



Daily News Bulletin

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85th Year

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

9 dead in bus bombing

At least nine people were killed and 45 wounded in a bus bombing Sunday in northern Israel.

Despite the latest attack, Israeli officials decided to continue easing restrictions on Palestinian civilians. [Page 4]

Report: U.S. wants Arafat exiled

The Bush administration reportedly has come to believe that Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat should be exiled.

Israel's Army Radio reported Saturday that the White House believes that the Palestinian leader is "more part of the problem than the solution" and that exiling him would facilitate President Bush's vision for peace.

Terrorist homes demolished

Israeli soldiers on Sunday demolished the homes of nine Palestinian terrorists.

Israeli intelligence officials say the policy of demolishing the homes of terrorists' families has deterred several would-be suicide bombers. [Page 4]

Israel mulls immunizations

Israel's security establishment reportedly recommended immunizing the public against smallpox in the event of an Iraqi attack.

The Israeli daily Ma'ariv reported Sunday that security officials and government ministers held deliberations on the issue, in light of intelligence information indicating that Iraq has developed biological weapons that it would use against Israel in the event of an attack by the United States. The paper said Iraq also intended to provide a Palestinian terrorist group with biological material to use in attacks.

Group gathers evidence on IDF

A left-wing Israeli group reportedly warned army officers serving in the territories that it was collecting material on them for possible war crimes charges.

Some 15 officers have received letters in recent months from Gush Shalom, Hebrew for "Peace Bloc," saying the group was monitoring their activities and would submit the information to the new International Criminal Court, the Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported.

"It is inconceivable that something like this can happen here," Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

Study: Most children of intermarriage enter college with no Jewish connection

By Joe Berkofsky

NEW YORK (JTA) — The majority of Jewish college freshmen whose parents are intermarried do not consider themselves Jews.

This is one of the more dramatic findings of a new study that examines religious, political and social trends of teens going from high school to college.

Among the other finding of the study, "America's Jewish Freshmen," believed to be the largest survey ever undertaken of young Jews in America entering college:

- The children of divorced intermarried couples whose mother is Jewish largely consider themselves Jews.
- Jewish college freshmen attend fewer religious services and feel less spiritual than their non-Jewish peers.
- Jewish students are more politically liberal and sexually permissive than their non-Jewish peers.

The study, conducted by Professor Linda Sax at UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute, was sponsored by Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life and funded with a \$60,000 grant from North Carolina philanthropists Leonard and Tobee Kaplan.

The UCLA-Hillel project tracks trends among 235,000 Jewish freshmen from more than 5 million of their non-Jewish classmates who were surveyed at 1,200 colleges and universities nationally since 1971.

In 1999, the study split respondents into three main groups, including non-Jews, Jews and those with no religious preference but at least one Jewish parent.

Of that latter group, 79 percent were the children of intermarriage.

Hillel officials said the study's focus gave them unprecedented insight into Jewish attitudes and behavior and validated the organization's drive to be pluralistic and appeal to a wide range of Jews.

It comes as the Jewish community continues to grapple with how best to engage young Jews during their impressionable college years.

Jeff Rubin, Hillel's director of communications, said the study showed that Hillel must appeal to Jews who lack a classic Jewish upbringing.

"The largest number of students we serve have not had a Jewish background in the way that was traditionally defined — through Jewish history, culture and commitment to Jewish observance," he said.

Among the study's most dramatic findings were those involving religious identity and activity.

Of students with two Jewish parents, 93 percent identified themselves as Jews, though that figure dropped to 91 percent if their parents divorced.

But only 38 percent of the teens identified as Jews if just their mother was Jewish, and only 15 percent if their father was Jewish.

Jewish identification strengthened among young people, however, if their mother was Jewish but divorced from a non-Jewish father. Of students from intermarriages whose mother was Jewish, 37 percent called themselves Jews, while 41 percent of those with Jewish mothers who had divorced from non-Jews considered themselves Jews.

"If you want to know in what intermarried families students will identify as Jewish, it's most likely to be when the mother is Jewish and the parents are divorced," said Sax, the study's author.

The biggest gap between those labeling themselves as Jews and those who did not

MIDEAST FOCUS

FBI to probe terror attack

The FBI will open an investigation into the deaths of five Americans in the July 31 Palestinian terror attack at Hebrew University.

FBI officials said they would work with Israeli intelligence officials, as well as with intelligence groups from Arab nations.

An Israeli official in Washington said Israel welcomes the U.S. assistance.

U.S. forces to be cut in Sinai

The Pentagon intends to "significantly reduce" the number of Americans involved in an international peacekeeping force in the Sinai Desert.

U.S. Undersecretary of Defense Douglas Feith met last week with Israeli and Egyptian defense officials to discuss plans to cut the 800-member American contingent in the 1,900-strong multinational force — perhaps to as few as 50, some defense officials said.

