

# The Ram Page

February, 1980

A FREE PUBLICATION

## East 65th Street Upset Over P.L.O.'s Arrival

By Josh Berman

A I walked across East 65th Street between Park and Madison on the evening of January 17, I couldn't help but notice the \$20,000 cars that lined this street of fashionable townhouses. In many respects this stretch of 65th Street is typical of the high class and fashion that can be found in this exclusive neighborhood. But as I continued my walk, I came across two police cars parked outside Number 115. One policeman was standing guard as another was neatly lining up some barricades against the wall. The barricades were all that were left from a JDL rally the night before. Number 115 is not just another town house. Rather, it is the center of a struggle between local residents and a militant terrorist group. Number 115 is the

new information center for the P.L.O.

The trouble began last year when a number of leases were not renewed at 101 Park Ave. Among the tenants that lost their office space was the P.L.O. The P.L.O. then appealed to the U.N. General Assembly, claiming that no landlord was willing to take them in. They searched for months for new office space, but without success. No landlord was willing to take the risk of having the terrorists as tenants.

In December of last year, a widow by the name of Janice Buckley decided to put her East 65th Street townhouse on the market for approximately three quarters of a million dollars. Frustrated in their attempt to acquire office space, the P.L.O. decided that a town house would be suitable for their

needs. They met with Mrs. Buckley, and backed by five Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, topped her asking price by 200,000 dollars. They wound up purchasing the property for close to a million dollars, reportedly paid in cash.

Local residents were unaware of the sale until confronted by members of the news media. "We didn't know until Channel 2 knocked at our door and asked us what we thought of our new neighbors," remarked Chris Schubert who lives directly across the street at Number 118. She and her husband, Bernard Schubert, have since formed the East 65th Street Security Association, a neighborhood group committed to the eviction of the P.L.O. from their present location. Mrs. Schubert added, "At first we had no idea how to fight them,

but fortunately Charles Moerdler, the lawyer who got them out of 101 Park Ave., volunteered his time to speak to us about how to deal with the P.L.O. He said that no matter how we fought them, it had to be from a security standpoint and not a political one. The fact that we disagree with their

cause or their acts of terrorism would not justify their eviction. But if we could prove that their presence posed a threat to the security of the neighborhood, then we would have a legitimate case, and a good shot at getting them out.

Keeping this tactic in mind,

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## College Board, Under Jewish Pressure, Grants New Sunday Test for S.A.T.

By Michael Mann

In a sudden reversal of policy, the College Board decided on January 28 to schedule the Scholastic Aptitude Test for a Sunday in March in New York State. This concession to New York's Sabbath observers was made in response to the efforts of Ramaz headmistress Ruth Ritterband, and other representatives of the New York Yeshiva High School Principals' Council and the National Jewish Commission On Law and Public Affairs (COLPA).

The Sunday test date had been originally cancelled by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) as a reaction to the Truth in Testing law recently passed by the New York State Legislature. ETS claims that the law, which requires disclosure of all SAT questions and answers upon request, makes production of the test financially prohibitive, since new tests must be made up to replace those that have been disclosed.

In addition to cancelling the Sunday March SAT, ETS also cancelled the January SAT on both Saturday and Sunday, and the May test on Sunday.

According to Mrs. Ritterband, the new law was intended to help prepare students, whose scores have been declining at a steady rate in New York in recent years, by allowing them access to the exams they have taken. In addition, Mrs. Ritter-

band believes the move by the state legislature was intended to curb the power wielded by ETS and the American College Testing service which develops and administers the ACT, a test similar to the SAT. The two retain a virtual monopoly over college and graduate school admission tests.

The College Board has stated that it has no objection to the principle of revealing students' exams along with the correct answers. It maintains, however, that the disclosure of questions and answers would not be economically feasible unless the number of tests is reduced, since these tests can no longer be reused. In previous years, 14 tests were administered annually in New York State, including 7 on Sunday. Even before the passage of the law, ETS warned that students requiring special test dates would suffer, in what Mrs. Ritterband believes was an attempt to encourage Jewish opposition to the bill.

Mrs. Ritterband, who feels that ETS' actions displayed "rank discrimination," approached the College Board along with Rabbi David Weinbach and Dr. Joseph Treil of the Yeshiva Principals' Council, and Dennis Rapps of COLPA, demanding parity for observant Jews. The result was a meeting on January 28 at which the Board agreed to administer a Sunday test in March.

Mrs. Ritterband partially at-

tributed the College Board's quick response to the "ongoing relationship" between the Board and the Yeshiva Principals' Council in recent years.

This relationship was started when it was disclosed that the then new English Essay Achievement was to be offered only on Saturday in the fall of 1977. Mrs. Ritterband, who had just recently come to Ramaz, "began to scream," and along with other Yeshiva representatives gained several concessions, including a guarantee for equal Sunday test dates and an agreement to discuss any problems involving the Yeshivas' interests.

Another recent development in this issue is the Amendment to the Truth in Testing law sponsored by Assemblyman Sheldon Silver. If passed, this legislation would require an alternate test date for every standardized test administered on a Saturday. According to Mr. Rapps of COLPA, ETS has stated that it has no objection to scheduling alternate test dates. However, unless certain changes, such as limiting disclosure requirements, are made in the Truth in Testing law, ETS maintains that reductions are necessary in the number of alternate test dates offered.

The Silver Amendment has unanimously passed the New York State Assembly and passage in the Senate is expected, Mr. Rapps said.



115 East 65th Street—the center of controversy

## Ramaz Students Speak Out on Draft

By Peter Miller

When President Carter announced during his State of the Union address that he would request reactivation of selective service registration, Americans reacted strongly. Many viewed this request, along with his declaration that the Persian Gulf is a vital interest of the United States, as a return to what they claim is the interventionist attitude that mired us in Vietnam for so long. Others believed that finally, after years of post-Vietnam isolationism,

the United States had recognized its commitment to a free and democratic world.

Ramaz, as always, mirrors the contemporary scene. Students can be found supporting varying positions spanning the political spectrum, from left wing "Hell no, we won't go" types to right wing ideologues. Most of those interviewed by this reporter, however, felt there was a need to revitalize the selective service system.

Seth Kaye had this to say

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# Are Cheerleaders Necessary?

## A Critic Says No

By Ariel Balter

Historically, cheerleaders have been the prettiest and most popular girls in school. In old movies about high school, one usually finds the captain of the cheerleading squad going out with the captain of the football team. Cheerleaders are usually stereotyped as being the typical "dumb blonde." However, today cheerleading is increasingly being looked upon with scorn by young women, whose awareness of exploitation by men has increased with the growing acceptance of the women's movement.

There are many degrading aspects to cheerleading. First of all, it's sexist! The typical high school cheerleading outfit consists of a sweater with the school's emblem on it, short skirts, bobby socks, and saddle shoes. This is modest compared to the costumes that the Dallas Cowgirls barely wear. One wonders, why wear skirts at all if they are so revealing to start with?

As far as I'm concerned, cheerleading will be on the road to respectability only when we start getting some male

cheerleaders, dressed in shorts, pants, or better yet, in skirts. After all, it was only after the beginning of the twelfth century that men began wearing pants.

In fact, during the Roman Games men acted as cheerleaders by counting the number of thumbs up and thumbs down that the spectators showed—and they wore togas (if you recall, the gladiators wore nothing!).

Another negative aspect to cheerleading is that the cheerleaders often become a nuisance to the athletes. Listening to a bunch of girls yelling "Ra, Ra, Ra, Sis Boom Bah," can make the players impatient and nervous.

Cheerleading in its present form does have its virtues. If you're a high school cheerleader, it counts on your record for college as an extracurricular activity.

However, rooting for a team does not have to be done by a cheerleading squad. It can be accomplished by anyone who has a little team spirit, and who isn't waving pom-poms while wearing a ridiculous looking outfit!

By Jill Cowan and Margery Steinmauer

We are grateful to Ariel Balter for some of her perceptions concerning the cheerleaders at Ramaz. We are appreciative of her complimentary description of our good looks and popularity. We thank her for her analogy to the Dallas Cowgirls and appreciate her recognition of our modesty.

Ms. Balter's arguments against a cheering squad are ambiguous. It is unclear whether she is opposed to girls being cheerleaders, girls in short skirts being cheerleaders, or "dumb blondes" in short skirts being cheerleaders.

She falls into the trap of describing a stereotype, which in no way applies to Ramaz cheerleaders, who must maintain high scholastic averages.

Ms. Balter claims that cheerleading is a means of female exploitation by men. This assertion leaves some questions unanswered. For example, who exactly is exploiting these cheerleaders? Girls who believe that cheerleading is sex-

ist are not obligated to join our squad.

Her historical references make no sense and have no relationship to the present status of the Ramaz cheering squad. We are perfectly willing to include men on the squad, as did the Romans, when our basketball players decide to play in the buff, as the Romans did.

We believe that it is unfair for one who does not attend the basketball games regularly to pass judgement on those who do. The squad comprises a major part of the audience at these games. In fact, the audience usually consists of only the cheerleaders, some parents, a few faculty members, and any stragglers that might wander in out of the cold. We fail to see how doing away with the squad would improve attendance.

