



LETTERS

Animal Lover and Avid Hunter

Re: Spring 2006 anti-hunting letters to the editor, in response to "Living on the Wild Side," Winter 2006.

I truly understand the complaints that "maybe" such pro-hunting info should not be published in a school magazine, but to make the statement that all sport hunting is wrong is wrong.

Hunters, although they do in fact take game, have done more to increase the levels and health of almost *all* game species in almost *all* states. To prove this, please contact any wildlife department in any state and request their game species data. Hunters, and their affiliated organization (Ducks Unlimited, NRA, etc.,) have poured millions upon millions into the preservation of habitat, game species studies, etc. Oklahoma's DMAP (Deer Management Assistance Program, a hunter paid for organization) uses professional input from certified game/land biologists to increase said assets. And, during the years these organizations have been in operation, game species *have* increased and land *has* been set aside on very long-term leases and/or, permanently paid for. Name a single commercial developer that can lay claim to this benefit towards animals.

I've been hunting all my life, most of it with my now deceased father. Many times we were successful, most times we weren't . . . and we are good hunters. The fact that hunters fail to take game more than they do is why they call it "hunting" and not "killing" (as so many of the anti-hunters would like to see it judged). Even lions, supreme hunters over hundreds of thousands of years, fail 8 out of 10 tries. Think man has a better chance? No way . . . far from it. And forget the argument of hunters using weapons . . . we're not hunting in prides, etc.

Now, as for Professor Steve Scott taking a game species, who's to say he didn't pay a tremendous fee to have that chance, a fee that went into helping the local community(s). Who are these complainers to say that Mr. Scott didn't hunt for decades before having the chance to partake of such a guided hunt? I'm 46, have hunted all my life as noted, and I've not

been fortunate enough to hunt big game of any type. Are these same complainers willing to turn down a nice crab or lobster dinner when these "defenseless" creatures are dredged up off the bottom by the tens of thousands? Turn down a steak after they've seen a cattle-hauling semi headed west towards the stockyards? Doubt it.

Again, "hunters" should not all be thrown into the all-too-easy category of "blood thirsty killers" when that is almost seldom (very, very seldom) the case. In fact, although anti-hunters won't want to admit it, "hunters" care more about wildlife than anyone on the planet. We're the ones looking out for the animals, setting aside their habitats, making sure their food and water supplies stay intact, and future generations will come forward with the best of all possible health.

Allen W. Miller
Edmond, Oklahoma

Response from a Red Raider

A customer left a copy of your magazine in my office, and I thoroughly enjoyed it even though I am a Texas Tech supporter.

I was, however, surprised at the letters from readers that you published. It is one thing to be ignorant of some aspects regarding wildlife and another to wave that ignorance like a flag. The writers seem totally unaware of reality in the life of wild animals. The killing of an animal by a predator is not a pretty sight, but it is the natural course of life in the wild. As predators age they fall victim to injuries and disease and suffer a sometimes drawn out and painful death.

The writer from Oklahoma City needs to check with the state wildlife personnel about the validity of the *Wall Street Journal* article. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is the hunters and fishermen who are funding conservation efforts in every state. He probably has no problem eating steak and chicken raised in a totally unnatural way.

The flag waver from Maryland may have problems other than a concern for wildlife. In modern day Africa an industry has developed around their wildlife. Poaching has been greatly reduced be-

cause the wildlife is a natural resource that provides a living for many people. As was pointed out in the article many of their problems with wildlife arise from the encroachment of the "indigenous people" into undeveloped areas. If she would watch the shows, she would find out that all the meat goes to the local people who are in dire need for protein in their diet. The harvesting of all wildlife is very closely regulated. The African people, in which white people are now included, understand wildlife is a renewable resource if properly managed.

Would the writer from Boulder prefer to see butchered animals hanging in a meat locker? I suspect some people have a very narrow view of the real world. I have always thought a university's purpose was to explore and study the world from all angles and aspects. I applaud the magazine for the article bringing me this unique man.

I do have some real concerns for the gruesome things the Sooner athletic teams have been doing to my Red Raiders!!

Larry Runnels
Cleburne, Texas

Barbering on the Corner

I just finished reading the Campus Corner article. It is a very charming read that mentions much of the history of Campus Corner and the changing times. I was slightly disappointed, however, that The Men's Room was not mentioned seeing how it is the longest standing barbershop on the corner. The Men's Room, 309 W. Boyd, opened in 1925 and is still with us today. I have recently purchased it and am in the process of renovating.

