



Project Shanim:

Project Yamim and New Club Guidelines

NEWS

By Yamot Orgenstein

Days after announcing the restructuring of clubs into student organizations, Yeshiva University has sent out an incomprehensible email to the student body in an attempt to explain the upcoming changes.

This revamp was sparked by one of the goals of Project Yamim, a bold new initiative students have described as “what is that?” and “I took Hebrew online, so I don’t know what Yamim means.” Uproar lasted a record-long four days before people stopped caring, but YU’s email reignited the confusion, leading baffled students to ask for a translation from ChatGPT, which responded, “lol I just wrote this email earlier today.”

ly integrated sense of synergistic forward-momentum — that we formally operationalize the next phase of the Yamim Strategic Vision Initiative.

As such, we are privileged to present the new student club framework. Our most important change is the transformation in language from “club” to “organization,” a word more befitting the leaders of tomorrow. (This evolution of nomenclature and infrastructure is entirely unrelated to any other contemporaneous developments and is merely coincidentally aligned in timing.)

Already, we are witnessing the measurable fruits of this systemic renaissance, such as clubs being delayed until December, which has



The “I am YU” mandatory pins all student organization leaders must wear in order to get approved

Yeshiva University

“As Rav Soloveitchik was known to say, ‘The next chapter of the YU story must be one without AMC and pickles.’”

The email reads as follows:

Dear valued undergraduate students,

As we collectively co-author the next chapter in our institution’s multi-century trajectory of transcendent excellence, it is with calibrated intentionality — and a deep-

allowed for a prolonged season of anticipatory reflection — fostering patience, resilience, and character formation. Another change was the removal of the fun clubs — a major advancement from the anti-whimsical department. As Rav Soloveitchik was known to say, “The next chapter of the YU story must be one without AMC and pickles.”

Submitted for your reflection and growth, and with vertically integrated enthusiasm,
The Project Yamim Committee

P.S. New Substack dropping soon!

The student body’s responses to this email ranged from “I don’t check my email” to Jeffrey Mollin-level locked in, with the most common reaction being, “Oh, did clubs not start yet?” When asked for a comment, one club (or student organization?) leader who spoke to the *YU Absurder* on the condition of anonymity shared that they had “already put their roles on their graduate school applications anyway, so at this point, who honestly cares?” Others expressed they were grateful for the excuse to not do anything for four months. “I was never actually planning on running an event, but it’s nice to blame it on something

else,” one club leader said.

Yet, some students remain optimistic. Talia Shulstein (SCW ‘32), who is mid-application in an attempt to renew the Baking Besties Club, said, “I’m almost done with my 6-week Organizational Identity Formation Intensive and submitted three measurable learning outcomes for brownies. All I have left is my five essays connecting funnel cakes to each Core Torah Value, and of course, my Zoom and in-person interviews!”

Bold action always ruffles feathers, and the new club system is no different; change always requires adjustment. But understanding doesn’t lend itself well to a Purim article, so for now, with students in tears and the school in shambles, the student body is left standing in the wreckage of what was wrought. Broken hearts, broken hopes, broken dreams. What else can you expect in Mamdani’s New York?

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RANTS & RAV

The *YU Absurder*: Not a STEM Newspaper

EDITORIALS

By One Shameful Editor-in-Chief

I think this may be my most honest and personal editorial yet. When I first accepted the role of editor-in-chief, I was

Somewhere along the way, my student newspaper became more like a peer-reviewed journal. So, I did what I had to do and swung the pendulum back.

The Business section? Gone.
Science & Technology? Sent swiftly back to the lab.
News? Restored to its rightful place at

72 hours, they had organized. Within a week, they had launched their own rival publication. Within two weeks, they had somehow filed copyright paperwork. And then came the email.

To whom it may concern,

We regret to inform you that we now own the copyrights to the “YU Observer.” If you continue to use the name illegally, we will take proper action.

Best,

Your former Science & Technology staff

I should have known. You don’t take away articles from people who voluntarily take organic chemistry.

While we toyed with the idea of many different name changes like “PRDAB’s Voice,” “The Real YU” and just simply “I am YU,” we settled on the “YU Absurder.”

Why, you might ask? Because if pre-med students want to Observe, they can go right ahead. We, on the other hand, will Absurd. We will tell the truth without regard for retaliation. We are student journalists and we will not back down from a little chaos.

You live.
You learn.
You rebrand.

Welcome to the *YU Absurder*.

“If pre-med students want to Observe, they can go right ahead. We, on the other hand, will Absurd.”

scared. I knew I would have to make decisions that not everyone would like. That is the nature of leadership, especially in student journalism. I decided to start bold. My first order of business was changing the name of the newspaper from *YU Observer* back to *YU Observer*. I also got rid of the news section once again and made opinions larger than it ever was.

I couldn’t imagine why that old editor-in-chief would ever do those things. Turns out, you live and you learn. The name “YU Observer” really didn’t take and people picketed at my door wanting the news section back. So, I knew I had to make some serious changes.

For years, we have had a Business and Science & Technology section. On paper, it made sense. We are a university filled with pre-med students, finance majors and future entrepreneurs. But over the past year, as I have watched what our writers gravitate toward and what our readers actually engage with, I have had to confront a difficult truth: the sections were not serving our campus in the way they should.

The Business and Science & Technology sections were just too popular! Articles about lab rats and Trump’s economy were coming out of our ears. Charts. Data. Citations. Graphs. I knew I had to do something. Opinions is supposed to be our biggest section! Those bio kids cannot take over. I mean this with love but if I open the homepage and see one more deep dive into mitochondrial behavior pushing down a perfectly good piece titled “Why the Caf Needs More Bugs,” I will lose it.

the top.

And while I was at it with those changes, I decided to make one more minor adjustment. We are no longer the *YU Observer*. Before anyone comes after me for making more reckless changes, I must tell you that this was not entirely my idea or choice for that matter.

When we quietly removed the Science & Technology section, I assumed there would be a few disappointed emails. However, I did not anticipate a full-scale pre-med uprising. Within

Pre-Engagement Support Group

For couples who “aren’t official yet” but already picked china.

Hosted by the Office of Non-Shidduch Dating



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2025-2026

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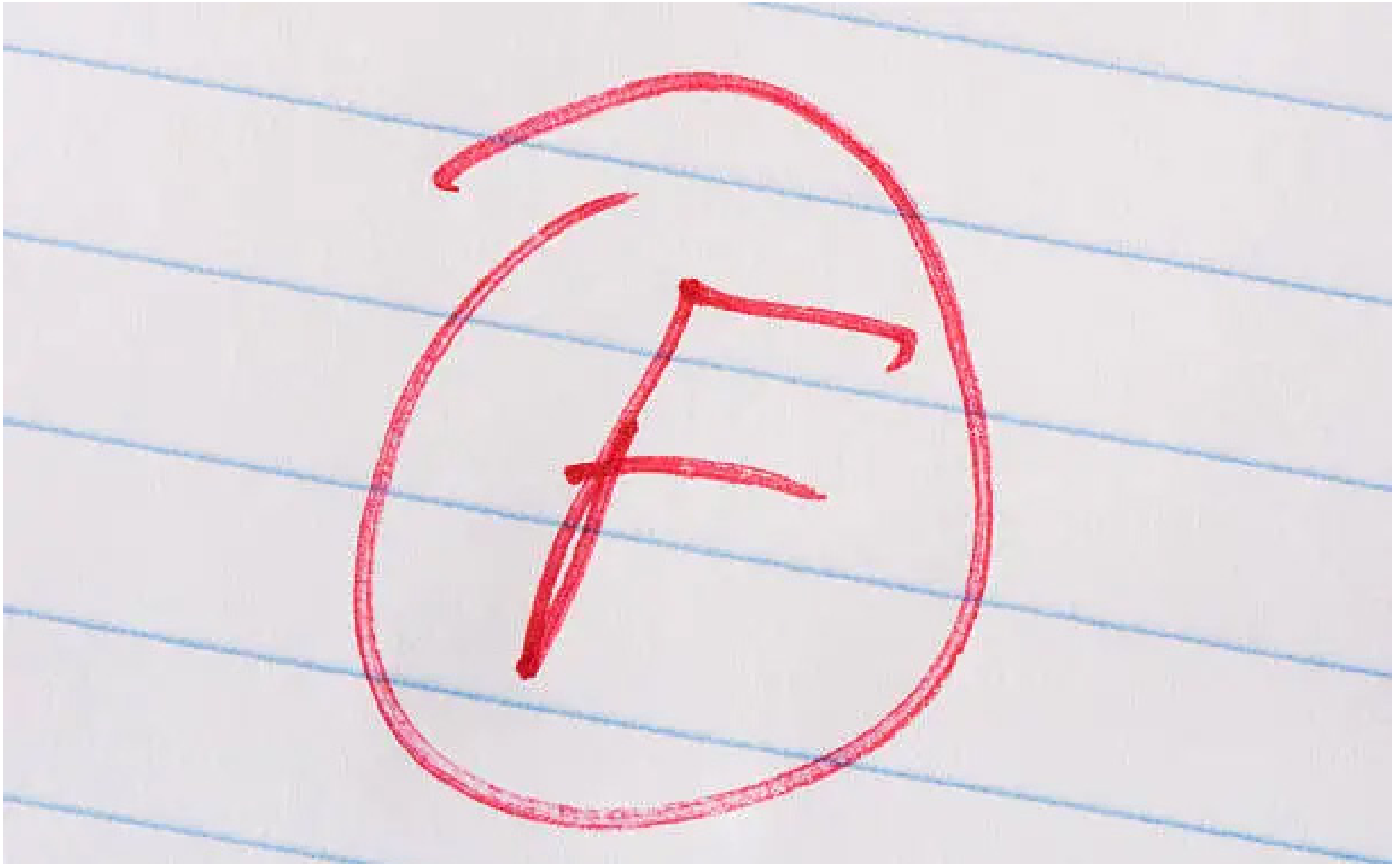
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Founded by the women of Yeshiva University’s Stern College in 1958, The YU Observer is the independent newspaper of Stern College for Women, Sy Syms School of Business, and Yeshiva University.

