

TCU Daily Skiff

Friday, October 18, 1991

Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas

89th Year, No. 30...

Seminars, performance part of workshop

By **ALFRED R. CHARLES**
TCU Daily Skiff

A resounding chorus of voices will raise the rooftops of Robert Carr Chapel tomorrow when the university's Word of Truth Gospel Choir performs with choirs from three other area universities, choir members said.

"The focus is on praise," said Shonda Jones, choir president and program organizer.

The Collegiate Choir Workshop will convene in the Brown-Lupton Student Center. Saturday evening performances will be conducted in Robert Carr Chapel.

Collegiate choirs from the University of North Texas, the University of Texas at Arlington and Texas Wesleyan University will perform. The Fort Worth group Dominion and Power, who are currently in post-production of their second gospel album, will also perform.

Choir seminars will be held to acquaint choir members with new techniques and stylistic approaches to singing and choir decorum, event organizers said.

Although the Word of Truth Gospel Choir has been a recognized campus organization for four years, student leaders said the weekend workshops and choir performances will add to the organization's campus

recognition.

"More people will know Word of Truth exists and we'll be able to express the gospel through song," Jones said.

For new choir members, the experience will be a return to church singing and praise.

"The performance gives me a chance to still be involved in church activities while I'm away from home," said Charlsie Mays, a freshman advertising-public relations major from Austin.

"It will also give me a chance to be around other college students who are involved in the same interests as I am," Mays said.

Support from Word of Truth members, especially freshmen, has been particularly

strong, Jones said.

"Our membership is up," Jones said. "We average 45 people per rehearsal and we've had more freshmen this year than any year."

"It represents an extreme amount of commitment," she said.

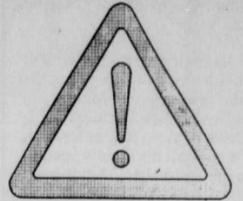
Program organizers said support from students weren't the only factor contributing to the potential success of the program.

Assistance from Student Activities and University Ministries office has been a key factor in presenting the program, Jones said.

The encouragement from the university has "most definitely" been there, she said.

See Choir, page 5

Cantey and Parmer streets will be paved today.



Cars parked on these streets will be subject to TOWING at owner's expense, Austin Paving said.



Santa Fe program to display artwork

By **ABIGAIL DALBEY**
TCU Daily Skiff

Paintings and photographs produced by students on the three-week TCU at Santa Fe summer program are being displayed until Nov. 30 in the Mary Coats Burnett Library.

Anthropology, painting and photography classes were offered during the trip, said Luther Smith, associate professor of photography.

The photography and painting students went into the terrain to do their work, said Susan Layne, a senior English major who went on the trip. She said the anthropology students focused more on the cultural aspects of the land.

"It was the kind of work you could not do unless you were there to experience it," she said.

During the trip, the students focused on the landscape as it related to history and time, Smith said.

Santa Fe was chosen for the trip

because it has been the center of many geological upheavals and its landscape dramatically reflects this, he said.

The students took three major field trips during the program, Smith said.

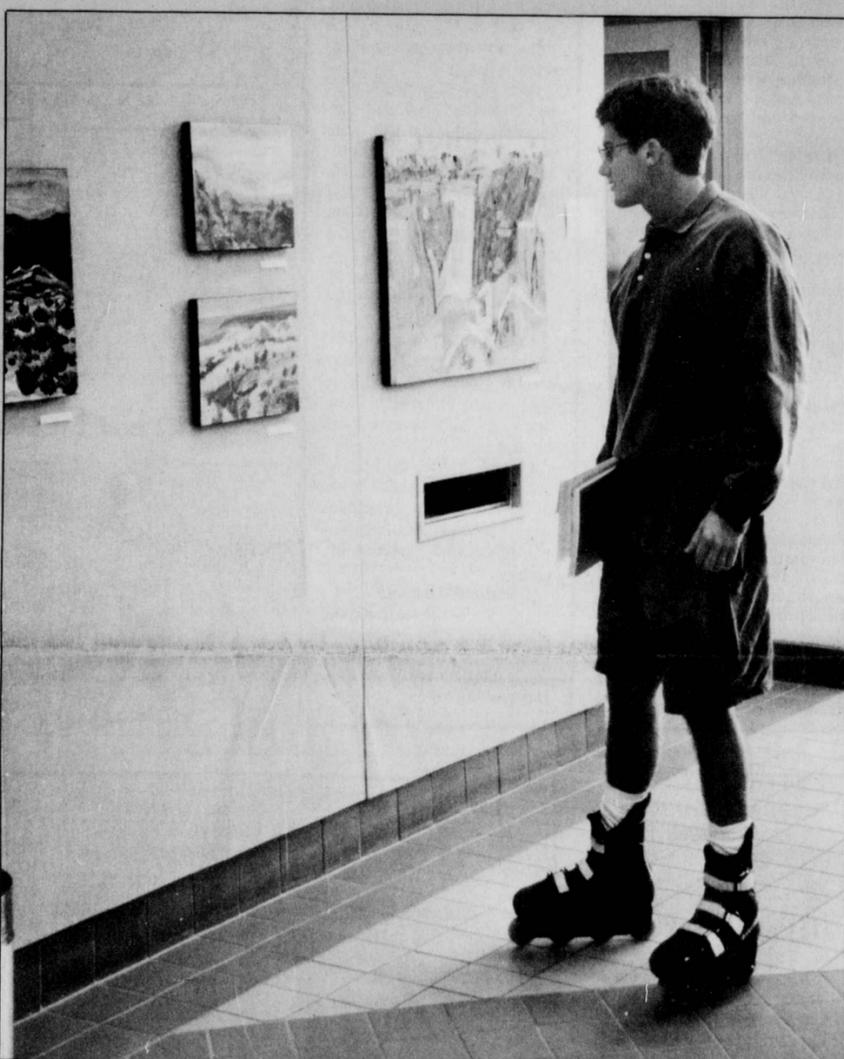
They visited Ghost Ranch near Abiquiu, N.M., where Georgia O'Keeffe did a lot of her work, he said.

The students also visited Bandelier National Monument and Chaco Canyon National Park, both historical sites where the Anasazi Indians lived, Smith said.

The summer trip was one of his most rewarding experiences as a teacher, Smith said.

"The students were really able to expand their visions in a class that was interdisciplinary," he said.

"In three weeks I learned a lot about photography, myself and everyone around me," said Kandy Hale, a senior art education major who participated in the program.



Above, Reese McCrea, a senior marketing major, looks at part of the TCU at Santa Fe art exhibit in the Mary Coats Burnett Library. At top left are some of the items featured in the exhibit. The exhibit will be shown until Nov. 30.

TCU Daily Skiff/Wade Wegner

House votes against gun, ammo ban

By **MATT YANCEY**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON D.C. — The House rejected a proposed ban on semiautomatic assault weapons and large ammunition clips Thursday, spurning the appeals of gun control advocates who seized upon the Texas shooting rampage to make their case.

By 247-177, the lawmakers voted to strike from a broad anti-crime bill, a provision that would have banned 13 models of assault-style weapons, along with 17-round ammunition clips such as those used by the gunman Wednesday to slay 22 people and himself in a Killeen, Texas, cafeteria.

Supporters of the gun control measure had taken heart when Rep. Chet Edwards announced that the massacre in a cafeteria in his home district had persuaded him to drop his longstanding opposition.

But gun control opponents noted that the proposed list of weapons to be banned did not include the models of pistols the gunman used.

"This is a feel-good measure," said Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis. "It is not going to affect criminals in any way, shape or form."

Supporters of the ban contended a proposed seven-bullet limit on ammunition clips might have saved some people because the gunman would have had to stop shooting to reload more often.

"The killer was in the cafeteria for over 10 minutes," Sensenbrenner countered. "He had plenty of time to change clips, and apparently he did."

Still, supporters of the ban, many of them hunters, said the Texas shootings emphasized a need to prohibit possession of weapons and clips designed to "spray" bullets.

See Guns, page 5

Mobil rewards students with tuition scholarships

By **LEANNA STALEY**
TCU Daily Skiff

Five university students who were either called to active duty or were dependents of military staff during the Persian Gulf War received scholarships from Mobil Corporation.

