What Your University Needs
A Survey of Buildings and Funds Asked of Legislature

By William Bennett Bizzell, President, University of Oklahoma

NE frequently hears that there is more pleasure in anticipation than in realization. The dreamer, who has the good fortune to watch his dreams come true, is a peculiarly happy person. Those of us who serve great institutions of learning live on hope. The promise of tomorrow we believe is "those of us who serve great institutions, true, is a peculiarly happy person.

Tire preceding history. This is as it is made during its entire period. But there is every indication that the institution will make greater progress during the next decade than it has made during its entire preceding history. This is as it should be. We are living in the most dynamic age of the world. Social progress has been greatly accelerated by invention, by discovery and by greatly increased efficiency in social organization. It is only natural that educational institutions should reflect the accelerated progress peculiar to our times.

The needs of the university at the present time may be classified as immediate and pressing or remote but essential. The board of regents has formulated plans to meet the immediate needs, as well as the future needs of the institution.

As I write, I am looking at a blueprint of the plans that have been outlined for development of the greater University of Oklahoma of the future. This plan contemplates the development of a south oval leading up to the new library building, now in course of construction, similar to the north oval leading up to the administration building, both ovals being on the same axis running north and south through the campus. About the south oval will be constructed a group of ten buildings devoted to research and instruction in the physical and biological sciences.

The board of regents has submitted to the legislature now in session requests for appropriations with which to erect during the next biennium a biology building, a business administration building, a journalism building, a home economics building and the first unit of the physics building. The budget officer has recommended that $400,000 each year be appropriated to apply on this program. The amount recommended is not sufficient to carry out the building program herein outlined and it is contemplated that the legislature will be urged to appropriate not less than $500,000 each year for that purpose.

There is, also, included in the present budget an emergency request for an appropriation of $250,000 for a petroleum engineering building. This item was included in the budget two years ago but was not approved by the legislature, but it should receive favorable consideration by the legislature now in session. The University of Oklahoma has a chance of establishing a national and even an international reputation in the field of research and instruction in geology and petroleum engineering. The preeminence of the university in this field could be accomplished with a comparatively small sum of money. Should the legislature fail to see its opportunity in this regard, it would be a great misfortune to the state.

I am confident that the legislature could not possibly do anything that would contribute more to give Oklahoma a good name throughout the land than providing funds for the entire building budget that has been submitted for consideration. Those of us who live in Oklahoma love our state and cherish a good name for it abroad. Those of us identified with the institutions of higher learning, naturally, cherish a good name for the state through its academic standards and educational accomplishments. It would be a great thing if the legislature should realize its possibilities at this time and by providing adequate appropriations the members should indicate to the world that they were determined to make our state support institutions the equal of the best in the nation.

There is another aspect of our building needs that deserves serious consideration. The state of Oklahoma should set about the task of completing a number of buildings now in use on the campus. It is a literal fact that the physical plant of the university comprises a number of half units. The following buildings should be completed within a short time: Geology building, engineering building, pharmacy building, women's building, physical education building and the present library building.

While it is difficult to draw the line between immediate and more remote needs of the university, it goes without saying that there are some needs that are more pressing than others. The university is handicapped today because there is no adequate auditorium on the campus. The university is in great need of an auditorium with a seating capacity of approximately three thousand. The present auditorium is totally inadequate and undesirable in many ways. For large assemblies it has been necessary to utilize the physical education building but this building is poorly adapted for artist's course numbers and popular lectures.

The college of fine arts is very much overcrowded. There is pressing need for a building to be devoted to instruction in music. The school of education is in great need of an adequate building to meet the growing demands made upon the university for training teachers for the public schools and colleges of the state. These items merely illustrate the building needs of the university that are really imperative but that we all realize cannot be supplied immediately. The fact is, the university could wisely use five million dollars on its building program at the present time, if it were available.

