

Under Cover

What is education's problem or problems as a new school year unfolds? The Editor believes the teachers and instructors face the task of helping to abate the fears and fancies of a nation no longer sure of the course it must take for survival.

By David Burr, '50

It seems to me that education is confronted with its most serious test in twenty years at the present time. Maybe I'm wrong but I'll take a bit of convincing.

Since 1931 the academic structure has weathered quite a few storms, it is true. The depression and the war helped rewrite the teachers' manual. Yet these situations were clear cut, a clear cut approach was demanded.

Today's problem is nothing that simple. Combating fear and uncertainty and the lack of faith is not easy. But there are weapons at hand, chiefly logic, that can prove the answer to the present crisis. The trouble is the weapons may give a pretty wicked kick.

It is peculiar that a people can make a complete about face in the matter of five-six years. At war's end we were confident, sure. We were headed for security, peace. But the effects of the heady wine began to wear off. We became uncertain, fumbling. We anxiously awaited the signal for the next play and lost it in the confusion of the huddle. We booted the ball to the opposition and have since been trying to recover it.

Because we lost faith in ourselves and lacked the courage to say so, we were willing to theorize in private but become practical in practice. We passed bills and made speeches about the common enemy (with a gigantic show of ignorance, we assumed that Communism was that enemy rather than its by-product—fear). We looked at each other and smiled, but after the smile died away we rushed out to pass laws to make sure we knew what the other was smiling about. We thought about freedom so much we were willing to limit it.

Education and those who are educated face the task of helping us find a little faith, a little courage with which to combat our fears. We must become certain of our ground and then we can stop regressing.

To do this is the almost insurmountable job ahead. It is a time when teachers must say the things they know need to be said.

It is no time for intimidation. Someone, somewhere must demonstrate an act of faith and there is no better place to look for it than with the thinkers.

People must believe that the society we live in is good. (If they believe some of it is bad, there is no better time than now for junking that portion.) They must believe that our form of government, while occasionally bumbling, will succeed if reason is given a chance and will undoubtedly fail if we remain in a vacuum created by doubt. (It is a peculiar paradox of our time that those who profess to be fighting the external danger the hardest, i.e. Senator McCarthy, those responsible for Loyalty Oaths, are giving aid and comfort to the enemy. For the lack of faith is all that is needed to provide a fertile ground for seeds of treason.)

The problem then for the teachers and the educational system is to help remove hysteria and start us on an "Age of Reason." It may prove to be education's hardest job but it is my belief that it will succeed. I have a great deal of faith in the future.

Thank You, Kind Sirs

When the 1951 Magazine Awards of the American Alumni Council were announced in July, two awards were made to the *Sooner*. The first was an honorable mention award for the appearance of the magazine and the second was an honorable mention for faculty news.

We competed in a tough category (one for magazines in the circulation bracket of from 7,000-11,999)—a category that presented some excellent competition. The undisputed leader, based on the judges' decision, in our division was the University of Chicago. The magazine staff at Chicago has our warmest congratulations.

One of the judges and the American Alumni Council's director for magazines, William Bentick-Smith of Harvard, commented on the judging, "It was in the southwest that several judges felt the greatest weakness lay (in quality of product),

but during the discussions I remember special mention being made of the up-and-coming efforts of the *Sooner Magazine* . . . and the Oklahoma A.&M. *College Magazine*." We thank Mr. Smith for those kind words and believe we will present a better magazine in 1951-52 for our readers and for judging purposes.

Something Special

We have some great things in store for *Sooner* readers. For the next two months we have scheduled some significant specials. In October we are going to offer, in addition to the regular magazine coverage, a brand, spanking new innovation in alumni magazine publishing. We will publish in a special section of the magazine informative and interesting articles and essays produced by the best minds on the campus.

Following the innovation in October, the magazine will produce a complete issue devoted to the wonderful Union in November. Alumni will hardly trust their eyes when they see the beautifully decorated, service designed, renovated building and we're going to try to capture the beauty for presentation in the magazine. Everyone connected with the Union and all Alumni facilities are being turned toward producing the best single magazine yet produced.

Speaking of the Union, the Alumni Offices are now at home in tastefully decorated and furnished quarters on the mezzanine floor. A trip to the campus should mean looking through the Union anyway, so be sure and stop in to see the offices and visit with the executive secretary, Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37Law, and his alumni staff.

And speaking of Gunning, Guy Brown, '42ba, '48ma, alumni field representative, and the editor, have reason to believe he's not the good, kind soul he appears to be. Under guise of desiring opinion on a matter of business he suckered us into tripping to Oklahoma City with him. After fattening us for the slaughter he announces he is going to give a pint of blood for a friend at one of the local hospitals and assumes, since one more pint is all that is needed, that one of us will gladly oblige. Brown and I couldn't decide which it would be so we both went up to snicker at the boss and draw straws for the one to be perforated. Lo and behold, a 12-hour attack of malaria made it necessary for the boss to retain his blood so both of his lieutenants were trapped. Be it said for him, however, that he did chuckle appreciatively at his own jest and as we writhed in agony.

