

THE SOUTHWESTERN ALUMNI NEWS

UNIVERSITY
OF TEXAS



SOUTHWESTERN
MEDICAL SCHOOL

VOLUME VIII No. 1

ISSUED IN DALLAS

SPRING, 1959

BLOODY BUT UNBOWED DIVISION

The University of Texas has been celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary. As a feature of the entire celebration The Regents appointed a committee, called the "Committee of Seventy-Five", to engage in a process of self-analysis and assessment. Not long ago the report of this committee was made public. It is possible that some of you have seen it and may have remarked the rating given S. M. S., which was certainly not as high as we desire.

Lest some of the alumni misunderstand the meaning of the rating and come to the conclusion that things are slipping, the editor thinks it a good plan to indicate what all this means and perhaps to explain in a measure why the committee was not complimentary.

Implicit in the committee's original directive was to look at the entire University and determine to what extent it missed the goal of a "university of the first rank", the term used in the Constitution of the State in describing the kind of university the State of Texas would undertake to establish and operate. The attitude of the committee apparently was that the framers of the Constitution meant just what they wrote when they used

the term "of the first rank". Such a term cannot mean the best in the South, the best in Texas, the best in the Southwest, the best for its size or the best for its age. It can mean only one thing: that the University of Texas must be equal to the best anywhere. Put in terms of comparison, the directive meant that the committee had to say, "is the University of Texas as good as the best state universities in the country?" This would mean comparison, for example, with the U. of California, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Iowa, and possibly with others. Furthermore, when one speaks of a "university of the first rank" he can't limit his comparison to State universities; he must also consider Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia and other private institutions. Nor can the comparison be to a single aspect of the University's operation. It must apply to each aspect and to the total.

Using yardsticks of this sort, the Committee of Seventy-Five in honesty could hardly have come in with any other findings. But before going on to the situation with respect to S. M. S., the editor would like put in his two cents worth, in complete approval of the yardstick. What it means is that the

university administration at Austin and the people they selected (none of them faculty members) to make the assessment of the entire university are concerned with unmitigated excellence. This is an attitude a little new to Texas, where we have tended to be satisfied--or what is worse, boastful--if we could find something of which we could say, "This is the best of its kind in the state, in the region or of its age." Such an attitude reflects boosterism but not the pre-occupation with excellence that results in great schools or hospitals or anything else.

To turn specifically to S. M. S., the report was prepared at a time (so far as the editor can learn) when we had not yet moved into the new Clinical Science Building. Moreover, it covered the entire school and all its activities. It is perfectly possible now, as it was when the report was prepared, to pick certain departments or areas of activity and to say that these compare well with similar activities anywhere. But it was, and is, possible to pick certain other areas and to say that in these S. M. S. is rather mediocre. If this is true, we're certainly not of the first rank.

Where does the school stand, then? You have had reports from time to time on such aspects as the growth and present size of the library, the size and composition of some of the departments, the size of the budget and the amount of grants per annum. None of these things alone nor perhaps any sum of them can quite serve to place a school adequately. Dean Gill in studying the fiscal status of the school has said that we stand somewhere in size of faculty, in amount of grants and in hard operating money at about the junction of the middle and upper thirds of all the schools in the country. (Bear in mind that this position has almost literally been achieved in the almost ten years since we became a part of the University.) That's a fairly respectable accomplishment and it may indicate reasonably well where we might be rated--if a national rating were

undertaken. For safety's sake--and decency's--suppose we say we're just within the upper forty percent. At the same time we should admit we're not in the top ten.

That means we must face the question of whether we want to be or not. Do we want major league status or to remain in the bush league? Even if we want to stay in the middle, are we able to do so under the law and the Constitution that has determined our direction by use of the words, "of the first rank?" The editor hopes his own position is clear and hopes it's communicable; he's all in favor of divine discontent with anything less than the best.

