



Yearbooks and Newsletters

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## The Touro Independent Vol. VI No. 1

Touro College

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# THE TOURO INDEPENDENT

VOL. VI, NO.1

TOURO COLLEGE

WED., OCTOBER 27, 1976

## ENDORSEMENTS



As part of the general expansion of the Independent, the editorial page has also been expanded to include comments concerned with the American Jewish community as whole, rather than just the Touro community.

### PRESIDENT: A MUDDLED CHOICE

This election is no doubt a difficult decision for voters, as well as a sad commentary on the present electoral process. The two major candidates were virtual unknowns to presidential politics four years ago, and despite sensationalistic coverage, not that much more is known about them today.

Gerald Ford, desperately trying to free himself from the Nixon shadow, has definitely established new standards of conduct in the White House. However, considering the morality of Nixon and Co., this is not a very difficult achievement, but it is an achievement, nevertheless. On the domestic front, Ford's relative gains and

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### MOYNIHAN

The senatorial choice seems much more clean cut. Jim Buckley is not a bad senator. He is an honest man with a conservative outlook, and his support of Israel has been solid, if uncreative. For his opponent, Pat Moynihan stands together with Henry Jackson among the foremost advocates of Israel and Jewish cause on the American Political Scene today. In this age of knee-jerk liberalism, it is exhilarating to see a man who bases his policies on whether they will help America, rather than on whether they will be considered liberal. Yet, he is more progressive than Buckley. Moynihan's stinging attacks against the arrogant Arab and Third World nations made Jews all over the world feel like they finally had a friend in the United Nations. Now more than ever, Israel needs Moynihan's brilliant support, as do New Yorkers, particularly with New York City facing a acute financial crisis. Having Moynihan in the Senate is a tremendous opportunity--it should not be passed up.

## CARTER ENDORSEMENT

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losses are uncertain, as was evidenced by the first presidential debate.

As Jews, we look unfavorably upon Ford's foreign policy in general, and his attitude toward Israel, in particular, and it is here that we see Ford's great failing. His lack of forthright denunciation of the Arab boycott, his one-sided pressure tactics directed against a beleaguered Israel, reflect his lack of commitment to the ideals and goals Americans hold dear. Gerald Ford's capitulation at the Helsinki conference and his reliance upon the misguided Henry Kissinger mean only that his concededly strong record as a Congressman on these same issues were not strongly held, moral positions, but politically advantageous ones.

Why then the muddled choice, if the Ford Administration seems so undesirable in regard to these most important issues?

The muddled choice arises out of our hesitation to support Jimmy Carter. Carter is a prime example of what the media can do to American politics. A virtual unknown at any political level four years ago, Carter, strong-willed and self-disciplined, taking advantage of anti-Washington sentiment, dominated the primaries to become the Democratic nominee.

## AKIVA

It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to Akiva Greenberg, dean of students and chairman of the Sociology department.

A unique individual from any perspective, Akiva is a Vishnitzer Chasid, an intellectually-oriented sociologist, and blessed also with a sense of humor. Akiva's door was always open and his heart was always warm.

We wish him continued success in all his endeavors.

Although television, radio and the newspapers have made his smile a familiar sight, relatively little is known about his politics. One can neither classify him as a conservative or a liberal. The foreign policy advice he receives is traditionally Democratic, i.e. pro-Israel. Carter is also a religious man, and the existence of the Jew in Israel may have added significance for him. However, neither of these factors can be counted on it times of stress.

What might be the most significant factor in our admittedly lukewarm endorsement, is that being a part of the natural constituency of the Democratic party, we are more capable of approaching a Democratic President, rather than a Republican one.

**NOTE:** The Editorial Board was torn between lukewarm endorsements of Ford, Carter (one Eugene McCarthy vote) and a prevailing reluctance to endorse anyone.

## Accreditation

Only once in the history of a college, can that college receive accreditation.

It is our good fortune that Touro has received it in record breaking time, and doubly so, during our stay here.

We commend those involved in the successful effort and wish Touro-ourselves-continued and repeated successes.

## Condolences

We, of the Independent, as well as the larger Touro family, extend our condolences to-

The Korman Family on the loss of Shoshana, ztl, beloved daughter and sister.

Mrs. Lander on the loss of her father, Rabbi Moses J. Shragowitz, ztl, and to the entire Shragowitz family.

"May the bereaved be comforted among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem."