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Dean Cypess Announces Radical New Policy Requiring Students to Actually Learn Material

By Yenta Shmenta

In a shocking email announcement sent January 30 that has left students reeling, Vice Provost Rebecca Cypess revealed that beginning in Fall 2026, Yeshiva University will require students to earn a grade of C- or higher in prerequisite courses before advancing to the next level.

The controversial policy, which some are calling “outrageous” and “unreasonable,” stipulates that students must demonstrate a basic understanding of introductory material before proceeding to more advanced coursework.

“I’m honestly speechless,” junior Ariella Bernstein (SCW ‘27 before this policy, now likely SCW ‘34), who has maintained a solid D+ average throughout her academic career, told the *YU Absurder*. “What’s next? Are they going to expect us to actually attend classes?”

The policy has sparked widespread protest amongst students who argue that the traditional model — taking courses in sequence with zero regard for comprehension — has worked just fine since their grandparents attended YU.

“My grandmother never needed to understand Chemistry I to take Chemistry II and she turned out

fine,” explained sophomore Sarah Syms (SCW ‘29). “Well, she dropped out to get married, but still. This goes against everything YU stands for.”

The university administration, however, remains steadfast in their decision, claiming that students need “foundational knowledge

from?”

YU’s announcement noted that the policy has already been in effect at Sy Syms, where students have reported having to engage in dangerous practices such as “studying,” “receiving tutoring” and “understanding concepts.”

“Wait, students weren’t already required to pass prerequisites? That explains so much about the past few semesters.”

and skills” to succeed in advanced courses — a theory that has been met with much skepticism from the student body.

“They keep using phrases like ‘academic standards’ and ‘educational integrity,’” said Izzy Newstein (SCW ‘26), a senior majoring in biology on the pre-med track who has never passed Organic Chemistry (not even with the help of Nomi). “It’s like they’re speaking a different language. Where is this coming

“It’s been rough for me,” said one Syms student who spoke to the *YU Absurder* under the conditions of anonymity. “I’ve actually had to learn principles of accounting in order.”

A campus-wide petition has already garnered dozens of signatures, with students demanding a return to the old system where course registration was based solely on credit accumulation, wishful thinking and some good luck.

“This policy discriminates against students who prefer a ‘fake it till you make it’ approach to education,” argued Meira Kinghoff (SCW ‘28), who created the petition. “What about learning styles? What about diversity in academic performance? A C- in one person’s eyes might be an A in someone else’s.”

The university, in conjunction with the Counseling Center, has attempted to soften the blow by offering drop-in hours and student focus groups to discuss the issue.

Several professors expressed bewilderment at the student backlash, with one telling the *YU Absurder*, “Wait, students weren’t already required to pass prerequisites? That explains so much about the past few semesters.”

As of now, several students have filed complaints arguing that the policy violates one of the Five Core Torot, the right to remain blissfully unaware of prerequisite material. The university has not yet responded to the *YU Absurder*’s seven requests for comment, though sources report administrators were last seen in the Gottesman Board Room laughing quietly over lunch from Bravo’s.

Tuesday Night Live Learning Proven Unsustainable Without Cholent

By The Office of Legumes and Meat

Every week, Tuesday Night Live on the Yeshiva University’s Beren campus follows a reliable and sacred pattern: students learn Torah, discussions drift in and out of seriousness and somewhere in the room there is a lingering scent of yummy food — usually Rabbi Azi Fine’s legendary cholent.

This week, Rabbi Fine entered. The crockpot did not.

Within seconds of students entering the *beis*, they showed their disapproval with silent stares and audible sighs. Students were forced into a spiritual experiment: motivation without legumes. The results were continued blank stares at books without the sound of pages turning.

Phase One: Denial
Initial reactions were hopeful. Some students insisted the cholent “was warming up.” Others claimed

it was “probably still in the elevator.” Some students kept a positive attitude and assumed the cholent “was warming up.” Multiple volunteers offered to go look for it, checking every single classroom and even looking in supply closets “just in case the cholent was in there.”

Phase 2: Academic Consequences
Students attempted to continue learning, but soon a concerning symptom appeared: people rereading the same line repeatedly with tears rolling down their cheeks.

One student even walked out of the *beis* screaming, “I cannot do this! I cannot learn Tuesday nights without cholent!” Multiple girls had panic attacks, and some considered calling Hatzalah.

Phase 3: Addressing the Situation
Eventually, Rabbi Fine acknowledged what everyone already knew. He confirmed that he had not brought the cholent and offered no



Where is the cholent, Rabbi Fine?

further explanation. There were no apologies. No substitute kugel. Just a quiet nod and a return to learning.

“We always knew Tuesday Night Live was about learning Torah,” a student later told the *YU Absurder*. “We just didn’t realize how much it was also about beans.”

Another student said, “I think I need to reexamine my relationship with motivation.”

Looking Ahead
Rabbi Fine is expected to resume

normal operations next week. University officials declined to comment on whether written notice will be provided in advance of any future legume-related disruptions. Students say they will attend — but cautiously. Several reported plans to bring backup snacks “just in case.” For now, the folding table where the crockpot usually sits remains empty. Not forgotten. Not forgiven. Simply waiting. Whether this was a one-time lapse or the beginning of a new, beanless era remains to be seen.

President Trump Becomes Newest YU Provost, Joining List of 613 Distinguished Members

By The *Actual* Voice of the Students

In a surprise announcement Tuesday morning, Yeshiva University confirmed that President Donald Trump has been appointed the university’s newest provost, bringing the total number of current provosts to 613.



Provost Trump’s happy face for his new position

Provost Trump joins the likes of Dr. Erica Brown, Dr. Selma Botman and President Ari Berman (oh wait, he’s just everything else).

University officials clarified that the number was “not symbolic,” though they acknowledged it “worked out nicely.”

“We didn’t set out to reach 613,” one administrator told the *YU Absurder*. They requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the press and also because they were unclear what a provost does. “But once we hit 612, we realized we were close, and it felt irresponsible not to.”

The university confirmed that Provost Trump will oversee a wide range of academic areas. However, his largest initiative will be to “make YU great again,” a campaign reportedly focused on restoring the university to a time when students could register for classes without emotional damage.

According to a press release obtained by the *YU Absurder*, Provost Trump has already proposed several administrative reforms, including renaming office hours “winning sessions” and installing a campus-wide suggestion box that only accepts compliments.

While the *YU Absurder* reached out to Provost Trump for a comment, he declined, citing that he’s “too good for us” and is “very busy with very important provost things.”

However, a spokesperson for Provost Trump did answer our question about whether he would be continuing his duties as president

of the United States. “He’s not stepping down, only stepping up,” they said.

Sources confirmed that cabinet meetings will now be scheduled around his provost obligations.

In response to questions about potential conflicts of interest, the university emphasized that this is not the first time a YU administrator has held multiple titles simultaneously.

