

# The Changing Rules and Regulations

## There Was a Time When Romance Was Discouraged at the University

By Charles Roper

A pretty, oval faced sophomore was telling her fraternity boy friend some of the complications that arise at her sorority meetings. She was forced to raise her voice because several hundred talkative students with dates had crowded into the Norman campus shop. It was their custom after fraternity and sorority meetings on Monday nights.

She had almost reached the climax of her story of sorority tribulations when she paused and watched a man standing in the campus shop doorway. Solemn-faced, the man strode to the center of the shop and called for silence. Immediately a wave of whispering swept the crowd and then complete silence.

University President W. B. Bizzell then announced gently but firmly to the students that they were violating University regulations by dating on Monday night and asked them to disperse. Obediently the oval-faced girl rose and returned to her sorority house, slightly indignant with University regulations.

That happened in November 1934. The often criticized University rules and regulations were again the center of the student ire. Agitation began to have the rules amended so that week-day dating could be permitted. But the students had to wait several years while the evolution of the rules took its unhurried course.

Today the regulations have been liberalized so that men may call in women's houses from 4 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Monday through Thursday; 4 p.m. until 12:30 a.m. Friday, 12:30 p.m. until 12:30 a.m. on Saturday and 12 noon until 10:30 p.m. Sunday. Freshman women observe more stringent rules, Monday through Thursday, they have an 8 p.m. curfew and other nights the same as upperclasswomen.

In 1899 the rules and regulations of the University began to take shape. In a booklet issued by the University the regulations were established as to who could enter the University of Oklahoma. "Any young man or woman who has finished the course in a good country school may enter the Preparatory School of the University and find educational work and a welcome," they decreed.

Tuition was free in 1899 to those that were "bona fide residents of the territory." Along with the rules for admittance and class attendance the housing situation was discussed. With an unbelieving blink of the eyes one reads: "Board, including furnished rooms, can be had at from \$2.50 to \$3.00 a week. Clubs are in operation which bring the expenses of living somewhat lower." The economy forces in Congress would dearly love to know the secret the clubs had of lowering living expenses below \$3.00 a week.

For the skeptics the book on rules and regulations printed an example of the cost of living in Norman:

Board, per week .....	\$2.00
Room rent, per week .....	.75
Laundry, per week .....	.25
Athletics, etc., per week .....	.10
Entertainments, per week .....	.25
All other, per week .....	.25
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Total .....	\$3.60

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**In this tongue-in-cheek story, Sooner staffer, Charles Roper, takes a look at past and present rules and regulations, and comes up with this amusing story.**

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The informative booklet also explained that University regulations provided for the control of athletics by the students. The control was exercised through the Athletic Association, an organization of students who arranged for the playing of football and other sports. Football, the booklet explained, had been "played in earnest" for the last two seasons at the University.

In 1904 the University rules and regulations book was devoted largely to the conduct of freshmen. "It is customary," the rules said, "for college students, and compulsory for preparatory students to attend chapel." Facetiously they added, "It is customarily compulsory to laugh when a member of the faculty or a visitor gets off an old joke in chapel."

The freshmen continued to bear the brunt of the regulated life in 1925. In addition to the little red cap which they had to wear while in Norman they were otherwise regimented. The terse Freshman *Handbook* warned:

"Be at football games an hour before they start, and be dressed in a red sweater and white trousers.

"Keep off the grass.

"Never wear a prep or high school insignia."

There were also some hard and fast rules which applied to the upper classmen. They were told, "A men's fraternity may not invite women guests except during the hours open to social engagements in rooming houses, and then only if a suitable chaperon is provided." Great faith was attached to the use of chaperones. Again and again chaperones are mentioned as prerequisites to social gatherings. They are defined clearly so that no student could possibly mistake another student for a chaperon.

Chaperones were never so clearly defined as were dances in the rules and regulations manual of 1926. Precise and to the point they defined, "Any party or social in which any dancing occurs will be considered a dance." There wasn't the slightest chance of misunderstanding thereafter what constituted a dance. The student body had been summarily enlightened.