The Mobil Corporation scholarship recipients included Rick Pardo, a second-semester freshman political science major; Lori Reffert, a senior dietetics major; Alan Wetsel, a junior nursing major; Kristin Ann Cathey, a freshman pre-major; and Jeffrey Noel, a junior psychology major.

Pardo received a \$2,000 scholarship from the Mobil Corporation.

Pardo served in the army at Fort Hood for four months of the Gulf War.

He was called to active duty on Dec. 19, the day before his finals started.

"I got one day's notice," Pardo said.

"I talked to the dean and he talked to my professors," he said. "They all gave me credit for the last grade I had in the class."

The time Pardo spent on active duty pushed his status back a semester.

"When I had to leave for active duty I had to drop out of school," he said.

Pardo's mission while on duty was to train soldiers for combat.

His unit was the first reserve school unit in history to be called to active duty in a war, he said.

Pardo's unit trained soldiers in infantry armor, combat engineering, field artillery, nuclear, biological and chemical environments and medics.

"Everybody had to go through (chemical environment) classes," Pardo said.

"When you train a soldier, everybody has a specific job," he said.

Reffert said her husband, Air Force Maj. Eric A. Reffert, worked 12-hour shifts working in the Intermediate Level Maintenance Squadron at Carswell Air Force Base.

Reffert received a \$1,000 Mobil scholarship.

Pardo said the scholarship is a good example of how America now feels about its soldiers.

"It's kind of saying thanks for putting your effort in for your country and not looking the other way when it was time to do something," he said. "We haven't done that in a while."

"I think maybe the feeling Mobil Corporation had was that attitudes were going down and the effects were being felt on the economy," he said. "Giving this money shows confidence in the economy."

TCU is one of 20 institutions chosen by Mobil Corporation to participate in the program, which assists military personnel and their dependents through tuition scholarships.

Inside

Why?
Columnist tries to understand the cause for the Killeen tragedy. **Page 3**

Showdown in Houston-
The football team goes against Rice. **Page 4**

Outside

Today's weather will be partly sunny with a high temperature of 88 degrees.

Fraternities to compete for Playday title

By **BRANDY ANDERSON**
TCU Daily Skiff

Alpha Delta Pi hopes to raise \$1,200 next week during Playday, the sorority's annual fraternity competition benefiting the Ronald McDonald House.

Alpha Delta Pi plans to raise the money through entry fees, T-shirt sales and the Playday competition, said Susan Wilmot, Playday chairwoman.

"During Playday, fraternities compete against each other in events such as sign hang, skits, a sand vol-

University hosts high school regional band championship

Officials expect 5,000 to 10,000 spectators to attend Saturday

By **JAMIE McILVAIN**
TCU Daily Skiff

Thirty high school bands from Texas and Oklahoma will compete in the Bands of America Regional Championship Saturday at Amon Carter Stadium.

University band officials expect a crowd of 5,000 to 10,000.

Members of the university band will work at the contest to raise funds for two service projects. Some of the jobs the students will do include tak-

ing tickets, greeting people as the buses arrive and selling souvenirs.

The contest sponsors are paying Kappa Kappa Psi band fraternity and Tau Beta Sigma band sorority \$400 each for their work.

Kappa Kappa Psi intends to spend its money publishing an original jazz piece dedicated to the memory of Cole Wehnt, said Paul Burrer, fraternity president and senior music education major.

Wehnt, a former president of the fraternity and a TCU cheerleader,

died in a car accident in August 1990.

Curt Wilson, who directs the university jazz band, is writing the piece for the band to premier at its fall concert Dec. 6. The band needs \$700 to \$800 to print the music, Burrer said.

Tau Beta Sigma plans to use some of its money to aid the band at Rosemont Middle School, said Jamie White, sorority president and senior finance major.

Many students at the school can-

See Bands, page 5

leighball tournament, a Playday competition and field events," Wilmot said.

Each fraternity pays a \$60 entry fee to participate in the Playday activities, she said.

The activities begin on Monday night with the sign hang competition at the Alpha Delta Pi house, Wilmot said.

"Each fraternity is scheduled to bring the signs it has painted to the Alpha Delta Pi house between 9 and 10:30 p.m. Fraternity members will hang the signs on the house and sing to the Alpha Delta PIs," Wilmot said.

The skit competition is on Tuesday and Wednesday nights in the Rickel Room 231. Each fraternity performs a skit it has prepared, Wilmot said.

"The biggest Playday event this year is the sand volleyball tournament," Wilmot said. "This event was added to the Playday activities last year, and it was so successful that we wanted to do it again this year."

The games begin at the Rickel Sand Volleyball Courts on Tuesday from 4 to 7 p.m. and continue on Wednesday at 4 p.m. The final tournament is on Thursday at 4 p.m.

The winners of the tournament will receive points that will be added into their overall score, Wilmot said.

A Playday competition will continue throughout the week at the Student Center and in Worth Hills, Wilmot said.

"Each fraternity selects a member of its pledge class who will represent the group in the Playday competition," Wilmot said.

"During the week, each playboy will have his picture placed on a jar in the Student Center and in Worth

See Playday, page 5

CAMPUSlines

CAMPUSlines is provided as a service to the TCU community. Announcements of events, meetings and other general campus information should be brought by the Skiff office, Moudy 291S or sent to TCU Box 32929. The Skiff reserves the right to edit for style and taste.

TCU CROP Walk will be at 12:30 p.m. Sunday. Meet in Amon Carter Stadium parking lot.

Journalism Department will hold a review session for the GSP test at 7 p.m. Monday in Sid Richardson Lecture Hall 1. Students may register for both the test and the review session in the Journalism Department office, Moudy 256S.

Adult Commuter Network will have two organizational meetings. One will be at 7 p.m. Oct. 22 in Student Center Room 202 and one at 2 p.m. Oct. 23 in Student Center Room 204.

National Art Education Association is sponsoring a workshop on "Marbleizing paper and fabric" from 4 to 6 p.m. Oct. 22 in Moudy Building Room 207N. The workshop costs \$5.

Student Fashion Association will meet at 9 p.m. Oct. 22 at the Ann Taylor store in Hulen Mall. For more information, call 277-6439.

College Fellowship is held every Sunday at University Christian Church in Room 259. For more information call 926-6631.

Chi Delta Mu meets every Monday at noon in Weatherly Hall in the basement of Brite Divinity. Call Dave Nolan at 921-0393 or 332-4197.

Creative Writing Wing meets Mondays at 9 p.m. in the Milton Daniel lobby. Anyone who likes to write is invited. For more information call Dave Morgan at 923-6596.

Peace and Social Justice Committee meets at 3 p.m. every Monday in Student Center Room 204. For more information, call Carol Lattimore at 921-7240.

HELPlines

The Volunteer Center, a service of the United Way needs volunteers. Call the Volunteer Center at 860-1613 for information about the following or other opportunities.

Volunteers are needed to assist the AIDS Resource Center. Training is available. For more information, call the Community Outreach Project of the Dallas Gay Alliance and the Foundation for Human Understanding at (214)521-5124.

Volunteers are needed to spend a minimum of one hour per week with a mental health patient and join in activities that will strengthen socialization skills, like bowling or shopping. Training is provided.

Volunteers are needed to assist elderly people with their personal and/or financial affairs. Training will be held in November.

Volunteers are needed to assist in the day surgery unit of a local hospital by transporting patients by wheelchair, giving fluids to recovering patients and running errands in the hospital. Available Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Volunteers are needed to assist with a recycling program on the city's east side. Help is needed to sort and carry recyclables from cars to recycling areas Saturday mornings.

Volunteer tutors are needed from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the East Side Boys and Girls Club. Call LeeAnn Williams at 534-1777.

Volunteers are needed to serve in a court-appointed capacity to be an advocate for abused or neglected children. Training will be held in October.

Volunteers are needed to demonstrate pioneer craft skills at a historic log cabin village site in Fort Worth. Training is provided.

Volunteers are needed at the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank and Soup Kitchen. Call Ron Real at 334-0903 or 334-0907.

CRIMELINES

The campus police reported the following offenses and violations in and around the university from Oct.9 to Oct.17:

Theft:
Oct. 10 — A student's car was stolen from the Coliseum parking lot. The car was recovered the same day in the parking lot across from the Bass Building.

Oct. 10 — A TCU Counseling Center employee's car was stolen from the West Bowie and Greene Street parking lot. Fort Worth police recovered the car the same day. Police said the car had apparently been taken for a joy ride.

