

University of Texas at Tyler

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12-3-2007

### Patriot Talon Vol. 39 Issue 6 (2007)

Archives Account

*University of Texas at Tyler*

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University workers who  
rarely go noticed  
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Top 10 gifts you're just dying to  
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Volume 39, Issue 6

The University of Texas at Tyler

# Glam in the a.m.

## 6:15 a.m. workout sessions at the HPC help reduce stress and improve weight loss before the holidays

**By Karli Tedford**  
*Staff Writer*

As soon as aerobics class ends, Kelli Hannis reaches for the telephone to give her 15-year-old son a wake-up call.

"Once I forgot to call and he was late for school," she explained.

Hannis, 44, teaches aerobics at 6:15 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Louise Herrington Patriot Center.

The center is lit up like a beacon, but campus is emptier than on a Friday afternoon - and darker. Four cars sit scattered throughout the parking lot as the janitorial golf cart sweeps through collecting trash.

A wall of glass windows allows patrons to see the sky transform from night to daylight within the hour.

One week ago, 20 participants managed to get out of bed and arrive to Hannis' aerobics class on time. This week, only four showed.

"It's definitely hard to wake up, but once I'm here, it's great," Kristen Scheerer, a representative for the Delta Gamma sorority, said.

Sue Gossett, a career services staffer, is one early regular.

"I'm just too tired in the evening," she said.

Having a steady group of regulars is the challenge, Hannis said.

Computer science professor Kay Pleasant is another pre-sunrise regular. Pleasant said she has been up since 4 a.m., so 6:15 a.m. doesn't seem early.

tomed Girls" help maintain the momentum and rhythm of class.

When her "gluteus minimous" joke only received a few grins, Hannis said "You have to have a sense of humor to be in my class."

Hannis' apparent dedication to fitness is not always easy. She has been an instructor for 14 years and still requires occasional motivation.

"You have to make it a habit," she said, "You just can't stop."

Hannis also teaches aerobics on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at 4:30 (for beginners) and 5:15.

Brandi Stewart, a nursing student, said she prefers the morning class because it's less crowded. Although it is hard to wake up, Stewart said she tries to come each morning she doesn't have clinicals.

"She knows what she's doing and makes it fun," Stewart said.

Hannis' students love her just as much as endorphins. Stewart said she tells them of any planned absences and rarely can-

-See Page 4, **MORNING**



# Alleged sexual assault reported at Ornelas Hall

**By Anthony Croff**  
*Editor in Chief*

Police arrested an Ornelas Hall resident, charging him with sexual assault after an alleged Nov. 19 incident in a dormitory room.

Police booked Jesse Flowers, 19, into Smith County Jail on Nov. 20, Chief Mike Medders said.

Flowers, a biology and psychology major from Woodville, is currently free on \$75,000 bond, according to Smith County Sheriff's records.

"The victim reported non-consensual sexual activity had occurred, and a preliminary investigation revealed evidence of non-consensual activity," Medders said.

Medders said the investigation is ongoing.

"There are still things being done," he said. "People are still being interviewed."

Medders said the allegations fit the Texas statute for sexual assault and that the incident was not a random act. He described the incident as an "acquaintance type situation."

Due to the sensitivity and nature of the case, Medders said no other information is being released at this time.

David Hill, residence life director, and Kelley Hartnett, residence life coordinator, would not confirm or deny if Flowers is currently living on campus, citing student confidentiality rules.

Hill said, hypothetically, a student can be temporarily suspended from campus, from housing, or both, depending on what administrators deem fit for the situation.

The registrar's office confirmed Flowers is still enrolled in classes.

A source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told a *Patriot Talon* reporter Flowers has not returned to Ornelas Hall since his arrest.

It is unclear if Flowers has been able to continue attending class.

Flowers did not respond to the *Patriot Talon's* e-mails, a letter left in his dorm mailbox, and a cell phone message seeking comment.

**{Inside:**

**See page 14 for more crime reports from the campus and surrounding areas**



"I've had a pot of coffee. It's my best time of day," Pleasant said. Songs such as Fergie's "Glamorous" and Queen's "Fat-bot-

Staff photo by Michelle Morse  
Junior nursing major Tiffiney Meza participates in aerobics class at the Patriot Center as the sun rises Wednesday morning.

### Herrington Patriot Center Holiday Hours

Dec. 17 through Jan. 13

Monday through Friday – 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday – 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Dec. 31 – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Jan. 1 – 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

## Debate team triumphs, two in a row for Dodd

By Travis Webb  
Associate Editor

CLINTON, Miss. – This weekend's International Public Debate Association tournament got off to a rather dubious start for the University's team – an 18-wheeler tractor trailer nearly ran the van full of debaters off the road, resulting in a call to 911 emergency services.

No one was injured and team member Nikki McClenny slept through the excitement.

However, over the course of the weekend, the University's debate team proved it takes more than a brief altercation with a few measly tons of glass, plastic and steel to slow them down.

Veteran members and varsity competitors Sean Dodd, 22, and Darci Meadville, 22, both excelled – Dodd managed to take home the tournament championship and Meadville won the title of Varsity Top Speaker.

"They did well," said Dr. Jeffrey Hobbs, University debate team coach and interim chair of the Department of Communication. "But then, they usually do so well that I kind of expect it."

McClenny won two of six rounds and competitor Julie Hughes was one for six in the novice competition. This was her first appearance in a college tournament.

The Deep South IPDA Tournament, held at Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss., pitted the University team against seven others: The University of Louisiana at Shreveport, Mississippi College, The University of Arkansas at Monticello, Stephen F. Austin State University, Xavier College and The University of Louisiana at Monroe.

That makes two in a row for Dodd, who also placed first in the in the IPDA competition at Louisiana State University at Shreveport, Nov. 9-11.

That tournament brought together 28 colleges and universities from Alabama, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

### ALL BETS OFF

Just east of the Mississippi River lays Vicksburg's Ameristar Casino. This past Friday found debate team members gathered upstairs, not to gamble but to dine – and discuss the competition – competition like Keith Milstead from LSUS.

"You should see this guy," Dodd said, addressing the newer competitors. "He's a very good speaker – very, very persuasive."

And Dodd should know – Milstead managed to defeat him in Michigan at the IPDA Pi Kappa Delta National Finals in

2006.

While conversation on the five-hour trip touched on everything from politics to the score of the Dallas Cowboys and Greenbay Packers game, there was one overarching theme – the difficulty inherent in this form of debate.

"The worst thing about this form of debate is that a lot of things combine to keep the arguments really simple, much less technical than other styles of debate," Dodd said. "You can't always get into the complexity."

Dodd said the preliminary rounds pair up competitors who then "draw" for a topic.

"The opponents take turns eliminating topics until only one remains," he said.

Competitors then receive 30 minutes to prepare before giving a five minute constructive argument.

Two-minute cross examinations follow each constructive speech, and are in turn followed by a series of five and three minute rebuttals.

"With this form of debate, so much depends on the judge," Meadville said.

She said IPDA allows for informal, or lay, judges who are often unaware of the formal rules of the tournament.

"People say it's about education – it's

-See Page 4, **DEBATE**

# Biology professor Pogue dies at 43

By Anthony Croff  
Editor in Chief

Biology professor and researcher Dr. Darrell Pogue, 43, succumbed to cancer on Nov. 26 and was buried Friday in Ada, Okla.

Pogue worked for the University since the fall of 2000 and specialized in ornithology and landscape ecology, Dr. Don Killebrew, biology chair, said.

This semester, Pogue taught a graduate seminar as well as general biology, he said.

Killebrew said Pogue's symptoms, mainly a persistent cough, began in February.

In August, doctors diagnosed Pogue with adenocarcinoma, which originated in his lungs, he said. Pogue continued working until the beginning of November.

"It's one of those that's very difficult to treat," Killebrew said. "He was positive to the end. That was very characteristic of Darrell."

Killebrew characterized Pogue, who had just purchased his first home, as a kind and gentle man and a very productive researcher with an artistic and creative side.

"He was a 'Renaissance man,'" he said. "He water-colored, made cut glass art, and made lamps. He was an excellent cook – everyone loved his candy."

Jessica Coleman, a former graduate student of the University, took over teaching Pogue's classes last month.

Coleman, who worked for Pogue and took classes from him for the past three years, described him as "a good guy, fun-loving, and a little bit of a jokester" who was always willing to help.

Biology professor Dr. John Boucher echoed Coleman's statements, saying Pogue was very well-liked by students.

"He could joke with them, laugh with them, but at the same time be respected by them," he said.

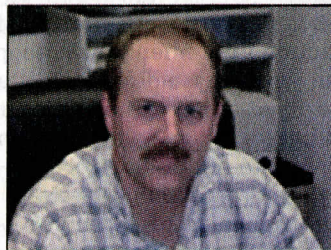
Julie Franklin, senior journalism major, said Pogue had a humorous and fun way of teaching biology.

"It's a huge loss," she said. "He made learning really fun – he was really funny and told lots of great stories."

Franklin said students were aware of his diagnosis but not its severity.

"He didn't want any of us to know how bad off he was," she said. "He didn't want students to worry."

Pogue also was a productive grant writer who was making a name for himself in the field of ornithology, Boucher



Pogue

-See Page 4, **POGUE**





## Origins of Christmas a collage of history and pagan traditions

### Guest Column



Ashlie Osburn

With Thanksgiving over, temperatures becoming colder and 2007 growing older, for many the holiday season fills the air.

Television is a continuous Christmas commercial promoting gift ideas and sales items.

Not only is traffic and shopping highest during this time of year but also the diversity in which Americans celebrate Christmas.

Other than extreme gift giving and receiving, when asked at random, the majority of people did not know the origins of such a beloved holiday.

Asked about the origins of Christmas, many replied "Jerusalem" or "Bethlehem."

"Its Jesus' birthday, duh," said sophomore John Bragg.

In reality, Christmas' origin is a collection of pagan rituals and holidays beginning in ancient Egypt and Roman cultures.

"Most scholars believe that Christmas originated in the fourth century as a Christian substitute for pagan celebrations of the winter solstice. Many Romans also celebrated the lengthening of daylight following the winter solstice by participating in rituals to glorify Mithra, the ancient Persian god of light," according to the MSN Encarta website.

The Roman Catholic Church chose Dec. 25 as the day of Jesus' birth to attract pagan believers to Christianity.

"For example, the church replaced festivities honoring the birth of Mithra, the god

because of its pagan origins and carousing practices.

From 1659 to 1681, Christmas was against the law in Boston and not declared a federal holiday until June 26, 1870, according to the History Channel's website.

Santa Clause also has roots in cultic practices in Germanic and Dutch holidays.

"In Germany, people honored the pagan god Oden during the mid-winter holiday. Germans were terrified of Oden, as they believed he made nocturnal flights

through the sky to observe his people, and

then decide who would prosper or perish,"

according to the History Channel.

To the majority of the world's

population, Christmas

would not be complete without a Christmas tree. However, the Christmas tree is also an

ancient symbol entwined in the mid-

origins not only with Romans, but also with the Egyptians, Vikings, Celts and Babylonians.

"Early Romans marked the solstice with a feast called the Saturnalia in honor of Saturn, the god of agriculture. To mark the occasion, they decorated their homes and temples with evergreen boughs," according to the History Channel.

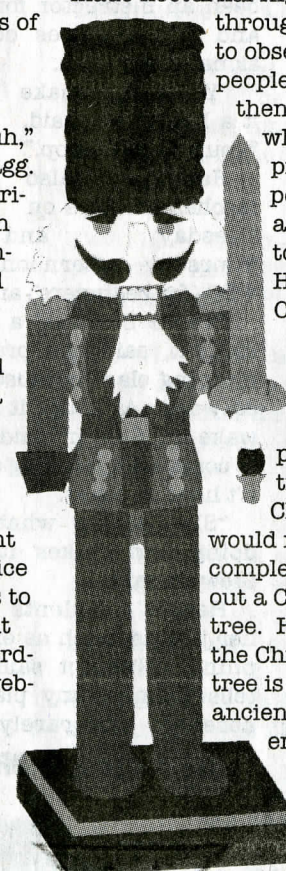
This act of bringing in evergreen trees into the home for decoration during this festival not only has origins in the ancient world, but also in the developing countries of Europe.

"As early as the 17th century, Germans had transformed this pagan symbol of fertility into a Christian symbol of rebirth," according to MSN Encarta.

Putting a decorated tree in one's home has a history old enough to be mentioned in the Bible.

In the Bible, Jeremiah was a prophet to the heathen nations. His focus was teaching the people not to practice the customs of the heathen.

"For the customs of the people are delusions: Because it is wood cut from



December

holiday long before Christmas was celebrated.

## Our campus no safer if guns are allowed

As a student (and sometimes freelance) journalist, there are a number of things that pay off if done regularly: updating your appointment schedule, always having a pen and pad at hand, drinking coffee, etc.

In addition, it's usually a good idea to pay attention to the news.

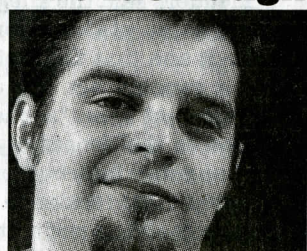
It sounds like a no-brainer but honestly, sometimes I get so busy I forget the world outside of Tyler exists.

Like many people my age, I get a good deal of news from Internet sources and while the net isn't always credible well - neither is television.

And that's how I stumbled across this, [www.concealed-campus.org](http://www.concealed-campus.org).

For those of you who

### the Last Laugh



Travis Webb

to carry concealed weapons on college campuses.

Now this idea isn't new - it's been tossed around for years but has gotten a lot of attention since the April massacre at Virginia Tech University.

It's a pretty straightforward idea, guns=bad so somehow guns(x)=good

of last April.

It's a theory of course, we'll never really know, but it certainly seems plausible.

That's why I propose a happy (if violent) medium - allow faculty and staff to take classes training them in the use of tasers, pepper spray, and other non-lethal forms of protection.

I know this would certainly make me feel safer than the idea of one of my ex-girlfriends walking around campus legally with a Desert Eagle .50.

This would likely also cut down on sarcasm, sass and general backtalk in the classroom.

Seriously people, safety is first and foremost a job for campus security but if per-



campus.org.  
For those of you who haven't yet had a wireless Internet card installed directly to your forehead, that's the Web site sponsored by Students for Concealed Carry on Campus, a national, non-partisan student group dedicated to lobbying for the right

ward idea, guns=bad so somehow guns(x) =good.  
I love the Bill of Rights and all but that just does not seem mathematically sound to me.  
Then again, a legally armed, responsible student or faculty member just might have prevented the tragedy

first and foremost a job for campus security but if personal protection is really an issue, I honestly feel safer knowing that college students can't bring weapons on campus -- many of us can't be trusted to attend class regularly, much less bring a gun to school.

replaced festivities honoring the birth of Mithra, the god of light, with festivities to commemorate the birth of Jesus whom the Bible calls the light of the world," according to MSN Encarta.  
Christmas remained illegal in some parts of America during the 17<sup>th</sup> century

Monday long before Christmas was celebrated.  
"As late as the 1840s Christmas trees were seen as pagan symbols and not accepted by most Americans," according to the History Channel.  
Historical aspects of the Christmas tree also have

peoples are delusions.  
Because it is wood cut from the forest, the work of the craftsman with a cutting tool. They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers so that it does not totter," Jeremiah 10:3-4.

# Sympathy not always appropriate: Excessive doses might actually inhibit learning and relationships

People usually feel sorry for me because of my disability.

However, a friend recently told me he does not feel sorry for me because I do not act like I am in a wheelchair.

Often sympathy puts up a barrier between people with disabilities and people without them. The question we must ask ourselves is, does feeling sorry for someone really help them?

Sympathy is most often the first reaction I get when I meet people. It is common for people to act awkwardly at social gatherings around me because they do not know how to react to my disability.

Now, I certainly understand there is no malice in these people's actions. The problem is, when peo-

ple feel sorry for individuals with disabilities it makes them uncomfortable and they react abnormally.

There is no direct harm in sympathy. The problem with sympathy is that it does not allow relationships and individuals to reach their full potential.

On the first day of class I always wait for the reading of Americans with Disabilities Act statement in the back of the syllabus because I know all eyes will be on me. At least that's how I feel.

In a college classroom it is important to bring ones individuality out into the open.

Though, sympathy singles people out but for the wrong reasons. Learning helps people define who they are. If someone feels like they

are being felt sorry for because of a disability or any other reason, it directly hinders their self-expression.

