



SHELANU

Volume 2; Number 6

April - May 1991

Nisan - Iyar 5751

Published by
The B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation
State University of New York at Stony Brook

Commencement Scheduled for Shavuot Despite Protests

Ceremony to be at 1:00 pm

A decision by the University at Stony Brook Administration to hold 1991 Commencement on Shavuot has stirred controversy and caused some students to question the University's sensitivity to Jewish concerns. The Administration was warned of the possible conflict in a 1986 memorandum - one that is sent regularly informing the University of Jewish holidays three to four years ahead - that pointed out that the festival of Shavuot falls on the Sunday that would normally be the date of Commencement (May 19).

After considering moving the entire semester either ahead or back one week, a decision was made to hold Commencement on Tuesday, May 21, after Shavuot. That date was published in the Aca-

demic Calendar released in the summer of 1989. In the fall of this year, the University Senate requested that Commencement be changed back to the Sunday date, despite the conflict, and the move was approved.

Upon learning of the decision to hold Commencement on Shavuot, the Hillel Student Board passed the following resolution:

"Whereas the Jewish festival of Shavuot is one of the most important holidays of the year;

We hereby urge the Administration of the State University Center at Stony Brook to not hold Commencement on Sunday, May 19 or Monday, May 20 and to find an appropriate alter-

Continued on Page 6

Israel Independence Celebration Set April 18, 8:00 pm

All are invited to attend the exciting Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations, organized by Chevre. There will be a "Beit Cafe" with entertainment provided by the great Dani Lev and

his fantastic band. Come eat felafel, celebrate and dance until you drop in Roth Cafeteria (lower level), Thursday, April 18th at 8:00 pm. See you there!!!!



Some of the revelers at Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration.

Make Shavuot Plans

Do you or your family need accommodations for Shavuot/Commencement? Arrangements are now being made for students and their families who must stay on campus from Friday, May 17 through Monday, May 20. Please contact the Hillel Office immediately if accommodations are necessary.

INSIDE...

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL | 3 |
| FINAL BANQUET | 6 |
| ELLIS ISLAND TRIP | 2 |
| HILLEL ELECTIONS | 6 |
| RELATIONSHIPS | 3 |
| SHABBAT SHMOOZ | 6 |
| PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS | 4-5 |



B'NAI B'RITH HILLEL FOUNDATION
Interfaith Center
State University of New York at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, NY 11794-5335

From the Editor:

by Jerry Katz

How can a nation profit from war? Surely the victor has the satisfaction of winning. Such a nation could seek reparations from the loser. If most or all of the fighting occurred on the loser's soil, more the better since the winning nation has no drastic change in its lifestyle.

Israel has profited from the Gulf war. She's not a winner, though, because she did not fight, but that is why she profited. Look at newspapers from the war. Look at old newsclips. You will be amazed. Notice all the praise that is given Israel for not retaliating against Iraq. Experience the joy of the world thanking Israel for her resistance. See the world feel sorry for Israel as her civilians are attacked

by Scud missiles. It's been a long time since Israel has been given such honor. I think that will not happen again soon.

Already the old ways are back. Statesman printed an editorial blaming Israel for there not being peace in the Middle East. Professional newspapers like Newsday have editorials wishing Israel to be more cooperative. World nations have already started to revert back to seeing Israel as a hindrance to peace. The old ways are returning. The UN is looking for a condemnation excuse. The PLO is quickly trying to recover from bad publicity to spread propaganda against Israel. Japan still abides by the Arab boycott and not even remotely siding with Israel on any issue. After a few more months, when the Gulf war is but a memory

like Panama, the world shall forget their past praise of Israel and return to the ways of old.

Believe me, I hope I am wrong. I hope I am over generalizing everything. I don't want to call the world anti-Israel. The world as a whole doesn't hate Israel, but I fail to see the logic behind praising Israel when she is bombarded with missiles (that could have been chemical) and not retaliating, but condemning Israel harshly when she does respond to bombs in marketplaces and stone throwing at the Western Wall. Why does the world praise Israel when she doesn't defend herself but condemn her when she does? Shouldn't it be the other way around?

Aren't nations allowed to defend themselves? Wasn't the world defending Kuwait? Wasn't there world sympathy for Panama? What about South Korea in the fifties, or South Vietnam, or Liberia, or Somalia, or Sri Lanka, or Cyprus, or South Africa, or Nicaragua, or El Salvador, or Colombia, or Tibet, or Lithuania, or Estonia, or Latvia, need I go on? How come these countries get praise, sympathy, and support when they defend themselves, but Israel only receives such gifts when she just lets herself be attacked and threatened for the sake of others? The world is only on Israel's side when she submits to being raped. After all, Israel was "asking for it."

