The Bane of the Individualist

The Changing Rules and Regulations

There Was a Time When Romance Was Discouraged at the University

By Charles Roper

In this tongue-in-cheek story, Sooner staffer, Charles Roper looks at past and present rules and regulations, and comes up with this amusing story.

The informative booklet also explained that University regulations provided for the control of athletics by the students. The control was exercised through the Athletic Association, an organization of students who attended the playing of football and other sports. Football, the booklet explained, had been "played in earnest" for the last two seasons at the University.

In 1904 the University rules and regulations book was devoted largely to the conduct of freshmen. It is customary, the rules said, "for college students, and compulsory for preparatory students to attend chapel." Factiously they added, "It is customarily compulsory to laugh when a member of the faculty or a visitor gets off an old joke in chapel."

The freshmen continued to bear the brunt of the regulated life in 1925. In addition to the little stringent rules, Monday through Thursday, they have an 8 p.m. curfew and other nights the same as upperclasswomen.

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Tuition was free in 1899 to those who were "bona fide residents of the territory." Along with the rules for admittance and class attendance the housing situation was discussed. With an unbelieving blink of the eyes one reads: "Board, including furnished rooms, can be had at from $2.50 to $3.00 a week. Clubs are in operation which bring the expenses of living somewhat lower."

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That happened in November 1934. The often criticized University rules and regulations were again the center of the student ire. Agitation began to have the rules amended so that week-day dating could be permitted. But the students had to wait several years while the evolution of the rules took its unhurried course.

Today the regulations have been liberalized so that men may call in the women's houses from 4 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 4 p.m. until 12:30 a.m. Friday; 12:30 p.m. until 12:30 a.m. on Saturday and 12 noon until 10:30 p.m. Sunday.

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The University President W. B. Bizzell then announced a group of rules firmly to the students that they were violating University regulations by dating on Monday night and asked them to disperse. Obediently the oval-faced girl rose and returned to her sorority house, slightly indignant with University regulations.

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because the board of regents had not met since the student election was held.

The red letter day in rules making was May 1949. In that month students got a break when faculty members were requested to dismiss classes on the hour and not hold students over-time, thereby making them late for the next hour's class. Whether faculty members have become lax in regard to this request or students have found a good excuse and refuse to change it, no one knows. But students will walk into class and with a poker face tell their prof the 15-year-old story about being kept overtime.

Alcoholic beverages, gambling and raffles are included in the 1948 student handbook. "Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is not permitted on the campus, or in any University building or student residence. Alcoholic beverages must not be taken to any affair sponsored by a student organization."

Another sobering little chapter in the 1948 student handbook is entitled "Cheating Penalties." They are not referring to rules to be followed in intramural sports.

Heartlessly they expound: "1. A student guilty of cheating on a paper or quiz, other than the final examination, may be suspended for the remainder of the semester. 2. A student guilty of cheating on final examination may be suspended from the University for the following full semester." The reader will note that mention is made only of the guilt of cheating, not of the apprehension. Possibly students always confess to their crime when qualms of conscience get the better of them.

Each year the Student Handbook carries more and more regulations covering a wide variety of subjects. The 1949-50 handbook has regulations covering such subjects as loud speakers, decorations, sign painting, political meetings and soliciting. This handbook also contains the rules on alcoholic beverages, gambling and raffles, possibly included in order to remind studentsthat such things do exist elsewhere.

President Cross receives a concession in the new regulations. To prevent his front lawn from being trampled periodically by holiday seekers the handbook says, "Athletic victory holidays will be granted only when the University wins a clear conference title in either football or basketball, or when the basketball team wins a national championship."

Students are again reminded in the 1949-50 handbook of the matter of class attendance: "A passing grade will not be given in any course in which a student has not attended at least 80 per cent of the class recitations and laboratory periods. Some students are still confused over "going to school" and "attending school." This clarifies the point for them.

