

Covering the Campus

A new student columnist gathers the best campus news and expresses his viewpoint on the happenings. He's managing editor of the Oklahoma Daily from Drummond, Oklahoma.

By Bill Spohrer, '53

For the first time last semester, students got a chance to get in a crack at the instructor before the final grades came out.

Teacher evaluation questionnaires, sponsored by the Faculty Senate and passed out to all classes, gave students an opportunity to give professors letter grades on everything from their interest in the individual student to their attitude and tone of voice.

The poll had two purposes. (1)—that of guiding self-improvement by the individual teacher, and (2)—the information can be used by the administration to determine promotion.

This move had been recommended two years by the Student Senate and was just what many students had been waiting for. They tore into some of the evaluations with an almost sadistic zeal. As could be expected, the space reserved for comments received its full share of attention.

Dr. Percy Buchanan, professor of history, quoted one of his students as commenting: "I don't like his ties and I don't like the way he wears them." "For that I'm not responsible," said Dr. Buchanan, "I get them for Christmas and wear them until the next Christmas."

Under the section "Distracting Mannerisms," one of the students of Dr. Elwood A. Kretsinger, '41ma, assistant professor of speech, wrote: "He breathes."

In the same category, one student of Dr. Kester Svendsen, professor of English, said: "He sits on the desk with his whole self."

Some instructors said they felt the evaluation sheets would help them make improvements in their manner of teaching. Others felt that the poll only put pressure on the instructor to try to be popular rather than to be effective. But approve or disapprove, a few more smiles and a little more friendliness was noted in some classes on evaluation day.

The faculty once again gained the upper hand a few days later when the senior class officers came before a Faculty Senate committee with the perennial proposal to abolish final exams for seniors.

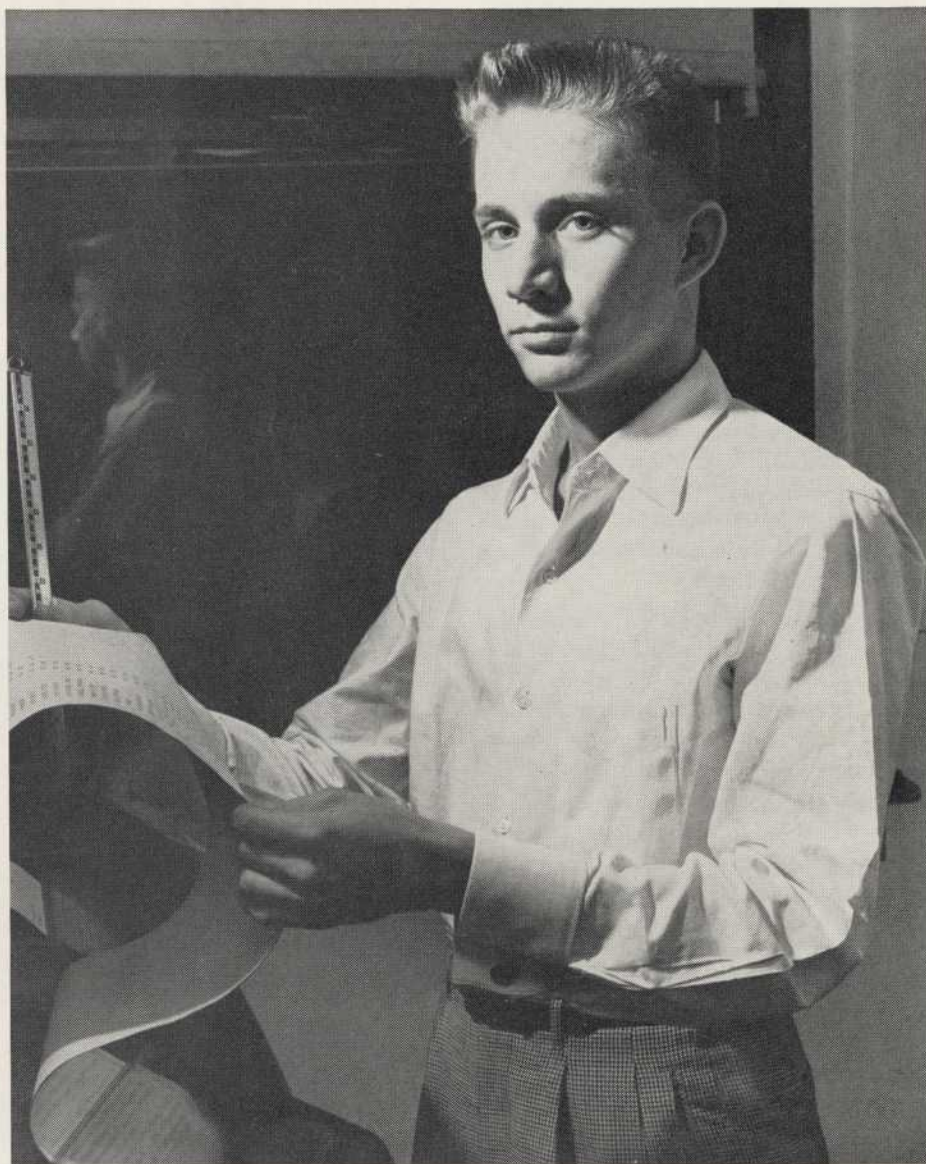
Pointing out that other colleges, such as Purdue and Harvard, have eliminated senior finals, the officers based their arguments

on the fact that seniors need time to secure jobs, move belongings and wind up other affairs. They also felt that those graduating deserved a slight reward for four years of studying and the seven previous periods of finals.