## FROM THE DESK OF EL PRESIDENTE

Dear Students,

During the summer and the beginning of this term, I have been working very closely with an insurance broker. There are many men and women in Touro College who do not have any health insurance. We have, therefore, researched the options and have come up with various health insurance plans, students may choose from. The plans range in cost from \$71-279 for men and \$71-388 for women and vary in the extent of their coverage. Each plan, is, we believe, the best in its category.

For additional information, please come to the Student Government office, room 802, where you can get a ten page summary of the plans available. I have also arranged for additional advisement for students with the insurance representative I have worked with.

I hope students realize that most family health plans do not cover students after the age of nineteen. I also urge out-of-town students to check their insurance coverage and make sure it extends to N.Y. state.

Finally, if anyone has any ideas that may provide benefits or services for out students, please write them down and give them to me.

Harvey Friedman

## Touro Administrative Changes

by Joel Kaplan

Recently, there has been a general shakeup and reshuffling of responsibilities, which to date has seen:

- 1) Comptroller Gorenfeld resign
- 2) Dean of Students Akiva Greenberg leave
- 3) Robert Goldschmidt appointed acting dean of students
- 4) Max Celnik, while retaining his title and responsibilities as Librarian, accepting new duties as Assistant to the President
- 5) Jeff Dube shifted to the position of Bursar.
- 6) Professor Israel Singer named consultant on student affairs.
- 7) two new assistant librarians named-- Paula Jasphy, (M.L.S.-Pratt) and David Aronovich (M.A. Yeshiva and MLS, University of West Ontario)
- 8) Jack Lackman, former assistant director of budget and planning at Brooklyn College, has been appointed business manager of Touro College..

Mr. Lackman, married to the former Ricky Cooper, with two children, told the

Independent he is "very impressed with Touro's academic potential, its future and direction," but says its organizational structure has not kept pace with its phenomenal growth in enrollment.

A graduate of BTA, with a B.S. in accounting and finance and an M.B.A. from LIU, he also received smicha (ordination) from Yeshiva Bais Shorim. In 1972, he became supervising auditor at the Board of Higher Education, and from 1973-76, was assistant director of budget and planning at Brooklyn College.

Responsible for non-academic functions, he plans to computerize the accounts payable, and billing systems of the College, and oversee the computerization of the registrar's office.

Having taught statistics at Brooklyn College and business administration at LIU, Mr. Lackman hopes to find time to teach in Touro as well.

By nature a quiet person, he prefers to remain out of the limelight; however, he has extended an invitation to business students to come see him if they would like any advice or information.

## LETTERS TO THE STUDENTS

As I write this, the Fall semester has just gotten underway. The tempo of appointments is rapidly speeding up and the volume of clutter on my desk is multiplying. I look back to the "good old days" when I had nothing but a syllabus to prepare for opening day.

Those of you who have returned to Touro will see many new changes in the course of this year. There will be some new faces in the classrooms, some new courses on the schedule, even some new forms to fill out, as we are rapidly moving towards computerization of registration.

Some things however, remain the same. The most important is the student body. As

we watched our graduates depart, I believe all of us on the staff, administration and faculty alike, felt a twinge of sadness - but it is more than alleviated as we look forward to meeting the new, incoming class. The greatness of Touro has been and always will be its students!

Well, we don't have to sell each other on Touro, but our task remains to spread the word. We don't want to grow too large but we could easily accommodate many more students. To build for a full complement of students without sacrificing quality is the most immediate task that confronts the institution. We have our work cut out for us.

Rosalind K. Berlow

## A TIME FOR...

by Miriam Gross

In Ecclesiastes (3:1-9) Shlomo Hamelech states that "To everything, there is a season and a time for every desire.." He then enumerates twenty eight 'Itim'; times. It is no coincidence that he uses twenty eight, the approximate number of hours in a day. In a person's day to day life, she/he too will encounter different times. There will be a time to laugh, a time to cry, a time to plant and a time to uproot. There will be a time for mourning and a time for dancing, a time for war and a time for peace.

This year at Touro is the continuation of 'Eit Livnot', a time to build. We are in our early stages. Certain foundations have been set down. In this, the third year of the

Womens division, we grow in number and in strength. The Womens Student Council initiated many projects and activities last year for the diversity of student needs. Some were in conjunction with the Men's Division, some were not. The Student Government this year plans to continue building. Many of the same activities will be continued, while many other activities will be initiated. A new class brings new ideas and new needs. Being a small school, the needs and suggestions of every individual are important. The participation of every student, new and old is sought.

