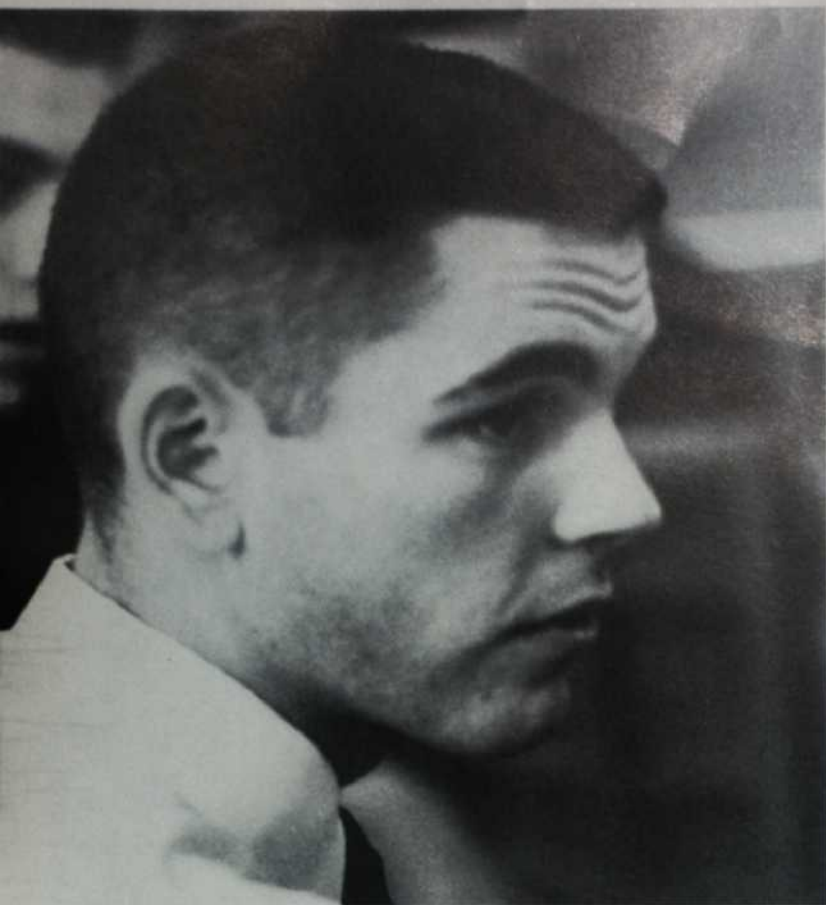




*The Look
of a Leader*



Steve Smith (above) and Larry Mullins (preceding page) are part of a unique group of freshmen comprising the President's Leadership Class.

The Look of a Leader

*developing leadership for
Oklahoma is the goal of
the new President's Class*

By CAROL J. ROBINSON

EVERY high school graduating class has one—that one student with an indefinable something that makes him the pacesetter. He is usually a good student—but not necessarily the top scholar in the class. He will have a variety of interests, and probably edits the yearbook, or captains the football squad or heads the debate team. But whatever his special claim to fame, when he speaks, the others listen.

Last spring the University of Oklahoma launched a unique program designed to reward this quality of leadership, to recognize it in the early stages and to give it a chance to develop—and most of all to keep those who possess this quality in the State of Oklahoma. The basis for the program is the President's Leadership Award, a personal citation given annually by President G. L. Cross to outstanding seniors in Oklahoma's high schools. In addition to the award itself, each recipient is offered a \$400 Lew Wentz Service Scholarship at O.U. Fifty-seven of the 67 winners for 1961 accepted the scholarship and are now enrolled at the University.

When President Cross announced his 1961 selections, he explained that "By recognizing leadership in the same way we recog-

nize scholastic and athletic excellence, we can encourage more high school students to accept their responsibilities as the future leaders of our state and region."

But merely recognizing high school achievement is not enough to accomplish such a long-range goal. To assist these students—now college freshmen—to make the transition from the high school to the university environment and to give them that extra boost which could keep them from becoming bogged down in the mechanics of college, the University has organized a 12-week series of leadership seminars.

Bringing these bright-eyed, eager young men and women together once a week in a President's Leadership Class and giving them the opportunity to discuss problems with the University's top administrators, professors and students has proven to be quite an experience for all concerned. These freshmen are not passive listeners. Each is an individual in his own right, and few of them are hesitant to speak up. They are determined to learn as much as they can as quickly as possible. Yet they are not brash; rather they are confident—and the University of Oklahoma does not want them to lose this confidence.

