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B'NAI B'RITH Hillel Call

Vol. XIII

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1940

No. 4

WELL KNOWN SPEAKERS HEAD SUPPER SCHEDULE

Two University professors and a famed labor organizer were the main speakers on a panel discussion, "Opportunities for Youth," at the weekly cost-supper Sunday night, February 4.

Prof. Mallory of the department of Education spoke on "Does General Education Educate for a Job?" Prof. Royal Roberts of the department of economics discussed "Problems of Placing Graduates," while Jennie Matyas, organizer of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, lectured on "Labor and Opportunities for Youth."

Morton Gaba, director of the Jewish vocational guidance bureau, was chairman of the discussion.

The Hisdaudt Zionist group will sponsor the Febr. 11 cost-supper program with Rabbi Saulwhite of San Francisco as the guest speaker.

Dr. George Hedley, formerly with the state board of education, will be the visiting speaker on February 18, discussing the theme, "Where Middle-Class and Labor Meet."

A musical program will be held in place of the regular panel discussion on February 25. David Rosen and Leon Kirschner of the music committee will arrange the program, calling on Hillel members with musical ability to contribute to the program.

Again the B'nai B'rith Grand Lodge has given the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation another manifestation of its consideration. The library accumulated thru the years at the B'nai B'rith headquarters has been presented to the Hillel Foundation Library. This gift of 750 volumes, covering history, biography, belletristic literature, Judaica, and Hebraica, goes far toward making the B'nai B'rith Library the finest collection of Jewish books in the West. Our warmest thanks to B'nai B'rith Grand Lodge, District No. 4.

FRATS AND SORORITIES WILL SPONSOR SOCIALS

Smoker and Prom To Be Presented

DIRECTOR TO SUGGEST
THAT MEMBERS' FEE
BE HALVED

Holders of HILLEL MEMBERSHIP CARDS can look forward to a semester of good times. Although still indefinite, plans are rapidly being formulated by the sports committee for another men's smoker. The success of last term's smoker was so great that requests for another have been rolling in.

Members of the Board of Social Control have ideas aplenty for coming social events. The board's main topic for discussion at the present is the spring prom. "To be or not to be" a leap year purim dance is the problem. Those in the know expect that the answer will be "to be."

Because this is mid-year time, Dr. Merritt feels that membership cards should be sold for fifty cents. He promises to put his plan before the next council meeting. If this new idea is accepted by council, the director believes that those who haven't done so thus far, will avail themselves of the privileges offered by the purchase of a card.

Employment Bureau Resumes Job Search

Marjorie Gratz, director of the employment bureau, is ready to resume her duties for the new semester. The quest for jobs is a never-ending one, and Mrs. Gratz has pledged herself to aid the needy students.

Efforts are being made to contact local business men in the search for openings. Last semester about fifteen or twenty students secured part-time jobs.

Marjorie Gratz holds office hours from four to five o'clock every day. She wishes to urge any who so desire to come in and fill out an application.

For the purpose of the development of Tuesday afternoon socials, the Board of Social Control has taken them over as its special function, and according to Dr. Merritt, "This special promotion promises to make these congenial afternoons one of the most delightful features of the Hillel program."

Socials are being sponsored by the Jewish sorority and fraternity houses. First of these events occurred on January 30, when the Phi Beta Delta Fraternity planned the program. Scheduled socials for the month of February include; Phi Sigma Sigma for February 6, Kappa Nu Day on February 13, Alpha Epsilon Phi, February 20, and finally, Zeta Beta Tau for February 27. Each house is planning its individual program, so no two socials will be the same. Plans for each dance will not be revealed until the day of the dance.

Although the socials were held on Wednesday afternoons, last semester, this semester the socials will be a Tuesday feature as previously.

The social board, under the chairmanship of Florence Malick, includes Cliff Barbanelle, Harvey Masonic, Robert Golden, Norman Firestone, Thelma Genser, Bernice Davidson, and Joy Kaufman.

Working on the social committee, which executes the orders of the social board, are Florence Malick, chairman; Miriam Bronstein, assistant chairman; Nora Lazarua, Meta Bowman, Harry Gorsky, Frances Roitenstein, Lawrence Shapiro, Frances Mozer, Gabrielle Schoenberg, Alva Rosedale, Macy Spellman, Barbara Rosenberg, Joe Kosupkin, and Dita Upperheim.

