaic Studies courses. A *beit midrash* option with *chavruta* learning will be available followed by a *shiur* given by Rabbanit Taragin. GPATS in Israel will be launching and learning there as well. Students of any remote graduate program will have the ability to join for the daytime learning or classes.

"Another huge shift is the first ever option for undergraduate women in Stern to fulfill their core requirements through a *Beit Midrash* track," Rav and Rabbanit Botwinick told The Commentator.

All students will be required to live in YU housing. The men will be housed on the YU Israel campus in Bayit Vegan in Jerusalem. The women will be staying next door at Chorev Campus in a newly renovated apartment and will learn Torah in the new Chorev *beit midrash*. The housing facilities will be the center of a vibrant student life community, which will include club activities, tiyulim and Shabbat programming led by Rav and Rabbanit Botwinick.

Rav Botwinick is a three-time YU alumnus, including *semicha* from RIETS. A Wexner Scholar, he has served in formal and informal rabbinic and educational roles including directing the Bnei Akiva of New York and New Jersey's Innovative School Programming Project, which focuses on bringing Israel-themed educational programs into schools. Rabbanit Margot is a graduate of the Legacy Heritage Fund Scholars program for Jewish Educators at Stern College for Women, and has taught

at several women's midrashot and learning programs in Israel.

For the past five years, the Botwinicks have served as the first American couple on in Israeli campus as founding directors of OU-JLIC at the Raphael Recanati International School of the Interdisciplinary School (IDC) in Herzliya, growing their community of *olim*, students and young professionals. In IDC they provided programming, *shiurim* and *Shabbatonim* and worked to create a sense of community and family amongst the students. They hope to continue this work with their alma mater at the Torat Tziyon program.

"YU is addressing a wonderful, more recent, problem," said Rav and Rabbanit Botwinick. "Over the past few years, 18-24 year olds have become the highest demographic of people making Aliya from North America. Yet, students in that age range still feel caught between staying in Israel and going back to New York to attend YU."

The Botwinicks look forward to helping provide an opportunity they feel has long been missing from the Jewish community. "For the past five years, we've been running Mizrahi OU-JLIC at IDC and watching as hundreds of American yeshiva day school graduates flocked to IDC and other schools in Israel. YU was never an option," the couple shared. "This is a historic step in the history of YU and the Modern Orthodox community."

"To the heads of Yeshiva Day Schools, Religious Zionist communities around the world and Rabbanim/Educators of Midrashot and Yeshivot in Israel — all we can say is thank you," they added. "You have preached and taught aliya for so many years. Your students are finally internalizing it."

### WINTER BREAK SHORTENED

Continued from Front Page

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.

## Behind The Scenes of the YU Seforim Sale

By SHNEUR LEVY

Since 1964, Yeshiva University has had an annual Seforim Sale run solely by YU students. Last year, because of COVID-19, we weren't able to have one, but this year it's back to its former glory.

I had the opportunity to interview this year's Seforim Sale CEO, Eli Seidman (SSSB '23). He estimated that about 90 people are working at the sale. The preparation began as early as April of last year when Seidman began hiring the upper staff of this year's sale. The actual planning began around October. The applications for employment at the Seforim Sale went out right around the Chagim and the deadline for interviews got pushed a little bit because they were waiting for an official answer from YU as to whether the sale could happen, so they ended up hiring everyone in late December.

This year's Seforim Sale is as big as in previous years. There are fewer *seforim* because of supply chain issues with vendors, but in general, they have most of the *seforim* that people are looking for and a very wide selection. From Tanach, Gemara, Jewish Novels, Jewish Philosophy, books on the Holocaust, Chassidus, and Chassidic swag, they have it all.

On the weekends, there are a lot more people, especially on Sunday and *Motzei Shabbat*, but "no night is a quiet night," Seidman said. On opening day, over 2,000 people walked in.

As a customer myself, I went to the Seforim Sale, and I saw that there were no Baba Batras —the *masechet* that Wilf Campus is learning — left. When asked if it's their most off-the-shelf item, Seidman said, "It's the most sought after so it was sold out very quickly. We do reorders so hopefully we'll get more in soon."

Seidman added that "the most popular item has been Daniel Ish Chamudot, a sefer that came out in honor of Donny Morris." As the back of book describes it, it's a book that's "Rich with insights in the weekly parsha and *ben adam l'chavero* from Donny's friends and teachers, Daniel Ish Chamudot seeks to guide its readers in glimpsing how Donny lived his life, and to discover how his voice reverberates in the way we learn the Torah."

The prices at the Seforim Sale compared to other *seforim* stores are definitely the cheapest or almost the cheapest, Seidman said, because they get it at a discount from many of the vendors, which allows them to keep their prices low. As he said, "We don't have a high markup because our goal is to spread the love of Torah which shouldn't come at such an expensive cost to our customers." The 2020 Seforim Sale generated about \$740,000 in revenue and sold over 28,000 books. Nearly 90% of its sales came

from in-person purchases.

When it comes to consumers, their most frequent customer is really everyone from the community, especially Wilf and Beren students. They're just trying to attract people from everywhere, especially from the community, even students from other college campuses. Shai Bernstein, a West Hartford NCSYer who came for an NCSY Shabbaton on campus commented, "I love it so much when different and diverse Jews are able to come together and have an opportunity to retain something from one another, whether that be Tanach, Gemara, rabbinic advice, or even kosher recipes, which is why I love the Yeshiva University Seforim Sale."

Overall the Seforim Sale run by Seidman and the Seforim Sale staff has been a massive success, and we're looking forward to the Seforim Sale to continue for many years to come.

## Why Is Your Dinner So Expensive? A Look At YU's Rising Cafeteria Prices

By RIVKA BENNUN AND ARIEL KAHAN

Yaffa Shekhter (SSSB '24) was rudely awakened when she returned to Beren Campus after her winter break in her hometown of Hollywood, FL. As Shekhter walked through the cafeteria, she noticed something different about all of her favorite foods: The price of a standard dinner was raised by a dollar, the sushi was more expensive and the price of her favorite fish was raised by a dollar and a half.

As an out-of-towner, Shekhter spends most of her *Shabbatot* and whole weekends on campus, thus spending more money on meals than the average in-town student. "As someone who lives outside of New York and eats most if not all of her meals at Stern, the rise in cafeteria prices has increased angst among students," she shared with The Commentator.

Shekhter doesn't buy drinks at the caf; if she is buying a main dish, she won't get a salad from the salad bar or soup as well. Yet she still ran out of caf money in the last three weeks of the fall semester, and she found herself relying on Cram n' Crunch and the local Fairway for sustenance.

As of Fall 2021, resident students have three options for meal plans: the High Plan of \$2,000, the Standard Plan of \$1,750 and the Low Plan of \$1,500. Shekhter is on the Standard meal plan, meaning \$1,500 are allotted for caf money and \$250 are allotted for flex dollars.

"In general I am spending more money as a student, and the meal plan is already expensive," Shekhter added. "I'm here until the end of the semester, and the meals really add up. Why is it that a full *Shabbos* at Stern is the same price as a piece of fish on the average Tuesday?" Students who sign up for *Shabbat* on campus by Monday night pay \$15 for both meals, the same price as fish for lunch during the week.

The Commentator inquired about the rise in prices and was pointed in the direction of Randy Apfelbaum, the chief facilities and administrative officer. Asked about the rise in prices, Apfelbaum said, "This is a collective decision we make collaboratively." Apfelbaum noted that many parts of the YU community were included in the decision including The Finance Department, The Office of Student Life and Dining Services. The rise was made across the board for both Beren and Wilf campuses. Apfelbaum

did not respond to two separate emails requesting the exact numbers of cafeteria price increases.

The last time students saw an increase in prices was over the summer. According to Apfelbaum, cafeteria prices are generally increased on a yearly basis, but they could not wait until the summer as "prices were going up everywhere." He explained, "Our suppliers are raising prices; if you go to all the restaurants, they are raising prices, the supermarkets are raising prices. We have no choice. We'd rather not. Clearly we don't want to."

Thus, the decision was made to raise the prices right before the start of the spring semester. All increases are determined by the price of how much it costs. "It depends on the price of fish, it depends on the price of eggs, lettuce," Apfelbaum explained. "Each item is different because some items didn't go up, because we were able to make it work."