“At YU, leadership is additive,” the statement read. “We don’t replace roles. We accumulate them.”

Students across campus reacted with cautious optimism.

“I just need to know if this affects finals,” said one junior, refreshing her email for the fourth time in an hour.

“As long as tuition doesn’t go up to fund provost 614, I’m fine,” added another, before immediately checking their email and discovering three new emails from BillTalk.

In a follow up statement, YU announced it had appointed an additional interim associate vice provost to clarify that President Berman remains president, not provost — though officials emphasized that this “could change at any moment.”

Belfer Hall Officially Designated Highest Point in Manhattan

By William McGonagall

What has long been a well-kept secret within the Yeshiva University community was at last revealed to the world last week, when it was finally confirmed that without a doubt Belfer Hall is the highest point in Manhattan.

day, however, measurements taken by several engineering enthusiasts studying at YU proved otherwise.

“We conducted this project with the full intent of finding whichever results would be the most likely to lead to engineering becoming an actual major at YU,” said the student who was in charge of the project. “Our hope was that Belfer

“Although some critics point out that the nearby Radio Hotel very obviously towers over Belfer, the YU Absurder has confirmed that they are quite wrong...”

During orientation week, many new students on the Wilf campus were pleasantly surprised and impressed after being reliably informed by a YU tour guide that “some people say that Belfer Hall is the highest point in Manhattan.”

“I told my cousin about it, actually,” said one of the participants of the tour. “He was thinking about going to a secular college, but after sending him a picture of Belfer — it’s so tall! — he changed his mind, committed to Yeshiva University, and plans to major in Biology and get *semicha!*”

During the designation ceremony, President Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman addressed the massive crowd in attendance. “Wow, what an incredible

Hall becoming a local landmark will draw in the funding necessary to cultivate an engineering program perhaps in that very building. Fortunately, the results of the very careful and deliberate measurements taken perfectly matched the results which we had hoped for.”

Although some critics point out that the nearby Radio Hotel very obviously towers over Belfer, the *YU Absurder* has confirmed that they are quite wrong. If you stand right next to Belfer Hall and try to look all the way up at the top, you will have to lift your head up as high as it can go. When you try to look at the very top of the Radio Hotel, which is about a block away, you will find that your head hardly needs to move. Claiming

“Claiming that Belfer Hall is not the highest point in Manhattan, therefore, critics say, is a blatant contradiction of Emet, one of YU’s core Torah values, and probably spurred on by the antisemitism which has become all too common in Mamdani’s New York.”

thing this is to have right here at Yeshiva University,” he said. “It is only fitting that this honor should be received by a campus where the educational programs of today create the Jewish leaders of tomorrow.”

This undeniable fact was previously rejected out of hand by “experts,” who claimed that the bedrock of Washington Heights is only several hundred feet above sea level at its peak, while the Freedom Tower in Lower Manhattan is over fifteen hundred feet above that. Last Tues-

that Belfer Hall is not the highest point in Manhattan, therefore, critics say, is a blatant contradiction of *Emet*, one of YU’s core Torah values, and probably spurred on by the antisemitism which has become all too common in Mamdani’s New York.

Belfer Hall, long regarded as one of the finest buildings in New York ever built in the brutalist style, is not just a newly minted source of pride for Manhattan but also has been a comforting fixture of



Belfer Hall, the highest point in Manhattan

Yeshiva University

the city for many residents of the Bronx. “Everybody, especially out-of-towners, thinks that the Bronx is made up of nothing but crumbling brick apartment buildings built with no imagination whatsoever,” said one resident. “And they are absolutely right. But when we see that foreboding eyesore across the river, which is the highest point in Manhattan, we feel a little better about ourselves.”

The designation ceremony involved unveiling a plaque commemorating the occasion, along with adding large banners displaying all of the five core Torah values on the Am-

sterdam-facing side of the building to match the banners gracing Rubin. Yeshiva University’s ubiquitous cookie platters were in abundance, to the delight of all, and speakers besides President Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman included Vice Provost Dr. Erica Brown and Dr. Shaina Trape-do. After a heartwarming rendition of “I Am YU” where everyone sang in perfect harmony, the crowds dispersed, and Belfer Hall was left alone to gracefully tower over its surroundings, as it has done for decades and will do so for time immemorial.

Federal Charges Filed After YU Swimming Pool Uncovered as Money Laundering Front

By Supreme Court Justice Benjamin N. Cardozo

After a shocking raid on Yeshiva University’s Benjamin Gottesman Pool last month, federal prosecutors filed money laundering charges against Yeshiva University this morning, alleging that the pool was used as a front for illegal activity.

The pool, which has long been a source of suspicion for students for not having regular operating hours since long BPRDABE (Before the President Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman Era), has been officially shut down following the filing of charges. According to the indictment reviewed by the *YU Absurder*, prosecutors allege that the university was renting out the pool to the Katz swim team for practice, then using the funds earned to obscure the origin of money obtained by illegally selling merch for a sixth core Torah value via a black market network beneath 770.

“Yeshiva University maintains the highest professional standards in all of its business dealings, and we look forward to disproving these baseless claims in a court of law,” Yeshiva University said in a statement released this morning. “We live based on our core values, *emet*, *adam*, *chaim*, *chesed*, *tzion*, and... Oh, that’s it. Yep. Five Torot. Mmmhmm.”

In the month since the raid on the pool, the *YU Absurder* has sent Yeshiva University multiple requests for comment via email, voicemail and handwritten letter smuggled onto the 12:30 AM shuttle. The university has yet to respond.

“I didn’t even know we had a swimming pool,”
- Yonah Fischman
(YC ‘8th century BCE)

A source close to YU told the *YU Absurder* of frantic close-door meetings held on the extra floor between the second and third floors of 245 Lexington Avenue including deans, provosts, academic advisors, the Counseling Center, security guards and cafeteria staff. The source explained that security guards were tasked with securing the pool prem-

ises when pallets of cash arrived each night. The cafeteria staff, the source explained, were not supposed to know about the scheme but were inadvertently roped in after catering a Katz swim team practice and noticing the cash being smuggled in the back door. As for the Counseling Center’s role in the scheme, the source declined to elaborate. “There are some things

that it’s better you don’t know,” the source said. “I had no idea what was happening, I swear,” a member of the Katz swim team who asked to remain anonymous told the *YU Absurder*. When pressed about where they had gotten the unidentifiable YU merch they were wearing, the stu-

dent attempted to destroy the reporter’s recording device.

Students at Yeshiva University have reacted to the news with utter belief. “There is quite literally nothing I could have expected more,” Goldie Waterstein (SCW ‘30) told the *YU Absurder*. Waterstein showed the *YU Absurder* a list labeled “Top 100 Things Probably Happening at YU.” Entry number one reads, “The YU swimming pool is a money laundering front taking money from the Katz swim team to obscure the origins of profits made selling merch for a sixth core Torah value in a black market network beneath 770.”

The *YU Absurder* has learned the name of the sixth core Torah value but is withholding the information for fear that revealing it to the world would bring Moshiach before the paper gets to release their final edition of the year.

“I didn’t even know we had a swimming pool,” Yonah Fischman (YC ‘8th century BCE) told the *YU Absurder*. “But the fact that we did and only Katz was allowed to use it

makes sense.”

One Stern College student, who asked to remain anonymous for fear of retaliation from the Counseling Center (the student refused to elaborate on why the Counseling Center specifically would retaliate or what “retaliate” meant in this context), told the *YU Absurder* she witnessed unidentified individuals in matching “I am YU” t-shirts emptying the pool by hand late last night, scooping water out with YU-themed Stanley Cups. “I guess they thought if the pool was empty, they couldn’t be charged with a crime?” the student said. Asked what she was doing on the Wilf campus in the middle of the night, the student responded, “Do you want my information or not?”

The *YU Absurder* spoke to several swimming pool specialists, who all confirmed that there are easier ways to empty a pool.

Administrators for Yeshiva University are expected to make their first court appearance next month. If convicted, they face being forced to open the pool for all students several nights a week.



A random pool since we could not confirm that the Benjamin Gottesman Pool even exists anymore

President Berman Announces That Beren and Wilf Campuses to Be Integrated by Fall 2027

By Princess Consuela
Banana Hammock

Yeshiva University's reputation is as a school with two gender-segregated campuses separated from one another. Previous presidents and leaders structured the university this way as they wanted the students to maintain strict standards around *shomer negiah* and to not have the chance to even see a girl's face, as this could cause a lot of issues surrounding the Jewish reputation of the school. However, with coed events being in high demand, the school in a major announcement revealed that Wilf and Beren will finally collide, in other words become gelled together.

