Associate Dean Leaves Syms
After 25 Years of Service
Reflections On My Years with the Syms School of Business

By: Ira Jaskol, Associate Dean

As I approach my retirement from the Syms School of Business this month (after almost 25 years of devoted service), I find it appropriate that I look back at its founding and some of the milestones of the school.

In Spring 1987, I was approached by the founding Dean, Dr. Michael Schiff, A''H about helping him start the new business school at Yeshiva, which was to open in Fall 1987. Although I believed it was a great idea to have a business school at Yeshiva, I graciously declined because I was too close to the school as an active member of the alumni. After his and others repeatedly asking me, I finally agreed to become part of this historic venture: the first new school at YU in 25 years, and the only undergraduate school which would have both men and women, (although on separate campuses).

I joined the Syms School in July 1987 and had only a few months to finalize all the details for our first class. What made it even more challenging was the fact that we were assuming the responsibility for the existing Accounting majors at YC and SCW, some of which were due to graduate that school year. Dean Schiff then asked me to start a Placement Office, and to expand it and professionalize CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Groundbreaking Surgery:
Lasers Can Change Eye Color

By: Ethan Katz

Take a moment to think about the following question. Did you ever wish that you had different color eyes? If some scientist approached you with the option of experimenting on a procedure to change your eye-color - would you take the offer? Now take the same exact question and add on the steep, onetime fee of $5,000 - would you still want to take the offer?

The debut of colored contacts has met their match. An extremely innovative eye-laser surgery has broken through in the cosmetics field, known as Ophthalmic plastic surgery. In a world that places extremely strong emphasis on self-image, appearance, and vanity, the game just keeps on changing.

Along with such innovations as the ability to change the way you look with plastic surgery, face lifts, hair implants, tummy tucks, liposuction, and now, for a small fee of around $5,000 you can change the natural color of your eyes!

A former Los Angeles attorney named Greg Homer has invented a new procedure which uses lasers to change the color of your eyes - permanently! This technology and procedure has been in the making for nearly 10 years now, and after countless tests, experiments, and experimenting, Homer believes that his revolutionary procedure is almost ready to be commercialized publicly. He has termed the operation as "Lumineyes" to give it that little added sparkle that will catch people's attention. He believes that due to further testing and regulatory standards that need to be met in America, the procedure will be available to the American public in three years, and outside the United States in around eighteen months.

The only catch to this laser surgery is that it's only for those who have brown eyes and is a completely irreversible surgery. The concept behind the brief laser procedure is that the color blue is inherently hidden within the color brown. In an interview with KTLA, a Los Angeles news station, Homer explained that the process begins by a computer first scanning the iris and after adjusting its frequency, sends a signal to a laser mechanism which shoots into the client's eye, thereby CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

For article submissions please email: ddeutch@theassociateonline.com
Students Speak

The Variety of YU Experiences: Too Many Campus Publications

By: Aryeh Younger

I live in a YU campus apartment and, every day, on my way to school, I pass by a sea of students. Some appear to be going to class, while others seem to be walking aimlessly. It is a sight that amazes me every time I see it. I wonder: Why are there so many students on campus? What is the attraction of a YU education? And what is the impact of being a student here?

One of the things that I have noticed is that the student body is extremely diverse. There are students from all over the world, from different religious backgrounds, and from different cultural backgrounds. This diversity is what makes YU unique. It is a place where students from different walks of life can come together and learn from each other.

However, this diversity can also be a source of conflict. Some students feel that they are not being treated fairly, either by the administration or by their peers. They may feel that their needs are not being met, or that they are not being heard. This can lead to a sense of alienation, and can make it difficult for students to feel like they belong.

One of the challenges that YU faces is how to create a sense of community among its students. There are many initiatives underway to address this, including the creation of new programs and the development of new social spaces. I hope that these efforts will be successful, and that YU will continue to be a place where students can come together and thrive.

In the end, the variety of YU experiences is what makes it such a special place. It is a place where students can learn, grow, and develop as individuals. It is a place where they can form lasting relationships and create memories that will last a lifetime. I am proud to be a YU student, and I look forward to all the things that the future will bring.
Continued from Page 2

man did it later in the day, they began to yell and scream from the beginning as they were negotiating an acceptable price. The final price was the same for both classes, despite having different approaches.

