LETTERS

“Studying” for the Camera

What a nice surprise in the magazine [“Postscript: The Legacy of Burton Hall, Summer 2004”] to see “my” old Home Ec building with the posing, leaning against the tree, as if I’m studying!! I remember it well–I have the original magazine from September 1952. I brought it to the Alum office when I came for my 50th reunion, Class of ’53.

I also have an old Oklahoma Daily newspaper from 1952, and it has a big story entitled “Home Ec Girls Practice Theory.” There were five of us students who lived in the “home management house” at 528 ELM for the summer. A teacher, Helen Clark, lived there, too, and supervised. We had a different job each week: cooking meals, shopping, planning, cleaning, laundry. One job was “keeping the clock wound.” Just wondering if such a place should still be available. I doubt the girls would be in line to get in!!

If you’re interested, I have had a son and three daughters graduate from OU, as well as two sons-in-law, and now have three granddaughters graduate from OU, as well as two granddaughters. My oldest grandchild there as a freshman, a National Merit Scholar!! We are very proud of the tradition.

I remember Helen Burton well, along with many happy memories.

Patricia Dierker Kearney, ’53 bs Home Ec
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
P.S. GO SOONERS!!!

Recalling “Pride” Memories

I have always enjoyed the Sooner Magazine, but none more than the Summer issue that included the story on the “100 Years of the Pride of Oklahoma.” It brought back many pleasant memories.

As a freshman in 1945, I was privileged to play under the direction of Leonard Haug, who was fair but a strict disciplinarian, and we practiced his formations for hours. The only trip we got to take that year was to “Big D” and the Texas-CU football game. We left early on Saturday morning and came back late that night.

The next year with a new football coach Jim Tatum, we were all invigorated, and our big trips still consisted of only going to Dallas. However, we got to leave on Friday, stopped in Denton, Texas, which was strictly an “all girls” school then. We paraded in the afternoon, and they had a banquet for us that evening, topped off with a dance from 9 to 12. We then continued to serenade the girls until well after 1 a.m. The boys slept on cots in the gymnasium, as it was known then. It was a memorable weekend. The only damper on those trips was that Texas beat us. Our other trip was to Oklahoma A&M (State now), where we paraded to the stadium from our buses. We did get revenge on A&M for the previous year’s “licking” by their great All American quarterback Bobby Fenimore, who beat us 46 to 0. The final score this year was OU 73–A&M 12.

Thanks for bringing back some great memories of the “Pride of Oklahoma.”

Norman D. Glasscock, D.D.S.
’49 bs, ’53 mph
Yorktown, Virginia

Lots of Pride in “The Pride”

Thank you for recognizing the contributions of the Pride of Oklahoma [Summer 2004] as we mark our first century. We’re gearing up to make history once again when more than 400 former members join the current Pride to blanket the field at halftime.

Lisa Youngquist Hall, ’83 bs, Journ
Tallahassee, Florida

Eugene Springer’s Band

When I saw that the Sooner Magazine was featuring the CU Band, I opened it eagerly to read the article and see the pictures. I have a special interest in the band’s history since my father, Charles Eugene Springer, was one of the early directors. He was a graduate student at the time. He followed “Daddy” Lehrer.

My father directed the CU Band from 1926–27. In 1926 he had become an instructor of mathematics at OU. He left the University at the end of the 1927 school year to go to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar. Replaced his trumpet as well as a Sousaphone in a dance orchestra in Oxford, making a hit!!

The lead picture that you used in Michael Waters’ article, “100 Years of the Pride of Oklahoma,” was one of my father’s band in 1927, not that of Oscar Lehrer as was stated. It appeared in the CU Sooner yearbook in 1927 on Page 147. My father is at the far right on the second row with his trumpet. He was famous for directing with one hand while he played the horn with the other. In later years as a professor of mathematics and chairman of the Mathematics Department at OU, he was known to write on the blackboard with one hand while erasing with the other. Students had to pay good attention!

In the same picture my mother, Lucile Famer Springer, appears at the far left on the second row as the band sponsor. She and my father met in the OU Symphony under the watchful eyes of Dean Holmberg. I gave the original photographs, his batons, band hat and other pictures to the CU Band office after his death in 1999 at the age of 95.

