



SHELANU

Volume 2; Number 2

October - November 1990

Tishrei - Heshvan 5751

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

"Promised Land" Band to Play for Operation Exodus

On Thursday, October 18, Stony Brook becomes **THE PROMISED LAND!** The hit Jewish rock/soul band "The Promised Land" will be performing live in concert at the Bleacher Club in the Stony Brook Union at 7:30 pm.

Leopold, it is hoped that this concert will promote awareness of Operation Exodus, which is the campaign to resettle the thousands of Jews who are leaving the Soviet Union both here and in Israel.

Admission to the



The Promised Land

"The Promised Land' is coming straight from a tour of the Soviet Union, where they were joyously received," said Keith Babich, Chairman of the program. While in New York the band will perform at several campuses with large Jewish populations. According to Co-chairman Kevin

concert is free, although it is advisable to obtain a complimentary ticket from the Hillel Office or at the table in the Union to guarantee a seat. This performance is made possible by UJA/Federation Operation Exodus and B'nai B'rith Hillel/JACY.

Noted Israeli Journalist to Speak on Mid-East Crisis

With daily events in the Middle East changing so rapidly, it is difficult to keep abreast of current developments. For the latest update on Israel's attempt to cope with the Iraq Crisis, Hillel and the Stony Brook Israel Alliance are presenting a lecture by Samuel Segev on "Israel and the Crisis in the Persian Gulf" on Tuesday, October 30 at 7:30 pm in the Stony Brook Union room 236.

Mr. Segev is currently Visiting Professor at Hofstra University, and is a regular correspondent for Israel's Labor daily Davar, as well as for the French newsweekly L'Express. As Editor of Middle East Affairs for Israel's daily Maariv, Segev was the military correspondent during the Six Day War, covered the peace negotiations with Egypt, and served as Maariv's



Samuel Segev

first permanent correspondent in Cairo. He has published a number of books including The Iranian Triangle; The Untold Story of the Israeli Role in the Iran-Contra Affair and Alone in Damascus: The Rise and Fall of Israeli Spy Eli Cohen.

For the latest update and an Israeli view of the current Mid-East crisis from one of Israel's leading and most read journalists, join us on October 30. The lecture is free and the public is cordially invited.

**SB Israel Alliance
Wed. Oct. 17, 9pm
Humanities 157**

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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 Brian Mandel

The time has come. There is nothing any of us can do about it. We will just have to sit back and see what happens. Will the community be receptive or will it rise in protest? Let us hope for the best. For those of you who do not know what I am referring to, it is the thing you are holding in your hands. Yes, the second issue of Stony Brook Shelanu for the fall semester 1990. Don't underestimate its power.

This time of the year is a very special and powerful time for me. Hearing the Shofar, praying fervently for a happy and healthy New Year for everyone, being with my family and friends, fasting on Yom Kippur with my fellow Jews, trying to put up the Sukkah without receiving any serious injury, and dancing around with the Torah on Simchat Torah. All of these events, as well as others, invigorate and inspire me. I feel an urge to become even more involved in events that bring me closer to my people and to Judaism.

Both Hillel and Stony Brook Shelanu help me obtain my needs. Through Stony Brook Shelanu I am able to provide information and guidance to fellow Jews about Jewish pro-



grams and issues. Through Hillel, I am able to help plan and attend the programs that Stony Brook Shelanu advertises.

As is usual, Hillel has many functions planned for the month. During the Sukkot holiday, services, a shmooz, and celebrations will have taken place. Both UJA and Chevra will be having social events, including an appearance by the Jewish rock/soul band Promised Land. A program on an Israeli view of the Iraq crisis with noted Israeli journalist Shmuel Segev is planned. All of these events and programs are detailed in this issue.

Don't let the holidays pass you by. Help make them special for yourself as well as for others. Once they are over, continue your involvement. It doesn't matter how or what specific area you do become involved in. It just matters that you show concern for your fellow Jews and for Judaism. If we don't look out for each other, who will?

Jewish Womens Group

The Jewish Women's Group will hold its second meeting on Wednesday, October 24 at 8:00 pm at Lauren Garlick's house. The group, which is primarily for Jewish women faculty, staff, or

spouses, is reading and discussing Anne Roiphe's book *Generation Without Memory*. Those interested in participating should call Lauren Garlick at 632-6565.

Hillel Lounge
 Mon. Oct. 29, 8:00 pm
 Roth Cafeteria, 1st floor
 Ping-Pong, Games, Food,
 Movie, Fun!



B'NAI B'RITH
 HILLEL FOUNDATIONS
 THE CHARLOTTE AND JACK J.

Spitzer Forum

ON PUBLIC POLICY

We the people live in a turbulent era. Our communities and campuses, our nation and the world are being transformed at an unprecedented speed.

We the people can affect this change. We can direct social and political movement by knowing how to influence public policy. Informed and articulate activists can change the course of history.

You are invited to learn how to make a difference.

