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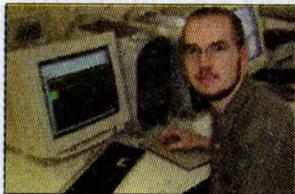
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# THE PATRIOT

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER



**Student develops software  
for textbook trading.**

**Campus, Page 5**



**SGA selects Senator of the  
Year.**

**Campus, Page 12**

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THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2002

VOLUME 32 • ISSUE 5

## Administrators agree to change policy

*Controversy over handbook attracts attention of news organizations across state*

by **Melissa Tresner**  
*Editor in chief*

President Rodney H. Mabry asked faculty and student senators to revise a controversial policy a First Amendment expert believes allows University administrators control of *The Patriot* newspaper and other student publications.

Mabry addressed the Faculty Senate on April 12 and insisted he always has considered the policy a "work in progress" open for revision.

He also insisted it was "happenstance" the policy change and the

decision to not renew the newspaper adviser's contract occurred at the same time.

"We simply have to get some of these things out in the open with 'B work' so that they can then be adapted and changed, or we'll never get it all done," Mabry said of the policy in an e-mail to a *Patriot* reporter on April 15.

Mabry charged the Faculty Senate and the Student Government Association with recommending policy revisions. He later told *Patriot* editors changes should be complete by the end of

April.

At issue is Chapter 2, Section 11 of the newly adopted Handbook of Operating Procedures, which outlines the purpose of student publications, gives a statement of editorial responsibility, lists the types of publications and describes the duties and composition of a Publication Administrative Council.

The previous HOP, published in 1993, allowed for a publication board made up of the University vice presidents, but in the past it has been inactive.

The council, an administrative oversight board, which is now made up of the four University vice presidents and the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences will have authority to annually appoint a faculty or staff adviser, student editor and other student workers.

The council also may take disciplinary action against appointees for a violation of the council's policies or for nonperformance of duties. The group also will determine compensation for those members.

*Patriot* editors sought advice

from the Student Press Law Center in Arlington, Va, which is staffed by attorneys specializing in First Amendment law.

SPLC attorneys said they believe the policy violates the First Amendment.

A University may not "withdraw, withhold or limit funding, fire editors, censor articles or issues, 'stack' a publications board or take any other action whose effect or intent is to mold, manipulate or inhibit constitutionally protected expression," Mark Goodman, executive director of

the SPLC, wrote in an April 2 letter to *The Patriot*.

Although Mabry admitted he believes the paper has at times "gotten over the top," he said the policy changes were not meant to censor the students.

"While we saw that the administrative oversight council was a narrowly drawn group, we thought we might catch flack for changing it substantially on our own without first getting faculty and student input," Mabry said in an e-mail to

**HANDBOOK, Page 8**

## Noble Gases win Patriot challenge

by **Mac Carl**  
*Contributing writer*

Students and some faculty members spent Thursday afternoon playing instead of working, as they participated in Patriot Games, the fourth event of Patriot

first, \$150 for second, and \$75 for third place.

"The Noble Gases," won first with 96 points. Team members included Sean Butler, Scott Brown, Cameron Ellis, Honey Golden, Banda Gates, and Lorne



Days.  
Ernest McAllister, the student activities coordinator acted as referee and emcee for the games.

The competition was part of student appreciation week April 15 through 20.

Other activities throughout the week included a make-your-own-music video segment, ice cream give-away, SGA picnic and spring dance.

The day consisted of five teams competing in tug-of-war, a sack race, an obstacle course, a tricycle race, a bubble gum search, a human wheelbarrow race, a three-legged race and a root beer chugging contest.

The competition was fierce, as well as fun, as teams were eager to take home cash prizes of \$300 for

Ainsworth.

"OCLU 812" came in second with 83 points. Byron Skaggs, Wes Killingsworth, Shaune Martinez, Olakunle Oguntodu, Terri Holt and Queenie Williams made up the team.

And University Pines Apartments Team No. 2 placed third overall, with a total of 81 points. The team consisted of members Dan Loffer, David Denney, Robert Boggs, Shelly Hamrick, Rachel Wheeler and Katie Loffer.

The Newshounds placed fourth overall and the UPines No. 1 team placed fifth.

McAllister said he thinks next year's events will be bigger and better since there will be more freshman students on campus.



TURNING CIRCLES: Theatre major, Shareka Osby, and Jason Kennedy, a junior accounting major, participated in the hula hoop contest during the block party featuring The Rick Kelley Show on April 17 as part of Student Appreciation Week. —Conchetta San Filippo/The Patriot

## Fierce eagle replaces old University logo

by Shalina Ramirez  
Staff writer

When Winston Green, designed the University's logo "Pat" 22 years ago, he recalled sketching a friendly, not aggressive character at a time when there wasn't an athletics program.

But times have changed and so has the logo. The new logo features a more "modernized" version of the University's eagle mascot.

"I think the bald eagle is a great symbol for the Patriots," Dr. Dale Lunsford, vice president for student affairs, said. "The new logo looks like a furious character for athletic team."

Dr. Howard Patterson, the University's interim dean of student affairs and director of athletics, unveiled the logo April 8 as an endorsement representing the Patriots' athletics program.

"We're excited to have completed another step in the process of creating the new athletics program," Patterson said. "We worked hard to develop an athletics logo that the student athletics will wear with pride as they represent the university."

Patterson has been leading the implementation of intercollegiate athletics since August 2001.

When complete, the University's athletics program will implement 13 sports including men's and women's teams in tennis, soccer, cross country, golf and basketball, as well as women's volleyball and softball and baseball.

"I would look at the logo as a more confident and a more powerful symbol that represents confidence, aggressiveness and other things of that nature," Patterson

LOGO, Page 5

## Council condemns non-renewal decision

### Education group urges review of administrative action against adviser

by Melissa Tresner  
Editor in chief

On April 17 a regional journalism council of 44 schools and departments among eight states protested the UT Tyler administration's decision not to renew *Patriot* adviser Vanessa Curry's employment contract.

On the same day, Curry received official notice from the Human Resources Department that her contract for advising The Patriot newspaper and lecturing would not be renewed and would terminate May 31.

The president of the Southwest Education Council for Journalism and Mass Communication wrote a letter to University President Rodney H. Mabry expressing the group's concerns over Curry's termination and asking administrators to reconsider their actions, which they believe were "prompted by the aggressiveness of the UT-Tyler campus press."

"We applaud such journalism as necessary to a progressive, sound democracy and the search for truth that is fundamental to higher learning," Dr. Frederick R. Blevins, president of SWECJMC wrote.

**"We applaud such journalism as necessary to a progressive, sound democracy and the search for truth that is fundamental to higher learning."**

— FREDERICK BLEVINS  
PRESIDENT OF SWECJMC

Administrators said at a Faculty Senate meeting on April 12 they did not want to discuss personnel matters.

"It is normal, accepted business practice (and UT System practice) not to give reasons for such decisions in order to protect all parties," Mabry said in an e-mail to faculty, staff and students two days after the meeting. "Contracts end all the time, and hers is one of many that will end in May."

Curry said Dr. Donna Dickerson, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, told her the University's provost said her adviser contract would not be renewed because the newspaper

had too many errors and the staff was too aggressive.

In an April 8 *Dallas Morning News* article Dr. David O'Keeffe, provost and vice president for academic affairs, was quoted as saying *The Patriot's* open records requests "raised some concern at the level of the administration. You should bear in mind, I don't believe students should be getting into that. They aren't prepared to do that. They can do a lot of harm."

O'Keeffe said the quote was taken out of context, but the Dallas reporter, Lee Hancock, said she and her newspaper "stand behind the article."

"It's clear that I was concerned the students were using the FOI [Freedom of Information] act too often," O'Keeffe said.

O'Keeffe denied telling Dickerson the reason for the non-renewal was related to the newspaper. Although he said he does not remember specific details from the conversation, he said he does not believe he mentioned the newspaper at all.

"She [the dean] remembers the conversation differently," he said.

*The Patriot* was unable to reach Dickerson for comment.

Curry said she does not believe she has taught the staff to be aggressive, and she never received complaints from administrators about errors or aggressive staff.

"I am very disappointed at the lack of communication that's going on here," she said. "I think our students are persistent, not aggressive."

*The Patriot* filed an open records request on April 5 seeking copies of written and electronic communication among faculty and/or administrators concerning Curry's contract non-renewal.

ADVISER, Page 8

EDITORIAL

*Touché.*

Recently, all students and faculty received an e-mail from President Mabry regarding what he refers to as “the student newspaper issue”. Mabry could have simply written a letter to The Patriot, and we would have gladly printed it along with the other letters to the editor. Perhaps he did not wish to debate “the student newspaper issue” publicly. But, in the true spirit of democracy, where public forum and debate are essential to the proliferation of progress, we will respond to his e-mail in this space. After all, our student e-mail, unlike Mabry’s, does not have the capability to send a message to all students, faculty and staff simultaneously.

1) According to his e-mail, Mabry contends that he knew nothing of the “issues” that had evolved until Wednesday, April 10. But, Mabry received a copy of Provost O’Keeffe’s e-mail to a Patriot reporter regarding the changes in the Handbook of Operating procedures on April 3 and responded to O’Keeffe’s e-mail the same day, calling O’Keeffe’s response “excellent.” Obviously, he knew of the situation a week before he claims in his e-mail.

2) Mabry writes that The Patriot’s faculty adviser, Vanessa Curry, asked “to be offered another contract and the University declined.” In truth, Ms. Curry’s request had not been acknowledged at the time of Maby’s e-mail and was not officially notified until April 16. Ms. Curry learned of her dismissal from Dallas Morning News reporter Lee Hancock on April 5, when she was interviewed for the article that appeared on Monday, April 8. Mabry paints a much different, much less factual picture in his e-mail.

3) Mabry claims the administration will never try to censor the student newspaper and they “believe in the freedom of the press in the strongest possible way.” Why then, did this same administration propose changes to the HOP that would essentially give them the power to restrain that freedom? The proposed publications advisory board that would be allowed to “determine the character and policies of all student publications” would have control that “the First Amendment simply does not allow,” according to Student Press Law Center Executive Director Mark Goodman.

4) Mabry writes that his “openness to revision did not make it into the earliest articles,” but, the earliest of all articles, the one that appeared in The Patriot on April 4, did mention, in the fourth paragraph of the story, that O’Keeffe had referred to the handbook as “still open for revision.”

5) In his e-mail, Mabry claims that “they (presumably the Patriot editors) “have tried to make a simple personnel question into a First Amendment issue.” However, if Mabry had bothered to read the April 4 issue of the Patriot, he would have found no mention of Ms. Curry’s termination. Both news and opinion pieces were focused only on the Handbook of Procedures.

6) “My door is always open and I always make time to talk to all student reporters,” Mabry wrote, but Mabry is only one of the administrators that student reporters seek out for information. A graduate student, Becky Fredrickson, was asked whether she was a journalism major before being allowed to speak with vice president Lunsford. When she assured the secretary that she was not from the journalism department, she was welcomed into his office. Lunsford, a journalism graduate, has also asked reporters to send their questions in e-mail on numerous occasions, presumably to give him time to prepare a response. Provost O’Keeffe refused to meet with The Patriot’s editor-in-chief concerning the handbook issue, claiming to be “too busy” for over a week and opt-



*“I don’t want to fan the flames. I want things to cool off.”*  
*Dr. David O’Keeffe, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs*

# Handbook: recipe for disaster



WILL JOHNSON

**WHAT I HAVE TO SAY...**

how our constitutional freedoms evolved and continue to change, I have newfound respect for them, and I’ve learned the cornerstone, the lynch-pin of our freedoms is the First Amendment.

Beginning and ending with this basis, I need to ferret out the whys and what fors for the current situation.

Tough luck - though I have

In real estate, the mantra of “location, location, location” dominates all sales policies.

Journalism’s life’s blood? “Credibility, credibility, credibility.”

Credibility: a recipe derived from several ingredients.

A base of independence anchors the entire mixture.

To this add the vital information, a staple easily found in any

the student editors, determining any compensation and disciplinary actions.

While most colleges and universities have so-called “pub boards,” most also form these entities with substantial numbers of students and faculty.

Here, only a committee reviewing appeals on material withheld from publication carries a student and a faculty member

ing instead to e-mail a less than informative statement. Mabry's door might be open, but Lunsford and O'Keeffe have yet to learn from his shining example.

7) Mabry claims The Patriot staff has failed to build relationships with administrators and this is the cause for the breakdown of communication. However, Mabry has been asked to contribute to The Patriot, a request that he declined. In January, Mabry slipped out of a faculty senate meeting just before the Patriot adviser and editor-in-chief made a presentation to inform the members of the newspaper's operating procedures.

