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The People Volume 1 Number 1

Touro College Civic Action Committee

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THE PEOPLE

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL
OF THE
TOURO COLLEGE
CIVIC ACTION
COMMITTEE

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1

APRIL 1992

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH ASSEMBLYMAN DOV HIKIND



1. What is your evaluation of the Dinkins administration's handling of the city's racial tensions?

■ The report from the Federal government only a few days ago regarding the Korean boycott on Church Avenue, talked about the fact that the mayor, when he acted, it was too late. The fact that he didn't act immediately in dealing with a racial crisis with Koreans, was something that caused the problem to become much worse and much more dangerous. The same thing happened in Crown Heights with the killing of Yankel Rosenbaum and the accidental death of a young child, Gavin Cato. The fact that the two deaths that took place were compared as if they were equivalent. They were not equivalent. The fact is that the mayor did not do his job. To this day, six months after what happened in Crown Heights, there was never an investigation as to who failed. Who was responsible for the fact that an entire Jewish

community was terrorized? Were the police responsible? Was the mayor responsible? Or one of his deputy mayors? Who gave orders to the police not to do their job during the first few days of the riots? This mayor, I believe was elected to a great extent because people felt that as a mayor who happened to be black that he was going to contribute towards easing tensions in the city. I think there is more tension in this city today, more animosity — racial animosity — than at any time during the Koch administration. And after all, Dinkins is the mayor of the City of New York. So ultimately, mayors like to take credit for good things, they've got to take credit for bad things.

2. What would you suggest to a Touro College student who wishes to exercise his political rights to the fullest extent?

■ One of the most basic ways to registering to vote. That is the most fundamental thing. Sometimes people get very upset whether it's [about] a mayor or a governor or a president or anyone else. [These] people don't have the same right or [it] doesn't have the same force when talking about how this guy is or that guy is or change this or change that, if they have not participated in the voting process.

■ I understand that a lot of people are turned off. A lot of people are down on politicians. I can't completely blame them for feeling that way. But to be able to vote and to vote is the basic thing everybody should [do]. We have a race for president of the United States, and it might be a very close race. And hundreds of thousands of people will think, "well I'm not really going to vote, it doesn't make a difference". This year's election could be determined in November by a hundred thousand votes. In 1960, with the race between John F. Kennedy and Nixon, Kennedy won by a hundred
(continued on page 6)

The Political Fallout of the House Banking Scandal

BY DANIEL YARMISH

■ In the most devastating national scandal since Watergate, the incumbents are once again scrambling for somewhere to hide. and while the early 1970's had the Republicans in hot water, this time it's primarily the Democrats that need to worry. In this important election year, the check-bouncing scandal could prove to be more decisive in determining election outcomes than anyone imagined. Recent polls are not very comforting to House incumbents either. Public esteem for Congress is at 22 percent, an all-time low. In one poll, 80 percent of respondents indicated that they were unlikely to vote for a check-bouncer.

■ However, not all 355 check-bouncers are in trouble. First, 59 are no longer Congressional members. Of the 296 who are still members of Congress, many bounced checks total insignificant amounts. Those who need really worry are the 66 worst offenders, who floated or bounced more than 20,000 checks worth well over \$10 million. These 66 individuals will face a desperate battle for re-election come November, and it is likely that some will be ousted even earlier. In Illinois, Democrat Charles Hayes has already been voted out in that state's primary.

■ After an Ethics Committee report confirmed what all suspected, many House Democrats decided that the wisest move is simply to confess. Minnesota
(continued on page 2)

EMERGENCY!
Community Board
ATTEND MEETING
APRIL 13th
(See Page 5)

Finally!

Touro College Civic Action Committee Forms

■ In early December, 1991, history was made as the Touro College Civic Action Committee was founded. The idea was first conceived when the group's founder, Michael Yarmish, saw that the majority of Touro College students were politically inactive to the extent that many were not even registered to vote. Subsequently, he and several other students decided that a Civic Action Committee (C.A.C.) was vital for the student body. After several preliminary consultations with each other and college faculty, a statement of purpose was drawn up and the committee was formed.

strated more clearly that the Jewish community is quickly losing its political clout. At the same time, recent elections have shown that a relatively small number of voters can actually make or break an election. Voting is something that every citizen can do, no matter who he or she is. The C.A.C. considers this a top priority.

■ Third, C.A.C. will publish an official newspaper, **THE PEOPLE**, at least once a semester. **THE PEOPLE** will provide valuable voter information, exclusive interviews with community leaders and politicians, updates on C.A.C. activities, and a great var-



Photo L.-R. David Barg, Secretary; Michael Schlager, Project Coordinator; Daniel Yarmish, Assistant Director; Michael Yarmish, Director

■ The objective of the committee is to promote and enhance the political awareness and activity of the Touro College student body. There are a number of ways to achieve this end. First, because the first step in increasing political awareness is voting, it was decided to promote this privilege by holding voter registration drives. While many people believe that registering to vote is a tedious and time-consuming affair, in fact it requires less than a minute to fill out a simple form. C.A.C. members have already registered over fifty voters within the Touro College Flatbush campus alone!

■ Second, there will be encouragement of voter-turnout. Recent elections could not have demon-

strated more clearly that the Jewish community is quickly losing its political clout.

■ The C.A.C. will provide students with comparisons of candidates, and base its recommendations on candidates' stands and past records on issues vital to our community. In addition, C.A.C. will engage in a host of other important activities including letter-writing campaigns, and the like.

■ To date, student response is extremely enthusiastic. C.A.C.'s member list is growing by leaps and bounds, many students volunteering help and services. The C.A.C. greatly appreciates these offers and hopes others will help us help the community and the Touro College student body in this important endeavor.

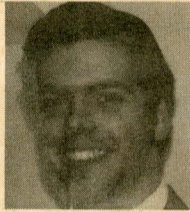
From the DIRECTOR...

MICHAEL YARMISH, DIRECTOR C.A.C.

■ **Vote.** That is the central theme of this issue of **THE PEOPLE**. The significance of this important but simple action is substantial. The American system of government is based on the principle of power by representation. By voting for a candidate that most closely represents your interests, you are expressing your views on the enactment of legislation.

■ **Voting should not be taken lightly.** A politician who thinks his constituency wants something will pursue legislation to satisfy his electorate. If you are not registered to vote, you are not represented and you don't count. Many issued vital to our community are not being dealt with, precisely because of this reason.

