

In the Mail . . .

Letters to the Alumni Secretary
and the Editor of the Magazine

SIR:

The keenest regret about my recent trip to Oklahoma is that I did not get down to the University for a brief visit. I thought it was necessary for me to get back here on a certain date and effecting that time precluded my taking a half day off to visit the University. I am sorry that I did not get down. The next time I get down to the State I expect to make a brief visit to the University. With all good wishes and kindest regards, I am

PAUL A. WALKER, '12LAW
Washington, D.C.

SIR:

Enclosed find check for \$3.00 dues for this year, also include the Law Directory for me. Best wishes to all Sooners and "Powder River" for Old Red Phillips (A Republican but must help him on with his victory).

GEORGE R. TAYLOR, '22EX
Stillwater, Oklahoma

SIR:

Your letter of July 22nd, and I am indeed surprised; for it is the first communication that I have ever had from the Alumni Office which did not contain a circular asking the addressee to subscribe for *The Sooner Magazine* for a period of from one year to life.

Your records speak correctly in that I received the A.B. degree in 1934, returning that fall and receiving the L.L.B. in '37. Judge Lindsey saw to it that the \$10.00 was paid each time. I have received an issue or two recently. It is my impression, however, that this magazine is published on a year around basis; therefore I made a conscious statement that I have not received my graduation subscription. I feel that I should receive this magazine for some *two years* beginning (if your records show April) with April 1938.

There was no action taken upon my part because I did not receive the magazine, for I considered this fee the same as the usual fee that is extracted from the students down there such as for the Student Union, and was not surprised at the fact of not receiving any benefit from this forced levy.

However, be it as it may, I feel that I should receive the paid up issues of this magazine before risking any more money on it.

Thank you for your kindness and solicitation.

MAX G. MORGAN, '37LAW
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

The Sooner Magazine is sent to each graduate for one year after graduation, to the most recent address on file in the Alumni Office. Every effort is made to keep these addresses up to date, but the task of keeping up with a thousand frequently-moving alumni just out of school is a difficult one. All alumni, and particularly those entitled to receive the Magazine, are urgently requested to advise the Alumni Office promptly when they change addresses.

SIR:

Having Joe Brandt as a neighbor in Princeton nearby is like having "ants in your pants," as a result there is enclosed my check for \$3.00 for a year's trial at being an enrolled alumnus!

Please use my residence address, 96 Roxen Road, Rockville Centre, Long Island, New York, as I might be tempted to put aside important litigation to read *The Sooner Mag.*

Two weeks ago Elgin Groseclose and family spent a few days with us and we all dropped in on Joe at Princeton to see that he was comfortably settled here in the East. Expect them up here for a few days the end of this month if not sooner.

Regards to all my old friends there, including Docs. Adams and Dale.

JOHN F. DEMING, '24BA
Brooklyn, New York

SIR:

There are a few attitudes among the graduate students that should be made known to the Oklahoma University authorities. I shall relate my idea of some of the feelings to you and let you be the judge of which of them are important and what, if anything, should be done about it.

I wish to state here that I do not think that I am a knocker, in fact I am interested in making O.U. one of the greatest graduate schools in the Southwest, and for this reason am making these comparisons and comments. While I am not signing my name for personal reasons, I will not be hard to find. In fact it will take very little investigation for you to get in touch with me if necessary.

We feel that grading on the curve is unfair to us graduate students. There are very few loafers among us, we are already college graduates, and we have been promised U and S grades in the catalogue. In fact I find that there are many students here from other schools because of this promise. Being on a competitive basis places us in a strain which is very bad for research work. Much complaint is mentioned on this count. I heard one lady principal say that the only way in which she could keep up with such competition was to take a stimulus of just a little strychnine. To make a "B-minus" average or a "C" average places us in an impossible position, for we are all "B" and "A" students, with few exceptions.

There is also much growling about offering to let us out of writing a thesis and then practically making us write one for a master's degree. While it is possible to get out, it is also made known by several instructors that it is not approved by them, that we really need to write it, and are really weak not to do so.

We are surely appreciative of the residence allowance towards Ed.D.'s in summer school and of the attempt to offer classes on Saturdays and after 4 o'clock in the afternoon. There has been some talk of not teaching after four next winter and of restricting the Saturdays more in the future. These ideas will only send more students to other schools again.

