Cafeteria Discussions Yield Compromises

by Sender Cohen

Following extensive meetings between student leaders and the Food Services Administration (FSA), the cafeteria has instituted several changes in food service and pricing for the current academic year. However, the situation is far from resolved, and some problems, such as the cost of the mandatory meal plan, remain unresolved.

In an effort to improve student-administration relations, student leaders and administrators have taken steps to create a forum which will facilitate joint decision-making and discussion on matters affecting the YU community. Management Consultant Gene Bucchin of The Bucchinni Group has been employed as a mediator to avoid any impasse in the negotiations.

The immediate goal of the preliminary meetings is to hammer out an agenda for a retreat at which student leaders and administrators will endeavor to forge mutual understanding of each other's positions and begin laying the foundation for a new decision-making framework.

The process, which officially began at a meeting between student leaders and Bucchin on June 11, is to explore the problem during which the student-administration relations reached a new low. Dean of Students Efrem Nulman, who first proposed the idea not long after tensions from the Revel situation subsided, stated, "The goal of the retreat is both to initiate and to create a dialogue, with the overall goal of enhancing communication between students and the Administration and to help with the resolution of students' role in the decision-making process of the University."

Participants in the retreat hope to establish a detailed permanent framework to jointly address problems confronting the YU community. YCSC President Avi Steinlauf commented that "At the outset the consultant proposes to create a direct line of communication between students and the administration on an ongoing basis. By remedying communication problems in general, it will in and of itself take care of specific problems."

Initially, Bucchin met with students and administrators to get their input and understand the issues and to focus discussion on specific topics. Additionally, student leaders compiled a list of administrators they felt should attend the retreat. Included on the list were: YU President Dr. Norman Lamm, a number of Vice Presidents, Nulman and other Deans. Deliberations continued throughout the summer, and today, four student leaders, including Avi Steinlauf and SCWCS President Adeeva Laya Graubard, will meet with Bucchin and four members of the student other including Nulman and Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosengarten, to set the agenda for the upcoming retreat.

Nechama Polin, SSSBSC President, offered, "I hope we can open the barriers of communication that we encountered last year. I believe this is a positive step but I am skeptical about the extent of the practical change that will take place."

Students Added to Executive Council

by Ari Rosenstein

For the first time in the history of Yeshiva University, students are to become active members in the governing and decision-making process of the Yeshiva University Executive Council. In a decision reached two weeks ago, the Council selected five students, three from Yeshiva University graduate schools and one each from YC and Stern, to join the Council.

The Executive Council, chaired by Executive Vice President Egon Brenner, consists of deans and faculty members from all YU graduate and undergraduate schools. The Council makes a majority of the decisions which affect our school, including students' benefits and cafeteria food prices. Meeting every few months to address the plethora of issues facing YU, the Council designates subcommittees of eight to twelve members to address specific concerns. The Food Services Committee, for example, deals with food prices, cafeteria menus, and other related topics.

Nulman commented that the Council's new makeup will increase the level of communication between the faculty and student body. "This is only one of many ideas we have to bridge the gap between the students and administration," Steinlauf stated. "I hope that this is the first of many agreements which we will arrive at with the Administration."

Nulman was quick to point out however, that the current plan to involve students in school government is not new. Similar to this summer's inclusion of four students on the Food Services Committee, in the 1960's, students and faculty formed a senate, enabling them to deal directly with issues and thereby to jointly address selected issues. Nulman is pleased to finally have students on the Executive Council. "After all, the students and faculty are a part of this institution," he stated. "And this is indicative of YU's desire to have students represented in the decision making process."
Thank You, But . . .

Addressing the needs of one's clients or constituents is the hallmark of any good business or political system. Involving interested parties in decision-making processes that affect them is not only just behavior, but even if fairness is not a primary concern, it is also good politics. We welcome the Yeshiva University administration's inclusion of five students on the Executive Council as a sensible and propitious move. Students are no different than any other constituency; the more active one's role in an organization, the greater connection he/she maintains. The Administration evidently understood this, and gave these five students full status on the council.

While this is a very positive step, it is nonetheless only a small one for students who still are not equally represented on the council.

