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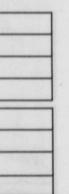
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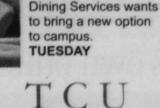


By MICHAEL BOU-NACKLIE Staff Reporter

Soon, upperclassmen will be able to participate in a new on-campus housing program that will group them with students of similar interests.

**TCU Residential Services** will launch the "Living Learning Communities" program February in the dorms.

The program will allow students to select an interest they share with other students and group them in the same wing of their residence hall. The nature of the program is to give students who have not found their niche at TCU an opportunity to lay a social foundation within their hall, said Craig Allen, director of residential services. Stephanie Stanley, area director for Foster, Waits and Jarvis halls, said the LLC program will enhance students' on-campus experiences.



NEWS



FEATURES Find out how Justin Timberlake fared in "Alpha Dog." PAGE 5



SPORTS The NFC and AFC Championships are this weekend. PAGE 8

FRIDAY

Vol. 104 Issue 48

DAILY SKIFF January 19, 2007 

# Dancers compete for annual scholarship award



EST, 1907

Members of TCU's dance program practice before a Spring performance. Dance students will be auditioning for the Nordan Fine Arts Award Scholarship this weekend. Only two out of 70 to 80 students auditioning will win the scholarship of up to \$10,000 toward a TCU education.

Program

to group

students

by interest

By REBEKAH HOOD Staff Reporter

When she came to TCU, Laura stay would be.

she may need to take some time off year. from school. This all changed when she received the Nordan Fine Arts Award Scholarship.

This weekend, TCU dancers will of person. compete once again for the Nordan Award which, if they win, could give a passionate dancer and shows a high them \$8,000 to \$10,000 per year toward their TCU educations.

The award was established by Lester role models in the department. If their

received an honorary law degree from can be retracted, Shelton said. TCU in 1964

Students in all four departments Barbee said. "You have to re-audition Barbee was uncertain how long her of the College of Fine Arts vie for every January.' the award. For students in the dance Dealing with her father's recent department, only two out of 70 to 80 death, Barbee and her family thought auditioning dancers receive it each

> Ellen Shelton, chair of the ballet and modern dance department, said winning the Nordan takes a special type

> "The award goes to someone who is level of expertise," Sheltonsaid.

The recipients are expected to be Nordan and his wife in 1965. Nordan performance or grades slip, the award

"It's kind of a probationary thing,"

If the award is renewed after a recipient's freshman year, the stu-

dent advances to the status of Nordan Scholar. "I was totally relieved and excit-

ed," Barbee said. "Getting the scholarship was reassurance that 'Yes, I was in the right place, at the right time.'

award, they complete a three-hour audition process consisting of both a ballet class and a modern dance class. in ballet and modern dance, Barbee The department's faculty members

observe these classes and discuss the students' capabilities and talents.

"Students come to audition from all over the United States," Shelton said. "About 26 to 27 states are represented."

Before auditions, the students send in VHS or DVD solos for the faculty to consider. The faculty members also look at the students' strength of technique and whether they have strong ballet backgrounds, Shelton said.

"I really, really hoped that my best Before dancers may receive this was good enough," Barbee said. "Thankfully, it was."

Now a 2006 graduate with a degree See DANCE, page 2

Meet Mr. July



# Authors to offer leadership class

the workplace.

That was the idea authors Brenda Corbett and Judith Colemon had when they wrote "The Sherpa Guide: The Process-Driven Executive Coaching," said Deb Baker, director of executive development for Tandy Hall.

The authors of the book developed a course that teaches consultants, executives and human resource professionals how to become better leaders.



the workplace, Baker said.

Baker said there is a need for executive development as the baby boomers begin to retire in the next few years and take their knowledge, experience and leadership with them.

When the baby boomers retire," Baker said, "they will be replaced by a generation half its size. Companies are panicking that their senior leadership will be gone, and this has made executive development a priority."

By KATIE GIANGRECO Staff Reporter Much like a sherpa guides climbers up a mountain, an executive coach helps employees with leadership skills for

The program will add to the students' residential life and their experience on campus in general, Stanley said.

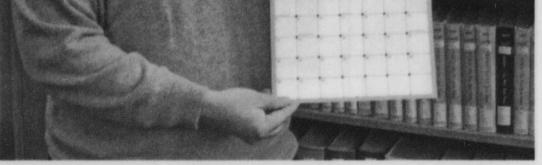
The LLC is designed to build on Chancellor Victor Boschini's Vision In Action program which aims to create a "richer residential community and reflect a recommitment to TCU's residential heritage," according to the VIA Web site.

"We want to provide an atmosphere where students can take what they have learned in class and apply them in an environment which fosters intellectual stimulation, Allen said. "The LLC program is a way to further that action in the residence halls."

Allen said the Monday at TCU program will be used to market the "Living Learning Communities" to incoming students; however, the program will only be available to juniors and seniors.

Linda Moore, professor and chair of the social work department, said programs like the LLC are not new to the TCU campus.

See PROGRAM, page 2



BILLY WESSELS / Photo Edito

Walter Betts, or Mr. July as other library workers have come to know him, posed in the 2007 Men of Texas Libraries calendar Calendar sales will benefit disaster-stricken Texas libraries.

# Librarian poses for calendar to benefit relief fund

### By BAILEY SHIFFLER Staff Reporter

In 2007, TCU systems librarian Walter Betts will established to help libraries be known by a different name: Mr. July.

Mary Couts Burnett Library recent years, due to the hur- in fun. He said he has sufstaff in August, is among 18 ricanes that hit the Texas fered no more than a little Texas librarians and library Gulf Coast.

supporters featured in the 2007 Men of Texas Libraries calendar, a fund-raiser and Rita, it can often take a put together by the Texas while for libraries to get back Library Association.

Proceeds from the calendar will benefit the TLA disaster relief fund, a fund and morale boost.

ters. The fund has been in the typical pin-up model Betts, who joined the need of extra resources in and the calendar was done

Betts said after a disaster, such as hurricanes Katrina on their feet. He said the fund exists to provide libraries in need with a financial

Betts said he has never affected by natural disas- considered himself to be See CALENDER, page 2

Baker said.

The three-part course, which costs \$7,500, will be take place in eight days in January through March. Both authors will teach the course in Tandy Hall for Executive Leadership at the Neeley School of Business.

"A sherpa coach will develop a one-on-one assessment on someone - focusing on strengths, weaknesses and habits he or she may have in order to help them attain a higher position," Baker said.

