

Covering the Campus

Senior Class Memorial plans and faculty awards were important campus news events in April. The columnist made news himself by being named fall editor of the Oklahoma Daily, campus newspaper.

BY BILL SPOHRER, '53
Special Student Guest Columnist

Carrying out the tradition of leaving a class memorial, the senior class of 1952 was faced with the problem of determining what would make a suitable project.

In the past, such memorials as archways, statues, benches and scholarships have been donated by the graduating class. Money for the memorial is obtained each year from the Senior Book drive, usually held the week before commencement.

In order to solve the memorial problem this year, a suggestion box was placed in the Union basement to receive any ideas seniors might have for the parting gift. The final selection of the memorial was made by the senior executive committee.

The senior class officers decided upon a scholarship plan. Two scholarships, totaling \$700, will be awarded early in May to two students selected by a faculty committee. Students are not the only ones to receive financial aid in their studies. Two members of the University faculty were named March 31 to receive fellowship awards from the fund for the advancement of education created by the Ford Foundation, Pasadena, California.

The two are John E. Hardy, instructor in English and Dr. John Paul Duncan, associate professor of government. They were chosen from a group of four nominated by a faculty committee, formed at the request of the Ford Foundation.

Dr. Duncan's fellowship was granted in order to give him an opportunity to continue study in subjects related to his field. He plans to do reading and take courses in local government, social and economic planning, literature of political theory, and community sociology, he said.

Hardy was awarded the fellowship on the basis of his projected work at Johns Hopkins writing school, where he intends to take courses and observe teaching methods. He is also planning to do some work there on a book on the southern novel.

Three more O.U. professors were honored with the awarding of Guggenheim fellowship appointments.

The three are Dr. Norman Boke, associate professor of plant sciences, Dr. Richard G. Fowler, chairman of the school of

engineering physics, and Dr. Kester Svendsen, professor of English literature.

The appointments, made by the John Cimon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation in New York, are for a one-year period with a \$3,000 grant for research work.

Dr. Boke will do his work in Cuba where he will study cacti. Dr. Fowler will go to Oxford university sometime in 1953 where he will do theoretical work on gas discharges. Dr. Svendsen will use his award

to complete research and the writing of a book concerning the place of scientific knowledge in the thought and art of John Milton.

One O.U. alum who has managed to get away from it all is Lt. Col. Joseph O. Fletcher, '41bs, USAF.

Late in March, Fletcher and two companions were landed on a small floating ice

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The four highschool seniors above were finalists in the competition for the Ted Beard Memorial Speech Award, annually presented to an outstanding highschool speech student. The winner was Jimmie Cobb, Seminole (far right). Runnersup were (l. to r.) Jeonne Walker, Purcell, Rosemary Skinner, Classen, and Jennalie Cook, Wewoka. Cobb was a member of state's winning Class A debate team. The Beard Memorial Speech Award was set up by the Ted Beard Memorial Committee in honor of the late secretary of the University of Oklahoma (Alumni) Association.

lated areas in which most of us now live than it did in the more simple life of a generation ago. . . .

"It is obvious that one can render the maximum service only by sustained effort for so long as he lives. This thought comes to me with peculiar force just now because within a few weeks I am retiring from the University which I have been privileged to serve for 38 years. I look forward to retirement as the graduating student looks forward to Commencement—not as an end but a beginning. . . .

"Regardless of whether or not he ever attains wealth or fame, the man who devotes to the last his energies to unselfish service will never be afraid of life—or death. Because, as the shadows lengthen toward the east, until the time comes when he realizes that the final Great Commencement is at hand, he can look back without regret and forward with faith that this too is not an end but a beginning. The beginning of something finer and more beautiful than this world could ever give."

Dr. Cross

"It is not unusual for a graduate of the University of Oklahoma to become prominent in international affairs, but such recognition is not usually attained before the age of 40. Our final citation this evening goes to an alumnus who has had an amazing record in the diplomatic service well in advance of the age of 40. . . .

"He studied physics and geology at the University of Oklahoma, receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1933. . . . He held membership in Phi Beta Kappa and was elected Rhodes Scholar from Oklahoma in 1933. . . .

"It was in 1941 that he began his distinguished career in public service. . . . World War II interrupted his career and he served as a naval lieutenant. After the war he returned to Washington where he accepted an appointment with the State Department serving as Co-ordinator for Aid to Greece and Turkey. . . . As he demonstrated his ability, his responsibilities increased, and in December, 1951, he was named Ambassador to Turkey. It gives me great pleasure to present this certificate to George C. McGhee."

Mr. McGhee

" . . . I regret exceedingly not to be with you in person to receive this award. Were it not for the serious problems facing both our country and Turkey at this critical juncture, and the great distance involved, you can be assured that I would have arranged to be present. I greatly appreciate the courtesy of the University in asking my mother to receive the award in my behalf and to make this statement for me."

"I have a genuine affection for the University, and a keen appreciation for the contribution it made toward my own development. I have on this occasion given particular thought to the principle ways in which I feel that the University has influenced me in a constructive way. . . .

