21 for No. 21: As Streak Continues, Men’s Basketball Clinches First Place, Home Court for Skyline Championships

By Chana Weinberg

The Macs won their 21st consecutive game on Tuesday night with a 94-62 victory against St. Joseph’s College Brooklyn (8-14) at the Max Stern Athletic Center (MSAC). With Tuesday’s win, and losses by SUNY Purchase and the College at Old Westbury, the Macs clinched the No. 1 seed in the Skyline Conference Championships — their first No. 1 seed placement in history — ensuring home court through the postseason. The Macs are now 21-1 on the season and 13-0 in conference play.

“In nice to know we’ve locked in home court,” Yeshiva University Head Coach Elliot Steinmetz (SSSB ’02) said to YUMacs.com. “The guys have worked hard, but there’s still a lot for this team to accomplish.”

In addition to moving up from No. 22 to No. 21 in the D3hoops.com weekly national ranking, the Macs were ranked No. 2 in the NCAA Division III Atlantic Region, behind Stevens Institute of Technology. This is the highest regional ranking ever for the team. The first time the Macs made it to these rankings was in the 2018-2019 season, when they ranked sixth. This is the first of three regional rankings that will be released by the NCAA during the course of the season, which will be followed by a fourth ranking after the tournament bracket on Monday, March 2. There are eight regions in DIII, each of which contain between eight and eleven teams.

“It’s wonderful to see our team ranked so high and set another YU first,” Yeshiva University Director of Athletics Joe Bednarsh told YUMacs.com. “Our young men have worked so hard to get here and each accolade makes me prouder.”

In their most recent victory, Gabriel Leifer (SSSB ‘20), now three-time Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association DI-DIII player of the week, produced his third triple-double with 10 points, 11 assists and 11 rebounds. The leading scorer of the game was freshman guard Olek Reef (SSSB ’23), who had 18 off the bench. Reigning Skyline Rookie of the Year, sophomore Ryan Turell (SSSB ’22), scored 15 points on perfect 7-7 shooting, putting him just 10 points away from 1,000 for his career. If he continues at this pace, Turell will soon be the fastest player to 1,000 points in program history, with less than two full seasons under his belt.

The Macs have an extended break after Tuesday’s win, their first three-day layoff since they returned from their mid-quarter break. It seemed Steinmetz started the break early for some of his starters, none of whom played more than 29 minutes.

The Macs (21-1) play conference rival and reigning Skyline Champions Farmingdale State (12-10) on Saturday, Feb. 15 at MSAC. Tip off is at 8:30 p.m.

Career Center Launches First-Ever YU-Mentoring Volunteer Program

By Skulli Fruchter

Yeshiva University’s Career Center invited the undergraduate student body to participate in the first-ever “Yeshiva University Mentoring Volunteer Program” (YU-MVP) on Feb. 10. The program seeks to connect current students with YU alumni and contacts in various professional fields.

Operating on the online platform PeopleGrove, YU-MVP recruits volunteer mentors through YU’s connection to alumni and university contacts or through external marketing. Students who sign up to participate must first complete a “matching quiz” to tailor the network’s recommendations for themselves. The program allows students to partake in “flash mentoring,” a short-term, virtual connection with volunteer mentors to discuss “help topics,” such as application materials or work and life balance support.

Within the first week of its launch, a total of 122 students signed up for the YU-MVP, 34 from the Beren Campus and 88 from the Wilf Campus, according to Associate Director of Employer and Alumni Programs Matthew Garcia.

“The primary purpose of YU-MVP is to provide undergraduate students with the opportunity to connect with a captive audience of volunteer mentors,” Garcia explained. “These are professionals who signed on to be ready and willing to provide insight, guidance, and support.” There are almost 200 professionals and alumni in the network, according to Garcia.

Collaborated on the Career Center and the Office of Alumni Affairs, YU-MVP was piloted in the fall semester of 2019 amongst a small group of finance students and volunteer mentors; this run sought to test the functionality and experience on the site during the finance recruiting cycle.

“I found the YU-MVP program extremely helpful for searching for a summer internship,” shared Zack Lowinger (SSSB ’21), a student who participated in the pilot run. “It connected me to many people I have never heard of and ended up helping me land a role.” This summer, Lowinger plans to intern as an analyst at Morgan Stanley in the firm’s Risk Management Division.

Other students were impressed with the program but experienced some difficulties during the pilot phase. “It functioned similarly to LinkedIn but is tailored for the YU community,” YSU President Zachary Greenberg (SSSB ’21) remarked in describing his experience with the program. “A lot of the people I was connected to [through YU-MVP] turned out to still be in school and not yet working, so I hope kinks like that will be improved this semester because the concept is fantastic.”

“Member feedback is welcome and sought after,” Mr. Garcia said, “allowing us to work with our service providers to create the best user experience.”

The Career Center hopes for YU-MVP to become as popular as YU CareerLink (YUCL), an online tool for students to access a database of job listings and to stay updated with Career Center events, among other things. According to Mr. Garcia, platforms like YU-MVP at other institutions yield a 10-20% participation rate from invitation to sign-up. He predicts that between 100-200 undergraduate students at YU will be “actively engaged” by the end of the semester.

“Knowledge is power,” Mr. Garcia said, “and the knowledge these professionals are ready to share is extremely valuable.”

Student Council Abstains from LGBTQ Club Vote, Leaving Decision to YU Administration

By Yitzchak Carroll and Eliesheva Kohn

The student council presidents of both campuses have abstained from voting whether or not to approve an LGBTQ club — the YU Alliance — on campus, effectively deferring the decision to the university’s administration.

The decision was announced in a statement via email to the student body, signed by YSU President Zachary Greenberg (SSSB ’21), YSU President Yoni Broth (SSSB ’20), YU SYMSSC President Chayim Mahgverch (SSSB ’20), YCSA President Leib Wiener (YC ’20), Wilf Student Life Committee Senior Co-Chair Yossi Zimilover (SSSB ’20), TAC President Bella Adler (SCW ’20), SCWSC President Aleza Katz (SCW ’20) and Beren SYMSSC President Miriam Schloss (SSSB ’20).

Citing the matter’s “larger implications” beyond the university’s walls, student council presidents have decided to abstain from voting on the status...
YU’s Problematic Power Dynamics Leave Its Students Disenfranchised

By Avi Hirsch

The undergraduate students of YU have been disempowered by an administration that enacts policies on our behalf without giving us a say in determining what those policies will be. We are disenfranchised citizens of YU, lacking any substantive power to determine what laws we will be compelled to follow. These laws impact every aspect of the student experience; they define the classroom experience, affect student life on campus and ultimately influence virtually every aspect of the three or four years most undergraduates spend at YU.

There are practical reasons why this is the case. Students only attend YU for a few years before moving on with their lives, and it would therefore be unfeasible to enact any sort of democratic system that represents the will of those who happen to currently be students. Replacing administrators every few years to ensure that they accurately represent the will of the students would certainly be impractical.

Others will argue that college students are at a point in their lives when they are not yet full-fledged members of society and therefore not ready to make important decisions for themselves. At this stage in their lives, perhaps it is helpful to put those with more experience in charge of their day-to-day lives to help guide them to make informed decisions. The administration seems to have taken this approach, with the result that YU’s students are often treated as children who are too immature to make meaningful decisions for themselves. Instead of empowering students to take charge of their own lives, the administration makes policy decisions for them, insisting that they have their best interest in mind.

