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Justice Elyakim Rubinstein, a Former Negotiator, Reflects on Israel-Jordan Relations at a Conference Marking a Decade of a Formal Peace

Former Jordanian Minister and Negotiator Heads Delegation from Jordan Here



Negotiating partners. Justice Elyakim Rubinstein (3rd from r) and former Jordanian Cabinet Minister Dr. Munther Haddadin (in keffiyeh) met again, this time at the University. Posing with the pair of negotiators (l.-r.): Dr. Faisal Azaiza, Head of the Jewish-Arab Center; Prof. Ada Spitzer, Vice President for External Relations; University President Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev; Haddadin; Rubinstein; University Rector Prof. Yossi Ben-Artzi; and Prof. Joseph Nevo, Dept. of Middle East History.

Leadership, the efforts of the negotiators to be creative, and confidence between the parties.”

These are the ingredients that the sides need when two countries sit down to hammer out a peace treaty, according to Israeli Supreme Court Justice Elyakim Rubinstein. And these elements—along with hard work—are what went into the mix that led to the formal peace treaty between Israel and Jordan signed ten years ago and ratified by the Knesset in November 1994.

Rubinstein should know. As he reminded his audience at the University in early December, he had been involved in peace negotiations with Jordan dating back to the 1980s. To this end, he had even traveled several times to Amman in disguise—wearing a wig, and once with a false mustache—in the early 1990s, prior to any agreement.

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Unique 'Open Apartment' Project Benefits Community and Students

“direct a club in the neighborhood. It tries to counter alcohol and drugs among the teenagers there. The idea is for them to come to the club instead of sitting in the park in the dark, sometimes alone, in the evening.

“There won't be any drug tests,” I tell them. ‘Just come. You don't even have to talk with us.’

“When they come, they don't even give their real names at first, some of them. It's a long process of getting them to open up, taking them off the streets.”

The speaker is not a professional social worker. Eran Bercoviz is a second-year psychology major. Getting wayward kids off the streets and running the club are some of things Eran has to do in exchange for a free room, a scholarship, and a small stipend.

Eran is participating in a unique University project run jointly with the Haifa Municipality and sponsored in part by the Haifa-Boston Connection, which is an undertaking of the City of Haifa and the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston. “Open Apartment,” as the project is called, gives students a free “dorm room” in an “inner-city” community in return for 12 hours of working with members of that community on a group or individual basis.

The Haifa-Boston Connection provides 10 apartments, housing 22 students. Other partners in the project provide another 15 apartments. The buildings accommodating the students are located in five of Haifa's

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Welcome sign greets the multicultural youth group to the Volunteer Assistance Center that University “Open Apartment” students help staff.

President's Focus
Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev
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Continuity, Change, and Social Responsibility

Continuity and change is an old rubric, but one that reflects preservation of accomplishments along with the promotion of new ideas. Perhaps the opposite of revolution, even of a quiet revolution. It is in that spirit that in my first column for the Focus newspaper I wish to congratulate Prof. Yehuda Hayuth, the past President of the University, and his management team for their decade-long development of our institution and for making it the flourishing campus it now is. I wish them the best in their new endeavors.

My first order of business is to continue to strengthen the existing excellent educational programs that the University offers and to preserve the economic resources that are so necessary to enable us to do so.

A new management team has come onboard with all the enthusiasm and desire to buttress and advance the University's position as an innovative institution, committed to two pillars undergirding society: that of excellence in higher education and its necessary concomitant, research, and that of social responsibility.

We see this latter commitment as an important aspect of our University's *raison d'être*: it enables us to contribute to a strengthening of the resiliency of Israeli society, to put to public use and benefit some of the knowledge and training and mental resources that abound in the proverbial "ivory tower," to transform the tower image to that of a guiding beacon of light for the welfare of our society.

Raising both these banners of commitment, academic excellence and social responsibility, will not be an easy task. It will demand not only the enthusiasm and desire of our management team that I mentioned earlier, but also a mobilization of all our staff, our faculty, our students, and not least our friends. These two banners will not fly proudly without such a comprehensive effort.

As a researcher of emotions, I well appreciate the personal connection. Feel free to contact me about any subject. It will give me pleasure to deepen relations with old friends and welcome new friends. This I shall start to do personally, too, when my vice-president for external relations and resource development, Prof. Ada Spitzer, and I travel abroad to visit the Friends of the University. I hope to meet and have the opportunity to talk with many of you about our plans, our ideas, and our ideals.

In the meantime, I invite all readers to visit the University in person, to see and learn at first hand how this University will continue and how it will change.

With my warmest wishes,

Aaron

University Obtains Its First Biotech Patent in the U.S.

The University, through its commercial arm, Carmel-Haifa University Economic Corp. Ltd., has obtained its first patent in the United States. The U.S. patent office issued the patent on October 19, 2004, for an innovative method of genetic transformation in crop plants that was conceived and developed at the University's Institute of Evolution, the university's biotech research center. Institute researchers have gained U.S. patents in the past, but awarded them to private firms. This is the first assigned to the University itself.

