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Au Courant

the trend



Photo by Julienne Miller

The original 'Wacker Backer'

For Wacker, football is family affair

By Rikki Connelly

For 23 years she has been part of Jim Wacker's football staff. But instead of designing plays or giving the team pep talks, she has recruits over for dinner, cheers the team on from the bleachers and lives her life through the different seasons of football.

Her name is Lillian Wacker.

In 1982, TCU announced the interviewing of prospective head coaches. Jim Wacker, then head coach at Southwest Texas State University, was one of the coaches TCU was interested in hiring.

The interview was unique, said Wacker, because she was included in the interview.

"TCU realizes a family is important to a coach. Happiness of the family is important to TCU," she said.

The Wackers discussed the job opportunity with their three sons. There were many considerations, Wacker said, but the size of TCU and the city of Fort Worth were definite drawing points.

"We went to a small church-related college. We really appreciated Fort Worth's friendly atmosphere," she said.

Even with the buzz of TCU possibly being in a Top 20 pick, bowl scouts coming to TCU games and showing interest in the Frogs and the campus' constant talk of Cotton, Lillian Wacker said she must take it one game at a time.

"I try to keep it in perspective," she said. "The players need to keep it in perspective. It's great to win but it's not that big of a deal. You need to be interested in other areas,

Football is only a part of life."

Sports have always been a big part of the Wackers' life. Their son Steven played football in high school and his brother Mike plays basketball at the University of Texas. He was injured two years ago but may be playing again this season. When TCU and UT meet in basketball, Wacker says, "Dad has to be neutral but mom is supposed to cheer for her son."

Football is not the only aspect of her life. Wacker is a graduate student at TCU, is involved in church activities and homemaking. "People don't realize a week will fill quickly with homemaking and activities at TCU," she said.

When she and her husband want to get away from football, they sit on the back porch, take walks or go to the movies. But most of life is football. Wacker says the job is part of their life.

According to Wacker, the wife of a coach must be strong and slightly independent. "A coach's wife has to be creative and pursue her own interests. It's a necessity to become strong. It must be a good interdependence, not an overdependence. A coach's wife isn't a wife who depends on her husband for everything," she said.

Her life is constantly in motion and is in the public eye. She says she is aware of the expectations and sees it as a way to meet new people.

God is important in her personal life but she does not ask for favors when it's fourth down and inches. "I rely on him for living. I

don't believe that he is totally responsible for winning or losing a football game. There is a quote I once found that says, 'God is usually on the side with the biggest tackles and fastest backs,'" she said.

"God gave Jim the ability to coach. Coaching does not come from the outside," she said.

The Wackers meet in college. Lillian Wacker says her husband had said he wanted to coach high school. "Maybe he thought of coaching college but it didn't dawn on me," she said.

She sees coaching in high school and college as the same in one important aspect. "You're teaching and influencing young kids and that's what it's all about," she said.

In their moving from state to state, the Wackers have left many friends behind. Wacker says leaving friends was always the hardest part of moving, but that new towns have always brought new relationships.

"We still correspond with many of them at Christmas. Time does not permit us to write otherwise. Some people we lost contact with have now found us because of TCU's success. Jim had a call from a coach in Oregon that he knew in the '60s," she said.

The new friends she's made in Fort Worth have been very supportive and kind to her. "Most people have allowed me to be myself. That's a tribute to the people I associate with," she said.

Not everyone she meets knows she is the wife of TCU's head coach, and she says many wouldn't care. "A lot of people are not sports oriented. They don't know much about my life. They know me as a child's teacher or someone at church. Either way is fine," Wacker said.

Wacker said she sees very little difference between her marriage and that of others. There exists a constant need for her to be supportive of her husband and his job. "We ended up with a strong relationship because we share the same beliefs and principles," she said.

Wacker believes that this football season should be taken one game at a time. "There is a quote that I keep close to my heart and mind. 'If by chance you happen to be successful, by all means, enjoy all the adoration but never, ever believe it.'"

"All the writing is wonderful but they don't have to believe it. Jim knows he's a good coach and that's what the players must believe in," she said.

She says that the success of the team is very important to her husband but has greater implications. "A football team is an important part of school. I interpret the good press about Jim as a reflection on the total program," she said.

Lillian Wacker's life revolves around the seasons of football. "There's football season, recruiting, spring ball and a small amount of vacation time."

