

In the Mail

To the Editor:

I have read with interest your editorial in the September *Sooner Magazine* "Alumni Viewpoint on the Presidency," and find it rather thought provoking. I find myself in full accord, as I believe most of the alumni are, with the editorial viewpoint that the alumni regard President Bizzell with affection and respect, and believe that he has made an outstanding record at the University, and with the attitude of the editorial that the alumni should vigorously oppose political invasions of the University's administration and affairs. It is my sincere hope that the University may, as it gains age and solidity along with the State, build up an immunity from the political interference to which it has been and is now inexcusably subjected.

I find myself out of accord with two propositions advanced in the editorial. First, I do not agree that it is improper for the organized alumni to make suggestions or recommendations as to the University's administration without invitation by the Board of Regents. If the alumni association has any proper function, it is to make the views of the alumni known on matters of such vital importance to the University. The alumni are entitled to a voice in the affairs of the institution, and I am sure that the sincere and high minded gentlemen on the Board of Regents would welcome the views of those most deeply interested in the University's welfare. It is regrettable that the alumni association does not as yet represent a more substantial proportion of the alumni, a vast majority of whom should be members instead of a comparative few, but perhaps that, too, must come with advancing years. Neither do I agree that when Dr. Bizzell retires from the presidency "The entire nation should be carefully surveyed to secure an outstanding educator and administrator" for president, unless we are prepared to admit that the University, after forty-eight years of existence, has been unable to develop scholars and administrators of its own proper stature for that position.

To fill its proper place in the scholastic world, the University of Oklahoma should develop and maintain its own individuality. It should have its own character and its own soul. Great institutions of learning perpetuate their own scholarship, and, from generation to generation, produce and hold their own essential personnel. It seems to me that our school must be able to do this, and that we have men on our faculty quite competent for the presidency. Dean A. B. Adams, of the College of Business Administration, is a very eminent scholar of national standing and repute, and an experienced, highly competent administrator. He has the regard and confidence of the alumni, and would make an excellent president. The same can be said of Dean J. C. Monnet, of the Law School, Dr. Roy T. House, John Moseley, now unfortunately lost for a time to our State, and no doubt of a number of others who have been parts of our own University and have imbibed its spirit, know its problems and are of its scholastic soul. Dean Adams and Dean Monnet, to my knowledge, have been a part of the University for over twenty-five years.

The men who have been identified with the University's affairs and know its problems at first hand should be much better able to fight off Oklahoma's political wolves than outsiders whose scholastic careers have gone the even tenor of their ways under no such assaults. Our political turmoil offers little to attract outstanding educators from the older states, but our own know how to deal with and discount it.

I hope that the alumni, when the time comes, will stand solidly for proper recognition of the excellence of our own educators first, meanwhile standing by those we have against every political

assault until the time comes when no petty politician enjoying a brief moment of power in Oklahoma will dare lay his hands upon the affairs of the University.

A. G. C. BIERER, JR., '21.
Guthrie, Oklahoma.

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Following is a letter to the Forum of the Oklahoma City Times, a copy of which was mailed to the secretary of the University of Oklahoma Association.

Sometime ago I read an editorial in the *Sooner Magazine* which was republished in the *Daily Oklahoman*, concerning various comments on the possible resignation of President Bizzell.

As I recall, Mr. Ted Beaird, distinguished editor of the *Sooner Magazine*, stated that in the event President Bizzell *did* resign, that the University should canvass the "Nation" to find a man of sufficiently wide recognition and known ability to properly credit the post.

What I do not understand is "Why canvass the Nation?"

It has long been the policy of the most efficient productive machine of all time, the American Corporation, to select its executives from among its own ranks. Why should our university be any exception? Surely, there are men well qualified for the presidency here in Oklahoma. Take for instance, Dean A. B. Adams, of the College of Business Administration. Here certainly is an aggressive, capable, executive if there ever was one. He, too, is nationally known and recognized. His books are published throughout the world, and he is a man of wide practical experience. There may be many others here in Oklahoma. Is Oklahoma so backward in culture that it cannot produce a fit candidate for presidency of its own state university? Other states do not feel required to look outside of their borders in choosing an educator. Why should Oklahoma?

GORDON TASKER SCHAUL, '28BUS,
Oklahoma City.

Sooner Magazine is glad to print the comments of an alumnus on such an important subject. To keep the record straight, it perhaps should be explained that Mr. Beaird, who is executive secretary of the alumni association, is not editor of the magazine and did not write the editorial under discussion. The editorial expressed belief that a majority of alumni would favor surveying the entire nation (which presumably includes Oklahoma), if and when President Bizzell retires. It expressed belief that most of the alumni would oppose the selection of any man whose choice would "involve the University in state politics, or in factionalism within state school circles." The editorial was intended to discuss principles involved, not to point toward or away from any particular individual.—Editor.

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To the Alumni Secretary:

Allow me to congratulate Roscoe Cate for a very excellent editorial on politics in the University in the September issue of the *Sooner Magazine*. Within the last few months I have talked with no less than 250 alumni and received scores of letters from others which I believe gives a fairly good sample of what the alumni of the State are thinking. This editorial certainly reflects that opinion as I have found it.

Anyone in authority contemplating action concerning the University would do well either to accept this editorial at its face value or else prove its correctness by such experience as my own.

Incidentally, I believe the forthright statement of the governor a few days ago will do much to stop a lot of the idle gossip concerning the University.

HICKS EPTON, '32LAW,
Wewoka, Oklahoma

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issue is available at
call number LH 1 .06S6 in
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Follow the Sooners in November

The Sooners of O. U. play four Big Six conference contests in November, climaxing in the Nebraska game November 25 at Lincoln. Iowa State, last year's runner-up for the conference title, invades Norman November 4 for the Sooners' Homecoming game.