"First, the University gave me excellent training in a practical subject which was related to the environment of our great southwest and to the problems which I was to face later in life. . . .

"Secondly, the University gave me a very real sense of democracy, at its best, as we know it in America. In no other place have I encountered such democratic relationships among students from all walks of life, and between the students and their professors, as we have in the University of Oklahoma. . . .

"Third, there was inculcated in me in the University a conviction that public service, service to the state or to the people as a whole, is the highest calling to which a man can aspire. . . .

"I want to express again my sincere appreciation to the University of Oklahoma and for the values for which it stands, values for which I am sure it will continue to stand in the future."

In closing Dr. Cross said (the award winners) "have demonstrated to their fellow Oklahomans what can be done if one is willing to serve society with energy and devotion. May their achievements provide inspiration for others, especially the young men and women who are about to begin their lives of service."

Sports . . .

It is much too soon to size up O.U.'s 1952 football offering but a good guess is it will be slightly stronger than last year's squad, even with the loss of All-American Jim Weatherall and line-backer Bert Clark.

There was no guessing about the effect of the University Regent's action in offering Bud Wilkinson a 10-year pact to stay at Oklahoma. It was an extremely popular move.

The terms of the contract provide that Wilkinson will remain as athletic director and coach and that anytime he wishes to retire from coaching he may retain the athletic directorship and name his successor. In addition the contract forbids Wilkinson's ever leaving Oklahoma to coach at any other school during the 10-year period.

Just at press time it was learned that the University of Oklahoma was consciously violating a Big Seven ruling concerning the recruiting of athletes.

President George L. Cross reported that

at the Big Seven's spring meeting the representatives of other conference members were notified that O.U. was not conducting its business on the conference standard.

The violation occurred over a rule that forbids coaches to initiate contact with highschool athletes but permits alumni to do whatever they like toward recruitment with minor reservations.

Since other conferences and independents in the area were not bound by a similar rule, O.U. decided to break it.

The violation will last only until September when even stricter regulations of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary schools will go into effect.

Dr. Cross pointed out that under the Big Seven ruling O.U. was being penalized but under the North Central regulation all schools in Oklahoma and the surrounding states would be operating under the same plan.

Oklahoma's two national wrestling champions, Billy Borders and Tommy Evans have qualified for the Olympic wrestling team. A third Sooner, Jack Blubaugh, a member of last year's NCAA tourney team, also qualified in the Olympic trials.

Borders was the only first place winner but Evans and Blubaugh took runnerup honors. All three will report to Annapolis for preliminary skirmishes before sailing to Helsinki, Finland. No one knows yet which of the Olympic qualifiers will get to face actual competition. The U.S. representative in each weight will be determined by a best two out of three bouts between the winner and runnerup in each weight. Since Borders and Blubaugh are in the same class, O.U. will be represented by at least one representative. Evans must take his opponent two out of three times to get the starting berth.

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island just 103 miles from the north pole to establish a weather station.

The idea for the station was originated by Fletcher when the island was discovered by a weather flight several months ago. It will serve as the first continuous source of information on polar weather, which is necessary for accurate forecasting in the northern hemisphere.

Fletcher, now 31 years old, has been engaged in meteorological research for the Air Force since 1941 when he received his B.S. in engineering physics from the University. He took basic flight training at Westheimer field before the war.

The island on which Fletcher and his party are working has been officially named Fletcher's ice island. It is nine miles long and is drifting in a circular pattern at the rate of one mile a day.

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Covering Campus . . .

Air Force uniforms are not so abundant on the O.U. campus now. The last of the clerk-typist students left the campus April 10.

The training program began in March, 1951, and has graduated 1,311 airmen. During the schooling period, the trainees lived in dormitories in Wilson center.

But some of the airmen were still around for the mild earthquake which frightened a good portion of the Midwest April 9, and caused its fair share of confusion and excitement among Sooner students.

Occurring at 10:30 a.m., when most Sooners were in class, the tremor was not felt at all by some, while others claimed loudly that "the building swayed as if it would collapse."

Not realizing the cause of the shock, members of Dr. Melvin Baker's class took shelter in the basement of the Education building.

Several dormitories, fraternity and sorority houses were cleared of occupants who fled outside to determine the reason for the wiggling walls. Some were still clad in pajamas and bathrobes.

"Tornado or earthquake, nothing is going to stop us from finishing this poem today," Calvin G. Thayer, instructor in English, told his English 54 class as he calmly resumed reading Alexander Pope to his shaking students.

Construction workers on scaffolds at Gould Hall made a fast exit as the framework began to weave back and forth.

Dr. Guy Y. Williams, '06ba, '10ma, professor of chemistry, remarked that "somebody must have dropped something," and continued with his lecture.

But the main results of the quake were a few sheepish looks by the over-excited and a few tall tales by the over-enthusiastic.

The day after the earthquake Easter vacation began and things were due to quiet down. But the Independent Student Association managed to keep the campus humming in spite of vacation by playing host to more than 350 delegates to the 3-day National Independent Students' Association convention.

The delegates from 39 colleges and universities were kept busy with discussion groups, general sessions and a dance at which a National ISA sweetheart was crowned.