But the fact is that administrators don’t always have the students’ best interest in mind. There are countless other priorities that YU’s administrators juggle when deciding how to react to pleas from the student body, including the impact their decisions will have on the university’s image, monetary matters such as how admissions and donations might be affected as well as their own job security. In theory, student government should be the remedy to this problem. An elected governing body consisting of student representatives with real power to influence decisions made by the administration could empower YU’s students and help them take back some semblance of control over their own lives.

But the student government as it currently exists does none of these things.

When [student councils] do represent student interests to administrators, they are given no real power to affect change. Instead, after arguing their case in meetings, they are forced to await whatever decision the administration will make on their behalf.

Although nominally representing the 2,000+ undergraduate students at YU, the councils that comprise YU’s student government spend much of their time planning events and divvying up money between various club events. When they do represent student interests to administrators, they are given no real power to affect change. Instead, after arguing their case in meetings, they are forced to wait for whatever decision the administration will make on their behalf.

And yet administrators seem utterly unaware of — or unconcerned by — how little say students have over the policies that affect their lives. In a Dec. 2018 interview with President Berman, the president was asked his thoughts on women giving divrei Torah on Shabbat, a controversial issue at the time. “A lot of this has to come from the students, meaning the students need to speak to each other, work with the right administrators and identify the right forums,” he replied. “But it seems to me that there are vehicles that exist, and if they don’t already exist, could exist.” Elaborating, he explained that “the students should speak to each other with the right administrators and come up with the right vehicles ... I have confidence in our student body that if they work together, they can find the right directions and vehicles for these kinds of issues.” Whether President Berman was simply unaware of the powerlessness of the student body or was deflecting the uncomfortable question, he was right that “a lot of this has to come from the students.” But we are sorely lacking “vehicles” for student-driven change.

In fact, one of the only avenues that students currently have to exert any degree of power over the policy decisions that affect their lives are the student newspapers. But the student government as it currently exists does none of these things.

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"Non-Kosher Snapple sold in the Rubin cafeteria"  
Causing more aveiros than the gay club and co-ed uptown Shabbaton combined!

Yu landers college 4 men club  
Of course the "Yu landers college 4 men club" could be approved with no controversy while the YU Alliance had to be sent along to the administration for hashkafic guidance. I'm glad we all have our priorities straight.

YU's Policy on Policies  
Does the policy on policies have to follow the guidelines spelled out in the policy on policies, given that it is itself a policy? (For more policies, policies on policies and maybe even a few policies on those policies as well, go to: yu.edu/ogc/policies)

"Parasite" Best Picture Win  
We did it!!!! We solved Americentrism!!!

Saying "shkoiaech" instead of "thank you"  
Like screaming "oy" on subways and wishing "gut shabbes" on Tuesdays, we all know that saying "shkoiaech" any day makes you appear to be 0.01% shtarkeer than you actually are.

The Oscar doesn't go to...  
Little Women. Heart equals shattered.

LGBTQ club drama  
Shameful. But here's a picture of YET ANOTHER bRoKeN elevator!!!
An Informed Perspective on LGBTQ Involvement in Stomp Out The Stigma: Letter to the Editor

By Etan Neiman

To the Editor,

As a former Active Minds club president and current mental health advocate in the Jewish community, I feel it is my obligation to address some disparaging remarks that have been directed at Active Minds for not including LGBTQ representation in this year’s Stomp Out The Stigma event (SOTS). This narrative was the byword for the second paragraph in the most recent YU Observer editorial and supported by a tactless student quote. Stunnedly, Mordechai Levowitz, the founder and clinical director of JQY — a prominent LGBTQ organization in the Jewish community — also wrote a Facebook post calling out the event for its “hypocrisy” in not addressing the stigma faced by LGBTQ students. Additional disappointment has been expressed by many in the YU community, including through critical posts on YU social media forums.

Let me clear this up: The purpose of SOTS is to stomp out the mental illness (MI) stigma — not stigmas in general. To lump in other wrongly stigmatized groups (such as those with developmental disabilities, a stutter, or LGBTQ members) would not be in line with the event’s crucial focus. Specifically, SOTS is designed to make sure students who have MI know they are not alone and can get healthier, to educate those without MI and those with MI who don’t realize it and of course to empower the speakers. While each of those sentiments certainly applies to the LGBTQ community as well, a separate event would be the proper forum to advocate for that specifically. Many will point out that even while the purpose of the event is stomping out the MI stigma, members of the LGBTQ community battle MI at a disproportionately high rate and thus should be represented. While understanding those groups are at a higher risk of developing MI is important, the point remains that SOTS is at its core designed for the reasons stated above. In the future, a speaker may very well have MI and be part of the LGBTQ community, and it would be wholly important for the student body to appreciate that connection. However, understanding the realities of the MI would still be the focus of the speech, as it is for all SOTS speeches. It is by no means diminishes the event by not having one or multiple speakers be LGBTQ.

Let me clear this up: The purpose of SOTS is to stomp out the mental illness (MI) stigma — not stigmas in general.

Finally, I’d like to point out the beyond countless and thankless hours it takes for the Active Minds presidents to put SOTS together. These hours include time spent recruiting potential speakers, selecting the speakers, choosing speaker liaisons, helping craft the speeches, reaching the speakers, arranging the numerous logistics of the huge event with the Office of Student Life and advertising the event. It is appalling to see their truly hard work be in any way denigrated, not to mention the potentially life-saving work of the speakers themselves. The LGBTQ community should and must have a dedicated student club so they can have their own events like SOTS. It is past time for YU’s administration to grow a backbone and approve the YU Alliance club. However, it is not fair to expect nor proper for Active Minds to make LGBTQ activism part of their mission.

Etan Neiman (SSSB ’17) is the former president of Active Minds (2016) and current Director of Operations of Refuat Hanefesh, a non-profit organization that deals with mental health issues in the Jewish community.

A Response To Rabbi Blau on Orthodox Jews and the Political Process: Letter to the Editor

By Noah Pollack

To the Editor,

I was greatly intrigued by Rabbi Blau’s article entitled “Orthodox Jews and the Political Process.” While he does not mention President Trump by name, I believe his critique is addressed to the 43rd president as well as to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

In his article, Rabbi Blau makes the salient point that President Trump’s character traits, specifically name-calling and dishonesty, should be a cause of consternation for Orthodox Jews, as we should hold dear the values of decency and integrity. While he is absolutely correct on that score, there are two main issues that I have with his presentation.

First, one could get the mistaken impression from his article that President Trump is the only politician with ethical lapses, and that his political opponents are totally guiltless. Additionally, his article does not articulate the many wonderful policies that President Trump has enacted, which have already helped multitudes of people and are legitimate reasons to support him.

Rabbi Blau’s piece makes no mention of the numerous Democratic officeholders who express the desire to impeach President Trump yet looked the other way when President Bill Clinton lied under oath. Indeed, some of the very people who voted twice for Bill Clinton are now criticizing those who support Donald Trump. Former Secretary Clinton also has a less than moral past, of which her voters were keenly aware. Whether it be her highly suspicious 1979 cattle futures windfall, her demonizing the numerous women who claimed she had sexually abused them (apparently accusers are to be believed unless they make a claim against her powerful husband) and most recently, her irresponsible and suspect use of a personal email server for government business which put State Department information at a greater risk of compromise. Furthermore, if we are so concerned with name-calling, she was the candidate who referred to half of her opponent’s supporters as belonging in a basket of deplorables.

