Clearing the Desk

By R. C.

AN EARLY SEPTEMBER breeze plays with the fountain spray splashing into the memorial pool between Monnet Hall and the Union Building. Upstairs in the Union a dance band is rehearsing for the rush week bookings. Students drift in, looking for jobs, looking for rooms, looking for education—looking for life. It seems far removed from the bloody chaos of Europe. Yet the war situation is an ever-present backdrop that influences all the thinking on the campus. Students miss hundreds of friends and classmates and football heroes who are now serving in the armed forces. Many students are preparing themselves for particular jobs in the national defense program. Practically all realize by now that the world they will live in when they leave O. U. will be vastly different from the one in which they grew up.

PROVIDING LEADERSHIP is the indispensable job facing the nation’s colleges and universities. More than ever, the nation needs intelligent, calm, reasoning, well-informed leadership. The only hope of getting this kind of leaders in any quantity rests with the institutions of higher education.

AMERICANS, like the British, can always forget their troubles long enough to enjoy athletic events. And it is probably a sign of emotional stability that we can get pleasantly excited over football, in times like these. However, football prospects this fall are something to get excited about. For years, many football fans have cried for more fast, open style of play. Snorter Luster is planning to give it to them in large doses. Speed and deception may not win every game; but give it to them in large doses. Speed and form will have a lasting effect on many students and alumni as well as other citizens of the state. His emphasis upon the worth and the satisfaction of scholarly achievement has been of great value to the cause of education in this state.

PRESIDENT JOE BRANDT, who once presided very capably over the city desk of the Tulsa Tribune, believes it not unreasonable to draw an analogy between the job of city editor and that of a university president. He can see himself as “city editor” of the University, sitting in the slot of a horseshoe shaped city desk that is the University campus, and handing out work assignments to hundreds of “reporters” who are the faculty members. One may be assigned to “cover” the fields of history and another natural science, and so on. The routine work in their fields they cover without direct aid from the city desk. When a big story breaks involving matters of policy, the city desk is consulted for directions as to how it is to be handled. Of course Joe Brandt would be the first to say that this idea could easily be carried to the point of absurdity. But it is significant in that shows what a personal and collaborative relationship he wants to establish with faculty members.

THIS ISSUE of the Magazine starts a year’s subscription for persons receiving degrees in 1941. A number of these new graduates have written in during the summer to ask why they were not already receiving the Magazine. The reason is that it requires several months’ work to prepare the addressograph stencil list for some 1,400 June and August graduates. So the subscription starts with the September issue and will continue through August, 1942.