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## The Independent Volume XII No. 1

Touro College Student Body

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# M.S. Reaffirms Accreditation

by Yitzhak Gold

After two years of uncertainty, Touro College was reaffirmed for Accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

One main reason for the recent approval by Middle States is due to the clarification of Touro's mission statement. The sharpness of the current statement particularly the words, "The College emphasizes both the relevance of the Jewish heritage to the general culture

of Western civilization" greatly impressed the study. Much of the credit for rewriting this satisfactory mission statement goes, to Touro newly appointed Vice President Dr. Solomon Simonson.

Middle States also acknowledged what is already well-known to students, that is, the close professors-students relationship. Small classes allow faculty to dedicate much of their time to individual students. This would be impossible in a large institution.

The Administrators also came in for high praise. There are many different sites, all well-run and administered. The Physicians Assistant Program was singled out as having excellent narrative reports and very good clerical report.

A caring atmosphere that S.G.S. students feel the administration provides was said, by the Middle States reports, to be a major strength of the program. In addition to the cordial atmosphere, the flexibility to

meet student needs and the "multi-cultural experience" caused middle states to say that Touro's S.G.S. was "distinctive in American higher education."

Touro's faculty records came in for some criticism. It appears there is very little official documentation of the faculties education or experience. There is no reason to doubt the facts provided by the Professors, but there is still a need for written proof. Dean Stanley Boylan states that the problem is being

remedied and that it is a small matter of updating transcripts and forwarding references. The word went out to all faculty to cooperate in this matter.

Some unique features of the Touro Law School were cited by the study. The international law course from which twenty law students will travel to Israel is expected to bring law students from around the country to Touro. The Law schools weak points of legal writing and legal research will be

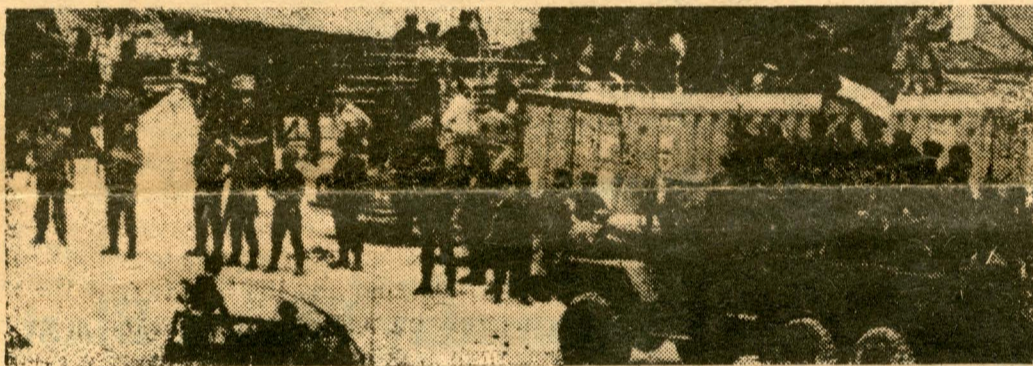
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# THE

VOLUME XII No. 1 TOURO COLLEGE SEPTEMBER 1982

# INDEPENDENT



## News Analysis: U.S. and Israel Have Symbiotic Ties

by Steve Geller

"The race isn't always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, but that's the way to bet."

These words of Murphy go a long way in describing America's approach to a rival situation, whether it be a sporting activity or an approach to war, America has always relied on brute force in its military endeavors. To the U.S., war has become a game of numbers, its ability to keep up with the Russians in the arms race.

This summer, Israel disap-

pointed that theory again. Using size to forecast Israel's military consequence is usually a mistake, because Israel's approach to war is very different. Israel has never looked at war as an exhibition of strength. They have reduced war to a science, and mastered it.

The events which took place in Lebanon are very significant in appraising the United States relationship with Israel. Many times during the war the United States made certain requests that Israel seemed to ignore.

One such request came when President Reagan was making a tour of Europe to illustrate America's dominance as a world power. White House officials asked Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin to postpone any further aggression until Reagan returned to the U.S. Begin ignored the request and continued the attack, casting suspicion upon America's influence with its allies.

On another occasion, Reagan

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## Touro Moves Back to 44th Street

by Steve Geller

Two weeks ago, Touro moved its LAS, SGS, and administrative offices back to its 44th Street building. Last spring the LAS was moved from 44th Street to a building on 226 W 26th Street along with the offices. Touro was hoping its bid of \$1.8 million would be enough to purchase the building. Touro was faced with a \$1 million debt plus the expense of an endowment of its new law school. The only source for this amount of money would have to come from either fund raising or the sale of the 44th street building, or both.

