

THE

BLAST

VOL.

40

ISSUE 1

SPRING

2005

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS LONGHORN ALUMNI BAND NEWSLETTER

From the President

Alumni,

I hope that this special Rose Bowl Edition of *The Blast* finds each of you well and enjoying the spring! I am excited to let you know that we have confirmed the 2005 Band Day date.

Please mark your calendars for September 17, 2005. Once again, we will be performing at the UT vs Rice game. We have two very special milestones to celebrate this year! I truly hope that everyone will be in attendance September 17th as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the arrival of both Mr. DiNino and Big Bertha to The University.

The officers and I thought that everyone would enjoy reading about the experiences of the first-ever Rose Bowl game for The University. To that end, I asked LHAB members Kent Kostka and Coral Noonan, as well as current LHB member, Amanda McFarland, to share their Rose Bowl experiences with us. I

hope that you enjoy reading their recollections of a truly memorable game.

Enclosed, you will find a letter from LHB Director Emeritus, Paula Crider. I hope that many of you will respond to her request for letters for Carolyn Williams' retirement scrapbook.

Next, I want to call your attention to Dr. Carnochan's letter regarding the JD Davis Memorial Scholarship Fund. Many of you have asked how LHAB members can make a contribution in JD's honor, and I think this is a most fitting way to do just that.

Lastly, LHAB will once again be performing at the conclusion of Band-O-Rama on Saturday, April 30 at the Erwin Center. Please look for details inside *The Blast* and make plans to join us!

Hook 'em!

Karissa Horton
President
The University of Texas
Longhorn Alumni Band

Austin Area Rep Report

Spring 2005

Since the last report, the Austin-area LHAB members have supported the following activities:

September 3, 2004: UT Club. Again this year, we are supporting the UT Club's "pep rally" on the Friday before home games. LHAB members get to eat appetizers (cheese, crackers, and steamed shrimp) and (if they wish) adult beverages before we perform with the UT Cheerleaders (or reasonable facsimiles thereof) for about 15 minutes. We do not get a donation for this, but it is fun for the members and good exposure for LHAB. Thanks to Moton Crockett for conducting.

September 4, 2004: Statue unveiling at the UT Alumni Center. We were invited to perform for the unveiling of a new statue, "The Graduate," at the Alumni Center. The statue was commissioned by Jerry and Sylvia Wilkenfeld & family. The sculptor is Sharon Connally Ammann. We played "Grandioso" to alert the attendees of the pending ceremony, then, as the statue was unveiled, we did "The Eyes" and finished up with "Taps." The Alumni Center folks were very pleased with our performance, and provided a \$150.00 donation. Thanks to all who turned out so early to play and thanks to Moton Crockett for conducting.

September 24, 2004: UT Club: This was the night of our pre-Band Day rehearsal, but we managed to get some volunteers

BAND-O-RAMA

APRIL 30TH 7:00 PM

FRANK ERWIN CENTER

LHAB rehearsal 2:45 PM at the Erwin Center

BBQ 4:00 PM at Band Hall

Concert Begins at 7:00 PM

Please email utband1@aol.com if you will be participating

THE BLAST

(Austin Area Rep Report Cont.)

from the assembled masses to go to the UT Club, which provided a good turnout for the pep rally. After the rehearsal, all LHAB members were invited to accompany the LHB on their new "March Around" event. Thanks to Moton Crockett for conducting.

October 1, 2004: UT Club. Pep Rally before the Baylor game. Thanks to Moton Crockett for conducting.

October 2, 2004: Cowboy Pavilion Dedication at the UT Alumni Center. Those of you who have been paying attention will remember that we played at the groundbreaking of the new Cowboy Pavilion on April 2, 2004. This was the actual dedication of the Pavilion, with LHB Alumnus and current Cowboys Alumni President Tommy Cowan leading the festivities, which included speeches by former Governor Dolph Briscoe and UT President Larry Faulkner. We did "Grandioso," "March of the Longhorns," "The Eyes" (during the ribbon-cutting) and "Taps." The Cowbys were very pleased. Once again, thanks to Moton Crockett for conducting.

October 6, 2004: OU Torchlight Parade and Pep Rally. We were invited to join the football team, the LHB and several thousand of the football team's closest friends for this year's Torchlight Parade and Pep Rally preceding the OU (who still suck!) Game. We met at Kinsolving dorm, marched down the Drag, and ended up on the South Mall of the Main Building. We had a pretty good showing, although not quite as many as last year, and the rain held off! Thanks to all who attended.

October 13, 2004: UT Club. Pep Rally before the Missouri game. Thanks to Moton Crockett for conducting.

