

# LETTERS

## OU's Classical Pioneer

Your article in the Spring issue of the *Sooner Magazine* for 1998 ("Homer's Odyssey Ends in Norman") caught the attention of us two Oklahoma University graduates whose father, Professor Joseph Francis Paxton, brought the first classical Greek studies to Oklahoma University, circa 1904, and whose poetry anthologies were published by the University of Oklahoma Press.

We, my sister and I, think that Prof. Paxton's name should be included in your list of scholars, since he was the Classical Dept. head for so many years.

Many valuable books at the OU campus were destroyed by three fires! Perhaps some of the volumes were those mentioned in your article.

Prof. Paxton's devotion to classical studies was continued in Rome, where he took his first sabbatical at the turn of the century.

Your witty article was just great, Mr. Potter. Thank you for writing it for the *Sooner*.

*Josephine Paxton Larson, '29 B.A.  
San Antonio, Texas*

## Greeks Bearing Gifts

"Homer's Odyssey Ends in Norman" (*Sooner Magazine*, Spring 1998) is a most important part of my life because I was blessed to study ancient Greek with Dawes Potter at Thomas Jefferson School in St. Louis in 1952 and with the encouragement of Robin McCoy and Charles Merrill studied the classic path to college. Mr. Potter remembers well that many of us went to Harvard.

Still known as "Mr. Potter" to me, we were taught a discipline in academics, arts, athletics based on 100% a day discipline.

Norman and Oklahoma were both good sources of students. John Womack Jr. from Norman was a Rhodes scholar and returned to Harvard and is a tenured and published history professor. Arthur Kenneth Bernier and J. T. Bailey also returned to get an OU education.

Two of us, Dan Little, of Madill, and I have the same academic credentials—Thomas Jefferson School, Harvard cum laude and OU College of Law. Dan

Little served on the Board of Regents for OU.

Robin McCoy, the Thomas Jefferson headmaster and founder with Charles Merrill, called me in August of 1994 to say that he wanted to come visit Pawhuska and Tulsa. Jane and I took him to Philbrook Museum of Art for lunch on October 30, 1994, but he wanted to come to our house to say good-bye. His good-bye was to ask me why I did not read Greek anymore. After all, Dan Little still reads his half hour of Greek every day. Robin McCoy died on February 2, 1995.

The headmaster of Thomas Jefferson School since Robin McCoy retired is Lawrence Morgan, who has been on the Thomas Jefferson faculty for 40 years. Larry's father was "Fess" Morgan of the OU English faculty, and, like all of us from Norman, he was discovered by Savoie Lottinville of the Oklahoma University Press and sent to Thomas Jefferson School and then to Harvard. It's interesting that many of us who shared the Thomas Jefferson-Greek-Harvard experience returned to Oklahoma.

*James Lynde Sneed, '63 J.D.  
Tulsa, Oklahoma*

## Ferretti Family Pride

Your recent article ("The Ferrettis of HSC") about my wonderful Mum and Dad in-laws was super. Their successes and commitments are so admirable. It was a delight seeing it all in print—especially with (Judith Wall's) creative touch.

Your presentation of two fine individuals was a treat to read—even if I am a little biased!

Thank you for your time and eloquence.

*Meg Ferretti  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

## An Earnest Admirer

How delightful it was to see Earnie Hoberecht's letter in your Spring issue.

We J-School grads have always looked up to Earnie because he is a true professional, and he has been a great role model.

Although I didn't know Earnie's

sister Jeanne, we were both in the class of 1943.

My only claim to fame at OU was being Advertising Manager of *The Oklahoma Daily* and writing a gossip column for that paper. However, I was only 19 years old when I was graduated, and that was considered to be a fairly big deal at that time.

I didn't put "OU" on my teeth like Cecil Samara did, but I have always been a rabid fan of our football team. In this regard, can we ever expect to field a good team again?

*George G. Anthony, '43 B.A.  
Boulder City, Nevada*

## Historical Hindsight

In his letter to the Spring 1998 issue of *Sooner Magazine*, why did Mr. T. Jack Foster seem to think it was necessary to say that the number one football team in the nation had not a single black face? Neither did Mr. Foster's social fraternity nor his *Sooner* yearbook staff. None of the athletic teams had a "single black face" or, for that matter, a single "brown" or "yellow" face. Since so many Oklahomans declare "Indian" blood, I'll omit "red" faces.

As the wife of one of the members of that number one team and long-time friend to several other team members, I feel Mr. Foster's remarks would have been more appropriate in an article related to the political climate re race relations in Oklahoma from statehood until integration became the law. The team, after all, had nothing to do with recruitment of players.

*Angelyn Cunningham, '51  
Norman, Oklahoma*

## From a Friend of Helen

The letter from Helen Huntington Jennings in the Spring issue of *Sooner Magazine* was of special interest to me.

Years ago Myrtle Drake (wife of the late OU basketball coach Bruce Drake) and I took the train from London to Coventry to see Helen's sculpture, the Head of Christ, at the new cathedral. The remnant of the bombed original cathedral is adjoining.

*Marion Bergin  
Kerrville, Texas*