

# Under Cover

By DAVID BURR, '52ba

It's come at last. In May the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents announced that the National Collegiate Athletic Association is officially studying the University's athletic and subsidizing practices.

The request for information on O.U.'s athletic practices came in a 3-page, multi-question letter from the NCAA in April. The *Daily Oklahoman* reported: "As to the letter itself, the wording is carefully couched and gives no indication that the University has been guilty of any specific violations of NCAA rules. By implication, however, the questions leave the impression, according to (George) Short (Regent president), that some 'wealthy highbinders' are tagging along after O.U. coaches on visits to prospective Sooner athletes, writing out checks as rapidly as they're de-

manded from the highschooler for his services."

President George Cross said, "The University has been living up to the letter of NCAA regulations. As soon as a report can be compiled, it will be sent to the NCAA, fully documented and we will invite the association to audit reports of all our athletics."

That is the bare outline of all the important facts known in the matter as of June 15: 1) request from the NCAA, primarily concerned with recruitment policies; 2) a statement from the University administration that the request will be answered, that regulations are being enforced.

The fact that the NCAA has O.U. under scrutiny brought a storm of editorial comment on the nation's sports pages. John Cronley, sports editor of the *Daily Oklahoman*, suggested in a column that the complaining party was SMU. SMU officials denied the suggestion and assured O.U. such was not the case.

Stanley Woodward, well-known football and sports writer, commented in a copyrighted column that "Due to the fact that Saudi-Arabia has no football team, Oklahoma is the current bete noir of the NCAA."

There are other writers of course who think the investigation into O.U.'s athletic practices has long been overdue, that a team that wins as consistently as O.U. must have greater powers of persuasion than NCAA rules permit.

Speculation on what complaints the NCAA has in its possession, from whom received and what the final disposition of the case may be is fun, but not very helpful. However, by early fall a decision on the matter should be forthcoming from the NCAA. No one but that organization can forecast the outcome.

However this much is not guess work. The University's hands are clean. Whether or not our athletic setup gets a clean bill of health from the NCAA is another matter entirely. It is conceivable that some poorly advised individual may have made overtures, above and beyond NCAA regulations, without the knowledge of anyone officially connected with O.U. It is impossible to police every citizen of the state of Oklahoma and friends of the institution in other states to make sure they know and respect the rules of the game. Such is not the role of the University even if it could staff an FBI force for the job.

And so the first act curtain drops. Whether the ending will be happy or confused or dramatic is unknown. The playwrights have not written the script yet.



SKILL WITH A SLIDE-RULE wasn't the talent that won for Mrs. Dorothy Smith Clay, '30ba, the title of honorary queen of the College of Engineering in late April. She was selected for the aid she had given engineers as assistant to the dean of the College of Engineering. She is pictured with Gerald Glahn, '54eng, then president of the Engineers Club, and Joe Keeley, '30eng, '46eng, professor of civil engineering and co-sponsor of the Engineers Club, after receiving the honor.

IMAGE IS NOT AVAILABLE  
ONLINE DUE TO COPYRIGHT  
RESTRICTIONS.

A paper copy of this  
issue is available at  
call number LH 1 .06S6  
in Bizzell Memorial  
Library.