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Touro College Flatbush Women's Division

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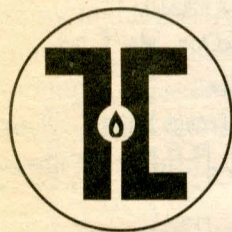


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TOURO 7/7 TRANSCRIPT

Vol. 2 No. 1

A Publication of the Touro College Flatbush Women's Division

Fall 1996

The Future is NOW at Touro

by Judith Mandelbaum

This summer for the very first time, Touro College offered several courses on how to use the Internet. As a confessed IBM-illiterate, I signed up for these courses. Surprisingly, I was actually able to cope and quasi-keep up with the work even though I had absolutely no programming experience at all.

What is fascinating about this course is that it was taught over the Internet. If your home computer was hooked up to the Internet, you did not have to come to class in the computer lab at all! (Except for the final, which was taken in person.) The way it worked was: the teacher sent e-mail to my account with all the lessons, with step by step instructions, on how to go about doing your homework. I then did my homework, e-mailed it to his account, and he told me through e-mail if I was doing it right or not, and so on.

If I wanted to talk to him live, I could request to do so and have a personal "chat" by typing at the \$prompt: Talk teacher, and have a one-on-one conversation with him. If I got stuck on a certain lesson, the helpful lab-technician at Touro, Martin Bodek, was available to explain what I did wrong and set me straight. This was accomplished by sending our e-mail to martinb@touro.edu

The courses were taught by Professor Agnail-Ah. In addition to teaching this course, he teaches programming at Touro as well as at Columbia University. He is the co-author of *A Guide to the Programming Process*, a required book for many programming courses.

The courses that were offered were:

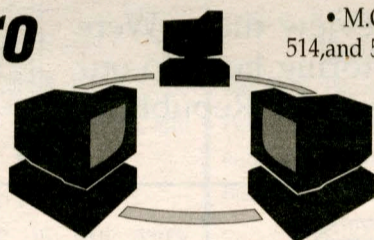
- M.O.-510 Computer/Internet literacy
- M.O.-512 Internet concepts
- M.O.-514-Internet theories and cognition
- M.O.-516 HTML

MCP-510 was an introduction to using computers (like switching it on) and accessing the Internet. Although only one person showed up to class, (we all had thought we knew it all,) later he was a source of help for those stuck with questions.

- M.O.-512 Basically Internet concepts

- M.O.-514 Was more advanced and was built on what M.O.-512 was based upon—life.

Part of the course was to discuss with fellow Internet students our thoughts and opinions on the articles we were required to read. The teacher kept track of our discussions. Our grade was based partially on how chatty we were (which worked great for me!).



POWERED!!!

• M.O.-516 Was how to design and program your own web pages. Fascinating!! 512, 514, and 516 were 1 credit each. It was a nice way to earn credits while learning about the Internet.

What did I gain from this course? Practically speaking, the next time I have to do a research paper I do not have to go to a library to do my research. I now know how to go to the "virtual reference desk" at the Brooklyn Public Library to search for an article that I need. In addition, I am comfortable with the Internet. I can browse the web, send e-mail and subscribe to on-line magazines. I am EM-

Why do people want to be on the Internet? *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, February 1993, has an interesting take on it:

"One of the main reasons is simple freedom. The Internet is a rare example of true, functional modern anarchy. There is no "Internet, Inc." There is no official censors, no bosses, no board of directors, no stockholders. In principle, any node, or person sitting at a computer screen, can speak to any other node, as long as it obeys the rules of the Internet, which are truly technical rules, not social or political restrictions.

"The Internet's anarchy may seem strange or even unnatural, but it makes a certain deep, basic sense. It's rather like the anarchy of the English language; Nobody rents English, nobody owns English. As an English-speaking person, it is up to me to learn how to speak English properly and make whatever use I please out of it. Everybody just sort of pitches in, and somehow the language evolves and becomes workable. Even fascinating. Though a lot of people earn their living from using and teaching English, "English" as an institution is public property and a public good."

I attempted to make a survey of the responses students had to this course. Of the people taking it, surprisingly few were computer majors. This eclectic group included: A *hatzolah* member going for Physician's Assistant degree, a psychology major, a speech major, an occupational therapy major, and a finance major. And yes, also two computer majors.

To protect the privacy of the individuals concerned, only their internet names will be used:

zvij: With a little more work, this course will run smoothly. The idea is one whose time has come. I believe it should be a requirement, part of the core required for graduation, for the achievement of a well- rounded education. Every job, from mailroom clerk to V.P. executive of a corporation needs to know the internet in today's job market.

Anonymous #1: I think the second time the course is given, it will work smoother. I found it very informative. I like it. I especially loved chatting.

Anonymous #2: The course was great, but I think it deserves more than one credit. ①

Earth, Here's To Your Health

by Mona Stern

Our life-styles have improved drastically as a result of industrial and technological growth. The earth's surface and its rich resources have been transformed to serve humanity in the most possible conveniences. Both the face and body of the earth have been intercepted, transformed, and channeled to accommodate human needs and luxuries. The resulting pollutants and hazardous materials do not only affect those who actively use these technical products, but reach you and me in our homes, outdoors, at our office, at the beach. Believe it or not, pollution has reached the natural, rural areas as well. Exposure to chemical waste and violations of the natural ecological cycle has long-term effects on our overall health as well as tainting the vegetation produce. Many long-term illnesses were discovered to be related to environmental hazards, absorbed into our bodies as a result of the food we eat and the air that we breathe.

In the age of modern technology, we no longer have to envy the octopus for its many arms. Modern science supplies us with far more mechanical "limbs." We have the ability to accomplish a dozen tasks at once while sitting in a recliner, relaxing as the work is being done with the click of a button. From instant recorders to automatic faxes, programmed internet scanners, cordless phones, and Microwave dinners. Not to mention the state-of-the-art medical equipment and corporate interfacing. Together with mass production of goods, comes production waste by the tons.

Where has all of the wondrous technology originated? Surely it did not materialize out of the thin air. Our technologically advanced society has found means of refining chemicals and gases into practical material use. How is this accomplished? The refining and production are extremely toxic and harmful procedures for the employees who work directly at the manufacturing sites, as well as the pedestrians who inhale the exhaust released into the air.

As a result, the air no longer has its pure quality, and we are fueling our body with toxic exhaust. Because we humans have a continuous need for space, many natural habitats have been destroyed and restructured into cities while disrupting the natural ecological balance. We further add to the environmental ailment by contributing our toxic waste of the industrial "masterpieces" to the miles and piles of garbage that instead of mere "waste land" becomes "playland" for our poor youngsters and pollute the air for miles around.

Although science has developed beyond the scope of human imagination, alternative oxygen has yet to be discovered. There are some very finely simulated artificial gardens, but a man-made atmosphere, has not yet been refined. There is no real solution to our environmental health problem, other than walking around looking like Martians, with chemical proof space suits and miniature gas tanks to protect us from our toxic environment.

Now that we have created these toxic materials, we must resolve methods with

which to dispose of them. Touro College is in the planning stages of developing a new department in Environmental Sciences and Human Health, which will train students to design ways of reacting to the dangerous wastes of human activity. The students will learn how to help secure our environment and restructure the ecology system which industry has been wearing away. Unfortunately, technology cannot replace G-D's natural system, but we can preserve ourselves and our existing resources.

Two methods of solving the environmental problem are: a) implementing conservation systems, and b) increasing safety and efficiency in chemical disposal.

Trained professionals in the environmental engineering field are in great demand in the business arena, medical institutions, as well as city and federal agencies. Through an intense background of environmental law, technology, and problem solving techniques, graduates will have the ability to correct the environmental pollution mismanagement, specifically geared to the needs of the New York metropolitan area. When the course of study is completed, successful candidates will then be eligible after the required work experience, for certification granting them full professional engineering authority. This program will also benefit the students by giving them an edge in the workforce. We will place the students as interns in large corporations, hospitals, engineering firms, and law firms, which will make them highly employable when they graduate.

The courses offered as part of the Environmental Sciences and Human Health

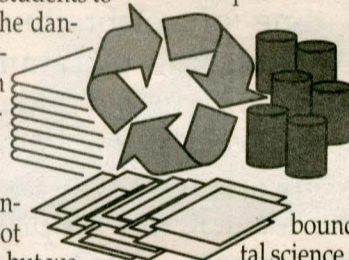
Department, are not only necessary prerequisites, but also contains core science classes. With proper training, students are empowered to preserve G-D's creations by gaining the basic knowledge to prevent man's destruction. Help us recapture a safe environment where the air we breathe will no longer contain hazardous chemicals.

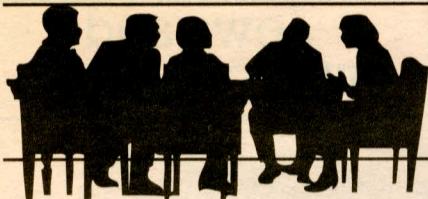
At the same time, there is boundless profit in the environmental science and health professions. As this program is progressing past its preliminary stages, we are seeking to accommodate the students who are interested in the best possible way. Many advanced classes are pending and the administration we would like to determine the students' individual needs and interests. We would also like to present the classes offered as electives for the students who be interested in the Environmental Science fields.

We are asking for your feedback so that we can provide the necessary courses, including those that are specialized to the advanced level. In the hope that the students interest will rise, participants are optimistic that a new introductory course will open as of the spring semester, 1997. Other students, such as biology majors, pre-med students, as well as nursing students can benefit from the classes which are offered in the environmental studies program.

Help us repair our polluted world and we will help guide you through your future career. Save our planet—we have not yet found a better place for humans to live

For more information please complete the questionnaire on page 13 and place it in the Touro Students office, or leave a message in the voice mail of Professor Chaim Levy at (917) 785-7743. ①





We Speak...

The Voting Season

How appropriate that the presidential elections are held this time of year! Tishrei is a month of introspection and self-review, a time when we look back at the previous year, on what we accomplished and what we failed to accomplish. We examine our successes, our victories, our shining moments and our progress. We scrutinize our failures and our disappointments, our struggles and our defeats. And we set our expectations and contemplate our course for the new year.

This analyzation of things past and future sifts down to the presidential elections as well. We look back on the actions of the incumbent Democratic administration and we review them. Were their promises kept? Have they succeeded in restoring hope to our citizens? Although they faced the stiff opposition of a Republican congress, did they truly work to our benefit as much as possible?

Even if so, we must also consider whether they are setting up the correct plan for the *next* four years. Even though we haven't necessarily fallen backwards, we don't want to stagnate. Progress is not a stop-and-go ride. Blink, and Japan or Switzerland will be way ahead.

Thus, a good track-record is not always enough. One good year will not guarantee our standing in the Heavenly Court. And one good term will not guarantee another four productive years in the White House. We have to, as individuals, determine where we are headed in the following months and immediately implement our course of action to begin the difficult ascent. Likewise, the party that will be elected is the party that demonstrates its ability to lead us into the twenty-first century. Mere plans and talk are not enough. While the Republicans promise all the goodies, will they actually deliver them, or is it all just a ploy to get written into the Book of Life (i.e., political life)?

Spring is a time of celebration of freedom and the vanquishing of tyranny. It's a movement away from the old and evil establishments of Achashveirosh and Paroah. Anyone in office would then be seen as the oppression, not the vehicle for improvement. When a people cannot wait to toast the defeated (Haman) or to pinpoint the pains of a tyrannical leader (the ten plagues of Egypt), could any incumbent stand a chance?

Therefore, this is the most sensible voting season. At the start of the Jewish year, at the start of the college year, and at the start of the intense remaining weeks of the political campaign, we ask ourselves: Is last year worthy of being repeated? Or did last year merely pass by without any spiritual, intellectual, or political improvement?

It's time for some action.

—Malky Tannenbaum

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TOURO COLLEGE

Office of the Dean of Students

1602 Avenue J
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11230

October 1, 1996

Dear Students,

Many of us are fascinated by the stock market. We seek investments which provide good returns and hold out the promise of sustained future growth.

As you begin this academic year, I encourage you to focus on your most important potential assets—the development of your intellectual abilities and the attainment of your educational credentials. By taking your education seriously and devoting to it the necessary energy and time, you will be *investing in yourself*, preparing the path for career success.

Regardless of the field you choose, there are some essential skills and abilities which you need to develop to enhance your opportunities in a dynamic, changing job market.

1. Communication Skills—you cannot expect to succeed in any professional field if you are lacking effective writing skills. Take as many courses as you can and register for these courses early in your educational career. Admission tests to professional school of business, law, health science, and medicine all include an important writing component. Licensure examinations in accounting and education evaluate candidates partly on the basis of writing style.

2. Computer Literacy—In a technological society, you cannot afford to be lacking computer skills. Computers can greatly enhance your productivity and your ability to manipulate data. I urge you to take at least one course in computer science. Some day soon those will be a college-wide requirement at Touro.

3. Planning—Seasoned professionals tell you to cultivate a talent for planning. First, clarify your goals, then establish timetables, be cognizant of deadlines, and then work systematically to reach your goals. Planning for graduate or professional school begins in your second year in college, not three months before graduation. Remember, ultimately you must take responsibility for your education.

4. Personal Crisis Management—In our daily lives, we encounter minor irritants which tend to upset us and, sometimes, crises which can create significant challenges. The successful individual possess the psychological agility to manage these problems. Keep your mind on the "Big Picture," do not forget your accomplishments, and don't allow yourself to become discouraged.

My staff and I will be at the Flatbush Campus to guide you and advise you. At the dawn of a new year I wish you Hatzlocha.

Sincerely Yours,

Dean Robert Goldschmidt

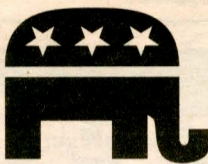


The Touro Transcript
congratulates Lisa Uretsky
on her engagement to Yanki Sheinhouse.

The Touro Transcript
congratulates Shrage Goldschmidt
on his engagement to Sara Rifka Leshkowitz.

