Campus Notes

Varsity-Alumni: May 1

If you want a glimpse into the future of Big Red football fortunes, come on down to the campus May 1 for the 23rd annual Varsity-Alumni game.

Kickoff will be at 1:30 p.m. at Owen field. Information on just which alumni would be there in uniform wasn’t available at press time, but Red Reid, athletic ticket manager, says, "We’re playing Oklahoma."

He also says those of you who hold season tickets received an order form for the Varsity-Alumni game a long time ago. If you didn’t order your tickets, need more, lost the ones you had or just think football is a fine way to spend a May day, you can order tickets from the Athletic Ticket Office, 180 West Brooks, Room 33, Norman, Oklahoma 73069.

Reserved seats are $2, and general admission tickets are $1. Include 25 cents for postage and such.

Arena: Getting Closer

The much discussed but never funded multi-purpose arena may become reality after all, and pretty quickly at that.

In mid-February Interim President McCarter announced that OU intends to proceed with plans to start construction by early next year. The necessary planning work will move ahead in the next few months along with the fund raising work needed to pay for the facility.

Dr. Gene Nordby, vice president for administration and finance, will be responsible for looking after the planning and construction of the arena which will be used for athletic, cultural, entertainment and other events.

"Dr. Nordby has reviewed all earlier planning efforts and is now directing his staff to determine the concepts and plans for the arena," McCarter said.

"We know we will have to raise a substantial amount of private money to supplement other resources. However, the interest expressed by many of our alumni and friends gives us confidence that they will respond to the challenge to build this first-class facility," McCarter continued.

"The target dates we are setting for ourselves are important because the arena will contribute to so many facets of the university community’s life," he said.

The existing field house will seat 4,800 for basketball games and other events where the floor is not available for seating, making it the smallest field house in the Big Eight.

In addition to traditional sports events such as basketball, wrestling, and gymnastics the field house is used for lectures and other major campus events. Commencement and other all-university events have long since outgrown the field house and must be held in the stadium.

The new arena, in addition to serving OU’s intercollegiate and intramural athletic programs, will provide year-round facilities for a wide range of special events, including Commencement.

McCarter emphasized his desire that the arena be planned and designed for maximum use.

"While we are placing no restrictions on the designers in the planning stages," he said, "we want the arena to be a facility that will be put to continuous, year-round use. We cannot afford a large hall sitting empty, waiting for the next event. I think we can achieve this through sound, practical planning.

No date has been set for the start of construction.

"The important thing is the fact that we are expressing the university’s commitment to the facility," McCarter said. "The support of our local community is important."
Kuntz Honored

By official Oklahoma Senate resolution former OU law dean Dr. Eugene O. Kuntz has been honored for his work on the Senate's Special Committee on Tax Revision.

Kuntz, who remains on the OU law faculty, was vice chairman of the special legislative committee which worked during the interim between the 1970 and 1971 legislative sessions.

The Senate commended Kuntz for "his dedication and interest in the work of the special committee" and lauded his "extensive knowledge of our tax laws and their relationship to vital segments of the economy."

"He has contributed generously and unselfishly of his time and effort throughout the duration of the committee's study while serving simultaneously as professor and dean of the college of law," the legislative document said.

Kuntz is known in legal circles as an authority on oil and gas law and taxation and has written a three-volume treatise, "Kuntz on Oil and Gas," as well as a long list of legal articles.

Rolling Thunder

Using the powers granted by the Regents to request special holidays, the Student Congress asked for and received permission to cancel classes March 3 so students might participate in the national teach-in on the Indochina war, Project Rolling Thunder.

Approved by Interim President Pete Kyle McCarter, the day eliminated classes between 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. and included a speaker from the national bi-partisan steering committee as well as faculty and student seminars.

The Rolling Thunder title came from the concept of the teach-in which was to begin at Harvard February 22 and move on to Princeton, Yale, Duke, Alabama and on west, gaining momentum across the country.

This was the first holiday requested by the students this year. Under a 1953 OU Board of Regents policy, the student government's legislative body may request two special holidays each year so students may participate in cultural or educational programs. The special privilege has been used in the past to declare a holiday following a victory over Texas in the Cotton Bowl and was used in October 1969 to allow students to participate in afternoon discussions on the Vietnam war. The edict applied only to main campus and did not affect the School of Medicine or the College of Law.

Alumni = Minority

For the first time the Census Bureau has come up with some statistics on level of education for adults in major cities across the nation. Figures for 30 metropolitan areas were printed in a recent American Alumni Council publication, Commentary. They are based on the percentage of adults age 25 and over who finished high school, who finished college, and the median number by years of schooling completed.