Stony Brook
SHELANU

The monthly newsletter of the Stony Brook Jewish Community

Published by
The B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation
State University of New York at Stony Brook

Jerry Katz
Editor

David Vilkas, Keith Babich, Adam Kaminsky
Staff Writers

David Vilkas
Hillel Student President

Joseph S. Topik
Hillel Director &
Jewish Chaplain

Lauren Garlick
Assistant Director

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks
Assistant Jewish Chaplain

Abby Friedland
Administrative Assistant

Dr. Ira Rezak
President, Friends of Hillel at Stony Brook

Office:

B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation
Interfaith Center
Humanities Building 165
State University of New York at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, New York 11794-5335

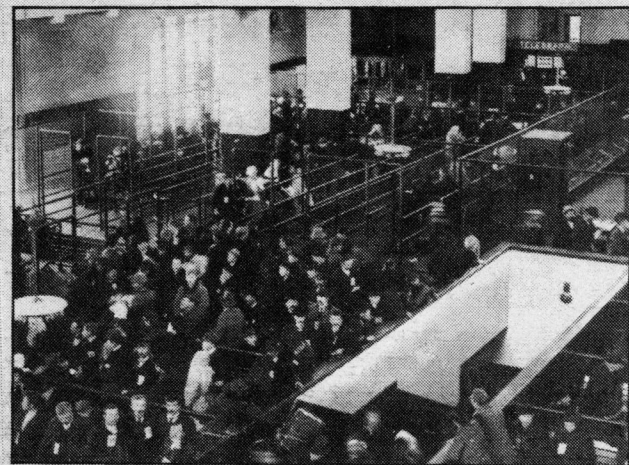
(516) 632-6565

The views reflected in this paper do not necessarily reflect the views of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, the State University of New York, B'nai B'rith International, B'nai B'rith Hillel/Jewish Association for College Youth, or the United Jewish Appeal-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies.

The B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at SUNY at Stony Brook is an affiliate of B'nai B'rith Hillel/Jewish Association for College Youth; an agency of UJA-Federation and a constituent of the International B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations.

Jewish Roots Discovery...

Visit Ellis Island

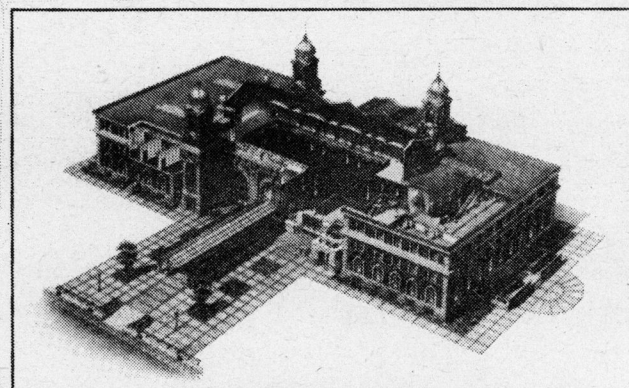


The Great Hall as it appeared in 1904.

Ellis Island, the legendary entry point for over ten million Americans from 1882 to 1924, including 1.6 million Jews, has been magnificently restored as a museum to the immigrant experience. Hillel will make a "pilgrimage" to the Island on Sunday, April 21, and we invite you to join us.

We will depart the campus at **8:00 am** sharp, take the ferry to the Island, tour the facility, and then stop on New York's Lower East Side to eat on the way back. Round trip transportation, including the ferry, is \$10 for students with a UCSB ID and \$20 for non-students, and does not include food. A very limited number of seats are available on a first-come-first-served basis. Purchase your tickets at the Hillel Office now!

Deadline: Monday, April 15



A cut-away view of the Main Building showing the Great Hall at the center with exhibit areas and theaters on levels above and below.

Yom Hashoa - Holocaust Commemoration

Join us for the annual Memorial Service and Holocaust Commemoration.

Featuring the film

"Now...After All These Years"

Wed. April 10 7:30 pm

Javits 111

"This is a forceful, outstanding, good hourlong documentary...energetic and interesting in its investigation of Rhina's view of history...provocative."

New York Times

"Its device is simple, but stunning."

