

the ground. You might as well pay heed, for none of your stewing is going to weaken us one ounce.

The question is not "overeating vs. not-overeating." The question is *how* we over-eat. To the Americans for a Full-Sized Israel food is security. But they are misled into believing that it is the amount of food and caloric intake which provides them with that inner peace. Rather it is the oral satisfaction derived from eating which they crave. Such satisfaction leads to feelings of security. We see, then, that it is not volume of food which is at issue, but the number of chews. For the redemption of the overeating crowd, we vegies have started a new group, CHEWS for CHEESES.

As for *Beriyah*, you needn't lose sleep over them. Their ranks are small and they are divided down the middle, liver-sected, as it were. Flanking *Beriyah's* right are those who hold that Jews should eat sparingly at home, but can eat liberally out. In a knee-jerk reaction, *Beriyah's* left flank cries: No. Jews must be consistent. No eating to excess at home; no eating to excess out. After all, they continue, we have been the target of much criticism lately. Our homes, they say, are probably monitored for evidence of foul play or inconsistencies. However, reliable sources tell us that when big names defect, when morale is low and body weight is down, *Beriyah* staff is known to sporadically carry out midnight raids on neighborhood refrigerators. It is from these incidents that they have been dubbed Nadir's Raiders.

Unfortunately, these party lines are not unique to American Jewry. Israel gives evidence of the same breakdown. The Americans for a Full-Sized Israel are matched pound for pound by the religious (*Dati*) party in Israel. *Beriyah's* counterpart is the newly created but highly influential *Dash* party.

We vegies see our goal as helping to unify the Jewish people. We see it as our goal to show that eating a lot does not mean eating too much. Because of our involvement in trying to reconcile the Israeli party differences, we have been dubbed by the Israeli press *THE DASHES AND DOTS*. The American press, with its love for abbreviation has shortened our name to *THE DDTS*. We, of course, decry any use of non-organic matter in any stage of our food preparation.

B'riyah — a women's liberation movement

Paula Hyman

No discussion of the pros and cons of *Beriyah* would be complete without consideration of the weighty im-

plications of the proposed *takanah* for Jewish women. As is so common in Jewish life, the role of women has been fully over-looked. And yet, as is well known from anthropological studies, as corroborated by rabbinic literature and oral history, it is women who rule in the kitchen. From a progressive Jewish feminist perspective, then, there can be only one response to *Beriyah*: all-consuming support.

Indeed, from Biblical times, Jewish women have shown the way, for does not Mishle in his wisdom note that they eat not the bread of idleness? Now *Beriyah* will contribute to the further liberation of the Jewish woman. Let the cries of "Es, es, mein kind" be heard no more. Less eating means less cooking.

My complaint

Mindy Portnoy

Again, the Jewish community, this time in the guise of self-hating weight-watchers (*Beriyah*) is treading on my freedom, my personal autonomy. The excuse this time is caloric intake — an excuse couched in moral terms.

But what is it really? Obviously, an attempt to impose a new *halacha* on the Jewish people. Today they want to limit the dimensions of my body, tomorrow they'll be after my soul. It's enough to make my stomach yearn for another greasy knishe. Davka!

Which brings me to another point — without huge mounds of chicken, tzimmes, kugel, and kishke, why would anyone want to be Jewish anymore? What would happen to 'edible monotheism'? Why would anyone go to *Bar Mitzvahs* or weddings anymore? To listen to the rabbi? As it says in the Bible,

*Kol Sasson, v'Kol Simcha,
Kol Bon-Bon, v'Kol Challah.*

Now, *there's* normative Jewish thinking. To deny excessive food consumption would be to deny our ethnic and religious heritage.

Thus, in opposition to *Beriyah*, which aims to minimize our Chewishness, I proclaim, "*Misadah* shall not fall again!"

Calories yes — beriyah no

Seymour Siegel

I was shocked by the suggestion of *Beriyah*. (I am, of course, not surprised by anything they do.)
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