

THE JEWISH AD BUCKET®

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Talmidim 'Lean' on Semichut Prep Class

Orthodox rabbinical students have learned to dread the Israeli Rabbanut exams. Now, however, a new school offers a preparation technique that is modeled on the most successful SAT prep classes: it teaches students how to guess the right answer to questions about topics that they never learned.

Professor G. Walter Kashya, the director of the B'nei B'rak Review, explains his school's technique: "Over the years, we've noticed some distinct patterns in the Rabbanut exams. In a dispute between Tannaim, the right answer usually involves Rabbi Akiva. If the examiner describes a certain activity, and asks whether it is mutar or assur on Shabbat, it's usually mutar b'dievad, but assur d'rabbanan lechatchilah. Armed with statistics like these, you can often write the correct answer to a question without even reading it."

The course had a long-term payoff for one Boston-area rabbi, who wishes to remain anonymous. "On job interviews, search committees would ask me how I would pasken on various issues. I could

answer their questions on the spot, using the same techniques that I used for the exams. I do the same thing today when people ask me sheilas at kiddush and they want answers right away. The B'nei B'rak Review doesn't just teach you to pass the Rabbanut exams; it gives you practical rabbinic skills that last a lifetime, Baruch H-shem."



The Centers for Disease Control announced yesterday a new standard symbol to be placed on articles containing Shaym-s (the N-me of G-d). The CDC issued the regulation after reports that improper disposal of Shaym-s was the source of plagues in many cities with large Jewish populations. The New York Times has agreed to use the new symbol on all issues containing photographs or printouts of Shaym-s.

Avraham Avinu Never Faced This Test

While schools across the Commonwealth continue to deal with the results of the MCAS, synagogues are worrying about the Massachusetts Elementary Shul Shteiging exam, known as the M-ESS. This exam, written by the Va'ad HaRabonim, has been criticized in many circles as being everything from unfair to statistically invalid to bittul zman.

Now, I can't say anything about the latter two criticisms. However, I tried the sample test that was posted at <http://www.boston-bet-din.org/M-ESS/sample.html>, and as a veteran of three months of bar-mitzvah class, I myself was unable to answer many of the questions at even the kitah-bet level.

Here are some examples. Try these vier kashes:

•Reuven tells Shimon what Levi said about Yehudah; who committed the worst Loshon Horoh? (a) Reuven for

telling, (b) Shimon for listening, (c) Reuven for eavesdropping on Levi, (d) Yehudah for doing whatever it was, (e) you for continuing to read this problem.

•If Tsippi is 5'2" total height, and she is 3'5" from waist to feet, how long must her skirt be to remain tzniusdich even when she sits?

•Transliterate Chanukah: (a) Channukah (b) H.annukkahhh (c) X-mas (d) Hanuker

•On the following map of the Middle East, which of the following outlines Israel? (a) the dashed line (b) the solid line of black hats (c) the green line (d) chas v'shalom there should be such a place until Moshiach arrives bimhero v'yameinu

SJW seeks Anti-Christ. Jerry Falwell says you're out there, at least 23 years old, and have a future in politics. I'm a 25-year-old Babylonian girl, member of the oldest professional society in the world, like pale green horses and absinthe drinking, and Harvard men. Call me, I'm a shidduch you'll go magog over! Box 666.—ADVT.

Microsoft, ArtScroll In \$36B Merger

Microsoft and ArtScroll today announced that they would merge their operations. The combined company will be known as MicroKlaf.

ArtScroll will use its newfound cash to purchase Reform and Conservative sid-durim franchises. The "Bill Gates of Prayer" will be issued in time for Pesach, while "SimShalom™" will be delayed until the purchase of Brøderbund.

Microsoft, in turn, will take a page from ArtScroll's fundraising techniques. The Stone Edition of Windows '98 will soon be available.

Local response was mixed. The Kollel announced plans to start a weekly shiur in Windows NT administration. IBM opened discussions with Jason Aronson, publishers of "The Jew in the Lotus."

Jewish Ad Bucket Expands

After its recent purchases of the Boston Jewish Times and the Jewish News of Western Massachusetts, there were those who believed that the Ad Bucket had completed its takeover of the Jewish press in New England. They may have been right, but this week the Ad Bucket welcomes the Catholic Massachusettsian to its pages.

Also, this week we are pleased to add two new columnists, Mike Barnicle and Patricia Smith, late of the Boston Globe. Barnicle's column will focus on chiddushim in Torah study; this week he observes, "I was thinking the other day: Why does the Torah begin with 'In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth?' Shouldn't it begin with 'This month shall be for you the first of months'? And then a whole bunch of reasons occurred to me..." Smith will be writing about her upbringing in a frum household in Lithuania.

