



# Daily News Bulletin

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86th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Lawmakers press Ford

Lawmakers are asking the Ford Foundation to better monitor its grantees to ensure they are not engaged in anti-Semitism.

The action was prompted by a JTA investigation, which found that the Ford Foundation funds the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organization Network and other groups that coordinated anti-Semitic attacks at the U.N. World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, in 2001.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) is circulating a letter to colleagues accusing the foundation of turning a blind eye to information that its grant recipients are using funds to promote bigotry against Jews.

"Whatever the Ford Foundation's understanding may have been when these grants were first made, we are concerned that there appears to have been no effort to monitor the grantees to ensure that the funds were used for legitimate purposes," Nadler wrote.

### 'Collaborators' gunned down

West Bank militants gunned down two Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israeli security forces. The men were shot dead in the streets of Tulkarm's refugee camp on Thursday after their killers played a videotape of their confessions to fellow residents.

Palestinians suspected of collaboration with Israel frequently have been arrested, held incommunicado and tortured by the Palestinian Authority security services, according to Amnesty International, raising the possibility that suspects are forced to confess under duress. Israeli security officials say the charge of collaboration is often a pretext for settling scores unrelated to politics. Such vigilantism has been commonplace during the Palestinian intifada.

### Another Jew dies in Iraq

The campaign in Iraq has claimed a soldier believed to be the second American Jewish military casualty.

David Bernstein, 24, of Phoenixville, Pa., a first lieutenant with the U.S. Army's 173rd Airborne Infantry Brigade based in Camp Ederle, Italy, was killed in Taza, Iraq, when enemy forces ambushed his patrol with rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire.

Bernstein's father, Richard, said his son was "an athlete and a scholar," the New York Daily News said.

## AMERICA DECIDES 2004

### Graham's exit leaves Florida Jews searching for a candidate to support

By Matthew E. Berger

MIAMI (JTA) — The names have been in the news for months, but Florida voters are just beginning to pay attention.

When talk turns to the 2004 race for the White House, many Jewish Floridians acknowledge that they haven't been watching the field of Democratic candidates as closely as in years past.

But that began changing on Oct. 6, when the hometown favorite, Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fla.) dropped out of the race, leaving many voters in South Florida's Jewish communities without a favorite candidate.

"I don't know what I'm going to do," Bob Josefsberg, a trial attorney in Miami, said at an American Jewish Committee dinner Oct. 15. He said Graham's departure left him "shell-shocked and gun-shy."

Josefsberg had given \$2,000 — the maximum allowed under federal law — to Graham's presidential bid. Since the senator's exit, Josefsberg has received calls from four different campaigns seeking support.

"It's like your wife dies, and people are trying to fix you up the next week," he said.

Graham's withdrawal has brought several Democratic presidential hopefuls to Florida, with more planning trips in coming weeks and months.

Gen. Wesley Clark held an event at a South Florida delicatessen last week, and Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) spent the evening of Oct. 16 schmoozing with contributors in Miami's South Beach.

Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean and Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) also visited the state in recent months.

They aren't necessarily here to win votes. By the time of Florida's March 9 primary, nearly 30 other states will have gone to the polls and one candidate may already have the nomination all but sewn up.

That's why some of the Democratic candidates virtually have ignored the Sunshine State.

But others are making frequent trips seeking campaign contributions from affluent Floridians, many of them Jews.

Candidates need to raise about \$3 million each quarter to be in the upper half of Democratic hopefuls.

Dean received \$14 million in the quarter ending Sept. 30, the most of any candidate.

Graham, who spent eight years as governor before becoming a senator in 1987, is a beloved figure in this state and enjoys tremendous support in the Jewish community. That support brought a lot of money and, presumably, votes to Graham — support that is now up for grabs.

"It now makes available some political donors," said Mitch Ceasar, chairman of the Broward County Democratic Party. "There are people available now who were either with Graham or were sitting on the fence in deference to Graham."

While many Florida Jews liked Graham and supported him, they're looking for something different from the next candidate.

"I was definitely for Graham, but I really thought it would be a wasted vote," said Trudy Schurowitz of Pembroke Pines, who was waiting to hear Lieberman speak at a

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Attack in Gaza

Palestinians shot and wounded three Israelis in an attack in the Gaza Strip. After the attack on the Israelis, who were riding in a car when they were shot at Thursday night, Israeli forces tracked one of the suspected assailants and killed him.

### El Al plane diverted

Security threats forced an El Al plane bound for Toronto to land in Montreal. El Al Flight 105 was scheduled to arrive at Pearson International from Tel Aviv on Thursday. But the plane was diverted after the threats, which were on the plane and not directed at the airport, according to an airport spokesperson.

No further details were given. After 90 minutes, the plane took off for a different Toronto airport.

