

## IN THE NEWS

### Iraqi leader: Israel off docket

Iraq's interim president said his country would not normalize relations with Israel before a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement.

Ayad Allawi made the comments Monday at a news conference in Beirut with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

Allawi also denied reports in the Arab media that Israeli spies were operating in Iraq.

### ACLU rebukes Ford Foundation

The American Civil Liberties Union protested the Ford Foundation's new anti-terrorism rules.

The rules, designed to prevent grants from being used to assist terrorist groups, were put into place after a JTA investigative series last fall found that the Ford Foundation had funded virulently anti-Israel groups with links to terrorist organizations.

Earlier this month, the ACLU sent the Ford Foundation a letter saying the foundation's new grant provisions — which require recipients not to promote bigotry, terrorism, violence or any nation's destruction — stifle debate and threaten academic freedom, the Chronicle of Philanthropy reported.

### Sharon firm on Gaza plan

Ariel Sharon said he would press ahead with a plan to remove Israeli settlements from the Gaza Strip.

"I have decided to go ahead with the disengagement plan because it is obvious Israel cannot stay in Gaza forever," Sharon was quoted as saying Monday.

Sharon was responding to a 130,000-strong demonstration by settlers and their supporters the previous night.

**Reminder: The JTA World Report will not be published Wednesday, July 28.**

# WORLD REPORT

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## Democrats say Kerry's the man on Israel, and domestic issues too

By RON KAMPEAS

**B**OSTON (JTA) — Bill Richardson talked about how John Kerry would salvage a health care system he said President Bush had ruined, how Kerry would preserve abortion rights he said Bush had eroded and about how Kerry would crush the terrorist threat he claimed Bush had mishandled.

Then the popular New Mexico governor and chairman of the Democratic convention got around to Israel.

This is what he told his Jewish audience on the eve of the Democratic National Convention: "The Bush administration policy toward Israel has been OK."

Richardson didn't let it go there — never has a candidate been "more committed to Israel's security than John Kerry," he said — but the pass he gave Bush on Israel was all the more remarkable for being addressed to Sunday's convention-launching event sponsored by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. Co-sponsors included the United Jewish Communities federation umbrella organization, the National Jewish Democratic Council and Boston Jewish groups.

Democratic officials who deal with the Jewish community say they've done all they can to highlight their candidate's bona fides on Israel, such as his sterling voting record on Israel issues during 19 years in the Senate, his recognition of some Israeli claims to the West Bank and his repudiation of a Palestinian refugee "right of return," and his swift condemnation of the International Court of Justice's recent ruling against Israel's West Bank security barrier.

The implication is that those Jews who insist on voting for Bush because of his extraordinarily warm relations are beyond the Democratic pale — but that the time has come to remind voters that from the Democratic Party's perspective, Kerry's positions are much closer to Jewish voters on every issue Jews care about aside from the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

"There's no difference between George Bush and John Kerry when it comes to a strong U.S.-Israel alliance," Ann Lewis, a communications director in President Clinton's White House and an adviser to the Kerry campaign, told JTA. "On every other issue, Kerry will fight much harder for issues supported by the Jewish community, whether it's housing for the elderly, education, or church-and-state."

Republicans might well challenge the assertion that Kerry is as pro-Israel as Bush. Even so, it might not be an easy fight for Kerry on the domestic issues, given the emphasis Jews place on Israel's security.

"Many women don't realize the Supreme Court's role in reproductive choice," said Marcia Sudalsky, the New York director of the National Jewish Democratic Council.

"There's such a stark difference" between the two candidates, added Sudalsky's friend Ivy Cohen. "Separation of church and state, a pluralistic society, making education available to all, equality and human rights."

The Democratic Party plans to take that fight to swing states where Jews can make a difference in what is shaping up as a nip-and-tuck election. The party especially values Jewish voters, who are known for voting in

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BEHIND  
THE  
HEADLINES

## ■ *Democrats plan to court Jewish voters, especially in swing states*

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greater numbers than the national average, for getting others out to vote — and for donating generously to campaigns.

“Do everything you can in your community and your state to make sure every vote is counted,” Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) told Jewish Democrats at Sunday’s event. “Especially those of you in swing states.”

Kerry proxies are poised to blitz Florida in the period between Labor Day and Rosh Hashanah, with the message that Kerry is much closer to the Jews on domestic policy than is Bush. The 2,500 people attending the Sunday night event got a taste of the arguments to come.

