

# THE TORCH

the brooks college newsletter



December 3, 2010  
Volume 4 Issue 5  
Published Since 2007



## Reindeer Noises



### Christmases past and present



Matthew  
Carrington  
*Staff  
Writer*

Every Christmas, when I was a kid, my Mom and Dad would lead me to my bedroom and tuck me soundly into my bed. It would be cold outside, but my bed covers would be perfectly warm—not too hot or too cold. Since we lived in Ohio, snow was often expected.

I remember I would look through the blinds of my windows and watch the shadows of countless tiny snowflakes parading downward, created by the yellow and white lights of the street and the houses on the other side of it.

I would lie awake listening for a handful of minutes that would seem like hours in giddy anticipation of the following morning, of the jolly man in the scarlet suit who would land on the roof behind a train of reindeer, drop down the chimney, eat the cookies and milk, and leave behind all the gifts I

had asked for.

I would nod off imperceptibly and sweet frolicking dreams would fill up the space of my mind until the first light of day.

And at the first light of day, by some mysterious internal mechanism, I would be the first to rise in my house. I would dash the sheets beside me that had kept me so comfortable through the night and lunge out of bed.

My parents would soon wake up at my calling, and they would quickly arise from their slumber and follow me downstairs, video camera at the ready due to its placement at the side of their bed the night before. And then Christmas morning would happen in all of its excitement and wonder and jubilee.

Christmas morning would happen and my desires would inevitably be exceeded, as evidenced by a larger number of gifts than I would have expected and stockings overflowing with sweet treats and titillating trinkets. And then my parents would film me opening the gifts that Santa had

brought. They would show me the devoured cookies and the empty glass of milk. And they would show me the sparkling dust the reindeer had left behind on the hearth.

And then came the Christmas when I asked my parents if Santa was really real.

I told them that some of my friends no longer believed in Santa. At first they told me of course he was real. I pursued the issue further, and sure enough they confirmed my suspicions. And yet at that moment, I didn't dwell on the prospect that I had been deceived all of my life, nor was I altogether saddened by the realization that Santa wasn't real.

I simply remember admiring my parents more than ever before, and wanting to thank them for all of the gifts they had invested their sweat and tears into. I wanted them to know how much I loved them.

This Christmas, I am no longer a kid.

I've known Santa to be nonexistent for some time now. I'm old enough to have bought and exchanged gifts of my own. But I think it is

of the utmost importance not to forget the love I have felt for my parents over the years. It's important to show them that love now, when they may not expect it quite so readily.

It's also important to remember that God is what Christmas is about, and that sometimes, even when we think we have been let down, that we are on our own, God still provides for us.

I would encourage you to take advantage this Christmas season to show your parents, your family, your friends how much you truly care for them.

Remember all of those perfectly warm, anticipatory Christmas Eves, the disappearance of the cookies and milk, the miraculous appearance of gifts under the tree. Remember the joy and faith of your childhood and praise God this Christmas, all the while knowing that just as his plan was initiated with the birth of His son so long ago, so too will he begin and continue a good work in you.

Good luck on finals, Merry Christmas and God Bless!■

## UPCOMING events

**Last Day of Classes** DEC. 6  
**Study Days** DEC. 7-8  
**Final Exams** DEC. 9-15  
**Residence Halls Close** DEC. 15  
**Commencement** DEC. 18  
**Christmas** DEC. 25  
**New Years Eve** DEC. 31  
**New Years Day** JAN. 1  
**Spring Classes Begin** JAN. 10  
**Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday** JAN. 17  
**New issue of The Torch** JAN. 21



## TORCHnews

This may be the last issue of the semester, but  
The Torch still needs you!

If you're interested in writing, photography or drawing send  
an email to  
[BROOKS.TORCH@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BROOKS.TORCH@GMAIL.COM).

Don't miss out on your chance to be a part of the Brooks  
College newsletter next semester! No experience is necessary!

## EDITOR'S note



Katy  
McDowall  
*Editor*

As the semester comes to a close and finals are upon us, it is a good time to take pleasure in the small distractions, like Facebook and College newsletters.

The Torch is always here for you in your time of need, but as you embark on your quest of studying for those pesky final exams, I hope that you ignore these pages of stories written by your Brooks colleagues and Christmas themed games. No, don't turn to page 6 where Sally Ann delves into one Prexian's fashion advice. Stop lurking on The Torch's facebook page! (What? You haven't liked it yet?? Search for it on facebook NOW.)

Open your human physiology book and get to work! Stop working on The Torch's Christmas fun page. Your 15 minute (now 2 hour) study break is over. But, really, as finals approach it's an important time to stay focused. That's not to say a few study breaks aren't a good idea.

