Naming That Tune Not a Problem for Elliot

The Name That Tune contest brought cash and prizes and a glitzy game show host to the campus Wednesday morning.

The Blizzard for Bucks previously planned for Friday had to be canceled due to inclement weather, but music lovers didn’t seem to mind the change. After enjoying a free lunch and donning cleverly-devised balloon hats, the students had an opportunity to win cash in a game-show time forum.

Three rounds were held, then the finalist for each round competed for $100, $30 and $20 respectively. Some rounds involved a somewhat embarrassing physical activity. The crowd was entertained by Alicia Cohagen’s chicken dance and Chase Cook’s ball-in-the-basket maneuver. After a blistering round of songs from every genre, including movies and TV shows, the winner was Casey Elliot. Second place Danyelle Randall, and 3rd to Roy Herndon.

Angel Tree project brings toys for local tots

By Roy Herndon

The SGA is sponsoring the “Angel Tree” on Sayre campus.

The event is sponsored by the Beckham County DHS/Child welfare office for children in foster care. The trees are located at the Bulldog Café, in the library and in the financial office.

The main goal of the trees is to help the less fortunate during the holiday season and to give them a Merry Christmas.

Students or faculty will choose a card off the tree and purchase either a toy or a gift certificate for clothing. Presents need to be unwrapped and returned to the financial office. Gift sacks are preferred for the gifts.

Trees are located in the library and at the Bulldog Café. Help spread the joy!

Freshman Ashley Fite is shown picking a name from the Angel Tree. The SGA thanks all who participated.
Lipstick in School? Education majors, listen up!

By Matt Swint

We have many Education majors on campus who plan on spending their lives working with children. This isn’t always easy, and most agree that junior high is the most difficult grade to teach. The following story gives you education majors some food for thought, and it’s a pretty humorous story for the rest of us, as only true stories can be.

According to a recent news report, a certain private school in Washington was faced with a unique problem. A number of 12-year old girls were beginning to use lipstick and would apply it in the bathroom.

That was fine, but after they put on their lipstick, they would press their lips to the mirror, leaving dozens of little lip prints. Every night the maintenance man would remove them, and the next day the girls would put them back.

Finally, the principal decided that something had to be done. She called all the girls to the bathroom and met them there with the maintenance man.

She explained to the girls that all of these lip prints were causing a major problem for the maintenance man who had to clean the mirrors every night. (You can just imagine the yawns from all of the little princesses.)

To demonstrate how difficult it had been to clean the mirrors, the principal asked the maintenance man to show the girls how much effort was required. He took out a long handled squeegee, dipped it in a toilet, and cleaned the mirror with it. Since then there have been no lip prints on the mirror, and probably a lot less lip from the little gals.

There is a difference between a teacher and an educator! You Thanks to janitors, secretaries, and other support personnel who taught us as much as any one else!

The Focus Is You

By Matthew Swint

Meet 19-year-old Landon Whinery, a freshman here at SWOSU at Sayre. He is a graduate of Sayre High School and is currently a sophomore right here at SWOSU Sayre. Landon has spent most of his life in Sayre where his mother is a music teacher and his father is a lawyer. He also has a younger sister named Morgan, who is a sophomore at Sayre High School.

Landon’s interests include basketball, playing video games, and most importantly sleeping.

“I’m probably way cooler than Dillon Sotille is,” Landon said, in response to the friend and fellow classmate that The Watchdawg staff chose to highlight last edition. “I have many leather bound books and my room smells of rich mahogany.”

That may be true, but the staff wonders if he has read all (or any?) of them.

“People know me,” says Landon when asked what he wants people to know about him.

As you can tell, Landon is known for being very random and hilarious. Believe it or not, he also has a mature side and a big responsibility. Landon is currently the youth minister at Erick First Baptist Church, and just recently returned from Nigeria on a mission trip.

“It’s always awesome when over 20,000 people make overall decisions for Christ. You know you have an awesome God when he touches that many people,” says Landon.