We married teachers who are rearing families and cannot take off a year for residence need every plan possible if we are to secure our higher education, and we feel that our continued tenure of office out in the field at actual teaching is worth something in the line of experience, and also that the University is not practicing modern progressive education unless it is serving us in the School of Education.

As a summary I am saying that A. and M. college has twice as many graduate summer students as we have here and only offers the master's degree; George Peabody College for Teachers offers the sheepskin as soon as the graduate student completes 32 hours (equivalent) work, without further ceremony or examination; Colorado State College of Education offers doctor's degrees worked out on projects directly connected with the student's job; Oklahoma City University has a large class of superintendents and county superintendents attending that school because they have been turned down and shown no courtesy here. In fact it seems that in this school there has been and still is certain standards set up and the student can meet them or else, while all classes are teaching that modern education is to set up standards according to the needs of the students.

As I have mentioned before, I am interested in a greater O.U. and can hear murmurings on the campus which I believe should be voiced. I believe that O.U. is our school and should be made to fit our needs, that is, it is not necessary for there to be so many Oklahoma students in Gunnison, Greeley and Boulder that it looks like Oklahoma University; that it should not be necessary for there to be large groups of students in Arkansas University, George Peabody, and all over Texas who when asked why they are attending those schools and paying the out-of-state fee, will tell you that there are too many moss-covered instructors at O.U. to allow any levity.

A GRADUATE STUDENT

Identity of the writer of the above letter is known to the editor, but was withheld at the writer's request, for obvious reasons.

SIR:

Unfortunately I was out of town when the notice came of the Executive Board meeting. I was in Texas taking some X-ray treatments for my sinus and they have certainly helped me as I am feeling quite well now.

You have no idea how much I have regretted being unable to serve on the Board but as you know, my health has really handicapped me.

Perhaps I shall be able to make up for the past two years sometime in the future.

Please know that I will consider it an honor and a pleasure to assist the Alumni Association and the Executive Board and will you please remember this and feel free to call on me in the future.

I extend greetings and best wishes to all members of the Board, old and new. Carl joins me in sending you our very best regards.

RUBY FORD, '22EX
Enid, Oklahoma

SIR:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your memo of August 5th relative to the work of the Advisory Councils, and to commend you and the Association for the effort being made.

In line with your bulletin, I advise you that my attention has been called to two young men of this community who were graduated from high school last spring and who expect to attend either O.U. or A. and M. next term. Both of these boys are well worth soliciting as students for O.U., and I shall do my best to turn them in that direction. However, the bulk of young people from this community attend A. and M., and, for that reason, the boys have a more intimate knowledge of that school. They feel that O.U. would place them among strangers, and since they must work while in school, they naturally give considerable weight to the rumors of "coldness" in student body and faculty of O.U. x x x

Anything you can do to help these boys make up their minds to attend O.U. will be greatly appreciated. Of course, a job is the thing they must have, and that is the point at which encouragement is most essential—encouragement in a material and definite way. Likewise, they need some assurance that, if they attempt O.U., they won't be entirely on their own; that the professors are at least fifty percent human and have a tiny bit of sincere interest in their students; that the balance of the student body isn't composed of the pampered children of rich families; that the school itself is doing something to lend them a hand; and that the practical things of life can be learned in a fairly work-a-day atmosphere.

I have two degrees from O.U., and I'm proud of the school. I wouldn't think of sending my child to any other. However, I'm not unmindful of its failings—both real and imagined. When I was a member of the Legislature I found that there was a deep seated feeling against the State University, particularly among two classes of legislators—the farmer-labor representative and the immature grad who either hadn't got over the "spank-the-teacher" complex or who found O.U. baiting popular among his "people." That feeling must be overcome.

I sincerely hope that the school can even over-emphasize a trend toward a setup which will provide both an income for the working student and cheap living expenses for the balance of the student body. It seems to me that nothing else could more effectively combat the unwholesome attitude toward the school.

Since that feeling is rather acute in this portion of the State, I should like for a few of the working students of this community to attend O.U. and see the situation first hand. The rest of us here can arrange for proper publicity to make the most of their attendance. If these, or other boys, could make some contact with the cooperative dormitory plan and secure employment, it would give us a contemporary talking point for the school.

WILBUR L. MORSE, '30LAW
Vinita, Oklahoma