

Around town / world news

THE ELI HERSCOVITCH BAND

"It is our pleasure to earn your respect"

CALL ELI HERSCOVITCH AT 489-5267

Delivering Holocaust history, lessons on CD-ROM

By BRAD LAKRITZ
Correspondent, *Jewish Bulletin of Northern Cali-*

fornia

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. - The Holocaust may be the most difficult event for Jews and non-Jews alike to comprehend. But at the click of a computer's mouse, two new CD-ROMs provide important historical documentation about the decimation of European Jewry from 1933-1945. "The Yellow Star: The Persecution of the Jews in Europe From 1933 to 1945" is based on the Academy Award-nominated film "The Yellow Star."

In the introduction, Simon Wiesenthal explains that the film is a "remembrance, a lesson, and a warning." "The Yellow Star" employs the metaphor of a book, using some of the latest hypermedia production techniques to provide access to video clips and a limited amount of text and glossary information.

Turning the pages, one moves through an interactive timeline to videos about historical events like the Wannsee Conference or the destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto. But the film clips and other information on this CD-ROM reduce "The Yellow Star" to a description of the persecution of European

Jewry by Hitler and the Germans.

Even the ever-present, blood-stained, yellow and red screen background make the material difficult to watch at times. Also missing from this CD-ROM are the numerous subtopics that make the story of the Holocaust so complex, including pre-war European Jewry and the post-war readjustment. "The Yellow Star" also misses the opportunity to use high technology to explore some of the huge archives of historical documents about the Holocaust.

Almost 95 percent (over 606 megabytes) of the CD-ROM is made up of clips from the film. "Lest We Forget - A History of the Holocaust" develops a more powerful interpretation of the event. "We will never be able to totally understand the Holocaust," say the makers of this CD-ROM, and "despite exhaustive documentation it will remain incomprehensible."

Like "The Yellow Star," this CD-ROM takes a very clear stand about how to teach and learn about the Holocaust. But, rather than focus only on the horrors, "Lest We Forget" includes important information about the history of the Jews in

Europe and the creation of the state of Israel. "Lest We Forget" begins with a brief but powerful collage of images of sounds.

The main menu is dark, and the soundtrack foreboding, as a small window plays a continuous loop film with images of Jews in Europe before the war. The smiling faces seem incongruous with the powerful sounds of soldiers marching, trains screeching, and dogs barking. From this menu users can choose from the four main sections including: "The History of the Jews," "Hitler's Germany," "The Holocaust" and "The Aftermath." Each chapter includes a short overview and a series of sub-headings with links to more films, photographs and text. Along the right side of each screen is a series of clickable images that open still more videos, photographs and texts.

A compact timeline, glossary, mini-biographies of key figures in the story and maps are all part of the side bar menu. "The Aftermath" section explores one of the most complicated parts of the Holocaust story: the difficulty survivors had in reaching Palestine and integrating into the young Jewish state.

Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation completes second year of operation

LOS ANGELES Calif. - Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, established by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Steven Spielberg to document firsthand accounts of survivors' experiences before, during and after the Holocaust, has completed its second year of operation.

Initiated with a six-month pilot program in June 1994, the foundation recorded 450 testimonies during that time in Los Angeles, New York and Toronto.

Since then, the foundation has expanded into seven active regions and completed thousands of testimonies.

"Every member of our worldwide staff," says Spielberg, "each coordinator, every advisor, interviewer, videographer, volunteer and financial supporter, is ensuring the faces, names, and personal stories of the Holocaust will be seen and heard long after the last witness is gone."

The foundation is going to significant lengths to preserve the documentation with the aid of digital technology. Staff have designed a breakthrough multi-media database system to archive, manage and navigate through what will be an unprecedented mass of historical material.

tion from the camps.

The foundation has also established a special region that will seek out survivors in communities not serviceable with a continuous operation such as Croatia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Greece, Latvia, Serbia, South Africa, England, Italy, Poland, Shanghai, Denmark, Uruguay, Bulgaria and Lithuania. The team was also in St. Petersburg, Russia where it completed more than 51 interviews.

"The majority of Holocaust survivors are in their 70s and 80s. The window for capturing their testimonies is closing fast," said Spielberg. "This archive will preserve history as told by the people who live it, and lived through it..."

The foundation is currently expanding its efforts to contact Holocaust survivors world-wide. Telephone inquiries in the United States and Canada should be directed to (800) 661-2092.

RAINBOW STAGE 1996 SEASON

DO
RE
MI
FA
SO
LA
TI



the sound of
MUSIC

July 16 - August 11
Select-A-Seat 780-7328

\$9.25, \$15.75, \$19.75 & \$21.75 (includes all taxes and agency fee)
CHILDREN 1/2 PRICE, SENIORS 1/2 PRICE - SUNDAYS ONLY - NO PERFORMANCE MONDAYS

Tickets on sale now!
SENIORS DISCOUNT AVAILABLE



Two of a kind

The pool area of Eilat's newly-opened Dan Hotel. Copyright: ISRANET.

The recent plethora of new hotels opening or currently being built in the Red Sea resort of Eilat has given the tourist a wide choice. Unfortunately, most hotels there today are in the upper end of the price range, which doesn't help tourists on more restricted budgets. Built side by side along the sea shore are the new \$92 million Dan Hotel and the Royal Beach Hotel.

The Dan is the first luxury hotel of the Dan group to be built in Eilat. The Dan Hotel chain also owns the King David Hotel in Jerusalem and the Dan Hotels in Tel Aviv, Haifa and Herzlia. The Royal Beach Hotel is the new five-star flagship of the Eilat-based Isrotel group owned by U.K. businessman David Lewis. Both hotels offer a large variety of rooms and specialty restaurants.

The Dan offers its guests the free use of its health clubs and Turkish baths, while the Royal Beach has this as an extra cost. Both hotels have extensive conference facilities including sophisticated audiovisual equipment.

The Royal Beach has no less than nine restaurants; however, two of the restaurants that offer Italian and Chinese cuisine are not kosher. Several rooms in the Royal Beach have been specially designed for the disabled, and two have even been designed for the deaf visitor.

Lights flash when there is a ring at the bedroom door and instead of a telephone, there is a special fax machine designed for their use. Both hotels have invested heavily in their range of swimming pools. The Royal Beach is without doubt the most artistically designed of the two hotels, with lawns sloping down to the water's edge and plenty of shade available from the many palm trees.

YOU CALLED TO ASK

You've had a lot of questions since the announcement to convert MTS from government ownership to a publicly traded corporation.

Let's start with rates - which will continue to be set, just as they are now, by the federal government through the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission - no matter who owns MTS.

It's a national process designed to ensure fairness for all telephone customers in Canada.

AND JUST LIKE ALWAYS...

So, most things at MTS will stay just as they are, ensuring Manitobans continue to receive top notch service... just like always!

But there's one area that will continue to change just as quickly as it has in the past - technology. Our job is to keep pace in this technological race. As a publicly traded corporation, we'll be able to do just that... and more.

That's because we'll be free from the slow moving ties of government. Free to aggressively pursue and capture new market opportunities. It's the surest way we know to build a future that's just as strong as our past.

WE'RE HERE TO ANSWER!

And finally, a word about you. Which is why we're offering MTS employees and Manitobans a special opportunity to acquire a majority interest in the corporation in late 1996. Because we believe it's vital that MTS continues to be run, just as it always has been - in Manitoba... for Manitobans.

MTS

PROUD PAST. PROMISING FUTURE.