

#### **SPORTS**

The TCU men's track and field team may be ranked No. 1, but the past is the past and they've set their sights on this upcoming season PAGE 7



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#### TOMORROW

Find out why Senseless Acts of Comedy members are now

**TUESDAY** 

August 29, 2006 Vol. 104 Issue 5

**★** WWW.DAILYSKIFF.COM

## Student mistakes robber for friend, witnesses describe suspect

By LAURA FLORES Staff Reporter

A TCU student who was robbed said she initially thought the attacker was a friend who was playing a

On Friday around 9:45 p.m. Chrischandising major, was robbed while walking from a friend's house on West Biddison Street off Stadium

Bowling said she and two female purse. Bowling, who said she did not Detective Vicki Lawson of the TCU

remember a truck passing by, said she Police Department were also called when she was attacked and said they happen to you," Bowling said. thought it was a friend until the suspect got out of the vehicle. She said the man then dragged her against the truck and demanded that she give him the purse, which was resting on her shoulder. The suspect then punched tine Bowling, a senior fashion mer- her in the collarbone, took her purse and drove off, Bowling said.

"I don't know if they were waiting for me, or if it was a right time, right place kind of thing," Bowling said.

A reporter went to the TCU Police friends were walking when a man in Station and was unable to obtain a black truck got out and stole her information. Sgt. Kelly Ham and

several times and were not able to be reached for comment. Kirk Byrom, neighborhood police officer with the Fort Worth Police Department, was also called but said he did not have any information on the situation. When transferred to another officer, they were also unable to be reached for comment.

A campus-wide e-mail sent by the TCU Police Department said the suspect was driving an F-150 crew-cab pickup truck and was parked on the

Bowling said her two friends left

called the police, who arrived within 10 minutes. The two witnesses were said that at the beginning of the able to describe the truck and partially describe the suspect.

Bowling, who was walking between her two friends, said they were leaving a friend's house to go to another friend's house, and that night. She said her first reaction was not to run because she thought it was a practical joke, but when she was according to the e-mail. punched, she became startled and was ready to run.

"You never really think it could the e-mail.

The police who took the report school year people are on the prowl and know that students, particularly female students, are walking around and can be targets for this type of crime, Bowling said.

The suspect was described as a the street was active with people that 6'2"-6'3" Hispanic male, between 230 and 240 pounds wearing a black Tshirt, black shorts and a black cap,

> Fort Worth Police will continue to investigate the crime, according to



tudents participate in International Student Association's international banquet.

## Teacher network allows European students to study education abroad

**Bv ELISA GOMEZ**  $Staff\ Reporter$ 

TCU is hosting European students who will study American teaching techniques as part of an education studies semester abroad program.

The European Teacher Education Network allows students studying education to take classes in either America or Europe. There are currently eight students from Europe taking classes at TCU, and they said that so far, it has been a good experience.

Robbert Gommans, 20, from the Netherlands, said there are a few minor differences between American and European universities, including bigger class sizes at TCU and less access to teachers.

Mieke Roles, 22, also from the Netherlands, added, "A lot of people here say 'hello' or 'hi,' but back home in Holland, many people don't do that.

Guro Olsen, 22, from Norway, said the assignments and exams differ from her classes back home. Instead of taking just one final exam at the end of the year, she now has various assignments and a few

See **EUROPE**, page 2

## International orientation helps students embody Fort Worth way

By RACHAEL EMBLER Staff Reporter

While classes started Aug. 21, international students arrived for a two-day orientation Aug. 10, which was aimed to integrate more than 500 international students from more than 80 countries into the local, academic and national communities, according to the International Student Services Web site.

International orientation is one of more than 20 departments, programs and organizations to aid international students in daily life, according the International Student Services Web site.

After office hours Thursday, John Singleton, International Student Services director, was helping an international student find a job on campus, which he said is one of the many duties his job requires.

Singleton, who has worked with international students for 11 years at three universities, said the department helps students find jobs on campus and fill out immigration paper work, but does not help them find off-campus housing.

See **ISA**, page 2

## Fence built to reduce crime, police chief says

By RACHEL MCDANIEL Staff Reporter

A new wrought iron fence being built by the TCU Physical Plant along Bellaire Drive is an attempt to protect students from car burglary, the TCU police chief said.

Steve McGee, police chief, said the fence, which will be permanent, is being built in the Worth Hills area in response to several car break-ins that occurred last spring.

"Any time we can contain an area and control access, we decrease crime," McGee said.

"Criminals don't like to feel trapped," he said.

McGee said burglary of motor vehicles — a misdemeanor crime — is a major problem on campus, and it is becoming more widespread on college campuses.

Harold Leeman, associate director of major projects at the Physical Plant, said the fence should deter crime.

"It's kind of hard to carry off a stereo while jumping a fence," Leeman

The wrought iron fence with brick columns should be completed within two to three weeks and will be a continuation of the fencing around the baseball and soccer fields, Leeman said. It also will be accompanied by trees and shrubbery.

There was mixed reaction to the fence from the student body.

Chari Perkins, a senior management major, said she thinks the fence is a good idea.

