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B'nai B'rith Hillel Call

Vol. XI

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No. 4

REPRESENTATIVE SENT TO YOUTH CONGRESS BY HILLEL FOUNDATION

Jobs and education! This is the slogan of the National Youth Congress to which Hillel is sending Ruth Weinburg as a delegate.

Representatives of youth groups from all over the country will convene at Washington, D. C., on March 10, 11, and 12. They will urge the senators to pass various bills which attempt to do the following things:

1. Oppose neglect of youth's need for work and education.
2. Stop curtailment of educational expenditures.
3. Equalize educational facilities for Negroes and the poorer states.
4. Oppose militarization of youth in schools.
5. Put C. C. C. camps under civilian control.
6. Oppose all Industrial Mobilization plans.

Hearings on the American Youth Act will be held before the United States Senate Committee on Education and Labor.

Hillel Night At Sinai To Be April 1

Various phases of the Hillel foundation program will be the topic dealt with at the annual Hillel Night at Temple Sinai, Friday, April 1, according to Dr. Merritt, Hillel advisor.

The symposium will be composed of Isabel Goldeen, Martin Rothenberg, Norman Lowenstein, and Mel Reder. These students will discuss the numerous activities and events of Hillel at the Annual Hillel Night.

The choral service will be taken over by the Hillel chorus under the direction of Charles Neuman. Rabbi Stern will conduct the regular Friday night services at the temple, and will present the symposium speakers to the congregation.

All of the students who wish to attend are invited to do so according to Dr. Merritt. This year the night is being held on April 1, while in former years, it has been held in March.

Members of the Hillel chorus are as follows: Rose Mitchell, Sylvia Munter, Ritta Lerner, Theresa Goldner, Isador Finkelstein, David Rosen, Zeev Halperin, Sigmund Chambre, and Jerome Frisch. Miss Alice Belkin will accompany the choral group.

"European Chessboard" Is Kerner's Subject

Prof. Kerner opened his series on "The European Chessboard" with a survey of the factors that are threatening the world with catastrophe. "All the rights and privileges that the Jews were so long in achieving," he said, "are today threatened with extinction in Central Europe." "The status of the Dark Ages and worse," he said, "looms before them."

The lecturer traced the ideologies of the European dictators directly to the three philosophers — Hegel, Schopenhauer and Nietzsche. Hegel's "Absolute State" and Nietzsche's "Will to Power" are the bases of the system of the dictators. The lecturer drew a striking parallel between the period that followed the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars, and the period in which we live. The French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars were earthquake shocks from which it took the world almost half a century to recover. Similarly the World War and the Russian Revolution were earthquake shocks that account for the jittery, unbalanced world in which we live.

"The great democracies," asserted Prof. Kerner, "are victims of a fear complex. When they can retreat no further before the menacing dictatorships and when they realize that 'deals' with dictators are worthless, the denouement must come." Prof. Kerner lectures on "The European Chessboard — Russia", Wednesday, March 16th.

Penrose-Lerner Debate Is Well Attended

Collective Security vs. Isolation, was debated before an estimated crowd of 100 at the Fireside Discussion of February 25, by Drs. Penrose and Lerner.

Dr. Penrose, who spoke for collective security, pointed out the dangers of fascism and its imminence in the U. S. He showed that the success of expansion of fascism in China and Spain will mean the doom of all civic liberties in democratic countries, in that it will give an impetus to the fascist forces already brewing in the democratic countries. To stop this fascist aggression, he advocated economic embargo against the aggressor nations by collective action on the part of existing democracies.

In presenting the case for isolation, Dr. Lerner held out little hope for the success of a collective move to "quarantine the aggressor." He warns that this will probably result in a sell-out of the working classes, claiming that economic embargo will necessarily result in a world war. However, the only alternative he offered to stop fascist aggression was the refusal of the workers to ship goods to fascist countries.

COMMITTEES FOR PLAY AND THESPIANS CHOSEN FROM HILLEL STUDENTS

The play's the thing! That seems to be the motto around Hillel these days, since nearly everyone is actively participating in an effort to make this year's production, "The Three - Cornered Moon," the best ever.

