Nierenberg Named YC Interim Dean

Rabbi Lamm to Make Final Decision

by Moshe L. Kinderlehrer

With less than a month left before the start of classes, Dr. Harold Nierenberg, the Dean of the Sy Syms School of Business (SSSB), was named the interim Dean of Yeshiva College. In a university-wide press release dated September 8, Dr. William Schwartz, the chairman of the Decanal Search Committee and Vice President for Academic Affairs, announced the appointment of Dean Nierenberg to the post, temporarily filling the vacancy created by the resignation of longtime Dean, Dr. Norman Rosenfeld.

In the press release and in a later interview with The Commentator, Dr. Schwartz stressed that the search 'process' model was a very important consideration both for the Search Committee and of course, for Dr. Lamm." But Dr. Schwartz refused to confirm if any of the candidates ultimately recommended by the Committee and now undergoing consideration for the position are Orthodox Jews, non-Orthodox Jews, or even Jewish. He also refused to comment as to whether the candidates are from Yeshiva College or from outside institutions.

President Lamm Biding His Time

"In explaining the need for Dr. Nierenberg's interim appointment, Dr. Schwartz noted a number of factors contributing to the extended decision-making process. First, "It was difficult for Dr. Lamm to find opportunities to meet with each of the candidates. That took some time...most importantly...Dr. Lamm is very methodical in his selection. He is undertaking a very painstaking and deliberate period of consideration to ensure that the best possible choice is made...In fact, Dr. Lamm told all the candidates that his decision would take time." In the release announcing the interim deanship, the reason for the longer evaluation period was put similarly, "The Administration's fiduciary responsibilities to the University, faculty, students, and alumni dictate that exceptionally thoughtful and deliberate consideration be given to the selection of a new Dean of Yeshiva College who may have a long tenure and who will be charged with leading the College into the 21st Century."

In a statement made this past Thursday by the Office of the President, President Lamm acknowledged that the search process for a new Dean is still continuing, with President Lamm using the time to consult with figures both within and without the walls of Yeshiva University in order to reach a decision and choose the most qualified candidates.

President Lamm Wasting Time?

Dr. Schwartz attacked the notion that Dr. Lamm is taking too long to come to a decision on the deanship. "Dean searches take a long time," he pointed out. "Normally, the search for a new dean takes all year." In fact, he fully expects the search for a new dean of the Ferkov Graduate School of Psychology to take all year. Moreover, Dr. Schwartz added, "Dr. Lamm attaches tremendous significance to Yeshiva College...Yeshiva College is the highest priority for Dr. Lamm and he wants to pick the best possible candidate." As the summer wound down without a decision by Dr. Lamm, "The point of view was expressed by members of the faculty and Administration that given the lateness of the hour, an interim Dean would have to be sought," explained Dr. Schwartz. Dr. Nierenberg, who Dr. Schwartz stressed is "not a candidate for the permanent Deanship of Yeshiva College," was then asked to assume the position. Dr. Schwartz also stressed that Dr. Nierenberg's appointment would put his considerable talent to work for Yeshiva College as well. "Under Dean Nierenberg's superlative leadership, the Sy Syms School of Business has attained new levels of excellence. He is a solid administrator who has an excellent rapport with faculty, students, alumni, trustees, and other administrators... Moreover, his deep dedication continued on page 7
Deanless

As a quick glance at the front page of this issue indicates, Yeshiva College enters the upcoming academic year without a permanent dean. Lack in May, with the interviewing process at full tilt, it appeared that the process would be over by late June, or July at the latest, giving the new dean ample time to settle into the post. That did not occur.

Instead, the process has dragged on somewhat, forcing the appointment of an interim dean. As interim dean, Dean Nierenburg is a fine choice, but the deanships of YC and SSSB are, and always have been, two full-time jobs.

While the need for time to mull over and consult with people from within and without the walls of YU cannot be understated, the delay in hiring a permanent dean is puzzling. As President Lamm must be aware, a new dean would have helped set a new tone for the administration of YC, getting the YC academic year off to a (hopefully) good start and helping YC ease its way into the unpredictable years ahead.

We can only hope that the new dean, whoever he will be, will be able to come in at the start of a busy second semester, at earliest, and have the same impact a new dean would have been able to muster at the beginning of the academic year. For the sake of Yeshiva College, let us hope so.