Oct. 11 — A TCU Physical Plant employee's mini work truck was moved across campus by two people he said were students. The employee had left the truck unattended with the keys in the ignition. The truck was recovered undamaged.

Oct. 14 — A student's clarinet, valued at \$800, and clarinet case, valued at \$80, were stolen from the bookstore storage shelves while the student was in the bookstore.

Oct. 15 — A student's clothing was stolen from the Milton Daniel Hall laundry room Oct. 8. The reason for delay in reporting the incident was not indicated.

Criminal Trespass:
Oct. 9 — Two suspicious men in a car on North Drive were issued criminal trespass warnings and escorted off campus.

Oct. 15 — Two men acting in a suspicious manner in a car in the Worth Hills parking lot were issued criminal trespass warnings and escorted off campus.

Criminal Mischief:
Oct. 9 — The rear window of a student's car was broken by an unknown object. The car was parked in the Tomlinson Hall parking lot.

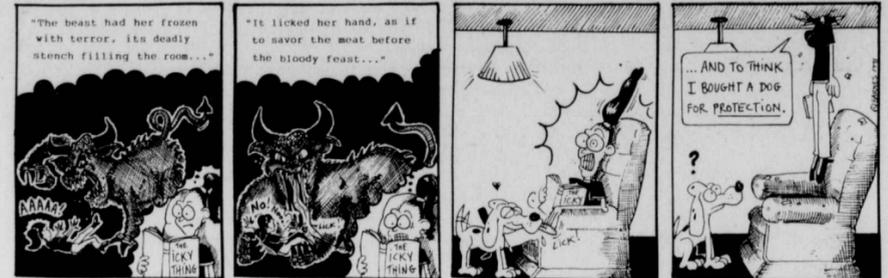
Ye gods & little fishes

by *Stev Klinetobe*



Insanity Fair

by *Joe Barnes*



Siege

by *Andy Grieser & Kall Loper*



Calvin and Hobbes

by *Bill Watterson*



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Opinion

TCU Daily Skiff

All-American
newspaper

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Offensive

Congress shouldn't place 'restrictions' on NEA

Several hundred years ago, when the waltz first began, most of society thought the dance was immoral. It was different from what people were used to, and they thought it was decadent and uncouth for men and women to actually touch each other while they danced.

We obviously haven't come very far since then.

On Wednesday, the House voted in favor of placing prohibitions on the National Endowment for the Arts, preventing it from subsidizing any art which is "patently offensive."

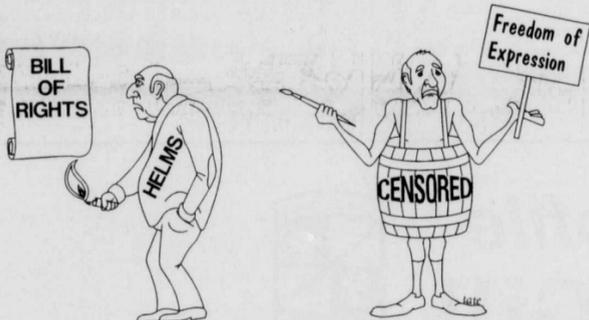
Specifically, the House and Senate are working on a compromise bill for the NEA, as well as deciding on the restrictions proposed by Jesse Helms, R-S.C.

Helms' measure is designed to prevent the NEA from using tax dollars "to promote, disseminate or produce materials that depict or describe, in a patently offensive way, sexual or excretory activities of organs."

This description, meant to cover artists such as Mapplethorpe, also covers Roman and Greek statues, Renaissance paintings and even prehistoric art. Will these be pulled out of our museums one day?

While it would be unfair to compare dancing the waltz with a Mapplethorpe painting, the situation is much the same. Traditional society is damning something new, something which would have once been unthinkable. It shouldn't be unthinkable any more.

The NEA should have free rein to distribute funds to any promising artist in need of financial help, regardless of subject matter. A group composed primarily of conservative white men should not impose Puritanical, Victorian values on who or what the NEA can support.



Letter to the editor

Standards

Once again, the "journalists" at the *Skiff* have failed to live up to the responsibilities that come with the power of the press. In her editorial on Oct. 17, Teri Lee Yankowsky slams Anita Hill for her "smokescreens" and "lame diversions" in the Clarence Thomas confirmation hearings, while nonetheless offering us two lame smokescreens of her own.

First, she says the leaking of Hill's accusations of sexual harassment to the press "possibly could have been a last-ditch attempt by Democrats to keep Thomas out of the Supreme Court." That is awfully slipshod work, folks, and pretty dangerous as well. Prefacing such a strong and yet unsubstantiated accusation with the word "possibly" does not let you off the hook. Following Yankowsky's example, I could, for instance, say Clarence Thomas possibly could have been a child molester, the president possibly could be taking kickbacks from the Mafia and Ms. Yankowsky possibly could be a cocaine addict. But I wouldn't.

Second, Yankowsky badly states "Thomas was considered a qualified judge for the court before Hill's charges surfaced." This kind of utterly false, blanket generalization is especially frightening coming from a "journalist."

Before, during and after the confirmation hearings, many people (Sen. Wellstone from Minnesota, for just one example) stated they thought Thomas was not qualified for the court, not because of anything to do with sexual harassment, but because he has used his law degree primarily to get jobs as a professional bureaucrat, has served only two years as a judge, has said himself that at 42 years of age he still has an "evolving judicial philosophy," has promoted a conception of "natural law" that holds that there are "laws" beyond the Constitution that need to be taken into account, and perhaps most importantly, because he says he has no opinion about and has never even discussed the Supreme Court's most important decisions in the last 20 years, like *Roe vs. Wade*.

Journalists, of all people, should be able to tell the difference between opinions and facts and take pains to differentiate between the two in their writing. And if they are going to hold up a standard for behavior by which they will judge others, like Yankowsky's "good people don't blow smokescreens," then they had better be able to live up to that standard. The "journalists" on the *Skiff* continue to fail on both counts.

Paul Heilker
 English
 Graduate student

Letter policy

The *TCU Daily Skiff* is produced by the students of Texas Christian University, sponsored by the journalism department and published Tuesday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters except during finals week and holidays.

Unsigned editorials represent the view of the *Skiff* editorial board. Signed letters and columns represent the opinion of the writers.

The *Skiff* is a member of the Associated Press.

The *Skiff* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be typed, double-spaced, signed and limited to 500 words. Letters should be turned in two days before publication. They must include the author's classification, major and phone number. The *Skiff* reserves the right to edit or reject any unacceptable letters.



Problem lies in American individual

By ROY McMASTER
 Columnist

When reflecting on a tragedy like the one in Killeen, Texas, the first thing that comes to one's mind is, "Why?" That seems to be the \$60,000 question.

Throughout our lifetimes, our generation has seemingly become immune to the shock this sort of tragedy causes. We see killings on the news virtually every day. Kids are gunned down by rival gangs or drug dealers. These have, tragically, become a part of our lives. Why has America been reduced to such a level? The single thread throughout most of the theories regarding this, it is in some way or form the fault of society.

There are factions that have the answer all summed up in a nice, neat package.

Some say the outlawing of handguns would stop this sort of behavior. It might slow it down, but it most certainly won't stop it. Some people would say America has strayed from the moral sights of religion, and that a neo-revivalist America is the answer. Still others would submit a prison reform plan to "cure" criminals. But these would not

have helped the people in Killeen.

The problem is not with the whole. The problem is with each American individually. A society does not rot from the outside. It starts from within. No one person, or group of people, stands out as the dominating force in manipulating society. The closest thing is the media, television and movies. That is another gripe session in itself.

People must not look at one simple answer to end such meaningless violence. It is not that convenient. I don't think anyone actually believes that outlawing guns will stop violence, so why all the emphasis?

The real focus should be on the individual. If people respected each other and had some respect for human life, they would not randomly shoot each other. Easy to say. But how does that help? Taking the hatred out of someone is much more effective than taking the gun out of their hand. Okay, peace, love, drop acid not bombs.

If that is what you are reading, you are missing the point. Start over.

The American public has created, for themselves, a sense of an "I'm gonna kill

you" attitude. How did this come about? Well you can argue that it was *First Blood* and *A Nightmare on Elm Street* that created this. Then you would have to go back to the cowboys and Indians of the 50s, through Shakespeare and even through the Greek tragedies of the Hellenistic period. One source can not be pinpointed for the introduction of violence. Except, that is, ourselves.