The cast, which is now completed, is as follows:

Mrs. Rimplegar, Selma Fox; Douglas Rimplegar, Ralph Schwartz; Kenneth Rimplegar, Jerome Frisch; Jennie the maid, Joyce Smith; Ed Rimplegar, Russ Jaloff; Elizabeth Rimplegar, Rhoda Berman; the poet, William Grossman; Dr. Stephens, Hyman Zipkin; Kattie, Queenie Feldman. The director, Louis Gonick, will be assisted by Eve Roth. Irwin Loeffler is production manager.

The Three Cornered Moon will be presented at the Oakland Women's City Club Theatre, on Wednesday, April 6th.

Other committees are as follows:

PROMOTIONAL: Anita Wendell, Harold Silberstein, co-chairmen; Stanley Sands, Joel Meyer, Ed Krieger, Queenie Feldman, Phyllis Lesser, Joy Rosenberg, Violet Rosenberg, Maxine Jacobson, Francis Friedman, Cecil Steinberg, Sidney Simon, Emy Lou Lachman, Ethel Baron, Leonard Ratner, Joyce Smith, Rose Rubenstein, Eleanor Bickoff, Rochelle Cohen, Sharon Leibert, Irving Silverman, Gerhard Friedlander, David Rosen, Betty Stein, Estelle Dorfman, S. Osofsky II.

PUBLICITY: Sylvia Danzig, chairman; Ruth Weinberg, Berna Levy, Ben Hollombe.

POSTERS: Ethyl Finklestein, chairman; Arnold Zimmerman, Joe Krinsky.

PROGRAM: Erwin Loeffler, chairman; Rose Mitchell.

STAGE SET: Irving Sherman, chairman; Aaron Krieger, Manuel Jaffe, Jerome Kushins, Nathan Radin, David Rosen, George Feigan, Gene Kompanie.

ELECTRICIAN: Chester Hyman, chairman; I. Irving Silverman.

COSTUMES AND MAKE-UP: Adele Stimmel, Isabel Goldeen, co-chairmen.

PROPERTIES: Alice Belkin, chairman; Mildred Perlstadt.

B'nai B'rith President To Speak At Hillel

For the first time since Hillel has been established, J. J. Lieberman, Grand President of B'nai B'rith District No. 4, will be the guest speaker at the special Purim service to be held at Hillel Friday evening, March 18th, at 8:30 p. m. "Youth's Contribution to the Jewish Cause" will be the subject of President Lieberman's talk.

PO-IMS

SPRING — the time of flowers and sunshine, love and poetry is here, and Hillelites are taking advantage of the opportunity to express themselves in poetry (?) Sylvia Danzig started it all by writing:

Spring has sprung
And it has brung
A lot of love
From up above.
Huh, Rose?

Accused of being a dope, Rose Davidson replied:

With you by my side
I know I shan't died
Of being a dope
I hope, I hope, I hope.

Ernie Schwartz, annoyed by two girls in his history class, was inspired to write:

There were two girls, nee Syl and Dot

One was Syll, the other not
One was just like a nut
If it wasn't Syll, was it Dot?

Edith Dickman reads the Hillel Call. If you read the last gossip column, you'll know who she's referring to in the following poems:

Who likes horses was the question
At a mid-night burning session.
I like horses said Aimee
I do too, said Phyllis, see
But the horse he ran away
He wanted to study — not make hey, hey.

Oh, he looks so manly
Yet she sighed so softly
For she knew that love had come to stay

A haircut on Tuesday and a shave too

A shave on Thursday also
This was something new.

George Wagner and Al Haber are good friends! (?) Says George —

When you call Al my friend, it is silly

For he is nothing more than a hill-billy;

When brains were invented
It seems Al was absented.

Unsuspectedly Martha Rubin committed herself to the following:

Some might call it going steady
Others would say "he's always there ready"

At any rate he's very nice
And certainly not as cold as ice.

