

"Just David"

Your feature on Mr. Burr was wonderful and for a brief time placed him right here with us again. George Dotson's drawing was so outstanding I almost expected Mr. Burr to speak to me in that quiet way of his.

For those of us who loved and admired him, I thank you for reminding us of his continued presence at OU.

Marcia Morris
Executive Assistant
to the President
The University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

Your article "Just David" was wonderful. It is just a shame that it was to say "goodbye" instead of "hello." Anyway, it was really a great tribute to David; I had misty eyes reading it.

Robert B. Lewis
'54 B.B.A., '61, M.B.A.
Chairman, Leo Oppenheim & Co. Inc.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

At a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of Editorial Projects for Education, we took time to remember David: to recall his many contributions to EPE, including being the first chairman of the incorporated EPE; his wisdom, often laced with humor; and, by no means least, his sense of humor.

Even though EPE now numbers only a few of the original group, there are others who knew David well and remember him with fondness and admiration.

The board asked me to express our sorrow at his much-too-early passing and our appreciation of his contributions to EPE.

Robert M. Rhodes, Vice Chairman
Editorial Projects for Education
Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island

Karen and I certainly enjoyed "Just David." One paragraph in particular nearly moved me to tears. David was truly never too busy to listen or help or offer advice. As editor of *The Oklahoma Daily* in 1978, David often offered me a pat on the back when a regent or an administrator was cross with me.

He'd send short notes, commenting on something I had written or someone on my staff had written. At social gatherings or campus meetings, he

was always quick with a handshake and kind word.

To all of us, he was "Just David." Thanks for sharing.

Andy Rieger, '80 B.A.
Editor and Publisher
Cleveland County Record
Noble, Oklahoma

Editor's Note: Karen Springer Rieger, '78 B.A., '81 J.D., is an attorney with Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City. The Riegers live in Norman.

In "Just David," you have captured a lot of what made him so special to the state, the University and to me. If there was one precept of David's life that's meant so much to me, it's that "pick-up-and-go-on" attitude that spelled success, contentment and peace for David.

Your words in "Just David" are crown jewels which will serve, not so much as an epilogue, but as a reminder of why so many people had grown to love David Burr.

Greg D. Kubiak, '83 B.A.
Washington, D.C.

David would have liked the last "Under Cover," but probably would have given you one of his famous stares and acerbic one-liners for featuring him.

I am among the individuals whose success is attributable to David . . . as a matter of fact, I may have been his first protégé.

Thank you for summing up David's life for his many friends and admirers.

William J. Alley
'51 B.B.A., '54 L.L.B.
Chairman & C.E.O.
American Brands Inc.
Old Greenwich, Connecticut

Boyd's Connections

In this day in an age of fast-paced development, and the pursuing of material wealth to the exclusion of being aware of the natural things surrounding us, it is refreshing to read Professor Boyd's article about connections (*Sooner Magazine*, Winter 1988). His philosophy would seem to stimulate introspection from believers of any religion or philosophy.

Susie Blakey
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Memories

Thank you for sending me copies of *Sooner Magazine*. I really enjoyed the "Remember When!" Mr. Heaston really brought back some nice memories with words and pictures. Those were wonderful times, and it's nice to be remembered. "Cow Cow Boogie" was a favorite then and for many performances after that, here and overseas on our tour.

Annabelle Escoe Cones, '44 B.A.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

A Point of Pride

I think the article in the 1988 *Winter Sooner* on First Ladies' dresses is excellent. The article on David Ross Boyd Professors makes one very proud of our university. I noted Morris Wardell was the first one named — my favorite teacher from four universities.

Joyce Saunders, '29 B.A.
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Sooners Bearing Gifts

I should like to share with you some very good news for our University, an unexpected result of the article by Robyn Bodin on "Relics of Antiquity Find a Home on the Plains" in the Spring 1987 issue of *Sooner Magazine*. That article featured the exceptional collection of ancient Mesopotamian, Greek and Roman antiquities in the Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. As soon as that issue was published, I sent out copies to many colleagues, friends and curators in other university and public museums. There was no way that anyone could have foreseen that within less than a year after that issue, our University museum would become the recipient of gifts from four separate parties.