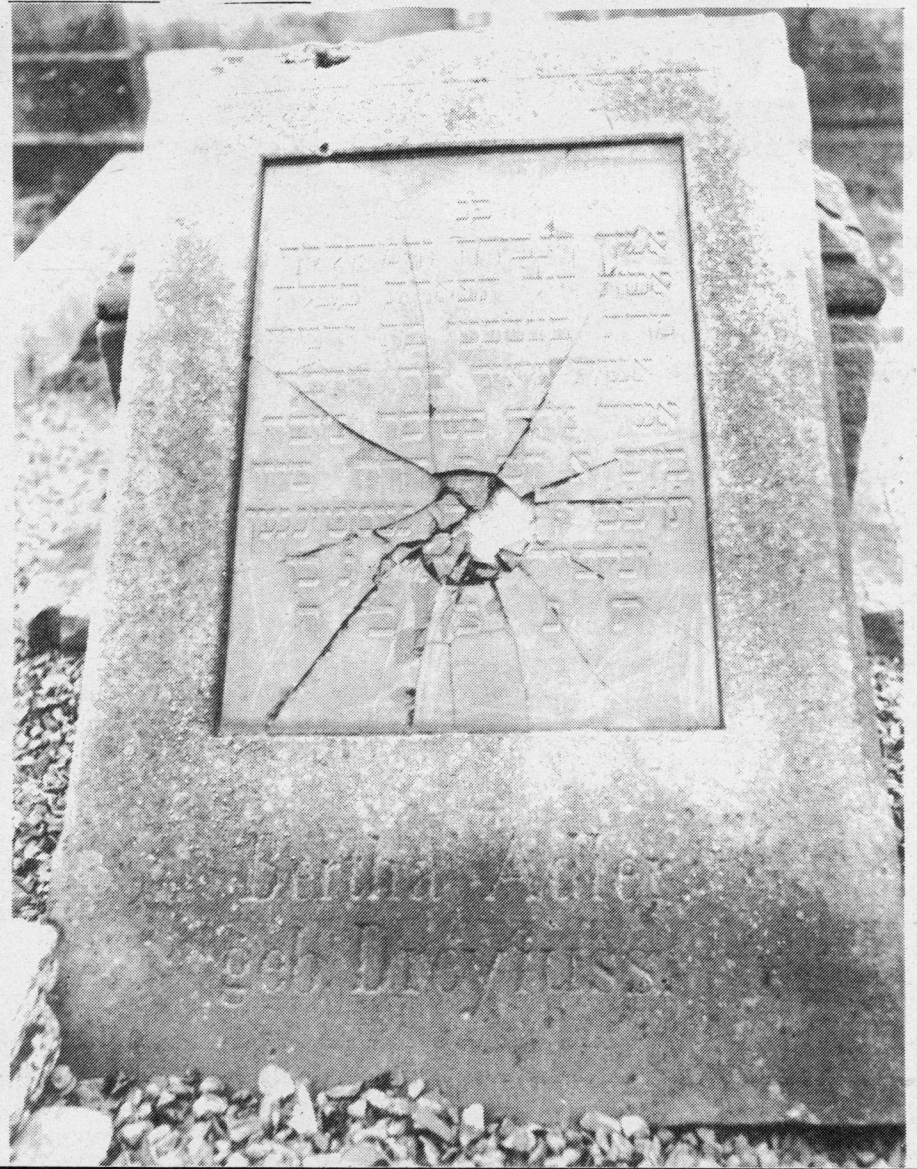
Cambridge Express

"'Now...After All These Years' delivers the goods emotionally."

Variety

"'Now...After All These Years' is a forceful, penetrating film, interestingly told and well made."

Hadassah



Annual Holocaust Memorial Set

On the eve of Holocaust Day this year Hillel will hold the annual memorial service and show the powerful and touching film "Now...After All These Years" in Javits 111 on Wednesday April 10 at 7:30 pm.

All are invited to participate in the service organized by Isaac Rubinstein. Please bring something you have written, read (poem or prose) or even a song you would like to share that conveys your feelings about this important day. Please notify Isaac or Lauren at 2-6565 before April 10th if you wish

to participate.

The service will be followed by the award winning short film "Now...After All These Years", the work of two young German filmmakers. The film tells the story of Rhina, a German village which until 1923 was predominantly Jewish. When the Nazis came to power, the entire Jewish community vanished, most into the concentration camps of Auschwitz and Dachau. The filmmakers discuss the memories of bygone days with the townspeople of Rhina and survivors who now live in New York.

UJA Campus Campaign

Keith Babich and Kevin Leopold, Co-Chairmen of U.J.A.'s Campus Campaign thank all those who have generously donated to this year's campaign effort.

So far, we have managed to raise over \$3000 and hope to

reach at least \$4,000 before the semester is over. Many students have already made their annual pledge, but for those who have not yet managed to do so, please contact Keith or Kevin at 2-6565 or 2-3237.

Program on Relationships

Features Interfaith Relationships & Homosexuality

During the month of April, Hillel will hold a two-part series on Relationships. The first part, a workshop on Interfaith Relationships, will be repeated twice, on Tuesday, April 16 in Roth Cafeteria, lower level at 7:30 pm, and Monday, April 29 in Humanities 157 at 7:30 pm.

On Monday, April 22, at 8:00 pm in Union Room 231B, Hillel is sponsoring a discussion "The Place of Homosexuality in Judaism Today." The discussion will be led by Shlomo Ashkenazi, a certified social worker and gay Orthodox Jew. All are welcome.

In Memorium

Robert M. Edelstein 5"7

Dr. Robert M. Edelstein, Professor of Marketing and Public Policy at Adelphi University, died on March 27, 1991. Bob was a long-time resident of Setauket, and an active member of the Stony Brook Havurah, which he helped lead on the High Holydays. He will always be remembered for his courage, strength, and tremendous character. Bob was a devoted Jew, a dedicated Zionist, and each year moved the congregation with his rendition of the haftarah and his Divrei Torah. Our condolences to his wife Rivcka, son Roy, daughter Ruth, and the entire family. May his memory be a blessing to us all.