It seems like just yesterday we were starting this semester. It has flown by. Once again, I would like to thank everyone that took part in The Torch. You guys did a great job this semester. I hope you all decide to continue to be a part of this newsletter next semester! And to everyone else: don't be afraid! The Torch needs you!

Good luck on finals and Merry Christmas!

## TORCHSTAFF

| handing out the torch since fall 2007 |

Huy Bui *staff writer*  
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Katy McDowall *editor*

# Governing Board Update



Emilie  
Moore  
*President*

Get ready, everyone! Your hard-working committees have been planning a fun, festive Christmas party – it's a family celebration!

Come to the Great Hall **Monday evening** and check it out. And after the party, finish the night in worship with a Christmas service in Robbins Chapel!

# Tranquility



Huy  
Bui  
*Staff  
Writer*

Sometimes it's as if life wishes to punch you in the face.

Then realizing it can't actually physically punch you in the face, it decides to hurl a constant torrent of work at your face instead. At least, that's how I feel sometimes, what with the constant checking of Blackboard, Bioportal, and MyMathLab every day; along with the incessant panic that there might be a test I had forgotten (I once checked my attendance for Biology to see if I could sleep in, only to realize I had an exam that day).

Everyone has to go through this state in college, but it takes such a toll that it seems by the end of the semester each student should be a burnt out shell. Sometimes though, a little deviation from your regular schedule of studying studying is enough to revive you.

It started with panic.

The elevator doors wouldn't open.

I threw a mini-tantrum, running around the tiny cubicle, jumping on the rails, pulling the signs off of the walls.

Was I really going to be stuck in an elevator on the first floor?

I already had a test the next morning; I didn't need this right now. As a last ditch effort, I threw a jab at the door... at the instant it decided to open.

"Sorry sorry" I said apologetically, smoothing out the wrinkles I had caused in one of my fellow Brooks resident's clothes. Before he could reply, I ran towards the door, sliding through towards the seminar room.

"Huy!" exclaimed Jennifer, smiling and waving as always.

I had gotten no further than the windows of the Great Hall to see her and Caleb exiting the Seminar Room I was supposed to join them in. We excitedly talked for a few moments, when a din of noises emerged from our stomachs. We stared at each other awkwardly.

"Erm..."

"Ay all-ya hungry? I relle starved, lé we go eat nah." Caleb broke the silence by turning on his trademark Trinidadian accent. Jennifer and I burst out laughing, to which Caleb only gave a short, "You know you love it."

So we decided to fry an egg.

Why we decided to do so instead of taking the five minutes to stroll to Subway I have no clue. Instead, Jennifer went through an epic adventure through the Brooks College refrigerator. Soon, there was a small pile of random rotting cheese, melting butter, sour milk, until finally in her hands she held a small carton full of delectable orbs filled with deliciousness; which

we smothered with pancake syrup.

Aunt Jemima makes a gourmet meal out of anything. Except, Aunt Jemima is also terribly atrocious in large amounts.

Setting off towards Exxon for some refreshment, we chatted about our days, poking fun at each other such as close friends do. In and out we went, with Voss and fruit drinks in hand, ready to tackle the day.

Like courageous explorers we set out to complete our studying... and ended up in the Junior Common Room, exhausted from a long day's work. Fatigued bodies could barely move from the comfort of the couch, as if weighed down with the stress and burden the college brings.

After a quick run up to my room, I returned with a nice fluffy blanket to an almost passed out Jennifer and Caleb. Smiling, I tip-toed to the T.V., draping my peacefully sleeping friends with the blanket along the way. I stuck a random movie on and nestled into my spot on the couch, the three of us cuddling together as if we were a warren of new-born bunnies.

We lay there until morning, half-awake, half-asleep, but all sharing something that we desperately needed: a moment of tranquility. ■

# The Problem with Elevators & Friends



James  
Colquitt  
*Staff  
Writer*

"Do you like being in there?"

"Can you hear me?"

"Haha, you suck!"

"Want me to call Dana?"

I'm powerless to stop any of the harassment being hurled my way. In fact, you can say that I'm a prisoner to cruelty at the moment. For over an hour I'm subjected to things that no man should ever have to endure. I find myself starting to sympathize with every prisoner in the world's history. Because I now know what it feels like to experience such horrors.

I'm stuck in an elevator.

Please refrain from shying away in horror, this story has a happy ending. Now you may be wondering how I managed to get myself in such a predicament. Don't fret, because I'm going to tell you a slightly embellished account of my captivity.

It all started in the late afternoon on a dull weekday. I had just finished an entire day of classes and was preparing myself for a dreaded poli-sci exam for the following day. After typing up all of my notes from my notepad, I printed them out using the nifty Brooks printer in the JCR. Retrieving my printed notes would require me to head out of my room and downstairs. So I did.