■ **Recent elections, such as the mayoral race** — where David Dinkins prevailed by less than two percent of the vote, and City Council — where a hundred voters could have swayed the outcome of the election, have clearly shown us that **every vote** is important. It



is especially important to vote in local elections, because in elections with a smaller electorate your ballot is that much more powerful. In particular, primary elections usually have very low voter turnout, and therefore each vote becomes a larger percentage of the total. In addition, voting in the primary allows one to remove undesirable candidates even before the main election begins.

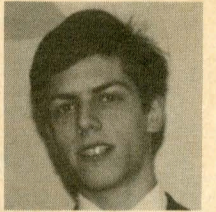
■ In this issue you will find...

- An exclusive interview with State Assemblymember Dov Hikind
- Advice on the homeless problem
- Profiles of various candidates for public office
- And much more...

■ **So read on!** And when you finish, determined to make a difference, get up from that easy chair, roll up your sleeves, and get to work!

■ **Please write!** I would love to hear your comments on anything that kindles your interest.

Solving the Problem of Homelessness in New York City



BY DANIEL YARMISH

■ A few short months ago, the city administration proposed that a homeless shelter be constructed in a parking lot near East 15th Street and Kings Highway. The proposal immediately resulted in a huge public outcry and we have been told that the city's plan has been dropped.

■ The effects of a homeless shelter in the heart of Flatbush would be disastrous. Crime and drug abuse would become commonplace in the vicinity of such a shelter. Parents would be afraid to let their children walk to school alone. More and more families would be forced to move out. In short, the entire neighborhood would deteriorate, leaving the elderly to deal

with their new crime-infested environment.

■ Obviously, the city cannot ignore the problem of homelessness. But is placing homeless shelters in vibrant communities the way to deal with it? The Touro College Civic Action Committee presents an alternative:

■ When confronted with the problem of 90,000 New Yorkers without any housing, the solution that immediately comes to mind is that of providing more low-income housing. To solve the problem of lack of availability of low-income housing, there are several alternative. Several local governments have offered low-income loans and tax-exempt bonds to finance hous-

ing construction. San Diego, for instance, has spurred the creation of five new single-room-occupancy hotels (SROs), where tenants pay from \$240 to \$390 a month. They have done this by providing loans to developers and easing building codes.

■ The May 13 1991 issue of the *National Review*, referring to the homeless, states: "They are the victims of building codes, zoning laws, rent regulations, tax policies, and other well-intentioned perversities which prevent the private-sector from providing adequate low-cost housing". As the San Diego example shows us, if such bureaucratic restrictions as building codes and zoning laws were lifted, the private-sector would come in and provide low-cost housing. In New York City itself, which has an estimated homeless population of 90,000, local officials joined with a community-development group to finance the construction of 1,000 apartments for low-income families in 1988. Of the \$80 million cost, \$25 million was raised from corporations, which can write off their contributions as a federal tax credit. In such cities as Los Angeles, Kansas City, and San Francisco, \$25 million has been raised for low-income housing. This was done through the tax-credit program, which is a little-noticed innovation tucked into the 1986 tax-reform bill.

■ Another step is to rehabilitate old units. Again, this can be done by city administrations with the aid of the private-sector. This method has been shown to work by community-development corporations, which obtain funds from local governments, financial institutions and religious organizations. Bethel New Life, a Lutheran Church group, is a prime example. In Chicago, it refurbished 321 homes, built a day-care center, and saved a crumbling school building.

■ The Conference of Mayors, testifying before the House Committee on Banking, Finance, and Urban

(continued on page 7)

From Page 1

Bank Scandal

Democrat Gerry Sikorski admitted to writing 671 bad checks totalling \$120,000. Georgia Democrat Charles Hatcher admitted to writing 780 bad checks. Texas Democrat Charles Wilson admitted to bouncing 80 checks, valued at over \$140,000.

■ Come November, we can expect some really nasty politics. Republicans are already calling the scandal the result of "corrupt Democratic control" of the House, and will use it in an attempt to take a bite out of the 102-seat Democratic majority. While highlighting the bank scandal may produce some GOP defeats, the Republicans will likely take that risk. This is, after all, a chance to wrest control of the House from its decades-long domination by Democrats.

■ Election year politics could get even more heated should President Bush decide to attack Congress in a political show of strength. Many Bush strategists are urging the President to continue blasting Congress for being a bastion of "PACS, perks, privilege and paralysis."

■ Polls show that today's voters are mad as hell. So this November, watch for intense voter outrage... and just possibly a new House of Representatives.

POLITICAL PROFILE:

U.S. Senator ALFONSE D'AMATO

■ One of the most colorful and outspoken U.S. Senators on Capitol Hill is Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato. He has championed the vital interests of New York with flair and enthusiasm, while paying close attention to problems worldwide.

■ In his capacity as member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Al D'Amato plays a powerful role in national security and international issues important to the people of New York. In addition, Senator D'Amato serves on several other key Senate subcommittees on appropriations and on the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

■ Al D'Amato leads the fight against illegal drugs, sponsoring in 1988 the death penalty for major traffickers and supporting the death penalty for other serious drug offenses. He strongly supports criminal justice reform, seeking preventive detention for repeat violent offenders and tough fixed sentences upon conviction.

■ In regard to areas of Jewish concern, Senator D'Amato has an impeccable record. His sensitivity to problems facing the Jewish



community has earned him an excellent reputation worldwide. Following are some examples of his outstanding support for Israel and the Jewish people:

- D'Amato was the first Senator to call upon President Bush as well as his Senate colleagues to support \$10 billion in absorption loan guarantees for Israel.
- D'Amato called upon Secretary of State Baker to take steps necessary to insure the safe release of seven kidnapped Lebanese Jews.

If anyone would like to contribute articles to THE PEOPLE, please contact Mordechai Schlager at (212) 447-0700 ext 748 or see Michael or Daniel Yarmish

• D'Amato introduced a resolution urging President Bush to pursue a conclusive investigation by Russia as to the fate of Holocaust hero Raoul Wallenberg.

• Along with Senator Moynihan, Senator D'Amato introduced legislation calling upon the government of Syria to provide an accounting of all Israeli prisoners of war.

