Two weeks before taking office, George W. Bush already was focusing on the economy. He is shown here meeting with the leaders of 17 top high tech companies who assembled in the ACES Building on the UT Austin campus on Jan. 4. The meeting of high tech titans took place during the president-elect's economic forum.

The Texification of a nation

Inauguration of 43rd president provides national stage for University of Texas Longhorn Band, Bevo and outgoing UT System Regent Chairman Don Evans

With a Texan again claiming the Oval Office, the inaugural parade for George W. Bush on Jan. 20 had a distinctive burnt orange flair. The parade, which followed a 1.9-mile route from the U.S. Capital to the White House, was led by the University of Texas Longhorn Band. UT Austin alumna Stephanie Hoehne served as the public affairs director for the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee, a group that every four years coordinates military participation and handles much of the detail work for the inauguration. UT's bovine mascot, Bevo, made the trip for an appearance at the Black Tie & Boots Ball. Meanwhile, UT System Board of Regents Chairman Don Evans has headed to Washington as President Bush's appointment as commerce secretary. He resigned from the board last week after four years as chairman.