It is my hope that with the building of this Institution dedicated to the goals of Torah, we will be one step closer to the final 'time', Eit Shalom-A Time of Peace.

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Touro College's official student journal of news, thought, opinion, and creative writing.

# AN ATLANTA RABBI

## ... Looks at Jimmy Carter

Rabbi Emanuel Feldman, of Atlanta, Georgia has come North singing Dixie over Jimmy Carter. He gave the opening benediction at the Democratic National Convention in New York City and has spoken to the N.Y. Board of Rabbis and other rabbinical groups around the U.S. on behalf of Mr. Carter.

Who is Rabbi Feldman?

He is a transplanted Baltimorian-descendant of eight generations of rabbis-with smicha from Ner Israel, B.A. and M.A. from John Hopkins University in English and Semitics, and a P.H.D. from Emory University(atlanta) in Semitics. He teaches courses in Judaism in the Emory University religion department and is one of four national vice-presidents of the Rabbinical Council of America.

He is married to a former Boro Parker, who says, "Atlanta, Georgia is a decided improvement over Boro Park" and Mrs. Feldman finds New Yorkers "very narrow and provincial."

Rabbi Feldman assumed the pulpit of Cong. Beth Jacob, the only orthodox synagogue in...Atlanta, twenty five years ago and has been there ever since. The shul has 500 families and he claims, 200-300 young people come to shul every Shabbos. A very large percentage of the shul's membership is composed of baalei tshuvas.

When pressed to relate an anecdote of life in Atlanta, Rabbi Feldman told the following story:

"Not long ago, my wife received a phone call from a Christian neighbor, who asked, "What religion is your husband?" My wife replied, "He is a rabbi."

The neighbor asked again, "What religion?", whereupon my wife responded, "Rabbis are Jewish."

The neighbor questioned, "Are all rabbis Jewish?"

The Northern Jew views a Southerner as a character out of a Tobacco Road movie. A Southerner is someone who shakes hands with everyone, has a story for every point, doesn't hurry, airs his prejudices, and was "Born Again."

Rabbi Feldman believes Carter is a good and decent man. He feels that the Jewish community owed support to Humphrey and Jackson, but once they left the race he had no qualms about supporting Carter.

When asked his reaction to Carter having been "Born Again," Rabbi Feldman replied,

"It is an expression of the South. It merely means he is a religious person. Once he was not a believer and now he is stronger in his belief. He has become more religious and this might be a plus for him, something like a Baal Tshuva."

Regarding Carter's statement of strong support for Israel, Rabbi Feldman believes Carter is a man to be trusted. As Governor of Georgia, he was the first to appoint a Jew to the Board of Regents, and three of his top advisers are Jewish. Rabbi Feldman said,

"He treats Jews like he treats everyone else, which might be a big plus for us."

Jimmy Carter is a strong admirer of the Jewish people and their stubborn character. His running mate, Senator Mondale, has one of the best pro-Israel voting records in the Senate. It was evident from my talk with Rabbi Feldman why

graduating this year, thus dispelling all rumors that Mark would be re-entering Touro next year as a freshman, majoring in art (ant) history???...Tryouts for the Touro Women's Division cheerleading Squad are now being held...all "qualified applicants" please send name, address and colorful recent photograph (with telephone number on back) to Professor Frank Torres, c/o this newspaper...In other news, the wine and cheese party was a smashing success, although this reporter finds it difficult to remember anything about that night and as usual, was not responsible for his actions...Mazel Tov to Gil and Hope Bloom, Murry and Beatrice Zborowski and Rafi and Debby Waxman on their recent marriages...a Bon Voyage to Akiva Greenberg. He will be sorely missed by students who felt he was the one person in the administration they could talk to...A fond farewell to Leah Moskowitz who has left Touro to take a position at Ramaz High School...Mazel Tov to Joe Sprung on his engagement to Shira Wacholder and to Michael Brand and Dina Grussgott on the recent engagement to each other (I love weddings). In other news, the Women's division student council has circulated a petition that would prohibit women from wearing pants to class. In a similar vein, the Men's Student council is considering a petition that would require all men to lengthen their skirts below the knee...that's all for now...stay tuned for more gossip, trivia and biting social commentary (not necessarily in that order)

# Taschlich...



Down by the riverside.

