



Rabbi Sobolofsky Appointed to the United States Supreme Court

By Alter Berman

On Tuesday, February 20, President Donald Trump announced that Rabbi Harvey (Zvi) Sobolofsky would be nominated to fill the newly-created tenth seat of the United States Supreme Court. That day, Sobolofsky, who rose to national fame from near obscurity, was invited to

accept the honor at a live 1:15 PM joint press conference with the president. He showed up at 1:18.

“Morai verabosay,” began Sobolofsky in a heavy New York accent, “I am thrilled by the zechus to wear a sheitel as part of the heilige besdin of arkaos in chutz laaretz. Isn’t this correct, Mr. Alter?” After a brief pause, during which the referenced Mr. Alter, a lawyer/talmid who happened to

be present in the audience, hustled up to the podium and whispered something in Sobolofsky’s ear, he continued, “Oy, this throws a monkey wrench into my career. This was kumt completely from left field. Well, easy come, easy

*SEE JUSTICE SOBOLOFSKY, CONTINUED
ON PAGE 23*



You Won’t BELIEVE What This Article Reports: It’s NOT Flattering to YU!

By David Rosenthal

It was no secret that I was leaving Yeshiva University, but it was a secret why. Until now. It is time that the world knows: I am a gay, confederate flag-wearing student set to appear on Jeopardy who was mocked by Ben Shapiro and labeled a sex object by Dennis Prager. I left because I no longer felt safe at Yeshiva University.

“THE COMMENTATOR STINKS AT PULL QUOTES.”

In a decision that I now regret, I informed my roommate that a YU Rosh Yeshiva threatened me with a knife because of my views. But this was just the straw that broke the camel’s back. Only one week prior, Professor Jess Olson signed a statement condemning my views on women’s Talmud studies at Stern. That’s right, I also have strong opinions on that issue. At the time, I thought that my roommate could tolerate my tendencies.

I was wrong.

My roommate promptly informed Rabbi Jeremy Wieder, who proceeded to speak to his shiur about the

jealousy, unjustness, vindictiveness, racism, sexism, homophobia, genocide, filicide, infanticide, and pesticide that runs deep in the Orthodox community. I tried to restrain my emotions, but I couldn’t help myself: I put up a poster on the doors of the Glueck beit midrash just to express how I was feeling. Not only did Rav Schachter

publicly rip it down, but the OSL imposed a \$150 fine on me for my beliefs.

While I am now removed from YU, I felt that it was time to finally write about this, since there are real view counts at stake. And that’s something I want every person who cheered on Ben Shapiro to know.



The EDITORIAL

The Most Valuable Requirement on Campus: The Hebrew Requirement

By Rotem Shabbatkodesh

If there's one thing students at Yeshiva University can agree on it is this: the Hebrew department and its inclusion in the Academic Jewish Studies requirements is the most valuable part of our YU education.

It is common for undergraduate schools to include a language requirement as part of their curriculum. This is a means to ensure that their students graduate with more worldly knowledge and gain access to a wider array of cultural and literary expanses. Luckily for YU students, this takes the form of a singular language--Hebrew.

For nearly all undergraduate students on campus, Hebrew has been a staple of their education since kindergarten. Not only is the Hebraic alphabet familiar to them, but they have been drilled in the nuances and particularities of the *binyanim* (verb constructions), the *yotzei min haklal* (exceptions to the rules), *yotzei dofen* (other exceptions to the rules), and other confusing principles of the language before college.

Luckily for us YU students, depending on placement, we have access to anywhere between one and three courses of Hebrew exploring the nuances and particularities

of the *binyanim*, the *yotzei min haklal*, *yotzei dofen*, and other confusing principles of the language.

This course design generally ensures that even the most skillful Hebrew speakers endure rigorous coursework, as their failures to ever properly learn Hebrew's written language come to the fore.

Needless to say, students appreciate the challenge.

Students like sophomore David Josephs recognize the opportunity in repeating Hebrew study one more time. "In high school, Hebrew was always a struggle for me. I enjoyed repeatedly learning about the *binyanim*, but never really grasped the material. When I found out the coursework in college Hebrew would be similar, I was

thankful I'd finally get one more chance to actually learn the obscure rules that I've yet to understand until now."

But it's not only the sophomores who value the inclusion of Hebrew in their requirements, which usually consume enough class time to prevent students from registering for elective courses outside of their major.

The Hebrew requirement helps pre-med students, who must maintain a high grade point average to eventually get accepted to medical school. Generally, rigorous coursework proves that a student is prepared for the difficult nature of medical school work. YU's Hebrew department is famous for gifting students their lowest grades in college, making even B's appealing to graduate school admissions boards.

Further, pre-med's benefit from the background in *binyanim* like "*nifal*" (incomplete passive or reflexive voice) which will be most useful for their future professional work than understanding other languages like Spanish, Arabic, or Russian.

Hebrew also affords all students a period of time for pure focus--no cell phones, no laptops--on the subject matter, even if that subject matter fluctuates, repeats, and cycles sporadically. Since we all recognize the value of studying a language we've spent our lives trying to learn, we also appreciate the opportunity to focus on the opportunity to focus on material we've studied helps too.

But above all, the Hebrew department's commitment to the same textbook most students had in 10th grade above teaching conversational Hebrew and vocabulary ensures that we'll always address taxi cab drivers and hotel concierge's with the proper feminine or masculine modifications to the word "you," even if we won't be able to formulate sentences necessary to actually hold a conversation about anything that we might need help with.

Thank you Hebrew requirement, you are truly appreciated.

**"LUCKILY FOR US YU STUDENTS,
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7 TORAH

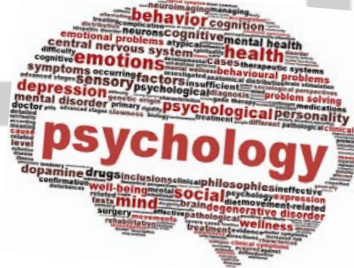
1 The Hefker Table

You might *tayna* that this table causes *bittul Torah*. Uh, but *really*, it's just a *heichi timtza* for more Torah.



2 Psychology Majors

These guys are just looking to spend all day in the Beis. Full, unadulterated Torah right here.



3 Rabbi Brander

He gave up his job at YU to move to Israel. One of PRDAB's five *Torot* is *Tzion*... I'm getting a serious Torah vibe from this guy, no matter how much he supports GPATS and ordaining women rabbis in Israel (look it up).



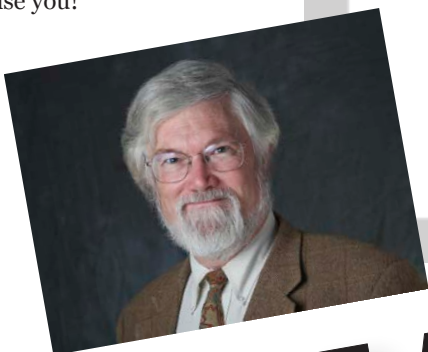
4 Gefilte Fish

It's like a deli roll, but fish. That's Torah if I've ever seen it.



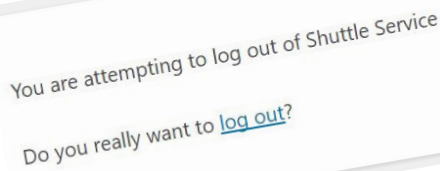
5 Professor Will Lee

This long-time YC professor is more to the right than three current YU Roshei Yeshiva. Number two might surprise you!



6 The Intercampus Shuttle

This RIETS-sponsored service ships girls away from the Heights, *baruch Hashem*. Night Seder *ad mei'ah ve'esrim*.



7 Jeffrey Gutierrez

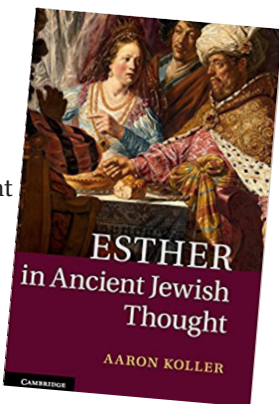
This Amsterdam Ave. barber has shaved heads of so many different YU students, he's bound to have picked up some Torah. Probably hasn't picked up any tips, though #JewsAreCheap #LowBlow.



7 MADDA

1 Jewish Studies at YU

Totally Madda, if not straight up *kfirah*.



3 Cake Wars

Nothing was *Yoshon* or *Cholov Yisroel*, and the bochur who gave the Dvar Torah wasn't wearing a black hat. This is the most Madda event on campus.



4 The Observer

We all know women can't learn Torah, so I guess by default this is Madda.



5 Co-ed Glow in the Dark Dodgeball

There is zero chance that this YAS event was *shomer*.



2 President Berman

His five *Torot* aren't fooling anybody. PRDAB is Madda and everyone knows it.



6 YU Advertisements

When's the last time you saw a YU ad that wasn't a Stern woman in a lab coat holding a pipette? Never? That's what I thought.



7 Torah

Ever read this book? Super engaging literature, brah. Madda ftw.



Stern Student's Intentions Questioned for Registering for Hilchot Niddah Course

By A YU Bochur Says

On December 10, 2017, Stern Super Senior, Fruma Womenstein, registered for a Stern College Judaic Studies course titled "Family Law: *Hilchot Niddah* and Other Halachot We Have Deemed it Acceptable for Women to Learn." Within an hour, Womenstein received multiple emails from the registrar as well as Rabbi Yosef Blau, Senior Mashgiach Ruchani for RIETS, questioning her intentions for taking the course.

**"IT IS CLEAR IT WAS DONE TO...
PUSH A LIBERAL AGENDA ON THE
REST OF THE YU COMMUNITY."
-RABBI YOSEF BLAU**

Womenstein, engaged and set to get married in March, *claims* she took the course to "learn some very practical halachot that [she] will need to raise a *shomer Torah u'Mitzvot* family like Hashem intended." Her statement and very logical excuse, however, seemed to have convinced no one. According to Rabbi Blau, since

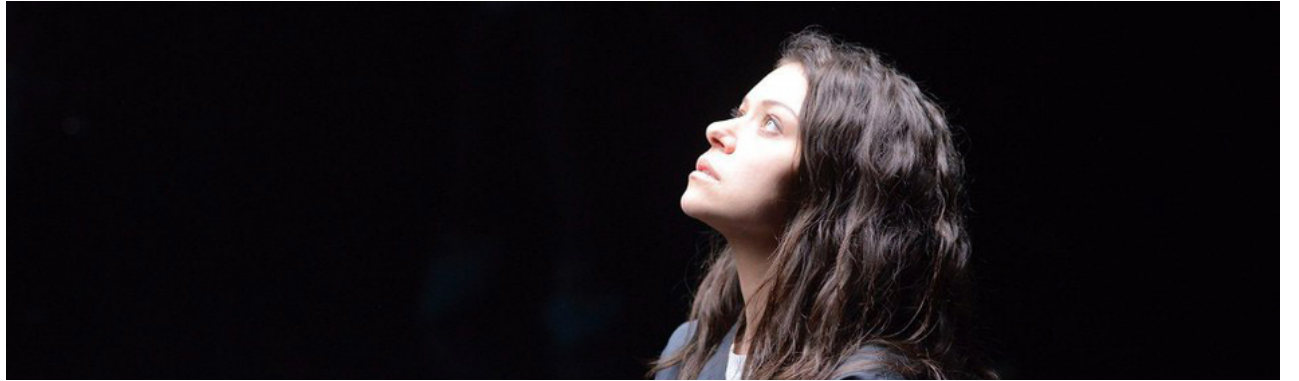
"it occurred without consulting Cali Orenbuch—Jewish Studies Advisor at Stern College—it is clear it was done to make a statement regarding radical Modern Orthodox Feminism and push a liberal agenda on the rest of the YU community."

