

The Unofficial Student
Newspaper
of the
Abraham Joshua Heschel
High School



"Our words carry no weight..."

- Rabbi Heschel

Rabbi Natan Locks the Doors of Ortho

By Liza Gerstein '27, Staff Writer

Every day, Rabbi Natan watches as members of the Orthodox Minyan get up from their chairs and leave the room. There is even a record of someone leaving 15 times in one forty-minute tefillah! What really makes him mad is when students leave during the most important prayers.

Yesterday, he had enough. The passive-aggressive remarks were not cutting it anymore. Something had to change. So Rabbi Natan took action.

After all the students were in the Beit Midrash, Rabbi Natan sneakily crept towards the door and installed a lock. Was it to keep unwanted (Egal) members out? No. The lock was to keep students in!

He did this so secretly that no one noticed until about two minutes later,

when the first student decided a "bathroom" break was needed. Shock washed over the



student's face, and he turned to Rabbi Natan,

whose face beamed with the biggest smile anyone has ever seen.

At the end of tefillah, Rabbi Natan walked up to the front of the room. "I know many of you have noticed the new lock installation. If you would rather leave the room, you can switch to Egal." Bella Ruch '27 says, "he locked us in Ortho as a punishment for misbehaving. If he could do this to us, I wonder how he punishes all eight of his own children."

Locked into the Beit Midrash, students are now forced to look out through the windows or turn to their siddurs for comfort. In the end, Rabbi Natan's plan worked. No one will ever leave in the middle of tefillah ever again.

Photography by Joshua Archibald '28, Contributing Photographer

10th Grade Israel Trip Reroute Causes Chaos in Faculty Room

By Sadie Graff '29 and Katarina Shimoni '29, Contributing Writers

Rabbi Naom Silverman, head of the Heschel High School, has announced that the 10th grade Israel trip has been diverted to Canada. In an email sent out to families on Feb. 9, Rabbi Noam told students to pack for Canada's 30 degree weather instead of Israel's 90 degree average.

Silverman's email stated the cause of the diversion was due to his desire for Heschel students to experience "an education exploring the cultural and historical importance of real maple syrup."

Students are outraged; they want Israel, not some place where the people "don't even

know how to say sorry," said sophomore Millie Tornow.

English teacher Penny Ratcliffe said, "If I'm being fully honest, the change is utterly ridiculous. They should be taking the students somewhere educational, like South Africa."

Her colleague Stefan Dorosz overheard the interview and chimed in saying, "Who cares about maple syrup or rhinos? Take them to Britain! Some place where they will actually learn."

After overhearing what Stefan said, Rabbi Natan decided to intervene: "What do you mean? Are you saying that the history of maple syrup is unimportant? Canada is OBVIOUSLY the better choice, I'm sure the Ramban says something about that," he said.

After Natan's bold comment, a full

fledged, Yeshiva league style, debate ensued. Voices were raised, students gathered to watch. Rabbi Noam was alerted of the kerfuffle, and rushed to the teachers' room.

Highlights of the debate include Rabbi Natan's failed attempts at asking cross questions as he was too focused on his "interpretive questions" and Penny rewriting her debate midway, worried it sounded too much like ChatGPT. The debate lasted through lunch, leaving the teacher's room in chaos.

Neutral party Steven Weber will send out a Google form to poll students later today. Students, make your choice wisely. Results will be announced once the faculty room has returned to a usable state.

Student Government: Still in Shutdown

By Jessie Nanasi '28, Contributing Writer, and Maya Fine '28, Contributing Writer

The Student Government shutdown has reached day seventeen as the four official branches, Spirit, *Hesed and Tzedek*, Student Affairs, and Programming, remain locked in a stalemate that experts like Rabbi Noam Silverman called, "predictable" and "bound to happen."

The shutdown began after repeated disagreements over the responsibilities of each council and how much effort each council was putting in. Debates featured the question of whether meetings should be productive or "just vibes."

Spirit, widely regarded as the least committed branch, has been criticized for ignoring the severity of the crisis. While other branches attempted to negotiate, Zack Levy '26, the current Spirit VP, spoke on behalf of the coun-

cil suggesting, "a MAC-themed spirit day" or "making posters" to resolve the issue.

"It's not that we don't care," Mia Biloon '28, a Spirit Council member, explained, "we just think that this could be solved with another Color War."

Hesed and Tzedek, on the other hand, taking a more action-oriented approach, launched a series of initiatives urging for the shutdown to end. The branch is currently fundraising "in support of a functional student government" and circulating many petitions calling for all branches to resume council meetings.

"We believe change starts with awareness," said Haym Suissa '26, *Hesed and Tzedek* Co-VP, Apple Pay reader in hand. "And money. A lot of money."

Sources reveal that several students have already been asked to donate, though it remains unclear exactly where the money is going.

