

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE
OF NEVADA

PHONE 870-1255

Published Every Friday in Las Vegas, Nevada
Price per copy 15¢ - Per year \$7 - 2 Years \$12
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2nd Class Mail, Las Vegas, Nev.
Member American Jewish Press Association
Member of Worldwide News Service
Now in 5th Year of Continuous Weekly Publication
Serving the Jewish Community of State of Nevada.

What's Behind the Scenes

This past week has been a rash of meetings and statements by people involved in high level discussions. The meeting between Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin and U.S. Secretary of State William P. Rogers produced a statement by the State Department spokesman which said in part that it "may provide a basis for determining the utility of restarting the bilateral talks between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. which had reached what we called an extended pause towards the end of the year (1969)." The same meeting between Rogers and Dobrynin was supposed to set up an agenda for still another meeting between the latter and Joseph Sisco, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs who said the United States "won't abandon or jeopardize the security of Israel."

All this, of course, follows Mr. Nixon's decision to hold in "abeyance" any further shipment of planes to Israel. Mr. Nixon had decided that, with the ratio of three Arab planes to one Israeli, the balance is even. Mr. Nixon would not like the Russians to have that kind of ratio advantage against the United States. Perhaps the editorial of the London Financial Times stating that "mounting hostility toward American financial and commercial interests in the Mideast" on the part of the Arabs is the key to Mr. Nixon's policy of "abeyance."

Students Versus Parents

By ROBERT E. SEGAL

Nearly 200 years ago, with the excitement of the French Revolution fresh in memory, William Wordsworth set down lines destined long to endure: "Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive, but to be young was very heaven!"

Unending wars, the overpowering nature of the industrial revolution, the spectre of thermonuclear engines of destruction, overpopulation, the intensification of human callousness, and man's tendency to destroy the glories of the natural world - all and more have conspired since then to make adolescence and young adulthood a time more of gloom than bliss, more of hell than heaven.

If that is your hunch, you will find it confirmed in "Students Versus Parents: Problems and Conflicts," a new book by Rabbi Samuel Perlman, Director of the Hillel Foundation at Boston University. Theologian, sociologist, counselor, Dr. Perlman is ideally placed to observe the conflicts of young people, their need for identity, their hunger for love, their despair over modern industrial and social ills, their trailblazing into the blurred land of untried relationships.

Boston University, with many of its 23,000 pupils drawn from the eastern seaboard, where live perhaps two in every three American Jews, is a superb listening post for one who would know the heart of today's youth. But the significance of Rabbi Perlman's meticulously compiled documentation of the agonies and hopes of collegians is universal rather than parochial. Across the Charles River from Boston University, Dr. Dana L. Farnsworth, Harvard University Director of Health Services, has said of Dr. Perlman's study: "Although the clinical experience reported in this book is largely derived from counseling

DAYENU BY HENRY LEONARD

with members of a specific ethnic group and religion, it is not narrow because of this. In fact, it is incredibly rich in many details that might not be so apparent if the narrative of experience tried to include every possible student problem. Any college counselor will be the wiser for reading this book."

Indeed, so will any troubled modern, sensitive to the unmistakable determination of the brightest boys and girls of the new generation to reject the sham and shabby values maintained by many parents. The rat race is not to their liking; materialism not their bag. Incisively, Dr. Perlman notes that the desire to impose parental will on children can be so intense that some parents react violently when the children resist. In such a hangup, says the clinician, "this kind of behavior may indicate that the parents have emotional problems."

From a storehouse of blood-and marrow case histories, the Rabbi portrays the struggle to mature, facing many of today's 8,000,000 collegians. His chapters on "Tuning In' On Drugs" and "Dropping Out" may be all too familiar to boys and girls in their late teens and early twenties but a shocker to mother and dad. Jewish parents, traditionally devoted to a pride in education, may understand here for the first time why college may not be the best place for college-age young people in our culture, especially those desiring to move firmly toward becoming independent adults, capable of making intelligent decisions.

Moreover, this remarkable collection of interviews with deeply troubled young people may oblige many readers to stop blaming over-indulged boys and girls for what seems to many elders a waste of time and resources. Homes left behind may be dripping with affluence; but children have an abiding need for love and acceptance. Denied such fulfillment, some young moderns step up their antisocial behavior.

Near the close of his book, Dr. Perlman states his purpose is to bridge the gap of communication between parents and students. "By presenting the feelings, needs and behavior of students in various areas of life, such as dating, marriage, and vocational selections," he writes, "I hoped that parents might attain some understanding of the motivation behind students' behavior."