Vote Dole and Follow the American Tradition

by Rivka Neustadt



Ever since the Stamp Act, the tax issue has occupied the forefront of American politics. In the minds of those going to the polls, and therefore in the minds of the candidates, this issue is foremost. This is why election times are such fertile ground for discussion about tax reform.

The 1996 presidential campaign is certainly no exception. With taxes being one of the main issues on the agenda, both Bob Dole and Bill Clinton have spent significant time discussing their respective feelings on this issue.

The dual function of taxation has always been to raise revenues for the government while enabling it to encourage as well as discourage certain behaviors by imposing, waiving, lessening, or increasing taxes on certain individuals or groups based on their behaviors.

Dole would like to weaken both the "long arm of the government" and the withholding of large parts of the salaries meant to support families. He is unimpressed by the magnanimous actions of the Democrats in these areas, which created the present situation.

"[They have] turned into a party that wants to run your lives, run your business, manage your farm, tell you where to send your children to school. They want to control your money. They think that if Bob Dole cuts your taxes, it is taking away from the government."

Although Clinton expresses concern over whether a pledge to lower taxes is not merely a pledge to widen the already gargantuan budget deficit, campaign pledges to lower taxes are as routine as primaries. Everyone remembers Bush's "Read my lips: No new taxes." Equally fresh in our minds would be Clinton's own 1992 pledge for a middle-class tax cut. (If you didn't notice it on your tax

forms, that's because it never went through.) From this it would seem as though promising to lower taxes is a good way to win. Therefore, the *idea* of proposing a tax cut cannot be used to criticize Dole.

Furthermore, it can be done. Christine Todd Whitman (Rep.), governor of New Jersey, has illustrated this with her pledge to lower taxes by 30%, which she has successfully carried out, so far. This has won her national acclaim.

Therefore, to attempt to lower taxes is quite obviously praiseworthy. To succeed in this is to fulfill the wish of the American people, especially the middle-class.

Dole and Kemp say this:

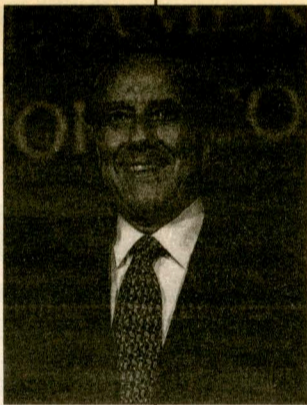
"Our message is not very complicated. We have one simple message. We are going to balance the budget and cut taxes, and we are going to do both at the same time."

Must every working citizen support ill-functioning social programs and a leaky government? Rather, hard work and raising a family should be encouraged in a society that depends on just that. As Dole said, "Working families should keep more of what they earn, and politicians should keep their promises."

Nearly alone in the 90's, Dole is optimistic and even idealistic about what he and his administration would do when in the White House. "I am now leaving [his position as Senate majority leader] full of excitement, full of enthusiasm and full of confidence."

A surviving legacy from colonial times, for many Americans, a significant tax cut would be one of the most welcome things imaginable (aside from a cure for cancer, of course). If Dole can do it, we should let him.

The quotations above are taken from the *Star Ledger* (Sept. 8 and Aug. 17, 1996).



The Faces Behind the Statistics

by Toby Schwarzman

I hear the voices in the numbers. I see the faces in the graphs. Forget the marriage announcements in the New York Times: the Mahoneys joined in holy matrimony with the Goldmans. What causes me heartbreak are two little girls who I met on a beautiful spring Shabbos in a small shul on the Lower East Side.

Congregation Anshei Breznan, built in 1913, is different from most shuls one might have an opportunity to daven in. It's current Rabbi, my grandfather Rabbi Joseph Singer, has led his congregation since 1956. It is here that the Greenwich Village generation X-ers congregate for a taste of spirituality, sur-

rounded by senior citizens and other lost souls of the once thriving Jewish community of the Lower East Side. This obscure shul is in reality a bastion of Judaism in which outreach work was practiced before the phrase was even coined. Long before the influx of Russian Jews drew attention to the religious void in their lives and the need to battle their ultimate loss to forces outside of Torah Judaism, Rabbi Singer's shul was a haven for these unfortunate souls. Many non-religious Jews have passed over the worn doorstep of Congregation Anshei Breznan. Following a cup of coffee and a warm embrace from Rabbi Singer, metamorphoses have taken place.

The seasoned congregants do not show surprise at the changes that have taken place and to the increasing size of the minyan; to them this pattern has become the norm. Each time that I

Letters to The Editor

Dear friend,

This Rosh Hashana, I was deeply moved by something that I will never forget. I would like to share it with you:

I daven in a nursing home on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur to help the elderly with their *minyan*. B"H there is little distraction because of the small amount of people.

The first night I saw an old man ambling along in a wheelchair with a smile on his face. He was roll-roll-rolling rhythmically toward me. Only when he ambled up right next to me did I notice that he possessed only one leg. I joined him in shul, where he found a comfy spot against a wall. He sat and smiled. It was genuine.

The next day, he showed up for *shacharis*. The *taleisim* were out of his reach, so I got one for him, put it on his shoulders, when suddenly he said, "No thank you, I'm an *alteh* bachelor." And once again, he smiled.

I thought, "Wow, he's at LEAST 70 years old, he only has one leg to stand on, he's apparently never been married, yet he's still smiling."

When an old person has a smile on his face, it's genuine, because years of smiling have etched the smile into his or her face. If one is bitter for a lifetime, you will see the evidence in the frown-creases. If one has been smiling for a lifetime, it's sweetly obvious. I was in sudden awe of this old fellow. And then, he moved me to misty-eyedness.

He was called up for an aliyah. He rolled up to the bimah, refusing help along the way, got up on his one leg, and pushed the wheelchair away. The Rabbi said, "Please, sit down," to which the old man replied, "No, I like to stand." And there he was, an old frail man with subtly nervous hands and a strained back, playing a smile across his face, standing firm on one good strong leg, pointing a bent finger at his little *siddur*, and reciting the *Birkas HaTorah*.

I wish I could say I cried, but I did at least get misty eyed, and decided

to share this immediately with whoever would listen.

What is my point? It doesn't matter if love hasn't found you, it doesn't matter if you're infirm, it doesn't matter if you're weak, it doesn't matter if you may be old—if you put your mind to something, you can do it. You can do anything. And you know what? You can even do it on one foot!

Ask the old man I met. Heck, ask Kerri Strug!

May this story inspire you as it inspired me, and may all of your prayers be answered and your *teshuvah* be heeded by the Almighty, Who takes care and strengthens even the apparently infirm elderly.

Shana Tova,

I am,

Your humble friend,

Your humble Lab Tech,

Martin (Mordechi) Bodek

I would like to begin this letter by congratulating you on the milestone of your premier issue. In your front page article, "Touro Graduate Rescues Stolen Sifrei Torah," you wrote about the success of a Touro alumnus, Detective Mordechai Z. Dzikansky. It described the success of the task force created by Detective Dzikansky in an effort to catch a ring of thieves stealing Sifrei Torah. In the article the individual who purchased the stolen Torah was described as a "chossid from Monsey." As a descendent of generations of chassidim, the use of this descriptive verbiage in this manner cast a stereotypical shadow over the article. I found it derogative that the perpetrator was identified solely as a member of this segment of Judaism. It had no bearing on the message of the article, and only served to add fuel to the negative perception some have of chassidim.

Chaya Cohen

visit the shul

the congregation grows, due in large part to returnees to Judaism. The late

Paul Cowan, a well-known Village Voice writer, is one of those. He met with Rabbi Singer to research his book, *Tribes In America*, about the diverse ethnic groups in America. Thus began his long trek to religious observance.

What I beheld one spring Shabbos in Rabbi Singer's shul is not as odd as it may have seemed to a casual observer. During the kiddush following davening, two young girls were sitting on a bench eating cake. Though they were speaking Russian, one girl had the unmistakable coloring and features of an African-American. Unfazed by the oddity, though genuinely intrigued, I sat down near the ten-year-olds hoping to pick up a detail or two about their lives. Upon noting my presence the African-American child, clearly the friendlier of the two, said hello. She then drew me into a conversation, revealing a detailed history of her mother's rebellious marriage to a black man, as well as their ultimate divorce. Though her Russian cousin was attending a yeshiva, as a

result of a clause inserted by her father into her parents divorce, the Jewish-Russian-African-

can-American child could not attend a Jewish school. Her only connection to Judaism is the sporadic visits she makes to her grandmother, a congregant of Rabbi Singer's shul.

Long after I left the shul, and long after that memorable Shabbos, the picture of this young girl has remained in my mind. Her smiling innocent face and her sweet voice have since haunted me. The young girl is a Jew, but I wonder for how long?

These are the children of assimilation, the lost souls of intermarriage. These are the voices behind the statistics, the faces behind the graphs.

Forget the marriage announcements in the New York Times: the Mahoneys joined in holy matrimony with the Goldmans.

ALUMNI AUDIT

Interviewed by Malky Tannenbaum

Steven Schwartz

- Touro College graduate, June 1988
- Accounting degree, CPA
- Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President of Skyline Multimedia Entertainment, Inc.

Steven Schwartz's office is located on the sixth floor of the Empire State Building. It's a neat, uncluttered office with large windows, so everything in it seems small and bright. I had a chance to glance around for a few moments before Mr. Schwartz came in to start the interview. What I saw gave me an accurate preview of what I would soon hear.

Post-its, to me an item usually stuck on the corners of pages or on telephone receivers, were perfectly lined up in even rows and columns on the wall near his huge desk.

The bookcase behind me held titles such as Stephanie Winston's *The Organized Executive*, Ernst and Young's Tax Guides, and Strunk and White's *Elements of Style*. (That's right!)

And of course there were pictures of his kids.

With that picture in mind, I was ready to begin my interrogation.

MT: What exactly is Skyline Multimedia Entertainment, Inc., all about?

S. Schwartz: The company went public in February of 1994 with an idea that it would provide high-level, high-quality entertainment at locations that have built-in, captive audiences. Rather than try to build a clientele from scratch, we go after sites that have an existing captive audience so that we can field the traffic. Our challenge is always to come up with some form of entertainment that we feel will be unique and different and to identify the best possible location to put it.

The first attraction that we constructed was here in the Empire State Building. Over 3 million people come to the observatory each year. They're spending four dollars to get a view from the top and very often wait up to two hours to get that view. The idea that the president, Mr. Zalman Silber, had was that they'd probably be willing to spend another six or seven dollars to try some kind of entertainment that would complement their visit to New York City. Since most of these people are tourists, they aren't necessarily as conscious of what they're paying, and we can get away with charging seven, eight, nine dollars for the experience, whereby for a clientele of local New Yorkers, we may not necessarily be able to get that.

That was our first sight, and it's proven very successful. Since our grand opening on February 21, 1995, we've had over 1,200,000 visitors. We are one of the first attractions of its kind to turn profitability within six months of opening.

The next location that we signed is part of the development that's going on in Times Square. We figured that with Disney opening up a major store there, and all the other entertainment players going there, that would be the next best site for New York City.

We're not limiting our sites to just New York. We're even looking at sites outside of the United States. We're looking at a sight in Chicago, in China.

MT: The site that you're planning now in Times Square will have a simulation ride as well, as in the Empire State Building?

S. Schwartz: Actually, we're planning something a little different there. The traffic there won't only be tourists. We expect a lot of tourists and local New York residents. With all the entertainment venues being planned there, we wanted to come up with something a little different. We decided on a high-tech, interactive entertainment center which will feature the latest in virtual-reality games, laser-tag-like games and simulation equipment. Basically, an arcade like you've never seen before that would appeal to a wide variety of people—to younger executives, teenagers, tourists. And the location is probably second-to-none—we will be opposite the Disney retail store. Times Square attracts over 30 million tourists every year, and that's just the tourists.

MT: How would you sum up the objectives of the business?

S. Schwartz: Finding the best location, identifying the best form of entertainment that's best suited for that location, and trying to capitalize on existing traffic.

We don't manufacture any products, so we don't have to worry about technology being out-dated. If technology changes, we can just improve our sites.

MT: How did you get involved in the company? What background do you have that directed you towards it?

S. Schwartz: I majored in accounting in Touro College. I graduated in June, 1988, and got my first accounting job one month later at Ernst and Young. I had already taken parts of the C.P.A. exam during my last semester in college, and the rest I took while working at Ernst and Young. I wasn't that happy with the environment there and the types of clients I was being assigned to, and so in January, 1990, I switched to another accounting firm, Richard Eisner. While there I was working with Mr. Silber on The Skyline public offering. We got to know each other, and when he offered me the option of coming to work for him, I readily agreed.

When I began to work here, I was handling a lot of different responsibilities. As the company grew, we hired different people to handle certain areas of responsibility. Now we have a marketing and a future developments department; when I first started, we didn't. So a lot of the people we have here now have taken away a lot of my responsibility. When I first started here, I was working on accounting, on human resources issues, and on future developments. Now I concentrate more on the accounting and the finances of the company, on raising the money necessary to develop these sites, and on looking at and evaluating new business opportunities.

It was interesting when my jobs were more diverse because I was able to see many different and new things happen, but I didn't feel as



accomplished because I wasn't doing any one job thoroughly. Now I can focus on what I feel is more my area of expertise, the financial aspects of the business.

MT: How did you raise money to build the ride?

S. Schwartz: That's actually very interesting. The company was able to raise money from the public without a business, without a track-record. All we had at the time was a concept, a plan, and a lease lined up with the Empire State Building. There was an investment banking firm that decided to invest in us. They not only invested in the idea, but they invested in the person, in Mr. Silber. They looked at his business history and saw that he was successful in everything he did, and so they had confidence in him and his idea.

MT: One of the major advantages to being public, then, was that it enabled you to raise more money to fund the actualization of the concept. Are there negative aspects to it as well? Is the company

affected by the wayward whims of the stock market?

S. Schwartz: We're not really affected by the general trends of the market. We are affected more by the people that invest in small-cap companies. We don't have as much liquidity and trading volume as most stocks because we're not a well-known company. Although that's something that we're trying to change and improve on.

