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Personal property theft poses biggest on-campus threat

TCU Police advise to lock doors, use common sense

By JAMIE CRUM
Staff Reporter

The most prominent crime concern on campus is theft of personal belongings, especially from vehicles, TCU

Police said.

"It is a problem across the nation, but on college campuses it is like Christmas at the mall," TCU Police Sgt. Kelly Ham said. "You just need more security because there are so many cars."

Ham said the best way students can keep their property safe is to use common-sense precautions such as hiding

their valuables and locking their doors.

"Criminals do not like anything that is hard," Ham said. "If they see one car that is unlocked and has valuables visible, they are much more likely to break in than if they see a locked car that appears to contain no valuables."

Lance Littleton, a junior marketing major, said he always

locks his car doors because he has heard there are many break-ins on campus.

"Other than that I feel really safe around campus," Littleton said.

The parking lots are not the only places on campus where students are at risk of property theft. In 2004, there were 14 burglaries reported in residence halls, according to the

TCU Police Web site.

"I often see students make the mistake of leaving their dorm rooms unattended and unlocked, even if it is just for a short amount of time while they go down the hall or to the rest room," Ham said. "It only takes a few minutes for someone to come in your room and steal your stuff."

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EXTRA INFO

- Student needing an escort on campus can call 817-257-7777 or dial x7777 from emergency phones located around campus.
- TCU Police escorts are available on campus 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Student escorts are available on campus between the hours of 8 p.m. and 1 a.m.

Livin' in the projects

Students return to more renovations, additions to campus

By AMY HALLFORD
Staff Reporter

Students should expect to see construction workers in hard hats during the first weeks of school as crews continue to hammer away at campus improvement projects.

Although 13 apartments, 10 homes and four commercial buildings have been demolished around campus for future parking lots, students and faculty should not be disturbed, said Harold Leeman, Physical Plant associate director.

Spanish professor Daniel Lee said construction can be problematic, but the situation did not affect his summer school classes.

"It was the band camps that forced me to relocate my classes," Lee said.

The \$800,000 parking project will eventually provide approximately 1,000 parking spaces, Leeman said. However, only 73 spaces, which are located in front of the Secrest-Wible Building, are available right now, he said.

"We will continue to work on the property where Save-On was located throughout the semester," Leeman said. "This particular project should provide 900 additional parking spaces for students and should be completed around the end of October."

He said crews are working to finish the parking lot on the east side of Mid Court and Kent Street by Sept. 15.

In addition to parking funds, Leeman said, \$4.18 million was set aside for the "reshoring" proj-



Ty Halasz / Staff Photographer

Construction on the GrandMarc at Westberry Place continues this semester. The structure, built in cooperation with Phoenix Property Company, is one of several construction projects under way near the TCU campus.

ect, a term used to represent campuswide renovations. "Reshoring" will meet a range of needs, including creating larger instructional spaces, improving safety and upgrading offices and studios.

These funds are covering the cost of upgrades and repairs in Moudy Building South, which include lowered ceilings, increased lighting and a fire suppression system, Leeman said.

The funds will also pay for 10 new studios, upgraded ceramic kilns, an improved ventilation system and a fire suppression system for Moudy Building North, Leeman said.

The Mary Coats Burnett Library did not require renovations or repairs, but received several Teen Pods, which are areas equipped with six to eight computers and a plasma television where students can work in groups and connect to the Internet, Leeman said.

"I know the Pods will be popular because students were filling them up before they were even completed," he said.

Other buildings are receiving renovations as well.

A SMART Home — an actual house with a student-designed robot that can perform tasks such as taking a plate out of the

MORE CAMPUS RENOVATIONS

- The Design Merchandising and Textiles department is relocating to a new building on Berry Street
- Ed Landreth Auditorium is being updated
- The Alcohol and Drug Education Center in the University Recreation Center is being expanded.
- Both Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Donald Mills and Vice Chancellor for University Advancement Donald Whelan are getting new offices.

microwave and placing it on the table — was constructed in the Sid
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Student-run news program endures equipment shortages

TCU News Now hopes to improve content, quality

By KIM TESAREK
Staff Reporter

Behind the scenes of TCU News Now, a reporter lugs one of four bulky cameras across campus. Another student, after setting up an interview, arrives at the office to find the last available camera is out of order. Students wait in line at all hours of the night at one of the three editing systems, while those on the computers rush to finish up their stories to ease the congestion.

Despite these conditions described by last year's TCU News Now staff, the program proved to be award-winning.

TCU News Now was chosen from 3,100 entries as the 2004 national first place for a Television Non-Daily Newscast by the Society of Professional Journalists.

A staff of 12 students produced the show with four Sony cameras and three editing systems during its first semester, said John Miller, professional in residence in broadcast journalism and director of Student TV Media.

TCU News Now aired its first show in October.

Senior broadcast journalism and musical theater major Robyn Kriel said she appreciated the resources provided, but there was room for improvement.

"We were very blessed with the equipment that we had," Kriel said, "but there was definitely a shortage of it."

Tommy Thomason, director of the Schieffer School of Journalism, said TCU is committed to getting the resources required for the type of "TCU News Now" that it needs.

"It's not a question of if, but when," Thomason said.

Similar to TCU News Now, the SMU Daily Update — a newscast produced and run entirely by students — started out small, said Michele Houston, SMU's technical manager.

"We began three years ago with one cam-
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Walsh gave time, wealth for advancement of university arts

By AMY HALLFORD
Staff Reporter

From campus buildings to scholarships, Mary D. Fleming Walsh has left a lasting impression on the TCU community.

Mrs. Walsh died at the age of 91 in her home near TCU on Aug. 9.

Mrs. Walsh and her husband, F. Howard Walsh, who died in 1998, donated the \$3.5 million Walsh Center for Performing Arts, one of TCU's largest single gifts, and the Athletic Complex in 1998.

Board of Trustees member and close friend to the Walsh family Malcolm Loudon said Mr. and Mrs. Walsh were patrons for the arts.

"They were passionate about young people and used

their resources to build facilities that students can enjoy for years to come," he said.

Mr. Loudon said Mr. and Mrs. Walsh's donations have helped fund the library at Tarrant County Community College's Northwest campus, the counseling center at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Center and the Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts Charter School. He said they also donated their time and shared their home with children.

"Mrs. Walsh invited 50 children from the Texas Boy's Choir and the Dorothy Shaw Bell Choir into her home to practice twice a week," Loudon said. "She even took them around the world for concerts in places like Italy, Germany

and Japan."

Mr. Loudon said that Mrs. Walsh loved to dance and would use any excuse to have a party. She even had parties and dinners for students that were honored with a scholarship from the Walsh Scholarship Foundation.

Walsh Merit Scholarship recipient and TCU senior vocal performance major Allison Whetsel said she remembers a scholarship dinner that she attended when she was a freshman.

"She (Mrs. Walsh) was beautiful, very radiant and very sweet," Whetsel said. "I wouldn't have been able to stay at TCU if it wasn't for her gracious assistance. I owe her

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Flipping for Frogs



Emily Goodson / Photo Editor

Darrell Riley grills hamburgers and hot dogs for the crowd at Frogapalooza on Thursday. Riley said he has been serving students at the event for four years.