

# EDITORIAL COMMENT

## Students Wear All Kinds Of Clothes

An Oklahoma City newspaper quotes a University student as saying "This school's too darn social conscious for its own good."

That statement probably would bring a good laugh from another student who happens to be going to work on a Purcell bridge construction gang at 6 o'clock every evening and working until midnight, then home to sleep a few hours before making classes the next morning. It probably would bring at least smiles to the faces of the more than three thousand other students who are working part time to go to school.

That "social conscious" attitude is to be found, all right, in the minds of a few students, but not in the great majority of young people who are busy on the campus every day, working and getting an education. The average student spends from \$42 to \$43 a month on all expenses. That won't buy many full dress suits.

## In Defense Of The Alumni

At the last national convention of the American Alumni Council, Major Clarence E. Lovejoy of Columbia University gave an address on the subject *In Defense of the Alumni*. Some of the remarks he made and some of the information he presented are well worth repeating.

Commenting that one of every forty men, women and children in the United States is an alumnus or alumna, Major Lovejoy declares that the alumni are growing in stature everywhere.

According to the Washington and Lee University alumni magazine, in 1931, 88,312 alumni in only 44 of the country's institutions gave \$2,233,310.46 for alumni funds. This was 19 per cent of the alumni bodies of those institutions and the average they gave was \$25.29. As Major Lovejoy remarked, that's not chicken feed—those are blue chips.

Henry Seidel Canby endorses heartily the statement that "the alumni and alumnae bond is one of the most important in the social history of the United States.

"Why not," he asks and then answers, "when, with few exceptions, alumni were happy in college. There they were having the last wave of the romantic movement. Loyalty was not to a system of teaching or instruction but to a way of life. After graduation the alumnus usually wants to keep his past intact. He becomes an educational conservative, even to the point sometimes of making his criticisms of the new policies of his alma mater 'often violent and sometimes virulent.'

"Thus," says Canby, "as men and Americans the alumni might be dull, bright, agreeable, cantankerous, radical, conservative, failures or successes, differing as widely as human nature, perhaps, within the vague limits of an economic class. But as alumni, while these differences persisted, there was a thin garment of resemblance which covered their personal peculiarities like an academic gown. The alumni retained that quick response to an appeal for loyalty which they had learned at college. There they had acquired faith in an institution, an intangible entity which could not be wrong however much its personnel might wrong them."

However, although the alumni are responsive to their traditions and loyalties, they are attuned today to new calls, says Major Lovejoy.

"I, for one, do not want old grads to join and pay dues to an alumni association because someone hounds them. I prefer alumni to be selfish about joining. It is a very natural selfishness and, paradoxically, a commendable selfishness, a high-minded selfishness and readily understood.

"An alumnus of 1937 does not dare to do otherwise than

interest himself in education and particularly education in his own institution. He does not dare sit on the sidelines and yawn at the passing show. He has too much at stake.

"He does not dare let his college drop in public esteem, he does not dare refrain from having a part in the alumni machinery. He wants to be informed, he wants to serve on committees, on boards of visitors, he wants to know what is going on and do his best to improve it.

"The alumnus of a law school does not dare let his law school lose prestige or stature. He is always labeled as a product of that law school. The members of his bar association and his clients give him that stamp. He knows if it becomes a poor law school he cannot stop them regarding him as a poor lawyer. If a medical school deteriorates in popular impression it does not do the doctor any good.

"Alumni know this whether they are alumni of liberal arts colleges or of professional and graduate schools. If this is selfishness, make the most of it. That's my brief for America's alumni."

## Alumni Opinions Valuable To The University

Homecoming was a big, colorful event in November, made thoroughly enjoyable by the best parade in history and by a satisfying victory over the Oklahoma Aggies on the gridiron.

Thirty-five visiting high school bands brightened and dignified the annual Homecoming parade. The annual pre-Homecoming dinner-dance in Oklahoma City was acclaimed the usual grand party.

But probably the most significant event of the entire weekend, so far as the University and its alumni are concerned, was a brief meeting held the Saturday morning of Homecoming day in Room 210 of the Union Building.

Here, for the first time, chairmen of the Alumni Association's County Advisory Councils met to confer with representatives of the University Administration on problems of the University.

Coming from widely scattered parts of the state—Tulsa in the east, Ponca City on the north, Sayre in the west, Ardmore in the south—these county chairmen brought to the O. U. campus the viewpoints of alumni out over the state, the alumni who are in business or professional work and are closely acquainted with the citizenship of the state. These county chairmen brought to Norman a fresh viewpoint. They brought criticisms of the University that they had heard in their own communities. They suggested things that should be done to serve the state better.

On the other hand, they heard from a representative of the University administration a valuable fund of constructive information as to the things the University is trying to do—the improvements it is working toward. Most of this was new to the county chairmen. It gave them reliable information to take back to their home communities. It gave them facts with which to destroy many of the mistaken opinions about the University held by the public over the state.

In fact, the interchange of opinions and suggestions that took place at the Homecoming day conference was an inspiration to all those present. It was the beginning of a series of contacts between alumni leaders and the University administration that should go far toward making the people of Oklahoma better acquainted with what their University is really doing.

At the same time, the advice and counsel of these community leaders coming into Norman from all over the state should provide the University a valuable source of constructive criticism.