

A friend of mine associated with a sister institution in another state asked me a short time ago why I was not living up to the best standards of journalistic responsibility. Why, he wanted to know, didn't I write an exposé about athletics at the University.

I do not remember whether the presump-

tion was stated or implied that O.U.'s athletic setup must not be kosher. Otherwise we would not win as many times as we do.

The theme song of many people not associated with the University is that a football team that lands in the top ten for six years in a row and a sports program that harvests as many victories as O.U.'s can't possibly be on the level. Many outside critics smugly say "Oil Makes the Difference." Others imply that we do not live up to the academic rules of the Big Seven Conference or the NCAA and, by stretching them, buy our athletes.

I will not bother to go into the money side of the question. The books are open for any authorized study by the NCAA or the Big Seven. However surreptitiously given, money will out and a total stranger could get a clear picture of the financial arrangement for athletes at O.U. by talking with the players and observing their spending habits for a month.

In the past six years, I have witnessed athletes dropped from scholarship rolls due to poor grades and other athletes suspended from school for breaking O.U.'s own standards of conduct—one so suspended was a first string halfback.

However, any thing I can say can be taken by the critics as simply a cover up. "Old Burr isn't going to knock the institution he represents, even if something is shady down there," they argue. My answer is they don't know me very well to make such a damn fool statement in the first place but in the second place I have an answer now that can be spelled out. One which I could not have manufactured.

Towards the middle of March, a story was carried in many newspapers stating that O.U. was forfeiting its Big Seven swimming championship and several dual meet wins. The reason: the failure of the

swimming team's finest performer to live up to the Big Seven's academic rules.

Under those rules, he should have made satisfactory marks in at least 24 hours for the two semesters preceding the present semester. Instead, a routine check uncovered the fact that he had passed only 23 hours. Immediately the conference head-

quarters was notified and the swimming championship passed on to Iowa State.

For the first time in its swimming history, O.U. was slated to be a strong contender in the NCAA and AAU swimming meets this Spring. Without their ace, O.U.'s team will be just another good team.

If our athletic program had been geared to a "winning" philosophy it might have been possible to cover up. If honesty in such matters was no consideration, it is conceivable that records could have been altered to conform with conference regulations. To lose a star of the magnitude of this particular swimmer, even in a minor sport, could not help but be felt. This was not some athlete trying to make the team but a full-fledged star. He was capable of taking national titles.

The Athletic Department had no decision to make. A routine investigation proved he was ineligible and that was that. He was not thrown to the wolves to quiet those suspicious of a winning program. He was ineligible and it was the department's duty to report it.

Do not misunderstand me, I am not praising the Athletic Department. That department's department merely followed the rules—nothing to warrant a loud shout of praise. I restate its action here for the benefit of those who think an exposé should be made into the Sooner athletic setup. "Break Up the Sooners" is a cry I hope I'll be hearing from now on—and that all of us can be proud of the manner in which our athletic affairs are handled.

Salute to Engineering College. This month in picture and story we are saluting the College of Engineering. As has been our custom for many years, the major emphasis of the magazine is about the men

whose technical knowledge will help make our world a more attractive and liveable place.

Aside from any observations I might make about the excellence of O.U.'s College of Engineering—and any such comment would be justified—the one quality about the College that I am most grateful for is their cooperation. No one has to tell them to be cooperative. They just are. Whether it's facts and figures or help in setting up a picture story, Dean W. H. Carson, teachers, staff and students offer their assistance willingly.

Since it comes so easily for me upon request, I suspect that others dealing with the College find it equally cooperative.

It is one of the most highly rated colleges on the campus. The feeling of cooperation perhaps holds the reason: the faculty and staff are not afraid of a little extra effort if it is in a good cause.

I am very grateful to them for their assistance.

A Special Magazine. In cooperation with officers of the Senior Class, the *Sooner Magazine* will present its May issue as a special student publication. The idea was initiated last year and was so successful that it was an easy decision to repeat the special issue.

Our reasons for doing so are simple: 1) such a magazine, honestly reflecting the present student body, should be of interest to anyone interested in O.U.; 2) such a magazine will help explain the Alumni Association and its program to future members while they are still in college, and 3) no student magazine is presently available on campus.

Recommendations from the deans' offices of O.U.'s colleges were submitted to President George L. Cross. From the list, Dr. Cross selected the seven seniors who comprise the Editorial Board for this year and notified them of their selection.

Selected as editors were Betsy Blatt, College of Fine Arts; Kent Kyger, College of Pharmacy; Richard Elms, College of Engineering; Carl McGee, College of Business Administration; Fred Harris, College of Law; Virginia Hornung, College of Education, and Patricia Sessions, College of Arts and Sciences.

The seniors selected represent a Letzeiser medal winner, and a 1953 Dad's Day winner; they have held many scholarships and are Big Men and Women on the Campus.

The Editorial Board is meeting regularly with Fred Cook, senior class president, and the *Sooner* editor. The May magazine holds bright prospects.

Under Cover

By DAVID BURR, '52ba