

university news: a brief journal of noteworthy happenings

Indian Summer

Ten OU anthropology students will live with Oklahoma Indian families this summer, learning tribal lore and observing ceremonies seldom seen by white men. The students will attend a field school directed by Dr. William Bittle, associate professor of anthropology, using modern methods to do research on a proud old culture. Devoted to the study of linguistics and ethnology, the 8-week field school sponsored by the NSF is the fourth program of its kind at OU. Participants will be selected from colleges and universities that offer major course work in anthropology. "This year we plan to study members of the Kiowa Apache tribe," Bittle reports. "Most of the tribe members live in and around Boone, a small settlement several miles west of the town of Apache. Others live within 30 miles of Anadarko, where our field school will be. Students attending the school will receive stipends to pay their expenses while living with Indian families." Before students are placed in Indian homes they are given formal instruction in the Apache language, interviewing, anthropological techniques in obtaining cultural information and ways to develop rapport with their hosts.

The Ultimate Trophy

In recent years some fraternities on the OU campus have been particularly inventive in the area of contests for sororities. If competition really is the spice of life, then it's pretty spicy here in Norman. When the coeds are not competing for the endless queen contests, a few thoughtful fraternities have created other ways for the ladies to add trophies to their bursting trophy cases. There's a turtle race where the girls' houses are issued tortoiseshells which they train and run with a fine trophy as reward. Another house sponsors a race modeled loosely on the Indianapolis 500. Instead of steering Lotus and Offenhausers, the girls pedal tricycles in relay for the glory of Gamma Gamma Gamma. There's a Fastest Girl on the Campus contest pitting 4-female relay teams from each house in a 200-yard run, a dance marathon, an Easter egg hunt, a Derby Day filled with a myriad of relay events and a western round-up featuring a pudding eating fracas, a three-legged race, a tug-of-war and a greased pig competition. And on the day nothing's scheduled, two sororities play football for a trophy. All this competition makes the female fierce, and it's rare when one leaves school without the ultimate trophy.

Books Abroad Praised

A special issue of *Books Abroad* commemorating the 700th anniversary of Dante has been met with wide, unanimous acclaim throughout the world. The University's renowned international literary quarterly under the editorship of Dr. Robert Vlach prepared the special issue with assistance from a \$1,000 grant from the Alumni Development

Fund. Twenty-two scholars and writers from around the world contributed essays on different aspects of the *Divina Commedia*. Dr. Paul Ruggiers was co-editor of the issue. *A Homage to Dante* has evoked worldwide praise. A London scholar called it "magnificent: a mental feast." Lothar Stiehm of the University of Heidelberg, Olga Ragusa of Columbia University and Maynard Mack of Yale were among the chorus of grateful readers.

The spring issue of *Books Abroad* acquaints readers with the best books in the field of *belles lettres* published in 15 countries in 1964. Besides these listings ten national literatures are surveyed in detail—French criticism of the year, Spanish, New Zealand, Danish, Mexican, Latvian and American fiction as well as the current literature of Latin America, Brazil and Israel. In all 265 books, in many languages, are commented upon individually by American and foreign scholars and critics. From OU came contributions by Willis Bowen, Percy Buchanan, G. Chmelev, Wolfgang Lockemann, Gustav Mueller, John Paul Pritchard, Calvin G. Thayer and Vlach. Edith Copeland is author of the survey of 1964 American fiction.

Protesters Protested

The mid-60's is the period of protest for the American college student. The apathy of the 1950's has been consumed by a spreading concern for the world's problems. The militant student of today is disturbing to many of his elders and to many of his fellow classmates. There are parents and alumni and perhaps even some college administrators who would prefer to see the students concern themselves with more traditional college practices like goldfish-swallowing, party raids and telephone booth-stuffing instead of picketing, protesting and petitioning over matters like foreign policy, racial discrimination, poverty and academic freedom. But for a significant number, the byword is "involvement" and since the beginning of Peace Corps, college students have been making themselves a part of their world in an active and forceful way. Students have volunteered as civil rights workers in the North and South. Recently college students have been among the most vociferous critics of the nation's policy in Vietnam.