Meanwhile, Student Affairs has main-

tained its characteristically serious stance. Representatives have emphasized structure, procedure, and accountability, rejecting proposals they say lack "clear outcomes" or "realistic plans."

"This is a governance issue," said James Barnea '28. "Not a feelings issue."

The Programming Council announced it will not schedule any additional speakers until the shutdown is resolved, demonstrating the inability to plan events without cross-branch coordination.

Programming member Camilla Wisse '28 says, "We are ready to plan, but not in a government that cannot meet."

As the shutdown continues, students remain caught in the middle of the chaos: some have falsely hoped for extra (unplanned) spirit weeks, others are bored after weeks running the same town hall again and again, and all hope for the shutdown to end soon.

The Karpel Conspiracy

By Maya Gleser '27, Staff Writer

At the start of this school year, a new English teacher was introduced to the Heschel community: Ari Karpel. Students nodded politely... until the last name registered.

Karpel?

Within seconds, the room collectively short-circuited. Heads turned. Whispers spread fast throughout the crowd. Because, as everyone knew, Heschel already had an English teacher with the last name Karpel. Naturally, assumptions were made. Siblings? Cousins? Long-lost relatives reunited by a shared love of literature and red pen ink?

The rumors grew loud enough that clarification was warranted. Ari and David addressed the speculation directly, assuring students that despite sharing a last name, a department, and suspiciously similar professional interests, they were not related. Just two English teachers whose paths happened to cross, a coincidence. Students accepted this explanation and moved on.

A few months later, during Hachana, Ari

delivered a beautiful speech and shared photos of himself as a young child. As the photos appeared, David reportedly became increasingly unsettled. The resemblance was undeniable. David approached Ari and soon after, the two made a decision that would change everything:



they secretly took a 23andMe test.

The results confirmed the original suspicions. They were long-lost cousins! Instead of announcing it immediately, the two made another choice. They decided to wait to see if students would notice before the truth was re-

vealed.

Suddenly, the two were everywhere together. They ate lunch everyday, rode the elevators side-by-side, even made appearances in each other's classes.

"I knew something was up. They were doing everything together," said junior Bella Kalimian.

Finally, the truth was revealed in the only way that felt appropriate. In a carefully staged performance during *Hachana*, David read a familial love poem aloud to Ari, saying, "though separated by years and chance, our pages were always written in the same ink." Ari responded by singing a song from a musical directly to David, delivering it with the confidence of someone who had been waiting for this moment all year.

The message was clear. They were related and the rumors were right all along.

Junior Rocky Furst said, "I feel validated. I knew the whole time. English teachers just can't hide symbolism."

If nothing else, the English Department taught us one lesson this year: never underestimate coincidence, especially when English teachers are involved.

Photography by Saul Sapadin '28, Staff Photographer

David Riemenschneider's Class Declares a Machloket against Rabbi Natan's Class

By Eden Barlev '29, Stella Heyman '29, Talia Shafizadeh '29, Staff Writers

Last week, David Riemenschneider burst into Rabbi Natan's class, shouting, "Enough is enough! Your students will not stop claiming that your class is harder than ours, which is just straight-up lies!"

Rabbi Natan was enraged at the disruption, since he needed to teach his class, which was already very behind.

Rabbi Natan exclaimed, "Is this a joke?!" But instead of responding, David Riemenschneider criticized him for asking a yes or no question.

After hearing the news, Rabbi Benji, the LQ department head, rushed to the scene.

He saw the mess and said, "It is time to stop these worthless fights. We need shalom between these classes." He then continued seri-

ously, "By the way, we cannot have two accelerated classes anymore. It is time we establish an honors class. Who is taking the title?"

Both teachers screamed, "Me!" Rabbi Benji decided not to intervene, seeing that it was best for the two classes to sort out the dispute themselves.

David Riemenschneider's class then declared a *machloket* against Rabbi Natan's class; the winner will become the 9th-grade *Limudei Qodesh* honors class. Some students think that this *machloket* is unfair.

"Rabbi Natan has, like, the whole IDF living in his house," said Talia Shafizadeh, a student in David Riemenschneider's class. "That's basically a built-in debate team. Also, his wife is a lawyer; she could help them sue us!"

Others feel bad for their opponents. "It's not David's students' fault they aren't learning anything," said Kat Shimoni, a student in Rab-

bi Natan's class. "It's because they can't see the board over him!"

"Rabbi Natan's class would learn so much more if they weren't in that suffocating classroom," said Yael Kress, a student in David Riemenschneider's class. "18 students packed into room 323 must be horrible. Especially during the P.E. soccer unit. And those guys probably don't even wear deodorant."

"What's the relationship between us winning and us becoming an honors class? Cause and effect," said Rabbi Natan.