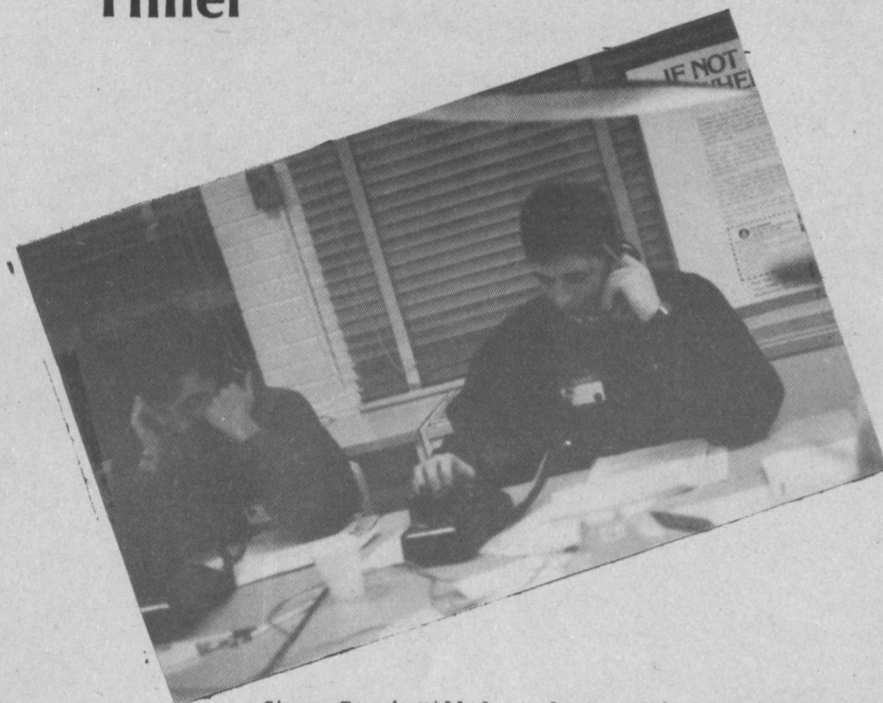


Hillel

Program Highlights Spring 1991



Hillel



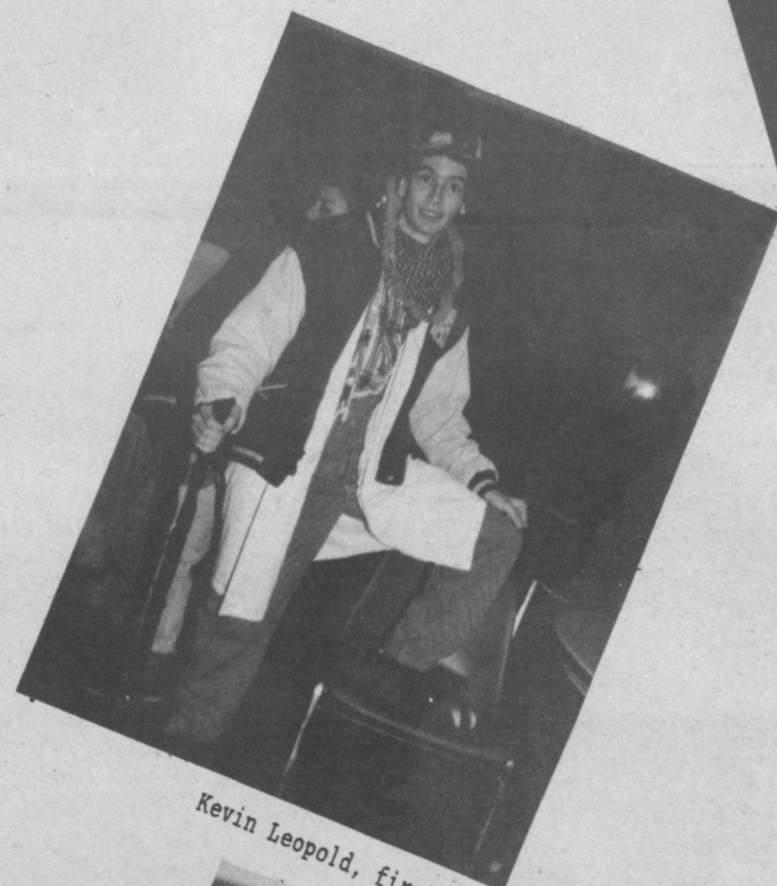
Stony Brook Hillel students took part in UJA Super Sunday. Through our efforts, along with many other volunteers, \$3 million were raised on Long Island alone during the first three weeks of the Gulf Crisis.



Hillel's Ping-Pong Champions.



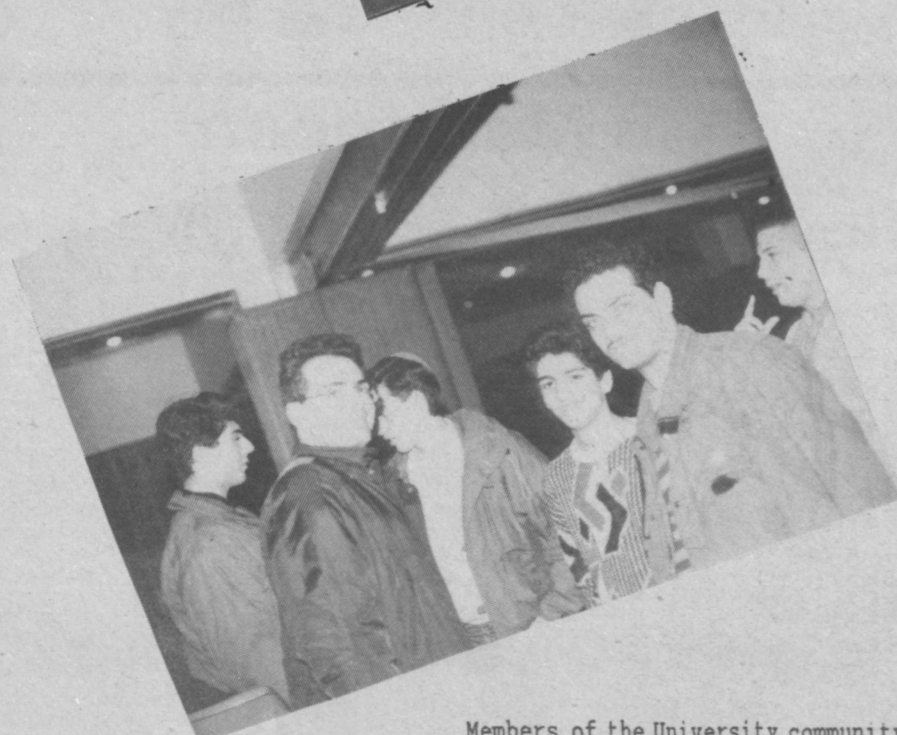
UJA's Pool Tournament raised \$\$\$ for the Campus Campaign.



