
Hal Muldrow Agency

'28

Insurance of all Kinds

Bonds

117 E. Comanche

Norman

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Letters to the Editor

(The editor invited alumni to express their views on the University of Oklahoma's pressing problem of too many students for existing facilities, faculty and financing in the April, 1957 *Sooner Magazine*. Three solutions to the educational dilemma were suggested for consideration. They were 1) Do you favor restricting enrolment at O. U.? 2) Do you favor lowering academic standards? and 3) Do you favor an increase in student fees? The following three thoughtful letters were the result.)

LIMIT ENROLMENT

"... Of the three choices, I cannot see how anyone could even consider lowering the standards of a university since this would certainly defeat the purpose of such an institution . . .

"As for raising fees, this should be considered only the last resort . . .

"This leaves us choice number one, the only obvious answer and the next best thing to unlimited education. In my opinion any university whether state-owned or privately endowed is an institution of Higher Learning, which means that it gives those individuals who are capable of earning it an opportunity to increase their store of knowledge through instruction by other individuals who already have and know how to impart that knowledge.

"Now notice that I said 'those individuals who are capable of it . . .,' which means that I firmly believe that there are far too many admitted to colleges and universities today who have no business being there and that these people may conceivably be replacing others who should be there . . . Let us not penalize our students of college ability in favor of the 'equality-of-the masses' theorem."

E. L. McClung III, '50pharm
Natchitoches, Louisiana

EMPHASIZE JUNIOR COLLEGES

"... It is my opinion from observation, and backed by some major studies by educators, that not all of our young people are educable for the professions . . .

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"Perhaps the solution is to establish more junior colleges with a 2-3 year curriculum directed toward education of these young people who are either not interested in or perhaps not capable of the higher professional education. We could then establish a criterion that only those high school graduates in the upper percentage of the classes would be eligible for state university enrollment which would educate on a professional basis. There might be a few exceptions, and these students could be given a stiff entrance examination to determine their eligibility on the basis that they are late starters.

"The rest of the young people could be sent to the junior colleges and perhaps in a few cases, where the student showed unusual development, after one or two years at these junior colleges, they could then be admitted to the University for higher education on the basis of passing suitable examinations. Since we are faced . . . with perhaps double enrolment in schools during the next 15 years, I really believe it is necessary to establish some sort of selective basis in order to permit those students with ability and desire to be educated to the fullest extent and still provide educational facilities for those who will live a successful life without higher professional education and specialization."

Kansas City, Missouri
C. G. Roush, '23eng

AN OBVIOUS SOLUTION

"There is an obvious solution to the 'Crisis in the Colleges' which seems to escape everyone:

"That solution is to convert at least half of our high schools and junior colleges into strictly vocational schools, where a boy or girl can quickly learn a trade, get a job and then get married as most of our kids want to do.

"Over 50 percent of all college freshmen never graduate from college. That is another fact that must be taken into account.

"Restrict enrolment to those whose I. Q. and intensity to get ahead in the professions are a priority.

"Our 'Country Club Schools' are a luxury, not returning to the taxpayer or parents anything like a reasonable return on human investment.

"We have to recognize that we must enter the field which was surrendered to the business college and the labor union by default. Prepare most of our youngsters for LIFE, not college!"

Maury M. Travis, '24
Denver, Colorado