

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

June 29, 1942.

Dr. F. C. Allen
Robinson Gymnasium
University of Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:

May I enter a protest and at the same time make a constructive suggestion?

I should like to protest against the closing of the main campus driveway for a period of some six hours on the days when your "street dances" are held. I do not doubt the university's legal right to close this drive temporarily or permanently, but when it is used as a public thoroughfare the year round considerable inconvenience is caused by having it suddenly closed. This is specially true when, as in this case, part of a regular bus route is involved. For example, this afternoon a man with a crippled leg came to catch a bus here by the observatory. After he was there some time I happened to see him and told him that the bus would not come this far, so he started laboriously to walk east, having already missed one bus and perhaps two. While out there I saw ten or a dozen cars turned away by the barricade, and I should have hated to be on the receiving end of the language which their facial expressions suggested. A week ago I drove up to the observatory in a good deal of a hurry to make a certain observation. When I reached the corner by the anatomy building I was told I would have to go around north of the stadium. I measured the distance and found it was a mile and a quarter more than the direct route would have been, and it included one of the steepest hills in Lawrence. I arrived too late to make my observation. This afternoon, a few minutes before four o'clock, I reached the same corner, (walking this time) just as a large express truck delivering some freight to the Ad Building was being turned away. Later when I got down to the observatory this same truck was just entering the campus from West Campus Drive. In this case a legitimate business truck, during legitimate business hours, had to drive a mile and a half instead of one block because that block was being washed four hours early for a street dance.

Perhaps I am a little sensitive on this subject because of an incident last summer when the dances were held east of the Grove. Mrs. Storer drove up Indiana Street hill one afternoon and found a barricade after rounding the curve at the top. She asked the cop there (it was not George Snyder) why some warning could not be given before you got clear to the top. He very impertinently replied, "Well, what do you expect me to do, - run down to the bottom of the hill every time I see a car coming?"

I believe your summer recreation program is a fine thing and is making a lot of friends for the University, but I also believe the ill-will created by this street closing reduces considerably the positive benefit.

Why could the dances not be held in the section of