

# The Almanian

STUDENT PUBLICATION OF ALMA COLLEGE

VOLUME 30

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NUMBER 25

## STUDENT FORUM

### WHAT IS A LIBERAL?

(By Alfred Fortino)

With the approval of the Wagner Act by the Supreme Court Walter Lippmann tells us that the Court is now definitely "liberal". What does it mean for a judge to be liberal on the Supreme Bench? The difference seems to be that the Conservatives begin their reasoning by going to the Constitution, reading it in its descriptive terminology and then applying that law to the socio-economic problem whereas the Liberals go first to the problem, try to analyze it and decide what a possible solution might be and then they take the Constitution and make it fit the problem. Thus Conservatives say an act is constitutional if, when they place the act beside the Constitution, the two are congruent whereas the Liberals insist that an act is constitutional if the exigencies of the time demand such legislation and the act, as written, is not in too great contradiction with the Constitution.

Naturally there are limits within which this elastic method of the liberal group operates—just as there are limits to the inelastic approach of the Conservatives. Otherwise the Liberals would not need a Constitution and the Conservatives would insist that we were still living in the Colonial days. The boundaries of these limits have been pretty well defined by the unanimous decision against the NRA (where it was rather plain that Congress had overstepped its power) and the same kind of a decision in the recent case of the bus company under the Wagner Act (where the conservatives could not deny that interstate commerce was involved.)

### Difference in Procedure

The difference, then, between the Conservative and Liberal elements of the Court is in the procedure. But if we change the procedure we change the function also. At the present time because the Liberals are in ascendance the function has actually changed from that of judicial review to that of social review; that is, the deciding factors are the social needs and not the integrity of the Constitution (within reasonable limits).

This is very definitely not what the Supreme Court was intended for. The only function of the Supreme Court, as originally intended, is that of judicial review, as a check upon the legislative and administrative departments (Conservative attitude). Now the question arises: is this change in function an evasion of fundamental duty by the Court or is it to be justified by a condemnation of the fundamental law that is the measuring stick in judicial review?

In reply to this question it is obvious that if the Liberals are reasoning inductively from the situation to the law instead of deductively from the law to the situation they have lost confidence in the universal applicability of the law and have felt it their duty to make the analysis of the socio-economic conditions the basis of judgment instead of the law.

### Is Law Inapplicable?

The question now becomes: is the fundamental law inapplicable; that is, is the law out of focus with the present day conditions? The Liberals point to unemployment, insecurity, poverty, crime, industrial warfare, etc. and say that the law is out of focus. The Conservatives see the same situations but they do not conclude from them that the law is inadequate. They proclaim these conditions inevitable regardless of the law. They do not believe that the lots of men can be bettered by legislation. They do not think it is fair to curb the rights of the industrious to help the "underdog". They still believe in the doctrine of "rugged individualism".

These different opinions about the adequacy of the law arise from the difference in the Conservative (Continued on page 3)

## Five Students Initiated into Honor Society Thursday

Five students were initiated into Phi Sigma Pi, Alma College honor society, during the chapel hour Thursday. Those initiated were Lillian Hannig, senior; Grace Mathews, Jane Wright, Ted Heth, and Bob Thorn, juniors. Those already in the society are Opal Hines, president, Dorothy Glass, senior, and Irene Folkner and Aletha Hapner, juniors.

The new members were recognized and a speech of acceptance was given by Ted Heth. Miss Hines then introduced Professor Brokenshire who gave the lecture for the occasion.

## Dean and Taber Lead Thinclads To Beat Central

### Scots Win Eleven Firsts Out of Fifteen in 85-46 Victory.

The Scots thinclads again proved their superiority over Central State as they swamped the Bearcats 85-46 in a dual meet at Mt. Pleasant last Wednesday. The local trackmen garnered eleven firsts in fifteen events and swelled this total with considerable seconds and thirds.

Harold Dean and Dud Taber led the parade of winners as is their usual custom on the cinder paths and each twice broke the tape in easy style in their specialties. Dean started off with an easy victory in the mile and then came back and stepped off the 880 in 2:03.4 for a new field record.

Taber outspurred the field in the dashes to register a twin triumph and his 10.2 in the century with a little practice should establish him as the man to beat in the conference. Doc Ling added to the Scots' domination of the track events as he circled the oval ahead of the pack to take the gruelling quarter-mile.