Human nature. Don't look for the answer, or even the guilt, to everything in other people. Look for it in yourself. Develop a sense of responsibility for yourself, and then pass it on. You can do more with a congenial disposition than you can lobbying Congress.

When you look at the ancient empires, medieval Europe and the now-defunct communist countries, you can sense a feeling of the situation slowly getting better. Is it at all possible to phase this out of human behavior? Is a Platonic ideal somewhere in the future, way in the future? That is not up to society, but the individual that makes up society.

Just think about it.

Making the tossed salad a good salad

By AUNDREA MATTHEWS,
 ANGELA SMITH
 and MICHELLE SMITH
 Columnists

A group of concerned students have united to write on the "burning" topics on campus. All of these issues tend to be sensitive in nature, but it is essential for them to be addressed from a different perspective.

Some previous expressions on these topics have been misinformed, some have been uneducated and others have been painful to read. Many have missed the heart of the issues by not going to the root of the matter.

We have taken it upon ourselves to sustain this social forte. We are PACT. We will be Promoting Awareness and Cultural Togetherness by attempting to heighten the university community's appreciation of the distinctive cultures that are in coexistence here on campus. The concerns that we will attempt to confront should be not designated "A Black Thing" or "A White Thing" or any other "Color Thing." These matters are a "TCU Thing," and we are here to persuade readers to "Do the Right Thing."

The university is only a fraction of this nation that the PACT chooses to refer to as a

"tossed salad." And it has become apparent to us that each culture (being an identically special and essential ingredient in the tossed salad) needs the other culture to cause this community to be a better one in which to abide. Enlightenment comes when the opinions of these cultures are not stifled.

During the semester, PACT will initiate discussions on topics such as the new racism, the effects of colonialism, affirmative action, the ethnocentrism of the core curriculum, negative stereotypes, various positive bits of information (i.e. "Did you know?"), historical accounts and anecdotes, great women and anything specifically identified by the reader through a letter addressed to PACT (c/o Student Activities Office) that seems relevant, or any item of concern. As we have stated earlier, these topics may tend to be sensitive, but we remind you that only through pain can there be change.

PACT realizes there is a true need for change. This change can only come about with the help of concerned readers. It is our hope all will become avid activists of the cause to break down barriers between people of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

As we embark on this excursion for a more equitable society, we invite you to join us in

our PACT. We assure readers that our opinion will be informed, well pondered and well educated. We have polled our resources to shed light on issues that cause much darkness. This PACT was founded in knowledge, love, understanding and togetherness. These elements are the key to our very survival on this earth, in this country and on this campus.

For those who wish to maintain strong views of their particular culture, we submit that pride for individual cultures is not reprehensible, but the belief of superiority is. For it is this pride that makes the "tossed salad" a good salad, but it is the superiority complex that stunts innovation and growth as a community. It is the definition of cultures that we strive for.

For the devil's advocate who reads our column, we say this: before the conclusion is made that this is a minority's column, we amend by reiterating that this is a column for the enrichment of a culture that we all share — the American culture. As Americans, we want to circulate hope in times where hope is a rare commodity. We feel that our cause is a pertinent one that will prove to be beneficial to all. We make a challenge — you make the PACT.

So many religions . . . so little time

By GREG WEED
 Columnist



In a desperate attempt to find something funny to write on, I decided to go to something that is constantly a source of hilarity: religion.

Now, I know that many people take religion very seriously. So seriously, in fact, that some will use large kitchen utensils to dismember anyone who makes snide, sarcastic remarks about religion. So here I'm going to walk lightly.

A problem with religion is that there are so many to choose from, it's hard to just pick one. And (according to most religions) you must choose just one. There are no special religion variety packs or choose one, get another at half price. And forget about trying to return one if you find out you don't like it — it's more of a hassle than the department stores.

The real problem with religion is that everyone else's sounds stupid.

Now think about it. If there was a tribe in Africa that had a religious ritual of picking

each other's noses, what would most Americans think about? Would they say, "Wow. Isn't it amazing how people try to deal with the never-ending questions of life after death, the existence of a god and how life should be led?" No, chances are Americans would say, "Those tribe-people have been eating the funny berries."

Of course, the African tribe might watch American TV and laugh at the people who say a prayer after touchdowns. "As if God cares about touchdowns," one of the tribesmen might say. "Come over here, Bob. I've got a bad cold."

I once saw someone wearing a shirt that read, "My God is an awesome God." Well, that's rather pretentious. I bet that person hasn't even tried the other gods out there, so who does she have as a reference point to declare her god "awesome"? For all she knows, her god could be a mediocre god in comparison to others. And I have yet to see t-shirts saying "My Allah is a rad Allah" or "My Buddha is a hip Buddha" (or more accurately, "My Buddha is").

Columnist's note: Please be aware that I am not saying that God is not awesome. Put away your meat cleavers.

Religion has changed much over time. Way back in the Greek days, it was tough to

be a human. There were so many gods, and all of them with nasty dispositions. The Goddess of Women's Cycles could be having her bad schedule time and decide to turn some random man into a three-legged yak or something like that. Fortunately, these gods decided to come down to earth, and now seem to reside on Capital Hill.

Then there's the change in the Jewish/Christian God over a period of time. In the Old Testament, God was a spiteful, unrelenting sort. In the New Testament, God became more loving, caring and helpful. To put it into modern terminology, God started out as a conservative, but then became a liberal in his old age.

Columnist's note: I'm not saying God is a politician. No, as a matter of fact, I think Satan is rolling heartily in laughter over this Clarence Thomas thing. Put away your Ronco two-in-one blender/word processor.

Now, I'm not saying which one of the many religions are the best. That's up to you to decide, if you really want one at all. You might prefer to pray for touchdowns, pick your friend's nose or pick up prostitutes (Swaggartarian religion).

Religions can be fun, and sometimes useful during exam time, but they can also be Hell (pun intended).

Sports

Frogs rested for battle with confident Owls

By GREG RIDDLE
TCU Daily Skiff

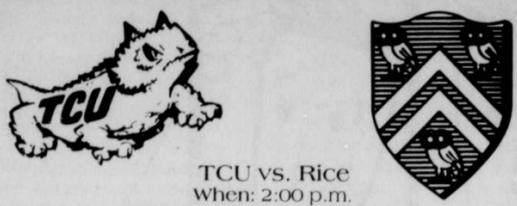
After years of frustration on the football field, TCU and Rice are both in a position to make a run at the Southwest Conference Championship and a postseason bowl game. It's only the third game of the SWC schedule for both teams, but Saturday's game in Houston could go a long way in determining which team stays in the race for the Cotton Bowl and has a shot at a postseason bowl game.

The upstart Owls (3-2, 1-1) are coming off a shocking 20-17 upset over previously undefeated 8th ranked Baylor in Waco last weekend. The upset earned Rice as much national attention from the media as Texas' 10-7 snoozer over 6th ranked Oklahoma.

Two weeks ago, Frog faithful had visions of a 5-0 start and a Top 25 ranking dancing in their heads. However, all that changed in the blink of an eye, as Arkansas came storming back from a 21-0 deficit to hand TCU a heart-breaking 22-21 loss in front of a stunned Parents Weekend crowd. The loss dropped the Frogs to 4-1, 1-1, and put an early dent in their drive to the Cotton Bowl. However, in the wide-open SWC race, where no team is ranked higher than 16th (Baylor) nationally, the Frogs can still make a run.

TCU has had two weeks to heal its wounds both physically and mentally and to try to adjust to life with redshirt freshman Tim Schade as the undisputed, full-time quarterback. TCU's plans for a quarterback by committee went up in flames this past weekend, when Matt Vogler suffered second degree burns on his left hand in a cooking accident in his apartment. The injury will sideline Vogler anywhere from two weeks to the remainder of the season.

"Obviously this cuts down on our depth at quarterback," said TCU coach Jim Wacker. "We just hope Tim can stay healthy, so we don't have to use our two freshmen that we're trying to redshirt."



