The Ohio State B’nai B’rith Hillel Foundation was organized in 1925 under the leadership of Rabbi and Mrs. Lee J. Levinger and with the encouragement of a local advisory Board inspired by the late Edwin J. Schanfarber. The Foundation has had only two directors in its 40 year-old history. Rabbi Levinger served until 1935 when Rabbi Harry Kaplan came to Columbus to succeed him. As the original Hillel Foundation in District #2, The Ohio State Foundation has not only helped to organize the other Hillel units in the District but has become nationally known for its leadership in Hillel activities.

The Hillel Advisory Board which has served under distinguished leadership since the Foundation was founded, is known as a model throughout the country. Under the encouragement of the Board, the Hillel Players Patrons, the Hillel Student Loan Fund, a work scholarship program and other practical projects have been established at the local Foundation.

From 1925 to 1934, the Foundation program was originally carried on in a house on 18th Avenue near Waldeck. In 1934, Hillel moved to its present location at 46 E. 16th Avenue. In 1940 a small Hillel auditorium was added to the three story brick house which housed the Foundation's activities. The steady growth of the Ohio State unit was climaxd by the beautiful new Schanfarber Memorial Building which was dedicated in February 1949, in an impressive nation-wide ceremony.

The early years of the Ohio State Hillel, under the direction of Rabbi and Mrs. Lee J. Levinger, were marked by the building of a diversified program high-lighted especially by the outstanding productions of the well-known Hillel Players. Long before Ohio State University embarked upon a comprehensive dramatic program, the Hillel Players were already known throughout the campus and community for their outstanding productions in the classic theatre. Those early years were distinguished by a series of brilliant performances including Ansky's "The Dybbuk", Andreyev's "He Who Gets Slapped", Wolhur's "Lillian", Synge's "Riders to the Sea", and various Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. Among the prominent alumni of the Hillel Players are Jerome Lawrence, co-author of "Inherit the Wind" and "Auntie Mame", Cecil Brown, prominent newscaster, Paul Lipson, star of Broadway and television, recently seen in Columbus in "Fiorello" and Willie Gilbert, co-author of the recent hit "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying."

Under Rabbi Kaplan's leadership, the activities at the Foundation rapidly expanded and multiplied. In addition to the regular religious services for the Sabbath and holidays, a rich cultural and activity program was established: Community and Personal Services committee, Choir, Graduate-Faculty Club, classes in Jewish studies, music and dance concerts, social and interfaith programs, Zionist projects, noon forums, Sunday Brunches, Faculty Seminars and other groups arose as the Foundation program matured.

Lectures and artists representing every phase of cultural and in-
tellectual life were brought to Hillel and made available to the entire campus and community. In the music field were featured Izler Solomon, Julius Chajes, Marguerite Kozen, Jean Hurai, Erwin Josepe, Rabbi Theodore Gordon, Max Helfman, Martha Schlarman, Ruth Rubin, Cantor Meicals, Theodore Bikel and the Oranin Zabar. Bela Kuna and Berk appeared frequently in outstanding dance performances. The Foundation is especially proud of the nationally known Rabbis and Jewish leaders who visited and lectured at Hillel during the past 40 years. Among these may be mentioned Dr. Nelson Glueck, Rabbi Benjamin Kahn, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, Dr. Solomon Friedhofer, Rabbi Philip Bernstein, Rabbi Felix Levy, and the late Rabbis Stephen S. Wise, Barnett Brickner, Maurice Pekarsky, Joshua Loth Liebman and Milton Steinberg. The Hillel Forums presented such celebrities as Hans Kohn, S. Ralph Harlow, Salo Baron, Cecil Roth, Jacob Marcus, Will Herberg, Maurice Samuel, Dr. Abraham Heschel, Dr. Abraham Klausner, Dr. Arthur J. Lelyveld, Dr. Judah Shapiro, Dr. Solomon Liptzin, Dr. William Haber and Professor Harry Orlinsky.

The Ohio State Hillel is especially proud of its outstanding program of war service during World War II. The Columbus Foundation became the center of Hillel's National and Regional War Service activities. Under Rabbi Harry Kaplan’s direction, the Hillel Program was expanded to serve tens of thousands of young men and women in the armed services. Operated on a year-round schedule, Hillel was a center for the A.S.T.R. and Naval and Marine units stationed at Columbus and throughout Ohio. The Ohio State Hillel still serves Jewish students at Kenyon, Ohio Wesleyan, Otterbein and Wilmington.

The post-war period was marked by an intensified program of activities and counseling for return servicemen and for veterans who came to Ohio State from all over the globe.

One of the proudest branches of Hillel service is the Refugee Student program originally established on this campus in 1937. Scores of brilliant young men and young women were rescued from Hitler's Europe and brought to Ohio State to continue and complete their education under the auspices of this significant program. With the cooperation of fraternities and sororities and with the aid of funds raised by students, the Hillel Refugee Student program made a unique humanitarian contribution to the American scene. Outstanding among these former refugee students is Dr. S. Fred Singer, nationally known statistician and rocket scientist.

The United Jewish Student Fund is another well-known philanthropic arm of the Foundation, raising over $3,000 annually for the United Jewish Appeal and related causes.

Following World War II, the Ohio State University Foundation became the center of the Midwest Region of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations and Rabbi Kaplan was appointed Midwest regional director serving also as a member of the National Hillel Cabinet and as an organizer and one of the directions of the National Hillel Summer Institute. The Ohio State Foundation was a frequent headquarters for Regional Conferences and from this office were supervised Hillel units at Ohio University,
Miami University, Western Reserve, Kent State, University of Cincinnati and other Foundations and Counselorships in the nearby Midwestern states.

In February 1959, the Ohio State Foundation dedicated the beautiful new Schanfarber Memorial Building. The new structure represented a nation wide tribute to the late E.J. Schanfarber and represented gifts of B'nai B'rith Units, friends and alumni, parents and students, and Columbus Jewish residents. The new building also includes the Hillel War Memorial Chapel dedicated to the memory of 50 Hillel Students and alumni who lost their lives in World War II.

In its 40 years of service at Ohio State University, the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation has directly or indirectly influenced over thirty thousand Jewish students and countless other thousands of the general student body on this campus.

The public relations activities of the Foundation have extended beyond the campus and community. Hillel radio and television programs have attracted audiences through Central Ohio and in many cases in more distant parts of the state. The Ohio State Hillel appears regularly over Radio Stations WOSU and WHK and television stations WOSU-TV, WHK-TV and WLW-TV. Rabbi Kaplan, as chairman of the radio and television committee of the University Advisory Board on Religion helped to launch the first religious television series over WOSU-TV. Rabbi Kaplan has also participated in a special Television series called "Face the Problem" broadcast by WOSU-TV and other stations.

Outstanding Hillel lectures, forums and musical programs are regularly recorded by the University radio station WOSU for re-broadcast throughout the state. Programs of Jewish religious and cultural interest are thus heard by thousands of listeners throughout Ohio.

Both Rabbi Kaplan and Rabbi Kowal appear frequently before campus, community, church and civic organizations in Columbus, Franklin County and other sections of the State and nation.

During the past year Hillel sponsored a special Fellowship seder attended by foreign students from all over the world.

In February 1960, Rabbi Kaplan was honored with a city-wide dinner marking his 25th Anniversary as Hillel Director at Ohio State. On April 28, 1965 Hillel will recognize Rabbi Kaplan's 30th anniversary.

Ohio State alumni are serving various parts of America, Europe and Israel, in both professional and lay Jewish capacities. Many important Rabbis, Jewish social workers and B'nai B'rith and communal leaders owe their inspiration to the influences recieved during their student days at the Local Foundation. Reunions of Ohio State Hillel alumni are held from time to time in various metropolitan centers of American such as New York, Los Angeles and Cleveland.

The Ohio State Hillel is one of the beneficiaries of the United Jewish Fund and Council of Columbus and is supported through the B'nai B'rith National Youth Services appeal.
Hillel Offers Identity to Campus Jews

By FRANCINE SUDA

"A place to come to when I have nothing to do," an opportunity "to identify with being Jewish," a program of social and cultural events "much like Newman or Wesley" — these are students' reasons for coming to Hillel, the campus Jewish center at 46 E. 16th Ave.

For more than 40 years Hillel has served Ohio State's Jewish students and a large proportion of non-Jews who come for its lectures, discussions, Hebrew and folk-dancing classes and social events.

The national Hillel foundation was formed in 1922 and named for a Jewish teacher of the time of Jesus Christ. Hillel founded Talmudic Judaism, the code of laws most Jews follow today.

Aims Listed

The foundation strives "to make Jewishness relevant to the campus and the campus relevant to Jewishness," Rabbi Martin Kowal, assistant director of the center, said.

Ohio State's center is the third oldest Hillel center in the nation, Kowal said. Its Sunday morning brunch program and theatre group are both 40 years old, he said. Rabbi Harry Kaplan, Hillel director and midwest regional director of Hillel, has been here over 30 years. B'nai B'rith, the international Jewish fraternal order which sponsors Hillel, is over a century old.

While most Jewish synagogues limit their programs to one of the three Jewish sects — Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform — Hillel tries to serve all three branches, Kowal said.

Estimate Impossible

Kowal said it was impossible for him to estimate how many students attend Hillel. "It's like the novelty business," he said. "It is impossible to predict why anything succeeds or fails at Hillel." He said 50 students came to a lecture held during a blizzard.

Only seven graduate students came to a film of Marcel Marceau, while 45 came to a weiner roast with no program, he said.

"The forums give a platform for campus and non-campus professional people," he said. "We try to cover the topics the students suggest." A student committee at the center suggests topics for cultural programs and assists in choosing social programs, Kowal said.

Hillel program planners rely on their judgment of the worth of a program rather than looking to attendance for conclusions, he said.

Kowal said he uses some "gimmery" to draw more students to Hillel. "The Sunday brunch is a device to draw people to a lecture and vice versa," he said. "Some people are attracted by the food. Some are repulsed by the food but drawn to the popular speakers we try to get."

Another device Hillel uses to interest more students is the sponsored religious service. A fraternity or dorm group is asked to conduct one of the services. Since they are responsible for the service they bring in a large group of students, Kowal said.
Hillel, the campus Jewish center, has served the Ohio State Jewish students for over 40 years. The center is sponsored by B'nai B'rith.
Director Rabbi Gaynor Says
Hillel More Than Religion

"A lot of people think all we do is pray. Hillel's concern is broader than religion," claims Rabbi Nathan Gaynor, director of the Hillel Foundation at Ohio State.

Rabbi Gaynor, who was appointed director Fall Quarter of 1969, believes that too many people follow this misconception and fail to see other aspects of Hillel, such as social activities and leadership opportunities.

Prior to his appointment here in 1969, Rabbi Gaynor was a director for the Hillel Foundation at the University of Illinois for four years. He gained his appointment as director following application to the National Hillel Office in Washington, D.C. Before becoming director, he had a congregation in Buffalo, New York for 11 years.

Rabbi Gaynor was graduated from Brooklyn College in New York City. His graduate work was completed at the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he also taught Philosophy. The rabbi was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York in 1944.

Next year at Hillel, students will have increased control, according to Rabbi Gaynor. He wants more students with new ideas to run their own programs. The rabbi said he feels that "students should have a voice, even in University affairs." He believes that the "greatest freedom is the freedom to make your own mistakes."

Rabbi Gaynor has been to Israel once and plans to return in March of 1971. In Jan. of 1972, he will return during his sabbatical to spend six to eight months studying archaeology and biblical literature at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.
Hillel theater group revived after 20 years by students

By Lauren Barnes

The Hillel Foundation on 16th Avenue will host the rebirth of a long-absent tradition Saturday at 8:30 p.m.

The Hillel Players II will perform two one-act plays for the first time in more than 20 years.

Director Donald R. Schwartz, Ph.D. candidate at Ohio State, said that the idea to revive the Hillel Players started in the spring of 1975.

"Hillel was celebrating its 50th anniversary," Schwartz said, "and I wrote and directed a play for the celebration."

Schwartz said that some students saw the play and voiced an interest in restarting the old Hillel Players.

"The Board elected to try it on a trial basis," Schwartz said, "and so Hillel Players II was formed."

The Ohio State Department of Theatre encouraged the organization by offering access to props, costumes and ticket sales at Drake Union's box office.

The department saw the Hillel Players as a place for some theater students to get experience they might not otherwise have, Schwartz said.

Noted playwright Jerome Lawrence and Broadway actor Paul Lipson got their starts in the old Hillel Players, he said.

Schwartz, who received his M.A. in theater at the University of Louisville, Kentucky, will direct the two one-act plays.

"The Tiger," by Murray Schisgal, is a play which explores, through subtle adult humor, the lonely isolation of today's society. Schwartz said.

"The Boor," by Anton Chekhov, is a farce set in the 1800s and deals with an argument between a widow and a man to whom her dead husband owed money, he said.

In both plays, the players move freely through the audience during the action, and in "The Boor" actually talk directly to the audience.

Both plays deal with a man-woman relationship that begins in hate and ends in love.
Hillel helps students find kosher food

By Joseph T. Sedlock
Lantern staff writer

Jewish students who find it difficult to obtain kosher food for Passover are being helped by the Hillel Foundation, 46 E. 16th Ave.

Hillel will be serving kosher lunches and dinners each day through lunch Saturday, said Rabbi Howard Alpert.

During Passover, observant Jews must keep kosher by following dietary restrictions such as not eating grains that have been fermented and eating kosher meat, Alpert said.

Jill Cohen, director of student activities for Hillel, said in order for meat to be kosher, an animal must have cloven hooves and chew its cud; fish must have fins and scales; and poultry cannot be a bird of prey or a scavenger, Cohen said.

The animal must be killed with the least amount of pain and drained of as much blood as possible, Cohen said. All vegetables are kosher, she said.

Matt Mindlin, a graduate student in art administration from Columbus, described Passover as "a holiday where you commemorate the Jews coming out of bondage in Egypt and their coming into the land now called Israel."

"It's a festival of freedom. It marks the beginning of the Jewish religion in the sense that, once they came out of Egypt and into the desert, all the laws, not just the Ten Commandments, were given at Mt. Sinai," Mindlin said. "That's where the Jewish people were formed as a body."

The Jews then formed the state of Israel, Mindlin said.

During the first two days of Passover seder is held to commemorate the exodus from Egypt through story telling and eating foods symbolic to the exodus, Cohen said.

