

# Under Cover

By David Burr, '50

was recovering on the naval hospital ship, The Haven, anchored off Pusan."

Ted is the son of Joseph A. Brandt, '21 ba, head of the graduate journalism department at U.C.L.A. and former University president, and Mrs. Sally Brandt. The reason that I was particularly interested in the clipping was two-fold. First, it was newsworthy because of the parents. Second, Ted was a friend of mine while at the University in 1949.

At last report Ted had undergone an operation for the removal of a shrapnel fragment from one of his legs.

**This is my fourth year** as editor of the *Sooner Magazine*. Nothing could demonstrate that four years is a long time better than a telephone conversation I had the other day. The party on the other end of the wire was Thellys Gill Hess, '47bus, who had just returned from Norman Municipal Hospital with her baby born November 15. To explain the time angle: Thellys was secretary in the Alumni Office the first year I worked here. She resigned in the late spring of 1949. In between then and now, she was employed in Oklahoma City. She resigned from that position when her first baby arrived. So Thellys and her husband David Hess, '49 bus, Norman, now have two girls and I have a few traces of gray hair.

The next time someone mentions to me the possibility of pulling out all stops and playing the loudest tune we can in the magazine Ah'm going to turn the other cheek, hurl myself in front of a 2-ton moving vehicle and slap him about the rib case.

The trouble with me is Ah'm too easily moved. When the idea for a special issue of the magazine devoted to the expanded and redecorated Union Building was first proposed, Ah raced wildly about the room, throwing my arms and legs in an uncontrollable fit of passion. What an opportunity for displaying the Union. What an opportunity for displaying the staff's talents. What a fine thing for the Alumni.

This was in August. By September my passion had cooled. By November Ah wanted a divorce.

Ah'm not sure whose idea it was for a special commemorative issue of the *Sooner*. At first Ah thought it might have been mine. By September Ah thought it was probably the Alumni Executive Secretary's. By November Ah knew it was his.

Beginning with school, some portion of the staff's time has been relegated to producing this particular little beauty. This meant shorter coffee hours, being in the office when Ah was supposed to be, and, in general, removed me from competition as Chief-Union-Coffee-Drinker. The Union officials were not too happy about my condition either. It is authoritatively reported that they discontinued making one kiln of coffee due to my absence.

By and by the magazine became a personal issue between my boss and I. Every day an interview with Mr. Gunning produced the same question but brought different answers. His question, "When are you going to get the magazine out?" My answers, "On time," "a week late," "Ah don't know."

Before an 90-mile-an-hour wind could flutter Adam's fig leaf, Ah was filled with determination to produce not something the alumni could be proud of necessarily, or that Ah and my crew could point to with pride, but something that might generate a bit of heat when viewed by the boss.

As the issue was nearing completion, Ah coddled my brains a bit in search of the

people Ah should give credit for helping produce this publication. Ah thought of the engravers, the photographers, the printers and my own crew but none seemed to be upper most in my thoughts. Without fear of confusion therefore, Ah report that this production is by Gunning out of Burr.

Actually everyone concerned with this issue has co-operated so well that I couldn't ask for more. I hope the readers enjoy the end product.

**The past month's mail** brought a letter from Los Angeles. Inside was a clipping that held special interest for me. The lead of the newspaper story read: "Wounded in Marine Corps action during the storming of Heartbreak Hill in eastern Korea last September 13, Pfc. Joseph T. (Ted) Brandt, 21, this week (mid-November)



George Cummings, '49bus, assistant executive secretary, and Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37law, executive secretary, politely watch as the editor, David Burr, '50, picks an outstanding photo out of the many pictures taken for the forthcoming Union issue.