How a Phi Psi Tried to Organize a Chapter
Of His Fraternity at O. U. Back in '99

In the files of the Norman Transcript for 1895-6 in the archives of the state historical society at the state capitol appears a series of columns headed "University Notes by Criss Cross." Under this nom-de-plume, C. Ross Hume, '98 arts-sc., was probably the first reporter on the University of Oklahoma campus. Later when the first university publication, the Umpire, was established in 1897, Hume was on the staff as exchange editor.

Again Mr. Hume assumes the old pen name and gives a brief sketch of university life in the latter part of the nineteenth century, telling of the social activities of those days.

"The Pierian literary society (still extant) was organized in 1893, and in 1894 we started the Philomathic. There was much rivalry between the two until a merger was finally effected. Bi-monthly meetings were held, and many activities were engaged in such as debate and essay writing. It gave us some place to go, and was quite the thing in those days.

"Later a dancing club was started and met in the old stone building down on Main street, where the university was started.

"The state historical society was located formerly at the university, and the custodian and founder, W. T. Little, who was a member of Phi Kappa Psi, selected a group of ten boys in the winter of '98, and the day we received the news of the blowing up of the Maine in Havana Harbor, we organized the first fraternity on the campus, Eta Kappa Nu. The fraternity was organized as a local, which was later to petition Phi Kappa Psi for a charter. Eta Kappa Nu was in existence for about four years, when it ceased, and its grave lies with others on the campus, its name unmarked and unseen. It was twenty years later that Phi Kappa Nu installed a chapter in Norman. Mr. Little was the father of Sally Little Brandt, wife of the editor of The Sooner Magazine.

"The social activities of Criss Cross and his companions would be considered very ordinary these days, but there was a friendship among the students and with the few faculty members, which is still true and warm, and much that we had when we were few in number, is missed today by the larger group on the campus."

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Debate Tour Cancelled

The eastern tour of the university debate team including scheduled engagements with Columbia, Boston and Pittsburg universities, Williams college and the University of Detroit, has been called off on account of lack of funds, according to Kenneth H. Abernathy, debate coach. The shortage results from the fact that money voted for the purpose by the student council last fall has become involved in the council's financial difficulties.

Mr. Abernathy expressed his disappointment. "Although it was the fault of no one in particular," the debate coach said, "we feel that we have lost a valuable opportunity. To our knowledge Oklahoma has never had debates with Columbia, Boston, or the University of Detroit, and tours of this kind furnished the most desirable kind of publicity for this university in the east."

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So They Organized

Norman has more organizations, we venture, per capita, than any other city in the United States. If Sinclair Lewis, who is reported to have spent some time in Oklahoma last year investigating conditions in our fair state, failed to visit Norman, he missed a rare treat.

The newest organization is that of the Treasurers and stewards of Norman's fraternities. Bud Neptune was elected president, and members hope to be out of the sea of doubt soon through discussion of common problems.

While we are on the subject, one of Norman's many garden clubs, we understand, devotes its meetings to bridge.

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Why Not in Oklahoma?

Northwestern has just received $3,000,000; Michigan $1,750,000; Cornell $1,500,000; Harvard $3,000,000. These were individual gifts.—Notre Dame Alumns.

The Sooner annual goes to press April 11, and will hit the campus on or about May 10. At the present time, typewriters are being pounded "dermigh" to death in order to get copy in on time.

For the first time in the history of the publication, the book will contain subdivision pages created and drawn by university students of the fine arts college. In the past, artists not connected with the university in any way, have been employed to do the work, but through the cooperation and efficiency of our own art department, many attractive, unusual and futuristic drawings will appear in the book. Miss Winifred Stahl, fine arts senior, is in charge of the art layouts.

The staff points with pride to a twenty-four page feature section, which is twice as large as the corresponding section last year. Another added feature of the book will be a society section including thirty popular co-eds, who have set the pace in the social world of campus life. These pictures will appear in the book as a sub-division of the beauty queens.

The "Campus Racket" section portrays the life of a student from the time he forsakes the plow and farm, and carries him through the thrill and frivolities of college life, finally showing him with diploma in hand ready to go back to the farm from whence he started.

Respective sections of the book will be closed with appropriate pictures. For example: The society section, which will be opened with a full page picture of eds in a campus barber shop, receiving tonsorial attention in preparation for the ball, will be closed with a full page picture of worn-out shoes bearing the sad but true title, "After the ball was over." Closers to other sections of the book will not be revealed at this time.

A hot razz section is slated to appear in the book if the assurances of the staff are to be taken at face value. They have promised to be unmerciful in their assault and battery on certain students composing a club of campus errata.

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Columbia university has the largest faculty in America, with 2,075 professors and instructors.