Perkins, who has lived in Wiggins Hall for three years, said many of her friends have had their cars broken into, and she believes the fence will reduce break-ins.

"It's a really good safety measure," Perkins said.

Julie Smith, who lives in Beckham-Shelburne Hall, disagreed.

"It makes me feel really fenced in," said Smith, a sophomore early childhood education major.

The fence will have a gate at the south exit to Bellaire Drive, and students will have to leave from Pine Drive and Kent Street, McGee said.

There are no immediate plans for additional fencing, but McGee said he hopes to eventually put a fence up around all campus parking lots.



Worth Hills receives fencing around the area in an effort to decrease car break-ins.

#### iPod plays part in speech communication course By MARCUS MURPHREE Staff Reporter The Apple iPod started as a personal music device, but is now Services. making its way as a portable edu-

cation tool. podcasting in the Basic Speech technology. Communication class this semes-

"We are already doing audio lectures through e-college, so now put into affect at Stanford Unistudents can watch and listen to the lectures," Finn said.

The idea for using the iTunes fea-

by Jess Price, a media producer vides access to educational content to the lecture, or there could be a for the Center for Instructional for university students to use.

Price said the idea for the podcasts came up last January, but Finn said. Amber Finn, instructor of some TCU faculty were not quite communication studies, started ready or equipped for the new

The podcasts are part of the ter as part of a pilot operation for emerging iTunes U program, Price

> The program has already been versity and Duke University, Finn

According to the Apple Web site,

ture of podcasting was introduced iTunes U is a Web service that pro-

of universities to have iTunes U,"

Though the podcasts are currently only being used in the College of Communication, there are hopes to continually integrate the podcasts into other classrooms, Finn said.

One problem with using the podcasts in all the lectures is the risk of lowering attendance in classes, Finn said, though she offered a solution.

"They could be used in addition few key points online for students," We could be one of a handful Finn said.

Price added that using the same

material from lectures in podcasts

could be useful in classes, and that while it may prompt students not to come to lecture, it could also be useful to review lectures. Price said athletes travel and miss class, so it makes sense to

use podcasting material in these situations. Finn said another problem with podcasting is that some students

See **PODCAST**, page 4



WEATHER TODAY: Partly Cloudy, 91/68 WEDNESDAY: Sunny, 92/68 THURSDAY: Sunny, 95/71

#### **FUN FACT**

Web-based classes.

An American helped foil a burglary in northern England while watching Beatle-related Webcam. He saw intruders breaking into a sports store and alerted local police.

#### **TODAY'S HEADLINES**

NATIONAL: Bush visits Katrina site, page 5

OPINION: Doin' the Dirty, page 3 SPORTS: Track and field ranks first, page 7

#### **CONTACT US**

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

## EUROPE From page 1

return to their universities Pennsylvania. in Europe.

ing forward to their stay and in the network. activities, which may include some sightseeing.

Gommans said. "University have studied abroad. More lish," Nichols said.

TCU is one of only four network, Young said. tests. Olsen will be stay- universities in the United ing at TCU for the entire States involved with ETEN, ate student in the School school year because she according to its Web site. of Education, traveled to will be student-teaching Other universities include Budapest, Hungary last next semester. The other Georgia State Universi- year to finish her stustudents in ETEN stay here ty, Ball State University dent—teaching. Nichols, for one semester and then and Indiana University of who plans to teach Eng-

The students in ETEN are sentative for ETEN, said the the experience gave her a being housed at the Grand- school is very fortunate for new perspective on teach-Marc and said they are look- being selected to take part ing.

"TCU has been a great Europe, and in the past what my students will go university to be a part of," five years, 149 students through when learning Eng-

life has been special, and than 47 European students we are really lucky to be a have studied at TCU since it has been a part of the

Ashley Nichols, a gradulish as a second language Dale Young, TCU repre- when she graduates, said

"Being an outsider trying Last year, 34 students to learn a different language from TCU studied in helped me to understand

From page 1

"We seek to develop a sense of independence for international students," Singleton said.

He said that by the time students need off-campus housing, they should be able to set it up on their own.

business major from Sri Lanka, tion was "a very friendly introduction" to TCU.

as afraid as some international students who came to Fort Worth because she had already traveled internation-

United States.

to make friends.

"I'm like the new kid on the block," Heng said.

Heng, a sophomore biology major, said he felt that international orientation helped because that is where he made there would be American stutation as well.

She added that she wasn't change one thing about international orientation she would have preferred to be familiarized with the facilities around ISA, said the hardest part the school.

The office of Internationorganizes international orientation, hosts several school- more cooperation from the

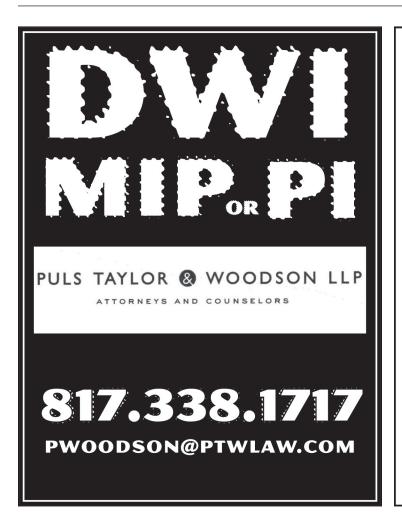
ally, including two trips to the emphases, such as international week, the international Vincent Heng, a transfer stu- cooking series and the weekdent from Australia, said he ly Kino Monda foreign film was afraid of not being able series, according to its Web

Michelle Fabrega, president of the International Student Association, said the studentrun organization works to support international students.