This event follows a series of suspicious actions by other Yeshiva University female students. A Stern Junior, who wished to remain anonymous so that her secret agenda in commenting for this article would not be revealed, said, "last week, I ordered a burger from Burgers and Grill, and when I went to go wash for *Hamotzei*, I was immediately asked by YU security to hand over my *Tefillin*. Not only

do I not have *Tefillin*, I've never even heard of that *Sefer*."

When asked how the questioning was affecting her last semester at Stern, Womenstein said how she "doesn't understand why female students have it so hard. I mean, when that guy showed up playing bagpipes, everyone just cheered him on and he was featured in News, in like, a positive way. And, didn't a guy walk into the Glueck Center with a *mamish* weapon, like a knife, and people barely blinked? I feel like there is definitely a double standard going on."

Unfortunately, no one was listening, because Rabbi Aryeh Klapper had just sneezed.



Rabbi Aryeh Klapper Sneezed, and We Reported it First

By Observer Staff

This Thursday, February 22, Rabbi Aryeh Klapper sneezed. Rabbi Klapper was not supposed to sneeze, but then he did.

As early as February 5, Rabbi Klapper did not think that he would sneeze. According to one *Observer* editor, Rabbi Klapper had a very healthy winter and "probably blew his nose only two, maybe three times in an average week." But all of the planning came crashing down with a sudden involuntary expulsion of air and microbes from his nostrils.

This incident follows last year's CONTROVERSY surrounding a speech that Rabbi Klapper gave in the Rubin Shul on the Wilf campus. The event gained much attention after *The Observer* reposted an article written by *The Commentator* about what happened.

**"OSL DOESN'T CARE ABOUT
RABBI KLAPPER'S NOSE, BUT THIS
IS STILL A REAL THING AND YOU
CAN PROVIDE A TISSUE TO HELP!"
-DONIEL WEINREICH**

One YU student and Facebook aficionado, Doniel Weinreich, told *The Observer* that he tried to give Rabbi Klapper a tissue as Rabbi Klapper, attempting to hold back his sneeze, contorted his face. Wienraich unfortunately did not have a tissue, so he attempted to get one from the OSL. Weynriche was told that the OSL would get back to him shortly, and they soon sat down with him for a meeting (which Wainriekh totally did not record and, even if he did record it, *The Observer* totally didn't obtain that recording).

Winereyixh said that "knowing that the OSL probably wouldn't give me a tissue, I decided to post on YU Marketplace so that the matter would be public." Alongside his post he wrote, "OSL doesn't care about Rabbi Klapper's nose, but this is still a real thing and you can provide a tissue to help." The comment garnered a number of comments of students expressing frustration at the OSL's declining the request.

The only upside of this continued saga is that there is now another article about Rabbi Aryeh Klapper. And we're like pretty sure that all of our facts are completely accurate, which is why we felt comfortable posting only twenty minutes after the event unfolded.

Please write for *The Observer*.



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Following Sign Falling Down During Test, Students Immediately Cheat

By Commentator Staff

After a sign promoting academic integrity fell down in the middle of a marketing exam, all of the students in the room immediately began cheating. This was the first incident of a cheating violation since the signs had been installed.

“THE SIGNS WILL DEFINITELY SERVE AS A SUFFICIENT DETERRENT FOR STUDENTS NOT TO CHEAT.”

-YU ACADEMIC INTEGRITY COMMITTEE

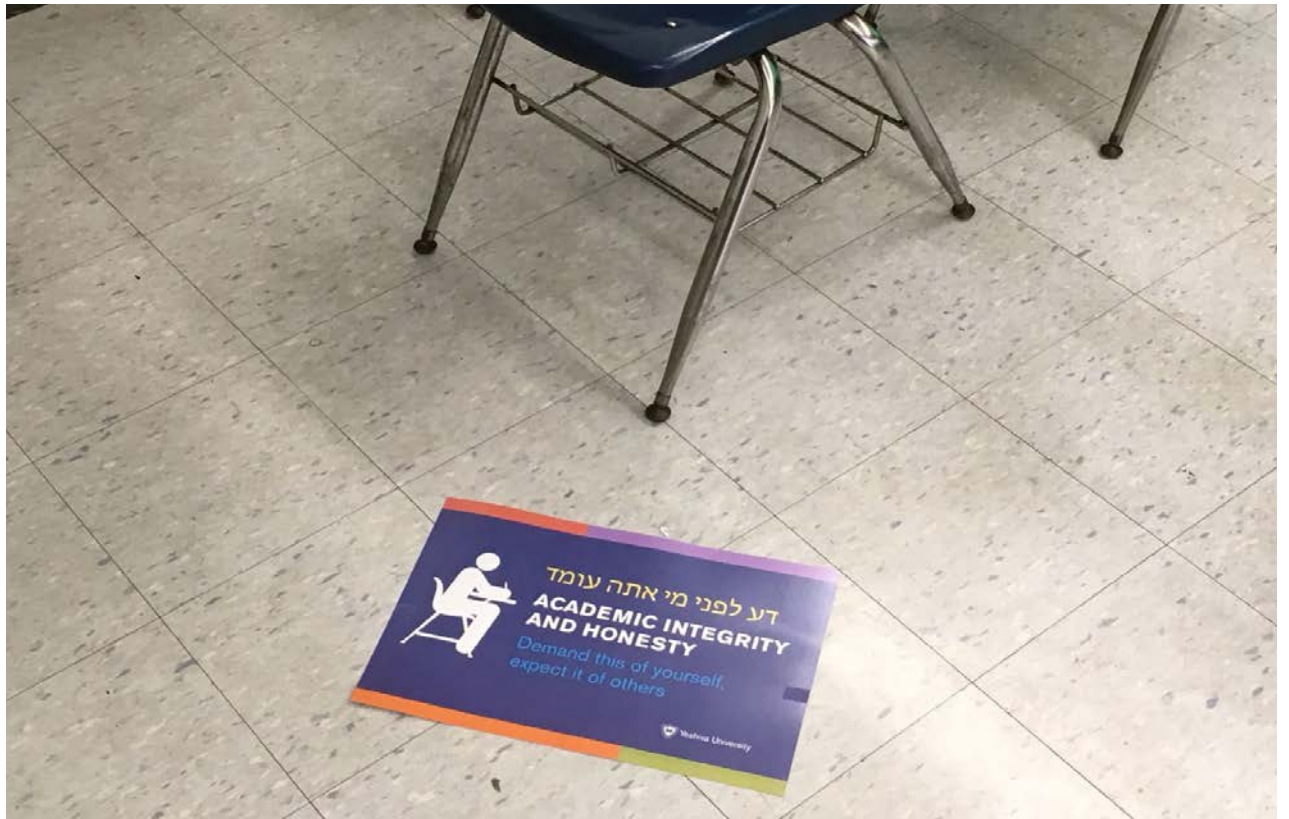
The moment the sign landed on the floor, students were seen glancing at their peers' tests and audibly discussing questions with each other. One student even took the sign, wrote a note with some answers on its back, and passed it to his friend across the room.

At the time of the exam there was no proctor in the room because of the recently updated SSSB policy, which was described in an email from the administration to faculty a few weeks earlier. The email stated: “After installing signs with various slogans promoting academic integrity around campus, we believe that it is no longer necessary for someone to proctor any exams. The signs will definitely serve as a sufficient deterrent for students not to cheat. Additionally, due to the presence of the signs there is now no need whatsoever to place your students' papers through turnitin.com. While we would have liked to eliminate the cheating problem earlier, we are satisfied that we have finally found a fool-proof solution to the issue.”

Syms Junior Moshe Warbucks described that he “didn't even consider the possibility of cheating when the sign was up” but once it fell down, he returned to his old habits and “took a quick look” at the fourth question on his neighbor's test. “It was a tough question,” he added. Aharon Rich, a senior in Syms, explained that he had never stressed so much before a test and almost considered studying for this exam. “In all my years in YU, I had always just cheated on every test. When they hung up those signs, it completely

took away that option,” he stated. “If the sign hadn't fallen down, I don't know what I would've done.”

After the incident, the Syms administration reaffirmed their laser-focused commitment towards improving academic integrity. “We will make sure that all the signs are securely attached to the walls, and something like this will not happen again.” As of now, the fallen sign has yet to be reattached.



PLEASE WRITE FOR

The OBSERVER

PLEASE.

*To join us contact us at
reallypleasewriteforus@mail.yu.edu*

COME CHEER ON THE

MACS

**AS THEY FACE OFF AGAINST
PURCHASE COLLEGE**

*or stay home watching cartoons,
this is just the skyline conference after all*



College Republicans and College Democrats Hold Thumb Wrestling Competition to Determine Which Is the Superior Club

By Ben Shapiro, Nancy Pelosi, and the Boards of the College Republicans and Democrats

On Tuesday, February 13, the members of the College Republicans and College Democrats gathered in Belfer 218 for the first ever thumb wrestling competition between the two clubs. The competition, moderated by Political Science professor and Israeli ambassador to the US Danny Ayalon, would finally determine, once and for all, which club -- and therefore which political ideology, because everyone knows that joining a political club on campus is akin to actually voting in that political party's primary elections and unconditionally supporting all their policies -- is better than the other.

"I've been training my thumbs ever since I joined the club," stated College Democrats member Ilan Hirschfeld. "I knew this moment would always come. Gotta be prepared, you know?"

"This is so much easier than having intellectually

stimulating debates," added College Republicans President Alyssa Wruble. "I can't believe we used to waste all that time preparing arguments and getting ready for debates when we could have just done thumb exercises and called it a day."

The event had two separate thumb wrestling matches, one for men and one for women. For the men, College Democrat Moshe Gelberman put up an impressive fight, but was no match for College Republican Avi Strauss, who pinned Gelberman's thumb after five intense minutes of wrestling. Gelberman claims that "Strauss cheated by turning his wrist, making it impossible for me to be able to get at his thumb," but Strauss maintains that he won fair and square. Onlooker Ari Kaye, who does not belong to either club because he obviously doesn't care about American politics, stated that "it got really intense in there. Like, it was face to face. I really couldn't tell." Another anonymous source claimed that he witnessed Strauss injecting a mysterious liquid into his thumb before the match, but these claims could not be ascertained to be proof of any doping on the College Republicans' part.

For the women, College Democrat Rachel Lelonek easily took an early control of her match against College Republican Sarah Casteel, eventually winning in just over two minutes. "I've never seen anything like it," stated foreign student Sharon Cuchacovich. "Actually, to be honest, what was I even doing there? I don't live in the United States, why should I care about these politics events?"

