

Under Cover

By David Burr, '50

The New Year offers its usual advantage of a fresh beginning place. The editor reviews some of the happenings on the world scene for the past year and explains what he wants from 1952. Perhaps all free men hope for the same ideal—Peace.

It is 1952 and I want to be put ashore. I am damn well tired of drifting aimlessly along, wondering if I'll wake up some morning with a war hangover.

In 1952 I want to know that I am going someplace, and that the people who are taking me have a driver's license.

I want to know that the driver is not drunk with incompetence. I do not ask for security—merely intelligence.

I would like to think I misread the road signs in 1951. Then it would be possible to believe that the cutoffs were necessary detours on the highway to peace. I do not believe I made such a drastic mistake.

1951 meant confusion to me. And out of the confusion I saw fear and not a little cowardice.

I did not understand why we hadn't counted our "mad money" before we dated the villain. I did not understand why we found ourselves in a compromising position and then paid ransom so "he" wouldn't tell.

In the world's distressing drama, a man laughs at peace. The audience hisses to relieve the tension as the 2nd act curtain rings down. Yet no one knew for sure the 3rd act would bring the actor's comeuppance for he was playing a dual role—both hero and villain. Which he was depended on which side of the "curtain" you sat.

Aiding and abetting the confusion were non-political speeches that became political—an old soldier who faded away into the spotlight—a war that wasn't a war—senators who weren't discreet—misplaced mink muffs.

I was confounded by the game to pin a tail or trunk on General Ike. The sport is over now that he says he's a Republican but it neither leaves me with new hope or new despair.

I could not see that in the overall picture, Miss Truman's singing was very important. Whether or not her father was dressed according to the dictates of the day meant little to me.

I became disgusted to death with two-

bit, name-calling politicians, four-bit investigations that made a nice compilation of paper and steak at the going price of a dollar six-bits.

What interested me in 1951 was whether or not we were on the road to peace. I was watching for sharp curves but unprepared for the washouts.

I am not one of those who asks for peace at any price. I recognize, however, it comes at a stiff premium at best. Peace means (political years notwithstanding) a larger standing military organization, higher taxation at certain levels, definite shortages in luxuries and in some commodities. It would mean we accept the Boy Scout motto, "Be Prepared."

Peace would also mean no casualty lists; no prisoner of war tabulations—none of the slow death that comes to the next of kin and the sudden death that comes to the GI.

It takes no emotional outburst for man to hope for something better in 1952. A man might believe he is his brother's keeper and doesn't want to take the responsibility for doing a bad job.

Peace is something better. We will not have the peace that typified the 30's or one like anything we have known before. It will have to stem from confidence—a piece of mind—that we are ready, willing and stable enough in our many defenses to make our theme of "the mightiest nation on earth" a reality when we are right, and even to recognize it as an asset when we are wrong.

Peace is a funny dish. It can't be sampled to be enjoyed. It must be consumed to gain much nourishment.

For 1952 then, I pray we will find we are ready to pay the price of peace. This is my one hope for the New Year. I do not think the price would be too high for us to meet. It may be idealistic wandering, but I believe peace could be achieved at the price of honesty in high places; courage, both high and low, and by seeking wise counsel.

I am glad 1952 is here. It gives us another chance to set our house in order. Surely we won't muff it!

Signs of the Times . . .

Lt. Robert L. Bailey, '49Law, former Cleveland County attorney, is now on duty in Germany. Mrs. Bailey, the former Va Rue Lindsay, '40Lib.sci, '43ed, and their son are living in Norman with her parents while Lieutenant Bailey is overseas.

Capt. W. R. Tarwater, '38-'41, has been recalled to active duty with the airforce. He is presently stationed in Cocoa, Florida.

1st Lt. Floyd A. Gregory, '41bus, Tulsa, has been assigned to Northern Command Headquarters in Sendai, Japan, after serving as a platoon leader with the 2nd Division's 23rd Regiment in Korea. Gregory is administrative officer in the engineer section.

Victor L. Glines, '16-'17, Scotsbluff, Nebraska, a civilian employee of the Department of the Army, is serving with the United Nations Civil Assistance Command in Korea. As an economics expert with UNACK, Glines is helping to restore Korean commerce and industry.

1st Lt. David L. Walker, '47bus, Wichita, Kansas, recently graduated from the Far East Command Chemical School in Japan.

Bruce L. Kates, '48journ, has been promoted to the rank of major in the airforce. He is presently serving as Public Information Officer for the Southwestern Recruiting District in Dallas, Texas. Major and Mrs. Kates, the former Betty Jane Caldwell, '42ba, have two daughters.

Pfc. Basil J. Papahronis, '51bba, Oklahoma City, is back on the University campus attending the twelve week clerk-typist program by special request of the airforce. Papahronis is the first graduate to participate in the program.

Lt. William P. Jacobs, '51bus, Norman, has completed the company officers course at Fort Benning, Georgia. The course is designed to produce company grade officers well-grounded in the fundamentals and techniques of all infantry units.

Lt. Col. Paul A. Fisher, '46bs, formerly of Norman, has been appointed advanced ROTC instructor at St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, New York. Colonel Fisher is a combat veteran of Korea and World War II. He holds a Bronze Star from World War II, and a Silver Star and five battle stars from Korea. Colonel and Mrs. Fisher have two children.

Lt. Col. Wendell J. Kelley, '37-'40, stationed with 314th Air Division in Japan, has been awarded the Bronze Star medal for outstanding initiative and ability in performing assignments despite complex situations arising from the Korean conflict.

Lt. J. Robert Andrews, '49bus, Norman, is on duty with the 45th Division in Japan.