"We want to make as substantial a reduction as it is rational to make," Feith told reporters last Friday. The force, which provides a buffer between Israel and Egypt, has been in place for more than 20 years, but Pentagon officials are interested in eliminating it to move resources to the war on terrorism.

Israel, U.S. sign extradition pact

Israel and the United States were due to sign a pact protecting their citizens from extradition to the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

The agreement will prevent each nation from extraditing the other's citizens when an extradition request is filed by prosecutors at the international court, the Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported.

Both Israel and the United States signed the treaty creating the court but have refused to ratify it, fearing there will be politically motivated attempts to prosecute their citizens.

list any religious preference in the study's survey centered on the extent and nature of their religious lives.

Among the key findings:

- Seventy percent of freshmen who identify as Jewish said they attended religious services occasionally, 13 percent said they frequently attended religious services, and 17 percent said they never went.

Of those who claim no religious preference but have at least one Jewish parent, 62 percent said they never attended religious services; 37 percent said they did occasionally and 1.5 percent said they did so frequently.

Non-Jews said they were far more religiously active.

In the non-Jewish group, 47 percent frequently attended religious services; 37 percent occasionally did and only 16 percent never did.

- Among students who identified as Jews, 57.5 percent said they never prayed or meditated and 27 percent said they spent less than one hour per week praying or meditating. And 29 percent said they intended to integrate "spirituality" into their lives.

Of those who did not align themselves with any religion, but who had at least one Jewish parent, 79 percent said they never prayed or meditated, and 13 percent said they spent less than one hour per week doing so. And 18 percent said they would ultimately integrate spirituality into their lives.

- Religious behavior seemed to be most similar across the various groups when it came to discussion about the topic. Of students who identify as Jewish, 59 percent said they occasionally discussed religion, while 28 percent did so frequently. Among those with at least one Jewish parent but no religious affiliation, 55 percent discussed religion occasionally, and 26 percent frequently.

For Hillel, the study reaffirms its stated goal of "maximizing the number of Jews doing Jewish with other Jews."

Once run by B'nai B'rith as a collection of synagogue-like groups aimed at strongly identified Jews, the organization suffered deep budget cuts and dwindling enrollment by the 1980s. But in 1988, Hillel hired Richard Joel as chief executive officer, and he launched a campaign to rebuild Hillel.

The organization broke away from B'nai B'rith and secured funding from federations and mega-philanthropists.

Today, Hillel's 110 campus "foundations" are designed to be "big tents" offering activities with many Jewish themes meant to attract a plurality of Jews, said Jay Rubin, Hillel's executive vice president.

Yet the study's findings showing a distinct lack of Jewish experience among young Jews means Hillel may find it challenging to drag them into the tent.

Hillel has already redesigned itself to meet that challenge, Jay Rubin said.

For instance, if Jewish students are interested in talking about religion, he said, Hillel can engage them in such discussions through reading contemporary writing such as the Rev. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech and finding its spiritual influences in the Talmud.

Among those who have scrutinized the study is Larry Sternberg, associate director of the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass.

Sternberg called the study's finding about a big gap in religious identification between teens with two Jewish parents and a single Jewish parent "rather dramatic."

However, Sternberg cautioned that the portion of the survey asking about "spirituality" is "difficult" to interpret, because "Jews don't like that question. It may mean different things to different people."

Sternberg felt the study also lacked certain data, thereby making it difficult to draw other conclusions. For example, the study did not explain if there was any relationship between having a Jewish parent and being raised Jewish. The study asked students about their current religious preference, but not about what their religion was at birth.

That means students whose parents were Jews by birth or by conversion after intermarriage were treated the same, statistically speaking.

While there are no plans to conduct subsequent targeted Jewish studies at this point, Sax said the raw data she could extract from future UCLA studies about college students overall could prove revealing about Jewish behavior after college.

"The real question we can learn from a follow-up study is what happens to these students when they get to marrying age," Sax said. □



Daily News Bulletin

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JEWISH WORLD

Egyptian editor defends racism

A prominent Egyptian editor said his newspaper's publication of anti-Semitic blood libels was an expression of free speech.

Ibrahim Nafie, editor-in-chief of the Egyptian daily *Al-Ahram*, testified in a French court last week that the attempt to prosecute him, for publicizing allegations that Jews use Gentiles' blood in their ritual foods, amounted to "ideological terrorism."

French investigators pursued the case after finding that more than 1,000 copies of the newspaper containing the article had been distributed in France, where the "incitement of hatred and anti-Semitic violence" is forbidden.

N.Y. Jewish cemetery vandalized

More than 150 tombstones were toppled and several headstones broken at a century-old cemetery on the New York borough of Staten Island.

