U.S. and Israeli Jews' links discussed

By MICHAEL BELL
Collegian Staff Writer

A non-orthodox rabbi told University students last week that issues affecting the state of Israel also affect American Jews.

Rabbi Earl Jordan, of Temple Bet-Israel in Altoona, said the United States-Israeli relationship and the role of American Jewery is important in international and Middle Eastern affairs.

When the lecture began, Rabbi Jordan said he had no academic credentials in international relations and could not properly discuss the political environment in the Middle East. So, instead of giving a long lecture, he presented a brief history of Israel and then allowed the audience to ask questions concerning Jewish and Israeli issues.

Rabbi Jordan based his knowledge of U.S.-Israeli issues from his work with the United Jewish Appeal, through which the American Jewish community collects and distributes money to aid Jews overseas, and his experience as a non-orthodox Rabbi, a sect which strictly observes the rights of Judaism.

"In 1938, the UJA was founded to relieve the plight, at that time, of German Jews and then later European Jews," Jordan said.

Now, a large proportion of the money is sent to Israel, but some funding goes to what the group calls "countries of distress," including Romania, Poland and the Soviet Union.

"We came upon the state of Israel right after our people had been disseminated. It had all the drama, all the excitement and all the fulfillment of history."

— Rabbi Earl Jordan, Temple Bet-Israel in Altoona

Rabbi Jordan also spoke about the significance of the 1948 creation of the state of Israel and the drama and excitement he said it involved.

"We came upon the state of Israel right after our people had been disseminated," Jordan said. "It had all the drama, all the excitement and all the fultiliment of history."

Another important aspect of Israeli history Jordan discussed was the warfare Israel faced during and after the first years of its creation. In 1956, the Israeli army marched into Eygptian Sinai desert, but the U.S. forced the Jewish army to turn back, Jordan said. Again in 1967, the Jews took arms against their Arab neighbors in what is commonly known as the Six-Day War. This time Israel was successful in its military campaign, he said.

"1967 turned around Jewish attitude in such a way that Jews came out from under rocks. After that year, Israelis could do no wrong," Jordan said.

Eventually, after the euphoria brought on by Jewish victories wore off, concerned and committed American Jews began to ask questions, Jordan said.

He said a major concern of American Jews is the level of influence they should have over Israeli policies. With the money American Jews donate to the UJA, many American Jews feel they should have a greater influence in determining Israeli politics, Jordan said.

"With our dollars we don't have the right to determine all of Israel's policies," Jordan said.

The lecture was sponsored by Yachad — Penn State Friends of Israel. Joshua First, president of the student organization, said Yachad is a cultural as well as a political group whose members have one thing in common — their alleigence to Israel.

"The members of Yachad are not all Jewish. We have blacks and born-again Christians as members, too," First said.

Educator tells women to "speak out"

By LORI MILLER
Collegian Staff Writer

Speaking in public is the number one fear among Americans and that fear is interfering with women's communication skills, a University speech communications instructor told a group of about 10 women educators and businesswomen yesterday.

Heather Ricker Gilbert said people fear public speaking because they don't want to appear unintelligent or out of control. Gilbert spoke at the State College Hotel, 100 W. College Ave., on "Improving your Public Speaking Skills."

Women are particularly afraid to speak out because they are "not traditionally part of the public sphere of American life," she said.

This fear seems unjustified because women have better communication skills, she said. Women learn to verbalize earlier in life and structure sentences better than men, Gilbert added.

However, she said since few women stand out as orators, "there are not a great number of role models out there for women."

Women must develop a spoken image — comprised of a self-image, a visual image and a verbal image — to communicate effectively, she said.

A woman who believes in herself makes her ideas believable and projects the ideal self-image, she said. Delivering ideas in concrete, direct and clear statements gets messages across to others, Gilbert said.

Most women don't improve on their self-images because of their desire to be feminine, well-liked and inconspicuous, she said.

Non-verbal speech — such as body language and appearance — composes a visual image, Gilbert said. Women convey an effective visual image when they gesture confidently, establish constant eye contact with the audience, and take the initiative in communication, she said. This image gives credibility to the speaker, she said.

To project a solid verbal image, women must have good voice volume, pitch and tempo, she said. Generally, low, resonant and pleasing voices communicate better than other types, she said.

Verbal tags — words at the end of a sentence that make the speaker sound uncertain — deemphasize a statement's meaning, she said. Empty adjectives or fillers like "really," "fantastic" or "fabulous" make statements vague, she said.

People spend 80 percent of their time communicating by writing, reading, talking or listening, she said. Because people communicate so often, women "must learn to be assertive and active communicators."

Effective communication is essential to the art of achieving constructive human relationships and gaining power in political or job situations, she added.

Gilbert graduated from the University in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in speech communications. In 1972 she earned a graduate degree in the major.

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