8) It is insinuated in Mabry's e-mail that The Patriot staff contacted the Dallas Morning News and "carefully framed" this issue and "planted" ideas, but he is totally wrong. Lee Hancock, the reporter referenced by his statement, contacted us independently.

9) Mabry claims that The Patriot editors are "disconnected from the University." Indeed, we were so disconnected that we discovered the athletic fee overcharge before the administration, and brought about \$68,000 in refunds to students. Judges from the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association competition praised The Patriot for, among other things, "good coverage of its campus." Who is really disconnected here?

9) In a feeble attempt to defend the handbook changes, and the publications advisory board, Mabry states that most major University of Texas schools have such boards. This is hardly news to anyone who read the April 4 issue of The Patriot, as the fact was mentioned in our cover story about the HOP. Furthermore, we at *The Patriot* are not fighting against the idea of a publications board, but the composition and authorities granted to that board under the current draft of the HOP revisions, and we intend to hold Mabry to his pledge to revise the HOP by the end of April.

10) In closing, it would probably be prudent for this university's president to read *The Patriot*, and do his homework before issuing erroneous statements through e-mail. If any have proven themselves to be disconnected from the campus, it is the administrators that so greatly misjudged student sentiments and opinions of First Amendment rights.

## 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 (250 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* 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* encourages and provides an avenue for free flow of student expressions and opinions. The newspaper also will serve as a learning tool for students to gain experience in all aspects of the print media. All your base are belong to us.

### First Amendment

*The Patriot* is committed to exercising and defending the constitutional rights of free speech and free press as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America.

WOW. Once again, shades of gray threaten to obscure important issues.

The recent flap over the University's Handbook of Procedures struck a sour note.

Gut instincts and sheer reflexes make taking one side or the other seem simple enough.

However, trying to sort through the issues and give each side honest, fair consideration is a bit more complicated.

As a journalism major, an aspiring writer/journalist and someone who believes that truth usually wins out eventually, my first duty is to the freedom of the press.

Since learning a bit more about

access to necessary information, the motivations of each side reside firmly within individual participants.

Avoiding "he said/she said" seems paramount here, so I attempted to sidestep previously drawn conclusions and arrive at my own.

I read section 2.11 of the HOP, puzzling out exactly what it meant. Next, I repeated the process with the campus-wide e-mail sent by Dr. Rodney Mabry.

Reading between the lines has always been one of my dubious skills; I can't effectively speculate on original intentions, but I can form an opinion upon the practical effects.

# Malaise of miscommunication



ROBERT  
BOGGS

## ROBERT'S REALITY

It may be shocking to hear one of *The Patriot's* editors say this, but I think president Mabry is right.

Not on all points, of course, and not even most.

But there is one thing that our fearless leader nailed dead-on—miscommunication is one source of the University's current problems.

Communication between almost every party involved has fallen apart.

Mabry has said his door is always open, and asked why we did not contact him about the Handbook of Operating Procedures.

The answer is simple.

If I had trouble with a pothole in the road leading to my house, I would not request a personal interview with President George W. Bush.

Rather, I would speak to the people directly involved in the

issue.

*The Patriot* editors chose to contact the person overseeing the HOP, but that person would not return telephone calls for a week and a half. When we did reach him, Provost O'Keeffe declined an interview.

Soon afterward, we spoke with Dallas Morning News reporter Lee Hancock, who had learned about the situation through her own means.

Hancock was granted an interview with O'Keeffe, whose door had not been open to the University's own students.

Based on the administration's claims, there was obviously a great deal of miscommunication between O'Keeffe and Hancock, because O'Keeffe has stated that everything the experienced reporter attributed to him in the article was misquoted, out of context or made up.

And O'Keeffe misspoke—twice—about Ms. Curry's contract.

The administration also has questioned why the editors went first to the Student Press Law Center instead of to them.

Again, the answer is simple.

We are students, and although we have a fairly good understanding of the First Amendment, we are not trained lawyers. Therefore, we wanted to seek the opinion of

those trained in the matter.

SPLC executive director Mark Goodman, whom Mabry refers to as "someone in Virginia," agreed with our assessment that certain statements in the HOP give the

Publication Administrative Council too much power to determine the content of the paper.

The administration argues that they never intended to determine the newspaper's policies and don't interpret the statements to give that power.

Their intent, however, is irrelevant.

If the UT system lawyers believed a statement in the HOP gave the *Patriot* editor (or the dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science, or even a vice president) the power to veto any presidential decision, it is obvious the president would not allow the statement to stand, regardless of the editor's promises not to use that power.

After all, staff members change over time, and so does the situation.

I don't believe president Mabry would ever truly try to control the newspaper, but that doesn't mean the next president would not.

But as I said, communication between all parties has fallen apart, and this includes the newspaper.

Mabry believes *The Patriot* has

Layer accuracy, brevity, and clarity in generous portions.

Toss in a sprinkle of people dedicated to bringing timely issues in the public interest, and you're cooking up good journalism.

The formula doesn't always work perfectly, rarely easily, and never when constrained.

As I read the HOP segment, the thing I noticed is an apparent conflict of interest.

Part C details the makeup of the publication administrative council; all vice presidents and the dean of arts and sciences.

The council's authority extends to choosing the faculty adviser and

Most troubling is number six in part C: "determine the character and policies of all student publications; and..."

While much of concern exists here, the cumulative impact worries me.

Combined, I fear a loss of the independence necessary to sustain a truly independent newspaper.

Perhaps not by design, perhaps not soon, but in time.

I applaud Mabry's e-mail insisting on the "work in progress" nature of the HOP.

I thank him for his attention to expressed misgivings.

Let our situational mantra be "revise, revise, revise."

# CAMPUS VOICE

## “How much control should the administration have over the student newspaper?”



“Some - but if it is a student newspaper, why should administration get into it? That defeats the purpose of a student newspaper. I want students’ opinions not administration’s.”

Brandon Montgomery, freshman, political science

“Some - as long as nothing bad goes on then they shouldn’t do anything. There should be students on the board. Otherwise, it’s like a dictatorship.”

KC Gibson, freshman, electrical engineering



“Enough to keep it safe to the student body. A student paper is for the students. The administration should just make sure nothing derogatory to the school is in there.”

Stephen Brouer, junior, finance

“They should have a say in some of how it’s run, but you can’t censor speech when it is the student saying things and it is the students’ paper.”

Rebekah Beam, junior, psychology



“Limited, but somewhat, as long as the students have a voice in the final decision. Students should be allowed to sit on the board also.”

Corey Starks, senior, psychology

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Censorship is the first step to outright tyranny

I would like to note that I have little use for this school’s newspaper.

For the most part I believe it to be amateurish, and completely irrelevant to my present academic and social needs.

However, it was my very freedom to say this that makes me truly free.

The US constitution declares that congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or press.

What an outstanding statement to be made by a group of white, aristocratic, land owning males did not want to pay their taxes.

It was this very freedom exercised, which could have landed them at the end of an English

noose.

Like our founding fathers, we too are feeling the heavy hand of tyranny by those who wish to control us.

It is not surprising that these men wish to take away the press.

As I learned in the hallowed halls of this institution, the steps to a totalitarian system of government are to:

1. Take control of all media
2. Install a terrorist police force
3. Control the economy
4. Suppress the people

Many argue that the school has the right to take control of this paper based on the fact that the institution funds; however, if one were inclined to read the Texas Constitution they would learn that

is the Texas taxpayers that fund the school.

As a noted, taxpayer I say, leave it alone.

If you are upset at the paper for printing all the mistakes this administration makes, stop making them.

Further, and in closing, I hope that this schools administration could learn a valuable lesson from this ordeal, however if your past tract record is any indication you probably won’t.

Remember kids, know your rights, because there is a growing group of men and women who would just as soon you not have them.

Jeffery Cook

### The administration should avoid losing battle

*Editor’s note: This letter, written to President Mabry, is being printed by The Patriot with the express consent of the author.*

Dear President Mabry,  
I am writing to you in regard to the recent ill-advised and unlawful actions taken against the student newspaper and its adviser, Vanessa Curry.

What I have to say comes from personal experience, inasmuch as I received much the same treatment at Fort Valley State University in Georgia in 1997.

I, also, was not tenured and was considered an “at will” employee. FVSU also said it did not have to give any reason for not renewing my contract.

Despite the university’s claims, my case was settled in the U.S. District Court in Atlanta last month for \$192,000.

The university was also

required to enter into an agreement whereby any and all influence over the school newspaper was taken away from the administration.

If you believe yours is the first campus where these techniques have been attempted, you are mistaken. There is a mountain of established law on the subject, and it is all against you.

I find it sad that people running what purports to be an institution of higher learning can find no better way of dealing with its student journalists than bullying and violation of their constitutional rights.

Have you ever tried sitting down with all parties involved and engaging in earnest conversation?

In these days when all educational expenditures are scrutinized by lawmakers and politicians, it is nearly incomprehensible to think that you are willing to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on a fight you cannot win.

Bear in mind that, in my case and many others, universities have paid damage awards, the teachers’ attorney fees, court costs, and the fees of their own attorneys.

I urge you to reconsider the steps already taken or announced. Surely your senior administrators have things to do other than worry about the selection of the editor of the student newspaper and the disciplining of what you will almost certainly consider their “errant” staff members.

If your top people don’t have anything else to do, maybe the lawmakers should take an even more in-depth look at how the campus is expending its funds.

Respectfully,

John F. Schmitt J.D.  
Assistant Professor of Mass  
Communication  
Southwest Texas State  
University

Outraged on the behalf of student journalists

"I don't think they should have control over what can and can't be written. But there should be a system of checks and balances."

Aimee Griffy, senior, psychology



"I think the school has a right because the school does fund the paper."

Shawn Wilson, junior, biology

"I don't think that administration is in touch with the students as students. They should have some control over some things that are not appropriate for the paper if it is a student paper."

Loree Ainsworth, freshman, biology



"It's supposed to be a student newspaper, so the students should control it."

Jason Flluer, sophomore, engineering

"They should have control, but not total control. Administration should choose the editor. It should be a graduate student, with experience, who is at least 35 years old or more."

Shekar Alimineti, graduate, computer science



### **PATRIOT STAFF**

**Editor in chief** - Melissa Tresner; **Feature Editor** - Shalina Ramirez;  
**Entertainment Editor** - Robert Boggs; **Opinion/Editorial Editor** - T. Evan Fisher

**Advertising Manager/Copy Editor** - Pam Clark; **Advertising Salesman** - Satoo Nakai  
**Photographer** - Conchetta San Filippo; **Cartoonist** -Janna McClure

**Writers** - Melissa Jacquez, Jennifer Murray, Hannah Buchanan, Jeanie Carter

**Faculty Adviser** - Vanessa Curry

It is interesting that the noun *patriot* was selected to name The University of Texas at Tyler's student newspaper.

A *patriot* is one who loves his country. The noun became widely used during the American Revolution when the Colonies revolted against the English regime.

A *patriot* then became one who loved freedom, and as a result of that conflict, the United States of America was born.

The birth certificate given to this new nation is the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Many of the issues the colonists revolted against are spelled out clearly in this fundamental document, and they are listed, in my opinion, in order of importance.

Interestingly enough, the right to free speech is listed as NUMBER ONE!

The *Patriot* newspaper symbol-

izes the freedom of speech, freedom of information, and freedom from censorship.

Here we are in the 21st century still fighting for the FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH!

Even more atrocious is the fact that we are fighting an academic institution established to support higher education, to promote higher level thought, to encourage freedom of information and especially to support academic freedom and anti-censorship.

To the administration, I say to you, YOU ARE HYPOCRITES!

Pick up any academic trade journal from the American Association of University Professors to the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges and you will find a section or article on censorship, academic freedom, or the right to free speech.

Mr. Rodney H. Mabry, you are responsible for this horrendous "black eye" on the University's reputation as a "freedom loving university."

March out of your ivory tower and turn in your resignation for the FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHT, and demand the same from every one of your administrative Gestapo.

To the Board of Directors of this university, it's time for sweeping change toward the flow of academic freedom and for support of what the United States of America stands for, the *Patriot*.

The open, free discussion of information is a matter of concern for all.

Connie K. Parsons  
BS, MBA

## Student voices belong on publications board

The biggest story around campus this week is the administration's policy concerning the future of *The Patriot* and the journalism department.

And if the administration has its way, it will be the last big story journalism students will be able to report to you.

As a junior journalism major, I am very concerned.

