

OKLAHOMAN OF THE YEAR

OKLAHOMA TODAY

Hanson
MIDDLE OF EVERYWHERE

1997
YEAR IN REVIEW

FEB/MAR 1998 \$5.95



We're smoothing out the bumps for a better ride.



The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority wants to keep its roadways smooth and safe. That's why extensive resurfacing and bridge rehabilitation projects are routinely scheduled on the turnpikes. Smoother roads are better for you *and* your tires. It's all part of a continuing commitment to quality and customer service.



OKLAHOMA TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
The Road Experts



More Doctor Choices-

At Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma, we provide your employees with the largest network of physicians available and more healthcare choices than any other company in the state. People choose the plans that give them the choices. And with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma, you just get more.

Flexible Plans-

In Oklahoma, there are so many different types of people. That's why we offer so many different types of coverage. In fact, no other company offers more choices of HMO, PPO and Traditional plans, or a combination of all three. Your employees even have the option of including home, auto and life insurance. It's all about flexibility. Because what's right for one person may not be right for the next. But with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma, there's always something right for everyone.

Affordable-

Insurance benefits are important to retain valuable employees. And providing the insurance benefits your employees need doesn't have to cost you a fortune. With Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma, you get the coverage and flexibility of a national organization with the local decision-making and convenience of an Oklahoma-based company. You can't afford to lose your most valuable asset. And when you offer them the quality, affordable coverage of Blue Cross and Blue Shield, you've got nothing to lose.



Insure Your Most Valuable Asset.



Your Total Source For Benefits.

1-800-281-0446
Operator 103

Insuring Your Health, Life and Property.
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma • BlueLincs HMO
GHS Property and Casualty • Member Service Life



**BlueCross BlueShield
of Oklahoma**

A Member of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association,
an Association of Independent Blue Cross
and Blue Shield Plans.

© 1997, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma
® Registered Marks, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

www.bcsok.com

COLD WEATHER MEANS NOTHING. RAINY DAYS DON'T MATTER.
AND A NATIONAL HOLIDAY MEANS TWO PRACTICES INSTEAD OF ONE.



Phillips Petroleum salutes the hard work and determination of the men and women of United States Swimming, which is why we are very proud to celebrate our 25th year of sponsoring

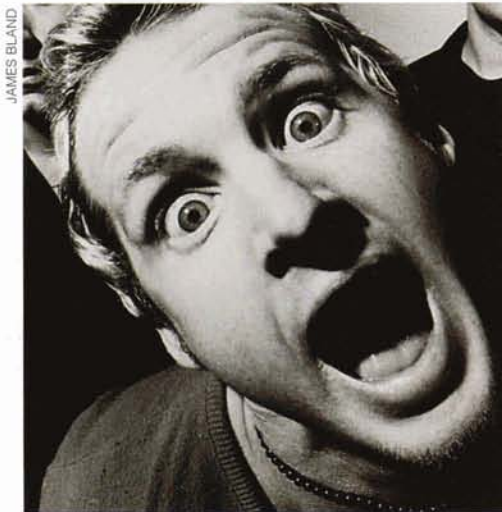
these athletes—the longest continuous corporate sponsorship of an amateur sport. At Phillips, that's what it means to be The Performance Company.

PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY 

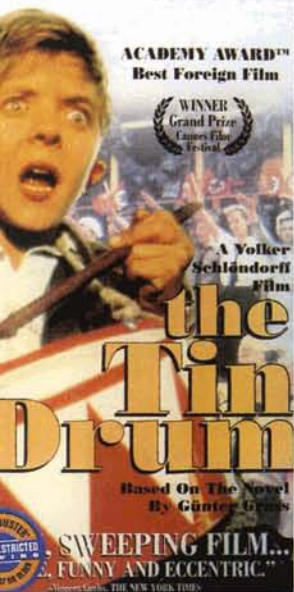
For a copy of our annual report, call 918-661-3700, write to: Phillips Annual Report, B-41, Adams Bldg., Bartlesville, OK 74004, or visit us at www.phillips66.com.

1997 Year in Review

VOLUME 48/NUMBER 2



JAMES BLAND



DANNY CLINCH



AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTO



JERRY WILLIS/MUSKOGEE PHOENIX

Cover photo by
Danny Clinch and
John Southern;
photo illustration
by Steven Walker

CONTRIBUTORS	7
FROM THE EDITOR	9
MEMORIAL	10
HEROES	16
Our annual bow to those with the courage to push themselves and the compassion to carry others.	
OKLAHOMAN OF THE YEAR	20
Three brothers from Tulsa “MMMbop” their way up the charts and suddenly, Hanson is in the middle of everywhere. <i>By George Lang</i>	
POLITICS	34
Capitol Hill gets friendly and O.J. sidelines J.C.	
BENEFACTORS	38
Wall Streeter Michael Price opens his wallet.	
BUSINESS	42
Unprecedented growth—even at the pay phones.	
CULTURE	44
From Broadway to Hayhenge, Oklahomans left their mark.	
PUBLISHING	48
The year in books.	
MUSIC	50
The path less traveled often leads to lyrical genius.	
TELEVISION & FILM	56
From the prairie to the mall, Hollywood just couldn’t stay away.	
DOUBLE TAKES	60
We looked once. We looked twice.	
SPORTS	66
OSU to the Alamo Bowl and Barry Sanders to the record books.	
SLICK SPOTS	70
For those times we shook our heads and thought, “Huh?”	
TRIBUTES	72
PREDICTIONS	82

Who's going to run tomorrow's oil and gas business?



It could be any of these kids. Or all of them. In Oklahoma's oil and natural gas industry, the career opportunities—from petroleum engineers to geophysicists—are practically endless.

Because the resource our state was built on is still our number one industry. And our largest employer. In fact, well head taxes generate a million dollars each day. Funding road projects, building schools and providing a retirement base for our teachers. And with advanced technology leading the way, the industry will continue

to provide jobs for thousands of Oklahomans well into the next century.

That's why the OERB is reaching out to kids all over the state, with educational materials like *Fossils to Fuels* and *Fueling Around*, and classroom presentations by Petro Pros.

Letting them know how important the oil and natural gas industry has been to their lives in the past.

And making sure they understand our energy industry will be here for their future.

OKLAHOMA TODAY

Official Magazine of the State of Oklahoma

Frank Keating, Governor



JOAN HENDERSON
Publisher

LOUISA McCUNE
Editor-in-Chief

STEVEN WALKER, WALKER CREATIVE, INC.
Art Direction

NANCY WOODARD, Senior Editor
AIMEE J. DOWNS, Associate Editor
KELLY CROW, Editorial Assistant
TORI BROWN, Editorial Intern
TIMOTHY MOSES, Editorial Intern

Contributing Editors

BURKHARD BILGER, STEFFIE CORCORAN,
DAVID CRENSHAW, DAVID G. FITZGERALD,
GORDON GRICE, GEORGE LANG,
RALPH MARSH, MAURA McDERMOTT,
BARBARA PALMER, AND MICHAEL WALLIS

Advertising

BRIAN C. BROWN, Advertising Director
ROGER JOHNSON, Account Executive
GINA STANLEY, Account Executive
COLLEEN McINTYRE, Production Manager

Circulation

MELANIE MAYBERRY, Circulation Manager
PAM POSTON, Subscription Services
JANE LEONARD, Community Relations

Office

LISA BRECKENRIDGE, Office Manager
BECKY ISAAC, Asst. Office Manager
KELLY JOHNSON, Office Assistant
PAM FOX, Accounting

Tourism and Recreation

EDWARD H. COOK, Executive Director

Tourism and Recreation Commission

LT. GOV. MARY FALLIN, Chair
PATTY ROLOFF, Secretary
STAN CLARK
MEREDITH FRAILEY
JONATHAN D. HELMERICH
JOE MARTIN
KENNETH R. SCHRUPP
JOHN WEST
ROBERT E. YOUNG

Oklahoma City Advertising Sales Office, P.O. Box 53384, Oklahoma City, OK 73152, (405) 521-2496 or (800) 777-1793. *Oklahoma Today* (ISSN 0030-1892) is published seven times a year: in January (two issues), March, May, July, September, and November by the State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, 15 N. Robinson, Suite 100, P.O. Box 53384, Oklahoma City, OK 73102/73152, (405) 521-2496 or (800) 777-1793. Subscription prices: \$16.95 per year in U.S.; \$26.95 per year outside U.S. U.S. copyright © 1998 by *Oklahoma Today*. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. The magazine is not responsible for unsolicited material for editorial consideration. For library use, bind Year in Review with 1997 issues.



Periodical postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK, and additional entry offices. Postmaster: send address changes to *Oklahoma Today* Circulation, P.O. Box 53384, Oklahoma City, OK 73152.

GEORGE LANG

"Based on what we've heard about child stars, it's almost reasonable to believe that fame uniformly turns kids into egomaniacal monsters destined for a fall," says *Oklahoma Today* contributing editor George Lang. "But Zac, Taylor, and Ike don't come across that way in the least. Anybody who predicts a seamy downfall for Hanson hasn't met them." Lang, a former staff writer at the *Oklahoma Gazette*, interviewed the Hanson brothers in New York in December. This is his first article for the Magazine.

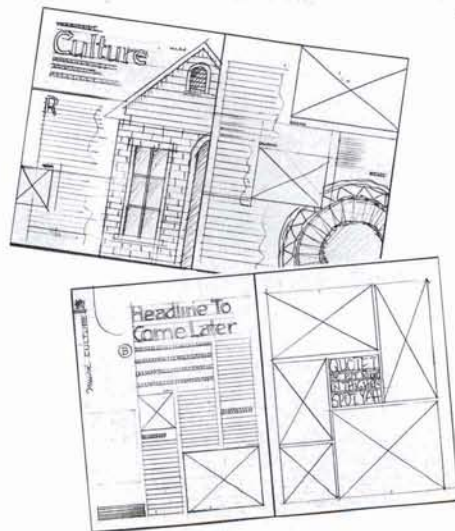


STEVEN WALKER

Steven Walker, art director for *Oklahoma Today* and owner of Walker Creative, Inc., an Oklahoma City design firm, often begins a layout or illustration with a simple pencil sketch. "Starting at the computer can actually limit what you do," says the designer.

Walker created the photo-illustration cover by digitally combining four separate photographs. The original Hanson photograph by Danny Clinch was shot indoors and contrasted sharply with the ambient lighting of John Southern's Tulsa skyline. "We were fortunate that the angle of the indoor lighting was in sync with the buildings," he says. Walker had to digitally "pump" the colors and build body shadows to give a more natural composite. "My favorite part of this whole process is making it look real, even though it's so obviously not."

Walker lives in Norman with his wife Jill and their two children, Bailey and Joe.



Two of Steven Walker's preliminary sketches for the Year in Review

1997
CONTRIBUTORS

**No Other Communications Company Cares More
About Oklahoma. If They Did, They'd Live Here, Too.**



Southwestern Bell employee Kathy and her daughter, Casey, call Moore home.

We are Southwestern Bell, the thousands of people who live and work and believe in Oklahoma. We've shared your neighborhoods, values and dreams for generations. That's why no other telecommunications company offers you more, knows you better, or cares as much about Oklahoma as Southwestern Bell.

If they did, they'd live here, too.

**Your friendly neighborhood
global communications company.™**

 **Southwestern Bell**

Visit us at www.swbell.com on the internet.

And the Beat Goes On...

Sometimes I get desensitized during the editing process. I look for holes in the reporting or wonder (often aloud) about a writer's particular word choice. Does this photo illustrate the point of the corresponding paragraph? Are we sure he spells his name with an "ey" instead of just a "y"? How much is the syndicator going to charge if we use a full-page bleed? Putting our annual *Year in Review* issue together was no different—deadlines, headlines, and cutlines.

Then one afternoon I shut my office door and sat down for a first read of "Permanent Reminder," our story on the design selection of the proposed bombing memorial. Three paragraphs in, my throat clamped up and my nose started to crinkle with the tingling sensation that portends an emotional moment. I reached the part about 168 empty glass and granite chairs. Three years out, I thought, and still the awesome horror of it grabs me.

And yet. *And yet.* Not unlike the forest fire that overtook Yellowstone some years back, we find new growth in the tiny seedlings that pop out of the ground, signaling to all that rebirth is underway.

I look at our selection of Oklahoman of the Year as a similar evolution of that spirit. Three irresistibly cute brothers from Tulsa, known collectively as Hanson, represent to me that next generation of life with all of its vigor, talent, humor, hope, and happiness.

I first heard their up-the-charts and out-of-this-world blockbuster "MMMbop" while driving in a tunnel between New York and New Jersey about nine months ago, and I immediately understood the nationwide intoxication ("MMMbop" has to be played pretty loud to get the full sensation). The optimism in that song alone is energizing, maybe even healing. I immediately turned my six-year-

old nephew Gibson on to Hanson, and respecting my taste in music, he's since become a devoted fan, dancing in his inimitable way on the living room floor when the beat goes on. A healing sight? You betcha.

We had a bit of fun with this issue and we hope you do too. Here's wishing each of you as many MMMbops as you can get in 1998.



Gibson and Amelia, the next generation

Louisa McCune

A Tale of Two Trials

Eight days until Christmas, and the jury arguing Terry Nichols' fate is still out. Bombing victims' families and survivors—their emotional wounds still tender from the previous trial and conviction of Timothy McVeigh—are told to simply relax and wait for another verdict they both dread and ache to hear. No one expects them to join in the holiday festivities swirling around them; indeed, for the grieving, Christmas is bittersweet at best.

But there they are, at the Holy Ghost Catholic Church down the block from the Denver courthouse, calmly wrapping presents to be delivered to needy children. Beside tables stacked with toys, clothes, and other trinkets that can never be given to their lost loved ones, the group of Oklahomans reveals a generosity and tenacity of spirit nothing short of remarkable.

The same spirit that once sparked the world's awe and compassion following the April 19, 1995, tragedy continued to sustain our state through yet another troubling year—one consumed by the historic trials of two men.

JANUARY SAW JUDGE RICHARD MATSCH IRONING OUT PRETRIAL ISSUES WITH ATTORNEYS behind closed doors, while more than 350 bombing survivors and family members at home expressed an interest in attending McVeigh's trial in Denver. Then on March 1, thirty days before McVeigh's trial began, the *Dallas Morning News* published a story on McVeigh's alleged confession. (Defense attorney Stephen Jones later admitted to fabricating the document, but the incident sparked an ethics discussion and signaled only the first of many problems the defense would face.)

Throughout April and May, U.S. Attorney Joseph Hartzler of Illinois and his prosecution team introduced the seven men and five women of the jury to both the horrors of the Murrah blast and the systematic plot of a man blinded by rage against a federal government he no longer trusted. Calling 137 witnesses in eighteen days of fast-paced testimony, the prosecution's largely circumstantial case was widely praised by law pundits as "a marriage of logic and drama," or so University of Colorado law professor Mimi Wesson told the *Muskogee Phoenix & Times-Democrat*.

McVeigh's defense attorneys countered with twenty-five witnesses over four days of testimony, their strategy crippled by Matsch's refusal to entertain an "international conspiracy" theory. (This after taxpayers paid nearly \$10 million in defense costs, including Jones' trips to the Middle East, Asia, and Europe to build the controversial defense.)

By the first of June, a *Newsweek* poll showed two-thirds of Americans believed McVeigh was guilty. The following day, after deliberating nearly twenty-four hours over four days, the jury came back with the same opinion. McVeigh was convicted on three counts of using a weapon of mass destruction, conspiracy, and eight first-degree murders, one for each of the eight federal agents killed in the bombing. Those crowded outside the courthouse and at the



Above from top, Timothy McVeigh, Terry Nichols; opposite page, Christine and Ron Racicot react to news of the McVeigh verdict in OKC





STEVE SISNEY/DAILY OKLAHOMAN

This page, people flocked to water the Survivor Tree after hearing the McVeigh verdict; opposite page, the famous fence at the bomb site

bomb site greeted the verdict with cheers, embraces, and sobs of relief. Almost two weeks later, the same jury sentenced the 29-year-old native New Yorker to death, making him the seventh person to receive such a sentence under a 1994 federal death penalty law. (No one has been executed in a federal case in thirty years, and the Supreme Court has yet to consider the constitutionality of the law.)

And though families and survivors relished the taste of justice and packed up for home, their weary faces belied a collective heartsick realization. Bud Welch, who lost his daughter, Julie, told the *Muskogee Phoenix*, "We go back to our homes. We go back to reality. And my little girl isn't coming home."

THREE MONTHS LATER, OKLAHOMANS AGAIN FOUND THE NEED TO BRACE THEIR EMOTIONS FOR the trial of Terry Lynn Nichols. Families and survivors struggled to describe their feelings about heading back to Denver. Maureen Bloomer, who lost her father, Olen, in the blast, likened the experience to surgery: "You know it's got to be done, and you'll feel better when it's over. But you're not looking forward to it," she told the *Daily Oklahoman* the day jury selection began. Dr. Paul Heath, a survivor, said attending another trial was like jumping back into a cold swimming pool. "Once you've gotten out and warmed up, you don't want to get back in."

This trial would not simply be a rehash of the former, however. The retelling of that April morning was every bit as gruesome and tragic (lead prosecutor Larry Mackey also helped convict McVeigh), and the government's charges against Nichols were identical to those that convicted his Army buddy. It was the defendant himself who proved to be the trial's biggest distinction. America knew little more than the name of the man on trial here, and his involvement in the bombing was not a sure thing in public opinion. Combine that with the bushy-browed intelligence of his renowned Texas defense attorney, Michael Tigar, and the discrepancies widened further.

The prosecution team spent much of November binding Nichols to McVeigh in thought and deed, but the evidence was notably more circumstantial. Tigar spent the first half of December challenging nearly every contention and scoring small victories in the courtroom, while families and survivors outside tried to fight off mounting worry. After all, Nichols is a husband and father who openly wept when his family members took the stand—a stark contrast from the stone-faced composure McVeigh maintained throughout his trial proceedings.

And yet, when the jury returned two days before Christmas with a verdict, not a soul in the courtroom or in Oklahoma was quite prepared for what they heard. After deliberating for forty hours over six days, the jury found Nichols guilty on one count of conspiracy to use a weapon of mass destruction and eight counts of involuntary manslaughter (rather than the more severe murder charges) in the deaths of the federal agents. Throughout the holidays, attorneys offered varying perspectives on the inconsistent verdict; victims were simply angry. "I get so irate," said Dan McKinney to the *Oklahoman*. McKinney lost his wife, Linda, and niece, Shelly Turner Bland, in the bombing. "It took the whole bottom out of my heart again. They slapped Terry Nichols on the wrist ... I can't figure that out."

As the year wound to a close, prosecutors were fighting to convince a glum-faced jury that only the death penalty could appease the destruction Nichols inflicted with his "innocent errands." Victims like Jannie Coverdale, who lost two grandsons, looked with distant hope for a state trial to provide further redemption. Upon hearing the verdict, she told the *Oklahoman*, "I have one consolation: they're still going to be tried in Oklahoma." □

Chalk One Up for Victims' Rights

Never before in U.S. history have victims asserted themselves with so much success. Two acts of Congress were passed on their behalf. One allowed victims' families and survivors who watched or attended the trials to also testify in the punishment phase, and the other let them view the trial in Oklahoma City via closed-circuit television at the Federal Aviation Administration. In Terry Nichols' trial, Judge Richard Matsch also relented and let bombing rescue workers watch the trial broadcast.

Special Delivery

On April 20, eleven survivors and family members boarded an airplane bound for the Mbengwi Monastery in Cameroon with an unusual cargo: each carried a carton with two dozen eggs inside. The hand-delivered poultry-to-be went to revitalize a breeding program with the nonprofit Heifer International. The ten-day trip was part of an exchange between bombing survivors and the victims of a 1986 poisonous gas disaster in the African country.

Media Madness

As many as 130 news organizations from six continents with 2,500 employees descended on Denver during key points in the trials.

Signs of Healing

Despite the trials, 1997 brought signs that the state is indeed on the mend. Aren Almon-Kok, mother of one year-old Baylee, announced her pregnancy in July. She and husband Stan already have names picked out for the arrival—Bella for a girl and Benton for a boy.

After attending much of Terry Nichols' trial, bombing survivors Richard Dean and Barbara West took a break to get married in OKC the week before New Year's. The two Social Security Administration employees (engaged for sixteen years) told the *Oklahoman* they thought about going somewhere "exotic" for the ceremony but preferred staying close to home and family. A few days later, Dean flew back to Denver to testify in the penalty phase of the trial.

DAVID ALLEN



Permanent Reminder

From the beginning, it sounded like a tall order—find a way to encapsulate all the horror, sorrow, and heroics of the Oklahoma City bombing and place it on a three-acre plot of grass. Without shrinking from the reality of death, the memorial must symbolize the courage and love that sprang from the ashes, record the events of April 19, 1995, as historic fact, and all the while be approachable by both mourners and tourists. Above all else, the memorial should teach our children—in gentle, unblinking terms—that we have survived and we will never forget.

'I can pick out one of those chairs for my wife and call that my chair.'




A model of the OKC National Memorial

The Oklahoma City Memorial Foundation set the rough guidelines for the proposed bombing memorial, and the response was phenomenal. The international design contest drew more than 600 entries from all fifty states and twenty-three countries. When the submissions were exhibited in March, Oklahomans saw firsthand how intimately our tragedy had been embraced by the world. From crayon scribbles to architectural displays, settling on only one seemed almost impossible.

Not so. On the second anniversary of the Murrah bombing, Governor Frank Keating told a somber group of 1,500 gathered at the site, "Healing is a process; it's not a destination." Toward that journey, five semifinalist designs were unveiled and applauded, then given two months to prove their worth.

The winning entry garnered unanimous approval of the fifteen-member evaluation committee and quickly won America's admiration after its unveiling July 1. (President Bill Clinton endorsed the entry as one with "true power and grace.") The design submitted by Nowata native Torrey Butzer, her husband Hans-Ekkehard Butzer, and colleague Sven Berg of Berlin centers on a moment in time, a void left by those who died, and a renewed appreciation for life. The design features two massive gates, one on each end of the footprint left by the Murrah Building. A long, shallow pool symbolizes the passage of time that April morning, while the Survivor Tree is encircled by a wall etched with survivors' names. An orchard represents the fruitful efforts of rescue workers. But, it is the grassy slope with nine rows of 168 empty chairs made of glass and granite that struck a lasting chord with victims' families. Roy Sells, who lost his wife, Lee, in the blast, told the *Tulsa World*, "I can pick out one of those chairs for my wife and call that my chair."

Organizers hope to break ground by the third bombing anniversary, but nearly \$11 million in private donations is still needed to complete the \$24 million project. Leading the fundraising effort is former U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, who pledged to rally support by reminding the nation of the solidarity and generosity of spirit felt in the days following the bombing. "That spirit overcame one senseless act of terrorism by 10,000 acts of virtue," Cheney told the *Daily Oklahoman*. "It confronted heartlessness with heroism beyond measure. It met profound loss with profound love, and it is a spirit that continues today." 

Where the Waving Wheat Sure Smells Sweet.



The land we hold so dear is being ruined by the trash we discard so often. Litter is a problem statewide. It shows a lack of pride and a thoughtless disregard of others. Each year, Oklahoma spends millions just to clean up the garbage we drop. Remember, any excuse to litter is trash, so Keep Our Land Grand.



Oklahoma
KEEP OUR LAND GRAND 

To Report Someone Littering Call 1-888-5-LITTER

"OKLAHOMA" By Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein II ©1943 Williamson Music

A Bronx Redemption

Ray Little introduces himself to a troubled teenager, and for an hour they are simply two people talking about life. “Call me Ray,” he says. When the meeting is over, and when the door is closed, he will become Warden Little, head of William S. Key Correctional Center, a minimum-security state prison perched on the tree-dotted plains of rural northwest Oklahoma in Fort Supply.

The young man he has counseled will be dispatched to the prison’s Regimented Inmate Discipline unit (RID), where marching to breakfast, snapping to attention and barking, “Sir, yes, sir,” are all part of a boot-camp regimen designed to convince 18- to 24-year-old first offenders that prison is not where they want to be. Little completed his first year as warden in spring 1997, taking over the spot after seven years as deputy warden at Joseph Harp Correctional Center in Lexington and two decades with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. At Key, he’s running the show.

For that hour or so, Little has a chance to share, one-on-one, what he knows, what he sees, where a troubled young man can go with the right help — or the wrong motivation. What he doesn’t share is how he came to know so much. The 47-year-old warden doesn’t dwell on where he has been.

RAY LITTLE LEARNED AS A CHILD THAT IF HE CHEWED CHUNKS OF CHALKY WHITE wallboard and then let water run down his throat, the process would take away the gnawing pain of an empty stomach. He hated going to bed hungry.

Little grew up in a cramped Bronx, New York, apartment, sharing three rooms with his mother, five siblings, and the offspring of two older sisters already ushering in the next poverty-stricken generation. They got by on slabs of government-issue canned meat, chunks of cheese, and relief staples. Little tried not to eat the handouts. Almost as much as being hungry, he hated being on welfare.

