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B'nai B'rith Hillel Call

Vol. XI

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No. 5

KERNER VIEWS RUSSIAN SITUATION AS FORCED THROUGH WORLD EVENTS

"Stalin is as sincere as he ever was in trying to build Socialism in Russia. He has not betrayed the revolution — but he has had to face the cold facts of life and modify his plans."

"Even today, Russia has not caught up with the rest of the world technologically or culturally."

"One thing that the Moscow trials did bring out — and that was the fact that there was a plot among the Generals in the Russian Army to start a Palace revolution."

Thus, before the largest attendance on record to hear a lecture in the present educational series, Professor Robert J. Kerner of the History Department of the University, gave an insight into the political problems facing Russia today.

"The historian's task is to analyze and present the facts which are as close to the truth as possible. In that respect — he may be compared to a scientist who looks at the world of events — free of subjective bias — and tells what is transpiring under his gaze." Professor Kerner then proceeded to justify himself as a scientist by giving a dispassioned account of Russia's background — her history of economic backwardness — her lethargic attitude before the Revolution — and then the historical events after the Revolution.

"When Lenin was leader of the Bolshevik Party — his decisions were undisputed. There was always free discussion before a decision was made — but once a course of action was decided upon — all Party members abided by it. With Lenin's death — two different ideologies arose — and the warfare is raging even to this day."

Turning to the advance of Fascism in Europe, he said, "The Fascists have become powerful enough to cause the removal of Anthony Eden in England — and can almost dictate the personnel of the French Cabinet. Russia will not act without the assurance of England — and as everybody knows — 'England won't say yes and she won't say no'."

"Because of this indeterminate policy of Great Britain — she may pay a higher price later on with the blood of her youth. A firm stand at this time would have called Hitler's bluff — and probably have saved the inevitable great loss of blood which she will be forced to sacrifice later on."



THREE- CORNERED MOON

Players To Present "Three-Cornered Moon" Profits To Aid United Jewish Welfare Fund

Ha! Ha! Ha! Hillel is already laughing in anticipation of this year's three-act play, "The Three-Cornered Moon", by Gertrude Tonkonogy. This chatty study of a slightly cockeyed household ends in a veritable roar of laughter. Gags and plain nit-witticisms fly off at all angles. It is a sort of beautiful inanity that makes the stage groggy now and then with the buzz of a madhouse.

Mrs. Rimplegar (Eve Roth) is a dazed, rattle-brained woman whose gestures are uncertain and reactions belated. She is big-hipped and motherly looking, but is not sugary. Maybe she would like to be, but doesn't dare, her children being what they are.

Douglas (Ralph Schwartz) is about twenty-two, well-built, nice-looking. For some reason that is never very clear to anybody, he thinks he has dramatic ability and would like to go on the stage. In his ordinary conversation he is not, happily, theatrical, but every once in a while he pulls what he calls a gag.

Kenneth (Jerry Frisch) is twenty-five, and has more dignity than any of the other Rimplegars. His speech is affected, his accent being either Harvardian or English, whichever is most unpleasant to you.

Elizabeth (Rhoda Berman) is a dark girl about twenty-three, with large serious eyes and no dignity at all.

Donald (Bill Grossman) is a long, lanky person, awkward, too many legs and arms, but charming. He has a

sensitive immature face and a humorous mouth — about twenty-four.

Dr. Stevens (Hy Zipkin) has a strong powerful face, and a steady and kind mouth. He is the only one on the stage who bears a certain maturity of face and bearing — thirty-two.

Kitty (Queenie Feldman) is a Brooklyn beauty. She might have been raised in Greenwich Village. A decided amplexness has not deterred her from wearing a tight dress.

Ed (Russ Jalooff) is eighteen, sleekly dressed, and has gone to several colleges.

Jenny (Joyce Smith) is a red-cheeked, husky Czechoslovakian girl.

There are some plays that entertain us but which leave us with the feeling that they could not really happen — that they are concocted for our pleasure and have no basis in reality. But "Three-Cornered Moon" makes us feel that it not only can happen, but is happening every day in the year.

Who doesn't know the dear woman whose husband left a small fortune and a houseful of irresponsible children on her hands? With what tender care she tries to bring them up the way she should! With what tolerance she overlooks their shortcomings — with what love she presides over her home!

It is expected that a large crowd will turn out to see this uproarious comedy, the proceeds of which are to go to a more serious cause — The United Jewish Welfare Fund.

WHAT'S COOKIN'

They hit me over the head, but you can't keep a good girl down, so here I am again.

