

# CITY DESK

FORWARD STAFF

**JDO Leader Faces Sentencing:** The national director of the Jewish Defense Organization, **Mordechai Levy**, is facing sentencing for kicking a 12-year-old boy in the testicles at a hotel in Parksville in Sullivan County, N.Y., last July. Mr. Levy, who recently pleaded guilty to charges of assault and disorderly conduct, both misdemeanors, said he reacted after the boy and another youth, who were attending the JDO's summer camp, vandalized a room in the hotel and attempted to start a fire there. A state police investigator, **Geoffrey Cabrera**, said that officials had no evidence of damage at the site and that no charges of criminal mischief were filed. He said that he visited the scene himself and found no evidence of vandalism, although he did not personally check every room. Investigator Cabrera declined to disclose the names of the youths. The hotel's owner, **Fred Gasthalter**, said that there was damage to the hotel but that it was "minimal."

According to the assistant district attorney handling the case, **Bonnie Mitzner**, Mr. Levy's sentence can range from community service to a year in prison and a \$1,000 fine. "I don't think there's any excuse for that kind of conduct...especially when the children are entrusted to his care," Ms. Mitzner said. "Remember, he is the adult." But Mr. Gasthalter said he believed the youngsters had provoked Mr. Levy and that Mr. Levy should not receive a prison sentence.

In 1991, Mr. Levy was convicted of shooting a rifle in Manhattan at three men — including the chairman of the Jewish Defense League, **Irv Rubin** — who were attempting to serve Mr. Levy with legal papers in connection with a civil suit against him. Mr. Levy said he is continuing to appeal that conviction.

Mr. Levy's sentencing in the 1999 case is scheduled for May 25.

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