College is supposed to be a time when students acquire an education and make long-lasting relationships with their peers. Sympathy makes it difficult for people to get to know one another.

It is impossible to cultivate a meaningful relationship with someone if we constantly worry about how we react to their disability or any other detail about them.

From the other perspective, it is difficult for a person with a disability to socialize if they believe they are being felt sorry for.

It is hard enough as it is for students to jump into college life and



make an attempt at socializing.

Sympathy just makes it even more difficult for students to let down their guard.

Sympathy can be defeated though - replace it with empathy.

Through empathy, people make an attempt to get to know each

other. Through empathy, we make an attempt to get on the same level as others.

Able-bodied people need to ask all the questions they have about disabilities. Individuals with disabilities need to be willing to share information about their disability and information about themselves.

If people understand disabilities then they become far less frightening.

With this understanding of someone's disability it is then possible to get to know the person behind the disability.

After all, doesn't everyone want to be understood and accepted?

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

It has recently been brought to my attention that funds have been allocated for the construction of a beach on campus.

I cannot fully voice my reaction to such news, for my emotional state transcends the bounds of lexical domain-words cannot fully express it. For brevity's sake, I will describe it as rapturous ecstasy.

It is obvious, to me, that this is the sort of bold move required to elevate UT Tyler to that higher echelon of academia, to set her confidently in the ranks of those hallowed and enlightened institutions of yore: those Princetons, those Yales.

This, I believe, is truly our chance to be like Harvard-like Harvard, but without that uptight nerd quality.

Just the thought of nubile young bodies, obscured minimally by tasteful bikini tops, prancing about campus, makes me excited about learning again.

I am sick and tired of people whining about supporting the arts in schools, as if that stuff is more important than having fun.

I am glad that the administration is so astute in their understanding that the only way to make people interested in academics is to make them less academic.

To those naysayers who might suggest this money were better spent in practicalities such as bolstering the staff in key areas to accommodate increased enrollment; pie-in-the-sky idealistic efforts like making the campus more handicap

accessible in search of that nebulous "equality" thing; or just lame suggestions like adding another parking space of two to the overabundance we currently have; to you I say "Dare to dream big".

Our students should not have to slave away on exams just wishing that they were lying on a beach in some far off paradise; we should bring paradise to the piney woods-where she belongs.

Joel Looney  
senior

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**General Statement:** This is a student publication and the opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the administration, faculty, staff, alumni or student body of the University.

**Letter Policy:** All contributions in good taste will be edited for grammar, spelling, length (300 words maximum), libel, profanity and personal attacks. All letters must contain the author's name, address, telephone number, academic classification and home town.

**Mission Statement:** The *Patriot Talon* is designed to inform, entertain, educate and heighten awareness of students, faculty and administrators at the University of Texas at Tyler. Staff members will be responsible journalists by maintaining high ethical standards with fairness, accuracy and balance.

The *Patriot Talon* encourages and provides an avenue for free flow of student expressions and opinions. The newspaper will serve as a learning tool to help students gain experience in all aspects of the print media.



# Top 10

## HOLIDAY

# Wish list

We surveyed our staff to see  
the most wanted gifts  
(just in case you drew a blank)

**1. Apple iPod** – Ask anyone what the first thing they think of when someone

suggests an Mp3 player. Most likely Apple's iPod comes up. The new generations of iPods come in various sizes and gigabytes and the largest one can hold 40,000 songs. The iPod Nano starts at around \$150, and the iPod Classic starts at around \$250.



**2. Laptop** – College students need portability. Transferring files from a flash drive to a computer in a lab is time-consuming. Laptops can be used to take notes in class and do your homework by the lake. The Talon staff recommends an Apple MacBook.

- \* 13" led screen
- \* 2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- \* 1GB memory
- \* 80GB hard drive
- \* Combo drive
- \* Starts at \$1,099



**3. Guitar Hero III** – There's something about video games which make you a pseudo musician. Guitar Hero gives the user a plastic guitar with buttons instead of notes. The screen

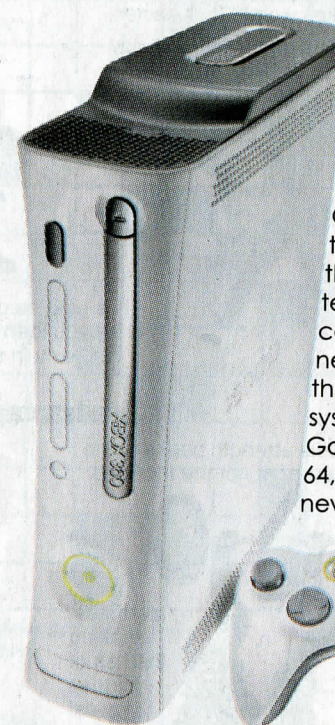
gives you directions on which button to press while a song plays. It might be fun, but you won't be Eddie Van Halen



**6. Restaurant Gift Card** – Poor college students really have only one need – food. However, we can only survive for so long on Ramen and Tacos. Get us some gift cards to quality restaurants around Tyler. Olive Garden, Carino's, Applebees, Bennigans and Casa Ole are all good choices. Gift cards should be anywhere from \$15-\$30. The more the better.

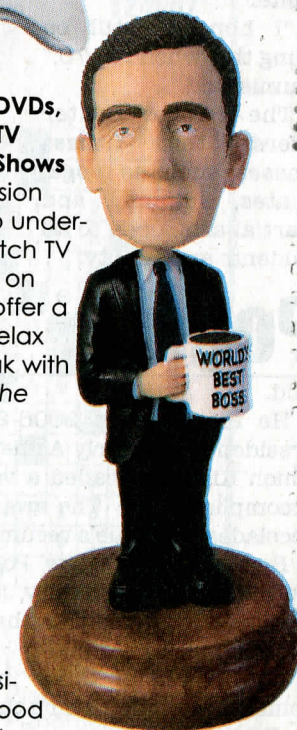
**7. XBOX/Playstation 3** – Honestly, how are we supposed to play

Guitar Hero III without one of these monster consoles? With the prices dropping on both systems and new excellent games coming out all the time, there's never been a better time to ask the folks for a shiny new game system. After all, as fun as Goldeneye was on the Nintendo 64, Halo 3 looks a lot nicer on that new 40" LCD.



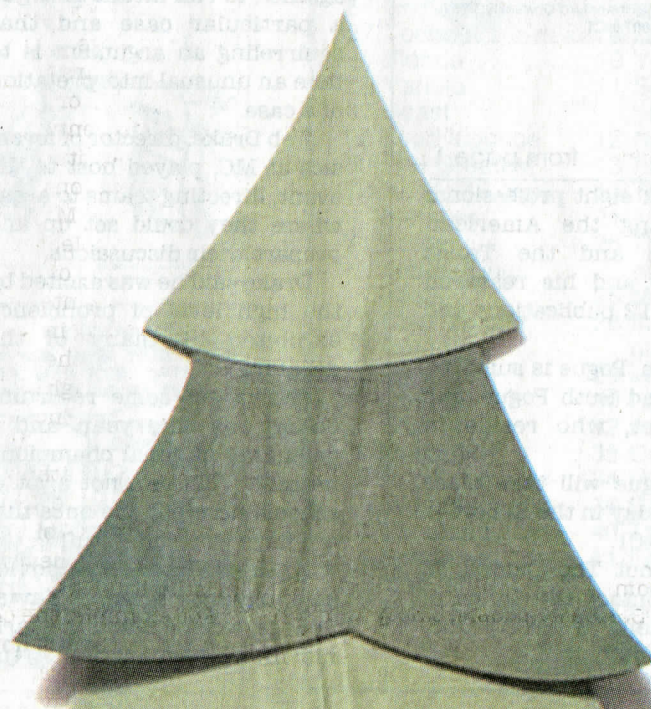
**8. DVDs, TV Shows**

The recent boom in television shows on DVD isn't hard to understand – people love to watch TV without commercials (and on their own time). TV shows offer a wonderful opportunity to relax and chill out over the break with a full season of Heroes or The Office.



**9. Sports Tickets** – Commentators and sports enthusiasts

understand just how good Texas sports teams are right now. Dallas, San Antonio and Houston we're recently called the most difficult basketball teams to beat in the NBA. The Dallas Cowboys and the Stars aren't doing so bad for themselves either. Tickets to Texas Stadium or The American Airlines Center shouldn't





fun, but you won't be Eddie Van Halen any time soon. You'll be lucky to find a copy of this game, and it will put you back about 200 bucks.

# HERO II

**4. Digital Camera** – This has been a staple of Christmas mornings around the U.S.A. for several years now. The choices are endless with numerous different megapixel counts and zoom lengths. Try it out in the store, but the Talon staff recommends a Canon Powershot A550, with 7.1 million pixels and a 4x optical zoom. Should run around \$200.



**5. Clothes** – Personal preference dictates this one, but most people put clothes on their list. But honestly, putting clothes on your list is just asking for it. Ask for gift cards to your favorite stores instead of trusting great-grandma to get you the right size short-shorts from Hollister.



Stadium or The American Airlines Center shouldn't run too much for nosebleed seats.



**10. Money** – On just about everyone's list was one single unifying factor – money. Everyone seems to want both quality and quantity in their dollars. Add that to the ability to buy anything you want and not be limited by a gift certificate to a certain store, and you have one mighty powerful piece (or hopefully pieces) of paper.





## Morning

from page 1

cels. And come four or 20, she puts the same amount of energy into her routine.

Sociology professor Dr. Davor Jedlicka attends the 4:30 p.m. class. He describes Hannis as the Energizer Bunny. Stewart used the word "bubbly."

Hannis grinned and admitted to a change in her personality. "I used to be shy until I started teaching aerobics," Hannis said.

Hannis is just like any other woman. At the beginning of class she told students she made cookies for her kids over the weekend, so she had to work extra hard.

"And I stuck one in my lunch," she added.

Hannis heads downstairs after the energy-packed hour to freshen up for her day job as a secretary for the Patriot Center.

"I hope to still be doing this when I'm 70," Hannis said.

The Patriot Center offers other fitness classes such as yoga, pilates, spinning and martial arts, open to all students and faculty.

### Personal Trainer

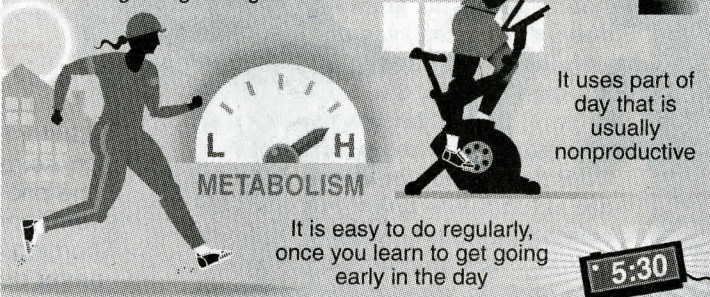
## Early-morning exercise?

Scientists and trainers disagree over whether early morning – before work or school – is a good time for serious exercise.

### Advantages

It speeds up body's metabolism earlier than usual, makes weight loss easier

It creates more time in day for gaining strength

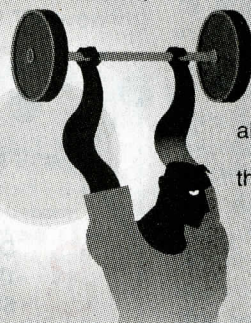


It uses part of day that is usually nonproductive

It is easy to do regularly, once you learn to get going early in the day

### Disadvantages

Muscle strength peaks in the afternoon, not the morning



So does mental alertness, making the risk of injuries lowest then



Exercising early can cause serious sleep deprivation if you do not go to bed early enough

Source: American Council on Exercise, neurologist Phyllis Zee of Northwestern University, CNN  
Graphic: Helen Lee McCormas, Paul Trap © 2007 MCT

## Pogue

from page 1

said.

He received the 2006-2007 UT Tyler President's Scholarly Achievement Award, which Killebrew called a very prestigious accomplishment. The award is one of 14 accolades on Pogue's resume.

Boucher, who knew Pogue outside of working at the University, said Pogue was a well-rounded person who had his work and personal life in order.

"He is one of those individuals who comes along in a lifetime that honestly has it all," he said.

Pogue obtained his bachelor's degree in 1986 from East Central University in Ada, Okla. He received his master's and doctorate degrees from the University of

He was a member of eight professional organizations including the American Ornithologists' Union and the Texas Ornithological Society and his research work has appeared in 12 publications and 14 technical reports.

Born in Wichita Falls, Pogue is survived by his parents, R.C. and Ruth Pogue, two sisters and a brother, who reside in Oakman, Okla.

A memorial for Pogue will take place from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Friday in the Robert R. Muntz Library, Room 401.

For information about The Darrell W. Pogue Scholarship, contact the Office of University Advancement at (903) 566-7110.

## Debate

from page 1

about competition, logic and argumentation," Dodd said. "The real benefit of IPDA is that it teaches you how to persuade lay people."

While IPDA rules are for one-on-one debate only, Dodd said also it's something of a team sport.

"In other styles of debate it's more of a team competition, but in this you debate alone," he said. "But the research and preparation are definitely a team effort."

### HIT AND RUN

That team effort was on display as competitors set up tables and scrambled to set up laptop computers in the basement of Mississippi College's Aven Hall.

Dodd plugged himself into his iPod and sat, dancing in his chair – part of his pre-debate ritual.

Less experienced members like McClenny and Hughes quickly set out on reconnaissance missions to locate judging rooms and result postings.

Debater jargon filled the air with terms like "hit," "run" and "squirrel."

Dodd said hit, in debate parlance, means to be matched against, to run means to argue a particular case and that squirreling an argument is to take an unusual interpretation of a case.

Web Drake, director of forensics at MC, played host to the event, directing teams to areas where they could set up and prepare their discussions.

Drake said he was excited by the high level of proficiency exhibited by many of the debaters.

"We've got some returning champions this year, and a defending national champion," he said. "There's not a lot of schools here but the ones that are have won some stuff."

Andrew Harris, a novice competitor from Xavier College, said he found the early morning preparations the

most stressful part of the competition.

"It's really stressful. I'm calm on the way but once you step in here, your stomach starts to turn," he said. "Basically you're just waiting around for an hour until it's time to perform."

Others spoke of their love for this type of competition and the hustle and bustle that accompanies it.

Joel Brown, 21, an LSUS senior competing in the Open Division, said he loves the process and preparation that goes into debate tournaments.

"Yeah, it's hectic – there's just so many people, but it's normally pretty fun. Really, it's all I know how to do," he said.

Brown said, while he enjoys debate for the educational benefits, what he likes best is the opportunity to meet new people.

"Some of these people I've known for years," he said. "And every year I get to meet new ones."

### ROUND AND ROUND

IDPA tournaments are comprised of a series of one-on-one debates called "rounds," in one of three divisions, novice, varsity and open.

Dodd said the rounds last throughout Friday and Saturday and sometimes into Sunday and gradually eliminate competitors based on a win/loss record.

These preliminaries are followed by "out-rounds," comprised of quarter, semi and final rounds.

Topics for rounds include subjects ranging from things as vague as "We have to stop it," to more specific examples like "Fossil fuels are our greatest problem."

Contestants arguing the affirmative position have to the right to define all terms in the topic, but also typically carry the burden of proof.

Contestants are assigned to

either the affirmative or negative except in out-rounds where an element on chance comes into play.

"During prelims you're assigned matches but in out-rounds you have to flip a coin," Meadville said. "This is where the superstition comes in."

Other than the standard preparation time of 30 minutes, there were no breaks between rounds.

"A lot of times it turns into an endurance contest," Dodd said. "Once, we were in rounds – with no breaks to rest or eat – from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m." he said.

Contestants are not only judged on their logic and reasoning skills, but also receive speaker points based on the quality of their presentation. These points are used to break ties, and high point winners receive Top Speaker Awards, regardless of their records.

Although only Dodd advanced far enough to represent the University in out-rounds, his final two rounds attracted small but eager crowds, particularly his semi-final round against Milstead, his rival from the 2006 nationals.

Milstead, who should graduate this December, said he was honored to have done so well and to have had the opportunity to face a worthy opponent in his final tournament.

"I had a really good sense that (Dodd) won," he said. "I've been doing this a long time and I'm honored to have such a great round in my last real competition."

