

41/20/165
Student Affairs
Student Scrapbooks and Papers
Jacob Goldstein Papers, 1928-30, 1932

Box 1:

Correspondence—Jacob Goldstein to Lena Wolkow, September 17, 1928

September 23, 1928

September 28, 1928—Letter extract: “Speaking about pots and pans, you ought to see the girls on this campus and especially the Jewish ones. They look as if they fell in a barrel of paint, and they are the worst snobs imaginable.”

October 4, 1928—Contains references to a palm reader and an upcoming UI football game.

October 15, 1928

October 20, 1928—Contains references to Block I and Dad’s Day Weekend

October 25, 1928—Contains references to courses, Block I, and UI football team’s defeat of Indiana University

October 31, 1928—Contains reference to UI football team’s defeat of Northwestern University

November 5, 1928—Letter extract: “The more I think of college and college life the more I realize how much bunk it is.”

November 21, 1928

December 9, 1928—Contains reference to a Vitaphone showing of Al Jolson’s “The Singing Fool”

December 17, 1928—Letter extract: “So you no longer condemn the girls that are fast. Well, in a way I can’t blame you because after all they’re human like everyone else, and they have passions to satisfy.”

December 19, 1928

December 27, 1928—Contains reference to his accident-plagued trip to Chicago

January 2, 1929—Letter extract: “Ruth’s typical necking party, as you said it, certainly brought me back to the good old days, which may not return again.”

January 6, 1929—Letter extract: “It reminds me of the time you told me that after I met the college women, and went out a few times with them I’d be changed.

Remember? So far I haven’t taken them out and I’m certain that I haven’t changed one bit except at times when I see other fellows taking out hot mamas I felt as if I would like to go out and have a good time (in the fellow’s sense of the word).”

January 20, 1929—Contains references to Rhetoric class and smoking

January 26, 1929—Contains references to a scarlet fever quarantine and studying for exams

January 30, 1929—Letter extract: “I’m alone, all alone, and feeling oh so blue. I’ve never craved for companionship more than I am now.”

February 5, 1929—Letter extract: “Last fall I yelled my lungs out for Illinois and to-day at the basketball games I sit as unconcerned as if I didn’t even go to school here. I feel indifferent about the outcome of the game of basketball as I do about the

outcome about the game of life.”

February 10, 1929

February 15, 1929

February 19, 1929

February 26, 1929–Letter extract: “I’m getting so gosh darn fat and lazy because I eat about five times a day, and I don’t do any exercise of any kind or manner, so I decided to become ambitious and work off some of my excess weight, not because I’m overweight, but because my pants are becoming too tight around my mid section.”

March 3, 1929–Letter extract: “So you think I’m learning a lot about women? Well, I guess you can learn something after all from observation and conversation, especially from these co-eds. No matter where you pass them or what ones you pass whether they’re good looking or vice versa you can always hear them talking about the wonderful date they had or how nice Bob or Frank was.”

March 7, 1929

March 12, 1929–Contains references to courses

March 17, 1929–Letter extract: “I asked my instructor if I could read [Aldous Huxley’s] Point Counter Point for a book report and she said she didn’t think it was worth my time to read it. Gee it must be better than I thought it was.”

March 21, 1929–Letter extract: “The students are trying to revive the roller skating fad which died a natural death at Illinois last semester. I almost can picture myself skating on the broadwalk, and all of a sudden fall on my weak end.”

March 26, 1929–Letter extract: “After all (my remaining sentence may sound vulgar, but please overlook it) marriage is legal prostitution, if not men would never get married. To you it seems dog-like but the instincts are there, and they’ll come out sooner or later.”

April 1, 1929–Contains reference to an aborted “bumming” (hitchhiking) trip to Chicago

April 5, 1929

April 11, 1929–Letter extracts: “I think that fondness for the movies runs in the family, because I go to the show a least twice a week, and even more.”

“From what I’ve seen of the sorority pots on this campus I prefer to stay away from them, although I have met one or two nice ones.”

April 26, 1929–Contains references to “bumming” trip to Chicago and a failed effort to get drunk

April 29, 1929

May 3, 1929–Contains references to a late snowfall, course grades, Freshman cap-burning, and a wanton landlady

May 6, 1929–Contains reference to trip to Chicago with a traveling salesman

May 20, 1929–Contains references to Sagem singing contest, baseball match with Notre Dame, and track meet with Michigan

May 30, 1929

June 3, 1929–Contains references to Freshman formal and final exams

July 10, 1929

September 17, 1929

September 21, 1929

September 24, 1929–Letter extract: “I don’t think that education is in me. If I did tell you what’s in me you’d laugh, but I’m going to chance it using my better discretion and I hope you do likewise. I think I’m cut out to be a musician. Not a classical player but a mad crazed jazz good for nothing.”

