

## LETTERS

**A Preposterous Statement**

In your summer 2010 issue of *Sooner Magazine* ["Physicists on the Frontier"], the presumptuous, some might even say preposterous, statement was made that "We now know that the universe was created about 14 billion years ago in a cataclysmic explosion call the Big Bang." Not "current estimates" or "the majority of experts believe" or "with the knowledge we have today, it is estimated" or "our best guess" but "*We now know . . .*" The assumptions made to come to 14 billion years boggle the mind. Anyone who has followed, even in a cursory fashion, how the estimated age of the universe has changed would most likely choose preposterous in the first sentence. We scientists like to sound certain, but we seldom are.

I truly appreciate the quality of *Sooner Magazine*. It is one of the few I receive that I read cover to cover. Despite an occasional preposterous statement!

*Bill Woodard*

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Bartlesville, Oklahoma

**Ground Control to Major Mom**

For those interested in "Tuning In to Eagle Cam" in the Fall 2009 *Sooner Magazine*, two 2010 fledgling Bald Eagles, carrying solar-powered, GPS satellite transmitters, built flight muscle and learned to catch fish, turtles and other tasty treats in the Sooner State's summer heat. Biologists from Oklahoma Biological Survey's Sutton Avian Research Center in OU's College of Arts and Sciences placed the two-plus ounce, backpack-mounted units on the eaglets May 26, about a week prior to first flight.

While no Bald Eagles nested in Oklahoma in 1985, over 120 pairs of Sutton's reintroduced national birds now nest in our state. These two eaglets are "grand eaglets or great-grand ea-

glets" of 275 young released throughout the southeastern U.S. by the Center. If technology and birds survive, hope is to follow the youngsters 2-3 years to study movements and habitats deemed critical for survival of young.

Interested readers can visit [www.suttoncenter.org](http://www.suttoncenter.org) to view maps showing movements of the eagles. "Eagle Tracking Information" at left side of page explains, with photographs, extensive efforts to mount transmitters. The eagles are expected to move north into



**Satellite transmitter antennas protrude from backpacks on two bald eagle chicks, left and center.**

Canada during summer's heat and back to Oklahoma by early winter, but biologists, like viewers, are waiting to see where the birds actually go. More satellite transmitters are to be mounted during next year's nesting season.

*Steve K. Sherrod, PhD, '71 zoology*  
Executive Director

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Bartlesville, Oklahoma

**Physician and Neighbor**

I just wanted to express my sincere gratitude to you and everyone at *Sooner Magazine* for publishing the wonderful article about one of our extraordinary family physicians, Dr. Michael Woods.

Author Connie Cronley did an exemplary job capturing the spirit, skill, and dedication of this fine "Cowboy Doctor" [Spring 2010] whose impact as a physician and neighbor is immeasurable. As you might imagine, we consider ourselves most fortunate to have such a compassionate physician who is deeply committed to practicing rural medicine in Oklahoma.

We are quite honored you chose one of our own to be featured in your fine publication. Thank you.

*David R. Stire*

Chief Executive Officer

Jane Phillips Medical Center

Bartlesville, Oklahoma

**OU Choral Memories**

Your story on the OU choral groups and Fred Waring ["Joining the Sooner Sing-a-Long" and "The Fred Waring Factor," Spring 2010] brought back many fond memories. I was privileged to sing in the OU Men's Glee Club and Mixed Chorus during all of my four and a half years at OU (1947-1952). Chester L. Francis was the director of choral organizations at the time. Some people will remember him because he sang "The Star Spangled Banner" at all OU home football games for a number of years.

I am glad to hear that Bob Harris joined the OU staff. I recall seeing him on many of the TV musical programs mentioned in the article—I would tell my children that I sang with him in the OU Glee Club. I was not fortunate enough to have sung with Lara Hoggard while I was at OU, but I did sing in the Midland-Odessa Symphony Chorale when Dr. Hoggard was the conductor in the early 1960s.

Thanks for reviving so many wonderful memories.

*Robert L. Boothe, '52 vocal mus. ed*  
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