The course will help students understand what skills they are lacking and how to improve upon those, Corbett said.

It will also help individuals build on positives, rather than focus on negatives when trying to achieve a higher position in

**AONLINE** 

For more information or to sign up, visit neeleyexec.tcu.edu or e-ma neeleyexec@tcu.edu

Executive development classes used to focus on fixing a problem in someone, Baker said.

'Now it's used to enhance leadership skills and focus on positives rather than negatives," she said.

This course is the only one offered in Texas, Corbett said. Other courses are offered at the University of Louisville, the University of Cincinnati, Pennsylvania State University and Kent State University.

Baker said enrollment will be limited to 25 to 30 participants to ensure better interaction with the coaches.

An executive development program needs to be small and personalized, so the graduates come out of the course with the knowledge and abilities needed to be an executive coach, Baker said.

# Service-learning center offers students grants for community programs

### By VALERIE COOPER Staff Reporter

Undergraduate students can now receive grants for projects supporting community service, thanks to a growing service-learning program at TCU.

physics major, received \$500 this semester to fund a physics olympics program for local high schools.

ond year, is coordinated by dents and will expose high making such assistantships school students to experi- possible.

ments and presentations in the sciences.

"Last year we had four us right about \$500," Dunleavy said. "This year, we're expecting eight schools."

With help from a faculty Mark Dunleavy, a junior steering committee, Vision In Action funding and a recently passed resolution from the tion, TCU's Center for Com-Service-Learning is aiming TCU's Society of Physics Stu- to expand this semester,

ing and real-world experience schools attend, and it cost by "combining service tasks TCU hired Rosangela Boyd

National Service-Learning Clearinghouse. TCU's service-learning year. program started in 2001 as

Service-Learning.

receiving VIA funding to pro-

Service-learning encom- vide grants for classes with a interest and passed a resopasses both academic learn- service-learning emphasis.

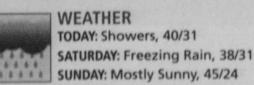
"At this point, we're really as making it a requirement, how this can really benefit offering minors or having students."

SGA has also taken an

lution that encourages more With the growing support, student input into the program. SGA will put out a with structured opportu- as director of service-learn- survey within the next two nities," according to the ing and created the faculty months, which will include steering committee at the questions focusing on stubeginning of the 2006 school dent perception of servicelearning.

"SGA is putting our hand

Boyd said she hopes to See SGA, page 2



### PECULIAR FACT

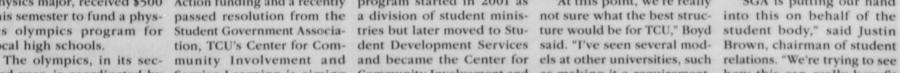
LAKEWOOD, Wash.— A 9-year-old boy ran away from home and sneaked onto two different flights before he was caught by the police after missing his connection for a third flight officials said Wednesday --- Associated Press

TODAY'S HEADLINES FEATURES: Check out the classical music scene, page 5

**OPINION: Relationships hinder college experience**, page 3 SPORTS: Top competition awaits men's tennis, page 8

# CONTACT US

Send your questions, compliments, complaints and hot tips to the staff at NEWS25KIFF@TCU.EDU



In 2005, the center started certificates."

Community Involvement and

NEWS

TCU Daily Skiff | Friday, January 19, 2007

# DANCE From page 1

can look back and see that winning the Nordan Award was a key factor in her decision to stay at TCU.

"In my heart of hearts I felt that I'd made the right decision," Barbee said. "Receiving the Nordan was another answer in the right direction."

## PROGRAM From page 1

There was a similar program in Brachman Hall in the 1980s, Moore said.

Other colleges, such as the University of Texas at Austin and Rice University, have major-specific programs, like the LLC, that group people who are majoring in the same field together in the dorms. Moore said she would like

to see a wing that emphasizes languages.

"It would be really fun to be on an international wing which specializes in Spanish," Moore said, "so then I could use that opportunity to use my Spanish."



continue expanding the program with increased input from both the faculty steering committee and students.

"If you look at our mission statement, you can't accomplish it by sitting in a classroom and reading books," Boyd said. "You have to be interactive with the community, play a role in it and make changes. It's not all academic."

15 11 11

# CALENDER From page 1

good-natured teasing from co-workers.

Each month, in the 18month calendar, features a photo along with an information box containing quick facts about the man-of-themonth.

For the photo shoot, Betts was told to wear what he felt comfortable in, which, for him, was a Hawaiian shirt. Betts posed with his saxophone, since he has a degree in saxophone perfor-

mance. Steve Brown, president-elect of the Texas Library Association, said the idea for the calendar came almost a year before production began.

"The library community is probably 80 to 85 percent women," Brown said. "If you're going to make a calendar to sell to the library community, it needs to have pictures of guys.

Gretchen Hoffmann, a former president of TLA, said the calendar breaks away from traditional views of librarians

"Having male models was a great way to poke fun at stereotypes of librarians," Hoffmann said.

Betts said the calendar has been a success so far.

"They sold out the first printing, and they are doing well with the second," Betts said.

TLA Texas Men of Libraries calendars sell for \$20 each. Betts said that because most of the work was done in-house, the cost of producing the calendar was low, giving it a strong profit potential.

# Art Buchwald provides his own online obituary

### By STEVENSON SWANSON Chicago Tribun

Even in death, Art Buchwald had the last laugh.

The comic columnist's passing had no sooner been announced Thursday \_ nearly a year later than his doctors had predicted \_ than a video of him appeared on The New York Times Web site.

I just died," the humorist February. says, an impish smile playing across his face.

The video, recorded last vear at Buchwald's summer home on Martha's Vineyard, is the first in a series of online obituaries to be made public by the Times. The newspaper said it has recorded more than 10 interviews with the and his family had summered famous and powerful, including a former president, that will remain unseen until the person's death.

In the 14-minute video, Buchwald, who was 81, reflects on how his ability to make people laugh of more than 30 books, "Too helped him compensate for an unhappy childhood.

laugh, you get all the love you want," he says.

Not to be outdone, Buchwald's syndicate, Tribune Media Services, released his farewell column, which Buchwald wrote 11 months ago for publication after his death. At widely read political satirist the time, he was in a Washington, D.C., hospice, having elected to forgo debilitating kidney dialysis treatments.