The old bugaboo, Calling Hours, has been revamped for the coming year. Girls gain 30 minutes time on Friday, being allowed to stay out until 12:30 a.m. instead of 12 midnight. But they lose 45 minutes of social time on Saturday night under the new University ruling. They have to be in by 12:30 a.m. on Saturday nights instead of 1:15 as it was last year.

The 1949-50 rules permit a student to own a car with a slight stipulation, "Every student who owns a car, or intends to use a car not owned by him for any period, however short, must register such car at once at the Safety Office on Felgar Street." Some students walk despite the liberalized ruling. So the University rules and regulations which started out as a few page booklet covering only a few subjects has grown to a 70 page affair, touching on everything from "Absences" to "Withdrawal."

SEPTEMBER, 1949

Sooner Co-captains, Jimmy Owens, No. 81, and Stanly West, No. 64, present a confident front before the Boston College game.

Predictions Are in Order

Just how strong will the 1949 edition of the University of Oklahoma football squad be? Who will replace General Jack Mitchell, '49, Blackwell, at quarterback? Can a replacement be found for Myrie Greathouse, '48s, Amarillo, Texas? Will Paul "Buddy" Burris, '49s, Muskogee, departure mean a slackening of the forward wall?

By the time this issue of Sooner Magazine is in the hands of the alumni some of these questions will be answered. By that time O.U.'s Sugar Bowl champs will have invaded Bean-Town for a September 23 opener against Boston College. Said George Trevor, veteran Eastern observer, in the 1949 Illustrated Football Annual in regards to what the Sooners will have in Boston:

"Denny Myers, the coach who believes in his boys and dares to admit it, threatens to put the two-platoon system to scorn by operating with three complete elevens. He has them big and he has them plenty up on Chestnut Hill, and the Irish coach-neighbors from the Hub of the Universe are splitting in the eye of a Finn McCool schedule and proclaiming the greatest Eagle array since All-winning 1940, the song of Frank Leahy's consensus."

Sooner alumni will have a chance to determine whether this bit of journalese is prophetic or not.

If it is, then another veteran sportswriter, Grantland Rice, will stop something short of being a seer. In the latter part of August, Rice and Look Magazine announced to an awaiting world that the Oklahoma's would field the best eleven in the nation.

Said he, writing in Look, that he hated to name any team better than the rest in September.

He continued, "But if I were surrounded by king cobras and forced to make a selection, I would nominate Coach Bud Wilkinson's big, fast, deep, aggressive University of Oklahoma squad."

Rice singled out Darrell Royal, Hollis senior, as a potential replacement for Mitchell and pointed out several other Sooners headed for honors. The list included: Lindell Pearson, Oklahoma City junior, and George Thomas, Fairland senior, backs; Jim Owens, Oklahoma City co-captain and end; Wade Walker, Gastonia, North Carolina, tackle; and Norman McNabb, Norman, and co-captain Stanley West, Enid, guards.

Behind the Sooners were listed Michigan, Vanderbilt, Cornell, Southern Methodist, Notre Dame, Army, Minnesota, Michigan State and Tulane, in that order, for national football supremacy.

Said Coach Wilkinson on being notified of the Rice ratings: "I hope that they (the Sooners) get by the Sooners when the Mantis of the alumni some of these questions will be answered. By that time O.U.'s Sugar Bowl champs will have invaded Bean-Town for a September 23 opener against Boston College. Said George Trevor, veteran Eastern observer, in the 1949 Illustrated Football Annual in regards to what the Sooners will have in Boston:

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So much for the predictors, who are also starting the drums rolling for Owens, Walker, Royal, Thomas, et al, for All American honors. What is important is the basis for the prognosticators' pickings.

Gone from the Sugar Bowl Crew are All-American Burris and standouts Mitchell, Greathouse, Nate Trotter, '49, Boger Texas; Pete Tillman, '49, Manhattan, Truman Wright, '49, Houston, Texas, and Bill Reedy, '49s, Midland, Texas.

Says the football brochure prepared by Harold Keith, '29s, '39s, Sooner Sports publicist:

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