

# Backlog

## STUDENTS ARE TURNING THEIR CONCERN ON UNFAMILIAR AREAS

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● Strange forces are abroad among the usually predictable O.U. students, and they have the old-timers a bit wide-eyed. Without any administrative prompting, the students have taken up the cause of the academic welfare of their University (of all things). This is not normal behavior for Sooner scholars, and I can't help but wonder what they're up to.

In the beginning their concern was triggered by the loss of a favorite young history professor to the University of Kansas; in fact, for just a moment it looked as if some of them were going with him. They decided on another course of action—the formation of a group called Students for Educational Excellence (to be known henceforth as SEE) with the somewhat foggy but sincere purpose of arousing similar enthusiasm for academic excellence on all Oklahoma college campuses.

The basis for the students' new view of the University is actually the old alumni approach. They recognize that they will benefit as students from a superior educational plant with an outstanding staff, but they also point out that the value of the degree they are pursuing so hotly will depend on the progress the University makes long after they have left the campus. It's enough to brighten the outlook of any alumni worker.

● With the University of Colorado hiring its alumni secretary as head football coach and the assistant dean of men as his backfield assistant, men of the administrative and faculty ranks are beginning to view their careers in a new light. The basketball coaching vacancy at O.U., for instance, has given rise to all sorts of speculation. Inevitably the favorite of the Union coffee table wags is Alumni Director Boyd Gunning, with Dean of Students Clifford Craven the logical choice for his assistant. Neither one of them knows the first thing about basketball, you understand, but Mrs. Gunning is fairly knowledgeable on the sport and reportedly has agreed to serve in an ex-officio capacity without pay. Another group, however, favors Dr. J. Clayton Feaver, professor of religious philosophy, on the theory that in another losing season we are going to need a philosopher on the bench.

● Fair warning to alumni motorists returning to Norman: the city voters have done away with one of the landmarks you remember most vividly. The fabled corrugated streets are about to have that old familiar bounce removed. We figure on losing a few amazed football fans the first time out—those who think they've made a wrong turn off the expressway.

● Next month's *Sooner Magazine* will be a special issue devoted to the college of the future. The annual insert from Editorial Projects for Education, Inc., a national group of alumni editors, will focus on the much-publicized "college crisis"—enrolments, admissions, costs and the prospects for graduation. The rest of the issue will discuss tomorrow's University of Oklahoma and what makes the O. U. situation different from the Ivy League and its many imitators. In some respects, their tomorrow is day-after-tomorrow for us, but in other ways, tomorrow for O.U. is already today. As an alumnus, a parent, an Oklahoman or a citizen concerned about higher education, you will find this issue worth your time.

—CJR