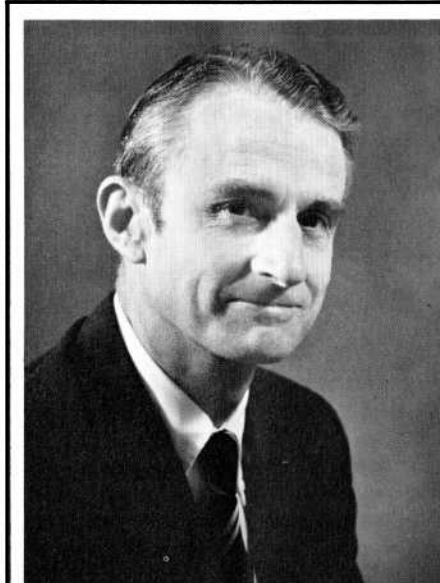


POINTBLANK

A CRISIS SITUATION



by
Leonard P. Eliel, M.D.
Executive Vice President
for Health Sciences
Center Affairs

"I hope fervently that solutions can be found, for once the Center starts rolling downhill, the momentum will be extremely difficult to stop."

Normally Pointblank is used for the presentation of opposite viewpoints on controversial matters of interest to alumni, faculty, staff and students.

However, the topic in this issue, dealing with the crisis facing the Health Sciences Center, was of such magnitude the editors felt an entire article concerning the impending cutbacks was essential.

In an effort to lessen the financial crisis, the University Board of Regents recommended the consolidation of Children's Memorial Hospital patient services with University Hospital and the curtailment of emergency services. The recommendation has met with considerable opposition, and many citizens are questioning why these cutbacks must take place and what has created the situation.

Dr. Leonard P. Eliel, executive vice president for Health Sciences Center affairs, furnished the Sooner with an article explaining the crisis condition.

The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, perennially plagued by money worries, today faces a budgetary crisis of such magnitude that the entire center and its concept of producing adequate health manpower for Oklahoma are in peril.

Though the gravity of the financial problem only recently came to public attention when the University Board of Regents directed the consolidation of Children's Memorial Hospital patient services with University Hospital and the curtailment of emergency services, the crucial situation was certainly not unanticipated by the University. It has been building for several years. The storm warnings were out. The consequences to be expected were described to the legislature repeatedly during the last session.

Appropriations for 1972-73 are \$2.3 million short of minimal needs, so that, even if the cutbacks proposed for fall are made, a special appropriation from the next legislature in the amount of approximately \$1.6 million will be needed to support the Center.

The crux of the crisis is this:

1—The Health Sciences Center has received legislative and voter mandates to add new educational programs which are costly, to increase enrollments in existing programs, and to build new facilities for these programs, with inadequate provision for funding them.

2—The University Hospitals receive little or no reimbursement for large numbers of medically indigent patients, those not eligible for Medicare, Medicaid or welfare benefits. These costs are the major source of our fiscal problem.

In 1966, the Center's academic units consisted primarily of the College of Medicine, the College of Nursing and a Graduate College program in the basic medical sciences.

Today we have, in addition, the College of Health, College of Allied Health Professions, and the College of Dentistry which will admit its first students this fall.

We have also received mandates from the legislature and the State Regents for Higher Education to begin this fall a graduate level program in the College of Nursing and to open a two-year clinical division of the College of Medicine in Tulsa.

Medical college enrollment has been increased from 400 five years ago to 535 this fall and the total will rise to 600 three years from now. The size of the entering class of the College of Nursing is up from 60 admitted two years ago to 200 new students this fall and at the same time we must begin a graduate program to turn out qualified faculty members for other Oklahoma nursing schools. The first 24 dental students will arrive in September, and the number of public health professionals, technicians and auxiliary health workers of all kinds is being accelerated.

A new 214-bed unit of University Hospital, the Mark R. Everett Tower, is scheduled to open in September, and this badly needed facility—for which Oklahomans voted bonds—will cost approximately \$1 million additionally each year to operate.

