

RETROSPECTIVE

RTVF students examine the effects of Hurricane Katrina in their new documentary.



GRAND SLAM

Horned Frog baseball team makes easy prey of the Baylor Bears. Check online for scores.

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DAVID J. Phillip / Associated Press

House majority leader to step down

Announcement reactions are varied on campus

By RYAN WILCOX
Staff Reporter

What do political observers on campus think will be the political upshot for former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay's pending resignation? It just depends on who you ask.

DeLay, who is fighting felony money laundering and conspiracy charges in Texas stemming from contributions made to GOP legislative candidates in

2002, told The Associated Press Tuesday that he will resign sometime before the middle of June. Republicans won control of the Texas House that year for the first time since Reconstruction, and a congressional redistricting plan engineered by DeLay was passed by the next year by state legislators.

The voters of his Houston-area district 'deserve a campaign about the vital national issues that they care most about and that affect their lives every day, and not a campaign focused solely as a referendum on

me," DeLay said in a television interview reported by the AP.

College Republican Tyler Fultz said DeLay's resignation from his 22nd Congressional District seat will alter the power structure behind the Republican Party.

"I think in a large way it will represent a shift in the way the Republican Party operates," Fultz said. "I think you may see a lot more fighting between Republicans."

But, Fultz said, the main threat to the GOP will be internal, not external.

"If there is one thing the Republican Party can count on, it's that the Democrats will be incompetent," said the junior political science and history major. "Ever since 9/11, (the) Democratic Party has shown a complete lack of ability to capitalize on Republican mistakes."

Blake Williams, a senior political science major and member of the College Democrats, sees the resignation as an opportunity for Democrats to focus on other issues.

See **DELAY**, page 2

BRISK WALK



Jason Petrasic, a senior movement science major, departs from the starting line of the Heel Hunger 5K Run/Walk on Tuesday in front of the Student Center. The run/walk was part of Hunger Week at TCU and benefited the Tarrant Area Food Bank.

ANDREW CHAVEZ / Assistant Photo Editor

Republicans look to replace vacancy in House of Reps

Possible candidates surface hours after DeLay's resigning

By WENDY BENJAMINSON
Associated Press

Republicans hoping to fill the seat of former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay stepped forward Tuesday as the 11-term lawmaker said he would resign, leaving the Texas district whose boundaries he drew.

Within hours of DeLay's announcement, several Republicans contacted party officials about getting on the Nov. 7 ballot. Among the potential candidates: Harris County Judge Robert Eckels, who worked with Houston's mayor to help the city absorb Hurricane Katrina refugees, and the county's tax collector-assessor, Paul Bettencourt.

A committee of select precinct chairmen from the four counties that comprise DeLay's 22nd Congressional District will select a nominee to replace him.

The Democratic candidate is former Rep. Nick Lampson, who lost his seat when DeLay redesigned the districts in 2004.

Lampson, who overnight went from facing a well-funded if controversial opponent to a quick race against a latecomer, said he would continue his campaign as planned.

"I've gotten a lot of name identification by being associated with this race while Tom DeLay has been in it," Lampson said. "I have the distinction of having served a portion of this district and I know I have a lot of support in the eastern portion of this district that I represented."

The issue of who will represent the Republican-leaning district between DeLay's departure and the election is unclear.

"I will make that resignation effective sometime before mid-June, but largely dependent on the congressional calendar," DeLay said. He also said he would make his northern Virginia condominium his primary residence, which would make him ineligible to run or vote in Texas.

If DeLay had resigned effective this week, Gov. Rick Perry could have called a special election for the next uniform election date, May 13. The next uniform election date is

See **CANDIDATES**, page 2

Professor: Proposed laws to favor immigrants

Some faculty disagree on perks of legislation

By KIM TESAREK
Staff Reporter

Although some of the recent illegal immigration proposals have stirred up the U.S. Hispanic population, causing widespread protests and demonstrations across the nation, some new legislation may cause Latinos to turn their heads, said Valerie Martinez-Ebers, associate professor of political science.