Photographed by Gil Bloom

98% of the Jews in Atlanta support Carter. From actual dealings with him, they seem to feel that, "Carter is a man whose basic gut instincts are decent."

Regarding Carter's faults, Rabbi Feldman replied, "I just wished he didn't give

interviews to Playboy...his remarks are ill-chosen and unfortunate...but basically I trust him..."

Maybe we Northerners have seen too many Tobacco Road movies?

Gloria Kohn

# A Cry in the Forest

by Gil Bloom

There is a unique mystery and wonder entrapped in a forest to which I've always been drawn. In the past year I have found a forest in the midst of Queens. It, as most forests, is a calm world in which nature rules, even more so for in this forest man's chaotic world surrounds it. It is in this forest I came upon a child of G-d.

As those of you who have spent time in forests know, G-d's ways can always be seen in nature, especially if one looks for them. But on this day, Chamisha B'AV, there was a surrealistic sound of prayer to be heard. The melodies were foreign to the forests and yet they were in harmony, which made their origin elusive. After searching through the immediate area I spied several young men in different locations engaged in what seemed to be prayer. A strange sight to behold in the

forest, so I waited and observed in silence until one of them had concluded. As he started to walk I came upon him and respectfully inquired as to his presence and the meaning of his prayers.

He asked me if I had ever heard of Rabbi Nachman of Breslav, the great-grandson of the Baal Shem Tov. When I replied I had, he seemed pleased and continued.

"One of the important teachings of the Rebbe is that of secluded prayer and meditation, preferably in the meadows and forests outside of the city. In the Rabbi's words, "Go to a grassy field, for the grass will awaken your heart and Kavanah."

(Sefer Sichos HaRan)

After he left, leaving me with a small sefer, I said Maariv. He was right...

# BROOKLYN NIGHT DIVISION

by Joel Kaplan

A new dimension to the Touro array of programs, a Brooklyn-based night college, designed to better serve the yeshiva community, has been launched.

Located in the Sephardic Jewish Center, on Avenue R and Ocean Parkway, in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, the program; for men only, offers courses two nights a week, from 6:15 P.M. to 10:15 P.M. There are three periods each night, running approximately 75 minutes each. Because of the greater than expected enrollment (approximately seventy registered, as opposed to the projected 40-50), larger quarters are being sought.

The students, drawn from Brooklyn yeshivas, such as Chaim Berlin, Mirrer, Torah Vodaath, Eastern Parkway, learn Gemara daily 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. in their respective yeshivas. Upon presentation of a letter of attendance, Touro grants them

six Judaic Studies credits. The students are exempt from the Humanities Core program. Geared to career-oriented courses, they have registered for those courses in the business, accounting, computer and pre-law fields. To this date, there has been no demand for science courses, and the approximately ten subjects are being taught by about ten professors.

An effort has been made to have the courses taught by instructors sympathetic to and compatible with the religious background and sensibilities of the student. The idea for a night college was first proposed in a meeting at the end of 1975, where ways to increase enrollment were discussed. It was also felt, that, as part of Touro's mission, the yeshiva community should be a beneficiary of

Continued on Page 4

# I Didn't Know That

By Pseudonimity Inonimate II

Quicker than one can say, "Dean Berlow is busy and can't be disturbed," the summer flew right by us and this reporter was by an unfortunate accident of birth, the inheritor of this column. In the past, this column dealt with the "goings on" in and around Touro in a lighthearted manner. Being the arch conservative? that I am, I certainly wouldn't want to break with an old and trusted tradition, so here goes:

Jerry G. of dorm counselor fame (imfamy?) has decided to accept NYU Law School's latest offer of three years at hard labor...We wish him much success there...When last seen, Jerry was found muttering to himself, "Aw shoot, I know all about illegal search and seizure; they did that to our newspaper away's back..."Wanted! an extra hat for Mel Davis who will be giving a gemara shiur, as well as assuming his usual role as King Registrar. Important! all questions on Jewish Law should be mailed directly to Rabbi Danny Rebibo, c/o BMT Jerusalem. Flash! It has been reported that the former Dee Dee "Bugsy" Cohen has been spotted around the diamond district wearing three piece suits and consorting with known "dealers."

