

THE COVER DESIGNS ON THIS AND FACING PAGE were submitted by senior artists for Editorial Board judging. The winner (see cover) received \$25.00. Artist James R. Ehn's work fulfilled assignment of conveying impression of O. U. student; made his design hard to eliminate.

JULIA J. BELL, ONLY WOMAN FINALIST, saw students and University in abstract light. She presented her impressions in form suggesting structural qualities. Simplicity and use of lines recommended Miss Bell's design for the careful consideration of the Editorial Board.

They Speak Softly

Based on the evidence of experience, observation and fact, the student editors have compiled a word picture of the University student as he appears in May, '53. It is neither flattering nor damning. It is as honest as impressions can be.

From time to time, national publications have paused from reporting the world of the 1950s to pinpoint their glance on a significant, integral part of the national scene. Trying to find the trend in American thinking that will be reflected in the several generations to come, the magazines have spotlighted the American college student.

What he thinks, what he says, and what he does are actions worthy of study. He will be the leader of the U. S. in one of a hundred fields when tomorrow comes. It is interesting and necessary to picture him as he is completing his formal education.

Using the results of surveys and extensive studies, the publications have done a

commendable job on a nation-wide basis. Unfortunately the results of such reports are apt to label the college student. The label is affixed to stick for a long time without regard to a changed attitude on the part of the student himself.

A few years back *Time* magazine called him "Silent Student." At the time of the report it went unchallenged and was considered to be accurate.

Times have changed, at least at O.U. He is neither silent nor vociferous. He can be seen more clearly if removed from a lump sum treatment. The student editors have compiled a picture of the College Man and Woman at O.U. as they appear to the editors in May, 1953. The paints have been

mixed with personal experiences and observations.

Species—O.U. Male: He may be from anywhere. Mexico, Canada, India—anyplace on earth. He is principally of native stock, however. As a majority he is enrolled in professional schools. Though the College of Arts and Sciences is the largest at O.U., it cannot compete with the combined drawing power of the College of Engineering, College of Business Administration, College of Pharmacy, College of Law, College of Education and other professional training grounds.

He is probably between the ages of 18 and 23. World War II veterans are a vanishing race, but their cousins-in-arms, the

Korean veterans, still give the campus a GI overtone.

As a rule he is single. A large minority have broken the rule. He probably will belong to some organized group on the campus. A sizeable minority will be members of organized fraternities. *The majority will not.* They will, however, belong to a campus club or honorary organization, if invited to join. A tightknit minority will belong to nothing. They are the students who, through choice or rebuffs, feel O.U. is a closed student corporation.

He is not a participator. He takes part in few all-college affairs, social or otherwise. He is not a gilt-edged social climber. He is content to let the organized minority rule. A philosophy of "What's the Use," prevails. But he is not a "Silent Student," in the normal usage of "silent."

Suspicious of student leaders, student publications and the administration, he takes the position of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition. He feels free to criticize because he feels no responsibility for the turn of events. Indoctrinated with "What's the Use" he doesn't figure himself a part of any chain reaction. He is a do-nothing philosopher. He is inclined to think—and his thinking may show flaws in other's reasoning. His comments will flow freely over coffee cups. He is not inclined to change the status quo by herculean public effort, yet he will applaud another's attempt.

His activities do not extend beyond a football game or a lecture in his special field or any event where he feels at ease and on equal footing with other observers.

His manner of spending his "spare" time is a matter of choice by personality groupings. The Good-Time-Charlies drive along any escape avenue that leads away from responsibility. The Deep Thinkers will invest heavily in coffee and beer. The Light Thinkers in only the latter. Dates are scheduled for weekends with one sandwiched in during the week. Occasionally he will visit a night spot. Periodically he'll throw a real binge.

A majority will spend a good deal of time with books—either studies or free lance reading.

The minority's time is more rigidly regulated. Members of this group will have two or three committee meetings a week—a rehearsal for a campus performance—certain social and house obligations. When this minority bring their activities in under the budgeted time, they react much like the majority.

As a student progresses from one academic level to another his interests are altered. It is a difficult picture to focus sharply. It is safe to say, in the majority's case, that his first year is attacked with

seriousness that later gives way to a feeling that "he has this thing licked." Mid-years are concerned with "getting by." The last year, the "getting out," brings the awareness that work time is closing in—providing the student a gray-before-his-time thought pattern. Basic subjects arresting the interest of both majority and minority groups: girls, time—for either serious or frivolous pursuits—military service.

His interests are regulated by his worries. Though probably enrolled in one of the ROTC programs, he is badgered and frustrated by the knowledge that any academic accident means Korea.