Now I'm a lazy guy. It's a habitual thing that I've tried to kick for most of my life. So in my lazy stupor, I decided to take the elevator from the fourth floor. I stepped on in and watched

those metallic doors entrap me in no time. I hit the first floor button and stand idly for the ride. I'm somewhere in the middle of daydreaming about being the coolest guy in the world when I hear a loud screech.

I peer up and notice that I'm supposedly on the third floor. But there's a problem, the doors won't budge and the elevator has come to a halt. I'm cool customer so I don't panic just yet. After twenty or so seconds, I start hitting the open button with every bit of strength I could muster.

Nothing!

Now I'm faced with the embarrassing duty of having to hit the emergency operator button. I debate waiting a little longer and seeing if the elevator will magically start working again. I toss this aside and hit the button. I hear a dial tone and then a connection.

"Hello, Baylor Police." A woman says in a near monotone voice.

"Yeah, I'm stuck in an elevator at Brooks College."

I hear the line go silent for a moment or two. But the operator quickly comes back with this. "...Haha, how did you manage that, sir?"

"It just stopped working, ma'am."

She shuffles around momentarily. "Someone's on the way, but it's going to take about an hour for the engineer to get over there. Hit the button again if you need something." And like that our connection is broken.

So I'm left with nothing to do and a bit of annoyance. I pace around the elevator for a few minutes and think about all of the things I'm going to do when I get out of here. But boredom prevails and I open my phone up to call someone up. I choose one of the most colorful people I know.

Caleb Karan.

"Hello."

"Hey Caleb, it's James. I'm stu—" I'm quickly interrupted by Caleb's endearing enthusiasm.

"Hey buddy! How you be, bay-buh?!" Caleb quickly throws up his best Toby impression. As some of you know, Toby is my roommate and everyone uses that fact to demonstrate their Toby impression whenever I'm in the general vicinity.

I'm in no mood to laugh at a very good impression. "I'm stuck in the elevator. Keep it quiet." I quickly add, knowing that Caleb is in the study room with a number of my floormates.

"YOU'RE IN THE ELEVATOR?!" Caleb exclaims and I can even hear the pitter-patter of his feet as he dashes to my rescue.

I also pick up the audible sounds of a very crowded room laughing at my dear friend's exclamation. It's not very long before I hear a banging on the metallic doors above me.

And that's how it started. For the next hour, I'm bombarded with amused friends and bystanders. It becomes a community experience. Everyone seems to gather around the elevator in a makeshift comical vigil. Everyone from the ripped Samuel Thomas to Caleb Farmer pays me a visit. I hear every joke and laugh imaginable. I come to the conclusion that I'll undoubtedly need a lot of therapy in the future.

But even through all of the laugh and joking, I come to appreciate my friends at Brooks. Because most of them, at least the ones I hold dearest, stay by my side through the entire ordeal.

After a while, the elevator kicks up again and I'm taken down to the first floor where I'm greeted with enough bromance to wipe out a small village.

I step outside into the cold air and smile. My friends are there and I take the barrage of jokes in stride.

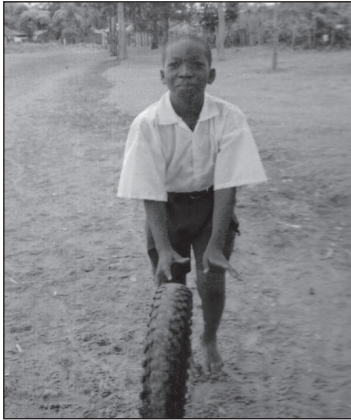
I can see that a lot has already changed during my incarceration and I vow to be a better person.

Or at least never to take that flippin' elevator again. ■



# Meet Victor

photos by nick batts



For the fourth year in a row, Brooks is sponsoring Victor Omondi, a Kenyan child and honorary Brooks member.

Help support him! Just a dollar every few weeks will really make a difference. Visit the front desk for more information.



*Sammy says...*



Merry  
Christmas!

\*DISCLAIMER\* Dr. Samuel Palmer Brooks did not, to our knowledge, actually say the above quote. We also have no record he ever wore this suit.

IN

Baylor football  
hot water  
landscaping  
baking  
Starbucks Christmas  
cups

&

elections  
broken  
elevators  
unlock codes  
shortcuts out of  
Brooks  
cold water/  
no water

OUT

# PQ

Prexians' Quarterly



Sally Ann  
Moyer  
Staff Writer,  
Designer

"My roommates make fun of me because I take time," sophomore Chris Brinser says, frustrated, "but I just

*"It's even more important to dress well when you're interacting with people that you see everyday...it's a good time to start forming habits now."*

like clothes."