If you haven’t met Landon, then try and take the time to do so. He’s a nice guy and a very entertaining friend to have.
Stop by the library to send a Veteran a Christmas Card

By Tisha Burns

This year, just the same as every year, Mrs. Haught has purchased Christmas Cards for the veterans of American and foreign wars.

Haven't we been blessed to the extent to where we can do a good deed and bless somebody this year for free?

All we have to do is go into the library, where the Christmas cards are located, and sign our names. Maybe you could scrawl a brief message of thanks.

The envelopes and cards are setting there on the front desk. You can take as many cards as you would like and fill out a message on the inside of the card, place the card in the envelope, and place it in the box setting right next to them.

Mrs. Haught will pick them up on the last day of finals. She will drive them to Clinton, deliver, and disperse them to the Veteran's Hospital there.

So bless our veterans who has given their lives for us by fighting for our country so that we are able to have the freedoms that we have today!

And a big thank you to Mrs. Haught for volunteering for this worthy project.

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Disney Offers Summer Internships

Disney Theme Parks and Resorts Professional Internships may offer you the experience of a lifetime, gaining insight into your chosen field of study within a respected, world-renowned fortune 500 company.

Professional Internships are available in many different lines of business at Walt Disney World Resort, Disneyland Resort and Walt Disney Imagineering. Each of these unique areas of our global company offers students the ability to apply classroom learning while networking with Disney professionals, gaining valuable experience and having fun!

Did you know Walt Disney Company was named No.1?

Recently a nationwide survey of more than 37,000 undergraduate students named Walt Disney Co. as the Number One ideal employer. In addition, Disney has also come in at the top of Business Week’s first-ever ranking “50 Best places to Launch a Career.”

Who says you can’t have a Mickey Mouse of a summer?

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What's Up at the Movies?

By Roy Herndon

Taj, the personal assistant to the legendary Van Wilder, has just graduated Coolidge College and is now on his way to England's Cam ford University. Taj is on a quest to follow in the footsteps of his father's legend as a ladies' man at Cam ford, beginning with membership to an exclusive campus Fraternal Guild, the Fox and Hounds.

But when Taj arrives at the venerated campus, he quickly discovers he has not been accepted to the Fraternal Guild.

Taj seeks out the only housing available on campus and finds himself suddenly a leader for a group of student misfits. Taj also finds out he will be a history instructor to his new mates and that his teaching superintendent will be Charlotte Higginson, an English beauty with a wild streak who just happens to be dating Pip Everett. Taj decides to take on the challenge before him--not only will he transform the band of misfits into Big Men (and Woman) on Campus, he will give the Fox and Hounds and Pip a run for their money.

Go see the movie to see the ending to a hilarious movie. This film was extremely hilarious, recommended for anyone that wants a good laugh. The movie is intended for mature audiences and not a movie for the whole family. Go watch it!
The Weasel is Coming!

By Roy Herndon

Pauly Shore “The Weasel” is coming to the Weatherford campus in March as part of the Panorama Event series.

Everyone is invited. All events begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center on the SWOSU campus in Weatherford. Advance tickets are $10 for SWOSU students and $20 for non-students. All tickets at the door are $25.

The hilarious comedian was made popular in many movies in the Eighties and Nineties like Encino Man, Son-In Law, and Jury Duty with his weazing comedy and juvenile antics.

Most recently he had a reality show about trying to get a legendary comedy club back in the black while revitalizing his career.

Tickets go on sell on January 24th. This comedian is intended for “Mature Audiences Only.”

Classes busy with projects, research papers, final exams

As the semester ends, activities reach a feverish pace around the campus. Many scholars proudly submit those book-length research papers and picture-perfect Spanish club book projects; whereas procrastinators sheepishly turn in their thrown-together, last-minute efforts.

Students in Mrs. Haught’s English Composition II course have researched career opportunities and sent properly-formatted letters to 8th graders to encourage them to continue pursuing their goal to become first-generation college students. This is just one of the Sayre campus Service-Learning projects which involve community out-reach.

