

CAMPUS | STUDENT UNION



Inside look: the new student union

The open dining space will be filled with seats and tables across from Chick-fil-A and Qdoba at the new Student Union in Denton, Texas. Photo by Sarah Pham.

By GAKENIA NJENGA

Texas Woman's University's Hubbard Hall has been under construction for over a year to transform into the campus's new student union while the current union will become additional office space for the school and be called the Student Union Annex.

Scheduled to open next semester, the renovation of Hubbard Hall will include a full-service Chick-Fil-A, Qdoba, a bigger space for TeaCo that will include a loung-

ing area and the university's newest dining option, Community Choice, which will offer a different variety of food options each semester. The existing Mary Eleanor Brackenridge Student Union is currently the site of the Student Life Office, Center for Student Development (CSD) and Campus Alliance for Resource Education (CARE) — the university's resource center for commuters and non-traditional students. The CSD and CARE offices, as well as any additional services offered in the Mary Eleanor Brackenridge Student Union, have all been planned to move over to Hubbard Hall.

Director of Student Union and Conference Services David Sweeten said that the renovation of Hubbard Hall was designed based on student suggestions such as what food options and features they would like added to the new union. Student suggestions pioneered the addition of multiple gender-neutral bathrooms and lactation rooms, a meditation room and a quiet lounging area near the food court for those who want to eat while studying. The new build will also include a number of media, conference and multipurpose ballrooms as opposed to the six small rooms available for reservation in the current student union.

"We asked students what they wanted, and one of the things they responded with was wanting more

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CAMPUS | STUDENT ATHLETES

Volleyball sophomore named Student-Athlete of the Month

By GAKENIA NJENGA

Described by her teammates as encouraging and determined, and known to her coaches as a "Jill-of-all-trades," Texas Woman's University's Student-Athlete of the Month consistently conquers the court as this year's volleyball season nears its end.



Trixie Oche (left) and Katy Ranes keep their focus on the volleyball during the Pioneer Invitational at The Kitty Winter Magee Arena in Denton, Texas Friday, September 13, 2019. Photo by Sarah Pham.

Hailing from Richardson, Texas, is the Pioneers volleyball team's sophomore middle blocker Trixie Oche. Oche first started playing volleyball in the seventh grade and stuck with the sport throughout high school, starting her competitive career in the tenth grade when she began her first club season. After two years on the competitive roster, Oche furthered her career and education at TWU, where she was offered a position on the team and earned a spot in the school's kinesiology program.

"I was talking with other schools, but my most solid offer came from TWU," Oche said. "I also really liked the coaches and staff and the health studies program here."

After Oche's arrival here at TWU, she made a name for herself on the team, hitting highs of 17 kills and scoring 19.5 points on her own in this year's season itself. The Pioneers' head coach Jeff Huebner said that Oche's performance over the past month has been fantastic as her focus and understanding of the game continues to improve with each passing week. He was proud to know that she had earned the recognition.

Oche said that she plays very much in-the-moment when on the court, and doesn't often think

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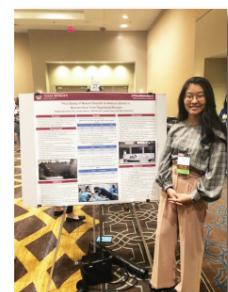
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NEWS | TECHNOLOGY

Students targeted by phishing emails

By GAKENIA NJENGA

After months of being in the clear, Texas Woman's University students have once again been targeted with sketchy and unreliable emails being sent to their TWU email addresses, creating worry among those who have received them.

During the summer and early in the fall semester, a slew of spam emails was sent out to students, the most common message asking for a personal assistant. Many students said they felt confused and alarmed when they opened the message.

"I read the message and was wondering if anyone else at the school had gotten it, too," second-year political science major Rahel Tesfaye said. "I think it's crazy that hackers were able to email students like that."

At that time, the Office of Technology sent out an email warning students to beware of suspicious



Photo courtesy of Thinkstock.

emails, urging them to think twice before clicking on attachments and hyperlinks and offering additional tips on how to stay safe and unaffected. The office informed the TWU community of the measures regularly taken to avoid spam or phishing emails from getting to students, but that some may slip through the university's IT security and find their way into student inboxes. Ever since around that time, such messages have not been as big of an issue for students until recently.