• Senator D'Amato has consistently brought issues of concern to the Jewish community directly to the Senate floor.

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THE PEOPLE is the official journal of the Touro College Civic Action Committee. The Civic Action Committee is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to promoting increased political awareness within the Touro College body.

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To Correspond Write:

THE PEOPLE
TUORO COLLEGE
844 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10001

courtesy of

Response, The Wiesenthal Center World Report

Buckley's Firing Line

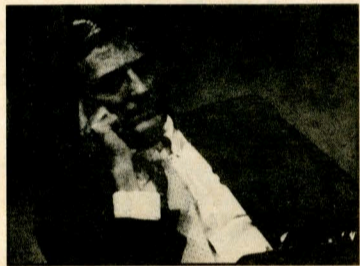
■ A 40,000 word essay appearing in the December 31, 1991 issue of the **National Review** takes Pat Buchanan, among others, to task for recent antisemitic statements. What's more, the indictment comes from the pen of none other than Buchanan's mentor and the magazine's publisher, William F. Buckley.

■ "There are only two groups that are beating the drums for war in the Middle East," said Buchanan prior to Operation Desert Storm — "the Israeli Defense ministry and its amen corner in the United States." Buchanan went on to single out A.M. Rosenthal, Charles Krauthammer, Henry Kissinger and Richard Perle, all Jews. No mention was made of war supporters with names like Alexander Haig, George Will, James Kilpatrick, or the 75% of the American public that favored military intervention in the Gulf. The columnist turned politician also intimated that Jews were starting a war in which they would send others to die ("kids with names like McAllister, Murphy, Gonzales and Leroy Brown") but in which they, themselves, had no intention of fighting.

■ Buckley concluded, "I find it impossible to defend Pat Buchanan against the charge that what he did and said during the period

under examination amounted to antisemitism."

■ Over the years, Buchanan has infuriated Jews and others with a variety of opinions ranging from his opposition to the Nazi-hunting work of the OSI, and an ill-fated foray into Holocaust revisionism by contending that diesel gas engines (such as those used at Treblinka) were incapable of killing anyone. In a face-saving move,



William F. Buckley

Buchanan agreed that 850,000 Jews had been murdered at Treblinka, but argued that they were put to death by other means. On other occasions, Buchanan has questioned the viability of the continued existence of the State of Israel and has referred to Capitol Hill as "Israel-occupied territory." Buchanan told Sam Donaldson of ABC his answer to the Jewish community's concerns: "I have never said anything about them as a group that I have to apologize for at all."

the burden for the devastation their guns cause — not innocent victims."

Political Profile:

Assemblyman THOMAS CATAPANO

■ Assemblyman Thomas F. Catapano represents the 45th Assembly District, covering sections of Bushwick, East New York and Cypress Hills in Bklyn, N.Y.

■ Mr. Catapano was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1982 and serves as Chairman of the Assembly's Real Property Taxation Committee. He is also Chairman of the Assembly Task Force on New Americans and serves on the Council of State Governments' Eastern Regional Conference Task Force on the Environment. Assemblyman Catapano is the former Chairman of the Assembly's Ethics and Guidance Committee.

Political Profile:

Assemblyman DAN FELDMAN

■ Assemblyman Dan Feldman of the 45th Assembly District is Chair of the Assembly Committee on Correction.

■ He has recently introduced legislation that would allow gunshot victims injured by assault weapons to sue the manufacturers and dealers of those weapons. Under the proposal, a company that markets the gun would be responsible to pay damages for any bodily injuries and/or loss of wages caused by that gun. The proposal imposes this rule even if the firearm was sold or manufactured outside of New York.

■ In concluding his proposal, Feldman stated: "Manufacturers and dealers would become involuntary insurers of potential victims with the enactment of my bill. Thus, those who profit from making or selling guns would bear

JEP - Putting out the flames of ignorance

BY CHAIM GANZ

■ A story was told by the Chofetz Chaim in which there was a simple couple that rented a farm from the local landowner.

owner, "don't you realize that when there is a fire raging you should use any water that is at hand?"

and sisters back to the Torah way of life.

■ Sad as it is, since the time of the Chofetz Chaim, things have only gone from bad to worse. What Hitler couldn't do in Europe, is being done here in America without a shot being fired. We are losing thousands of Jews to assimilation and intermarriage, and this time we will have only ourselves to blame.

■ During the past twenty years, the Jewish Education Program (JEP), under the leadership of its caring director, Rabbi Mutty Katz, has been trying to fight the wave of assimilation, by teaching children the beauty of religious Judaism. His methods have included: Shabbatons, visitations to Hebrew Day Schools, release hours (where children are taken out of public schools for an hour a



"JEPPER" Shimon Weiss with youth group

The first time the landowner came to visit this couple, he was served a cup of tea. The landowner took a sip from the tea and quickly spit it out. He looked at the couple and said, "this tea is terrible. Where did you get the water from?" "The well" they told him, "where else?" He then quickly showed them how to strain the water. He then warned them that never under any condition should the water be used unstrained. Three weeks later, the landowner heard that the entire farm had burned down. He hurried over to the area where the farm had once stood and addressed the farmer. "I don't understand. There is a well in the yard - couldn't you have saved part of the farm?" The farmer looked at him and said, "what do you mean? You told us never to use the water before straining it, and by the time we strained the water, it was too late." "FOOLS!" cried the land-



Pictured above: JEP Concert — Shimon Weiss at the keyboard

■ The Chofetz Chaim used this story to convince people during the time when Chillul Shabbos was becoming widespread, that there is an obligation upon every Jew, to use all available methods to work at stopping this desecration, and help bring our brothers

week, to learn what being Jewish means), and many other programs.

■ If you would like to volunteer your time to help put out the flames of ignorance, please call the JEP office at (718) 941-2600 (if there is nobody there, please leave a message).

WRITERS WANTED

For The Fastest Growing Touro College Student Newspaper

We need people to contribute well-written articles for publication in

THE PEOPLE

Full time positions available

Please see Michael or Daniel Yarmish, Givon Zirkind, or Mordechai Schlager

A LETTER TO THE MAYOR

January 21, 1992

Mayor David N. Dinkins
Gracie Mansion
New York, New York

Dear Sir:

The shifting of Federal Home Energy Assistance Program offices away from Jewish neighborhoods is a matter of grave concern to the Jewish community. Obviously, cuts in funds from the Federal Government would necessitate the closing of HEAP offices. The shifting of management of the remaining offices, however, is an entirely different matter.

