



Yearbooks and Newsletters

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## The Independent Volume VI No. II

Touro College

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# The Independent

VOLUME VI NO. II

TOURO COLLEGE

FEBRUARY 1977

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### PRESIDENT ADDRESSES STUDENTS

On Wednesday, December 15, a meeting was called at which time President Lander explained to the Student Body, the school's position in connection with the State investigation.

President Lander immediately termed the New York Times article "murder" and "a hatchet job". Touro invited as head of the Retired Adults Program a former Dean of Fordham who had made two million dollars for them while heading a similar program. He resigned after being denied \$100,000 towards scholarships for students.

The State had sent a letter to President Lander stating it was a routine investigation. Following a visit by the State, we were made to feel our programs were satisfactory. They had stated that most of the faculty have graduate degrees . . . the quality is fine . . . the level of education is as good as many undergraduate programs elsewhere . . . the teachers have good rapport with the students . . . and the students were satisfied and motivated.

Leonard Banter, the author of the New York Times article, was given

these reports. He had termed these students "illiterate". According to President Lander, their median is in the 76th percentile which is "far superior to many colleges and definitely the city college". Mr. Banter would not divulge the names of these "illiterate" students. A visit to Finlay House was claimed by him—this house was closed voluntarily by the school six months ago against the wishes of the community, students and teachers.

In reference to Finch College, President Lander stated that the leak to the press came the same day the agreement was intended to be signed. The President does retain the belief that Finch will be ours—it's a matter of time.

Why was Touro given the honor of being selected by the New York Times? We have had a problem in the not-too-distant past, we are small, and our Retired Adult Program is very new. Mr. Banter said he did not wish to write the article but he was under pressure. By whom? President Lander has his suspicions.

### NEW CLUBS FOUNDED

Efforts to enhance fellow students' minds and bodies have led to the forming of two new clubs. They are to be respectively the literary and karate clubs.

A number of students have long felt the need for a literary magazine and have now decided to do something about it. A well attended meeting was held Thursday night, February 17, at which solid ideas were discussed. The next step will be to arouse student in-

terest to contribute and participate. If you are interested, or want more information, contact Alan Shulman (Shultz), or Fran Lunzer.

The second club is to be a class in Taek-won-do. A Korean form of karate, it places great emphasis on foot-work and power similar to that of Northern Kung Fu styles. For those interested, please contact Reuben Gotlieb.

### LIBRARY EXPANDS

A few of us can still remember when the Touro College Library was at 42 St. and 5 Ave. or across the street at the Harvard Club if you had a tie. But now our own library at 30 West has started to look like a reasonable facsimile. Under the keen direction of Max Celnick the library has grown to include over 70,000 volumes as well as a periodical and microfilm library.

Much to the delight of our aspiring Business Majors the library's most recent acquisitions consisted of about 340 books in Business and Accounting. Sociology persons too will find a larger selection. This is due to the generosity

of Rabbi Dr. Greenberg who in leaving for Eretz Yisroel left his library of 500 excellent books to be added to the college's. We hope the books in both Sociology and Anthropology will soon be shelved so they can be put to use.

The library's increase in size has promoted the adoption of a territorial expansion policy. And now in addition to the first and second floor division there lies a huge stack room in the basement. Most of us here at the Independent generally do not smile on expansionists' policies but in this case read on!

## ROOTS DOWN DEEP

By L. Demick & G. Bloom

ABC's broadcast of Roots was the highest rated series in television history. It was tasteful, well acted, and moving. And if you are one of the millions of Americans who watched Roots you may be surprised to learn that your brain was being fed what the multi-million dollar corporations wanted it to hear. Roots was not only bad for Blacks but bad for Whites and Jews as well. However Roots was good for banks and other interests that profit while cuts in vital city services are destroying our cities as well as the black and white people in them.

From a film that lasted eight nights, employing a cast of hundreds we are treated to exactly one sympathetic white character. He played a minor role in the plot as a friendly piece of white trash. The other white characters included rapists, bullies, a slave ship captain, auctioneer, Bible toting hypocrites, a spoiled teenage bitch, sadist and thieves. Could this depiction be true? It seems doubtful at best that there were no decent white people.

