

ATOM RESEARCH CENTER TO BE 'U' WAR MEMORIAL

Planning, Study Back of Project

Year and Half of Work Follows Original Student Legislature Idea

The Phoenix Project—behind those simple words lie a year and one half of intensive planning, research and efforts to hurdle legal obstacles.

The concept of a "functional" war memorial originated with students back on Dec. 18, 1946. That night the Student Legislature went on record as approving a functional memorial and laid tentative plans for a fund-raising campaign.

Official sanction came when the University Board of Regents named a faculty-student War Memorial Committee in September, 1947.

Memorial Is Greeted With Enthusiasm

Gains Support, Pledges of Aid

The vast scope and significance of the Phoenix Project to "harness the atom for humanity" has fired the imagination of everyone who had a part in its evolution.

Conceived only nine months ago, the proposed center for peacetime atomic research has already gained support from every quarter. As plans accelerated the Phoenix Project picked up approval from the United States Atomic Energy Commission, the Office of Naval Research, high government officials and students.

Not only support, but pledges of every possible assistance have come from agencies and individuals called into top-secret negotiations concerning the project.

The establishment of a peacetime research center was suggested to the War Memorial Committee by Fred Smith, New York publisher and one-time University student. Realizing that this proposal was a solution to the concept that a war memorial should be and do something, the committee enthusiastically approved it.

Although anything concerning atomic energy is rigidly controlled by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, this proposal had little trouble passing that hurdle.

Commission spokesman Carroll L. Wilson in Washington applauded "the decision of the War Memorial Committee to further knowledge in this new field and the intent to explore the beneficial potentialities of atomic energy." Funds to aid in the development of the project were virtually assured.

Another top-ranking government agency, The Office of Naval Research, also envisioned vast possibilities of a project of this type and promised aid.

Meanwhile student participation in the proposal began to mushroom. Earlier, during the planning period, three students were an integral part of the War Memorial Committee.

With final plans set, student leaders representing every organization on the campus were informed of the project.

The response was immediate. Student leaders, without exception, firmly backed the move and pledged aid in promoting it. Tentative plans call for student participation in the nation-wide fund raising drive.

Another student group, planning to study abroad this summer, will appear at all major European universities to inform officials and students of the giant research center.

They were guided by an Alumni Association request that the war memorial be something more than "a mere mound of stone the purpose of which would be soon forgotten."

The idea for an atomic research center first caught fire in the mind of Fred J. Smith, prominent New York publisher and one time University student. As a tribute to the University's war dead he suggested a vast project designed to make atomic energy the slave rather than the master of mankind.

He called it "a constructive solution to the pathological fog created in the minds of the people of the world by the Atom Bomb's advent."

The idea was enthusiastically received by the War Memorial committee in October 1947. Earlier the committee had examined and rejected scores of other proposals as unsuitable.

The committee then set to work to crack the shroud of security which surrounded all matters dealing with atomic energy in America. The best legal minds at the University informed the group that a green light would be needed from the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission before work could proceed.

In February of this year Dean Erich Walter, Dean Ralph Sawyer and Dr. Fred Hodges appeared before the Atomic Energy Commission in Washington, D.C. to explain the proposed peacetime atomic research center.

After a special flight to the nation's capital they outlined the entire proposal to the highest atomic officials. They came out of that historic meeting with the solid backing of the Atomic Energy Commission which applauded the move.

On March 30 the Office of Naval Research joined the list of Phoenix Project supporters. On that day Hodges, Walter and Sawyer conferred with ONR officials in Washington regarding the plan.

They too promised "... to render support in any way possible toward the organization of such an ... institute."

With this hurdle passed the project was taken to the University Board of Regents where it received speedy approval on May 1, 1948.

Barely a week before this official announcement a group of student leaders was called in for the initial campus announcement of the project. Representing all major campus organizations, the student leaders laid plans to swing their groups behind the atomic research center.

Plans were then made to give the Phoenix Project the widest possible publicity. The Daily was entrusted with the job of giving the project its initial impetus and thousands of copies of this special issue will be distributed throughout the nation.

A large scale fund-raising drive will get underway sometime in the fall. Tentative plans call for the annual Homecoming Week celebration to "kick off" the drive.

Harnessed for Humanity



ATOMIC ENERGY UNLEASHED—Pictured above is the awesome smoke column towering more than 20,000 feet high above Nagasaki Aug. 10, 1945. This same tremendous energy will be harnessed by the Phoenix Project to aid, rather than destroy, civilization.

DYNAMIC REACTION:

Students Assure Phoenix Backing

Barely a week ago 36 students representing every major campus organization learned of the Phoenix Project, and already they have made extensive plans to support it.

At a top-secret meeting, called by Dean Erich Walter, the war memorial to advance the humanitarian aspects of atomic energy was unveiled. Students were visibly impressed and sought methods to aid in developing the project.

