

SPECIAL EDITION

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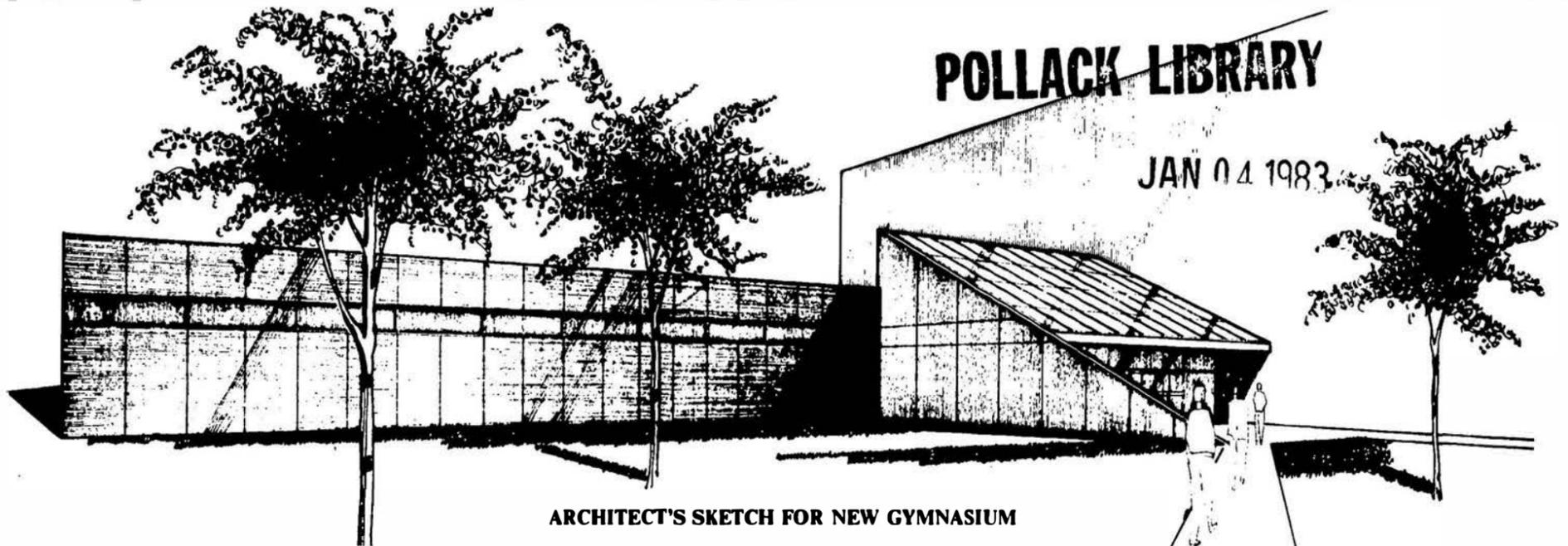
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LEONARD STERN'S \$1 MILLION GIFT WILL FUND CONSTRUCTION OF MAX STERN ATHLETIC CENTER



ARCHITECT'S SKETCH FOR NEW GYMNASIUM

Regulation Size Gymnasium Fulfills Fifty Year Old Dream At YU Building To Be Finished Within Next Two Years

By MARK MAZER

After more than a half century of fantasizing about an authentic, regulation-size gym, students and administrators were ecstatic on the morning after the announcement of Leonard Stern's \$1 million gift for the construction of a complete athletic center.

Boost To School Spirit

"The absence of a real gym has been lamented by the students in the pages of the *The Commentator* since time immemorial," said Mr. Larry Wachsman, Director of Student Activities. "I think it will be a tremendous boost to school spirit," he continued. This sentiment was echoed by Yeshiva College Student Council President Avi Schneider, who said, "It's a monumental step forward for the recognition of student needs apart from the classroom. It will assuredly lend to the improvement of campus morale and Y.U.'s

attractiveness to prospective students."

Recruitment Boon

This anticipated positive effect on recruitment emerges as one of the gym's most tangibly beneficial rewards. According to Ms. Judy Paikin, Director of Admissions, "Generally, the perception exists among students that Y.U. is not an appealing place to spend four years. Whatever we can do to improve the quality of life here is really important. The construction of a new gym gives the impression of growth and change at a time when universities around the country are cutting back. I think it will be a tremendous plus for recruitment," she said.