Starting in Fall 2027, all classes for undergraduate students will be taken on the Wilf campus in Washington Heights, as YU President Ari Berman explained that all academic buildings and dormitories on the Beren campus are being sold to a hedge fund company called Millennium. The school will use the funds made in the sale to buy out the rest of Washington Heights, as well as

the George Washington Bridge, which sources tell the *YU Absurder* will be used as a new gym.

Reactions among the student body were mixed, and the students who spoke to the *YU Absurder* felt differently depending on the yeshiva program they are enrolled in and their religious standing. Elchanan Zweig (SSSB '30), a student in MYP, was concerned about the impact of the merging of campuses. "This can cause a serious distraction for the guys in the Glueck Beis Medrash, as they want to be learning and focused on Torah, but they will be distracted by girls walking to the library, which is next to Glueck," he said. "Having class with girls will also make the MYP students and some of the BMP *chevra* very uncomfortable."

Meanwhile, JSS students as well as a few BMP students support YU's decision and have been advocating for such a change for a long time. "Most of my life I've only been in class with guys, and I've always thought that I would never end up in school with a girl. Finally I'll



be able to talk to girls because I have actual questions to ask," JSS student Alberto Pinto (SSSB '29) told the *YU Absurder*. "This is an incredible decision, and it will increase enrollment at YU, since most people who won't apply complain about YU being strict on not providing coed classes and even certain coed events."

Students brought up a number of questions, which the *YU Absurder* has asked YU in its numerous requests for comment: Should we

be worried about male students sneaking into the women's dormitories? Will this solve the *shidduch* crisis?

One student was particularly optimistic about the possibilities with the merged campuses. "We are on the verge of having a new generation of scholars and highly educated students coming to YU, making it finally considered one of the Ivy Leagues," he said. "Who knew all it would take was to combine the girls and boys."



The shuttle was last spotted going on a road trip by itself to avoid awkward shidduch interactions

After Intercampus Shuttle Services Suspended, *YU Absurder* Study Finds Shidduch Rates Declining

By A Fly on the Wall in
the Brookdale Lounge

An email sent out by Yeshiva University to students, faculty and those who *definitely didn't graduate 12 years ago* states that all intercampus shuttle services will be temporarily suspended. The email specified that this includes the *sheitel* shuttle, the 12:30 and 1:00 AM party buses and of course, the regular *shidduch* shuttles.

Students across both campuses responded with outrage, with about 300 Beren students affected by the shutdown along with the five Wilf students who take the 6:45 PM shuttle daily. Beren students continue to line up on 34th Street every day at 5:45 PM in protest.

To confirm the hypothesis of declining *shidduch* rates as a result of the suspension, the *YU Absurder*

sent out a survey that was totally anonymous. Unfortunately, we couldn't get any YP guys to open the email, but from the 37 responses we did get, we found *shidduchim* dropping at dangerous levels. In the past month since the shuttle stopped running, there have been 23% fewer "Mazel tov" texts sent to WhatsApp chats. "I keep hopelessly refreshing the Only Simchas Instagram page but nothing ever comes up, and the shuttle is to

blame for that," Shayna Shoshana Shira Schwartz (SCW '26) told the *YU Absurder*.

Students and faculty alike shared their concern for lack of *shidduch* opportunities. A faculty member who wishes to keep his job and remain anonymous shared that he is

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not only concerned for his students, but also for the future of Yeshiva University. “I worry that parents won’t want to send their children here if they can’t guarantee they will graduate married,” he told the *YU Absurder*. Fruma Sara Cohen (SCW ‘27) said, “The dating panel prepared me to finally step foot on the big yellow school bus, but now I am scared I will never find my *bashert*.” Many students feel that their dating pool is significantly smaller now. “I may just have to resort to talking to Minyan Men, if that’s my only option,” Cohen told the *YU Absurder*.

Other students are desperate willing to travel to the other campus despite the shuttle shutdown. One

student described how she is turning the subway into her new home. “I bring a friend with me every time we go to the Heights so we can drip water on each other during the sub-

time on each floor of the library, but I just know that my husband is on the 4th floor, studying hard,” Schoolbusser told the *YU Absurder*.

“I may just have to resort to talking to Minyan Men, if that’s my only option.”
- Fruma Sara Cohen (SCW ‘27)

way ride to remind us of the leaky shuttle air conditioner,” Chaya Schoolbusser (SCW ‘26) told the *YU Absurder*. Schoolbusser shared that she and her friend spend hours each night rotating between the library and Burgers & Grill hoping to meet someone. “We tried spending

Wilf students are now left with even fewer opportunities to meet Beren students. While the Brookdale lounge is a popular space for coed hangouts, many would prefer to not spend time watching other couples with way too much PDA. A student who wishes to remain

anonymous shared that he now attends Crochet Club events since that is his only opportunity to meet girls. “I spent hours watching crochet youtube videos to impress them, but it turns out most of them don’t know the difference between a half double crochet stitch and a slip knot!” he shared in frustration.

While we still don’t know if the shuttle is suspended indefinitely, or if it is just filling up on gas in New Jersey, we hope it will be back soon enough. In the meantime, the Counseling Center shared that they are there if anyone needs to process their feelings about the situation.

President Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman to Star as Lead in SCDS Play

By An Anonymous Member of the PRDAB Appreciation Club

For years, the Stern College Dramatics Society (SCDS) has remained a Beren campus club, casting only women in their plays. But this year, they couldn’t turn down an opportunity when a male superstar showed up to auditions.

“When I saw someone write PRDAB on the audition sign-up form, I just thought it was a prank,” SCDS president Dramala Harris (SCW ‘26) told the *YU Absurder*. But despite the skepticism, Rabbi Berman actually did show up to Koch on that late Thursday night, dancing shoes on. He auditioned for the role

could take him,” Harris told the *YU Absurder*.

The *YU Absurder* has learned that after their collaboration on the highly revered music video, Simcha Leiner will be playing Elphaba opposite Berman’s Glinda. Leiner shared with the *YU Absurder*, “Even though I never went to YU, I am so glad I will be able to *act* as if I do go to this institution because then I really *am* YU.”

Rabbi Berman shared that since YU is the flagship Jewish college, he felt it was his role to be the beacon of light amongst other colleges. “Through SCDS, I can bring a new light to YU, the spotlight,” Rabbi



Rabbi Berman in 2017, envisioning his SCDS debut 9 years later

Yeshiva University

“Through SCDS, I can bring a new light to YU, the spotlight.”
- President Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman

of Elphaba in *Wicked*, but the directors thought he’d be an even better Glinda.

“Up until this summer, I didn’t realize PRDAB was an actor, but after his debut in the ‘I Am Not Really Yeshiva University’ music video with Simcha Leiner, I was excited to see where else his acting skills

Berman told the *YU Absurder*. “As Glinda always says, ‘Did they have brains or knowledge? Don’t make me laugh! They were popular!’”

Sources have also shared with the *YU Absurder* that *Wicked*’s animal roles will be played by the rats that live in the trash piles outside the Schottenstein Theater. Anybody

concerned about safety should know that *most* of the humans in the play are up to date on their rabies shots.

Despite Rabbi Berman’s busy schedule, he has been managing to make it to almost every rehearsal, something that not every student cast member can say they have done. Rabbi Berman has even stayed late to assist the crew, helping with sewing, set painting and lighting design. “I knew PRDAB was a natural actor, with all the improv his job involves, but I was shocked at how well he knew how to use the lighting and sound

systems,” an actor who asked to remain anonymous for fear that Rabbi Berman would steal her role too said.

Occasionally, Rabbi Berman is accompanied by a camera crew, but he promised that everything is just for his Instagram and nobody’s picture will end up plastered all over the Glueck elevators without permission.

SCDS will perform *Wicked* on Sunday, April 12. Despite it being a post-Pesach travel day, it is mandatory for all undergraduate students to attend.

YU to Ban Out-of-Towners From Dorms With Kitchens to Increase Caf Spending, Leaked Meeting Minutes Reveals

By Mamdani’s
Rent-Freezing Guy

The *YU Absurder* has obtained the minutes from a meeting including senior Yeshiva University officials in which the decision was made to ban those living outside of the tri-state area (“out-of-towners”) from all dorms with kitchens. The goal of the meeting was to increase YU’s revenue for the next fiscal year, and banning out-of-towners from apartment-style dorms will aim to increase cafeteria spending.

by YU in this article for fear of retaliation in the form of the editorial staff being assigned dorms with windows facing brick walls next year.