Therefore, we must understand and establish other mechanisms to further facilitate student/administration dialogue and joint decision making. In these post "Revel-crisis" days, we, the students, faculty, and administration, have a golden opportunity to change the face of our relationship and build a better future for YU. Let us hope that years from now this positive step will be viewed as a watershed that enhanced the YU community and not as mere tokenism.

Long Lines Lead to Less Learning

MYP students returning to school each year are frequently appalled at the obstacles to their limud torah. Most talnudim are able to focus on their studies and refrain from talking about sports or shiduchim during seder time. Unfortunately, massive bittul torah remains a problem, ironically stemming in large measure from the MYP office itself.

Due to the over-enrollment in many shiurim, last minute program changes are forced on the students. Often, seemingly random choices are made, arbitrarily dividing successful talmidim from the rabbinei with whom they have formed a keisher. They are summoned to the office during shiur or seder and are regularly confronted by long lines, typically for over an hour. More often than not, they are then told to return at a different time, causing still more bittul torah and z'man.

Clearly, the main problems of the MYP office stem from some measure of mismanagement and insufficient staffing. In order to correct these shortcomings and avoid future bittul torah, MYP should cast its office in the mold of the more efficient IBC/JSS office. The latter corrects these shortcomings and avoids future bittul torah, MYP should run a truly college-like enrollment system, adhering strictly to maximum class size limits. Thus over-enrollment problems, such as over-enrollment, during seder time. Unfortunately, massive bittul torah remains a problem, making decisions in the future.

Hopefully, responsible members of the Administration will see that the new dispensers are removed and the old ones restored. On a more general level, one can certainly promote for graduating students to choose careers which meet their financial and occupational goals. Unfortunately, after spending three or four years in our university's sheltered walls, many students remain undecided about the job opportunities available to them upon graduation.

As the Office of the Dean of Students and Student Services has taken a large step towards aiding job seekers in choosing professions most suitable to them. The hiring of a new career guidance counselor and the expanded hours which Hal Tannenbaum of SSSB will be spending in the VC placement office should be a boon for our students. While in the past YU's career counselors maintained inconvenient office hours, forcing students to miss valuable class time for consultation, this year, the placement advisors will be available late in the day and in the evening, affording students more convenient hours for job search assistance.

We urge students to take advantage of this new opportunity and commend The Office of the Dean of Students for addressing this need.
Venturing to Capitalize On A Good Name

Working in Israel for the summer in an academic/business atmosphere, I had the unique opportunity to meet people from various walks of life. I sat at meetings and receptions with businessmen, government officials, academics and individuals involved in volunteer organizations.

Inevitably, after meandering discussions about business and politics, the hallmark of every Israeli tete-a-tete was the question: "Where do you go to school?" While they all expressed admiration of Yeshiva University, I would proudly respond. "Yeshiva University," I would ask. "Yeshiva University," I would proudly respond.

Inevitably, after meandering discussions about business and politics, the hallmark of every Israeli tete-a-tete was the question: "Where do you go to school?" While they all expressed admiration of Yeshiva University, I would proudly respond.

The burning question: what was this record of volunteerism in multifarious settings. Whether your experience was dedication to the State of Israel confirms our students are intelligent, innovative, imaginative and idealistic.

Our students are intelligent, innovative, imaginative and idealistic. This is evident in our strong commitment to the Jewish Community, a steadfast commitment which earns us accolades world-wide.

It manifests itself in our unparalleled record of volunteerism in multifarious activities in Israel, the former Soviet Union and the U.S.A. through organizations such as Chai, MSDCS, Techiya, YUSR, and N.C.S.Y. The astounding number of youth and adults touched by YU students bears witness to this legacy. Walk the streets of Tallin, Estonia, Nazareth, Israel or Perth, Australia and those who have come in contact with our students enthusiastically recount their experiences.

Our staunch Zionist commitment and dedication to the State of Israel confirms our role as the emissaries of American Zionist Orthodoxy. While our aliyah rate could always be higher, the general commitment of the institution and the students is unquestionable and unequivocal.

Additionally, and perhaps most importantly in today's hard times, YU students perform admirably in job interviews, and in business and political settings. Whether your experience was in a summer internship in Washington, a summer job in Israel or America, a job interview with a major New York firm or one of the big six accounting firms, you have made an impression.