Touro's problems were further complicated when the Columbia Broadcasting System submitted a bid of \$3.6 million in the final hours of bidding considerations. The acceptance of that bid put Touro back at the beginning. Once again, they were faced with the task of finding facilities to accommodate the LAS, SGS, and offices.

Dr. Sol Shaviro, head of administration, purchasing, and planning at Touro explained why Touro moved back to 44th Street. "Moving back to 44th Street would cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000. The cost of just one month's rent (at 26th Street) ran in the neighborhood of \$50,000."

Touro moved from the 44th

Street building amidst contradictory reports as to the buildings fate. At the time Touro claimed the 44th Street building was needed by the law school and its library. However, reports that the building was on the market to be sold surfaced at the same time.

According to Dean Stanley Boylan, the fate of the 44th Street building "depends on the real estate market."

"Selling a building of such value to pay for debts would be a mistake," he said. Dean Boylan expects a balanced budget for Touro this year and said the debt incurred last year would be "no crisis".

The law school has since been moved to its own building in Huntington Long Island. Dr. Shaviro explained that the 44th Street building, despite its ideal location (next to the American Bar Association building), did not leave room for expansion. The facility in Long Island is bigger, and it is also the only law school in that area.

As for Touro's future, Dr. Shaviro believes that, for the right price, Touro will sell its 44th St. building. He did not rule out the possibility of this happening by spring semester this year. The majority are of the opinion however, that Touro will be at 44th Street at least for the year.

## Touro Women Take Stand on Abortion

by Dana Karasik

How conservative are Orthodox Jews? Do they conform rigidly to "orthodox" viewpoints on contemporary issues or are they more liberal in their interpretations?

A random survey of women students at Touro College revealed that many Orthodox students are surprisingly liberal on the issue of abortion.

Uniformly conservative when asked about their views on premarital sex, drugs, and dating, their responses to the question, "Do you believe abortion should be legalized?" were more diverse.

One Touro student, who describes herself as "very conservative" in adhering to Jewish law, unexpectedly offered a very liberal response to the problem of abortion: "Of

course, I would never have an abortion. But I believe abortion should be legalized because it's much safer. Any woman who wants one will get one anyway. Better she should have it performed by a competent doctor," she maintains.

Another student who labels herself as Modern Orthodox expressed anger with Orthodox

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## The Gold Mind



## College vs. Knowledge

by Yitzhak Gold

The attitude most students have to actually taking a course for the knowledge (as opposed to a "requirement" or an easy A) is one of total disdain. If Pre-med students, known for their all-consuming passion for science can manage the "Almighty 'A' without so much as a glance at a frog's innards, N.Y.'s nightspots would receive a boom unparalleled since the end of W.W.II. Unfortunately knowledge is way down on the priority list for the reasons as to why average college student attends any class.

Colleges today have come a full cycle. As recently as sixty years ago college curriculum was heavy with history, literature and dead language courses. Students who went to college for practical purposes were looked down upon. Now it is the people who go to college for any other reason who are looked down upon as weird or worse—intellectual.

Colleges should not and must not be so mercenary. It is highly doubtful, and not even desirable that in this highly technical world, that curriculum

return to nineteenth century standards. But the colleges current role of glorified vocational school is also wrong. Students should take away a lifelong love for some discipline. A love that should foster a continued growth in that field long after college and the professional studies come to an end. In Touro one has the advantage of receiving a solid but by no means complete education in Religious studies or the secular humanities. If one is not interested in either of these more metaphysical studies than other fields, be it psychology, biology or even linear algebra could provide intellectual satisfaction when the concern for making a living dissipates.

In the past many valuable contributions to a field were made "rank amateurs". The knowledge we have of Ancient Greece was greatly increased when Schlieman, a gun manufacturer, discovered the ruins of what he thought was Troy. And millions of people are still being touched by the poetry of Emily Dickinson. All that is needed to make an im-

pact on any worthwhile field is an abiding interest in that subject.

Last week I heard a very tragic story. A retired clothing executive, once the president of his company, was reduced to working as a messenger for minimum wage. Not that there is anything wrong with being a messenger. If one needs the money or is not capable of more skilled labors, running messages is an honorable position. What makes this story tragic is that this man did not need the money. Also it can be safely assumed that he was a talented person, having risen to the top of his highly competitive field. He did it because he simply had nothing better to do.