The administrator suggested banning out-of-towners from dorms with kitchens, with the logic being that these students would select the most expensive meal plans as a result. An economics professor then suggested raising the prices of all meal plans and raising the costs of all food in the cafeterias. “Oh, we were already going to do that any-

“I know we just reached our \$613 million fundraising goal, but that’s, like, no money. How are we supposed to take the same ten students to Dubai and Tokyo next year with those kinds of numbers?”
- a senior administrator

The meeting was attended by YU administrators, deans, provosts, the Office of Residence Life, the Department of Dining Services, professors, security guards, academic advisors, the Counseling Center, maintenance staff and the guy whose job it is to tell students that the email pretending to be giving away President Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman’s great-grandfather’s grand piano and a MacBook Pro is actually a phishing scam. The idea of banning out-of-towners from dorms with kitchens was brought up at the beginning of the meeting and remained the topic of debate and conversation for nearly two minutes before being unanimously approved.

“I know we just reached our \$613 million fundraising goal, but that’s, like, no money,” a senior administrator said at the beginning of the meeting. “How are we supposed to take the same ten students to Dubai and Tokyo next year with those kinds of numbers?”

The *YU Absurder* has chosen not to name specific individuals employed

way,” an administrator responded. Throughout the meeting, these proposals received no pushback. “Why didn’t we think of this before?” one dean said. “There’s absolutely no downsides, it’s incredible.”

The *YU Absurder* reached out to everyone who was at the meeting to request comment, including the individual quoted above. The *YU Absurder* asked this individual if increasing costs for students and making it more financially difficult for people to attend YU was not a “downside.” The email was responded to with an automated reply, stating that the individual was “out of the office until March 3,” conveniently the day after the *YU Absurder* was to publish this edition. The email directed anyone needing to speak to the individual to click the link to schedule an appointment. The link led to the “I Am YU” music video.

Other suggestions made at the meeting to increase revenue included forcing YU students to donate



their *maaser* money to the university and to replacing ID scanners with coin slots, whereby students would have to pay to unlock all doors. Also discussed were plans for YU to fund the filming of the “I Am YU” music video in several additional languages and to rent out an NBA arena for the Macs’ championship game. These expenses were deemed “critical” by several individuals at the meeting. When members of the maintenance staff suggested also upgrading old infrastructure like bathrooms, they were shut down.

Since learning of this meeting, the *YU Absurder* has spoken to dozens of out-of-town students for their reactions. All asked to remain anon-

ymous. Most were not surprised by the decision. “I’m honestly shocked it took them so long to think of something like this,” one student said. “I always knew something like this was coming,” said another. “I’ve been stockpiling food for months now.”

Several out-of-towners told the *YU Absurder* they plan to file a civil rights lawsuit against the university for “persistent, distressing discrimination against a group of students for the immutable characteristic of not residing in the Five Towns or Teaneck.” They seek the total of YU’s revenue over the last decade in damages.

A Day in the Life of a Beren Campus Security Guard

OPINIONS

By Jonathan (Definitely Working)
McPowerNap

8 AM: My Monday morning shift starts. Just 13 hours to go.

I roll out of bed (sorry, couch) in the third floor lounge, ready to start my day. My wife keeps demanding we get a house, but this is free. I've been living in 245 Lexington for about three years now so I know all the scoop. Like who just broke up with who, which professor's about to get fired and the date debrief a student is having over the phone with her mother in the corner of the lobby. We hear everything, you know.

9 AM: Today is my favorite. Roosh Hodash or whatever they call it. You know, the new month. All I know is that's the day I don't have to order breakfast from Utopia Bagels down the block. I plop myself down behind the security desk, and the morning rush comes in to scan their IDs. One by one I yell at them to rescan them. It's so exhilarating! They're all so busy rushing to the free cold brew and those muffins that they ignore every word I say.

10 AM: More girls rush in. It's all a blur to me. I don't know any of their names or faces except for my girl Chloe Baker. She's so sweet, always stopping to chat with me for an hour

before her classes.

11 AM: I yell at a group of girls blocking the doorway with their suitcases. Why are they shrieking so much? Didn't they just see each other last Thursday?

12 PM: Now things start to quiet down. I pop in my AirPods and listen to a podcast for the next hour.

1 PM: Oh shoot, my AirPods died! Time to unplug and blast my YouTube shorts across the lobby.

2 PM: Now that lunch is over, the girls are back in action. The lobby is crowded again and I quietly laugh at the girls waiting for the packed elevator. They've only been waiting for 15 minutes. Seems like things are moving pretty quick today.

3 PM: I reminisce about my most recent Friday shift in 36th. The girls there are especially frustrating. Every Friday night, I wake up from my power nap to pounding on the door. I pretend not to hear them. I know it's freezing outside, especially on these cold winter nights, but they can handle it for 10 more minutes while I finish my YouTube video. For some reason, when they finally get inside, they look upset. That's weird.



What I'd look like if I fulfilled my mom's dream of me becoming a real police officer

4 PM: A girl asks me to make a guest pass for her friend. The nerve. Doesn't she know how many buttons I have to press?

5 PM: What's with all these Rabbis coming in every hour of the night? Finally some men on campus!

6 PM: Time to switch to my shuttle shift. After sitting in the warm car for about five minutes, I decide to go on an extravaganza. I don't want to risk being called back in so I travel as far as possible. Maybe I'll even make it to Wilf and get a burger.

8 PM: I get a call from 245. Turns out they've been trying to reach me for the past two hours! A student is requesting the local from 245 to Brookdale. I laugh at my coworker until I realize she's serious. *Deep breaths, Jonathan, it's not like they asked for a package.*

9 PM: Finally, a break. You don't need to know what happens then.

1 AM: I return to 245, excited to kick the girls out and lock up the building. They study too hard and I want my bedroom back. Good night!

Top 5 Locations for a Minyan Man's Uplifting Shabbos Experience

By A Fly on the Wall in
the Brookdale Lounge

Ping.

Another notification from Rabbi Tropp. Doesn't he realize I don't even want to be a Minyan Man?

There are obviously many perks to Shabbos on Beren, like the catered food (that I could just get on Wilf), the free hotel (that's not as nice as the dorms) or the girls who usually don't seem interested in talking to me. So if you're stuck being Minyan Man #10, here are the top five places I recommend checking out to maximize your Shabbos experience (definitely not based on personal experience):

1. Chilling in the Brookdale front lounge after the Friday night meal is the perfect way to pick up a new

girlfriend or hang out with the one you already have. Between the Stern girls, the random Bowery guys who don't even go to YU and my fellow Minyan Men, your chances of finding someone who's interested in you are quite high.

2. After meeting your new girlfriend in the Brookdale front lounge, and receiving dirty looks from several of those Bais Yaakov-type girls, you may be emotionally drained and just want to hang out with your girlfriend in private. With only a short 10-minute walk to Schottenstein and an extra-friendly security guard at the front desk, you may just be lucky enough to sneak up to your girlfriend's dorm room. What could set the mood better than her guardian stuffed animals watching over you?

3. Well, maybe the security guard wasn't so friendly after all. After



How confused I am when I do all of these things and the girls still don't want me

you inevitably get caught, you decide you need to do some teshuvah so off to the *beis* you go. Turns out no one's there except that one guy who'd rather spend his Shabbos learning than finding his *bashert*. Really a missed opportunity if you ask me.

4. After a long five minutes of reflection, you feel like you have really learned from your mistakes and are a changed person com-

MINYAN MAN
FROM 10

mitted to Hashem’s ways. Oh no! Look at the time! You’re 30 minutes late for shacharis! It’s the perfect opportunity to make your grand entrance and show the girls just how laid back and easy going their future husband will be. For some reason, they all look kind of frustrated when you walk in, including the nine other men waiting for you. What’s with that? Good thing your girlfriend is a J.F.K. (Just For Kiddush) type of girl.

5. After shul, you’re starving! Good thing there’s a delicious gourmet *kiddush*, imported all the way from Trader Joe’s. It gives you just

enough energy to learn some Torah. Oh, what’s that you hear? Minyan Men can’t come to the *shiur*? I guess you’ll just have to hang out

never met this guy before so it’s a really awkward meal and the only points of relief are when the waitresses decide to bring you your

if you can join in on a board game with the girls. Seeing that they are all occupied, you resign back to the reference lounge with only a good book to accompany you until *Mincha*. *Shalishudis* and *Maariv* pass by quickly. Right after *Havdalah*, you run into your new friend from lunch. What’s his name again?

