



LETTERS

"Studying" for the Camera

What a nice surprise in the magazine ["Postscript: The Legacy of Burton Hall, Summer 2004] to see "my" old Home Ec building with me posing, leaning against the tree, as if I'm studying!! I remember it well—I have the original magazine from September 1952. I brought it to the Alum office when I came for my 50th reunion, Class of '53.

I also have an old *Oklahoma Daily* newspaper from 1952, and it has a big story entitled "Home Ec Girls Practice Theory." There were five of us students who lived in the "home management house" at 528 Elm for the summer. A teacher, Helen Clark, lived there, too, and supervised. We had a different job each week: cooking meals, shopping, planning, cleaning, laundry. One job was "keeping the clock wound." Just wondering if such a place should still be available. I doubt the girls would be in line to get in!!

If you'd be interested, I have had a son and three daughters graduate from OU, as well as two sons-in-law, and now have my oldest grandchild there as a freshman, National Merit Scholar!! We are very proud of the tradition.

I remember Helen Burton well, along with many happy memories.

*Patricia Dierker Keamey, '53 bs hec
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
P.S. GO SOONERS !!!*

Recalling "Pride" Memories

I have always enjoyed the *Sooner Magazine*, but none more than the Summer issue that included the story on the "100 Years of the Pride of Oklahoma." It brought back many pleasant memories.

As a freshman in 1945, I was privileged to play under the direction of Leonard Haug, who was fair but a strict disciplinarian, and we practiced his formations for hours. The only trip we got to take that year was to "Big D" and the Texas-OU football game. We left early on Saturday morning and came back late that night.

The next year with a new football coach Jim Tatum, we were all invigorated, and our big trip still consisted of only going to Dallas. However, we got to leave on Friday, stopped in Denton, Texas, which was strictly an "all girls" school then. We paraded in the afternoon, and they had a banquet for us that evening, topped off with a dance from 9 to 12. We then continued to serenade the girls until well after 1 a.m. The boys slept on cots in the gymnasium, as it was known then. It was a memorable weekend. The only danger on those trips was that Texas beat us. Our other trip was to Oklahoma A&M (State now), where we paraded to the stadium from our buses. We did get revenge on A&M for the previous year's "licking" by their great All American quarterback Bobby Fenimore, who beat us 46 to 0. The final score this year was OU 73-A&M 12.

Thanks for bringing back some great memories of the "Pride of Oklahoma."

*Norman D. Glasscock, D.D.S.
'49 bs, '53 mph
Yorktown, Virginia*

Lots of Pride in "The Pride"

Thank you for recognizing the contributions of the Pride of Oklahoma [Summer 2004] as we mark our first century. We're gearing up to make history once again when more than 400 former members join the current Pride to blanket the field at halftime.

*Lisa Youngquist Hall, '83 ba joun
Tallahassee, Florida*

Eugene Springer's Band

When I saw that the *Sooner Magazine* was featuring the OU Band, I opened it eagerly to read the article and see the pictures. I have a special interest in the band's history since my father, Charles Eugene Springer, was one of the early directors. He was a graduate student at the time. He followed "Daddy" Lehrer.

My father directed the OU Band from 1926-27. In 1926 he had become an instructor of mathematics at OU. He left the University at the end of the 1927

school year to go to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar. He played his trumpet as well as a Sousaphone in a dance orchestra in Oxford, making a big hit.

The lead picture that you used in Michael Waters' article, "100 Years of the Pride of Oklahoma," was one of my father's band in 1927, not that of Oscar Lehrer as was stated. It appeared in the OU Sooner yearbook in 1927 on Page 147. My father is at the far right on the second row with his trumpet. He was famous for directing with one hand while he played the horn with the other. (In later years as a professor of mathematics and chairman of the Mathematics Department at OU, he was known to write on the blackboard with one hand while erasing with the other. Students had to pay good attention!)

In the same picture my mother, Lucile Farmer Springer, appears at the far left on the second row as the band sponsor. She and my father met in the OU Symphony under the watchful eyes of Dean Holmberg. I gave the original photograph, his batons, band hat and other pictures to the OU Band office after his death in 1999 at the age of 95.

*Suzanne Springer Corr, '58 ba math
Norman, Oklahoma*

Editor's Note: The group pictured in front of Evans Hall was indeed the 1927 Pride, directed by graduate student Eugene Springer. The style uniform they wore was introduced by "Daddy" Lehrer in 1922, according to Terri Cooter's history of the OU Band. Springer's long and distinguished career in the OU Mathematics Department was matched only by the Springers' popularity as one of the University's most active faculty couples.