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The Sooner Salutes



Carlene Roberts

"Into a \$25,000-a-year vice-presidency at American Airlines last week stepped Carlene Roberts . . . a pretty Midwesterner who joined the company as a \$150-a-month secretary fourteen years ago," read the July 30 *Time* magazine.

For Miss Roberts, '34fa, the step up was the payoff for her unusually effective work, and for aviation, the move produced a first: she is the first woman in airline history to hold such an important job.

Her entrance into airlines work came when Braniff Airways Vice President O. M. Mosier spotted Miss Roberts while she was working with the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce. When he went to American Airlines as vice president, he took Miss Roberts along. Soon she was doing personnel work and when American moved its headquarters from Chicago to New York, Miss Roberts was entrusted with surveying housing, recreation facilities, etc.

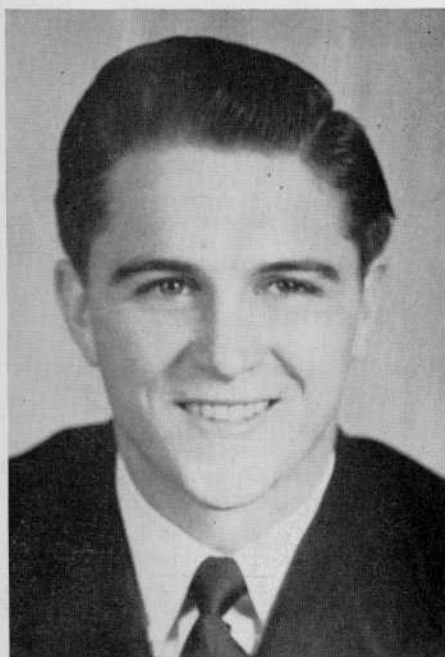
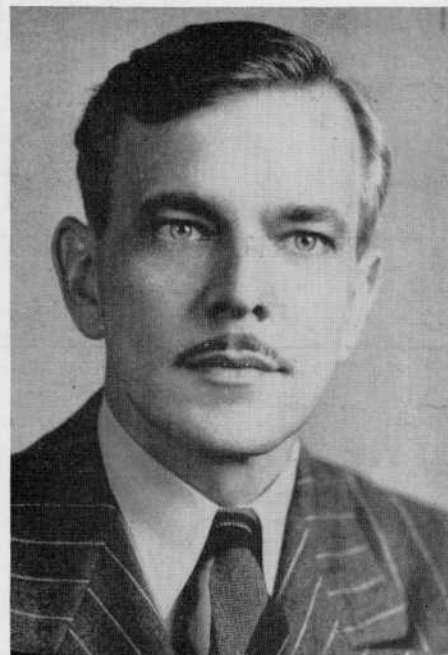
She was so successful that she was picked to help run the new American officers in Washington, D. C., in 1942. The *Sooner* salutes an alumna high flyer.

For half an hour each Sunday afternoon (except summer months) the University has an enrolment of 70,000. Directing the students through one of the most interesting classes they ever attended is Dr. Sherman Lawton, co-ordinator of radio instruction and professor of radio.

The class is the TV show, "The Open Window," and its subjects range from glass blowing to ducks to atomic energy. The success of the program depends on presenting the material in a manner designed to be understood by every age group. Dr. Lawton directs and serves as master of ceremonies of the Window.

A native of Muskegan, Michigan, Dr. Lawton joined the faculty in 1946 after teaching hitches at Bradley, University of Wisconsin, Stephens College and Syracuse plus a great deal of professional radio experience. He holds degrees from Albion College (BA), University of Michigan (MA), and University of Wisconsin (PhD).

Dr. Sherman Lawton



Robert T. Rennie

Each year several hundred young men arrive on the campus a week before school starts to make their bid for a fraternity berth. In charge of "Rush" is the Interfraternity Council and in charge of the Council this year is an affable young man who seems not one whit perturbed by the size of his job. He's Robert T. Rennie, '51ba, a junior law student from Pauls Valley.

With the nickname of "Bull of the Washita" (he lamely explains the title by saying it has something to do with the notorious floodings of the Washita), Rennie was elected to the presidency by acclamation, believed to be the only president so elected.

A member of Delta Upsilon fraternity, Rennie has served as president of the pre-law fraternity, worked with the League of Young Democrats, been elected Big Man on Campus for two years and shoots golf in the mid-80's.

One big job accomplished (he married Sue Hollis, a fellow student, last Easter), he was looking forward in early September to Rush. His expressed desire was to be as successful in the job as his predecessors. Last year, 416 young men went through rush and 415 were pledged.

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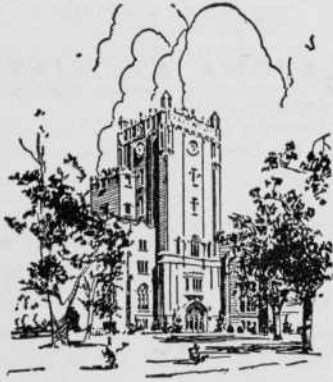
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There is very definitely something new under the sun. I've seen it and believe me it's beautiful. It's the Ming Room in the newly expanded and decorated Union. The Ming Room is a catering dining room on the first floor of the building.

