

University of Texas at Tyler

Scholar Works at UT Tyler

The Patriot/Texas Eastern Patriot

Student Newspapers

3-9-2000

The Patriot Vol. 28 no. 10 (2000)

University of Texas at Tyler

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uttyler.edu/teupatriot>

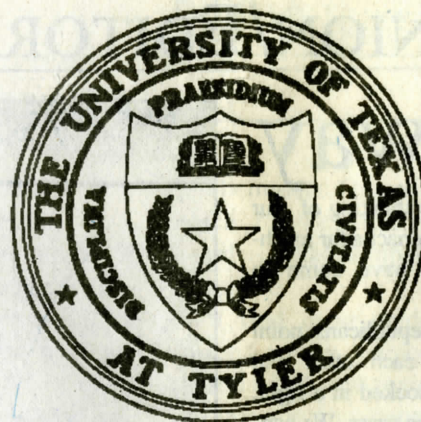
Recommended Citation

University of Texas at Tyler, "The Patriot Vol. 28 no. 10 (2000)" (2000). *The Patriot/Texas Eastern Patriot*. 96.

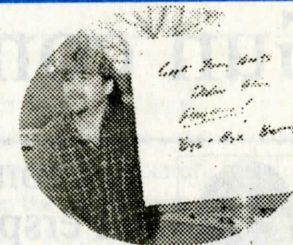
<https://scholarworks.uttyler.edu/teupatriot/96>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Newspapers at Scholar Works at UT Tyler. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Patriot/Texas Eastern Patriot by an authorized administrator of Scholar Works at UT Tyler. For more information, please contact tgullings@uttyler.edu.

- ◆ Raymond Muhula discusses views on gun control issues
- ◆ Andrea Richards contemplates letting go of memories



- ◆ Students take field trip to Huntsville, observe media event during Beets' execution



March 9, 2000
THURSDAY
 Volume 28, Issue 10

THE PATRIOT

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

Nonprofit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit No. 963
 Tyler, TX
 75799



PLANS UNDER WAY - Dr. Rodney Mabry reviews the plans for the new fitness building.

Shanna Humphrey

Mabry speaks about new health/fitness center plans

by Jennifer Jones
Patriot Writer

Dr. Rodney Mabry, president of the university, spoke at Monday's student association meeting on the proposed Health and Kinesiology Physical Education Complex to be built in the fall of 2003.

Students vote March 21 and 22 on a recreational facility fee to fund operations and maintenance of the student recreation portion of the building.

Mabry said students are not being asked to spend a penny on the cost of construction of the building.

Computer-generated pictures of the proposed layout and information about the complex were presented during Mabry's speech to help students understand the building and student fee proposal.

"I think this is a critical building. This may be the first thing in a long time, if not ever, in terms of buildings that were really set up just for students. The primary purpose is to have

the kind of building for the future that all students would enjoy for various reasons. The purpose is to retain and attract students," Mabry said.

Mabry said the \$19.3 million facility would include a track, an arena-style gymnasium with basketball and volleyball courts and fitness equipment. There will also be an outdoor swimming pool and offices and teaching facilities for the health and kinesiology department.

"In talking with consultants and other firms, they indicate that this type of building is the new student center of the future," Mabry said.

One thing not included in the total cost is gymnasium seating.

Mabry said he hopes the seating will be added to allow competitive sports in the future. It would also provide a place to hold graduation, he said.

"The recreational facility is mostly for fun," Mabry said.

Slightly more than half of the construction funds are to come from \$9.7

million in Permanent University Funds allocated by the university system. The balance of the cost must come from private donations, he said.

The university will receive 51% of the funds from PUF because it was determined only that percentage of the space in the complex will be used for educational purposes, Mabry said.

About \$400,000 a year will be needed to operate a building this size. A student fee is needed to assist in this cost.

Aimee Griffy, Student Association treasurer, asked if alumni would get to use the facility, since she will be an alumni by the time the facility is complete.

Mabry said he hopes alumni would be invited to use the facilities because it is typical of other universities to allow alumni to use recreational facilities.

Student Association vice president Alicia Moore pointed out that alumni would most likely be asked to pay a fee. Mabry agreed.

Student amendment election slated after spring vacation

Student presidential candidates compete for association position

by Wendy L. Moore
Editor in Chief

Students will have the opportunity to change the Student Association constitution in the upcoming election.

In addition to the officer and representative selection and voting on a fee for the the new health and kinesiology building, two constitutional amendments will be voted on, Dr. Dale Lunsford, dean of students, said.

The first is to change the name of the Student Association to Student Government Association.

"In general, I think this is a good thing because student government is a much more descriptive label to what the role of this institution should be," Lunsford said.

Although Lunsford was not with the university when the idea was first mentioned in November, he said he supports it.

The name change will not only better emphasize the duties

of the organization but it will make it more consistent with the other branches of the University of Texas system and student organizations all over Texas, Lunsford said.

The majority of schools use SGA instead of SA.

The second amendment proposed is an extension of the first, Lunsford said. This is a name change for the representatives of the colleges on campus.

"The name . . . shall be changed to senators to more accurately describe the position they fulfill and to bring the Student Association of UT Tyler into accord with the other UT system schools who call the elected persons from individual colleges senators," the spring 2000 ballot reads.

"I think this is driven by a wanting to be more consistent with the other UT schools," Lunsford said.

He said he didn't know if this amendment was as important as the first.

Unlike most ballot issues where a majority vote is necessary, the amendments require a two-thirds vote of the total voters.

If the amendment passes with the student body, the chairman of the rules committee has to certify the vote was valid and the amendments will be sent to the Board of Regents of the University of Texas system to be passed through its prescribed procedures, the SA constitution said.

"I don't think these will be an issue at all because we're just doing what other schools have done," Lunsford said.

The election for these amendments, for 2000/2001 SA officers, and for the proposed fee are set for March 21, 22.

Polling booths will be set up in four locations. They are the University Center, the Business Building, the Hudnal Pirtle Roosth Building, and the engineering building.

by Luke Henderson
Becky Eddington
Contributing Writers

Student presidential candidates Michelle Ledoux and Alan Thomas both agree that improving communications with the students is a priority, but differ on what kind of experience is important to the job.

Ledoux believes her experience as secretary of the Student Association will benefit her in the post of president.

"Anyone running for president wants to help students, but Alan has been here for two years and I just want to tell him that we could have used him," she said.

Thomas said his six years as a paralegal will help him communicate with students.

Thomas said he does not want the election to be about him.

"I'm not about campaigning for my own agenda. I'm about campaigning for the concerns of the student body," he said.

Kelley Ellis also will be on the ballot for president, but she told *The Patriot* in a previous interview, she has withdrawn from the race because her schedule prevents her from devoting enough time to the position.

MICHELLE LEDOUX

Ledoux is currently the student association secretary. She works in the University of Texas at Tyler admissions office.

Ledoux first became involved in student government as the University Pines representative. She believes the key to the university is students being able to voice their opinion.

She sees the student government as a way for the



Ledoux
19
Pol. Science
Sophomore



Thomas
28
Sociology
Senior

administration to be able to come down to the student's level and drop the "huge negative wall" Ledoux said was here when she first arrived.

She believes the additions of both Dr. Dale Lunsford and Dr. Rodney Mabry to the university have improved student relations.