The B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation's Charlotte and Jack J. Spitzer Forum on Public Policy is a dynamic and creative program designed to give you the skills that matter:

- < Building effective organizations
- < Developing media campaigns
- < Finding the resources to support your cause
- < Influencing the public policy process
- < Establishing coalitions

Since 1980, thousands of students from across the nation have gained these crucial skills in the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation's Washington Public Policy Conferences. The Spitzer Forum now offers you the opportunity to become effectively involved on your campus, in the community and the world.

Hands-on activities are the cornerstone of Hillel's Spitzer Forum:

- < Briefings by key Washington figures
- < Training sessions at the headquarters of national organizations
- < Networking with involved students
- < Participatory workshops
- < Establishing national student initiatives in public policy

Registration:

The cost for the Spitzer Forum, including all programs, hotel and meals is \$150.00, plus travel to Washington, DC. Subsidies may be available, consult your Hillel professional.

The Spitzer Forum will begin at 11:00 am on Sunday, October 28, and will conclude on Tuesday, October 30 at approximately 2:30 pm. Registration deadline is October 15, 1990. Applications are available at the Hillel Office.

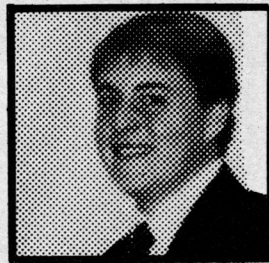
Hillel Board Meeting

Tues. Oct. 16
8:00 pm

Humanities Bldg. 315
All invited!

Can We Talk?

by David Vilkas



Imagine if you will a university without Hillel. A school atmosphere void of all the social, cultural, political, religious and special interest activities that Hillel provides. Unfortunately, there are some campuses where it is not hard to imagine such a college experience. For the students of SUNY at Stony Brook, however, this idea only exists in fantasy. We at Stony Brook have to our avail one of the most active and creative Hillels in the nation, and this year promises to be its best year ever. Our staff and board are dedicated to making this promise come to fruition.

During the first month of school, Hillel members have organized a slew of wonderful events. We have had barbecues, a bonfire, parties, holiday services, community services activities, and

much, much more. Hopefully, you were one of the many students that participated in the festivities. If you were, you can attest to the fun and fulfillment that was experienced by all. If you were not, well what are you waiting for!!!

Take part in the Hillel experience, and advantage of the opportunities that Hillel has to offer. A good place to start is to attend the Hillel bi-monthly meetings that take place on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 8:00 p.m. in Humanities 315 (starting October 16). Bring your friends and your ideas, but most of all enjoy.

Allint Users:

Hillel programs are posted on Allint. Just type BB IC HF for an up-to-date listing!

**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**

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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.

Sweetness For Our Seniors

by Kevin Leopold

On September 25, Lauren Garlick, the Assistant Director of Hillel, Alan Fritzhand, Jill Rappaport, Nadine Goldberg and myself spent an hour visiting men and women at North Shore Lodge, a retirement home. Like thousands of other students, we were all busy and had a million reports, homework, and exams to study for. However, it was only for an hour or so, and the time just flew by.

Within minutes, Alan was leading everyone in Hebrew songs, Jill was discussing her future with a few con-

cerned women, Nadine befriended a few Brooklynites and I discussed the pennant races with a Pirates fan named Jane. Lauren distributed bags of apples and honey and we all ate cookies and drank wine. Around the room people were wishing each other happy holidays and there were smiles everywhere.

Editor's Note: Hillel's Community Service Committee does several similar programs during the year. Why not take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to bring a bit of happiness to someone in need?

Hillel 
632-6565

Memories of Sukkot Past

by Ruth Belasco

It was made out of scraps of wood that my father gathered from the local lumber yard. My brother and I would have to nail many of the planks together before they were deemed suitable. We didn't mind though. It was fun hacking away in the backyard with the neighbors looking on, impressed by the day to day progress of the construction.

How the walls stood up was a miracle. They weren't firmly stationed in the ground and if not for the rope loosely attaching one of the walls to a tree, it would have no support whatsoever. While my father put on the planks for the roof, my brother and I went inside and opened up our "Sukkot drawer" to see what decorations we had left from last year. The moldy ones were carefully sorted out, and the once waterlogged and now illegible ones were ceremoniously disposed of with a tear of thanks for their brave service in the name of Sukkot.

Next, of course, was to replace the deceased decorations with witty and colorful new ones. They ranged from a replica of Ronald Reagan with holiday

greetings added on in bubble fashion to a comic strip with an etrog and lulav as the main characters. Once that was accomplished, we had to do the obligatory paper chain that was to be strung across the roof. Each year had to have a different pattern, of course, so after careful study of the previous year's model so as not to repeat, the construction went underway.

