Doctor Mixes Medicine and Recruiting

Washington, D.C. is the nation's capital, the home of the President, Congress, etc., but it is also the home of Langston University's number one recruiter — Dr. John A. Algee.

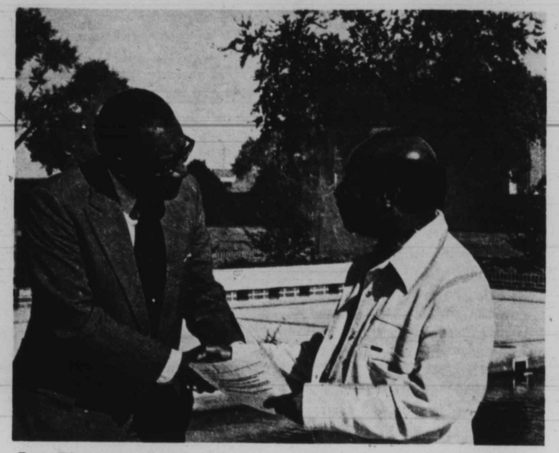
Washington, D.C. is some 1,500 miles from Langston University, located in the small community of Langston, Okla., some 45 miles northeast of Oklahoma City. The university was founded in 1897 — 10 years before Oklahoma became a state.

More than 80 students from the nation's capital were enrolled at LU last semeter — thanks to the recruiting toil of Dr. Algee, a 1953 Langston graduate. He is a frequent visitor to the campus and is always surrounded by students from Washington, D.C., whenever word gets around that he's arrived.

Langston football team recently had six starters from Washington, D.C. — all recruits of Dr. Algee. The medical doctor believes in going after the "blue chippers" for his school that has an enrollment of some 1,200 students.

The starters included Dwight Williams, 22, 220, 3-year letterman, linebacker, leading tackler on the team with 74 and 27 assists. He was also co-captain and was All-Metro at Dunbar High under Coach Banner in D.C. He majored in accounting.

Thurston McClain, linebacker and No. 2 tackler on defense with 60-29 for eight games, majored in sociology. He is 22, 210, 6-1, and played for Cardozo High under Coach Nickalson.



Dr. Thomas E. English, president of Langston University, welcomes Dr. John A. Algee, M.D., Washington, D.C., right, to the campus. Dr. Algee, a 1953 LU graduate and native Oklahoman, is Langston's No. 1 recruiter.

He was a All-Metro.

Alexander Pitcher, 22, 220, 6-3, senior, 3-year letterman, was a defensive end. He majored in physical education, and was All-Inter High at Dunbar. Pitcher was the no. 4 tackler on the starting defensive unit with 42-12.

Physician makes house calls for "blue chippers" for his Alma Mater (Langston)

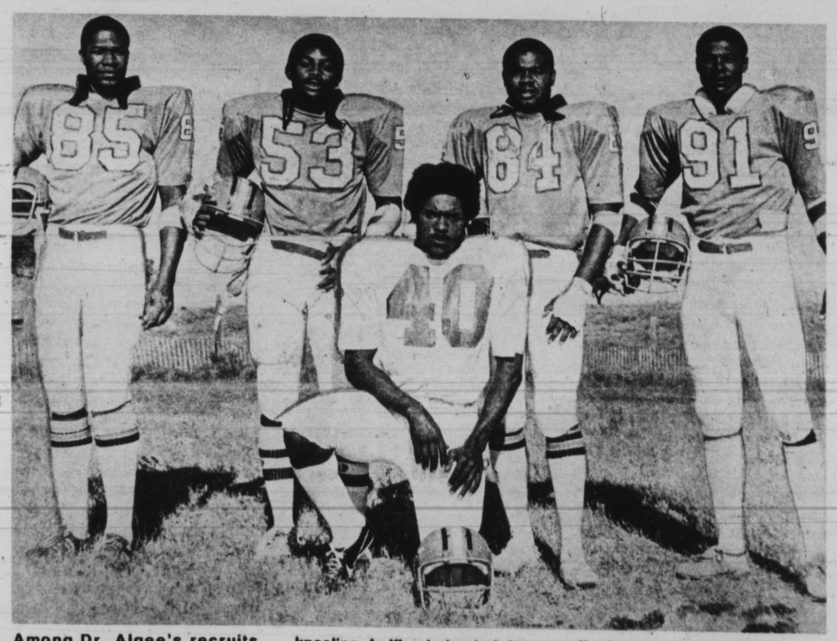
Donald Murphy, 21, 210, 6-2, is letterman at defensive end. He majors in business administration.

Donald Bullock, 23, 187, 6-0, is starting halfback. He was All-City at Oxon Hill High in Maryland just outside of Washington, under Coach Savage. He is majoring in physical education.

Why is Dr. Algee doing such a top-flight job of recruiting "blue chip" football players for a small university in Oklahoma? Several of the players could make the University of Oklahoma team — or the Big Ten?

"I know the young men and women I sent to Langston University will get a quality education to train them for their field in life," Dr. Algee explains. "I know the goals and objectives of LU are to provide the best for youth and also athletes are not exploited. They end up with degrees after they play football at Langston University."

After graduating from LU in 1953, Dr. Algee went to the University of Illinois and received a master's degree in psychology in 1955. He received his medical degree at Howard University in 1960. His post graduate training from 1960-64 was at Howard and Duke Medical Center. From 1964 to 1968, Dr. Algee was chief of geriatrics in Washington, and from 1968 to 1974 was chief of Neighborhood Health Centers.