According to the December 28, 1991 issue of The New York Times, six of seven Jewish organizations have been dropped from the program. At the same time, The Times continues, four new offices have been established, two in Hispanic neighborhoods and two in Black neighborhoods.

Mr. Mayor, there has never been any discrimination against minorities in any of the Jewish centers. As a matter of fact, in some instances, such as in the Crown Heights center, there have been more Black and Hispanic people served than there have been Jewish people. The Jewish community does not deserve the gross discrimination that it is receiving from your administration.

The Times quoted city officials as saying that the disproportionate numbers of white people applying for grants at other centers can be explained by the newsletters about the HEAP funds that people already in contact with the centers are more likely to receive. Minorities, the city officials went on to say, are less likely to receive these newsletters. I suggest to you, Mr. Mayor, that rather than drop Jewish organizations from the program, the Community Development Agency should send more HEAP newsletters to people that live in minority areas. Additional bulletins about the HEAP funds posted in minority areas would also allow Blacks and Hispanics the opportunity to take fuller advantage of the subsidies. Certainly this plan is easier and more cost-effective than a large-scale shutting down of numerous offices and the reopening of others.

As it now stands, many elderly Jews are deprived of the HEAP benefits for a very simple reason. They fear to walk through some of the neighborhoods to which the HEAP offices have now been directed. Clearly, an even greater injustice has been done to them.

As Director of the Touro College Civic Action Committee, I have received many requests from students to investigate this matter. The first step in my investigation is a request for information from you. In particular, the student body of Touro College, including myself, would greatly appreciate your prompt response, detailing **how you plan to remedy this intolerable situation.**

Respectfully,
Michael Yarmish

**Recent Elections Have Shown Us
WHY IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR THE
JEWISH COMMUNITY TO VOTE**

DO NOT DELAY!

REGISTER TO VOTE TODAY!

Voter registration forms can be picked up in the
TOURO COLLEGE OFFICE (2nd Floor)
THE TOURO COLLEGE CIVIC ACTION COMMITTEE

The HEAP

THE RESPONSE



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

March 25, 1992

Mr. Michael Yarmish
Director
Touro College Civic Action Committee
2705 Avenue I
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11210

Dear Mr. Yarmish:

Thank you for your letter of January 21, 1992, in which you expressed concerns regarding the operation of this year's Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), particularly the consolidation of some offices and the shifting of management in others.

Your assertion that my Administration is discriminating against the Jewish community with this action, is disturbing. The issues of race and religion, which have been the focus of media attention, were not a factor. Rather, the issue of equity was a factor and is a legitimate one, which takes on heightened importance in times of fiscal constraints. What the Community Development Agency achieved was an equitable distribution of limited field sites in an effort to guarantee, and in some instances, enhance the widest possible access to all.

The CDA, ably run by Commissioner Gladys Carrion, is the lead City agency responsible for administering the HEAP program in conjunction with the Human Resources Administration and the Department for the Aging. This year, planning sessions for the 1991 HEAP season began with a \$19 million reduction in the City's allocation from the State due to federal cutbacks in the energy assistance program on the national level. The State in its attempt to address the substantially reduced level of funding, implemented more stringent eligibility standards, thus reducing the number of people qualified to receive this one time grant to offset high heating costs. In addition, the State reduced the minimum and maximum size of grants in an effort to stretch the limited dollars.

CDA, facing a reduction in its administrative budget of at least 20%, devised a plan to maximize the already reduced allocation, while at the same time ensuring access to the seventeen field sites. CDA scaled back its field offices from seventeen to eleven and placed these sites in communities with the highest eligibility rates for HEAP benefits.

(continued on page 5)

gets hauled

THE RESPONSE (continues)

-2-

In Brooklyn, for instance, the number of sites were reduced from seven to four, and field sites were placed in communities where the eligibility rates were high. Through field site consolidations, closing and lease renegotiations, CDA was able to reduce its administrative cost by 26%. In response to your concern for the safety of elderly Jews who have to travel to field sites, the elderly are mailed applications for HEAP benefits by the Department of the Aging and are allowed to apply through the mail.

My Administration has always maintained an open dialogue with all groups. Commissioner Carrion has met with members of the Jewish community, specifically, the Metropolitan New York Coordination Council on Jewish Poverty and the United Jewish Appeal-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies to discuss their concerns and apprise them of the rationale for the changes in the administration of the HEAP program.

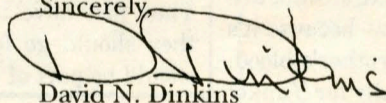
Due to the seasonal nature of this program, we have increased its outreach efforts, and teams of qualified staff are visiting all the groups that request their assistance in promoting the program and distributing and collecting applications. This is an effort that goes beyond the mission of the program. The Administration has been going directly to the neediest communities even before they seek participation in the program. Mobile teams of CDA staffers are available to go to any community in the City in an effort to cast a wider net and bring services closer to eligible populations. CDA has added an additional staff person who speaks Russian and Yiddish to one of the mobile teams to enhance our ability to better serve the Jewish community. This will augment the HEAP staff's present language skills which includes Chinese, Creole, Spanish, as well as Russian and Yiddish. CDA has also translated the HEAP publicity flyer into Russian and Yiddish and distributed it widely.

We have taken additional steps to maximize the participation of last year's HEAP recipients. For instance, CDA sent every 1990-91 HEAP recipient a postcard to remind them to apply for the HEAP program and sets forth the field sites where applications can be submitted. We also advised recipients of the dates when a HEAP mobile team will visit in their community.

CDA has sent a mass mailing to all community based organizations asking them to serve as HEAP outreach sites to assist individuals in completing the worksheet applications, and to help individuals identify the documents necessary to establish eligibility, as well as direct them to field sites to file official applications. CDA has also distributed HEAP applications to all organizations interested in participating in the program.

I strongly believe that the steps taken by the Community Development Agency as outlined in this letter, will aid every eligible person to apply for and receive HEAP benefits, a goal that you and I share.

