

Campus Notes

news and commentary

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

There has been considerable talk about academic freedom in Oklahoma the past few months. (See pages 16-17.) The subject surfaced at the end of 1966 when it was disclosed that Dr. Robert Kamm, president of OSU, had refused to allow Dr. Thomas Altizer, the controversial theologian whose views appear in this issue, to speak to students at Oklahoma State. Kamm was quoted as saying he made the decision in the interest of the public to protect the students and the school from controversy. This did not sit well with many of Kamm's faculty and students, although for the most part those who dissented remained silent. Altizer, along with another "radical theologian," Bishop James Pike, subsequently appeared at OU. Dr. Cross and the OU Regents, in the finest tradition of academic freedom, decided that it was in the public interest for their university to be a center of free inquiry and not to shun new ideas simply because they were controversial or in the minority.

In March, OSU grabbed dubious headlines again when the Oklahoma chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union was denied a meeting site at the OSU Student Union for its annual state convention. The union officials asked the campus chief of police, it was reported, to investigate the organization. The chief found the ACLU to be too controversial and recommended that it be turned away. The sole aim of the organization is to protect the freedom of individuals as prescribed by the Bill of Rights through law; it had held its 1966 convention on the OU campus without incident. OSU's decision was hastily reversed in a couple of days, but the ACLU had made other arrangements. It seemed that Pat Boone and Betty Crocker were the only people safe enough for OSU. This second development was the back-breaking straw for some, and a public rally was called by students and faculty who disagreed with the decisions and wished to affirm their belief in academic freedom—with no restrictions. Kamm stated after the public meeting that no faculty members or graduate assistants should take part in demonstrations which were bad for the university. Smoldering faculty discontent flared up when a prominent professor resigned, stating his belief that academic freedom was being curtailed at OSU. He defended the right of faculty members and students to gather in peaceful assembly: "It

seems to me that some faculty members are not holding *protest* rallies but *affirmation* rallies. I think we are affirming our rights and obligations." Other resignations were hinted.

At this point the state senate entered the picture. Sen. Al Nichols of Wewoka and Sen. Clem McSpadden of Chelsea co-sponsored a resolution commending Kamm for his stand. Nichols wanted to include praise for Kamm's decision not to allow Altizer to come to Stillwater, but this was removed from the final version. The resolution passed 38-5 and included an amendment which the papers quoted as saying that the legislature "recognizes the need and desirability of academic freedom, but voices profound regret of (sic) academic responsibility." Many at OU and throughout the state found the spirit of the resolution as regrettable as the syntax and felt it not only endorsed the restriction of academic freedom but implied criticism of Dr. Cross and the Regents for their strong position for academic freedom.

Among the correspondence which flowed to and from Norman was a thoughtful letter from an alumnus with children at OU to a professor who had written him expressing his dismay at the proposed senate action and asking for his help in defeating the resolution. Portions of the letter follow: "The senator I talked to told me that he was considerably worried about the long-haired, bearded beatniks on OU's campus and others across the country. My answer was that I was not as worried about these groups as I would be were our children required to have a certain type of haircut, the girls wear middy blouses, and the boys wear uniforms. This situation I have seen in Japan, China, and other countries where there is apparently little or no academic freedom. . . . There are too many parents who have no confidence in their own children. I was gratified to learn that so many students attended the Conference on Religion and heard Pike and Altizer. I have attempted to rear my children to be able to cope with the world as it is and not the way I think it should be . . . Do not be discouraged, because I believe that as long as we keep people like Dr. Mark Johnson, Jim Davidson and the other Regents on the board, we can move ahead in the academic world."

One of the results of all the discussion and controversy has been a renewed and strengthened morale on the part of both faculty and students. The decisions in favor

of academic freedom by Dr. Cross and the Regents have been an inspiration and a source of pride for the OU campus and they have helped to offset somewhat the disillusionment caused by an inadequate financial situation.

SPRING ENROLLMENT

Enrollment for the spring semester at the Norman campus shows an increase of 290 students over the spring semester of 1966 with 14,653 students enrolled. Total enrollment is 16,461, a drop of 54. On the Norman campus the total includes 5,278 women and 9,375 men. By classes the enrollment includes 3,328 freshmen, 2,993 sophomores, 2,575 juniors, 2,371 seniors, 3,177 graduate students, and 209 special students. The greatest enrollment is in arts and sciences with 6,490. Second is engineering with 2,175, and third is business with 2,042. Other figures include 1,875 in education, 766 in fine arts, 423 in law, 327 in pharmacy, 210 in nursing, and 345 unclassified.

