

# Towers may close for good

**JENNIFER HIRONAGA**  
*Staff Writer*

With the traditional apartments reduced to dirt piles over the summer and the west wing of the Twin Towers residence hall unexpectedly remaining open for first and second-year students, new and returning students have questions about the housing situation on campus.

Previously, students had raised concerns about overcrowding due to last year's announcement that the entirety of Twin Towers (housing 368 beds) would be closed for the 2006-2007 school year for renovations required by the City of Tulsa's revised fire safety laws.

Surprisingly, Twin West is still operational and currently providing beds for about 200 students. Twin East has been converted into office space for various university departments. Charles Colby, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services and Director of Housing and Dining Services, explained this unexpected change of plans.

"The new apartments are obviously not open and we had a very strong freshman class," he said. "We were short on housing, and had used Towers successfully for a long time, so we checked with the fire marshal about the possibility of an extension

for Towers. They were very cordial and allowed the extension based on the fact that we had a state-of-the-art alarm system, hard wired smoke detectors in all the rooms and hallways, and a concrete building."

The university had offered to have fire marshals present to watch for fire, but this measure was deemed unnecessary based on the safety features already present in Towers. "Besides," Colby joked, "given that it is Twin

Towers, there is always somebody awake in the halls."

Despite the extended use of Twin West, the fact remains that Twin Towers is yet to have sprinklers installed, a requirement according to the new fire safety laws. Considering the number of beds that the new apartments will provide, there is the tentative possibility that Twin Towers will no longer be used as a residence hall.

"We may consider not using Twin West because we

will have a lot of apartment space," said Colby. "We will have a surplus of beds. Do we spend the money to sprinkle Twin Towers when we don't need it? If we spend the money, it will cost us and raise tuition."

Though many students are delighted at the prospect of more apartments as a living option, some are saddened by the potential loss of Towers.

"It seems like TU is eliminating too many beds in residence halls," said Laura Her-

mann, a sophomore resident of Towers. "The University seems to be forgetting that many students actually like to live in residence halls — it's part of the college experience for a lot of people."

The traditional apartments were demolished over the summer as planned, and the new apartments are expected to be ready by the fall of 2007.

According to Colby, there will be three clusters of apart-

*See Towers on page 3*

## Students bounce into new year



Jessie K. Finch/Collegian

**Jamie Lammert, Denton Moxley and Casey Lechtenberger (left to right) enjoy the first Hurricane Thursday event of the year**

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# Petty leaves youngsters behind with *Highway Companions*

JESSIE K. FINCH  
Photo Editor

## music. review

With such treasured songs as “Free Fallin’” and “Life is a Highway,” what’s not to love about the care-free, if sometimes overly-reflective Tom Petty? I’ll tell you what: his new album *Highway Companions*. Now, I love the classic Petty as much as the next Heartbreaker, but there is something too introspective about his new album. Wait! — did you hear that sound? Perhaps it was mine and Tom Petty’s generations’ gapping.

*Highway Companions* certainly has several highpoints. The lyrics are thoughtful. Listening to them makes one wonder at the struggle Petty seems to be having as he ages.

Through “Flirting with Time” and “Damaged by Love,” Petty soulfully lives out

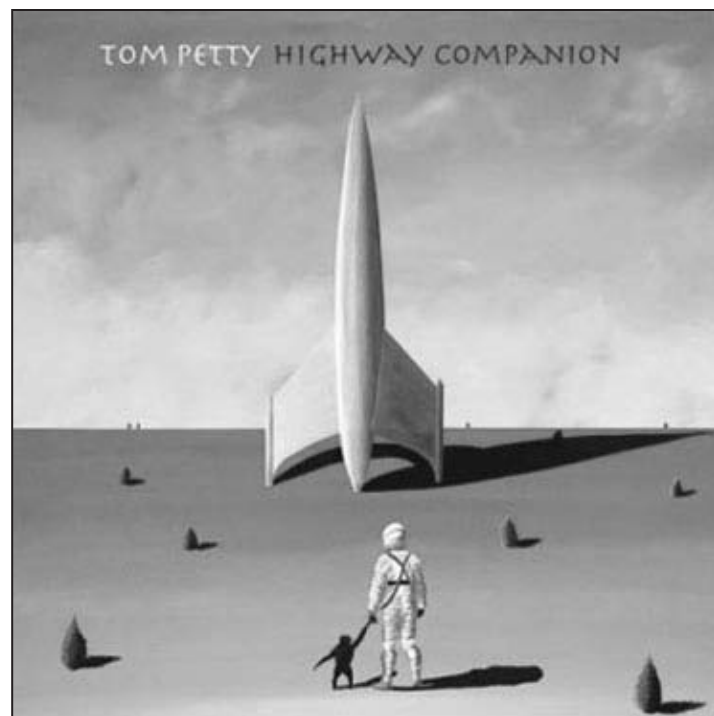
what must be his philosophical musings about his long career as a Heartbreaker and a Traveling Wilbury. Indeed, the album is recorded, produced and written by Petty with the help of his former bandmates Mike Campbell (guitarist for the Heartbreakers) and Jeff Lynne (bass and keyboards from Traveling Wilburys). However, for a collegiate twenty-something who has yet to glimpse the heartfelt longing for my old hometown that Petty expresses, the lyrics just didn’t resonate with me.