October 30, 2004: Parents Day Bar-B-Que and Pep Rally at Gregory Gym. Parents Day this year took place on a day when the Horns played an away game (Colorado at Boulder). We were invited to play a brief Pep Rally during the noontime BBQ. We and the cheerleaders who didn't go to the game

came out and played Taps, Grandioso, The Eyes, and Taps again.

George Moxley adds the following:

"For those who missed it you missed a great performance by our One Man Percussion Section as Budge Mabry was there playing BOTH SNARE and BASS DRUM at the SAME TIME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Great job Budge!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Great job everyone!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Small group but lots of sound!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

We were fed some very good BBQ before the Pep Rally and received a Parents Day T-shirt as well. Thanks to all those who came out for this event, and to Kathi Thomas for conducting!

November 20, 2004: Alumni Flag Football Game at the Burger Center. A group played for the 1st Annual Longhorn/a&m flag football game. On Saturday, November 20th we played for what is hopefully to be an annual event benefitting Blue Santa.

A number of former Texas Longhorn and Texas Aggie football players played a flag football game at Burger Center.

The weather was ominous but held off until we got finished. UT won the flag football game and as predicted by the announcer, the winner of the flag football game always wins the following Friday. Which we did also.

Thanks to all who came out and braved the threatening weather to help out Blue Santa. Thanks to Moton Crockett for conducting.

December 13, 2004: Tower Band. This was the 21st year of Tower Band, and we had a good turnout for this one. We went up to the observation deck of the Tower and played Christmas carols from each corner, finishing off with The Eyes. Some of us adjourned to Scholz's for supper and a good time was had by all. Thanks to Our Fearless Leader, Moton Crockett, for providing the music, conducting, and hosting at Scholz's.

January 22, 2005: LHB Welcome Home. The LHB was invited to participate in the Inaugural Parade for President Bush on January 20, 2005. Sadly, one of the LHB members (Judson (J.D.) Davis) passed

away suddenly on the trip. Led by Madame Prez (Karissa Horton), the Officers decided that LHAB members should be at the Band Hall to welcome the LHB home, help unload the buses, and provide refreshments and support to the band members after this difficult time. We got to the band hall at 1:30 a.m. (yes, a.m.!) and set out fruit, juice, water, doughnuts, breakfast tacos and coffee. The first three buses arrived about 2:45 a.m., with the other six buses following at half-hour intervals, three at a time. Although the band members were very tired after the trip, they summoned up enough energy to attack the refreshments, leaving us with not very much left over to get rid of. The Directors were very pleased and appreciative that we turned out for the occasion, and felt that the whole event was well worthwhile. After 4:30 a.m., we finished cleaning up the band hall and went back home for a nap. Thanks to all who got up early (or never went to bed) and came out to support the event.

March 1, 2005: Bastrop Texas Exes. We were invited by the Bastrop Texas Exes to play at their meeting in Bastrop celebrating Texas Independence Day. The event was held at Baxter's restaurant on Main Street, a restaurant known for its good food. We had a small turnout, but were able to please the Exes gathered for the occasion. And it is reported that the food was excellent! Thanks to all those who were able to make it on a Tuesday evening, and to Moton Crockett for conducting. Sadly, your Friendly, Neighborhood Austin Area Rep is in the doghouse for not coming, due to his inexplicably choosing to attend his regularly scheduled band rehearsal instead of driving to Bastrop for this event... :-)

March 5, 2005: Celebrate Texas. The fifth annual Texas Independence Day parade sponsored by Celebrate Texas was held on March 5, 2005. We have been invited to participate in several of these parades before, but they were always on a weekday around lunchtime, so we could not get enough members to commit to the parade. This



year, the parade was on Saturday, so we could get enough folks together. The Pedernales Electric Cooperative provided a float for us to ride on. At 11:00 a.m., Smokey the cannon was fired by the Texas Cowboys, immediately in front of us, and the parade began. After our hearing returned, we launched into Grandioso, March of the Longhorns, and Texas Fight. Channel 8 (the local Time Warner News station) telecast the parade to all of their markets in Texas. There was a reviewing stand at 7th street, where we appeared on TV to the whole state while playing Grandioso. After we reached 11th Street, and the end of the parade, we were returned to our parking lot and Moton Crockett invited us all to his office for a coke. Thanks to all who took time out of their Saturday to come participate in the parade, and to Moton Crockett for conducting and refreshments.

Upcoming Events:

April 6: PriceWaterhouseCooper wants us to play for their recruitment dinner at the downtown Hilton. Three songs (Eyes, Taps, and a draft choice to be named later) and they will give us a \$400.00 donation.

April 30: Band-O-Rama. This year, we have been invited back to perform with the LHB at the finale of their Band-O-Rama concert at the Erwin Center. As before, there will be a rehearsal with the LHB, BBQ in the Band Hall, and the concert starts at 7:00 p.m.