The genetic-transformation invention protected by the patent was developed by Prof. Abraham Korol, Assoc. Prof. Tzion Fahima, and Prof. Eviatar Nevo, the Institute's director. Genetic transformation is one of the central instruments for researching basic processes in plant biology and breeding transgenic varieties. Transgenic plants are generated by adding foreign genes into their characteristic set of genes, or genome, thereby providing the modified crops with novel and enhanced properties.

The method developed by the Institute scientists exploits natural pollination pathways to deliver genes into the embryo sac by using pollen grains as a natural vector, or vehicle capable of transporting the transforming DNA and maintaining it inside the sac. This process results in the generation of a transgenic embryo, a seed, which eventually develops into a transgenic plant.

The major advantage of this method over currently existing technologies, according to the developers, is its ability to transfer genes into any variety of plant, independent of its genetic background and/or regeneration ability.

The ability to transfer new genes into commercially elite varieties—those with a high yield—opens unlimited possibilities for the improvement of economically important crops. These improvements include enhancement of the nutritional value of the fruit or vegetable and strengthening the plant's resistance to ecological stresses, diseases, and pests. The main crop beneficiaries of the method have so far been corn, melons, and tomatoes.

The Carmel-Haifa University Economic Corp. is currently exploring the possibility of establishing a start-up company in order to commercialize the patented technology.



Prof. Abraham Korol



Prof. Tzion Fahima



Prof. Eviatar Nevo

Researcher Develops Computerized Handwriting Evaluation System

Difficulty in handwriting—known as dysgraphia—affects an estimated 10%-34% of all elementary school children around the world. Youngsters may now stand a better chance of overcoming this disability thanks to a special tool, the first of its kind anywhere, developed by a UH researcher.

Dr. Sara Rosenblum of the Dept. of Occupational Therapy constructed software, known as POET, for use with an electronic writing board, known as a digitizer, that can document the writing act even when the child writes in the air, as well as on the special board. The computerized system enables, for the first time, an objective look into the very complex world of handwriting.

When the system is used together with diagnostic tests, which provide a more subjective evaluation, the dysgraphic child can obtain a more reliable and comprehensive analysis of his or her problem. The way is then clear to work on overcoming the problem.

Rosenblum, who tried out both her new computerized system and the combination of objective and subjective evaluation on two groups of Israeli third graders. The 100 children, ages 8-9, were divided into those with and those not having writing difficulties. The distinction was based on a questionnaire for teachers specially prepared for the study and on a standard diagnostic test for evaluating Hebrew handwriting.

The results, according to Rosenblum, "showed the advantages of combining the computerized system with components of subjective evaluation for understanding the process and the product of the handwriting of children."

The computerized system, she continued, documents "air time and length." This is the amount of time actual writing is not taking place on paper because the child has the pencil raised or the number of times the writer goes over a letter to write it better. These elements have never before been documented accurately and objectively. Dysgraphic children have difficulties with the speed and fluency of handwriting, as well as with reading.

The handwriting specialist is also working with other researchers on more sophisticated ways of analyzing data obtained from the evaluations. Such computer analyses will then provide further information about a person's motor and perception functioning, which handwriting is said to reflect.

The occupational therapist then wants to work out handwriting norms for various population and age groups. The computerized system itself will enable a variety of applications in the fields of evaluation and treatment, such as early identification of writing difficulties in both children and adults.



Prof. Yossi Ben-Artzi Named Rector of the University



The Senate of the University elected Prof. Yossi Ben-Artzi, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, to serve as Rector of the University, replacing Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev, who is now the President.

Ben-Artzi, a native of Haifa (1949), is a graduate of the city's Reali School (1967) and gained his B.A. in Geography and Middle East History from the University (1975). He then went to earn a Master's in Geography (1978) and a doctorate (1984) at the Hebrew University.

A member of the Dept. of Land of Israel Studies, he began teaching at the University upon receiving his undergraduate degree, specializing in the areas of the history of the Land of Israel in the modern period and the history of the city of Haifa. He is the author or coauthor of a dozen books and scores of published articles on these subjects. His most recent book, in Hebrew, *Turning the Desert into the Carmel* (Magnes Press, 2004), deals with the settlement of the Carmel in the British Mandate period.

Ben-Artzi served as Chairman of the Dept. of Land of Israel Studies (1994-1998) prior to becoming Dean of the Faculty of Humanities (2000-2004). He was vice-president of the Israel Geographical Association (1995-1998). Alongside his academic activity, he is active on the public level, being chairman of the urban street-naming committee, a representative of the public on the municipal and national nature and site preservation committees and chairman of commissions of inquiry on borders. He is a Colonel (Res.) in the IDF's MIA unit (responsible for locating those missing in action).

The new Rector is married and has two daughters and a son.