"What's interesting is that straightforward. everybody has his or her own opinion as to how you should go out," he wrote, striking an uncharacteristically serious note. "All my loved ones

became very upset because they thought I should brave it out \_ which meant more dialysis.

"But here is the most important thing: This has been my decision. And it's a healthy one."

Buchwald did not die on schedule. His doctor had told him that without dialysis, he would probably not last more "Hi, I'm Art Buchwald and than three weeks. That was in

Five months later, after a teady stream of visitors from among the highest ranks of Washington's political and journalistic elite, Buchwald was still alive, still cracking jokes. He moved to the weathered, gray-shingled house on Martha's Vineyard where he since the mid-1960s.

That's where he granted an interview with the Tribune. He had resumed writing his newspaper column, and he had just polished off what would prove to be the last Soon To Say Goodbye."

py foster child in New York City, to a 14-year stint as a black walking shoe that people listen." a Paris-based humor and matched the ones on his left then his four decades as a door. in Washington.

tinue dialysis treatments was whenever it decided to them. come

"I've done it all, I've had a good life," he said, speak- a bright side to his condiing slowly and with difficulty. tion. "Why should I want to stick around?"

back porch of his house, his free candy into his mouth. cracking a wide grin.

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Columnist Art Buchwald died Jan. 17, 2007, nearly one year after deciding to check into a hospice with kidney failure and stopping his dialysis.

that his wife Ann was burwas his friend John Hersey, Given that run of luck, he others. That had sealed his author of "Hiroshima." And said, his decision not to con- decision to accept death, someday, he would join

Not that he couldn't see cremated.

ashes to be taken up in an airplane and scattered on what I want to eat," Buch- all the cocktail parties on He sat on the enclosed wald said, popping sugar- Martha's Vineyard," he said,

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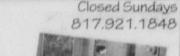


night-life columnist, and foot, stood near the screen interview, Buchwald noted The loss of his leg meant ied in a nearby cemetery, as that he was dependent on

Toward the end of the

But first, he wanted to be

"And I want some of my



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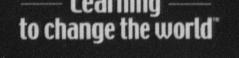
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TCU Academic Affairs and AddRan College of Humanities & Social Sciences is pleased to present

# Nina Totenberg

National Public Radio Political Analyst and Legal Affairs Correspondent

# Wednesday, January 24, 2007

3:30 pm student forum, 6:00 pm Keynote address Ed Landreth Auditorium **Texas Christian University** 

The event is free and open to the public.





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LETTER

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### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Dream as if you'll live forever. Live as if you'll die today." **James Dean** 

# THE SKIFF VIEW Leadership not shown in 'new' Congress

The Democratic Congress is in the throes of finishing up its "100-hour" legislation, which ended up taking almost two weeks, or 336 hours.

It would seem that the Democrats, despite taking an entire day off for the BCS Championship Bowl, are finally in a position to take a stand against the Bush administration.

And so, one would expect that in the midst of Bush's increase of more than 20,000 troops to Iraq, the Democrats would be on fire with opposition.

Senators, such as Joe Biden, D-Del., have made statements opposing this move, calling it a "losing strategy" and "the worst foreign policy blunder since Vietnam."

But it's not enough.

Our country needs more than the leadership in the House and Senate standing idly by, wagging a finger at Bush as he continues to spiral America down with this war. We need leadership that can stand up and propose a viable solution to this problem. One has to ask what the Democrats are

afraid of.

Despite having all the chances in the

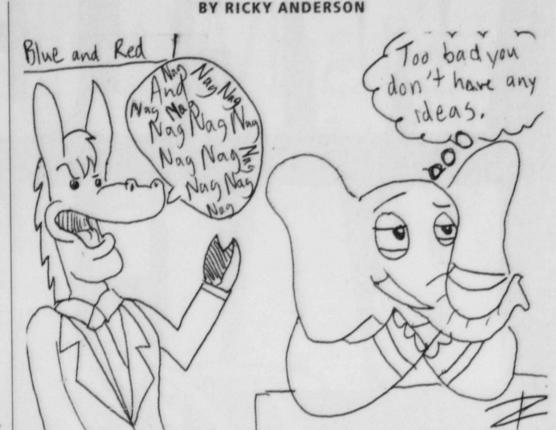
world to make a difference, the Democrat's first few weeks as the majority of the House and Senate could be described as mediocre. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.,

seemed sincere in her promise to advance aggressive legislation that failed to get done under the Republicans. And, in some ways, she has.

In "100-hours," or two weeks, the majority Democratic House passed bills that will put some cramps in the Bush administration's style, such as capping spending that will add to the already oversized deficit. They've also voted in the House to raise minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour, cut the interest rate on college student loans and are attempting to get federal funding for embryonic stem cell research past the president. The final bill the House will attempt to pass is a crackdown on big oil companies with higher taxes and fees that would amount to \$15 billion.

Already it's been proven that mediocrity is not going to stop Bush as he prepares to deploy more troops to Iraq. Where is the leadership in this country?

Features editor Amber Parcher for the editorial board.



# POINT esigner embryos sign progress

Many advances in modern medicine are pushing ethical and moral boundaries farther than ever before.

cle, "Embryo COMMENTARY Bank Churns



Michelle Anderson

that are important to them. Parents can select physical and personality traits from donors

Many people see the parents' ability to choose donors based on specific traits such as race, hair color and eye color as unethi-

that science has made it

izes them tremendously.

commodities," said Rob-

ert George, a bioethicist

at Princeton University.

"They're not products."

Life reports that it is the

possible to turn babies into

a product which dehuman-

"Human beings are not

The Abraham Center of

so. When a couple desperate to have a baby of their own is asked to select which donors they want their embryo to come from, the According to an ABC arti-

last thing on their mind is creating a "designer baby." Jennalee Ryan, who runs the center, said, "People that

come to me aren't doing it because they want designer babies; they just want a baby." Hopeful parents spend

\$14,000 to \$18,000 on this option. One woman said she is not looking for genetic perfection, she just wants a child who will look more like her to make the process even more fulfilling. The Abraham Center of Life is accused of creating "made-

to-order babies. In a Jan. 8 article of The Washington Post, John Robertson, of the University of Texas at Austin, said, "I know some people say: 'This is shocking. Embryos made to order.' But if you step back a little bit, you realize that people are already choosing sperm and egg donors in separate transactions. Combining them doesn't pose any new

According to Reason Magazine, creating embryos from sperm and egg donors instead of using left over embryos from a fertility clinic has its advantages. "Made-to-order" embryos are higher quality and do not have to undergo as much legal scrutiny as a leftover donated embryo. Leftover embryos have proven successful and are still a great option, but keep in mind, they are created by couples who are struggling to have a child and may not be as successful as a "made-to-order" embryo.

