

## Covering the Campus

# Unusual Plot Twist

By **BILL SPOHRER, '53**  
Student Guest Columnist

After the slam-bang senate elections, the senate has once again settled down to more routine activity. The election, marked by charges of fraud, the suspension of one senator and a week postponement of balloting, finally resulted in the choosing of 18 new student senators.

Letters to the *Oklahoma Daily* revealed that while some student politicians may be amateurs as far as "playing politics" is concerned, many of them are learning fast. A number of letters simply expressed disgust with the entire student senate setup.

In order to clarify the problem and give students a chance to air their complaints, the Union Activities Board sponsored a public panel discussion: "Is Student Government Worth Saving"? The three panel members, Paul MacMinn, dean of students, John Paul Duncan, associate professor of

government, and Quay Williams, retiring president of the student senate, were to discuss the situation and attempt to answer any questions from the audience.

The answer to the panel question may have been decided without a word being spoken: the session was called off because disinterested students failed to show up.

But perhaps many of the students merely decided to stay home and hit the books after seeing the semester's grade averages.

Kappa Kappa Gamma, Oliver house and Herrick house were named as winners of the University women's scholarship cups for first semester. The Kappas led the 11 other sororities with a 2.99 average; Oliver house won in the upper class dormitory group with a 2.936 average and Herrick led the freshman dormitories with a 2.66 average. Gamma Phi Beta and Pi Beta Phi ranked



photo by Curtis Studios

**ERNESTINE SMITH**  
... Get the Posse Out

second and third respectively in the sorority group. McSpadden was second and Logan house was third in the upperclass dormitory group. Second and third places in the freshman house group went to Jordan house and Kirk house, respectively.

In the men's division, Beta Theta Pi was high for all men's houses with 2.603. Phi Kappa Psi was second with 2,582 and Pi Lambda Phi was third at 2.581. Although fraternities took the three top places, the independent men edged the fraternity men with a 2.428 overall average compared to the Greeks' overall 2.422.

More interesting than grade averages were the results of a radio playhouse production.

Listeners who tuned in March 14 to WNAD, the campus radio station, got quite a scare when they heard what was apparently an on-the-scene broadcast of a communist coup of the United States government.

An announcer broke into a musical program to say that "communist agents have taken over the governments of Baton Rouge and St. Louis. Dock strikes in New York and San Francisco have resulted in riots which are attempts to overthrow governments in those cities."

Listeners heard commentators in New York and San Francisco describing riots over the sound of shouting mobs, gun shots and sirens. One announcer in New York was machinegunned as he breathlessly reported the story.

Phone calls flooded the *Daily Oklahoman*, WNAD, and several Oklahoma City radio stations from listeners who had tuned in late and wanted to know if it was really true.

These were the unexpected results of



New officers of the University's Board of Regents were elected recently. Dr. Oscar R. White, '21bs in med, Oklahoma City (right), was named president, and T. R. Benedum, '28Law, Norman, vice president. Emil Kraettli, '18, also of Norman, was re-elected secretary. Dr. White succeeds Ned Shepler, '18, Lawton newspaper publisher.

WNAD's overly realistic presentation of "The Crisis," a radio drama designed to give the listener an idea of what he might be hearing on his radio if a communist inspired plot to overthrow the government should take place.

The story was written from an original idea by Doug Carruth and several of the players. To give the program the atmosphere of a coast-to-coast hook-up, station director Hugh Mix used three studios. With repeated studio changes, accompanying mike switch clicks and deliberate pauses, the effect was authentic enough to convince some listeners that it was genuine.

After the communists had successfully "overthrown" the government, a voice proclaiming the new regime was heard from "district five of the People's Republic" with headquarters in Oklahoma City.

Director Mix said that announcement was made at the beginning and end of the broadcast to emphasize that the program was purely fictitious. "Apparently," Mix said, "the people who became confused heard only part of the broadcast."

The radio program and the ensuing excitement were reminiscent of the Orson Welles program in 1938 when a broadcast of a fictitious invasion of the world by men from Mars set off a nation-wide panic.

But even more excitement was in store for the campus during Engineer's week. The week started smoothly enough; rivalry between the engineers and lawyers mainly limited to the wearing of green shirts by the engineers and the retaliatory wearing of black string ties by the lawyers.

Though everything seemed quiet, campus police kept a nightly vigil during the week at the engine building and at the law barn. On Wednesday morning, students were surprised to see small black owls painted in conspicuous places on the campus sidewalks. In a letter to the *Oklahoma Daily* a secret organization of lawyers, calling their group "The Black Owl Inn," took credit for the paintings.

Engineers were quick to get their revenge, and the next morning, each black owl on the sidewalks sported a green head.

But the real excitement began the day before the Engine dance when Queen Ernie Smith failed to show up to be photographed. The Engineers' suspicions grew into anger when Ernie failed to return to her sorority house that evening.

All day Friday there was still no sign of Queen Ernie. There was talk of calling the coronation off, of crowning someone else in her place, of getting a posse out to find her.

