

Under Cover

By DAVID BURR, '52ba

SOON to become part of the alumni family, the 1955 senior grinds his way toward an ending and a commencement. I was here in 1951 when they started their academic trip. It has been interesting to watch their progress.

When they arrived, some were nonchalant, some were confused and most were eager. There were few dark skies in those days. Or, at least, the freshmen of 1951 refused to recognize many grey clouds.

The boom in Korea was an unsettling influence, when movement gave way to meditation, but Korea was a world away. There would be time to think of it tomorrow. Live for today. Be a "College Man or Woman."

For many, fraternities and sororities were the Open Sesame! for a whole new social order. It made no difference that the social order was synthetic and bore little resemblance to life-away-from-campus. In fact, that was its special charm.

Others, less interested in the campus social life, searched for their niche through books and a search for kindred students. They formed small, quiet pools in the otherwise rushing stream. This was the introduction.

And after the introduction, came the contents. Football games. They cheered themselves hoarse and red-faced at Texas and when Notre Dame came to town. Few noticed, but there was no social distinction at football games.

Some of the chapters were serious ones. As freshmen, they tried desperately to find their way in a new environment. For some this seeking was a four year and never process. For others, a month was sufficient. Then came attention to study. And the move into extra-curricular activities.

If they listened, and were interested, they heard the formula for becoming a campus wheel. The recipe: pick 12 organizations, mix well; stir around until you come to the top in at least two; keep grades above passing, and attend—it doesn't make much difference what you attend as long as you are seen. Bake for four years in a moderately warm oven and you should produce a moderately large wheel. Many listened and were interested.

During the years that followed many changes took place. As sophomores they began to understand, "what the teacher wants." They are learning the ropes and some of the intensity of study diminished.

The juniors confessed they weren't sure, but they believed that they knew as much as the teachers did. Perhaps more in some subjects. A little education was becoming a formidable thing. Juniors were also impatient. Impatient with regulations they had long since learned to walk around. Impatient with the "dull routine" of study. Impatient with themselves and their inner circle of friends.

And then they were seniors. They began the year with a degree of expectancy and the expectancy of a degree. They were seniors. They would live it up. For all practical purposes, study was behind them.

But as graduation time drew near they began to realize that they were back at the beginning of the circle. Back where they had begun as freshmen. Once again they became eager, dedicated students. Once again they put on their best youth-must-be-served look. Now they were applying for jobs.

Many of them as they graduate next month will feel that they know less than when they entered college. "We were exposed to so much. Do they expect us to remember it all." They will be showing positive indications that they have learned something in college. They have learned to question, and the value of an honest doubt.

Next month the seniors of 1955 become alumni of the University for the remainder of their lives. There is every reason to believe that they will be a credit to the institution that spawned them, to the community and nation and, most of all, to themselves. The long blue line of graduating seniors moves on.

THIS issue was prepared by and dedicated to the 1955 Senior.

Seven outstanding seniors were selected by President George L. Cross to serve as a student editorial board. They represent the seven colleges on the O.U. campus. The seniors: Al Alschuler, arts & sciences, Lubbock, Texas; Jean Becker Saylor, edu-

cation, Lawton; Walter Allison, business, Krebs; Ronnie Claire Edwards, fine arts, Oklahoma City; David L. Fist, law, Tulsa; Jack Jennings, pharmacy, Lookeba, and Hoyle Lockett, engineering, Norman.

For two months the seven worked in night sessions to produce this magazine. What subjects should be discussed? How much humorous and how much serious material should be included? Who would take the pictures? Who would write the stories?

And like all projects, there were some disappointments. One story was too expensive to produce; one was not forthcoming at the last minute. But somehow everything began to move into place and the student editors had brought home a winner.

The editor of this magazine has the highest regard for the abilities of the student editors. They worked hard and their finished product indicates the quality of their thinking. I join them in hoping that you like the magazine.

NORMALLY all the contents of the senior issue of *Sooner Magazine* with the exception of "Roll Call" has been the private property of the senior editorial board. This year is an exception. Two stories broke that needed to be included; they could not wait until the July issue. (No June issue is published.)

Both concerned the O.U. sports program. In late April, the NCAA made public its case against the University and named as punishment a 2-year probationary period. The results followed a year-long investigation in O.U.'s athletic practices. The story is presented without trimmings on Page 2.

The NCAA story and the one that follows it, "Allison Talks on Athletics," on Page 4, are interesting companion articles.

Too late to qualify for prominent treatment in this issue is the story of Bruce Drake's resignation as basketball coach at O.U. On May 5, Drake informed the administration that he was stepping down. Head basketball coach for the past 17 years, Drake has not announced future plans. See story Page 28.

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