Previous examination papers in university courses are neatly filed away and ready for reference. They may be secured from 2:00 to 5:00 from the secretary, whose office is on the second floor.

HILLEL SPONSORS ORATORY CONTEST

FREE TRIP TO CHICAGO MAIN AWARD

Winner to Represent Local
Foundation at Big Meet

Featuring a free trip to Chicago as the main award, Hillel Foundation is sponsoring an elimination oratorical contest to determine the best of the local orators.

The winner will represent the local branch in the final forensic competition at Chicago, which determines the outstanding Hillel orator in the nation.

Local competition is open to all Jewish undergraduates and first year law students who feel the urge to enter. The prospective trip to Chicago, and the chance of becoming top-ranking Jewish student orator are to be supplemented by a local prize of fifteen dollars or a silver cup. Selection of the prize will be left to contestants.

Past years have found Hillel Foundations from all sections of the country sending students to Chicago to enter the national competition. This year will mark the first entrance of the University of California into the competition.

Orations will be limited to an eight-minute discussion of a topic pertinent to some phase of Jewish life. Eliminations, and selection of the final winner will be taken care of in conjunction with Bay District lodges of the B'nai B'rith. Judges will be chosen from prominent lawyers and professional men who are members of these lodges.

Applications for entrance to the contest must be presented to the Hillel office before February 12. Further information concerning the contest may be obtained at Foundation office.

HILLEL TO ENTER INTRAMURAL SPORTS

Inaugurating a varied sports program for Hillel Foundation, the Athletic Committee, under the direction of Sylvan Gross, promises an interesting season.

Hillel will enter teams in Softball, Ping Pong, Baseball, Track and Wrestling in the University of California intramural League.

Sylvan announces that all students interested in participation should sign up in the Ping Pong room at Hillel as soon as possible, because it is imperative that the teams be organized in the near future. Participants will be notified of the practice schedule at once.

Besides engaging in intramural Competition, Hillel will have numerous tournaments within the house. These include Men's Ping Pong, Women's Ping Pong, Men and Women Mixed Ping Pong, Checkers and Chess.

Winners of the finals will receive medals or belt buckles as awards. A feature of the Season will be an Athletic Dinner at the end of the semester at which the awards will be presented.

Reception Attracts Dance Enthusiasts

Dancing their way into University life, new students were re-lieved with universal friendliness at the Hillel dance in the International House auditorium on January 25. Shaking (?) little freshmen with blue tags were introduced to those mighty individuals with white name tags, the old students.

Seeking to account for the good spirits which were so evident, some people have suggested that Don Schary and his orchestra were responsible. Others have said that the efficiency of the social committee made a significant contribution.

All have agreed, however, that this success portends series of successful Hillel functions this semester.

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B'B' to Act as Host to Hillel

With the object of maintaining contact with B'nai B'rith lodges of this district, Hillel Foundation will present the first "Hillel Night" of the semester at the Oakland Lodge on Tuesday, February 6.

The first part of the program will consist of a one-act play by the Hillel players. They have selected as their dramatization, "Address Unknown", by Kressman Taylor, which was so successful last semester. The cast will include Wolfgang Lederer and Eugene Meltzer in the leading roles. Albin Amster will serve as electrician.

Following this presentation, two talks will be given, with "The Purpose of Hillel, and Its Function" as the main theme. First of the speakers will be Thelma Gaba, who has chosen "Social Service" and "Fortifying Jewish Consciousness" as her subjects.

Ralph Kramer, Varsity debater, will follow with a discussion of "Hillel's Co-operative Service."

Plans are now under way for two more "Hillel Nights" in the San Francisco, Bay Area. First of these is to be a program for the Peninsula Branch of the Ladies Auxiliary of the B'nai B'rith, to be given in Burlingame. The date has been tentatively set for February twenty-first.

San Francisco Lodge 21 will be the audience on Monday, March 11. At present, the oratorical elimination contest has been planned to supplant the usual program.

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New Assistant Comes to Hillel

Rabbi Merrit's 1940 Assistant is a young, intellectual man with a wide background in Jewish and Zionist organization work.