Yet, I do not recall Rabbi Blau or any other YU faculty members calling her to task for that or pleading that her supporters think twice before offering her their support. If Mr. Trump’s supporters are to be critiqued for overlooking his faults, then it is only fair that the supporters of her opponents also be questioned for overlooking their faults.

We should strive to live lives of integrity and decency, and not aspire to many of the character traits practiced by our current president. But the same could also be said about many of his political opponents, and that’s something their voters ought to be told as well.

Is it any wonder then why so many Orthodox Jews have developed a sense of gratitude to President Trump for acting in a manner much more supportive towards Israel than his predecessor? Whether it be moving the embassy to Jerusalem, getting out of the Iran Deal or declaring the settlements legal, American support of Israel can sleep at night knowing their president is protecting the Jewish state. Members of our community are absolutely justified in using this as a reason to support President Trump, especially when one considers the growing trend of anti-Israel rhetoric currently emanating from some of the Democratic presidential candidates and the liberal establishment in general.

Regarding social policy, it is this president who has appointed nearly 200 conservative judges, including Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who are committed to stopping the disturbing tide of anti-religious sentiment fostering from the left. This is an issue that means a great deal to those in the Orthodox community who are highly concerned with the full-throated embrace of gay marriage and abortion on demand that has become accepted dogma among the Democratic party.

Another issue that has been discussed in numerous communities is the high cost of yeshiva tuition. President Trump and the Republican Party favor vouchers and charter schools. This will ease the burden for Jewish families struggling to pay day school tuition for their children. To show his seriousness on the issue, President Trump named Betsy DeVos, a woman who has championed charter schools her whole career, to head the Department of Education. The vociferousness with which her nomination was opposed by the Democratic party is indicative of yet one more issue in which the interests of the current Democratic Party do not line up with those held by many Orthodox Jews.

To end where I began, we should strive to live lives of integrity and decency, and not aspire to many of the character traits practiced by our current president. But the same could also be said about many of his political opponents, and that’s something their voters ought to be told as well.

When one combines that fact with the numerous policies emanating from this administration that are benefiting the Jewish community, it is clear why so many Orthodox Jews support this president and will enthusiastically vote for his reelection.

Noah Pollack, Yeshiva College ’11
LGBTQ CLUB VOTE, continued from Front Page

of the YU Alliance. In their state-
ment addressed to the YU student
body, student council presidents
argued that "the decision about a
club focusing on LGBTQ matters
at Yeshiva University is too com-
plex and nuanced to be voted on
by student council presidents," and
that their "role is not to determine
major ideological decisions for the
institution."

"This is not the end of the con-
versation," concludes the state-
ment in reference to the decision
to abstain, "it is a commitment
to continued progress in creat-
ing a stigma-free campus towards
LGBTQ+ students."

According to Broth, all seven
student council presidents, as well
as Zimilover, unanimously agreed
on the decision on Thursday night,
Feb. 6. (Note: Zimilover currently
serves as managing editor of The
Commentator.) The statement was
drafted with help from the other
student council presidents.

Currently, the YU Alliance is a
student-run organization that
does not receive funding from
YU’s student councils and holds its
LGBTQ-related events off-campus,
as it has not received approval by
the student councils to operate as
an official, YU-sanctioned club. On
Jan. 30, Molly Meisels (SCW ’21)
and Dov Alberstone (YC ’20), board
members of the Alliance, submit-
ted a club application in order to
receive official club status from
the university. Prof. Daniel Kimmel,
assistant professor of sociology at
YU, agreed to be a faculty advisor
for the club.

Following students council’s de-
cision to abstain from the vote re-
garding the status of their proposed
club, the YU Alliance released a
statement condemning the student
councils’ decision, citing several
laws that prohibit discrimination
on the basis of sexual orientation.
"The student councils’ decision to
abstain has reinforced a hostile en-
vironment, further marginalizing
the LGBTQ+ community and send-
ing the implicit message that they
are not openly welcome at YU," wrote
the YU Alliance, arguing that they "took all of the required
steps and followed the proper pro-
cedures in applying for the club," and
should therefore "be afforded the
same treatment as any other
potential club on campus."

The day before deciding to ab-
stain from voting on the status
of the YU Alliance club, student
council presidents met with Vice
President Josh Joseph to dis-
cuss LGBTQ matters on campus.
According to Wiener, Dean of
Students Chair Nissel, Counseling
Center Director Dr. Yael Muskat,
RIETS Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Yaakov
Neuberger and all student coun-
cil presidents except Katz were
present.

"We discussed many of the
concerns of the students and the
rabbeinim whom we had met with
and what steps the university was
taking to address these concerns,"
Greenberg said about the meeting.
Broth added that Joseph “spoke of
plans that he had to create a more
inclusive environment,” but Broth
decided to elaborate on the specif-
ics of the plans discussed.

The student councils’ decision
to abstain could result in significant
ramifications for the university.
On Feb. 3, students of Benjamin
N. Cardozo School of Law pub-
lished an open letter to President
Ari Berman in The YU Observer
in support of “undergraduate YU
students in their efforts to sec-
cure an LGBTQ+ student group
” on campus. That same day, The
Commentator reported that the
Jewish Activism Club (JAC) sub-
mitted a petition in favor of the
formation of an LGBTQ+ club on
campus to Joseph. Commenting on
student council’s recent statement,
JAC co-President Philip Nagler (YC
’20) said, "I think the message that
the student council, the admin-
istration, and the roshrei yeshivah
are sending to LGBTQ+ students is
clear: ‘We do not care about you.
We care about our jobs, our grad
school applications, and maintain-
ing the status quo.’"

"I think that having a place for
LGBTQ students is extremely im-
portant in order to provide for their
own mental health and well being," said
Monique Moshe, a student council
president at Yeshiva University. "How
the administration, roshrei yeshivah,
and student leaders decide to
manifest that place is up to everyone
to figure out through dialogue and
most of all action.

Matters regarding the LGBTQ+
community on campus have been
especially contentious since the
beginning of the academic year.
In early September, President Ari
Berman told The Commentator that
he formed a commission of rabbis
and educators, led by
Broth, "to address matters of
inclusion on our undergraduate
college campuses, which includes
LGBTQ+."

On Sept. 15, students, allies
and activists held a march
and rally for LGBTQ inclusion
on campus, along with a slate of
demands, which included the
creation of a gay-straight alliance
club at YU.

"The YU Alliance condemns
the student councils’ decision to
abstain from voting," the group
wrote in its statement, "and will take
all possible steps — up to and
including legal action — to ensure
the safety of LGBTQ+ students at
Yeshiva University."

Avi Hirsch contributed to this
story.

The Wilf Campus plaza, with Furst Hall on the left and the Gottesman Library and Glueck Center on the right

Yeshiva University
Petition Supporting Formation of LGBTQ+ Club Signed by Over 50 Student Leaders

By Yosef Lemiel and Yitzchak Carroll

More than 50 undergraduate student leaders signed a petition promoted by the Jewish Activism Club (JAC) supporting the creation of an LGBTQ+ club at Yeshiva University.

The petition was initially shared privately with individual student leaders on campus, including club presidents and vice presidents, before being emailed to approximately 200 club heads on Thursday evening, Jan. 30, by JAC co-president Phillip Nagler (YC ‘20). After the petition garnered 56 signatures, it was emailed to Senior Vice President Josh Joseph on Feb. 2. Joseph said the petition, a comment on LGBTQ+ matters relating to the YU community.