Why open a new hospital when existing ones are not properly funded? Postponement of the opening was indeed considered by the University Regents when they studied the cutback alternatives presented. They rejected the option for these reasons: to leave the building vacant would be to run the risk of having to pay back the \$4,961,769 federal grant that helped build it; it would cost over \$400,000 to maintain the new structure even though it were not occupied; and it is sorely needed to replace the antiquated facilities now housing surgical, gynecology-obstetrics and related services.

Opening of the new tower, should Children's Memorial inpatient units be closed, would not increase the total bed capacity of the hospitals.

Obviously, at the root of the cash problem is the fact that there is a price tag attached to the development of new health professions education programs, to the delivery of patient care services, and to the operation of new facilities.

A \$5,872,826 increase in appropriations for the Center was the original request the State Regents for Higher Education made to the legislature. After it became apparent that this request would not be met, the colleges and hospitals were asked to reduce their budget requests to the absolute minimum consistent with continued operations. We cut \$2,500,000 from the budget, leaving a \$2,300,000 deficit. When higher education appropriations were allocated, the Health Sciences Center ended up with an increase of only \$258,000, about 4.4 percent of the initial request.

Gov. David Hall in May announced that Children's Memorial Hospital inpatient services would not be shut down and that emergency services at University would not be cut. He appointed a committee to study the problems and recommend means of meeting the deficit. At this writing, the committee had not completed its work.

I hope fervently that solutions can be found, for once the Center starts rolling downhill, the momentum will be extremely difficult to stop.

The educational system has been bearing the burden of the costs of care for the medically indigent patient. Ways must be devised to remedy this situation. Although supplemental funds must be supplied to meet today's crisis, long-term solutions must be arrived at as well.

I am deeply concerned over

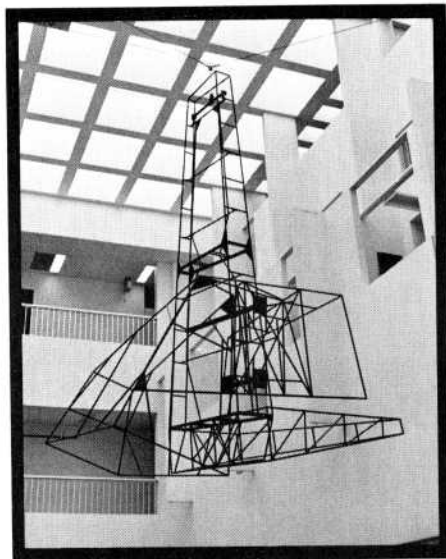
suggestions that the Center be set up under a separate board of regents, losing its status as a component of the University. I am also opposed to any proposals that would diminish the capability and incentive of the faculty to obtain major support from grants, trusts and the income from professional care of patients. Their enterprise produces an appreciable portion of the revenue that supports the Center.

Few realize that the state contributes less than one third of the Health Sciences Center's annual income. It is state-assisted, not state-supported. The balance is earned through grants, gifts, services to patients, and student fees.

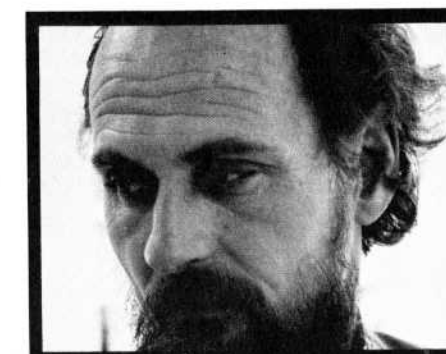
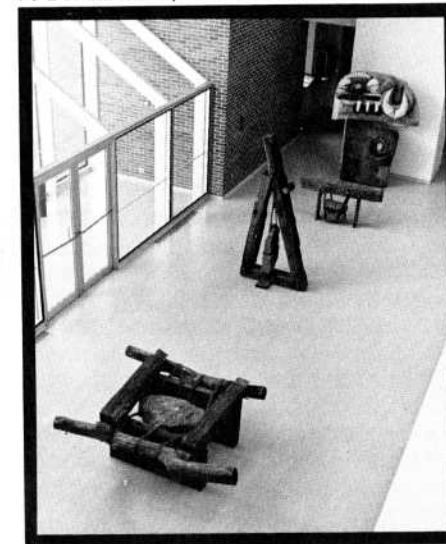
The complexity of our health center also is not generally understood. So interrelated are all of the patient care, teaching and research programs that the starvation of any one of the constituent units could seriously impair the whole.

