


**IN THE NEWS**
**Sharon courting  
new coalition partners?**

Ariel Sharon wants to expand his governing coalition after a Knesset vote of no-confidence in his disengagement plan.

Political sources said Sharon's ruling Likud Party is courting the Labor and Shas parties as potential coalition partners who could bolster the Israeli prime minister's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank next year.

**Thou shalt hear  
10 Commandments case**

The Supreme Court agreed to hear a case about public display of the Ten Commandments.

The court will hear oral arguments early next year in two cases, one involving a display on the State Capitol grounds in Texas and the other regarding a monument in Kentucky courthouses.

The court will hear the two cases as one, which often happens when lower courts disagree.

Several Jewish groups oppose the public display of the Ten Commandments, suggesting it crosses the line separating church and state, and likely will file briefs in the case.

Orthodox Jewish groups likely would oppose striking down displays of the Ten Commandments if it meant public displays of menorahs and other Jewish symbols also would be forbidden.

**Army goofed  
on U.N. allegation**

The Israeli army admitted it was wrong when it said a video showed a Palestinian rocket being loaded into a U.N. vehicle.

A spokeswoman for the Israel Defense Forces made the admission Tuesday while speaking to a Knesset committee.

Israel recently asked U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to investigate the possibility that ambulances affiliated with UNRWA, the U.N. agency responsible for Palestinian refugees, were being used to transport rockets.

# WORLD REPORT

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## Not your average 'Bubbie': Web ad for Jews seen as crossing the line

By RON KAMPEAS

**W**ASHINGTON (JTA) — Just how persuasive is a Jewish grandmother armed with a lethal handbag?

And does "Bubbie," a cartoon Jewish Democrat who knocks Republicans into oblivion, cross a line in a campaign season that already has seen pitched advertisement battles in the Jewish community?

"I'm saddened, disappointed and offended," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League. "It pits Christians against Jews, it uses stereotypes we should know better about projecting."

The National Jewish Democratic Council, whose Victory Fund produced the ad, hopes Bubbie will get young Jewish voters into polling booths.

"It's aimed at an under-30 crowd," said Ira Forman, the NJDC's executive director. "Both campaigns have had a hard time reaching that crowd. This is a communication that works for them."

The NJDC hopes to spread word of the cartoon, launched Monday on its Web site, by e-mail. After the animation is finished, viewers are counseled to "give your friends a smile" and forward it on.

Republicans, hardly smiling, say the broadly satirical cartoon could backfire.

"I find this to be absolutely vile, offensive and repugnant," said Matt Brooks, executive director of the Republican Jewish Coalition. "The only positive thing that can come out of this effort is that it will now turn off far more people to their work and to their ef-

forts than it would attract people."

The cartoon marks new fierceness in the battle for the Jewish vote just weeks before the presidential election, and culminates a flood of negative advertisements from both sides.

In the ad, Bubbie breaks into GOP headquarters and confronts a pantheon of Bush administration officials, including top political adviser Karl Rove, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and Vice President Dick Cheney, with questions about rising Medicare costs, the Iraq war and alleged coddling of the Saudi royal family.

When they equivocate, out comes Bubbie's lethal handbag.

Rove is seen delivering orders to the faithful from a pulpit marked with a crucifix. All the Republicans are clad in red cassocks except for President Bush, who is wearing

boxer shorts and a T-shirt and reading "My Pet Goat."

Two Jewish Republicans, Undersecretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz and top neo-conservative Richard Perle, tell Bubbie, "Hey we're one of you" and break into what resembles a hora.

"I'm so ashamed," Bubbie replies in a strong Yiddish accent, before pounding them with the handbag.

Ken Goldstein, an academic at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who monitors the Jewish vote, said the ad shocked him.

"This ad is disgusting — and you will never ever see me say that about a campaign," Goldstein said. Especially offensive, he said, is Cheney's decapitated head rolling into a

*Continued on page 2*

**AMERICA  
DECIDES  
2004**

## ■ *Web cartoon aimed at young Jews draws fire*

*Continued from page 1*

bucket marked "Miami-Dade votes" and pleading, "I want a deferment."

Goldstein said that was inappropriate given recent beheadings in Iraq, though Forman countered that the point of the act is to reveal Cheney as a robot.

It's unclear in the animation whether Bubbie actually kills her enemies or just knocks them senseless.

Both Republicans and Democrats are guilty of using negative, out-of-context images and statements, Goldstein said, citing NJDC ads this year featuring Bush shaking hands with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, and Republican use of a photo of Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) embracing the wife of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

"But this is beyond the pale," Goldstein said.

■  
The Kerry-Edwards campaign withheld comment. It had no advance knowledge of the animation, in keeping with campaign laws setting up strict walls between campaigns and nonprofits like the NJDC.

