

Tower rust troubling

Thank you, Lynn Freehill, for bringing the condition of the University Tower to the attention of both alumni and the taxpayers of Texas ("A Blight on the Icon" Jan./Feb. 2009). It is disgusting and reprehensible that University officials have permitted this building to deteriorate over the years. But who cares — don't we have the biggest and grandest scoreboard in our newly expanded and luxurious stadium?

How about The Ex-Students' Association starting a Tower restoration fund? This topic should appear on the agenda of the next meeting of the Board of Directors. I will be glad to contribute. I imagine others might want to do the same.

*Mickey M. Sparkman, BS '56, MLS '68
Life Member, Nashville*

Kudos to True Style Points

I am very proud of our coaches. Mack Brown encourages sportsmanship from his players and exhibits its importance himself. He doesn't leave his first-string players in to get injured after he has a comfortable lead. He doesn't beat up on other teams to get style points. He knows he will be playing them another day and hopes they will respect his team as he did theirs. Mack has more style than Bob Stoops ever had. Why didn't the BCS consider the *character* of the team and its coaches?

*Margaret Kiefer, BA '69
Minnetonka, Minn.*

The Eyes of Texas Are Upon the Future

(Philanthropy at Texas, Jan./Feb. 2009)

As I read the wonderful article on the \$3 billion campaign in the latest edition, I noticed that there was no mention of Dr. Richard Cherwitz's "Intellectual Entrepreneurship" (IE) program. IE is one of the most innovative efforts in higher education, has international recognition, and truly demonstrates that "what starts here changes the world." IE can transform education and help fulfill the recommendation of the Commission of 125.

In my own teaching at South Carolina, I rely on IE to empower students, and the results are remarkable. By infusing the IE ethos into every topic, students integrate

the music classroom into their liberal arts studies, their performances, and their future professional careers. This is a transformative effort at UT that should have been mentioned; the University targeted IE as a \$50 million item in the campaign to ensure IE's continued impact on the University, students, and the nation.

*Gary Beckman, PhD '07
Columbia, S.C.*

[Editor's Note: To learn more about UT's Intellectual Entrepreneurship program, see "Housing Projects to Research Projects" in the Nov./Dec. 2008 issue.]

Vincent DiNino's Longhorn Band
(Old School, Nov./Dec. 2008)

A little-known part of Longhorn Band lore is that in December 1950, not enough Longhorn Band members had volunteered

to come back to campus during Christmas vacation for the Cotton Bowl. A member of the band went to Austin High School to recruit male members of that band to play. We high school boys stood in line in the old barracks the Longhorn Band then called home, waiting to be fitted out with the uniform, including the cowboy hat — an interesting first for us.

At the time, no self-respecting band member would go to a game without his cowbell, and few other males on campus would be caught dead at a game without one. So we all went out and bought cowbells before boarding the bus to Dallas. Tennessee won 20-14, in spite of the racket. Many of us came to UT and joined the band that fall. As far as I know, the band never had to go recruiting across town again.

*Ray Smith, BA '56, MA '57, PhD '67
Life Member, Forestville, Md.*