TCU vs. Rice
When: 2:00 p.m.
Where: Rice Stadium, Houston
Radio/TV: WBAP 820 AM, KTCU 88.7 FM/none



Schade



Cobb

Since taking over for Clay, Schade has played like a seasoned veteran, in leading the Frogs to within a point of a perfect record. For the season, Schade has completed 60 of 90 passes for 751 yards and three touchdowns. "Since Leon got hurt, Tim has done a real good job," said sophomore wide receiver Kyle McPherson. "He has a lot of capabilities. Everyone has been giving him support and pumping him up."

Schade will have the support of a healthy receiving corps for the first time this season now that junior Stephen Shipley is completely healthy. The Frogs will look deep to speedsters Richard Woodley and Kyle McPherson to exploit a young Owls secondary that allowed 202 yards passing to Baylor's J.J. Joe last week on only 12 completions. In last year's 38-28 victory over the Owls, the Frogs had 298 yards

passing and 470 yards of total offense.

"The Baylor win was an exciting win, but it's just one win," said Rice coach Fred Goldsmith. "When we looked at the film from the TCU game last year it brought us back down to earth real quick. Our biggest problem was stopping them. They have the best core of receivers in the Southwest Conference."

Just as Rice will have their hands full with TCU's receivers, the Frogs defense will spend Saturday afternoon trying to stop the Owls' Heisman hopeful, running back Trevor Cobb. Cobb leads the nation in rushing with 888 yards. He is averaging 176 yards a game, including 171 yards and a touchdown last week against a Baylor front line that was thought to be the best in the conference.

"It's going to be a challenge playing against Cobb," said sophomore safety

Greg Evans. "He's the leading rusher in the nation, and we're in the top 10 in rushing defense. It'll be a showdown. We're looking forward to it. We're just going to line up and play smash 'em up football."

As dominating as Cobb has been, he isn't the only weapon in the Owls' arsenal. Freshman quarterback Josh LaRocca replaced starter Greg Willig in the fourth quarter and promptly led the Owls on their game winning drive, completing three passes for 37 yards. He will look to get the ball to the always dangerous Eric Henley, Rice's all-time leading receiver, who came up with the big catches against Baylor last week.

"You have to be concerned when you're playing against the nation's leading rusher," Wacker said. "We're not going to do a lot of different things except pray a lot. However, they also throw the ball really well. We will have our work cut out for us."

The Frogs defense will indeed have its work cut out for them. Going into the Arkansas game, the Frogs had allowed a total of only 250 yards rushing. The Hogs grounded out 227 yards rushing, many late in the game as they methodically killed the clock.

TCU's linebacker corps, which will be severely tested against Rice, has been the key to TCU's defensive improvement this year. Sophomore Reggie Anderson and junior Brad Smith, who had 17 tackles against Arkansas, are both averaging over 11 tackles per game.

"TCU is a lot better on defense this year," said Goldsmith. "Smith has 56 tackles, and the team is getting a lot of sacks and interceptions."

On the line for both teams is respect. TCU lost its credibility last week and Rice is betting it can stay on track with another conference win.

"It would be good for the private schools if TCU would let us beat them," said Goldsmith. "It would give both teams respectable 4-2 records, and would show the big schools we're no pushovers anymore."

Hogs and Longhorns to wage one final war

By JEFF BLAYLOCK
TCU Daily Skiff

Even Longhorn haters have to root for the orange and white this weekend, because a Texas loss keeps the Arkansas Razorbacks on top of the SWC.

Arkansas (4-2, 3-0 SWC) defeated struggling Houston last week and has beaten TCU and SMU. All three have a combined SWC record of 1-6. With the toughest part of the Hogs' schedule remaining, Arkansas can't be expected to stay on top. But an emotional final win over arch-rival Texas could give them yet another boost of confidence.

Texas (2-2, 1-0) has won two straight, the more recent a 10-7 win over Oklahoma last weekend. Texas, too, enters Saturday's game at War Memorial Stadium with confidence. That confidence is not necessarily with the offense. The same goes for Arkansas.

Texas is last in the SWC in offense, grumbling by at 273 yards per game. Arkansas is next to last, surviving on 290 yards per game. Neither team has scored many points. However, Arkansas has scored 51 points over its last two wins, which is three fewer than Texas has scored in all four games.

"It's exciting to be 3-0 in the league," said Arkansas coach Jack Crowe. "I even heard Cotton Bowl talk after the Houston game. I wouldn't dampen that. I'm a dreamer and I'll dream on."

While Arkansas fans are dreaming of a (cotton) white Christmas, the league's two ranked teams will square off in Waco. No. 19 Texas A&M (3-1, 1-0) and No. 16 Baylor (5-1, 2-1) boast the top two rushing attacks



in the SWC. The Aggies have the league's best defense.

Two things may work against the Aggies: an ineffective passing game and Baylor's loss last week.

Bucky Richardson should be able to play, but neither he nor Jeff Granger will be very effective. And consider Baylor's 20-17 loss to the Owls, which dropped them from 8th to 16th in the AP poll, as a wake up call.

"The size of the game hasn't diminished," said Baylor coach Grant Teaff. "It's enhanced. The cushion is gone."

The other SWC team that got a wake up call in its last game was TCU. The question to be answered in Rice Stadium this weekend is whether that was a wake up call to play better or a wake up call to face reality.

Tim Schade and the Frogs will face an underrated Owl defense that bent between the 30's but didn't break when it counted. Call it a rubber band, but the Owl defense regrouped after self-destructing in a 28-27 loss to Iowa State, Rice's only other home game this year.

"Iowa State was a disaster," said Rice coach Fred Goldsmith.

See SWC, page 5



TCU Cadet Profile Michael M. Gill



AGE: 23
HOME: Abilene, Texas
CLASSIFICATION: Senior
MAJOR: Advertising/Public Relations

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Recipient of 2-year Army ROTC scholarship, top 5 percent at basic and advanced camps, ROTC Battalion Commander, distinguished military student, Army Airborne qualified, recipient of Recondo award and Commandants award, co-captain of TCU's Ranger Challenge Team.

QUOTE: "The two years I have spent in Army ROTC have changed my life completely. The courses have given me the confidence and leadership skills that will enable me to excel in all my future endeavors. I no longer accept the norm or mediocre, but strive to always 'better my best.'"

CAREER OBJECTIVES: Upon graduation, I hope to receive an RA Active Duty Commission in the U.S. Army Aviation Corps as a 2nd lieutenant, and my goal is to make the U.S. Army a career. I plan to attend the U.S. Army's Ranger, Air Assault and Flight schools. Upon completion, I hope to end up flying attack helicopters in Korea and eventually commanding an aviation unit.

PROFILE: Clearly a dedicated, resourceful leader. Mike possesses the persistence and determination to succeed in any endeavor. Mike leads by example and has developed a subliminal peer pressure to excel within the entire battalion.



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Bands/ from page 1

not afford to buy instruments, White said. The band's director, a TCU graduate, is forced to shop at pawn shops across the state for instruments for the band.

Tau Beta Sigma has not yet decided what their donation to the middle school will purchase specifically, White said.

The competitors at Saturday's competition represent the best of high school marching bands, band officials said.

"This is a chance to see some really outstanding marching bands," Burrer said. "The kids competing here take marching band very seri-

ously. For them, it's an opportunity to feel like they participated in something really great."

Bands of America is a private company that sponsors band contests nationwide. Each high school band pays \$400 to enter the contest, White said.

The contest begins at 8 a.m. and continues until 5:30 p.m., with a lunch break from noon to 12:45 p.m. Twelve bands will compete in finals, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets for the preliminary contest are \$6 and are \$7 for finals. The TCU band will give an exhibition performance at about 4:30 p.m.

Guns/ from page 1

"I don't need an assault weapon to go out there and kill a deer," said Rep. John Bryant, D-Texas. "The fact of the matter is that nobody needs an assault weapon except cowards and criminals and weirdos who have to own an assault weapon in order to feel like a man."

The White House expressed sympathy for the victims in Texas but said President Bush was not changing his stance on gun controls.

Gun control advocate Sarah Brady, whose husband James was critically wounded in an assassination attempt in 1981 on former President Reagan, expressed bitterness over the vote on an amendment backed by the National Rifle Association.

"This is totally irresponsible to the American public's safety," she said. "It's just one more reason to be utterly disgusted with the U.S. Congress."

The author of the proposed prohibitions, covering sale or possession of 13 models of assault-type semiautomatic weapons as well as ammunition clips with more than seven rounds, acknowledged before the vote that he faced an "uphill battle."