It seems that the administration feels that editorial policy should not be left in the hands of faculty and students who are trained in the fields of news writing and reporting, but rather in the hands of administrators.

I personally feel that whoever is on the committee should have journalism training and experience, as well as the time and will to take an avid interest in *The Patriot* and the journalism depart-

ment.

I think our esteemed journalism faculty and a number of students from the department would be a good start to form this committee.

Experience is the most important credential for a teacher to have in the field of journalism, because there are many intangible qualities a newsperson must have to be effective.

This includes a keen sense of what is newsworthy, and most importantly, ethics.

These traits are not taught in books.

They can only be learned while reporting real stories and being faced with truly tough decisions about what the public should know.

A journalist's job does not include furthering any one institution, corporation, or person's inter-

est, but it does include protecting the public's interest as a whole.

The university has a public relations professional, although you would not know it after reading various statements from officials this week.

I suggest that *The Patriot* should continue to be a tool to serve students with real news and as a place to learn about journalism, rather than become another public relations vehicle for UT Tyler.

I also hope that they will seriously consider the future of journalism students, especially before dismissing a great teacher.

After all, we are here to prepare ourselves to be journalists.

Mac Carl  
Junior

*The Patriot* welcomes all comments and suggestions as well as information about errors that call for correction or retraction.

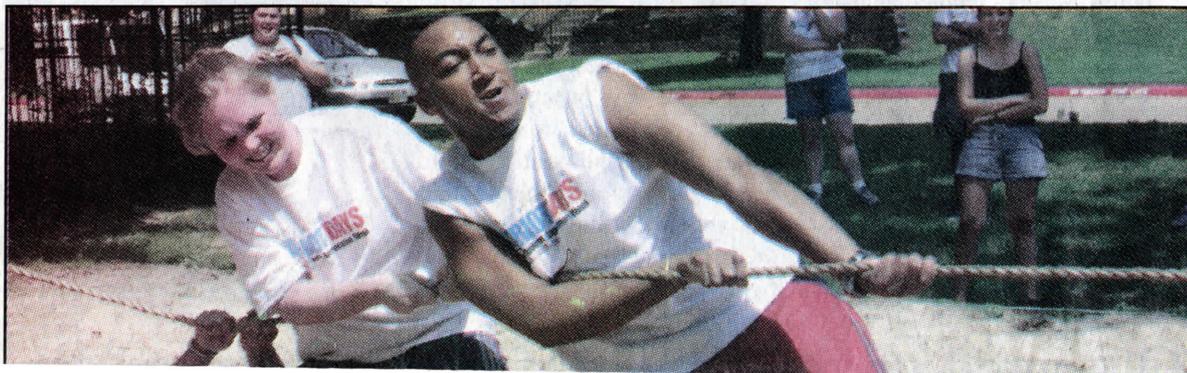
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—Conchetta San Filippo/*The Patriot*

REACH FOR THE GOLD: April Gill stretches for every extra inch while trying to win points for her team in the bungee run competition. Gill played for the Press Club team “the Newshounds” at Thursday’s events.



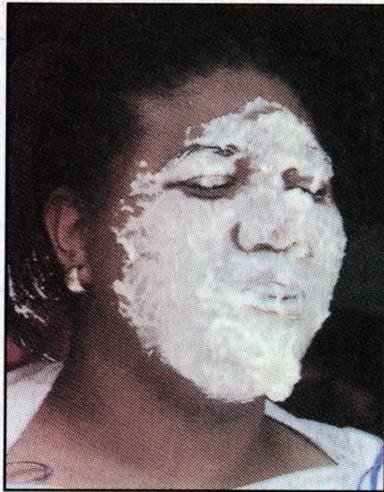
# Games

# Patriots Play



—Conchetta San Filippo/*The Patriot*

**PEOPLE PULL:** Brandon Montgomery, right, Holly Fillyaw, middle, and Kim Hill, tug their hearts out.



**FACE MASKING (LEFT):** Kim Hill of the University Pines No. 1 team chews gum she found at the bottom of a cream-filled pie plate

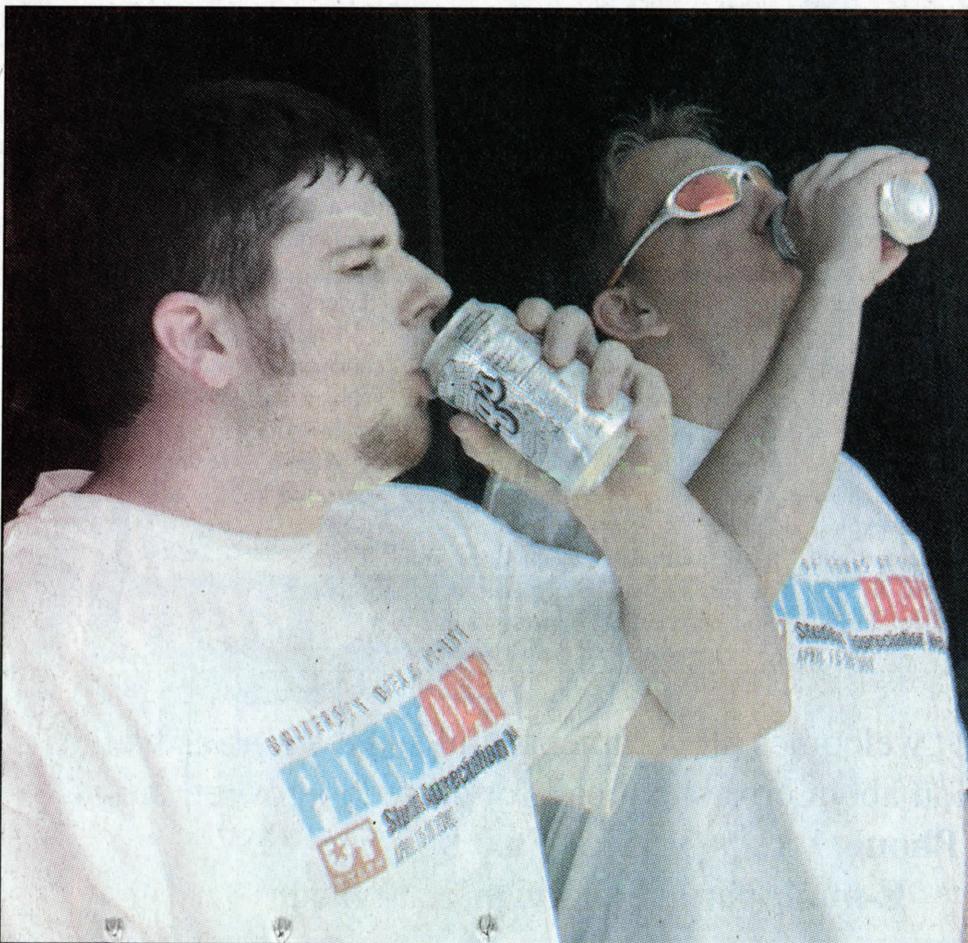
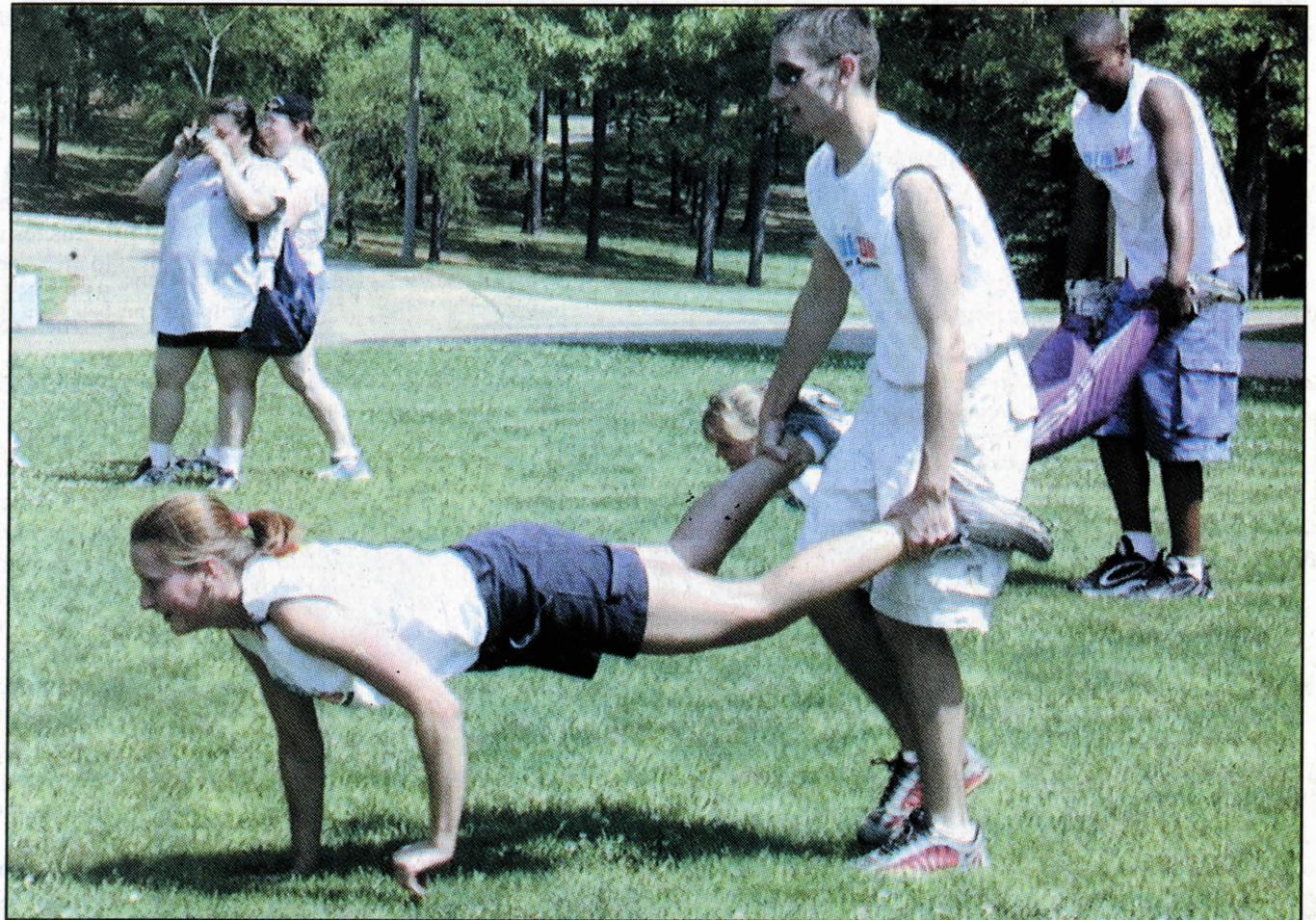
—Conchetta San Filippo/*The Patriot*

**CRAWLERS (RIGHT):** Noble Gas teammates Loree Ainsworth and Sean Butler wheel their way into second place.

—Shalina Ramirez/*The Patriot*

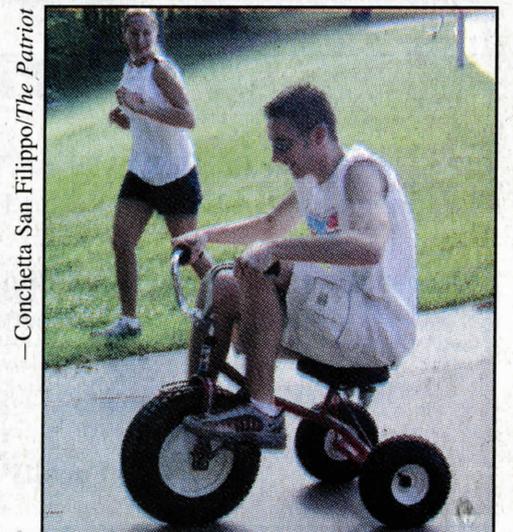
**CHUGALUG (LOWER LEFT):** Cameron Ellis, left and Ryan Palmquist battle it out during a rootbeer drinking contest behind the University Center

—Shalina Ramirez/*The Patriot*



—Shalina Ramirez/*The Patriot*

**(TOP):** Melissa Tresner searches for gum. **(Right)** Sean Butler lets it ride.



—Conchetta San Filippo/*The Patriot*

# Student's idea textbook case of competitive online trading

by Mandy Chitty  
Contributing writer

BookWar, a new software product that allows textbook trading on campus and online, is now available to University students.

University senior Robert Ballard, 22, Canton, said he created the software in an effort to combat the high prices at the campus bookstore.

Ballard, a computer science major, programmed the software as a hobby and is now releasing the software free to all students.

