

Under Cover

By David Burr '52

Much space this month is devoted to the 1952 Class Reunions. That is as it should be. Seldom in recent years have Reunion activities been more successful.

Every one who was here would agree that the tone of the Sunday, June 1, kick-off was set by the Ted Beard Memorial Dedication Luncheon. With outgoing Alumni President Herbert L. Branan, '32 ba, '38Law, Oklahoma City, serving as master of ceremonies, the luncheon was an informal gathering of the clan of friends and admirers of the late Ted Beard.

The luncheon also served as an opportunity for dedicating the Union addition and for welcoming the 1952 seniors into Alumni ranks.

Miss Nadine Norton, '52ba, Oklahoma City, president of the senior class, told of some of the perils her class had encountered. As class president she accepted the responsibility of alumni stewardship for her classmates.

A. N. "Jack" Boatman, '14ba, '16Law, outgoing president of the Oklahoma Memorial Union's Board of Trustees, reminisced about the early days of the Union. "I suspect I am remembering things that should be forgotten," he said, as he remembered the legal and political fights the Union survived. He formally dedicated the Union's new wings.

And, though both Miss Norton and Boatman had made excellent speeches, I was unprepared for what was to come. The program indicated that Hicks Epton, '32 Law, Wewoka, was to dedicate the Ted Beard Memorial Lounge. I had never met Epton, and though I had heard many words of praise for his speaking ability, I could never have been cushioned for the magnificence that was his as he spoke of Ted Beard.

The entire speech is reported on page 9. Never maudlin or overly sentimental; always warm and sincere. His speech was the

kind that surely would have pleased the man he was speaking of.

Mrs. Kathryn Haxel Beard, '24, and daughter, Sally, were there. (Sally unveiled the portrait of her father that will have a prominent place in the lounge.) Seldom have I heard such a heart-warming tribute. I know Mrs. Beard and Sally must have felt it more strongly than any of us who worked with him.

President George L. Cross completed the luncheon meeting by extending the University's welcome to all the alumni "home" for a visit. From start to finish the dedication luncheon was quite an occasion.

In the Spring a young man's fancy turns . . . in this day and age it is not necessarily accurate to finish the statement in the glittering generality of . . . to thoughts of love. Quite the contrary. It may be to a watermelon raid or some other form of deviltry.

Anyway, O.U.'s sporting gentlemen felt the sap rise a little late this year and went on the town with a lace lunge in May. Much national publicity has been given the local bloomer burglars and the details do not deserve a more comprehensive treatment than they receive this month in "Covering the Campus."

There is something that should be added, however, that was not known in time to be included in the student guest columnist's copy. The University administration has reviewed the cases of the individuals involved and three students have been suspended from the University. Although names were justifiably withheld, the three included two first-string football players. This is the football de-emphasis that has been much discussed. This is the no special treatment plan that is a necessity.

I am one of the most devout of football followers, and I hate to see anything dim the prospects of the team. Yet athletes are, in the first analysis, students and must receive the same discipline and work under the same regulations as everyone else. Because I accepted the suspensions gracefully and because so many football fans did likewise, I think the program of de-emphasis, if indeed such is the proper term, is a huge success. The administration's handling of the case was commendable. (Other students involved received discipline but no others were suspended as far as has been publicly announced.)

Another sports item that needs to be

written for the benefit of those readers who are away from the state. In the May issue of the magazine, a sports item reported that the University was deliberately breaking Big Seven recruiting rules as pertains to personal visitation by coaches. It must be stated that a later development—a ruling by the Board of Regents—has reversed the stand and the University will abide by Big Seven rules. This too is as it should be. Either we follow the rules of the conference or we get out of the conference. We want to stay with the Big Seven.

For many this item will be repetitious. For some it needs to be said again. You are now reading the July issue of the *Sooner Magazine*. You have not received a June issue. What's more, there will be no June issue. By action of the Alumni Executive Board in June, 1951, the magazine was converted from a monthly magazine to one that appears 10 months a year. The June and August months are omitted.

To all graduates of June, 1951. With this issue your subscription to the magazine and your membership in the Association expires. Under a special University-Alumni program, you have received the magazine and membership for a year after graduation.

To all graduates of August, 1951. Your membership in the Association and accompanying subscription to the magazine expires August 31, 1952. Since we do not publish a magazine in August, this is the last issue you will receive under your present membership.

I urge all members of both graduating groups to take a few minutes now and mail check for a membership and subscription to the Alumni Office, University of Oklahoma, Norman. Annual memberships, are \$4.00 and life memberships are \$80.00 (\$5.00 down and the remainder paid in quarterly payments of \$5 until balance is paid). A membership includes, besides the magazine, Bud Wilkinson's football letter, athletic ticket priority and all the services that the Alumni Office can provide.