The committee proved to be completely

unsympathetic toward the proposal, and voted a thumbs down on the grounds that the elimination of finals would lower the scholastic standards of the University.

When the meeting of the Faculty Senate rolled around, the proposal was vetoed on the recommendation of the committee.



STUDENT COLUMNIST BILL SPOHRER
... Tests for Faculty and Seniors

Something may yet come out of the controversy. President Cross stated that he would favor a compromise plan that would release from finals all seniors who had maintained a "B" average or better. This, he felt, might encourage scholarship among undergraduate students.

If anything is to be accomplished this year, the senior class will have to depend on a new champion. Harvey Bryant, their president and greatest advocate of finals elimination was called up by the navy for active duty shortly after his presentation of the proposal.

The voice of the student was heard, however, in a recent presidential candidate poll conducted by the *Oklahoma Daily*. If it can be taken as any indication, Oklahoma University students prefer to vote for the man rather than for the party.

The poll was made by means of a printed ballot listing eight possible candidates, four Republicans and four Democrats, for president of the United States.

Although this is a Democratic section of a Democratic state, the Republicans captured 887 out of 1,193 votes cast. Which may be attributed to the current popularity of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who won the balloting by a wide margin over his nearest competitor, Harry S. Truman.

But Republican or Democrat, the university will welcome new students.

The administration has launched its campaign in the competition for the dwindling number of students who will attend college next fall. The low birth rate of depression days will mean only a little more than a million 18-year-olds in the nation next year, and those few who enter college will be wrangled over.

One recent innovation is the sending of certificates of merit to state highschool boys with outstanding scholastic records. The certificates are the idea of and are sponsored by Pe-et, the organization of the 10 outstanding junior men on the campus.

As always, the main competition for students will come from Oklahoma A. & M. And here is where O.U. is at a decided disadvantage. In contrast to our rival, Sooners are tied and bound by restrictions every way they turn. Freshmen are not allowed to have cars, and other students constantly complain about parking regulations.

Housing too is a sore spot. O.U. housing rules specify nothing but university approved housing. As long as students are plagued by binding rules, enrolment figures will have little chance of growing in the competition.

Though enrolment has dropped consider-

ably this year, most University dormitories are comfortably filled. This is due in large part to the airforce clerk-typist students filling three of the houses in Wilson center.

Because of the smaller number of women students, the University decided to close Kirk house and move the girls there to various other houses. Kirk comprises only one of the 16 quad units.

The new dormitories for men now under construction will be ready for occupancy by September. The new buildings are patterned after the Women's quadrangle except for a few changes in building arrangement. This new housing addition will also consist of four buildings, with four units in each building, and will house 832 men and 16 graduate counselors.

But like all other good things, there is a drawback. The new dorm is located almost at the gate of the South base and quite a distance from the nearest classroom building.

Fraternities are about the only ones who are completely dissatisfied with the set up. They fear that their own houses will be almost emptied by a University requirement that all freshmen must live in the dormitories.

And to provide an answer for those who claim that they cannot study effectively in a dormitory, the University has laid plans to convert the Logan apartments into a University scholarship house.

The University acquired the apartments in June 1945 and has used them to house faculty and other University personnel. Under the new plan, some units would be reserved for graduate students with high scholastic records.

Probably the only people on the campus who are really happy about the present building situation are the art students. With the re-activation of the South base by the navy, it was necessary to find new quarters to house the school of art.

It was moved from the South base to the main campus in the classroom buildings on Jenkins avenue and Felgar street.

While students will take an interest and time to complain about housing and car regulations, they sometimes overlook some of the more valuable things around them.

A good example is the internationally famous literary quarterly *Books Abroad* which has been published at O.U. since 1927. Many Sooners are not even aware it exists.

January 17 was designated as *Books Abroad* Day in celebration of the 25th anniversary of its founding by Dr. Roy Temple House, now editor eremitus of the publication.

A grant from the Rockefeller Foundation will make possible a 66-day literary tour through Europe by the editor, Ernst Erich Noth.

One of the purposes of the trip will be to gather material for articles dealing with the literary progress in each of the areas visited. Writers and critics whom he meets on the trip will be commissioned to write articles on significant developments in their countries.

Books Abroad has become recognized the world over as the leading international literary quarterly. It is rather ironical that while the publication is well known to most internationally famed authors and literary figures, few Oklahomans are acquainted with it.

And while passing out congratulations, here's one for the Interfraternity Council who finally came through with what is probably their first successful attempt at real public service.

Representatives of 24 campus fraternities have pledged \$1,000 to a general Interfraternity Council community chest. Members of the IFC will vote certain allocations from this amount to be donated to the various fund drives.

The fund will be known as the Graham B. Johnson, Jr., Memorial Fraternity Community Chest fund in tribute to the junior law student killed in an automobile accident December 26. Johnson was a 3-year member of the IFC and was serving as treasurer at the time of his death.

Fraternities showed admirable co-operation in making the plan workable. Approximately \$700 has been received and the remainder of the pledged amounts will be received through the year.

Its taken some time and doing but there's another Woods in the masthead of *Oklahoma Daily* student newspaper. In fact the *Daily* started with Woods, and it's still got 'em.

In mid-January Sarah Louise Woods, a senior in the School of Journalism, was occupying the editorial desk of the *Oklahoma Daily* for the second semester. Her dad and a group of inspired college journalists of a by-gone era started the *Daily* back in 1915.

H. Merle Woods, '17ba, was listed as staff writer in the 1915 masthead. Last year, Sara Louise made her debut on the *Daily* staff in that same position.

H. M. Woods, who is now the editor of the *El Reno American*, a weekly newspaper, used daughter Sarah Louise as his managing editor last summer.