In high school, he was making his way on the basketball court and things looked promising at Columbus High School. But as people took notice of Ray Little the basketball player, they also took notice of the fact that he had only two pairs of pants and one good shirt. After a pen leaked and red ink ran down the leg of his best slacks, the embarrassed 15-year-old quit school. “I couldn’t get that red ink out,” he says.

Little grew up watching Wally and Beaver rush home from school to a mother who was always there, a room they could call their own, and a father with an abundance of good advice. For thirty minutes a day in the Cleaver household, Ray Little felt good. But life in the Bronx wasn’t *Leave it to Beaver*.

“I didn’t have the cookies and milk to come home to,” he says.

Little looked around his neighborhood and saw that the people who had clothes and shoes and cars and money weren’t June and Ward Cleaver. They were pimps and drug dealers and crooked cops. He worked part-time at the post office, then later got a job



Above, watching his “troops”; opposite, Ray Little





Above, Little and his crew; opposite page from top, Irene Starbuck, Steve Downie with his dog Rex, Nancy Krodel and the students at Coronado Heights Elementary School

at a local hospital. It wasn't enough. Friends came around, and they all lamented their situation through the haze of marijuana smoke. Popping pills followed, and then snorting a little heroin.

"You go from sniffing heroin to skin-popping and then mainlining heroin," Little says. "You're really at the bottom. You have to have the drug — at whatever cost."

That's where Ray Little found himself in the late 1960s. He robbed a few grocery stores, and suddenly gates were slamming closed behind him in New York's Attica prison. For many of Little's childhood friends, the story didn't get any better. Some died; others served time only to return to prison again and again.

But the resourceful little boy who found that eating gypsum wallboard could fool his empty stomach grew up to figure out that — in the words of civil rights leader Andrew Young — there is "a way out of no way." Little acquired a general education diploma and launched a personal campaign to learn new words. He walked around Attica with a dictionary in hand, and corrections officers and other inmates noticed the street-wise young man who was beginning to wise up. He was a man in pursuit of education.

Most significantly, he met an Enid native named Charles Van Boskirk, who was in charge of vocational rehabilitation at Attica State Prison. Because Little's right eye was destroyed by a cherry bomb firecracker when he was nine years old, he qualified for Van Boskirk's programs. However intangible, there was something about Ray Little that prompted Van Boskirk to extend his help beyond prison walls.

Earning parole less than three years after being sentenced to spend a decade in prison — and three months after surviving a deadly riot at Attica in 1971 — Little left his native New York to attend Enid's Phillips University on Van Boskirk's recommendation. He earned a bachelor's degree in sociology in 1975, paying for his education with a basketball scholarship. Little was determined to battle the inequities he saw in prison, particularly for African-American men. To that end, he signed on with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections in 1976, convincing corrections administrators, after several turndowns, that he was worthy of a chance. Little was still on parole.

TODAY, AS WARDEN, LITTLE IS PROMOTING PROGRAMS HE SAYS WILL HELP BREAK the prison recidivism cycle by giving inmates a new start when they are released. He blames high-return rates in part on convicts' return to the environments that sent them to prison. Had he gone back to his New York neighborhood, Little speculates, he would have either made his way back to prison or died in crime-ridden streets.

To provide a new environment for youthful offenders like Key's RID kids, Little is proposing a convict-funded housing revitalization project he calls JOB, or "Just One Buck." His theory is that for a dollar a month (about three cents a day) inmates can buy dilapidated housing, make repairs and improvements, and give themselves and troubled youths — their chronological and often biological offspring — a place to go far removed from the environment that introduced them to crime.

Also in 1997, Little allowed Native American inmates at Key to build a sweat lodge and resume the practice of holding religious ceremonies. The practice, which the warden said he saw as "just natural," had been banned from Key before Little took over.

He has more ideas, like a real definition for getting tough on crime. Providing single rooms and warm beds for men and women who may have never had a warm place to sleep isn't the way, he said. Neither is providing steady labor. "We're handing out dishes of ice cream and calling it discipline," Little said. "If you really want to get tough on crime, put an inmate in a cell with a guy who snores all night."

Little's accomplishments during his first full year as warden were not aimed solely at inmates. Under his direction, the prison dedicated a shooting range named for three north-west Oklahoma law enforcement agents killed in the line of duty. Area law enforcement personnel utilize the facility for weapons training. Ironically, though he is the prison's top law enforcement officer — and the first convict nationwide to rise to the warden's chair — Little can't use the shooting range. When convicted of armed robbery in 1968, he lost the right to possess and use guns. For some, that conviction would have been the end. For Ray Little, it was only the beginning.

—J.B. Bittner

STARBUCK'S KIDS

Most people think of coffee when they hear the word "Starbuck." The kids at the Oklahoma County Juvenile Detention Center, however, think of a woman they call "Grandma." Irene Starbuck is the 82-year-old volunteer who makes twice-weekly visits to the center to keep wayward spirits up.

Named a volunteer of the year by the center, she took an interest in the children when her daughter, a minister, began conducting religious services there. Per-



plexed by her daughter's commitment, she was urged to go along for a visit. That first visit — with metal doors slamming behind her — concerned her. "I thought, 'What am I doing here?' And [then] God just put a love in my heart for these kids."

Devoting Tuesday and Saturday nights to the center, Starbuck listens to the children talk about their families, fears, and home lives. "A lot of people look at [the youths] as having done some pretty bad things and feel that they deserve to be there and be punished," Starbuck says. "I realize they have to be punished. But a lot of times, there is more behind that. Some don't even know what it is to be loved."



FIGHTING BACK

Because of a violent shootout in the summer of 1996 that took the life of K-9 police officer Dick Hobson, officer Steve Downie of Claremore learned the real meaning of personal best.

Downie, Hobson's partner, had been a long-time watcher of the Tulsa Run, a 15K race. He'd been in training for several months to finally participate, but his dreams were dashed when he took several bullets in the right leg. Instead of crossing the finish line in 1996, he spent the better part of the year learning how to walk again. "After the shooting, I told myself, 'If I can do it, I am going to do it.' It became an obsession."


Last October, Downie's obsession came full circle. After regaining the use of his leg — which still has 200 shotgun pellets in the right thigh muscles — and with a nod from his doctors, he crossed the finish line with a time of 73:33.

"This is a way for me to fight back," he says.

PENNIES FOR HEAVEN

When Nancy Krodel was a little girl in Oklahoma City, her elementary school collected pennies so they could

buy Judy the Elephant for the Oklahoma City Zoo. "Every time I went to the zoo, I felt so good because I had ownership in that elephant," Krodel says. Following the April 19, 1995, tragedy, Krodel, the principal at Coronado Heights Elementary in Putnam City, knew exactly how to involve her students in the recovery process. She began a penny collection.

Students were asked to bring nineteen pennies (one for each child that died). Instead, they brought more. And more. And eventually, word got around that a fund was being established by the school for the children's section of the Oklahoma City National Memorial. In October, Krodel and her students presented a check to the Oklahoma City Memorial Foundation for \$50,000, an amount collected entirely in pennies from students around the country. The fund-raising effort — hodgepodge at best — is now being formalized with Krodel (who was named Oklahoma's Principal of the Year the morning of the bombing) at the helm. 

DAVID ALLEN



1997 Oklahoman

By George Lang

On a cloud-soaked December afternoon in Manhattan, the streets are gridlocked, a by-product of a visit by President Clinton and one of the best Christmas shopping seasons in recent memory. New Yorkers and interloping out-of-towners alike are jockeying for position at Macy's, Bloomingdale's, and the Virgin Records megastore, and the swarm of bodies and cars in the shopping districts could convert even the most gregarious people person into a fearful agoraphobic.

High above the fray on the fifty-first floor of the Rihga Royal Hotel, a luxury suite has been converted into a makeshift Fox Network television studio, where segments are being taped for *Hanson's Jingle Bell Jam*. The freelance camera crew is focused on three young brothers from Tulsa who, in all likelihood, are mentioned on a few thousand Christmas lists in the hands of those harried shoppers down below. The tape rolls, director Lee Adams calls "action," their SteadyCam-recorded images rock gently on a monitor, and one by one, the freshly scrubbed Oklahoma boys introduce themselves, in descending order of age:

"Hey, this is Isaac..."

"Taylor..."

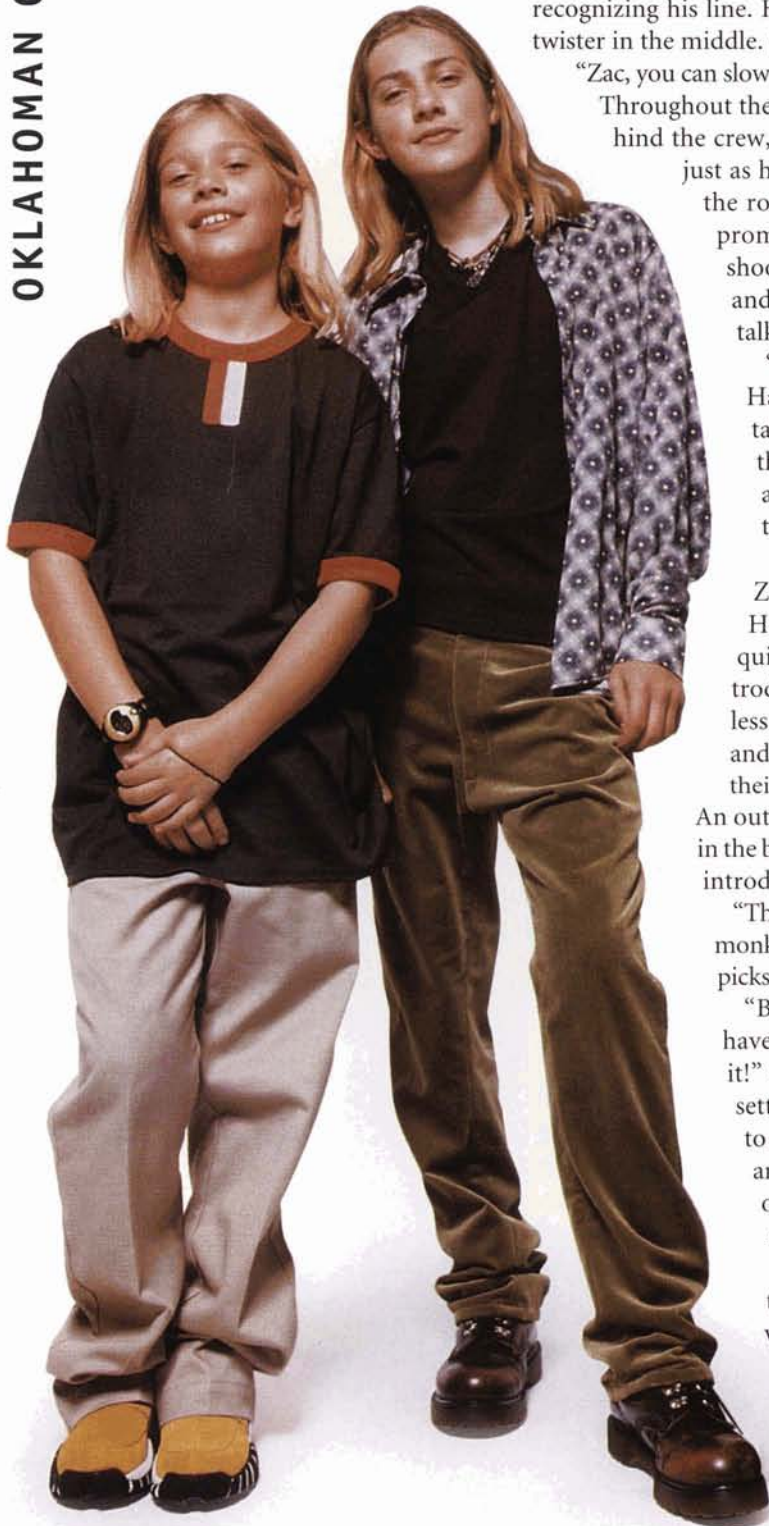
"... and Zac,"

"...And we're Hanson," they intone in unison, though not in the tight three-part harmony that has sold over five million copies of their major label debut, *Middle of Nowhere*. Although Adams will later ask them to sing on one of the countless promos being taped during the ninety-minute session, Isaac is emphatic. "We're not going to be able to do that," he says politely but firmly. Voices must be saved for that night's appearance at Madison Square Garden, where, alongside hot acts like Aerosmith, the Wallflowers, and Fiona Apple, Hanson will perform their worldwide hits like "MMMBop,"



of the Year





“Where’s the Love?” and “I Will Come to You,” all of which will elicit screams rivaling the intensity of jet engines from the mostly female, mostly teenage audience.

Throughout the taping, the brothers trade spots on the loveseat, make minor wardrobe changes, and perhaps most interestingly, work with Adams on their dialogue. Taylor, 14, is a natural when it comes to script doctoring, and without putting Adams or his crew on the defensive, is doing his fair share of directing on the set.

“Okay, I’ll start out with, ‘Hey, you’re back on *Hanson’s Jingle Bell Jam*,’” Taylor says, then gestures to 12-year-old Zachary. “Then you say —”

“Check out Bobby’s mile-high pile of presents on *Bobby’s World*,” Zac interrupts, recognizing his line. He practices it a few times, occasionally flubbing the tongue twister in the middle. (“Check out Bobby’s mile-high bluhbluhbluhbluh.”)

“Zac, you can slow down, you don’t have to do it so fast,” Isaac says reassuringly.

Throughout the entire shoot a tall, goateed gentleman has been standing behind the crew, capturing all the action on his own 8 mm video camera — just as he does nearly every minute of every day of his sons’ lives on the road. Walker Hanson, 43, has watched his boys do countless promotional appearances, guest spots on talk shows, and photo shoots in the last year, and he knows when they are wearing down and require some fatherly guidance. Sensing the need for a pep talk, he approaches Adams.

“Okay, can we stop a second and talk about what we’re doing?”

Hanson says. “We need to powwow. Is there someplace we can talk?” With that, father and sons dart away to a side room, and the famished entourage from Hanson’s record label, Mercury, attacks the catering table, consigning a tureen of guacamole and two wedges of brie to history.

About ten minutes later, everyone files back into the room: Zac, Taylor, and Ike take their positions on the couch, Walker Hanson returns to his spot behind the crew, Adams calls for quiet, and the boys nail the next take perfectly. Next up: an introduction for a new Fox cartoon, *Sam & Max*. The brothers seem less than thrilled with the lines written for them on the cue card and immediately begin Hansonizing them, imbuing the script with their own personalities, particularly Zac’s more rambunctious one. An out-loud brainstorming session lasting all of two minutes results in the best segment of the afternoon, with Isaac, 17, providing a strong introduction and Zac proceeding to chew on the sparse scenery.

“They wanted us to tell you all about the show,” Zac says, making monkey faces and advancing toward the camera until all the monitor picks up is his devilish/cherubic face and preternaturally blond hair.

“But that would defeat the point of watching the show! We haven’t seen the show either, so that means we can’t tell you about it!” Zac spews onward until Taylor, making a calming gesture, settles him back into a more subdued stance and tells the viewers to stay tuned to *Hanson’s Jingle Bell Jam*. All three brothers smile, and Adams calls “Cut.” The small audience — consisting of various Mercury executives, wardrobe personnel, and managerial staff — applauds.

Walker Hanson, approving of the performance, gives Zac a thumbs-up gesture, then dispenses one last bit of fatherly advice to his little drummer boy.

“Zac,” he says, “let ‘er rip.”

IN 1988, WALKER HANSON TOOK A JOB IN THE INTERNATIONAL finance department of a Tulsa-based oil drilling company. Within a year, Walker was telling his wife, Diana,

that the firm was sending him to South America, where he would be spending extended periods in Venezuela, Ecuador, and the island of Trinidad. It would be a massive change for a couple who married as freshmen at the University of Oklahoma and lived in Oklahoma most of their lives. With three young boys and an infant daughter, Jessica, in tow, the coming year would be a challenge. But the Hansons were a close-knit family, and if one went, they all went.

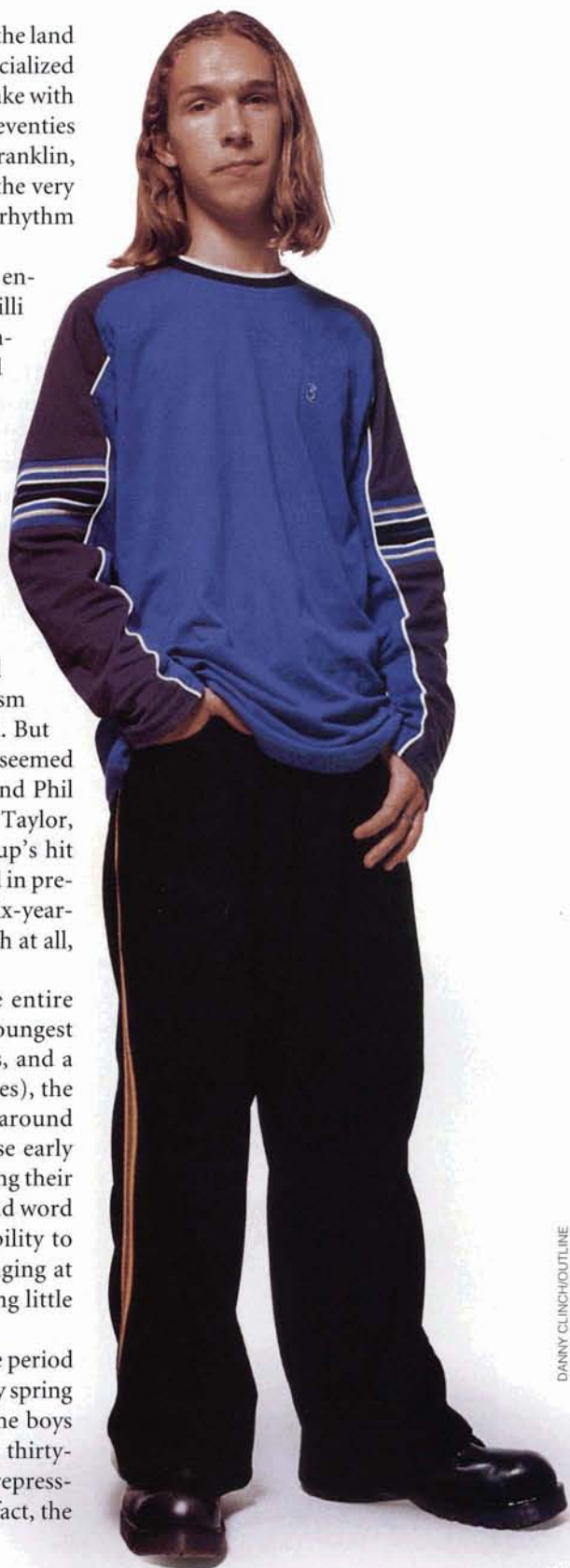
Assuming that familiar American rock 'n' roll might be in short supply in the land of salsa, samba, and Sergio Mendez, Walker and Diana ordered an infomercialized *Time-Life* collection of legendary rock music from the Fifties and Sixties to take with them. It wasn't their music — Walker and Diana came of age in the early Seventies — but it was a strong collection of solid gold hits by Otis Redding, Aretha Franklin, Elvis Presley, and the Beach Boys, among others. That compilation served the very young Hanson boys well, giving them an education in soul, harmony, and rhythm during their year in the tropics.

One year later, when the Hanson family returned to Tulsa, America was enduring one of its worst musical periods, with the twin torments of Milli Vanilli and Vanilla Ice pouring from every boom box in the land. But a year of intensive study in Rock 'n' Roll 101 had left Clarke Isaac, Jordan Taylor, and Zachary Walker Hanson with good taste and a desire to make their own music. Isaac had begun writing songs in Ecuador on a small Casio electronic keyboard, and by the time they were back in the U.S.A., Isaac was becoming more prolific and the two eldest Hansons had learned to sing harmony. "During that time, I started writing songs, and Taylor started singing and harmonizing," says Isaac Hanson, who, along with Taylor and Zac, spoke with *Oklahoma Today* at the Trump International Hotel in New York City. "We never came to the conclusion that we could sing — we just started doing it."

Anyone who has endured a cute but dissonant choir of elementary school kids at a Christmas pageant knows that children often have all the enthusiasm of seasoned performers but all the pitch control of a novice bagpipe squad. But the young Hanson brothers, by this time including kindergarten-aged Zac, seemed blessed with the same brotherly ability to harmonize that powered Don and Phil Everly and after them Brian, Carl, and Dennis Wilson of the Beach Boys. Taylor, whose soulful, slightly raspy vocals have been at the forefront of the group's hit singles, acknowledges the strangeness of this ability, particularly when found in pre-adolescent singers. "When you have an 11-year-old, a nine-year-old, and a six-year-old who are writing songs and singing together, and they're singing on pitch at all, you kind of wonder for a second," Taylor says.

Spending their mornings being home schooled by their mother (the entire Hanson brood, including eight-year-old Jessica, six-year-old Avery, and youngest brother Mackenzie, three, have been home schooled all their young lives, and a new Hanson baby expected in January will follow suit when the time comes), the boys occupied their afternoons singing a cappella standards and originals around the kitchen table, recording them on rudimentary tape equipment. Those early songs chronicled family life, puppy love, and faith in God, the latter reflecting their Evangelical Christian background. Time at home cultivated their ability, and word began to spread in Tulsa of talented, blond brothers with an uncanny ability to blend their voices. They became the hottest act in the neighborhood, singing at backyard barbecues and company picnics, astounding parents, and sending little girls headlong into hopeless crushes.

By 1992, Taylor, Ike, and Zac had outgrown the fireplace-as-concert-stage period of their careers and were ready to take it to the next level. Mayfest — held every spring in the streets of downtown Tulsa — seemed like the perfect forum, and the boys kicked off their professional lives as the Hanson Brothers, debuting with a thirty-minute a cappella set and causing a minor sensation with their talent and irrepressible cuteness. The transition to public performance wasn't hard at all — in fact, the



DANNY CLINCH/OUTLINE

boys found the gig to be less stressful than their customary venues.

“I would say it’s actually easier to perform for people you don’t know rather than friends and family,” Isaac says.

Zac agrees completely. “When you don’t know the person, then you can leave, and you never see them again,” he says.

Almost instantly, a market was created, and the Hansons were offered gigs at Bell’s Amusement Park, Big Splash water park, and various special events, but the universal launching pad for serious pop musicians, the club scene, was off-limits. The problem was, the three boys could only enter a club if they combined their ages, got ahold of a great fake ID, stood on each others’ shoulders, and wore a trench coat from a big & tall store.

Tom Dittus, owner of the Blue Rose Cafe, came up with a solution.

“I’ve known Diana and Walker for some time, and we had heard that the boys were performing and doing some things,” Dittus says. “We just thought it would be an interesting, fun idea to do a Friday happy hour show outside on our parking lot.

“It was amazing to see. These kids who showed up knew all the songs, they would lip-sync all the songs. It was remarkable.”

Those Blue Rose parking lot showcases were taking place along with several performances at local public schools, where the Hanson Brothers were presented as model youths for their goal setting and perseverance. Of course, what began as sedate school functions soon took on an entirely different character, as the role models transformed into heartthrobs. School auditoriums echoed with screams, and when they were home, the boys were inundated by phone calls from adoring girls professing their undying love.

The brothers now were seeing music as a potential career path, not just an after-school hobby. Isaac began thinking about lights brighter than those in Tulsa’s Brookside district.

“We had the interest of doing it on a more professional level. We wanted to go and get in touch with the record labels; we wanted to go to the level that all bands want,” he says.

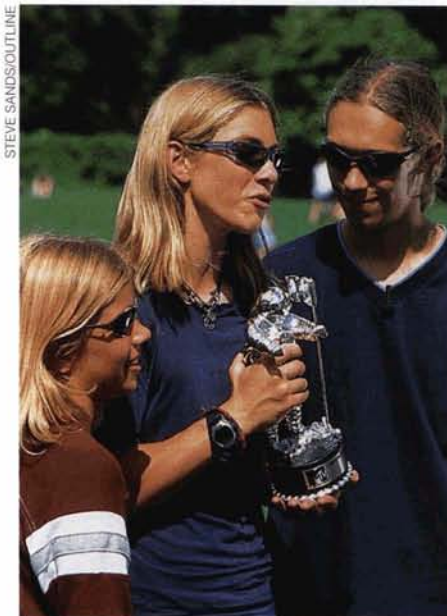
To get a contract.

BY 1993, THE HANSON BROTHERS WERE RECHRISTENED HANSON, AND the doo-wop arrangements of their a cappella beginnings were falling by the wayside, largely jettisoned in favor of hip-hop performances more reminiscent of Boyz II Men than Frankie Lymon & the Teenagers. Isaac began producing backing tapes for performances, and the brothers worked with a local choreographer to perfect some smooth stage moves. The crowds grew steadily, and so did Zac, Taylor, and Ike’s confidence.

