The Last Page

Depending on How You Look at It
Editor:
There have been some outstanding issues in the past, but the December issue, in my opinion, is tops in eggheadism. The poorly written, self-contradicting article by Louis West (is that his real name?) would merit an award by the Ford Foundation. I am one O.U. graduate who does not approve.

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On Mobs and Maturity
Several times during home basketball games this season, officials have had to halt play while they and the players removed debris thrown from the stands. Chunks of paper, coins and ice have been hurled at the referees after unfavorable calls against the Sooners. Shrieking and booing while an opposing player shoots a key free throw is common here. After the OSU game in Norman, it was necessary for two lettermen to escort the officials to their dressing room to prevent any incidents.

Abuse of the officials and unsportsmanlike conduct toward the visiting team is worse than childish; it's sick.

John Waldorf, supervisor of officials for the Big Eight, believes sportsmanship begins at home: "It's up to the responsible leadership of the campus to see that fans are a credit to a school rather than an embarrassment." Waldorf, who would like to see a sportsmanship award created for the conference, feels that in general the situation is improving at most places in the conference. Our conference has been fortunate in that no player or referee has been hurt by objects thrown by fans. There have been injuries at other places. "Basketball is a fast, and exciting game," says Waldorf, "and we certainly don't want to discourage yelling. It's possible, however, to watch a fast, exciting athletic event without becoming abusive and overtly belligerent."

Poor sportsmanship is a disease which if it can't be cured can certainly be arrested. Campus police should eject those who throw things. Announcements on the public address system asking for cooperation from the crowd should be made regularly. Players, coaches and more mature spectators should set an example for our weaker fellows.

Athletics at the University of Oklahoma should not be sullied by behavior on the part of spectators, coaches or players which is less than sportsmanlike. The spirit of sport is undermined by unsportsmanlike conduct. "But how you played the game" is still important.