

IN BRIEF



COURTESY

GTFs rally outside Johnson Hall on Thursday for better wages in their new employment contract. The current contract expires in March.

Graduate Teaching Fellows protest wages at rally

Nearly 50 graduate teaching fellows and supporters rallied on the steps of the University's administration building Thursday, protesting what they called low wages and asking for fair contract negotiations.

"We are below the federal

poverty level," graduate teaching fellow Jey Strangfeld said during the rally, which included a march through Johnson Hall and the Lillis Business Complex. "We got a 2 percent increase this fall, but the past two years we've been put under a wage freeze."

University President Dave Frohnmayer said he hopes the cordial and

friendly relationship between the administration and the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation will continue.

"We hope for a contract that will be helpful to everyone," Frohnmayer said.

The current GTFF contract officially expires in March.

— Nicholas Wilbur

In Wilma's wake, people line up for necessities

MIAMI — Many Floridians struggled another day to find food, water and fuel after Hurricane Wilma on Thursday, with lines of people and cars forming around home improvement stores and gas stations.

President Bush arrived in Miami to visit the National Hurricane Center and boarded a helicopter to get his first look at the damage wrought by Wilma in Florida, where about 2 million homes and businesses were still without power.

Many gas stations that had fuel were without electricity, and others that had power ran out of supplies. Shouting matches started at some stations when people tried cutting in line.

"Get gas down here. This is craziness," Connie Rodriguez, 23, said Thursday while she and her fiancé tried to get gas at two stations

across the street from each other.

Progress was being made: Port Everglades had power back for most of its fuel depot, which supplies stations across South Florida. About 700 trucks will be picking up gas there to deliver to stations Thursday, down from the normal 1,000, said Carlos Buqueras, director of business development at the Fort Lauderdale-area port.

Clash between Shiites, Sunnis leaves 15 dead

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Sunni Arab militants killed 14 Shiite militiamen and a policeman Thursday in a clash southeast of Baghdad — another sign of rising tensions among Iraq's rival ethnic and religious communities. The U.S. military reported three more American soldiers died in combat.

The Shiite-Sunni fighting occurred after police and militiamen

loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr raided a house in Nahrawan, 15 miles southeast of the capital, to free a militiaman taken hostage by Sunni militants, according to Amer al-Husseini, an aide to al-Sadr.

After freeing the hostage and capturing two militants, the Shiite militiamen were ambushed by the Sunnis on their way out of the religiously mixed town, al-Husseini said. Police Lt. Thair Mahmoud said 14 others — 12 militiamen and two policemen — were wounded.

The incident underscores tensions among hard-line elements in Iraq's rival religious and ethnic communities at a time when the United States is struggling to promote a political process seen as key to calming the insurgency so that U.S. and other foreign troops can go home.

—The Associated Press

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Contact Dave at 342-4844 • david@glchurch.org • www.glchurch.org



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