



# LETTERS

## Debate Date Debated

I found the article "The People's Team Triumphs" most interesting, and I do congratulate those who helped bring all the honors in debating home to OU.

However, debate at OU preceded the establishment by Josh Lee in 1919. I refer you to the 1912 *Sooner* [yearbook], page 117. In the article on "Debating," it notes that "Oklahoma has taken part in inter-collegiate contests for seven years." The seven literary societies of the University always made debating their chief work, and in 1911 the University employed a coach to give the time to arranging the debates.

My father, Ulys Webb, who graduated in 1912, participated in the annual contest between the Senate and the Forum (two literary societies) for the Garber Cup, which was given to the University in 1907. In the parliamentary drill, he won for the Senate, which, incidentally, was organized in 1897.

*Jacqueline Webb Carter, '42 bs geol  
Kilgore, Texas*

## Hollywood Lights

In the article about Sooners in Hollywood, I was surprised not to see Stan Rosenfeld of Stan Rosenfeld and Associates mentioned. I was a frat brother (Pi Lam) from '57-'61 with Stan, and he is one of the most powerful PR people in filmland. His clients include, or have included, George Clooney, Martin Sheen, Danny DeVito, Robert DeNiro, Andy Garcia and Kelly Ripa, among others. Stan worked his way up from the William Morris bottom rungs to the top of his profession. I noticed a clip on "Oprah" where he was shown in the background with George Clooney holding Clooney's Oscar.

The article on sculptor Lou Moore Hale brought back memories of whom I would call the "Mother" of the OU School of Journalism, Louise B. Moore.

Always enjoy my copy of *Sooner Magazine*.

*Jay Levine, '61 ba  
Saint Ann, Missouri*

## Grammar Lesson

RE: *Sooner Magazine* Volume 27, Number 4. Article "Back on Track" by Jay C. Upchurch.

On page 30, in red letters, Jay has written "We've got incredible new facilities . . ." This contraction expands to: "We have got incredible new . . ."

HAVE GOT! That is pretty bad English. You do not put two verbs together, with one past tense and the other present tense.

He should have said: "We have incredible new . . ." for a present tense statement or "We got incredible new . . ." for a past tense statement. You cannot put them together!

You need to run these through the English Department before printing.

*Bill Fry, '51 bs geol eng  
Normangee, Texas*

## Believe in Me

I opened up my current copy of *Sooner Magazine* and was pleased to find an article about the movie "Believe in Me." My son, James L. Carter, was the Director of Photography [DP] on the movie and has Oklahoma connections. He graduated from Cascia Hall in Tulsa and spent a year at the University of Tulsa before transferring to San Francisco Art Institute, where he received a BFA in film. He is a member of the American Society of Cinematographers [ASC] and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Currently he is a DP on the TV series "CSI."

*June Carter, '78 bs, '79 msu  
Norman, Oklahoma*

## The Ledbetter/Taylor House

I was looking on the Internet this evening for information about the house Joe Taylor lived in at Brooks and Chautauqua [originally the Ledbetter House] and found an article by Lynette Lobban from *Sooner Magazine*, Spring 2002. My folks celebrated their 53rd anniversary last week and at a family gathering we were trading stories and talking about when Papa—my mom's dad—worked on the construction of this house.

My grandfather, Ray Ewing, was a skilled finish carpenter, who worked for Barbour and Short—local contractors who provided the labor to work on this cool house. I grew up knowing Papa had finished the woodwork in the kitchen of the Ledbetter House, which had been featured in *Life Magazine*. We used to drive by the house when I was a kid, and my mom and dad would point it out to me years before I knew it was one of [architect] Bruce Goff's houses.

Eons later when I worked at *The Norman Transcript* as a photographer, reporter Jerri Culpepper, who now works at OU Public Affairs, interviewed Joe Taylor, and I made his picture. Having gone through the OU Art School, I had a lot of respect for his work. I told the man my grandfather had built the woodwork in his kitchen, and I think he was somewhat surprised!

Gene Bavinger, who also owned a famous Goff house, was my freshman painting teacher at OU. The first time our class met, he told us to go to our cars, and we all followed him out to his house for a tour.

*Janice Higgins Blunck, '77 bfa  
Norman, Oklahoma*

## Sooner City in the '60s

Your article in the *Sooner Magazine* for Spring 2007, "Postscript: Parkview Apartments," was of interest to us as we lived in Sooner City in the early 1960s, moving out in the summer of 1964. The houses were being condemned starting 1963. Not sure when the last ones were condemned. One fact that was not mentioned in the article was the large number of African American students, both graduate and undergraduate, married and single, who lived in Sooner City. My understanding at that time was that the City of Norman did not allow African Americans to be off the OU campus after dark, therefore forcing them to live on campus and particularly Sooner City, since the other on-campus apartments were for married students.