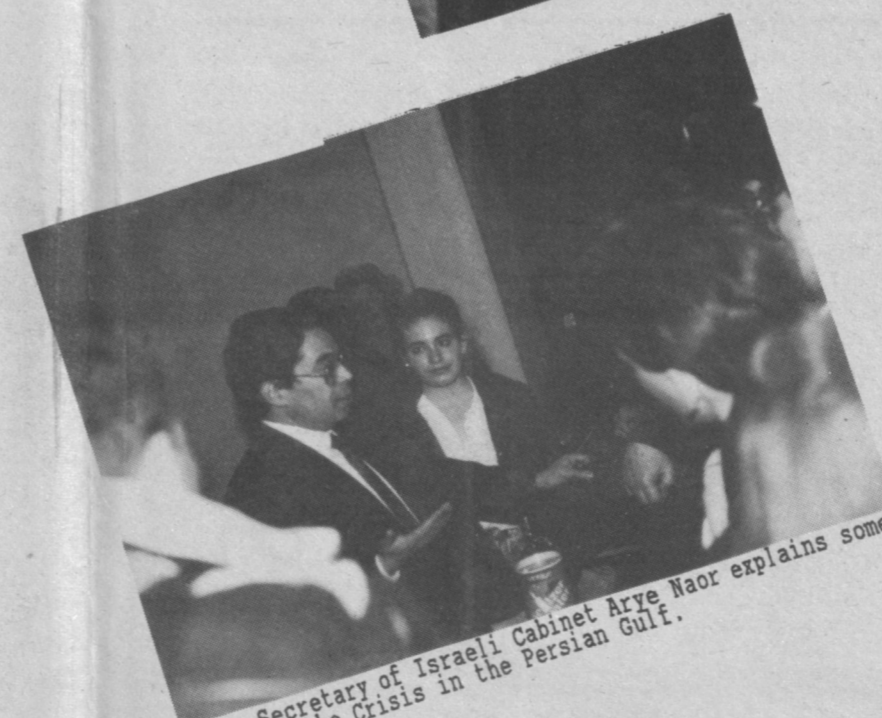
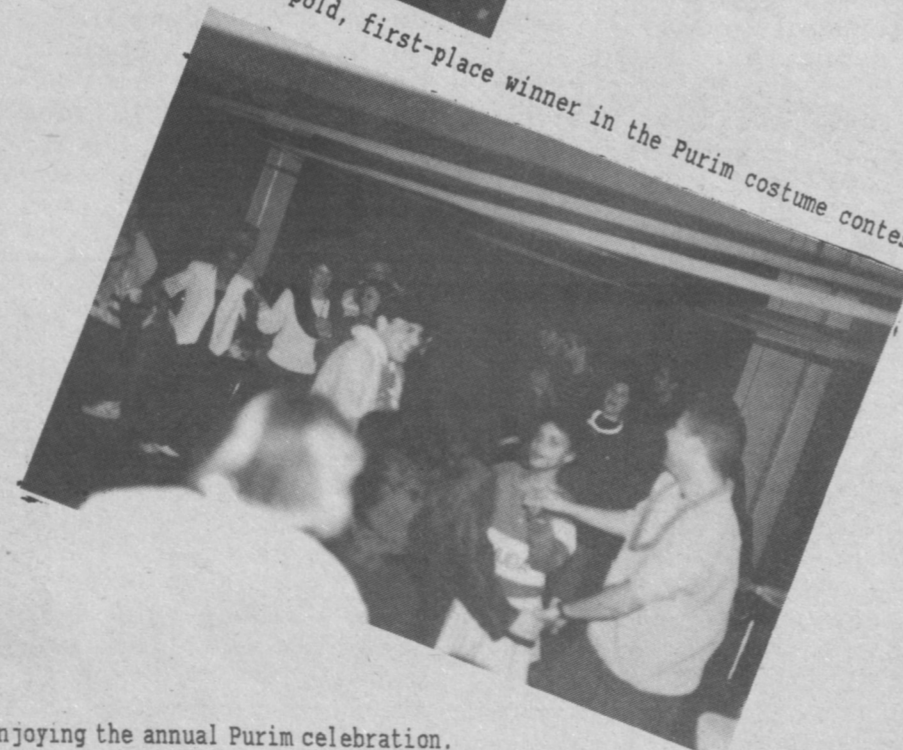
Kevin Leopold, first-place winner in the Purim costume contest.



