

Is the
Jewish Exponent
Biased?

Now there is proof.

The Controversy Begins

This story of journalistic bias begins in February, 2005, when Howard Dean was elected Chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Some Jews thought the election of Dean was controversial. To highlight this controversy, the Republican Jewish Coalition (RJC) placed an anti-Dean ad (pictured below) in several Jewish newspapers. The *Jewish Exponent* ran the ad on February 17, 2005.

**DNC CHAIRMAN HOWARD DEAN SAYS:
"IT'S NOT OUR PLACE TO TAKE SIDES"**
Source: Reuters Photo, 3/4/05



**LEADING DEMOCRATS ARE CRITICAL OF HOWARD DEAN'S VIEWS ON ISRAEL.
NOW DEAN IS GOING TO LEAD THE DEMOCRATS.**

"Howard Dean's statements break a 50-year record in which presidents, Republican and Democrat, members of Congress of both parties have supported our relationship with Israel based on shared values"

Senator Joseph Lieberman, A.P., 3/18/03

"It is unacceptable for the U.S. to be 'reeshanded' on these fundamental issues"

Letter to Howard Dean from House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and more than two dozen Democratic members of Congress, A.P., 3/10/03

With Dean as chairman "a lot of mainstream, middle-of-the-road, centrist Jewish Democrats would be very turned off and concerned and would be left wondering whether they have a home in the Democratic Party"

My fourth, John Kerry's campaign liaison to the Jewish community, Toward, 3/28/05

JOIN THE RJC

Go to www.rjqc.org and join the RJC. Receive a member of our "E-Team" and receive important e-mail updates on issues affecting Israel and the Jewish community.

FINanced by THE REPUBLICAN JEWISH COALITION. www.rjqc.org

The Censorship Begins

Many Jews, as well as the Anti-Defamation League, thought this ad was offensive because it infers a connection between Howard Dean and suicide bombers.

In a news article dated February 16, 2005, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA) reported on the controversy. It was a balanced article.

The first part discussed the RJC ad and the negative perception of Dean among some segments of the Jewish community.

The last third of the article reported on Dean's support of Israel, Dean's Jewish family connections, AIPAC's strong support of Dean, and the fact that an overwhelming majority of Jews support the Democratic party.

Unfortunately, the editors of the Jewish Exponent didn't want you to read that part. So they cut it out. They censored it. They hid the truth. And here's proof.

The Original JTA Article

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

As Dean chosen to head Democrats, accusations fly on his Israel stance

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16 (JTA) — Even before he officially became the Democratic National Committee's new chairman, Howard Dean was a source of contention.

Questions about Dean's support for Israel, which first made headlines during his run for the Democratic presidential nomination last year, resurfaced just before he was elected Feb. 12, as the new leader of the Democratic Party, and have been exacerbated by advertisements from the Republican Jewish Coalition.

The criticism was expected. Some Democrats had worried that Dean would be a lightning rod for Republican attacks. But at a time when Democrats are trying to shore up their standing among Jewish voters, the presence of a national chairman whose support for the Jewish state is questionable could be a stumbling block.

"It certainly doesn't help," one Jewish Democratic operative said. "He suffers from the same bad perception. The same way the party got tainted, he got tainted."

Dean, a former Vermont governor, was the subject of an e-mail smear campaign during the Democratic primaries last year after he made several off-the-cuff remarks suggesting the United States should take a more "even-handed" approach to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute.

The term is often understood in the Jewish community as a code word for being less supportive of Israel. Dean was criticized at the time by other Democratic presidential candidates, including U.S. Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) and other party leaders. Now those quotes have resurfaced in RJC ads that appeared this week in Roll Call, a Capitol Hill newspaper, and in Jewish newspapers across the country.

The ads feature Lieberman saying Dean's comments "break a 50-year record in which presidents, Republican and Democrat, members of Congress of both parties have supported our relationship with Israel based on shared values."

Jay Footlik, the Jewish liaison for Sen. John Kerry's presidential campaign last year, also is quoted suggesting that centrist Jewish Democrats would be turned off by Dean as party chairman.

But now Lieberman said the ads don't tell the full story.

"Gov. Dean responded to me and others by calling his comments a mistake," Lieberman told JTA in a statement Tuesday. "I'm confident that as party chairman, Howard will uphold the Democratic Party's historic commitment to support and strengthen our democratic ally Israel."

The ads are being criticized by the Anti-Defamation League, in part because they feature an image of several men covered in white sheets with explosive vests, fawning over a young boy dressed to emulate a suicide bomber.

Democrats said the picture was too much, but the RJC's executive director, Matt Brooks, defended it.

"I think we are all outraged by the photo, but unfortunately, that's the reality of the world today," Brooks said. "When he says it's not our place to take sides, what he is saying is Israel should be forced to negotiate under the threat of terror."

Brooks said the organization considered using a different photo, of Dean wearing a keffiyeh, a traditional Arab head covering.

Aside from the photo controversy, the ad raises questions about how Dean and the party he leads will be perceived among Jews. While his campaign fought against the criticism last year — and the National Jewish Democratic Council has circulated pro-Israel statements Dean made on the campaign trail — Dean suffers from the stigma of being seen as anti-Israel, at least in some Jewish circles.

Jewish Democrats worked hard last year to quell the perception that the Bush administration and Republicans were stronger supporters of Israel than the Democrats were. Despite widespread belief that Jewish votes would make a difference in the presidential election, the small shifts of Jewish support to the Republicans in key states were not enough to effect outcomes.