Second, by consistently and emphatically singling out YU's students, the eminently clear burdens of this impression of YU students was despite the institution as a whole, the students are still terrific. It often feels that student dedication at YU is an epic struggle, pitting students against a seemingly uncaring administration. Maybe this is the secret of our students' success. After outmaneuvering the administration for years, we can do anything any task or job the world throws our way.

So what's the upshot? As we embark on a new academic year, here are a few things for all of us to bear in mind.

1) First and foremost, speak proudly of YU students. We have a positive image, one that we should strive to maintain, capitalize and build on. In this depressed economic times, the stale job market renders it difficult to find a job. Recommend your friends for jobs if you have any contacts; they have a good name and you will not regret your efforts.

2) Maintaining a good name requires hard work and an abundance of integrity. We must continue to stand up for what we believe in, both within and without our YU incubator. One cannot espouse values without standing steadfastly behind them and acting on themselves. Improper behavior and actions are inexcusable under all circumstances, and we owe it to ourselves not to look the other way. Don't worry about taking a stand.

3) Take advantage of what YU has to offer; you will not get a second chance. Offering our unlimited and unvarnished knowledge to others. Don't miss the opportunity.

4) Finally, get involved in chesed. As for this year's immediate objectives, we have already gained significant ground. "Cat" front, a group of student representatives met with the culinarians from the Food Services Department to work out this year's meal prices. The

From The Editor's Desk

Jewish Inheritance

It sometimes seems that everyone in YU is involved in Kiruv in one way or another. Across our campus throughout the year, YU students give of their time and energy to spread the word to fellow Jews about our common culture. Why, therefore, do these same great champions of Jewish outreach not apply their talents to our own campus? We have in our midst, in YU's own James Striar School of General Jewish Studies, a group of committed Jewish men who, feeling a lack in their Jewish education, have chosen to further their knowledge of Judaism. Rather than receiving our unilateral and unequivocal acclaim and support, they are treated like second class citizens while their program is disparaged by those in the other two Jewish studies programs.

"They're taking the easy way out. It's not a serious school," criticize those from the supposedly more "Yeshivish" programs. But what makes these people less worthy of our welcoming embrace than Jews lacking a proper background from anywhere else in the world? Must one be a foreigner to be worthy of our welcoming embrace? Or is everyone less worthy of our welcoming embrace?

Blessed with more knowledge in Jewish studies than yourself; share your accumulated knowledge with others. Snubbing those who you deem less "frum" only highlights the hypocrisy of your actions.

In KI Tze, the parsha which we read last week, G-d commands us not to turn aside when we find any of our neighbours' possessions, but instead to return them to him. While this is the source of the mitzvah of hesed u-madid, the returning of lost articles, we can also learn other important lessons from it.

Metaphorically, this injunction can be read as a commandment to ignore our brothers in their time of need. When something requires our involvement, we often pretend not to see it, and turn away from it; here the Torah enjoins us not to neglect our duties.

Similarly, we cannot turn our backs on our fellow students as they strive for Jewish knowledge. Healing our own house should be first priority. We must learn to translate what we espouse outside of YU into a new respect for those who live next door to us, instead of slamming that door in their faces.
**Russian Program Restructured**

by Jamin Koslowe

Responding to complaints from many Russian students last year, the Administration has enacted several changes in the JSS Freshman-B program. To better accommodate this year's new Russian students, Administration and faculty members have sought to ease the academic, financial, and social pressures the students face.

Rabbi Michael Shmidman, Dean of JSS and IBC, explained that an "extensive orientation" was given to this year's incoming Russians in order to "help them adjust to all facets of life at YU." Shmidman noted that Judaic courses in the Freshman-B program have been restructured, adjusting the curriculum to more of an introductory level and easing the testing burden. He added that an increase in personal counseling has helped alleviate social pressures.

Rabbi Shmuel Goldin has been appointed Director of Guidance for the new Russians. Goldin, who will serve as liaison to the students, explained that "last year, we weren't dealing with personal events."

First Annual JSS Seforim Sale

The JSS Student Council held its first annual Seforim sale during the first two weeks of school, selling over $2000 worth of Gemaras, Chumashim, and various other Sifrei Kodesh. The money will go towards JSS student council programming.

