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Touro College

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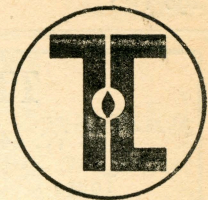
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The Independent



VOL. I — NO. II

TOURO COLLEGE

MARCH 26, 1972

Renovation Plans In Final Stage

By IRA PARNES

Plans for the complete renovation of **Touro College** are in the process of being approved by the city. The building was donated by the Health, Education and Welfare on the condition that it be used for educational purposes.

Touro was awarded an "Interest Subsidy Grant" of \$600,000 by the government for the purpose of renovating the building. This grant allows Touro to borrow up to \$600,000 at 3% interest; the government pays the rest of the interest. Touro has finally acquired the mortgage for the \$600,000 from private sources. However, renovations are expected to cost approximately \$750,000. Mr. Eugene Hollander chairman of the Board, has generously pledged the difference.

Architectural plans have been drawn and submitted to the Buildings Department and actual work should begin in mid-April. The Administration hopes that the renovation will be completed



by September, 1972.

Everything in the interior of the building will be new. Many of the walls will be removed and new ones constructed. The plans call for a dry-wall interior, new floors in some areas, new fixtures and ceilings, etc.

Specific plans for the building are as follows:

(1) At least one of the two existing elevators will be made self-service.

(2) Because the circular staircase is a fire hazard, the fire escape in the rear of the building will be enclosed and made

into a permanent staircase. However, portions of the stairwell will be retained in certain areas.

(3) Floor Plans:

Basement: A cafeteria with kitchen facilities will be constructed.

First floor: The two offices in the front will be kept. The present library will be enlarged and made into an auditorium with a seating capacity of 150 people.

Second floor: One half of the second floor will be made into a student lounge, while the other half will become a formal reception hall.

Third floor: All administrative offices.

Fourth-Eighth floors: Each floor

Continued on Page 4, Col. 4)

the only remaining major Israeli city without a college or university. The city of Netanyah is as eager to host an institution of higher learning, as we are to put down our roots there.

There is a proposal underway in the Agency for International Development (AID) for a half million dollar grant towards the construction of a campus in Israel. The application for these funds will be under consideration in the present session of the U.S. Congress.

Dr. Abner Shaki, M. K., Israeli Deputy Minister of Education and Professor of Law at Tel-Aviv University, as well as Oved Ben-Ami, mayor of Netanyah, have pledged their full support and cooperation. They have also agreed to the establishment of a scholarship fund for needy students.

The Netanyah campus will be modeled after the American branch of **Touro College**. Teachers will alternate between the two campuses and students will be able to pursue all or part of their studies on the Israeli campus. Dormitories and complete facilities will be available. It is hoped that students will enthusiastically avail themselves of this unique and exciting program.

Shaki At Touro

By JOSEPH HADAAD

On the evening of Wednesday, March 1st, **Touro College** was honored with the presence of the distinguished Dr. & Mrs. Avner Shaki. Dr. Shaki, Deputy Minister of Education of the State of Israel, addressed both the students of **Touro College** and the members of its Board of Directors.

Dr. Shaki, a Sephardic Jew, spoke of the plight of his fellow Mid-Eastern and Oriental Jews in Israel. There exists a wide disparity in culture, education, and opportunity between the European Ashkenazic communities and the Sephardic communities. These differences developed as a result of the mass influx of Jews from the Diaspora into Israel since the inception of the state. Consequently, most professional and governmental jobs are held by members of the better educated Ashkenazic communities, whereas the Sephardic communities have few representatives in the professional fields or in the Knesset.

This situation is exacerbated by the problems of the new Russian immigrants. Adequate housing is a major problem in Israel and the highly skilled immigrants are given economic incentives by the government at the expense of the poorer Jews already in Israel — who are in most cases Sephardic.

"The remedy to this situation," Dr. Shaki said, "lies in better education for the Sephardic population for therein lies the answer to a better life." He expressed the belief that ultimately cultural differences will lessen and a new culture will unfold, bearing the characteristics of one indigenous to Israel.

Dr. Shaki believes that **Touro College** is the forerunner of many institutions that will be geared to the educational needs of all Jews, and to the enrichment and development of Jewish life both in Israel and throughout the world.

Plans For Netanyah Campus Underway

By JERRY MENKIN

The ideal of Touro College, the creation of a small and personally oriented Jewish-American institution of higher learning, has become a reality. The extension of this dream, a branch in Israel, is also on its way to becoming a reality. Dr. Bernard Lander, now in the Holy Land on private business, plans to consult with a building company to discuss detailed plans for the establishment of a campus to be located in the city of Netanyah.