He's a little flustered, perhaps because he has rushed to get ready for the day and is about to spend the next half hour talking about clothes, something straight men—or men at and around Brooks, i.e. Baylor—don't normally take an interest in pursuing.

Of course, Brinser's rolled-out-of-bed-five-minutes-ago look is not quite the same as your average Brooks resident; he slipped into a dress shirt and jeans.

"Everyone asks me if I'm a Business Fellow. People will always ask me, 'Oh, you're dressed up today, what are you dressed well for?' And I'm like, 'You need a reason to dress well?' I always go: it's a Tuesday!"

His dressing philosophy combats the normal Brooks habit of finery for Sunday night dinner and Yule Ball only.

"I feel like you shouldn't have to have a reason to care what you look like," he says.

He argued, though, that dressing well takes less effort than it might first appear.

"I wear jeans most days, but instead of wearing a t-shirt, wear a button down or a polo, or something like that."

Just like he's experienced

in his rush to get ready, he recognizes that not everyday can be photo shoot ready.

"I mean everyone has their bad days where they dress in a t-shirt and you know, like I woke up 15 minutes late for class, I really don't care but generally, at the most, you [need to just] put maybe an extra 60 seconds thought into it."

His style tips are straightforward.

"Throw away all of your

T-shirts. The free T-shirts are nice, but don't wear them outside of your dorm room.

Other forms of loungewear are also not appropriate for everyday wear.

"Stay away from athletic shorts, they're the enemy: they represent everything that I despise, unless you're coming out of the SLC," he says. "Don't wear that or sweatpants. Please, please, for the love God, don't wear sweatpants."

He sympathizes with, but does not forgive, the common failure to make an effort in dressing.

"I feel like college students, though, the majority of them, I realize that they're sleep-deprived," he says. "They're busy, but it's not an excuse, you know, to dress sloppily."

It's not just about taking a little bit longer to get ready in the morning, there's a real reason to dress nice, according to Brinser.

"People, like it or not, judge you on your appearance somewhat, and if you look like you want to be successful," he says.

He views learning to dress well is part of growing up and a habit best formed in college.

A second-year Prexian offers his take on campus fashion, specifically why the men of Brooks (and Baylor in general) might benefit from throwing away all their T-shirts.

## Christopher Brinser



left:  
the man  
himself

below:  
brinser  
enjoying  
the snow  
on campus  
last winter

photo by zach biting



photo by matthew carrington

"I feel like it's even more important to dress well when you're interacting with people that you see everyday... your peers, and your teachers, because those are the people that, you know, are influencing you and you are influenced by," he explains, "In terms of like the people [you

see] outside of school, I mean obviously...you always want to dress for the job that you don't have; it's a good time to start forming habits now because you're going to be stuck with them for the rest of your life."

Clothes and fashion choices are also an opportunity to



manifest responsible independence.

"This is the first opportunity most kids aren't going to be judged by their parents as soon as they go to school, their mom's not going to like be able to check them," he says, "It's your responsibility, and your mother's not going to dress you, you know, for your entire life. Do laundry."

He owes his own fashion

*"It's your responsibility, and your mother's not going to dress you, you know, for your entire life."*

instincts, at least in part, to his mother.

"There's certain things just like when I see, I'm like really? Really? You're going to wear that outside? My mother would have never let me leave the house like that."

While loungewear as everyday wear discomforts him, he thinks the true enemy is anything Ed Hardy brand.

"If there's one thing I despise, it's Ed Hardy. I see all of these really big, like muscle-y guys, and they're wearing shirts that are sparkly, it's like, how can you think that's okay?"

Brinser looks forward to Waco weather finally cooling down to more seasonally-appropriate temperatures. "I love the winter in Texas because it's cold enough where you can wear a suit and not be about to burn up, because I hate Texas during the summer," he says.

Current temperatures are not to his liking. "I hate this weather because it's given birth to one of the worst fashion trends ever: UGG boots, shorts and leggings."

Of course, he does not approve of the Baylor female fashion rain trend.

"When I see girls wearing the rain boots and shorts combination," he shivers in disgust before continuing, "I don't like that; it's the one thing that makes me cringe."

Rainwear might initially seem trickier for men because they can't prance around in floral Wellies, but Brinser had a few recommendations.

"A sturdy umbrella," he says, "Don't ever mix wool

and rain because it will ruin it, I've learned that. A raincoat is a must."

He eagerly anticipates colder temperatures because of the change they will bring to his wardrobe.