Couples today have a tremendous opportunity to overcome infertility and have a baby of their own. They cannot design the baby to look exactly how they want, but they can choose a few traits that are best for them and their future baby. What parent wouldn't want the best for their child?

# COUNTERPOINT Embryo design crosses boundary

The Abraham Center of Life in San Antonio is fueling a debate on the ethical issues surrounding the "design" of babies for would-be parents seeking a

COMMENTARY child when unable to do so naturally, according to ABC News. The center allows parents

Marissa Warms to choose

the physical traits and even personality of the donors, which means if a client wants a brown-haired, green-eyed female child, they can receive just that

While I can understand the plight of a would-be mother wanting a baby of the same race or a baby without genetic diseases, I have a hard time

understanding why a would-

be mother would want to

chose how her child would

act and even look physically.

It takes away the excitement

of what God is going to bless

you with; there is no mystery

left in childbirth.

Jim Cummins, a molecular biologist at Murdoch University in Western Australia told Washington Monthly his opinion on the topic at hand.

"To deliberately create individuals with multiple mitochondrial genotypes without knowing the consequences is really a step into the dark," he said.

In essence, he is telling the public these scientists don't really know what will happen if and when they begin designing babies. There is no way to be completely certain what will happen to the child, what it will look like, or how it will act after conception.

There is no indisputable evidence the genetic alteration of children will not lead to some type of irreversible consequences that

Monthly makes light of the situation in her article "Designer Babies," in which she addresses the ethical concerns many are facing with this issue.

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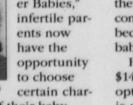
"Today, Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn would have been diagnosed with attention-deficit disorder and medicated," she said. "Tomorrow, they might not be allowed out of the Petri dish.

When we take away God's power of creation, what are we telling him? We are saying, "God, you can't create well enough, so we are taking this job into our own hands." Who gave us the intelligence we have to break through science? Why would we want to undermine someone so powerful?

Out Designer Babies," infertile parents now have the opportunity

acteristics of their baby

cal. Many are concerned



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first human embryo bank in North America. Couples can "adopt" unused embryos from another couple or create new embryos from donors' sperm and eggs. The embryo bank gives infertile couples who want to experience pregnancy a valuable alternative. It

does not seem outrageous

that parents would want to

decide on some traits they

hope their child will have if

given the opportunity to do

major ethical problems." Being able to choose traits in a baby by knowing what the embryos' biological parents look like is nothing like picking each trait for the child. The term "designer babies" is too extreme. Couples are allowed to see photos of donors as babies and children to help them choose the donors who are right for them. Scientists are in no way manipulating or harming the embryos to ensure specific traits in a child beyond fertilizing an egg.

Michelle Anderson is a sophomore broadcast journalism major from Tyler. Her column appears every Friday.



could change the gene pool forever.

> Over a year ago, the **Oregon Regional Primate** Research Center announced that it had created the first genetically engineered primate, this following the genetic engineering of a horse, a cat, a llama and many more.

> Primates have a much closer genetic relationship to humans than any of the other animals that have been genetically engineered all over the world. This means scientists are dangerously close to practically growing a human being in a Petri dish. While there are laws forbidding this, it is the possibility that is unnerving.

Shannon Brownlee, a writer for Washington

Some may say that God is still creating the embryo, he is still giving us the blueprints, but we must realize that we are taking that embryo, and we are genetically altering it to the point where it does not have the ability to become the person God designed.

Even those out there who do not have a religious background can understand why this is, in fact, a moral and ethical issue. We must soon face the reality of seeing those with a few thousand dollars to spend, creating their children in a laboratory. Are you ready?

> Marissa Warms is a junior advertising/public relations major from Irving. Her column appears every Friday.

# Don't let relationships hinder a fulfilling, rewarding college experience

At a bar in Kansas City, I ran into an ex-boyfriend who asked me if I was single. It made me sad to answer no - and not just because he's

cute.

Even

though I'm

currently in a

relationship,

more or less,

in my last

year of col-

lege, I have



always been someone who has loved being single and free - and for good reason. I barely have time for a

boyfriend my senior year of college; it amazes me how people have made time for relationships their freshman year, a time of transition into an entirely different environment.

College life has so many aspects that should be priorities in a student's life, such as friends, extracurricular activities - and I may or may not be referring to beer pong tournaments. And, oh, I don't know, maybe students should make that little thing I like to call "school" a priority.

It's not fair to put a boyfriend or girlfriend on the backburner to experience all that college has to offer. It leads to a difficult relationship and, chances are, a sticky breakup.

Translation: It leads to a more stressful life in general.

What's worse is if the boyfriend or girlfriend is the first and foremost priority. All of the experiences a student should have seem less likely to happen.

I've made my closest, lifelong friends in college. These four, five or seven years should be the best in people's lives, and these past three years have been the best years of mine.

I'm glad to have been able to spontaneously go to Aus-

tin and Lubbock on weekends and come back with stories that start off with: "Yeah, we met these guys at a gas station and ended up at their house. I ended up exchanging screen names with one of them - don't ask how or why. Turns out my roommate went to high school with him."

Not only has the single life provided me with stories that are probably better suited for my friends and not so much

my future children, I know myself so well.

College is a time when people should be able to figure out themselves and what they want in life. I know what I don't want in a friend; I know what I do want.

I learned to be real and embrace who I am and what is important to me, which, today, happens to be Fuzzy's Tacos.

> Adrienne Lang is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Olathe, Kan.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As a 14-year reader of the Skiff, I must tell you how impressed I was by Ylona Cupryjak's opinion piece in yesterday's paper about Oprah's academy

for girls. What a mature, thoughtful and well-written editorial. It makes a strong (and potentially unpopular) point, while eloquently presenting both

sides of the issue. Whether the reader agrees with Ms. Cupryjak or not, the editorial is certain to provoke reaction and discussion regarding the nature of philanthropy. And isn't that the true purpose of an editorial, to enhance and encourage dialogue on important, relevant issues? Ms. Cupryjak's piece is cer-

tainly worthy of syndication, and I hope it receives that consideration. Wider publication of such an excellent piece of journalism would certainly be an

impressive way to demonstrate the level of quality we are capable of achieving here at TCU.

