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B'nai B'rith Hillel Call

Vol. XI

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No. 2

"JEW IN DEMOCRACY" ENDS RABBI WEINSTEIN EDUCATIONAL SERIES

... Jews were originally invited to Poland to stimulate commerce and industry.

... The priests tried to get rid of these living denials of their religion — the unbelievers who prospered and who brought prosperity.

... Pogroms were instigated by economic competition, coupled with the church.

... Today, there exists a form of "polite" anti-semitism.

... Jews are refused credit — which has been made a monopoly of the state.

... The untutored peasantry has been encouraged to take over the stalls of the Jews in the market place.

... Meanness and aggressiveness are being forced on the people due to the terrible struggle for existence.

... In spite of the outward oppression, an inner religious spirit is being built up.

These were some of the highlights in the talk given by Rabbi Jacob Weinstein on Tuesday evening, February 1. Rabbi Weinstein has a gift of telling his story in terms of personal interest. He takes his audience with him on his trip — pointing out bits of local color in the form of personalities—streets—and other means of orientating a total stranger. His statistical analysis of the status of the Jew in Poland reveals the factual approach he made in determining the plight of the Jewish people under the present regime. He could have talked all night, and the hours would have seemed like minutes to his hearers. Rabbi Weinstein will continue his series of lectures this coming Tuesday, with "Jews in the European Democracies."

New Speakers Group

Hillel's new speakers group is off to a splendid start. On Friday afternoons from 4 to 5:30, a group of about ten people are engaged in speaking and instruction. They will prepare in all of the forms of speech, debating, symposiums and panel discussion.

A program is being arranged before local groups for those speakers before youth and adult groups in the problems of youth, and on selected Jewish subjects.

This is an excellent opportunity for all who have the inclination and ability to express themselves in public. All interested see Sanford Goldner in the Hillel office.

Jews Do Share To Help Spain

To have the courage of one's convictions deserves some praise. While Fascist forces try to destroy humanity, many of us have "convictions" that Fascism is bad, horrible, etc., etc. But only a few have the spiritual courage to physically engage in doing something about it. The fact is that many Jewish boys are fighting for the Loyalists in Spain. Jews from practically every corner of the earth volunteered to help the Spanish people in their struggle for their lives. Jewish men and women gave up their "home corners" which, although, not too comfortable, are better than shell-made caves or trenches. They feel that Fascism is the end of a normal, sensible both Gentile and Jewish life; they went to the trenches to fight; they have become conscious of the issues that are being revolved in Spain, conscious of the battle of forces in the contemporary. The story of these Jews is both a significant chapter in the history of the war in Spain, and a profound illumination of the present-day condition and the action of the Jews.

To those of us who keep claiming the very old thing that we should keep ourselves out of the world stage, and just confine to discussions and theorizing problems without "staying in the sun", we have the answer of our boys in Spain. We heard people saying that our activities in world affairs will arouse much antagonism against us, and will feed anti-semitism with good raw material; as if our "being nice, shy boys, standing peacefully on the corner" will not cause anti-semitism. . . .

Jews came to Spain's trenches from the United States, Poland, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, South America, and many other countries.

"Jewish women have also done their share. Most of these Jewish women came from France, Germany, Poland and Palestine. Their men were usually at the front in the infantry or serving as doctors. The women worked in the hospitals. In the beginning they worked from sixteen to seventeen hours a day.

"To the Jewish boys from Germany the fight was a most intimate and immediate one. Many of them felt a surge of joy at openly fighting the German Nazis who were stifling them back home. To them the rifle in their hand pointed at the German and Italian troops was the weapon with which they were fighting for their own freedom in their own country."

(Quotation taken from Jewish Life)

UNION ORCHESTRAS ARE DISCUSSED AT HILLEL'S FIRST COUNCIL MEETING

Holding its first regular meeting, the Hillel student council convened on January 31. In the absence of President Cohn, Martin Rothenberg, the Vice-President, presided. At this first meeting lengthy committee reports were given by the chairmen and sub-chairmen on the progress that they had made in organizing their committees and putting them to work.