May 7: Maifest Parade in Brenham. We have not been notified officially of the date, but the parade through Brenham is always on the Saturday before Mother's Day. We get to ride on a float around the parade route (twice!), playing the traditionals for all the Texas fans and Aggies alike. The Aggies ALWAYS enjoy seeing us come by, playing their favorite music.... Afterwards, we adjourn to the local park for Barbecue, Beer, and Blue Bell Ice Cream.

As always, "Thank You!" to everyone who participated and supported us for these events. A big "Thank You!!!" to Moton Crockett (Our Fearless Leader) and Kathi Thomas (Fearless Alternate Leader) for directing us at these activities. I'd like to encourage anyone who can to come and play these events if at all possible. Most of our activities result in donations to the Scholarship Fund, so it is important to have a strong showing whenever we can.

Please note: if you are not receiving our emails about these events (and you would like to receive them), send an e-mail message to George Moxley (utband1@aol.com) or me (dkjones@austin.rr.com) with your current/preferred e-mail address and we will modify our list or add you to it.

Hook 'em!

David Jones
Austin Area Representative

Dear Fellow LHAB Members:

Carolyn Williams will retire this summer after 15 years of dedicated service to the Longhorn Band.

Not only has this great lady been a superb organizer and administrator for the band, she has also served as counselor, confessor, nurse, and substitute parent to generations of LHB members!

We would like to present a scrapbook containing letters and emails from all those whom she has touched over the years. Needless to say, I plan to write a long letter of thanks.

If those of you who have known Carolyn would send a brief note, I know she will treasure this most special gift. (She would also love photos of spouses, children, your new Lamborghini, etc.)

Thank you in advance for assisting with this most worthwhile project.

Love & Hook Em!

Paula A. Crider, Director Emeritus



The University of Texas Longhorn Band

Please address letters to:
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PO Box 1204
Austin, TX 78767
or send email to:
karissa@mail.utexas.edu

THE BLAST

Dear LHAB,

WOW, what a year we've had! To be honest what a month we had – the month of January that is! Going from the highest of highs of our first appearance in the Tournament of Roses Parade, to Dusty Magnum's kick clearing the uprights as the last seconds ticked off the game clock against Michigan in the Rose Bowl, to the lowest of lows that we experienced with the passing of JD Davis while on our trip to Washington D.C. three weeks later, it's almost more than any band or person within it can handle. But, you know what . . . we handled it! And that is what the Longhorn Band is all about . . . LIFE and everything that comes with it!

I cannot begin to tell you how proud I am of every single member of our organization and every member of our staff for enduring all that they have endured this year. There is not a group of people anywhere that I would have rather been with in every circumstance that we traversed than the one I was with – they amazed me! Our students and staff prepared and performed with great professionalism, passion and heart just as they mourned and cared for one another with the same professionalism, passion and heart. My sincere and unending gratitude goes out to Dr. Scott Hanna, Mr. Jay Watkins and all of our outstanding Teaching Assistants, Mike Hengst, Albert Nguyen, Ben Finely and Delia Tovar for dealing so well with such great tragedy.

I'm sure all of you can think back upon your days in LHB and remember the one or two people who simply loved the Longhorn Band more than anything else . . . loved UT and all it stands for more than anything else. For most of us, that person this season was Judson D. Davis. JD, as his friends knew him, was a member of the Bertha Crew. He actually auditioned to be in the trombone section, but unfortunately didn't make the cut. But, you wanna know why? JD had never played the trombone until one year prior to his audition. As a matter of fact, he had never been in a marching band before in his life. But that's JD; he didn't want that little detail

to get in the way of his dream to become a member of our family. He had seen the Longhorn Band many, many times throughout his childhood and when his life brought him to UT Austin 2 years ago, he was bound and determined to join LHB.

Upon his arrival on campus, he stopped by my office to introduce himself. He then began taking lessons and joined the basketball band and summer concert band. He kept coming by my office every so often just to say hi and let me know he was still working on his playing. He always had the biggest smile . . . always!

