



LETTERS

Mayan Ruins Misplaced . . .

I am sure you will receive many comments about the typo error on page 14. The caption under the picture says the ruins are on the Mediterranean coast. How about the Caribbean coast?

*Richard Gibbs, '54 ame
Tulsa, Oklahoma*

. . . But Now Are Found!

On page 14 of your winter issue, you place Mayan ruins on the Mediterranean. I think this is a mistake; it ought to be the Caribbean. I suppose a large number of geographers have mentioned this to you.

Keep up the good work—you put out a great magazine!!

*Watson Parker, '62 hist, '65 ph.d
Rapid City, South Dakota*

Interviewing Goff

Your [Fall 2010] issue to me is one of your very best from cover to cover.

Of special interest were the articles on Bruce Goff. Made me wonder if you had ever done an issue with consecutive articles on the same person.

When I started at *The Oklahoma Daily*, my first assignment, and I think it was suggested by Mrs. [Louise] Moore, was to do a feature on Goff. Even then, fresh out of the service, I knew enough that to have an OU department head with no college degree was somewhat amazing.

Congratulations and thanks for a great job.

*John Meek, '58 broadcast
Green Valley, Arizona*

With the Last of the Cadets

The Winter 2011 issue of *Sooner Magazine* arrived in today's mail. I thoroughly enjoyed reading the letter written by Jack J Coe (Camarillo, California) regarding college life "the way it was" at the University of Oklahoma in 1943-45. I, too, was a V-12 Naval Reserve Officer Training Cadet stationed in Norman, Oklahoma. I graduated with the fourth and final Class of Cadets in 1946.

I ran track with Jack Coe; and I would like to thank him for "the memories."

I always enjoy reading the excellent articles in your fine magazine. Keep up the good work!

*Joe A. Richardson, '46 celeng sci
Magnolia, Texas*

The Iowas Have Eagles, Too

Good Morning. While reading the Winter 2011 edition, I noticed a letter from Gale Wood.

FYI the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma has an eagle house approximately two miles south of Perkins on SH 177. At the present, they have 27 bald and golden eagles.

Of course anything that has to do with eagles in the United States is under the protection of the federal government.

If she would like to visit and extend her time and money to the preservation projects already in existence, she could search Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma; the home page is Bah-Kho-Je. Then click Eagle Aviary. Voila! They even have pictures of the eagles in rehab. This is a wonderful program in full compliance with the federals (of course). They have a great website. Anyone who plans to go should first call and make a reservation.

*Susan Pettit, '54 bs ed
Edmond, Oklahoma*

Our Aging Universe Debate

I guess I have more confidence in the general public than Professor Page ("Letters," Winter 2011), [re: "Physicists on the Frontier," Summer 2010]. I am certain that the readers of *Sooner Magazine*, as well as the general public, have the ability to understand difficult scientific concepts such as "estimate" and "approximately."

Since I didn't attack the Big Bang theory, I must confess to being unsure of the point of Professor, excuse me, Professor Emeritus Zelby's letter (also Winter 2011). But I will also admit failing to understand most of what my electrical engineering instructors said some 40 odd years ago. He might want to note, however, that those who do consider the age of the universe relevant are typically speaking in billions of years. A few million years would get lost in the round-off.

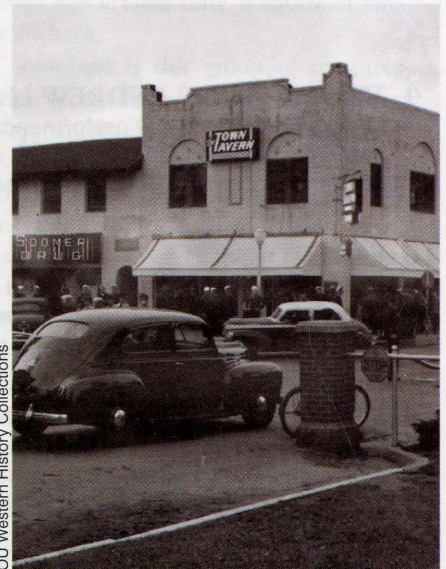
I am also certain, or at least hopeful, that both Professor Page and Professor Emeritus Zelby pay more attention to the

details of their research and teaching than they do to the spelling of names.

*Bill Woodard
'67 bs ChE, '71 ms ChE, '73 ph.d
Bartlesville, Oklahoma*

Hanging Out at the Hangouts

The Winter 2011 *Sooner Magazine* brought back old memories. I was born and grew up in Norman. I well remember Fred Swisher's Varsity Shop. When I was two, and my mother didn't have anyone to watch me when she had a class, she would drop me off at the Varsity Shop with Joe Chatman and Ray Rickner. They would entertain me until she picked me up. The book storage was upstairs, and



The legendary Town Tavern, the ultimate "campus hangout," sits on the corner of Boyd and Asp.

there was a spiral slide to send them down to the shop. They would slide me down the slide. Whee!

