

the New Testament; George Wesley Buchanan of Wesley Theological Seminary; Kurt Weitzmann of Princeton, and Israeli archeologists Yigael Yadin, Yohanan Aharoni, Moshe Kochavi, and Yigal Shiloh, to name just a few.

Incidentally, the American Biblical scholars who aired their views concerning Ebla's implications for Biblical studies on the basis of early information put out by Pettinato may yet have to pay for the sin of scholarly speculation. In another letter, which Weiss provided to the Syrian ambassador, he calls these American Biblical archeologists "irresponsible" scholars who "distorted" the Ebla tablets "for political purposes"; Weiss adds, "Some attempts are being made to remove the irresponsible and self serving persons involved in this from the positions of 'power' which they now hold, but the money behind these persons has considerable clout."

HERSHEL SHANKS

Biblical Archaeology Review,
1737 H Street, NW,
Washington, D.C. 20006

Congratulations on the review of recent press coverage of the discoveries at Ebla. Broad's factual survey renders a most useful service to archeologists who, like myself, have been besieged by indignant inquiries from newspaper readers misled by stories now refuted in such a balanced fashion.

My only regret is that the article's title seems—at first glance—to link your presentation with those of other periodicals maligning the integrity of Syrian scholars and officials who, in actuality, have energetically been encouraging international scientific research.

CARNEY GAVIN

Semitic Museum, Harvard University,
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

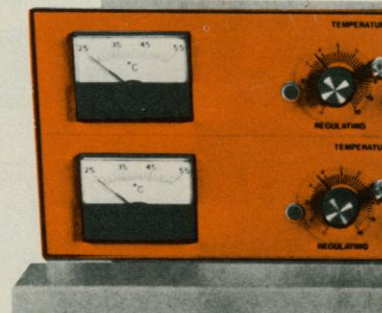
Economy of Expression

Richard Chait's editorial, "College mission statements" (7 Sept., p. 957), was eloquently written and very convincing. It is interesting, however, to observe the effect of changes in the economics of the publishing industry on the length of the message. Chait's essay is essentially a modern statement of an adage coined about 2000 years ago by a Jewish sage, Shammai. The original message (*Avoth* 1:15) was "Say little but do much," only four words in Hebrew.

CHARLES ABZUG

Department of Physiology,
School of Medicine,
University of Maryland, Baltimore 21201

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