But even a leadership group needs leaders, and the Class felt it necessary to establish some internal organization, setting up a rotating advisory committee with the help of the Class advisor, David A. Burr, director of university relations and assistant to the President.

Each of the seminar speakers represents a different area of University life. Their task is to give the freshmen a good foundation of information about the University which will be useful to them during the next four years. To be sure, not all students are interested in knowing the inner workings of O.U. But the University feels that if student activities are to be effective and beneficial, the student leaders should be better informed than they are at present.

University College Dean Glenn C. Couch outlined the history and organization of the institution for the Class and gave them some tips for academic success as well. President Cross spent an evening with the Class explaining his job and the approach toward leadership which he would like to see them take. He told the freshmen that he felt O.U. was not doing enough to teach the proper use of knowledge, to develop proper attitudes. He concluded with the



When the Crosses entertained the Class in the President's home, Richard Evans (left) had this opportunity for an informal chat with Dr. Cross.



First board chairman, Jack Cochran (left), checks a meeting schedule with Class advisor, David Burr.



Weekly seminar speakers from administration, faculty and student body find the Leadership Class an eager and appreciative audience.

hope that "this group can make some real progress along that line."

The student activities co-ordinator, J. Gene Russell, and the director of Union Activities, Mrs. Jan Crawford, pointed out leadership opportunities in the student activities at O.U., while the Class learned of the available student services from Dr. Clifford J. Craven, dean of student affairs; Dr. Dorothy Truex, director of women's affairs; Dr. Jodie Smith, associate dean of students; Ronald K. Green, director of financial aids; Leonard Harper, director of the employment service, and Dr. Donald Robinson, director of Ellison Infirmary.

The Class was given some tips on campus leadership from a quartet of students who should know, Presidents Ken Lanyon of Interfraternity Council, Sandra Davis of Panhellenic, Jerry Gamble of the Student Senate and Charles Daily of the Independent Students Association.

Some of the areas in which the University itself is a leader—the library, the Center for Continuing Education and the Research Institute—will be explained to the President's Class by the directors, Dr. Arthur McAnally, Dr. Thurman White and Verne C. Kennedy.

The seminars attempted to reach beyond the realm of the University as well. The leadership of the future, its responsibilities and the decisions which it will have to make was the topic of a discussion lead by Savoie Lottinville, director of the University Press. Dr. Lloyd Williams, professor of education, aimed his remarks at the ethics of leadership, the standards which the students should set for themselves in determining what kind of leadership they are to offer.

By the time the seminar series ends on December 14, these 57 freshmen will probably know more about University of Oklahoma than most graduating seniors—and the University intends to give them the opportunity to put that knowledge to work. For the remainder of the school year, they will receive assignments from the President's office to serve as hosts for University activities, to escort campus visitors and to participate in high school visitation programs.

Already the members of the President's Leadership Class are cropping up in the various student activities. Two of the young men are out for freshman football; the Class was well represented in nominees for

continued



George Narvaes (talking with Carol Bird) was the outstanding high school leader in Kansas.

these freshmen are given the opportunity to question those who have the answers



Donald Walker and Larry Thompson listen to Mrs. Cross explain the origin of the paintings in the President's home.

Homecoming Queen and among the freshman dormitory and pledge class officers and on student committees. Twenty-one pledged sororities and fraternities; four are holding part-time jobs in addition to full academic loads.

It is ridiculous to assume that each of these freshmen will hit the top at O.U. They are fairly representative of the student body as a whole in their interests and problems. They get homesick and worry about grades and finances. They have the same doubts and misconceptions as other freshmen and ask many of the same naïve questions—but they have the opportunity to ask the person who knows the answers. The President's Class has a lot to learn—and a few will drop by the wayside before completing their degrees. But in this group are some who will be the University student, community and state leaders in the years to come.

Of course, if these students have what it

takes, they would probably achieve much the same measure of success without the President's Leadership Program. The program is not designed to make them leaders. Rather it is aimed at giving them the opportunity to make themselves leaders. The program should save them time—the time required to learn the mechanics of University life, time better spent in the pursuit of their education, both academic and social. Through these students who have already demonstrated the quality of leadership, a better understanding of the University should be transmitted to the student body.

Every high school principal was given the opportunity to nominate one senior for the award, and 165 did so. (The one-per-school limitation may be changed next year to avoid penalizing larger high schools.) A screening committee then chose 67 from the nominations, the number determined by the available scholarship money.