Rabbi David Pahmer, Jewish Studies lecturer and Math for Business instructor in the Sy Syms School of Business, elaborated that this issue is "probably due to the

supply chain troubles" caused by COVID-19. Consequently, YU sometimes cannot find its regular supplies — such as whipped cream cheese — and may have to get those supplies from more expensive sources. Rabbi Pahmer noted that "prices may fall when those troubles are resolved."

He added, "The caf [also] has expenses as overhead that have to get included into the food prices, such as the packaging and employee salaries, that might have also led to price increases, which won't come down after COVID."

Although the prices didn't go up for everything, Akiva Kamornick (SSSB '24) is feeling the effects from those that did. Kamornick would always enjoy spending time with his friends over a good dinner. However, he often finds himself rationing or not buying enough food for fear of running out of money.

"It's hard to enjoy your food when you know that you just spent over 15 dollars on one meal," said Kamornick. "On the one hand you want to sit and relax and eat after a long, hard day, but on the other hand, you think about the amount of times you can do

it before having to look for other options." Kamornick also mentioned that he works part-time at Burgers & Grill, where the food is cheaper, making the average cafeteria dinner meal more expensive than restaurant food. For example, a burger, fries and soda costs \$16.54 in the Wilf caf, as opposed to \$15.99 at Burgers & Grill when paying via caf card.

Asked if he would consider putting more money on students' cards to accommodate the rising prices, Apfelbaum responded, "We don't want to change the price of the buy in mid-year; we will change it this summer." This is done often, according to Apfelbaum, but was not done this year because of COVID-19. "But people have already registered, people have already put money on their caf card," Apfelbaum said.

"You can always add money. There is never a penalty to add money, and it goes into flex dollars, and it's tax-free anyway," Apfelbaum concluded. "It's unfortunate; it's not something we like to do, it's not something we want to do, it's unfortunate."



Caf prices have increased significantly over the past few months.

MICAH PAVA

## We Asked, Y(O)U Answered

### Chag HaSuperbowl

By **ETHAN SCHUMAN**

As society is slowly returning to normal after the pandemic, one of the things people were finally able to do again was watch and celebrate the Super Bowl. At YU as well, many students have different and unique ways of doing this. Furthermore, as the Super Bowl has many entertaining aspects to it, every student has their own favorite parts. As a result of this variability, The Commentator reached out to several students, asking them where they watched the Super Bowl this year and what was their favorite part.

**Benjamin Rozsa Groo (SSSB '24)**  
**Finance**

"I am an international student so this was my first time watching the game. I found it very entertaining and enjoyable to see so many people who are passionate about the festivities.

"I watched the game on campus at YU with friends. It is hard to compare the Super Bowl to any other type of experience I had but it was exciting being there."

**Dini Hirschfield (SSSB '23)**  
**Business Management**

"I did not watch the Super Bowl for that long, because I had a lot of school work to do. I was also working on my shift at the Seforim Sale part of the time so there was not really that much time for me to watch it.

"Although I did not watch most of the game, I was able to enjoy the excitement of the halftime show."

**Jonathan Safier (YC '23)**  
**Biology**

"I watched the Super Bowl with some of my EMT friends. My favorite part was definitely the food! Watching the Super Bowl is fun and all, but rarely do you have a BBQ that

big. We of course had burgers and hotdogs, but we also had chicken and subs. We went all out! We should not have done anything less for an event like this.

"This year's Super Bowl was unique, because I had never spent it with these people before and they brought a different kind of fun and excitement to the event."

**Eliezer Benjamin (YC '23)**  
**Mathematics**

"I watched the game at an apartment with a bunch of my really good friends. As Lions fan and a Detroit native, my favorite parts of the game were Matthew Stafford finally winning a Super Bowl and Eminem being on stage during the halftime show. Also, the food we had was great and the general atmosphere was awesome!

"This Super Bowl was unique, because I finally got to witness Matthew Stafford win his first Super Bowl (even if it was not with the Lions)."

**Shmuel Aberman (SSSB '24)**  
**Business Analytics**

"This year, instead of watching the Super Bowl, I decided that I was going to work at the Seforim Sale. I really enjoyed the calm and peaceful experience that deciding not to go to a Super Bowl party brought. While others were screaming over the awful calls or the amazing catches I was able to talk with all of the others who were working at the Seforim Sale with me without stressing over the game.

"While I usually would watch the Super Bowl with my friends or family, I decided to not watch the Super Bowl this year and it was a great decision to remove the stresses and emotions that watching the Super Bowl causes. I was able to interact with others and also catch up on my homework and practice my project for business communication."



FROM THE COMMIE ARCHIVES

## Caf Troubles

*Editor's Note: Over the course of the year, the cafeteria on both the Beren and Wilf campuses have raised their prices leading to some frustration among students. Below are a pair of articles demonstrating past problems with the caf along with the administration addressing some of these problems.*

### (May 8, 1985; Volume 99, Issue 3) — Students Stage Boycott Of University Cafeteria

By COMMENTATOR STAFF

The student bodies of Yeshiva University and Yeshiva University High School held a boycott of the University cafeteria during lunch, Wednesday, November 28. The protest, sponsored by Yeshiva's Student Council, was planned after council learned that the administration would not allow its vending machines to be installed in the Furst Hall student lounge.

Mr. Rappaport pointed out that the protest was against administration repeated non-recognition, of council's demands and rights, rather than an objection to just one particular administrative act. He cited the fact that rooms in the new building were

promised for Co-op, Masmid, and council, and that these proposed facilities were suddenly taken away.

Student Council at its last meeting voted unanimously to protest against the administration by staging a luncheon boycott. Mr. Rappaport called a meeting of council the next day.

Tuesday evening November 27, final and specific arrangements for the protest were outlined. Letters explaining the reasons for the boycott were mimeographed and distributed to students. Posters asking for complete cooperation with council were drawn up and placed throughout the school. Mr. Rappaport also sent a delegation of council members to the high school dormitory to inform the students and ask their support.

### (December 5, 1985; Volume 100, Issue 3) — Food Services Improve at Yeshiva

By MARK SCHWARTZ

The Yeshiva College Food Services Committee met last week to examine the possibilities for improvement in the University's food services. The committee, led by Dr. Efreim Nubnan, Associate Dean of Students, and Howard Rosenberg, Assistant Director of Food Services, includes YC students, and was established in response to increased pressure to improve food services at the Cafeteria.

Many students had requested that the cafeteria extend its evening hours; as a result, the cafeteria is now open for an additional three hours, between 8:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m., Monday through Wednesday. At this time, the cafeteria provides "fast food" items such as egg rolls, hot dogs, and hamburgers at reasonable prices. Student response to this innovation has been extremely positive. Howard Rosenberg said that the "utilization of the cafeteria's extra programs will lead to continued services." Dr. Nulman added that "the passing of these new plans need the participation of students to set the path for future operations."

Mr. Rosenberg said that "he welcomes all forms of criticism and suggestions," commenting that given the extensive patronage of the cafeteria by YC students, it is no wonder that it presents such a major source of concern. He added that "although it is impossible to satisfy all the students consistently," he estimates that a vast majority of students were happy with the changes and generally satisfied with the cafeteria services.

The Food Services Committee is presently considering other ideas for improving cafeteria services. Among them is a "script plan" designed to provide a discount of 15-20% on food purchases. Under the plan, there will be a \$3.50 special item on sale at all times even if it means reducing a higher priced item. In addition, a Sunday fast food service is planned to begin shortly. Plans to set up a "Mini Cafeteria" on the 12th floor in the Belfer Science Building are also being considered. This would serve three functions: greater convenience for graduate school students and faculty, shorter lines in the main cafeteria, and it will provide the students with a greater variety of places to eat.



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## The Pundit

## Identity Is Guiding Russia To Attack Ukraine

By CHARLIE KRAMER

*This article was published online on Feb. 24.*

Russia is on the brink of a full-scale invasion of its neighbor, Ukraine. As Russia continues to gather troops and weapons at the border, many may wonder what prompts a nation to go to war in the first place and how countries generally make their foreign policy decisions. Three prevailing theories exist about how countries carry out their international relations: Realism, Liberalism and Constructivism. Each strand plays a role in Russia's aggression, but I believe that Russia's land grab is based primarily on the international relations theory known as Constructivism, with the other two theories, Liberalism and Realism, only playing secondary roles in explaining the conflict.