Fabrega, an advertising/pub-Tara de Fonseka, a freshman most of his friends but wishes lic relations major, said ISA is planning several trips, includsaid the international orienta- dents to get to know at orien- ing a trip to Hurricane Harbor and to a ranch, so students can De Fonseka said if she could see what Texas is like outside

> Dang Nguyen, student development chairman of about going to school in a for-She said that not knowing eign country is a break down where her classes were locat- of communication from growed or where to eat made her ing up with different experiences.

> Nguyen said he would like al Student Services, which more participation in ISA activities by American students and wide events with international Greek organizations.



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**BLUSTERY FORECAST** 

Tropical Storm Ernesto is making its way to Florida, where forecasters anticipate its development into a hurricane.

THE SKIFF VIEW

## Make plan A before using unsafe Plan B pill

he Food and Drug Administration announced its approval for the overthe-counter sale of the Plan B pill Thursday, an emergency contraceptive that is currently only available by prescription.

While Plan B reduces the odds of pregnancy by 89 percent if taken within 72 hours of having unprotected sex, it does so through administering two high doses of levonorgestrel — a synthetic hormone that works to prevent fertilization and implantation of an egg, according to the Food and Drug Administration Web site.

Though this method may sound like an easy fix to unplanned activities from the night before, the high levels of hormones administered in pills such as Plan B have not been proven to be safe for one's body, especially in younger women, who, according to the FDA Web site, were not fairly represented in the sample that tested the pill.

Because of this factor, women under 18 will still need a prescription to obtain the pill. But what about college-aged women who are right on the cusp of this age group that might be harmed from this pill?

We might be safe, but we also might not be. And why not err on the side of caution and reserve the decision to administer Plan B to professionals who are better prepared to judge if it is a safe option.

Some argue that if the pill is not available over-the-counter it will be difficult to obtain in enough time to make it effective. However, not allowing it to be purchased at your local Walgreens is not the same as banning it all together — it could still be obtained through planned parenthood centers or from physicians.

If a woman is truly concerned about the risk of pregnancy, she should see a doctor about getting on a regular birth control pill that will provide the same protection as the Plan B pill but will start preventing pregnancy before sexual intercourse instead of after.

It's called an emergency contraceptive method for a reason. And, just like dialing 911, it is supposed to be reserved for absolute emergencies. Taking Plan B should be reserved for the same dire situations instead of being readily available at drug stores.

-News editor Kathleen Thurber for the editorial board

OOOFSPOOF • ROLF NELSON



**COMMENTARY** 

## Large companies need help with assisting customers' needs

Why is it that the country's largest organizations have some of the most inept customer service representatives?





It is almost impossible to get connected to someone who can offer any kind of help without hav-

ing to transfer you to another person. Being transferred from

person to person would not be so bad except for the fact that before you are even connected to anyone, you have to wade through numerous automated menus.

These menus are intended to speed up the process, but in reality they are just slowing it down. They ask you to enter information such as your phone number and address, but as soon as you get somebody on the line, you are asked to repeat the same information you just input.

There is absolutely no point to the automated system if the customer service representative is going to ask you for the exact same information.

Once you have finally made it through the menus and are connected to a person who is supposed to be able to help

you, unfortunately, there is another glitch. It inevitably seems as if the person you are talking to is either driving through a tunnel or can barely speak English. If, in fact, the representative can speak English, it is not, in the least bit, clearly.

If the main consumer of a certain product speaks a certain language, then it only makes sense to require the customer service representative to speak the same language.

I recently had an ill-fated brush with my cable company, Charter Communications, when my cable and Internet were disconnected for no apparent reason. I called to see what the problem was and encountered every single described above.

In the end, I went through a total of seven different customer service representatives, including three supervisors, in the pursuit of getting my cable and Internet services back.

Going through so many representatives is not only a total waste of my time, but Charter's as well. In the end, it was only after I became hostile with the three supervisors did any real action take place.

It took a total of 12 days, after the company missed three scheduled appointments, and more than three hours on the phone before someone finally made it out to my apartment, which is located less than one mile from one of Charter's Fort Worth offices.

Why is it that a company that has no problem taking money from its customers is too busy to actually make an appearance when it makes a mistake? If a consumer is late with a payment, that consumer is slapped with a late charge. But if the company itself misses its own deadline, there are no repercussions.

In the end, I guess there isn't much a person can do. Yes, you can always change companies or service providers if you are allowed to (I'm not), but that doesn't really get anything done at

I don't want to make it sound as though everyone who is a customer service representative is bad at the job because I finally found a woman at Charter who was very good at it. She even tried to walk me through a couple of troubleshooting processes since she was not able to send out a technical work-

To answer my question at the beginning of the article, I think the old Tootsie Roll Pop commercials said it best: "I guess the world will never know."