The highlight of the year was having Prof Robert Aumann of Hebrew University and Nobel Prize Winner in Economics of the previous year spend a day at Syms and Yeshiva. Not only is he the first Torah observant Jew to win a Nobel Prize, but he is also a Talim Chacham and Ben Torah. I had the honor of spending the entire day with him as he met alumni, women students, men students, Rebbeim, and Board members.

We arranged lunch with President Joel and all the MYP/RIETS Rebeim. It was amazing sitting there as the Torah was flying back and forth. Prof. Aumann applied Game Theory in the Torah when Sarah had Avraham bringing Hagar and Yishmael from his household. The reason given was the opportunity to sit and talk Torah Sunday Executive MBA Program. I was especially proud that the Syms parents, Board members, and University officials have marveled at how well the students arrange this all the time. It could be in Ramat Bet Shemesh, Israel, the Upper West Side, or Paramus, shopping in Paramus, and of course Teaneck, New Jersey.

Prof. Aumann asked: "How is it possible that in the house of Avraham, Yishmael would be able to do any of these three terrible sins?" He therefore felt, that Sarah sent away Yishmael for a different reason: inheritance. As the older son, Yishmael was the bechor, and should receive the primary inheritance from Avraham. Sarah did not want this. She wanted her son Yitzchak to get the bechor inheritance. This type of conflict is classic Game Theory. Unfortunately it was only a theory.

Prof. Aumann had but he did not have any proof. Rabbi Charlap, Dean of MYP at the time, said he knew of a Tosefta in Yevanos which states this exact point of view. We quickly took out a gemorah Yevomas from Prot. Aumann to meet them. The MS in Accounting Program and Syms, Yeshiva, and Stem colleagues.

The last Dean I served under was Dr. Michael Ginzburg. I had met him once at a MAACBA conference for high school Business "Conference for high school women, a new Student-Faculty Peer-to-Peer advising Syms student leaders and chairpersons. I am not really retiring, but looking at a MAACBA renamed SYMS School in the best of all the students that I helped. I have many fond memories of them. I meet them all the time. It could be in Ramat Bet Shemesh, Israel, the Upper West Side, or Paramus, shopping in Paramus, and of course Teaneck, New Jersey where I live. Whatever I did was for the students. I also think of all of the Syms, Yeshiva, and Stem colleagues that I worked with and wish them all the best in the future, both for those who are still here and those who are not. I hope we can continue to stay in touch. Lastly, I wish my friends in
justified their brutal subjugation of three states out of thirteen away from schools, different clubs, different successes or failures given that

The Content of our Character

By: Nat Shere

1776: The Declaration of Independence was three states out of thirteen away from declaring Black Americans as free as their white counterparts. 1865: The American Civil War, the war fought between brothers and friends over the inherent, human rights of Black Americans and the bloodiest war in American history, ends. 1963: Martin Luther King Jr. tells of his dream that his children will be judged "not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." Now, almost 50 years since Martin Luther King Jr. and 230 years since independence, why am I still being asked for my race on applications and government forms? Why should this be? After all, the concept of different "races" is inherently racist. Slave owners justified their brutal subjugation of fellow humans by redifining the labels of what was human. Southern segregationists similarly used the concept of "Race" to justify different schools, different clubs, different churches, and even different water fountains for the dark skinned population. Yet, despite the inherent racism contained in defining people based on their skin color, we continue doing it. What happened to the Civil Rights Movement? Where did it go wrong? Nobody would dream of categorizing people based on eye color today, so then why do we consider it normal to define a person based on the pigmentation in their skin? Furthermore, in today’s age, where cultures are more integrated than ever before, our insistence on defining people based on their skin colors creates enormous problems. One example of such a problem is affirmative action. Instead of admitting students based on the "content of their character", colleges

and graduate schools allocate seats based on the person’s appearance and percentage.

The nominal purpose of affirmative action is to aid minority students who did not necessarily receive the same educational opportunities as other students in an attempt to level the playing field. But this attempt often falls even on its own terms. Many studies, including one by economists Audrey Light and Wayne Strayer, show that minority students who might have thrived in college suffer when thrust into schools above their true academic level. Too often, they drop out or transfer to easier majors to keep pace. There would be nothing wrong with a university admitting students who truly overcome disadvantaged backgrounds. However, such an admission decision should not be based on "race", but rather on actual opportunity and the student’s successes or failures given that opportunity.