Our state appropriation for 1971-72 was \$10.2 million. This amounts to 1 cent per day per person living in Oklahoma. An increase of two-tenths of one cent per person per day would meet the needs.

All of the people of Oklahoma have a tremendous stake in their health center. Ultimately the solutions to the Center's financial problems are in their hands. Hopefully—with increased understanding of the role and function of the Health Sciences Center—they will set good health care as a high priority and make their wishes known to our political leadership and decision makers.



F. Donald Clark, Dean of Fine Arts



Joe Hobbs, director, School of Art

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS it's come a long way since 1892

Fifteen years before Oklahoma statehood the University of Oklahoma opened its doors. The first students of the new university were greeted by one brick building, four faculty members and forty acres of prairie grass and buffalo wallows.

Fine arts at OU began to evolve as early as 1893 from what began as "a thorough course in piano, organ, violin, mandolin, guitar, voice, harmony, conducting and the history of music." However, the visual arts were a much longer time in coming.

Today the College of Fine Arts is one of the fastest growing areas at the University of Oklahoma. The College has developed into three disciplines—the Schools of Music, Art and Drama—with each offering work leading to undergraduate and graduate degrees.

As a matter of fact, enrollment has increased until it has now reached the critical point, according to F. Donald Clark, dean of the College. This has created a need to augment the limited faculty; consequently, it is feared that the day may come when more rigid admission standards for students in the arts will have to be imposed.

Already many non majors are not permitted to take particular fine arts courses. "We must find some way of providing for these students, or we are being derelict as an educational institution. If the day comes when we become an isolated island from the rest of the University, then we are not serving the students and the taxpayers of the state. We cannot justify this concept of isolationism—where doors are closed and someone cannot enter and encounter a learning experience," Clark said.

The OU School of Art has maintained the position of a professionally oriented school for some time. In addition to undergraduate degrees, the School offers an MA in art education, an MA in art history and an MFA in studio art—which in five years has become a very successful program. OU is the only state supported institution in the state which offers an MFA in studio art.

"We specialize in the overall fine arts attitude. If students

have basic skills and a good, strong understanding of what art about, they can do any of their jobs quite well, wherever they specialize," said Joe Hobbs, director of the School of Art.

One of the unique areas offered by the School is filmmaking. In only three years of existence the program has achieved national recognition as outstanding in film art. This reputation was won in a very quiet way—by turning out good students and having students who won numerous prizes in underground film competitions.

Hobbs explained the difference the way film is taught at OU and the teaching of cinematography. "Cinematography usually means filmmaking on the broadest scale and primarily aimed at Hollywood—producing cameramen, film writers, directors or editors for the commercial film.

"We see the camera as another paint brush. This is doing film for the sake of self expression or the use of creative energy. It is simply art for the sake of the art itself," he said.

Always progressive, the School of Art is an area which is constantly undergoing change. Nothing is static in art, and the School is continually upgrading courses and revising ideas in order to make the school relevant to new advances in art. According to Hobbs, art students will not stay in an art school which is inert.

Probably no discipline responds more to its immediate surroundings than the visual arts. The studio and exhibition spaces in the newly completed Fred Jones Jr. Memorial art center more than fulfill the requirements for the stimulation of creativity in art.

