

HARRY GOLDEN

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Time calls society the "new elegants" and the pillars of said society informed reporters that they hold dinner and dancing parties two and three times a week to which selected "creative people" are invited.

I have yet to receive an invitation though I am sure I am as creative as any of the select who are mooching a free feed. Since time immemorial Revelation has had its disappointments and inconsistencies. I never minded society's exclusion during the Depression because everyone was excluded. But if some of us are going to get in and not me, I am going to make the appropriate inquiries.

Also disappointing is what society has to tell us. As I imagined society, I heard its dictates, "You can't beat a Depression with a 40-

hour week," and, "Anyone out of work is just plain lazy." These were real statements. Instead, present society's philosophical centers around such heretical statements as, "Why spend \$800 for a Paris suit when you can get a Bill Class for \$200?" Is this the sort of philosophy that will sustain the unemployment during a Depression? It isn't even going to sustain Parisian couturiers in the boom.

CHARLOTTE'S ANTI-SMUT UNIT

The mayor of Charlotte is Stan Brookshire, one of the best guys in the South. Stan is nothing if not the center of the community and the community at the moment is terribly worried about obscenity. The pressure was so intense and so Mr. Brookshire was forced to appoint a committee of roughly 20 unobscene citizens to combat this menace to our way of life.

The anti-smut committees have always scared the daylight out of the literate citizen. First of all, fighting smut is made particularly difficult by the passions of the vigilante who want to censor everything. The vigilante sits around itching to set his hands on a book so that by censoring it he may exorcise the devils of his own fears and frustrations.

One local official in this latest anti-smut project said "Where the law takes long and cannot touch the offender, civilians must step in and do the job." A dangerous idea. Delinquency is the problem, says the vigilante, but we have not appreciably increased our budget, either for youth--welfare workers, policemen, or youth centers. Fifty years ago in the heavily populated sections of the big cities, there was a settlement-house in every neighborhood. And the poorest of our poor today would be classed station-wagon folks compared to the poverty of those in the settlement-house districts I knew as a boy a half century ago.

But all of this requires planning, money, wisdom, and patience. How much easier it is to mount an anti-smut campaign. Some of the primitive peoples managed it even better. Whenever the problem of the day seemed to be too much for them, they chased a rhinoceros through the jungle and finally beat it to death. In that way everything was solved, drought, crop-failure, delinquency, Viet Nam, the Russians, violence on the highways and unemployment. Instead of the rhinoceros, we have the anti-smut campaign. It's the same thing.

I do not deny that censorship is often necessary. I do not believe that ordinary citizens are enunciated by Justice Woolsey in the Ulysses case and by Curtis Bok in the case of the Philadelphia booksellers are already sufficient and clear. I am sure that Charlotte has law enforcement officers enough to take care of smut based on these officially accepted judgments.

If a community set out to eradicate its slums, to treat all its citizens equally, to educate each and every child adequately, the pornographic magazines and even the comic books would slowly disappear. Something big is going on and when something big is going on, it absorbs our attitudes and the children, too, want in on it. This is a pattern which runs through all of history.

RABBI GOLD

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life. We will not do something because it is Orthodox, Conservative or Reform, but will do it because it has value for us and will enhance Jewish life in our community.

I am, therefore, introducing various rituals and observances into the lives of our people, that have been neglected in the past. The emphasis of this month's campaign, to place a Mezuzah on every Jewish home is but the beginning. The reason I am using the Reform ritual for placing the Mezuzah on the doorpost of the home, is simply because the Reform ritual is the most beautiful and significant of all.

The reasons for having a Mezuzah on the door are as follows:

- 1). It is a Commandment in the Bible.
- 2). It clearly states that this is a Jewish home.
- 3). It gives us a sense of identification, and unites us with our people as Jews.
- 4). It implies that this, our home, seeks the blessing of God's presence in our daily lives.

I earnestly urge every Jewish family that does not have a Mezuzah as yet, to call the office of Temple Beth Shalom, and we will be happy

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to help that family perform the Mitzvah of placing a Mezuzah on the door. I am hopeful that this project will find favor in your eyes, and that the performance of this ritual will enhance the lives of our people.

Rabbi Gold is appealing for all the help he can get for donations towards the Camp Ramah fund, hoping to send at least 15 and maybe 20 youngsters to camp during the summer. The knowledge and inspiration gained by these children who are fortunate enough to go, is indescribable, and it is a mitzvah in itself to be able to say one had a part in it. Please don't let our Rabbi, our youngsters, or yourselves down. By giving generously you are insuring the future of our Jewish youth.

Glad to hear that Harry Wallerstein and Doc Knohler are now on the roads to recovery, may they stay well from here on in.

KINDLE CANDLES
Tonight
Friday, February 12
at
5:01 P.M.

Soon there will be celebrations among the Rabbi and his family, for some long-time friends and residents of their previous town will be visiting here from Philadelphia.



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