

This month

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View down the Oval, looking toward the Ad Building

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The article on the Union's finances was rewritten several times in order to present a complete and accurate picture without loading it too heavy with statistics.

In a statistical article, it seems that every time you give one figure, you have to give two more to explain that one, and before you know it you have nothing but an imposing stack of numerals that no one will read but the proofreader, and she probably will get a headache from it.

We have tried to present in an understandable, and not too technical, way the relationship between the Union operating fund and the Stadium-Union Fund, and the part played by student fee income in the operation of the Union.



It was interesting last month to note the large contributions of O. U. alumni and former students to Oklahoma's cultural reputation as appraised by such an eminent writer and critic as Burton Rascoe.

Writing for the *Daily Oklahoman's* huge special edition that celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of Oklahoma Territory, Rascoe listed 32 Oklahomans who have "contributed to the cultural welfare of our time," and of the thirty-two, twenty are O. U. alumni or former students.

The Sooners he listed are:

Music: Joseph Bentonelli, '21fa, opera and concert; Eric Rhodes (Ernest Sharpe, '27), opera and sound pictures; Emily Stephenson, '34fa, New York concert, radio and theater; Helen Myers, '33, Rainbow Room, New York; Tessie Mobley, '24ex (Princess Lushanya, Chickasaw), now singing in Italy; Spencer Norton, '28, important American composer.

Art: Leslie Powell, '23ex, of Lawton, exhibited in Charles Morgan's gallery, New York, 1939; Olinka Hrды, '28fa, exhibited in New York, nationally known mural painter; Steve Mopope, '28ex, best known of Kiowa Indian artists.

Writers: E. E. Dale, '11; John Joseph Mathews, '20; Todd Downing, '24, '28ma; Althea Bass, '21ma; Foster Harris, '25; George Milburn, '31ex; Isabel Campbell, '19ex.

Dramatists: Muna Lee, '14ex; John McClure, '15; Lynn Riggs, '23; and Mary McDougal Axelson, '33ex.

In addition to these Sooner alumni, Rascoe's list included several University faculty members who are not alumni—Stanley Vestal and C. C. Rister—and one former faculty member, Paul B. Sears.

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ROScoe CATE, '26, Editor-Manager

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Oklahoma's Redistribution of Wealth

The reason why the legislature found it necessary to reduce appropriations for state educational institutions for the next biennium does not lie, basically, in the decline in general revenue that has occurred in recent years.

Fundamentally, the difficulty lies in the fact that so many new tax levies have been assessed and earmarked during recent years, that there was an unwillingness to do anything to bring general fund revenues up to normal.

The state deficit has been caused, not by occasional extravagance on the part of existing state departments and institutions, but by the vast increase in the amount of money "given away" by the state government to special groups.

Harlow's Weekly explains it this way:

The difficulty arises out of the suddenly developed determination upon the part of the people themselves to take away the funds from the support of government and to give them to members of groups who are made special beneficiaries of constitutional amendments and statutes. The present situation is the direct result of the conflict between the concept of government that heretofore has prevailed in Oklahoma and the combined demands and limitations arising from recent acts of the people.

Government in this state, and practically speaking, throughout the nation is rapidly approaching a crisis.

The attitude which has taken hold upon the public in this state and elsewhere, that the real function of the government is to provide special benefit without cost and an income for those who have none, is a cancer that if left alone very long never can be eliminated. And its continuance obviously means a destruction of government as we have known it.

Harlow's gives the following figures to show the amount raised by taxation in Oklahoma last year "for the purpose of giving to others than those who paid for it":

For relief	\$ 4,411,915.11
For pensions, etc.	10,833,841.19
For unemployment	6,080,000.00
	\$21,325,756.30
For common schools	\$15,384,124.19
	\$36,709,880.49

It is contended that the figure paid by the state for support of the elementary schools has the effect of a personal gift, as it reduces local taxation by that amount.

Compared with the vast total shown above, the chief portion of which has been added to the state budget within recent years, the appropriations for state departments and institutions—the regular functions of government—are relatively minor items in the state budget.

It is quite likely that there are many economies that should be made in the operation of state government and institutions. But to expect that any such economies, no matter how drastic, will solve the problem of how to raise vast sums for special groups without increasing taxes, is expecting a good deal.

The functions of our government have been greatly changed. Do the people of Oklahoma understand this? Is it a healthy condition? Is it what they really want?