JEWISH WOMEN/GIRLS/TUMTUMIM: BAKE HAMEN-taschen! In N.Y.C., before 7:03PM. Outside New York, call toll-house-cookie-free 1-770-ESTHER1. In merit of Thomas Watson, IBM.—ADVT.

Israelis Putting Down New Roots

Matavti kol yom. "I watched MTV all day."

That's not a proper Hebrew sentence, but in a few months, it will be. The Akademia ha-Lashon, the official arbiter of the Hebrew language, will soon auction off unused Hebrew roots. MTV Networks is at the front of the line, bidding for mem-tet-vav. If it wins, the Akademia will bless new Hebrew verbs, like: *limtov*, to watch MTV; *l'himatev*, to be seen on MTV; *l'matev*, to be involved in the production of something that will appear on MTV; *l'hitmatev*, to see one's self on MTV; and *l'hamtiv*, to encourage other people to watch MTV.

For Shelly Rand, the dynamic new Finance Minister of Israel, this auction culminates a long struggle. "We've been privatizing many state-run institutions, like the meat-importing business and El Al," he said. "From a political perspective, the Akademia ha-Lashon was the hardest to privatize, but economically, it will have the greatest payoff."

What is the benefit of, in effect, selling off the Hebrew language?

"As you probably know, most words in Hebrew are based on three-letter roots," Rand explained. "Since there are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet, there

Corrections

The Ad Bucket apologizes for or the seemingly arbitrary linebreaks in recent issues. Our new software has been adjusted and the problem should be gone.

In last week's issue, the Ad Bucket inadvertently implied for the sixteenth consecutive week that converts aren't really Jewish. Once again, we apologize for the oversight.

DE BAUCHERIE

We have all your Purim Seudah needs!

Cyber.net Sauvignon
Shalosh Pinot Noir
Frumé Blanc
Achoshveros Appolicia
Ripple Reisling
Sautern-alia
Toké-Doké Sake

are 10,648 possible roots. Only a few thousand of these are actually used in modern Hebrew. The Akademia has been very inefficient at administering the Hebrew language, and the best way to combat inefficiency is through the discipline of the free market."

Economic logic sometimes had to bow before political necessity. Each Member of Knesset can pick up one new root for free. If two Members want to own the same word, the Knesset will vote between them. The Israeli Defense Forces and the Histadrut will be allowed to bid at a 10% discount.

The religious parties briefly turned against the privatization law, due to a rumor that IBM was going to bid millions of shekels on yod-bet-mem. They were mollified by an NRP-sponsored amendment that protected all classical Hebrew roots from sale and earmarked a portion of the proceeds for the yeshivas. Rand said, "I suggested that they use the money for classes in Hebrew grammar. But the rashei yeshiva said, 'Our students don't need these goyische grammar classes. If they don't know what a word means, they can just look at Rashi. That's what he's there for.'"

X. KAHN'S CLEANING SERVICE

Let us clean you out for Pesach!

ISRAEL BACH SHOP

New Arrivals

Air on a G-D string

Goldberg Variations

The Short-Tempered Congregation
(Books I and II)

Der Kunster Rebbe

The Kaffeeklatsch Cabana

**(Bridal) Suite for unaccompanied
nice Jewish girl**
(Yo Yo Ma, soloist)

Tochacha und fugue in D minor

In our book department

G-ädel, Escher, Bach
by Rabbi Dovid Halbstender, Shlit"za

Local Group Forms Converts' Anti- Defamation League

Receives blessing from Gerer Rebbe

Some 300 locals have gotten together to form a "consciousness raising" commission that will examine complaints of mistreatment and BAG (blatant anti-gerism) from Boston converts. "We are particularly concerned with those places where it's said, or implied, that converts aren't really members of the Jewish community. It's all over the Jewish Ad Bucket, for instance," said Herbert Smith, one of the organizers. "Comments like, 'Christmas means something different to converts and other non-Jews....' Shelves in local stores with the label 'Conversion/Inter-marriage,' as though these were the same thing. It's subtle, but it's there, and it's wrong."

The group is organizing a conference on the topic of "Blatant and Not-So-Blatant Anti-Gerism," to be held at BU in April. The conference will feature seminars by converts and Jews.

Language Course Offered for Pesach

When your children come home for Seder—if they still trust your kashrus—will you be able to understand them?

"It's a gevalte shanda," says Rabbi Barry Litz. "So many yiddische mamas don't speak the mamaloshen. A yiddeleh comes home from yeshiva after the winter z'man, his kopf full of kashes and drashes, but he opens his mouth and nebboch, his own mishpoche can't get the p'shat."

To counteract this crisis in family relations, the Orthodox Union has chosen Rabbi Litz to lead Learn Yeshivish America, a one-month crash course that begins tomorrow. The course will cover Ashkenazic Hebrew pronunciation, basic Yeshivish vocabulary and intonation, special terms related to Pesach, and Yeshivish grammar. If there is time, Rabbi Litz says, students will also learn the proper use of the thumb in formal Yeshivish speech.