Alma continued to sweep the track events as Johnny Mathews won the 120-yard high hurdles, Clyde Dave captured the 220-yard low hurdles, Jack Cresswell outran the field to win the two-mile, and the college relay team of Dave, Ling, Sayles, and Dean coasted in to take the mile relay.

Central's only strength lay in the field events. The Bearcats' star weight man, Ginrich, won the discus and shotput, while Gleason took the high jump and Moeller captured the pole vault. But the local lads weren't to be outdone and Bob Devaney hurled the javelin (Continued on page 3)

## Drama Club Will Put On a Matinee

### Charles Dove Replaces Bill Totten in Cast.

The cast for "Death Takes A Holiday" was altered once more last week when Charles Dove replaced Bill Totten as "Eric". Totten felt that he could not afford the time necessary for rehearsals and so the part was turned over to Charles Dove after an informal tryout which involved two other candidates. Dove tried the role in the original tryouts three weeks ago.

It was decided last week, Holmes Sullivan announced to the cast, that a matinee will be given on Friday afternoon, May 21, especially for the school children and high school. The curtain for the (Continued on page 4)

## Alma Sends Six Delegates to the Model League Fri.

### Local I. R. C. to Represent United States and Switzerland at Ann Arbor.

The United States and Switzerland will be the countries represented by the Alma International Relations Club at the Model League Assembly in Ann Arbor Friday and Saturday. Representatives will also be sent to the Model Session of International Labor Conference.

Those to attend will be George Walker and Gordon Netzorg who will be on the First Committee. This committee's work deals with the reform and reorganization of the League. Dick Neville and Jack Bryce will go to the sessions of the Second Committee. Here the topic for discussion will be American Neutrality Policy. To the International Labor Conference will go Al Fortino and Stan Sweet. The latter meeting is in addition to the Model League meeting.

The program for the two days will begin at 11 A. M. Friday with the meeting of the International Labor Conference. At 12:30 a luncheon will be served and a preliminary business meeting will be held directly thereafter. At 2 P. M. the committee meetings will begin. At 4:30 will come the informal student meetings which will discuss "The Future of Collective Security" and "The Future of the Model Assembly." Everybody is invited to the banquet at 6:30 and to the dance at 9:00. Saturday morning at 9:00 committees will meet again. At 10 the Plenary Session of the Assembly will meet and the conference will adjourn with a luncheon at 12:15.

Among the speakers at the luncheons and banquets will be Professor Pitman E. Potter of the Inst. Univ. de Hautes Etudes Internationales, Geneva, now exchange professor at the University of Chicago.

Two Alma delegates will be responsible for prepared speeches. Dick Neville will speak on the McReynolds Neutrality Bill before the Committee on American Neutrality and Al Fortino will speak on the Wagner Act before the International Labor Conference.

The delegates will leave Friday morning and return here Saturday night.

## Tennis Team Is Beaten by Albion Here, 7-0

Alma's tennis team suffered defeat in its first match of the season here last Friday when the Albion Britons took them by the score of 7-0. The shut-out, however, was not so humiliating as the score would indicate. The Scots fought valiantly and were beaten only after hard scraps in many of the matches.

H. B. Johnson, Alma number 1 man, led Carr, Albion number 1, 3-0 but lost in a fight against a cagey opponent and a merciless wind, 6-3, 6-4. In the other matches Butler, Albion, defeated Alexander, Alma, 7-5, 6-3. Loye beat Garrison 6-1, 6-4; Misner defeated Pangburn, 6-1, 6-1 and Prettyman took Purdy, 6-4, 6-3.

In the doubles Alma fared no better. Carr and Misner, Albion 1 and 2 men, beat Johnson and Pangburn, Alma 1 and 2, 6-2, 6-0, and Prettyman and Loye defeated Purdy and Alexander, 7-5, 7-5.

A seventh meet has been added to the schedule as already announced. Olivet will play here May 13. The next contest for the squad will be with Central at Mt. Pleasant.

## Student Protests On Hitch-Hike Bill Heeded

In an article in the Olivet Echo, student paper of Olivet College, the editors indicate that the petitions that were signed by many Michigan college students against the pending Hitch-Hike bill have been answered in part by Lansing authorities. Although no definite information was given on the general opinion on the bill in the Legislature a letter from the Charlotte representative indicated that the bill was intended to keep hitch-hikers off the pavement of the roads in order to prevent accidents. Anyway, he thought the bill would be defeated.