This new legislation was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee last Monday, which, if approved by the Senate, could potentially allow illegal immigrants to seek citizenship and provide temporary work for these immigrants, said an article from The New York Times.

One aspect of the proposed legislation is the adoption of a temporary worker, or guest worker program. This program would give the illegal immigrant popu-

lation the option to obtain jobs that Americans aren't willing to do for a set period of time, at the end of which, the workers would be sent back to their countries, said Martinez-Ebers.

An Associated Press article last Tuesday said the program would create almost 2 million temporary job opportunities, a majority of which are in agriculture, for illegal immigrants.

Martinez-Ebers, who teaches a class on Latino politics at TCU that

deals with related topics, said the temporary worker program could be beneficial to both American citizens and illegal immigrants if it is implemented and enforced well.

One of the requirements is for U.S. employers to prove that other U.S. citizens are unwilling to do the work, she said.

"If it is a job that no one else will take, we need their (illegal immigrants') assistance," she said.

Adam Schiffer, assistant profes-

See **LAWS**, page 2

Archivists asks for donations

By Erin Glatzel
Staff Reporter

The archivist at the Mary Coats Burnett Library, Mike Strom, asked staff for donations of any historical significance, from photos to correspondences to data sheets, that could be beneficial to the archives database at the Staff Assembly meeting Tuesday.

The archives contain primary source material in three different areas: TCU history, Fort Worth history and Southwestern writers.

Students, outside researchers, biographers and faculty from all TCU departments use the archives for research purposes.

The Amon Carter Museum gave many documents including photos and correspon-

dence data to be housed in the archives at TCU.

Hao Tran, coordinator of the TCU Staff Assembly said, "All those that attend this are all constituents of different departments, and it is important to have a common place for data to be stored."

The archives department is a little known aspect of the TCU Library, and Strom said he is hoping to make more people aware of its presence.

Julia Lovett, the assistant director of extended education, said, "I knew archives always existed at TCU, but it is always great to get reacquainted with the resources available."

SGA committee votes 20-16 to give Student Center high-definition TV

By ANDREA BEARCE
Staff Reporter

Big changes are planned for the construction of the future Student Center, but a big screen TV can be expected even sooner.

The Permanent Improvements Committee is purchasing a 60-inch high-definition TV that will be in the Student Center Lounge by fall, said Ashley Bachmayer, permanent improvements chair.

With a vote of 20-16, the House of Student Representatives opted to allocate \$5,700 from the Permanent Improvements budget to pur-

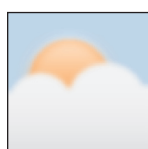
chase the TV.

The bill to purchase the TV states that students would benefit from a newer TV that is also located further away from the reading room in the Student Center.

Several House members disagreed with the purchase and argued every disadvantage from cost to lack of usefulness.

Justin Brown, representative of the College of Fine Arts, said he doesn't think that the purchase of the TV has been researched enough for SGA to support it.

See **TV**, page 2



WEATHER

TODAY: Mostly cloudy, 85/64
THURSDAY: T-storms, 82/58
FRIDAY: Sunny, 79/51

FUN FACT

A 457-pound deceased woman was stored in the Dallas morgue for more than a month due to a dispute over the extra fee for cremating bodies over 300 pounds. —ASSOCIATED PRESS

TODAY'S HEADLINES

OPINION: Readers weigh in on immigration, page 3
FEATURES: Pros and cons of plus and minus, page 4
SPORTS: Track team heads to Austin for meet, page 6

CONTACT US

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

DELAY

From page 1

"I think its a good sign that the Democrats will gain at least one seat," Williams said. "I think him stepping down will force the Democrats to move past (DeLay)."

Adam Schiffer, an assistant professor of political science, said DeLay, whom he called the Democrats' "biggest target," resigned after polls indicated he would have trouble winning back his own seat.

DeLay's legal problems feed "the culture of corruption that the Democrats are trying to portray," Schiffer said.

LAWS

From page 1

sor of political science, doesn't like the idea of such a program because it places illegal immigrants in an inferior position.