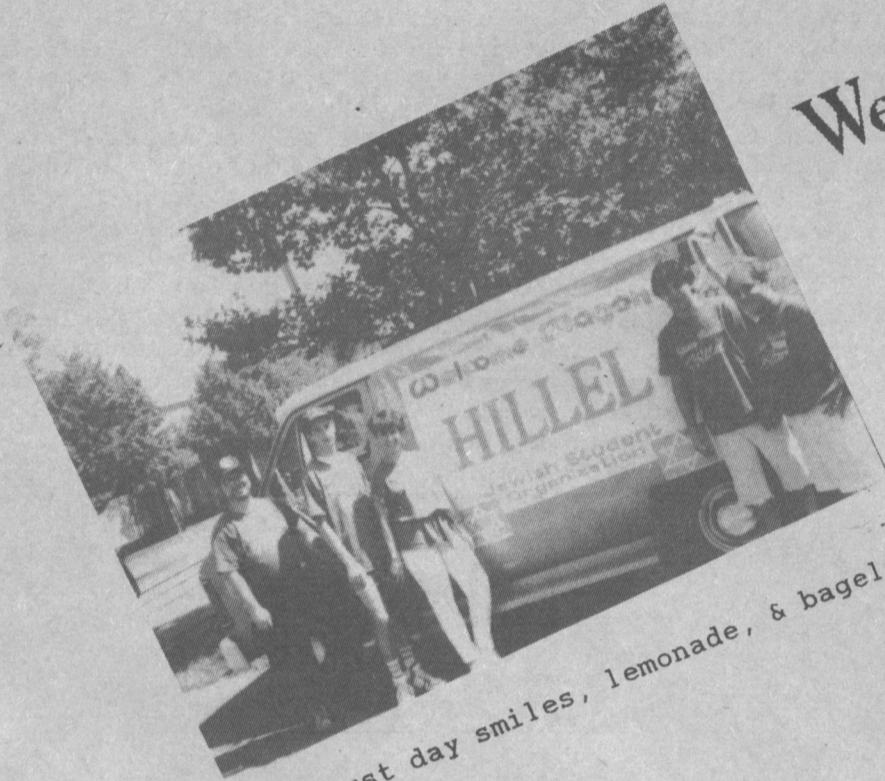


The pre-Sukkot preparations went on for about a week. We couldn't hang them up until the day before the holiday began for fear of rain. The morning of the first day was the most fun of all. We would wait for our mother to return home from the fruit store so that we could stab them with wires, while accompanying the act with appropriate sound effects and stringing them from the roof, being careful not to put anything hanging too low over someone's

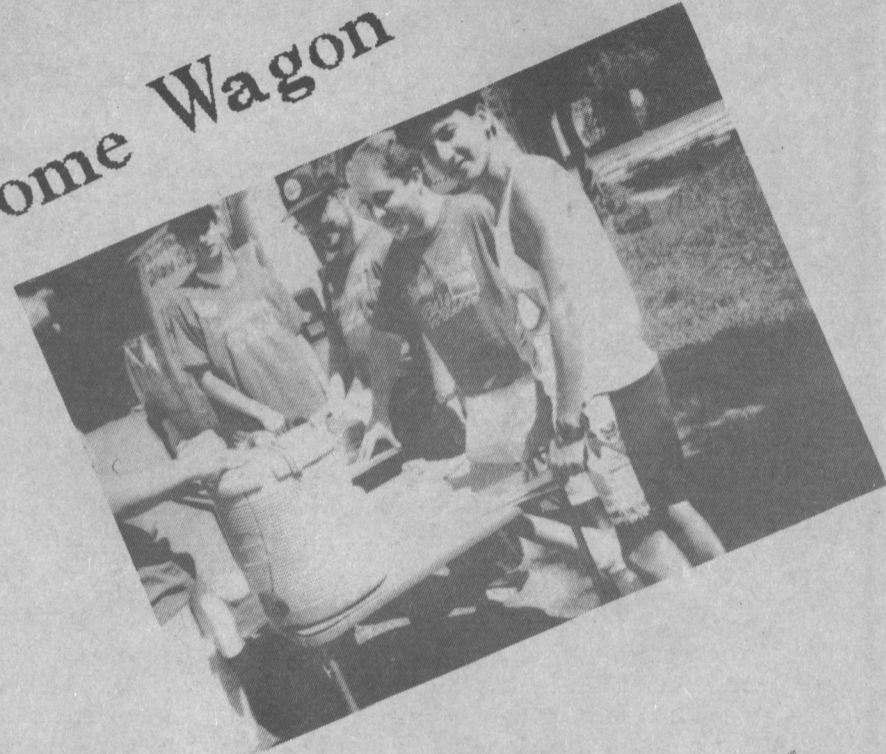
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OPENING WEEK AT HILLEL

