

# THE OBSERVER

LOU FISHER BOB GUTHRIE

## Midwest Liberalism?

The middle west and west are sometimes believed to be liberal, even radical, in politics because of populism, the granger movement, free silver and similar public expressions. Liberalism is defined as inclined to democratic or republican ideas, progressive, independent. As such, its practices are not restricted to any one, but cross party lines. In the light of the above definition, can the west be considered as liberal?

Progressive public officials have a hard time in this region. Illinois had a great leader back in the 1890's, but Governor Altgeld went down in defeat while his greatness is at last recognized in the recent book, "An Eagle Forgotten." Illinois has changed little since his time in its disregard of independent government officials.

Just north is the state of Wisconsin, where the progressive party was synonymous with good government and the name of La Follette. The "Elder Bob," as governor and senator, broke the Wisconsin party machines and fought all his life for the farmer and the small man. He died, but the two sons carried on the traditions of their father. "Young Bob," the senator, is one of the truly great progressives. His good works are many, the most recent of which was the reorganization of the Senate. But the progressive party had been weakened by the war and good times; "Young Bob" was defeated in the republican primary by a party hack. And so the country lost its ablest senator.

Out of Nebraska, as a Republican representative, came George W. Norris. For 40 years in Congress, he grew more progressive and more alone in his party. Without patronage, independent Norris broke the power of Speaker Joe Cannon, fought for farm relief and much other sorely needed legislation. But the "grand old man" of the Senate was defeated in 1944 by an unknown candidate, now Senator Wherry. The reasons for defeat are given as old age, failure to campaign, etc. This may all be true, but also prosperity had returned to Nebraska.

There are many other examples of excellent public officials who lost. To blame the defeat of such men as a trend away from liberalism is to assume that the west was ever liberal. This is a mistake, as essentially populism, free silver and the like are protest movements caused by depressed farm prices,

## King Oliver and His Horn Scorched 35th and State

by Bob Havlik

With the closing of Storyville in October 1917, most New Orleans musicians travelled north to California, New York, and Chicago. Thus by the time Joe "King" Oliver arrived in the Windy City, there were several good jazz bands playing here on the South Side. The competition for good musicians here was high. When Lawrence Dewey, leader of a band at the Dreamland Cafe, at 35th and State, heard that Bill Johnson, leader of the Royal Garden Cafe band, had sent for Joe, he immediately set out to steal him for his own band. Joe, in order not to disappoint either of them, both of whom were his friends, decided to play in both bands. He played at the Gardens until midnight and then went to the Dreamland where he played until the wee hours of the morning. This was no effort for the hardy New Orleans musician who was used to playing in parades all day and night clubs all night.

While playing with the Royal Gardens band, Clarence Williams, (See KING OLIVER on page 6)

## campus COMMENTS

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This column is for expression of ideas from readers. Letters containing not more than 250 words will be printed. Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication, although a writer's name will be withheld from publication if desired.)

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Thy Honor System, Honor

The Honor System is failing. Observation of tests conducted now will satisfy anyone. Why it is proving unsatisfactory? The ideals are there, the "teeth" in the system are present, why shouldn't it work? Because no law will work unless enforced—would have to cheat or expose them. The Honor System must not allow these men the opportunity to cheat. Either we must enforce this system or discard it.

The system is not some insidious device of the faculty to put the burden of test supervision upon the student. The professors leave the classroom, putting the individual on his honor. Analyze that word. Do you, as a college man, feel that you need an instructor protecting every quiz? Don't you feel that with study you can pass any course? Why not use your sense of honor—don't make your classmate break his word by giving you aid—don't give aid to anyone and stop the few unprincipled ones who will not do this.

In that last sentence is the crux of the situation. Of what value is it to take a quiz under fair methods and let two malefactors discuss the answers? In self-preservation one

The first alternative is the better one. We are striving to make engineering a respected profession—honorable one. Why not start college? To discard the system is to admit defeat of this goal—to allow it to continue to aid those without principle is wrong.

(Signed) Jacob Dumelle.

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### ● CURTAIN CALL

(Continued from page 2)

gins) is responsible for seeing that his Galatea (Eliza) makes some good use of that life.

Well, briefly, that is a summary of the "message" of the play. It sounds a trifle on the heavy side, doesn't it? But, if you know Shaw, you know that he paints even the darkest pictures with the lightest and most sparkling pigments. His scene in the second act where the half-finished Eliza is presented to high society on trial is witness to that.

Gertrude Lawrence, whose own career parallels that of Eliza in that she, too, started out in the slums of London and has now risen to be the toast of the town, gives her role a vivacity, charm and tenderness that makes you laugh hardest just when the waterworks should be flowing full force.

Well, so much for Pygmalion. Now all you have to do is restore Messrs. Fisher and Guthrie's faith in the dignity of the Chicago man by splitting your sides in laughter at the Selwyn instead of at the Rialto.

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