Lenny Gross (Walter Winchell) says:
Mary had two little lambs.

Censored

Bernice Serensky doesn't like publicity (?) She says —

Your foolish poems are quite absurd

More cheaper publicity I've never heard

The poems I've seen are all the bunk

To put them in you must have spunk.

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The Jews.....Belloc
Race — A Study of Modern Superstition.....Barzun
Madame Curie.....Eve Curie
The Arts.....Van Loom
Counter Attack in Spain.....Sender
Stranger Than Fiction.....Browne
Judaism in the War of Ideas.....Stern
Winter in April.....Nathan
Exploring the World of Work Bennett and Sachs
Great Contemporaries.....Churchill
Meshillat Yesharim.....Luzzatto,
Translated by Kaplan
The Guggenheims.....O'Connor
The Tyranny of Words.....Chase
Barren Metal.....Jacob
A History of the Business Man.....Beard
I Speak for the Chinese.....Crow
Books in Brief.....(Jan. and Feb.)
The Final Choice.....Rauschenbusch
Star Over China.....Snow
Best Plays of 1937.....Mantle

Prof. Hart To Lecture Before Open Forum

Prof. Frank W. Hart, Department of Education, University of California, who recently returned from an oriental tour, spent during his sabbatic leave, will be guest speaker at the Hillel Open Forum, Wednesday, March 30, at eight p. m. Prof. Hart visited Australia, Korea, China, Japan, and Manchukuo. He was in China when that "incident" occurred which precipitated the Sino-Japanese conflict.

Prof. Hart will illustrate his lecture on the role the common peoples of the Orient are playing in the great struggle, with motion pictures made by himself.

Labor Palestine Group To Meet Soon

The next meeting of the League for Labor Palestine will take place at Hillel on Sunday, March 13th. At that time, Mr. I. D. Raffin will show some motion pictures of Palestine, which he recently took. Mr. Raffin has lectured and exhibited in San Francisco and Los Angeles, and has met an enthusiastic response in these places. The pictures catch highlights of the contemporary scene and are reputed to be the best that have recently come out of Palestine.

The general public is invited.

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Leon Blum Discussed By Prof. Radin

Leon Blum, the first Jew to occupy as high a position as premier in the French cabinet, was the subject of Professor Max Radin's lecture recently.

Leon Blum was the man who led the nation through the troublesome times of the Stavisky scandal, the French general strike and the outbreak of the Spanish insurrection. He, above all the men in a turbulent France, enjoyed the confidence of all factions in the "Fronte Populaire". Professor Radin drew a concise picture of Blum's Jewish background, scholarly tastes, and diplomatic abilities.

One of the highlights of the talk was the comparison, Professor Radin drew between the British Queen Victoria's Jewish prime minister, Benjamin Disraeli, and the modern counterpart, Leon Blum. The Frenchman, like Disraeli, had no Jewish affiliations.

"Disraeli, belonged to the Church of England," said Prof. Radin. Disraeli, who later became Lord Beaconsfield, never had any Jewish education, and all his friends were non-Jewish.

Blum's family were of Jewish ancestry and education, yet he has never belonged to any Jewish congregation or participated in Jewish affairs.

Prof. Radin pictured Blum as an unselfish, simple, sincere, a man of lofty principle, and bearing in mind only the best interests of France. Blum is rather a Frenchman than a Jew. Because of his complete devotion to France, Blum adopted a non-intervention policy in Spain.

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"ENDS AND MEANS"

We have learned to expect eclecticism and "intellectual hedonism" from Aldous Huxley and to exempt him from the serious enterprise of thinking things through in a straight line. His novels at times are palatable because in novels the histrionic motive may prevail, and his characters may be ever so foolish as long as they are diverse and colorful. In prose, however, the fundamentals are more naked; Huxley essays to achieve straight-thinking and must be judged thereby.

