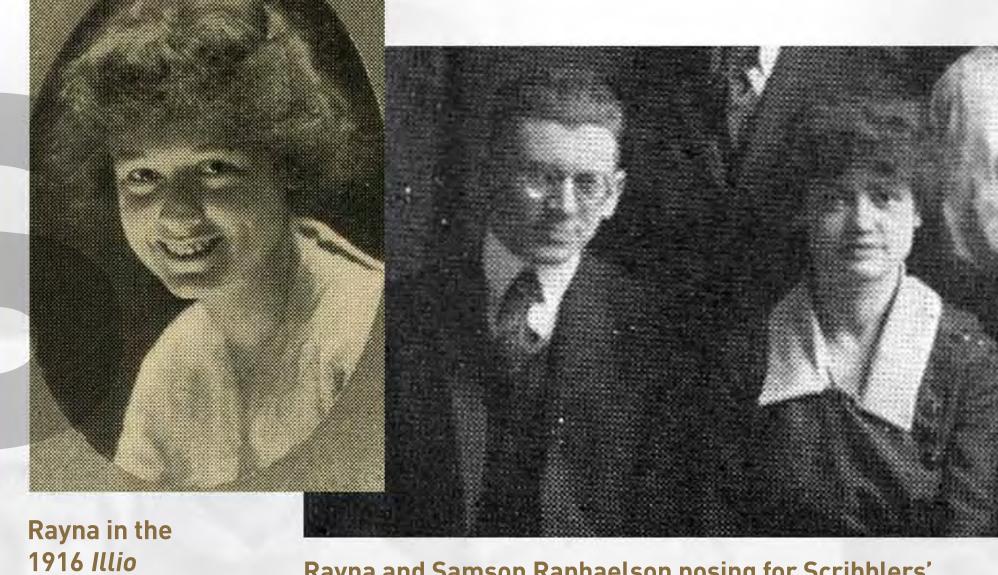
Rayna Simons Prohme, '17, entered the University during an era when the campus was full of intellectual ferment. The ruby-haired daughter of a wealthy Chicago broker, Prohme thrived in this stimulating academic climate. She quickly became a campus leader, joining numerous organizations including the Daily Illini, the Scribblers' Club, and the Alethenai Literary Society. Yet the popular and intelligent Rayna was never invited to pledge a sorority. Her friend Dorothy Day attributed this to anti-Semitism. After graduation, she married her classmate Samson Raphaelson. The marriage did not last and she later wed the newspaperman Bill Prohme. Rayna traveled to China and ultimately became editor of the Chinese Communist Party's English-language newspaper in Hankow. She died in Moscow in 1927 of a brain inflammation. She was only 33 years old.

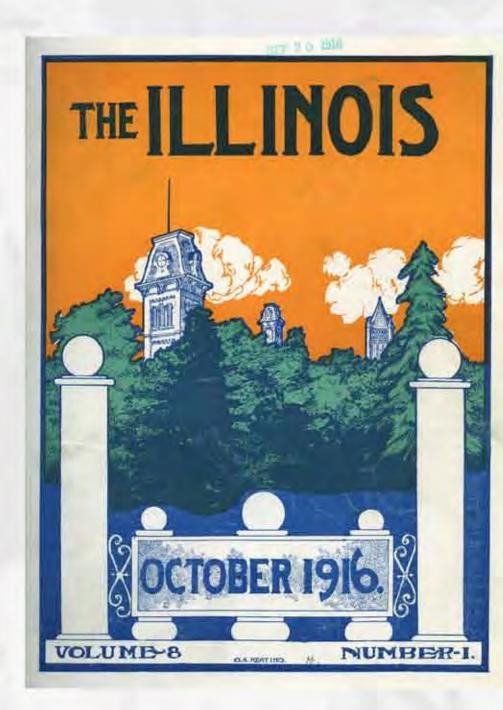
Samson Raphaelson, '17, triumphed over childhood poverty to become a Big Man on Campus (BMOC) at the University and later achieved success as a Broadway playwright and Hollywood screenwriter. Raphaelson was already engaged to Rayna when the pair entered the University in the fall of 1914. Breezing through his classes, he had plenty of time to engage in extracurricular pursuits: he was a member of the Cosmopolitan Club and the Scribblers' Club and an editor of *The Illinois Magazine* and *The* Siren, a satirical magazine. After graduation, Raphaelson hit it big with his short story "The Day of Atonement," which was turned into a Broadway play and then a movie—"The Jazz Singer," the first full-length film with synchronized sound dialogue. He went on to write the scripts for such cinema classics as "The Little Shop Around the Corner," "Trouble in Paradise," and Alfred Hitchcock's "Suspicion." He died in 1983. "I think about her often," he said of Rayna late in life. "I've wanted to write about her. I've never quite found out how."

