

The Commentator

Official Undergraduate Newspaper of Yeshiva College

November 21, 1994

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, NY

19 Kislev 5754

Sequence of Events

March 1994:

After months of rumors, longtime YC Dean Dr. Norman Rosenfeld announces that he is stepping down from his post at end of the Spring 1994 semester.

April 19, 1994:

The Commentator publishes editorial calling for more student representation on the Search Committee. The editorial nets results less than a week later as YCSC President-elect Daniel Billig is added to the committee.

May - July 1994:

The Search Committee meets a number of prospective candidates, narrowing the field down to three by mid-July. The Committee's recommendations are submitted to YU President Dr. Norman Lamm for his decision. The Committee will not meet again until Oct. 28.

September 8:

With less than a month left before classes, SSSB Dean, Dr. Harold Nierenberg, is named the Dean Ad Interim of YC for the 1994 fall semester.

October 19:

With information from members of the Search Committee, *The Commentator* publishes the names of the three candidates submitted to Dr. Lamm by the Search Committee.

October 28: At a meeting of the Search Committee, in which three more candidates are interviewed, Dr. Schwartz attacks *The Commentator* for publishing the names of the candidates and chastises the members of the Committee who leaked the information to *The Commentator*.

At the same meeting, the Committee agrees to recommend Dr. Norman Adler, a Vice-Provost of Northeastern University in Boston, for the position of YC Dean. His name is submitted to Rabbi Lamm for approval. — Moshe I. Kinderlehrer

The Search is Over

Northeastern Vice Provost Dr. Norman Adler Expected to be Named Next Dean of YC

BY RYAN S. KARBEN

After a contentious and sometimes controversial search, sources tell *The Commentator* that university officials have chosen a Northeastern University provost for the Yeshiva College deanship.

Dr. Norman T. Adler, a prominent psychologist and the former Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, is currently negotiating his contract with the university. A formal announcement is expected soon.

Innovator At Penn

As Associate Dean at Penn from January 1989 to February 1993, Adler is credited with reviving the Freshman Seminar Program, creating a peer advisement center and initiating a summer reading program. He also founded the Biological Basis of Behavior program—promoting a field in which Adler has long held an interest.

Adler's departure from Penn in 1993 was greeted with sadness by colleagues, according to reports in *The Daily Penn-*

sylvanian, the university's student newspaper. Current students who interacted with Adler continue to praise his contribution to the College of Arts and Sciences.

A prolific writer of books and articles, Adler's works include *Reproduction* and *Neuroendocrinology of Reproduction*. He has served in his current position as Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education at Northeastern University in Boston since March 1993.

Adler, when reached at his office by *The Commentator* hours ago, said it "would not be appropriate to say *gournisht*!"
Continued on next side

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך
שאר אבילי ציון וירושלים

The Yeshiva University community extends its heartfelt condolences to the family of our chaver Aaron Heller, who passed away this Thursday night. Shiva is being observed in his home, 8 Dawson Avenue, West Orange, NJ until Thursday.

and referred further questions about his background to Dr. William Schwartz, YU's Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Schwartz, though, refused to "either confirm or deny" that he knew Adler or had held any conversations with him about the deanship. Schwartz said the search process "has still not been officially completed" and again asserted that "it is totally inappropriate for information [about the process] to be transmitted to those not on the [Decanal Search] committee."

Academic or Role Model?

Despite what many admit are impressive academic credentials, though, some elements of the campus community are concerned about Adler's level of personal religious observance. Though a high-level administrator called Adler "a traditional Jew who will be sensitive," one YC rabbi said the choice signals a "secularist takeover" of the college.

Indeed, the decision to choose Adler is seen by some as an attempt to sideline the role of religion in the administration of the college. Others considered by the Decanal Search Committee, including, among others, YC Professors Carl Feit and Bernard Firestone and Dr. Claude Schochet of Wayne State University were all, in the words of one university official, "models of Torah U'Maddah."

Faculty members say that Adler's level of observance is relevant to the extent one perceives the dean as a role model for students. Speaking on the condition that he not be identified, one longtime professor dismissed the religion issue as "absolutely irrelevant...the dean is an academic officer, not a theologian." A vocal minority, though, angrily maintains that Adler was chosen to advance the "agenda" of Dr. Sheldon E. Socol, the university's Vice President for Business Affairs, who has reportedly pushed for a non-Orthodox candidate during the entire dean-search process.

Sources say that Socol believes the college's academic reputation would be enhanced by the selected of dean from outside the university community. Indeed, the decision to bypass professors who know the campus for an outsider is viewed as victory for those who have advocated focusing on YC's academic strength in recruitment efforts.

Formidable Task Ahead

When Adler assumes the deanship, he will quickly face decisions about personnel and course offerings. Those decisions have been deferred by the Dean Ad Interim, SSSB Dean Harold Nierenberg, who assumed the deanship this summer when university administrators were unable to come to a final decision. The position has been vacant for six months after Mathematics Professor Dr. Norman Rosenfeld resigned in June of last year.

Students involved in the search process maintain that they had sufficient opportunity for input. "They (YU administrators) did make an effort to hear our concerns," said YCSC President Daniel Billig, though he conceded that there were times during the search that students were not involved to the greatest extent possible.

Billig also said that while the dean's level of observance was "one relevant factor," he was confident that it is possible to "be an excellent dean and not be observant."

The Commentator

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