In March 1994, Walker Hanson took his sons to Austin’s South By Southwest music conference, an industry glad-handing festival in which Artist and Repertoire (A&R) execs from record companies descend on the Texas Hill Country to find the next million-seller. Every year, thousands of performers ply their wares at local clubs and public forums, hoping the gods of industry will shine their bountiful lights upon them, and before you know it, Madison Square Garden is sold out, and the SoundScan machines at Tower Records say their debut album is outselling Mariah Carey.

For Hanson, South By Southwest was a long shot — particularly that year. Those were the days when grunge was the word, and ponytailed A&R scouts wanted something that was heavy, driven by guitar distortion, and preferably depressing. It was the beginning of the post-Nirvana years, and conventional wisdom stated that, with the suicide death of Nirvana leader Kurt Cobain, a void was waiting to be filled.

In retrospect, the record companies packed that void to the point of overflowing, but the contrast between Hanson and, well, everybody else, worked in the boys’ favor. One afternoon during a combination softball game/barbecue heavily attended by artist managers and record label staffers, Hanson began working the crowd whenever they could, stopping anyone who would listen and serenading them. Christo-



STEVE SANDS/OUTLINE

pher Sabec, a young music attorney and Grateful Dead follower then representing Dave Matthews, was watching the game when Isaac, Taylor, and Zac asked if they could sing for him.

Immediately, Sabec was knocked out. "It was their harmonies, the way they sang together," he says. "There was a softball game going on, about 200 people, and the guys were just moving through the crowd, but I had no idea what they were doing. About halfway through the afternoon, they performed in front of me."

By the time they sang their last note, Sabec, who had only been a music lawyer for about a year and a half, was convinced. He met with Walker and Diana and expressed his interest in the band. Although their sound and their ages seemed contrary to the trends of the time, Sabec was confident the brothers had star power. "I wasn't thinking about any obstacles — I was only thinking that the guys were so amazingly talented that they were going to break through on their own," Sabec says. "My recognizing their talent didn't take a long time."

After South By Southwest, Hanson returned to Tulsa, and energized by their initial meeting with Sabec, decided they needed a strong independent album to effectively compete for a recording contract. Although they had sold tapes like *Hanson Live* in '94 at their shows, there had been no official studio recordings. So in late 1994, Hanson booked studio time in Chicago and Nashville and began recording their first album, *Boomerang*. The six originals and three covers on *Boomerang*, including a performance of the Jackson 5 classic "The Love You Save," were familiar to the band's Tulsa followers, and copies of the album were snatched up quickly at subsequent shows in the spring of 1995.

Not long after Hanson completed *Boomerang*, Sabec called the family, asking if he could stop in and see the brothers play during a layover between flights. After catching the tail end of a performance at Woodland Hills Mall, Sabec extended his visit to two weeks, and during that time, secured the Hansons as his first managerial client.

Sabec aggressively shopped the boys to several labels and racked up fourteen rejection slips in the process. The companies didn't want a preadolescent harmony act, and given the success of West Coast gangsta rap and the continuing dominance of heavy grunge music, there was reason to believe the public wouldn't want Hanson, either. But Sabec saw something in his young musicians and didn't understand why others weren't apt to see it as well.

"I don't know what was going through their heads," Sabec says. "In the interactions I was having, they just felt there was no opportunity for Hanson to break through, that there was no market for the sound and no market for the songs."

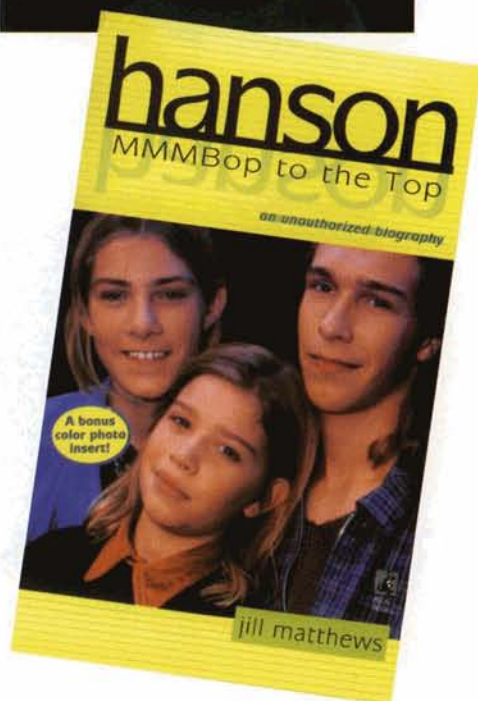
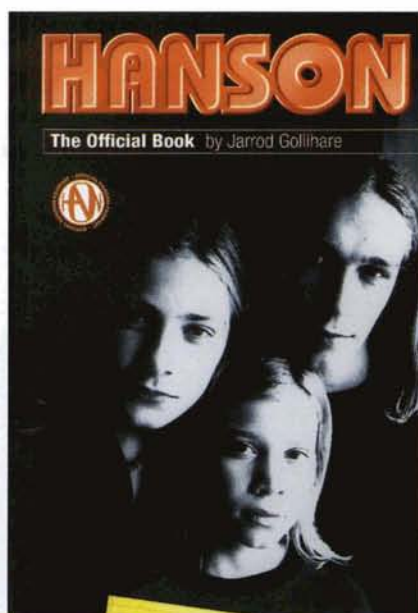
One record label did express interest in Hanson, but according to Isaac, the company's vision for the band seemed contrary to what the brothers really wanted. Their tastes were changing, and more importantly, the brothers were learning instruments — Zac's energy was being put to good use on the drums, Taylor had become increasingly adept at keyboards, and Isaac was making the transition from keys to guitar. Having spent the last year listening less to synthetic pop and more to organic rock acts like Counting Crows, Hanson began to sound more and more like an honest-to-goodness rock 'n' roll band, a new development reflected in the band's second indie release, *MMMBop*, containing an early version of their signature song.

"We had gotten a lot of interest from *Boomerang*, but not enough to make it happen," Taylor says. "On *MMMBop*, we were playing all the instruments, and we went into a garage studio in Tulsa and just did it ourselves with the help of an engineer."

Isaac said the album was recorded quickly and for a fraction of the cost of *Boomerang*, and while it showed some growth, a few crowd pleasers were thrown in for good measure.

"There were still three, four songs that were still that R&B 'track' stuff," Isaac says. "We still enjoyed that stuff. The whole album, there were fifteen songs, and it was just one of those 'one-two-three Go!' situations."

These days, Taylor sees the record, self-released in May 1996, as being pivotal be-



Two books currently on the
New York Times bestseller list



DANNY CLINCH/OUTLINE



cause it forced Hanson to reevaluate who they were as performers, and the move toward rock music likely kept them from being completely dismissed by the music establishment. "We were white guys dancing to tracks, which isn't really something that makes too much sense," he says. "At the time, that's who we were. When we first started recording, we had just started playing [instruments]. We ended up evolving toward being a rock 'n' roll band."

In 1996, Seattle's musical haze seemed to be lifting, and record companies were looking for the next stylistic wave. Some were forecasting that "electronica," an all-encompassing term for various styles of electronic dance music, would overtake guitar-based rock, but that since has revealed itself as a red herring. Ultimately, what happened was a return to pop, particularly teen-oriented music, a genre largely ignored since the dismal late-Eighties days of New Kids on the Block. As Sabec continued to lobby on Hanson's behalf, he began to see a thaw in record company attitudes toward the brothers, a thaw that eventually blossomed into full-fledged enthusiasm.

Sabec convinced Steve Greenberg, senior vice president of A&R for Mercury Records, to see Hanson perform at a June 1996 fair in Coffeyville, Kansas. Isaac said Greenberg later told them he was trying to find out what was wrong with them. Were they lip-syncing? Could they not play their instruments? But during the Coffeyville performance, the brothers apparently didn't feel the conditions were right to sweep a jaded record company executive off his feet. Relative unknowns outside Oklahoma, Hanson seemed unable to cast a spell over the Kansas crowd.

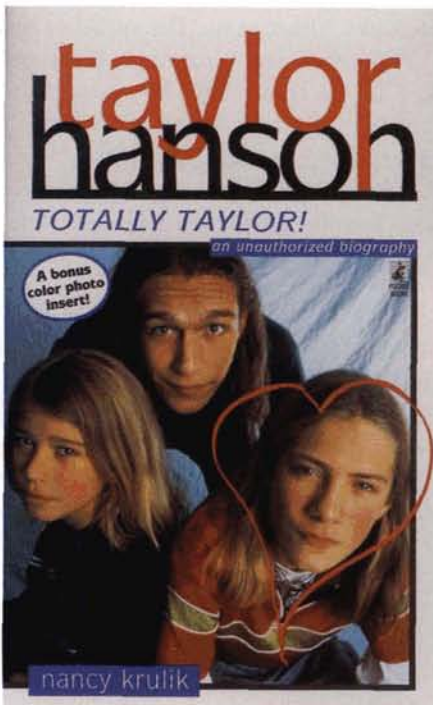
"It was kind of a strange show," Isaac says. "The audience was not real responsive to it." Taylor was even more dire in his assessment. "We were like, 'Why did the record label have to come to this show?'"

Despite a bum crowd, Greenberg was convinced. By late summer, Hanson was a top priority at Mercury Records, and the brothers soon would record the album that would change their lives, *Middle of Nowhere*. They were signed, and their future appeared to be sealed. Now all they had to do was deliver.

FOR MOST OF THE REST OF 1996, THE ENTIRE HANSON BROOD—Walker, Diana, Jessica, Avery, Mackenzie, Ike, Taylor, and Zac—lived in the Hollywood Hills while the three eldest brothers wrote and recorded their major label debut. Mercury had pulled all the stops in securing Hanson's success, hiring hot producers the Dust Brothers (Jon King and Michael Simpson) and Steve Lironi to man the boards and an army of topflight songwriters to bring several songs to fruition.

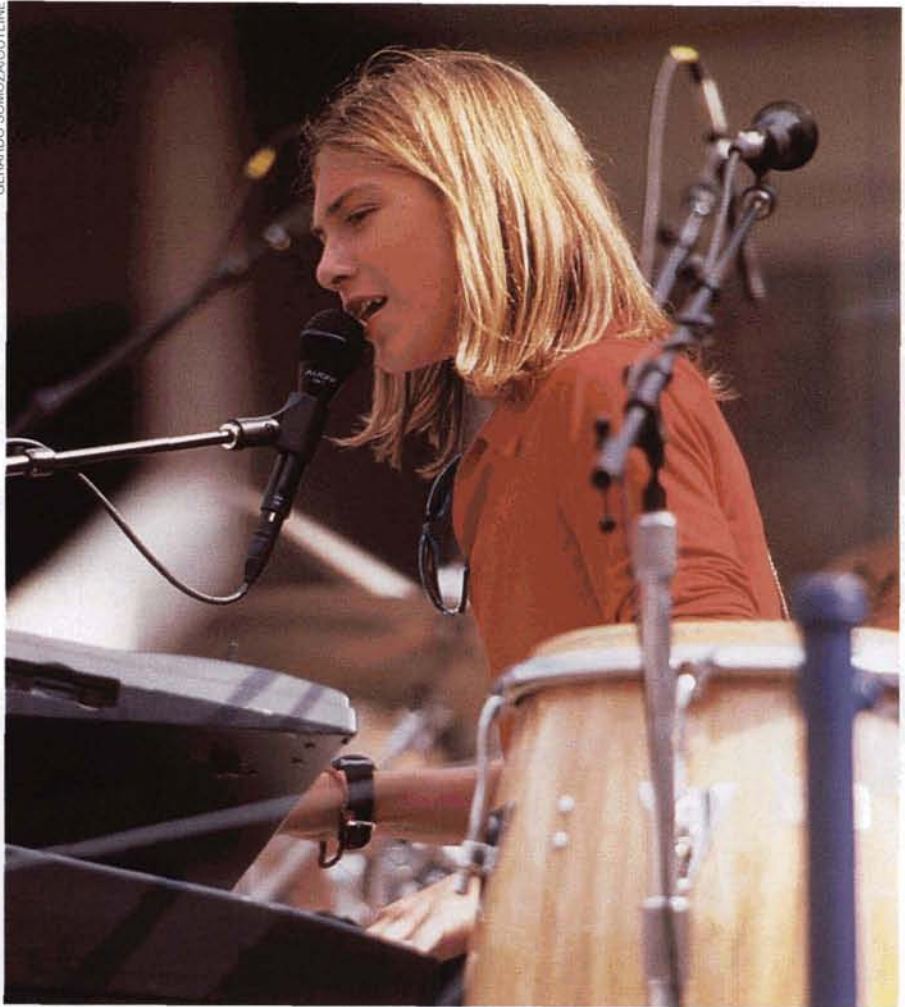
The Hanson brothers and the Dust Brothers made an unusual pairing. King and Simpson were known for their near-psychedelic treatment of critical favorites like the Beastie Boys' *Paul's Boutique* and Beck's masterful *Odelay*. Arguably the most in-demand production team in the business, it was a stroke of genius to pair the fair-haired boys from Tulsa with two men who'd long had a reputation for producing dense, lysergic hip-hop. Similarly, Lironi recently had become a hot ticket for producing the British avant-pop bands Space and Black Grape. He was working with the more familiar Jon Bon Jovi on a solo album when he was called in to work with Hanson.

As strange as it might have seemed to outsiders, Hanson felt completely comfortable working in the Dust Brothers' studio-home. As one of his first acts, Zac jumped in



"Hottie" Taylor Hanson and his own bio

GERARDO SOMOZA/OUTLINE



King and Simpson's pool fully clothed, then walked over to his drum kit and began to record—watching, of course, for any dangerous wires that could come in contact with his wet shoes ("MMMBop-bzzzzzz," Zac says, faking electrocution). That atmosphere typified the recording experience, which Isaac characterized as "relaxed."

In addition to re-recording "MMMBop," "Thinking of You," and "With You in My Dreams" for the album, Hanson began to whip new songs into shape with some hand-picked songsmiths. Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil, who wrote such classics as the Drifters' "On Broadway" and "We Gotta Get Out of This Place," by the Animals, helped polish "I Will Come to You"; Desmond Child and Mark Hudson, each of whom penned hits for Aerosmith, both contributed — Child on "Weird," Hudson on "Lucy," "Where's the Love," and "A Minute Without You"; Ellen Shipley, who wrote Belinda Carlisle's "Leave a Light on for Me," provided input on "Yearbook." It was an odd gumbo: established legends, hired hands from the Eighties, and Hudson, who ironically was a member of the Hudson Brothers, a singing trio of siblings who enjoyed moderate success in the early Seventies.

Three dozen songs pared down by more than half, five studios, countless sessions, and one season later, *Middle of Nowhere* was completed, and the label heads were knocked out, particularly by "MMMBop," an easy choice for the lead-off single. For the new version, the pace was picked up and some strategic "scratching" and sampled beats were added for a hip-hop feel. It was a far more polished work, and one better for the changes. David Silver, a senior vice president with Mercury, saw it as a very pure song — it didn't seem calculated, like the processed cheese product generated by New Kids or earlier teen idols like Shaun Cassidy. Silver heard pure gold in "MMMBop."

“It’s very traditionally artistic,” Silver says. “They aren’t the kind of musicians who are thinking about the market. They think about what they like, what they respect. They’re real musicians, and they care about their music.”

Even if the Hanson brothers had no idea of the potential commercial appeal of “MMMBop,” a close look at the song shows its success was a no-brainer. Combining Jackson 5-style vocals, a chorus strongly reminiscent of Fleetwood Mac’s opening track from *Rumours*, “Second-Hand News,” hip-hop sensibilities, and the Dust Brothers’ indie credibility, “MMMBop” was destined for the upper reaches of the *Billboard* singles chart. But even Sabec wasn’t prepared for what would happen in March 1997, when “MMMBop” was released to radio.

“I was always confident it would be successful, but in a million years I couldn’t imagine that level of success,” Sabec says. In an “MMMBop,” which as the song describes is a brief moment in which everything can change, everything did.

RADIO STATIONS HAD “MMMBOP” FOR TWO MONTHS BEFORE HANSON BEGAN promoting the song, and they had no concept of the public’s response other than ever-increasing airplay. Then in May, just prior to the release of *Middle of Nowhere*, Taylor, Ike, and Zac got a full dose of teenaged mania in action. Preparing for a guest appearance on *The Late Show with David Letterman*, Hanson reluctantly agreed to a promotional appearance at the Paramus Park Mall in Paramus, N.J.

“‘MMMBop’ was on its way, climbing fast in the charts, but we hadn’t seen the other side of it — the fan side,” Taylor explains. “We went there, to this mall, and we were actually rehearsing for *Letterman*, and we didn’t want to go, because we needed rehearsal time.

“Once we got there, this mall was just packed,” he says. “It was half an hour before the mall closed, and the mall was just completely packed. The security guards were looking at us like... they didn’t know what to expect. They went to the door and said, ‘Okay, guys, listen to this.’”

With that, the guard opened the door just a crack, allowing the sheer lung power of thousands of teenaged girls to emit from the building. Tornadoes have been described as sounding like a freight train, a jet engine, and a pride of lions roaring in unison, but Taylor says the thunderous sound of Hanson fans could put any tornado to shame.

Everyone was ill-prepared for the onslaught that might someday be called the “Paramus Park Mauling”—there were no barriers between the fans and the stage, and since Hanson thought their usual audience of about 200 fans would show up, the performance was amplified only through a tiny speaker and the inadequate equipment didn’t have a chance of overpowering the audience noise.

“Once we got there, we went into ‘MMMBop,’ and the entire crowd started singing, word for word,” Taylor says. “Every single lyric they were singing along with us—8,000 people in this mall!”

That night, the group made the trek to *Letterman*, and despite some more amplification problems, the performance was a success. It led to high-profile appearances that week on *The Rosie O’Donnell Show* and MTV’s *The Jenny McCarthy Show*, where Zac got tackled by the statuesque Playboy model-turned-wacky comedienne.

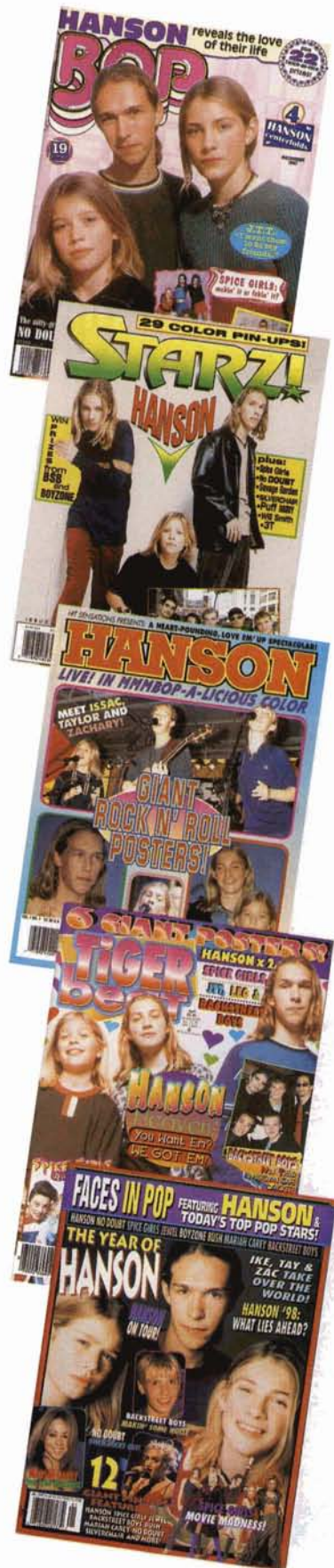
“She kissed me on the eye!” Zac exclaims, apparently still not old enough to fully appreciate such an experience. Regardless, Ike and Taylor go on record as saying their brother is a little misguided.

“Zac was fighting her!” Isaac says. “Zac was like ‘No! No!’ and if Jenny McCarthy tackled me, I’d be like, ‘Lay it on me!’”

“I’m not embarrassed,” Zac says, defending himself. “I just don’t want to be kissed by some weird...”

“He’s like the only one in about ten million people,” Taylor says, casting his vote.

By the end of May, “MMMBop” was the number one single in the country, and the album was ensconced in the top ten. The audiences at promotional appearances kept growing—at a stop in Kansas City, 30,000 fans showed up—and they were be-



The wide world of Hanson fanzines



coming more aggressive.

"We have some of the most interactive, reactive fans," Taylor says, being diplomatic. "The moms sometimes are worse," Zac pipes up, telling it like it is. Taylor, who is quickly becoming the chief teen idol of the band (there is an unauthorized biography singling the "hottie" out as the "dreamiest"), recounts a tale of a woman who might need to leave her adolescence behind.

"We were coming out of a radio station, and there were about 2,000 people outside this station," Taylor says. "And this 40-year-old woman jumps and grabs at my hair! I'm going, 'Have some control, woman!'"

By midsummer, the frenzy over Hanson had spread to the four corners of the globe. In Italy, controversy raged. Who was the biggest pop culture phenomenon — Hanson or the Spice Girls? Mobs screamed for them at performances in Tokyo, and a visit to the Hard Rock Cafe in Jakarta, Indonesia, nearly resulted in a riot. Although the Hansons had done some globe-trotting before this shot of fame, the adulation still surprises them. "When you walk down the street in Japan or walk down the street in Italy and somebody recognizes you, you have to say... Wow," Taylor says. "You can't take it for granted. There are so many other bands who have worked and played in clubs all their lives and never gotten this opportunity. We know a lot of bands in Tulsa that are still doing all they can."

As 1997 progressed, Hanson continued their world domination, sending "Where's the Love" and "I Will Come to You" into the top ten, but as with any true pop sensation, there were plenty who wished Hanson had never gotten farther than the Blue Rose Cafe. During the World Series, when Hanson performed the "Star-Spangled Banner," many unruly Florida Marlins fans booed. Donald Trump said, "Hanson sucks" in an MTV promo, and in a recent issue of *Jane*, the eponymous magazine headed by former



Sassy editrix Jane Pratt, sarcastic predictions for the Hansons' future included convenience store employment and drug addiction, all played off supposedly for blasé laughs.

David Fricke, senior editor of *Rolling Stone*, came to Hanson's defense in his year-end assessment of *Middle of Nowhere*.

"Age discrimination works both ways," Fricke wrote. "We distrust rockers who refuse to give it up in middle age, then we put the boot into Hanson because they're hot, they're pop — and on the wrong side of the legal drinking age in all fifty states.

"...But you don't have to be a *Bop* magazine subscriber to fall for the cheesy bounce of 'Where's the Love' or 'Man From Milwaukee,'" Fricke continued. "Wanna pick on Hanson for writing immature lyrics and singing formulaic ballads? Wait until they're old enough to know better."

Much of society has a problem with young performers and a fascination with what they see as their inevitable downfalls. When Adam Rich, Danny Bonaduce, Coreys Haim and Feldman, Todd Bridges, and Dana Plato ran afoul of the law after fame had lifted, their dark road down was intriguing to most, and in a perverse way, somewhat exciting. Perhaps we see children who enjoy seemingly idyllic, fame-filled beginnings as undeserving, and when they show up on *Extra*, hollow-eyed and holding up liquor stores, it feels like just desserts, revenge against the cool kids.

The Hanson brothers will likely avoid the fate of such former child stars. Members of a close family that stays together constantly, they are never without parental guidance and protection. Walker Hanson, despite his omnipresence, does not come across as a controlling stage parent like Kit (Macaulay's dad) Culkin or Teri (Brooke's mom) Shields. He's watching out for his kids, making sure they don't do stupid things. In short, he's being a father.

"The parents are a real stabilizing force, and their values are incredible," Sabec says. "(The boys) have amazing heads on their shoulders, and they're all about the music, and they're all about exploring different ways to further their talent and their interests. There is no problem with them mentally. They have their feet on the ground, they haven't changed one bit, and I've been with them from the very beginning."

David Silver, who produced and directed Hanson's video "Tulsa, Tokyo, and the Middle of Nowhere," which recently sold more than 500,000 copies, is completely in awe of the brothers and concurs with Sabec's assessment.

"What I've noticed about the way they respond to situations is that they're very intelligent lads, they really are," Silver says. "They are very conscious of their own destiny, but they do wish to learn, and they're never arrogant, ever."

Confidence without arrogance, strong bearings, and their legitimate talent could carry the day for Hanson. Even though Sabec is personally and professionally biased as their manager, his predictions of a long future in the music business don't seem all that far-fetched.

"They will be in the music business for a long, long time, in different variations and different aspects," he says. "Isaac, for example, has a keen interest in producing. You'll see variations on the same theme, but I think Hanson's here to stay."

SITTING AROUND A TABLE AT THEIR SUITE IN THE TRUMP INTERNATIONAL Hotel (the Donald might think they "suck," but he'll take their money), the boys speak easily among each other, maintaining friendly attitudes despite being cooped up in hotels, vans, and jets for the past nine months. Anyone who has fought over back seat space on a long family vacation knows how siblings can be caught in border disputes over the armrest, and it's a safe bet that they get a little sick of each other.