Shabbos is finally over. Too bad the intercampus shuttle doesn’t run on *motzei* Shabbos. To the subway you go!

That’s basically it. So, if you’re ever called on by Rabbi Tropp to be a Minyan Man and you feel like it might not be your scene, I say think again. You never know what could happen.

“With only a short 10-minute walk to Schottenstein and an extra-friendly security guard at the front desk, you may just be lucky enough to sneak up to your girlfriend’s dorm room.”

with the guys for the next hour. You head down to the reference lounge but there’s only one other guy there: the guy from the *beis*. Turns out everyone else decided to ditch you for Chabad of Bowery. You’ve food. The meal is accompanied by the other guy’s high-pitched voice singing *zemiros*. The meal ends and you go your separate ways, him back to the *beis* and you to Koch Auditorium to see

Dear Future Husband

By Your Local Aspiring
Teaneck Mom

Dear Future Husband,

I hope this letter finds you well, wherever you are. Perhaps you are in the *beit midrash*, possibly in Israel, or maybe you are already seated at the table in Teaneck I have mentally assigned to us. We haven’t met yet, but I feel comfortable saying that a significant portion of my Yeshiva University experience has been spent preparing for you — sometimes intentionally, sometimes by default. While others claim that college is about academic growth, professional development or self-discovery, I understood early on that it was also a highly strategic environment. Four years surrounded by hundreds of eligible *bochurim*? That’s not just higher education — that’s *hishtadlut*.

“Four years surrounded by hundreds of eligible bochurim? That’s not just higher education — that’s hishtadlut.”

You should know that I am a busy-body, but I have chosen to channel that trait productively. I joined clubs. I attended events. I volunteered. I showed up to things I did not understand and stayed for things I did not enjoy — all in the noble pursuit of potentially locking eyes with you across the *mechitza*.

Take, for example, the YU Seforim Sale. While others were carefully selecting their Rambams and debating which Artscroll had the best price, I was scanning the room. Not

for a sefer, but for you. What better setting to meet my bashert than in a sea of bochurim, when I just so happen to need assistance reaching a sefer from the top shelf? Ideally, you would effortlessly grab it, quote something mildly impressive and then humbly insist it was nothing. We would laugh. Our children would one day hear this story every Purim.

When I first came to YU, I had heard legends of the ultimate meeting ground: the Shidduch Shuttle. A sacred vehicle. A rolling opportunity. But I decided to take matters into my own hands. I moved to the Heights. That’s right. I relocated myself into your natural habitat. If proximity breeds familiarity, then consider this my long-term investment strategy.

I did my due diligence. I made sure

to live within prime “accidental run-in” territory. I assumed that at some point, we would casually bump into each other while both pretending we weren’t hoping to bump into each other. The apartment is ready, by the way. Three semesters left on the lease. Just saying.

Of course, I recognize that you may be taking your time. Perhaps you are busy becoming a *talmid chacham*. Perhaps you are building your resume. Perhaps you are still figuring out how to separate your whites from your colors in the laun-



Us in the future

dry. Growth is a process. I respect that.

Still, I would like to gently remind you that I am 22 and growing older every day. By entirely reasonable and completely calm communal standards, this means I have approximately two years before concerned acquaintances begin tilting their heads sympathetically and using phrases like “Don’t worry, it will happen.” The clock is ticking. Not biologically. Socially.

If none of my strategic efforts prove successful, I may be forced to pivot. I will relocate to Teaneck alone. I will adopt several cats. I will develop strong opinions about supermarket layouts. I will become the mysterious woman who says, “I was once in the Heights,

you know” to unsuspecting seminary girls. It won’t be pretty. For either of us.

But I remain hopeful.

Somewhere out there, you are learning, growing and hopefully preparing yourself for a life of shared Google Calendars, cholent preferences and passionate debates about where to send our hypothetical children to school. Until then, I will continue attending events, frequenting the Seforim Sale and strategically existing in your general vicinity.

Whenever you are ready, I will be here. Probably at a YU event.

With love and anticipation,
Your Future Wife



YU students admiring the pledge

Yeshiva University

The Pledge: A Solution to Campus Disunity

FEATURES

By Ahavat Chinam

The problem of disunity has been a matter of growing concern for many at Yeshiva University. “Sometimes it just feels like we’re two totally separate schools, instead of two campuses of one university,” one student told the *YU Absurder*. “And with all these different programs — I just want to feel like I’m part of a cohesive community.” When the problem of intercampus unity was raised at a recent administrative meeting, one notable member of the administration proposed an innovative solution: The Pledge.

Drilled throughout orientation, recited at the beginning of every class period and conducted at the start of every schoolwide event, the pledge (or Benediction) would be a consistent reminder of our unity here at Yeshiva University. To ensure maximum effectiveness, seamless delivery of the pledge by heart would be a graduation requirement. The proposed draft reads:

“I pledge allegiance to PRDAB, and the United Torot of Yeshiva. And to the Core Values for which it stands,

one University, under God, with Truth, Life, Redemption, Compassion, and Infinite Human Worth for All.”

Predictably, different voices within YU sought to make their own adjustments to the wording. The Masmidim Program requested

and Values” (but scrapped it because it wasn’t long enough). When a survey was sent out to the student body for symbolic input, suggestions for the opening abounded, including but not limited to “I pledge allegiance to”: the YU Macs, Rabbi Rofeh, Dean Schechter, Professor Russel, and Dean Cypess’ harpsi-

were no strong calls for, “With Torah U’Madda for all.” Other suggestions included “with working elevators and better Caf prices for all” and “with more exclusive programs and obstructions for establishing clubs for all.” The Straus Center offered “with Torah and Western Thought for all,” then rescinded the statement to instead ask why YU never instituted the regular pledge of allegiance.

In addition to the matter of wording, there is also some debate over whether during its recitation all assembled students and faculty should stand with a hand placed over their hearts, or, more Jewishly, over their eyes. (The latter version would, of course, include the whispered addendum, “May we be deeply rooted and forward focused for ever and ever.”)

The ultimate form of the Yeshiva University pledge aside, all parties were in agreement that it would absolutely require a high-budget music video starring Simcha Leiner — or the entire effort would be in vain. Without a doubt, the pledge will reflect our deep unity of purpose here at Yeshiva University.

“I pledge allegiance to PRDAB, and the United Torot of Yeshiva. And to the Core Values for which it stands, one University, under God, with Truth, Life, Redemption, Compassion, and Infinite Human Worth for All.”

that the name at the beginning of the pledge be changed to “Rav Schachter.” The Sacks-Herenstein Center advocated for a broader approach: “I pledge allegiance to the Sacks-Herenstein-Lieberman-Mitzner-Schachter-Berman-Straus-Beren-Wilf-Syms Center for Jewish Futures

chord. GPATS urged that “One University” be changed to “One Yeshiva,” and Revel Graduate School for Jewish Studies advised that “in dialectical partnership with God” might be more appropriate than “under God.” Oddly enough, there



Project Yamim Student Surveys Leaked to *YU Absurder*

Yamim Al-Yime'i

Epstein's aren't the only files dropping this month.

After Project Yamim, Yeshiva University's newest "undergraduate-wide strategic planning process," was announced by the YU administration only a few days before the start of classes this past fall, a flurry of confusing emails and leaks followed. This has led to shock and frustration as the entire student body learned of the changes that were being announced. But amidst all the noise surrounding the cancellation of clubs and Torah oversight of student programming, there was one issue that was weighing on everyone's minds the most: What happened to the Project Yamim surveys?

The surveys were promised in the first set of emails, which were sent out way back in the beginning of the year. Recently, at the start of spring semester, Project Yamim has lifted its head above the water for the first time in months to ask for volunteers for these surveys. But other than that, students have been left in the dark as to the nature of the surveys and their results.

"It's really frustrating. It's been months already, yet everything with these surveys is still so vague and unknown," said the former head of the Harlem River Diving Club, who is still awaiting his club's reorganization. "Are they going to make us wait forever until they finally figure out the situation with these surveys?"

"I think they're not releasing them because they don't want us to know what they've found," another student said. "We have a right to know. What do they have to hide?"

Thankfully, these surveys will be a mystery no longer. The recent blizzards provided the perfect cover for an elite team to sneak into the PRD-AB executive suite and nick the documents.

"It wasn't that complicated, really," one of the heroic thieves, who preferred to remain anonymous, told the *YU Absurder*. "All we had to do was tell the 'DAB that the scaffolding around Furst was rattling, and he was flying down there in seconds."

