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This month . . .

THE larger and somewhat re-organized *Sooner Magazine* issued in February drew a number of compliments, for which the editors are duly grateful.

With continued co-operation from readers in gathering material and tips for articles, the staff hopes to continue expanding the quantity and quality of the Magazine's content. Whether the Magazine can continue as large each month depends partly upon the solution of some financial problems, so we can promise only to keep trying. ▲

The recent increase in life memberships is a great encouragement to Alumni Secretary Ted Beaird and to the Magazine staff.

Actually, the cost of a life membership when paid at the rate of \$5 a quarter, is less than most persons "whoop off" in aimless entertainment of various kinds.

Honest now, wouldn't the arrival of the alumni magazine every month for the rest of your life provide some pleasant reading that would be economical and satisfying recreation compared to many amusements? ▲

The bold frankness with which Oklahoma politicians have adopted the spoils system in government is seen by thoughtful alumni as a serious threat to academic freedom at the University.

Recently, certain politicians have spread rumors against President W. B. Bizzell. Though this opposition is more or less personal, it involves the application of political pressure on the University administration.

Walter Lippmann, one of the nation's leading editorial writers, made a thought-provoking analysis of the problem of academic freedom in discussing the situation at the University of Wisconsin where President Glenn Frank was ousted for political reasons.

In an editorial published in the *Daily Oklahoman* and other newspapers, Mr. Lippmann said in part:

"What is the problem of academic freedom? It is, it seems to me, the problem of who shall select the teachers, who shall promote them, who shall dismiss them, who shall determine the subjects of research, who shall criticize the results. These matters have to be decided. A university is not just a collection of buildings where anyone can appoint himself to teach anything he likes.

"The problems of academic freedom

arise from the struggle of all sorts of people to control these decisions. At one time it may be a group of rich alumni who insist that if they pay the piper they should call the tune. At another time it may be a legislature under the influence of rabble rousers insisting, as in Tennessee some years ago, that it shall have the right to say what shall be taught as biology. At another time, as in Chicago under Mayor Thompson, it may be a demagogic patrioteer arrogating to himself the authority to say what shall be taught as history.

"At another time, it may be Mr. Hearst attempting to control education by terrorizing teachers and administrators and trustees. At another time it may be a simon-pure progressive, like Governor La Follette, seeking to use the authority of the state to make the university's progressivism more simon-pure.

"In other words, the control of education is claimed at various times by the plutocracy, by the mob, and by the politicians. The fight is for academic freedom against the control of education by any and all of these three elements. And that means that the ultimate control of education, when it is free, must rest finally in the community of scholars. It means that a free university is one in which the selection of teachers and of studies reflects the judgment of scholars, is determined by their standards, and is independent of money, the mob, and the political power of the state.

"Though there are many concrete practical difficulties in applying the principle of academic freedom, it is the only principle on which education in a progressive civilization can be based. Thus it is obviously absurd that a rich business man should have any say as to what shall be examined, much less as to what conclusions shall be arrived at, during the research into the unknown fields of economics.

"To admit that would amount to saying that the partial knowledge of one generation shall govern what shall be known in the next. It is equally absurd that a Bryan, a Thompson, a Hearst should have the presumption to impose his prejudices and his ignorance on teaching and research. It is no less absurd that governors, and elected representatives, and politicians, whether they be progressives, conservatives or what not, should think that they can absentmindedly shape the culture and intelligence of a people.

"Surely, the only civilized rule is to have teachers selected and promoted and

dismissed by the men most qualified to judge them, to have their work examined by their peers, to subject them to the discipline of the criticism of men who themselves teach and study and advance knowledge and spend their days pondering the problems of education. To be sure, a university is a great physical plant, it is an intricate human organization, it has limited resources and it must meet almost unlimited demands. For that reason it has to be administered, and the scholars ought not, even if they were competent, to spend much of their time in administration.

