

SOONER

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Honors Dean Steve Gillon knows from personal experience how association with a gifted teacher and bright classmates can change the life of even the most dedicated underachiever—and he intends to give OU students that opportunity.

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An \$11.5 million, 34-month make-over has brought the students back to the venerable Oklahoma Memorial Union, transforming the facility from an aging, slightly shabby relic of past glories to the focal point of campus activity.

14 HOME SWEET DORM

Selected faculty families are moving their children, their pets and their private lives into the residence halls, hoping to coexist peacefully with several hundred homesick, overwhelmed, delightfully refreshing Sooner freshmen.

20 TO MARS AND BACK

Millions marveled at NASA photographs of the little Mars rover traversing the surface of the Red Planet, but few realized that Sojourner's "mom" was an OU graduate who has spent a lifetime proving that women can be engineers.

25 FREDRIK HOLMBERG COMES TO OKLAHOMA

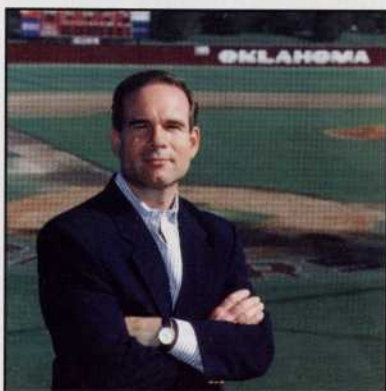
His arrival at the University of Oklahoma was pretty discouraging. No one would have blamed him if he had reboarded the train and headed back to Kansas, but as he recalled later, "I had a certain pioneer spirit, so I stayed."

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Robert Taylor

ON THE COVER

Steve Gillon's only ambition was to be a professional baseball player. Who would have imagined that for him the big leagues would be Ivy and Oxford, then as founding dean of OU's new Honors College. "If You Build It, They Will Come," Page 3.

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