"We hate each other," Taylor says, smirking and looking at Zac.

"Yeah, most of the time, we're just beating on each other," says Zac, starting to giggle. "If you notice, my suitcase is really hard — it's a special suitcase for beating people. It's got steel casing, and whenever I get mad, I go 'Hey, Ike! Bam!'"

They really do get along, Isaac is quick to say, and the discussion moves to the brothers' favorite subject, touring. What they have been doing is not a concert tour



DANNY CLINCH/OUTLINE

but a promotional tour, one that has continued unabated, and with the release of their Christmas album *Snowed In* and the rave reviews that followed it, has shifted into high gear. Five acoustic songs in a mall or a thirty-minute spot at a radio-sponsored show does not a concert make.

"We really, really want to tour. That's high on our list right now," Taylor says. "When you do all this press, and a radio station has you play three acoustic songs... when thousands and thousands of people show up, you feel bad, because you want to give the fans more. But you can't."

They are likely to commence a full-length concert tour early in 1998, then return to the studio and release a new album of original songs in late 1998 or early 1999. Somewhere in the middle of everywhere, they plan to spend some time back home in Tulsa, a place they have rarely visited since March. Still, they know life there will never be the same.

"The scary part is, you know you couldn't go to Woodland Hills Mall. It wouldn't work — going to Woodland Hills Mall wouldn't be the smartest thing in the world to do," Isaac says.

"Like, the new theater that just opened — we went there for Thanksgiving," Taylor says. "And we still do all the same stuff. We still go Rollerblading, we still go to movies; even if sometimes it isn't a great idea, we do it anyway."

Zac, a good sport even when he's visibly tired, says the mobs of fans can be fun, especially when he can escape. "A lot of times, it makes it more fun when you're Rollerblading, because all of a sudden, it's 'the chase,'" he says.

When Hanson finally begins playing bona fide concerts, they will get to come home as well. Although they have played mini-shows in Tulsa and Oklahoma City since *Middle of Nowhere* changed their lives, they want to play full-length concerts and give something back to their original fans.

"We feel bad that we haven't been able to do more in our home state," Isaac says. "There are so many things we have to do. I know there are a lot of people in our hometown who have been, like, 'Why aren't they here?'"

"But when we tour, we will be there."

□

STEVE SANDS/OUTLINE



OKLAHOMA'S ONLY MAJOR HOSPITAL TOTALLY FOCUSED ON CANCER.

■ If you have cancer or love someone who does, there's good news.
You have a choice in cancer care.

■ At Cancer Treatment Center of Tulsa, you'll find a different kind of health care facility – a 325,000 square-foot treatment and research hospital totally dedicated to cancer care, offering both in-patient and out-patient services. A complete arsenal of advanced cancer-fighting technologies, all under one roof. And a small army of specialists in cancer care.

■ Our approach, our attitude, is different too. Here, we treat the whole person – attacking the disease on all fronts, offering support in every area of your life affected by it. With the full array of the latest cancer therapies, including chemotherapy, radiation, pain management and surgery, if needed – as well as nutrition, counseling and spiritual support.

■ It's an approach that's comprehensive. Totally integrated. And totally focused on *your* needs.

■ To find out more, or schedule an appointment, simply give us a call:

1-800-788-8485



2408 E. 81st Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74137
(CityPlex, 81st & Lewis)
(918) 496-5170
www.cancercenter.com

THE ONLY FACILITY IN THE SOUTHWEST AFFILIATED WITH CANCER TREATMENT CENTERS OF AMERICA™

Good Bill Hunting

Standing before the state legislature in February with his State of the State speech in hand, Governor Frank Keating practically begged the notoriously partisan group to strive for a “spirit of cooperation and mutual trust.” Nearly four months later, he proudly heralded 1997 as the most productive session in recent history. But underneath that lovely bipartisanship, there was still plenty of nitty-gritty politics—suspicious airplanes, smelly hog farms, tribal unrest, and crabby Cross opponents—to make headlines. After all, what’s political about agreeing all the time?

FOR THE LITTLE GUYS

Both Democrats and Republicans began the year with the same priority—helping small businesses by reforming workers’ compensation. Taking a cue from Lieutenant Governor Mary Fallin’s 300-plus colleagues studying the issue, both the House and Senate overwhelmingly approved the bill, which Keating signed into law in early June. The law is expected to save businesses statewide up to \$50 million a year, and protect

benefits to injured workers and families.

Other major legislation passing muster this year included a \$1 billion road construction program, an unprecedented Truth in Sentencing Act (reforming the criminal justice system and boosting victims’ rights), and more education funding.

TWO-TERM WONDER

Representative J.C. Watts (R., Norman) thought he would be competing with the president for the nation’s attention when he gave the

GOP response to President Clinton’s State of the Union address in February. But instead, the former Orange Bowl MVP found himself temporarily sidelined while networks scrambled to cover the O.J. Simpson civil suit verdict. Watts, 40, eventually got his audience, touting his childhood in Eufaula, education at OU, and godly upbringing (he’s associate pastor at Southern Baptist Church in Del City).

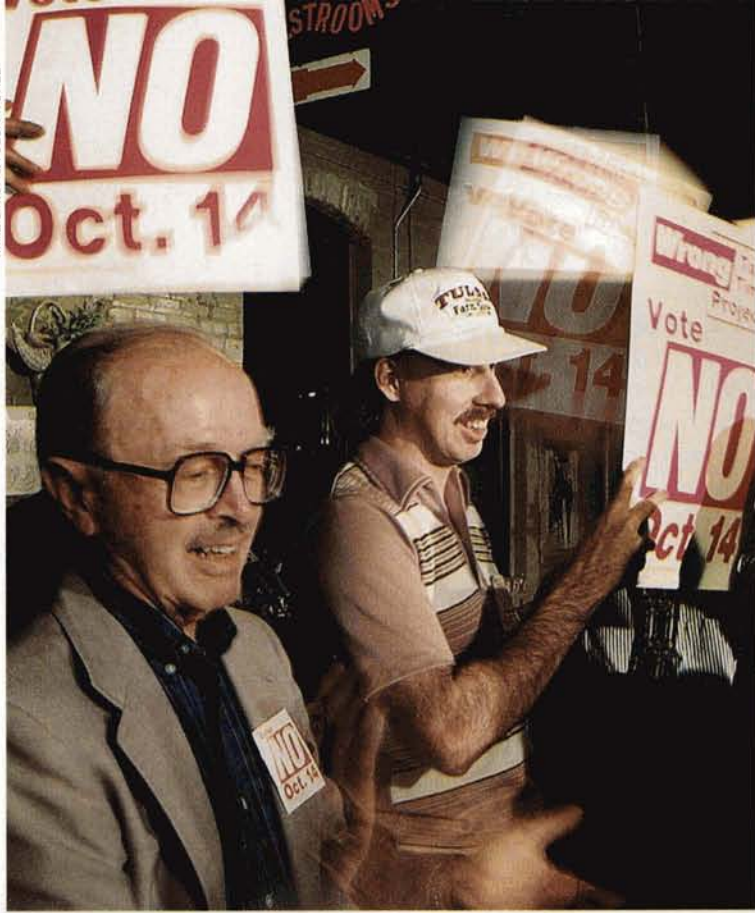
The day before his speech, Watts took digs at Reverend Jesse Jackson and Washington, D.C., Mayor Marion Barry in the *Washington Post*, labeling the two “race-hustling poverty pimps” for promoting African-American dependency on federal entitlement programs. In October, he appeared on comedian Chris Rock’s often racy HBO talk show. All of which proves that (despite the rumors) the only black Republican in Congress is much more than just a poster boy for the party—he’s a full-fledged individual with a lot to say.

MR. SEPTEMBER

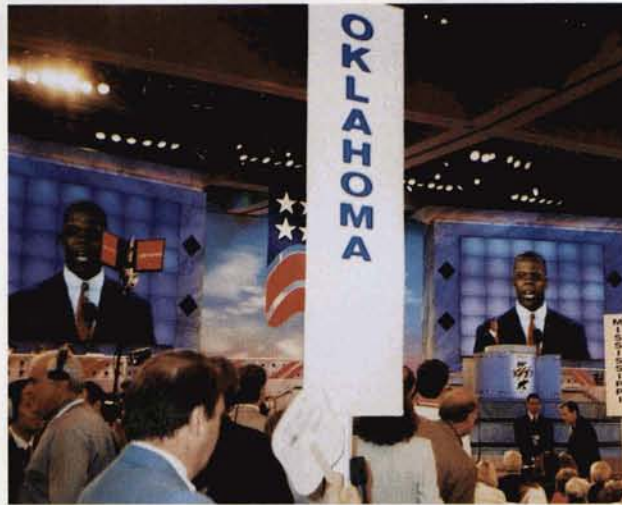
When it comes to poster boys, Representative Steve Largent should come to mind, and we’re not talking about his voting record. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida selected the Tulsa Republican as Mr. Septem-



Above, Representative J.C. Watts; opposite page, clockwise from top left, Bob Rutland and Ron Scribner, Chief Justice Yvonne Kauger, Republican National Convention, Governor Frank Keating and Lieutenant Governor Mary Fallin signing the workers’ comp bill, and Mayor Ron Norick



GOVERNOR KEATING
PROUDLY
HERALDED 1997
AS THE MOST
PRODUCTIVE
SESSION
IN RECENT HISTORY.



ber for her "1998 Hunks of the House" calendar, which was given to New York congresswoman Susan Molinari as a going-away present in July. Copies of the legislative lookers aren't available, but interested parties can look up Largent's dreamy photo in the 1996 issue of *People's* "Fifty Most Beautiful People." (No harm in keeping those career options open, right Steve?)

HAIL TO THE CHIEF

Oklahoma welcomed its second female chief justice since statehood this year. Yvonne Kauger follows Alma Wilson as the second woman on the nine-member state Supreme Court, an honor Kauger has aspired to ever since her days as valedictorian of Colony High School (class of seven). After graduating from OCU, Kauger served as an assistant to Justice Ralph B. Hodges, the same man who swore her in twenty-five years later at the January ceremony. (Many Oklahomans know Kauger not as a judge, but as cofounder of the Red Earth Festival in Oklahoma City.)

FIGHTING FOR CHANGE

Kevin Gover, a Pawnee Indian involved in political activism since picketing against racial discrimination at a Lawton swimming pool as a 10-year-old, was named head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs by President Clinton in October.

The 42-year-old Lawton native, who now runs a New Mexico law firm, hopes to bring stability and accountability to a federal agency long criticized by

both Congress and the tribes it was meant to protect.

Shortly before his appointment, Gover told the *Daily Oklahoman*, "I do think there's a lot of improvement that can be made... (but) it should come as no surprise to anyone that Indians suffer from a lack of self-esteem. They've been told they're lesser people. Part of the issue goes to our own attitudes about ourselves."

TOLERANCE IN T-TOWN

In the fight for tolerance, Tulsa's Oklahomans for Human Rights came out with a win as it celebrated the city's first Gay Pride March in July. Nearly sixty-five people representing gay and lesbian interests participated in the half-mile demonstration along Edison Street.

A MAN OF THE PEOPLE

Oklahoma City's ambitious Metropolitan Area Projects is trudging toward completion, but the mayor who initiated the downtown improvement plan won't be waiting at the finish line. Ron Norick, arguably the capital city's most popular mayor, announced his retirement in October after three terms. Narrowly winning the 1987 election, Norick's cocky-yet-steady leadership spurred him to victories in '91 and '94 with record-setting voter support. (He took 80 percent of the vote in his final reelection.)

TRIBAL DISCORD

All was not well for Oklahoma's Indian tribes this year. On perhaps the darkest day of the Cherokee Nation's modern history,

more than 300 people watched as tribal marshals stormed Tahlequah's Cherokee Nation Courthouse in August to try and overturn a takeover by beleaguered Principal Chief Joe Byrd. Three people were arrested and one was hospitalized as a result of the clash.

Elsewhere, a federal jury convicted Choctaw Nation Chief Hollis Roberts of sexually assaulting several former employees.

And the Cheyenne-Arapaho failed to garner President Clinton's support in their fight to recover disputed land, even after donating \$107,000 to the Democratic National Committee (a move which landed them right in the middle of a campaign-reform controversy).

NO MAPS II FOR TULSA

In a near record vote, Tulsans in October turned down a \$200 million downtown improvement project similar to MAPS. More than 60 percent of the 83,000 votes cast (the most since 1980) said no to the controversial Tulsa Project, which would have provided funding for operation of downtown sports and convention facilities.

Overriding the endorsement of business and city leaders (including native Frank Keating), Tulsa Project protesters waved victory signs bearing "Wrong Tax, Wrong Time, Wrong Project."

"I think most people want what's best for Tulsa," Mayor Susan Savage told the *Tulsa World*, even though her support of the measure failed to garner voter support. "I think this was a rejection of an idea, not of progress or Tulsa." ☐



Representative Steve Largent

THE THOMAS MORAN EXHIBITION

FEBRUARY 8 - MAY 10, 1998



Shoshone Falls on the Snake River

oil on canvas, 1900

GILCREASE MUSEUM

1400 GILCREASE MUSEUM ROAD

TULSA, OK 74127-2100

918-596-2700

Tickets on sale beginning November 15, 1997

Gilcrease Museum Members receive free admission

made possible through the generosity of

The Williams Companies, Inc.

Grace & Franklin Bernsen Foundation

The Mervin Bovaird Foundation ~ The Helmerich Foundation

The John Steele Zink Foundation ~ Maxine & Jack Zarrow Foundation

Lorene Cooper Hasbrouck Charitable Trust

with special institutional support from The Henry Luce Foundation

Returning the Favor

Ted Turner shocked the country this year with his jaw-dropping pledge to give \$1 billion to the United Nations. His late summer announcement was as much a gift as it was a challenge to others, and many Oklahomans took the philanthropist's dare literally by giving away unprecedented amounts. In all fairness, some had made their bequests before Turner's bravura—namely Wall Street icon Michael F. Price, who gave \$18 million to the University of Oklahoma's business school and was subsequently labeled by *Time* one of the 25 Most Influential People in America.

MAN OF THE YEAR

Michael F. Price, a Wall Street fund manager, turned heads this year with his announcement in April of an \$18 million gift to the University of Oklahoma's College of Business Administration. Price's donation was the largest gift by any individual to a public university in the United States this year, and the largest single gift to higher education in Oklahoma history.

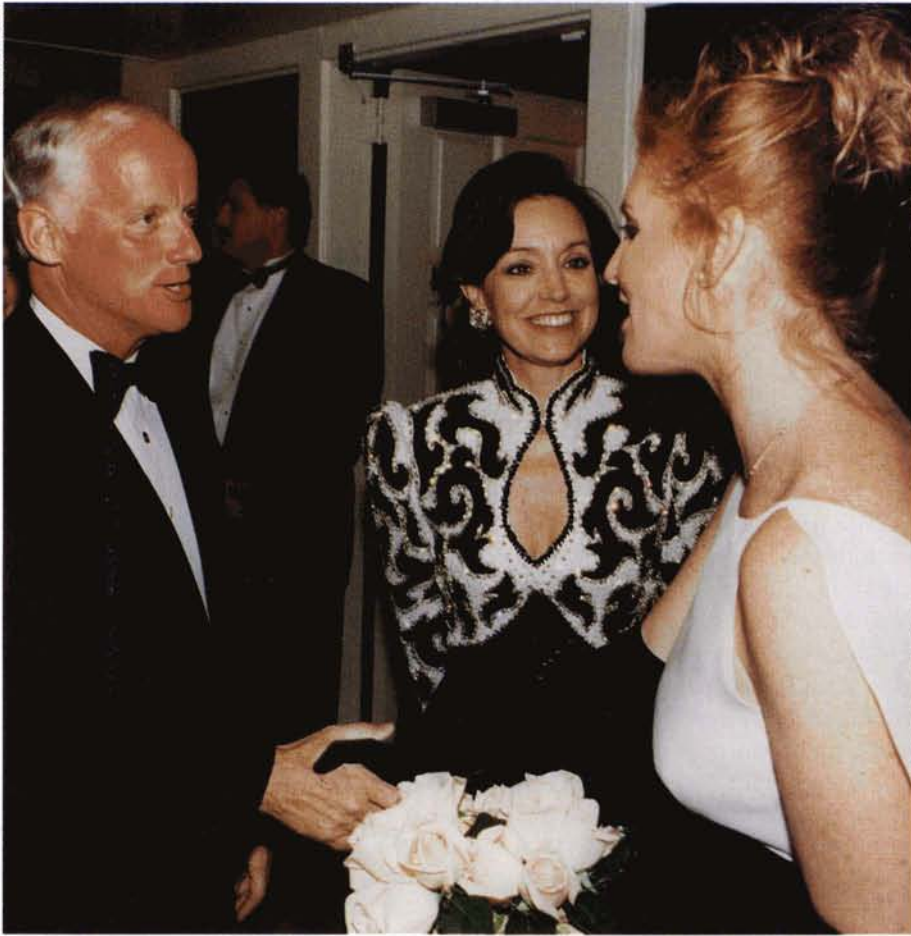
Twenty-five years ago the Long Island native chose OU for his undergraduate work because he wanted to attend college "out West." Upon graduation, Price returned to New York to begin a career with Heine Securities, where he became partner in 1982 and owner in 1988. In 1995, he gained notoriety as the man on Wall Street who fostered the Chase Manhattan-Chemical merger.

This past year *Fortune* called him "the scariest s.o.b. on Wall Street," saying that "when his mutual funds take a big position in a company...he sees to it that the stock moves, or else." In April, *Time* called him one of the 25 Most Influential People in America.

Price, who sold Heine for \$850 million last year, said that a gift to OU's business school was "first on my list" of philanthropic endeavors. His goal is to see the business



This page, Michael F. Price; opposite page, clockwise from top left, Governor Frank and Cathy Keating with the Duchess of York, the Kirkpatricks (right), Opel Thorpe, Fergie playing with kids, Vince Gill and Kelvin Sampson



DAILY OKLAHOMAN



MIKE SIMONS/TULSA WORLD



PRICE'S \$18 MILLION DONATION IS THE LARGEST GIFT BY ANY INDIVIDUAL TO A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY IN THE U.S. THIS YEAR.

STEVE GOOCH/DAILY OKLAHOMAN



school become one of the best in the nation.

THANKS A MILLION

There were many Oklahomans who felt generous this year, and as a result, several institutions received gifts of a million dollars or more.

Paul Wise, the 92-year-old banker who developed the state's first drive-up window teller, made history once again in Stillwater when he donated \$1 million to the Oklahoma State University College of Business Administration. His gift is the college's largest ever. Business dean Gary Trennepohl said that the university will use the money to bring in an internationally recognized scholar in finance.

In January, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

identity prompted the gift.

In Oklahoma City, businessman Aubrey McClendon gave two private schools substantial donations this year. Five million went to Casady School and \$3 million to Heritage Hall. Each gift was the largest either school has ever received. "I'm a native of Oklahoma City, and I enjoy giving back some of what I've been given," says McClendon. "I'm a firm believer that economic activity is an inevitable outcome of greater intellectual resources. It seems to me that secondary schools are basically where the front lines are in trying to develop intellectual capital." He and his wife Katie have two children who currently attend Casady.

This January, John E. and Eleanor Kirkpatrick continued their longstanding support of art appreciation by pledging \$1 million in matching funds to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation's Art Museum Affiliated Fund. In 1958, the patron saints broke ground on the building that still houses the Oklahoma City Art Museum with their gift of \$270,000. Eleanor passed away later in the year.

GILL AGAIN

Vince Gill, known as much for his charity work as for his lilting love songs, proved himself once again at the Vince Gill and Friends Celebrity Auction held in October at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. The money raised at the event—\$641,400—went to the Oklahoma City Memorial Foundation.

SHE'S BACK


Duchess of York Sarah

Ferguson returned to Oklahoma this year in November to raise money for four children's charities: the Make-a-Wish Foundation of Oklahoma, the YMCA Child Development Center, the Child Abuse Response and Evaluation (CARE) Center, and Chances for Children. Her one-day visit was the third trip made by the duchess to Oklahoma City in as many years. The black-tie gala at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame—for which Fergie was honorary chair—netted \$125,000 for each charity.

THE ART MARKET

Opel Thorpe, a painter who recently discovered that she was going blind, put more than 100 paintings from her own collection on the block. Proceeds from the sale of her paintings will go to Youth Services of Tulsa. So far, about fifty paintings have sold, raising a total of \$2,500 for the center. Her giving doesn't stop in Tulsa. A graduate of Chickasha's University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, the former high school art teacher offered \$50,000 in matching funds to the school for an on-campus museum.

HATS OFF

Ballet Oklahoma received its second-largest, one-time gift ever this year. Collegiate Cap and Gown, a division of Herff Jones, Inc., donated a building to Ballet Oklahoma for set and costume storage, a costume and scene shop, ballet studios, and administrative offices. Al Pons, outgoing president of the Ballet Oklahoma Board of Trustees says, "Our sense of admiration and thanks to them can hardly be expressed enough." 

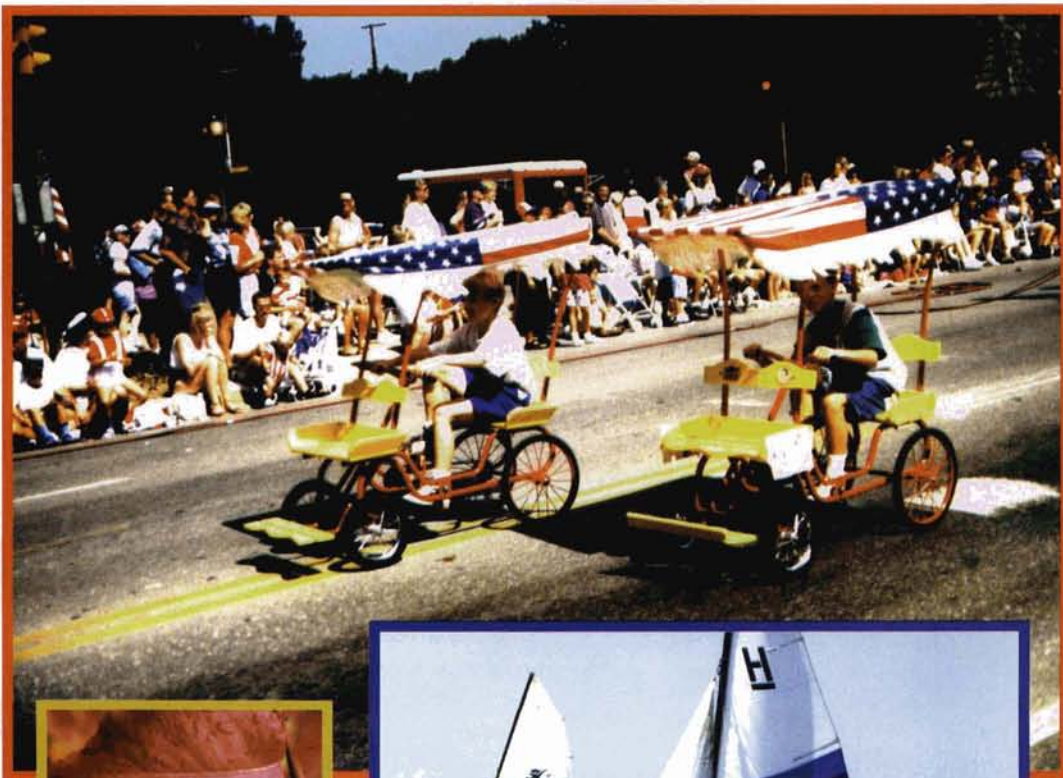


pledged \$1 million to Saint Gregory's College in Shawnee. The school is changing from a two-year college to a four-year university. Archbishop Busebius Beltran said the Catholic church's approval of the school's strong religious

Experience The Excellence... Experience Edmond!!

Home to many Oklahoma historic firsts, Edmond takes pride in nurturing levels of excellence in service and entertainment to make your visit a treasured memory. The Edmond experience is filled with luxurious hotels, excellent restaurants, world-class

sporting events and unique cultural entertainment for all ages. Outstanding golf, tennis, soccer and Arcadia Lake are just a few of the Edmond elements of fun waiting for you. Call or write today for more information.



Edmond Convention & Visitors Bureau
825 E. 2nd St., Edmond, OK 73034
(405) 341-4344

Experience the Excellence
EDMOND

The Going Gets Good

Oklahoma followed suit with the rest of the country in 1997 with an economy that wouldn't stop, unprecedented growth that created an estimated 40,000 new jobs, and an unemployment rate that fell below four percent (the national rate was 4.7).

BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE A DIME?

Oklahomans who haven't made the move to cellular phones would be well advised to keep that change jingling in the pockets. Pay phone rates blasted up forty percent to 35 cents a call in October, and despite all the advances in technology, pay phones still don't make change.