Dorothy Day, 1914-16, first saw Rayna Simons Prohme on an Illinois Central train hurtling toward Champaign one September day in 1914. In a passenger car full of students returning to school Rayna stood out. "She was like a flame with her red hair and vivid face," Day recalled. "She had a clear, happy look, the look of a person who loved life." She soon became friends with Rayna and Raphaelson and it was this dual friendship that sustained her during her two years at the University: "I must have known that such friendships come only rarely in a lifetime and I treasured every hour we had together." Day left the University in June 1916 never to return. She lived a bohemian existence as a radical journalist in New York City until 1927–the same year Rayna died–when she became a convert to Catholicism. Day founded the Catholic Worker Movement and tirelessly crusaded for social justice until her death in 1980.

"That last year at the University was an idyllic year; fall, winter and spring, glowing with health and youth, we enjoyed them all, the burning heat of the prairies, the dry cold of the winter snows, the smell of the upturned blue-black earth in spring. We enjoyed it all because of Rayna, who gave her loving heart to both of us, entering into all our plans and dreams and making us feel capable of great things." Dorothy Day on her final semesters at the University (1915-16) and her friendship with Rayna Simons Prohme and Samson Raphaelson, from The Long Loneliness (1952)



Rayna and Samson Raphaelson posing for Scribblers' Club group photo (from 1918 Illio)



WHAT RED DOESN'T KNOW thut up. I guess I always did know more till Jimmie called him Mr. Ruggles. They told him about how father'd gone down to Mother never told Red about how Mr. see about the wheat, but he'd be in in just ever wanted to at all for ever so long. how he won't ever come to our house with out I never could, because mother made me father say that to mother. So I was sure and it's true, too. I do, because Mr. Rug- be Mr. Ruggles was glad to see him, to got awfully black eyes, and gee, his hands Red's always talked about Mr. Ruggles, fast enough all right. They talked and ie's always bragged and bragged because Once Mr. Ruggles laughed too. I guess didn't look around to see where I was and

Mother'd left me downtown at the they should go for dinner. I knew that office and father was to bring me home. they were going to leave me behind, but I

ven if he does say that he wouldn't.

Rayna wrote "What Red Doesn't Know"-a rare (for her) fictional

piece--for the October 1916 issue

of The Illinois Magazine, which

she edited with Raphaelson and

others.

Marriage announcement

Raphaelson bitterly

remembered it as "a

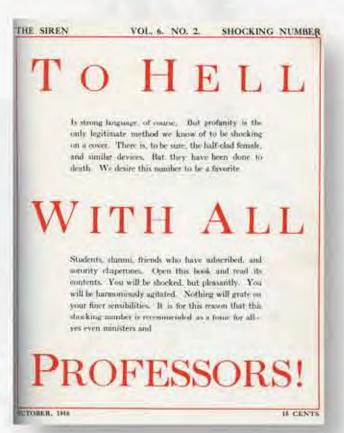
pretty damn skimpy

wedding."

sent to Thomas Arkle Clark

by Raphaelson, Jan. 1, 1918.

"To Hell With All Professors," cover of Oct. 1916 The Siren. As editor-in-chief of The Siren, Raphaelson often took potshots at University professors and officials like Thomas Arkle Clark.



Raphaelson in the

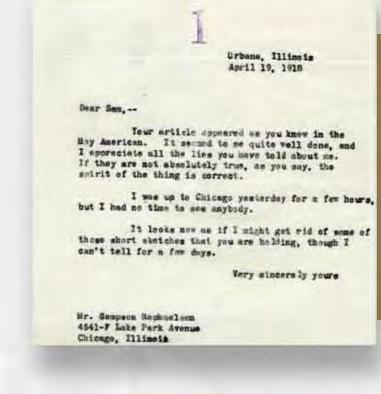
1918 Illio



Despite The Siren cover, Raphaelson idolized at least one professor: Stuart Pratt Sherman. "I fell in love with him," Raphaelson later asserted. "He was my first father image." Raphaelson wrote this tribute to Sherman (who was a famous literary opponent of H. L. Mencken) in the Sept. 23, 1956, Champaign-Urbana Courier.