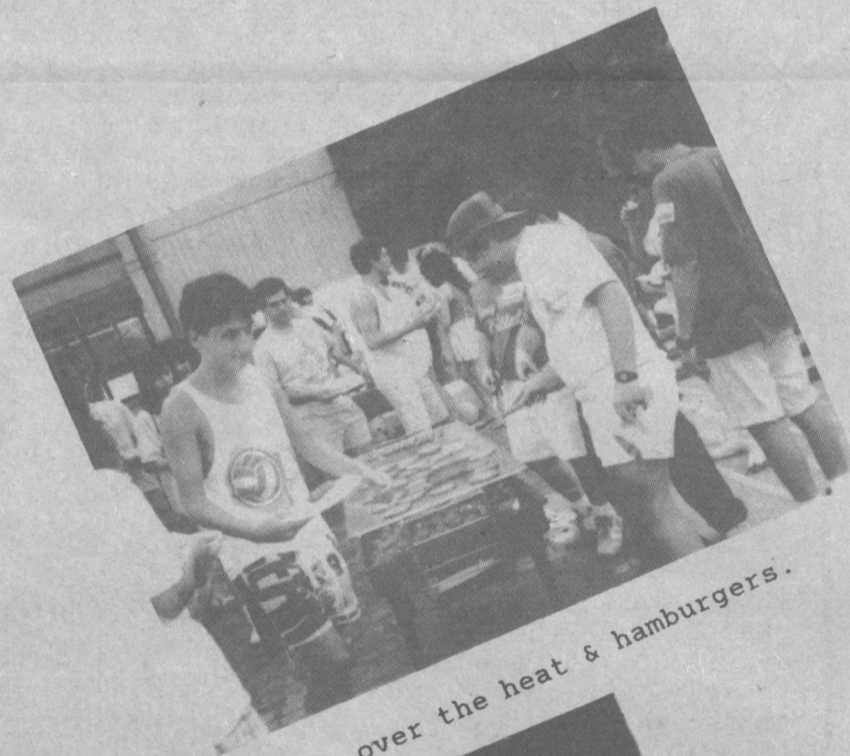
Welcome Wagon



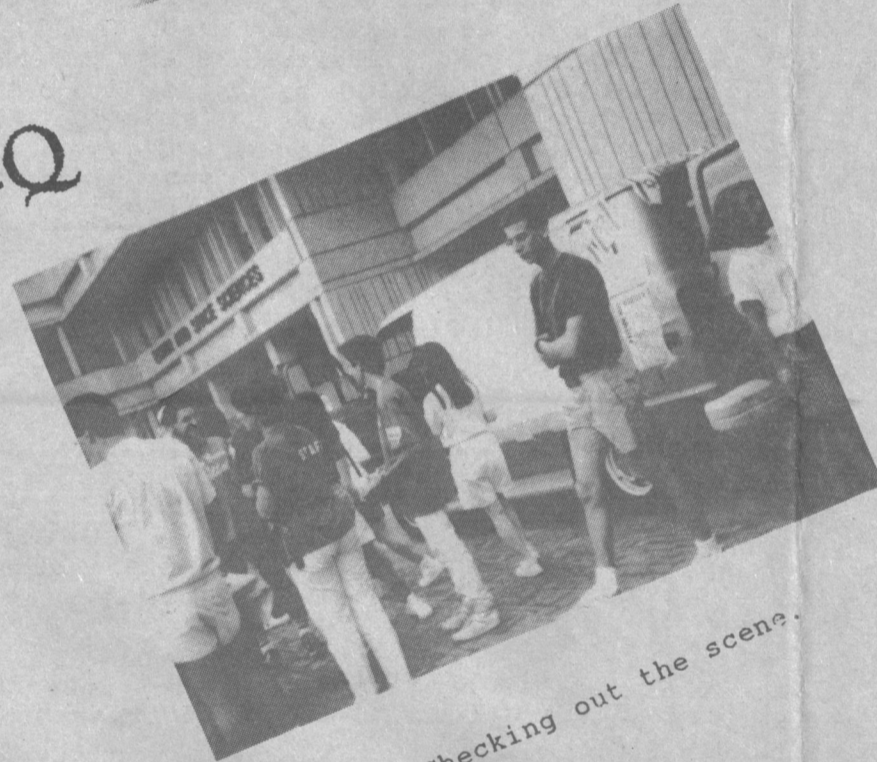
Hillel's first day smiles, lemonade, & bagels!