Lelonek would have faced off Strauss in a tiebreaker thumb wrestling match, but it was changed to rock-paper-scissors after being determined by officiants that thumb wrestling would have been breaking *shomer negiah*. "I don't get why they had to change it," said

Neta Chizhik, President of the J. Dunner Political Science Society. "It's not *derech chiba* if both societies hate each other, right?" Nevertheless, the rock-paper-scissors tiebreaker was set as a best-of-three match. Strauss put up an early win, throwing rock to Lelonek's scissors, but Lelonek came back with paper to Strauss' next rock. The next five throws were all ties -- two scissors, a rock, a paper, and then another rock.

"COLLEGE DEMOCRAT MOSHE GELBERMAN PUT UP AN IMPRESSIVE FIGHT, BUT WAS NO MATCH FOR COLLEGE REPUBLICAN AVI STRAUSS, WHO PINNED GELBERMAN'S THUMB AFTER FIVE INTENSE MINUTES OF WRESTLING!"

"I'm sweating here," said College Democrats President Matthew Haller, as Lelonek and Strauss each took a two-minute break. "It's down to the line. If we can't determine a win in the next two throws, how are we supposed to arbitrarily determine which club is better than the other?"

After the break, Lelonek and Strauss came back with another paper tie, with the next throw set as the final throw for the night, no matter the outcome. It was, indeed, a tie, as Strauss and Lelonek both showed scissors. A "guess what number I'm thinking of" game was suggested as another tiebreaker, but both societies declined, chalking the whole night up as a waste of time.

"I never want to do that again," stated College Democrat member Doniel Weinreich. "I'd rather just go back to debates. Much less stressful."



Where in the World was Cabey?

By Babe Kid

If YU's dinner entrées are hard to chew, then Cabey is the toughest cut of meat on the grill.

Any frequenter of the Wilf campus cafeteria was painfully cognizant last semester of the gaping void behind the Furman Dining Hall counter, directly caused by Cabey's conspicuous two-month absence from September through November. Though the world rejoiced like a bridegroom on his wedding day when Cabey finally returned, the mystery loomed large: Where had he been all that time?

**"HEY, BABE."
-CABEY**

I recently asked Cabey why he was missing last semester. He told me the following two things (actually, though): "Was my hand, kid. I had to go to the country until I got better." Only a moment later, though, he leaned in closer and pointed to his left, saying, "They tried to get me." Though I pressed for a more straightforward answer, all I got was a damn good hamburger.

Lacking clarity from the stallion's mouth, I put on my detective hat and asked around the Caf to determine if anyone had more information.

"So good to see you today, sweetie!" beamed Sophy when I asked her about the matter. After flirting with me for a few minutes, she said, "Honey, Cabey just broke his hand. There's nothing more to it, you cutie pie. Have a great day!" As I walked away, I noticed out of the corner of my eye that Sophy went running to whisper something to Sam Chasan, her boss. So I knew that there must be more

to the story.

I managed to gather juicy bits and pieces from snooping around the Belfer/Rubin tunnel in the back of the Caf over the course of a few days. One theory that seems compelling, corroborated by Andrés, two other Caf workers, and creative Bible-code-type cryptography based on Cabey's esoteric poetics, is that Cabey got his fingers stuck in a Chinese finger trap for two months. Another likely theory based on the equally esoteric storytelling of Rabbi Moshe Weinberger is that Cabey spent several months as an acolyte for the Mashpia. The latter is supported by two witnesses from Lev HaTorah who reported seeing "a kindly black man flanking the Mashpia during one rather inspiring candlelit cellar ritual."

The most interesting rumor, which Elaine did not deny when questioned about it, is that Cabey was involved in a bloodbath mutiny in the South Pacific. Proponents of this story suggest that Cabey was sent by YU to fish for some salmon. Two weeks into the trip, the all-male crew went slightly stir crazy (they also suffered from scurvy). Captain Adam completely lost his mind, purportedly piercing huge holes in his ears and insisting that every shipmate specify which piece of chicken is the most desirable for dinner. Luckily, Cabey was a brave and sure skipper, and his fearless courage ensured that the salmon—and their lives, for that matter—would not be lost. Cabey also may have slayed a colossal squid with nothing but his spatula and sharp wit. Again, Elaine did not deny this report.

As I mentioned earlier, when I pressed Cabey about the truth of the matter, he was at best unhelpful, and at worse snapped at me with retorts like, "You got some nerve, kid," and, "No sides today, babe, it's almost the weekend," all of which I presume are sophisticated double entendre insults.

The Commentator will report on this situation as it learns more information.



New TAC Initiative Brings Men to Beren to Make Zimun

By Mendy Ewok

The President of the Torah Activities Council (TAC), Temima Kanarfogel, announced today that a new initiative will be beginning in order to further increase women's religious opportunities on YU's Beren campus. In the new initiative, TAC will invite 3 men from the Wilf campus to travel downtown each day during lunch time to form a *zimun*, a benedictory ceremony at the end of a bread meal prior to the grace blessing, for the women in Beren's Kushner Dining Hall.

The move comes in the aftermath of the recent events, whereby TAC ceased its attempts to bring in men from the Wilf campus to make a minyan on Shabbat. Beginning in fall of 2016, men had been invited to come for free to Beren for Shabbat, including staying at a local midtown hotel and Shabbat programming. In return, the men would be expected to make the minyan that the Beren women could attend and ensure that it would run smoothly.

In January of this year, however, it was discovered that some of Beren's women had exploited this system by finding a way to access the sign up form for men, and that they had been impersonating men in order to not have to pay for Shabbat meals. In an exclusive interview with the Commentator from that time, Shira Fruchterstein, one of the impersonators had explained, "Out-of-towners only have limited funds on their caf cards, and when I heard that men were able to come to Shabbat for free, I knew there

had to be a way to sneak on that men's list. A few trips to clothing stores that classic YU guys shop at and *voila*, we looked so manly that some desperate Beren women even asked us for our numbers, to which we responded that we don't speak about such things on Shabbat-- see, we really acted the part." Once this discovery was made by TAC, the arrangement to bring in men for Shabbat was no longer possible.

As part of the new initiative, Kanarfogel also announced that TAC was introducing a new position to its council, entitled VP of Men, who would be in charge of texting someone to text her cousin who is a guy to recruit men to come daily to make the *zimun*. Chavi Nevarech was selected as the first holder of this position.

When asked why this initiative was even necessary, considering that women are permitted to make a *zimun* on their own when no men are present, Nevarech replied, "do you think I don't know that Halacha? I am literally a Jewish Studies major with a focus in 'Mitzvot that women can do when men are not around.' Nevertheless, our

council felt that it was important to make sure that the men don't forget about us, so ha, look, now we made them come for this." Fellow council member Leah Lechem had some other ideas about the benefits of this initiative. "We are much less likely to load up on carbohydrates at lunch if we know that the men will be there to judge us for what we are eating, so really you can kind of think of it as a health initiative." Lechem also noted that "if [the man leading the *zimun*] says the Yiddish version, I will ask him to marry me on the spot."

Men can sign up to either lead or participate in a *zimun* by emailing zimunmen@yu.edu. Celiacs not welcome.



YAF Hosts Next Big Controversial Provocateur: Rabbi Aryeh Klapper

By Benjamin Schachtapiro

When YU's Office of Student Life (OSL) cancelled Kol Hamevaser's scheduled shiur by Rabbi Aryeh Klapper, it was thought to be the end of the matter. The shiur, titled "Retzon Hashem, Human Experience, and Lomdus: A Philosophical Agenda For The Beis Medrash," was to revolve around the *Minchat Chinuch* on the concept of *mitzvah haba'ah b'aveira* (a commandment fulfilled through a transgression). Through a hyper-technical analysis utilizing a set of pedantic distinctions, Rabbi Klapper hoped to show that Brisker-style analysis of the piece in question was inadequate, and would render much of the text meaningless, the presumption being that this would have implications for the viability of this learning style in certain areas. This, however, was deemed by OSL to be too sensitive and controversial for the YU student body.

**"WE HEARD THAT LAST YEAR, OUTSIDE GLUECK, JUST MENTION OF [RABBI KLAPPER]'S NAME TRIGGERED ONE SNOWFLAKE, WHO THEN FLEW INTO A RAMPAGE."
-CHAIRMAN OF YAF**

While Kol Hamevaser was disappointed and defeated, YU's chapter of the Young America's Foundation (YAF) saw an opportunity. After hosting Ben Shapiro last year, whose statements were condemned by dozens of faculty, as well as the Jewish community at large, YAF had been at an impasse over how to follow it up. It was thought that there was nobody left who could generate that sort of outrage.

"We didn't really know anything about this Klapper fellow," the Chairman of YAF at YU, Trig R. Warren, explained to The Commentator, "but we assumed he must be deeply controversial and offensive to be getting this kind of treatment. We heard that last year, outside Glueck, just mention of his name triggered one snowflake, who then flew into a rampage. This is exactly the sort of 'real

conversation' YAF is always seeking to spark."

In order to guarantee approval, YAF had to change the topic of the shiur to one OSL would view as less inflammatory and more appropriate for YU's students than a meta-shiur about Torah learning methodology. They eventually submitted the new topic and title of the shiur: "Mincha and Marital Intimacy: Meandering Musings on Mood and whether it Matters." OSL approved the event without delay.

Promotion for the event began with a post by Warren on YU Marketplace proclaiming "FRUMMIES BEWARE: Slightly Left-of-Center Orthodox Rabbi Coming to Campus." He further warned that Rabbi Klapper would have "Roshei Yeshiva fleeing to their safe-mekomot in the beit midrash."

Many students and members of the community questioned YAF's sincerity, given the way they seemed to relish offending people. One student, Libby S. Flake, commented, "You're obviously going to get a negative reaction when you're so antagonistic. If you wanted to spark actual thought and discussion, you could just put up normal flyers in normal places like every other club event. Someone would have to be insane to pick a feud over one of those."

When it finally came to be time for the event, Rabbi Klapper took to the stage with a copy of that month's Commentator. He proceeded to open it to the News section, where Rav Schachter's shiur from that Sunday was printed, as it was, according to The Commentator's rabbinic advisor, the most "newsworthy" thing to occur that month. Rabbi Klapper then delivered a line-by-line critique of the shiur, at times veering into what some determined to be controversial territory.

"It is completely normal for men to see women as rabbis" he proclaimed to the audience. "Lucky is a rabbi if he can ordain his *talmidah*. I give every woman here a bracha: may you—at 90—always be seen as a rabbi."

Many thought Rabbi Klapper's remark was inappropriate, and not befitting Yeshiva University. However, some defended his remarks with some linguistic handwaving.

"You see," explained one member of YAF, "when Rabbi Klapper uses the word 'rabbi,' he doesn't really mean 'rabbi' in the conventional way it is used in literally every other instance of the word. He's actually referring to some sort of non-clergy religious educator and halachic advisor. Such a position would be in line with the OU's recent

guidelines."