The NJDC cleared the ad with a range of Democrats unaffiliated with the campaign before putting it on the Web, and pulled some scenes that some felt went over the line.

Foxman said the Christian imagery — the crucifix, the pulpit and the cassocks — upset him.

"It's unacceptable," he said.

Forman said the crucifix referred to a cross-like figure that appeared on the

podium during the Republican convention, and to what he said was Republican pandering to a conservative Christian base. In the cartoon, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld stands before a poster of Jesus, emblazoned, "Visit Israel after the rapture!"

The ADL director also said the use of a Yiddish-accented grandmother reinforced unfortunate stereotypes.

"For us to use Jewish stereotypes — a Jewish grandma with an accent — to make the point on behalf of Jewish Democrats, is flabbergasting," he said.

Forman said the Jewish grandmother was an iconic representation, not an offensive stereotype.

In any case, he said, Foxman and Goldstein were missing the point.

"Cartoons and political satire and humor are very different than statements and press releases," he said.

■  
They're also much more effective, said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, a political campaign expert at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communication.

"Humor is the way to disarm an audience to make a point that is otherwise seen as illegitimate," Jamieson said.

Additionally, while there are clear lines in print and television ads about what is acceptable or not, Web animation is new and uncharted territory, she said.

"We don't have the standards for an animated cartoon, although they will evolve," she said.

Michael Lebovitz, the Jewish outreach official for the Bush-Cheney campaign, suggested that such standards already exist in the affectionate pokings at both candidates in the "Jib-Jab" Web cartoons. Those independent, nonpartisan cartoons feature Bush and Kerry singing parodies of folk songs like "This Land is Your Land" and "Dixie."

By contrast, in the NJDC cartoon, "almost everything about it is inappropriate and divisive," Lebovitz said.

Not that the viciousness is a surprise. Both sides have raised the stakes in their

ads in recent weeks.

The NJDC ad featuring Bush shaking Abdullah's hand neglects to mention the administration's successful efforts to get the Saudis to curtail terrorist funding.

An ad from the RJC says, "Read what John Kerry had to say about Israel in his acceptance speech: Absolutely Nothing." But mentioning Israel has never

been a standard in nomination acceptance speeches, and Sen. John Edwards (D-N.C.), the Massachusetts senator's running mate, praised Israel in his own acceptance speech.

Additionally, Bush's own single mention of Israel in his acceptance speech was made in a throwaway

remark praising the potential benefits of a peaceful Palestinian state.

Another ad run by a mysterious group, "concernedjewishcitizens4bush," tells Jews that "our lives depend" on a Bush victory.

Jamieson said she was not surprised by the vehemence of the outreach in the Jewish press, and how it has gone in recent weeks from positive reinforcement of a party's own candidates to negative shots at the other side.

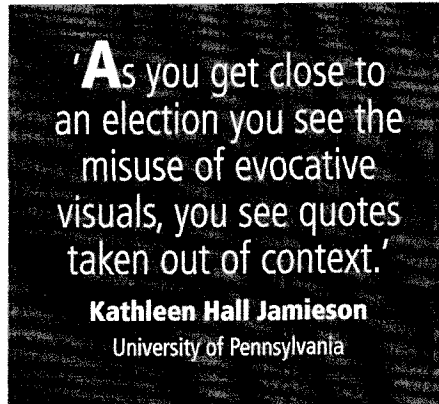
Part of it is timing, she said: In any campaign, "as you get close to an election you see the misuse of evocative visuals, you see quotes taken out of context."

"Since the Republicans think they can increase their share of the Jewish vote, it's not surprising you're seeing a lot of it this year," she said.

"This is an election in which every vote is going to count, there's a lot of money out there, and both factors mean the level of distortion is going up," she said.

That may be true, said Steve Rabinowitz, a consultant who works with Jewish and Democratic groups including the NJDC, but all the noise has its benefits.

"It means the candidates care what the Jews think. It means the issues we care most about get addressed, perhaps more than they would be," Rabinowitz said. "And that we get more access, in the campaign and after the election." ■



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# Bill could give shuls money for security

By MATTHEW E. BERGER

WASHINGTON (JTA) — American Jewish institutions are expected to seek funds from a new pot of money to be allocated to secure nonprofit institutions.

Congress passed \$25 million for the security of high-risk nonprofits on Monday as part of the Homeland Security Appropriations Act.

The bill, which President Bush is expected to sign in a matter of days, gives Jewish groups, and other nongovernmental terrorist targets, an avenue to protect themselves.

The provision was passed without the safeguards some Jewish groups wanted, which would have ensured that houses of worship would not receive money directly from the government.

