

The Oxy Cornerstone

Lester Ingber writes that in 1958 when he was a freshman, he—along with Harry Spertus, a sophomore—borrowed a 1950-ish Ford sedan and found themselves at Oxy looking for trouble. "Just about everyone there was attending a football game. To our surprise, when both of us repeatedly jumped and pushed at their formidable cornerstone, the metal rods connecting it into the ground broke away. We also found that by rolling it end over end we could get about half of it into the car, and we thus escaped."

The cornerstone was placed as a tombstone alongside the Olive Walk, at the head of a freshly dug area (see photo). It read, "Occidental College, Founded 1887," and it was widely rumored that Oxy's student body president was buried in the grave. However, a rash of head-shavings and inter-campus administrative politics finally forced Caltech to return the stone.