Prof. David Faraggi—Deputy Rector



The University Senate confirmed the appointment of Prof. David Faraggi of the Dept. of Statistics as Deputy Rector.

A graduate of the Hebrew University in economics and statistics (1980), Faraggi earned his doctorate at the University of Wisconsin at Madison (1984). He did post-doctorate work in the Dept. of Biostatistics at Harvard University's School of Public Health. After joining the University faculty in 1988, he set up the Statistics Consulting Unit, which he still heads. The unit operates on a commission basis for both University-based bodies, like the National Security Studies Center, and parties outside the University. It recently began a large survey, commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture, on the effects of impure water on agriculture.

Faraggi has been a Visiting Scientist at prestigious medical research centers abroad, among them the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, the National Cancer Institute in Washington, D.C., the Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle. He has published more than 60 articles in scientific journals and co-authored a book on regression analysis. He is the recipient of research grants from the European Community and the U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation. The International Statistical Institute invited him to deliver a special paper at a biostatistics conference in South Korea.

A past Chairman of the Dept. of Statistics (2001-2004), Faraggi serves as University representative on the National Public Council for Statistics. The new Deputy Rector is married and has a son and a daughter.



Friends Sponsors Tribute to Outgoing and Incoming University Management Teams

The pitch of emotion in the packed Hecht Museum Auditorium was palpable, literally and figuratively, and it had nothing to do with the elections in the U.S., though the two events took place on the same day. In Haifa, much before anyone knew who the new U.S. president would be, the Association of Friends of the University paid tribute to two presidents, outgoing University president Prof. Yehuda Hayuth and incoming University president Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev and their respective management teams. Hayuth and company had marked a decade of service to the University, while Ben-Ze'ev and his staff, just a month in office, were looking ahead to make the University "a warm and friendly home to everyone," in the words of the new president.

Long-time Friends Association Chairman and Board of Governors Member Shimon Linial emceed the evening. Present Haifa Mayor Yona Yahav and past Mayor and now MK Amram Mitzna both praised the University for being integrated into the city. Board of Governors Chairman Prof. Manfred Lahnstein pronounced himself "personally very grateful" for his connection with the University and appealed to the public sector to confront "the challenge of working together" with the new team. Executive Committee Chairman Gil Weiser, who called the institution the best-managed University in Israel, referred to the "fun of developing this University." Israeli Friends President Eli Lichter added his remarks.

The emotional high note came, perhaps, with the presentation of plaques of appreciation to each of the outgoing management team members and their responses.

But the high notes of the evening also came from other sources: from two talented young ladies, students at the University, Dage Hanoch-Levi, who also appears with the University's Esketa Dance ensemble, and Shimrit Malul, a Music major, each of whom sang songs arranged by Music Dept. Chairman Prof. Oded Zahavi, and the Israeli opera star tenor Yevgeny Shapovalov. Their medley of songs and arias, accompanied by the New Symphony Orchestra of Haifa, under the direction of Rafi Kadishson, and the chorus that Shapovalov made of the audience, fit the mood of festivity, accomplishment, and promise that pervaded the evening.

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Unique 'Open Apartment' Project Benefits Community and Students

Rawan Bisharat (r.) with two of her young charges (and an unidentified Open Apartment student) on a visit to the University campus.



most socio-economically problematic neighborhoods.

"It's a bargain for everyone, participating students and the community," says Prof. Ron Robin, Dean of Students. Noting that the activity is part of the University's pledge to become involved in the community, he adds, "Everyone benefits. It allows us to assist deserving students in a creative manner, through scholarships and housing opportunities. In this way, we alleviate a significant proportion of the expenses for students who are without financial resources.

"On the other hand, the project also offers the city a partner in helping to solve many social problems."

Focus talked with Eran and two other participating students to learn what it is like for students to give something of themselves in return to the community. The three represent a microcosm of the University's—and the project's—pluralistic character.

Hailing from Upper Nazareth (Nazeret Ilt), Eran, 25, "prefers to help kids rather than to clean floors" to finance his education. He also views the experience he

is gaining as aiding him to go on for a graduate degree. Eran conducts "breakdance" sessions in a club he directs at a community center as way of reaching teenagers. The dancing enables them to let off steam in a manner that is self-expressive but non-destructive to either others or themselves. Asked how he gets youngsters to come to his club, he replies, "We're shown how to find them on the streets."

All participating students, he might have added, receive common training and cultural programs, which are also intended as a forum for dialogue among students from different ethnic backgrounds.

Eran also works one on one with a Russian-speaking youngster who doesn't like to study and more often than not stays away from school. He discovered that the boy loves, and is good at, computers, so he uses the technology to try to draw him into studying. Although Eran admits that there is a long road ahead before he'll see any success story, whether with this youngster or any of the others in his club or dance group, he does expect to see results at the end of the academic year.

