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COSBY CONVERTS TO JUDAISM

LOS ANGELES—Actor and comedian Bill Cosby, beset by dozens of lawsuits from women who claim that he drugged and raped them years ago, revealed that he has converted to Judaism.

“This is my first step toward becoming a rabbi,” Cosby announced today at a news conference held at his home.

The entertainer’s recent conversion was conducted by Marc Gafni, an American teacher of spirituality and former orthodox rabbi. Gafni, like Cosby, has also been accused of sexual assaults on young women that date back many years.

Currently, Cosby is enrolled as a full-time student in Gafni’s seminary, The Sweet Spot, in Los Angeles.

“What’s so beautiful about our relationship,” Cosby told reporters, “is that Marc and I understand each other. We share the same philosophy and, often, the same girls.”

Asked what subjects he is studying with his teacher, the comedian replied, “We started with the Biblical incident described in Numbers chapter 25, about Cozbi and Zimri—only we jokingly call them Cosby and Gafni.”

In the Bible story, Cozbi, a Midianite woman, and Zimri, an Israelite man, are slain for having illicit relations and worshipping an idol.

“It’s all very inspiring,” Cosby said. “And I think I’ll make a fine rabbi. Marc is a wonderful teacher. We plan to celebrate Purim together, and naturally we’ll share a few drinks. As I like to say, ‘Wine and schnaaps sure beat Jello Pudding Pops. Zip zop wop boopity bop.’”

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ORTHODOX ACTORS PLAN OSCAR BOYCOTT

HOLLYWOOD—The Union of Orthodox Jewish Actors and Entertainers announced yesterday that it

plans to boycott the 88th annual Academy Awards ceremony because no orthodox Jews were nominated for their work in this year’s crop of movies.

“It’s a shanda!” (Yiddish for scandal) exclaimed UOJAE president and veteran actor Eliasz Feit, speaking from the group’s headquarters in the basement of the Shill Shul, located at the corner of Challahwood and Wine.

“Frum actors matter!” Feit shouted, banging his hand emphatically on a *shtender*—a tall wooden lectern. “We’ve been abused by the Academy long enough! We’re mad as hell, and we’re not going to take this anymore! Well, maybe just a little more, but that’s definitely it!”

Feit gave several examples of what he perceived as injustices, including actors who were forced to change their names in Hollywood because they sounded “too Jewish.”

“Doniel Horowitz had to be clipped to Don Ho, just to break into this business!” Feit fumed. “Shlomo Barmitzvahpen was morphed to Sean Penn. And Don Nazihunter became simply Don Knotts. What chutzpah!”

Feit said the only way the UOJAE might cancel its boycott is if the Academy agreed to recite kaddish following the “In Memoriam” video that pays tribute to actors who died during the past year.

The news conference ended abruptly when a newspaper reporter informed Feit that the 88th Academy Awards were already held last month, on February 28, thus making a boycott of the ceremony now impossible.

“Gevalt!” Feit screamed as he stormed out of the shul, waving his arms in despair. “Another Academy insult!”

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WHAT’S IN A NAME? FEMALE RABBIS DEBATE

NEW YORK—With the recent hiring of spiritual leader Lykuh Cageygal by an orthodox synagogue in New Jersey, a debate has reignited over the proper title for her rabbinic position.

Cageygal, a 2015 graduate of Yeshivat Maharat, an orthodox women’s seminary in New York, has made

it clear that she prefers to be addressed as Rabbi. Objections were quickly voiced by hard-line traditionalists who insist that only men can rightfully be called Rabbi.

Sara Using Herwits, a graduate of the same yeshiva, received the title Maharat upon being ordained in 2009. Eventually she adopted the term Rabba, a female version of Rabbi.

“It’s all gotten so confusing,” confessed Rabbi Amnot Wise, founder of the women’s yeshiva. “At this point, I say let each girl pick her own title and run with it.”

