Sooneristically speaking

The Editor is pleased to announce the appointment of two artists as contributing editors:

Miss Dorothy Kirk, '23 art, assistant professor of art in the school of art.

Mr Leonard Good, '28 art, instructor in the school of art.

Work of both artists has appeared in the columns of the magazine in the past. Both are creative artists, persons of rare ability. Miss Kirk recently returned from a year spent in art study in Europe. Mr Good taught art in Burkburnett, Texas, and in Oklahoma City. A series of caricatures of well known faculty members will appear in the magazine soon, done by him.

The Delphic oracles in the United States seem to be a few millionaires and inventors, like Ford, Edison, Rockefeller and Firestone. When one of these gentlemen opens his mouth, there is a scurry of reporters and next morning we read over our breakfast tables that Mr So and So “is of the opinion.” And countless thousands appropriate that opinion as their own, without further thought.

That is how we feel about Mr Edison’s latest pronouncement on education (viz. that as things are today, a young man would be wiser to enter the business world at once rather than to go to college.) Mr Edison puts one of the finest staged shows in America annually. He is worth it. On the occasion of his birthday he receives the gentlemen of the press. These hand him a list of questions. He takes the list and then rapidly writes down answers. These are carried over press association wires to every newspaper in America. Very soon, they become conversation currency. Mr Edison, Mr Ford, Mr Rockefeller, et al, do most of the thinking for most of the American people.

Mr Edison does not possess a college education. It is doubtful if a college education would have been of any great benefit to him—except to make him more tolerant. But tolerance is no longer in great esteem. There are many young men and women who ought not to be in college today. Many persons now in college would do far more for themselves and for the country if they engaged in something immediately useful. But that is as far as we can generalize; for there are countless other hundreds in college who will make the world a more tolerable place in which to live. If their object is purely to make money, perhaps they might make more now if they were out of college. But I have not resigned myself as yet to measuring education in terms of dollars and cents. And that is apparently what Mr Edison is doing. Mr Edison, friend of millionaires, evidently does not know how to appraise mental wealth.

Attacks on Bennie Owen are sporadic. They usually follow an “off” season. The attack usually emanates from the professional sport followers, who like victory better than the game. The essence of sportsmanship is to play fair. Mr Owen plays fair. Those critics who would have him hire his football teams have gone far afield. I know of hundreds of alumni who will stick with Bennie Owen of yore, playing amateur teams, and who would stop almost immediately boosting for Sooner athletics once Bennie were to professionalize it. There are two tendencies in intercollegiate athletics: One is to professionalize the contest by hiring athletes, the other is to limit the number of contests and to play only amateurs. Oklahoma has been consistently a leader in the latter class. That is, the state university is not yet ready to abandon the reason for its existence—to educate young men and women.

I hope my friend Paul Keen will realize that must be his ambition—to end Coach Gallagher’s long string of wrestling victories at Oklahoma Agricultural & Mechanical college. He’s going to do it, you can depend on it. Paul Keen is building up wrestling at the university into one of the major sports. And he’s doing the job in a great way.

The publication this month of the first cloth bound book by the University of Oklahoma Press is another milestone in the progress of the university under President Bizzell. Dr. Howard O. Eaton’s book, The Austrian Philosophy of Values is a most important book in philosophy; it is the first treatment in any language of this important development in philosophy from an historical standpoint.

We now have the complete university. More and more important American universities are establishing presses to complement the class room. President Bizzell has established the first university press in the mid-continent. Its growth will be slow but, let us hope, certain.