Alex Altshuler, who emigrated from Minsk in 1997 and whose family lives in Beersheba, is more pessimistic. He doesn't believe he'll see results by the end of the year. The 25-year-old social work student, who gained his B.A. in behavioral sciences at Ben-Gurion University and chose Haifa to pursue his Master's, cites a 7th-grade pupil he is dealing with. The boy finds that his world is changing and that there are borders he cannot cross, Alex explains.

Exposed to this family's problems, which cause them to lose hope at times, he has to dispel their discouragement. Helping them to solve problems gives him a good feeling, Alex says, and even the boy's mother has announced, "Now there is a ray of hope." He feels that as an immigrant, he has a message to convey to other immigrants.

The challenge of meeting kids on their own turf, as Alex put it, and the experience he is gaining from this interaction are additional compensation to the financial aid he receives from participating in the project.

Rawan Bisharat, a 22-year-old education and psychology student

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A Gulla/Geechee Griot Performs on Mt. Carmel

The Gullah/Geechee are the descendents of slaves from Sea Island, Georgia. A Griot is a narrator of the history and tradition of this community. David Pleasant, the Now Griot, came to Mt. Carmel in November at the invitation of the Center for the Study of the United States both to talk and to present a highly unusual performance.

Pleasant's talk, entitled "Polyrhythmic Explorations: Synthesizing African, Caribbean, and African-American Musical Traditions," was actually a prelude to his performance. He performed the Shout, Juba, and Jive of early African-Americans, lively melodies that continue to resonate in the popular and folk forms of today and that had the HU audience rocking in tune, to say the least.

It was a hands-on, call-and-response, join-in presentation that culminated in a community percussion orchestra.

The Gullah-Geechee Griot's appearance was sponsored in part by the U.S.-Israel Educational Foundation.



Now Griot David Pleasant

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Justice Rubinstein Reflects on Israel-Jordan Relations

During this period, he also had taken part in every secret meeting between an Israeli prime minister and the late King Hussein, describing that between Moshe Shamir and the Hashemite monarch on the eve of the Gulf War in 1990 as of "supreme importance in understanding each other's position if war breaks out."

Rubinstein views these meetings as "building blocks to confidence." Otherwise, he concludes, "the contents of the arrangements [between Israel and Jordan] wouldn't have taken place."

The occasion of these reminiscences and insights was an invitation-only, four-day convocation on "Jordan-Israel Relations, The First Decade of a Formal Peace, 1994-2004."

The significance of the event was marked by a taped message played at the opening ceremony of the conference from Jordan's Prince Hassan bin Talal, whom Rubinstein described as the "unsung hero of the negotiations." Gen. (ret.) Mansour Abu Rashid,

chairman of the Amman Center for Peace and Development, co-sponsor of the conference along with the University's Jewish-Arab Center, led the Jordanian delegation to Mt. Carmel.

Rubinstein, who in his negotiating days was legal adviser to the foreign ministry and a close aide to Moshe Dayan, also had words of praise for the first night's keynote, Dr. Munther Haddadin, former Minister of Water and Irrigation for Jordan. He was a "pillar of the negotiations," Rubinstein commented about his former negotiating partner. "His contribution went beyond the first agreement with Israel." As an aside, he mentioned that the text of the accord "had been written out in his [Haddadin's] beautiful handwriting." Had it been written in his own handwriting, he laughed, he never would have been able to read it.

There were no national traumas to overcome in the peace negotiations with Jordan as there were with Egypt and as exist with the Palestinians, Rubinstein acknowledged. The two leaders at the time of the negotiations, Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein, "radiated an atmosphere of peace." On the other hand, Rubinstein remarked, the treaty that was worked out "was not just giving

formal dressing to a reality." In addition to matters of water and security, the boundary issue was a thorny one. Its resolution, he said, represented "an achievement."

In effect, there was an exchange of land "that everyone could live with," with cultivated land in the Arava remaining under Israeli control, the rest of the areas under contention given to Jordan. The agreement "wasn't secret," he noted, "but it wasn't publicized."

Although Rabin had negotiated with the King in a tent in the Arava, the first "open meeting" in Jordan had taken place with Shimon Peres in July 1994, Rubinstein observed. The bilateral talks held on either side of the border had been preceded by three years of meetings in Washington, which followed Madrid as the venue for Israeli-Jordanian contacts.

The Madrid conference in 1991, Rubinstein pointed out, "was the first official table where Israelis, Jordanians, and Palestinians sat together." It was, he thought, a lesson in "how to have an international gathering," because it "provided a springboard for bilateral negotiations."

"Many believed, and still believe, in a trilateral approach," the former negotiator told his audience, adding that he did, too.

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Unique 'Open Apartment' Project Benefits Community and Students



Open Apartment Students. (Left) Alex Altschuler (l.) with the new-immigrant mother and son whom he tries to help. (Right) Eran Bercoviz.

in her second year at the University, comes from a village near Nazareth called Jaffa of Nazareth. She wants to give her charges an example of acting together, and is pleased when she sees 3rd graders, Arabs and Jews, holding one another's hands while coming home from school.