Today a large number of blacks entail the lower income brackets. Many

of them populate housing projects and inner city slums. It's natural for a group on the bottom to resent those who have kept them there. How convenient then for the real villains to channel resentment away from themselves and to the white next door. If the black person will take his anger out on the white around the corner, then the Rockefellers, Hearsts and men in Washington will keep their power while the ununited minorities remain powerless.

Just who will this white around the corner be? He will most likely be from the main white group concentrated in the same big cities as blacks. The same group most other societal mistakes have been blamed on. You know them, the Jews around the corner.

Arthur Haley had a beautiful concept. Everyone needs to be in contact with his roots. This is a lesson the Jewish people have learned the hard way. Black Americans deserve to know the truth about their background, but not to be deluded into the past. The future is much too valuable.

## THE SECOND COMING

There is no one who will argue the fact that it has taken a long time for the paper to be published. The editors were open to constant questioning as to why it hasn't come out yet and when it actually will come out. The entire student body deserves a complete answer to their questions.

Members of this year's editorial board were chosen by last year's board, as is the custom, with an "informal" editor-in-chief; (a total of seven members). This "informal" editor-in-chief was to supervise the machinery of the paper—act as a manager.

At this time (June), there was talk of merging with the girl's school. A committee was chosen to speak to the girls over the summer. Three meetings were held at which no final decision was reached. There was a desire to produce a paper to appear at registration, but this paper never materialized.

During the first week of school, this "informal" editor-in-chief announced the editorial board. There were eleven

members on the editorial board, and twenty-seven editors. He had taken some members off and placed others on. Two aspects which only exacerbated the situation were: the fact that a newspaper came out three to four weeks after registration, at which time many of the articles written over the summer were obsolete; and, all articles that were considered controversial were lost.

The original editorial board that was set up in June had requested of the student government to take action. An investigative committee comprising three individuals was established and two meetings were held after which the responsibilities were given back to the legitimate seven-member board.

One member was removed from the board and another resigned after a short period of time. The four remaining board members agreed to try a merger with the girls and attempted to contact them. It took five weeks to establish a meeting at which

(Continued on page 3)

# NEWS AND VIEWS

## STUDENT LUNCHEON

The women's division started the new semester on a very pleasant note with a "Welcome Back to Touro" luncheon held on Wednesday, Feb. 9. The students and a few faculty members were given a chance to meet socially, and the new students were given their first taste of the hospitable atmosphere existing in Touro. Although the peanut-butter and jelly sandwiches were not comparable to the roast duck served at the Farewell Dinner last year (at La Difference), the feelings were the

same. Dean Berlow attended the luncheon, and though she made no formal address to the students, she was available to anyone who had questions or problems, or those who merely wanted to talk. The turnout was very good—whether it was for the free food, door prize, or to socialize new and old students. The fact remains that the luncheon was very successful, and it was a great way to kick off the new semester.

## BLOOD DRIVE

In an unprecedented daylight appearance vampires struck at Touro College's main building at 30 West 44 St.. On Feb. 7, posing as competent Red Cross personnel, they proceeded to drain from students over 40 pints of blood. Student president Harvey Friedman, who is for the most part responsible for the Blood Drive Program, was

somewhat disappointed at the turnout. He attributed it to a large number of students with colds or as he put it, "It's the weather; it makes the blood run cold." After speaking to us, "El Presidente", as he's known, then turned and went to donate his remaining seven pints to compensate for the turnout.

## WRONG NUMBER

Unfortunately, one of the negative aspects of Touro's modernization is the inevitable evolution from name to number. For some strange reason, computers can do just about anything except read names. So, as Touro enters the age of technocracy, we all must submit in addition to our names, our social security number to be used as student identification. This act, as we

learned from the N.Y. Civil Liberties Union, may be illegal.

The problem is not the dehumanizing of number for name, but rather the number used which seems to violate the Federal Privacy Act. The Privacy Act makes it illegal to require that a person use her or his social security number for identification.

## MEDIA PROJECT

Prof. Gary Wurtzel of the Sociology and Communication Departments has announced a research project to examine the way news of Jewish interest is reported in New York. The project consists of student monitoring of the daily newspapers, radio and television as well as major news magazines such as Time, U.S. News and World Report, and Newsweek. We wish Prof. Wurtzel luck and eagerly await the findings which will be printed in the Independent as well as elsewhere.