In addition, Ms. Balter suggests that cheerleaders become a nuisance to the athletes, and make the players impatient. The only ones who can correctly judge this statement are our noble athletes.

Daniel Wroblewski, a high scorer for the Rams said "Cheerleaders cause no distraction to me, and as far as I know, to any other member of the team."

Steven Cohen, also a 'Ram' said, "I can safely say that since I've been on the team we've been victorious in about 75 percent of the games where cheerleaders were present."

David Greenberg said, "The cheerleaders show excellent team spirit and contribute much to our attitude at the games. They are our biggest fans."

David Izhakoff, another 'Ram,' replied, "The cheerleaders are not a distraction to us. To the contrary, they give us the encouragement we need to win."

Finally, Ms. Balter suggests that the only reasons that girls join the squad is to provide an activity for their college resumes. May we remind her that people who write critical articles for *The Ram Page* about cheerleaders may be doing so to include newspaper work on their college applications.

## Ramaz Clothes: That Knockout Look!

By Bennet Katz

There is a subject near and dear to almost every Ramazite's heart: Clothes. Whether it's the "Jordache Look" or decidedly frumpy, the latest fashion trends usually hit Ramaz first. A cornucopia of designer names adorns the backsides and shirt pockets of Ramaz students every day. But who can blame us? With every TV ad containing a shapely posterior and a whirring zipper, it isn't surprising that many of us spend almost as much time shopping for clothes as we do in school.

As in everything else, students' tastes vary in fashion. Many boys go the alligator route — alligator shirts, pants, sweaters (maybe underwear and socks, who knows?). For most others, the uniform seems set at a sweater, shirt with collar out and corduroy Levi's. In the warmer months the sweaters usually give way to ties. Maybe this can be called the "Lookstein Look."

Girls, as far as I can see, have a more diverse set of uniforms. The slit denim skirt, fuzzy sweater, cowboy boots or penny loafers look does seem to prevail. Let us also not forget the everpresent *Le Sport Sac*. (Whatever happened to the *Le Army Knapsack* of a few years ago?) The "Sac" rage seems to be subsiding, though. Many girls appear to be losing their's, as is evident when one reads the homeroom bulletins.

What does the future hold for Ramaz fashion? Well, for girls, the return of the mini-skirt may

mean a new addition to the dress code. For boys, the advent of the skinny tie may enable many of us to fulfill a life-long dream: the shoelace tie (what's a little tripping anyway?) Following on the footsteps of the Sci-fi movie craze may be the Sci-fi fashion craze (silver lame shirts, etc.) At least the administration can thank God and the fashion industry for not bringing out plastic skirts after the plastic jeans craze.

What does the emphasis on

## The City Hears, But Does It Listen?

By Herbert Block

On November 15, Mayor Ed Koch held a Constituent Hour at Junior High School 104 on East 21 Street in Manhattan. Since January 1978, the Mayor has held 15 Constituent Hours and thirteen Town Hall Meetings. At a Town Meeting, certain individuals are selected from the audience to ask questions of the Mayor and other city officials. At a Constituent Hour, each person in attendance is given a card which enables him to meet personally with the Mayor or the next highest available official.

The Mayor started off the one and a half hour meeting on November 15 by explaining the format it would follow. He pointed out that it did not mat-

ter if one did not get to speak personally to him, because all the other officials present were also knowledgeable about the city's problems. I spoke personally with Martin Gallent, Vice Chairman of the City Planning Commission, on the subject of parks and recreation. I expressed to him my views on the shortage of parks and playgrounds, and the poor condition of those recreation facilities which do exist. I noted that deep cuts were being made in the municipal budget at the expense of the city's youth. Gallent, in answering my charges, agreed with me that many of the city's recreation facilities were deteriorating because, with the budget cuts,

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## Gold: A Solid Investment?

By Michael A. Zimmer

Every day we are bombarded by the media with the daily closing prices of gold in London, Zurich and New York. The steady rise in the price of gold is a major story on the nightly T.V. news reports and is the subject of splashy headlines in numerous newspapers. In Europe, investors are rushing to buy gold. Why all this interest in the yellow metal?

Well, although we hate to admit it, the U.S. dollar is steadily losing its value due to ever-increasing inflation, which is nearing 15% at this time. In grappling with the situation, one might consider leaving all of one's money in the bank as a hedge against inflation. However, this course of action would not compensate for inflation's effects, since money in a savings bank typically earns six or seven percent interest, albeit with absolute safety, which, in this instance, is merely half the rate of inflation.

One might also assume that investing in the stock market would compensate for money lost because of inflation. The problem with this approach is that the Dow Jones Industrial Average, which is currently mired in the eight hundreds, would have to rise to its 1960 mark of 2,000 in order to keep pace with the rate of inflation. In reality, the market has repeatedly lost whatever gains it has made in that time.

Because of the problems they encountered when they left their money in the bank or invested it in the Stock Market,

many people have resorted to buying gold or gold mining shares in order to preserve their capital. Gold has come into its own as a moderate investment only in this decade, concomitantly with the decline of the dollar and the legalization of gold ownership by Americans.

From the 18th century through 1934, gold was officially valued at about \$20 per ounce and maintained this price unofficially until after March 1968. The price was then allowed to fluctuate somewhat with Central Bank transactions—at \$35 an ounce—while the free market permitted the price to fluctuate—usually at about \$42 an ounce. Because the official price of gold is supported by the federal government, the metal's price was held down artificially by the government's sales of gold at \$35 an ounce.

By 1972, the government could no longer control the price, and gold proceeded in its relentless upward movement. When the recession of 1974 set in, the price of gold dropped almost \$100 an ounce from its peak of \$195.25 an ounce. Since then, it has kept up with and exceeded the inflation rate. Bank news tends to drive up the price—as with the present Iranian crisis—just as with signs of stability and control of inflation, the price drops somewhat.

While the price of gold rises and falls with inflation, it tends to fluctuate inversely with the ups and downs of the stock market. When equity price

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# Ramazniks Find Bagels A Hole Lot Better Than Hot Lunch

By Menachemonides

A few days ago, I went to the Co-op to buy a bagel. After all, they cost only fifteen cents, and besides, there was no way I was going to eat the school's lunch (a particularly obnoxious combination of eggs and French fries). But when I got to the Co-op, I found, to my horror, that the last bagel had been sold three minutes before. What was worse, it was sold to a kid who brought lunch from home, a person who at least had control over what he had to eat at lunch. It didn't seem fair!

When I protested the difficulty of getting bagels to the sophomore who was running the Co-op, she told me what I could do about it.

After telling her that her mouth should be condemned under current New York State censorship laws, I left with a brilliant scheme already form-

ing in my brain.

Unfortunately, my plot to hold up the Co-op failed, so I was forced to resort to Plan B.

At this point, I must ask you to stop and think for a second. On any given day, when was the time you most craved a bagel?

I myself conducted an exhaustive poll (asking three students and a janitor), and came up with the following results:

During Homeroom: 26.3%  
During Lunch (usually, when the lunch is considered "unappetizing" or "yecchy"): 73%

Other times: .7%

Obviously, I had a lead here! Craving bagels during homeroom was understandable. Who wouldn't have an urge to glut themselves in their spare time? But lunch was different. After all, for a lot of kids, the school provided a method for pigging out. Therefore, it

must have been the kids with home lunch who were purchasing all those bagels.

Wrong! Quickly conducting another survey, I discovered that most bagel-buyers were kids with hot lunch. As Einstein once said, "Huh?"

Upon closer examination, the second poll revealed that:

A. 0% found the hot lunches perfectly satisfying.

B. 85% found the hot lunches "good."

C. 15% found the hot lunches "fair" (the percentage that found hot lunch totally "rotten" or "stinko" are now on cold lunch).

Using logic and deduction worthy of a Sherlock Holmes or an Encyclopedia Brown, I quickly surmised that most bagel-buying must occur when kids are dissatisfied with the school lunch.

The question that promptly presents itself is: What are we

going to do about the shortage of bagels?

There appear to be two solutions. One, that the cafeteria should take a vote, and drop whichever menu rate lowest with the student body. Thus the great rush to buy bagels on such days would become a thing of the past. This plan, however, is impossible to implement, because of the administration's unwillingness to make changes.

The second solution is this: the Co-op should adapt to the cafeteria's menu schedule. Permit me to explain.

I have (you guessed it) conducted yet another survey, among the students who receive hot lunch. I asked them what their three favorite and least liked menus are. I came up with the following, in order of preference:

Favorites:

A. Pizza

B. Friday's tuna fish sandwiches

C. Yom Ha'atzma'ut falafel

Least favorites:

A. (Topping the list) Eggs and French fries

B. Chow Mein

C. Something which resembles the Okeefenokee Swamp on a hot day

The plan which I have formulated is, I must modestly admit, a work of sheer genius. On days when the cafeteria is serving one of the top three, the Co-op should stop selling bagels before its supply runs out. It can save bagels in this manner and use them on a day when the cafeteria is serving one of its not-so-great lunches.