September 25, 1929

September 28, 1929–Letter extract: “The stadium is completely sold out and they’re going to build an additional bleacher for those students who have athletic coupons and haven’t got their Army ticket yet. This means that there will be almost 100,000 people witnessing the game. Boy what a time.”

September 30, 1929

October 2, 1929

October 5, 1929–Letter extract: “Well the Illini conquered our worthwhile opponents the U. Of Kansas in a one-sided affair by the score of 25-0. I couldn’t enjoy what little there was of the game because the fellow who was with me was watching a blonde and boy what a blonde she was. I honestly can’t blame him. It was more interesting watching her than the game.”

October 9, 1929

October 10, 1929

October 14, 1929

October 18, 1929–Contains reference to student council elections

October 23, 1929–Letter extract: “You’ll not find many men in our race who make whoopee after they’ve been married a long time. It’s just natural for a man no matter how old he is to go after the “chickens,” while the women can’t do that, but it’s not many Jews that do that.”

October 28, 1929–Contains references to Homecoming and to the status of African-Americans

Letter extract: “Even in the place where I work the boss told us that if any colored person came in to take our time about waiting on them and give them poor service because he doesn’t want to encourage their trade. We must serve them because that is the law. Sometimes those fellows wait fifteen or twenty minutes before they get any service and I really feel sorry for them.”

November 1, 1929–Contains references to Dr. Sachar, head of the Hillel Foundation, and football game against Northwestern

Letter extract: “As I stood there looking at the view of the stadium a couple of gentile fellows also stopped and seeing the picture of Dr. Sachar one of them remarked that he sure was a wonderful fellow. I just can’t explain the feeling that went thru me, but it was one of exaltation (I think that’s the word). With all this blah blah of democratic feelings in this University etc. a Jew doesn’t have much chance nor is he loved any too much and when I heard that remark I surely felt good, because he surely is one of the

finest men I've ever met."

November 6, 1929–Letter extract: "So far I haven't really had the desire to indulge. Of course at times I think I'd like to try it and see what it is that people rave about, and girls stoop so damn low as to become prostitutes, but I'll have my desire fulfilled some day, and I suppose it'll be by some damn prostitute too."

November 10, 1929–Contains references to Coach Zuppke, Illinois defeat of Army, and the disappearance of a Champaign insurance salesman

November 14, 1929

November 18, 1929–Contains references to anti-liquor raid on Gamma Eta Gamma law fraternity, fire on Green Street, and the missing insurance salesman

November 22, 1929–Contains reference to Gamma Eta Gamma bootlegging scandal

November 30, 1929–Contains reference to arrest for speeding on way to Chicago

December 4, 1929–Contains reference to a visit to a Chicago cabaret

December 16, 1929–Letter extract: "The other day in Psych. class our instructor was telling us about improvement. He said that one of his students in an afternoon section fell asleep during his class sessions and pulled his mark from a C to an A. Therefore I concluded in order to get an A out of the course the logical thing to do is to sleep in class."

December 30, 1929

January 13, 1930–Letter extract: "Saturday a bunch of us fellows went to the see the finale of the P.E. boxing tournament. There were only two Jews in the finals and one won the 112 lb. match while the other was the runner up in the 135 lb. weight. . . . The boy in the 135 lb. class was a good friend of ours and so we were there to root for him. The decision was a trifle unfair but a Jew never got a break anyway so what's the use of talking about it."

January 18, 1930

January 28, 1930–Contains references to final exams and scarlet fever

February 6, 1930

February 15, 1930

February 18, 1930

February 22, 1930

March 7, 1930

March 18, 1930

April 5, 1930–Contains reference to a scandal involving a student who died as a result of a botched abortion

May 1, 1930

October 24, 1931–Letter extract: "I was up at seventy-forty five because I was going to Champaign for the day. It's beautiful there this time of the year. I really appreciated it after being away so long. According to statistics, Illinois has the third most beautiful college campus only Wisconsin and California (I think I'm correct) surpassing it."

February 20, 1932–Letter extract: "Financial conditions in Chicago are terrible. The city is broke. They wanted to either shut down the public schools or else shorten the

semesters. They are reducing city employees, wages, and even finding it necessary to reduce the number of employees. They haven't paid school teachers in the last few months at all."

April 11, 1932

April 26, 1932

April 28, 1932

May 18, 1932

Undated letters (4 folders)

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