PERESTROIKA REVISITED

In a landmark development deal for western independent petroleum producers, Avalon Oil of Tulsa came to an agreement last spring with Russia's Gazprom, one of the largest energy producers in the world. Avalon, which created a British offshoot in March, signed a twenty-one year license to drill 160 wells in the enormous Russian Orenburg oil field, located some 50 miles from the Kazakhstan Frontier at the foot of the Ural Mountains. The British division of Avalon, which had their initial

offering on the London Exchange in March, has a market value of \$122 million and will hold a 49-percent share of the production deal, widely known as Stimul.

LIVIN' WELL

Good news is that *Money* magazine's reader survey of the 300 best places to live in America included Lawton, Oklahoma City, and Tulsa. Bad news is that all three were conspicuously listed in the lower half, and each ranked lower than it had in past years (207, 222, and 263, respectively). Criteria included low crime, clean water, good schools, and a low cost of living.

LIVIN' FAST

Inc. magazine, which appeals to fast-growing private companies, recognized four Oklahoma businesses this year on their harbinger list, the *Inc. 500*. The top dog in the rankings is Oklahoma City's Accord Human Resources, which weighed in at

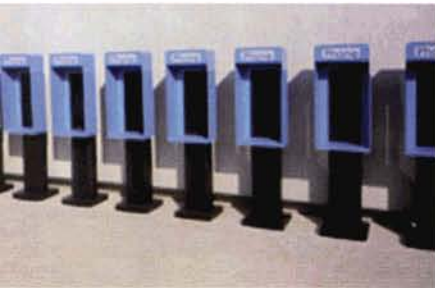
number five with 8,454 percent sales growth from 1992 through 1996. Not far behind was Tulsa-based Commercial Financial Services, the country's largest debt-collection company. Tulsa's Global Services ranked 209th on *Inc.*'s list with 1,136 percent growth, and a civil engineering and environmental consulting company based in Enid called Envirotech Services ranked 385th with 724 percent growth.

LIVIN' LARGE

In *Forbes'* ranking of the 800 highest paid CEOs in the country, ten were either born in Oklahoma or received their undergraduate degrees from OU or OSU. The highest concentration of breadwinners — no surprise here — were employed by the energy sector, and all were male. Among those listed were Wayne Allen of Phillips Petroleum and OG&E's James G. Harlow, Jr. *Forbes* did point out, however, that college ain't no big deal: chief executives with a college degree made less than those without.

LIVIN' CHEAP

It doesn't have oceanfront property or a major-league baseball team, but Tulsa — which ranks tenth nationally for job growth — does have cheap rent. The cheapest, in fact. Among fifty-six major metropolitan areas studied



This page, pay phones and Avalon Oil executives in Russia; opposite page, clockwise from top, the Skirvin Hotel, *Forbes*, and Bill Bartmann on the cover of *Inc.*



by Dallas-based M/PF Research, Tulsa rentals ranked lowest, costing an average of \$434 (just sixty cents per square foot). The most expensive digs? Northern California's San Jose (\$1,437) and San Francisco (\$1,409).

THE BIG BUCKS

Inc. magazine called him the "billionaire nobody knows." But now, thanks to an *Inc.* September cover story, the word is out that Tulsa's Bill Bartmann is worth upwards of \$3.5 billion (he's among the twenty-five wealthiest Americans with more dough than Rupert Murdoch or Ross Perot). In debt up to his ears in 1985 after the oil bust (owing \$1 million), he gradually made his way out by buying bad debt and collecting on it. Today, Bartmann's company, Commercial Financial Services, is the world's big-

gest repository of bad consumer debt.

BIGGEST ON THE BLOCK

The Williams Cos., Inc. made a \$2.7 billion blockbuster deal in late November by acquiring fellow Tulsa company MAPCO in a stock-for-stock transaction. Analysts say buy and hold, and the charts show a stock with steady growth, doubling its price per share over the last twenty-four months. Total assets for Williams are now an estimated \$14.5 billion.

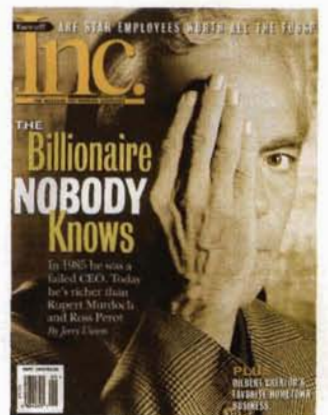
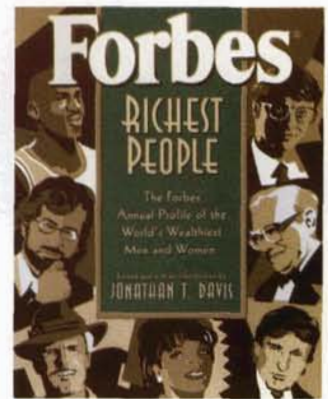
SKIRMISH AT THE SKIRVIN

The fervor regarding the beleaguered but loved Skirvin Hotel finally came to a close in November when William Curry Myles came up with enough financing to pay off creditors of the long-vacant hotel and become its

owner. Myles, an area entrepreneur, won a lawsuit against the 86-year-old hotel's former owner, Indonesian businessman Oesman Saptia, a year before. Myles and his partners in the newly formed Tower 2000 want to sell the hotel to someone who will renovate it to its original glory.

MILLER TIME

Robert Miller, a young industrial software designer, was recognized as Oklahoma's Young Entrepreneur of the Year by the Small Business Administration in June. The 29-year-old was commended for his innovative business methods and long-term potential. His company, Ramco Design, started at the clichéd kitchen table and now employs nine people. He also uses ninety-five physically challenged persons in the packaging of his products. 



Staking Acclaim

Eyes were on Oklahoma this year with award-winning performances on Broadway and some new interpretations of old masterpieces. We also saw recognition for lifetime achievements by the Oklahoma Indian Ballerinas, Mickey Mantle, and Willard Stone (his sculpture showed up on display in the White House). Once again, Oklahoma proves that the best and brightest are often homegrown.

JOHN DAVID HECKEL/TULSA WORLD



WELCOME TO THE WILD WEST

When the Frederic Remington Art Museum in Ogdensburg, New York, underwent a major construction project, a unique opportunity was afforded to the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and its patrons. The renovation of the museum—where the most significant Remington collection is on permanent display—forced directors to find temporary housing for his work. Lucky us: the Cowboy Hall of Fame received eighty percent of that collection. Local curators

decided to bring the works to the public in the exhibition, *Frederic Remington: An American Artist, Selections from the Remington Art Museum*.

The show, which featured 185 assorted paintings, bronzes, and photographs, displayed more art by Remington in one place than had ever been assembled before. Curators say such an exhibition (which closed in September) may never be seen again.

STANDING GUARD

Seven years ago, Cha' Tullis had a vision. He wanted to produce lifesize sculptures of Osage and Cherokee Indians on horseback perched high atop Hominy Hill, watching over the town below. Until this year, Tullis didn't have the support of the community or the necessary funding to fulfill his dream. But after proving his sculpting abilities following a heavy winter snow (he carved a six-foot-tall bison and bear outside

his office), he gained the endorsements and backing he needed. Three days later, *New Territory* was in progress. Today, fifteen sheet metal sculptures, each standing between sixteen and nineteen feet tall, loom across 200 feet of Hominy's horizon.

OKLAHOMA'S HAYHENGE

Aaron Linn's goal was to recreate a cultural icon that would be easily recognizable. Goal accomplished: Hayhenge. Unfortunately, the scale representation of Stonehenge—made of hay—didn't have a chance to last as long as the model, but the artist did fulfill his class requirement at Chickasha's University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma.

Stonehenge, which took more than thirteen centuries to build, stands about twenty feet tall and has dominated the Salisbury Plain in southern England for more than 4,000 years.

This page, *New Territory* in Hominy; opposite page, the Oklahoma Indian Ballerinas





**OKLAHOMA
PROVES THAT THE BEST
AND BRIGHTEST
ARE OFTEN
HOMEGROWN.**



PAUL SOUTHERLAND/DAILY OKLAHOMAN



Linn's Hayhenge took about a day to build and didn't have quite the mystical allure or the longevity of its predecessor. With the help of friends and family, Linn began stacking one-ton hay bales. His sculpture drew citywide attention, forcing him to stand guard all night to protect it from vandals or arsonists.

The day after construction, the *objet d'art* was dismantled. "It's the American way, because it's so temporary and quick," he says. But, in the tradition of most conceptual works of art, Hayhenge was well documented on video and included as a part of Linn's portfolio for graduate school in New York City.

BASEBALL GIANT

Mickey Mantle was immortalized in Oklahoma City twice this year. The former Yankee, who died after a liver transplant in 1995, was given a street of his own—and right in front of the new Redhawks baseball park, no less.

David Vance, former general manager of the Redhawks, explains why the team chose to rename Walnut Avenue: "Mickey Mantle is an Oklahoma icon, and we have chosen to honor him for his contribution to our state. Having Mickey Mantle Drive as our permanent address underscores the rich baseball tradition which exists in Oklahoma."

In a second recognition, the State Capitol hung a portrait of Mantle by Texas artist, Kenneth Wyatt. The portrait, which was unveiled in May, will remain in the Capitol for a year.

BALLERINA TREASURES

World-renowned artists Yvonne Chouteau, Rosella Hightower, Moscelyne Larkin, and sisters Maria and Marjorie Tallchief came together in the State Capitol in October to be named Living Oklahoma Treasures at the Governor's Arts Awards. Oklahoma "treasure" status has been given only twice before, first to Doc Tate Nevaquaya (1985) and then to Te Ata Fisher (1995). It comes as no surprise that the ballerinas received the honor collectively—they have come to be known as the Oklahoma Indian Ballerinas. It was also fitting that they received the recognition under the mural *Flight of Spirit*, an acrylic rendition of the dancers by Mike Larsen, dedicated in the Capitol in 1991.

ON BROADWAY

New York, New York (so nice you gotta say it twice) welcomed the talents of two Oklahomans this year. Oklahoma City University graduate Kristin Chenoweth and Sand Springs native Sam Harris both left their mark on Broadway in award-winning performances.

Chenoweth made her Broadway debut in Kander and Ebb's new musical, *Steel Pier*. The show claimed ten Tony Award nominations, and Chenoweth nabbed a Theatre World Award for her performance. Harris isn't a newcomer to Times Square, but his role in *The Life* provided an opportunity to play a part out of his norm—that of a villainous street hustler. "It's great for me because I don't usually play these sorts

of people," says Harris. He apparently fit the part well: he's got a Best Supporting Actor Tony award to prove it.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

For the first time ever, Native American sculptures will be on display in the White House. Twelve pieces were chosen for installation in the White House's Jacqueline Kennedy Garden. Among them is the late Oklahoma artist Willard Stone's sculpture *Lady of Spring*, which represents a Cherokee wood carver. Hillary Rodham Clinton presided over the reception, attended by artists, family members, and leaders of Native American tribes. Stone's family and Cherokee Chief Joe Byrd also traveled to the White House to receive the honor.

POSTHUMOUS ACCLAIM

Andrzej Wasowski, considered "the greatest interpreter of Chopin music in modern times," received even more recognition four years after his death. Wasowski, a native of Poland, began studying piano at the age of four and touring the world as a performer in 1950. In 1968, at the height of his musical career, he moved to Tulsa.

This year Concord Concerto Records released two recordings originally made in the 1980s. The album was awarded the National Public Radio 1997 Critic's Choice Award as the "most significant and artistically meritorious classical recording of the year." International acclaim came from *Music* magazine, which awarded it five stars. 

Opposite page, clockwise from top left, Remington's *Full Dress Engineer*, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Sophie Stone, Linda Stone Gallery, and Evelyn Stone Holland, Mantle in the Capitol, Cha' Tullis with ice sculpture, and Aaron Linn with Hayhenge

Great Expectations

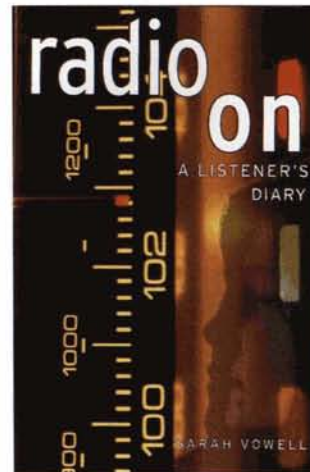
Even though the publishing world took some hits—behemoth Simon & Schuster was put on the block and HarperCollins axed over a hundred forthcoming books—the print industry shined on the Sooner State in 1997. One young author saw rave reviews, two gourmands cooked their way onto the nation's bookshelves, and an embattled law professor told her side of the story. Books, "the quietest of counselors," were alive and well in the aesthetic of Oklahoma.

THIRD TIME STILL CHARMS

Watching Our Crops Come In (Viking), the third book in an award-winning series of memoirs by Tulsan **Clifton L. Taulbert**, tells the story of his Air Force years in the late Sixties. His first memoir, *When We Were Colored*, became an acclaimed feature film, and the second, *The Last Train North*, earned him a Pulitzer Prize nomination. Not only does Taulbert write, he is the president of the Freemont Corporation in Tulsa and was hailed by *Time* as one of today's leading black entrepreneurs.

THE OTHER SIDE

Former OU law professor **Anita Hill** drew national attention with her testimony against then-Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas. Thomas was confirmed as a justice in a 52-48 vote, but Hill's words led the way for thousands of sexual harass-



ment suits.

In her book *Speaking Truth to Power* (Doubleday), Hill tells her side of the story, beginning with her childhood. She also focuses on why she felt the need to leave the University of Oklahoma's School of Law. Throughout, she criticizes the media coverage of the hearings and gives an inside view of the aftermath and her dealings with OU.

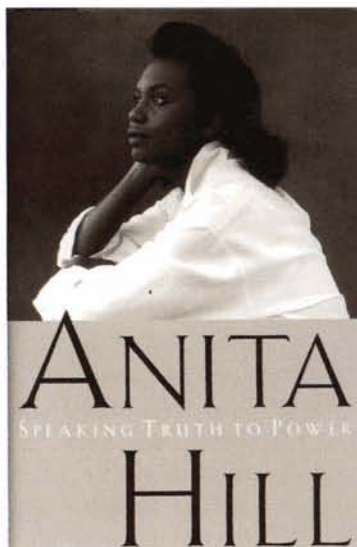
MAKING AIRWAVES

Muskogee native **Sarah Vowell** spent a whole year just listening to the radio and keeping a diary of what she heard. Then the young writer interpreted its impact on American society. *Radio On*, her first book, was published this year by St. Martin's Press.

Jim Fitzgerald, executive editor at St. Martin's, believes Vowell is "a very budding young author," calling her possibly the next Molly Ivins. *Newsweek* reaffirms Fitzgerald's confidence, hailing her as "one of the young people to watch."

GOURMET OLÉ

This year more than 400 books entered Julia Child's Cookbook Awards contest, and Oklahoma City native **Rick Bayless** received the overall prize in the competition. Bayless, now the owner and chef of two upscale Chicago restaurants, received the award



for his book *Rick Bayless's Mexican Kitchen* (Scribner).

HOT OFF THE BURNER

Betty Rohde's doctor told her she had to lower her cholesterol, but she'd tried all kinds of diets and found them ineffective. So Rohde took the matter into her own hands and came up with her own low-fat, low-cholesterol recipes. To her surprise, the recipes became a hot commodity, and five cookbooks later, the Gore resident is a kitchen celebrity.

More than half a million copies of her series *So Fat, Low Fat, No Fat* have been sold. Her latest, *The Super So Fat, Low Fat, No Fat Cookbook* (Simon & Schuster), came out in December.

BIG DIGS

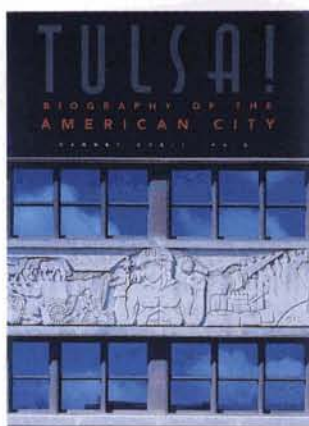
Our Governors' Mansions (Abrams) is the result of Cathy Keating's desire to chronicle the history of all the governors' homes in our nation. The project came about when the first lady realized that there wasn't one source showing all of the homes with their wealth of history. Keating personally undertook the job of contacting other mansions for information. The result? A 376-page comprehensive

coffee-table collection. Book proceeds go to a fund for the care of the Oklahoma governor's mansion.

T-TOWN TOME

When the Tulsa Centennial Committee proposed the idea of chronicling the history of Tulsa to Danney Goble, he knew instantly that he wouldn't write a public relations manifesto. Instead, he wanted his review of the city's 100 years to accurately portray the real lives of its people.

An enormous amount of research (using one part-time and five full-time research assistants to find every



thesis and dissertation ever written on Tulsa) led to the book, *Tulsa! Biography of the American City* (Council Oak). Goble's imprimatur doesn't sugarcoat anything, nor does it highlight the lives of the rich and famous. Instead he chose to focus his account on the common people. "The prominent names were going to be in there, but they weren't going to dominate it," Goble said.

OKC'S REPLY

Tulsa's book was inspired by the upcoming centennial celebration there. Oklahoma City didn't have such a reason to toot its horn but did come up with a great book

nonetheless. *Oklahoma City: A Better Living. A Better Life.* was produced this year by the city's chamber of commerce and gives a comprehensive overview of life in the capital city.

PRIMATE PROFESSOR

Before writing *Next of Kin* (William Morrow), Roger Fouts spent thirty years researching and studying the customs and communications of chimpanzees by teaching them American Sign Language.

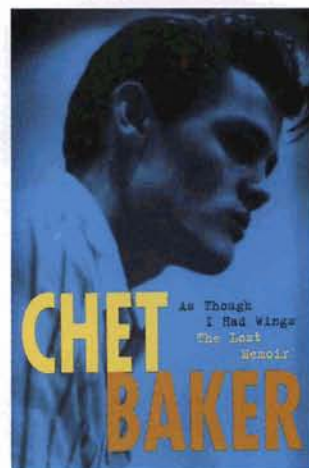
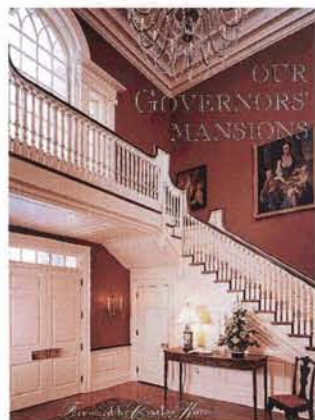
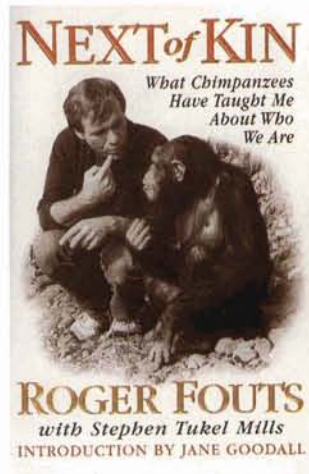
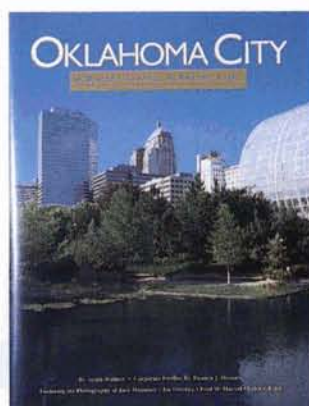
His friendship with a chimpanzee named Washoe made science history when she passed on the skill of signing to her adopted son.

About ten years were spent with Dr. William Lemmon, director of Norman's Institute for Primate Studies and the most influential psychotherapist in the state. Fouts' experiences in "the city with the most chimpanzees being raised as human children" comprise a third of the book.

TRUMPETING A LEGEND

Even to the jazz musicians who flocked to hear his West Coast-cool trumpet sounds in the 1950s, Yale native Chet Baker was something of a mystery. And though many facts of his brilliant yet tragic life (he battled drug addiction for years) are now known, his thoughts and perceptions on life were cloudy. That is, until this year, when his wife, Carol Baker, released his lost memoirs, *As Though I Had Wings* (St. Martin's Press).

His writings preserve the "wonderful qualities that I didn't want to see lost...within the dusty pages of jazz history," she said. □



Bucking Tradition

Let the other guys follow the ruts in the road. In typical pioneer fashion, Oklahoma artists (and even those just passing through) spent the year proving records are made to be broken, traditions often sweeter after a good overhaul. Garth Brooks in Central Park, Marilyn Manson in Oklahoma City, and Mick Jagger in Norman? Whoever said life was better in the good old days sure hasn't listened to music around these parts lately.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

How times have changed. Lyndon B. Johnson was in the White House and our boys were over in 'Nam when Oklahoma first sold tickets (a steal at \$3) to a Rolling

Stones concert at the Tulsa Assembly Center. Thirty-one years later, Mick Jagger (donning a cowboy hat for a time) and the gang rolled into the state once more, this time rocking out OU's 78,000-capacity Memorial Stadium in

Norman on October 28 with the help of a bigger stage (twenty-one semitrailers worth), higher prices, and an event status bordering on hysteria. The cheap seats sold like hotcakes at \$65, and scalpers reportedly scored up to \$500 for those in the first few rows.

While fans at the sold-out *Bridges to Babylon* tour probably noticed the wrinkled faces and Tommy Hilfiger designer clothes on the Old Guard of rock music, the concertgoers have changed as well—more than a few baby boomers and baby strollers were spotted in ticket lines.

If you didn't get to catch them this time around, don't lose heart. The band who once pledged to quit touring in 1978 has no plans to retire anytime soon. Guitarist Keith Richards told the *Tulsa World*, "No one would be asking about retiring if we were old black guys. Nobody said anything like that to Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, or Count Basie ... Besides, the chicks still dig me."

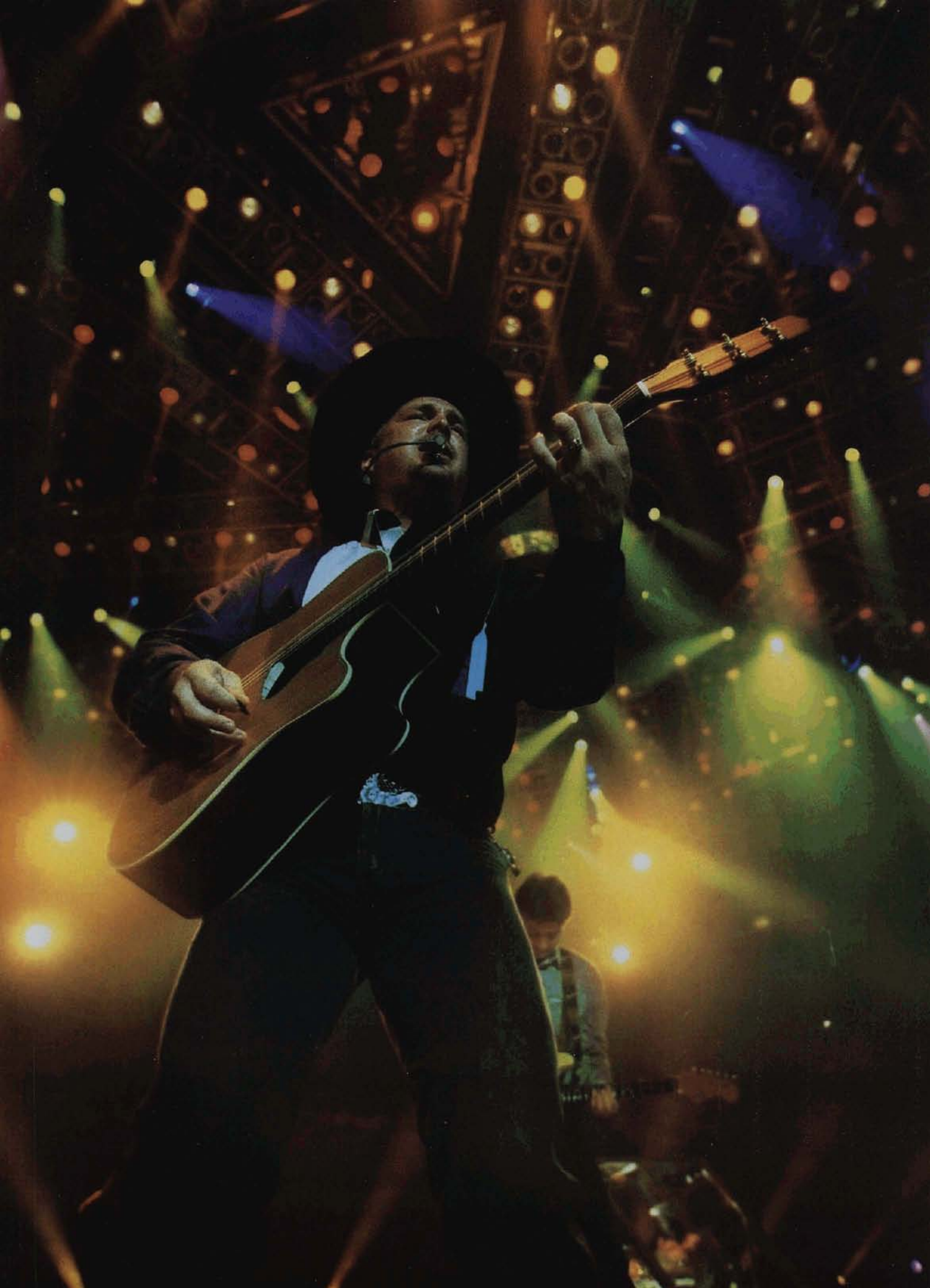
NO PROBLEMS HERE, OFFICER

The Marilyn Manson concert at the Oklahoma City State Fairgrounds in February may not have lived up to everyone's expectations, but there were more sighs of re-

AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTO



This page, Mick Jagger rocks out with Keith Richards; opposite page, Garth Brooks in OKC





MARK TUCKER



'THERE'S A GOD,
AND COUNTRY MUSIC
IS VERY MUCH
ALIVE
AND WELL
IN AMERICA.'



lief than disappointment. A reputation for obscene gestures and profane acts preceded the raunchy rocker, and Christian groups (as well as some city leaders) tried to prevent the concert. After failed attempts, the Oklahoma Coalition for Children and Families simply protested outside the auditorium, joined by several youth groups in small prayer circles.

