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Sooner Scene

MANY alumni around the country were distressed to read in the June 6th issue of *Time* magazine false and unwarranted statements about the University of Oklahoma. The statements were made in an article headed "Big Brother," describing a program of cooperation between Oklahoma City University and MIT. It was suggested that the cooperative plan developed when the University of Oklahoma failed to indicate any interest in curriculum improvement. Other slighting implications referred to recruiting of scholars and graduate study.

The story attributed these statements to Dean McGee of Oklahoma City, who was serving as chairman of the OCU committee. It seemed unlikely that Mr. McGee had ever made such statements. He is well acquainted with the University and has continuously supported programs of research and development at O.U. For example, he was an early contributor to the high speed computer development program. Many of the top men in his company are graduates of O.U.

On the day the *Time* article appeared Mr. McGee wired Roy Alexander of *Time* as follows:

"Your attention is called to a serious misstatement of fact and to an unfortunate and unwarranted implication which your editors took the liberty of inserting in the article headed 'Big Brother' in your June 6 issue. According to the article, I first attempted to interest the University of Oklahoma in a curriculum improvement plan, and that, getting nowhere, I then proposed the idea to Oklahoma City University. This is completely and absolutely false. 'The great plan' idea originated within the Board of Trustees of OCU, and therefore, it was never contemplated that officials of other schools in Oklahoma would be approached, nor were they. The quotation about the recruiting of scholars is out of context and the inference made is completely erroneous. Never at any time have I said or implied anything which would 'cast a bit of sarcasm at the University of Oklahoma.' I deplore the fact that your article credits me with doing so. In this regard, the article has done a great disservice to one of our nation's respected state Universities as well as to the State of Oklahoma, where as much is being done on a statewide cooperative basis, to achieve quality in education at all levels, as is being accomplished in any other part of this country."

In a later issue *Time* made a barbed comment on the story but no admission of error or misrepresentation was ever printed. This matter was apparently of little importance to the editors of *Time*, but the hundred and fifty thousand graduates and former students of O.U. would differ with the gentlemen of *Time* on at least two points, one is on the quality of instruction at O.U. and the other is on what constitutes fair and accurate reporting.

—R. BOYD GUNNING

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