With luck, this plan may prevent the outbreaks of violence and mooching which have occurred against the kids who managed to get to the Co-op first.

# Ramaz Gourmets Tackle Kosher Fast Food

By Ami Finkelthal and Nelly Silagy

In a world of proliferating McDonald'ses and Burger Kings, what is the observant Jewish kid to do?

Well, there are a few Stars of David sandwiched in between all those Golden Arches. In fact, Kosher fast food is alive and sizzling in New York, and *The Ram Page* has decided to publish a progress report on this marvelous creation in an effort to spare readers the trauma of eating the wrong thing in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Two daring correspondents have braved 15 degree temperatures and risked severe indigestion to compare a selected group of the city's more notable kosher fast food restaurants.

Here's what we found.

Kosher World (1260 Broadway, corner of 32nd Street), our first stop, is a crowded restaurant where customers choose from a selection of foods that includes pizza, falafel, tunafish, salad and yogurt. All items here, except for the yogurt, are *Chalav Yisroel*.

After grabbing two trays, we pushed into the fast-moving line. The man at the counter asked for our order abruptly, so we quickly scanned the menu and the food on display. Pizza and falafel looked edible, so we ordered one of each. For variety, we also ordered a Sicilian pizza, and of course, keeping with fast food tradition, we took an order of fries.

The other customers nudged us past the cashier. We paid the bill and looked around for a place to sit. All the tables were taken. Resting our trays on a side

counter, we waited . . . and waited . . . and waited. Nobody budged, and we were thus forced to stand.

The food test was about to begin, and we eyed our less-than-attractive order skeptically. Nearby, two boys were devouring slices of pizza covered with large pieces of pepperoni. Pepperoni in a kosher dairy restaurant? We looked again. Round slices of rubber disappeared into their mouths. Afraid of ruining our already impaired appetites, we decided not to inquire about the ingredients.

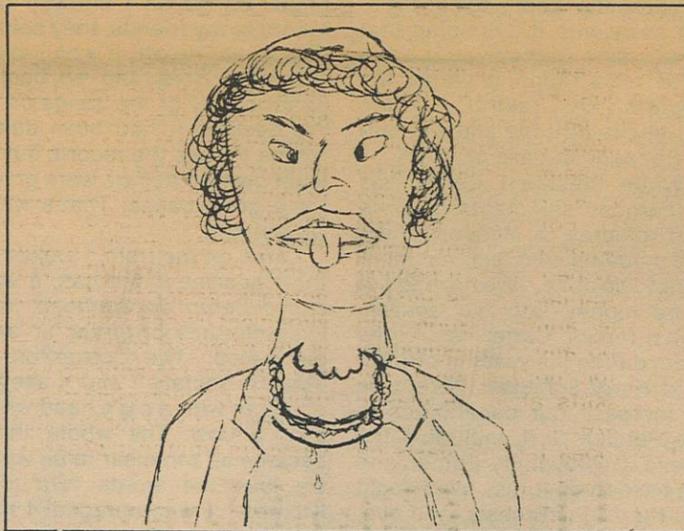
The meal itself was a disaster. Both slices of pizza were cold and hard, though the Sicilian pizza, a small, tasteless lump with a thin white covering that might have been cheese, was the worse of the two. The falafel was better. It was hot, at least, and the salad inside the pita was fresh. The French fries were not particularly exciting (they needed salt), but could be labeled as satisfactory.

As we were busy eating, the pile of dirty trays around us grew and grew. Wedged between the garbage can and the boys with the synthetic pepperoni, our tray tilted awkwardly. Suddenly, an old woman scuttled by, throwing her tray practically on top of our half-eaten pizza. We ignored her and carefully shoved the pizza away.

As we contemplated the rudeness of our fellow customers, a man in a long coat approached the counter and dropped a green plastic keychain onto our tray. A label on it read: "I am deaf, please buy this key chain." We shook our heads vigorously. He left.

Kosher World's desserts, which consisted of an assortment of cookies, were pressed against a glass case and did not look very appetizing. We had had enough. In a few moments we emerged from the restaurant, relieved to be

cluding eggplant parmigana, babaganouch, blueberry cheese and kashe knishes, apple strudel, donuts and cookies, we chose a regular slice of pizza (80¢), falafel (\$1.70), and a potato knish (80¢). We found a couple of



outside, but quite disappointed about our experience.

At Jerusalem II (1349 Broadway at 36th Street), we found the food to be generally better and the atmosphere cheerier, with many groups of people occupying the tables at the rear of the restaurant. There is much more seating here than at the cramped Kosher World, but during the lunch period you should expect a two or three minute wait for a table, and be prepared to share that table with a stranger, unless you are with at least three friends.

The scene at the counter was hectic. An Israeli woman with globs of mascara directed customers to the appropriate line and supervised the employees, all in the same breath. From a fairly diverse offering, in-

seats next to a suspicious looking man who kept throwing ominous looks in our direction. Aside from him, the rest of the patrons, among whom there were a number of non-Jews, seemed to be in a good mood; and with EL-Al posters on the wall and Israeli music playing in the background, an almost festive atmosphere reigned. In fact, we felt as if we had just walked into a restaurant in Tel-Aviv.

Our food augmented the upbeat atmosphere. The falafel, for instance, was a winner, with plenty of tahina sauce and salad, large chunks of tomatoes, and flavorful balls. Our pizza slice was warm, as it should be, and it proved to be larger and cheesier than its Kosher World counterpart. The knish was also

warm, and it had a firm, smooth texture. However, it was a bit on the bland side and thus would have benefited from a bit more spice or the addition of some chopped onion.

The service at the rear of the restaurant proved to be as efficient as the service up front at the counter. Several attendants went briskly about the business of clearing off vacated tables. Occasionally, one of them would direct waiting patrons to a free table. Another was helpful enough to point out to us that a scarf had fallen off one of our chairs. On the other hand, even though Jerusalem II is a fast food establishment, employees need not make customers feel even more rushed by asking them if they are finished eating when their plates are still one-quarter full.

Of the four restaurants we visited, Jerusalem II was the only one in which we saw a sink specially set aside for *Netilat Yadayim*. Unfortunately, it was also the only place where trying to get hold of a napkin can be an ordeal. Some of the napkin-boxes have an opening on only one side of the box, and that means that if you happen to be sitting by the side with the opening, you'll have to stretch all the way across the table and bend your arm into an awkward position—and possibly into someone else's food—in order to get a napkin.

The negative aspects aside, we thought Jerusalem II to be a fine place to get a quick bite, and this time when we plunged into the icy winter air, it was with a feeling of satisfaction.

We reached the Yahalom Restaurant (49 W. 47th Street) still shivering from the cold. In order to enter Yahalom, one must first

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# The Ram Page

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## The Draft...

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about the President's decision: "The important thing is that the selective service system be taken out of mothballs so that the timetable for future mobilization can be speeded up. However, I don't feel a draft is necessary, because I can't foresee a situation in which the U.S. would need an additional, say, half a million men." Somewhat similarly, Noah Scheinfeld believes registration and a draft to be necessary, "to redress the manpower imbalance that currently exists between the United States and the Soviet Union. Within our own forces, the Army is some 500,000 men short in reserves, and plans for a 17th Army Division had to be scrapped because of a personnel shortage."

Most students seem to believe that women should be registered as well as men, stressing that the drive for equal rights would look selfish if women desired equal civilian status, but not equal military status. "If E.R.A. is passed," remarked Judy Abel, "it's only right that women should be registered and drafted. But if women don't get equal rights, they shouldn't have to fight." Others contended that registration of women should not be contingent on approval of E.R.A., but that women should serve in non-combat roles. Said Stephanie Becker: "I think that women should be registered, but they shouldn't be assigned service on the front lines."

Of those students who opposed registration and the draft, most did so because they personally do not wish to serve in the Armed Forces. "I'm for registration in principle, because I recognize our army's need," remarked Bennet Katz, "but I wouldn't serve." Another opinion expressed by several Ramaz students holds that if Jews were to serve in an army, that army should be Israeli. Said Hal Blumenfeld: "I have no obligation to America. If I'm going to sacrifice myself, I'll do it for a country I believe in." According to Rabbi Bieler, going to Israel to serve in the Israeli Army is fine, but going to Israel to escape the American army certainly isn't. "If you don't like the principles of Russia, you've got

to put your money where your mouth is. Our society depends on oil, and if the oil flow is cut off, we will be strangled, a situation similar to the closure of the Straits of Tiran in 1967. The system we have is on the line, and we have to do something, and the fact that people don't want to sacrifice for the country is wrong."

Almost everyone agreed that the Soviet thrust into Afghanistan threatens Western interests, and as such warrants a strong response. "I approve of the president's decision," commented Bezelel Dentz. "We've got to send the Russians the message that they can't threaten the West and expect to get away with it." Echoing that view, Josh Berman said, "We need registration because the Soviets are taking an imperialistic attitude and we have to be ready in case of war."