Attention all entering freshmen and freshmen(?) Passes for the swimming pool on the 12th floor are now being sold. For further info, please contact Chaim Chaimowitz, head lifeguard...Contrary to popular belief, Mark Billet will be

## TOURO! SIZE AND SCOPE

by Aaron Lampert

When Touro was first granted a charter for a law school four years ago, the New York Times described our college as "a tiny, unaccredited, two year old" liberal arts school. As we now enter our sixth year of existence we can proudly say that we are no longer tiny. Our undergraduate liberal arts division now has an enrollment of 170 men and 162 women. In addition, there are 104 students in our Physician's Associate program, approximately 150 students in our Adult Program for Excellence, and over 500 students enrolled in our Retired Adults program. Our new Brooklyn night program already has an enrollment of 70 students. Furthermore, we are no longer unaccredited; bestowal of full accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges is symbolic of our having reached stability as an institution of higher learning.

One method of tracing our evolution is to note some facts about the student body of Touro. In contrast to our first three classes, which were exclusively male, the college presently has a Men's Division and a Women's Division. Nineteen of the one hundred and seventeen students in those first classes, or just over 16%, were from public high schools. In last year's entering freshmen class, 23% of the men and 38% of the women came from public high schools. A large percentage of the entering class scored in the 600-800 range of the

## Professor Israel Singer-- Consultant on Student Affairs

by Joel Kaplan

"American Jewry should not be abandoned", says Professor Israel Singer, the newest addition to the Touro family, in describing his commitment to Touro. A neighbor and close friend of President Bernard Lander, Professor Singer is presently deputy chairman of the Dept. of Judaic Studies in Brooklyn College, teaches political science, and serves as consultant to the World Jewish Congress on International Relations.

"Srooly", as he is affectionately known, spoke emphatically of his belief in "prax Judaism"--the practice of halachic Judaism--and not the affliction of many orthodox Jews today--"orthodogma."

"Most frum Jews have taken the concept of orthodoxy and overstressed it," claims Professor Singer. "Yet," says Singer, "I am a Jewish maximalist--as far as population is concerned. Israel must have internal and external aliya; Jews must have large families and abortions must stop in Israel. Otherwise, we commi' auto-genocide."

Of Chassidic origins, Rabbi Singer is a musmach of Torah Voda th and did his graduate work in political science under Hans Morgenthau, whom he calls, "my rebbe." Professor Singer's area of concentration is the field of international relations, and more particularly, Zionism and the Middle East. He was invited by Professor David Vital, author of the "Origins of Zionism.", to help form the political science department in Bar Illan University, and subsequently taught there for two years.

"My place is eventually in Eretz Yisroel, but I believe very strongly that Jewish sectarian education in America has a future. Drafter of the Jewish issues portion of the Republican platform, Professor Singer wants to bring to Touro, in his position as consultant on student affairs, a unique synthesis; the chassidic element equals "serve G-d with great joy"--the practical--"every teacher is an academic

Scholastic Aptitude Tests, the range considered superior.

The greatest number of Touro students, 28%, classified Economics and Business as their major field of study; 22% are Biology, Chemistry, Pre-Med or Pre-Dental majors; 16% are majoring in History, Political Science or Pre-Law; 11% are Judaic Studies majors, and 9% are majoring in the field of Education (this last figure zooms to 23% for the Women's Division). Of all Touro students 90% hope to do some graduate work, with 43% aiming for doctorates. The above statistics are based on the Middle States Self Study Report.

The scores achieved by Touro students on Graduate Record Examinations have been remarkable. The average score on the Verbal section has been 688 (93rd percentile), with the average Math score 667 (85th percentile). The percentile ranking on the Law School Admission Tests was 93, where the average score was 653. The average score achieved on the Business Boards was 572, ranking in the 85th percentile.

The first student to leave Touro to attend graduate school was accepted as an Early Admissions student to Downstate Medical School. Other alumni have been accepted to schools ranked among the most respected graduate schools in the country, at once blazing a trail and setting a standard for all Touro students.

and personal counselor"--and most important, his abiding enthusiasm for the Jewish way of life.

Married and the father of four children, Professor Singer will be devoting as much time as he can--"on a volunteer basis"--to further and develop the "relationship between students and faculty", which he claims is easier to accomplish in Touro, because of the low student-faculty ratio.

## BROOKLYN NIGHT DIVISION

Continued from Page 3

Touro programs. In addition, the consensus was the the Sephardic community had been neglected, and this was a factor in the choice of location for the night college. Recruitment was accomplished through ads in the Jewish Press and personal contacts. Professor Robert Goldschmidt is the coordinator of the program.