Upon Dr. Lander's return from Israel, a meeting will be held for all faculty and students. Among other issues, the prospects for inviting professors from Israeli institutions to teach in Touro next semester will be discussed. This meeting will also furnish details concerning the architec-



tural and educational plans for **Touro College** in Israel.

The municipality of Netanyah has already donated 100 dunams (25 acres) of land to Touro. Netanyah, which was built primarily with American support and named after Nathan Strauss, is

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Trojans Tryst For One-on-One Triumph

By JULES LEVENTHAL

The 1972 All-Star "One on One" Basketball Tournament is scheduled to begin at **Touro College** next week. The tournament, once only a dream in the mind of Eli Epstein, has become a reality through his hard work and untiring efforts. Mr. Epstein, who gained recent notoriety as President of the now defunct "3 on 3" Basketball League, has set up the one on one tournament out of a sense of great personal sacrifice; for Eli realizes, as we all do, that if there is no basket at the end of the week—he will be defunct.

Notwithstanding this one obstacle, Mr. Epstein has amassed some of the greatest one-on-one basketball players ever to come out of the N.Y.C. playgrounds. (A report on some of the players will follow this report.) The players hail from many states of the Union including Virginia, Rhode Island and Missouri. Touro fans will be especially fortunate to see Carribean basketball at its best as Francisco Torres will compete for the honor of his country. Our N.Y.C. players, however, long famous for their one-on-one talents, are the favorites on the betting line. Room 505 has been reserved for investments. The Reb has agreed to handle all monetary exchanges for a 5% kickback. The tournament includes players of all sizes, shapes and ages. They come to the playing field in the spirit of competition and confidence in their skills.

The first round features some very exciting highlights. Professor Mickey Shmidman will fare with Irving Rubenstein in the first match-ups. Mickey, out of the jungles of East New York, gained fame on the Chaim Berlin teams of the middle forties. It is expected that in Shmidman, Touro fans will see the revival of the great basketball exercise—the 2 handed set shot. We have learned from unofficial sources that the Professor's strategy will be this: if he is behind late in the game, he will question his opponent on the nature of Federalism. While his rival ponders the answer, Mickey will score continuously and go on to win. Big Jay against Big Ben promises to be a classic confrontation. Jay was the big mobile forward on the great M.T.A. intramural teams of the late 60's. In addition to his playing talents, Jay has other assets that will prove to be valuable to the tournament. His good looks are expected to draw the entire Stern freshman class. Perhaps with these additional monies we will be able to afford the winner's sweat-shirt.

Touro players, long famous for their skills in the great basketball wars, have prepared feverishly for the tournament. They have stopped smoking, gotten 8 hours sleep and have cut down on all social activities. They stand ready, poised to leap to unprecedented heights in the hope of attaining their El Dorado—the Touro sweat-shirt. It should be a good tournament.

EDITORIAL:

Touro: Need and Purpose

It is commonplace to advert to the entrenched apathy and circulating melancholy as the outstanding characteristics of the "new youth." The bitter experiences of the sixties have induced many students to abandon active participation in campaigns of reform while mutely impounding their revulsion and indignation in the recesses of their mind. The results are campuses ostensibly tranquil though internally infested with a spiritual malaise. Many colleges throughout the country lack a community of purpose, an "esprit de corps," which alone can infuse the learning process with meaning and vitality. The parade of insipid courses, the over-arching beauracray, the strangling competition all breed a destructive disillusionment, with its inevitable consequence of contempt for the traditional values of life. Withal, an atmosphere largely uncongenial to the Jewish way of life has evolved—and it is an effort to surmount this unhappy situation which has spawned the idea of **Touro College**.

It is our hope in **Touro** to forge a union of the Jewish ethos with the principles of Western civilization; a union spirited in its appreciation of the society we live in; a union sensitive to the welfare of man and responsive to the needs of reform; a union imbued with the blending of a noble Jewish tradition with the eloquent ideas of our secular heritage.

The air is already overabundantly charged with empty rhetoric without the need for a further exercise in bombast. The world we live in is a very real one, and an ungrounded fantasy cannot survive. **Will Touro?**

The answer depends on each person who reads these lines, whether or not he or she is a **Touro** student. The undertaking on W. 44th St. will register important repercussions for future Jewish students. To succeed, it needs the devoted support, financially, emotionally and intellectually, of the people concerned in its well-being. As the charter class of **Touro College**, we have assumed a large burden of responsibility: it is our duty to strive for the excellence expected of us. **Touro** will define its purpose and meaning only in the course of its development and quality of its achievements. With a faculty not only of superlative academic quality but sincerely committed to the evolution of a personal faculty-student relationship we can well trust in success. We approach the coming years in the confidence that our performance as students, as Jews, and as Americans will fulfill our greatest expectations.