Day in the Scribblers' Club (from 1917 Illio). She is in the back row, center, and Raphaelson is on her left.



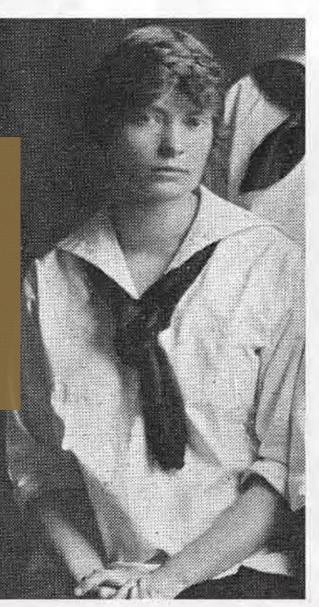
Raphaelson may have had issues with Dean of Men Thomas Arkle Clark, but he nonetheless wrote an adulatory profile of Clark for a 1918 issue of The American Magazine. In this letter to Raphaelson, Clark expressed appreciation for "all the lies you have told about me."



Day on the sophomore hockey team (from 1917 Illio). She is in the center of the photo with a slight frown on her face. Day later remembered hearing the strains of "a Bach prelude on the university organ as we played hockey on the field in back of the big auditorium."



Daily Illini, April 19, 1916. Rayna probably wrote this article telling of an ankle injury sustained by Day during her last semester at the University. Day fondly recalled Rayna bathing her foot in hot water and reading to her from J. M. Barrie's Tommy and Grizel.



Dorothy Day played on the sophomore basketball team during her final year at the University.

University of Limois Archives



Nina Ruth Harding in the 1922 Illio



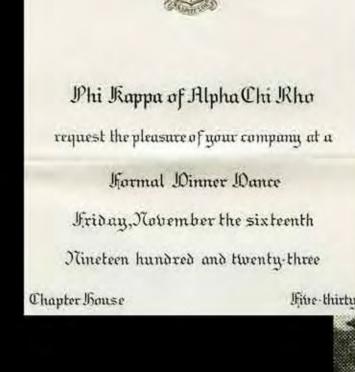
Logan Peirce in the 1925 Illio

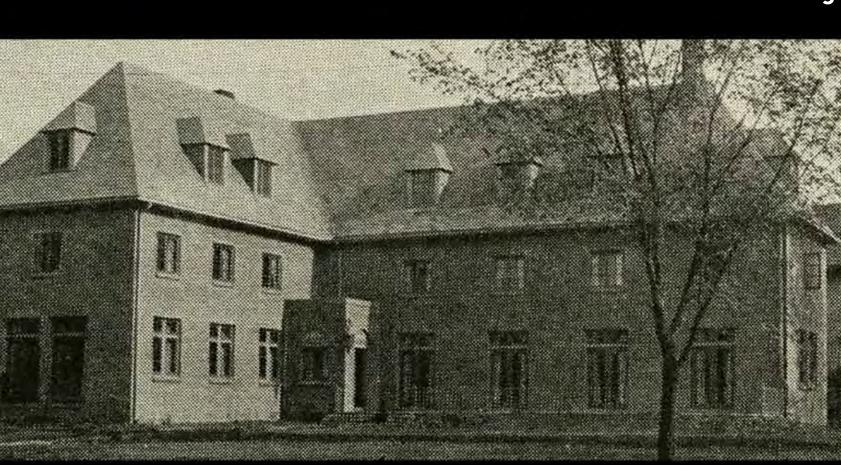
Miss Harding Tells Of Troth To Pierce

The engagement of Nina Ruth Harding '26 and Logan E. Pierce '24 was announced at dinner last night at the Alpha Delta Pi house. The announgements were suspended in a wishing well by pink and white ribbons from the place eards. Sweet Heas completed the color scheme. Miss Harding is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. H., Harding, East St. Louis, and is a member of Alpha Delta Pi. Pierce, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Pierce, Chicago, is a member of Alpha Chi Rho fraternity. No date was announced for the wedding, will

Daily Illini article, May 25, 1924, announcing engagement of Nina Ruth Harding and Logan Peirce

Nina Ruth Harding, 1920-21, 1924-25, and Logan Fletcher Peirce, '24, met in the spring of 1921 and embarked upon a relationship that began with great promise and that ended in unspeakable tragedy. They were both freshmen and both members of Greek organizations, she belonging to Alpha Delta Pi and he to Alpha Chi Rho. Harding was forced to leave the University after her freshman year but she continued to see Peirce on occasional weekends and to communicate via letters. In the spring of 1924 Harding returned to the University as a 21-year-old sophomore and shortly thereafter she and Peirce announced their engagement. On February 9, 1925, they were married and less than a week later Nina Ruth died of what the newspapers called an "illegal operation." Peirce also suffered a premature death, succumbing at the age of 36 in 1939.