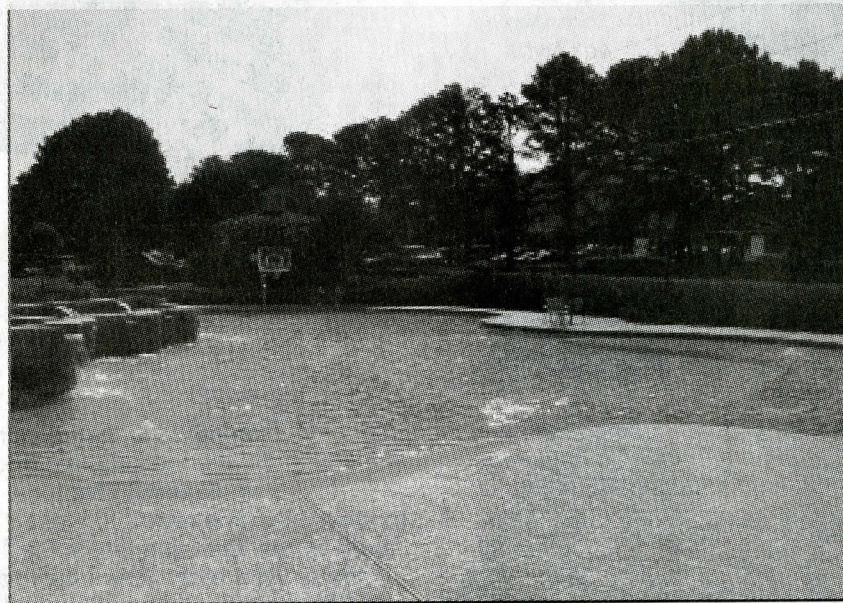
But in the end, Dodd said he wasn't really all that concerned with winning the tournament so much as winning rounds.

"I'm happy at the result – happy to win," he said. "Frankly, at this point it's not that big a deal, win or lose. Don't get me wrong, in (the round) my blood was pumping – I thought my heart was going



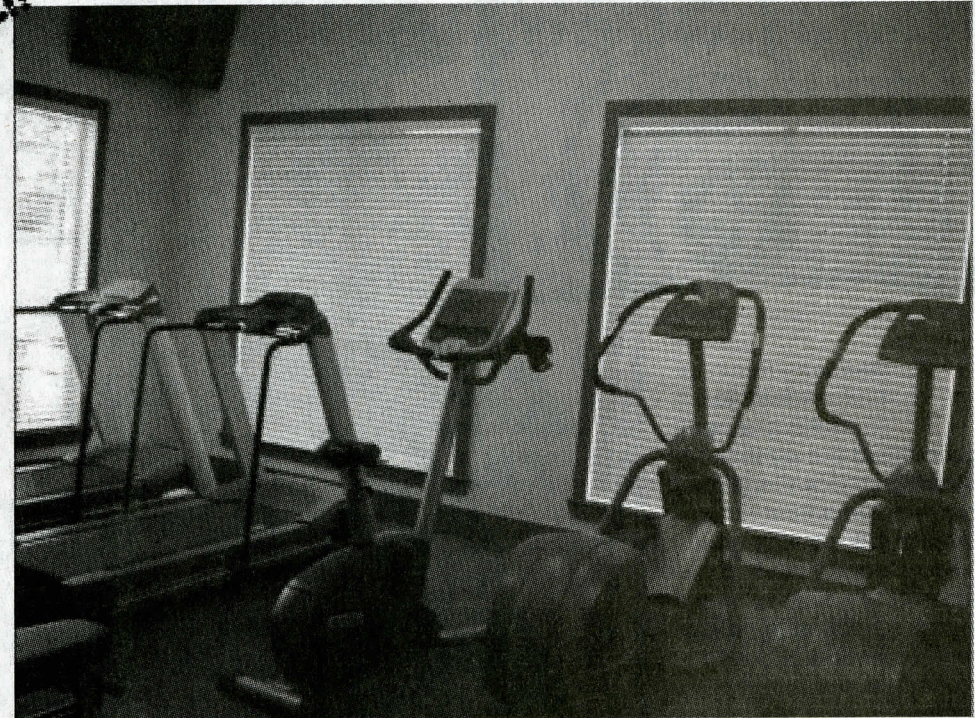
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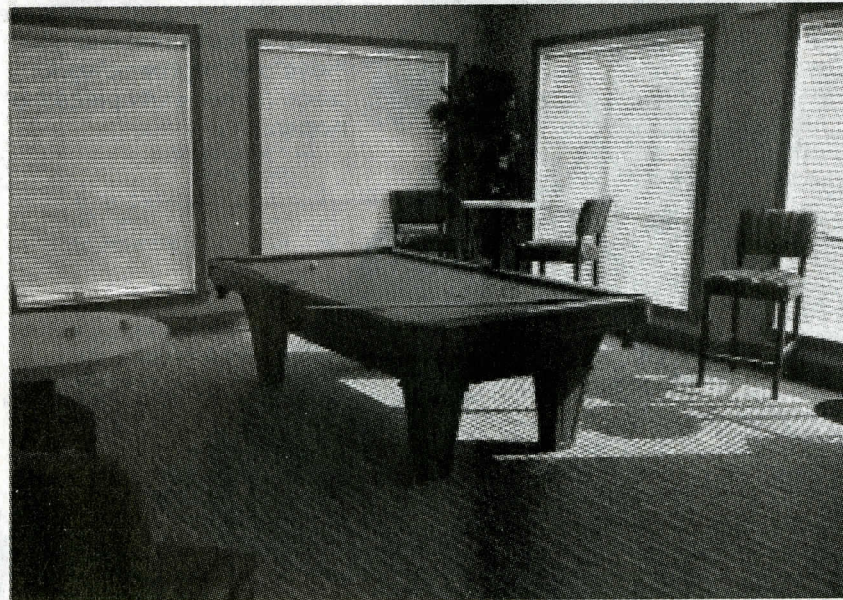


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# Survey says: More students studying Arabic, African, Asian languages

By Lisa M. Krieger

San Jose Mercury News  
(MCT)

College students are increasingly opting to study Middle Eastern, African and Asian languages rather than Spanish, French and German, according to a major new survey by a group that has tracked such statistics for nearly 50 years.

A study by the Modern Language Association released earlier this month, the first since 2002, offers a snapshot of student interest in languages in the fall of 2006 at all post-secondary schools in the country.

Still, Spanish is by far the most popular language studied at U.S. colleges and universities, the study found.

For reasons ranging from Sept. 11 to the Internet and the globalization of the American economy, the largest increases in interest were in Middle Eastern and African languages, where enrollments grew by 55.9 percent and in Asian and Pacific languages, which reported a 24.6 increase.

"There is a readiness on the part of many

students to study what have long been considered less familiar and more difficult languages," said Karin Ryding, a member of the MLA's the association's Committee on Foreign Languages and Professor of Arabic at Georgetown University in Washington D.C.

"Americans are, above all, pragmatic language learners," said Ryding at a news conference Nov. 13. "If they see a vital need in terms of national interest or professional opportunity, they will invest the time and energy to study those languages."

The single most dramatic increase was in Arabic, with a 126.5-percent jump in enrollments between 2002 and 2006. Not only have enrollments in Arabic expanded more than two-fold, but the number of colleges and universities offering Arabic has also nearly doubled. Researchers received reports from 466 Arabic programs in 2006 vs. 264 in 2002.

Chinese and Korean enrollments climbed by 51 and 37 percent, respectively, during the four-year period. Some of these students are what researchers call "heritage learners," who seek to reconnect with their native culture and the language of their parents and grandpar-

ents.

But almost three-quarters of all students continue to study the traditional favorites - Spanish, French and German.

Spanish remains the most taught language in the United States, outdistancing all other contenders. Enrollment in Spanish has expanded by 10.3 percent, continuing a record of uninterrupted growth begun in 1980. French remains second and German third in popularity.

But as a percentage of total language enrollments, Spanish, French, and German have lost ground in the past four decades. Spanish remains above 50 percent of total language enrollments, where it has been since 1995, having risen from 32.4 percent in 1968. French has fallen from 34.4 percent in 1968 to 13.1 percent in 2006. Over the same period, German has fallen from 19.2 percent to 6.0 percent.

Russian and Hebrew are barely holding ground. Irish enrollments decreased by 45.5 percent.

In actual enrollments, Arabic still remains relatively small - but for the first time has sur-

passed Ancient Greek and Biblical Hebrew.

Overall, the portion of college students studying foreign languages has increased only slightly - a trend that researchers say reflects the increasing number of competing course offerings.

In fall 2006, only 8.6 of 100 students enrolled in colleges and universities studied a modern language course.

Although the number reflects a slight increase from the 2002 figure of 8.1 - and well above the numbers seen in the 1970s, when enrollments declined - this number is still well below, almost by half, the enrollments in 1960 and 1965 of 16.1 and 16.5, respectively.

The Modern Language Association, with the support of grants from the Department of Education, has gathered and analyzed information on enrollments in languages other than English since 1958.

Founded in 1883, the association works to strengthen the study and teaching of language and literature.

## University waiting approval for new doctoral program

By Paige Hayter  
staff writer

Members of the Department of Human Resource Development and Technology are anxiously waiting to gain approval from Austin to introduce their new 60-hour doctoral program to the University in the 2008 fall semester.

"We already have over 100 students who are interested in joining the program once it is enstated," Dr. Rita Dobbs, director of graduate studies in Human Resource and Development said.

The program will accept only 15 students who have a score more than 1,000 on the Graduate Record Examination, have a master's degree and a GPA of no lower than 3.5 on all master's classes.

There also are conditional requirements that students can meet to be accepted if they do not meet the standard requirements.

Dobbs said the number of allowable students is reflective of the number of available faculty.

After the program's final approval from three cooperative board in Austin, it will be the second Human Resource and Development doctoral program in the state.

"We're going to change the climate of the University," depart-

## Tips to stay safe over the holidays

From University Environmental Health and Safety

By Nathan Jennings  
EH&S Intern

As the fall semester comes to an end and Christmas decorations start going up, most students are not thinking about electrical safety. Soon you will be packing up your clothes in a rush to head back home for the holidays. We all want a break from school but we must all be aware of the dangers that come with the Holiday rush.

It always happens this time of year - the already full outlets gain a few extra pounds. The power strips which once held only your computer are now asked to hold 10 strands of lights and a plug-in sugar cookie scent. Just the thought of an overloaded outlet brings flashes of fire to the mind

lights and other decorations into a single outlet. Overloaded outlets can overheat and cause a fire.

Be careful not to mount or hang light strands in any way that might damage the cord's insulation.

Before using electrical products outdoors, make sure the product is approved and marked "for outdoor use."

Turn lights and other decorations off when you leave or go to bed.

Now, before you can load up the car and speed home for the break, there is one more key area which needs to be addressed: Securing your apartment or dorm. To do this, you need to unplug all kitchen appliances and electronic equipment.

Next, lock all windows and doors on





Development doctoral program in the state.

"We're going to change the climate of the University," department chair Dr. W. Clayton Allen said.

Unlike the Department of Nursing's new doctoral program, which is entirely online, this program will be taught on campus, which is "attracting people from everywhere," Allen said.

To be approved, every doctoral program must have a cooperative doctoral program in place and a program proposal which must be approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the University of Texas System Board of Regents.

A cooperative program with Texas A&M has been in place since 1989. The department's 900 page proposal received preliminary approval on July 21, 2005.

In February 2007 they received approval from the Board of Regents.

"We are in a good position," Allen said. "We are just waiting for the cooperative board to say 'go.'"

Allen and Dobbs said they are expecting final approval in the spring semester, but the proposal has not been placed on the final calendar yet.

an overloaded outlet brings flashes of fire to the mind.

As reported by the Consumer Products Safety Commission, overloaded outlets are the root cause to an estimated 5,300 fires in American households each year. The Electrical Safety Foundation International reports that of those 5,300 fires, 2,000 occur during the holiday season causing 41 million in damage. According to a recent ESFI study, more than 20 percent of Americans do not follow the simple step of turning off the lighted decorations before going to bed. ESFI encourages you to be safe by following these important safety tips when decorating:

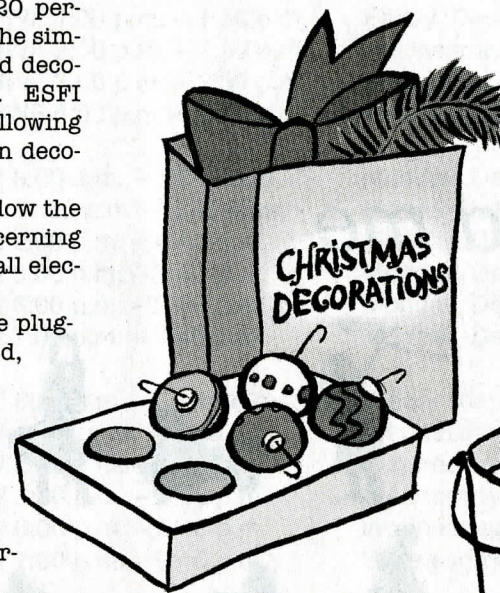
Before you begin, read and follow the manufacturer's instructions concerning installation and maintenance of all electrical decorations.

Inspect each decoration before plugging into an outlet. Cracked, frayed, or bare wires and loose connections may cause a serious electrical shock or start a fire.

Prevent shock by plugging outdoor decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters.

Avoid plugging in too many holiday

Next, lock all windows and doors on your way out. If you are living in Ornelas Hall, you will need to follow proper check-out procedures provided to you by your residents assistant. After 3 months of studying and test taking, you are now ready to relax and enjoy your time off!



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MATH 2413 & 2414 "Calculus I & II"  
PHYS 2325 "University Physics I"

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# Longest-tenured faculty member still kickin'

Dr. Keith McCoy serves up a history lesson dating from 1973 to the present

By Clint Buckley

Contributing Writer

In the beginning, there was Dr. Keith McCoy.

Before the University Center, Harvey Lake and the Herrington Patriot Center, a man from Powell, Wyoming established his affiliation with Tyler State College in 1973.

The school is now known as The University of Texas at Tyler, where the health and kinesiology professor serves as the longest-tenured faculty member, according to University records.

It's difficult for McCoy, 73, to describe the campus when he began.

"There was nothing on this property," he said. "It was just farm land."

McCoy said the original Tyler State College consisted of a building at the corner of North Broadway and Gentry, less than a dozen faculty members and 150 students.

"My personal library was larger than the school library," said McCoy, who was hired as the school's department chairperson for health and physical education.

Growing up in a sparsely populated community, McCoy knew about small numbers.

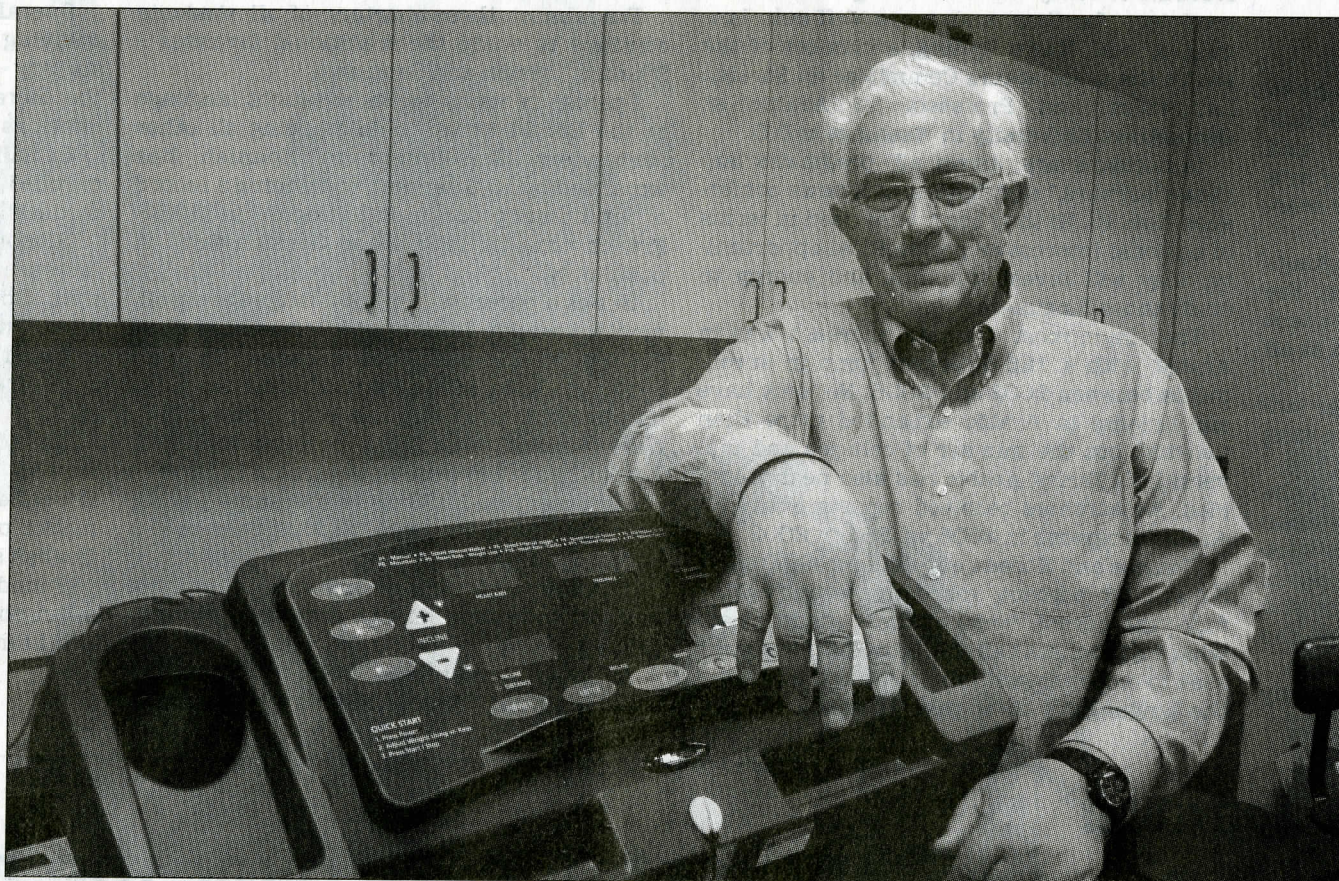
"Everybody in the community knew what everybody was doing," he said. "The parents knew everything you did whether it was right or wrong."