March, Play at the Same Time

Your article "100 Years of the Pride of Oklahoma" [Summer 2004] brought back a stream of old memories. I was in "The Pride" in 1951-53.

Our trip to South Bend to support the Sooners against Notre Dame was especially memorable. We had to raise the

money for the train trip through donations. Our director, Leonard Haug, had devised an elaborate formation of a walking stick-man for our half-time show. The legs had to swing through each other repeatedly as the body progressed steadily down the field. I was in one of the legs. On the morning of the game, we were practicing our routine for the last time. Mr. Haug was weary, having just returned from an emergency visit to his father's deathbed. At one point, he stopped the formation, pointed to me and shouted, "You! Don't try to march and play at the same time. Just hold your horn to your mouth and concentrate on your feet!" My pride at appearing on national television was considerably diminished.

As our drum major, Jim Swain, led us onto the field for our half-time performance, our introduction boomed over the loudspeakers: "And now, under the direction of Leonard Hog and the baton of drum major Jim Swine, the PRIDE OF OKLAHOMA." Hog and Swine? It must have been an honest mistake by a dyslexic announcer.

Anyway, the donors back home who made our trip possible didn't get to watch our half-time show on TV. We were pre-empted by interviews with University bigwigs.

The afternoon ended sadly as we watched the Irish upset our Sooners to end a 13-game unbeaten streak. We consoled ourselves by continuing to play in the stands until the stadium was deserted.

*Richard Jacobi, D.D.S.
Professor Emeritus
OU College of Dentistry
Belton, Texas*

Band History Available

Your readers should know that the OU Band Alumni Association is taking orders for *100 Years of Pride: 1904-2004*, the Centennial history that was the primary source for your Fall 2004 *Sooner Magazine* cover story. The 9-by-12 hardback book, available in late March, con-



OU Western History Collections

Pride drum major Jim Swain, 1952

tains more than 300 pages and more than 100 photographs.

Featured throughout the historical narrative are individual memories from past band members, football history and the role the Pride played in many victories. The photos are from private collections of directors and band members and the OU Archives.

Proceeds from sale of the book will go to the Pride of Oklahoma Marching Band General Scholarship Fund. Each book is \$65, plus \$12.50 shipping for a total of \$77.50. Ten dollars may be counted as a tax-deductible donation. Checks, payable to the "OU Foundation," should be mailed to The OU Band Alumni Association, c/o University Bands, 500 West Boyd, Norman 73019-0301. Credit card orders, using Mastercard, Visa, American Express or Discover, should include name, address, credit card company and card number, expiration date, amount and "Pride Centennial Celebration Fund #32877, specifying "Pridebook."

*Terri Cooter, '82 ed, '87 med psych
President OU Band Alumni Association
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

Making a Case for Just Sitting

I would like to thank Carl Marziali for "Making the Case for Direct Democracy"—a superb story in your beautiful *Sooner Magazine* [Fall 2004]—in which he quoted the remarkable Elizabeth "Beth" Garrett as saying, "I don't think

you should ever just sit. I don't think that's what we should ever do, no matter what . . . There is seldom a good reason just to sit . . ."

She caused me to recall the following fragments from *The Way of Zen*, a book written by Alan W. Watts, one of the most stimulating and unconventional philosophers of our time:

"From Buddhist standpoint . . . it seems perfectly natural to remain sitting so long as there is nothing else to be done, and so long as one is not consumed with nervous agitation. To the restless temperament of the West, sitting meditation may seem to be . . . unpleasant . . . because we do not seem to be able to sit 'just to sit' without qualms of conscience, without feeling that we ought to be doing something to justify our existence . . . Yet at that very point it ceases to be meditation (dhyana) in the Buddhist sense, for where there is purpose, where there is seeking and grasping for results, there is no dhyana."

*Have a wonderful New Year.
Arthur H. Prince, '96 ph.d
Memphis, Tennessee*

Slam the Door on Athletics

I got a real kick out of the "Prologue" column in the Fall 2004 *Sooner Magazine*. I see that OU is no different than most "public" universities in that it isn't really interested in providing quality public education. If it were, closing the doors on athletics would be at the top of the list of fiscally responsible options for keeping tuition costs down. There's nothing inherently wrong with athletics at universities. Intramural sports where the participants pay for the programs make perfect sense.

Best of luck in continuing to privatize OU!

*Bob Reynolds
Lafayette, Louisiana*

Editor's Note: The value of intercollegiate athletics to universities is a legitimate topic for discussion, but for the record, at OU intercollegiate athletics are self-supporting; intramural sports are not.