"The guest worker program seems to create a second-class citizen," Schiffer said. "It sets up a scene for exploitation. There should be one form of citizenship for all human beings in the U.S.," he said.

Schiffer said he thought the legislation was beneficial in its attempt to allow illegal immigrants to become U.S. citizens.

"It's good that the illegal immigrants can prove they are productively contributing to our country and eventually become citizens," he said.

Martinez-Ebers said it is important not to get the legislation confused with amnesty.

"The legislation requires illegal immigrations to first become public about being illegal," she explained.

"Then they have to pay enormous fines, have documentation of their work in the U.S. and have paid all their taxes on top of meeting all the requirements of citizenship," she said.

"And then they get put at the

end of the line of immigrants applying for naturalization."

Martinez-Ebers said since there are so many people already coming to this country legally every year and the government gives out a certain quota of visas annually, illegal immigrants may still have to wait many years before they can become citizens.

The Senate Judiciary Committee's approval is just one of the first steps to any final decisions on these issues. This week, the full Senate will vote on the new legislation, and if a bill passes the Senate, it will then be passed on to the House Legislation, according to a New York Times article.

CANDIDATES

From page 1

Nov. 7, though Perry could call an emergency special election before then.

"Until we know specifically when he plans to resign his seat, there are too many moving parts to say what will happen," Perry's spokeswoman Kathy Walt said.

The Republicans' new nominee would have to be selected well before the November election to have time to raise money and campaign. Lampson had \$1.4 million cash on hand as of Feb. 15. DeLay had nearly \$1.3 million, which he can transfer to his legal defense fund for his upcoming money-laundering trial.

Eric Thode, the outgoing GOP chairman of Fort Bend County, the largest area of DeLay's district, said a special election would be open to candidates of any party, but the district still favors a Republican.

"My Republican dog would win that election," Thode said, calling a special election "an innocuous and extremely expensive waste of time."

But Eckels, whose views are slightly more moderate than those of DeLay or other Republicans in the race, called the 22nd District a "marginally Republican district that we thought Tom (DeLay) could hold."

The chief executive of Harris County, Eckels said his work settling refugees and working with the county's health care system to care for indigent illegal immigrants led him to consider a congressional run.

"I've seen the impact of federal policy upon the local community in recent years," Eckels said. "The question is whether I can be more effective putting those poli-

cies to work here or in Washington."

In addition to Eckels and Bettencourt, other possible GOP candidates are attorney Tom Campbell, who won about a quarter of the GOP primary vote against DeLay last month; Republican state Reps. Robert Talton and Charlie Howard; Sugar Land Mayor David Wallace; Houston City Councilwoman Shelley Sekula-Gibbs and former state District Judge John Devine.

Campbell, who already had a campaign up and running, called DeLay's resignation "a great day for America."

"There are enough people that cared about ethics and integrity that Mr. DeLay was unable to go forward," Campbell said.

Republican Party insiders will choose the nominee, and Campbell's challenge to DeLay was considered unseemly, undercutting his chances of getting the nod.

In the meantime, DeLay fights felony money laundering and conspiracy charges in Texas stemming from contributions made to GOP legislative candidates in 2002. Republicans won control of the Texas House that year for the first time since Reconstruction. A congressional redistricting plan engineered by DeLay was passed the next year by state legislators. The new districts helped put more Republicans in Congress in 2004.

Travis County District Attorney Ronald Earle said Tuesday that DeLay's plan to resign has no effect on the case.

Kelley Shannon reported from Austin. Associated Press Writers Liz Austin and April Castro in Austin also contributed to this report.

Sidewalk scribbles



ELIZABETH BERGER / Photographer

Pakpoom Thanapaisal, a freshman marketing major, and Kayla Lehew, daughter of the Brachman Hall director, choose colors of sidewalk chalk outside Brachman Hall Tuesday afternoon.

TV

From page 1

"There's quite a bit of money that's funded for the new Student Center and it might be more appropriate to push (the school) to buy this for (the students)," he said. "Without the proper research or endeavors into other ways of subsidizing this account, I don't see how we can spend this much money at this time."