At OU the atmosphere has not changed noticeably from the 50's. There was a protest in the Union terrace after one of the Selma murders, but such a "mass" meeting (this was a mass of 200) is exceptional. Apathy and non-involvement are pervasive and the emphasis is overwhelmingly on social events rather than social concern. One student group, however, has been active in pursuing its beliefs and at the same time has been downright irritating to some people. The group is the OU chapter of the Students for a Democratic Society, a national organization which has become prominent recently because of its opposition to present U.S. policy in Vietnam. The SDS

was organized here last year. Its activities have been numerous and varied. It has intermittently published a weekly editorial sheet. It has sponsored campus talks by Mark Lane, attorney for Lee Harvey Oswald; David McReynolds, field secretary of the War Resisters League, and a Roman Catholic priest who participated in the Selma demonstrations. The group has picketed the Federal Building in Oklahoma City twice, protesting U. S. involvement in Vietnam, and five of its members participated in the national SDS march on Washington, D.C. in April which drew 15,000 in protest of government action in Southeast Asia. The SDS co-sponsored with the Inter-religious Council a petition signed by more than 800 OU students and sent to Gov. Wallace during the Selma conflict, protesting his actions during the crisis there. The club, whose membership is not more than 50, has also sponsored weekly discussions on a variety of topics led by faculty members and has distributed leaflets on the campus, again protesting handling of the Vietnamese war. The SDS position on the Vietnam situation has inspired an exchange of letters to the editor in the *Oklahoma Daily* and provoked an attack in a couple of editorials, one of which, in commenting about the Washington demonstration asked, "Is the nation to be 'stabbed in the back' by a rash of outlawry?" Another pondered if the SDS were giving the proper "image" to the University. In early May a student senator offered a bill calling for withdrawal of recognition of the SDS by the University. The *Daily* editorialized that "the motive of the Senate is fine" in attempting to outlaw the SDS but that the method was wrong. The bill was summarily withdrawn, and OU's pocket of protest continues to thrive.

Fight Against Botulism

Research which may lead to successful preventive measures by the American canning industry against botulism, the most potent toxin known to man, is entering its fifth year at the University. Attacks of botulism have plagued U.S. canneries for the past several years, with the latest outbreak occurring recently among several high school students in northwest Kansas. Caused by a toxic agent produced by a microorganism known as *Clostridium botulinum*, the poison is found mostly in canned foods subjected to inadequate time and temperature processes which have failed to destroy the spores of botulism. The toxin is developed and produced only in the absence of oxygen.

The National Institute of Allergy and In-

IN THE JUNE ISSUE of *Sooner News-Makers*: a report on the Alumni Leadership Conference and Commencement weekend with its class reunions, a feature on the Class of '65, announcement of retiring professors, a sports wrap-up including a review of spring football practice and a preview of the '65 season, and other alumni news.

fectious Diseases in December awarded an additional \$11,771 to Dr. Robert E. Collier, associate professor of microbiology, to continue investigations of the inducers of sporulation (formation of spores) in *Clostridium roseum*, a bacterial microorganism. According to Collier, the pure toxin is so deadly that a teaspoon of it placed in Oklahoma City's water supply could extinguish all human life in that city. *Clostridium roseum*, subject of Collier's study, is an anaerobic bacterium of a different species than *Clostridium botulinum* but almost identical in nature. Studies of the characteristics of *Clostridium roseum* are therefore of great significance in seeking clues to the prevention of botulism.

The canning industry combats *Clostridium botulinum* with heat, subjecting cans to steam pressure and literally cooking them for long periods. Yet the heating process can sometimes be ineffective, as evidenced by recent outbreaks of botulism, since botulism spores have a high heat resistance capacity. The basic concept underlying Collier's research deals with morphogenesis, or the reasons a cell changes from one form to another. *Clostridium roseum* can be found as an actively growing cell which transforms itself into a heat-resistant endospore.