While President Carter has embargoed shipments of grain and athletes to Moscow, there are students who feel that more should be done. "We have to put more money into our conventional forces; Carter has ruined them during his years in office," said Harry Schessel. "We have to increase our capabilities in the Persian Gulf, including the Rapid Deployment Force, and we have to do it fast. We should aid the Afghan rebels, and support Pakistan. More importantly, I think we should seize the Iranian oilfields before the Russians get there. By acquiring the oilfields we will secure our source of oil, and establish a defacto base in the Persian Gulf."

Hillel Zaremba expressed the opposite view. "The Persian Gulf is a vital interest of the United States, but it's part of a wider vital interest. Any attempt by one nation to take an independent nation by force must be met with resistance. We who believe in democracy must support democratic governments. However, I don't think that our reliance on Persian Gulf oil automatically includes it in our sphere of influence. It's not ours; we shouldn't force them into supporting us. It disturbs me that people are talking about going to war. The only ones who can sit comfortably and say 'let's go to war' are those who are removed from reality."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Rip-off at Grand Central

To the Editor,

We recently had Cambodia Day in our school, a program that made us all aware of the problems in that country. It seems that other people, too, have become aware of the situation there.

My friends and I were in Grand Central Station recently when I was confronted by a man with supposedly good intentions. He seemed to be no different from any of the other solicitors who frequent Grand Central. But he was.

"Would you like a record?" I looked up and asked if it was for free. He told me it was, but would I please donate money for Cambodian relief. Since I was sensitive to the situation, I decided I should donate something. As I took out my money, he informed me that the man before him had given him twelve dollars and that he would like a big bill. I ended up donating four dollars for his cause. He then handed me a record, which he said was made by such famous recording stars as Paul McCartney and Wings. Then he said that I would get a magazine, which he quickly slipped into a paper bag without letting me see the title. At the time, I didn't think anything of this; I hardly even noticed it.

As I walked away, I thought he was a real fool for letting me have a record at such a cheap price. But when I showed the record to my friends, they said it was a real rip-off. It was called *Wheel of Time*, and we hadn't heard of any of the songs on it. We decided it had been dumb for me to take the record, but at least my four dollars were going for a good cause. That's what we thought.

Later, on the train, I looked at the magazine in the bag. It was called *Return to Godhead*. In it were pictures of gurus, an article called "The Corruption of Modern Society," and a sketch of a man with a pig's head whipping a cow. The whole thing became all too clear to us when we saw the words "Ha (sic) Krishna." I was enraged! I had been taken in! My money wasn't going to Cambodia, it was going to help the Hare Krishna. (Editor's note: We have corrected the author's inaccurate version of the name Hare Krishna.) Krishna freaks!

I looked at the record again. It had to do with the end of time. We all knew what to do then. We ripped up the magazine into tiny pieces and cracked the record into three parts. We threw the broken record and the magazine pieces out the door. I felt like I was going to cry! Why had I been so stupid, so gullible? We were all upset; we'd heard of this sort of thing before, but we hadn't believed it would happen to us. He had been dressed so normally; he looked so average! How could I have known that he was a crazy, brainwashed Hare Krishna? He hid his true identity so well because he knew that I wouldn't have given him any money had I known what it was really for! And the worst part is that he thinks what he's doing

is right, and that he's going to keep on doing it! If he wants money for Hare Krishna, then he should ask for money for that cause, and that cause only! What he's doing is against the law!! He had also misled me into believing I was getting a new record at a cheap price, when what I was actually getting was something I really didn't want!

As we sat there complaining, another man approached us. Luckily, for him, he was not collecting for any worthy causes. He told us that he too had once been approached by these would-be do-gooders, but that he had not given them any money. He advised us that if we wanted to do anything about what happened to us, we should call up radio stations, notify news programs and write to newspapers in order to make people aware of the problem. So here we are.

Don't fall into the same trap as I did. People like these look for out-of-towners and naive looking people. They are taking advantage of the Cambodian crisis and of us! Be aware of what's going on. What these people are doing is not only illegal; it's disgraceful, dishonest, and very humiliating to the victim. So watch out and make sure that the cause you are donating to is really the cause you are donating to.

Four Angry Students

### Misplaced Meditation

To the Editor:

RE: "TM Invades Ramaz," *The Ram Page*, January '80.

Perhaps Ramaz students looking for the sort of relaxation that Oliver Herzfeld has found need not look to an Eastern source for it when they can find peace of mind right in their very own "backyard." In immersing oneself in religious study and prayer with proper *Kavana*, one can surely reap many times the benefits of TM.

Sincerely,  
Ziv Hellman,  
Form IV

### A Scalding Rebuke

Editor's note: Though *The Ram Page* finds the tone and message of the following letter to be particularly objectionable, we have printed it nevertheless, in keeping with our belief that we are the voice of the students and thus have an obligation to publish all letters received.

To the Editor:

Well, here we are in 1980. Doesn't that strike you as rather disconcerting? Everything that should be going down is going up and vice-versa. Isn't it about time one of you boys (oops!, shame on me—persons) came out with a gloom and doom editorial? You know, something about Iran or the price of oil, maybe even an in depth focus on the rising price of gold and how it spells the end of our gloriously wasteful economy.

Am I being to demanding? Hmm...I've got it. Why not come out with a poll telling us how the student body is more self-centered, less conscious of the

world's problems and indifferent to the suffering going about it. It sure would you points with the administration. Can't you just imagine them, somber faced, with penetrating look, saying, "Gee, job son, you're really bringing up issues relevant to today, ahh, student." Yes, By God they're right. Next issue you come out with a scalding editorial on cheating during tests! You'll follow that up with a put down of student radicalism, and you'll follow that up with a no-nonsense solution to student apathy.

And speaking of nonsense, it's time for me to catch that flight down to Washington to lobby for repeal of that ammendment that allows irresponsible high school newspapers to continue publication. Signing off on the spirit moves. For member of **The Society to Oppose the Advancement of Radical Liberalism in Schools That Lack Dirty Hallway Walls**

### Hypocritical Foreign Policy?

To the Editor,

At a time when a powerful spirit of patriotism is sweeping this nation, it is necessary to examine the ideals for which our country strives. American citizens believe that the United States is the defender of freedom and democracy. Unfortunately, the foreign policy of our Government does not reflect this attitude.

The U.S. supports a number of countries whose citizens suffer from the lack of basic liberties. Many nations have served as our allies for decades are known to deny rights to their people. South Korea; the Phillipines; and, until recently, Iran have been classified as such by our State Department. Even though our government is aware of this hypocrisy which is evident when America arms these nations, it continues to do so. We send a tremendous amount of military aid and economic assistance to Saudi Arabia, a country under the iron rule of a monarchy, because the presence of rich oil reserves there is more important to us than the presence of a dictatorship. Our newfound ally, Egypt does not grant its newspaper the inalienable freedom of the press, yet it still receives large quantities of American aid.

Now, when Americans are preparing to risk their lives in the defense of the ideals of "liberty and justice for all," for which this country stands, it is imperative for our government to decide exactly which ideals we are fighting for.

Sincerely,  
Ari Bergw  
Form

### More Disco Debate

To the Editor

Hooray to Sam Levy and his article on disco music (noise), which should be considered an abject form of paganistic perversion.

A music lo

# THE RAM PAGE Surveys Religious Observance in Ramaz

In November of 1969 the editors of *The Ram Page* decided to take a poll of the students in our high school in order to determine the state of religious observance in Ramaz. Now, ten years later, Ramaz students have had the opportunity to present their views on the same questions once again. You can make your own judgments on the current results and how they differ, or do not differ, from those of ten years ago. In addition we have supplied our own analysis.

The present survey was handed out to all seniors present in school on one day and to the rest of the high school on another day.

In both surveys the students were told that they could write in any answer if they disliked the suggested ones. We have printed these as "Other," and listed the number of people writing in each answer.