TRUTH ABOUT ATTRITION

Despite persistent rumors that the University tries to flunk out as many freshmen as possible, the truth is that a student stands a better chance of staying in college at OU than at almost any other school in the state. Projected figures show that of the 3,700 members of this year's OU freshman class, 1,295 will drop out by the end of the year. But only 740 of those will leave because their grades are too poor to allow them to return. The remaining 555 who leave will do so because they enter the service, get married, or transfer to other schools. That means that 65 percent of this year's freshmen (or 2,405) will be back in Norman in the fall as sophomores.

Despite the fact that college course work is becoming more advanced, the attrition rate for freshmen has dropped. Figures from a study on the freshman class of 1962 show that the freshman attrition rate at OU has dropped to 35.12 percent. "Almost since the turn of the century the freshman attrition rate has been steady at 40 percent," says Dr. J. R. Morris, dean of University College. "Then in the 1962 study we found this significant drop." With the exception of Langston University and Connors State Agricultural College (a junior college) at Warner, OU has the highest student retention rate in the state. Based on the 1962 figures, the attrition rate at OU was 35.12 percent

compared with 38.3 at OSU, 42.8 at all four-year colleges in the state, and 42.2 at all private schools in the state. "In examining the data on those who dropped out of school from the 1962 freshman class," says Morris, "we discovered that half of those who left scored in the 65th percentile or above and ranked in the top 35 percent in academic ability. The 65th percentile is the average ranking, so this means that the drop-out group is pretty evenly divided with half above average in ability and half below." Morris acknowledges that those who do drop out frequently have below-average grades. But those grades are not necessarily because the students lack ability. "Financial or personal problems can cause low grades even though the student is capable of doing good work," Morris says. "We have very few students who drop out because they don't have the ability to do the work. I think part of this can be attributed to the fact that students are more selective now about where they will attend college. This may be the result of the kind of high school counseling they are getting." Some students are concerned if they have not decided on a major subject by the time they enter college. But Morris' figures show that there is no difference in the drop-out rate or in grade average between the students who have declared a major and those who are still undecided. "There is a myth still floating around that more students drop out of the University than from other schools in the state," says Morris. "I still hear that old rumor that OU tries to flunk out as many

freshmen as possible to cut the classes down to size. It simply isn't true."

CENTER DESTROYED

A raging fire swept through the meteorology research building on the North Campus early one Friday morning in mid-April, completely destroying the wood-frame structure which had been constructed when the Navy occupied the base during World War II. Lost in the blaze were computers and other valuable technical equipment, some of it irreplaceable, and the records of months of research conducted by the staff, including 30 graduate students whose notes for master's and doctoral theses went up in smoke. Total loss was estimated at \$500,000; the building itself was valued at \$155,000. Some of the equipment lost was insured by the Research Institute, though the building was not because of a state law which forbids the University to insure state-owned buildings.

Dr. Walter Saucier, director of the laboratory, said things have been set back considerably, but that work would go on in the new home in Felgar Hall. The burned computers can be replaced, but the programs will have to be rewritten. Two doctoral candidates were typical of those whose work was destroyed. The loss, they said, would delay the completion of their degrees three months to a year. Two students had their theses ready to go and weren't affected, but another was wiped out and must start again. The meteorology research at the laboratory was primarily concerned with study of severe weather—hurricanes, thunderstorms, and tornadoes.

Art Students on the North Oval

A moment of tranquility in a spring that has been sometimes unsilent

THE UNSILENT SPRING

A generation or so ago, it seemed the only time a college student opened his mouth was to pop a goldfish into it. The GI's returning from World War II were a great deal more serious but concentrated their commitment and dedication almost totally to the classroom. The silent generation of the 1950's was an apathetic bunch, and the Norman contingent during those balmy days was probably more concerned about football and frolicking than anything else. One could wonder if the outside world to them existed beyond the bootlegger's hut just over the old South Canadian River bridge.