The theory of Realism focuses on the everpresent struggle for power between all states and individual actors. This attitude focuses on an individual country's economic power and military might as a measuring stick for strength. The globe as a whole is viewed as a system of anarchy, which means that each state becomes self-interested, focusing on boosting their own power in order to achieve safety, prominence and security. Less powerful states often align with more

powerful states for protection or resources that they cannot otherwise guarantee. Others will seize opportunities to balance against the stronger state, in hopes of gaining more influence themselves as opposed to playing second fiddle to a larger power. Finally, some countries remain neutral, focusing on maintaining their own security without being tied up with other states. Realists focus on power politics to make their foreign policy decisions.

*In the Kremlin translation of a Feb. 21 speech, Vladimir Putin stated, "I will start with the fact that modern Ukraine was entirely created by Russia or, to be more precise, by Bolshevik, Communist Russia."*

In contrast to Realism, the theory of Liberalism maintains that states' interactions are more focused on cooperation, interdependence and diplomacy. While Liberalism admits that states do have interests, Liberals instead focus on relationships as the main drivers of decisions and foreign policy outcomes. Liberals believe that repeated diplomatic interaction breeds familiarity and creates bonds. Peace is borne out of working together, creating economic ties and establishing interdependence. An

important aspect of interdependence is the creation of international institutions and international organizations like the UN or NATO, which help countries come together to form bonds. Democracies are especially good at forming bonds, and so therefore more democracy means more peace.

Finally, the third theory of international relations, known as Constructivism, focuses on ideas, shared beliefs and identity as the main drivers of success. Combining

the beliefs, norms and values of influential individuals, as well as the state as a whole, creates its identity, which then influences its behaviors. Clashing identities between states creates conflict, even war. When beliefs, norms and values overlap, countries are able to form relations, and look past outstanding differences. Countries have a focus on spreading their own values internally, while also convincing opponents of these same ideas and beliefs.

In my opinion, Constructivism seems to be the primary driver of this conflict. Russia continues to operate under the firm belief that Ukraine is part of Russia. In the Kremlin translation of a Feb. 21 speech, Vladimir Putin stated "I will start with the fact that modern Ukraine was entirely created by Russia or, to be more precise, by Bolshevik, Communist Russia." Russia shares many cultural and social ties to Ukraine, in addition to Russian being a primary spoken language there too. For Russia, these connections are motivation enough to attempt to advance their influence, ideas and values onto a neighboring country.

Proponents of Liberalism would argue that Putin is angry at the cooperation between Europe and Ukraine, and instead wants to be able to make Ukraine more dependent on and interconnected with Russia instead. While Russia in the past may have shown resistance to Ukraine's attempts to bolster a connection with European institutions like the EU and NATO, currently Putin seems to be particularly angry at Ukraine for

other, more Constructivist reasons. In this same speech, Fox News notes, "Putin took aim at the current government for trying to distance itself from its historically Russian and Soviet past, arguing to do so would have consequences." Putin's Constructivist focus on a Soviet/Russian identity, without primary focus on security concerns or other Ukrainian alliances, highlights the identity politics latent in this conflict.

While some would argue that Realism has the largest role to play in this conflict, it seems that the focus on a more secure and powerful Russia is also not the primary concern here. While yes, Russia continues to flex its military muscle while other global powers like the U.S. and China watch from a distance, this is not the main reason for Russia's incursion. Russia does not feel overly attacked or militarily threatened by Ukraine, having already annexed parts of Ukraine such as the Crimean Peninsula. While fighting does continue there, no major pushback has occurred, and Russia has not faced any security threats because of it. With Russia's general safety assured and no security advantages to gain if they were to capture more of Ukraine, Russia is primarily focused on further promulgating their Soviet identity through Ukraine.

While Russia's endgame is unclear, the nature of wars promulgated by identity is that they are grounded in strong convictions, which are not easy to uproot. While attacks based on Realism mean that when faced with a power greater than theirs the instigator would back down, this identity-driven threat means that an aggressor will not necessarily step down in the face of a greater force, because of their strong belief in their cause. Similarly, an attack based on the breakdown in interdependence and communication that are the cornerstones of Liberalism would mean that if those aspects were repaired, then a war could end. In the case of this Constructivist based attack, however, a lack of partnership does not seem to be the impetus, highlighting a scarier lack of solution to this crisis.

I pray that this conflict ends soon, and instead of ideas, values and beliefs encouraging individuals to practice violence, they instead will be used for the greater good and the pursuit of international peace.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Paris in 2019.

KREMLIN/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## Why Movies Are the Pinnacle of Human Creativity

By YONI MAYER

How can we quantify and qualify the creativity inherent in a piece of art?

I've long thought about creativity and creative works as existing with levels of gradation. First, there exists the primary, fundamental level of an idea popping into your head. Above that is verbalization: sharing it with others and manifesting it into the world.

Beyond those principal steps, ideas are written down, labored over, reworked and perfected until they are finally ready to be presented to the world. Those subsequent acts, in whichever form of art, expand across creative disciplines, requiring more energy, time, vision and ingenuity as well as diverse creative talent to develop their messages.

In terms of cementing new ideas and adding them to the corpus of public thought, writing is the most direct and

easily accessible: you don't need an expensive camera or a musical instrument, but rather a paper and a pencil. More involved and expansive writing, such as a great work of fiction with many plots, characters and storylines, is an even greater form of the creative act of writing. The appreciation of

*Movies are the most creative of all the art forms. They have the greatest horizontal depth and magnitude through their combination of several disciplines.*

the magnitude of work as an indicator of its beauty is not a novel concept. In "Poetics," Aristotle writes, "For beauty to exist, both in regard to a living being and in regard to any object that is composed of separate parts, not only must there be a proper arrangement of the component elements, but the object must also be of a magnitude that

is not fortuitous. For beauty is determined by magnitude and order."

Magnitude is seen as great because more thought and creativity went into the work. This definition extends to all written works such as poems, books, plays, screenplays, etc. The greater the depth and breadth of

the written work, the more beautiful it is considered. The successful synthesis of plot, character and dialogue combine to make a beautiful, creative work, granted the pieces operate in a cogent way.

Furthermore, the more involved and multifaceted a work is, the more creative it is. Magnitude extends not only vertically but

horizontally as well; the more disciplines which are involved in the work, the more creative the work is as a whole. Therefore, the play that is performed is more "creative" than the written play itself. The play is interpreted and layers are added to it in accordance with the creative lens which the interpreter wishes to use. Staging, lighting, costume design and line delivery among other, infinite creative decisions must be made and supplanted on top of the original creative work that was the play. The magnitude is deepened.

Music is of a different order altogether than any other form of art. It is worthwhile to devote a few sentences of analysis to this as it will make the ultimate argument more potent. This concept is most powerfully observed in the combination of Plato's and Schopenhauer's philosophies. In "The Republic," Plato distinguishes between the

*Continued on Page 12*

## Torah and Madda or Torah With Madda?

By SEFFI JONAS

I generally oppose any criticism of YU. This is an institution for Jews, and as such, it demands our defense. I usually contend that YU should be praised loudly, even when it's undeserving, because YU's success and good name are necessary for the advancement of the Jewish people. Now, however, YU must be taken to task for losing its way.

This week, YU President Rabbi Ari Berman took an elevator ride in Belfer Hall with a group of students, including me, who were leaving a class for which we all ostensibly read Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein." Rabbi Berman wanted to discuss Frankenstein, which proved awkward because most of the students seemingly hadn't read the book. More awkward though was that Rabbi Berman wanted to discuss Frankenstein as it related to Jewish thought. He must not have realized that YU's general studies professors do not engage Jewish thought with great rigor. If Rabbi Berman thinks the most important points of Frankenstein relate to Jewish thought then he should insist professors teach it in a way that incorporates Jewish thought.

