

# SOONER MAGAZINE

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## The Cover

Standing tall in the Norman landscape, the Union tower has been reproduced in photographs before but probably never more dramatically than the *Sooner's* cover. Printed in four colors (red, yellow, blue and black) with a minimum of overprinting, the tower provides a good opening for a magazine devoted to the Union.

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DECEMBER, 1951

## UNIVERSITY

# Covering the Campus

By Tommie Pratt, '52

Homecoming and a look at the Greek situation on the campus provide the main topics for the student columnist's report. She thinks the Greeks are on their way out; bases opinion on recent Regent's rule.

**The Homecoming** Variety Show which serves as an hors d'oeuvre for the Spring Sooner Scandals established a new tradition this year. The "Soonerettes" were born. A group of 16 shapely coeds representing each house on the campus opened and closed the show with a chorus line exhibiting near-professional precision. The act was directed by Barbara Johnson, a 21-year-old business senior who possesses the distinction of being the youngest accredited dancing instructor in the southwest. Miss Johnson also directed the winning act in the Scandals last year, the "Ladies in Hades" act of her sorority, Alpha Gamma Delta.

\* \* \* \*

**Rain and other** bad weather almost ruined decorations for Homecoming weekend. However, with the aid of tarpaulins and numerous rain coats most of the floats and house decorations survived the elements, at least until past judging time. Alpha Phi and Sigma Alpha Epsilon took first place berths in the house decorations slot. The Alpha Phis had constructed a train, "The Little Engine That Could," complete with engine, chair cars and caboose on their front lawn. The SAEs also carried out the book title theme with their winning decorations of the Bible.

\* \* \* \*

**One University** professor has solved one of the teacher's biggest headaches—how to keep attention during class. Dr. Elwood Kretsinger, assistant professor of speech,

has invented an audience reaction machine. Dr. Kretsinger explained that the machine itself doesn't maintain attention but shows the speaker the exact moment of his lecture when the audience fidgeted or displayed evidence of non-interest. A wavy line shows up on the recording tape indicating jokes the students thought were funny.

Dr. Kretsinger maintains the machine could completely revolutionize class lectures. Since a straight line would indicate interest, a professor could cut his lecture accordingly. Through the electromagnetic meter class cuts would be reduced to a minimum. Students could become so intelligent that the idea is terrifying.

The invention consists of three instruments. One feeds electromagnetic energy into a small wire which is strung along the backs of chairs where the audience is sitting. As the people move, they absorb this energy which is recorded on an amplifier. The third instrument records with red ink the audience's fidgeting and movements.

\* \* \* \*

**Theta Sigma Phi**, honorary journalism fraternity for women, announced its selection of the three top women in the state at its recent Matrix Table dinner.

Heading the list was Miss Dorothy Truex, counselor of women. Miss Truex, is a member of the American Association of University Women, the National Asso-

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One of the most exquisite floats in the Homecoming parade was Lambda Alpha Chi's FlyingDutchman. Although the trim ship didn't win the judges' approval it sailed gracefully through the parade supported by the admiring glances of the spectators. First place winners were: Petroleum Engineers' "Oil for the Lamps of China," the Alpha Chi Omega's "Hansel and Gretel" and the Alpha Tau Omega's "One World."

ciation of Deans of Women, and is active in March of Dimes drives, community chest campaigns, and Girl Scout work.

Mrs. G. C. Spillers, Tulsa, was named as outstanding woman of the state and Miss Peggy Dyche as outstanding woman senior. Mrs. Spillers is the vice-regent of the Tulsa chapter of the D.A.R. and has been connected actively in the past few years with the R. E. Lee Memorial Foundation, the Tulsa Symphony Society, and many other civic groups. She has served as president of the Tulsa Garden Club and the Oklahoma Association of Garden clubs.

Peggy Dyche was president of Alpha Lambda Delta in her freshman year. She has served as secretary of the 'Y' cabinet, WRA, and was tapped for Mortar Board. Now, as a senior, Peggy is co-president of the 'Y', president of her sorority, Chi Omega, and chairman of Panhellenic investigations committee.

\* \* \* \*

**It may not be** in our time or that of the freshmen but it looks as if the Greeks are on their slow way out of the University. The first hint was the moving of all freshmen women, sorority pledges and independents alike, into the women's quadrangle. Now the second has just come to pass with the Regents' extension of regu-

lations to include men freshmen also, beginning next year, provided the new men's quadrangle is completed by September.

And it seems to be working. It has been reported that some of the coeds have been reluctant to leave the near luxury of the quadrangle to move into their respective sorority houses. Too, the association has proved beneficial. Students who probably would never have met on campus have ended their freshmen year as friends despite their varied affiliations. Thus, the inter-Greek and Greek-independent barriers are gradually disintegrating.

Fraternities report that less than 50 per cent of their houses are filled to capacity this year. They predict severe financial trouble come next year when they lost their freshmen revenue. Sororities, too, are having trouble. This year pledge quotas had to be lifted so that some sororities could pledge more girls and fill their houses. So, it looks like some day we might all be Greeks or all be independents.

\* \* \* \*

**But, then** times seem lean for the University as a whole these days. President Cross recently reported in a faculty meeting that the next three or four years will be ones of "blood, toil, tears and sweat." The reason for the dim picture is two-fold,

Cross said. First, there is approximately a five per cent cut in appropriations by the Board of Regents. Second, another enrolment drop is expected. Both of these factors considerably reduce University income.

University enrolment has dropped 17 per cent over last year. While there were 9,160 students in school last year there are only 7,894 this year.

The male-female ratio is suffering too. There are only 5,825 men enrolled compared with 7,267 a year ago. There are now 2,137 women compared with 2,343 last year.

## Unusual Situations

**Fine Teamwork.** A lot of people will never know the true meaning of teamwork or the meaning of having a true friend. But two students, George Limber and John Samaras, business administration majors from Oklahoma City, have realized both to the fullest.

For three and a half college years, they've been attending classes together, with identical curricula. Lifelong friends and inseparable as cockle-burrs on a shaggy dog there still remains a striking contrast between the two. Samaras can see, Limber can't.

Ever since a delicate operation performed six years ago in an effort to correct a detached retina, Limber has had no vision. His walking isn't hampered, however. With one hand placed on the shoulder of his friend, Limber never falters.

Marketing majors, Limber and Samaras are following a class routine they adopted from the first. Samaras takes the lecture notes in class and in the evenings reads the textbook assignments to Limber. Both young men take part in class discussion. The boys consider the teamwork just part of the fast friendship they started in grade school.

Loss of his eyesight has handicapped Limber very little. Even in geometry, his blindness didn't slow his work. Limber said his instructor took pencils and pieces of wire and made the figures. Then he was able to put his hands on them and "see" them in his mind's eye.

Recalling the eventful day of his unsuccessful eye operation, Limber said that three big things happened on that day—"President Roosevelt died; I lost my eyesight and the Muskogee School for the Blind was destroyed by a tornado." Limber was idle for almost two years until the school for the blind could be rebuilt.

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