The 5,000 concertgoers, mostly clad in black, didn't seem to mind the controversy; in fact, quite a few stopped to talk with the protesters. The hordes of police officers and fire marshals on-site must have been bored stiff—even high school proms have been rowdier.

IN SEVENTH HEAVEN

It seems Yukon's favorite son could learn a thing or two from God, who at least took a break on the seventh day. But not Garth Brooks; he's busier and more successful than ever with the late-November release of his seventh album, *Sevens*, which sold a record-breaking 897,000 copies in the first week and more than 600,000 the next.

Even though holding off release of the album for three months while waiting out a management shuffle at EMI-Capitol Records was nerve-wracking, it wasn't country music's No. 1 artist's greatest preoccupation. Nor was receiving the Country Music Association's Entertainer of the Year award after being passed over since 1992, or leading an international tour with more than three million in attendance, or even performing in August for an estimated 750,000

fans packing New York's Central Park (the largest free concert of its kind) along with 14.6 million more watching the live broadcast on HBO.

No, Brooks lost sleep over coming home for a series of concerts at OKC's Myriad and Tulsa's Drillers Stadium in July. "I'm more nervous playing here than I could ever be in Central Park," he said before taking the Myriad stage. "This will be the toughest night of the tour."

No need to fret. Tickets for the three OKC shows over the July Fourth weekend sold out in less than two hours (the first concert went in twenty-seven minutes), while tickets for Tulsa's five shows all but disappeared in four hours.

DYNAMIC DUO

Country music's other Entertainer of the Year is not one, but two. Brooks and Dunn received the honor from the Academy of Country Music (and another for Best Duet) in April.

"There's a God, and country music is very much alive and well in America," Ronnie Dunn, a Tulsa native, gushed after Jay Leno handed over the top award to him and his partner, Kix Brooks.

The CMA didn't neglect them, either, bestowing the two the Best Vocal Duo award for an unprecedented sixth straight year. (Presenter Tanya Tucker was so confident she announced them the winners, and then looked down at the results.)

A TRUE PIONEER

Roy Clark was making country music history long before Garth Brooks and Ronnie Dunn got high

school diplomas, and this year two industry awards acknowledged the Tulsan's noteworthy contributions. The Reunion of Professional Entertainers honored the former *Hee Haw* co-host with the Golden Eagle Award for Lifetime Achievement, and the Academy of Country Music presented him with the prestigious Pioneer Award for his outstanding work.

NOT JUST A BOYS CLUB

Reba McEntire is living proof that the men of country music can't do it all. The perky redhead from Chockie who sang her way from flatbed trailers to stadium-long super stages took home her seventh People's Choice Award this year.

She also debuted a new single, "What If," at the Dallas Cowboys-Tennessee Oilers halftime show on Thanksgiving Day. The event kicked off the Salvation Army's annual holiday fundraising campaign—the only reason she gave up eating turkey with her family. (But did we mention she's fanatical about the Cowboys?)

GOODWILL AMBASSADORS WHO CAN SING, TOO

Reba wasn't the only country music artist giving her time to charity; in fact, she was outnumbered by a slew of humble country and western humanitarians, including Vince Gill, Bryan White, Toby Keith, and Wade Hayes.

Gill, the blue-eyed superstar born in Norman, is the Most Tireless Volunteer (so dubbed by *Nashville Life* magazine this February). Besides raising \$300,000 at The



Above, Brooks & Dunn, the Nixons, Bryan White, and Wakeland albums; opposite page, clockwise from top left, Roy Clark, Reba McEntire, Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn, and Vince Gill

Vinny (his pro-celebrity tourney for Tennessee Junior Golf), he also raised awareness for the Second Harvest Food Bank, AIDS, and cancer research.

When he wasn't doing good for others this year, the so-called Sexiest Man In Nashville was likely accepting awards for doing so. Gill joined the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and took home the coveted bronze "wrangler" sculpture from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. He also hosted the CMA Awards for the sixth consecutive year, toured eighty-five cities, and added two more Grammys to his collection.



Not to be outdone by Gill (his touring partner and mentor), 23-year-old Bryan White won the Humanitarian Award at the Country Music Radio Awards and stopped by Oklahoma City in December for a benefit concert for the Community Literacy Centers. The Lawton native also released a new album, *The Right Place*, which went gold in November.

For Toby Keith, becoming honorary chairman of the March of Dimes Blue Jeans

for Babies seemed a natural step (he and wife Tricia welcomed their third child, seven pound, ten ounce Stelen Keith Covel, in April).

The Clinton native, who still lives in Oklahoma City, also opened his own restaurant, Hatch Valley Chile Co. in Scottsdale, Arizona, and managed to crank out another hit record, *Dream Walkin'*, with a little help from an unlikely collaborator, Sting. (The two put a country spin on "I'm So Happy I Can't Stop Crying.")

Wade Hayes must have felt like he was going back in time when he decided to help build a Shawnee home for Habitat for Humanity (the singer worked as a carpenter before heading off to Nashville). The Bethel Acres native also released *Tore Up From the Floor Up*, his new aptly named album.

FOURPLAY WITH INGENUITY

At first, the idea sounds bizarre: round up four compact disc players, pop in four separate CDs that make up the Flaming Lips new release, *Zaireeka*, and listen as the independent tracks—once played in sync—begin to swell and dip, creating a symphony of voice and noise. Add the fact that listeners can play music mixer by dictating the style and intensity of each song by manipulating the volume dials, and suddenly the interactive experiment sounds brilliant.

Both *Zaireeka* and the Oklahoma City trio that is the Flaming Lips (Wayne Coyne, Mike Ivins, and Steven Drozd all live near downtown) have been turning heads in the industry (and in record stores)

all year for their project that *Rolling Stone* calls "ingeniously but inaccessibly packaged."

It's a miracle the Lips (who gained mainstream fame with the quirky "Jelly" in 1994) stopped at four discs, considering *Zaireeka* was born from what Coyne calls his Parking Lot Experiments, in which he played conductor to people with 150 to 300 cassette boom boxes and tapes cued with particular sound elements.

New Times Los Angeles magazine wrote that the effect (and the four-CD set) "stands as conclusive evidence that the Flaming Lips remain one of the most ambitious, imaginative, twisted, and for the most part sadly unheralded bands in rock and roll today."

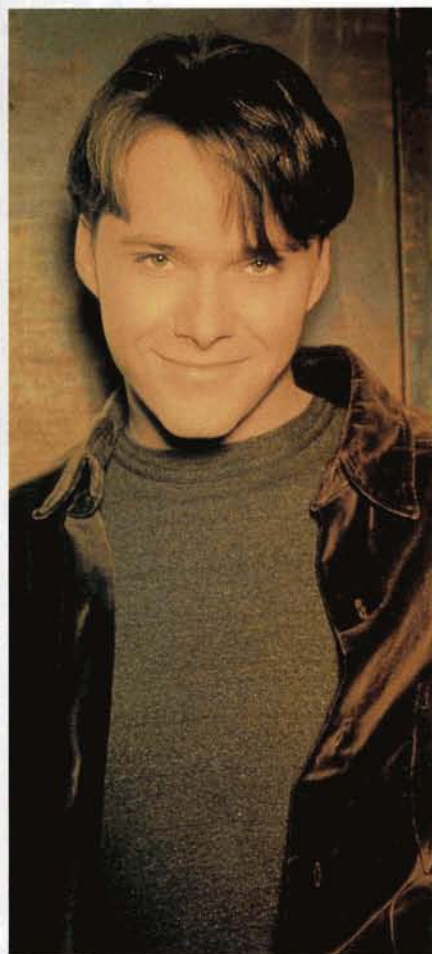
Lead singer Coyne knows *Zaireeka* goes against the grain of how music has been performed in the past, but he told *New Times*, "Somewhere along the way, we're the ones who have to say, 'Here's what we have to offer. It's new; it's different; it's unique to us.' ... And if I am made a fool because I tried to do that, well, I'll be a fool. That's okay with me."

STAYING CLOSE TO HOME

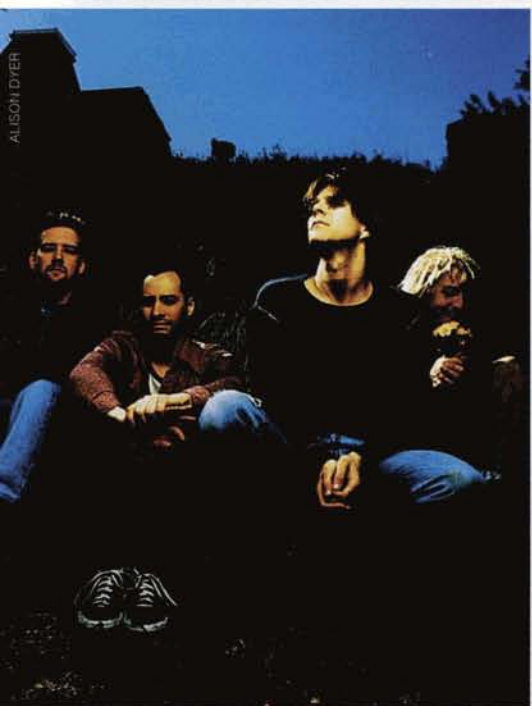
Once you're signed to a major recording label and subsequently dubbed an "alternative" band, the last place you want to settle down is Oklahoma, right? Not so, say burgeoning success stories like the Flaming Lips, the Nixons, and Wakeland. All three released new albums this year, a feat they say would have been impossible without the cult followings they have here in the state. Ⓜ

Above, Toby Keith; opposite page, clockwise from top, Wayne Coyne and Lips fans, Bryan White, Wakeland, Wade Hayes, and the Nixons

CHRIS JOHNSON



ALISON DYER

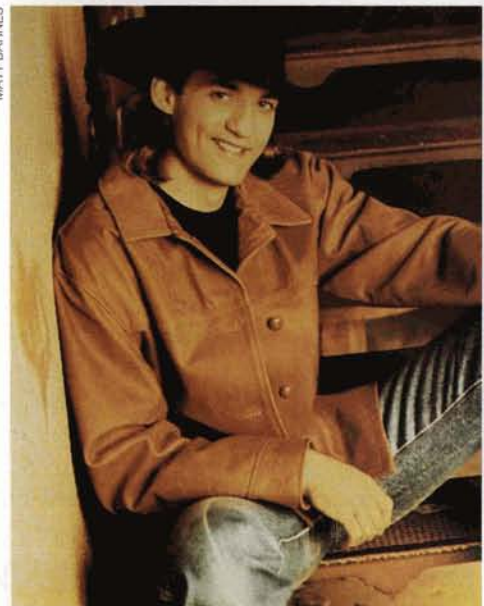


'THE FLAMING LIPS
REMAIN ONE OF THE MOST
AMBITIOUS,
IMAGINATIVE,
TWISTED, AND SADLY
UNHERALDED
BANDS IN ROCK
AND ROLL TODAY.'

JAMES BLAND



MATT BARNES



Behind the Scenes

Hollywood may be the movie mecca of the world, but Oklahomans have proven you don't leave your roots at the door. And when it's time to create that masterpiece on film, more native Oklahomans are choosing the welcome sights of home over a stuffy studio. So when the lights dim and the credits roll, don't be surprised to see a familiar name in the batch—chances are, it's one you've known for years.

It has been a roller coaster kind of year for this Shawnee-born national heartthrob.

DODGING PITT FALLS

It has been a roller coaster kind of year for this Shawnee-born national heartthrob. In March, Oscar-nominated Brad Pitt was criticized for first trashing and later promoting the box-office hit *The Devil's Own*, in which he plays an Irish Republican Army terrorist opposite Harrison Ford.

Then came the battle with *Playgirl* over photos of him and then-girlfriend Gwyneth Paltrow sunbathing in the buff (the two are now splitsville) that were published in August. Pitt won a court order preventing any more copies of the issue, but not before images of the couple popped up on the Internet.

In October, he was in more hot water for his portrayal of an Austrian mountain climber

with Nazi sympathies in *Seven Years in Tibet*. Downplaying the fascist angle, he maintains the film actually centers on his character's self-transformation springing from his friendship with a young Dalai Lama in the 1940s. What's next for the man *People* once tagged the Sexiest Man Alive? A cool \$17.5 million to play the Grim Reaper in *Meet Joe Black*.

CATCHING THEIR 'EYE'

Premiering *Eye of God* at Redford's Sundance Film Festival last year was only the first step for writer/director Tim Blake Nelson and his brother and co-producer Michael Nelson. The Tulsa brothers then took their first film to New York, where its October debut met with rave

reviews. *Entertainment Weekly* called the low-budget indie, shot in Collinsville and Skiatook, an "original and gripping achievement."

The movie, starring Hal Holbrook, Martha Plimpton, and Kevin Anderson, also won the American Independent Award at Seattle's International Film Festival in June. Now if only they'd bring it back home to Oklahoma so we could see it too.

ON COMMON GROUND

It seems the Nelsons weren't the only Oklahomans to return home this year with a movie crew in tow. Actor Tom Selleck settled on Penn Square Mall in Oklahoma City to premiere his Turner Network Television post-Civil War drama, *Last Stand at Saber River*, in January. Of course, he got a little persuasion from several Oklahoma City natives on the set, including director Dick Lowry and actors Suzy Amis and Rex Linn.

Mike Denney (director of *The Young and the Restless*) chose the Driskell House in Guthrie and a farmhouse near Cashion to shoot *Child Again*, a short film about a woman battling Alzheimer's disease.

Writer-director J. Max Burnett, a 28-year-old Keystone native and OSU alum, took one look at Nowata and knew the small town was perfect for *Possums*, his \$1 million film about a football



team so bad the town votes to cancel its season. That is, until a local radio announcer (Mac Davis) starts broadcasting imaginary victory games and garners the attention of the rival Prattville Pirates, coached by none other than our own Barry Switzer. *Possums* will be released in spring 1998.

A 'WISH' FULFILLED

Michael Glick, co-producer of the Martin Short comedy *A Simple Wish*, gave the Oklahoma Film Commission less than a week's notice before his production company descended on the tallgrass prairie near

Pawhuska. In that time, the film commission found a location, organized a crew, arranged permits, and even graveled a road out to the filming site. (The gravel came in handy when several storms blew through and filming had to be sandwiched between downpours.) The movie, in which Short plays an inept spellcaster who helps a young girl (Mara Wilson), hit theaters in May.

MASTER OF THE GUISE

Walking around the tiny town of Atoka (pop. 1,000) dressed as a *Return to the*

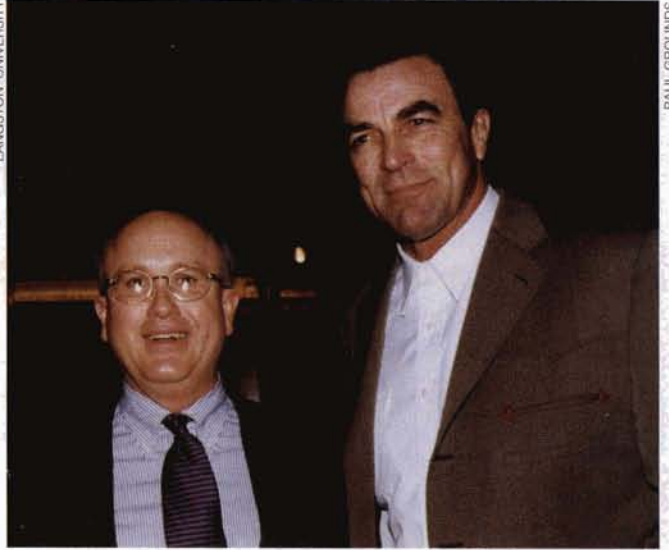
Planet of the Apes chimpanzee, a young Matthew Mungle must have gotten his share of funny looks. The Durant native volunteered to promote the movie for the local theater, provided he could use his own special-effects makeup. More than thirty years and a hundred films later, no one laughs when Mungle steps in the makeup trailer—he's the resident expert.

After winning an Oscar for his work in 1992's *Bram Stoker's Dracula*, two more Academy nominations (*Schindler's List* in '93 and *Ghosts of Mississippi* in '97), and a handful of Emmy and

Stirring hearts and controversy, Shawnee native Brad Pitt



LANGSTON UNIVERSITY



PAUL GROUNDS

NEVER BEFORE HAS A TV NETWORK COMMISSIONED A **SERIES** ON THE LIFE AND CULTURE OF AFRICAN AMERICANS **BEYOND** BLACK HISTORY MONTH.



JAMES BRIDGES

Cable Ace awards, Mungle used the past year to expand his range. He had a hand in Mike Myers' offbeat *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery*, the fall psycho-thriller *I Know What You Did Last Summer*, HBO's *Miss Evers' Boys*, Hallmark's *True Women*, and TNT's *Wallace*.

HISTORY AND A HERITAGE

It's eight o'clock on a Saturday morning, and Currie Ballard has a story to tell. After winning an Emmy Award for producing and hosting OETA's *Ebony Chronicles*, the historian-in-residence at Langston University agreed to research and host a series called "Forgotten Heritage" for the *CBS Saturday Morning Show* beginning in December.

Both programs deal with the accomplishments of African Americans, but Ballard said the move by CBS is a first—never before has a TV network commissioned a series on the life and culture of African Americans beyond the month of February (Black History Month).

TRIPLE THE WORK

Tackling stage, screen, and the tube in the same year, Jeanne Tripplehorn is the latest versatile (or overachieving) actress hailing from Tulsa to stand on the threshold of major Hollywood stardom. 'Til *There Was You* may not have gone over well with audiences, but Tripplehorn was praised for her performance as an endearing, klutzy writer opposite Dylan McDermott. She also starred in CBS's telefilm *Old Man* and an off-Broadway production of Chekhov's play, *Three Sisters*.

HERE, REX!

In the ten years since Rex Linn left the banking and oil business for Hollywood, the Oklahoma City actor has yet to portray his favorite character—Frankenstein. No matter, the OSU alum has kept busy in such films as *Cliffhanger*, *Wyatt Earp*, and *Ghosts of Mississippi*. This year, he had small but key roles in the dark-horse summer hit *Breakdown* and Kevin Costner's *The Postman*.


Ever a gentleman, Linn did come home to schmooze with the Duchess of York and raise funds for needy children.

ALWAYS ROOM FOR ONE MORE

Good roles for women may be rare in Tinseltown, but both Alfre Woodard and Mary Kay Place consistently emerge with power-

ful performances year after year. In 1997, the Oklahoma actresses each portrayed strong women amidst adversity—Woodard won a Best Actress Emmy as a caring nurse in HBO's *Miss Evers' Boys* and Place won critical kudos for her role as the mother of a dying young man in Francis Ford Coppola's *Rainmaker*.

ON 'CLOUD' NINE

Former Oklahoman Larry Sellers has portrayed Cheyenne Indian Leader Cloud Dancing on CBS's *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman* for the last five seasons. The role earned him the Screen Actors Guild's Footsteps to the Future award in November for his contributions to the film industry as a Native American (he's part Wajaje, Lakota, and Cherokee). 



This page, Larry Sellers; opposite page, clockwise from top left, Currie Ballard and Gladys Johnson, Oklahoma Film Commissioner Bud Elder with Tom Selleck, Rex Linn, Mary Kay Place, Michael Grayeyes and Matthew Mungle

The Outer Limits

Oklahomans weren't the only ones doing a double take this year when some notable natives got the attention of the nation, and sometimes the world. Tony Randall became a first-time father at 77, Donna Shirley's rover trampled across Mars, and Carl Buffington debuted in *Playgirl's* December centerfold. Is there anything left for 1998?

HEADS UP, ROCKET DEBRIS

If it hadn't hit her in the shoulder, Tulsa's Lottie Williams would have passed it off as a meteorite, falling star, or an early Fourth of July gag. But a six-inch piece of blistered debris, light enough to pass as a soda can, hit her as she was walking early January 22 in Tulsa's O'Brien Park.

Williams, like many others, saw a flash in the sky that turned out to be a Delta II rocket body reentering the earth's atmosphere. Although it was never confirmed that the mangled metal was actually that of the rocket, it was never completely ruled out. Go figure.

AN ODDITY

Born in Tulsa as Leonard Rosenberg, Tony Randall, 77, became a first-time father with his 27-year-old wife Heather. With no time to waste, the couple is expecting their second child in June 1998. Besides changing diapers, Randall also managed

to star in the pre-Broadway production of *The Sunshine Boys* with his good buddy Jack Klugman. Like America's favorite odd couple, the story centers around two feuding ex-vaudevillians.

MOST WANTED

Oklahomans Tony Randall, model Amber Valletta, and financier Henry Kravis once again landed on *The New York Observer's* list of New York's 500 Most Wanted (the rundown of the most talked-about celebs in New York gossip columns). While there wasn't as much media hubbub concerning Kravis and Valletta as in 1996, Randall moved up several notches with the arrival of his daughter, Julia.

ONLY IN OKLAHOMA

Never seen a glowing purple cow? Then you've never visited Oklahoma at sunset. Actually, Shawnee's William B. Pope had a little help with a special lens and

homemade filter, but thanks to some Oklahoma bovines blocking the western sky, this silhouetted shot was featured in December's *Popular Photography*.

SO LONG, JUDY

Not even Judy, a 10,000-pound Asian elephant, can live forever, but in many Oklahoma hearts, she won't be soon forgotten. The 52-year-old elephant died October 8 after a bout with cancer. In 1949, schoolchildren from around the state cracked open their piggy banks and raised \$3,250 (mostly in pennies, nickels, and quarters) to bring Judy to Oklahoma. She was welcomed with a downtown Oklahoma City parade and never neglected—each year the zoo hosted a birthday party complete with a special cake of fruit and vegetables.

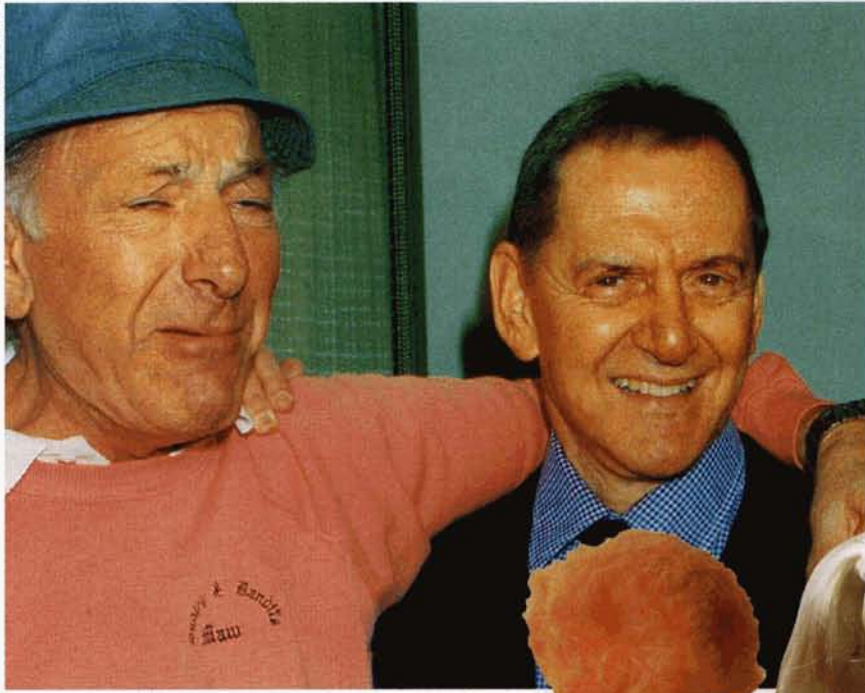
I'M STUCK AND I CAN'T GET OUT

Stuck in a silo with nowhere to go and nothing bet-



BRANDI STAFFORD/TULSA WORLD

Above, Lottie Williams with mangled metal; opposite page, clockwise from top left, Jack Klugman and Tony Randall, Carl Buffington, OSU Barbie, Sue Hughart, and Judy the Elephant



WANT TO TEACH CHILDREN ABOUT INSECTS? TRY EATING BUGS.





ter to do, Grady the Cow ate her way into a dilemma that landed her bovine behind (well, actually her head) in *Life* in 1949. After news of Grady's situation reached people across the country, a Denver man suggested dousing the 1,200-pound cow with axle grease and pulling her free. It worked, and Grady lived until 1995. Like Grady, the Yukon silo she was stuck in became famous, but due to development, the landmark was razed this year.

