Alarmed by reports that members of the Lakewood community were evading the Issur on connecting to the Internet using web-enabled cell phones, 35 local Roshei Yeshiva and Rabbonim have issued a Kol Koreh banning any person from using a cell phone which does not bear a recognized Hashgochoh. Kosher-certified cell phones are modified so that they cannot access any portion of the Internet or receive video images.

The Issur stated that, "cell phones represent the latest threat to the spiritual purity and isolation of our holy community. While cell phone technology may have seemed innocuous at the beginning, the latest models of cell phones all come with features enabling their users to watch television programs and surf the Internet. Uncertified cell phones pose an insidious threat to exert forbidden influences on our innocent children."

The Kol Koreh also listed several popular older models of cell phones which do not have video or Internet capability, and which therefore are permissible to be used without a certification.

The Kol Koreh said that special provisions must be made for anyone who needs to use an uncertified cell phones for their parnassa. They must apply for a personal heter to their rosh yeshiva, and sign a pledge, when not working, to leave their uncertified cell phone in the car and not keep it in the house, to avoid tempting their wives or children to violate the Issur.

In addition to the general Issur, which is mandatory on all Lakewood residents, a smaller
A group of local Chassidishe Rabbonim and Roshei Yeshiva, who make up the Vaad Machmirim, issued another edict. It claimed that the certification standards in the Kol Koreh were not strong enough. They urged their followers to demand a higher standard of certification. These “Glatt Kosher” cell phones, in addition to meeting the other criteria, do not have still or video cameras, and have had their capability to send or receive text messages totally disabled.

The Issur coincided with the launching of a new cell phone network, the Kosher Voice-Enabled Text Channel (KVETCH) which claimed full coverage in Lakewood, Monsey, Boro Park, Flatbush, Williamsburg, and Monroe, and promised that coverage will come soon to Far Rockaway and the Five Towns. The president of KVETCH, Mr. Velvel Kibbitzer, said that all phones used on the network are Glatt Kosher certified, and that KVETCH offers additional safeguards not available from the non-Jewish cell phone services. These features assure that nobody can use a KVETCH cell phone to say anything that their rabbis don’t approve of.

FINALLY, THE RABBIS ARE LISTENING

The main feature of the service is the monitoring of every phone conversation on the network on a 24/6 basis by a staff of mashgichim trained to break into any conversation at the first hint of Lashon Harah or any other forbidden speech. The system includes an automatic 7-second delay on each side of the conversation, giving the mashgiach time to recognize and bleep out any offending speech before the person on the other side of the conversation can hear it.

KVETCH also offers a premium level of cell phone service featuring limited calling capability. Subscribers submit in advance a list of individuals and family members whom they are permitted to speak to which has been approved by their Morah D’Asrah. Any phone call to a number not on the approved list must be explained to the satisfaction of the Mashgiach before the connection can be completed. Incoming calls are also screened. Any caller not on the approved list must identify himself and explain the purpose of the call to the Mashgiach before the connection is completed.

KVETCH is also offering a special phone designed for parents to give to their Yeshiva and Bais Yaakov students. It includes a built-in GPS tracker so that parents can locate their children precisely at all times, and a silent monitoring mode which allows the parent to listen in, undetected, to any of their child’s cell phone conversations, and cut off the phone call if they don’t approve.

KVETCH also offers a SHADKAN service, available to the parents of older children, which provides, for a nominal additional charge, a complete transcript of both sides of any of their child’s conversations.

SPECIALIZED CALLING PLANS

A premium KVETCH calling plan for men includes unlimited free minutes to those listening to a Dial-a-Daf shiur on their cell phone, and unlimited free calling to their designated chevrusa and Rebbe.

Another special KVETCH calling plan is tailored to housewives. It includes unlimited calls to their husband, their mother and mother-in-law, all of their children, and one local kosher take out store.

Mr. Kibbitzer said that another benefit of the service was that it would provide gainful employment as KVETCH mashgichim to hundreds of Kollel students who are unfit for any other kind of work. He denied reports in the Israeli media that KVETCH is now in negotiations to license technology from the NSA that would allow a computer to do the call screening automatically, thereby eliminating the need for most of the mashgichim.
The light at the end of the tunnel has been turned off due to budget cuts.
Artificial Intelligence is no match for Natural Stupidity!
If at first you don’t succeed, try management.
Why don’t they just make mouse-flavored cat food?
Is it true that cannibals don’t eat clowns because they taste funny?
If a tree falls in the forest and no one is around to see it, do the other trees make fun of it?
Why doesn’t glue stick to the inside of the bottle?
I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, "Where's the self-help section?" She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.
Right now I'm having amnesia and deja-vu at the same time. I think I’ve forgotten this before.
What's another word for Thesaurus?
Why is the alphabet in that order? Is it because of that song?