Suzanne Springer Corr, ’58 bs, math
Norman, Oklahoma

Editor’s Note: The group pictured in front of Evans Hall was indeed the 1927 Pride, directed by graduate student Eugene Springer. The style uniform they wore was introduced by “Daddy” Lehrer in 1922, according to Terri Cooter’s history of the CU Band. Springer’s long and distinguished career in the OU Mathematics Department was matched only by the Springers’ popularity as one of the University’s most active faculty couples.

March, Play at the Same Time

Your article “100 Years of the Pride of Oklahoma” [Summer 2004] brought back a stream of old memories. I was in “The Pride” in 1951–53.

Our trip to South Bend to support the Sooners against Notre Dame was especially memorable. We had to raise the
and play at the same time. Just hold your
feet!" My pride at appearing on
national television was considerably di-
inished.

As our drum major, Jim Swain, led us
onto the field for our half-time perfor-
mance, our introduction boomed over
the loudspeakers: "And now, under the
direction of Leonard Hog and the baton
of drum major Jim Swine, the PRIDE OF
OKLAHOMA." Hog and Swine? It
must have been an honest mistake by a
dyslexic announcer.

Anyway, the donors back home who
made our trip possible didn’t get to
watch our half-time show on TV. We
were pre-empted by interviews with University bigwigs.

The afternoon ended sadly as we
watched the Irish upset our Sooners to
end a 13-game unbeaten streak. We
consoled ourselves by continuing to play
in the stands until the stadium was
deserted.

Richard Jacobi, D.D.S.
Professor Emeritus
OU College of Dentistry
Belton, Texas

Band History Available

Your readers should know that the
OU band Alumni Association is taking
orders for 100 Years of Pride: 1904-2004,
the Centennial history that was the pri-
mary source for your Fall 2004 Sooner
Magazine cover story. The 9-by-12 hard-
back book, available in late March, con-
tains more than 300 pages and more than
100 photographs.

Featured throughout the historical
narrative are individual memories from
past band members, football history and
the role the Pride played in many victo-
ries. The photos are from private collections of directors and band members and
the OU Archives.

Proceeds from sale of the book will go
to the Pride of Oklahoma Marching Band
General Scholarship Fund. Each book is
$65, plus $12.50 shipping for a total of
$77.50. Ten dollars may be counted as a
tax-deductible donation. Checks, pay-
able to the "OU Foundation," should be
mailed to The OU Band Alumni Associa-
tion, 500 West Boyd, Norman 73019-0301. Credit card
orders, using Mastercard, Visa, American
Express or Discover, should include name,
address, credit card company and card
number, expiration date, amount and
"Pride Centennial Celebration Fund
#32877," specifying "Pridebook."

Terri Cooter, ’82 ed., ’87 medpsych
President OU Band Alumni Association
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Making a Case for Just Sitting

I would like to thank Carl Marziali for
"Making the Case for Direct Democ-

cracy"—a superb story in your beautiful
Sooner Magazine [Fall 2004]—in which
he quoted the remarkable Elizabeth
"Beth" Garrett as saying, "I don’t think
you should ever just sit. I don’t think
that’s what we should ever do, nor matter
what... There is seldom a good reason
just to sit...."

She caused me to recall the following
fragments from The Way of Zen, a book
written by Alan W. Watts, one of the
most stimulating and unconventional phi-
losophers of our time:

"From Buddhist standpoint... it
seems perfectly natural to remain sitting
so long as there is nothing else to be done,
and so long as one is not consumed with
nervous agitation. To the restless tem-
perament of the West, sitting meditation
may seem to be... unpleasant... because
we don’t seem to be able to sit (dhyana) in the Buddhist sense, for where there is purpose, where there is seeking
and grasping for results, there is no
dhyana.”

Have a wonderful New Year.
Arthur H. Prince, ’96ph.d
Memphis, Tennessee

Slam the Door on Athletics

I got a real kick out of the "Prologue"
column in the Fall 2004 Sooner Maga-

zine. I see that Ou is modifying the most
"public" universities in that it isn’t really
interested in providing quality public ed-
cation. If it were, closing the doors on
athletics would be at the top of the list of
tax responsible options for keeping tu-
ition costs down. There’s nothing inher-
tenly wrong with colleges offering univer-
sities. Intramural sports are where the participants
pay for the programs make perfect sense.

Best of luck in continuing to privatize
OU!

Bob Reynolds
Lafayette, Louisiana

Editor’s Note: The value of intercolle-
gate athletics at universities is a legiti-
mate topic for discussion, but for the
record, Ou intercollegiate athletics are
self-supporting intramural sports.