

Is O. U. Expensive?

By Bill Brinkley, '40

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article is reprinted from the *Oklahoma Daily* because it presents the student viewpoint on a matter of interest to alumni—whether or not O.U. is an "expensive" school to attend. The writer is editor of the *Daily*.

IS THE University of Oklahoma still regarded as a place where snobishness is king and where you have to have a pack of money to get to first base?

The other day I received a letter from a prominent citizen of this state in which he said that this impression is still held by a good many people in Oklahoma.

I know what the story is. I've heard it enough myself in the far reaches of Oklahoma. It runs something like this: "Yes, the university is all right, but unless you get in with the society crowd, you're just left out of everything—and something else—it costs, oh, a whole lot of money to go to school down there. Why, unless you're a rich man's son or know a legislator you haven't got a chance."

Bosh and nonsense! But what can be done about it? This campus hasn't reached perfection by a long shot, but such beliefs as those mentioned above—still held by quite a large number of people in this state—are about as far away from the truth as it is possible to get.

We who are down here know what the facts are. We know that social activities do revolve around fraternity and sorority life, but that there is social life outside these organizations. And we know that while it does take money to go to school here the idea that you have to be a rich man or the son of a rich man to get anywhere on the campus is an utter absurdity.

But the mal-impressions are still here in the minds of at least some of the state's citizenry. I may be wrong, but I think that gradually the people of Oklahoma are coming to a better understanding and a better knowledge of the true state of affairs here—both the good and the bad part. They're on their way—slowly. Too slowly, in fact. More needs to be done to hasten them along.

I don't know whose fault it is, but someone has fallen down—or maybe a lot of persons have fallen down—in not seeing that more was done to eradicate false ideas about this campus and its activities. True, considerable progress has been made. Speakers and entertainers sent out from here have helped break the ground. Some of the university's graduates have aided tremendously. Others of its alumni are among the university's strongest critics.

Start the ball rolling once and it won't stop. Tear down these mal-impressions and they'll stay torn down.

Everyone of us can help simply by letting people know about what goes on here. That sounds like something that came out of the university publicity department, but publicity or no publicity, it's dead true.

I don't advocate that we go around spouting that the University of Oklahoma is just this side of heaven. But the next time someone pops up with one of these inanities about the rule of snobishness on the campus or the necessity of owning two or three gold mines to go to school here, just pin him down. Ask him where he got his information. Ask him to cite some cases. Then proceed in a courteous way to let him know what actual conditions are.

▲ ▲ ▲

In the Mail

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

our moving and change of address, as we have not received them.

JACK I. LAUDERMILK, '34, '38,
Austin, Texas

▲

To the Editor:

Every time I have finished reading *Sooner Magazine* I have wanted to write you how much I enjoy hearing about Oklahoma. Now I may add my congratulations for the award your magazine won. Here in Bakersfield where *Grapes of Wrath* has helped make the term "Okie" an opprobrious one, which in any social gathering provokes much discussion and no little feeling, I enjoy your monthly version of the happier side of Oklahoma. And I like to leave your magazine lying around so that my friends can conveniently pick it up and share with me, pleasure in your activities. I have been fortunate to be able to reminisce about O. U. with Rachel Bedford Bowen and Elizabeth Stewart Strange.

Your articles about the O. U. football team have but steadily increased my interest in the team and now I am wondering which Norman

friend I can persuade to sacrifice to me every Sunday *Daily* which gives an account of a game. MARY ELIZABETH SIMPSON ITTNER, '24, '25MA,
Bakersfield, California

▲

To the Alumni Secretary:

In reply to your letter of September 26th offering me the Chairmanship of the Murray County Advisory Council to succeed Edwin P. Horner, recently moved to Lubbock, Texas, please consider this as an acceptance of said Chairmanship.

I am greatly interested in the University and its program. Anything that we can do to further its cause you may rest assured that you have only to let us know.

If possible I should like very much to get a complete list of the alumni in this county. I should like very much for us to have a "get-together" soon and map out a more complete program.

I assure you I am glad to accept the chairmanship and will do everything possible to further the University's cause. Thanks and let me hear from you at any time.

EWING C. SADLER, '38, '38LAW,
Sulphur, Oklahoma

IMAGE IS NOT AVAILABLE
ONLINE DUE TO COPYRIGHT
RESTRICTIONS.

A paper copy of this
issue is available at
call number LH 1 .06S6 in
Bizzell Memorial Library.