At YU, the rabbis I've encountered believe in the school motto, *Torah Umadda*, and they constantly strive to show how Judaism is compatible with and enriched by secular studies. However, many general studies professors don't seem to share that attitude. While YU's rabbis espouse *Torah Umadda*, certain professors find the Torah aspect of YU an irrelevant or even destructive force. Some professors seemingly suspect that any good word spoken about Orthodox Jews is either an error or a lie. Orthodox Jews did not fight for civil rights, I heard one professor say; we must be confusing them with enlightened Reform Jews. Orthodox Jews do not believe in feminism or incorporate women into religion, an English professor insisted; Wilf students cannot even learn together with Beren students! I saw a YU marketplace thread on which numerous students commented that a YU department chair has

made repeated antisemitic remarks. I've had to sit through assigned movies that implied that the Israeli Defence Force, in which I served, is a genocidal, imperialistic and evil force. Some of the humanities departments seem so gripped with radical, secular leftism, so wholly antithetical to Judaism, that they

emphasis on religious studies. The rabbis are great, but they are caught in an institution that systematically beats down their good work in the afternoons. Secular knowledge should enhance Judaism, but at YU the two often seem to be in competition. And I think secularism is winning.

is he relegated to the morning?

We need many more professors like Professor David Lavinsky, who often incorporates Judaism into discussions; he is presently teaching a class called "Milton and Religion," together with Rabbi Dov Lerner. Let that class, that professor and that rabbi serve as models. Wouldn't "The Source," "Exodus" and "Altneuland" be more relevant to our lives and values than "Eureka" and "Slaughterhouse Five"? Learning about Judaism in secular classes would make both the Torah and *madda* aspects of YU more interesting, effective and exciting. It might even attract more students who are accepted to Ivy League universities. It would definitely make YU unique. YU would be a better university. And as a bonus, Rabbi Berman won't think we're all idiots when he tries discussing Judaism and Frankenstein with us. We might teach each other instead.

The fact is that many classes here are boring because they are irrelevant. Most students do not thirst for knowledge about subjects they are required to take. But, if the courses incorporated Jewish thought and history, I believe students would be much more inspired to attend and participate. The secular subjects would not just be for credits and grades, they would strengthen our deepest beliefs. YU might become one of the only colleges in the country where students consistently learn. YU could easily become elite.

Yeshiva University's administrators are supposed to have values, principles and courage. What and where are their principles? Religion and Judaism are losing the battle at Yeshiva University. I call on YU rabbis to say to the administration, as I am saying now, that YU must be a place for Jewish values and education to thrive. Separating the two principles of the school will lead to its becoming a watered down, merely socially Orthodox institution. Uniting them might place us among the most vaunted learning institutions in the country. The administration must take control and prioritize its values, mission and role in shaping the Jewish future.

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*My issue is the total disconnect between the Torah and madda aspects of YU. That closeted antisemites and opponents of religion teach here is just a particularly pronounced reminder that Judaism at YU vanishes each afternoon.*

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cannot accept a good word about religion and Orthodox Jews.

I am not mentioning this often thinly veiled antisemitism because I am on a crusade against these particular professors. Rather, I believe their presence on campus is only a symptom of a more systemic problem. I also don't mean to claim most or even many professors dislike Jews; that is obviously not the case. My issue is the total disconnect between the Torah and *madda* aspects of YU. That closeted antisemites and opponents of religion teach here is just a particularly pronounced reminder that Judaism at YU vanishes each afternoon.

Yeshiva University used to attract elite students because of its unique character. Some of the best and brightest would turn down acceptances from Harvard, Yale, Princeton and many other great schools because YU was the only place that had both Torah and *madda*. Now, thank G-d, campuses around the country have Chabads and Hillels, and quite frankly YU is often less creative, inspiring and attractive than Chabad on Campus. Chabad treats Judaism as something that needs to be loved and spread to all areas and all aspects of life. To me, YU treats Judaism as something that must be spread only to morning classes.

I grant that students here are probably more likely to marry Jews and have Jewish children than at other universities, but YU's emphasis on secular studies outweighs its

The rabbis appear completely powerless when it comes to secular subjects. What some rabbis object to downstairs in the *beit midrash* is encouraged upstairs in the lecture halls. If Yeshiva University is too afraid to encourage religion in secular classes, then the dream of Modern Orthodoxy is treading on thin ice.

Yeshiva University administrators can easily choose to improve this institution by taking control of their hiring and their goals. Professors with beliefs antithetical to Judaism belong at Hunter College, not YU. Professors with a distaste for Israel belong at Columbia. Rabbis need to have some level of oversight when it comes to secular studies. If students who oppose religion and YU's values loudly object, so be it. As it stands, YU's apparent core values do not come through in any meaningful way. At least not after morning classes.

There should be religious aspects of secular classes. Instead of showing up to biology class and being told that everything Jews believe is wrong, I want to be taught in a place where Jewish wisdom supports and aligns with modern science. Rabbis should head secular departments and teach some secular subjects. Would Rabbi Benjamin Blech not be an exceptional English professor? Would Rabbi Mordechai Cohen not make a top-notch far eastern history teacher? Rabbi Mordechai Becher knows as much history as any other professor at YU. Why



## From the SSSB President's Desk: Failure Is Never an Option

By ABIGAIL LERMAN

From the time that I was young, I have been known for my unrelenting determination. Whether handing my shiny black Mary Janes with the Velcro closure to my parents and insisting “Shoes, outside!” as a toddler; scheduling a lunch meeting with my teacher to advocate moving up to the highest reading group as a second-grader; or convincing the security guards at the AIPAC Policy Conference to allow me to sit alongside the major donors so that I could get a front-row view of the Presidential candidates as a sophomore in high school, I’ve always had a sense of what I wanted and the motivation to not give up until I

achieved my intended goal.

While the adjectives “strong-willed,” “determined” and “persistent” certainly described me as a child, the very same qualities have evolved over time into “ambitious,” “goal-oriented” and “driven.” As a college student double majoring in accounting and strategy and as the Sy Syms School of Business Student Council president, I am convinced these intrinsic characteristics have been responsible for fueling my success and opening professional doors and opportunities.

However, while tenacity and grit may be hardwired into my DNA, I truly believe that anyone can achieve success. Whether you are preparing for a challenging exam, submitting your resume for a coveted internship, or interviewing for your ultimate

“dream job,” all you need to do is adopt a mindset that eliminates failure as an option.

To start, trade in an approach or perspective that could be characterized as “average,” “indifferent” or “lackluster” for one that shouts “bold,” “resilient” and “fearless.”

Next, visualize your own success and internalize the belief that you already possess the necessary ability, resources and ambition to turn your goals into reality.

Then, keep your eye on the prize as you assert the confidence necessary to put your name in the hat to be considered for new opportunities, to cold call prospective employers to grow your professional network, or to take a risk as you create your own innovative start-up. And whatever you do, don’t give up! If challenges present themselves along the way (and they will!), remember that you

have what it takes to achieve your goals, even if the process requires some creativity,

*Whether you are preparing for a challenging exam, submitting your resume for a coveted internship, or interviewing for your ultimate “dream job,” all you need to do is adopt a mindset that eliminates failure as an option.*



Sy Syms School of Business

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

### MOVIES

Continued from Page 10

physical, material world and what he coins the world of Forms, which possesses the idealized version of every object. In his philosophic quest for Truth, he denigrates the material world and extends that ridicule to representative art; as removed as the material world is from the world of Forms, art is that much more removed. The artist draws a depiction of that which is already a depiction. Music, however, is not based on anything found in this world.

Arthur Schopenhauer explains the extension of Plato’s philosophy to music. He writes of music that “It stands alone, quite cut off from all the other arts. In it we do not recognize the copy or repetition of any idea of existence in the world ... music is by no means like the other arts, the copy of the Ideas, but the copy of the Will itself, whose objectivity the Ideas are. This is why the effect of music is so much more powerful and penetrating than that of any of the other arts, for they only speak of shadows, but it [music] speaks of the thing itself.”

Music is not an imitation of reality but a new reality altogether. It mimics nothing of this world but creates a world of its own. To me, the challenges of creating a piece of music without representation or form in the world to base it upon elevates music above other creative acts and affords it great respect.

