

EDITORIAL COMMENT

A Last Chance To Study The Candidates

The time before the State Democratic primaries grows short. Only a few more days remain in which the people of Oklahoma can study the merits of the various candidates who are seeking important offices. The heat of the campaigns this year has risen higher than usual, perhaps because there will be no runoff primary this year and the decisions made at the polls July 12 will decide the Democratic nominations. The voter wishing to make a wise choice of candidates must seek to view the situation calmly in spite of whispered innuendoes or shouted vituperation.

University graduates, particularly, owe a responsibility to their State in making a careful choice of candidates. They have benefitted from the State's best educational facilities—they have had an opportunity to learn about government; to learn the sound principles of democracy; to see through the shams of the demagog; and to estimate a man's worth by the standards of integrity and character and not by surface indications.

No alumnus who has the best interests of his State as a whole at heart would vote for a candidate merely because the candidate made effusive promises to favor big appropriations for the University at the expense of other State institutions. To do so would be a selfish viewpoint, unworthy of a truly educated mind.

But there is a test of a candidate's vision and ability which O. U. alumni can apply with complete fairness to their alma mater and to the State as a whole. That is the attitude of the candidate toward higher education in general. It has been the experience of mankind that colleges and universities have been responsible for a large proportion of the advances of civilization. If Oklahoma is to grow steadily more prosperous, both in material things and in its cultural resources, it is the colleges and universities of the State that must lead the way. A candidate who is not aware of the importance of a great university to the advancement of the State as a whole is lacking in background or in vision, and it is well for alumni to study such a man carefully to see if his eyes are fixed on the patronage and perquisites of office, rather than on the opportunity to serve the State.

Study the candidates carefully and vote for those most likely to serve the best interests of the State, because the best interests of the University are identical with those of the State.

College Education Is More Than A Meal Ticket

This is the time of year when many college and university graduates fresh from the campus are finding it difficult to locate good jobs or to embark on a successful career. And it is also the time of year that we hear the annual wave of criticism of the present system of higher education because a bachelor's degree doesn't seem to be a guarantee of economic security.

This current tendency to judge the value of a college education chiefly by its economic value, and to judge a diploma by its effectiveness as a meal ticket, is a short-sighted viewpoint. If this were the final aim of a university, we should close up the College of Arts and Sciences, throw away a large proportion of books in the library, eliminate the College of Fine Arts except for perhaps some courses in crooning and tap dancing and the manufacture of swing music; and concentrate on purely occupational subjects.

The experience of certain highly specialized schools and institutes proves that satisfactory results can be obtained if a young person wants to concentrate his education purely on a specialized occupation by which he can make money. If the young person is capable enough, and is clever enough to select

the right occupation in which to take the highly concentrated training, he is likely to "get ahead" rapidly when he leaves school.

Most Americans have a somewhat different idea of higher education, however. They believe that it is possible to take professional or occupational training and at the same time acquire a measure of culture and general knowledge of science and the arts—an education that gives life considerably more meaning than purely a frantic search for economic security.

The well educated man is well rounded, philosophical, adaptable, resourceful. Temporary economic difficulties may worry him, but they cannot defeat him. He might have to take a lower salary than he believes himself capable of earning, but he will be able to enjoy life nevertheless. And anyone who thinks this is just a pretty theory may be cited the case of two young O. U. graduates who were written up in a state newspaper recently because they married and were living very happily on a small income. The fact that they were intellectually resourceful enough to find many inexpensive things to make life interesting was considered worth a picture and feature story in a metropolitan newspaper.

That is a warm, though perhaps unconscious, compliment to the value of a college education.

School Spirit Less Vocal But It's Here

Because cheering at football games is less vociferous than it used to be, because class pride has declined to such an extent that the Class of '38 left no memorial for the University, and because it is the current habit of young people to abhor any display of sentiment whatever, there is a general feeling that so-called "school spirit" is about dead on the O. U. campus.

This spring this *Oklahoma Daily* printed as a letter to the editor, the following declaration of Sooner loyalty from an undergraduate student:

"Lew Wentz accepted his honorary initiation into Beta Gamma Sigma with the single statement, 'I am proud to accept any honor that comes from the university.'

"This should mean something to everyone on the campus. If any man were chosen as Oklahoma's most useful citizen, without a doubt it would go to Mr. Wentz for his sacrificing political service, philanthropy and his part in building strong business organizations in the state.

"Students! Let's get together and build toward a greater university. We have a great school; our president has been outstanding in his administration; we have deans and faculty members who are as capable as any in the nation; one school by itself has attracted 30 foreign students.

"The remaining factor that determines how fast and how far the university goes is the student body. Forget any criticism or grudges; quit throwing stones; and support everything your university does. Forget whether your school is business or education; forget whether you are an independent or Alpha Beta, and be just a SOONER.

"In three busy years I have come to love the university in a way that I never anticipated in coming here. I am indebted to her for technical training, association with men of keen ability, and the rich cultural atmosphere she maintains. After leaving in June, I want to be a member of her Alumni association and a noisy booster.

"It thrills me to remember that the biggest man in Oklahoma said, 'I am proud of any honor that comes from the university.'

BEN HILL."

No, loyalty isn't dead. And it will never die so long as the University does its work effectively—so long as it meets the needs of the young people who come to it.