> Professor Richard Allen, Chair, Radio-TV-Film

JOHN-LAURENT TRONCHE MARCUS MURPHREE ANDREW CHAVEZ

### LINDSEY BEVER | Editorial Policy The content of the Opinion page does not

necessarily represent the views of Texas Christian University. The Skiff View editorial represents the view of the TCU Daily Skiff editorial board

listed to the left. The Skiff View is the collective opinion of the editorial board and may not reflect the views of the individual writers. Signed letters, columns and cartoons represent the opinion of the

writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board.

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# Indi weat into

By KIMBERLY Staff Writer

> The roma nel Pajama the Grand 2006 Sunda is an indie realistic vie in today's s

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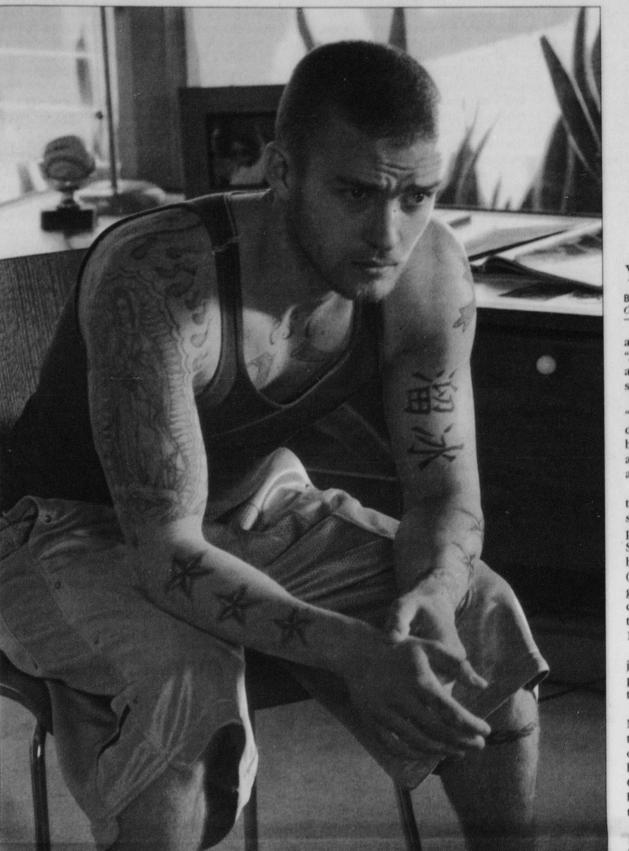
The pren thing New V Nicole, fall on a blind ly marry. U marriage is expected, a obstacles ra







YEE-HAW! The Rodeo and Stock Show is in town this month. WEDNESDAY



### Justin Timberlake stars as conflicted kidnapper Frankie Ballenbacher in the new film "Alpha Dog" from Universal Pictures.

# What's up, dog?

# Young guns dominate silver screen with realism

By MICHAEL DODD Copy Desk Chief

Take one part "Boyz N the Hood" and two parts "Kids," and you get "Alpha Dog," a slightly atypical look at an increasingly overdone plot: disillusioned youth.

Posing as a partial documentary, "Dog" follows the story of real-life drug dealer Jesse James Hollywood, played by Emile Hirsch ("The Girl Next Door" and "Lords of Dogtown"), as the fictionalized Johnny Truelove.

When a deal goes bad, Truelove resorts to kidnapping the younger brother of his sociopathic, drug-addled partner, Jake, played by Ben Foster ("X-Men: The Last Stand" and "Hostage"). Jake's younger brother Zack, played by Anton Yelchin ("Fierce People" and TV's "Huff"), is given every opportunity to escape, but declines after finding his captor's partying ways more than fulfilling for his 15-year-old self.

But, Truelove figures out you can't just kidnap someone and have not one person care; a realization that leads to the film's intense ending.

Directed by Nick Cassavetes ("The Notebook" and "John Q"), "Dog" portrays a vivid look into what happens over a three-day period in August 2000, but the plot becomes a backdrop as Cassavetes, like so many filmmakers before him, followed the activities of the youths.

What could have been a truly realistic look into the actual crime instead becomes a commentary on the decline of youth and innocence. The story always remains, but Cassavetes seems reticent

to return to it until he has fully explored the impropriety of the youths depicted throughout the film.

5

While Cassavetes makes a half-assed attempt to actually follow the story line, the exploration of the disillusionment of youth is expertly crafted, especially under the superb acting of the film's cast.

Hirsch, Olivia Wilde (TV's "The OC" and "Turistas"), Shawn Hatosy ("Outside Providence" and "A Guy Thing") and Foster are examples of actors who, when casted to their strengths, can portray their characters to the fullest while turning in performances that could make the surest of parents fear their child's leisure time.

But, it is Justin Timberlake as Frankie, one of Truelove's top cohorts, who turns in the best performance of the film. Showing all degrees of emotion in a believable manner, Timberlake, in his first starring role, captures the audience's empathy as a kid caught in a tumultuous battle he can neither win nor escape. He and the audience know what the outcome will be and yet Timberlake still holds the viewer's attention, managing to give them hope in a hopeless situation.

While Jesse James Hollywood's story is told vividly and without remorse, the forefront of "Dogs" is just how deteriorated the American teenager has become. It may have been a fictionalized look into occurrences of those fateful days, but its message is all too real and Cassavetes makes sure that no viewer leaves the theater without it.

ent ★★★☆☆

# Indie flick 'Flannel' weaves love, emotion into intricate plotline

### By KIMBERLY BURTON Staff Writer

The romance drama "Flannel Pajamas," a nominee for the Grand Jury Prize at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival, is an indie film depicting a realistic view of relationships in today's society.

This film explores the harsher and more realistic side of relationships, and how love is sometimes not enough.

The premise: two 30-something New Yorkers, Stuart and Nicole, fall madly in love while on a blind date and eventually marry. Unfortunately, their marriage isn't the bliss they expected, and they encounter obstacles ranging from differ-

### or Opening today Angelica Film Center, Dallas

PUT ON YOUR PJS

ences in career choices and religion to eccentric family members.

Writer/director Jeff Lipsky made the right decision in choosing lesser-known, but somewhat familiar talent for this film. Nicole is portrayed by Julianne Nicholson ("Little Black Book," and TV's "Law and Order: Criminal Intent"), while Justin Kirk ("Angels in America" and Showtime's "Weeds") plays Stuart. Nicole's mother Elizabeth is played by Rebecca Schull, known for her role as the ticket agent 'Fay' in the 90s ABC sitcom "Wings".

