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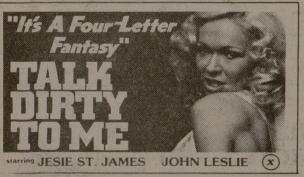
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PLITT

New look in Talmudic study

Computer to get argument

CHICAGO—The ancient art of Talmudic argument is about to undergo a radical change, with the learned rabbi at the head of the table being replaced

by a computer.

Anybody who has tried to straighten out a mistake in his credit and wound up arguing with a computer knows how frustrating it can be. But Rabbi Irving Rosenbaum and his Institute for Computers in Jewish front him, tell his con-Life plan to bring that frustra-

tion right into the rabbi's study.
"It's revolutionary, it really
is," said Rosenbaum, who used to head the Jewish University of America in suburban Skokie. The computer becomes the other rabbi arguing with you.
"If you say, 'This is the way I

understand this particular passage,' the computer says, 'You may understand it that way but according to so-and-so it is some other way.

Take a classic case — If you see a prominent rabbi leaving a house of prostitution, what should you do? Confront him, tell his congregation, or keep si-

take, the computer suggests ly, you can find material no one another solution.

The computer is by no means artificial intelligence but

"Take a classic case — If you see a prominent rabbi leaving a house of prostitution, should you do? Congregation, or keep silent? No matter which side you take, the computer suggests another solution" - Rabbi Rosenbaum,

Irving head of the Institute for Computers in Jewish Life.

vast variety of topics — everything from Sabbath to garlic. "If a query is framed correct-

ram's retrieval method makes it possible to find information on a

ever thought of looking for because it's only mentioned in passing," he said. "The computer doesn't know where it's supposed to look. It looks at every-

'If you wanted to know about agricultural practices in France in the 12th Century, say about wine growing, there is no writ-ten material about wine growing in the 12th century in France.

than any human brain can do." Rosenbaum's plans are just —
barely under way, but already
"The responsa cover evinformation - have been programmed into the computer at Bar-Ilan University in İsrael.

Rosenbaum's institute patches into the computer by teleonly to Jewish scholars but to scholars in general.

"The responsa cover every-thing—ethics, morals, business, finance," he said. "They are normative judgments of what should happen at that particular

'We've just been operational for a couple of weeks. One woman at Wellesley is looking for responsa on women's rights. Someone in St. Louis wants to know about gambling in the death's door. *********

MANOR EAST MALL

MANOR EAST 3

Midnight Movie

LINDA BLAIR

Starring in

EXORCIST

synogogue — they're interested in bingo games.'

Rosenbaum said the prog-contemporary problems," Rosenbaum said. "Jewish tradition has accumulated a vast body of thinking over 5,000 years. There are no new human prob-lems really — whether marriage, family, sex, labor, the workplace - all these issues have come up

over the centuries. "There are discussions of reit focuses things more quickly moval of life support systems. In than any human brain can do," the Middle Ages there was the

sa" — some 600 million bits of erything — ethics, morals, business, finance. They are normative judgments of what phone and is beginning to pro-should happen at that vide English translations, not particular time"— Rosenbaum

> case of a man dying and outside a woodchopper was pounding away rhythmically. His heart beat in rhythm to the chop. It was the only thing keeping him

"The decision was you could take the woodchopper away. The man obviously was at

823-8300

dicted, as many as 25 ties around the coun hookups into the Bar-puter. By next year, expects terminals to five or six institution

the University of M NYU, Yale and Colum The Talmudic argun responsa projects are of aspects of the institutes

Rosenbaum's ployees — all of whom backgrounds in compute education, as well as Jev
— also are developing pr and out of the classrooms Hebrew, Jewish history other aspects of Jewish

In addition, they ared ing standardized tests for Hebrew schools. Rosenbaum

however, there is som ence to the use of com

of theology but on the b was good enough forour he said. "At Bar-Ilan, they t

group of the most pro rabbis who said, 'What need computers for? and race like the steamboat a horse, and the computer

"They gave them a to they said, From you ledge, come up with al tions on this subject.' W rabbis did remarkably they hit 70 or 75 percer computer hit a 98 pe trieval rate.

'Obsolete' jail fire kills seven

Hudson County seven inmates died in al obsolete and a fire hazard the victims needed more su vision because of their me problems, an attorney for American Civil Liberties U

The ACLU already hadas pending against the jail,

ing it lacks sprinklers and sm or heat alarms.

"It is obsolete, overcrowd and a fire hazard," ACLU ney Howard Moskowitz said

In a news conference Th day, Capt. John Mullins of Jersey City Fire Department said the victims of the Wednesday were found h dled in a corner of the lan

eighth floor cell. He said the burned cell mental ward. The vid offenses ranged from smo on a train to unlawful sext conduct.

"The horrible thing about fire is the people (in the cell) serious mental problems," kowitz said. "They're psycho and schizophrenics and get

Edward Rossiter, chief of vestigations of the Huds County prosecutor's office, fused to classify the cell as psychiatric unit but County ecutive Edward Clark said mates in the cell suffered for "erratic behavior."

The fire broke out about a.m. EST in a mattress in cell, Rossiter said.

"It's obvious the mattress were burned," he said, b would not comment on wheth the bedding was intention ignited.

Rossiter said an investigati into the fire would take "aday two" to complete.

Nine guards and six prison were taken to Jersey City Med al Center and the guards at five prisoners were treated smoke inhalation and releas said spokesman John White The other prisoner was treated

for a cut head.
About 100 others were to ated inside the prison by medi personnel from the medic

Officials said a guard whos the fire tried to open the cellocked door but was over wered by smoke. He then rang 'panic button," alerting an op ator on the main floor to emergency.

The remaining 500 inmass in the prison, built in 1926 hold 300, were not evacuate More than 70 inmates house on the damaged floor were te porarily moved to a third-flo gymnasium. Jail officials said inmates were transferred Trenton State Prison.

