Religion On Campus

Borowitz Answers

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Last Thursday night after the chapel service, some seventy or seventy-five students, one faculty member, and three chaplains of campus religious organizations gathered in the student center for a question and answer session with Rabbi Eugene Borowitz, chapel speaker last Wednesday and Thursday.

His Appeal

The mere fact that this many people at Rice spent better than an hour and a half listening to Rabbi Borowitz evidences his appeal.

His articulate explanation of the faith of reformed Judaism and his provoking answers to many questions were of extreme interest even to an audience composed mainly of Christians, who would say that Rabbi Borowitz’s beliefs are wrong.

The central point of the actual chapel address was an explanation of the “basic root religious experience of the Jew.” This is the overwhelming surprise that a Jew finds in being able to do some good and in understanding what God wants him to do.

Freedom of Action

The Jew is free to act as God would have him act; he is not confined to his culture. To him it seems natural that man is sinful, but it is amazing that he can repent and make his way back to God. This is what God wants, that man should act on his potentiality to live a righteous life in class, in the dorm, or in business.

Further Explanations

Rabbi Borowitz further explained the Jewish belief that man is the sovereign of all creatures; God has put the earth and the solar system in his hands. The danger is that man forgets that his power was given to him and confuses his status with God the sovereign ruler.

Man is created in the image of God, and the son of God is everyman. God is the criterion of our own self-fulfillment.

Before God man is almost nothing. We are dust and we are in the image of God, and for this reason God gives us all the power and yet teaches us our limits so that “man may eventually make of history the kingdom of God.”