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30th Anniversary

August 20, 2003 ♦ Commemorative Edition



Turning 30...

The Patriot recalls origin, experiences

by Shalina Ramirez
Managing editor

Like many publications, the University's student newspaper covered its fair share of tragedy, joyous occasions and controversy.

When the convicted murderer of a biology professor granted his first and only interview at the Walls Unit in Huntsville, *The Patriot* heard him out.

When the University unveiled its plans to become a four-year school, *The Patriot* was there to report its progress.

When the publication's own civil rights for freedom of speech was challenged, *The Patriot* covered both sides of the story.

Celebrating 30 years of passion, ink, and hard work, *The Patriot* developed over the years along with its news coverage.

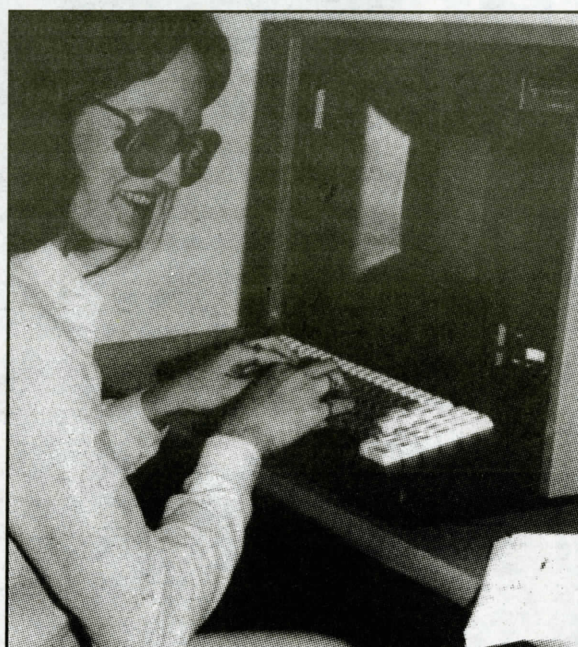
Once housed in the depths of a former boy's dressing room on campus - then called Tyler State College - the newspaper got its start in March 1973. President James H. Stewart, Jr. announced that part-time marketing instructor James Powell would assume the task of publishing the first issue.

Consisting of one issue per semester, the newspaper was penned by Powell and distributed to the University community.

"I think [Powell] was skilled in public relations and what the University needed at that particular time," Dr. Kenneth Casstevens, communication chairman and associate journalism professor, said. "He and his editor 'Archie' Whitfield were professional journalists. Both were very knowledgeable about what needed to be produced for a new college."

The first issue, with the name *Tyler State College*, folded to the size of a book and was held together by a staple in its left-hand corner.

It included an article on newly approved degree programs, a message from the pres-



—Patriot file photo

AT WORK: Becky Buford uses a Compugraphic Editwriter 1750 to set type in this 1981 photo.

ident and financial information as well as a student and a TSC employee directory.

Readers also were encouraged to submit articles of interest regarding the college.

Small Steps

During the next few issues, Powell, with the help of Lou Ann Wester and a staff of five students, proceeded to take the newspaper to new heights including establishing an identity for the publication, starting with its name.

"*The Tyler Statesman*," appeared across the top of page one in May 1974.

After Powell's resignation in 1975, the paper's name, size and content continued to change over the years as well as its faculty advisor.

Casstevens, who oversaw *The Patriot* from fall 1975 to spring 1976, said the publication began being printed on a higher quality of paper and increased to a larger format.

"Fred Stewart was the editor and we had a staff of two," he said. "Fred had been a professional journalist and had worked on several area newspapers, he single-hand-

edly put out the paper. I was teaching four classes and running the media center. We only produced five issues that year."

Under Casstevens' advisement, staff members used electric typewriters to produce the paper. The staff typed the copy then had it set by a printer who would lay-out the pages according to directions given by the students.