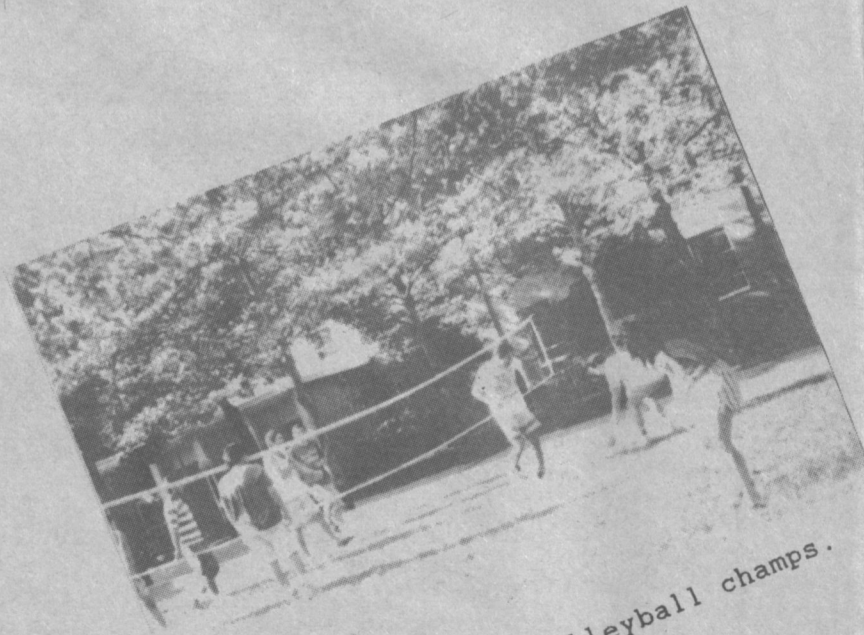
B-B-Q



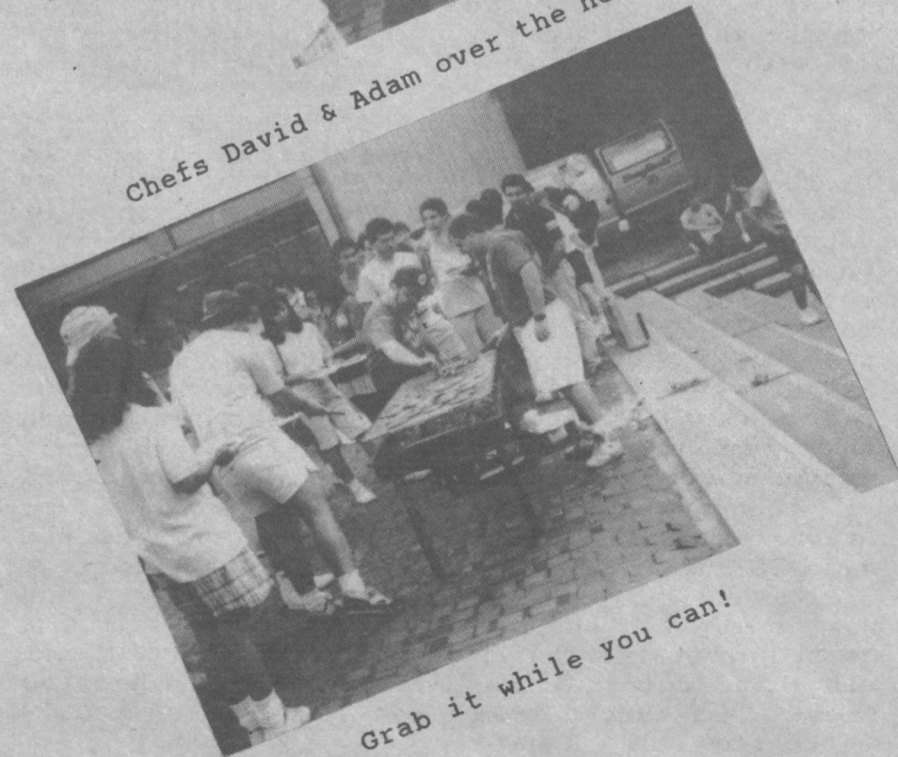
Chefs David & Adam over the heat & hamburgers.



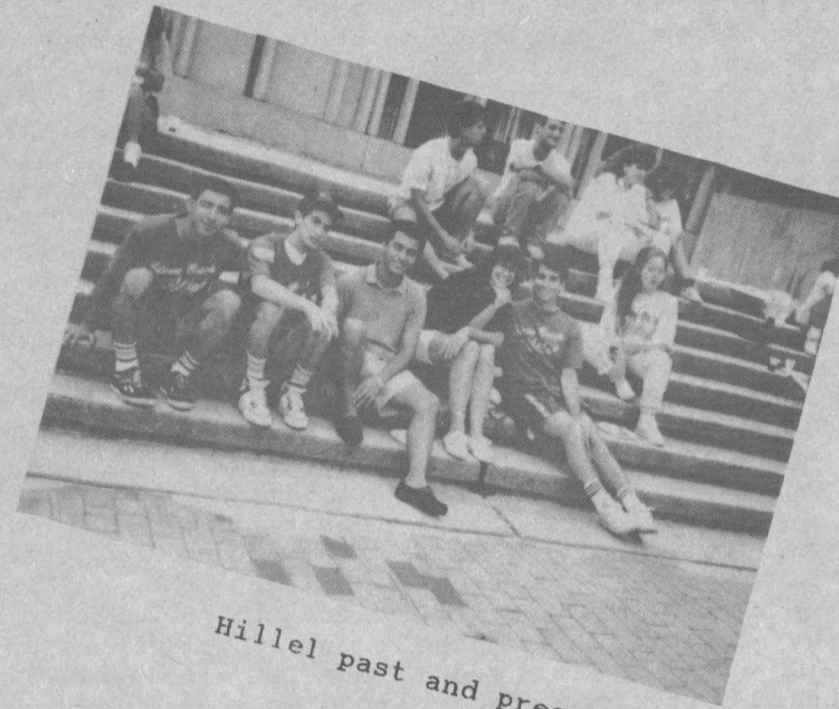
Checking out the scene.



Hillel's volleyball champs.



Grab it while you can!