## Eight of Every Hundred on Relief Are Able to Work

### Mr. Coggan, Welfare Director, Says Relief May Be Drug or An Assistance.

Only eight of every hundred people on relief are able to work, Mr. Bernard Coggan, local director, emergency welfare relief, said in a chapel speech here last Tuesday. "Ninety two of the hundred are children, widows and aged people," Mr. Coggan said. In contradicting the popular idea that most of the people on relief can and should be employed by industry Mr. Coggan said that many of these eight are unemployable for one reason or another. Only a few of the men on relief lack initiative and insist on a dole, the speaker said.

Employers generally and community governments are most responsible for keeping people on relief who are employable, according to Mr. Coggan. Because employers refuse to pay a good wage or give employment for more than a few months and because communities insist on having public works by PWA instead of by independent labor the marginal laborer is compelled to stay on relief since he cannot find security any place else.

Many of those on relief are in desperate straits, Mr. Coggan said, because they do not know how to manage their homes efficiently. Others are incapable of planning their economic program through a whole year. Still others have married and cast themselves upon the state. For such people as these "relief may become a drug" Mr. Coggan insisted. "But for many others relief is merely a boost to get them back on their feet", the speaker was quick to add.

(Continued on page 2)

## Alpha theta Formal At Midland on Sat.

### Pauline Dionese Heads Party Committee.

Featuring the music of Art Byers, the Alpha Theta Literary Society will hold its annual formal at the Midland Country Club, Saturday, May 8.

The party, in charge of Pauline Dionese, will begin at six-thirty, and will close at twelve o'clock.

The committees working with Miss Dionese are as follows: transportation, Ruth Niles, Kay Pesek, Gene Lewis; tickets, Rhea Wark; orchestra, Patricia Bale, Jean Williams; programs, Jeannette Verplanck, Sally Hinckley; chaperones, June Tindall and Vivian Harwood; menu, Charlotte Temple.

## Wine-gar's Music Feature of J-Hop Attended By 142

### One of Largest Crowds in History of J-Hops Attend '38 Edition.

Seventy-six couples, one of the largest crowds to attend a J-Hop in Alma College, were thrilled by the music of Frank Wine-gar and the singing of Betty Jane Blair in Memorial Gymnasium Saturday night. The orchestra featured Miss Blair whose husky voice and yodeling fascinated the dancers, a novelty drummer, a splendid pianist and Frank Wine-gar's own artistry with a guitar.

A spring-time Night Club was the theme of the decorations for the "38" J-Hop. Paper flowers were strewn throughout the gym and a large bird bath occupied the center of the dancing floor. Around the sides of the dancing space were many booths furnished with porch furniture. A large "38" decorated the front of the stage on which the orchestra was seated.

Art Smith, president of the class of '38", and Helen Guillaume, his guest, led a long and complicated grand march which was exceptionally well done. Many people familiar on the campus a few years ago were recognized in the course of the evening.

The guests of honor were Dr. and Mrs. Crooks, Dean and Mrs. Rorem, Dean Steward and Professor Mitchell. Many other faculty members attended. The party started at 8:45 and continued until 12:15.

The entire school is surprised at the great success of the party (financial as well as social). Responsibility for this success rests upon the shoulders of the few juniors who cooperated with the class officers to make preparations. The co-chairmen in charge were Herb Peters and Cash Lea. Others who did yeoman work were Pauline Dionese, Aletha Hapner, Larry Phillips, Russ Burtraw and Bill Bainbridge, a sophomore.

## Student Body to Elect Queen of Scots This Week

This week the student body will elect the 1937 edition of the Queen of Scots. This information came from the Student Council last Thursday night although no definite date for the election was given. A committee, as yet unnamed but definitely including Prof. Hamilton, will probably conduct an election in the chapel Thursday. Everybody is asked to make it a point to be in chapel on that day or any day that is announced as the time for the election.

The Queen will be elected as has been the custom for the years past. Every person will vote for whomever he feels should be Queen. The girl getting the largest number of votes will win the honor. The Queen's court will be chosen from the runners up. The Queens of the past have been Mary Painter, '34; Florence Schwartz, '35; and Greta and Gretchen Wilson, '36. The latter two were twin Queens by a great majority of the votes.