Last semester the student association voted themselves a \$50 raise

in their scholarships by secret ballot. Ledoux said that while this use of the voting tactic was inappropriate, using secret ballot in some instances is okay.

She advocates placing course evaluations on-line so a student may see what opinion students have about a class. A book swap and improving internet access to accommodate more on-line classes also are projects she wants to address.

Ledoux, a member of the Pre-Law Society, has recently quit her job in a local store so she could concentrate more on the student government.

Ledoux graduated from Neches High School in 1998 and said she was responsible for bringing about both a theater arts program and a student government at the school.

Also, she said that her knowledge of the University of Texas Student Advisory Council, on which she is the vice chair of Academic Affairs and the Secretary of Student Rights, gives her an advantage over her opponent.

Ledoux said she is a good communicator who knows the campus and its people.

"Students are my top priority. It's all about getting the job done," Ledoux said.

see **PRESIDENT** on page 3

Voting Locations:

- Hudnal Pirtle Roosth (HPR)
- University Center (UC)
- Engineering Building
- Business Building

Mahon named Miss Tyler

by Lana Cain
Contributing Writer

Angela Mahon, a university senior, was crowned Miss Tyler USA at a local pageant last week.

On July 17, 20 girls stood side by side on a brightly lit stage, each praying her name would be called.

The field was narrowed down to 10, then five, and finally only one.

"This was my first pageant," Mahon said. "I just wanted to try it."

She said the toughest part of the pageant, for her, was the on-stage interview.

This is where each of the top five finalists draw a question from



MAHON

a bowl and answer it on the spot, in front of the audience.

"I want everyone to know that I am a Christian girl. I want to use this experience for God and to let His light shine through me," Mahon said.

Mahon said she believes every experi-

ence a person has, good or bad, shapes them into the person they become.

"The quality of a person comes from the inside. The inside is what lasts, not the outer appearance," Mahon said.

Mahon, a 22-year-old English major, will represent Tyler in the televised Miss Texas USA pageant on July 17.

INSIDE:

- Opinions 2
- News 3
- Campus 4
- Campus 5
- Feature 6

Career Fair



Ernest Celaya

CAREER OPPORTUNITY - Student talks with a representative from Norwest Financial at a career fair sponsored by the University of Texas at Tyler.

Gun control: A trigger away



From My
Perspective
by Raymond Muhula
Patriot Writer

Once again it has been confirmed we are all just one trigger away from a gun related death.

The shooting death last week of Kayla Rolland, a first grader in Mount Morris Township, Michigan, at the hand of a 6-year-old classmate, has confirmed the fear that many parents harbor everyday they release their children to the school bus driver. The knowledge that the next time such news come, it will be you on the spotlight is a chilling one.

Granted, a 6-year-old does not possess the requisite mental faculty to design a criminal master plan in the breed of the infamous Columbine killers. Similarly, a 6-year-old can't, nay, shouldn't be able to pull that trigger in the direction of anything.

In a perfect world, someone should reaffirm the time-tested parental duty to guide and restrain; to mold and model our children; to show them the

dignity of humility.

How do you explain the fact that parents are unable to question certain unbecoming behavior that is evident in their children?

How can a parent fail to notice a little kid going to school with a gun?

How does the teacher fail to notice a gun until there is death in the school? There is obviously a missing link somewhere.

We have been left to parent ourselves at the hand of that powerless institution called Nannydom. The Nanny who is unable to exert any control on us resigns. After all, we are not her kids. We wait for our career parents who have little time for us. We are left to the teacher who, concerned more about their own ratings in the academic tests, pay little attention to disciplinary issues. That leaves us with one option: a gun-toting teenage friend of a Columbine persuasion.

The issue of guns and gun safety legislation has a way of rallying political rhetoric on the Hill from both sides of the political divide. The National Rifle Association has so

much engulfed in the thinking of our leaders that efforts to enact a far reaching gun legislation have come to naught.

Democrats and Republicans point accusing fingers at each other and where elephants are locked in a fight, the victim has been the grass. We happen to be the grass and so are the families of Kayla, of the Columbine students and of all the apprehensive parents who, each day, reluctantly release their children to the custody of the school environment. This, by the way used to be a safe place in society.

Political leaders must rise above empty rhetoric and political spins calculated to divert attention from such life-threatening issues as gun violence.

It is time those running for office displayed an equally vociferous stance on the guns issue like they do on abortion. After all, in both cases, life is involved.

When the time comes for the general elections let us not base our voting choices on the traditional, tired issues that all candidates have been taking about since the days of Lincoln, let our votes redefine our vision for a safer America, you owe it to the whole world and to Kayla Rolland.



Letters to the editor

Reader supports opinion article on Cowan Center

To the Editor:

I am so thankful Laura McWilliams brought some attention to the mistreatment of the students and faculty of the Cowan Center. Just yesterday I read a pamphlet that states: The University of Texas at Tyler R. Don Cowan Fine and Performing Arts Center provides students access to state-of-the-art facilities for students in the fine arts. But over the past few months it has become painfully obvious that students are not the top priority of the Cowan Center.

Students should not be made to sneak past guards in order to get to class, as was the Bryant [Greg] Gumbel's banquet. Unfortunately, classes cannot be canceled every time there is something special going on in the Cowan Center.

Many other students, and maybe even some members of the administration, do not care, or feel as if we need to get over it. We are not going to get over it. We are tired of having to move our cars from the student parking lots behind Cowan in order to accommodate others.

We are tired of having our tiny sliver of a space in Cowan taken over so we cannot go to class. I am especial-

Cowan students are special. We are proud to perform in plays and provide music and art for the entire city and surrounding areas to enjoy.

Most importantly we are students who love what we do and want a little more respect instead of being swept aside as if we are in the way.

Tracee White
Senior, history

Student expresses concern for Cowan Center, students

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter with the hope that whoever reads it will finally see the poor treatment the fine arts students receive.

As a fairly new four year school, I understand the importance of attracting sources of revenue as well as new students.

The Cowan Center is a beautiful facility and is a great benefit to the school. However, how can the mistreatment of students be justified just to bring in a few dollars.

Students have been forced to park in the streets, sneak

to be allowed in the very building in which their classes are held?

I think this is a case of the University not caring because the amount of students misplaced are so small. But without the fine arts students, there is no need for a building such as the Cowan Center.

It's time to ask what's more important, having a banquet hall or a fine arts building.

If it's the banquet hall, then the students need their own facilities.

If it's the latter then expand with more classrooms and faculty. At the very least, give some consideration to the treatment of the students.

Chris Dunn
Junior, voice major

Administrator stands up for Development Office plans

To the Editor:

Laura McWilliam's article on the Cowan Center in a recent issue of *The Patriot* reminded me to let students know what the Development Office is trying to do. Our

Greg Gumbel lecture. Why? Because donors are currently considering proposals to fund many projects across campus that are important to all students such as:

- endowing Presidential Scholarships (\$25,000 each) and other scholarships
- funding important student activities like sending the U.T. Tyler Choir to Carnegie Hall last year (\$33,000)
- endowing faculty chairs and professorships (\$0.25 million to \$2 million each - we now have five and our goal is to add six more)
- providing many millions to fund buildings, such as the Health and Kinesiology/Student Recreation Center (half of \$19.2 million), a proposed nursing building (half of \$6 million) and a proposed engineering and sciences building (half of \$12 million).