> Jeff Eskew is a senior  $broadcast\ journalism\ major$ from China Spring

## Save sexual activity for someone special, not everyone on campus

Last week, classes resumed and we all fled our homes for the greener pastures of TCU. Or should I say the blazing



price to pay for the

great levels of freedom that we all

heat and

struction?

Anyway,

it's a small

chaotic con-

enjoy in college — freedom that we sometimes abuse.

You can see it in the highfives of the frat boys and the nervous giggles of the girls. It has the unmistakable scent of sweat and cheap cologne and it glazes its victims over with a feeling of emptiness and depression. The villain, my friends, is

casual sex. I know, I know. You've heard the same song and dance 2 million times before. Why shouldn't you just put this paper down, and head off to your next class? Before you do that, however, I would highly urge you to reconsider.

This is in no way, shape, or form like a pastor's "fire and brimstone" sermon. You know, the kind that used to scare the crap out of you when you were 5 — the kind that said your entire family would burn in eternal hellfire because you cheated on your spelling test. It's a

tad bit different.

Look, I'm not trying to be a buzz kill. Odds are if you've already put your mind to dancing the horizontal mambo with every hot girl in your English class, there's nothing I can do to sway your actions. However, I advise you to take a good, hard look at yourself before you do.

Sex, put on its proper pedestal and treated with respect, is one of the finer experiences of human existence. However, our society has turned it into a glorified manifestation of faux love involving no more genuine attachment than two horses at a stud farm. Do you want to have dirty, horselike sex while a bunch Five minutes of sexual think so — that would be disgusting.

The fact of the matter is that humans were given the gift of love, something that no other animals can engage in, or even comprehend. But what do we do with that gift? We bastardize it. Guys do it by purchasing the jumbo boxes of condoms at Sam's Club and then convincing girls that it means they are interested in safe sex, not the fact that they "do it" with a bunch of sketchy partners carrying an untold numbers of STDs. Girls do it by using the "I just want to have some fun" defense. I've got news for

you sweetheart, puppies and cotton candy are fun; sex with multiple partners I also understand that

the whole "sex after marriage" concept is almost non-existent in today's world. At no point in this column am I advocating total and complete sexual abstinence. If you care deeply about someone and just can't wait for the wedding day, go right ahead. Be safe, be smart and use protection. Just make sure that it's someone who you could see yourself spending the rest of your life with because you never know when little "Kevin Ir." could be on the way. action while listening to John Mayer's "Your Body is a Wonderland" isn't worth spending the next five decades of your life with someone whom you don't truly love.

The bottom line is that we all make mistakes, I am by no means perfect, and neither is anyone else. What we all need to realize is that we have the power to shape our lives, and every action that we perform either leads toward a fulfilling life or an existence steeped in regret. The choice is ours.

> David Hall is a freshman news-editorial journalism major  $from\ Kingwood.\ His\ column$ appears every Tuesday.

**COMMENTARY** 

## Solar system change exciting revolution, lesson for students

By DAWN MILLER The Charleston Gazette

What is most surprising about Pluto's change of status is not that the world's leading astronomers decided Pluto doesn't really belong in the same category as the rest of the planets.

COMMENTARY

It's the emotional reaction this decision has brought out in people.

One astronomer referred to "hate mail" he received from elementary students. News reports used phrases suggesting that Pluto had been unceremoniously kicked out of "an elite cosmic club." Others used soothing phrases, assuring us that Pluto is still there, but implying that we may see him less often.

"It's like an amicable divorce," said Jack Horkheimer, director of the

Miami Space Transit Planetarium, in an Associated Press interview.

Oh, the riveting drama of scientific taxonomy. Can't you just hear the maudlin soap opera music?

Yet, I do admit an emotional attachment to Pluto, and it has nothing to do with the cartoon dog, despite what the more doltish broadcasters suggest. Pluto is just cool. In elementary science classes, we learned that it was farthest from the sun, but not for long. Because Pluto's orbit crosses Neptune's, in 1979, Pluto became the eighth planet from the center. Neptune was the farthest.

How we 10-year-olds enjoyed being right where old textbooks were wrong. What's more, that condition would last until 1999 — a very cosmic sounding date in the distant future, but still in our lifetimes. Then, true believers, Pluto crossed back into ninth place, where it will stay for 228 years.

So, you see how special we young astronomers were. We got to "see" something that won't happen again until 2227 (by Earth's calendar, of course).

There is something about knowledge acquired during childhood that seems more special and precious than all the things we learn later. I don't know if it is because we are so innocent and trusting then, or if it's because the whole world seems at once mysterious and yet observable and knowable.

For some reason, we develop emotional attachments to facts whether they are true or not — that we learn during those

curious, intellectually spongelike years. Mercury is interesting because it is so close to the sun. Venus has mystique. Mars is the most Earth-like. Jupiter has the spot. Saturn has rings.

But once you get past that, so many balls of cold rock going in circles can be difficult to differentiate. But there's Pluto, mixing up the orbit every couple hundred years, keeping things interesting.