Mrs. Ford’s English II class just breathed a sigh of relieve at handing in Research Paper Packets, than had to read their Definition Essays orally.

Mrs. Haught’s Spanish class was busy making family albums or scrapbooks all in Spanish, of course. For many people, the books become a labor of love, and become more of a treasured memoir than an assignment.

In Intro to Lit, students have decorated bulletin boards featuring their favorite poets and authors. Following the flurry of activity comes time to cram for final exams.

Win a vacation if you love Oklahoma parks and lakes!

By Joel Delp

Oklahoma State University and the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department will join citizens from across the state in commemoration of Oklahoma’s Centennial Anniversary. OSU and OTRD will sponsor an essay and drawing contest to see what Oklahoma parks mean to its citizens. The “People Speak about Parks” Contest is open to any citizen in Oklahoma from grade school to adult. The parks may include a neighborhood, city, county, state park or federal recreation area. Each entry is asked to write an original essay (1000 words maximum) or draw an original picture of what parks mean to him/her. Top winners in the individual age groups will receive gifts and prizes which include a 2-day stay for four at a state park, outdoor equipment and gear, and framed copies of the winning essays and drawings displayed by the governor at the centennial celebration at the Oklahoma Welcome Centers. Find out more at www.okparks.okstate.edu. Essays and drawing will be received from Nov. 1 through March 1, 2007.
Harlem Choir to perform January 23

The world famous Harlem Gospel Choir is one of the pre-eminent gospel choirs in the world. The choir will perform Jan. 23 in the Fine Arts Auditorium at Weatherford.

The choir was founded in 1986 by Allen Bailey, who got the idea for the choir while attending a celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the renowned Cotton Club in Harlem. The choir is a gathering of the finest singers and musicians from various Black Churches in Harlem.

The choir travels the globe, sharing its joy of faith through its music, and whenever possible, raising funds for children’s charities. The choir’s success led to it being granted a private audience with His Holiness Pope John Paul II in 2003 in recognition of its work for charity around the world. Over the years, the choir has performed with such famous artists as Lyle Lovett, Diana Ross, Harry Belafonte, Brooks and Dunn, Ashford and Simpson, Jimmy Cliff, Bono and the Chieftains.

The theme of every performance is bringing people and nations together and giving something back. Their songs of inspiration touch the depths of the soul and raise spirits to angelic heights. They will literally have you dancing on the stage.

Although the choir has over 40 members, it tours with a compact format of nine singers (3 sopranos; 3 tenors; 3 altos) and two musicians (keys and drums). The format allows it to travel around the world and to adapt each performance to suit the size of the performance hall. Each singer and musician is a talented and professional gospel singer or musician, representative of the wonderful talent to be found in the churches of Harlem.

The True Christmas Spirit

By Kara Schrader

Most of us can remember the excitement and the anticipation of waiting for Christmas morning. Classrooms are filled with children staring into space and hoping they get something special. Teachers are frustrated by the dreamers, but they, too, are looking forward to the holidays. Unfortunately there will be children who won’t find much under the tree. These children come from single parent homes, live with aging grandparents, are in an abusive home or money is spent in other areas that don’t benefit the children. There are parents that work two jobs and go to extensive means to provide, but with rising gas prices and utilities their salaries can’t keep up and little is left over for extras.

In 1993 a system was established in Sayre to reach out to the less fortunate families during the Christmas season. This is known as the Children’s Christmas Fund or toy fund. A local Church has been responsible for this project and has used various methods in providing for the children.

Money has been raised by soliciting individuals, businesses, civic clubs and churches. The Sayre Masonic Lodge matches funds up to $2500. Initially the fund started with $800 and last year $6000 was spent.

The number of children provided for have been from 175 to 275. Money spent on each child has ranged from $12 to $60. Families wanting assistance complete an application. Names are cross referenced with the Department of Human Services about need, number and ages of children in the home. Individuals and churches can also submit names. Families must live in Sayre and children up to age 18 are eligible.

