

## BABY ON BOARD

### Students experience parenthood while attending school

By Tori Foster  
THE BATTALION

On Thursday night many college students head to Northgate for a break from the daily demands of college. While most students are partying, Amy Schiller-Waiser is tucking her 1-year-old daughter, Mikayla, into bed.

Schiller-Waiser and her husband, Travis Waiser, a senior agronomy and rangeland ecology and management major, arrange their schedules so that they are not in classes at the same time.

When Schiller-Waiser, a senior early childhood development major, gets home, it's time for her husband to attend classes or his job at the soil characterization lab where he works 18 to 20 hours a week.

When the couple does have class at the same time or needs a break, Angie Schiller, a freshman speech communication major, helps the couple by watching Mikayla.

"My little sister is the biggest help," Schiller-Waiser said. "She'll come over so I can get some studying done because it's really hard to do anything with Mikayla."

The couple works together to balance the daily grind of their lives. While Schiller-Waiser's husband works, she tries to spend as much time with Mikayla as possible.

They said that through hard work and determination, they have managed to become independent and develop a budget that covers the

whole family. Even though college has been an extra stress on their lives, they say they never let that stress stop education from being a primary goal.

"It's tight, but we're making it," Schiller-Waiser said. "We've always had the goal that we were going to finish college, so there never was a question of quitting."

While the couple continues school and endeavors to be good parents, they say that one of their priorities is to make time to be a couple.

"Not only does it take work being a mother, but it also takes work to keep a marriage together," Schiller-Waiser said. "Sometimes you've just got to put the homework off and spend some time together, otherwise, you find that you're just growing apart. Before I was pregnant, we used to go out every other weekend. Now our idea of going out is to go rent a movie and bring it home so we can all watch it together."

Christina Ybarra, a senior early childhood development major, is the single mother of two children, Mark, 10, and Natalie, 12. She will tell anyone that her children are the greatest gifts that the "man upstairs" has given her, and the words hope and faith are popular in her

vocabulary. "Where there is a will, there is a way," she said. "Si puedo. To me, it's like you can do anything if you put your mind to it."

As an extra test of her stamina and strength, Ybarra takes care of her father, who suffers from epilepsy. She said her typical day is filled

with getting her children ready to go to school, attending classes and working 24 hours a week at a local elementary school to support her family.

Ybarra said she has adapted to being able to study in any environment, and often completes her homework at work or studies for a midterm at her children's soccer practices.

"Never give up and always have faith," she said. "I've learned to take deep breaths. You don't have time for much, but it only takes a second to take a deep breath and give yourself a little push to keep going."

The Texas A&M Children's Center provides care for students with children and focuses on assisting student-parents with affordable childcare and a preschool program.

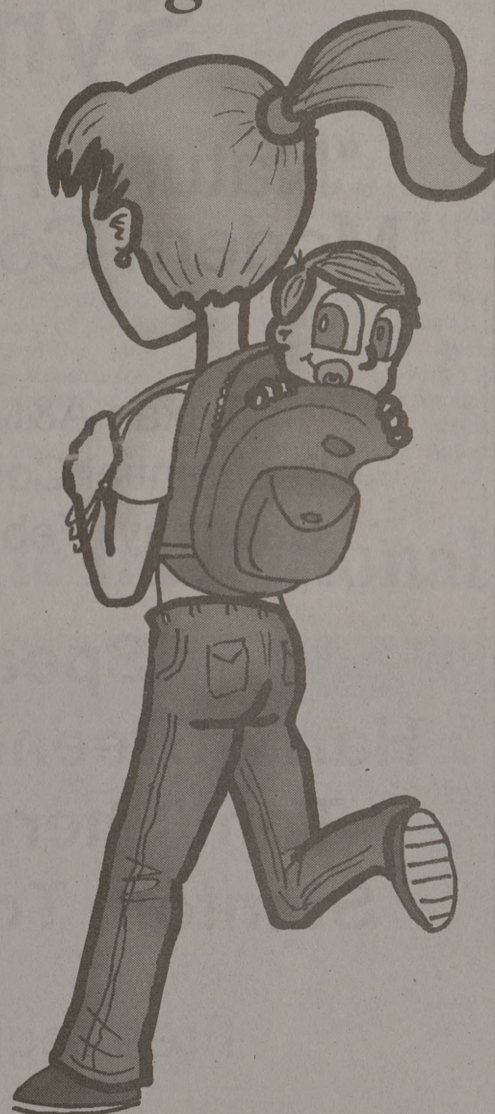
"We provide access to childcare, we are close and diverse, and we follow the University schedule so that we are available to the students," said Di Fontenot, the center's director. "Our link with the University has granted them the comfort to continue their education. The University is aware that we have a large population of student-parents that need this assistance."

