

# The Almanian

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"WHERE FRIENDLINESS LINKS LEARNING TO LIVING"

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## TENTATIVE SUMMER SCHOOL WOULD HASTEN GRADUATION

Acting on the suggestion of the United States Government for an accelerated educational program by the colleges, the Alma College Administration is considering establishing a summer school of nine weeks to begin about June 15th.

Students are asked to consider the possibility of their attendance at such a school. A poll will shortly be taken to determine how many would attend.

This will mean practically continuous attendance until graduation, with a brief vacation during August.

By taking from nine to twelve hours each summer present students will be able to graduate at follows:

### Present Freshmen—

Two summers (1942, 1943) to graduate in June, 1944.

### Present Sophomores—

Two summers (1942, 1943) to graduate in August, 1943.

### Present Juniors—

One summer (1942) to graduate in February, 1943.

The cost for the summer school will be approximately one-half the charge for a semester, with a charge for extra hours taken during the school year. To accomplish this early graduation on the above schedule, opportunity for gainful employment during the summer will necessarily be limited to a maximum of four weeks.

## Orators to Battle Thursday Evening

The annual oratorical contest will be held this coming Thursday evening, Jan. 22, at 7 o'clock in the lecture room of the chemistry building. Bill Galinet will preside over the tournament. Professor Carney Smith, head of Alma's speech department, explains that entrants are to have speeches of their own origin from eight to twelve minutes in length.

The oratorical contest will differ from the extemporaneous contest of last fall in that the speeches must be committed to memory and no notes will be permitted. The orators however, may speak on any topic they wish. The contest is still open to all college students. Everybody is cordially invited to attend.

## Phis Plan Open House and Skating Party

Andy Horne, president of Phi Phi Alpha, announces that the Phis are planning an open house and skating party next Saturday. Those who wish will go ice-skating on the river, while the house will be open for games and dancing for those who do not wish to skate. After skating, the group will return to the house where refreshments will be served. The evening will be concluded with dancing. Everyone, including students and faculty, is cordially invited.

## BOOK NOTES

The following new books are in the Alma College library:

"Secret History of the American Revolution," by Carl Van Doren. An account of the conspiracies of Benedict Arnold and several others of his contemporaries. Written from secret papers, this makes intriguing reading.

"Digging for Mrs. Miller," by John Strachey. A story of wartime London. Written in a clear and witty style, it gives information about the technique of dealing with bombs, bodies, fires, and debris.

"Country Schoolma'am," by Mrs. Della Lutes. A simply told story of the author's sixteenth year, when, armed with a three-year certificate, she taught in two rural Michigan schools.

"Broad and Alien is the World," by Ciro Alegria. A novel about the life and ultimate destruction of a small Indian village high in the Peruvian mountains.

"No Other Road to Freedom," by Leland Stowe. A masterly chronicle of the author's seventeen months in war-torn England, Finland, Norway, and the Balkans.

## Ed Baklarz Named to Presidency of Deltas

Ed Baklarz, Ecorse senior, was elected president of Delta Gamma Tau fraternity in the general election held Monday evening, January 19.

Other members elected to offices in the fraternity were, Marvin Fenner, Vice President; Andy Edgerton, Secretary; Bill Galinet, Parliamentarian; Bud Boylan, Historian; Ken Plaxton, Corresponding Secretary; Bob Ruehl, House Manager, and Sud Hayden, Sergeant at Arms.

The newly elected officers will be inaugurated at the next regular meeting and will hold office during the entire second semester.

## FACULTY PARTY TO BE THURSDAY EVENING

The third in the series of faculty parties will be held Thursday evening, Jan. 22, in the chapel recreation room. Those in charge are: Dr. and Mrs. Rorem, Coach and Mrs. Macdonald, Dr. and Mrs. Rands, Miss Schaafsma, Miss Smith, and Miss Klein.

## CHANGE CONCERT DATE

The attention of ticket-holders to the Community Concert Series is called to the fact that the concert of Emanuel Feuerman, cellist, originally scheduled for Jan. 27, has been changed to Friday night, January 30.

## Joe Yeager Accepts Position in Owosso

After having served for two and one-half years in the Alma College business office, Joe Yeager left Saturday for Owosso where he has the position as assistant auditor of the Union Telephone Company.

