

# Under Cover

By DAVID BURR, '52ba

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**D**URING AN 8-day period in April, the editor was invited to judge three separate and distinctly different contests. In order of judging they were 1) the Ted Baird Memorial Speech contest, to select the state's outstanding high school speech senior; 2) the Engineers Show, to select the outstanding acts in the annual production; 3) Miss O. U. contest, to choose the coed who will represent O.U.'s students at official functions next year.

The three assignments were inspirational, entertaining and enjoyable.

The Baird Speech contest provided the inspiration. Dedicated to the late executive secretary of the Alumni Association, the contest is simple in design. Speech teachers and high school administrators are asked to nominate their best speech students. Entries are combed by a judging committee and the top candidates are interviewed by the committee.

One at a time the eager, bright youngsters presented themselves. Some were nervous, some were not, but all were determined to make a good showing. As they talk, the judges learn that one intends to become a teacher, another a member of the foreign service, another wants a try at radio and television. All of them see the world stretching endlessly before them and none have had their bright dreams bent.

One contestant represented a consolidated high school of 75 pupils. Another a school with 10 times that number. The judges listened and asked questions. Since all entries were strong contenders, the judges looked for intangibles that could not be placed on a record book. After the last interview, the judges weighed and discounted, eliminated and raised to contention. And finally the winner was selected. For me the final selection was an anti-climax. The fun of the job was in listening to the hopes, fears and dreams of the youngsters. There is nothing as inspirational as a bright youth.

The Engineers Show provided the entertainment. Singers and dancers pranced and performed for prizes and the crowd's enjoyment. And this year, a new ingredient was added to the show. The secretaries of



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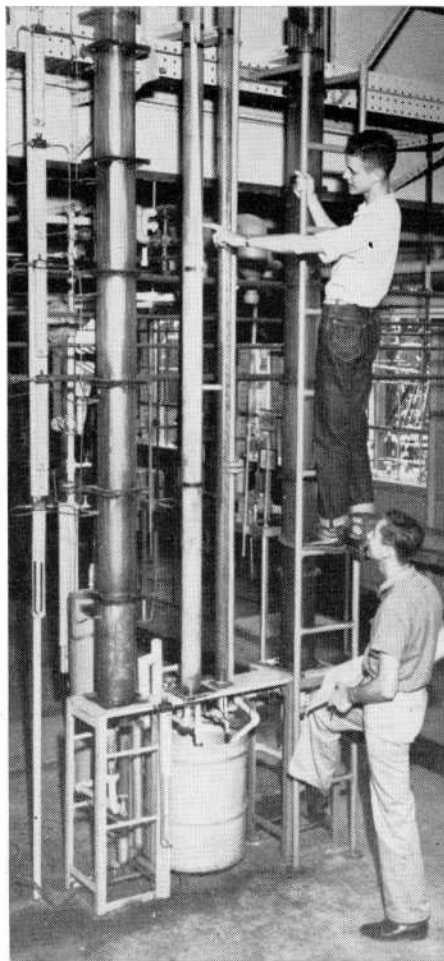
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various areas in the College of Engineering combined their talents in an award winning spoof of their lives and times within the College.

Choosing Miss O.U. offered the enjoyment. Five young ladies, successful in preliminary judging, presented themselves for selection as the girl who will represent O.U.'s student body in several off-campus queen contests. The judges had lunch with the contestants and then the judging began.

There were no formal rules for the judges to follow. But personality, beauty, intelligence, poise and form all played a part. The girls chatted, posed and walked. They told of their ambitions, of their school work and of themselves. One judge thought he had the winner. Another was equally certain his choice was the best. Finally, the judges made the selection. The winner: Miss Donna Sue Cason, Vinita sophomore, who had already served as Homecoming Queen in 1955.

I am not sure what qualifications I brought to my assignments as judge but it was a pleasant April.



In the March issue of *Sooner Magazine*, devoted to the engineers, a picture story included representatives of every school of engineering, except Chemical Engineering. The editor regrets the omission and offers proof that the Chem E's are still being trained at Norman.