

SOONER MAGAZINE

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Oklahoma, You Must Decide

Approval last month by the Board of Regents of President Cross's report on the future development of the University was a most commendable action and the first step in preparing O. U. to serve the state better. The blueprint for the future has been laid out by the president and faculty members—the report has been termed one of the most comprehensive ever prepared by any University administration—and now the big decision is up to the citizens of Oklahoma.

If the blueprint is ignored and the University is denied funds for building up a good faculty, for the construction of direly needed dormitories and for use in research which will benefit the whole state, then the institution is doomed to struggle pitifully on giving second-rate instruction and failing miserably in fulfilling its obligation to Oklahoma's young men and women.

But if state citizens can look far enough ahead to see what catastrophe will follow if support is not given, if big teeth are put in the president's blueprint for the future, if scholars of the highest quality can be brought to the campus, if adequate student housing is provided, then the University of Oklahoma will be well on its way toward becoming one of the leading institutions of higher learning in the nation and can perform the many services which will help Oklahoma to grow and develop its resources.

Just as the world's leaders have planned for the future at Dumbarton Oaks and other conferences, so must Oklahoma's thoughtful citizens plan for the future of the University and the state. We have the blueprint. The University Board of Regents, after thoughtful consideration, has found the plan a good one and worthy of endorsement. The fate of the University now rests in the hands of Oklahoma's citizens. How far they go in supporting this blueprint for the future will determine the degree to which the University will develop and give service in the next 10 and 20 years. There can be no fooling around or pigeonholing now. The decision must be made in the next six months. With support, the University goes ahead; without support, we shall have failed.

O. U. Needs Dormitories

Next to an inspiring, progressive faculty, probably the most important thing any university should have is dormitories for students which will be a home away from home. Where students live and eat affects in large measure what kind of grades they will make, how much fellowship they will actually get out of their college years and the kind of memories they will have of the university after they leave the campus.

The student housing problem at the University of Oklahoma has been critical for the last several years. Before the war, the problem was in the quality of housing facilities available to students, many of whom lived in helter-skelter fashion in approved houses all over Norman and were almost out of touch with the University except for the classes they attended.

During the war, the housing available to civilian students has been greatly limited because of the use by Navy personnel of rooms in approved houses. In 1939-40, during the period of our maximum enrolment when we had 7,079 students on the campus at one time, 2,600 students lived in 500 approved rooming houses. This fall this number had decreased to 44 approved rooming houses providing rooms for 370 students.

At the present time, all available housing facilities are being used to capacity to house some 2,500 students. These houses include 25 fraternity and sorority houses, four dormitories, 44 approved rooming houses and a few houses which provide living quarters for married students or those working for room and board. The situation boils down to the fact that dormitories at the University are needed *now*.

The Cover

Linda Colbert, Norman, appears in the new service show, "O. U. Beautiful Dolls," which plans to hit the road this month in a tour of Oklahoma camps and bases. Photo by Leonard Good.

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