Nonetheless, the same definition of creativity that is used for the other art forms may still be applied to music. The more complex and involved a piece of music is, the more creative it is considered. A melody is the most basic form of music. Rhythm, percussion and harmony add more and more layers, broadening the depth and magnitude of the piece. In this regard, a symphony, with a full orchestra and pieces of unique music written for different instruments all

coming together to make one pleasing piece, is incredibly creative.

It stands to reason that the art form which combines the most disciplines, across various forms of art, and with all working in a seamless, harmonious way would be the most creative art form.

Movies are therefore the pinnacle of artistic achievement. They are first and foremost a screenplay, which is on an equal level with any other long-form written document. The screenplay has the same depth as a novel, character development as a short story or structure as a play. Although the format is written as a means of eventual translation to the screen, the document is nonetheless a literary work.

The movie itself is an amalgam of multiple creative works. The costumes, blocking, acting and set design are as involved and detailed as a play.

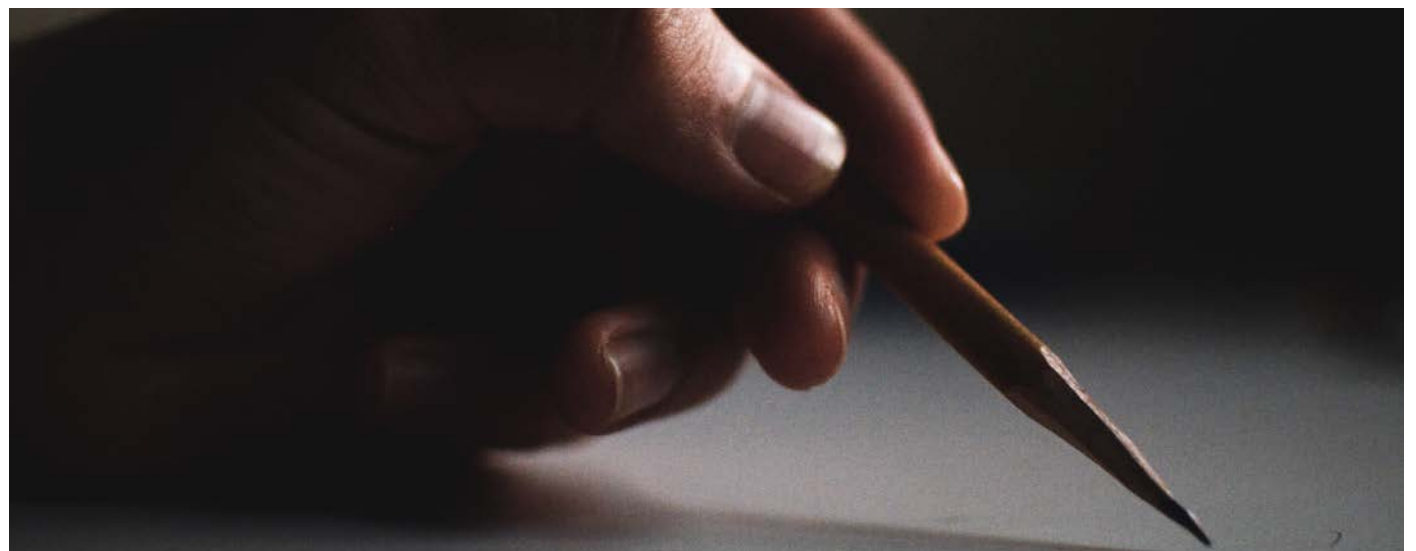
Furthermore, movies extend beyond the

stationary performance of a play by adding technical elements as well; the movements of the camera, color design, editing and sound design, to name a few. These technical feats have been improved upon, expanded and revolutionized over time as directors have come to understand the potential of the medium and given license to their creativity to roam freely.

The last and final element of a film’s production is the scoring. A composer will speak with the director, understand the emotional core of the story and the characters and compose musical themes, soundscapes and symphonies to accompany the movie. Not only must the score be entirely original and purely creative, it must also impress an emotional impact on the audience in a way that moving pictures alone could not achieve. The great film composer John Williams noted, “In film, music represents the words that cannot be spoken.”

Movies are the most creative of all the art forms. They have the greatest horizontal depth and magnitude through their combination of several disciplines. All artists, from the director and cinematographer, to the composer and set designer, must hone their crafts, come together and work harmoniously to produce the art that is a film.

But remember, however complex a movie may be, like any other idea of great scope, it starts with the simple creative act of writing. Putting the idea on paper is the necessary initial step to presenting your vision to the world. As the great Japanese director Akira Kurosawa said, “If you genuinely want to make films, then write screenplays. All you need to write a script is paper and a pencil.” The barrier to entry of the most creative form of art is paper and pencil. We just have to start writing.



As the great Japanese director Akira Kurosawa said, “All you need to write a script is paper and a pencil.”

UNSPASH

## The Super Bowl Ads that Stuck With Me

By CHAYA ROFFE

Love them or hate them, Super Bowl commercials have become a talking point as big as the game itself. The unique ads cost companies a whopping \$6.5 million per 30 seconds of airtime. Many people just watch the game for the ads. The advertisements make what's really a game of an hour and a half into a three hour ordeal, so they better be lively and entertaining. Super Bowl ads are there in a genre of their own: fast, flashy, and memorable. This year, as always, there were definitely some winners and losers.

My favorite commercial this year was the Coinbase one. The commercial featured a QR code for viewers to scan, which took them to a website with a discount to join the crypto

trading platform. The ad was extremely unique and well done: for the entire duration of the minute-long spot, a QR code bounced around the screen without explanation. I really liked this because at the Super Bowl party I attended, we were all left guessing what the QR code was for. Coinbase's website actually ended up crashing due to the sheer amount of people who scanned the code.

*Super Bowl ads are there in a genre of their own: fast, flashy and memorable.*

This next commercial is not new, as it premiered last Super Bowl, but every time I see it, I get annoyed. The commercial is for organic seltzer. Seltzer is just carbonated

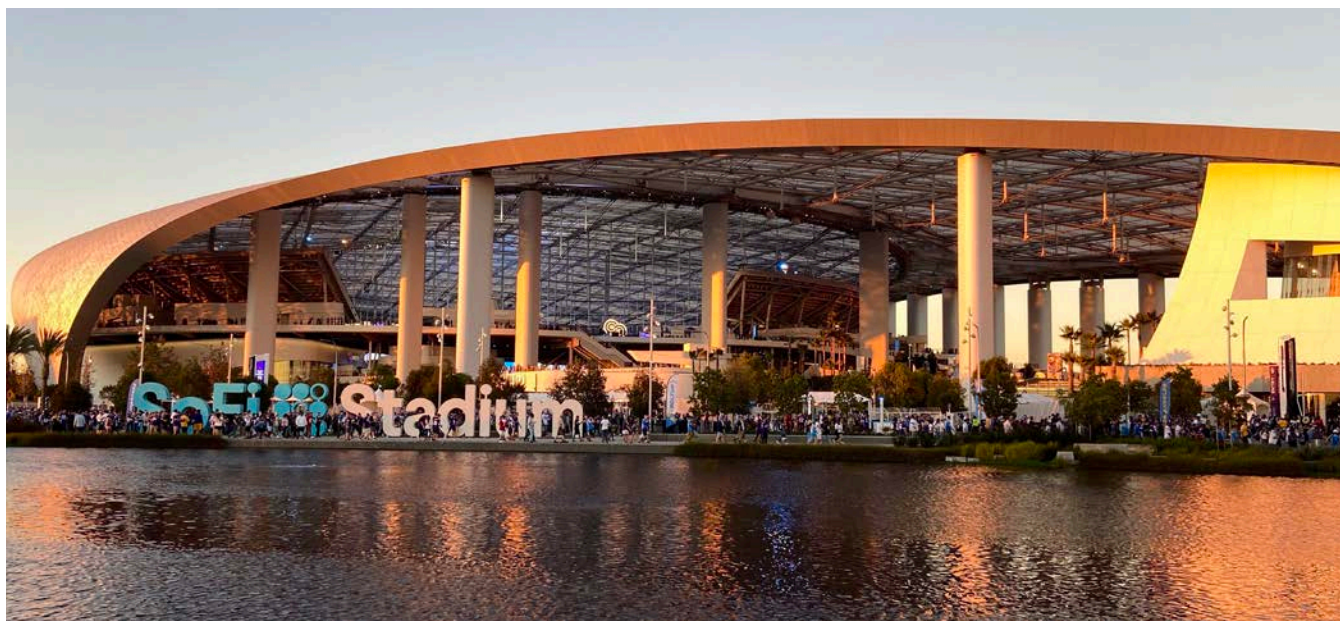
dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and water, which is ironic considering carbon dioxide and water are both inorganic compounds. So, what is organic about CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O? Nothing at all. I know that in discussions about food, "organic" doesn't refer to "organic compounds" like it does in chemistry, but to foods grown sustainably and free from artificial pesticides. But there is no fruit or produce in these "or-

ganic" seltzers, only fruit flavoring, and while that might be organic, they sell an unflavored version, still marketed as organic. So I find it annoying, but that's just me.

