

# By This We Live

*Ten University professors were asked, "What is your philosophy of life? . . . What purpose have you given it?" Their answers are reassuring in a cynical time.*

The young man stood atop his hill of youth and looked down upon the world at his feet and decided, "Life, you are wonderful. I shall add to your wonder—purpose."

An older man, atop a neighboring height, looked down at the world and said, "Life you have been wonderful. I have given something to you and you have given it back to me multiplied."

The young man listened to his neighbor speak. "Old man, you are not supposed to be up here." And the reply came back, "If you give life the purpose you promise, you will always be able to look down upon the world and think it wonderful."

In these times, when the world seems to be something short of wonderful, the conversation reported here may have a hollow ring. But for ten faculty members who were asked, "What is your philosophy of life? . . . What purpose have you given it?," "the conversation would ring true. Each of them briefly explains his purpose and how he directed his course. Their answers are reported here as a possible guide for those who think life has small purpose and is something short of wonderful."

**A Purpose for Everything.** "I think that in considering a philosophy of life, we must start with the assumption that everything we try to do has a purpose. A life without a purpose is comparable to a football game without a goal line.

"And, while it may sound trite to say that it doesn't matter whether you win or lose, but it is how you play the game that counts, I believe it does count very much whether you win or lose, because winning or losing starts a long time before the game is played. There are so many factors, physical, moral, mental and emotional, all delicately balanced, that go to make up a well-contested game in any sport.

"To be in condition and ready to play this game of life a true balance of the moral, mental and physical phases of living must be developed. And, we must realize that every genuine and good article

has a high price tag. We must realize there is no easy way, no short cut, no putting off until tomorrow in any phase of athletics or of life, if one is going to be a consistently successful, self-disciplined competitor.

"We are better athletes in the living of a better life if we can look in the mirror and know that the fellow looking back put out his best today. I believe the correlation of being a good student, good competitor and a good Christian is very high."—**Port G. Robertson, '37ba**, wrestling coach, freshman football coach, and assistant professor of physical education.

**Making Life Worthwhile.** "The two basic things that make life worthwhile to me are being of service to people and doing creative work. Although we live in the jungle of modern times, people are basically good and honest, and therefore worthy of deep consideration.

"In drama, I find I have a medium for serving people and an opportunity for creative expression as well. Instruction in drama helps young people toward better self-confidence, self-expression, a better command of the social graces and in general toward better equipping themselves for a successful adjustment in society. All this is quite aside from the important task of directly preparing them for a career in the theater. In addition, as a teacher one can be available to students when problems arise. It is often hard to say how much anyone gives because a great deal is done by accident or just by being a good listening post."—**Mrs. Helen Lauterer**, associate professor of drama.

**A Basic Bit of Honesty.** "A philosophy of life is hard to pinpoint without coming up with routine truisms, but I do feel that everyone should make a dispassionate analysis of himself to evaluate his strengths and weaknesses. Then the individual should set himself toward goals that are within his range to attain. I, for example, have never had an aptitude for higher mathematics, and to seek high degrees in engineering would be a highly foolish thing. I am inclined to believe that in setting goals that can be attained, a person is

not dooming himself to keen disappointments of failure. I don't mean by that that one should be lazy, but I have seen a lot of hard breaks in students who try work in things that nature didn't intend for them to do. Above all, a person should be honest with himself. Goals should be strictly within his makeup. The man who built the Golden Gate Bridge was probably satisfied within himself because he was doing what he could do well, and the same with the man who runs the supermarket well. It just takes a basic bit of honesty with oneself.

"In the broader aspects of human relationships, I can say only that I have yet to see an improvement on the Christian tenet, the Golden Rule. It may sound stuffy or preacherish, but it is fundamental.—**C. C. Bush, Jr., '23ba, '32ma**, associate professor of history.

**Know Yourself.** "This is the most interesting, the most wonderful period of history. Our civilization is by far the most complex the world has ever seen. I have watched with wonder and excitement the coming into general use of the automobile, the airplane, the radio, television, radar, the talking picture and the other giant machines used in industry and transportation.

