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Mr. Kulak mentioned a certain Mrs. Maurice who allegedly says that free time is nourishing for creativity. Fear not Mrs. Maurice, they get enough breaks throughout the day to nourish their no doubt highly creative minds. The implication that this type of system stifles creativity is wrong. Take it from someone who has been through it.

His critical argument that they won't be fulfilling the *mitzva* of *kibbud av ve'em* is so ridiculous I actually laughed when I read it. I'll mention 2 reasons why it is illegitimate.

1. The parents WANT them to do this! This is the ultimate *kibbud av ve'em*!

2. Why don't you live at home with your Mom and Dad to honor them, Mr. Kulak? Because you're past that stage in life. You must still honor them when the opportunity arises but you don't have to be at their house to do it. Same with these yeshiva boys. They're past the stage of having to be at home 24/7.

Lawrence mentions that there are 2 backbones a yeshiva boy must develop. The first is one in *limud* Kodesh. The second is completely incoherent so maybe just clear it up Mr. Kulak.

With respect,
Some Frum Guy

Free Consultation

As every year at this time, Dr. Joel S. Rosenshein, noted psychologist, offers free telephone consultation to any parent whose child is not yet registered in a Yeshiva/Day School or Bais Yaakov. You may call 718-758-9213 and leave a message. I will return your call.

Dr. Joel S. Rosenshein

The Simanim on the Farm

This past Sunday I went to a farm in New Jersey with my family. Immediately upon entering the farm, the experience of *Rosh Hashanah* was thrust upon me. There were numerous rams in an enclosed area. Seeing their horns, I was reminded of their bent shape to symbolize how we must bend and be flexible with our fellow man yet be mindful that these horns also produce a stern sound to awaken us for the final judgment.

Next, we went picking apples and vegetables. I was struck by the magical idea that the apples and vegetables would serve as reminders

for us to have a sweet year and rise above our enemies.

Third and perhaps most important I saw an eclectic mix of Jewish people including *Chassidim*, *Lubavitchers*, Modern-Orthodox and the unaffiliated.

The unaffiliated Jews were so excited to converse with our eclectic mix and announce how they would have apples for the New Year and how they knew many religious Jews in Brooklyn.

Lastly, I was struck with the notion that there were sheep on the farm. This reminded me that we will all soon pass before G-d as a flock of sheep. I reasoned that if we are sheep then G-d is our shepherd. We know that a shepherd is known to be compassionate to its flock, a comforting thought, knowing that we will soon be judged by the Almighty. I also realized that all the Jews on the farm will be judged, not just the observant ones. That being the case it dawned upon me that we are a collective group and it was especially incumbent upon us to pray for all the Jews that were represented on the farm as we are all that flock of sheep that needs to survive as a unified whole.

The *Simanim* at the farm prepared me for the upcoming holiday and impressed upon me the collective judgment that will soon ensue.

Steven Genack

Ruining a Simcha

A couple of months ago my husband and I were on our way to Lakewood to the *l'chaim* of our son. As you can imagine we were delighted and excited and nervous as we looked forward to the hour plus drive to inform our friends and family of the upcoming *simcha*. That joyous feeling was quickly pulled out from under us by some quick fingered yeshiva boy who felt the need to 'chap' the *simcha* and post it on various chats. That message got reposted in a matter of seconds to thousands of people. It only took seconds to end up on the bungalow chat and that's where the fun began. Instead of choosing carefully whom we wanted to share our *simcha* with, close friends were insulted that we didn't share this news with them first. We spent the next hour doing damage control and what should have been an exciting time, became a very stressful situation. By the time we got to the *simcha* we were

total stress balls. And all because someone had to post the *simcha* first!

To all you young people, I beg you, please confirm a *simcha* is official before you post it anywhere. And before you *repost* it make sure it's official as well. It's on you to make sure it's official *even* if you saw it on another chat. Just because someone else stole a *simcha* doesn't give you permission to steal it again. Please be aware of the *tzaar* you cause when posting a *simcha* that is not yet official.

Mother of the Boy

Mashiv Haruach Umoreid Hageshem- in the Summer

Recently you published a letter written by an administrator of a Yeshiva in New York City, for the purpose of bringing public attention to the present predicament that Yeshivas and Shules, find themselves in. Specifically, the NYC DEP has been targeting them for the purpose of curtailing and limiting the legally allowed exemption provided under the law to those institutions. The writer also bemoaned the fact that the self-appointed *askanim* have not acted to address the problem.

In well drafted responses to the letter, it is alleged that the *askanim* are "working on it", and some excuses are proffered for their failure to address the issue thus far.

From my perspective, this is *mashiv haruach*/ meaningless responsive talk, to *moreid hageshem*/ the DEP's descent on our prized institutions.

Specifically, I went to my son's Yeshiva to finalize arrangements for the upcoming school year. When we got to talking finances, he showed me a recent invoice from DEP for \$200,000. He said that this is a real problem for many yeshivas, but the politicians and leaders have thus far been missing in action. Obviously, this was part of his explanation for the significant increase in the tuition.

With the primaries and elections coming up, we can all recall the newspaper ads, letters and sound trucks, urging us to vote as "a block" for xyz candidate, who will be there for "the moisdos". Well, this coming election season, I will vote independently for the candidate who will be there to address critical issues to save me with my tuition.

A Midwood Resident

Garbage Complaints

To G.S. who wrote in complaining about the smell and mess the sanitation workers are leaving on the street, why are you writing to the FJJ? Do what I did and call 311 and make a complaint to the Sanitation Dept. supervisor!

Finicky in Flatbush

Salvation at a Kever

I *davened* for a *shidduch* by the *kever* of Rav Gedalyahu Moshe ben R' Shlomo M'zhvil, on a Monday Thursday and Monday consecutively, and I was *mekabel* to publicize the greatness of Hashem and the power of *tzadikim*, when I would have a *yeshua*. I Baruch Hashem got engaged this past week, meeting my *kallah* exactly a year from the first day I *davened* by his *kever*!

Choson

Rosh Hashana Changes

As we get closer and closer to Rosh Hashana I am not so dishonest as to say that I do not need to improve. I am far from perfect and need to improve. However, I do not need to stop smoking and STOP driving like a rude selfish person, and I do not double park or totally block people's driveways.

Avrohom Ashenberg

Mussar and Hasidut

I am not minimizing the importance of learning Gemara, Halacha and Poskim; however, I feel that learning Mussar/Hasidut is being neglected for the most part. Furthermore, Mussar/Hasidut is a topic that everyone, both religious and secular, can relate to and it is also a great tool for Kiruv.

Ramhal writes in *Mesilat Yesharim*: *that things that are most important to Hashem, people ignore and consider it non-applicable to them.*

R. Bahya writes in *Hovot Halevavot* that when a learned Rabbi was consulted concerning a strange case in *Hilchot Gittin*, he responded "You ask concerning a point that will not harm anyone if he does not know it. Do you have the knowledge of the duties which you are bound to learn and should not be ignored that you spend time in speculations on legal problems, which will not advance you in knowledge or faith, nor correct faults in your character?"

Why the yeshivas do not emphasize more on learning Mussar/

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