"How will our debate skills modify their egos? They will crush them," said David Riemenschneider.

The *machloket* will be held on March 32nd. All students are encouraged to attend. The *Hesed and Tzedek* council is charging \$20 per ticket. All proceeds will go to their fundraising efforts.

Penny Breaks Her Arms...Purposely!

By Margot Hess '27, Assistant News Editor

Even if you have not seen the two casts, then it is likely that you have at least heard the news: Penny Ratcliffe has somehow managed to break both of her arms. While students and faculty alike initially responded with get-well wishes and their spare arms to carry her books, concern quickly turned to suspicion. As the number of school days Penny missed continued to rise, many began to ask the question on everyone's mind: how does one break both arms... at once?

Penny's story was concrete: her dog

Maxie had gotten loose, a mother's instinct kicked in, and the slippery winter roads had no mercy. But this story soon fueled more doubt. For someone who can remember more than 89 junior students' names and class schedules, it seemed unlikely that she failed to remember the ice in front of her door on a cold winter day.

There is also the timing to consider. It was the final three days of break, just as a return to school was around the corner, and the looming task of writing narratives emerged. It would be remarkably convenient for a sudden injury to occur, one that would force her to... stay home and away from her keyboard!

The mystery was finally solved in one unfortunate moment. When Ari Karpel plugged in his computer to project slides for his 11th-grade class, he accidentally projected his private messages, including a text from Penny that read: "*It was impossible to find anything good to say about my students, so I figured that breaking both of my arms was preferable to writing another narrative.*"

So, the suspicion has finally been confirmed. Penny purposely broke her arms, proving that, when it comes to narratives, no sacrifice is too great.

Anne Cohen Caught Running Black-Market Phone Operation

By Lily Cohen-Iwanowski '26, Writer

In a shocking turn of events, Anne Cohen, keeper of the Phone Jail, has reportedly been caught selling phones on the black market. Cohen, whose daily duties include accounting for every iPhone, was allegedly spotted exchanging devices in the high school dining room at approximately 10:42 a.m. on Wednesday.

“She looked like a typical thief, except with a shorter bob and a cardigan,” said freshman Freda Dwek, who claims she witnessed the incident during a late arrival.

The details remain unclear, but an unusually heavy stack of confiscated phones now sits under her desk, apparently waiting for its next transaction.

The Heschel student body is filled with

fear. Students are advised to remain calm, comply with Phone Jail rules, and avoid negotiation with a woman who can calculate total lates faster than most of us can unlock our phones.

As of right now, Cohen has neither confirmed nor denied the allegations, instead issuing a quiet but unmistakable threat: any questioning of her activities may result in a 7:30 a.m. detention in room 318.

Hannah Solon Caught Running Secret Operation

By Eli Bernstein '28, Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered why the *Hesed and Tzedek* Council is constantly organizing fundraisers and asking students to donate money? Well, a shocking new investigation reveals the real reason behind the constant tabling: *Hesed and Tzedek* faculty facilitator Hannah Solon's Sustainability Society fundraising went straight into her pet project, a feasibility study on the cost of life in Monaco.

“To be honest, I am not surprised to hear this,” said Emily Schwartz, Solon's partner on the JSL, “She has always been quiet and rather suspicious around me. She is also always fidgeting with the metal box. I could have called this months ago.”

“I was absolutely shocked when I found

out,” said *Hesed and Tzedek* member Hannah Wurzburger. “Now it makes sense why she never

Solon v. Student Body. Solon was defended by sophomore and paralegal Gabriel Farbiarz. The lead witness was sophomore Noam Tamir, who alleges that Solon asked for his Social Security number.

During the trial, the defendant pleaded not guilty, arguing that “there is no evidence to prove I orchestrated this. I was set up, and the real culprit is on the loose.”

Solon was last seen escaping detention and attempting to flee campus, muttering something about offshore accounts and a gap year in Switzerland. Upon reaching the front gate, she tried to bribe the security guards with Made Good bars to let her pass, but was unsuccessful in persuading them. The guards returned Solon to her cell in the seventh floor classroom.

At press time, the *Hesed and Tzedek* Council announced

its next fundraiser: “Justice for Hannah,” with proceeds reportedly going to an undisclosed location.

Art by Aaron Koffman '27, Assistant Art Editor



let us use the Student Government budget. I guess she was planning on misappropriating that too, along with my name!”

To settle this case, Heschel's Mock Trial Team was assigned to the case known as

Learning Lab Specialists Brainwash Students

By Li'el Ravin '29, Staff Writer

The Heschel high school has been left shocked by the growing number of student reports claiming they are being brainwashed in the Learning Lab. The Learning Lab specialists, Leora Klein, Rabbi Miriam Greenblatt, and Becky Hirschfield, have been allegedly conditioning the students that come to them every World Language period to support English supremacy over languages such as Spanish or French.

