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Year Later Finds Ole Miss Stronger, More Vigorous

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'THEY' SAID IT WAS DEAD

Year Later Finds Ole Miss Stronger, More Vigorous

By PAT D. SMITH

OXFORD — One year ago today "they" said Ole Miss was dead.

The almost unanimous opinion of newspaper reports and editorials around the nation was that the University of Mississippi had had it.

The night before, a bloody riot against the admission of Negro James Meredith had engulfed the otherwise sedate campus. Almost all the rioters were outsiders, but that mattered little. Most of the Northern press launched an anti-Ole Miss campaign as if the University itself had planned and carried out the riot.

CRAPE HANGERS WRONG

Did these soothsayers prove to be right? Did the University of Mississippi walk silently to its grave? Hardly. Under the most adverse of conditions, it enjoyed one of its most productive years. But that is a story that has never been published.

As soon as the tear gas cleared, Ole Miss started repairing the cracks in its battered reputation. And what it came up with is an incredible success story stem-

ming from what to most universities would have been complete disaster.

The first step forward was made while the month of October was still an infant. Installation was begun on the Ole Miss campus of a Dynamitron, the only such particle accelerator on any college or university campus in America. This installation opened fields of research to be found in the academic world only at Ole Miss.

GRANTS ROLL IN

More than \$2,400,000 in grants rolled in during the year from governmental and private

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sources. The University Medical Center opened its new psychiatric unit. A record 26 students enrolled in the School of Pharmacy's doctoral program. The Artist Series, the ODK-Mortar Board Forum and the Christopher Longest Lecture Series brought to the campus such outstanding people as Vance Packard, Dr. Louise Bellingern, Hal Holbrook, Dr. Henri Peyre, Dr. C. C. Abbott of Scotland, Dr. A. N. J. den Hollander of Amsterdam, and many others.

The students also lost no time in displaying their determination to uphold the Ole Miss tradition of excellence. The University Players' October production of "Saint Joan" was called by a drama critic "the best college production ever staged in Mississippi." Honor Roll figures for the fall semester showed an increase in the number of students on the Honor Roll and a decrease in the number of students dismissed for academic reasons. The football team went undefeated. The number of students selected for membership in honorary scholas-

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OLE MISS

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tic societies reached an all-time high.

Nearly \$6,000,000 in construction was underway on the Oxford campus during the fall, and the University Medical Center in Jackson started construction on its new \$3,150,000 research wing.

EVEN MORE SUCCESSFUL

The second semester of Ole Miss' most difficult year proved to be even more successful, although some national news mediums continued to pounce on every insignificant mistake made by a student. School pranks that would go unnoticed at other universities made headlines if they happened at Ole Miss. The mistakes were pointed out—the successes overlooked.

More than a quarter million dollar in research projects were underway in the School of Engineering during the second semester, and the Pharmacy School alone received more than \$100,000 in research grants. Corporations and individuals established a large number of scholarships. More

than 10,000 people participated in the University's Conferences and Institutes programs. More graduates than ever before received scholarships and fellowships for graduate study at other universities. Graduates of the School of Engineering received job offers of from \$75 to \$200 per month above the national norm. During the 1962-63 year, Ole Miss awarded approximately 1350 degrees—a record.

Enrollment in the 1963 summer session fell short by only nine students of breaking the all-time high for a summer session. A record number of doctoral degrees were awarded at the close of the summer session—ten in chemistry alone. Medical research teams at the University Medical Center completed the first successful lung transplant on a human being, and completed the first successful transplant in this country of adrenal glands. The University acquired Rowan Oak, Oxford homeplace of Nobel prize-winning author William Faulkner, to be used as a center of scholarly research and as a memorial to the famed writer.

MOST PROFESSORS LOYAL

During the year some few professors made bitter attacks on the University, knowing that their words would make national headlines and enable them to receive better job offers elsewhere. The part of the faculty story at Ole Miss that has not been told is that the vast majority of Ole Miss' professors have refused more lucrative jobs in order to stay at Ole Miss simply because they are fiercely loyal to the University, love the University, and are determined to help rebuild its reputation.