## A. In terms of religious observance and belief how would you describe yourself?

I. OBSERVANCE		1980	1969	II. BELIEF		1980	1969
Very observant	1)	13%	19%	In degrees from	1)	24%	24%
Observant	2)	47%	47%	most emphatic 1)	2)	45%	46%
Not very observant	3)	27%	22%	to least 4)	3)	16%	19%
Non-observant	4)	11%	12%		4)	8%	11%
No answer	5)	2%		No answer	5)	7%	

## B. Belief in God

	1980	1969
1) I firmly believe in the Jewish concept of the Divine Creator.	62%	62%
2) I have some doubts of the existence of a Divine Creator.	29%	31%
3) I consider myself an atheist.	8%	7%
4) Other: I believe in God but doubt the Jewish concept.	6	
5) Other: Neither an atheist nor a believer. I have a religious concept of my own.		3

## C. I attend services outside of school

	1980	1969
1) Generally, every Saturday and on Festivals.	48%	48%
2) Generally, three times a month.	14%	18%
3) Generally, once a month.	12%	10%
4) Only on Yom Tov.	11%	10%
5) Only on the High Holy Days.	12%	8%
6) Never.	3%	6%
7) Other: I attend whenever forced to by the school.		1
8) Other: I attend every Saturday to talk to my friends.		1

## D. I keep my head covered (boy's only)

	1980	1969
1) All the time.	32%	32%
2) Only at home and when required to do so in school or in the synagogue, etc.	8%	7%
3) Only during meals and when required in school or in the synagogue, etc.	15%	15%
4) Only when required to do so in school or in the synagogue, etc.	41%	46%
5) Other: Except on the subway at night.	2	
6) Other: Only on <i>Shabbat</i> at meals and when required to in school or in the synagogue, etc.	1	
7) Other: Most of the time.	2	

## E. I agree that

	1980	1969
1) The more I learn about science, the more I doubt my religious beliefs.	7%	19%
2) My knowledge of science has no effect on my religious beliefs.	65%	63%
3) My knowledge of science confirms my religious beliefs.	23%	18%
4) No answer.	5%	

## F. Observance of the laws of *Kashrut*

	1980	1969
1) I will not eat anywhere but in my own home.	2%	2%
2) I observe the laws quite strictly.	46%	54%
3) I observe some laws.	28%	24%
4) I observe some laws at home, but not outside the home.	16%	11%
5) I do not observe the laws of <i>Kashrut</i> .	8%	9%

## G. In this question and in Question H, students were asked to check all answers applicable. Therefore, the sum of responses exceeds 100%

	1980	1969
1) I am interested in settling in Israel.	26%	32%
2) I would like to visit Israel in order to help me decide whether I will settle there or not.	32%	30%
3) I would like to spend a year of study in Israel.	37%	23%
4) I would like to visit Israel as a vacation only.	31%	22%
5) I have no desire to visit Israel.	3%	1%
6) I am an Israeli and expect to return to Israel to live.	5%	6%
7) I am an Israeli and expect to remain in this country.	1%	1%

It is interesting to note that many questions received little or no difference in response between the 1980 and the 1969 surveys. This phenomenon may be attributed to the fact that Ramaz students come, on the most part, from homes stressing traditional Jewish values. Ramaz parents, in choosing an orthodox yeshiva high school, display a reluctance to succumb to the pressures of assimilation and changing Western values. Very little change in attitude would therefore be expected from Ramaz students, despite the many changes that have occurred in modern society over the past decade.

Some differences, however, can be noted between the 1969 and the 1980 surveys. Students in 1980 appear to have a greater ability to integrate their knowledge of science and their religious beliefs than did those in 1969. In addition, despite a slight drop in observance in 1980, the survey showed a 10% decline in cheating among the student body. Less than half as many students today said they cheat premeditatedly than did ten years ago, while twice as many today stated today that they refrained from cheating because of moral principles.

## H. I am affiliated with

	1980	1969
1) A Zionist youth group.	20%	20%
2) A synagogue youth group.	54%	52%
3) A secular youth group.	7%	3%
4) I am not a member of any organization.	34%	26%

## I. Ethical Behavior

	1980	1969
1) I have no reservations about cheating.	10%	18%
2) I have some reservations about cheating, but I have cheated.	66%	68%
3) I would not cheat under any circumstances.	24%	14%

Those who checked choice 3 were asked to skip to question M.

## J. Circumstances

Percentage of all students who answered the survey.		Percentage of those who said they have cheated		
1980	1969	1980	1969	
1) 4%	10%	I cheat premeditatedly	5%	12%
2) 46%	42%	I cheat spontaneously	60%	50%
3) 18%	32%	Both	24%	38%
4)		No answer	11%	

## K. I would cheat only if it means the difference between a passing and failing grade.

	1980	1969
1) Agree.	37%	37%
2) Disagree.	52%	63%
3) No answer.	11%	

## L. In this question, as in questions G&H, the pollees were asked to check all answers applicable, so the sum of responses exceeds 100%. I cheat because

	1980	1969
1) Too much emphasis is placed on test marks.	65%	63%
2) I have little respect for the teacher.	17%	15%
3) I dislike the subject.	15%	13%
4) Because everyone else cheats.	16%	20%
5) Other: I can't learn it all by heart so I cheat out of desperation; I am too lazy to study; I don't know the material.	3	4
6) Other: I want the highest mark possible. Whom are you fooling anyway? All other reasons are just silly rationalizations.	3	2
7) Other: I feel tests are unjust.	3	
8) Other: Cheating greatly improves my chances of getting into an Ivy League college.		3
9) Other: It is very easy to cheat, and there is usually no penalty except a dirty look from the teacher.		2
10) Other: I like to be helpful.		13

In a separate survey of the seniors we found that 84% have cheated, as opposed to 97% in the '69 survey. On further questioning we found that 4% of the current class plan to cheat in college as much as or more than they did in high school. Ten years ago, there were no seniors who planned to go this route. The new survey also revealed that 36% will cheat considerably less or not at all once in college, a drop of 10% from the first poll, and 58% are not sure, up from 54% in 1969.

## M. Only those who do not cheat answered this question.

I do not cheat because		Percentage of school body	
	1980	1969	
1) I am afraid of the penalty.	2%	2%	
2) My Jewish code forbids it.	5%	2%	
3) I will not engage in anything dishonest on principle.	20%	9%	
4) Other: My friends don't let me.	1		
5) Other: It is a false way of learning; I do not need it, nor do I benefit from it; I have personal pride.	5		

Another interesting finding of the 1980 survey is that, as in 1969, a greater percentage of seniors than of the entire student body said they had cheated. This trend may reflect an increase in anxiety over grades and college applications experienced in the senior year. In addition, although a smaller percentage of seniors said they cheat in 1980, more said they expected to cheat in college as well. A possible explanation is that students today are more concerned with college marks and admission to graduate school.

This year's survey also showed a change in student attitude toward activism over the past ten years. A 10% increase in the number of students not affiliated with any organization may reflect a decline in activism since the period of political activity in the late sixties. Students also expressed a lesser interest in Zionism and settling in Israel in 1980, although interest in a year of study in Israel has increased.

*The Ram Page* would like to thank Mrs. Gorfinkle and Mrs. Dinetz for their help in preparing the survey.

# Rabbi Meyer Schiller: Hockey Strategist and Social Critic

By Steven Eisman

Rabbi Meyer Schiller was born into a non-religious family. Yet, at the age of 12 as he says, "when I began to muse over life's larger issues I decided that I had to become religious." He is now a Chasidic Jew dressed in a black coat and black hat. Rabbi Schiller teaches Judaic studies at Y.H.S.Q. and he has written two books, *The Road Back*, and *The Guilty Conscience of A Conservative*, which was a selection of The Conservative Book Club in 1978. In his spare time, he coaches the new Ramaz hockey team. He says that coaching the Ramaz team has been one of the most enjoyable experiences of his life. In this interview, Rabbi Schiller discusses many subjects ranging from politics to Judaism and how these ideas relate to what he is trying to accomplish with the hockey team.

**Ram Page:** What was your book *The Guilty Conscience of A Conservative* about?

**Rabbi Schiller:** The major part of this book deals with what rightism represents. Conservatism is basically a rejection or relativism.

**R.P.:** What does this mean?

**Schiller:** Relativism asserts that

the ultimates of life are illusory, while conservatism asserts that values such as right and wrong are realities, they exist. They are not projections of the human imagination. For example, saying that dealing unjustly with one's neighbor is wrong, is not because it is pragmatically wrong but because in the world there is an ultimate standard of right and wrong. This standard exists no matter what the majority of people think or do. We can either interpret this religiously, that God is the establisher of these norms, or we can interpret it in a quasimystical fashion, as did the ancient Greeks, that these essences exist in and of themselves. I opt for the religious perspective but either of these perspectives is conservative and rejects relativism which states that there are no real values but only projections of the human mind.

This has been the basic difference, throughout history, between the eternal Right and eternal Left. The Left rejects faith and values while the Right asserts them.

Therefore, I advocate pragmatically that the Right should abandon its attachment to laissez-faire Capitalism,

which is its major political hindrance in America. There is nothing inherently conservative about capitalism.

**R.P.:** But that doesn't mean that socialism works?

**Schiller:** Of course not; we are discussing what is philosophically moral. What I think the American Right should advocate is basically a modified form of welfarism that the New Deal bequeathed to us. I see no reason why the Right should not become involved with the downtrodden.

**R.P.:** But hasn't this welfarism of the sixties caused the inflation of the seventies?

**Schiller:** This is because the Left is so sickly weak, has no backbone, and therefore cannot say no to anybody. Welfarism must be pursued rationally. We can't go around inflating the currency like we have been doing. You see, what's happening now is ridiculous. It is all part of the breakdown of Western civilization.

**R.P.:** What do you mean?

**Schiller:** I view this as a given of history...This grand enterprise which incarnated the best of Judeo-Christian values, namely the Western World, has had it. We no longer believe in those things that sustain a civiliza-



Rabbi Schiller

tion, namely God, Community and Family. These are the basic building blocks of any society. The West has lost contact with these basics and therefore is, number one, unable to defend itself in foreign affairs. We banded our allies all over the world. Number two, we are incapable economically. We inflate our currency because we are unable to deny ourselves things. We don't have the self-control that concepts of God and Family give.

