

## Yeshiva Professor Deplores the 'New Morality'

By GEORGE DUGAN

An Orthodox rabbinic scholar said this week that the so-called New Morality was a threat to modern society and opened the door to the eventual destruction of the family as the "fundamental collective unit."

The comment was made by Rabbi Norman Lamm in the current issue of Tradition, a quarterly published by the Rabbinical Council of America. The rabbi is a professor at Yeshiva University and spiritual leader of the Jewish Center, 131 West 86th Street.

Rabbi Lamm found the New Morality's emphasis on not injuring anyone and its deep concern for personal sensitivities as "noble," but warned:

"This negative rule of not

hurting anyone else is bound to become the sole normative criterion for all legal codes in the Western world.

"Thus, adultery and homosexuality will be legally permitted where both parties consent—and are of the age of consent—and no third party is injured thereby. And what becomes legally permissible tends to become the moral norm as well for society at large."

### Barnard Case Recalled

The rabbi had some harsh words for the Jewish and Protestant chaplains at Columbia University who last year came to the defense of a Barnard coed who shared an off-campus apartment with a male student.

The two chaplains defined the "crucial question" as "whether

or not the relationship is meaningful or worthwhile."

The chaplains, Rabbi Lamm said, "revealed the bankruptcy of the moral relativism showing underneath their ecclesiastical cloaks."

According to the rabbi, the New Morality has forced representatives of old and established religious traditions "radically to revise their inherited codes and, in effect, to incorporate a good deal of the New Morality into their stated church policies and to search out theological justifications for these changes."

He cited a recent report prepared by a "working party" of the British Council of Churches.

The report, in part, analyzed Christian attitudes toward sex

and urged a shift away from objective rules for sexual conduct to personal decisions based on individual circumstances.

Rabbi Lamm described the report as "fundamentally not a religious document at all" and charged it with surrendering to secular humanism.

"It confuses humanistic existentialism expressed in religious vocabulary with an authentic religious stand," he said.

"One can only hope that the Christian churches, heretofore the guardians of the moral heritage common to the great monotheistic religions of the West, will reconsider what appears to be their imminent capitulation to a triumphant moral nihilism which may yet bring down all of civilization."