When entering the Learning Lab, students have to turn in their devices and work on Chromebooks connected to an isolated Wi-Fi network that encourages linguistic discrimination through propaganda. Students are exposed only to viewpoints from groups such as Advocates for English Only or Monolinguals in America.

The specialists have set a new policy re-

quiring students to report their family members who are proficient in languages other than English; they will ultimately be reported to social services and removed from society. Any student who does not follow that rule gets forced to stay at school for an entire week, sleeping in a mini fridge next to Rabbi Miriam's desk, in order to isolate them from the outside world.

Freshman Toby Rapoport said, “Once I went to the Learning Lab and can confirm that they are a very evil organization who once locked me in a fridge after I shared my family's knowledge of French.”

To prevent any further exposure to the outside world, the specialists have recently started to petition the administration to restrict meals. Their aim is to make the only meals available be fish and chips, scones, and sponge cakes, removing all nontraditional English meals.

Another casualty of these brainwashing teachers was the World Language faculty,

who have had their desks defaced. Recently, the Learning Lab has begun advocating for strict changes to the language department. They would like World Language teachers to write a two-page essay for each word they plan to teach on how it doesn't “radicalize young students.”

French teacher Celine Clerfueille said “This work environment is getting so inhospitable! First I get yelled at when I come to work and now my desk has paint all over it!”

When reached for comment on Heschel's dual curriculum and emphasis on Hebrew, the specialists declined to comment. They cited their efforts to not alienate the administration in order to achieve their goals.

Time will tell whether the administration concedes to the demands of the up-and-coming English supremacists or stands its ground in support of the diversity of languages proliferating within Heschel.

Entire Class of 2027 decides to ED to Michigan

By Jake Rothenberg '27, Sports Writer

After over ten students from the class of 2026 applied Early Decision (ED) to Michigan, the class of 2027 went wild with jealousy, and all 83 students have now decided to apply ED to Ann Arbor.

Some of these students truly liked Michigan, but most opposed the school and only applied to fit in.

Junior Aaron Seltzer said, "I don't want to go to Michigan," but College Counselor Alex Faye refused his wishes, saying, "Michigan is the right school for you."

To entice Heschel students even more, the administration opened a new building in Ann Arbor. The building is a couple of blocks from the University of Michigan campus, making it easier for 11th-grade

students to tour. Michigan athletics also noticed the large

decided to rename the team the "Heat Wolverines." The "Heat Wolverines" play in the College

Yeshiva League, which includes schools such as Yeshiva University, Tulane University, the University of Florida, Brandeis University and Washington University in St. Louis.

Heschel students have always loved applying to Michigan, and when the university recently allowed prospective students to apply ED, interest skyrocketed. First thirteen students from the class of 2026, and now 100% of Heschel applicants are choosing Michigan as their first choice.

Art by Aaron Koffman '28, Assistant Art Editor



number of students attending the university and

The Juniors Regain Their Social Lives

By Serena Yunis '27, Assistant Opinion Editor

Weeks and weeks have gone by, and the junior class has had little to no interaction with one another. The only communication they have had has been during the passing periods—just five minutes. One may think that the juniors have the time to utter a word to each other during lunch; however, they would be mistaken.

The junior class has been consumed by work. So much so that, for the grade that complains the most, they have not even had the time to complain about the workload in between tests and assignments!

However, now that second semester has rolled around, the junior class has been thriving.

Maya Gleser '27 said, "Second semester has already had such a strong start; hopefully it will end as strong as it started. I do not think

students can afford to end the way the first semester ended."

A clean state, new grades, new laughs, new memories, and most importantly, more conversations. The administration has sought to

therapy retreat. The amount of stress the juniors have been experiencing has radiated off of them to the teachers who now understand the severity of the students' mental health.

Each student will have a one-on-one session with a professional therapist followed by a white noise meditation session to soothe the students' minds. The retreat has banned all mentions of transcripts, GPAs, extracurriculars, and college applications for the duration of the trip to prevent immediate relapse.

Notably, for the price of \$65, students could upgrade and receive a 30-minute spa massage. Let's just say the retreat made a lot of money that day: Many students chose to have the massage since it offered full-body relaxation.

Unfortunately, this retreat had a strict end date. By 7:30 pm, students had to be sent back home. They spent the night feeling a sense of relaxation that they had not felt in a while. All students went to bed with a smile on their faces, convinced they could tackle the battle coming next: the

following school day.

Photography by Lev Dubler-Furman '26, Editor-in-Chief



help the juniors find a way back to a place where they can live life to its fullest.

