

With luck, the KU memorial will have some of the emotional impact of the Black Wall in Washington, D.C. Whatever it is like, it will be another step in the healing process this country began in April 1975.

C. Roch Thornton, j'76
Portland

Premature reports

At a cocktail party recently, I was greeted with amusement by a classmate who remarked about the erroneous nature of the Class of 1934 Directory of Class Members.

Retired physicians sometimes question their own judgment, particularly in relation to themselves or their families. However, the daily check of my vital signs has never given rise to any question concerning my viability. In addition, since the time of my demise, according to the directory, my own personal physician has assured me that this apparent existence is not a posthumous dream.

At any rate, it might be well to let anyone who might have some slight interest know that the report of my demise was a significant exaggeration.

John M. Rumsey, c'34, m'36
LaJolla, Calif.

Princely advice

Regarding your challenge to alumni to write letters to *Kansas Alumni*: Your problem is persistent excellence. If you would just publish a "bomb" now and then, you would be able to receive all kinds of mail. For example, as I read your issue on writers at KU (January 1984), especially the article by my teacher and friend Ed Ruhe, I felt that old tug that is so common among KU alumni, but I didn't write because I have come to expect to be informed, excited and even moved by your magazine. I would, therefore, suggest that you follow the example of Shakespeare's Prince Hal, who purposely misbehaves so that his "reformation, glittering o'er (his) fault, / Shall show more goodly and attract more eyes / Than that which hath no foil to set it off."

John T. Neibling, c'72, g'74
Casa Grande, Ariz.

Slighting Dr. Naismith?

In the article entitled "Kansas Gold" [June 1984 *Kansas Alumni*] Mike Fisher has written an outstanding description regarding the athletes who won Olympic titles and the events surrounding the same.

I will certainly take issue on two items: First, in the following section as printed in the magazine: *The specter of Nazism and militarism subverted the peaceful ideal of the 1936 games, diminishing for many the fine athletic performances of Cunningham, Jesse Owens and others.* Mike included too many of his personal opinions in this statement. He sounds exactly like the first day of the Olympic report by the Paris edition of the New York Times, which was propaganda. Owens was idealized and was treated by the Germans in the stadium as one of the greatest athletes.

The Physical Education Department of Columbia University sponsored a trip to study in Germany, Denmark and Sweden for that summer. Most of it was a trip to the universities, from Hamburg around the entire border of Germany. There were 62 members in the group. I was finishing my master's degree. At no time were we embarrassed by the military force or ideals. In fact, Hitler gave our two bus loads the first rights to travel on the new highway. What a beautiful engineering feat and beautiful landscaping!

Secondly, regarding "Phog" Allen's being the assistant coach to the first Olympic Basketball Championship: Why did you take away from Dr. [James] Naismith the honor of seeing the first championship won by the United States in 1936? I was there that afternoon as a guest of Dr. Naismith, and what a thrill it was for him to see the game! It was an outdoor court and was raining part of the game only to clear at the end and turn out to be a beautiful evening after the game. Dr. Naismith and I had walked a short distance and were stopped by two German girls of Hitler's organization. They put two wreaths of flowers around Dr. Naismith's neck, bowed and left.

I made the remark to Dr. Naismith about the results of the game, "Doctor, this should be the crowning event of your life. What an honor." He replied with this wonderful statement, "Billie, it is. The land of my birth played the land of my choice, and the land of my choice won."

KU owes so much to Dr. Naismith. Let's make up for the past and honor him as the greatest of all KU individuals for what he has done for the youth of the world.

W.H. Miffin, '27
Topeka

A poetic impression

My first impressions of the K.S. "Boots" Adams Alumni Center produced the enclosed piece of writing, for me a lasting memory of how the beautiful Center looked at Open House, August 14, 1983.

A Very Proper Setting

*At last you stand defined—
dreams magnified in steel and brick and stone!
Nothing has been lost
in the translation!
No stern, cold edifice—your very bricks
pulse and glow with
loyalty and pride—
and love of those commemorated here.
Savor your pristine
elegance for now;
then savor even more the days to come
when handsome halls will
echo, wall to wall,
laughter and singing, remembering hands
pause to caress old
wood, and unmarred floors
warm with the patina of friendly feet.
You embrace our past,
challenge our future.
Of all the jewels that crown the hill-top
called Mount Oread,
you are the rarest!*

My copies of your publications are read with all the zest of a young Jayhawk. Thank you for keeping all of us in touch, still.

Emina Shank Wesner, '35
Lee's Summit, Mo.