Join Us For APPIE Courses!

The American Pluralistic Pilpul Institute in English announces our upcoming class schedule. This year's APPIE Courses will include:

The Essence of Mussar

Lecturer: *no one important*

Getting it all back in the end

An optimist reads the Book of Job

Hebrew, Level 10

Determining the meaning of obscure Biblical-Hebrew words by seeking cognates in Arabic, Assyrian, and Ugartic. Suitable for beginners.

Modern-Orthodox Ish in Search of a Neshama

Lecture to be held at the Jung Israel

The Halachos of Sleeve Lengths

Is wrist-length really long enough?

Learning from Elisha

Don't let the Bear Market eat your children's college fund.

The "Why Toupee Crisis"

Orthodox women opposed to sheytlis

Investment Advice by Martin Buber

"I and Dow"

Israeli Democracy on the Eve of the Election:

One Person, One Party, One Vote.

Speaker/moderator: Echad HaAm of the Just-a-tefach-to-the-left-of-center Party

News Briefs

Observant Jews Dying Out—Study

A recent study sponsored by the American Pilpul Institute has uncovered the shocking fact that observant Jews don't really exist. The five-year study was performed by three American Studies graduate students at Brandeis, and examined photographs of "observant Jews" in the secular and Jewish media over the period 1993-1998. Based on these photos, they found that all observant Jews are Haredim, and that no observant Jews are women under the age of 70. They concluded that normal human reproduction under these conditions could not occur, and predict that Jewish observance will be dead in 30 years.

Space Probe Launched

Sunday morning, NASA launched a SHMETI probe from the G-dard Space Center. SHMETI, the Search for Honest Menschen Eager for Torah Institute, is funded by the Diogenes Foundation.

Temple University?

A new program at RISD, for those helping to design the infrastructure for the Bayit Shlishi, was announced two months ago, but we finally got around to reporting it this week. Students completing the program will receive a Masters in Architecture and Korban Planning.

Toy Torahs Recalled

The popular stuffed sifrei Torah manufactured by FrumFriends™ were recalled this week when it was discovered that the stuffing was made from shaatnez. Parents wishing their money back are out of luck.

Restaurant Guide

Yossi's House of Treif

Now open!
(not a kosher establishment)

LITTLE AKIVA'S



Matza!
Matza!
(Pesachim 36b)

IT'S THERE
IN UNDER
18 MINUTES
OR IT'S
FREE!

CHAZON ISH BAR (ILAN) & GRILL

*Featuring head chef Chani Kneadman.
We humbly mention having the largest
portions in Boston!*

*On Green St., Brookline, around the
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UNDER THE HASKHUT SUPERVISION OF THE HIRSHNER RAY.*

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קשר המדרון עם המהדרן!

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Because Brookline Needs Yet Another
Kosher Chinese Restaurant



Opening soon. Glatt to be here.

*Smart brides know how
to arrange their weddings!*

They elope.



We Will Cater Your Elopement!

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Calendar / Metro Area Events

Singles Shabbaton

The Jung Israel of Brookline will host a singles shabbaton on Friday and Saturday, April 24-25. Speakers will include renowned shadchonis Chani Needman and will feature old icebreaker games like "Singles Shabbatons Stink," "There are no single Jewish men in Boston," and "There are no single Jewish women in Boston." Bring at least 2 other members of your clique. \$180 covers all meals. Call Jenny for reservations and hospitality, (900) 867-5309.

Fashion Show

Back by popular demand, it's the Shei-

tel Boutique, featuring sheitels for the (Gregorian) millenium from designers Ivanova, Leia and Luke, and Monika. Come see the new SweatSheitels™, designed for the active, athletic frum woman. Sunday, March 14, 7-9 pm. Door prizes.

Support Groups

The Ex-Shul-Newsletter-Editors' Recovery Group meets this and every month at the offices of the Jewish Ad Bucket. Bring red pens and a recent copy of your current shul newsletter editor's work. Topics to be covered: re-learning YIVO transliteration stan-

dards, how daat Torah extends to English grammar (or not), context-sensitive italicization.

The next meeting of the Shul Committee Survivors Support Group will discuss "Diplomatic ways to promote efficiency through pre-planning: when 20 first-class mailings are sent in one week." Bring your copy of "Shmiras Halashon" and an axe to grind.

**This coupon good for 20%
off Machatzit ha-Shekel.
Deposit this coupon and
\$1.20 in the basket.**

Ask Beth Hillel

Editor's Note: This is a new column presenting excerpts from "Shtus Min Schlitz", by the Schlitzer Rebbe, Shlit"za. He is the first member of a long dynasty of rebbeim, a leading posek of the Mutar movement, and an expert at weighing the heftiest opinions of the gedolei hador.