And in the end, Jews voted overwhelmingly Democratic in the presidential election. Kerry received 77 percent of the Jewish vote, compared to 23 percent for President Bush. Bush received 19 percent in 2000.

Democratic operatives worry that Jews who are unsure about the party's support for Israel — including traditional Democrats who backed Bush last year — might be turned off by Dean.

"The little comments and the questions they raise, you don't have to have a seismic impact for it to matter," said Dan Gerstein, a Democratic strategist. "Dean dug himself into a real hole with Jews concerned about U.S. support for Israel and who are wary of the Democrats for this."

Ira Forman, the NJDC's executive director, said he understood that such criticism of Dean was legitimate "from an attack-dog perspective."

"It is incumbent on all of us to show all of what he has said," Forman said. "I'm confident he is going to work with the Jewish community."

Jewish Democrats say they welcome the opportunity to showcase Dean's full record on Israel.

"What we want to talk about is not what Howard Dean may or may not have said, but what he's going to say," said Susan Turnbull, a Democratic activist in the Jewish community who was elected Feb. 12 as the DNC vice chairwoman.

"These attacks are unfounded, and what Howard Dean has said is he will never abandon Israel."

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee issued a news release Monday congratulating Dean on his election.

"AIPAC has a long-standing relationship with Governor Dean," said the statement by AIPAC's president, Bernice Manocherian, and its executive director, Howard Kohr.

"We are confident that as chair of the Democratic Party, Governor Dean will carry on the party's deep and abiding commitment to a strong and unshakable relationship between the United States and Israel."

Dean did receive some support from the Jewish community during his presidential campaign. His chief Jewish liaison was Steve Grossman, a former president of AIPAC and himself a former chairman of the DNC.

He also often cited the fact that his wife, Judith Steinberg, is Jewish, and that his children have chosen to practice Judaism.

Dean participated in Chanukah celebrations with staffers on the campaign trail in New Hampshire, even reciting Hebrew blessings over the menorah.

Dean continued his quest for Jewish approval Feb. 10 at a party honoring his ascension to the DNC chairmanship. Presented with a shofar by the NJDC, Dean lifted it, pressed it to his lips and blew.

The Exponent's Censored Version

Dean Takes More Flak Over Israel Issue

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON - Even before he officially became the Democratic National Committee's new chairman, Howard Dean was a source of contention.

Questions about his support for Israel, which first made headlines during Dean's run for the Democratic presidential nomination last year, have resurfaced in the wake of the Feb. 12 election making him the new leader of the Democratic Party.

The source of much of the criticism is the Republican Jewish Coalition, which last week launched a national advertising campaign highlighting some unsavory off-the-cuff Dean remarks regarding Israel's fight against terror.

At a time when Democrats are trying to shore up their standing among Jewish voters, the presence of a national chair whose support for the Jewish state is questionable could be a stumbling block.

"It certainly doesn't help," said one Jewish Democratic operative. "He suffers from the same bad perception. The same way the party got tainted, he got tainted."

Dean, former governor of Vermont, was the target of an e-mail campaign during the Democratic primaries last year after he suggested that the United States should take a more "evenhanded" approach to the Mideast conflict.

The term, which is often understood in the Jewish community as a code word for being less supportive of Israel, is the subject of the current ad, which appeared in Roll Call, a Capitol Hill newspaper, and in Jewish newspapers across the country.

When he made his remarks at the height of the 2004 presidential primaries, Dean was criticized by other Democratic presidential candidates, including Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman and other party leaders.

The ads feature Lieberman saying Dean's comments "break a 50-year record in which presidents, Republican and Democrat, members of Congress of both parties have supported our relationship with Israel based on shared values."

Lieberman said that the ads don't tell the full story.

"Gov. Dean responded to me and others by calling his comments a mistake," said the senator in a statement. "I'm confident that as party chairman, Howard will uphold the Democratic Party's historic commitment to support and strengthen our democratic ally Israel."

'A real hole'

The ads feature an image of several men in white sheets and explosive vests, fawning over a young boy dressed to emulate a suicide bomber. Democrats said the picture was too much, but the RJC's executive director, Matthew Brooks, defended it.

"I think we are all outraged by the photo, but unfortunately, that's the reality of the world today," said Brooks. "When he says it's not our place to take sides, what he is saying is Israel should be forced to negotiate under the threat of terror."

Spurred on by Republicans highlighting Dean's record, Democratic operatives worry that Jews who are unsure about the party's support for Israel — including traditional Democrats who backed Bush last year — might be turned off by the new party chair.

"The little comments and the questions they raise, you don't have to have a seismic impact for it to matter," said Dan Gerstein, a Democratic strategist. "Dean dug himself into a real hole with Jews concerned about U.S. support for Israel, and who are wary of the Democrats for this."

Ira Forman, the NJDC's executive director, said he understood that such criticism of Dean was legitimate "from an attack-dog perspective."

"It is incumbent on all of us to show all of what he has said," said Forman. "I'm confident he is going to work with the Jewish community."

Here's What The Exponent Didn't Want You To See

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The Exponent Also Didn't Want You To See This



The original JTA article featured this photograph of Dean meeting with Jewish Democrats. But the *Exponent* didn't print it. Why? Perhaps they didn't have enough room... for the whole truth.

Are You Troubled By The Exponent's Right-Wing Bias?

The *Jewish Exponent* is supposed to serve the interests of ALL Jews in the Delaware Valley. In fact, if you give to the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, the *Exponent* takes \$36 of your donation to pay for your subscription.

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- Visit our website www.pjvoice.com for more information on our group and for the latest analysis of political bias in the Jewish Exponent.