### Internet seductress convicted

A Palestinian woman who used the Internet to lure an Israeli teenager into captivity for eventual murder was convicted of premeditated manslaughter.

The woman made contact with Ofir Rahum while chatting on the Internet. She told him her name was Sally and that she was an Israeli immigrant from Morocco. She lured him from his home in Ashkelon to Jerusalem, where he was kidnapped and killed.

The father of the boy told Israel's daily Ma'ariv that he did not want the woman executed for luring Ofir to his death in 2001. "I don't want her to be executed. I just want her to be punished and go to jail," he said.

### Jerusalem to host gay parade

Jerusalem was chosen as the next site of an international gay and lesbian parade. The event is slated for 2005.

Israeli gay and lesbian parades in Jerusalem have drawn protests from some members of the religious community.

senior citizens' forum Oct. 16. "I didn't see the strengths in his approach that we must have."

Schuwowitz's outlook is echoed by other Jewish voters, who say they were unsure of Graham's ability to lead the country and are looking for a candidate with strong leadership skills.

Leadership is a reoccurring theme. The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, have made it even more urgent to have a strong leader in the White House, say Florida voters, many of whom express concerns about the Bush administration's handling of the Iraq war.

That has led some voters into the arms of Clark, whose entry into the campaign last month was welcomed in Florida. He is a known entity in some Jewish communities here, having spoken to the Broward County Jewish Federation in 2001, and his military record appeals to some voters.

"I feel confident that he has knowledge of security issues," said Hillary Waksman, a dental hygienist, on her way home after exercising at the Broward County Jewish Community Center. "I found him to be very articulate and confident in what he was saying."

Cesar said Clark's support mirrors the interest Dean received when he first came to national media attention earlier this year, but Cesar suggested that it may fade as the campaign continues.

Another presence in the race isn't even on the Democratic slate: President Bush.

Bashing administration policy in the Middle East and at home has become a competitive sport among the Democratic candidates, and it has seemed to rub off on the Democratic constituency of South Florida.

"I think he's a moron," Pembroke Pines resident Joan Kassel said of Bush. "I think that man is dangerous, and I don't like the Iraq situation."

But Bush still has support in South Florida.

Ned Siegel, a Bush fund-raiser in the region, said the president's message on the Middle East has intrigued Florida Jews.

He notes that many rabbis in Florida read Bush's Rosh Hashanah message to their congregants at services.

"Fund raising in the South Florida Jewish community has changed," Siegel said. "We are not only increasing fund raising from people who had given before, but independents and even some Democrats are participating in his re-election."

For Lieberman, his pitch in Florida is half about the past and half about the future. He reminds Florida voters almost continuously about the Florida voting scandal of 2000, when he was the running mate of presidential candidate Al Gore and suffered through more than a month of recounts and court fights before Bush was certified as the victor.

"What a shame 2000 was," Lieberman said at the forum at the Century Village retirement community. "We had the votes, but not the five votes on the Supreme Court."

He also speaks of issues that are especially relevant to many Florida voters, including programs like Social Security and Medicare.

After Lieberman's speech, the seniors peppered him with questions on health insurance and the economy, as well as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the fate of convicted spy Jonathan Pollard.

Lieberman has some support in this community, but Jewish backers say it's not because of shared religion.

"It means nothing to me, because I don't vote by religion or race," Kassel said. "But there are a lot of older Jews and I think they would vote for a Jew just because he's Jewish."

Abraham Spieler of Hollywood saw both Clark and Lieberman speak in Florida, and he said he's leaning toward Clark.

"I think Clark has a tremendous record," Spieler said. "I just know that this time we need a leader."

He referred to Lieberman as "the hawk," criticizing his support for the U.S.-led war in Iraq last spring.

"I'm here because I still have a little Jewish pride in me, and I want to hear what he has to say, besides about his mother," Spieler said before Lieberman's event. □



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## JEWISH WORLD

### U.S. urged to fight anti-Semitism

More U.S. support is needed to fight growing anti-Semitism in Europe, Jewish leaders said.

Speaking to the European subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday, David Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee, said enforcement of existing laws and use of educational programs to combat anti-Semitism is critical. "The laws are there. The educational curricula is there. The real question is political will," Harris said.

The panel also included Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, and Mark Levin, executive director of NCSJ: Advocates on Behalf of Jews in Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic States & Eurasia.

### Holocaust claims OK'd

A German court ruled that Holocaust-related property claims may be valid even if original ownership documents cannot be found.

Thursday's court decision overturned two lower-court rulings that blocked claims on property taken by the Nazis in the former East Germany on the basis of legal technicalities, The Associated Press reported.

The new ruling establishes that in cases where claimants are unable to come up with documents specifying original owners, they may submit supporting documents through the Claims Conference instead.

