



Yearbooks and Newsletters

---

10-28-1975

## The Touro Independent

Touro College

Follow this and additional works at: [https://touro scholar.touro.edu/archives\\_books](https://touro scholar.touro.edu/archives_books)



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Touro College. (1975). The Touro Independent. Retrieved from [https://touro scholar.touro.edu/archives\\_books/257](https://touro scholar.touro.edu/archives_books/257)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by Touro Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Yearbooks and Newsletters by an authorized administrator of Touro Scholar. For more information, please contact [touro.scholar@touro.edu](mailto:touro.scholar@touro.edu).



# THE TOURO INDEPENDENT

TOURO COLLEGE

Tuesday, October 28, 1975

PETITION: TO DEAN OF STUDENTS

From The Independent Date 11/28/75  
(name of student)

\*\*\*\*\*

- New Request  
 Confirmation of Prior Administrative Arrangement with (specify Administrator) \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

- Request for new course  
 Request for tutorial  
 Request for waiver of requirement  
 Request for postponement of requirement  
 Request for equivalency evaluation of requirement  
 Request for permission to register for overload  
 Request to split Humanities 201-202  
 Other (specify) Let the students read this issue

\*\*\*\*\*

Explanation:

We think this issue has redeeming social value.

The articles include the following:

Petition Procedure	Methods To Madness
Student Government	The Touro Spirit
I Didn't Know That!	A Summer To Remember
Changes	A.M. and more.....

Student's signature The Independent

\*\*\*\*\*

For Office Use Only Proposed Action:

What we have here is student outrage, in duplicate!

Its up to you, boss.

\*\*\*\*\*

Final Decision: CONFISCATE



# Method to the Madness

# From the Editorial Board

by Ruvan Cohen

Thank the Lord for a student-oriented school. Returning in the fall seems to yield an endless stream of complaints. Except for the perspicacious student, most do not realize the long range advantages of the conditions at Touro. We just do not seem to realize how good we have it here, and that is the gospel truth, say hallelujah!

Registration is a good place to start. The College has seemingly narrowed its course selection. I say "seemingly" for the reason is not what appears to be. This is a subtle ploy on the part of the College to focus the student's choice, to pinpoint where his future lies. It does not allow the lackadaisical student to wander through academia tasting of the fruits of each discipline. Fewer choices lead to fewer difficult decisions, thereby narrowing the possibility of an error in judgment.

After you have thumbed through the page of course offerings, and have selected the best courses, you are given an opportunity to contemplate your decision. What better place for deep thought than the financial clearance line. It is here that you receive the counseling of other students. New insights are gained here, thus many students spend hours on it, knowing that once you have received financial clearance you are bound to your choices. Yes, the financial clearance line must be viewed as the guidance center of the institution; the home of the Don system which we are so proud of at Touro.

Touro also seems to be conciously aware of its small size. As a result, the College constantly tries to make things as complicated as they would be at a sprawling university. The reasoning behind this is that no graduate of Touro should be caught unaware if he graduates to a larger school. Therefore, for your convenience only, there is a great deal of paperwork for every student. However, we haven't lost the air of a small college completely. After all, some institutions require petitions filled out in triplicate.

Finally, how can we forget our library? Without it, or perhaps I should say with it, Touro students would not have achieved nearly the proficiency they now possess in using the public library, which, as we all know, is one of the greatest sources of information in the world.

Things aren't always as they appear. We should be grateful to the institutional for all it has done for us. One day, we will look back on our years here and remember just how much you learned, for Touro works in wondrous ways. Amen.

Flash . . . Congratulations to Ben Katz, who was admitted to Downstate. This could be the start of something big!

Before entering Touro, most of us can recollect recruiter's pitches to join Touro and partake in the development of what was to be a revolutionary new college. Students were to join with the administration in formulating all basic policy decisions that affected us. It has been confirmed time and again that this was nothing more than a recruiting ploy and all of the administrative braying to the contrary cannot alter the facts. It is with dismay that we now peer at the administration on the other side of the fence (literally as well as figuratively). In every major policy decision, the opinion of students was either ignored or invited only after an administrative decision precipitated a student uproar. Just a few of the more recent and notable examples are:

1—The law school was *announced*. Surely its being constantly postponed has had an effect on the credibility of the undergraduate school.

