

◆ To meet and fulfill interests conducive to adult self-education, the Oklahoma College of Continuing Education has established a wide range of programs. One of the most popular comes in the form of Study-Discussion, a time-tested method of informal individual and group learning in which any adult citizen of Oklahoma may participate. This is a program designed chiefly to give a person an opportunity to gain self-knowledge and understanding and to keep himself well informed. Independent study is carried out in one's own home at his leisure; and, when a group of friends, neighbors or acquaintances in a community desires study in any given subject, the College of Continuing Education will give these members an opportunity to join an informal discussion group. The College will arrange a place for the group to meet and provide training for a discussion leader. Although attendance in a discussion group is optional, this plan allows for members to share and test ideas gained from independent study.

Study-discussion groups have already been formed this year in McAlester, Shawnee, Ft. Sill, Ardmore, Duncan, Yale and Beaver, and the third annual Great Books Weekend Institute has been set for October 9-11 at the Center for Continuing Education in Norman. In addition to Great Books, titles of some of the other courses covering the fields of humanities and natural and social sciences are: Aging in Today's Society, American Foreign Policy, Issues of the Sixties, Parenthood in a Free Nation, Politics 1964, Contemporary Moral Issues and Looking at Modern Painting. There are many others covering any fields of interest desired for study. When a person enrolls in a chosen subject, he will be sent sets of books and other materials needed for study and/or participation in a discussion group. The member reads the material at his own pace. When he is finished, he can request another set of books, giving him a continuing sequence of materials especially prepared for adult self-education. More information on the

Weekend Institute and participation in the Study-Discussion plan can be obtained by writing Study Discussion Programs, College of Continuing Education, The University of Oklahoma, 1700 Asp Avenue, Norman, Oklahoma.

◆ A novel project has been put in motion at the University which will update classroom lecture procedures. OU has several professors recognized as experts who are frequently invited to speak at other institutions on their specialties, but who seldom lecture outside of their own departments on the Norman campus. Under the guidance of Dr. Richard V. Andree, chairman of the department of mathematics and astronomy, this need for interdepartmental exchanges of lecturers is now reaching full recognition. Already, some 50 members of the University community have expressed their willingness to participate in such a venture.

"I believe the University of Oklahoma has matured sufficiently so that departmental lines can and should be crossed frequently to obtain specialized lectures in various existing courses," Dr. Andree says, offering these examples: "A chemistry class might invite a physics professor to lecture on atomic structure, or vice versa. A drama class might appreciate a lecture from an English professor specializing in Elizabethan Drama. An engineering class might like to have a mathematics professor discuss the principle of calculus of variation. Other examples will occur to each of us," adds Dr. Andree in speaking for OU's family of faculty members. "After discussions with colleagues, I conclude that most professors are willing to lecture, if asked."

◆ OU's new Fine Arts Center will be dramatic, to say the least. The huge multi-purpose complex near the corner of Boyd and Elm Avenue is to house the drama and music schools, giving both perhaps the greatest facility improvements envisioned on the

Norman campus in many years. The building, designed as a producing-teaching unit, will be occupied by the two schools during the spring semester, and the curtain for the first season of fine arts entertainment in the new structure will open sometime next fall.

Space is the prime need of the School of Drama, and this is what it will get with completion of the building. The theater, where University Playhouse productions will be presented, is designed to seat approximately 670 persons and features an Elizabethan thrust stage and a conventional proscenium stage like that at Holmberg Hall.

The Elizabethan principle will be entirely new to most OU theater-goers. It is a semicircular stage divided into two sections on elevators. Each of these sections can be raised and lowered separately or simultaneously for flexible use. For example, the Elizabethan stage will be lowered below floor level to be used as an orchestra pit for the proscenium stage. It also can be adapted to unite the audience with stage action, allowing actors to enter a scene from almost any direction, including the direction of the audience. The proscenium stage will have an opening 40 feet wide and 20 feet tall. The stage itself will be 45 feet deep, not including a huge backstage area for the temporary storage and easy transformation of sets, props, etc. Dr. Nathaniel Eek, director of the School of Drama, says that the drama and music staffs have made only minor changes from their original plans for the building and are quite pleased with the construction progress thus far. An important facet of the building's interior, he says, will be the utilization of space. The music school's orchestra rehearsal room, for example, can be quickly and easily transformed into an arena theater for the drama school, and each department—make-up, costuming, scenery—will be intricately coordinated for efficiency. Because of the very nature of the building, fine arts buffs can expect a long and thrilling era of entertainment beginning next season.