None of the above items will come to pass without generous donors. U.T. Tyler, like all universities, depends on the generosity of its alumni, friends and area philanthropists in order to grow and research excellence.

President Mabry and the faculty have a vision to build a truly great university in East Texas. The Development Office believes in that vision and the vital role of private donors, they will, doubtlessly, understand the need for "appreciation" donor events and will come to acknowledge them as examples of the "the Development Office at work"

ly tired of having to park at the library in order to go to my class in the Cowan Center when there is a special event.

Do not get me wrong, I love the fact that touring shows come to Tyler, but I'm sure some other arrangements can, and should, be made.

into the building and stay in the shadows anytime a special event or dinner needs to be held.

For a university to be taken seriously there has to be a fine arts program, but how can there be a program when the students feel like they aren't even worth consideration

students are not only intelligent, but savvy as well. With enough information, they will understand that we truly care about them and everything we do is for their benefit.

We sometimes include a small appreciation dinner for donors before Cowan performances, as we did before the

Sincerely,
Mary Untersee
Director of Development

Letting go of memories is easier said than done



Life, Love, and the Harangue

by Andrea Richards
Patriot Writer

I heard a quaint little proverb once that I have held onto: "Let go of everything you don't either love or use."

I can't say I've really used that advice and I don't know if I love it. Still, for some reason I have allowed it to linger in the back of my mind. When I realize I am guilty of clutching onto something I cannot fit into either category, that little saying slaps me with a challenge I can hardly accept.

It is pretty easy to determine which possessions can fit into the "things I use" category.

Anyone who has ever read a hint or two from Heloise knows the little rule of throwing out anything you haven't used in the past year. If you haven't heard it before you have now.

I will admit a certain level of liberality in my dealings with the definition of "use." I justify objects I am pretty sure I will use at some point in

the future. I'm an idealist.

All right, I'm a pack rat, but that's not the issue.

The problem is with the things I've put in the "things I love" category. I have trophies and photos and my blue baby blanket.

I have dried flower petals and souvenirs and a box of various things I'm too lazy to make into a scrapbook.

They're sweet little mementos of my past. They have stories behind them. They are the kind of things one envisions Donna Reed-like mothers pulling out of their cedar "hope" chests. If there were anything I could put in my "things I love" category, these would be the types of things.

Only I don't love them. I would rather have them than not, I guess, but I wouldn't cry bitter tears if they were destroyed. I might not even notice.

Yet it is almost frightening to consider throwing it all out. We are taught that some objects have certain meaning. We are expected to have possessions that are valuable to us and to cherish them.

There are sob stories of people dangle about with no object-memory

combination to tie them to their pasts. Even those poor souls usually have something that holds meaning to them.

Little Orphan Annie had half a locket from her long lost parents. A scruffy hobo has at least a bandanna pouch on a stick as his saving grace.

Perhaps I am terribly unsentimental. Or maybe that special something just hasn't yet fallen into my hands. Until then, what am I supposed to do?

Should I hang on to a few token objects to escape the sympathetic looks when I answer "my energy" to the proverbial question "what would you save from a burning house"? Or should I just toss them and stop pretending they mean something to me?

It might mean more someday to my first beloved object to be housed in a place it doesn't have to share with a bunch of wannabes. Maybe when I get that first something, I could store it in the old beat up suitcase I've been saving all rat-like.

Anyway, it has always been a strain to imagine myself in that Donna Reed scenario. She is so perfectly starched, her eager young daughter makes me ill and since I'm being perfectly honest; I think cedar kind of stinks.

EDITORIAL

Building for a brighter future

A new building is proposed for the campus. The administration calls it the Health and Kinesiology/Physical Education Complex.

This is a huge step for the former two-year university. It will enable the school to make the transition by providing for the student needs.

How many schools in Texas do not have a facility to accommodate the popular passtime of fitness?

Even junior colleges have some sort of facility like this one.

It is about time the university realized what would keep the students on campus. As it is now, many students park, go to class and then leave.

I also will also allow the health and kinesiology department to expand and make a degree from the University of Texas at Tyler more valuable.

For these reasons, we support the operating cost fee for the proposed building.

Corrections:

On page 6 of the last edition there was a mistake in the brief about the honor society. Members of Kappa Delta Pi include undergraduate students with a grade point average of 3.25 and above. Graduate students must have a 3.5 to join.

In the last issue, the story about

counseling graduates had two mistakes.

The quote about most counselors going into the high school field is incorrect. The program has 50 students, 20 are candidates for a master's degree and 30 already have a master's and are doing the certificate program.

CAMPUS VOICE

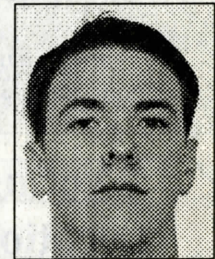
What is your view on the proposed fee for the new physical education building?



WOODBURY

"I don't have a problem with it because a university is a major cash outlay, no matter how you look at it. It will help the school grow."

Shannon Woodbury, senior, accounting



HUGHES

"Forty dollars seems to be worth it if it can bring enjoyment to the students at the university."

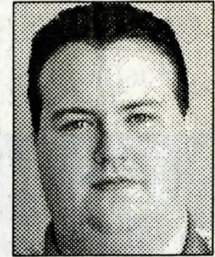
Stephen Hughes, freshman, computer science



DITTO

"I don't think it's that bad. I would use it instead of Woodcreek and more than I use the Cowan Center."

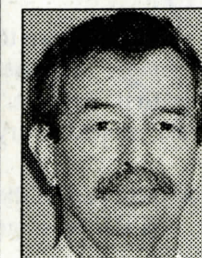
Paulette Ditto, senior, accounting



SMITH

"I wish they would focus their attention on things like the staff shortage problem rather than on a building fee."

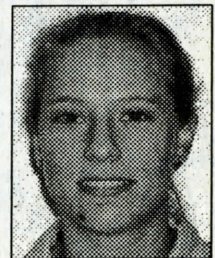
Blake Smith, sophomore, music



SIKES

"I don't have any problems with the fee. I think we need that kind of facility."

Ray Sikes, senior, art



PTACEK

"I'm for it if it will better help the school and the students in the school"

Mandy Ptacek, English

THE PATRIOT

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

General Information

The Patriot is a student publication that provides information, commentary and entertainment for the University of Texas at Tyler community. Editorial statements and advertisements do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the UTT administration.

Contributions Policy

All contributions in good taste will be edited for grammar, spelling, length (200 words maximum), libel, profanity and personal attacks. All letters must contain the author's name, address, telephone number, academic classification and home town. Letters may be brought to the Patriot Newsroom (HPR 274), the Communications Office (HPR 272) or mailed to:

The UT Tyler Patriot
c/o Editor in Chief
3900 University Blvd.
Tyler, TX 75799

STAFF

Editor in Chief - Wendy L. Moore
Associate Editor - Jeff Sprick
Copy Editor - Raymond Muhula
Advertising/Circulation Manager - Jody Bittick
Police Reporter - Luke Henderson
Cartoonist - Laura Reiff
Photographers -
Ernest Celaya
Shanna Humphrey
Joe McArthur
Writers -
Jennifer Jones
Laura McWilliams
Andrea Richards
Adviser - Vanessa Curry

Phone: 566-7131

Fax: 566-7287

E-Mail: patriot@stemail.uttyler.com

Prize Winner



Ernest Celaya

HE WON! - Bradley T. Bryant, computer science graduate student, won a television during the career fair drawing held Tuesday.