The junior class has embarked on a much-needed field trip to a meditation and

Heschel Nurses Go on Strike

By Noam Shimoni '28, Staff Writer

On a Monday morning, outside the Heschel School building, high school students returning from out-lunch heard shouting and stomping. To their surprise, as they walked into the building, they saw the Heschel nurses stomping in a circle with signs saying, "If You're Okay, Don't Come Our Way!" implying they were tired of students' unnecessary visits.

The nurses' chants of "Fake Headaches,

Got to Go" continued throughout the day. Many students complained they couldn't focus in class, as the yells could be heard throughout the building. However, the nurses were unapologetic.

They claim that students have caused far worse disruption. With so many fake emergencies for elevator passes or crackers, the nurses have had enough. They are tired of treating fake symptoms and refuse to continue dispensing their Advil and ice.

At 12:10 p.m., the strike was still going

on. Nurses would not budge until their calls for change were addressed. The strike escalated after a student was seen sprinting across the street to catch up with their friends for lunch, only to request an elevator pass moments later because of "extreme leg exhaustion."

The strike ended when a student walked out of class with a pale face and a fever. All nurses immediately dropped their signs and rushed to help the student. The nurses were ecstatic to treat a real patient for once.

Delta Force Strikes Heschel High School: Anne Cohen Captured on Charges of Sleep Deprivation

By Lev Dubler-Furman '26, Editor-in-Chief

At 8:07 a.m. on Feb. 1, the U.S. Army's Delta Force launched an assault on 20 West End Avenue. Elite operatives roped down from helicopters and arrested Assistant Head of the High School Anne Cohen on sleep deprivation charges. The strike was a part of the ongoing military campaign called "Operation 7:30 a.m. Detention," aimed at cracking down on cruel and unusual punishment in high schools around the country.

"I was sitting in the senior nook after the bell had rung like usual, waiting for a teacher to make me go to tefillah when Anne Cohen rounded the corner," said senior Ellie Engel. "I immediately got up to go because an Anne Cohen sighting is code red. Before she could say anything, I heard a huge boom! The whole business kind of restored my faith in God... Not only did I survive, but I didn't have to face Anne's early-morning wrath!"

The strikes came as tension grew surrounding Cohen's harsh rule.



"The new policies truly were cruel and unusual punishment," said habitually late senior Hannah Wurzbarger who lost her out lunch

four separate times over the first semester. "I checked my email each morning dreading the possibility that she, oh god I can't even speak her name." Wurzbarger then trailed off and broke down into tears.

"Each time the elevator door opened on three when I was using it illegally to get to the sixth floor I thought to

myself, 'this is it, I'm done. Anne's got me now,'" said an anonymous junior.

"I still jump at the sound of the loud-speaker. I know it doesn't make any sense. She's

gone now! But I've been conditioned to hear her crackling voice interrupting class," said Biology Teacher and Head of STEM Naomi Bergman, audibly shuddering at the memory. "Sometimes though, I think I hear her. It's like her ghost lingers. 'Please head to your period for class'"

President Trump called the operation a resounding success on his social media platform TruthSocial, declaring "Anne BOZOhen will terrorize the students of the Heschel School NO LONGER. I AM THE GREATEST TO EVER DO IT. 🙌🔥"

In response, Cohen released a statement vehemently denying the charges and speculating to the true motive behind the assault.

"I am an innocent woman," the statement reads. "It is no coincidence that my glorious school was attacked just days after a stockpile of OMNY student passes were discovered under the floorboards."

In these uncertain times, students have found relief in one thing that has remained consistent: Jessica Gribetz, restored to her former post, must wait at least one more year before retiring.

Photography by Lev Dubler-Furman '26, Editor-in-Chief

Zev Traum Experiences a True First Day of School

By Rocky Furst '27, Staff Writer

This past September, new math teacher Zev Traum arrived early Monday morning on his first day of school, eager to begin teaching. He walked into the lobby and was warmly greeted by Principal Rabbi Noam, who handed him a laminated schedule with a locker number and wished him luck on his first day.

"I assumed this was some kind of new-teacher protocol," Traum later explained. "Maybe you have to experience the school from a student's perspective before you teach."

Traum reportedly followed the schedule without question, beginning with first period in History, where he quietly took notes and waited for someone to ask why a teacher was sitting in the back of the room.

"No one said anything," said junior Ruby Tepper. "I just thought he was a new, very mature student in our grade."

Throughout the day, Traum attended English, Science, and Limudei Qodesh classes, where teachers began the year by going around the room and asking each student to share their name and one thing they were looking forward to in the upcoming school year.



When it got to Traum, he stood up and said, "Hi, my name is Zev, I'm a new math

swer.

The confusion reportedly peaked during math period. Having spent the entire day seated next to students, he assumed that the school's teaching philosophy required new teachers to teach beside their students rather than at the head of the class.

Witnesses reported that Traum took a seat in the corner, opened his laptop, took out his packets, and waited.