The Uber Don't Eats commercial was hilarious and very relevant. Uber Eats wanted to show they deliver more than just food, so they enlisted various celebrities to open deliveries containing soap, paper towels and other inedible items ... and eat them. It was really funny, the ad referenced the Tide Pods controversy, when people ate Tide Pods, as well as the previous marketing campaign by Dunkin when they switched their name from Dunkin Donuts to show that they sell more than doughnuts.

One surprising Super Bowl commercial was the ad for KIA's new electric car, as I was previously unaware that KIA even made one. They do — the new KIA EV6, with a starting price a little over \$40,000. The commercial featured an electric dachshund puppy, which I liked better than the other cameo-heavy car commercials, including BMW's Arnold Schwarzenegger playing "Zeus," GM's Dr. Evil and Toyota's Nick Jonas. Overall, there were many celebrities endorsing cars, but only one dachshund. It was by far the most creative and refreshing; we have all seen celebrity car commercials before, but the one I am going to remember from Super Bowl LVI is the one with the robotic puppy.

Great Super Bowl commercials are innovating and refreshing. They should highlight the uniqueness of the day; it is not just another Sunday football game, so it shouldn't be just another commercial. Next year, with all the cameo appearances, organic seltzers and electric cars, I expect there to be more ads about travel locations post-COVID: exotic countries, Disney World and even outer space. Whatever we get, one thing's for certain: the ads will continue to push boundaries in marketing, communication and pure entertainment.



SoFi Stadium, home of Super Bowl LVI

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## Living Lives That Are Not Our Own

By SAMMY FRIEDMAN

As undergraduates we are often asked many of the same questions throughout our time in college. Questions that relate to what we want to do with our lives, how we want to make money and who we want to be are almost always swirling around our heads during our academic studies. Though the answers to these questions vary for each of us, there is one commonality that links many of our answers together: the answers are not always our own.

*Parents and role models want us to achieve what they think is best for us ... [but] we must remember that their advice is their word and not ours.*

As products of specific households and members of a broader society, we grow up hearing about what is right, what is wrong, what is proper and what should be avoided. Values become ingrained in us from an early age and grow into expectations as to what our futures should hold. We are told what it means to get good jobs, be good people and live good lives. While information like this is vital in guiding us, considering our parents have lived longer and seen more of the world than we have, what often comes from it is a yoke of expectations that we are almost required to uphold. Whether consciously or subconsciously, this yoke becomes something that we carry with us throughout our lives as we discover who

we are. Whether these expectations fall in line with what we personally believe or not isn't even a factor, because from an early age they become an essential part of how we see ourselves.

As the ones who have cared for us from birth, our parents and the advice they share are important to us. Beginning in our earliest years, we turn to them for guidance and invariably trust their words. While in many cases this trust sees us adopt healthy values, as our parents genuinely want us to succeed in life, it can also see us spend years of our lives and tens of thousands of dollars pursu-

ing dreams that are not our own. Speaking with individuals in undergraduate programs and even those in graduate medical and law schools, I often hear people say that a major factor in their pursuit of a certain career path are the wishes of involved parents. When offering advice it makes sense that parents want to see their kids grow into well-respected and well-paid professionals. Having a son who is a lawyer or doctor is a dream of many parents, especially in the Orthodox Jewish community. These aren't bad dreams, since as a society we look up to these people as being truly successful in life. The question for these individuals, though, is whose dreams are they chasing? Are they — and are we — truly seeking

our own dreams, or are we grasping at the dreams of others?

Beyond the expectations of occupation within the Jewish world, many times religious expectations are placed on us as well. Whether going to *shul* three times a day, keeping Shabbos or even marrying a fellow Jew, we can often find ourselves governed by values from the outside, values that are not necessarily our own. If our lifestyles are ones where we eat kosher, then we should eat kosher. Our eating, though, should be because we value kashrut, because we are fearful of violating G-D's word, or any other host of reasons. It should not instead stem, I believe, from forced expectations. While it may appear to accomplish the same goal now, that of driving by the McDonald's rather than stopping in for a Big Mac, it leaves a person in a place where he or she is not acting of his or her own accord. When our own values don't determine our actions, then our actions lose value to us. When we live hollow lives, we can no longer enjoy them, and we become more likely to falter in our actions as well.

Our parents love us and they want to see us become the best version of ourselves. We all know that, and this is not a call to ignore them. Forcing us to do anything is never their intention, as they have cared for us and will always continue to care for us. Their lessons enable us to learn ethics and gain knowledge without having to spend the years and experience the hardships that would otherwise be necessary to reach that understanding by ourselves. Parents and role models want us to achieve what they think is best for us, and we desire to live up

to those expectations because we trust them to lead us down the right path. We take their word as truth, and although, of course, in 99% of cases we really should, we must also remember that their advice is their word and not ours. As individuals, we must remember that we are the ones who are in the midst of the journey of academia and life. It is we who are growing up and becoming adults, and hopefully, productive members of society. We must keep in mind that we are living our own lives and that only we can truly know ourselves. While we should trust the values and expectations of our parents, we cannot rely solely on them to determine our paths in life, as only we can discover what we truly want and who we are to become.



Parents are deeply involved in the lives of their children

UNSPASH

## Learning From Leading

By JOCHEVED ADDESS

As an avid reader, it was in elementary school that I started reading the various parenting books I found around my house. My favorite was reading the comics from the “How To Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk” by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish. They really inspired me, such that at 11 years old, I started as a mother’s helper; to date I have been a Junior Counselor, Camp Counselor, Hebrew School Teacher, Tutor, Nanny, Babysitter, Gymnastics Coach, Sabbath Youth Leader, Holiday Program Counselor and Friendship Circle volunteer.

All these titles remained on the down low because I never wanted them to take away from my qualifications as an aspiring business professional. How could I learn about trends, Microsoft Office and the S&P 500 from leading food activities with eight year olds?

I realize that even though it may seem like I cannot learn specific business skills from leading and watching children, my business acumen has actually improved as a result. Some of the more obvious skills I have gained are leadership, organization, planning, executing and adaptability, but some of the less obvious skills I have learned are patience, active listening and effective communication.

When working with children I need confidence to get a whole room’s attention, and remain upbeat even when something difficult might be going on, related or unrelated to the group I am currently working with. This was always harder when I was being watched by the parents. Over time, my confidence

has grown tremendously in this area, and I have found that I have become comfortable sharing my thoughts, when appropriate, in front of my peers and co-workers.

Organization and planning for youth events and lessons requires understanding the group of children I will be addressing, reaching out to all the necessary parties to ensure that the events I want to run can happen and mapping out the times for each of the activities. I implement new projects in the same manner: I map out how long each portion of the project should take and in what order I would like to get it done, and then contact all the parties involved to start coordinating.

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*I realize that even though it may seem like I cannot learn specific business skills from leading and watching children, my business acumen has actually improved in many ways.*

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Execution and adaptability are valuable skills in education just like in business. Often I plan an activity thinking it will go well, but none of the children end up interested in it, so I pivot and replace the activity with my backup, much like how I would handle the situation in any professional setting. I always make sure to have backup ideas and solutions because I know what can happen without them. Like children, business professionals expect ideas and solutions, and sometimes one is not enough.

After running events with children I always mentally debrief and often take notes. Same goes for after a meeting or presentation. I treat the feedback I receive from children, peers and co-workers with equal importance, because in both situations I

want to make sure I am doing my job to the best of my ability.

