

Letters

University, library supportive of Olin Libe fixup

To the Editor:

Re: "A Towering Inferno?," Editorial, Oct. 23

In response to yesterday's editorial, it is important to note that although I am championing the Olin Library renovation as one of my top priorities, I must emphasize that the administration has been a stalwart supporter of this project for many years, for precisely the reasons you state in your editorial. The design time required to undertake a renovation project for a building the size of Olin Library is enormous. The project team has been hard at work for three years getting the project through the schematic and design development stages, and they have now moved into the construction (bid) document phase following the recent approval by the administration. Pending final approval to proceed after the construction/bid document phase, we would plan for actual construction to begin in 2009.

For the past 10 years, the university has rightly prioritized the installation of sprinkler systems in existing dormitories at Cornell. Having completed those, Olin Library was identified as the next most critical facility on campus to be upgraded. As reported in an Oct. 6 Sun article about Olin Library, one member of the project team was quoted as saying that "the University is very supportive" of this project. Clearly, everyone at the university understands the importance of this project, and a fair and balanced appraisal of the university's response to the Olin Library project can only be given in the context of a full understanding of the multitude of serious facility problems that are evaluated every month by our Capital Funding and Priorities Committee. I am pleased with the support the university administration has given to this project.

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University Librarian

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