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University of Texas at Tyler

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Ten Years Ago (February 2007)

University To Purchase TASCA Center

The University of Texas System Board of Regents approved President Rodney Mabry’s request to purchase 21.38 acres of land across Old Omen Road. The University of Texas Board of Regent’s approval on February 7 was the first step in buying the land and buildings owned by the Tyler Area Senior Citizens, Inc. “We knew we were growing at a rapid rate and we began looking at property and that land was one we were looking at,” Mabry said. A few months prior, an individual from the TASCA board approached Mabry to see if the University wanted to purchase the property, and Mabry began the process to get acquisition approved through the Regents. The University of Texas Health Center leased the building and property for some time. Mabry said that the University would use the existing building to house the nursing graduate program and research facilities. The $2.16 million in Permanent University Funds awarded by the Texas legislature in the fall of 2006 to expand the College of Nursing were diverted and used to purchase the property, along with reserve budget funds, gifts and some debt. “When we bought the 11 acres across from the Exxon, we were able to find a wonderful person to pay for that. We would hope for the same thing here.” Mabry said the TASCA building and parking lot only occupied about four acres, so the remaining acreage would be used for research facilities. The building’s several office rooms would be converted to classroom space and an activity center to be rented to community organizations for events. The Board of Regents also approved the purchase of about 12 acres on Old Omen Road next to the Cambridge apartments. The land was planned to be used for recreational and parking facilities and campus expansion. By Erin Buller, Parries’ Tribune, February 19, 2007.

Twenty Years Ago (February 1997)

A Statement from Dr. George F. Hamm, President, The University of Texas at Tyler

“I am indeed honored that Mayor Patterson’s committee voted to support the UT Tyler proposal for the creation of a Longview Higher Education Center. Academic programs in this proposed center certainly will expand higher educational access to the greater Longview area—one of the largest in Texas without a state-supported university. Our success, or course, will require the involvement and concerted efforts of all colleges and universities within the region. We are confident they will lend their support to the City of Longview and UT Tyler in presenting this proposal to the Texas Legislature. The vote by the Mayor’s Committee is an important step in the process of bringing the Longview campus to reality. We look forward to being a permanent part of Longview through this higher education center. The involvement of UT Tyler and the UT System in this center promises to be a great benefit to the entire area.” From News Release, February 7, 1997.
Thirty Years Ago (February 1987)

Thefts Plague UT Tyler; T-tops and Radar Detectors Taken

“Thefts have continued to plague The University of Texas at Tyler campus according to UT Tyler Police Chief Larry Roberts. On Feb. 11, a radar detector was stolen from a maroon Oldsmobile Delta near the business building. On Feb. 12, the thefts continued when another radar detector was stolen from a brown Ford Bronco. On the same day, another incident was reported when someone broke the T-tops on a red Nissan hatchback in parking lot eight near the business building. The owner of the Nissan left the vehicle around 9:30 a.m. Later the broken T-top was found and was reported to UT Tyler police at 10:40 a.m. ‘It appears they just hit the T-tops, broke them and left,’ Roberts said. This was the second time an alarm has gone off on a car in the parking lot and no one has reported hearing or seeing anything, according to Roberts. ‘It seems that someone would have seen someone doing this,’ Roberts said. On Friday, Feb. 13, it was noticed by police while patrolling the parking lot that the T-tops had been stolen from a black Camaro. The student left the car around 9:15 a.m. and UT Tyler police noticed the window had been knocked out at about 10:15 a.m. Previously this Camaro was sitting next to another Camaro that the T-tops were stolen from, but was left untouched until now, Roberts said. He feels that most of the problems have occurred near the business building and the main entrance because ‘they can get out of here quick. If they go down around the tennis courts they could get blocked in.’ The radar detector and T-tops are big items for thieves. Roberts said, ‘I suggest they put it (radar detector) underneath the seat or someplace where it is not visible. Leaving it visible is inviting theft. This could be the same person or different people. There is no way of knowing. They are going to keep doing this and they’re going to get caught. If anybody notices anything get a license plate number and give us a call. You can’t be too careful,’ Roberts said. By Lori Oliver, UT Tyler Patriot, February 19, 1987.

Forty Years Ago (February 1977)

TEU Spring Enrollment Increases

The official spring enrollment for Texas Eastern University was 1,653, according to Dr. Robert Marsh. This was a 34 percent increase over the 1,229 enrollment of a year past, and a 10 percent climb over the 1,504 students enrolled for the fall semester. An increase of 424 students from the spring of 1976 to the spring of 1977 was the second largest headcount increase for any semester in the history of TEU. The top headcount increase came from the spring of 1974 to the spring of 1975, going from 580 to 1,108. TEU’s student body included 755 males and 898 females. Juniors make up 49.7 percent of the enrollment with seniors accounting for 15 percent, post baccalaureate 17.9 percent and master’s degree program students 17 percent. Forty-three Texas counties, fifteen states and eight foreign countries were represented. International students came from Iran, Israel, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, and Thailand.

University Archives and Special Collections

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