

By LANIEL KIRKPATRICK
Law Senior

IN MY OPINION there is inherently a likelihood of error whenever one attempts to categorize things by using absolute terms. Certainly O.U. can be, and is to many students, a party school. Such students by the very nature of things are few in number for the simple reason that they seldom have any real desire to be in school. They drop out to take a job usually by the sophomore year.

Looking at another aspect of the picture, there are many students, especially those who aspire to professional status, who possess a keen sense of responsibility to both themselves and their parents along with an awareness of the unremitting impetus of economic competition in their chosen fields of endeavor. These are the boys (and girls?) who spend their evenings in the library and their early mornings in the lecture room. This question directed to them would evoke an indignant, No!

The vast majority of students falls into neither of the extremes depicted. Most of us enter college undecided as to what we wish for a lifetime career. So there is a period during our first one or two years when we wander along an aimless academic path. Lacking an impelling sense of purpose, and being for the first time in our lives bereft of parental guidance, many tend to fill the vacuum by partying. But fortunately there usually occurs a change of attitude brought about by a complex of phenomena of which the foremost is perhaps the discovery of an objective requiring preparation as a condition to achievement. Then with alacrity the "party life" is cast aside to make way for a seat on that vehicle to opportunity we call education.

You may ask if all this isn't an excessively wasteful development pattern. Perhaps so, but after all true maturity is seldom realized in an atmosphere of compulsion, and when once gained by introspection we have truly a lifetime servant.

By TED GOLLER
Business Administration Senior

PERSONALLY, I see no reason to classify the University of Oklahoma as a "party school."

Perhaps we do have a few students who devote very little of their time to the classroom and who believe that college life should be one long party; if so, I doubt that we are unique in this respect. On the other hand, we probably have students among us who have never attended a party since their enrollment at O.U.

I believe that the majority of us come within a category between these two ex-

trêmes. Most students realize the importance of a college education and confine their "partying" to that portion of their time which they can spare without seriously affecting their scholastic standing.

Undoubtedly there are as many views on this subject as there are students because each of us will be influenced by his own experiences. I am speaking from my own viewpoint as a married student who has not been particularly concerned whether or not we are a "party school." I believe that most of us who are married are more concerned with education than with the social calendar. Consequently, we devote less of our time to social activities than do the unmarried students.

I might add that I expect to attend some fine parties between finals and graduation.

By REGINA SODERSTROM
Arts and Sciences Senior

IN ORDER to determine whether or not the University of Oklahoma is a party school, it is first necessary to decide what is meant by the term "party school." The connotation in which I use the term refers to the situation existing at a college or university in which the majority of the students place emphasis upon anything or everything other than the pursuit of knowledge. From my observation, I believe that this situation exists at O.U.

It is true, of course, that there are a great many serious students here who are earnestly endeavoring to take advantage of the educational opportunities offered by the University. But they are far outnumbered by the "students" whose primary interests lie in extracurricular activities, in sorority or fraternity work, in parties, rather than in the classroom, in the library, or in studying. Studying often winds up at the bottom of the heap and is indulged in only when all other possibilities for passing time are exhausted or when dire necessity—a term paper or finals—threatens.

This is not to say that extracurricular activities are not good in their own right, for they do form a very vital part of university life, or that the student's life should consist of all studying and no play. On the contrary, it is to suggest that the scales be weighted more heavily in favor of the books, and less in favor of the "parties," thus forming a better balance in the interests of that for which universities were originally established—education.

By MARY ELLEN BURLESON
Fine Arts Senior

ALL UNDERTAKINGS at the University of Oklahoma are not along scholastic lines! Coupled with the school's enviable record of high achievement in professional

Is O. U. A Party School?

Members of the Senior Editorial Board examine the social climate on campus and offer some provocative answers to the question.

The planning of this special Senior issue of *Sooner Magazine* was in the hands of seven outstanding seniors. Selected by President Cross for the honor were representatives of each of the University's seven undergraduate colleges. The editors were Laniel Kirkpatrick, College of Law; Don Resler, College of Pharmacy; Mary Ellen Burleson, College of Fine Arts; Lloyd Bettis, College of Education; Bev Blackwood, College of Engineering; Regina Soderstrom, College of Arts and Sciences, and Ted Goller, College of Business Administration.

For two months the editorial board met with the editor of *Sooner Magazine* in night sessions to select the subject matter and assign the topics. They did a fine job.

and academic fields is a colorful whirl of social activity—from elaborate, formal affairs to “blue jean” parties western style.

An airy notion exists among a sizeable portion of our student body that the class schedule should be arranged to create no conflict with the current semester’s social calendar and that studying is something to be done at odd moments between telephone calls.

Can we assume that parties lower scholarship? We might equally well prove the reverse; low marks may drive students to the intoxicating gaiety of a party for blessed relief!