Lindsay Beattie, representative of the junior class, said she initially disagreed with spending a large amount of money on a TV, but now thinks the purchase would enhance the current Student Center instead of having to wait several years for the construction of the new student union.

"We should value the Student Center that's already at TCU by making it better than it is now," she said.

The allocated money will cover a five-year maintenance plan, a TV stand, a surge protector and a 50-foot cable.

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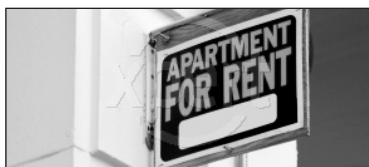
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WILL RENT FOR SEX...

The Web site Craigslist.org allows potential landlords to post ads that include rent discounts in exchange for sex.

— Associated Press

THE SKIFF VIEW

Alternative fuels worth research

A few years ago, the things we have today were unthinkable: Hybrid cars? What kind of crazy hippie are you?

But now, with hybrid cars hitting the luxury market and becoming mainstream, cleaner energy is entering the realm of possibility. And with it, a whole new spectrum of alternative fuels and clean energy is becoming available to us.

The temptation would be to blow them off. After all, only liberals worry about the environment.

But before you do this, take a closer look: Our Republican president is supporting this measure. Big business is hopping on board.

Alternative fuels and biodiesels deserve a second glance.

The Associated Press reports that a Motiva Enterprises LLC, Shell Oil Co. and Saudi Refining Inc. partnership began providing an alternative fuel and motor fuel blend in Dallas Monday. It is 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent regular diesel. The fuel can be burned in regular diesel engines, mak-

ing it ideal for truckers.

Biodiesel sales in the United States have risen from 500,000 gallons in 1999 to about 75 million gallons in 2005. This is compared to 140 billion gallons of gasoline and 4 billion gallons of ethanol sold in the United States yearly.

Biodiesels are not going away; in fact, they are becoming more and more popular.

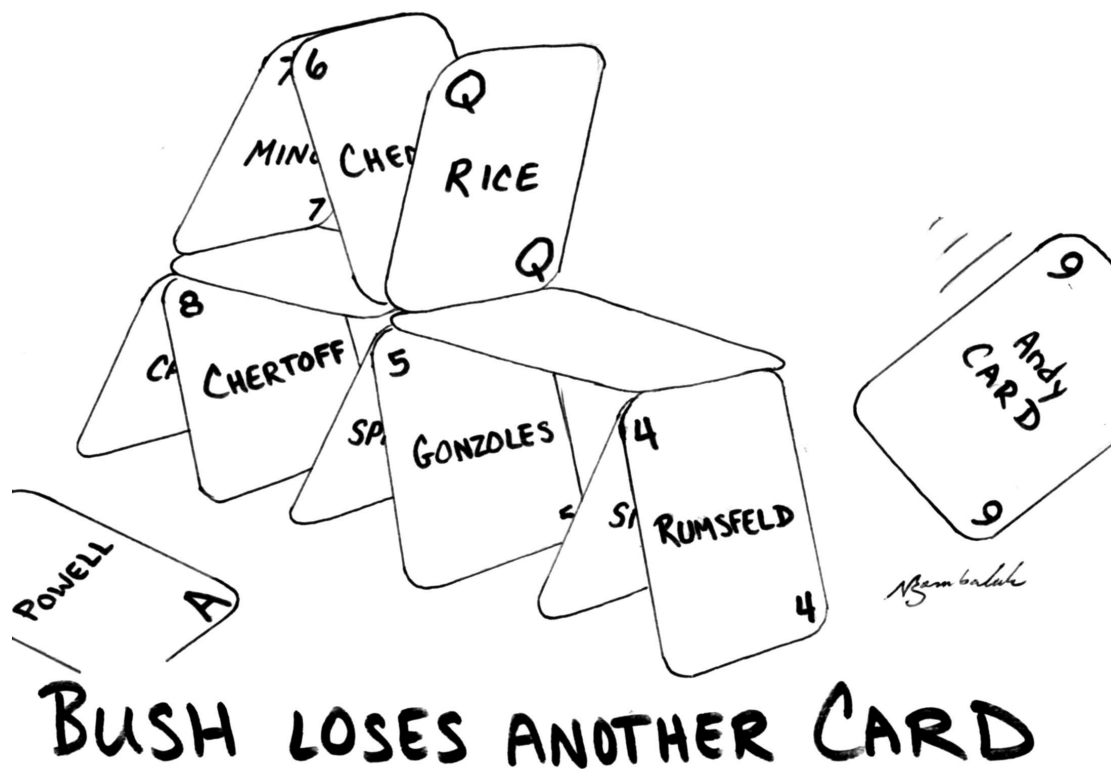
Nebraska, for one, has made alternative fuel a state initiative. Since 2005, all Nebraska state vehicles are required to use alternative fuels, according to ruralinitiative.nebraska.edu. This ranges from B2, a 2 percent soy biodiesel that can be used in diesel vehicles, to E-85, which uses 85 percent ethanol for specially equipped vehicles.