As you see now, the Third World is on the march, communism in unabated, and we in

our decadent state are certainly no match for them.

**R.P.:** What do you think will happen?

**Schiller:** Ultimately, the Third World will come to dominate world affairs. And the West just as England, France and Spain have already done, the West which is basically America, will decline till it is a minor power in the world. A small community of people who remain allied to a true vision of reality will survive until such a time as The Dark Ages end, perhaps centuries hence. Of course, the Messiah could come first and prevent the coming of The Dark Ages.

**R.P.:** What will happen to Israel in this decline?

**Schiller:** Israel is in a terrible predicament because it allies itself with the West.

**R.P.:** Do you think there is any way to prevent the coming of The Dark Ages?

**Schiller:** We are in the last two minutes of the football game with the score 45 to 0 against us. It is possible to win the game, but it would require a major miracle. The only way for the West to survive is for America to be resurrected. The one way to resurrect America is to somehow stop the control of the media over America. The media presents a serious threat to the security of the country.

**R.P.:** Why?

**Schiller:** Let's take the example of Vietnam. If it had not been for the media, the war would have been won. The media was totally opposed to it because it was a war against Communism. The media cannot fight against Communism because of its leftist slant. The media made the public believe that the war was somehow evil. This was the first time in American history where a war which was eminently just was sold to the American people as being completely evil.

Another example: What does the average American do every night? He sits and watches T.V. from 7 to 11. That means he is being told every night that patriotism is the possession of nitwits such as Archie Bunker. He is being told that sexual norms such as no premarital sex are absurd. Take Starsky and Hutch. For all their bravery in their battle against evil they are prime exponents of the thesis that sexual promiscuity is a legitimate lifestyle. Johnny Carson's monologue teaches that life consists of sex, ego and money. Television teaches that man has no higher aspirations than to be a beast. How can anyone not come out with a relativist view of society?

Therefore, the media must be controlled. But under our present system this is impossible. That is why I hold little hope for Western Man.

In our next issue, Rabbi Schiller discusses the future of Judaism and his hopes for the Ramaz hockey team.

## A Fast Food Adventure

(Continued from page 3)

climb a flight of stairs and then walk through a narrow passageway with an entrance to the restaurant's kitchen. This routine did not leave us with a particularly favorable first impression of the place, but we felt more at ease once inside the dining room. The walls were decorated with a mural of Jerusalem, and the room seemed fairly clean. The only out-of-place elements were a big sign that, on this day in late January, hung behind the cashier and read, "Happy Chanuka," and some other tattered old signs over the counter.

There were plenty of tables, and the menu offered a wide selection of foods, but the people who worked behind the counter did not look organized. We asked for a burger with fries (\$2.50) and a falafel (\$1.50). The man who had taken our order then shouted to his partner for the rolls. The response was hurled back in our faces. "No rolls." Before we could decide on a second choice, two pitas were thrown onto our trays. "Falafel and burger," the man announced. We did not feel like arguing and walked quietly to a nearby table.

Timidly, we peered into the flattened pita. A soggy brown mush protruded from the opening, and after careful consideration we

each took a bite. A hurried gulp and one of *The Ram-page's* courageous reporters was flying to the counter to demand a drink.

Next, we tried the French fries and falafel. Although the fries were rather tasty, the falafel was a woeful affair. There were no tomato pieces in sight and the falafel balls were a bit too soft. After a few minutes had gone by, all the ingredients sort of blended together into one bland mess, as opposed to the zesty combination of ingredients that was the falafel at Jerusalem II.

The people around us were unpleasant, but that could have been because we were at the restaurant during an off hour. As we recuperated from our brief meal, a man at a nearby table began muttering to himself. After a while he began a heated conversation with a passing Hispanic attendant (the only non-Jew in the place). We politely looked away, but it was hard to ignore the sputterings of the grizzly, bearded old man. He was probably just a little lonely, we thought, and tried to excuse his behavior. Suddenly, he stood up, whipped out a small brown booklet and shouted, "You wanna buy a passport for a thousand dolla's?" Strangely enough, the attendant began studying the booklet closely. We decided it was time to

leave, and as we neared the door, we almost collided with a worker carrying a pail of pea soup from the kitchen near the restaurant entrance.

The entire experience was traumatic, and we feel that the Yahalom Restaurant is not the place to go for an enjoyable afternoon meal.

After dining at Yahalom, with its ancient signs and ancient customers, entering Macabeem (147 W. 47 Street), which is frequented by many young people, was like returning to the Twentieth Century. Under a ceiling that looks like the topping of a lemon meringue pie, and against the backdrop of Israeli posters, customers choose from a selection of dishes similar to those offered on Yahalom's broad menu. Several meat dishes such as pepper steak and shish kebab are offered, and the menu is augmented by some attractive looking desserts. The place was clean and comfortable when we visited, with plenty of tables in the restaurant's buffet section and more in the table service area at the rear.

With the pleasant atmosphere our expectations of the food were accordingly high. But they quickly diminished as we sat down to eat. The first problem we encountered was the cracks. The falafel pita had more cracks and holes in it than San Francisco had following the Great 1906 Earthquake. It fell apart before the first bite. The knish (\$1.00), too, was plagued with cracks and it

broke up into innumerable pieces in no time.

To make matters worse, it was colder inside the knish than it was outside in New York that day, and the falafel (\$1.55) didn't bulge with salad like the falafel at the other places did. Instead, it just sat there on the plate, looking tired and flat. There were smaller tomato chunks in it than in Jerusalem II's falafel, and overall, it was cold and had a slightly soapy taste.

The jumbo beefburger on a roll (\$2.60) arrived five minutes later than the rest of the food, as it was grilled fresh. Texture-wise, it was a great improvement over the "burger" we ate at Yahalom. It had a wholesome taste to complement its solid feel, but at the same time, it was too dry and suffered from a lack of sauce or some other source of added flavor. The French fries that came with the burger were hot, limp and spongy. Good fries put up a crisp, crunchy resistance when your teeth close in on them; these fries gave up the idea of remaining in one piece immediately with a soft, submissive resignation to their fate.

And with a soft, submissive resignation to our fate—cramps, indigestion and heartburn—we wound up our culinary adventure and headed home.

Now you may wonder, "How can they be such tough, merciless critics, finding fault with every other thing they eat?"

Well, with mothers who cook so well, can you really blame us?

Coming in the next Ram Page:

- Arthur Wilner's summer job
- An Israeli student's opinions on Ramaz
- An analysis of jocks

# In Defense of Hick Town

By Lynn Charytan

All right, enough! I'm sick and tired of people saying:

"You live where? In New Rochelle? Westchester? Hick Town?"

"Oh, I have a country house there!"

"I wouldn't DARE live in Westchester!"

"What do you do for fun? Milk the cows? Count the leaves?"

We do not wake up to a cold house and run to light the fire. And at night we don't sit around playing the banjo and hoping the bears don't get us!

Now I'm not saying that Westchester is as exciting as the city, but there are movie theatres, there are department stores, and we even have a "Y" that's bigger than your 92nd St. "Y." If we wanted to we could

Incidentally, we walk a lot out here, too, without worrying about who's walking behind us!

By Manya Steinkoler

It was 12:56, only four minutes before the start of the opera. Madame Marshall and nine brave students from her Form IV French class who volunteered to sit through the New York City Opera's *Carmen* stood impatiently in the lobby of the New York State Theatre.

And where was Manya?

Of course, I had the tickets and I was *en retard*, as we say in French. When I finally got to the theatre, we ran up some stairs, and then some more stairs, and still more stairs, until we eventually reached our seats in the very top row of the theatre. We were in such a mad rush to reach our seats that Daniela got a nosebleed on the way.

Everyone in our little group knew the story, for I had explained it in class. *Carmen* is about a gypsy (named Carmen). She flirts with this guy, Don Jose, who falls madly in love with her and leaves Micaela, the

In fact, there's no arguing that Hick Town is a lot safer than the city, and a lot prettier. We don't have to go to a park to see trees!

I'm not putting down the city—God forbid! I'd probably love having an apartment in

Manhattan. I'm just letting all you city people know what you're missing. Next time you put down Westchester—WATCH OUT!!! We Westchesterians are forming a union, and we'll be coming after you.

## Operamanya

girl he's supposed to marry. At the end of the tale, Carmen decides she's tired of Don Jose and likes the *torreador*, Escamillo, much better, so she tells Jose to bug off. He flips out and kills her. Its really juicy stuff.

While the first act was really enjoyable because we recognized a lot of the music, the first intermission proved to be even more fun! We pigged out, but we didn't want to go down to the bar and set a bad example for Ms. Marshall, so we managed to restrain ourselves.