At 6:30 p.m. Friday, Hillel's regular service, shabbat, will be combined with a festival service to commemorate the last days of Passover, Cohen said.

"The Hillel Foundation is a national organization for Jewish students on all major college campuses," Cohen said. "It gets Jewish students together, socially and religiously."
Kaplan Scholar will present lectures

Rabbi Abner Weiss, the 1986 Rabbi Harry Kaplan Scholar-in-Residence by the B’nai B’rith Hillel Foundation, will present a series of lectures May 21-23.

At 8 p.m. May 21, Weiss will deliver a faculty address on "The Writings of Rabbi Lowe of Prague: Human Nature and Moral Philosophy in the Jewish Tradition." The talk will be held at the Hillel Foundation, 46 E. 16th Ave.

A brown bag lunch with Weiss will be held at noon May 22 in F132 Rhodes Hall. He will discuss "Dealing with Death and Bereavement." The lunch is being co-sponsored by the University Hospitals Division of Pastoral Services and the Campus Ministry Association.

At 4 p.m. May 22, Weiss will speak on "Judaism and Apartheid: The Moral Imperative" in the Terrace Lounge of the Ohio Union.

The Rabbi Harry Kaplan Scholar lecture will be held at 8 p.m. May 22 at Hillel. Weiss will present "Judaism Confronts Modern Medical Technology: The Ethics of Tissue Transplants. Following the presentation, there will be a reception sponsored by Joseph M. and Nancy Paul.

On May 23, the Columbus Board of Rabbis will co-sponsor a breakfast with Rabbi Weiss at Agudas Achim Synagogue, 2767 E. Broad St. Weiss’s topic will be "Gittin and Agunot."

The residency was initiated by friends of the late Rabbi Harry Kaplan who served as director of the Ohio State Hillel Foundation from 1935-1969. Weiss is the sixteenth Kaplan scholar for Hillel, which is commemorating its 60th year.

Weiss is currently the rabbi of Beth Jacob Congregation in Beverly Hills. He also is currently an adjunct professor of philosophy at Yeshiva University in New York City.

A native of Johannesburg, South Africa, he received a graduate degree from Bet Midrash Le-Rabbonim in Johannesburg and was ordained from Yeshivat Keren B’Yavne in Israel.

Weiss received his B.A. from the University of Witwaterstrand, Johannesburg. By special permission of the academic senate he graduate with four full majors in English literature, Hebrew language and literature, world history and psychology. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. from Yeshiva University.

Prior to his duties in Beverly Hills, Weiss was the chief minister of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation in Durban, South Africa. From 1970-1976, Weiss served as professor and chairperson of Hebrew and Jewish studies at the University of Natal there.

For further information, contact the Hillel Foundation at 294-4797.
Students excused from classes

University observes Jewish new year, Rosh Hashanah

By EILEEN MALONE
Lantern staff writer

While all students face a new year of school, some get an excused holiday for a different kind of new year, Rosh Hashanah.

Myles Brand, vice president for academic affairs and provost, asked faculty to pardon students who observe the Jewish holiday from classes Thursday and Friday.

"We do not want to penalize students for missing classes because of religious holidays," Brand said. "We're asking that faculty members take this into consideration in planning test dates and other factors affecting class grades."

Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the Jewish new year and a period of repentance called the Ten Days of Awe, said Rabbi Steven Abrams of the Hillel Foundation at 46 E. 16th Ave.

"We don't celebrate the new year with big parties and so forth. For us, it's a religious event," Abrams said.

The Ten Days of Awe includes other holidays, spent in review of personal values.

"During these 10 days, we do a lot of soul searching and hopefully make resolutions to live our lives more properly, both as human beings and as Jews," Abrams said.

The Ten Days of Awe ends with Yom Kippur, also called the Day of Atonement, which is devoted to working on personal relationships with God, Abrams said.

Abrams said one of the ways Jews celebrate a holiday is to completely refrain from most everyday activities such as using the telephone. Instead, the day is spent in religious ritual in a synagogue and in the home with festive meals and family discussions on the meaning of the holiday, he said.

Abrams said it is against Jewish religious law to attend classes on Rosh Hashanah because classes are a part of everyday activities.

"I am aware that many of the students do not carefully observe Jewish law and I think many of the Jewish students will be in class, but many will not," Abrams said.

Last year more than 700 Ohio State students attended Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services at Hillel Foundation, Abrams said.

Steven Hartstein, a senior from Beachwood majoring in accounting and economics, also a past member of the Jewish Student Activities Board of Hillel Foundation, said he will not be attending classes Thursday or Friday in honor of the holiday.

"It's more important to me to have the religious feeling of the holiday, and I wouldn't be able to do that by going to school. I honor the holiday by not going to school both days," Hartstein said.

Jill Fishkin, a sophomore from Beachwood majoring in communications and a member of the Jewish Student Activities Board, said it is hard for her to decide between classes and honoring the holiday.

"It's hard for Jewish people to start school on one of the highest holidays because we're torn between wanting to get an education and wanting to observe the holiday," Fishkin said.

Abrams said many Jewish customs surround Rosh Hashanah.

Every religious meal begins with a bread called challah. For Rosh Hashanah, challah is round and often dipped in honey.

"The reason we have the round bread is to remind us that the years go around, that time is cyclical, and we should note that as the years go around, we shouldn't waste them," Abrams said.

Apples are also eaten because they are round and convey the same message as the round bread.

"We dip the bread and apples in honey to wish each other a sweet year," Abrams said.
Area Jews set to observe holiday

Eight-day festival of lights to start sundown Saturday

By John Canaday
Lantern staff writer

The Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, an eight-day celebration commemorating the triumph of Judaism over religious oppression, will be observed by campus-area Jews beginning Saturday evening.

As part of the celebration, an 8-foot tall menorah, the symbolic candelabrum holding candles which are lighted one per day during the holiday, will be erected outside the House of Tradition, 57 E. 14th Ave., said Rabbi Chaim Capland.

A party will be held Saturday night at the House of Tradition to mark the start of the eight-day holiday, Capland said.

At the Hillel Foundation, 46 E. 16th Ave., students and area residents may purchase Hanukkah menorahs and candles, said Rabbi Steven Abrams.

The candles of the menorah symbolize the eight days a small amount of palm oil burned during a ceremony to rededicate the Temple of Jerusalem after it was recaptured from the Greeks in 165 B.C.

"The Greeks defiled the temple and ruined the sacred objects there and prevented the unhindered observance of the Bible commandments," Capland said.

"After a long battle, the Jewish people were able to overcome their oppression and re-establish service in the temple and the universal message of religious freedom over tyranny," he said. "In that sense, it's a holiday that goes beyond the Jewish people."

This year Hanukkah falls during the week of final exams at Ohio State, a factor that may limit the celebrating of the campus-area Jewish community, which both rabbis estimated to be between 3,000 to 4,000 people.

"Because it's exam week and because it really isn't a necessary part of the observance, we don't have any big kind of to-do," Abrams said. "Hanukkah is something individuals celebrate."

Abrams described the basic observance of Hanukkah as the lighting of the menorah, placing it in the window for others to see and to remember the struggle of Jews to maintain their Jewishness throughout the centuries.

Hanukkah ranks as one of the minor holidays of Judaism but has taken on important overtones due to media coverage and because it falls so near Christmas, Abrams said.

"Because there's a natural assumption that Christmas is so important to Christians, Hanukkah must be that important to Jews," he said. "And it simply isn't."

"In Hanukkah, Jews now as a regular matter give gifts. That isn't a traditional part of the observance," Abrams said.

"American Jews have more and more been doing it and do it almost universally, I think, because it's done by Christians and it's almost expected in our society," he said.

Rabbi Capland explained it is traditional to give children small gifts of money to encourage them to rededicate their lives.

"You know, children need some kind of motivation beyond the spiritual," he said.

Encouragement for Ohio State students comes from a mobile menorah the House of Tradition circulates through the campus area.

"On campus, kids need a little more reminder. They get involved in day-to-day campus activities and forget about the Jewish calendar," he said.
OSU Jewish center to mark new year

By Debra Mason
Dispatch Religion Reporter

For Julie Skolnik, 18, this month is more than the start of a new school year at The Ohio State University. It's a new year, too.

Skolnik of Montclair, N.J., is Jewish. The Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashana, celebrating a new year on the Jewish calendar, begins tonight at sundown.

Although the holidays are typically a time for families to be together, the timing of Rosh Hashana at the start of a school year makes it tough for students such as Skolnik to return home.

That's when she's glad for B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, 46 E. 16th Ave.

"I think it's easier to celebrate the holidays at home," said Skolnik, whose father is a Reform movement rabbi.

"But Hillel provides the best thing they can."

Hillel is a Jewish student outreach group that has the second-largest program arm of any student activity group at OSU — although only 3,500 of its nearly 60,000 students are Jewish. Hillel offers weekly student-led worship services.

It is also a place for Jewish students to socialize, buy kosher meals, study and develop leadership skills, said Rabbi Steven D. Abrams, executive director. All the programs are student-directed.

For Skolnik, it means a place to get support when she asks to take a midterm exam on a different day because it is scheduled on Yom Kippur.

It also means that while her non-Jewish sorority sisters are frolicking on a Jewish holiday, she has a refuge.

Ironically, Abrams said the timing of the holidays at the beginning of the school year can be a problem for Hillel, because students mistakenly...
think all Hillel provides are services.

"What happens is a lot of Jewish students see religion as a threat, and one of the biggest reasons people say they don't come to Hillel is that it's religious and they aren't religious," Abrams said.

"But you can be totally not religious and still benefit from what Hillel offers."

Last year, more than 600 people attended Hillel's Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services. This year, rabbis or rabbinical students will visit to lead Rosh Hashana celebrations.

Rosh Hashana is a joyful celebration of the Jewish new year, 5750. It starts a period known as the High Holy Days that end with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, at sundown Oct. 9.

Services of all three major Jewish movements — Reform, Conservative and Orthodox — are offered weekly at Hillel. But Abrams, an Orthodox rabbi, said the group tries to avoid affixing labels to students.

"We feel an obligation to create an environment that no matter what the background or religion has been, that they feel comfortable here," Abrams said.

The OSU Hillel is one of 450 nationwide, and it was among the earliest to organize when it was founded in 1926.

It is supported by B'nai B'rith and receives support from the Columbus Jewish Federation. Unlike synagogues, where memberships are bought, Hillel does not have fees for students except for things such as its daily lunch and dinner kosher meal service, Abrams said. Students who live in the area and belong to a synagogue are encouraged to attend it for services.

Hillel is not OSU's only Jewish student outreach center. The other is the Chabad House of Tradition, 57 E. 14th Ave., operated by Rabbi Chaim Capland. The House of Tradition is affiliated with a Hasidic group and reaches mostly Orthodox students.
Jews concerned about controversial speaker

By David Sonderman
Latern staff writer

Local Jewish community members have voiced concern about the recent speaking engagement of Stokely Carmichael and Wednesday's scheduled appearance of Rabbi Meir Kahane at Ohio State.

Carmichael, now named Kwame Toure, who was a member of the black liberation movement in the 1960s, spoke at the Frank W. Hale Jr. Black Culture Center last Thursday as part of Black History Month.

Rabbi Meir Kahane, who heads the anti-Arab Kach movement, will speak Wednesday morning at the Ohio Union instead of at the B'nai Brith Hillel Foundation. The foundation decided not to allow Kahane to speak there because they felt his views were too controversial.

Kahane is a former member of the Israeli Knesset and his outlawed movement calls for the removal of all Arabs living in Israel.

Rabbi Steven Abrams, director of the Hillel Foundation, said, "(Kahane) is very controversial and we have within the community a wide range of members (from) those who actively support him and are encouraging him to speak to people who are actually discouraging him."

"Frankly, Hillel falls in the middle. The student activities board debated it long and hard, several times. (The board) decided that while he had the right to speak, they didn't feel that it was important for them to offer him the opportunity to speak here. They encouraged him to speak in the Ohio Union, a neutral place," he said.

David Bernstein, a senior majoring in philosophy and member of the foundation, said, "We would not give him a forum in which to speak because he is a racist and those are not the type of ideas that we wish to display."

"Even though we are a private organization, not a university funded organization, it still would not serve and facilitate positive relations on campus (to have him speak) and there's no reason why someone like that should have a forum to express his views," Bernstein said.

Motti Levy, an Israeli emissary to the Columbus Jewish Federation, said, "He is not legitimate in Israel."

"Kahane is not part of the Israeli society. Some of the American people - they really don't understand that he represents less than one percent of the population," he said.

Abrams said the reason for their decision was that if somebody expresses an offensive point of view at an organization's location, the organization will be associated with that point of view.

"We didn't want to give the incorrect image and perception that what he was saying represented Hillel," Abrams said.

Some Hillel members opposed Ohio State's funding of Stokely Carmichael's visit last Thursday.

Bernstein, who attended Carmichael's speech, said, "Our main objection is not that he spoke, because we're definitely supportive of free speech. Our main objection is that he was funded by the university to speak and that he's a known racist."

Tina Sullivan Love, director of student minority services for Black Student Programs, said Carmichael was paid a $2,000 honorarium and one-way transportation for the speaking engagement.

"Both Kahane and Carmichael are racists," Bernstein said.

Even though both have the right to speak, he said the funding by the university of Carmichael's speech is not right in his eyes.

"If the university were to actively fund Kahane and give him a forum to speak in public, give him money, then I would protest that, just as I would protest Carmichael," Bernstein said.

He said it is not an issue of free speech, but an issue of the university spending student money for a speaker with racist views.

"He (Carmichael) advocates the annihilation of the state of Israel and therefore advocates genocide. At the speaking engagement at Ohio State, he made statements to the effect that Zionists control the American government, Zionists control the economy," Bernstein said.

"For example, in 1986 in Maryland he made the statement that 'the only good Zionist is a dead Zionist,'" Bernstein said.

"We object to the fact that he was supported by Ohio State and (we) would also object to a speaker from the KKK being supported by Ohio State or a speaker from the Neo-Nazis supported by Ohio State. And perhaps worst of all, he does not speak in the spirit of positive racial relations and Jewish black relations," Bernstein said.

"It's a shame that someone like Carmichael has to stand as an obstacle rather than facilitate positive relations between Jews and blacks," Bernstein said.