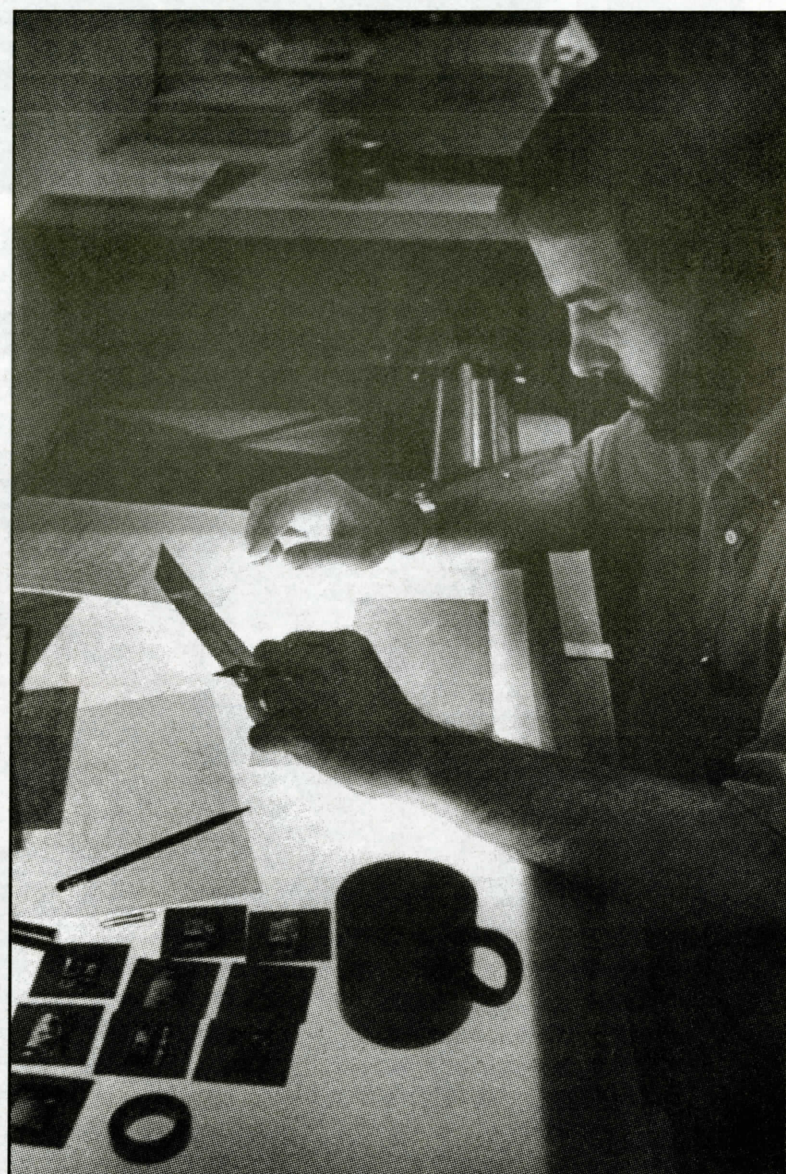
"We had it printed at a printing press on [State] Highway 64," he said. "I think it was call 'Tyler Star.' They worked very hard with us to put a decent paper."

It also was during this time the paper received its current name, "*The Patriot*."

Casstevens said the name was selected in 1976 during the United States' bicentennial.

"There was an emphasis on the bicentennial and patriotism," he said. "It was thought that [*The Patriot*] would be the appropriate name. There are still papers around the country today with 'Patriot' in the name."

He said the name also was selected about the time the University chose the



—Patriot file photo

TOUGH DECISION: Former *Patriot* adviser Winston Green compares slides in this 1983 photo.

Patriot as its mascot. Another suggest for mascot included the armadillos.

"There were even a few suggestions for 'the turkeys,'" Casstevens said.

The student paper underwent another makeover in the fall of 1983 when faculty adviser John Robinson tripled the number of pages being printed.

Robinson also increased advertising revenue, developed a computerized newsroom, created a mailing list and switched the publication's size to the standard newspaper broadsheet format.

Its physical appearance may have changed, but its dedication to report campus on-goings stayed the same.

Consistent stories ideas year after year dealt with enrollment, deadlines for filing for graduation registrations, the Student Government Association and parking.

HISTORY

Continued To Page 6

The Patriot

Commemorative Issue Staff

Shalina Ramirez, Managing editor
Jeanie Carter, Associate editor
Emily Stevens, Staff writer
Brandy Burks, Researcher
Bonnie Davis, Advertising
Mark Risinger, Circulation

22-year-old club furthers interest in journalism

by Shalina Ramirez
Managing editor

Brightly colored fliers taped to windows and bathroom stall doors notify the University community of one student organization's latest attempt to recruit new members.

"Join the Press Club," the flier reads, excluding any details about its principles or origin which dates back more than two

decades.

Organized in 1981, the Press Club has evolved into a 20-plus member team working to further interest and understanding in the field of journalism.

"I think it mainly does that through the field trips we get to go on," Hannah Buchanan, press club secretary, said. "Interested students can have fun yet learn at the same time."