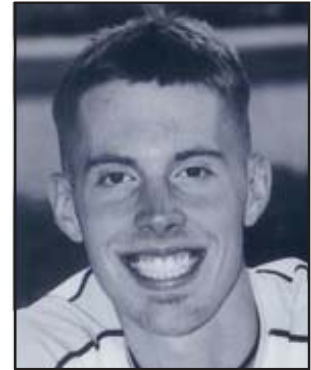
I remember the day he finally came in for his preliminary audition for LHB. To be perfectly honest and with no intended disrespect, it was awful, just awful. But, I couldn't tell him "no, your not good enough", so against my better musical judgment, I wrote "Accept" across the bottom of his application . . . a decision I will never forget and one that I am thankful for to this day. So, JD came to Band ("Hell") Week and went through the second round of the audition process, but, due to his lack of experience, came up short. Adding him to the section would mean cutting other deserving candidates with years of experience; making him an alternate would relegate him to a season of sitting on the sidelines, but no one on our staff wanted to lose JD's dedication, spirit, energy and excitement, hence, the unanimous decision was made to put him in the front of the band where he belonged, the first guy breaking the mouth of the tunnel in DKR at every game this season was JD Davis waiving his Hook 'em in the air with every once of spirit at his disposal.

I'm thankful for my decision to write "Accept" on his preliminary audition form, not only because it enabled JD to live one of his dreams, but because that decision gave every member of the Longhorn Band family a chance to know JD . . . he was that special.

The Longhorn Band is a lot of things to a lot of people . . . entertainment, spirit, pride, and excellence just to name a few . . . to me it's a microcosm of "LIFE", the "real world". While we do provide

entertainment, spirit, a sense of pride and excellence, as you all know and have experienced, our members have the opportunity to live and feel "LIFE and everything that comes with it". Thank you for your continued support and more than ever . . . Hook 'Em!

Robert Carnochan
Director, Longhorn Band



Judson Davis Memorial Scholarship Fund

As most of you have heard, the Longhorn Band suffered a great loss this season with the passing of one of our current members, Judson D. Davis. JD, as he was known by all of us, was a member of our Bertha Crew and passed away while we were in Washington D.C. for the 2005 Presidential Inaugural Parade. JD's energy and enthusiasm demonstrated the epitome of Longhorn Band pride and to honor his generous spirit and dedication, we are in the process of raising \$25,000 to initiate a Presidential Endowed Scholarship in his name. An annual award will be given to a member, or members, of the Longhorn Band who display the same kind of enthusiasm and dedication to our organization that JD embodied.

We would greatly appreciate any and all support for this project. Checks can be mailed to The University of Texas Longhorn Band, JD Davis Memorial Scholarship Fund, 1 University Station E3102, Austin, Texas 78712.

If you have further questions, please call the band office at (512) 471-4093 or email lhinfo@mail.music.utexas.edu.

Thank you in advance,
Robert Carnochan
Director, Longhorn Band

GOING TO PASADENA WITH LHB

Over the holidays, I was fortunate to be able to accompany LHB on their trip to Pasadena for the Rose Bowl. Karissa asked me to write down some of my experiences with the band. It was a really enjoyable trip, not only as a Texas fan, but also as a supporter of LHB. We all know that LHB is one of the finest college marching bands in the country, but rarely do they get to share the stage with another “premier” band. I was excited about seeing the Michigan band in person for the first time, but even more excited about the prospect of getting to watch the Texas kids show their stuff on a national stage.

The trip was a long one — we left very late on the 28th and came back very early on the 3rd — but certainly never dull or without scheduled activity. After traveling all night and arriving about 8:00am, we checked in to the hotel, and then the kids went straight off to rehearsal. The weather was terrible on every day except the 1st, but they worked hard right through it, and on the first full day rehearsing in cold and hail (!) Scott Hanna worked a motivational miracle, keeping the kids focused despite truly awful weather. I was really impressed at his dedication and ability to keep the students working hard.

One thing that struck me overall was how well-behaved the students are. Not so with LHB — these kids are much better than we were, and I was impressed. I remember LHB trips involving phone book wars, furniture tossed from balconies, unofficial 2:00am pep rallies, people being thrown in jail for punching cops, and students passed out in hotel stairwells. I’m sure the LHB kids had their share of beer and fun while we were in California, but there was nothing really bad, and I was impressed.

The band stayed at the Sheraton Universal City, which was a short walk from Universal Studios and their touristy movie-themed park, and the Michigan band was next door at the Hilton. I don’t know who planned the logistics for the trip, but it must have been a heck of a lot of work, and they did a great job. When not doing one of their many scheduled parades or rehearsals, the students were able to walk around the large mall and movie-themed center and eat, shop, etc.

On the second day, the LHB went to play at BandFest at Pasadena Community College, an annual showcase for honor bands and participants in the Rose Parade. The weather was bad, but LHB showed up in jeans and orange shirts amidst a sea of high school bands in heavy polyester uniforms, hats, plumes, gloves, and all the other trappings. The crowd was all on one side of the bleachers, and it was a packed house of students, band parents, directors, and music/marching band fans. Because of the weather, nobody was marching, but rather just lining up on the track and playing to the audience. It was a perfect setup for LHB. One honor band played before them, wowing the crowd with a nice brass fanfare and quiet precision marching down the track. The uniforms were pristine and crisp, and I think the fact that LHB came in after them looking so casual helped increase the shock of the crowd. LHB lit up the quiet Pasadena air with several pieces at point-blank range, and it was stunning. Several of the LHB kids said afterwards that it was one of the most fun performances they’d ever done.