BUG BITE

Want to teach children about insects? Try eating bugs. It works for Sue Hughart, who, along with her naturalist colleagues Neil Garrison and Don Wallenhaupt, was awarded the best workshop program from the National Association for Interpretation in St. Louis, Missouri. In the workshop "Incredible, Edible Bugs," Hughart, a naturalist at Fountainhead State Park, eats chocolate-covered crickets and mealworms. Yum.

STATE EMBLEM CROAKS

We've got a state flag, a state flower, and even a state bug. And now we've got a state amphibian—the bullfrog. The state legislature elevated the humble bullfrog to officialdom in May after a Brush Elementary School class sent in the idea.

RIDE 'EM, BARBIE

When Mattel debuted their first set of college Barbie dolls this year, they included an Oklahoma State University cheerleader—one of only thirteen babes from U.S. colleges so chosen. In deciding which schools to choose, Mattel looked at school colors (Mattel

was only using three—blue, red, and orange), stadium size, and licensed volume of sales on products to those campuses. Go, Pokes!

OKLAHOMA'S FABIO

In the December *Playgirl* centerfold, 26-year-old Carl Buffington sports more (or less) than overalls and steel-tipped boots. Buffington, who was selected from 80,000 entries, lives on a farm outside Oklahoma City, where he cooks, gardens, and tends to the farm, usually in the nude.

SWEDISH ROYALTY

After three years of study and a slew of sea urchins, Bartlesville's Stephen

Tinnin was awarded the first Stockholm International Junior Water Prize in Sweden by Queen Silvia herself. The 17-year-old proved a direct correlation between water pollution and the reproductive rates of sea urchins. Now he hobnobs with the best of them (he's been seen with corporate leaders and Swedish embassy bigwigs).

SEVEN YEARS ON THE TRAIL

After finding an original 1871 U.S. government survey map of the Chisholm Trail, Enid's Bob Klemme made it his goal to mark the 240-mile stretch that runs through Oklahoma. The 400th and

This page, Bill Mach with Grady the Cow; opposite page, Donna Shirley with *Sojourner*



DAILY OKLAHOMAN

final stake (each marker weighs 200 pounds and stands seven feet tall) broke ground this fall—seven years after Klemme planted the first one. It just so happened that 1997 was the 130th anniversary of the cattle trail—a path where some 35,000 cowboys herded six million longhorns over during a twenty-year span in the late 1800s. The trail actually ran from Texas to Kansas (looks like it's time for our neighbors to round up their markers and hit the trails).

AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTO



IT'S IN THE BAG

Dallas Cowboy coach Barry Switzer was arrested at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport in August after he apparently forgot to remove a loaded .38-caliber revolver from his travel bag. The mishap cost him a grand total of \$78,500 (plus a migraine headache after all the bad press).

SPACE CADETS

It was a big year for Oklahomans in space. Wetumka-born John Herrington, who is one-eighth Chicksaw, became the first Native American ever to be selected as a NASA astronaut candidate, and Weatherford astronaut Thomas Stafford was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

And as if that weren't enough, NASA's Donna

Shirley (born in Wynnewood) designed the two-foot *Sojourner* rover that trekked the surface of Mars (the first robot to travel on another planet's terrain). Shirley also headed the NASA Mars Exploration Program.

CLOSE CALL

Some two dozen students from the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma Baptist University were caught in a Cambodian civil war two days after they arrived in July on an English-teaching mission. After hiding out in a Phnom Penh residence for four days, the students returned home safely.

GREEN GOD ALMIGHTY

Residents in an east Tulsa neighborhood had something of a *Jurassic Park* experience when a 125-foot green *Tyrannosaurus rex* balloon (which hailed from the Gatesway International Balloon Festival) crashed on top of a house.

GREAT-GRANDFATHER MAGUIRE IS A TREE?

Although Norman's Jim Maguire never met his great-grandfather or even got his hands on any pictures of the man, he decided to dedicate his hackberry tree stump to the Irish ancestor. Maguire commissioned Tulsa chain saw artist Clayton Cross to sculpt the image (using Maguire's features and improving the details, namely that he'd served in the Civil War after escaping Ireland's potato famine).

Just what did the youngest Maguire (Jim's son) have to say about it? "I look at that and see myself, my grandfather, my dad, and my great-



grandfather," he told the *Norman Transcript*. "I'm going to salute it every time I go by."

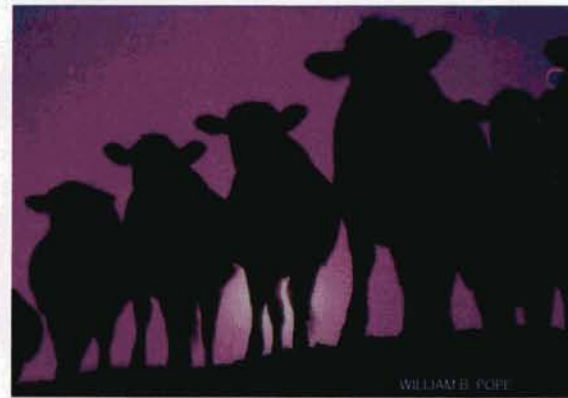
LESS IS MORE?

Marabou feathers, velvet Mardi Gras collars, and 17th-century wigs helped Norman's Jeanne Flanigan secure first- and second-place awards for costume and make-up at the National Costumers Association in Las Vegas. It seems that Oklahoma had hit a dry spell for a time—Flanigan was the first Oklahoman to receive the award in more than forty years. 

This page, Barry Switzer, Jim Maguire's statue; opposite page, clockwise from top, deflated dino, William B. Pope's bovines, John Herrington, and Robert Klemme



**DINOSAURS,
ROCKET
DEBRIS, WHAT
NEXT?**



WILLIAM B. POPE



Whole Lotta Hoopla

Barry Sanders broke more records and received more awards than seemed possible for one man, OSU fans flocked as their Pokes went to a bowl game for the first time in a decade, and the Lady Redskins dunked the NAIA Division I title for the fourth straight year. And that's just the beginning. If it was a sport, Oklahoma athletes were anywhere but the sidelines.

FOOTBALL'S LION KING

Former OSU running back Barry Sanders made NFL history in July. His six-year, \$34 million contract with the Detroit Lions made him the highest paid player in the league.

In the Lions' game against the Chicago Bears, the Heisman Trophy winner became the second-leading rusher in NFL history with a 167-yard, three-touchdown performance for a 55-20 win.

Another milestone for Sanders came on December 21. He's now the third player in NFL history ever to rush for more than 2,000 yards in a season. Thanks to his performance, the Detroit Lions defeated the New York Jets, earning a playoff berth. Sanders ended the season with 2,053 yards (the second highest in the league's history—beating O.J. Simpson's 2,003 yards of 1973).

In December alone, Sanders was named to the Associated Press All-Pro team and snatched the NFL's Most Valuable Player award and Offensive Player of the Year.

THE UNEXPECTED

Down a total of eleven players (including five starters) before the season even began, Oklahoma State fans weren't expecting much from their underrated football team. Doubts were put to rest not only with OSU's four consecutive wins to open the season, but also when the Pokes stomped Texas 42-16, giving them a ranking of 20 on the AP poll (two firsts since '88).

Leaving his own mark in OSU history, Tony Lindsay carried the ball all the way to the end zone during the Texas game, becoming the first OSU quarterback since 1977 to rush for 100 yards. A string of wins behind them, the Cowboys went on to beat Colorado with a 6-0 record for the first time since 1945.

"I've been associated with a lot of big victories, but this is one of the biggest of my career," said Coach Bob Simmons following the win.

Defensive back Kevin Williams became a standout after the Colorado game, ranking fourth nationally with five interceptions in the first

six games.

The Cowboys made their first bowl appearance since '88 at the Alamo Bowl in San Antonio, Texas, where they lost to Purdue in front of an estimated 30,000 OSU fans.

ALL-AMERICAN COWBOY

OSU football player Alonzo Mayes appeared on the AP All-America Team for the first time since Barry Sanders in 1988. Despite a third-degree separation of his left shoulder in OSU's double-overtime loss to Missouri that removed him from the final four OSU games, the senior tight end was named to the offensive first team, making him the seventh All-American in the program's history. Mayes' finest game of the season was against Missouri, when he grabbed eight receptions for 126 yards and had two fourth-quarter touchdowns.

FOUR-PEAT

There's no stopping Southern Nazarene University's Lady Redskins, who brought home the NAIA Division I

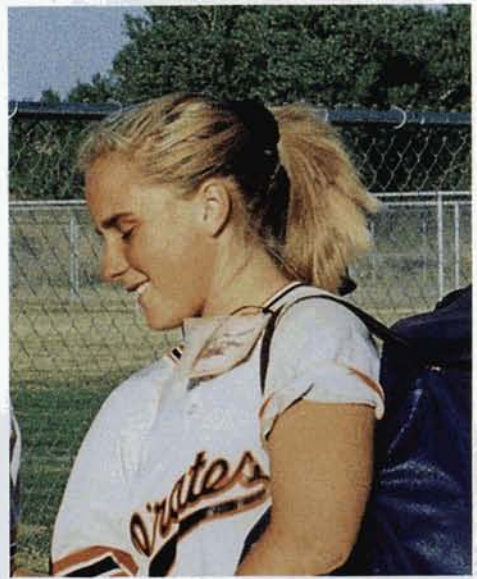


AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTO

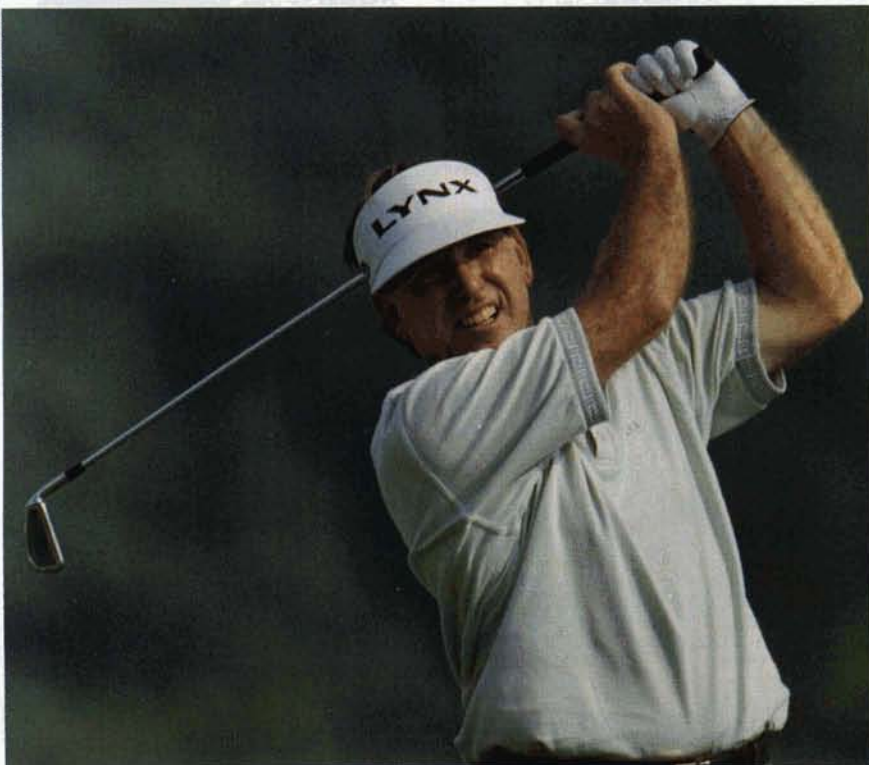
Above, Barry Sanders; opposite page, clockwise from top left, Coach Bob Simmons, the new Redhawks stadium, Leah Tabb, A.J. Morris, Gil Morgan



'I'VE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH A LOT OF BIG VICTORIES, BUT THIS IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST OF MY CAREER.'



AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTO





OSU



**SNU'S WIN
MADE THEM THE
SECOND TEAM
EVER TO WIN FOUR
STRAIGHT
WOMEN'S NATIONAL
HOOPS TITLES.**



title for the fourth year in a row.

At the NAIA I tournament in Jackson, Tennessee, attendance topped 40,000 for the first time in the event's seventeen year history. SNU's win made them the second team ever to win four straight women's national hoops titles. Players Gayla Smith and Astou Ndiaye also became the third and fourth college basketball players — male or female — ever to win a national title in each of their four years of eligibility.

IT'S BEEN AWHILE

The last time OU's baseball team won a post-season conference tournament championship was in 1979 when they beat Nebraska for the Big Eight title. This year, the winning spirit returned when the Sooners won the inaugural Big XII Tournament.

A TEARY GOODBYE

Texas Rangers general manager Doug Melvin shed tears as player Mickey Tettleton announced his retirement due to a knee injury. (He's returning to life on his ranch in Pauls Valley.)

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE GIRLS

Being a high school freshman on a varsity traveling squad is an accomplishment, but Amanda "A.J." Morris can one-up that—she's among the sixteen players on the boys' baseball varsity squad (playing shortstop and part-time starter in the field). "If you can play the game and help the team, you can play for us," says Glenpool High School baseball coach Frank Marsaln. "The way she plays shuts a lot of mouths."

Leah Tabb, Putnam City's

senior catcher, set state and national softball records this year by hitting twenty-two home runs. She also broke records with a slugging percentage of 1.3106.

RIDE 'EM, COWBOY

Brothers (and professional rodeo cowboys) Cord and Jet McCoy of Tupelo each galloped away with titles from the International Pro Rodeo Association. Cord won All-Around Cowboy and the Saddle Bronc Riding Championship, while Jet is up for All-Around Rookie of the Year (announced in '98). Not bad for a pair of high school students.

BITTERSWEET VICTORY

The Cavalry basketball team no longer calls the Myriad Convention Center home, but at least players went out with a bang, clenching the Continental Basketball Association championship. The Cavs are the first team since the 1976 New York Nets to win a championship and not return the next season to defend it.

TEARING UP THE TOUR

Gil Morgan was always comfortable playing eighteen holes on his home turf, Oak Tree Golf Club in Edmond. Now it seems he's at home playing just about anywhere. The 51-year-old became the second golfer in the history of the game to win \$2 million on the Senior PGA Tour.

'BIG COUNTRY' STILL TOWERS

The Vancouver Grizzlies may be the second-worst basketball team in the NBA,

but former OSU standout Bryant "Big Country" Reeves manages to shine as one of the nation's best centers. In July, the 24-year-old Gans native agreed to a six-year contract extension which will reportedly pay him \$65 million over the next seven years.


OFF WITH THE OLD, ON WITH THE NEW

Nearly 13,000 baseball fans packed All Sports Stadium in Oklahoma City on August 28 for the final '89ers game. This marked the end of the team and the ballpark's thirty-five-year era, but also welcomed the new Redhawks to "The Mick" (the nearly completed Bricktown stadium named in Mickey Mantle's honor).

RODMAN THE WRESTLER?

Everyone knows Chicago Bulls Dennis Rodman (a Southeastern State alum) is the bad man on the basketball court, notorious in the NBA for his rainbow-colored hair and equally colorful language. But stick him in the ring with Hulk Hogan, and you know the guy's got guts too. In March, "The Worm" (Rodman's childhood nickname) signed with World Championship Wrestling as part of a group of antihero wrestlers called the New World Order and led by Hogan.

PULLING FOR A WIN

The Oklahoma State Cowboys grappled their way to the title at the inaugural Big XII wrestling championships in March, crowning six out of seven Poke wrestlers individual champions at the Columbia, Missouri, competition. 



Above, Alonzo Mayes, and a celebratory OU baseball team; opposite page, clockwise from top left, Mickey Tettleton, OSU football, Jet McCoy, and the Lady Redskins

Oklahoma Crude

The raw truth? You decide.

It's always difficult to forecast a gusher, and dry holes pop up when you least expect them. Between *The Tin Drum*, the Townley milk bottle, and the potholes in the pavement, Oklahomans had more than enough to talk about at the coffee shop and around the water cooler. So be it a boom or a bust, we'd be remiss if we didn't admit that we occasionally hit a few slick spots.

FASCISM IN OKLAHOMA?

When Oklahoma District Judge Richard Freeman ruled in late June that the Academy Award-winning film *The Tin Drum* violated Oklahoma's obscenity law, the Oklahoma City police department obtained all copies from libraries and video stores and went into private homes to confiscate rented versions. The ruling has since been overturned by a federal judge and the videos have been returned, but no Oklahoma City Blockbuster Video store currently rents the film for fear of backlash. For anti-porn groups, the public outrage was a success in their march toward greater morality. For everyone else, the national exposure was an acute embarrassment.

The film, based on the

best-selling Günter Grass novel about a child who refuses to physically grow up in the face of Hitler's rise to power, shows a sexually suggestive scene involving a boy and girl. No nudity is shown. Director Volker Schlöndorff has said that the scene was edited to create an impression of sexual activity but that none occurred during the shoot. He also said that parents and legal representatives were present during all stages of the filming.

FAT AND HAPPY

"Oklahomans smoke more [than the rest of the nation] and are fatter, less active, more apt to commit suicide and less likely to seek prenatal care, buckle their seat belts, use child safety seats, or get their kids immunized," wrote one *Daily Oklahoman* re-

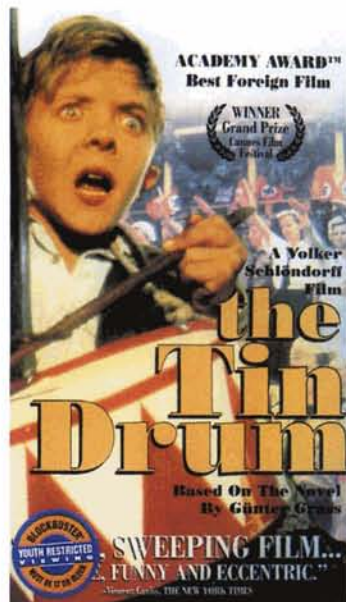
porter after a *State of the State's Health* report was released in April. What more can we say?

OR POORLY FED?

A report released by Tufts University seven months later said Oklahoma ranked forty-sixth among states when evaluating the nutritional value of diets. Almost one in seven Oklahomans is "poorly fed," the report concluded, and the leading cause is poverty.

JUDGE DREAD

Associate District Judge Richard Hovis has a record of being an iconoclast. But his eccentricities apparently didn't shake too well with his superiors, and in early October he was booted out of his Kiowa County office. The 52-year-old judge, known for his creative sentencing (he had two convicts hold signs reading "I am a convicted burglar," outside his court-



Above, *The Tin Drum*; right, Richard Hovis; opposite page, Classen's milk bottle and the Fichtenberg mansion



house for two hours one day) was removed for committing “oppression in office and gross neglect of duty.” Newspapers reported allegations of Hovis illegally soliciting campaign funds, consistently being late to court, and giving a court reporter (in the presence of others) red satin panties on Valentine’s Day. No one was laughing.

MILKED?

Hearts broke when the beloved Townley milk bottle at 24th Street and Classen in Oklahoma City was repainted this year and the timeworn graphic replaced with a Braum’s logo. The building, whose previous incarnations include the Flying Chicken (a take-out operation delivering cooked chickens via motorcycle) and the Triangle Grocery, was built in 1930 and the eight-foot milk bottle added around 1948 when the property became the Milk Bottle Grocery. The sheet metal bottle, which is rented for advertising, continues its dairy tradition. The second milk producer to advertise there was Steffen’s who then transferred the lease to Townley in the late Fifties.

‘TIL I’M SICK OF YOU DO WE PART

Oklahomans have the unfortunate distinction of wavering on their word. Based on figures from the previous year, the state’s one-time lovebirds called it quits more frequently than any state in the union except Nevada. (Nevada!) Nearly 22,000 couples filed for divorce in 1995 (the year measured by the U.S. Census Bureau), and in some counties, more people divorced than married. (When in doubt, keep dating.)

HOLES IN OUR POCKETS

Bankruptcy court reported a staggering increase in its visitor population last year: a thirty-six percent rise from the year before. Most of the hanging heads blamed their distressed budgets on maxing out the plastic. Credit card debt averaged \$15,000 per load. Ouch.


ON THE ROAD

Taking to the highway ain’t what it used to be. The state is saddled with the sixth-highest pothole rate in the country, according to a joint study by the Surface Transportation Policy Project and Environmental Working Group. Oklahoma City’s urban highways are under particular scrutiny. They cost each vehicle owner an average of \$1,400 in repairs and lost fuel efficiency, third only to Los Angeles and San Di-

ego. (The good news is that the state legislature already knows about the problem and this year authorized \$1 billion over five years to fix the roads.)

THIS OLD HOUSE

When Newport Development owner Hal Tompkins viewed the lot at 1347 E. 25th Street in Tulsa’s Woodward Park, all he saw was the opportunity to build thirteen homes for the nouveau riche. Never mind that his plan included demolishing the seventy-five year old Fichtenberg mansion adjacent to the Tulsa Garden Center.

Historical preservationists panicked and mobilized a save-the-mansion campaign. The protest proved successful: the Tulsa Historical Society took hold of the property (with help from the *Tulsa Tribune* Foundation’s donations and pledges) for an undisclosed amount in December. 



MIKE SIMONS/TULSA WORLD



Farewell



Mildred Imach Cleghorn

1910-1997

Often described as the Jackie Kennedy of the Native American world for her grace, Mildred Cleghorn was many things to many people. Born a prisoner of war in 1910, Mildred went on to become the chairperson of the Fort Sill Chiricahua-Warm Springs Apache tribe for almost twenty years, a 1986 recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor (awarded by President Reagan), a “National Treasure” by an act of Congress, and a doll maker whose work was twice exhibited at the Smithsonian Institute’s Folklore Festival. She lived out many roles: Indian leader, mother, grandmother, teacher, mentor, historian, lecturer, pillar of the church, and friend.

By her 86th birthday on December 11, 1996, Mildred was a legend—a tall, ramrod-straight, strong, beautiful, and healthy woman whose gray, white, and silver hair framed a face much younger looking than its years. “Good genes,” she once said. That certainly was true, for she also had energy and vitality to spare and relied on her continuing good health to enable her to travel anywhere at any time when representing her people. Airports were her second home, and she always took to their concourses with a sure step. “Fine as frog’s hair,” she’d say when folks waiting at the airport gate asked about her trip.

Sometimes the fact that Mildred had been born a prisoner of war at Fort Sill became lost in the whirl of her busy life, but during quiet moments of conversation with close friends and family, it sprung forth. “Uncle Sam never kept his promises,” she said. “He promised that we would be released from confinement in two years, but it took twenty-seven years for the United States government to set us free. And then he promised that we each would get 160 acres to farm. No one got that much. As Indian people, we didn’t need black and white to keep a promise. All we needed was your word. We believed the United States government because that was our way of life, but Uncle Sam didn’t follow through...”

The Chiricahua-Warm Springs Apaches became prisoners of war after the surrender of Apache leader Geronimo in 1886. Upon release from Fort Sill in 1914, Richard Imach drove his wife Amy Wratten Imach and young daughter Mildred north to Apache in a big wagon with a team of horses. “I remember coming over the hill,” said Mildred. “We had a three-room house waiting, and my father pointed to it and said, ‘Now this is home. This is where we’re going to live from now on.’” Nearly her entire life, Mildred lived in a brick house on the fifty acres her father gave her from his total allotment.

After graduating from Apache High School in 1930, Mildred continued her education at the Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas. She left Apache for the first time with her mother’s instruction, “The minute you get lonesome, you come right home.” Although Mildred promised she would, she didn’t. “I pleaded to go to Haskell because, having gone to school in Apache all my life with white children, I didn’t know any Indians. I was always alone, so when I actually begged for Haskell, my mother reluctantly agreed. At first I got so lonesome that I thought I’d die, but I wouldn’t tell my mother that. I stayed, and by the end of October, why, you couldn’t drive me away.”

Following graduation, Mildred worked at the Bureau of Indian Affairs until 1937. She

This page, Apache women and children prepare to depart for Mescalero, 1913; opposite page, Mildred Cleghorn





FORT SILL MUSEUM

Above, Mildred and Myrtle Imach circa 1914; below, Gooday and Imach families in formal attire (Mildred is standing third from right)

later taught at the Riverside School and became an extension agent, and then met her future husband, William Cleghorn, a Pawnee. In time, they were married on the Mescalero Apache Reservation in New Mexico and later adopted their daughter Penny.

Mildred became involved with tribal government when she was elected tribe chairperson in 1976—the year the Fort Sill Chiricahua-Warm Springs Apache tribe organized. When the opportunity arose to purchase land allotments, she helped her tribe expand their landholdings from two and one-half acres to seventy.