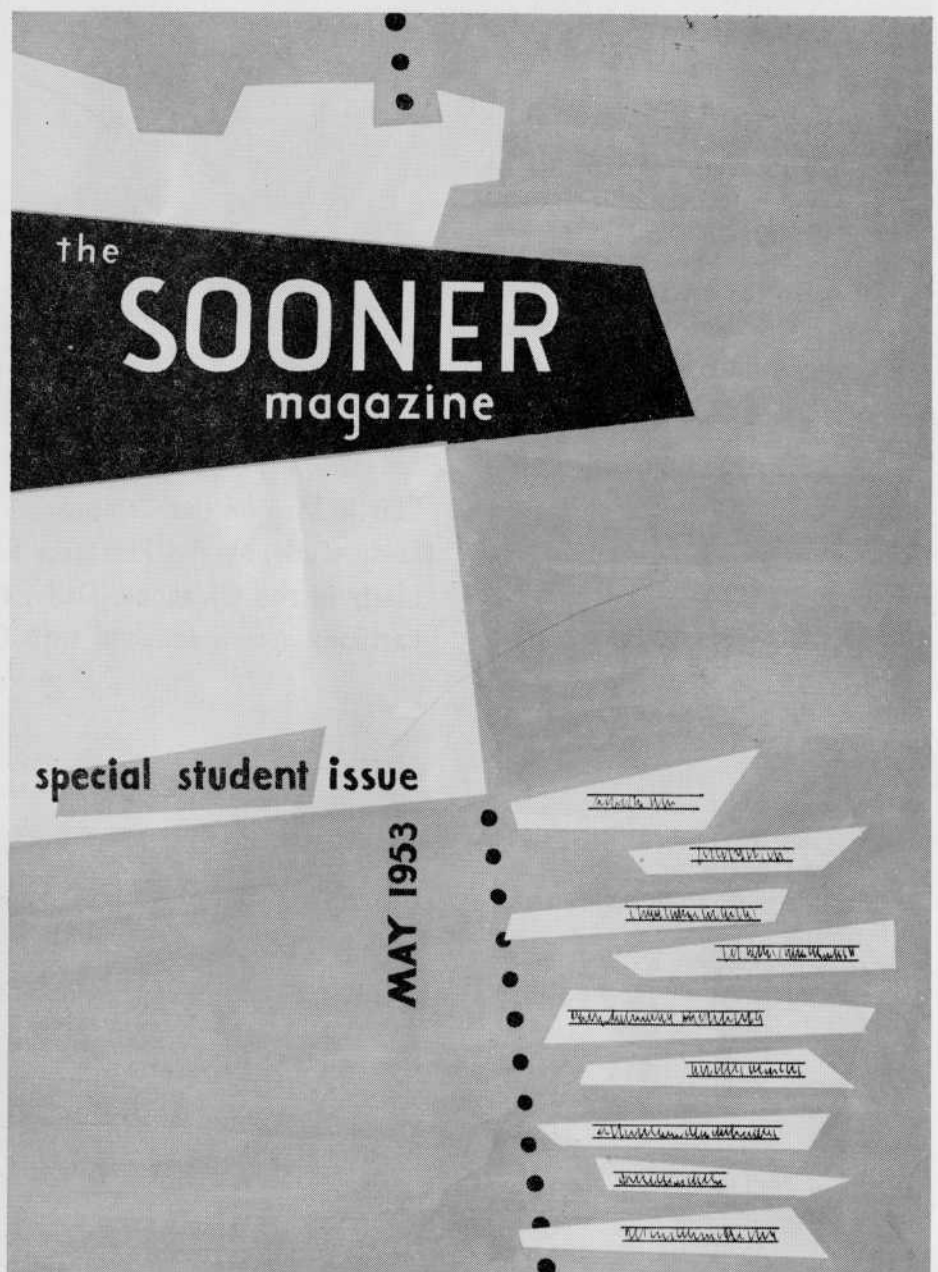
Those not in ROTC are more harrassed. Basically, neither the majority nor minority are draft dodgers. At least they do not

consider themselves to be, and draft dodging is a matter of intent.

He is worried about an unusual situation. If he could take a job immediately following graduation, he could pick and choose. His prospects would be bright, indeed. Will the opportunities be just as readily available when he returns from service? The college male would like to know the answer to that one.

He attends church regularly or he thinks he should. He will talk religion as freely as he will discuss politics and sex. He may not be completely sold but he is willing to learn. A sizeable minority do not attend church. Publicly the minority male will scoff at what he considers formal church

Continued page 26



WITH GOTHIC TOWER AND MODERN APPROACH Kenneth E. Endicott's design suggested a University of tradition with an up-to-the-minute student body and faculty to the Editorial Board. The white blocks at the lower right would have carried names of colleges of the University.



*Bob Armstrong
likes to help people*

Robert B. Armstrong was a graduate biologist when he left Colgate University in 1945. Like most of us, he was searching for his place in the world.

He spent two years in research. But Bob missed people. He wanted to help them personally rather than indirectly. He left the laboratory to look for something else.

Then, one day, Bob had a heart-to-heart talk with an old college classmate. This friend, a New England Mutual agent, pointed out how a career in life insurance offers unlimited opportunities for helping people.

In remembering that conversation now, Bob says: "It became clear that New England Mutual offered the very thing I was looking for—a chance really to help people and at the same time build a successful future for myself. Yes, the life insurance business has been good to me—very good!"