The wise thing to do is not dismiss the concept of alternative fuels or even to embrace it, but to research it.

Whether biodiesel is an option in your area or for your car, it is a growing industry that's worth watching. So keep your eyes, and your mind, open.

Opinion editor Stephanie Weaver for the editorial board.

NEWSREAL • NICHOLAS SAMBALUK



New immigration reform bill oversteps boundaries

House Bill H. R. 4437 has created a wildfire of protests across the nation and has led many to question what exactly makes

COMMENTARY



Joshua Cauthen

one worthy of living in this country. There is no doubt that some immigration reforms need to be made in the interest of national security and that border protection needs to be tightened in the face of increased violence and drug trafficking. However, this bill not only goes too far in its measures to accomplish these goals, but it also places severe penalties on individuals who violate immigration law.

Now, you may be saying to yourself, "Gee, how hard can it be? If you aren't trying to enter the United States illegally, then you don't have a problem."

It would be nice if it were so black and white, but the immigration reforms proposed in this bill will only serve to blur the lines even more. Section 201 of H.R. 4437 would make conviction for any violation of immigration law an aggravated felony. This carries with it not only automatic deportation, but also ineligibility for cancellation of removal, asylum, voluntary departure or any lawful status in the United States ever again.

Again, you may be saying to yourself, "So what?" Let me provide you with an example of how this might

play in a situation relating to college students.

Imagine you are an international student studying at TCU (if you aren't already) and H. R. 4437 has been signed into law. Now, imagine that you are currently enrolled for 15 hours of classes. You discover during the course of the semester that one of your classes is too difficult and you need to drop or you will have an F to transfer to your home institution. You decided to drop the course, and you are now taking 12 hours. Unknown to you, your visa requires that you take 15 hours while studying in the United States. Guess what? You are now in violation of immigration law, and you have just committed an aggravated felony.

This is not the only instance where this bill goes too far. You would also be in violation if you unknowingly brought your baby to the United States without a visa or if, for some reason, you had to be hospitalized and your visa expired while you were in the hospital. Additionally, foreign executives who do not provide a change of address form to the Department of Homeland Security within 10 days would also fall into this category. Keep in mind these are not just violations, they are felonies. Also keep in mind that all of these violations can happen to legal immigrants, meaning those whose presence in the United States is in no way a violation of the law.

This brings me back to the

argument that is often made by supporters of this bill — that immigrants who wish to remain here should simply apply for U.S. citizenship. Not only is this process long and expensive, but you also have to remain in the country until your application is processed, which can take years. If you made one of these seemingly minute mistakes, then you can kiss your chances of becoming a US citizen good-bye. Not only that, but if you were somehow granted citizenship, you would still remain liable for prosecution for your violation of U.S. immigration law, which could include jail time. Additionally, students, foreigners on business or on work visas and those going on vacation have absolutely no reason to apply for U.S.

citizenship, but nonetheless would be at risk of unwittingly violating immigration law and committing a felony.