Despite the potential alienation of younger audiences, *Highway Companions* contains insightful, if more middle-aged lyrics (he is

now 56), and the album has a relatively strong groove. Petty has long been known for his command of the drum set and he does not disappoint in this album. He keeps a solid rhythm throughout the album that works nicely with Campbell’s slide guitar and Lynne’s bass riffs. It is also still true to Petty’s folk origins. There is a slower and more relaxed feel to the songs on this album than past songs like “Mary Jane’s Last Dance” and “Refugee.”

Indeed, Rolling Stone has said that the Tom Petty of *Highway Companions* “might just be entering his *Time Out Of Mind* Period” in reference to the meditative album by Bob Dylan from 1997.

So, while I wouldn’t say I’m throwing out the free copy of *Highway Companions* that American Records sent to the Collegian Office, I don’t know that I would recommend it to



Courtesy of American Records

many friends. I may send it to my parents, or keep around for my quarter-life crisis, but I probably won’t be jamming to

it like I will to my Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers *Greatest Hits* album.

## Get To Know Downtown Tulsa

ROBERT YOUNG  
Staff Writer

Home to the arts, architecture, and entertainment, downtown Tulsa is experiencing a rebirth. But to appreciate Tulsa’s future, you must understand its past.

The Creek Council Oak Tree is located near Eighteenth Street and Cheyenne Avenue, just south of downtown. This tree is considered the place at which Tulsa was founded. In 1836, the Lochapoke clan of the Creek Indians established town near this tree by depositing ashes brought with them from their last fires in Alabama after being forced to move by the U.S. government. The tree resides within the Creek Nation Council Oak Park and a quiet neighborhood.

Nearby one can find Ca-

thedral Square. This district is home to some of Tulsa’s most beautiful and ornate churches. The Holy Family Cathedral is a Gothic Revival style cathedral built in 1912. It was the first church of its size to be built in Oklahoma, and remained the tallest building in Tulsa until the Mayo Hotel was built in 1923. The First Church of Christ Scientist is located south of the Holy Family Cathedral. On the other side of the street, you’ll find the First Christian Church.

Down Tenth street you will find Boston Avenue United Methodist Church. This treasured art-deco building was designed by Adah Robinson, a University of Tulsa art instructor during Tulsa’s oil-boom. North on Boston is the heart of downtown. Boston is home to some of the

tallest skyscrapers in Tulsa and in the state of Oklahoma. Several architectural gems reside here including the Bank of Oklahoma Tower, Mid-Continent Tower, Philcade, the 320 South Boston Building, Philtower, and Atlas Life Building.

In the push to revive downtown the city of Tulsa is funding a five-and-a-half million dollar project to add streetscape to this section of Boston Avenue. According to Jim Norton of Downtown Tulsa Unlimited (an organization of civic leaders), this project will add “a new curb, a new paved street, asphalt, new street furniture, new trash cans, new trees and new light poles.” The project will also reconvert Boston into a two-way street.

Also downtown is the Blue Dome District, one of Tulsa’s most distinct entertainment areas. This region sports sev-

eral locals’ favorites such as Tsunami Sushi Bar, Arnie’s, McNellie’s Public House, 1974 Bar and Grill, Route 66 Diner, and Blank Slate. The Blue Dome District is a great place to go on a casual date. McNellie’s has one of the best and most extensive beer menus in town, 1974 and Blank Slate have live music.

The Greenwood Historical District is the site of the infamous 1921 Tulsa Race Riot. Thirty-five blocks of businesses and residences were burned during the rioting, which lasted approximately 16 hours. At the time, Greenwood was the largest and wealthiest of the Oklahoma black communities, earning it the nickname “Black Wall Street.” Greenwood is currently undergoing revitalization efforts and so far two blocks of the old neighborhood have been restored. It is now the site of the Green-

wood Cultural Center and Oklahoma State University’s Tulsa campus.

Brady is another one of Tulsa’s entertainment districts. It is served by The Brady Theater, Cain’s Ballroom, Caz’s, Lola’s at The Bowery, Majestic and Club 209. The Brady Theater will be hosting several events, including Sinbad, Cyndi Lauper, Randy Travis, Last Comic Standing and Anne Murray. Nearby, the Cain’s Ballroom will be hosting Nickel Creek, Guster, Alice in Chains, Kelis and Jars of Clay. Club Majestic is one of the most popular night-spots, catering to the LGBT and friends population.

The key to enjoying downtown Tulsa is to go out and experience it. Though often underestimated, downtown Tulsa’s entertainment potential is nearly limitless. Pick a weekend and find out for yourself.