Sincerely,


David N. Dinkins
MAYOR

PLEASE NOTE:

■ We appreciate the Mayor's response to our letter. However, he failed to address some of the key issues affecting the Jewish community's access to HEAP benefits. One such issue is the safety of elderly Jews who must travel to the new field sites. As we stated in our letter, many of these are now in crime-ridden neighborhoods, where a conspicuous elderly Jew would be in danger. The Mayor, in his response, stated that the elderly are mailed applications for HEAP benefits and are allowed to apply through the mail. Our consultations with several major Jewish organizations, however, have revealed that **only** those who are former recipients are mailed applications. In addition, those who do apply by mail are not afforded the assistance necessary to fill out the complicated applications, assistance which they would otherwise receive.

■ The Mayor stated that mobile teams of CDA staffers are available to go to any community in the city. He failed to mention that these mobile teams are **only** available in a given community on certain dates. This is clearly not the way to provide services.

■ Moreover, if as the Mayor stated, the Jewish organizations were cut to conserve costs, then why were four **new** offices established in Black and Hispanic

neighborhoods?

■ The fact that the Community Development Agency has added a Russian and Yiddish speaking individual to one of the mobile teams misses the point entirely. While we appreciate this addition to a CDA mobile team, it really has nothing to do with the unfair shifting of HEAP offices. The CDA postcards the Mayor mentioned are very nice, but again, it is completely irrelevant.

■ The fact remains: Six of seven Jewish organizations have been dropped from the HEAP program. There has **never** been any discrimination against minorities in any of the Jewish centers. The Mayor himself was reported in **The New York Times** (12/28/91) as having said that there was no evidence that Jewish centers have discriminated against minorities. Thus, the entire concept of "equity" as "a factor" has a very basic flaw.

■ Clearly, by cutting off the flow of Federal funds for heating subsidies from nearly every Jewish organization formerly involved, a gross injustice has been done.

■ We urge all our members and readers to write to the Mayor stating their outrage and demanding that he rectify the situation. Write to: Honorable David N. Dinkins Mayor of the City of New York City Hall, New York, NY 10007

EDITORIAL

■ For more than two years, a group calling itself the African People's Political Club of Flatbush and Crown Heights has been loudly disrupting meetings of Community Board 14 (Flatbush-Midwood).

■ Hiding behind the First Amendment and aided by Sonny Carson, the New Alliance Party, Colin Moore and Al Sharpton, these black "activists" create an atmosphere of hatred and intimidation in which racism and anti-Semitism flourish. Jewish and moderate black community board members are jeered and told to resign in the name of "racial balance." Speakers are shouted down, the chairman is repeatedly taunted, and black and white board members seeking to restore order are told to "sit down and shut up!"

■ Police hesitate to intervene until pushing starts or an NYPD Lawyer tells them that a specific law has been broken. So far there have been several scuffles, and two arrests.

■ But there also have been two

injuries.

■ At the March meeting of the board, attended heavily by moderate community members, something changed. The cries of anti-white hatred grew feeble. Even the most rabid anti-Semites were silent.

■ The next day, on black-oriented radio station WLIB, Colin Moore explained that "two thousand Jewish people had come to that auditorium with one single purpose and that was to intimidate the activists like Ernie Foster, Janet Bagot and myself. . ."

■ Now, with Community Board 14 due to meet again, Moore, Foster and Bagot may bus in demonstrators to cheer them as they continue to foment hatred and try to divide the community along racial lines.

■ People of good will need to attend that meeting to show that racism and anti-Semitism will not be tolerated in the Flatbush-Midwood community. The meeting will be held at the Edward R. Murrow High School auditorium, 1600 Avenue L, on Monday, April 13, at 7:30 P.M. Be there!

From Page 1

Exclusive Interview

thousand votes plus. Things in this city are disintegrating. Things are in terrible shape. Don't people want an opportunity to vote for mayor especially [when] in the last election for mayor, the winner won by only two percent of the vote? The same thing [applies to] the United States Senate this year.

■ Once you register to vote and you want to do more, there's a lot you can do. Maybe there aren't many candidates that people could feel comfortable with, to support, to work with, but there are certain people that have good records and [are] caring and fighting for the Jewish community and for the community in general. Those people deserve support. One of the things that I would love to see is more people who have a Jewish heart, not just who are Jewish. [People who] have Jewish concerns as their priority. Getting involved in politics. Running for office and winning. Look at all the new people that were elected a couple of months ago for the city council! People who never ran for office, [and] who had no background, suddenly are now members of the city council, controlling the future of the city.

3. What should the general public and city legislators do to stem the increase in crime in our neighborhoods?

■ That's a very tough question. I can't answer your question [as to] what should we do citywide to deal with the problem of crime because things are totally out of control. We need a whole new change of government and leadership within the government. What I try to do on the lower level, being an assemblyman within my own district, is to make sure that the people within my community get the best possible police service imaginable. In fact, within my community, within the 66th precinct for instance in particular, crime is down in almost every single category. When there is a problem in a certain part of Boro Park or Flatbush, we try to deal with it immediately. We can't get rid of crime completely, but we try to make things a lot better.

■ Things are out of control. New York City has become Beirut, Lebanon in a sense. What we used to read about Beirut, Lebanon, [for instance] today this person was killed, today this person was assassinated, that's exactly what's going on in New York. The problem is beyond any single person.

The Mayor and all of us announced this program "Safe streets, Safe city" around a year and a half ago and new taxes were imposed to increase the number of police in the City of New York. There has been very little change — only a minute increase in the number of police officers. There is a need for more police. There is a need to make the criminal justice system work better and more effectively. The statistics clearly indicate what a disaster our criminal justice system is. On a citywide level, you need someone who's going to be tough. Dinkins, when he ran for mayor, said he was going to be the toughest mayor on crime. That was a very fine joke. I'm concerned about the future of the city. We in the Jewish community, we have such an incredible investment in schools, in everything we've done within our communities. I'm afraid for the future.

