

In the Beginning, Bud Was a Minnesotan

Mr. Harold Keith's "The Sooners of '56" article in *Sooner Magazine* (Fall 1985) interested me very much. I have been a Bud Wilkinson (fan) for many years. I believe that Mr. Wilkinson earned nine varsity athletic letters at the University of Minnesota, three each in football, hockey and golf. That was before freshmen could play on varsity teams. I was a freshman at the University of Minnesota when Bud Wilkinson was a senior.

On page 28 of the issue of *Sooner Magazine* identified above, it is suggested that Wilkinson was a former Minnesota quarterback. Was he? I thought that he played a guard position from which he may have called signals from time to time. I respectfully request clarification . . .

Robert R. Brown
Oxford, Ohio

Editor's Note: Harold Keith furnishes the following explanation of Bud Wilkinson's versatility: "As the book Forty-Seven Straight says on Page 11, Bud played guard at Minnesota in 1934 and 1935, but as a senior in 1936 he was switched to the backfield so that he could call signals from the blocking back position. Even as a guard, Bud was so bright that Coach Bierman moved him behind the line to the more important leadership position his senior season. In single wingback, the four backs were wingback, blocking back, fullback and tailback. The best thinker and play-selector of them usually did the quarterbacking (signal calling) on every play although no quarterback was designated in the lineups. The backfield abbreviations in game stories were WB, BB, FB, TB."

Sutherland Article Draws National Merit's Praise

Arthur Sussman, one of my colleagues at NMSC and a graduate of the OU Masters Program in Public Administration, shared Stephen M. Sutherland's article "By Merit Alone" that appeared in the winter 1985 edition of the *Sooner Magazine*. Not surprisingly, the National Merit Scholarship Program receives considerable press coverage. In recent years, as the

number of colleges and universities aggressively recruiting Merit Program Semifinalists and Scholars has increased, numerous college and university-prepared press releases have appeared in newspapers and magazines throughout the country. We strive to ensure the accuracy of information released concerning the Merit Program. Unfortunately, many of the articles include erroneous or misleading information. Thus, I was greatly pleased to read Dean Sutherland's article which was thoroughly researched and which provides good insight into the college-sponsored Merit Program.

Although Dean Sutherland's article is quite correct, there are two minor points that need clarification. The article states that need is not a criterion for selection. This is true; however, need is a factor in the consideration of the amount of Scholarship dollars a winner is to receive if he wishes to be considered for more than the minimum amount. College-sponsors have agreed to meet at least one-half of the student's need with the Merit Scholarship stipend within the limits of the minimum and maximum stipend amounts. Additionally, in Dean Sutherland's discussion of the Selection Index formula, he mentions that approximately 50,000 students in the country are recognized by the Merit Program. He mentions that about 15,000 Semifinalists are selected and the remaining 35,000 receive a Letter of Commendation. This is true, but it should be noted that the 35,000 Commended Students are selected on the basis of a national cutoff score (top 5%). Only the 15,000 Semifinalists are selected on the basis of a state Selection Index score which places them approximately in the top one-half of 1% of all graduating high school seniors in their respective states.

I worked with Dean Sutherland in establishing the college-sponsored Merit Program at OU. I have thoroughly enjoyed our association and look forward to working with Dean Sutherland and OU in the coming years.

Glenn A. Tappan
Vice President—Merit Program
National Merit Scholarship Corp.
Evanston, Illinois

Creative Research Lauded

With the last issue of *Sooner Magazine*, I couldn't help but send my latest investigations into research even though I'm on the faculty of an art department north of Norman.

There is no doubt the value of research both pure and applied. Creative activities should be ongoing and an essential aspect of life on any campus. The quality of education at all institutions is tremendously enhanced when research is an integral part of faculty life.

As you will note in the enclosed brochure, had it not been for the University of Oklahoma during my M.A. and M.F.A. (1980) days, I would not have dared to attempt such a project as the Capitol Rotunda Hanging. The large tapestries I did for Shaklee Corporation in Norman led to some nice commissions and research. The faculty at the OU School of Art were always devoted to creative research endeavors and so helpful to me. Everything I do simply ignites another visual idea of what could happen if . . .

Jo Ann N. Adams, '72 M.A., '80 M.F.A.
Edmond, Oklahoma

Editor's Note: The assistant professor of art at Central State University and volunteers from her classes contributed more than 2,500 hours to the design and execution of a massive fabric hanging which dropped from the fifth to second floors of the state capitol rotunda as part of the Youth Arts Month.

Another Sooner at CNN

Fine story on my friend, Ed Turner. ("The Other Mr. Turner at CNN," *Sooner Magazine*, Winter 1985.)

You failed to mention Jay Gourley, OU grad, who is senior investigative reporter for CNN, based in Washington. He works under CNN's "other" vice president, Ted Cavanaugh.

J. Leland Gourley, '63 B.L.S.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Editor's Note: Apologies for overlooking alumnus Jay Gourley, '70 B.A., who is carrying on the family journalistic tradition. Proud father Leland Gourley is president, editor and publisher of Friday, a suburban weekly for far north Oklahoma City.