The software enables students to post their books for sale, give the date their books will be available, or even post books they want for the next semester.

Students can use the program to search for books listed under their university, and upon finding the book they want to buy, they can then leave a message for the owner to contact them.

Although BookWar might seem similar to other online book sites, Ballard claims it stands out from others.

"The main characteristic that differentiates BookWar from other book swapping web sites is its campus-oriented approach," Ballard said. "Users can ... search

for the books available at their college and trades can be made easily and safely at campus student centers."

BookWar, Ballard said, was meant to allow students a way to contact each other, and then to exchange their books locally, within their school or local area.

This approach also eliminates the middleman, since books are exchanged locally between students.

"There is no markup and there is also no need to pay for shipping," Ballard said.

Students seem willing to use the new software and avoid the costs of shipping and the middleman.

Junior Tabatha Belongie said she would use the BookWar program.

"I'd rather not do business with the bookstore," Belongie said.

Junior Matt Cates said he once received \$20 for a used textbook at a campus bookstore, then watched as the bookstore clerk put a sticker on the book for \$120.

"The bookstore is the ultimate scam," he said.

"It's a good deal for students," Student Government Association president-elect Stephanie Heeren

said. "It's a win-win situation, [and] I hope students use it."

If students are willing to use the new software, it might become a source of competition for the campus bookstore.

Yet the bookstore has encountered this type of competition before, University bookstore manager Betsy Stadelmann said.

"Students have done this before, and it definitely does affect bookstore business," Stadelmann said. The bookstore "is a business, and there is always competition in a business."

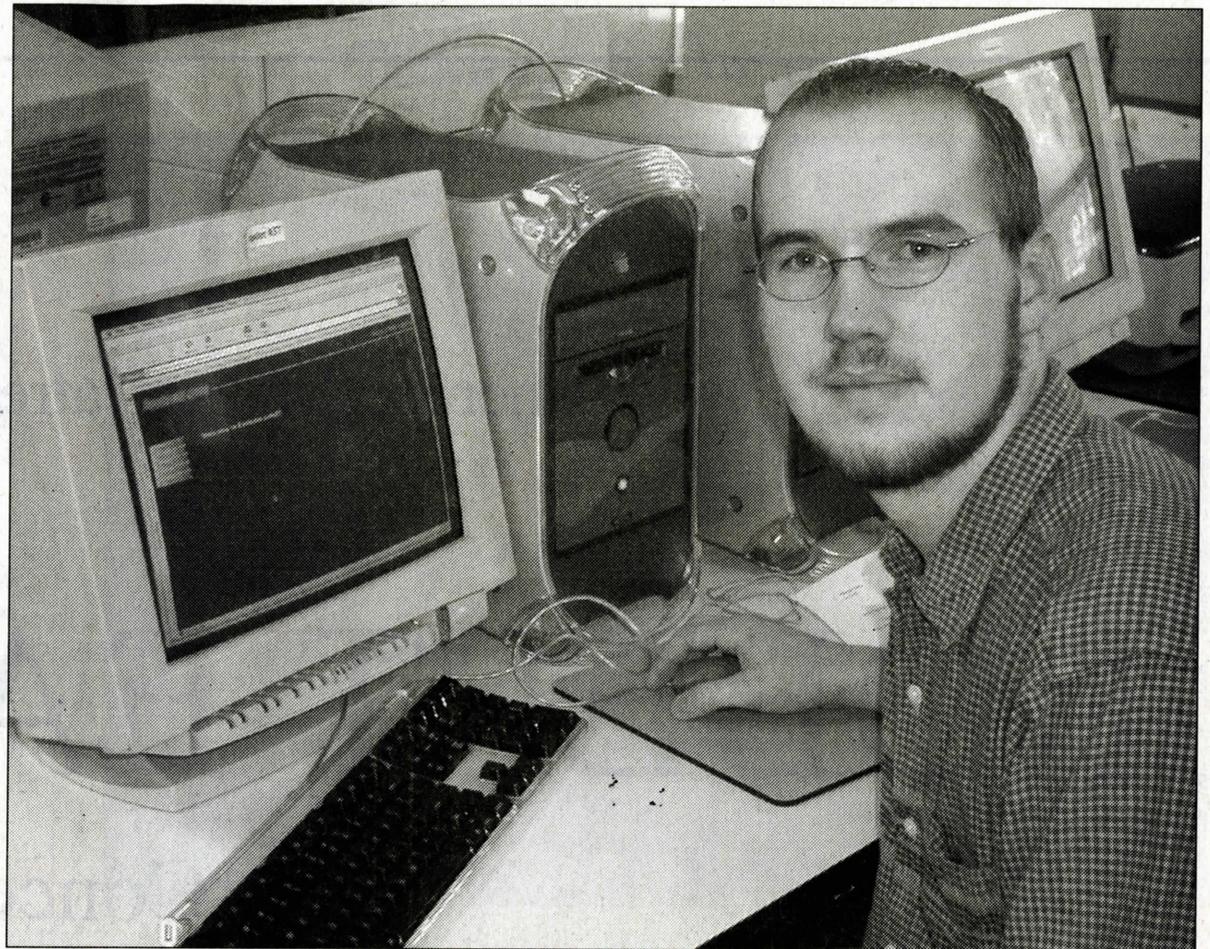
The bookstore's response to the online world of book trading is their own web site, which allows students to order their books through the Internet.

"Several students utilize the bookstore's web site," Stadelmann said.

But Ballard said the site doesn't help the students save money.

"Their site doesn't really compare to my software, because BookWar is not a store, and it does not charge anything at all, but simply provides a way for students who need books to find students who have books," he said.

Stadelmann said what the book-



—Shalina Ramirez/The Patriot

**THIS MEANS WAR:** Software creator Robert Ballard demonstrates his new program which allows students to buy and sell used textbooks online. BookWar is available free to students.

store has to offer the students is better than online, because they have one stop shopping, and he guarantees the books there are the books students will need for class.

"I don't believe it's really a matter of one being better than the other, they're just different," Ballard said.

"The bookstore is a place to purchase new books that are not available used, or, as a last resort, to purchase a book that you just can't get from someone else. BookWar, on the other hand, is the place you go to find and sell your used books," Ballard said.

In the end, Ballard said he hopes

to save students time and money. "And hey," he said, "It's not a bad way to meet people either."

The BookWar software can be downloaded from BookWar.com, and the University bookstore web site can be found at <http://www.utt Tyler bookstore.com/>.

## LOGO

Continued From Page 1

said. He said there is another small version of the new logo that also will represent the University's athletics program.

"It's just the head of the eagle and the UT Tyler logo," Patterson said.

He said the reasoning behind the smaller version is so the logo can be used on different applications.

"Considering the size of the logo, we're going to have

University for more than 20 years until a year ago when the Faculty Senate approved a new design.

That design, a profile of an eagle's head partially circled, received negative feedback from students.

An editorial in the March 2000 issue of the student newspaper compared it to a Nazi symbol.

**"One thing was clear; the old**

## University finds new way to connect

Internet program offers students easier, faster access to scholarship renewals

by Dacia McSchooler  
Contributing writer

In another first for the University, students can now save time by renewing their scholarships online.

Previously, students had to go to obtain a paper application, fill it out, and then return it to the Financial Aid Office.

The new program allows students to

the University up with technology and assists the processor in handling an increasing volume, Cooper said.

"With only one full-time person, being myself, to process applications, it helps me," she said.

Cooper said administrators decided to implement the new procedure in 2001, but turning the concept into a reality took another year.

less than a few minutes."

Students were notified about the new program through the mail and online.

"We sent 2,818 postcards in the mail ... as well as reminding them through student e-mail," Cooper said.

Although paper applications are still available, she said she is already receiving positive feedback about the

trouble embroidering or putting it on a uniform," Patterson said. "We should be able to use the eagle's head in a multitude of ways."

The new athletic logo already appears on items, such a clock, key chains and notebooks available for sale in the campus bookstore.

Lunsford said the process of selecting a new logo began a year ago when a marketing and research class was assigned the task of surveying students about what they wanted in a logo.

"One thing was clear," Lunsford said. "The old logo looked outdated."

The old logo featured a cartoon-figure eagle dressed as an American Revolutionary soldier carrying a Texas flag.

It was the winning entry in a 1980 contest sponsored by the Student Life Advisory Committee.

The cartoon-figure eagle called "Pat" designed by Green, graphic supervisor at UT Tyler Health Center, represented the

## logo was outdated.

— DALE LUNSFORD  
VP FOR STUDENTS

The University administration later discontinued that logo and returned to the drawing board.

Lunsford said the suggestions gathered by the marketing class for the new sports' logo were compiled and sent to a local artist, who made sev-

eral designs.

Students and administration were then given the task of narrowing down the choices.

President Rodney Mabry agreed the sports team needed representation and said he liked the new logo.

Mabry said he is excited about having a third symbol to represent the college along with the UT Tyler logo and seal.

Patterson said he believes the new logo will become more recognizable once it gets around.

"I think that over a couple of years it will become a very recognizable symbol of UT Tyler and UT Tyler's athletic program," he said.

renew with a click of the mouse and at their own convenience, scholarship coordinator Rosemary Cooper said.

"The applications are sent and received in less than one minute," she said.

The online application system keeps

## Nursing group focuses on education, service

by Jennifer Murray  
Staff writer

Nurses Christian Fellowship is a charter-based organization on campus that encourages and supports nurses through relationships, continuing nursing education and witnessing to communities of nursing students.

NCF is an organization centered on a spiritual attitude of communicating to people through God's love.

This is done through the relationship of nursing, senior nursing lecturer Belinda Deal said.

"It's a focus and a basis for nurses who are Christians," Deal said.

Deal also is the head adviser of the

Once approved by the University's Scholarship Committee, it was "up and running" by October, she said.

"It is awesome," sophomore David Denney said. "It makes it so convenient for us [students] because we can do it at any time, almost anywhere, and all in

online program.

"As early in the year as it is, it is incredible," Cooper said.

"We are expecting much success with this program because of the positive results I have already seen and what I have heard from students."

group.

Offices are: president Melissa Torre; vice-president Kristal Ros; service coordinator Pamela Scruggs; Palestine representative Amy Congleton; and Longview representative Sherri Whitehead.

NCF is a chartered group outside of Madison, Wis. with parent organizations in the north.

The NCF meetings consist of guest speakers, bible studies and worship music.

The group also does community outreach work for different organizations. They hold food drives for People Attempting to Help and collect items for

the East Texas Women's Crisis Shelter, Deal said.

Some of these items consist of clothes and gifts at Christmas.

They also hold regular fund-raisers during Valentine's to sell candles students have made, Deal said.

NCF also works with Christian-based organizations in the community, such as Mercy Ships and Youth with a Mission.

Some faculty have even done mission trips over the summer, co-adviser Becky Sacrey said.

The meetings are open to everyone and there are no dues. Meetings are every second and fourth Monday of the month at noon in SCI Room 213.

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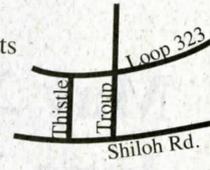
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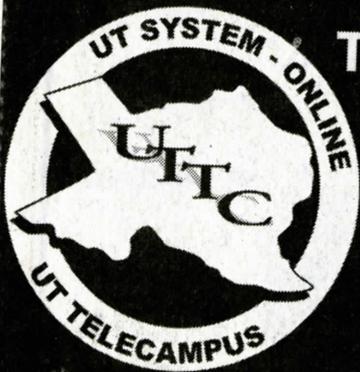


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**Motorcycle Rally**

Partial Schedule Concerts to be added

Schedule subject to change

# Council elects vice chairman

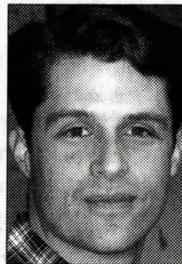
*Representative elevated to new position on advisory board*

Alan J. Thomas, a graduate student, has been elected vice chairman of The University of Texas System Student Advisory Council, a University official announced last week.

Council members elected Thomas during an April 5-6 meeting in Austin.

The council consists of three student representatives from each UT System component institution that enrolls students. The council provides input to the UT System Board of Regents working through and with the chancellor and UT System administration on issues of student concern.

Thomas has represented UT



ALAN THOMAS

Tyler on the advisory council for two years. As vice chairman he will represent all 150,000 students in the UT system.

"I congratulate Alan on this honor," Dr. Dale Lunsford, vice president for student affairs and external relations, said. "He has been an outstanding leader in student government on our campus and he will now serve all University of Texas campuses."