There is little hope for the old clothing executive. When he retired from his job he retired from all challenge. He will deliver sealed envelopes until he gets too incapacitated to move. he will then slowly vegetate and die. Without some sort of mental stimulation the brain withers. People rarely remain on one level. If you stop growing you degenerate.

D'var Torah:

## Succos Started as a Cloud on the Horizon

by Nachum Cooper

Hashem commanded us to build a succah to remember the seven clouds that protected the Jewish nation when they left Egypt. Four clouds surrounded our ancestors on all four sides one above, one below and one in front to straighten out the road on which they were traveling. The Jewish nation traveled in the clouds like a person who is in a ship and did not become tired from their journeys at all. In order to remember this miracle that Hashem performed for our forefathers we celebrate this holiday by sitting outside of our houses for seven days in a succah.

Why then do we celebrate the holiday of succos in the month of Tishrei. The miracle of the clouds began in the month of Nisan right after we left Egypt.

The Gemara replies that if we would go out from our houses in Nisan, people wouldn't

recognize that we are leaving our house because of Hashem's commandment. Nisan is the beginning of the spring and



people will say that the Jews are leaving their houses because of the warm weather, to enjoy the cool spring air. Hashem there-

fore commanded us to build a succah in Tishrei when everyone else is doing just the opposite. While we are moving out of our houses everyone else is doing quite the contrary and moving back inside because of the cold weather. Through our actions it is recognizable that we are only doing so because of Hashem's commandment and not for our pleasure.

The Shach explains that before Rosh Hashona and Yom-kippur we stayed in our houses because we were afraid that we would be punished for our sins. Now that it is after the day of Judgement and Hashem has hopefully forgiven us because of the Teshuva that we did, we rejoice and go out to the succah without being afraid.

Let's just conclude by hoping that our Teshuva will be accepted and that next year or even this year we should all find ourselves celebrating succos in Eretz Yisroel.

## THE INDEPENDENT

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The official publication of the Touro College Student Body. All editorials represent the majority opinion of the editorial board as expressed by one of its members unless signed.

To The Editors  
Bring Back Old Times

Dear Editor,

As one of the few returning students who remembers the good old days at Touro, I feel compelled to write this letter hoping that the administration reads it. Although Touro still gives every student a most personal education, there was a time that the administration extended the same benefits. But times have changed and many administrators have come and gone without ever having experienced "Touro". Dr. Lander's dream as expressed in the Official Touro College Handbook is fading and fading fast.

We all know Dr. Lander is a

busy man, but there were days when Dr. Lander knew everyone by name, where you came from and your majors. Compare the situation if you will to a mother with so many children that the younger children take all the mothers attention. The older children feel neglected and eventually rebel and leave home.

Please Dr. Lander and all Touro administrators give L.A.S. a chance. Get to know us and help us make Dr. Lander's dream become a reality.

Respectfully

Arthur Frisch

## Doomsday Flick a Blast

by Evan Lowenthal

"Day after Doomsday" films qualify as a genre within science-fiction. This is due to the amount and variety of such movies, and the elements that invariably appear in each. One of the latest "doomsday" films is *The Road Warrior*.

The film concerns Max, who rides around the post-apocalypse Australian desert fighting for gas to keep his hot rod rolling. Competing with him for the fuel are motorcycle gangs and assorted violent crazies.

In many ways *The Road Warrior* is a conventional "doomsday" flick. Familiar devices such as a loner hero, despotic warlords and violent action abound. The 20th Century survives as rusting relics and cultural fragments just as it does in almost every other film of this nature.

*The Road Warrior* does have some innovation however, Max is not a rebel; he is a good fighter who prospers in his society. He helps some "rebels" who wish to change the society by migrating to a more tranquil area. When they rescue him

from bandits after his contract with them is over, Max feels compelled to help them without pay. Perhaps he learned that there is more to life than fighting and surviving.