According to the *New York Daily News*, Staten Island and local Jewish officials expressed outrage at last week's attack, which caused an estimated \$20,000 in damage.

Officials at the Baron Hirsch Cemetery said the 88-acre burial ground was also vandalized earlier this year, and several hundred gravestones were toppled a few years ago.

Clinton: I'd die for Israel

President Clinton told a fund-raiser for a Jewish charity that if Iraq attacked Israel, he would "fight and die" for the Jewish state.

Speaking at a \$1,000-a-plate fund-raiser in Toronto for the Hadassah-WIZO children's charity, Clinton said he "would grab a rifle and get in the trench and fight and die" should Iraq mount a land attack on Israel in response to a U.S. attack on Iraq.

Clinton, whose efforts to avoid the Vietnam War in the 1960s became a politically sensitive issue when he sought the presidency in 1992, was roundly applauded for the remarks.

Clinton added that while he did not think there was a military solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, "I know there's not a terrorist solution to it" either, the paper reported.

NYU honors bomb victims

About 100 people gathered in New York on Aug. 1 for a memorial to the victims of the July 31 Hebrew University terror attack.

Held at the Bronfman Center Hillel at New York University, the memorial featured a group of seven students who remembered the victims in a candlelight ceremony.

The Jewish Community Relations Council of New York and Hillel of New York sponsored the event.

Israel-Austria relation thawing, but ties won't be renewed soon

By Toby Axelrod

BERLIN (JTA) — Despite recent hints of warming, no change in the relationship between Israel and Austria is imminent, an Israeli official has said.

Speculation that a change was at hand began July 24 after Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told a German TV interviewer that he had asked Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to consider re-establishing formal relations with Austria.

Israel recalled its ambassador from Vienna in February 2000 to protest the inclusion of the far-right Freedom Party as a partner in Austria's new coalition government.

However, the charge d'affaires at the Israeli embassy in Vienna told JTA that no change is in the offing.

"No talks are planned between Israel and Austria," Avraham Toledo said in a telephone interview. "It is an issue to be considered in Israel, and it will not happen in a week or two."

But Ariel Muzikant, president of Austria's Jewish community, seems convinced that change is at hand.

"From Israel's point of view it is better to reinstall an ambassador in Austria" in order to help Israel's relations with the European Union, which have suffered profoundly since the intifada began in September 2000, Muzikant said. "This is behind the whole issue."

In Sharon's July 24 interview, conducted by TV personality Michel Friedman — who also is vice president of the German Jewish community — Sharon dismissed the idea of boycotting Austria and said more could be accomplished through discussion and mobilizing public interest.

Austrian Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel welcomed Sharon's words, saying he had expected that a change would come.

Relations between the two states have not been cut off during this cool period.

This past May, Austrian Cultural Secretary Franz Morak paid an official state visit to Israel.

Muzikant said time has shown that Israel was correct to withdraw its ambassador in 2000.

"The situation in Austria is not really very sympathetic," he said. Freedom Party head Jorg Haider recently "had a meeting of 50 right-wing extremists, trying to form a right-wing European movement," he said.

"On the other hand, Israel is fighting for her life. The question today is, why should Israel be the only remaining country with severed ties with Austria?" he asked.

"If Europeans can accept" populist leaders such as Silvio Berlusconi of Italy, the Vlaams Blok Party of Belgium and Jean-Marie Le Pen in France, "why should Israel stand alone?"

But Toledo was noncommittal.

"We all heard what Prime Minister Sharon said on German television," said Toledo, who has been stationed in Austria since the summer of 2001 and is rumored to be the front-runner to be the next ambassador.

"He said what he said. The issue is to reconsider the relationship, and that is it," Toledo said. □

NORCs get money

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The U.S. Administration on Aging is awarding millions of dollars in grant money to five Jewish health and social service providers.

The national demonstration projects, unveiled at a press conference in Philadelphia last Friday, will go toward "naturally occurring retirement communities," or NORCs, in Philadelphia, St. Louis, Baltimore, Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

United Jewish Communities worked with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to secure the \$3.68 million that will finance the development of service models to allow seniors to receive services so they can remain in their homes. □

Israel to ease Palestinians' plight even as wave of terror continues

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Despite ongoing Palestinian terror attacks, Israel has decided to continue easing restrictions on Palestinian civilians.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer made the decision Sunday after the Cabinet learned of Sunday's terrorist attack on a bus in northern Israel.

The attack, claimed by Hamas, killed nine Israelis and wounded more than 40, several critically. Many of the passengers were soldiers traveling to their bases.

In another incident on Sunday, a Palestinian gunman killed an Israeli security guard in a shooting attack outside Jerusalem's Old City.