It boils down to one fact. If you are a college graduate, you are in a minority group.

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Weather: Bad Sport

Soccer has never attracted the wildly stampeding fans at OU that it does in other countries of the world. In fact, the players almost always outnumber the spectators at the games played south of Cross Center.

One Sunday in February, however, things were worse than usual. Everyone probably remembers that Sunday. It was the day when the rains poured down and then the snow dumped down in one of the worst winter storms of the century in the Southwest.

Well, there was the OU Soccer Club that Sunday afternoon playing Tulsa International's B-team, the Grasshoppers.

OU won the game 3-2, but as the Oklahoma Daily reported, the inclement weather won the match. Play was halted 30 minutes into the second 45-minute half because the freezing rain had turned to snow and was covering up the field markings.

Even before the snow stopped action, water had been stopping the ball dead, and the mud was making slippery work of a game that requires extra sure footing.

The Soccer Club, however, was at least on home ground. Up at OSU the basketball team had struck out for Missouri where they were to play a conference game. Turned back on the Kansas Turnpike at Wellington, they made it back to South Haven and within 200 yards of a motel before being stopped by drifting snow.

The team members hiked to the motel and ate along with some 300 other stranded travelers, and four of the team members pitched in as volunteer cooks and waiters to help pass the time. The rest of the team hiked back to the bus for some sleep, taking in several other travelers on the bus.

The next morning with the bus out of gas, they formed a relay team with one five-gallon gas can and managed to dump 85 gallons of gas into the bus by 2 p.m.

Getting the bus started up, they forged their way to Arkansas City 15 miles away in just under two hours.

Coach Sam Aubrey knew the OSU-Missouri game had been rescheduled, but that wasn't what was bothering him. He just wanted to get that bus back to Stillwater.

The Sooners were luckier in the stormy weather. The basketball team already was in Lincoln where they were to meet Nebraska. But the game was postponed until later that week because of deep and drifting snow in the Cornhusker capital.

Legal Research Offered

Seeking to meet what they feel is a student need as well as a need among attorneys throughout the state, students in the College of Law have established a legal research service.

Approved by the college's governing board, the Oklahoma Legal Research Board (OLRB) was the brainchild of Larry Lahman, freshman law student from Carmen and chairman of the governing board's legal research committee, and Lynn Laughlin, Gainesville, Texas, law junior.

Attorneys needing research will notify the OLRB, and the work will be assigned to participating students. The students will conduct the research on their own time usually within a week of receiving the request. Their work will be surveyed by the student director and then returned to the requesting attorney, who will be charged from $2 to $3 per hour.

The OLRB is being "run by and for the students," Lahman said, and its operations "will not reflect upon the College of Law." He outlined OLRB benefits as twofold, giving the students considerable knowledge of law and how to use reference sources and allowing students to earn money while they learn.

Naturally, benefits also accrue to participating attorneys. Most lawyers and smaller law firms cannot afford to keep large, expensive libraries. The law college has the largest library in the state, but most attorneys for reasons of time, distance or inconvenience do not have access to that library.
No Wives in Heaven?

Ecology apparently is everyman's concern these days since that world-wide problem was the theme for an address by a Yale Divinity School professor at OU's Conference on Perspectives in Human Values.

The Perspectives conference is Conference on Religion under a new name, and the speaker was Dr. Julian N. Hartt, professor of philosophical theology and chairman of religious studies at Yale.

"Many people think ecology was last year's crisis," he said, "but actually it has always been a crisis. In ancient history we have record of massive forest fires being deliberately set in Asia Minor to clear the land.

"With America's concern for her own well-being we have made a systematic assault on our life support system," he said.

Stressing the importance of today's ecological crisis, Hartt continued, "In America we must voluntarily accept a reduced standard of living. This is because we are using up an incredible amount of limited resources just for the luxuries... not necessities.

"Because of this present situation," he continued, "the poor are getting poorer and the rich are getting richer. This is not right. We should be willing to go without so others will have something too. We should be willing to be poor in this life to be rich in a later life with the Savior."

It is getting to the point, Hartt said, where everyone is asking, "Will there be room for my wife and dog in heaven? If not, I'll go without them."

America should stand for freedom, equality, justice and peace for everyone, Hartt said. America must deliver these things now or we will see the "Grapes of Wrath" from these disappointed people.

"You can't make a promise with no intention of keeping it, as America has done, and get away with it," Hartt commented.

Prior to Hartt's talk the annual President's Leadership Awards were presented in recognition of outstanding leadership, scholarship and service on the campus. They went to Pam Vennerberg, Midwest City junior, and Steve Hubbard, Henryetta senior.