Such trips have included touring the *Tyler Morning Telegraph* in Tyler, the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tenn., and the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station.

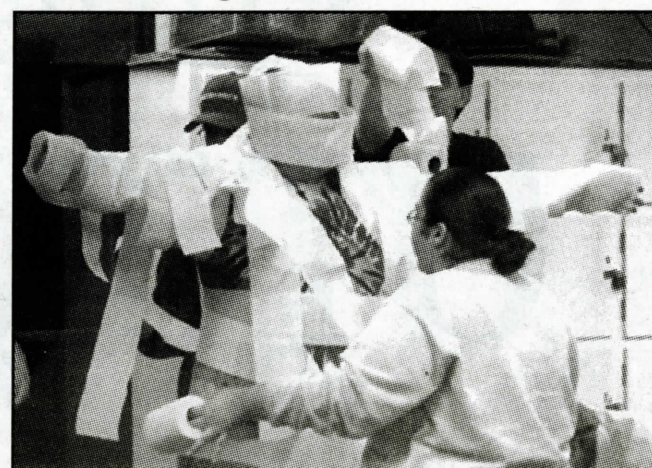
The club, which works closely with *The Patriot*, has sponsored numerous activities including canned food and book drives and an angel tree, which provides Christmas gifts to underprivileged children.

"These kinds of activities promote our willingness to help outside of the University community," Buchanan said. "We feel, as a club, that we should have some kind of impact both in the 'off campus' community as well as the 'on campus' community."

The Press Club, open to all students, was rewarded for its efforts in the fall of 2002 when it won the Outstanding Student Organization Award for earning

the most points based on organizational activities.

"I think every club is important to the University," Buchanan, a journalism senior, said. "As with all clubs, the Press Club gives a chance for students to be a part of something on campus. It's just a chance for interested students to meet new people, interact with them and have fun all at the same time."



— Courtesy Photo

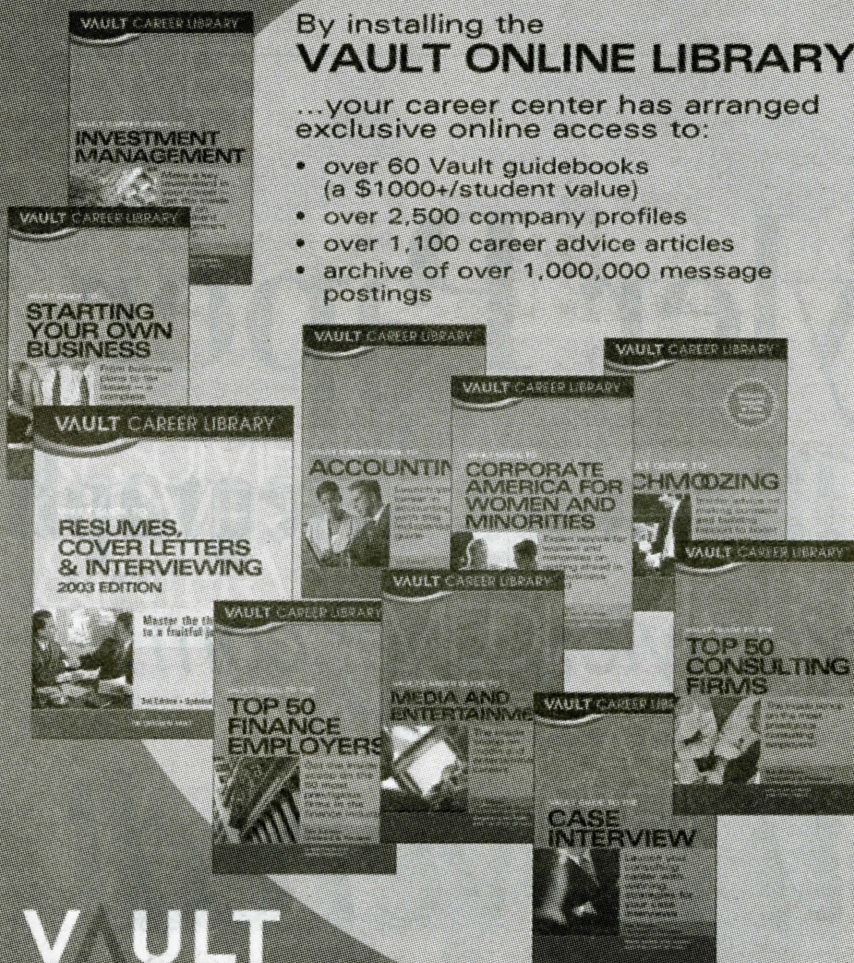
READY, SET, GO: Press Club members take part in a toilet papering race during a monthly meeting.