The measures to help the Palestinian population include permitting up to 12,000 Palestinians to work in Israel, lowering the age of Palestinians allowed to enter Israel, increasing the number of Palestinian merchants allowed to trade in Israel and easing travel restrictions on Palestinian medical and aide teams operating in Palestinian-controlled areas.

Meanwhile, reports said that in the wake of the bus attack, Sharon was likely to put off talks planned this week with Palestinian officials.

But Ben-Eliezer said Sunday that his planned meeting with the new Palestinian interior minister, Abdel Razak Yehiyeh, likely would take place.

The two are expected to discuss a plan aimed at restoring calm by focusing on one defined area of the territories and trying to extinguish violence there, before moving on to another area, according to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz.

Meanwhile, Ben-Eliezer was planning to convene security heads to discuss possible Israeli responses to the latest wave of Palestinian terror attacks.

The defense minister said new punitive steps being taken against terrorists' families were beginning to have a deterrent effect.

His comment came before a new wave of terrorist violence struck on Sunday, when each hourly newscast seemed to bring tidings of another attack.

Six civilians killed on the Haifa-Safed bus were identified Sunday night: Mordechai Friedman, 21, of Jerusalem; Sari Goldstein, 21, of Carmiel; Marlan Menachem, 20, of Moshav Safsofa; Mason Amin Hassan, 23, from Sajour; and Adlina Kononen, 37, and Rebecca Roga, 40, both citizens of the Philippines.

Three soldiers were also named: Sgt. Maj. Roni Ranen, from the Druse village of Marar; Sgt. Omri Gol-Din, 20, from Mitzpe Aviv; and Sgt. Yifat Gavrieli, 19, of Mitzpe Adi.

The force of the blast blew out the bus windows and ripped off the top of the bus.

The driver of the bus, who also survived a suicide bus bombing in Jerusalem six years ago, was lightly hurt.

"The entire rear end of the bus was blown off," said one witness, Pinchas Cohen. "A soldier came out with his face and uniform covered with blood, and two Arabs from the nearby restaurant gave him first aid."

Hamas said the bombing was a suicide attack, calling it the latest act of retaliation for Israel's July 23 assassination of the leader of Hamas terrorists in the Gaza Strip.

The shooting attack outside Jerusalem's Old City occurred shortly before noon, when the gunman opened fire on a truck belonging to Israel's main telephone company, Bezek. The security guard was killed and the driver was injured, police said.

A group of Israeli border police officers stationed at the Damascus Gate returned fire, killing the 19-year-old Palestinian gunman.

A Palestinian bystander also was killed in the shootout.

Later on Sunday, three Israelis were wounded in a Palestinian ambush on their bus in the northern West Bank. Following the attack, there were exchanges of fire between Israeli troops who arrived at the scene and Palestinian gunmen.

In another attack on Sunday, three Israelis were wounded by a roadside bombing near Ramallah.

In yet another Sunday incident, Israeli soldiers killed an armed Palestinian who tried to infiltrate a Gaza settlement from the sea.

Security forces spotted the Palestinian, who was wearing a diving suit and walking along the shore near the settlement of Dugit, in northern Gaza. He was armed with a rifle, ammunition and several grenades, Army Radio reported.

President Bush condemned Sunday's terrorism, calling on the international community to "stop those murderers."

Bush, speaking before a round of golf, called on nations around the world to work to halt Arab terror attacks, which he said were harming Israelis and Palestinians alike.

"There are a few killers who want to stop the peace process that we have started. We must not let them," Bush said.

"For the sake of humanity, for the sake of the Palestinians who suffer, for the sake of the Israelis who are under attack, we must stop the terror."

Israel blamed the Palestinian Authority for the bus bombing.

An official in the Prime Minister's Office, David Baker, called the attack an example of "how the Palestinian Authority feeds on terror."

The Palestinian Authority issued a statement condemning the attack, but said Israel was responsible for the violence.

In a new policy aimed at deterring Palestinian terror attacks, Israeli soldiers on Sunday demolished the homes of nine Palestinian terrorists. The soldiers blew up four homes in the Jenin area, three in Nablus and two in Hebron.

Meanwhile, soldiers kept up a siege on Nablus that began last Friday, searching shops and houses for terrorists. Israel says Nablus has replaced Jenin as the main hub of terrorist cells responsible for attacks on Israelis.

The policy of demolishing the homes of terrorists' families has deterred several would-be suicide bombers, Israeli intelligence officials say.

Jallal Halil Jarar, 17, who was arrested last month, was in line to be a suicide bomber for Islamic Jihad but told Israeli investigators he backed out because of concern for what Israel would do to his family.

A woman, Umiya Muhammad Damaj, 24, had offered to be a suicide bomber for Islamic Jihad but turned herself in out of fear that, after her attack, Israel would demolish her parents' home.

Near Hebron, a father informed on his son's plans to go on a suicide mission, fearing that the family would be expelled from their home. □