The petition observes that “LGBTQ+ individuals have always been a part of the Orthodox Jewish community” and notes that “the stigma and ostracism of queer people in the Orthodox community” has led to suicide and other mental health issues. “One of the goals of the Jewish Activism Club is to bring visibility and visibility to the LGBTQ+ community at Yeshiva University,” the petition states, adding that the JAC itself “does not have the time to provide the necessary attention that the LGBTQ+ community deserves.”

“The formation of an LGBTQ+ club would be a first step of granting visibility to LGBTQ+ individuals and paying reparations to a community that has suffered for years,” it concludes.

In the aftermath of the petition, the student group called the YU Pride Alliance was formed; according to the group’s Facebook page, their goal is “to foster an environment of acceptance on campus for the LGBTQ+ community and its allies.” Since it is not approved by the YU administration, the group does not receive funding from YU’s Office of Student Life (OSL) and must hold their events off-campus.

Nagler told The Commentator that he wrote the petition in conjunction with the JAC’s board. According to Nagler, the petition was part of a “strategy to continue the momentum of the Jewish student rights movement that is happening this year.” While Nagler says he is not a member of the YU Pride Alliance, he stated that he felt “obligated as a student activist to help them in their very important cause.”

Nagler said he was pleased with the number of student leaders who signed the petition. “Quite honestly, I didn’t think we would be collecting signatures; my original goal was to get 50,” he said. “I was blown away with the number of students who wanted to be involved.”

According to Nagler, the JAC “reached out to some of the student council presidents” but was informed that the students plan on signing and that they have a unified position on this.

Commenting on his decision to sign the petition, Chaim Rolman (YC ‘21), president of both the Physics Club and the Engineering Clubs, said, “As a student president, I think it is important for everyone to be able to comfortably express their sexual identity.”

Chaim Rolman (YC ‘21), President of the Physics and Engineering Clubs

"As a student leader, I think it is important for everyone to be able to comfortably express their sexual identity."

Nagler said he was disappointed by those who did not sign the petition. "It’s important to acknowledge that there are people who do not sign, but I was a bit frustrated that many who avoided signing simply said, ‘no thanks,’ or ‘sorry, that’s too controversial’ and didn’t want to open up the floor to a conversation,” he said. “I think it’s important for the petition and the JAC to continue to collect signatures; my original goal was to get 30,” he said. "I was disappointed. It’s important to acknowledge that there are people who do not sign, but I was a bit frustrated at many who avoided signing simply said, ‘no thanks,’ or ‘sorry, that’s too controversial’ and didn’t want to open up the floor to a conversation," he said. "I think it’s important for the petition and the JAC to continue to collect signatures; my original goal was to get 30,” he said. "I was disappointed.

According to Nagler, the petition gathered 56 signatures, with students plan on signing and that they have a unified position on this.

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Milobsky’s Break Out Leads No. 22 Men’s Basketball to Record 18 Straight Wins

By CHANA WEINBERG

Editor’s Note: This article was originally published online on February 4.

In a game where the sixth man was the lead scorer, the Macs set a program record for longest win streak with 18 wins in a row with a 77-68 win over Williams College in Williamstown, Mass. The previous record, set by the 2018-2019 Macs, was 17 in a row between Dec. 1 and Feb. 14. The Macs are now 18-1 and undefeated (10-0) in conference play.

Averaging 16.9 minutes-per-game so far this season, junior forward Caleb Milobsky (SSSB ’22) produced in his extended playing time, scoring a career-high 19 points while shooting 5-6 from the 3-point line and 7-9 overall. Milobsky’s three point shooting came in the clutch, slowing down a Williams 8-2 run early in the second half and breaking up a 56-56 tie with just over six minutes left in the game, giving the Macs the lead that they would hold for the rest of the night.

“My mentality was to not rush anything, and take good shots,” said Milobsky to MacsLive.com. “I’m playing with four other scorers, so there’s no need to rush anything, but when I got open looks I was pulling (the trigger).”

After debuting on the national ranking at No. 24, the Macs continued to impress the D3hoops.com voters by garnering 96 points and moving up to No. 22 in the season’s ninth iteration.

Milobsky’s breakout proves the immense depth of this Macs team. On a night when back-to-back Conference Player of the Week and back-to-back Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association DH-III Player of the Week Gabriel Leifer (SSSB ’20) missed all of his three point attempts, the Macs still came away with a win. But Leifer remained a force on the court, where he pulled 15 rebounds to go along with seven assists. Leifer also scored 12 points, earning him his 13th double-double of the season. Furthermore, he and Simcha Halpert (SSSB ’20) went 6-6 from the free throw line in the last minute, furthering the lead and clinching the Mac’s 18th win.

This win streak is more impressive when considering the schedule the team has following their extended break resulting from the disparity in vacation schedules of the other Skyline Conference schools. From Saturday, Jan. 25 to Saturday, Feb. 1 the Macs played five games and won all of them, only to turn around and drive to Massachusetts and win another game on Monday. Their competition, Skyline teams fighting for playoff spots in Sarah Lawrence, Purchase and Manhattanville, and a perennial NCAA tournament contender in Williams, challenges the Macs almost nightly. And as students of YU can attest, having a dual curriculum in college does not leave much time for anything but school work. Despite the additional burden of being student athletes, the Macs continue to thrive.

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The record-tying 17th win over Manhattanville College on Saturday night guaranteed the Macs an extended season as they qualified for the Skyline Conference championships. This marks their sixth season in a row with a playoff appearance. The winner of the playoff receives a bid in the 2020 NCAA Division Three tournament. The Macs qualified for the tournament in 2018 after winning the Skyline but exited in the first round after a loss to York College of Pennsylvania.

The Macs will play to extend their historic streak against Mount St. Mary (6-13) in Newburgh, NY on Wednesday evening, Feb. 5.

Milobsky’s Break Out Leads No. 22 Men’s Basketball to Record 18 Straight Wins

By CHANA WEINBERG

Editor’s Note: This article was originally published online on February 4.

In a game where the sixth man was the lead scorer, the Macs set a program record for longest win streak with 18 wins in a row with a 77-68 win over Williams College in Williamstown, Mass. The previous record, set by the 2018-2019 Macs, was 17 in a row between Dec. 1 and Feb. 14. The Macs are now 18-1 and undefeated (10-0) in conference play.

Averaging 16.9 minutes-per-game so far this season, junior forward Caleb Milobsky (SSSB ’22) produced in his extended playing time, scoring a career-high 19 points while shooting 5-6 from the 3-point line and 7-9 overall. Milobsky’s three point shooting came in the clutch, slowing down a Williams 8-2 run early in the second half and breaking up a 56-56 tie with just over six minutes left in the game, giving the Macs the lead that they would hold for the rest of the night.

“My mentality was to not rush anything, and take good shots,” said Milobsky to MacsLive.com. “I’m playing with four other scorers, so there’s no need to rush anything, but when I got open looks I was pulling (the trigger).”

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Milobsky goes for a layup against Brooklyn College.
Get Out of Jail Free or Equality in Criminal Justice?

By Sruli Fruchter

In pursuit of criminal justice, New York State has implemented legislation to revoke monetary bail and pre-trial detention in many criminal offenses. At the start of January 2020, these legal reforms went into effect.