Dr. Merritt presented a report of Dr. Sachar's visit and the problems and policies discussed with him at the special meeting. The report was added to by other members of the council as debate on the questions involved was started. Final results of the report, including additions and corrections, were incorporated in the minutes.

Under old business, a suggestion was brought up by Russ Jaloff that Hillel not be restricted to Union orchestras, which the Council had committed itself to last semester. He argued that the quality of the orchestra at the reception was such as to discourage union orchestras in the future. Debate followed which was entered into by most of the council, and resulted in a specific proposal by Dr. Merritt, that if a capable union orchestra could not be found, then the choice should be discretionary. It was decided to leave the matter until next meeting, when it is to be discussed further and voted on.

The meeting was concluded after Martin Psaty was introduced as a candidate for the ASUC secretaryship and made a speech in his own behalf, asking the support of Hillel in the race.

BERT EDISES MEETS FIRESIDE GROUP

Bert Edises will address the Hillel Fireside Group Friday evening, Feb. 11th, on "The Wagner Act and Labor Law." Mr. Edises is the legal representative of the National Labor Relations Board of Northern California. While attending the University of California, he was an active member of Hillel Foundation, was a member of the Hillel Council, an editor of the Call. He graduated with honors from Boalt Hall of Law.

This will initiate the series of lectures which are to be held on Friday evenings. The subject should appeal to those planning law as a profession as well as to those who are generally interested in social problems.

JOTS AND DASHES

By B. J. H.

Portrait of a Professor

A middle-aged man — cultured bearing — gray hair — warm, mellow voice — somewhat tired in its sound — but even in its tenor as it wends its way through a lecture — picking out the more important stones of interest — to be pointed out to wandering class at his footsteps. He leans on his pulpit — among his earmarked books — to be opened at the necessary moment for a choice morsel to be fed to a listening audience. His eyes twinkle behind his pince-nez glasses — the only expression of a forthcoming bon mot — which will serve the stragglers of the group with him — instead of wandering down sidepaths of their own thoughts. An old and seasoned guide — who has gone through this way many times before — each time pointing out the same stones and feeding identical morsels — which somehow recreate themselves — and are indestructible in quality. The group in front of him is always similar in appearance — the same eager young faces of the girls — in spite of the changing hair styles from year to year — and the same faced boys — in their indiscriminate clothes — the whole class busily taking notes against the fateful day of recall.

News Item

"... a diminution in the total number of students in the universities of this country is desirable."

President Conant of Harvard. Just why is this desirable — and how come? Is America going to follow in the footsteps of the Fascist nations who consider Education dangerous to their continued existence? Since when is Education to be treated like any other commodity which has glutted the market — production to be discontinued until demand has caught up with supply. In this case, the demand (of a different kind) for education is far greater than the supply — and yet — why must the total number of students in universities be cut down? Can it be because of the limited opportunity in the economic world for an educated individual? Then what is wrong with such an economic world if it can't take advantage of more educated people in its ranks? MUST THERE ALWAYS BE IGNORANCE, SLAVERY, WARS AND OPPRESSION FOR THE SYSTEM TO SURVIVE AND KEEP AFLOAT?

Somehow — I can't stop asking questions. A statement of this kind — especially from one of the leading educators in this country — is enough to strike terror in the heart of anyone. It proves that we, here in America, are not immune from the same sort of events that have happened in Europe in the last decade. There also — some leading educator must have felt the need for educational retrenchment because of economic events. Then some universities had to close down due to the lack of funds — or loss of supporting investments. Finally — a Hitler or a Mussolini stepped in and decreed WHO should attend the universities — and worse yet — WHAT they should be taught. This is why the statement by President Conant of Harvard should be regarded as a storm warning.

