

Reconservadoxy

by Mitchell Bard

Judaism is, for better or worse, a pluralistic religion. There are, of course, three major movements, orthodox, reform, and conservative, but many Jews are uncomfortable with some or all of the theological, ethical, and social norms of each. The advent of reconstructionism provided an outlet for some of these people, yet a large number continue to seek a spiritual and moral guide that they can relate to.

To all those Jews who feel that they do not fit into the established movements I offer an alternative, the reconservadox movement.

Before the members of the established movements brand me a heretic, let me hasten to point out that their leaders are no closer to the revelation than I am so there is no reason why I should not be able to offer my own interpretation of Jewish law. After all, the important thing is not whether I am right, but whether there are enough Jews who think that my teachings are valid and are willing to contribute to the building fund.

It will be difficult to give a complete account of the tenets of the movement in such a short space, but the following will provide some insight into its basic principles.

Reconservadox Jews are monotheistic and believe that the Torah was given to the Jewish people in the form of a microchip embedded in the brain of Moses on Mount Sinai. When Moses first brought the Ten Com-

mandments down from the mountain and saw the Israelites dancing around the Golden Calf, the chip shortcircuited and he went into an epileptic-like seizure which caused him to drop the tablets.

In this movement the Sabbath remains sacrosanct though attendance of college football games is not considered a violation. Services are a hybrid of traditional and egalitarian conventions. Men and women must sit together in the synagogue to stimulate interaction, and women are allowed to participate fully in services but do not wear yarmulkes or tallitot (an exception is made for bald women who may wear yarmulkes). The liturgy is all in Hebrew because Jews are expected to learn their native tongue. Speaking of tongue, pickled tongue will replace chicken as the official Shabbat meal.

The reconservadox believe that kashrut is important, but since there are no good kosher restaurants and they like to eat out, the law requires them to keep kosher only at home. In addition, shellfish may be made kosher by boiling, frying, or serving cold on a bed of lettuce with cocktail sauce.

Laws regarding sex and marital relations have been divisive in the other movements and they may also cause some friction among the reconservadox. Sex is considered a healthy activity to be engaged in frequently but only with a Jew of the opposite sex. Either the man or woman may

ask for a divorce and will be granted a summary judgement if either party says: "Get out of my face, horsehips."

The reform movement has run into particular difficulties over its conversion practices and decision regarding patrilineal descent. In an effort to avoid similar problems, the reconservadox have decided that children are Jewish if they are born of a Jewish mother, parents with Jewish jeans (e.g. Sassoon), their father donates \$10,000 or more to the synagogue, or the family celebrates the Fast of Gedalia.

Anticipating the demand for conversions to reconservadoxy, the movement's leaders have developed a relatively simple process whereby the convert is immersed in a jacuzzi filled with Perrier, and the Rabbi says the ancient biblical prayer: Alakazam, shazam, whizband (in Hebrew of course).



Since it is unlikely that the other movements will be willing to offer the necessary training to be a reconservadox rabbi, a new seminary has been founded which will be known as the Jewish Truth Institute and located on the top floor (next to the restaurant) of the World Trade center in New York making JTI closer to God than any of their rivals. Rumors that Chabad will launch a telethon to raise money to build a taller building have been proven false although it is not yet clear what the proceeds from the "pin-the-tail-on-the-Satmar-Rebbe" campaign will be used for.

A great deal of emphasis will continue to be placed on education so Hebrew school will be held on Tuesday and Thursday during football season and confirmation classes Wednesday night before Dynasty. The children will be taught to observe all 613 mitzvot and even practice a few

starting with number 613. The requirements for graduation will be the ability to recite all 613 as well as the ages of all the biblical characters.

If you are dissatisfied with your synagogue or movement, come on down to Mitchell's reconservadox shul. We're conveniently located in Westwood near the San Diego Freeway and there's plenty of expensive parking. Just make out your checks for \$1000 to me and send them in care of this address and you will receive a leather bound copy of Mitchell's commentary on the Torah — "The Wisdom of the Bardbam." If you act now, we'll throw in an amazing falafalatic absolutely free. That's right, the amazing falafalatic lets you make perfect falafal balls every time. ●