4. What is your reaction to the candidacy of Patrick Buchanan for the Republican Presidential nomination?

■ People in the Jewish community were clearly concerned about Jesse Jackson. They saw him as a dangerous individual. When it came to David Duke, everyone was united and realized that David Duke was very dangerous. The media played more of a role, especially with David Duke, to say "look, this guy's a bad guy", a KKK guy, a Nazi, and so on. In the case of Buchanan, it is remarkable how little the media has done to really highlight how dangerous this guy is. [Buchanan] has clearly indulged in anti-semitism, and he is treated as a mainstream candidate by the media! I was on the Bob Grant show last Thursday. I debated a Jewish guy, who I understand is religious — Rabbi Hendler — who debated me on the radio for a half-hour telling me that Buchanan was a good guy and that I was wrong for criticizing him. That's our tragedy. Buchanan is not an anti-semitite because he opposed aid to Israel. Buchanan is not an anti-semitite because he doesn't believe in the loan-guarantees. Even though I sometimes question someone's animosity to Israel and wonder where it's coming from. His anti-semitism is based on the classical examples. He talks about Jewish control and Jewish power. And when the Gulf War took place, he was the one who said that the only people who supported the Gulf War are the Knesset of Israel and the lobby in Washington, [which he called] "the amen corner". And he gave exam-

ples of those who support the war. He mentioned Kissinger, Krauthammer from the Washington Post, Richard Perle who was in the Reagan administration, and one other person, all Jewish. [He said] Jews were not going to die in the war, only the Rodriguezes, and he mentioned four names, Italian, Irish and Hispanic. This is a guy who is very strong on crime and that we should have the death penalty and we should be tough. But he's the great defender of Nazi war criminals. He's one of those revisionists on the Holocaust. It's incredible! Clearly, he's a very dangerous individual. What has to concern the Jewish community, [and] every student, is not that David Duke is going to be President. He wasn't elected governor. But he got 700,000 votes in Louisiana. Seven hundred thousand people were ready to vote for him in spite of his Nazi and KKK affiliation! 55 percent of the white vote! The major concern is that Buchanan has got 37 percent of the vote in New Hampshire and 36 percent of the vote just now in Georgia. A lot of the people who are voting for these anti-semites are people who say "we don't agree with them on the anti-semitism, but we like what they stand for." And it sort of reminds me of what people said about Hitler. You know Hitler was going to make Germans proud to be Germans. He was going to give them back their pride and their nationalism. They didn't agree with Hitler that they should exterminate all the Jews.

■ To me, August 19th, what happened in Crown Heights, [what] some people called a pogrom. That, I believe, was the turning point, for American Jewry. We have a lot to be concerned about in terms of our future. So when you asked your question, about people being involved, I think how dare people **not** be involved under such a serious crisis. The ADL just came out with a report saying that instances of anti-semitism nationwide are at record levels. For people to not be involved, I think are violating Jewish law, because it's standing by your brother's blood. We're planning a rally for Yankel Rosenbaum as to why no one has been arrested. Yankel Rosenbaum was lynched. Killed because he was a Jew. As many as 15 to 20 people were involved with the killing, were part of it, part of the group, and only one person was arrested, [and that was] five and a half months ago! Does anybody care? When I spoke at Touro, I mentioned this, and that was two months ago. Has anybody lost any

sleep? Has anybody thought about it? We're not talking about revenge, we're talking about justice. There are people running around the city who killed Yankel Rosenbaum and are free and they know it. They know they've chased a Jew, were part of this mob, and they're free, no one is bothering them. What kind of message is that?

5. What can Touro College students do to assist in having Federal charges brought up against El Sayyid Nosair?

■ Well, as far as the El Sayyid Nosair, we're pursuing the charges. Hopefully we'll hear some good news in the coming weeks. Unfortunately, when people ask me "what organization can I join, [I want] to be active", I don't have an answer. What am I going to send them to — ADL? What group can I send them to that I feel that they have an agenda, that makes sense, that's based on Torah, that's based on activism. But that's not an excuse for us not to do anything. People [should] at least participate in most things that they read about in The Jewish Press or Jewish Week which might interest them. And then each person has a responsibility for them to figure out what to do. It isn't just my responsibility. It's every person's responsibility. It's *bein adam l'adam*, it's part of being a Jew. What can I do? How can I make a difference? For them to demand of their leaders, of their Rabbonim, of their Rebbes, of their teachers. [To ask], what are we doing?

6. Is there anything specific that you would suggest to Touro College students who wish to help with the apprehension of the perpetrators of Yankel Rosenbaum's murder, who are as yet uncharged?

■ There's going to be a rally for Yankel Rosenbaum. I'd like to see everybody participate. That's the least they could do. To participate. They don't have to do the work. They just have to show up. But they should go to [events]. They should be part of things.

STUDENT POLL

■ Several questions were asked to a number of Touro College students to determine the present state of political awareness. The following summarizes the results of that poll:

■ Of the students questioned, 53% did not vote in the past election, 34% voted, and 13% were not old enough.

■ Most of the students polled said that foreign policy and economic issues weigh most heavily when they vote. Surprisingly, a large number of students said they have **no** issues in mind when they vote!

■ 73% said they plan on voting in the coming election and 27% said they do not.

■ The student poll was conducted by Avraham Rothman, an undergraduate student majoring in marketing-management.

POLITICAL PROFILE:

Assemblywoman JONI YOSWEIN



■ Assemblywoman Joni Yoswein represents the 44th Assembly District. This area includes parts of Flatbush, Park Slope, Kensington, Windsor Terrace and Midwood. Yoswein, Democrat, defeated Albert J. Mullus, Republican, in a special election to fill an opening created when Mel Miller's seat was vacated late in 1991.

■ Ms. Yoswein is a Brooklyn native, graduate of SUNY, Albany, and lives in Park Slope with her husband.

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Beth Shifra Institution Reaches Out To The Jewish Community

■ Beth Shifra Institution, headed by Rabbi Chaim Prussman, is expanding their outreach program to the Jewish community of N.Y. It sponsors free Purim and Chanukah Parties, bar-mitzvah lessons, matchmaking services,

karate lessons, etc. Rabbi Prussman's goal is to bring Jews to Judaism and Judaism to the Jews. He achieves this by encouraging participation from fellow Jews in the diverse programs offered at his center.



■ The photograph portrays various students from Touro College and yeshivas from New York, learning the martial art of karate. Sensei Eric Goodman is the Chief Karate Instructor and is also a professor of Speech Communication at Touro College. All students are invited to attend free karate lessons every Sunday at 5 P.M. at the Beth Shifra Institution located at 3044 Coney Island Avenue in Brooklyn, New York.

Political Profile

Congressman CHARLES E. SCHUMER

■ Congressman Charles Schumer represents the 10th Congressional District of N.Y. He was elected in 1980 and is currently serving his sixth term in Congress.

