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TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Soldiers practice Arafat expulsion

Israeli soldiers have practiced expelling Yasser Arafat by helicopter, Israeli security sources told The Associated Press.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said commandos were ready to carry out the plan on short notice.

According to the Israeli daily Ma'ariv, Arafat would be flown from his headquarters in Ramallah to a location where "there is no town or population nearby." Ma'ariv did not name the location, but Israeli television reported recently that the army had chosen the Libyan desert.

Barghouti trial resumes

The terrorism trial of Palestinian militia leader Marwan Barghouti resumed at a Tel Aviv court. Thursday's proceedings got off to a stormy start with sharp exchanges between supporters of Barghouti and relatives of victims of terror attacks.

During the proceedings, Barghouti distributed his own 54-count "indictment" of Israel. "We will be victorious over the occupation," Barghouti shouted before being led away, his hands shackled.

Guards took him out of the courtroom several times because he kept interrupting proceedings.

Foreign lawyers on Barghouti's legal team were not permitted to sit on the defense bench. Israeli law allows only lawyers certified by the Israeli bar to take part in proceedings.

Israeli prosecutors requested that Barghouti be kept in jail until the end of the trial.

The court said it would rule on the prosecutor's motion on Nov. 21.

N.J. poet laureate defends poem

The poet laureate of New Jersey defended a poem he wrote insinuating that Israel knew in advance about the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Amiri Baraka asserted that the meaning of his poem, "Somebody Blew Up America," was distorted, and he dismissed the governor's demand that he resign and apologize.

"It is a poem that aims to probe and disturb, but there is not any evidence of anti-Semitism," Baraka, formerly known as LeRoi Jones, told a supportive crowd of about 200 at the Newark Public Library on Wednesday.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Harvard president's remarks, Web site ignite campus wars

By Rachel Pomerance

NEW YORK (JTA) — Even before Daniel Pipes arrived at the University of Oklahoma for a speech this week, his opponents were waiting for him.

The Oklahoma Daily campus paper carried two letters to the editor on Tuesday blasting Campus Watch, a Web site Pipes created that monitors professors and institutions it deems anti-Israeli or anti-American.

A college campus in an uproar over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is nothing new. What is new is the furor created by last month's launch of Campus Watch and, the next day, a speech by Harvard President Lawrence Summers warning that anti-Israel movements on university campuses smacked of anti-Semitism.

Opponents of Israel on campus say Israel backers are trying to limit their free speech.

"The organizational campaign to silence academic criticism of Israel is incompatible with the cherished American values of free speech and inquiry," the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee said in a statement last week.

In the Oklahoma Daily, a letter to the editor signed by 19 history professors — out of 26 in the department — echoed the sentiment.

Groups like Campus Watch inhibit the "free and open exchange of ideas and beliefs," the writers said. "Indeed, compiling dossiers on professors and universities threatens to poison the climate of intellectual engagement at a time when we urgently need measured discussion and debate."

Another letter — signed by just one member of the history department, who helped coordinate Pipes' visit — applauded Campus Watch for fighting "false speech."

According to Norman Stillman, director of Jewish studies at the University of Oklahoma, some of those criticizing Pipes — the director of the Philadelphia-based Middle East Forum — are in fact the ones guilty of "intellectual fascism."

Their criticism of Pipes, in the name of free speech, "has this '1984' quality, that war is peace and hate is love and so on. Things are turned on their heads," Stillman said. "By blacklisting or shunning anyone who holds different views, they put a complete damper on free speech."

One Jewish studies professor who asked to remain anonymous, said universities' Arab-dominated Middle Eastern studies departments routinely blacklist Jewish or pro-Israel scholars.

"Most students know that given the nature of the field, they have very little chance if they don't hold certain views," the professor said.

Pipes and a few other scholars heightened their critique of Middle East studies in America after Sept. 11, arguing that political correctness led many scholars to apologize for Muslim antagonism toward the West or justify violence against America and Israel.

Since the intifada began two years ago, a number of faculty members have joined campus protests against Israel or used their classrooms to blast the Jewish state.

In one notorious case, a graduate student at the University of California at Berkeley offered a course glorifying the Palestinian cause and made it clear that students with opposing views were not welcome.

Anti-Israel protests on campus have grown increasingly ugly, with Israel routinely compared to Nazi Germany or apartheid South Africa and anti-Jewish blood libels revived. It was in that context that Summers lashed out at the anti-Israel movement on

MIDEAST FOCUS

Report: Blair's remarks checked

British Prime Minister Tony Blair's call this week on Israel and Iraq to comply with U.N. resolutions reportedly was coordinated with U.S. officials. The United States was involved in Blair's statement "right up to the last comma," according to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, which cited a source close to the White House.