But we are very much affected by activity in our company's stock (NASDAQ symbol: SKYLU & SKYL). There is not that much liquidity because the stock doesn't trade that often, and because our income is not based on the stock performance but on the business. However, if the company decides to raise additional money, to get more investors, then we will be evaluated based on our stock price. So when the stock is being traded for five dollars when we feel it is worth ten dollars, then we're being cheated out of the value we feel the company has.

MT: Who makes up your clientele?

S. Schwartz: Mainly tourists—about 50-60 percent of our visitors come from outside the U.S. 20-30 percent are from the U.S., but from outside of New York. And the remaining 10-20 percent are actually locals.

MT: Do you focus your advertising on any specific area?

S. Schwartz: We advertise mostly in tourist guides, since they are our main clientele. Wherever possible we try to develop sponsorship relationships where we don't have to spend money at all. For example, companies like Pepsi-cola, JVC, and Fuji have signed up to become involved in the attraction, have exposure at the attraction, and in exchange they promote us. Pepsi last year put us on 2-3 million 2-liter bottles, whereby they offered a discount for tickets to the SkyRide. It's a cross-promotion—we promote them and they promote us, so there's no great amount of money being exchanged, but we get the exposure of a few million bottles of Pepsi.

And around the Jewish holiday season—Succos, Pesach—we of course advertise in the Jewish newspapers and on the Jewish radio shows.

MT: Is there a significantly greater number of people at the SkyRide on Chol Hamoed because of the Jewish crowds?

S. Schwartz: Yes. I would say that on Chol Hamoed a majority—probably 50-60 percent of the people that come are Jewish. Regularly we average 2000 people a day. With the Jewish crowd on Chol Hamoed we have about 3500-4000 people a day.

MT: Are there specific times of the year when the SkyRide has a significantly larger audience, other than Chol Hamoed?

S. Schwartz: There is very much of a seasonality factor in the business. The busiest times of the year are the summer months, mainly July and August, and also the end of December.

MT: Did you have any celebrities at the SkyRide?

S. Schwartz: Just a few that I can remember are Susan Sarandon, Joe Namath. We had Paul Reichman here. At the grand opening the Giuliani family, Libby Pataki, and "Scotty" from Star Trek (James Doohan), who guides visitors through the ride together with comedian Yakov Smirnoff, were all there.

MT: You graduated Touro College with an accounting degree. What made you decide on that field?

S. Schwartz: I wanted something that would give me a good foundation and a basic understanding of the business world. I figured that accounting will cover the most ground.

The title of my first accounting textbook actually sums it up real well: *Accounting: The Basis for Business Decisions*.

MT: How is Touro College viewed in the business world?

S. Schwartz: Never on an interview did someone say, "Oh, you went to Touro College..." Employers look at the general picture mostly. I had a good GPA, I made it my business to involve myself in as many extra-curricular affairs as possible, both for my own development and to make my resume look more attractive. I was the editor of the business journal and the president of the accounting society. Sometimes a firm will look for graduates of colleges other than Harvard and Columbia so that their employees will be more diversified. In that case going to Touro may help. Today, though, I think that Touro is beginning to build a reputation for its graduates, especially on the CPA scores.

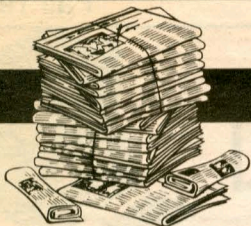
MT: What made you choose Touro College?

S. Schwartz: I felt it was the right environment and curriculum for someone who was also in yeshiva, which I was. Also the professors are usually experienced in the field. They're not people who are teaching things they've never experienced. I feel that is very important.

MT: Do you get to ride the SkyRide often? Do you (still) enjoy it?

S. Schwartz: Initially I enjoyed it very much. Now I take prospective investors and business contacts on it quite often, so I can't say I enjoy the ride itself as much. What I do enjoy now is watching the reaction of the people around me. But on the whole, I'd have to say it's been a fun ride!

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Israel Today



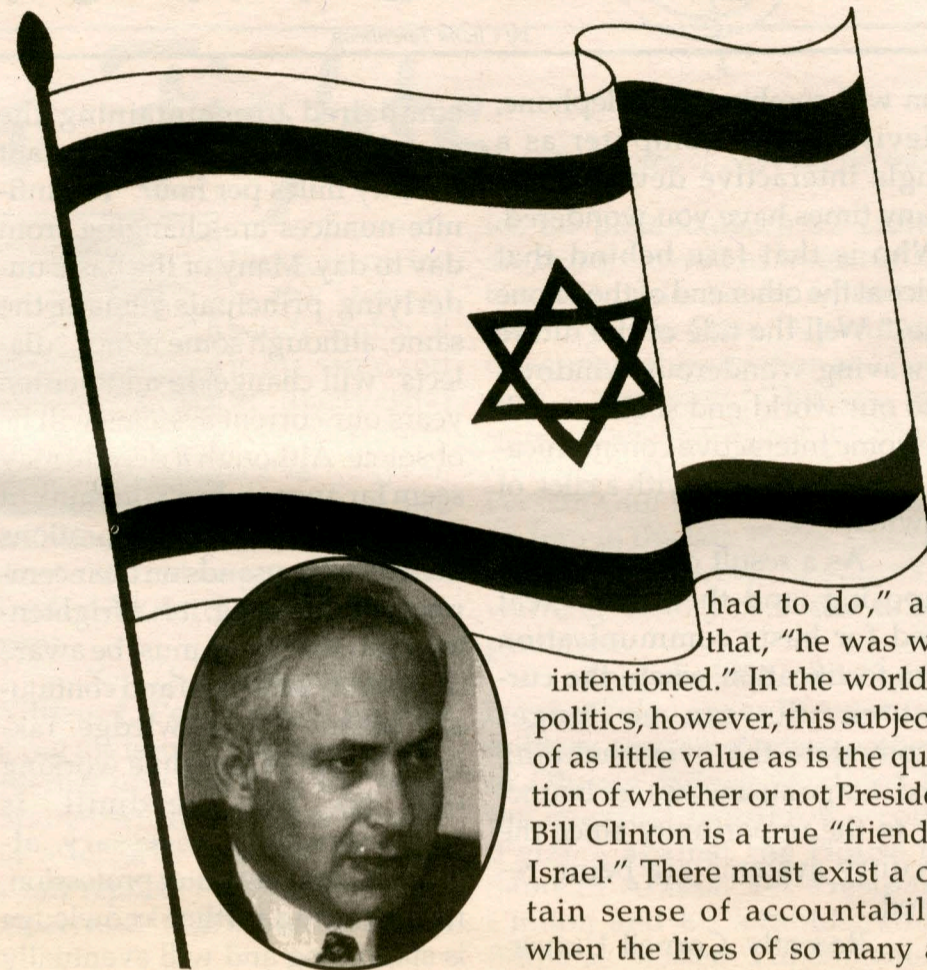
Through History's Lens

by Liora Elias

"Better than Peres" is not exactly a resounding endorsement for Israel's new prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu. Although the Likud's miraculous defeat of the Labor government's almost totalitarian regime by just a slight margin served to inspire the very last drop of hope that remains for the tiny Jewish State, only time and effort will tell if this hope will have been only too short lived.

At this time, decisions are being made that will profoundly effect the lives of thousands of our dear brothers within the holy land. These same decisions will inevitably effect those who continue to remain within the Diaspora, however far removed from the subject of Israel's survival. We who acknowledge this awesome connection of the Jewish people world over to the land of our forebearers, breathe one thankful sigh of relief over the outcome of the past Israeli election, but must then follow that sigh with a second breath more labored, pondering, "What will be?"

The Likud has won the spotlight for the time being, and although it cannot resurrect the overwhelming casualties that lie strewn across the Rabin-Peres road to national suicide, with G-d's help, it has the chance to pre-




vent future tragedies in re-establishing a strong government that will hopefully place greater stock in the G-d of Israel than in the threats of her enemies and the opinions of her fellow nations. When confronted with the overwhelming carnage—the many sacrifices of "peace"—the logical move would involve a slowing down, if not a complete freezing of the "peace" process. In order to achieve this, many tactical errors must now be rethought, which presents an impossible feat, unless those errors are recognized as such.

Many feel the need to excuse the impassive decisions of the former Prime Minister by stating that "he did what he felt he

had to do," and that, "he was well intentioned." In the world of politics, however, this subject is of as little value as is the question of whether or not President Bill Clinton is a true "friend of Israel." There must exist a certain sense of accountability when the lives of so many are lost and thousands more are presently at stake. History judges the effect of the political figures based on action, not on personal character. As an example, towards the end of the American Civil War, Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves in his famous "Emancipation Proclamation." The motivation behind this action, however, may not be discovered solely along the lines of civil rights. There may have existed a set of motivating factors that were more political in nature. Likewise, Rabin's intentions are not a factor.

Immediately following the Rabin assassination, an attempt was made by the Labor Party and its sympathizers to discredit the Likud by blaming the assassina-

tion of the Prime Minister on the Likud's opposition to the policies that were enacted under Labor. In a recent televised interview, Leah Rabin, widow of the late Prime Minister, said that she would never forgive the atmosphere of dissidence that "provoked" the killing of her late husband. From her statements, it is strikingly clear just who is provoking whom. Does the former Israeli first lady of the only "democracy" in the Middle East dare insinuate that the Likud, or any opposing political party, be denied the right to air its opposition to government policy? Surely her prestigious position as Israeli former first lady should have imbued within her some very basic values of just what a true democracy entails. Democracy, a concept the State of Israel has yet to grasp, is a form of government that entitles its citizens the right to freedom of speech without fear of penalty by government. Rabin employed the tactic of stifling and delegitimizing the opposition through outlawing political groups and imprisoning their members under fabricated charges. Ironically, such measures, intended to crush the opposition, only served to diminish what little confidence remained in the government that ignored the very legitimate concerns of its people. We hope that the new prime minister will not follow in the footsteps of his late predecessor. Seeing where those footsteps ultimately led him, it is certainly not an advisable trek. 

Excerpt from "Arise And Act" by Elyakim Ha'etzni

"....What indeed is the basis for accusing in this way the splendid general of the victory in the six day war?" (Yitzchak Rabin)

"Marshall Philippe Petain was an admired figure in France between the two world wars, "the hero of Verdun". He was placed at the head of France at a time of difficult crisis after the German invasion, by a proper democratic process. In 1945, he was put on trial in liberated France, sentenced to death. His punishment was softened to life imprisonment due to advance age. He ended his life on a prison island. He was sentenced and convicted on the charge of collaboration with Germany. This indictment is obviously hard to understand. Is it forbidden for a head of state to make an agreement for collaboration with another head of state? But the



other head of state was Adolf Hitler, a terrorist and murderer, who became a statesman with the aim of taking over the world by means of terrorism and mass murder..."

"Turning France into the ally of a criminal state ruled by terrorist organizations like the SS was defined by the French court as a criminal offense... Arafat does not endanger the world's peace as did Nazi Germany in its time. But he endangers the existence of the State of Israel more than Hitler endangered the life of France.

Hitler came to take over. Arafat came to destroy..."

Elyakim Ha'etzni is an attorney and activist from Kiryat Arba, Israel.



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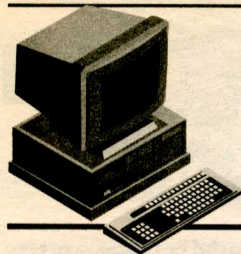
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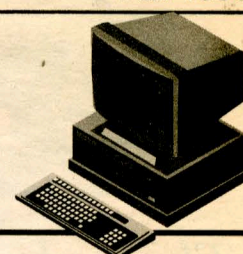
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TOURO COMPUTING

by Chana Torenheim



Literacy- Is it limited to spoken language?

Literacy- The educational mantra of the 21st century. Social reformists, sociologists and political activists are demanding literacy improvement for the betterment of society.

Does "literacy" imply the mastering the English language only? From Head Start reading programs through adult verbal advantage classes, the pedagogical sirens are alarming us to the urgency of the literary deficit. We cannot deny that a reading public is crucial to the progress of the American population. "Knowledge is power," as the ancient saying goes. The leading path to acquire that knowledge is through actively searching for it.

There is another form of literacy which may not be required for third graders to master, but is a necessary tool for growth in this competitive society. The one language that is universal to all has developed from micro chips to macro mergers, and mini-bits to megabytes. Cyberspace is consuming our planet, and those seeking survival are urged to join in the computer acclamation. Computer literacy is not only essential for the workplace, but is helpful for home use as well. (Ironically, third graders are so intrigued and agile with computers, that they quickly become amateur hackers).

Communicating through computers may be challenging on the one hand yet on the other hand less emotionally demanding. They won't intercept your lunch hour or distract you with a enticing piece of gossip. Then there are those that see the screen and respond with a scream. Computer phobia is a common plague that impedes one's commercial competence and increases computer illiteracy in disproportionate figures. Initial inhibition is expected, yet a persistent fear of computers can prevent progress.

We are on the brink of a new era. Three-way communica-

tion will combine the telephone, television, and computer as a single interactive device. How many times have you wondered, "Who is that face behind that voice at the other end of the phone line?" Well the tide of the future is waving wonderful windows into our world and soon we will welcome interactive communication into our home with a click of a switch.

As a result computers are imposing, and there is a great need for basic communication wire fortification where the current circuits can no longer accommodate the overwhelming need. Large businesses are bouncing to the opportunity since the circuitry systems are being rewired.

Recently, Cornell University initiated an experimental interactive center called "The C-U-ME" center, where video cameras can carry interactive voice conversations and images.

Computer innovations are not exclusively beneficial to the business and academic world. There are many practical uses for the home. Specialized computer applications save time by organizing personal affairs and managing your money. Shopping, banking, travel, books, journals, entertainment, talk (Chat rooms), children's games.