Known as the “No Cash Bail” law, N.Y. Criminal Procedure Law § 530.20 was officially passed on April 1, 2019, in hopes of addressing the “failure of our bail system,” according to Gov. Andrew Cuomo. “A person is innocent until proven guilty. And yet, three-quarters of the people being held in New York City jails are awaiting trial...45,500 people spent time in jail for five days after bail was set.” In New York last year...because they were poor,” he said.

While many have applauded these efforts of criminal justice reform, the law has gained public attention for some of its serious consequences. Brief examples include an alleged hit-and-run drunk driver, a woman who allegedly assaulted 3 Jewish women, and an alleged burglar, all of whom were arrested, charged, and subsequently released on their own recognizance pending trial under this new law.

What this new legislation actually says and its practical applications are complex. Excluding what it classifies as “qualifying offenses,” the statute says a court must release a defendant pending trial on his own recognition; this is contingent on the court believing the defendant will return. In the event the court doubts that the defendant will return, there are alternative — albeit limited — courses of action. Those options only allow releasing the defendant “under non-monetary conditions, selecting the least restrictive alternative and conditions” that will “reasonably assure” the court that the defendant will return. If that route is, in fact, chosen, the court must document its reasoning on the record or in writing.

Those “non-monetary conditions” can include requiring the defendant to abide by travel restrictions “reasonably related to” him being a flight risk, refrain from possessing a firearm or dangerous weapon, or wear an electronic monitoring device, inter alia.

Nearly all misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies are considered “non-qualifying” in the “No Cash Bail” law, meaning that money bail and remand are permissible. Virtually all violent felony cases are considered under this category, as determined by nine criteria. The Center for Court Innovation succinctly explains that the “No Cash Bail” law only applies to limited violent felonies, as it mentions, “specific sub-sections of burglary and robbery in the second degree,” a “notable caveat” being “that bail and detention are eliminated for all Class A drug felonies, with the sole exception of operating as a major trafficker.”

While many actively dispute whether CPL § 530.20 is endangering the welfare of American society or is a long-overdue reform to the criminal justice system, it is important to note that the motivations behind the new statute are not unfounded. Cases like Walker v. City of Calhoun, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 12306 comes to mind when thinking about the state of incarceration in America.

We must equally ensure that our safety and the integrity of our legal system are preserved and protected.

“In qualifying” criminal offenses are exempt from the “No Cash Bail” law, meaning that money bail and remand are permissible at the court’s discretion. Virtually all violent felony cases are considered under this category, as determined by nine criteria. The Center for Court Innovation succinctly explains that the “No Cash Bail” law only applies to limited violent felonies, as it mentions, “specific sub-sections of burglary and robbery in the second degree,” a “notable caveat” being “that bail and detention are eliminated for all Class A drug felonies, with the sole exception of operating as a major trafficker.”

In 2015, Maurice Walker was arrested in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 40-6-95 (2017), a misdemeanor for being a pedestrian under the influence (PUI) of alcohol or drugs. His bail was subsequently set at $160, a payment his monthly income of $530 of Social Security Disability payments could not meet; he spent six days in jail following his arrest. Ironically, the law itself does not even warrant jail time, rather it says a PUI “is punishable upon conviction by a fine not to exceed $500.00.” Shortly after, Calhoun changed its policy to allow those unable to afford bail to see a judge within 48 hours in order to request lower bail or their release on their own recognizance. Nevertheless, Walker’s initial legal suit against Calhoun continued, challenging the constitutionality of even a 48-hour waiting period. Ultimately, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta upheld the 48-hour policy, and the Supreme Court of the United States denied the petition on appeal.

Other cases surrounding criminal justice reform include People ex rel. McManus v. Horn, 18 N.Y.3d 660 and State v. Hance, 2006 VT 97 where the Supreme Court ruled that the court cannot designate a fixed form of bail, and cash-only bail was — at least in this case — considered a denial of bail, respectively. These are only two examples of the abundant cases surfacing in which the function and application of bail are being challenged.

New York State is not the first state to implement a “No Cash Bail” law, nor will it be the last. Nevertheless, in the righteous pursuit of establishing fairness and equality in our criminal justice system, we must equally ensure that our safety and the integrity of our legal system are preserved and protected.
Looking back on the 2019-2020 National Football League (NFL) season that has recently come to a close, I became aware of many new aspects of the game. This season provided the prospective decline of the New England Patriots’ dynasty and a rise in the fortunes of other NFL teams that might become new longstanding dynasties. In this article, I will outline a number of unique themes I noticed in the past NFL season.

Mobile Quarterbacks

Lamar Jackson — the MVP-winning quarterback for the Baltimore Ravens — and the dynamic Josh Allen — quarterback for the Buffalo Bills — reinforced the fact that teams can win with a running quarterback. Throughout the history of the NFL, there have been many dominant mobile quarterbacks from Fran Tarkenton to John Elway to Michael Vick. While fun to watch, mobile quarterbacks can become next year’s 49ers and a rise in the fortunes of other NFL teams that might become new longstanding dynasties.

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The fact that the 49ers had everything turn out in their favor can also allude to turnover in the league. Like the 2018 NFC Champion Rams the season before, I don’t think the 49ers will make the playoffs next season. Some teams — like the 49ers — have the fortune of going from terrible to great from one season to the next. Likewise, there will be a handful of teams that made the playoffs this year that will fail to live up to the expectations and fall back to the middle — or even bottom — of the pack. A lot went right for the 49ers this season; I doubt it will happen again. The 49ers will have a tougher schedule, a target on their back as the previous season’s NFC champions, and might be plagued with injuries to vital players on the roster. It’s unlikely that the 49ers will replicate their success next season.

The L.A. Football Experiment

Los Angeles currently has two football teams, namely, the Chargers and the Rams; they don’t deserve one. I know this may upset many Los Angeles folks in the YU community. Already a few years into the L.A. football experiment, both the Raiders and the Rams can only be as good as the protection they are given. They therefore usually invest in their quarterback and the unit that can protect their quarterback, namely, the offensive line. This season’s 4-12 record to winning 13 games and becoming the National Football Conference (NFC) champions this year. The 49ers give hope to any team that has a terrible season — whether it be through bad luck or lack of personnel — that they can always come back from a poor situation.

Necessity of Offensive Lines

This season leaves more doubt than ever before. For the first time since I started intensely following Pro Football (circa 2012), I don’t know which team will prove successful next year. That will primarily be determined by free-agency acquisitions and the strategic draft selections, both of which will carry much weight in determining the next NFL champions.
From the Archives
(December 4, 1963; Volume 29 Issue 5) — We Must Overcome — An Editorial

By MITCHEL WOLF and THE COMMENTATOR GOVERNING BOARD OF 1963-4

The problem of missionaries in Israel has always been disturbing and at last concrete action is being taken by a large number of Jewish organizations. This action, as reported in the Jewish papers is now extensive, though a great deal of space has unfortunately been wasted on evangelenizations of pique by yeshiva students.

Here at Yeshiva, questions have been raised concerning the problem to Mrs. Golda Meir, Dr. Yitzhak Rabin and Dr. Joseph Burg. And undoubtedly the stirring speech of Rabbi Soloveitchik alerted the entire student body to the scope of the mission menace.

Questions may still rage but the time for action is now. With a positive program mapped out, a student coordinating commission is currently in the process of enlisting the aid of American Jewry to voice a unified protest against missions.