But the students of the sixties are something else. Many are not silent about issues, whether foreign, domestic, or campus. A significant number are not hesitant about voicing their opinions and using a varied selection of techniques at being heard. The picket, the demonstration, mass rally, the sit-in and its many variations are means they use to make their point. And the older generation suffers noticeably. Pull out a picket sign or expose a hippy's hair and a chorus of elders will be shouting the magic scare word of the over-thirty-year-olds: *Berkeley*.

Student unrest, says Dr. Cross, is one of the most pressing problems the next president of the University must face. The paternalistic, absolute control over students that colleges may once have had is disappearing. Students want more responsibility, and university administrations are beginning

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to share more of it. At OU the situation is a healthy one. The administration is working constructively to keep and enlarge the lines of communication with students. The students as a whole have likewise been prudent and reasonable. Some people may believe OU to be a hotbed of radicalism. Their arm is ill founded. Today's students are just a bit different from those of the 30's, 40's, and 50's. In a recent editorial about the Capitol Study-In, Oklahoma Daily editor Susan Waltz touched on the generation gap: "Many Oklahomans have a certain concept of what a college student should be. A nice, polite, clean-cut young man. A bright-eyed, decently clad young woman. Both of whom obediently lap up orders shot down from the authorities, never questioning anything, never making any attempt to see beyond the tip of their own upturned noses. . . . Most Oklahomans haven't set foot on a college campus since their own days at the university, and their thoughts tend to revolve around the selectively perceived 'good old days.' Many aren't college graduates, and they often have a vague suspicion of 'all that intellectual stuff.' Both of these groups view the present day college student's new ways of dress and his eagerness to shoulder the responsibility for conducting his own affairs as radically different from the 'good old days,' and therefore wrong. What we consider progress, many Oklahomans consider rebellion. We students do not place as much emphasis on dress and conformity. We are proud to have a heterogeneous student body. We are proud that we have peaceful demonstrations to illustrate different viewpoints. We respect intelligence more than appearance. And we realize that the hippies are an integral part of our student body . . . and we want it that way. . . ."

This spring has been eventful and un-

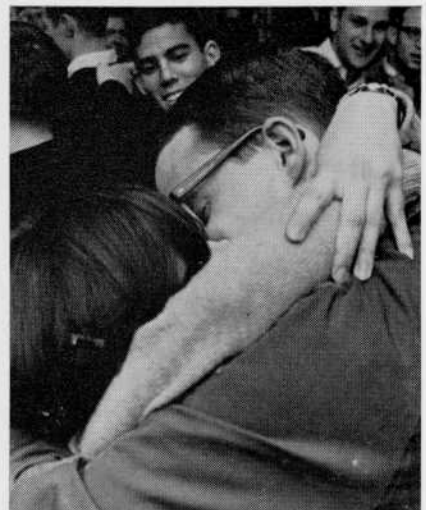
silent. Some of the issues that various student groups have concerned themselves with include:

THE KISS-IN. Kissing would seem to be a harmless subject, but people can become quite emotional about it. About 300 OU students staged a Kiss-In in late February to protest the rules on Public Display of Affection which have antagonized some of the young people. The demonstration, which predictably drew a platoon of photographers and reporters from the state press, was held at Adams Center, and most of the participants enjoyed themselves immensely. The dissidents disagreed with PDA rules which they believe to be vague and arbitrary. Counselors at the dorms are empowered to give checks which can lead to strict campus for those who display affection publicly around the dorms. The interpretations vary with each counselor, and those who oppose the present set-up want students to have the right to determine their own conduct in these matters. A Kiss-In beats stuffing collegiate bodies into Volkswagens or phone booths, which used to be the rage at some schools a couple of seasons ago. Little has come of it, however, for the majority can always find privacy for their romanticizing. The President's Council at the dorms did clarify the PDA rules a bit a few weeks later, but the passion for PDA protest has cooled noticeably.