"But in a truly free university, the administrators and the governing board, the regents, whatever they are called, will always regard themselves as trustees for the community of scholars. They will seek always to facilitate the application of the standards which come finally from the opinion of the scholars themselves; they will always take their final judgment of educational policy from the most considered judgment they can find among the scholars and educators.

"And, of course, as a direct consequence of this the administrators and trustees will look upon themselves as under obligations to be guardians of the self-government of scholars against outside intervention from any quarter. So they must find the necessary money without strings attached to it. They must hold at bay the mob, incited by demagogues and obscurantists. They must resist the encroachments of the political state.

"The Wisconsin affair is a startling example of one of the many kinds of outside interference against which education has to be protected. The men who ought to be protecting the independence of the university are in this case the regents. Nothing can be more destructive of the freedom of education than the notion that the regents ought to carry out the will of the governor who appointed them, or that the governor, because he was elected by the people, should run the university. That notion is a caricature which unfortunately is widely accepted today by a host of bewildered progressives who think that anyone is a reactionary who believes in limited government, who does not think that temporary majorities should exercise supreme authority.

"It is perhaps fortunate that the issue has been raised in Wisconsin. For it may remind those progressives who have forgotten the first principles of liberalism that if a LaFollette today can destroy the independence of a university, a Huey Long tomorrow can on the same exact principles destroy the independence of the church and of the press."

▲
The Wisconsin situation is somewhat different from that in Oklahoma. But the general principles as outlined by Mr. Lippmann apply with equal importance.

Alumni Secretary Ted Beard had something of a shock when he looked over his mail the other day.

He found a letter from a Tulsa newspaper inquiring about the possibility of purchasing WNAD, the Sooner radio station!

The offer, of course, involved the purchase of wave-length rights rather than the physical plant of the radio station, but even so, the answer was a polite but firm "No."

The University radio station has two important functions—broadcasting of educational programs and serving as a laboratory for students wanting to go into the fields of radio engineering, continuity, program management, announcing, radio dramatics and so on.

▲
Nathan B. Chenault, Jr., engineering senior from Wichita Falls, Texas, was the student editor of this number of the Magazine, which is the annual Engineering Edition, and he deserves a big hand for the hard work which he did in preparing material about the College of Engineering and the annual St. Pat's celebration.

—R. C.

▲ ▲ ▲

Campus Calendar

March 5—University Choral club's annual home concert, 8:15 p. m., University auditorium; Alpha Tau Omega fraternity dance, at house.

March 6—Sigma Alpha Epsilon dance, University club; Phi Delta Theta dance, at house.

March 7—Program in the chamber music series of the College of Fine Arts, 4 p. m., University auditorium.

March 10—Annual spring dance recital, Helen Gregory, instructor in physical education for women.

March 12-14—First state meeting of Oklahoma Student Christian conference, sponsored by state churches and various Christian organizations.

March 13—Phi Gamma Delta dance, University club; Kappa Alpha dance, Teepec.

March 14—Graduation recital, Henri Minsky, violinist, 4 p. m., University auditorium.

March 16—Graduation recital, Hannah Steinberg, vocalist, 8:15 p. m., University auditorium.

March 18—String trio concert.

March 19—Beta Theta Pi dance.

March 20—Phi Kappa Sigma dance, at house; Sigma Nu dance, University club.

March 21—University Band's annual home concert, 4 p. m., University auditorium.

March 23—University Artist Series, Reinald Werrenrath, baritone, 8:15 p. m., University auditorium.

March 24—Fifth annual Easter pageant presented by student Christian organizations, 6:30 a. m., Sunken Garden back of Administration building.

March 25—Easter recess begins, 5 p. m.

March 30—Classwork resumed, 8:10 a. m.

March 31—Public lecture, Dr. Robert U. Patterson, dean of University Medical school, 8 p. m., University auditorium.

April 1-3—Short course in news photography, sponsored by School of Journalism.

April 2—Pi Kappa Alpha dance, University club.

April 3—Sigma Chi dance; Delta Tau Delta dance, University club.

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