

*THINGS* were moving fast at the University in January, but it was hard to tell in just what direction. There was talk about the visit of President-Elect Brandt, the uncertain fate of the University's budget request for the next biennium, the impending establishment of an industrial research institute on the campus, expected developments on the Semicentennial celebration and the University of Oklahoma Foundation, and the possible submission of a constitutional amendment that would put control of the University under a state co-ordinating board instead of the present Board of Regents. However, what the student body was *really* talking about was the approach of semester finals in late January.

*FLU* hit Norman and the University personnel around Christmas, but the epidemic never reached serious proportions. Except at the home of President W. B. Bizzell where, during the Christmas holidays, seven persons were in bed with aches and fever at the same time. Dr. Fowler at Ellison Infirmary had a full house for a time but what really worried him was the students' inclination to walk right out of the Infirmary into rain and cold wind without any effort to keep dry. If you hear people say college students don't have enough sense to stay out of the rain, you might as well admit it.

*PICTURES* and biographical information are something that we hope to get some day from every alumnus. Every time we get a chance, we write and ask for some. The responses are often surprising. B. A. Garside, of New York, answering a request for pictures, sent two photographs with the pessimistic comment "you can detect the rate of deterioration." Jack Boatman at Okmulgee sent the information form, but reneged on the picture. "My wife won't let me have them made any more," he explained. That's a standard alibi which we know is good because we have used it too.

*KIND WORDS* are always gladly received, even when you are uncertain about the motive behind the orchids. But the compliments that really give you a warm feeling around the heart strings are the bouquets from someone in your own racket—someone doing the same kind of job. And so—thanks to Bill Gibson, the former Oklahoman who is now editor of the flourishing *Minnesota Alumni Weekly*, for writing that he enjoyed reading about the election of Joe Brandt as O. U. president in this magazine, and adding that "Your

magazine is always interesting from month to month."

A *CHRISTMAS* note to the Alumni Office from Mary Elizabeth Simpson Ittner, now of Bakersfield, California, reported that Husband Frank was back home after a quick trip all the way to New Zealand. The Superior Oil Company sent him to New Zealand September 18. He reworked some geological records there and returned home December 17, flying from Auckland to Honolulu by clipper and then sailing by ship from Honolulu to Los Angeles.

*DESPITE* all the work the utilities department has done to eliminate the traditional concave center sidewalks on the University campus, alumni continue to refer to them. Reporting that every issue of *Sooner Magazine* brings nostalgia, Fred Sollars, '40geol, writes that "We don't realize what those Norman sidewalks mean to us, even if they do hold water instead of keeping your feet dry when it rains." His address since January 2 has been Air Corps Training Detachment, Santa Maria, California. "Don't think I won't be gloating when I am basking in the warm Pacific breezes reading of the latest cold wave to strike Norman," he writes.

*ACCEPTING* her appointment as chairman of the O. U. Advisory Council at Kansas City, Kansas, Helen Morris expressed her feelings about it very neatly in a letter to Alumni Secretary Beard. "Thank you," she wrote, "for the opportunity of again becoming a part of O. U." The interest taken by advisory council members in University affairs during the last three years has been an important phase of the alumni program.

*WHATEVER* happened to the Class of 1903? In looking over the semi-annual circulation report of *Sooner Magazine*, we discovered that the Alumni Association has members from every class since 1900 except the Class of '03. The Association has members (and the magazine has readers) in every state in the Union except six. The six are Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont (what—no Republicans?), and Nevada, Utah and Idaho. We also have no members in Alaska.

*SPEAKING* of membership, a strange thing occurred last month. A member of the University faculty who is an alumnus of O. U. sent in a check for a membership with a letter that was a bit vague but quite apologetic in tone. "Please excuse my negligence in this matter and if it hap-

pens again I see no reason why a good kick in the pants would not suffice to get the lost sheep back into the flock." Alumni Secretary Beard, having his curiosity aroused, inquired into the whys and wherefores of the letter. The faculty member, he learned, had run into an alumnus in New York City who was such a loyal supporter of the Alumni Association that the faculty member was considerably embarrassed at having to admit that he hadn't joined himself. Now Secretary Beard doesn't know whether to push his membership activities on the campus, or just concentrate on the out-lying precincts.

*PROPOSALS* for an Alumni College program at O. U. have brought in a number of letters. "It is true that something is needed to make the alumni feel closer to their alma mater," writes Jack Campbell of Drumright. "Short courses, lectures and so on should go a long way toward this objective." A. N. Boatman of Okmulgee comments "I see great possibilities in it, both from the standpoint of the alumni as well as the University. I think it would be rather refreshing to meet with the law alumni for a short course and discuss problems of the profession, as well as to attend some of the general information and cultural courses to be offered in such a program." W. R. Farmer of Pauls Valley expresses great interest in the Alumni College and adds "Too bad we do not have some public spirited millionaires who are interested in our school."

*AS THIS* is written, the University's prospects for receiving the kind of appropriation it needs for the next biennium is none too bright. Alumni wanting to help might call the attention of their representatives and senators to a significant statement made by President-Elect Brandt, last month: "It's a mistake to call it 'our' budget—it's a budget for the youth of Oklahoma."

Other points worth mentioning:

1. The state has appropriated funds for only *one* building on the O. U. campus in the last *twelve* years.

2. Princeton University provides one faculty member for every five students; O. U. is now providing one faculty member for about twenty-five students.

3. The University salary scale is out of adjustment because there was not sufficient money to give raises when promotions in faculty rank were made; and the scale is so low in comparison to other universities that it is difficult to get well qualified new men to fill vacancies that occur.