The Queen is always crowned on Campus Day which this year is on May 12. The Council has appointed a committee to plan the program for the day and at the last meeting passed a resolution to invite the local high school seniors. The Campus Day program will include the customary activities with the tug-of-war, field day, boys' and girls' ball games and the dance. Weather permitting the Queen will be crowned in the Grove and luncheon will be served there also.

# The Almanian

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### Let's Get in the News!

There are undoubtedly many alumni who are wondering if we are still in the MIAA conference. Since many must depend upon Detroit papers for information they probably do not know anything about our sports this spring because although there are rather elaborate reports about the sports of other schools in the papers there has been almost no mention of what the Scots are doing. Of course to make the sports pages of a metropolitan newspaper is not necessarily a mark of a good school. But because we do have an athletic program and because papers are interested in athletic programs it follows almost logically that the name of Alma College should appear in those pages.

We contend that we want the support of the alumni. We insist that alumni should be faithful to their alma mater. But alumni have a certain amount of pride and sometimes they feel as badly as we do when somebody asks them where Alma College is and add that they have never heard of it before. The best way to make these people feel that their college is still alive and still worthy of their loyalty is to keep the name of the school in the papers.

During the past few months stories of the athletic meets of every other school in the MIAA have been in the Sunday papers in Detroit and Alma has been mentioned only when she was in a contest with one of the other schools. Not a few of the students have made this observation and many of them have wondered why this happened to be true.

There are many reasons for this condition. The biggest one is that the men who have been writing MIAA sports for these many years have more interest in the other schools than they have in Alma. Another reason is that the newspapers, in sorting through the mass of material that comes to them, become accustomed to accepting of some writer or writers as the authentic report for certain quarters. It happens that the writers that the Detroit papers accept as authorities on MIAA sports are at Olivet, Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids and they seem very rarely to look toward Alma.

But that is not all the story. These other schools have accounts of individual contests in the Detroit and other metropolitan papers as well as stories about the activities on their campuses. For this much the schools themselves are responsible. We, apparently, are not doing that. There is little left to say other than we should make an effort to keep in the news. We have succeeded in making many of the state papers consistently, especially the Saginaw News, now let's make the Detroit papers.

### Wright Hallology

Speaking of Campus Day, Alma should inaugurate a Library Day to precede each of Prof. Unstad's Economics exams. Library studying then seems to be a student body affair judging by attendance records.

Myron Wieneke wishes it understood that he does not file his nails—he cuts them off and throws them away.

Amelia Arnold admits the "love bug has got her." No names mentioned, but we'll bet she is neither the first nor only campus casualty this spring.

Stooge Lowry wishes to announce to his anxious and admiring public that he already has a bid to the K I binge. Sorry, girls, but the early bird gets the worm or the early worm gets the bird, or something.

Looks like some of our campus "men" are getting off to a late start in the mustache contest, due to that J-Hop—Are ye men or are ye mice?

Yeometer Cramton needs a little help in this mustache contest. We suggest a bit of skin grafting,

as a mustache. Bob Cook seems to resent any competition in this apple polishing business.

H. B. nominates Clyde Dawe as Public Enemy number one. Any seconds to the nomination, Betty Hamilton?

In answer to ugly rumors concerning his whereabouts on Thursday p. m. Popp Gunn insists he doesn't even know where the cemetery is.

Anyone knowing of a two volume biography with not over 20 pages per volume, having big print and lots of pictures, please notify C. H. LeClaire.

Ace Cutler's reverent spirit should be an example to all Chapel attenders.

And Jack Sieg seems comfortable in slumber.

Saturday before last saw Mary Allen with a face that was definitely red. Could it have been the wrappings on her birthday gifts? Shame on you, Hester!

Who sez Butch doesn't drink—you should see him tackle that tea cup. The Phi House needs a hostess to keep the boys in at night.

Have you any problems you are unable to cope with?

### ON THE RADIO

Saturday Night Swing Session available over WJR. Word to the wise and stuff . . .