"The tragedy yesterday added some momentum in our direction, but at this point I don't think it is enough," said Rep. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y. It was enough for Edwards, whose

district includes Killeen, site of Wednesday's deadliest mass shooting in the nation's history.

"It takes away from being an issue of statistics, numbers, charts and legal issues," he said. "For me, the old arguments ring hollow."

Neither the Glock 9mm semiautomatic pistol nor the Ruger P89 that police say were used by George Hennard to kill 22 people and himself are among the weapons that the measure would ban. However, the 17-round clip used in the Glock is.

Rep. Harold Volkmer, D-Mo., sponsor of an amendment to strike the prohibitions from the bill, deplored the killings but said the ban — "the most far reaching restriction on gun owners of America... that's ever been considered by Congress" — would not have prevented them.

"When someone loses their mind as the man who caused this tragedy yesterday obviously did, I don't believe it can be stopped," he said. "It was not the pistol that caused those deaths. If it was not a pistol, it could easily have been a rifle; if not a rifle, a shotgun; if not a shotgun, a can of gasoline."

The Senate banned nine models of assault-style weapons on the crime bill it passed in July.

Choir/ from page 1

"We're looking forward to a big turnout," Jones said.

Although many people coming to the performance will be there for singing, choir Vice President Dejon Conley said there will be other benefits.

"We are a choir that ministers through song," Conley said. "A person can come and be ministered to."

"If they enjoy listening to singing, they will get something out of it," she said. "A person can get out as much as they put in."

"The audience should expect to have an explosive night of lifting the Lord's name in praise," Jones said.

The choir workshops begin at 7 p.m. today in the Student Center and conclude at 4 p.m. tomorrow.

Choir performances will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday in Robert Carr Chapel.

Rivalry between Frogs, Aggies intense

By ALAN DROLL
TCU Daily Skiff

Students looking for a heated sports rivalry this weekend need to look no further than TCU's own Rickel pool, where the Horned Frog swimmers will battle rival Texas A&M at 5:00 today.

TCU's men beat A&M by one point in 1989, the first time a Horned Frog swimming team had ever beaten the Aggies. Now, this dual meet has become an emotional war for a position among the SWC's elite. The Aggies have become the team that TCU swimmers love to hate.

"(Texas A&M's) coach does some unsportsmanlike things as far as putting people into events that he shouldn't, and A&M's sort of the dog of the conference," said TCU senior Charles Clark. "We're going to beat them."

"It's a very intense rivalry," TCU swimming coach Richard Sybesma said. "It rates, in my opinion, with

rivalries such as Texas-OU in football. We're just very close to each other in terms of conference competition."

The diving events will give TCU the biggest advantage in today's competition, Sybesma said. Junior Kelly Crowell returns after making it to the NCAA's and leads the women divers. "We're better in the diving than they are, and then we can split the swimming along the way (and win)," Sybesma said.

Last season, the Aggies swept the Horned Frogs. The women's competition came down to the very last event. A few hundredths of a second have decided this dual in the past. After their one-point victory in 1989, TCU's men finished 8-3, their best mark ever. After a down year last year, Sybesma feels his senior-laden men's team is back.

"I think we can beat them," said Sybesma. "I wouldn't pull your leg on it, it's going to be a heck of a meet. Everybody gets up for this one."

The rivalry between these two teams is relatively new, but intense. In years past, Sybesma says he used whatever tool he could to motivate the Frogs for this meet. Now, he says, it's not necessary.

"We're as prepared as we can be for them, let's put it that way," Sybesma said. "I don't have to do any gimmicks."

Today's meet will be a test for freshman swimmers who traditionally have had no team competition experience, Sybesma said. High school swim teams lack the emphasis on team success over individual success, and at TCU, the team score means everything, he said.

"Everybody is really counting on everyone to do good, and I feel the pressure," freshman Julie Musgrove said. "I have to do good because every point is going to count. Everybody is so hyped up for this swim meet. We're just ready to kill A&M."

Playday/ from page 1

"It will be so wonderful to present our philanthropy with a large donation again this year."

MENDI LAUDT
president, Alpha Delta Pi

Hills," she said. "Everybody is encouraged to vote for their favorite playboy by placing silver coins in the jars. People can vote against a playboy by placing pennies in the jars."

The Playday events end on Friday following the field events.

The field events are held on the intramural fields from 3 to 6 p.m.

At the field events, fraternity members participate in activities like a tug-of-war contest, a balloon toss and a human pyramid contest, Wilmot said.

Playday winners will be announced Friday afternoon after the field events.

"We will add up all of the points the fraternity has received during the week," Wilmot said. "There will be trophies for the three fraternities with the highest scores, and the overall winner will be invited to Alpha Delta Pi's party on Saturday night."

Playday is a lot of fun for Alpha Delta Pi members and the participating fraternities, and it is for a very good cause, said Mendi Laudt, president of Alpha Delta Pi.

"It's always rewarding and fun to do service projects for the Ronald McDonald House," Laudt said. "The money we raise during Playday will benefit the families of terminally ill children."

"It will be so wonderful to present our philanthropy with a large donation again this year," Laudt said.

SWC/ from page 4

"It just makes me want to throw up every time I think of it."

The Cyclones scored 11 points in the final two minutes to win.

But the Owls recovered from that

	SWC	ALL
Arkansas	3-0	4-2
Texas A&M	1-0	3-1
Texas	1-0	2-2
Baylor	2-1	5-1
TCU	1-1	4-1
Rice	1-1	3-2
Texas Tech	1-2	2-4
Houston	0-2	1-4
SMU	0-2	1-4

setback to win the biggest game during Goldsmith's two-year tenure, perhaps the biggest win at Rice since the late '50s.

The Frogs will have to put aside a

similar letdown loss, the 22-21 setback dealt by Arkansas, and find a way to slow down Trevor Cobb and stop quarterback Greg Willig.

Cobb dashed his way to 171 yards rushing against Baylor, whose rushing defense is the league's best. TCU's is the second best in the SWC, but it too will be overmatched. Turnovers may decide it.

Rice-TCU lacks the same importance than the Bears-Aggies showdown, but a bowl bid for either team starts here. The Independence Bowl scouts will be there, but they are primarily interested in the Owls.

And it should be noted that SMU and Houston go into their Astro dome meeting this weekend with the same record, 1-4.

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As major sponsors of Southwest Conference football, Exxon invites you to stop at participating stations, and cast your vote for the official Exxon Southwest Conference Supreme Team. Nominated players are listed below. Voting ends November 3.

OFFENSE	DEFENSE	PLACEMEN-SELECT 1	LINEBACKER-SELECT 1	QUARTERBACK-SELECT 1	DEFENSE	PLACEMEN-SELECT 2	LINEBACKER-SELECT 2	QUARTERBACK-SELECT 2	
Butch Hadnot-Texas Rongea Hill-SMU E. D. Jackson-Arkansas Anthony Lynn-Tech Curtis Modkins-TCU Randy Simmons-A&M Robert Strait-Baylor	Tommy Jeter-Texas Robin Jones-Baylor Owen Kelly-Arkansas Mike Liscio-Tech Uzo Okeke-SMU James Patton-Texas	Roman Anderson-Houston Lin Elliott-Tech Jeff Wilkinson-TCU Todd Wright-Arkansas	Chris Collins-SMU Quentin Coryatt-A&M Curtis Hafford-Baylor Bill Kiehl-SMU Ryan McCoy-Houston Mical Padgett-Texas Boone Powell-Texas Brad Smith-TCU Mick Thomas-Arkansas Joey Wheeler-Rice Alonzo Williams-Rice Matt Wingo-Tech	Leon Clay-TCU Peter Gardere-Texas J. J. Joe-Baylor David Klingler-Houston Bucky Richardson-A&M Mike Romo-SMU	Mark Berry-Texas	Rodney Blackshear-Tech Verlond Brown-Houston Tracy Caldwell-Arkansas Tracy Good-Houston Eric Henley-Rice Stephen Shipley-TCU Anthony Stinnett-Tech Jason Wolf-SMU	Jason Bednarz-SMU Eric Blount-Houston Lee Brudner-Baylor Marcus Buckley-A&M Chris Collins-SMU Curtis Hafford-Baylor Bill Kiehl-SMU Ryan McCoy-Houston Mical Padgett-Texas Boone Powell-Texas Brad Smith-TCU Mick Thomas-Arkansas Joey Wheeler-Rice Alonzo Williams-Rice Matt Wingo-Tech	Scott Baehren-Baylor David Breedlove-TCU Mark Henry-Arkansas Turk McDonald-Texas	Jason Bednarz-SMU Eric Blount-Houston Lee Brudner-Baylor Marcus Buckley-A&M Chris Collins-SMU Curtis Hafford-Baylor Bill Kiehl-SMU Ryan McCoy-Houston Mical Padgett-Texas Boone Powell-Texas Brad Smith-TCU Mick Thomas-Arkansas Joey Wheeler-Rice Alonzo Williams-Rice Matt Wingo-Tech

COACH
SELECT 1
Jack Crowe-Arkansas
Spike Dykes-Tech
Fred Goldsmith-Rice
John Jenkins-Houston
David McWilliams-Texas
Tom Rossley-SMU
R. C. Stocum-A&M
Grant Teaff-Baylor
Jim Wacker-TCU



To receive a ballot by mail, write: Exxon SWC Supreme Team, Ballot Request, PO Box 53255, Houston, Tx. 77052.