According to a highly authoritative source within the college administration, the administrators and instructors in the yeshivas have been most sympathetic to the Touro program, although stopping short of an endorsement.

With the deterioration of the City University and the granting of full accreditation status to Touro, it was felt the time was ripe for the opening of the program.

It has been made clear that the night college is not designed to attract students to the main campus.

The same source has assured us that the students at the night college have not and will not receive a greater percentage of Touro scholarships than any other division's students, and as a matter of policy, every student in Touro, no matter the division or program (except P.A.) is required to pay the same amount of tuition, \$2750.

## A Constitutional Amendment Prohibiting Abortion? No!

by Marty Flax, Judaica Editor

During this past year, the Catholic Church has succeeded in injecting the issue of legalized abortion into the presidential campaign. It therefore behooves us, as Jews, to evaluate this issue in the light of our tradition, so that we might formulate a response.

The Catholic Church's unequivocal prohibition of abortion is based upon its dogmas regarding ensoulment and baptism. The former doctrine asserts that the soul of a human being enters this world at conception. The latter doctrine asserts that all souls require baptism in order to be saved from eternal damnation. The corollary of these two doctrines is that abortion not only constitutes murder, but is a condemnation of a blameless soul to perdition.

The traditional Jew views abortion as an **Halachic** issue. Therefore, it is necessary to mention a few germane points from the Halacha. (It goes without saying that the author is not determining the Halacha, which, of course, may only be done by a rabbi.)

The first point is that the fetus is never considered a **nefesh**. As such, feticide can never be equated with homicide. However, it is still morally wrong to abort, without halachic approval, and the great majority of abortions performed today would be prohibited under Halacha.

The second point, is that at times the Halacha mandates abortion. When the life of the mother is threatened by her pregnancy or labor, then the Halacha dictates an abortion, on the grounds that the fetus is a **rodeph** (pursuer). In that case, it is a **mitzva** to abort.

There is disagreement among our sages regarding the permissibility of abortion when the circumstances is somewhat less than life and death. The scope of this article precludes an extensive evaluation of the responsa available on this subject.

For the purposes of this article a number of responsa will be quoted. I wish to preface these quotations with the caveat

that they are only being quoted in order to illustrate the range of rulings our sages have made.

Q. Is serious danger to mental health sufficient grounds for an abortion?

A. (Levushai Mordachai, Choshen Mishpat #39)

"Mental health risk has been definitely equated to physical health risk. This woman who is in danger of losing her mental health, unless the pregnancy is terminated, therefore would accordingly qualify."

Chief Rabbi Ben Zion Uziel (died 1954) ruled that:

"It is clear that abortion is not permitted without reason...But for a reason, such as to prevent her **nivvul** (disgrace), then we have precedent and authority to permit it." This is in the case of an adulteress, who has repented, but had become pregnant from her now-terminated relationship.

The Catholic Church, on the other hand, prohibits abortion even when the mother's life is threatened, reasoning that it is more theologically acceptable to lose the mother (who has been baptized), than the child (who has not.)

The point of this article, which should now be obvious, is that Catholic and Jewish traditions are very much at odds on the issue of abortion. The response of the Jewish community to Catholic efforts to legislate a constitutional amendment prohibiting abortion must be clear and resolute opposition.

While everyone in this nation, is free to practice their religion, on one is free to impose theirs on anyone else. Catholics are not being forced to perform or submit to abortions; Jews therefore, should not be prohibited by the law of the land from doing so.

NOTE: all citations are from **Marital Relations, Birth Control and Abortion**, by Rabbi David Feldman, Schocken Books, 1974. The readers of this article are referred to this book for a much more complete and comprehensive discussion of the issues raised. M.F.

## Reading Between the Lines

by Gil Bloom

The New York Times, as most institutions, has and functions by a motto. "All the News that's fit to print," are the watchwords of the Times. Words, as all words, to be sure, but recently in glancing

at them upside down in the subway, they seemed to have a double meaning. So, as a person with some paper experience I wondered who determines for the Times what is fit to print. It's not merely a matter of filling space that determines what we will read the next morning with coffee, tea or mint julip, but rather a highly selective process. Now I wouldn't go so far as to say that papers occasionally suppress news, but the Times had the Pentagon Papers a month before the Washington Post, yet the Post printed first. Suppose they hadn't, would we know today about the frauds perpetrated by the people in power during the Vietnam era?

