

Backlog

SOME STUDENTS AREN'T LIVING UP TO THEIR REPUTATION FOR APATHY

THE trouble with today's college students is that they simply do not listen. You would think that they would have the sense to take advantage of all the wise and learned counsel that is available to them on a university campus—but not so; they just lower their heads and charge. As a case in point, let me turn your attention to Homecoming—which after all is just another football game.

This year's Homecoming committee was comprised of some students who obviously had not heard of the efficient job of tradition-burying we have been doing around here for the past several years—all in the name of "student apathy." Someone forgot to tell them that decorations and parades are kid-stuff and not worth the effort, that the alumni couldn't care less, that pep rallies are a drag, that no one goes to all-University dances any more.

So without the proper information, which could have saved them a lot of work, they went right out and organized a successful parade with clever decorations, a rip-roaring pep rally and a sell-out dance.

If they had bothered to consult any of us wiser heads, we could have told them that it was absolutely no use. Now you take this dance for instance. A "name" band, they said. And just who, may I ask you, is Johnnie Tollison? Next to Bo Diddley, I'm told, he's the greatest! Well, I had never heard of Bo Diddley either, so that should have been warning enough that no one was going to buy tickets to this dance. Of course, more than 1,000 students did buy tickets and had the time of their lives doing something called the Twist, which I had also never heard of until it hit the Jack Paar Show the other night. But that's what I mean about these college students—they just don't listen.

And Homecoming decorations—we scuttled them years ago. The parade was successfully abandoned in 1952 and house decorations went under a few years later. And yet here they come, with no experience whatsoever in parade float construction, and they build parade floats—and I must admit they looked pretty good. The students must have had a pretty good time building them too. The City of Norman and the University gave them the use of the old Navy base hangars to keep the floats out of the weather, and Friday night the place was really jumping—the sort of night the alumni fondly remember as "the good old days." Unfortunately there was some mi-

nor damage to the hangars (which the Homecoming committee quickly agreed to pay for) but a couple of ballyhooing newspapers thought it worthy of space anyway. And goodness knows, they are probably right—all that merry-making on a weekend—and the night before Homecoming.

And this pep rally—that was really the final blow. There must have been 1,000 students whooping it up on the South Campus, which may not seem remarkable to many of you alumni, but ask any recent graduate, and he'll tell you that no one ever goes to a pep rally of all things. Of course the secret behind this one was that someone finally thought to organize a pep rally a few days in advance—such things as asking the houses to arrange meal time to allow residents to attend the rally and not miss dinner—and asking a fire marshal to supervise the bonfire—and getting everyone there who was supposed to be there.

I really don't know what these youngsters could have been thinking of. Read any authority in the newspapers and magazines and you'll realize that today's college students are supposed to be worried, neurotic kids with the weight of an insane world on their stooped shoulders. They are all supposed to be studying to be nuclear physicists and space technologists and Peace Corps volunteers. And here they are living it up and having a good time as if they were going to live the rest of their lives.

And to top it all, they are so pleased with themselves, these student organizers, that they are already planning for a bigger and better hullabaloo next year. One would think, however, that they might have the decency to plan a few things that would cut the alumni in on the fun—we have our apathy problems, too. —CJR

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Next in the Sooner

Internationally acclaimed but virtually unknown in Oklahoma, O.U. literary quarterly *Books Abroad* will be the subject of the "Anatomy of Excellence" series in the December *Sooner Magazine*. Dr. J. Clayton Feaver will discuss the moral and spiritual values of the college crowd, while on the lighter side the *Sooner* will bring you a look at the 1961 basketball team and an article on Helen Lauterer, who has been costuming O.U. Thespians since 1942.