Represented on the committee are leaders of Yeshiva College, RIETS, TIS, JSP, Mizrahi Hatzair, Yavneh, Zeiri Agudas Israel, and Young Israel with the list still growing. Some of the tasks which the committee is undertaking include:

1) Collecting and disseminating information. An extensive effort is being made to collect accurate and detailed information on the scope of missionary activity. Pamphlets from missions are available plus reports of organizations which are actively engaged in combating the evangelists and eyewitness reports from students in Israel.

2) A fund raising campaign. The money collected (and a drive is now underway in the morning divisions of YU) will go to aid anti-missionary organizations and help supply information to the Jewish populace.

3) A petition. This will present in outline form the need for a law to outlaw missions in Israel plus a possible formulation of that law based on statutes now extant in Egypt, India, and many of the new Afro-Asian countries.

4) A symposium. Jewish intellectuals from all walks of life will be asked to state their opinions on missionary activities and use their moral suasion on the Israeli government in a plea for action.

The committee needs active support. The students of Yeshiva must play a vital role in raising money, collecting information, and obtaining signatures. If we can show the Israeli government 100,000 names, we can expect to arouse the concern of the Knesset.

We finally have a chance to do more than bemoan a situation. There is no time to waste. Saving a Jewish child from shmad is equivalent halachically to saving a life and the opportunity is ours, now!
They are thus faced with a contradiction between theory and reality. According to Rabbi Soloveitchik, the Church’s solution is baptism. Since the Jewish State is now secular, the Church sees a secular Jew, one who abandoned his identity as a “member of a metaphysical, Masonic group.”

Reconciliation

“The Church now feels that it is possible to explore a reconciliation between the Jewish community and the Church. There is no need for Meshumadim, converts, who are cast from Jewish society, for the new breed they hope to create will have reconciled within itself both Judaism and Christianity.”

These are only two of the factors leading to the increase of evangelical interest. He also included Reform Judaism and the fact that the Jew of today has despiritualized his life. The Church realizes this and knows that since the human being needs eternal roots evangelization is now possible.

Rabbi Soloveitchik called for a law against missionaries in Israel. He described the law as not only “desirable” but also “indispensable.” He did not see any conflict with freedom of religion.

Rabbi Soloveitchik’s opening remark was one of anguish and sadness. He said, “I want to relate to you the disturbing thoughts on my mind, and to show you the anxiety felt among us.”

One disturbing thought, although not explicitly stated, was his deep displeasure at the reaction of the Jewish community to the communiqué of the Ecumenical Council. The communiqué stated that the Jewish people are absolved of any special responsibility for the crucification. Dr. Soloveitchik was upset that organizations hailed the communiqué without reading the complete document (the communiqué only described the highlights) or waiting for it to be approved by the Ecumenical Council.

Rabbi Soloveitchik viewed the schema as an “evangelical document,” a call for the Jewish people to be baptized. It is not a document of liberalism.” He cited Cardinal Ruffini’s question before the Ecumenical Council as one that supports his views. Cardinal Ruffini asked why the statement regarding the Jews should be included in the schema of the Christian community. Obviously, observed Rabbi Soloveitchik, he did not comprehend that Jews are being considered as brethren similar to Protestants.

Dr. Soloveitchik’s speech was met with a standing ovation and a determined effort by the students to alleviate the missionary problem in Israel.

**Ryan Turell: The Driving Force Behind the Macs’ Historic 22 Game Win Streak**

**By Mitch Goulson**

Coming off a historic freshman season that saw him average 20.1 points per game (PPG) on a remarkable 56% shooting and take home the 2018-19 Skyline Conference Rookie of the Year honors, Ryan Turell (SSSB ‘22) is leading the Macs to even greater heights in 2020. As of the time of publication, the Mavs have won 22 straight games and vaulted themselves to a national ranking of 21st in the Division III standings.

“We’re chasing letters, not numbers,” he remarked.

Turell described Coach Steinmetz’s impact on his game, saying Steinmetz has “helped me stay patient and made sure I don’t try to force anything. He makes sure I play within the offense and that’s helped me become a much better player.”

Coach Steinmetz’s motion offense, simple yet crippling to opposing defenses, has allowed the offense to thrive, as it does not force-feed anyone the ball, thus frequently yielding easy baskets. This balanced approach on offense has been a critical part of the Macs’ historic winning streak.

“Usually, teams revolve their offense around the player with the
Michael Turell was proud of his family’s contributions to the Macs’ success. "I’m so proud of my family and the contributions they’ve made to the program," Turell said. "I’m so grateful for them and their support."
To the Silent Majority: We Need Your Voice

By Elazar Abrahams

I have just begun my second semester here at Yeshiva University and absolutely love it. I've already chosen a career path, and forged bonds with my Rebbeim and professors. Most importantly, I've made great friends and found a group of like-minded students that share my Jewish and halakhic values.

These friends come from places like HAFTR, DRS, Frisch, MTA, and other high schools with mainstream modern orthodox hazkafot. I think it's fair to say that all the views associated with those institutions “standard.” (I'm hesitant to use that word, because, of course, all this is very subjective, but I'm referring to the spectrum of Orthodoxy.) Students with that kind of background make up the bulk of our university. So when we read The Commentator and Observer or listen to the hock on campus, why are these not the views represented? It seems as if there is a silent majority. Why are two extremes— one pushing the university to the right, and the other pushing it to the left— the voices that get covered?

To explain what I mean, I'd like to highlight some examples from each side of the problem.

For a taste of the right, look no further than an article published last semester in the Observer about coed Shabbatons— every student's favorite controversial topic. In the piece, a prominent student leader remarks that he and other student leaders “had hoped to find a way to expand our current experience uptown for those students who do not appreciate the general cafet- atmosphere with Roshei Yeshiva, Rebbeim, singing and Divrei Torah.”

So where are the middle-ground takes? Why can’t you find this silent majority in the public conversation? I think it is because sadly, we aren’t the ones who get involved.

This kind of thinking is super problematic. Are those who feel comforted by ignoring cording programming against divrei Torah and zemirot? Of course not! In fact, on the Shabbaton in question, plenty of divrei Torah were given over a speech from a literal Roshei Yeshiva, Rabbi Weider. To the majority of us, it goes without saying that you can be a proud Jew and talk to the opposite gender! And yet, this is the perception of those in charge, creating a toxic culture on campus. No wonder these events come off as such a big deal when they should be business as usual for those who want to attend.

I’ve met plenty of students who share those right-wing views as well. They often scoff at any hint of liberalism. Everything that doesn’t fit in their narrow worldview is labeled kafira. Respectfully, welcome to the world of Torah Umaudla, where you might not find a Jewish law and a “fight [against] the injustices in our university. In the same very article, she reveals that she no longer identifies as Orthodox, instead opting to spend Rosh Hashanah at a Conservative synagogue. Now, YU has plenty of students that aren’t Orthodox, and that’s more than okay. At any college, it is the right of anyone to attend. All are welcome at YU. At the same time, YU can be confident in what it is: a modern Jewish university. As hard as it is to admit, the administration does not need to conform to any other set of values and adjust itself to fit you. Especially for those who willingly place themselves outside our community (which again, is fine), it is arrogant and disrespectful to lead a crusade against YU.