This toy fund is unique because the children’s gifts are given to the adults in the family and they can play Santa. Not only do the children receive a requested gift but also clothing, hats and gloves. To see the joy on families’ faces when picking out toys to give to their children is an unexplainable thing. All the eligible families are so grateful and make the whole ordeal worth it all.

The number of families needing assistance this year has dropped. The oil field activity has provided better paying jobs. The Northfork Correctional Facility has reopened. Anybody that has gone to a fast food restaurant or convenience store has noticed the “help wanted” signs on the doors. Life is better for some. The Children’s Christmas Fund is there to help those going through a rough time. Hopefully, families won’t need it forever.

You can still help. Remember no matter how unfortunate you think you are there are always those who are even worse off. Any little bit helps and the program looks to the good people of Sayre to keep it active. Donations can be made in the form of unopened toys for either gender or a monetary donation, and can be taken to the United Methodist Church or InterBank in Sayre. Help make a difference this holiday season.
By Megan Dickson

Just kidding about that nerd comment. We all wish we were computer whizzes these days, and that is just the message Mrs. Debbie Carpenter, instructor at SWOSU, has been taking to the streets.

She’s been a busy lady lately, attending high school career days, college expos and writing to prospective computer science students in order to spread the message that Computer Science majors are needed.

Computer Science can open doors to all kinds of opportunities.

“Computers are used today in almost every career available,” said Mrs. Carpenter. “In fact, many students are choosing to major in both computer science and another area of interest to make themselves more marketable when they graduate.” The old stereotype of the computer nerd doesn’t hold up anymore, and Mrs. Carpenter is proof of that!

Her bulletin board in Mackey Hall just touches on a few of the highly paid positions available.

Calling all Nerds? Computer Science majors (or minors) needed

By William Warren

It was a cold, dreary afternoon in mid-December. Christmas Season had been going on downtown since the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Santa Claus rode through town on a big red fire truck and slowly climbed down to meet the children as they arrived at the little red house next to the post office, Santa’s home until Christmas.

From that day until Christmas, Santa sat in the little red house, which had the scent of peppermint candy canes, and listened as the little boys and girls told him what they wanted for Christmas. There were lists of everything imaginable, and even some original ones:

“I just want my sister to quit lying,” was one little girl’s request.

One little boy said that all he wanted for Christmas was to have his daddy home. Another asked for a cure for his mama’s cancer.

So, imagine my surprise after three years as the town Santa when one day, an older lady that passed by the house everyday, came in with a very different request.

At 3:05 everyday the school bell would ring and Santa could look forward to the requests that would soon be bestowed upon him. But this day was slower than others, maybe because the weather was a little colder. This little lady, maybe in her early fifties, strolled by my Santa house everyday on her way to the post office and then back home. This day I saw her headed to the post office, and when she started back by, she paused and looked at the house. She appeared to be contemplating something. Finally, she slowly rambled up to the door of the Santa house and spoke to me.

“Santa, may I come in?”

“Well, sure you can,” I replied.

“Is a person ever too old to believe in Santa Claus?” was her next question.

“No, I think it’s what’s in your heart that keeps Santa Claus alive,” I replied.

She agreed and asked if she could give Santa just one request. When I agreed, I wasn’t quite sure what to expect. I was never so surprised in my life as to hear her request me to pray with her.

I had been somewhat “wild” in my younger days, and I had just recently started going back to the church where I had gone when growing up. I knew that God was appointing me to help this lady’s troubled mind. She proceeded to tell me that her teenage daughter was pregnant and in trouble. I could tell the bitter taste of disappointment was ripping her heart in two. Reluctantly I agreed to pray with her.

I right there in that little red Santa House, the Lord gave me the words, and the courage to help mend this lady’s broken heart. God sent her to me, not because I was special, just because I believed.
By Tiffany Castle

The Employee Spotlight for this edition will focus on the two Jennifers—Jennifer Hodge and Jennifer Hayden. These two youthful faces are probably the first two that SWOSU students meet as they enter the college and enroll! They work in the Registrar’s Office.