Kay Thompson, shining star in the constellation offered by Chest-erfield on Friday evenings, has again shown her versatility by writing a whole new song for herself and her Rhythm Singers. Title is "Celebrating Time." Was appropriately featured last Friday on their first anniversary of cigs-ponsoring. Kay has the reputation of being a hard worker . . . arranges a large part of her musical material . . . writes original lyrics for many of their novelty numbers featured by her Rhythm Singers . . . who incidentally are Kay Thompson-trained . . . been making Victor recordings lately in response to demand . . . has had couple movie offers but doesn't want to go "Hollywood" yet. And can the little girl sing!

Stepping a little out of our territory, we took a peek in at the Drama-clubbers rehearsing for "Death Takes a Holiday" to be presented May 21st at the Strand. They really got something thar!

Jack Denny is moving into the Drake May 7th to take White-man's place. (WGN) \*\*\*Arnold Johnson (WGN) has picked up a number of good swing artists. We look for some real improvements, now. \*\*\*Week from this coming Sat. Gus Arnheim and boys play for IMA crowd in Flint.\*\*\* LOUIS ARMSTRONG moves into the Ozzie Nelson-Bob Ripley spot, on Sundays with an all-colored show. For a sample of his work listen Fridays at 8 over the NBC Blue network.\*\*\* Kentucky Derby—the Almanian Mustache Derby's only rival—will be aired at 5:15 this Saturday.\*\*\*Too bad that Jimmy Grier and orchestra are buried under the mess of pseudo-comedy of Penner and stuff—he really has a band thar.\*\*\*Some people still like Shep Fields—but there are still some who like Amos and Andy, too, so . . .\*\*\*Bunny Berrigan, the musicians' favorite trumpet-tooter, is beating 'em on out over WGN-Mutual's "Fun in Swingtime" now. He has succeeded Benny Goodman at the Hotel Pennsylvania's Manhattan Room in New York and doing right smart, thank you. Bunny is a Wisconsin U man . . . played the fiddle there till caught in the coils of a torrid trumpet. Came to NY with Frank Cornwell's ork and has worked successively with Hal Kemp, Rudy Vallee, and Abe Lyman, Freddie Rich, Tommy Dorsey, and Benny Goodman. Last year he started a swing combo at the erstwhile Famous Door on giddy 52nd street and then spread his topnotch trumpet from coast to coast on the Saturday-Night-Swing-Club. Said Swing Club was and still is one of the few real swing programs on the air. They're really sending the cats thar. He has a couple spots scattered thru the week on WGN. Look for 'em.\*\*\*Earl Hines is back in Chicago and broadcasting his smart piano work via WGN.\*\*\*I guess I've burnt out my tubes, so I'm signing off, thank ye.

### Eight of Every Hundred On Relief Able to Work

(Continued from page 1) In Gratiot county one hundred out of every 1500 people are on relief. At the present time Mr. Coggan pays out on an average of \$13,000 each month to those on this roll. This sum includes all necessities. In 1933, the director said, he paid out about \$45,000 per month.

As a method of getting these people back into industry Mr. Coggan suggested that a committee be appointed in the community to plan work through periods of comparative unemployment. More concretely he itemized three proposals: (1) State bills to consolidate work of relief agencies; (2) need for a strong council of youth (particularly for rural people); (3) county health clinic (Gratiot county is woefully lacking in this respect).

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Sunday and Monday, May 9-10

CHESTER MORRIS  
and HELEN MACK in

**"I Promise to Pay"**

**Alma  
Day by Day**

Tuna fish sandwiches, and peaches. A fine thing . . . Congratulations, Jean. Who it it? . . . The J-Hop was a charming affair . . . Who cares about "news peg" anyhow? . . . All one sees nowadays is mustaches . . . We nominate Art Smith as the champion piano mover . . . Betty Roberts has had a sore throat . . . DeEtta Baker is sunburned.

Thoughts while strolling: Jane Fraker has a flawless complexion . . . Sully, Kenny, Bill, Norm, and Carlyle evidently don't like macaroni . . . Biology is getting me down . . . There are 31,536,000 seconds in a year . . . Harold Dean is setting all kinds of records. Funny what certain things will do for one . . . I like Margaret Kennedy's gray shoes.

The game of bridge takes up too much of one's time. Some people could get quite good marks if they didn't play bridge so much . . . We suggest that Sally Hinckley and Amelia Arnold throw their bedroom slippers away, and get some new ones that don't slop.

