Enrolment Zooms Up

Number of students on campus represents a near 10 percent increase over student population in 1953.

By LARRY LEVIEUX, '55

The number of students on campus this semester is greater than any since the postwar boom of 1945-50. Although the official enrolment figures have not yet been released, Dr. John E. Fellows, dean of admissions and records, said that a “substantial increase” is indicated over last year’s total of 9,103. An early official estimate places the figure at more than 9,900. The enrolment increase is welcomed by the University, and no major problems are anticipated.

In the housing situation, despite the acquisition of the 244-unit Parkview apartments for married students in May, the start of the fall semester saw all University housing filled. Garnet Colliers, director of housing, said that accommodations for all classes of students, single men and women and married students, show an increase over last year. In addition, most fraternity and sorority houses are full. It appears that a housing problem will be staring University officials in the face if the present trend toward increased enrolment continues next year.

Another indication of the school boom this year is the number of new pledges of the 25 fraternities and 13 sororities. The largest number of men and women in the history of O.U., 506 women and 528 men, pledged during rush week.

The enrolment procedure, with the usual torrent of sectioning, was substantially the same as in past years. The majority of freshmen escaped the ordeal because of last summer’s pre-enrolment. The larger number of students made the lines a little longer and the classes a little more crowded, but in general it ran pretty smoothly. One innovation put into effect this semester was the requirement that the newly-enrolled student pay his tuition fees in the sectioning hall. A few grumbles were heard, but most of the students shruggingly accepted the new bit of red tape.

Football games will be as large as ever (with the exception of last year’s Notre Dame game). Regular season ticket sales are approximately the same as last year, but student ticket sales decreased slightly in total sales. The decrease can be explained by the absence of a crowd-drawer like the Notre Dame game. One bright spot, however, was the increased interest in the Texas game at Dallas. This, too, has a logical explanation; the price of Texas tickets to students has been reduced to one dollar. This was welcome news to students who felt that prices like last year’s four dollars were too high.

Football is the big interest on campus this fall, as usual. Although several of the pre-season polls placed the Sooners as the number one team to beat in the nation, Bud doesn’t feel quite so confident. He calls the 1954 edition of the Crimson and Cream the “most overrated” team ever produced at O. U. Even if Big Red does live up to its advance newspaper clippings, goes through the season undefeated, and cops the Big Seven Conference crown for the seventh consecutive year, no bowl trips can be made. The conference ruling on the Orange Bowl tie-up eliminated that. Most Sooners, however, would settle for another national championship.

The opening day of class found the Union fountain room the most popular spot on the campus. Practically everyone connected with the University arranged for a 10 o’clock coffee break in his schedule. All the campus politicians and socialites were present, of course, jockeying for position at the “wheels” table, and the peculiar O. U. custom of “coke dates” was in full swing.

Like the beginning of every other semester in the past was the heart-breaking session in the bookstores. There, students grudgingly parted with the fistfuls of money required to purchase those necessary evils, textbooks.

The parking problem is acute. The increased enrolment and the new ruling allowing freshmen to drive cars on the campus have strained the already overburdened parking facilities. Last year, the complaint was that the student must put a nickel into the meter to park on the campus. This year, the complaint most often heard is that there is no meter available to put the nickel into.

The latest in a long line of college fads is the wearing of Bermuda shorts on the campus. Last spring, a few courageous pioneers started the thing, and despite gusts from classmates and scornful looks from the faculty...
In taking his second Winan's Medal, Earle racked up the awesome record of five firsts in five events for 25 points: 100- and 200-yard dashes, 220 low hurdles, broad jump and pole vault. As versatile as a shoplifter with a gunny sack. But every event was not to be so easy.

The Sooners had traveled to Pawhuska to play an Indian team and the Indian rooters were taking it to heart—betting everything they owned, could borrow or filch on their red brothers' ability. Concerned for their investments—to state it mildly—they paraded up and down in front of the hotel where the team was staying. They shouted threats and tried, it appeared, to put a heavy dose of evil eye on the boys.