### Liberty probe called a cover-up

The United States covered up an investigation of the 1967 attack by Israel on the USS Liberty, a former investigator charged.

Capt. Ward Boston, a former Navy attorney who assisted in the investigation, said President Johnson and his defense secretary, Robert McNamara, instructed investigators to conclude that the attack, which killed 34 people, was unintentional.

Repeated inquiries both in the United States and Israel concluded that the attack was accidental, as Israel thought the Liberty was an Egyptian ship.

### Scholars: Re-post Hitler article

Leading Holocaust scholars are calling on a magazine not to restrict access to a 1938 article that glamorized Hitler.

A British journalist recently removed "At Home With Hitler" from his Web site after he was asked to do so by Homes & Gardens, which ran the story in 1938 featuring Hitler's vacation home in the Bavarian Alps.

"The attempted suppression 65 years later of articles" like this one "undermines efforts to teach about the Holocaust and its lesson," said the 67 scholars in the letter sent by the David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies, at Pennsylvania's Gratz College, which posted the article on its own Web site.

## After release of kidnapping details, Tannenbaum's family hopes for best

By Dan Baron

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Hezbollah might well be wondering if Elhanan Tannenbaum was worth the bother.

When the Lebanese terrorist group announced on Oct. 15, 2000, that it had captured a Mossad spy, it seemed to cap the group's deadly ambush of three Israeli soldiers earlier that month — a jab and a right hook to Israel's myth of invincibility.

But after the Israeli Supreme Court decided Wednesday to allow a government gag order on Tannenbaum's case to be lifted, the 57-year-old "international agent" trumpeted by Hezbollah turned out to be something altogether less glamorous: a businessman of dubious judgement whose risk-taking in the name of personal profit may yet cost his country dearly.

According to sources, Tannenbaum had been in financial straits after investing in the ill-fated Jericho casino. His luck worsened when he let a family friend, Qeis Obeid of the Israeli Arab town of Taibeh, talk him into a quick-fix venture in Brussels.

Obeid is believed to have been a Hezbollah agent who lured Tannenbaum from Belgium to Abu Dhabi, perhaps furnishing the businessman with a false passport.

From Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates, Tannenbaum was transferred to Hezbollah's turf in Lebanon — drugged and transported via Iran, according to reports.

An Israeli security source said Wednesday that Iranian intelligence services assisted in the kidnapping, Ha'aretz reported. The source said Iran supplied Hezbollah with a plane to bring Tannenbaum from Abu Dhabi to Lebanon, via Iran, and provided the safe house in Abu Dhabi where Tannenbaum was held immediately after his kidnapping.

Exactly what business the reserve artillery colonel planned in Belgium and the United Arab Emirates remains unknown.

Rumors of dirty deals, possibly involving drugs or arms, had abounded, not least after Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon hinted last week that Tannenbaum could be prosecuted once he is returned home. That spurred public speculation on whether Tannenbaum deserved the POW status accorded another Israeli who went missing in Lebanon, air force navigator Ron Arad.

Tannenbaum's family had appealed to the Supreme Court to keep the gag order in place. They feared that public criticism could jeopardize talks for a deal that would return Tannenbaum and the three soldiers' bodies in exchange for the release of as many as 400 Arab security prisoners from Israel's jails.

"If the swap does not go through, Hezbollah will either kill him, figuring he has no more use, or will let him rot in captivity," Tannenbaum's tearful daughter, Keren, told reporters Wednesday.

"Today there is an opportunity to bring him home, an opportunity that may not present itself again. Whoever does not take advantage of this opportunity decides, in effect, to kill my father," she said shortly after the Supreme Court decision.

The family of Arad, who ejected from his plane after it was shot down over Lebanon in 1986, also is part of the imbroglio. They want assurances that two senior Lebanese militants who were abducted by Israel as bargaining chips for Arad, and who head the roster of those Hezbollah wants released, will not go free unless the guerrilla group provides at least information on Arad's fate.

That's unlikely, given that Arad was last heard from in 1987. He was presumed passed to Iranian custody not long after his capture. The usually ebullient Hezbollah chief, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, said in a newspaper interview last month that word on Arad was hard to come by, a tacit admission of helplessness.

Indeed, Hezbollah is in a bind. First, Israel pulled the rug out from under its ambush of the soldiers by declaring the three dead in absentia. Now the group has lost another supposed coup in the form of Tannenbaum — though Israeli sentimentality may still prevail on the Sharon government to deal for his life.

Now that the truth about Tannenbaum's capture is out, however, the question is whether Israel will bargain harder, reducing the number of prisoners to be freed to a more equitable ratio. □

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

## Jewish groups on both sides as Congress moves on abortion

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA)— Jewish groups are closely monitoring progress on a new late-term abortion bill that could become law this week.