It seems that the source of all Henry Weisman (K. N.) troubles is Bernice Serensky. Henry is not going out for football next term because he's going to spend all his time on Bernice. . . . What little blond cutie has Nathan Greenberg got his eye on? We think he's stealing some of roommate Hellinger's stuff. Stick around Nate, you'll learn. . . . Jerry Kushins was out with another girl Friday, March 4, and it wasn't Kay Lofea. Variety is the spice of life, huh Jerry? . . . There is a rumor about that Barbara Rosenbaum has her eye on a certain tall, slim K. N. Why, Luigi, it can't be you! . . . We want to know why George Wagner wants a date with a certain A. E. Phi. Are your ears burning, Lucy Mae? . . . Herbie Heidon claims to be No. 1 man with a certain girl initialed J. P. We all think differently Herbie. . . . At a certain House formal there were two men and two girls and four bottles of champagne at one table. That's a great deal of giggle water for any four people. . . . What we want to know is just how soon someone is going to take up Nathan Radin's challenge to "do you want to make something of it?" . . . It seems as though Shirley Deichman has been getting awfully high-hat lately. What's matter Shirley? . . . Pete Goldstein, Z. B. T., is getting to be quite a fast dealer these days, so we are informed. . . . When Al Tieburg, Phi B. D., drives his car past Channing Way, it automatically turns in at the A. E. Phi house. . . . Ted Zied is once more a free man, and feels happy about the whole thing. . . . What girl, that can always be found at Hillel, is having trouble in keeping her many boy-friends separated, especially since she has been accustomed to demonstrating her affection to one particular one? . . . Jack Barron and Frances Brietsein, A. E. Phi, go to the library to study — the stars? . . . Joyce "Texas" Smith seems to have fulfilled her ambition to get acquainted — especially when it comes to the boys. Just ask their girlfriends. . . . It seems that Sheldon Warshaver's theme song is "I Want A New Romance", and he takes it literally, too. . . . Emil Barrish, as an engineer, has figures on the mind — he's especially curious about streamlined ones. . . . Every year, about this time, it rains and rains. I still insist that Millie Perlstadt is to blame. Just because your husband is away Millie, is no reason why you should drown us. . . . Chuck Stone has derived a new and interesting way to study in the library. Here's the formula: 1 — Look for a pretty girl. 2 — Stare at her until she leaves. 3 — Then look for another pretty girl.

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Rabbi Joachim Prinz To Speak At Forum

On Wednesday, March 30th, the guest speaker for the Hillel Open Forum will be Prof. Frank Hart, of the Education Department of the University. Prof. Hart returned in the early fall from a sabbatic year spent in Australia, China, Manchukuo, Korea, and Japan. Prof. Hart was a witness to the gathering of the forces and the swift passage of events that led up to the Sino-Japanese war. His unique moving pictures, made by himself, illustrate the life that is being shattered by battling armies. Prof. Hart will speak on "China and Japan."

On Tuesday, April 12th, Hillel will close its Forum season with a lecture by a widely heralded visitor to our shores, Rabbi Joachim Prinz. Joachim Prinz has the distinction of being the foremost spokesman of German Jewry under the Hitler regime. He was the first who had the courage to answer the attacks made on the Jews by the Nazis. Because of his courage and plain speaking, Prinz was several times arrested and finally driven from Germany by the Gestapo. Scholar, orator, and interpreter of great events, Rabbi Joachim Prinz will take as his theme, "Fascism and the Future of Europe."

Hillel To Have Seder Supper On April 15

The eve of Passover falls on Friday, April 15th, and will be observed at Hillel Foundation with a student Seder service and Dinner. Continuing the custom of many years, the California Alliance of Jewish Women will be the host of the Seder Dinner.

With every passing year the increasing number of students wishing to be present has created a problem, since the capacity of the house is limited, the Alliance is compelled to limit the number of reservations. Only students living beyond the Bay district will receive invitations.

Rabbi Merritt will conduct the traditional Seder service. The Hillel Chorus will lead in the songs.

In order to accommodate as many students as possible, the California Alliance of Jewish Women ask the students to cooperate in the following ways:

(Continued on Page 4)

BOOKS — Modern and Standard



2271 Telegraph Avenue, THorn. 0580

JOTS AND DASHES

Going to College Is Interfering With My Education

Recently, one of my friends asked me — "What are you reading — or what have you read in the last few months?" — I cleared my throat and in an embarrassed manner tried to explain that I am going to school and have little or no time to keep up with the ever increasing list of contemporary literature. I tried to rationalize an alibi that I'm getting a basic background right now — and that there would be plenty of time later on to read magazines and see plays which are discussed whenever cultured people come together.