Closing time for the dances in 1926 were less rigidly defined. The rules stated that approved dances would close at 11:00 p.m. except annual dances approved for Friday evening "may be permitted to run until midnight." Just how much stress was placed on the work "may," past records do not disclose. The rules and regulations seemed to run parallel with the moral code of the time. Take for instance the public's viewpoint on smoking.

In 1931 the rules manual hinted rather broadly that "no loyal University student smokes in campus buildings." Either the student's loyalty has vanished or the conception of what constitutes loyalty has been modified. Because today smoking in the

campus buildings (outside of classrooms, of course) is condoned by the University. The 1931 edict on smoking occurred a few years before a major tobacco company had the nerve to use billboard posters depicting a woman smoking a cigarette. Public taste and opinion was molded to the new idea and in due time the changed moral code was adopted on the college campuses.

Some rules were beginning to relax in 1931. The underdog freshmen still had to wear his little red cap, keep off the grass and submit to an occasional paddling. But he was given the concession of having to appear at the football games only thirty minutes before game time instead of the original hour. An added regulation was imposed on the freshmen, however. Possibly it was imposed to keep the freshman from getting grandiose ideas that he was as good as an upper classman. Special sections of the stadium and fieldhouse were reserved for his uncouth occupancy.

The first time that the famous "no date" rule appears in the rules is in 1931. Its existence was an eyesore on every young aspiring lover. It prohibited him from dating except on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The week days were reserved for intellectual pursuits. The rules manual said, "By action of the Board of Regents all dances, theater parties, tea parties, hiking, calling, dates or other social engagements are not to take place on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday after the hours of seven p.m." As a footnote we might add that this little rule actually caused tea parties and hiking to become extinct. In all fairness it must be added that calling, dates, other social engagements are very much alive on the campus today. Theater parties are in evidence to a lesser degree.

To say that every one was on a common footing in 1931 is more than a phrase. A rule of the University stated that a student could not keep a car on the campus without permission of University officials. During this period a couple's dating excursions necessarily were limited to the weakest one's endurance. Bicycles were the natural aftermath of this rule.

With a flair for definition the University explained to the 1931 students what "calling hours" meant. In short it meant that they didn't call for very long and they generally saw each other with the aid of sunlight. On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the suitor could call from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. But on Friday and Saturday he was allowed to see what she looked like under artificial light. From 3 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. the couple were permitted to roam as far as they could get on foot. On Sunday they were given a head start. They could leave at 12:30 p.m. and return at 10:30 p.m.

In 1935 the squabble over the week night dating had reached the propaganda stage. In January of that year handbills were distributed asking for immediate action to modify the "no date" rule. The handbills, which were distributed anonymously by persons enrolled in the University, stated that the administration of the University had refused to consider the results of a student election which asked that the "no date" rule be abolished. Actually the student petition had not been considered

because the board of regents had not met since the student election was held.

The red letter day in rules making was May 1934. In that month students got a break when faculty members were requested to dismiss classes on the hour and not hold students over-time, thereby making them late for the next hour's class. Whether faculty members have become lax in regarding this request or students have found a good excuse and refuse to change it, no one knows. But students still walk into class and with a poker face tell their prof the 15-year-old story about being kept overtime.

Alcoholic beverages, gambling and raffles are included in the 1948 student handbook. "Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is not permitted on the campus, or in any University building or student residence. Alcoholic beverages must not be taken to any affair sponsored by a student organization."

Another sobering little chapter in the 1948 student handbook is entitled "Cheating Penalties." They are not referring to rules to be followed in intramural sports.

Heartlessly they expound: "1. A student guilty of cheating on a paper or quiz, other than the final examination, may be suspended from the University for the remainder of the semester. 2. A student guilty of cheating on final examination may be suspended from the University for the following full semester." The reader will note that mention is made only of the guilt of cheating, not of the apprehension. Possibly students always confess to their crime when qualms of conscience get the better of them.

Each year the Student Handbook carries more and more regulations covering a wide variety of subjects. The 1949-50 handbook has regulations covering such subjects as loud speakers, decorations, sign painting, political meetings and soliciting. This handbook also contains the rules on alcoholic beverages, gambling and raffles, possibly included to remind students that such things do exist elsewhere.

