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University of Texas at Tyler

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Ten Years Ago (April 2008)

Students and Faculty Walk to Raise Awareness

“More than 50 members of the University community marched across campus on April 12 carrying signs and banners—wearing heels. Red ones. Organizers said the event, Walk a Mile In Her Shoes, is an annual, international march that gives men an opportunity to help stop rape, sexual assault, and gender violence by raising awareness. University senior Caleb Pulley said he didn’t mind getting a few blisters for a worthy cause. ‘My toes hurt, but I can handle it,’ he said. Campus Assault Response Effort, C.A.R.E., sponsored the event. Samantha Dwight, C.A.R.E. member and Wellness and Prevention office assistant, said the program is, ‘part of the campus and community effort. It's run through the East Texas Crisis Center and Smith County. It’s a cooperative partnership.’ Organizers said sexual assault is an epidemic. ‘Part of our mission is to raise awareness of the resources available on campus,’ Dwight said. According to Walk A Mile in Her Shoes organizers, a woman is raped in America every two minutes. Dwight said that one in four women in college have been sexually assaulted since the age of 14. She said that although most men on campus recognized the importance of the event, getting them to wear heels was more difficult.

Dean James Nelson of the College of Engineering and Computer Science, hobbling along in red stilettos, said it is good to publicize events like the walk. University nursing students turned out in force for the event—the community health class was even honored after the event for having the most participants, 13.” By Travis Webb, Patriot Talon, April 21, 2008.

Twenty Years Ago (April 1998)

David Copperfield Appears

World-renowned magician David Copperfield presented two shows at the Cowan Center. Performances of the critically acclaimed Broadway hit “Dreams and Nightmares” were held April 13 in the Vaughn Auditorium. The illusionist performed logic-defying acts, including being “severed” at the torso by a fiery laser beam, and walking through the rotating, machete-like blades of a giant industrial fan. Intercom, March 30, 1998.

“Cats” Prowl Onto Campus

The longest-running Broadway play in history, “Cats” took the stage for three performances, held April 4 and 5. Faculty, staff and students received a discount of $3 off the price of one ticket for the Sunday performances. President George Hamm said that the touring company was the same cast that played Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas, and all other major cities across the U.S. and Canada. “We are delighted to host this wonderful production by the one and only cast of Cats for the enjoyment of East Texas audiences.” The musical was based on T.S. Eliot’s “Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats,” with music by Andrew Lloyd Weber and directed by Trevor Nunn with Gillian Lynne as associate director and choreographer. Intercom, March 9, 1988.
Nursing Program Approved
A M.S. in Nursing degree was approved by the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System. Designed to prepare individuals for careers in service, education, and research, the program was planned for implementation by the UT Tyler Division of Nursing within the School of Sciences and Mathematics. "With approval of this vital new program for UT Tyler, the Coordinating Board has recognized the tremendous need for individuals prepared at the graduate level for nursing careers. Rapid changes in the delivery of health care call for the innovative leadership skills and strong academic foundation which this master’s program make available," said University President George Hamm. News Release, April 22, 1988.

Construction Across Campus Continues
"The TEU Board of Regents approved the schematic drawings for the first phase of the new library at its annual meeting. Robert Bradley of Geren Associates presented the revised plans at the well attended meeting and the members voted to authorize the firm to begin the working drawings. Regent H.J. McKenzie suggested the board approve the first phase and reserve separate approval of the second phase. 'I think the board should obligate itself only as far as the funds available at present,' he said. The building, as redesigned, will contain 39,000 square feet of floor space. The amount of glass in the earlier schematic design was greatly reduced, in accordance with the board’s decision. TEU physical plant director L.J. Grubbs gave a report on campus construction progress and said building was 60 days behind schedule due to bad weather. 'There was practically no progress made in January and February for this reason. Good progress was being made with improving weather.' The Science and Mathematics Building brick work was reported 75 percent complete and duct work was 'well under way on both floors.' Overall mechanical work on the building was 45 percent complete and 30 percent of the electrical work was finished. Grubbs said the chilled and heated water lines, for the building's air conditioning system was complete. 'This building will be essentially complete, including furniture and punch list items (touch-up work), by the first summer session' of next year, he said. The business building’s roof was reported ready for a flood coat and the mechanical work was somewhat behind that of the science and math building." By Steven Knowles, Texas Eastern Patriot, April 27, 1978.

University Archives and Special Collections
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