SOONER

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CONTENTS

4 IF STATUES COULD SPEAK

The talented Santa Fe sculptor Paul Moore has relocated to the University of Oklahoma to resurrect the once-proud figurative sculpture program, sharing his artistic and professional expertise with students who flock to his classes.

10 THE RESCUE OF UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS

Blessing or Sellout? The controversial merger of University and Children's Hospitals with Columbia HCA has a staunch defender in Dr. Jerry Vannatta, OU's dean of medicine and principal negotiator in the medical alliance.

14 THE FERRETTIS OF HSC

Practicing researcher and medical administrator, Joe Ferretti, was a popular choice as provost of the OU Health Sciences Center. His wife, Marti, is a national pacesetter in improving services for those with physical disabilities.

19 HOMER'S ODYSSEY ENDS IN NORMAN

"Homer nuts" are a breed apart in their devotion to studying the ancient blind poet in the original. The unlikely, sole source for a basic Homeric Greek dictionary and introductory grammar? The University of Oklahoma Press.

22 ALWAYS A WINNER

Alvan Adams was the franchise, the Sooner and NBA superstar who had it all except his college degree. The 1998 ceremonial retirement of his #33 jersey was a life highlight, but an equally satisfying achievement was yet to come.

26 WE CAME. WE SAW. WE ... FLOATED!

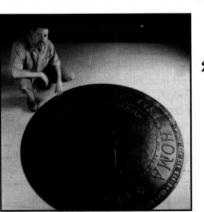
An adventurous band of University student engineers and a guest journalist traveled to Houston's Johnson Space Center for a ride on NASA's "vomit comet," a zero-gravity experience linking serious science with delirious fun.

Prologue • Inside Front Cover Letters • Page 2 Sooner Spotlight • Penny Hopkins • Page 31 Commencement 1998 • Inside Back Cover

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Robert Taylor

ON THE COVER

Sculptor Paul Moore is having great visual impact on the campus, most recently with a six-foot-in-diameter bronze rendition of the University seal, which has been installed in the second floor landing of the Oklahoma Memorial Union. See Page 4.