High school principals have been enthu-

siatic about the new program. One termed it a "step in the right direction." An out-of-state schoolman frankly admitted that the idea was years ahead of anything his state was doing to hold its outstanding high school students. An Oklahoma principal confessed that he didn't have a senior this year of the stature required for the leadership program, but that he would have three in the running in 1962.

Geographic location was not a criterion for selection, but the winners represent nearly every area of the state. Although the award winners will continue to be primarily from Oklahoma, the University hopes to be able to include an occasional out-of-stater when a student of superior qualifications indicates interest in O.U. Two such students, one from Kansas and one from Illinois, were included this year.

The members of the President's Leadership Class and the high schools they repre-

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Carol Bird takes advantage of a question-and-answer session to get some answers from Dean Couch of University College.



With less than a semester behind them, the freshmen such as David Pauling and Letitia Chambers are always ready to compare notes on the new college routine.

Don Schwall

continued

2-2 against New York.) It's a funny thing, but the teams that gave me the most trouble were Washington and Los Angeles."

Schwall thinks the Tigers will be contenders again next year and also predicts an improvement in the Boston team. "We're a young club and the added year of experience is sure to help. I can't say how I'll do. I don't think there's anything to the 'sophomore jinx' that people talk about. It'll be harder for me since the hitters will

have had a year to look me over, but I will have had a year, too."

Schwall is high in his praise of the Boston fans and Red Sox manager Mike Higgins. "The fans there are great. They're extremely loyal, and they took me under their wing. They couldn't have been nicer. Higgins is a patient, intelligent baseball man—a good man to play for."

Higgins has also had some nice things to say about his prize rookie. "Any time you bring up a kid who pitches the way Schwall does, you have to think things are turning for the better. The kid is great. I thought he was pretty good this spring, but

he's better than I thought. He makes the game look easy."

Schwall has a heavy calendar of banquets and appearances scheduled before he leaves Oklahoma for spring training in February. "I hope I can get some rest sometime. I've been working out a little and I intend to keep it up until I report. At any rate, it's good to be back in Oklahoma. I like the East, but Oklahoma is my favorite spot. The people here are friendlier than any place I have lived. I hope to live here when I'm through with baseball."

But the way Don Schwall plays baseball, that time should be far in the future.

Look of a Leader

continued

sent are Gary Wayne Abrams, Purcell; Bobby Joe Altom, Healdton; Juanita Anderson, Mattoon, Illinois; Victor V. Ashford, El Reno; Eldon C. Battey, Elk City; Logan Beard III, Madill; Ann Belanger, Guymon; George Bershinsky, Hartshorne; Carol Bird, Oklahoma City Classen; Candace Blalock, Pauls Valley; Louis H. Brigham, Hobart; Letitia Chambers, Enid; Linda Kay Chandler, Spencer; Jack Cochran, Wagoner; Bill Dawson, Seminole; Robert Thomas Doty, Tulsa Webster; Roger Bruce Elton, Grove; Linda Evans, Poteau; Richard H. Evans, Temple; Jerry Flick, Clinton; Linda Graves, Blackwell; Lynda Jo Hackler, Ponca City; Robert Kent Hatley, Duncan; Michael Hewitt, Bartlesville; David Landholt, Holdenville; Mary Ann Lively, McAlester, and Edward McConnel, Crescent.

Also William Mercer, Oklahoma City U. S. Grant; Allen Miller, Hinton; David A. Milligan, Canton; Stan Moran, Ardmore; Larry Mullins, Sand Springs; George Narvaes, Winfield, Kansas; Dan Nelson, Woodward; David Nemecek, Oklahoma City Capitol Hill; Richard Northcutt, Noble; David Pauling, Lawton; Susan Reno, Cleveland; Don Ringrose, Guthrie; Ron Roblyer, Commerce; Dianne Schwab, Alva; Jack D. Shannon, Anadarko; Ralph Simmons, Hugo; Carole Kay Slepka, Okemah; Billi Kaye Smith, Stroud; Steve Smith, Oklahoma City Northeast; Randall H. Smith, Broken Bow; James A. Stiles, Frederick; Jim Taylor, Durant; Stephanie Thomas, Vinita; Larry Thompson, Midwest City; Karen Tims, Altus; Donald Walker, Shawnee; Charles Waters, Marlow; Charles D. Watson, Drumright; Thomas P. White, Tulsa Edison, and William Winans, Jr., Maysville.

These are names to remember; you may be seeing them again.

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