As a country founded by immigrants, I think that this bill does not represent the values upon which this nation was established, nor does it provide comprehensive solutions to current immigration problems. Many have argued that law enforcement officials and our justice system can simply overlook these violations or take them case by case, but I ask: Why sign such an overreaching bill into law when you plan on disregarding parts of it and possibly set the stage for legal abuses of power?

Joshua Cauthen is a junior political science major from Nashville, Tenn.

YOUR VIEW

Illegal aliens not U.S. citizens, but not always for lack of trying

Because of overwhelming response to Brian Wooddell's Thursday column "Citizenship nonnegotiable; live here legally or leave" and Friday's letter to the editor "Illegal immigration like stealing," we are unable to include all letters in full; however, we are including excerpts below:

Becoming legal not so simple

Contrary to what Wooddell stated in his article, most illegal immigrants living in the United States did not casually stroll across the border willingly. Many were fleeing from corrupt, totalitarian governments, or seeking refuge from crushing poverty. Just because immigrants — both legal and illegal — have national pride does not mean they desire to go back home.

While many will agree that illegal immigrants do need to strive to become American citizens, many immigrants lack the time and the resources to wade through the bewildering bureaucracy to achieve that goal. Most who came to America, the "land of opportunities," cannot afford to sit around for six years and wait for a permit to work legally.

And becoming legal, let alone a U.S. citizen, is, in fact, practically unfeasible. My friend, an honors student here at TCU, was born in Mexico. Although she was granted legal status in the United States in a matter of

years (after her brother, who was born in America, turned 21), she has lived here for more than 10 years and is still waiting for her visa so she can apply to work here legally. She is also about 10 more years away from becoming a citizen, if all goes well.

Amber Parcher, sophomore

Mexicans not only immigrants

I was very upset at the fact that the author is implying that the immigrants here are from Mexico. An illegal immigrant includes everyone that comes to the United States without any legal documentation; it is not just Mexicans. So implying that building a 700-mile border between here and Mexico is good is so racist and stereotypical. Like we need to pay more taxes for a border that is completely useless.

Maria Ibarra, freshman

Illegal immigration is normal

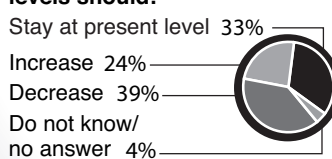
The United States was built in large part by illegal immigrants. Ask a history professor about the Trans Continental Railroad and the Chinese labor that was used to build it. Or better yet, ask about the first Anglo settlers to this continent that were told to leave by the land owners (Native Americans) but refused. They and their children would be illegal immigrants.

The Friday article stated that "illegals" do not pay

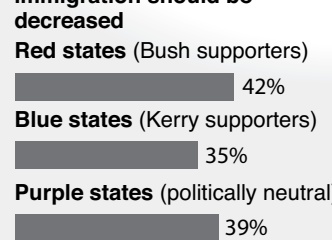
Views on immigration

More than half of all Americans polled say illegal immigration is a "very serious" problem.

Legal immigration levels should:



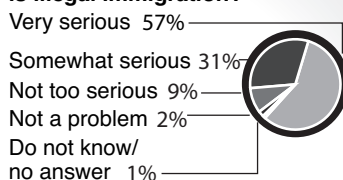
Percent who said legal immigration should be decreased



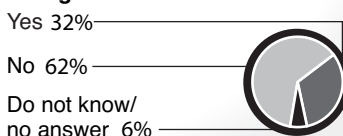
Note: Percentages may not equal 100 percent due to rounding. Source: Quinnipiac University poll of 1,892 registered voters, Feb. 21-28, 2006; margin of error +/- 2.3 percentage points. Graphic: T.G. Tso, Judy Treible

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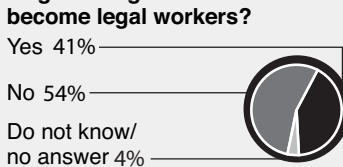
How serious a problem is illegal immigration?



Should it be easier for illegal immigrants to become citizens?