President Cross receives a concession in the new regulations. To prevent his front lawn from being trampled periodically by holiday seekers the handbook says, "Athletic victory holidays will be granted *only* when the University wins a clear conference title in either football or basketball, or when the basketball team wins a national championship."

Students are again reminded in the 1949-50 handbook of the matter of class attendance "A passing grade will not be given in any course in which a student has not attended at least 80 per cent of the class recitations and laboratory periods." Some students are still confused over "going to school" and "attending school." This clarifies the point for them.

The old bugaboo, Calling Hours, has been revamped for the coming year. Girls gain 30 minutes time on Friday, being allowed to stay out until 12:30 a.m. instead of 12 midnight. But they lose 45 minutes of social time on Saturday night under the new University ruling. They have to be in by 12:30 a.m. on Saturday nights instead of 1:15 as it was last year.

The 1949-50 rules permit a student to own a car with a slight stipulation. "Every student who owns a car, or intends to use a car not owned by him for any period, however short, must register such car at once at the Safety Office on Felgar Street." Some students walk despite the liberalized ruling.

So the University rules and regulations which started out as a few page booklet covering only a few subjects has grown to a 70 page affair, touching on everything from "Absences" to "Withdrawal."



Sooner Co-captains, Jimmy Owens, No. 81, and Stanley West, No. 64, present a confident front before the Boston College game.

## Predictions Are in Order

Just how strong will the 1949 edition of the University of Oklahoma football squad be? Who will replace General Jack Mitchell, '49, Blackwell, at quarterback? Can a replacement be found for Myrle Greathouse, '49bs, Amarillo, Texas? Will Paul "Buddy" Burris', '49bs, Muskogee, departure mean a slackening of the forward wall?

By the time this issue of *Sooner Magazine* is in the hands of the alumni some of these questions will be answered. By that time O.U.'s Sugar Bowl champs will have invaded Bean-Town for a September 23 opener against Boston College. Said George Trevor, veteran Eastern observer, in the 1949 *Illustrated Football Annual* in regards to what the Sooners will have met in Boston:

"Denny Myers, the coach who believes in his boys and dares to admit it, threatens to put the two platoon system to scorn by operating with three complete elevens. He has them big and he has them plenty up on Chestnut Hill, and the Irish cod-connoisseurs from the Hub of the Universe are spitting in the eye of a Finn McCool schedule and proclaiming the greatest Eagle aray since all-winning 1940, the swan song of Frank Leahy's consulship."

Sooner alumni will have a chance to determine whether this bit of journalese is prophetic or not.

If it is, then another veteran sportswriter, Grantland Rice, will stop something short of being a seer. In the latter part of August, Rice and *Look Magazine* announced to an awaiting world that the Oklahoman's would field the best eleven in the nation.

Said he, writing in *Look*, that he hated to name any team better than the rest in September.

He continued, "But if I were surrounded by king cobras and forced to make a selection, I would nominate Coach Bud Wilkinson's big, fast, deep, aggressive University of Oklahoma squad."

Rice singled out Darrell Royal, Hollis senior, as a potential replacement for Mitchell and pointed out several other Sooners headed for honors. The list included: Lindell Pearson, Oklahoma City junior, and George Thomas, Fairland senior, backs; Jim Owens, Oklahoma City co-captain and end; Wade Walker, Gastonia, North Carolina, tackle; and Norman McNabb, Norman, and co-captain Stanley West, Enid, guards.

Behind the Sooners were listed Michigan, Vanderbilt, Cornell, Southern Methodist, Notre Dame, Army, Minnesota, Michigan State and Tulane, in that order, for national football supremacy.

Said Coach Wilkinson on being notified of the Rice ratings: that if they (the Sooners) get by the Boston College Eagles, "we'll have a pretty fair club."

So much for the predictors, who are also starting the drums rolling for Owens, Walker, Royal, Thomas, et al, for All American honors. What is important is the basis for the prognosticators pickings.

Gone from the Sugar Bowl Crew are All-American Burris and standouts Mitchell, Greathouse, Nute Trotter, '49, Borger Texas; Pete Tillman, '49, Mangum; Truman Wright, '49, Houston, Texas, and Bill Remy, '49bs, Midland, Texas.

Says the football brochure prepared by Harold Keith, '29ba, '39ma, Sooner Sports publicist:

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