The "means" whose justifiability is currently in question are those instruments of power and propaganda which are used by the right and the left. Huxley, unfortunately, underscores only their use by the left. Fascism would never have arisen in Spain, he avers, had the Republican government disbanded the armies and disciplined the people in non-violence. The gentlemen on the Right would have been affected by this gentlemanly display, and would not have commenced the counter-revolution. International wars, too, are to be resisted by societies of pacific souls, who are convinced of the horrors of war. Of course, occasionally Huxley recognizes that the deluge, alas, may be upon us before his peaceful conversions can be achieved. But his lament is a wistful and momentary one; he plunges right ahead into his grand scheme for semi-religious societies of friendly souls, who will cultivate themselves in non-violence, self-denial, absorption with the moral universe, and thus outrush Armageddon.

The central philosophic rationale is the belief that change in institutions is secondary to change in human nature. Huxley knows that human nature does change, but does his best to belittle the casual role of institutions on morals and psychology. After the struggle for wealth will come the struggle for power; let us then attend to our souls as well as our institutions. This is well and good, but Time and Fascism are unfortunately against us. Moreover, although economics is not the sole determinant, in this moment of history it is the base or context within which mob psychology, neuroses, and crime are located. Huxley wants a sort of communism, but again, wistfully. Capitalism is declining, but more importantly, communism's real justification is ethical; it de-emphasizes wealth and brings us one step nearer to selflessness.

Selflessness, "non-attachedness" are the "ends". And the Church mystics who broke through the veil of self are the archetypes. Huxley, thus, has far more chance of being memorialized by the Church than by the awakening masses. "Ends and Means" may be found in the Hillel library.



A sad and rather shocking discovery has recently been made. We do not live — have never lived — in a democracy! On the surface it looks as though we elect by secret ballot and universal suffrage a President and a representative body of law-makers responsible to the people. It may possibly be imagined that such procedures as trials for impeachment, recall, and national referendum are actualities in American political life. It even looks as though we had a Bill of Rights in the Constitution. But don't be deceived — it is all an illusion. Once your eyes are opened, you realize that we just couldn't be a democracy and for a very good reason. Karl Marx once said that economic democracy is the foundation of political democracy, that without the former you could not have the latter. At that time Fascism as a completely developed philosophy had not yet arrived on the scene. Time and circumstances change, and with them, the application of theory. A theory which is adhered to inflexibly regardless of these changes becomes sheer dogma.

Recently certain left-wing liberals have begun to apply Marxian theory in this arbitrary fashion: (1) There can be no democracy in a capitalistic country. (2) The United States is a capitalistic country and so are Germany, Italy, and Japan. (3) There can be no democracy in either the United States, Germany, Italy, or Japan. How simple and clear, and logical as a proposition in geometry! What a misfortune that life is not lived according to the logic of mathematics!

To these logicians in human destiny there can be but one answer. Political democracy must be constantly and untiringly defended in order that the gains won by progressive forces may be preserved, in order that the struggle for economic democracy may be carried on at all. What happens in Fascist countries to workers, farmers, students, and professionals who try to carry on that struggle? Where is the counterpart of the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. in Germany, Italy, and Japan? Certain left-wing liberals aren't inclined to bother much about these questions — because after all they are based on facts. And facts must never be allowed to interfere with theory. Capitalism in one country is the same as capitalism anywhere else; capitalism in 1938, the same as in 1917. Capitalism is the real enemy, so it becomes necessary to prove to the American people that they don't live in a democracy.

Both Hitler and Mussolini are rather fond of quoting Marx. The Devil, it would seem, can quote Scripture for his own purposes. The left-wing liberals

who quote Marx in order to minimize the Fascist peril are themselves, whether they are conscious of it or not, actual promoters of Fascism. To refuse to recognize any distinction between a totalitarian and a parliamentarian or democratic form of government is to encourage the forces of reaction in our own country to go as far as they dare — as far as Hitler or Mussolini. Perhaps when these liberals wake up some morning in a concentration camp, they will see the distinction. But then it will be too late.