"I can't wait till it snows because I have a new winter coat," Brinser says. He championed scarves for men and women alike. "I have my favorite J.Press polka-dotted silk scarf that I love, that I wear when it gets really, really cold, that's my favorite thing—speaking of, men love scarves on women."

As long as Waco keeps up its bipolar temperatures, he recommended layers.

"I would say, layers, definitely, because you could do... a sweater over, because you can take that off when it's like 30 degrees and 95 in the afternoon. You can take that off and still have on a button down shirt."

Jackets are another recommendation for men. "Jackets, obviously, and blazers—you can take those off when the sun starts to bear down about noon."

Brinser denied much of his own fashion expertise, except that which stems from years

of reading GQ magazine.

"I've read GQ probably for the past five, six years," he says.

He offered a disclaimer, though, that he reads for the fashion advice only.

"Generally, it can be kind of a racy magazine; although, they do sell it in the [campus] bookstore."

He also reads the Sartorialist, a street photographer who writes for GQ and maintains a personal fashion blog. The Sartorialist "does a column in GQ every month, it has pictures and captions and is like a page or two every month. That's a good place to go; although, some of the stuff on there is kind of crazy," Brinser says.

Brinser also takes cues from his two celebrity style icons: George Clooney and Joseph Gordon-Levitt.

"George Clooney dresses extremely well. Every time I've seen a picture of George Clooney, he's just been extremely well put together," he says, "And Joseph Gordon-Levitt—every time I've seen him in like a photo shoot or a something, he always looks very hipster-esque."

Brinser makes a point to classify that he means the well-dressed connotation of the word hipster.

"I feel like you see people who are like hipster people, but I feel like there's almost a division between the hipster that's like well-dressed and there's the hipster's that's like homeless hipster; it's a broad category, it hasn't exactly settled out. I feel like I should say flannel-hipster or, you know, like hipster that wears the same flannel shirt for a week."

If there's one thing Brinser's got besides a sense of style, it's a sense of humor. ■



image of one of the December 2010 covers of GQ magazine

# Style Advice



photo from the sartorialist

<http://www.thesartorialist.blogspot.com>

*"He does a column in GQ every month.... That's a good place to go; although, some of the stuff on there is kind of crazy."*

## Style Icons

*"I've read GQ probably for the past five, six years."*

### George Clooney



photo from GQ

### Joseph Gordon-Levitt

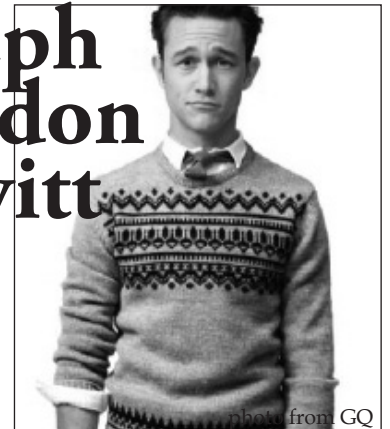
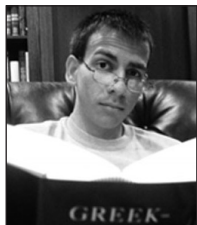


photo from GQ

# Enacting Prophecy



Alex  
Tworowski  
Staff  
Writer

“...He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war” (Isaiah 2:4).

This scripture was read in church this past Sunday to mark the beginning of Advent—the season in the Church calendar that retells the ancient story of Israel’s anticipation of the Messiah. Advent reminds us of a time in history when a people longed for Someone who would bring them peace and deliverance from their enemies. Advent also rekindles our longings for a Redeemer; it reminds us of our earnest longing for a Savior to return and put the cosmos to

rights. We remember Jesus’ promise to return, and we cry out, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

The Isaiah passage today reminded us of our anticipation of our Glorious One, the One who will bring the world peace and deliverance from the evil and brokenness that mars and plagues it. As I meditated on the passage, however, I asked myself, “What are we doing about it?” What are we doing about this prophecy and all the other biblical promises of a new creation and a new order?

I cite the old cliché: “God is in control.” Yes, He is, and it is a wonderful truth. Yet again, I ask: What are we doing about it? What are we doing about God’s sovereignty? Do we sit back and trust God? Yes and no. If we closely examine the writings of the Prophets, we will notice two things: what God will do, and what God wants us to do.

God will execute mercy and justice in the end. However, God asks us to execute mercy and justice now, in

the present time. Do you notice something similar between the two points? They both involve mercy and justice—things that will and must be done. The message of the Prophets is rife with these themes—mercy, justice, compassion, love. All of these themes issue forth from the heart of God. He wills these things because they are attributes of who He is.

