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SADDLE UP

The 116th Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo offers events to bring out the cowboy in everyone.



NEWS | TOMORROW

DROUGHT

Beyond fire dangers, what other problems is this dry weather causing?

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Government aid available to student victims of hurricanes

By JACQUILEE KILLEEN
Staff Reporter

Students from the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast region who came to TCU may qualify for a portion of a \$50,000 grant awarded to the School of Education.

The grant, which was pro-

vided by the United States Department of Education, will be used by the Student Support Services of the TRIO program to provide tutoring, academic advising, counseling and other services to eligible students, said Steve Hodnett, director of the TRIO program.

"We look at students on an individual basis and try to make the transition as easy as possible for them," Hodnett said.

Kimberly Waiters, one of 42 students who transferred to TCU from the Gulf Coast region, applied for the TRIO program after evacuating Dil-

lard University in New Orleans in the fall.

"The TRIO program has been beneficial to me because they have offered services like counseling and tutoring," the senior communications major said. "If I ever received a grant from the TRIO program, I

would use it for an internship and tuition so my parents wouldn't have to pay it off."

Cherell Barrett, a sophomore biology major who also transferred from Dillard, said she would use the grant to pay for books and health care.

Although Waiters and Barrett

returned to Dillard this semester, they are still eligible to receive aid from the program.

Edmond O'Neal III, TRIO program adviser for Student Support Services, said many students don't know the TRIO program is available to students affected by natural disasters.

New class swinging into past

By JESSICA ST. JOHN
Staff Reporter

The TCU community now has a chance to learn the art of swing dancing in a seven-lesson course beginning tonight.

Swing is a jitterbug-style dance that started during World War II and became increasingly popular during the 1950s. The main types of swing, the East Coast and the West Coast, both use a six-beat pattern that can be performed to many types of music.

The beginner-level class teaches students how to dance the East Coast Swing step by step. The course's instructors said students will learn everything they need to know to lead or follow like a pro.

Charles Kendall, a member of the TCU Fort Worth Alumni Board, proposed the swing class after being a student in one himself. He suggested the idea to have a swing dance class to members of the Alumni Board and it is now being implemented on campus.

"I have trouble finding the beat in music but after the lessons, I could find it," Kendall said.

Kendall said after taking the lessons, he is not embarrassed to dance in public anymore.

"They taught me how to dance with lots of different people, not just my wife," he said.

The dance instructors, Chandler Smith and Ellen Page Shelton, both have extensive knowledge and background in dance.

Chandler Smith, a TCU alumnus and swing instructor, taught swing dancing for 17 years in Los Angeles, where he owned his own dance studio. He said swing dancing is great because it can be performed to all types of music.

"It's a great social skill," Smith said. "You can use it at parties and corporate events but most of all it's just fun."

Smith said he is excited to teach the course.

"Dancing is like a nonver- See **SWING**, page 2



LANA HUNT / Chief Photographer

East Lancaster Street offers refuge for homeless people in Fort Worth. The average homeless person requires \$20,000 to \$25,000 a year for basic needs.

Homeless in Fort Worth

City leaders search for solutions to growing problem

By Mike Dwyer
News Editor

With more than 5,000 people living on the streets, homelessness in Fort Worth is a problem. But it's not one with many known solutions.

In the spring of 2005, a health and human service needs assessment conducted by United Way of Tarrant County identified homelessness as one of the major trouble spots in Fort Worth.

More than 20 percent of respondents surveyed by United Way identified homelessness as a major or minor problem in their areas, up from just

over 6 percent in a 1999 survey.

As a result, said Barbara Asbury, senior housing planner with the City of Fort Worth, the city created a task force in May aimed at finding a way to get Cowtown's homeless off the streets.

"Basically, the City Council has said we need to take action on this, but we don't know exactly what we need to do," Asbury said.

Asbury said with grant funds provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief appointed a

ONLINE

To find out more about this and other stories, check out the Skiff Web site at <http://www.tcudailyskiff.com>

variety of local contributors to a new permanent body, the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Homelessness.

The commission, which first met in October, is made up of 19 members representing a diverse range of the Fort Worth population, from business leaders to a current or former homeless person. It will meet monthly until March, when it will make recommendations for the city's approach to the See **HOMELESS**, page 2

Neeley to offer summer program

Director: Curriculum benefits any major

By JEFF ESKEW
Staff Reporter

Students who are looking to start and run their own businesses, or those who have little business knowledge, may benefit from a new program starting at TCU.

The School of Business is offering juniors, seniors and recent graduates the chance to enroll in a summer program designed for nonmajors to help them develop business fundamentals.

Laura Meade, the academic director for the Summer Business Program, said the program can even benefit liberal arts majors.

"Regardless of whether they (students) are trying to do a venture on their own, or if they are within a company, the overlying aspect of business would be advantageous to them," Meade said.

Deb Baker, the program director for the Summer Business Program, said 35 students will be accepted to this "elite program" each summer.

"The need for essential business skills is almost a requirement now in the job market, so I think this gives people a foundation that they need to talk a

See **BUSINESS**, page 2

NEELEY SUMMER BUSINESS PROGRAM

May 15-June 9

Total Cost: \$5,000 (includes all books & materials, some meals, and transportation to field trip sites).

Applications are due by April 10

Apply online at www.neeley.tcu.edu

Students audition for dance scholarships, concert roles

By BOBBY ENSMINGER
Staff Reporter

Current and aspiring dance majors will have their only opportunity to perform in their department's spring shows when the Department of Ballet and Modern Dance holds a set of auditions starting tonight.

The first audition is tonight at 5:30 p.m. in the Ballet and Modern Dance building. The audition is used to cast dance majors for spring concerts and

other shows for the rest of the semester.

"It is exciting, (the dance majors) go to a new level and learn new choreography and dances, giving them range and versatility," said Ellen Page Shelton, chairwoman of the dance department.

This audition will be the only audition for dance majors to try out for shows for the rest of the semester.

The second audition is for entrance to the department

and scholarship offers for freshmen and transfer students and is scheduled for Saturday at 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

The Nordon Scholarship, for which the students will be competing, is only available to dance majors and awards students with \$8,000 a year.

"We are pretty selective to those we let in, but we are flexible," Shelton said. "We don't have a set number of

students we will accept. We'll accept as many students as we have room for."

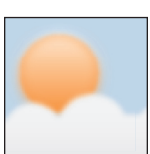
Shelton said, however, that with only two scholarships being awarded, the audition becomes very competitive and stiff.

"There will be 60 to 70 students from all across the nation trying to get the scholarships," Shelton said. "So it's always great to see the students that come in because they are all very

good dancers

Nancy Carter, administrative assistant to the dance department said that though the department takes in as many students as they can, only half of those who try out for the audition make it.

"The audition process has been the same since the 1970s. It's very difficult and it judges dancers on both ballet and modern See **DANCE**, page 2



WEATHER

TODAY: Partly cloudy, 71/37

SATURDAY: Sunny, 60/35

SUNDAY: Showers, 59/38

FUN FACT

Pam Barker, a collector from Leeds, Maine, recently earned a place in the Guinness Book of World Records for her 18,000 pieces of owl memorabilia. — ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CONTACT US

Send your questions, compliments, complaints and hot tips to the staff at NEWS2SKIFF@TCU.EDU