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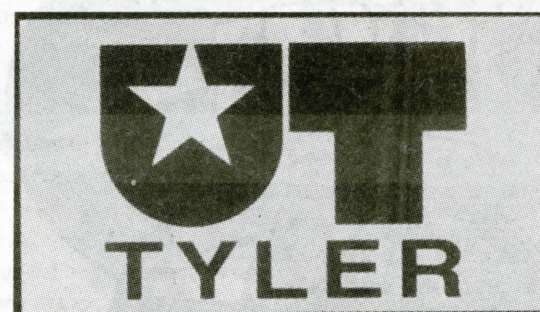
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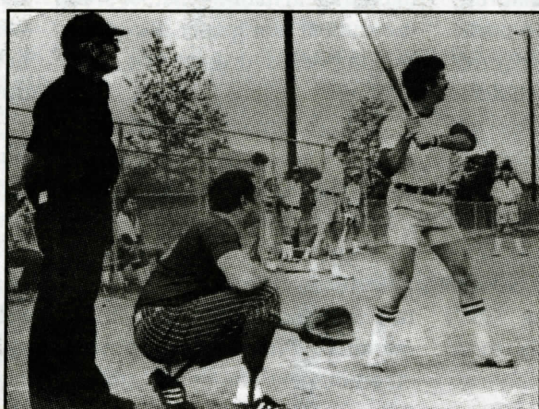
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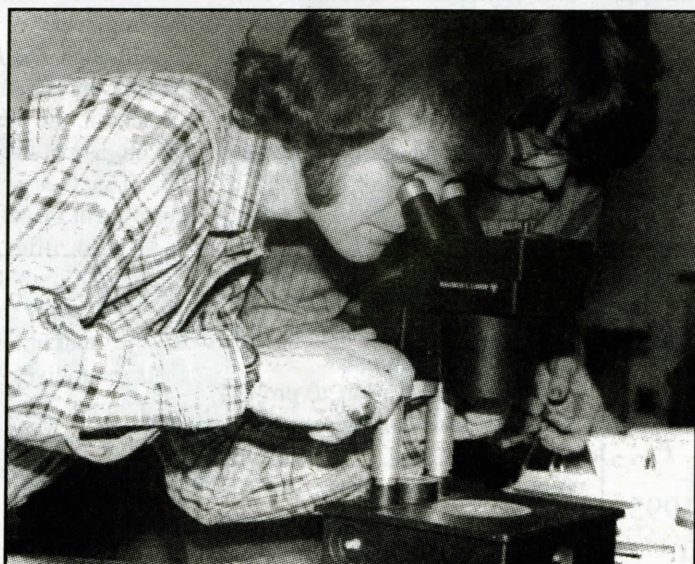


LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE: Left to right, Isadore Roosth, left to right, Dr. James H. Stewart, Jr., George Pirtle, Henry Bell, Jr. and J.S. Hudnall stand on the future site of Tyler State College, now the University of Texas at Tyler, in this file photo which appeared in a May 1974 issue of *The Patriot* then known as *The Forum*.

SWING!: Unidentified baseball players wait for the pitch in this May 1975 photo.



CONCENTRATION: Graduate student John Haynes, below left, and senior Mary Odom concentrate in this Feb. 1982 file photo.



Peek at the past



PAT THE PATRIOT: Martha Wheat, director of admissions, center, discusses registration with University senior Kathy Hampton as school mascot "Pat" looks on in this Sept. 1984 file photo.

HISTORY

Continued From Page 2

"[The Patriot] keeps us abreast of what is going on in the U.T. Tyler community as a whole," former student Jim Worthen said.

Worthen, who attended the University in 1977-1978 and again in 1994-1999, said the publication is now more likely to give both sides of the story.

"It tries to cover the whole range of department and activities," he said. "I don't care for it trying to cover things outside of U.T. Tyler."

The newspaper saw more improvements in 1999 when current adviser and journalism lecturer Vanessa Curry introduced color photos and digital cameras.

"I think the students have made the newspaper into a 'real' newspaper," Curry said.

She said the publication broadened its news coverage to include more in-depth articles such as how student money is being spent and Student Government Association election as well as more student features.