"What makes Alan special is his thoughtful and deliberate consider-

ation of each issue he faces. I will enjoy this opportunity to continue to work alongside him."

Thomas is secretary of the council's Legislative Affairs Committee and chairman of the Graduate Affairs Committee. He served as vice president of the University's Student Government Association during the spring 2001 semester and is chairman of the Student Judicial Board.

He also is a member of the University's Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Thomas received a bachelor of science degree in sociology from UT Tyler in 2000 and is studying sociology at the graduate level.

# Psi Chi honors students, faculty

The Association of Psychology Students and Psi Chi inducted 22 University students and recognized outstanding faculty members during an April 13 banquet.

The student body recognized Dr. Carol Grothues, a lecturer in psychology, as the outstanding psychology faculty member and Dr. Shirley Jones, an associate professor in psychology, as the outstanding faculty member in school counseling.

More than 100 people attended the ceremony, which was held at the Potpourri House in Tyler.

Outstanding undergraduates recognized during the banquet were: Alisa Evans, Aimee Griffy, Jennifer Jolley, Shanna McKelvey and Amanda Ryan, who also was voted the most outstanding undergraduate psychology student.

Graduate student nominees

were: Erin Alexander, Rebecca Dacus, Lindsay Jones, Paige Kirkland and Amber Shaw. Alexander was recognized as the most outstanding graduate psychology student.

The outstanding student in school counseling was Dennie Lindsay. Janet Adams, Malinda Spradlin, Noreen Toarmina, and Sarah Jane Walker were nominees.

The students were selected based on academic excellence as well as for their professional accomplishments in their roles as school counselors.

Those students inducted into Psi Chi this year were: Heather Baker, Janet Barger, Rebekah Beam, Camille Black, Jaime Cornelius, Brandon Cutro, Alisa Evans, Rhiannon Gage, Angelia Garrison, Aimee Griffy, Alicia Hall, Kristina Ingram, Jennifer Jolley, Toni

Johnson, Paige Kirkland, Wendy Mays, Susan Parker-Sparkman, Christina Ping, Julie Rountree, Monica Tato, Tammy Waldron and Peggy Will.

Psi Chi officers also were recognized for their services this past year, which included volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, Christmas caroling and a canned food drive for People Attempting to Help.

The outgoing officers are Lindsay Jones, Amanda Ryan, Shanna McKelvey, Erin Alexander and Amberly Shaw.

The new officers are: Jennifer Jolley, Heather Baker, Rhiannon Gage, Rebecca Beam and Camille Black.

Psi Chi was founded in 1929 to encourage, stimulate and maintain excellence in scholarship, and advance the science of psychology.

# Tickling the funny bone



—Conchetta San Filippo/*The Patriot*

**LAUGH OUT LOUD:** English major Rick Phillips, right, with Seth Wilson, junior history major, middle, and senior English major Jeremy Daw, far left, chuckle at the literary antics of professor Dana Adams at the faculty poetry reading held in the library Thursday, April 11.

# University offers travel study tour of Turkey

*Political science professor plans trip to Middle East for students, public*

by Conchetta San Filippo  
Staff writer

In light of current events, Dr. Manocher Khosrowshahi, part time UT professor of political science, is offering a study and travel tour of Turkey during May break, May 18- June 2.

The tour is open to the public, including college students, professionals and others from anywhere in the U.S.

The total cost of the trip is \$2875 with a \$100 discount for students.

A few of the sites will include Van Castle, Black Sea coast, Antioch's mosaic museum, Ani,

Armenian ruins, St. Sophia, Grand Covered Bazaar, Menrun Mountain and Akdamar Island.

The deadline has been pushed back until the group is full and depends on available airplane seating.

This travel study currently is not offered for college credit, but students can make special arrangements with Khosrowshahi.

The package includes round trip airfare from DFW to Istanbul, three meals a day (with five exceptions), accident insurance, miscellaneous fees (parking, administration, entrance, etc.), a professional guide and double accommoda-

tions. For those interested, single supplements will be \$20 a day or \$300 for the entire trip.

Those participating will attend a one-day orientation class scheduled for May 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the White Administration Service Center on the Tyler Junior College campus.

This is Khosrowshahi's eighth trip to Turkey and is overseen by the State Department's advisory board.

All those interested please call Dr. Khosrowshahi at 510-2279 or 800-687-5680 ext. 2279 or email: mkho@tjc.edu.

The Texas Xi Chapter of the Alpha Chi National College Honor Scholarship Society will meet at noon May 3 in SCI Room 129 A to elect officers for the 2002-2003 academic year. Interested students should attend the meeting.

# provides free fun for faculty

The fourth annual Employee Appreciation Week is scheduled on and off campus Monday through Friday. This year's theme is "Team Spirit."

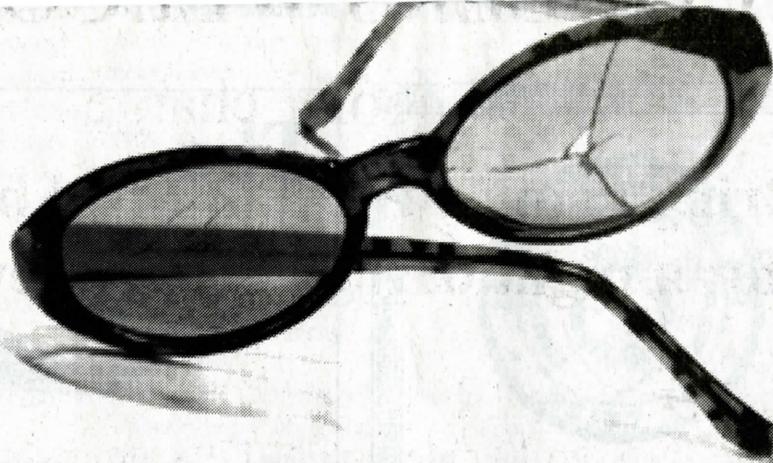
The event is sponsored by the University Staff Advisory Council and will end Friday with a barbecue lunch behind the University Center.

Dr. John Webb, the director of school of visual and performing arts, and his jazz group will entertain during the lunch that begins at 11:30 a.m.

The presentation of employee service awards will begin at 12:30 p.m. Door prizes also will be given away.

The week's activities include:

- Monday - Laser tag and movies
- Tuesday - Bowling and card or board games, dominoes, air hockey and Foosball.
- Wednesday - Movies and card or board games, dominoes, air hockey and Foosball.
- Thursday - Putt-Putt golf and golf at Pines Springs Golf Course.



Amanda Geiger never saw the drunk driver.

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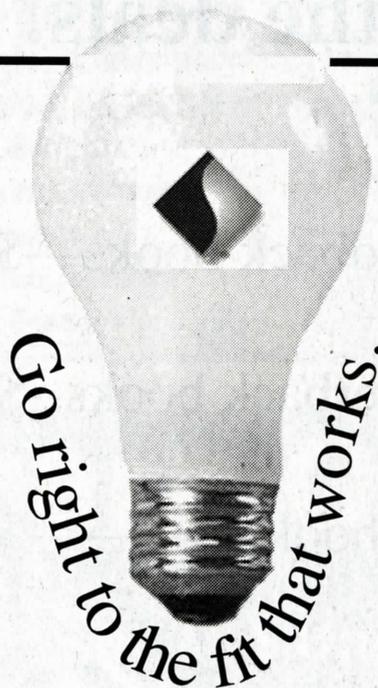
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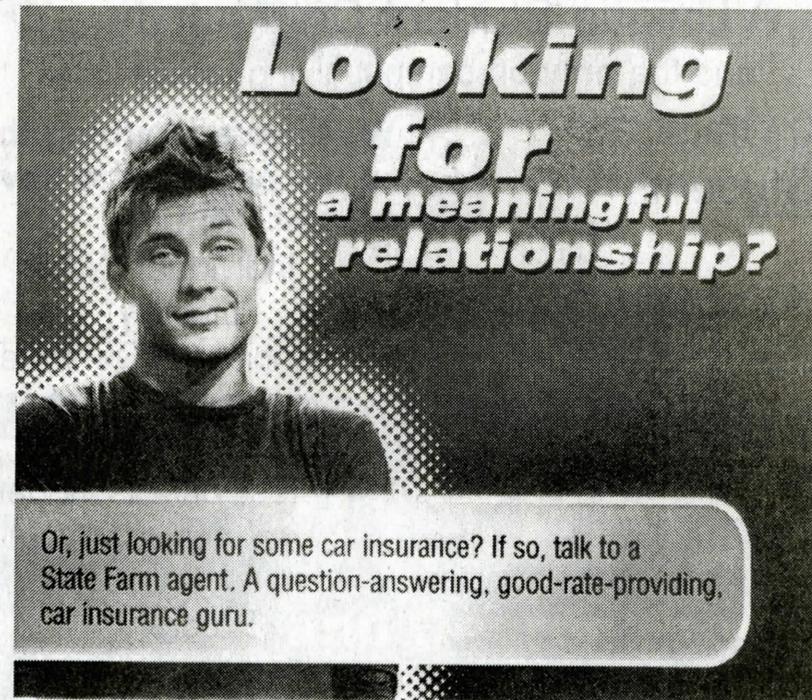
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# HANDBOOK

## Continued From Page 1

students, faculty and staff on Sunday.

Dr. David O'Keeffe, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said officials were under pressure to release a new version of the HOP.

"I did not take a careful look at the student publications section," he said. "Again I apologize for the language of the HOP. We'll fix it."

Goodman also challenged the council's authority to "determine the character and policies of all student publications; and determine and implement operating policies defining the duties of the faculty or staff advisors and student editors."

"To the extent that 'character and policies' refers to content, the First Amendment simply does not allow this body such control," Goodman said.

O'Keeffe said Dr. Dale Lunsford, vice president for student affairs, wrote the student pub-

lication section in the new handbook.

A *Patriot* reporter attempted to reach Lunsford, but he did not respond.

Neither journalism faculty nor the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Donna Dickerson, an expert who has written five books on the First Amendment and student media law, were consulted about the policy changes. Students also were not consulted about the changes.

Other University of Texas System institutions have publication boards, but they all are represented by students and faculty.

UT Austin, for instance, has eleven voting members on its board, including six students, two journalism faculty members, one faculty member from the College of Business Administration and two professional journalists. The University's dean of students serves as an ex officio, non-voting

member.

Mabry said UTT's policy was written under the context that other publications would exist on campus one day, such as a yearbook or poetry journal.

"Had you just told us that the word 'character' was a problem (or some other word that someone in Virginia disliked), we'd have happily sat down with you to find a better word, like 'type' in this instance," Mabry said in the e-mail to a *Patriot* reporter.

*Patriot* editors asked the Student Affairs Committee on April 10 to recommend a policy revision allowing representation from students and faculty and perhaps professional journalists.

They also asked that specific wording of the handbook be revised to eliminate the possibility of administrative control.

After the Faculty Senate meeting in which Mabry agreed to change the policy, the committee

decided to forgo their recommendation.

Controversy over the HOP began with an April 8 Dallas Morning News article and culminated with Mabry's presentation to the Faculty Senate.

The Dallas article, and others that followed by the *Associated Press*, *Tyler Morning Telegraph*, *Daily Texan*, suggested the apparent take-over by administrators was in retaliation for "aggressive" reporting taught by *The Patriot's* adviser, Vanessa Curry.

After the initial article, local news programs highlighted the issue in Tyler and in newspapers across the state.

Some suggested administrators did not renew Curry's employment contract in retaliation for the paper's use of the Public Information Act and the staff's persistence in getting "everything from campus crime reports to administrator salaries and ques-

tioning policies and even donors' pet projects."

Mabry and O'Keeffe said at the Faculty Senate meeting they support the laws governing open records, and they have always complied with requests.

"FOI requests are not a problem. Student newspapers have the right to use the FOI law to get information they need. FOI requests to get underlying data constitute a very important and useful tool for any medium," Mabry said.

O'Keeffe disputed the *Dallas Morning News* article that quoted him as saying the open records requests "raised some concern at the level of the administration. You should bear in mind, I don't believe the students should be getting into that. They aren't prepared to do that. They can do a lot of harm."

He said the quote was taken "out of context."

Lee Hancock, the Dallas reporter, said she nor the Dallas Morning News has received complaints from O'Keeffe about the article.

Mabry said he was "outraged" that no students brought their concerns to him, and he learned of the controversy after returning from out of town trip on April 10, two days after the original Dallas article.

"It was maddening to learn that way," Mabry said in an e-mail Thursday.

However, on April 3 Mabry responded to an e-mail by O'Keeffe to a *Patriot* reporter about the issue.

