

There have been times in my life when I have seen man's determination to overcome handicaps succeed . . . and, in success, achieve a certain greatness.

Call it heart . . . or courage . . . or refusal to admit defeat . . . or perhaps a victory for the human spirit. . .

At second hand, I have watched, as you have, the Hogans come back . . . the Roosevelts work on . . . the Helen Kellers provoke inspiration.

At first hand, I am watching a battle, as courageous as those mentioned, which will have as its laurel wreath . . . a place in the

eral campus buildings are equipped with elevators. Wheel chair students can take several curriculums without worrying over steps.

The "OO" Club has several projects in the works to further aid its membership. No ramp is available to make entry into the library easy . . . a must that is receiving careful attention from Kraft. The club is also interested in a project to get a special section in the stadium set aside for wheel chair victims to watch without handicapping other viewers at football games.

A conservative estimate of the club's

been times when I thought it fell short of that mark. But never have I been more proud of it than I am at the present time. I think you should be too. It's action of removing unnecessary hurdles to higher education seems to me to be a stamp of greatness.

(If you know of a handicapped man or woman who would like to attend college but who thinks the attempt would be futile, ask him to write Dean Glenn C. Couch, University College, University of Oklahoma, Norman.)

Under Cover

By DAVID BURR, '52ba

sun. I want you to watch it with me.

A few years ago, several University administrators became interested in doing something about solving the problem of education for the handicapped . . . not an education by mail or other means of off-campus communications, but an on-campus, in class education . . . a real college education.

No full scale program was worked out . . . no formulas were written into policy. The administrators, headed by University College Dean Glenn C. Couch, '31bs, '37ms, simply thought it a good idea and would encourage anything that would help give the handicapped their chance.

Students in wheel chairs, students who were blind, students who were spastics were encouraged to make the try at O.U. There were many obstacles.

Wheel chairs could not manipulate building steps and sidewalk curbing. The first problem was to find a way over the obstacles. Walter Kraft, director of the physical plant, was interested and asked his fellow workers to build ramps at curbing and entrances to buildings wherever possible. Economy was to be observed, but ramps were to be constructed as other, necessary, construction work was being carried on at curbing and entrances.

The handicapped students already enrolled were encouraged to form a club. As they organized, they gave their club a name which suited its members to perfection. They called themselves the "OO" Club . . . Obstacle Overcomers.

With the help of the President's Office, the ramp work was rapidly expanded. When school opened this fall, a satisfactory number of ramps had been constructed to allow wheel chairs to manipulate most campus streets and building entrances. Sev-

membership of last year is forty. Last semester seven wheel chair students attended the University.

The news of O.U.'s informal efforts to aid the seriously handicapped is being circulated. Recently Dean Couch's office received an inquiry from a junior college student in Colorado who is a wheel chair student. He wrote that he had been referred to O.U. by rehabilitation officials as a good place for those in his circumstances to go to get an education. He might as well have written. . . "I want to go to school where they don't put more handicaps in my way. . . Where I can be assured of a chance for a real education."

Why does the University want handicapped students and why is it making an effort to provide for their education? Listen to Dean Couch:

"We never have had a seriously handicapped person fail at the University. One of our wheel chair students was named to Phi Beta Kappa in his junior year. They're all good students." He continues, "The handicapped student is getting a chance to live a more complete life. Not the least of the reasons we encourage handicapped students to come here is that we can prepare them to make their own way in the world beyond the campus."

I marvel at the determination the handicapped student is demonstrating. For some one who walks on two feet, with eyes that say where to place my steps and with no other handicap than that which I place on my own activities, the members of the "OO" Club seem like Goliaths beside this David. It occurs to me that perhaps, in fact, I am the one who is blind . . . the one who walks with faltering steps.

Often we have heard the University described as a great University. There have

Seldom has there been as much widespread excitement about any event at O.U. as is being demonstrated over the upcoming Notre Dame-O.U. football game. I am as excited as the rest. However, my emotional peak of the year was reached July 14 when the American Alumni Council announced the winners of this year's national alumni magazine contest.

Like the Big Red when it takes the field against Notre Dame, our magazine was competing with the best in the U. S. I will surely be excused if I think we came off pretty well.

In the magazine-of-the-year competition, the sweepstakes, *Sooner Magazine* ranked in the top twenty. Analyzing the schools in the top twenty, it is interesting to note that of that number only five were state supported colleges and universities. Also in the top twenty were Ohio State, New Hampshire, California and Iowa University.

In competition by specific categories, the *Sooner* was given a second place ranking on its treatment of University News and an honorable mention for articles classed as "Intellectual Stimulation." Probably the award that warmed the editor most was a special award for the excellence of a photo story, "The Hands of the University" (*Sooner Magazine*, November, 1952).

Each year I worry and wonder about the outcome of the national contest. It is an important criteria for judging the editorial competence of the staff, and provides a good comparison of how we stack up with other alumni publications from a professional point of view.

However, it is not the final judge of the type of publication we present. The magazine is written and prepared for you. If you do not like it, even if it were adjudged the best in the land, my job would be a complete bust. So let me know when you like or dislike anything about the publication. Give us your ideas. We will try to make the publication the finest for you.