Echoing comments he made earlier this week regarding Israel and Iraq, Blair said Thursday there should be no double standard for those who violate U.N. resolutions. On Wednesday, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said many recent statements made by world leaders were "designed to placate the Arabs for various reasons, including the possibility of a war in Iraq."

Israeli extremist arrested

Israeli officials placed a far-right activist under house arrest for six months. The move came after a Jerusalem court this week convicted Noam Federman of assaulting an Arab family in Hebron in August 1998.

At the same time, the court acquitted Federman on a separate assault charge filed by another Palestinian family in Hebron after contradictions were found in the plaintiffs' testimony.

Israel to close fuel depot

Israel's central fuel depot, a feared target of mega-terror attacks, is to be closed by January.

Infrastructure Minister Efraim Eitam decided in consultations Wednesday night with the director general of the Pi Gililot facility that the fuel stored there would be moved to other installations around the country. Pi Gililot is located near densely populated areas north of Tel Aviv. An attempt earlier this year to carry out an attack at the site failed when a bomb planted beneath a tanker caused only a small fire.



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college campuses. "Where anti-Semitism and views that are profoundly anti-Israeli have traditionally been the primary preserve of poorly educated right-wing populists, profoundly anti-Israel views are increasingly finding support in progressive intellectual communities," Summers said.

"Serious and thoughtful people are advocating and taking actions that are anti-Semitic in their effect if not their intent."

He singled out the movement to force universities to divest their holdings in Israel — similar to an effort against South Africa's apartheid government in the 1980s — while raising no objections to investments in countries with far worse human rights records.

While Summers' speech drew criticism from many — The Harvard Crimson called it "disingenuous and divisive" — it also had many supporters.

It even has had a small ripple effect among other university presidents.

Lawrence Bacow, president of Tufts University, praised Summers.

"University presidents ought to raise important questions, and I think he has," Bacow was quoted as saying in The New York Times.

"You'll see more debate as a result of Summers' remarks than you would have otherwise. It's catalytic," agreed Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, president of George Washington University.

"It is possible to criticize" Israeli "Prime Minister Sharon without hating Israel or hating Jews," he added, but "I think there is much truth" to Summers' charge that the anti-Israel movement verges on the anti-Semitic.

At the University of Michigan, a major Palestinian solidarity conference is planned for Oct. 12-14 that calls for divestment from Israel, equates Zionism with racism and refuses to condemn Palestinian terrorism.

University President Mary Sue Coleman issued a statement last week rejecting the divestment call.

Summers "speaking out has made it easier for other college presidents to speak out as well," said Jeffrey Ross, director of campus and higher education affairs at the Anti-Defamation League.

"What's happened is that a major voice has appeared on the side of reason," Ross said. "The fact that it comes from the president of Harvard University" makes it "a voice that can't be ignored."

The argument that criticism from the likes of Summers and Pipes is designed to stifle free speech might sway some students and faculty.

But "when things are perceived as hate speech, free speech doesn't apply to the same degree," Ross said. "The fact that anti-Israel forces are howling about this is indicative of their concern that this is having a real effect," he said.

Jeff Rubin, communications director for Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, agreed that Summers' speech effectively "raised the issue of anti-Semitism on the campus to a national audience."

But, he said, "regardless of whether divestment is anti-Semitic or not, it's part of a whole web of anti-Israel activities that are unsettling the campuses and that we are working to oppose."

The professor who helped start the divestment petition at Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology said Summers' remarks have helped his efforts.

The divestment effort "might have died on the vine," said Ken Nakayama, a Harvard psychology professor. "Thanks to president Summers, we are now gaining more attention."

Nakayama modeled the divestment petition after one at Princeton University, one of about 40 circulating at universities nationwide.

Summers' office declined to comment on the reaction to his speech.

For his part, Pipes has grown used to being branded a fascist and a dupe of the Sharon government. He gives a speech about every two days, Pipes said, and the only the times he needs security is at his university engagements.

"I go through back doors and loading docks," and in "some cases those wanting to attend my talks go through airplane style metal detectors. That is a sign for me of how badly things have degenerated" on campus, Pipes said. "These are islands of repression in a sea of tolerance." □

JEWISH WORLD

Diaspora Jews praised

Diaspora Jews have proved their solidarity with Israel during the present crisis, the chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel said.

Speaking Thursday before the leadership of the World Jewish Congress, Sallai Meridor said the 20th century was characterized by Diaspora Jewry's efforts for the establishment and building of the State of Israel.

The 21st century, he added, "will be characterized by the interdependence of Diaspora Jewry and Israel."