Goodman also challenged the section titled "Other Publications," arguing the language clearly violates the First Amendment by not allowing anonymous publications on campus and saying new publications must be approved by the administrative council.

# ADVISER

## Continued From Page 1

The University's compliance officer Mary Blackmon said on April 18 the information had been sent to the University of Texas System Office of General Council and a small portion was sent to the Attorney General's Office for an opinion on whether the information is exempt from the Public Information Act.

During the Faculty Senate meeting Mabry said it was "in your face kind of stuff" when *Patriot* staff members passed out newspaper issues containing a negative opinion article about the Riter Millennium Carillon Tower during a ceremony in which donors were present.

*The Patriot* could find no witnesses that any staff members distributed the issues during the ceremony, and Curry denies the incident.

of the Department of Communication, said he first became concerned that Curry's job was in jeopardy after an incident in December involving a University police officer who alleged Curry intentionally placed him in harm while he was escorting her and Casstevens from the roof of the Hudnall Pirtle Roosth building.

The two were taking photographs of a Riter Millennium Carillon Tower dedication ceremony when they were informed they did not have permission to be on the roof and were escorted down.

Casstevens said after the incident Dickerson told him O'Keeffe said he "wanted her [Curry] out," and he could "pull the plug" on *The Patriot* if he chose to.

Curry first learned of her status in February when Casstevens told her that her name as adviser had

budget.

Both Curry and Casstevens said they were under the impression the non-renewal only affected her contract as adviser, so she would be able to continue teaching at the University.

Curry said she learned both contracts, teaching and advising, were not being renewed by Hancock, the *Dallas Morning News* reporter, on April 5. Hancock said O'Keeffe told her during an interview Curry would no longer be employed at the University on any level.

At the April 12 Faculty Senate meeting, O'Keeffe told senators a "miscommunication" between himself and Dickerson occurred. He said he believed the dean would notify Curry that her contracts were not being renewed.

O'Keeffe said he could not remember the exact date of his dis-

thought it was sometime in the latter part of the fall semester or the early part of this semester.

Casstevens said he believes the number of open records requests filed by the newspaper staff since Curry took over as adviser three years ago has upset the administration.

"In my opinion, the administrative, and to some extent the academic side was fearful of saying too much to reporters," Casstevens said. "You just don't shake things up."

Curry said she has received excellent evaluations from her supervisors during her time at the University. She said she is more surprised about her teaching contract not being renewed because she said she has been aware that the administration is "unhappy" with articles in the paper and has

"I hear comments that have trickled down through administration to me," she said.

Curry also has received support from other sources.

For instance, John Schmitt, a journalism professor at Southwest Texas State University, wrote a letter to Mabry "in regard to the recent ill-advised and unlawful actions taken against the student newspaper and its adviser..."

Schmitt said he received the same treatment as Curry when he worked as the student media adviser at Fort Valley State University in Georgia. He said he was also an "at will" employee whose contract was not renewed without explanation. He said his case was settled last month in the U.S. District Court in Atlanta for \$192,000.

"In these days when all educational expenditures are scrutinized by lawmakers and politicians, it is

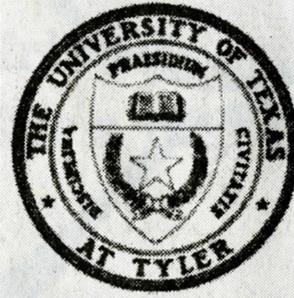
nearly incomprehensible to think that you are willing to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on a fight you cannot win," he wrote.

Some of Curry's colleagues have also shown support.

Dr. Stephen Daniels, professor of education and history, sent an e-mail April 17 saying he will not attend the gala affair next Friday as part of employee appreciation week.

"One would think that the termination of a lecturer would be initiated at the departmental level, recommended at the college level, and then forwarded to the VPAA," he wrote.

Curry said she will continue to follow her work ethics even though she said "I have to admit that this experience has left me a little jaded about trying to be a real journalist in an academic atmosphere."



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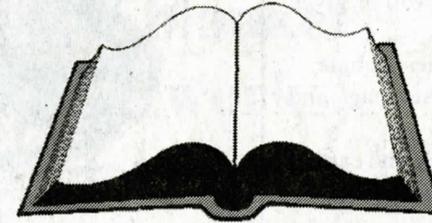
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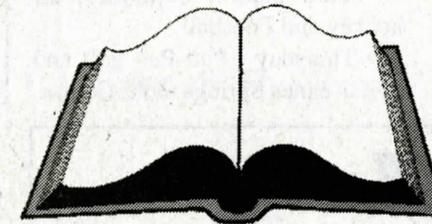
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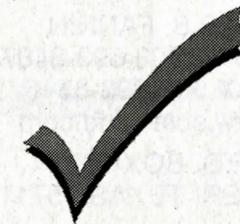
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# Career services:

*helping students plan for the future and achieve their goals*

by Shalina Ramirez  
Staff Writer

Recent headlines about a competitive job market may not be good news for college grads, but University students have an advantage that will provide support and guidance while on the path to choosing a career.

Career Services is a little known department designed to assist students with important career choices such as selecting a major or finding a job.

"What I strive to do is prepare students in the ways of the job search process in regards to writing a cover letter and resume, interviewing skills, identification of potential employers, negotiation of salary and different things like that," Krista Richardson, Career Services coordinator, said. "So that not only while they're here, but even after they graduate students will know what it takes and what to do to get a job."

Richardson said career services conducts a series of seminars, workshops, career fairs and expos, such as the Major/Minor Expo, to give students an opportunity to explore the avenues open to them.

The Major/Minor Expo held on April 9 gave students a chance to visit with representatives from academic departments to discuss courses of study and ultimately declare a major or minor, she said.

"That was something I coordinated to give freshman, sophomore and junior level students

**"What I strive to do is prepare students in the ways of the job search process..."**

— KRISTA RICHARDSON  
CAREER SERVICES  
COORDINATOR

different academic colleges and departments on campus," Richardson said. "The Major/Minor Expo will help those students who have not declared a major decide on their course of study."

The Education Career Fair on April 16 gave students studying education a chance to speak to teaching professionals about future job possibilities.

It allowed students to present their resumes, ask questions and interview with representatives from 47 area schools.

Richardson said other tools used to help a student decide on a career included the career services' Web Site and computerized assessment testing.

"Students can take a career assessment test that will help them decide how their interests, values and their skills relate to possible career choices," Richardson said.

She said the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and the Strong

while the SIGI takes two.

The Myers-Briggs allows the student a better understanding of their personality, as well as appreciation of the differences in other people.

The Strong Interest Inventory focuses on a student's interests and how they fit into the student's life.

SIGI, a computerized career guidance system, will assist in assessing a student's values, skills and interests in relation to career and major choices.

"Some people have lots of different interests and taking these tests can help a student narrow those choices down," Richardson said. "So by the time of their senior year the student is not an undecided major."

Students interested in taking one of these tests must make an appointment and will have to schedule another appointment with a career counselor to review the results.

Students may also contact career services by logging on to the Career Services' Web site.

The Web site allows students access to events calendar listings, company profiles and career articles on a 24-hour basis.

"It's a web-based career management program and what it does is allow students to up-load their resumes and cover letters, locate jobs, not only in East Texas but also outside this area," Richardson said.

"We're continually updating



—Conchetta San Filippo/The Patriot

**MANNING HER STATION:** Melissa Wilbanks, left to right, Jan Van Pelt, Leslie Toombs, and Tommy Gilbreath discuss business courses offered to graduate studies during the Major/Minor Expo, April 9.

students who live elsewhere, and through the Web site they can access a lot of different information relating to career and contact information."

She said it is important for students to seek guidance early in their college careers.

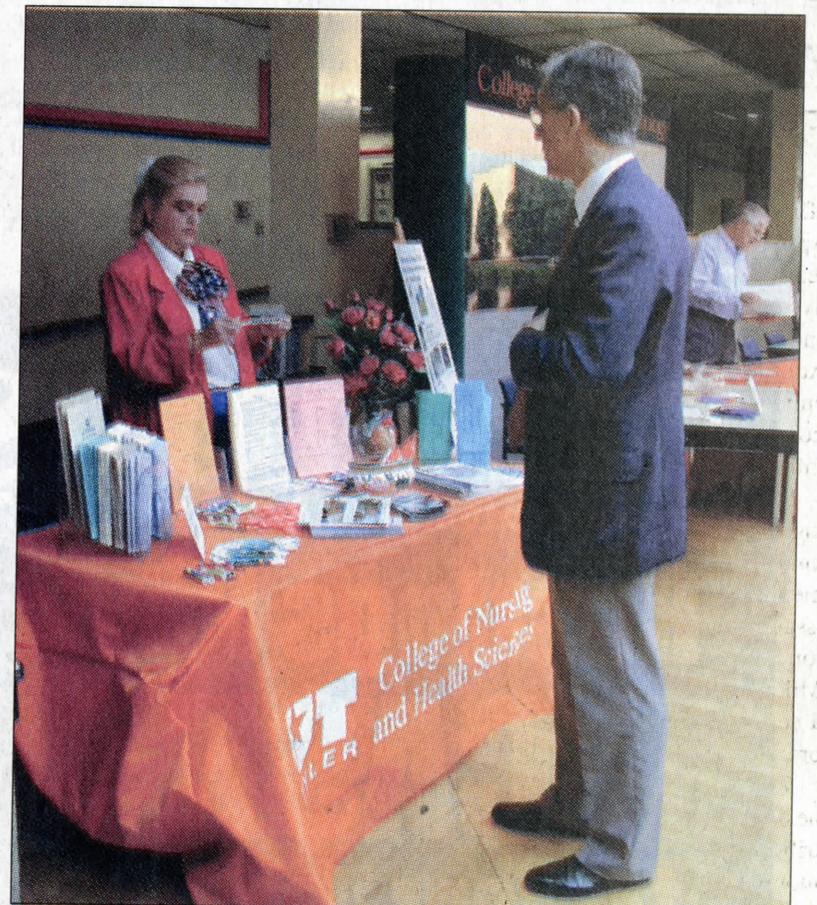
"The positive thing about students coming to Career Services early in their college career - starting as a freshman - is we'll be able to help them identify with potential majors they may be interested in," Richardson said.

She said Career Services also has conducted a number of seminars including First Impressions, Last Impressions: Tips for Career Fairs and Job Interviews.

Richardson said two to four seminars are usually held each semester and are open to current students and alumni.

"Even as alumni, students are allowed to comeback," she said.

Students wanting to contact Richardson can call her at (903) 566-5501.



who have not decided on a major yet - an opportunity to visit all the

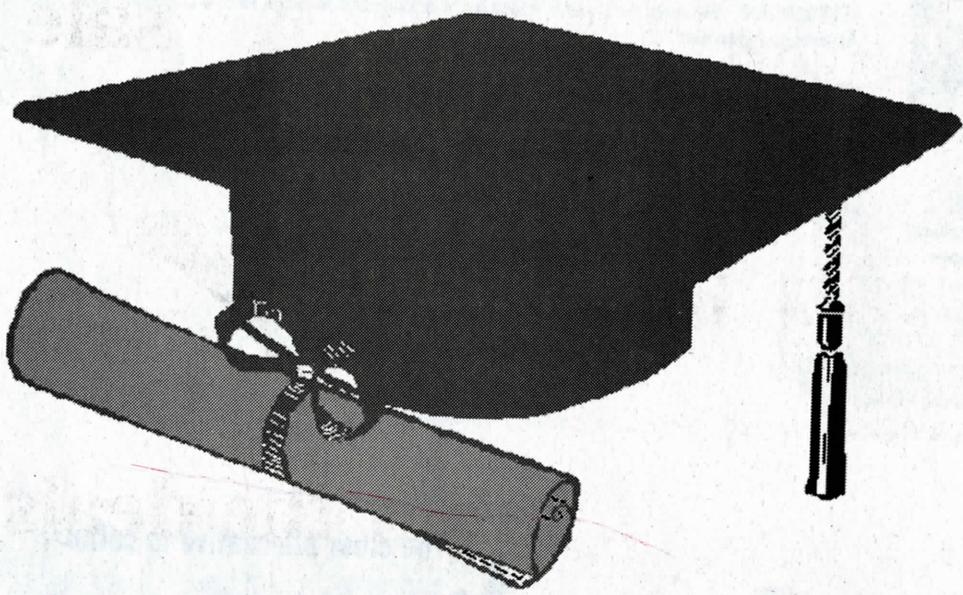
interest Inventory assessment tests take one hour to complete,

and enhancing it," she said. "That's a plus because a lot of our students are non-traditional stu-

505-5581, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the University Center, room 111.