Mrs. Yeager will remain in Alma for the present.

## Alma, Albion Tie Debate Meet

Alma College's women's debate squad tied for second place honors with Albion at the Kalamazoo invitational debate meet for women last Wednesday, Jan. 15. Alma's largest women's debate squad of recent years battled over the pros and cons of the topic: Resolved, that the Federal Government regulate by law all labor unions of the United States. Western State Teachers' College won the tournament.

Those debators who made the trip were: Phyllis Yunker, Helen Olander, Rama Kirkwood, Helen Lindsay, Betty McClelland, Emma Richter, Mary Catherine Bell, Beth Aron, Catherine Wilkie, Mary Ann Bowen, Lenore Meyer, Dona Peterson, and Virginia Feighner.

Joseph Caldwell, a Princeton graduate, was the first president of the University of North Carolina.

## College Plans For War Time Schedule

### Absence Ruling Lowered to 2.0

Due to the fact that it is advisable to modify certain regulations in the interest of progress, the faculty voted at the last meeting to lower the present 2.5 absence exemption requirement to 2.0. This will go into effect at the beginning of the second semester.

A survey of the absences during the present semester seemed to show a distinct correlation between grades and the number of absences. The 2.5 student was found to be rarely absent despite the exemption from absence regulations. Those having a 2.0 average had few absences recorded against them. The great majority of absences were incurred by those with an average grade of less than 2.0.

Therefore it was agreed to lower the requirement. The action is to be an experiment and is subject to reversal if it fails to achieve its purpose.

It is not the intent of the faculty that the requirement in regard to regular attendance on classes be in any way lowered. It does mean that the student who maintains a good class average can use his own judgement in regard to what constitutes cause for absence and the number of absences which he can afford to take from any class. Furthermore, he need not signify his reasons for absence nor be bound by the other routine requirements. It is in effect a liberalization intended to place emphasis upon the student responsibility.

If this new privilege is treated thoughtfully and conservatively it will undoubtedly be continued and may be the forerunner of future liberalities.

It must be specifically stated that this exemption does not extend to chapel absences.

### Drama Club to Present 'Our Town'

"Our Town," Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize winning play is to be given here on the campus by the Drama Club, under the direction of Mr. Volpel. This is the annual play production of early spring. Tentative plans are to present the play in the chapel recreation room on March 19 and 20, Thursday and Friday nights, for both the townspeople and students.

This play is one of the most pointed and touching modern dramas and deals with the philosophy of life and death, formulated by small town people.

Thornton Wilder was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1938 for this play and since its Broadway production, it has been much produced by high school, college, and other dramatic societies of the nation. It was made into a movie in 1940, starring Martha Scott and William Holden as Emily and George.

The part of Emily, the heroine, requires strong dramatic acting while there are other characters of wide variety—comical, tragical and a few with a blend of each. The staging effects of "Our Town" are unique; the period about which the play revolves is 1900.

Try-outs for casting will be held sometime before the close of the semester.

### Alumni Fund Totals \$941.50 to Date

The Alumni Fund for 1941-42 totals \$941.50 to January 16. This amount comes from eighty-four contributors and includes both cash and pledges.

While this is an excellent start, much larger totals are expected to be received when the Class Fund Managers get under way. Gifts range thus far from \$1.00 to \$100, the average gift being \$12.00.

### Musical in Chapel Wednesday Evening

The Wednesday evening hour of musical recordings will be continued this week at the social room of the chapel at 7:15 p. m. The program will be an interesting one, presenting the music of a late Russian orchestral genius and that of a modern American. The program is as follows:

Scheherezade Suite — Rimsky-Korsakov.

Selections from "Porgy and Bess"—George Gershwin.

Everyone is invited to attend.

### Alma Men Hear Call to Arms

Desiring to serve their country in the way in which they would be most useful, many Alma college men have in the past few weeks made definite plans for entering the higher branches of the United States armed forces.

