

Newsmakers

Tropical storm hits coastal Carolinas

Tropical Storm Chris, which sprang to life from a tropical depression off Florida, raced toward the South Carolina coast Sunday bringing heavy showers, blustery winds and causing scattered power problems.

Tropical storm warnings were posted from Savannah, Ga., to Cape Hatteras, N.C., and the storm strengthened somewhat as it approached South Carolina.

At noon, the third named storm of the 1988 Atlantic hurricane season had maximum sustained winds of 50 mph and was located near the coast about midway between Charleston and Savannah, a National Hurricane Center advisory said. The storm was moving north at 20 mph.

The center of the storm's circulation was expected to cross the coast later Sunday and then track across the Midlands in the center of the state, forecasters said.

"It's such a weak storm. There's no eye or anything like that," said forecaster John Townsend of the National Weather Service Office in Charleston.

Italian jets collide, 31 believed dead

RAMSTEIN, West Germany — Three Italian air force jets collided and crashed during an air show at a U.S. military base Sunday, and a state government official said up to 31 people were feared dead. (Cable News Network reported last night that 34 were dead.)

A police spokesman in nearby Kaiserslautern said at least 100 people were injured at Ramstein Air Base, some of them seriously. One of the airplanes plowed into the crowd on the ground, eyewitnesses said.

Rhineland-Palatinate state government spokesman Hennes Schreiner said state governor Bernhard Vogel immediately headed to the base 60 miles southwest of Frankfurt to help supervise joint German-American rescue efforts.

Base spokesman Doug Moore said the dead included the three pilots, and "those dead on the ground are a mix of civilian and military."

Most divorced women don't remarry

NEW YORK — About 40 percent of women who separated recently while in their 30s will never remarry, nor will about 70 percent of women who separated when older than 40, a new study projects.

And while 72 percent of recently separated women will eventually go to the altar again, half will still be single seven years after the split, the projections suggest.

The estimates, for women who separated in the early 1980s, emphasize that separation can mean long periods of single life and economic hardship for some women and their children, researchers said.

"For many of the children, it's the rest of their childhood years," said study co-author Larry Bumpass. "For many of these women, it's for the rest of their lives."

Bumpass, a sociology professor at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, developed the projections with colleagues James Sweet and Teresa Castro. He spoke in a telephone interview before presenting the study Sunday in Atlanta at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association.

Denver lets graffiti artists paint away

DENVER — Hoping to curb the spread of graffiti, the city of Denver has brought 60 to 70 graffiti artists into a program that gives them artistic tips and a sanctioned place to display their spray-painting skills.

The construction walkway at the new Denver convention center will be the canvas for participating "taggers," known for their stylized signatures, and "writers," who specialize in flashy murals.

"Graffiti started in prehistoric days (with cave writings) . . . but it didn't really become vandalism until someone owned the walls," says Amy Lingg, communications director for the Denver Department of Public Works.

Lingg, who got her artistic training at the Colorado Institute of Art, is supervising the city's anti-graffiti program.

Taggers and writers have emerged from underground to work on "pieces" (short for masterpieces) in a makeshift studio at a Public Works facility.

Working on boards donated by convention center contractor Hensel-Phelps and using donated spray paints (Krylon is the graffiti artist's favorite), taggers and writers are coached by artists from the Denver Art Museum's neighborhood artists program.

Just give a call

Book exchange opens on phone lines

By KELLY THOMAS
Staff writer

Student Government may not find a telephone-operated textbook exchange program workable, but Sammy Odom, owner-operator of the Book Market, has implemented a program that he said is workable.

Odom has implemented his system for this fall. The exchange program, which Odom runs from his personal computer at home, uses the International Standard Book Number identification system. The ISBN is usually located in the front of a book, next to the copyright information.

"I want to learn the system as a hobby — something to do with my PC (personal computer), and then to expand it and add more phone lines," said Odom, who is not associated with USC but has volunteered his time for the project.

To use the service, which will be free to students, a student must call from a touch-tone phone. The system will then ask the student if he wants to sell or purchase a book.

If the student wants to sell a book, he will be asked

to input the ISBN by using the phone's numbered buttons. The computer will run the number against the list of books that other students want to buy.

If someone is looking for the book, the seller will be given a phone number to contact; otherwise, he will be asked to input his phone number for inclusion in the "for sale" listing.

Similarly, the ISBN entered by a student wanting to buy a book is run against the list of those books that are for sale.

The system will ask a student for a password if a change needs to be made and will offer ways to delete phone numbers when books have been sold or located.

A message-to-the-operator service will also be offered so that a student can get in touch with Odom should a problem occur.

Odom has future plans to expand the project to serve students on a national basis, and students would be allowed to limit their search to a certain area code or exchange.

This is the first S.G. has heard about Odom's system, said Sean Griffin, S.G. executive assistant

to the president.

"We are not very familiar with the system at all; therefore I do not think it is proper to comment on it," Griffin said.

Patrick Smith, S.G. special assistant to the president, said S.G. had ruled out the Book Market System because he thought the system would be too time consuming for the average student.