Nov. 4

OU v Iowa State
at Norman
(Homecoming)

Nov. 11

OU v Kans State
at Manhattan

Nov. 18

OU v Missouri U
at Columbia

Nov. 25

OU v Nebraska
at Lincoln

University of Oklahoma
Athletic Department

To the Editor:

I read with a great deal of interest your article under the caption of "Alumni Viewpoint on the Presidency" which appeared in the September issue of *Sooner Magazine*.

I think you hit the nail on the head in that article. The alumni of the University are not trying to run the University, but I believe they should have consideration in a matter of such great importance to the young men and women of our state.

I believe the majority of the alumni are ready to go to bat at any time for what they consider the best interests of the University. A large majority of them admire Dr. Bizzell and realize that he has done a great work in bringing the University up to its present standard.

A. N. BOATMAN, '14, '16LAW,
Okmulgee, Oklahoma

To the Editor:

Your editorial in last *Sooner Magazine* was read by me with interest. I am in sympathy with the sentiments mentioned in the article.

At the time of statehood when Dr. Boyd and a number of the early faculty members were dismissed I attended an alumni meeting, and we discussed the fact of politics getting into University affairs.

Again in Governor Walton's administration another time we were called and reorganized the association. Politics hurt the school at that time, and we must be vigilant to avoid having other similar experiences.

It has seemed to me that if some kind of a millage tax could be provided for certain public institutions, so the authorities did not have to appear before each succeeding legislature asking for appropriations, it would be an advantage.

Legislators in their campaigns come in contact with various groups and often commit themselves by promises, and do not have the proposition of support for public institutions until they are assembled, and it is easy to cut there without having to explain at home.

As long as boards of control are appointed, and appropriations made as now, a certain amount of politics will enter in. But in affairs involving the University, alumni and former students should assume the same policy that we do in times of national crisis, put our patriotism above our partisanship, and use our influence to guard the welfare of the University.

C. ROSS HUME, '98, '00MA,
Anadarko.

To the Alumni Secretary:

I should have sent this membership in before, but just neglected it.

Here is hoping the University beats S. M. U. tomorrow.

We are pretty strong for Dr. Bizzell here. Would prefer an out of state man if he should be changed. I for one, and the other O. U. grads here, seem to think we should enter the field of politics as vigorously as our competition does. We should get heavy appropriations, advertise the University far and wide and enter seriously the proposition of securing the best jobs in the state for University graduates. Perhaps I am too strong in this. I think you have done an excellent job for the Alumni. Luck to you and keep up the good work. Call on me at any time.

J. BEN CARMICHAEL, '29MS,
Davis

To the Editor:

Let me commend you on your editorial, "Alumni Viewpoint on the Presidency," in the *Sooner Magazine* for September. While you state that this editorial is not an official statement of the attitude of the alumni toward the University presidency, it seems to me that it comes very close indeed to being an ideal statement of what the attitude of the alumni should be on this question.

It is not the function of the alumni, in my

opinion, to try to control the Board of Regents. The alumni, however, have a right to be, and are very jealous of the University's good name; they are very "touchy" on this question of political interference with the University and are undoubtedly ready to rise and to fight fiercely and effectively, like the Minute Men of Colonial days, if they believe that politics are about to be injected into University control. Many thousands of other citizens of the State would join them in such a fight. By politics I mean personal politics as well as partisan politics.

Injecting politics into the University does not necessarily mean putting incompetent men into positions. The danger is almost as great and the disaster will be of major proportions even if a competent man is chosen and placed on the University staff, but the selection is made or dictated by political elements, and the appointee is under the influence of, or is dominated by, or feels accountability to any politically-minded group of men.

The fact that there is some opposition to a University president should not be taken too seriously. It should be taken for granted that no university president, no matter how strong he may be, will long suit all the people, and he will never suit the politicians who expect benefits from the University. Does any president of any organization please all his constituents?

It seems to me that University alumni, parents of students at O. U., and educators in all other educational institutions or in public school work in Oklahoma should realize that Oklahoma will never stand higher in the Nation in an educational way than its state university stands; that notwithstanding the fact that Oklahoma is blessed, or cursed (according to your own opinion), with a large number of state-supported institutions, it should nevertheless give its state university ample support; that the finest thing other educational institutions in Oklahoma can do for themselves is to stand by the University and demand that it be made one of the best in the country, for with every upward step it makes in recognized educational standards there will be a reflected credit to every other educational institution and every public school down to the lowest grade in the State; that the University is worthy to hold its place as the head of the educational system of Oklahoma, not because it placed itself there but because it was placed there by the people; that education in the University or in any other school will always be below standard if it is subject to political influence; that Oklahoma is one of the best of the states of the Union and is entitled to have and can have one of the best of all the state universities; that Oklahomans should be too proud of their educational system to tolerate political interference.

ERRETT R. NEWBY, '07FA, '08,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

To the Alumni Secretary:

I have been intending to write every day since receiving your letter. I must apologize for the delinquency. It seems that the old enemy, procrastination, still dogs my trail.

Until I received your letter I was not aware that my Association dues were in arrears. I am resolving to try in the future always to keep them paid up.

There are hundreds of alumni in these parts. We are really pepped up over the Northwestern game. We have sold over five hundred tickets and have arranged a special train.

We had a picnic last month at Effingham. King Price and Jap Haskell were up. Our spirits have been rising by leaps and bounds ever since. Also several of the football players have been up here this summer. I believe they are as fine a bunch of youngsters as I have ever met. Not once have I ever heard their conduct criticised.

Here's hoping that I see you in Chicago. I'd like to visit with you.

CARL ALBERT, '31,
Mattoon, Illinois