Instead, when admissions decisions are instead based on "race", they end up harming qualified students because of that student’s skin color instead of ability. Indeed, affirmative action today imposes rigid but-unspoken quotas on Asian-American students — much like the quotas that formerly limited the number of Jews admitted to elite colleges.

It is time to live up to the promise of the Declaration of Independence and the Civil Rights Movement. We need to stop differentiating people based on outward appearances. We need to tear down the imposed barriers that divide Americans and people worldwide. Ultimately, we need to recognize that there is only one race in the world—the Human Race.
Europe To Be Bailed Out By China?

By: Justin Lundin

Since 2009, the Chinese government has been closely monitoring the European debt crisis unfold. The crisis has been of particular concern to China because the European Union is its largest trading partner. Therefore, an economic disaster in Europe could translate into a serious economic setback in China.

China exports close to $400 billion worth of goods and services to the European Union annually. The number is expected to grow as long as the European economy does not descend into another recession. In the event that the European Union's economy takes another turn for the worse, the IMF (International Monetary Fund) estimates that China's economic growth could be cut in half, from an expected 7% down to 4%.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel met with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in the beginning of February to discuss Sino-German trade as well as the possibility of China helping Europe deal with its debt woes. During the Chancellor's visit to China, Premier Jiabao stated, "helping Europe is in China's best interest." The statement by the premier was met with controversy in China, as many Chinese express reluctance at the prospect of spending Chinese funds on bailing-out Europe. Aside from justifying such a move to Mr. Jiabao's political colleagues in China, by making the statement public, he has made it apparent that justifying the move to the Chinese people is also a concern to him. Although China is not considered a democracy, political stability is a primary concern for Beijing, and after witnessing the “Arab Spring,” Chinese government officials are sure to more seriously consider the will of the people.

Furthermore, Jiabao said, "China is willing to help and support Europe." This is currently manifested in China's consistent willingness to lend EU member states money, despite the growing risk of certain countries defaulting on their loans. This policy has been criticized in China, as many feel that as European banks become riskier, the country's leaders are gambling with the nation's funds.

The EU was able to bailout Greece without external assistance, but as many begin to worry about the fiscal futures of much larger states like Spain, Italy, and even France, discussion about the need for outside assistance is becoming more common. Aside from China, the EU has few places to turn for help in dealing with its debt crisis. The US is beginning to have debt problems comparable to that of Europe's, and Japan's debt being even worse, the EU is left with few other alternatives aside from Chinese assistance.

The Chinese government has more than $3 trillion in foreign exchange reserves. The allocation of these reserves is a very sensitive issue in China. Despite the economic implications of another European downturn, many in China resist the idea of spending Chinese funds on, from what they perceive, "rich western countries that have nobody to blame for their debt woes aside from themselves." But nevertheless, many have begun to speculate the terms that China would demand in exchange for a bailout package. To begin with, such a deal would mark a tremendous turn in Sino-European relations. China would begin to be able to exercise significant influence on the European diplomatic stage.

Specifically, many believe that China would demand that its investments in Europe be unrestricted, something that many in Europe feel very apprehensive to. Chinese investments in Europe are often met with the same sort of hostility that Japanese investments in America were met with in the early 1980's. Many are concerned about Chinese investors buying out European firms, and then moving their factories and headquarters to China, causing job losses, as well as tarnishing national pride.

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FEATURES

March 2012

By, Rachel Scheinberg

BET ON IT!

1. Microsoft made $16,005 in revenue in its first year of operation.
2. The creator of the NIKE Swoosh symbol was paid only $35 for the design.
3. Dell computers were started by a 19 year old with $1000.
4. The first owner of the Marlboro Company died of lung cancer.
5. The glue on Israeli postage stamps is certified kosher.
6. If Wal-Mart was classified as a country, it would be the 24th most productive country in the world.
7. The average computer user blinks 7 times a minute, less than half the normal rate of 20.
8. The U.S. Government will not allow portraits of living persons to appear on stamps.
9. The chance of you dying on the way to get your lottery ticket is greater than your chances of winning.
10. There are no clocks in Las Vegas gambling casinos.