—Conchetta San Filippo/*The Patriot*  
**GETTING PREPARED:** Kay Caufield chats with Jim Schwane while preparing for the Major/Minor Expo.

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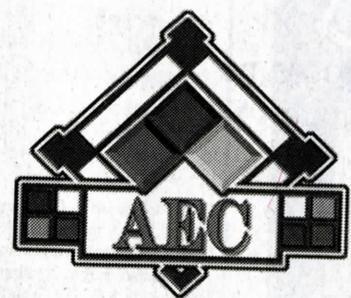
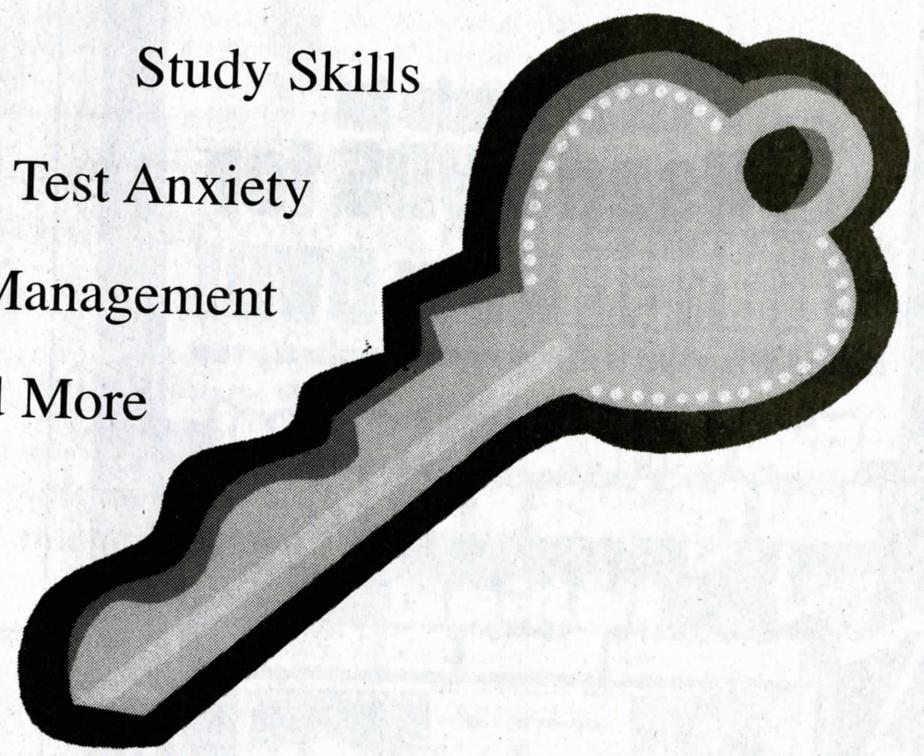
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## Sweet sounds of success

Great performances abound in 'Sound of Music'

by Robert Boggs  
Staff writer

Outstanding performances, creative staging and a wonderful cast that sings—now these are a few of my favorite things.

The theater and music departments' presentation of "The Sound of Music" combined an excellent cast with clever stage effects to create a fast-paced, engaging experience.

The hall came alive immediately with the opening title song by Maria, played by junior theater major Connie Orr.

Orr's captivating voice made each of her songs entertaining and enjoyable, and backed up by a great supporting cast and live band, the music never disappointed.

Just as enjoyable was watching Christian Reed's portrayal of Captain Georg von Trapp as he changed from a detached, strict disciplinarian to a softer, more emotional father under Maria's influence.

But one of the musical's great surprises was senior music major Blake Smith. He played Max Detweiler, an arrogant, oppor-

tunistic survivor searching for a music troupe to make them famous—and him rich.

Smith provided much-appreciated comic relief and played his role to perfection.

Although at first the set appeared minimal, the crew's stage effects created the illusion of atmosphere.

Set elements such as desks and chairs were lifted on and off stage frequently to make quick scenery changes.

Actors also walked through the audience and occasionally sat in the stands, surrounding viewers with the show.

In one scene, Nazi banners were lowered from the ceiling and red lights shined on stage during a concert and Nazi rally. German voices echoing in the room added to the chilling effect.

Later the audience was asked to stand as Reed led them in singing "Adelweiss."

The whole experience was entertaining and well-organized. After this kind of performance, it is a shame that students aren't able to make more presentations at the Vaughn Auditorium.

## Tidings of Joy coming in May to local church

by Robert Boggs  
Staff writer

Contemporary Christian singer Joy Williams is scheduled to perform at 7 p.m. on May 10 at the Rose Heights Church of God in Tyler.

Tickets are on sale for \$12 at The Scroll Christian book store on 5th Street.

Williams will be performing songs from her self-titled debut album released last year by Reunion Records.

She is best known for her songs "No Less" and "Can They See Jesus in Me?" as well as her single "I Believe in You" from the "Left Behind: The Movie" soundtrack.

Although fresh out of high school, the young Californian pop singer has toured with other Christian artists Audio Adrenaline, NewSong, Brian Duncan, Bob Carlisle, and Rebecca St. James.

Williams recently appeared on the 10th Annual MovieGuide Awards, where she presented an award and played two songs.

For more information about the concert, call 592-3740.

## Library celebrates Poetry Month

by Robert Boggs  
Staff writer

Dressed in a black sweater and beat poet's cap, Joanne Buendtner stepped up to a microphone and found a seat on a green stool lit by a spotlight.

"Oh I am just a student, sir, and only want to learn. But it's hard to read through the risin' smoke of the books you like to burn," she begins, reciting a poem by Phil Ochs.

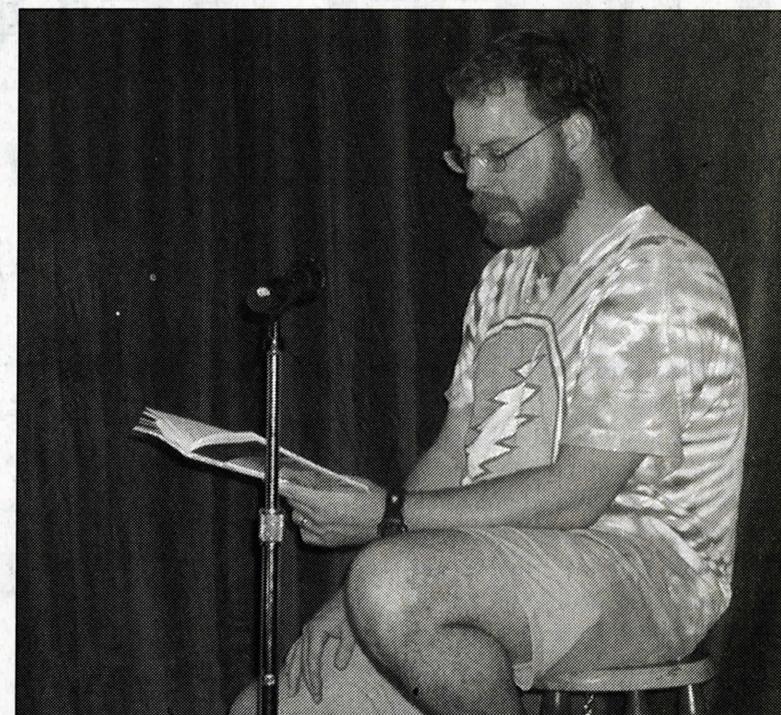
As the head of circulation at the Muntz Library on campus, Buendtner helped sponsor an open-microphone poetry reading April 18 in the library. She was one of several poets to recite published or original works.

The reading was the second event the library sponsored this month to celebrate National Poetry Month.

On April 2 the library was the host for the Langston Hughes Centennial National Read-In, a reading held in honor of the famous poet's birthday.

Last Thursday, faculty members were featured at a reading of their favorite or original poems.

"We had a very talented group of faculty that did readings for us," Jeanne Pyle, the University library



—Robert Boggs/The Patriot

**THE HOT SEAT: English major Rick Phillips takes his place in the spotlight during the poetry reading on April 18.**

director, said.

An online poetry contest is also being held.

Anyone interested in entering the competition should visit the library's web site at [library.uttyler.com](http://library.uttyler.com) for official rules.

Entries must be submitted by e-

mail and received by 5 p.m. on April 26.

Awards for the winners will be given out at a presentation on April 30 in the library.

A lecture on the "Historical Roots of Contemporary Poetry" also is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on April 22 in the library.

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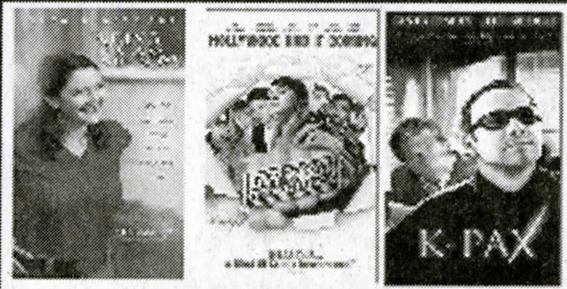
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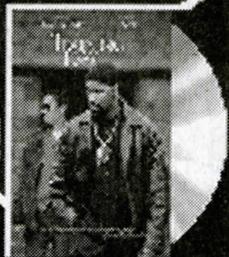
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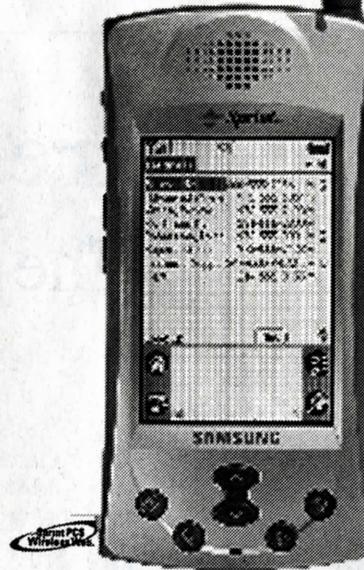
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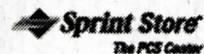
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# Engineering department leaves space for astronaut

by Conchetta San Filippo  
Staff writer

John C. Reilly, NASA astronaut and Mesquite native, spoke at the College of Engineering and Computer Science's third annual banquet April 11.

The banquet, held in room 401 of Robert R. Muntz library, was open to engineering students, faculty and administrators.

Reilly spoke about his many excursions including his years attending graduate school at the University of Texas at Dallas where he earned a Ph.D., master's and bachelor's degrees in geoscience.

While in graduate school, he was selected to participate as a

research scientist specializing in stable isotope geochronology as part of the 1977-78 scientific expedition to Marie Byrd land, West Antarctica.

The son of Tylerite Billie Ruether, Reilly has been with NASA since 1994 and is qualified for flight assignment as a mission specialist.

Having logged over 517 hours in space, Reilly's space travel includes three spacewalks.

He flew on STS-89 in 1998 and STS-104 in 2001.

He also served as an exploration geologist with Santa Fe Minerals Inc. in Dallas and chief geologist of the offshore region for Enserch Exploration Inc. in

Dallas.

He was actively involved in the application of imaging technology for industrial applications in deep water engineering 22 days in deep submergence vehicles.

The deep submergence vehicles were operated by the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution and the United States Navy.

Chris Field, the President of the Engineering Club and coordinator for the banquet, said he was pleased with the results of the banquet.

"I was in charge but I had a lot of help," Field said



—Conchetta San Filippo/The Patriot

**OUT OF THIS WORLD:** NASA astronaut John C. Reilly speaks during the College of Engineering and Computer Science's third annual banquet April 11.

## UT Tyler faculty, staff take part in ETexas fair

Members of the UT Tyler community served as judges in the East Texas Regional Science Fair March 28 at Kilgore College.

Faculty and staff members serving as judges were: Lesa Beverly, assistant professor of biology; Ladona Nall, senior laboratory technician (chemistry); Darrell Pogue, assistant professor of biology; Nathan Smith, assistant professor of mathematics; Brian Taylor, assistant professor of chemistry; Sam Weaver, senior lecturer of

physics; and Ben Wehrung, assistant professor of mathematics.

Undergraduate students serving as judges were: Tracy Bristow, chemistry; Sean Butler, chemistry; Toby Breland, biology; Randa Gates, chemistry; Honey Golden, chemistry; and Scott Morrison, biology.

Dr. Neil Gray, assistant professor of chemistry, was responsible for recruiting judges and for judging entrees in the Physical Science Division of the science fair.

## Patriots defeat Wesleyan

UT Tyler men beat Texas Wesleyan University 6-1 in a dual match today. The UT Tyler girls won all their matches as well.

"Both teams played well, and a few of the matches were close," Ken Olivier, tennis coach, said. "Luckily we were stronger than TW at #2 and #3 doubles, got off to a good start and kept the momentum going."

