

SOONER MAGAZINE

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Fiftieth Anniversary

In this issue, Sooner Magazine presents some of the highlights of the first 50 years of the University's history. In this period of national emergency, the formal celebration of the semi-centennial was omitted, but it is distinctly worth while to take a quick look at the story of O. U. for its first half century. It is a story of growth, and development, and achievement.

In a very real sense the American university is a symbol of the "four freedoms" which were listed as the war aims of the United Nations in the Atlantic Charter signed more than a year ago.

Those four freedoms are Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Religion, Freedom from Want, Freedom from Fear.

Of course without freedom of speech there can be no real university. What point is there in searching for the truth if some petty official can tell a faculty in advance what the truth has to be? It is only by free expression of opinion that we move toward the truth in any field. In the axis nations where there is absolutely no freedom of speech, the universities have ceased to exist as universities.

Freedom of religion means freedom not only to worship as you please, but also to teach religion as you please to your sons and daughters. The University of Oklahoma, through association with the independent Oklahoma School of Religion adjoining the campus, has made non-denominational religious education available to students. The University thus encourages study of religion, but respects the student's right to make his own choice.

Through scientific research in many fields the University seeks and develops means of improving methods of production—and it is only increased production that can increase the real wealth of the nation and banish the fear of want. Through trained leadership in the field of social science, the universities of America are making a major contribution to the solution of such specific problems as unemployment, loss of income through illness, poverty in old age, and other such problems associated with the general goal of freedom from want.

The fourth war aim, freedom from fear, refers to the effort to wipe from the face of the earth the threat of aggressive war, sudden armed attack, spies and secret police—to achieve a peaceable world by disarming the aggressors and keeping them disarmed.

The connection between this particular war objective and America's universities was well stated by one O. U. alumnus who held a responsible position associated with the administration of the University, and left to go into the armed forces. "If we don't win this war," he said, "there isn't going to be much University anyway."

Reserve Enlistment

Every young man nearing draft age has to make his own decision about what to do to fulfill his obligation in the present emergency. There can be little respect for the youngster who enters one of the reserve enlistment programs purely and solely to avoid military service. But the student who goes to college in one of the reserve enlistment plans with the serious intention of preparing himself conscientiously in the special skills badly needed by the nation's armed forces can feel that he is doing just what will serve his country best. His reserve enlistment provides that he can be called to immediate service any time the nation's welfare demands it.

The Cover

Will Ransom, art editor of the University Press, designed the special cover for this issue, built around the University's official seal

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