McCoy said he lived just five miles from Yellowstone National Park and engaged in outdoor physical activity at an early age.

He wrestled and played football in high school and college before starting his career as a high school teacher and wrestling coach in Southern California.

Then in 1963, while visiting his brother at LeTourneau University in Longview, McCoy received an offer from the school to start up its swimming and wrestling programs.

McCoy said he felt prepared for the job, but



Dr. Keith McCoy, the longest serving professor at UT Tyler to this day, shows off health and kinesiology equipment. McCoy, 73, began teaching when the University was a building on North Broadway and Gentry.

Staff photo by Jacob Reich

not the Texas weather.

"If you leave the desert and come to East Texas and don't know anything about it, it's surprising," he said. "It didn't take us long to try and find an air conditioner somewhere."

McCoy said he also experienced a warm racial climate.

"I came (to East Texas) when it was still segregated," he said. "That was not pleasant. I had never been in an environment where that was

**"I thought it was going to become a significant institution or I wouldn't have come. Tyler is a good town for a university."**

-Dr. Keith McCoy

true."

He remembers taking wrestling teams he coached into the south where restaurants and hotels refused to accommodate the black team members.

"That probably was the most emotionally and intellectually challenging thing to me in the south," he said.

In 1965, McCoy left LeTourneau to work on his master's at The University of Wyoming. He returned to LeTourneau in 1968 as a health and physical education instructor and remained until 1973 when the new state college in Tyler opened its doors.

"I thought it was going to become a significant institution or I wouldn't have come," he said. "Tyler is a good town for a university. It has everything in its advantage."

Not everyone agreed, McCoy said. "We were not expected to be above 1,900 students for years," he said.

In McCoy's tenure, the school changed its name twice, moved to its current location, became a four-year institution in 1997 and added athletics.

UT Tyler is one of the fastest growing universities in the state and currently serves 6,150 students, according to its Web site.

McCoy said his motivation for continually educating students is simple.

"I'm concerned about them because they've got to make money and pay for my social security and Medicare," he joked, but later added, "You do it because there's satisfaction and because it fits you and your personality."

McCoy has fit UT Tyler for 35 years.

"I've looked at other jobs," he said. "You find out that they're all flawed. There's no perfect job. I tend to be very visionary and I was able to do something here I was unable to do anywhere else in terms of curriculum and the programs."



# Poetry Club

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## Students form gun club, 71 strong and growing

By Melanie Ward  
Staff Writer

Shooting Stars, a new student organization, is aiming — to shoot.

The club is in the beginning stages of organization, but the main goal is to educate people about the facts and misconceptions of gun ownership with a major emphasis on safety, University Police Officer Mark Pierce said.

"I believe the time is right to start this club," Pierce, who is also the group's adviser, said.

An avid gun enthusiast and educator, Pierce wants to provide a place for students, faculty, staff, and administration to come and learn

about the different aspects of gun ownership, from safety to laws and regulations.

"I'd like the club to become a resource for people, a place where they can have an educational experience, not just hands-on, but the history of firearms and Supreme Court decisions surrounding gun issues," he said. "Hopefully it will become a place for students with similar interests to come together, share their knowledge and learn something new."

Pierce also wants to get the University's name out as a school that offers competitive gun teams much like those at The University of Texas at San Antonio and The University of Texas at El Paso.

"I talked to a mother whose son is preparing for the 2008 Olympics in shooting and attends a college in Jacksonville. If we had a competitive team here on our campus, we might be able to draw others to our school that otherwise wouldn't come," he said.

Within 24 hours of setting up the group on Facebook.com, Pierce said 18 people had joined the club. Now, there are about 71 members.

"Many people have a negative image of what a gun club is. I want our members to be seen in a positive way," Pierce said. "We are looking for members who are willing to follow the rules."

Some of the activities Pierce would like to

see happen are live fire events, a skeet/trap shooting day, a beginners' pistol class, possible field trips to gun information and shooting events, and gun education classes.

Pierce said the group provides a place for curious minds to learn more about firearms.

"I want to emphasize that this is not about having guns on campus, he said. "It's just a place for like minded people to come together and learn more about or practice something they love."

Anyone interested in learning more about Shooting Stars can contact Pierce at (903) 566-7386 or search for "Shooting Stars" on Facebook, [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).

## Student hopes to ride right over competition

By Paige Hayter  
staff writer

With her trusty steed Adele Cowboy, junior kinesiology major Maegan Reichert, 21, will be traveling to Las Vegas to compete along with 14 other barrel racers at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo on Dec 3.

"I will be happy just to be there," Reichert said. "It is going to be really tough competition. We will just have to see who performs the best."

Reichert is currently ranked 11 in the nation in barrel racing, and boasts a 3.72 GPA.

Reichert was ranked 10 in the nation, but she said she was forced to miss a competition in Houston to be in class.

Reichert has been riding horses since the age of 3, and competing since she was 5.

She has only been racing on the pro circuit for three years, since riders are not allowed to compete at the pro level until they reach 18 years of age.

Reichert has received a trailer, saddles, belt buckles, saddle pads and trophies for her success.

This year alone, she earned over \$56,000.



Reichert

She also has won Horse of the Year and Horse of the Finals on the amateur circuit with her quarter horse gelding "Adele Cowboy" or Marvin, Reichert said.

Reichert said she wants to achieve the same recognition on the pro circuit.

The NFR will last 10 days and include only the top 15 riders in each division including barrel racing, tie-down roping, bull riding and bare back.

Qualifications are based on ProRodeo Cowboy World Standings.

Each night of the NFR will be broadcast on ESPN 2.

In barrel racing, a rider must navigate their horse around three upright barrels creating a clover-leaf pattern.

If a barrel is knocked down, the rider receives a time penalty. The rider with the fastest time is the winner.

"This event is very fast," Reichert said. "One tiny movement at a wrong hundredth of a second can make a huge difference. It requires you to be on your toes at all times."

Reichert said she has had many falls in her career, but that risks are just part of the sport.

## Student faces probation after racing conviction

By Jenny Simmons  
Associate Editor

A junior journalism major received four years probation after pleading guilty to a Feb. 10 drag race that injured an 11-year-old girl.

Joshua Allen White, 21, of Flint, was formally sentenced Wednesday by Judge Kerry Russell of the 7th District Court.

Russell sentenced White to a deferred adjudication probation, which means if

he complies with the terms of probation the offense will not appear on his record as a conviction.

The conditions of probation require White to perform 160 hours of community service and pay restitution, the amount of which is yet to be determined, according to court records.

For every semester hour of college completed, White will receive three hours credit toward his community service, according to court records.

White raced on Grande Boulevard against a 15-year-old driving a GMC Yukon who lost control of the vehicle and rolled it several times, ejecting one of the passengers.

White was arrested on a warrant for "racing on a highway causing serious bodily injury," a third degree felony.

If he had of been convicted of that charge he could have received a fine up to \$10,000 and two to 10 years in prison.

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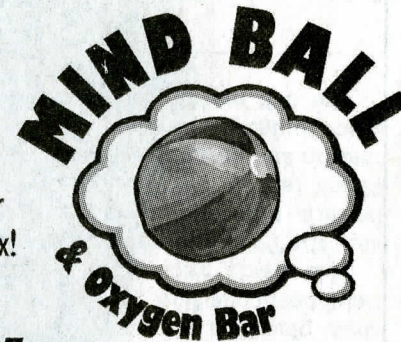


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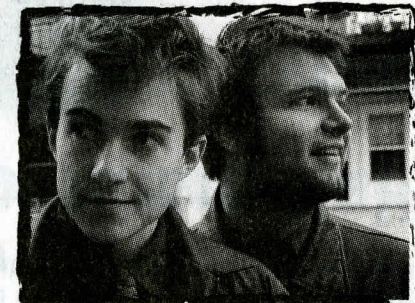
### Think you can play Mind Games?

Test your skills Dec. 5 in the UC from 11am-3pm.  
 Take a little pre-finals week break and challenge your  
 friends and see who can win the Mind Ball Race to Relax!



## Coming in January...

Acoustic duo Ryan Green and Cameron Hood will  
 take UT Tyler by storm at an unforgettable  
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 sold over five-thousand CDs and played more  
 than one-hundred shows in the last year alone,  
 not to mention sharing the stage with Jason  
 Mraz, Carbon Leaf, and Glen Phillips (the voice  
 of Toad the Wet Sprocket).



**1.17.08 Tunes @ Noon**



### 1.22.08 Photo Calendars

Make your memories last all year!  
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 in the UC from 11am-3pm!



### 1.28.08 Comedian Chad Daniels

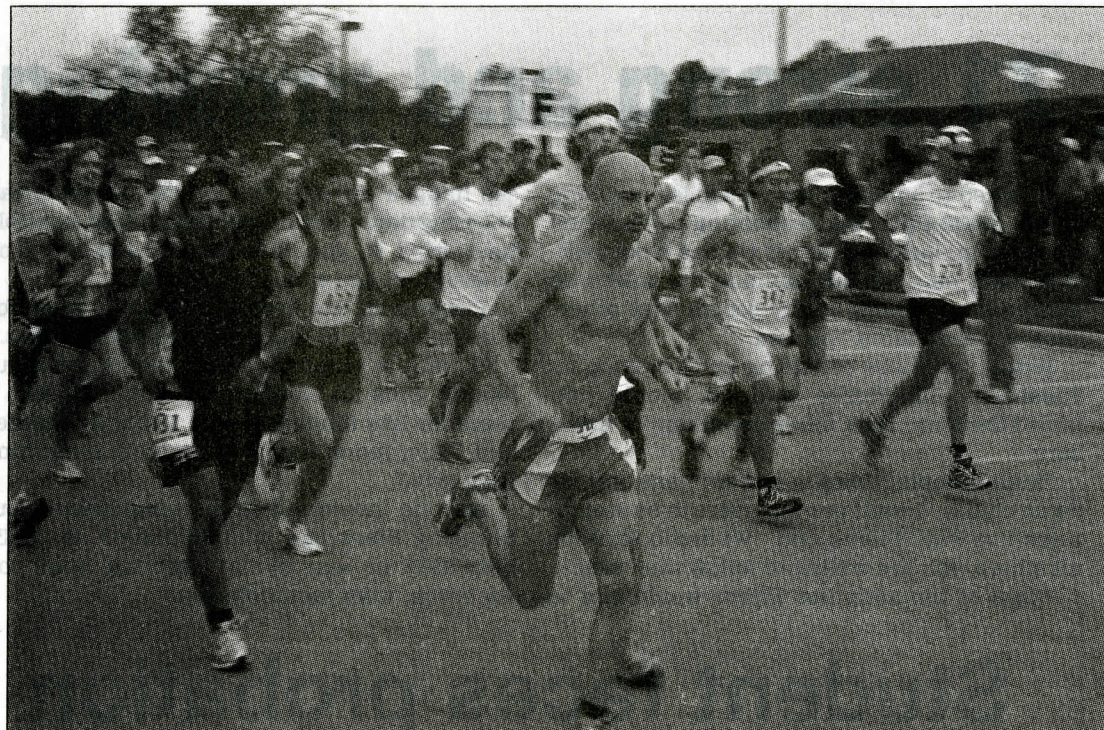
Chad is 5'10", has the A positive blood type, enjoys  
 Easter because of the cool story and Cadbury eggs  
 (creme not caramel), has average looks and will entertain you  
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Staff photo by Kyle G. Horst

Longview Running Club member and UT Tyler graduate William Ritter gains the lead at the Tyler Half-Marathon. The course was 13.1 miles long.

## Half-marathon raises \$1,500 for cross country and track teams

Lauren Hufham  
Staff Writer

The first Tyler Half Marathon and 5K run - took place on campus and in surrounding neighborhoods Nov. 17.

Wes Davis, recreation program assistant, said the Tyler Half raised more than \$1,500 to benefit the University Cross Country and Track teams. The funds received from registration and sponsorship went directly into the track budget.

The half marathon was a new race for the

Tyler area.

"Tyler hasn't hosted anything over a 10K, and the half marathon is trying to ease the way up to longer distance races," Davis said. "We're also hoping to continue to promote wellness through running and walking throughout the Tyler area."

There were 310 participants in the half marathon and 142 participants in the 5K.

"For a first year event, the Tyler Half was a huge success," Davis said. "We look forward to next year for an even bigger, better race."

## News Briefs

The history department added two ethnic courses to the American History course curriculum, Dr. Alisa White, College of Arts and Sciences interim dean, announced.

HIST 4371: The History of Mexican Americans and HIST 4372: The History of African Americans will tentatively be offered in the spring semes-

ters of alternating years. Dr. Alexander Mendoza, assistant professor of history, is scheduled to teach both.

The courses will be added in the 2008-2010 course catalog and open to all undergraduate students.

\*\*\*

Three University senior art majors will exhibit their current works Dec. 3 through Jan. 18, Gary Hatcher, art department chair, announced.

Adam Brinson Atkins of Longview, Patricia Adrienne Pamplin of Longview and Jessica Leigh Huddleston of Athens are candidates for fine arts degrees this fall.

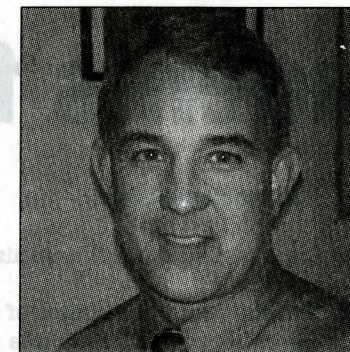
The senior art exhibition will take place at the R. Don Cowan Fine and Performing Arts Center Meadows Gallery.

The public is invited to meet the artists during a reception 6 - 7:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at the gallery.



With Dr.  
Ronald  
Welch

Department of Civil  
Engineering  
Professor and Chair



Welch

**Q. If you could have dinner with anyone, living or dead, who would it be? Why?**

A. I would like to have dinner with George Washington Roebling and his wife. His dad designed the Brooklyn Bridge but died before it could be built. He was a civil war hero and came back to build the bridge. He had the first documented case of the Bends. His wife did most of the bidding and directing while he was on bed rest.

**Q. If you could be an animal, what would it be? Why?**

A. I think I would like to be the family dog. So much love is showered on you, and you have a huge responsibility to protect your family.

**Q. What kind of car do you drive? Some say a car reflects their personality. What do you think your car says about your personality?**

A. Ford Excursion. Strong. Powerful. Safe. Reliable.

**Q. If you were on a desert island, what three CD's would you take along?**

A. Country-Faith Hill, Carrie Underwood, and Reba McEntire.

**Q. How would you describe your ideal vacation?**

A. On a beach, going for a run in the morning, watching the kids play, sitting by the pool reading in the afternoon and walking along the boardwalk in the evening.

