

## Spanish column/world Jewish news



Noticias de Israel  
y el Mundo

por ALEJANDRO FABBRO

### Nueva Generación.

Israel se pone nuevamente en el frente en el desarrollo de un nuevo chip de la compañía Intel, la compañía más grande de semiconductores que lanzó la próxima generación de microprocesadores, que ofrecen una mayor performance con menos consumo de energía lo que promete ser el producto más exitoso de la historia de la compañía. La nueva generación Dual-Core Intel Xeon Processor 5100 para un sistema de dos vías, que fue desarrollado en el Intel's Research & Development Center en Haifa y previamente había sido llamado Woodcrest, entrega más de 135% de mejora en el performance y más de un 40% en reducción de consumo de energía frente a los productos para ser anteriores de Intel. La serie 5100 estará disponible en frecuencias de hasta 3.0 Gigahertz de velocidad con el más veloz chip que tendrá un sistema de 1333 Megahertz. El chip utiliza la arquitectura Core de Intel con 4 Megabytes de L2 de cache compartido o reserva de memoria entre ambos centros. Más de 200 server y estaciones de trabajo de 150 fabricantes serán utilizadas en los pedidos iniciales que comienzan el lunes. Los servers basados en Intel esperan reducir los costos asociados con espacio, requerimiento de refrigeración y la demanda eléctrica de los centros de data del server para los managers IT, mientras incrementa en nivel de respuesta, productividad y tiempo de productivo del server. Las nuevas innovaciones del procesador 5100 consisten en seis chips, que costarán desde 209 a 851 dólares en cantidades de 1000 por unidad, dependiendo en sus detalles.

### Preocupante.

¿Por qué hay tanta gente obesa? Los científicos han anunciado algunas excusas inéditas, incluyendo el aire acondicionado, la falta de sueño, la disminución del hábito de fumar y la mayor actividad sexual entre parejas obesas, que pueden engendrar niños con sobrepeso. Esos hallazgos son incluidos en un reporte publicado el martes en el Diario Internacional de Obesidad. "Creo que es muy creativo", comentó sobre el reporte el doctor Robert Kushner, director del programa de control de peso de Hospital Northwestern Memorial de Chicago, quien no participó en la investigación. "Estamos encarando una epidemia a mediano plazo. Hasta ahora, no hay ninguna teoría que pueda ser descartada" sobre la obesidad. Sin embargo, otros expertos opinan que la lista de causas alternativas del sobrepeso parece más material de un programa de televisión que un estudio científico. "Yo pondría esto en una categoría de 'distractores calóricos', o 'vamos a hacer algo para que la gente deje de preocuparse sobre la necesidad de comer menos y hacer ejercicios'", opinó Marion Nestle, profesora de nutrición en la Universidad de Nueva York.

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## Despite the fighting, French Jews still vacationing on Israel's beaches

By BRETT KLINE  
PARIS (JTA) —

France's Sylvie Dray didn't let the Israel-Hezbollah conflict get in the way of her vacation to the Jewish state. "There was no way I was canceling this trip to Israel because of the fighting," Dray said. "I take my three kids to Netanya almost every year and we are not afraid to go this year."

It seems that just about everyone in France goes on vacation in August — and for many French Jews, the destination of choice has always been Israel, mostly the beaches of Tel Aviv, Netanya, Ashdod and Eilat. This year appears to be no different, despite the fighting that has engulfed northern Israel. On a recent warm morning under gray skies in Paris, 10 clients were waiting for plane tickets in the Magentour travel agency, specializing in charter flights and hotel nights in Israel, and all were flying to Ben-Gurion Airport.

"We haven't stopped, even with the conflict," said travel agent Cynthia Amselem at Magentour. "Among the French clients, there have been plenty of cancellations, but among French Jewish clients, only two people canceled." Amselem noted that very few French Jews visit northern Israel, in any case. "French Jews do not visit the kibbutzim or archaeological sites in the Galilee," she said. "A few people go to Haifa, and those people canceled their hotel nights there, but almost everyone just goes to the beach in Tel Aviv, Netanya or Eilat."

Amselem added that she herself was about to go to Eilat to see her sister, who lives there. "Try finding a hotel room in Eilat or even in Tel Aviv," she said. "It's almost impossible. Every August there are huge crowds from France,



Cynthia Amselem at Magentours in Paris says that, despite the conflict with Hezbollah, she has had very few cancellations among her clients planning trips to Israel. Credit: Brett Kline/JTA.

and this year, all the Israelis who fled the North and can afford hotel rooms have taken them."

