ON THE COVER
For these gleeful graduates on the steps of the Law Center—Elaine Thompson, left, Beth Sneed and Maria Thompson—the University of Oklahoma is more than alma mater; it is an integral part of family history. “Chapter Four,” Page 12.

CONTENTS

3 A PRESIDENTIAL HOMECOMING
The man who will become OU’s 13th president shares his excitement and optimism with a capacity Holmberg crowd and readers of Sooner Magazine.

8 AN ASTRONOMICAL DEBATE
David Branch’s research puts the University professor squarely on the side of astronomers who see the universe as an older, larger and simpler place.

12 CHAPTER FOUR
University history intertwines once again with that of two prominent Oklahoma families at the 1994 OU College of Law Commencement ceremonies.

17 IF GENERAL JACK HAD FOUGHT FOR TEXAS...
His career as a Longhorn interrupted by World War II, Jack Mitchell enlisted with Oklahoma and became the first of OU’s great modern-era quarterbacks.

21 THE MEDIEVAL FAIR
Eighteen years ago a group of English professors staged a modest tribute to the Middle Ages—pageantry that now draws 70,000 visitors to Brandt Park.

25 WITH “A SENSE OF DEEP REGRET”
How does a president handle reports of misconduct by a faculty member who is also a friend? Another in David Levy’s “Treasures from the Archives.”

30 SOONER SPOTLIGHT • CHARLES GILBERT
Yes, you can come home again; just ask Charles Gilbert, a noted geologist who received an offer from his alma mater that he simply could not refuse.

32 “25 GUYS PULLING ON THE SAME ROPE”
Coach Larry Cochell brought his no-star baseball team through a punishing schedule with one purpose in mind: peak at the right time and take it all.

Prologue • Inside Front Cover
Letters • Page 2

©1994 by the University of Oklahoma Foundation Inc.