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BRIEFCASE

Accounting firms merge

WALLINGFORD — Two area accounting firms have joined forces to provide accounting, tax and business management to companies and individuals.

Helming & Co. P.C. of Wallingford specializes in helping small businesses to start and grow. James A. Krezeminski of Branford specializes in computer services, including training and selecting software and hardware.

The combined firm, with a total of seven employees, will operate from Helming & Co.'s current location on North Plains Road.

The two firms had similar goals of helping small businesses, said Krezeminski. Krezeminski worked for Peat Marwick before the firm expanded, and for Echlin.

Many small businesses have succeeded in good times because their owners had a good feel for the business, Krezeminski said. In bad times, however, much more budgeting and planning is needed to survive and many small companies don't have computer accounting systems in place to help them carry out those tasks. The new firm will help small businesses set up computer systems to help them make decisions, Krezeminski said.

Berkowitz jumping into Co-Op job

New president takes helm in July, on the job already

By Catherine Sullivan
Register Staff

NEW HAVEN — Harry W. Berkowitz carried a tape recorder in his palm as he toured Yale Co-Op one day last week, stepping behind displays to speak his ideas into the machine.

Berkowitz, 58, will take over management July 1 of the department store as president and general manager. To ease the transition as President Richard E. Ballard retires, Berkowitz started working at the Co-Op on May 6.

Dressed in a gray pinstripe suit, with a maroon silk handkerchief in the jacket pocket, Berkowitz looked the typical store manager as he strode briskly through the fashion department. He picked up scraps of paper and price tags from the floor, helped a customer try on a jacket.

"Elena's going to mark the sleeve and we will get it taken care of and delivered to you," he told the customer.

But there is something a little different about Berkowitz, chosen by the Co-Op board of directors from a pool of 100 applicants to replace Ballard.

A 1955 Princeton graduate who was president of his class, Berkowitz spends two days a week volunteering for International Executive Service Corp., a Stamford agency that recruits retired executives and sends them to lend a hand to developing countries. On his resume, he describes his upbringing in San Antonio as "holistic," with a varied background. His father, Sidney, was a principal in the family-owned retail business, Frost Bros.; his mother, Rosalie, was an artist.



Linda Kahlbaugh/Register

Yale Co-Op president and manager Harry W. Berkowitz, left, helps Richard T. Nolan, a Yale alumus who lives in Bristol.

the lower-level bookstore, the Co-Op's most profitable department. "My job is to continue and help build it going into the '90s and the 21st century."

Berkowitz has 32 years of retailing experience, all at pricey chains. In the mid-

senior vice president and general merchandise manager for Sakowitz Inc., a Houston department store chain.

He was teaching at the University of Bridgeport and doing consulting work when the job at the Co-Op became avail-

the business, said he looks forward to applying ideas, formulated over a lifetime of retailing, on making a department store thrive in tough economic times. Berkowitz also faces an increasingly competitive market.

He takes over the Co-Op about a