Yes — College is interfering with my education — because I sometimes wonder if there is such a thing as an inquiring mind developed under the present system of education. How can one reconcile a system of cramming and worrying about grades with an attitude of investigation and reflection? Going to College is like entering a Monastery — removed from the world of events. A Monastery, where theory is divorced from fact (except on the natural sciences) and where they actually refuse to allow qualified leaders from the outside world to come in and speak on controversial issues. "Academic freedom" is a mere phrase — a hollow time-worn relic that never existed. Professors — who should be stimulating leaders of thought-provoking discussion — have bogged down into repeating the same lecture notes year after year — like human phonographs. Text books are no longer chosen because they are the best available in a particular field — No — They have degenerated into that classification known as a "racket."

The students themselves — no matter with what exhilaration they may have entered this noble "Athens of the West" — all sooner or later find themselves catalogued, classified and stereotyped into the same intolerant habits of thought which stamp many college graduates. And how a subject should be taught. There are no two sides to a question — because that professor is indeed rare who can be found to encourage such investigation without bias.

But way down deep in my heart — I wish that things were different — Less "piling it on" — and more humanizing of a subject — but that would be Utopia.

F. W. STARRATT

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Contribution

From Hillel National Director
Dr. A. L. Sachar

February 19, 1938.

Editor, B'nai B'rith Hillel Call
B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation
2301 Bowditch
Berkeley, California
Dear Sir:

I read with interest the editorial in the last issue of the Hillel Call in which I am quoted as advocating a policy of "talk" with reference to the great social and economic questions of our day. The editor feels that Talk alone is not enough, but that a Foundation ought to act. Otherwise, "Hillel is a nice, respectable place to go and have good times; you can understand the problems of the world, but these problems are still going on to rot the world if they have to wait for you to do something about them."

I am wondering whether the writer of the editorial attended the meeting when I discussed the matter with your Student Council? It is difficult to believe that my point of view would be so completely misconstrued if he were present.

I suggested there that a Hillel Foundation is a clearing house for the Jewish students on a campus. It offers an opportunity to students to develop every worthwhile extra-curricular activity. The discussion of general social and economic problems is not precluded. No intelligent person interprets the Foundation program so narrowly that it would exclude the consideration of the general problems of the world.

But how can a Hillel Student Council pledge the entire Jewish Student body to particular points of view or to specific action in the general economic or political field? One of the great issues in the United States today is the New Deal philosophy of the present government. Will a majority vote of the Hillel Student Council pledge the California Hillel Foundation for or against the New Deal? Will a majority vote pledge sympathy to the C. I. O. as opposed to the American Federation of Labor? Will a majority vote pledge the Foundation to Trotskyism as opposed to Stalinism? Will it pledge the Foundation to opposition to military training?

Or to humanism? Or orthodoxy? Or reform? Or Zionism? Or Partition?

Every individual student surely should not be content with discussion. If he feels very keenly on any issue, he can join up with groups that are organized for the purpose of assisting causes or

(Continued from Page Three, Col 1)

THE DISSENTER

The Fascist axe swings again. This time Austria is the victim. Tomorrow Spain and Czechoslovakia unless . . . unless . . . The papers are saying that "world peace hangs in the balance." But something else hangs in the balance, infinitely more precious than a "world peace" which has no meaning or existence outside the editorial rooms. Mussolini very considerably has expressed his complete approval of the Nazi coup in Austria "so as not to endanger world peace." Mr. Chamberlain promises to be equally considerate. And we may be sure that the Hearsts and DuPonts and Morgans, impelled by a sudden rush of love for humanity, will feel a deep concern for the preservation of "world peace." But public opinion is outraged; Germany must be officially chastized. "Tsk! Tsk! I say, Mr. Hitler, don't you think you're going a bit too far?" To the people: "It's a shame of course, but whatever we do, let's not make a fuss, let's preserve world peace."

But the people aren't so easily placated. In fact, they were quite troublesome in London, insisted on "rioting". It seems they don't believe that any "world peace" exists to be preserved. Maybe some of them have been to Spain. Possibly some of them have gotten the lowdown on Hitler's boast of his "bloodless" annexation of Austria. One hundred and thirty-five thousand German troops on Austrian soil, over five hundred republican government officials in "protective custody," scores of suicides, a continual reign of terror behind locked doors, in thousands of private homes . . . Bloodless? The people are not deluded. Fascism is organized murder. Where Fascism exists, world peace cannot exist. If the present political turmoil in France and England means anything, it means that public pressure is forcing a showdown. The people are demanding that their governments work for them instead of for the bankers, international financiers, and munition-makers. They are making known their will that Fascism be checked by collective action on the part of all democratic nations — by an economic embargo which would effectively cripple the whole Fascist setup.