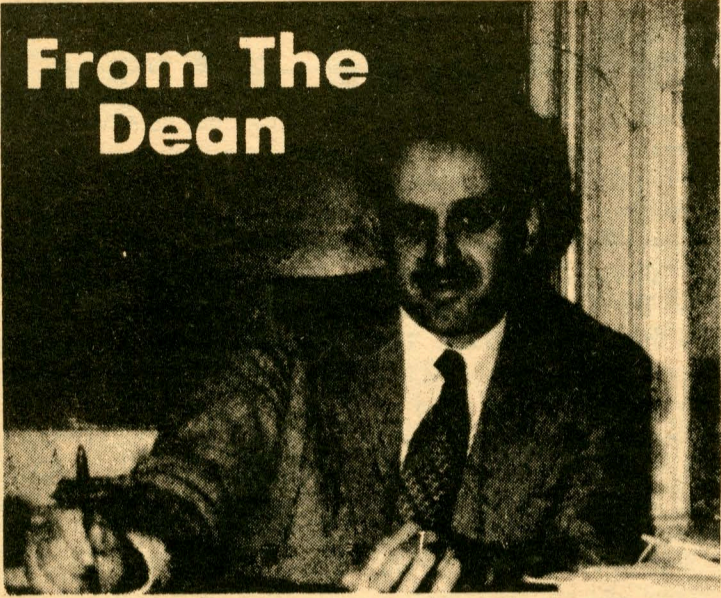
*The Road Warrior's* "day after Doomsday" theme is no longer shocking. This is a disturbing fact. Although that is the natural result of a glut of such films, it is also due to the growing anxiety in our society. This reflects the fear that such a brave new world may exist in the near future. George Orwell wrote of such a society in 1984; it is ironic that a current "doomsday" movie is called *The Class of 1984*. The massive anti-nuke rally in Central Park points to the potential of massive destruction and the growing concern over it. Memories of the Holocaust and even of the oil-crisis also provoke uneasy thoughts. This would account for the popularity of "doomsday" films.

Social commentary aside, *The Road Warrior* is a lot of fun. It is a solid, action filled adventure story. See it as that and it will not disappoint.

M.D. Welcome Back to 44th St.



# From The Dean



The new academic year represents an important milestone both for you, the students, and the college. With the accreditation of the college reaffirmed for the next five years, following a very positive report by the Middle States Evaluation Team, we can now focus our energies on making Touro an even stronger and more vibrant institution. For students, new and returning, the months ahead are filled with the promise of intellectual growth and maturation.

Touro is a student-centered institution. For all of us in the Office of the Dean of Students, your interests and needs are the foremost priority. The counseling staff, Ms. Naomi Kapp, Mr. Harold Lifshutz, Dr. Beryl Septimus, and Dr. Eric Willner (Flatbush) will once again work with you and help you address academic and career concerns, or assist you in coping with personal problems. Those of you seeking employment should contact Ms. Jacquelyn Safer, our Director of Placement. The Counseling and Placement Offices are located on the fourth floor in the Men's Division and the sixth floor in the Women's Division. Other individuals who share significant advisement responsibilities include Assistant Dean of Students David Luchins, Ms. Rachel Horowitz, Assistant to the Dean of Students for the Women's Division, and Dr. Emil Kon, the pre-med advisor at Touro. A complete listing of prepro-

fessional and departmental advisors can be picked up in my office.

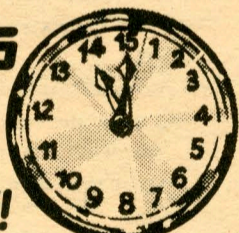
A very rich calendar of workshops has been scheduled for the fall semester. In addition to workshops regularly held each year on such topics as college skills, paperwriting skills, and test-taking skill, there will be a series of presentations entitled "Lunch Time Workshops" addressing such issues as stress and how to cope with it, depression and loneliness, and choosing a career in an era of diminishing expectations. I will conduct an expanded workshop for pre-law students in November.

Students amenities will not be neglected. Two-fers to Broadway shows, Cinema 5 Discount Cards and International Student I.D. Cards are available in the Office of the Dean of Students. You may also sign up for one of two student health insurance plans (including major medical and dental coverage) at very reasonable rates. The enrollment deadline for the Blue Cross plan is October 15.

I am a firm believer in the open door policy. If you have a problem or a grievance, if you need advice, or if you are overwhelmed by college life, feel free to drop by and talk things over.

Robert Goldschmidt  
Dean of Students

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# Southern Belles Don't Ring in New York

by Tammy Black

To many southerners New York means muggings and shootings. Southern parents often prefer to have their college-aged children remain close to home, in school such as the Universities of Georgia or Alabama.

However, several young women have been attending Touro College located in the heart of New York City. This reporter asked them to compare New York to their native southern towns.

When asked if they enjoyed being in New York, most replied yes. Only one person answered, "No I hate it." Everyone agreed that New York has many more museums, restaurants, and theatres than the south, and that job opportunities are abundant in New York.