Better Luck Next Time

As student leaders returned to campus this September they were greeted by a newly installed door lock system in the dorms. For security reasons, the Office of Facilities Management had handed down directives stating that lost keys would be replaced at a cost to the student of $75. After some investigation, it turned out that the actual cost to the University for the new key and lock cylinder was $35; the student, however would be charged $75. Additionally, it was decided that the dorm counselors would not be entrusted with master keys to the floors, nor would the head dorm counselor be given master keys to the dorms. No longer would the Office of the Residence Halls, nominally charged with responsibility of the dorms have access to the dorms themselves. Needless to say, the Office of Student Affairs was none too pleased with the new rules.

Upon learning of the situation, student leaders swung into action. Meetings were arranged and pressure was applied through the Office of the Dean of Students. Ultimately, after hours of talks, a compromise was reached. The cost of replacing a key was lowered to its actual cost of $35 and the Office of Facilities Management reluctantly agreed to leave the master keys with the dorm counselors of each floor. We commend the student leaders of the Tannenbaum building to the Main Building and the Joel Jablonski Campus for their efforts in getting the new key and lock system in the dorms.

In light of the recent renaming of the Tannenbaum building to the Main Building and the Joel Jablonski Campus being renamed the Main Campus, I’d like to make a suggestion that YU affix velcros backed labels on all of its buildings and campuses so that they can be changed with ease.

-- YU Alumnus in Letter to The Commentator

Discontinued

Editor’s Note: The following letter, addressed to Foreign Students, was submitted by Mrs. Owgang for publication in The Commentator.

To the Editor:

Since our office was discontinued as of September 16, 1994, I did not have an opportunity to say my farewells to all of you who have been so important to me these many years. You have been a joy to work with and I want to take this opportunity to wish you much success and fulfillment in your future endeavors.

Mrs. Leff joins me in these sentiments.

Mrs. Vivian H. Owgang
Int’l Student Advisor

Mazal Tov to YCSC President Daniel Billig upon his recent engagement to Elana Haristein.

Mazal Tov to former News Editor Yisroel Holczer on his engagement to Bracha Tannenbaum.
From the Editor’s Desk

In moving into the dorm this past Sunday morning, I found myself struck, strangely, with a bout of apprehension. As I watched two newcomers from out-of-town struggle mightily in dragging a hefty sofa over to Rubin, drawing smiles on the faces of the nearby security guards, thoughts of all the all-nitzers I would be pulling this year and of the constant pressures I would be under began creeping into my consciousness. My mother always wonders aloud at how I subject myself to such pressures. I suspect her wondering will never cease.

My apprehension didn’t last long, though. I had little time to be apprehensive this Sunday. Ever the editor, I had an edition to put out. There were articles to edit, editorials to be written, and layout issues to be dealt with. Once I had unpacked well enough to call my room home for the next two semesters, checked in with a few friends, and discovered, much to my amazement that my phone was working, it was time to go to work on the issue you’re reading now.

First, a word about this issue. Initially conceived in late May, this Back-To-School edition of The Commentator — Volume LIX — is probably the first ever such issue of this newspaper. I make that claim secure in the knowledge that few YC students in the history of the institution, no matter how dedicated or motivated, would be willing to work too hard for a school-related activity before classes actually started. Uh-uh. I can’t see it.

But this year it did happen, something I attribute partially to the fact that school started so late in the year and a few of us were bored sitting around at home without any classes to occupy us. Of course I could be wrong.

In any case, after nearly four and a half months away, Yeshiva College is back. Yes it’s time to go to class again. And while classes start tomorrow, (though a number of shiurim have already begun) it is with some trepidation that I, and the Governing Board of The Commentator - Volume 59, present the first issue of the academic year — an inaugural Back-to-School edition. It is the hope of this year’s Governing Board that this newly minted issue, coming out right on the heels of the Yomim Noraim, heralds the beginning of a successful year both for this newspaper, Yeshiva College, and everyone in the Yeshiva University community.

Moshe I. Kinderlehrer

PS. I’m still wondering, how did those two guys get that sofa up the stairs? It sure wasn’t going to fit into the elevator.

Message From the President

Welcome back, Gentlemen,

I hope that all of you had a most enjoyable extended vacation. Over the summer, many exciting things have happened at campus. The dorms are getting a new look and key system, there was a student leader barbecue, and the Commentator received a very generous gift from the President’s Circle (a group of former student leaders alumni who contribute to specific needs of the student body)

However, the best is yet to come. We have an exciting year planned for you. From our opening event in September (which you will find out about after you receive this issue) to our upcoming Yomim Noraim, all the way to the very exciting 1987 YC elections that will begin this year. I, and the Governing Board, hope that you will make the most of the opportunities that will be presented to you.