A number of outstanding factors are offered by the School. In addition to being a progressive innovative school with outstanding facilities, an exciting and varied faculty with national reputations are evident. Their services extend beyond the classroom to the community. Faculty members helped organize and are on the advisory board of the local Fire House Art Station. Others serve as advisors on the Oklahoma Arts and Humanities Council, do consulting work and judge art shows.



The Museum of Art, located in the Fred Jones Jr. Memorial Art Center, was established in 1936. Since that time the Museum has acquired a sizable collection of paintings, prints, Old Masters etchings and engravings, sculpture and woodcuts conservatively valued at well over a million dollars.

"Most colleges and universities have an art gallery. We have a museum. In a sense this is because we have a fine collection of works of art from all periods and temporary exhibits which provide a



am Olkinetzky, director, Museum of Art
 continual source of knowledge and enjoyment, thus providing an informal education to the public," said Sam Olkinetzky, director of the Museum.

The unique factors embodied in the Museum of Art are its carpeted, movable walls—enabling the exhibition areas to be changed from large to intimate galleries—special exhibit cases, flexible lighting and 30 feet high peripheral galleries. Due to the unique design features and the expanding permanent collection, Olkinetzky feels the OU Museum of Art is more fortunate than many regional museums.

"Some thirty temporary exhibitions are presented annually with the objective of providing opportunities for experiencing and evaluating contemporary and traditional developments.

Permanent collection exhibits of longer duration are devoted to sustaining critical interest in the historical and aesthetic aspects of the visual arts over a broad stylistic spectrum. The collecting, conservation and preservation of significant works of art of all periods and types is another basic objective of the Museum," Olkinetzky said.

The Museum also maintains a rental gallery from which original works of art may be rented. An additional service is that of evaluating works of art for people and for organizations. According to Olkinetzky, few universities engage in that service.

The encouragement of regional artists of merit and the enrichment of the cultural climate through exhibits, lectures, films and discussions are among the other functions of the Museum.

The School of Music is directed by Dr. B. A. Nugent who has been with OU for one year. During that time he has gained a great deal of confidence in the School. "I feel there is tremendous potential for growth," he said.

Nugent said the School places much importance on teaching and programs in performance. If you get down to it, the three essential ingredients of any school are the faculty, the students and the library. Undoubtedly we have as many talented students as any school in this area, and the same can be said for our outstanding faculty and library facilities," he explained.

The only state-supported institution in the state authorized to grant graduate degrees in music is the OU School of Music which offers the master of music education, the master of music, the doctor of music education and the doctor of music.

"I think that we have an obligation to meet these needs at the graduate level since the University is pledged to this role," explained Nugent.

Should a proposal now in Washington be approved, the School plans to move into some new programs and areas of research. Among these is a projected ethno-music program. for now the development of



B. A. Nugent, director of the School of Music, and organ purchased by Alumni Development Fund.

an Institute for the Study of American Indian Music has priority.

Also planned is a program in music therapy in conjunction with plans for dance and art therapy, a joint research project at Will Rogers Airport with the audio research laboratory funded by the FAA and the installation of an electronic music laboratory.

"Right now we are hoping to build a closer relationship with the School of Drama. We would all like to see a program here in music theatre which would combine requirements in drama, dance and music, thus preparing people for the musical stage," Nugent stated.

Despite the positive elements occurring in the School, crucial



problems exist. At this time there is an acute shortage of musical equipment. An organ shortage was somewhat alleviated through funds provided by the OU Alumni Development Fund. The School was able to purchase three new practice organs and also was able to acquire and install another organ which was purchased from OSU.

A need for better and more physical facilities is also facing the School. At present they are located in 12 different buildings around campus. One music instructor is even forced to teach in his home.

There has been a change in the music world which Dr. Nugent feels many people have failed to perceive. Due to the economic clamp on the concert world and with symphony orchestras in financial trouble, many performing musical artists have joined the faculty of various colleges and universities. The university has now become a center for the performing arts—a role which it has never before played.