As Radcliffe describes it now, "The next day we beat them and we hurried back to the hotel, and, boy, we stayed inside." An uneasy night passed and at four in the morning the team got out of town. Those Indians were scalping mad.

Another time after a game some kids stoned the Sooner players as they rode back from the field, but no one was hurt. "There was a lot of rivalry in those days," Radcliffe commented modestly.

At the close of that semester he had won four varsity letters, a full season for a boy who was also elected editor-in-chief of the Mizzette yearbook and who was serving on the Athletic Council as well as studying rigorously for an economics-sociology degree.

The year 1907-08 stacks up well, too. Football had flooded, if not his life, at least the Fall, and he played in every game. Mainly quarterbacking. He picked up a letter in basketball, but to his disappointment baseball that spring was disallowed because several players had dropped in classwork. He recouped the lost satisfaction by breaking his own Southwestern Conference pole vault record in an intercollegiate meet in Austin, Texas; 10 feet, 10 inches, touching the clouds in those days.

The next year presented him with letters in football, baseball and track, and he captained the track team. Graduation came up with his degree completed. He stuffed the sheepskin in his pocket and accepted the year's scholarship for advanced study at the University of Chicago. When the year passed and September again carried the term baseball that spring was disallowed. Earle had left O. U., said his goodbyes and had gone. But immediately in that winter of 1912, the same curtailed that would mark the finale of football would at the same time throw open the stage for another exciting career.

Radcliffe returned to the Enid Eagle, where he stayed until 1917, leaving after five years to become news and sports editor at the Oklahoma City Times, and still later to become news editor of an expanding Daily Oklahoman. It was from 1912 on that he experienced the adventures that newspapermen build dreams on.

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The Invincible Earle . . .

Continued from page 3 tournament. After grabbing a sandwich and changing clothes he joined the baseball team to help beat Chilocco Indian School, and when they were off the field he won first in the 220 low hurdles in a track meet, final event in the Winan's competition.

The Photo-Radar Intelligence course at Lowry A. F. B., Denver, Colorado, and has been transferred to the Photo-Radar Intelligence course at Lowry A. F. B., Denver, Colorado, and has been transferred to Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

EASTMAN-SMITH: Miss Elton Eastman, '53bus, California City, and Herbert Earl Ware, Jr., '53bus, Inglewood, California, were married June 5 in St. Luke's Methodist, Oklahoma City, and Henry Fry Simms, Oklahoma City, and Charles D. Hixson, Oklahoma City, and Henry A. Rieger, '54bs, and Harold L. Mathias Jr., '51bus, both of Ada.

The year was 1910 and Sooners were overjoyed at the prospect of the star's return. A headline read: "The Return of the Invincible Earle Radcliffe to the State University." A later newspaper story told of the O. U.-Aggie game that Fall:

"With two minutes to play, Rad grabbed an onside kick and made the sensational run of the day, going 80 yards through the field of pursuing Aggies only to be brought back by Umpire Davis to Stillwater because of an alleged offside . . ." O. U. still won, 12-0.

The season ended Radcliffe's stay at O. U. In addition to his spectacular sporting success, Earle did nearly as well in school life off the playing fields. As a freshman he became the first pledge and first initiate to Gamma Phi, local fraternity, and was its secretary-treasurer. When the group merged with national Beta Theta Pi, he was initiated as a charter member and became its first president, serving from October 1907 to June 1908.

He sang in the University Glee Club, was a member of the YMCA and the Forum Society. He was elected editor of the Umpire, bi-weekly school newspaper, in 1908, in addition to his work on the Mizzette and the Athletic Council.

After leaving O. U. he was to be named an honorary member of Sigma Delta Chi, journalism fraternity, and in 1912 he was elected vice-president of the Oklahoma Alumni Association. When the original lifetime "O" Cards were issued in 1917, Earle received the first one, listing football, baseball, track, tennis and basketball letters.

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