After much anxious waiting and many frayed nerves on the part of the engineers,

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# Wrestlers Repeat as National Champions

Repeating its triumph of a year ago, the Sooner wrestling team retained the national championship at the NCAA tournament held at Fort Collins, Colorado, March 28-29.

In duplicating its feats, the team also won by the same point margin—one. Last year Oklahoma A. and M. was nudged 25-24. This time the wrestlers were even harder pressed. The final results: Oklahoma 22, Iowa Teachers, 21, and Oklahoma A. and M. 20.

Tommy Evans at 147 paced the victorious squad. His work in the tournament, including two pins, gained him the national title in his weight and selection as the tourney's outstanding performer. Billy Borders at 123, also brought home a na-

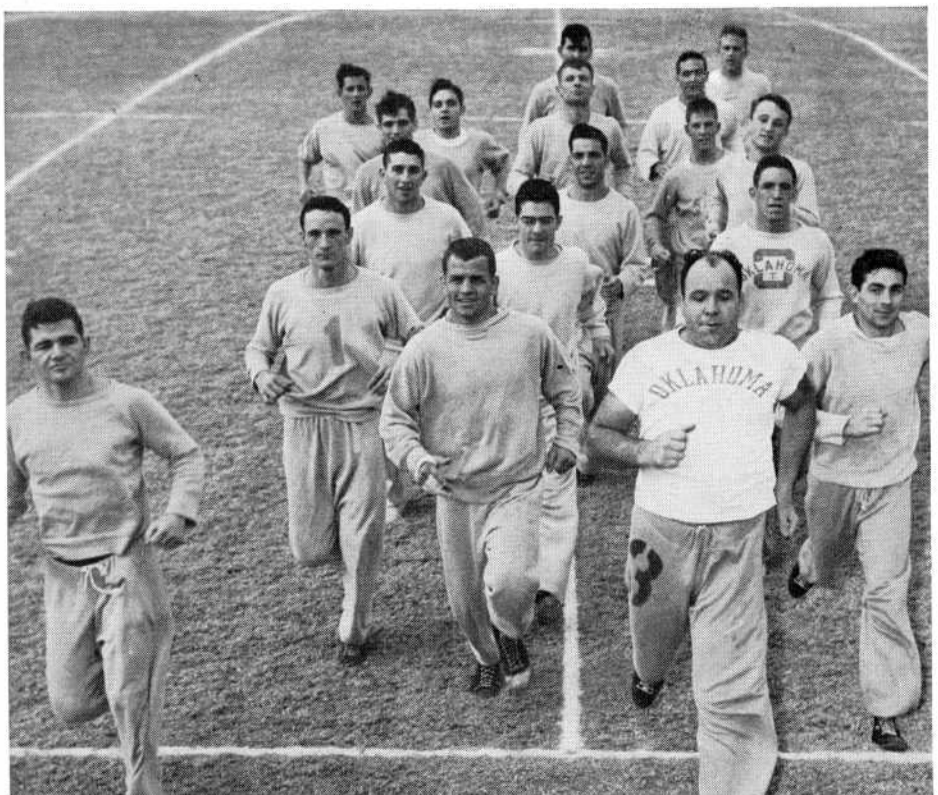
tional title. Oklahoma won four titles—two national champs, team win and outstanding performer.

Backing up the two champs with fine performances and adding important points were Don Reece, who was runnerup in the 130 class, Harold Reece, third place finisher at 137, and Joe Butler, who took fourth at 191.

The meet win sustained the wrestling victory string which now covers two complete seasons.

Next on the wrestling agenda were Olympic tryouts. It seems a safe bet to predict that both national champs will make the squad.

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Port Robertson, '37ba, wrestling coach, leads his NCAA champions through a workout. Seen at far left is Billy Borders, 123-pound champ, and immediately left of Robertson is Tommy Evans, 147-pound champ and NCAA tourney's outstanding wrestler.



Sharon Ferguson, '51bus, Oklahoma City, chose the name Christopher Vance for their son born March 12 in Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City. Lt. Clement left recently for an overseas assignment in Korea.

Don Sarber, '51geol, and Mrs. Sarber, the former Pat Whitehead, '50ed, Bismarck, North Dakota, announced the birth of a son born February 12. The baby was named Guy Mitchell. Sarber is employed by Sinclair Oil Company.

**THOMPSON-WHITE:** Miss Camilla Ann Thompson became the bride of Rudy Jack White, '51bus, both of Ardmore, March 8 in the First Methodist Church in Ardmore. White was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha, social fraternity at the University. The couple is living in New Orleans, Louisiana, where Lt. White is stationed at Camp Leroy, Johnson.

Bob Lawhon, '51Law, Blackwell, former Kay county assistant attorney, died March 8 in a Washington, D. C., hospital, where he had been undergoing treatment for cancer. He is survived by his wife and parents of Blackwell.

Bob G. Whiteley, '51eng, is living in Hobbs, New Mexico, where he is employed as an engineer by Schlumberger.

Lt. Robert C. Anderson, '51bus, and Mrs. Anderson, Munich, Germany, chose the name Mark Wilson for their son born March 7. Lt. Anderson is stationed at the Nuremberg Airforce Base in Munich.

