Sooneristically speaking

"Man is by nature a political animal" remarked Aristotle. And nowhere is he more so than in our good state of Oklahoma. Politics is the great pastime of our citizens. This year, more than ever before, many of the members of our association are candidates for state offices. Hence, it seems advisable to make clear the attitude of the association board relative to politics and candidates.

The association is non-political. Our university is non-political. It required years of patient work to remove the university from politics and anything on its part or on the part of friends of the university that would give credence to the suspicion that the institution is in politics would be most harmful. Alumni associations, though old and venerated in eastern schools, are fairly new in the mid-continent; and there is a persistent tendency to identify the alumni groups with the schools from which they originated.

Naturally, we are proud of those of our members who are candidates for office in this state. The association cannot translate that pride into tangible terms, however. To do so would in some instances result in choosing between members of the association; in others, in choosing between friends of the university. If the association were to support any candidates, it might be construed to the harm of such favored candidates. Therefore, we feel that every alumnus who is a candidate will agree that the association and its magazine can in no wise lend its support to his candidacy. We shall continue, as we have in the past, to publish the news regarding candidates as comes to our notice. We will appreciate any assistance that will make such news and comment more complete. But further than that, we do not intend to go. And we believe that every Sooner candidate will approve that attitude.

Times are changing. It is we older young ones who are the sentimentalists now. Members of the senior class of the university (who have received the equivalent of $2,500 free in tuition from the state) refuse to pay $3 each to leave a memorial on the campus to their class. What more eloquent memorial could any class leave than that, that democratic education is not all “that it is cracked up to be”?

The Sooner Magazine

A News Magazine for University of Oklahoma (and Kingfisher college) graduates and former students. Established 1928. Published monthly except August and September, by the University of Oklahoma Association, Oklahoma Union building, Norman, Oklahoma. Raymond Tolbert, '12 law, Oklahoma City, president; Mrs Walter Ferguson, ex-'07, Tulsa, vice-president; Frank N. Watson, ’13 law, Dallas, Texas, vice-president; Fred Thompson, ’22 arts-sc., Norman, treasurer; Frank S. Clecker, ’21 bus., secretary. Membership dues: Annual, $3.00, of which $2.00 is for The Sooner Magazine; Life. $60.00, of which $40.00 is for The Sooner Magazine, payable $5.00 a quarter. Entered as second-class matter October 13, 1928, at the postoffice at Norman, Oklahoma, under the act of March 3, 1879. Printed in the United States by the University of Oklahoma Press. Contents copyrighted 1930 by the University of Oklahoma Association.

Editor: Joseph A. Brandt, ’21 journ.
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Adverting rates may be had on application to the business manager, Oklahoma Union building, Norman, Oklahoma.

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NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

George Copeland, ’31, is a Sooner debater. He describes a trip made by himself and Bob Harbison to the Pacific coast, which Will Rogers commented on in one of his daily telegraphic dispatches. . . . Dr. A. B. Adams, an honorary member of the University of Oklahoma Association, is dean of the college of business administration and a former member of the federal trade commission. . . . Dr. Charles N. Gould is a director of the Oklahoma Geological Survey.

I am glad to see my able friend Mr. Kraft is being used by the Norman chamber of commerce in many advisory capacities. If the Norman chamber is wise, it will avail itself of Mr. Kraft’s abilities. The Tulsa chamber of commerce pays one of the highest salaries in the southwest for an engineer to direct its work. In Norman the chamber has the services free of charge of this expert engineer who directs the university’s utilities.

Mr. Kraft is vice president of the chamber and head of the hotel committee. He works for Norman, as hard as any Norman citizen. Men like him are doing a great deal to tear away the cleavage that all too long has set Norman and the university apart.

A word about this issue: It is late—dreadfully late. Much material designed for it has had to be saved for the June number. The publication of the general catalog, the fact that this edition was wanted late for distribution to the seniors, and the fact that the editor was ill for a period when he should have been “getting out” the magazine, are all responsible.

Are you making your plans to return to Norman for Commencement this year? With good paved roads connecting Norman with most of the larger cities of the state and with the larger cities of Texas, it should be an easy matter to bundle the family into the old car and make a hasty visit to the campus.

You owe it to your association to attend its business meeting. Too much of the business of these annual meetings devolves upon a few loyal alumni who attend, while countless hundreds remain away. The association’s business is your business—you should attend the meeting if you possibly can.

Would you like for the association to undertake the creation of a monument to Dr. James Shannon Buchanan? Write your opinion to the editor, so that he may present it at the annual Commencement meeting of the association.

There is under consideration by the magazine’s staff this type of memorial: The James-Shannon Buchanan Memorial Lecture bureau. Uncle Buck was in his element when speaking at public gatherings. What is your suggestion?