

January 4, 1945.

Mr. Lacy Haynes,
Kansas City Star Bureau,
Kansas City, Kansas.

Dear Lacy:

I am sending you a carbon copy of a letter that Chancellor Malott wrote me regarding Hoch Auditorium. I am also sending you a copy of my reply to the Chancellor.

I am not complaining and not asking for any help in any way at all. I just wanted you to be advised of the fact that up to the present time we have had two practices on the floor, and the one yesterday was after 4:30 p.m. They had orchestra practice on the stage until that time. We have had two home games and it was not possible for us to practice one week before our game with Rockhurst on the 18th because the Vespers came on Sunday and the whole week prior to that we could not practice on it.

The floor is laid on concrete, and our gymnasium floor is springy. The baskets at the auditorium are of steel construction, as are the braces, emphasizing a sharp rebound, while our braces in the gymnasium are of wood with a more sluggish rebound, and an entirely different reaction to the rebound for all shots than the high, vaulted, plaster-of-paris arches in the auditorium which give a very unfavorable background for shooting.

The best way you can appreciate this, Lacy, is to think of clay pigeon shooting. Suppose, in shooting at the clay pigeons, the background would be the same color as the pigeons. Or, think of a baseball park where the hitters were batting out against the white fence all around the park at a white ball. The white fence would interfere with picking the ball out as a mark. I am sure that you can see this.

Now, the artists have to have a week to orient themselves, and it is not possible for us to get in the building any time during that whole week. The athletic beast must exhale a withering breath! It just isn't cricket, Lacy, to force a guy into a building because the legislature voted a building for both things, and then to run out the basketball players and have our record judged by such uneven procedure. Certainly we should have the court from 3:30 on during the months of late December, January and February. We always close our season the first week in March. Then the other people would have it ten months in the year. Five to one seems to me a fair ratio of expectation.

Ernie Quigley worked with Swarthout on the thing at the beginning of the year, but the joke of the thing is that we have never had it, and won't have it until next week because this week we are playing the Tigers at