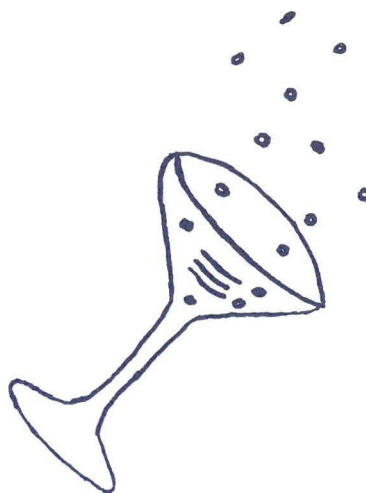
RECURRENT DREAM DIVISION

There has been occasion before this to mention those brave words, Student Union. The time is almost upon us. A series of talks among the faculty and students is underway to determine just what the Union should contain. As the Alumni can readily understand, the problem is partly attached to the question of what kind of housing is to develop on the campus. Specifically, what the fraternities have to decide is whether or not they want to have separate and individual housing at their own expense or if not, what kind of designated dormitories and meeting places they want on the campus. Around this question revolves the ultimate decision as to the type of kitchen and dining space allocated in the Union Building. As soon as these and some similar problems have been resolved, the plan is to put the requirements in the hands of an architect. The decisions involved are not devoid of interest to the alumni since experience all over the country has been that they have to carry a considerable responsibility of construction of fraternity houses. If any of you have sentiments, it would do no harm to drop a note to the Sou'wester.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE BANQUET MARCH 23.

Party Time

ANNUAL REUNION
in conjunction with
Dallas Southern Clinical Society Meeting



MARCH 23, 1959

CHEZ MAURICE CLUB
2447 W. Northwest Highway
(same place as last year)

8:00 p.m.

\$6.00 per person includes: Dinner, set-ups, soft drinks, (BYOL-Bring Your Own Liquor), Music and dancing Gratuities.

Consult your Alumni Directory and bring an intern or resident as your guest. If you have no particular intern or resident in mind, then send us a check for \$12.00 to cover the evening's entertainment and we will see that some house officer and his wife or date come as your guests. State specifically on each check you send what it is for and if we are to find guests for you.

House Officers who want to come and who cannot afford the price of the party are asked to signify this by letter to Dr. John S. Chapman's office, 5323 Harry Hines Boulevard, Dallas 35, Texas. An effort will be made to provide tickets for those house officers who request them in this manner.

The success of the party depends on early planning. Send your check today!

Reservation Card

Please detach and send to The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Division of Alumni Relations, 5323 Harry Hines Boulevard, Dallas 35, Texas, with your check for reservations to the annual Alumni Reunion on March 23, 1959 at the Chez Maurice Club, 2447 W. Northwest Highway, Dallas, Texas.

Enclosed is a check (or money order) in the amount of \$ _____

Please make reservations for the following:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Date _____

Signature _____

ALUMNI NOTES

Dr. and Mrs. Edward L. Rhodes (53) announce the arrival of Carol Marie, on August 15, 1958. This is the fourth addition to the Rhodes family.

Dr. and Mrs. Eldon K. Siebel (D'44) have a new baby boy, John Elliott, born on October 7, 1958 at Methodist Hospital in Dallas. The parents are extremely proud since this rounds out a family of three girls and one boy.

Dr. and Mrs. Irvin Kurtz (58) welcomed a son, Jeffery Lee, on November 1, 1958.

Dr. Julia Van Burkleo (57) and Mr. Hoyel Van Burkleo are the parents of a daughter, Margaret Ann, born on September 28, 1958.

Dr. Joann Horton Goatcher (55) and Reverend Earl Goatcher are the proud parents of a baby girl, Lisa Ann, born on November 19, 1958. Dr. Goatcher is practicing Pediatrics in Fort Worth while her husband is attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. David A. Cristol (53) is Chief Resident in Internal Medicine at Massachusetts Memorial Hospital in Boston. Last year he was at The University of Alabama and the two previous years with the Air Force in Alaska. He writes: "I am looking forward to hanging out my shingle in Fort Worth come next July."

Dr. Charles H. Fuller (55) has been in Boston at The Massachusetts Memorial Hospital in Surgery since 1955, and was recently appointed Chief Resident for the year beginning July 1, 1959. He writes: "We will probably return to Dallas to practice, and it will be great to get back to God's Country." The Fullers have two boys.

Dr. Alan Hertell (49) writes from Atlanta, Georgia: "After six and one-half years of blood-banking and disaster-chasing with the Red Cross, I began to get an uncontrollable urge for a quiet little practice. I began life as a second year resident in internal medicine at Piedmont Hospital in July. My family is doing nicely. We have two children, Jan, age four years old and Eric, age two years old."

Dr. Neill B. Longley (56) has been accepted for an appointment as a Junior Assistant Resident in the Department of Radiology at The Washington University School of Medicine beginning July 1, 1959.

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5323 Harry Hines Boulevard
Dallas 19, Texas

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