"These rapid changes must have made their marks on mankind, and I have tried to know the workings of modern man's mind—the reaction to the stimuli the world about him furnishes. But the greatest struggle I have had is trying to know myself. I ask myself these questions: What do I believe? What do I halfway believe?

"First, I believe the world is growing better. I believe the present generation is the best one that ever lived. I believe their children will be a better and a smarter group than they are. I believe the college students compose the best group on earth. It is my belief that democracy is better known and is working better than ever before, and that capitalism is the best economic system man has set up. And, while I would like to be a 'rugged individualist,' I never saw a time when it was more evi-



ROBERTSON



BUSH



RAINES



BENTON



CORY

dent that 'I am my brother's keeper.' It seems to me religion means more to us than ever, and though many of us are careless about attending church or paying the preacher, the 'good life' as Christ lived it and taught it dominates my life and my neighbors' lives more than we realize. If nothing else saves us from Communism, our belief and trust in God will. I don't believe we will ever give up our idea of God for Lenin and Stalin's atheism.

"I believe the good life surely is one of service. My profession offers the greatest challenge in this field. To have a part in developing this fine group of young people is a thrilling experience. I wouldn't have missed it for anything.—Dr. Charles F. Daily, '31ed, '33m.ed, '35d.ed, professor of economics.

**Rules for Living.** "I have been asked to put on paper my personal code of ethics or philosophy of life. This is a bit difficult for a teacher of mechanics accustomed to stating that 'force equals mass times acceleration, period.' If, in fact, I do have any Rules for Living, the ones I TRY to live may be summarized as follows:

"1. Do the job that comes to your hand each day to the best of your ability.

"2. Keep your troubles to yourself.

"3. Be patient with the ones you are teaching.

"4. Give someone else a little pleasure, if you can.

"5. Thank your Master for your daily blessings, and ask Him for help when the going gets rough."—William L. Cory, '28eng, '51m.eng, associate professor of mechanics and engineering metallurgy.

**Loving Understanding.** "My basic working philosophy of life consists of the attempt to deal lovingly with those with whom I can not always agree; it is easy enough to love your friends. I try to give loving understanding to those whose views and ideals of life may contradict my own. This is a difficult task and I do not always succeed.

"Along with this humanistic philosophy goes a certain scepticism that is not cynicism. One can not be sure of accomplishing one's ideals in life and some ideals simply give direction to our moral choices and are never actually realizable. In a world of doubtful decisions, one must remain humble."—Dr. Carlton W. Berenda, professor and chairman of the Philosophy Department.

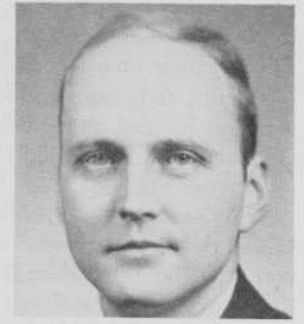
**A Philosophy—A Goal.** "Achieving a philosophy of life is perhaps an undertaking which is rarely fully developed in one's lifetime, because one's attitudes, behavior, and beliefs are in part based upon an increasingly widened scope of activity. Each new experience adds to the structure of one's belief systems whether it modifies, eliminates or expands a basic attitude. I believe that a philosophy of life cannot be developed in isolation—that it is successful and useful primarily as it guides our relationships with others. It involves a feeling of reciprocity, receptiveness, and a willingness to recognize the dignity of each individual in every encounter.

"As my philosophy represents a goal rather than an accomplishment, my life will be more successful as I am able to reflect the best attitudes of others. To do this I must be able to assume that each person has much to offer others. Because life itself is an often difficult, though a rewarding experience for each individual, my own life, and society as a whole can only be strengthened with the recognition that my well-being follows the well-being of others. The ideals of fairness, sincerity and respect for others are necessary ingredients for attempting to achieve my philosophy of life goals."—John G. Eriksen, assistant dean, University College, and government instructor.