Jennifer Hayden is the first one a student would meet. She is the assistant to the registrar. She helps students enroll and enters their applications. She is single and lives in Elk City. Although a 1999 graduate of Weatherford, she originally was from Monterey, California. She loves to scuba dive and has enjoyed the sport in places as diverse as Tenkiller, Oklahoma; Tahoe, California; and Cozumel, Mexico. She has been working at SWOSU for a year and a half, and is currently working on her MBA. Jennifer Hodge says of her, “I look forward to coming to work because she’s here. She makes me laugh!” Kim Seymour, the Registrar, had this to say about Jennifer Hayden: “On her second day of working here, I was put in the hospital with pneumonia, and when I came back to work, she had done a remarkable job! She was just thrown into this—sink or swim—and she did great. I was very pleased.”

Jennifer Hodge is the assistant to the Financial Aid Director. She grew up in Sweetwater and graduated in 1996. She’s been working for SWOSU for two years. She helps students with forms, with recruitment, and SGA. She often man’s the SWOSU tent at parades, festivals and fairs. She is practically a newly-wed, having married just four months ago to Kent Hodge (Librarian Janice Hodge’s son). She has a culinary degree at OSU and, obviously, loves to cook! However, since she married a peanut farmer and lives in Willow, she can’t pursue her culinary career, so she is continuing her education here. The other Jennifer said of her, “She’s fun to work with and very thoughtful!” Both Jens said their favorite thing about working here is the students. SGA Freshman Representative Jeff Roland of Carnegie said, “The students love them . . . they’re my favorite gals!” So if you need help, just holler “Jen” “Jenni,” or “Jennifer” and someone will come running.

By Brandon Miller

The news media announced last week that a male birth control pill will soon be released. Many might think that the pill would be welcomed by young men on college campuses. An informal survey of the Sayre campus revealed that many men have about the pill. “I don’t know that I would take it, myself,” said a 19-year-old freshman from Sayre. “I would be afraid of some long-term affect.”

One 20 year old said there was no way he’d take it, for fear that it would somehow cause lasting side effects, and added that if one doesn’t want to worry about having unwanted pregnancies, one should practice abstinence.”

The pill reportedly will not affect performance, just not allow the release of sperm. The doctors claim that it is safe and has no side effects. The pill doesn’t have to be taken daily to be effective, just 2-3 hours prior to intercourse. And it’s effects only last 12 hours.

Despite this information, an informal survey revealed that the majority of young men would not be willing to try the new medication. Older men seemed less concerned about side effects. Will Koon, a sophomore, said, “I would take the pill as long as no side affects are found. If I were single, I doubt that I would take it for the fact that you never know when it’s going to happen.”

One Sayre freshman, age 19, said, “I’d take it only if the percentage of protection is 100%.”

A 30-year old student from Elk City said, “Sure. Why not?” One 40-year-old said he thought the younger guys would be pretty happy about it.

For decades, women have borne the brunt of the responsibility for taking the pill. One 30-year-old Sayre student said she’d be afraid that men wouldn’t remember to take their pill. One 18-year-old girl admitted that it’s a great idea for guys to take the pill, but adds that both parties should be responsible and women shouldn’t throw theirs away just yet.

By Joel Delp

The NASA Space Grant Program has funds available for scholarships. Students of all disciplines are eligible. A description of the program and an application form may be found at http://www.swosu.edu/compsci/nasagrant.asp under the SWOSU Student Research heading at the bottom of the page.
College Students—Volunteers?

By Tiffany Castle

Some call them lazy, more interested in partying than in lending a helping hand, or sorority-seeking socialites, but is that true?

A new study shows that the volunteer rate among college students has dramatically increased in recent years. The growth rate for college students is more that double that for all volunteers.

"We have observed a historically significant surge in service interest by college students, probably the most remarkable since the 'Greatest Generation' of World War II," said Steve Goldsmith, former mayor of Indianapolis and chairman of the Corporation for National and Community Service. Altogether, about thirty percent of college students are volunteering, with tutoring and mentoring. Utah, Idaho and Oklahoma have the highest percentage of volunteers.