Invitation to dinner dance, Nov. 16, 1923, at the Alpha Chi Rho mansion (pictured). Nina Ruth and Logan attended many dances at the newly built chapter house of Logan's fraternity. The University's Greek system experienced a building boom in the 1920s offering much-needed accommodations for the growing number of students. The student population jumped from 8,000 in 1920 to over 12,000 by 1929.



Harold "Red" Grange eluding defenders at the Illinois-Iowa game, 1925, and letter, Logan to Nina Ruth, Oct. 15, 1923. Like many others, Logan Peirce marveled at "the long end runs" of a sophomore halfback named "Red" Grange. "We've got a man called Red Grange," Logan wrote Nina Ruth in the early fall of 1923, "and he is the best football player I ever saw." The gridiron exploits of "Red" Grange would play no

the national spotlight on

lege life in general.

Oct 15 23 Deanest Red I get a good buch out of calling you that. football game yester day from Butter 21- 7., and everel up for last years befeat. It rained all during the game and every one was soated - but we wo so what do we care! Were got a man called Red grange in the team this year and he is the best football small role in helping focus Pager I ever saw. 940 mill be an all-american sure. The won both games all by humself by molany five college football-and on col-





at Memorial Stadium and Stadium east stands, Nov. 3, 1923. On Nov. 3, 1923, Logan Peirce attended the first game ever played at Memorial Stadium. In a vivid letter to Nina Ruth he described the sight. Dear, the spectacle here Saturday was beyond my powers of description," he raved. "It was wonderful! 62,000 people jammed into the stadium. Chicago, with their maroon colors, formed an enormous C in the east bleachers. The players looked like midgets-but you could see wonderfully well." The Illini defeated Chicago by a score of 7-0 and that night "the campus was nothing but a wild howling mob of half crazy homecomers," with the booze "floating around everywhere."

Logo for the inaugural game



ILLINOIS

Albert Spurlock, '38, '39, arrived on the University of Illinois campus at the height of the Depression, and he found a racial climate that had changed little since the days of William Walter Smith some thirty years before. Local restaurant owners routinely refused to serve African-American patrons and white and African-American students rarely socialized outside of class. Nonetheless, Spurlock, a track star used to overcoming hurdles, enjoyed his years at Illinois, and he earned a B.S. in industrial education in 1938 and an M.S. the following year. The Peoria native taught industrial education at Crispus Attucks High School from 1942-1966 and at Northwest High School from 1966-1978, both in Indianapolis. While at Crispus Attucks, he was the assistant coach of the famous Oscar Robertson-led team that won the Indiana state championship in 1955-the first all-African-American team to win a state championship anywhere in the nation. Spurlock retired in 1978.

George Fell, '38, developed a passion for the outdoors as a young boy exploring the natural areas near his beloved Rockford, "The Forest City." As a University student, Fell set his sights on a career as a naturalist. Though burdened with a science-heavy course load, the botany major found time to join the Men's Independent District Association, a group devoted to the interests of independent men. After graduation, Fell received an M.S. in wildlife management from the University of Michigan, served in Civilian Public Service work camps as a conscientious objector during World War II, and helped found what became the Nature Conservancy, an environmental organization dedicated to the preservation of natural areas. He died in 1994.

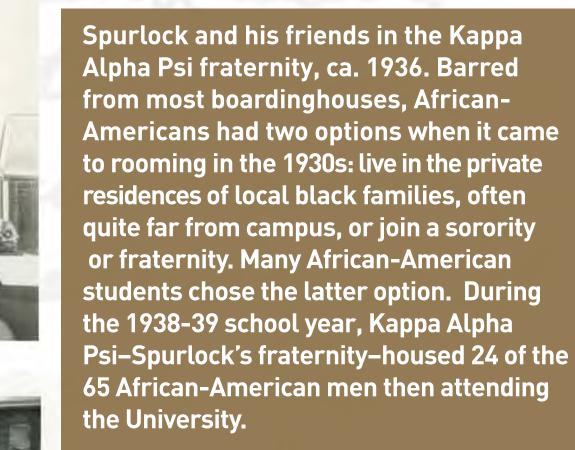


ca. 1936. Spurlock lettered in track in 1936, one of the first **African-American students** at Illinois to do so after World War I. "For awhile there, way back in the early 1900s, there were a few blacks that had won letters at Illinois," Spurlock stated in a 2001 oral history interview. "But, in between, because of discrimination and the coaches didn't want to be bothered with it, I guess, the blacks couldn't win a varsity letter."



