

The Very Model Of A Modern College President

(Sir W.S. Gilbert)

I am the very model of a modern college president.
I'm always on the job, though nearly always a nonresident.
I tour about the country to assemblies gastronomical
And make all sorts of speeches from sublime to broadly comical.
I keep the trustees calm and the alumni all benevolent,
Restrain all signs of riot and publicity malevolent;
I know the market value of each wage-slave professorial,
And how much less he'll take for honorarium tutorial;
I'm on to all the low intrigues and rivalries divisional,
And on the budget how I wield my fountain-pen excisional!
So though I pile up mileage being generally nonresident
I'm the very model of a modern college president!

I mix with all the business kings--the Lions and the Rotary,
Of heiresses and oil tycoons I am very hopeful votary.
I'm fond of giving dinners in a layout that is squiffycal
And talking on the radio in accents quite pontifical.
I use the phrase "distinguished guest" at every opportunity,
I welcome all alumni to my parlor every June at tea.
I've shaken every human hand that's manicured and squeezable,
I pass the hat among the rich, the buck wherever feasible!
So though I pile up mileage being generally nonresident,
I am the very model of a modern college president!

Harold A. Larrabee



poem

i want to
go down to the
sea,
and see the
way my soul
has moved.
i want to sit
and muse
awhile on the
waves, and
drown my tears in
their froth.
i want to
watch a
storm come
in and
see in it
reflections
of the violence,
frustrations,
within me.
and after
the storm,
both of us
will be
peaceful
and calm.

y. vanessa willis