Ben Menache, JSS Student Council President, and Dave Steiner organized the sale over the summer. According to Menache, the sale's success was largely due to the lack of a Sefarim store on campus. JSS Dean Rabbi Michael Schmidman enthusiastically asserted, "All the credit belongs to the students. It was a wonderful idea because the students could have their books on the first day of classes."

Although the sale targeted JSS students, many MYP and IBC students purchased Sefarim there. A similar sale is planned for the beginning of next year.

Women in YC, Historically Speaking

Acting on students' requests, YC is offering for the first time a course entitled "The History of American Women." Dr. Ellen W. Schrecker, Associate Professor of History, will teach the course, which has been offered at SCW for some time. Nine students registered for the course, which will cover the history of American women from colonial times until the present. Topics to be discussed include women's economy, the origins of feminism, women at work, and the modern women's movement.

Schrecker, who received her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Harvard University, stresses the importance of teaching this aspect of American history to an all-male class. She noted that the class "is a useful way to see how assumptions about human nature have changed." She joked that those taking the class will also become better husbands.

New electronic light sensor

Sensors Among Us

It knows if you're in class - it knows if you're not. It knows when you're talking - it knows when you're not. It's the new electronic light sensory device affixed to the ceilings of many classrooms. Known as Passive Infrared Occupancy (PIO), the PIO is a small white box which emits a beam to sense heat and sound. If six minutes elapse without the beam being triggered, the PC turns off the room's lights off. Designed to conserve both energy and money, these PIO's have been installed in some classrooms in Furst Hall and Belkin as well as in the Schottenstein Student Center. YU hopes to complete installation of PIO's in all classrooms this year, but will not install them in the dorms to avoid problems with Shabbat observance.

--Jeff Waldman

Senior Class "Pockets" the Money

Approximately 250 students attended Thursday night's mixer at Pockets Billiard and Cafe. The event, sponsored by the Senior Classes of Yeshiva College and Stern College, together with the Yeshiva College Student Council, was billed as "An evening of social bliss." Participants spent the night playing pool and table tennis and socializing. "It worked out well," commented YCSC Senior Class President and event organizer, David Perl. Profits from the event will help subsidize Senior Dinner.

--Gary Elbaum

Elul Shiurim Begin

On Wednesday night, September 16th, Rav Hershel Schachter delivered the first in a series of Elul shiurim sponsored by SOY. The topics of the hour-long shiur ranged from blowing shofar to answering amen to tefillot. Additionally, Rav Schachter suggested that during the ten days of repentance one should follow the stricter law when possible, in the hope that those actions will also shape one's behavior throughout the year.

Hillel Scheinfeld, President of SOY, announced that there will be a shiur every Wednesday night throughout the month of Elul to help prepare talimidim for the high holidays.

--Levi Greenspan

Gearing Up for The Guide

The Editors of this year's Guide to the Perplexed are diligently working on the upcoming edition of the student directory. With constant queries as to when the publication will arrive, the editorial board has begun working overnight in an attempt to speed up production.

This year's edition is rumored to have several new innovations, but so far the Editors have refused to release details. According to Editor-in-Chief Alazon Fischman, "This year's Guide will be a far better production than ever before, but you'll have to wait to see how." Art Editor Judi Goodman commented that there will be several unique original artworks in the Guide in order to liven things up.

--Joshua D. Goldberg
"Do I take 'The Microbiology of Potentially Pathogenic Beta-Nemolytic Streptococci.' Or 'The Evolution of the Situation Comedy.' Do I really want to live with Judy the next freak-again. I can't believe I've got until Monday to decide if I'm a Biology or a Theatre major. Have I completely lost it? Will I ever be able to make a decision again? Wait a minute, just yesterday, I was able to pick a phone company with absolutely no problem...Yes, there is hope."

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A False Sense of Security?

The Campus Security Act of 1990 requires Yeshiva University to publish statistics on crimes occurring on University property. The latest [json] report generated by the Office of Security is available on their website. For a campus located in the heart of New York City, the Universities' data are worth reading.
New Additions to Placement Office

by Jonathan Schloss

Answering student pleas for increased career and academic guidance, The Yeshiva University Career and Academic Guidance Offices have expanded their hours to include evenings and have added two new members to their staff.