It does not bother her that it is so much of her life. While her life revolves around the sport, there has been time for other more important matters. "We've changed from our 20s to the 40s. We've had three children and seen them grow. We have many good friends and moving has always brought the possibility to build relationships," she said.

The other interests also depend on the season. "He (Jim Wacker) is interested in what I'm doing, but his interest depends on what time of the year it is," she said.

While she may not be a paid staff member, Lillian Wacker has as much interest in the team and other coaches as any at TCU.



Lillian and Jim Wacker look over the records of prospective recruits.

Concert offers prelude to Cliburn

By Duane Bidwell

From May 18 to June 2, 1985, internationally known pianists will converge on Fort Worth to compete for a first prize valued at \$200,000. TCU will host a sneak preview of this performance.

Tuesday in Ed Landreth Hall Auditorium, American and European musical talents will come together, giving Fort Worth residents a prelude to the seventh Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

American pianist Malcolm Frager and the Prague String Quartet from Prague, Czechoslovakia will perform at 8 p.m.

Frager, the only pianist ever to win first prize in both the Edgar M. Leventritt Competition in New York and the Queen Elisabeth of Belgium International Piano Competition in Brussels, will play the Dvorak Piano Quintet, the Mozart Piano Quintet in G minor and the Schubert Quartet Movement in C minor. The Dvorak piece is required for Van Cliburn competitors.

The Prague String Quartet will appear with Frager. Founded in 1955, the quartet has toured the world and played in every major North American music center.

Playing works by a number of notable Czech composers, the quartet's repertoire covers the full range of standard works for a string quartet. It has been widely recognized as one of the world's top string quartets.

The competition sponsors a series of concerts between competitions, which occur about every four years. This year's concert series is designed as a preview to the competition itself, presenting music and musicians to the public to help generate enthusiasm for the main event.

Blaine Smith, Van Cliburn public relations officer, said the preview "... is kind of a neat prelude to the competition. It gets people thinking about the competition."

The competition itself was founded and named in honor of Van Cliburn, a Texas resident who won first prize in the Soviet Union's Tchaikovsky Competition in 1958. The first Van Cliburn Competition was held in 1962.

Internationally known, the competition is often broadcast live on various media. PBS carried a 90-minute live program to 8 million viewers during the 1981 competition. Because of its reputation, the competition is observed throughout the world.

"The main purpose of the contest is to further the careers of young artists by giving them the chance to become a concert pianist," Smith said.

Contestants come from all over the world to participate in the competition. In the 1977 competition alone, there were 294 applicants. Only 76 were chosen to compete.

The contestants, who must be between the ages of 18 and 29, stay in private homes during the competition. Each competitor must perform a set repertoire that varies in each phase of the competition.

The Cliburn Concerts are sponsored by the Van Cliburn Foundation Inc., and are also supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

Tickets for Tuesday's concert range from \$10 to \$16.50. Reservations may be made by calling 738-6533.



Pianist Malcolm Frager will perform at Tuesday's Van Cliburn Concert.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS FROM FRIENDS TO FRIENDS.

"Are you OK to drive?"
"What's a few beers?"

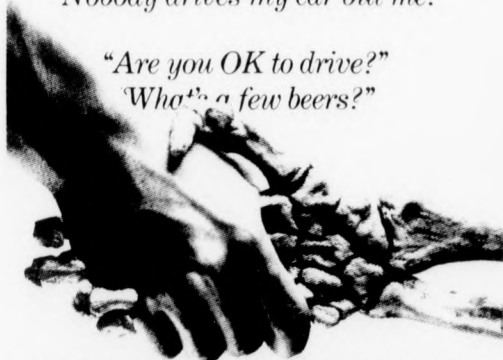
"Did you have too much to drink?"
"I'm perfectly fine."

"Are you in any shape to drive?"
"I've never felt better."

"I think you've had a few too many."
"You kiddin', I can drive with my eyes closed."

"You've had too much to drink, let me drive."
"Nobody drives my car but me."

"Are you OK to drive?"
"Who's a few beers?"



DRINKING AND DRIVING CAN KILL A FRIENDSHIP

U.S. Department of Transportation



The Prague String Quartet, from Prague, Czechoslovakia, will come to TCU to perform in the Van Cliburn Concert.