The next day was even more enjoyable. Yesterday the LHB and the

Michigan band were both scheduled to have rehearsals at La Canada High School, a nice field in a really pretty area northwest of Pasadena. The Michigan band was rehearsing first, with Texas arriving for the last hour of their rehearsal. The Michigan Marching Band Director, Jamie Nix, was an assistant director at UT a few years ago and knew the current staff well, so they made arrangements for each band to get a chance to see the other band’s show. I was looking forward to it. The Rose Bowl, being very traditional, wanted both bands to do a full pregame AND full halftime. Compared to the lousy deal you get at the Orange Bowl (short pregame, no halftime), this was paradise for marching band fans.

We got there and saw from the start that the Michigan band takes itself very seriously — maybe too seriously — but they are so damn good I’m reluctant to say anything that could be construed as a criticism. They have someone who travels with them with a large fold-out display and sales cart complete with CDs, DVDs, shirts, sweatshirts, and all sorts of memorabilia and band souvenirs. They had a contingent of something close to 50 parents and fans, all wearing “Michigan Band” shirts or sweatshirts, or gear of some sort. Their video operation consists of 2 or 3 cameras in the pressbox, 2 or 3 on the sideline, with feeds into network mics if available, and then a camera they mooch onto the blimp when possible. They have a custom painted 6-wheel golf cart that travels in their large 18-wheel moving van. Every single brass instrument, including trombones, tubas, mellos, and euphoniums, is made of beautiful polished silver. When they rehearse, they do so with an intensity unlike anything I’d seen. They wear gloves in rehearsal along with matching khaki shorts and shirts, and they look so very, very serious all the time. These guys are really, really good.

LHB came in to the stadium area and sat down in front of Michigan and watched the last hour or so of the rehearsal. It was enjoyable, but it was also obvious that Michigan was putting on a show for us. And it was a damn good one. I think they were a little too intense for most of the LHB folks, and they was a bit of an air of surprise at how serious and hard-core the Michigan kids were. They finished rehearsing some detailed things, and then did a complete run-through of their pregame and halftime. It was truly outstanding.

I’d always wanted to see them in person, and I wasn’t disappointed. They did their traditional pregame, complete with a rendition of the opposing team’s fight song. They did “Texas Fight” fairly well, too. Then they did their halftime show, which was a couple of good classic rock songs and a Latin piece finale that really blew the walls down. It was loud, precise, and intense. When they marched of the field with their chins up, it was an awful lot like high school kids at contest - DAMN GOOD kids at contest, that’s for sure, but there was an atmosphere of intensity and competition that you don’t see often. I can only think of one or two times that I had seen a band precede LHB on the field that made me worry about them being able to follow that act, and this was one of them. I think the LHB kids knew this all the way.

Then the LHB took the field to rehearse and the Michigan kids went up into the stands. I had been sitting with the LHB kids, and I think that when Michigan was playing, they were definitely impressed, and maybe a little intimidated, which is probably what Michigan wanted.

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LHB did a little stretching, a brief warm up, and then came out and did their traditional pregame. They were the exact opposite of Michigan, laid-back and relaxed, but with a lot of confidence. They played well and very loudly, and made a good impression. Then they cut to the last half of the halftime show and the finale, El Toro Caliente, which they played full bore, point-blank into the stands for the Michigan kids. I do not know if they usually sound this good, but whatever motivational effect Michigan had on them, it was substantial. It was so loud, so intense, and so impressive that when they got done, the group of guys in the Michigan drum line sitting next to me kept muttering “holy crap” and similar comments. It was a performance in front of an audience of maybe 500, and in one of the smallest venues LHB has seen, but it was unquestionably an A+ show if I’ve ever seen one. The Michigan kids I talked to said they’d never seen a band play so loudly, so well, or in any way better than them. They were really impressed, and while they are obviously a much more intense, serious, and tighter bunch in terms of group behavior and physical marching, the fact that LHB came out so relaxed and then blew the house down in their faces really made an impression on them. I am certain that Michigan left with a much higher respect for LHB than they had before, and it was really, really nice to see. I heard a group of Michigan trumpet players walking out of the stands before they left, and of them said, “they’re a hell of a lot better than Ohio State.”

