

Clearing the Desk

By R. C.

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AN EARLY SEPTEMBER breeze plays with the fountain spray splashing into the memorial pool between Monnet Hall and the Union Building. Upstairs in the Union a dance band is rehearsing for the rush week bookings. Students drift in, looking for jobs, looking for rooms, looking for education—looking for life. It seems far removed from the bloody chaos of Europe. Yet the war situation is an ever-present backdrop that influences all the thinking on the campus. Students miss hundreds of friends and classmates and football heroes who are now serving in the armed forces. Many students are preparing themselves for particular jobs in the national defense program. Practically all realize by now that the world they will live in when they leave O. U. will be vastly different from the one in which they grew up.

PROVIDING LEADERSHIP is the indispensable job facing the nation's colleges and universities. More than ever, the nation needs intelligent, calm, reasoning, well-informed leadership. The only hope of getting this kind of leaders in any quantity rests with the institutions of higher education.

AMERICANS, like the British, can always forget their troubles long enough to enjoy athletic events. And it is probably a sign of emotional stability that we can get pleasantly excited over football, in times like these. However, football prospects this fall are something to get excited about. For years, many football fans have cried for more fast, open style of play. Snorter Luster is planning to give it to them in large doses. Speed and deception may not win every game; but like an ace in the hole, they make things mighty interesting.

SNORTER and Athletic Director Jap Haskell got a bit of good natured ribbing in an article in the *Houston Post* when they attended a coaching school there. "Both Snorter and Jap are as friendly a pair as you ever saw in your life," wrote reporter Morris Frank. "They are not seeking any Texas football talent exactly, you know, but they are too kindhearted to see a 200-pound football tackle hitchhike all the way home in the blazing sun." The article went on to quote Snorter as saying, "We just couldn't refuse good, big boys a ride. Jap and I came down in a five-passenger car. We have room for three boys in the back seat and if I was to run into an all-state end, Jap could ride the running board back home, or for that matter, a long walk wouldn't

hurt his waistline, anyway." The article also quoted the Sooner coach as saying that he had enjoyed the lectures at the coaching school, "although for the fine points of the sport, I go to Cliff Bowles, the Houston oil man who is a graduate of Oklahoma—Cliff is the finest soda fountain coach I know."

SOONER MAGAZINE's article surveying President Bizzell's achievements at O. U. brought a number of favorable comments. A former president of the Alumni Association commented: "It is a tribute this fine gentleman well deserves. He is entitled to the undying gratitude of the alumni of the University for the fine service he has rendered to it and for the staunch way in which he stood by it. The beautiful Christian life which he taught by example even more than by words will have a lasting effect on many students and alumni as well as other citizens of the state. His emphasis upon the worth and the satisfaction of scholarly achievement has been of great value to the cause of education in this state."

PRESIDENT JOE BRANDT, who once presided very capably over the city desk of the *Tulsa Tribune* believes it not unreasonable to draw an analogy between the job of city editor and that of a university president. He can see himself as "city editor" of the University, sitting in the slot of a horseshoe shaped city desk that is the University campus, and handing out work assignments to hundreds of "reporters" who are the faculty members. One may be assigned to "cover" the field of history and another natural science, and so on. The routine work in their fields they cover without direct aid from the city desk. When a big story breaks involving matters of policy, the city desk is consulted for directions as to how it is to be handled. Of course Joe Brandt would be the first to say that this idea could easily be carried to the point of absurdity. But it is significant in that shows what a personal and collaborative relationship he wants to establish with faculty members.

THIS ISSUE of the Magazine starts a year's subscription for persons receiving degrees in 1941. A number of these new graduates have written in during the summer to ask why they were not already receiving the Magazine. The reason is that it requires several months' work to prepare the addressograph stencil list for some 1,400 June and August graduates. So the subscription starts with the September issue and will continue through August, 1942.