But federal aid likely will be a welcome relief to many Jewish organizations and institutions that have faced staggering security costs as terrorism fears have risen in recent years.

Groups have had to shift money intended for other purposes in order to pay for the security enhancements, and have been wondering whether the government could help pay the bill.

While several Jewish groups that lobbied heavily for the provision hoped to get as much as \$100 million allocated to nonprofits, proponents nevertheless see the \$25 million as a step in the right direction.

"This money will enable a lot of nonprofit institutions to put up concrete barriers and bulletproof doors to really enhance their security," said Charles Konigsberg, vice president for public policy at the United Jewish Communities.

Although the appropriation passed, the authorization bill — which would have set out the structure for who could receive the money — is still lingering in Congress and likely will not be voted on this year.

Many of the safeguards Jewish groups sought in order to ensure the separation of church and state will, therefore, not be law by the time money is doled out. Instead, the Department of Homeland Security will determine who is eligible for the funds.

The Bush administration has shown a willingness to give federal dollars to religious groups as part of its faith-based

initiatives, and is likely to support direct money to houses of worship to meet security needs.

If Bush wins the White House next month, the rule-making process determining who will receive the money will be crucial to ensure that safeguards are put in place, several Jewish officials said, adding that they expected the Homeland Security Department to appoint someone to serve as a liaison between it and the nonprofit groups.

"When we meet with the department, we will recommend regulations that will ensure funds can only be used for the protection of terrorist attacks," Konigsberg said.

Already, the Reform movement is advising its congregations to not seek the federal dollars.

"We will encourage our congregations to not accept the money," said Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism.

"Our guidance would be that this is a program that will not help any congregation in terms of gaining security, but will significantly erode church-state separation and the platform of religious autonomy."

Several Jewish groups that signed on to the bill agreed that contractors coordinating security upgrades would serve as intermediaries with houses of worship, so direct money would not flow from the government to synagogues.

Other groups wanted houses of worship excluded from the legislation altogether, but lost in the end.

"It does set a precedent," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League. "It is a legitimate need, but there are a lot of legitimate needs that violate the Constitution."

Jewish organizations are also eligible for homeland security money that is being given to states. Already, Jewish institutions in Maryland, including synagogues, have received some money from the state for their security needs.

But the new pot of money means Jewish groups will not have to directly compete for security aid with fire departments and other local first responders. Instead, they will be trying to seek the same money as hospitals, mosques and other sites that could be "soft targets" for terrorist attacks.

UJC led a coalition of nonprofit groups that supported the provision. Also included were the Orthodox Union, the American Jewish Committee and the American Jewish Congress. The earmark was the only new domestic-

preparedness program to be added to the homeland security bill.

UJC is planning to aid Jewish communities in their attempts to gain federal dollars. The group was successful last year in helping Jewish federations lobby for money for naturally occurring

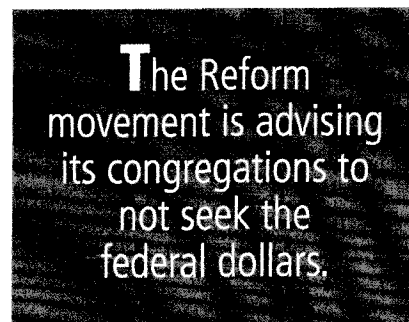
retirement communities, which provide money for assistance for communities with aging populations.

One official, who serves on the security committee of a Washington-area synagogue, said he expects many shuls to be amenable to accepting federal funds to protect them from terrorist attacks.

"Unfortunately, I don't think it's going to be difficult to demonstrate the need," he said.

Jewish groups are hoping the measure will become permanent, and will continue to lobby for the High-Risk Nonprofit Security Enhancement Act, a free-standing piece of legislation that would earmark \$50 million each year for nonprofit groups. The bill, which has the safeguards some Jewish groups sought, is not expected to get a vote this year.

In addition, Jewish groups are being urged to work with state and local officials. A June ruling from the Department of Homeland Security allowed Jewish and other nonprofit sites to receive federal aid from the \$2 billion earmarked from the Office of Domestic Preparedness to states and municipalities for their homeland security needs.



# NEWS IN BRIEF

## NORTH AMERICA

### ADL slams media group on Holocaust comment

Comparing media outlets that ignore Vietnam-era critics of John Kerry to Holocaust deniers is "grossly inappropriate," a Jewish group said.

Sinclair Broadcast Group has come under fire for its plans to broadcast a documentary criticizing the activities of the Massachusetts senator and Democratic presidential candidate a week before the November election.

Sinclair has ordered its 62 stations to clear air time for the film.