A local New Dealer thinks chairman John Hamilton will soon exhaust the \$10,000 travel allowance, on account of the distance between Republicans . . . In a matrimonial bureau publication a widow advertises that she wants to marry a man who weighs not more than 130 pounds: After the thin man. . . Some people can stay longer in an hour than others can in a week.

Doug Clack carries two jackknives with him . . . Beer . . . Eleanor Cotton has had her hair cut. It looks much better . . . Jeanette Verplanck has parted her's in the middle. It looks better, too . . . Joe Penner is improving his program a lot.

We sometimes wonder if always telling the truth gets you any place. Sometimes it does, but evidently it doesn't always seem to help. One's heart could be breaking, and yet telling the truth makes it all the worse. If people would believe you when you do tell the truth, so much trouble could be avoided. Spring isn't quite as glorious as it was cracked up to be. But then, in only five more weeks, school will be out and then it won't be so bad. Swimming, horseback riding, and such can take up your time so you don't have to think . . . So this is Spring.

**Dean and Taber Lead  
Thinclads to Beat Central**

(Continued from page 1)

lin like a champion to win easily and Butch Gilbert and Art Smith finished one-two in the broad jump.

Summary:  
Mile run—Won by Dean; Creswell, second; Smith (CS), third. Time—4:58.8.

120-yard high hurdles—Won by Mathews; Barden (CS), second; Elder, third. Time—18.6.

440-yard run—Won by Ling; Sayles, second; Rynberg (CS), third. Time—54.6.

100-yard dash—Won by Taber; Barberi (CS), second; Dawe, third. Time—10.2.

880-yard run—Won by Dean; Gould, second; Rynberg (CS), third. Time—2:03.4.

220-yard low hurdles—Won by Dawe; Barberi (CS), second; Barden (CS), third. Time—27.3.

2-mile run—Won by Creswell; Bunce (CS), second; Campbell (CS), third. Time—11:11.4.

220-yard dash—Won by Taber; Barberi (CS), second; Smith, third. Time—23.

Mile relay — Won by Alma (Dawe, Sayles, Ling, Dean). Time—3:41.

Pole vault — Won by Moeller (CS); Adams, second; Lalley (CS), third. Height—10 feet 1 inch.

High jump — Won by Gleason (CS); Moeller (CS), second; Elder, third. Height—5 feet 8 inches.

Discus—Won by Ginrich (CS); Gilbert, second; Elder, third. Distance—122 feet 5½ inches.

Shot put — Won by Gingrich (CS); MacGarvah, second; Cater, third. Distance—39 feet 2 inches.

Javelin—Won by Devaney; Elder, second; Rynberg (CS), third. Distance—135 feet.

Broad jump—Won by Gilbert; Smith, second; Gleason (CS), third. Distance—19 feet 6½ inches.

**CAMPUS BIOGRAPHIES**

Charles "Red" LeClaire  
Charles Homer "Red" LeClaire claims he is a full blooded Indian of French-Irish and Scotch-Irish descent. Super talented, even for a Frosh, speaking seven modern languages (more or less including French), and has always been a model child. The model has been discontinued, we hope. In spite of information that he was really a problem child, he has managed to develop into quite a man about the campus—Frosh football, Frosh track, campus welterweight champ, and is now fielding artistically for Pioneer Hall baseball nine. He has .1000 batting average at time of this writing. Has numerous likes and dislikes. Definitely not fond of STEW, but likes macaroni and cheese, Hungarian goulashi, traveling north (just now and then), collecting stamps, lemon cokes, talking track meets, Wright Hall girls, and Alma folks in general. Way up north, about twenty miles, he is known as one of Jane's boys and has a life membership in the Clare Country Club. His activities in the latter have resulted in the suggestion that the club be renamed the LeClaire County Club.

Accomplishments to date include great steps in the field of research in wimming (verb form of women). He prefers blondes, likes brunettes, doesn't mind red-heads, and will eat anything that is put on his plate.

His hair cut works on the reverse of the Samson principle. His astonishing strength is derived from the Vitamin D absorbed in sunshine as it filters thru his feeble pate.

Has full length self-portrait on his north wall done at the age of seven. Has a brilliant future planned. Will fill pointless pens without sacs for the people who write with pencil. In between busy spells hopes to get a little corporation law absorbed, a rich wife, and a shekel.