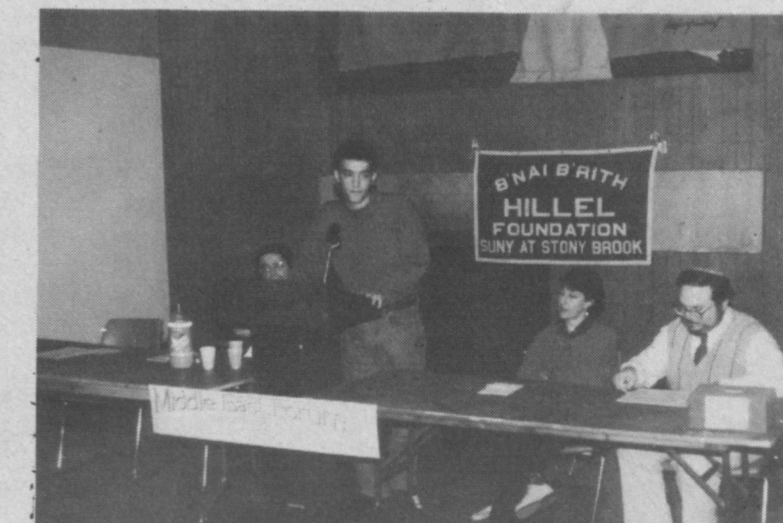
Health Sciences Center Hillel's Israel Night. Good felafel and energetic Israeli dancing.



Members of the University community enjoying the annual Purim celebration.



Former Secretary of Israeli Cabinet Arye Naor explains some of the finer points on the Crisis in the Persian Gulf.



Isaac Rubinstein, Chairman of the Middle East Forum held on January 29.



Some of the large crowd at the Middle East Forum.

Hillel Elections Slated for April 18

Annual elections for the Hillel Student Board will be held on Thursday, April 18, 1991. Available positions are:

- >> President
- >> Vice President
- >> Treasurer
- >> Secretary
- >> At-Large Board Member (4)

Those wishing to run for one of the above offices must file a written platform by April 11. Candidates for an officer position must have served on the

board previously. Voting will be held on April 18 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm in Humanities 165 and also that evening at the Israel Independence Day Celebration. In order to vote you must be registered on the Hillel mailing list. If you have not been receiving mail lately, or if you're not sure if you're registered, call the Hillel Office at 2-6565. Those not registered will not be eligible to vote.

Shabbat Shmooz Judaism & "Animal Rights"

with

Joseph Topek

Director, B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation
SUNY at Stony Brook

Sat. April 13 1:00 pm

Hillel Directors Residence
75 Sheep Pasture Road
(directly opposite North Entrance to campus)

An informal Shabbat lunch is served, and all are cordially invited!

Continued from Page 1
date as originally planned."

Hillel President David Vilkas and Hillel Director Joseph Topek met with University President John Marburger on December 5, 1990. While Marburger expressed his regret about the conflict, he offered no hope that the date could be changed back to Tuesday, May 21. He did offer the suggestion that the main Commencement ceremony could be held at 1:00

it has been learned that the School of Medicine will hold its Commencement on Thursday evening, May 16.

Because Shavuot begins Saturday night, immediately following the Sabbath, it also prevents observant Jews from travelling to the campus for Commencement unless they arrive here Friday. Some students and their families might be willing to stay on campus for three straight days, but the availability of kosher food and other amenities would be difficult, since classes

"We hereby urge the Administration of the State University Center at Stony Brook to not hold Commencement on Sunday, May 19 or Monday, May 20 and to find an appropriate alternate date as originally planned."

Hillel Student Board Resolution

pm on Sunday, May 19 in order to permit Jewish students and their families to attend services that morning.

Protests were also lodged by graduating medical students, and

are no longer in session. Moreover, some feel that attending a Commencement ceremony would not be in keeping with the spirit of the Shavuot holiday. Brian Mandel, who completed

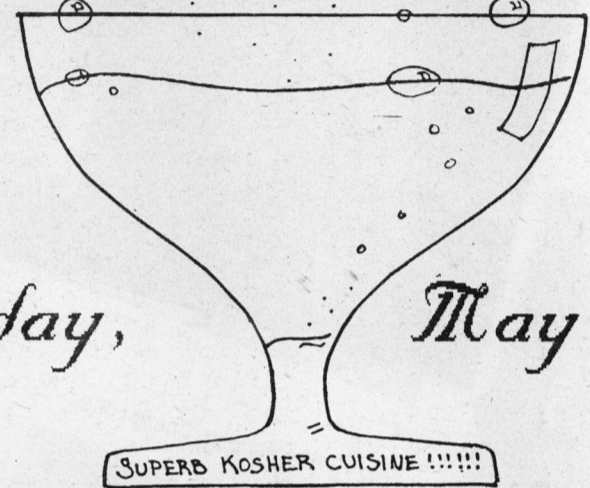
Hillel Final Banquet

As the semester begins to wind down, Hillel is preparing for its annual grand finale banquet. The banquet will take place on Friday evening, May 3rd, in the Roth Quad Dining Hall. Services begin at 7:30 p.m. - the banquet follows.