When an early teen, my first job was at the Leslie Merle Beauty Salon sweeping and mopping floors. The Duchess Powell hired me next door at Sooner Drug as a soda jerk. Her young son grew up to be Harold's Clothing Stores. Next job was with Joe Chatman who started the Varsity Book Shop after the Varsity Shop closed. You mentioned Rickner's and the Monterrey but not the 600 Cleaners. The Transcript [Press] prints the *Sooner*. My grandfather, Robert H. Parham Sr., was

co-owner and business manager of the [Norman] Transcript until his untimely death in a car accident, January 1929

*Robert F. Ellzey
'50 psych, '54 md
Austin, Texas*

Old Norman Boy Recalls

I must tell you how very much I enjoyed your column on campus hangouts. As an old Norman boy, it unleashed a flood of nostalgia that only a native can truly appreciate. I have frequented all of those

dens of iniquity (some would call them)

For a few short years during the war, our family lived in our Logan Apartments across Boyd Street from the "Bird." As a young guy (pre-teen), I could get a great hamburger at the Brown Owl without traveling the distance to the campus corner. The smoke in that place couldn't be cut with a big knife.

*Kuyk Logan, '55 pr
The Woodlands, Texas*

Those Darling Darlin's

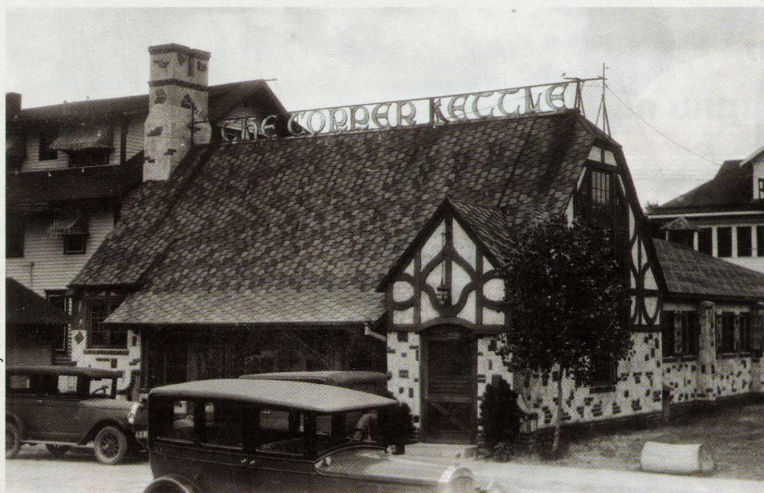
I just read your Prologue in the *Sooner Magazine*, and it was a trip down memory lane for me. I grew up in Norman and remember MOST of those places very well! I've been contemplating having a Denco Darlin' party someday. I have a recipe.

*Lezlie Marsh Pilkington
Norman, Oklahoma*

Thetas in the Town Tavern?

What a flood (no pun intended) of memories your editorial unleashed. I remember so many of us carving our initials in the tables and booths at the Kettle, over the years it became difficult to find a level spot for your iced tea. And a moment of silence, please, for General Jack's and his Radio Free Pizza, and the ultimate date restaurant, Pete's.

Your observation that sorority girls were forbidden from the Town Tavern is ironic in light of the fact that it was the same Town Tavern that invented the



OU Western History Collections

For decades, The Copper Kettle on Buchanan Street was the classic date place for guys with some extra change in their pockets. Generations of Sooner students carved their names into the tabletops in its booths.

Theta Burger. The Theta Burger is often attributed to Vince Stephens and his Split T Restaurant in Oklahoma City, but Vince didn't open the T until 1953. It was actually Ralph Guist, the original owner of the Town Tavern, who introduced it just after WWII. Of course, the Split T can claim a horse in that race, because Ralph Guist's cook in those days was Vince Stephens.

Thanks for the memories.

*Jack Shakely, '65 journ
Rancho Mirage, California*

Older than We Thought

Your article about campus hangouts says: "The Mont, east of the campus on Classen qualifies, *having been there in one form or another for at least 50 years.*" I lived on Tulsa, just east of the Mont in 1937, more than 70 years ago, and the Mont was there then. I remember being in an oratorical contest while at Norman Junior High sponsored by the Women's Christian Temperance Union, practicing at home in front of my mother and brother who were encouraging me while drinking beer from the Mont. I couldn't influence them, but I won the contest.

The picture of the bonfire reminded me of going to a Friday night bonfire with my wife, probably in 1947 or '48. One of the speakers was a vice president of the university who told the crowd that the cheer leaders had asked Dr. Cross to come and told

him if he couldn't come not to send anyone lower than a vice-president, to which Dr. Cross replied: "But there isn't anyone lower than a vice-president."

It seems to me that we called the corner "Varsity Corner" then, but I haven't heard it called that since.

We certainly enjoy your magazine.

*Bill Burkett, '50 law
Oklahoma City
Oklahoma*

Who Can Forget the Dirty Bird?

Well, I like all your columns—and many articles in most issues—but the column in the latest one about hangouts past and present and way past is really fine. Some of these mentions really resonate, some memories are really kindled. Some of the places that have been around for 30 or 35 years are known to us because of our visits back. But hearing about the Mont, Rickner's, and others is really satisfying. The Brown Owl (and your reminder that students called it the Dirty Bird) is priceless—I had forgotten, I'm almost ashamed to say, but it all came back!

*John C. Campbell, '58 broadcasting
Washington, D.C.*

Editor's Note: Our story missed a turn in the Brown Owl-Library-Pink's cycle, now returned to The Library.

Appreciating the 21st

Good story and coverage. ("The Fighting 21st," *Sooner Magazine*, Fall 2006)

I was with the 421st Malaria Survey Unit aboard USS *Lew Wallis* from San Francisco thru New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, then 12 months on Munda, New Georgia, then back with the 21st on Bougainville, joining the convoy for the invasion of Luzon.

I understand that about 1,000 WWII vets die every day. I am hanging on.

Keep up the good writing.

*James Wright
Temple, Texas*