

Your Letters

“... I can still see the picture of a dejected Charlie ‘Choo Choo’ Justice, the Tarheels’ star, sitting on the sideline with a towel over his head.”

Setting the score straight

Leonard Leventhal’s “Gridiron memories” letter (Winter 2016) was fun to read, allowing us old Sooners to relive some of the highlights of 1948-50 seasons under Bud Wilkinson. I was at the 1950 Texas A&M game he describes and still have my program — signed by Claude Arnold. But let’s not shortchange the ’48 Sooners, who didn’t lose to North Carolina in the 1949 Sugar Bowl. OU won 14-6, and I can still see the picture of a dejected Charlie “Choo Choo” Justice, the Tarheels’ star, sitting on the sideline with a towel over his head. Bud’s second OU club finished 10-1 in 1948, with the loss coming in the opener at Santa Clara. Oklahoma led 17-7 at the half, but squandered that lead and lost 20-17 to the West Coast team. The Big Red then won its next 31 in a row before losing to Kentucky, 13-7, in the 1951 Sugar Bowl.

*Ed Frost
'61 ba, journ
Norman, Okla.*

Page 5 of the winter 2016 edition says OU lost to North Carolina in the ’48 Sugar Bowl game. I was there and I believe we stumped Charlie Justice (“Choo Choo”) by about 14-7. You have a great magazine – keep up the good work.

*Elmer Koehler Thomas
'54 ba, history
'56 llb
Oklahoma City, Okla.*

Leadership praised

The winter 2016 issue is special and *very* interesting.

To highlight very impressive Sooner leaders in sports, as veterans and the American Indian population suggests the University students, staff and coaches have done a remarkable job in finding very special leaders at the University. Such selections assure that the University will be ranked very highly by the public and leaders at both the local and national level.

*Jim Eddy
'65 ma, poli. sci.
'71 Ph.D., poli. sci.
Winona, Minn.*

Proud of the Pride

I was so glad to see the wonderful article about the Pride of Oklahoma Marching Band in the Winter 2016 *Sooner Magazine*. The halftime marching band show was always my favorite part of the OU football games in the mid-1950s.

I know the band practices and works every bit as hard as

the football team. It makes me very unhappy that I cannot enjoy watching them. Instead, I have to watch talking heads [on television] tell me what I just saw in the first half of the game, and what I can expect to see in the second half.

Please bring back the wonderful talents of the Pride of Oklahoma Marching Band for us to enjoy.

*Dr. and Mrs. Robert D. Schick Sr.
Duncan, Okla.*

Native scholar alive and well

On page 23 of the winter issue of the *Sooner Magazine*, Dr. Strickland is referred to as “the late Rennard Strickland.” There are obvious signs of life from Dr. Strickland. He recently made a priceless donation of Native American art to the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. He is the writer of hundreds of books and articles on Native American culture and law. Type the name of Rennard Strickland in the internet and it lights up like a gaming board at the casino. He is known from the Pacific Northwest to the Seminole in the Florida Everglades for his study of Indian law. He continues to write and serve on boards and commissions to advance the knowledge of the Native American culture. He presently serves as the Senior Scholar in Residence at the OU Law School.



A portrait of Rennard Strickland by Creek/Potawatomi artist Minisa Crumbo Halsey.

*Bradley D. Gambill
Maj. Gen., Ret.
Norman, OK*

(Editor’s note: Apologies extended to Rennard and family. It was not our intention to off the good Dr. Strickland. His gifts to the university in terms of art, intellect and reputation are indeed priceless. For a profile on the living law scholar and art collector, please refer to the fall 2009 issue of Sooner Magazine for the story “Rennard Strickland: Doctor, Lawyer, Indian, Chief Art Collector and Storyteller.”