



Cops yell at members of Neturei Karta to get back after scuffle broke out between sect and protesters yesterday in front of group's headquarters in Rockland County. Neturei Karta's rabbi provoked anger by embracing Iran's president at Holocaust denial meeting. Photo by Robert Sabo/Daily News

Jews rally vs. Jews

Hundreds protest against sect of Holocaust deniers

BY ABBY LUBY
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

SEVERAL HUNDRED Jewish demonstrators taunted members of a small Hasidic sect yesterday for attending a recent Holocaust denial conference in Iran.

"Nazi traitors! Go back to Iran! You are killing Jews!" the protesters yelled at members of Neturei Karta in the Rockland County community of Monsey.

About a dozen cops stood between the two groups and generally kept them from approaching one another. There were a few hand-to-hand skirmishes but no arrests, police said.

The protestors, mostly members of the Jewish Defense Or-

ganization, brandished bullhorns and waved signs, as did members of Neturei Karta.

"Your children should get cancer and die!" one demonstrator screamed across yellow police tape to members of the sect.

Neturei Karta's Rabbi Yisroel Dovid Weiss outraged Jews worldwide by embracing Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has called for Israel's destruction, at the conference. Ahmadinejad has also called the Holocaust "a myth."

About 250 people, many bused up from New York City, crowded in front of the dilapidated Neturei Karta headquarters. Some waved Israeli flags as they sang the Israeli national anthem.

"We would like to talk to people and explain that all we want is peace," Weiss said.

Weiss believes that the Zionist State of Israel is to blame for much Middle East bloodshed.

But enraged protesters had no time for dialogue.

"Go back to Iran! Nuclear Karta!"

Surrounded by about 50 Hasidim, Weiss countered with the chant: "Judaism — peace. Zionism — bloodshed!"

Monsey resident Zev Nudel, who came to observe the protest, sided with the demonstrators.

"It's as if an American went to a conference that said 9/11 didn't happen," he said. "That's how we feel about these guys."



Yisroel Dovid Weiss

New stem-cell technique's less controversial

BY JORDAN LITE
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

SCIENTISTS HAVE HIT on an alternate and less-contentious source of stem cells that could one day treat deadly diseases — the fluid that protects a developing fetus in the womb.

The discovery, published yesterday in the journal *Nature Biotechnology*, offers a technique for studying the cells that's less controversial than taking them directly from human embryos. And the new "amniotic fluid-derived stem cells" can be coaxied into generating muscle, bone, nerve, fat, blood vessel and

liver tissues, said study author Dr. Anthony Atala.

"The ability to have a large source of these cells for both research and eventually, potential therapy, is greater" than the current supply, said Atala, director of the Institute for Regenerative Medicine at Wake Forest University.

Scientists believe that embryonic stem cells could one day provide "replacement cells" for those lost because of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, as well as chronic illnesses such as diabetes and spinal-cord injuries. Critics oppose the research because it requires the destruction of human embryos,

and President Bush has tightly restricted the supply of the cells.

But Atala and doctors from Harvard Medical School got around that. They harvested amniotic stem cells from fluid taken during amniocentesis, a common test given to pregnant women to screen for genetic disorders.

"It's very exciting. These cells are safe and relatively easy to obtain," said Dr. Asa Abeliovich, a stem-cell researcher at Columbia University who was not part of the study.

But he noted that embryonic cells are easier for scientists to nudge into particular tissue types than the ones from amniotic fluid.

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NYMinute

Off-duty N.J. cop killed

AN OFF-DUTY Paterson, N.J., cop was shot and killed early yesterday during a botched robbery at a fried chicken joint, police said.

Officer Tyrone Franklin, a 23-year-old rookie, had stopped at Broadway Fried Chicken in Paterson about 1:15 a.m., leaving a friend waiting outside in the car, cops said. Franklin, who had the day off and was dressed in plainclothes, had taken out money to pay for food when a man tried to rob him, cops said.

Franklin, the father of a 16-month-old boy, had joined the force in April.

The Associated Press

Central Park mugging

A 26-YEAR-OLD man was mugged at gunpoint last night in Central Park, cops said.

The victim was approached by another man at 8 p.m. in the Ramble, an area near West Drive and 73rd St., cops said.

The victim told cops the unidentified man flashed a gun, demanded money and then shoved him to the ground, injuring his ankle, officials said.

Melissa Grace

100 cyclists join tribute

CYCLISTS TOOK to the streets yesterday to remember those who died in New York City while riding bikes last year.

More than 100 cyclists rode to the 14 sites around the city where bikers are known to have died before heading to the Memorial for Unknown Cyclists at Lafayette and Houston Sts.

"Whose streets? Our streets!" they yelled.

The Associated Press

Wife-slay trial to begin

A 72-YEAR-OLD upper East Side landlord charged with murdering his wife may take the stand in his own defense in a trial that starts this week.

Benjamin Odierno is accused of stabbing Christine Odierno, 57, to death in April 2005, just as she filed for divorce.

Odierno, who has the support of his two sons and some of his late wife's relatives, is expected to take the stand.

Prosecutors said he should expect questions about the four times the year before the stabbing that the victim called cops to report domestic violence. Defense attorney Jack Litman called the victim a "very, very seriously deranged woman" who reported abuse that never happened.

Barbara Ross

Catholic bicentennial

THE ARCHDIOCESE of New York is planning events later this year to celebrate its upcoming bicentennial.

A year of celebration will start this April and conclude in April 2008, the 200th anniversary of the archdiocese's founding, spokesman Joseph Zwilling said yesterday.

The Associated Press