Come celebrate the accomplishments of the

past year, say farewell to graduating seniors, and install new officers and board members. The evening will consist of superb kosher cuisine and lots of great conversation. An Oneg Shabbat will follow. Don't miss out on this terrific event. Bring your friends!

GRAND FINALE BANQUET



Friday, May 3rd

7:30 pm

Roth Quad Cafeteria

Hillel 632-6565

his course work in December but is scheduled to graduate in May, wrote to President Marburger that as "an observant Jew...I am

the other families affected by this graceful decision. However, I do not feel that attending a graduation ceremony is ap-

"The Jewish community remains steadfast in its opposition to this choice. While the University has agreed to postpone the main Commencement until 1:00 pm, this is not a compromise, but an accommodation."

Joseph S. Topek, Hillel Director

extremely offended and disgusted with the Administration's decision to hold graduation on the Jewish holiday of Shavuoth. I am well aware of the accommodations offered to my own family, as well as to

appropriate on one of Judaism's most holiest (sic) and sacred holidays."

"This decision was not an accident," stated Joseph Topek, Hillel Director and Jewish Chaplain. "We began a discussion of alternative dates three years ago, and one was found; Tuesday, May 21. The Administration, however, agreed to a demand from the University Senate to hold the ceremony on Sunday despite the conflict." When asked if Hillel had accepted the 1:00 pm time for Commence-



Topek at 1985 Commencement.

Continued on Page 7

Continued from Page 6

ment in exchange for dropping its opposition to the May 19 date Topek said that "the Jewish community remains steadfast in its opposition to this

their regret about the conflict, but claim that a mid-week Commencement would be much more of an inconvenience. According to University President John H. Marburger, "The University is aware

"The Faculty Senate strongly urged that the University hold the ceremony on a Sunday in order to accommodate the great number of student family members who are unable to lose a day's work to attend a mid-week Commencement."

University President John H. Marburger

"as an observant Jew...I am extremely offended and disgusted with the Administration's decision to hold graduation on the Jewish holiday of Shavuoth."

Brian Mandel, senior

choice (May 19). While the University has agreed to postpone the main Commencement until 1:00 pm, this is not a compromise, but an accommodation. A compromise would suggest that we agreed to the date in exchange for the later time. We never did this. We are grateful for the later time, since this shows some sensitivity to Jewish needs and is an attempt to accommodate members of the Jewish community."

University officials have expressed

that the Jewish holiday of Shavuot falls on Sunday, May 19, and carefully considered not holding the Commencement ceremony on that day. However, the Faculty Senate strongly suggested that the University hold the ceremony on a Sunday in order to accommodate the great number of student family members who are unable to lose a day's work to attend a mid-week Commencement." Hillel will offer both Conservative and Orthodox services on campus on the morn-

ing of the first day of Shavuot, and Orthodox services on the second day. Services will be held in Roth Cafeteria at 9:30 am.

It has also been suggested by some students that this demonstrates a lack of concern for Jewish communal needs on the part of the University. As Mandel wrote in his

letter to President Marburger, "Please do not simply throw this letter away. If you do, you may be throwing away all chances SUNY at Stony Brook has of truly becoming an institution of higher learning for all people, including observant Jews. The reputation of the university is at stake."

Shabbat Services & Dinner Friday Evenings



Roth Cafe.
5:30 pm



Due to daylight savings time and cafeteria serving schedules, Shabbat services will begin early except for May 3, the night of the Final Banquet when services will be at 7:30 pm.

Opinion:

Wake Up & Defend Jewish Interests On Campus

by Adam Kaminsky

All over the world, the Jewish people are either greatly hated or grossly misunderstood. Pogroms took place in Russia as a result of the Russian's not being able to accept the Jews' uniqueness. Hitler blamed Germany's woes on the Jews; after all, the country was in a depression, and seemed content being religiously different from Mother Germany, so they **must** have been the subversives, according to him.

With this unquestionable uniqueness comes unique problems for the Jewish people. No other peoples have to be as suspicious of the intents of others, or as accountable for their actions as the Jews, and this instinctive skepticism comes forth as a direct result of other people and nations abusing the good nature of the Jews for thousands of years.

The major problem facing the Jews today is not Saddam Hussein, Yassir Arafat, or Jordan's King Hussein.

Well, at least not directly. The major problem facing us today is the fact that we feel, because we are in America, that we are immune from the misunderstanding and outright hate that surrounds our humble nation, when, in fact, Jews continue to be the scapegoats and the "subversives" in places as familiar to you as within the "walls" surrounding this school! One doesn't even have to be semi-alert to see it happening, yet nobody seems to be saying anything about it.

Last week, Statesman ran an editorial pleading with the Israelis to cede such war-conquered territories as the West Bank and the Golan Heights back to Jordan and Syria, respectively, to ensure "peace" in the Middle East...WHY???

