shouldn't an alumnus of the University of Oklahoma be concerned about today's version of The College Student? You just barely lived through being one yourself, but that was years ago and the memory is mercifully dim. You hardly ever talk to one now, unless he happens to belong to you—and then only during vacations. You seldom see one in his native habitat, except on infrequent visits to the campus—and then only at a safe distance. And from what you read about him in the newspapers, perhaps this is the wisest policy. Then why be concerned?

Well, for one thing, the college student inevitably becomes an alumnus himself—or at least a former student. He also becomes a citizen and a parent, a businessman or a professional man, a leader or a follower in every area of your life. It's simple enough to ignore student opinions today, but in a few years you may run up against them on your city council or at the noon luncheon of the Rotary Club.

Probably no other single segment of our population has been analyzed so frequently as The College Student. His attitudes and opinions have been torn apart and studied from every angle by psychologists, sociologists, and market analysts. He has been scorned for his liberalism and at the same time condemned for his conservatism. His annual springtime antics have been alternately described as harmless pranks and willful destructiveness and probably contain elements of both. He is told to take his education more seriously, then he is deplored for his apathy toward "tradition" and his lack of "school spirit." The bewildered public actually doesn't know what to make of this contradictory creature, and what's more important, he doesn't seem to know quite what to make of himself.

In this special issue, the Sooner Magazine takes a crack at presenting a composite picture of The College Student in 1961. The views of people who deal with students every day—a dean, a landlady, a merchant and a minister, provide "The College Student... as others see him: only half of the picture," beginning on Page 1. For "The other half of the picture—The College Student... as he sees himself," turn to Page 9 for a 16-page special report from Editorial Projects for Education, Inc., an organization of alumni editors from all types of institutions in every part of the country. "The College Student" is the fourth EPE national report following "American Higher Education," "The College Teacher," and "The Alumnus." To test your own memories of "What were we like in '61?" compare notes with five well-qualified alumni observers whose reflections on their own college generations are featured in the Roll Call section, which begins on Page 25.

You won't find the "typical" college student on any of the following 32 pages. To the best of our knowledge, he doesn't exist—and we hope he never does.