A Christian Arab, she joined the project because it was a good way to stay in Haifa rather than commute the distance from her home every day. It also provided her with an outlet to help a community advance, which she feels is important. Her parents completely approve of her decision, she said. She had also worked to this end in summer camps and as a counselor in a Scouts-like youth organization.

Rawan helps 4th-6th-grade children with their homework and runs a children's club, where the children enjoy themselves while indirectly learning to relate to one another without distinction and to dismiss stereotypes they have heard from their parents. She is thrilled when girls in her club who visit the University on a school trip run over to her when they see her on campus.

Working in the community, she says, gives her a chance to listen to people, old and young, and to talk with them about a variety of problems. She has gained an immense self-satisfaction from this experience, Rawan said. "I feel I have found myself."

The three commented that they effectively spend more than the required 12 hours a week on the project, because they are always thinking about it—which activity to introduce, how to deal with a specific problem, what to discuss at the next group meeting.

They would recommend participation only to students, regardless of field of study, who can accept the challenge of this type of social interaction with a community that may be quite unlike their own. Though they may have the chance to act as role models, eager students may encounter situations that can prove frustrating and too difficult to cope with, and there have been participating students who have left the project. "It's too hard to do just for the money," one of the trio remarked. "It's not for everyone."

Yet, according to Dean of Students Robin, there has been a demand both by localities outside Haifa that have heard of the success of the Open Apartment project and by students who want to participate in it. The University intends to expand and extend the unique activity to the extent that it can find the resources to do so.

Eskesta Success Continues

Late this past summer it was South Africa. More recently, it was the well-known Suzanne Delal Center for the Performing Arts in Tel Aviv, where it was one of the invited troupes to appear in Israel's most distinguished dance event. The Eskesta Dance Theater, under the artistic direction of Dr. Ruth Eshel, founder of the troupe of Ethiopian-origin dancers, continues to impress audiences and critics alike around the world.

The two-week trip to South Africa took the dancers, all of whom are either students or graduates of the University, to a half-dozen different cities in that country. They also appeared in Soweto and other localities where international dance groups do not normally frequent. Their performances were not limited to the south of Africa, since their appearance on the prestigious TV series "180 Degrees" brought Eskesta into living rooms throughout the continent.

This was not, though, the first time that the troupe, which Eshel put together for the first time eight years ago, performed in Africa. Audiences in Ethiopia and Eritrea have in the past seen Eskesta perform traditional shoulder dances (the meaning of the dance company's name in Amharic), accompanying ancient Jewish liturgies, and folklore-inspired artistic dances. The troupe, which operates within the framework of the Faculty of Humanities, has appeared at festivals in France, Germany, and Italy, and also performed in the Ukraine and in the United States.

"International Exposure" was the project name given by the Suzanne Delal Center to enable the country's foremost troupes to show what they have before an international audience of festival directors, choreographers, and other dance people from abroad. "Nafas," meaning wind or spirit in Amharic, is the name of Eskesta's new program, presented at this year's festival, which took place the first week of December.

With original music composed by the Music Department's chairman, Dr. Oded Zahavi, "Nafas" consists of a string of gentle solos that feed on images, customs, and the special movement lexicon of the Ethiopian community, according to Ruth Eshel. The work, she continues, is another stage in the troupe's creative journey to seek ways of modern artistic expression. The music by the award-winning composer Zahavi is based on words and tunes in Amharic.



Eskesta in its new work, "Nefas." Dancers: Gilat Bayenne and Ohad Wurkana; choreography: Ruth Eshel; music: Oded Zehavi.

Copenhagen Group' (an Israeli, an Egyptian, a Jordanian, and a Palestinian) Tries to Create Public Opinion 'Amenable to Peace'

Perhaps there is hope in the very fact that a former high-ranking Israeli government official, a former Jordanian air force chief, a former Egyptian diplomat, and a former Palestinian academic can convene a colloquium on the peace process, and no one—in Israel, at least—thinks it's a world-shattering event.

Known by the sobriquet as the Copenhagen Group, the four individuals and their organization, officially called the International Alliance for Arab-Israeli Peace, represent a unique phenomenon: it is the only regional peace movement in the Middle East. At the behest of the University's Jewish-Arab Center, the group came to Mt. Carmel in mid-November to outline its platform, which aims at "the promotion of peace and creation of a public opinion amenable to peace" in the region.

David Kimchi, who was a long-time director-general of the foreign ministry under two Israeli prime ministers, one of whom was the very right-wing Moshe Shamir, is "convinced," as he put it, that it is Israel's "supreme national interest" and "for its own good" to give up territory and make peace. This means going back to the Green Line, though "with enclaves," as he put it. He believes that Israel has to deal harshly with terrorists, but feels the response has been overdone and caused suffering to ordinary Palestinians.

"Israel must recognize that it now has a partner for peace," he told his audience. But he also advised the Palestinians to be realistic. "Unless there is serious effort [on their part] to curb violence, there will be little chance to move forward."