Entrepreneurs and MBAs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

But before you start thinking an MBA is worthless (or less than worthless), let's look at a much different different opinion. Stephen Greer, starting fresh out of college, built a global scrap metal company that he later sold for $250 million. He writes in the Harvard Business Review that when he presents at Harvard and other schools, he is often asked if an MBA is worthwhile, considering that he himself never got one! While it is true that he says the essential part of an entrepreneur – the appetite for risk – is something natural, he sees how his MBA could have saved him time and millions of dollars:

"If I'd understood the use and importance of financial and inventory controls, I could have prevented millions of dollars in fraud... studying cases about companies that had grown too fast and lost control of both their finances and the quality of their products would have encouraged me to expand at a more sober pace. I could have saved or made a lot more money had I taken some courses in business law or venture capital financing. (We ended up getting strong armed by our investors, and they got away with it due to our early-stage naivete.)"

These opinions are all fine, but how do we make a practical decision? Steven Blank is a Silicon Valley-based serial entrepreneur, founding and/or part of 8 startups, and a well-known author on the science behind starting a company, and helps demystify this topic for us. He relates the story of a younger friend asking for advice who has been involved in a startup company since it had eight teammates, and now the company has 70 employees and millions in revenue. This entrepreneur sees that now the senior managers and directors being hired all have MBAs – does that mean he needs one to keep up and continue his career? Steven explains that the answer lies in which part of the business building phase he wants to be a part of.

The first half involves taking an idea and turning it into a workable model – determining customers, building a product, finding a scalable idea. Here, an MBA isn't going to help that much (true, there are courses on innovation, but is it worth the cost?). The second half is the expansion and growth phase – the company has already found its model, and now needs to hire and run a system of people, expand into new markets, become profitable, and more. Here, an MBA can be very valuable in these technical and systematic skills. Sometimes an entrepreneur will decide to stay on for this phase; other times they may leave and start their next company. Many of the benefits

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BY THE NUMBERS

How much debt are you willing to take on for your college education?

19.6%
29.6%
13.7%
35.2%

I am willing to take on college debt because...

33.6%
38.2%
17.6%
5.8%

If you could be CEO of one of the following firms, all with equal salaries and bonuses, which would you accept?

Apple Inc.
Microsoft
Google
Facebook

35.2%
43.3%
5.8%
7.9%
Rabbi Dr. Rosenberg
How to Answer the Four Toughest Interview Questions

The first thing you do after you get an interview call is to develop good knowledge about the company, practice at least the four common tricky interview questions which mostly everyone answers correctly. Let’s go over these interview questions and the proper techniques to answer them.

Question 1: Tell me about yourself.

TRAPS: This question may seem easy but it is a trap. Candidates start rambling on and on, sharing stories that the recruiter really does not want to hear.

BEST ANSWER: You want to simply talk about yourself based on what is on your resume. Start off with talking about the school or university you are enrolled in, what year you’re in, and what activities you are involved with. Then discuss jobs you have had in the past or presently have. ALWAYS end your answer with something like “on my free time I like to...” This is a way for the employer to either see that you’re not just a workaholic and you do have a social life, and also if she shares the same common interest then it can be a conversation starter.

Question 2: What are your greatest weaknesses?

TRAPS: Easy enough right? You hang on to a few positive points about you and you’ve done. NO! You do not want to sound arrogant.

BEST ANSWER: Say something along the lines of you are a great leader or you have great communication skills, you are dedicated, or you are a confident leader, etc. Always have examples to support your strengths. Do not say “I’m the best at a hundred different things”. End your answer on one or two statements and move on.

Question 3: What are your greatest weaknesses?

TRAPS: Beware - this is an eliminator question! It will always follow the strengths question, but it is ten times worse if answered incorrectly.

BEST ANSWER: Disguise strength as a weakness. The correct answer to this question is to disguise strength as a weakness. For example, “I push people too hard sometimes because I want to make sure everything gets done on-time.” Don’t sound chauvinistic, just don’t fall for the trap and insult yourself.

Question 4: Why should we hire you?

TRAPS: This is the question that will give the candidate the idea on what you can bring to the company. If you choke or say something that is looked down upon, the interview can suddenly become disastrous.

BEST ANSWER: Simple: Sell memorized. You have to be original.

1. Tell me about yourself.
   - Simple: Sell memorized. You have to be original.

2. What are your greatest weaknesses?
   - Disguise strength as a weakness. The correct answer to this question is to disguise strength as a weakness.