Along the way, he recalls that a Jewish girl who came to his study with a Unitarian boy to discuss problems arising in interfaith marriages, told him he was being rough. Not so, said Rabbi Perlman: "I am not rough. The situation is. Shouldn't these questions be raised now rather than later?"

Many important questions are raised in "Students Versus Parents." And many of the answers are profoundly helpful.

NEW YORK: Pressures on Governor William T. Cahill of New Jersey for state aid to parochial schools and the Governor's apparent endorsement of some forms of support drew sharp criticism from the American Jewish Congress in New Jersey.

NEW YORK: Deputy Mayor Robert M. Morgenthau will receive the 1970 Stanley M. Isaacs Human Relations Award of the New York chapter of the American Jewish Committee at the chapter's twenty-fifth anniversary luncheon Sunday, April 19, at the Plaza Hotel.

NEW YORK: A two-day conference on "Recent Economic Jewish History" sponsored by the Theodor Herzl Institute, 515 Park Ave. N.Y.C. will be held on Saturday night, April 18th and all day Sunday, April 19th, it was announced by Dr. Emil Lehman, Director of the Institute.

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL

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the installation.

If the rumors are correct, it would be the first time that Russian manpower was used in the Mideast, or anywhere, for that matter, since World War II. It would also be an indication of relative effectiveness of the French and U.S. jets being used by Israel, compared to the Russian planes, in actual combat conditions.

The information gleaned by Israeli pilots, concerning the speed and maneuverability of Russian jets, manned by Russians, would certainly be of some advantage to all democratic nations, who may someday become antagonists of the Soviets. In the same respect, Russia now would have first hand knowledge of the combat in-effectiveness of its jets and, should the rumors have an essence of fact, the Communist aeronatic engineers must be working overtime.

Bearing in mind, we are still harboring on speculation, although experience has taught us where there is smoke there usually is fire, we carry the Russian "scare" into other fields of logical sequence.

It is a matter of record that Russia's "Spudnik" beat all American attempts to send a satellite into orbit. Three months later the U.S. matched the feat. Three years later the Soviets sent the first human into outer space. Ten months later our Lt. Col. John Glenn made the first successful U.S. orbit.

Accounts have persisted until today, how the U.S. is lagging in practically every field of armament. The numerical statistics, however the information was gotten from behind the Iron Curtain, had us far outnumbered in total planes, submarines, other warships, tanks, atomic warheads, etc. Perhaps the information was, indeed, somewhat accurate. The net result was, and still is practically a free hand for the U.S. military brass, to browbeat Congress into billions in appropriations to keep building our own military might to match the Russians.

Here we go back to the persistent rumors again. If little Israel did indeed down nine of the mighty Russian jets, manned by Russians, without losing a single craft in the engagements, surely, there must be something that should be jotted down in the tabulation balance sheet. The military might of nations is no longer determined solely on the adding machine.

As an afterthought, it could very well be that Russia knew this lack of effectiveness all along. While strutting the might of its standing army, they had to build a Berlin wall to shoot down innocent civilians. They managed to back down on the Berlin airlift and beg off the Cuban missile incident. They send an overwhelming fleet into the Mediterranean, and bug our fishing vessels. They'll support North Korea and Nigeria and North Vietnam, but won't get involved themselves. They must know something.

They'll agitate innocent groups in Democratic countries to riot, strike and cause disturbances. In all fairness, on this score, ultra-conservatives have attempted to put "red herring" blame on every disorder, but too many of these accusations have been found to be without justification. This does not mean that subversive organizations, prompted by organizing Russian communists, are not working in our midst.

All this but never a direct involvement by Russia. Makes one wonder.

Eccentric?

By RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

Am I eccentric?

I refuse to drink alcoholic liquors. When offered a drink I say, "I get drunk on people!"

I won't use the word black for Negro. I hate the idea of surrendering to the extremism of the late Malcolm X.

I haven't been to a movie in a decade. I don't want to contribute to adult delinquency.

If something is priced, say, \$2.95, I refer to the price as \$3.00.

When a commercial on radio or tv is especially obnoxious or insulting, I do what the writer of the commercial wants me to do: remember the name of the product, but only for the purpose of avoiding it like the plague.

I do not like Joe Namath and those who publicize him.

I avoid most Broadway plays because they are out to corrupt me and the English language (like using the word, "mature," when what is meant is immature).

I refuse to regard a person of Jewish birth who doesn't like his Jewishness as a Jew.

I admire Lyndon Johnson as the president who did more for social progress than any other president, even though I deplore his escalation of the Vietnamese krenk.

Am I eccentric?

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