'Drummer Girl' film for thinkers

By Cara Parker

Director George Roy Hill's "The Little Drummer Girl" is not a movie for escapists or viewers in search of adventure.

"The Little Drummer Girl" is for those who enjoy the complexity of human emotion.

Based on John le Carre's best seller of the same name, the film involves Diane Keaton as a sensitive American actress, Charlie, who champions causes. Although she is pro-Palestinian, she is recruited by Israeli counterintelligence to snare a major Palestinian operative.

Charlie hears the operative's brother Michel deliver a propaganda speech in England, where she performs. They discover a mutual interest in each other, but before it develops, Michel is kidnapped by the Israelis as bait to capture his brother Khalil.

While filming a commercial in Greece a few days later, Charlie mistakenly thinks she has found Michel again. The mistake is an innocent one, given that Charlie has never seen Michel in daylight or undisguised. The mistake, however, leads to her involvement with, and subsequent emotional ties to, the key Israeli operative in the plan to capture Khalil.

What follows is an intricate plot of political maneuvers that keeps the viewer alert and, at times, confused. The film's first 45 minutes contains seemingly unrelated scenes, but the scenes are not so choppy as to lose the audience's attention.

Nor does the viewer have to be an expert on the Palestinian/Israeli conflict to understand "The Little Drummer Girl." The two sides become "us" and "them," each with strong convictions of justice.

For Charlie, however, it is not that simple. Not only must she contend with her resolve to help the Palestinians, stop the bloodshed and protect her safety while appearing to support both sides of the conflict, but she must deal with her feelings for Joseph, the key Israeli operative.

Joseph is a fascinating character. Portrayed by Yorgo Voyagis, a native of Greece, Joseph is a man of strength and quiet emotion. Those traits add to Charlie's vulnerability, and the

interplay of the two characters is the thread that keeps the film from becoming fragmented.

Although in his past novels le Carre has praised heroic acts by Israelis and reaffirmed Israel's right to exist, "The Little Drummer Girl" is not a moralistic film of right and wrong. The characters don't all believe the end justifies the means, but they do have causes, and those causes are basic to their functioning. Granted, the Palestinians are portrayed as the "villains" of the piece, but

those villains are dynamic, intelligent characters.

Filmed on location in West Germany, England, Greece and Israel, "The Little Drummer Girl" is by far one of the best offerings at theaters so far this season. The love scenes are minimal and discreet, the focus is on emotion and motivation instead of cars and fast living, and the one instance of nudity is tasteful and necessary to the script.

"The Little Drummer Girl" is not a movie for escapists. It is a movie for realists.



Involved over her head with PLO terrorists, Charlie (Diane Keaton) learns to take apart and assemble a machine gun blindfolded in "The Little Drummer Girl."

Warner Bros.

at hand

Monday

A joint faculty recital by Judith Gans, soprano, and Noah Knepper, woodwinds, will be presented at 8 p.m. in **Ed Landreth Auditorium**. They will be assisted by pianists Judith Solomon and Judith Martyn. The performance is free and open to the public.

within reach

Wednesday

"**Once in a Lifetime**," a 1930 comedy by George Kaufman and Moss Hart, is being presented Wednesday through Saturday nights through Dec. 1 at Stage West. Set in 1928, the play concerns the story of three second-rate vaudevillians who decide to make their fortune in talking pictures. Tickets range from \$8 to \$10, and reservations can be made by calling 332-6238.

Thursday

Fort Worth's **Caravan of Dreams** will present an original adaptation of Goethe's classic epic, "Faust, Part One," through Nov.

Wednesday

Folk artist Willard Watson, known in art circles as "The Texas Kid," will be on campus from 4:30 to 6 p.m. to open his exhibit of folk art in the **Brown-Lupton Gallery**. The exhibition will continue through Nov. 16. Also on view will be a display of mail art, which consists of a wide range of two- and three-

dimensional objects that are sent through the mail. The collection includes letters, postcards, packages, stamps, collages, photocopies, newsletters, magazines and catalogues.

All Week Long

Texas-born playwright Patricia Griffith's comic play, "**Outside Waco**," is being presented at Dallas' Theater Three through Nov. 18. The play concerns the individual trials and joint problems of three middle-aged sisters who live with their father outside Waco, Texas. Reservations can be made by calling the theater at (214) 871-3300.

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Au Courant

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