**Q. Some people have a bumper sticker on their car that reads, "I'd rather be sailing." A. What would your bumper sticker read...I'd rather be...?**

A. I'd rather be playing sports.

**Q. In high school, you would have been considered the person most likely to...?**

A. Succeed.

**Q. If you won the lottery today, describe your life six months from now.**

A. No real change. Seriously. My parents and sisters' houses would be paid for, donations would be made, bigger toys, but I'd still be living and working here.

**Q. If you could be in any other profession, what would it be?**

A. Medical

**Q. If you were president, what's the first thing you'd do to make life better in America?**

A. Universal Health Care.

## Central European history trip offered, available for seniors, grads in June

Senior-level and graduate students have an opportunity to enroll in a travel-study course to Europe, Dr. Patricia A. Gajda, history professor, announced.

The six credit-hour course, titled Central European Empires, will be offered during Summer I 2008. The cost of travel is \$3,299, including a \$250 deposit to hold a spot and lock in the price.

The course will include a 16-day tour of Europe, June 7 - 22, with visits to Berlin, Vienna, Warsaw, Krakow, Prague and Budapest. Three-hour class sessions will be held on Friday evenings in May. Class attendance for all participants is required.

"We will study the history of central Europe, including the Habsburgs, the rise of nationalism, the era of the world wars and the fall of communism in the 1989 revolu-

tions," Gajda said.

The travel cost includes roundtrip airfare from D/FW, hotel accommodations (double occupancy), airport transfers, meals and admission to sites on the itinerary and an air-conditioned motor coach with tour director.

"Applications are currently being taken, but timeliness ensures availability of the 25 spots now open," Gajda added. "We hope to retain these until January, but they are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis and may be taken by other travelers who are not part of the UT Tyler group if they apply first."

Some grants are available.

For more information, contact Gajda, 903.566.7440 or pgajda@mail.uttyl.edu.





# It's a Boy!

“And he will be called Wonderful  
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting  
Father, Prince of Peace.”

(Isaiah 9:6)

---

About 2,000 years ago, God became one of us in the person of Jesus Christ. If you have any questions about this incredible event or its implications for your life, see [www.EachStudent.com](http://www.EachStudent.com)

**Christ's blessings to you this Christmas season  
from the Christian Faculty Forum:**

Ramona Ranalli Algier, Mathematics  
Angie Beekman, Enrollment Management  
Roger Conaway, Communication  
Belinda Deal, Nursing  
Terri Deike, Athletics  
Carol Gilliland, Academic Advising Center  
Kyle Huckins, Journalism  
Marsha Matthews, Journalism  
Don McClaugherty, Chemistry and Mathematics  
Keith McCoy, Kinesiology

Kay Pleasant, Computer Science  
Carol Price, Nursing  
Linda Raymond, Nursing  
Paul Roberts, Human Resource Development  
Rebecca Sacrey, Nursing  
Palmer Smith, Management Science  
Scott Spier, Exercise Physiology  
Jim Tarter, Business and Technology  
Yvonne Thrash, Communication  
Dana Welch, Office of Academic Support

The group invites all Christian staff and faculty to our meetings. To know more about our purpose and what we believe, see [www.uttyler.edu/faculty/cff](http://www.uttyler.edu/faculty/cff)



December 3, 2007

# Unsung heroes: Employees work round the clock to keep the University afloat

Whether they're patrolling the campus, performing maintenance or installing new software, employees of the University Police Department, Educational Technology Services Department and the University Physical Plant said they work around the clock to keep the campus up and running.

While some are more visible than others during regular class business hours, representatives from all three areas fulfill vital roles in the campus community.

Chip Clark, physical plant director, said the physical plant staff is entirely in charge of the nine million kilowatt-hours of energy a year used by the University's two power plants. Clark said that's the amount of energy it takes to keep the campus running; which is enough to run more than 2,000 homes a year.

No one on campus could power overhead projectors, computers or even switch on the lights or adjust room temperatures if it weren't for the work of the University's physical plant employees.

However that is just part of the plant staff's job.

Clark said the crew of 25 oversees the contract laborers working on the school's construction, maintenance, custodial services, grounds keeping, elevators, roofing, and maintenance.

Physical plant staff also sort more than one million pieces of mail a year, Clark said.

Clark said the physical plant was set up by Dr. Rodney Mabry, University President, in an effort to keep the campus "safe, clean, and to keep improving the school's beauty."

While Clark said many of the workers are on call 24 hours a day in case of emergencies, most of the maintenance is done in the day.

"The power plants and emergencies are what keeps the team working 24/4," Clark said. He said the staff covers all 23 buildings over the University's 207 acres — whether it's cleaning up branches from the roads or managing the power plants.

However, Clark said the physical plant staff's duties don't stop at maintenance. The physical plant is also part and parcel of social life on campus — at least in the form of oversight.

Clark said they oversee all parties and events on campus as well to ensure safety procedures — designed to protect people and equipment — are properly followed.

If it's physical plant employees that keep the power flowing, the University's Educational



Staff photo by Kyle g. Horst

**University security patrols 24 hours a day in three shifts to provide a sense of security to students around campus, as well as some non-traditional duties like car jump-starts.**

Technology Services staff puts it to use.

Kyle Stewart, education technology services manager said since 1992, his department, also known as ITV or Interactive Television services, spends most of their weekends and nights either fixing or installing the University's technological resources.

"The University is not 9 to 5," Stewart said. "Which means this department can't be either."

Stewart said ITV services supplies the technology and repairs necessary to keep the University competitive with other four-year schools.

Melissa Hill, educational technology support specialist said two staff members are on campus at 6:30 or 7 a.m. to prepare classrooms and ensure everything is in working order.

She said the department is especially busy during the first days of a new semester.

ITV staff said one of their biggest problems is finding time to make repairs without interrupting classes.

"If a bulb goes out, and the class cannot go forward, we have to get in there immediately," Stewart said. "Lost class time is our biggest priority."

Along with regular maintenance, the ITV staff also must install new equipment to keep the University up-to-date.

Denise Duncan, telecommunications system specialist, said the University is currently one of the leading universities in video conferencing, interactive telecommunication technology which allows multiple parties to interact via two-way video and audio.

Duncan said the University currently fea-

tures 24 classrooms equipped with video conferencing and at least 40 other classrooms equipped with basic technology such as projectors, screens and computers.

"Not a lot of universities do video conferencing," Stewart said. "They do more web conferencing which puts us ahead."

Hill said ITV plans for the University include 24 new technology rooms and labs and a 90-seat lecture hall equipped with full video conferencing capability.

She said the new University Center addition should eventually feature 17 flat screen televisions and even gaming rooms for Local Area Network parties.

"When the carpet is down and the ceiling laid, that's when we come in," Hill said.

And to make sure all those flat screens stay just where the ITV staff puts them, University police officers and security guards said they regularly patrol the campus.

University security guard Pedro Flores said his duties include patrolling the campus in his vehicle and going through buildings.

Flores said his job is about creating a sense of security on campus.

"It's primarily about making myself visible and accessible," he said.

Officer Michael Seale said University police patrol 24 hours a day in three shifts — 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2 to 10 p.m. and 10 to 6 a.m.

"We like to be a presence on campus rather than just sitting around in the office," he said.

Seale said a typical day for University police begins when the morning shift arrives and checks their department email for any important information.

After that, Seale said officers' duties are divided between what he called, "traditional and non-traditional," law enforcement.

"Traditional law enforcement would be things like traffic and parking enforcement, theft calls and rarely, something more serious like assault," he said. "Non-traditional duties are things like unlocking rooms, locking and unlocking buildings, jump starts and unlocking cars."

Flores said the officers are also available for acting as "personal escorts" for students or faculty who feel unsafe at night or who might have trouble getting around.

"Our job is to keep the campus safe," Seale said. "And serve the people that are here."

*Compiled from staff reports by: Travis Webb, Paige Hayter and Jason Azghani*





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## Fall 2007 Final Exam Schedule

Regular Class Day/Time	Final Exam Day/Date	Final Exam Time
MWF 8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.	Wednesday, December 12	8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
MWF 9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.	Friday, December 14	8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
MWF 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	Wednesday, December 12	10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
MWF 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	Friday, December 14	10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
MWF 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.	Wednesday, December 12	12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
MWF 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.	Friday, December 14	12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
MWF 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.	Wednesday, December 12	2:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
MWF 3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.	Friday, December 14	2:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
MWF 4:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.	Wednesday, December 14	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
M 8:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	Monday, December 10	8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
M 11:00 a.m. – 1:40 p.m.	Monday, December 10	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
M 2:00 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.	Monday, December 10	2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
M 5:00 p.m. – 7:40 p.m.	Monday, December 10	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
M 6:00 p.m. – 8:40 p.m.	Monday, December 10	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
M 7:00 p.m. – 9:40 p.m.	Monday, December 10	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
W 8:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	Wednesday, December 12	8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
W 11:00 a.m. – 1:40 p.m.	Wednesday, December 12	12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
W 2:00 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.	Wednesday, December 12	2:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
W 5:00 p.m. – 7:40 p.m.	Wednesday, December 12	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
W 6:00 p.m. – 8:40 p.m.	Wednesday, December 12	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
W 7:00 p.m. – 9:40 p.m.	Wednesday, December 12	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
F 8:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	Friday, December 14	8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
F 11:00 a.m. – 1:40 p.m.	Friday, December 14	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
F 2:00 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.	Friday, December 14	2:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
F 5:00 p.m. – 7:40 p.m.	Friday, December 14	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
F 6:00 p.m. – 8:40 p.m.	Friday, December 14	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
F 7:00 p.m. – 9:40 p.m.	Friday, December 14	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
TR 8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Tuesday, December 11	8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
TR 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Thursday, December 13	9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
TR 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Tuesday, December 11	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
TR 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Thursday, December 13	12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
TR 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Tuesday, December 11	2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
TR 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	Thursday, December 13	3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
TR 5:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.	Tuesday, December 11	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
TR 7:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.	Thursday, December 13	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
TR 8:30 p.m. – 9:45 p.m.	Tuesday, December 11	8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.
T 8:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	Tuesday, December 11	8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
T 11:00 a.m. – 1:40 p.m.	Tuesday, December 11	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
T 2:00 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.	Tuesday, December 11	2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
T 5:00 p.m. – 7:40 p.m.	Tuesday, December 11	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
T 6:00 p.m. – 8:40 p.m.	Tuesday, December 11	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
T 7:00 p.m. – 9:40 p.m.	Tuesday, December 11	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
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R 7:00 p.m. – 9:40 p.m.	Thursday, December 13	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday exams will be December 15 for two hours starting at the regular class time.



## Bolton: War with Iran may be only option

By Anthony Croff  
Editor in Chief

Former United Nations Ambassador John Bolton's Nov. 15 lecture focused on how nuclear proliferation, among other issues, affects current U.S. foreign policy decisions.

Bolton came to campus as part of the R. Don Cowan Fine and Performing Arts Center's lecture series.

Bolton, who represented the U.S. to the U.N. from August 2005 to December 2006, also fielded media and student questions at a press conference before his lecture.

The majority of Bolton's statements dealt with the tumultuous relationship between the U.S. and Iran regarding nuclear proliferation but also covered a laundry list of issues, including immigration.

Beginning his lecture, Bolton said the U.S. has grown complacent since Sept. 11, "a complacency that is not justified."

He said the next president's handling of relations with China will affect China's evolution as a superpower, and he said the Russians are increasingly posing a challenge to the U.S. reminiscent of the Cold War.

He then brought attention to countries that are high-level threats to the U.S., saying nuclear weapons are not military threats, but rather, instruments of terror.

### Iraq

Despite criticism of the Iraq war, there are undeniable truths that have emerged, Bolton said.

"Whatever happens in Iraq, we are sure there are no [weapons of mass destruction]," he said. "Let's not forget, despite the difficulties...we won an important strategic victory just by the overthrow of Saddam [Hussein]."

When asked about Americans' declining faith in the Bush administration and American foreign policy decisions (namely Iraq), Bolton said he doesn't put a lot of stock in public opinion polls.

"I think it's hard to dispute the evidence that the surge policy is working," Bolton said.

He said immediate withdrawal from Iraq would have disas-



Former U.N. Ambassador John Bolton takes questions from students and the press Nov. 15 during a pre-lecture press conference that took place in the Braithwaite Recital Hall. Bolton covered topics from nuclear proliferation to immigration.

Staff photo by Kyle G. Horst

more threatening than North Korea's.

Bolton said Iran's government is doing the absolute minimum to scale back its nuclear capacity and said the Iranians continue to conceal information from the United States.

"Iran's cooperation has been reactive, not proactive," he said in the press conference. "Iran is only responding to what it feels it has to respond to."

He said the Iranian government's excuse for enriching Uranium has been to create an alternative energy source due to a decreasing supply of natural gas.

Bolton was involved in a study to assess Iran's energy reserves and said Iran will run out of natural gas in 350 to 400 years.

He said even more concrete evidence exists that Iran's

against Iran as a happy event - I'm not happy we're even talking about it."

### Pakistan

Bolton said Pakistan might become as great a threat.

Bolton said the country is apt to sell nuclear arms to other nations.

"You have to prioritize your interests, securing [Pakistan's] nuclear arsenal," he said. "The only country that's going to stop this kind of proliferation is the United States. That's why this election is high-stakes."

### Immigration

Bolton briefly touched on the close-to-home foreign policy issue of immigration, specifically between Mexico and the United States.

He said immigration is not the problem, assimilation is.

"I'm actually open to more inflows of immigration," Bolton said. "I'm less concerned with illegal immigration. I'm not afraid of a larger population - it's what happens after they get here. The real problem we face is a lack of Americanization."

One questioner at the press conference asked Bolton if there is any merit to forming a North American union - the idea of economically fusing Mexico, Canada, and the U.S., which has received national media coverage in recent months.

"I don't see that there's any progress toward a North

American union," he said. "This is not like Europe where political integration was a driving force behind the [European Union]."

### Opposition and Support

Before Bolton took to the Cowan Center stage, eight members of the student group Live Free or Die Society protested outside, receiving mixed messages of verbal support and opposition from attendees.

Their signs and literature expressed dissatisfaction with Bolton's involvement in the Project for a New American Century, a neo-conservative think tank's foreign policy plan, which the group believes is a conspiracy driving U.S. foreign policy decisions.

Justin Brown, the group's president, attended the student



"I think it's hard to dispute the evidence that the surge policy is working," Bolton said.

He said immediate withdrawal from Iraq would have disastrous consequences and said he is troubled by the foreign policy views of the Democratic presidential candidates.

### North Korea

Bolton described North Korea as, fundamentally, a large prison camp that would sell nuclear weapons to any country for hard money.

"North Korea pledged five times in 15 years to give up its nukes," he said. "I don't think they will ever give up nuclear weapons voluntarily because it's a trump card for the regime."

### Iran

Bolton said Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons is, if anything,

years.

He said even more concrete evidence exists that Iran's nuclear ambitions are not purely civilian.

Bolton said Iran possesses "hollow hemispheres," referring to a type of structure used solely for nuclear fission weaponry.

Bolton said a major regime change in Iran or full compliance with U.N. rules must occur for war with Iran to not be an option.

But, Bolton doesn't foresee the Iranians acting on either option.

"Engaging in diplomacy is not cost free," Bolton said. "Time is usually on the side of the proliferators."

And, Bolton said time is up for Iran.

"Diplomacy is over," he said. "It's time for targeted efforts to destroy Iran's capabilities. I don't regard the use of force

which the group believes is a conspiracy driving U.S. foreign policy decisions.

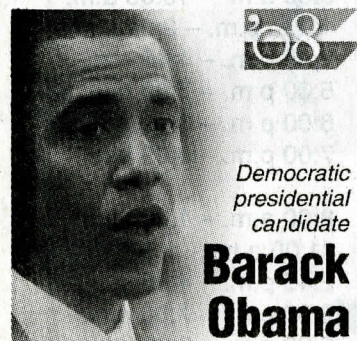
Justin Brown, the group's president, attended the student forum but refused to listen to Bolton's lecture.

"I've already spoken to Bolton, and I don't care to speak to him again," Brown said. "He lied most of the time anyway. I pretty much know what he's going to say."

Conversely, University President Dr. Rodney Mabry praised Bolton's intellect and policy positions while speaking to Patriot Talon reporters before the press conference.

"I think he's one of the few truth-tellers and, consequently, that makes him a lightning rod," he said. "He's smart, and he has a lot of background - he's not a newbie."