Abrams said it is good that ideas are debated and discussed in the university environment, but when controversial speakers are brought in who may be offensive to various ethnic groups, the university should not fund them.
Blacks, Jews must overcome prejudice

By Sonja S. Peterson
Lantern staff writer

Blacks and Jews must work to overcome their prejudices about one another before the groups can mutually benefit one another, said Julius Lester, professor of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Lester spoke Thursday on “Blacks and Jews in American History.” The program was sponsored by the Black/Jewish Dialogue, an affiliate of OSU B’nai B’rith Hillel’s Jewish Student Activities Board.

In recent years, many black people have accused Jews of racism, and many Jews have accused blacks of anti-Semitism, Lester said.

“Each group accuses the other of sin, without looking at their own sin first,” he said.

People are responsible for resolving their own prejudices, he said. There needs to be dialogue within the groups before the blacks and Jews can effectively discuss the problems with each other.

Each group has suffered and each must use that suffering to reach out to the other group and try to help them, Lester said.

It is important for blacks and Jews to remember what they have in common with each other, Lester said.

Historically, black people and Jews have the common experience of forced separation from their homeland, political subjugation and segregation, Lester said.

Jews and blacks came together to fight for civil rights in the 1960s, Lester said. Jewish support was crucial to creating the liberal climate which allowed for the passage of the 1964 civil rights acts and the 1965 voting rights acts.

“Those blacks who today aren’t willing to acknowledge how vital Jewish support was, defame history and themselves,” Lester said.

The coalition was weakened because it was one-sided. Many Jews did not want to extend to blacks what they did not question for themselves, namely separate organizations, he said. When blacks created their own organizations, Jews became outraged and many accused the blacks of anti-Semitism.

This was the result of differences in the black and Jewish experience in the United States, Lester said.

Blacks were brought to the United States as slaves, Lester said. Jews came seeking freedom from the oppression of European governments.

Blacks are discriminated against on the basis of skin color, Jews are not, he said.

Jews can choose to be white and secular, he said, and blacks can not.

Economic opportunities are better for Jews. It is possible for Jewish people to resolve economic differences through hard work, Lester said.

Blacks cannot assume that even now.

“For many blacks, American Jews are just another brand of white people,” Lester said.

Julie Skolnik, a sophomore from Montclair, N.J. majoring in social work, was the chairperson for the event. She said the Black/Jewish Dialogue group would like to start some discussions within the two groups about prejudice.

“Our focus is to bring about a climate where there can be dialogue,” she said.

Blacks and Jews should be interested in one another, if only to learn more about other cultures.

Everyone knows enough about white, Christian history, she said. There should be more understanding of black and Jewish history.

Minorities are pitted against each other too often in this country, Skolnik said. Building coalitions is necessary to gain power.
Wexner gives to Hillel Foundation

By Julie M. Low
Lantern staff writer

Leslie H. Wexner, an OSU trustee and founder of The Limited Inc., will be giving “a major gift” to the OSU B’nai B’rith Hillel Foundation, which is currently conducting a money-making campaign with a $4.5 million goal, according to a spokesperson from the Wexner Foundation.

The announcement of the gift, including the amount, will be made today at 2:30 p.m. in the President’s Board Room, Bricker Hall 205, said spokesperson Deborah Rozansky.

OSU President E. Gordon Gee and Wexner will be present at a news conference, in addition to representatives from the Wexner Foundation and the Hillel Foundation, Rozansky said.

“The gift is not just a drop in the bucket. It’s a very planned gift that will provide ongoing support,” Rozansky said.

The Wexner Foundation, based in Columbus, was organized five years ago to “improve the quality of professional Jewish leadership in the North American Jewish community,” Rozansky said.

The money the Hillel Foundation receives will be used in three different ways, said Rabbi Steve Abrams, executive director for the Hillel Foundation.

First and foremost, about $3 million of the money raised will be used to build a new Jewish student center on the site of the current center at 46 E. 16th Ave., Abrams said.

Abrams said the current building, built in 1948, no longer meets the needs of the foundation.

David Benish, a senior and a member of the Jewish Student Activities Board at Hillel, said he is very excited about the new center that will be built.

“The new center will be very conducive to student programming. Every program at Hillel will have its own private space,” Benish said.

The new center will be three stories high and contain about 24,000 square feet, Abrams said. It will house a lounge, a cafe, a library, a conference center with an auditorium, student and staff offices, a kitchen, recreation rooms and possibly a gymnasium, he added.

“We want the new center to have the look and feel of a home and the facilities of a student union,” Abrams said.

About $500,000 of the money raised will go toward an endowment to maintain the center, Abrams said. This endowment will be put in a bank, and only the interest will be spent on the center’s upkeep.

The remaining $1 million of the $4.5 million goal will go toward a program endowment, Abrams said. The interest on this money will be made available for student programs and activities.

“This endowment program is unique and exceedingly important for programs that are constantly scrounging for funds,” Rozansky said. “It’s monetary support in an ongoing fashion.”

Abrams said Wexner’s gift, along with other contributions, will make the Hillel Foundation’s plans possible, although it will still need to raise about $1 million to reach the goal.
Wexner gives $1.5 million to OSU group

By Darris C. Blackford
Dispatch Religion Reporter

The B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at The Ohio State University has received its largest single gift, $1.5 million, from the Wexner Foundation.

The foundation, formed by Leslie H. Wexner, founder and chairman of The Limited, and his mother, Bella Wexner, announced the gift at the university yesterday.

The money will be used for construction of a $3 million Hillel building and for student programs.

The Hillel, founded in 1925, is one of more than 100 such campus foundations nationwide and provides programs and services to the university's approximately 3,500 Jewish students.

Rabbi Steven Abrams, executive director of the Hillel Foundation, said the Wexner gift is the largest his group has received and ranks among the largest gifts given to any Hillel foundation in the country.

A $4.5 million fund-raising campaign by the OSU Hillel is under way. Including the Wexner gift, $3.35 million has been raised.

"Ohio State is important to me," said Wexner, an OSU graduate and a member of the university's Board of Trustees. "It's a good day for me, hopefully a good day for Ohio State Hillel."

Of the Wexner gift, $1 million will go toward construction of the building, which will be named the Wexner Jewish Student Center.

The building will have lounges and meeting rooms, a library and study areas, kosher kitchens and a cafe, recreational facilities, a commuter student center, auditorium and campus conference center.

The remaining $500,000 given by Wexner will go toward an endowment for student programs and must be matched by Hillel.

Gordon Gee, OSU president, said the gift will help Hillel become a model for other student organizations both at the university and across the country.

"This is a shining moment on top of a very tall hill that has a beacon on it," Gee said, "and that beacon is Les Wexner."
Wexner gives $1.5 million to B’nai B’rith

By Julie M. Low
Latern staff writer

The Wexner Foundation’s gift of $1.5 million to the OSU B’nai B’rith Hillel Foundation constitutes one of the largest gifts received by any Hillel foundation across the country,” according to Rabbi Maurice Corson, Wexner Foundation’s president.

The Wexner Foundation, which was created by OSU Trustee Leslie H. Wexner, founder of The Limited Inc, and his mother, Bella Wexner, announced the gift Friday at a news conference attended by both Wexner and OSU President E. Gordon Gee.

The “cornerstone gift,” which includes $1 million toward the construction of a new $3 million Jewish student center and a $500,000 challenge grant toward a $1 million program endowment, brings Hillel’s campaign to within 25 percent of its $4.6 million goal, said Bradley Kasten, a member of the Hillel Building Committee.

The new building will be named the Wexner Jewish Student Center, Kasten said.

“The Wexner name on our building will provide us with an invaluable asset—the name that signifies a tradition of quality, integrity and excellence,” Kasten said.

“This gift embodies two of my most important philanthropic commitments—my alma mater, Ohio State University, to which I have the privilege of serving as a trustee, and the Jewish community, which is the central focus of the Wexner Foundation,” Wexner said.

Conditions to Wexner’s gift include that the $500,000 going toward the program endowment must be matched dollar for dollar by the Hillel Foundation, according to a statement released by the Hillel Foundation. Hillel must also develop a strategic plan to uncover program and staffing priorities for the use of the money from the program endowment, said Nelson Genahoff, chairman of the Hillel Foundation’s fundraising campaign.

According to OSU President E. Gordon Gee, Wexner’s gift will touch the lives of Jewish students as well as all OSU students.

“The gift to Hillel is exceptional in its generosity and scope. The program endowment, in particular, should become a model for other student organizations, both here at Ohio State and nationally,” Gee said.

Elisa Jo Silverman, senior and president of the Jewish Student Activities Board, spoke at the news conference.

“This new building will give Jewish students a home to feel comfortable in, proud of, and excited about,” Silverman said.

“It will allow Hillel to become more recreational which in turn will interest a whole new group of students that may not already be involved,” she added.
Shining bright

Shawn Fink, a junior from Beachwood majoring in communication, lights the Hanukkah menorah Thursday night at the Hillel Foundation on East 16th Avenue.
Hillel plans sit-in

By Tom McKeel
Lantern staff writer

Members of the Hillel Foundation, a non-university organization for Jewish students, are planning a sit-in at the Lantern offices if the editorial staff decides to run an editorial that challenges the historical conception of the German Holocaust.

The editorial, staff is expected to decide today if it will publish an editorial that claims the German Holocaust was a "hoax."

Hillel members gathered at their headquarters on East 16th Avenue after learning about the possible publication of the editorial.

Members of the Hillel Foundation have accused the Lantern of being "insensitive" and of "going out of their way to print" the advertisement, according to member Julie Skolnik, a senior majoring in women's studies.

Skolnik began to organize a sit-in and plan strategies to combat the hatred the group said would spread as a result of the editorial.

The editorial, which was written by Bradley Smith, a member of the Committee for Open Discussion on the Holocaust based in California, claims that Jews and members of other racial and religious groups died from diseases, not at the hands of Nazi execu-

See Hillel / Page two

tioners.

Skolnik said she expects hundreds of people to turn out for the sit-in if the Lantern editorial staff decides to publish Bradley's opinion.

They plan to sit in the hallway outside of the Lantern office and the newsroom and have guest speakers scheduled, Skolnik said. She billed the protest as a "teach-in."

Ohio State does not have any specific policies dealing with sit-ins, according to OSU Police Capt. Joseph Gaynor. He said that protests are usually disbanded only if they are disrupting class or "blocking a facility for the furtherance of the university."

Originally, the editorial was to be published as a full-page, paid advertisement.

After the School of Journalism Publication Committee voted 5 to 4 against publishing the advertisement, the editorial staff discussed running the ad as an editorial.

OSU administration can stop publication of Lantern material only if it is deemed to be an invasion of privacy or libelous by the newspaper's editor or an attorney.

While the Publication Board listened to testimony in favor of and against publishing the advertisement, about 250 people sat in the lobby outside of the meeting room.

Some of those who were demonstrating at the sit-in carried signs like "My grandmother is not a liar" and "Is this 1933 Berlin or 1992 Columbus?" Students and community members listened to rabbis and relatives of survivors of the Holocaust.

"You spend one hour with my father, and you will know the Holocaust happened," said Lisa Weisman, a senior majoring in psychology.

She told her fellow protesters that the last time her father saw his parents and two cousins was in a Nazi concentration camp.

Weisman said she was "appalled and shocked" that the Lantern even considered publishing the advertisement.

She said she was also protesting on behalf of the five million non-Jewish people who were killed because of their sexuality, race or religion.

The Undergraduate Student Government passed a resolution yesterday, supporting the Publication Board's decision not to publish the advertisement.

The resolution also urged Lantern staff "not to take any actions regarding the advertisement...that would in any manner lend credibility or acceptance to (the ad's) patently false statements and beliefs."
Local leaders react to content of Holocaust ad

By Michelle Johnson
Lantern staff writer

Community leaders are appalled and shocked at the advertisement by Bradley Smith, which questions the widely accepted account of the Holocaust, that has made its way to Ohio State.

Rabbi Steven Abrams, director of the Hillel Foundation, said he had been aware of this ad for a long time and has been waiting to see if it would become an issue at Ohio State. The ad has already been mailed to other Big Ten schools, he added.

Abrams said he is appalled at the ad because Smith has made up an entire theory, and now Smith is trying to gain legitimacy for his theory by getting college papers to run the ad. He said the real issue and purpose of the ad are carefully cushioned and constructed.

The real issue of the ad is that Jews have been getting what they want by making up the Holocaust and the concept of the German monstrosity, Abrams said. Smith’s purpose is to incite people to bigotry and hatred against Jews, Abrams said.

Alan S. Katchen, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League of B’nai Brith, said he does not want to see the legitimization of filth and lies. He said if this ad continues to run across the country, children 25 years from now will question the history of Jewish people.

Bradley Kastan, chairman of the Community Relations Council of the Columbus Jewish Federation and an OSU alum, agrees that the ad will give Smith the forum for people to listen.

Kastan said he feels the ad incites hate, racism and anti-Semitism.

Katchen agreed. He said the ad is obscene, bizarre and untrue.

Julie Skolnik, chairperson of Children of Holocaust Survivors at Hillel, said it is painful to hear and see the things printed in the ad.

"As chairperson, it is upsetting beyond comprehension that people could propose that the Holocaust did not take place," Skolnik said.

Skolnik, a senior from New Jersey majoring in Women’s Studies, said she tries to teach people about the Holocaust and to speak out against lies and hatred.

"If you do not speak out or condemn acts of hatred, you allow it to happen again," Skolnik said.

Michael Landy, program director at Hillel, said he feels the ad is stating something that is completely untrue. The Holocaust is true and has been proven in a court of law, he added.

Katchen agreed. He said the Holocaust is not debatable because there are records and historical documents to prove that it happened.

Landy said he sees Smith as a promoter of the hatred and bigotry that Hillel is working as a group to prevent.

"We strongly disagree (with the ad), and we know the Holocaust is something that happened as a front to the people who have died," Landy said.

Landy added that an ad saying blacks created slavery for sympathy would never run in a newspaper because Americans know slavery was true. He said he does not understand how a newspaper could run an ad which promotes lies against Jews.

Samuel Gresham Jr., president and chief executive officer of the Columbus Urban League, said this ad will affect every community, including the black community. He said there is a remote chance the hatred could carry over towards blacks.

"If you do not speak out or condemn acts of hatred, you allow it to happen again," Skolnik said.

"— Julie Skolnik, chairperson of Children of Holocaust Survivors at Hillel

Gresham said this same kind of propaganda has been put out on the black community. He said a television show on Columbus’ access cable channel, titled Race and Reason, questioned the intelligence of black people.

