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 coursework 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.

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, panty 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 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 it’s membership participated in the national SDS march on Washington 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.

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.

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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 tortoises 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. 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 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.

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 world-wide praise. A London scholar called it “magnificent: a mental feast.” Lothar Steinhm of the University of Heidelberg, Olga Ragusa of Columbia University and Maynard Mack of Yale were among the chorus of grateful readers.

The special 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. Chmeln, Wolfgang Lockemann, Gustav Mueller, John Paul Pritchard, Calvin G. Thayer and Vlach. Edith Copeland is author of the survey of 1964 American fiction.

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The National Institute of Allergy and In-
While you're up, get me a grant.

By Ken McSwan in the Washington University Alumni News