Students like Tesfaye received an email Nov. 11 from "Dixie Hitt" ex-

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Editorial: The Daily Northwestern's apology was a mistake, but so were attacks from professional journalists

By The Editorial Board

In November, student-journalists at Northwestern University faced a crucial decision: stand firm in their coverage of an on-campus protest or apologize for taking photos of and soliciting comments from students involved. They chose wrongly – but they should not have been attacked for it.

Staff at The Daily Northwestern, which covers campus and community news in Evanston, Ill., drew backlash from students who claimed the paper's coverage of an event that featured former Attorney General Jeff Sessions as a speaker Nov. 5 – and the activists that showed up to protest his presence on campus – was traumatic. Editors removed the article from their website and released a statement Nov. 10 apologizing for reporters' sharing of images from the protest on social media and for using the school's directory to locate students and request comments, saying they regret "harming" students.

"Ultimately, The Daily failed to consider our impact in our reporting surrounding Jeff Sessions," the column said. "We know we hurt students that night, especially those who identify with marginalized groups."

The backlash from professional journalists was swift and harsh. Many criticized the apology and accused the staff of the Daily of embarrassing the industry.

Outrage over the Daily's coverage also raised questions about diversity in journalism and the media's responsibility in covering marginalized communities.

"Being in this role and balancing our coverage and the role of this paper on campus with my racial identity – and knowing how our paper has historically failed students of color, and particularly black students, has been incredibly challenging to navigate," Troy Closson, one of the only black editors in the Daily's history, wrote in a series of tweets.

While the criticisms from professional journalists were completely valid – journalists should never apologize for doing their job – the journalists who made these mistakes are also still students.

It's easy to understand why reporters reacted so harshly to the apology. Journalism is under attack and apologizing for coverage just because someone didn't like it is a dangerous precedent to set. If journalists caved every time someone didn't like a story being writ-



Graphic by Angelica Monsour

ten, the industry would apologize itself out of existence.

Five years ago, no one would have thought to ask a journalist to apologize for the act of reporting. The increasingly cynical view of "the media" as a monolithic entity has encouraged us to think of the news as a partisan tool. We forget there are real people behind the microphones, and the reason they continue to do this job – with grueling hours and little pay in a shrinking industry – is for the public good.

Yet if student journalists aren't allowed to make mistakes in college, then when? The point of a campus newspaper is to allow students the chance to gain experience in the newsroom. Part of figuring out what it means to be a journalist is realizing that backlash is part of the job because there will always be someone,

somewhere, who doesn't want a story to be written.

And journalism does have a long history of inequitable coverage of minority communities, so conversations about how to create balanced, accessible coverage are important. The industry is changing, and journalists have to change with it.

Although the Daily's willingness to bow to the pressures from fellow students is not the answer to the questions facing the industry, it does remind us why journalism plays such a vital role in our lives: it sparks conversation about the world we live in and challenges us to question what kind of society we want to be.

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Q: Which member of The Lasso editorial board are you?

Alyssa Walker
Engagement Editor

If you're me, you're just happy to be here and are probably smiling for no good reason. You like writing light-hearted stories and are probably thinking of your next quiz idea. You're an old soul, probably have a pretty serious coffee addiction and love to make movie references that no one else understands. Even when life gets you down, you try to see the good in every situation.



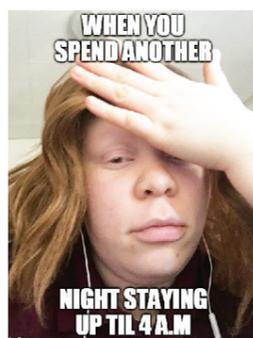
Amber Gaudet
Editor-in-Chief

You're a perfectionist who expects a lot from yourself and those around you. Although you push everyone to succeed, you always try to be understanding and make sure they are kind to themselves. You probably need to show yourself the same compassion you show others and take time to enjoy the journey instead of focusing so much on the destination.



Katelyn Garst
Managing Editor

If you're me, you're probably running a 'few minutes late' and you're definitely going to have some stressful rant or dramatic story to share, but you'll at least break up the silence and make everyone laugh. Regardless of how out of control you seem, you pay attention and try to think of ways to increase mindfulness in the newsroom by writing an obscure word of the week on the board.



Plamedie Ifasso
Copy Editor

If you're me, you're probably doing 100 things at once and adding another item to your list. You probably need to say no to at least 50 of the items on your checklist. You need to stop drinking so much coffee and sleep more, but you're not going to do either of those. Overall, you want to be as helpful as you can be to other people.