Present plans call for student organizations to play a vital role in the initial stages of the vast center.

Committee, largest vet group at the University.

Said Babson, "This is not only a fitting memorial to those who sacrificed so much, but also a major contribution to a more prosperous and peaceful world."

Fires Imagination
Representing all the male students on campus, Union President Gene Sikorovsky said, "Lofty in conception and practical in its usefulness to the entire country, even the world, it should fire the imagination of all those who seek to strengthen the civilization that the atomic bomb threatens to destroy."

For the women students League President Patricia McKenna called the Phoenix Project "the most worthy monument to our war dead yet conceived. . . I am proud to be a participant in the Phoenix

Project, a workable plan for making the atom an instrument of peace."

Religious Groups
As a spokesman for campus religious groups Inter-Guild President D. G. Palmer said they "look on the project as an opportunity to show our love for our neighbors, to express an appreciation for God's works in a very significant way."

Patricia Hannagan, chairman of the Women's Judiciary Council said, "Just thinking of the possible scope of the project fires the imagination and enables one to lift his head above the anxiety and dissatisfaction that characterize the times we live in."

James Brieske, Wolverine gridiron great, outlined the responsibility of the students in the project.

Said Brieske, "The University has undertaken a grave responsibility and we, the students, must shoulder our portion of the burden. Learn all you can about the war memorial so that when the time comes you will be able to do your part in the Phoenix Project."

Stressing the international aspects of the plan, Allan Farnsworth, Union secretary, said, "The project must be international in scope. It must be supported not only by those on the Michigan campus, but by thinking men and women everywhere."

Norris Domangue, president of Association of Independent Men, said, "We feel that a War Memorial for the dead coupled with a research center for the living will make this memorial more meaningful."

Phoenix Plan To Benefit Man

Huge Program Will Probe Peaceful Application of Atom

An all-out offensive to convert the nightmare of Nagasaki into a living and lasting force for the betterment of man was launched today by the University in memory of its students and faculty members who died in World War II.

President Alexander G. Ruthven announced the establishment of the "Phoenix Project"—the world's first research institute devoted exclusively to exploiting the peaceful and humanitarian applications of atomic energy.

Named the Phoenix Project to symbolize the creation of a new era from the ashes and destruction of the old, the University's War Memorial is founded in direct contrast to the famed but frightful Manhattan Project. It will be a "living, timeless, creative force for peace."

Bearing both the official approval of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission and a promise of actual Federal financial assistance, the Phoenix Project will be composed of four specific parts:

1.) A MEMORIAL ROTUNDA to be constructed on campus as a magnet to draw together the great scholars of the age interested in every possible humanitarian, physical and intellectual phase of atomic development.

2.) RESEARCH LABORATORIES more complete and better equipped for these purposes than any peacetime atomic laboratories now in existence will be established here. The facilities will be open to the use of every thinking man.

3.) A CLASSIFICATION of all known atomic research data will be assembled at an elaborate information center to coordinate on a world-wide basis all successes or failures that may even hint at progress toward solution of atomic problems.

4.) PUBLISHING of all data compiled and classified by the Phoenix Project at regular intervals will keep each atomic scientist and researcher throughout the world up to date at all times on the findings of his fellow searchers for the atomic key to peace.

The War Memorial's atomic emphasis will be centered largely on medicine and other humanitarian sciences instead of on power and engineering. Sociology, philosophy and other studies apt to be touched by the atomic era will also be included.

The Phoenix Project "will not go into the business of producing isotopes." Instead it will take up the threads of atomic research at the point where existing agencies have stopped, utilizing isotopes manufactured under Government supervision.

The War Memorial will be financed principally by private contributions supplemented by Government aid. Although the actual drive will not get underway until next fall, an administrator will be announced within a few weeks and donations for the Phoenix Project will be accepted from now on.

The student body of the University is expected to spearhead the drive for funds with the active assistance of the 125,000 alumni.

Students will spread word of the Phoenix Project—its meaning and its potentialities—throughout the country and into foreign lands during the summer to lay the groundwork for a campaign which they will help manage and operate in the fall.

The Project will be developed by phases, the first of which is expected to be begun by July 1.

Project Will Aid Research Coordination

War Memorial Is Functional

The Phoenix Project's far-reaching humanitarian implications insure that the University's War Memorial will, in the words, of the Committee "not only BE something — it will DO something."

Stressing the need for such a project, Fred Smith who originated the idea of establishing an atomic research project declared:

"Nothing but spotty and sporadic work has been done thus far on expensive long term research in such fields as medicine where profits can only be measured in terms of human welfare."

The Phoenix Project is to be practical however as well as ideological. It recognizes that there are at present thousands of scientists scattered all over the world working independently on isolated phases of humanitarian atomic research. If their work can be coordinated, results can be produced infinitely faster.