Q. Why do certain psalms begin with the phrase "Shir ha-ma'alos"?

A. Back in the days when the Beis ha-Mikdash was standing, many people came there to bring korbanos. To prevent all these people from getting bored and restless, groups of Levi'im would stand near the line and sing. The most popular ballads from their playlist earned the title "Shir ha-ma'alos"—or, in English, "elevator music".

Q. What is the origin of the custom to recite certain passages after Ein K-lokeinu?

A. The original text was actually slightly different than what we recite today:

The daily sections that the Levis read on the Upper West Side of the Holy City: On Sundays, they read the Week in Review; on Mondays, they read Sports Monday; on Tuesdays, Science Times; on Wednesdays, Living; on Thursdays, Home; on Fridays, Weekend. And on the Holy Sabbath, if they had a nice delivery boy, they read the Magazine, a taste of

the Day to Come.

Q. Consider the following scenario. A housewife is preparing a large pot of chicken soup. She adds some green peppers to the soup that had been cut with a clean but eino-ben-yomo milchig knife, thinking that they had been cut with a fleishig knife. The volume of the soup is less than sixty times the volume of the peppers. Then she adds more water to the soup pot, until the total volume of the soup is greater than sixty times the volume of the peppers. After the water comes to a boil again, she remembers that she had used a milchig knife on the peppers. If I tell you who did this, would it be lashon hora?

A. That depends. Who was it?

Q. According to superstring theory, the universe exists not only in the three familiar dimensions, but in eleven. If one actually understands superstring theory, should he shake his arba minim in all twenty-two directions?

A. Yes. The gabbai will give you annoyed looks for making Hallel last until noon, but you should ignore him. You do anyway. Also, when you recite the Shma, you should prolong the daled for 77 seconds, while contemplating Hash-m's dominion over all affine and non-affine transformations of Riemann space.

Expo '59 a hit

Several new products were announced at the recent *Expo '59*, held in New York's JaviZTZ"L Convention Center.

Do you host parties where no one talks to anyone else? Now, you can order a complete set of Torah Tapes: since no one can sit through the kriyah without telling their neighbors all about the grandchildren, the Red Sox, or the stock market, your guests will be schmoozing before you can say "Ya'amod Levi!"

Just in time for Pesach, Manny Shvitz & Co. announces Pesadich beer and scotch. What's a seder without a cool frosty one?

Wives, are you tired of untangling your husband's tzitzis when you do laundry? Tired of seeing them frayed? Now, Tzitz-Sleeves introduces plastic sheathes for arba kanfot. If plastic was good enough for your bubbie's couch, it's good enough for your family's begadim!

Worried about your etrog becoming pasul? Now you can protect your tip with new Raamses for Pitom.

MicroKlaf announced the Transliterated Gemara, ideal for those Daf Yomi participants who don't know Aramaic but want to sound like they do. Also, be sure to take a look at the new ArtScroll "Et," a 500-page compendium on the liturgical contexts of this important word.

A new product marketed by the Ish ha-Torah Kiruv Corp. in conjunction with Chabad of Nonantum seeks to solve "the No. 1 problem for baalei t'shuvah today." Jewish Geography Flash Cards were designed by Rabbi Kiva ("Gil") Fisch of Ish haTorah and Rabbi Dov Ber Mezrich of Chabad. Each unique packet contains a "you" card, which gives you a place where you grew up, went to camp, etc., and a set of "associates" cards, which contains real facts—recent to last Purim—about real people you should know. You memorize the cards, and when the game starts, you can make loshon horoh about so-and-so right along with the pros.

A new service is now available for congregations where talking through the duchening is a problem. Large, threatening men will stand on the duchen and klop anyone who talks. The fee is only \$1000 for each Kohen of silence.

YOU CAN KEEP UP!

FRUSTRATED by the pace of davening at your local shul?
Still at MODIM while the rabbi is taking off his TEFILLIN?
Starting SELICHOS at 3:00 am—even if you read it in TRANSLATION?
Do your lips IGNITE when you try to keep up with the congregation?

SALVATION IS AT HAND... WITH *SPEED DAVENING*

The ONLY series of tefillah audiotapes endorsed by the SCHLITZER REBBE!

SPEED DAVENING teaches you PRACTICAL secrets of tefillah—like these:

The REAL rules of Hebrew pronunciation! Parts of TACHANUN everybody SKIPS—EVEN the CHAZ-ZAN! Lip-limbering EXERCISES that frummies have been doing—since INFANCY! Listen-and-repeat LESSONS—SHACHARIT in FIFTEEN MINUTES! SPECIAL BONUS: How the kid doing Ein K-lokeinu finishes the b'samim and psalms section SO FAST!

DON'T DELAY breakfast any longer than you have to! WRITE TODAY!

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