Calendar in Brief

- Mar. 11, Friday, 8:30 p. m. — Fireside Discussion.
Speaker — Miss Elizabeth Newton.
Theme — "Social Service as a Profession."
- Mar. 13, Sunday, 8 p. m. — Palestine Labor League.
Speaker — Mr. I. D. Raffin.
Theme — Illustrated Movie Lecture in Color on "Palestine Today."
- Mar. 14, Monday, 4:15 p. m. — Student Council Meeting.
- Mar. 15, Tuesday, 4 to 6 p. m. — Open House.
- Mar. 16, Wednesday, 8 p. m. — Educational Program — Third in series by Prof. Robert J. Kerner.
General Theme — "The European Chessboard."
Special Theme — "Russia".
- Mar. 17, Thursday, 7:30 p. m. — History Course — "Crises in Jewish History."
- Special Theme — "Messianism vs. Traditional Judaism." Shlomo Bergmann.
- Mar. 18, Friday, 8:30 p. m. — Purim Service at Hillel.
Speaker — Grand President of B'nai B'rith Dist. No. 4, J. J. Lieberman.
Theme — "Youth's Contribution to the Jewish Cause."
- Mar. 20, Sunday, 8:30 p. m. — Sunday Evening Social.
- Mar. 22, Tuesday, 4 to 6 p. m. — Open House.
- Mar. 24, Thursday, 7:30 p. m. — History Course — "Crises in Jewish History."
Special Theme — "Chasidism vs. Orthodox Judaism." Shlomo Bergmann.
- Mar. 25, Friday, 8:30 p. m. — Fireside Discussion.
- Mar. 27, Sunday, 8 p. m. — Palestine Labor League.
Speaker — Dr. Leo Schapiro.
Theme — "Current Events in Palestine."
- Mar. 28, Monday, 4:15 p. m. — Student Council Meeting.
- Mar. 30, Wednesday, 8 p. m. — Hillel Open Forum.
Speaker — Prof. Frank Hart.
Theme — "China and Japan Today." Illustrated by Prof. Hart's movies.
- Mar. 31, Thursday, 7:30 p. m. — "Crises in Jewish History."
Special theme — "The Jew Faces Liberalism." Shlomo Bergmann.

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Editorial Page

B'nai Brith Hillel Call

Student Publication of the B'nai Brith Hillel Foundation of the University of California, organized and maintained by the B'nai Brith.

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Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the editorial staff

"LIBERALS"

It is a consoling thought that some people still have a desire to act on their judgments rather than to follow the path of least resistance.

The attitude taken by some of the council members at the last meeting makes us feel the futility of thought when it does no more than revert to the status quo in action. Most of us believe that we are fairly liberal or radical, and if we are such, we certainly are not holding to our own definitions when we throw them into disrepute by our actions or lack of such actions. Perhaps we should change our definitions.

For a long time the Hillel Council has been thought of in terms of the left, characterized by its proletarian thought and ideologies; this has probably been true. But when these people take the attitude that any action, even oral pressure, is futile, we feel that they no longer have the right to be associated with these concepts.

It is really quite nice to be a detached intellectual, if your parents can send you through college and pay for your education and the ivory tower which you build; in fact, it is nice to be able to think, but in some totalitarian states not even thought is allowed. It's really quite lovely to be intellectual, to be a rational creature, but perhaps one is not intellectual or rational when he can't overcome or even realize the influence of his habits and associations.

Those who believe that their thought is going to solve any problems or even stimulate others must, essentially, be optimists; for how else can they reconcile their thoughts and their desires. They must feel that any crisis is a long way off; so, why subject themselves to any possible stigma or injury. These ideas seem to have done away with all regard for the long run and the social point of view. If this is the growing conviction and mode of thought, then it looks as if the struggle for social and industrial justice is a long way off and the possibility of Fascism is a great deal closer.

May Capitalism fall easily upon these "Liberals".

SEDER SUPPER

The Annual Seder Supper given by the California Alliance of Jewish Women, will be held this year on Friday evening, April 15th, 1938, at 6:15 p. m., at the Hillel Foundation. All students wishing to receive invitations kindly leave their names and addresses with Rabbi Merritt BEFORE April 1st.

