

Under Cover

By DAVID BURR, '52ba

IN LATE JUNE, the *Sooner Magazine* was named the best alumni magazine in the U. S. and Canada for 1954-55. That's the conclusion, but it doesn't begin to tell the story . . .

Around a lunch table in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, eight people sat. All were attending the national conference of the American Alumni Council. All were fairly composed except the editor of *Sooner Magazine*. Awards for the best efforts in alumni journalism were to be announced following lunch. My seven companions ate heartily. They were not involved in the competition. Actually, I should have had a fine meal. I was the condemned man.

Over and over and over . . . Stop worrying . . . You can't change the results. Why pin your hopes so high? Someone's got to lose. How to calm the churning?

Think back through the year. Was any of your effort really good? Remember the pictures; the words . . . said and unsaid. Were they worth an award?

One of my companions remarked, "You may not like the judges' decision." No, I may not. But act a part. Don't be a sore loser. Every eye in the room is not on you. Relax. Few here know you. They don't know how badly you want to win. Keep a sense of balance.

The gentleman in charge of the judging began to read the awards. The preliminary competition was in 1) news interpreting the institution; 2) alumni news; 3) undergraduate news; 4) major or lead articles; 5) comment and opinion; 6) appearance.

Awards were made to schools with less than 10,000 alumni for each of the six categories. Then they were announced for magazines representing schools with 10,000-30,000 alumni. Now it was our turn for schools with more than 30,000 alumni.

The smile began to be real. The *Sooner* scored two firsts (interpreting the institution, and appearance) and two seconds (alumni news, and comment). And now the moment was nearing when the magazine-of-the-year would be named. And now I knew we were in the running. In-

stead of relaxing, I sat stiffly, taut with tension.

As the top ten magazines were named, the *Sooner* was omitted from the alphabetical order. But two names were withheld for the winner and the runnerup. The runnerup was named, and then to the melody of "Oklahoma!" our magazine was named magazine-of-the-year.

The announcement found me on the thin edge between composure and idiocy. No one asked for a few words from the winner and no one would have gotten them if they had asked. But my feelings were apparent to the crowd as my face broke into the widest grin I've ever managed. The crowd knew how I felt and shared with me, I hope, a moment of pleasure.

Perhaps you think my account of the occasion has been overly dramatic. Perhaps it has been. Yet the *Sooner* was the first alumni magazine to win the award from an institution west of the Mississippi, a feat once considered impossible. Previous winners are Chicago, Rutgers, New Hampshire, Harvard, Dartmouth, Princeton, Johns Hopkins, Vassar, Ohio State, M. I. T. and Lehigh—distinguished company. Now Oklahoma has been added to that group on the award plaque that is on display in the Alumni Office. We are proud of the award. And we hope you are also. In a very real sense the award is yours. We were able to win only because of your continued interest and support in the magazine and the Association. We want you to share it with us.

TOP SPOT FOR ANN

Ann Campbell is pictured on page 2 of this issue as she prepares for two "Miss" contests. The first of these, Miss America, has recently been concluded. As was expected, she ranked high in the selection. She withstood the competition to gain the semi-final round of 10 contestants and moved into the final round of 5. She was judged fourth runnerup and received a \$1,500 scholarship. She's a real American beauty. The second "Miss" contest, Miss Football of 1956, is now underway.



Mrs. Kitty Shanklin Rountree, '23ba, of Oklahoma City, president of the University Alumni Association, gives her approval to the plaque *Sooner Magazine* won with selection as best alumni magazine of 1954-55. Selection was made in national competition by prominent journalists.