



SUNNY
High 50 / Low 25
Tomorrow:
High 53 / Low 30

The University Daily

Serving the Texas Tech University community since 1925

www.universitydaily.net

MONDAY
Feb. 2, 2004

Volume 78 ■ Issue 82
Lubbock, Texas
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Tech law student running for City Council

By Sally Gunter/
The University Daily



Overholser

Lubbock City Councilman Frank Morrison has an opponent going into his May re-election that may look familiar to some Texas Tech students.

Todd Overholser, 28, is a third-year law student at Tech. He graduated first in his class at McMurry University with a degree in finance and served in the Air Force for six years until being honorably discharged.

Overholser works in the sales department at a local hotel on the weekends.

Although he does not have any

political background, Overholser said there are other things that make him eligible for the position.

"I am qualified because I have a desire and a heart to serve the people I represent," he said. "And that to me is one of the most important attributes that a representative can have."

Overholser and his campaign vol-

unteers have been visiting houses in District 4, trying to raise support for his election. They collected more than 300 e-mail addresses and have a goal of more than 2,000 before the May 15 election.

The support Overholser said he has seen has been unbelievable.

"Honesty and a firm handshake go a long way to building positive working relationships," he said.

His studies at law school may suffer if elected, but Overholser said he will put the citizens of Lubbock as his first priority.

Professors at the law school are supportive of Overholser's decision to

run for the councilman position, he said.

"The whistle has blown to start this match, and my nerves are calm," he said. "You must overcome nerves with action."

Overholser said he has raised his eyebrows at some of the Council's decisions.

"The Hispanic and African-American communities in the city may have been ignored or not represented on some of the recent issues," he said.

The handling of the city manager search process is one example of this, he said.

While Overholser would not state a stand concerning the housing ordinance, he said he respects the residence of the house for their concern with local rules.

"I truly, truly admire students who are actively involved in politics," he said. "I think all students at Tech should be involved in local, state and national government. It's important that our voices are heard."

Overholser's refusal to announce a position on the housing ordinance is offensive to Morrison and the chicken way out, Morrison said.

"He knows his constituents will not elect him if he opposes the hous-

ing ordinance," Morrison said. "I wholeheartedly support the ordinance."

He believes college students are a part of the community but Morrison also believes they have the same responsibilities as the rest of the Lubbock residents.

The stand Overholser will take on the housing ordinance will play a big part on the outcome of the election, Morrison said, but he is not scared.

"I believe my faith is stronger than that," Morrison said. "I believe it's a God-given talent I have for public ser-

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Overholser

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vice, and if it's his will that I continue, I will be re-elected, and if I don't win, I can return to my life and be happy."

Morrison said he believes he is more qualified than his opponent. He graduated from Tech in 1980 and earned his master's degree in public affairs from the University of Texas.

There is no need to begin campaigning now because it is too early, Morrison said.

"I'm not going to begin campaigning until after the primary," he said. "Campaigning right now, I believe confuses the public."

Two petitions to recall Morrison have been requested during his four-year term on the Council.

The first affidavit for a recall

election against Morrison was two years ago when Morrison bought a house to remodel. Morrison moved outside District 4 while he was remodeling.

Although it is allowed in the Council election code to move out of the represented district for a temporary amount of time if there is an intention to return, it upset some people in District 4.

Morrison said his move out of the district was just a cover-up for the real reason behind the petition.

"The supporters of the petition were opposed to my position on the smoking ordinance," he said. "The justification for the petition was because I didn't live in my district."

The most recent petition was requested Jan. 5 by District 4 resident Max Winn.

Winn said the recall petition was a personal attack against Morrison. Winn is upset because Morrison supported Tommy Gonzalez throughout

the city manager search process but then decided Gonzalez was not qualified for the position, Winn said.

"Frank Morrison has been exposed as a racist," Winn said. "He's got no character."

If Winn lived in another district, he said he would probably have a petition for recall against the Council member for that district. Getting Morrison recalled might help Overholser win the Council election in May, Winn said.

"If it helps Todd with winning, then anything I can do to attack Frank, I'm going to do it," Winn said.

Neither of the two petitions gathered enough signatures to recall Morrison, and this proves something to Morrison.

"If my constituents were not satisfied with the job I've been doing on the council, I'd have been recalled by now," he said. "It is an indication I've been doing a satisfactory job for my constituents."