As computer use becomes more diversified, computer companies try to appeal to the public by making their software "user friendly," which lends itself to "laymen's" use. Since the software market is so competitive, they are each trying to attract the public by luring them into purchasing software with a silent message, saying, "Including Human Use Warning" When the user overextends its' friendliness and becomes too sophisticated, the program instantly turns hostile. In those cases, the user is susceptible to a virus because of the computer induced stress.

Keeping up-to-date with the latest computer technology is

compared to maintaining the speed of a treadmill at a constant seventy miles per hour. The infinite nuances are changing from day to day. Many of the basic underlying principals remain the same, although some minor "dialects" will change. In another ten years our current systems will be obsolete. Although a decade may seem far away, when you think of multimillion dollar corporations investing thousands on their computer programming, it is a frightening thought. So we must be aware of the daily advances and continually update our knowledge. Taking a breath of air while working out on the treadmill is understandably necessary, although for a computer profession, not acquiring further knowledge is stagnating and will eventually render him incompetent.

The trap door through which many computer addicts fall is located in the internal portion of the computer referred to as the "internet". They can linger there for days. The endless information sources range from organizations, educational institutions, commercial establishments and the government. Each group joins by creating their own site in cyberspace which we can access from any point around the globe. It is not that difficult at all, all you really need is the correct address. There are directories available to aid your research. With direct access it is much simpler to research a desired location then to searching through the phone book, or calling automated information.

Now that you may be persuaded to actually purchase this miraculous device, the decision to purchase a computer is only the beginning of many more crucial determinations, depending on your budget and necessity.

"Should I buy it old, new, used, or abused?" is one of the more common questions asked. Before walking into the computer store, it is wise to survey the market in order to determine what is

essential to your basic needs. After formally listing your needs, it is time to hunt for a good deal. Secondhand computers might be more affordable, but there is always the chance you may be left with a less-than-dependable machine.

The two factors to keep in mind when purchasing a computer are memory and speed. You don't want to run out of memory; computers don't grow chips as easily as humans grow dendrites. Ram (Random Access Memory) is not injectable as adrenaline is. Try to get the highest possible speed and a reasonable amount of vacant memory within your budget. It will be worthwhile in the long run.

After mastering your overpriced oversophisticated toy, you would probably like to put your expertise, knowledge and skill to good use. What are the job opportunities in the computer market? Being on the cutting edge of networking; UNIX, Windows and Java are few of the widely used computer applications in the business world.

One of the primary advantages to working with computers is that work can often be done from the home as a consultant, or a part-time employee. As a universal language, positions in the computer field are obtainable in progressive foreign countries. Particularly, Israel's computer market is growing by leaps and bounds.

Although the most powerful mainframe computers operate on screens larger than life, don't feel intimidated by them. A computer simply follows the commands that we instruct them. God created us with the cognitive ability, which gives us the human advantage over computers. Following basic computer rules gives us the ability to use its language to communicate widely and control huge amounts of data. Remember, computers contain a unique universal language, yet they need us humans to provide the voice.

TM

JEWISH INTERNET SITES

1. Touro College
<http://www.touro.com>

2. Israeli Government
(Let them know what you think of them!)
<http://www.israel.org/>

3. Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<http://www.israel-mfa.gov.il/>

4. Kallahs Online (Everything a kallah needs to know about the engagement and wedding preparations)
<http://www.kallah.com>

5. Virtual Shtetl
(Only shtetl remaining today!)
<http://sunsite.unc.edu/yiddish/shtetl.html>

6. Orthodox Union Online (Information about OU programs, world-wide Jewish communities, etc.)
<http://www.ou.org>

7. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
(Information on exhibits, archives, and general information about the Holocaust.)
<http://www.ushmm.org>

8. The Jewish Museum (NYC)
<http://www.jtsa.edu.jm>

9. Chabad in Cyberspace
(Access Tanya, Rambam, stories)
<http://www.chabad.org/>

10. Jewish Genealogy Society
(Rochester, NY)
<http://www.memo.com/jcc.jgsr/>

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Deadline for next issue is November 26th, 1996



FACULTY FOCUS

Arabian Fights

by Professor Norman Bertram

Profile of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Al Mamlakah al Arabiyah as Suudiyah:

Government

Type: Monarchy

Capital: Riyadh

Administrative Divisions: 13 provinces

Independence: 23 September 1932 (unification)

Constitution: none; governed according to Shari'a (Islamic Law) Legal System: based on Islamic law; has not accepted International Court of Justice jurisdiction

Suffrage: none

Executive Branch: chief of state- king; head of government: prime minister

Cabinet: council of ministers, royal family members appointed by the king

Legislative Branch: Consultative Council of 60 members and a chairman appointed by the king for a four year term

Judicial Branch: Supreme Council of Justice

Political Parties and Leaders: none allowed

Flag: green with large white Arabic script, translated as: There is no G-d but G-d; Muhammad is the Messenger of G-d

People

Population: 18,729,576 (July 1995, est.)

Life Expectancy: male- 66.79; female 70.3 years.

Ethnic Divisions: Arab 90%, Afro-Asian 10%

Religion: 100% Muslim

Language: Arabic

Labor Force: 5-6 million. By occupation: government 34%, industry and oil 28%, services 22%, agriculture 34%

Geography

Location: Middle East, bordering the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea, north of Yemen.

Total Area: 1,960,582 sq. km. (less than one-fourth the size of the U.S.)

Climate: harsh, dry desert, extremes of temperature

Natural Resources: petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, gold, copper

Economy

National Product: GDP-purchasing power parity- \$173.1 billion (1994 est.)

National Product Real Growth Rate: 3% (1884 est.)

National Product Per Capita: \$9,510 (1994 est.)

Inflation Rate: 1% (1993 est.)

Unemployment Rate: 6.5% (1992 est.)

Budget: revenues \$ 39 billion; expenditure \$ 50 billion

Exports: \$39.4 billion

Imports: \$28.9 billion



Something is rotten in the state of Saudi Arabia. It is the same sort of decay that eroded Iran in the last days of the Shah. In fact, the resemblance is so similar that alarms should be going off at the Saudi-desk in the State Department.

Yet U.S. Defense Secretary William J. Perry, when pressed about the issues of succession and internal opposition in the Saudi family-owned corporate state after a terrorist incident, incredulously replied: "This, as far as I am concerned, is an internal Saudi problem."

That kind of attitude led to the demise of the Shah of Iran only to be replaced by a regime of terrorist madmen. It further led to the tripling of the price of petroleum, as well as triggered the former Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan. Nothing in the Middle East is an internal problem as long as oil lubricates the military and industrial complexes. The U.S. imports most of its oil from Venezuela, Canada, Mexico, and from Saudi Arabia in fourth place (CBS News, July 12, 1996, 4:56 PM Report).

The last Israeli election was, however, an "internal" affair, with worldwide affects. This led President Clinton and some members of his administration to directly intervene in the Israeli election process. As the pieces on the chess board now stand ("game-theory" of politics), Israel is the pawn to be sacrificed for a political settlement, and the United States is the knight that must protect the Saudi king and his oil fields, i.e., world economic stability. That is the game strategy.

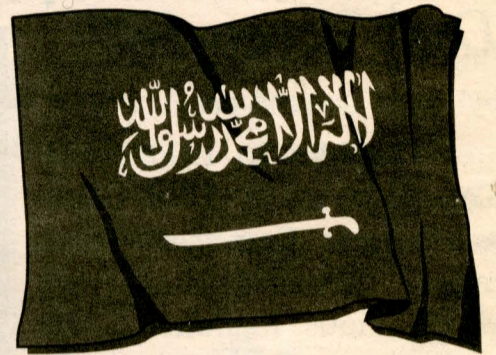
When a bomb blew-up Saudi Arabia's National Guard Headquarters in November 1995, killing five Americans among others, King Fahd was thunderstruck. According to the NY Times, he confided to a close associate that "catastrophes are coming at us one after the other". Indeed, such events rarely occur in Saudi Arabia. Little did he realize that another catastrophe was to strike him about two weeks later when he was cut-down by a stroke. He was temporarily replaced by his half-brother Crown Prince Abdullah, to the obvious dismay of his full brothers.

As of this date, King Fahd has reclaimed his rule. As in Ham-

let, the plots to usurp the crown are being weaved as he feebly attempts to rule. Yet he represents stability! The State Department categorizes this situation as a "period of transition." This was the same conclusion when the Shah, America's staunchest ally in the Persian Gulf was losing his hold on Iran in the late 1970's. Clearly they are ignoring Santanna's warning, history *does* tend to repeat itself.

The June 1996 truck bombing that killed about 19 American military personnel among others in Dharan moves us closer to the eventual overthrow—coup d'état—against the House of Saud in Arabia. Yet President Clinton and his administration fiddle as Moslem Fundamentalism prepares to fire the oil fields of Arabia. Rather than offering a knee-jerk response after the event, American policy should be "assisting" the change to insure the continuance of a strong, stable, pro-Western monarchy. These oil fields pump eight million barrels a day—making Saudi Arabia probably the world's largest producer. Yet the U.S. government acts as if there is no pending crisis. This flies in the face of economic realities, mounting political opposition—internal as well as external—and increased family jockeying over succession to the throne. Each malady on its own can be the cause of turmoil, let alone all three simultaneously.

Between "1973 and 1984 Saudi Arabia earned \$661 billion from the sale of oil" (Steven Emerson, *American House of Saud*, F. Watts, 1985, p. 14). According to recent International Monetary Fund (I.M.F.) reports, Saudi Arabia has moved from an abundance of petroleum to a debt pile up. Arabia suffers from diminished financial resources as a result of twelve consecutive years of budget deficits. This, however, includes the fifty-five billion dollar cost of Saddam Hussein's Persian Gulf War, which may flare up again at any time. This \$55 billion price tag exceeded Saudi Arabia's total 1992 revenues. And in 1994 domestic debt exceeded \$100 billion. This has led to much dissatisfaction among the various classes in Saudi society. Link this sad state of affairs with the fact that three psychiatrically-challenged leaders control the oil fields of Iraq, Iran, and Libya—alleged in spirit and terror with the also mentally challenged Butcher of Baghdad, the world may well have a new oil crisis. (The new



regime in Turkey is moving closer to this Group of Four.) All are anticipating the moment when Saudi Arabia erupts, and Israel is destroyed.

Political opposition in Arabia has surfaced as result of the barely visible presence of 5000 American troops on the holy oil-saturated land. Behold the Infidels! They have become the favorite target of the discontented. "America- we urgently call upon G-d Almighty, to destroy its economy and society, to transform its states into countries and turn them against each other, and to make it an example to all nations" (New York Times, June 30, 1996, p.8). What a *fatwah* (curse)? This diatribe was contained in a much circulated sermon by the most charismatic cleric in Saudi Arabia, Sheik Salman al-Awdah (Khomeini II?). He and another Sheik, Safar A-Hawaii, a former dean of Islamic studies at a university in Mecca, have led the opposition with a message that the royal family is corrupt and has betrayed the laws of Islam, by among other things, allowing the presence of infidels on holy Saudi soil. The House of Saud and the Americans must fall. Blessed are the Infidels, for they saved the land. *N'est ce pas?*

Lastly, the Saudi ruling family is in a crisis. King Fahd, who is in his mid-seventies, was not really all that lucid before his stroke. His designated heir is his half-brother Crown Prince Abdullah. This has led to inside friction between the half-brother and the full brothers, Prince Sultan- the defense minister and the Prince Nayef the interior minister. Furthermore, some of the Royals have urged the king to retire to Spain (the Shah received sanctuary in Egypt). Suffice it to state, that the king is fading, the crown prince's support is not in place, the brothers and scheming and plotting against the king and each other, and the aforementioned madmen of the Middle East are waiting for their day. Allah Akbhar.

Ironically, U.S. policy-makers seem more concerned with Israeli-Palestinian relations and West Bank settlement expansion, which seem pale by comparison to the Saudi predicament.



GRADUATION DAY:

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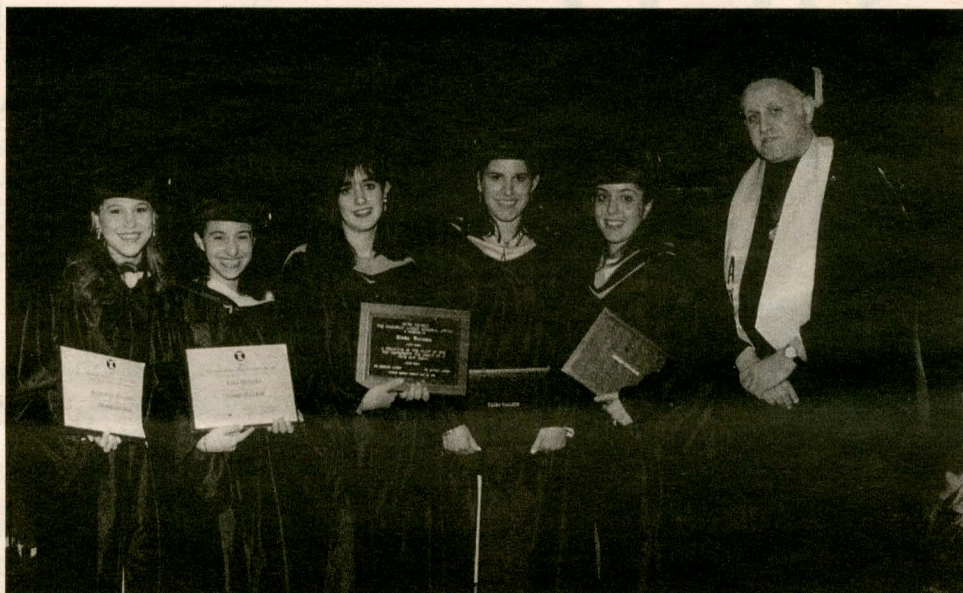
By Malky Tannenbaum

On May 26, 1996, Touro College held its 22nd Commencement Exercises. (That means "graduation" for all you envious freshmen.) The audience at the Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center, New York City, was abuzz with anticipation as proud parents double-and triple-checked their cameras. 7:00 p.m. was the scheduled time, but the Commencement Exercises commenced five minutes later, at 7:05 p.m.