As children of God and followers of Jesus, we are charged with the task of doing God’s will. While I realize the term “God’s will” carries a great amount of baggage with it, I believe that His will is to enact redemption upon the earth by bringing justice to the oppressed, healing to the sick, freedom to the captives, and peace to the struggling ones. We do “God’s will” by doing these acts alongside Him. God’s kingdom advances wherever these acts occur. We pray for our Father’s will to be done and we work with Him toward its completion. We are to look

for and hasten the coming of the day of God (2 Pet. 3:12).

As we long for and pray for Jesus’ return, we must continue to be about our Father’s business. Our task is to push back the gates of hell with the conquering light and love of Christ. While we wait for the day when the nations will hammer their swords into plowshares, we must transform our own weapons of death into instruments of cultivating life. The peacemakers, Jesus reminds us, will be called children of God (Matt. 5:9). In our hope for a new heavens and a new earth, we must continue to advance the reign of God’s kingdom on the earth—a kingdom in which the sick are healed, the dead are alive again, the lepers and outcasts are cleansed, evil is absent, and the rich and poor alike are feasting with Jesus at the Father’s banquet table. God has poured out His Spirit upon us; let us now begin to prophesy the advancing reign of God with our mouths and our lives. ■

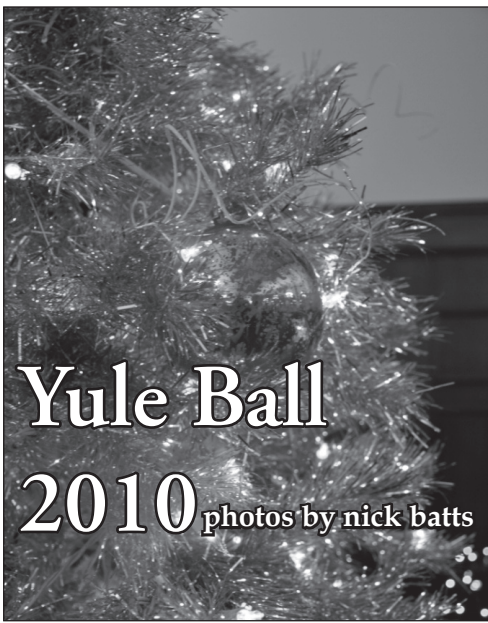
## brooks at the zoo

photos by nick batts



Members of Brooks College visiting Cameron Park Zoo.





Yule Ball, planned by the Community and Traditions committee (ComTrad), was held Saturday, Nov. 20, and was free for Brooks residents and others to attend.



# FINE ARTS forecast



Anson  
Jablinski  
*Staff  
Writer*

It's finally sweater season! Let there be much rejoicing and dancing in the streets.

Merry Christmas, and best wishes with finals to you all!

Write me if you have an upcoming event you want to see listed in the Forecast!

Unless otherwise noted, all events listed here are at 7:30 pm in Jones Concert Hall (in the McCrary Music Building) and totally free of charge.

## Christmas at Baylor

Friday, December 3 and  
Saturday, December 4.

Featuring the combined choirs and the Baylor Symphony, these concerts are always fantastic. Unfortunately, they're also always sold out. At this point, tickets are nigh-impossible to find.

## Chamber Singers

### Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 5 (3:00),  
Monday, December 6 (7:30),  
and Tuesday, December 7 (7:30)  
in the Armstrong-Browning Library.

Another fantastic and fantastically popular holiday event that is also, very sadly, sold out

## Waco Symphony

Thursday, January 13 at 7:30  
in Waco Hall. Featuring a guest solo violinist playing Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5. \$5 student tickets at the door with your Baylor ID!

## Martin Museum of Art

New exhibitions begin  
January 18!

See [[www.baylor.edu/martinmuseum](http://www.baylor.edu/martinmuseum)] for museum hours and other information.

*Merry  
Torchmas*

## The Torch's Annual Christmas FUN PAGE

finals may not be over, but in this special edition of The Torch... you can pretend...

### What's your favorite Christmas movie?

**"White Christmas!"**  
Devon Page

**"'Elf.' Hi, Buddy the elf, what's your favorite color?"**

Jonathan Leyerle

**"Meet Me In St. Louis!!!"**  
Sally Ann Moyer

**"National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation!"**  
Matthew Carrington

**"It's a Wonderful Life!"**  
Alex Tworowski

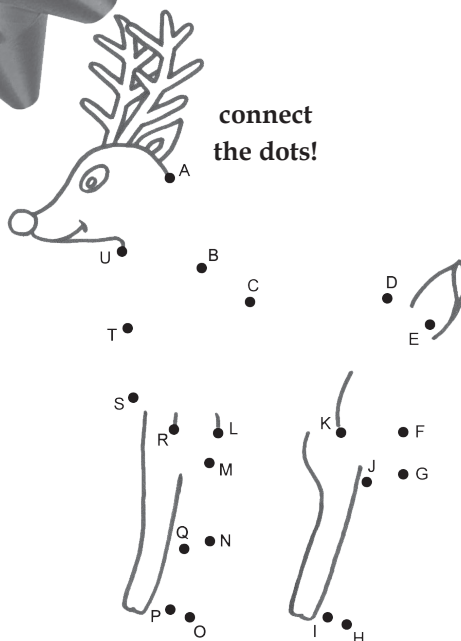
**"Santa Claus is Comin' to Town (1970)"**  
Nathan Fischer