The *YU Absurder* received mountains of files, audio recordings and video tapes of the survey proceedings. Survey volunteers were led into YU's new M. Night Schottenstein Center for Interrogation Scholars, located right behind the doors to the Rubin pool, which the administration still officially maintains is "under construction." Seated behind long tables in gray, concrete rooms, students were alternately entreated and intimidated until they finally spilled what they really thought about ole Yums.

"I like the Shabbos programming, I swear!" a quivering student is seen



saying in one of the tapes.

"Do you think I was born yesterday, Lawrence boy?" PRDAB is seen yelling back, slamming the table as he speaks.

"They could use... more... soup on Friday nights," the boy said before collapsing from exhaustion.

students considered YU's primary *rosh yeshiva*. "Judah," every computer science major responded, without a moment's hesitation.

But perhaps the surveys' greatest insights came from their investigation into student perspectives on Project Yamin itself. Some of the most divergent results of the entire survey were yielded from a simple

years," another student answered.

With all these student insights, the only mystery that remains is what changes the administration will introduce based on these surveys. Certainly, students had a lot to say on changes they'd like to see.

"This winter was far, far too cold," one student said. "It's truly unacceptable. Next year, I hope PRD-AB uses those Mossad connections from his Israel days to get the temperature up in New York for the winter."

"What's the deal with half chickens in the caf all the time?" another student complained. "It's really not fair that you have to order two dinners just to get a whole one. And most of the time the two halves don't even match."

"A little more variety at the Seforim Sale would be nice," a student said. "It's good, but right now it leans a little too Yeshivish for a lot of people. If they could have some more modern options, maybe, it would make things a lot more appealing."

The surveys demonstrate an astounding variety of student opinions. Across the entire survey, there was only one single question which received an overwhelming majority response in a single direction: When asked if they'd ever heard of Project Yamim before, 93% of students responded "no" without hesitation.

“It’s really frustrating. It’s been months already, yet everything with these surveys is still so vague and unknown.”
- former head of the Harlem River Diving Club

Overall, the surveys provided an essential glimpse into the way YU students view the university. One student, for example, was asked what YU's greatest value is. "I guess it would have to be close to 1.2, maybe 1.3 billion," the student responded. "They just raised 613 million, so I figure they've got to be at least double that total, right?"

A common question was who the

question: "What is Project Yamim?"

"It's YU's contingency plan," one student responded. "There's rumors Mamdani might evict YU from the Heights. They'll need somewhere to go if that happens."

"PRDAB just needs another leadership title on his resume for his next benediction application in a couple



Mayor Mamdani Joins President Berman for Latest of “Great Conversations,” Successfully Achieves “Conversation” Without “Great”

By Jew for Socialism

Yeshiva University welcomed New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani this week for the latest installment of President Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman’s Great Conversations series, in what administrators described as “an evening of dialogue” and students described as “an evening.”

Seats began to fill an hour before the event, but multiple students told the *YU Absurder* that they arrived early only to ensure a seat that allowed for a quick escape if need be.

President Berman opened up the event by reminding students of the importance of the Great Conversations series. “Universities exist to expose students to ideas,” he said. “Sometimes even ones they did not

hosting him and said he appreciated the opportunity to speak with students. “I know we come from different communities, but conversation matters,” he said. President Berman asked the mayor about public life, disagreement and how people talk to each other in spite of their differences. The *YU Absurder* noted that the word “dialogue” appeared approximately twice per sentence.

During the Q&A, one student asked how communities can remain confident in their beliefs while respectfully engaging with people who challenge them. “You do not lose who you are by speaking to someone who disagrees with you,” Mamdani replied. “You just learn about what they think.” President Berman nodded. “Listening, but not agreeing,” he said.

surder on the condition of anonymity, citing fear of ostracization for them feel personally unsafe?” The

“I just didn’t realize this dialogue would cause my heart rate to reach a dangerously high level.”

expressing anti-Mamdani views at YU. “I didn’t agree with him,” one student said. “But I appreciate how calm everyone stayed. At no point did anyone even sigh loudly.”

Another student said they felt the urge to leave in the middle but couldn’t, as they were stuck in the middle of a row. “I agree with starting dialogue about important issues,” the student said. “I just didn’t realize this dialogue would cause my heart rate to reach a dangerously high level.”

Several students noted that topics such as Israel and socialism hovered quietly over the conversation, never fully addressed but very much present in the room.

One student asked Mamdani, “How do you respond to people who

room went silent and before Mamdani could respond, Rabbi Berman quickly took over. “We are here to listen,” he said.

Another student asked, “Is there a point when dialogue stops being productive and becomes harmful?” Both speakers paused in what was the loudest silent moment of the night.

The event concluded with quiet applause while students looked around the room in confusion. A few attempted to stop clapping at first but then resumed due to anxiety.

“The event that did not change my political perspective,” one student summarized the night to the *YU Absurder*. “But it helped me understand the full emotional range of silent nod.”

“I appreciate how calm everyone stayed. At no point did anyone even sigh loudly.”

specifically request.”

Mamdani thanked the university for

Students had mixed reactions to the event. Several spoke to the *YU Ab-*

Duolingo Unveils “Yeshiva University Language”

ARTS & CULTURE

By The Computer Science Club

Duolingo has proven to be a popular pastime for Yeshiva University students looking to get a *real* Hebrew education. As a result, the company has taken note of the potential to make even more money off of the YU community and announced a new language lesson pack coming this March: Yeshiva University language. Through this highly-requested addition, finally FTOCs will know what acronyms like FTOC and PRDAB stand for

including “food,” with terms like “Flex dollars and “caf daddy,” and “things you might find in your food,” with terms like “bug,” “mold,” “piece of rubber glove” and “metal.”

Duolingo will help you master all of these terms and teach you how to use them in your daily interactions. To complete any unit, users will have to recite the five core Torah values while standing on their heads.

Students reacted to the announcement with excitement. “When I first got here, I was asked if I was an FTOC, and my first thought was,



“If I’m being honest, until yesterday I thought PRDAB was just another way of saying G-d,” a student who was too embarrassed to share their name told the *YU Absurder*. “So this feels like a *halachically* necessary move by Duolingo.”

YU said in a statement that they are enthusiastic about the attention Duolingo’s decision will bring. “Imagine how many more people will learn about Torah U’Madda,” the statement said.

The Duolingo curriculum will also feature YU-language speeches and stories for users to listen to. They are set to include

John Fetterman’s commencement address, President Berman’s benediction and read-outs of famous YU emails, such as the “if you fly home for Rosh Hashanah you have to fly back for three days of school before Yom Kippur” email and the “lol actually you guys complained which we didn’t anticipate so we’re changing our minds” follow-up email.

The *YU Absurder* was privy to reports from the initial beta testing stage of the curriculum. Students said the app was experiencing technical difficulties, and the only solution was to get on the phone with the YU IT department, an endeavor that took an hour and a half at minimum.

“If I’m being honest, until yesterday I thought PRDAB was just another way of saying G-d. So this feels like a halachically necessary move by Duolingo.”

without having to ask scary upperclassmen. No longer will you be confused when people ask for a class’ “*mesorah*” or when someone calls YU the “Flagship Jewish University.”

The Duolingo YU language curriculum will explore multiple units,

Does YU have its own exclusive insults?” Lily Shapiro (SCW ‘29) told the *YU Absurder*. “Having something like Duolingo specifically catered to the vernacular of YU would have saved me a lot of embarrassment.” According to a report, terms like FTOC are set to be flagged by Duolingo as derogatory.

Brookdale Paint: The Hottest New Trend

By Just Your Average Art Major

So you have found yourself on the infamous Brookdale stairs that twist their way through the historical building. Maybe the elevator is broken, maybe it was just too full, maybe both elevators are all the way on the 20th floor and the wait for one to get to the first floor is just too long. Whatever your reason for embarking on this long and arduous quest, I wish you the best of luck.

There is, however, one solution — something to entertain yourself with, a distraction from the aching in your bones. What may this distraction be? I direct your attention to the many “wet paint” signs scattered throughout the stairwells.

Not only is finding these signs themselves a mini game of “I Spy,” but once you see them, you can engage in a new form of entertainment: watching wet paint

dry! While this has not yet taken off in the mainstream entertainment world, the industry is bound to pick up on the genre. As you round the corners of the hallowed stairwells of Brookdale, you will be able to enjoy the sharp aroma of fresh paint as you watch the miniscule drops of paint slowly solidify.

