

Mariëlle Pack has been studying in Austin, Texas. In every Angler, she will write a piece about something which is typical of that area or America in general.

The UT Campus

The UT Campus in one word: wow! An American campus differs very much from the Dutch campus. Leiden University is scattered throughout the city. UT on the other hand has one mayor location and is one of the largest campuses in the States. Located between Martin Luther King (MLK) and 28th st., the UT campus is the place where about 60,000 students are educated. Due to the UT victory over USC last January (see Angler 2), even more students will apply at the oh so popular University of Texas at Austin.

The campus is well organized and well-kept. During my stay, many buildings were being renovated. Let me describe some of the most prominent buildings on campus.



The Tower

The Main Building or Tower most definitely catches the eye when you enter Austin. It used to be the library, where librarians on skates (!) would deliver books to the students at the front desk who had ordered them. This took so much time that the library was moved to the Perry-Castañeda Library (PCL). The Tower now houses offices.

In the 1960s, the Tower witnessed a bloodbath. A student hid on the 28th floor, randomly shooting and killing people on the ground. People on the ground shot back until the gunman in the tower was killed. When you take a tour of the tower, you can still see the bullet holes in the walls at the 28th floor.

After two people had committed suicide by throwing themselves off the 28th floor, the university decided on building a steel cage around the 28th floor balcony, to secure the safety of the visitors.



One of the bullet holes from the bloodbath

Then there is the Texas Union, which could be compared to Plexus, the latter being much smaller however, since everything is bigger in Texas! You can have lunch at several fast food restaurants, like Wendy's, visit the copy center, study in several rooms like the computer room, the Texas Governor's Room, the Presidential Lounge or the Sinclair Suite. You can buy school supplies at the Campus Store, or get tickets for upcoming events at the Students Events Center. This is where I got my ticket to see the Dalai Lama when he gave a lecture at the Frank C. Erwin Center.

To be continued...

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View of campus and downtown Austin as seen from the Tower