The following day involved more rehearsals, a parade at Universal Studios, and free time in the park for the students that evening. They ran around the park all afternoon and seemed to have a nice time. I remember band trips that involved little or no free time for sight-seeing and fun, but despite all their rehearsals, parades, and the like, the LHB kids did get some nice free time. I hate to admit it, but at 38 I’m not up for late-night antics, and I crashed early. Lame.

New Year’s Day was a full plate. We got up at 4:00, and loaded buses at 5:30 to go to the staging area for the parade. We got there and I discovered that I was going to have to do a lot of hiking with about 50 pounds of video and photographic equipment, so I took off for the grandstand. I’ve watched the Rose Parade on TV before, and it always bored me to death. In person, though, it was a totally different experience, particularly from the grandstand and camera deck. The floats were great and then bands were fun, and I thought LHB did a nice job. The TV coverage they received was not particularly flattering, as it caught them realigning to go around a big turn, but they looked and sounded very nice. The crowd really loved them, and on the way out I got many compliments. I then took a 2-mile hike from the grandstand to the stadium by myself. I couldn’t catch up to the band with my 50-pound load, and besides, they were going to march another 5 miles, so I took off alone through the old residential area between the parade and the Rose Bowl. I thought it would be a grueling walk, but Pasadena was absolutely gorgeous and the hike to the stadium was downhill. I’ve been told by LHAB friends in L.A. that the rainy weather made the air unusually clean and clear, so I guess it’s not like that all the time, but it really was a gorgeous day — perfect for football.

The game itself was spectacular. The crowd was definitely more Texas than Michigan, but there were a good number of “neutral” fans, those tickets that had been given to Pac-10 schools or corporate sponsors.

The Texas section was solid orange, and there were 2 other large sections in other parts of the stadium that were obviously the places where the Rose Bowl had come up with extra seats for the high UT demand.

Big Bertha made the trip and was in the parade, but was too big for any of the stadium entrance tunnels and could not be there. Bevo was there, though, as was the APO flag. It was like a home game, or Texas-OU.

LHB did pregame first, and the crowd loved it. They did all traditional stuff, and formed almost every traditional “Texas” or “UT” formation ever seen. I think that because it was Texas’ first trip to the Rose Bowl, the directors wanted to showcase as many traditional images or themes as they could, and it was a good idea. The crowd on the press deck and in the pressbox was really impressed. Several of the radio and TV people in the press area said they’d never seen a band like this.

Halftime was even better. Even though Michigan was the home team, LHB got to perform second, which was good. The Michigan show had gone well, and they’d done their “blow the walls down” finale and gotten a great reaction from the crowd. LHB began with Grandioso and about 4 minutes of traditional stuff. Of all the formations LHB did that day, interestingly, the wall-to-wall band was the biggest hit with the non-Texas people. They had simply never seen a band go sideline to sideline, endzone to endzone, packed that tightly. Then LHB did the “El Toro Caliente” finale, and it was great. They were unquestionably louder and better-sounding than Michigan and the piece was a better selection than Michigan’s closer. The TV coverage only showed the traditional pieces, which was OK, I guess, but this tune really sounded good. Even the sullen Cal guy on the photo desk finally broke down and told me how impressed he was.

After halftime I went down to the field, which was surprisingly uncrowded. I put down my equipment and watched the game from the press area, which is really fun. I did hear one thing that I’m sure any LHABers at the game wondered about. At one point the Michigan band lit up with a drum cadence that sounded just like the beginning of “Calypso.” Then their tubas came in, and it sounded like that’s what they were going to play. Instead, it was a Michigan version of the same song. I was initially shocked, thinking that because their director had been at UT a few years before, he’d stolen it from LHB. How dare they?!

Then I remembered where “Calypso” came from: It was originally “Centennial I,” the first of four pieces Glenn Richter wrote for the 1983 UT centennial celebration. And where had Glenn come from just 3 years earlier? Yup. Ann Arbor. I don’t know if he stole it from them, or more likely, he wrote both of them, but it was funny. A little while later LHB played “our” version, and there was a nice competition going.

One thing that I liked was the friendly, professional way the LHB and Michigan band kids treated each other. I think they all knew that the other group was worth their respect. You don’t see that at the Cotton Bowl in October....or at Kyle Field.

The spectacle was great and I wasn’t really paying attention to the game much until it was the fourth quarter and Texas was coming from behind.

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LHB played loyally throughout the comeback, and when I realized that Texas was driving for the game-winning field goal with 3 minutes to go, I started moving towards the endzone so that I could get a good view. I got there and watched in horror as the clock ticked down. I positioned myself in the middle of the goal, right behind the post, with the other media people, most of whom were at that point simply watching what had become a real classic. When he finally kicked it, I was right behind the end line, and if it had gone down the middle, I would have caught it. It's a really good thing that didn't happen, because I probably would have fallen down or otherwise made a complete jackass of myself on national TV. I can just envision getting home 2 days later to find voice mail overloaded with "Hey, doofus, I saw you fall on your head on ABC" messages from people I haven't heard from in years.