3. What are your greatest weaknesses?
   - Beware - this is an eliminator question! It will always follow the strengths question, but it is ten times worse if answered incorrectly.

4. Why should we hire you?
   - Simple: Sell memorized. You have to be original.

- End your answer on these things. I have done (put past examples to support your strengths. Committed. I am the perfect candidate improperly.

- Remember: You think of these questions and smoothly repeat them that the recruiter really does not want examples to support your strengths. Commited. I am the perfect candidate improperly.

- Good luck in your interviews!

Entrepreneurs and MBAs
CONTINUOUS FROM PAGE 6

that Mr Greer would have received from an MBA fall into the second category. Andrew Cohen also gave some useful information in applying this. As it happens, Andrew decided to go to graduate school for Educational Technology so he could learn, test and refine his education related business idea. He says that it is essential to have a clear purpose before attending graduate school, in order that it will work as a tool in your arsenal, not simply a way to figure out what you want to do. As one comment on the Harvard Business Review Blog pointed out, this could be useful for someone who has only an arts background and wants to learn about the intricacies of business before pursuing one.

So, not all entrepreneurs are made the same. If an MBA has one of a handful of specific uses for you in your goals than it could be a great way to jump start your progress. If not, it could be a major loss of money, as well as time.

Joe ‘Yoni’ Harris is co-founder of www.themanscookbook.com. He hails from St. Louis and is a Finance Major at the Syms School of Business.
Most employers ask current event questions during the interview to make sure they will be hiring someone they can trust to know what's going on in the world.

Go to Class to Learn

Seven out of ten students don't even try to keep up to date with what's going on in the world. Employers look to hire someone who gets involved every year at college. In their Junior year, many students look for smaller internships that are just simple, one-off jobs that are just as important as maintaining high academic standards. The goal is to set yourself away from the pack. Most people come to college and just do their work and do well. There are many graduates of every year who are professional goals. Your goal is to make sure you get the most out of your classes; LinkedIn profile and start collecting connections to see.

Get Involved with School

It sounds so easy, doesn't it? That is the future. Another extremely important resource to use in LinkedIn. Every student should be sure to set up a LinkedIn profile and start collecting "connections." LinkedIn is a website that allows you to connect with anyone you know professionally. It has the ability to add your resume, work experience, education and contact information for all your "connections" to see.

Get Some Experience

Employers are looking for go-getters and people who have had professional experience. It is extremely valuable to have a job during the summers while you are in college especially your Junior year. Many students look for smaller internships during the weekends or their spare time throughout the school year, which in some cases, you can get university credit for. This is a good opportunity to see if you like the industry and to try out different jobs that may interest you. These jobs and internships also allow you to meet many people and learn incredibly valuable skills that you can take with you for the rest of your life.

Get Involved with School

Our school has many extracurricular activities and offers to help you. They are happy to help you find a job or seek advice from. You have to work as hard as you can. It is a way to reach out to others who want to go into the same thing as yourself. These professionals are great resources to find a job or seek advice from.

Making the Most of Your College Experience

By: Jesse Nathan

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Communitarianism...

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achieve a communitarian society, the norm of social responsibility is at play. There is, though, an additional aspect to the "Moral Voice" that takes it out of an individual realm and places it in conversation with other communities. The "Moral Voice" should also be respectfully and understanding discussions of morality between different communities. Communitarian emphasis this since it will lead on a political level to community of communities—or a hierarchy of communities—where there will be the specific community, municipal, then a wider community, nation, till it leads to a grand community of communities that is the general thread of society. At each level there will be a generally accepted morality, which will hopefully lead to more moral societies in the world. In essence, the "Moral Voice" shall serve to enhance general society's morality, by being engaged in a moral discourse and questioning each individual society's validity in its claim to morality. Furthermore, this will hopefully lead to an understanding and respect of one another that will serve a more practical purpose of peace.