2—The H.S. programs, which were opposed by the student body after their first year. It took the administration another two years to reach the same conclusion and eliminate these detrimental programs.

3—The girls school was announced. I can only chuckle as I recall a meeting two years ago when there was a loud student protest against the girls school being set

up in its present form. The administrative . . . (censored) . . . exhibited at that meeting can only elicit a wry smile. (An interesting question still left unanswered is why it is permissible to have coed science classes. Can it be that religious idealism reaches only to the wallet at Touro?).

4—Apex students were snuck into our classes last year without the knowledge of student representatives. Such students change the character of the classes and therefore the student body should have been given a choice in the matter. After students threatened to boycott classes the Apex students were removed. Sure enough, when classes resumed this semester the Apex students were back.

5—This semester schedule changes were announced. Again it was only when loud student disapproval of the proposed changes were registered that the administration recognized that perhaps students should have a say in this matter and put various schedule changes to a vote.

6—For us on the board of editors at *The Independent*, the most serious offense was the fiasco last May when the newspapers were confiscated. Here too it was only after a vociferous protest that the papers were returned (with the polite "request" that they not be distributed). Several questions have been left unanswered in this matter.

A—Ostensibly the papers were confiscated because of a poll contained within. But the questions that the poll attempted to answer were published in the prior issue 7 weeks before. Why didn't anyone find the time to inform the editors that this poll was objectionable to the members of the administration *before* it was published?

B—Why were the papers confiscated without first informing the editors? Surely they deserved the courtesy of at least being informed why their work was to be discarded?

C—Why has the administration refused to reimburse the student government the considerable sum expanded to publish the ill-fated paper?

D—What happened to the well publicized "hands off" policy regarding student publications?

As previous issues of *The Independent* were reviewed, we noticed with chagrin that in virtually every issue this same topic has recurred. We considered just giving up and letting the matter ride but finally arrived at the optimistic conclusion that positive changes *can* be made.

It is not our purpose to rekindle old scandals (there is not enough room to recount all of the administrative transgressions anyway) but to reawaken the decision makers that a college is designed primarily for the education of its students. We do not claim to "know it all" nor do we believe that what a student wants is necessarily best for him. We do believe that policies designed to help students could be more beneficial if the administration were more aware of what the students needs are. This cannot be optimally achieved unless the lines of communication are vastly improved. Relations would be less strained and far more pleasant if the student government were advised of contemplated program changes affecting the student body while these changes are still in their planning phase.

## *I Didn't Know That!* (and was better off for it)

by Pseudonymity Innominate

It's been a particularly long summer (though not long enough for Dr. Berlow) and lots has happened since you saw the last *Independent*. For one thing, my predecessor, Incognitious Anonymo, has passed on and is now in the morgue at Downstate—studying anatomy that is. Who am I? As a hint I am not a Latin pope but a senior in this institution trying to graduate this June with a B.S.—which is why I'm writing this column.

Renovations at last seem to be ending. One Prof. was overheard to remark on what a pleasure it is to go to the bathroom this year. You should have seen the look of bewilderment on the face of the freshman who overheard him. The frosh just don't appreciate what they've missed—but then again, when it comes to renovations, most of the seniors don't appreciate what they *didn't* miss either. . . . I've got it from good sources that the law school is definitely set to open in Sept. '76 or '77 or . . . Welcome to the P.A. program. I see you guys also fell for that line about being here for "only a month." . . . Mr. Luchins, can't you do something about getting Ruth a permanent errand boy? Dr. Lander is a busy man! . . . Roberto and Carlos are back at it running the elevator, sometimes I have to wait so long it's hard to believe it only goes up and down! . . . Our deepest regrets go to our Psych majors who lost their dept. Cuts had to be made somewhere . . . But we do have nice marble in

our lobby. . . . Speaking of renovations, our compliments go to the administration which recently acted quickly and decisively in response to a demonstration outside the offices of Dr. Lander by Placard-carrying students. The boisterous mass was protesting the lack of a student say in matters fundamental to the preservation of Touro College as a viable institution of higher learning. The administration, always eager to appease student dissent, convened a meeting with student representatives carefully selected from the Twentieth Century Art class (to be offered 1975-1976) to discuss the crucial question of the color of the walls in our lobby. The students voted for red but the administration, taking a firm anti-communist stand, vetoed the suggestion. After several more hours of careful deliberation it was decided that although our lobby had a stunning marble floor, the lobby should retain some of its former image as a reminder of our humble beginnings. All present vigorously nodded their assent and voted for mucous green.