Alexander Eckstein will be in evidence somewhere around Hillel every afternoon this semester to help "bring warmth and atmosphere into Hillel, to make a home out of Hillel for Jewish students." He is the new assistant director of Hillel. His is the job of coordinating, planning, and guiding, of keeping committees functioning, of gathering up the loose ends of jobs that weren't finished or weren't performed satisfactorily.

This is Eckstein's third semester on the Cal campus, since getting a degree in agriculture at the UC LA. It is his fourth year in the United States, his birthplace being Novisad, Yugoslavia. He was a year old when they shot the archduke somewhere near his birthplace, which makes him some 27 years old now.

In Europe Eckstein was a Zionist youth organizer. Last semester he was chairman of the League for Labor Palestine on this campus. He is a bachelor in more ways than one, being unmarried and holding a bachelor of arts degree.

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NEW CONSTITUTION WILL BE DRAFTED

Heated debate over proposals for a new constitution for Hillel Foundation marked the opening meeting of the Student Council, at which Vice President Sylvia Danzig presided in the absence of President Ruth Firestone.

Acting on the resolution introduced by Florence Malick, Chairman of the Social Committee, the Council appointed a committee to draw up a new constitution to be considered by the Council. The original resolution provided that the constitutional committee be composed of an equal number of members of the Board of Social Control, and members of the Council. As amended, the resolution provided that all members of the committee be elected from the Council. Under the chairmanship of Sylvia Danzig, the committee includes: Florence Malick, Manny Reznick, Ruth Firestone, and Ralph Dorfman.

Proposed changes include a fairer representation of all groups participating in Hillel activities, a broadened scope of activity for the Board of Social Control, and new methods for selection of officers and council members.

The new constitution is to be submitted to the Council at the next regular meeting, and all articles contained in it are subject to the approval of the Council.

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LECTURE SERIES TO VARY TOPICS

Continuing with its cultural program, Hillel Foundation this semester offers three series of lectures on topics of Jewish and general concern, according to the announcement of Rabbi M. J. Merritt.

In addition to last semester's series, a new group dealing with Jewish social institutions will be presented. It will get under way Thursday, February 1, at 8:00 p.m., and is scheduled for succeeding Thursday evenings at the same time. The lecturer has not been announced.

Series two, which will be presented by University Debate Coach Sanford Goldner, is to treat with more general topics. Although the lectures will be based on recent outstanding books, they will revolve around the question: "How much can the current war and social dislocation, in general, be interpreted exclusively through individual categories such as Technology, Psychology, and Economics?" Lecturers are scheduled for Tuesdays, 4 to 5 p.m.

Rabbi Merritt will deliver the third series of lectures, entitled "Highlights of Jewish History," which will continue a series inaugurated last semester. Lectures started January 31 and will be delivered every Wednesday from 3 to 4 p.m. Outstanding on the lecture list are such topics as "Paul—Supersalesman," Mohammed—Imposter or Religious Genius? and "False Messiahs."

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Gonnick Returns As Drama Coach

Returning to Hillel Foundation in his former capacity of dramatic coach, Mr. Louis Gonnick has already started his plans for a successful semester. "Petticoat Fever" has been chosen for the three-act play to be given in April, and tentative casts have been selected for two one-act plays which will be put on in March.

Mr. Gonnick, a graduate of this university, was dramatic coach at Hillel four years ago, at which time he directed the three-act play, "Squaring the Circle." This play was put on at International House and won wide acclaim and success, as did "Three-Cornered Moon," which he directed and presented at the Oakland Women's Club at about that time.

During the past four years Mr. Gonnick has accomplished much in the field of dramatics. He spent a year in the Soviet Union engaged in dramatic activity, and his work as director of the East Bay and San Francisco Theatre Union won him many encomiums from leading critics of this region. He is also noted for his ability in dealing with college students.

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"IF"

(With apologies to Rudyard Kipling)

IF you can keep your head, while reading the following, you're a better man than I am, Gunga Din!

IF Syivan Gross ever again feels the urge to catch 40 winks on the sly during Psychology 1B lecture, he had better sit elsewhere than two rows in front of the lecturer.

