

# SOONER

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Richard L. Van Horn is on the job in the president's office, the 12th chief executive in the 99-year life of the University of Oklahoma. As the mutual get-acquainted ritual gets under way, the University community is finding that its new president has a distinct style all his own. Following Van Horn's magazine interview, photographer Gil Jain shadowed the affable new Oklahoman through a tightly scheduled eight hours in **Day 1**, on *Page 7*.

### 10 RITES OF PASSAGE

The garb seems archaic, the ceremony outdated, and yet commencements go on each spring on every campus. Commencement Chairman (and fine arts dean) Nat Eek explains that every ritualistic detail has its meaning.

### 14 A TRIBUTE TO THE FACULTY

It is a very special day, a time when faculty congratulate each other and simultaneously receive the appreciation of students, regents and administration. A new tradition born three years ago, Tribute Day is here to stay.

### 18 NEW NAMES ON A HISTORIC ROSTER

Among all the awards handed out during the University spring, none is more coveted than the distinguished professorships. *Sooner Magazine* continues a series with the most recent additions to the list of Boyd and Cross titles.

### 22 BLACK GOLD AND VINTAGE WINE

Some geology alumni, who remember their first "field trip" as a jaunt to the Arbuckle Mountains, join an OU professor-on-sabbatical for a grand and glorious '80s version of that hallowed activity through the French wine country.

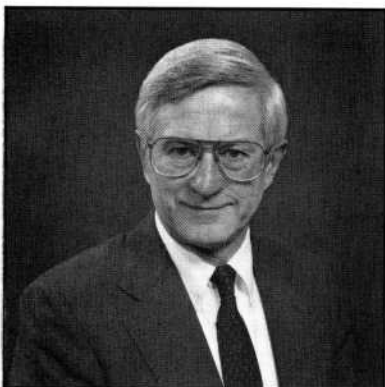
### 27 THE RETURN OF "DOC" COMP

He had been out of the classroom (though never far away) since 1974. Yet when his services were needed there and in revamping the engineering wind tunnel he had built originally, he was more than willing to stage a comeback.

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#### ON THE COVER

When President Richard L. Van Horn arrived on July 15, 1989, the campus population was full of questions about "The New Man in Evans Hall." So *Sooner Magazine* dropped by to ask a few. The resulting cover story begins on *Page 3*.

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