I hope you will be able to get involved in our programs. I know that you will find them worthwhile and even fun. Please remember to vote for your favorite candidates.

Mazal Tov to former Technical Editor Joshua Guedalia upon his recent engagement to Estie Weiss.

For all those interested in working on The Commentator Volume LIX

There will be an open meeting on Wednesday night October 5 after Maariv (10:20 pm) in Morg Shul (Basement of Morgenstern Dorm).

Positions available in News, Features, Layout, Business.

any of our representatives:

Executive Council
Daniel Billig-President
Yosef Helft-V.P. College
Zvi Mendelson-V.P. Students Affairs
Chaim Lefel-Treasurer
Jeremy Lusman-Secretary
Ezra Cohen-Senior Class President
Eric Berkowitz-Junior Class President
Steven Kupferman- Sophomore Class President

Mazel tov to our graduates.
Lots of luck on a great year.
Daniel Billig
Y.C.C.I. President
Yeshiva University
Office of the Dean of Students

Dear Students,

On behalf of the Office of the Dean of Students, we would like to welcome our returning and new students for the 1994 – 1995 academic year. Adjusting to college life can be both exciting and challenging. The staff of the Department of Student Affairs is committed to helping you through these challenging times. Whether you require assistance through the complexities of registration and academic life; guidance or advice regarding career opportunities, graduate and professional schools; or development of job search techniques, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR EXPERTISE. If you are in need of counseling or even a reassuring hand, we encourage you to meet with our caring staff to discuss your needs and concerns.

We are also proud to announce this year an addition to the host of individuals who help you. The University has established an academic advisement center. This center, which is comprised of faculty, will provide much needed advisement for an entire spectrum of students at Yeshiva.

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU FEEL FRUSTRATED OR OVERWHELMED. We encourage you to take full advantage of these services so that your college years can be most productive and rewarding.

As a new year begins, we wish you continued success on your endeavors.

Hatzlachah Rabbanah,

Dr. Efrem Nulman
Dean of Students

Rabbi Elchanan Adler
(General Guidance)
FH 419

Rabbi Yosef Blau
(General Guidance)
FH 419

Rabbi Joshua Chelfetz
(Dormitory Concerns / Personal Guidance)
MO 104

Rabbi Yehudah Fine
(Academic Skills / Personal Guidance)
FH 419

Mrs. Laura Harry, RN
(Medical Services)
RH 110

Dr. Michael Hecht
Associate Dean, YC
(Pre-Law / Academic Advisement)
FH 104

Mr. David Himber
(Academic Guidance)
FH 419

Dr. Avery Horowitz
Assistant Dean, YC
(Academic Guidance)
FH 103

Prof. Ira Jaskoll
Assistant Dean, SSSB
(Career Services Director)
BH 421

Ms. Naomi Kapp
(Career Counselor)
BH 415

Rabbi Meir Orlian
(General Guidance)
FH 419

Dr. Eli Sar, M.D.
(Medical Services)
RH 110

Rabbi Dr. M. Mitchell
Serles
(Sephardic Student Advisement / International Student Advisement)
FH 419

Mr. Hal Tannenbaum
(Career Placement)
BH 419

Rabbi Dr. Kenneth Wieder
(General Guidance)
FH 419

Dr. David Welsbrot
(Pre-Health Advisement)
FH 419

Ms. Adrienne Wolff
(Career Placement)
BH 419

Academic Advisement Center – FH 419
Professor Yaakov Karpishpan
Professor Thomas Otway
Professor Raji Viswanathan
Professor Gabriel Cwilich
Professor William Lee
Professor Manfred Fulda
Op-Ed: Women are Not on the Program

by Ryan S. Karbon

Welcome to Yeshiva University, formerly known as Ashkenazic central. Formally? Yes, nickname it dead, but those bochurim are shocking for a male insight as well stay home these next few days. Womein are not on the program.

What? Not on the program? What has happened to the much ballyhooed YC/SCW Culture Society Broadway Play, known before the Revolution as the YC/SCW Culture Society Musical? Killed by logistical constraints (that will be a recurring theme during your stay here).

Maybe students just aren’t interested in socialization anymore. Driven by an insatiable appetite for knowledge, they enroll here eager: to spend their time reading the most recent additions to the Polaick Library (which, mind you, are not so recent).