## ENGLISH PROFESSOR RESIGNS

At the close of the Fall semester, Dr. Jerry Mermel of the English department, handed in his resignation. His reasons for leaving Touro are for the most part personal. The loss of Dr. Mermel from our able faculty is indeed a great one. As one of his colleagues told me, he set the tone for the Humanities program, the backbone of the school, and as all of his students tell me, he was a truly gifted man and a superb pedagogue, whose absence will be felt. We all wish Dr. Mermel the best of luck wherever he goes.

## Letters to the Editor

The trees are now bare and finals are behind upon us. The outdoors is forgotten as we turn to the leaves of our books. The rumors are circulating. The Student Council members are figureheads, voices proclaim. Are these the voices of truth or of apathy? The cry typifies the eternal Jewish cry of what have you done for us *lately*? Our signs go unnoticed. There have been Student Body meetings. There is student representation to academic, curricular, library, dormitory, admissions and student affairs committees. Touro spirit is encouraged by sales of Touro pens, Touro T-shirts, and Touro night shirts. A weekly newsletter, "Everybody's Business", complete with Parshat Hashavua appears *weekly*. Every Wednesday a faculty member is asked to speak on the Torah Portion of the week. There have been Halacha Bulletins. There was a Touro Women's Division Shavvaton on the weekend of Nov. 13th, geared to the out-of-dorm girls of which four came.

Well, what about activities with our brother school? The wine and cheese party, the Melave Malke-Ice Cream party, the interclass dinner and the Chanukah Chagiga are some examples. Outside the school the signs are up daily of plays and things to see and do. Those signs on the bulletin board are not part of the wallpaper! They are there to be read. The list of what Student Council members have been doing goes on.

Miriam Gross

## REGISTRATION

Apparently those responsible for registration for the Spring term at Touro felt that eliminating course cards would alleviate Touro's perennial registration hardships. Pre-registration was thought to be an asset to the student. It would serve the purpose of securing a course possibly closed out, or to escape the masses come registration later on. Neither of these have been realized. Eliminating course cards would have assisted the students if other, more burdensome policies, did not go into effect. The most recent policies for purposes of efficiency are the additional signing by a Judaic Studies advisor, and a twenty-five dollar fine for not pre-registering.

The additional signature of a Judaic Studies teacher suggests that one must take specific courses and teachers. Individuality, the right to choose one's program, is slowly becoming usurped by those in charge. In light of this, the label "pre-registration" is becoming increasingly more appropriate, for one is basically "pre-registered" before actually registering. One point should be emphasized, this criticism is not directed towards Touro's requirements; one knows that upon coming to Touro, the

student is required to take both Judaic Studies and Humanities. But if new policies are introduced on such a regular basis as they are now, policies that further limit the student's ability to choose, then the goal to increase Touro's population becomes that much more uncertain.

A second unusual policy is a fine of twenty-five dollars if one does not pre-register. Typical of other schools is an imposition of a fine on late registration—not pre-registration. The only asset to pre-registration seems to be a financial one—avoid paying twenty-five dollars.

Is there a common denominator for these policies? Other than disregard for the student I have not found any. Perhaps the additional signature for Judaic Studies and a fine satisfy the administration in some furtive manner, but how are students accommodated? Perhaps the student is indecisive about his schedule and would like to wait for the term to end before deciding on a program? Or, the courses for next term are contingent upon the grades of the present term? Lastly the student might be studying and has no time?

The majority of students had only two days, Monday and Tuesday, to pre-register. It was only the registrar's office that was accommodated by a Friday registration—most students do not have school. Again evidence of disregard becomes prominent. Within those two days, one must decide upon which courses to take, resolve any conflicts, locate two advisors to authorize the program (accessibility of advisors dubious—on Friday impossible), and at the same time concentrate on the present term's work.

Pre-registration is for the so-called benefit of the registrar's office and the students, but in actuality works to their detriment. To the students for all the problems and waste of time it creates. To the registrar's office in creating double work. Not only must it list courses, times, classrooms, and teachers available in December, but must re-do all this work for January.

A.E.

## The Independent

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# LAST DAYS

By Eliot Tannenbaum

The following excerpts are taken from Captain John Q. Winston's log, recording the ill-fated voyage of the sailing vessel "Black Wing."