Our rent was \$47.50 per month, which included utilities. When we would come home at night, we could see the interior lights of our house shining through around all the windows; obviously they were not

air tight, cold in winter and hot in summer. Mosquitoes and roaches were terrible, but it was cheap and affordable to us.

*Jack L. Berry, M.D., '68 med  
Maribeth Berry  
Denver, Colorado*

*Editor's Note: By unwritten law, Norman was a so-called "sundown town" from territorial days until Navy families brought black employees with them during WWII. Although there were some black renters in the town, the sundown perception remained until OU's Dr. George Henderson purchased a house in Norman in 1967.*

### Victim of Progress

I wanted to thank you for the wonderful "Postscript" article on the Parkview Apartments. We moved to Norman in 1966 and lived on Manor Drive, very close to campus. As a teenager, as a part of my paper route, I delivered *The Norman Transcript* to residents in Parkview Apartments!

Although I realize change and progress are part of the normal life and growth of a community, it is always somewhat bittersweet. Thank you so much for providing the rich and unknown (to me) history behind the Parkview Apartments.

*Kristen Laszlier, '92 journ  
Norman, Oklahoma*

### A Perspective on Parkview

Your "Postscript" page in the Spring 2007 issue of the *Sooner Magazine* stirred up some fond, long-ago memories of our days in Norman.

We (my wife, 8-month-old son and myself) came to OU in September 1953 when I commenced an MBA program (accounting and business management). With the assistance of a local minister (Dr. Crutchfield), we located a nice apartment at 507-A Sooner Drive in the Parkview Apartments. As I recall, Parkview was then under the control of the FHA, and we rented at \$57.50 per month. In a few months it became university property, and the rent was reduced to \$52.50 per month—and, believe it or not, that helped.

We were there until I received my MBA in June 1955, when we moved to

Houston for a job with the Humble Oil & Refining Company (now Exxon Mobil). In 30 years with that company, we were moved to New York in 1964, to London in 1966 and back to Houston in 1971. Retirement in Houston came in 1985, and we are still here aging bit by bit.

It took me a while to get oriented on the picture, but finally decided the photograph was taken from the southwest looking northeast. Having come to that perspective, I readily located 507-A. Please let me know if I am wrong. It wouldn't be the first time! It is rather sad now to know these apartments fell to the wrecking ball, but age has a way of making that necessary. We visited the campus in fall 2003 and are now grateful we took a drive by to see Parkview one more time.

Congratulations on your article. Along with the stories on the progress of the University, pieces such as this one are very meaningful to alumni.

*Ben L. Morton, '55 mba  
Houston, Texas*

*Editor's Note: Our photo perspectives agree, using the location of the water tower at top, center, as a guide.*

### Frequent Residents

The "Postscript: Parkview Apartments" brought back many memories. We moved to Norman seven times during the 1960s. We were living in Texas City and attended summer school at OU in 1961. Our home was flooded in September 1961 by Hurricane Carla, so we made the decision to move to Norman in January 1962 for the spring and summer sessions. Both times we lived in Sooner City. We moved to Ada in the fall of 1962, and my husband began a long career at East Central University. However, we continued to move to the OU campus each summer to work on additional degrees. In 1964 we were again at Sooner City, in 1966 at South Base, in spring and summer 1967 at Parkview Apartments, and in 1968 at the new (to us) brick apartments south of the campus. This last summer in Norman our children were 9, 6, and 5.

Two of these children graduated from OU, and in the next generation a grand-



OU Western History Collections

Surely postwar Sooner City residents didn't dress so formally for a neighborly call—but the camera never lies.

son is a sophomore. Thank you, OU, for being a wonderful university.

*June B. Sims, '62 m ed  
Ada, Oklahoma*

*Joe V. Sims, '63 ma, '69 d ed (deceased)  
Jana Sims Winfree, '81 bs, '85 dds  
Joni Sims, '84 ba*

### Should Have Saved One

I enjoy the magazine, especially for the articles about the history of the University. My wife, two children and I lived in Sooner City from 1958-1960 as I completed a master's degree in geology.

We liked our little prefab, even when ice formed on the inside of the windows in the winter's cold.

In the article on page 32, "Postscript"—CJB, the Sooner City prefabs were reported to be replaced in 1954. Not so! They were a thriving community as late as 1960. Perhaps the author meant to write 1964.

I wish that one had been preserved so that on my visits to Norman we could see the type of home in which we were so happy.

*Martin M. Cassidy, '62 geol  
Cypress, Texas*

*Editor's Note: Sooner City coexisted with Parkview Apartments from 1954 until 1961, when additional apartment units were acquired by the University.*