PRESIDENT

Continued from page 1
ALAN THOMAS

Alan Thomas said he hopes to cause such a stir in student involvement that the Cowan Center will be the only place to hold the next student candidates' forum.

The senior sociology major said he believes student awareness is essential to develop an interest in government and activities on campus.

Thomas said he wants to develop a defined network of communication so students will have an opportunity on any day to voice a question, a concern or any other thought to the Student Association.

He believes the referendum on changing the name from Student Association to Student Government Association will help students recognize the purpose of the association.

Thomas said his concern about the voice of the student body being heard is what compelled him to run for office.

"I find most students are uninformed not by choice, but because there is little convenience in obtaining information about campus activities such as the student government," he said.

"Although there are procedures such as the white card system in place, these procedures are ineffective if no one knows about or takes advantage of them," he said.

The white card system involves the distribution of cards throughout the campus.

Thorough this, students can convey a complaint or suggestion to University President Dr. Rodney Mabry.

The president's office then passes

cards on to respective departments. Each department reviews the cards they receive to determine changes that could be made.

"I believe many students feel they do not have the ability to get answers to questions or concerns they may have about specific issues within the University," he said.

Thomas said he is focused on changing the lack of student participation.

He said he intends to better inform the student body through the SA News and by providing more information to the campus newspaper.

"I want to continue in establishing the SA News as an important form of communication between the association and the student body," he said.

Thomas has an associate of arts degree in behavioral health from

Tyler Junior College. He said his six years experience as a paralegal will benefit him in organizing the association.

"My responsibilities as a paralegal include conducting meetings and communicating with people from all levels of the community," he said.

Thomas said his experience in local government also will benefit him as president of the association.

He has served as an officer of a ballot station and he was nominated as a precinct representative to the Smith County convention.

He also was elected as a representative to the state convention of the national Republican party, he said.

"My business skills and experiences in the legal community will be invaluable to the office of president," he said.

Michelle Ledoux
For
President

Aimee Griffy
For
Vice President

"Together We Can Make A Difference!"

-Many hands, many minds one goal!

Student Activities

Deadline for the "Playstation Challenge" is extended to March 10. Competition begins March 20 at 4 p.m. in the University Center open area.

The Six Flags spring break trip has been cancelled due to lack of interest.

Another trip may be scheduled for a time later in the semester or in the summer.

★★★

"Fun Flicks: Make your own MTV style video" is scheduled for March 21 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the UC. Everyone is invited to participate. Awards for the best videos will be given afterward.

★★★

Softball begins March 22 at 5 p.m. on the campus fields.

★★★

A blood drive is scheduled

for March 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in UC 118.

Blood donors should eat before donating and bring a driver's license. Donors will receive a T-shirt.

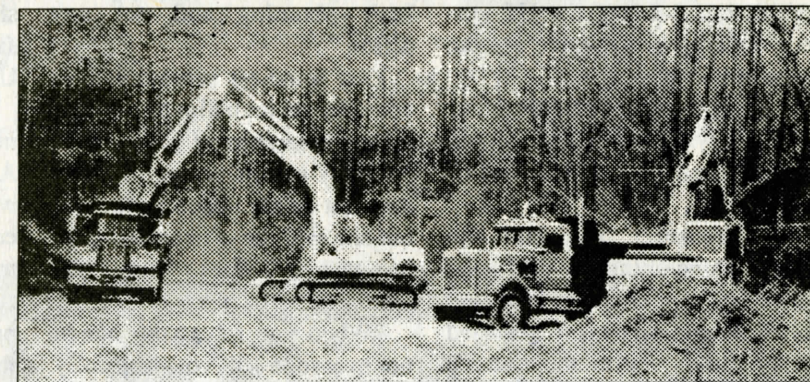
★★★

The bowling tournament is March 28 at 4:30 p.m. in Green Acres Bowling Alley.

Maximum number of players for bowling teams is six, including two substitutes. All colleges and organizations are encouraged to form teams. Rules are available in the office of student activities.

★★★

Dallas Mavericks vs. Los Angeles Lakers and Texas Rangers vs. Chicago White Sox tickets are still available at the cashier's office, Administration Building Room 120.



Ernest Celaya

CLEAR THE WAY—Plans for a new neighborhood are being put into action on Old Omen Road, across from the campus main entrance.

Construction of new homes under way opposite campus

by **Luke Henderson**
Patriot Writer

Plans for building a neighborhood across from the main entrance of the University of Texas at Tyler campus are under way, land owner Ken Wheeler said.

Students may have noticed the clearing attempts and construction work on Old Omen road.

Wheeler said the neighborhood will use the 200 acres of land.

The land will hold about 500

"It will be a traditional neighborhood with streets, and homes with front porches, in the 1920's and 1930's style. The kind of homes one might see in Tyler's Azalea District," he said.

Wheeler hopes the clearing will be finished soon.

Building the homes should begin either in late summer or early fall, Wheeler said.

He also hopes that the homes would be ready by the end of the year.

Need Money?

Three ways to beat the high cost of college.

Student Association meeting: March 20

Vice president candidates tout student government experience

By Christa Sprouls and Becky Eddington
Contributing Writers

Student government experience appears to be a key factor in two contenders' bid for the Student Association's vice president post.

The race pits Aimee Griffy, a sophomore and Student Association treasurer, against junior finance major Natalie Welch.

GRIFFY

Griffy also represents the campus through the University of Texas Student Advisory Council which meets in Austin

She said her experience with the association and the UT system makes her qualified for the vice president post.

"I came into SA as treasurer and really like it. I think I can actually help make a difference," she said.

As treasurer, she said she began developing a child care directory for students who are also parents and need qualified baby sitters while they attend classes.

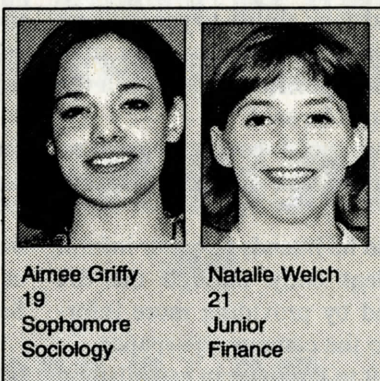
"I'm really close to reaching my goal and finishing the book," she said.

Griffy said she wants to promote the SA and student involvement.

"I want to build up the Student Association more so everyone knows about it, help bridge the gap between students with events and inform students about student services available to them," she said.

She said she also wants to cultivate longer commitments to service on the association.

Since the university is traditionally an upper level college, students are in the student association for one year and then graduate, she said.



Aimee Griffy
19
Sophomore
Sociology

Natalie Welch
21
Junior
Finance

and then they are gone," Griffy said. "Having freshmen and sophomores will help. After the first year, when they know what they are doing, they can take action and get things accomplished. Otherwise, you just have planning and not any action."

Last semester representatives voted by secret ballot to increase their scholarship by \$50.