After the event, The Commentator spoke to the Director of OSL, Evan T. Kanselt, about how he thought it went. Kanselt explained, "The Office of Student Life obviously supports free speech; that's why anything featured at a student-run event must go through a two-stage screening and approval process that takes an indeterminate amount of time. This way OSL can maximize this freedom and make sure it is being expressed appropriately. That being said, we are a little disappointed that Rabbi Klapper spoke about halacha and Talmud Torah, which were deemed inappropriate for a YU audience, instead of sticking to the approved program about how wives ought to be sexually submissive."

The Chairman of YAF offered the following statement: "The Commentator is fake news. Get rekt, libtard!"



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Knife-Wielding Former Yeshiva Bochur Causes Panic in Glueck

By Ken Sharp

On Sunday, January 28, a male former YU student armed with a knife gained entrance into the Glueck Center on the Wilf campus, eventually threatening the lives of two Roshei Yeshiva, as well as the lives of those attending a lecture.

The man entered the Glueck Center shortly after 10:00 AM. According to several witnesses, he was looking for the classroom of a Kollel Yom Rishon lecture.

The perpetrator was described by one student as “a regular looking fellow with a tucked in white shirt.” He took the elevator to the third floor of Glueck, ostensibly hoping that he did not miss too much of the lecture.

Upon exiting the elevator, the man encountered Rabbi Michael Rosensweig and approached him. Rabbi Rosensweig told The Commentator that the man, who seemed like a “nice yeshiva bochur,” asked him where to find the Kollel Yom Rishon classroom. “I told the young gentleman,” explain Rabbi Rosensweig, “that his question could be broken down into three categories.” After Rabbi Rosensweig took roughly five minutes introducing his answer, the man pressed Rabbi Rosensweig to “cut to the chase, or I’ll cut your throat.”

Rabbi Rosensweig managed to calm the man. Rabbi Rosensweig then tried to thrust a *kovetz shiurim* into the man’s hands, but the man stormed down the hallway to catch the last few minutes of the lecture.

At the time, Rabbi Hershel Reichman, whom the visitor thought was delivering a lecture, was actually just finishing up *shacharit*. As the man entered the classroom, Rabbi Reichman was standing at a *shtender* in the front with

his *talis* and *tefillin* on, reciting what several witnesses described as a “painfully slow *kaddish*.” One witness went so far as to say that this was as early in Davening as the *kaddish* before *pesukei d’zimra*, although this detail was

not sufficiently corroborated. The time was 10:20 AM, the

SEE KNIFEGATE, CONTINUED ON
PAGE 16



Here’s Who’s Running for SOY President: Yonah Narlowe

By Yonah Narlowe

Hi! I’m Yonah Narlowe. Many of you know me from my involvement this past year as Vice President of the SOY Student Council, where I worked alongside Dovid Simper to create some stellar religious programming. I was a major force behind this year’s growth of the Klein @ 9 minyan, as well as the coed Singing @ Sundown.

I am well aware that my tenure until this point may have me pegged as the “Gush candidate.” It seems highly probable that there will be a “Shaalvim candidate” who will decide to run and gather a strong enough following from Shaalvim and KBY guys to make my victory less of a given. In anticipation of news stories about our debates that might seem like satire, I want to categorically emphasize the following: This is by no means satire.

Take the following quote from a Commentator article written two years back:

“Shaalvim candidate supporters circulated the hashtag #GetGushOutOfSOY. The hashtag may refer to President-Elect Shua Brick, whom many associate with the stereotypically left-leaning yeshiva, even though he never attended Gush himself.”

Does this sound like satire to you? I most certainly hope not!

Because, dear voters, the party-line differences are very real, and very significant. It is a problem when every conversation and article about SOY is taken to be some kind of joke.

It didn’t help my case when this very newspaper published an article with the title “Report: SOY Spends \$6,400 a Year on Cholent.” This makes us sound like a total laughing stock! At a certain point, readers start to

think that every single article about SOY is simply satire. They probably even think that *this very piece* is a joke!

**“I WANT TO CATEGORICALLY
EMPHASIZE THE FOLLOWING:
THIS IS BY NO MEANS SATIRE.”**

Oh, I should also probably write something about how I have grand plans for next year. So yeah, I guess I’ll institute new programs, geshmak learning, and whatever, all that good stuff.

Anyway, back to my main point, with which I will conclude: I assure you, dear voters, that this is no joke. This is not just any SOY presidential candidate. This is *your* SOY presidential candidate. I’ll see you at the polls.



IBC Eliminates Explanation of Prayer Attendance Requirement, Grade Now Based on Class Performance

By Yitzchak Broyer

This Spring 2018 semester, 120 students, just over 10% of the Wilf campus undergraduate student body, are enrolled in Explanation of Prayer (but actually). In this course, colloquially known amongst savvy Isaac Breuer College of Hebraic Studies (IBC) students as “taking Davening for credit,” students have historically been required to simply show up and sign in to earn an A worth 2.5 credits as part of a composite Hebrew Lang & Lit grade that appears on the more legit college transcript.

“I DON’T EVEN BELIEVE IN GOD, BUT I SURE AS HELL BELIEVE IN GETTING A PERFECT SCORE ON MY DAVENING GRADE.”

-IBC BOCHUR

According to the IBC website, taking Davening for credit is viewed as “an ideal expression of *Torah Umadda*.” Rabbi Yosef Kalinsky, Assistant to the Dean of Undergraduate Torah Studies at Yeshiva University, echoed the website’s note. “IBC’s basically a huge joke,” said Kalinsky, “but so is *Torah Umadda*.” After high-fiving his velvet-kippa donning son and composing himself from a giggling fit, he continued, “That’s why we strongly encourage all of our IBC students to register for this important course.”

Recently, many IBC bochrin lamented the frequent absence of the sign-in paper from the Rubin shul shtender. According to one student who spoke on condition of anonymity, “I don’t even believe in God, but I sure as hell

believe in getting a perfect score on my Davening grade. So I knew that it was just wrong that the sheet was so often missing, or my name isn’t Yoni ‘Y-Dawg’ Kaminetzky. Wait, can you not report that last part?”

This past summer, Rabbi Kalinsky thought of a win-win modification to Explanation of Prayer. “Rather than evaluating students based on attendance,” wrote Kalinsky to The Commentator after being emailed twelve times, “wouldn’t it be fairer to judge them based on the outcome of their performance?” To this end, explained Kalinsky, the grading system has been modified to an empirical model, one in which YU can “judge whether or not God answered the student’s prayers.”

The change has garnered mixed reactions from the student population. “I personally am very thankful to YU for its new policy,” said Alex Wasserstein, a second-year student from Teaneck, New Jersey. “Not only did God cure my mom’s cancer, but I also got an A!”

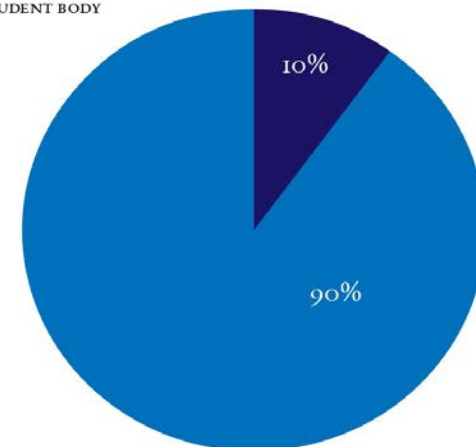
Yankel Dauckens was pleased as well. “I wasn’t sure if I believed in God, which is why I always felt somewhat guilty earning credit for Davening. But now, even if God doesn’t exist, I can just say that I Daven lishma! Without a God to answer my prayers, I am Davening now for the purest of motives.”

Others were not as thrilled. “Showing up to Davening is easy,” figured Midas Goldstein, a kid with Syms from Woodmere, New York and self-declared beast, “but getting my prayers answered sure ain’t! You gotta pray for the big bucks, that’s what my tatti always told me. I never thought I’d have to suffer academically because of the things I desire and ask for.”

Ken G. Bosbrowe, a third-year YC student, had a slightly different complaint. “What’s Kalinsky going to do when I pray for a failing grade in the course? If Kalinsky passes me, then my prayer will not have been answered, so he should fail me. But if he fails me, then my prayer will

ENROLLED IN EXPLANATION OF PRAYER

REST OF STUDENT BODY



have been answered, so he should pass me!” Bosbrowe is majoring in Philosophy and belongs to the set of all sets that contain no friends.

Regardless, such is the new standard for Explanation of Prayer, so it is important for serious IBC students to plan accordingly. Jacob Fronstein, a shrewd senior student who “knows the ropes” in YU, offered the following advice to his peers: “Take this class, brah. I loaded up on easy IBC courses, stacked myself with easy A’s, and wound up with a crisp A- on my college transcript at the end of last semester. And that’s including the C+ I got in Hebrew!” Fronstein, who was officially a part of “IBC Honors,” is expected to merit the distinction of IBC Valedictorian this May.

Fronstein concluded, “Ha, YU’s the best.”

President Ari Berman Lays Out Radical Theory about the Origins of the Torah

By Julius Lehrhausen

Sunday, September 10 brought with it the much anticipated investiture of Yeshiva University’s fifth president, Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman. Many were waiting to see what unique spin the new President would bring to YU’s philosophy of Torah U’Madda. After all, it was this event 14 years ago that gave us Richard Joel’s famous “Enable & Ennoble,” which he has, since his departure from YU, spun off into a successful line of premium perfumes. However, President Berman instead used the opportunity to unveil a radical theory about the origins of the Torah.

“ACCORDING TO RABBI BERMAN’S THEORY, OUR TORAH IS ACTUALLY A COMPOSITE OF FIVE DIFFERENT SOURCES, EACH WITH THEIR OWN AUTHOR.”

Most are familiar with the documentary hypothesis, according to which, the Pentateuch is actually a composite document by four different authors, compiled over time. Berman, however, goes one step further. According to Rabbi Berman’s theory, our Torah is actually a composite of FIVE different sources, each with their own author.

In Berman’s taxonomy, there exists the Emetist source, which includes the 12% of the Torah that is historically true; the Chayimist source, which includes the 10% of the Torah that is still relevant to our lives; the Adamly source, which includes the now-canonized *Lonely Man of Faith*; the Chesedist source, which includes all the precepts held by the Reform movement; and the Zionist source, which in Berman’s theory comprises the remaining 70% of the Torah. Berman explained that disparate origins are

necessary to account for the vast and seemingly irreconcilable thematic differences between these portions.

In a further departure from tradition, Berman dates some of these sources significantly later than is traditionally acknowledged. While even the most radical of Bible Scholars hold that our text must have been completed by some time around the 5th century BCE, Berman dates his Z-source to as recently as 1897, and his A-source to 1965!

One student, Shai Elvim, told The Commentator, “My Rebbe in yeshiva warned me about Bible at YU. He said they were going to teach blatant kefirah, but I thought he just meant the *Rashbam* and *Ibn Ezra*. I never expected this.”

Many questioned how Berman could get this position while having such radical positions on the authorship of the Torah, one that is being dubbed ‘heretical’. The Board of Yeshiva University responded to inquiry by assuring that although Berman believes that the Pentateuch was drafted by five different authors, he does believe that there is only one author to Isaiah, thereby passing the only heresy test in place.

When asked why this was the only theological criterion for a new President of YU, the board responded, “This litmus test was put in place by The Rav in 1976! We can’t change something he instituted. Next thing you know,

we’ll have to let students light Chanukah candles in their rooms.”