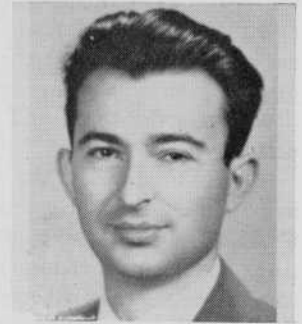
**A Reassuring Comfort.** "This world in which we live is today, even as it always has been, a sad and naughty mess, gnawed by hunger, moth-holed by dishonesty, weighted by too many professional politicians and purified by too few citizens of long vision and of generous personal lives.



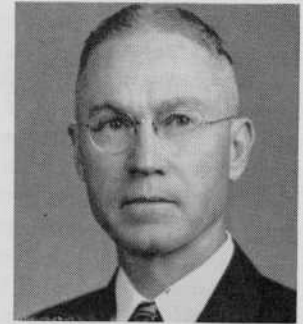
LAUTERER



ERIKSEN



BERENDA



DAILY



MERRILL

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of the requests are most interesting and amusing," Mrs. Thurston said.

Bulletins are published by the department containing lists of plays and packages which are available. The plays may be used if the royalties are paid to the publisher before the play is presented.

Packages are mailed for use over a two week period and a one dollar handling fee is charged. A fine is assessed for overdue material.

Special services are given to clubs or persons who give regularly scheduled programs or speeches. They may send the bureau a schedule of the subjects of the events and two weeks before it is to be given, all the necessary information will be sent.

### Football Flavors . . .

secretary, and Ferrill Martin, '46m.ed, treasurer. Bacon, Rizley and Martin are from Sayre.

Garfield County alumni held a football meeting September 21 in Enid. Paul 'Buddy' Burris, '49bus, All-American football performer at O.U., gave the packed house his impressions of the current O.U. football team. The meeting was called by Ed Fleming, '14, club president.

Wichita, Kansas, Alumni club held a late summer meeting and elected officers. They are Clifton L. McCown, '38geol, president; Ernest Snell, '32bus, vice president, and Dorothy J. Swinney, '27fa, secretary-treasurer.

### By This We Live . . .

"No person has ever held the remedy for the ills of the world, no one ever will—even Christ was crucified and He was the Son of God! But at least a part of the

naughtiness of humanity can be bettered by individual Christian uprightness; hence, one of the tenets of my own creed is a variation upon the Golden Rule: 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you, but you do it first.' The assurance of having done this simple yet difficult act is a reassuring comfort when the work of my long day is done."—**Joseph H. Benton**, '20ba, '21fa, '41ma, professor of music.

**The Greatest Discovery.** "A. E. Housman, the English scholar and poet, once wrote, 'Whosoever will save his life shall lose it, and whosoever will lose his life shall find it.' That is the most important truth which has ever been uttered, and the greatest discovery ever made in the moral world.

"Housman, who was not a Christian, makes a characteristic omission from the passage, the words, 'for my sake.' Yet these words are important to the believer and the unbeliever alike; for they indicate its essential meaning. Devotion to something outside oneself to a person, to a job, to an institution, to an ideal—to such an extent that one actually would lay down his life for it—is the only escape from the kind of spiritual dryness which afflicts the man who is wholly centered in himself.

"I suppose that this passage is the one which I have chiefly tried—not very successfully, I fear—to live by."—**Dr. John M. Raines**, professor of English.

**Walk Humbly.** "As a religious believer, I trust in the concept of God and the universe evolved through the Judaic-Christian search after truth. Our Great Teacher said that its essence was to love God with all one's heart, soul, mind and strength and to love one's neighbor as one's self. Its practical application is summed up in the counsel of Micah, 'to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.' These injunctions are for day-to-day living. I see no distinction between so-called secular and religious activity. To be absorbed at useful tasks to which he feels a vocation; to achieve a happy family

life; be a good neighbor; to leave the world better for having been in it: thus does a man serve God and fulfill his mission here. This may not be profound philosophy, but by it I try to live."—**Dr. Maurice H. Merrill**, '19ba, '22Law, research professor of law.

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