“In my state of Texas, the other party says Christian prayer is the only prayer heard by God,” Arthur Schechter, national chairman of the National Jewish Democratic Council, told the crowd at the event. Democrats, Schechter said, “understand that the constitutional imperative of keeping church and state separate is

alive and well.” Schechter earned cheers when he said Kerry would appoint “judges who will not destroy a woman’s right to choose.”

Another tack the Democrats will take is to emphasize the historic relations between the party and U.S. Jews.

Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), who became the first viable Jewish candidate for president before dropping out of the 2004 race early in the primary season, suggested Jews and Democrats share a “post-Shoah” ethos reflected in Clinton’s intervention in the Balkans and the party’s statements about ending ethnic cleansing in Sudan.

“This community believes in social justice,” Lieberman told the crowd.

Such emphases are new after months of a campaign to shore up Kerry’s credentials as a friend of the Jewish state: Look for a major Middle East policy speech on Israel in the next month, insiders say.

Additionally, Democrats hope to per-

suaude Jewish voters that one domestic issue — preparedness for terrorism — dovetails with support for Israel. Kerry and his proxies have been saying that he would do more than Bush to secure the United States, especially in light of criticism of the administration in the Sept. 11 commission report released last week.

“We will, after November, have a president who will actively implement what we need to do,” Clinton said to cheers. “And there is no state that understands that more than Israel.”

It was a message that might have appeal. Hours before the reception, more than 1,000 people met on Boston’s waterfront to remind Democrats of Israeli and Argentine victims of terrorism.

“Every convention marks the opportunity to create new standards and reset our values,” Nancy Kaufman, director of Boston’s Jewish Community Relations Council, told the demonstrators. “This message that we communicate today is of enormous importance.”

## Sprint puts South African centenerian in record book

By MOIRA SCHNEIDER

CAPE TOWN (JTA) — A South African Jewish centenarian has set a world record for his age group in the 100-meter sprint, even though his best time wasn’t accepted for posterity because of a clock malfunction.

Philip Rabinowitz, 100, completed the

distance in 30.86 seconds on July 10.

A July 4 race in which he ran the distance in 28.8 seconds was not recognized because the electronic timer failed on that occasion.

Rabinowitz, who is listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the world’s oldest competitive walker, called his races “wonderful.”

“I feel halfway to heaven already — only halfway, not the whole way,” the Cape Town resident joked. “I’m not tired at all. I feel 100 percent still. Make that 99 percent!”

Rabinowitz, who started walking competitively at age 90, still puts in a full day’s work as the accountant at the family pet food manufacturing business in Cape Town’s Diep River area, and thinks nothing of bringing work home with him.

Rabinowitz’s daughter, Joyce Kruger, said she told her father to go to sleep for the afternoon after the race.

“An hour later he got up and he went and did the books — he gets quite bored over weekends, especially when it’s raining,” she said.

A week before the race, Rabinowitz

visited professor Tim Noakes of the Sports Science Institute of South Africa for a check-up.

Noakes “was quite amazed at his fitness,” Kruger said.

Rabinowitz’s training regimen includes a daily walk of up to five miles, and a six-mile walk on Saturday afternoon with the Spartan Harriers Athletics Club.

Once a month on Shabbat morning, he will walk the eight miles from his daughter’s home to synagogue to attend services.

The veteran broadcaster Harold Ber- man, who commentated during the July 4 race, said it was “a fantastic experience and an honor to watch a man of that age competing in sports events.

He added: “I’ve seen some great races over the years, but this was something special.”

Hannes Wahl, Rabinowitz’s 77-year-old coach, was very proud of his charge, though he did have at least one reservation for the future.

“My biggest worry now is that he’s going to set a record that I’m not going to be able to beat when I get to his age,” Wahl said.

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# Reporter's notebook: Out and about in Boston

By **By MATTHEW E. BERGER**  
and **RON KAMPEAS**

BOSTON (JTA) — Maxine Goldstein knows how to dress for a political convention. She's got the earrings with John Kerry's face on them, the vest with his image silk-screened on the back, and, of course, the purse that resembles a bottle of Heinz ketchup — in honor of Theresa Heinz Kerry, wife of the Democratic nominee for president.

But if you see the 77-year-old delegate from Georgia around here this week, the first thing you will notice is her hat.

"This is my 10th convention and this is my 10th convention hat," Goldstein, an advisory board member of the

Atlanta chapter of the Anti-Defamation League, said before an ADL event for delegates on Monday.

Her straw hat has playing cards around the brim, with a list of all the hot domestic policy issues of the year: Social Security, health care and education. And below an American flag perched atop a mock flagpole in the middle is a sign that reads: "Bush, ya gotta know when to fold 'em."