On Wednesday of last week eighteen men of the college traveled to Detroit on a college bus to take the physical examination for Naval Reserve officer's training. Of the whole group only one of the men passed the examination 100 per cent, Jerry Duvendeck, Portsmouth, Ohio, Junior. Warren Heitman, Junior from Grosse Pointe, has recently undergone an operation which will make it possible for him to pass the physical test. These men will be allowed to finish college and graduate in 1943 and will possibly receive their first month's training this next summer. After graduating they will be given three months more training and then, if they have passed all requirements, will go into service with the rank of Ensign in the Naval Reserve.

George Gillert, Port Huron, Senior, has recently passed the examination for the Army Air Corps and will begin his training at the close of this semester. Another Alma man headed for the Air Corps is Ted Welgoss, Junior from Auburn, N. Y., who leaves tomorrow for training at Kelly Field, Texas. Bob Brown has passed the Air Corps examination but has not applied for training and hopes to finish the school year. Bert Katzenmeyer has also passed the examination and will finish next semester if it is possible.

Jaek Tait has already enlisted in the Navy and is at present taking further training. Don Montgomery and Peyton Millhenn have entered the regular army.

According to Marvin Volpel, faculty resident in Pioneer Hall, the freshmen men realize the importance of their finishing the year and few are leaving at the end of the semester. One freshman, Harold Thomas, will return to Howe Military Academy where he did his preparatory work before coming to Alma.

### NOTICE TO ABSENTEES AND "CUTTERS"!

It is VERY important that your excuse for absences from classes be turned in as soon as possible after the class is missed. Failure to have this done results in a recorded unexcused absence on your record. Do you appreciate the effect of an unexcused absence on your record? This is a problem which seems to have been overlooked by some students. If a class is dropped, an E is recorded on the student's record with the consequent damage to his number of honor points. This may seriously injure his chances of graduation. Certainly one who is considering the possibility of absenting himself permanently from any course should consult with the registrar and determine exactly what effect would result from such actions.

### Three Plans Are Considered by Dr. Dunning

Last Wednesday, President Dunning attended a conference of Michigan college presidents, where the government's call for accelerated educational programs was discussed. By agreement each college is left free to work out its own plan, under three different possibilities:

1. To change the entire college schedule into a trimester plan, with three school periods of fifteen weeks each, or a school year of forty-five full-schedule weeks. This plan does not seem possible or practical for Alma.

2. To establish a summer school of nine weeks and increase the semester hours during the regular school year. This plan is outlined elsewhere in the Almanian and is a possibility, if enough students enroll for summer sessions.

3. An accelerated program during the regular school year with a maximum schedule of twenty hours for those able to carry the work, and an enlarged curriculum to include many War Emergency subjects.

President Dunning was interviewed and outlined the possibilities under this third procedure.

"The war emergency brings a liberal arts college many problems, one of which is the Government's desire to speed up the educational program, to allow students to graduate in a shorter time, without lowering graduation requirements. As I see it Alma will follow one of two courses (1) establish a summer school or (2) speed up the regular program and emphasize courses already existing, which have wartime significance, and add others."

"I have discussed the matter with the faculty, and a poll will be taken in the matter of a summer school to see how many of our present students can take summer work."

"The third possibility is receiving serious consideration. It will mean adding to the regular hours for each student, up to twenty hours each semester, which would allow graduation in three years, or more. To do this the college must center its whole program around study, and many of its social, extra-curricular, and off campus activities must be decidedly curtailed. Not all students will be able to carry twenty hours, but many can increase the hours now taken, making possible earlier graduation. It is probable the cost of extra hours may be reduced."

"As to courses, the college already has many fitting into the situation. Two courses will be added in mathematics this second semester. In addition to our regular citizenship course for freshmen, a citizenship course for sophomores will be added next fall. This next semester Mrs. Wiltsee will offer to upper classmen a course dealing with present day international affairs (History 48)."

"It is proposed to organize other classes this second semester in Red Cross First Aid, which will be classed under sociology; and in Red Cross sewing and garment work, classed under Art. We have at present a course under the Speech Department in radio broadcasting, and it may be possible to add a course in the Physics department in radio technique." There may be added courses supplementing our present business classes. It is also proposed to have a course in World Geography, political and physical, which will be open to all students."

"The colleges will also organize intensive physical training and health programs reaching every student. A special committee from the College President's Association and MIAA officials is

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