The Project will function as a clearing house for these scattered ideas. It will classify, file and publish them so that any discovery made anywhere in the world will be a step forward for all science.

The central committee will plan specific projects in atomic research and subdivide the work with financial assistance to scientists throughout the country.

"The atomic bomb was developed more as a result of the organization of good minds and the parceling out of work than through a sudden discovery of genius," Smith declared in his original letter proposing the project.

Recognizing that the atomic age will affect every phase of man's life, the Phoenix Project will not limit its activities to physical sciences.

Leaders in philosophy, sociology and all the social sciences will be invited to form a vast "academy of scholars" to insure that peacetime atomic research will move ahead evenly in all fields.

Extra copies of this special Michigan Daily may be secured free of charge from the Office of Student Affairs, Rm. 2, University Hall, or at the Student Publications Building. Copies are on sale at all the Ann Arbor news stands as well.



IT HAD TO HAPPEN IN A COUNTRY LIKE THIS

ON JULY 16, 1945, on a desert in New Mexico, a blinding flash ushered in the promise of a new era in our civilization. With electric enthusiasm, we caught sight of new horizons in medicine, sociology, and industry.

In the months that followed, there was an atmosphere of revolution which atomic fission was supposed to create. We heard of breath-taking cures, of a better life for all mankind, of incredible scientific progress. Throughout the nation and world the hopes of people were lifted higher and higher. Everyone was sure that something momentous was at hand.

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BUT PEOPLE who take the trouble to investigate—even now, three years later—discover quickly that something apparently went wrong with the prophecies.

In many places hard work is being done in an effort to harness atomic fission for power and industry—work largely financed by the Government for its war potential, or by industry for its profit potential. *But progress is being made at a snail's pace where it matters most: in extracting the secrets of atomic fission for the physical betterment of mankind.* Here, in a large measure, the atom promise remains little more than a promise.

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IN FEBRUARY, 1947, the Atomic Commissioner of France complained that Americans, with all their facilities, genius, and money, could quickly create an atomic bomb to destroy civilization, but are nowhere to be found when the only thing to gain is a better world.

In a country like this, such a challenge cannot long be ignored.

Our tradition, since the founding of the country, has been one of getting things done. European intellectuals in the past have reflected upon our intellectual maturity as a people; nations overseas that have taken our money and wanted more have accused us of having too much; *but no one has ever before accused the American people of shirking an important job for lack of energy, or organization, or determination to reach an objective.*

So it was destined that someone in this country would sooner or later shoulder the responsibility of providing the necessary inspiration, organization, funds, co-operation, and determination to fulfill the humanitarian promise of atomic development.

The University of Michigan, one of the nation's greatest and largest, and presently having the most extensive alumni organiza-

tion and widely distributed membership of any university, has picked up the gauntlet. It has assumed an important responsibility of leadership in getting the job done and will also join with private and public agencies in making atomic energy the servant and not the master of man.

To this end, the Board of Regents has approved the recommendation of the War Memorial Committee that a memorial be developed which will make a noted contribution to the well-being of mankind. The result is a plan to be known as The Phoenix Project—a project which symbolizes the conversion of the ravages of war into new life and hope.

THE PHOENIX PROJECT of the University of Michigan is planned as a continuing, *working* memorial of the men and women of the University who died in World War II. It befits the purpose: it will help accomplish at least one of the major jobs that winning the war gave us an opportunity to do. It is committed to become an important factor in peacetime atomic research for humanitarian purposes: out of the horrors of the atomic bomb the men and women of Michigan are determined to help create a force for good, perhaps one of historic proportions.

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THE PHOENIX PROJECT will consist of a memorial structure that will symbolize the task that is being undertaken to honor the memory of those who left the University to fight and die for their nation. There will be laboratories in which important and continuing work will be done. There will be a skillfully organized information exchange which will be at the service of the hundreds of specialists in various fields of medicine and science who are now or who will be working independently toward the objectives which, someday, we can reach. There will be facilities and meeting places for those who wish to help direct world thinking toward the development of all the peacetime benefits and potential benefits of atomic fission. In time, it is hoped that the sociological, historical, legal, philosophical and ideological aspects of an atomic era will be discussed here. In short, it will be an action-and-thought-center for the development of atomic promises.

THE PHOENIX PROJECT is a part of the University of Michigan, and it memorializes particularly a group of Michigan students; but it is a project for everyone who believes that Americans have a national responsibility to utilize history's greatest discovery for the *benefit* rather than for the *destruction* of mankind.

The 20,000 students of the University of Michigan and the 125,000 alumni have assumed the responsibility of raising the funds necessary to make this project a practical, functioning reality. They are planning a united drive for funds, definite plans for which will be announced at an early date. Inquiries concerning the University War Memorial should be addressed to the Phoenix Project, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

THE PHOENIX PROJECT OF THE UNIVERSITY
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