Not that it mattered. As soon as the first strains of the Processional music filled the air, all parents, spouses, and even some young children were already craning their necks to see their *raison d'être* there.

First came the Grand Marshal, Dr. Monty N. Penkower, in a flowing black gown, colorful collar, and a gleaming gold sceptor. He was followed by Dean Robert Goldschmidt, Marshal (a.k.a. "the Dean"), who was also a proud papa that night. Dr. Charlotte Holzer and Dr. Meyer Peikes followed as Assistant Marshals.

The Men's Division walked in first, followed closely



Graduates of the Flatbush Women's Division with Dean Robert Goldschmidt

by the Women's Division. As soon as they reached their seats, the National Anthem was played, followed by an inspiring speech by Dr. Bernard Lander, founder and president of Touro College.

Dr. Lander stressed the idea of sacrificing for the community's sake: "A Jewish community is built by individuals sacrificing for the *tzorchei tzibor*, the needs of the community-at-large...It takes such sacrifice to build [those] institutions that build a community." Dr. Lander went on to encourage the graduates to face each challenge in life, whether major or minor, with equal measurements, and to make sure to be among the individuals who build and contribute significantly to the

world.

The valedictorian from the Flatbush Men's Division was Shrage Goldschmidt, son of our esteemed dean, who



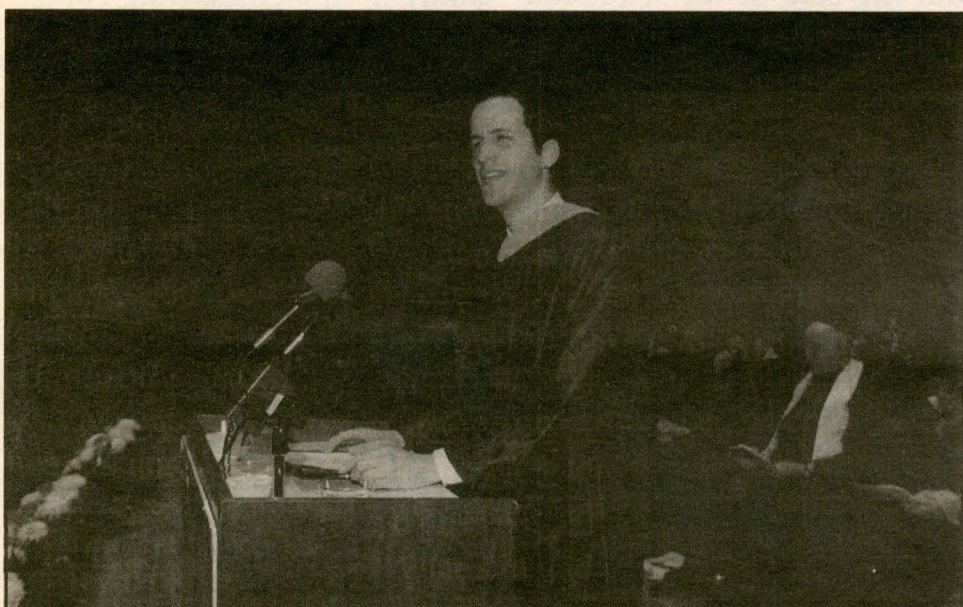
(L-R) Representative Charles E. Schumer, Dean Robert Goldschmidt, Dr. Monty Penkower, Dr. Bernard Lander and Dean Stanley Boylan

challenged his fellow graduates to choose life, the best of times, rather than the alternative. Mr. Goldschmidt praised the positive qualities of the Jewish nation—the immense growth of the size of today's yeshivos and day school movement, the unprecedented high standards of religious observance. Yet he also reminded them of what we have to work on more—the poor are still getting poorer, and the spiritual holocaust that Jews the world over are facing as a result of assimilation and intermarriage. Mr. Goldschmidt encouraged his peers to build "tall, proud mansion[s], standing firm as the bearer of a legacy linking us to Sinai."

Shulamit Neuman spoke

on behalf of the Manhattan Women's Division. She first brought everyone back down to earth by reminding them that some of them still owe term papers to the professors behind them on stage. Some still had to take finals the next day. Miss Neuman stressed that some things never cease to be a part of our lives, such as the Judaic studies courses and the special faculty members that touched the students' lives forever. By its very nature, she observed, the Torah cannot be bound by time or place.

The Commencement Address was given by Congressman Charles E. Schumer, otherwise known (to his



Shrage Goldschmidt, Flatbush Men's Division Major: Marketing

"The foundations for our lives have been meticulously built over the years by our Torah schools, our parents, our grandparents, Touro College and ourselves. But what type of house will we build on this foundation? Will it be a small, crumbling shack, susceptible to the mood-swings of society? Or will it be a tall, proud mansion, standing firm as the bearer of a legacy linking us to Sinai?"

—Shrage Goldschmidt

MAY 26, 1996

American society.

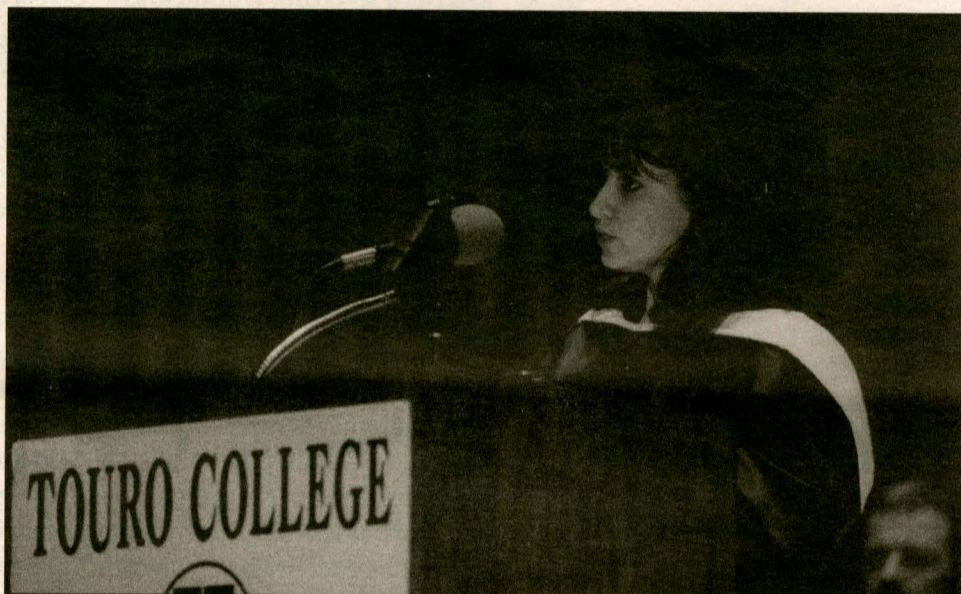
Congressman Schumer went on to praise us. (We should have him speak to us more often!) He said that Touro and our families have "woven two traditions: the American tradition of entrepreneurship and the Jewish tradition of family and Torah values above all else." With that background, Schumer said, he is confident that the Touro graduates will surmount the three challenges he enumerated.

Dean Goldschmidt then announced the awards granted Touro students with exceptional records and dedication. A musical interlude followed, sung by Yussi Sonnenblick, who received his masters from the Touro Graduate School of Jewish Studies in 1995.

The Manhattan Men's Division salutatorian was Mordechai Gampel, son of another proud papa, Dr. ("Psych.") Gampel. Mordechai Gampel (unnecessarily—this is the twentieth century!) stated the obvious by announcing that he believes in "the absolute equality between men and women." He expressed his hope for a greater balance of courses given between the Men's and Women's Divisions.

Sima Lesser represented us, the Flatbush Women's Division. She recapitulated Shakespeare's famous question, "What's in a name?" Judaism stresses the importance

of a person's name—the crown of a good name is far more valuable than the crowns of *kehunah* and royalty, she reminded us. Now that the diplomas are being handed out and the jobs are being offered,



Sima Lesser, Flatbush Women's Division Major: Speech

"We are fortunate to have attended an educational institution whose dedicated and competent administration and faculty encouraged us, both by their teachings and their example, to strive for a Keser Shem Tov, the crown of a good name. Touro has given us a foundation upon which we can establish a name that embodies achievement both in our professional lives as well as through the more scrupulous standards mandated by our divine code of ethics, the Torah."

—Sima Lesser

she said, each person must make sure that they continue to safeguard the honorable reputation that their family and education afforded them.

Perfect timing—next came the diplomas! (Well, the mock ones anyways.) And then, the mysterious custom of transferring the tassles of the graduation caps from right to left.

At 9:30 p.m., the chords of *Hatikva* resounded through the auditorium. Dean Jerome Miller gave the final announce-

ments, wishing everyone a lifetime of happiness, achievement, and peace. And then came the Recessional of the graduates out into the hallway and their family's loving, camera-happy arms.

Well, I guess life really

starts once you graduate. That's when you have no choice but to get serious—about graduate school, about jobs, or about family. Since we're still undergraduates, I guess that means we're still having fun. Pass the popcorn, please!

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Occupational Therapy Students Achieve Success

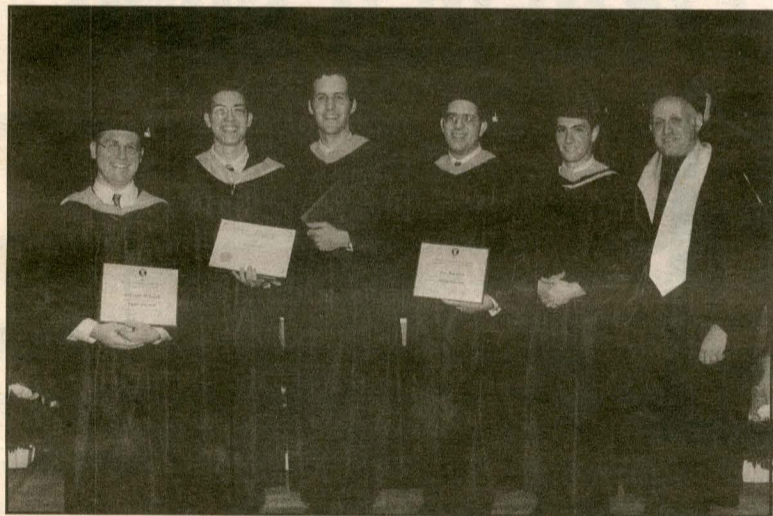
Ten Flatbush Touro students were admitted to the Occupational Therapy Program at the Downstate Medical Center in 1995-1996, and ten students were accepted to the master's program in the same field at Touro's Barry Z. Levine School of Health Sciences in 1996. In the entering class of 35 students at Downstate, the Touro contingent represented the largest group from any college in the New York area.

The students at Downstate included: *Tova Bloch* (Yavneh), *Bena Bombrind* (Machon Bais Yaakov), *Mazal Borukhov* (Bais Yaakov Academy), *Yehudis Davis* (B'nos Leah Prospect Park), *Chaya Feinberg* (Shulamith), *Aliza Friedman* (B'nos Leah Prospect Park),

Esther Indich (Machon Bais Yaakov), *Susan Lieberman* (Bais Yaakov Academy), *Malka Richman* (Yeshiva of Brooklyn) and *Nechama Staler* (B'nos Leah Prospect Park).

The students in Touro's Occupational Therapy Program are: *Leah Friedman* (Bais Yaakov Academy), *Sarah Glantz* (Bais Kaila), *Miriam Golding* (B'nos Leah Prospect Park), *Sara Goldman* (Bais Yaakov Academy), *Ahuva Lazarus* (Torah Academy for Girls), *Miriam Miller* (B'nos Leah Prospect Park), *Chava Parnes* (Bais Yaakov of Spring Valley), *Rivkah Peretz* (Machon Bais Yaakov), *Adina Sokol* (Machon Bais Yaakov) and *Rivka Taub* (Bais Yaakov Academy).

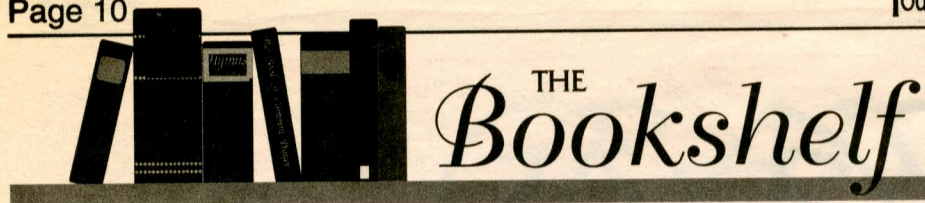
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Graduated of Flatbush Men's Division with Dean Robert Goldschmidt

ments, wishing everyone a lifetime of happiness, achievement, and peace. And then came the Recessional of the graduates out into the hallway and their family's loving, camera-happy arms.

Well, I guess life really



Hitler's Willing Executioners

by Daniel J. Goldhagen.

Knopf Books, 1996.

601 pp. \$30.00. ISBN 0-679-44675-8.

Reviewed by Toby Schwarzman.

In his monumental *Hitler's Willing Executioners*, Harvard professor Daniel Jonah Goldhagen examines the dark period of history of the Holocaust. After having come across steely eyed Germans visiting Yad Vashem in Israel, the title of this book captivated me—who were the minions that carried out Hitler's final solution, and were they "willing executioners"? In summarizing Goldhagen's research one comes to his explanation of the method of research used:

"The hypothesis that I believe most borne out, upon embarking on the empirical research for this study, was that the perpetrators were motivated to take part in the lethal persecution of the Jews because of their beliefs about the victims, and that various German institutions were therefore easily able to harness the perpetrator's pre-existing antisemitism once Hitler gave the order to undertake the extermination." (appendix I)

In an attempt to uncover the inherent antisemitism that provided Hitler with his willing executioners, Goldhagen examines three institutions, police battalions, work camps, and death marches, each of which has not previously been examined in depth. For example, his research clearly shows that at times, in direct contradiction to orders from above, members of police battalions and the S.S. continued on with the vicious killing of Jews. This, even as Nazi leaders ordered it to cease, in an attempt to cover up their war crimes as the allies neared victory.