Prof. A. Geoffrey Woodhead, now retired from Corpus Christi College, Cambridge University, but still teaching on an interim basis at Ohio State University and long known for his philo-American feelings, decided to bequeath to the museum his inscribed Roman altar-stone. This marble object, which weighs about 500 pounds and carries beautiful relief sculpture, was a type of epitaph monument common throughout the Roman Empire;

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heard a loud shot. The Pakistan intelligence official explained that someone was only testing a gun.

I ventured into one of the gun shops and asked a guide if I could fire a gun. He motioned to the gunsmith, who seemed reluctant to let me shoot because I was a woman and forbidden by Islamic custom to fire a weapon. I finally cajoled him into letting me fire only once. I was thinking about shooting a small pistol. To my astonishment, he handed me a Kalashnikov, cocked the trigger and aimed the gun at a 45-degree angle into the air.


"Shoot only once," he cautioned.

I had no time to think. Before I knew it, my fingers slipped, and I pulled the trigger. My ears rang, and I was thrown back a little. I laughed to myself. I wondered if I were now qualified to be a "Mujahad," an Afghan guerilla.

In the course of 10 days, I learned a lot about the Islamic country, its people and their culture. Soon it was time to say farewell to Peshawar and head back down Grand Trunk Road toward Islamabad. Off to the west, the

sun was setting. The Pakistani and Afghan people were still milling about the streets, and horns were honking.

I thought about my experiences and how I first became involved. As a volunteer back in Washington, I had edited monthly newsletters for the Jamiat-E-Islami Afghan resistance party. But it was one thing to read about the Afghans in Pakistan; it was another actually to see these stories come to life.

I was thankful for this opportunity; I felt proud to have been an ambassador representing Congressman McCurdy, the people of Oklahoma and the people of America. At the same time, I was happy to be heading home to share my experiences. The memories are still vivid, and as I retell them, they will remain with me forever — even the little things: the small boy who taught me "assalam-alaikum," the sounds and smells of the bazaars, or the sign in English which greets the tribes who guard the Khyber region, "Welcome to Khyber Rifles." 

LETTERS

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it is in completely intact condition.

Another donation, no less exciting than the above, came to us from a cultivated gentleman in Oklahoma City, Mr. Lynn Kirts. During his world travels, Mr. Kirts had acquired some eight Greek and Roman vases. With the support of the OU Associates Fund and the University of Oklahoma Foundation, Inc., we were able to purchase the single most impressive item, an Attic Red-Figured Column Crater dating to ca. 450 B.C. Mr. Kirts presented his remaining seven vases to the University museum as gifts.

Another surprise occurred this past summer, when I received a letter from a lawyer in Washington, D.C., Mr. Frank L. Dennis (OU '28). While Mr. and Mrs. Dennis were serving in the U.S. foreign service in 1954, they happened to pick up two fragments of white inscribed marble in a field near Ostia Antica, the ancient harbor of Rome. Having read the article in *Sooner Magazine*, Mr. Dennis wrote me out of the blue, offering to donate his two fragments, which he had kept for over 30 years. Once they arrived, it was apparent that both were parts of a tombstone, the larger piece measuring about 1 foot by 1 foot, dating from the high point of the Roman Empire, about the reign of Hadrian.

The fourth gift came from Prof. Emeritus and Mrs. H. Lloyd Stow, long known for their benefactions to and concern for this University museum. Not content with donations in previous years, Mr. and Mrs. Stow recently presented a remarkable assortment of over 30 artifacts. Prof. Stow was the founder and first curator of the ancient archaeology collection here, and his wife Hester, with her own Ph.D. in classical archaeology, was equally responsible for the work done in the early days of the museum. It would be difficult to assess accurately all the good done for the collection by the Stows, nor can we adequately thank our other donors for their generosity.

A. J. Heisserer

Curator
Ancient Art and Archaeology
Oklahoma Museum of
Natural History
University of Oklahoma



Peter Friedman

ABOUT THE AUTHOR — When former *Sooner Magazine* assistant Lynn Grigsby won a Cortez A. M. Ewing Congressional internship for the summer of 1985, she packed her tape recorder and camera and produced "A Capital Summer" for the fall/winter issue. We never expected to lose her for good, but upon graduation the following spring, she returned to Wash-

ington, D.C., as assistant press secretary to her Ewing mentor, U.S. Congressman Dave McCurdy of Oklahoma. Her fact-finding tour of Afghan refugee camps, recounted here, may be just the beginning of Lynn's world travels. In March 1989 a Rotary International Fellowship will provide the Bartlesville native with a year's study in Australia.