In the next article I will begin by explaining the connection between the communitarian ideals and Judaism. After the depiction of Communitarianism in the last article, the connection Judaism has to this political view will now be explained. The first and readily discernible connection is both Judaism's and Communitarianism's dichotomy of the community and individual. In an essay entitled "The Community," R. Soloveitchik goes into detail about what he feels is a "true social ideal." In it, he emphasizes the importance of both the individual and community, saying, "man is not only a protester; he is an affirmer too." Man is both a protester who stands up for rights and "rebuts, reproaches, and condemn wherever society is wrong and unfair." And it is also a conformist in that he is a part of a society and adheres to its norms. This dichotomy is reminiscent of the communitarian balance between the individual and the community. To substantiate his claim, R. Soloveitchik brings the verses at the beginning of Genesis: first the Bible describes man as created alone, as an individual, but then it moves on to say that "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make a helper for him." These verses display the dichotomy: God created man as an individual and as a member of a society. The Mishnah emphasizes the importance of the aspect of man as individual—"in the words of the Mishnah, "yekhidim" (alone)—stating that if one saves a life it is as if he saved a world. It drives the point through by explaining that man as a "yekhidim" creates social peace—"so man will stand up and claim what is not his." This is definitely remaining of standing up for individual's rights. At the same time, a Gemarah states "o havrav o metuka" (or a friend or death), which emphasizes the importance of friends, and in Communitarian terms can be expanded to the grand friendship that is a community. R. Yehudah Ha-Navin (29a) speaks about love being one body that is sensitive to the slightest trauma. As R. Soloveitchik explains it, "Kneset Israel is a prayerful community in which every individual experiences, not only his pain, but also that of countless others." The People of Israel are attended to the pains and suffering of others and a care for one another like no other. The historical-societal level, the Jews felt the pain of a Jewish town thousands of miles away from the one they were situated in. R. Soloveitchik bolsters his argument for the dichotomy by demonstrating it in Moshe Rabbinico's conduct. Moshe was both "for outside the camp" and was engaged with the people from morning to evening. He was both alone and separate from the social group, but at the same time involved and part of it. Would not the Moshe Rabbino stand as an example of proper conduct? Hence, the dichotomy of the individual and the community is something both Judaism and Communitarianism share.

A further, less nuanced, point of agreement between Judaism and Communitarianism is their emphasis of social responsibility—or in rabbinic halakhic terms kot yurav (to fulfill a mitzvo) (of all Israel is responsible for one another). The Gemarah explains that a man must reprimand his friend as a result of this rule and is chayav (legally obligated) in his friend's sin if he neglects to reprimand him when he had the opportunity to. This is the "Moral Voice of Eliezer" that is reinforced by encouragement by others, or the social responsibility emphasized by Communitarianism.

The most outright connection Communitarianism has to Judaism is its emphasis on social fairness that is being respected and bakrat ha-tev. The "New Golden Rule" of Eliezer is formulated similarly to the formulation of Hillel: "What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor." Eliezer put it in the positive as opposed to Hillel's formulation in the negative, but it is sublimly a similar nature and formulation that is of reciprocity. A further manifestation of this social fairness is bakrat ha-tev to the government for the rights given to the citizens. As mentioned earlier, it would be wrong for one to claim rights from government services, but steadfastly refuse to assume the duty to pay for them. It is an injustice. This should resonant with the Jewish concept of bakrat ha-tev and the general and unobjectionable wrongall men can see. Neturei, R. Nissim Tivi Yehudah Betzria, in his commentary on the Torah called the "Amen Ha-Davar en E" 1966 explains that the Torah does not explain the clearly objectionable wrongs that man can commit since it is obvious to mankind, though it is subject to change with the tides of history. R. Betzria goes as far as to say that these natural wrongs need not be stated since they are the natural Hashkiva (foresee God of) of morality. Along these lines a grander community can be established between Jews and Communitarianism: they both strongly believe in advancing morality and making general society more moral. Jews serve as an eth gliyam (fight the nation) and as such do try to advance the moral cause. Jews can (that I mean) the cause of Communitarianism, advance moral causes, and engage others in moral discourses, and by doing so the eth gliyam they get. Another significant aspect of Communitarianism, which until now has not been mentioned, is its recognition of Halakhic Judaism within its philosophical framework. Communitarianism is the closest political theory to Judaism both because it emphasizes tradition, bakrat ha-tev, and morality, and because it recognizes Halakhic Judaism within the former's philosophical framework.