Gen. Ihsan Shordum, a former commander of the Jordanian air force, delivered a pessimistic message. "The majority of Arabs do not trust there will be a meaningful peace soon," he stated, adding that they perceived Israel as not fulfilling agreements. As for Sharon's disengagement plan, the Jordanian's assessment was that the Arabs saw it as an end, not a beginning. "Without the Arabs seeing a Jew talking about peace," he said, "then they don't believe it." And in what sounded almost as a take-off of a common Israeli refrain, he remarked, "The Arabs ask, 'Do we have a legitimate peace partner?'"

Shordum was critical of the Americans for dealing with the area on a double standard in Israel's favor. "The Americans must do something positive," he advised, "not continue with their empty words." Europe, too, did not escape his disappointment. In answer to a question about economic development, he said the international community had let down the Palestinians. The Europeans, he pointed out, were the ones who didn't want a development bank in the region.

The Jordanian defined the purpose of the Copenhagen Group as helping to bring a human tangible to the peace process, to produce a people-to-people peace. "It is not about normality," he clarified, but about a political will by all sides. Otherwise, "Israel will continue its unilateral way and the Palestinians won't come together."

The head of the Cairo Peace Association, the only peace movement in Egypt, feels that everyone shares responsibility for building hatred and that "now is the time to learn the lessons from the past and to change them." Amb. Adel el-Adawi, a former career diplomat who had served as assistant to Egypt's foreign minister, also believes that the whole Middle East will be a much better place when there is "a democratic Palestinian state next to a peace-loving Israeli state."

To attain this, in his opinion, Israel and the international community "will have to help the Palestinians build their democratic state. We need to give the Palestinians a chance, to help them help themselves." He claimed that Egypt was very much involved toward this end. "We are talking with all the Palestinian factions, as well as with the Israelis. Israel cannot do it alone." Expounding his view of history, el-Adawi then concluded, "We have to remember how our grandfathers lived in Jerusalem, praying next to each other. We have to open the doors again."

Dr. Riad el-Malkhi, who heads a Palestinian peace and research group, Panorama, had a consistent refrain in his talk. "Give Abu Mazen a chance." It was important to give the Palestinian leader the chance at least until the elections to the Palestinian legislature on June 1 the chance "to focus on building trust and on proving that the Palestinians are capable of it." Mazen had to be given the chance, he added, to improve the Palestinians living conditions.

This meant "we have to tell the people who don't want to hear it—stop the violence." Although convinced that Abu Mazen wants to disarm the militias, el-Malkhi has "no idea of how he [Mazen] will gain the confidence of the people who have lost confidence, hope." Nevertheless, "we have to recognize that people who look forward see a great opportunity with Arafat's death."

Calling for "certain gestures" on Israel's part "to test the chance," he pronounces the three weeks between Arafat's demise and this meeting as "the most successful in the Palestinian people's history." Unlike Syria, he said, the Palestinians did not change their constitution to suit a particular person. Everything did not collapse, as some had predicted. Basic laws were legislated, he said, arguing that the people proved they had democracy, that they had a mature leadership. "The smoothest transfer of power—it was amazing," he exulted.

"We passed the first test successfully," he declared. "Now is the second test—to maintain stability." This meant "for Israel not to interfere so as to give the militants an excuse. We have to convince them to cease fire."

El-Malkhi wanted to see a Palestinian platform calling for co-existence with Israel. "Then there will be no room for anything outside it, then we'll prevent anyone from being outside the law. We need tranquility from within and from without." He then concluded, "Either the Israeli government and people want to help the Palestinians transform or not. We want good neighbors, not settlers or an occupying army."

A resident of Ramallah and a former lecturer at Bir Zeit University, el-Malkhi noted that this was his second visit to the University of Haifa, the first time being 7 or 8 years ago. He hoped that on his third trip, he would speak about something different, as he was tired of reporting about the conflict.

Kimchi summed up the meeting. "We [the Copenhagen Group] are not a mass movement, but we do want people. When there are many NGOs pushing for peace, it has an effect. It becomes a critical mass of public opinion in a democratic society."

Student Builds Internet Site of Never-Recorded Army Songs

You won't find many songs like the once-famous "Sound Off" marching ditty that American troops yelled out in unison—at least in the movies in the mid-1950s—to help them keep pace during training treks and parades. But you will find a soldier's expression of pride in his unit, the whining refrains of a new recruit, coarse musings on army life, pointed descriptions of combat—all adding up to a poetry reflecting life experiences. More specifically the experiences of Israeli military life.

Some 200 of these songs, some with original lyrics and others parodies of well-known tunes, may be found on a unique website

(<http://music.haifa.ac.il/zemer>). Arad Hakim, a 3rd-year student in the Dept. of Land of Israel Studies built the site, which had its origins in a project he was doing for a course, "Flowers in the Barrel of a Gun." The course, given jointly with the Dept. of Music, explored the Hebrew song as inspired by Israeli military experience. The site, which is only in Hebrew, contains just the words, not the music, of the songs, most of which have never been recorded.