Mae Meriva, a classmate of Cageygal, announced this week that she plans to call herself “not Rabba, but Rabra.”

“The term reflects the special garment that only women wear,” she explained.

Another graduate, Beth Kisay, said that the title Rabra makes her feel uncomfortable and too confined. “I want to be Rabraless,” she declared.

Hanna Kuh, a member of the class of 2016 and a former Miss Greater Los Angeles, has coined her own variation of Maharat, called Imhot. “Because I’m hot,” Kuh said smugly.

Despite the choice to adopt original female monikers, many of the rabbinical candidates still favor the traditional term used by men. Molly Hassam, slated to graduate next year and a staunch feminist, said, “Forget all those stupid, misogynistic, PMS jokes that men think are so amusing. I just want to be called Rabbi. Period.”

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TRUMP WINS NEW JEWISH ENDORSEMENT

NEW YORK—Donald Trump, the American business magnate and outspoken Republican candidate for President, gained in the polls this week after receiving a major endorsement from the League of Jewish Voters Who Love to Hear Goyish Candidates Speak Yiddish.

“You see me?” Trump said upon hearing the news. “I’m kwelling!”

Trump initially gained attention in the Yiddish arena last December during a campaign rally in

Michigan, when he declared that Hillary Clinton “got shlonged” by Barack Obama in 2008.

The remark drew such prolonged laughter and applause that Trump continued to shpritz Yiddishisms on the crowd, calling the Grand Rapids audience “a bunch of Michiganans.”

Since then, the controversial candidate has frequently peppered his speeches with popular Yiddish words and phrases.

At one Republican debate, he characterized Democratic rival Bernie Sanders as an “alta kasha who doesn’t know a slow meal from a slow mazel.”

At the same debate, Trump dismissed rival GOP candidate Ted Cruz as a “dumb smock who can kiss my big fat caucus.”

Recently, Trump won the support of Sarah Palin after greeting her with the phrase “Vus titsach,” which she took as a compliment of her feminine physique.

Trump also said that he hoped he and Palin would “shlep together” soon.

With his latest endorsement from the LJVWLHGCSY, Trump said confidently that he is a “shmooze-in” to win his party’s nomination and the November election.

“Come January,” Trump predicted, “you’ll see me sitting on the front shtups of the White House, eating a k’nosh.”

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STEVE HARVEY FIRED BY SYNAGOGUE

NEW YORK—Steve Harvey, the entertainer who made an embarrassing gaffe at the 2015 Miss Universe pageant by accidentally announcing the wrong winner, has done it again. Only this time, he’s lost his job over it.

Harvey, a black Jew, served for five years as gabbai (sexton) at The Actors’ Synagogue in Times Square. He was abruptly dismissed from his post during last Saturday morning’s service after calling the wrong person to the Torah for an aliyah.

When Harvey announced Ben Stiller’s name, the famed actor ascended the bima and began to recite the

Hebrew blessing. Suddenly, in the middle of the prayer, Harvey interrupted him.

“I have to apologize,” the gabbai said to the bewildered congregation. “This aliyah belongs to Ben Affleck, not Ben Stiller.”

Noting the look of dismay on the rabbi’s face, Harvey feebly tried to explain his error. “This is exactly what’s on the card,” he said. “Ben Affleck. I got my Bens mixed up. I take full responsibility for this. It was my mistake, and I promise it won’t happen again.”

That’s when Rabbi Shecky Yanu, the synagogue’s spiritual leader, yelled out, “You’re damn right it won’t happen again! Harvey, you’re fired!”

After congregants gave the rabbi a standing ovation, the chagrined Harvey quietly removed his prayer shawl, stepped down from the bima, and walked out the back door.

“And don’t come back for kiddush!” Stiller yelled to him as he exited the building.

The synagogue’s board of directors said it will announce the name of their new gabbai at the Tony Awards on June 12th. Ironically, the host for this year’s Tonys will be Steve Harvey.

