

## This month . . .

**S**NOW and sleet covered the University campus as this issue of *The Sooner Magazine* went to press.

As the mercury sank close to zero, shivering campus folks wondered how much longer the present power plant, constructed 23 years ago, could keep up the task of heating and lighting the steadily growing University plant.

Some of the University's budget needs are more serious than many friends of the institution realize. Restricted budgets during the depression years forced short-cuts that are no credit to an institution that is expected by the people of the state to be the cultural and educational leader of Oklahoma.

The budget request includes an item for addition of a boiler room on the power plant, but of course, important as that is, it is a minor request compared with some of the other needs.

The request for funds for petroleum engineering and geology buildings is based on a great vision.

It is the idea of taking advantage of the state's one opportunity to gain a worldwide reputation in the field of education. Universities in other states can claim leadership in many fields, but O.U., if given the chance, can easily rank supreme in the entire world as a center of petroleum and geological engineering.

But unless the physical plant for it is provided soon, the chance will be lost.

Oil and other minerals provided Oklahoma a great portion of its tax revenue. It is only logical that a reasonable portion of this tax revenue be spent on adequate educational and research facilities for further development of the industry.

Another building seriously needed by the University is one devoted to home economics.

President W. B. Bizzell joins the great majority of parents in believing that every girl, no matter what her life plans may be, should have at least a little training in home making. Until a building is provided, no such requirement can be made.

Several changes in the makeup of the Magazine have been made in the last two numbers. This number is bigger, and we hope it is better.

Certainly it has more individual news items about alumni, more and shorter articles, and more pictures.

To the persons who have sent in material, some voluntarily and some by re-

quest, we want to express thanks. It's your magazine and we want to use the kind of material you think is worth publishing.

More letters received by the alumni office are published in this number, and we hope alumni will get the habit of writing whenever they have an idea about the association or about the University.

The Christmas holidays always leave the campus with an empty feeling like the space where a tooth has been pulled.

By 5 o'clock Friday evening the Union is deserted, only the watchman and a few faculty members coming late for their mail are seen in front of the Ad building, and the campus sidewalks have a deserted village air.

Even the elms and the pines take on an air of suspended animation, as though everything should remain motionless until after vacation.

Then, about the Saturday before classes start on Monday, there comes a stir again.

Late Saturday night, this year, President Bizzell heard floating through the air a notice that vacation was about over. Some students passing the house yelled through the still air: "Hi, Prexy."

"You know," said the president with a smile the next day, "It sounded mighty pleasant after the campus had been so quiet for two weeks."

It was after a journalism class and some students were discussing their teacher, Stewart Harral.

Harral, who is the subject of an article in this issue of the Magazine, is unmarried, a fluent speaker and an experienced newspaper man so it is not surprising that he is popular with his students.

"I think Mr. Harral is a mighty fine instructor," said a sweet young thing. "But I think he wore the wrong kind of tie with that suit he had on today. I spent the whole class period concentrating on that tie to make him realize it was the wrong kind."

Because of the numerous "red scares" all over the country in the last year, some persons have feared that there would be a suggestion in the legislature for an investigation of some kind at the University.

The idea is ridiculous, of course, but that doesn't mean it is impossible.

About the only "evidence" anyone could cite in asking such an investigation is the student presidential poll conducted by the *Oklahoma Daily*, student newspaper. The report on this poll showed that

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a group of students in the College of Fine Arts voted for the Communist candidate,

These "Communist" votes were a joke on the campus. Student election officials at the Fine Arts polling place reported the 40 votes cast for Browder were obviously due to a frameup—some student's exhibition of humor.

The University has nothing whatever to fear from an investigation of "Communism" on the campus, except the wide publicity that would accompany any such wide accusations and the small public notice that would be given the subsequent evidence showing that there was nothing to the charges.

Far from being intrigued with the theories of Communism, most students are interested in more practical things.

For instance, a group of working students with the sponsorship of the Independent Men's association has worked out a co-operative eating plan in order to bring their food expenses to an absolute minimum.

