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Oklahoma spirit

BY JAMES L. LISK, '32



SPIRIT in its broader sense means "Pervading influence; animating principle; peculiar character or quality"—the spirit of many working together to attain an end which will be mutual to all in the vast understanding of fellowship. The laying of a foundation upon which all our hopes and endeavors will blossom can only be built with a definite aim. And that aim should be doing the greatest amount of good for the most people in an honest and sympathetic manner. A clashing of ideals, or the wasting of energies on useless struggle to gain a result, which would be incommensurable to the time spent in the effort, is devastating in every sense of the word.

Politics are a motivating force which can do more harm and cause more misunderstanding between persons than any other influence. Great nations have been torn apart by politics. The influence of a few controlling the destinies of many should be of such a nature that their influence will be of the greatest benefit. Any attempt to use force to gain an end would certainly have a disatisfying flavor to it.

The true Oklahoma Spirit cannot come from pep meetings which jazz up our emotions and cause us to view with unsteady eyes a condition of mock spirit. While it is of general opinion that certain amount of color is added by such display at athletic events, can that always be a lasting monument to the spirit of the school? It is needless to say that it cannot. There is a finer and more permanent setting for ourselves

than this. We must leave this place of learning better for our being here. A feeling of animosity which arises from interschool clashes only tends to tear down any attempt to promote co-operation.

In order that the ideals of a group could be perpetuated, then those ideals should not become merely idle fancies but an actuality. The Oklahoma Spirit should be so instilled in our lives while we are in this university that, although we leave, may feel that we have gained a life long friend. We must advance with the policies of the school and the policies of the school are founded on our attitudes.

"Higher education must advance rapidly with our civilization," President Wilbur of Stanford puts it. And furthermore, "The alumni can be most helpful to their universities by supporting the faculty, by looking forward and not backward in education, by reducing their emphasis on the side shows which have a strong emotional appeal, and by visualizing the great services possible to the future of our race through universities serving as pools of trained brains working with good equipment where those who are most capable may be developed and thoroughly trained."

The engineers of the University of Oklahoma have worked to attain a deeper reverence and a greater love for worthwhile enterprises on this campus by being honest in their endeavors to advance a uniform emotion of the true Oklahoma Spirit. In their St. Pats'

open house, which means weeks of work, the engineers of the University of Oklahoma acclaim to the world a dedication of themselves and their ideals for the futherance of a truer, finer and more permanent Oklahoma Spirit.

"An old man, going a lone highway,
Came at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide,
The old man crossed in the twilight dim.
The sullen stream had no fear for him,
But he turned when safe on the other
side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"'Old man,' said a fellow pilgrim near,
'You are wasting your strength by
building here,
Your journey will end with the ending
day;
You never again will pass this way;
You've crossed the chasm deep and wide;
Why build you this bridge at evening
tide?'

"The builder lifted his old, gray head—
'Good friend; in the path I have come,'
he said,
'There followeth after me today,
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm, that has been as naught to
me,
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall
be;
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim—
Good friend, *I am Building This Bridge
for Him!*'"