October 23rd—The ship is still lodged in the Arctic ice, which grows thicker by the hour. Today, Mr. Crawford has become the thirty-ninth man to die. As in the case of all the others, I carry his body up on deck and say, "Dear God, accept him into your kingdom, for he was a good sailor." It is with great difficulty that I lift the corpse and flip it overboard. Smith is now too weak to help with the gruesome chore. I look away, then hear the thud as the body strikes ice—but this time there is no splash. Crawford's crushed body lies atop the ice. It's a dreadful sight. Death, for me, has finally become a prize to be welcomed with open arms.

October 24th—Smith expired this morning. Remembering what happened to Crawford, I decided against a burial at sea and let him lay in his cabin. Either way there is no dignity. He is the last to die and now I will cease my fight for life. I cannot help but think of the everlasting world to come and somehow feel that my transgressions, and those of my men, have been purged by this hell. Maybe in this respect we are all fortunate. But then I think of the poet's words as he says:

*Let every man in mankind's frailty  
Consider his last day, and let none  
Presume on his good fortune until he find  
Life, at his death, a memory without pain.*

—Sophocles

It is time to die, and suddenly I no longer feel fortunate.

## THIRD COMING OF THE SECOND COMING

(Continued from page 1)

agreement for a merger was reached and after which a third member resigned. Prior to Winter Recess a second meeting was held at which time articles which were written in the previous period were reviewed and edited. A paper did not come out in the following weeks due to exams and finals which were being given.

Over intersession, one editor had gone on vacation, a second got married, and a third had mailed the articles into a typist in Brooklyn. We did not hear from the girls. After eight days of not receiving the articles from the typist, we recalled the material and decided to revert to our original company in New York. Certain articles were obsolete, and new articles were written. These articles were written, typed, and sent to the printer within two weeks. What you are holding is the culmination of these efforts.

# REVIEWS

If there was an emmy award for the best screenplay by a new writer, I would give it to Sylvester Stallone. His story and portrayal of Rocky is that good.

*Rocky* is the story of a young boxer trying to make it in contemporary Philadelphia's South Side. He accidentally gets a chance to fight for the world championship, and after it's over, he lives happily ever after with his girlfriend. Granted, the plot may be rather simple, but the insight and character portrayal in the film was just perfect. We care for Rocky, knowing what he's thinking at every moment. His girlfriend, Adrian (Talia Shire), shy at first, becomes his leading supporter. Fortunately, she does not lose her identity, but retains one all her own throughout the film. Her brother, Paulie and his manager, Mickey both are bad good guys. We understand what motivates them as if we have known them for years.

Released by United Artists, *Rocky* is sure to please all viewers. It has to. After all, his whole life was a million-to-one shot.

While watching *Small Change*, one expects the worst to happen. The story is about children growing up in middle-class France (actually, it could be anywhere), whose only bonds are the classroom they share and the friendships they enjoy.

There is little Gregor, who falls out of a ninth story window, only to land on the ground unhurt. A little girl, whose parents locked her home, forcing her to scream out to all the neighbors for food. Boys telling dirty jokes, girls enjoying their first kiss. All of the incidents are cute, except that one which deals with the son of a child abuser.

*Small Change*, released by New World Pictures, is a delight to see.

## OPENING NIGHT

Lights, sparkles, people, action: you'd think it was opening night. That's exactly what it was; the opening of a new exhibit at the Jewish Museum, featuring the artist Ben Sahn.

The exhibit represents the many facets of this modern artist. Ben Sahn's talents range from contours to artist posters. His most appealing paintings are those in oils where he displays his simplistic designs. None of his art work is complicated, but rather magnified by his simple lines.

My favorite of this exhibit is a painting in which Ben Sahn takes the aleph-bet and places the letters in a circle. He begins with the aleph large, down to a small tet. The circular motion gives one a feeling of togetherness.

The evening was topped off with champagne and cake. Truly an enjoyable evening and an exhibit well worth seeing. If you get a chance, go to the Jewish Museum, located at 96th Street and 5th Avenue, and take in Ben Sahn's exhibit.

# TOURO ENTERS PHASE 3

To many students the third floor has become an embarrassment for the school. Originally planned to be a lounge with comfortable seating, and a place to eat and read, it has become an eyesore filled with profanity.