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More than a dance

text and photos
by David Wells

They express the audible as the visible. They transform dialogue into movement. Their body is their medium — the very instrument through which life is lived. Their bodies' strength and fluidity convey powerful emotion. They train with the determination and discipline of an athlete. They perform with the power of an artist. They are dancers.

The Fort Worth School of Ballet has been a part of the Fort Worth community for more than five years. It teaches the principles and methods of becoming a professional classical dancer.



"We are here to instruct, to guide, but most of all, to instill within the student the necessary strength, courage and moral conviction to achieve the best in any endeavor," says Paul Mejia, artistic director of the Fort Worth Ballet and director of the school.



Mejia wants them to extend what they learn into all their endeavors. They have gained confidence and skill that allows them to reach others and teach others the beauty of life.

Their faces and bodies reveal the physical and mental preparations they undergo. Their bodies know stress fractures, pulled muscles, arthritis, tendonitis and back problems. They are elegant—their muscle structures long and slender.

Music and Character. When dancing with music, such as Stravinsky's, they have no story to tell, no plot to convey. Instead they have ideas, movements and feelings. The characters they portray have no words to speak, no lines to say. Instead they have ideas, movements and feelings. The story — the character — is the movement.

Interaction is important. Ballet is an interactive art. Everyone has to do the same steps at the same time. Everyone has to know how to talk to people. Everyone has to give and take criticism. They are part of a family.

Practices are integral parts of achieving their goals. Doing things together gives them time to grow and learn — as individuals, as a whole.

Practice. Twice a day. Six days a week. The first practice is designed for stretching muscles and polishing techniques. The second practice is a five-hour rehearsal.



Frederick Trenary joined the company in 1989. He has been practicing ballet since he was 14. Ballet is his occupation, but it means more than a salary. It gave him confidence. It gave him insight. To him it is not a feminine form of dance. He feels more women are involved only because mothers are more willing to have their daughters perform than fathers are for their sons. The Company's contemporary forms are refreshing for him. He is a dancer.

page design
by Jeff Blaylock



Mariah Thomas started ballet at age 7. She joined the Chicago City Ballet at age 15. She enjoys playing characters, and contemporary numbers. In the Company's 1989 "Eight by Adler" she inspired standing ovations. She, like the others, has learned. She is a dancer.

Strange characters fracture 'Shattered'

By CARL KOZLOWSKI
TCU Daily Skiff

The film *Shattered* begins with a spectacular car wreck that fills the screen with shards of glass and leaves Dan Merrick's (Tom Berenger) face looking like meatloaf. The viewer has no idea what caused the crash and Dan is so plagued with amnesia he can't recall the incident either.

The only thing that appears to be certain is Judith (Greta Scacchi), the woman who claims to be his wife. She takes him under her care, and within 10 minutes of screen time, Dan is back to looking like a movie star — and starting to find clues that cast doubt on Judith as well as on his own past as a man he can't remember. Dan Merrick is now a little too nice for his own good.

From here, the viewer is off on a journey through one of the oddest mainstream films in some time. There are stretches that glue viewers' eyes to the screen in a way few thrillers since Hitchcock's heyday have done, and at time the magic of the plot and direction is so strong that an ending which should seem completely ludicrous is rendered almost completely believable.

But then there are other pieces of *Shattered* that are almost maddeningly stupid. The music throughout is totally overdone. This is one of the worst and most distracting scores in years, if not ever. A fantastically filmed car chase in the middle of the film is completely pointless. The initial sex scene is one of the most laughably cliched in history. And some of the supporting characters and their roles are either trite or portrayed in an extremely odd style.

Dan begins his new lease on life with Judith guiding him through photos of people he knew before the accident. She implies there are some he would not want to see

again; he wants to visit them out of curiosity.

The first such couple he visits are Jenny and Jeb Scott, played in absolutely bizarre, over-the-top performances by Joanne Whalley-Kilmer and Corbin Bernsen. There is tension at their initial dinner. When the men and the women split up to have their own discussions, Dan learns from Jeb he was having an affair before the accident. Jenny soon drops in to inform Dan that Judith is a pathological liar.

But on top of all these personal problems, Dan has come across a strip of film that shows Judith engaging in acrobatic sex with an unknown man. Soon Dan is again employing the services of the pet shop owner/private investigator (Bob Hoskins) who took the pictures in the first place. He wants to learn who the other man is and why Judith was remarkably untouched by the very same accident that almost destroyed his body.

Shattered is written and directed by German film genius Wolfgang Petersen, who with *Das Boot* (*The Boat*) in 1982 became the first foreigner in history to be nominated for a Best Director Oscar. Since then, he has also been responsible for the sappy drek known as *The Neverending Story*. This is a man of almost schizophrenic talent, and it shows in this, his first American film.

As stated before, the script in most places is brilliant. The big surprise is that his direction is so weak. When the plot is unraveling parts of the mystery or trying to generate tension, the film is topnotch. When left to dialogue scenes involving any actors besides the strong lead performances of Berenger and Scacchi, it becomes hopeless. And as far as the commercials' claim that "you won't



MGM/ David James

Tom Berenger and Greta Scacchi star in Wolfgang Petersen's new action/suspense movie, 'Shattered.'

believe the ending!" they're both right and wrong. The important, shocking part of the climax wins the viewer over against the odds. But the absolute final moments are so ludicrous that the viewer will not only laugh, he or she will be tempted to flip off the screen.

Shattered is an odd movie, and a tough one to call. The strong stretches are almost enough to save it.

Score it a C+.

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Nuclear Polka

Tired of pop music, Brave Combo invented their own style

By GREG WEED
TCU Daily Skiff

Dance bands are a common find among club acts today. But common is the last word to describe Brave Combo.

Brave Combo doesn't play the typical synthesizer-based music of most dance bands. The group mixes polkas, cha-chas, rumbas and tangos into what founder Carl Finch calls "high energy ethnic dance music."

Finch founded the group at the then North Texas State University in 1979. The band began playing what they called "nuclear polka." Eventually, Brave Combo evolved to playing worldly music, from African to Afghanistan to Israeli.

"I was burnt-out on pop music," says Finch. "So I started listening to bargain-bin records, many of which were polka and cha-cha albums."

Finch says he formed the band to break the barriers to what is cool in music.

"Brave Combo was formed taking the squarest stuff possible, and playing it seriously," says Finch.

"We like to play certain styles of music that people may not think they like," says Finch. "And then have them go away thinking polka or whatever is pretty cool."

Finch is the frontman of the four piece band, singing and playing guitar, accordion and keyboards. Jeffrey Barnes, who has played with many top Texas acts, plays a wide variety of wind instruments, from sax-

ophone to flute to bird calls. Cenobio Xavier "Bubba" Hernandez plays bass and sings, along with taking some of the song-writing chores from Finch. Mitch Marine fills out the bill as the group's drummer.

Finch says that the Brave Combo's music has more purpose than just to make people dance. He believes in "peace through polka."

"I think polka has the potential to bring about world peace," says Finch. "The accordion is played in every square inch of the world."

"Once you hear the common thread, you can jump from one style to another and come up with a universal beat," says Finch. He added that thread could be a beginning to understanding other cultures. "And that kind of understanding will give us a better chance to survive."