 Seriously, though, there is a fundamental philosophical issue here: with respect to co-ed social activities and the Yeshiva College campus. Proposals for a joint barbecue in Tenzer Gardens and a Murder Mystery Play in the Schottenstein Center (that’s the nice building, at 560 15th Street that is too far away for most students to walk to) went nowhere.

Why? Sources report that three years ago, President Lamm decided that purely social, co-ed undergraduate events on the uptown campus are not permissible.

Dean of Students Efre Nulman has a different standard. He says the BBQ was out of psychosocial and adjustment reasons, namely that students are focused on academic concerns as Orientation begins. It won’t be long before they start mixing with the women from midtown.

As for the Murder Mystery proposal, that’s a little more murky. Nulman says that the school seeks to encourage “appropriate and reasonable” activities. Mind you, no administrator would characterize the Murder Mystery Night as inappropriate and unreasonable.

Activities also need to be “consistent with the ideals and values of Yeshiva University.” A speech by Curtis Sliwa clearly fits the bill. That’s the place to find your basin.

Do not despire, though. There are Hareivinim, chagigim, lectures, dinners, and the like. There is the chance to collaborate on Hamevasser and WYUR. And you can always ask a friend to make the connection.

And somewhere in between, try to squeeze in some time to think about these words. You may love them. You may hate them. You may not be able to banish the thought, not care too much what I have to say, but please respect it: Lurking behind my passion and sarcasm is the lesson I have learned all too well in my stay here: respect the other side. After you are doing pondering and making sport, remember that we all do need to get along. We don’t need to like what everyone has to say, we do need to live with it.

After all, the person sitting on the other side of the table may be you or your side for a very long time.

Reflections: Quality vs. Quantity

by Samson Fine

Ahhh, Orientation!!! Those wonderful three days at the beginning of each academic year when the University provides free writing instruments, free paper goods, and most importantly free food. But seriously folks, we are back at the farm ready to take another crack at that thing called College. Of the significant changes in Washington Heights, the most important is in the student body. Many old familiar faces who graced this campus for two, three, or possibly, (yet unlikely) four years have moved on to more noble pursuits such as getting on with their careers. A number of as-yet unknown individuals have been elevated to positions of prominence and power on the YC campus (more on them later once we see what they have or have not accomplished). And finally, over 200 new young men have joined our ranks for the first time at the citadel.

Although it is important for new students to become involved in YC communal life, as well as in their academic pursuits, Orientation week is a unique opportunity for you returning students to reexamine your careers. A number of as-yet unknown individuals have been elevated to positions of prominence and power on the YC campus (more on them later once we see what they have or have not accomplished). And finally, over 200 new young men have joined our ranks for the first time at the citadel.

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  gives you tips on succeeding in Law school and the importance of making Law Review.

• How to wheel & deal at Harvard or anywhere else
  Bob Werfel, Jeopardy/Grand Champ ’87 and Kaplan’s National LSAT Director
  gives you tips on succeeding in LSAT questions. Welcome, contestants.

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Dean Decision Before End of First Semester

continued from page one

to YU and to the principles of Torah. U'madda made him an excellent choice as the permanent Dean of Yeshiva College. Responding to criticism that holding the deanship of the two schools presents a conflict of interest as well as a tremendous burden, he confidently replied that he "feels more than able to handle both YU and his old office in Belfer Hall." Dr. Nierenberg reiterated emphatically that he has no interest in being the permanent Dean of Yeshiva College. Regarding possible conflicts of interest generated by the vastly different makeup and focus of the student bodies of YC and SSSB, Dr. Nierenberg asserted that no conflict of interest would exist, "I've counseled students interested in medicine and other fields besides business... I don't proselytize when it comes to academic advisement." Additionally, Dr. Nierenberg noted that his "door is open to all students," and he invites students from both schools to come into his offices, though he did indicate his preference for YC students to come see him in his YC offices on the first floor in Furst Hall and SSSB students to come see him in his old office on the fourth floor of Belfer.

YCSC President Daniel Billig, just back from Israel, voiced his confidence in the appointment of Dean Nierenberg. "I'm completely confident that in an interim situation, Dean Nierenberg will do justice to both positions. He is a talented and experienced administrator who has what it takes to fill the void left by Dean Rosenfeld's departure."