On Chess-Nuts

By FRANK KUTNICKI

At **Touro College**, we have an other memorable first, the Touro College Chess-Nut Class. Everyone who is interested, be he an International Grandmaster, or just a potzer, is invited to join. Our first tournament is already

under way, and soon the Touro College Chess-Nut King will be crowned. So come one, come all.

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FOCUS:**Judaic Studies**

By NORMAN HOROWITZ

At its inception, Touro College decided to operate under a specific set of standards and principles. President Lander envisioned a secular institution to be conducted under Jewish auspices. He constantly stressed that Touro was not a "Yeshiva," and should not be conducted as such.

There seems to be a definite discrepancy between this premise and the existing Judaic Studies curriculum. Touro's Judaic Studies are not being conducted on a secular level. The emphasis at Touro is on Hashkafa when the emphasis should be on scholarship as in other secular schools. For this reason, as it stands now, the Judaic Studies fall short of their expectations.

The extent of this problem should not be minimized. One of Touro's underlying principles is the achievement of excellence, and that certainly is not being achieved in the Judaic Studies department. The courses are simply not being given on the college level they were expected to be given on at Touro's inception, and a good percentage of the students are suffering.

We recognize the diversity of the student body, and especially the diversity of their Jewish backgrounds. The Touro student body is a cross-section of the total Jewish community in America. Our students run the gamut from secularist to Hassidic in orientation. This diversity, however, should not involve the reduction of all Judaic courses to the lowest common denominator. If Touro College sets a standard of excellence it must stick by it.

A good percentage of the students now attending Touro have studied Judaic topics from eight to twelve years. They now have the basics of a solid Jewish education. They come to Touro College expecting to further their interests in particular sectors of Judaic Studies. Instead they are confronted with the same stereotyped curriculum; the same basic survey courses.

The students who have no Hebrew background are content with the courses as they stand. The more advanced students find themselves in a state of limbo. They have completed their basic training in Judaic Studies, yet

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 3)

FACULTY PROFILE:**Maurice Wohlgelernter**

By BENJAMIN STRAUSS

This is the first in a series of interviews of the faculty and administration of Touro College. The initial interview, conducted by Benjamin Strauss, was of Dr. Maurice Wohlgelernter, Professor of English and Chairman of the Humanities Department here at Touro.

Dr. Wohlgelernter is a graduate of Yeshiva University, receiving his B.A. in 1941 and Smicha in 1944. He then entered Columbia University from which he was later to receive his Masters degree and Ph.D. He taught at Yeshiva University from 1955 to 1970 and has also taught summer sessions at City College, the New School for Social Research and Bar-Elan University in Israel.

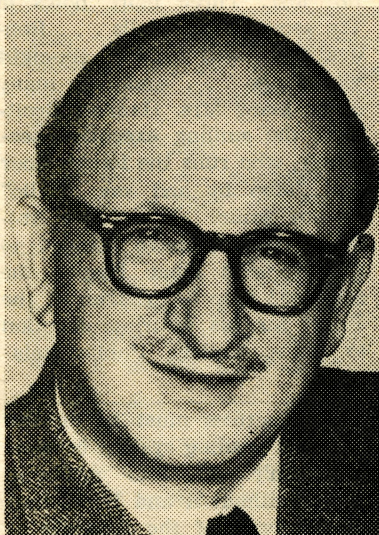
Mr. Strauss: After having taught at Yeshiva University for fifteen years, what made decide to come to Touro?

Dr. Wohlgel: I came to Touro when Dr. Lander first decided to organize this college in the spring of 1969. I thought the idea of the college was very good and felt there was a desperate need for a small college to cater to the good student that the student should not be just a Social Security number or an IBM card. I thought it was a very good idea when I first discussed it and I wanted to leave YU for various personal and academic reasons and so, I decided to join immediately.

Mr. Strauss: What would you say are the basic differences between Yeshiva University and Touro College?

Dr. Wohlgel.: The major difference, I think, is the fact that Touro is a small college and hopes to remain a small college. A small college, I think, is something that is most desirable for a better education. The greater the contact between the faculty and the students, the greater the school will be. That's one difference. Secondly, you always hope that in a new school some of the flaws, academic and otherwise, will be averted when you start from scratch. There are policies and conditions at YU which militate against change, innovation and innovative programs. Touro programs are and will continue to be innovative.

Mr. Strauss: How does the freshman literature course you are giving here compare with the typical freshman English course offered at other colleges?