Paper: Mossad tracked terrorists

Mossad agents reportedly tracked some of the perpetrators of the Sept. 11 attacks and warned the CIA. According to the German newspaper *Die Zeit*, the agents' warnings were ignored and the agents were deported from the United States.

Though they had no specific information about the pending attacks, the agents warned U.S. officials in August 2001 about a possible terrorist cell in Florida, the report said. Israel's ambassador to the United States, Danny Ayalon, denied the report and said there are no Mossad agents in the United States.

Museum to act on artwork claim

The British Museum said it may return four Old Masters drawings seized from a Jewish collector by the Nazis during World War II.

According to surviving family members, the 16th- and 18th-century drawings were part of the collection of Dr. Arthur Feldmann, a Czech citizen who died during the Holocaust.

Feldmann's family has spent years searching for his collection of more than 750 drawings, which was seized by the Gestapo.

The museum on Wednesday called the family's claim "detailed" and "compelling," according to Reuters. A spokeswoman for the museum said the works may be returned to the family, or they will be paid compensation.

Czech flood survivors get help

The Claims Conference is giving \$20,000 to help Czech flood victims who are Holocaust survivors. The group allocated the money to the *Terezin Initiative*, a project that provides financial assistance to victims of Nazi persecution.

The initiative, in coordination with the Prague Jewish community and the Czech Federation of Jewish Communities, is finding victims of the August floods temporary housing, purchasing household equipment, clothing and food for them and repairing damaged apartments.

There are approximately 1,000 Holocaust survivors in the Czech Republic.

AROUND THE JEWISH WORLD

With elections approaching, candidates anger Brazil's Jews

By Marcus Moraes

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) — Sen. Jose Alencar, the leading candidate to become Brazil's vice president, recently apologized to Brazilian Jews after saying that the only solution to the Middle East conflict was for Israelis to pick up and leave the region.

While that may have been the most serious gaffe of the campaign vis-a-vis the Jewish community, Alencar wasn't alone in expressing anti-Israel sentiments or alienating Brazil's Jewish community.

The three other major candidates chasing Luis Inacio Lula da Silva, the longtime Labor leader who is heading Alencar's slate in the Oct. 6 elections and is known as Lula, also have done so — reflecting both the dominance of Christianity in Brazil and widespread sympathy for the Palestinians.

Silva is widely expected to win the vote, though it's unclear if he will receive the 50 percent necessary to avoid a runoff.

What is clear is that his Labor Party took measures to placate the 120,000 Jews in Brazil after Alencar's Mideast analysis.

A few days after Alencar's statement, he, Lula and Sao Paulo Mayor Marta Suplicy — whose husband is Jewish — visited *Congregacao Israelita Paulista*, Brazil's largest synagogue, during Yom Kippur. They were politely welcomed.

Many Jews saw Alencar's apology as politically motivated and insincere.

But Alencar hasn't been the primary transgressor in the race. Evangelical Christian Anthony Garotinho is probably the figure most responsible for making religion an issue in the presidential race.

Garotinho has introduced one political ally by saying, "This is my candidate, in party and faith."

Several of the social programs Garotinho backed as governor of Rio de Janeiro state are said to have unfairly benefited evangelicals.

"Garotinho's attitude toward the evangelicals amounts to discrimination favoring one religious group. I don't like this kind of discrimination," said Osias Wurman, the newly elected president of the Rio de Janeiro State Jewish Federation.

Jose Serra, currently running second in polls for the presidency, seemed to be on good terms with the Brazilian Jewish community. Serra was greeted warmly when he visited *Congregacao Israelita Paulista* during the High Holidays.

"Avodah, avodah, avodah," Serra said, meaning that he intends to do good "work" if elected.

However, his vice presidential candidate, Rita Camata, told a Brazilian magazine that "I have been following foreign politics very carefully. One of the subjects that attracts me the most is the criminal way that Israel treats the Palestinians."

Candidate Ciro Gomes, who was tied with Lula for first place in the polls until a series of campaign missteps, lost Jewish votes by expressing sympathy for Hitler.

"He had something I admire in a man — the determination to do something, although not a good thing," Gomes said of the Nazi leader.

Jack Terpins, president of the Israelite Confederation of Brazil and the Latin American Jewish Congress, said the candidates' comments stem from ignorance rather than malice.

"I believe both Gomes' and Camata's declarations may be classified more as a lack of knowledge rather than a political position," he said.

Even as they make missteps on Jewish issues, candidates are courting the Jewish vote.

"The visit of candidates to our synagogues is obviously part of their political marketing, and it may be opportunistic. Just the same, it is a nice gesture," the rabbi of *Congregacao Israelita Paulista*, Henry Sobel, told JTA. "What they do not know is that the Jewish community does not vote monolithically."