Everything from the filigree lanterns to the 15-foot chartreuse divan is done in a manner calculated to make the dining room the most popular place on the campus (perhaps Owen Stadium on a football afternoon is an exception).

The walls are painted a turquoise green trimmed with green-black woodwork. Round and square tables will seat up to 162 people in parties ranging from 2 to capacity. The drapes are patterned green and white and the carpet is a luxurious green. The serving china is Staffordshire with bands of bottle green and coined gold. Dinner music will be provided.

Alumni and their guests and friends are welcome to drop in after a football game or at any time they are on the campus to dine in one of the most beautiful dining rooms in the state or, for that matter, in the Southwest.

Oklahoma opens its home football schedule with William and Mary September 29. Why not plan to come a little early or stay a little late to make an inspection trip through the "New" Union. It's a real eye opener.—The Ed.

OKLAHOMA

MEMORIAL UNION

University of Oklahoma, Norman

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Clark Cleaners



Soonergram of the Month

King Football returns to his throne this month and he'll bring with him hundreds of Sooners to watch the fun. Yes, for five Saturdays during the next three months, the highways will lead to Owen Stadium.

There is no better place for your football weekend headquarters than the Oklahoma Biltmore. The Oklahoma County Alumni Club will hold its annual pre-Homecoming party in the Biltmore October 26 and many of your friends will be stopping here throughout the season. It's only a 30-minute drive to Norman.

Why don't you plan to join your friends who have helped name the Biltmore "The Sooners Home Away From Home" over the football weekends. It is at the Oklahoma Biltmore *where courtesy creates its own welcome.*

H. P. "JOHNNIE" JOHNSON, *Manager*

MARTIN J. REINHART, *President*

ROLLIN C. BOYLE, *Secretary*

SOONER MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

Sooner Staff Members: David A. Burr, '50, Editor; Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37Law, Managing Editor; Mrs. Dorothy Duffy Work, '50fa, Roll Call Editor; Mrs. Mary Turnbull, Alumni Records; Harold Keith, '29ba, '39ma, Sooner Sports; Glenn Copeland, '53, Mailing. Photography by the University Photographic Service.

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NO. 1

The Cover

Football in all its pomp returns to the sports scene this month. The cover boys are the Sooners (in black and white) and a mythical opponent in grey and black suits. The artist was Jack C. Moses, '50fa. Some of the team play and spirit that help make football what it is is presented in the drawing.

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On The Sooner Scene

By Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37Law

The Alumni Executive Secretary considers the subject of where the emphasis is placed at the University. He finds that the real emphasis at O.U. is not on any single phase of the University's program but on the excellence of every field and activity.

An alumnus was visiting the campus in Norman this summer. Looking over the new Geology building, he wandered into a room where a student seemed to be examining rocks through a microscope.

This, sensed the visitor, was a good place to start getting the "real lowdown" on the University of Oklahoma in 1951. What kind of a school is it? What kind of an education does it offer the student of today? These were the questions running through his mind. So he planted a "loaded" question which raised these and other points and which is being asked about higher education by many serious-minded people in the national press today.

"Where is the emphasis placed at O.U.?"

The geology student at the microscope, a veteran of World War II, trying to wind up a master's degree at the end of five and a half years of study, reacted in this way: "Brother, you asked me a question. I have been in this same room every day this summer for two months, usually twelve, thirteen hours a day. The University's investment in this new building is a million dollars. I have a good job waiting for me as soon as I get this thesis out of the way. So I can tell you where the emphasis is around here. It is in geology, of course."

What answer would this alumnus have heard to his question if he had asked it in the Law building, in the Press building, or asked at other points on the campus? Or better still, how would you as an alumnus answer the question yourself?

The fact is, I believe you will agree, there are many points of emphasis on the Uni-

versity scene. As the University begins its sixtieth year this fall there are a number of departments which meet the test of excellence.

It might be argued good teaching is being emphasized by the University. For in spite of a cut in the total amount of funds available, expenditures for supplies, travel, and maintenance were reduced drastically so that it was possible for the Regents to increase teachers' salaries for the coming year. This kind of careful management makes it a little more difficult for other institutions to raid our teaching staff.

Why not say the emphasis at O.U. is on the publication of fine books? The University of Oklahoma Press continues to publish books which attract national and international acclaim. The distinguished director of the Press, Savoie Lottinville, '29ba, accurately described the position of the Press in a recent report, when he said of it, "Nothing that the University does more clearly reflects the progressive spirit, the tremendous physical, intellectual, and cultural resources, and the human potential of Oklahoma."

Of the seventeen new titles appearing this year, each has added something to the Press's reputation for excellence. Wide attention has been given Lt. Col. William R. Kintner's *The Front is Everywhere*—Militant Communism in Action, revealing the world-wide conspiracy of the Communist Party. In anticipation of the 175th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of

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