"[The students are] being the 'watchdog' that a paper is supposed to be," Curry said. "There's an essence of a variety of news events from sports to the student government. They're bringing the news to the public."

Hard Times

"I think its off to a good start," Casstevens said. "It's probably the best paper we've ever had since I've been here in terms of providing news to the student. It's certainly had its low points in its history."

He said he remembers a time when the newspaper was taken over by the University's public

information office during the late '80s.

"It became just an information board," Casstevens said. "Most of the stories were from a wire services. Hardly anyone read the paper because it didn't have campus news. I think it was the paper's lowest point."

More recently in March 2002, the paper faced its greatest challenge when University officials released a revised version of the Handbook of Operating Procedures stating a publications board composed of administrators would have the power to "determine the character and policies of all student publications."

The policy also allowed for the publications board made up of University vice presidents to annually appoint a staff adviser, student editor and other student workers.

The Patriot staff opposed the policy, which sparked a statewide debate after a *Dallas Morning News* article exposed the situation.

"*The Patriot* has always played an important role and should continue to do so," James "Archie" Whitfield, former student and employee, said. "It should be the voice of the University. A campus paper is a vital part of the communications process."

The University and *The Patriot* reached an agreement in May 2002 in which the advisory board would be made up of students, faculty and two professional journalists.

The revision also do not allow



—Patriot file photo

HAND FED: Hermit crabs in the science laboratory have been receiving personalized treatment from lab visitors such as being hand fed in this 1975 file photo which won a first place award.

the University or the advisory board to "ban a publication or sanction the editor solely because content is controversial, takes extreme 'fringe' or minority opinions or is distasteful," according to past *Patriot* reports.

"[The newspaper] requires diligent on the parts of students and administration," Casstevens said. "It can't be produced in fear."

Journalism professor Dr. Joseph Loftin, who was *The Patriot's* longest serving adviser from fall 1990 to Spring 1999, said the newspaper needs more student involvement.

"I think *The Patriot* is doing a good job," he said. "Students need to realize it is a public forum. It is not owned by the administration. It is owned by the

students. There needs to be more letters to the editor and student participation."

Movin' on Up

With a circulation of 1,500 including a mailing list of 140, the student newspaper is currently compiled and dispersed twice a month.

"I think it requires years to get where the newspaper is today and some papers never get there," Casstevens said.

Supported by student fees and advertising revenue, the publication expanded its staff to 16 members including opinion, entertainment and sports editors, three copy editors, a cartoonist and numerous contributing writers.

"What happens to *The Patriot* is not just because of the adviser, but a team effort," Curry said. "It's not just the staff but includes the department chair and dean as well."

Other staff positions include an editor-in-chief, associate editor, circulation manager, ad manager and photographer.

"It's a consist effort to provide a useful tool for the students," Casstevens said. "It certainly depends on [the *Patriot* staff] to provide that independent spirit for a newspaper."

He said *The Patriot* won it's

first Texas Intercollegiate Press Association award in 1975 for photography.

"I don't think the photographer ever knew he won," Casstevens said. "He was gone when awards were made. I haven't been able to track him down."

More recently, *The Patriot* brought home 16 honors in April during the TIPA annual convention including second place in an overall sweepstakes scoring against 28 other Division II schools.

"We're not just being recognized by on our own campus, but at other schools across the state," Curry said. "This year we're a major player."

Although *The Patriot* is classified by enrollment as a Division III school, the newspaper elected to compete in the higher category which includes colleges with an enrollment of at least 7,500.

"It's thrilling to watch an upcoming journalist win for their work," Curry said. "It proves they're making a difference in their own lives as well as the community."

Casstevens said the newspaper's future depends primarily on the students.

"I don't know what the future will be like," he said. "It depends on the students for quality."

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James R. (Red) Parrish
Fall 1980 - Spring 1982

Winston Green
Fall 1987 - 1990

Dr. Kenneth Casstevens
Fall 1975 - Spring 1976

Doris Bowman
Fall 1982 - Spring 1983

Dr. Joseph E. Loftin
Fall 1990 - Spring 1999

Dr. Robert (Bob) Jones
Fall 1976 - Spring 1980

John Robinson
Fall 1983 -
Spring 1987

Vanessa Curry
Fall 1999 - Present



Patriot Student Editors:

Bryon White
Merwyn
Alexander
Richard Neely
Bob Uzzell
Linda Rushing
Rick Rayford
Sandy Scott
Frank Cuca
Linda Scott
Fred Stewart
Jim Tomlin
Melissa Embry
Steven Knowles
Diane Hazel
Roy Linson
B. Elaine Lansing
Mary Hunter
Terry Shirley
Calvin Rees
Doug Barr
Mary Lou Tyler
Phil Hicks

Judy Adams
Billie Pope
Brett Morman
Peggy Emery
June Carter
Ken Bryson
Kay Marsh
Bill Fleisher
Nita Shirley
James Bynum
Robert Sanders
Jannabeth
McComb
Laura Hughes
Suzanne Norwood
David Bartley
Angie Patterson
Pam Kirby
Melanie Stracener
Elaine Reichard
Bruce Thompson
D'Lynn
Bonds-Lott

Robert Slider
Brenda Price
Kingsley Smith
Stan Gunn
Natalie Robinson
Carl Millegan
Michael Prewitt
Jay Arrington
Marilie
Brandstetter
Jeremy Coe
Jaymie Poeschl
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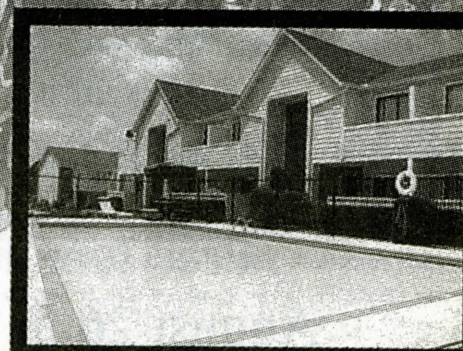
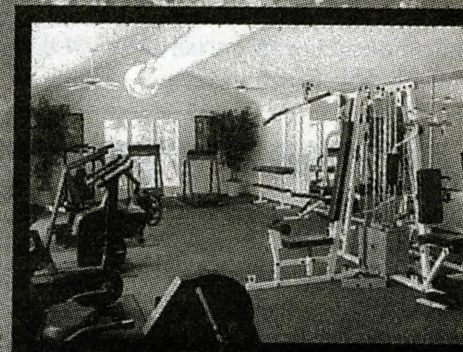
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Former editor making headlines on city council

by Emily Stevens

Staff writer

Friends describe former *Patriot* editor Suzanne Loudamy as a dedicated volunteer who is self-sacrificing and her favorite anecdote proves it.

Loudamy, 45, describes herself as "a bit on the rebellious side," and remembers a time when she grew a "rattail" in the back of her short hairstyle.

"It was half-way down my back when I got the idea to use it as a fundraiser for the Whitehouse Every 15 Minutes program," Loudamy said.

She serves as co-chairman of Every 15 Minutes, a campaign against drinking and driving as well as serving on the Whitehouse City Council and the Whitehouse High School Parent Teacher Student Association.

"I got some of the [city] council and community members to start raising money and whoever raised the most would be given the honor of cutting off my tail at the March city council meeting,"

Loudamy said.

"It was a great success," she said. "It raised almost \$700. Fellow council member Mike Adams got the honor of 'de-tailing' me."

People always ask why she grew the tail, Loudamy said.

"Now I answer, 'to raise money to help put on this awesome program that shows students first hand the results of driving while under the influence,'" she said.

Loudamy, who is in her third year as a city council member, says she decided to get involved in politics because she is "a person of action."

"I don't just talk about what is wrong or right," Loudamy said.



—Courtesy Photo
MAKING A STATEMENT: Former *Patriot* editor and Every 15 Minutes program volunteer Suzanne Loudamy makes a few comments at Whitehouse High School.

"If there is something I can feasibly do, I will do it."

Having graduated with a degree to teach journalism or English as a second language, Loudamy also serves as a substitute teacher for Whitehouse Independent School District.

"I am a certified secondary teacher, [but] I have chosen to continue as a substitute so I can have time to devote to my city," she said.

Loudamy said she uses her degree in almost every aspect of her life.

"Part of my portfolio is serving as a member of the Legislative Action Team of [the] Texas PTA," she said.

"Being able to write a meaningful and persuasive letter as well as the ability to carry on a convincing conversation with a member of Congress is vital to the success of that contact."

"I have worked closely with the communications director at Texas PTA in transforming the style and content of *The Voice*, the news publication of the Texas

PTA, [and] I have also taught many workshops on publishing newsletters and dealing with the media," Loudamy said.

Aside from her duties as a city council member, teacher and volunteer, Loudamy spends her free time trying to witness her daughters' achievements.