"We just felt there were a lot of inconveniences inherent in this particular type of system," Smith said. "For example, where are students going to store their books over the summer? If you live in New Jersey, it would be a problem cart-loading a bunch of books home and wait until the fall to sell them. S.G.'s systems will offer a way to get around that."

S.G. is examining a plan to set up a book collection center where students can bring their books to sell. Students will be able to set their own prices and will therefore be able to get more back for their books than they can at the bookstores, Smith said.

But Smith said all plans for the book exchange center were tentative and that S.G. hopes to have a finalized plan later this week.

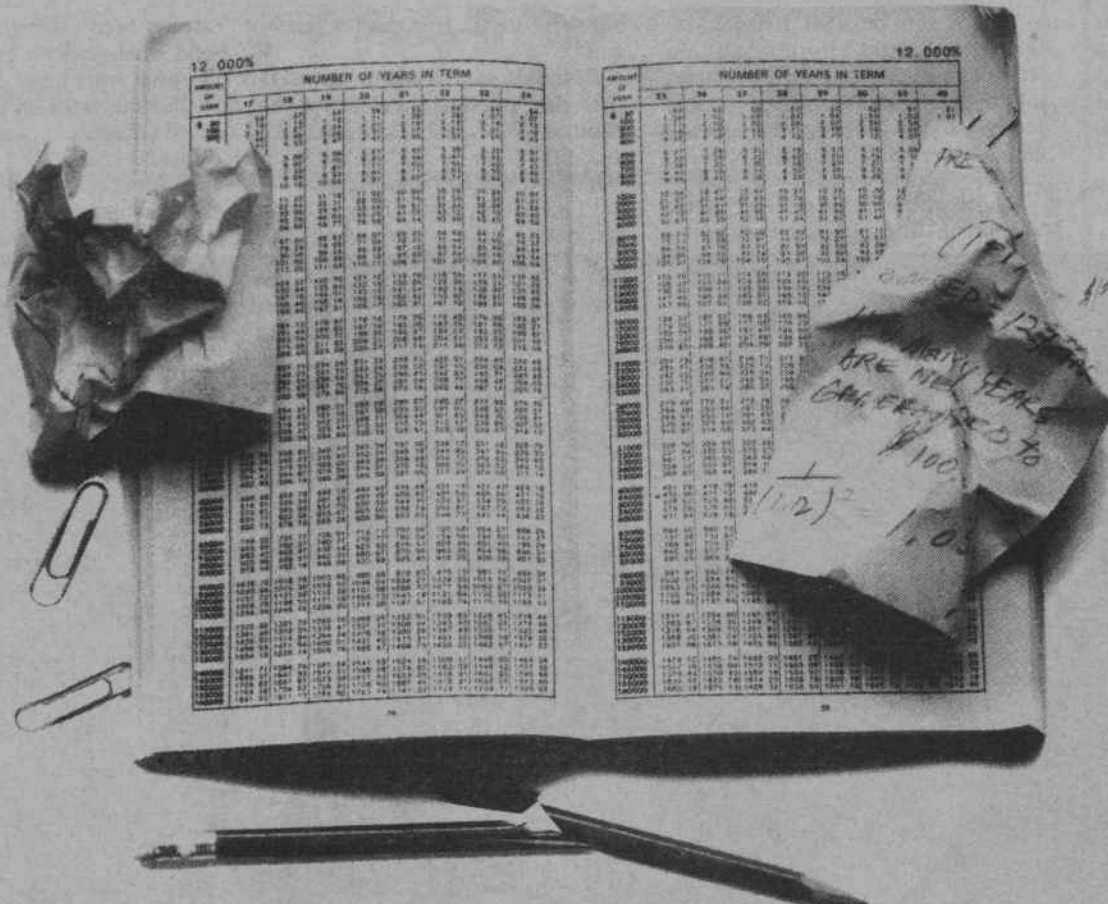


Here's lookin' at you

Psychology senior Angela Floyd and business senior Larry Etheridge relax behind the observatory Friday. They were trying to decide where to go for dinner that evening.

WAYNE YANG/The Gamecock

Old Business. New Business.



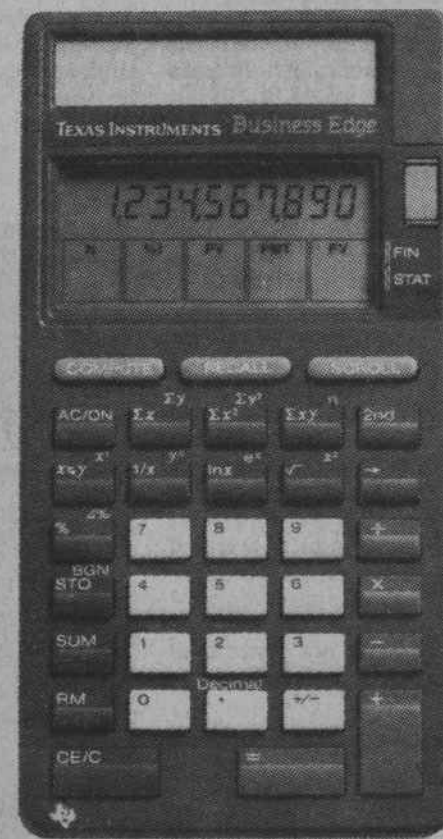
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