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JEWISH WOMEN WATCHING PUBLISHES JEWISHSPEAK:
PARODY NEWSPAPER DECRIES STIFLING OF DISSENT AMONG JEWS

April 15, 2003—Jewish Women Watching (JWW), the legendary New York-based band of anonymous activists, has released its latest project—a newspaper called JewishSpeak. Offering a trenchant critique of anti-democratic tendencies within American Jewry, JWW says it's time to stop silencing dissenting views.

"At this critical moment in history," runs the message from the editorial page of JewishSpeak, "we must abandon our dedication to free speech and turn away from our vibrant culture of public discourse and debate. The fate of our entire people relies on American Jews remaining silent on Israel's policies."

The front page of the mock newspaper asks, "DISSENT: Is it Good for the Jews?" As the sub-headline informs us, "Major Jewish Organizations Say 'NO'." JewishSpeak bears the subtitle "All the News That's Fit for Jews to Read," and includes articles about Jewish institutions' fear of conversation—let alone disagreement—on the Israel/Palestine situation.

"In this newspaper, we tried to mirror existing literature coming out of the Jewish community and point out how absurdly one-sided our newspapers, magazines, and institutional newsletters have become," says Rose Schneiderman, a JWW member. "Newspapers around the country have been publicly condemning leaders who speak out against Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon and his policies."

"The situation addressed in this newspaper is deadly serious," says Adah Isaacs Menken, another JWW member. "Jewish culture has survived through the ages because of our rich traditions of debate, disagreement, and the vigorous pursuit of truth and justice. But now our institutions are abandoning these values and becoming thought police—threatening and even firing Jewish leaders who stray from the party line, and alienating thousands of ordinary Jews who have questions about Israeli policies."

Articles in JewishSpeak include:

* **TRIBE MEMBERS NO LONGER:** JWW has discovered a long list of prominent Jews whose support of Palestinian rights reveals that they are not really Jews at all.

* **HILLEL HORRIFIED: PRO-ISRAEL INDOCTRINATION NOT FULLY EFFECTIVE:** "I thought we were doing a good job of inoculating our students against the Arabs and communists," says one Hillel director.

* **NEW STUDY SHOWS PALESTINIAN HEADS JUST NOT SHAPED FOR DEMOCRACY:** Malcolm Toe-the-Line says, "Now we can finally put aside all this silly talk about a Palestinian state."

* **WARNING SIGNS THAT YOUR PROFESSOR MAY BE A TERRORIST:** If your professor reads the New York Times or refers to international law, you must immediately report this terrorist threat.

"The more dire the political situation becomes, the more Jewish institutions clamp down on differing opinions to present a unified front," says JWW member Emma Goldman. "JWW thinks this stifling of diverse political opinion presents a huge threat to Jewish survival."

About Jewish Women Watching (JWW)

Jewish Women Watching is an anonymous activist collective that aims to rouse the public to challenge and change the sexist and other discriminatory practices in the American Jewish community. Since 1999, JWW has been criticizing the Jewish community's narrow-minded priorities in online, print, and street actions. For more information, visit JWW's web site at www.jewishwomenwatching.com

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