

## An upgrading of health, recreation facilities

Students expect quite a lot from their university and parents expect even more. The increasing demand for diversified services has made the University of Oklahoma more than an academic training ground for adolescents. The University has become a community in which a student's development and habits are influenced around the clock.

In addition to academic instruction the student is provided housing, counseling, social activities, health services, experiences in religion, exposure to drama, art and music, physical fitness programs, and more. If he learns to take advantage of all this, he should be able to deal with the pressures which confront him as he moves into adult community life.

In order to do a more effective job, OU has coordinated most of these services and activities through the Office of Student Services under the direction of its dean, Dr. Jodie Smith, formerly dean of men. Dean Smith is efficient and imaginative and has proved especially adept at involving students in planning and operating programs.

Two new buildings are being planned to provide adequate facilities

for important services, a Recreation and Physical Education Building and a Student Health Center Building. The planning committee for the Recreation and Physical Education Building has done an excellent job studying similar facilities at other schools and soliciting ideas from the faculty and students. This building will house all instruction in physical education for both men and women students. It will accommodate the intramural programs and will contain areas for individual exercise and recreation. Even with limited present facilities 25 percent of OU students are participating in 17 sports and games scheduled through the intramural department. Forming habits of exercise and good health should be an objective of every student.

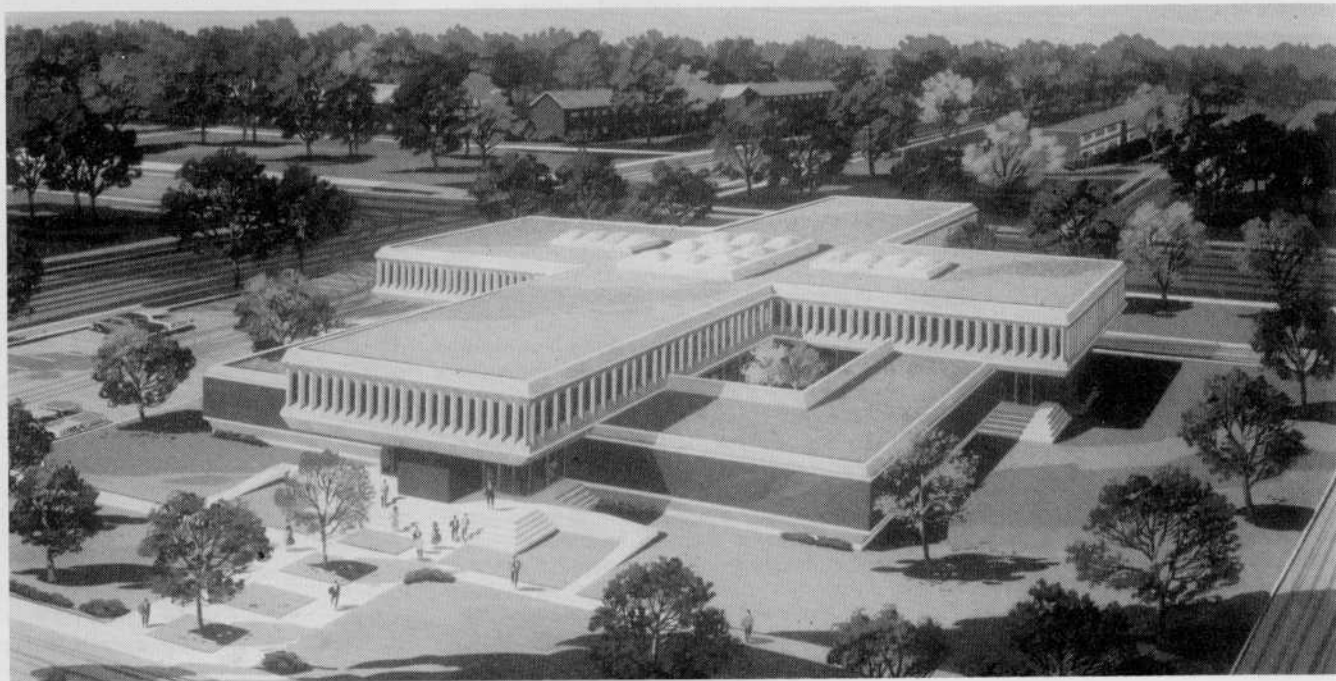
A list of the important areas in this building will give you an idea of its size. The planning committee would like to see the building contain two gymnasiums large enough for six basketball courts in one and two in the other. These would house basketball, badminton, volleyball, tennis, fencing, and indoor softball. In addition there would be handball courts, wrestling room, dance studio, bowling lanes, ice arena, swimming pools, firing range,

special exercise room for physical therapy, exercise and conditioning equipment, a gymnastics room, arts and crafts rooms, classrooms, offices, storage, laundry, and shower rooms. It is an optimistic, ambitious plan, but when constructed it will be one of the busiest buildings on the campus, night and day.

The second major building in this program, and in my opinion, the most important, is the Student Health Center Building. Since 1928, when the present Student Health facility was constructed, the University of Oklahoma has provided a full-time trained staff to look after the health needs of the students. Today's staff includes five physicians, a psychiatrist, physical therapist, a health and sanitation engineer, and numerous technologists and nurses. Services offered cover a wide range from immunization and pharmacy to x-ray, laboratory, and clinical visits. In the fiscal year of 1965-66, the health service had 42,839 clinical visits by students resulting in 635 cases being hospitalized. This was an increase of approximately 20 percent over the prior year.

These services have been carried on and expanded in spite of serious limi-

*Below is a drawing of the new infirmary, to be built in the near future close to Adams Center. Plans for the field house are incomplete.*



tations caused by outmoded and inadequate facilities.

Recognizing the needs of the Student Health Service, the University appointed a committee consisting of representatives of the medical school faculty, Student Services personnel, and representatives of the student body and faculty to analyze the present and projected needs of the Student Health Service and to present a comprehensive plan. Examples of some of the services to be offered under the new plan include hospitalization for acute illness and injury to include room and board, X-ray and laboratory examinations, and hospital medications, plus preventive medical care

and health education involving immunization and annual disease protective programs which include vision examinations and tuberculin skin testing.

The new facility proposed by the committee combines all of the features of the most modern medical techniques with the latest concepts of hospital organization. The initial structure will include a basement area and two floors, but the second floor will be so designed and constructed that a third floor could be added at a later date. There will be room for 50 patient beds which can be increased to almost double the capacity in emergencies such as a flu epidemic of a few years ago

when 646 patients (compared to the present 136) were hospitalized in a two-month period. In addition, a small apartment is included in the structure so that a physician will be on call in the Student Health Center 24 hours a day.

Apparently the only possible source of funds for these two important buildings is from student fees or from private gifts. Students appear to be overwhelmingly in favor of a reasonable fee increase to finance these important additions to the campus. Parents will be less enthusiastic but they share their youngster's appreciation for the importance of adequate facilities for health and physical development.



### New Dormitories

*Two tower complexes, one for men and one for women, will provide living accommodations for 2,096 students who will be fed in a central cafeteria (see above). The first dormitory will house coeds and will be ready Sept. 1967. The other will open a year later. Almost identical to the 12-story coeducational Adams Center nearby, the two new dormitories are going up on schedule (photo at right) on the land that once was filled with those graceless prefabricated huts erected in the 1940's.*