Griffy admits voting in secret may not be the best way to vote, but she said the officers believed it was necessary to keep votes "pure."

"When you raise your hands, not everyone will vote truthfully. At that moment that was our best idea," she said.

WELCH

Welch said her previous experience in student government makes her a qualified candidate for the post.

As a Rusk High School student, Welch said she served as the student council president and campaigned at the state level to be part of the Texas Association of Student Councils.

She was later chosen vice president for the state organization, she said.

"Through this organization, I was able to attend several leadership camps which were beneficial," she said.

Welch said she also served as a page in the Texas Senate.

watching the lobbyists. I got a good political sense of what goes on in Texas. It helped me learn parliamentary procedures," she said.

Welch said she is excited about the proposed construction of a new physical education building at the University of Texas at Tyler.

"A recreational center will make it more like a campus. The center will be a place to congregate as well as having health benefits for students," she said.

Welch said she realizes students have mixed emotions about paying a fee for part of the facility's operational cost, but she believes the center is necessary for the future of the University.

Welch said she believes it is important for the Student Association members to talk with students and relay their concerns to faculty and administration.

"If you read the statement of purpose in The Constitution of the Student Association, it says its primary purpose is to serve as a forum for student opinion. There's a definite need to improve relations with the student body," she said.

To improve relations, she said she plans to utilize the campus newspaper.

"The newspaper has to be involved in everything we do so the students are aware of activities," she said.

She said the hiring of Dr. Dale Lunsford as the new dean of students was a good move for the University.

Welch also believes sponsoring more student activities like intramural sports can greatly enhance campus life.

"It brings different colleges together and it's a good way for people to get involved and have

Three officer posts uncontested

By Laura McWilliams
Mary Rainwater and
Adam Scott

Contributing Writers

Three students running for a position as a Student Association officer are uncontested in the March 21-22 election.

Those candidates are: Lana Cain, treasurer; Kelley Martin, secretary; and Kevin Montgomery, parliamentarian.

Montgomery is the incumbent parliamentarian. Martin previously served as a representative for the College of Liberal Arts.

TREASURER

Talking to students and finding out what they expect from the SA are two goals Cain said she wants to address.

"It's vital to find out what interests students," she said. "If [the SA] is to be the voice of the students, then it must be involved."

Cain said she has "listened to various circles" and believes the association has a negative reputation partly because of a lack of communication with students.

"Until recently they've been in a corner and haven't let people know they were there. It's time for the SA to get involved and build a positive reputation," she said.

Cain said she wanted to see more activities for the students and their families.

"We need things for people who have children as well — reaching

out to the whole family, since this is a non-traditional school," she said.

Last semester representatives voted by secret ballot to increase their service scholarship by \$50. Cain said she thought the secret ballot was unnecessary.

"If it's a close-knit group, there shouldn't be a need for secret ballot voting. Members should be able to discuss those things out in the open," she said.

SECRETARY

Martin said her experience in student government at Tyler Junior College and UTT helped her develop goals for improving campus life.

"No matter what it is, there is always something that can be done better," she said.

Martin sees the main issue as getting the students more involved. SA members must go out to the students and talk to them," she said.

"I'm a go-getter. I want to go out and talk to the students. If I can get them to come to just one meeting to see what we do, then we can get more involvement and more activities," she said. "I just want to be able to reach out to students, both young and old, and unite them."

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Montgomery said he is an experienced student government officer



Cain
30
Junior
Journalism

Martin
23
Junior
Sociology

Montgomery
20
Sophomore
Mngmt.

who wants to bridge the gap between older and younger students.

"I like working with people," he said.

He is promoting frequent meetings, more activities and better communication in order to improve student relations. He also wants to increase lighting in specific campus walkways and developing a SA web site.

A web site can be used to inform students about campus issues and events such as a book swap for students to trade textbooks and save money, he said.

"The book swap is something we are trying to do so students won't have to purchase new books every semester," Montgomery said.

Concerning other issues, Montgomery said he would support voting by secret ballot under certain circumstances.

"It really depends on the type of situation in order to determine if secret ballots are necessary," he said.

Students unchallenged for SA seats

By Luke Henderson
Adam Scott and
Jeff Sprick

Contributing Writers

Barring a challenge from write-in candidates, two incumbents and one newcomer face uncontested races for three representative seats during the Student Association election.

Those candidates are: Michael Falzone in the College of Science and Mathematics; Ambrosiour Jackson in the College of Nursing; and Sandra Masklee, University Pines.

FALZONE

Falzone, who won as a write-in candidate during the last election, said he can identify with the student body and plans to reach out to all students.

Besides serving in student government, he also serves as treasurer for the Engineering Student Association.

"I enjoy working with the students and love the other Student Association members," said



Falzone
17
Freshman
Engineering

change his major and may run later as a representative for the College of Business, he said.

Falzone said he supports the proposed physical education building, reinstating a campus daycare and creating new entertainment facilities for students.

He said students need a place to hang out while waiting for classes instead of having to go home or wait in the University Center.

He suggested providing students with a room with pool tables and arcade games.

During the fall term, representa-

It takes about a year for the students to decide what to do. I loved it being in the capital, listening to debates and people to get involved and have fun on campus," she said.

Falzone and Jackson were elected last fall and are seeking new full terms.

Falzone, adding that he is looking forward to serving the student body. He is, however, planning to

See SA seats, page 5

Jim's Jewelers

Complete Repair Service

The place to shop for your high school or college...

Class Rings



We are your shop to do stone setting, remounts, repairs, sizing and special order work with our pledge of fine workmanship, quick service and fair prices.

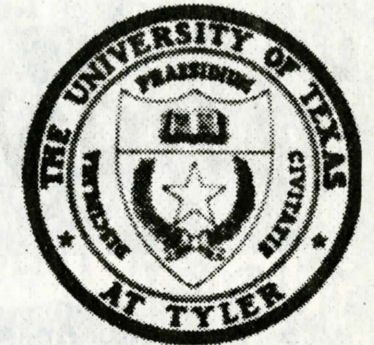
Jim's Jewelers

2009 Old Troup Highway
Tyler, Texas 75701
(903) 593-8962



UNIVERSITY PINES

A P A R T M E N T S



A Unique Student Community



160 Units, 384 Students
Units Available

Efficiency

1 bedroom, 1 bath unit

2 bedroom, 1 bath unit

4 bedroom, 2 bath unit

Apartment Style Living
Connected to Campus

Built in 1993
(903) 566-3565

We have everything that other apartments have PLUS:

- Individual Lease Liability
- Financial Aid Deferment
- Direct Internet Connections
- Professional & Student Life Staff
- Social and Educational Programs
- Dedicated Police Department

Five students seeking to represent liberal arts

By Lana Cain
 Laura McWilliams
 Jeff Sprick
 Christa Sprouls
 Contributing Writers

Five candidates vying for three seats as College of Liberal Arts representatives say communication between the student body and the Student Association is a major issue in the campaign.

Candidates are: freshmen Shanna Humphrey and Danny Carey; sophomore Beverly Pearson; and juniors Susan Mills and Thomas "Thos" Fisher.

Pearson is an incumbent representative.

CAREY

Carey is seeking change on campus through his own involvement in student government.

"I have been involved with student governments in the past. I believe the Student Association here needs more structure so people understand what's going on. I think I could give valuable insight on this," he said.



