the Alumnus of tomorrow

In the year 2000 A.D. present students at the University of Oklahoma will be in their late fifties. As alumni, they will feel closer to the University than do alumni now. They will expect more from O.U. in the way of service and intellectual leadership, and conversely they will feel a sense of obligation to their alma mater and will feel compelled to give their time, talent and money to support worthwhile programs of the institution.

Production techniques will be so highly developed in 2000 A.D. that the needs of the human race in foods and consumer goods will be produced by a very small percentage of the total population. People will have more leisure time, will be better prepared to take advantage of it and will have a greater interest in cultural and intellectual pursuits. To me this means that they will turn naturally to the institutions of higher learning for guidance, especially to those that have kept pace with the times. The academic community will be the nucleus of much important planning and work, and the college alumnus will be recognized as a leader in a society that will devote more time to improvement of social, political and religious institutions. Surely there will be at least a moral obligation to give of individual time in the public service, to governing agencies on a local, national or world level, to apply talents to the improvement and enrichment of cultural and social institutions.

The alumnus of tomorrow will be interested in student recruiting for his alma mater. This interest will be sophisticated, and active alumni will be interested in learning as much as possible about a student's academic proficiency and aptitudes. And as the alumni go about recruiting these scholars of the future, they will be urging them to enter an academic world far more revolutionary than they themselves imagined in the 1960s. It is not difficult to envision that whole academic world far more revolutionary than they themselves imagined in the 1960s. It is not difficult to envision that whole academic world far more revolutionary than they themselves imagined in the 1960s. It is not difficult to envision that whole academic world far more revolutionary than they themselves imagined in the 1960s. It is not difficult to envision that whole academic world far more revolutionary than they themselves imagined in the 1960s. It is not difficult to envision that whole academic world far more revolutionary than they themselves imagined in the 1960s. It is not difficult to envision that whole academic world far more revolutionary than they themselves imagined in the 1960s.

The alumnus of tomorrow will be a more valuable resource of an institution in faculty talent and facilities. He will have great respect for the best of the college teachers as a group as competent, devoted scholars and teachers, and occasionally he will be critical of a teacher merely because he disagrees with him or because he abhors the way the professor wears his clothes. In other words, the alumnus is a product of the resources of an institution in faculty talent and facilities.

And what about the long-standing romance between the alumnus and college athletics? It is only reasonable that sports fans of tomorrow, whether alumni or not, will continue to be just as enthusiastic as they are today. I do predict growth in the importance of school-oriented sports activities because of the health problem represented by the lack of opportunity for vigorous physical activity among the young people in this future society. If they are to be healthy, they must exercise. This might be accomplished by developing new games, which have something to offer every student regardless of his capabilities. Every youngster will be encouraged to select his own sport and to participate in it throughout life. But, regardless of what changes may occur in college athletics, you are sure to find alumni interested in them. The competitive aspects of sports in college may be more or may be less than it is today, but emphasis is apt to be on activities providing vigorous exercise for the most youngsters.

In many ways, the alumnus of tomorrow will be much like the alumnus of today. As a group, he will praise, criticize and view with alarm. Occasionally, he will jump to rash conclusions on misinformation about the University, and occasionally he will make a studied judgment after reviewing the facts. He will have great respect for the best of the college teachers as a group as competent, devoted scholars and teachers, and occasionally he will be critical of a teacher merely because he disagrees with him or because he abhors the way the professor wears his clothes. In other words, the alumnus is a product of the institution and the society from which he comes. Much is expected of him, and it can be hoped that in the future, as in the past, he will usually exceed those expectations. —RBG