■ At age 40, Chuck Schumer has earned himself a reputation for being an outstanding legislator and a dynamic leader. Among his many achievements is legislation which finally forced Japan to open its financial markets to U.S. firms, and the key accomplishment of tough criminal provisions of the recently passed reform of the S&L industry.

■ Congressman Schumer serves on three very important committees; the House Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee, the Interior Committee and the Judiciary Committee.

■ Chuck Schumer is regarded as one of Israel's strongest allies in



Congress. Schumer can be counted on to speak out forcefully and without hesitation on issues of importance to the state of Israel. Jewish leaders throughout America consider Schumer a true friend of Israel and the Jewish people.

■ Congressman Schumer was the principle author of the resolution condemning efforts to link the Gulf conflict with the Palestinian issue, and sponsored a resolution demanding freedom for Syrian Jews. Among the legislation he

CHAIR PULLED OUT FROM UNDER JEFFRIES

BY JACK SMULOWITZ

■ On March 23, in a long awaited move, the trustees of the City University of New York voted to replace Dr. Leonard Jeffries Jr., the controversial chairman of City College's black studies department. Effective July 1, the new chairman of the department will be Dr. Edmund W. Gordon, previously chairman of the Department of African-American Studies at Yale University. He will serve a two-year term, while Dr. Jeffries will remain a professor at City College.

■ The controversy over Jeffries, who has chaired the department at City College for the past 19 years, began last summer when he gave an antisemitic speech in Albany. Jeffries spoke of a "systematic, unrelenting" attack from "the Jewish community" against himself and other black academics; of "a conspiracy, planned and plotted and programmed out of

Hollywood" by Jews and Italians to denigrate blacks in movies; and of how "the Jews" financed the slave trade. He is also reported to have made anti-white remarks and to have distributed racist booklets to classes he has taught.

■ This past October, the trustees of the City University of New York voted to extend Dr. Jeffries' chairmanship through the end of June. The outcome of that vote came under heavy criticism from Governor Cuomo and Senator Alfonse D'Amato, as well as several trustees. Some, however, have now revealed that Dr. Bernard W. Harleston, President of City College, quietly promised at that time that a replacement for Jeffries would be found.

■ As a result of the recent removal decision, Dr. Jeffries has threatened to sue the College. In a similar case, Dr. Michael Levin, a philosophy professor at City College

accused of being anti-black, sued the college when a new philosophy class was opened specifically for students who did not want to take his course. Dr. Levin won his case, which is now under appeal.

■ Jeffries has also warned that the faculty of the Black Studies Department would not accept Dr. Gordon. However, the New York Times reports a City University official as saying that four of the six tenured faculty in the black studies department supported Dr. Gordon's appointment.

■ Dr. Gordon will be charged with reorganizing the department. Officials hope that this move will help to improve public perception of City College. "This appointment reaffirms, once again, the City College's prominent stature and attractiveness in the higher education community," said Dr. W. Ann Reynolds, chancellor of CUNY.

From Page 2

Homelessness in New York City

Affairs (1989), stated: "Persons considered severely mentally ill account for one fourth of the homeless population in the survey cities. Substance abusers account for 34 percent." This indicates that substance abuse and mental illness are major causes of homelessness.

■ To combat this, the logical thing to do is to create more community-based health clinics. This can be done **without increasing** the present level of government funding.

■ It is amazingly simple. Just reorder the priorities. When the mental institutions released large

numbers of its patients, the intention was that it should lead to more small facilities, where the patients could receive affordable care. Now, this has not happened for the simple reason that 70% of the \$6 billion spent each year on state-run mental health programs goes to institutions. If a greater proportion would go to promoting neighborhood clinics and group homes, the homeless mentally ill would be able to receive affordable care. More attention would also be paid to substance abusers. By merely reordering priorities, the government does not have to spend a penny. Just shift existing social services and redirect them elsewhere.

■ According to **Time** magazine, over 75% of the homeless are out of work. This indicates that lack of employment opportunities is a major cause of homelessness. The creation of an agency similar to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's CCC, would effectively provide badly needed jobs. In addition, it would serve the city in numerous ways. First, hiring needy individuals would not only be keeping people off the streets, which would decrease crime, but it would give them a sense of identity. Second, this agency would provide on-the-job and vocational training. As the old proverb goes, "give a man a fish and you've fed him for a day;

teach a man to fish and you've fed him for a lifetime." There are many constructive things that homeless people can do. Streets can be cleaned, garbage picked up, and deliveries made. In addition, using such a strategy would be cost-effective since there would be more tax-paying citizens to foot the bill.

■ This plan is a viable alternative to perpetual construction of homeless shelters. The city of New York has, for the most part, used the shelter-method to deal with homelessness. Statistics have shown that the problem has only gotten worse.

■ Mr. Dinkins, would you kindly give our plan a try?



Presidential Candidate's Positions on the Mideast

Reprinted from *RESPONSE - The Wiesenthal Center Report* (Vol. 13 No. 2)

Below we present 3 of 14 questions posed to presidential candidates by the Simon Wiesenthal Center

WHAT CHANGES WOULD YOU MAKE IN THE STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ISRAEL?

■ **Governor Brown:** American policy must insure a strong, secure and democratic Israel and at the same time vigorously pursue a Middle East peace process which addresses the legitimate interests of all the parties concerned.

■ **Patrick Buchanan:** Did not respond to questionnaire.

■ **President Bush:** Our shared values of freedom, democracy, morality, respect, tolerance, individual rights and liberty unite America and Israel in a special kinship. Our countries have forged unbreakable bonds through shared ideals, shared struggles, and shared commitments. We stand for Israel's survival. It is this Administration's challenge to make Israel truly secure. We have learned the difficult lesson that neither geography nor military strength alone can guarantee security for Israel. Israel and her neighbors will only know true and lasting security when they achieve genuine reconciliation. That is the goal behind the peace process that this Administration has initiated. We think that the best way to guarantee Israel's security is through a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace.

■ **Governor Clinton:** In the Middle East, the administration deserves credit for bringing Israel and its Arab antagonists to the negotiating table. Yet I believe the President is wrong to use public pressure tactics against Israel. In the process, he has raised Arab expectations that he'll deliver Israeli concessions and fed Israeli fears that its interests will be sacrificed to an American-imposed solution.

