

IN THE NEWS

Israelis rally for Gaza pullout

About 120,000 Israelis called for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip at a Tel Aviv rally.

"Eighty percent of our people want peace. One percent are trying to block it," Labor Party leader Shimon Peres told those gathered for the rally Saturday night in Rabin Square, referring to Likud voters who rejected Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's disengagement plan from the Palestinians.

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Two Israeli soldiers killed in Gaza Strip

Two Israeli soldiers were killed as one of them helped a Palestinian woman get food in Gaza. Sgt. Rotem Adam was among the Israeli soldiers searching the Rafah refugee camp for the remains of five soldiers killed there May 12.

He was killed last Friday by a sniper while escorting an elderly Palestinian woman from her home, which had been commandeered by Adam's unit. As fellow soldiers rushed to Adam's aid, Palestinian fire continued, killing another soldier, Sgt. Alexei Chait.

Lapid at AIPAC: Let's leave Gaza

AIPAC's keynote speaker said Israel should withdraw from the Gaza Strip. Yosef "Tommy" Lapid, the Israeli justice minister, delivered the opening remarks Sunday at this year's American Israel Public Affairs Committee policy conference.

He was applauded when he said the pullout plan "is the correct thing."

Lapid is one of three ministers attending the AIPAC conference; all three endorse the planned pullout, even though Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Likud Party has rejected it.

Some opponents of the plan in Israel are angry with AIPAC with touting the withdrawal even though it is not yet official Israeli government policy.

WORLD REPORT

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50 years after integration case, Jews remember their crucial role

By MATTHEW E. BERGER

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Esther Swirk Brown wasn't the Brown for whom the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case desegregating schools is named — but she is the Jewish woman who helped find Oliver Brown, of no relation, to be the lead plaintiff in the historic case.

As a young woman in Kansas, Esther Brown was horrified by the conditions of the school that black children, including the children of her housekeeper, were forced to attend. The one-room schoolhouse in South Park had dilapidated walls and missing light bulbs.

"She went to a school board meeting to press for equal education and was told to go home and mind her own business," said Miriam Katz, who impersonates Brown as part of a one-woman show honoring historic American women that is touring the Midwest.

Instead, Esther Brown stopped black children from attending the school, choosing to home school them in her own house and getting friends to serve as other teachers.

When she took her fight statewide to Topeka, she met Linda Brown, a young girl, and raised money so that Linda Brown's father, Oliver, could sue the city's board of education.

"She just wanted rights for everybody," Katz said. "Maybe she felt like she had to make things right."

As the nation marks the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which changed the face of the civil rights fight, Jews are noting

the historic role their community played in pushing the movement forward.

"It was disproportionately black and Jewish lawyers that were fighting the civil rights cases," said David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism and a board member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Charles Black, a member of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund team that argued *Brown*, used to joke that he was the only non-Jewish name on many of the briefs in that case.

Several Jewish groups are marking the anniversary and the Jewish community's participation in the landmark case.

The Anti-Defamation League has created a six-part educational program for schools on Brown's legacy, including a section on key alliances,

which tells the story of Esther Brown.

And at its annual Washington meeting recently, the American Jewish Committee showcased a video about the group's role in the civil rights movement. It featured several television advertisements AJCommittee funded to promote tolerance.

A predominantly liberal community, Jews felt empathy for the plight of black Americans.

"In the fight for the rights of African Americans, Jews were also in a fight for the rights of all minorities in America," Saperstein said. "There was implicit recognition that Jews wouldn't be safe in America until they created a country with no room for discrimination."

Jewish organizations lent their name to

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■ *Jews remember their role in the Brown v. Board of Education case*

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the civil rights cause, filing amicus briefs for the plaintiffs and funding some of the legal efforts.

In fact, the AJCommittee funded research by Kenneth Clark on the effects of prejudice and discrimination on personality development that Chief Justice Earl Warren cited in his unanimous Supreme Court decision handed down on May 17, 1954.

Many individual Jews, like Esther Brown, were part of the effort as well — perhaps none more than Jack Greenberg. As an associate counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Greenberg was one of several who argued *Brown v. Board of Education* in front of the Supreme Court.

He later succeeded Thurgood Marshall as the fund's director and counsel for more than 20 years.

"Being Jewish can lead you in any direction," said Greenberg, now a professor at Columbia University's School of Law. Greenberg said he wasn't driven by his religion but more by his upbringing in the socialist Zionist movement of Jews who had immigrated from Eastern Europe.

"We were social activists," he said. "Back then we'd call them socialists; now you'd call them liberals."