On a more serious note, our pre-meds, who traditionally begin applying to graduate schools during their freshman year (to get a jump on the competition), have been doing exceptionally well with interviews completed or scheduled at Einstein, Columbia, Downstate, Harvard, Albany, Mt. Sinai, University of Pennsylvania and Jefferson. Good luck to all.

P.S. If you want to read something *really* funny, read the report to Middle States.

### THE INDEPENDENT

Editorial Board: Ruvan Cohen, Alan Kalker, Simmy Saffier, Shimon Shaw, Robert Tracer, Noah Noah Umlas, Gil Bloom, David Frier.

An unofficial student publication of editorial opinion, creative writing, and thought. *The Independent* is meant for student consumption only, and is not to be used by outside agencies. The opinions expressed herein are the view of the editorial board as expressed by one of its members, and are not to be construed as the opinion of the student body as a whole.



# A Small Hospital With a Big Heart

by Alan Kalker

Located in a central part of Jerusalem, Shaare Zedek has, for close to three quarters of a century, provided superior hospital care under conditions that would tax even the most well-equipped American hospitals. After spending two months there as a volunteer this summer I can now fully appreciate both her assets and problems.

Built at a time when the population of Jerusalem was only a fraction of what it is today, Shaare Zedek has found the number of incoming patients far exceeding the number it is equipped to handle and the number of available beds. As a result, there is no recovery room for surgical patients, pregnant women in labor can often be seen sitting and chatting outside the delivery room because there is no place else to put them and the second floor of the hospital regularly has beds lined up in its halls (sometimes two and occasionally even three across). The compactness of the hospital has its advantages too. The staff all know one another well and function as a team. The nursing staff is outstandingly sympathetic to the patients. As a result, Shaare Zedek has acquired a well-deserved reputation for itself that far exceeds its meager resources. Under a system whereby emergency room duty is rotated among the city's hospitals, patients will often wait until Shaare Zedek is on duty.

The hospital's geographic location, however, has put Shaare Zedek into circumstances that are far from normal. In 1967 there was fighting all around the hospital and the wounded were brought

in off the streets. This summer again, Shaare Zedek was called upon to stretch her resources and care for an extraordinary number of wounded in a single day. On July 4 a bomb ripped through Zion Square leaving fourteen people dead and over seventy injured. What follows is an eyewitness account of the events at Shaare Zedek that Friday morning.

*"When I first heard the hospital alarm, I thought it was another drill, but I soon found out differently. Within minutes fifty temporary beds were set up in our corridors and synagogue while emergency supplies of plasma and bandages were prepared and the entire staff raced to prearranged emergency stations. At first I found myself lost in the wail of ambulance sirens, the frantic screeching of brakes; orderlies and doctors running as stretcher, tables and beds filled the entrance and corridors; the stream of burnt and mangled victims who were carried in, filling the with their moans or worse, their silence."*

I was on duty in the emergency room that morning. Although horrified beyond words at the condition in which the wounded were, the efficiency of the staff was incredible. Several hours later, conditions at the hospital were almost back to normal.

Shaare Zedek is currently in the midst of building a new five hundred bed hospital and hopes to move out of its present cramped quarters in the near future. What can you do to help Shaare Zedek help itself? Skating parties sponsored by the hospital are held often at the Sky Rink (in midtown Manhattan). Shaare Zedek's offices are located at 6 East 46th Street.



# The Touro Spirit

by Simmy Safier

The meeting between the Touro College Student Government and the "Chief of Students" will now come to order.

Chief: Once you complained that Touro was not a viable institution, that it lacked credibility. Do you still feel this way?

Students: No chief; no chief. We believe!

C: You complained that our building was an eyesore; that it wasn't fit to house a college. Did you not ask for renovations?

S: Yes chief; yes chief. We asked for renovations!

C: Do you now see those renovations?

S: We see 'em; we see 'em.

