The First Drama Tournament
Sponsor Calls It Success and Outlines Next One in 1930
By Prof. Ray E. Holcombe, Playhouse Director

With the establishment of the first state drama conference and one act play tournament held at the University of Oklahoma November 22, 23 and 24, 1928, as an annual event, the Playhouse of the university has launched forth on a real career. "A university theater in the service of its state," the motto of this university dramatic organization, has taken on an active meaning if the interest aroused by the conference continues.

More than two hundred persons attended the three day session of Oklahoma dramatic organizations which was held in the fine arts building of the university. Six Little theaters and nine high schools were represented in the contests. Forty-one directors of dramatic organizations were entered on the register at the conference sessions.

The Playhouse trophy, a buffalo mask on a plaque, the whole in bronze, designed and made by Cedric Marks of the fine arts faculty, was awarded to the Tulsa Little theater, winner in the Little theater contests, and to Ada high school, winner in the high school contests.

Three outstanding figures in university theater activity who addressed conference sessions were: Professor E. C. Mabie, head of the department of speech and director of the university theater, University of Iowa; Professor Allen Crafton, director of the university theater, University of Kansas; and Professor H. Miles Heberer, director of the Manhattan theater, Kansas state college.

State speakers of prominence on the program included Richard Dickinson, director of the Tulsa Little theater; Professor William O'Connel, director of the Manhattan theater, Kansas state college; and Professor H. Miles Heberer, director of the Manhattan theater, Kansas state college.

The next annual state conference and drama contest will probably be held in February, 1930, during the next school year. In this meeting separate conference sessions for Little theaters and high schools will probably be held. An award for original material presented, will be made. A more definite provision for time in the matter of preliminary contests will receive attention in the plans for the 1930 conference. It is the aim of the second state drama conference to make ample provisions for the remarkable growth of dramatic activity in the state.

The response given the conference and contest idea at its innovation was phenomenal. The answer to such a display of overwhelming enthusiasm and such a high caliber of work as was presented is this: Oklahoma has been very much alive in this type of work; the state simply needed an outlet. The gratifying effects of the contests, conferences, exhibits of materials, pictures, make-up, books, plays, etc., and the individual conferences with directors of the state, promise continued and more extensive conferences.

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Hazing Abolished

Hazing in all its forms at the University of Oklahoma was ordered abolished by the board of regents at its meeting in Norman, November 9.

This order makes mandatory and completes the progressive work begun a year ago by Dr. W. B. Bizzell, president of the university, to eliminate gradually this undesirable survival of what Edith Johnson of the Daily Oklahoman calls the "cow town" days.

The text of the board's regulation follows:

"Whereas, the practice of hazing in universities and colleges has in many instances resulted in serious physical injury, and frequently fatalities; and,

"Whereas, it does not serve in any form the purposes of such institutions; and,

"Whereas, it has been condemned by school authorities, parents of students, and the public;

"Now, therefore, be it resolved by the board of regents of the University of Oklahoma, that all forms of hazing at said institution, on or off the campus, including the practices of fraternities during so-called 'hell week,' public initiations of various organizations, the enforcements of rules and regulations by vigilance committees, or individuals, are hereby abolished.

"The president of the University of Oklahoma is hereby instructed to transmit this action by the board of regents to the student body, and to the national officers of fraternities having chapters at this institution.

"Passed by the board of regents of the University of Oklahoma on November 9, 1928."

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First Drama Tournament

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FUTURE projects considered by the conference include collective bargaining in the matter of royalties, and an elevated standard of ethics toward the royalty problem, especially regarding the enforcement of royalty payment where it is due. A better standard of material for presentation will be proposed. An attempt will be made to blacklist trashy material for high school use, just as certain books are censored for high school reading lists. The dissemination of material regarding choice of plays, high school stagecraft, and stage equipment will be disused. Another important measure to be considered is the certification of high school dramatic art teachers. There is considerable need of separation of the sheep from goats in the matter of distinguishing between play coaches whose interest is in entertainment, and directors of dramatic art whose interest is in education in an art with a great heritage.

The establishment of a strong dramatic art section of the State Teachers' association will be suggested at the next meeting of the conference. The fostering and development of native playwriting will be undertaken as another problem of importance and value in the dramatic field. The conference will also encourage the extension of aid to Little theaters in the process of formation.

To tabulate the results of a conference such as the one held in November would be difficult. To suggest what may come of the handing together of those who are vitally interested in the growth of dramatic art in Oklahoma, is almost a prophecy since the results are far-reaching. However, in the immediate future projects such as the ones just named may well result from the meeting held this year.

Telegrams and letters wishing the conference success and expressing regrets at their absence were received just before the opening of the November conference, from Dean Frances Davis, Oklahoma College for Women, Miss Isabel Ronan, Tulsa Central high school, Mrs. Josephine Layman Story, Children's theater, Tulsa, and Professor Wayne Campbell, Oklahoma City university.

Beautifying the Campus

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The need for better water became so great that deep wells were dug on the campus, but these had even greater percentage of soda in the water. Even now, the plants are given very little water except during times of drought. Just lately after a dry period of six and one-half weeks, it became necessary to use the water sparingly until a rain could bring color and fresh life back to the plants. Many of the flowers you miss on the campus are those which cannot stand sodium water.

Other interesting things are being planned for the campus. At present Mr. Craven is experimenting with water plants in the lily pond and in front of the women's resident halls and at

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