The various ways I have had to communicate with parents has only helped me throughout my professional business journey. The variety of face-to-face communication at pick up and drop off, weekly emails and text and recap newsletters has only made me more aware of modes of communication. When working with children, one of the most important pieces of information I always need to be made aware of is if the child has any allergies or important medical requirements. This sensitivity to asking has translated into thinking beforehand about what the really important questions are and

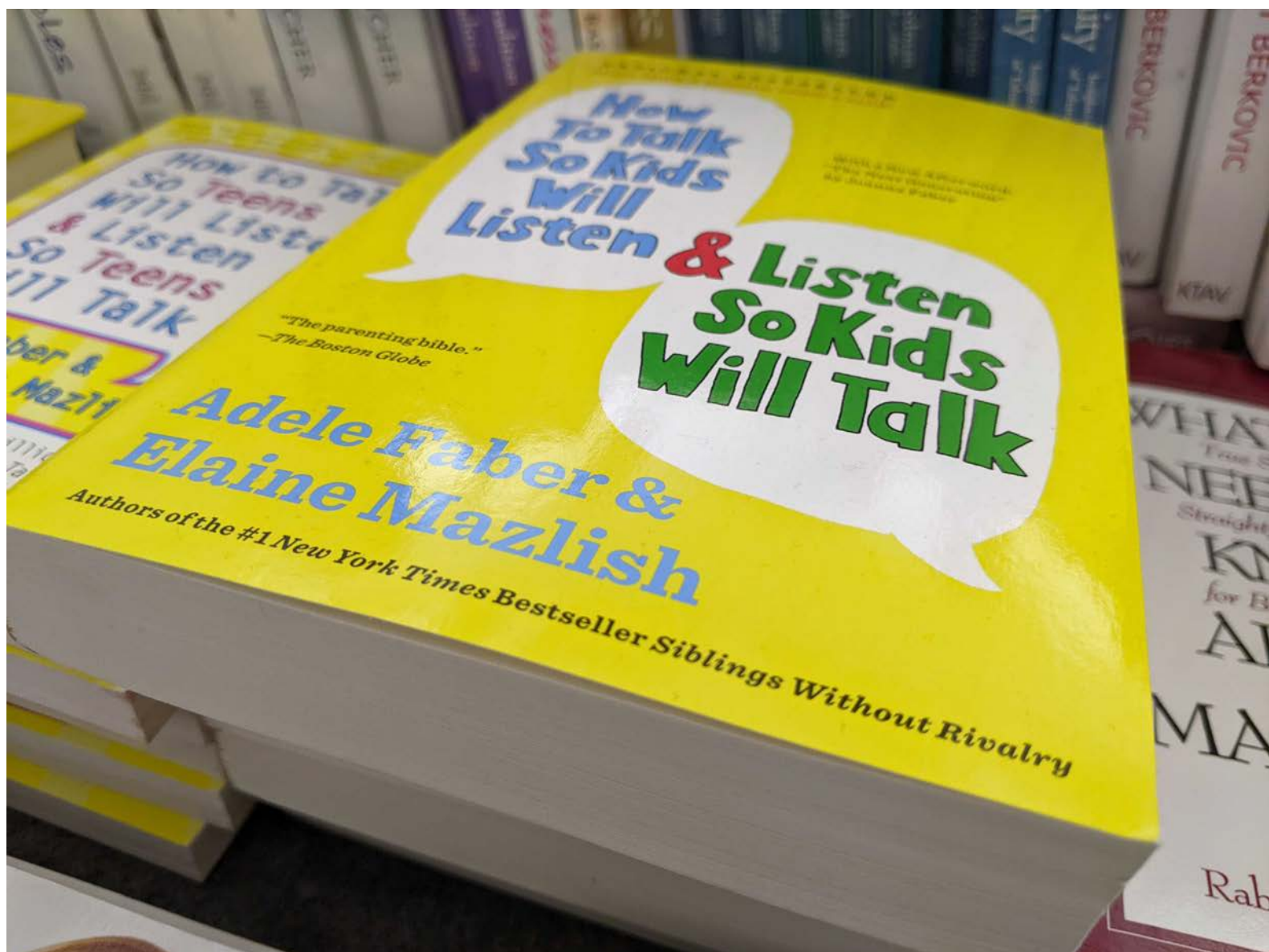
remembering to ask them. The key is that the way you can relay the information for the receiver in the best way they will understand it and see it, is the best way to pass along the information. For example, when watching children, instead of sending important information in emails which often get lost in the shuffle for parents, really important information is put on stickers on the child’s shirt.

Often I find myself working with both boys and girls of a broad age range. This same diversity is present in professional settings, and in both instances, addressing everyone at once can be difficult, and finding the right way to do so does not always seem possible. I have learned though that the key is to ensure that I try to address all types of

learning styles and everyone in the room. When working with kids in the classroom, I have auditory pieces, hands on projects and fun visuals. When giving presentations, I might tell a story, list straight facts and show data visualizations and representations. It can be hard to not give a lot of attention to children who are talkative and answer questions, but purposefully asking the quieter children questions that are related to them encourages them to be more vocal. I follow this same thought process when giving work presentations. When I am looking to really achieve group participation and gain feedback, I directly ask questions to my peers and coworkers, or have small activities that foster total participation.

I have a philosophy that I follow in my approach to leading children. It is simple really: treat kids with true respect, and remember that they are much more cognizant and present than we realize. I remember how I was treated by adults growing up, the times when I felt like my thoughts and feelings did not matter to them, or they discussed things right in front of me they assumed I did not understand. So while I work very hard to hear and validate the children I work with, I think the same respect needs to be applied in the workplace. I intend to give my peers and co-workers the respect I expect. I do this by acknowledging everyone’s ideas and opinions and not laughing at an idea that may really be truly useless. Just the fact that someone is contributing an idea at all is worth something.

So. To all my fellow business students out there who are teachers or youth leaders on the side, know that you are gaining skills for the corporate world as well.



## Models and Marketing

By EMILY SAFFIER

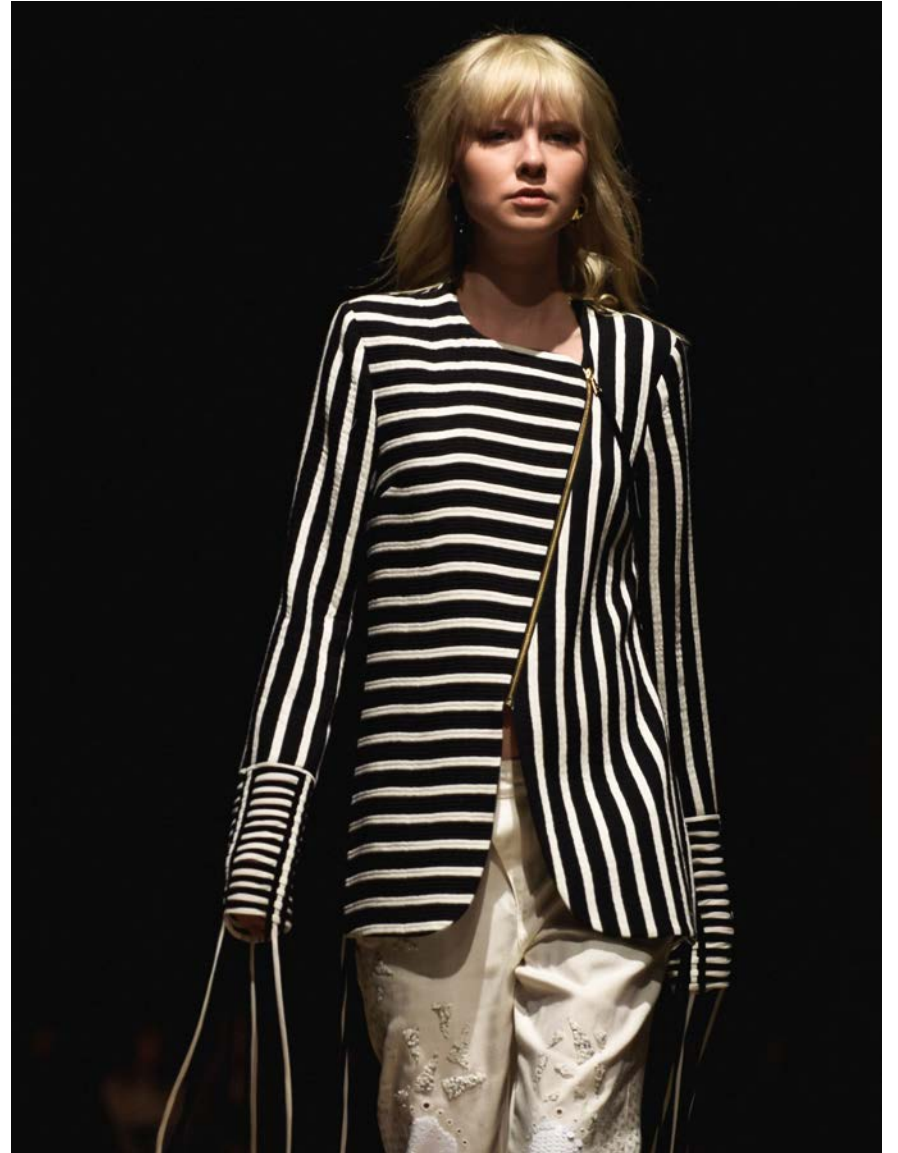
First it was known as “Press Week”, then it was “Press Week of New York,” until finally it became, as we all know it, “New York Fashion Week” (NYFW). This event that is full of novel outfits, strutting models and flashing paparazzi cameras began from the vision of fashion icon Eleanor Lambert. During World War II, when the war prevented travel to Paris — the location of nearly all fashion shows at that time — Lambert saw that designers would not be able to showcase their creations. In response, she decided to host the show in New York City, where it has remained ever since. This gave American designers global recognition and benefited the economy so significantly, it is said that the success of Lambert’s NYFW tangibly influenced U.S. GDP.