New Dean Appointment Expected Shortly

Though Dr. Schwartz did not say exactly when he expects President Lamm to make his decision, he did indicate that a decision will certainly be made before the end of the first academic semester. Dean Nierenberg, who was officially installed into his new position on September 16, made it clear that he does not expect to be the Dean of YC for the second part of the year and hopes that a decision will be made in October or November, giving the appointee, whether from inside YC or outside enough time to leave his old job and get settled into his new one. "Realistically, I'm prepared to be here for three months, but not much more."

One Dean for YC and SSSB

Dr. Nierenberg reiterated emphatically that he has no interest in being the Dean of SSSB since March, 1992 will still be the Dean of YU and to the principles of Torah to come see him in his YC offices on the first floor in Furst Hall and SSSB students to come see him in his old office on the fourth floor of Belfer. YCSC President Daniel Billig, just back from Israel, voiced his confidence in the appointment of Dean Nierenberg. "I'm completely confident that in an interim situation, Dean Nierenberg will do justice to both positions. He is a talented and experienced administrator who has what it takes to fill the void left by Dean Rosenfeld's departure."

One impetus to the enactment of the new programs was the survey taken by YC alumni Eitan Mayer and Yitzy Weider named Assistant Mashgichim. With each being assigned 15-20 students. Students who attended classes in Elul Zman generally had favorable reactions towards the experience. One talmid, Baruch Peach Mendelson, noted that "I'm prepared to be here for three months, but not much more." Additionally, the new assistant mashgichim will begin to track the attendance of the talmidim. Students who attended classes in Elul Zman generally had favorable reactions towards the experience. One talmid, Baruch Peach Mendelson, noted that "I'm prepared to be here for three months, but not much more."

MYP Hires New Assistant Mashgichim

by Dev Simons

In order to facilitate the introduction of new students into the Yeshiva, as well as to improve the performance of more seasoned talmidim, the Mazer Yeshiva Program has initiated some new programs for the Fall 1994 semester. Besides hiring assistant Mashgichim, the MYP administration has instituted a procedure of taking attendance during morning seder. The changes follow discussions aimed at bolstering the MYP program which, despite a burgeoning student body bolstered by an estimated 270 new students, has been perennially plagued by criticism. Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, the Dean of MYP, explained that the new programs were employed with the initiative of Yeshiva University President and Rosh Hayeshiva Dr. Norman Lamm. One impetus to the enactment of the new procedures was the survey taken by YC alumni Eitan Mayer and Yitzy Shechter during the Spring 1993 semester.

The initiative is partly funded by last year's Golding donation, as well as by an anonymous donation. Rabbi Charlop added that "Yeshiva's deficit is greater than any other year, but Dr. Lamm felt he could not neglect the future."

Under the new program, Rabbi Meir Orlian was appointed Director of the Assistant Mashgichim Program, with Rabbi Elchanan Adler and Rabbi Jeremy Orlian named Assistant Mashgichim. Rabbi Charlop commented, "In one fell swoop, we were able to bring in three strengths of such caliber as these three, recognized by their Rebbim and by their peers as outstanding Talmidei Chachamim. Rabbi Charlop continued that "Rabbi Blau had faced the Herculean task of working with the 700 men that comprise Yeshiva College. The three new assistant mashgichim will now work with Rabbi Yosef Blau, the current Mashgich Ruchani, to complete a twofold mission: to help the students maintain their sedarim in the batei midrash, especially through such challenges as the MACAs and the LSAIs.

Big Brothers, not Big Brother

To allay fears that these new programs were created to monitor students, Rabbi Weider lessened the comparison to George Orwell's 1984, commenting, "This is Big Brothers, not Big Brother. Now the students who people can; after all, it's a big place."

To this end, Rabbi Orlian will arrange for members of the Kollel Elyon and other senior talmidim to become Big Brothers, with each being assigned 15-20 students. They will help the new students adapt to their environment. Additionally, the new assistant mashgichim will begin to track the attendance of the talmidim. Students will now be required to sit in a specified makom. During the morning, the mashgichim will record which places were occupied and which were not; the results will be known as Talmidim. Students who attended classes in Elul Zman generally had favorable reactions towards the experience. One talmid, Baruch Peach Mendelson, noted that "I'm prepared to be here for three months, but not much more." Additionally, the new assistant mashgichim will begin to track the attendance of the talmidim. Students will now be required to sit in a specified makom. During the morning, the mashgichim will record which places were occupied and which were not; the results will be known as Talmidim. Students who attended classes in Elul Zman generally had favorable reactions towards the experience. One talmid, Baruch Peach Mendelson, noted that "I'm prepared to be here for three months, but not much more."
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