

OPINION

THE JEWISH STAR

Serving the Orthodox communities of the South Shore

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# Ingratitude and more than a few too many

Editorial

**"The yeshiva, and the Torah taught and learned there, is unfairly tarred by the resulting mess."**

to the hospital? Someone should show them this from the Hope College (Holland, MI) web site:

Myth: "If my friend passed out, I wouldn't call for help. I couldn't live with myself if I got them in trouble."  
 "The fact is that if you don't call for help, your friend may not live to be mad at you. When someone passes out from drinking too much, they are unconscious and have consumed too much alcohol. This person is suffering from alcohol poisoning and needs medical attention."

Among the hundreds present as this person was treated were some adults who, witnesses say, made similarly unhelpful comments from the peanut gallery.

Another victim of the misuse of a bottle of booze was Yeshiva Sh'or Yeshuv, and its reputation. This individual was not a talmid of the yeshiva, the menahel said, yet, these events took place on the yeshiva's grounds and the yeshiva, and the Torah taught and learned there, is unfairly tarred by the resulting mess.

All the other people who went to the yeshiva for what were surely inspiring and uplifting hakafot are victims as well — among them, no doubt, countless young children — who now have memories of the holiday forever marred by disturbing images firmly implanted in their minds. Their parents are surely grateful.

The chilul Hashem is boundless, exacerbated by the need to bring police officers to the scene, on yom tov, for the protection of the Hatzalah members, and of the drunk, himself.

There are so many victims of one selfish individual's decision to show up to Hakafot stinking drunk.

First among them is the Hatzalah member who got kicked in the forehead by a person he was trying to help. And the ones who were spit on. Nauseous patients are something EMTs and paramedics train to expect. Violent patients are, too, of course — that's why the police were called — but spit goes a long way toward removing the satisfaction from an act of chesed.

Any Hatzalah member who has been on the organization for more than a day knows not every call comes with gratitude attached — sometimes not even a thank you. But to be bloodied, kicked and spit at by an irresponsible drunk as thanks for leaving your family on yom tov afternoon ought to be considered beyond the pale.

On the subject of Hatzalah and gratitude, how about the obnoxious young people who had the chutzpah to hassle the volunteers, and inexplicably attempted to insert themselves into the decision about taking their friend away

Letters

## Close calls in Far Rockaway

To the Editor:  
 So what was the story with the helicopter hovering over Far Rockaway on Motzaei Shabbos? Stories of multiple burglaries were flying all over the neighborhood all night and into Sun-

day morning, especially with all the police presence that night. So, here are the facts, as told to me by Capt. Brian McMahon, Commanding Officer of the 101 Pct.

At around 10:00 p.m. a man (somehow) jumped up on the roof of two houses, one on Beck Rd. and one on Henry Rd., seemingly to enter the houses through a second story window.

Fortunately, both houses were occupied, and the owners scared him away. At one house there was an altercation with the suspect, but he managed to escape. At a third house, on Virginia St., near Alonzo, it seems the same suspect tried to push in some window screens, which were alarmed, and the alarm went off. Again, the suspect fled. The police are confident

that this suspect will be easy to find; you see at each house he left blood stains! He must have cut himself at the first house he attempted to burglarize, and continued bleeding during his "crime spree."

The police crime lab is matching the blood smears taken from all the houses, and will soon have a match. They also believe that this was the

lone work of a drug user, who was obviously not a professional.

So, what lessons should we take from this episode? One, that we absolutely must keep all of our windows and doors locked at all times — even on upper floors. Two, alarms do work; but only if we use them, and keep them in working order. And three, the NYPD does take incidents like this very seriously.

Boruch Hashem no one (other than the "perp") was injured, and nothing was stolen. May Hashem Yisborach continue to shield us from any harm.

**BOOMIE PINTER**  
 President  
 West Lawrence Civic Association

could not make the same claim. I was told that if I paid by credit card, they would "have to charge me sales tax." This statement, which I have heard on other occasions as well, indicates two violations of halacha. First, imposing an extra cost for using a credit card is a violation of the merchant's agreement with the credit card company. Second, it is clear that as a general practice this seller was not collecting sales tax. Both these behaviors are violations of dina demalchuta dina, the halachic rule that tells us that local civil law is binding on Jews. Dina demalchuta is in fact a rule which is particularly applicable to taxation.

In the Haftorah read on Yom Kippur morning, the Jews are seen as wondering why their fastidious ritual observances (in that case, fasting) were not effective and G-d explains that it is because they have failed to live up to ethical standards. As a religious community, we must be as strict with civil law and moral behavior as we are towards our ritual observances.

**RABBI NOAH GRADOFSKY, ESQ.**  
 Temple Israel of Long Beach, NY  
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## Exacting Halachic Standards

To the Editor:  
 This year I purchased a wonderful interlocking sukkah kit which is an easy way to do the mitzvah of sukkah. Of course, the item I purchased boasted its construction to "exacting halachic standards." Unfortunately, the business transaction

## ABOUT LETTERS

The Jewish Star welcomes Letters to the Editor of no more than 250 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for style, content and space. Deadline is Monday at noon; we cannot guarantee placement. Letters must include the name of the writer, current address and daytime telephone number and may be mailed to The Jewish Star, 2 Endo Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530; faxed to (516) 569-4942; or e-mailed to letters@thejewishstar.com.

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