While the International Astronomical Union debated Pluto's classification, I carried one of our front-page stories on the subject to a fourth- and fifth-grade class where I am a Read Aloud volunteer. They were already following

An inflated, yellow plastic sun hung overhead. Throughout the

classroom, roughly to scale, were the other planets in their respective orbits, dangling from the drop ceiling. "What will we do with Pluto?" they asked.

Some recent news stories lamented that Pluto's change of status would cause trouble for schoolteachers, who will have to "scramble" to alter lesson plans, just as the school year opens. Bah! Elementary astronomers understand that science is a journey to discover knowledge. Scientific fact is amended with the benefit of new information and further reflection.

What better lesson could today's students have than to see the process in action? Even in being demoted, Pluto still busts science class out of a dull orbit.

**AMY HALLFORD** JOHN-LAURENT TRONCHE **ADRIENNE LANG JORDAN COHEN LESLIE HONEY** MICHAEL DODD **KATHLEEN THURBER** JEFF ESKEW JENNIFER BICKERSTAFF

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the opinion of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board. **Letters to the editor:** The Skiff welcomes letters to the editor for publication. To submit a letter

e-mail it to LETTERS2SKIFF@TCU.EDU. Letters must include the author's classification, major and phone number. Skiff reserves the right to edit or reject letters for style, taste and size restrictions.

#### **PODCAST** From page 1

don't have iTunes.

"Students can also use Windows load iTunes, but it takes longer to run with it," Finn said.

Some students in the College of Communication have already started using the podcasts, Finn said.

Justin Colvard, a sophomore biochemistry major, said he uses the podcasts beyond the classroom walls.

"I listen to the lectures while running," he said. "It is easy to just get trial phase, there will be an evaluon iTunes and download."

Katie Glonek, a graduate student and teaching assistant for the Finn said. **Basic Speech Communication class** admits she has not used the podcast yet, but did say it was a good way for her students to consolidate their time.

Finn has tailored the course so course."

the podcasts are supplemental to the class."

Playing into modern technological trends was one of the goals of podcasting, Price said.

We were trying to meet the Media Player if they do not down- needs of the majority," Price said. "There are students everywhere with iPods, so we know they have iTunes."

Bekah Dale, a freshman business major, said she was surprised classes are using podcasts, but said it makes sense because it seems that everyone has iTunes or iPods.

Since the project is still in the ation taken at the end of the halfsemester communication class,

Jennifer Smolik, another teaching assistant for the Basic Speech Communication course, said the podcasts are still going through a trial run.

"This is mainly a test period," "I don't think students will skip she said. "We will get our feedclass," Glonek said. "Professor back at the end of the eight-week

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## Tuesday, August 22

**Merchants Fair** 11:00AM-2:00PM ~ SC Lounge

**Back to School with** Mr. Belding

6:00pm ~ SC Ballroom

Wednesday, August 23

Sociology Society Meet & Greet

5:00PM-6:00PM

Disciples on Campus Cookout

5:00рм-7:00рм ~ Sadler Lawn

Delta Sigma Theta & Sigma Lambda Alpha Block Party  $7:00_{PM}$ 

**Prime Time Praise** 7:00PM ~ SC Lounge

Thursday, August 24 Frogpalooza

5:00рм-7:00рм ~ Sadler Lawn

TropiAKAI Luau

7:00PM ~ Rec Center

Catholic Mass & Free Meal 5:15PM ~ Reed Hall 214

#### Friday, August 25 Construction

Celebration with Live Music

Noon ~ Main Campus

Movie Night

9:00pm ~ Foster-Waits Lawn Showing V for Vendetta

<u>Saturday, August 26</u>

**Meet the Frogs** 

11:00AM ~ Amon Carter Stadium

Wednesday, August 30

**Activities Fair** 

4:00pm-7:00pm ~ Rec Center

Sophomore Splash 5:00pm-8:00pm ~ Rec

Center Pool

Intercultural Student

Welcome 8:00pm-11:00pm ~ Rec

Center Pool

Thursday, August 31 Church Fair

11:30AM-1:30PM ~ Sadler Lawn

## Bush returns to Gulf Coast on Katrina anniversary

By WILLIAM DOUGLAS AND STEVEN THOMMA McClatchy Newspapers

President Bush saluted the resilience of Hurricane Katrina survivors here Monday and promised that their plight hadn't been forgotten a year after the storm cut a swath of death and destruction along the Mississippi and Louisiana coasts.

"Even though we've been through about one year together, one year doesn't mean that we'll forget," Bush told community leaders at a luncheon in Biloxi, Miss. "As a matter of fact, now is the time to renew our commitment to let people down here know that we will stay involved and help the people of Mississippi rebuild their lives."

Bush's stops in Mississippi and New Orleans were part of a two-day trip to mark the first anniversary of a hurricane that killed 1,695 people, displaced 770,000 others and caused at least \$96 billion in damage when it hit land on Aug. 29, 2005.

Bush is using the anniversary to reassure gulf residents and Americans that his administration is on top of the recovery effort after doing an admittedly poor job in the iniricane.