New York is also the center for Jewish people, with close to half the population being Jewish. New York is filled with kosher restaurants, Jewish nightclubs, and men proudly wearing their skullcaps on the streets. Lisa Klein, of Atlanta, Georgia, is proud. She says, "I like to see young Jewish kids."

Marcia Rich from Birm-

ingham, Alabama, finds New York very different from the south because New York is much more city oriented, while the south is more rural. Skyscrapers fill the New York sky line. The south is much simpler. She adds, "People in New York forget the simpler pleasures of life like planting a garden or climbing a tree. Everyday things we always do, they (New Yorkers) don't do because of the lack of nature."

Deborah Wittenstein, from Atlanta, sees New York as "dirty, noisy, cold, and much faster paced than Atlanta. Atlanta people are much warmer and friendlier." Trash overflows the New York streets, car horns constantly honk, and ambulances often have a difficult time getting through the mass of traffic. In the south there is not much traffic, and there is very little litter.

The subways are also filthy, with liquor bottles often rolling across the floor every time the train slows down. Adrian Novit, from Charleston, South Carolina, is afraid to ride them, but rides them anyway whenever necessary.

Readjusting to the slower pace of the south was not a

problem to anyone who returned home. Marcia Rich, from Birmingham explains, "I was raised in the south. You never forget how to live the way you were raised." To Marcia, that meant that she was raised in a slower paced society, one more concerned with relaxing. People in Birmingham do not rush around so much. It's not healthy.

New Yorkers are known to be more impersonal than people in other parts of the country. Deborah Wittenstein rationalizes that, New Yorkers fear for their safety in crowds; therefore, they are more closed to strangers."

Everyone questioned said they would not want to make New York their home after graduating college. Lisa Klein, from Atlanta, explains, "I enjoy attending college in New York because of the museums and culture. . .but to settle in New York would be too hectic a lifestyle."

New York, like any other city has its good and bad points. Lisa Klein sums it up well. She says, "Some parts of the (big) apple are good. Others are rotten."

## The Touro Student Body Mourns the Loss of Rabbi Moshe Twersky zt"l

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## Keeping Abreast

Welcome back to all of you who were able to find Touro. Its just Touro's way of beginning the year with a little novelty, after all what could be more fun than a big game of hide-and-seek? They hide the men's division and women's dorm while we have our backs turned during the summer. Then we get to find it. It's too bad that CBS didn't know it had a great soap opera storyline right under its nose.

It does seem as though the school is trying to lose us, By the way, don't get too comfortable. . .

Yes, this has been a summer of changes. If some of you are wondering how our ex-student government president has adjusted to mortality, I'm happy to report Harris (a pre-med major) is doing well. He was even seen making a house call in New Jersey. Business as usual.

Our new president led an American contingent to Israel to do Kibbutz work. Leon was deeply affected by the trip, its rumored his first official act will be to change the name of his position from "President" to "Prime Minister." Leons cabinet were also busy. Michael and Glenn could be found partolling the street of Woodbourne in a dark late model sedan. Todd

was in Florida making off-shore land purchases as a tax shelter for student government funds.

The only report from the girls board was that Debbie spent the summer in her never ending search for determining the price of tea in China.

Yitz spent his summer in training for the decathlon (special Olympics?). Steve's summer job gave him a new interpretation of the term "graveyard shift". It seems like someone forgot to tell Arthur he graduated, and Evan that school ended for 3 months.

If you think talking to plants is crazy, Sara adamantly insists that her best friend is a Bush.

Touro is very proud to announce that its dormitory Minyan Ohav Kesef is entering its second year. We are hoping to break all former attendance records by having 10 people for a shachris. Reservations for the Yom Tovim are being taken by Rav Skobac Shlita.

Announcements: Mazel Tov to Morty Dzikansky ('93) and Stacey Glincher ('85) on their wedding, and to Martin Saklad ('83) and Elaine Lavenda ('84) on their wedding. Also, warm Mazel Tov to Laurie Isenberg ('85) on her wedding.

Congratulations to Cantor and Mrs Guttman on their 25th Anniversary.

## Middle States

cont. from p. 1

strengthened as new faculty members are added.

The library facilities were considered more than adequate. The Judaica collection is considered to be very impressive. One reason for this was the acquisition of extensive Herziliah Judaica collection. The main problem with the library is its lack of a permanent site. Consequently many books remain in boxes waiting to be unpacked. Fortunately for Touro students, the college has an agreement with Hunter College, giving researchers access to a 500,000 volume library. Also students say the location of Touro affords them the luxury of the New York Public Library one of the largest in the world. In addition Touro belongs to the Metro system which incorporates among others N.Y.U. and Columbia University bringing the total available books to over 1,000,000.