Voting for Israel

By: Mark Lewis

Presidential Elections always seem to have to one or more things in common. For one, they are always blown out of proportion and overly meticulous. In this election, CNN recently published an article questioning whether or not President Obama would be able to carry the Jewish vote into next year's election. The motive for writing the article is surely due to the pump over Michael Abbin's attempt to declare statehood in the UN, and Obama's response. Obama, unlike any president before him, has been so widely supported by most Jews, but at the same time shockingly vilified by others. He indeed seemed to create a bit of a stir when he addressed the Muslim world in Cairo, and later when he made an overture to the Palestinian envoys. Jews' views on this is the commotion really about?

The Atlantic Weekly published an article in response to CNN (which by the way did little more than quote statistics), with an Op-Ed piece titled "Obama Doesn't have a Jewish Problem — He has a People Problem." The article's writer, David Paul Kuh, goes on to delineate the reasons why Jews do not really seem different than the rest of the country in their adulation for the president, in addressing claims by the media such as the above he says, "But American Jews don't vote by a Jewish majority..." Jews, like Americans overall, said the economy was their top issue, according to two polls by Zogby in 2010. Israel ranked near the bottom. Only about a tenth of Jews named health care as their top issue. If the facts
Electronics Interference Can Kill

By: Adam Ehrenreich

Every airline traveler encounters the one guy who decides not to shut his phone after takeoff. He continues his conversation as the plane climbs, his head low enough to think that the flight attendants don’t see him. He doesn’t realize, though, how loud he is compared to the rest of the plane, refusing to watch the safety videos or flip through the airline magazine to discover the title of the in-flight movie. It’s almost as if he’s not even there. Then he kindly gets asked to put his phone away and he falls like a professionally crafted origami. Unless this man happens to be Alec Baldwin of course. The esteemed actor was recently thrown off of a plane for his tactics in refusing to turn off his cell phone. He claims he was playing games on the plane while the gate, in truth it appears they had to return to the gate to let him off. This called for news stations and tabloids alike to ask, what’s the deal with cell phones on planes?

A report by the International Air Transport Association, a trade group representing more than 230 passenger and cargo airlines worldwide, documents 75 separate incidents of possible electronic interference that airline pilots and other crew members believed were linked to mobile phones and other electronic devices. The report covers the years 2003 to 2009 and is based on survey responses from 123 airlines that account for a quarter of the world’s air traffic. Twenty-six of the incidents in the report affected the flight controls, including the autopilot, autothrust and landing gear. Seventeen affected navigation systems, while 15 affected communication systems. Thirteen of the incidents produced electronic warnings, including “engine indications.” The type of personal device most often suspected in the incidents were cell phones, linked to four out of ten. There are even videos of plane landings through the window with people, videos from cell phones. While that incident didn’t cause any disaster, it doesn’t mean there is no danger.

CBS News correspondent John Blackstone had an opportunity to sit down with Chris Newlin, the former acting chief of the FAA, the knee of the plane that miraculously landed safely on the Hudson River. Captain Sullenberger said every once in a while, something quite unexpected can happen on an airplane. “The reason why Ira was written up in Fortune (he really was written up) was that he invented a technique to prolong one’s basketball career. Apparently it was a technique taken by Michael Jordan himself, who is also mentioned in the same article. This technique has become known by athletes all over the world as the “Grabbing-bags-of-vegetables-from-the-freezer-to-wrap- around-an-inflected-knee-and-then-going-out-to-play-another-set-of-games-of-basketball” method. Don’t laugh! At age 35 Ira won a bronze medal at the Pan-American Macabiah games playing on the US squad. There is a mystery surrounding Ira. Dealing, teaching, inventor of the bags-o-vegetables method, loving husband of Chana, father of four children who all attended YU, and all around great guy... but we all knew there was something more than Ira wasn’t telling us. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the intrepid editor of the Jewish Week, Gary Rosenberg, the story was finally cracked and published for all to read in the Jewish Week.