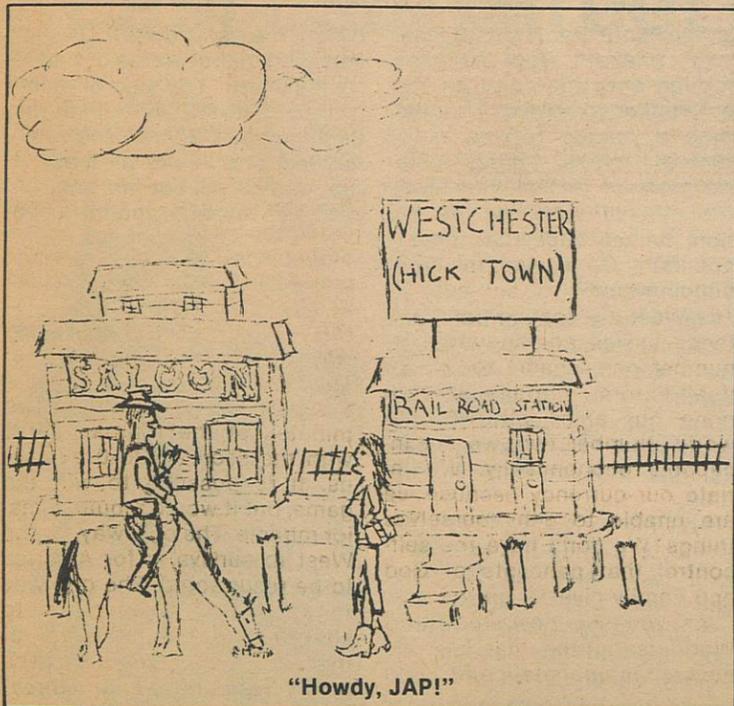
During the next act, we couldn't find Ms. Marshall. Where did she go? Well at the next intermission she came up and told us she'd found seats in the front row of the orchestra section, so we all moved down. Unfortunately, we found that we could get more of a good look at the singers than we had wanted to. Some of the singers were FAT and the illusion of beauty which we got when sitting up at

the top of the theatre was destroyed.

The last act of the opera was the most enjoyable one with the singers giving marvelous performances and real horses being used on stage, too. We all stood up and applauded, "Bravo! Bravissimo!" Then, when Escamillo came out for the curtain call, we got a better look at him. He was gorgeous! All the girls decided to go backstage to meet him.

There we met Carmen, who was played by Joy Davidson, who did a splendid job (she wasn't fat either). Then we met Don Jose, who was kind of cute. And then we were all set to meet Escamillo. Disappointment! He wasn't half a good looking as he seemed on stage, but he was a very friendly guy.

Everyone actually had a terrific time. In fact, we're going to do it again. So if you're interested, come along and join us.



"Do you have indoor plumbing?"

"How do you get into the city? By horseback?"

Believe it or not, Westchester's a nice place to live. We do have paved roads... running water... even electricity! We do not live in log cabins, and in our back yards we do have swing sets, not a forest.

even go to school in Westchester. There are public schools out here. In fact, there are even yeshivas! And the joke about we suburbanites being chauffeured everywhere we go—well, we can just see the jealousy burning in your eyes! Tell me you wouldn't love to be driven around instead of taking buses, subways and taxis!

## 65th Street Upset Over P.L.O.'s Arrival

(Continued from page 1)

the Association approached the Mayor's office. They were hoping that they would be able to convince the City of their position and in turn, let City Hall take over the fight by denying the P.L.O. building permits, which gave them the right to

bring in painters, install telephones, and so forth.

On Tuesday January 22, they met with John Lacistra, special advisor to Mayor Koch and Congressman Bill Green, and Neil Dennis, Borough President of the Building Commission. These two told the Association that in fact there was very little they could do. Any action against the P.L.O. could be regarded as a political stand by the City, and this in turn would draw criticism from the U.N. Realizing that any further efforts to get the City to fight for them would be useless, the group backed off.

Since then, several incidents have occurred which have prompted the Association to take further action. There have been several demonstrations by the Students' Struggle for Soviet Jewry, and two rallies by the Jewish Defense League, which has vowed to continue protesting "until the streets run red with blood," according to one JDL member. The residents' greatest fears nearly became a reality when on Saturday, January 26, the police were notified by an unidentified source that a bomb had been planted inside the P.L.O. mission. For hours residents of the block sat on edge as police searched for the hidden explosive. After several hours of investigation the police came out and declared the threat a hoax. Fortunately, they were right.

According to the Association, there are two main points on which it will base its new effort to evict the P.L.O. The first one is a matter of zoning laws. The stretch of East 65th Street on which the P.L.O. offices are

located is classified as a R-72 block. This means that it is legally zoned for residential use only. Any commercial business such as the proposed information center would be in violation of the City's zoning laws, and would thus be prohibited. The second point is neighborhood security. Mrs. Schubert explains that "Between the bomb scares and the rallies, we have all become uneasy and concerned."

What can the Jewish community do? This question was posed to Charles Moerdler, who in a telephone interview said, "I think there are basically three things that can be done. First, the elected officials must be made to understand that there is no place for the P.L.O., here, there, or anywhere. They're a terrorist group and cannot be given this kind of respectability.

"Second, the Jewish community as a whole must present a united front in demanding immediate action." When the Jewish Community relations Council was contacted and asked what actions were being taken the reply was, "We have not planned anything as of yet."

"And finally," Mr. Moerdler stressed, "people have to be willing to get involved. It is of the utmost importance that when a rally is scheduled people show up, and that public meetings on this matter be well attended to demonstrate the public's concern. These people must not be permitted to execute their goal of killing Jews and denying the existence of the State of Israel. We must not let them gain respectability in our own back yard."

## Does The City Listen?

(Continued from page 2)

there was insufficient funding for park personnel, whose presence acts as a preventive against vandalism.

After my discussion with Mr. Gallant, I was able to listen to the conversations between other constituents and officials.

Norman Steisel, Sanitation Commissioner, talked to a man complaining about the eyesore of street garbage. The Commissioner said the Sanitation

Department is doing the best it can with the money it has, noting that there were now only 500 street cleaners as opposed to 2500 in 1975, and that the Board of Estimate had recently rejected the Department's requests for additional funds.

The mayor himself faced many people who had a great variety of questions for him.

Faced with complaints about cuts in the Ninth Police

Precinct, Mr. Koch stated that police officials, not he, made the cuts, and that they were made without any political interference.

From financial issues the mayor turned to the issue of prostitution, which was brought up by a woman who noted her concern over its presence in her neighborhood. In answering the woman, Mr. Koch said sex for sale "was here before I got here, and will be here long after I'm dead," but assured her that he opposed all street prostitution.

The attendance at this Constituent Hour was described as "average" by one of the officials present. He said that 287 people were present and that 137 had asked for cards. Each person holding a card received a follow-up letter from the Mayor thanking him for coming and another letter describing how progress was being made on the problems the constituents had discussed.

I found the meeting to be an important opportunity for the citizens of the city to air their views on local issues of significance to them, without facing the usual bureaucratic indifference that people encounter when trying to get action from City Hall.

## Gold...

(Continued from page 2)

decrease, the price of gold tends to rise along with inflation. When equity prices increase, gold prices may be expected to decrease, provided no adverse political or economic factors are operating.

In the present period of stagflation, which is a paradoxical combination of recession and inflation, gold movement is less predictable but appears to be generally in an upward trend. Because of gold's volatility, some people are uncertain whether or not to purchase it. These people realize that when one invests in gold even for a

short period of time, one is taking a risk. With this fact in mind, I would suggest that one should not buy gold, but should leave short term trading to the "pros." On the other hand, when gold is bought on a long term basis, because of its inherent volatility, long term investors should consider investing by dollar averaging—that is, at set intervals. Alternatively, one should be prepared to buy when gold prices dip and not when they peak. When preservation of capital is a main objective, historical evidence proves gold's soundness as an investment.

## Rabbi Schiller's Boys: The New Power in Yeshiva Sports

By Zach Levin

After losing their first exhibition game 7-4 at the hands of M.T.A., Ramaz's new hockey team rebounded with two easy wins against the vastly over-rated Chafetz Chaim (9-0) and B.T.A. (17-0!). Both games saw flawless goaltending by Ami Finkelthal. Coach Schiller's boys played good, solid hockey in both games, after learning in the first game that brawn doesn't score goals.

Ramaz's most aggravating problem in the first game was its inability to put shots on net. By the second game, however, the boys had put to rest any doubts about their shooting abilities, pumping 16% of their shots into the opposition's net. Thus, the team went into the regular season opener 2-1, although Coach Schiller stressed that victories shouldn't inflate any egos, because they were only "practices."

Nevertheless, the team went into the season opener against M.T.A. with high hopes. Eager to avenge their earlier loss, the boys, revved up by an emotional pre-game pep talk from Rav Schiller, began the game ready to kill.

After five minutes of incredibly fast-paced hockey,

it, "four months of practice" had given it the ability to play. After clearing the Ramaz zone, Ben Freilich fed a pass to hustling Lee Lasher, who flipped the puck by the M.T.A. goalie for Ramaz's first goal.

When the first period ended, the score was 2-1 in M.T.A.'s favor.