DEMOCRACY STILL EXISTS

"In the days of town-meeting democracy, citizens spoke directly on matters affecting their welfare. Today the way of the town-meeting is as good for youth as it ever was. But the town is America. 'Youth's problems of today's town-meeting demand national solution.' — This is what the American Youth Congress has to say about its program.

In these days when democracy is non-existent in many countries, and being seriously threatened in others, it is encouraging to know that we, here in the United States, still have the power to bring pressure to bear on our elected representatives to Congress, and still more encouraging to know that some of us are doing just that.

The problems to be considered are important to all youth. Such problems as racial discrimination are a part of our economic system, and should not be ignored. We, as Jews, have felt the cruel sting of racial prejudice, as have other minority groups. The problem of compulsory R. O. T. C. has long been a sore thumb in the eyes of thinking students on the campus. Militarism plays too large a role in our schools and universities.

Other manifestations of militarism off the campus are the army control of the C. C. C. camps and the strike-breaking tactics of the National Guard. Progressives are leery of allowing the military clique to get a strangle hold on the government, realizing the close alliance that exists between militarism and fascism. That is why the American Youth Congress is opposing the Sheppard-Hill bill, which would establish virtual martial law in this country.

One of the first results of fascism, as we all know, is the retrenchment in education. As students, the question of education is of course fundamental to us. Besides opposing any such situation indirectly by fighting against fascist tendencies, the Youth Congress is fighting more directly against the curtailment of funds, by persuading senators to extend the N. Y. A. and to pass the American Youth Act.

It is very encouraging, indeed, that the Hillel Council decided to send a representative to the Congress, showing that it realized the importance of actively participating in an effort to persuade our legislative delegates of the importance of these bills.

A BLIND DATE WITH FATE

What is it that freshmen look forward to? Sophomores and Juniors are leery of; and Seniors hate? The answer is a BLIND DATE.

Yet many of us have a blind date in the offing after our graduation from this university, a blind date with Fate!

Why? This is the question the Jewish Vocational Guidance Bureau is trying to help us solve. No longer must we look upon our futures with a feeling of wonderment as to what shall we do after our college days are over. No, now we have the experience of an expert (or experts) to guide us in our vocational desires so that we have a greater chance for success.

This new bureau CAN and WILL help all of us who avail ourselves of its services to choose a career in a field that will suit our ability, needs, and at the same time one that will fit in with our background and temperament. To those of you who are sure of your position in the professional world after college this may not be of interest, BUT to the greater number of us who are wondering what is next in the line of life, this may be the place where we will find our solution.

Although no one can help us in regard to our personal tastes, abilities and finances, we can be helped in finding our best field in which we should perform our life's work.

So, why gamble on a blind date when one can 'go steady' and thus be assured of a good time and success in his or her career?

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.

Contribution

March 2, 1938.

In a previous issue of the Call an uninformed article made light of a newly organized fraternal organization, NODOHNES. Among other erroneous statements was one that qualified NODOHNES as a "fraternity to end all fraternities." The statement was contrary to the fact and in order that unfavorable impressions may be corrected, the following statement is offered:

NODOHNES was organized on this campus November 19, 1937, by a group of mutually acquainted Jewish men. It is a social organization made up of serious-minded students and meets for the time being at 2412 Durant Avenue. NODOHNES is as interested in Jewish affairs as any other Jewish organization on this campus. As such NODOHNES is sponsoring the Hillel Tuesday afternoon social of April 12 and cordially invites everyone and especially skeptics, to attend and meet its officers and members.

I. Irving Silverman,
President, C. T. T. of NODOHNES

Speakers To Debate Congress Society

The first public affair of the Hillel speech group will take place on Tuesday, March 15th, before the Congress Debating Society. Hillel will be represented by Bernard Siner and Leslie Fishman in a non-decision debate on the question, "Resolved: That the U. S. has an inadequate defense force."

Regular meetings of the speech group are still being held at Hillel on Fridays, 4 to 5:30 p. m. At these meetings, speeches are made and criticized. There is still time for those interested in speech improvement to join the group.