But that's not all. The stars that surround the brim light up and are attached to a battery pack protruding from her back pocket.

Of course, with security being the way it is at this year's convention, Goldstein has run into her share of problems.

She was forced to remove the hat, which is pinned to her head, before going through metal detectors at the ADL event, which featured a foreign policy address by Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.).

And then there's the issue of having a hat that adds more than a few inches to your height.

But Goldstein knows that it's all worth it. Her hats have always gotten attention, often winding up in the Smithsonian Institution.

In fact, Monday morning she saw herself on television, in a hat she wore at a previous convention.

"They always show me and the hat," she said. "And all the Georgia delegation likes to sit next to me."

**D**rawing connections between Hadassah Lieberman and the 'Material Girl.'

## Reaching out to the Jews

Even before the convention officially got off the ground, top Democratic lawmakers appealed to Jewish voters for support, saying their party represented the best interests of Israel and was the natural home for Jews on domestic issues.

Bringing together more than 2,500 local and national activists, delegates and influential politicians, the Sunday-evening reception was hosted by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the National Jewish Democratic Council, the United Jewish Communities and Boston Jewish groups.

Those in attendance heard from Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.), Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), the House minority leader, and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, the convention chairman.

"Never has there been a candidate for president that has been more closely aligned, who is more committed to Israel's security, than John Kerry," Richardson said.

Speakers at the reception also emphasized the Democrat's commitment to abortion rights, health care and care for the elderly. Clinton and Lieberman said Kerry would be more successful than President Bush in containing terrorism.

## Biden speaks out, too

In his address to the ADL on Monday, Biden said it was the obligation of the next president, whether Kerry or Bush, to reunite the country and the world around a common cause.

"I'm saddened by the way we are viewed, not just by our enemies, but by our friends," said Biden, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "It's time to restore America's soul."

Biden said Bush has squandered opportunities as president, including in the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

## A paranoid bunch?

Ira Forman, executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council, says he's dealing with a paranoid constituency.

Stealing a line from former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Forman said the Jewish community is looking to hear a great deal about Kerry's Middle East policy.

"We want people to salute the flag a lot," he said of Jewish voters at an American Jewish Committee forum Monday. "It's a high bar."

He said he has been impressed by the Kerry campaign's frequent statements on Middle East issues, and said he believes they will hear more this fall, when more Jewish voters start paying attention.

## A link to Madonna

Speaking at the Jewish reception Sunday evening, Lieberman said that when he was running for vice president, his wife, Hadassah, was so popular she became a celebrity known only by a single name — "like Madonna," he said.

He noted with pleasure that an interest in Judaism has led the material girl to adopt the name Esther, the biblical heroine also known as Hadassah.

## Terror front and center

Relatives of victims of terrorism shared their stories Sunday in front of more than 1,000 supporters.

In an effort to keep the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the minds of Democratic delegates, participants hoisted signs bearing the faces of victims of terrorism — both in Israel and in the 1994 bombing of a Jewish center in Buenos Aires.

"Only coming together to speak as one voice of the free world will we be able to eradicate terror," said Ron Kehrmann, father of Tal, who was killed in a 2003 suicide bomb attack in Haifa at the age of 17.

The event, sponsored by the Israel Project, coincided with pro-Israel advertisements broadcast on local TV and cable news networks. Proponents want viewers to draw parallels between terrorist attacks in Israel and in the United States.

Dianne Colter Miller, whose sister, Ruth Colter, died in the Hebrew University suicide bombing attack in 2002, said she believed victims of terrorism have a common bond.

"When I see these photographs, I see my own sister echoed in a thousand faces," she said.

Speakers placed stones on the podium, a Jewish tradition for remembering the dead.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## WORLD

### French hoax perpetrator sentenced

A French woman who claimed she was the victim of a violent anti-Semitic act but later admitted she had lied received a suspended sentence.

Marie Leblanc, 23, was found guilty Monday for reporting an imaginary crime and was given a four-month suspended sentence. She also was ordered to pay symbolic damages to the French national railroad company and undergo psychiatric treatment. On July 9, Leblanc told police she had been attacked on a train in suburban Paris by four men who she claimed scrawled swastikas on her stomach and overturned her baby carriage.

The purported attack shocked the country, with senior politicians and Jewish organizations issuing forceful condemnations. Three days later, however, Leblanc admitted she had lied about the attack and that she had drawn the swastikas on her own body.

### Nazi-hunting program under attack

The local head of a campaign to hunt down Nazi war criminals in Hungary resigned amid criticism over the project's legality.