Gresham said he did not object to the running of the show because the Columbus Urban League does counter-programming right after the program."
OSU group warns others about Holocaust ad

By Tim Doulin
Dispatch Higher Education Reporter

A Jewish student group at The Ohio State University is going on the offensive to teach Jewish students on other campuses about a man who disputes the Holocaust.

The B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation is putting together an information packet about Bradley R. Smith, who has been trying to get an advertisement questioning the occurrence of the Holocaust published in college newspapers across the country.

The advertisement touched off a controversy last week when it went to the Lantern, the OSU campus newspaper.

"We are trying to do the legwork ahead of time, so that when the advertisement arrives on the next campus they will know what they are up against," said Shawn Fink, vice president of Hillel's Jewish Student Activities Board.

The packet will include information about Smith from the Anti-Defamation League and the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles and press clippings on the flap about the advertisement at OSU.

Hillel plans to advertise the information packet in Campus Connection, a Washington-based newsletter for Hillel groups. About 450 Hillel affiliates are on college campuses in the United States.

The OSU journalism school's publications committee, a faculty-student board overseeing the student newspaper, voted 5-4 to reject the advertisement. The student editorial board, however, decided to run the text of the advertisement opposite its editorial page.

That led to a sit-in at the journalism building and a call for the resignation of the student editor, faculty adviser and business manager of the newspaper.

Smith's views received bigger play in the Lantern than in most campus newspapers, said Susan Behrend Jerison, coordinator of community affairs for the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations in Washington.

Hillel is encouraging its leaders to meet with campus newspaper editors who may be considering running Smith's advertisement.

"The message we want to get across is that you don't have to publish everything that comes across your desk," Jerison said.

"There is work being done where Hillel leaders are quietly working with editors and explaining why the Jewish community is reacting the way it is, that the advertisement is a pack of lies and inciteful to the Jewish community."
Renowned Nazi hunter speaks at Ohio Union

By Stacey Silver

Klarsfeld, a German-born French woman, has a worldwide reputation for unmasking former Nazis.

Klarsfeld has been hunting down Nazi criminals and bringing them to justice in courts of law in Germany and France since 1968, according to a released statement.

Klarsfeld revealed to the public the Kurt-George Kiesinger connections to the Nazis in 1968.

That incident made her a leader in the drive to unmask war criminals that are currently serving in governments, industries and other businesses around the world.

Klarsfeld addressed a packed crowd in the East Ballroom of The Ohio Union Thursday evening. Listeners ranged from OSU students to community members from Columbus and Upper Arlington. It was sponsored by the Hillel Foundation and the City of Upper Arlington.

The Mayor of the City of Upper Arlington, Virginia Barney, introduced Klarsfeld and spoke of her having a great amount of courage, admiration and devotion to her work.

Klarsfeld and her husband aided in the discovery of former Nazi Captain Klaus Barbie, "the butcher of Lyon," in South America. Barbie was later taken to France where he stood trial.

She said many of these criminals people read about in books.

"It took a long time to investigate, years and years and years. But to put the criminals where they belong is important to me," Klarsfeld said.

"I could not allow the criminals of the past to get away without proper punishment. Whatever I can do to help, I will," she said.

"My actions might be a turn to the past but it is also a turn to the future," Klarsfeld said.

Barney said the community needs to focus on what happened in the past concerning the Nazis and not to forget the horrors involved for so many people.

"We have come a long way with recognizing and remembering the past, but we still have a long way to go," Barney said.

We all need to learn about intolerance and what one can do to prevent forms of hatred happening again, Klarsfeld said.

Jenny Werber, a junior from East Lansing, Mich. said, "She is an amazing person and just knowing about her and knowing who I was listening to makes a big difference in my reactions."

"I felt proud hearing a woman with her international knowledge and courage speaking to us," Werber said.
Hillel Foundation sponsors fundraising carnival

By Marci Kantrowitz
Lantern staff writer

Club Magnifique, a fundraiser sponsored by the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation and the Jewish Students Activities Board, is open to the entire campus today at 8 p.m. Booths, raffles, music and food will be available at this carnival in the Hillel parking lot.

Anyone can stop by to see what is going on without purchasing passes, but in order to buy food, play games or do anything else at the carnival, tickets will be required.

Tickets can be purchased in advance from JSAB members or at Hillel for $5. These passes allow attendants to receive 15 tickets when they come to the carnival. For $5 at the door, 10 tickets can be purchased. Additional tickets may be purchased throughout the evening.

This is the first year Club Magnifique has been a carnival. The eight previous years it has been a casino night, said Tal Frank, co-chair of the event.

Frank said about 250 people have shown up for each of the past carnivals.

"We're hoping for at least that many people and more," he said. "I'm really excited about it. It's going to be a real fun atmosphere. We're hoping to attract a lot of people," Frank said.

Club Vice-chair Julie Green said she is excited about the carnival for different reasons.

"This program is open to everyone - it doesn't matter if you're Jewish or not. Everyone can, and we hope will, attend," Green said. "The carnival theme is a new way to get people from all over campus together. It's not just a regular party."

Green said that usually the JSAB and Hillel do so many Jewish programs and identity programs that the carnival open-invitation atmosphere will make a good balance.

Club co-chair Rachel Bernard said one way the organizers tried to get more students involved was to invite several Greek houses to run some of the booths.

"A lot of the houses have booths left over from Greek Week and we asked them to save them to help us out," Bernard said.

The Club Magnifique committee is not able to list the exact houses that will be participating because all of the details have not yet been confirmed.

Everyone on the committee agreed that organizing such a large event has been difficult.

"We have a young crew of students putting this thing together, and it is a challenge to do this because it is a new program as well," said Frank. "We got a lot of support from other students at Hillel, which was a big help."

Frank said many gift certificates ranging from $10 to $30 were donated from area retailers to be given as prizes.
Anti-Semitism surfaces again at OSU

Hillel Foundation is most recent target of vandals’ attacks

By Joel Hunt
Lantern staff writer

Anti-Semitism has again found its way to the OSU area.

The B’Nai B’Rith Hillel Foundation, 48 E. 16th Ave., was covered with anti-Semitic graffiti late Monday night, only three days after Alpha Epsilon Pi, a Jewish fraternity, was vandalized with similar graffiti.

Liz Kafle, program director for Hillel, said phrases like “Jesus Christ is Lord” and “Jews are prejudice against Palestinians and Christians” were painted on the building’s front door when she arrived at the foundation.

“This is really frightening because in the last 72 hours, there have been three anti-semitic incidents in Ohio . . . two here at Ohio State,” Kafle said.

“When we have public figures like Marge Schott saying prejudice remarks, it helps legitimize prejudice,” Kafle said.

Earlier this week Cincinnati Reds’ owner Marge Schott was accused of being a racist and was quoted as saying “Hitler was good in the beginning, but he went too far.”

Anita Horwitz, a senior from Indianapolis and member of Hillel, said there are about 3,500 Jewish students on campus whose lives may be threatened if this behavior continues.

“I have a very Jewish last name and I’m scared to tell it to people because of the prejudice,” Horwitz said. “I’m grateful for my nametag at work . . . it only has my first name.”

Doron Avizov, a sophomore from New York and member of Hillel said, “What are they trying to accomplish? Do they want us to repent. You wonder when it will be someone’s head.”

Jacob Dobres, a sophomore from Mayfield Heights and member of Hillel, said Hillel just sponsored a multi-culturalism seminar to educate students about racism and anti-semitism. Dobres said the people who attended already understand the problems of racism and anti-semitism.

“We need to find a more effective way of educating everyone, not just those who are interested,” Dobres said.

Malcom Baroway, executive director for University Communications, said OSU President E. Gordon Gee has been meeting with people to discuss incorporating sensitivity training on racism and anti-semitism into UVC classes.

This is really frightening because in the last 72 hours there have been three anti-Semitic incidents in Ohio . . . two here at Ohio State.”

—Liz Kafle

Anti-Semitic graffiti on the door of the B’Nai B’Rith Hillel Foundation building reads “Jews are prejudiced against Palestinians and Christians.”
2nd anti-Semitic graffiti incident reported

By Tim Doulin
Dispatch Staff Reporter

For the second time in less than a week, Jews in the Ohio State University area were the targets of vandalism.

Anti-Semitic graffiti was scrawled on the front doors of the Hillel Foundation, 46 E. 16th Ave. Workers at the foundation discovered the vandalism when they arrived at work yesterday.

Columbus police do not believe the same people are responsible for the incident and anti-Semitic vandalism that occurred over the weekend at the house of Alpha Epsilon Pi, a Jewish fraternity chapter at OSU.

The words 'Jews are prejudice against Christians,' and 'Jesus Christ is Lord' were written with a chalky white substance on the glass doors of the foundation.

Rabbi Steve Abrams, Hillel director, advocates education to stem the tide of anti-Semitic incidents, but seemed exasperated by what he discovered upon arriving at the foundation yesterday.

"How do you create good will? How do you build a community that is inter-supportive?" Abrams asked.

"I don’t have those answers. Nobody does," he said.

Abrams believes that the incidents are related to anti-Semitic feelings circulating around the world.

"It seems when we feel stress in society, these things come out," Abrams said.

"Right now, across the world, there is so much stress. Instead of people holding it back, or feeling shame, they are feeling anger. It is a shame. It is a disaster of the human condition."

"All we can do is get out there again, and sensitize people and educate people that the fact that we live in a world of differences can be something that is beautiful."

Summit United Methodist Church, 82 E. 16th Ave., was similarly vandalized yesterday. The words 'Hypocrites,' 'The son of God has no home' and 'I was homeless and mentally ill and you threw me out' were written on the church's front doors and sidewalk.

Police are looking for a man who often visited Hillel and the church for counseling and support but was asked to stay away when he was repeatedly found in the women's restroom of the church.

"When he was asked not to come back a couple of weeks ago, he became belligerent and started shouting phrases similar to the ones found on the door and sidewalk, so we think he might be responsible," said Paul Moots, campus minister for the church.

Vandals may have decided to strike the Hillel Foundation after hearing about the vandalism at the fraternity house a few blocks away, said Alan Katchen, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

"When the fraternity incident went public, you ran the risk of a copycat factor. That may be the case here," Katchen said.

"But given the climate these days, people need to know about these incidents. That is the reality."

Columbus police are investigating the possibility that the weekend's vandalism of the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity house was an act of retaliation by another fraternity.

A swastika and anti-Semitic expressions were painted on the fraternity house at 1945 Indiana Ave., tar was poured on the front porch, and outside lights of the fraternity house were broken.

Harris Levinson, a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi, said the fraternity's pledges poured paint on statues of lions outside the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity house at 1934 Indiana Ave. last week as part of a prank.

Detective Wes Johnson of the Columbus police bias crime unit said Sigma Alpha Epsilon is being interviewed about the anti-Semitic incident.

Andy Flick, president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, dated the incidents between the fraternities to Nov. 23. He said Alpha Epsilon Pi members, during a prank that night, broke a picture window at Flick's fraternity house.

Flick said some members of his fraternity "may have returned the prank on Thursday night. However, the anti-Semitic messages were not placed on the (Alpha Epsilon Pi) house until Friday night, and no members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon were involved in any acts of vandalism on Friday night."

He said, "We maintain that no members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon are responsible for any anti-Semitic messages or emblems which defaced the AEPi fraternity house."
Fundraising campaign ends

A three-year fundraising campaign for the new "Wexner Jewish Student Center" has come to an end after raising $4.25 million.

"Celebration '93-Hillel is Happening" was the wind-up event held at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom June 24.

The new state-of-the-art facility will replace the old building at 46 E. 16th Ave. The original structure, built in 1949, was the first Hillel center in the nation built for the sole purpose of meeting the needs of Jewish students and faculty. There are 430 Hillel centers in the country.

"The Hillel center offers programs that are geared to reach out to students and provide a place for Jewish faculty and students to find a connection for their religion and spirit," said Jay Podolsky, the Hillel development director.

There are 3,500 Jewish students and 350 Jewish faculty at Ohio State, but only a small percentage of the Jewish population is active at the center, Podolsky said. It is the goal of the Hillel administration to increase involvement and awareness in the center, Podolsky said.

"Most Jewish students weren't raised with a lot of Jewish background, that is what Hillel will do, it will offer Jewish experience without intimidating them," said Daniel Frank, an OSU sophomore business major, who has been involved in raising contributions for the new center.

—Andrea Reedy
New Hillel director likes Columbus' diversity

By Audrey Tobin
Lantern staff writer

The new director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, a Jewish student organization on campus, has developed an affinity for the Buckeye capital after only two weeks on the job.

Joseph Kohane came to Ohio State after being the director of Hillel Foundation at the University of Michigan, one of the premier Hillels in the country.

Kohane, a native New Yorker, said he enjoys the diversity, variety and energy of the urban Columbus environment as a change from the predictability and homogeneity of Ann Arbor.

"The challenge of Hillel is to create an environment that answers people's needs so that people will respond and come. The stereotype, which is fading, is that Hillel is for only a certain type of student, that it concerns itself with a narrow area of interests, usually religious," Kohane said. "Really, Hillel should reflect the incredible diversity of the Jewish community."

Kohane recognizes the multicultural scope of Jewish students that come from many different backgrounds and beliefs. He sees Hillel as an umbrella organization for many diverse groups that represent the varied interests of the community.

There are approximately 3,500 Jewish students who attend Ohio State, according to the Student Guide to Jewish Life on Campus, put out by the national Hillel Foundation.

"Individuals have limited interests. More groups create a more dynamic and diverse community," Kohane said. "Having the same 30 students at all the events is not a desirable goal."

"There's an interdependence amongst all the groups — one without the other would hurt the richness of the whole community. Each needs the other to be stimulated and to stretch its own boundaries," Kohane said.

One of his efforts will be to create a critical mass of approximately 15 student groups that will reflect the concerns, needs and issues facing students today. It is the students who will bring other students in, he said.

This fall he hopes to hold meetings where all of the student groups that exist or don't exist, but should, will be represented. He hopes this will bring people in so he can see who is interested.

Elisa Silverman, a graduate student of social work from Cincinnati who was the president of Hillel's Jewish Student Activities Board in 1991, said that Hillel needs to respond better to the diversity of the Jewish population on campus. She said she was not satisfied with the integration of different views into Hillel in the past years.

Ohio State is following a small, but growing trend away from hiring a rabbi to run Hillels. The majority of Hillel directors are still rabbi, but now more than ever, graduation from rabbinical school does not guarantee all the skills needed to build a contemporary Hillel, Kohane said. Although it is helpful, he said, to have a familiarity with Judaica and to know where to go to seek information when it is needed.