In tracing the source of this widespread German antisemitism, Goldhagen defines two sets of terms- antisemitism vs. prejudice, and Christian antisemitism vs. European (specifically, German) antisemitism. He states that the concept of Jews in medieval Christian Europe was that Jews violated the moral order of the world. In contrast to that, classic American antisemitism falls under the category of prejudice, which takes the form of "I'm Italian, Greek, etc. and he's a Jew. I don't like him." The dislike of Jews is based on the fact that they make up a different ethnic group in society, an expression of what they're *not*, as opposed to what they are. In continued contrast, Goldhagen defines Christian antisemitism as the view of Jews as heretics. Not only were they viewed as Christ killers, but the Jews' refusal to accept Christianity undermined its basis, as Jesus was reputedly the promised messiah. Therefore Christians set out to

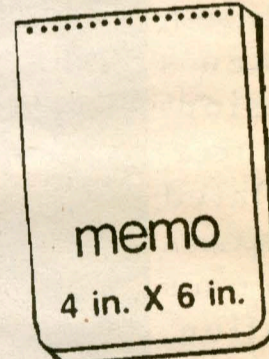
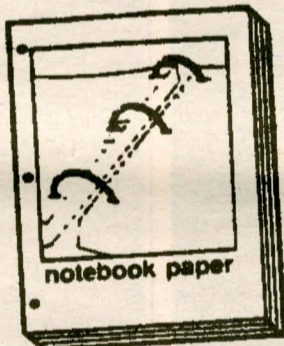
convert Jews in order to reaffirm Christian supremacy. In opposition to that is the secularized modern antisemitism of the post Enlightenment period. The so-called Enlightened Europeans viewed Jews as immoral individuals who had set out to undermine the order of society while wrestling control of Germany. Unlike the early Christian anti-Semites, who viewed Jews as a religious group, these Enlightened Europeans, and specifically the Germans, saw Jews as a nation. Not only were Jews seen as different from the Germans, but they were seen as a festering wound and a corrosive force, having a negative influence on those they come in contact with. Later, well into the nineteenth century, this idea evolved into the concept of race, with the diametrical fusions of German and Christian identity versus Jewish national and religious identity. Due to this new factor, race, a Jew could never become a German by mere religious conversion, as revealed by the cruel German treatment of converted Jews. The Germans took nationality into account when classifying race, and the Jews were clearly a separate nation.

Based on this explanation, Goldhagen seems to be saying that the Germans displayed an original form of antisemitism, once that did not exist elsewhere. He further states that antisemitism does not exist in the U.S. in its purest form, having been metamorphosized into a form known as prejudice. However, statements made by Goldhagen elsewhere in his book seem to contradict that view. Goldhagen writes: The widely differing degree of antisemitic expression [throughout the generations]...is a generally constant antisemitism becoming more or less manifest, owing primarily to altering political and social conditions that encourage or discourage people's expression of their antisemitism (Goldhagen, p. 39). This statement leads one to question whether or not antisemitism does exist in America. What message or words of warning does the reader uncover in Goldhagen's ground breaking overview of the antisemitism of the German masses? I feel that Goldhagen's classification of American prejudice as more innocent in nature than antisemitism is incorrect. Though political and social conditions may discourage its expression, an inherent antisemitism still exists. In spite of that, I find comfort in Goldhagen's words. I have heard ominous warning of fatalistic Jews who feel that American Jews must beware of a second holocaust. Their warning hangs over my head even as I find security in the Goldhagen's following thought: Inherent within the societal framework of America is a potential protection from the recurrence of a holocaust. The melting pot of this glorious haven, in which all at once everyone yet no one specifically can call themselves "Americans," God has provided a haven. For within this setting the violent antisemitism of the medieval European and German nature has difficulty in finding root. That is not to say that antisemitism in America has been erased. There still lies hidden (and at times not so hidden) hatred toward Jews. What can comfort us is that fact that national unity toward the destruction of Jews, though not impossible, is unlikely. While the age-old hatred toward Jews is ingrained within the Christian psyche, and as an inherently Christian nation, America has not escaped, one can hope that "political and social conditions...[continue to] discourage people's expression of their antisemitism."



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Olympics '96

by Rochelle Lieber

The modern Olympic games began as the idea of Baron Pierre de Coubertin. Though the initial Olympics originated in Olympia, Greece, in the year 776 B.C.E., the Olympics as we know them started in Athens, Greece, in the year 1896. What was the aim of the original Olympics?

"The goal of the Olympics was to channel national competition from the battlefield to the playing field. The participants represent not only themselves, but their countries. Victory not only brought honor to the athletes, but also to their nations." (Atlanta Jewish Times)

The games in 1896 involved 311 athletes from 14 nations. The games included track and field, rifle and revolver shooting, gymnastics, wrestling, pole climbing, lawn tennis, fencing, weightlifting, swimming, bicycling, and a marathon race. Tickets cost about 16 cents. While America captured nine out of 12 track and field medals, Greece won 50 medals, more than any other country.

Women were not included as competitors until 1900, when the games took place in Paris,

France. Only 19 women entered the games, making up less than one percent of the competitors. The 1996 summer games in Atlanta, Georgia included 3,700 women athletes, one-third of the contenders. The women's competition has been extended to include football and softball, however, only men can compete in wrestling, boxing, weightlifting, and the modern pentathlon.

Jewish athletes have a strong history of competition filled with tragedy and triumph. The Jewish people have been involved in the modern Olympics from its very birth. One of the ardent supporters of Pierre de Coubertin was Dr. Ferenc Kemeny, a Hungarian


Jew. The doctor and his wife committed suicide during the Holocaust. Many other Jews and half-Jews who were allowed to compete in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany, died in concentration camps, after competing in the games.

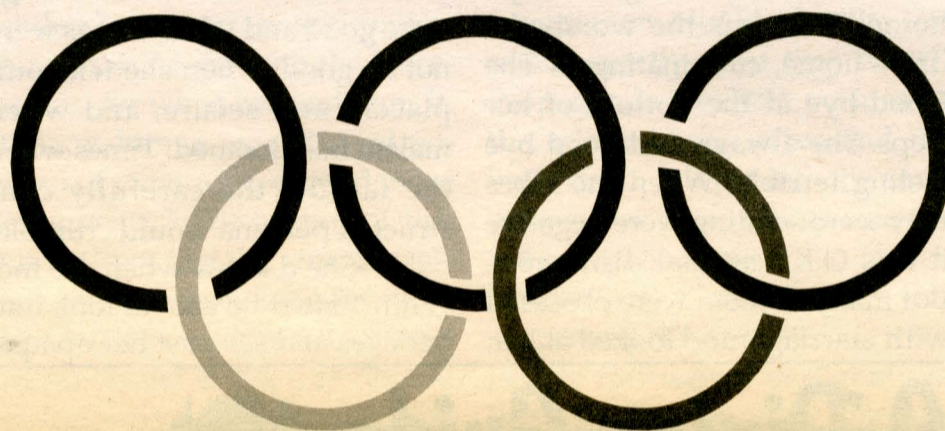
Joyous occasions, however, mingled with the devastating incidents. Between the years 1900 and 1910 more than twenty Olympic and world champions, competing in heavyweight boxing, were Jewish.

Israeli athletes were first allowed to join the Olympics in 1952, in Helsinki, Finland. Only 26 athletes made up the first Israeli delegation. Though they did not

make a strong showing in their early years, they were treated as national heroes at home in Israel.

Tragedy struck in Munich, Germany, on September 5, 1972. Eleven Israeli athletes and coaches were murdered by terrorists; David Berger, Zeev Friedman, Eliezer Halfin, Yosef Romano, Kehat Schorr, Yosef Gottfreund, Amtzur Shapira, Mark Slavin, Andre Spitzer, Yakov Springer, and Moshe Weinberg, A"H. The dejection did not stop the Olympics from continuing, nor did it inspire any solemnization by the International Olympics Committee, until the 1996 Summer Olympic games. At the memorial held this summer, the daughters of weightlifter Yosef Romano spoke, as did the widow of fencing coach Andre Spitzer. "We promise you, that we will never let the world forget that you came to the Olympics full of hopes and dreams, but you returned in a coffin," vowed Oshrat Romano.

The 1996 Olympic games have shown the United States 101 medals in all. America has won 44 gold, 32 silver, and 25 bronze medals this summer. The American athletes have worked hard, played well, and made us proud to have produced them. 



Jewish Olympians?

By Toby Schwarzman

Even with the deafening roar of the crowds in the Olympic stadiums fading in the distance, my thoughts still turn to this past summer's Atlanta Olympic Games. Hailed by athletes, sports fans, and major corporations, all in an effort to promote their interests, let's take a moment to focus on Jewish interest. Jewish "athletes" have taken part in the Olympics since its origination, at which athletes had close connection to the worship of the Greek god Zeus. At that point Jews were under the control of the Greek Empire (140 B.C.- 40 B.C.). The Jews persistently maintained their close connection to Judaism and its stress of the spiritual, however, inevitably Greek dominance did lead to the spread of Hellenistic culture among Jews. Jewish acceptance of Greek customs led to the adoption of Greek names, as well as the Greek stress of the physical.

The split between Jews and Greeks with their differing definitive natures can be traced back to Biblical times. The Chumash relates what transpired after Noach and his family were saved from the worldwide destructive forces of the *mabul*. The first act that Noach carried out after setting up his new home was to plant a grape

vine using seedlings from his stockpile of seeds. He then used the grape crop to produce wine, and he drank some of it. In his drunken state, he ended up devoid of clothing. Two of his sons, Shem and Yafes, in an effort to protect the honor of their father, covered him, while the third son, Cham, did not. Both Shem and Yafes were rewarded for their effort in protecting Noach's modesty. Yafes, who immodestly looked as his father in a state of undress, was given a smaller reward than Shem, who modestly covered his father with his gaze directed elsewhere. As the *pasuk* states, "ויפת אלקים ליפת וישם באחזי שם." Yafes, the ancestor of the Greeks, was given dominance over physicality and the dimensions of the physical world as a reward. This is clearly evident in the beautiful Greek architecture as well as in the Greek focus on the perfection of the physical body. In contrast, Shem and his descendants, the Jews, were blessed with spiritual success within the tenets of Torah study.

And so it is with this age old division in mind that I turn to the Olympics.


Inherently the Olympics is a celebration in direct opposition to the philosophy of Judaism. Where Judaism focuses on the spiritual nature of life, the Olympics celebrate physicality.

Whereas Jewish life is centered inward the eternal soul within the temporary body the focus of the Olympics turns outward. From the muscular honed athletes to the lifetime dedication to training, the participating athletes struggle for perfection. This, all for that one moment in the spotlight, that split second of glory where the world will stand at its feet applauding what, (temporary) physical superiority?

Jewish ideology speaks of channeling the physical aspects of life toward spiritual servitude of God. In direct contrast, the Olympian psychologists speak of mental control used to surpass physical limitations.

From the days of the Chashmonaim, Jewish strength has always been in the grandeur of the Bais Hamikdash, which is the separation of the holy and mundane for example, the purity of the Kohen Gadol's seal around the flasks of pure olive oil. Unlike other enemies of the Jewish nation, the Greeks were not set on annihilating us. Instead, while granting us the right to live, they set out to destroy us as a nation of God. They did not completely destroy our holy Bais Hamikdash. Instead, they defiled the resting place of God, hoping to remove its purity, the spiritual separation between Jews and the nations of the world.

The essence of Jewish life is kedushah, separateness. It is this division which the Greeks hoped to remove by breaking the seals around the flasks of pure olive oil, as well as the seals around pure Jewish souls. And it is this seal which we must strengthen as we witness the international solidarity of the Olympics. As the nations of the world gather to celebrate physical strength, let us remember once there were two sons, each was given a different blessing... We must remember from who we descend.

My heart filled with patriotic pride in the red, white, and blue as I read about the dedication of injured gymnast Kerri Strug. Admiration mingled with sadness when I later read that Kerri Strug is a member of a Conservative synagogue. In my mind I see the glory of the gold, the whispering golden lights of the menorah. The Olympics torch may have been transported thousands of miles from Athens to Atlanta, but the eternal lights of the Torah have survived over thousands of years. And it is of this Jewish nation, a nation triumphant, a nation eternal that I am proud to call myself a member. The gold medals the Jews have won exist in a different realm of understanding. 

Writer's Bloc

ABC

bloc—(noun) A united group formed for a common action or purpose

The Introduction

by Yonina R. Schwartz

She glanced down at the oval chrome face that swung from a thin gold chain around her neck. It was the weapon that she prepared for nights like these. When nameless boys outfitted in the standard black hat and suit picked her up, (she could never remember which night matched to which name) taking her to crowded hotel lobbies where she'd cough her way through the smoky air, making conversation.

She was getting really good at it- talking yet saying nothing, making intent eye contact, while really far removed. At such times, the pocket watch swinging from her neck was her salvation. This problem cropped up each time- how to look at her watch to gauge how much longer it would continue without insulting her date. She never felt anything for them, neither interest nor feeling, but she had to be nice. Still, all of

her dating experience was good for something. It helped her collect more than a few tricks that she kept hidden up her sleeve. The ones she used most often were for those nights they really ran late. Noting the time she would start a monologue about her schedule- late hours at work, college and studying. They usually got the message and after apologizing about the lateness of the hour they'd stand up. She'd follow them out of the lounge, adjusting her skirt to cover her knees, and they'd head toward the parking lot to their car.


Leaving the Manhattan lights in the distance, they'd head toward her comforting Brooklyn home. That was the worst- the drive home, culminating in The Good-bye at the bottom of her steps. She always said good-bye feeling terrible. When the vibes they were sending were negative it was O.K.- mutual disinterest. But many of them were obsessed with marriage, and looked at her,

as at every date, with stars in their eyes, as a potential something. She always went to sleep ready to say no, but invariably her mother, backed by the shadchan, usually got her to go out again. Out for another evening of boisterous conversation, hiding behind the opaque mask she drew over her stormy brown eyes, as she counted the minutes to the rhythm of the swinging pocket watch on the thin gold chain around her neck.