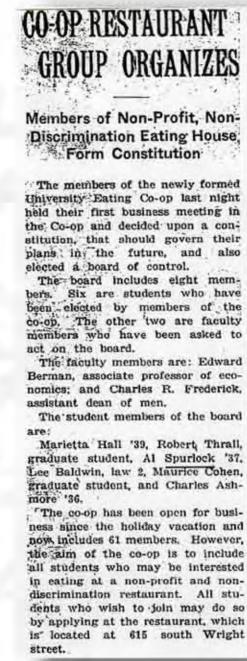


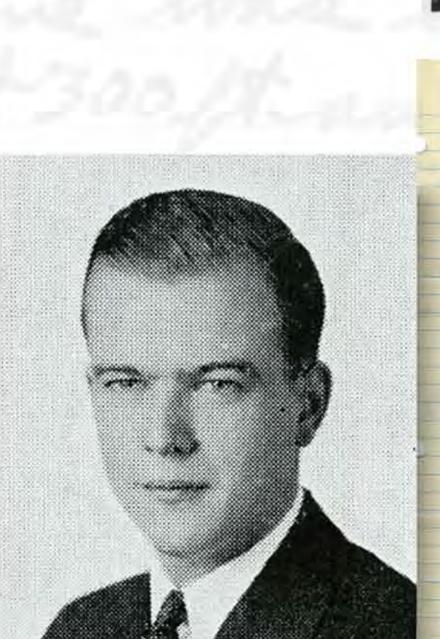
Fraternity members and their friends get ready to ride in a Ford Roadster parked outside of the Kappa Alpha Psi house, ca. 1936



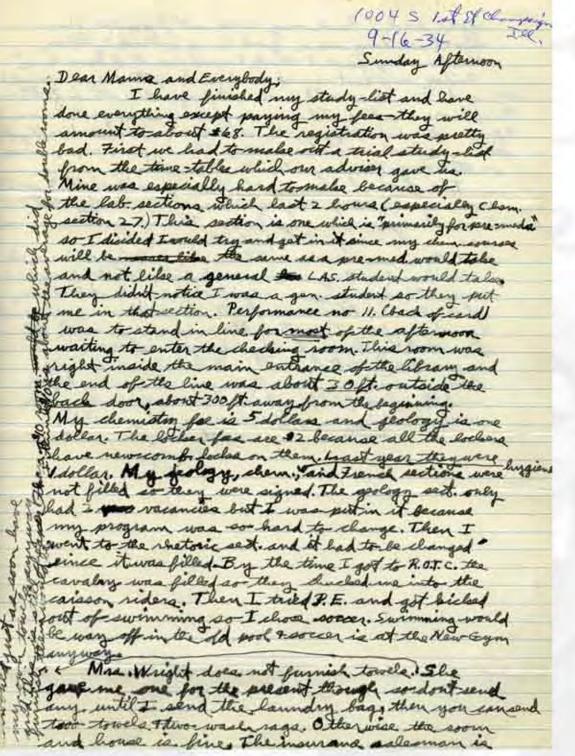
Daily Illini, Jan. 11, 1936.

Late in 1935 Spurlock joined a group of students and faculty members in a plan to organize a restaurant open to everyone regardless of race. A contemporary survey found that African-American students had to walk over a mile from campus to find a restaurant that would serve them (with the notable exception of the Home Economics Cafeteria in the Woman's (English) Building, which, however, only served lunch.) The cooperative restaurant slid into debt and closed its doors in the fall of 1936. A decade later this discrimination by campus-area restaurant owners finally ended as a result of a picketing campaign waged by a multiracial group of students and community members.





George Fell in the 1938 Illio



Course registration at the Library, 1938, and letter, Fell to "Mama and Everybody," September 16, 1934, describing the "pretty bad" registration process. In 1955 student registration was moved from the Library to the Armory. In 1995 the course registration process went online.