The two major flaws that the Middle States investigation found was the lack of a permanent site for the L.A.S. and the financial troubles that plague almost all institutions.

The questions regarding finances was addressed by Dean Boylan and he was sure that much of this problem is in the process of being remedied. Firstly, in contrast with

preceding years there is now a formal budget and administrators must work within its confines. Secondly, much of the extra financial burden is being alleviated by trimming down the number of extension sites that Touro maintain. The money saved on rent alone is a very substantial sum. Also an endowment fund is in the process of being set up. All these steps should hopefully forge a fiscally sound institution.

The matter of a permanent campus will not be solved as simply. Many different ideas were considered over the last

few years but none were considered practical as of yet. One very strong possibility that the Dean mentioned was the sale of the 44th street building and with those funds the purchase of a campus. But this is contingent on the real estate market and other factors beyond Touro's control.

Finally the Middle States reports concludes that "substantial progress" was made by Touro in its first ten years. Much of the credit goes to the leadership of Touro's founder and President, Dr. Bernard Lander.



Dr. Bernard Lander

## Lebanon

cont. from p. 1

ter insisting that Begin cease full-scale military operations and seek a diplomatic means of ending the war.

This letter was also ignored.

Taken at face value, these acts of outright disrespect to a country whose military aid is so vital to Israel's existence would be grave mistakes. It would seem perfectly within America's rights to severely punish a country acting so arrogantly. It would, in fact, seem the logical course of action. Thus, things here are not what they appear to be. Why would Reagan put up with this treatment?

The truth is, the United States has gained an incredible amount of military intelligence from the victories Israel has experienced. For example.

1) It provided the United States with a unique opportunity to observe American weapons perform in actual combat conditions.

2) The U.S. has had a chance to inspect captured Soviet-built planes and tanks first hand.

3) The U.S. saw the Soviet-built SAM (surface to air missiles) rendered inoperational with uncanny ease.

4) It was able to observe the precision and perfect execution of the Israeli army and Air

Force, uncontestedly one of the best in the world.

Because of this vital intelligence however, the U.S. finds itself in a rather sensitive position. The U.S. is trying to maintain a working relationship with the Arab world. In this case, victory to Israel means defeat to the Arabs, (indirect in this case because of Arab connections with the P.L.O.).

If the United States seemed overly pleased in the wake of an Israeli victory, it would certainly anger the Arabs, whose relationship with the U.S. has never been strong.

Therefore, public announcements of anger at Israel made by the Reagan administration are carefully aimed at pampering the Arab's egos. It's America's way of making light of its newly acquired military intelligence on Soviet-built arms.

In the heat of negotiations to extract the surrounded P.L.O. guerrillas from west Beirut; the United States did issue a statement praising Israel for its military tactics. The U.S. said that, under the same circumstances it would not have achieved such success.

Then again, "finesse" was never a word in U.S. military dictionaries.

## Abortions

Cont. from pg. 1

groups that recently protested loudly against abortion and homosexuality. "We are living in an immoral society," she states, "and we do not have the right to impose our moral judgements on those who have no sense of morality. Fifteen-year-old girls who don't know enough to use birth control could easily ruin their lives and the lives of their children as well. I wouldn't personally have an abortion, but I do believe Orthodox lobbyists should stay out of moral issues which do not directly affect the Jewish community."

Another student feels every case must be scrutinized separately. She believes rape victims and those with emergency medical problems should be aborted with out a

doubt, and cases of unwed teenage mothers should be allowed abortions under certain circumstances.

One student, who is more traditional in her acceptance of the woman's role in Judaism, admits she would be happy to work as a secretary until she gets married and is only in college to please her parents. For herself, she hopes for as many children as God might give her, and yet for unwed mothers outside her religious circle, she believes unequivocally that abortion should be legalized.

More traditional responses were also recorded. For example, the only reason an abortion may be permitted is "if the pregnancy endangers the health of the mother." This response is in accordance with halacha.

One student stresses the importance of more sex education in the schools. She believes that the emphasis on abortion should be redirected to birth control.

Ironically, the only student who described herself as not religious" claims she is "totally opposed" to abortion. She has met women who use abortion as birth control, she says, and this repulses her to the extent that she believes abortion should be "outlawed" totally.

Students who do not come from religious families are more liberal in their viewpoints. This may be attributed to their greater understanding of the possibility of premarital pregnancy and tolerance of society's changing moral standards.

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