Two incidents explain in what way this area is an embarrassment. First, during the Fall term, a woman from the Apex program stepped off the elevator on the third floor and in total astonishment stated, "What is this place?" Needless to say, it was a bit unkempt. Hot chocolate and soda were spilled on the floor in the center area. The machines looked destroyed. In the North hall, the tables, stacked with garbage, were in a total state of disarray. Not long after this I witnessed a second disturbing incident. In the afternoon, when most students were in class, a card game was in progress. A man and two women from Apex had just entered the North hall. They were welcomed by a string of profanities which could be heard over the noisy repartee of the players. I'm not even sure whether the gamblers

heard the man's request to use decent language in the presence of the two women. The profanity continued, the three students decided to leave the area.

These incidents are by no means atypical. In fact, a card game is going on whenever there are people in the building. This contributes to much delinquency among the upperclassmen, and even more importantly, it is a poor example for impressionable lowerclassmen, who literally waste hours of their time at the card table. It is an amazing and sad feeling to watch a mind go fallow.

The history of the pool table is another sad statement about the behavior and attitude of the Touro student. The table, purchased by the student government with their funds, in response to student requests, was to be a recreational facility and make enough money to pay for itself. Today the pool table is in shambles. The cue-balls are lost, the cue-sticks cracked, the coin slot broken off, and the money within stolen.

## HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU

Once every decade or two someone born to be a true champion challenges the ski slopes of Vermont and starts on the trail that will lead to greatness. Of course this year's Touro ski trip attracted no such individuals though it was an inspiration for the many who made the trek. The slopes were a sight to behold though Mark Billet might contest that. For many novice skiers, like myself, it was blind ambition that kept us moving down the miles of challenging slopes. Touro as always attracted a diversified crowd ranging from world-class swimmers to fireplace specialists.

Even at Smugglers Notch Touro's unique ideology surfaced in an enlightening analysis of Kafka, followed by a colloquy between two alumni over the merits of procedure in the Sanhedrin. To all who could not join us, I cannot tell you about the unsurpassed beauty of the summit of Mt. Maddona or the exhilarating feeling of swooshing past the pines and feeling at peace with the natural surroundings. If you must find out for yourself, take to the hills, 'tis still the season.

Special thanks to Harvey and Norman for their great work which made the trip go so smoothly.



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## HOOD PLAYS PALLADIUM

By Howie Lifshitz

Bruce Springsteen gave five concerts this weekend at the Palladium (formerly the Academy of Music) on 14th and 3rd in NYC, and, at least on opening night, gave a concert worth the nine bucks I had to dish out to see him. Utilizing the greatest sound system on earth (he spends a grand a week perfecting it) and with the aid of the tremendous acoustics of the Palladium, a refurbished opera house, Bruce's music and its vitality came out loud and clear. Having a tight band behind him (the tightest next to Johny Winter in my humble estimation) consisting of members who have all been around a while didn't hurt him either. Springsteen, notoriously known as a lousy guitarist, had to rely on his vocals, lyrics, theatrics and back-up band and all came through perfectly that Thursday night.

To those who say Bruce can't sing: forget it! His voice, though untrained and coarse, holds a tremendous amount of soul; his songs are of the dramatic vein, full of gusto and feeling. Drawn mostly from personal experiences, each is almost a small operetta. And while Clarence Clemons (not to be confused with Chaim Chaimowitz) his main, mammoth saxman is an imposing figure on stage and electrifies the audience with solos in songs such as "Jungleland" and "Born to Run." Bruce is no slouch when it comes to purring on a show either. More than any other performer, he

totally relates to his audience, jumping into the aisles and palling around with the audience. Springsteen is an ever-moving, prancing tough little hood on stage, a guy every model Touro student can identify with.

Just some bad points. His selections of songs wasn't that selective. If one thinks about it a little, his repertoire isn't really that huge. I concur that *Born to Run* is a great album; it just sold its millionth copy last week (but that's neither here nor there—Framton sold ten million pieces of bubble gum). But to do seven out of eight songs from it is just a bit overdoing it, huh Bruce? I realize most of the audience more readily identifies with his last album, but *Greetings* and the *E Street* albums deserved more attention than the two songs allotted each.

