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THE COVER: This member of the University's Class of '84 will enter a vastly different kind of college when he enrolls in September, 1980. For a look at the emerging patterns in education, see View I, an interview with Dr. Paul Ruggiers, which begins on page 4.

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← Your look at the student art exhibition begins on page 20.

sooner scene

CONTEMPLATING the future has, I suppose, been a favorite pastime of every generation.

This issue contains a discussion by Dr. Paul Ruggiers about some of the changes you can expect in higher education in the next 20 years.

Since the readers of *Sooner Magazine* are as closely associated with the future of higher education as any group in our society, here are some questions you might discuss with your family and fellow alumni:

Question: What is the role of colleges and universities in our society?

One purpose of higher education is to help realize the dreams of individual opportunity, to assist an able youth to mature intellectually, aesthetically, socially, vocationally and morally.

Another is the preservation and enrichment of the cultural heritage. This relates dynamically to social progress and to the nation's economic and cultural vitality. Higher education also plays a basic role in expanding the sources of knowledge and, through experimentation and dissemination, helping to solve our problems.

The college has an active role in the transfer of learning to life. The concept of service in the great state universities through extension has brought better conditions to many segments of society and these methods have been exported throughout the world by faculty specialists.

Question: Should every qualified high school graduate have an opportunity to secure a college education?

The question of who will be educated is never answered finally, once and for all time. The question confronts each generation, and the answer is actually a statement of broad social policy. College and university personnel alone cannot answer the question. Regents, advisory committees, legislative bodies, industrial and government leaders must all participate in arriving at value judgments.

As an individual, your interest may be whether your child or grandchild will find a place in college. As a college graduate who understands the system and the problems, you can be a part of the most articulate influence in shaping the answer.

Question: Will there be enough college teachers to take care of the increasing numbers of students?

Dr. Ruggiers has something to say on this subject. I would add only that a university is no stronger than its faculties. They are responsible for the important functions of the institution—instruction, accumulation and enlargement of information, counseling of students, development of the curriculum and institutional policy plus the inescapable responsibility to the community as a whole.

Question: Is the problem of financing higher education at a crisis stage?

Although the situation is critical, it is far from hopeless. All of higher education combined with related auxiliary enterprises does not cost even one percent of the gross national product. A good case can be made for the proposition that the best way to accelerate the annual increase of GNP would be to substantially increase the operating budgets of colleges and universities. Another point of significance is that the Oklahoma legislature is just completing one of the most difficult sessions in history, and the longest, with an impressive vote of confidence for higher education. Appropriations to state colleges and universities for the next biennium are increased \$16.7 million. This represents an increase of 26 percent over appropriations of two years ago; however, this is offset by the fact that during this same two years enrollment increased 27 percent. By voting this increase the legislature demonstrated its confidence in higher education. It was a regrettable fact that funds were simply not available to finance the full amount of the budget presented by the regents for higher education.

On December 14, the people of Oklahoma will have an opportunity to authorize at a special election \$38.5 million in new buildings at Oklahoma colleges and universities. If authorized, this money will be spent over a five-year period with careful planning. In many instances it will be matched with federal or private funds.