THE HOUSING FLAP. Ironically, mild weather, which usually is most welcome, indirectly led to student unrest when it contributed to an unanticipated early completion of a new dormitory under construction. The two new Towers, each with a capacity of 1,500-plus students, apparently will be ready for occupancy next fall because of kind weather which enabled workmen to finish the projects ahead of time. One of the new complexes was to open in September, 1967, and

the second year later. Now both will be ready this fall. This development will probably lead to a situation which will make it imperative to raise the age of those who must live in University housing. Presently, students 21 years of age and over are free to live outside University housing, but with the additional space which the Towers will provide, the age may be upped to 24. The contract under which the dormitories are built requires full occupancy; therefore, the University may have to compel older students into the new housing. If it is done, the new age limit will probably be only for a year or so, because increasing enrollment will eventually fill the dorms with under-21-year-olds, but this temporary ruling rankles 21-year-olds who do not wish to return to University housing. A rally in front of Evans Hall on April 10 was held to protest the anticipated requirement. Dr. Cross addressed the gathering, and somehow the subject was turned to the financial crisis the University and higher education is experiencing in Oklahoma. It was from this public meeting that the idea for the Capitol Study-In grew. (See page 4)

VIETNAM. The war in Southeast Asia hits very close to college students both philosophically and physically. The SDS and the Young Americans for Freedom have debated the administration policy, there have been booths and demonstrations (Sooner Magazine, Jan.), and a campus-wide poll was held to see what the students thought. The majority, as in all wars, supported U.S. policy, but the opposition has been vocal and conspicuous. An ad hoc committee, the Independent Committee to End the War in Vietnam, has been formed on campus, and it held an Anti-War Week in April. The week-long program included a discussion on the Union patio led by campus ministers, a discussion led by professors in the Union lounge on another day, and a film, "A Time of the Locust," depicting "the U.S. exploitation of the Vietnamese country." The co-chairman of the committee said, "We want to add our voice to the war protest. The attention of the entire country will be directed to the war protest, and we want this campus to share this involvement."



The Kiss-In
Giving some lip to the PDA rules

MISCELLANEA. Of course, college students can also find time for less serious issues and diversions. Spring is also a time when sorority girls play football to the delight of male ogglers and athletic fans. The annual dance marathon staged by a fraternity was bigger than ever this year, and it even boasted Mrs. Cross as one of the judges. The Miss OU pageant and Sooner Scandals offered other light-hearted means of forgetting the world's problems, and the social life has not suffered greatly from the new phenomenon of increased student involvement in more weighty matters.

WALTER KRAFT DIES

Walter W. Kraft, 76, for 30 years the director of OU's physical plant, died March 6 in Norman. Kraft came to OU shortly after Dr. William Bennett Bizzell was made president in 1926. He had worked under Bizzell in a similar position at Texas A&M. When he arrived at OU, the liberal arts building (Buchanan Hall) and the first housing unit, Hester-Robertson Hall, were under construction. Shortly afterwards, contracts were let on the Field House. He supervised the work on these and 40 other buildings before his retirement in 1956. Said Dr. Cross, "Walter Kraft made a vital contribution to the development of the University. He was a key figure in the building of today's campus, giving generously of his knowledge and skill. In addition he devoted many years to his work on the Athletic Council and served the city of Norman as adviser on many projects."

THE 1967 WILSON FELLOWS

Five OU students are among 1,259 college and university students in the United States and Canada who have won 1967-68 Woodrow Wilson Fellowships (Sooner Magazine, July 1966). They were selected from 13,596 students nominated by faculty members at 1,022 institutions. The OU Wilson recipients are Patrick Lee Lauderdale, Cache, psychology; Larry John Mandt, Lawton, letters; James Richard Friday, Midwest City, letters; Susan Elaine Brandt, Norman, anthropology, and Ralph Edward Doty Jr., Oklahoma City, letters.

DR. DUNHAM GOES SOUTH

Dr. Lowell Dunham, chairman of the department of modern languages, has been invited to present a paper at the 13th Congress on Ibero-American Literature Aug. 2-6 in Caracas, Venezuela. "The Contemporary Ibero-American Novel" is the theme for the congress. A small group of scholars from Europe, Latin America, and the United States will speak. The South American trip will enable Dunham to visit with Romulo Gallegos, who was president of Venezuela in 1947-48. "Aside from being a fine public servant, Gallegos is one of the great contemporary novelists of today," says Dunham. "My wife and I last saw him when we were guests of the Venezuelan government in 1961."