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NEW ALL-DENOMINATIONAL PRAYER BOOK PUBLISHED

NEW YORK—A new Sabbath and Holiday prayer book intended for all denominations of Judaism was released this week, the joint effort of scholars from Yeshiva University, Jewish Theological Seminary, Hebrew Union College, and Congregation Shalom al Yisroel, the noted LGBT synagogue.

“The aim of this new prayer book,” explained its editor, Rabbi Shonda Charpa, “is to provide congregants of all backgrounds with the most user-friendly text possible.”

“For example,” the rabbi noted, “in the Orthodox portion of the siddur, the traditional Hebrew term for God—*Hashem*--has been changed to the more casual *Shemmy*.”

“And to appeal to youth, all the prayers are presented in rap,” the rabbi continued. “The *Shma* now

goes, ‘Hear O Israel, Shemmy is One; Kiss your tzitzis, and now you’re done!’”

The Conservative section of the book is printed in the style of a Chinese menu, where users can pick and choose the prayers they would like to say. “We recommend at least one prayer from Column A and two from Column B,” the rabbi said, “but ultimately it’s up to each person to decide what to recite. And substitutions are allowed.”

The Reform section of the siddur contains a telephone directory that lists names of people that congregants can call to say the prayers for them at a negotiated price.

For LGBT users, the pages turn from the spine of the book rather than from the outer edges. “To show that we’re sensitive to those who do it differently,” the rabbi explained.

The new prayer book also includes a section for congregants in mixed marriages, with blessings for lighting Chanukah candles under a Christmas tree and for using Easter eggs to conduct b’dikas chametz (the search for leaven) on the night before Passover.

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UBER DRIVER ACCUSED OF BEING NAZI

NEW YORK—Washington Heights, a community in Upper Manhattan heavily populated by German Jews, including many Holocaust survivors, has recently become a hotbed of controversy due to a new Uber driver in the neighborhood whom residents accuse of being a Nazi.

The driver, Alice Deutschland, moved to the Heights last month after emigrating from Germany. She operates an Uber and advertises her business as “Deutschland Uber Alice.”

In recent weeks, many Jewish residents who used her service have grown suspicious of the new immigrant.

“I called the Uber driver to take me to JFK Airport,” said Izik Ufyoo, a Washington Heights resident for 50 years. “Along the way, she stopped at an Arby’s for French-fried potatoes. I begged her to go straight to the airport so I wouldn’t miss my flight. But

she just kept shouting, ‘Arby’s macht fries! Arby’s macht fries!’”

Another local resident, Fraidy Katz, alleges that Deutschland overcharged her for a trip to Long Island. “She took me for a ride!” Katz exclaimed.

Deutschland disagrees. “She called for an Uber, and that’s exactly what I gave her,” the driver explained. “I was only taking orders.”

Shayna Punim, a Washington Heights fixture for 60 years, mocks the way that Deutschland announces the route, block by block, while driving customers.

“The driver says, ‘First ve vill take Amsterdam, zen St. Nicholas, zen Broadway, zen ve vill take Poland und Czechoslovakia!!!’”

Deutschland said she simply ignores all the unfounded Nazi accusations and intends to continue as an Uber driver. “If people don’t like my car, then let them take the train,” she stated. “The trains run on time, too.”

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SCIENTISTS FIND ADAR THE PUNNIEST MONTH

TEL AVIV—Researchers at Tel Aviv University recently completed a three-year study of the Hebrew month of Adar and concluded that it is the punniest of all months.

Professor Playan Werdz, an Israeli linguist who headed the study, said that Adar was prone to more puns than all other months in the Jewish calendar combined.

“Our findings were an Adar success,” said Werdz. “There has been no Adar research like it anywhere.”

Asked how he felt about his team’s accomplishment, the professor replied, “I feel Adar this world, like I’m floating in Adar space. My fellow researchers are unquestionably Adar-able.”