Group photo of M.I.D.A. (from 1938 Illio). During the Depression era the influence of Greek organizations waned (between 1930 and 1934, 26 campus fraternities disbanded for financial reasons), and independent students filled the resulting social vacuum, taking an increasing part in athletics, dramatics, student publications, and student government. The Men's **Independent District Association was a product of this trend:** the group published its own newspaper, held dances, and even established a dating bureau.



Construction of Men's Residence Hall, 1941. The M.I.D.A. lobbied for the construction of a residence hall for men. Sustained by this independent group, University officials braved the wrath of boardinghouse operators and fraternities and oversaw the building of the first men's dorm on campus since the days of "the Elephant" sixty years before. (The Women's Residence Hall was opened in 1919.)

UNIVERSITY OF LUNCOIS ARCHIVES

Wallace Hembrough, Jr., 1939-42, withdrew from the

active duty in the Air Force. After receiving training at

native graduated as a bombardier-navigator with a rank

went overseas and was stationed in Scotland, England,

University in his senior year when he was called to

various air bases in Texas, the Jacksonville (Illinois)

of second lieutenant in July 1944. In October 1944 he

and finally France as a member of the 9th Air Force,

585 Bomb Squadron, 394 Bomb Group. During a

Germany near Munster. The Purple Heart was

awarded to him posthumously.

two daughters.

mission on February 21, 1945, he was killed when

his B-26 bomber was shot down over northwestern

Millicent Sloboda Lane, 1940-44, the first woman

editor-in-chief of the Daily Illini, used the student

newspaper to champion the cause of the military

"Anyone will work for Sloboda and work hard," an

associate remarked. "Milcy has spent six semesters

and drive that leaves no doubt of her efficiency and

ability." After leaving the University, Lane worked for

the Associated Press, the Globe Wire Service, the East

Lansing Town Courier, and the Lansing State Journal.

She married newspaperman Roger Lane and they had

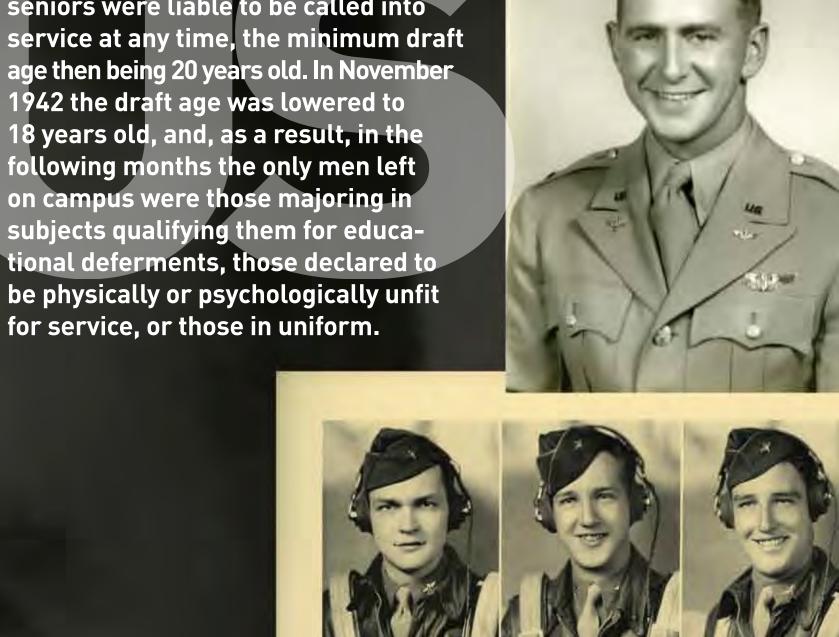
trainees and veterans on campus during the war years.

A native of Argo, "Milcy," as she was popularly known,

had the complete respect of her mostly female *DI* staff.