The bottom line for me is not just about whether or not your phone is on in-flight. The main concern of course is safety and even if there is no inherent danger, and even if that is proven, it is silly to believe someone is willing to risk the flow of his flight for a game of angry birds. It makes no sense that a guy named Phil-Hall on my iPod warrants my attention so badly, that his song, (which most can’t even comprehend), should put others at risk for our own convenience.” Dave Carous, a Boeing engineer, said the potential for interference depends on how close a passenger is sitting to an antenna on the top of the aircraft. “As a sitting passenger sitting right there by the window, the signal can fly right out into the antenna.” Even if this is so, sitting in the middle of the plane shouldn’t give you an excuse to test the system. As Sullenberger said, “Each time we fly, and people leave devices on, or they’re conducting an unauthorized scientific experiment to see if this time it makes any difference, if it affects anything electronically on the airplane. Another potential problem is what this interference can cause for plane towers. From the aircraft, experts say, one phone can blanket hundreds of towers, potentially disrupting the entire system. Imagine being the person who causes such a
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disrupting the brown pigment, and in a sense even damaging it. The blue pigment, which remains unscathed and previously hidden beneath the brown outer layer of melanin, begins to show its face. What's more is that the entire laser process takes approximately 20 seconds!

When asked about the reasons as to why he invented the procedure, he explained that the eyes are known as the "windows to the soul," and as such, those with brown or darker eyes have a more opaque window making it harder to see and truly appreciate what those with blue or lighter eyes have more transparent eyes.In which one can peer into, and in essence, have a "more open window to the soul." Homer estimates that over a thousand people have already contacted him, explaining why they feel they need the surgery and are willing to pay exorbitant sums to attain blue eyes. Editor's note: This also serves as a good muster lesson for all those who already have blue eyes, who can use this procedure to truly appreciate what they have been given... for free!

However, this is not to say that the surgery still may contain severe risks. When asked about all the criticisms involved with the procedure, Homer vaguely explained that he is currently analyzing the surgery with "15 procedures to ensure that no tissues are damaged during the process."

However, later on in the interview when asked about risks in the future health and vision of the client he responded honestly "Is it possible that something comes down the road... it's possible..." Seemingly Homer is utterly unsure of any possible and foreseeable risks five, ten, or even twenty years after the client's surgery.

An ICT student named Justin Weaver, when asked whether or not he would undertake the procedure for free responded that "The benefit simply does not outweigh the risk, why mess with what G-d gave you naturally? I would just tell people to get some color contacts and try it out for a few years before making any rash, irreversible decision." Well, that's easy for him to say because he already has blue eyes, but other people with brown eyes might contend with that opinion.

New York Times magazine recently reported on a study done on whether the color of your eyes possibly affects your vision. Those with blue or lighter colored eyes were found to be much more sensitive to sunlight than those with brown or darker eyes since they have less pigment to protect their irises, which essentially acts as a UV blocker.

贫困者用眼药水，有棕色或深色眼睛的人可能会与这种药物产生反应，从棕色变成蓝色，尽管他们可能失去一些透明感，这可能会导致一些不可预测的风险。那些有蓝色或较浅眼睛的人可能会比那些有棕色或较深眼睛的人更容易受到紫外线的伤害。

Those with blue or lighter colored eyes are much more sensitive to sunlight than those with brown or darker eyes... they have less pigment to protect their irises, which essentially acts as a UV blocker.

"I've been wishing they had blue eyes... I might contend with such a procedure. Need for a few years before making any rash, irreversible decision." Well, that's easy for him to say because he already has blue eyes, but other people with brown eyes might contend with that opinion.

related problems in older age due to intense sun-light exposure. In other words, if you have light blue eyes, try to avoid the temptation to look directly at the sun for long periods of time! The University of Louisiana also composed a study which showed subtle differences in a case study which may exhibit a difference in reactive responses in physical activity between those with blue eyes versus those with dark eyes. Studies have examined this by looking at sports performance and variable testing. The researchers found that the dark-eyed subjects performed better at "reactive-type tasks," such as hitting baseballs, playing defense in a football game and boxing. But researchers identified light-eyed people as performing better "self-paced tasks," like hitting a golf ball, throwing baseballs or boxing. Scientists say much more study is needed before a final conclusive bottom line can be made. The interesting question now would be how would this affect someone who previously had brown eyes and now has blue eyes? Is it a matter of personality and brain-usage, or is the matter of eye-sight and reactions dependent upon eye color and composition?

Most will agree that the introduction of the ability to change your eye color from brown to blue, although it may be an unbelievable debut in the field of scientific innovation and cosmetic procedures, is nonetheless a scary one – One deemed unimaginable in previous years. Those people, who have been wishing they had blue eyes and are willing to shell out thousands of dollars for such a procedure, need to ask themselves whether or not it's actually worth the unforeseeable risk that may come along with such an operation.
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