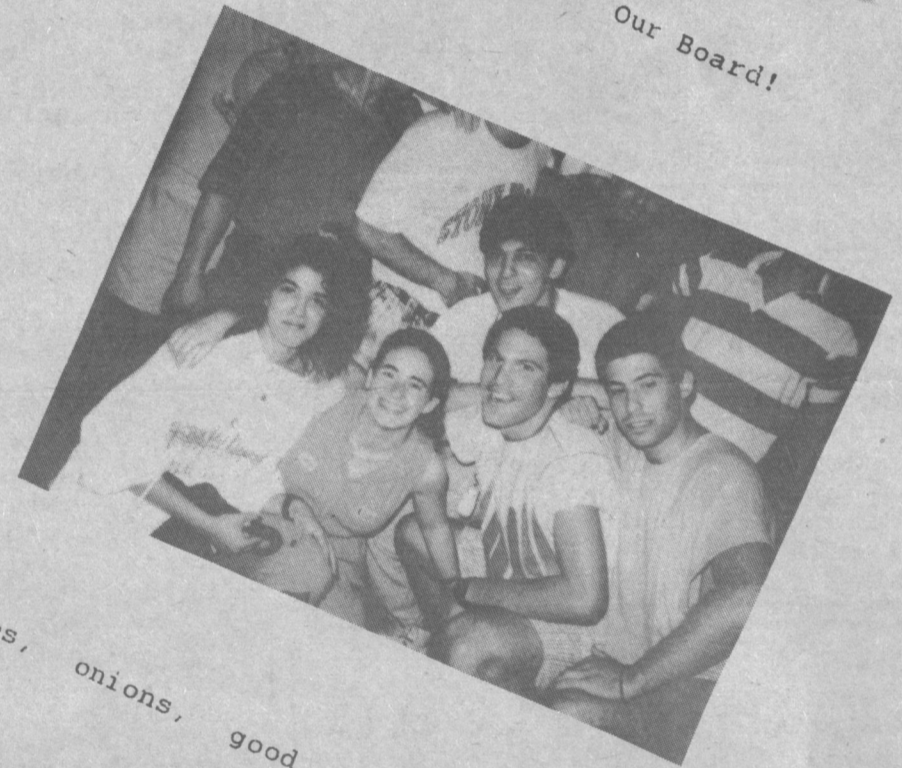


Hillel past and present.



Our Board!

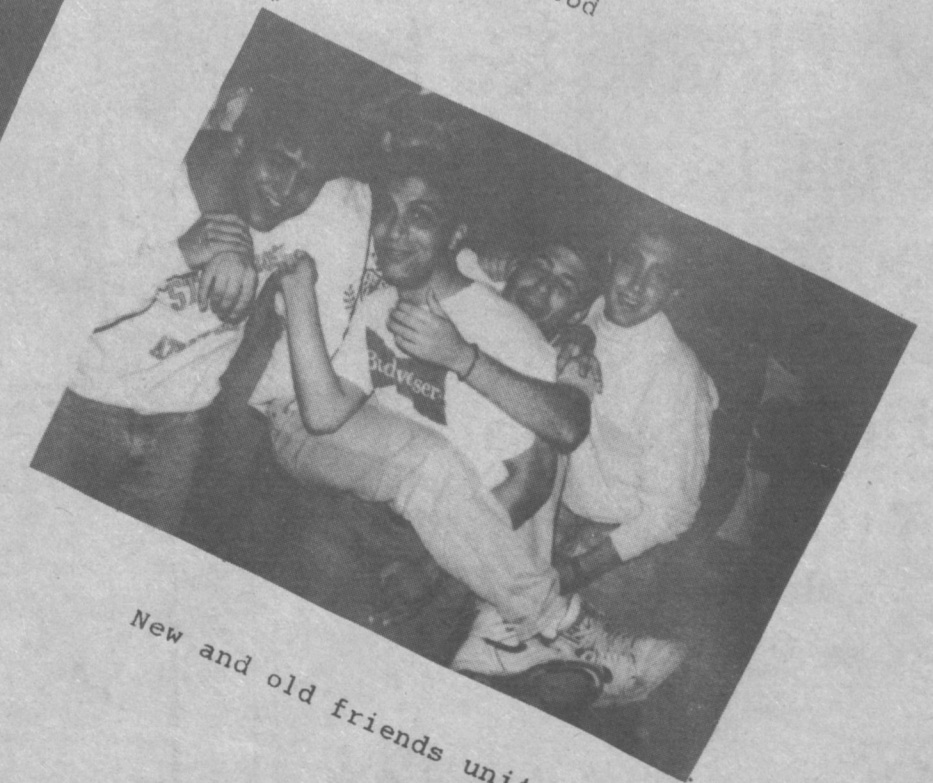
Bonfire



Potatoes, onions, good music, and good company.



Enjoying the full moon and fire.