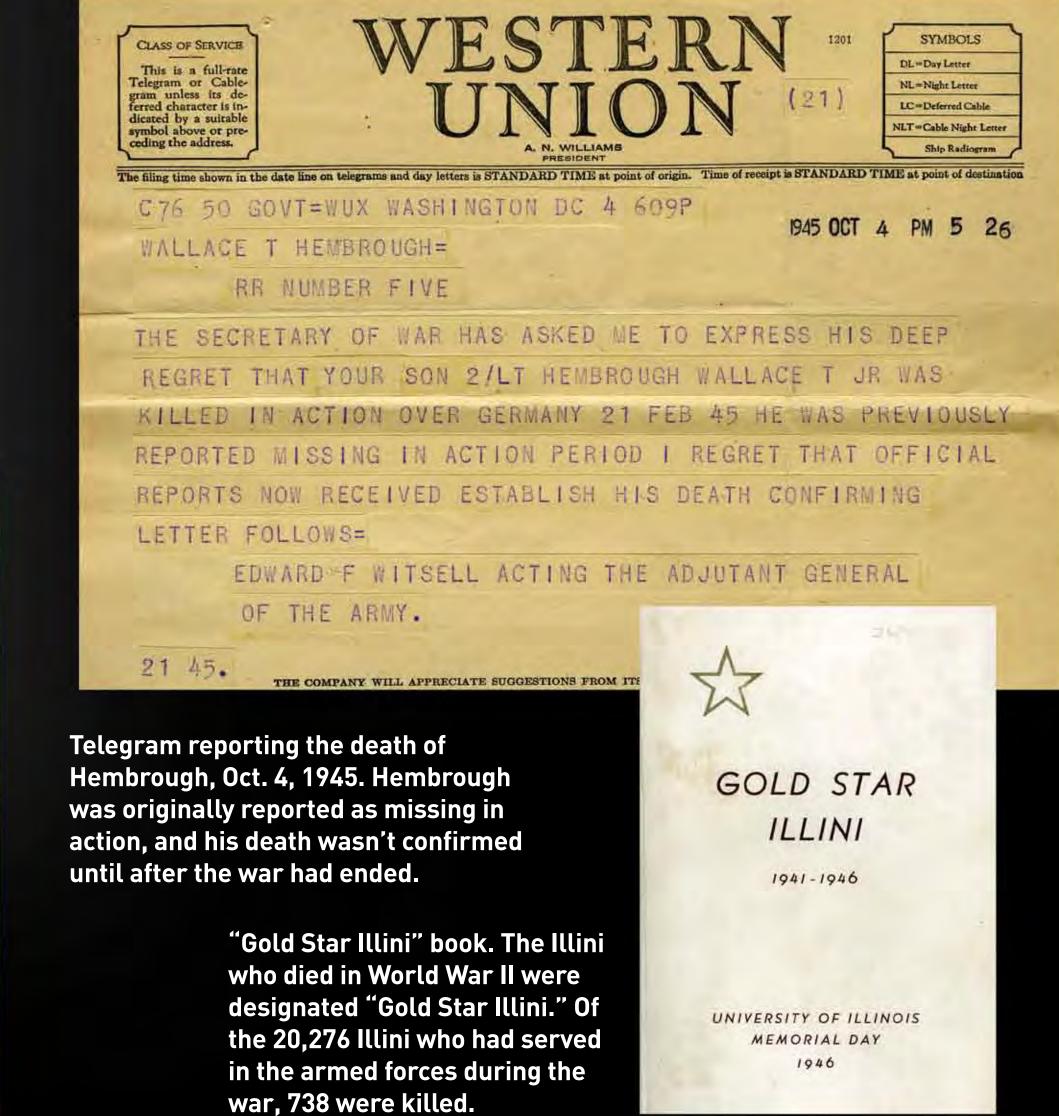
doing big tasks and dirty little jobs with a thoroughness

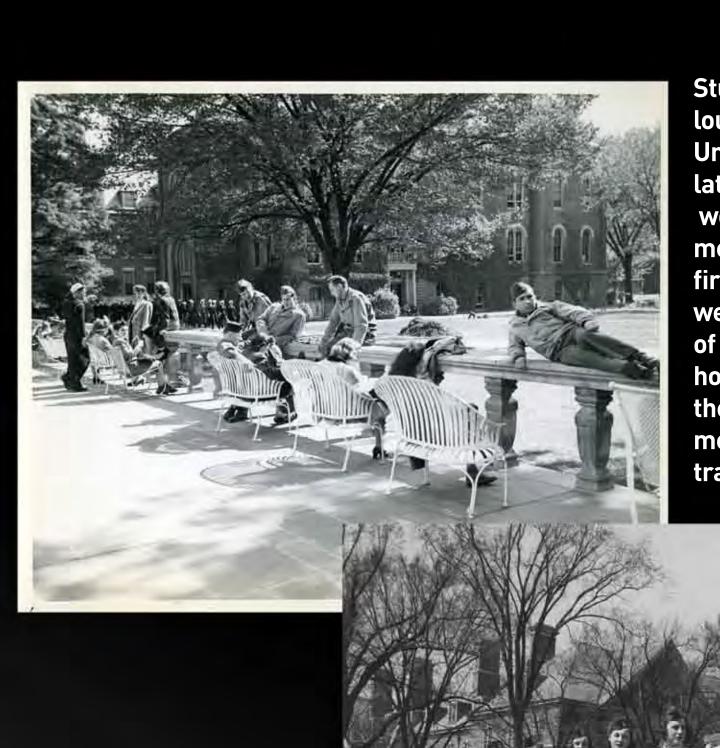
Wallace Hembrough, Jr., in his officer's uniform, ca. 1944. At the onset of the war, most juniors and seniors were liable to be called into service at any time, the minimum draft age then being 20 years old. In November 1942 the draft age was lowered to 18 years old, and, as a result, in the following months the only men left on campus were those majoring in subjects qualifying them for educational deferments, those declared to be physically or psychologically unfit