Cathy Slama, who runs an employment agency, said her parents and a couple of siblings live in Netanya, and she has just bought an apartment in Tel Aviv, so this seemed like a good time to finalize things with the bank there. "I know how much French Jews support Israel," she said, "but once there, they are all like robots. They go to the beach, eat dinner on the beach and go shopping. It's like a big Club Med."

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Australian synagogue vandalized

SYDNEY, Australia (JTA) — A synagogue on the outskirts of Sydney, Australia, was attacked for the second time in two weeks. On August 14, vandals hurled concrete blocks at the doors of the Parramatta synagogue. Two weeks ago, a group of men described by witnesses as being of Middle Eastern appearance threw blocks at the compound, damaging Rabbi Yossi Wernick's two cars and his residence, situated next to the synagogue. The synagogue is isolated from the major part of the community in Sydney and is close to areas with a high Muslim population.

#### Reform youth: Condemn civilian killings

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Close to 50 Reform youth leaders urged the movement to address the deaths of civilians on both sides in the Israel-Hezbollah war. "We applaud the Union for condemning Hezbollah's and Hamas' violent and terrifying rocket attacks on Israeli civilians, who have been put in grave danger by the ongoing conflict," said the letter delivered August 15 to leaders of the Union for Reform Judaism. But it adds: "We urge the Union to likewise condemn the Israeli Defence Force's killing of unarmed Lebanese and Palestinian civilians, as well as its premeditated targeting of civilian infrastructure, which has put additional lives at risk and hampered relief efforts." The 48 student leaders, who represent the movement's college-age and high-school-age programs, think their concerns have been shunted aside. "As is appropriate for our Reform tradition, we embrace a diversity of viewpoints," they write. "Unfortunately, we feel that our voice has been excluded from Union statements and materials, and we ask for inclusion."

#### President Bush: Hezbollah lost

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Hezbollah lost the war it launched, President Bush said. "Hezbollah attacked Israel, Hezbollah started the crisis and Hezbollah suffered a defeat in this crisis," Bush said after assessing the war August 14 at a meeting attended by Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld. The major reason, he said, is that the cease-fire resolution ending the war calls for a Lebanese army force, backed by a robust international force, to take control of southern Lebanon, Hezbollah's heartland. Bush said the crisis helped clarify the difference between a terrorist group and a sovereign nation.

#### AIPAC judge won't broaden case

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The judge in the classified information case against two former pro-Israel lobbyists rejected a prosecution attempt to broaden the indictment. Prosecutors had sought to redefine as classified a document described as unclassified in the original indictment. Judge T.S. Ellis III rejected the request August 11, saying it would unconstitutionally alter the indictment. Keith Weissman, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's former Iran analyst, asked Larry Franklin, a Pentagon Iran analyst who since has pleaded guilty, for the document in June 2003. It's the only document that Weissman or his former boss, Steve Rosen, actively solicited, according to their August 2005 indictment. In pre-trial rulings, Ellis has made clear that at trial he will expect a higher bar of evidence to prove that defendants knew they were hearing classified information in conversations, as opposed to receiving documentation.

## World Jewish news

Behind the headlines

## A whole new world: Germany debates sending troops to Lebanon

By TOBY AXELROD

BERLIN (JTA) — With Germany considering offering peacekeeping troops in southern Lebanon, politicians and Jewish leaders were weighing in on what the German army's role should be.

The once-theoretical question of whether Germans in uniforms should help patrol southern Lebanon has taken on a practical urgency since Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert earlier this month asked for German troops to participate, going against years of opposition from Holocaust survivors and others in Israel. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has not taken a firm stand.

So far, she has said only that she could imagine providing training to Lebanese police and soldiers. Meanwhile, some say the debate shows the weakness in the government coalition between Merkel's Christian Democratic Party and the Social Democratic Party. In particular, a statement by SDP head Kurt Beck in favor of sending German troops has drawn opposition from some Christian Democratic lawmakers. As in past international conflicts, some politicians are using the Holocaust as a justification

## Condemnations pour in after author Gunter Grass admits SS past

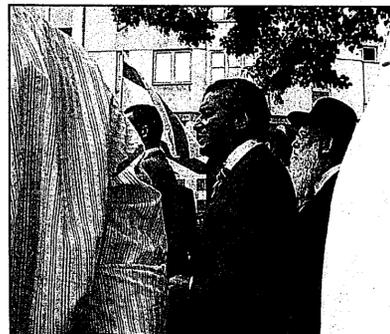
By TOBY AXELROD

BERLIN (JTA) — Nobel Prize-winning author Gunter Grass' admission that he was an SS member has drawn both rage and defenses of the writer. While some say the revelation devalues his life's work, others are showing more understanding for the pressures faced by the teenager who later would write such modern German classics as "The Tin Drum."