"When nothing happened, I figured I was supposed to start teaching from my desk," Traum said.

Students initially believed he was a classmate giving an unusually confident explanation of quadratic functions.

"I thought it was like peer-led learning," junior Juliet Kazam said. "Then he started assigning homework."

The confusion was resolved when students quickly realized Traum was, in fact, a teacher. When Rabbi Noam found out, he laughed and apologized for the mix-up.

Traum has since taught his assigned math classes, though some habits have stuck.

"Zev still sits next to us sometimes," said junior Eli Heymann. "We're not fully convinced."

teacher at Heschel, and I'm excited to get to know you all." The class stared at him in silence but decided not to question his confusing an-

Photography by Lev Dubler-Furman '26, Editor-in-Chief

Color War Rigged to Allow Senior “Threeppeat”

By Bella Kalimian '27, Editor-in-Chief

Alas, it was too good to be true... the claims of a senior “threeppeat” win of Color War have been debunked. A group of students revealed the truth this past weekend after Rabbi Natan leaked the scoring sheet. (This doesn't come as a surprise to most, considering how last year, he leaked the Color War break date.)

This year, after an intense first day of Color War, the seniors maintained a solid lead, followed by the juniors. However, the following day, their grip on first place began to slip. Little by little the other grades caught up. The freshman dominated tug-of-war, the juniors spikeball and art, and the sophomores the short film.

Fearing the possibility of defeat, Rabbi Natan, the senior grade dean, felt obligated to ensure a win for his class. With early decision letters arriving so soon, the seniors needed a victory, any victory.

Thus, on Wednesday afternoon when during the final score announcement, instead of proclaiming the real winners, the juniors, he said the now infamous words: “Will the seniors make history with a threeppeat? Yes, yes, they will.”

No one questioned his decision. After all, would a rabbi ever stray from the truth?

When asked about the senior win, Rabbi Natan evaded eye contact and said “All I know is that they deserved it. I just read the numbers

and repeated aloud who had won.”

The misinformation didn't last long. Last week, Rabbi Natan had intended to share the scoring rubric for a 9LQ in-class debate; however, instead of sharing “Debate Final Score,” he shared “Color War Final Score.”

Curious, several 9th graders scrolled through the document, recalling the events they remembered winning or losing. Then, they added up the numbers. When they did so, one thing became clear: the seniors did not have the lead! Gossip quickly spread throughout the school, but the administration has refused to confirm or deny the allegations. Nevertheless, the student body now knows the true victors of Color War: the class of 2027.

“Golden” By Huntrix Sues For Copyright

By Sadie Graff, '29, Staff Writer

Nearly three months after Heshel's schoolwide Shabbaton, a previously unknown organization has announced that it will be taking legal action over the parody song “Golden.” On Feb. 10, GoldenWorks legal studio sent the Heschel JSL team documents accusing it of “musical misuse” and “a blatant disregard for musical creativity.”

GoldenWorks legal studio claims that the Shabbaton promotional song violated copyright law and plans to use the line “up up up to New Jersey, Parsippany, New Jersey” as a key primary source in court.

In response, senior Amelie Prevor stated,

“If anything, we improved the song. Parsippany deserves representation. Also, why are they just bringing this up now?”

The Shabbaton in question took place in November, leading students to wonder what caused the delayed response. GoldenWorks Legal Studio explained the timing by referencing a “lengthy internal review process,” which sources confirm involved listening to the song multiple times and “taking notes.”

“I know they loved it, I just can't prove it,” said Prevor.

When asked about the matter, Spirit Council members said, “We ran this by multiple people, meaning we sang it loudly in the hallway, which is basically the same thing.”

Another said, “It's fine. Next year we'll switch the lyrics to silver.”

However Rabbi Jonathan in JSL has a very different outlook on the situation at hand. “This is absurd! Now we're going ‘up up up to the courthouse!’”

The court date is set for Mar. 11, 2026, when the Heschel Mock Trial team will defend Heschel's name at the Federal District Court of Manhattan. Though the court case is viewed as a serious matter in GoldenWork's eyes, many Heschel students have no problem with “switching the lyrics to other precious metals.”

Steven Weber Shocks Students By Sporting New Buzz Cut

By Yael Ben Daniel '28, Staff Writer

Last week, history teacher Steven Weber sparked heated discussion by walking into school with a new haircut. He boldly chose to shave his famously long, curly, and voluminous hair into a buzz cut, and students had much to say about it.

Debate captain and senior Naomi Samansky said, “I didn't even recognize him when he walked into our captain meeting. I actually think I've never seen his whole face, with the hair and glasses and all.”

There have been reports of debaters forgetting their arguments mid-rebuttal because they were so distracted by Weber's new style. Samansky shared the common sentiment and found it out of character.