"Flannel Pajamas" not only explores the intricate complexities of familial relationships, but also exposes the raw emotions and nerves of two people who love each other, and the families and friends who surround them. It not only depicts the high points of new love, but the low points after the newness wears off.

This movie is full of dialogue — some of it seemingly unnecessary. It doesn't detract from the story, however.

Be forewarned: this movie does deserve its "R," rating. There is some brief nudity and strong language. For optimists, realists and pessimists alike, this movie has a little something for everyone.

\*\*\*\*

IGANTIC PICTURES

# Dallas duo brings grace, skill to Bass Hall

By KIMBERLY BURTON Staff Writer

Music-lovers braved the winter weather and ventured downtown to Fort Worth's Bass Performance Hall on Jan. 13 for an evening of music by the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra.

The performance was directed by Miguel Harth-Bedoya and featured piano virtuosos Alessio Bax and Lucille Chung.

The first piece performed was "Blue Cathedral," composed by American Jennifer Higdon as a memorial to her younger brother who died of cancer. Higdon's use of Chinese health reflex balls and tuned water goblets seemed to only add a little bit of that cathedrallike quality she was attempting, and the piece seemed to lack something at the end.

"Symphony No. 4," composed by Robert Schumann, was the second piece of the evening. Its orchestration was good, though not great, and failed to hold the full interest of the audience.

Highlighting the evening was the third piece, "Concerto for Two Pianos," by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. This piece was performed by Bax and Chung, a married piano duo living in Dallas.

Chung is a Canadian native and, after her debut at the age of 10, has performed all

### CONCERTO

Although Bax and Chung were only in town Jan. 13, the Fort Worth Symphony is always putting on a show. For more information, go to fwsymphony.org.

over the world. She graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music, the Juilliard School, as well as many other schools, the most recent being Southern Methodist University.

Bax won first place in the 2000 Leeds International Pianoforte Competition, and has appeared with numerous symphonies all over the world. He graduated with top honors from the conservatory in his hometown of Bari, Italy, at the age of 14. He teaches at the Meadows School of the Arts in Dallas.

This concerto was beautifully done, with Bax and Chung's performance outshining the rest of the orchestra (who played backup to the duo). Though "Concerto for Two Pianos," is a lesser-known work from Mozart, Bax and Chung did not play it with anything less than perfection.

Bax played with an understated, simplistic passion. He appeared almost methodical but that did not detract from the urgency with which he played.

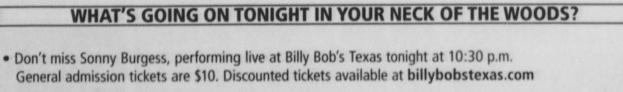


Lucille Chung highlighted the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra on Jan. 13 with her husband Alessio Bax.

His counterpart and wife Chung played with a more artistic flair. She played with an elegant, fluidic vigor — her hands flying up gracefully from the piano's keyboard throughout the concerto.

Bax and Chung portrayed two players from two different worlds, united in both marriage and in music. Whether these two virtuosos were playing in unison or in a responsive manner during the concerto, it was clear they were playing as one. For anyone who loves listening to music or watching people who love what they do perform, a concert with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra at Bass Hall is the place to be. You can hear and see the performances well from just about anywhere, and tickets are quite reasonably priced. The Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra is a cultural gem, and everyone should take the opportunity to see a performance.

\*\*\*\*



- "Hitcher," rated R and starring Sophia Bush and Sean Bean, opens today at a theater near you.
- The Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo is ongoing this weekend at the Will Rogers Memorial Center. For tickets, visit fwstockshow/odeo.com

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NATIONAL / LOCAL

TCU Daily Skiff | Friday, January 19, 2007



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# Democrats take steps toward cutting tax breaks for big oil Such criticism irked Rep.

### By KEVIN G. HALL McClatchy Newspapers

passed legislation Thurs- the pockets of Big Oil within breaks from an oil industry that's enjoying record profits, recoup oil and gas royalty sway in the halls of Congress," payments and create a fund to said Rep. Kathy Castor, D-Fla. promote alternative fuels such She argued that the new Demas ethanol.

Creating Long-Term Energy Alternatives for the Nation, vote - 264 to 123 - wasn't The Democratic-controlled fulfilled a Democratic cam- large enough to override a House of Representatives paign pledge to reach into presidential veto. But Presiday that would roll back tax the first 100 hours of House to veto the measure, and he's business.

ocratic Congress "will plan for The legislation, called the a more sustainable future."

dent Bush hasn't threatened expected to tout alternative "Big Oil has had too much fuels in Tuesday's State of the Union address. The Senate is considering similar but less

> ambitious legislation. By rolling back tax breaks and collecting more income



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., speaks during a news conference at the Capitol on Thursday. Democrats in Congress congratulated themselves after the House passed the last of six priority bills within a self-imposed deadline of the first 100 legislative hours.

about \$14 billion available over 10 years to a new fund for developing alternative and renewable energy sources.

While the House bill seeks cy on foreign oil by investing in alternative energy resources, Republicans, the energy industry and independent experts reduce the country's reliance on imported oil.

"They're putting up a facade," said Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif.

Most independent experts say that, at best, conventional ethanol production could displace 10 percent to 16 percent of U.S. motor fuel consumption by 2030. And since the of the world." bill would remove tax incenoil in the United States, it could discourage domestic U.S. oil production.

al environment, taking away their ability to invest doesn't seem (to be) smart policy," said Frank Verrastro, director national Studies in Washington. He was an energy-policy adviser in the Carter administration.

Verrastro lauded Democratic absolutely."

The margin of the House from federal offshore oil and efforts to promote energy effigas leases, the bill would make ciency and conservation, but Roscoe Bartlett, R-Md., one of breaks is better politics than the measure. energy policy.

> Democrats' limited approach. sion," Bartlett said. "Nobody is taking it all the way through, well to wheels."

said it wouldn't do much to of Manufacturers warned in a a royalty clause that was acci-Wednesday letter to lawmak- dentally omitted from leases ers that the bill could discourage badly needed domestic exploration and drilling on production of oil and natu- federally owned lands. ral gas. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce warned in a simi- edged by the Department of oil and transfers the nation's years, costs the Treasury bilwealth to many unstable parts lions in lost revenue.

group, argued that U.S. jobs were at stake.