Before leaving Washington, he was briefed by Homeland Security officials on Tropical Storm Ernesto, which has cut through the Caribbean, put Florida on alert and caused some jitters in this region.

Last week, the White House put out a four-page document detailing what the administration has done for Gulf Coast residents in the past year.

It said that Bush's stewardship helped secure \$110 billion in federal funds for recovery efforts, for repairs to New Orleans' damaged levee system in time for the 2007 hurricane season and for removing tons of post-Katrina debris from the gulf.

But several experts say that even those recovery efforts have been problematic. Of the \$110 billion, only \$77 billion has been released and only \$44 billion has been spent.

Funds from a \$17 billion program to rebuild about 204,000 homes in Louisiana and Mississippi are just now starting to flow into the region. Federal emergency officials have expressed confidence that New Orleans' levees are ready for a major hurricane, though the head

tial days following the hur- of the Army Corps of Engineers, which repaired the system, said it's not clear whether the levees can withstand a big hurricane.

> Bush acknowledged some of the problems on Monday, particularly in getting people back into their homes.

"I know there's some frustration," he said of federal-state efforts to get homeowners money so they can rebuild their properties. "The checks have begun to roll. They're beginning to move."

Still, despite White House attempts to show Bush leading a more focused recovery, his early handling of Katrina's aftermath continued to dog him. An Associated Press-Ipsos poll released this week showed complaints about Katrina have eroded confidence in Bush's handling of the disaster and trust in the country's ability to handle another one.

The survey found that 31 percent of Americans now approve of the way Bush handled the hurricane, down from 46 percent a year ago. It also found that 56 percent don't believe that the country is ready for another disaster.

Bush doesn't share the

nation's pessimism. He marveled at the progress made in one neighborhood that he had visited four days after Katrina

"I was struck by the beauty of the beaches," he said. "The beaches were pretty rough after the storm, as you know. Today they are pristine and they're beautiful. They reflect a hopeful future, as far as I'm concerned."

Sensing a political opening, Democrats planned to counter Bush's trip with a broad array of events on the Gulf Coast and around the country designed to underscore complaints about the federal government's response to the hurricane.

The main effort was a three-day trip to the region starting Monday by 25 House Democrats and Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., the House minority leader. Their schedule included tours, town hall meetings and daily news conferences.

Individual Democrats planned a conference call Tuesday morning along with the Campaign for America's Future, a pro-Democrat group, to outline the federal government's "failures" and to charge that hurricane rescue and recovery was hurt by "the conservative ideology of disinvestment, cronyism and corruption."

Several Democratic congressional candidates planned media events Tuesday to link their Republican opponents to the failures of the Federal Emergency Management Agency after Katrina.

In suburban Philadelphia, for example, Democratic House candidate Joe Sestak planned to use a Tuesday news conference to ask, "Do the people of this district want more of the same FEMA-style government, or do they want a new direction in the way Congress handles the critical needs of the American people?'



DAVID PURDY / Biloxi Sun Herald

U.S. Coast Guard Admiral Thad Allen, Biloxi Mayor A.J. Holloway and President George W. Bush visit a home under construction in Biloxi, Miss.

## Ernesto expected to hit Florida as tropical storm

By MARTIN MERZER, ERIKA BOLSTAD AND **GARY FINEOUT** 

McClatchy Newspaper

Tropical Storm Ernesto took its sweet time over the storm-disrupting mountains of Cuba Monday afternoon, a modestly favorable development for Florida.

Ernesto was predicted to directly strike South Florida Tuesday, but as a strong tropical storm with a speed of 70 mph sustained winds rather than a minimal hurricane with 75 mph winds.

The distinction was slim, but certainly encouraging for a state hit or brushed by eight hurricanes in the past

Still, forecasters emphasized that many storms have been known to rapidly intensify between Cuba and South Florida, and that Ernesto habitually has refused to adhere to forecasts.

"I can assure you that the probability

is not zero that Ernesto could become a hurricane," said Max Mayfield, director of the National Hurricane Center in West Miami-Dade County.

In addition, meteorologists said Ernesto, like many storms that arrive from the south, could produce more of a water event in Florida than a wind event. Five to 10 inches of rain could fall on parts of the region, swamping some areas.

With that in mind, long lines formed for fuel and food, officials in Miami-Dade and Broward counties ordered schools to close Tuesday and limited evacuations were ordered or suggested.

"As long as we are preparing and not panicking, then everything will be okay," Charlene Strauss said as clerks delivered bottled water to the empty shelves of an Albertson's supermarket in Plantation, Fla.

With gasoline lines stretching for inland flooding.

blocks in some areas, Gov. Jeb Bush praised South Floridians for taking prestorm precautions, but urged them not to overreact. He said fuel inventories were abundant throughout the state.

A tropical storm warning and hurricane watch covered the Florida east coast from Vero Beach south through Broward and Miami-Dade and to Key West. That means tropical storm conditions are expected within 24 hours and hurricane conditions are possible.

Emergency managers urged everyone in the region to calmly begin shuttering their homes and businesses and otherwise preparing for Ernesto, preferably this evening, when the weather is still good.