Since the event, a Facebook page has sprung up called “Why Ari Berman Is Not Orthodox.” As of press time, it has made 163 posts in YU Marketplace, and has been removed from the group four times.



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We're SO EXCITED to announce
our ALL-NEW sections!
Check out: "Giggles," "Feelies," "🍕,"
"Really Deep Philosophiez!"

They're Not Syms Kids—They're Kids With Syms

By The Guy Sitting Next to You

Note: The following is a compilation of some of the best quotes overheard by two of our active listeners in the Gottesman Library. These are all real lines, cogently articulated by YOU, the tired, thoughtful, coherent students of the Wilf Campus.

"Yo it's crazy about YU, man. My hardest class is Hebrew! I thought it'd be Management or Accounting... but no, she makes this impossible."

"I tried to take Intermediate Accounting One... I lasted two days."

"Besides for us three, you're not gonna find another Syms guy in the library. Seriously, we're the only ones in the library."

"I need someone to tell me how to think about Accounting so I don't overthink it, you know?"

"It's not bad. I finished with a B, bro. That's a pass. I'm not trying to get into medical school or anything."

"I could've passed 1305, but I purposely failed the exam, because I want to be like a doctor or finance, like whatever. I acted like an idiot. I started in BMP but got to JSS. And I'm getting awards at graduation. I just talk honest to them and they let you do whatever you want, it's that easy."

Student speaking at 11 AM:
"I'm really excited to stay up all night."

"Dude, it's multiple choice, so just straight up guess and you'll get at least a 25. And you'll even learn some knowledge."

Student 1: "I was standing by the shuttle, and like I saw it. I saw my ideal."
Student 2: "Yeah?! Go for it, man. It's almost Rosh Hashanah."
Student 1: "Yeah I think I'm gonna go for it."

"Midterms aren't worth anything without a job."

"Can you imagine that he actually makes us know how many days there are in each month?! This is ridiculous!"

"Are penguins part of Biology?"

"I'm done with stairs for the semester."

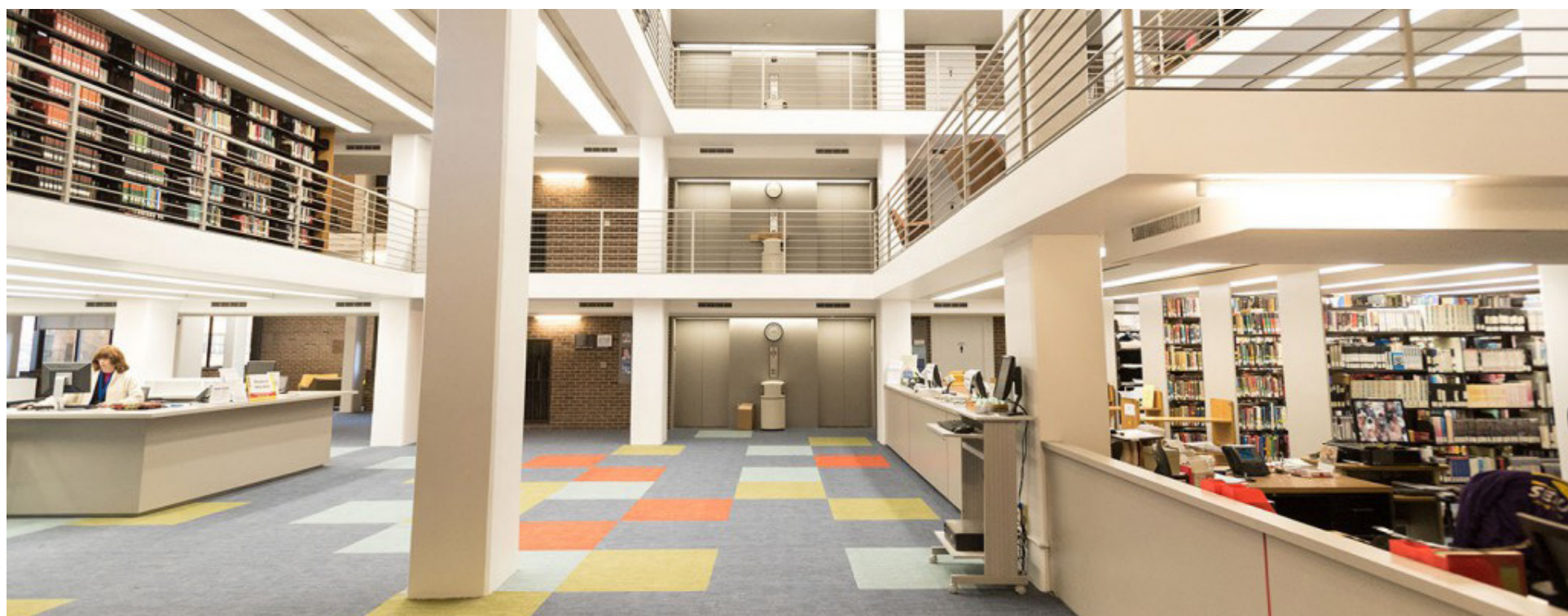
"I'm like, ok, like, I'm okay, cause like, this test is on Sunday, you know, so like, I'm okay. But then I'm like, it's Sunday morning, and I was like, shoot. So I like had to read like a whole chapter Saturday night."

"I took out a book from the library recently, I'm pretty proud of myself."

SEE QUOTES, CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

QUOTES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

- “I had the test banks, but I got a new computer, so I lost them.”
- “Yo, you want a good break? There’s a girl over there breaking up with her boyfriend.”
- “I heard in Philosophy, it’s not just like, what’s the meaning of life. It’s harder than that.”
- “Administrators love me, rebbeim love me, teachers HATE me.”
- “I’m feeling pretty good about the test banks. The way I do it, I read it two or three times. So if he asks around 30 questions, I’ll know 10 or 12 of them.”
- “If I get a B, I get an A. If you shoot for a B, you get a C.”
- “The library’s closed, so we’re like ghosts.”
- “Bro, that’s totally my zone. I live in redundancy.”
- “Monsters Inc. is Marxist propaganda.”
- “I love how Dan doesn’t sleep in my room, cuz I sleep naked and it’s the most liberating feeling in the world.”
- “Can we take the midterm on Canvas?”
- Economics Professor: “I was asked this morning, ‘how do you find the area of a rectangle?’”
- Student 1: “I don’t use test banks ever.”
- Student 2: “Oh, you’re so moral.”
- “I was hoping when I came back from break it would be frikkin 89 degrees or whatever.”
- “I’m bugging out because I’m overconfident. I didn’t go to class, and I’m overconfident. I’m telling you, we shouldn’t be confident for a class we didn’t go to.” (later:) “Oh, you have the slides! Should I copy that?”
- Student 1: “Syms is such a joke.”
- Student 2: “It’s not *such* a joke, but we do have lots of leeway.”
- “I dropped out of Management, but it’s not a big deal.”
- Student 1: “Hey, are you in Syms?”
- Student 2: “Yeah.”
- Student 1: “Which class?”
- Student 2: “Management.”
- Student 1: “Boom! You better have the test banks.”
- “We should hide here all night to study.”
- “There’s so many kids here who are smart but so lazy.”
- “You major in Management, you don’t get good grades.”
- “I have to stay focus, I need to stay clean of drugs.”
- Student 1: “There are so many trees here, it makes me sick.”
- Student 2: “Yeah, it’s nuts how many trees there actually are.”
- “Dude, you’d get an A in my class. I’d be like, hey, you’re the kid who read the notes and showed up to the final.”
- “He friggin left high school in tenth grade. He’s a genius.”
- “I never get multiple choice right. It’s impossible.”
- “Just give me a B minus, I don’t care. Even if I get a hundred on the final, I don’t care, just give me a B minus. I just want to get a B minus and forget this class ever happened. I’m so lazy, I’m done with these test banks.”
- “It’s her fault that I did badly, I wanted to stay for only 40 minutes so I could go to Mincha, but she showed up late.”
- Student 1: “Eich hayah Bible?”
- Student 2: “Beseder, but Hebrew was way easier.”
- “Bro. I was thinking. Why do they make wide ruled? There’s like three lines. Good call, no?”
- “You know how crazy that class was? Like even if you showed up to class, but you didn’t have old tests and stuff, you’d only get a 30 on the final. It’s that hard.”
- “It’s impossible. I tried, really, I opened up the textbook for like three minutes. And I opened the first slide, but I was like, what the hell is this saying?”
- “Why did I say Tachanun today, bro?”
- Accounting Professor: “I am not good at subjective things, and that’s probably why I became an accountant, like I’m not good at psychology and things.”
- “Yo, you study pensions, I’ll study changes, and then we’ll teach it to each other.”
- “Yo I don’t get it is there no individuality or is there individuality?”
- “You can cruise at YU, like 50% work and get a 3.8.”
- “The amount of times I’ve fallen asleep on that couch in the corner and woken up at 4 AM, ah!”
- “I can’t understand Principles of Finance, bro. I can’t even understand the basic questions.”
- Student 1: “Wait you’re named after Nelson Mandela? He’s like the president of South Africa.”
- Student 2: “He was like one of the greatest men in history.”
- Student 1: “But he was anti-Semitic so you shouldn’t like him so much.”
- “It mamish doesn’t make any sense. I don’t know what it is. I’m bugging out.”
- “I’m in Syms, I don’t know how to write essays.”
- “Reading is a waste of time.”
- “Honestly, even if I would’ve known what was going on, I still would’ve gotten a 60. Be’emet, mah la’asot?”
- “She’s not my girlfriend, just like my girl. My girl. My home girl, man.”
- “Hey bro, you gonna study for makehome? ... Bro, I have Spanish on Monday, Chem on Tuesday.”
- “Wait which one is median and mode? I’m telling you mode is the middle one.”
- “I know what a layup is, but I don’t really chap the mashal. I wasn’t so successful doing layups in my basketball career.”
- Student 1: “Yo, what are we gonna do for Marketing?”
- Student 2: “We’re screwed.”
- “Bro, you’re a prodigy.”
- “Bro, I get one question right on this test – I’m already up to ten points.”
- “Wanna hear something messed up? I got a 96 on the midterm.”
- “Bro, you know this guy? Brah? I’m telling you he’s a prodigy in this – he’s getting an A+.”
- “Someone who graduated asked me if I could send him my paper, and he sent it to other people, so I don’t even know who has it. So that’s why I can’t submit it again.”
- “I dropped my Management course.”
- “I got a B+, but I’m gonna complain. Like I wanna see my test, I think I got a 100.”
- Student 1: “YU would be so much more enjoyable if they called Nagel’s ‘The Canteen.’”
- Student 2: “Yeah it would also explain the co-edness.”
- “Bill Gates gives away all his money, like a sucker.”
- “I’m very good at ethics, and I know that what we’re doing, there’s nothing wrong with it. I don’t think so, I know. We won’t get in trouble.”
- “In America you’re guilty until proven guilty.”
- “If you think about it your birthday today is really the most depressing day of your life, it’s when you get separated from your mother... think about it you don’t need to breathe, you’re supported by her womb, and then boom!”
- “If I was smart, I’d try to memorize the English of these words.”
- “The class wasn’t difficult, but the guy was shver as anything.”
- “Last semester the only thing I took were BIMA classes, and that’s enough for a minor.”
- “We do the craziest *seudah* at 10AM in Lake Como and get plastered there.”
- Student 1: “Wow, Sigal - she’s a tough cookie.”
- Student 2: “Yeah, but the trick is to get her to like you.”
- “It was legit a strip club. A bunch of girls on a center stage. Some Reishit guys were there.”
- “You know you can speak languages better when you’re drunk?”