Grass, 78, whose autobiography is due out this fall, told the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung in an interview published August 11 that he was drafted into the Waffen SS in the final months of World War II.

The Waffen SS was the elite fighting force of the SS, the Nazi Party's quasi-military unit, and was declared part of a criminal organization at the Nuremberg Trials. Grass was interned briefly in a POW camp in Bavaria after the war.

Literary critic Helmuth Karasek told the radio program BDR that Grass should have revealed the truth sooner, and suggested that the Nobel Prize committee might not have wanted to honor someone



Michel Friedman, center, head of Keren Hayesod in Germany, attends a recent pro-Israel rally in Berlin. Credit: Toby Axelrod/JTA.

Christian Democratic Union's governor of the state of Bavaria, who is strictly opposed to the participation of combat troops. Because of the Holocaust, "We have to help Israel with other means than military" ones, Stoiber said. Some prominent members of Germany's Jewish community seem willing to back the idea of German soldiers, to an extent.

Solomon Korn, vice president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, told the Saarbruecher Zeitung newspaper that he could imagine "coming to a compromise: German soldiers yes, but not directly on the front." Michel Friedman, head of Keren Hayesod in Germany, supported Olmert's request.

He told the *Bild am Sonntag* newspaper: "If Germany can send soldiers to Afghanistan and Congo, then the historical moment has arrived when Germany should show the true colors of its support for Israel, and take responsibility. 'The countless soapbox speeches about the special responsibility to Israel must be followed by deeds,' he added.

"whom they knew had been a member of the Waffen SS and had long denied it." Grass won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1999. Grass biographer Michael Juergs said he was "personally disappointed," and has called into question the validity of Grass' life work.

But German writer Erich Loest told the Tagesspiegel newspaper that Grass' admission should be "accepted without condemnation. He was very young and there was no one to influence him in the opposite direction," he said.

German writer Ralph Giordano, who survived the war in hiding with his Jewish mother, told the radio program WDR2 that he praised Grass. "Good that you have done this, Gunter Grass," he said.

Grass told the Frankfurt paper he was drafted as a 17-year-old following a stint in a support unit for the German air force, and was brought to serve in a Waffen SS tank division in Dresden.

In the forthcoming autobiography, *While Skinning an Onion*, he writes that the past had "oppressed him. My suppression of this through the years was among the reasons why I have written this book. It had to come out, finally."

Around the Jewish world

## Tiny country's Jewish community seeks payment, recognition for WWII

By LARRY LUXNER

LUXEMBOURG (JTA) — Visitors to Luxembourg's modern city history museum might be surprised to find Torah scrolls, Havdalah spice boxes, silver Shabbat candles and other Jewish ritual objects.

After all, this wealthy little country in the heart of Europe has only 1,000 Jews — and ever since World War II, when the Nazis nearly decimated its Jewish community, Jews here have kept a low profile.

But lately the community has begun demanding answers — and unspecified compensation — for the heirs of Jews whose assets were seized by the German occupiers and their accomplices. A recent exhibit at Luxembourg's Musée d'Histoire, entitled "Le Grand Pillage," is part of a new awareness in Luxembourg that the country has never really come to terms with its past.

"In 2002, Luxembourg decided to set up a commission to look into the fate of material losses during the war," said human-rights lawyer Francois Moysse, a prominent member of Luxembourg's Jewish community. Moysse told JTA that some 4,000 Jews were living in Luxembourg just before the outbreak of World War II. About half were refugees from neighboring Germany.

In 1940, Nazi troops invaded and ordered Luxembourg's Jews to leave. All except 700 were able to escape, but those who remained were deported to concentration camps, mainly Theresienstadt. Only a handful of the deportees survived the war.

Moysse said that in 1959, Luxembourg received 18 million Deutschmarks from Germany as compensation for its Jewish citizens. "For sure, some Jews have never been compensated for their suffering," said the lawyer, one of four Jews on the 25-member commission.

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