The bill, which outlaws a specific procedure technically known as intact dilation and evacuation, is opposed by a majority of Jewish organizations. They say it criminalizes a medical procedure.

At least one Orthodox group supports the bill, known as the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003, arguing that the procedure may be a form of infanticide.

The issue for the Jewish community centers around different interpretations of halachah, or Jewish law, and whether the mother's health is more important than the life of a fetus.

Both sides are gearing up for what they believe will be a long court battle.

The U.S. Senate passed the ban Tuesday, 64-34, three weeks after the House of Representatives passed the same act, 281-142.

President Bush supports the bill and is expected to sign the legislation into law. President Clinton vetoed similar legislation twice.

If passed, it would be the first measure restricting abortion to become federal law since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on *Roe v. Wade* in 1973.

In a so-called "partial-birth abortion," the fetus is partially delivered and then a doctor punctures its skull. The procedure is generally carried out relatively late in a pregnancy.

Under the new law, doctors who performed the procedure could be fined and jailed for up to two years.

Abortion opponents argue that fetuses that are inches away from being born should be protected.

"The gruesome and inhumane nature of the partial-birth abortion procedure and its disturbing similarity to the killing of a newborn infant promotes a complete disregard for infant human life that can only be countered by a prohibition of the procedure," the legislation says.

Supporters of abortion rights say the procedure is necessary in instances when the mother's health is at stake. While the legislation does exempt doctors who perform the procedure to save the mother's life, many Jewish groups want that provision widened to protect a mother's physical and mental health.

But supporters of the ban say there is no evidence of the procedure being used to protect a mother's health. Lawmakers say they have gathered information that shows that the procedure is never used to preserve the health of a woman, that it even poses significant risks to the mother and is outside the standard of medical care.

Abortion-rights advocates counter that the bill is vague and could have a chilling effect on doctors who perform other types of abortions.

"The language is so murky that you can't be sure it only covers these late-term abortions," said Lois Waldman, director of the American Jewish Congress' commission on women's equality.

But at least one Orthodox organization argues that a more

narrow interpretation of abortion law is warranted.

"The larger question on abortion, which is a very fair question, is: Do we need to have a law that provides a blanket right?" said Rabbi David Zwiebel, executive vice president for government and public affairs at Agudath Israel of America. "The notion that fetal life deserves no protection is wrong."

Jewish groups on both sides of the issue are relying on different interpretations of halachah to support their arguments.

Reform leaders cite laws indicating that the life of the mother is paramount and has a higher value than the "potential life" of the fetus.

"In Jewish law, we are commanded to take care of our health and the well-being of our bodies," said Barbara Weinstein, legislative director for the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. "Any legislation that restricts our ability to do that is problematic."

The RAC's Web site references the Mishnah, Tractate Ohalot, which says a woman is forbidden from sacrificing her own life to save that of her fetus and that if the mother's life is seriously threatened she has no option but abortion.

But Zwiebel argues that because the baby is alive when a "partial-birth" procedure is conducted — a critical point that is a source of contention — this type of abortion "pushes one life aside to save another life."

"Depending on the circumstances, killing a fetus after it has partially emerged from the birth canal may more properly be deemed infanticide than abortion, and Jewish law might not even recognize a 'life of the mother' exception that would permit the procedure," an Agudath Israel statement on the issue says.

The Orthodox Union does not take part in the abortion debate because of the complexity of halachah on the issue, said Nathan Diamant, director of the O.U.'s Institute for Public Affairs.

"It's very difficult to write legislation that promotes a pro-life approach but leaves room for circumstances in which a woman, in consultation with her doctor and rabbi, would need to have an abortion," he said.

The issue seems almost certain to end up at the Supreme Court. In 2000, the court rejected a Nebraska ban on late-term abortions, saying it failed to include an exemption for instances when the procedure was necessary to preserve the mother's health.

More than 10 Jewish organizations signed briefs against the Nebraska law; Agudath Israel supported the ban.

Abortion-rights proponents say they believe the new bill is too similar to the Nebraska law and hope it will suffer the same fate.

Opponents argue that information suggesting that the procedure is not used to protect a mother's health reopens the debate on the procedure. □

## Bomb victim treated in Alabama

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (JTA) — Doctors in Alabama are working to restore eyesight to a young Israeli injured in a suicide bombing earlier this month.

Ofer Almog, 10, who lost five family members in the Oct. 4 attack at Haifa's Maxim restaurant, is receiving treatment at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Almog lost his left eye, but doctors are trying to restore partial sight in his right eye. The blast by Islamic Jihad at the restaurant, which was jointly owned by Arabs and Jews, killed 21. □