Several other Jews who aided the NAACP went on to distinguished legal careers, including Judge Jack Weinstein of the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of New York in Brooklyn, and Judge Louis Pollack of the U.S. District Court for the East District of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. But, Greenberg said, not all Jews were "on the good side."

"Some of the lawyers in the South who led the opposition were Jewish," he said.

The *Brown* case led to a partnership between blacks and Jews that helped herald the civil rights era.

"It was a landmark in what the relationship could achieve," Saperstein said. It led to the drafting of civil rights legislation, some of which was written on the conference table in the RAC's Washington office.

"This really did prove to them that they could use the political legal system to achieve integration and stop legal discrimination in America," he said. But blacks and Jews have not enjoyed an entire half-century of friendship.

Most significantly, many Jewish organizations broke with black groups in 1978, coming out against the affirmative action policies for which many blacks were fighting.

The ADL's leader at the time, Nathan Perlmutter, was one of the leading spokesmen against race-based criteria for admission to both colleges and universities.

Leaders of Jewish groups said the rejection of quotas for affirmative action came largely in light of numerical limits on Jewish enrollment in European and American universities in the 1920s.

Even last year, when the University of Michigan's affirmative action policies came before the U.S. Supreme Court, the

Jewish community was split.

The ADL opposed Michigan's standard of giving minority applicants 20 extra points on a 100-point admission-scoring scale, while the AJCommittee reversed course from 1978 and backed the Michigan plan.

The court ruled last June

that affirmative action programs are legal, but it but struck down the point system that Michigan used for undergraduate admissions.

More recently, black and Jewish groups have sparred over policy priorities, each seeking more support than the other for key legislative agenda items. In addition, anti-Israel and anti-Jewish comments by some blacks have fueled tensions.

The black community was angered by Jewish groups' call for a boycott of the 2001 United Nations Conference on Racism in Durban, South Africa, because of the conference's vehement anti-Israel rhetoric.

But black and other non-Jewish groups chose to back the Jewish community last month when it worked to minimize European anti-Semitism at a conference in Berlin.

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights joined Jewish leaders in Germany, providing information to European states on tools to combat discrimination.

While most Jews backed school integration, some Southern Jewish lawyers did not.

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British Jews blast animal rights group

By RICHARD ALLEN GREENE

LONDON (JTA) — The umbrella organization of British Jews has condemned a vegetarian group's advertisement campaign that compares eating meat to the Holocaust.

Neville Nagler, director general of the Board of Deputies, said the campaign being run by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals caused "enormous offense to victims of the Holocaust and their families."

London has banned the "Holocaust on your Plate" advertising campaign, but it started last week in some other British cities. "To promote vegetarianism is a perfectly respectable point of view, but to do so on the back of the Holocaust is obscene," Nagler said.

Jewish groups in Germany condemned the campaign when it appeared in their country earlier this year.

The group has repeatedly stood by the campaign as a way to draw attention to its cause.

THIS WEEK**MONDAY**

■ Condoleezza Rice, President Bush's national security adviser, meets Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei in Berlin. Rice wants to hear what plans the Palestinian Authority has for assuming control of Gaza once Israel withdraws. Palestinian sources have said Qurei will present Rice with a plan for Palestinian statehood.

TUESDAY

■ President Bush addresses the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's annual conference. He is expected to emphasize his support of Israel and back the U.S. effort in Iraq and likely will receive a warm reception.

WEDNESDAY

■ An Israeli court rules on whether to throw out the confession of a soldier charged with killing a British activist in Gaza. Sgt. Idier Wahid Taysir says he confessed "under pressure" to shooting the activist, Tom Hurndall.

THURSDAY

■ The Third General Assembly of European Jewry, sponsored by the European Council of Jewish Communities, meets through Sunday. About 800 representatives from more than 40 countries are expected.

■ Lawyers from the White House and Congress meet religious activists at a conference on church, state and the law at American University in Washington. Among the topics that participants, including representatives from the Reform movement, will discuss is preserving protected status for religious activists.

SATURDAY

■ Hillel's International Lay Leadership Conference opens in Washington. Some 200 lay leaders and professionals will discuss the role of lay leadership in fostering Jewish campus life. Also over the weekend, Hillel's Student Presidents' Institute will draw 52 Hillel students from across North America for leadership training in Washington.

SUNDAY

■ Donald Trump serves as grand marshal of the 40th annual Salute to Israel parade in New York City. "The Donald" will lead 40 floats, 16 marching bands and dozens of entertainers up Fifth Avenue. The theme of the parade is "Israel, I care and I'm going... Let's go to Israel now!"