True, that in many cases the “sociable type” does not want to be known as a grind. C minus is good enough for him. Then, there is the very intense, almost too scrupulous worker, a slave to his grade point, who will settle for nothing less than an A in every course. Surely this, too, is a sterile, narrowing pursuit.

O.U. is a “party” school but it is also a “study” school. The constant problem of combining worthwhile social experiences with sincere scholastic endeavor faces every student on our campus. The compromise is not easy to make.

By BEV BLACKWOOD
Engineering Senior

WHAT is a party school? If a party school is a school which has parties, yes, O.U. is a party school. If a party school is one which has adequate social functions for every student, then O.U. is a party school. If a party school denotes one which has excessive social functions, O.U. probably is still a party school. If a party school is marked for the wildness of its parties and the cubic feet per second of alcohol which flows, O.U. is probably outdistanced by many, if not most, of its competitors; but it might still be called a “party school.” The former is good, the latter, not so hot!

A vitally important thing for every college student to realize is that a degree is not an education. A 3.9 grade average is not understanding. Sure, it is an important part, but not at all conclusive in itself. College days (or college daze to the less purposeful youth) are vital days of trial by fire, away from the guiding hands of parents. Many pass the sound barrier in grades and crack up on the acid test of compatibility with God and man.

A fundamental part of education is the ability to socialize . . . to get along with your fellow man. O.U.’s many organizations furnish ample if not abundant opportunity for all to learn the American way of living and working together. Fraternities and sororities by no means provide the

most important social activities. Religious groups and other non-Greek organizations furnish social outlets for those not inclined toward Greek activities. So, in one way or another, rarely anybody on our campus is without ample opportunity for growing socially.

I honestly believe our campus operates at near optimum efficiency for social growth. The opportunity is adequate for all who don’t play the extremes of isolationism or moral disintegration which leads to the “wildness” often attributed to “party schools.” Let’s face it . . . “Parties make the world go ‘round,” . . . to quote an ancient Tasmanian llama herder.

By DON RESLER
Pharmacy Senior

I PERSONALLY do not believe that O.U. can be fully classed as a party school. A person must realize that wherever you go to school you will meet all types of people, and with these will be a certain percentage that party more than the average student. Sure, we definitely have our full share here at the University; so does Oklahoma A&M and the other state schools.

One of the big reasons O.U. has this reputation is that people have the conception that all O.U. students are very wealthy. People throughout my part of the state will remark that at O.U. you socially do not have a chance, while at A&M all you need is a pair of boots and some jeans and you are on top of the social world.

The amount of partying a student is able to do depends a great deal upon his course of study. Some schools are simply not as difficult as others. For instance, in the Pharmacy School when a student comes to class in the morning with bloodshot eyes, it is not because of the party he has had the night before. The parties are there for those who have the time, but so is the opportunity for a good education from the state university.

By LLOYD BETTIS
Education Senior

PERHAPS I should preface my remarks on this subject by admitting that I grew up within thirty miles (as the horse gallops) of the “Cowboy College” at Stillwater.

Therefore, I was given a liberal spoon-feeding of propaganda concerning O.U. For that reason, some of my observations concerning our school may be somewhat orange-and-black tinted.

When my friends learned that I was really going to the “snob factory,” as they put it, they asked in horror if I knew a suit was a must in all classes.

During my freshman year, I looked at the bleary faces about me in the eight o’clock classes, read that six of the men’s houses had “D” averages, and was almost convinced O.U. was a party school.

On the other hand, the fact that last semester 126 students made straight A’s proves that not all of the students on the campus go partying every night. Also, the large number of married students and ex-G.I.’s have had a stabilizing influence on the rest of the student body. It seems that more of the students know that college is an investment in life and is a thing to be taken more seriously than they did ten or more years ago. When a person spends his own money on education, he usually works hard to get his share of the learning that is being passed out.

Since I am married and have three children, the social life at O.U. is not of much concern to me. To me, O.U. is not a party school; rather, a place where I have worked hard, learned some things, (blue jeans are allowed in classrooms, for instance), and have benefitted in meeting many people with backgrounds and ideas that are different from mine.

O.U.’s Foreign Students . . .

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ble expressing the emotion he felt in words, but at other occasions a question would open a flood-gate of feeling that sent the writer scrambling for paper and pen, unable to record the torrent of opinion.

Several conclusions could be reached. First, foreign students like the United States and its people, particularly after they are here for a reasonable length of time. Secondly, these people from Lebanon, and India, and Japan, and all the rest, expect world leadership from the United States. They are no longer the pictures on the travel folder or the characters in historical novels. They are literally neighbors and their welfare is important to us.

The interest in Americans and the trust they place in the leadership of the United States is a heartwarming thing. Many miles from all that is home, they face life here with remarkable optimism and courage. One could sense their desire, and some voiced it, for American people who travel abroad to exercise a deeper insight into the culture and minds of foreign people rather than trundling heavily through the country in true tourist fashion.

People of other nations are interested in us and we must be interested in them; they represent the stability of our future.