**"'It's a Wonderful Life'... but that's not really Christmassy... 'Home Alone'."**  
Jennifer Tran

**"It's a Wonderful Life"**  
Nick Batts

**"White Christmas"**  
Brooke Bormann

**"The Muppet Christmas Carol"**  
Anson Jablinski



### Study "Inspiration"

"Never put off until tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow."

~Mark Twain.

"I do my work at the same time each day - the last minute."

~Author Unknown

"Work is the greatest thing in the world, so we should always save some of it for tomorrow!"

~Don Herold.

"The sooner I fall behind, the more time I have to catch up."

~Author Unknown

"Procrastination isn't the problem. It's the solution. It's the universe's way of saying stop, slow down, you move too fast."

~Ellen DeGeneres

### Christmas Jokes

Q. Why does Santa Claus go down the chimney on Christmas Eve?

A. Because it soots him.

Q. What did the big candle say to the little candle?

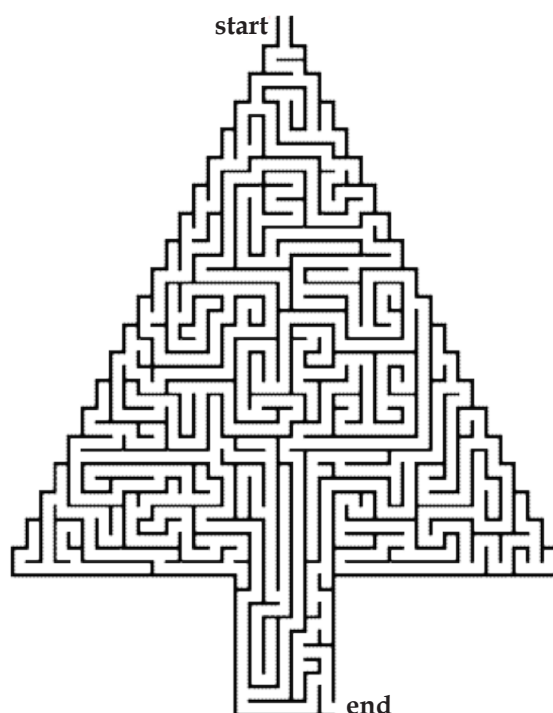
A. I'm going out tonight.