So where are the middle-ground takes? Why can’t you find this silent majority in the public conversation? I think it is because sadly, we aren’t the ones who get involved. Centrists are fine standing on the sidelines while the radicals duke it out. In the world of college politics, that translates to just going about our days in class, chilling with our friends at night, with a little bit of homework thrown in. We won’t be leading movements and causing a scene. There’s no need for us to start a ruckus when YU’s stances fit us fine. We'll laugh privately at the public feuds between the chunrak-heavy fringe who would love to drop the U from YU, and the boundary-pushing activists who would like nothing more than to get rid of the Y, but we will never speak up ourselves.

I know there are countless others at YU on both campuses who find themselves in the middle, in disagreement with both sides in this tug-of-war. Modern orthodoxy has worked for us our whole lives, there is no reason to fight about it now. So, to my fellow silent students out there, I urge you to get involved. That is the only way to make a difference here. Join a club. Write a piece for the Commentator. Find ways to express your opinion, even if it is not the one people usually ask for. Only then can we move past these petty arguments and focus on real progress at Yeshiva University, like fixing those cursed elevators.

Let’s Just Pretend for a Moment: Tarantino’s Revisionist History Reconsidered

By Josh Leichter

One of the most common phenomena in films is the blurring of a film as “based on a true story” or “inspired by true events.” Upon the release of these movies, however, further research indicates that they are often very loosely based on the actual events, taking creative liberties with the truth to make the movie more engaging to the audience paying to see it on the big screen. Interestingly, the backlash to this tactic of ignoring the historical truth is generally muted, as if we accept the idea that these movies are not meant to tell us what really happened. After all, isn’t that what nonfiction is for? On the other side of the coin, there is fervor in some circles that these movies are attempting to have their cake and eat it too, wanting us to believe this is a real event while never letting the audience consider whether or not what’s being played out on screen matches reality.

With the release of “Once Upon a Time in Hollywood,” director Quentin Tarantino has wrapped up what many unofficially refer to as his revisionist history trilogy, which began with 2000’s “Inglorious Basterds,” which followed a group of Jewish-American soldiers during World War II eager for revenge against the Nazis and 2012’s “Django Unchained,” which saw the eponymous freed slave on a quest to free his wife from slavery in the pre-Civil War South. These three films look towards the historical events of World War II, American slavery, and the Manson Murders of 1969 as jumping-off points for us to redirect our notions about them. Rather than being reminded of the terrible tragedies that transpired during these tumultuous times in history, the viewer is allowed to cheer when they see Hitler being killed by a Jewish soldier in a burning French theater or when a stuntman and a fading actor kill the members of the Manson Family dispatched to kill Sharon Tate, Jay Sebring and Abigail Folger on that tragic night of Aug. 8.

While some have said that these films dishonor the memory of those that suffered and perished at the hands of sadistic individuals in history, I think that it is important to remember why we watch these types of films in the first place. We know walking into them, for a moment that those wearing a black card that reads “Written and Directed by Quentin Tarantino” that the reality was much more brutal to those same good guys and that unfortunately, the villains we longed to see collect their dues got away with their crimes or were punished in a manner incommeasurable to the atrocities they perpetrated against their victims.

But at the same time, to exist in that state of blissful ignorance is what movies are for: to let ourselves temporarily ignore the cold hardness of our world today, close our eyes to the tragedies around us and just pretend for a moment that those wearing the white hats always win and those who choose to wear black will always be foiled. Because that’s what we need right now. And it’s something we’ll always need. Quentin Tarantino at the Cannes Film Festival in 2014
By Nathan Hakarian

On Feb. 3, Tesla’s stock jumped 20%, closing at a then-record $786 per share. However, the following day, the stock was closed at $887 a share—a 12% increase from their previous record-setting price. These stock increases followed the January announcement that Tesla had become the most valuable U.S. car producer of all-time—trailing only Toyota globally. Despite this recent success, Tesla has faced many roadblocks throughout its history, so the sudden change in fortune came as a shock to many analysts. Why the sudden increase in optimism surrounding Tesla?

Tesla was founded in 2003 by Martin Eberhard and Marc Tarpenning in San Carlos, California. A year later Elon Musk became a primary investor, pouring $30 million into the company and securing a position as the chairman of the Board of Directors. After launching their pilot car, the Roadster, Tesla overhauled their staff and prepared to go public. In 2010 Tesla IPO'd at $17 a share ($226 million market capitalization) despite being very unprofitable. From 2017 to 2019, Tesla experienced a series of tumultuous events that caused its stock price to drop.

Tesla’s Electrifying Growth

Internally, CEO Elon Musk has drawn the attention of various government regulators due to a flurry of questionable tweets. In February 2018, Musk tweeted “Tesla made 0 cars in 2011 but will make around 500k in 2019.” Following this tweet, the SEC asked a local judge to hold Musk in contempt, claiming Musk had provided false information (Tesla only produced 120,000 vehicles in 2011).

Additionally, on April 1, 2018, Musk tweeted “Despite intense efforts to raise money, including a last-ditch mass sale of Easter Eggs, we are sad to report that Tesla has gone completely and totally bankrupt. This April Fool’s joke caused shares to drop by over 5%, reaching a low of $244.59 the next day. Lastly, in August 2018, Musk tweeted that he was looking to take Tesla private at a price of $42 billion, driving up the stock price to a high of $731 a share. The SEC sued Musk, claiming he had misled investors (Musk settled the suit). It appeared as if every time Tesla had some positive momentum, Musk seemed to sabotage Tesla’s growth, leading to many investors questioning his role as the face of Tesla. But Twitter wasn’t Tesla’s only source of issues; the company has a long history of underperforming. In April 2019, Tesla reported a $702 million loss from the first quarter of 2019. Much of this loss can be attributed to Tesla’s inability to produce the much-anticipated Model 3 which was supposed to be the car that introduced the middle-class to electric vehicles. At a price of $35,000 with a 322-mile charge and a 3.2 seconds 0-60 mph acceleration, the car was competitive with top-notch sedans. Because of its vast popularity, orders for the Model 3 sky-rocketed, leading to a mismatch in production and deliveries. Additionally, a class-action suit was brought against Tesla due to an “alarming number of car fires” caused by damaged lithium-ion batteries.

The sudden increase in interest amongst investors was a result of the company’s recent release of its 2019 fourth-quarter financials. Tesla exceeded expectations by generating $7.4 billion in revenue and $105 million in net profit. Tesla has solved its delivery issues that plagued them throughout the preceding decade, delivering 367,500 vehicles in 2019. In addition to these figures, Tesla also announced that it was ahead of schedule with its production of the Model Y SUV. The current hope is that the Shanghai factory, the Gigafactory 3, will help increase sales in eco-friendly Asia. Tesla has also capitalized on short-selling, as the growing price has worried investors into buying back their stock. The panic amongst bearish investors has led to a price hike, with traders overpaying to buy back shares.

Looking forward, there is much to like about Tesla. The electric vehicle industry is growing rapidly and Tesla has a sizable head start on the rest of its competitors. Tesla is creating a collection of cars that appeal to all drivers: a sedan (Model 3), an SUV (Model X), a luxury vehicle (Model S) and a compact SUV (Model Y). What remains to be seen is if Tesla can properly scale. In a late November conference last year, Musk announced the Cybertruck, an all-electric pickup truck, which they hope will revolutionize the trucking industry. Investors were always intrigued by Tesla’s potential but just needed the numbers to validate their beliefs. Tesla has solved most of its execution problems and will continue to push the boundaries for electric vehicle production for years to come.