Carey
 20
 Junior
 Speech

Carey said he loves working with people and believes meeting and talking with students is important.

The University's greatest strength, he said, is the close relationship between the faculty and students.

"I like the closeness of the faculty and students, it is like a family here at UT Tyler," he said.

However, Carey said he does not believe there are enough activities that appeal to students.

"I would like to focus on building more activities," he said.

Carey believes there can be activities to appeal to all students.

"I believe that we need to find a balance with both the freshmen and traditional students," he said.

He said he supports changing the Student Association's name to the Student Government Association, believing it is one way to begin improving the organization.

"I think getting new people elected will be a great way of solving problems of the past," he said.

Concerning the Cowan Center, he believes some students may be pushed

been suppressed in favor of some of the major productions there," he said.

FISHER

Fisher wants to increase community support in the College of Liberal Arts.

"There is a lot of talent in the fine art department that no one sees," he said.

Fisher recalls a poor turnout at the first performance he attended on campus.

"It was a really great performance, but there were only about five people in the audience," Fisher said. "I want that to change."

"A lot of people in liberal arts don't involve themselves in politics because art and politics are exactly opposite," he explained.

Fisher describes himself as outgoing and approachable.

"I will make it known who I am. I represent them and they should know they can talk to me," he said.

The candidate said he believes more student events should be planned by the Student Association.

He supports construction of a new physical education building, believing it will allow students with common goals to meet one another.

"It would bring a sense of community to the campus," Fisher said.

Fisher opposes secret ballot voting by association members.

"As a representative, people need to know what you stand for. If you are going to take a stand you should let it be known," he explained.

"People will know who I am and what I stand for," he added.

HUMPHREY

Discovering what issues are important to students and actively addressing those issues are two main goals for Humphrey.

She said she wants to increase student involvement in various organizations and plan activities important to students.

"I want to go out and talk to students. I want to find out what's important

to them, what interests them and plan activities accordingly," she said.



Fisher
 20
 Junior
 Theater

increase student involvement.

"[The Student Association] is trying to grow, to get more students involved and participate in activities. But they need to find out what matters to the students and act on those issues. They need to plan activities that students want and then get them involved," she said.

She said she wants to learn from the student body about what concerns them, but she also plans to learn what issues concern the administration and pass that knowledge on to the students.

"Students need to know what their money goes to and they need to know what the expectations of the administration are," she said.

Last semester representatives voted themselves a scholarship increase by secret ballot. Humphrey said she does not oppose SA members voting by secret ballot.

"I think it's ok. It keeps Student Association members from having hard feelings against each other if they disagree on a particular issue," she said.

MILLS

Mills said she wants to breath new life into the student body by keeping students informed. She believes timely communication may be a weakness of the Student Association.

Mills said she can be a liaison between the student body and the faculty.

"Timeliness and communication are the keys for a successful Student Association," Mills said.

She also promises to attend every meeting and to be available for the students in her college.

The candidate believes the SA needs to be more "alive," more in touch, and truly working for the student body. Her main goal is to fulfill these needs.

"Participation is the key," Mills said.

She said the SA's job is to make sure people know about special events in a timely manner. She said she intends to accomplish this by making sure the information is posted in all buildings and the SA newsletter is kept current.

Mills also believes students want a "value education" for their money and want to be looked at as a consumer. She believes the University of Texas at Tyler



Mills
 50
 Junior
 Pre-law

body wants more recognition for their hard work.

"We work hard on exams and put a lot of money into school. We want the University to meet us half way," she said.

The candidate opposes voting by secret ballot. She said she believes there is no reason to be secretive and she personally would not choose to participate under such circumstances.

Mills said she is a former officer of Phi Theta Kappa and won the Communications Award for the Tyler Junior College chapter.

PEARSON

Pearson said she believes she has the ability to get people interested.

"I'm open, expressive, and enjoy getting things done," Pearson said.

She said she enjoys telling people about what is going on around campus.

"People in my school should know that I'm the one. It's okay to come to me," she said.

The candidate believes the SA lacks the ability of being able to "get stuff done." She says the officers and representatives have wonderful ideas, but putting them into action is sometimes difficult.

"We need specific tasks to get the job done right," she said.

She believes the problem could be solved if communications improved.

In an interview last fall, Pearson told a Patriot writer she voted against the scholarship increase because she believed there were better ways to spend the money.

Pearson said she is not against secret ballot voting if the topic is controversial enough.

"Peer pressure can be a strong influence. Sometimes we might need the privacy," she said.

One of Pearson's main goals for the year is to get the student body to the meetings and to ask questions.

She plans to accomplish this by verbally telling the members of her college and making sure posters are "plastered" all over campus.

She said she wants to help address important issues for the liberal arts students, such as new teacher evaluations.



Pearson
 20
 Sophomore
 English

SA SEATS

continued from page 4

voted 11-2 by secret ballot to increase their service scholarships from \$100 to \$150. Falzone said he supports the Student Association members' right to vote by secret ballot.

"You express your real voice in a secret ballot," he said.

JACKSON

Jackson wants to see more opportunities for freshmen and student life as a whole.

"I would like to see more things available for freshmen, but still have enough for other students," she said.

She believes this would make the change from high school for some of the entering freshmen easier.

She also would like to have faculty who are more accustomed to teaching lower level classes.

"We need freshmen teachers ... that would make the transition easier for freshmen. So many teachers here are used to teaching upper level classes," she said.

Jackson supports the student fee referendum for operating a new physical education building on campus.

"I think that the recreation building will help students by giving them a place to go and unwind," she said.

Jackson said as a representative she wants to give something back to the student body.

"I really enjoy UT Tyler. I would like to give back to everyone by running for office," she said.

MASKLEE

Masklee said she wants to bring the campus and its housing system — University Pines — closer together.

Masklee, who is employed as a community assistant at the complex where she also lives, said the apartment complex serves as an example of how activities can bring younger and older students together.

"Everyone knows I love to cook. We have times when I just cook and everyone comes and we have a great time just coming together," she said.

Masklee previously attended Navarro Junior College in Corsicana, where she served as the vice president of the Physiology Honor Society and was a member of the English Honor Society.

At UTT she serves as the vice president of the Pre-Law Society and is a member of the English Honor Society.

Although she declined to give her age, Masklee said the main thing she will bring to the office is maturity. As a mother and a student, she said she can relate to all types of students on campus.

Concerning the issue of secret ballots, Masklee said she it is a democratic way to vote.



Jackson
 18
 Freshman
 Nursing



Masklee
 Senior
 Political
 Science

VOTE
 March
 21-22

aside in favor of some performances. Humphrey said she recognizes the administrators strive to meet this need, "I want to do everything we can to help as a student government," she said.

"I think a lot of their students have

Student Association's attempts to

however, she also believes the student

help as a student government," she said.

Body Concepts

Located in the Southeast Crossing Shopping Center, across from the Potpourri House



- Tanning
- Massage
- Oriental Foot Baths
- Paraffin Body Wraps
- Salt Glows
- AromaSteam Spa



(903) 533-0958

Redeem this coupon at

Body Concepts

Choose 1 of these Services for 1/2 off!

1 hour massage

1 month unlimited tanning

RETIREMENT INSURANCE MUTUAL FUNDS TRUST SERVICES TUITION FINANCING

While TIAA-CREF invests for the long term, it's nice to see performance like this today.