Freshman Li'el Ravin agrees with Saman-

sky that Weber's haircut is a bit blunt. “It just doesn't... look right. Plenty of the boys in our grade have gotten similar haircuts recently and I'm not sure it's the best decision for him to follow suit,” he said.

Sophomore Ella Perry, a student in Weber's class for two years, takes the minority position that he made the right choice. She then gathered

signatures for a petition to convince him to start

wearing wigs. She aims to persuade him to wear wigs similar to ones that the French wore in the 18th century, the period which is his area of expertise.

“I mean, French monarchs wore powdered wigs. Why can't Steven?” Perry said.

The mystery of why Weber shaved his head remains unknown. Many students suspect that his curly hair routine became too much work, or that his shampoo was recalled. The student body agrees that by the time his hair grows back, there will probably have been another French revolution.

Photography by Lev Dubler-Furman '26, Editor-in-Chief



Snow Day Pt. 2?

By Ariel Zeltzer '27, Sports Editor

After Martin Luther King Jr. and Frozone came through for back-to-back long weekends, the students were hungry for one more. The goal was simple: no more school. The plan? Take the snow that was plowed off the streets and put it back. Not only put it back, but barricade every entrance possible into the Heschel building. Students from across all grades came together as one and executed this mission.

By sunrise the operation was complete.

Doors were buried. Side entrances vanished. Emergency exits were more theoretical than functional. The building didn't look “closed” so much as “abandoned.” Students and people on the street took one look at the building, and immediately pulled out their phones. Not to call for help, but to document greatness.

Junior Aaron Koffman said, “it [was] as beautiful as Elsa's castle.”

Students and faculty stood outside the building in awe. The students thought for a moment that they had won. But then Anne Cohen

arrived.

Shovels emerged, and salt was deployed. Hope began to melt faster than the snow itself. Although Heschel history had been made, no snow day was granted. A lesson was learned: next time, start earlier.

By 11:00 a.m. the doors reopened, classes resumed, and Eli Senor was in the lounge with Kaleb, Girtz, Oz, and Chesler playing spikeball. Everything was back to normal.

English Department Breaks World Record for Fastest Grading

By Toby Rapoport '29, Staff Writer

Heschel's English department, known worldwide for their ultrafast grading speed, recently set the world record for the fastest grading ever by grading 30 essays in 1 nanosecond.

Freshman Tova Samansky says that the English department really deserved the record after all its hard work. "The department works day and night to grade stuff, and never takes a weekend off," she said.

Samansky credited one specific English teacher with particularly fast grading. "David Karpel is definitely the fastest out of everyone," she said.

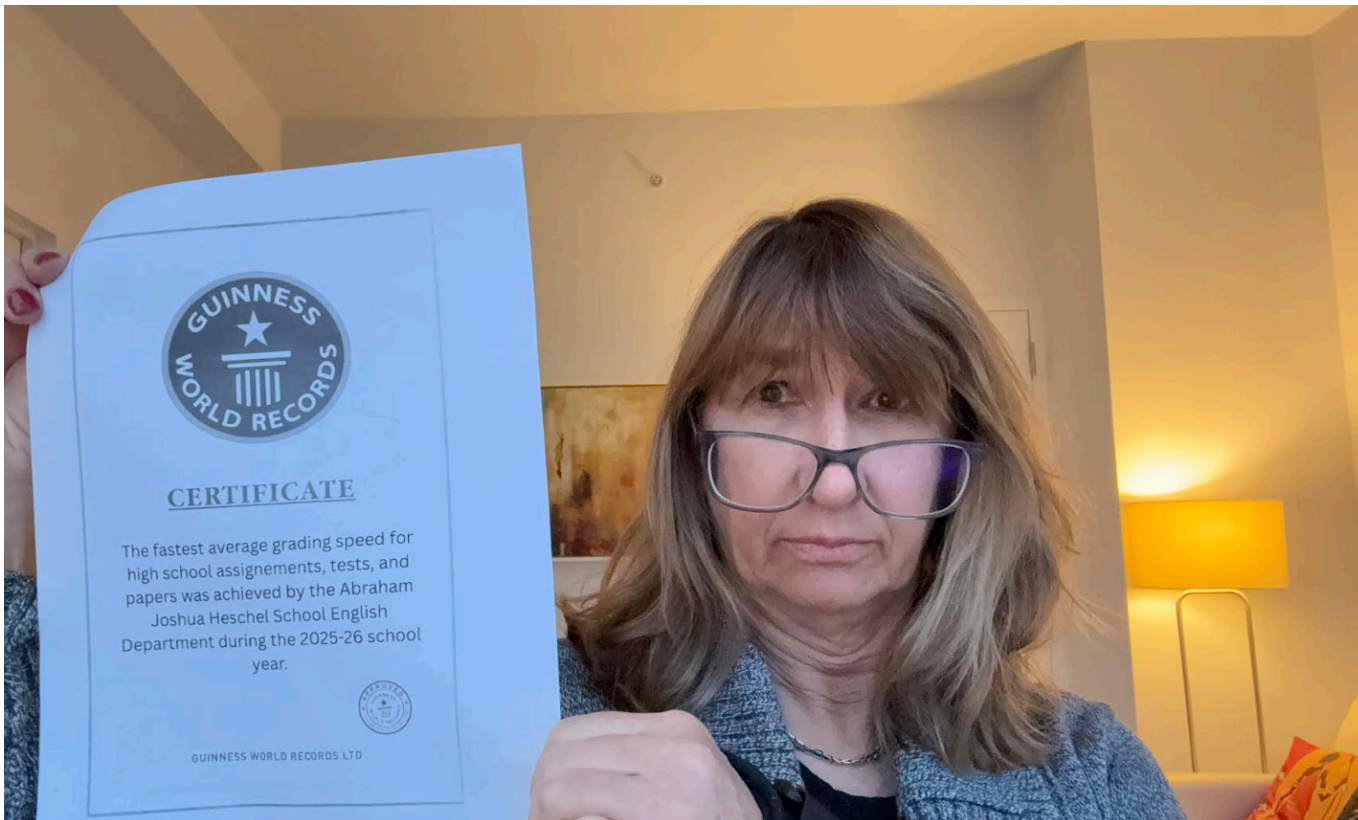
Karpel humbly accepted the compliment. "Thank you to all the coffee growers in the world for the continuous supply of fuel for my lightning-fast grading of essays," he said.