■ The Board of Trustees and Delegate Assembly of the United Jewish Communities meets in Chicago. One of three annual governance meetings, the group is expected to approve its 2005 budget for \$38.5 million. The group also is expected to ratify the choice of Howard Rieger, longtime president of the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh, as UJC's next president and CEO.

Gaza becomes rallying cry

By DINA KRAFT and DAN BARON

TEL AVIV (JTA) — If Israel already has one foot out of Gaza, the other appears to be digging in deep.

After losing seven soldiers to Palestinian militants last week in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, the Israel Defense Forces may widen its nearby security zone by leveling Palestinian residents' homes.

"Hundreds of structures have been marked for demolition," Israeli media quoted the army's chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, as telling the Cabinet at its weekly meeting Sunday.

At the same time, the struggle over Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip made it to the streets of Israel's largest metropolitan area over the weekend.

Waving Israeli flags high into the night sky and holding banners with the slogan "The Majority Decides: Get Out of Gaza and Start Talking," some 120,000 people filled Tel Aviv's main square and spilled out onto surrounding sidewalks.

Observers noted the event could mark a turning point in the national debate over Israel's presence in the Gaza Strip.

Both developments suggest that Gaza may continue to be the flash point in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, just a few weeks after members of the Likud Party rejected Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from the strip — and at the end of a week in which 13 Israeli soldiers and more than 30 Palestinians were killed there.

The rally opened with a minute of silence in memory of the 13 Israeli soldiers killed last week. Then speakers criticized the Likud Party's May 2 vote against the pullout plan.

Citing recent polls showing an overwhelming majority of Israelis in favor of withdrawing from the Gaza Strip, Shimon Peres, leader of the Labor Party, said, "Eighty percent of Israelis want peace and one percent is trying to block it. We won't allow them" to decide. "You are the majority of the country, you are defending your home," Peres told the crowd.

Among the speakers were Yossi Beilin,

leader of a new political party called Yahad, and Ami Ayalon, the former director of Israel's Shin Bet security service. Both men have drafted alternate peace proposals for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Beilin, architect of an informal peace proposal known as the "Geneva accord," called for Sharon's ouster. Ayalon told the crowd that withdrawal from Gaza and the West Bank was needed to preserve Zionism, but that the message would be conveyed only if Israel's left wing shows more sensitivity to the feelings of Israeli settlers slated for evacuation from those areas.

Some politicians criticized holding the demonstration at the end of a week when so many soldiers died. The Yesha settlers

council denounced the demonstrators as leftist extremists "dancing on the blood" of victims in Gaza.

At the rally, parents hoisted children onto their shoulders while other protesters squeezed their way past ice cream shops and falafel stands on

'There have been too many unnecessary victims already, and I do not want to send my son to protect settlements.'

Batya Aviram

Tel Aviv resident

Ibn Gvirol Street, the road lining Rabin Square, for a better view of the speakers.

"There have been too many unnecessary victims already, and I do not want to send my son to protect settlements," said Batya Aviram, 47, of Tel Aviv. "We are sick of the sick occupation."

Aviram held a sign that read, "The settlements are killing our children."

The protest was organized by a new organization called Mate Harov, the Majority Coalition.

Dina Chanoon, 80, traveled from Kibbutz Beit Alpha in northern Israel to be at the demonstration.

"I want peace, not war. Enough with these wars already," said Chanoon, whose parents were among Israel's early settlers.

Chanoon's husband, Ephraim, also 80, said this was not the country he had hoped to leave to future generations.

"Our sons were in the army, our grandsons too, and I don't want our great-grandsons to also be serving in this way," he said. "The settlers are being allowed to take over the country." ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

NORTH AMERICA

FEC rejects controversial rule

The Federal Election Commission rejected rule changes that U.S. Jewish groups said would have restricted their activism.

The FEC voted 4-2 last week to reject changes that would redefine as a political committee any group that supported or opposed a candidate's policies. Leading Jewish groups said the change, aimed at restricting the proliferation of "soft-money" advertising, was too broad.

Its restrictions on spending and tax exemptions effectively would have shut down many organizations, they said. "We're very gratified that the FEC has rejected the proposed rule," said Sammie Moshenberg, Washington office director of the National Council of Jewish Women — which, along with the Reform movement, had led Jewish opposition to the rule. "We think it's a victory for freedom of speech."

Philanthropist Henry Everett dies

Jewish philanthropist and activist Henry Everett died Saturday in New York at 78.