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A MUSIC CRITIC ON MUSIC

By J. B.

When a musician writes on music, his words are generally discounted. When a composer writes on music, his words bear even less weight. As for a critic, that unfortunate specimen of humanity is more to be pitied than either of the others, for he, who is neither musician nor composer, sets himself to criticize both. When, however, a book on music is written by a man who combines all three functions in one, the result is certain to be highly diverting, as well as instructive. "Of Men and Music" by Deems Taylor, who is at present, musical consultant to the Columbia Broadcasting System, is such a book. Most of the essays in this book are collected and condensed from his talks during the intermissions of the broadcasts of the programs of the New York Philharmonic Symphony Society. Hence, they will be familiar to a large number of readers. Familiarity, in this case at least, does not breed contempt. For whatever else one may say about Mr. Taylor, he has very definite and strongly held opinions concerning music, its history, function, performance and enjoyment.

Running like a thread through the book is his defense of modern music, what he prefers to call the "new music." He gives many valuable suggestions to the average listener on how to listen to new and unfamiliar works, he explodes the various popular myths concerning the difficulty of the classics, the lives of the composers, and similar problems. In effect he is a sort of musical muckraker. I do not mean to imply that he digs up sensations for the sake of sensation. On the contrary, I think that he, of all people, is against sensationalism in music. But I do think that his work has the effect of teaching people the elementary and extremely necessary discriminations that professional musicians are always making but never explain. His discussion of the relation of the composer's actual life to his music is an example of this kind of education. His strong emphasis on the distinction between music and the other arts is particularly useful. Thus he says: "But printed words are also the symbols of ideas. You may read a play without ever once imagining its speeches... That is not true of printed music." (p. 92) And Mr. Taylor goes on to demonstrate that music deals only with emotions, and with them only abstractly, not concretely.

But instruction is not the only element in Mr. Taylor's book. He possesses a keen sense of humor, and many of his essays and criticisms are worth reading for this reason alone. Too many critics take themselves and their position far too seriously. But I do not think that any reader of this book could accuse its author of that crime. The very art and dexterity with which he inserts his inimitable anecdotes sug-

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The Month in Brief

- Feb. 15, Tuesday, 4 to 6 p. m. — Open House.
Feb. 15, Tuesday, 8 p. m. — Educational Program. Third in a series of lectures on "Contemporary Jewish Life in Europe."
Special Theme — "Jews in the European Democracies." Rabbi Jacob Weinstein.
Feb. 17, Thursday, 7:30 p. m. — History Class. "Crises in Jewish History."
Special theme — "Parties in Ancient Israel — Sadducees, Pharisees, Essenes, Zealots."
Feb. 18, Friday, 8:30 p. m. — Fireside Group. Evening of Music.
Feb. 20, Sunday, 8:30 p. m. — Sunday evening social. "Radio Broadcast."
Feb. 24, Thursday, 7:30 p. m. — "Crises in Jewish History."
Special theme — "Rise of Christianity."
Feb. 25, Friday, 8:30 p. m. — Fireside Discussion.
Feb. 27, Sunday, 8 p. m. — Palestine Labor League. Speaker — Dr. Leo Schapiro.
Theme — "An Interpretation of Current Events in Palestine."
Feb. 28, Monday, 4:15 p. m. — Student Council Meeting.
Mar. 1, Tuesday, 4 to 6 p. m. — Open House.
Mar. 1, Tuesday, 8 p. m. — Hillel Open Forum. Speaker — Dr. Max Radin.
Theme — "Leon Blum — Statesman and Intellectual."
Mar. 2, Wednesday, 8 p. m. — Educational Program. First of a series of three lectures by Prof. Robert Kerner of the Dept. of History on "The Eastern and Central European Chessboard."

gests to one a person who is completely absorbed in his life work and yet can step outside of it and look at it from the observer's angle. His restraint in discussing and presenting these incidents is admirable. Another and lesser man would have rambled on... and on. Mr. Taylor possesses that rare art which so few musicians ever completely capture. He knows when to stop.