After the celebrations died down, I worked my way back to LHB, which was on the field getting ready to leave. They lined up and then suddenly broke formation and walked off quickly in another direction. Because I'm so slow carrying my load of equipment, I almost took off for the buses early, just to get a head start. I was very tired and out of it.

Then I heard someone shouting my name, and I realized that the entire band was set up on the field in a big arc around the Rose logo, waiting for a photographer to shoot their picture. I stared for a few seconds . . . and realized that was me. Duh. I ran to the ladder, tried to look like I knew what I was doing, and got several photos (which came out well, fortunately).

The kids were really, really happy, and it was nice to see them rewarded for all their hard work. The next day was spent at Disneyland, which was another fun day for the LHB, followed by an all-night flight and arrival at home about 5:00am. It was a long, hard trip, and I hadn't done a fraction of the work the students had, but I was completely crapped out.

I've been shooting the video for LHB for 6 years, and I've seen the LHB look average, good, terrific, and on rare occasions, mediocre. This trip was one of their best moments I've seen. They were definitely not as "tight" and intense as the Michigan band, but they were good, and the fact that they played so well while looking relaxed made it all the more impressive. The crowd was awed, the Michigan folks impressed, and the Rose Bowl people really loved it. I heard compliments at every turn.

One recurring theme seemed to be how pleased people were that the LHB was not acting like the USC band, which from what I can tell is comprised of spoiled 12-year-old boys who drink, defecate on, and break everything in sight whenever they have a trip. It was a really

cool experience and I'm grateful that I was able to go. Before we left I wrote a check to the DiNino fund for what I would have spent to go to the game, and I'll try to do the same sometime later this year. I think it's important that we all support LHB with our pocketbooks as well as our voices.

One thing that I want to pass on is that it is obvious to me that one reason the Longhorn Band and the Michigan Band are so good is the high level of support they get from their administration and alumni. The Michigan folks have a pretty good alumni band that works hard to support the band, but it's a lot smaller than we are. Surprisingly, though, they have much more money, and it shows. Their uniforms, instruments, equipment, and everything else are new and first-class in every way.

They have everything they could ever need. Don't misunderstand - LHB has great resources and equipment, but Michigan clearly had more. I think LHB's talent level is significantly higher, but I can only imagine what kind of band Texas could put on the field with its existing talent and Michigan's resources. If nothing else, I think my trip to Pasadena gives me more motivation to work to secure a good financial future of LHB, and there's nothing that will preserve the tremendous talent level at Texas than scholarships and support from friends of the band. They need our help, and that's why we're here.

Next year Texas plays the OTHER major football school UT has never before faced, another large university with a marching band as well-known as any, a band famous for excellence. I don't know if they're going to send the LHB, but I hope they find a way to do it. I know the cost of the trip would be tremendous, and UT will have to find several hundred seats out of a small allotment that will already be in short supply, but I can't imagine seeing Texas play Ohio State without LHB taking the field. Dot the "i?" Hell, I'd rather see LHB cross the "T." Maybe this is something we can help make happen.....

I took some really great shots of LHB at pregame and halftime from the photo deck on top of the pressbox, and they're posted on the LHAB webpage in the photo gallery section.

-Kent Kostka



THE BLAST

The Rose Bowl trip was a great experience, but it definitely had its low points. We had a total of 24 hours of rehearsal scheduled, luckily we only practice for probably 16 of that. Only four or five hours of the rehearsals were not in the rain. It felt like the California was trying to drive us out by making us march in rain (and hail at one point). At one point, we had to retreat to the restrooms at La Canada High School and huddle around the blower/hand dryer for warmth. At least 5 people on my bus got sick.

The Michigan band was wonderful. We got to practice with them one day (it was sunny while they practiced). They were very attentive and watched us rehearse; applauded and complimented us. However, the Michigan trombones had section shirts that said "We'd rather be playing Cal."

Bandfest (the official Rose Bowl Band Festival) was one of my favorite moments. We weren't in full uniform so we didn't know fully what to expect.

When we marched in, a few people gave us polite applause. When we started playing, the entire audience covered their ears because our sound was overpowering; especially compared to the other groups that performed. Then we played Deep in the Heart of Texas, and the audience tried to clap along. We left that performance to a standing ovation.

The Universal parade was wonderful, and that night was fun. We were told to go to bed early New Year's Eve because of the early parade and the long day ahead of us. I had no trouble going to bed early. I was very tired and by this point, all my friends were exhausted. A few people partied but most people were so tired they went to bed at a reasonable time. The wake up call times for Saturday were very early.