The research team based their study on Adar II, a Jewish leap month that occurs seven times every 19 years. Werdz noted that the results would have been the same had Adar I been analyzed instead.

“It’s six of one and a half-dozen of the Adar,” the linguist stated.

The professor said that he tracked the research data closely, lest he make an error that might skew the results.

“That would have been an Adar disaster,” said Werdz.

The professor announced that his team’s next study will involve dairy cows. “After all, they have two Adars, too,” he noted.

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BOOK REVIEW

The Clintons: Her Emails, His Females by Rabbi Menachem Genug. Shlocky Press. \$24.95.
Reviewed by Lane D. Parsha

Rabbi Menachem Genug, who gained notoriety in 2013 for his book *Letters to Bill Clinton: The Male Is Coming*, has now penned a new Clinton book that focuses as much on Hillary as on her philandering husband.

The first half of the book covers the topic of Hillary’s emails while she was secretary of state. It starts with a detailed, scholarly history of electronic mail and computers in general. Genug, a graduate of the first yeshiva to teach computers, Torah v’DOS, traces computers back to the Bible, when Adam and Eve had an Apple, and the Moabite king Balak tried to use the cursor. According to the rabbi, the ancient sounding of the shofar was the first example of “upgrading your RAM.”

Curiously, Genug never delves into the controversy over whether Hillary used her personal email account to send classified electronic documents. Instead, he avoids the whole issue by quoting the famous “cherem d’Reb Gershom,” a rabbinical ban on reading a person’s private information, including their letters, diaries, and, in this case, emails. “It’s really none of my business,” the author concludes.

The book’s second half, detailing Bill Clinton’s history as a married playboy, is largely a rehash of old Monica Lewinsky jokes. For example: “What do you call a Jewish girl who will show you a good time eight nights in a row? Chanukah Lewinsky.” Also included is this chestnut: “What does Bill Clinton consider safe sex? When Hillary is out of the country.” ..

Although the book is occasionally scintillating, overall it is a disappointment, much like the Clintons themselves. Rabbi Genug should stick to his day job as CEO of the IOU, the debt-laden kosher supervision empire formerly known as the OU.

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AT THE MOVIES

The Rebbenant—Lubavitcher Rebbe plans revenge on those who have forsaken him as the Messiah

The Manish Girl--Caitlyn Jenner documentary

The Big Shorts—Jewish man with oversized tush

Bridge of Forshpies—Wedding offers a lavish smorgasbord

Med Mix—Husband accidentally takes Viagra instead of aspirin; wife tells him, “Not tonight, you’ve got a headache.”

Bring Him Ham—Jewish man rebels against kosher laws

Leave Jobs—Kollel movement grows

The Weightful Eight—Jews party on Chanukah latkes

Spot Light—Rabbi decides if a woman can go to the mikveh that night

The Partian—Space alien reads from the Torah

IN THE THEATER

Noses Off—Jews get plastic surgery

Finding Novaland—A man searches for the perfect lox

An American in Peres—New Yorker donates kidney to former Israeli president

On Your Foot—Rabbi Hillel teaches a gentile the essence of Torah

Cirque du Soleil’s Pairamorts—Mort Klein and Mort Zuckerman do a “chai wire” act

The Kallah Purple—Bride falls off chair during wedding dance

Fiddling with the Proof—Rabbi waters down kiddush club drinks

Fun Homentashen—Prankster fills Purim cakes with Ex-Lax

Our Mother’s Brie Affair—Housewife joins Jews for Cheeses

Shluffee Along—Shul members sleep during rabbi’s sermon

School of Shlock—Board of Ed investigates a substandard Brooklyn yeshiva

Tuchus Everlasting—Woman struggles to reduce her large behind

Spamilton—Treif look at American history

Something Written—Orthodox rabbis urge engaged couples to sign pre-nups

Long Day’s Journal into Night—Jews read the Passover Hagaddah

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