Conditions will begin deteriorating Tuesday morning or afternoon, with forecasters warning of torrential rain, strong wind and the possibility of coastal and

The center of Ernesto reached Cuba's southern coast Monday morning and forecasters predicted up to 20 inches of rain in some places. A report for Cuba's Radio Rebelde said officials in Guantanamo and Santiago de Cuba were concerned that heavy rain could propel mudslides into coastal towns.

The system barely clung to tropical storm status as it slowly roamed over Cuba's mountains. The duration of that trip substantially weakened Ernesto and should give it less time to regain strength over water before it reaches South Flor-

"I don't think anyone is going to complain about that," Mayfield said.

Meanwhile, managers of the Federal Emergency Management Agency prepositioned 70 truckloads of water and food at the Homestead Air Reserve Base, 50 truckloads in Jacksonville and 720 truck- if necessary," Tittle said.

loads of ice elsewhere in the southeastern United States, according to Miami-Dade officials.

In other developments:

At the Kennedy Space Center, officials scrapped all plans to launch Atlantis early this week and prepared to move the shuttle off the pad and back to its hangar, a laborious process that will keep the spaceship and its six astronauts grounded for at least 10 days, and probably much

Leaders of the Florida National Guard prepared to call up troops and deploy them where needed, according to spokesman Lt. Col. Ron Tittle. About 100 Guard soldiers, mostly experts in planning, will be called to active duty today, he said, with the main force likely to be called out Tuesday.

"We can bring in thousands of troops



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#### FAMOUS QUOTE

"Horse sense is the thing a horse has which keeps it from betting on people."

— W.C. Fields

#### TODAY IN HISTORY

1958: Pop sensation Michael Jackson is born in Gary, Indiana. **2005**: Hurrican Katrina, the most destructive hurricane ever to hit the United States, makes landfall on the U.S. Gulf Coast, near New Orleans, Louisiana.

#### The Quigmans

by Buddy Hickerson

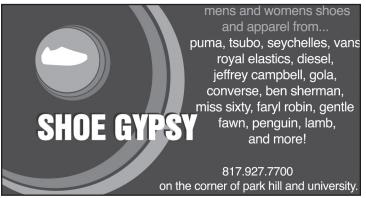


Sick of needless expense on perfume, Francine prepared for her night out by rolling around on her magazines.



#### SUDOKU PUZZLE

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	6	4			7	2		
9			2	4		5		1
9				3		8	6	
7		5		8				
	1		6		5		4	
				9		3		2
	5	8		6				7
4		7		5	8			9
		2	3			1	8	

#### **Directions**

Fill in the grid so that every 3x3 box, row and column contains the digits 1 through 9 without repeating numbers.

> See Wednesday's paper for answers to today's Sudoku puzzle.

#### Friday's Solutions

4	3	5	2	6	9	7	8	1
6	8	2	5	7	1	4	9	3
1	9	7	8	3	4	5	6	2
8	2	6	1	9	5	3	4	7
3	7	4	6	8	2	9	1	5
9	5	1	7	4	3	6	2	8
5	1	9	3	2	6	8	7	4
2	4	8	9	5	7	1	3	6
7	6	3	4	1	8	2	5	9

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## **ACROSS**

- 6 Earring site 10 Yorkshire guy 14 Hold contents 15 Sitting on 16 Waikiki's island
- 20 Pouch 21 Listens to
- again 22 "Hawaii" writer 27 Twin Cities suburb
- 28 Anticipates with terror 29 Deuterium discoverer 32 Last of cash?
- 33 Mountain lake 34 Vile smiles 36 I surrender! 41 Kin by marriage
- 42 "Hud" co-star 44 Exist
- 47 Fraternity frock 48 Areca nuts 50 \_\_ nova 52 Complained
- peevishly 54 Features 57 Lofting tennis
- 58 Surrender 64 Emerald Isle 65 Abel's sibling U.A.R.
- 67 Prom partner 68 Exaggerated publicity
  69 Rundown
- DOWN 1 Take steps 2 Expression of derision 3 Be off
- 4 In the past 5 Used a divining
- rod 6 Biker
- Armstrong 7 Great Giant
- 8 Physicist Niels Fencing foil
- 10 Talked to
- 34 Uneven do 35 A votre \_\_! 37 Pull up fasteners 38 Day-\_\_ paint 39 Forest

By Jim Page New York, NY

12 "A Night to Remember'

13 Rotating

neutron star 18 Holm and

"\_\_ Coming to Take Me Away,

Ha, Haaa!"

summer hrs. 23 "Dies \_\_"

24 Eur. particle

accelerator

location 25 Vietnam capita

30 Fam. membe

31 Pamphlet

ending?

Hunter

22 Denver

- platforms 46 \_\_ de corps 48 Coll. hotshot denizens 40 Big name in 49 Represent in
- 51 Rouen's river 53 Coeur d'\_\_, ID 55 Part of M.I.T. 56 Freeze, Fido! 59 Cool or groovy

61 Miner matter

63 Pronounce See Wednesday's paper for answers to today's crossword.

H|O|W|

43 Dr. Tim's hallucinogen

44 Humbled

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#### TOMORROW IN SPORTS

Already 4-0, the TCU women's volleyball team gears for the rest of the season.