Annisa Clark
Page Editor

If you're me, you definitely should've started that Lasso podcast you've been planning already. You have a lot of opinions to share but shirk at the opportunity to write them into actual articles. You get everything done at the last minute, including the graphics you've known about for days. All that aside, you love your job and talk a lot about how much you love your job to anyone who will listen.

Huebner cites Oche's drive, determination in being honored

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much about the aftermath of her efforts, so when she heard that she was awarded Student-Athlete of the Month, she was slightly taken aback.

"I found out after one of my late-night practices," Oche said. "I got an email from one of my professors saying, 'Congratulations' and I thought, 'Wow, this is so cool.'"

Oche's nonchalant reaction contrasted the excitement she felt at hearing the news that she had been recognized for efforts at doing what she loves.

While getting up this point, Oche would occasionally come face-to-face with everyday trials. Juggling both competitive sports and academics can be a challenging task, but her self-acclaimed time-management skills are what help her organize and stay on track with her busy schedule. Though, Oche admitted to sometimes feeling overwhelmed by her back-to-back calendars.

"There's almost no way to express the amount of work she has put in."

"For the most part, it doesn't get too bad," Oche said. "[When I'm overwhelmed], I do like to ride my bike around campus. It helps me clear my head, and when I'm finished, I'm able to get back to what I was doing."

To keep up her momentum, Oche constantly works on areas she aims to improve and perfect, such as her attacking methods. She believes that there is always room for refinement, for "every day is learning day."

Head coach Huebner said he has watched Oche's abilities and strengths get better by the season, and is impressed with how far she has come.



Photo courtesy of Cameron Been.

"There's almost no way to express the amount of work she has put in," Huebner said. "When we recruited Trixie, she was an athlete who had a long way to go. She still has a lot to learn, but she has come much further much faster than I think anyone would have expected, and we are really excited about her."

Huebner believes that Oche has the sportsmanship and potential to earn the position of Student-Athlete of the Month again sometime in the future.

Along with the title of this month's student-athlete, Oche has continued to prove herself as an excellent athlete, after recently receiving two additional titles at this year's Lone Star Conference Awards ceremony. She took home awards for All-

Lone Star Conference First Team and Academic All-Conference, the latter of which she earned for the first time in recognition of her 3.9 GPA in her focus of exercise science/pre-physical therapy.

During her time on the Pioneers volleyball team, Oche said she owes the entirety of her drive and motivation to her parents, who she thanks for giving her the opportunity to play volleyball, and her teammates, who endlessly encourage her to do her best.

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TWU soccer ends historical season with NCAA loss

By ALYSSA WALKER

The Texas Woman's University soccer team ended their record-breaking season by making it to the NCAA South Central Region tournament for the first time in school history.

The team earned a fourth-seed position in the South Central region out of 28 teams. After making the trip to Colorado Springs, Colorado, being delayed due to heavy snowfall and playing in temperatures colder than they ever had before, the team fell to fifth-seed Dixie State on penalty kicks in overtime. The season ended with a record-breaking high of 15 wins and only 5 losses, along with 10 shutouts that marked the team's second-highest shutouts in history.

"We have a lot to be proud of," head coach Babak Abouzar said in the TWU news release. "This opportunity was a great experience, and it's something that we're going to continue to strive for to get back here soon. Now that this team has had a taste of success, we'll be hungry to duplicate it in years to come."

For the NCAA selection announcement, TWU held a watch party that the team attended. As the team left for Colorado Springs later that week, the university held a send-off.

"It's a great feeling to be able to represent TWU in the NCAA tournament for the first time in program history," Abouzar said.

Despite the upset in the tournament,

Abouzar said in the TWU news release that the current seniors have left the program in good hands for the returners to continue next season.

The team will graduate six seniors before next season, many of which had just been awarded honors in the Lone Star Conference Championship the weekend before.

"This season was something special," senior forward Hannah Schneider said. "Off the field, we were very

close, which was a huge factor in our success on the field. Making history was an incredible ride, and to do it my senior year made the end of my career end on such a high note."

In addition to the honors that six members received at the Lone Star Conference Championship, redshirt senior and midfielder Brittany Jones was named to the Division II Conference Commissioner's Association All-South Central Region Second

Team for the first time in her career.

Despite the upset against Dixie Springs, Abouzar says that the team held their own throughout the night.

"I told our girls after the game that there's no reason to hold our heads down," Abouzar said in a TWU news release. "There's only going to be one team that's happy at the end of the season."

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Photo courtesy of University of Colorado Colorado Springs Sports Information.