



Robert Taylor

THE CALM BEFORE THE FALL — This peaceful view of the north side of the Gaylord Family Oklahoma Memorial Stadium is just the midsummer lull before the high-voltage activity of the 2008 home football season. Soon more than 82,000 fans will descend on the campus, surging across the Walk of Champions, the tree-lined plaza leading to the gated entrance to the McClendon Center for Intercollegiate Athletics. Some will pause to read the inscriptions on the donor pavers, and a few will find space on the commemorative benches around the Class of 2000 Reflecting Pool, waiting patiently for the game to begin.