The company's vice president, Mark Hyman, told CNN and The Washington Post that networks that refuse to air the documentary, which focuses on Kerry's anti-war activities after his return from Vietnam in the early 1970s, were "acting like Holocaust deniers."

In a letter to the Post posted on the ADL Web site, the ADL's national director, Abraham Foxman, said, "Regardless of Mr. Hyman's opinion of the quality of news coverage relating to presidential campaign issues, his analogy to those who deny the Nazi murder of 6 million Jews and millions of others is insensitive and painful."

### Bombed bus displayed at Duke

The remains of an Israeli bus bombed by terrorists this year is being displayed on a U.S. college campus.

The bus is at Duke University this week in advance of a pro-Palestinian conference being held on the campus this weekend.

The bus is being displayed courtesy of Chabad.

## MIDDLE EAST

### Mubarak backs Sharon plan

Hosni Mubarak endorsed the Israeli plan to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but said it's not enough.

"I hope it will be successful but that it will not be the last withdrawal," the Egyptian president told reporters Tuesday during a visit to Rome.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has announced a plan to pull Israeli troops and settlers out of Gaza and parts of the West Bank next year.

The plan should be part of a wider move toward peace, Mubarak said.

Egypt has pledged to help train Palestinian Authority security services to take over in Gaza after Israel leaves.

### Palestinian girl wounded in Gaza

A Palestinian girl in the Gaza Strip reportedly was critically wounded by Israeli fire.

The girl was shot Tuesday inside a U.N. school in the Khan Younis refugee camp, U.N. officials said, according to Ha'aretz.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which runs the school, said IDF troops fired two shots from the nearby Gaza settlement bloc of Gush Katif.

Israel said it is investigating the incident, but noted that Palestinian militants had fired from that area on Israeli soldiers, who had returned fire.

### Cheney sees Al-Qaida behind Sinai attacks

Dick Cheney said Al-Qaida likely carried out the bomb attacks in the Sinai.

The spate of bombings, which killed over 30 people last week — many of them Israeli — "looks like it probably was an Al-Qaida attack," the U.S. vice president said Tuesday while campaigning in

Iowa. "We don't know for sure yet."

Israeli security officials also have suggested that Al-Qaida was behind the attacks.

### Sderot gets anti-rocket radar

An Israeli town unveiled a radar system meant to protect its residents from Palestinian rockets.

The Ma'anim system was unveiled in Sderot on Tuesday after being quietly introduced for field testing last month.

Officials said they were confident the radar would succeed in spotting rocket launches from the nearby Gaza Strip and giving Sderot residents 25 seconds to take cover.

According to security sources, Ma'anim managed to spot launches during the test period, but there was no way to alert residents as the radar had not yet been connected to Sderot's public-address system.

### Israel: We kept Al-Qaida out

Israel has foiled Al-Qaida attempts to infiltrate the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israel's top general said.

"Al-Qaida tried to enter the territories and we stopped it," Lt. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, Israel's military chief of staff, told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Tuesday.

"We are bracing against the Al-Qaida threat, and this requires international cooperation."

Last week's bombings of Red Sea resorts frequented by Israelis, widely assumed to be the work of Al-Qaida, would be the closest Osama bin Laden's terrorists have come to striking inside the Jewish state.

## WORLD

### Romania marks Holocaust

On the country's first Holocaust Remembrance Day, Romania's president admitted Romanian Jews suffered during the Holocaust.

"We must not forget or minimize the darkest chapter of Romania's recent history, when Jews were the victims of the Holocaust," Ion Iliescu told a joint session of the Romanian Parliament on Tuesday.

Romania established the memorial day last year after a government statement denying that the Holocaust took place on Romanian territory sparked an uproar.

### Hungarian politicians blast neo-Nazis

The four parties in Hungary's Parliament criticized a neo-Nazi group and the group's planned rally.

"The Hungarian Parliament strongly condemns those who attempt to revive and propagate ideologies that contravene Hungary's democratic political system as well as the letter and the spirit of its constitution," said the statement deploring the Hungarian Future Group and its demonstration set for Friday, the 60th anniversary of the fascist Arrow Cross coup in Hungary.

Meanwhile, the leader of the group, Diana Bacsfi, was arrested for the second time on Monday and sentenced to 10 days in police custody for disrupting a public event.

Her arrest means she will be unable to participate in Friday's rally.

### Court rules for French Jewish leader

A Paris court threw out a defamation claim brought by a French Trotskyist group against a Jewish community leader.

The court ruled Monday there was no case following a claim by the Revolutionary Communist League that Roger Cukierman, president of the CRIF umbrella organization of French Jews, had defamed the party at a CRIF annual dinner in January 2003.

Cukierman had blamed a "brown, green, red alliance" for a recent wave of anti-Semitism against French Jews.