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THE COVER: The composite design by Jim Billingsley of this first issue of a new school term represents some of the articles inside. In an attempt to be as well rounded as our alumni, we present such varied subjects as physics, flora, football, and faraway places.

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sooner scene

As the University of Oklahoma opened its doors this month to some 4,000 new freshmen students there was an air of excitement and optimism on the campus. Despite the strained budget under which the University is operating this second year of the biennium, limited merit raises were possible for some outstanding faculty members due to an increase in student fees and increased enrollment.

Since President G. L. Cross announced his intention to retire within the next two years there has been a feeling of suspense on the campus. The Regents appointed a faculty committee to do the initial screening of prospects for this important position. The time schedule the committee has set for itself is to complete its work and report to the Regents not later than January, 1967. It is likely that the new president will be named during this school year, and therefore will have an opportunity to serve as president-elect for at least a year. This will give him an opportunity to become familiar with the complexities of this great university and to take advantage of the experience and wisdom of President Cross who has served in the position with distinction for nearly 25 years.

The chairman of the campus nominating committee is Professor Gilbert C. Fite, a research professor of history. Also serving on the committee is Mr. Louis K. Sharpe, Jr., president of the Alumni Association, and Mr. William O. Whitehurst, president of the student body. The committee will forward recommendations to the Regents, and the Regents will make the final decision in the selection of a president as is their right and obligation under the constitution of Oklahoma.

Only students ranking in the top half of their high school graduating class may be admitted to the University of Oklahoma or Oklahoma State University in the future. This announcement was made by the State Regents for Higher Education on September 26, marking a substantial change in admission requirements. The new admission policies will be effective beginning with the school year 1967-68. Other changes made in the state system include a requirement at the four-year state colleges that enter-

ing freshmen be in the upper two-thirds of their graduating classes.

The most exciting competitive team representing the University of Oklahoma is the College Bowl Team appearing each Sunday afternoon on the General Electric TV show. The team has looked good winning on two consecutive Sundays, and by the time you read this column they will have gone the limit of five shows for a championship or will have been eliminated by another university. Members of the team include Ed Balsinger, Madill junior; Ralph Doty, Oklahoma City senior and team captain; Stephen May, Oklahoma City sophomore, and Steve Wilson, Rush Springs, junior.

Coach of the team is Dr. J. R. Morris, acting dean of University College. An alternate member who accompanies the team each week is Bill Giezen-tanner, Oklahoma City junior. These bright, interesting students have won friends throughout the nation and have enhanced the image of the University. Sponsors of the television program report that the OU team has received more fan mail than any other group ever to appear on the show.

During the first week Coach Morris was faced with a critical situation when Ed Balsinger, one of his star performers was injured while playing touch football. Balsinger underwent a knee operation in Oklahoma City and flew to New York the next week wearing a 20-pound cast on his leg. Balsinger looked a little pale on the program but it was quite obvious that the injury had in no way affected his sharpness.

A committee of OU alumnae leaders, headed by Mrs. Frank Ivy of Norman as chairman, met on Sept. 10 to discuss ways by which OU women can organize for greater service to the University.

The next meeting has been called for Oct. 11 and within a few weeks a well defined program for all alumnae will be announced. This will be the first organized effort in the Big Eight designed specifically for women among the alumni groups.