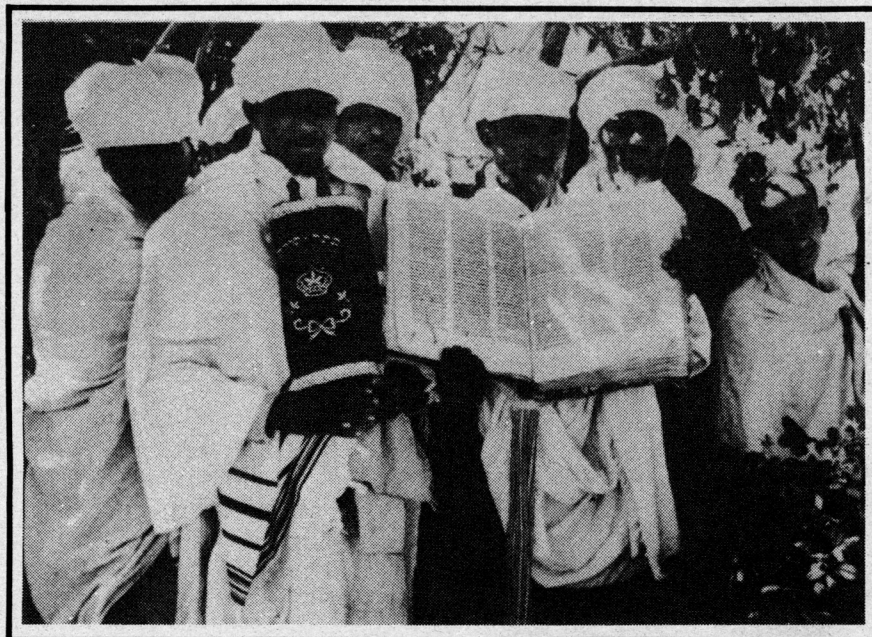
New and old friends unite.

Update of Status of Ethiopian Jewry

The Jewish people are living through an event that has been long awaited and long overdue. Soviet Jews are pouring out by the thousands and are immigrating to Israel, where they can finally live openly as Jews. We, as Jews and as Americans, should be very proud of the roles we played in helping to bring about this event.

will be held to educate and raise people's awareness concerning the plight of Ethiopian Jewry. A speaker, along with a brief video, will be on hand to discuss and answer all questions about the current situation in Ethiopia.

The dinner will consist of various Ethiopian dishes, and the entrance fee of \$2



At the same time, we must continue our involvement with Operation Exodus and also not forget about Jews stranded in other countries, such as Ethiopia, Yemen, and Syria.

On Wednesday, November 7, a special dinner will take place at 7:00 pm at Roth Cafeteria. This dinner

will go towards helping to free and resettle Ethiopian Jews. Their plight is extremely important, as thousands of Jewish lives are at stake. Everyone should make an attempt to learn more about the situation and ways to help.

Reflections: On Faith & Academia

by Ruth Belasco

This will be my second time celebrating Sukkot as a college student/adult. The efforts going into making this a joyous one, however, are a far cry from the simple pleasures I found in the holiday when I was young. Sukkot hopping has been replaced with office hopping, trying to reschedule tests and papers assigned on the holy days. Sukkot decorating has been replaced with hair pulling, while I attempt to get as much work done in advance as possible. The excitement of going to synagogue has been replaced with the worry over missing so many classes. I have even heard derogatory statements made in disgust over the lack of consideration in putting so many holidays in one month.

I have been often told by my parents that adulthood comes with responsibility and with love comes worry. Never before have I equated the two until I came to Stony Brook. My life until then had been a sheltered one where Judaism was held sacred within the walls of my yeshiva. But here, Judaism can be held just as sacred by a Jew who has never read the Torah in Hebrew and can be an abomination to one who grew up alongside rab-

bis. Here, in this place, and now, in these times, I worry about my Judaism. I worry that I will pass over a tradition for the sake of a grade on an exam. I worry that my form of Judaism can only exist behind the walls of my yeshiva where it was nourished.

My friends tell me never to worry as long as I am convinced that it is "worrying" that I am doing. You only worry when you "love" they would say. Once you stop, you have lost something.

What I have learned is that it should not stay at the worrying stage. From there it should form into a concern and then, if all goes well, into action.

One can only maintain a relationship by working at it. If we are to keep a strong hold on our beliefs we must constantly work at it and accept the fact that it could never be complete nor perfect. Although it is a fact of life that the holidays will coincide with the academic school year, it is important not to let the spirit of it be buried in the books. If only for the first night, to just tune our minds to the joyousness that Sukkot deserves, we will not only be carrying on tradition but we will be gaining an eternal treasure as well.

Learn to Read HEBREW

by Hanukah!

Hillel is offering a four week

"crash course"

in Hebrew reading during November

Call for details...

632-6565

שלום

שלום

Stony Brook Israel Alliance Meeting

Wed. October 17

9:00 pm

Humanities

157



Join the Kosher Meal Plan!

Private dining room! Freshly prepared gourmet meals!

Sign up at the Meal Plan Office, Union 204.

Strictly kosher under rabbinical supervision.

כשר

A Prayer for 5751

by Brian Mandel

Please, G-d watch over the American troops stationed in Saudi Arabia and all over the world.

Please, G-d save the lives of the hostages that are in Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon and elsewhere.

Please, G-d reunify the Ethiopian and Yemenite Jews with their families in Israel.

Please, G-d eradicate all anti-Semitism whether it be in the Soviet Union or in the United States.

Please, G-d destroy all bigotry and racism from the face of the earth.

Please, G-d protect the State of Israel and all of its inhabitants from harm.

Please, G-d let us find a cure for AIDS, cancer and all other diseases that inflict mankind.

Please, G-d help us eradicate poverty and homelessness.

Please, G-d show us how to be compassionate and kind to one another so that nobody need feel afraid, lonely or unwanted.

Please, G-d bless us with a year of good health, happiness and peace throughout the world.