UT Tyler will conclude their Spring season by playing Hendrix College (Conway, AR) at University Dallas on Saturday, April 20 at 3 p.m.

The UT Tyler men's team is 4-2 in NCAA division three dual matches this spring.

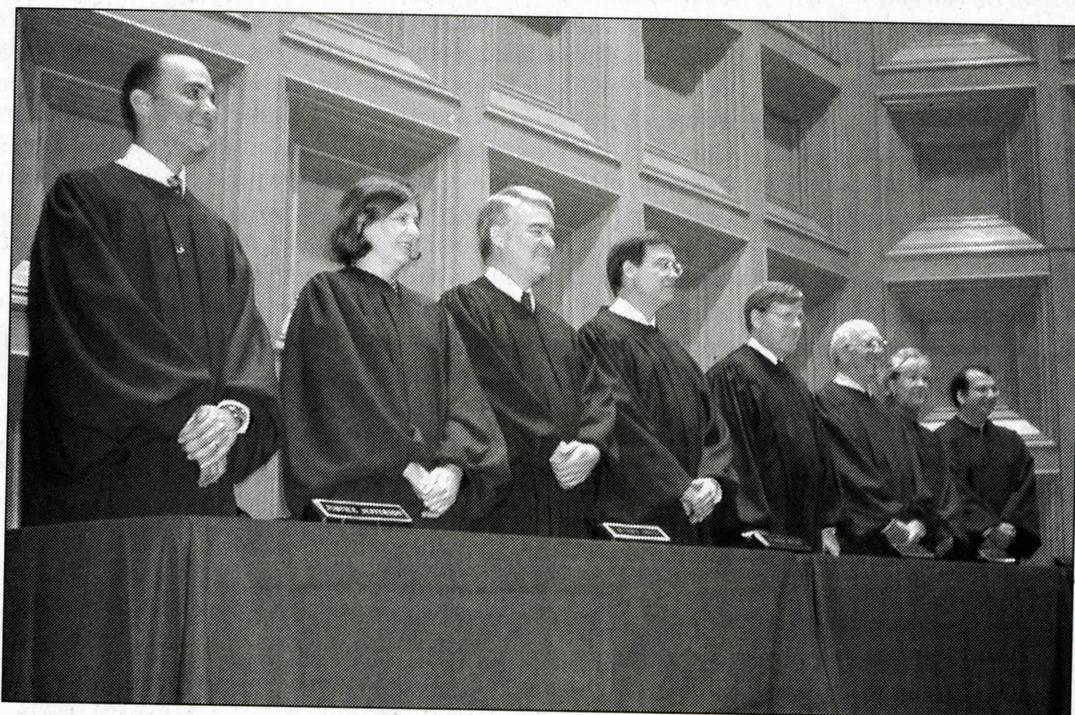
### MEN:

Alan Biel def (TW). Maciek Hunek (UTT), 2-6, 2-3 def. Mayur Naik (UTT) def. Nicla Langlam, 3-6, 6-4 (10-7) Bryan Whitt (UTT) def. Abraham Gonzales 6-0, 6-1 Justin Duke (UTT) def. Jacob Adrian 6-0, 6-0 Steven Brouer (UTT) def. Pedro Castro 6-0, 6-0 P.J. Alexander (UTT) def. Nark Nettles 6-0, 6-0 Biel/Langlam def. Hunek/Naik (UTT) 8-6 Whitt/Brouer (UTT) def. Adrian/Gonzales 8-1 Duke/Alexander (UTT) def. Castro/Nettler 8-0

### WOMEN:

Karoline Jacobs (UTT) def. Ana Saucedo 6-1, 6-0 Stephanie Hughes (UTT) def. Jiomara Campbell 6-0, 6-0 April Bancod (UTT) def. Katrina Sloan 6-0, 6-0 Hughes/Jacob (UTT) def. Saucedo/Sloan 8-1

## All rise



—Conchetta San Filippo/The Patriot

**HOLDING COURT:** The justices of the Texas Supreme Court heard two civil cases during a session held at Braithwaite Hall on April 16.

# BIG LEAGUE TASTE

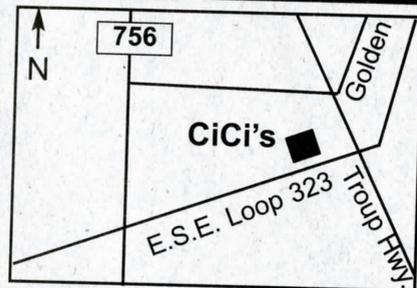
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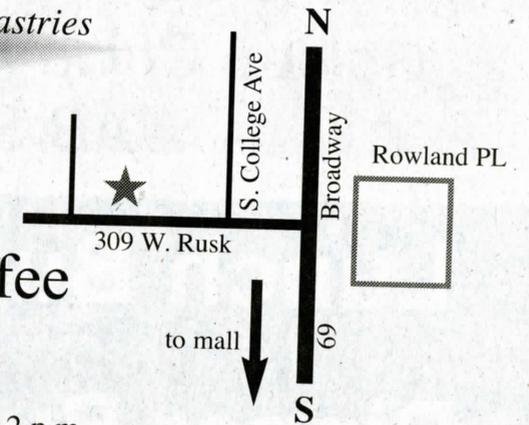
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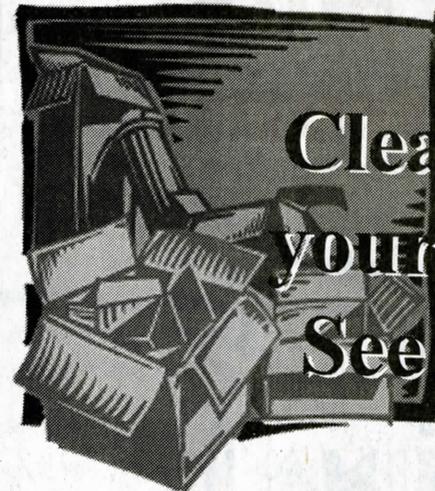
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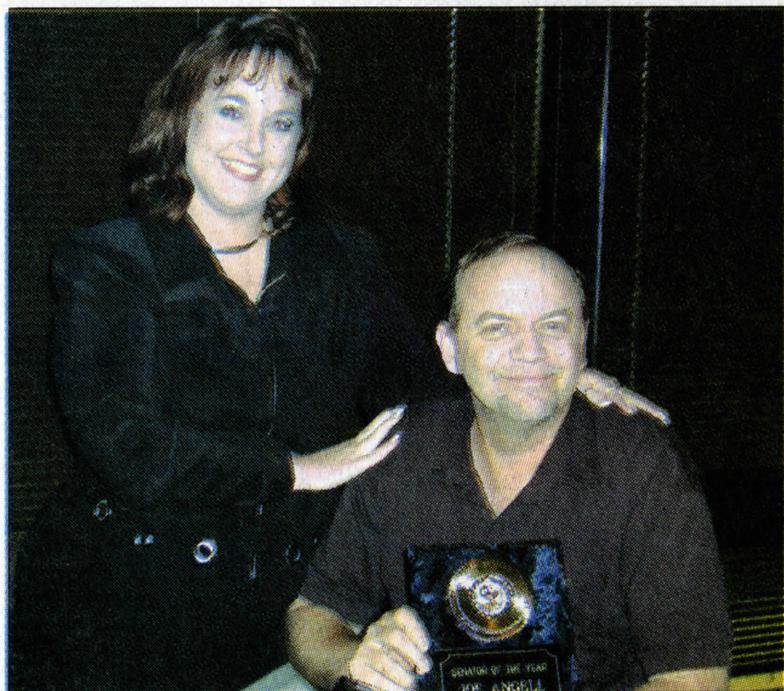
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—Jeanie Carter/The Patriot

RECOGNITION: Cain, left, congratulates student senator Angell.

## Awards highlight year-end SGA gala

by Hannah Buchanan  
Staff writer

Student Government Association senators voted Joe Angell, a representative for the school of Business and Technology, "Senator of the Year," at an awards banquet on April 12.

"It was a complete surprise," Angell said.

Executive officers, senators and honored guests attended the event in the library, which included speeches, presentations and a dinner.

"This year, there was a three-way tie," SGA president Lana Cain said, before announcing the name of the winner.

They broke the tie by conducting a secret ballot.

Angell said he is usually quick at finding out about things before anyone else but not this particular

secret."

Also at the banquet, interim dean of student affairs Dr. Howard Patterson, awarded all executive officers and a few senators "for outstanding leadership in SGA," with the help of president Rodney Mabry.

"These are world-class people... and there's lots of firepower here [at UTT]," Mabry said.

Cain and SGA vice president Angela Roe also announced the SGA's accomplishments for the year, including raising more than \$2,000 for a children's college fund, starting the first Patriot Days' picnic and dance and participating in the "Race for the Cure" and the Salvation Army's Angel Tree drive.

"We may be the University of Texas at Tyler, but with our great leadership... we can say, are the University of Texas at Tyler, and

## Calendar of Events

- April 18 - Music Program Presents: UT Tyler and Tyler Junior College Wind Ensemble Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Vaughn Auditorium.
- April 18 - Coffeehouse & Open Microphone Poetry Readings. 7 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in LIB 202.
- April 19 - Patriot tennis vs. UT Dallas at Tyler, 3:00 p.m., men and women.
- April 19 - Music Program Presents: Faculty Recital with Molly Johnson. 7:30 p.m. at the Braithwaite Recital Hall.
- April 20 - SGA Spring Dance, "Hollywood Nights." Free admission. 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the UC open area.
- April 20 - Patriot Tennis vs. Hendrix College at Dallas, 3:00 p.m., men and women.
- April 20 - East Texas Symphony Orchestra. 7:30 p.m. at the Vaughn Auditorium.
- April 22 - "Historical Roots of Contemporary Poetry" lecture by Peter Hoheisel. 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the library.

- April 24 - Music Program Presents: Student Recital. 3:30 p.m. at the Braithwaite Recital Hall.
- April 25 - Music Program Presents: Faculty Jazz Recital with John Webb and select guest artists. 7:30 p.m. at the Braithwaite Recital Hall.
- April 30 - Theatre Program Presents: Children's Theatre Workshop. 10:00 a.m. in The Theatre.
- April 30 - Music Program Presents: Community Wind Symphony Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Vaughn Auditorium.
- May 1 - Music Program Presents: Student Recital. 3:30 p.m. at Braithwaite Recital Hall.
- May 2 - Music Coterie of Tyler Honor Recital. 10:00 a.m. at the Braithwaite Recital Hall.
- May 2 - Theatre program Presents: Children's Theatre Workshop. Advanced reservations required. 10:00 a.m. at The Theatre.
- May 2 - Music Program Presents: Senior Voice Recital featuring Heather McLendon. 7:30 p.m. at the Braithwaite Recital Hall.

## Campus Police Reports

The following information was obtained from campus police reports:

- April 12 - Officers investigated a hit-and-run involving a red Honda Civic in a University Pines Apartments' parking lot.
- April 12 - Officers confiscated a minnow bucket containing three cans of beer - one empty Budweiser and two unopened cans - from Room 402 at the library. The officers questioned two women - one 87-year-old in a wheel chair and her 85-year-old sister - who denied owning the bucket. According to a police report, the older woman's son told police, "I told them not to bring it." When the women were asked again if they owned the bucket, the elder one replied, "Well if he says it is ours then it must be true and we will just have to take it." The bucket was taken to the police department

## Computer science department receives consortium grant for Infinity Project

The computer science department has received a grant for development of the Infinity Project, which is designed to interest high school students in pursuing careers in computer science and engineering.

The Texas Engineering and Technical Consortium has granted \$23,934 as the current award to the University of Texas at Tyler and \$44,400 as a potential award.

The award is one of several higher education grants totaling \$4.5 million, allocated to universities to attract more Texans to engi-

neering and computer science.

The joint proposal is approved for funding under the 2002 Texas Technology Workforce Development Grant Program. Other institutions in the joint proposal include: Southern Methodist University, UT El Paso, Lamar University, Texas Women's University, UT Arlington, UT Austin, UT Dallas, Rice University, Baylor University and Prairie View A&M University.

UT Tyler's Infinity Project includes an introductory computer science and engineering course

that allows high school students to experience the creative side of computer science and engineering.

The curriculum focuses on multimedia technology and how engineers use mathematics, science and their own ingenuity to create new technologies.

Student projects include making cellular phones, digital musical instruments and working with digital images.

Dr. Arun Kulkarni, professor of computer science will serve as the principal investigator for the grant.

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