Still, most Jews are expected to support Serra because he is supported by President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, who has always been very friendly toward Jews. □

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**U.S. Supreme Court to check links between words and violent actions***By Sharon Samber*

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The fear of terrorism is about to find its way into the U.S. Supreme Court.

When the new court term opens on the first Monday in October, Oct. 7, several cases involving free speech, including cross burnings and anti-abortion protests, will top the docket.

Legal observers expect the court to examine when speech encourages violence or if speech itself can be so intimidating that it should not be tolerated.

Concern about the connections between speech and action is a sign of the times, they say, since speech leading to violent action can now be seen in the context of terrorism.

"Hate speech in America used to not have a real impact," according to Marc Stern, co-director of the American Jewish Congress' legal department.

"That's harder to say now."

The focus on free speech issues marks a change in focus for court watchers in the Jewish community.

In June, the high court ended its last term with a dramatic ruling that school vouchers were constitutional, effectively relegating the battle over government funding for parochial schools to the state level.

The ruling, years in the making, divided Jewish groups.

There are not expected to be any major church-state issues on the docket this year, though the court often accepts last-minute cases.

Several Jewish groups have signed on to briefs related to the free speech cases coming before the court.

The court will examine whether a Virginia statute that bans cross-burning "with the intent of intimidating any person or group of persons" is overly broad and in violation of the First Amendment.

The Anti-Defamation League drafted a brief affirming that the government may criminalize cross-burning even though it is a form of expressive speech.

But the ADL brief was not filed on behalf of either party in the case.

The group expressed concern that the court might go much further than merely invalidating the statute which would have unintended consequences for a range of currently permissible speech.

"We want to help the court arrive at a bright line of permissible expressive speech on one side and intentional criminal threats on the other side," said Michael Lieberman, Washington counsel for the ADL.

"There's a lot at stake especially where we have seen hate speech lead to terrible violent action."

Hadassah, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the American Jewish Committee, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and the National Council of Jewish Women all signed on to the brief.

In the case, *Virginia v. Black*, the defendants, convicted in 1999 under state law for burning a cross, said the statute was unconstitutional because it impermissibly infringed upon expressive conduct.

But the Virginia Court of Appeals unanimously upheld their convictions.

The court declared that the statute "targets only expressive conduct undertaken with the intent to intimidate another."

The justices decided that even though cross-burning is a form of speech, the message is beyond the protection of the First Amendment and can be banned by the government.

Last year, however, the Virginia Supreme Court in a 4-3 decision found the state law prohibiting cross-burning was unconstitutional and threw out the convictions. The court said such acts are a protected form of speech.

A number of states and the federal government make it a crime to burn crosses.

Now the U.S. Supreme Court will have a chance to clarify the laws.

In two cases pitting violent anti-abortion protesters against a pro-choice group, the court will examine the extent to which protest might be regulated.

The question before the justices is whether the federal anti-racketeering law would allow a court order to protect abortion clinics and whether the Hobbs Act, which makes it a crime to obstruct, delay or affect interstate commerce by robbery or extortion, can be applied to political protests.

In the cases, *Scheidler v. NOW* and *Operation Rescue v. NOW*, the defendants are maintaining that finding against them could lead to criminalizing other kinds of social and political protest.

Joseph Scheidler, a leader of the Pro-Life Action Network, a national organization of anti-abortion groups, was involved with protest missions that ranged from picketing and leafleting to violent attacks and destruction of facilities.

The National Organization of Women filed suit against the group, alleging that its protest missions amounted to a pattern of extortion and therefore violated the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act.

NOW says there is a difference between nonviolent social protest and the orchestrated campaign of fear and violence perpetrated by the anti-abortion group. The Council of Jewish Women joined a brief in support of NOW.

In 2001, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against the defendants saying that the lower court's decision "respected the line between protected expression and unprotected conduct."

Because the First Amendment does not protect violent acts or threats, the court said, it supported the jury's findings.

Another case Jewish groups are watching is the court's examination of whether a state can be sued for violating the Family and Medical Leave Act.

In the Nevada case, a man who took leave to care for his sick wife sued his employer for terminating him and thereby violating the law.

In the Family and Medical Leave Act, Congress allowed states to be sued, but it appears the Supreme Court may decide that Congress had inappropriately exercised its power by allowing such lawsuits.

Jewish groups are concerned about the high court's continuing trend to wear down Congress' authority to legislate in areas of social policy, said Richard Foltin, legislative director for the American Jewish Committee.

The ADL, the AJCommittee and NCJW joined a brief defending the law. □