"If you want these indus- domestic operations, you Big Oil eligible for a 32 pertries to be strong in a glob- are reducing the return on cent tax rate instead of 35 investment that companies percent. can earn, which increases their cost of capital," said a tax break to people who Michael Platner, API's direc- make \$10 billion in profit of energy programs for the tor of tax policy. "These per quarter," said Bartlett, Center for Strategic and Inter- tax differences could make adding that today's high enough difference in the cost oil prices give ample reaof a project that you could son to explore and produce drive investment overseas. oil. "The president himself

he said that rolling back tax two Republican co-sponsors of 'My (GOP) colleagues are "It's the wrong policy, but billing this as a tax increase

they know it resonates with on oil. This is not true. It to reduce America's dependen- voters," he said, decrying the attempts to correct an omis-

He was referring to a provision that seeks to force oil The National Association companies into renegotiating written in 1998 and 1999 for

The omission, acknowllar letter that the bill "forces a the Interior and subsequently continued reliance on foreign reinserted into leases in later

Bartlett also rapped fellow The American Petroleum Republicans for opposing a tives to explore and produce Institute, the oil sector's trade provision that would roll back a 2004 tax break treating oil companies as U.S. manufac-"By increasing taxes on turers. That treatment makes

"There's no reason to give It could drive jobs overseas, has told me that's incentive enough."

# Farmers Branch immigration battles continue

### By PATRICK MCGEE McClatchy Newspapers

gle with illegal immigration to get worse. suggests that some issues can ing groups marked mostly by ethnicity.

This time many see the immigration:

At issue are three measures ating Hispanics. still divide people into feud- the City Council approved by

los and Hispanics. Tempers ments to illegal immigrants. enforced. They have also

against neighbor," said Salva- with lawsuits and a petidor Parada, a Farmers Branch tion that put a referendum As the nation paused to resident who opposes the City on the rental ordinance on remember Martin Luther Council's stance on illegal the May municipal ballot. King Jr.'s hope for brother- immigration. "I don't think They say that immigration hood across racial lines this we're going to sit down and is a matter for the federal week, a Dallas suburb's strug- agree on things. It's just going government and that Farmers Branch's stance is alien-

Supporters say the mea-5-0 votes in November that sures are necessary because are meant to curb illegal illegal immigration has overburdened local servicturmoil in Farmers Branch An ordinance prohibiting es, such as schools. They as a dispute between Ang- landlords from renting apart- say the law needs to be

### By MICHAEL DOYLE McClatchy Newspapers

Attorney Mark E. Goidell once represented rapper Sean Combs, known at that time as "Puffy.'

He defended a New York man convicted of double murder. He defended a woman who falsely accused a co-worker of sexually abusing retarded patients.

Former Rep. Gary Condit, though, has proved to be one

client too much. Goidell wants a judge to let him out of a defamation case he brought on the California Democrat's behalf. Facing potential sanctions for filing an allegedly frivolous lawsuit against author Dominick Dunne, Goidell agreed this week that the case never should have been brought.



have blazed so intensely that people on both sides fear the city's official language. that the City Hall screaming fistfights.

"The issue has divided laws. the city. It has put neighbor

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matches could escalate into police officer trained to signing it. enforce federal immigration



LAURIE L. WARD / Fort Worth Star Te Cuquita's Restaurant in Farmers Branch is co-owned by Elizabeth Villafranca, left, who speaks with Nelsie Alcoser of Dallas. Alcoser said she chose the dinner spot to show support of Villafranca's efforts supporting the immigrant community.

A resolution making English attacked the petition drive's legitimacy, saying that elder-An order to have a city ly people were tricked into

Farmers Branch is among a handful of communities Opponents responded nationwide where the clash over illegal immigration is playing out at the local level.

The City Council in Escondido, Calif., has also passed a ban on renting to illegal immigrants, but the city agreed not to enforce the ordinance last month after being sued by several individuals and groups. A lawsuit against anti-illegal immigration measures in Hazelton, Pa., is scheduled for trial in March.

In Farmers Branch, people on both sides of the debate express more confidence in defeating their opponents in the May referendum or in the courts than in working things out through dialogue.

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"The defamation claim in this action is not warranted by existing law, or by a non-frivolous tionally invested that it is argument for new law," Goidell said in a Jan. 15 affidavit. But while Goidell is push-

vowing to fight on.

multiple libel lawsuits - two beyond what any normal perof them still pending. His litigious persistence could prove costly, even as it illustrates the and courtroom decorum.

that plaintiffs in defamation 2001 disappearance of onecases can become so emo- time intern Chandra Levy.

TRAFFIC TICKETS

Defended in Fort Worth, Arlington,

Richland Hills, Benbrook, Crowley,



Former Rep. Gary Condit, D-Calif., walks by photographers in Washington. Condit's lawyer, Mark E. Goidell, recently asked a judge to be released from Condit's defamation case.

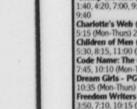
to disengage," said Lucy Condit is already a veteran of "They will pursue libel suits er identified a suspect. son would do."

Condit sued Dunne in federauthor and television raconteur "It's been my observation had falsely linked him to the

Ski 20 Mountains & 5 Resorts

Levy was last seen alive on very, very difficult for them April 30, 2001. Her skeletal remains were found a year Dalglish, executive director later in Washington's Rock ing the eject button, Condit is of the Reporters Committee Creek Park. Her murder is still for Freedom of the Press. unsolved, and police have nev-

Three decades her senior, Condit eventually told investigators that he'd had a sexual al court for the second time in relationship with Levy, accordrules governing defamation November. He claimed that the ing to undisputed published accounts. Police never called him a suspect, but Condit's handling of the case cost him his House seat in 2002.