OSL to Move Office to Rabbi Schachter's Office to Streamline Rejection of Events

By Zach Dovid Eitan Sterman-Simpser-Lipsky

In light of the recent controversy surrounding speakers that don't fit in with the undefined and sporadically enforced "Torah values" clause that does not actually exist, the Office of Student Life (OSL) has decided to move their entire operation to Rabbi Hershel Schachter's office.

**"IN AN EFFORT TO
STREAMLINE THE
REJECTION PROCESS OF
'CONTROVERSIAL EVENTS,'
WE FELT LIKE THIS WAS THE
BEST COURSE OF ACTION."
-RABBI JOSH WEISBERG**

"In an effort to streamline the rejection process of 'controversial events,' we felt like this was the best course of action," said Rabbi Josh Weisberg, the Senior Director of Student Life. "Instead of lying about glitches in our technologically complex Google Forms event approval system, we decided, in an effort to promote more transparency, to just get the rejection from Rabbi Schachter himself."

The move comes after the recent scandals involving the man, the myth, the legend, Rabbi Aryeh Klapper, whose story has been beaten like a dead horse by this paper as well as The Forward, a popular collection of The Commentator's greatest hits.

Linda Stone, the Director of Student Events, echoed Rabbi Weisberg's excitement for the move. "By merging our office with Rabbi Schachter's, it will make it much easier for him to just tell us what events he does not want occurring on campus, making the entire process much more efficient and productive. Sure it takes the power out of the hands of the student leaders, but Rabbi Schachter knows better. He for sure, without a doubt, 100% understands the pulse on campus, making him the perfect authority."

Some students, however, are worried that this move may infringe on free speech on campus, a central aspect of any serious university. "It definitely raises some questions," said Clifford T. Martinez, a YC student doing a shaped major in Talmudic Gender Studies. "I mean, it seems to really go against everything that a university should stand for. Plus, if my event is just going to be looked over by OSL, aside from the free labor, what's the point of having student council?"

Rabbi Schachter himself was not pleased with the move at all. "I have all this narishkeit and gashmius going on in my office. People asking me if they can have Cake Wars or a Halo tournament. Why are the cakes at war, and why are we encouraging halo's in the Beis? Halos are gashmius. This entire school is gashmius! Wait, are you writing this? I said a fantastic shiur today and yesterday – why don't you write that up? Why do you write stupid things? This is not newsworthy. The shiur that I said is newsworthy. If I had my way..."

At that point Rabbi Menachem Penner, the Dean of RIETS, swooped in through the window and rushed Rabbi Schachter out of the room, quickly uttering "no comment" before disappearing into his office.



*KNIFEGATE, CONTINUED FROM
PAGE 11*

minyan having begun over an hour earlier at 9:00 AM.

Several witnesses in the room described the man as looking visibly shocked when he entered the room. Rabbi Menachem Penner, the Dean of RIETS who was happy to speak with The Commentator on the record, wrote that "the man started shouting about how ridiculous it was that a Rosh Yeshiva could hijack a *minyan* and take such a long time." As the man was shouting, Rabbi Rosensweig entered the room and, in *sui generis* fashion, told the man that there were actually seventeen *nafka minot* (practical ramifications) of his statement "cut to the chase, or I'll cut your throat," only six of which are addressed by normative *rishonim*.

Details as to the remainder of the incident remain hazy. According to a YU Alert email—sent three hours after the NYPD arrived—with the subject line "Everything okay - But not, like, completely okay, so be careful - But please don't panic or call the cops," the situation was "masterfully handled by YU's very

competent security guards." A later alert vaguely alluded to "roughhousing between two rabbis and a former student about legal technicalities, and possibly 18th century Hassiduth."

**"AFTER RABBI ROSENSWEIG
TOOK ROUGHLY FIVE
MINUTES INTRODUCING HIS
ANSWER, THE MAN PRESSED
RABBI ROSENSWEIG TO 'CUT
TO THE CHASE, OR I'LL CUT
YOUR THROAT!'"**

The man, Rabbi Rosensweig, and Rabbi Reichman were seen by several witnesses being escorted out of Glueck in handcuffs at around 11:00 AM. As of the time of publication, The Commentator was unable to learn details about the perpetrator's identity or who will serve as interim rabbis for the temporarily leaderless *shiurim*.

Belfer Elevator #2 Permanently Out of Service

By Eli Wieder

On Monday, February 12, Prim Edwards was on the way to his 3:00 Biology class on 8th floor of Belfer. On his way through the doors of the building he saw a maintenance worker remove the "NOTICE: Elevator #2 Temporarily Out Of Service" sign, which had been gracing its doors for months. This tremendously excited Edwards, as it was already 2:56 and he was hoping to be on time to class for the first time this semester. On every Monday and Wednesday for the past three weeks, Edwards had always been five minutes late to class as he attempted to navigate the torrent of students trying to squeeze into just two elevators on their way up to class, along with that one annoying guy who had to redirect the elevator downward to pick up a package from Productions.

But the excitement was short-lived. By the time the student arrived at the elevators, the maintenance worker was back with a new sign: "NOTICE: Elevator #2 Permanently Out Of Service."

An investigation by The Commentator has revealed the cause of Belfer Elevator #2's enduring dysfunction. It turns out that over the course of the fall semester, a group of vigilante students had been using stolen supplies from last year's construction of

**"AN INVESTIGATION BY THE
COMMENTATOR HAS REVEALED THE
CAUSE OF BELFER ELEVATOR #2'S
ENDURING DYSFUNCTION."**

the pedestrian plaza in order to attempt to build a staircase in the 2nd elevator shaft between the 1st floor and basement of Belfer. In theory, this would alleviate the congestion around the first floor from people needing to take the elevator one floor in a 17 story building. But their plans didn't pan out.

After the students were caught, there was an attempt to dismantle the improvised staircase, however, it was discovered that the extra concrete in the elevator shaft was the only thing stopping the winds outside Belfer from reaching hazardous speeds. Additionally, according to New York City building codes, an elevator is only legally allowed to be "temporarily" out of service for a maximum of eight weeks. The decision was therefore made to just keep the elevator closed forever.

The university put out a statement urging students to take "alternative routes" to the basement of Belfer to cut down on elevator traffic, and to preferably do it during non-peak times, such as lunch. They also added, "Hopefully, one day, the second elevator shaft in Belfer can become like the third elevator shaft in Furst, and we'll all just forget that it even exists."



KLEIN @ 9

The Minyan that has sparked the most controversy for not really doing anything

Community

we are not rubin

women

donuts

**DID WE MENTION
COMMUNITY?**

**It's Not Just Any Minyan,
It'll Soon Be The Only Minyan**

**The team @ Klein @ 9 is excited to announce a new branch of Klein @ 9
in Rubin Shul @ 10:15!
Stay Tuned for Details!**

Syms Student Accidentally Attends InvestFest, Expecting Festival Devoted to Investments

By Simi Simson

On September 10, Sy Syms School of Business student, Chet R. Banks, attended the much hyped InvestFest at YU. He had been invited to the event on Facebook the week before, and upon seeing the word “Invest,” immediately hit “Going,” hoping the event would give him something to add to his resume. Before having a chance to read the full description though, he had to exit the tab because his professor was walking by.

When he arrived, Banks was sorely disappointed. Instead of a festival celebrating competent investments in strategic e-commerce initiatives, as he had been hoping, the student had to instead sit through hours of boring shiurim about talmud torah, and lectures about YU’s mission, academic tradition, and Ari Berman, all from a slew of eminent speakers.

“Who wants to learn torah at 10am on a Sunday?!” he complained. “It was already mid-September, so I had naturally given up going to shiur for the semester a couple weeks earlier.”

He further elaborated, “After the shiurim, there were another two hours of lectures. All these people kept talking about YU’s mission, history, values, and how to actualize them today. Who cares about any of that?! I didn’t come to YU for Torah or academics or engagement with modern culture; I just wanted a degree that will make me money.”

Banks also thought that many of the lectures contained incomprehensible nonsense. “They all kept using these tetrasyllabic scholarly words I had never heard before, such as ‘vicissitudes,’

‘dialectical,’ and ‘pedagogic,’ all in quick succession. If a word has more than three syllables and has never been used in a Dilbert comic, I’m probably not familiar,” the Business Intelligence and Marketing Analytics major told The Commentator.

Banks was very upset that he had wasted four hours at the ceremony on a weekend when he had what he described as “a ton of work to do,” which comprised eight pages of reading and a 400 word “essay” on efficiently repurposed multimedia-based metrics.



Revel, Following RIETS, Serves Pizza at Event

By Commentator Staff

On February 3, the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies, following in the footsteps of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, hosted a talk for its graduate students on sexual abuse in the Orthodox community. The event garnered close to 50 attendees. Pizza was served, and copies of the most recent issue of *Tradition* were distributed free of charge.

This event, which took place amidst a tide of high profile sexual abuse scandals, began only ten minutes late after eight pies arrived. It was announced only a few weeks ago that not only are undergraduate clubs eligible to receive pizza at their events, but graduate clubs are too.

Rabbi Lawrence Friedman, who introduced the speakers, ate only one slice of pizza. He bemoaned the community’s tendency towards silence vis-à-vis the topic of sexual abuse in the Jewish community. The audience listening, who by this point were seated with their pizza, were silent too. They were eating their pizza. The sweet saucy pizza aroma, as well as Friedman’s powerful rhetoric, filled the room. Many students were observed gently dabbing residue pizza oil off of their lips.

Dr. Gary Rothstein, a senior psychologist at a major Jewish social services organization, ate a mighty fine slice—tomato-onion, but mostly tomato—before he spoke. The audience was mostly finished with its pizza, although four students (according to one report, five) stood up quietly during his speech, walking to the back of the room to quietly take another slice or two. Some even refilled their cups with Pepsi to wash out the cheesy taste from their palettes. By the time that Rothstein finished his story about campers or something, all of the pizza was finished. Rabbi Yosef Blau, Senior Mashgiach Ruchani, finished his pizza next. According to one student who attended the event, “Rabbi Blau spoke for friggin’ ever. I wanted pizza shoved in my face, not an hour of mad truth.” Others had harsher criticism about YU’s treatment of such a serious topic. Akiva Friedman, who walked out in the middle of Blau’s speech, said that “the pizza wasn’t even that good.” Sam Cohen, a student who showed up late during Blau’s speech, told The Commentator that “there was no pizza

left by the time I showed up.” He was deeply disturbed by the revelations that a YU event about sexual abuse could neglect to adequately provide enough pizza. But he was also optimistic, saying, “Hopefully next time I will show up earlier to make sure I get pizza.”

