

# The Kustanowitz Kronikle

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Special Purim Edition

March 19, 1992

## Daily Minyan Abolished as AT'nT Installs "Davener's Choice" Line

Touch-Tone Phones Redefine Communal Worship

Special to the Kustanowitz Kronikle

**American Tallit 'n Tfilin Company**

**AT'nT Davener's Choice**

*(Cut out and keep in your wallet)*

**DIAL 1-926-623-2836  
(I-WANNA-DAVEN)**

*A voice will inform you of the service currently in progress, and, if it is Shacharit, whether it's light enough outside to put on your tallit & tfilin.*

*After listening to basic instructions, press the appropriate letter to choose your dialect:*

**A** for standard Ashkenaz  
**Y** for Yeshivish  
**C** for Chassidish  
**L** for Litvak  
**G** for Galitzianer  
**I** for Israeli

*To make a donation to your shul, press **P** for Pushke, followed by the computer code for your synagogue, followed by the amount you wish to donate, in dollars.*

FAIR LAWN, March 19—Technology took a giant leap forward this week, and in one fell swoop brought about the end of a form of communal worship dating back to the time of the Patriarchs.

With great fanfare, the American Tallit and Tfilin Company (AT'nT) introduced a new instant "Davener's Choice" conference line, which is available for a nominal charge on all touch-tone phones.

The orthodox population immediately saw the service as a total replacement for weekday minyan attendance, and refused all entreaties from their rabbis and minyan committees to come to regular services in the synagogue.

This forced an emergency meeting of the Institute of Rabbinical Sages (IRS), which reluctantly bowed to the new technology.

The "Davener's Choice" service is completely automated and works by pressing the appropriate keys when prompted by a friendly electronic voice. The caller is asked to press a key to indicate the choice of dialect. Current choices include Ashkenaz, Yeshivish, Chassidish, Litvak, Galitzianer, and Israeli. If there is sufficient demand, AT'nT will add additional choices, such as Yekke, Chabad, and Egalitarian.

Some problems remain, however. AT'nT chose to have the electronic computer-generated voice resemble a woman's voice and the IRS is having internal disagreements as to whether or not it should be considered "kol isha."

It has also been rumored that one congregant offered to pay a large sum of money for the addition of a special "H" choice so he can have a direct line to Hashem.

The IRS was initially opposed to the AT'nT plan on the basis of telephone connections not being equivalent to physical presence at a minyan, but eventually yielded to pressure from congregants, the realization that more worshippers would be able to participate in their own dialect, and a pledge from AT'nT to donate a portion of the line charges to shuls that promote the service.

## COLD WAR BREAKS OUT IN JERUSALEM STREETS

Russians and Americans Battle with Snowballs, Pitchforks

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JERUSALEM, March 19 — The cold war, thought to have ended with the restructuring of the former Soviet Union, broke out again this month in Jerusalem, when an 18-inch snowfall prompted Russian and American students to fight pitched battles with snowballs in the streets near the Hebrew University here.

The snow, coming on the heels of previous snowfalls earlier this winter, left the population in a state of total helplessness. Kibbutzniks attacked the invading white flakes with pitchforks, hoes, spades and other farm implements. One woman was seen by our overseas correspondent, Esther Kustanowitz, pouring a kettle of boiling water on the freshly fallen white powder in an attempt to melt it. Another was seen trying to shovel the snow with a plastic dustpan.

Our correspondent reports that the weather bureau is so disorganized that it is reporting astrological forecasts from Lebanon.

A friend who had a doctor's appointment couldn't find a taxi ("I can't stop — I don't want to get stuck," the drivers explained) and was invited to stay at the doctor's house overnight.

The snow has always started at night, and Hebrew U. students have fallen into the habit of waking up their Hebrew-speaking classmate (our correspondent) to interpret the travel advisories broadcast over the radio.

## MOVIE PREVIEWS

Coming Soon to a Theater Near You

### AWAKENINGS

Congregants find renewed strength when noise from the youth groups in the basement jolt them out of their sleep during the rabbi's sermon.

### FRIED GREEN POTATOES

Food poisoning breaks out at the Chanukah Chagigah when the caterer gets a price break on produce.

### BACKDRAFT

Fighting erupts at a crowded Yom Kippur service when the air conditioning system breaks down and elderly congregants who want the windows closed attack younger members who want them open.

### HOME ALONE

Parents discover a new relationship when all their children leave for summer camp for the first time.

### MEN DON'T LEAVE

Nine men spend the night in shul, waiting for a tenth man to make the minyan for Mincha.