■ **Senator Tsongas:** I believe the United States should reaffirm its commitment to Israel and our many common interests. As President, I would treat Israel as a friend with which we share deep political and moral principles. Israel is also a strategic asset, a good ally and an island of stability in a very tumultuous region, and my policy toward Israel would reflect this.

DO YOU SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE?

■ **Governor Brown:** I support the peace process.

■ **Patrick Buchanan:** Did not respond to questionnaire

■ **President Bush:** We do not support the establishment of a Palestine state, but we do support the Palestinian people realizing their legitimate political rights in a context that assures Israel's security. This Administration has launched a process designed to bring comprehensive, just and lasting peace between Israel and her Arab neighbors, including the Palestinians. We believe that such a peace should be based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of territory for peace.

■ **Governor Bill Clinton:** The root cause of forty-five years of war and unrest in the Middle East has been the refusal of the Arab nations to recognize Israel's sovereignty and its right to exist. I believe that peace between Israel and the Arab states must be more solid than an armed and hostile truce — real peace can only be achieved on a foundation of increased trust among the nations in the region. To build the feeling of security, I have called for four steps: formal renunciation by the Arab nations of the recently repealed U.N. "Zionism is racism" resolution; an end to the illegal Arab boycott of Israel; the establishment of normal economic and trade relations between Israel and its neighbors; and the creation of multilateral agreements to protect the region's environment and insure that every nation has an adequate supply of water.

■ **Senator Tsongas:** My personal view is that a separate Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip would have a destabilizing effect on the region and would not be economically viable. However, I believe this issue must be decided by the parties involved and I would support whatever decision is acceptable to all parties.

DO YOU SUPPORT THE \$10 BILLION LOAN GUARANTEES TO ISRAEL TO RESETTLE SOVIET JEWS?

■ **Governor Brown:** I do support the loan guarantees, but anyone who doesn't acknowledge the fact that this furious settlement pace is going to undermine the peace process and make any kind of lasting solution impossible is just not facing the facts as they are. We need a

policy of realism that recognizes that Israel is an ally and a friend and we stand behind her security and even her military superiority, but at the same time the people who live in the West Bank and the Gaza, that those are human beings; that they have their rights and their interests and their dignity and we have to respect that. And Israel has to respect that if we are going to have a peace process.

■ **Patrick Buchanan:** Did not respond to questionnaire.

■ **President Bush:** Support for Israel's security is a pillar of American foreign policy. Israel needs and deserves our financial assistance. That assistance has contributed to stability in the region, prospects for peace, and promoted American interests. Under my Administration, Israel has received in excess of \$10 billion in U.S. aid and guarantees, and in my budget for the coming year I am asking Congress to provide an additional \$3 billion in assistance. In addition, I am committed to trying to reach agreement with the Government of Israel on terms and conditions that would allow us both to provide new loan guarantees to help facilitate the absorption of the recent immigrants and to promote peace between Israel and its neighbors.

■ **Secretary of State Baker** is now discussing with the Israeli government terms and conditions under which this Administration could support additional loan guarantees for Israel. I am committed to the principal of free immigration to Israel and their successful absorption inside Israel. At the same time, we view the current settlement activity in the occupied territories as an obstacle of peace. We want to resolve this issue in a manner that supports, and does not contradict, longstanding U.S. policy objectives in the region.

■ **Governor Clinton:** In the Middle East, the administration deserves credit for bringing Israel and its Arab antagonists to the negotiating table. Yet I believe the President is wrong to use public pressure tactics against Israel. In the

process he has raised Arab expectations that he'll deliver Israeli concessions and fed Israeli fears that its interests will be sacrificed to an American-imposed solution.

■ **Senator Tsongas:** I support immediately providing the \$10 billion in loan guarantees that

Israel has requested. I do not believe that any conditions should be placed on these absorption loans.

Data Link Announces Plans For BBS

BY MICAH MALES

■ Data Link Online Systems, a software and communications company, announced that their computer bulletin board will be back in service as of May 1, 1992. This service can be accessed from any IBM compatible PC, and can be of great service to students while being both fun and educational. Sources say that the new system will be far superior to its predecessor.

■ Aside from the many new features which include an on-line store, which allows users to place orders for various services, as well as interactive games, Data Link BBS will have an updated files section which will contain over 20,000 files available for downloading. One of the very noticeable features which gives Data Link BBS its new look is that conferences are grouped into various forums relating to its particular interests.

■ Aside from the business, computer, arts and other forums there is also a political forum. This forum is beneficial for students who want to keep up on the latest developments in American politics and also on the political mood of grassroots America. Hundreds of users will be able to share their views and debate the issues that can make a difference.

There will also be a restricted Jewish interest area. Access is available upon request. This area will contain news stories from Israel, kashrus updates, Jewish files and even a Bible quiz game and more.

■ The BBS can be reached by modem after May 1, 1992 at (718) 377-0524. For more information, call (718) 261-1259 or 252-0158.

Data Link's President David Adress and System Operator Micah Males are both seniors in the Touro College Flatbush program.

KARATE: A Path To Character Development

BY: PROFESSOR ERIC GOODMAN

■ The martial art of Karate paves the road to righteousness, self-respect, discipline and character development. Student training sessions constantly reinforce the theme of respect to teacher and classmates. They are taught to control tempers and display humility when interacting with each other on the dojo floor. The appropriate Japanese etiquette of greeting is demonstrated when all students approach each other. This type of etiquette acknowledges and thanks each student and the teacher for assisting them in their learning development.

■ Training sessions are regimented by intensive punching and kicking techniques that develop muscular tone and karate skill. All of the techniques are designed to provide students with a capability for defending themselves from a violent attack. Simulations of actual street situations provide a sense of realism for students to practice applying their newly acquired skills.

■ Despite the intensive nature of classes, students are encouraged to endeavor in order to reach their fullest potential. This spirit provides the incentive for students to develop discipline that controls elements of mental and physical fatigue, emotional outburst, focus of attention, and enhanced concentration. The benefits gained from practicing karate transcend to other areas of life. For example, karate students are better able to concentrate on their scholastic efforts and overcome obstacles, such as pressure, when preparing for their final exams.

Professor Eric Goodman is a second-degree blackbelt and gives karate lessons on a regular basis.

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