Bumper Stickers
He who laughs last thinks slowest.
Time is what keeps everything from happening at once.
Pride is what we have. Vanity is what others have.
Warning: Dates in Calendar are closer than they appear.
Give me ambiguity or give me something else.
There are 3 kinds of people: those who can count & those who can’t.
How many roads must a man travel down before he admits he is lost?
If you lived in your car, you’d be home by now
IRS: We’ve got what it takes to take what you’ve got.
If you think nobody cares, try missing a couple of payments.
Anything you say will be misquoted, then used against you.
The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
If your reading this, STOP - watch the road.
Hang up and drive!
Change is inevitable, except from vending machines.
If I want to hear the pitter patter of little feet, I’ll put shoes on my cat.
If you want breakfast in bed, sleep in the kitchen.
Dinner is ready when the smoke alarm goes off.
Of course I don't look busy...I did it right the first time.

Understanding What She Is Telling You - A Translation Manual
It's your decision = "The correct decision should be obvious by now."
Do what you want = "You'll pay for this later."
We need to talk = "I need to complain."
We need = "I want"
I’m not upset = "Of course I’m upset, you moron!"
Hang the picture there = "NO, I mean hang it there!"
I heard a noise = "I noticed you were almost asleep."
Do you love me? = "I'm going to ask for something expensive."
How much do you love me? = "I did something today you're really not going to like."
I'll be ready in a minute = "Kick off your shoes and find a good game on TV."
What's wrong? Nothing = "Everything."

You know you are suffering from "Empty Nest Syndrome" if.....
You have thrown out the better part of the last several one-gallon jugs of milk, but still can’t bring yourself to buy the one-quart cartons.
You are shocked when you notice you can push the buttons on the car radio and KNOW what station you will get.

Signs You're Getting Older
1. Everything hurts and what doesn’t hurt doesn’t work.
2. The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals.
3. You feel like the morning after and you haven’t been anywhere.
4. Your children begin to look middle aged.
5. Your knees buckle, and your belt won’t.
6. Your back goes out more than you do.
7. The little old gray haired lady you helped across the street is your wife.
8. You sink your teeth into a steak, and they stay there.
9. You have too much room in the house and not enough in the medicine cabinet.
10. Your arms are almost too short to read the newspaper.
11. You have a dream about prunes.
12. The end of your tie doesn’t come anywhere near the top of your pants.
13. When you bend over, you look for something else to do while you’re down there.
with the idea after watching a rerun of Bridget Loves Bernie while channel surfing on cable TV. Abbas agreed to the conversion after he received assurances from the Reform movement in Israel that they would convert him without his having to undergo a circumcision, an immersion in a Mikvah, or agree to observance of any of the Mitzvot.

Reportedly, Abbas had previously rejected a similar proposal from the Iranians that he convert to Judaism under the auspices of Neturei Karta, because it would have required him to grow a beard and wear a black hat.

However, before it could be finalized, the agreement with Abbas had to overcome serious objections from Hamas. That was accomplished with the intervention of international financier and political activist George Soros. After days of secret negotiations with Soros at an undisclosed Swiss bank, Hamas dropped its objections when Soros promised to pay $2 billion out of his own pocket in aid to the PA unity government. In return, Abbas agreed to Soros’ demand that he film a political ad to appear on Moveon.org during the next presidential campaign blaming the Israeli-Palestinian conflict entirely on George Bush’s invasion of Iraq.

A spokesman for Hamas said that it was willing to agree to Abbas’ conversion because "Reform Judaism isn’t a real religion, at least according to the way that we understand it. Since Abbas is a lifelong communist and atheist, he doesn’t believe in G-d anyway, and neither do many Reform Jews. If Soros is willing to give us more money than the Saudis, what difference does it make to us is if the G-d Abbas doesn’t believe in is Allah or the watered down concept of Reform Judaism?"

As soon as Abbas delivered a copy of his Reform conversion certificate to Olmert, Israel also released the hundreds of millions in tax funds it has withheld from the PA since last year directly into Abbas’ private account.

The European Union immediately resumed its aid to the Palestinian Authority as well, without any further requirement to make sure that the money is not diverted to Hamas terrorists or into the pockets of Abbas’ corrupt Fatah cronies. "After all, if the assurances are good enough for Israel, then they should be good enough for us as well," an EU spokesman said.