“This new form of entertainment has just proven to be so riveting one forgets what they came to do,” a member of the Brookdale maintenance team told the *YU Absurder*. “Yes, I came to fix an urgent plumbing problem, but the drying paint is a siren song I cannot resist.”

Another fun game one can play as they ascend: “Is the paint actually wet?” While the signs are all around the building, many have reported that the paint is long dry. To solve that I propose this solution: just repaint the walls again and entertainment will once be provided once more!



Many students have already gotten in on the fun. “When the elevators break down, which is almost never, looking at the paint on the wall just fills me with such peace and tranquility inside a building that’s always busy,” Fiona Swamp (SCW ‘29) told the *YU Absurder*. “It really allows me to take a moment of peace and quiet before I have to wonder why someone is tap

dancing on the 17th floor at 1:30 in the morning.”

Other enjoyable activities in Brookdale include trying to buy something from the vending machine with your caf card, doing laundry without having to text someone to take their things out of the machine and opening a window in one’s dorm room.



YU BUY/SELL CHAT

Everything Including the Kitchen Sink: YU Innovates on YU Buy/Sell/Trade and Stern Thrift Chats

By That One Number You Don't Have Saved in Your Contacts

College textbooks are notoriously expensive, so many students opt to buy theirs secondhand. For a local tight knit-group of people who *definitely* all go to Yeshiva University, look no further than the YU Buy/Sell/Trade chat. Where else could you peruse items from books to furniture to a “knockoff lego set (should be complete, not 100% sure)”?

Shmuel (NYU '27) (who declined to share his last name for fear of being kicked off of all YU chats) told the *YU Absurder* how much he enjoys the community this chat brings. “I have really been trying to downsize and not buy anything I don't think I would absolutely need,” he said. “The YU Buy/Sell/Trade chat has made me realize how many items I am lacking. Up until now I have no idea how I functioned without them.”

Downtown at Stern College for Women, many students report they enjoy the Stern Thrift chat, a hub for secondhand fashion. “I have gotten some pieces of clothing for a really good discount,” Greta Greenberg (SCW '28) told the *YU Absurder*. “And I also have observed when

Both the Stern Thrift chat and the YU Buy/Sell/Trade chat are wonderful options if you're looking to get rid of something while combating the environmental footprint of all the packages ordered to the Brookdale package center. Why order a shiny new

Some items appear quite often, with more than 1,000 texts sent just about someone selling the biology photo atlas. There are consistently books from both biology and psychology courses being sold with more than 613 books sold between both chats! Another popular item offered up specifically in the YU Buy/Sell/Trade chat is any sort of furniture that is big and heavy enough that finding some way of transporting by yourself will prove difficult.

“These chats are pretty much the Jewish Facebook Marketplace, and anything being listed has to pass a strict checklist to certify that the item is legitimate and not at all a scam,” a spokesperson for both chats told the *YU Absurder*. “We run a tight operation.”

The spokesperson noted that the currency used in transactions on these chats includes Flex dollars and YU caf funds.

“Why order a shiny new coffee machine when you can buy a “slightly used” one off of someone you’ve never met before?”

people try to sell items like a purse for \$600, which I am sure flies off the market instantly because everyone knows college students practically have money growing on trees.” What all students agreed on was that you can always tell who is organizing their closet because suddenly there will be 10 texts just from one person!

coffee machine when you can buy a “slightly used” one off of someone you’ve never met before?

These two chats also serve as a way for people to request items and favors, from a hyper-specific dress for a *simcha* to someone to pay their electricity bill.

Procrastinators Anonymous

POSTPONED INDEFINITELY

Weekly meetings
during club hour

Observations

Create four groups of four!

chai	tipsy	suspend	lot
dangle	drunk	man	wasted
ster	raffle	hang	rosh
buzzed	swing	chance	draw

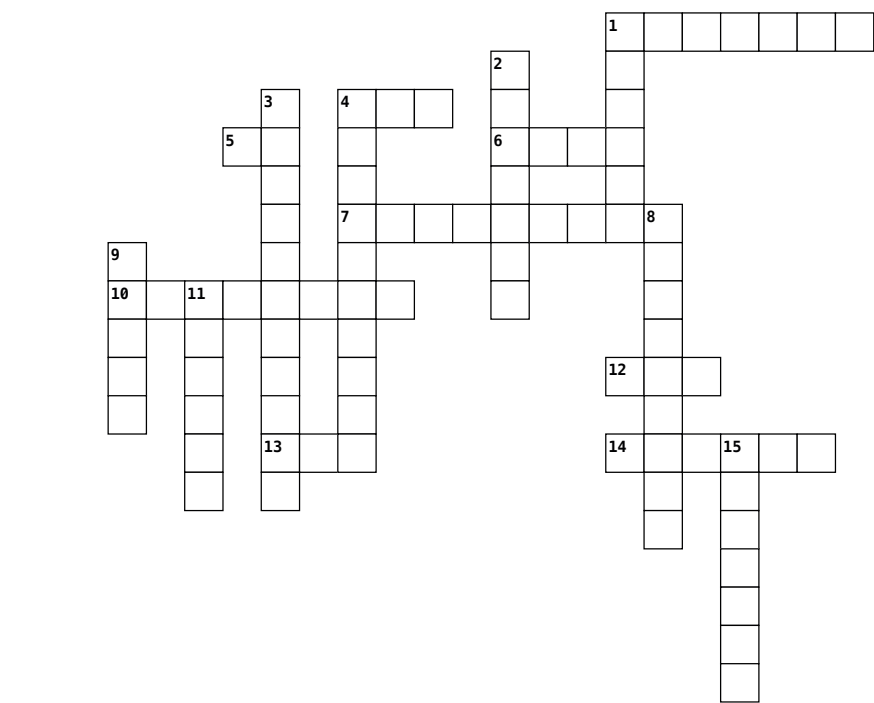


Rant: How can YU POSSIBLY justify flying the New York flag in the age of Mamdolitics? We should have the Vikings flying proudly 24/7/12

Rant: It’s such a pain having to bow down to Haman right when I’m trying to go to the library to cram. Maybe he should try a less popular spot.

Rant: The new hamentashen spot next to B&G is never open! I heard rumors they are going to lose their hecksher...

Rant: Why does everyone stare at me when I am screaming bloody murder at Haman's name? I am just trying to fulfill the mitzvah.



- Across
- Down
1. Persian capital

4. Hear Haman, say

5. 4th worth in the Megillah

6. Modern country where Shushan once stood

7. Mordechai's mourning garb

10. Heroine's hebrew name

12. What Mordechai wouldn't do

13. Body part in hamentaschen's Hebrew name

14. Character that rhyme's with Bigsan's partner
1. Achashverosh's ring

2. marbim_____

3. An excuse to do impressions of teachers

4. Vashti's father

8. Purim's secular counterpart

9. Length of Esther's fast in days

11. Genocidal plan

15. matanot l_____

Key:

Observations:

Ad dlo yada

raffle, lot, chance, draw

Haman's fate

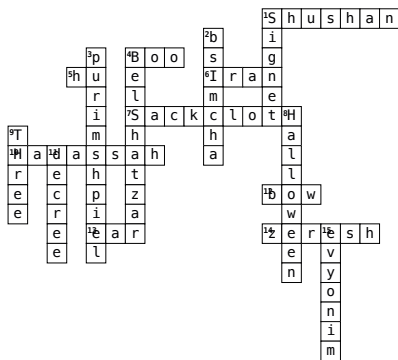
hang, suspend, dangle, swing

Endings of Purim Characters' names

chai, ster, rosh, man

Pur

raffle, lot, chance, draw



Rave: The escalators in 215 have been killing it this semester. I’ve never been more proud!

Rave: The new shabbos food catering has been so elite! I definitely think we should tell everyone about how great it is compared to the food last year.

Rave: I finally fit it on the Subway in my Joker costume. I wonder why people were dressed like that last week. Maybe they got the dates mixed up.

Rave: I am so glad the school's AI policy doesn't apply to decorating for Purim. I love seeing President Berman's face everywhere I look!

Happy Purim from the *YU Absurder!*

The type of pictures they choose of me to plaster on the walls of the caf



When you're trying to figure out if a girl in your class is wearing a beanie because she's cold or because she's married.



me when I go home for chag and treat my family home like a grocery store:



How the caf servers look at you when you ask if they have any vegetables that aren't soaked in water



When the professor says their midterm includes a paper, an exam, and a PowerPoint presentation



I AM
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