A Home At Last

For years, the University used a large room in the basement of what is now Joseph and Faye

Tanenbaum Hall, on Amsterdam Avenue and 186th Street, as a gymnasium.

"But what we called a gym," one administrator recalled, "was never supposed to be a gym. It was supposed to be a swimming pool."

The room did not fit intercollegiate athletic regulations for a gym. Therefore, when the Yeshiva University basketball team, the Maccabees, started to play in the Independent Athletic Conference, team members had to travel to borrowed gyms in Manhattan, Queens, and other boroughs of New York City to play their "home" games. Plays were often worked out on a blackboard as the team members and coaches travelled on subways to their "home" games. "But," says Mr. Wachsman, "we can now play home games in a place that we can be proud of." Dr. Jeff Gurock, Assistant Coach of the basketball Maccabees, predicts that, "...playing home games in a building that's truly home should help us grow as a team and improve the entire basketball program."

Professor Arthur Tauber, Director of Athletics, pointed out that, "We are not gearing this gym for intercollegiate athletics. It is for the use of the entire student body. The Center could become the focal point for the activities of the entire Jewish community if we were to invite different Jewish schools and institutions. We could bring them into the fold and develop a very special esprit de corps."

President Lamm hosted a special meeting with the University's student leadership on Tuesday, December 14th, to apprise them of the Stern donation. Among the students present were the heads of student government, editors of the school's numerous publications, and the captains of the athletic teams. Also in attendance at this momentous event were Dr. Socol, Professor Tauber, and members of the coaching staffs of some of the teams.

Dec. 12 — At Yeshiva University's annual Hanukkah Dinner tonight, a new \$1 million gift by Leonard Stern was announced for the construction of a complete athletic facility at the University's Main Center in Washington Heights.

Full Size Gym

The projected Max Stern Athletic Center will be a bi-level facility located adjacent to the Rubin Cafeteria on Danciger Campus. The major feature of the new building will be a regulation-size gymnasium — something that University students and administrators have dreamed of since the Main Center campus was planned more than 50 years ago. The 17,500 square foot building will also contain exercise rooms, a track, locker rooms and facilities for the fencing and wrestling teams. The gym will have folding bleacher seats for 1,000 spectators. Although the gym as currently planned is not designed to include a pool, Professor Arthur Tauber,

University Director of Athletics, expects that Y.U. will continue to rent the pool facilities at nearby George Washington High School on 192nd Street and Audobon Avenue.

\$2.5 Million Total Cost

The total cost of the building — the first to be constructed on the uptown campus since the Belfer Graduate School of Science building was completed in 1970 — and its furnishings is estimated at \$2.5 million. However, Mr. Sam Hartstein, Director of Public Relations at Y.U., says, "Once we have the \$1 million seed money, the remainder can be easily solicited by fund-raising efforts."

Following finalization of architectural and engineering details, construction is expected to begin soon after commencement exercises in June 1983. Depending on construction conditions encountered as the builders attempt to lay the facility's foundations, the building is projected to be completed within two years.

LEONARD STERN

Leonard N. Stern is a long-time benefactor (contributor of \$1,000,000 or more) of Yeshiva University.

He became Chairman of the Board of the Hartz Mountain



Corporation last May upon the death of his father, Max Stern, but had been a driving force in the business since he joined his father at the age of 21. Now 44 years old, Mr. Stern also heads Hartz Mountain Industries, which he

founded in 1972.

In presenting his gift, Mr. Stern remembered his father's total commitment to all aspects of Jewish education, but recalled that more pressing priorities always seemed to arise before the funds for a gym facility could be put aside. "I wish Dad were here to see it," he told his family and more than 1,000 guests at the Sunday evening Hanukkah Dinner, for which he served as honorary chairman. This year's 58th annual dinner was held in honor of his mother, Mrs. Max Stern. She is the widow of the late Max Stern, the noted philanthropist, founder of Hartz Mountain, and long-time Vice-Chairman and member of Y.U.'s Board of Trustees. It was his gift that established the University's Stern College for Women in 1954.

A graduate of New York University, Mr. Stern also holds a master's degree from the University's School of Business Administration. He was named to the N.Y.U. Board of Trustees in 1976.



Prof. Tauber (left) congratulates Leonard Stern on \$1 million donation.