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Here is a social paradox; supposedly, anti-Semitism holds the Jew as its particular object of hate. Yet it is common knowledge that a number of wealthy Jews here and abroad are lending financial aid to Fascist governments, who in turn, reward them with immunity. Many of these American Jews have been exposed by John L. Spivok in a series of articles in the *New Masses* in 1936, and by Robert Gessner in his recent book, "Some of My Best Friends Are Jews." There is Mr. Lessing Rosenwald, head of Sears, Roebuck and Company, who is a member of the extremely affluent "Committee for the Nation" which has been backing Father Coughlin . . . There is Seymour Weiss, who was the brains behind Huey Long, our would-be American Hitler . . . There are Rudolph Hecht and Abe Shushan, New Orleans millionaires who backed Long and his Fascism to protect their banking interests . . . There is the publisher, Paul Block, who openly introduced anti-semitism into the 1936 Presidential campaign at Hearst's instigation. . .

This situation is shocking, but is not in the least surprising. Jews have never shared any common attitude toward the problem of anti-semitism, and this divergence of opinion is no mere difference in individual sentiment. Because we Jews are the object of persecutions, naturally makes us look for its causes, and because we are so much smaller in number, makes us feel that we are at fault. Thus, "Jewish behavior" has been greatly criticized: Jews should assimilate; Jews should maintain a social and cultural segregation; Jews should choose fields other than business and the professions, for, since greater proportions of Jews than of other nationalities are in these economic categories, this may be the cause. . .

We have been applying this sort of self-analysis for a few odd years now, and then came 1933 in Germany, where our Jewish behavior has been greatly westernized. And 1938 in Roumania, where, for purposes of experiment, westernization of the Jews has been coming along at a much slower pace. Some of us have even changed our pro-

fessions without much success: Jewish telephone operators are not hired by the New York Telephone Company, and bell-boys in Miami, Florida, find themselves locked out if their names happen to be Weinberg, Cohn, or Gold-man.

But the roots and causes of this persecution lie not in Jewry, and neither does its solution. Anti-semitism is not exclusively a Jewish problem. It is a social problem. It is a manifestation of a decaying civilization — any decaying civilization, be it feudal or capitalist. It is no accident that present day outbursts of anti-semitism occur simultaneously with fascism. Fascism is the decaying stage of capitalist civilization, the stage where capitalism can no longer keep its power by old democratic means. To divert the attention of the masses from their misery, and their realization of the bankruptcy of the social order, all sorts of tricks are resorted to. Trade unions are abolished, freedom of speech, press and assembly are denied to every one, and a general reign of terror exists. Good politics, however, suggests that this not be the only means of maintaining the status quo, and the science of mob psychology is called upon to give the fruits of its researches. Insane nationalism is fostered. A scapegoat is looked for which could be held responsible for the crises and thus provide an opiate for the masses. The Jewish people, by the very nature of their position, provide a splendid target for the brutal onslaught.

But — and here is the "paradox" — fascism discriminates between "good" Jew and "bad" Jew. Ironical as it may seem, the alleged "international Jewish money lenders" are given as the cause for the persecution of the Jewish people, and yet this same handful of capitalists are given complete immunity. So, then, is there such a thing as anti-semitism per se? Well, is there?

The conclusion from the above should be obvious. Unified action of progressive and liberal groups can block the coming of fascism in this country. Is it not to our interest, as well as our duty, to participate actively, as a group, in these movements? The folly of our aloofness in the past, as an organization, from campus activities for peace and democracy should be apparent now. Let us not make the same mistake. . .

CONTRIBUTIONS

The plea that fraternities and sororities support the Hillel Foundation has been echoed time and time again, but with seemingly no results.

Perhaps these fraternities and sororities are too high and mighty, too important, too proud to mingle with the masses. Perhaps they are too blind to allow themselves to partake of the more important things Hillel has to offer.

