

# Service Program

By SIGFRID FLOREN

## Students Who Attended O. U. Before the Union Era Missed Something

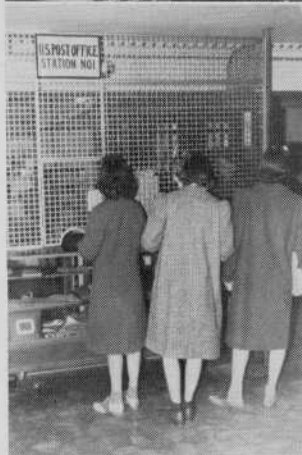
**R**APID growth of the Oklahoma Memorial Union's activities program since completion of the building's physical facilities is giving University students a new variety of cultural and social experience.

For several years the Union has been characterized as the "beating heart" of the University, and Virginia Reinecke, director of Union activities since last February, intends it to be just that. She has designed the program to give students opportunities for friendship and leadership, and to encourage a broader outlook than comes from intellectual training alone. A modern University, she believes, recognizes its obligations to help college youths build well-rounded characters.

About a third of the students' time during a day is spent in classes. The other two-thirds gives rise to the problem that the Union is helping to solve. Union facilities and activities enable students to use their leisure time well while they are at the University and to form constructive habits to carry with them upon leaving college.

First opened to use late in 1928, the building was not actually completed for ten years. During that time, as improvements were made step by step, it tended to become more and more the hub of student life. It answers a great need of the University, not only in furnishing a general center for the student body, but in serving as a melting pot for the fraternity and non-fraternity groups. A democratic atmosphere prevails in which students can associate with their instructors and with one another in a manner approaching the intimate and informal relationships of a small college.

Additional facilities and activities that will attract students have been made a part of the Union plan. With its comfortable furniture the oak-paneled lounge



The Union's limited facilities for campus meetings are used to capacity, as the schedule for a typical day (upper left picture) illustrates. Upper right, students enjoying one of the art exhibits frequently placed in the Lounge. Center left, the postal substation in the basement lobby which is a great convenience to students. Center right, a scene in the pine room where students have a pleasant clubroom atmosphere for games and radio entertainment—all free of charge. Lower left, a student dance in the Union ballroom. Lower right, a girl takes a magazine from a rack in the Lounge which supplies practically all popular magazines—from nickel weeklies to expensive Fortune.

on the main floor invites students for studying, reading or loafing. It is open from seven o'clock in the morning to ten o'clock at night. The room is furnished to accommodate about a hundred persons. Commuters, particularly, use the lounge regularly.

More than a score of the most popular current magazines are at the disposal of anyone who wishes to relax in the lounge for a moment, or read for an afternoon.

In pursuit of the cultural phase of its

program, the Union presents an hour of recorded classical music in the lounge each evening. Selections are taken from the Union's library of classical music.

Under Union sponsorship there is also a continuous program of fine arts exhibits in the lounge. Some of the exhibits are from the School of Arts; others are personal collections or traveling exhibits. At the present time the Union and the University School of Art are making arrange-

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ments for the installation of wall lights in the lounge for art displays.

Two groups of students—those who aid in the planning of them and those who participate—gain enjoyment and benefit from the social and recreational phases of the Union program. Perhaps the largest single social undertaking of the past year which was handled through the office of the director of Union activities was "Now or Never Week." It was conceived and carried out as a Leap Year celebration but made such a hit on the campus that it has been decided to make it an annual affair.

During the week of April 1 Society was turned "upside down" while boys became the escorted and girls the escorts. The arranging and managing of the events of the week offered opportunity to a large number of both boys and girls for exercise of leadership traits. Committees of independent and sorority girls planned a dansant in the Union ballroom, a stage show at a downtown theater, in which more than fifty students took part, and other less pretentious festivities.

Conducted in similar manner is the annual Sooner Carnival, staged each spring on the South Oval. Arrangements are under the sponsorship of the Union and are handled by Miss Reinecke's office. Stimulus to school spirit and to the development of leadership results from work on the carnival by those groups participating—the Greek letter houses, dorms, independent houses, and others.

"Collegian Club" is the name given the dances sponsored directly by the Union in the ballroom. The calendar calls for one such dance each month. They are all open to both fraternity and independent students and are attended by both. Officials believe that artificial barriers are being removed and fellowship is being accomplished.

The Union ballroom provides facilities for one or two dances for the Independent Men's Association each month, the formals of various fraternities, Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, and University glee clubs.

Maintained without charge to students is the Pine Room at the south end of the building's main floor. Comfortably furnished, with walls finished in pine, the room has an atmosphere of wholesome recreation. It is open to students throughout the day and evening. Bridge cards, checkers, chess sets, dominoes, chinker-checks and other game accessories are loaned for the asking.

A tournament manager, appointed by Miss Reinecke, arranges a contract bridge tournament in the spring. This year a hundred and twenty-eight college men and women took part. Only slightly smaller was the number who participated in checker, chess and ping-pong contests open to all members of the student body.

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