Kohane's background is extremely varied. He attended a Chasidic Jewish day school until the eighth grade and a modern Orthodox Jewish high school. After graduating from Hunter College in Manhattan, Kohane spent a year at Hebrew Union College, a Reform rabbinical seminary, before opting for the modern, intellectual approach of a Judaic Studies masters degree from McGill University in Montreal. He said his education has taught him to feel at home with all backgrounds.

In addition to a new director, Hillel will have two new program directors this year. Randi Abrams, who developed a Hillel at Rhode Island schools, and Margaret Jelinek, a graduate student of psychology at Ohio State, will begin programming this fall.

The Hillel on 16th Avenue is being prepared for demolition and will be torn down the third week in August. Kohane said he expects the new building to be completed sometime in the fall quarter of 1994.

The Hillel offices are temporarily located at a subleased suite at 1880 High Street. The Fraternity Managing Association has offered its basement to be converted into a kosher kitchen where Hillel will continue to serve kosher dinners on weekdays. Summit church has agreed to rent some of its meeting rooms for some Hillel programs. Space has been reserved in the Ohio Union for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services.

Hillel has raised $4.5 million of its $5 million goal needed to build the new building. The cost for full implementation of the building plans would cost $5.2 million, however Hillel might not have the resources to complete the lower level as planned, Kohane said. The lower level was to include a weight room.

The new building will include a student activity center where 15 or 20 student groups will have the space and computer hardware and software available to plan and organize their activities. The other rooms will be multi-functional. They will not be used solely as a synagogue, temple or a home, but as a "dynamic place where the entire community will be able to plan for its own welfare," Kohane said.
OSU's Hillel leveled for new center

The walls of the Hillel Foundation building at Ohio State University came tumbling down yesterday to make way for a new structure at the same site, 46 E. 19th St. Hillel's new $5 million, state-of-the-art home, the Wexner Jewish Student Center, "will house a generation of programming that is unprecedented," said Joseph Kohane, director of the Foundation at OSU.

The original building was constructed in 1948 and dedicated a year later. Hillel Foundation has served the university's Jewish population for almost 50 years with services and cultural programs. There are about 4,000 Jewish students and more than 350 Jewish faculty members at OSU, said Jay Podolsky, development director for the project.

Three years of fund raising has brought the campaign near its $5 million goal.

The campaign has raised $4.6 million. Of that, $1.5 million came from the building's namesake, Leslie H. Wexner, chairman of The Limited. The rest has come from donations within the Jewish community.

Building planned for Hillel Foundation

"We will have the modern building to serve students until the end of this century and into the next," Kohane said.

With the completion of the new structure, "the Hillel Foundation of OSU is going to be a resource for cultural arts," Kohane said.

The center is slated to open in fall 1994. Until then, Hillel will use space nearby.
Stereotyping of Jews discussed

By Rachel Macks
Lantern Staff Writer

Ohio State's Hillel Foundation recently sponsored a program at a local sorority house that focused on the stereotyping and self-hatred of members of the Jewish community.

About 50 students and faculty members gathered Monday night at the Sigma Delta Tau sorority house, 121 E. 15th Ave., to hear William Vonhipel, assistant professor of social psychology at Ohio State, talk about these issues.

While the discussion was based primarily on the Jewish population, Vonhipel did discuss that all stereotypes are focused similarly and explained how stereotypes come from social comparison.

Vonhipel presented the fact that many victims of stereotypes take on the "typical" stereotype associated with their group and believe in it. Randi Abrams, Director of Hillel, said once the term "JAP" (Jewish American Princess) was created, many Jewish women began to have problems with their self-image.

A student who wished to remain anonymous said, "All in all, Jews are more likely to use the term "JAP" than non-Jews."

This led into the discussion about self-hatred. Vonhipel said self-hatred can bring about a variety of problems, especially among a minority.

He said, "The only way to bring a self-hated minority together is by external threat, which is a group problem."

Vonhipel described an experiment that was conducted at the University of Michigan, that monitored stereotypes in the making.

The results showed that someone who views themselves negatively is more likely to stereotype someone else.

Rabbi Joseph Cohen said the stereotyping of one group of Jews by another is unethical.

"If you hate yourself, any decision you make is a bad one and anything you do is not worthwhile," he said.

Jennifer Canowitz, a junior from Shaker Heights, gave as an example the fact that Jewish immigrants were called "Kikes" by well-established Jews, who viewed the new immigrants as uneducated and inferior.

Vonhipel said different groups that have race, sex, or religion in common can stereotype one another because each group has a different personality. "Self-hatred equals a loss of identity," Vonhipel said at the end of the program.
Faculty, students gather for peace in the Mideast

By Michelle Schaner
Lantern staff writer

About 25 students and faculty gathered on the Oval yesterday afternoon to show their support for a continued peace process in the Middle East.

"We are here to prepare for the peace that is to come," said Joseph Kohane, Hillel director. "We can practice over here what will be acted upon over there."

Many in the crowd specifically addressed last week's massacre in which an Israeli extremist opened fire on Muslims during a prayer session in the West Bank town of Hebron.

"These are extremist points of view, and they have to be stopped," said Julie Husaini Rafeedie, a member of the El-Birah Youth Organization. Rafeedie cited an increase in violence since the massacre, including a recent tear-gassing of a West Bank hospital that stalled hospital operations.

"It is a tragedy what has happened in Hebron. It is time to say, 'Enough of this, we have to work together,'" added OSU political science professor Donald Sylvan.

Rafeedie shared a story of peace between Arabs and Jews. She said her grandmother told her how Arabs and Jews in the West Bank town of Ramallah used to cook for one another during their respective holidays.

"What we are doing here today is an example of that happening again, of living side by side in peace," Rafeedie said.

A representative of the Islamic College group, Atiya Mobin-Uddin, said Israeli and Palestinian relations have always been based on a lack of trust and sincerity. Mobin-Uddin cited several passages from the Koran, the Islamic holy book: "But if the enemy incline towards peace, do you incline towards peace, and trust in God."

After the rally, Mobin-Uddin and Randi Abrams, program director of Hillel, took steps to change the current lack of relations between the Islamic and Jewish communities.

"We have agreed to begin an Islamic-Jewish dialogue and to encourage our government to take further action in Bosnia," Abrams said.
Hillel Foundation hosts award-winning film

By Kindra Peach
Lantern arts writer

“The Quarrel,” an award-winning film about the trials of two Holocaust survivors, will be at the Wexner Center for the Arts tonight at 7 p.m.

The Hillel Foundation, an organization dedicated to promoting Jewish life on campus, is showing the film, said Randi Abrams, program director for Hillel.

Set in Montreal during Rosh Hashanah in 1948, the story centers around two friends turned foes who meet by chance after being separated by the Holocaust. They immediately resume the argument that drove them apart 15 years earlier.

The film is based on the short story, “The Quarrel with Hershe Raseyner” by Yiddish novelist Chaim Grade.

“I was introduced to it about a year before I started work on it,” Brandes said. “I just knew what to do with it. Intellectually, it’s one of the most exciting pieces I’ve ever read.”

Grade’s short story focuses more on the argument than on the men themselves, which gave Brandes some freedom to create the two characters.

“The opportunity was there to create characters that were there. They are desperate for love and yet are compelled to fly apart. There’s something about these two characters that I found very compelling,” Brandes has gone through a few career changes in his time. He was a documentary filmmaker, then did a stint as a writer for “Fraggle Rock.” He wrote “The Dirt Bike Kid” and “Blood Roots”.

Brandes said he’s frequently asked in interviews if he is Jewish.

“I can’t imagine anyone who’s not Jewish making a film like this. It would be like making a picture of your family and not being in that family.”

Although the film is specifically Jewish, Brandes said the more specific you are, the more general you become.

“The picture really applies to anyone who likes to think,” he said.

“The Quarrel,” which was completed in 1992, has won nine awards, including first place at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival, first place at the Houston Film Festival and the Chris Award for Best Dramatic Adaptation. The film also was nominated for two Genie Awards, which are the Canadian version of Oscars, for Best Screenplay and Best Director.

Brandes has been travelling to various schools to promote and discuss his film, and said he “absolutely loves it.”

After his visit in Columbus, he is heading to Messiah College, a Christian school in Grantham, Pennsylvania.

“You’d be surprised at the Christian interest the film has received,” Brandes said.

Since making “The Quarrel,” Brandes has vowed to make only movies he would be proud to show his kids.

“There’s an old saying, ‘What comes from the heart, goes to the heart,’” he said. “I really believe that applies to the arts.”

A discussion and reception with Brandes will follow the screening.
Journalist to discuss black-Jewish relations

By Shannon Ledson  
Lantern staff writer

The relationship between blacks and Jews is going downhill, according to a recent book by a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist.

Jonathan Kaufman, a reporter for the Wall Street Journal, will speak today at the Ohio Union about his Pulitzer Prize winning book, "Broken Alliance: The Turbulent Times Between Blacks and Jews in America."

The speech, sponsored by the Hillel Foundation and the Columbus Urban League, is part of a series designed to educate the black and Jewish communities on the history of their relationship. The program hopes to promote a better understanding between the two groups.

"Broken Alliance" tells the stories of three blacks and three Jews whose lives have been affected by the hate existing between the two groups, Kaufman said.

Kaufman, who is Jewish himself, first became interested in the relationship between blacks and Jews when he attended a speech given by the Rev. Jesse Jackson. Afterwards, he realized Rev. Jackson's comments raised conflict with many of his Jewish co-workers.

Kaufman believes the conflict between Jews and blacks stems from the Civil Rights era.

Blacks and Jews shared a common interest because they both wanted equal treatment, he said. In their fight to find justice in the American system, blacks and Jews began fighting for their own self-interests rather than working together for a common cause, Kaufman said. This is the issue that ultimately separated them, he said.

"What these two groups must realize is diversity brings them together," Kaufman said.

Kaufman's book says conflict still exists today because the animosity has been passed on through the generations. As a result, today's blacks and Jews haven't given each other a chance to understand each other.

"Blacks and Jews really don't know each other at all," Kaufman said.

The relationship between the two groups will only improve if they get to know each other on a personal level, Kaufman said.

As America becomes more conservative, blacks and Jews will share a common interest in politics because both groups tend to be very liberal and largely democratic, Kaufman said.

Kaufman has spoken of the problems between blacks and Jews at Harvard, Yale, and The University of California at Los Angeles. He leads small discussion groups and asks broad questions in order to learn more about the problem, he said.

Some locations are chosen based on the amount of tension between blacks and Jews in the area, Kaufman said.

"OSU has a lot of Jewish and African-American students who need to learn now how to improve their relationship," he said.

Kaufman was invited by Hillel Program Director Randi Abrams in cooperation with the Undergraduate Student Government to speak on behalf of these issues.

Kaufman will address the topic "Where We've Been; Where We're Going" today in the East Ballroom of the Ohio Union. The lecture is open to the public and admission is free.
Black-Jewish conflict debated after speech

By Jason Homorody
Lantern staff writer

An author on campus to promote his book about Jewish-black relations in the U.S. wound up in a heated discussion with members of the Nation of Islam.

Jonathan Kaufman, reporter for the Wall Street Journal and author of "Broken Alliance: The Turbulent Times Between Blacks and Jews in America," spoke recently at the Ohio Union about the history of race relations between blacks and Jews. But when it came time for questions from the audience, the situation got tense.

Members of the Nation of Islam asked Kaufman questions about the slave trade, including who was responsible for bringing slaves to the United States.

"The Jews' involvement in the slave trade was insignificant compared to other races," Kaufman said.

"To contradict Kaufman's claims to Jews' involvement in the slave trade, members began quoting the book," "The Secret Relations Between Blacks and Jews." The book, published by the Nation of Islam, claims Jews were involved in financing much of the slave trade to America.

Following the speech, Michael Kass, editor-in-chief of the Jewish student publication Visions, said, "Every scholar on slavery has said "The Secret Relations Between Blacks and Jews" is pseudo-scholarly work."

Kaufman responded to everyone's questions, but by the end of the discussion, he began avoiding questions from the Nation of Islam members.

Earlier in the evening, Kaufman tried emphasizing the things both races have in common. He said both are large supporters of the Democratic party, both are a minority, and both worked together in the civil rights struggle in the 1960s. However, Kaufman said by the late 1960s both populations had divergent interests.

"Jews' top priority became Israel after the Six Day War, and the Black Power movement pushed many Jews out of the civil rights struggle," Kaufman said.

After the speech, Siri X, member of the Nation of Islam, said Jews historically controlled the civil rights movement because they controlled the money.

"The NAACP was founded by Jews and financed by them as well, so they controlled the agenda," Siri X said.

Kaufman went on to say Jesse Jackson's negative statements toward the Jewish community have split the two populations.

He said both populations can work together to accomplish great things such as electing the first black mayors in New York City, Philadelphia and Chicago.

"I disagree we have common interest and common historical interest. The only way for our populations to come together is for Jews in power to stop committing racism, and for Americans to give reparations for slavery," Siri X said.

Kaufman was still optimistic about solving the problems between blacks and Jews. "Jews worry about the situation more than blacks, but both are becoming more hostile and angry toward each other. A solution to the problem seems far away," Kaufman said.
Panel speaks out against Klan activities

By Amber Stephens
Lantern staff writer

While the Ku Klux Klan has the right to hate and march, they do not have the right to promote violence, according to a nationally known Klan opponent.

Morris Dees, founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, led a three member discussion panel Tuesday at the Ohio Union entitled “Hate Underground. The New Klan: Seeing Through Their Rhetoric.” The panel discussed the Klan’s new mainstream image.

“They are trying to get across the image that they are mainstream if they dress up in these coats and ties and look less ominous,” Dees said.

Dees’ Southern Poverty Law Center takes white supremacist groups to civil court. In 1987, the organization won a $7 million judgment against the United Klans of America for lynching a black youth. The award left the Klan near bankruptcy.

Panelist Benson Wolman, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union, represented the Klan when they rallied at the Ohio Statehouse in October 1993. Wolman said the Klan should voice their opinions in public instead of leading an underground movement.

“I’d just as well have them out there so we know who they are and what they stand for,” he said. “It serves the community to know who they are.”

Wolman said he defended the Klan because it’s important to protect freedom of speech even for hate groups. According to Wolman, society should not have the ability to decide who gets to speak and what is allowed to be said.