Three years ago, the Board of Directors' Student Life Committee met with student leaders to discuss the quality of the University's guidance department. The students complained that the daytime office hours were insufficient and that the Guidance Office itself lacked professional and shoddy. With a grant from former Chairman of the Board Marvin Bienendonk, Student Life Committee Chairman Leon Wildeis made the necessary arrangements for key changes in different areas of the Guidance Department. A portion of the money was used to fund the refurbishing of the office in Furst Hall while the remainder was allocated to cover the expense of keeping longer hours. As part of the new improvements, Hal Tannenbaum of the SSB Placement Office has joined the Career Guidance Department to help Liberal Arts and Science majors actualize their career goals. Tannenbaum is familiar with the different job markets through his extensive experience as a job recruiter or "head-hunter." However, because he is not a career counselor by profession, he will leave the administering of job search testing to Career Counselor Naomi Kapp.

Last year's retiring of Dr. Brayer, a consulting psychologist, underscored the need for additional guidance counseling as well. To alleviate this problem, the Academic Office rehired David Himber as an advisor. Citing the urgent needs of freshmen and students on probation to seek guidance, Dean of Students Efrem Nulman pointed out the importance and luxury of having another counselor with a "proven track record" in student approval. Additionally, Nulman proudly mentioned that career or academic advisement is now available three evenings per week.

Appointments with either the Academic or Career Advisement Offices can be made through Dean Nulman's office. The offices are primarily for undergraduate students but are also open to YU Alumni and Smicha students. Tannenbaum's office hours in Furst Hall are on Monday and Thursday evenings 5:30-9:30. Himber's office hours are on Tuesdays from 1-9 PM.

Freshmen Oriented

By Eric Creizman

Freshman Orientation began Sunday, August 30, with a mandatory mathematics test for all newly arrived students, and ended Tuesday night with a "Night at the Theater," providing YC and Stern students with an opportunity to mingle at a Broadway play.

Orientation programs included the standard familiarization with academic programs and registration procedures for both the secular and Jewish studies departments, workshops on "How to Succeed in College," impressions of SSBB ("An Insider's View"), a career advisement workshop, and a barbecue designed to enhance relationships between students, faculty and administration.

"Enjoyed the programs, especially the one on 'How to Succeed in College,'" explained Bostonian Gene Alperovich, "but they could have done something more fun, like take us to a Yankees game or something.

Similar sentiments were expressed by other students. "To be honest, I really didn't attend too many programs because none were interesting enough to encourage me to go," remarked David Alperovich, a sophomore who spent his freshman year in Israel. "Columbia has boat rides, Brandeis has parties, why couldn't YU do anything fun?" quipped another frustrated freshman.

Jeremy Bandier, co-director of orientation, agreed that the majority of the programs were geared toward success at YU, but felt that the more "scholastic approach" would be infinitely more helpful to YU students in the long run. "If the administration wanted Stern and YC students to get together, they would have made YU a co-ed campus," offered Bandier, "and besides, there was a barbecue, free time, and athletic activities.

Bandier also explained that this year, upperclassmen played a more active role in familiarizing incoming students with the YU lifestyle. "The thrust of this orientation was new in the sense that sophomores, juniors, and seniors became more involved in adjusting incoming students to YU's academic environment."

Although many students were dissatisfied with the "entertainment" portion of orientation, organizers are confident that this series of activities was successful, and that the information students acquired will play an integral role in their adjustment to YU's stressful environment.
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Cafeteria
Continued from page 1

as a result of students failing to sign up for Shabbat meals by the deadline. The cafeteria is committed to having sufficient food available to cover all latecomers, but is forced to absorb tremendous losses from the preparation of extra food.

At a recent meeting, the Food Services Committee undertook to find a way of encouraging students to sign up on time to avoid financial losses for all involved. Proposals included: creating a student committee to determine on a weekly basis the number of students staying for Shabbat, and having students sign up for Shabbat through their dorm counselors.

Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosengarten criticized students who have been signing up late for Shabbat meals, calling them "irresponsible." However, Rosengarten expressed his willingness to support methods of making the signing up process more convenient.

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Please drop them in our Furst Hall mailbox.
We will not print unsigned letters but we will withhold names at the author's request and at the discretion of the editors.
"My Mom, she thinks all I ever do is go through 'phases.' You changed your major again? Now it's Ethnic Dance Forms? When are you going to come to your senses and pick something sensible? (Sigh) Well, I guess it's just another phase.' So I told her, 'Give me a break Ma, I mean I kept the same phone company all four years.... She was impressed."