"I'm keeping the road hot between here and College Station where my oldest daughter, Bethany, is a sophomore at Texas A&M University," she said. "I [have also] spent the past year following my daughter Sarah, a senior at Whitehouse High School, around to football games, shows and competitions for the Whitehouse First Ladies Drill Team."

Recalling her own school days at the University from 1995-98, the former *Patriot* editor said parking was one of the major issues.

LOUDAMY

Continued To Page 9



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Sports editor compares paper's past to present

by Jeanie Carter

Associate editor

Phil Hicks has spent the past 20 years indulging in two of his passions - his love for sports and his devotion to writing.

The Tyler Morning Telegraph sports editor and former 1981-82 Patriot editor in chief said his experiences while attending the University has aided his career.

Working on *The Patriot* "helped reinforce being accurate and providing news to the public as a service," Hicks said.

The paper had 10-12 staff members and was different than it is today, he said. Now it is paginated with digital photos.

Hicks said, in the early 80s, the staff had to paste each story on the page and develop each black and white picture in a darkroom. The "paste-up" was then driven to Kilgore to be printed.

"The main change to the paper is the look," he said. "It looks really nice with color and the color photographs."

Hicks said there wasn't much controversy involving the University back then, and students had to find things to write about.

Although tennis was the only sport available and the R. Don Cowan Fine and Performing Arts Center had not been constructed, the publication was still a necessity, he said.

"Having a newspaper at the school is definitely needed," Hicks said. "It provides information for students and the University community - it keeps everyone on their toes."

Another difference between past and present Patriot staffers is the Freedom of Information Act.

The students now learn about what it is and how it works, they didn't back then, Hicks said.

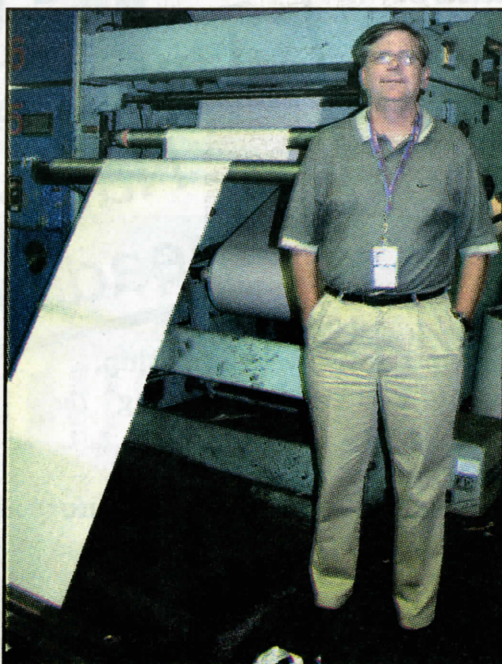
LOUDAMY

Continued From Page 8

"The main news stories I can remember are the controversy over student fees being increased to pay for the Cowan Center and as always parking problems," Loudamy said.

Friend Pat Millican said aside from Loudamy being dedicated and hard-working, she was also fun.

"She's been like a sister to me," Millican said. "I know I can count on her. My family doesn't live around here, so I know she's around when I need her. It's important to have people like that in your life."



—Brad Smith/The Patriot

READ ALL ABOUT IT: Former Patriot editor Phil Hicks poses beside a printing press at the Tyler Morning Telegraph where he is currently a sports editor.

"I'm sure that we would have learned a lot earlier about the FOI if it was taught in school then, instead of waiting until we got out into the world," he said.

Hicks said communication department chairman Dr. Kenneth Casstevens was among his favorite professors.

"He really helped prepare me for going out into the world," he said.

Although working on the student newspaper prepares students for the future, it's not exactly the real world of journalism, Hicks said.

At a daily newspaper, reporters are faced with stricter deadlines and must be persistent when pursuing their story.

"You don't have to get the story in college," Hicks said. But at a regular newspaper, "you are a watchdog for the public. You can't take no for an answer in real life."

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What was the most interesting story you worked on for The Patriot as an editor?

"There are two things that I remember that was interesting. One was when I interviewed Hugh Downs as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series. I really looked up to him. Another was when President George Bush was governor and he came. There were rumors at that time of him running for president. There was a lot of press there and I got to interview him. He gave me the first interview knowing that I was a student. I saw him later ... he remembered me from that interview."