Marriage, it was a scary word to her. It promises a life-long commitment to share every aspect of their lives, but more because to her it meant that you were tied forever. Forever— when things were good and when things were not so good, when she felt complacent and secure, and when melancholy loomed. Times when the facade, the carefully constructed persona would crumble.

She'd know when she met "Him." He'd be able to look into her eyes and see past her opaque

mask, and connect with her self. She'd feel something deep inside, the part of her that no one knew existed. But most of all there would be no boisterous conversation... there'd be no need to hide herself behind talk of community politics, of summer camps, of family, and of friends.

For once she'd be able to open up and be herself. And tell the truth- that no, she didn't know exactly what kind of a person she wanted to marry, or what she wanted to become. She wasn't sure. Things were unsure- nothing was black or white. Everything was grey, misty, unclear. It wasn't that she didn't know and feel and believe, it was just that to really act on it she'd have to build a secure foundation. She was trying, but it took time. But she trusted that when she'd meet him, the one, the best friend in life, she'd know, and suddenly she'd be all prepared. 

Avenue J Dining Guide

- Touro College Cafeteria**—Soda machine with pretzels, potato chips, chocolate bars, and some other stress-relieving, fattening food you would never eat at home.
- Netanya Pizza**—Pizza, knishes, falafel, soup, salads, drinks, ice cream. Make sure to ask for the Touro discount!
- Garden of Eat-In**—Dairy restaurant with waiters and all the frills. Delicious food—they make incredible Cajun Fries—worth the wait of about 10 to 15 minutes.
- Meal Mart**—Take-out meat items: Chicken, beef, knishes, cold cuts, salads, etc. Also, a small line of groceries.
- Dunkin Donuts**—Donuts, muffins, eclairs. Need we say more?
- Jerusalem II Pizza**—Pizza, calzones, knishes, salad bar, ice cream, cold drinks. Why go to Israel? Jerusalem's right down the block!
- Chiffon's Bake Shop**—Full line of bakery items: cakes, cookies, cupcakes, strudels.
- Essex on Coney**—Authentic New York deli with a complete line of cold cuts, hero sandwiches, fast food and Chinese food.
- Cheese N' Things**—Cheeses, dairy snacks, all kinds of nosh.
- Ostrowitzky Bake Shop**—Cakes, cookies, cupcakes, and anything else you'd ever imagine bakers bake.
- Chaimovitz Food Center**—Full line of groceries, dairy, frozen foods, and glatt kosher meat and poultry.
- Cafe Kapulsky**—Cozy little pastry and cappucino-type place. A great place to go talk with a close friend!
- Kosher Delight**—Think fast food, think Kosher Delight. Besides for hot dogs, burgers, fries, onion rings, and chicken sandwiches, choose from a wide assortment of Chinese dishes.
- Eli Muffin**—Muffins and a variety of other quick snack-type foods.
- The Sweet Shack**—Cholov Yisroel and Parve ice cream, including a FAT-FREE line; plus ice cream cakes, slush puppies, and all sorts of chocolate, chips, and candy, many with low-calorie or low-fat ingredients.
- Isaac's Bake Shop**—Heavenly cake, cookies, danishes, and other fine flour- foods.
- Kosher Bagel Hole**—Bagels (minus the holes) and other sandwich materials.

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VIEWPOINTS Must the "Show" Go On?

by Liora Elias

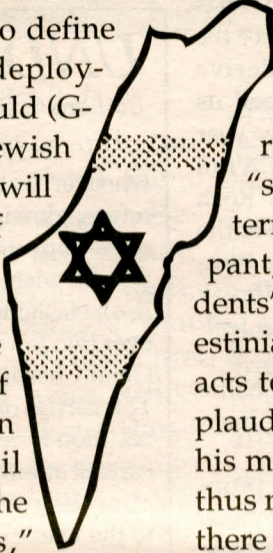
The curtains have parted signaling the end of intermission at the "Israel, International Diplomacy Puppet Theater." The nations are heading back from their trips to the vast Israeli "concession" stands to reclaim their seats and view the second act, but will the "show" go on? As a nation ravaged time and again by the harsh consequences of gross apathy and marionette politicians, we have learned to avert our tired eyes from the horrific newspaper headlines that read concession after pointless, pathetic concession. And suddenly, there is a glimmer of hope found in a new leader, who might not relinquish all. We stare searchingly into the newspaper's black and white photograph of our new Israeli Prime Minister as if to ask him, "Will the new administration introduce alternative solutions, or simply act as the camouflaged vehicle through which the former may resume its suicidal course?"

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, or "Bibi" as many often refer to him, has a great deal to prove, lest his endearing nickname come to adopt a somewhat less than endearing quality. The former administration made many promises that threaten the security and overall fate of the Jewish homeland. The set of agreements whose goal is to create a Palestinian autonomy, over the remains of the once thriving Jewish State, are referred to as the "Oslo Accords." In addition to the concessions that have already been made (ie. the Temple Mount, Gaza, Jericho, Bet-Lechem, cave of the patriarchs, the tomb of Rochel, and many additional holy sights), with the implementation of the second phase of the Oslo agreements, Israel would now be required to entirely withdraw from

Hebron. That is just to define the shady term "redeployment." Once that should (G-d forbid) occur, the Jewish inhabitants of Hebron will be left to the mercy of the Palestinian Authority.

To illustrate the desperate plight of our brothers in Hebron, In the April 16th, 1995 edition of the "New York Times," known for its host of Israel "friendly" editorials, a reader sent a letter to the editor claiming that Yasir Arafat cannot be expected to condemn acts of terrorism launched against the Jews of Hebron. He wrote: "Terrorism against settlements is also intended to embarrass and undermine Yasir Arafat with the Palestinians, for when he condemns it, it places him in an awkward position of seeming to defend those settlements." The author of this magnificent insight, simply feels that the settlements ought to be liquidated to avoid inconveniencing Mr. Arafat in this way. Should we feel sorry for inconveniencing our "peace loving" murderer? If only every Jew would limit themselves to the boundaries of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, or perhaps something closer to the water, our "ally" would be less inconvenienced. Now that the PLO has there eyes set on Jerusalem, maybe the decrepit "option" of Uganda will suddenly be found appealing.

Israel is being dealt a hand of cards by the Clinton administration that represents a "no win" situation for the Israelis and a certain victory for Arafat and his fleet of suicide bombers. No matter how many Jews fall victim to acts of Arab terrorism by the militant



group Hamas, their chieftan, Arafat, who is "in no way related to this terrorist group", comes up "smelling like a roses." Acts of terrorism, no matter how rampant, are deemed "Isolated incidents" by so called, desperate Palestinians. Arafat renounces those acts to the Israeli public and applauds them in the company of his murderous brethren. There is thus no accountability, but surely there is hideous laughter emanating from the walls of every Arab home.

The enemy is covered on all fronts. Adequate response to Jewish bloodshed is termed "overreaction" by the staunch supporters of the "peace" process who claim that "a cessation of negotiations would give the terrorists exactly what they want." Propaganda like this permeates the minds of the naive and the brain dead. It is fed into the environment by those whose sole objective is to sabotage the Jewish identity of the Land of Israel. It is surprising to note that Jewish people themselves contribute to this goal. The late Prime Minister, Rabin, had himself stated that, "The Likud Party is the best collaborator that Hamas could hope for," referring to the notion that the Likud's "amplification" of the effects of the attacks against Jews "threatened to undermine the Peace Process." The only thing that threatens to undermine the "Peace" process, is the fact that it is a stinking fraud.

Donations to the committee to Abolish the Autonomy Plan are very welcome and should be sent to :

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Are you mechanically inclined? ☐ Moderately ☐ Mildly ☐ Extremely ☐ Not at all

Please list the College courses you have taken in the Computer and in Natural Science Fields:



NEWS, VIEWS, AND SHMOOZE

THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

Edited by Chana Torenheim

Imagine ascending the steps towards the kingdom. The palace doors open wide with regal guards standing at each side. Trumpets are blasting through the air. His majesty is soon to appear. Those few minutes in the King's presence are a once in a lifetime event. How could I best display my honor to the king? What gift will the king value most? With awe, the trembling feeling rises, making your body feel completely transparent. While standing before the King, you are permeated by a piercing gaze. The intense silence is growing thicker. You approach the king with apprehension, overwhelmed by His holiness.

The days of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur mark the holiest days of the year, when we stand before the King of all kings. It is a time for reflection, absolution and renewal. The threshold for the forthcoming year is here. We the Jewish people are standing before G-d, both as a unit

and as an individual. Our deeds are collectively placed on a spiritual scale. They are weighed and judged, determining our fate for the coming year. Rosh Hashana gives

us the opportunity to reach our master directly. Every Rosh Hashana, the Alter Rebbe, author of the Tanya, teaches us that the world is filled with a new light,

a light more sublime than any that has ever shone down on the world since the beginning of time. We then derive strength from that light to propell us through the entire year. The new year does not find the Jew unprepared. A full month in advance the arrival of Rosh Hashana is announced by the call of the shofar. The shofar that we hear is a symbol, a call awakening our soul to break the shackles of sin, and kindle the feelings of repentance and humility. It is the thunderous sounds of a fierce battle cry against our enemy—the evil inclination.

To welcome the new year properly, we must free ourselves of previous imperfections. Before entering the New Year, just as if we are about to enter the palace door, take a final glance at the mirror. What do you see? Is it the person that you are happy with? The person you would like to be? Is it the person that G-d would be glad to see? Maimonides in the "Mishna Torah" suggests that one should try to place himself in a happy medium.

How is that accomplished? "By peering into the mirror and finding that if there is something that should be changed, it is best to make a 360 degree turn

to the opposite extreme in order to reach the Golden Medium."

During the high holidays, when



UNDER ONE ROOF

By Lara Cooper

Before Rosh Hashonoh itself, whoever you meet gives you, and you return, glowing good wishes. When you open your newspaper, columns of fine people wish you all the best. Between Rosh Hashonoh and Yom Kippur, whenever two Jews meet, sincere wishes for a Gmar Chasimoh Tovah are reciprocated. This carries on until after Yom Kippur, in addition to requests for forgiveness and earnest attempts at reconciliation. Never at any time in the year do you feel closer to the whole of Klal Yisroel!

Now comes to the climax. We are commanded to express this genuine happiness in the form of two Mitzvos; arba minim, and the sukkah. If, after your strenuous efforts of the Yomim Noraim, you feel closer to Hashem Yisborach, it must follow that there will be a closer affinity to our fellow Yieden. The four species that we hold together resembles this unity. The Sukkah, in turn, commemorates the presence of the Ananei Hacavod - the Clouds of Glory. In whose merit did we enjoy the luxury of those Clouds? Chazal tell us that we have to thank Aharon HaKohen for that privilege. Everything fits in! Aharon HaKohen was a genius at bringing reconciliation, peace and harmonious relationships to the Jewish people. This magnificent tal-

ent was rewarded midoh keneged midoh by Hashem Yisborach endowing His people with Clouds whose function was to enhance the quality of life of the wandering people. We go into the Succah and once again we enjoy the Divine Protection experienced by the Bnei Yisrael the desert. Here is a Mitzvoh that envelops the whole body - when you enter the Succah, your whole being is submerged in the warmth of that Mitzvoh. What Achdus! The whole of you, in absolute harmony with the One Whose Mitzvoh you are performing. And then you have your guests - the Ushpizin, the less fortunate as well as extended invitations to your family and friends.

The unity of the Jewish people is not superficial. We neither look alike nor demonstrate our unity by linking arms and singing hearty anthems. The unity that we feel is more than a sharing of interests. What we are is one body, and what we share is one destiny. We are responsible for each other, and we care for each other like brothers and sisters. Having laid all our petty differences aside, having forged new and deeper bonds with each other, we celebrate together on Succos, the greatest Simcha there is - the happiness of a unified Klal Yisroel united by their loyalty to the Torah, and renewed allegiance to Hashem.

all of our actions come before our creator, the good deeds and the bad deeds, we may be concerned what the outcome of our judgement may be. At that time we must keep in mind that our Father in heaven has never denied us his love. We

all stood before him during the giving of the Torah, when the Shofar was heard throughout the world. In the merit of our good deeds and our righteous ancestors, may we will all be blessed with a year of good health and happiness.

Depressed?-It's For The Best

Have you ever burst into tears for no apparent reason? Have you found yourself immersed in sadness after a disappointing event?

We all encounter obstacles in life that appear to block our path from growth and success. Often we react to those challenges with feelings of depression and despair. How unproductive. What is the proper way of channeling our hopeless feelings? How should we as Jews, knowing that every event is the work of G-d, look upon those gloomy moments?

What are the essential causes and characteristic of depression according to the mystical perspective, and how can we prevent the soul-shattering distress that afflicts over 5% of our population? Like most emotional ailments, there are two general components to the depressive illness. The first is the external event that takes place in our environment and is beyond our control. Later, the individual's internal emotions reflect and interpret the event. At this time, the mind regulates the feelings setting a viewpoint to which the body will react.

Chabad Chasidus, established by Rabbi Schneur Zalmen of Liadi, known as the Alter Rebbe, disseminates the mysterious dimensions of Torah and teaches us that at the root of every Jew there is a G-dly spark called the Neshama

Yesaira. This G-dly fire is being boiled by a fierce fire (the every day stresses). If however one lets his temper loose, he will relieve the pressure, thereby relaxing himself. How does the Torah tell us to release our emotional pressure?

The Talmud explains that the same energy that is used to release the energy in a negative form, can be channelled positively. A person can grit his teeth and apply himself with determination that he faces in the same way. Is man, who is the highest form of being, so brittle that he is broken by the smallest pressure as a weed falls shaken by a subtle wind?

If the sadness is preoccupied by mundane matters, one should be happy with his portion and avert his mind from them (Vayikrah 15:39). The only sadness that is permitted, is the anguish over one's sins, and should not interfere with serving G-d (Devarim 29:47).

