

The laugh reached all corners of the crowded cafe, disenchanting the evening.

Backtracking the sound wave, I met a group of boy-men at a round table. The author of the outburst, realizing the volume

For I thought as I watched the boy-men, the girl-women pass by that, unlike some, I would never want to go through the 10-year span just passing beyond reach. The experiences I enjoyed in that interval are mine, never to be given up. Yet, I thought,

Under Cover

By DAVID BURR, '52ba

had caused heads to turn, was a deep red under a summer's tan.

His four companions at the table reacted in positive manner to the sudden burst of spotlight. One boy took advantage of searching eyes to demonstrate his poise by posturing extravagantly. Another became preoccupied with his smoke. The fourth and fifth members of the party felt an urge to put distance between themselves and a likely recurrence of the laugh.

Shortly afterwards, I stood on the corner of Boyd and Asp, just across from University property, and watched other new freshmen walk by. On campus a few days ahead of upper classmen for orientation purposes, they passed by talking excitedly or affecting the casual manner or exuding enthusiasm for anything from cokes to football, from girls to girls.

The girl-women, who ambled by on leash or without escort, seemed more mature by contrast. Occasionally one teetered precariously on unfamiliar heels or another would forget her surroundings long enough to drop the sophistication and giggle infectiously.

Several of both sexes strolled by wearing pledge ribbons, rubbing the first bloom from great expectations, but thoroughly enjoying their new-found social stature.

Some of the new students feigned maturity, but most looked fresh, eighteen and like life itself was a wonderful experience.

Around many of them fell a mantle of youthfulness—providing protective covering for the rude, the haughty, the vain or the wondering.

I am 28 years old, a veteran of one world war and starting my sixth year on campus and as editor of this magazine. These personal facts may seem out of place here but they have a bearing on my impressions of the beginning students.

how fine it must be to be an 18-year old, to be sampling the first taste of "on-your-own" and to be starting to college.

A little of this . . . a little of that. The reception the September issue of *Sooner Magazine* received was a wonderful thing for the editor's morale. Many kind people gave me their opinions personally and others took time from busy lives to write a note of commendation. When the editor receives such response it draws the line full circle. I can get into your homes each month by the editorial route, but it is altogether too seldom that I can get you into my office for a visit by mail. Thanks very much.

About a month ago, President Cross made a speech to the civic clubs of Norman. The day following the speech newspapers reported portions of the speech. A minor rhubarb resulted. It centered around O.U. and the Big Seven and Southwest conferences. For those people who wished to see O.U. out of the Big Seven and into the Southwest, the reports were discouraging. I hope you read the article and then re-evaluate the newspaper stories. It seems to me that Dr. Cross' reasoning is sound indeed. But there is more to the article than a conference switching discussion. The University is pictured concisely and clearly. It's excellent reading.

The *Sooner Magazine* has a new assistant editor. He's Robert Talley who comes from Mangum by way of California and other points. A veteran newspaperman at 24, he's a sophomore in the University's Journalism School. Robert's first major effort for the magazine is his story about Miss Gladys Barnes, assistant professor of modern languages, entitled, "You Can't Make Me Cry," on page 2. I think you'll find the new addition a welcome one.

Homecoming Activities Outlined

Tentative plans for Homecoming, October 24, have been announced. Possible additions to the listing below may be added. House Decorations were not positively planned at press time.

1. Parade, 10 a.m.
2. Alumni Luncheon, 11:30 to 1 p.m. in Union Ballroom.
3. Football game, O.U. vs. Colorado, 2 p.m.
4. Alumni Reception in Union immediately after game.
5. Alumni-Student Dance in Ballroom, 8:30 p.m.
6. Alumni Registration will be held in Union Lobby throughout day.
7. Women's Physical Education Department will hold coffee session for phys ed alumnae in the Women's Building from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
8. American Legion Post 303, formerly on campus, will hold a reunion coffee session in the Union's dining room "A"—formerly the Blue Room—from 9 a.m. to 12.
9. For last minute information about Homecoming activities inquire at Alumni Office's information desk Homecoming Day.