Timid Voice in the Rear: But why four years later, chief?

C: In the past, we had things to worry about, important things like how the students felt about the school. But now all this has changed. Middle States is coming!

S: Middle States, Middle States. Praise the Lord!

C: Do you not want accreditation?

S: Credits, chief, credits. We want credits. Same Timid Voice but this time a little further back: But chief, wasn't Touro once interested in "personal relationships basic to its excellence?"

C: Yes, of course, but all this has changed. Middle States is coming.

S: Middle States, Middle States. Praise the Lord!

C: We've given you carpeting; we've painted the walls. You asked for partitions—we've given you partitions.

S: Partitions, chief, partitions. We have partitions!

Same Timid Voice now near the door: But why in the Registrars office, chief?

C: Did I hear a voice?

In truth, the voice is being heard but only when it is convenient to do so. What was once considered basic to Touro's philosophy, the rapport established between the students and the administration comprising the "Touro Family," is now being eliminated. Who can remember a time when students were not afraid to inquire, to suggest, yes, even to criticize their school's policies? Unfortunately, all this has indeed changed.

After four years of growth, four years that have seen major changes in many of her policies, Touro is once again passing through a critical period. True, there have been serious obstacles to Touro's academic journey in the past, but none so crucial as what we are experiencing now. If Touro's basic ideal is for "students, faculty, administration, and staff to work together," is an absence of this condition not her deepest pitfall? I am referring, of course, to the opinion that many students share that the administration, frankly, does not care. Fortunately, Touro has never lost the close bonds between her students and faculty. Because of economic factors, classes may have gotten larger but the "close relationships" can easily be found in the classroom. Why then has this ideal been lost in the

offices? In all fairness, the administration does not have to answer to the students; we are, after all, but students. One question, however, keeps coming to mind—Is this Touro? Is this the "unique spirit" that led us to her doors?

During Touro's first four years, her students were spirited and proud. We had to be. WE knew that we were receiving an excellent education yet our non-Touro friends still laughed. We clung to our school, elevating ourselves by climbing its academic rungs and at the same time raising its reputation. Why then do we now find apathy where concerned students had once met to discuss the future of their institution? Why is the voice weak and timid?

As we look around us, we cannot help but feel Touro's voice being choked by a sense of futility. Touro may, indeed, be growing but why is she leaving her students behind? Were we not going to grow together?

We can all take pride that Touro is rising to new heights and gaining her long sought credibility, be it in aesthetic or academic excellence. What is this feeling worth, however, if it is coupled with the realization that our college has forgotten us? True, the building on West. 44 st. may be shaping up but the "family" inside is being forced to leave.

## S.G. PLANS

by Robert Tracer

During the summer months students received letters proclaiming that "the shelves of Touro's warehouse of academic offerings (this word may be found in the dictionary immediately following "environmental") are stocked for the fall semester. Great, but a profusion of courses doth not a college make, as the saying goes. And so, with the goal of making the school year an enjoyable as well as productive one, this year's Student Government (President-Harvey Friedman, Vice-President-Robert Tracer, Treasurer-Alan Cabelly, Secretary-Jerry Gontownick) has planned a multitude of activities, programs, and special events.

Included in the plans are a Chanuka chagiga, interclass dinners, films, Shabbatons, and a ski trip. Guest speakers will address the students on Soviet Jewry and other topics. Students will also find discount tickets (for the N.Y. Philharmonic, so far. We hope to have others) awaiting them in the Student Government office.

The Student Government, however, is more than just an event-sponsoring organization. One of our major functions is to act as a representative of the student body to the administration. Already, meetings have been planned between the Student Government and administration to discuss various items crucial to the interest of the student body. In addition, we can accomplish even more if students will continue to take the initiative to confront us with any problems they may have. It is only with student support and concern that we can function effectively to maintain a student voice at Touro.



# A.M.

by Ruvan Cohen

One can tell that we are living in the year of accreditation. Things are really moving and one needs time to step back and reflect upon the changes. That I shall leave for another time. One, however, gets the impression that he is walking through a motion picture backlot set up for the film "The Accreditation," an educational version of "The Sting." The film is a comedy, of course. What happens to the backlot after production has been concluded. The following is a scenario of what we can expect when we arrive the first day in a new age in Touro's history: the period A.M., After Middle States. (I suppose that would make the present period B.M.)