**Student Forum—  
What Is A Liberal?**

(Continued from page 1)  
and Liberal interpretations of Rights. The Liberals are inclined to use the FUNCTIONAL definition of Rights instead of the old DESCRIPTIVE definition which is still the foundation stone of the Conservatives. That is to say, the Liberals consider the strength of a Right not by its entrenchment in the legal code but by the resulting effects of that Right as it is utilized in society. This is well illustrated by the recent Women's Minimum Wage Law. Here the Liberals curbed the Right of contract because they felt that the indiscriminate operation of that Right had an evil effect upon society. In a similar way and for the same reasons the Rights of property have been curbed. Obviously the Conservatives cannot think as the Liberals do when they disagree with them in the elemental definitions.

Nowthen, is the functional point of view justifiable so far as we as students are concerned? If we are students and if we are to answer as students we must say that it is justifiable. For all of our science, all that represents advancement in scholarly pursuit is based on functional precepts. In fact science begins when we stop thinking in terms of the old dogmatic descriptive axioms and start thinking in terms of what results when we observe action and interaction. And the greatest advancement of recent years has been the application of this science to socio-economic problems. Unless we repudiate our sociology and our economics, even our psychology, we are compelled by sheer logic to subscribe to the functional interpretation.

The incompetence and the irrelevance of the descriptive definition is well illustrated by the fact that legislation that had been called unconstitutional has been rewritten to correct its descriptive deficiencies and still to keep its original functional properties. The Women's Minimum Wage Law was one of these. The AAA has been rewritten and even the NRA is likely to be rewritten. Experts are fairly agreed that if the New Deal legislators had been a little more careful in technicalities most of their measures would have been sustained. If this is true then it must be admitted that the Conservatives are much more interested in the integrity of a legal logic than they are in the welfare of society.

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### AN ESSAY ON RELIGION

(By Dr. Theodore Schreiber)

Religion is for me the consciousness of myself in relation to and as a very real part of the universal drive toward perfection, a fact which I realize in all life and even in inorganic matter. Yes, every rock and crooked creek, mountain peak and valley is incessantly being leveled out. What is the ultimate meaning of this process—I do not pretend to know. But I see it all around me, yes, I am strongly aware of this irresistible force within myself and others. The only difference is that those not conscious of it either do not know or know less and understand less about many of their actions, while I voluntarily lend the powers of my mind and in turn my five senses as the tools of the mind to this urge for perfection. From this it is obvious that every human being is religious by his very nature, perhaps more instinctively than consciously.

Did not Paul, at one time, have the clear vision that the heathen would have no excuse if they should fail to become conscious of this universal recognition of man's higher destiny? Did not Tertulian speak of the anima naturaliter Christiana, the soul as Christian by nature? Yet, Tertulian was considered an heretic, as was Christ himself by the selfish, arrogant, narrow-minded, intolerant, and nationalistic priest-cast of his day. And as Christ for the maintenance of the spirit of religion suffered death by their hand thus every other great religious man ran the danger of losing his life.

And what great and greatest works of art, music, or literature are not religious in the deepest sense of the term? Think of the Parthenon, of the Sistine Madonna, of the cathedral of Koln; and what about Michelangelo, Bach, Beethoven? Is Dante's unexcelled Art not essentially religious? Don't you see in Shakespeare's Tragedies the eternal truth of atonement for disturbance of divine order? Goethe's Faust begins in the traditional Heaven and ends there, Faust himself being received in grace because of his ever striving for perfection. Schiller's great creations are no less philosophic than religious. Richard Wagner's colossal Ring des Nibelungen is fundamentally religious throughout. Hauptmann's great epic Till Eulenspiegel depicts the life of a post-war erratic veteran who is trying to save his soul in a world of chaos and confusion. Or, I might mention Nietzsche's Zarathustra and most of his poetry, and certainly his youthful poem "To the Unknown God", written at graduation from the Gymnasium to show how essentially religious the man and thinker-poet was. Again, is there any system of philosophy reasoned out by a powerful mind that does not aspire to the most comprehensive knowledge and the most perfect understanding of the riddles of life? And is there any institutionalized religion not claiming—theoretically at least—to be an agent for the promotion of a more perfect individual, community, country, world?