"As the spore develops," says Collier, "it is modified by the addition of metabolic compounds. This changes the organism's makeup and contributes to its resistance to high temperatures. The spore contains a chemical compound known as dipicolinic acid which has not been found in any living organisms.

"Our investigations have centered on the metabolic processes from which sporulation occurs, but the determination of any specific compound of sporulation has yet to be agreed upon. I've worked 11 years with this problem and the answer to it probably will not be found during my lifetime."

Shorts

Fifty-eight graduating high school seniors have been selected as members of the third class of University Scholars. Five hundred students competed. . . Four juniors and 59 seniors were named to membership in Phi Beta Kappa in March. The juniors are the top four of the class, the seniors in the top ten percent of the College of Arts and Sciences. Alumni named to the fraternity are Donald R. Ellegood, '48ba, '51ma, director of the University of Washington Press; Don Emery, '20ba, '21Law, Oklahoma City attorney, and Dr. John H. Leek, David Ross Boyd professor emeritus of government. . . Medical School named 104 to its 1965-66 class, including 34 from OU, three of whom are women. . . The Bizzell Library subscribes to 8,350 different magazines, journals and newspapers. . . The coach of Florida State University's football team will conduct the annual clinic here this summer. . . Sen. A. S. Mike Monroney was the featured speaker at this year's Journalism Day. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award. . . Seventy-nine seniors and 25 juniors were named Big Women and Big Men on Campus in April by a special committee of students and University officials. (Everyone else is a Little Woman and a

Little Man on Campus). . . The University Press had eight books named Top Honor Books at the 16th annual Chicago Book Clinic. Only 46 received Top Honor classification. . . The 312 new apartments on the south campus will be assigned to single students next fall. They are air-conditioned, furnished, two-bedroom apartments. . . Summer programs abroad sponsored by OU include study at the University of Madrid, Soviet studies in Munich, art studies in Rome and French studies at University of Grenoble. . . Sequel department: The Soonerville Trolley (*Sooner Magazine*, Jan. '65), the student bus which made a circuit of the campus for Campus Corner merchants, has folded for lack of student riders. . . The Lockett Hotel (*Sooner Magazine*, Jan. '65) has been bought by a group of private citizens. OU considered buying but decided not to. . . When cheating became prominent in the news (*Sooner Magazine*, March, '65), a bill establishing an honor system at OU was introduced in the Student Senate. It failed. . . Greek department: Topping the sorority scholarship list was Kappa; Theta was second and Pi Phi third. . . SAE won the fraternity scholarship trophy, followed by Beta and the Delt's. . . University Sing trophies went to the Alpha Gam's and the SAE's. . . Lambda Chi and Pi Phi took first place trophies for group acts in Sooner Scandals. . . Professorial news: Dr. John O'Hara, director of the OU Center for Leadership Training since 1962, has

been named director of the Southwest Center for Human Relations Studies at the OCCE succeeding Dr. William Carmack who is an assistant to Sen. Fred R. Harris. . . Dr. Richard V. Andree, chairman of the department of math and astronomy, is lecturing at a university in Dharwar, India. . . Dr. E. Leigh Secrest, associate dean for graduate studies and research for the College of Engineering, has resigned to take a post at TCU. . . Dr. William A. Chance, assistant professor of economics, has resigned and accepted a post at the University of Missouri. . . Dr. Kennon H. Shank, professor of speech, has resigned to take a position at University of Indiana. . . Dr. Alexander Kondonassis, chairman of the department of economics will be a Fulbright lecturer in his native Greece next year. . . Dr. David French, associate professor of English (see page 12) and Sumitra Suwannabha, graduate student in English (*Sooner Magazine*, Nov. '64), are co-winners of the 1964 Errett R. Newby Awards, given to a professor in Arts and Sciences outstanding in teaching and advising. This year the teacher was asked to name a student to receive a \$50 award.

PHOTO CREDITS
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While you're up, get me a grant.

By Ken McSwan in the Washington University Alumni News