# Presidential race: Obama says America needs "change we can believe in"



Democratic  
presidential  
candidate

**Barack  
Obama**

### Early years

**Born** Aug. 4, 1961, in Honolulu; father was a Kenyan economist, mother an anthropologist; grew up in Hawaii and Indonesia

**Education** B.A., Columbia University, 1983; law degree, Harvard University, 1991; first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review

### Public service, legal work

**1985-88** Helped Chicago churches organize job training programs for poor residents

**1993-2004** Civil rights lawyer; lecturer at University of Chicago Law School

### Political career

**1997-2005** Illinois state senator; keynote speaker at Democratic convention in 2004

**2005-present** U.S. senator

**2007** Announces candidacy for president in 2008



© 2006 MCT  
Source: U.S. Senate, AP, MCT Photo Service  
Graphic: Pat Carr

By **Anthony Croff**  
Editor in Chief

AUSTIN - Presidential hopeful Barack Obama expressed his vision of an "ideal" America during a Nov. 17 campaign fundraising stop in Austin.

The event took place at The Backyard, a small outdoor venue on the outskirts of town, and drew an estimated 3,200 attendees to stand in the intermittent rain, Doug Molof, a communication coordinator for the campaign, said.

More than 20,000 attended Obama's last visit to Austin in a larger downtown venue, according to the *Dallas Morning News*.

Obama opened his 20-minute speech saying Americans have lost faith in their leaders and took shots, some humorously, at the Bush administration.

"The name of George W. Bush will not be on the ballot. The name of my cousin, Dick Cheney, will not be on the ballot," Obama said, alluding to the media's recent exposure of his distant kinship to the vice president.

After the crowd's laughter subsided, Obama said America is at a defining moment with the nation at war and the "planet in peril."

Obama said he never expected to run for president but did so because of what Dr. Martin Luther King called "the fierce urgency of now," saying America is facing high levels of poverty, violence, homelessness, and sexual and gender discrimination.

He charged Washington with being more wasteful and corrupt than before George W. Bush took office.

Obama said the failures of the current administration have brought Americans to "a great moment of challenge but a great moment of opportunity," and said his campaign to win the presidency would not be "textbook."

"If we're serious about winning this election, we can't fear losing it," he said to supporters. The latest Rasmussen poll shows Obama and Democratic Party rivals Hillary Clinton and John Edwards in a head-to-head battle over the Iowa caucus, a key primary litmus test.

Obama said he wants the Democratic Party to reassume the principles of a bygone era, citing the days of Franklin Roosevelt's presidency - "a party that doesn't just offer change as a slogan, but offers change we can believe in."

"Change we can believe in" is the slogan for Obama's campaign, ubiquitously displayed on signs and shirts of supporters.

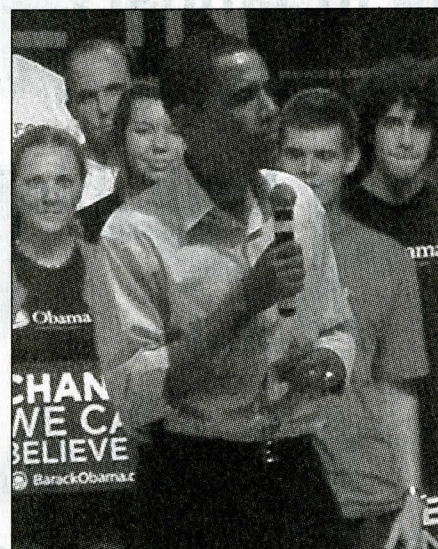
Obama's speech turned issue-oriented as he promised to shun lobbyists, proposed ending tax cuts to outsourcing corporations, and raising the minimum wage yearly.

He said he already has taken on the insurance industry and the health-care companies, and he wants to create an Environmental Protection Agency that cares about the environment.

Creating American unity was a theme conveyed throughout his speech.

"We can solve our problems if we come together, not if we are divided," he said.

On the issue of education, Obama



Staff photo by **Anthony Croff**

**Barack Obama rallies supporters in Austin on Nov. 17.**

proposed merit-based pay for teachers.

For college students, he wants to cut banks out of the student loan process, federalizing it to keep interest rates low. He also proposed a plan to allow college graduates to work in foreign social service as a means of paying off student debt.

Obama then turned to national security, saying he is "tired of Democrats acting, talking, and voting like George Bush Republicans."

If elected, Obama promised to bring the troops home within 16 months of taking office.

Obama said he opposed the war from the onset - a key talking point of his and a claim Clinton cannot make.

"As president, I will end this war in

Iraq," he said.

In an ongoing debate over the issue of torture, Obama said it's never acceptable to use torture.

Furthermore, he said he would shut down Guantanamo and restore habeas corpus to detainees.

Obama concluded his speech by returning to his main theme of unity.

"I don't want to pit red America against blue America," he said. "I want to be the president of the United States of America."

After the speech, a few supporters who had been some of the first to enter the venue stood by the stage in awe, holding autographed copies of Obama's book, *The Audacity of Hope*.

Matt Hinds, Daisy Bessire, and Spencer Reed, all in their early 20s, said they are roommates who drove five hours from Beaumont for the event and lined up first at 6 a.m.

They all agreed the event was the "best day of our lives," and said they remained by the stage on an "Obama high" since shaking the senator's hand.

"It will be the second best day of my life compared to when he gets inaugurated," Hinds said.

Bessire opened Obama's book to display his autograph, calling it her most prized possession.

Hinds said their reason for supporting Obama is because they are "sick of corruption and half-truths," and said Obama is "the real deal."

Admission to the event cost \$15 for students and seniors and \$25 for others. Molof said campaign spokespeople are not releasing the fundraising total for the event.



## Talon Ticklers

Students, staff and faculty are encouraged to submit their pithy, hilarious anecdotes. Please limit to 100 words or less and be in good taste. We reserve the right to edit for content. Include name, class rank and major.

### What!?

My grandfather became worried about my grandmother's hearing.

She refused to get a hearing aid, so he decided to test her.

He called the house from the cell phone and when she answered he asked, "Hello. Anyone there?"

Silence

"Hello, can you hear me?" he repeated.

He asked once more and still got no answer.

She obviously could not hear him on the other line. He had the proof he needed.

He then told her about the call.

"I said yes every time," she said. "I guess you are losing your hearing."

*Jeremy Cotham  
journalism major*

### Fear on the highways

My grandmother worries more than anyone on Earth. She sits around the house and watches the news all day, learning the newest cause of death.

She's always warning my family, especially

me, about what foods we can't eat because of E-coli or Smallpox and avian flu.

One day I went to visit her in Fort Worth and I had a long drive back to Tyler.

She stood up as I did, wagged her finger at me and said, "Don't you cut anyone off on the freeway, they WILL shoot you."

*Allen Arrick  
journalism major*

### Confidence man

Working as a paintball referee forced me to endure the antics of teenagers.

I found fun in playing jokes on the naive youths.

One day I told a group that I lived in the woods and ate out of a nearby dumpster.

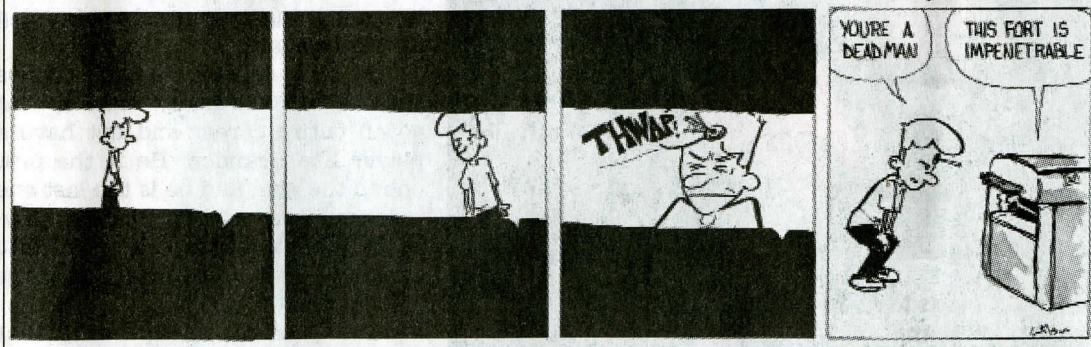
They believed me, thanks to my disheveled work clothes

The next day, the teenagers eagerly greeted me with packages of beef jerky and granola bars.

I confessed to the trickery, but they let me keep the food.

*Thomas Callens  
journalism major*

Brothers Watt

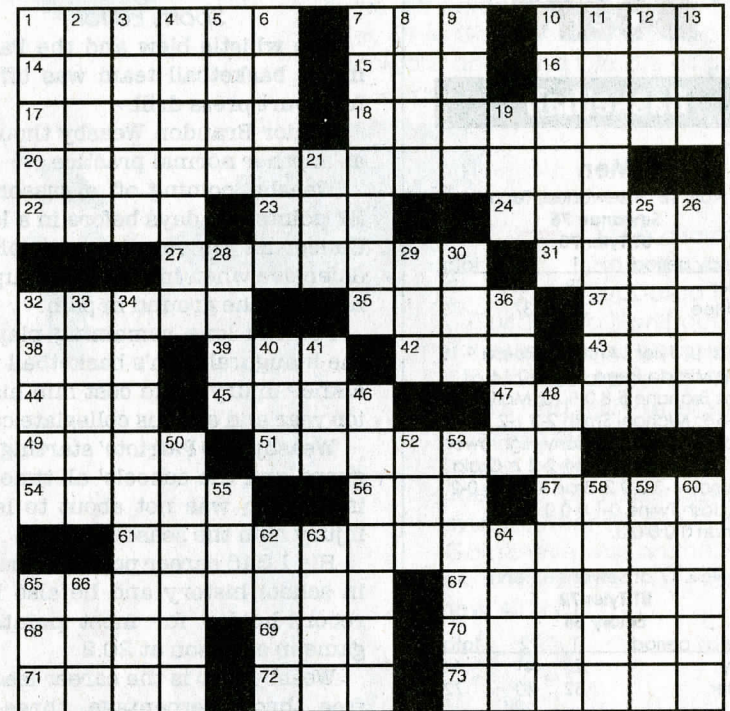


Brothers Watt



## Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mount in the Cascades
  - 7 Beau Brummell
  - 10 Pot meal
  - 14 Type of balloon
  - 15 Pint drink
  - 16 Tableland
  - 17 "Emma" writer
  - 18 Astronomer Copernicus
  - 20 Done up to the nines
  - 22 Biblical twin
  - 23 \_\_\_ of Cortez
  - 24 Shepherd's stick
  - 27 Part of ICBM
  - 31 Side track
  - 32 12-step program
  - 35 13 popes
  - 37 Ripen
  - 38 Ms. Gardner
  - 39 Haughtily aloof
  - 42 Back of the bus.
  - 43 Be penitent
  - 44 Armistice Day mo.
  - 45 Destine to tragedy
  - 47 Exterior
  - 49 Small guitars, briefly
  - 51 Wilder play
  - 54 Fringe benefits
  - 56 Enthusiast
  - 57 Teensy
  - 61 Florida
  - 65 Variola
  - 67 Beast
  - 68 Load luggage
  - 69 The Greatest
  - 70 Apollo 13 crew member
  - 71 Large, commodious boats
  - 72 Court divider
  - 73 Borg and Bergman

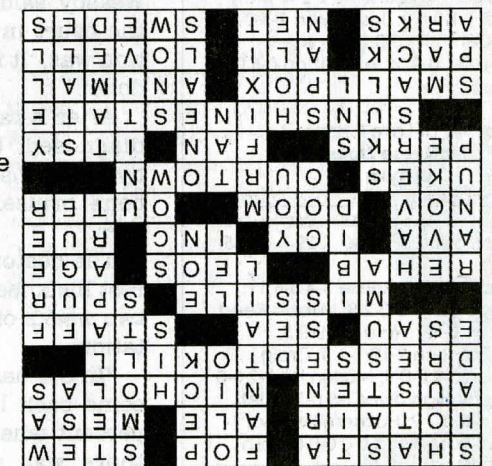


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12/8/07

- 6 "Gunsmoke" star
- 7 Stern overhang
- 8 Heavily spiced stew
- 9 Quarter bushel
- 10 Young salmon
- 11 See a difference between
- 12 NASA partner
- 13 Existed once
- 19 Towel word
- 21 \_\_\_ Plaines, IL
- 25 Thematic musical piece
- 26 More liberated
- 28 In the same place: Lat.
- 29 Luau loop
- 30 Long, long time
- 32 Amassed
- 33 Call to mind
- 34 Hiker's tote
- 36 Garbage boat
- 40 Talk baby talk
- 41 Face in the mirror?
- 46 Handyman

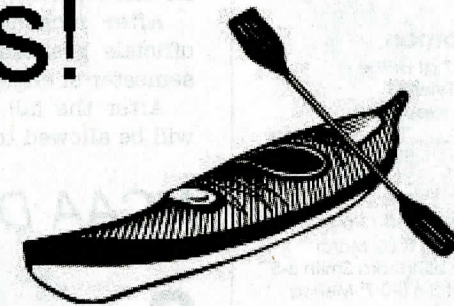
### Solutions



- DOWN**
- 1 Lamp filter
  - 2 Noon and midnight, e.g.
  - 3 Confused
  - 4 Seedless mandarin
  - 5 Equal scores
  - 48 Serving to make one
  - 50 Lurks
  - 52 Earth tone
  - 53 Ryan and Tatum
  - 55 NBC classic
  - 58 Domesticated
  - 59 Hackneyed
  - 60 Hollers
  - 62 Pianist's reach
  - 63 Perforation
  - 64 Winter fall
  - 65 Mineral springs
  - 66 Damage



# !Outdoor Adventures!



## UT Tyler Rec. Sports Ski Trip '07

REGISTRATION IS FULL!!!

On December 16<sup>th</sup> 44 students are heading to the Rocky Mountains for skiing and snowboarding!

What are you going to be doing?

DON'T MISS OUT ON ALL THE FUN TO BE HAD WITH THE OUTDOOR ADVENTURES CLUB!

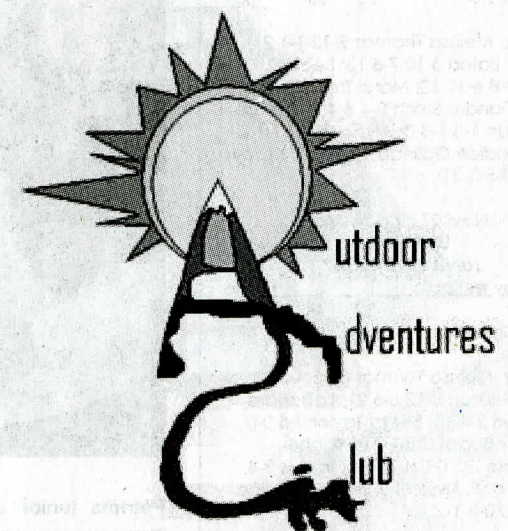
**OAC** will participate in the following events and much more for the Spring Semester...

- Bike, Kayak, and Canoe Clinics
- Day Hikes on campus & Day Trips to Tyler State Park
- Camping Trip at Tyler State Park in late February
- Spring Break Trip to Arkansas for Hiking, Biking, and River Rafting
- Trip to the Cossatot River in Arkansas for extreme kayaking/rafting in late March
- Rock Climbing in Fredericksburg and at local climbing walls

Be sure to join the **OAC** by e-mailing a request to [OAC@patriots.uttyler.edu](mailto:OAC@patriots.uttyler.edu)

And stop by the Patriot Center for more info

Check out Outdoor Adventures on Facebook.com!





## BASKETBALL FEATURE

One more chance at **Senior Year**

By **Jeremy Cotham**  
Sports Editor

The whistle blew and the Patriots men's basketball team was off on a full-court press drill.

Senior Brandon Weasby thought it as another normal practice.

Weasby, coming off a season-high 27 points two days before in a loss to Concordia University, was playing defensive when his leg locked up and he fell to the ground in pain.

For the lone remaining player of the inaugural men's basketball team, a knee injury could cost him his senior year and end his collegiate career.

Weasby, the Patriots' starting point guard and the schools' all-time scoring leader, was not about to let the injury ruin the season.

His 1,346 career points is the most in school history and he also is the record-holder for most points per game in a season at 20.2.

Weasby also is the career leader in free throw percentage, three-point percentage and field goals made.

"When I first got hurt, I was thinking that I might need surgery, but I did not want this to be the end," Weasby said. "After being taken off the court in practice, my first reaction was, 'It is over. My senior year is done'."

After X-rays and MRIs, the doctor diagnosed Weasby with a severe hyperextension of the knee with a bone bruise, but cartilage was not torn.

The doctors told him he needed to rest his knee for about a month, then two weeks of treatment and rehabilitation.