Check out other account performance on the Web

TIAA-CREF delivers impressive results like these by combining two disciplined investment strategies.

In our equity accounts, for example, we combine active management with enhanced indexing. With two strategies, we have two ways to seek out performance opportunities—helping to make your investments work twice as hard.

EXPENSE RATIO	
CREF GLOBAL EQUITIES	INDUSTRY AVERAGE
0.37% ²	1.92% ³

Combine this with our low expenses and you'll see how TIAA-CREF stands apart from the competition.

CREF GLOBAL EQUITIES ACCT. ¹		
36.05%	22.02%	18.75%
1 YEAR AS OF 12/31/99	5 YEARS AS OF 12/31/99	SINCE INCEPTION 5/1/92

With over \$250 billion in assets, we're the world's largest retirement company and the leading choice on America's campuses. If that sounds good to you, consider this number 1 800-842-2776. Call and find out how TIAA-CREF can work for you today and tomorrow.

TIAA-CREF

Ensuring the future for those who shape it.

1 800 842-2776

www.tiaa-cref.org

1. The investment results shown for the CREF variable annuity reflect past performance and are not indicative of future rates of return. These returns and the value of the principal you have invested will fluctuate, so the shares you own may be more or less than their original price upon redemption. Foreign stock markets are subject to additional risks from changing currency values, interest rates, government regulations, and political and economic conditions. 2. TIAA-CREF expenses are subject to change and are not guaranteed for the future. 3. Source: Morningstar, Inc. 12/31/99, tracking 279 world stock mutual funds. TIAA-CREF Individual and Institutional Services, Inc. distributes CREF certificates and interests in the TIAA Real Estate Account. Teachers Personal Investors Services, Inc. distributes the variable component of the personal annuities, mutual funds and tuition savings agreements. TIAA and TIAA-CREF Life Insurance Co. issue insurance and annuities. TIAA-CREF Trust Company, FSB provides trust services. Investment products are not FDIC insured, may lose value and are not bank guaranteed. For more complete information on CREF, including charges and expenses, call 1 800 842-2776, ext. 5509, for the prospectus. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. © 2000 TIAA-CREF 1/00.

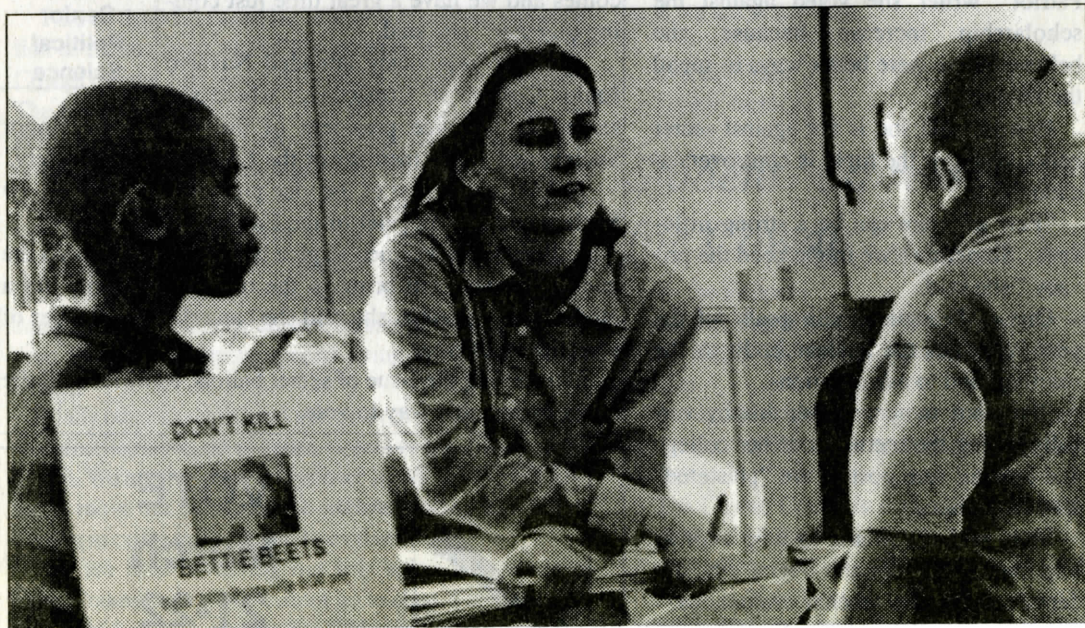
Killing Time



The clock outside the Huntsville prison unit known as the "Walls" facility is captured at the moment Betty Lou Beets is to be executed. In insert photograph — Terry Heath expresses a final message about the condemned.

Beets executed for husband's murder

Media, protestors, onlookers part of event outside Huntsville death chamber



HUNTSVILLE — Razor wire stretched along the top of the massive red brick wall marks the dividing line between the "free" world and the imprisoned.

Outside in the streets a crowd begins to take form. Inside, a 62-year-old great grandmother waits to be strapped to a padded gurney and injected with a lethal dose of drugs.

For some people the death of Betty Lou Beets represents justice for the slaying of her fifth husband, Jimmy Don Beets. For others, her execution is an injustice, a state-sanctioned murder.

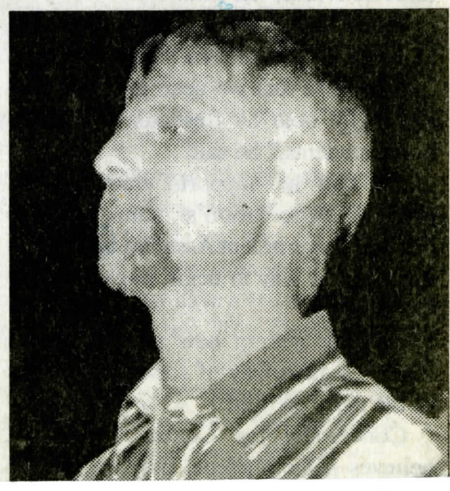
at the scene wearing shirts emblazoned with fraternity or sorority logos.

"This is what Sam Houston kids do for fun," one of them said with a laugh.

Jonathan Gill, a member of Straight Way Ministries, remembers a group of college students who attended Karla Faye Tucker's execution a few years ago.

Tucker was the first woman to be executed in Texas since the Civil War. Beets is the second.