They obtained permission of the University to use a room under the Stadium, and each put up a deposit to provide funds for kitchen equipment. Expenses will be shared; it is planned that two meals a day will not cost over \$10 a month per man.

"That is an honest effort to help those who have to struggle to stay in school," commented the *Oklahoma News* editorially. "Able management and economy will undoubtedly help the enterprise toward success, and the plan will be expanded, if it works. Our complicated civilization is making college or university training of increasing importance, and the nation is losing much by denying educational opportunities to some who are poor but brilliant. A democracy strives properly for equality of educational opportunity, but there can be no assurance of such equality as long as any student is forced to abandon school in order to provide necessary food."

The freedom given University student editors for expression of opinions often gets the institution in hot water, but the principle is a sound one and occasionally a bouquet comes along.

The *Oklahoma Union Farmer*, commenting on Editor Bob Vollmer's opposition to the proposed building of a new federal Armory on the campus, comments as follows:

"Be it said that thus far President Bizzell is liberal-minded to the extent that this young man, Vollmer, feels a freedom to express his conscientious views and not be in danger of reprimand by Dr. Bizzell. That is the way to build a great educational institution. Freedom of thought and the right to express it guarantees a lot to Americans. The facts are, the action of Vollmer and the subsequent liberal attitude of Dr. Bizzell are to be commended."

Notes on contributors:

Martin Heflin, Oklahoma City, widely known as publisher of *The Bandwagon*, writes a sprightly article about brother Van's success in the movies for this number of the Magazine.

Homer Heck, who tells about some of WNAD's best known graduates, is assistant to Alumni Secretary Ted Beaird and is in active charge of operation of the Union building. Heck was connected with WNAD in various capacities for many years.

The article on Elton M. Couch, Sooner booster at Tuttle, was written by Mary Catherine Lynn, journalism student.

Harold Keith contributes a sports review which we hope will be a regular monthly feature.

Next month:

The March number of the Magazine will be the annual Engineering edition, with many of the articles devoted to open-house plans and various activities of the "engine college" and its alumni.

—R.C.

## Campus Calendar

February 3—Public lecture, Dr. Asa O. Weese, 8 p.m.

February 3—Sooner basketball team plays Aggies at Stillwater.

February 5—John Flynn, Norman Forum, 8 p.m.; Delta Upsilon dance at University club with Boomers playing.

February 6—Missouri basketball team plays Sooners in Norman; Alpha Sigma Phi dance; Kappa Alpha dance at University club with Ramblers playing.

February 7—WNAD Orchestra Home Concert, 3:30 p.m., University auditorium.

February 11—Carlton Beals, Norman Forum, 8 p.m.

February 12—Nebraska cagers at Norman; Acacia dance, Ramblers playing; Phi Kappa Sigma dance at house.

February 13—Beta Theta Pi dance, University club; Phi Gamma Delta dance; Oklahoma Aggies wrestling team vs. Sooners at Norman.

February 15—Iowa State cagers at Norman.

February 16—Third University Symphony concert, 8:15 p.m., auditorium; Kansas State wrestling team vs. Sooners at Norman.

February 19—University Men's Glee Club Home Concert, 8 p.m., auditorium; Sigma Nu dance, University club with Boomers playing.

February 20—Tahlequah Teachers wrestling team at Norman; Sigma Chi dance, Boomers playing; Kappa Sigma dance, Ramblers playing; Sooner cagers play Kansas at Lawrence.

February 26—Playhouse production, "Beyond Tomorrow," auditorium; Phi Kappa Psi dance at house, Boomers playing; Pi Kappa Alpha dance, University club, Ramblers playing; Sooner cagers play Missouri at Columbia.

February 27—Second presentation of Playhouse play; Delta Tau Delta dance, at University club, Boomers playing; Sooner cagers play Iowa State at Ames.

March 3—Public lecture, Ralph H. Records, 8 p.m., auditorium.

March 5—University Choral Club Home Concert, 8 p.m., auditorium; Alpha Tau Omega dance, at house, Boomers playing.

March 6—Phi Delta Theta dance, at house, Boomers playing.