"In January, I made an attempt to come back but I was only at 60-70 percent when I tried to practice and there was still some slight pain," Weasby said. "During this whole time, the hardest thing for me was to watch my teammates from the bench and knowing I wanted to be out there helping them win. It hurt not being able to play with them."

Hope was on the way for Weasby.

**Comeback**

He couldn't make a come back in

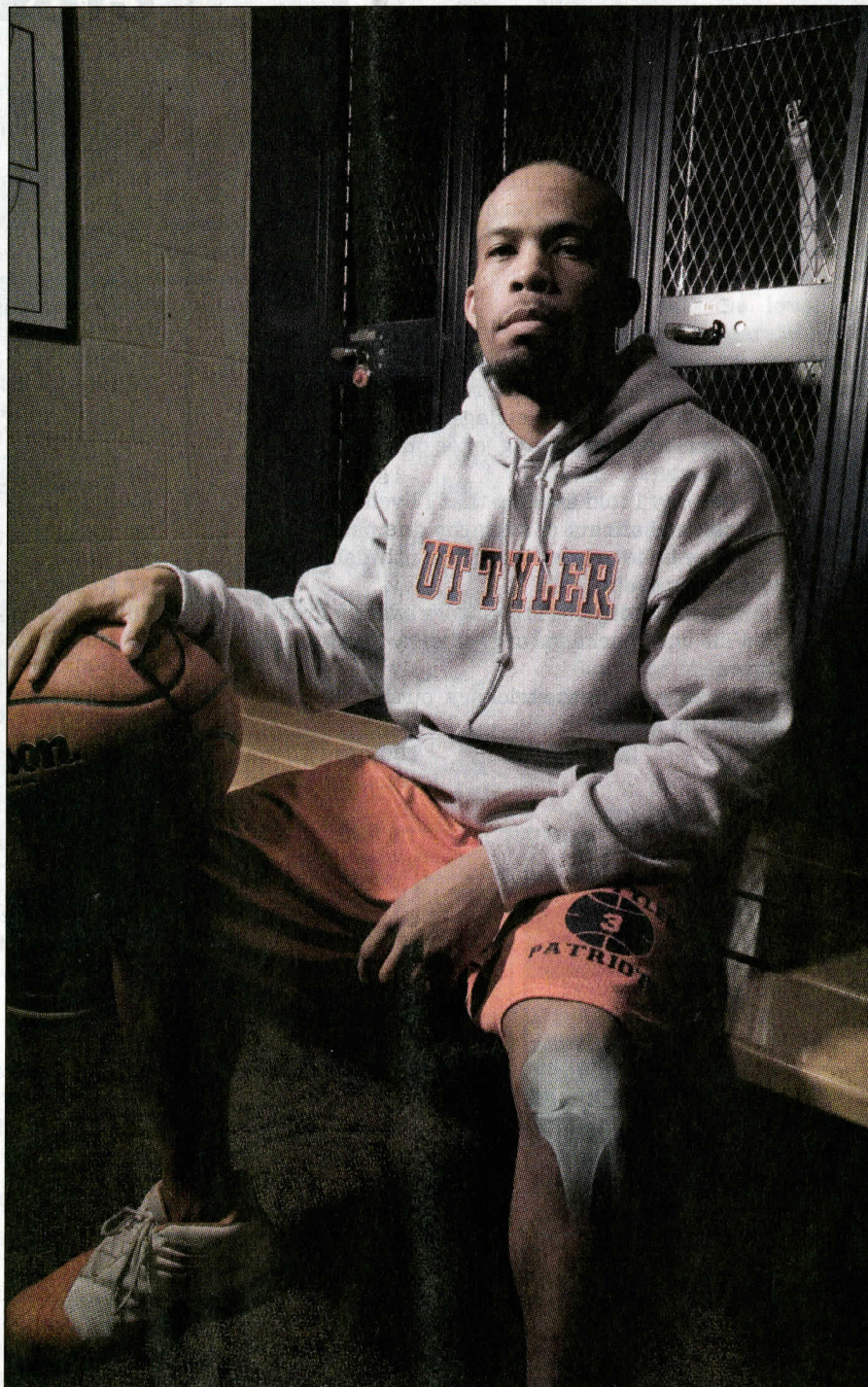


Photo illustration by **Allen Arrick**

Fifth-year senior, Brandon Weasby, sits and waits for his last chance to finish his final year of collegiate eligibility as a nagging knee injury forced him to miss most of last season. Weasby, who had a bone bruise in his knee with a severe hyperextension, was awarded a medical red-shirt and is allowed to join the team on Dec. 15.

basketball team.

"I'm excited for this opportunity,"

tile bit," Bizot said. "Brandon is the kind of player though, that when he

and Weasby, especially since no one on the Patriots' squad has ever experienced it at the University.

Playoffs.

"I feel I will be even more motivated now," Weasby said.

This is the first year the Patriots are eligible for post-season play in the NCAA Div. III.

Assistant coach Larry Jones, who is in his third year of coaching Weasby, followed the injury from day one to the start of the school year.

"We were hoping from week to week that he might make it back but we never thought it would hold him out for the entire season," Jones said.

"If Brandon had played a few more games and then gotten hurt, he would not have been able to qualify for a red-shirt. In a way, I think it might have been a good thing this happened. It has now given him an opportunity to compete for a playoff spot. If the injury had not occurred, then he would have not had that opportunity."

Weasby, who is an applied arts/science major and is on pace to graduate in May 2008, said he never has experienced an injury like this before, but he's not going to worry about hurting that knee again.

"He is a coach's delight," Jones said. "There are many coaches that go an entire career and not have a player like Brandon. He is the first one in the gym and he is the last one to leave. He is just a very special player and I don't have any other words to explain it. He is what college athletics is all about."

When Weasby finally takes that first step back onto the court, he said he hopes he can provide not only help through his game but through his leadership as well.

"On the court, I want to be a leader more of a vocal leader by motivation," Weasby said. "I also want to talk to all the new guys that are coming in and the guys that are returning. I want to motivate them not only on the court but off the court."

Weasby cannot officially join the team until Dec. 15, which will be just two games into the start of confer-

**Basketball****Men**

Nov. 16 at Sewanee, Tenn.

**Sewanee 75**

**UT Tyler 70**

Score by period	1	2	total
UT Tyler	29	41	70
Sewanee	38	37	75

Points: UT Tyler - Anthony Reese 9-18 1-2 21; Mirada Reed 5-13 0-0 14; Patrick Branche 5-8 0-0 10; Marlon Hill 3-5 3-5 9; Michael Smith 2-3 1-2 5; Jeff Cotton 2-5 0-3 4; Anthony Hightower 1-4 1-2 3; Larry Ware 0-1 2-2 2; Craig Blackman 1-3 0-0 2; Brad Koenig 0-2 0-0 0; Josh Twine 0-1 0-0 0; Joe Solomon 0-0 0-0 0.

Nov. 17 at Sewanee, Tenn.

**UT Tyler 72**

**Emory 64**

Score by period	1	2	total
Emory	23	41	64
UT-Tyler	32	40	72

Points: Anthony Reese 5-13 7-10 17; Craig Blackman 4-7 4-5 14; Patrick Branche 5-9 3-6 13; Marlon Hill 1-6 4-4 6; Mirada Reed 2-6 0-0 5; Anthony Hightower 2-5 0-1 4; Larry Ware 0-3 4-4 4; Hakeem Kareem 1-3 2-2 4; Matt Riccardi 1-1 0-0 2; Josh Twine 1-3 0-1 2; Michael Smith 0-0 1-2 1; Joe Solomon 0-1 0-0 0; Jeff Cotton 0-5 0-1 0.

Nov. 20 at Lake Charles, La.

**McNeese State 65**

**UT-Tyler 49**

Score by period	1	2	total
UT-Tyler	23	26	49
McNeese State	36	29	65

Points: Anthony Reese 3-4 5-6 11; Michael Smith 4-5 0-2 8; Mirada Reed 3-11 0-1 6; Larry Ware 2-2 0-0 5; Patrick Branche 2-10 1-1 5; Craig Blackman 2-4 0-0 5; Marlon Hill 1-2 0-0 3; Anthony Hightower 1-5 0-1 2; Jeff Cotton 1-3 0-2 2; Hakeem Kareem 1-2 0-0 2; Chase Floyd 0-0 0-0 0; Josh Twine 0-0 0-0 0.

Nov. 24 at Shreveport, La.

**LSU-Shreveport 77**

**UT-Tyler 65**

Score by period	1	2	total
UT-Tyler	23	42	65
LSU-Shreveport	25	52	77

Points: Craig Blackman 6-14 2-2 17; Patrick Branche 5-15 3-6 13; Jeff Cotton 6-9 0-2 12; Marlon Hill 2-2 2-2 8; Mirada Reed 3-8 0-0 6; Anthony



8; Miranda Reed 3-8 0-0 6; Anthony Reese 1-4 3-4 5; Josh Twine 2-2 0-0 4; Michael Smith 0-0 0-0 0; Anthony Hightower 0-3 0-0 0; Larry Ware 0-1 0-0 0.

Dec. 1 at Sequin  
UT-Tyler 75

Texas Lutheran 55

Score by period	1	2	total
UT-Tyler	33	42	75
Texas Lutheran	19	36	55

### Women

Nov. 17 at Home  
UT-Tyler 69

LSU-Shreveport 68

Score by period	1	2	total
LSU-Shreveport	32	36	68
UT-Tyler	31	38	69

Points: Kasey Buggs 10-13 0-2 20; Lindsay Eaton 8-11 0-0 16; Marci Trogus 3-4 2-4 10; LaTiandra Smith 3-5 3-6 9; Alyssa Ploof 3-6 0-0 7; Melissa Thomas 2-6 2-4 6; Candice Galindo 0-0 1-2 1; Rachel Whiteside 0-0 0-0 0; Kamryn Hall 0-1 0-0 0; Becky Taylor 0-2 0-0 0.

Nov. 23 at Georgetown  
UT-Tyler 59

Austin College 55

Score by period	1	2	total
UT-Tyler	31	28	59
Austin College	26	29	55

Points: Melissa Thomas 4-14 5-6 15; Marci Trogus 2-8 6-8 10; Lindsay Eaton 4-9 2-4 10; Kasey Buggs 4-11 1-2 9; LaTiandra Smith 3-6 2-6 8; Rachel Whiteside 1-3 1-4 3; Alyssa Ploof 1-3 0-0 2; Kamryn Hall 1-3 0-0 2; Candice Galindo 0-1 0-0 0; Alex Walls 0-0 0-0 0; Becky Taylor 0-1 0-0 0; Alyse Bell 0-1 0-0 0.

Nov. 24 at Georgetown  
Southwestern 68

UT-Tyler 67

Score by period	1	2	total
UT-Tyler	40	27	67
Southwestern	33	35	68

Points: Melissa Thomas 9-12 1-1 24; Lindsay Eaton 3-10 7-8 13; Becky Taylor 2-8 6-10 10; Marci Trogus 3-7 2-9; LaTiandra Smith 0-4 4-4 4; Rachel Whiteside 1-3 1-3 3; Alyssa Ploof 1-1 0-3 2; Candice Galindo 1-3 0-0 2; Kasey Buggs 0-5 0-0 0.

Nov. 27 at Hawkins  
UT-Tyler 76

Jarvis Christian 67

Score by period	1	2	total
UT-Tyler	32	44	76
Jarvis Christian	26	41	67

Points: Melissa Thomas 8-15 4-5 23; Lindsay Eaton 8-12 5-6 21; LaTiandra Smith 4-6 2-4 10; Becky Taylor 3-5 0-0 6; Kasey Buggs 2-5 1-2 5; Rachel Whiteside 2-5 0-0 4; Marci Trogus 2-4 0-0 4; Ploof, Alyssa 1-1 0-0 2; Candice Galindo 0-3 1-2 1.

Dec. 1 at Sequin  
UT-Tyler 90

Texas Lutheran 61

Score by period	1	2	total
UT-Tyler	45	45	90
Texas Lutheran	25	36	61

He couldn't make a comeback in the 2006-2007 season, but thanks to the NCAA, he gets another senior year.

"After talking with my coach [former men's coach Matt Wallis], we both agreed to shut it down for the rest of the season and apply for a medical red-shirt," Weasby said. "I had never thought about the idea of red-shirting and I have never applied for one either."

After months of waiting, NCAA officials granted Weasby one more semester of eligibility.

After the fall semester exams he will be allowed to re-join the Patriots

"I'm excited for this opportunity," Weasby said. "I felt that I have put in a lot of work and now that I am getting a second opportunity at my senior season, I want to prove to my coaches and teammates that I can play at a higher level."

First year men's basketball coach Kenny Bizot said Weasby could be back as soon as the Dec. 15 home game against Mary-Hardin Baylor, if not by Dec. 17 home game against Concordia – ironically the last team Weasby faced before being injured.

"His body will be ready for him to come back, but him not being able to practice with us might hurt him a lit-

kind of player though, that when he comes back, I don't think the layoff will affect him.

He has a strong desire to win, he will be a good leader for this team and he is a man of high character that our guys will look up to. All the other assets he bring to the team are very valuable to us."

Weasby said he wakes up every day at 5 a.m. to go work out and do conditioning drills and weightlifting.

"When I come back, I might be a little rusty, but I think I will be ready though when it is time," Weasby said.

### Added incentive

There is a new mission for the team

## NCAA Div. III nationals

# Cowan, Donnan complete finals in top 100

By Jeremy Cotham  
Sports Editor

NORTHFIELD, Minn. – In any sport, there is no "I" in team but at the NCAA Division III Cross-Country National Championships meet Nov. 17 at St. Olaf College, there was just



Courtesy photo

Patriots junior cross country runner Ben Donnan paces himself at the 6K marker during the NCAA Division III National Championship Meet in Northfield, Minn. Donnan finished in a four-way tie for 80th place with a time of 25:44, which was only 1:05 off the winner of the meet, Tyler Sigl of Wisconsin-Platteville.

R.J. Cowan and Ben Donnan.

The two runners advanced individually to the national meet as the rest of the University men's cross country team could not join them after finishing third in regionals.

Donnan finished in a four-way tie for 80th place out of 280 runners with a time of 25:44, only 1:20 off the individual winner, senior Tyler Sigl from University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

"I have been here four years and it was finally my year to win it," Sigl said. "I was so relieved when I crossed the finish line. I just let out a sigh of relief."

Cowan followed only five seconds behind Donnan at 25:49 but because of the tight field throughout the whole race, he finished in 100th place.

"That was an extremely tough field out there today," coach Bob Hepler said. "I thought R.J. and Ben did an excellent job running. The runners and even the coaches learned a lot today from this competition. It is totally different running at this level."

The overall team winner on the men's side was New York University with 128 points.

The upset of the day was Calvin, ranked No.1 in the nation, finished in fourth place as a team.

On the women's side, Amherst won first place with 120 points.

In their first season of postseason eligibility, the Patriots have made it as far as any team or individual can make it in cross country.



Courtesy photo

Patriots junior cross country runner R.J. Cowan, right, runs during the NCAA Division III National Championship Meet in Northfield, Minn. Cowan finished in 100th place with a time of 25:49 in the tight, compacted field of 280 runners. Cowan also was named the 2007 NCAA Division III South/Southeast Region Runner of the Year.

The experience, Hepler said, will hopefully help the team for next season.

"Ben and R.J. will take the experience they got today back to the rest of their team," Hepler said. "They will also let the team know how much practice they need to put in over the off season in order to get back here

and be able to compete at such a high level."

Getting back to nationals is the goal from now on for Hepler and his team.

For Cowan and Donnan, they return for their senior season and look to provide experience and leadership.

The only runner the Patriots lose from this year's team is senior Chauncey Deller.

Throughout the entire race, runners bared cold temperatures of right over freezing along with snow flurries and a cold northern wind.

"The weather today was what cross country should be run in," Hepler said.

The conditions, however, did not stop hundreds of students, parents and supporters coming out in packs and rooting for their respective teams.

From the start of the gun in the women's and men's race, hundreds of supporters ran like scattered ants from one end of the race to the other just to catch a glimpse of their runners and to give them full support.

"I was pleased to see the great crowds come out here today," Hepler said. "It was amazing to see how many people represented their school today and even the supporters that came out for us."

Not having the whole team in Minnesota may have hurt the team in lack of getting experience but Hepler said he hopes it will motivate them more next season to practice and make it back as a team.