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President's Message continued from page 3
outcome of those meetings appears positive, allowing for a small absolute increase in food prices, while maintaining minimal relative price increases. To the cost conscious consumer, this year’s price for the ever-popular scallops meal will be $4.25 instead of the proposed $5.50. The new negotiation process with the “Caf” represents a noted improvement over the strong arm tactics used last year to force a mandatory meal plan increase upon us. In addition, the office of Food Services has been amenable to the reopening of the Caf Store at night, with the help of the Accounting Society.

Other domestic issues facing the student council at the present time include the reintroduction of video games into the dormitories, and the fashioning of Schottenstein into the student center for which it was originally intended. Clubs and societies have submitted their budget proposals which are now under consideration, and after having perused just a few, it would appear that our clubs and societies will have one of the most active - if not the most active-years ever. So rest assured, the state of our Union is in great shape. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a K’tiva V’Chatima Tova.

Avi Steinlauf

Partial Text:

Intramural Draft -- First Round
by Dan Gelbuck

The intramural basketball draft took place Wednesday night under the supervision of newly appointed commissioner Johnny Shore. Here are the first round draft picks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Captain</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Selection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Daniel Lerner</td>
<td>Clippers</td>
<td>Moshe Benaroch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Doni Davis</td>
<td>Sonics</td>
<td>Jeremy Bandler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Saul Fiedler</td>
<td>Suns</td>
<td>Matt Klein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Johnny Shore</td>
<td>Bulls</td>
<td>Yoav Citron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. David Wagner</td>
<td>Heat</td>
<td>Burton Katz</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Mark Levy</td>
<td>Knicks</td>
<td>Yoni Epstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. David Rudnitsky</td>
<td>Lakers</td>
<td>Robert Appel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Abie Cohen</td>
<td>Pistons</td>
<td>Craig Kombuth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. David Safira</td>
<td>Jazz</td>
<td>Ari Silbiger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Jerry Rozenberg</td>
<td>Celtics</td>
<td>Brian Kardon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lakers top pick Yehuda Appel tips off against Josh Purow of the Suns to start the 1992-'93 Intramural Season.

President's Message

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Avi Steinlauf

SAFETY

There are no truly safe parking spots in Washington Heights. However, some spots are less dangerous than others. I vividly recall the conversation I had with a friend, a far more seasoned NY driver than I, after the first time my car was broken into. "Well, where did you park?" he asked. When I told him that I had parked on 186th St. between Amsterdam and Audobon Avenues, he inquired if I had parked before or after the fire hydrant. After I told him that I had no idea what he was talking about, he explained to me that the hydrant was exactly in the middle of the block. When I admitted to parking the car on the Audobon side of the hydrant, he threw up his hands in disbelief. "Well, what did you expect," he screamed, "everyone knows that if you park past the hydrant your car is fair game!"

If you've ever taken the Amsterdam Ave. exit off the Cross Bronx Expressway, and looked at what's left of the cars on the side of the road, you know that the Washington Heights locals are extremely adept at automotive disassembly. By that standard, my car fared pretty well for the year. I only had my trunk broken into a couple of times, my spare tire stolen, my glove compartment ripped open, my battery stolen, my window smashed, my radio stolen, and the drivers side of the car completely smashed in by a hit-and-run driver.

You may be thinking that I'm not the person who should be advising others where to park. Remember, THERE ARE NO SAFE PARKING SPOTS IN WASHINGTON HEIGHTS. Most of the damage to my car occurred in "safe" spots.

LUCK

As you may have guessed, a large factor in determining whether your car will survive the year is how lucky (or unlucky) you are. Just remember to always think positively (gamzu letovah) no matter what happens to your car. I'll admit that even I was thinking a little bit negatively after I walked to my car on Purim morning to discover that another car had skidded through the snow and smashed into its side. Apparently, the driver had, in his haste, forgotten to leave a note.

But like the Jews of Shushan, my sadness turned to joy that Purim morning when upon looking through the snow for car parts, I discovered a piece of the perpetrator's car - his license plate. Following a threatened lawsuit, I recently received a very generous settlement from his insurance company.

So I wish all you new drivers, Good Luck! - You'll need it.

The Commentator

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