Brave Combo is touring in support of its most recent album, *A Night on Earth*. The album has influences from many varied ethnic origins, from polka to reggae to muzak and has gotten rave reviews from such noted publications as *Rolling Stone*, *Creem*, and *CD Review*.

"We don't sound like anything on pop radio," says Finch. "We can affect one million people like other bands. We just need a hit record to do so."

Brave Combo has a number of accomplishments under its belt. They have done music for the soundtrack of *True Stories* and for Disney's *Gumby* album. They have played such varied places as rock clubs, polka festivals, the Macy's Thanksgiving

Day Parade, and mental institutions.

According to Finch, going to see a typical Brave Combo show is not possible, because there is no such thing as a "typical" Brave Combo show.

"It's never the same show twice," says Finch. "We try to draw from a wide variety of music."

The group has been known to play anything from a heavy metal of "The Hokey Pokey" to a polka version of "Hey Jude" to a twist of an old Jewish tune.

"We try to pull the audience into our bizarre world," says Finch.

The group has a total of nine albums, six of them on their own Four Dots label and three on Rounder Records. The Four Dot albums are: *Polkmania*, *Musical Squares*, *Urban Growmups*, *Originals*, *World Dance Music*, and a live album, *No Sad Faces*.

The group signed with Rounder in 1987 and have produced *Musical Varieties*, *Humansville*, and *A Night on Earth*. To add to the eccentricity of the group, they have a Christmas album coming out this holiday season in Japan only, a predominantly Buddhist nation.

Brave Combo's bizarre world will make contact with Fort Worth on Oct. 24 when the group plays at Caravan of Dreams. Finch says the time of the season will come into play in the show.

"We're going for a psychedelic Octoberfest," says Finch. "Since it's polka season, we'll be touching the bizarre aspect of ethnic music."



Bruce Davis

Brave Combo band members Jeffrey Barnes, Mitch Marine, Cenobio Xavier "Bubba" Hernandez and Carl Finch will perform their own brand of dance music Thur., Oct. 24 as part of Octoberfest celebrations at the Caravan of Dreams.



Buena Vista Pictures/ Scott Thomas

Ernest P. Worrell (Jim Varney) returns to the screen, this time even dumber than ever.

'Ernest' is so stupid, it's scary

By CARL KOZLOWSKI
TCU Daily Skiff

Every once in a while there comes a movie that is so bad viewers must wonder why it was even made.

Ernest Scared Stupid is one of those films.

The fourth in a series, *Stupid* is a regression of the worst sort. The film stars Jim Varney as Ernest P. Worrell, the character who rose to fame as the pitchman who was everyone's Southern nightmare. For a while, the Ernest films were actually entertaining. That is no longer the case.

The plot (what there is of one) centers around a curse on Ernest's family in which each descendant was doomed to become "dumber and dumber and dumber," as one girl tells it.

The reason? One of Ernest's ancestors had captured and buried a troll that had ter-

rorized the town "a long time ago." Thus, the curse was a form of revenge and it was decreed that if the tree the troll was buried under was ever disturbed, the troll would come back with hundreds of spawn to attack the town again.

Sure enough, Ernest and some child friends of his build a treehouse in the very tree above the troll's grave, and sure enough, the trolls are unleashed. Soon it is up to Ernest, with the help of the kids and an old witch, to save the town.

The idea for the troll as a villain leads to several scenes that are clearly meant to make fun of films like the *Terminator* series. Only one of these scenes, a battle on a moving truck between Ernest and the troll with Ernest's dog taking the steering wheel, works. Other than this scene, I laughed twice in the entire film.

It also seems that 95 percent of the bud-

get was spent on making the troll costumes and special effects. The trolls are rather impressive, but they're not funny and drag the rest of the film down. The forest sets in the film are absolutely atrocious, looking like the film was shot in a warehouse. At the least, a professional film should try to look real in its settings.

As Ernest, Varney does his usual routine along with a wide array of other character impressions. His acting is as good (or bad) as usual, but the lines just aren't funny in this one. This is a tragedy of the highest order.

First Pee-Wee Herman was driven out of Hollywood due to his private indiscretions and now Ernest has committed career suicide. Soon there will be no one left in Hollywood for a good dumb time at the movies. America now has no one left to do this vital task.

Score this one a D-

Live medieval history at Renaissance Festival

By DAVID MORGAN
TCU Daily Skiff

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live in a time of myth, adventure, romance and enlightenment? Well, wonder no more. Take a short drive and you can enjoy the sights and sounds of the early sixteenth century and the Texas Renaissance Festival.

The Renaissance Festival is now well into its second decade, and whether you've been there before or if it's your first time, there's always something unique to do. Arts and crafts, displays, demonstrations and foods of almost every description surround you.

Situated in Plantersville, the Renaissance Festival has its own village in the middle of a forest. This miniature medieval town is maintained year-round and is one of the strengths of the show. This village, unlike those of other Renaissance festivals, is more than a tent city set up the weekend before. When you enter the festival grounds, nothing of the twentieth century remains.

The Society for Creative Anachronism comes often to the festival and regularly performs a mock combat between two teams of knights. The SCA also does demonstrations of many medieval crafts such as weaving, armor making, dancing and cooking.

Another group that puts in a regular appearance at the festival is Last Chance Forever, a preservation society dedicated to saving wild birds of prey. At the festival, they fly many large birds like hawks, golden eagles, great horned owls and falcons. With wild birds soaring gracefully over the audience, this show is not only breathtaking but also educational.

Music groups from as far away as Europe come yearly to perform. Many of these artists get their start at the festival. Comedy troupes show up to amuse the

patrons. One magic show is put on with all the flair of David Copperfield.

Acrobats, mud wrestlers and character actors mingle with festival visitors, while strolling minstrels entertain the crowd. King Henry and his queen stroll around the festival greeting the visitors. Barbarians, a group of body builders, pose with people for pictures.

Festival village shops sell a variety of unique merchandise. Many stores sell fantasy art such as dragon sculptures, wizard candles and crystal balls. Other stores have costumes for those who want to dress in full Renaissance garb.

Eating at the Renaissance Festival presents a challenge. Food is varied and in abundance. You can visit the festival's many taverns and pubs, or walk up to any of the food stands. Foods range from sandwiches to egg rolls to the favorite Renaissance Festival food — the turkey leg.

With over 20 different stands offering desserts, it's a wonder people can choose which one they want. Desserts are the best part of eating at the festival.

The carnival — like the atmosphere of the Renaissance Festival — would not be complete without the games of skill such as archery contests, knife throwing, the axe throw and tests of strength. The games are located in a part of the grounds named for Sherwood Forest of England. Also in this part of the festival grounds is a petting zoo and the Queen's Maze, both for kids.

The prices at the Texas Renaissance Festival are high, but much of the merchandise is hard to find elsewhere. Be prepared to spend a lot of money.

If you go, plan to make a day of it. It takes a whole day to see the entire festival. Tickets cost about \$12 to \$13, a bargain when compared to Six Flags or other amusement parks.

The Renaissance Festival opened Oct. 3 and will run until Nov. 17.

Out & About



Nirvana and Sister Double Happiness play Sat., Oct. 18 at

Trees in Dallas. Doors open at 9 p.m.

Ten Hands performs Wed., Oct. 23 at the Caravan of Dreams in downtown Fort Worth. Tickets are \$4.

Brave Combo visit the Caravan Thurs. Oct. 24. Tickets are \$6.

The Killer Bees play Sat., Oct. 26 at Fatso's in Arlington.



The Fort Worth Ballet opens its fall season Fri., Oct. 18 with

Gala Night premiere of "Western Symphony," arranged by Hershby Kay and chore-

ographed by George Balanchine.



Green Card will be shown Fri., Oct. 18 and Sat., Oct. 19 at the

Student Center as part of the PC Films series.

Brightness, the award-winning African film, will be featured Sun., Oct. 20 at the Dallas Museum of Art as part of the

Essential Cinema series. Marilyn Clark will lecture on the importance of the film before the screening.



I'm Not Rappaport, the Stage West pre-

miere production for the 1991/1992 season, opens Oct. 23 at the Caravan of Dreams Performing Arts Complex in downtown Fort Worth.



Photography in Nineteenth Century America, the exhibit that

explores the response of American artists to the photographic medium, continues at the Amon Carter Museum of Western Art through Oct. 5, 1992.