

My mom hadn't met my dad at the time of the fire. She had been on a date that night with John Strange, Hobart, OK, who lived in the BOQ at the time. Fortunately John Strange stayed in Oklahoma City that night. My mom's best friend later married Bill Johnston, Joplin, MO, who also lived in the BOQ and made it out alive but not unharmed. He had to jump out a window and broke his foot and back. He was unable to return to school until the end of the spring 1950 semester.

My family feels connected to OU by being life long residents of Norman, and graduates of OU, but also because of how this historical event of OU personally affected our family and our close friends. Thank you for remembering those young men of 1949 and telling their story.

*Amy Williams Hafner, '80  
Norman, Oklahoma*

## Our Good Friend Frank

I continue to enjoy the magazine—and am especially pleased when you have a sports article—like that about (Eduardo) Najera this issue (Winter 2000). How about one telling us about Stoops and the upcoming grid season?

You mentioned that Carl Albert was “next in line of succession.” I think *first* in line of succession would be more exact.

*Frank Dennis, '29 B.A.  
Arlington, Virginia*

*Editor's Note: I confess; retired journalist Dennis is one of my favorite readers. His blue pencil never fails; he is always right. As for additional sports articles: we visit the new wrestling facility on Page 16, and more sports stories are in the pipeline.*

## University's "Back Porch"

I wanted to thank you for the wonderful article on our Counseling Psychology Clinic (*Sooner Magazine*, Fall 1999). I appreciate the care and thoughtfulness put into this project. It is both accurate and interesting to read. It is gratifying to be able to share our work with the full University family. . . .

As an aside, I noted in the article on “Team Oklahoma,” where Ath-

letic Director Joe Castiglione described the athletic department as the “front porch of the institution,” which seems like an accurate analogy. At the clinic, I often feel that we are more like the “back porch of the institution.” Not many know about us, or ever step out back to visit with us, tucked away on the south campus in a temporary barracks built in 1943. To some degree that is necessary as a confidential counseling clinic. Being somewhat anonymous is comforting to many of the families and people we work with, and being off the main campus is actually a positive for us in terms of easy community access. We do not need to be in the limelight. However, it is important that the University and the community know about our programs and services and have the opportunity to help and support us in our unique mission within the University and community. The clinic article—as well as others such as the Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Clinic article (*Sooner Magazine*, Summer 1999)—provides a glimpse past the front porch of the University to one of the many places where the real work of the University is being done with commitment, compassion and excellence.

*Terry M. Pace  
Associate Professor and Director  
OU Counseling Psychology Clinic  
Norman, Oklahoma*

## Crimson Check

The “color check” letter (*Sooner Magazine*, Fall 1999) caught my eye, and I'm glad to see a campus group looking into standardizing the Crimson and Cream. It ain't Husker Red, it ain't Aggie Purple, and it sure ain't that trim color on the flag girls' outfits! One day (soon?) they'll all match.

*Chris Fling, '93 B.B.A.  
Fort Worth, Texas*

*Editor's Note: We can only hope.*

## Concern for the Refuge

Oklahoma's Crown Jewel is the Great Reading Room in Bizzell Library, which, thanks to President Boren's efforts, has been restored recently to its original elegance and splendor. I believe Oliver's Wildlife

Refuge is Oklahoma's Other Crown Jewel and perhaps its best-kept secret. Furthermore, I fear that the future of the refuge is in jeopardy.

These magnificent woods have been an important outdoor laboratory for research and study by OU students and faculty since their acquisition in 1946. They represent one of the few remaining tracts of virgin bottomland forest in the county, and their nearness to the University lends them special importance. They also represent one of the major vegetation types of the state, many of which are being restored as part of the new natural history museum landscape less than a mile to the north.

The increased traffic on highway #9, which passes across the woods' north boundary, along with urban development in neighboring areas of the forest are causes for concern. Recently completed turning lanes at the corner of Chautauqua come uncomfortably close to the tract. Pressure to widen the highway to accommodate heavier traffic may further infringe on the woods. Each of these threats remind us that the original route for highway #9 would have bisected and virtually obliterated the woods. Only the most concerted effort of many interested citizens and of the University persuaded the highway department to move the route to its location along the north boundary in order to protect the forest. I am heartened by the great many trees President and Mrs. Boren have planted on the campus. I am assured thereby that they share my concern to protect Oliver's Woods from these new threats to their existence.

*T. H. Milby '68 Ph.D., '83 M.H.R.  
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Botany and Microbiology  
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Letters to *Sooner Magazine* must be signed, contain a return address and may be edited for length. Letters can be mailed c/o Editor, 100 Timberdell Road, Norman, OK 73019-0685 or emailed to [cburr@ou.edu](mailto:cburr@ou.edu).