Why not find out for yourself how you can build your future at New England Mutual? Mail the coupon below for a booklet in which 15 men tell why they chose a life insurance career with New England Mutual.

the world—united, of course, against Communism, and the cult of the gun; but in addition we should be united for tolerance, united in our espousal of freedom of thought and of speech, united behind programs respectful of our minorities, united in our resolve that the peoples of the world should have their independence as we claimed our own.

The role of world citizenship requires the best in each of us—the best in tolerance and patience. Victory will be determined not by guns or by dollars but by the power of the ideas that reach the minds and hearts of men. The oncoming generation owes it to society, to themselves, to their children to catch that vision of citizenship and to work in this new world community with an understanding heart.

They Speak Softly . . .

dogmas or inhibited institutionalism. *But he does not scoff at religion per se.*

He is not interested in things cultural. If a big name singer or an unusually successful play visits Oklahoma City, he may attend. He fights shy of cultural activities on campus. He justifies his position by saying he wants only the best for his money. Resulting from shoddy basic training, he has little understanding or appreciation for anything of a cultural nature.

He is not hell-bent on becoming sophis-

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ticated or demonstrating snobbishness. The majority do hold a cool reserve toward the minority rulers of campus life.

He is sick to death of red tape, regulations, investigations. He wants an ordered existence without taking orders.

Hal Muldrow, Jr.

'28

Insurance of all Kinds

Bonds

Security National Bank Bldg.

Norman

Species—O.U. Female: She's a native daughter or a resident of a neighboring state. Few foreign women students attend O.U. The majority find their curricular interests satisfied in the School of Home Economics, the Department of Women's Physical Education and the College of Education. An erudite minority are anchored in the professional schools and in the liberal arts.

She is slightly younger than her male counterpart—between the ages of 17 and 22. The majority, though not married, are seriously pondering the idea. A minority stress careers first, marriages second. An even smaller minority are interested only in careers.

If it is humanly possible, she will belong to an organized group of some description. *The majority will not belong to a sorority.* But almost all will be active in some type of organized social and extracurricular programs.

In short, she is a joiner. The "What's the Use" attitude, noted for men, does not affect campus women. The college coed seeks offices of every description in much greater proportion than the male.

It is safe to assume that the O.U. female rations her time in much the same manner as the opposite sex. Frequently, it is spent together. One basic difference: There are fewer Deep Thinkers among the women.

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Almost by acclamation, the chief interest of both the female majority and minority is—the male majority and minority. A weekend night without a date is a social prestige dropper. Par for weekday dates: two. Because she is so “badly” outnumbered by males—a ratio of about 3 to 1—she sets great store in having dates “lined” up for a week or two in advance.

In the case of the minority, the emphasis on dates and men is somewhat altered. She is seriously interested in a profession and a career. She may be a music major, a drama major, an education major, a pre-med major.

She schedules her dates just as assiduously, but less frequently than those in the majority grouping. There is a feeling that she did not arrive on the campus scene for a social splurge, climaxed by a trek to the altar. She is frequently more sought after than the majority members, because she may possess both beauty and brains. Though not endeared to her sisters, she is held up as a typical example of all campus womanhood by those same sisters. In brief, she came to college to gain an education. If she can show more profit than an education out of college, the bonus will be appreciated. Basic interests for the majority and minority groups: Men and the social whirl.

(Due to the influence of two women members of the Editorial Board, it is necessary to mention that the matrimonial aspect of O.U. is quite natural. If the same girls were to remain in their home towns, they would probably be married also. The two women editors mention something about human nature, etc.)

The majority and minority females are equally unhappy about being tagged matrimonial hounds. It isn't dignified. It isn't lady-like. But in the majority's case it is true. Recognizing it honestly removes some of the guile inherent in the pursuit. However, in the minority's case it is not true. And she resents by equal parts her sister who licks the sticker and the jocular male who slaps it on.

Superficially, the majority is just mad about culture. That is the one thing she wants to get at college. But her interest seldom penetrates below the surface. Questioned about her cultural understanding and appreciation, she bluffs her way. The minority is genuinely interested in cultural pursuits—far more than her male counterpart. She is willing to expend time and effort to obtain a cultural understanding.

The O.U. female takes much the same view of religion as the majority and minority male. One distinction: The group that

attends church regularly is much larger proportionately than the male group.

The majority has an aptitude for snobbishness. Not snobbishness in the sense of right and wrong side of the tracks. But in regard to campus functions and in regard to a superimposed campus society. Part of her reaction is dictated by organized houses—whether she is a member or not. The minority female doesn't give a hang about the usual social niceties. She is more interested in character than in characters. She is more interested in learning than in conforming.

For a true picture of both men and

women at O.U., the careful reader needs to add his own subtle shadings. It would be impossible to select an average man or woman. Interest patterns cross majority and minority lines with complete ease. However, it would be accurate to believe that the college students at the University of Oklahoma reflect the times in which they live. Unlike college students of any other generation, they have the restraints of living in a cold war era. Yet the women still want a home, hearth and happiness. The men the same, plus the assurance of a good job. Though they seek security, they are not silent. They choose to speak softly.

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