Various left-wing factions on this campus, armed with their "humanitarian" philosophy of supporting the underdog, in this case, the Palestinians, have repeatedly lashed out against the State of

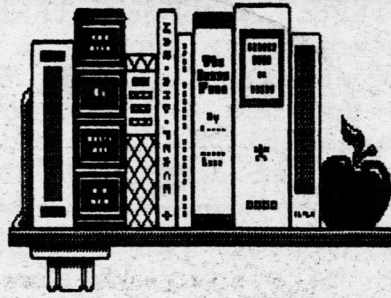
Israel for being the weak link in the chain of peace in that region. Their propaganda portrays the Jews as barbarous, primitive warriors uninterested in anything but their own wealth and well being.

Nobody considers the security of Israel to be part of the equation of peace. Nobody even suggests that Israel has tried every "diplomatic avenue towards peace" before resorting to such "barbarism." Nobody cares that the Israelis were provoked into combat by hostile nations, or by the Palestinians themselves, armed with soft, fluffy stones that can't hurt anybody.

Friends, this is your formal wake-up call. The only way to counter such hate is to present your side of the story stronger than the competition. There is absolutely no excuse for such misunderstanding of the Jewish problems to go unchecked...no excuse. Jerry Katz, your editor-in-chief, and I cannot continue to fight this

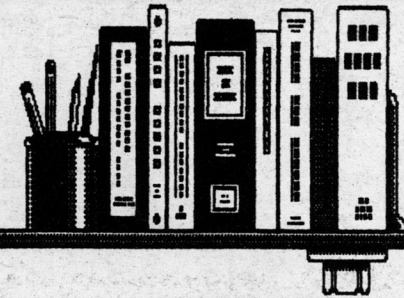
battle of lies and slander without backup. Almost every three to four weeks, you see my name in the Statesman, and Jerry gets a fair amount of press as well. Nothing happens to us...No threats, assaults, humiliation, or hardship, have been encountered by either of us as a result of voicing our opinions in the campus media. The only way we can make the world understand us is to start a little at a time, and educating this campus' misinformed or confused masses is an excellent place to start. Even if you can't write as well as you'd like, by all means give us your ideas.

Now that I have eliminated the two biggest excuses preventing our voices from being heard, let's square our shoulders, clench our jaws, put our fist in our hand, and begin to show the school who we really are. Believe you me, this school will be a much better place for all should we clear the air of this subtle attack on our ways, guaranteed.

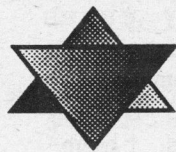


Stony Brook Hillel

April - May 1991



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| | 1 Passover | 2 Passover | 3 Passover | 4 Passover | 5 Passover Shabbat Services 5:30 pm Roth Cafe. | 6 Shabbat Services 9:30 am Roth Cafe. Orthodox & Conservative |
| 7 Buy your tickets for the trip to Ellis Island on April 21! | 8 Holocaust Memorial this Wednesday | 9 File for position on Hillel Board by April 11 | 10 Holocaust Program Film: "Now... After All These Years" 7:30 pm Javits III | 11 Jewish Womens Group 8:00 pm Discover Judaism 7:00 pm | 12 Shabbat Services 5:30 pm Roth Cafe. | 13 Shabbat Services 9:30 am Roth Cafe. Shabbat Shmooz 1:00 pm |
| 14 Celebrate Israel's 43rd Birthday on Thursday!!! | 15 VOTE!!!! Hillel elections April 18 | 16 Program on Interfaith Dating 7:30 pm Roth Cafe. | 17 Jewish Lifetime lunch Roth Cafe. 12:30 pm | 18 Israel Independence Day Celeb. with Dani Lev 8:00 pm Roth Cafe. | 19 Shabbat Services 5:30 pm Roth Cafe. | 20 Shabbat Services 9:30 am Roth Cafe. Orthodox & Conservative |
| 21 Trip to Ellis Island! By advance reservation only. | 22 Place of Homosexuality in Judaism Today 8:00 pm Union 231B | 23 Make reservations for Hillel Banquet on May 3 | 24 Jewish Lifetime lunch Roth Cafe. 12:30 pm | 25 Discover Judaism 7:00 pm | 26 Shabbat Services 5:30 pm Roth Cafe. | 27 Shabbat Services 9:30 pm Roth Cafe. Orthodox & Conservative |
| 28 | 29 Program on Interfaith Dating 7:30 pm Humanities 157 | 30 May → | 1 Final Banquet & Installation this Friday | 2 Discover Judaism 7:00 pm | 3 Services & Final Banquet 7:30 pm Roth Cafe. | 4 Shabbat Services 9:30 am Roth Cafe. Orthodox & Conservative |
| 5 Need accommodations for Shavuot/Commencement? Let us know in advance! | 6 Hillel 632-6565 | 7 Good luck on Final Exams!! | 8 Hillel Games Night 8:00 pm Roth Cafe. Take a study break! | 9 Discover Judaism 7:00 pm | 10 Shabbat Services 5:30 pm Roth Cafe. | 11 Shabbat Services 9:30 am Roth Cafe. Orthodox & Conservative |



ISRAEL Independence Day Celebration

Live Music

Middle Eastern Food

Israeli Folk Dancing

Entertainment by
Dani Lev Thur. April 18
 & his band
 8:00 pm
Roth Cafe.
 lower level

Admission: \$3 students, \$5 non-students

Sponsored by Hillel & Chevre