Should it be easier for illegal immigrants to become legal workers?



for services in this country. Last year alone, illegal immigrants contributed more than \$20 billion to the federal tax base. By most estimates, this far overshadows their take of federal services.

The president of the United States even recognizes that this country needs these workers to do jobs that legal citizens refuse to do — jobs like mowing the lawn of the parents of TCU students or busing tables for \$5.75 an hour while fortunate college kids eat out.

Shawn Myers, Texas Tech alum

Getting citizenship is difficult

Imagine being able to speak perfect English, attending American schools, enrolling in college, paying United States taxes, interning at the Texas Capitol and living in the United States for your whole life, yet that means nothing. Tony Sevilla is a 23-year-old political science major at Austin Community College. He has lived in Texas all but the first three months of his life, and has undergone the many hardships of trying to become an American citizen.

His parents' petition

for him to obtain permanent residence in 1991 was declined because they did not have legal documentation to prove that they were married, or that Sevilla was their son. They were also rejected because they were not able to prove that he had been in the United States before Nov. 7, 1986.

In 1992, Sevilla's parents applied for a family visa, but were unable to receive information about their approval. At 13, Sevilla began to inquire about what he could do to become a citizen but was never given proper information. At 15, Sevilla found an immigration attorney to assist him in obtaining his permanent residency, but first, his parents had to petition for a visa. If he had gone to an immigration judge at 8 years old, he could have had his citizenship. In 1998 he applied for a visa. Sevilla has waited seven years to have his visa priority date approved and now has one month to wait till he receives a permanent residency. After receiving his permanent residency, he will still have to wait five years before he can apply for citizenship.

Sevilla says, "America is the only country I've ever known. It's where I grew up, and where my family and friends live. The only thing that prevents me from being an American citizen is a piece of paper."

Rachael Riley, junior

How to join the U.S. library

If the United States were a library, with citizens as library patrons, here are some rules from its membership policy:

1. If you are born in the library, you automatically get a permanent and irrevocable membership card. Even if you take all the books, burn down the library, or do anything else against the rules, you won't lose your membership. On the other hand, depending on how badly you break the rules, you will be restricted to a special area or terminated.

2. If you are not educated, we don't want you. If you are educated, we welcome you. Unfortunately, we only give out 65,000 membership cards a year. If you are very educated, there's another 20,000 cards. Please take a number and sit over there — outside, of course.

3. If you are related to one of the children born inside the library, you may apply for a permanent membership card as well. Take a number and sit over there — outside, of course.

4. If you want to marry one of our inhabitants, you may apply for a permanent membership card. Please understand that you will have to have a different gender from the person you are marrying, that we will watch you to make sure you are a happy couple and, if you do happen to get divorced within the first few years, you will have to leave.

Sebastian Moleski, senior

COURTNEY REESE
MIKE DWYER
ADRIENNE LANG
TRAVIS STEWART
STEPHANIE WEAVER

Editorial Policy

The content of the Opinion page does not necessarily represent the views of Texas Christian University. The Skiff View editorial represents the view of the five-person TCU Daily Skiff editorial

board listed at left. The Skiff View is the collective opinion of the editorial board and may not reflect the views of the individual writers. Signed letters, columns and cartoons represent

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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.



STILL LIFE

Artist Chuck Close has a new exhibition debuting at The Modern. On Friday's Features page, the Skiff takes a look at Close's involved prints

Weighing in on PLUS/MINUS GRADING

By DARREN WHITE
Features Editor

Freshman radio-TV-film major Jeff Thurber works hard for his grades.

He studies about 20 hours a week, more when he has tests, to maintain his 3.2 GPA, a solid B average.

Under the new system proposed by the Faculty Senate, however, Thurber's B average could be a plus.

Under the plus/minus grading system, recommended by the Senate in September 2005, Thurber would be a B+ student.

Since the debate first began two years ago, the proposed plus/minus system has been one of the most debated and misunderstood issues on campus.

Under the new system, grades (and GPAs) would fit into 12 grading categories instead of the previous five. Where an A used to mean a 4.0 GPA, under the plus/minus system, a 4.0 would only be reserved for an A+.