The English department has been praised by students for years because it is one of the only departments in Heschel where teachers grade their assignments on time. And while the

world record is the fastest time officially confirmed, there are rumors about students getting grades at even faster speeds.

"Once, I submitted an essay in November, and I got it back all the way in September - of the previous year of course. Sometimes the

efficient grading methods. Rumor has it that the International Olympic Committee even considered opening a new event for grading at the next Olympics, but eventually discarded the idea because the Heschel English department had no real competition.



By grading faster than the speed of light itself, the record also creates several questions for scientists. Many physicists say that this record breaks the laws of physics, and unless an explanation is found soon, the Heschel English department's record will remain a scientific mystery for many years to come.

While the English Department may be fast at grading, some math teachers are catching up. Among teachers now striving for the record is math teacher Zev Traum.

"The English department is really good, but they'd better watch out for Zev!" freshman Lee Fleischman said.

Traum agreed, saying, "It'll be difficult, but I think that we can beat the English department."

Photography by Penny Ratcliffe, Faculty Advisor

English department is so fast they deliver grades in negative time," freshman Li'el Ravin claimed.

News about the record quickly went viral, with many applauding the English department's world-changing accomplishment. Heschel English teachers have been invited to speak at numerous events and conferences, such as the National Teacher's Grading Conference, a conference where teachers discuss the most

Chabad Tunnels and Possession of a Sacrificial Goat: Student Spotlight on Caleb Creizman

By Hannah Wurzburger '26, Editor-in-Chief

As many Heschel students know, senior Caleb Creizman has become increasingly involved with the Chabad movement. He spends his Tuesday evenings at CTeen (a Chabad program for teens), his Fridays and Saturdays davening with his Chabad friends, and has blasted electric *Moshiach* music and energy into every room in the school, familiarizing all with "*Moshiach, Moshiach, Moshiach*" by Benny Friedman and "*We Want Moshiach Now*" by Thank You Hashem, DJ Farbreng, and Eli Marcus, to name a few.

The "*Yeshivas Heschel*" Instagram page, run by Charlie Shiff of the Ortho *Minyan* (because Creizman would never have Instagram himself), suddenly became private on Feb. 30, with only ten male followers (the exact number needed to

form a *minyan*). Coincidence? It seems not.

This did not alarm students until a fateful day in March when the seemingly harmless

ment. It turns out, Creizman spent his Biology classes digging a tunnel to 770 Eastern Parkway in Crown Heights, the Chabad-Lubavitch headquarters in Brooklyn, instead of taking notes!

Biology teacher Naomi Bergman said, "Don't worry. Caleb's engagement grades will pay the price. Due to his lack of focus, I will give (dare I say gift) all students in the class a test. Study for ten minutes, and you'll be fine!"

Creizman said, "Biology is heresy. Anyway, who cares about grades when *Moshiach* is about to come!"

Creizman was last seen in Israel trying to bring a sacrificial goat to the Temple Mount. Yeshivas Heschel's ten Instagram followers from the Ortho *Minyan* are being held for further questioning.



fun came to a striking halt; tunnels were discovered within the Bio Lab in Heschel's base-

Photography by Hannah Wurzburger '26, Editor-in-Chief

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