



LETTERS

A Survivor's Response

When I saw the cover of the Winter 2002 *Sooner Magazine*, it brought tears to my eyes. I saw myself, with the defensive mask of ordinary everyday living stripped away. There to see was all the anguish, the feelings of loss, the uncertainty for the future, the fear of the unknown to come. Surely Mr. Dotson is an artist who has seen this disease close up. His painting is both beautiful and devastating. I'm nearly sorry I saw it.

For the past five years, I have been battling a recurrence of breast cancer. In the '70s, I had a radical mastectomy, followed a year later by a second mastectomy. For a long time after that I couldn't look at myself in a mirror. A bone scan showed this recurrence to be widespread. We chose what my doctor called the "gentle" treatment, Tamoxifen and now Arimidex. So far the medications have kept the beast in check. Now I have put my mask back on. I don't intend to look at the picture again, but I shall keep it.

Dorothy Hamilton, 46 bs

Saturday's Hero

I read your "Saturday's Hero" tribute to Billy Vessels several times to be sure I absorbed each comment. Your praise was deserved. Billy was remarkable in several ways.

In the summer of 1949, I met Billy through my Wewoka teammate, Gene Cook. Billy and Gene were two of the top three high school running backs their senior seasons—the third being Tom Carroll of Okemah. All were headed to OU. I valued my friendship with Billy. He must have had thousands of other friends. A wonderful trait was his ability to remember faces and names. Years later I would run into Billy "out of context," and he would remember my name. This skill helped make him a great ambassador for OU.

While your comment about Billy "eclipsing" Bobby Reynolds was your personal opinion, Billy realized he had a superior supporting cast. He liked and respected Reynolds.

Possibly because your editorial space

was limited, you passed through Billy's career in professional football. Television had not yet sponsored huge salaries for college graduates, and Billy found an offer from the Edmonton Eskimos in the Canadian Football League to be superior to one from the Baltimore Colts of the NFL. Billy was intimately familiar with Edmonton's head coach, Darrell Royal. Billy found immediate success. He broke the CFL record for touchdowns scored on punt returns his first season. By the time I was living in Calgary, Alberta, in 1957, he had become a sports legend in that country. After three seasons in Canada, he played with Baltimore. It was there his career was ended by a recurring injury.

Billy would have enjoyed and appreciated your comments. I also did.

*Gene C. Aldridge, 54 bs geol
Richardson, Texas*

A Touching Tribute

The recent Winter 2002 issue is especially meaningful to me. Billy Vessels and I were both students at OU in the early '50s, and although we didn't know each other, it was very touching to read your tribute to Billy. I feel fortunate to be one of an ever-decreasing number who have watched him excel on the gridiron.

*Bennie Shultz Jr., 53 bs, 56 ms. mech engr
Huntsville, Alabama*

Loren Hill's Service Noted

I enjoyed reading the article in your last issue concerning the Biological Station ("Tales from the Texoma Shore," Winter 2002) and the honoring of Carl Riggs, the founding director; however, I was struck by the fact that there was no mention of the contributions of Loren Hill, who served for three decades as director following Carl Riggs' tenure. Loren made significant progress in transforming the Station into a year-round research and educational center, attracting important funding from the National Science Foundation for research facilities and programs. His efforts provided the essential foundation for the

progress being made today, and any serious evaluation of the Station's progress should take that into account.

Since *Sooner Magazine* has become an important historical resource for the University, I think it is important to recognize for the record Loren's many important contributions in the development of the Biological Station.

*J. R. Morris, 56 psych, 60 phd
Provost Emeritus
Norman, Oklahoma*

NOTE: Sooner Magazine was remiss in not acknowledging Loren Hill's considerable contributions to the Biological Station and its programs.

"Oklahoma Crimson"

If I recall correctly, some time ago you reported President Boren appointed a campus committee to come up with a uniform color scheme for the OU athletic teams—i.e., an "official" version of crimson & cream.

Perhaps I missed it, but I don't recall reading the results of the committee's efforts. Could you please enlighten me?

*Jerry Muskrat, 63 ba, 69 ms poli sci
San Diego, California*

NOTE: Standardizing "Oklahoma Crimson" in team and spirit squad uniforms and with licensees is progressing, though variations occur due to dye and materials used. Band uniforms will come on board as they are replaced. Think cardinal (as in Stanford) rather than scarlet (Nebraska) or maroon (Texas A&M). The italicized logo is banished in favor of the traditional, upright interlocking OU.

Miss Manners Rebuffed

I see that classrooms at OU do not have hooks for students' caps. (re: photos accompanying "Risky Business," Winter 2002). I'm glad my few years as a geology instructor were at (Oklahoma Military Academy).

*Clyde W. Beson Jr., 41 bs petr. engr.
Claremore, Oklahoma*