



# DAILY SKIFF

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## Students voice opinions on suicide

Many resources available for those in need of help

By LANA HUNT  
Staff Reporter

Suicide kills more people worldwide every year than war, and college-age students are among the most vulnerable, said Monica Kintigh, a licensed pro-

fessional counselor in the TCU Counseling Center.

Statistics show that suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15- to 24-year-olds, according to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

Kintigh presented SuicideTALK, a community forum based on ways to help prevent suicide, on Sept. 15 in the Huguley Fitness Center.

"It's scary because you never

know who is thinking about it," said Jason Riddell, a sophomore graphic design major.

"One cause," Riddell said, "could be that students feel overwhelmed. Coming to college is a culture shock, with a lot of students wandering around without a sense of purpose."

Kintigh said that one out of every 17 people seriously consider suicide.

Eric Tabone, a sophomore

finance and accounting major, said, "Suicide is a real depressing matter. Just the thought of someone our age taking his or her life is hard to deal with."

Tabone said he has never known anyone who has committed suicide, but he said that if one of his friends started having suicidal thoughts, he would try to help as much as possible.

Michael Katovich, a professor of more on SUICIDE, page 2

## Former soldier hits the books

Getting MBA a piece of cake after Iraq, Army captain says

By TASHA HAYTON  
Staff Reporter

Though some might call it tough, the MBA program in the School of Business is a far cry from where Capt. Marc Ortiz was last year.

That's when Ortiz — a 1999 graduate of the United States Military Academy and a captain in the 1st Squadron, 7th (US) Cavalry Regiment — was in Iraq.

Ortiz decided to go back to school after getting back from Iraq on March 15.

"I went back to school to get some experience in the business world since all of my work experience has been in the Army," Ortiz said.

Currently, Ortiz is serving in the reserves while he is a full-time MBA student. He helps to train the Army ROTC cadets at TCU.

He's "dedicated," said Maj. John Agor, a professor of military science.

"When he talks, the cadets listen," Agor said.

Ortiz said he decided to attend graduate school in April. After looking into his options, he decided TCU was the best place. With graduate assistance and a scholarship, Ortiz's tuition is almost completely covered.

After graduating from West Point, he was assigned to Fort Hood in January 2000.

During his six years in the Army, Ortiz spent two years in Doha, Qatar, and Baghdad, Iraq.

Ortiz's first deployment was with a special operations unit. His second was with the 1st Cavalry Division out of Fort Hood.

Although Ortiz was a squadron communications officer, Capt. Jason Dudley said, "Marc volunteered to go out on combat patrols despite the fact that his duties and responsibilities as a signal officer kept him inside the camp and relatively out of harm's way."

Capt. Ted Stokes, squadron training officer, said that Ortiz assumed a self-assigned role as battle captain during the Iraqi elections and put himself in harm's way.

"Daily, he performed his duties above and beyond," Stokes said.

Both Stokes and Dudley spoke of situations in which Ortiz put his own life at risk to help others. They each described him as having a good sense of humor, but they also said Ortiz knows when he needs to be serious.

Though Joshua Lough was worried about his good friend Ortiz, Lough said he knew that Ortiz's training "put him in a good position to survive."

Lough went to high school with Ortiz and described him as "dynamic" and "loyal."

"I have always admired him for his discipline and the accomplishments he has achieved because of that quality," Lough said,

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## Galveston to evacuate for Rita



J. Pat Carter / Associated Press

Joe McGee stands in the pounding surf at the Southern Most Point in Key West, Fla., Tuesday as Hurricane Rita neared the lower Florida Keys.

## Storm upped to Category 2

By JUAN A. LOZANO  
Associated Press

GALVESTON — Determined not to repeat the mistakes of Katrina, Texas prepared for Hurricane Rita on Tuesday by ordering

the state's first mandatory evacuation, declaring the state a disaster area and moving supplies to inland cities in anticipation of evacuees.

Using a law passed this year, Galveston County officials ordered a mandatory evacuation of its coastal communities beginning Wednesday night. Elderly residents living in nursing homes and assisted living centers were to be evacuated by

bus before dawn to shelters about 100 miles north in Huntsville.

Hurricane Rita was upgraded to a Category 2 hurricane Tuesday as it lashed the Florida Keys with flooding rain and strong wind. It was expected to be a Category 4 storm — the same size as Katrina — by mid-afternoon Wednesday. It was expected to make landfall somewhere on the Texas Gulf Coast by

Friday night.

"We want to run from the water and hide from the wind at this time," said Frank Gutierrez, Harris County Emergency Management Coordinator. Harris County, which includes Houston, was not ordering an evacuation, but urged residents to prepare for flooding as much as 35 miles inland.

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## Student-made soap opera in the works

Creators gain real-life experience in process

By KIM TESAREK  
Staff Reporter

Radio-TV-film students are following their "Passions" this semester. "The Young and the Restless" students have learned they have but "One Life to Live," and have come together working at to "The Edge of Night," with six TCU faculty to write, direct, produce and design their very own soap opera.

Over the course of the year, under the guidance of the faculty members, students will produce 10 episodes that will begin airing on Tager-TV Channel 40 starting around spring break, professor Richard Allen said.

Junior RTVF major Rachel Curtis is in the dramatic writing class that is developing the script for the soap

opera, and said she liked how the course simulated the real world.

"It's a good experience for all of us because we all are in the conference room sharing our ideas as if we were the writers, and (Allen) is the head writer," she said.

Senior RTVF major John Michael Powell said it gets stressful when 20 students are in the room trying to get their ideas into the final product.

"But I think we have a good unit right now," he said, referring to the way the team works together.

Another group of students is involved this semester to provide a "Guiding Light" to the soap opera. The lighting and design class, taught by instructor Greg Mansur, will design the sets and light the show.

Class members will take field trips to look at what they can use to make the sets, he said.

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Emily Goodson / Photo Editor

Richard Allen, the chairman of the radio-TV-film department, hands back character summaries to his dramatic writing class Tuesday in Moudy Building South. The class is preparing for the upcoming production of a TCU soap opera.

## House passes Katrina bill

Fund to aid students

By AMY WILLEY  
Staff Reporter

After much debate, the House of Representatives passed a bill Tuesday night to re-authorize the emergency relief to members of the student body affected by the Gulf Coast disaster.

The bill appropriates \$10,000 to establish the Hurricane Katrina Emergency Relief Fund.

One opponent, Thomas Guidry, a representative of the College of Science and Engineering, said it would go against a previous bill in effect.

Legislation passed in 2004 states: "No charitable contributions shall be made from the student body fund. Charitable contributions include, but are not limited to, payments to

charitable organizations."

Guidry filed a complaint Tuesday night on grounds that the bill is unconstitutional.

The argument was contradicted by SGA Treasurer Matthew Jacobson.

The representatives hold the power to set precedent over previous bills, Jacobson said.

An amendment to decrease the funds from \$10,000 to \$2,000 was presented to the House by Brian Andrew, university affairs chair, and failed to pass.

John Campbell, student advocacy chair, said that \$10,000 was a large amount of money, and that it only covers those affected by Katrina and not other natural disasters.

Jacobson disagreed, saying the Student Government Association has

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