BBH/JACY Offers Internships

Are you an undergraduate college student attending school in the New York area? Interested in pursuing a career in the Jewish community? Then this is the internship program for you!

The Jewish community offers an exciting and unique opportunity to experience first hand the world of Jewish communal life under the auspices of B'nai B'rith Hillel/Jewish Association for College Youth.

During the 1990-1991 academic year, a select group of New York area students will be chosen to intern part-time in various local and national Jewish communal agencies. Assignments include the following areas: public relations, public administration, media/arts, Jewish education, community organization,

early childhood education, psychology, and social work.

Past program participants have described their internships as having "provided a rich educational experience" and "an opportunity to explore a future career." Scott Shay, President of the Board of Directors of B'nai B'rith Hillel/Jewish Association for College Youth explains that the internship is "an excellent opportunity to develop leadership skills and obtain intensive training for a select group of Jewish students whom we intend to nurture as future Jewish communal leaders and professionals."

Students will receive a \$1,500.00 stipend for the six month program. The hours are flexible to accommodate

Sukkot Memories continued...

seat so they would not receive a concussion getting up. Every year, we had to introduce a new fruit to the swinging bunch. One year, just to confuse us, I guess, my mom brought home a coconut. My brother and I had such a hard time putting a wire through it, we decided to first put it on top of the roof above my mother's seat, so should it decide to take revenge on being put in exile, it would at least vent on the appropriate person.

Then, it came to setting the table for the first night. The backyard was one story down from my bedroom window so we rigged up this pulley system to lower down the silverware and the beloved newly polished candlesticks. Later on, it would get so cold that the food was even passed out the window so it would get to our mother before it froze. Nightfall came and we blessed our new sukkah, etrog and lulav for the first time. Spare ribs was our traditional meal on the first night but we always had to

start with the chicken soup. It was around our second helping when my cat would join the feast by taking a seat next to the coconut, that is to say, on the roof. The first time it happened it nearly scared us to death, but he became our representative of the seven visitors and came every night. The only time he really minded is when he accidentally fell through two planks and into the chicken soup. It didn't deter him from returning, though, so it could not have been too bad of an experience.

Personally, it was the end of the meal that I looked forward to the most. It was the only time of the year that my mother bought genuine hot cocoa. I know now that having milk after meat is forbidden but I do not regret being ignorant back then. Happiness is two mittened hands nursing a cup of hot cocoa in such cold weather that you can only feel your nose if you could manage to squeeze it under the rim of the cup when you sipped.

And that is my memory of Sukkot.

students' schedules.

For more information contact Wendy Levinson Friedman at B'nai B'rith Hillel/JACY, (212) 696-1590.

B'nai B'rith Hillel/JACY is an agency of UJA/Federation a constituent of the International B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations.

Chevre

Chevre, the Israeli Student Association, held a very successful Sukkot party complete with a shish-kabob BBQ. There was great food, lots of Israeli students, and Israeli music.

The next meeting of Chevre will be Monday, October 22 at 8:30 pm in Union 226. Everyone, including Israelis, is invited.

Metaphysical Meditations

"If G-d is omnipotent, can He create a rock so heavy that even He cannot lift it?"

by Jack Lebo

The premise in the above quote is that G-d is omnipotent. Before we ask any questions we must understand the meaning of the word "omnipotent." We must also understand the relationship between G-d being omnipotent and our own physical world being finite. To be omnipotent is to be infinite in power. G-d in his omnipotent power created a physical world as we know it.

Along with it came certain laws of nature such as the Law of Gravity (the force that the earth exerts on all objects near it, causing the same acceleration). Scientifically, weight is determined by its own mass and the force of gravity. The distance of an object is equal to the object's work divided by its force. These are all physical roles of nature set down in the beginning of our world. Assuming that G-d is omnipotent and it is He who set down these laws of nature, it would be absurd to suggest that G-d is confined to the

very physical world that He created. It follows that G-d is at least one step ahead of us. Let us return to the question above. There are two actions involved; 1) the action of creating, and 2) the physical action of lifting. According to the premise above that G-d is omnipotent, of course He can create the heaviest rock possible. However, when one asks, "Can it be so heavy that even He cannot lift it?" he is confusing two different concepts; one being infiniteness, the other being finiteness. The question implies that

the action of lifting is dependent upon the weight of an object ($D=W/F$) which in turn is dependent on gravity. This is most certainly true in terms of our physical world, but we must understand then He cannot be confined to it (as mentioned earlier). There is no formula of $D=W/F$ in respect to G-d. His ability to lift an object is not determined by its weight. The formula in this case would be $D=0$, 0 standing for omnipotence. One must therefore conclude that the question itself is a logical fallacy.

On October 18 , 1990

STONY BROOK

FREE

will be the

FREE

PROMISED LAND



The First Rock & Soul Band



straight from their tour of the Soviet Union



**7:30 pm in the Stony Brook Union
Bleacher Club**

The Stony Brook kickoff for
UJA/federation's Campus Campaign
&

Operation Exodus

Help Save and Resettle the Jews of the Soviet Union

This program made possible from a grant from UJA/ Federation's " Operation Exodus" and sponsored by : B'nai B'rith Hillel/JACY Campus Campaign