

# This month

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Campus walk on an icy winter night.

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▲  
A careful observer, looking over the material in this issue of *Sooner Magazine* would not have much difficulty in guessing that there will soon be another session of the State Legislature, and that O. U. alumni are taking considerable interest in what is going to happen in that Session in regard to the University's budget.

The article by Harry D. Simmons, '24, on the need for a Graduate Education Building at the University, contains much new information and is a convincing presentation of the arguments in favor of a State appropriation for such a building.

Mr. Simmons points out that teachers and school administrators of Oklahoma who now go out of the State each summer to take graduate education work because of poor facilities at their own State University, take more than enough money out of the State every year to pay the entire cost of the building that is so badly needed by O. U.

Mr. Simmons is superintendent of schools at Wewoka; executive secretary of the Association of School Administrators of Oklahoma; member of the State Board of Education; and chairman of a school administrators' committee working independently for a Graduate Education building at O. U.

▲  
Few members of the general public know the difference between a college and a university. Probably most of them believe it is a matter of size — that several colleges make up a university.

Alumni of a state university like O. U. ought to be able to explain the difference intelligently to their friends and acquaintances, because the functions of a university are really quite different from those of a college although there is, of course, some overlapping.

The article on What Makes a University by William B. Benton, vice-president of the University of Chicago, explains the difference in easily-understood terms.

▲  
We have some reprints of the December cover, showing the Sooner football coaching staff. The magazine's nameplate is left off the reprints, and they are on heavy stock, making them plenty good for framing if you are interested in Sooner sports. It's yours for 25 cents to cover costs.

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## Larger Appropriations — Or Else

In making the University's budget request for the next Biennium, the Board of Regents was well aware of the depleted condition of the State Treasury and the popularity of the new state administration's economy program. The Board accordingly asked only for what it believes the University seriously needs in order to perform the functions expected of it by the people of Oklahoma, and did not ask for the full amount that might be spent wisely if it were available.

The reasons for requesting larger appropriations are impressive.

*Enrolment has increased steadily since 1930, but appropriations for the present Biennium were little above the low level set at the bottom of the depression.*

*The University has been operating for years on a lower per student cost than most of the state universities in the middle west. Classrooms and laboratories are so unmercifully crowded that efficiency of work done is definitely lowered.*

*Low salaries and lack of promotional awards have hurt faculty morale and caused the loss of a number of valuable men.*

*The teaching load has become so heavy, and funds so limited, that research work has been greatly curtailed, which definitely hurts the institution's rating as a real university.*

It seems obvious that a 45 per cent increase in enrolment without a somewhat comparable increase in funds can mean only one thing — lower standards of work. Enrolment is increasing steadily, at the rate of about five hundred students a year. Unless appropriations increase too, the academic standards of the University inevitably must become lower.

There are only two possible solutions to this problem. The solution proposed by the Regents consists of larger appropriations to take care of the increased demands upon the University for educational service; the alternative is to set up some arbitrary plan to turn ambitious young people away from their own State University and tell them to go elsewhere.

Besides depriving young people of adequate educational opportunities, cruel economy in the financial support of a state university has an effect that the general public knows little about — it almost kills the University's highly important function of adding to the store of human knowledge through research and investigation.

The University of Oklahoma, soon to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary, has made tremendous achievements in educational service to the State; in its leadership in literature, art, music and drama; in its training of doctors and lawyers and engineers and journalists and business men of State and national fame; in its scholarly research and practical applications; in its growth in enrolment to first position in the entire Big Six area; and in its training of good citizens for Oklahoma.

Surely Oklahoma isn't so lacking in resources that it wants to stop this progress and condemn its state university to mediocrity.