By Yael Evgi

On Feb. 4, the TAMID Group, an on-campus club offering students an educational course that integrates business leadership principles with Israel’s economic landscape, brought in Morning Brew COO Austin Rief to speak about his company and journey, and to give advice to students.

For those who are unfamiliar with the company, Morning Brew is a successful newsletter subscription that delivers easily digestible news from the business world into your inbox daily. Morning Brew developed from an idea that the current CEO, Alex Lieberman, had during his college days at the University of Michigan. As a business student and tentive investment banker, Lieberman understood the necessity of keeping up with the world of the market. Almost anyone in the business world today will tell a student how important it is to keep up with the news. However, most college students do not choose to sit down with a copy of the Wall Street Journal every morning with their coffee. Lieberman came up with the idea to summarize business news in simplified English, which can be more easily understood by readers.

Lieberman decided to draft his idea by sending a sample email to the students in his fraternity and asked them for feedback. The first reply was from Rief, who thought this was a brilliant idea. Together, the two established Morning Brew in 2015. The successful newsletter has grown rapidly since then and currently has 1.7 million subscribers. The majority of subscribers are college students and young professionals from the business world.

The newsletter now has a franchise of other specific newsletters focusing on retail news, artificial intelligence (AI), the presidential election, and more. The Brew’s unique content and style of writing, which does not shy away from including memes and referencing pop culture, make reading the news enjoyable, conversational and most importantly, understandable.

Lieberman and Rief, who are 25 and 24 years old, respectively, initially aspired to be investment bankers. Both had impressive jobs at renowned firms ready for them as soon as they graduated, but the young entrepreneurs changed the course of their careers and decided to pursue a different path. The story of Morning Brew’s success is inspiring to many students who look to pursue different trajectories in their careers but are unsure or afraid of the risk.

Rief’s session offered students ample time to ask questions and benefit from his advice. Rief explained topics ranging from venture capitalism to his personal experience working at an investment banking firm. The crowd of approximately 50 students at the event was impressive, and although the event was run by TAMID, many students who are not regular members of the club and do not attend Sy Syms School of Business in attendance. Not everyone there was necessarily subscribed to or had even heard of Morning Brew before, but they were there to learn about what made the corporation so successful.

“It was great speaking with TAMID YU,” commented Rief following the event. “I really enjoyed sharing the lessons I’ve learned with the students of TAMID.”

Students found the evening inspiring, and those in attendance learned a lot. Hearing Rief speak impelled me to continue reading the news and be more conscious of current events but also to see behind the lines. Being productive and aware of important current events does not strictly entail reading the daily paper. Even business news can be fun and personalized, perhaps so much so that it can even become a career.
The Global Economy’s Coronavirus Infection

By Max Ash

The world has been blindsided by the sudden outbreak of coronavirus in recent weeks and it does not look to be slowing down anytime soon. Obviously, the tragic effect the disease has had on the human population is not one to be ignored, with over 25,000 being infected and hundreds succumbing to the deadly infection. The virus emerged in Wuhan, China and has quickly swept throughout the province, with its tentacles reaching all the way to the United States. Government officials in China have taken precautionary measures to combat the spread: a quarantine on Wuhan has been imposed, as well as a delayed opening of the stock market and travel restrictions. The markets crashed opened upon, though they stabilized also in time.

From a different perspective, investors globally are wary of the devastating effect that it can have on the global economy. In 2002, when the SARS outbreak struck China, the country was nothing like the superpower it is today. China’s share in the global economy at the time was around 5% — now it is hovering near 16%, thereby rendering comparisons to the potential impact of the coronavirus relatively useless. Not only that, but the emergence of the virus during Chinese New Year celebrations has made it difficult to predict its impact, as all industries, with the exception of tourism, are normally shuttered during the period. In the commodities department, Brent crude oil prices have plunged from $70 to $55. One thing is definite, though: global markets are plummeted and investors are waiting for the barrage to end.

As its influence has grown, China’s importance in the global supply chain has increased dramatically. Companies from Airbus to Nike manufacture components to be shipped all over the world. Airbus has halted production at their plant in Tianjin, which churns out six A320 aircrafts monthly. Foxconn, a major Apple supplier, shuttered most of its Chinese locations.

The 2020 Oscars are tucked away in the annals of entertainment history, but streaming-giant Netflix is just donning its figurative tuxedo. For more than a decade, Netflix has primarily operated as an online streaming platform. The company launched this service in 2007 after seeing that its DVD-by-mail rental model was faltering. The digital library started small with around 1,000 titles, but movies and TV shows were steadily added. In 2013, in addition to what it had already accumulated, Netflix initiated a new business strategy; namely, it began producing original content. The first result of this, House of Cards, the company’s first production, became an immediate success, turning Netflix into a serious competitor in the film world. The company’s efforts have been rewarded, with Netflix winning two awards.

At first glance, associating itself with other theatrical venues seems inconsistent. Netflix is attempting a new approach. For instance, in August and September of 2019, Netflix collaborated with esteemed Hollywood directors to respectively release “Marriage Story” and “The Irishman.” Unlike any of Netflix’s previously produced films that were directly uploaded to its digital library, these movies were not instantly placed on the site. In order for a film to qualify for an Oscar nomination, the Academy requires that a film be shown in a theater for at least one week in either New York or Los Angeles. Considering that online streaming is therefore not a sufficient mode for dispensing its films, Netflix signed a lease with the owner of the Paris Theater near midtown Manhattan. “Marriage Story” aired in this theater and “The Irishman” in a second venue, turning these films into Oscar contenders. In fact, the company’s efforts were not futile, as Netflix led the 2020 Oscars in nominations and even won two awards. At first glance, associating itself with other impressive studios seems inconsistent. Netflix has become a successful company specifically because it offers its content digitally. Other production studios create films for the big screens, but Netflix creates original content for the exclusive viewing of its subscribers. Nevertheless, these recent projects indicate that Netflix is attempting a new approach.

Netflix in Your Local Theater

By Noam Gershov

However, Netflix has not been the sole occupier of this market for quite some time. Amazon Prime Video, Hulu, Apple TV+, and Disney+ have become household names. Like Netflix, they also offer exclusive digital content and original productions, removing any competitive advantage Netflix once had. According to Forbes, the average Amazon subscribes to 3.4 streaming services, so Netflix is forced to innovate in order to once again distinguish itself from its competitors. Netflix must embark on a new direction to ensure that old customers renew their subscriptions and new ones are convinced to join.

Netflix seems to have chosen a perplexing strategy. The company has gradually gravitated towards defining itself as an Oscar-worthy production studio, setting itself apart from its competitors. For instance, in August and September of 2019, Netflix collaborated with esteemed Hollywood directors to respectively release “Marriage Story” and “The Irishman.” Unlike any of Netflix’s previously produced films that were directly uploaded to its digital library, these movies

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Chinese doctors have predicted that the virus will peak soon, and only then will its true impact allow for markets to accurately adjust.
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Expand security funding and provisions to protect Jewish life at US synagogues, yeshiva day schools and Jewish community centers

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Combat BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) and antisemitism with programs that empower our students on college campuses across the US

OUR LAND
Supporting continued growth of communities in Eretz Yisrael including the Golan Heights, Judea, Samaria and the Jordan Valley

OUR PURPOSE
Fight for funding to perpetuate Torah values that enables more of our children to study in gap year yeshiva/seminary programs and expands the global network of shlichim

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7. Select Orthodox Israel Coalition – Mizrachi: Vote Torah (#4), press Submit, and then Vote!

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