The task is not easy and it requires the forces of all who are opposed to Fascist aggression. The people, once united, and their militancy made articulate, are in a position to make their will felt. On our shoulders rests the job of fighting for the international co-operation that alone can avert the doom that threatens Spain, Czechoslovakia, and our own country as well. In the long run we are responsible — as individuals and organizations — not for maintaining "world peace", but for creating an international condition which makes it possible.

New Additions Made To Hillel Library

The following books have been added to the Hillel Foundation Library by the Women's Grand Lodge of the B'nai B'rith through the chairman of the Library Committee, Mrs. Helen Smook: "U. S. A." by Don Passos; "Hearken unto the Voice" by Franz Werfel; "Social Philosophies in Conflict" by Leighton; "Palestine Royal Commission Report"; "Story of Magellan" by Zweig; "A Great Lord" by Frischauer; "Proletarian Journey" by Beal; "Joseph in Egypt" two volumes, by Thomas Mann; "Hanukah" by Emily Solis Cohen; "Story of Jewish Culture" by Langh.

Calendar in Brief

- Mar. 30, Wednesday, 8 p. m. — Hillel Open Forum.
Guest Speaker — Prof. Frank Hart.
Theme — "China and Japan." Illustrated with movies.
Mar. 31, Thursday, 7:30 p. m. — Education Program.
Special Theme — "The Jew Faces Liberalism." Shlomo Bergmann.
Apr. 1, Friday, 8 p. m. — Hillel Nite at Temple Sinai, 28th and Webster Streets, Oakland.
Hillel students will occupy the pulpit. The Hillel Chorus will sing the choral service.
Apr. 3, Sunday, 8:30 p. m. — Sunday Evening Social.
Apr. 4, Monday, 4:15 p. m. — Student Council Meeting. Election of officers.
Apr. 5, Tuesday, 4 to 6 p. m. — Open House.
Apr. 6, Wednesday, 8:15 p. m. — Production of "Three - Corned Moon" by the Hillel Players at Women's City Club, 1428 Alice Street, Oakland.
Apr. 8, Friday, 8:30 p. m. — Evening of Music.
Apr. 12, Tuesday, 4 to 6 p. m. — Open House.
Apr. 12, Tuesday, 8 p. m. — Hillel Open Forum.
Guest Speaker — Rabbi Joachim Prinz.
Theme — "Fascism and the Future of Europe."
Apr. 15 — Seder Dinner and Service at Hillel, 6:15 p. m.

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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 writers.

FOR THE FUTURE

The coming nominations and elections of officers of the Hillel Council causes us to stop and think about the affairs of this Foundation. Hillel and the council have run along for a good many years, while officers have come and gone, while the council membership has changed many times. The way things continue in their set framework makes us wonder about the effectiveness of student administration.

Does it mean anything to have student heads, to reward willing workers by putting them on the council, to give them some semblance of importance? Or, is the real work carried on by the overseers with their key, picked men? Are council positions becoming nothing more than jewels to the loyal, honored seats for the faithful?

It's about time something was done around Hillel to rouse some new student interest. Don't keep dead wood around; give some new blood a chance to show itself. Let's get rid of persons who are still on the council because of their past "merits"; let's remove persons who serve interests other than Hillel's and who seem to forget that they might serve Hillel too. The Foundation shouldn't be burdened with any more forced members than is tactfully necessary. We should be allowed to have members who will work and not be restricted as to numbers merely because of differentiated interests.

What we need is a council of interested members, members who will come to meetings, who will come voluntarily, and who will be of some value. What we need are some officers who will take the lead in Hillel affairs; we need officers not to act as a front or to confine themselves strictly to their very job, but to take active interest and to be the student leaders.

Although the constitution can be amended at any time, it always seems appropriate to do so at the end of the semester. At this time, then, let us come forth with some new ideas for improvement. With the coming election of officers, let us think over these matters.

Perhaps you're satisfied with the present, but there seems to be a wide area in which to progress; if you are interested in Hillel, we think you ought to help it along by your ideas and contributions, but more so, by your actions. Make Hillel a student organization, not merely an organization for students.