December 3, 2007

# Patriots gaining experience, open season with 4-1 record

By Jeremy Cotham  
Sports Editor

Coming into this season, coach Terri Deike knew winning would mean for her lone senior Kasey Buggs to step up and lead the team which featured nine freshman.

However, the freshman combo of Melissa Thomas and Lindsay Eaton, both from Lake Travis High School in Austin, have proved to be the winning combination as the women post a 4-1 record.

On Saturday, the women traveled to Seguin to face Texas Lutheran University where they came away with a convincing 90-61 win to open American Southwest Conference play with a 1-0 record.

"It was a huge win for us today," Deike said. "We needed to get this win quickly today and we did that. We tried to get better on rebounding, working on the fast break and playing against a zone defense and we were able to do better on all of those today. We also got to play everybody too, which was a plus."

Thomas led the team in scoring for the fourth straight game as she finished with 19 points. Buggs followed with 16 while Becky Taylor posted 12 points and a team-high nine rebounds.

Eaton ended the game with eighth points, five rebounds and five assists.

"Melissa [Thomas] and Lindsay [Eaton] played very well together today, as they have been all season," Deike said. "We were very fortunate to find Melissa because she had scholarship offers pouring in and she decided to come here and play with Lindsay and they have become a great duo. They are both very coachable and since they played together in high school, they seem to be able to play with each other styles when they are on the court."

For the season, Thomas is averaging a team-high 17.4 points per game while Eaton is second with 13.6 a game and 8.8 rebounds a game, also a team-high.

Buggs, the only senior on the team, is quietly putting in 10.0 points a game and 4.4 rebounds.

The women opened the season at home on Nov. 17 when LSU-Shreveport came into town.

The Patriots came away with the victory but it did not come easy, even though for awhile, it looked like it was going to.

After leading by only one point at the half, 32-31, the Patriots started the second half on a 21-3 run to get ahead, 53-34.

Things were looking good for the Patriots but LSUS did not quit there.

With just 10 seconds left in the game, LSUS freshman Callie Davis with tied the game at 68-68.

On the following play, the Patriots found one of the nine true freshman who were making their first collegiate start ever, LaTiandra Smith, who broke free for what appeared to be an easy score and win.

Smith eventually was fouled by an LSUS defender, preventing the easy score for the win.

Smith headed to the free throw line needing to only sink one of the two free throws to give her team the lead.

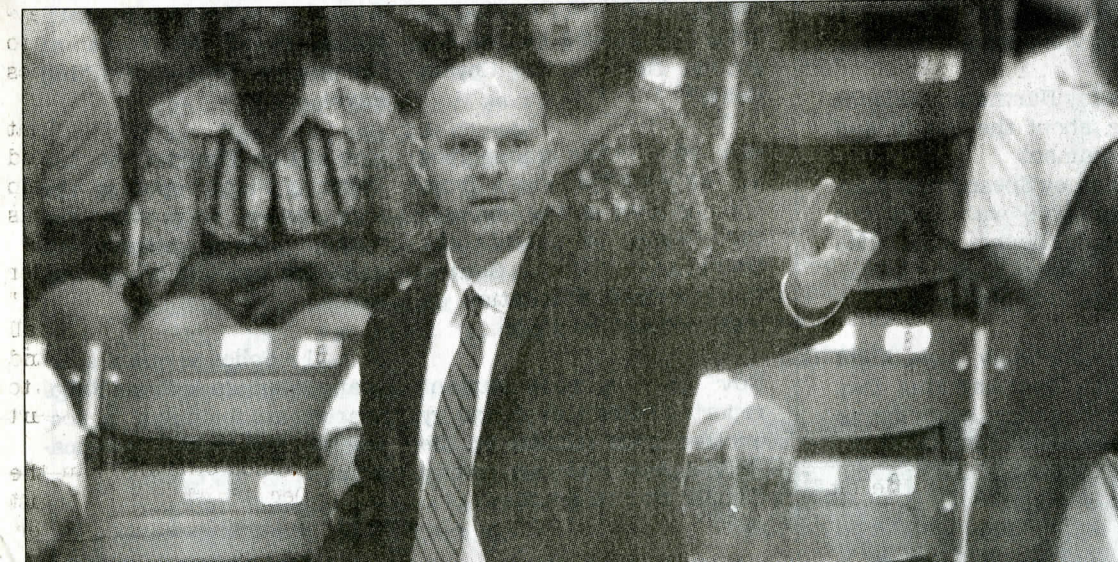
No pressure for her first ever collegiate game. Smith missed the first shot, but rattled the second one in to give the Patriots a 69-68 lead with two seconds left and LSUS could was unable to get a shot off on the next play, making Smith the hero in her first game ever.

The women went on to win 59-55 against Austin College before losing the next day to what is now their only loss of the season by one point to Southwestern by a score of 69-68.



Staff photo by Kyle G. Horst

Patriots freshman LaTiandra Smith, right, of Jacksonville, drives to the hoop during the women's season opening 69-68 win over Louisiana State University in Shreveport. Smith finished with nine points and six rebounds in her collegiate debut.



## "Bizot Era" under way for men; Win conference opener, 75-55

By Jeremy Cotham  
Sports Editor

The "Kenny Bizot Era" is off to a fresh start and winning is what is curing this team that was plagued with the disease of a struggling season last year.

The men's basketball team (2-3, 1-0) took a big step forward Saturday when they won their American Southwest Conference opener at Texas Lutheran University, 75-55.

"It was important for us to win this game.

"Right now, we are still trying to understand the offense and that is probably our biggest weakness right now," Bizot said. "We are getting better at that and tonight was a game where we messed up but we could see improvement. We will continue to work on it though."

The men opened their season up on Nov. 16-17 when they traveled to Sewanee, Tenn. to participate in a two-day classic.

On Nov. 16, the men played tournament host, Sewanee, where they dropped a heart-





Staff photo by Kyle G. Horst

First year head coach, Kenny Bizot, directs his team during an exhibition game at Stephen F. Austin State University on Nov. 9 where the men fell 63-47. Bizot looks to turn around a team that won only six games last season.

at Texas Lutheran University, 75-55. "It was important for us to win this game, especially with the fact this game was on the road, it was an added plus," Bizot said. "We are trying to build a program here and every bit of winning helps."

For only the second time in program history, the Patriots started off its conference record at 1-0. And that is the best start ever to conference by a Patriots basketball squad.

The men look to break that string when they travel to Kerrville tonight to face Schreiner University.

Against Texas Lutheran, the men kept the pace in a back-and-forth effort which saw nine lead changes and three ties.

After Patrick Branche made a layup with 9:27 left to go in the opening half, the Patriots grabbed the lead and never looked back from there.

Going into the break, the Patriots led by 14 points before eventually grabbing their biggest lead of the night at 25 points.

Leading the way for the men was senior Mirada Reed, who finished with 17 points. Craig Blackman, Jr. followed Reed with 14 while Branche and Jeff Cotton each added 10 points.

"We did real well on defensive end all night," Bizot said. "We mixed it up our looks all game and the team responded well to those and they played extremely hard for the entire game. Patrick played well and so did Craig. Mirada stepped up, along with Marlon Hill, and those two had great games tonight."

Not all is well on the court for the Patriots but from when the first practice was held up until now, Bizot said his team is improving each game but there are still some kinks that the team needs to work on.

host, Sewanee, where they dropped a heart-breaker to open the season, losing 75-70.

The men fell behind 70-60 with 5:22 remaining in the game before closing the gap to just two with twenty-two seconds left in the game.

However, the Patriots rally fell short.

The men rebounded the next day when they took care of Emory University, winning 72-64 and giving Bizot his first career win.

Junior Anthony Reese led the team with 17 points while Blackman ended with 14 points and Branche with 13 points.

After the weekend tournament, Reese was named the ASC East Division men's basketball player of the week, which was the first player of the week awards of the season.

Things got a little bumpy for the Patriots as their next two opponents were some heavy competition.

The first one came against Division I foe, McNeese State, out of the Southland Conference.

Battling on the road in a Division I gymnasium, the Patriots faltered to McNeese State, 65-49.

Next on the schedule was a trip to Shreveport to face the undefeated and nationally ranked, Louisiana State University-Shreveport.

The men played a tighter game but falling short, 77-65, as LSUS improved to 6-0.

The key stat of the night was the Patriots held the LSUS offense, who normally averages 94 points per game, to only 77. LSUS only had a 25-23 lead at the half before eventually shooting lights out in the final half.

Blackman led the team with 17, followed by Branche who added 13 points.

## Soccer lands 14 players combined as All-Conference selections

By Jeremy Cotham  
Sports Editor

Both of the University's soccer teams made the playoffs for the first time this season and each of them also place seven players on the All-American Southwest Conference teams.

Highlighting this class was on the women's side, which had three first-team selections in senior forward Jordan Reed, sophomore midfielder Amanda Thomas and junior defender Kelly Buchanan.

The women finished with their best season ever as they went 13-4-3 while only losing once in conference play.

They also made it to the conference championship game in their first year of postseason eligibility before losing 2-0 to nationally ranked Hardin-Simmons University.

Reed finished the season in a tie for most goals with seven and adding four assists. She also had the most shots (39) on the team.

Thomas, who started all 20 games, had four goals this season with two assists.

Buchanan finished with two goals and two assists but more importantly helped lead the defense to limiting opponents to 17 goals on 151 shot attempts.

The Patriots scored 50 goals on 374 shots.

The women did not feature any players on the second team but freshman forward Kendall Kramer made the third-team All-ASC.

Kramer, who led the team with four game-winning goals, finished with seven goals and one assist on 25 shots.

The three remaining players, sophomore goal keeper Sam Fraser, sophomore defender Lauren Pate and freshman defender Chelsea Fiscus made the honorable mention list.

On the men's side, they featured two players on the first-team with junior forward Michael

Kendall and senior goal keeper Geoff Sherman picking up the nods.

The men advanced to the semifinals of the conference tournament where they fell in a shootout to the eventual conference champions, The University of Texas at Dallas.

Kendall led all players on the men's team with 11 goals, five assists and 27 points.

He was also a perfect 2-for-2 on penalty kicks.

Sherman, who graduates this season, finished his senior season with 61 saves en route to posting the second most shutouts in the conference with six. Sherman also finished with a 0.73 goal average, allowing 13 goals on 157 shots.

On the second-team All-ASC team, the men placed three players in junior defender Travis Fletcher, junior midfielder Rudy Galvan and junior midfielder Adam McAlpine.

Fletcher helped lead a defense which limited

opponents to 13 goals with only one goal coming through an eighth game stretch that got the Patriots into the playoffs and into the semi-final game of the postseason tournament.

For Galvan and McAlpine, they combined to score seven goals in between the two and three assists.

On the third-team was junior forward Cole Brittain who finished with five goals, all game-winners, and five assists.

The last selection for the men was sophomore midfielder Tony Guillen who made the honorable mention list.

Guillen completed the season with three goals and three assists while starting 17 of the 19 games.

Now that both of the Patriots soccer teams have made it to the conference postseason tournament, the bar is set for future squads to tackle and ultimately accomplish the higher goal of winning the championship.

The next step then will be to advance to the NCAA national tournament.





# Snakes in a ... dorm room

**Patriot Talon** photographer startled by odd-colored snake he mistook for trash

By Kyle G. Horst  
Staff Photographer

I found a snake - in my room at Ornelas Hall, on the third floor.

Weird, right? I thought so.

I woke up early Nov. 18 to help my girlfriend load her car. Upon returning to my room, I saw what I thought to be a piece of trash.

Looking under the frames of my glasses, it looked like an eight inch red string type thing. I bent down to pick it up, not being able to resist my neatness about having trash on the floor.

I grabbed the end of it (still looking under the frames of my glasses) and it coiled around my finger.

I fell on my back, spaz-ing out, because I just realized it was a snake.

I jumped up, watched it slither toward me, turn, and then slither under my roommate's fridge.

Great. Holy crap. I was almost attacked by a snake, possibly poisonous, and it is now under my roommate's fridge.

I'm going to flush this thing.

I walked around my room in a rage for about five minutes thinking about why this type of thing always happens to me.

After calming down, I came to my senses and realized I had to do something.

My roommate was still sleeping, and I wanted to go back to sleep. I didn't want this serpent loose in my suite.

I went into my room and put on a pair

of leather shoes and looked for a long stick, a tool I saw Steve Erwin use all the time on his television shows.

I hoped I would not have his same fate.

I didn't have any kind of long tool, so I opted for the containment method - putting a small container on top of the snake.

I named it, too. I went for the alliteration and aptly named it "Sally the Snake."

Not wanting my roommate to pick it up, I put a sign on its plastic prison that said, "Sally the Snake - possibly poisonous," and went to sleep.

After waking up, I checked to make sure it was still there. It was. So I stopped worrying about it and went on with my day.

That night, a few friends asked what I was going to do with it.

"I'm going to flush it, it tried to bite me!" I said.

My friend, sophomore Marz Rodrigues, being the kind, caring person she is, told me to take it to Dr. Neil Ford of the biology department. I didn't want to, I wanted to see this thing dead. She persuaded me, so I woke up early on Monday to see Dr. Ford before class.

At his office, he told me the serpent was an albino Corn Snake, and probably someone's pet because of the fact that it was albino.

I asked him to take it and he fearlessly took it out of my container and put him in a tank.

I was put somewhat at ease knowing



Staff photo by Kyle G. Horst

**"Sally the Snake," an albino Corn Snake, in a very unnatural habitat - a college dorm room.**

the snake, most likely, did not come from outside to the third floor of the dorm.

Ironically, the only pets allowed in campus housing are tropical fish in a tank up to 20 gallons. That means someone is missing a pet - and violating the rules.

There is a \$50 a day fee if found in violation and possible contract termination.

I informed Kelley Hartnett, residence life coordinator, about the snake, and she has yet to comment.

So, just like Britney Spears' first marriage, my relationship with Sally the Snake only lasted 24 hours. And unlike Britney Spears, I did not need an annulment. I just dumped my problems on Dr. Ford.

But, it didn't completely leave. I got phone calls until Thanksgiving Day from unidentified people wanting to know Sally's whereabouts.

I told them Dr. Ford had it. I should have told them I let it go.

## {Police Reports

The *Patriot Talon* staff obtained the following reports from the University Police and Tyler Police Department.

Nov. 7 - Police received a report of a loud noise disturbance at The Cambridge. Subjects were allegedly playing basketball inside an apartment, and police advised them to stop.

Nov. 8 - Police issued a citation at The Cambridge for minor in possession of tobacco.

Nov. 9 - Police arrested a 19-year-old male at The Cambridge for possessing alcohol.

Nov. 9 - Police arrested an 18-year-old male at The Cambridge for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Nov. 10 - Police arrested a white male at The Cambridge for possessing marijuana and driving under the influence of alcohol.

Nov. 12 - A female student reported her bicycle stolen from University Pines.

Nov. 13 - EMS transported a female student to East Texas Medical Center for evaluation after she passed out on the second floor of the Cowan Center.

Nov. 14 - Police transported an 18-year-old male from campus after seeing him selling magazines outside the University Center. Unauthorized solicitation on state property is illegal.

Nov. 16 - A male student reported being threatened by another male student on the second floor of the University Center. No charges filed.

Nov. 16 - Police report more than 30 household items, totaling more than \$200, were stolen from a Stone Ridge apartment. Police recovered a majority of the items.

Nov. 17 - Officers responded to a burglary in progress at a Cambridge apartment. Officers arrested two suspects, and a third got away on foot.

Police recovered stolen electronics and charged the suspects with possessing marijuana as well as burglary.

Nov. 18 - Someone stole about \$70 worth of Christmas toys from a car at Stone Ridge apartments.

Nov. 19 - Police received report of a vehicle registration sticker stolen at Stone Ridge apartments.

Nov. 20 - Someone reported a sexual assault at Ornelas Hall resulting in an arrest. (See story, page 1)

Nov. 20 - Police seized a bag of what they believed to be marijuana found in front of University Pines, Building Seven.

Nov. 21 - Workers at the Physical Plant reported the lock stolen from the gas pump. They believe an unknown amount of gas was stolen.

Nov. 21 - Police arrested a 17-year-old female at Stone Ridge apartments for minor in possession and public intoxication.

**"I'm going to flush this thing."**

- Kyle G. Horst



Congratulations  
to the men of

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&

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You men have worked at  
record speed to be  
chartered and we are so  
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Congratulate  
Fall Graduates 2007

Best Wishes for a Healthy & Happy Future!

The UT Tyler Alumni Association will be in the  
foyer of the Cowan Center at graduation.  
Drop by for a photo shoot with Dr. Mabry.

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