We each have the powerful ability to comprehend the painful event, yet at the same time, we can distance ourselves from direct involvement. The pain remains as long as we allow it to affect us. In contrast to speech or deeds, thought is incessant. We cannot actively bring

thoughts to a halt. Even while we are asleep, thoughts are racing, although in a distorted form. We are, however, in control of the subject on which we concentrate, and it is our obligation to direct them appropriately. Eventually, if we keep ignoring the undesirable thoughts, they will extinguish themselves..

There is an interesting concept in the Hebrew language. The Hebrew word sadness is *atzvus*, and the Hebrew word for laziness is *atzlus*. They are spelled in a very similar way. The only difference is, that one contains a "beis," the other a "lamed." The two letters ironically spell *lev*, the Hebrew word for heart. The connection between depression and laziness are mutual and affect each other equally. When a person is depressed, he is drained of energy and

this inactivity reinforces itself leading to laziness.

The converse however, is also true. Laziness leads to depression. A person allows himself to become depressed because he lacks the *lev*, the motivation to work out a solution to his problem.

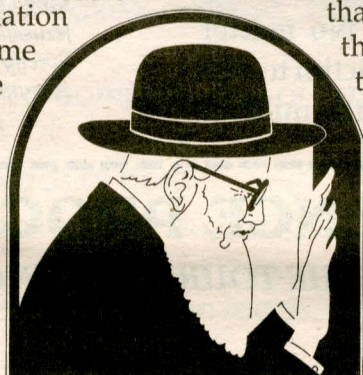
Chassidus teaches us that "The mind controls the heart"—*moach shalet al halev*. The two opposing elements are the emotions and the intellect which are in constant conflict. The brain recognizes its role

to express the soul's needs, and the emotions characterize bodily needs. Because we are given free choice by G-d, we are responsible to mentally overcome our emotions. We cannot shift the blame on external factors; the mind is too powerful to shirk responsibility and allow the emotions which are secondary to overcome. Our outlook is crucial because the true meaning of suffering is beyond us, and what remains is our cognitive attribution.

One may ask, if we are under the constant protective eye of G-d, why is suffering felt at all?

This can be answered by the words of our sages. "The nearer one is to G-d, the stronger are the hidden worlds." Therefore, one who accepts affliction, will merit to see intense revelations of holiness. Furthermore, the tension raised by the conflicting two forces refines the individual and ultimately brings out the best characteristics.

No person should be depressed, although he may face constant struggles. A person has the overwhelming power to control his mind. A healthy outlook is most important to perceive the future positively, since the source of all occurrences is G-d they are always for the best. The most effective prevention and treatment to depression and heaviness of heart is the fortification gained through learning the spiritual anatomy of our souls, which gives us the inner power to suppress all emotional obstacles. חג שמח



Touro Talks

Conspicuous Consumption *by Rifky Buls*

As I consume yet another bag of potato chips, I wonder, what if any effect will this have on my figure? Scientist have proven that over-consumption of this particular (and every other decent tasting) food leads to weight gain, acne, and other such unpleasentries. I, however, have never been one to follow the masses blindly, and so took it upon myself to find out the truth. Well, the results are in. It seems that over-consumption of fattening foods does, in fact, cause weight gain (hence these foods are called fattening).

Some people tend to lose weight over the summer. I, personally, am not one of them. I'm not quite sure why this is so. I think it's because I overestimate the power of exercise. For example, I will assume that calories gained during an entire bar-beque will be burnt off by one hour of sitting at the pool. It was just recently that I was informed I have to actually go in and do laps to burn calories. If only I had known earlier—I would not have gone to the pool altogether. It is for similar reasons that I hate using exercise machines. After about an hour on the stairmaster (something I have never done) the little screen gives me the good news: I could have burnt anywhere up to ninety calories! Well, that should take care of the half a chocolate bar I ate back in 1989.

As I was saying (writing) I gained some weight over the summe (at least now Miss Universe and I have something in common). The odd thing is, people still tell me I look great and ask how much weight I've lost. What should I say? Negative eight

pounds? I think this would confuse people, so I just thank them (for their kindness, I guess). Really, though, I can't understand these people. I could just see it, some two hundred pounds from now they'll still be telling me "keep up the good word Rifk!" Basically I've narrowed these compliments down to only one possible reason, MASSIVE VISION LOSS.

I myself no longer tell people they look thinner. I'll bet you're wondering why (of course, if you aren't, just skip this entire paragraph) and so I'll explain. Telling people they look thinner only elicits one of two responses. A: "No, I gained ten pounds, no really...reallyI'm telling you, I really gained ten pounds...." Then of course I have to keep telling that person she really looks thinner until she agrees.

Although response A rates pretty high up there on the annoyance scale it does not even compare with response B. I'll bet you're wondering just what response B is. (Of course if your not just skip this entire paragraph!) Response B occurs when after telling someone she looks thinner, she, in return, goes into a detailed description of everything she has eaten in the past three or four... months. All I told this person is that she looks good. Did I ask her what she's eaten in the past months? Have I done anything so terrible that I now deserve to be subjected to all this? I hate to quote Rush Limbaugh as much as the next person, but before saying something I think people should ask themselves, "Will anyone care?" This is a question that, I feel

is, sadly enough, rarely thought of by anyone (i.e. tell me again about your aunts chicken salad recipe...). In this situation, however, this shows itself more than in any other leading incident. The only time I can think of when a person should assume I would want to hear what they've eaten in the past few months is if I actually go over and ask them, "Hey, what have you been eating in the past few months?" Which I assure you will never happen.


That concludes the gaining segment of this article. Now we move on to the losing part.

So, now I've got to loose a few pounds so that when Sukkos comes around I can gain a sizable amount of weight and still fit into some of my clothes. Losing weight, however, is a very difficult thing. I mean losing and gaining—the two are just no comparison. I have never had to push myself to eat another slice of pizza. Giving up celery sticks is no great sacrifice. Having an extra topping of fudge on a sundae takes absolutely no discipline on my part. Dieting however takes all three of these things (pushing, sacrifice, and discipline). When dieting I must ask myself, "So I really need a double fudge sundae?" This, of course does not necessarily stop me from eating it, but the question itself is conducive to weight loss.

Another problem that arises is that most social activity (at least in my life) seems to revolve around food. If I meet a friends on the street, we go for lunch. When I speak to them on the phone they say, "lets do dinner." This problem was eliminated, though,

when I learned an important rule. I know, I know this sounds a little surprising. Scientists as well are still having trouble figuring it out. I'll keep you updated on any developments in this discovery.

In any case, now I'm trying to loose some weight. I've gotten plenty of advice. Everybody seems to have the perfect diet. Strangely enough, I've gotten the most advice from people who have absolutely no control over their own weight problem. Yet it seems they know exactly what everyone else should be doing. I always wonder what I should say to these people: "I'm sorry, I just don't think the four Cornish hens and three dozen donuts a day diet will do as much for me as it has for you?" I don't know.

There are a lot of diets going around now. There's the soup diet, the protein diet, the ear piece thing and a host of other crazy sounding programs. The truth is these fad diets don't really work...for me. The rest of the world, however, seems to be doing just fine on them. Most people say it's best to try a balanced healthy diet, that way I can say I lost weight naturally. (I think this is suppose to make me proud.) So now I've been on a healthy diet for about nine or ten...hours. Quite frankly, I don't think its working. I'll wait one more hour, but if I don't see any results I'm going straight for the Cornish hens. Have a happy Sukkos and remember "Give peas a chance." 

Ouch! New Bytes *by Rifky Buls*

In an effort to connect with the younger generation, presidential candidate Bob Dole has selected Jack Kemp as his running mate. This seems to be an even balance. Jack Kemp played for the Buffalo Bills and Bob Dole knew Buffalo Bill.

While giving a speech the other day, presidential candidate Bob Dole said he was proud of the achievements made by the Brooklyn Dodgers. Mr. Dole also promised that if elected, he would make it his top priority to pull the U.S. out of Nam. The most disturbing thing about this, though, is that Mr. Dole said this before he fell on his head.

Three policemen in Washington state have been reported missing. In a related story, 2,000 Dunkin Donuts were stolen when two transport vehicles were hijacked. Detectives haven't found any clues to the whereabouts of either.

Al Sharpton has announced his plans to run in the New York City mayoral elections. Mr. Sharpton said that the overcrowding of public schools forced him to step in. A survey was done to see New Yorkers' reaction to this. The results show that most people feel Mr. Sharpton would help the overcrowding problem by stepping out.

There is bad and good news in the world of drug use. The bad news is that use of drugs such as marijuana, cocaine and heroine has gone up during Bill Clintons presidency. The good news is that while actual drug use has gone up, most drug addicts now say they rarely inhale.

This news has been brought to you by the Shin-tet an agency so secret even its agents don't know they belong. Keeping you informed on events all over the world this is, the Shin-tet. The Shin-tet, our agents are everywhere



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— MARRIAGES —

Michelle Barr to Elchanon Aryeh
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 Tully Bryks ('96) to Hindy Ginsberg
 Yehudis Davis ('95) to Yisroel Bernstein
 Shimon Edelstein ('95) to Chanie Rheinhold
 Pesi Eisikovics ('96) to Yanki Bash
 Scott Feltman ('92) to Penina Kramer
 Ahuva Fishman to Shmuel Cohen
 Shani Fuchs to Dovid Heger
 Yom Tov Folger ('94) to Frady Rosenberg
 Aliza Friedman ('95) to Menashe Frank
 Avrohom Gottheil ('95) to Shifra Wolman
 Shneur Grossberger ('96) to Mimi Lieber
 Yossi Haroon to Rachel Van Dam
 Avrumi Hirsch to Faigy Kemelhar
 Chana Jacobowitz to Moshe Aryeh Noble
 Yisroel Leshkowitz ('95) to Esther Kurzer
 Asher Schoor ('95) to Etty Feuer
 Ben Jacobi to Debbie Simonson
 Gittel Mann to Eliyahu Chaim Bender
 Norman Schoenfeld ('96) to Maiti Hollander
 Elie Silkes ('93) to Shoshana Cahane
 Elly Slomowitz ('96) to Toby Pfeffer
 Leah Slomowitz to Yekusiel Bittman
 Don Steinberg ('96) to Chana Gila Greenspan
 Sora Baila Winkler to Dovid Schachter
 Mimi Zweig to Mendy Strauss

— ENGAGEMENTS —

Nechama Matti Adler to Yehoshua Michaeli
 Esti Friedman to Aryeh Gelbard
 Rachel Meir ('96) to Dovi Newman
 Menachem Jacobowitz ('96) to Elisheva Rudman
 Aryeh Silverberg ('96) to Shoshana Ravenstein
 Shobsy Shiffenbauer to Tzippy Ostrich
 Stephanie Lubin to Chuck Brook

— BIRTHS —

Cheryl (Uretsky) and Aryeh Bernath - Boy
 Baila (Sussman) and Shloime Drillick ('92) - Boy
 Tzippy (Lubinsky) and Tzvi Fettman - Girl
 Ruchie (Itzkowitz) and Pinchos Fisher - Girl
 Lieba and Martin Friedlander ('88) - Boy
 Sabrina (Lantos) ('95) and Ira Grotsky - Boy
 Hindy (Dubin) and Yehuda Langer - Boy
 Nechama (Slater) ('95) and Donny Sherwinter - Boy
 Yaffa (Feder) and Aryeh Spielman - Boy
 Chashie (Kuritsky) ('92) and Mordechai Stempler-Girl
 Nechama (Saltz) ('95) and Yaakov Vann ('92) - Boy

Bold Type indicates enrollment at Touro

Flatbush Women's Program Calendar

Sunday, September 8
 FIRST MEETING OF SUNDAY CLASSES

Tuesday, September 10
 FIRST MEETING OF WEEKDAY CLASSES

Sunday, September 15 & 22
 NO CLASSES

**Friday, September 27 -
 Sunday, October 6**
 NO CLASSES

Monday, October 7
 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 * LATE REGISTRATION (With Late Fee)

Monday, October 7
 * Last Day to Add a New Class
 * Last day to Withdraw from a Class Without
 Notation of "W" (Withdrawn) on Transcript

Monday, October 28
 * Deadline for Submission of
 Missing Work for Spring and Summer
 1996 Classes
 (i.e. Exams, Term Papers, etc.)

Monday, November 4
 Deadline for Filing Graduation
 Application Form for
 January 1997 Degree Candidates

Monday, November 7
 * Last Day to Withdraw From a Class
 With Notation of
 "W" (Withdrawn) on Transcript

**Thursday, November 28 -
 Sunday, December 1**
 NO CLASSES

Tuesday, December 31
 NO CLASSES

Thursday, January 9
 LAST MEETING OF WEEKDAY CLASSES

Sunday, January 12
 LAST MEETING OF SUNDAY CLASSES

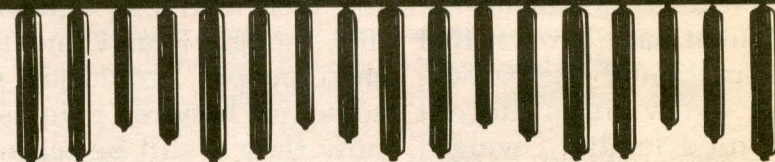
**Monday, January 13 -
 Sunday, January 19**
 FINAL EXAMINATIONS

**Monday, January 20 -
 Wednesday, January 29**
 INTERSESSION

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- Chicken or Beef Lo Mein
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- Moo Goo Gai Pan
- Moo Goo Steak
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- Chicken with Chinese Vegetable
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TOURO 7/11 TRANSCRIPT

Open Newspaper Meeting!

Join the staff of the Touro Transcript in a planning
 session for our next issue. Come with ideas,
 suggestions, criticisms, and, of course, compliments.
 Anything of interest to you is of interest to us.

Thursday, October 24, 5:00 p.m.
 in the Touro Newspaper Office inside the Student Lounge
 on the 2nd Floor. Refreshments will be served.

Deadline for the next issue: Tuesday, November 26



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