The parade was incredible and not as draining as they made it out to be. There were so many Texas fans (if you were there, thanks!) The game itself was indescribable. Amazing. Afterwards we had the night off, but all of my friends and several of my roommates decided to go to sleep. There were definitely those who chose to celebrate.

We had a parade and concert at Disneyland the next day. They made us go a long time without food, and the band was very cranky because of fatigue. We had free reign in the park for the rest of the day. It was cold and rainy for most of the day in the park.

Throughout the trip we were compared favorably to USC's band. Literally

everywhere we went those in charge complemented us, thanking us for not drinking during the parade (which was apparently a problem with USC band and other bands in the past). Our "handler" and official Rose Bowl escort was very complementary.

All in all, it was a wonderful but very exhausting trip and all of us are eager to be in the Rose Bowl next year.

Hook'em!

Amanda McFarland
Current Longhorn Band Member

Jim Terry (my fiancé) and I arrived in Los Angeles on December 30th. I was really excited about visiting my home state. We attended the Rose Bowl Football Luncheon the next day. Jimmy Flannigan (Texas TUBA! 1996-2001) and his dad were also at our table. A small Longhorn pep band marched into the luncheon with the cheerleaders, played a couple of songs, and marched out. The Longhorn Band, as always, sounded great and was very enthusiastic. My mom won an autographed football (with the signatures of Darrell K Royal, Mack Brown, Bo Schembechler, and Lloyd Carr on it) because she had a paper football taped to the bottom of her chair. Actually, the paper football was taped to the bottom of my dad's chair, but after realizing that he was going to win the football, he switched chairs with my mom. When she found the paper football, she ran up to the stage and asked Mack Brown for her autographed football. Mack stared at her (he didn't have the football—Vince Young did), and the announcer said that she was going to have to catch a football from Vince Young from about 20 yards away. She backed up and thankfully Derrick Johnson caught the pass and gave her the ball. I took her picture with Cedric Benson, Derrick Johnson, and Phillip Geiggar. She is very proud of her football and has showed it to everyone whom she has come in contact with. Watch out—she will probably find you at the 2005 Alumni Band game and show it to you, too. During the afternoon, we went to a local ranch to visit Bevo. He had just arrived from his 3-day trip. He looked exhausted and was pretty hungry and cranky. We brushed him and gave him some food. The pen was very muddy due to all of the rain. I don't think he laid down all night because he doesn't like to get dirty. We slept for only a few hours and woke up at 3:30 a.m. to make sure that we found a parking spot outside of the Rose Bowl. We arrived and were locked into our parking spot at 4:45 a.m. Jim tailgated while I watched a DVD in the car—it was way too cold for me to stand

outside in the dark for a couple of hours. At about 6:45 we left for our seats at the Rose Parade. Our tickets were located right by the curve on the parade route. Some of the high school bands made fancy formations to ensure that their lines would remain straight after the curve. The Longhorn Band looked awesome. I distinctly remember that one of the members of the Bertha Crew was especially spirited and had a great big smile on his face. Because the camera crews were located on the opposite side of the road from where we were sitting, most of the performers faced the cameras. But, one young man stood out for cheering to our section. We later found out that that member was Judson Davis. He did a terrific job of representing the Longhorn Band in the parade. After the parade, we walked back to the Rose Bowl and tailgated. The lines for food were very long as were the lines for the bathroom. We had 3 extra tickets, but could not sell them because so many people were selling tickets outside of the stadium. We entered the stadium early to watch pre-game. Jim and his friends were super excited because they sold beer inside the stadium. The Longhorn Band performed a traditional pre-game show (with some additional tunes). The Michigan Band also did an excellent job. We were sitting 4 rows behind the LHB so we were able to clap along to the cheers. We had already been to the Rose Bowl when Texas played UCLA so it brought back fond memories (although not too fond because the last time we were there we lost). We saw Sean (Sax 1994-1996) and Amy Cupitt (Cymbals 1994-1999) in the stands. Both bands did a great job at halftime. The LHB performed "Wall to Wall Band", with some additional country tunes. They also made Texas formations (a longhorn, spelled-out Texas, etc.). Unfortunately, Bevo was only in the stadium for about 1 quarter. They put him in a corner opposite of where we were sitting. I wish he would have been moved by the band and the cheerleaders. The band was instrumental in cheering the Horns on to victory, and many of the players thanked them by coming over to the band after the end of the game. We flew out the next day with a ton of USC fans. Jim told one USC alum that he hoped that they would score "half a hundred" on ou. And, fortunately for us, they did.

Hook 'em!

Dr. Coral M. Noonan
LHB Feature Twirler 1993-2001