Hakim, 27, found a dormant site on the Internet that, among others, contained about 40 Israeli "military" songs. To collect more songs for his project, he realized he would have to utilize the Internet. He enlisted the aid of the Computing Division for the technical side of building a site. This reduced the complexity of collecting "non-official songs, songs by the boys" who were no longer in the army or in the units whose members belted out lyrics that would likely never find their way into a formal archive.

Early on, his site came to the attention of BaMahaneh (literally In the Camp), an army magazine, which interviewed him. The interview was publicized on Y-

Net and Maariv, the websites of the two largest Hebrew dailies, and the same day it had 3,000 hits. More importantly for Hakim, songs began to flow in to his site, which he had named "Zemer Haplugot" (Army Troop Songs). He has since been interviewed on the radio.

Most of the songs came from younger soldiers, those who had served in the 1990s. The younger generation, he believes, is more attuned to the Internet, and so has responded more to his appeal. Some songs, though, did come from the 1970s and 1960s. The oldest ditty he has collected is from 1961. Many of the older songs, Hakim notes, were taken from Israeli movies.

Combat units seem the most creative, he observes. "They are like a youth movement, [the soldiers] spending all their time together. They don't go home at night as do many support troops." The bonding and common danger apparently produce a creative force. He also notes that males do much more writing in this vein than do female soldiers.

Even though the theme of many songs concerns a particular unit or soldier, songs find their way throughout the army. A soldier, for example, may sing some refrain while undergoing officer's training, and his fellow officers to-be may pick it and bring it back to their respective units. The particular song then becomes widespread.

Once, Hakim recalls, he was at an army base and heard a passing soldier singing a song from his site, as well as several others. It brought home to him the potential of the site, and he was able to collect several more songs.

Parodies give him the most challenge. He tries to figure out what the original song was from the words he receives. At times the new lyrics convey a meaning directly contradicting the original. "Naomi Shemer [the late, noted songwriter, whose hits included



Arad Hakim

"Jerusalem of Gold"] would be turning over in her grave if she ever knew what they have done to some of her songs," he said.

The student, who is from Kibbutz Ein Hashofet, means the Internet site only as an academic exercise "to gather material, not to reach any conclusions, so that it can be used as a tool for research." His own interest is in history, not music or sociology, although he hasn't decided what he wants to do after gaining his Bachelor's degree. He hopes someone will take it on him or herself to build up the site to offer a serious database, which he feels can happen only with the addition of at least another hundred songs. He would publicize the site more to attract songs if he had the time and resources to do so.

Adding music to the site or making a disk of a selection of the songs he has gathered would also involve resources that he doesn't have, he replies in answer to a question. What Hakim does have, at least on one level, is a higher grade for the course, since the instructors "were very satisfied with the practical results of my research." On another level, he gained something much more from his project. "It was more than just getting a grade and going home" he remarks proudly about the Internet site he built of Hebrew songs connected with the army experience of Israel's citizen soldiers.

What If a Tsunami Hit? First Program of Its Kind in Israel Dealing with Mass Disaster

Early in the fall, a tornado was photographed off the coast of Nahariya on Israel's northern coast. Unlike some areas of the United States, it was an unusual phenomenon for Israel. Would the authorities have known how to handle the situation in the aftermath of a natural disaster if the destructive funnel of wind had hit inland?

More recently, an official of the Geographic Survey of Israel warned that the country's coastal plain was at "slight risk" of being hit by a tsunami, the tidal wave generated by an earthquake under the sea. Land dangers of earthquakes are, though, more of a possibility and did large-scale cause destruction in early 20th century Israel. There are those in the geographic community who warn that sooner or later both an earthquake and a tsunami will hit Israel at full force. Prof. Yossi Mart of the Dept. of Geography states plainly that though no one in Israel knows exactly when or where, "we must be properly deployed and without delay."

Israeli authorities can now be better prepared if they take a new curriculum being offered through the Geography Department: Disaster Management. A two-year Master's degree program, it is the first of its kind in Israel.

According to the program's initiators, Prof. Arnon Soffer, holder of the Chaikin Chair in Geostrategy, and Brig.-Gen. (ret.) Arnon Ben-Ami, head of the government's State of Emergency Unit, the aim is to train future leaders how to handle catastrophes involving large numbers of casualties, widespread damage to property, and hundreds, even, thousands, left homeless. Soffer noted that since 9/11, around a hundred disaster management courses have sprung up in the United States.

Along with the availability of rescue and emergency equipment, he commented, it is the preparedness of leaders and the knowledge of what has to be done that are of utmost importance in helping to save lives in a mega event. Ben-Ami said that the course of study will enable graduates to deal with catastrophes in any orderly manner, rather than in the makeshift fashion that currently characterizes disaster management.

