

*Wishing You A Happy Purim!*

# The Kustanowitz Kronikle

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Special Purim Edition

March 21, 1989

## ***RABBIS BAN CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES; LAW UPDATED; MANY FOODS AFFECTED***

### **The Numbers Prove It— Or Do They?**

#### **GEMATRIA USED AND CHALLENGED IN JUSTIFYING NEW BAN**

Special to the Kustanowitz Kronikle

FAIR LAWN, March 21—The new ban on mixed foods under the updated *Kil'ayim* law (see story, column 2), relies heavily on *Gematria*, the science (or creative art) of putting numbers together to prove anything you want. The *Etzba B'Al*, leading *gematria* scholar for OSUR, convinced the group to endorse the ban when he proved that the sum of the Hebrew words for cereal, fruit, and nut (*daisa, pri*, and *egoz*) have the same value (376) as the sum of the word *zed* (*evil doer*) and the number of negative precepts (365) in the 613 commandments.

His MUTAR adversary, the *Regel Ba'Peh*, on the other hand, insisted that the words Chocolate Chip (in Hebrew, *Shokolad Tzip*) add up to 626, which is proof that eating only one chocolate chip, in any form, is equivalent to observing all 613 commandments plus the 13 Principles of Faith.

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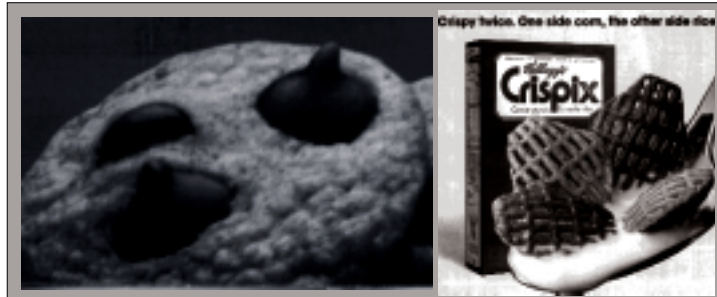
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### **Orthodox, Conservative Groups Agree; Both Satisfy a Most Fundamental Need**

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FAIR LAWN, March 21—In a sweeping declaration that is certain to change the buying habits of Kosher consumers in North Jersey, the Orthodox Society of Ultra Rabbis



(OSUR) of Bergen County has announced that it is now forbidden to eat any food which contains a mixture of two or more dissimilar substances. Included in the ban

are chocolate chip cookies, fudge swirl ice cream, chocolate chip granola bars, raisin bran, and a wide variety of cereals containing unrelated mixtures of grains, fruits, and nuts.

Showing an unprecedented degree of cooperation, a Conservative group, the Modern Unified Teaneck Area Rabbinat (MUTAR), joined forces with the Orthodox group to put the ban into effect.

The unusual agreement was reached swiftly when it became apparent that it fulfilled the basic needs of each movement. Until today, the OSUR group had been greatly concerned about its future, because it had run out of hitherto acceptable pleasures to ban. The MUTAR group, on the other hand, had run out of laws to change and update to modern times.

In searching for a possible solution, the law of *Kil'ayim* was discovered. As it is written in *Parshat Kedoshim* (19:19), it is forbidden to sow a field with mixed seeds such as wheat and barley. Because this practice is no longer common, and also because it is not applicable outside of the land of Israel, the law had fallen into a state of disuse. By applying the law to the farming of today, supermarket shopping, it was possible to satisfy both the modernizing interests of the Conservatives and the constant need for new prohibitions by the Orthodox.

The rabbis took great pains to single out a particularly insidious group of products which not only contained mixed substances, but seemed so proud of their mixed nature that they flagrantly called attention to it in their advertising. This group includes such cereals as Crispix, Double Chex, Team Flakes, Fruit and Fiber, and Raisin Nut Bran.

As the conference adjourned, reporters tried to get more details from one rabbi who is also a stockbroker. As he ran for the door, he was asked what influence this landmark decision might have on the stock market. His comments were not very clear as he was running for the phones, but it sounded like he said "Sell short all food stocks, and invest in companies that breed red cows."

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