

# SOONER MAGAZINE

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## Maximum Service

There is real satisfaction for alumni and friends of the University in the fact that the military training program now actually under way on the campus is the type of program that will utilize the institution's educational facilities to the maximum extent.

Both the Army Specialized Training Program and the Navy Training Program consist of educational training on the university level, which means that members of the University faculty are used to give the instruction. It also means that the young men sent to the O. U. campus have been screened out from a large number of prospects; most of them have already attended some college or university, and their general level of character and intelligence is unusually high.

Some colleges and universities in the United States which were already generously equipped with large dormitories and dining halls when the war started were in a position to accept various other kinds of training school contracts which were largely of the "hotel" type, providing for extensive use of the living accommodations on the campuses but utilizing little of the institutions' instructional staff.

The University of Oklahoma, having very limited housing facilities, and losing many of these to naval personnel attached to the large bases at Norman, could not accept a program of this kind without making it impossible to find room later on for the broader training program which has now developed.

The University administration had to face some very difficult decisions, and to accept, without being able to answer it, a measure of criticism for the delay in getting any training program started on the O. U. campus.

As it turns out, the policies followed are vindicated and the members of the administrative staff who worked day and night and on Sunday to solve one dilemma after another are to be congratulated for seeing the thing through to such a successful conclusion.

The result is that the University is using its educational facilities to the fullest extent to aid directly in the war effort, but at the same time the educational program and the makeup of the student body are more nearly normal than is the case for almost any other college or university in this region. The University is continuing its educational service to civilian students with little change in environment, and parents should understand that the Army and Navy have not "taken over" the campus.

## Plans for Higher Education

Persons interested in the future of higher education should be familiar with the following recommendation made by the National Resources Planning Board:

Recommended—That equal access to general and specialized education be made available to all youths of college and university age, according to their abilities and the needs of society. Fewer than half of the nation's youth who are able to do acceptable college work now continue their education beyond high school.

In the majority of instances the chief difficulty appears to be an economic one. In the postwar period no youth should be barred by economic circumstances from carrying his education as far as he profitably can.

The attainment of this objective will require the establishment of many new junior colleges and technical institutions in order that the first years of post-high school training may be more readily accessible.

It will also involve a large increase in the amount of student aid at all levels, because many more students will need assistance and in many instances the aid needed by the individual will be larger than is now customary. This aid may take the form of grants, loans and work opportunities, but it should be available in whatever amount needed, when necessary up to the full cost of attending college.

The extent of the increase in college attendance that will best serve the needs of society in the postwar period cannot be precisely determined. However, it is probably a reasonable working hypothesis to say that 40 percent of all youth of junior-college age (50 percent of all high school graduates when 80 percent of all high school age graduate) should be in college or technical institutes. This would involve an increase of 130 percent over 1940 enrollment in the first two years beyond high school, which was approximately 870,000.

## The Cover

Flag-lined campus corner's cosmopolitan aspect since the arrival of trainees in the Army Specialized Training Program is typified by this trainee trio from Pennsylvania, Nebraska and New York, and another Normn newcomer from Illinois.

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