Many attribute this desire to help others to the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Goldsmith said, "What's remarkable is students who were in high school at the time of 9/11, and are now in college, have kept their interest in service at exceptionally high levels."

Katie Franck, a senior at a University in North Carolina said, "I thing college students are given a bad rap, when they are given the opportunities and its facilitated the right way, they're willing to donate a lot of time and energy to others." We have some excellent examples of volunteers’ right here at SWOSU in Sayre.

When asked about volunteering, sophomore Nicole Smith said, "I volunteered in high school to gather and deliver food for needy families."

When asked about his volunteerism, Tom Warren said, "I teach Red Cross classes and volunteer with disasters like tornadoes, floods or whatever." Tom is always encouraging others to volunteer for the Red Cross. To sign up, call 1-800-530-4318 or the Elk City number at 225-2156.

Mr. Duffield, an instructor at SWOSU in Sayre, and Chad Lagunas, former SGA president, organized three fundraisers to raise money for Alex Nichols, a student at Sayre who needed surgery. When asked why he volunteers, Mr. Duffield replied, "I feel fortunate to be in a position to help others. . . . more people need to get involved.

Also helping with the Nichols fundraiser was student Martha Barber of Canute. In her lifetime she has volunteered to head up three other fundraisers for needy friends and acquaintances, raising tens of thousands of dollars. One musician she helped had no insurance when his hand was mangled in a farming accident.

Paula Howes, the current president of SGA has organized a food drive scheduled for November and an Angel Tree for December. She said volunteering is enjoyable for her because, "It gives me the opportunity to not only improve the community but the lives of others."

It seems college students at Sayre are doing their part as caring individuals.

Do you have the desire to volunteer? If you have any ideas on how to help others, you can contact the President of SGA, Paula Howes. SGA is always looking for ways to improve the lives of those both on and off campus.
Submitted by Prof. Emeritus Chris Christian, whose pen name was I.M. Hokum

Since the day Sadie Hawkins’ pappy declared a day for her so that she might obtain the so-desired husband, the gals have since declared a Sadie Hawkins Day once a year.

Here at SWOSU the “GIRL CHASE BOY” routine will start. There was a schedule for this day: the parade of Dog patch–clad persona who will be competing for the biggest honor—the best dressed dog patcher of the year.

The event to top the evening will be the Shaggy Shag. The cider still will no doubt be a center of attraction.

The men will flee for their lives as the women chase them. Tickets for this event will be . . .

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This column is dedicated to yesteryear. It reprints articles seen in past issues of the Sayre campus newspaper.

Sadie Hawkins

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Centennial History

Why’s Cordell’s Courthouse in the Road?

By Julie Berry

Four pistol shots rang out during the noon hour of April 19, 1892, and some 5,000 settlers raced into County “H” which later became Washita County to stake claim to homesteads. The Washita County area was considered quite wild and untamed in the early years. Most men wore guns and almost every town had at least one frontier saloon and a dance hall or two.

There are many satirical stories about killings and shootouts that went down in the pioneer settlement days.

Cordell sprang up as a center of housing and commerce in Washita County. Soon after that an unsatisfied factory water supply forced the relocation of Cordell, to the present location of New Cordell, now the town’s legal but seldom used-name. The move also created Cordell’s most endearing feature. The Washita County Courthouse sits in the middle of the road, resulting in beautiful approach to the city, particularly for travelers along highway 152.

This unusual arrangement can be credited to A. J. Johnson and J.C. Harrel. According to legend, the two fought over who would get to donate the land for the courthouse. To keep the peace, the county fathers allowed each to donate half the land needed for the courthouse on either side of the section line later used to demark the highway. The county government was not officially moved until 1904. The original wood courthouse burned in the early morning of August 4, 1909, but most of the county records were saved. The county selected the young architect Andrew Solomon Layton to rebuild the courthouse, and the beautiful present building—now on the National Register of Historic Places—was designed in 1910 and completed in 1911 at a cost of $75,000.
Confessions of a Fender Bender

By Brandi Jones

I run out the door as fast as I can, trying not to be late for my first day at my new job. I run as fast as I can and jump into my nice, but slightly dented-up Chevy truck.