#### Only Approach Is Different

To be sure, the approach to this goal might be and is different and, I agree, often rather pitiful. Much ignorance, misunderstanding, lack of historical aspect, lack of intellectual concentration and more-over lack of moral courage are responsible for our deplorable situation. But all this is not the fault of religion, but of man.

As a test for your religion you might and must read Matthew, chapters XXIII and XXIV. There you will find the summum bonum of it all: The Kingdom is within you. All else is trimming, incidental, accidental, temporal, materialistic, false, unnecessary. The trouble with us is, as Emerson said, "We paint things we do not possess." It's the old oriental trick!

Our native sense of intrinsic values has been suppressed for centuries. Laws and letters of the law have been substituted. By the time of Jesus the Ten Commandments had grown to thousands. Today not one single brain even in the Supreme Court can tell them all. That's the result of a system of legalism as the Roman Church took it over from the old Hebrews, and with which zealous Irish monks harnessed the native virtues, the innate wisdom and primitive honesty of our forefathers in

the primeval forests of Northern Europe. These unspoiled children of God—just as you and I in our earliest youth were forced to memorize paragraphs of doctrines, GEBOTE and VERBOTE, which we did not understand. How were we reprimanded and even punished for our little sins, committed in innocence and harmlessness. But we should not wonder. Jesus was even courtmarshalled and executed by the Divines of his day because he had obviously violated cults and rituals and phrases and paragraphs of code and constitution of the land in which he lived. It happened whenever the salt of the earth lost its power!

#### Another Test

Another test I might advise you to take. It is the question: What do I live for anyway? My answer is this: Even if accident brought you into this unfinished world, you need not to continue this life by merely gasping for breath. To tell the truth, you must definitely not do so. There is no purpose in life for its own sake. It would be a cheap illusion. As said at the beginning, there is constant strife in all life matter—and what is not alive?—for higher modes or forms, man being the highest visible. But within his own species there are worms, snakes, butterflies, coyotes, sharks, apes, and mostly poor imitators at that! There are others! There have been others! From them you must choose your heroes. As to unselfishness, simplicity,

spirituality Jesus need not to be substituted. Going after him can never lead you wrong. In fact we must grow into his all inclusive Godhood. May thus our particular microcosm be completely fused with the divine will of macrocosm that the good and holy becomes an instinctive habit. Though we might not succeed entirely in this for our individual existence, we must nevertheless insist on it for ourselves by helping others as much as is within our power. What a task this is compared to the trifles of our daily business! We may be only links, or, fragments rather, toward the day when the Kingdom is to come because of your and my effort and the support of million others, but we have lived for a Divine purpose.

### Prof. Seaman is Author of Article in Classical Journal

Prof. William Seaman is the author of an article in the May issue of the Classical Journal published by the Classical Association of the Middle West and South. The article, on page 497 deals with "Some Ancient Examples of Changes of Sex". The author takes his text from an article in a recent issue of Time dealing with the discovery of male characteristics among the female athletes at the Olympic games and he points out that these same observations are made frequently in classical literature.

### Notes from Other Campuses

**Kalamazoo:** Picked as meeting place of the 1938 Mid-west conference of the International Relations clubs next spring. This was decided at the meeting this year at Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin.—Band will give another concert May 11.—Both Deans resign posts.—J. Edgar Hoover to speak at June Commencement exercises.

**Olivet:** On May 1 the symphony orchestra presented a spring concert from WWJ, Detroit, and broadcast over the Red Network of the National Broadcasting Company in a coast to coast broadcast. The concert was from 12:30 to 1:30 p. m.

### Drama Club Will Put On a Matinee

(Continued from page 1)  
evening performance will rise around 8:15.

The sponsors of the play will be the clubs of the Presbyterian Church who will apportion the gate receipts among their many charities. The Drama Club will be responsible only for the production of the play, the construction of the set and the costumes as well as the ticket sales on the campus. All other financial matters are left to the sponsors.

The construction of the set will require ingenuity and time. A great deal of it will have to be made by members of the club. Charles Barden, who has acted as

stage manager for all plays since he came here four years ago, was appointed to the same capacity for this, his last play. Byron Stephens will be property manager and be responsible for tickets at the theatre Friday night.

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Thursday, May 6th  
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**The Country Gentlemen**  
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Friday and Saturday, May 7-8  
BUCK JONES in  
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