

LETTERS

Levy Evokes Memories

I read with a lot of personal interest the article "The Girls They Left Behind" by David W. Levy. One reason, I was the secretary to the Counselor of Men, William J. Mellor, in January 1946, whose letter was quoted regarding returning veterans, and whose initials appeared at the conclusion of the letter, i.e., "WJM:bm."

A second reason for my interest was that I was the wife of a returning veteran, Gerald E. (Gene) Moore. Gene left the OU Engineering School to enlist in the Air Corps where he served as a navigator on B-24s in Europe. He received his discharge in time to return to Norman and enroll in the short "Navy" term which would start June 5, 1945. When we arrived at the Dean of Men's Office to enroll in the G. I. Bill, Dean (Fayette) Copeland exclaimed that he (Gene) was *the first veteran back on campus "on points" and that Gene was a "milestone."* Veterans enrolling until this time had medical discharges, etc., and the war in Japan had not ended.

As Mr. Mellor mentioned, a lot of the returning veterans were married, and some wives were employed by the University as clerical help, as I was. Several of our friends' wives worked as house mothers for the various fraternity and sorority houses, which not only provided some income but housing. In addition to being secretary in the Dean of Men's Office, where I worked for both Dean Copeland and Counselor Mellor, I was secretary for the Interfraternity Council in handling the "rush" records for all the fraternities.

The Dean of Women assisted the wives to become acclimated to University life by suggesting we form a veterans' wives organization, which we did, and she was our sponsor. We called the organization "The Wives of University Veterans" (W.U.V.), and I was elected its first president—I think this was in the fall of 1945. We had programs of interest and were asked to give a program over "Sooner Radio" explaining our activities, which we thoroughly enjoyed doing.

Housing was one of the main

problems for married veterans. An apartment was almost impossible to find, especially one that we could afford. Our first home "on campus" was a room in a minister's home, and we remember that he would not allow baths to be taken after 10 o'clock at night. Fortunately, we were able to find an attractive "attic" apartment in a very short time, and it was there we remained until Gene graduated with a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering in August 1946.

After graduation, my husband was employed by Phillips Petroleum as an engineer at their Phillips, Texas, refinery. He was subsequently transferred to the Phillips Kansas City, Kansas, refinery, and from there to Phillips' only Oklahoma refinery, located in Okmulgee, where he retired in 1981 as vice president and general manager. We have two OU graduates, Patrick E. Moore, attorney, of Oklahoma City, and Thomas T. Moore, pharmacist, of Okmulgee.

All in all, we have fond memories of the "return to college life"—Sooner football games, basketball games, performing arts programs, etc.—all made available to veterans' wives, as well as to the enrolled veteran students. As you can see, this publication in your *Sooner Magazine* brought back memories that we will always treasure. Thank you for printing Mr. Levy's interesting article.

Bernice Moore
Harlingen, Texas

I am sure that "The Girls They Left Behind" brings a flood of memories and letters to your desk. I came to OU in 1948, just as many of those veterans were beginning to graduate. There were still great numbers around. They had plenty to teach us "kids" about how to work and how to play. Class work was serious business, and they pushed us all to keep up. When work was over, they instructed at the card table and the pool hall. Those years were not the easiest, but they were not the toughest either.

J. R. (Dick) Hudson Jr., '53 B.B.A.
and Joann Hudson, '53 B.A.
Kerrville, Texas

Van Horn—Pro and Con

I was impressed—unexpectedly so—by the analysis and solutions proposed by President Van Horn in his article on Oklahoma higher education (Winter 1994 *Sooner Magazine*). His look at the future for OU and higher education in Oklahoma was well considered. Unlike the contributions of others in that section that were well-intentioned but mostly empty of tough-minded solutions and the will to get the job done.

Too bad Dr. Van Horn won't be at the OU helm to see those solutions through. But they begin to establish an excellent position description for his successor.

Ronald E. Keener, '67 M.A.
Glen Ellyn, Illinois

Dear Dr. Van Horn:

Your article in the *Sooner Magazine* exemplifies the lack of understanding, in the academic world, of the causes of the schools' problems.

The criticisms to which you alluded in your article are well founded. The arrogance of the "hands-off" professors and the laziness of those who administer only electronically graded tests instead of a written examination have debased my alma mater and have denied you *true* respect.

The malignancy of political correctness, racial and cultural quota hiring, promotion, enrollment and admission has denied many qualified people the proper opportunity. Yes, this includes white males.

Until you understand and act on these destructive problems, your alumni will *not* give to their potential, and the legislature will not respect your institution enough to fund you more.

Examine your staff and get rid of those who are there for any other wrong reasons . . .

Though I am entering my philanthropic phase of my life, you and OU must not expect any further donations from me until these deficiencies are corrected.

Your choice.