Dr. Wohlgel.: In the typical freshman English course you take an anthology of essays and you teach the students the essays and in the second term maybe short stories. The unfortunate part about this is that this is a stereotype of course. Here we are trying to get the best of two worlds by having a World Literature course to introduce some of the great writers of all time and combine it together with writing. Since the stress is heavily on literature, it develops a greater interest of the students, makes for better classroom work, and broadens the cultural outlook of the students which is the ultimate aim of Touro. The typical freshman course of just simply reading an essay and writing about it, is just the thing we have to get away from. Our course is totally unlike the freshman writing course given at Yeshiva and every other college in the city except the Ivy League schools. We are also presently interviewing people in the hope of beginning, next year, a foreign language program.

Mr. Strauss: What do you think of the quality of Touro College's freshman class?

Dr. Wohlgel.: I think that the majority of the students here are very good and can match up to anything at YU and most of the other colleges in N.Y. As a matter of fact, I think, the stu-

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 1)

JEWISH VIEWS:**Jewish Swastika**

By YITZCHOK GOLDSON

We are naturally upset when we hear that a synagogue has been defaced with Swastikas but when the vandals turn out to be Jews, we are shocked. The very thought that a Jew could commit such a crime is very difficult to conceive and leads one to question the awareness that these Jews could possibly have about their own Jewishness.

However, two large and "consciously stricken Jewish groups" have been involved in committing this type of atrocity. Members of both the JDL and the Satmar Yeshiva have been caught painting Swastikas on the walls of synagogues. Both of these groups are very outspoken in their views about Israel and "Jewishness". Their fanaticism in demonstrating their opposition to groups of another Jewish ideology has blinded them to the fact that a Swastika is an outrage to the Jewish people as a whole, themselves included, and not just an insult to their vandalized victims.

Defacing the synagogues of one's ideological foe is not only a disgrace to the Jewish religion, but breeds further discord and hatred amongst Jews. This is totally opposed to the putative goals of both the JDL and Satmar. When the JDL defaced one of the Satmar synagogues in Boro Park, the direct outcome was the defacing of the JDL building by Satmar. As the tensions rose and the retaliations spread, the many defaced synagogues of Boro Park became symbolic of the discord and disunity that these groups foster amongst the Jews.

In such troubled times as ours when unity is essential so that we can solve the many problems that face the Jewish people, we cannot afford to waste our time and effort in factional warfare. We may have differences of opinion, but all of us are committed to the Jewish people. We must unite as Jews and express ourselves in a truly Jewish fashion.

Can any Jew who takes his Jewishness seriously not be repelled by Jews painting Swastikas on a synagogue? To learn karate to defend oneself against attacks by Non-Jews is one thing, but isn't one Jew attack-

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 1)

Keeping It In The Family

By ELI EPSTEIN

Mazei Tov and Best Wishes to Rabbi and Mrs. Jerry Witkin on the birth of Zalman Tzvi (Steven Jay) . . . Welcome back to Francisco (Frank) from his recent trip to good ol' Puerto Rico. Many thanks to Mrs. Celnik, librarian, who so cheerfully brings snacks for **Touro** students . . . very much in the unique Touro spirit . . . Also in the spirit of things: Congrats to Ben-Siyon Brasch who recently celebrated his Birthday together with his classmates . . . Best wishes for a Refuah Shlemah to Ben-Siyon and his classmates . . . And who knows if the hours posted on the bulletin board are the Reb's hours for conference or lunch

. . . Overheard: Intriguing topics for our next English paper: How I Spent Last Summer, or, How I Shall Spend This Summer, or, How I Should Have Spent Last Summer or . . . My my, it's good to be in college . . . Found but not lost: Three more holes in the second floor walls . . . Renovations will start six-eight weeks ago . . . And how many of us know Mrs. Hannah Broitman, the smiling executive secretary, who runs the fourth floor . . . stop by and say "Hello" — but smile! . . . **Touro** Students recently have decided to bestow upon Isaac Hagler the esteemed title of "Patron of the Year" for his untiring devotion to Touro College Public Relations.

Profile . . .

(Continued from Page 3, Col. 3) dents here are better than the average City College student. We have some weak students, to be sure, but the majority of the students at Touro are a match to any other college in the city of N.Y.

Mr. Strauss: What do you think is the best college grading system keeping in mind that Touro seeks to do away with the air of competitiveness?

Dr. Wohlgel: I am sorry to say that I am one of the old fashioned conservatives who believes in letter grades. I don't know about competitiveness. A good student should be rewarded for his work and a poor student should not be rewarded by giving him a P. What's the difference between him and the student with a B who also gets a P? I believe that a compromise will be made here. We will have an Honors, Pass and No Credit system but not beyond the first

Jewish Views . . .

