

## PROXY WEDDING FOR IMPRISONED SOVIET JEW



SURROGATE BRIDE AND GROOM TAKING VOWS IN SAN FRANCISCO CEREMONY. (PHOTO BY HY FOREMAN.)

An unusual wedding ceremony took place at San Francisco's Union Square.

The groom, 47-year-old Yuri Tarnopolsky, is on a hunger strike in a Soviet prison cell. Arrested in March and charged with "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda," Tarnopolsky could face a sentence of 7 years in prison and 5 years in Siberian exile. The leading Jewish activist has a wife, Olga, and a 12-year-old daughter -- but the couple was never permitted by Soviet authorities to participate in a Jewish wedding ceremony.

The Jewish ceremony at Union Square was an attempt by the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry (a member of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews) to draw public attention to the plight of Tarnopolsky, who is due to be tried sometime in the next two weeks. More than 300 people witnessed the ceremony, which received wide media coverage in the Bay Area.

Standing in for the groom was David Waksberg, executive director of the Bay Area Council, who spent two days with the Tarnopolskys in June, 1982, while visiting the Soviet Union. Taking the vows for Tarnopolsky's wife was Ellen Bob, who was married to Waksberg on May 1, two days before the proxy ceremony.

Marrying the Tarnopolskys in absentia was Rabbi Sheldon Lewis of Congregation Kol Emeth in Palo Alto. Rabbi Lewis returned only two weeks ago from a trip to the Soviet Union in which he met with Jewish activists and refuseniks.

Following the ceremony, the couple attempted to deliver an open letter addressed to Yuri

More than 11 months after Israeli forces crossed the border into Lebanon to put an end to the indiscriminate artillery and rocket attacks by the PLO on Israel's northern settlements and to "crush the kingdom of terror," one war in Israel still rages -- the dispute involving the international media's coverage of the war.

In official Israeli circles, the position is maintained that while the military aspects of the conflict were successful, the handling of the war by the media, especially the American media was unfair, biased and laced with distortions and half-truths. It is an issue that will not easily fade for it has had a significant effect on the conscious of world Jewry and also the manner in which the international community views the Jewish State.

For three days, dozens of journalists, academics and public officials recently discussed the media coverage of the Lebanon war and other conflicts, which included the Persian Gulf war and the British invasion of the Falkland Islands. Sponsored by the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations of Hebrew University, the workshop primarily focused on the reporting of the Lebanon war.

Many journalists affirmed that their reporting was fair and balanced while Israeli officials, such as David Kimche, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, said television coverage of the Lebanon war "was absolutely distorted and it caused irreparable damage." He even suggested that should the occasion arise again, Israel would have to reconsider allowing television crews to roam the battlefields.

Following the report on the workshop, an item in the newspapers brought to clearer focus the media's handling of events and its continued double standard, double dealing techniques, vis-a-vis Israel. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the all-Swiss, neutral guardian of the Geneva War Convention of 1949, issued an unusually, sharply worded attack on

Andropov at the Soviet Consulate in San Francisco, but no one would open the door to receive it.

In a related story, the Bay Area Council has just learned that 200 refuseniks from Tarnopolsky's city of Kharkov have received "final refusals," which means they will never be permitted to leave the Soviet Union. This sudden gesture of massive "irreversible refusal" is unprecedented in the history of the Soviet Jewry movement, and adds further to the fear of a total crackdown against Jews in the USSR.

## The Games the Media Plays

Iraq and Iran for their handling of prisoners of war.

The ICRC statement accused Iran and Iraq, who have been warring for more than 32 months of "grave and repeated violations of international humanitarian law" including summary execution of captive soldiers, abandoning of enemy wounded on the battlefield and indiscriminate bombardment of towns and villages. Juxtaposed, the two stories -- the media criticism workshop and the ICRC statement -- provide further fuel to the argument that indeed there is a double standard which exists that journalists fail to admit. If Israel had been sharply criticized for inhuman actions, such as Iran and Iraq have been charged with, that report would not have been buried in the American media.



Secret Witness is offering up to \$1,000 cash reward for information leading to the arrest and indictment of the person or persons who have committed the following crimes.

1. For the past six months, person (s) unknown have been stealing mobile home trailer tires and rims. They have been taken from numerous mobile home sales, portable offices, utility or construction trailers around the Las Vegas Valley.

Often the businesses are contacted by persons wanting to sell tires and rims after the thefts. On several occasions, the businesses purchased the tires and rims only to have them stolen a few days later. Several of the rims are marked or painted, or the tires are branded.

2. Burglary/Robbery:

On April 20, 1983, the International Village, located at 1501 Las Vegas Boulevard North, was a victim of a burglary/robbery.

Facts of the Crime - Two suspects were observed taking items from the Lee Watch and Jewelry booth inside the store. One of the two suspects produced a metal rod stating "Don't try anything or we will kill you!" Both suspects then escorted the victim to a small room telling him to stay there. They took victim's key ring from him. Victim stayed for ninety minutes in designated room while the suspects removed his property.

Description of Property Taken:

Valor Brand name on almost every item, 1 Tonfa set, approximately 35 Chinese throwing stars, 8 Pakistan lockblade knives, 3 Japanese Lockblade knives, 4 Avenger lockblade knives, 8 assorted lockblades, names are on the blades, Ripper, Leopard, Stud, Roots, etc., 2 Assassin lockblade knives, 3 Brazilian hunting knives, 1 skinning knife, 6 to 8 military survival and combat knives, 4 vinyl gun pads, 2 gold plated necklaces, inexpensive, 1 AM-FM Radio - Model No. L/O - 4626, 5 speakers Model No. MS-9100A, 6 cassette players model no. "Companion" V-1, 2 telephones "Caesars CP 02", 4 Sheritone AM-FM radios - Sheritone GR 4744, 10 headphones Tisonic H-5A, 5 Elvis Presley Albums, approximately 20 assorted albums, approximately 20 assorted cassette tapes. (Weapon found near the point of exit is described as a Tangoflio 22 Mag. L.R. and 6 .22 Cal. long rifle rounds.)

Suspect information: Suspect #1 - White male wearing black ski mask, 5'10" tall, 150 lbs., medium build, approximately 20 to 25 years old. Suspect #2 - White male wearing black ski mask, 5'11" to 6" tall, 160 lbs., medium build, approximately 20 to 25 years old.

Anyone having information on the above crimes is asked to call the Secret Witness Hot Line, 386-3213. Callers do not have to reveal their identities when giving information or when collecting cash rewards. Secret Witness will also pay cash rewards up to \$1,000 on other felony crimes or crimes that are being planned.

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