There is a tremendous amount of history and many great stories I have heard about The Men's Room from clients that came to get haircuts in the 1970s and even earlier as children. Eddie, the owner of The Barbery on Asp tells a story about his father working at The Men's Room as barber during the '70s. As you can imagine, haircuts were not so popular during that time.

Melanie Luster
Norman, Oklahoma

Corner History Corrected

I read the article, "Turning the Corner," written by Randall Turk, in the Winter 2006 issue of *Sooner Magazine* with interest, but also with sadness and disappointment. This was a six-page article, which included photos and was apparently intended to be a history of the Historic Campus Corner as well as an update on the property. However, in no place in this article is the mention of the Whistler name. I feel this was an unjust oversight on the part of the author.

As one of the granddaughters of Maude Whistler, I would like to tell some of the missing history of Campus Corner. Maude Whistler moved to Norman in 1915 and at that time ran a boarding house at 535 University Blvd. Soon after this, Maude built The Teepee, which she and her older children ran for several years. The Teepee is mentioned in the article and, as stated, was the center of campus social activity. On the letterhead stationary it reads: THE TEEPEE, Purveyors to Students, Norman, Oklahoma. (I am enclosing a copy of the stationary and also an old photo of the boarding house and photos of The Teepee.)

Then in 1917 Maude Whistler built the beginnings of Campus Corner. It started out with a few buildings on the corner of Boyd and Asp, but over the years took in several blocks in the University Blvd., Boyd, Buchanan, Asp, and White streets area. When Maude first built Campus Corner, she and a couple of her children lived upstairs over the businesses. At this time, there was a blue and green tile "Whistler" marker installed over the doorway that led to the upstairs rooms on the corner of Boyd and Asp. This tile is still there, and I am enclosing a photo of this Whistler marker.

As stated in the article, Campus Corner has made many, many changes over the years from 1917 until today. The Whistler family was involved in these changes while it was owned by Whistler Inc., which included Maude, her four children, and also her grandchildren after her death in 1948. In the 1930s my parents owned and operated a business,

Seibold's Music and Electric Stores, which was on Campus Corner at 319 West Boyd (copy of business envelop enclosed). As far as I know, Maude and/or members of her family owned and operated Campus Corner from 1917 until about 1983 when it was all sold.

I realize the author might have been limited to space and perhaps time for this article. However, I feel that he should have at least mentioned the Whistler name somewhere in the article since it was Maude Whistler who actually began the Historic Campus Corner and the Whistler family who kept it in the family and going for some sixty-six years. Maude



Maude Whistler

Whistler was a smart businesswoman who was not afraid to take risks, and she was definitely "ahead of her time" as a woman in the business world. I feel she should at least receive some credit for her business foresight in starting the Campus Corner back in 1917.

*Carolyn Seibold Simmons
Garland, Texas*

The Corner's Comeback

I was happy to read that the Campus Corner is making a comeback.

I lived in Norman from 1940 to 1950 where my father, James Gaskins Sr., was the manager of the TG&Y variety store

on the Corner. I spent many days riding my bicycle from our house on West Tonawa to see when Dad would be home for dinner. The Corner was full of interesting places. I got my hair cut across the street from Dad's store at the Campus Barber Shop, and loved to browse through the Varsity Book Store and Rickners. The Boomer Theater was the place to see the latest Tom Mix movie, and it was fun to go eat at the Copper Kettle, where aspiring music students would play the piano for their meals.

Like most families in Norman during the war, we rented our spare bedroom to wives of service men attending school at the two Navy bases in Norman. After 1946 when the war ended, the University and the Campus Corner was a beehive of young men returning from the war. I was around 11 years old and will always remember the Ruf/Neks herding a group of their recruits through one of their initiation rituals outside of the Town Tavern (now Louie's).

Norman was a small town back then, and students didn't have cars, so a walk to the Campus Corner was the place to go for things needed or to eat and meet.

I returned to Norman in '55 to attend OU, and the Corner was still the place to go. I have moved out of state and didn't get back to Norman as often as I would like. When I came back for a football game in 1997, I was sad to see how much the Corner had gone down hill.

The Campus Corner was unique to the University of Oklahoma, and many college towns lack that "village area" where students can gather. I applaud Judy Hatfield, David Box, the Powell family and others for their vision and efforts toward revitalizing the Campus Corner and wish them every success.

*James C. Gaskins Jr., '59 bba finance
Fresno, California*

Photo Credit

The Oklahoma Publishing Company photo on Page 14 of "Sherri's Style," Spring 2006, was taken by Bryan Terry. The other photos of OU Women's Basketball Coach Sherri Coale were taken by Norman photographer Jerry Laizure.