Peculiar people, these, who are so confined to their own limited interests that they fail to remove the shadow of obscurity from before their eyes, so that they may be able to observe things important and likewise interesting to themselves. Hillel has more to offer for one's intellectual enjoyment than any other organization of its kind on the campus.

What other than social activity do the Greek-letter societies offer? What of a cultural nature? Are the small things, the amenities of life, more important to them than an understanding of those forces that underlie their very existence?

The extra-curricular activity offered to the Jewish students on campus by Hillel is well worth scanning.

One should take advantage of as many educational programs as he possibly can. Even the high and mighty sororities and fraternities could do with a little more of this type of education.

Back in your glory and fame, sororities and fraternities, for Hillel is forced to plead again for your support when it is really you that should plead for that which Hillel has to offer.

— HAROLD SILBERSTEIN.

PING PONG STILL TOPS

"First call for aspirants to try out for the Hillel basketball team." This was the announcement issued by Nat Frankel, who is a very busy man these days trying to arrange a schedule with Ray Balsey, manager of intra-mural sports. "I would like to meet a lot of Jewish fellows on the campus, who are good players, and who would really like to play basketball."

After finishing up the semester with four wins and one loss, the Tennis team took one on the chin when Sid Simon had to quit due to scholastic pressure. He had much to do with the fine showing that the team made in the intra-mural Tennis Tournament, and his loss will weaken the team more than considerably. This coming semester will find Walter (Ping) Left, Nate Frankel, Goodwin Key, Ben Rotblatt, and Eddie Epstein swinging away for dear old Hillel — but, according to a statement by Dr. Merritt, "Anyone who would like to play on the team can arrange for a challenge match by coming to my office."

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Editorial Page

B'nai Brith Hillel Call

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UNIONS AND ORCHESTRAS

Once more the question of Union versus Non-Union orchestras has risen its head at Hillel Student Council meeting, but this time it comes from the opposition to the Union idea, who seem to have based their case on reasoning, which does not apply to this or any similar case.

It is argued that the poor showing of the orchestra at the opening reception is due to the fact that it was a Union orchestra. The fact that the merits of an orchestra should be decided on its playing ability seems to have been overlooked in favor of placing the blame on union affiliation. Either out of plain ignorance such an argument was brought up, or, because of some ulterior motive. Nevertheless, these people believe that we would probably get a better orchestra if it were non-union, and they bring up every argument possible to show us how hard it is to ever find out how good the occasional union orchestra is.

We do not quibble over such a point, but merely state that there are a number of well-known union bands of good repute that are available, and that the difficulty in selecting this particular one was in the choice and not because it was union. This whole case resolves itself down to putting the blame upon an individual, and not upon unionization.

To the statement that a non-union orchestra would be cheaper, the best reply that we can give is a question *a la* Bers: Do you want to sabotage the movement? Hillel has come out definitely favoring the union movement by its vote for union orchestras, and there should be no need of explanation as to the good of the movement, unless those at Hillel have suddenly dropped their liberalism and all become members of the exploiting class. We have committed ourselves by our vote last semester, and have definitely taken a forward step. Any change of that adopted principle will be a step backward, an actual undermining of some of the good work that has been done at Hillel.

The proposal that was made, allowing discretion in the picking of an orchestra, represents a backward step, which should never be allowed. So we urge all council members to attend the next meeting and see that the progressivism of Hillel is maintained against any misguided individuals who have confused their arguments.

TO DO OR TO TALK

Dr. Sachar, on his visit to the Pacific Coast, and to our Hillel, expressed the view that the National Council has, itself, never taken up the problem of the relation of Hillel to other organizations, and particularly to the socio-economic problems of the day. In his personal opinion, based on the way he runs his foundation, he sets up the maxim that the duty of the foundation consists in aiding students culturally, socially and educationally, and that the way to do this is to carry out a program in Hillel to serve this purpose. Discussion of all controversial topics and their analysis, seems to be the extent of action at his foundation. What this means, of course, is that Hillel is a nice, respectable place to go and have a good time; and that you can understand the problems of the world, but those problems are still going on to rot the world, if they have to wait for you to do something about them. It is this type of reasoning that makes us sometimes wonder about the value of an education.