Panelist Sam Gresham, president and CEO of the Columbus Urban League, said a change in the structure of the American economy has led to a resurgence of the Klan. Gresham said the organization is notorious for gaining power during poor economic times, such as after the Civil War and both World Wars.

“As we move towards cyber-space, social upheaval will occur in this society,” Gresham said. “The Klan will play a major role in that movement by satisfying the needs of desperate people.”

Dees agreed that a poor economy contributes to hate group membership, but added that people with poor self-esteem are likely to join these organizations regardless of the economy.

“They are individuals who hate because in some way it makes them feel better about themselves,” Dees said.

Gresham said people should feel sorry for members of hate groups.

“In reality they are a group of people who deserve pity,” he said. “There is nothing worse than being consumed by hate.”

Dees, whose office was burned down by the Klan in 1983, said the best way to stop the hate is to educate the public.

Dees said the Southern Poverty Law Center’s video tape, “Shadows of Hate,” has educated students in nearly 52,000 schools about racial intolerance and hate groups.

The event was sponsored by the Hillel Foundation and the Student Events Committee.
Professionals give students career tips at Hillel luncheon

By Lori Axelrod
Lantern staff writer

"Bagels and Billboards" was the theme of a student brunch held at The Hillel Foundation on Sunday that attempted to help students find successful careers in marketing, public relations, and advertising.

Members of The Young Jewish Professionals, who have particular expertise in these areas, spoke of their own personal experiences to students thinking of careers in related fields.

Amy Mittman, co-chairwoman of the program, said the event was an outreach to students interested in these careers.

"It's young Jewish professionals telling college-age students, who are almost ready to graduate and are planning on going into these fields, what it's like, how to get in, and gives students the opportunity to make a few connections," Mittman said.

"This is a great way for students to explore different career opportunities they are interested in and find more information about them through listening to people who are actually in the jobs rather than going to class and hearing about it," she said.

The program highlighted professionals who gave advice to the students.

While education is important, internships and experience are as crucial, said Michele Lavon, a freelance marketing and advertising consultant.

Perseverance is the key to finding success in career-searching, Lavon said. Students should not take it personally when people say they do not have time to help.

"You will get frustrated, and there will be people who just won't reach out their arm to help, and you will be thinking, 'Why can't they just help me? What's the big deal?'" Lavon said.

Employers are looking for experience from college graduates, said Ruth Sanford, who works in the sales end of advertising.

"It seems that managers like to hire you if you have media experience," Sanford said.

Although it is very hard to break into the business, Sanford said she has found that "once you are in, you are in, no matter how good or bad you are."

Scott Goldberg, board member of the Young Jewish Professionals, said "Bagels and Billboards" is an opportunity for students to meet young professionals in different career paths.

"We are bringing in people who have various exposures within that broad range," Goldberg said. "I think it gives students a chance to maybe get a better focus of what they really want to do and at least expose themselves to some ideas they probably weren't aware of."

Some students enjoyed the program and found that it was helpful.

Julie Solomon, a senior majoring in communications, said the program was beneficial to teaching students the right steps to take once they are out in the working field.

"It gave me a little more faith in my ability to obtain the job that I am really interested in," Solomon said. "I think any resources you need, you have to find yourself. It's not spoon-fed to us, but it's a good lesson on how it's going to be from now on."

Betsy Hoffman, a senior in arts and sciences, said the program provided the right information she needed for her job search.

"It's invaluable information to help guide students," Hoffman said. "It gave me tips and techniques I needed to put me ahead of another candidate for a job. Whether or not I decide to go into this field, the information was helpful for any career choice I make."
PASSOVER
Festival given a new flavor

By Nancy J. Smeltzer
Dispatch Staff Reporter

Jewish students at Ohio State University know how to fill the seats at their annual pre-Passover seder: The menu is all chocolate.

The third annual seder yesterday at the B'ni B'rith Hillel Foundation, 46 E. 15th Ave., drew more than 40 students to the chocolate-laden banquet table.

The seder feast commemorates the exodus of the Jews from Egypt.

Three years ago, five students — all members of the Jewish social group Ruach — planned the menu and wrote a Haggadah, a narrative about the seder and the exodus.

Where the traditional seder relies on wine, matzo and parsley, to name a few of the items, the chocolate seder relies on chocolate. Chocolate milk is substituted for the wine, matzo dipped in chocolate for the plain matzo and strawberries dipped in chocolate for the parsley.

And not one complaint as been lodged.

The group tries hard not to violate any laws of Passover, which is one reason why the chocolate seder is held a few days before the real one.

Ruach was looking for social activities to draw Jewish students together. A seder seemed to be the proper opportunity, but they wanted something with a twist.

The group originally toyed with the idea of having a pizza passover, but it gravitated toward the chocolate concept after hearing about seders for children that used a chocolate theme.

Peter Howard and Andy Shafar, friends from elementary school in Bexley, were among the core group that refined the seder to what it is today. Word of the success of their seder at Ohio State has traveled to other colleges, Howard said.

The Ruach Haggadah is part original, with pieces picked up with permission from other Haggadahs.

Preparation for last night's seder began weeks ago. Allison Rothkopf of Cleveland came back from spring break with her mother's double boiler and candy dishes; Howard raided his mother's Bexley kitchen for spatulas, bowls and mixers.

They had a few mishaps along the way, but a few calls to veteran cooks — also known as their moms — repaired the damage.

Alissa Glickman of Cleveland said the chocolate seder is a fun way to handle a tradition. She will participate in a seder at her family home next weekend. Her parents laughed when they learned of the chocolate seder but encouraged her to participate.

"They think it's good, she said. "I get to incorporate religion and fun and I like chocolate."
Assassination causes sorrow in OSU Jewish community

By Michael Striff
Lantern staff writer


Many powerful emotions surround Ohio State’s Jewish community in the wake of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin’s assassination late Saturday.

Rabin, who pioneered an unprecedented peace plan between Israel and several Arab nations, was shot three times, allegedly by a 27-year-old Jewish law student after a pro-peace rally in Tel Aviv.

“A great tragedy ... it’s almost inexplicable,” said Peter Howard, former president of the OSU Jewish social organization, Ruach.

“He died a martyr,” said Julie Rafeedie, a Palestinian-American and secretary of the OSU Arabic Club.

Michael Kass, an officer of the Hillel Foundation, OSU’s largest Jewish student organization, agreed.

“I oppose many aspects of the peace process, but I never thought anything bad should happen to Yitzhak Rabin,” Kass said.

Many Jewish students were shocked that a fellow Jew was the confessed killer.

“Why would anyone not want peace?” asked Jessica Garrett, a freshman from Bexley.

Howard also expressed disbelief that the assassin was a student, saying that young people have the most to gain from a lasting peace in the Middle East.

“Whether we’re in Israel or America, we all stand to benefit,” Howard said. “There is no price for peace, true peace,” he added.

Joseph Kohane, executive director of Hillel, was upset about Rabin’s death, but also was “relieved in a peculiar sense” that the assassin was Jewish because the peace plan can still be carried out.

“Had a Palestinian assassinated Rabin, how could we make peace with those people?”

But Jews may not be as apt to support the peace plan now that the uniquely trustworthy Rabin is gone, Kass said.

“Lots of people supported the peace process on the basis of the fact that it was Yitzhak Rabin pushing it,” Kass said.

Rabin was a war leader during several conflicts with Middle Eastern nations over the past half century. To many, that made Rabin the final authority on whether working for peace was necessary.

“The people trusted him,” Kass said. “We know he cared for Israel because he put his life on the line on the battlefield.”

“He was a tough guy,” Howard agreed.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who was the keynote speaker at OSU’s commencement last June, assumed Rabin’s role as prime minister.

OSU professor emeritus James Harf compared Rabin’s assassination to that of U.S. President John Kennedy in 1963.

“Both were strong men,” Harf said.

Harf predicted the plan for peace molded largely by Rabin will be implemented by the nations of the Middle East, just as much of the civil rights legislation backed by Kennedy was passed in honor of the dead president.

“Acts of terrorism have the opposite of the intended effect,” Harf said. “If anything, it (the peace process) will move forward, after a delay, a mourning period.”

Jewish students were confident justice for Rabin’s killing will be served in Israel’s legal system.

“Justice would be best served if they carry on the peace process,” Howard said. “That’s what Rabin was about.”

A memorial service for Rabin will be held at 7:30 tonight at the Hillel Foundation, 46 E. 16th Ave. The half-hour service is open to the public. For more information call 294-4797.
OSU community mourns loss of assassinated Jewish leader

By Ereca Miller
Lantern staff writer

Mourners gathered quietly Monday at the Hillel Foundation near the Ohio State campus to pay their respects to slain Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Some hugged each other in a sign of comfort, but most people showed little outward emotion at the Wexner Jewish Student Center.

More than 300 people from the OSU community showed up at the foundation's auditorium. It was standing room only for the service that lasted less than 30 minutes.

Rabin, an Israeli soldier of war-turned peacemaker, was assassinated Saturday by an opponent of his peace-making efforts. Rabin was leaving a pro-peace rally in Tel Aviv, Israel, when he was shot three times. Rabin was rushed to the hospital, but died about an hour later.

Joseph Kabane, executive director of OSU's Hillel Foundation, began the service by expressing shock and reminding everyone of how Rabin captured worldwide attention when he and PLO leader Yasser Arafat shook hands after signing the Middle East Peace Accord at the White House in 1993.

Michael Kass, student vice-president of OSU's Hillel Board of Trustees, spoke of Rabin's achievements, and called him the architect for peace in the Middle East.

"Rabin lived a soldier of war and died a soldier of peace," Kass said.

OSU President E. Gordon Gee spoke about his feelings of shock and questioned why Rabin was assassinated.

Gee spoke of Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who addressed OSU students during Spring Quarter commencement last year. Gee spoke of Peres' words of hope for his nation and prayers for peace. Peres is now acting prime minister of Israel following Rabin's death.

Gee said it's a hard to find understanding out of chaos.

"Rabin was the leader of Israel and a champion of peace," he said.

Jeremy Levine, a senior majoring in communications, said he has a better understanding of the peace process after attending the service.

"It is a tremendous loss," Levine said. "More students are now aware and in one day, for 300 people to show up, shows there is interest, understanding and significance."

Nathan Zucker, an OSU student majoring in architecture, who served in the Israeli army, spoke at the service and said he saluted Rabin as one soldier to another.

"There are many faces here I haven't seen here before . . . it shows how important peace is in the world," Zucker said.

Greg Steinberger, assistant director of Hillel, said he was awestruck by how many people came to the memorial service.
Pulitzer Prize winner speaks at discussion on Middle East peace

By Christian N. Costelnes
Lantern staff writer

New York Times columnist Anthony Lewis, a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, was the keynote speaker at a discussion about the Middle East peace process entitled “What Promise in the Promised Land” sponsored by The Hillel Foundation Monday night.

Two respondents, consisting of Bradley Kastan, Hillel president and Ohio Republican Party member, and Donald Sylvan, associate professor of political science, gave brief comments after Lewis’ lecture before the floor was opened for questions.

Lewis introduced himself as an optimist with regard to the potential for a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians and stressed that a mutual compromise between the two nations was in the best interest of both parties.

He opened with an overview of the century-old territorial conflict that culminated with the 1948 establishment of the Israeli state in the former region of Palestine.

Lewis said the question that divides Israel is whether it is worthwhile to strive for peace.

“Obviously everyone wants peace,” Kastan said.

But before I give up land, I want concrete, sincere gestures of peace from my enemies.”

Sylvan said several factors have carried the peace process up to this point and will determine whether a future peace agreement can be reached.

Structural factors include the maintenance of the Israeli Labor Party’s power, the Palestine Liberation Organization’s isolation because of the Gulf War, President Clinton’s involvement, and Palestinian non-alignment because of the end of the Cold War, Sylvan said. Psychological factors he cited were Israel’s weariness of the conflict and a desire by Syrian President Assad to culminate an agreement with Israel in his lifetime.

“The concern is how to proceed,” said Daniel Frank, a senior majoring in accounting. “How cautious are you going to be in terms of Israel’s security and are you going to trust the Arabs given their record of terrorist activity.”

Brian Zaharak, a junior majoring in political science and religious studies, said each speaker had the same assessment of the peace process. He said he liked that they acknowledged mistreatment of Palestinians by Israel and worked it into their statements.

About 150 were in attendance, said Hillel Program Director Randi Abrams.

A program called “Peace and the Presidency” that will deal with related topics is scheduled for Feb. 23 at the Hillel Foundation, 46 E. 16th Ave.
MEDIA ADVISORY
April 17, 2001

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Shannon Wingard
(614) 247-6821

Hillel Foundation sponsors Holocaust Remembrance Day
Volunteers will take part in 10-year tradition at Ohio State

Members of the Holocaust Awareness Council will gather with numerous organizations and volunteers from The Ohio State University community to take part in the 10th Annual 24-hour Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) vigil on the Oval. The vigil begins at 8 p.m. on Wednesday (4/18) and continues through 8 p.m. on Thursday (4/19).

A candlelight memorial ceremony will take place at the beginning of the vigil. During the vigil, volunteers will read the names of those who died in the Holocaust. The names will be read continuously throughout the night and until 8 p.m. the next day.

Sponsored by the Hillel Foundation, the vigil is designed to increase awareness of tolerance issues and to honor the millions murdered during the Holocaust.

WHAT: Holocaust Awareness Council’s 10th
Annual Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) vigil.

WHEN: 8 p.m., Wednesday (4/18) to 8 p.m., Thursday (4/19).

WHERE: The Oval on Ohio State's Columbus campus.

WHY: To increase awareness of tolerance issues and to honor the millions murdered during the Holocaust.

###

For additional releases go to: http://www.osu.edu/osu/newsrel/
New Middle Eastern restaurant offers vegetarian cuisine

By Greg Niebur
Lantern arts writer

Varde Yishai had trouble figuring out what to name her new restaurant last month before its doors opened.

"I do most of the cooking, preparation, planning and just about everything else, so I figured, why not name it after myself," Yishai said.

Hence, Varde's Restaurant was established.

Located in the Hillel Jewish Student Center, 46 E. 16th Ave., Varde's is unlike any other eatery on campus.

"Our menu, which is totally vegetarian, is a combination of American and Middle Eastern food. But, choices are not limited to what is listed on the menu," she said. "The menu is just like a guide to give people ideas. If a customer wants something not listed on the menu, we will do our best to make what they are looking for."