**'52 LESTER-CONRAD:** Miss Beverly Anne Lester and Lt. David Eugene Conrad, Jr., who completed his degree requirements in January, both of Norman, were married recently in the Presbyterian Manse in Fayetteville, Arkansas. At the University, Mrs. Conrad was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta social sorority, and Lt. Conrad was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha, social fraternity, and Letters Club. The couple is living in Lawton, where Lt. Conrad is stationed at Fort Sill.

**CLARK-WINTERS:** Miss Ruth Ann Clark, who completed her degree requirements in January, and Jacques Miller Winters, both of Houston, Texas, were married March 8 in St. Luke's Methodist Church in Houston. At the University, Mrs. Winters was a member of Delta Delta Delta, social sorority, Alpha Lambda Delta, honorary freshman sorority, and Sigma Delta Pi. The couple has established a home in Galveston, Texas.

## Signs of the Times

Cadet Noble J. Davis, Jr., '47-'48, Oklahoma City, is stationed at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, where he is undergoing formation and instrument flying.

Col James E. Mills, '36eng, formerly of Norman, has been named assistant director of the U. S. Marine Corps public information, Washington, D. C. Col. and Mrs. Mills and their two daughters, Marqueritte, 10, and Dianne, 5, are living in Arlington, Virginia.

Lt. Col. Lawrence A. Trautman, '38eng, formerly of Norman, has been named the new executive officer of the 7848th Ordnance Maintenance Group in Germany. Prior to this assignment, Trautman was negotiating contracts in France and assisting military aid advisory group in Belgium.

Lt. Don V. Hester, '57eng, Blanchard, has been promoted to the rank of first lieutenant. Hester is serving with the 45th Infantry Division in Korea.

## Covering Campus . . .

Queen Ernie turned up at the Union ballroom just in time for the coronation.

And what had happened to her? According to Dean MacMinn, who gathered most of the facts on the case, it was something like this:

On Thursday afternoon, the kidnappers slipped up on Ernie as she sat in the living room of the Kappa house. Quieting her with a hand over her mouth, she was blindfolded and whisked off to Oklahoma City.

Here she was kept 24 hours by a 'Mary Smith,' and treated well, according to Ernie.

When her five captors returned for her, she was prevented from identifying them by the green hoods and robes which they wore. She was then driven back to the campus and taken into the Union by the five men.

A group of engineering students saw them and gave chase. Queen Ernie was rescued and one of her captors was caught.

The captured kidnapper and his cohorts were brought before Dean MacMinn to explain their actions. A decision on their case is pending.

Though the kidnapping was at first blamed on the lawyers, it was proven definitely that the lawyers were innocent in this case. The story goes that the ones responsible are part of a newly organized secret society on the campus, and that they chose the kidnapping plot to bring the fact of their existence before the public. They certainly succeeded.

## Indian Art . . .

a particular thing in the life of an Indian.

Unlike most painters, Indians do not use models; they capture the subject in their mind and work from what they have seen. Mrs. Jacobson once watched a young Kiowa painting a figure which she suddenly recognized to be an Indian who was at the moment many miles across the state. The artist was exercising the amazing sense of perception peculiar to primitive peoples who depend upon keen observation for livelihood and the preservation of life itself.

The Indian painter is always careful to

present accurate detail when painting religious subjects. The unusual form and symbols appearing in Indian paintings have meanings and are not abstractions in the modern sense. Originally, the paintings were not for the sake of beauty alone; they represented either religious or important events and therefore were rendered in true detail.

First interest of the public in Indian art was much a matter of curiosity. Subsequently an appreciation of the art itself created a market for the Indians who turned to the palette for an artistic expression and for livelihood.

When a person first encounters Indian paintings, he observes what appears to be a pronounced similarity between the works of all Indians. This is due to the traditional subjects: the Indian figure with accessories which are distinctly Indian. The Asiatic manner of the paintings, lack of perspective horizon and background, and the flat, two-dimensional rendering add to this similarity.

Jacobson and others who have carefully studied Indian art are able to detect a difference in the work of the individual painters. This difference exists among members of the same tribe, and one who knows Indian art can recognize the work of an artist even though the painting is not signed.

In *American Indian Painters* Jacobson comments:

"(The Indian's) great inborn sense of observation has another advantage. It lets the Indian artist retain of what he sees only the essential elements, so that the baffling business of elimination, which often worries the white artists, is not a problem to him. That is why his work is usually so direct and to the point. That same wisdom, that is his heritage, has also given him the elusive secret of motion. His flat paintings are alive with movement and rhythm. In them the dancers dance, the deer leap, the herds roar thunderously by. His sense of color is unerring; while it is brilliant it could rarely be called gaudy when it is in his own element. His color harmonies are often not only beautiful but truly subtle."

Indian art has been saved for the moment. People are still showing an interest, and the annual Indian exhibits held at the Philbrook art center in Tulsa in recent years continue with their drawing appeal.

Jacobson believes no one can predict what the future holds for the Indian artist and his art. "Responding gloriously to a little appreciation and sympathetic understanding, he has, in a few years, made a significant contribution to American culture."