Among Dr. Algee's recruits were these five starters from Washington, D.C., Don Bullock, kneeling, halfback; back, left to right, Alexander Pitchern, linebacker; Thurston McClain, linebacker; Dwight Williams, co-captain and linebacker, and Donald Murphy, defensive end.

'I want athletes to end up with degrees after they play football . . .'

Dr. Algee is presently staff physician for Union Medical Center and clinical instructor at Howard University Medical Center.

A native of Claremore, Okla., Dr. Algee is the son of Mrs. Mabel Lee Brown of Claremore. He is the oldest of nine children. Two of his sisters, Mrs. Frankie Anderson and Mrs. Beatrice Black, both of Tulsa, Okla., are Langston graduates. His brother, Hosea Rogers was captain of the LU baseball team two years and will graduate in December.

Dr. Algee signed a contract to do a book on geriatrics. The signing took place in Langston University President Thomas E. English's office during a a recent visit. The book is scheduled to be completed this year.

Dr. Algee was a biology and chemistry major at LU.

Langston University is grateful that Dr. Algee has turned Washington, D.C. into a "farm club" for Langston students and athletes. "I wish we had more like him,' Coach Albert Schoats said, "because coaching football at LU would be a lot easier."

Quick Quotes

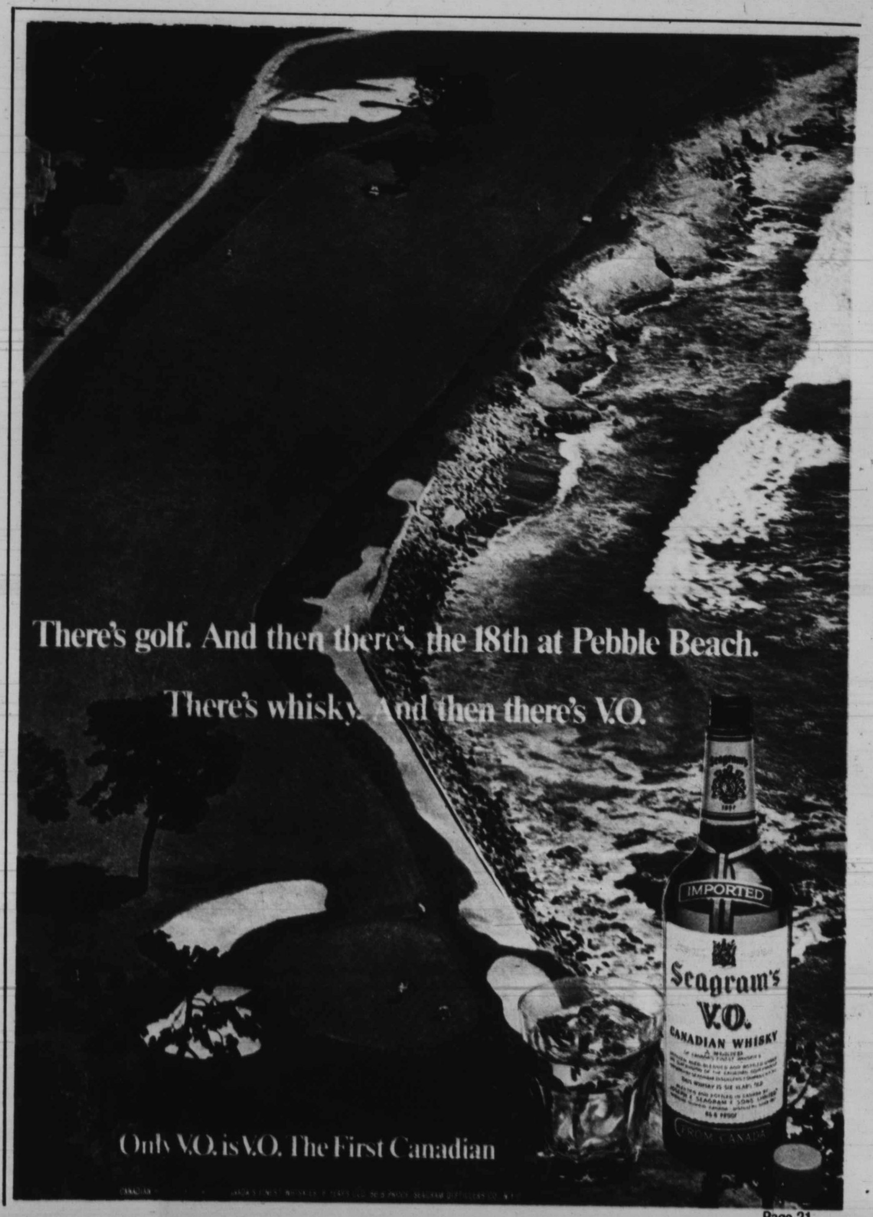
"To call some people dumb is to under-estimate the depths of their stupidity."

"Man is such a savage animal that even the beasts of the field avoid contact with him unless there is no other choice."

—

"Like a deep sleep is closely akin to the slumber of death, a friendly smile is often just one step removed from being a vicious snarl."

—

"While there are thousands of poor people who are too proud to accept the benefits of the welfare system, one is not likely to find any millionaires who are too proud to accept the benefit of a tax deduction."

DAVID M. WARREN