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Dear Editor,

Dear Editor,

I was blessed to hear the following story over Pesach at the *Ne'ilat Ha'Chag* seudah. Someone who often hosted Rabbi Ruderman, *zt"l*, relayed that one night a bachur came from Borough Park to Baltimore to get a bracha for his learning from the rosh yeshiva.

The rosh yeshiva told the bachur the following story to explain how to succeed.

The Ohr Sameach once bumped into Reb Chaim Soloveitchik at a train station. Reb Chaim seemed down and depressed, and the Ohr Sameach inquired why. Reb Chaim told him that he couldn't understand *peshat* in a certain Rambam. The Ohr Sameach gave him *peshat*, and Reb Chaim was restored and jubilant.

When Reb Chaim returned to Brisk, one night he was having dinner with his three sons. He banged his hand on the table and said, "If you don't learn, you won't know anything." Reb Chaim's lack of understanding of a Rambam was symbolic of not knowing anything.

This coincides with a *drash* my late relative, Rav Avrohom Genechovsky, *zt"l*, told me on the Gemara (*Sukkah* 21b) that says, "*Afilu sichat chulin shel talmidei chachamim tzrichim limud*, even from the ordinary talk of *talmidei chachamim* one can learn." In *drash*, he explained: what is the ordinary talk of *talmidei chachamim*? *Tzrichim lilmod*, one needs to learn. The theme being without learning you will never advance.

The *bachur* now knew what's needed to excel in Torah: to internalize that he will never become anything without knowing that only learning itself can bring him to great heights, not *brachos*.

Steven Genack

Dear Editor,

I went to Columbia and had to sign a paper at registration in 1980 that I wouldn't participate in any subversive activities! I was bewildered, as a young woman from out of state! Then I learned about what had happened in the 1960s when students took faculty and staff as hostages to protest the war in Vietnam, necessitating this form to be signed. I wonder if students are still required to sign this declaration!

Shame on them!

**Shoshana Averbach
Brooklyn, NY**

Dear Editor,

It's time we changed our outlook on how we and our children participate in community sports leagues.

I have observed and coached hundreds of sports games, including soccer, baseball, football, hockey, and basketball. My children play or have played in all the local leagues, and I am not a parent who uses the league as a babysitting service. I attend almost every game, and I coach as well. I am enthusiastic about my team's performance, and I encourage my kids to run faster and play harder. However, I have been very concerned about what I have witnessed at the games of late. There are codes of conduct posted on many of the leagues' websites, but they are not enforced at all, and as a result, I have seen some very worrying developments.

1 – *Bad middos*:

Too often, after a team or an individual player makes a good play, the children begin to dance or make gestures to antagonize the other team. These moves include dancing (i.e. hitting The Griddy), making rude hand gestures or performing other

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Readers Poll

Would you rather work five
8-hour days or four 10-hour days?

68%
10 Hours

32%
8 Hours