

New Haven Register

Yale's Levin Has Been Leader Of Town, Gown Affection and knowledge of city and university are hallmarks of his tenure.

Editorial
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If there was a celebration Tuesday in the Woodbridge Hall office of Yale President Richard C. Levin, it was a quiet one, in keeping with Levin's character. But, April 15 is a date worth noting. On that day 15 years ago, Yale's trustees announced that Levin would be the university's president. He did not formally take office until July 1, 1993.

Levin is the longest serving current president in the Ivy League and the second-longest serving of all Yale's presidents.

From the perspective of the present, it is no exaggeration to say that Yale's pick of a 46-year-old economist, who just had been named dean of the graduate school, as its next president was the best thing that could have happened for Yale and New Haven.

Although it now seems unthinkable, the university was in the midst of a deep financial crisis when Levin was named. There was talk of slashing the faculty by 10 percent. Its \$800 million budget had a \$22 million deficit. Today, Yale's operating budget is nearly \$2 billion and its endowment is \$22.5 billion.

Under Levin, Yale conducted a \$1.7 billion fund-raising campaign and has spent more than \$2 billion on buildings and renovations. Another \$1 billion has been committed to the expansion and updating of Yale's science and medical buildings.

Last year, Yale announced its purchase of the sprawling Bayer campus in West Haven and Orange, which has 550,000 square feet of laboratory space. This year, it announced plans to add two residence colleges for Yale undergraduates, expanding enrollment by 12 percent.

Levin has led Yale to become a more prominent global university. Thanks to his frequent visits, he is almost as well known on the streets of Shanghai and Beijing as those of New Haven.

Levin has spent his adult life in New Haven, joining the Yale faculty in 1974 after receiving his doctorate in economics from the university. At the press conference announcing his selection as president, Levin said the futures of the city and Yale were intertwined.

One of his first acts as president was to launch the homebuyers program that has spent more than \$21 million to help 835 employees buy homes in New Haven.

The most visible institutional manifestation of Levin's commitment to the city was the creation of a vice president for New Haven and state affairs. Under Levin, Yale has contributed a total of \$100 million to the city's economic development.

Levin took a direct hand in finally bringing labor peace to a campus where union negotiations had been a chronic

irritant in town-gown relations. In 2003, the university and its clerical and maintenance unions negotiated an unprecedented eight-year contract.

Levin's deep affection and knowledge of his city and university shine through his record as Yale's president.