"You wouldn't believe how they acted. This is nothing," Gill said of the students at the Tucker execution. "They were drinking and having a good ol' time. It



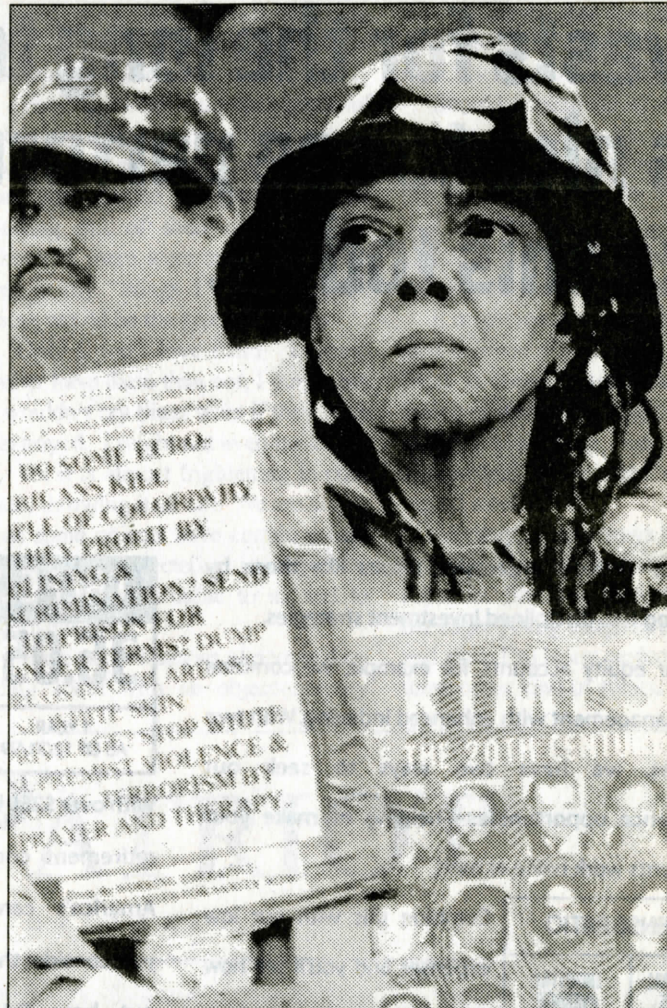


UTT student Christa Sprouls, center, interviews Huntsville boys about protest participation.

Editor's note: Seven UTT journalism students including members of The Patriot staff participated in a field trip to Huntsville on Feb. 24 to observe events surrounding the execution of convicted killer Betty Lou Beets. This feature page is the result of their work.

...
 Story by:
 Christa Sprouls
 Joe McArthur
 Aaron Roberts
 Cody Childress

...
 Photos by:
 Joe McArthur
 Shanna
 Humphrey



Jean Wikins of New York participates in a vigil outside the Huntsville prison awaiting word of Beets execution.

Bright yellow tape corralls the growing number of protesters, onlookers and media representatives from around the world.

Photographers rush to see who can get the best angle of two 11-year-old boys holding signs with the words "Don't kill Bettie [sic] Beets" framing a picture of the condemned woman.

Both boys admit they do not understand what is happening.

"I don't know, but if you hold a sign they take lots of pictures of you," one of the boys explains.

The scene speaks of innocence shouting out against a perceived injustice — an image shattered when the photographers learn the boys live down the street and have been pressed into a cause they know nothing about.

More people joined the crowd as a huge clock above the prison entrance marks the countdown to 6 p.m. — the appointed hour.

Some observers sit in the few islands of green among the dead grass just beyond the police tape. Others sit along the curb and eat sack lunches or fast food.

Behind them is a parking lot full of pale white television vans with satellite dishes protruding from their roofs.

There is no point in showing up until the media gets here," someone in the crowd is overheard saying.

VARIETY OF VIEWPOINTS

The Feb. 24 execution provides a forum for a variety of viewpoints both general or specific.

One older woman grips two objects in her frail hands: a book titled "Crimes of the 20th Century" in her left; a handmade sign protesting the government's abuse of African Americans, in her right.

The hat, overcoat and sash she is wearing would otherwise be nondescript if not for the dozens of campaign-style buttons covering nearly every inch of cloth.

Students from the nearby Sam Houston State University campus appear

looked more like a Mardi Gras than an execution."

Less than an hour to go and the crowd ranks now have reached an estimated 100 people.

PROPOSERS

Three men carrying pro-death penalty messages position themselves between a line of prison guards and the protesters.

The words, "Texas justice, don't like it? Leave!" is scrawled across one of their white poster boards carried by Beets' 14-year-old grandson, David Goode.

"Bye-bye Betty!" reads the sign carried by Terry Heath, who said he was Jimmy Don Beets' best friend.

He denies accusations that his friend physically abused his wife.

"There is no way that Jimmy could have beaten that woman," he said.

Others disagree and display an enlarged photograph of Beets with what appears to be bruises on her neck and shoulder.

Dave Atwood, president of the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, argues the photograph should have been considered as evidence during her trial.

"Here we are again at another murder," he said. "We have already killed innocent people. We cannot execute battered women."

The two sides exchange viewpoints in a brief, but heated debate just before 6 p.m. Photographers scramble to get a good angle.

APPEALS REJECTED

By now word has spread that the U.S. Supreme Court and Gov. George W. Bush have rejected last minute appeals.

A group of witnesses, many of them wearing black, are escorted into the prison and the crowd becomes silent. Gill says a short prayer.

"Only the death of Christ ever raised anyone from the dead," he said. "We ask that these people realize their mistakes."

Prison officials later report the lethal chemicals began to flow into Beets' arm at 6:08 p.m.

"I forgive her, I ask God to forgive her,"

—James Donald Beets, victim's son

Ten minutes later she is pronounced dead.

Those supporting the execution begin to rejoice, their clapping and shouting drowning out the prayers.

FINAL WORDS

Anticipating a press conference, reporters move toward a make-shift podium just across the street from the prison entrance.

Witnesses James Donald Beets, the victim's son, and Rodney Barker, the son of the condemned woman's fourth husband, express their satisfaction in a sentence that took 14 years to execute.

"It ends it all, but it doesn't bring back our dads we loved," Beets said. "I forgive her, I asked God to forgive her."

Beets was charged, but never tried for the death of her fourth husband, Doyle Wayne Barker.

His son, Rodney Barker, also is a witness to the execution.

Pool reporter Mike Graczyk from the Associated Press describes Beets' last moments as she gasped for air, sputtered and then lapsed into unconsciousness with a slight grin on her face.

Her attorney, Joe Marguillies, characterized the execution as a violent death with Beets grimacing in the end.

Down the street, prison guards began removing the yellow tape and dispersing the crowd.

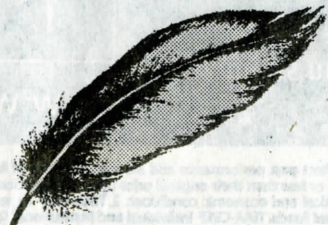
Gloria Rubac, a bull horn-toting activist for life without parole said that "no justice was served by executing Beets."

When guards attempted to clear the streets, Rubac sarcastically aided in their efforts by shouting, "please clear the streets, the murder is over."

The UT-Tyler Writing Center

Monday 9-5, Tuesday 10-3,
 Wednesday & Thursday 10-9,
 Friday closed, Saturday 10-5,
 Sunday 1-5 BUS 202

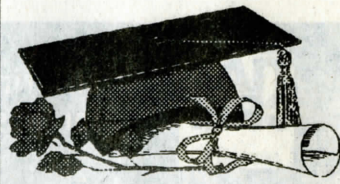
Visit us at
 WWW.ATTHAT.COM/TYLER/WC



Graduation 2000

order deadlines

Nurses Pins • March 10
 Announcements • March 31
 Caps and Gowns • April 14
 Congratulations Grads!



The UT Tyler Bookstore • UC 127
 (903)566-7070 • uttylerbookstore@texasbook.com

The University of Texas at Tyler Student Association presents:

MARDI GRAS MASQUERADE

SATURDAY, APRIL 8
 7 P.M.

University Center
 Admission tickets available at UC 111