(The time: 9 a.m. The date: sometime in December. The place: Touro College, the main center.)

## Put It In Writing

by David Frier

Many students, especially those who actually filed them, wonder just what happened to all those petitions between the time they disappeared into Dr. Greenberg's folder(s) and the time they finally got into see our illustrious Dean of Students for an answer. Well, here it is; the story the administration would never tell!

It all starts, of course, as Joe T. College enters Dr. Greenberg's office in obvious consternation. "What can I do for you, my friend?"

"Aw, gee, Doc! They lowered the overload limit this term to 17 credits, and if I don't take 18 this term, I'll be here till 1980 finishing my major!"

So far, this scene is a familiar one. But at this point it takes a sinister change. Instead of the usual tea and sympathy for

Finally, they're gone. It was hard to take a month of being on one's best behavior. It will be a pleasure to eat lunch without a napkin on your lap. What's more, we will be able to wear our shoes into class, not having to take them off for fear of leaving tracks on the carpet. Maybe we can even stop feigning happiness after we get a "C" on the Humanities' exam. Hopefully the school can go back to its easy going ways of yesteryear. This return to the days of yore was my fondest dream. It was to end up my darkest nightmare.

As I arrived I noticed a line of buses in front of the school. My first reaction was that there was another parade. Then from a distance I saw the occupants of the bus going into the school. As I moved closer I realized that they were all men—construction workers. Needless to say, I was quite puzzled. The sign on the wooden front door pointed to the cellar as the entrance for students, but before I entered I had to ask these workmen what they were doing here. Their reply shocked me. Derenovation had begun!

which we all know and love the office of the Department of Wildlife Management, we see a cold, impersonal looking form known as a "petition". This is definitely a symptom of burgeoning bureaucracy at Touro. Close inspection will reveal that this is most certainly a FORM—with all the unpleasant connotations of that word, such as little boxes (check one, please), a clearly bounded space for "explanation" (use back if necessary), and the ever popular space marked "FOR OFFICE USE ONLY". And, as if all this were not enough, we are instructed to fill out this foolishness in duplicate (carbon paper available upon request). In an interesting side comment, Dean Greenberg pointed out that, at least, we didn't have to fill it out in quadruplicate. One wonders just how far off that day is.

The first thing to go was the marble. It was being ripped and replaced with a rough concrete floor. The marble had been rented. Still, I was comforted by the thought that if renovation had taken over for years, derenovation should take as long. However, there seemed to be a strong spirit among the workmen—Rip it down and do it quickly. The painter returned to take back his paint and plaster. The bathrooms were being removed and there was talk of plans to build a spiral staircase where the bathrooms were. What an absurd idea, I thought to myself. I thought I heard a student say that there was a "priest" behind the desk in the Dean's office and that the Registrar was a redhead, but I did not even want to look. The carpeting was being uprooted all around me, with men busily spraying the floor with dust and dirt. Word was passed around among the work-study students to bring the cardboard boxes with the dewey decimal numbers on them to the first floor for packing. I could not believe all this was happening. I angrily stormed out of the building, but before I took two steps I was overcome with embarrassment. I was on 45th Street.

At any rate, Joe T.C. has completed his overload request (the most common petition, according to Dr. Greenberg), and handed it back to the Dean. He won't see it again until it's his turn to ask about the answer. This is what happens to it.

One of the two copies goes into Joe's file, kept in the Dean of Students' office, the other goes to the Academic Standing Committee for review. This is a committee of faculty members roughly representing each division of Touro. Its members are: Dr. Kon, chairman; Dr. Goldschmidt; J. Mermel; Rabbi D. Weiss; Dr. Berlow, ex officio; and Dr. Greenberg, ex officio. Its meetings are mostly closed to students, although non-confidential meetings may eventually be opened ("non-confidential" meaning not dealing with individual students' records).

Most petitions involve little real deliberation beyond checking a student's average, or considering the feasibility of a new course offering. These are "recommended" by Drs. Berlow and Greenberg, and generally approved by the committee. More difficult requests are referred to the appropriate member of the committee for consideration. For example, a request that the school honor transfer credit from a yeshiva would be referred to Rabbi Weiss. Once a decision is reached, it is noted on both copies of the form and is made available to the student.