In other words, we live in a society or rather global village, which is so immense and complex, we need to have it explained or at least related to us periodically by news technicians. These technicians fill the roles of writer, photographer, news anchorperson, correspondents, etc. Their job is to keep us informed on what's going on outside our immediate surroundings and frame of reference.

One of the major problems is that we are left at the discretion of the news business, plus governmental regulation of media, as to what we will or will not be informed on.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

An error appeared on page 3 of **A Guide to the Touro College Library**. Reserve books may be checked out for a two hour period; not two weeks as stated.

The Library Staff

## Soviet Jewry Bike-a-Thon

The Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry will be having a Bike-A-Thon on behalf of our brothers & sisters imprisoned in the Soviet Union.

Date: Oct. 31

Time: 12:30

Starting: at 200 W. 72 St.

For sponsor sheet and more info call: S S S J 799-8900. Tell them you read it in the Independent.

# LOOKING BACK

## The following are excerpts from the valedictory speech—Class of 1976, delivered by Ben Katz.

"Touro has been more than a unique educational experience. It has also been a way of life for us these last four years. Everything that has been Touro, the spiral staircase, the guest speakers, the college weekends, dinners, the movies, the annual Hannukah and Purim **haggigot**, the small classes, and even the senior thesis was shared and enjoyed by us all. We each benefitted in our own way from what the college had to offer. I am confident that we are all now, better scholars, men and Jews, thanks to our school.

Reminiscing, I cannot say that it has not been fun. How well I remember the first day of college, when we discovered to our consternation that Dr. Berlow was not a man! Or that first surprise map quiz we had two weeks later in Humanities, where we were asked to locate such obscure cities as Athens, Troy, and Jerusalem. We could not even figure out which direction on the map was North! And how about the problems we had in the biology lab determining the sexes of our fetal pigs, or the burning Jewish stars in the chemistry lab that were fueled by acetone? or the games we played with the computer? As they say on that commercial, you've come a long way baby!

It is not only we who have progressed these last four years. Touro College itself has also progressed. Back in 1972, the renovations on the 44th Street facility had hardly begun. Touro was composed only of our Freshman grade, and a Sophomore class. Some forty courses were offered to

the eighty or so students, which created a unique learning environment.

The following year, while the renovations on the 44th Street building were under way, classes were held in the Brotherhood - In - Action building. I remember, a big moment came when Effy Zimberg was accepted early admissions into med school. He was the first from our ranks to be accepted into a medical school.

Last year, we returned to our original building. Only the final touches needed to be made upon the edifice. Touro had a senior grade, woman's division, physicians associate program, APEX, a law school charter, and a foreign language program, so that Touro now encompassed hundreds of students.

This past year, we were the ones who went through the trauma of the year long application process. Middle States came to check us out, and eventually granted us full accreditation. Meanwhile, we were busy finishing up our senior theses. Now that we have our bachelor's degrees, it is all over. It is kind of hard to believe. But our college careers will not soon be forgotten.

Thinking about graduation, I have very mixed emotions. I am somewhat melancholy at the prospect of leaving good ol' Touro College, that shelters from the storm. Yet, I am also looking forward towards the future with excitement and a bit of apprehension. All I can really say is that I hope that the coming years will be as rewarding and as productive as the first five years have been."

## Hachnosas Orchim

by Aaron Lampert

One facet of Jewish life which seems to have disappeared is the custom of "Hachnosas Orchim", the welcoming of strangers as guests. We have all heard stories about the Jewish community in Europe which existed before World War II; it seems that an important ingredient of that life was the bond between Jews who were total strangers. Jews could travel from city to city without advance reservations, knowing they would be welcomed into the homes of several Jewish families.

Indeed, there is good precedent for Jewish hospitality. Abraham, the very first Jew, had a tent with four doors, designed so that he could easily greet travelers

passing in any direction. In Parshas Va'Yera, we find an incident of Abraham interrupting a conversation with G-d to greet passers-by. The Babylonian Talmud infers from Abraham's actions that it is more important to welcome guests than to receive the Divine Presence (Shabbos 127a)

We at Touro have a unique opportunity to revive the practice of Hachnosas Orchim. Many of our students are out-of-towners, their adjustment to Touro life compounded by their new environment. It would be appropriate for us to go out of our way to make these students feel welcome, seeking them out and helping them make the adjustment to Touro and New York life.