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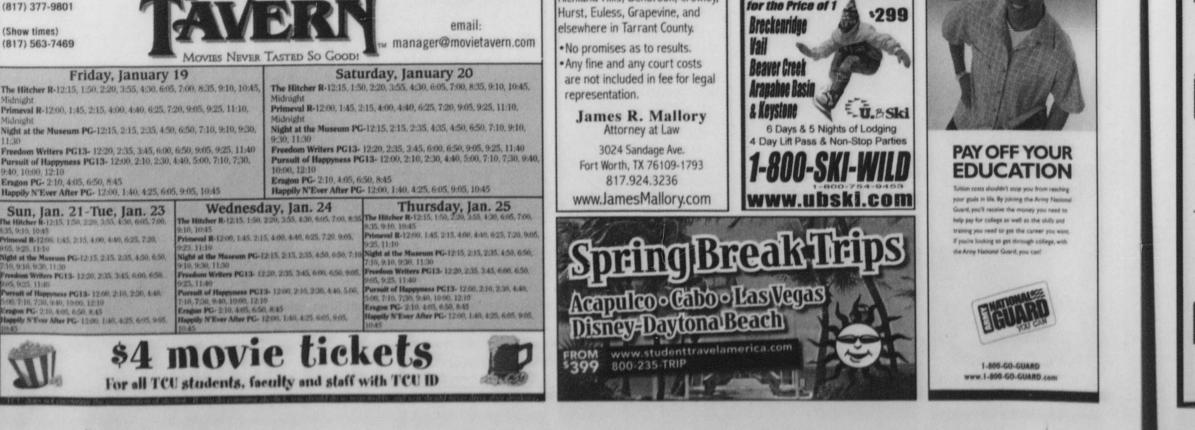


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by Buddy Hickerson

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"I appreciate that you're a computer genius,

but I already HAVE a boyfriend, and YOU need

a surge protector."

### TODAY IN HISTORY

**1809:** Poet, author and literary critic Edgar Allan Poe is born in Boston. After a life of both success and failure, Poe died at the age of 40, three days after being found incoherent in a gutter.

### WORTH A LAUGH — BUT ONLY ONE

Q: What did the mayo say when someone opened the refrigerator door?

A:"Close the door, I'm dressing!"



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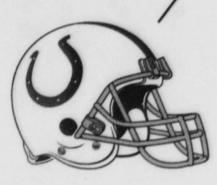


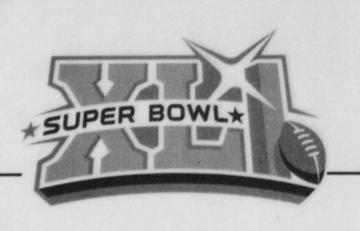
**FROG BALL** See if the basketball team can break its two-game conference losing streak this weekend at DAILYSKIFF.COM

# **PLAYOFFS: THE FINAL FOUR**

**By Marcus Murphee Sports Editor** 

The AFC title game will be the final test to see if the Colts can shake their postseason curse of the Patriots. Two out of the past three seasons, Peyton Manning's Colts have been embarrassed by the Patriots when January football rolls around. The Colts are favored by three points over the Patriots, according to sportsbetting.com. However, the Patriots have won three out of the last five Super Bowls.

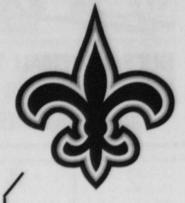




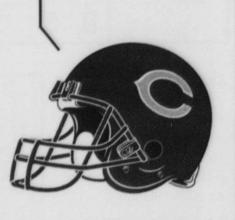
Super Bowl XLI is on the horizon, and Sunday's Conference Championships will be the end of the road for two teams, while the best of the NFC and the best of the AFC will live to play another day.

Nobody from last season's Super Bowl remains in postseason play, so a new champion will be crowned on the turf of Dolphins' Stadium.

This season's halftime show will be headlined by a musical performance from Prince.



A year after a dismal 3-13 record, the dark horse New Orleans Saints are now in the hunt for a Super Bowl title. Even if the Saints upset the touted Chicago Bears defense, there is still the Super Bowl stigma of NFC teams. The past 10 seasons, the NFC is 3-7 in Super Bowl contests



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by eby

# No time like present to celebrate sports

By BILLY WESSELS Photo Editor

Now is the time for all sports fans to rejoice.

There is just so much going on in the world of sports right COMMENTARY

now that even the most diehard sports fans in the world struggle to keep up

everything. The big-

gest sport at the moment has got to be football, since we are two days away from finding out who will be playing in the biggest sporting spectacle in the United States, the Super Bowl.

Even if you are a Cowboys fan, things are interesting right now. Who knows if Terrell Owens or Bill Parcells will be back next season?

Even though it is a tough time for the fans of the 28 teams not playing anymore, for the fans of the four teams remaining, things are spectacular.

I know just how it feels to see your team not succeed. I have been a New Orleans

**Top competition awaits** men's tennis at tourney

### By TIM BELLA Staff Reporter

"Progress" is the message the men's tennis head coach is preaching to his team heading into the Met Collegiate Indoor Invitational this weekend in Houston.

Head coach Dave Borelli game compared to the women, the men's game has the said he wants the team, which has a preseason national ranking of No. 36, according to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, to put more of an emphasis on progress instead of just winning.

Saints fan my entire life, and this is the first time I can say that with pride. Before this season, I grew

8

accustomed to having to watch other teams in the playoffs while finding myself just "wanting to see a good game" and not really caring who won or lost.

College football still has some interesting things taking place, too. I know the season has just ended, but what an ending. with

The Florida Gators' upset of the Ohio State Buckeyes was probably the biggest national title shock since Ohio State beat the Miami Hurricanes in the 2003 Fiesta Bowl.

Speaking of the Fiesta Bowl, how about them Boise State Broncos? That was the most ridiculous couple of minutes of football I have ever seen.

That game gave hope to all teams playing in small conferences, for example TCU.

If the Frogs could go undefeated next season, TCU could be on its way to a BCS bowl game. I even think, if the Frogs have just one loss to the Texas Longhorns, there still could be a chance of snagging a BCS bid.

may be for this weekend,

this season will have a dif-

ferent feel for Borelli as it

will be the first time in his

TCU career that he will be

exclusively coaching the

men's team. Borelli said that

while it may be a different

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By SONYA CIS

Staff Reporter

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"Sometimes, winning doesn't come all the time, but those experiences will help you later down the line," Borelli said.

Even though the tournament includes two of the top three teams in the nation - the No. 2 Baylor Bears and the No. 3 Ohio State Buckeyes, freshman Mike Donovan said the team is eager to get the spring season under way. Graduate student transfer Chris Biro said the team's chemistry has been very upbeat heading into Houston.

Donovan said he agreed with Biro that the team has come together.

"I couldn't have asked for a better group of guys," Donovan said.

No matter what the result Friedman Tennis Center,

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same type of hardworking, respectful players the women's team has had.

"You appreciate the value of working for something when they work hard," he said.



Kriegler Brink, sophomore, returns

a volley at the Wilson/ITA South

Central Regionals at the Bayard H.

**SKIFF ARCHIVE** 

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