Ivan Beer resigned after a Hungarian official said last week that it was illegal for project officials to pass on information about alleged war criminals to their headquarters in Israel, Efraim Zuroff, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Israel office, told The Associated Press.

Beer was not immediately available for comment. The Jerusalem-based Wiesenthal Center recently launched its Operation: Last Chance campaign in Hungary. It already operates in several other countries in Eastern and Central Europe. "This is a fairly transparent and pathetic attempt to stop the hunt for Nazi war criminals," Zuroff said. "There has never been a problem in any of the seven other countries where the campaign was launched."

### Arrest warrant issued for Russian Jew

A Russian court issued an arrest warrant for a Russian Jewish leader and philanthropist on charges of complicity in murder and attempted murder.

Leonid Nevzlin, a major shareholder of the embattled oil giant Yukos, fled to Israel last fall following the arrest of his former boss, Yukos founder Mikhail Khodorkovsky.

Nevzlin already was put on the international wanted list in January on charges of tax evasion and stealing state property. The prosecutors suspect that Nevzlin contracted the murder of a Russian couple in 2002 in a conflict over some financial assets.

## MIDDLE EAST

### Gaza settlements won't be funded

An Israeli committee said it would not fund new projects in settlements slated for evacuation under Ariel Sharon's withdrawal plan.

The committee decided Monday that only projects aimed at enhancing security and maintaining quality of life at settlements in the Gaza Strip and four slated for evacuation in the West Bank will be funded.

The decision came a day after an estimated 130,000 protesters formed a human chain between Gaza and Jerusalem to protest the withdrawal, which is slated to take place next year.

### Palestinians: Israelis killed girl

A Palestinian girl was killed by Israeli gunfire in the Gaza Strip, Palestinians said.

The death of the 13-year-old occurred after Israeli soldiers fired

into the town of Khan Yunis in response to a possible infiltration into a nearby Jewish settlement. Israeli officials said they were checking the report. In other violence, an Israeli soldier allegedly abused and shot at a Palestinian student Sunday at a roadblock near the West Bank city of Nablus.

### Vanunu stays put

Nuclear whistle-blower Mordechai Vanunu lost a last-ditch appeal to leave Israel.

The High Court of Justice on Monday upheld a government order confining Vanunu to Israel based on defense establishment fears that he intends to spill more secrets about his past work at the Dimona nuclear reactor.

Vanunu had petitioned the court, calling the one-year travel ban, in place since he ended an 18-year jail term in April, a breach of his civil rights.

Since going free, Vanunu has spoken to the foreign media, violating the terms of his release. Security officials have hinted he could be re-arrested or have his restrictions extended indefinitely.

### Israelis abandoning the wall?

The rabbi of Jerusalem's Western Wall said most Israeli youth never visit Judaism's holiest prayer site.

"Eighty percent of Israeli soldiers have never visited the Western Wall," Shmuel Rabinowitz told Yediot Achronot in an interview published Monday, the eve of Tisha B'Av.

The holiday marks the destruction of both Holy Temples. Military service is mandatory for Israeli Jews at age 18, though many fervently Orthodox youths opt out of the draft in favor of religious studies.

"It is unacceptable that an entire generation has grown up without ever coming close to the spiritual font of Judaism," Rabinowitz said.

According to the daily, a charity known as the Western Wall Heritage Foundation seeks to pay for every family in Israel to hold at least one Bar or Bat Mitzvah at the site.

### Extremist eyes Temple Mount

A Jew who once committed terrorist acts called for Israel to seize control of the Temple Mount.

"It has been 37 years since the Temple Mount was liberated, and it is still not in our hands," Yehuda Etzion told Yediot Achronot on Monday, alluding to the capture of eastern Jerusalem in the 1967 Six-Day War.

Etzion was a member of the Jewish Underground, which in the 1980s attacked Palestinian officials and plotted to blow up the Al-Aksa Mosque on the Temple Mount.

"This would not only be commendable, but necessary to bring about a moral and cultural revolution," he said, alluding to the biblical teaching that by assuming control of the Temple Mount, Jews can usher in the messianic era.

Police sources said the comments were being investigated to determine whether they constitute incitement to violence.

## NORTH AMERICA

### New publisher for Moment

Moment magazine put out its first issue under its new editor.

Nadine Epstein, formerly the magazine's managing editor, took over as editor and executive publisher in April after the departure of longtime editor Hershel Shanks.

The bimonthly's new publisher is Michael Monheit, previously the marketing director.