"Be careful and drive safely, "my mom tells me as I am pulling out of the driveway. I am in such a hurry that I pull out really fast and trample all over the side of my cousin's car. He had parked his car fairly close to mine and at a really sharp angle. "I am so, so sorry," I say to him in panic.

"It's okay," my cousin says, "Go on to work, and we'll take care of it when you get back."

Most people that know me would say that I have "little fender benders" quite frequently. It's pretty much what I'm known for around here. It's not that I'm proud of it or anything, it's just that it happens so often that I have to find some humor in it.

I remember my first wreck. It was the only serious wreck I have been in. It happened right after I got my driver's license, and it was the last day of school. I was meeting my mom in town for high school graduation. I was running a tad bit late. My mom was calling, and I didn't want her to worry, so I reached down into the floor board to try to pick up the phone. When I lifted up, I realized I had run myself completely off of the road. I was about to hit a barbed-wire fenced. I overcorrected and ran myself completely to the other side of the road. I tried to press on my brakes, but ran right into a pile of trees instead.

All I could hear was the awful crunch sound that my truck made after I hit the trees. I could smell the burning of some of the parts inside of my truck, and I could taste the blood in my mouth from when I hit the steering wheel. I was in shock for a few minutes; then a middle-aged woman pulled over to see what had happened.

"Are you okay?" she asked.

"I'm fine I think" I replied. "Will you call my mom and tell her I can't make it?" The kind stranger called my mom and the hospital for me, then even came to visit me later that night to make sure I was okay. My truck got the bad end of the deal. It was completely totaled. Good thing only got out of it with a really big black eye.

I've had many other wrecks, but they haven't been quite as serious. I'm still not proud of them, though. I remember last year at Inter-bank when I pulled up behind a blue Mercedes Benz in the teller's window. I accidentally pulled up too far and barely hit the back of her car. Even though there was absolutely no damage done at all, the young, super-model-looking woman still felt the need to call the police, so I said okay. A rotund city police officer came, filled out an accident report, then sent me on my way.

One morning, I was really tired when I pulled out of my driveway to go to school. I wasn't paying attention and backed straight into my basketball goal. That left a pretty good mark on the side of my truck.

"You're such a retard," my sister blurted out. "I'm fourteen and I can drive better than you!"

"Yea, I'm sure," I said sarcastically before pulling out and driving away again. Now because of my little accident, my basketball goal is pretty much dysfunctional and useless to me now. Wrecking in my own driveway was pretty embarrassing, but I can think of a few other things that are even more embarrassing. I had been doing home-

"There's nothing to be embarrassed about," my boyfriend said. "I did the same thing like three days ago."

"Really?" I said in awe. "That makes me feel so much better." It's embarrassing enough to wreck once in your boyfriend's driveway, but even more embarrassing when it happens a second time. Once again, I was doing homework at his house when I ran into something as I was leaving. This time it was a trailer, and it made a weird scratching noise that I didn't recognize. My truck once again got the bad end of the deal.

"Oh great," I thought. "This is just what I need."

His family once again was nice about it, but I could tell by the shocked and dismayed look on their faces that they were pretty mad this time, and were just trying to hold it in. Hopefully, I won't have anymore wrecks in his driveway, because I really don't want to have to start parking in the empty lot across the street. I really hope my fender bender days are coming to an end, probably not, but I can only hope. I've smacked into trees, wrecked at the bank, hit my own basketball goal, and wrecked twice in my boyfriend's driveway. I think I've pretty much did it all. I'm sad to say that, but it's only true. My driving skills are slowly improving, and I don't have near as many wrecks anymore. The only driving advice I could ever give someone would be to make sure they could actually drive before they hit the streets.

I had to learn the lesson the hard way. Maybe I can help one learn the lesson before they are given an embarrassing nickname!