But Yishai has her favorites, which are all on the menu.

The burekas is one of the most popular choices. Very similar to a knish, this triangular-shaped puff pastry is filled with either potato, spinach or cheese. It is baked until golden brown and then topped with sesame seeds.

"The burekas, as well as other menu items, such as the falafal, are all traditional Middle Eastern foods," Yishai said.

The melawach is another popular dish in the Middle East. Pronounced mil-a-wa, it is a flat, semisweet flaky dough which is baked until it is a light brown. It is then topped with slices of pickle and hard-boiled egg.

But choices of what to eat are not limited to Middle Eastern food. Food more familiar to Americans is common throughout the menu. Pizzas are available with many different toppings. Baked ziti and spaghetti can be topped with a tomato sauce adapted for personal preference. Bagel sandwiches can be filled with anything from cream cheese and peanut butter to tuna salad. A daily soup special is also offered.

Prices of the lunch and dinner items are very reasonable. Almost everything is between $2 and $4.

"Most of our business comes from students, so we wanted to offer a menu that is affordable," Yishai said. "You don't have to spend much money to get a good meal—but we are not like a fast-food restaurant. Every ingredient is homemade, and therefore very fresh."

The cafe, according to Yishai, has many different faces.

"For some, Varde's is a restaurant where one can get lunch or dinner," she said. "For others, it can be a place to get a snack. And, yet for others, we are a coffee and dessert shop. Some patrons will eat and run, but others will sit and converse for hours with their friends."

Because it is both hidden inside Hillel with no outside sign and it's still a relatively new restaurant, Varde's is just beginning to attract some regular cus-

tomers.

"If I have some class work to do and I want to get a small snack while I study, I usually go to Varde's," said Marc Henselovitz, a junior from Livingston, N.J., majoring in Jewish studies. "The atmosphere is quiet, yet lively."

Students and OSU faculty members of Hillel are both common patrons of Varde's.

"Varde's has become a great addition to Hillel," said Greg Steinberger, assistant director of Hillel. "It has quickly become a meeting place for students to study and to get something to eat."

Varde's Restaurant is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for lunch and from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. for dinner. It is open on Saturdays from 8 p.m. to midnight and on Sundays from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. It is closed on Fridays.
Three survivors' experiences chronicled by filmmaker

By Jeff Forward
Lantern arts writer

“Looking Into the Face of Evil,” a Holocaust documentary written, produced and directed by Westerville resident Sam Nahem, was shown recently at the Hillel Foundation, 46 E. 16th Ave.

The 29-minute film is the story of three Holocaust survivors: Alfred Tibor, Morris Dach and Judy Summer. Summer's son Fred and Tibor attended the showing with Nahem. Noticing just 16 people in attendance, Tibor said, "It is very disappointing that this room is not full at Hillel.

The film was originally made for use as a Holocaust education supplement in public schools and it is now being offered to markets across the nation by the Public Broadcasting Service, Nahem said. It has won numerous awards including Best of Festival at the Columbus Film Festival and a Gold Medal at the New York Film Festival.

Nahem said the documentary is a chronological account of events from 1933 until 1945. It depicts the stories of the three survivors in a historical perspective.

Some of the laws enacted in Germany against Jews were described in the film. These included forbidding Jews from operating stores or selling goods, forbidding inter-religion marriages, requiring Jews to wear a yellow Star of David on their arms and stripping them of their citizenship.

Nahem described the Holocaust as the gradual escalation by Nazis to exterminate Jews in Europe.

One of the more powerful moments of the film was when Leon Bashe, a U.S. soldier during World War II, described his discovery of a death camp and ovens where thousands of bodies were burned.

"The odor, the stench that comes from human waste was overpowering," Bashe said. "My stomach was queasy. I needed fresh air."

He later described finding a room filled with glass jars of formaldehyde that contained dozens of every human body part. "This film is the story of the Holocaust after the survivors die," Tibor said.

Fred Summer, the son of survivor Judy Summer, said he would always be devoted to educating people about the Holocaust.

Tibor is a sculptor living in Columbus and does many types of work including pieces of the Holocaust. One of his statues is in front of the Arthur James Cancer Hospital and Research Institute.

"Their bodies perished, but their spirits are still alive," Tibor said.

Nahem, who is currently researching a film on the role of physicians in the Holocaust said, "Tibor inspires me every time I see him."

"The Nazis were their own worst enemy," Nahem said. "They kept very detailed, precise records and documentation of the extermination of the Jews."

Many Jews lost whole families during the Holocaust. Because of this, "family means an awful lot to me," said Judy Summer in the film.

"Thirty-nine of my family members were killed during the Holocaust," Tibor said. "The story of the Holocaust needs to be told. There are thousands of people at the football games on Saturdays, but nobody comes to see this film. One must live life before having fun, not have fun before living life."

Jessica Eisenberg, co-chairwoman of the Holocaust Remembrance Council of Hillel, said the film was the second of a three part series for Holocaust Remembrance Week which ended with a multimedia presentation by Art Spiegelman on Wednesday night.

The film was first distributed in 1995 and is gaining interest from many producers, Nahem said. Anyone interested in borrowing the documentary can inquire at Hillel's front desk.
Prayer, reflection mark Jewish holiday

By Gretchen Sutton
Lantern staff writer

About 80 Jewish students celebrated the end of Yom Kippur, one of the high holy days in the Jewish religion, Monday night with prayers and a meal at the Hillel Jewish Student Center.

Yom Kippur began Sunday at sundown and ended Monday at sundown, said Rabbi Andy Koren, program associate for the Wexner Foundation. The holiday takes place 10 days after Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year.

"On this day, we finish that process of looking at the last year," Koren said. "If we go through that process of introspection, then forgiveness is given on Yom Kippur."

Yom Kippur is also a day when one reflects on oneself, said Rachel Podgursky, program director for Hillel.

"You can always change your ways, but on Yom Kippur special emphasis is set on that," Podgursky said.

The holiday is celebrated by fasting for one day extending from sundown the night before to sundown the following evening. Students gathered Monday evening at Hillel to celebrate the end of Yom Kippur and break the fast, Podgursky said.

The sounding of the Shofar is the last thing to take place before breaking the fast, Koren said. The Shofar, which is a ram's horn, is blown to awaken the soul and is a symbol of peace.

Many of the 3,500 Jewish students on campus spent the holiday away from home, but for one student, spending the holiday with his Ohio State family was enough.

"Yom Kippur is very much a day of introspection for me," said Michael Castor, a medical student from Akron. "Celebrating it away from home is not that different because it is such a personal day and because there are so many warm, welcoming faces at Hillel."

Another student agreed that Hillel offers a place to go for those who are not able to go home.

"Hillel is like our home away from home," said Jenny Raffel, a communications major from Island Park, Ill. "Being from out of state, I couldn't go home if I wanted to."

Traditionally, Yom Kippur is a day spent in prayer and reflection, Koren said.

Many students were unhappy that OSU planned activities on the same day as the holiday.

"They started their Welcome Week and they were going to have rush this week," said Jodi Yaris, a family and human development major from Syosset, N.Y. "If I were a freshman, I wouldn't come today."

Margaret Jelinek Lewis plays the Shofar, an instrument made from a ram's horn, during closing services for the Jewish holiday Yom Kippur Monday night at Ohio State's Hillel.
Jewish students find involvement at Hillel

By Anna Glenn
Lantern staff writer

"It's very easy to get involved."
— Stacy Golub, senior

The Hillel Jewish Center held an open house last night to welcome the 3,500 Jewish students back to campus.

Hillel, 46 E. 18th Ave., is hoping to be the next outlet for students and the Ohio State community. But the center is not just for the Jewish students on campus; non-Jewish students are welcome as well.

"It's very easy to get involved," said Stacy Golub, a senior majoring in theater. "The center is open to anyone, there is no little sign outside that said, 'Jews only.'"

Hillel attempts to serve as a haven for students who are adjusting to life on their own.

"We know how hard it is to be away from home for the first time," said Rachel Podgursky, program director for Hillel. "It's a great way to meet friends with shared experience."

Students are a major part of the center, said Greg Steinberger, the assistant director for the Hillel Foundation.

"Students give hands on experience and make real leadership decision making," Steinberger said. "Nothing can happen without student involvement."

The student-run Sammy's New York Bagels, located in the building, is an example. It is the only Kosher restaurant on campus, said Harris Levinson, the executive manager for the bagel cafe.

"Students market the program, run and finance the books," Levinson said.

Hillel serves two major roles on campus, Steinberger said.

"Primarily, it is for Jewish students, to serve their needs socially, culturally and religiously," he said.

"The other role is to strengthen the university life by inviting academics such as poets, authors and Pulitzer prize winners, he said."

"Hillel is a medium for Jewish students to help find their identity," Golub said. "It can give you a foundation, and from there you can grow and branch out in any direction."

The building is open from 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday - Thursday. On Friday, the building is open until 6 p.m. and reopens for 7:30 p.m. dinner.

Sophomore Gina Gurkoff, right, gets information from Hillel staff member Allissa Rothkopf at the Hillel open house event Wednesday.
Richard Dreyfuss to dine with Buckeyes

By Ann M. Mack
Lantern staff writer

Richard Dreyfuss, best known for his roles in "Mr. Holland's Opus," "Jaws" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" will discuss a role of a different kind at a Friday evening dinner at Hillel, 46 E. 16th Ave.

Dreyfuss will speak on "what being Jewish in America means to me," said Rachel Podgursky, program director at Hillel.

"We are very excited to have him here," Podgursky said. "Friday night marks the beginning of the Sabbath. It's a very festive time and having Richard Dreyfuss makes it even more festive."

Many students are unaware that Dreyfuss is Jewish, she said. "Hopefully it will relate to a lot of students who have a hard time identifying with their Jewish heritage," Podgursky said. "They will see a big star identifying with his Jewish heritage saying, 'Hey being Jewish is not a suffering, it is a very positive thing.'"

Barry Uhrman, vice president of the Board of Trustees at Hillel, said the event will appeal to the masses.

"We hope this will serve as a springboard to generate active involvement in Hillel," Uhrman said. "Whether it's Jewish students doing religious activities or non-Jewish students co-sponsoring an event at Hillel."

The invitation to Dreyfuss to visit Hillel was extended in late spring, he said.

Hillel extends invitations to people from the academic world, the film industry, the art world and other domains, Uhrman said. By doing this, Hillel hopes to appeal to the student population and increase involvement.

"We want students to see someone who is prominent and who is Jewish," he said.

Stacy Golub, a senior majoring in theater, best remembers Dreyfuss for his role in "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." She is thrilled that Dreyfuss is visiting.

"I hope that he will be an inspiration to me in my life as a Jewish actress and artist in America," Golub said. "I'm looking forward to hearing his words of wisdom and insight. Richard Dreyfuss is proof that dreams can happen."

The dinner with Dreyfuss begins at 5:30 p.m. and costs $5.00. Reservations and payment must be made at Hillel by Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. The event is for students only, Podgursky said.

Dreyfuss was nominated for an Academy Award and HFPA Golden Globe Award this past year for his performance in "Mr. Holland's Opus." He won an Academy Award for his performance in "The Goodbye Girl" in 1977.
Correspondent shares Middle East experience

By Kelly Urbano
Lantern staff writer

Some Middle East experts say they view the peace agreement between the Palestinians and Israelis with guarded optimism.

Linda Gradstein, a National Public Radio correspondent in Israel, said she sees any move toward peace in that region as positive but the agreement is fragile.

Speaking at Hillel Tuesday night, she said the Hebron Agreement, which was reached last year and began implementation last month, is in many ways the most significant move toward peace to date.

She said it is the only city in the West Bank where both Palestinian and Jewish settlers must live together.

This agreement also means the Palestine Liberation Organization has become legitimate in the eyes of the majority of Israelis, she said.

"Since 1967, when Israel took over the Gaza Strip and the West Bank after the Six Day War, Israelis have been divided down the middle about whether to trade land for peace," she said.

Gradstein said that there were predictions that violence would erupt the moment that Israeli troops began their withdrawal and the fact that there was no confrontation was inspiring.

"All of this can change. It shows that Netanyahu is committed to peace, but Hebron is just the first step," Gradstein said.

The future of Jerusalem, Jewish settlers and border agreements still must be resolved.

The agreement in Hebron lays out a "road map" for more redeployment called for in the Oslo agreement signed in the fall of 1993 by Yasser Arafat and former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was assassinated by a Jewish radical opposed to the peace process.

The agreement includes a "land-for-peace" provision in which Israelis are granting Palestinians greater autonomy in areas under Israeli rule in exchange for peace.

In 1995, Benjamin Netanyahu became the first popularly elected Prime Minister in Israel's history. He promised he would never embrace the peace accord but within the year he changed his mind.

"If anyone would have told me just a few years ago that Benjamin Netanyahu would shake hands with Yasser Arafat and agree to withdraw Israeli troops from 80 percent of the town of Hebron, I would have thought he was crazy," Gradstein said.

Linda Gradstein (left) answers questions pertaining to the Middle East.

Donald Sylvan, an Ohio State professor of political science who specializes in the Middle East said it is impossible to categorize attitudes in the Middle East as strictly Palestinian or Jewish since there are deep conflicts within these communities.

"It's a mixed bag in terms of where the future will go. There are pro-peace individuals on both sides, but they don't know one another because it is still hard and dangerous to intermingle on a personal level," Sylvan said.
Cooper minglees with students at Hillel

By Brad Jones
Lantern staff writer

Recruitment, the Rose Bowl, loss of key players, starting quarterbacks, and bagel preference were some topics Ohio State Football Coach John Cooper addressed at Hillel's Bagel Cafe Tuesday.

Cooper spoke with students at a "Meet and Greet" session sponsored by the Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity and the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization of Bexley.

In addition to recruiting, the team's work ethic and the great tradition of the program will be able to make up for the loss of the role players on the team, said Cooper.

Cooper said he is in favor of a national tournament in order to determine the best football team in the nation.

"I would love to play the Gators in a one game play-off after the bowl games for a true national championship and I will play them wherever they want to play," Cooper said. "Preferably in cold weather."

Harris Levinson, manager of the Bagel Cafe felt this event offered students a chance for students to get to know Cooper.

"This is a good opportunity for students to meet their football coach in an informal setting and ask him questions," Levinson said.

David Borstein, a sophomore majoring in history, said he enjoyed listening to Cooper answer questions about the football team.