Dr. Berlow said that the school was still "experimenting" in the area of drawing up efficient forms to smooth out the processes of registration, petitioning, etc. She noted the great difficulty in including all the necessary information in a form while remaining as concise as possible. She also mentioned that the sluggishness of the petition procedure this year was largely due to the "verbal backlog" created by promises made by a "previous administrator" to students. She also blamed the poor response by returning students to the pre-registration program for generating an undue number of petitions.

## Changes

by Shimon Shaw

I would like to welcome all the new students to Touro College. You no doubt are impressed by our magnificent building. I have trouble recognizing it sometimes. I walked into the registrar's office the other day, mistaking it for the Ridgewood Savings Bank. There have been many changes in the school. We have close to three hundred students, almost ten times the enrollment in the first graduating class. This year we all received I.D. cards with photos on them. WOW! Dr. Rosalind Berlow has become Touro's first women dean, which is no great shakes when you realize that we've only had one other dean. We do wish her the best of luck in the coming academic year. I'm sure her background in Medieval History will help her tremendously in her new administrative capacity.

The maintenance crew have uniforms now, with "Touro College" emblazoned in gold upon them. "Touro" is misspelled, but Rome wasn't built in a day. No, Frank and his boys are not the ones to speak to about your Judaic Studies requirement. Many freshmen have posed questions on this subject to Roberto Navarro. Roberto, unfortunately, has no reply except to counter with "Ees not my job, man!" Also, please try to refrain from pushing the elevator button more than once. It is a cardinal sin around here.

To all those pre-law students who have searched everywhere for the pre-law advisor—YOUR SEARCH IS OVER! We don't have one. However, the Dean is aware of the situation and it trying her utmost to rectify it. One thing—if you have a problem or gripe, let someone know. One aspect of Touro that I hope will never change is its close student-faculty relationship.

The biggest change in Touro is the student body itself. There are many out-of-towners, whom we welcome and wish the best of luck. One student all the way from South Africa, heard about Touro through his witch doctor, so we must be making a name for ourselves.

Just a reminder: we are up for accreditation, so be on your best behavior.

## CLASSIFIED

All ads must be placed by midnight of the copy deadline (whenever that is). Please do not include your phone number. Rates:

\$4 for 2 lines

\$3 for 3 lines

\$1 for 5 lines

FREE for More than 5 lines.

If you don't pay, we'll introduce you to our collection agent, Brucie. Big Brucie.

WANTED: New puppet to fill temporary vacancy in Dean's office.

WANT TO BUY: Red tape. Supply low, need more desperately. Inquire Rm. 505. Top prices paid.

WANTED: 12 vice-presidents in dark suits to sit behind desks in Registrar's office. Needed for atmosphere.

WANTED: Full time errand boy for receptionist. Psych major preferred.

LOST: Psych Department. Declared psych majors anxious for return. Reward.

WANTED: Plywood strips approx. 11" x

4' painted to look like books on a library shelf. Must be realistic.

WANTED: Deed to 42nd St. Library. This school must have a library!!

FOUND: New Puppet to fill temporary vacancy in Dean's office

WANTED: Dean of Students' office for hangout. Must include music, refreshments, and stimulating conversation with Chasidic sociologist.

WANTED: Safe to store stolen newspapers. Inquire president's office.

Hey Big Spender!

CHEAP flight  
to Isreal.

\$395 round trip.

Phone  
(800) 434-1000

before midnight  
October 27th.

Ask for Abdul



### Notice

To: All Touro Students

From: B. K. Greenberg, Dean of Students

Re: Student Services, Room 503

\*\*\*\*\*

We have current catalogues, application forms, and information from many Grad Schools, Med, Dental, Business and Law schools as well as GRE, LSAT, BVD, LSMFT, and other exam registration forms and sample exams on file for your perusal. (And you may even look at them.) We will send immediately for any information of this nature upon your written request. (Triplicate and Notarized)\*\*\*\*\*

Also free tea, coffee, music, my delightful camaraderie and intellectually stimulating Gab sessions (Is sociology a science?) during posted office hours (when not engaged in somnambulist research).