Max P. Lorenz, '62 M.D.
Marietta, Georgia

Senior Extraordinaire

You did a tremendous job on the Spring/Summer issue of 1992. The cover photo pays tribute to an extraordinary senior citizen, and all of us are proud of her (Doris Eaton Travis).

As a M.A. holder from OU, you can bet that we are proud of the University. Keep up the good work.

Charles E. Cummings, '46 M.A.
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Editor's Note: Obviously the remarkable Mrs. Travis made a lasting impression. In March OU's oldest bachelor's degree graduate (at 88) celebrated her 90th birthday—and the 45th anniversary of life with husband Paul—by reprising for friends a number from her "Ziegfeld Follies" past.

Harold and Molly

I loved Kathryn Jenson White's article on Harold Keith and Molly Griffis (Fall 1993 *Sooner Magazine*).

I would like to contact them to get copies of *Komantcia* and *Rifles for Watie* but was not sure how to contact them. Will you please let me know how to write or call them?

I just finished reading the books and checked them out for my grandsons here. Mr. Keith was at OU when I was—1944-48 (journalism)—but how was I to know how famous he would be?

Elaine Webber Pereboom, '48 B.A.
Prescott, Arizona

Editor's Note: Prices and ordering information for Harold Keith's books are available by contacting Levite of Apache, 203 Hal Muldrow Drive, Norman OK 73069; (405) 366-6442.

From a "Loyal Knight"

Getting *Sooner Magazine* is still one of the high points of a trip to my mailbox. You seem to have a knack for bringing out the interesting things of OU and Oklahoma. Now that LKOT 463 is in the Governor's Office, how about a story on that illustrious organization of engineers?

Andrew C. Taylor, '81 B.S.
LKOT 530
Russellville, Arkansas

The Great Reading Room: Restoring Seats of Learning

Editor's Note: So many charming reminiscences accompanied contributions to restore the chairs in Bizzell Memorial Library's Great Reading Room that Sooner Magazine would be remiss not to share with its readers a few excerpts from those letters. The list of chair honorees as of March 23, 1994, appears on Page 4.

The enclosed check is in honor of Alex Saunders, the first professor I met as a freshman in the fall of 1956. When Dr. Saunders discovered that I had grown up in a town with no public library, he arranged for me to have a stack permit to the OU library, a wondrous gift indeed in a day and time when only professors and graduate students were allowed to roam the library aisles freely.

I did not make As under Dr. Saunders. In fact I struggled mightily for Bs in his classes, yet I took everything I could under him because he gave so very much of himself and demanded so much in return.

Molly Levite Griffis, '60 B.A.
Norman, Oklahoma

We loved the story about the Great Reading Room at Bizzell Library. Certainly an important personage there was Mrs. (Eardean) Rector, who was the librarian there for 40 years. She worked with the College of Business Administration in 1965-67 to refurbish the drapes and chairs in the room.

I was a student assistant under Mrs. Rector for four years in the Business Economics Section, as the Great Reading Room was called then. My husband claims that his first encounter with me was there as a patron needing library assistance. I am still a librarian, having gotten a great beginning in the Great Reading Room.

Neosha A. Mackey
'69 B.A., '70 M. Lib.Sci.
Springfield, Missouri

I still remember with gratitude using the Great Reading Room when in the mid-1950s it was the only air-

conditioned reading area in the Bizzell Library. This gift is also further appreciation for the many courtesies extended to me by the library staff during my years (1953-1991) at OU.

Bruce Granger
OU Professor Emeritus of English
East Lansing, Michigan

As a student at OU who graduated in 1940, I can testify to the quiet scholarly ambiance of this reading-study room. I spent many hours there.

Dan A. Redwine, '40 B.S.
Fort Worth, Texas

I, too, express my delight in the recent restoration of the major reading room of the Bizzell Library. I can't remember when I was not familiar with it since my father, A. K. Christian, was already a history professor at OU before I was born in Norman, and he took me there on a number of occasions when I was very young.

As I grew up and attended junior high and high school on the campus, I found it convenient and pleasant to visit the Reading Room. When I continued studying at OU in order to obtain a bachelor's degree in English, I spent many hours in a room that charmed me and yet gave me the ambiance to do constructive studying and thinking. One of my first English composition theme assignments was to describe a place. Quite naturally, I chose to describe my favorite room on campus—the Reading Room, a place of dignified magnificence.

Donabel Christian Linney
'45 B.A., '62 M.A.
Mankato, Minnesota

At midterm in 1930, we moved from the old library to the new Bizzell Library and were so proud of it. In 1939, while working on my master's degree in English literature, I spent many hours in the Bizzell Library. I have many happy memories of OU and am pleased that the Bizzell Library is being refurbished.

Martha Toot, '30 B.A., '39 M.A.
Kansas City, Missouri