There are certain basic problems that beset the world today, problems in which the Jews, as Jews, and as socially conscious people, are deeply concerned. What are we going to do about them? Study them, and say they're a bad thing? Or do something about them? To put it very crudely, it seems that if events are carried to their logical conclusion, the Jew is going to get it in the neck anyway; so why not do something about it?

It has been pointed out to us by scholars that there exists a type of social reform which will place the Jew on equality with every one else, as well as giving equality of many categories to all people. Such things as this do not happen merely by themselves, or by some form of spontaneous combustion or divine act; it requires planning, work, action, not sitting back and leaving it to someone else. Such a policy is liable to result in an entirely unsuspected and undesired end.

It remains for those who have discovered the problems and their solutions not to continue to analyze and discuss, but to do something, if they want to see it done. The argument that there are other organizations to carry out such proposals does not alter the fact that our united support behind any movement would greatly strengthen it; and when we deny that support, we are harming it just as surely as if we had taken definite action against it.

INITIATIONS

The beginning of each semester finds the organized houses busy in preparation for their events. It is initiation time at nearly all the houses.

Alpha Epsilon Phi had its formal initiation Sunday, January 30, at the Women's City Club, with Miss Florence Lippow presiding. The initiates were Frances Breistein and Barbara Monsky, both of whom are well known on the campus.

Phi Beta Delta also held its initiation on January 30, at the chapter house. The formal ceremony was held in the afternoon, followed by a banquet in the evening, with a program of entertainment. The new members are Ray Altman, Wilbert Fountain, Wilfred Garfinkle, Gerald Goldberg, Joel Meyer, Bertram Portugeis, Sheldon Warshauer, Gene Cowan, and Bernard "Rusty" Wolf.

The Kappa Nu fraternity held their initiation Sunday, February 6, at the Lake Merritt Hotel, where both old and new members enjoyed an evening of dinner dancing.

TEA AND COFFEE SERVICE

The California Alliance of Jewish Women has resumed its admirable service of serving tea and coffee gratis to students who bring their lunches to Hillel at the noon hour.

Such then, is the case as presented by Dr. Sachar, and by ourselves. As long as the Hillel student council remains a democratic body, its policies and actions are subject to the majority, and we feel that what has been said by us, should be considered by the council for a program.

COHN RETURNS

Reynold Cohn, president of Hillel, has just returned from a month's debating tour of the country for the University. A member of Kappa Nu fraternity, and Forensics Commissioner of the ASUC, Cohn and his colleague debated at most of the important educational centers of the United States, and he has brought home with him many stories of the methods of debating that are in use at other schools. Entering school late, Cohn was welcomed at a Varsity Debate luncheon, at which time he and Ray Rocca, his traveling mate, recounted their stories of the trip.

Missing the first regular meeting of the council, Cohn will be able to preside at the next meeting.

League For Labor Palestine

The League is resuming its activities with an active group of members, and an intensive program. In the immediate future, the League is going up with the Hillel Forum to sponsor Irma Lindheim. She will speak before the combined groups on Thursday, Feb. 10th. On Sunday, Feb. 13th, there will be a general business and cultural meeting at Hillel. The program for the evening will be a discussion of "Politics in the Mediterranean." Later on in the year, Mr. L. D. Raffin, of San Francisco, will exhibit motion pictures of modern Palestine.

The Social program will consist of dances and picnics, and the high point of the season will be a Palestinian seder. Meetings are every other Sunday evening. All interested in Palestine and the problems it possesses for the Jew in the modern world, will find the group highly worth while.