The list of awards Mildred received dates back to 1955, when she acquired a fellowship in Human Relations at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. By 1986 her work on human rights and cultural preservation was so well known that President Reagan presented her the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

That same year, in her mid-seventies, she led a commemorative march on horseback into the ruins of Fort Bowie, Arizona, where Geronimo was taken after surrendering in Skeleton Canyon. “We stood where the old ones stood, camped where they camped, prayed where they prayed, and we completed the circle.”

Endeavoring to preserve an important aspect of Indian heritage—traditional women’s clothing—Mildred became a doll maker. By researching a tribe’s clothing habits and discussing traditional dress with the oldest woman on a reservation, she was able to accurately depict original clothing styles. Mildred, cousin of American Indian sculptor Allan Houser, initially created four cloth dolls. She then made it a lifelong project to make a doll representing each tribe with which she had worked. At last count, there were more than forty, with some thirty more waiting to be completed. Six of her dolls are on exhibit in the Future Homemakers Club of America building in Washington, D.C.

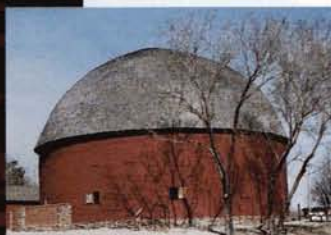
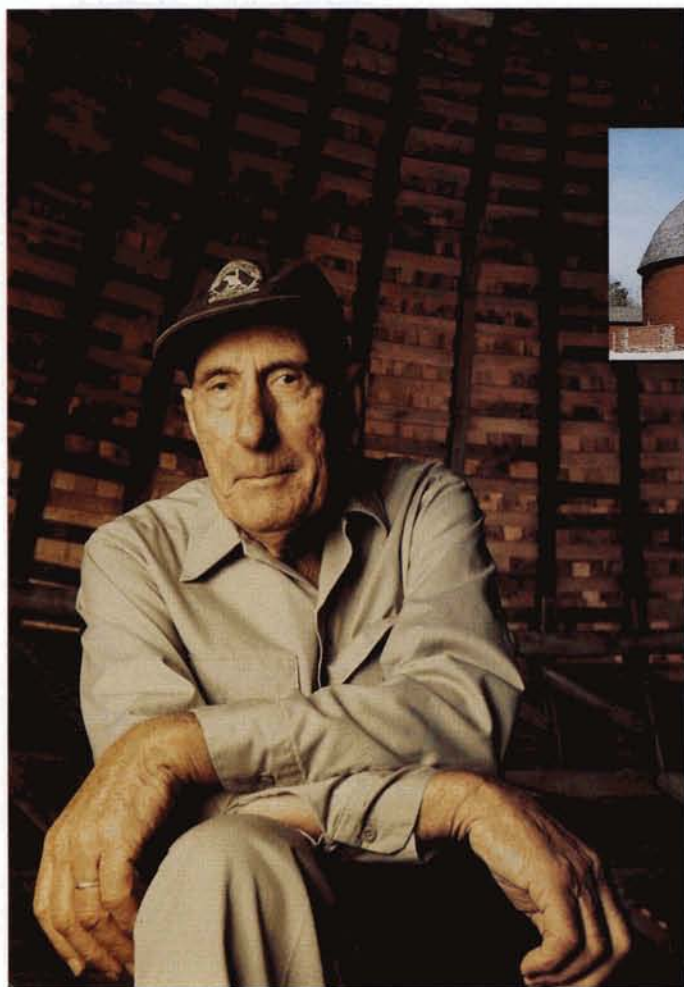
Mildred’s life was an inspiration to many. When asked some years ago if she had a personal wish for the Apache people’s future, without hesitation, she said, “Yes, this is it—to be Apaches throughout eternity.”

Mildred, who died April 15 at the age of 86, rests at the Apache Prisoner of War Cemetery at Fort Sill—the same cemetery where her grandmother, Go-lah-ah-tsa, and Geronimo are buried.

—H. Henrietta Stockel



FORT SILL MUSEUM



BILL ELLIS

Luther "Luke" Davis Robison 1914-1997

Thanks to Luke Robison, Arcadia's round barn will celebrate a century in 1998. At 75, Robison, a Midwest City carpenter and builder, began restoration on the Route 66 landmark, sometimes standing atop forty-three-foot scaffolding in order to secure the barn's massive rafters. For two years—between 1988 and 1990—he worked relentlessly, and today the barn is one of the most favored spots along the historic road.

He died this year at the age of 83.

Joe Krieger 1918-1997

Long before fishing shows were as popular as cooking shows, there was Tulsa's Joe Krieger. An avid outdoorsman, Krieger had one of the longest running outdoor shows on American television beginning in 1952 and extending until 1991.

Born in Arcadia, Kansas, Krieger began fishing at age four and later moved to Tulsa with his family in 1927, where his father opened the Krieger Bait Shop. After flying a B-17 bomber with the Army Air Corps in World War II and surviving twenty-five deadly missions, Krieger was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with oak leaf cluster. He later became one of Tulsa's first certified television meteorologists. While at KOTV, he began to conclude his weather forecasts by sharing photos of his latest fishing trips with viewers. It caught on, and soon the *Joe Krieger Show* was born.

One of his longtime friends, Muskogee's Carl Pierceall, said it best, "The man could actually smell fish. I know it sounds crazy, but I was on enough trips with the man over many years to tell you that was actually a fact." In 1961, Krieger won one of the first large-scale angling events ever held in the United States—the Freshwater World Series of Sport Fishing. Earlier, in 1953, he manufactured a lure called the "Dragnetter," which is believed to be the first true spinner bait on the American market.

He died April 12; he was 78.





Ridge Bond

1922-1997

Ridge Bond starred in both the Broadway and international touring productions of the musical *Oklahoma!* and was the only Oklahoma performer to hold a starring role in the original Rogers and Hammerstein production. He played Curly, the love-struck cowboy, in more than 2,600 performances. Ironically, Bond, a native of McAlester, first played a lead in *Green Grow the Lilacs* at the University of Tulsa, the same play that later became *Oklahoma!* (His likeness graces the stamp commemorating the musical's fiftieth anniversary.)

In 1957, when then-Representative George Nigh introduced a bill to make the state's official song *Oklahoma!*, it was Bond who turned the tide. An old legislator apparently stood up and sang the state's old song, garnering support. Nigh quickly tabled the bill and called on Bond, backed by the chorus of the Oklahoma College for Women at Chickasha, to sing the proposed new anthem. To a cheering crowd, the bill passed.

He died May 6; he was 74.





Wayne A. Martin

1915-1997

Besides being named the first three-time, All-American wrestler and national champion at the University of Oklahoma between 1934 and 1936, Tulsa's Wayne Martin was the only NCAA wrestler to win a national title at three different weights. In 1962, he was inducted into the Helms Foundation National Sports Hall of Fame. In the 1940s, Martin owned the Hollywood Athletic Club, where he personally trained celebrities such as John Wayne, Bob Hope, and Jack Benny.

He was 82 when he died this year.

Mary Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick

1909-1997

Eleanor Kirkpatrick, along with her husband, oil man John E. Kirkpatrick, contributed millions of dollars and years of devotion to Oklahoma charities. Born in Mangum, Eleanor was the daughter of a dry goods merchant and banker. The family later settled in Oklahoma City's Heritage Hills area. After being educated in places as varied as France and Washington, D.C., Eleanor married Kirkpatrick in 1932. Together, the couple provided the initial funding for the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and established the Kirkpatrick Foundation. In 1946, Eleanor founded the Beaux Arts Ball to raise funds for the Oklahoma Arts Center, now the Oklahoma City Art Museum, and led fund-raising efforts for a new museum building in the late 1950s by urging her husband to give \$270,000.

She died May 20; she was 88.



G. Rainey Williams

1926-1997

Dr. G. Rainey Williams performed one of the state's first cardiac bypass surgeries and in 1962 successfully reattached the arm of an Oklahoma State University basketball player after it was severed in an accident. It was the fourth such successful procedure in the world. From 1974 until this year, Williams was chairman of the surgery department at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, and in that time he established many key medical programs, including the OU Institute for Breast Health—one of the most comprehensive university-based breast centers in the country.

Although Williams, who grew up in Oklahoma City, received his medical education at Northwestern University and completed a surgical internship, fellowship, and residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, he chose to return to Oklahoma, turning down offers from prestigious places such as the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Dr. Patrick A. McKee, the former head of OU's department of medicine, once said that Williams' accomplishments as a surgeon "put the OU Health Sciences Center on the map."

He died April 20; he was 70.

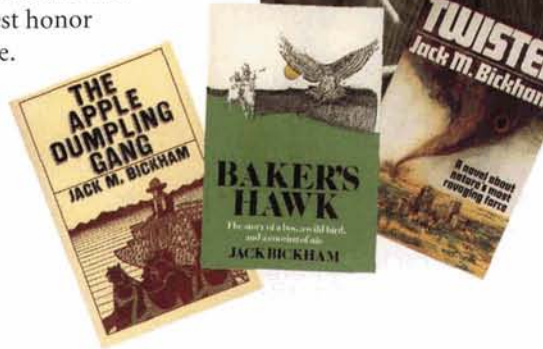
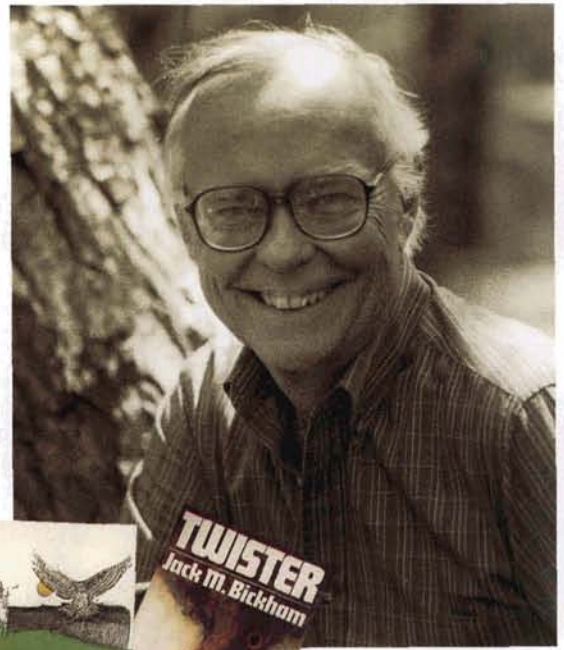
Jack M. Bickham

1930-1997

Jack Bickham wrote seventy-five published novels, several of which were made into movies, including *The Apple Dumpling Gang* and *Baker's Hawk*. Bickham began writing fiction at 16, and after a stint in the Air Force, had a fifteen-year newspaper career.

His 1976 novel about an outbreak of tornadoes, *Twister*, was named a book of the decade by the West Coast Review of Books. In 1969, he became an assistant professor at OU's H.H. Herbert School of Journalism and later directed the school's annual short course on professional writing to national prominence from 1973 to 1990. After leaving OU to devote more time to other work, he was named a David Ross Boyd Professor—the highest honor the university can bestow for teaching excellence.

Bickham also wrote six instructional books on the craft of fiction. He died in 1997 at the age of 66.



Lee Evans

1970-1997

Oklahoma City's KFOR-TV anchor and reporter Lee Evans was killed after a convicted felon ran a red light and slammed into her car as she was returning home after work. Evans began working for the news station in 1994 as a writer and was soon promoted to reporter. In 1995, she landed an anchor job on the weekend telecasts.

She died July 13; she was 26.



KFOR-TV

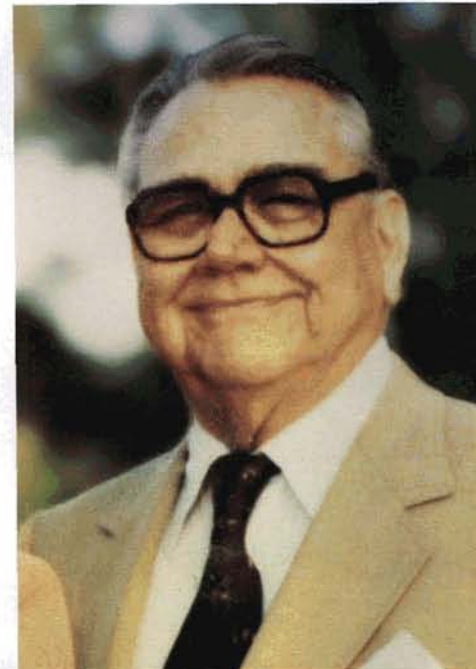
Elijah Thomas "E.T." Dunlap

1914-1997

He has been lauded as the man most responsible for the evolution of Oklahoma's public higher education system. During E.T. Dunlap's twenty-one-year stint as the state's higher education chancellor, enrollments at state colleges and universities almost tripled. If not for Dunlap, "thousands of Oklahoma young people would never have obtained their college degrees," University of Oklahoma President David L. Boren said. Dunlap believed in an affordable and accessible education for everyone. He was an advocate of junior colleges, and during his term as chancellor, eight were built.

Dunlap, who won three terms in the state House of Representatives, was appointed by President Carter as chairman of the Sallie Mae Corporation, a \$60 billion bank specializing in college loans.

He died this year at the age of 82.



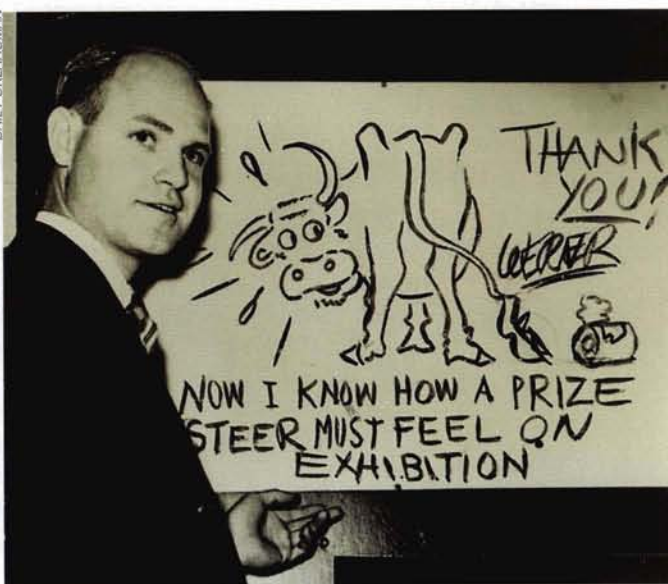
Charles George Werner

1909-1997

Although he had no formal training, Charles Werner won the Pulitzer Prize for editorial art in 1938 while working at the *Daily Oklahoman*. Then 29, he was the youngest person ever to win a Pulitzer in his field. He went on to work at the *Chicago Sun* and the *Indianapolis Star*, where he retired in 1994. He was a favorite cartoonist of presidents, Gerald Ford and Franklin D. Roosevelt among them. In the mid 1960s, Lyndon B. Johnson requested fourteen Werner originals for his personal collection. In 1939, the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce acknowledged him as its most unusual speaker when Werner opted to forego a speech and instead simply drew a cartoon to express his feelings.

He was 88 when he died.

DAILY OKLAHOMAN



Francis Tuttle

1920-1997

Francis Tuttle will be remembered as the architect of the state's vocational-technical school system—one of Oklahoma City's vo-tech facilities even bears his name. He became the state vo-tech director in 1967, only two years after the state's first vo-tech opened, and didn't retire until 1986. His influence went beyond Oklahoma, with the state's technical educational system serving as a model worldwide. Internationally, he served as a consultant for similar efforts in China, Sweden, Thailand, and the former Soviet Union.

He died February 12; he was 76.

Dorothy Watson

1909-1997

Long before historic preservation became politically correct, Dorothy Watson was a staunch preservationist. In the early 1960s, it was Watson who worked feverishly to halt the deterioration of Oklahoma City's first mansion district—the pre-statehood and early statehood area now known as Heritage Hills. Watson, who lived most of her life in Heritage Hills, named the district and served a key role in getting it listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In turn, her efforts influenced other early Oklahoma City neighborhoods. She also took part in the Overholser Mansion's evolution into a museum.

She died June 15; she was 88.



LANGSTON UNIVERSITY



F.W. Cooke

1922-1997

Dr. F.W. Cooke, the fourth black flight surgeon in U.S. Air Force history, had a twenty-year stint at Langston University in numerous roles including campus physician, substance abuse counselor, and anatomy and biology teacher.

Although he attended Stanford University, his first choice was Langston. He applied for an athletic scholarship to Langston but was rejected. At the time, prior to desegregation, Langston had its choice among top scholar-athletes.

After military service, Cooke spent seventeen years in private practice in southeastern Missouri. At the time, he was the only black physician in what was called the “boot heel” region of Missouri. He settled in Guthrie in 1968.

“He died doing something for a school he loved to his very last breath,” his colleague, Dr. Rosemary Harkins-Carter, said.

Cooke was 74 when he died teaching an early morning general biology class at Langston.

Esther Mae Henke

1925-1997

Upon retiring in 1983 after thirty years with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Esther Mae Henke had achieved one of her lifetime aspirations—every county in Oklahoma boasted at least one publicly supported library. Also under Henke’s tenure, the state’s multi-county library system was developed. In the late 1970s, Carl Albert, former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, appointed Henke to the advisory council to plan the White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

She died May 31; she was 72.



Savoie Lottinville

1906-1997

Time once wrote that Savoie Lottinville, director of the University of Oklahoma Press for twenty-nine years, built the press into “the nation’s standout example of a successful regional publisher.” Lottinville took the regional publishing house from an operation that published six books a year to printing either new or reprint editions every other day.

Under his direction, the Norman press pioneered the use of paper made to last 300 years, made impressive contributions to Native American studies, and produced three series that gained world renown.

Lottinville, who received an undergraduate degree from OU, was awarded a master’s degree from Oxford University as a Rhodes scholar. In 1991, he received the Curtis Benjamin Award from the Association of American Publishers.

Besides being the author of several books, including *The Rhetoric of History*, Lottinville was the oldest survivor of the bubonic plague in North America. He contracted the disease while climbing the Rocky Mountains.

He died this year at the age of 90.



OU PRESS



Paul Endacott

1902-1997

In the early 1920s, when Phillips Petroleum Company was only six years old, Paul Endacott, then fresh out of college, began what evolved into a forty-four-year career with the company. Beginning in the oil fields, moving around from oil boom to oil boom, he eventually became Phillips' president and vice chairman.

Endacott, who was the University of Kansas' collegiate basketball player of the year in 1923 and a Helms Foundation's All-American player, helped lead Phillips from a regional oil and gas producer to an international energy leader. (While on the KU team, one of Endacott's basketball mentors was none other than Dr. James Naismith—the man who invented the game.)

One of Endacott's colleagues described him as someone who "had ideas a mile a minute" as well as "great curiosity and tremendous physical energy."

He died January 8; he was 94.

Harding Big Bow

1921-1997

Kiowa elder and artist Harding Big Bow was the great-grandson of Kiowa Chief Zepecoate Big Bow. As a young boy, Mountain View's Big Bow began painting more as a way to preserve the traditions of his tribe than for personal expression. His paintings reflect ceremonial dances, medicinal bundles, and the old stories of his tribe. He once said, "I don't believe in modern art. It's not real."

He was 75 when he died this year.



Michael Hedges

1953-1997

Enid's Michael Hedges, an acoustic guitarist and composer known for his unusual two-handed picking style, will be remembered by many as one who changed the face of acoustic guitar forever. It wasn't even until high school that Hedges tested his musical ability—first by learning the flute. He aspired to play in his high school band, and within a year, he moved from the twenty-seventh seat to first chair.

Often called a prodigy, Hedges graduated with a degree in composition from the respected Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland. After the Peabody, he moved to Palo Alto, California, where he was discovered playing in a cafe by Will Ackerman, the founder of Windham Hill. In 1983, he cut his first record, *Breakfast in the Field*, and went on to make seven critically acclaimed albums, most recently *Oracle*. He was nominated for Grammys in 1984 and 1990 (*Aerial Boundaries* and *Taproot*, respectively) and was listed as one of the 100 best guitarists of all time by *Musician* magazine.

He died in early December in a car accident; he was 43.



The Buzz for 1998

We've given you the past year. Now it's time for the year ahead. In mid-December, we sent associate editor Aimée Downs to the tiny town of Waukomis to visit with internationally renowned psychic Mary Cain. We asked Mary—a card reader who gets calls daily from Alaska, Australia, and Britain—about some of the more notorious people in Oklahoma culture. Keep in mind that her cards revolve around a single person with a certain hair and eye color. (And as you'll see, when it comes to Barry, we already knew he was hitting the road.)—OKT Staff.

First of all, we want to know about Barry Switzer, the head coach of the Dallas Cowboys. Will he be around next year?

He's thinking about leaving that state he's in now and going somewhere else. Or it could be this man with salt-and-pepper hair that's thinking about it for him. His health looks bad, so I don't know whether he's just uptight right now or disgusted with everything. I don't think he'll be there in 1998.

What about his quarterback, Troy Aikman?

There's a conversation between him and Barry, and it looks like they're deciding what each of them is going to do. Aikman may be sold to some other team, because he's surely going to go for the money. The money will talk. They don't always get along, but at times they do well for each other.

What's in store for OSU football?

OSU looks like they're going to continue on with a winning season next year. They might have a couple of young players get hurt, but it looks like they'll do well.

And OU football?

They seem to have winning streaks, and then they don't win very much. That pattern is going to continue. Sometimes the coach's players get really mad at him when he pushes them. He needs to ease up a bit. Overall, it'll be like last year, but they may have a few more wins.

Have you heard of Hanson, the musical group from Tulsa?

Does their mother go along with them?

Yes, both of their parents do.

They have a wonderful future here, and they'll make good money. They're bright boys. They know what they want to be. These cards say that for the next seven years they're going to be on top. After that, they're going to separate, and I think it's because they get married.

How about Garth Brooks?

Big money here. It says 1998 is going to be a good year, 1999 will be a good year, and the year 2000. After that, it looks like he backs off. There's a young blond-haired, blue-eyed fellow that Brooks really likes; maybe he's helping some young people get started. He's going to be around, at least until the year 2000. Then he'll help young artists.

And Vince Gill? He has dark hair.

The women really love him, especially when he's singing those love songs. He'll have a new album in 1998 that'll be good.

Do you see anything about actual women in his life?

There's a dark-haired woman and a sandy brown-haired woman. It

looks like they're both in love with him. There's a lot of jealousy. It looks like he's just angry and hurt and upset.

Will there be any big news stories?

For one thing, a lot of people are going to be really afraid of losing money, and that could be the stock market and Wall Street. The stock market goes up and down, up and down, and then in July and August things will go way down. But then it starts back up again.

For people who are buying and selling cattle, something will come in that they'll have to be very careful of. It's either what they feed the cattle or what they do to the cattle (like where they pasture them). Something's going to come in that's going to make the cow market hard.

What can we expect from the sentencing of Timothy McVeigh?

They're going to take it to higher courts, and he's going to journey to a different state than he's in now. It might go on for another nine or ten years. I think someday he will die, because the death card is definitely here, but it shows that the execution will be prolonged and prolonged. They are going to spend a lot more money on him. The king is here in the chain, so evidently he's changed lawyers.

Do you know Dennis Rodman? He plays for the Chicago Bulls.

It looks like he's going to be talking to a lawyer as if he hurt somebody. Does he do off-the-wall things? [Yes.] It looks like he might decide to get married in 1998, and he will be happy then.

This little boy here wants to come to him. But I don't like that ace of spades there. I don't know whether he'll hurt somebody or whether he'll get hurt. It looks like this will be in the latter part of 1998.

The downtown renovation project in Oklahoma City—MAPS—has been in the news all year. How will it play out?

Some official person is really for it, and another official person isn't. They're having some problems. It will eventually go with the man who's for it. Some way or another they've got the money mixed up. Politics will change this year, so the new people will be more supportive of it.

So it will be successful?

Oh yes, it's going to bring money into Oklahoma City—lots of money.

We couldn't resist asking about the future of Oklahoma Today. Her response? "It's only going to keep getting better." We couldn't agree more.



Growing in harmony with nature.



We all share in the good things of the forest. The rich soil, green trees, clean water and bountiful wildlife.

And at Weyerhaeuser, our Forestry Resource Goals help us renew these benefits forever.

As we grow and harvest trees for useful wood, pulp and paper products, we nurture the soil and guard against erosion.

We protect the streams that flow through our forests and the animals that make them their home.



We replant our lands promptly after harvest, so at all times 97 percent of our forestlands are growing trees for the future.



And all the while, we improve our lands and work to sustain their beauty.

We do all this to ensure an endless bounty from our forests, for our children and yours.

Today. Tomorrow. Forever.



Weyerhaeuser

Caring for the forest and all it provides.

RUB-A-DUB-DUB

THE BEST WAY TO HEAT YOUR TUB.



When you're using hot water by the tub-full, it's important to have the Gas Advantage.

Gas heats water twice as fast as electric for half the cost.

So rub-a-dub-dub, fill up the tub in a way that's Pure Oklahoma.



PURE OKLAHOMA