Everett was vice president of JTA's board of directors as well as a board member of UJA-Federation of New York, the American Jewish Committee and the New York Boards of Rabbis, the Council of Jewish Federations, Jewish Community Centers of America and the Everett School in Hatzor, Israel. Everett and his wife, Edith, also were contributors to educational, cultural, ecological and human-rights causes.

A memorial service for Everett will be held Monday at 12:30 p.m. at Manhattan's Anshe Chesed Synagogue.

Not guilty pleas in Montreal firebombing

Three of the five people arrested last week for firebombing a Montreal Jewish school in April pleaded not guilty.

Two 18-year-olds charged with arson and conspiracy, and the mother of one of the accused, charged with being an accessory after the fact, all pleaded not guilty Saturday in a Montreal court. Police arrested five people May 13 for firebombing the United Talmud Torah school April 5, destroying the school's library.

The suspects will remain in custody until their bail hearings, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported.

Miami mosque defaced with swastika

Worshippers at a Miami mosque discovered a swastika and an obscenity scrawled on the building's sign last week.

Officials at the Islamic School of Miami, and another Miami mosque that reportedly was vandalized, called for the FBI to investigate. "With the recent increase of violence and abuse in Iraq, the Islamic community in Florida is concerned about a possible anti-Muslim backlash," said Altaf Ali, executive director of the Florida office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

Nazi paraphernalia seized in Canada

Canadian police shut down a white-supremacist Web site and seized Nazi paraphernalia in Edmonton, Alberta. The police action against the Western Canada for Us site followed a complaint from a local anti-racism group, Canadian media reported.

Authorities also raided an Edmonton home, seizing Nazi paraphernalia and books promoting white supremacy.

The prodigal son

The son of a Chabad rabbi in San Francisco was arrested for setting his father's home and shul ablaze. Avi Langer, 33, allegedly stole

a Torah from the Chabad House of San Francisco, run by his father, Yosef Langer, before setting the place on fire, The Associated Press reported.

Police said there were no injuries in the May 12 blaze, though the fire caused roughly \$200,000 in damage and displaced the Langer family from their home. Yosef Langer told authorities his son has a history of mental illness, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

Chabad goes to Boise

Chabad set up a permanent presence in Idaho, the group's 46th U.S. state.

Rabbi Mendel Lifschitz and his wife, Esther Miriam, moved to Boise recently. Chabad-Lubavitch now has permanent emissaries in every U.S. state except Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota. Chabad says the Jewish population of Boise is growing due to the location there of two large companies: HP and Micron.

MIDDLE EAST

Palestinians ready for cease-fire?

A Palestinian Authority official said Hamas and Islamic Jihad are ready for a cease-fire with Israel.

P.A. Foreign Minister Nabil Sha'ath said Sunday that he told U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell the terrorist groups told Egyptian mediators they are ready for a cease-fire if Israel responds in kind. P.A. Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei, who met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo, also called for a cease-fire, saying it could lead to a renewal of peace talks, Ha'aretz reported.

A senior Israeli government official said in response, "We have to see actions, not declarations."

Arab editor calls on Arafat to resign

A prominent Arab columnist for an Arabic-language newspaper called on Yasser Arafat to resign.

"It is time to give the wheel to younger hands," Jihad Al Khazen, a former editor in chief of the Saudi-owned, London-based Al-Hayat, wrote in an open letter to the Palestinian Authority president that was published in the paper.

Khazen, who said Arafat should resign because of his age and his failing health, also accused the Palestinian leader of bringing the Palestinian cause to a dead end, the Jerusalem Post reported.

WORLD

Cukierman re-elected to lead French Jews

Roger Cukierman was re-elected as president of the CRIF umbrella organization of French Jews.

A former banker with the Rotschild group, Cukierman beat Serge Hajdenberg, founder and president of the Radio J community radio station, by 113-16 at the CRIF General Assembly meeting in Paris on Sunday. Cukierman will serve as head of CRIF until 2007.

Fake bomber jailed in France

A man who placed fake bombs near Jewish targets in the Paris region was sentenced to two months in jail.

A court in Paris last Friday found Julien Sudrie, 18, guilty of placing a false bomb on the grounds of a synagogue in Villers-le-Bel, north of the capital, earlier this month. He was also found guilty of placing another device outside the home of a member of the same Jewish community. Explaining the relatively light sentence, which also includes a 12-month suspended sentence, the court noted that Sudrie had been undergoing psychiatric treatment and was not suspected of being motivated by anti-Semitism.