“EVEN WHEN I’M IN THE MIDDLE OF EATING PIZZA, I WISH I WERE EATING PIZZA.”

Some students responded particularly harshly to the deeply disturbing revelations at this sexual abuse talk. One student remarked, “I was shocked and appalled to learn that these issues are so rampant in the Modern Orthodox community in this day and age. I think we should all expect more from our leaders and role models. Also, I love this



pizza and anyone who says otherwise doesn’t know what they’re talking about.”

This event follows in the footsteps of many events that feature pizza from Lake Como. According to a YU spokesperson from the Office of Communication and Public Affairs, “all YU events order their pizza from Lake Como. We will not offer further comment.” When pressed about why YU does not order pizza from Grandma’s, the spokesperson, whose mouth was stuffed with Lake Como spicy fries and whose face was red with the effort of swallowing his mouthful, slammed his door—and his pizza box—shut.

As of the time of publication, The Commentator has not been able to corroborate how many calories are in an average slice of Lake Como pizza.

The current state of pizza at this event and other events has garnered mixed reactions from the ravenous student body. “YU is so cheap!” told David Fleishman. “Pizza’s great and all, but why can’t they order from meat restaurants?” Simi Schechter figured similarly. “I want meat to be back on the menu, boy. Give me Carlos & Gabby’s or give me death!”

With five minutes left in the event, there was still plenty of soda left. Several students were seen walking to the soda table, discreetly glancing to see if anybody was looking, and then slipping a bottle or two of two-liter Pepsi under their shirts. One student present at the event described these efforts as “very conspicuous, but dedicated.” Some students, including the seventy or so who showed up after a notice was posted in the “Free Pizza” WhatsApp group, bemoaned the lack of diet sodas. “They never have any diet sodas at these events,” remarked one flabbergasted latecomer. After pondering for a moment and seemingly accepting his defeated state, he took a very small sip of regular soda and swished it around in his mouth. He spat it out onto the floor.

Rabbi Shalom Carmy, editor of *Tradition* and assistant professor of Jewish Philosophy and Bible, attended the event. Dean of Students Dr. Chaim Nissel, former director of the Counselling Center, also attended, as did Rabbi Hershel Reichman, a Rosh Yeshiva of the Yeshiva Program. They did not eat pizza

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Night Seder Regular Attends Sharsheret Cake Wars

By Joseph Feiner

Gemara study came to an abrupt halt on Wednesday morning, February 21, when MYP students learned of Gavriel Baker's attendance at the previous night's Sharsheret Cake Wars. According to Yitzi Stein, much hocking happened on the topic, although he assured The Commentator that these "non-Gemara discussions" took place only on the second floor of Glueck. "And he did Shana Bet ... a Post-Pesach guy!" shouted Doniel Gerstein, one furious student involved in the discussions. "I just can't believe it. He even *Davens Maariv* in Glueck," sighed Yoni Friedman.

**"I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
HE EVEN DAVENS MAARIV IN
GLUECK."**

After learning of his Night Seder *Chavrusa's* shameful participation, Kobi Applebaum immediately took to Twitter (a Halachically approved Social Media Platform) and issued an early morning statement: "I am deeply saddened by this information. I assure you, I did not accompany @GaviB613 and I have since cut all ties with him. Agav, ISO New NS *Chavrusa*. Must be Shtrak, Consistent, 8-10 Plus Fridays. No prior history of Co-Ed Event Attendance. SS SK preferred."

Reporters have confirmed the identity of the individual responsible for exposing Baker's Tuesday night whereabouts. Adam Mesirah, a Shaalvim alumnus and Night Seder attendee, became suspicious after noticing a

bright pink triangular pattern on Baker's socks. "I'm all for the stylish look," Mesirah remarked, "but c'mon. It was too much of a coincidence."

At approximately 9:26 PM (smack in the middle of Night Seder), Mesirah witnessed Baker close his Gemara and head for the exit. Following closely behind, Mesirah watched as Baker snuck into the fourth floor's rare book room and reached for the largest and most tattered looking *Shulchan Aruch*. After blowing hundred-year-old dust off the jacket, Baker then darted down the stairs and ran straight for Furst Hall.

Unfortunately, Mesirah could not provide any additional information; he refused to enter Furst out of fear that someone might assume he too was participating in the event... or worse, that he was enrolled in IBC.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, one source filled in the remaining timeline. "Yeah, I saw that guy. Walked in around 9:30. *Tzitis* flying off his belt, *Kippah* too big for his head, stuck out like a sore thumb. He clearly didn't fit in at Cake Wars." The source continued, "the guy was carrying some impressive looking *sefer* so girls stopped decorating the moment he walked in. He practically shouted across the room: 'Ugh. Was Cake Wars at 8?! I'm so sorry. I had to learn Night Seder!' Baker reportedly pointed to his frayed book and could be heard repeating, 'Oh this? It's nothing. I'm just trying to keep up with my *Yoreh De'ah Yomi* Schedule.'"

When asked for a comment, Baker

flatly denied the allegations. "No. Never. Absolutely not. I'd never miss a Night Seder; It's totally *asur*." But he did address Mesirah's claims and admitted to entering Furst Hall: "Well, yeah. Finals season is coming up. I've been taping answers around 501 for weeks. You know it's *mutar* now, right? The signs came down last month," he replied. (The Commentator has confirmed in previous news reports that said signs were absent from many classrooms.)

Admittedly, Mesirah's testimony — as well as that of all Night Seder regulars — regarding Baker's whereabouts has been called into question after reporters unearthed a video depicting 300 MYP students loudly cheering at Tuesday night's basketball playoff game which had also been held between 8-10 PM.



YU Student Loses Food, Dignity at the Hefker Table

By Sam N. Tilapia

This past Monday afternoon, Johnny Tucker, a Mazer Yeshiva Program (MYP) student in Rav Shulman's shiur, mysteriously lost his food at the Hefker Table.

**"I TURNED ON THE TAP, RAN
SOME WATER OVER MY FACE,
AND, WHEN I LOOKED UP, THE
PASTA WAS GONE!"**

-MYP STUDENT JOHNNY TUCKER

"I'd say that my morning was fairly ordinary," Tucker told The Commentator. "Geshmak seder, geshmak lunch in the Caf, you know, the whole zach. But it all took a turn for the worst when I went to wash before shiur." Tucker

described how he wanted to clean up before shiur started. He was holding a plate that was still half full with pasta. "I put the plate down for a second so that I could wash my face. There was no one else near me, just me and the sinks. I turned on the tap, ran some water over my face, and, when I looked up, the pasta was gone! All that was left was the plate, wobbling in place."

Tucker was stunned. "I was hardly able to focus all shiur," he lamented. On his way to 2:30 Glueck Mincha, he stopped by the Hefker Table once more to see if his pasta had possibly turned up. He blinked. He felt a slight breeze below his gartel. He looked down. His pants were gone.

At this point, Tucker was furious. "It's one thing to take my food, but my pants? They're probably not even kosher!"

The next day, Tucker was resolved to usurp the perp. "Let's just say that my half-finished slice of pizza was laced with a little something something, if you catch my drift," Tucker told The Commentator. He put down his pizza on the Hefker table with a note that read, "Still eating, please

do not take." He then walked away for 30 seconds.

As expected, when Tucker returned, the pizza was gone. Lying below the table was President Ari Berman. As it turned out, Tucker's secret ingredient was high-dosage LSD. "He was tripping pretty hard," said Tucker. "I think he got what he deserved."

Tucker added, "While my pants have still unfortunately not turned up, I'd say that I'm pretty proud of myself."



Forward Reporter Promoted

By Commentator Staff

A source close to *The Forward* has informed *The Commentator* that the news reporter Avi Sternberg has been promoted from Assistant Commentator Re-reporter to Managing Commentator Re-reporter.

Sternberg, who attended Yeshiva University for two years before failing out and transferring to Queens College, apparently "spends most of his days listening to YUTorah recordings," according to the source.

Sternberg, who joined the left-leaning *Forward* in 2013 as an adjunct writer, gained communal attention in March 2013 with his piece titled "Yeshiva Rabbi Hershel Schachter Stirs Hornet's Nest With Remarks Again." In this piece, Sternberg refers to Rabbi Schachter as an "ire provoker" and "women-monkey equating maniac." He

wrote that "Schachter is in trouble" for saying that Jews in prison stand to suffer by being locked up "with a *shvartze*, in a cell with a Muslim, a black Muslim who wants to kill all the Jews."

**"WE GOT RAV SCHACHTER!"
-FORWARD REPORTER AVI
STERNBERG**

The newspaper's informer told *The Commentator* that it took Sternberg many weeks to "hit gold" with this quote. It seems that Sternberg was close to calling it quits after yet another day of listening to hours of Rabbi Schachter lectures, when he suddenly "jumped out of his seat, stormed into the publisher's room, and said, 'we got him!'"

The Forward, realizing the potential of their talented intern, offered Sternberg a paid position at the time. He went on to publish well-read pieces of fine journalism such as: "You Won't Believe What Mammal Rabbi Schachter Compared Women To: It's Not Flattering!"; "President Richard Joel Covers Up Years of Sexual Misconduct, Are

YU Rabbis to Blame?"; "Richard Joel Scores \$1.6 Billion Payout Amid Deep Yeshiva Fiscal Crisis"; "Did YU Invite an Anti-gay Church to Picket?"; and "A Yeshiva U Rabbi Called Feminists 'Whores.' They're NOT Backing Down."

Perhaps Sternberg's most famous article was "Top Yeshiva U. Rabbi Blasts Modern Orthodox Speaker As 'Like Reform.'" In this piece, Sternberg masterfully copy-and-pasted directly from *The Commentator's* website, adding a link at the bottom to follow *The Forward* on Twitter. After multiple requests from *The Commentator*, the author hyperlinked a comma to refer the reader to the original article.

Sternberg's promotion to Managing Commentator Re-reporter occurred on the heels of Sternberg's coverage of recent Klein @ 9 happenings. While Sternberg typically takes his vacation when Rav Schachter gives off for *shavua chazarah*, he decided to put in the extra hours recently to do some objective re-reporting with his masterpiece, "YU Rabbis Trick Stern Student into Trading Her Voice for a Higher Mechitza."

Stay tuned for the remainder of the spring semester to see what re-reporting *The Forward* has in store. It is sure to be informative.

Commentator

Glazed and Dangerous

By Sufganiyah (Sufi) Schwartz

It has been deemed our generation's greatest test and it shook Stern students to their core--The Great Doughnut Debate of 2017.

With over 130 likes on Facebook after the establishment of the doughnut station in the Syms Caf, almost 1/10 of the school passionately voiced their opinions in Stern College: In the Know, representing both sides of the debate -- when did we get a doughnut station and why? Can just looking at doughnuts make you fat via osmosis? When will the madness end? The questions piled on.

They say that people are the most united following a war. The outcome of The Great Donut Debate was no different. Students across the board agreed to boycott the glass case of sweets and joined together in an effort to evade the draw of the glazed dough.

