



Date: April 28, 2008

To: Student Population

From: Professor Allen Pinkus, Dean of Undergraduate Students

Subject: **Abuse of Internet Anonymity**

In addition to the scientific-technological education that the Technion strives to provide its students, the Technion also places great emphasis on the professional academic values and integrity among our student body and alumni.

Regrettably, we have been informed of several instances recently where students at the Technion misused and exploited the anonymity provided by the internet to engage in acts of impersonation, privacy violations, and defamation.

It is crucial to recognize that internet anonymity **does not condone** actions prohibited in non-anonymous settings. Harming others while hiding behind the veil of online anonymity not only reflects cowardice, which in itself provides grounds for a tort claim, but may, under certain conditions, constitute a criminal offense. Such actions undoubtedly also violate the Technion's disciplinary regulations and the principles they encompass.

Recognizing the gravity of such acts, the courts are increasingly inclined to unveil the cloak of anonymity in discussions of such matters. Website operators and server owners are obligated to divulge the details of website users, even in cases where there is only a "credible apprehension" of misconduct. This is done in order to avoid a situation where, "under the auspices of anonymity, freedom of expression will turn into freedom of contempt".

To uphold fairness on the Technion campus, the Technion will implement necessary measures when there are clear indications of potential criminal offenses related to impersonation, privacy violations, or online defamation against students, faculty members or employees, including contacting law enforcement authorities.

Sincerely,

Allen Pinkus

CC: Faculty members
Technion Administration