Highlights—the old Eric Burdon hit "It's My Life," "Rosalita," "10th Ave. Freeze-Out" and "Jungleland." Though B. S.f.sxt album is being contested in the courts, he did do three numbers. My reaction: Eh\$ Concert Rating: A-. The most entertaining concert I've seen, but not the "get my rocks off type" that I thought it would be. I was surprised at the apparent docility of the crowd though there were a few rowdy drunks scattered here and there. I reckon many either saw him because it was the "cool" thing to do, or that many felt the was I did. A great rock and roll show nevertheless.

## THE "I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE JEWS THERE COLUMN" A LITTLE ROCK COMMUNITY:

By Rebecca Bram

In the early 1900s the Jews of Little Rock, Arkansas consisted of a few families. The men gathered in their small stores to discuss their new Americanized ways of life. One of these stores was owned by Rabbi Katzenellenbogen, the first Rabbi of Little Rock, who was a shochet, as well as the children's Hebrew teacher.

Prayer services in Little Rock were held in the back of stores, until, in 1904, Congregation Agudat Achim, a small congregation, but one with very dedicated members, was founded. More Jewish families began to move west toward Little Rock, and on January 9, 1908 the synagogue acquired its own building. Rabbi Katzenellenbogen moved to Israel and the new Rabbi, Rabbi Eckstein, started a cheder once a week. Sisterhoods and men's clubs were formed, as well as an AZA chapter.

The congregation grew so rapidly over the next 44 years that a larger synagogue became necessary, and was subsequently built. It was dedicated on December 14, 1952. Mr. Mark Lipman, President of the Congregation at the time, said in a speech that night, "When men dream of things that men can do, they accomplish what men can do, but when men dream dreams of what G-d can do, they build for eternity." A Sunday school was soon established and Cheder was held four afternoons a week. Services were held on Friday night and Saturday morning, and many Bar Mitzvahs and other joyous occasions took place there.

In the coming years, the shul's downtown location was an average of seven miles from the area where most members lived. In 1965 the congregation purchased property in a residential area. Two houses on this property were renovated and used as classrooms, for board meetings, as well as daily minyons which were held there. Soon afterward the shul building was sold, and on May 2, 1975 a new Agudat Achim Synagogue was dedicated.

Rabbi Shaya Kilimnick is the present Rabbi of the congregation. When he came to Little Rock 7 years ago at the age of 23, he was the youngest head Rabbi of a congregation in the United States, and thus the task of getting his members to pledge their trust in his ability to lead them was difficult. The new synagogue thus serves as monumental proof that he accomplished this.

There are still many problems the Jews in Little Rock have to deal with. There is no chochet, so all meat has to be ordered from out-of-town; there is no day school where the children can get a good Hebrew education; and because public schools are in a very Christian environment more Yiddishkeit needs to be emphasized in the homes, but very rarely is.

One of the most outstanding leaders of the Little Rock Jewish community is Maurice Besser, who has served on many offices of the shul board and was the head of the building committee for the new Agudath Achim synagogue.

Mr. Besser was born and raised in Little Rock. "When I was growing up in Little Rock there was no encouragement for me to continue my Jewish education after I was bar mitzvahed. I didn't even know what a haftorah was, I just knew the brochos and read my speech. Hebrew school was held occasionally and the temple had a Sunday school. I attended AZA conventions but they were strictly social events. Back then, there was no real interest in Jewish youth."

"I never had any real feelings for Yiddishkeit until my Dad died. I went to say kaddish for him and remembered how he always went to shul."

Mr. Besser's enthusiasm about the shul being completed is evident. "We really have a beautiful shul. It has all it takes to be an Orthodox Jew in its walls. And we also have one of the finest rabbis in the country. I hope there will always be an orthodox community here."

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### Notes From The Student Govt.

The last student council meeting opened up with the motion of a U.J.A. guest speaker being present at our next inter-class dinner. This proposal along with the motion of inviting the U.J.A. speaker down during club hour was voted down 7 to 3.

The next matter on the agendy was the finalization of the Purim Chagigah. This event will take place at Temple B'nai-Jeshurin, located on 89th Street in Manhattan. The festivities will begin at 8:30 p.m. The central location will help make it exccessible to everyone. We are happy to inform you that we have the Stanley Miller band on hand to entertain you.