IF Esther Sharloff weren't just right for him, then attendance at the opening Hillel Reception would not have been so successful for Mike Klebanoff.

IF Bud Greenberg could influence his beautiful cousin (C. O. P. '44) to transfer to this campus, more than a few Cal boys would be grateful.

IF we could only know who or what the attraction was in N.Y. that caused June Berman, California resident, to have to pay the \$2.00 late registration fee, a lot of things would be cleared up.

IF the sparkle of the diamonds on Jo Zolot's left hand (thanks to Mel Schwartz) was compared with that of her eyes, it would be difficult to tell which were the more radiant.

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IF Cliff Barbanelle has received to date any answers to proposition No. 1. (Remember?)

IF Joel Lund has bounced his ten bucks for a set of balance weights yet.

IF certain San Francisco women are still waiting with fluttering hearts for Goody Key and Barney Aarons.

Flash! Hot off the wire! Bernard Aarons, esq., is out of circulation. Miss F. of Oakland, please note!

(Please address any comments to The Little Man Who Wasn't There)

Jewish Students Are Selected for Course

Out of nine students recommended by heads of their departments to take the new course in Current Social Problems, five were members of Hillel. The chosen few were Morris Glickfield '41, Jack Berman '40 in the Political Science field, Betty Belais '40 in the department of Psychology, Melvin Goldstein '41 from the history division, and Irving Abkin '40 from the department of Social Institutions.

The ultimate goal of the group is to compile their findings and publish them.

Library Committee Wants Suggestions

"We wish to make our files of old examination papers as complete as possible," announces William Epstein, chairman of the Library Committee. Epstein asks that all students aid in this project by leaving copies of old examinations at the Foundation.

The committee would also like to have student opinion as to what type of books should be purchased for future additions to the library.

INGRAM'S

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B'NAI B'RITH HILLEL CALL

Student Publication of the B'nai B'rith of the Hillel Foundation of the University of California — Organized and Maintained by the B'nai B'rith STAFF

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TOO MANY OSTRICHES!

Can Jews save their skins by dodging the issue?

It's a touchy subject. It's the beginning of an argument. It cleaves Judaism into alien, bitterly opposed schools — the ostriches versus those who face the issue.

The ostriches argue thusly: "Because of the peculiar position of Jews, their inherent predicament of being social scapegoats, they should lean over backward to avoid any possibility of being linked with controversial issues and unpopular causes." For this reason they tend to suppress the spontaneous intellectual curiosity and push for progress within the Jewish community.

The realists say that if Jews are to be the scapegoat, no amount of philosophical hedging will prevent it. Anti-Semitism does not exist because Jews are radicals, or for any kindred reason. Jews are scapegoats because their economic position, that of being the only race preponderantly middle class rather than proletarian, makes them peculiarly vulnerable. We don't believe this argument can be refuted.

Since the Jewish problem lies basically in economics, its only solution can be the solution of the economic problem of mankind. Improve society so there will be no economic roots for anti-semitism, and this scourge will promptly wither away.

When cold logic begins to force an ostrich to such a conclusion, he is likely to hide his head in the sand with such a suggestion as this one: "Oh, the hell with that, I'll spot ya ten and clean ya in ping pong."

You know what happens to ostriches. They become a feather in somebody's hat.

D. C. '42.

HILLEL CALENDAR

Feb. 7—Wednesday, 3:00 P.M.
"Highlights of Jewish History"
Series. Special Theme: "Paul — Supersalesman." Lecturer, Rabbi M. J. Merritt.

Feb. 8—Thursday, 8:00 P.M.
Lecture Series on "Jewish Social Institutions." Special theme "Jewish Youth Faces the Future." Lecturer—Morton Gaba, Executive Secretary of Jewish Vocational Guidance Bureau.

Feb. 9—Friday, 8:30 P.M.
Evening of Music. Beethoven Program — Emperor Concerto and Seventh Symphony.

Feb. 11—Sunday, 6:30 P.M.
Cost Supper Open Forum. Auspices of Palestine Labor League. Speaker: Rabbi Saul White. Theme: "Gentile Friends Offer No Advice."

Feb. 13—Tuesday, 4:00 P.M.
Sanford Goldner's Review and Discussion of "The Revolt of Nihilism," by Walter Rauschnig.

