

Under Cover

By DAVID BURR, '52ba

AT THE AMERICAN Alumni Council's national convention in late June, Theodore A. Distler, executive director of the Association of American Colleges, spoke on the subject, "Responsibilities of Alumni for Quality in Education." In the portion quoted, Mr. Distler speaks of alumni-faculty responsibilities. He says:

"Good education means good teaching. The backbone of the college is the faculty. Let me quote from the statement issued by Henry Ford II in announcing the Ford Foundation plan for contributing \$50,000,000 toward the improvement of faculty salaries:

"All the objectives of higher education ultimately depend upon the quality of teaching. In the opinion of the Foundation Trustees, private and corporate philanthropy can make no better investment of its resources than in helping to strengthen American education at its base—the quality of its teaching . . . Merely to restore professors' salaries to their 1939 purchasing power would require an average increase of at least 20 per cent."

". . . Even this is not the whole story. Over and above financial aid, there is another, relatively unexplored field in which alumni can give effect to their sense of responsibility for good teaching. While it is intolerable that society should presume on the devotion of men and women who, in the classic expression of scholarly dedication, 'gladly teach,' it is a fact they do not seek their main satisfaction in material rewards. Otherwise they would not resist the attraction of greatly superior remuneration offered by other careers, or in some cases would not have deliberately turned from better-paid jobs to teaching. The professor's greatest thrill arises from kindling the spark of intellectual curiosity in the growing mind, in seeing the torch handed on and his own dreams of discovery realized in succeeding generations of students. People who are remote from academic life may lose sight of, or never grasp, this fact.

"Is it not then a prime duty of alumni to show their appreciation of the fact and in-

terpret it to help others? I do not mean that they should paint idealized portraits of the professor, inspired by dim but roseate recollections of the giants of their youth. I mean that they should get to know the present faculty, show interest in their work, and perhaps help to create opportunities for them to demonstrate its social value outside the campus. I see no reason why we should not 'take the professor on the road' to explain the program of his department. I believe that by conveying in such ways their recognition of what the teacher has done to enrich their own lives and the life of society in general, alumni can have an incalculable effect on faculty morale and thus on the quality of higher education . . ."

PERIODICALLY the editor is moved to remark on the value of a liberal education. The refrain has been that a "real" college education prepares and develops the individual for enlightened leadership.

Now comes the more practical side of the value of a college education. In early September an AP newsstory reported that a college education was worth \$91,000. Here are the details.

"How much is a college education worth in cold cash? On the average, \$91,000, two Census Bureau officials reported today to annual meeting of the American Sociological Society.

"Paul C. Glick and Herman P. Miller said: 'Over a lifetime, the average college graduate can expect to receive about \$100,000 more income than the average high school graduate. Since the direct and indirect costs of the college education are roughly estimated at \$9,000, it is concluded that a college education represents a sound investment from a purely monetary viewpoint.'

"The census men cautioned, however, that a college degree is no guarantee of higher earnings. They said about one-fourth of all college graduates earn less than high school graduates in the same age group."

I still think that the value of a college

education is the degree to which it prepares the individual to think, to develop his mind and talents, and to accept a thoughtful approach to the world in which he lives. But it doesn't hurt anything to know that it will profit his pocketbook at the same time.

Dinner for Bennie

Bennie Owen, 80 years old, Oklahoma's beloved football coach from 1905 through 1926, will be honored Friday night, November 25, in the Union Building at a "half century" dinner celebrating the 50th anniversary of his coming to Norman.

Owen arrived here exactly half a century ago to coach the Sooner football team. Taking an I.O.U. on his first year's salary of \$900 for three months, he returned to his home in Arkansas City, Kansas, after the football season to manage his restaurant there. However, he always came back each year to coach the Sooner football team until eventually he built it into a full-time job.

The dinner honoring Owen will be open to Oklahoma alumni and also to friends of Owen and their wives. Special guests will be Owen's former players and their wives. They will come from all over the state.

Owen was named four years ago to the National Football Hall of Fame and only recently to the Helms Foundation Hall of Fame.

The dinner will be sponsored by the Alumni Association, assisted by the Athletic Department and the "O" Club.

Lawrence "Jap" Haskell, '22geol, Tulsa insurance executive who captained Owen's 1921 team, is chairman of the planning committee for the event.

Other members of this committee are Robert Wood, '11ba, Tulsa; Glenn Clark, '13ba, Ponca City; Roy Spears, '14ba, McAlester; Neil Johnson, '15ba, '17Law, Norman; Homer Montgomery, '26ba, Mineral Wells, Texas; Howard McCasland, '16ba, Duncan; Dutch Brewer, '17ba, '20 Law, Hugo; Paul X. Johnston, '21ba, Oklahoma City; Dow Hamm, '22ba, Houston, Texas; George Myron "Little Tub" Tyler, '22ba, Bristow; Clarence "Ram" Morrison, '25Law, Oklahoma City; Frank Buttram, '10ba, '12ma, Oklahoma City, and Granville Norris, '29ba, Muskogee.