The boys came out storming again for the second period. After several tense scoreless minutes, Joseph Hyman took one of his patented high-rising wrist shots to beat the M.T.A. goalie convincingly and tie the game. Adding insult to injury, Mathew Lindenbaum further silenced the M.T.A. crowd by putting Ramaz into the lead, 3-2.

Unfortunately, when the third period came around, it seemed that Ramaz had lost its momentum. M.T.A. took advantage of this fact and tied the score at 3. Then, with a mere five minutes remaining, things took a bad turn for Ramaz, as M.T.A. went ahead on a hard screen shot by Fine.

With desperation mounting among the team members, Coach Schiller called a time-out with 22 seconds to play. He instructed goalie Finkelthal to come out of the net as soon as

behind the net to Dave Lewit, who spotted Joseph Hyman drifting in from the point. Hyman's stick received the puck and sent it home into the firm netting of the M.T.A. goal, all in one motion.

With the score tied at 4, the

teams played six minutes of overtime.

At the final whistle, the score remained tied at 4, and a tired but satisfied team walked back to the locker room, aching for showers. The only grumbling to be heard concerned the officiating of the game. Throughout, Ramaz had been hindered by overzealous refereeing, prompting several players to comment that the referee was on the M.T.A.

payroll.

All those who were at the game report that Ramaz hockey is unquestionably more exciting than its basketball. Autographed pictures of Rav Schiller will be available soon at the Co-op, as well as pictures of four select team members modeling the latest fashions of Sasson jeans. The team's schedule will be posted as soon as possible, and all fans are invited to future games.

## Varsity Bounces Back

By Josh Berman

On November 11, the varsity squad's record stood at 0-2, a heartbreaking loss to Frisch, followed by a blowout at the hands of Rogosin, left the team discouraged and demoralized. The losses to the mediocre New Jersey teams implied that the Rams would be destined to another losing season.

Three months and ten games later, the Rams record stands at a respectable 8-4. The team that was a cellar dweller is now tied for second place in the division.

After balancing out their record at 2-2, the Rams faced the always tough M.T.A. Lions. The two teams played three periods of even basketball, only to see Ramaz falter in the fourth. Although they lost, the game was a victory of sorts. Sophomore Adam Ferziger explained: "After that game we knew we could play with almost anybody. Anyone that can play strongly against M.T.A. for three periods must be doing something right."

Then, the Rams went on to win their next two games, both on the road, trampling HAFTAR 69-43, and destroying YHSQ 61-48.

The following week the Rams faced a more formidable opponent as they went up against the defending league champion JEC Chargers. Led by Danny Dodelson, Mike Strulowitz and Mitch (the animal) Kasten, they proceeded to walk all over the Rams, and wound up winning by nine, 64-55. However, with seconds remaining on the clock, a fight broke out between Mitch

Kasten and Ram strongman, David Izhakoff. Both benches emptied onto the court as the game ticked to an end. After the game a league referee commented, "We're seeing more and more of this all the time. This sort of violence has no place on the basketball court, especially in a yeshiva high school league."

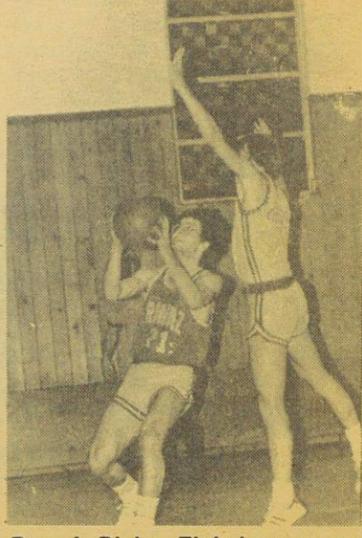
Following a week of practice, the Rams took the floor against the Sephardic Sonics, newcomers to the league. The Rams played inconsistently throughout the game, but managed to pull out the victory 51-49.

Next the Rams took on JEC hoping to avenge the loss suffered two weeks earlier. The Rams were able to defeat the Chargers 62-56. It was a fitting conclusion to the season for seniors Jacob Schreiber and Steven David, who were preparing to leave for Israel a few days later.

Shortly thereafter it was learned that HANC had dropped out of the league, thus raising Ramaz's record to 7-4. Another win would insure the first winning season in two years.

With this possibly in mind, the team traveled to New Jersey to take on the Frisch Cougars.

Before the game Coach Lessner had nothing but words of praise for his team. "You guys have improved at least 25-30% over the beginning of the year. You've all hustled, and you've all made it the kind of season no one, including myself, thought we



Rams' Ricky Finkel goes up against JEC's Danny Dodelson.

could have. It would be a shame if we didn't cap it with a winning record. Well, here's our chance."

Sure enough, the Rams went out and on account of excellent first half shooting won 53-46.

## Junior Varsity Eyes Championship

By Peter Miller

After years of disappointing finishes, the Ramaz Jr. Varsity is finally winning consistently. With a record of 6-1, the J.V. is in first place and in contention for the championship. The key to this season's success, according to Coach Howie Gruenspecht, is the ability of the new kids on the team. "More than half the team is composed of new players, and I'm pleased with their play," he said. He also added that the team has "a lot of guys who have matured and are playing better."

Playing at HAFTAR, Ramaz took an 11-0 lead from the start and blew HAFTAR away in the first quarter. Led by Glenn "Gorky" Cohen, who had six points and seven steals in the quarter, Ramaz took a 23-4 lead over the hapless Hawks. The J.V. extended its lead with superb play by Paul Heller, who dominated the offensive and defensive boards and scored an impressive 10 points. As the teams went to the locker rooms at halftime, the score stood at 33-8, Ramaz in the lead.

In the third quarter Ramaz got sloppy, and HAFTAR was able to score eight points, while Ramaz managed a meager 18.

The game finally ended with Ramaz winning by fifty-one points, 71-20.

Following this tremendous victory, Ramaz beat YHSQ in a low-scoring contest 9-0. Actually, YHSQ had dissolved its team, and the J.V. won by default. After the forfeit, Ramaz had a three week layoff until the next game.

Against JEC, Ramaz got off to a slow start but took the lead on the strength of excellent second and third quarter play by "Gorky" Cohen and Benjie Schub. The two spearheaded points respectively. Ramaz won, 56-52.

A week later, against MHS, the Rams were the antithesis of good basketball. They failed to pass the ball, shoot the ball, or play defense when they didn't have possession. In front of a full house at the Ramaz gym, the Rams played their worst game of the year and lost 65-64.

With several games remaining to be played, whether Ramaz is really of championship ilk is as yet unknown. However, the way the squad has been performing, next month's playoffs will not only be a reward, but a path to greater glory.



Ramaz players Lee Lasher, Benjie Freilich and Gershon Bergwerk celebrate Ramaz's first goal against M.T.A., as an M.T.A. player walks away dejectedly.

though, M.T.A. quickly subdued the Ramaz bench with two fast goals by Steven Ratzger and Avrami Fine.

Then it happened. Ramaz started playing the kind of hockey that, as Rav Schiller put

the puck was cleared into the M.T.A. zone so that an extra forward could be put in.

The plan worked. With a mere eleven seconds left to play and the bench in turmoil, Bennet Lindenbaum passed the puck

## Escape to Hunter Mountain

By Andrea Fastenberg

On Thursday January 31st, eighty students spent the day skiing at Hunter Mountain. It was, without doubt, the most successful ski trip Ramaz had held in a long time. Participants varied from beginners to Olympic potentials from grades seven to twelve. Some of us came to release tension caused by the recent exams, and some of us came just to exercise our athletic ability, but regardless of motive, everyone skied aggressively and enjoyed himself to the fullest.

The day began at 5:13 A.M. in front of Ramaz. Not surprisingly, many people's first stop was the 24 hour coffee shop nearby. There, they sipped hot chocolate in an attempt to warm their already frozen bodies or gulped down coffee so as to awaken their foggy

minds. Many were quiet and not yet "psyched" for the trip. Others were vibrant and raucous and could not contain their excitement.

We soon boarded the buses, and after a speedy ride, arrived at Hunter ahead of schedule.

By the time we had left the security of the warm buses to face the fierce cold we were indistinguishable to one another. Hats covered every inch of our faces, goggles provided our eyes with effective shields, and scarves were wrapped endlessly around our necks. We all separated, some of us heading to ski lessons, some to ski-offs, and some to brave the snowy slopes alone.

When we encountered one another on the slopes, we often had surprising accounts of athletic achievement to relate. For example, two Ramazniks planning to ski on an in-

termediate trail got on a lift that stops first on a low slope, then on a higher one. Assuming that the intermediate trail would be on the lower slope, they got off at the first stop and found themselves at the top of an expert slope. Nevertheless, they skied down that slope just as true experts would.

The most courageous of our group showed their stuff on a trail called Hellsgate (the name alone was enough to scare off some), and on the most challenging of slopes, Hunter West.

We left late in the afternoon, exhausted from the day's activities. On the ride home there was some muttering about frozen toes, numb fingers and charliehorses, but in the final analysis, it was agreed by all that a day of skiing was a great way to unwind and forget about the pressures of school.