Feb. 13—Tuesday, 4—6 P.M.
Open House.

Feb. 13—Tuesday, 7:45 P.M.
Hebrew Class.

Feb. 14—Wednesday 3:00 P.M.
"Highlights of Jewish History"
Series. Special Theme: "Philo — The Synthesizer." Lecturer: Rabbi M. J. Merritt.

Feb. 15—Thursday, 8:00 P.M.
Lecture Series on "Jewish Social Institutions." Special theme: "The Jewish Community Center—a Jewish Cultural and Social Force." Lecturer: Louis Blumenthal, Director of San Francisco Jewish Community Center.

Feb. 16—Friday, 8:30 P.M.
Fireside Discussion.

Feb. 18—Sunday, 6:30 P.M.
Cost Supper Open Forum. — Speaker: Dr. George Hedley. — Theme: "Where Middle Class and Labor Meet."

Feb. 20—Monday, 4:15 P.M.
Student Council Meeting.

ANTS DON'T COUNT

We were looking at an ant today. Yes, just an insignificant little ant. This isn't a treatise on the remarkable industry and organization of the ant tribe. The particular insect in question was an injured and wholly inefficient member of the species.

Shamefacedly we admit that we were the cruel malefactor who incapacitated the little beast. He was just going about his business as all good little ants do, when we hurt him so that he couldn't walk anymore, although he was still alive and waving his antenna for all he was worth.

We don't doubt that everybody would expect the rest of the insects in the trail to rush on by, just minding their own business. After all, what happened to one little ant out of all those thousands, or even millions, shouldn't concern them.

But no! Every ant passing the poor little animal stopped and investigated. They didn't seem to be impelled by mere curiosity, either. So apparent were their efforts to comfort and help the injured ant that we sympathized, and put him out of his misery.

Now we have come to the logical place to point out the moral of our little story. However, we find that there are a great many ways to moralize on this little incident. If we were good philosophers we could sit back in our arm-chair and spend an interesting fortnight cogitating. Being more or less interested in Hillel Foundation we have found a neat little application that strikes close to home. What about the unacquainted student who comes to Hillel House for the first or second time?

Musicales Features Foundation Talent

Leon Kirschner and David Rosen, who are collaborating in the preparation of the musicale to be given in connection with the Cost-Supper planned for Sunday evening, February 25, have arranged a program, featuring Hillel musical talent.

The program is to be divided into three sections: The first section featuring Raymond Schmullyan with piano solos. The second section features a piano and violin sonata presenting Leonard Ratner and Leon Kirschner. The third section will feature original compositions by Leonard Ratner, Leonard Ralston, and Leon Kirschner.

THE INSIDE STORY

Feb. 5, 1943

One of last year's most outstanding political events was without any doubt Finland's successful defense against the Russian invasion. If we draw the balance of three months' Finnish warfare, we find as an important general factor the relatively small number of dead and injured Finns on the one hand, and the sacrifice of whole Russian divisions on the other hand. Secondly, the relative inefficiency of the Russian mass air-raids, strategically as well as morally. The reason here is the excellent Finnish organization and the small density of population.

Another rather important item seems to be that Russia apparently did not learn very much in World War I and in Spain. While Germany as well as the Allies learned that it was wrong to sacrifice millions of lives in conquering heavily fortified enemy positions, Finnish soil is covered with tens of thousands of Reds killed in desperate and unsuccessful attacks. The Russian "steam roller" is still at work.

The great success of Finland is that it liberated the world of the feeling of uncertainty regarding the strategic and moral strength of the red army of 1940, which in preceding years was one of the most terrible and successful means of pressure which Russia used to gain power inside and outside its borders. Usually, the world compared only the numerical strength of the Russian with other armies, not having any factor of comparison for the moral and strategic strength. Now, the world's eyes are seeing light. Even the small Balkan countries noticed Finland's example and are no longer so accessible to Russian pressure as they probably would have been if they did not see the Russian army in action.

Russian invasion of little Finland was without any doubt a mistake of utmost effect upon Russia's political enemies as well as friends. Even a victory over Finland cannot any more equilibrate the Russian balance.

E. A. R., '41.