As a doctoral student in Hispanic languages and literature at the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1955, Dunham wrote his dissertation on Gallegos. Gallegos was an honorary artist-in-residence at OU

in 1953-54 and his son was a guest of the Dunhams for five years while he attended University High School. "Gallegos wrote his last book when he was at OU," says Dunham. Dr. and Mrs. Dunham were invited to Venezuela in 1961 by the government of President Romulo Betancourt so Dunham could see various geographical sections of Venezuela which Gallegos described in his novels.

THE NEWBY AWARD



Newby Award Recipients

Student Kahn (left) and Dr. Duncan

Dr. J. Paul Duncan, professor of political science, is the winner of the \$250 Errett R. Newby Award for 1966. The grant has been made at OU since 1961 by the Sooner Scholarship Trust Fund and is presented to a faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences who has been successful in teaching and advising students. The winner of the faculty award selects an outstanding student to receive the \$50 Errett R. Newby student award. Duncan nominated M. Haris Hasan Khan, a political science graduate student from Hyderabad, West Pakistan. The awards are given in honor of Errett R. Newby, an Oklahoma City businessman who is an OU alumnus and former registrar at the University.

DR. NIELSEN GOES NORTHEAST

Dr. J. Rud Nielsen, Research professor emeritus of physics, left March 23 for Copenhagen, Denmark, where he will collaborate on the publication of the collected works of Niels Bohr. Nielsen, who was a student and friend of Bohr, is an internationally recognized authority on molecular spectroscopy. He retired from active teaching in 1965 and the OU physics building, Nielsen Hall, is named for him. While in Copenhagen, Nielsen will work at the Niels Bohr Institute, which formerly was known as the University Institute of Theoretical Physics. Bohr, who died in 1962, was a Nobel Prize winner in physics and the founder of the quantum theory of atomic structure. Bohr, Max Planck, and Albert Einstein were the three scientists whose work revolutionized modern physics. Nielsen will use the documents and letters of Bohr which throw light on the genesis of Bohr's papers and the development of his ideas. The collected works will include some of this material in addition to the published papers and introduction and commentaries by the editors.

GOVERNOR'S FORUM

Four former governors of Oklahoma visited the campus this spring to participate in a new program, the Governors' Forum. The forum, which was planned by a student-faculty committee, brought J. Howard Edmondson to OU on March 14-15, Johnston Murray on April 4-5, Henry Bellmon on April 25-26, and Raymond Gary on May 3-4. Each former governor gave a public address in the Botany and Microbiology Building auditorium, discussing his administration and giving his views of current events in Oklahoma. In addition each spoke before political science and history classes and conducted seminars for interested students. James K. Howard, Ponca City graduate student, originated the forum and served as coordinator.

DR. DUBOIS COMES TO OU

A professor of geology at the University of Arizona has been appointed Kerr-McGee professor of geology and geophysics and director of the Earth Sciences Observatory at Leonard, Okla. effective July 1. Dr. Robert Lee DuBois was appointed at the April meeting of the Board of Regents, which was part of the OU Day in Tulsa program. DuBois will divide his time between the OU campus in Norman and the observatory at Leonard, 27 miles southeast of Tulsa.

The observatory was given to OU in 1965 by Humble Oil and Refining Co. Built in 1961, the installation formerly belonged to the Jersey Production Research Co., which was consolidated into a new Humble research affiliate in Houston in 1964. The observatory facilities, including instruments and an extensive library of recordings, have a value of more than \$600,000. The Leonard laboratory has been described as one of the most complete centers for the study of the interior of the earth. It is the only installation of its type in the world. The special professorship awarded to DuBois was established by the Kerr-McGee Corp. through the Plan for Excellence, OU's long-range capital giving program.

NEW HOURS

The Regents approved new hours for freshman women at their April meeting. The proposal had been passed unanimously by the Association of Women Students in February. First-year women can now stay out an hour later on Monday through Thursday nights, and they can use the telephone for two additional hours after the Regents' action. The school-night closing hours were moved from 9 to 10 p.m. and the phone hours lengthened from 9 to 11 p.m. A further liberalization of women's closing hours, a self-limiting hours proposal, also approved unanimously by AWS, will be acted upon soon by the Regents. The proposal will apply to senior women, junior women with B-averages and better, and 21-year-old women who live in sororities and University housing. Eligible women will not be governed by present closing hours and will qualify for keys to their houses which will enable them to limit their own hours. The women who qualify must not be on academic probation and must have written permission from home.