The center offers full- and part-time care year-round and is able to meet the diverse needs of the families.

Not only does it provide care for children, but it helps clients maintain their educational and career goals.

For Amy Schiller-Waiser and Todd Waiser, balancing classes and a 1-year-old is a fulfilling day.

"Mikayla is a spark in a day that is so full of classes and organizations," Waiser said. "She doesn't care about any of that. It's the little things that make her happy, her laughing makes the whole day worthwhile."



JOSH DARWIN • THE BATTALION

## 10TH ANNUAL TEXAS FILM FESTIVAL

FRI, FEB 21 SAT, FEB 22

5:00 "I'm With Romance" Shorts  
(Jillian's Vantage, The Pot of Gold, The Lover's Knot)

7:00 I'm With Lucy  
During the course of one year, five potential boyfriends present themselves to Lucy (Monica Potter) as candidates with only one winner.

Bonus: The Long & Short of It (Short) Shows before I'm With Lucy  
Filmed by Sean Astin while in New Zealand for Lord of the Rings



2:00 I Downloaded a Ghost



After accidentally downloading a ghost from the Internet, a girl must help him reconcile before he's doomed to limbo.

4:00 Welcome to the Neighborhood



Nine characters. Four interwoven stories. One neighborhood.

6:00 The Badge



A homophobic small town sheriff is faced with a dilemma when a local transsexual is found dead.

8:30 Production War Stories Panel

All of our guest directors/actors will take place on a panel to discuss their experiences on set and to answer questions from the audience.

9:30 Awards Ceremony

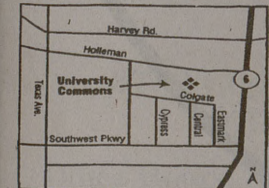
txfilmfest.tamuedu

Tickets at MSC Box Office

## You're invited TO EXPERIENCE the Best Deal Under the Sun at University Commons!

- Fully furnished
- Individual leases
- Free Ethernet and cable plus HBO in every bedroom
- Free computer lab with high-speed Ethernet
- Full size washer & dryer
- Microwave, dishwasher, disposal & icemaker
- On A&M bus route
- 10 minutes from Blinn
- Free video rental library
- Electronic alarm system
- Lighted tennis, volleyball & basketball courts
- 24 hr workout facility
- Great roommate matching service
- 2 swimming pools & jacuzzi
- 24 hr emergency maintenance & management
- Resident events with free food at least once a month
- Ping pong, 2 pool tables, darts & foosball

\*Add \$5 for 3rd floor



ASK ABOUT OUR UTILITY PACKAGE!

STUDENT HOUSING AT ITS FINEST  
Now Leasing for the Fall...

764-8999

950 Colgate Drive - Fax 764-1077 - www.universitycommons.com

## FREE TICKETS AVAILABLE

Eve Ensler's

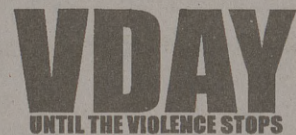
## "The Vagina Monologues"

MSC Aggie Nights has teamed with V-Day TAMU to provide 500 free tickets to the Friday showing of "The Vagina Monologues." Students can go to the MSC Box office the night of the show, present their Aggie ID and receive their free ticket.

Friday, February 28, 2003

starting at 8pm

in Rudder Theatre



For more information call 845-1515



## PAPA JOHN'S

Better Ingredients • Better Pizza

### Friday Special

Pick Your Size  
LARGE 2-Topping & 1 side \$12.78

pu/delivery

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 LARGE 1-TOPPING \$5.99 pu/only	2 LARGE 1-TOPPING \$12.99 pu/delivery	1 EX-LARGE 1-TOPPING \$8.99 pu/delivery	1 LARGE 2-TOPPING & 2 liter drink \$11.99 pu/delivery	PICK YOUR SIDE LARGE 2-TOPPING AND 1 SIDE \$12.78 pu/delivery	LATE NIGHT LARGE 1-TOPPING \$6.99 after 10pm pu/delivery	LATE NIGHT LARGE 1-TOPPING \$6.99 after 10pm pu/delivery

Northgate 601 University Dr. 979-846-3600  
Post Oak Square Center 100 Harvey Rd., Suite D 979-764-7272  
Rock Prairie 1700 Rock Prairie 979-680-0508

OPEN LATE Sunday: 11 a.m. - midnight  
Monday - Wednesday: 11 a.m. - 1 a.m.  
Thursday: 11 a.m. - 2 a.m.  
Friday & Saturday: 11 a.m. - 3 a.m. OPEN LATE