Page from Shack, San Angelo (Texas) Army Air Field yearbook, 1944





Students and servicemen lounging in front of the Illini Union, ca. 1944. During the latter years of World War II, women students outnumbered men at the University for the first time ever. In 1943-44 there were 3,429 women out of a total of 5,824 students. These figures, however, did not take into account the thousands of Army and Navy men who were taking specialized training courses on campus.



Millicent Sloboda Lane in 1944 Illio

Willard, a.C. July 23, 1943 President A. C. Willard 355 Administration Building Dear President Willard, -Following my conference with you yesterday morning, I talked to Miss Millicent Sloboda, Editor of the Illini, concerning the editorial published on the front page of the Illini, July 22, 1943. Miss Slobeds stated that to date the Illini had re-ceived three signed letters complaining about inconveniences caused to civilians by the army students and that at least a dozen letters had come in which were unsigned and which had been tossed in the wastebasket immediately. She stated also that a good many rumors about unsatisfactory situations, most of them of rather obscure origin and incomplete details, had been floating around the Illini office constantly. She stated further that quite a number of A.S.T.P. and S.T.A.R. men dropped into the Illini office during the evenings and that much of the talk came from the soldiers themselves. She stated that the worst situation a soldier had described was an instance in the Union where a man, who is apparently a faculty member, requested soldiers to keep their distance as the odor of their uniforms was very offensive to him; other soldiers have raised the question with reporters as to why the students and faculty are not more friendly to them and why they are treated as outsiders rather than a part of the University. Miss Sloboda said that her editorial was intended to be the finish of any mention in the Illini of dissatisfac-tion, that no further letters to the editors would be printed, and that no further editorial comment would be forthcoming. She expressed regret that the editorial was unsatisfactory and said that it was written with the best of intention to try to clear what seemed to be a troublesome situation.

Daily Illini editorial, July 22, 1943, and letter, Fred Turner to A. C. Willard, July 23, 1943. Relations between civilian students and servicemen were not always smooth. In July 1943 Lane published a rare front page editorial defending the soldiers on campus against "malicious rumors and slander." The editorial attracted the notice of Dean of Students Fred Turner, who then arranged a meeting with Lane. In this letter to UI President

Arthur Willard, Turner described what was said at this meeting.

I talked to Mr. Siebert yesterday afternoon about

the editorial, and also about any ramors that he may have heard. In general, he confirmed Miss Sloboda's statement that there

was a good deal of talk and practically all of it of the rumor

and gossip type.

Members of the Women's LET'S FACE FACTS ... versity which would detract from its great name. The Daily Illini would be the first to defend the institution. This time is no exception.

The coming of service men to the Illini campus was a change and marked the innovation of new procedures and policies in the of the service men on the campus. But according to statements leading officials of the University, there probably would be no Uni instruction in such Along with objections to the presence of the service Before becoming affiliated with the programs, they have to numerous interviews and examinations. When one realizes versity, it is not hard to believe that the caliber of these men higher than that of average students. Many of the student servi men stationed on the campus have more than one degree, ha travelled extensively, or have held prominent positions in civilian li Therefore, they naturally represent an excellent type of studen When considering the patriotic aims of the student service m as compared with the average aims of the students, one can com-prehend the all important goal toward which they are working. Certainly far more important than the ambitious, personal aspirations

Next time we hear anyone criticizing OUR service men, let u remember if it were not for them there would probably be no Un

Auxiliary Training Corps drilling, ca. 1943. For the first time in UI history, women students received military training during World War II. Under the voluntary WATC program, women drilled without weapons and received subjects as military customs and courtesy, sanitation and first aid, and map reading. Lane was a member of the