"This is going to force colleges and universities to realize that its perimeters and boundaries are beyond the classroom; consequently, the University must consider a constituency that may include the entire state," Nugent commented.

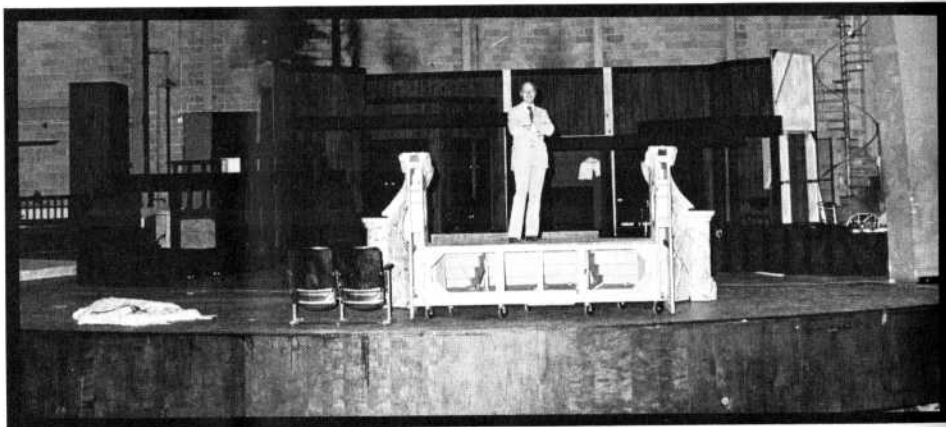
The major thrust of the School of Drama is pre-professional in terms of education and training. Dr. Nathaniel Eek, director of the School, considers the program one of the top 10 in the country.

"The reason I consider our school at the top is due to the extensive training and experience which we are able to give our students. We

are production-oriented. The student learns by performing. If students want a solid training in good professional theatre, this we can give them. When I compare the quality of work that we do with other schools I have seen, I am extremely proud of our results," commented Eek.

In 1969 the OU School of Drama was one of the first 10 schools to send a production to the American College Theatre Festival in Washington, D. C. Of those ten, OU was ranked among the top three in terms of performance.

An intensification of the graduate program is planned. The number of hours required for the



MFA program will be increased, and an MFA in dance will be initiated soon. The School is also interested in a long-range plan for the development of a doctor of arts in theatre.

The number of hours for the MFA in theatre is being increased primarily through a new course called professional semester. Upper level senior and graduate students will be used to form a resident company which will tour the state. Students as actors, directors and designers also will be lent to various state communities in order to provide experience for the students as well as furnish the communities individuals with the training and background for the job they require.

In the process of formation is the Oklahoma Theatre Center. This is a plan for all of the colleges, universities and junior colleges in the state to manage and perform in the now empty Mummers Theatre. Eventually it is planned for the theatre to have its own separate staff, but students and local

talent will be brought in for performances.

"The first year is going to be quite experimental because we haven't done this before. But there is a great deal of good will toward this idea. The important thing is that Oklahoma City, as a central location in the state, is a logical place for this sort of center," explained Eek.

Feeling that the audience is an absolutely necessary ingredient to theatre, productions by the OU School of Drama are balanced for the purpose of audience appeal. "If what we are doing is so far out and innovative that it is scaring audiences totally away, then maybe

we are failing in what we are supposed to be doing. So we try to balance our productions, encouraging good size audiences," Eek explained.

The School has three major production seasons. They are the University Theatre, with six productions, the Tempo Productions, with six to eight productions, and the Southwest Repertory Theatre, with three weeks of productions each summer.

One of the things that gives drama strength as a school is that all of the faculty are multi-purpose people who love theatre. "Many of us work 60 or 70 hour weeks in order to bring a show off in four or five weeks. The end result of audience pleasure and student experience is so important that it is worth the effort of putting in that extra time," Eek stated.

"The privilege of being in theatre is giving pleasure to others."