New York Fashion Week is one of the four major fashion shows; the other three are in London, Milan and Paris. NYFW attracts an impressive 200,000 attendees each season. It takes place every September and every February and lasts four to nine days. This year’s show went from Feb. 11-16 and featured names like Tom Ford, Tory Burch and Coach. The main location is Spring Studios in NY; some shows are performed in smaller venues, which are less pricey. Due to COVID-19 and its associated travel restrictions, last year’s fashion week was delayed, severely downsized, and featured few international designers. In 2022, NYFW was back on, though several labels such as Oscar De La Renta opted for a virtual show. Organizers mandated vaccines and masks to allow the show to go on.

How does one go about getting tickets to the elite show? Shows are broken up into three categories: shows for those in

the industry, shows open to the public and shows being displayed digitally. While most seats are reserved for the press, celebrities, and those in the fashion industry, anyone can purchase tickets for the latter two categories. The public can purchase tickets for anywhere between \$50-\$400.

Hosting NYFW is costly. In-demand models can charge over \$100,000, fashion show venues themselves can go for well over \$60,000, additionally, lighting, sound, production, seating, catering and transportation can cost over \$100,000. In discussing the fashion show’s extensive costs, a Marc Jacobs spokesperson reported their show cost \$1 million which is “\$1,750 per second for a show lasting under 10 minutes.” That is certainly pricey for a single show and this season featured almost 100 fashion shows. As a result of these high prices, there’s been much debate about whether NYFW should continue. Those arguing against NYFW, strengthen their argument by pointing out that brands can now gain exposure from Instagram and other platforms which essentially provide free targeted advertising. Because of the costly side of NYFW, investors are finding it difficult to see the ROI — return on investment — from this event. However, it can be argued that the event is important for many reasons. It gives brands exposure, shows the fashion world that their lines are active in the business, and it allows models and designers the opportunity to “show face”. Not to mention, NYFW, with its tourism, local job opportunities, and tax revenue, brings in approximately \$900 million! There’s certainly much to consider when analyzing the finances of NYFW and discussing its future.



A NYFW Fashion Runway

UNSPLASH

## New AI Pancreas Can Help With Type 1 Diabetes

By SHOSHANAH GHANOONI

Type 1 Diabetes has been a challenge for patients with managing their insulin levels, which is the role of the pancreas. As a result, they must rely on insulin pumps or pods. The pods can deliver personalized doses of rapid-acting insulin based on the rates a person programs into a Personal Diabetes Manager (PDM) device.

Scientists have developed an artificial intelligence (AI) pancreas which can help children as young as one year old with managing their blood sugar levels. The device uses AI to continuously monitor blood glucose levels and deliver insulin based on the number. With the associated CamAPS FX app, patients have an “artificial pancreas” which automatically adjusts the amount of insulin delivered based on real-time readings of glucose levels. The levels are sent to the app which calculates and delivers how much insulin a person needs so their glucose levels are within normal range.

The app developer, a professor from Cambridge University, explains that predictions are made based on past experience and patterns. It learns how much insulin children need, and at different times of the day, based on their exercise and food. The information is then uploaded to the cloud so both the patient and healthcare provider can look for data and patterns regarding blood sugar spikes. Once the app determines these patterns, it can adjust the correct amount of insulin a child needs at a given time.

This AI Pancreas is just one healthcare

app, and the general healthcare app market is expected to boom over the next seven years. An article from Fortune Business Insights explains that the global market grew 65.7% in 2020, with an estimated value of \$38.89 billion in 2021. By 2028, the market is expected to be worth \$314.60 billion. Health apps are gaining traction and visibility on Apple and Google Play app stores, allowing consumers to access them easily which will drive usability and profits.

The medical app market owes a lot to COVID-19, explains Business Wire. People started focusing more on their health and since they were home and unable to visit their doctors or gyms in person, they turned to medical apps to guide them on their wellness journeys.

Due to the pandemic, there became interest in creating new products. Drew Mendelow, a 14 year old boy, was interested in creating medical apps, specifically for Type 1 diabetes. The teen was diagnosed with diabetes in 2020, yet he was unsatisfied with the lack of information and tools surrounding the disease, so he programmed an app to help. The app was downloaded more than 10,000 times in the first few months of its release.

Although there is currently no cure for diabetes, it is a reassurance for parents of children with diabetes to know that their child can manage their health safely through the new artificial AI pancreas and corresponding app.



The world of AI is constantly expanding

PIXABAY



CLASS OF 2022

## UNDERGRADUATE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY CHECKLIST

Graduating This Year? Mazel Tov!

Be sure to complete all the items below to participate in your Commencement Ceremony.

### STEP 1

Consult with your academic advisor or program director to be sure that all of your graduation requirements have been met.

Visit [yu.edu/academic-advising](https://yu.edu/academic-advising) to schedule.

### STEP 2

Degrees are awarded in September, January and May. Contact your campus Registrar to determine if you are eligible to attend Commencement.

Visit [yu.edu/registrar/graduation](https://yu.edu/registrar/graduation) for additional information.

### STEP 3

Apply for Graduation by your degree's deadline:

<b>February 15th</b>	<b>March 1st</b>
(May Degrees)	(September Degrees)

The Application for Graduation–Undergraduate Degree can be found here: [yu.edu/registrar/forms](https://yu.edu/registrar/forms)

**NOTE:** If you miss this deadline your name will not be included in the Commencement Program.

*Be sure to RSVP on the application to Commencement and give your accurate height and weight so your gown fits just right!*

### STEP 4

Pay your graduation/diploma fee of \$150 to the Office of Student Finance.

### STEP 5

Cap and Gown Distribution Events will be held on each campus in early May.

Come with friends; have your picture taken in the photo booth to be featured at Commencement!

*If you cannot pick up your attire at a distribution event you may pick it up from the Office of Student Life starting the day after the event.*

*No attire will be distributed at Commencement.*

### STEP 6

Each graduate will receive **6 guest tickets** when picking up their cap and gown.

If you would like to request additional tickets, please fill out the request form by visiting [yu.edu/commencement](https://yu.edu/commencement)

### QUESTIONS?

Visit [yu.edu/commencement](https://yu.edu/commencement) for updates closer to the ceremony, or email [commencement@yu.edu](mailto:commencement@yu.edu)

**WE ARE EXCITED  
TO CELEBRATE  
WITH YOU!**

[YU.EDU/COMMENCEMENT](https://yu.edu/commencement)