

LETTERS

Request Time

Respectfully, I believe *Sooner Magazine* makes a mistake in not having athletic news in each issue.

I appreciate all the substantive articles—new professors, et al—but I want to know about the new coaches—and recruits too.

I miss *OU People*. I suggest that it campaign for sustaining funds from people like me—for enough to have at least two issues a year. I like to read not only about OU sports, but also the obits—whom in my era I'm outliving!

Frank L. Dennis, '29 B.A.
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Editor's Note: Alumnus Dennis, a highly respected former journalist and longtime friend of Sooner Magazine, offers constructive comments well taken. Unfortunately a quarterly magazine is not the best format for pre-season information, but we'll work on the problem. While Sooner Magazine is published by the University of Oklahoma Foundation, OU People is the University of Oklahoma Association's alumni publication; two issues are planned for 1995-96.

Pittsburg County Boys

I just want you to know how much I enjoyed your article on Julian Rothbaum in the (Winter 1995) *Sooner Magazine*. You did an outstanding job in paying tribute to Julian. Truly, he is an extraordinary man. I have never known a kinder, more thoughtful, more generous human being. If ever there was a man who deserved to be recognized for his many contributions to the lives of people, it is Julian. There will never be "another Julian," and I thank you for the fine job you did in helping to better acquaint everyone with him.

It was an added bonus to read the article with Gil Jain's photographs on the 30th anniversary reunion banquet for the Carl Albert Award recipients. What a special occasion this was for everyone. It is always a joy to look at brilliant scholars and to take the time to recognize and acknowledge the tremendous contributions they are making to our world. It all comes back

to remind us how important public higher education is to our society. (You called our attention to this subject in your "Prologue.")

How fitting and appropriate it was for these two stories to appear in the same issue of the *Sooner Magazine*. Julian and Mr. Albert have been so closely connected throughout their lives and each of them has such loyalty to and appreciation of the University of Oklahoma that it just seemed pleasing to read about them at the same time.

Thank you for your kind words and comments about these two great men from Pittsburg County. How fortunate I am they passed my way.

Sara D. Lane
McAlester, Oklahoma

Editor's Note: For more than 27 years, Sara Lane was U.S. House Speaker Carl Albert's secretary and good right hand in the Third Congressional District office in McAlester.

A Murrah Footnote

The article in the Winter 1995 *Sooner Magazine* regarding Julian Rothbaum includes a discussion of the 1936 senate race in Oklahoma. Appropriately, the article mentions the very important part played by Royce and Leonard Savage in Josh Lee's election to the United States Senate. The young professionals who rallied around Lee's banner were known as the "Rover Boys," and the Savage brothers certainly belonged to that group. Indeed, Royce Savage debated for Lee at OU and introduced Lee when he announced his candidacy for the senate on a statewide radio broadcast.

But no discussion of the "Rover Boys" is complete without reference to Judge Alfred P. Murrah Sr. A 1928 graduate of the School of Law, Murrah also was one of Lee's speech students. In both Lee's race for congress in 1934, and for the senate in 1936, Murrah played a key role. It was Murrah who "pushed Lee into the senate race against Lee's own best judgment, when the junior senator was not at all certain he wanted to give up a sure house seat for a possible senate position." (*The Daily*

Oklahoman, February 9, 1937, page 5.) And having persuaded Lee to make the canvass, it was "Murrah who headed the close organization that directed the senatorial campaigns." (*Harlow's Weekly*, February 13, 1937, page 9.)

When Lee made his first judicial appointment, Murrah was his first choice. Candidly, Lee said, "I'll give him anything within my power because I consider him first among my supporters." (*The Oklahoma News*, November 7, 1936, page 2.) Only three years later, in 1940, Murrah was appointed to the circuit court of appeals at 35 years of age with Lee's endorsement. The same year Royce Savage was named United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma as a Lee appointee, and Murrah administered the oath of office to him.

Von Russell Creel, '64 B.A., '68 J.D.
Midwest City, Oklahoma

Editor's Note: The naming of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City was intended to honor a life spent preserving our legal heritage. How bitterly ironic that the April 19 bombing will forever link the name of this distinguished OU law graduate to one of the most outrageously lawless acts in U.S. history.

FOH (Friend of Harold)

I've been meaning to write for months. I wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed the piece on Harold Keith ("Harold and Molly," Fall 1993—now you know how long I've been thinking about writing.)

I worked for Harold my junior year, 1950-51, and I not only enjoyed it immensely, I gained a strong friend in Harold. I don't know for sure, but I believe he must have helped me to land a job with *The Daily Oklahoman* my senior year, after my wife was badly injured in a car accident and couldn't help support us.

It's been 42 years now since I lived in Oklahoma so I haven't kept close ties there, but I do enjoy your magazine.

Jack Foster, '52 B.A.
West Palm Beach, Florida