"THE PLAY'S THE THING"

Once more the Hillel Players are putting on their annual production; once more the traditional cry for support goes out, but this time there is a greater purpose in mind, a greater reason why the play is more deserving of support than ever before. For the proceeds of this dramatic presentation are going to the aid of European Jewry.

The entire profits of the play will be given, this year, as the student contribution to the United Jewish Welfare Fund. To what greater purpose could these funds be put? Here is an opportunity for all Jewish students to really show their support and aid, not only one, but two worth while causes.

Student support will mean both success for the play and aid to the needy Jews of another land. We can help and enjoy at the same time. "Two for the price of one" is what you will receive, and both at bargain prices.

The Hillel plays have year after year shown the success that can be achieved by hard work, and we should show the players that we recognize their effort and talent by our attendance. The plea for loyalty that we make is on the basis of the dramatic talent of the cast and your interest in worthwhile Hillel affairs. Louis Gonick has assembled a talented and experienced cast which includes members of the various organized houses; he has selected a play — "Three-Cornered Moon" — which has had remarkable success in the past; all those concerned have given their time and effort to make this play a success.

We should do our part for Hillel and for the United Jewish Welfare Fund. So, we hope to see you all on April sixth at the Women's City Club in Oakland; we guarantee double your money's worth and a good time for all.

Peace Day

Across two continents the ominous sound grows louder. Even the deaf must hear it . . . the grim tread of marching feet. Here at Berkeley and on thousands of American campi, students are preparing for their annual Peace Day. Ironical perhaps? Not at all. Nothing could be more apropos, more fitting to the occasion. For Peace Day is not a time to hang out the flag and lay wreaths on monuments. No diplomats in frock coats are going to deliver pretty speeches about the glorious love of God and country. Peace Day is a remarkable phenomenon of the American scene and was started in 1934 at the direct instigation of students who, having no relish for their prospective role of cannon fodder, decided to do something about it. The "something" became the concrete expression of student opinion on current issues affecting the peace of the world. The organization of this opinion has always varied according to local conditions existing at particular universities. But whatever its form, its democratic character has been and must continue to be its essential feature. The University meeting scheduled for April 27th must voice our protest of Fascist atrocity in Spain, Austria, and China, and our unity with the forces for peace and progress throughout the world. It is up to the Hillel Foundation to participate actively in this demonstration of student sentiment for peace. The dark international situation makes it all the more imperative that we do not fail here. When American student youth, united, challenges the warmakers of the world, we can be sure that the challenge will not go unheeded.

(Continued from Page 2)

- 1—When you receive your invitation, and intend to come, make your reservation at once.
- 2—If you do not receive an invitation, notify Mrs. Michael Grodin, at Pledmont 8224.
- 3—If you make a reservation and find you are unable to come, let Mrs. Grodin know, so some other student may be accommodated.
- 4—No reservation can be made after April 12th, 1938.

CONTRIBUTION

(Continued on Page Four, Col. 3)

Developing points of view. Every campus has a plethora of such organizations. I find plenty of outlets on my own campus to put my convictions into practice. I am on the National Council of the League for Peace and Democracy. I have given every assistance, as an individual, to Labor Zionism, to a boycott program against German goods, to the appeal to assist Spanish democracy, to Zionist causes and so on. But I have no right nor has my Student Council the right to pledge the entire student body to causes that I believe worthwhile.

There is hospitality at the Foundation for every group that wishes to analyze contemporary issues. There are also many special groups, a liberal club, an Avukah, a Hadassah, a social problems forum, that enlist the loyalty of individuals who want to join. But the program of the Foundation would be hopelessly crippled if the Student Council had the right to pledge the Jewish student body to every cause that was presented for its consideration.

How long could a temple stand up, a B'nai Brith lodge or any other Jewish group if it became a policy making body on general, international, economic and social subjects?

As a matter of fact, it is not liberal, but reactionary when Hillel Student Councils pledge their student bodies to particular causes. For the Council was not elected to represent the students in international questions. It was elected to manage an institution as a clearing house where all Jewish students can express themselves. There is neither an orthodoxy or an orthopraxy in any Hillel student group. I believe it would be a grave mistake for any one Foundation to begin to speak on general questions, for all the Jewish students on a campus. There is no "Jewish" point of view on economic and political issues. There are only individual points of view. We all have the right, indeed, the civic duty, to make these points of view meaningful by joining the agencies that are created specifically for such purposes.

Sincerely yours,

A. L. SACHAR.