End for Pauline

The much ballyhooed need for institutional belt tightening in higher education has become cold dismal fact.

Perhaps what makes it so difficult is that for at least 10 years colleges and universities have been telling everyone who would listen and some who wouldn't that they were in dire financial straits. Nonetheless, they continued to operate without too much strain and without noticeable curtailment of programs and services.

Oklahoma alumni have long been regaled with tales of how underfinanced their alma mater is. And it has been true. But under budgeting coupled with spiraling inflation, which now is rapidly affecting the entire economy, coupled with evident decreasing private support of higher education, both fiscal and moral, have combined to make the situation really scary.

In the Ivy League—the rich, rich, rich private institutions of the East with vast endowments, small enrollments and high tuition—the pinch is readily apparent. In late February Princeton issued a special report to its alumni outlining the university's program to save money.

In the report it was noted that "six other Ivy League institutions finished in the red last year. Columbia's deficit may go as high as $20 million next year. Yale is initiating a plan to let students pay off their tuition as a percentage of their future earnings over a 35-year period. Even Harvard, with its massive endowment, is facing cutbacks."

Then they quote Clark Kerr: it is "not a case of Pauline, always threatened always saved."

"This," says the Princeton Alumni Weekly, "is the worst financial crisis higher education has seen since it began on this continent 300 years ago. The issue is no longer one of emergency belt-tightening. The question is how long the majority of colleges and universities will be able to discharge fully their duty to their students and to the country."

At Princeton the administration has cut one million dollars from the budget. The goal: to put Princeton back in the black by 1974.
Carpeted Walls

Finishing touches are being put on the Fred Jones Jr. Memorial Art Center on Boyd Street with completion set for late this month or early next month.

As long ago as February the moving people were trucking equipment from the old art school building into the new one, and the only thing holding up moving of the museum has been delivery and installation of carpeting.

Oddly enough the carpeting isn't for the floors. Thousands of feet of carpet are being installed on the 30-foot high museum walls to be used as background for museum exhibits.

"Upon completion," says museum director Sam Olkinetzky, "we will have the finest art facilities on any southwest university campus."

Museum exhibits will occupy two areas: the first floor main gallery and a lower gallery for temporary shows.

"The first floor will contain the sort of things people drive distances to see," Olkinetzky says.

In the lower circular gallery flexible swinging wall panels divide and change the space. There also are cases for jewelry shows, and workshop and storage areas.

The museum entrance is on Boyd with the art school entrance on the North Oval.

Where's the Budget Item for Ransom?

What would happen if a group of "student guerrillas" kidnapped the president of a large university and held him for ransom?

James M. Shea, vice-president for university relations at Temple University, suggested to a regional meeting of the American College Public Relations Association in Rochester, New York, that it might evoke the following letter:

TO: The East Coast Conspiracy to Kidnap University Presidents
FROM: Trustees of Typical University

GENTLEMEN:

Thank you very much for your note of Jan. 25th in which you request funding in the amount of $100,000 by tomorrow evening to insure against the permanent absence from the campus of Dr. Rowland, the university president.

The vital questions raised in your communication have been discussed fully by the president's cabinet, the executive committee of the board of trustees, as well as the ransom committee of the faculty senate.

As you know, all requests for funds must go first to the finance committee of the board, and then to the full board which meets next on April 28th.

If you and your co-conspirators have had an opportunity to read the Carnegie Commission report on financing higher education, you will know that most schools and colleges are experiencing fiscal difficulty. Our university is no exception. (For your information, a copy of this valuable report is enclosed.)

Despite the long hours and hard work by the trustees and administration to cut costs, the university still faces a sizable deficit this fiscal year.

Because of recent fiscal reverses, the board feels its responsibility to balance the budget far exceeds the real, and sometimes sentimental attachments it has for employees.

Dr. Rowland has been president for ten years and is now two years from retirement. During his tenure, he has given the university thoughtful and able leadership.

The various university constituencies here regretfully feel that in light of the university's present fiscal crisis, we cannot fund your group in the amount requested. For the record, however, the executive committee of the board of trustees does want Dr. Rowland to know that it unanimously approved a motion to continue the university’s contribution to his Blue Cross and major medical plans.

If the fiscal picture should improve in the near future, you have our assurance that we shall review our decision via, of course, the appropriate constituent committees.

In the meantime, please extend to Dr. Rowland the warmest regards of the trustees, faculty, students, and staff.—Copyright Chronicle of Higher Education. Reprinted with permission.