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Change, The Life Blood of a University

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If Homecoming weekend is your first visit to the University in several years, some things may have changed. You may expect to find battle scars on Johnson Hall from the wars waged over the Northwest Review. You may expect to find students running wild because of recent changes in conduct rules. Neither is true.

A few buildings may be missing, a few trees gone and a few new structures sitting where you used to lie on your back spring term and pretend you were studying for finals. All of these changes have been made, but there are many more that don't show.

The student body has grown. In the last four years alone it has added roughly 3,000 students. The State Board of Higher Education will ask the State Legislature to allocate more money than ever before to educate these students.

Luckily higher education is beginning to be regarded as a necessary investment, instead of as a luxury to be financed after the important things are taken care of. Several groups of educators and researchers have proved statistically that greater education increases the individual's capacity to earn, spend and pay taxes.

But education is important to the state even before the potential bank president emerges from the hallowed halls. Educational centers with adequate natural resources or economic climate inevitably attract industry and business, eager to attract the growing market to trained help. What has been termed a "smokeless industry" is created as an institution of higher education attracts gifts, grants, and contracts pumping money into the economy and knowledge and discovery into the literate world.

Last year the University attracted over \$7 million in research grants alone, not to mention other gifts and sources of income. Education has become an investment instead of an expenditure.

One Continuing Trend

One thing about the University that hasn't changed, except possibly to become stronger, is her tradition of academic freedom. As is the problem with any state university, the will of the taxpayers is frequently felt within the supposedly hallowed shrine of learning.

In some states this public pressure becomes virtually unbearable, as at Texas where local residents are once more waging a war to remove any teaching of Darwin's theory of evolution from text books. The student revolt at Berkeley

earlier this fall was a reaction to a publicly supported policy prohibiting the advocacy of political ideas on the campus.

Any state institution daring to permit ideas to grow strictly on their educational merit cannot help but offend a few from time to time. The strength of a university such as this one may very well be measured in its dedication to defend the right of student and professor alike to explore ideas freely.

The research fostered by such free inquiry benefits not only those concerned, but the entire state and nation. Research at the University is attempting to find ways to improve English instruction at the high school level and to integrate it with the freshman college course. Another research program is attempting to break down the lag between the breakthrough in some field of learning and the introduction of this new knowledge into the curriculums of public schools.

By the time the class of 1965 returns for its 10 year reunion, more drastic changes will have taken place and the University will probably have created another image for itself. When this or any other educational institution stands still, abandoning change and progress, it will be time to seriously re-evaluate the goals held by each American.



IN MEMORIUM—A HOMECOMING THAT WAS CANCELLED
Nov. 22, 1963