(Continued from Page 3, Col. 4) ing another Jew no less outrageous? Though these incidents are both upsetting and shocking perhaps we can still learn something from them: a Jew proves himself a Jew when he expresses himself through a Jewish medium and a Jew who must revert to such a repugnant Non-Jewish symbol as a Swastika to emphasize his ideas, only demonstrates how far from Judaism he really is.

year. Electives must be on the standard grading system because you can't get into graduate school without it and I feel that the majority of the students at Touro are going to go to graduate school. You can't get into the best graduate schools with a Pass and No Credit system.

Mr. Strauss: Touro College is acclaimed as being a great innovation in the field of college education. What makes Touro so unique and do you feel it will set a pattern for new colleges in the future?

Dr. Wohlgel: I think what is unique about Touro is what I told Middle States when they first came here about a year ago. I told them that the function of Touro College is to make every student reach a point where he can read, write and speak intelligently. That sounds rather simple but they were very impressed. This is good old fashioned education and we are going back to it. I think the greatest thing about Touro is the fact that the classes are small. Working with students privately is the best form of education in the world. If we succeed here, other colleges will take notice of us and will want to find out what the secret of our success is. They will find that the secret is small classes and private discussions and analyses. Maybe then they will go away from this mass education business of 300 or 400 students in a class who never have any contact at all with the instructor.

TC Division Of Allied Health Services To Open: Shlomo Twersky, Director

Beginning September, 1972, Touro College will expand to include an exciting new dimension within its Division of Allied Health Sciences. This innovation two year program is designed to lead to a Physician's Associate Degree and a Bachelor of Science Degree. It is anticipated that the program will eventually become one leading to a Master's Degree. Requirements for admission include a Degree in Allied Health Sciences plus health related experiences. Preference will be given to applicants already possessing a Bachelor of Science Degree.

The course of study, which will be geared to train students to prepare a comprehensive medical history and give a physical examination, will offer courses in the sciences equivalent to those of a regular medical student with several related topics in Liberal Arts including Sociology, Medical Ethics and the Philosophy of Medicine.

The faculty will be staffed with dual appointments from Kingsbrook and Touro College. Among those in charge of organizing and directing the program are Shlomo Twersky, Director, Dr. Samuel Korman, Medical Director, and Dr. Isadore L. Danishefsky, Academic Director. Tuition per year will be \$2,500, with liberal scholarships being offered. Students seeking further information are encouraged to contact Shlomo Twersky at 986-2140.

I love teaching and I love my classes. I teach not because I can't do anything else, something I can say about most of the other instructors here at Touro. We all have other interests; we can do other things as well. The beauty of it is, in my case, that I thoroughly enjoy students even when they come up with kidding remarks about the Reb in class. Teaching is a lot of fun. The key to all teaching, on all levels, is called "inspirational teaching." The instructor is inspired because he loves the work and he can inspire the students and then the course is a success. Teaching will always be, especially here at Touro, very exciting and in that way I think the school will live up to its original ideals and hopes.

Focus . . .

(Continued from Page 3, Col. 1) are waiting for a rigorous course of study designed to enhance not repeat, their knowledge of Jewish subjects.

Touro College must find a way to cope with these problems. If it intends to gear its courses to fit the needs of all its students, it is then obligated to conduct them on the highest intellectual level. If instead, Touro plans to cater to the diversity of its student body, to the Hashkafah-minded student as well as to the secular-minded student, it must take steps in that direction immediately. The school should gear its curriculum to the indi-

vidual outlooks of the students in order to maintain a diverse student body, but it should at the same time maintain the level of excellence it professes.

Renovation . . .

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 3) has two large classrooms with a maximum capacity of 25 students. In addition, each floor will have 4 small faculty seminar rooms to serve the following purpose: In Touro, full-time faculty members are expected to spend the day in their offices. Touro is therefore constructing 16 rooms that will be furnished comfortably. They will serve two purposes: 1) as faculty offices and 2) as places where faculty members can hold seminars in an informal atmosphere.

Ninth floor: Two fully equipped laboratories and a preparation room.

Tenth and Eleventh floor: These two floors will house the Touro library. When completed, it is expected to contain 100,000 volumes. The tenth floor will be subdivided into a main floor and a mezzanine level.

Twelfth floor: The twelfth floor will serve as an athletic facility.

The first 3 or 4 floors will be centrally air-conditioned. The other floors will be locally air-conditioned.

The students of **Touro College** sincerely hope that the plans are approved swiftly, and construction can begin as soon as possible.