

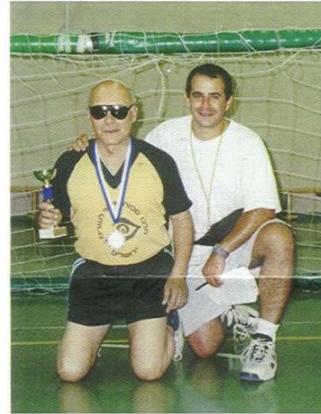
Computer Games Simulate Real-Life Experiences



Computer teacher Shoshana Gabay helps Eli develop computer skills

New computer technology enables blind students today to learn to read maps and drive race cars. The Jewish Institute for the Blind is helping test high tech software that is revolutionary in its tactile displays for the blind. Jerusalem's Virtual Touch company produces a special mouse and software which enable the blind to actually feel the curvature of lines or the shading of computer graphics, and the preliminary testing has been done at the Institute.

According to one student, on the computer he can actually experience pedaling his bicycle up a sidewalk, and if he should stray into the street, he hears cars blow their horns. Through the mouse, he feels pins popping up and alerting him to the danger. According to Nechama Lev-Ari, an educator for the blind, the computer advances are terrific. The students run to the computer to see what is new in this ever-changing world, she explains. "We are proud to be able to use these advanced programs to help our pupils develop in the state-of-the-art field of computers." In addition to the thrill of the race, they can understand graphs and read maps, utilizing computers as an educational tool.



In a goal ball tournament held at the Institute, competition was stiff and the participants ready for good matches. Winners were Beit Ha'Lochem (Israel Defense Forces veterans), and the JIB team came in second place. Third place was taken by a Jerusalem team and fourth place by Tel Aviv. In photo - Michael Peretz (left) receives medal for his many years of service to sport and his life's work for the blind. Peretz is also a member of the Institute's Board of Directors. He is accompanied with goal ball coach Arieh Puerporta.

One of the Institute's Most Outstanding Employees

As the student chooses the correct key, and as it turns in the lock opening the door, a slow smile crosses his face. Another challenge met. For the pupils of Yalta Rotenberg, each lock that opens is part of her job satisfaction. Slowly, each of her pupils is attaining another daily life skill.

Yalta has worked as an occupational therapist for 28 years in hospitals and school settings, but she finds a particular challenge at the Institute where she is completing her 13th year. With painstaking care she helps to prepare and place students in work projects out of the Institute. "These students give their all in the workplace," she explains.



Yalta Rotenberg

"Oftentimes, they have been very sheltered and these jobs are a real educational experience.

This year Yalta has had another

achievement to add to her many — she has arranged a voluntary army experience for her older students. "With the full cooperation of the Israel Defense Forces, the volunteers put in a full day at the base and they are considered exemplary workers," she explains. They wear I.D.F. issue uniforms, report to their commanding officer and they are known and appreciated at the base.

For every achievement of a pupil, Yalta invests a great deal of planning and effort. For every lock that is mastered and every bed that is properly made, another pupil has moved one step farther towards a life of independence.