Q. Why did they let the turkey join the band?

A. Because he had the drum sticks.

Q. Why are Christmas trees such bad knitters?

A. They are always dropping their needles.



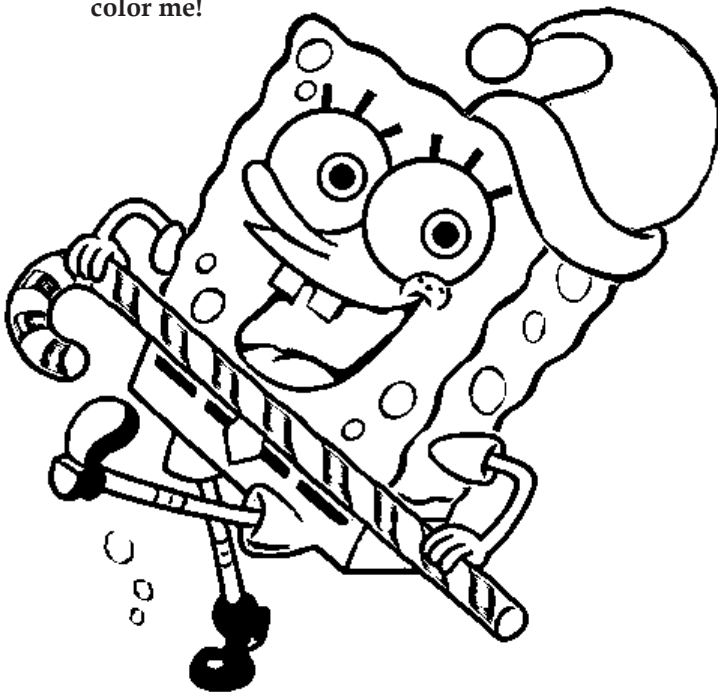


## Christmas Word Search

G L E T W C R S T O C K I N G  
 Y I P I D A E R B R E G N I G  
 A C O V T R P Y A E C E F F U  
 R E A S L E Q I X O C T A P Z  
 E M I R Y H A U D P S A J O N  
 S E A P O B E T H L E H E M I  
 N R U L O L D O N T F O S P U  
 A R L S L E I G H A A S U D O  
 M Y N O K L T T O Y S I S H R  
 W C E N E M E S I W F E T A N  
 O B M K A J L O Z Y E G V M A  
 N E R N O L U H M G O T E L M  
 S O G I E O Y D N A C X O N E  
 V E R B I J O T H U W B K A N  
 R E E D N I E R Q C A E E R T

- |                |              |              |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Bells       | 9. Holly     | 17. Sleigh   |
| 2. Bethlehem   | 10. Jesus    | 18. Snowman  |
| 3. Candy       | 11. Manger   | 19. Star     |
| 4. Carol       | 12. Merry    | 20. Stocking |
| 5. Christmas   | 13. Ornament | 21. Toys     |
| 6. Elves       | 14. Peace    | 22. Tree     |
| 7. Gifts       | 15. Reindeer | 23. Wisemen  |
| 8. Gingerbread | 16. Santa    | 24. Yuletide |

color me!



## Christmas Fun Facts



Nathan  
Fischer

Staff  
Writer

The first president to decorate the White House Christmas tree was Franklin Pierce.

If you received all of the gifts in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," you would receive 364 gifts.

In 1907, Oklahoma became the last U.S. state to declare Christmas a legal holiday.

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (2000) features more than 52,000 Christmas lights, 8,200 Christmas ornaments and 2,000 candy canes.

More than 3 billion Christmas cards are sent annually in the United States.

CONTACT  
the torch



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Got a question, comment, idea or article or picture to contribute? Contact us!



# COMMUNITY LEADER

## spotlight

### Caroline Barta

FLOOR: 4  
YEAR: JUNIOR



#### 1. What is your degree/major/minor?

Double major in Great Texts of the Western Tradition and Classics, Honors Program.

#### 2. What is your hometown?

Katy, TX.

#### 3. What activities are you involved in?

Pretty much anything and everything BROOKS, living the CL dream, Reformed University Fellowship (RUF), Honors Program, William Carey Crane Scholars, the editorial board of The Pulse, Eta Sigma Phi (Classics Honors Society), helping teach K-1st Sunday School at my church, Redeemer Presbyterian, participating in a Redeemer Community Group.

#### 4. Why did you choose Baylor?

I chose Baylor primarily because of the Great Texts program. Baylor is one of only six-ish colleges in the nation that offers a great books program, and several of those are only great books schools. I wanted a traditional college experience tied in with the Great Texts program (which is basically me personified into an academic discipline). However, the fact that I'm a third generation Baylor Bear (Sic'em!), a native Texan, and Baylor offers such great scholarships certainly were also major factors.

#### 5. What is your favorite movie & why?

That's a really difficult question. Probably "The Dark Knight," mainly because it's a fantastic story with lots of philosophical implications. Right now I'm also really intrigued by "Fight Club" (probably partially for the shock value of watching people trying to reconcile their knowledge of me and the fact of me watching that movie).

#### 6. What is your favorite childhood memory?

Moving to Waltham, Massachusetts (right outside of Boston) at 8. We lived there for 15 months, and it was one of the best times for our family--we visited unbelievable historical sights, amazing museums, and made life-long friends.

#### 7. What is the best class you have taken at Baylor & why?

Wow. If you know me, this is probably the hardest question on here for me to answer. I really enjoyed my freshman honors seminar class--Burris' "Getting Away with Murder in Classical Athens." The puns were great for that class. This semester, my favorite class is definitely GTX Masterworks in Art taught by Dr. Jeffrey. I love learning more about how to "read" art!

#### 8. What's your favorite thing about Brooks?

My favorite aspect of Brooks is our extraordinary diversity aimed toward a communal good. I love watching the amazing gifts and talents of all the amazing people around me. It's the people that make this place so great!

#### 9. Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Well, hopefully in ten years I'll be out of school...just barely. I think it's likely I'll have a doctorate (right now I think that advanced degree will be in comparative literature). My life goals involve more than tenure and publishing credits, however, so, God willing, at 30, I hope the beginnings of the adventure of marriage and family for myself.

#### 10. Why are you a CL?

I love talking to people and hearing their stories, answering their questions and helping solve their problems. I also love helping people develop their gifts and talents. Most of all, I see it as a positive way to image Christ-likeness and daily consider others more important than myself.