Students come from various services that handle tragedies: the IDF Homefront Command, the Fire and Rescue Service, Magen David Adom, as well as from local authorities and such large utilities as Bezeq (the phone company) and Israel Electric.

Honors and Appointments

Assoc. Prof. Ammatzia Peled, Dept. of Geography, was elected president of Commission VIII, "Remote Sensing Applications and Policies," of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. Two of his students, Dr. Bashir Haj-Yihye, who recently completed his doctorate, and Ms. Michal Lichter, a doctoral candidate, will serve as scientific secretary and as secretary, respectively, of the Commission.

Prof. Yaakov Barnai, Dept. of Jewish History, was named Chairman of the Board of the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People.

Assoc. Prof. Eli Somer, School of Social Work, was elected president of the Chicago-based International Society for the Study of Dissociation. The clinical psychologist is the first non-North American to be elected to head this Society.

Dr. Nadav Kashtan, Dept. of Maritime Civilizations, was invited to Italy by the Societa Paulina for a series of talks in Alba, Vicenza, and Rome on Paul's journeys on the Mediterranean. The Vatican's Radio Vaticana also interviewed him at length.

Dr. Oren Meyers, Dept. of Communication, was the

recipient of two awards for his outstanding doctoral dissertation completed at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School of Communication. "Israeli Journalists as an Interpretative Memory Community: The Case Study of *Haolam Hazeh*" received the Association for Israel Studies Ben Halpern Biennial Award for Best Doctoral Dissertation in the Study of the Yishuv, Zionism, and the State of Israel, as well as the Ladaat's (Israel's Media Watch organization) Yoav Prize for the most outstanding academic work in the field of communication criticism

University Campus Gradually Becoming Wireless

The growing popularity of wireless laptop computers among faculty and students alike has led the University to develop a wireless campus. Computer users will then be able to access the Library catalog, the Internet, or e-mail without having to move from the coffee shop, library carrel, bus stop, or eventually one's dorm bed.

The following areas can now accommodate wireless operation: all public areas of the University Library; the public areas of the Terrace Building, most of the hallways in the building, and some of the classrooms and halls; two thirds (3rd-6th floors) of the Jacobs Building, which houses the Graduate School of Business Administration and the Computer Sciences Department; the Hecht Museum and adjoining Auditorium; and the lawn of the outdoor student coffee shop, Café Deshe, next to the Main Building.

The Computing Department will make more areas available to accommodate the new technology as the year progresses.

In order to benefit from the wireless atmosphere, computers need an 802.11b or 802.11g wireless network card. Users who have a "smart card" to connect to the University network will have full access to all servers and sites, including databanks. Guest passes will also be issued to those who want only to surf the Internet.



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Book Column

Euthanasia in the Netherlands: The Policy and Practice of Mercy Killing, by Raphael Cohen-Almagor, Kluwer, 2004. This volume offers an interdisciplinary analysis of medicine, law, religion, and ethics regarding end-of-life issues. It covers a range of theoretical and practical controversial issues that doctors, nurses, ethicists, and scientists confront. The author is an Assoc. Professor in the Dept. of Communication and Head of the Program in Information Sciences and Librarianship.

Where East Looks West: Success in English and on the Konkan Coast, by Dennis Kurzon, Multilingual Matters, November 2003, 158 pp. The aim of the book is to explain the constant success in English as a Foreign Language tests by speakers of Konkani, who live in and to the south of Goa, India. The evidence points to historical and sociolinguistic factors, both of the region and of India as a whole. The author is an Assoc. Professor in the Dept. of English Language and Literature.

A Judge in a Democracy, by Aharon Barak, University of Haifa Press, jointly with Keter and Nevo, 2004, 551 pp. (Hebrew). Examining the position of a judge in a society that is democratic and Jewish, the book attempts to prove that there is no contradiction, that the court in Israel can be impartial, as well as sensitive to the special circumstances of a Jewish state. The author, who served on the Steering Committee for the establishment of the Faculty of Law at the University, is Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Israel.

Escaping Auschwitz: A Culture of Forgetting, by Ruth Linn, Cornell University Press, 2004. The book deals with the reasons that the Auschwitz Protocols were never published in Hebrew until the end of the 1990s, Israeli historians' attempts to discredit the author of these protocols who had escaped from the death camp. It raises questions whether history should be written a combination of academics and eyewitnesses who can provide documented evidence who understand the context of the times. The author is a Professor in the Faculty of Education.

Law, Economics, and Cyberspace—The Effects of Cyberspace on the Economic Analysis of Law, by Niva Elkin-Koren and Eli M. Salzberger, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2004. This work, an attempt to critically analyze the suitability of traditional law and economics for the new digital environment, argues that the Internet revolution should exert a more significant impact on economic thinking and on the perception of law. It includes an examination of legislation, case law, and academic literature relating to cyberspace, and proposes an innovative approach for the role of technology within the law and economics framework. The authors are Associate Professors in the Faculty of Law.

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