

the university

Dr. Donnell M. Owings

A tragic accident took the life of an outstanding University professor in February. Dr. Donnell M. Owings, professor of history, died of injuries received when he was hit by a car as he walked along Berry Road the night of Feb. 26. "Dr. Owings was one of the country's outstanding historians," said Dr. George L. Cross when he was notified of the professor's death. "He will be remembered by his students for his counseling as well as for his fine teaching."

An authority on American history and genealogy, the 50-year-old Owings was associate dean of the Graduate College, a member of the Rhodes Scholarship selection committee, and an adviser to students in the honors program. At the time of his death he was developing a special course in U.S. history for educational television. Several of his telecasts have already been shown. Dr. Owings held a BA from DePauw University where he was initiated into Phi Beta Kappa, and received an MA and PhD from Harvard. In 1957 he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study the university system in New Zealand. He joined the OU faculty in 1946. Survivors include his wife, Elisa; a daughter, Margaret Inez, and a son, Gregory. Memorial contributions may be made to the Dr. Donnell M. Owings Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Shorts

Mrs. Bernice Duncan, associate editor of *Books Abroad*, has been named to replace the late Dr. Robert Vlach (see Sooner Scene, page 1) as editor. . . Julian J. Rothbaum, president of the Board of Regents, and Mrs. Rothbaum have established the Carl Albert Award to be presented annually to the graduating senior in the College of Arts and Sciences with the highest academic rank who also shows "moral force of character and promise of future service to the state and nation." The recipient will receive a \$100 grant and a plaque. . . The most successful Red Cross blood drive held at OU was completed Feb. 5. A total of 1,053 pints of blood were donated, and as a result students will receive a half-day holiday on April 4. Dr. Cross promised the break from classes if 1,000 pints were collected. Almost 300 students were turned away on the last day. The response made the University Southwest champions according to the drive chairman who added that the amount was triple that donated at that Stillwater college. "The blood's purer, too," he added. . . The University is considering a change in the school calendar which would end the first semester in December and could leave room for a trimester program. The plan under consideration would move up the starting date for classes, enabling the first semester to be completed just before the Christmas vacation with the second semester beginning the first week in January. . . The title of the Department of Government has been changed to Department of Political Science.

There has been no change in course or degree requirements.

Cupid and Computers

OU is one of a growing number of schools throughout the country where Cupid's aim is being aided by computers. At last count four firms were vying for the affection—and dollars—of students, offering to match them with compatible partners of the opposite sex through the use of electronic "brains." Those who avail themselves of the service pay a fee of from \$2.50 to \$3, depending on the firm, to fill out a questionnaire which asks for attitudes, opinions, interests, and tastes in areas like religion, literature, politics, pastimes, sex, and music. The answers are programmed into a computer which hopefully will submit a list of names and addresses of persons who come closest to sharing said attitudes, opinions, interests, and tastes.

Some of the questions are multiple choice, some true-false, others ranking on a scale, some yes-no. Samples: "I would describe myself as (1) conservative Democrat (2) liberal Democrat, (3) conservative Republican, (4) liberal Republican, (5) indifferent, (6) other." True or false: "Once in awhile I will laugh at a dirty joke. I do not like to see women smoke. The only interesting part of a newspaper is the funnies. It does not bother me that I am not better looking. I feel that the morals of college students are lower than they should be." It's now possible for a conservative Republican agnostic who prefers Sibelius and enjoys hikes to meet another conservative Republican agnostic who prefers Sibelius and enjoys hikes—with a minimum of bother. It's too early to tell how successful this method of technological matchmaking is, but those fellows who write love songs maybe should begin looking for words that rhyme with "computer."

Sports

Gymnastics—Most Oklahomans are about as familiar with the sport of gymnastics as they are with camel-breeding. Its equipment—side horses, parallel bars, horizontal bars, rings, mats and trampoline—is seldom found in a home's hall closet with the baseball gloves, golf clubs, basketball and shoulder pads. Despite a lack of tradition, fans, and lettermen, Coach Russell Porterfield and his gymnastic team have begun OU's first season in the sport in auspicious fashion—simply by beginning. Starting from extreme scratch, Porterfield and his nine varsity greenhorns have improved with each meet although they have failed to win one through February. This is the sport's third year of competition in the Big Eight, and OU will probably be in the thick of things in another year or so. Porterfield has recruited a creditable freshman squad (three of the ten have high school experience), and with his youngish varsity should improve noticeably by next year.

Basketball—Finishing with a strong kick worthy of a good miler, Coach Bob Stevens' boys pounded down the home stretch with four victories in their last six games to grab fourth place in the Big Eight with a 7-7 mark. The game that clinched a first division finish—the first in three years—was particularly pleasing since it came against our cousins, the OSU Cowboys, at Stillwater, 69-53, for a three-game seasonal sweep from Hank Iba's hapless crew.

The Sooners were led in '65-'66 by a pair of Dallas sophomores, 6-7 Don Sidle and 6-5 Willie Rogers, who were to OU what those four heads are to Mount Rushmore. Sidle cracked LeRoy Bacher's school scoring record of 428 for one season with 441 points for a 17.6 average, was the best rebounder with 228 and made the all-conference second team. Rogers, who can make some cats seem clumsy by comparison, was close behind with 400 points for a 16.0 average and 211 rebounds. Jim Johnson, a 6-5 dead-eye jump-shooting junior from Duncan, was the only other player in double figures with a 10.1 average.

For the year the Sooners were 11-14, losing five games by five points or less. The team jelled in the latter third of the season, largely because Mike Rooney recovered from a protracted case of attitude sickness and flashed some of his highly touted talent. Seniors Alan Axley, George Hawkins, Joe Bogan, Tom Flood and Rooney will be gone next year. With Sidle, Rogers, and Johnson will be guards Terry Due, a junior, and seniors Allen Gott and Bill Beery and junior forward Rick Kersey for Stevens to shape into a contender. There will be no help from the frosh squad. The freshman team can most politely be described as "weak" although there are more descriptive words that could be used. The Sooners will again play in the Field House, a magnificent structure when it was built in 1928 (Calvin Coolidge was President) but now of interest only to a few historians. Recruiting with the Field House as a selling point is like trying to match your penniless brother with Zsa Zsa and Sooner basketball fans should expect no miracles—like a better than .500 season—in 1966-67.

Swimming—Betting against OU in conference swimming is as foolhardy as trying to rob the stately Wayne manor. For the twelfth straight year, our swimmers left the rest of the league high and dry. The conference meet, held at the South Base, again was dominated by Coach Jay Markley's men, who won only four of 18 events but had the depth to finish with 134 points. Runner-up Kansas had 81, Nebraska 76½, Iowa State 72, K-State 49, OSU 31½, Colorado 12 and Missouri 6. OU placed at least one swimmer in each of the 13 individual races and took two firsts and a second in the relays, failing to score only in the two diving events. Fifteen individual marks were broken and nine pool records fell.

PHOTO CREDIT

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