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THE COVER: Design is by Jim Billingsley from a John Hockridge photo. "The Invisible Student," a special 19-page section, begins on pages 4-5. The photos appearing on the inside cover are by Randy Jobe.

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Sooner Scene

By R. Boyd Gunning

With this issue Sooner Magazine is establishing a letters-to-the-editor department, making its debut in this column but subsequently appearing in a separate section. We invite you to correspond. Your opinions and suggestions about the University, alumni publications, the association, or whatever are welcomed. We hope to improve our communications with you through such dialogue.

Three-Legged Stool

SIRS:

Reading the January issue has put a burr under my tail—so I thought it best to drop you a note. For some time it has been evident that there is a growing problem at my favorite school—a problem of student unrest, of faculty dissatisfaction, and of poor support from the legislature. Having some roots yet in the state and two children in other schools in Oklahoma plus a niece at OU, I have a certain amount of feedback information and some understanding of the problems involved. I have tried to do my part by participating in the ADF drives—knowing the history of the state legislature. But now I have formed the opinion that your magazine is probably responsible for at least part of the attitude of the legislature. Being alums, they read your publication and resent the sarcasm and one-sided student-faculty viewpoint you print.

Maybe that is too harsh, but it is apparent that all concerned with such a school have responsibilities that demand a reasoned cooperative approach. A University really is like a three-legged stool. One leg is the students, the second is the faculty (and administration), and the third is the financial supporter (legislature, etc.). With cooperation, the stool functions; if one group withdraws, the stool tumbles. Maybe the legislature is simply deciding not to support a stool where students and/or faculty have decided they alone should run the school.

I do agree with you that being 50th in support per student is a disgrace. We need to find some way to remedy that. But using sarcasm just will not do the job. By the way, it has always seemed the magazine presents student views, faculty views, administration views, etc., but almost never the views of the alumni. Have you ever thought of publishing such contributions as "last generation's view of this generation's problems"—or "25-year alum's view of problems of higher education at OU"—or some such? If prodded, I could dash off something on the subject.

D. M. Cowart

Houston, Tex.

In the past three years the magazine has

(This Sooner Scene is written by Paul Galloway, editor of alumni publications.)

published an average of one article per issue by or about an alumnus. Our primary focus, however, is the campus and higher education, a perspective we feel is desirable. We will be happy to receive any articles about higher education you choose to submit.

On Pontificating Anonymously

SIRS:

I do not find it difficult to accept the liberal and student activist tack the magazine has taken in recent issues, especially when this tack is expressed in by-lined articles which are often accompanied by material reflecting opposing viewpoints. However, the Campus Notes column has neither by-line nor rebuttal, and although it is labeled as a news and commentary column, I frankly believe that the commentary is so biased and so often in poor taste as to completely discredit its news content. More seriously, I believe that the column is a reflection on the Alumni Association and presents views which many alumni might wish to disassociate themselves.

Examples of what I am referring to are easily discernible in the most recent issue of Sooner Magazine (January 1968). It was quite proper for the writer of the Campus Notes item entitled Awesome Absurdity to report on the Powell incident at OSU, but was it necessary to use as much space to pontificate on the meaning of the incident as on reporting it?

The simplest solution would be to take the commentary out of the column. If the incumbent editor is unwilling to go along with this suggestion, perhaps he would consent to placing a by-line on the column.

Karl E. Cocke, '59ba

Bowie, Md.

Your suggestion that the Campus Notes section be signed or discontinued is perfectly reasonable. Since we don't choose to do the latter, we'll acknowledge the writer at the close of the section.

We Like This One

SIRS:

The Sooner has always been a highly regarded publication, and I believe you are continuing that tradition, even though you may be shattering others. I am sure many alumni are shocked to discover that the Sooner has developed iconoclastic tendencies. This transformation is perfectly logical, of course, when one realizes that the magazine rightfully reflects the university rather than the alumni, and no one connected with a university these days can doubt they are changing.

William Savage

New Orleans, La.