"This place is turning into a Dunkin Donuts," an anonymous SCW student remarked as she walked passed the case full of frosted doughnuts. In-towners and out-of-towners alike debated the physical effects an extra 650 calories could have on the human body and whether or not those said calories would impact their eventual marital happiness. The eyes of many students darted back and forth between the doughnut station and their wedding rings, ultimately deciding that no bite was worth risking *Shalom Bayis*.

Upon further investigation into what may have prompted the addition of the doughnut station, The

Commentator stumbled across a few promising conspiracy theories.

The most popular among them was the ever-growing theory that YU Connects could not keep up with the burgeoning demand of desirable *Shidduchim*. The Commentator was informed by various sources that YU Connects projected that it was about to endure a serious increase in users, and to keep the servers up and running, they needed to find a way to distract potential couples.

Therefore, they installed various distractions around the Stern building, including charging for water, revamping the 245 caf, and a doughnut station -- they hoped that these new installments would keep students more focused on calorie count than dating.

However, the SCW students were unphased. Through the dedication and sheer will power of our motivated students, The Commentator is proud to report that doughnut consumption is down and marriage rates are up.



Dr. Edward Belbruno Receives Hindesfeilinzachen Research Award; Recognized for Moon Landing

By Neil DG Tucherson

Dr. Edward Belbruno, clinical professor of mathematics at Yeshiva University and aspiring impressionistic mathematical painter, has received the Hindesfeilinzachen Research Award from the Klaus von Hindesfeilinzachen Doofenshmirtz foundation of Germany for his accomplishments in research, teaching, and personally landing on the moon.

The Hindesfeilinzachen Research Award, Germany's most prestigious award in mathematics and sciences, is granted "in recognition of literally the most random achievement in academia that can broadly be categorized as being technically mathematical," according to the Foundation's website. Each Hindesfeilinzachen Research Award recipient receives €100,000 (about US\$25) and an invitation to spend a year at a research institution in Germany.

Last year, Yeshiva University hired Belbruno as a full-time professor after he was commissioned for the Nagel mural. In his previous occupation, Belbruno used a complex algorithm to reproduce Vincent van Gogh's *The*

Starry Night. He has been described by astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson as "a real out of the box thinker." Another scientist described him as "original."

**"A REAL OUT OF THE BOX
THINKER."**

-NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON

Belbruno, who smoked a lot of weed during his youth, famously threw away thousands of years of established mathematical rigor in order to become a "mathematical artist," as he is self-described on his very impressive website. In his equally impressive and smart-sounding TEDx talk in November 2013, Belbruno described how he uses precise techniques of "chucking paint at a canvas" after "getting high out of my friggin' mind on shrooms" in order to map physically tenable methods to land humans on the moon.

"I'm a very good teacher," Belbruno told The Commentator. "Back in Princeton I had lecture halls filled

with hundreds—probably, I think, filled with hundreds of students to hear my fancy math." He then addressed his Hindesfeilinzachen Research Award. "I'm so proud to receive this award. I've been saying for years that I teach math very good, and I know that students will now take me very seriously. They take me seriously, right?"

Growing up during the 1950s, Belbruno always knew that he wanted to do something completely outrageous. Last month, using his grant money and artwork, Belbruno successfully launched himself into Earth's orbit, and, using "seriously high-level math that we'll definitely get to next week," landed on the moon. One source close to Belbruno marveled how he accomplished this with "nothing but a basket and several bottles of compressed air."

"We are very proud that our colleague is being recognized for his work," noted Dr. Marian Gidea, chair of the mathematics department at Stern College for Women and professor in YU's graduate programs in mathematical sciences. "This award was previously given to many Nobel Prize laureates, including Ted Kaczynski and Boppo the Clown. It is a great honor for our colleague as well as for YU."



Adar Fabrengen and Co-ed Dodgeball Scheduled at Same Time, To Run Joint Event

By Menachem Schneerstein & Emily Poppins

Earlier this year, Rabbi Moshe Weinberger took a several-month leave of absence from YU. The absence of Rav Weinberger's presence and world-renowned Hassidut (otherwise known as Chassidus, or sometimes simply "chsidus") shiurim left his close adherents from the YU community at a loss for how they would get through their semester. "Without our Rebbe to follow around all day on Monday and Tuesday, I literally had nothing to do," said first year student Nachman Berslow, as he twirled his *peyos* around his ears. "I made sure not to schedule any classes for the days when the *mashpia* would be here, so that I could follow him around and learn all of his particular mannerisms. For example, he always makes sure to stroke his beard counter-clockwise on the second Thursday of Elul, a practice which I now have picked up as well."

Spiritually deprived, and desperate to fill the void in their days, Berslow and many of his friends began to pore through their ystud emails to see what other spiritual

endeavors were happening on campus. "We found a few events that initially looked promising, such as the Adopt a Bubby program; our Rebbe always tells us that there is nothing like a *heimishe yiddishe bubbe*. Unfortunately, these *bubbes* refused to tell us any stories about the *alter heim*. A different time, we heard a big ruckus about a certain Rabbi Klapper who was coming to campus, and figured that it must be because he is a *chassidishe* Rebbe, so we came to ask for his *shirayim*. Unfortunately, once we saw the crowd that was attending, we knew that it couldn't be."

On the morning of December 9th, however, the neo-Chassidic population of YU received an answer to their long prayers and spontaneous dancing when an exciting headline appeared in a ystud. "Come frolic in the snowy meadows with YAS!", the headline read, inviting YU's undergraduate students to an event by the Yeshiva Activities Society! taking place in Central Park, featuring a scavenger hunt, hot cocoa, and fun. "HaMelech BaSadeh!!", Berslow and his friends cried out in unison, as they joyfully put on their nifty cardigans and prepared to attend. "That

event was YAS!'s most successful one ever," said YAS! Club president Joey Jubas. "So many new, enthusiastic faces attended, and they really showed how comfortable they felt integrating into the YAS! community." "The event was quite fun," said Berslow. "The whole thing definitely seemed cultish and new-agey at first, but once we got past those first impressions we knew that we had found the club for us."

"AS WE ALWAYS SAY IN YAS!, 'THE SHOW MUST GO ON!' AND AS OUR REBBE ALWAYS SAYS, 'HAVE A L'CHAIM AND FORGET ABOUT YOUR WORRIES.'"

-NACHMAN BERSLOW, SYMS '21

As the semester progressed, the "Neo-YASsidim" enjoyed the club's many events, such as horseback riding on the beach, hopscotch, and one that was simply called "chilling hard". Several of the new members were even able to rise in the club's ranks, with one, Levi Berdicover, being named the club's co-President at the end of the fall semester after he live-streamed himself *shukkeling* in place for 15 hours in a row on the club's Facebook page.

No sooner did Berdicover assume his new role, however, than he had to make a very tough decision. "We had just finished scheduling our biggest event of the year, co-ed, glow in the dark dodgeball. This event is all about unleashing the *nitzozos* and many other deep concepts that are too complex to describe in this interview. However, by the time of the event our *heilige* Rebbe was set to have returned, and what's more, we found out that his *Adar fabrengen* was scheduled for the very same night."

Faced with this conundrum, Berdicover knew exactly what he had to do. "As we always say in YAS!, 'the show must go on.' And as our Rebbe always says, 'have a *l'chaim* and forget about your worries.'" Berslow noted that the two events really aren't that dissimilar when you think about it. "Neither events were going to have much light anyway. Additionally, YAS! likes singing, so they will do great with that part of the *fabrengen*. Well, assuming they're singing Ed Sheeran, that is. As long as we make sure not to throw dodgeballs in the direction of the lit candles, everything should go smoothly."

Thus, the first ever co-sponsored event between YAS! and RIETS will be taking place on February 26th in the MTA basement. It is sure to be memorable.

JUSTICE SOBOLOFSKY, CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

go. I'm still honored the whole nine yards to be a part of the Supreme Court. I'm as happy as my wife after making a YUConnects shidduch."

After his brief remarks, Sobolofsky took questions from the audience. A reporter from *The Observer* opened the floor, asking Sobolofsky about his views towards women's Torah learning. "Dos is a kashya," began Sobolofsky. "I'll tell you what you meant to say. And this is good, because John Marshall, afar ani tachas kapos raglav, asks the same kashya. Your family must come from Virginia." The reporter then interjected that her question was in fact as she had stated. "Well, you see," answered Sobolofsky, "that's the real McCoy."

Sobolofsky, who lives in Bergenfield, New Jersey with his wife and four children, plans on regularly commuting down the Turnpike to his new job in Washington, D.C. He made his first trip just this past week to attend his Senate confirmation hearing. According to one source, upon arriving at the Senate, Sobolofsky described his trip as "Hector-esque, though it really wasn't so bad going down that route. I look forward to a smooth ride back home that doesn't throw any curveballs, but we'll have to see, hopefully im yirtzeh Hashem tomorrow."

Senator Chuck Schumer offered benedictions to start

the hearing, after which the floor was opened. "How would rebbe paskin," asked Senator Minyomin Leiffer of Nebraska, "if the sugya of kiddushei adam chashuv were to come before the Supreme Court?" Sobolofsky smiled, opened a marker, tested it out, and sent Leiffer to get a new marker from the chamber next door. A minute later, Sobolofsky, remarking that "we're back in business," sketched an obscure equation on the whiteboard behind him. "This is Lomdus 101. To answer your question, Senator Leiffer, you need to understand this Weinbach caret that I just drew. It has to do with a very famous Ketzos. Were any of you with us in... vii shteit? Which

"I AM THRILLED BY THE ZECHUS TO WEAR A SHEITEL AS PART OF THE HEILIGE BESHIN OF ARKAOS IN CHUTZ LAARETZ."
-JUSTICE SOBOLOFSKY

masechet was it? Oh yeah, the kiddushin days. After we already moved from Furst to Glueck. Just you were with us back then, Dr. Berman? No matter. My answer to you, Senator Leiffer, then, is to go back to the baseline. In short, we see qlor that what you raised is, in our heart of hearts,

a violation of zero plus zero equals one."

Several senators pressed Sobolofsky on his controversial position surrounding hilchos yaaleh veyavo. "Ut azoy, to fully answer your questions," said Sobolofsky, "we would need to out-Brisk the Briskers, even if all we have is a half-baked terutz. Zeitmin fun da, we see from here, that your kashya is dead on arrival. We're back to square one, by no means home free. And in any case, zagt the heilige Antonin Scalia, kol haTorah kulah tachas yado, that likked-in to your razzle-dazzle shtickel Torah is a krum worldview, guilty of the great sin of overkill. Azoy shteit in his sefer, *Reading Law*."

At the conclusion of his hearing, which, according to Senate stenographer Kelly Moytsch went "geshmakly," Sobolofsky thanked President Trump for the opportunity granted to him, saying, "Honestly, when the president called me with this offer, I thought he was trying to pull a fast one." He concluded with an attempted joke about transitioning from the pulpit to the bench, noting at the end, "Usher Decker, did you get that down? Make sure to have it to quote at the White House Purim mesibah this Adar."

When all the dust settles, the American people will surely breathe a sigh of relief; the Senate is expected to confirm Sobolofsky's appointment unanimously, as all opposition fell by the wayside.

THE STORY OF YU'S MOST LONELY DEPARTMENT

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