- Jaymie Poeschl,

Communications specialist at Trane in Tyler
Fall 1995 *Patriot* editor

"To me the most important story I worked on as when University President George Hamm retired. I did a story on his retirement package he received, The University gave him a large sum of money and set him up in an office free for a year at the Cowan Center."

- Gary Lynch

Office manager for the Texas Parks
and Wildlife at Tyler State Park
Fall 1998 *Patriot* editor

• WAR

The Dallas Morning News, April
20, 2003

• Columbia Was Beyond Any help, Officials Say

The New York Times, Feb. 4,
2003

• Nation Salutes Those Lost in Sept. 11 Attacks

The Washington Post, Dec.
12, 2001

• Clinton Admits to Lewinsky Relationship, Challenges Starr to End Personal 'Prying'

The Washington Post Aug. 18, 1998

• Space/An American Hero: Back to the Future after waiting 36 years, John Glenn at last prepares to return to space

Time Magazine Aug. 17, 1998

• 'Jane' Roe' Plaintiff Now Says Abortion Wrong

The Los Angeles Times, Aug. 11, 1995

• Reagan Wounded by Assailants Bullet; Prognosis is 'Excellent'; 3 others Shot

The Washington Post, March 31, 1981

• Nixon Resigns

The Washington Post, Aug. 9, 1974

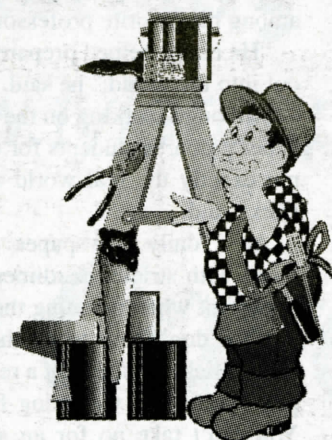


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Time capsule brings past 'back to the future'

by Shalina Ramirez
Managing editor

Dr. Gayle Varnell said the idea of creating a time capsule came to her one day while thinking about the new David G. and Jacqueline M. Braithwaite Building.

The building, scheduled to open this month, is the new home of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

"When thinking of a new building, people often think of time capsules," the associate nursing professor and assistant dean for advance practice said.

Wanting to commemorate the event, she pitched her idea to co-workers and the rest is history. At least it will be in 25 years when the capsule is reopened.

"We're so excited and proud of the building," Belinda Deal, nursing lecturer, said. "This was a fun and creative thing to do."

Deal said the nursing department, along with the Professional Development Committee of Faculty Organization, spent two to three weeks gathering materials for the preservation project.

"We began to collect things that we felt might be of interest to the people who would be opening it in years to come," according to a letter contained in the capsule. "It is our desire to include an array of materials that would give a snapshot of

us at this point in time."

The capsule, stored in a front panel of the Braithwaite Building, contains brochures, graduation commencement programs, a University nursing patch, a May 2003 issue of *The Patriot* and other items that reflect the history of the college, Deal said.

"We included a catalog and a school paper to give a glimpse of the University of Texas at Tyler," he letters stated.

Other pieces of memorabilia stored in the capsule included documents relating to the University's three nursing organizations, Nurses Student association, Nurses Christian Fellowship and sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society.

"We put in a variety of other things that will let you see more about us, including some business cards, some giveaways used in recruiting, a frog contributed by Dr. Varnell (alias Dr. Frog) and a program and tote bag we had done to distribute during our 25th Jubilee Celebration [in 2000]," according to the letter.

Varnell said "Dr. Frog" stems from a childhood obsession with collecting frogs, thus earning her the nickname.

"I've collected frogs every since I was a small child," she said.

Deal said she'll be in her '70s when



— Courtesy Photo

SEALED TIGHT: College of Nursing and Health Sciences faculty and staff show a time capsule before it was stored in a wall of the new nursing building - the David G. and Jacqueline M. Braithwaite Building scheduled to open in the fall.

the time capsule is reopened, 25 years from now.

"I don't know where I'll be, but [the capsule] does make you think about that," she said.

Varnell said she'll be retired.

"They'll have to wheel us out there," she laughed.

Both women said they wonder what the nursing program will be like two decades from now, but they said they hope one thing will remain the same.

"I just hope that with all the high technology that the nursing program never forgets the emphasis in caring," Varnell said.

20 years and counting ...

Employees who are still part of the University community after two decades



**Kenneth
Casstevens**



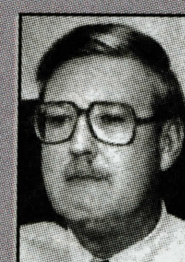
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