STEPHEN SPILLMAN / Staff Photographer Sophomore Justyn Warner passes the baton to junior Delwayne Delaney in a TCU track meet.

## Men's track and field team ranks first in magazine

Staff Reporter

The 2006 men's track and field team broke the Southeastern Conference's seven-vear streak of being ranked first in relays by "Track and Field News."

"It is a big honor to receive recognition from a source as well-respected as 'Track and Field News,' said Darryl Anderson, the track and field head coach.

Teams were ranked on their overall performances in eight events and scored on their rankings in each event. TCU placed high in most events including second place in the 4 X 100 and third place in the sprint medley. Although TCU placed first overall, they did not place first

"Most people thought a bigger school would be ranked first, but TCU proved everyone wrong," said Lewis Banda, a senior and former member of the relay team. "Everybody was happy about it because all of our hard work in the

heat paid off."

Anderson said he was surprised when he found out the results.

Otis McDaniel, junior relav team member, said the relay team was successful because of hard work from athletes and coaches working to put together the best team possible.

"Everybody was determined to run hard all the time," McDaniel said.

McDaniel said if the members of the team continue to be motivated, they will be able to repeat their success.

'We're capable of winning championships," McDaniel said. "We just have to do even better

The honor has given the team more momentum leading into the new season, Anderson said.

"Receiving this honor has challenged the team for the 2007 season and will help in recruiting new athletes for the 2008 season," Anderson said.

Banda said more high school students will now know

about the track and field program, and it will raise the level of athletes that comes to the university.

"TCU has always been nationally known in relays because the coaches do a good job developing athletes and helping them improve," Anderson said.

Anderson said being first in the nation in relays is a step toward winning an NCAA championship.

In an article titled "Indoor sports facility planned, delayed by football practice" in Thursday's Skiff, the reporter wrote that the athletic indoor practice facility "is part of a \$100 million anonymous donation for campus construction." The \$7 million donation to TCU for the practice facility came from both an anonymous donor and the Jane and John Justin Foundation. The practice facility construction will be part of the \$100 million Campus Commons

In the same article, Lisa Albert, communications specialist, was referred to as the assistant director of communications.

## Frogs kick off season with defeat

By MICHELLE NICOUD Staff Reporter

The TCU women's soccer team was scoreless in its season opener Friday night with a 0-1 loss to the Rice Owls at Garvey-Rosenthal

Head coach Dan Abdalla said the team, which includes eight freshman and six seniors, played tentatively the entire match and didn't take advantage of its scoring chances.

"For a young group, as we have, they've got to recognize that you can't just sit back," Abdalla said. "And the older players need to do a better job giving them instruction, helping them out and being active and involved themselves."

The crowd of 1,216 cheered loudly at the first regular season game, despite the fact that the Horned Frogs were never able to establish themselves as a force.

"The atmosphere is completely different," sophomore defender Courtney Johnson said. "There are huge amounts of crowds. People can come after school, as opposed to still being in school for the previous 4 p.m. Friday games, so there's a lot more of a community supporting us.'

TCU prepared for the Rice match by doing on-field drills for two weeks prior to the game. Before that time, preparation included voluntary daily workouts with strength and conditioning, which a large number of the players attended, sophomore defender Caroline Starns said.

"It's not a mandatory workout, but we're pretty much always there," Starns said. "We work out, we run, we lift like we would when two-a-days start. Coaches aren't there because they aren't allowed to be, but we push ourselves just like they are there."

The Rice Owls finished second last year in Conference USA, but Johnson said the Horned Frogs did not approach the team any differently than any other opponent and that positive thinking is important to a successful season.

"Pretty much for every game, it's the same — you want to go out hard, you want to go out aggressive," Johnson said. "You don't want to fear anybody, but we want to respect everybody as well."

Starns is holding the team to high expectations she thinks can be reached if the team works as

We have been working our tails off this month," Starns said. "We worked hard last season, but I really think we are going to win a lot of games this year."



Senior TCU player Casey Glass battles a Rice defender at Friday's game. TCU lost the game 1-0. For the results of the TCU vs. Tech go to Skiff online.

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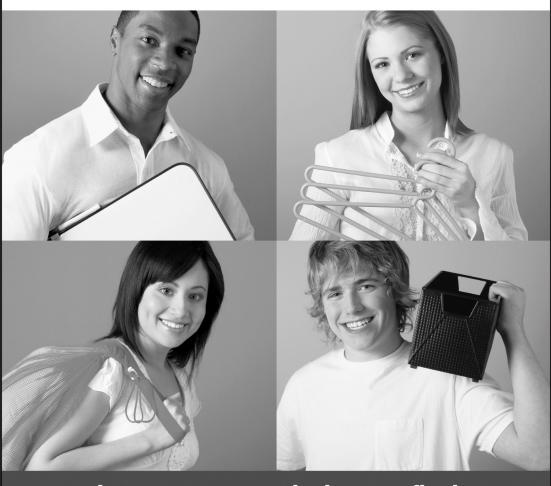
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