"It was entertaining to hear the inside facts," Borstein said. "There is a lot more things that go on in the program than most people see."

Cooper said it is helpful to know what the students are thinking because "the kind of success that we have had on the football field is directly related to the kind of support we get from the faculty and students."

Students saved the harshest question for Cooper for last: "Hey coach, what's your favorite bagel?"
Controversial author interprets Holocaust

By Todd Shockley
Lantern staff writer

The idea that Jews ought to be eliminated was pervasive in German society before Hitler came to power, said Daniel Goldhagen, a Harvard professor who spoke at the Ohio State Hillel Foundation last night.

Goldhagen, who wrote "Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust," said he believes Germans, as a society, endorsed Hitler's plans to exterminate Jews during World War II.

The book has aroused controversy, said Joseph Kohane, director of the OSU Hillel Foundation. However, Goldhagen thinks historical accounts currently in vogue should be controversial, not his.

"I am saying that when people mock, kill, brutalize and degrade other people when they don't even have to, that they do it because they think it's the right thing to do," Goldhagen explained.

Scholars are taking Goldhagen seriously, said Greg Steinberger, assistant director of the OSU Hillel.

"It has started this great scholarly debate. He (Goldhagen) tries to establish a single cause," he said.

When Hitler ultimately chose mass extermination as the "final solution," he was able to enlist vast numbers of Germans to carry it out, Goldhagen said. He added that many Germans executed and brutalized Jews with glee.

At least 100,000 and as many as 500,000 Germans were intimately involved in the extermination, he said.

Goldhagen derives many of his claims from the journals and testimony of both the executioners and the victims, as well as analysis of the history of German attitudes towards Jews.

Goldhagen acknowledged that historical German hatred of Jews and the subsequent will to eliminate them is not the only cause.

"There are, of course, exceptions to everything," he said.

He downplayed accepted explanations for the cause of the Holocaust.

The accumulated views and assumptions put forth by historians largely ignores individual anti-Semitism as a cause of the Holocaust, Goldhagen said.

These theories include assumptions that ordinary Germans were cogs in a vast bureaucracy, that they feared punishment for disobeying Nazi orders, that the executioners were a minority of extremists, and that severe economic conditions caused by World War I started a series of unfortunate events, he said.

"Most say it worked like machinery, that it was just done," he said.

However, no one researched what moved the Germans to perform the act of brutalizing and killing Jews, he said.

Many Germans volunteered, but none protested the mass extermination of Jews and none were punished for refusing to kill, Goldhagen said.

They went along with the "final solution" because they have been historically and effectively taught Jews were inhuman, he said.

Those who participated in the executions came from all classes and religious denominations, Goldhagen said.
Author: Haitian children expect education, get slavery

By Beth Clevenger
Lantern staff writer

Nearly 10 percent of all Haitian children are involved in such labor. "This has been going on for 200 years in Haiti," Cadet said. "It is part of the social fabric and is going to be very hard to get rid of, but it has just got to stop."

Cadet is the author of his autobiography "Restavek: From Haitian Slave Child to Middle-Class American" and has just returned from Haiti where he helped to put together a one-hour CNN documentary on Restavek.

His book is now being used in universities to help educate students about these labor practices. Various organizations were interested in bringing Cadet's message to OSU, said Liba Beyer, director of Social Action Programs at OSU Hillel.

"Blacks and Jews have come together to bring Cadet to OSU to help incite activism here on campus," Beyer said. "It is a multi-cultural mixing of past despair and overcoming it in the future."

Michael Cohen, co-president of Hotep-Shalom: Partnership of Blacks and Jews, said that the group became interested in Cadet's story after hearing an interview with him on National Public Radio.

"You don't see a lot of groups with different problems coming together," he said. "It is important for students to realize that they have these shared struggles."
24-hour vigil held to remember Holocaust

By Josie Rubio
Lantern staff writer

Among the sunbathers and the volleyball players in the Oval Sunday, a white tent stood billowing in the wind. Besides the chatter of students, a voice could be heard from the tent, softly reading the names of the victims of the Holocaust.

The Holocaust Awareness Council, sponsored by the Hillel Center, held a 24-hour candlelight vigil from 9 p.m. Saturday to 9 p.m. Sunday. The Yom Hashoah, which is Hebrew for Holocaust Remembrance Day, is observed throughout the world as a day to remember those who died in the Holocaust, said Rachel Podgursky, program director for Hillel.

"It's so hard to imagine experiencing such a hell," Podgursky said.

The names of victims were read in 10-minute slots during the vigil, and people signed their names to a board after reading.

The purpose of the vigil was to focus on the individuals who died, rather than the Holocaust itself, said Laurie Adelman, a sophomore majoring in Spanish and Hebrew and co-chair of the Holocaust Awareness Council.

"When you're reading the names, you're reading the names of people who actually died," Adelman said. "And that's just so much different from saying six million people died or 10 million people died."

However, all of the victims' names could not be read during the vigil, she said.

"A lot of the people who died weren't even recorded," Podgursky said.

Ten million people are estimated to have died in the Holocaust, six million of which were Jewish, she said.

In order to read all of the Holocaust victims' names, there would have to be 24-hour vigils for three quarters at Ohio State, Adelman said.

Harrison Nathan, a sophomore majoring in business, participated in the vigil last year.

"It (the purpose) is the significance of the numbers," Nathan said.

The vigil's purpose was also to make people mindful of the Holocaust so that something similar could never happen again, said Allie Berson, a freshman majoring in journalism and co-chair of the Holocaust Awareness Program.

"This program is to remember those who perished in the Holocaust," Berson said. "But it's also to make everybody aware of what happened so that we can prevent such tragedies from happening again."

People of all denominations, ethnic groups and ages read names during the vigil, she said.

Monica Faran, a junior majoring in fine arts, decided to read some names this year, although she is not Jewish.

"I think that it's important to remember that these people died so that we can make sure it doesn't happen again," Faran said.

About 200 people went to the vigil throughout the 24 hours, Berson said. The vigil ended with singing and chanting of the Mourner's Kaddish, a prayer for the dead.

Hillel is also having a box engineered to hold six million pennies that will eventually be collected to represent those who died in the Holocaust, Adelman said. The box, which will be at Hillel, will be about four feet high and will take years to fill, Podgursky said.

The Holocaust should never be forgotten, Adelman said.

"I always have the Holocaust in the back of my mind," she said. "I always think about how lucky I am. The only thing that separates us (from the victims) is time and place."

Festival to honor Israel’s 49th

By Rebecca Abfler
Lantern staff writer

Today the Hillel Foundation will celebrate the 49th anniversary of the establishment of Israel with music, food and fun.

"The celebration is taking place to recognize that Israel has survived 49 years and the Jewish people want to prove to the world that Israel is viable and important to the Jewish people," said Rachel Podgursky, program director at Hillel.

Hillel will close off 16th Avenue in front of the building and have a street party. The celebration begins at 7 p.m. and will last until 10 p.m.

"We are trying to replicate the feeling a person gets when they are in Israel. Many cities in the U.S. with a Jewish population will be having celebrations," Podgursky said.

"This is a way for undergraduates, graduates and young Jewish professionals to mingle with each other," she said.

Students can enjoy live music and sample Israeli foods, such as borekas, a pastry dough stuffed with potato, a variety of salads and Middle Eastern desserts. The Bagel Cafe will be converted into a coffee house, like those seen in Israel, Podgursky said.

"Beyond Me Reality" is one of the two bands that will be playing at the event.

"We feel that this is an important holiday to celebrate, and we were happy to be asked to play for the event. It should be a great night and a lot of fun," said Gregg Wattenmaker, the band's keyboardist.

The event is co-sponsored by Hillel, the Columbus Jewish Federation and the Israel Experience Program, an organization that sponsors Jewish students to study in Israel.

"This program is a way to get the campus community involved and show support for the holiday," said Joe Levin, Steven Spielberg Fellow at Hillel.

Heidi Gotlieb, a junior majoring in business, said "it is important to celebrate the independence after having fought for all those years. It is a great reason to celebrate."

Israel was officially recognized in 1948 after Jews fought to reestablish their homeland.

Yom Ha'atzmaut is the Hebrew name for Israel’s independence day. The holiday began last night at sundown and will continue until the following sundown, as all Jewish holidays do.
Wiesels eloquence awes audience at Mershon

By Gabrielle Williamson
Lantern staff writer

A camel could have strolled across the stage during Elie Wiesels speech at Mershon auditorium Monday night and the capacity crowd would never have noticed.

With his trademark eloquence and moving insight, Holocaust survivor and 1986 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Elie Wiesel captivated his admiring audience as he spoke on the importance of people reaching a common understanding through learning.

"What we all have in common, whether we are Jewish or Christians or Buddhists or Muslims, whether we are African Americans, Chinese or Europeans... is the knowledge that unless we are bound by a passion for study - to study each other, for each other and with each other - then the whole world will be simply fragments," Wiesel said.

Wiesel came to Ohio State for the dedication of the Hillel Foundation's new building, which houses the Wexner Student Jewish Center. His keynote speech was the culmination of several days of celebration marking Hillel's 70 years of service to Jewish students at Ohio State.

"I am here because I love beginnings," Wiesel said at a pre-speech press conference.

During the speech Wednesday, Wiesel told more than 3,000 people that it is important to strive for new beginnings.

"When we look into society today, there is turmoil," he said. "All we can do is begin again. History has challenged us to do just that."

Wiesel, who is an honorary professor at Boston University, spoke only briefly of his own history and memories of the Holocaust.

At age 15, Wiesel was taken from his home in Sighet, Transylvania (Romania) to the death camp of Auschwitz and later to Buchenwald during World War II. His mother, younger sister and father perished in the Holocaust. He was reunited with his two older sisters after the war.

He said that after experiencing the cruelty and horror of the death camps, he went to France to start again.

Earlier Monday, Wiesel told students at the center, located at 46 E. 16th Ave., that he rarely speaks of his Holocaust experience and that organizations like Hillel are important for that purpose.

Hillels executive director Joseph Kohane said the center is a place for all students at Ohio State to learn about Jewish life. Kohane, who said the hustle and bustle of High Street enticed him to leave the University of Michigan's Hillel, believes the new building is a national symbol of Jewish strength, commitment and pride.

"It takes the values, the learning."

See Wiesel/Page 2

Nobel Prize-winning author Elie Wiesel speaks to reporters Monday during a press conference at the Wexner Jewish Student Center/Hillel Foundation. Wiesel later delivered a speech at Mershon Auditorium.

Comedic skits were performed by the Mazel Players, President and International Director of the Hillel Foundation for Jewish Campus Life Richard M. Joel said the new building represents a reawakening of Jewish life on this campus.

At the end of his speech, Wiesel offered a gift to the dedication by singing a song he had forgotten until recently. The audience responded with a standing ovation.

"I think tonight that Elie Wiesel was simply inspiring but he was also, in a special way, inspired," Kohane said. "Being here and... catching the mood and the excitement drove him to song."

"It was beautiful"
Students push Ohio State to offer kosher food

By Danae King
The Columbus Dispatch
Posted Dec 3, 2017 at 7:34 PM
Updated at 5:53 AM

Just days ago, Max Littman picked up one of the first kosher meals ever served on Ohio State University's campus.

The student, a 19-year-old sophomore, took the boxed lunch from the Ohio Union dining area. It was a meal he had a hand in making available to himself and other students.

Littman, who is Jewish and keeps kosher, learned on his first day at Ohio State as a freshman last year that the university didn't offer kosher food, or food that is certified under Jewish religious rules.

The Worthington native was disappointed in the lack of selection.

"It was a disappointment that a school this big ... didn't have any kosher options," Littman said.

To be able to eat lunch with his friends in the dining areas, Littman would eat vegetarian or go to Ohio State's Hillel, an international Jewish student organization at 46 E. 16th Ave. He soon realized that Hillel, which has a certified kosher kitchen, is an inconvenient distance away for meals sandwiched between classes. And construction around the building makes access even more difficult.

"It's really nice to be able to eat a meal with meat," Littman said of the new options, which include turkey sandwiches and wraps and tuna salad. "It's just such a relief."

After the Undergraduate Student Government, of which Littman is a member, passed a resolution supporting the addition of kosher food on campus last year, he decided to get more involved in the cause.

The resolution wasn't an immediate success, so Littman and fellow student Jack Spero contacted Senior Director of Dining Services Zia Ahmed, who manages Ohio State's almost 30 dining locations.
The university has offered halal options — food certified under Islamic religious rules — for more than six years, Ahmed said, because they are easier to provide. Halal foods don’t need to be prepared in a separate kitchen, unlike kosher foods.

Ahmed had heard concerns from students about the lack of kosher options before, but the complaints didn’t come up frequently or seem as organized as what Littman presented.

Littman came prepared with a plan for how the university could offer kosher food at an affordable price and without the university having to install a costly kosher kitchen.

The university now contracts with Ohio State Hillel to offer pre-packaged kosher meals for students’ lunches. They were first offered in the union on Nov. 20, and the goal is to expand the offerings to other dining areas on campus, Littman said.

“It’s great,” said Joan Koebel, director of operations and physical facilities at Ohio State University Hillel. “Anything that makes it simpler for the students is great.”

Littman modeled his plan on the University of Michigan’s offerings for kosher students, which includes kosher food delivery to dining halls and a kosher meal plan.

Other local institutions have limited kosher options. At Ohio University, students have been able to get “kosher-friendly” meals, which are not certified kosher, since 2011, according to a university spokesman.

The school also offers pre-packaged kosher products in some markets on campus, and the culinary services staff is working with Ohio University Hillel to serve kosher items during Passover.

Columbus State Community College doesn’t offer kosher foods, as the commuter campus’ food-service options are limited, according to a spokesman, though some pre-packaged food is kosher.

At Kenyon College in Knox County, some kosher-friendly foods are available during Passover, and the Rothenberg Hillel House offers kosher foods, a spokeswoman said.

An Otterbein University spokeswoman said the school doesn’t offer kosher food because it does not have a kosher kitchen. There haven’t been requests for kosher food, she said.
Ohio State has about 2,700 Jewish students, according to Hillel, and Littman thinks that number could grow with the expanded kosher options, as the lack of them might have turned off some prospective students.

"I think this will be a really positive way to get religious students on campus," he said.

It's early, but if all goes well and demand is adequate, Ahmed and Littman hope to expand the university's offerings.

"We will be constantly working very close with students and continue to evaluate how well it's doing and always keep an open mind," Ahmed said.