

A Voice from the Void

Please rest assured you are not "sending out an endless stream of words into some black void, unread and unheeded." Your spring/summer issue arrived yesterday. It was, as usual, very well done, but it also touched me in several ways. In the College of Liberal Studies I work with master teacher Norm Crockett and teach non-traditional students like Doris Eaton Travis. As a zoologist with an office in Sutton Hall, I have been affected by the impacts George Sutton made on our city, university, department and church. Each day as I walk across or drive around the campus, my spirits are uplifted by the beautiful landscaping provided by our grounds staff.

These days I hear lots of grumbling by staff, students and faculty about the many problems facing the University. You have a knack for finding the bright spots on campus and reminding us that there are lots of good things happening. We simply need to lift our heads and look around to see them.

Thanks for doing such an outstanding job.

*Bedford M. Vestal, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Zoology
Faculty Fellow,
College of Liberal Studies
University of Oklahoma*

Oh, What a Beautiful Campus!

Great issue for Spring/Summer '92. Mrs. Travis and Professor Crockett are inspirations for all of us. But a special thanks for long overdue attention for Randy Lacewell and team.

The beauty of the campus first attracted me in 1968 and still does each time I visit. The landscape people do a wonderful job and play a real part in making OU a very special place.

*Steve Trolinger, '73 B.A., '76 M.A.
Bentonville, Arkansas*

I was particularly pleased to see the recognition given the University Landscaping Department in the article entitled "Cultivating the Perfect Setting," which appeared in the Spring/Summer 1992 issue of *Sooner Magazine*.

Each time I have the opportunity to be on the campus, I end up telling myself what a terrific job the University's landscaping crew is doing.

The beauty, neatness and tidiness of the campus grounds project a most important image for the University—that our home is in order and we can, in fact, provide what we say we can provide.

I would appreciate very much your sharing this letter with Mr. Lacewell and any other responsible parties.

*Michael A. Cawley, '69 B.A., '72 J.D.
President, The Noble Foundation
Ardmore, Oklahoma*

I was elated to read Margaret French's article in *Sooner Magazine* about Randy Lacewell's continued work to make the campus beautiful. And, when I got to the part where you bragged on me, I was thrilled! Keep up the great work.

*William S. Banowsky
Santa Monica, California*

Editor's Note: OU President Emeritus Banowsky, now executive vice president of National Medical Enterprises Inc., was a strong advocate for campus beautification, notably the redesign of the Parrington (north) Oval and the south campus entrance off Highway 9.

Congratulations on the Spring/Summer 1992 issue of *Sooner*. I enjoyed it very much. I request that you send a copy of the issue to my daughter, Carol Jean Adamson Voiles. Carol graduated from OU in May 1978, with a B.S. in business and is a CPA. She graduated from the law school in May 1981. She will be most interested in the article about campus landscaping since her secret desire is to be a landscape architect!

*Myrl T. Adamson, '49 B.S.
Madill, Oklahoma*

More Thoughts on LBM

What a splendid tribute you wrote to Louise Moore. I spent three semesters with her as an assistant with the *Daily*—and I have to say I really never knew her or appreciated her rich background. She was always very business-like, and you're right, she didn't so much talk to you as she'd interview you. What a lovely lady. For the J-school and alumni, it's like an awful silence. She was really an important part of my budding career.

*Ronald E. Keener, '67 M.A.
Westchester, Illinois*

A Loss to Art and Literature

A little over a year ago the University lost the services of the talented and colorful Ivar Ivask to retirement. Now, sadly, we have lost him altogether. Following a brief illness, he passed away on September 23 at the new home in County Cork, Ireland, where he and his wife Astrid had resettled only 10 months earlier. Death came quickly and painlessly, and in Astrid's arms.

Born in Riga, Latvia, to an Estonian father and a Latvian mother, educated in Germany, a U.S. resident since 1949, and a longtime teacher and administrator in Minnesota before moving to Oklahoma in 1967, Ivask served OU for nearly a quarter-century as editor of *World Literature Today* and professor of modern languages and literatures. During his tenure here he not only revamped and renamed the venerable *Books Abroad*, but also founded the \$40,000 Neustadt International Prize for Literature and the Puterbaugh Conferences on Writers of the French-Speaking and Hispanic World.

But those who knew Ivar knew as well that he was more than an editor and program director. He was also a fine poet in three languages, an extremely capable translator and interpreter of other poets' work, and, in later years, an artist of considerable range and delicacy and a superb photographer. His artistic sense effectively transformed *WLT* into one of the most visually appealing literary journals anywhere, much as his fabled linguistic skills enhanced the magazine's work and enlivened the proceedings of many a conference or jury meeting or award ceremony.

The many of us who will miss his energetic presence can take some consolation in the fact that he lived to see his native region freed of its totalitarian yoke and his (and Astrid's) work at long last officially recognized and celebrated there. He would likely have wished no finer legacy than that.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Ivar Ivask Scholarship Fund for Students from Estonia at the University of Oklahoma Foundation, 100 Timberdell Road, Norman, OK 73019.

*William Riggan, Ph.D.
Associate Editor, WLT*