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hospitable dividends than to develop a great school of petroleum engineering. For years to come the oil industry, with the possible exception of agriculture, will be the most important industry in the state, producing billions of dollars of oil. It is a well recognized fact that the fields which have been exhausted under the present system of recovery have vast stores of oil in reserve which will be needed and by the use of the proper methods of petroleum engineering can be made to produce billions of dollars more oil in the future. Even if the university does not covet world leadership in any of its departments, the fact that it can give back to the state that supports it such great value as it can through petroleum engineering should challenge it to make every effort for the development of efficiency in that school.

Another of our schools which has wonderful opportunities is the graduate school. Under the leadership of one of our most able men in America, it is making giant strides of progress. With the proper kind of support, which all of us interested should give, it can become outstanding in the nation. Unquestionably it has a great future.

None of us can fail to feel satisfaction over the fact that our university today is developing a splendid and high type of scholarship and is throwing about the young men and women on its campus a Christian influence of the most wholesome and constructive type. The students of the university of Oklahoma are working; they have to work today to win their way through to graduation. And, taken by and large, they are a sane, clean, earnest, thoughtful class of young people. The spirit and atmosphere of the institution are stimulating and inspiring. Our Alma Mater is doing splendid work. We have every reason to give her our fullest and best assistance and to take a pride in seeing her continue to blossom under the hands of Doctor Bizzell and his able assistants.

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Smith Alumnae Quarterly for February publishes a poem by Anne Spencer Morrow entitled “Letters With a Foreign Stamp.” The poem by the future Mrs. Charles Lindbergh is part of a group of poems by her that won a prize at Smith.

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The visitor to our campus usually expresses surprise at its attractiveness, but few of our visitors realize how difficult it is on account of soil conditions to grow trees and flowering plants on the campus of the university; however every effort is being made to make the campus of the university an attractive place. Academic environment has a subtle influence on the lives of college students. It is, therefore, important to give serious consideration to the esthetic side of college life.

A complete tunnel system has been laid out by the superintendent of campus utilities and more than half of the system has been completed. This underground system of tunnels will be extended to all buildings and provide utilities which will greatly increase the comfort and convenience in university buildings. The present plans contemplate the paving of all campus streets and extending walks and service drives to all existing and future buildings.

The building program of the university does not blind the authorities of the institution to the fact that a real university does not consist of brick and mortar. A university is a spiritual entity. It is a place where minds react upon minds for the purpose of stimulating thought.

There might be such a thing as a great university without a great physical plant but no one can question that a great physical plant helps to give reality to the spiritual and intellectual life of a university. While it is not our purpose to emphasize the physical plant at the expense of the quality of men who direct the intellectual endeavors of the students, it is still the purpose of the university authorities to give a habitat and a name to the place where this intellectual process goes on, and to this end the building program of the university has been formulated.

The building program to which reference has been made, reflects not the remote but the immediate needs of the university. There are many other buildings, as well as increased campus space, that must be considered within the near future, but the building program outlined above represents the immediate needs of the university and unless they are supplied this institution cannot hope to occupy a place of pre-eminence comparable to that of similar institutions throughout the country.

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at present, making the classes that will return those of '04, '09, '14, '19, '24 and '29.

Last year the largest attendance ever to be had at a commencement reunion rewarded the efforts of Edgar Meacham and Guy Y. Williams. Plans are already being formulated for this year's reunion. It will be conducted on the largest scale yet attempted. There will probably be an "at home" on the part of all university professors; for isn't one of the real joys of homecoming those pleasant visits with your former professors? And there have been many, many changes in the campus since those first three classes left the old place.

Every Sooner who can should plan to return this year. Begin adjusting your budget now, is our advice. And don't say you weren't notified in time!

The five-year plan now in use, we believe, will have to be superseded by the Dix reunion plan. Under this arrangement, the four classes that attended college at the same period would have their reunion. Thus, there would be the class of '04, '05, '06 and '07 and '12, '13, '14, and '15, etc. to hold their reunions every five years. This is eminently more satisfactory, for there is the chance that you will meet more old classmates than under our present plan.

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A note in the society columns of Dallas, Texas, newspapers, apprised the faculty of Southern Methodist university that Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity had held a dance in Dallas, February 8. The fraternity chapter was suspended for one year. S. M. U. does not permit dances.