Rounding off the score

"If it were to change the 4.0, I would be against it," said Faculty Senate Chair and religion professor Andy Fort in his office. Fort's six-foot-plus frame rests more against the high-backed office chair than actually in it.

The new system will not replace the 4.0-GPA scale, Fort said.

"The fundamental drive of the new system," Fort said, "is that it allows us a more accurate representation of student performance."

According to some, TCU may have to adopt the new system just to keep up with the changing face of education.

More than 80 percent of U.S. News & World Report's top 120 schools use some sort of plus/minus system, said David Grant, chair of the religion department at TCU.

According to Grant, the plus is becoming the standard.

"Over the past 20 years, there has been a gradual trend toward pluses and minuses," Grant said.

It makes sense to you a more narrow grading scale, Grant said.

"You wouldn't round off an 94-96 basketball game to the nearest 10," Grant said. "Why would you do it in the classroom?"

The minus of the plus

Grant retrieves an overstuffed manila file folder from between some religious textbooks in his office. With transparencies and graphs spread out across a table in his office, Grant's once-reserved voice gets louder as he talks about the positives of the new system.

"It will more accurately reflect differing levels of student performance," Grant said.

Grant points out that while the some students, like Thurber, will benefit from a "plus" grade, there will be less 4.0 GPAs.

"It will lower some (GPAs) and raise some," Grant said, "but the fear of a massive GPA shift is unfounded."

On average, in institutions with the system, GPAs differ less than two-hundredths of a point, Grant said.

Under the plus/minus system, inflation is minor, Grant said.

Fort also contends that inflation under the new system is minimal.

"In aggregate," Fort said, "this will not inflate or deflate grades."

Dick Rinewalt, associate professor of Computer Science, disagrees with Fort.

In three universities, including Clemson University and University of Central Florida, the plus/minus system was shown to cause significant grade inflation, Rinewalt said.

Under the new system, a student with a high B receives a higher GPA.

According to Grant's FAQ, "Most schools that have adopted plus/minus do not change GPA requirements for scholarship and financial aid."

An FAQ on www.faculty.tcu.edu/grant/plus-minus, a Web site Grant has devoted entirely to the plus/minus debate, contends that a student can make all B+'s and still

at the end of the semester, Fort said.

While students often calculate the lowest possible grade to stay within their current average, under a plus/minus system, students will have to study harder to stay in a narrower grade margin, Fort said.

Students will still try to stay within a certain grade, Rinewalt said.

"The anxiety level will go up," Rinewalt said, "but I think it's silly to think it's going to make students learn more."

A plus/minus system just makes a finer categorization a flawed process, Rinewalt said.

Representing the best

A 10-point range between grade letters causes grouping error, making it hard to differentiate the best students from the average students, Grant said.

"You're trying to fit a whole range of grades and skills into one of five little holes," Grant said. "We're proposing that you open these holes up, so there are more places a grade can fit."

While the transition to the new system might shift some borderline GPAs, it is more accurate in the end, said Jason Ratican, a senior history major.

"It's a better representation of your grade," Ratican said. "It allows you to differentiate more clearly what is excellence."

Ratican, Academic Affairs chairman for the Student Government Association, said he was immediately pleased with the new system.

"I liked it from the beginning," Ratican said. "My outlook has always been academic, and it seemed obvious that this was a more accurate representation of grades."

While Thurber agrees with Ratican, he sees the shift as a disadvantage.

"The plus/minus system is only an advantage to the already advantaged," Thurber said.

Students often think about how the minus will negatively affect their grades and not about the positives of a plus, Fort said.

Switching over

If the resolution is approved, the Faculty Senate would begin implementing the new policy in fall 2007, meaning it will most directly affect current freshman and sophomores, Grant said.

In order to avoid confusion, the switch would have to be made all at one time. However, grades before the plus/minus system would remain the same, Grant said.

The new system still faces a number of roadblocks before becoming the new rule at TCU. On March 21, the House of Student Representatives voted not to support a resolution in favor of the system.

Most of the opinions against the system are based on emotions, Fort said.

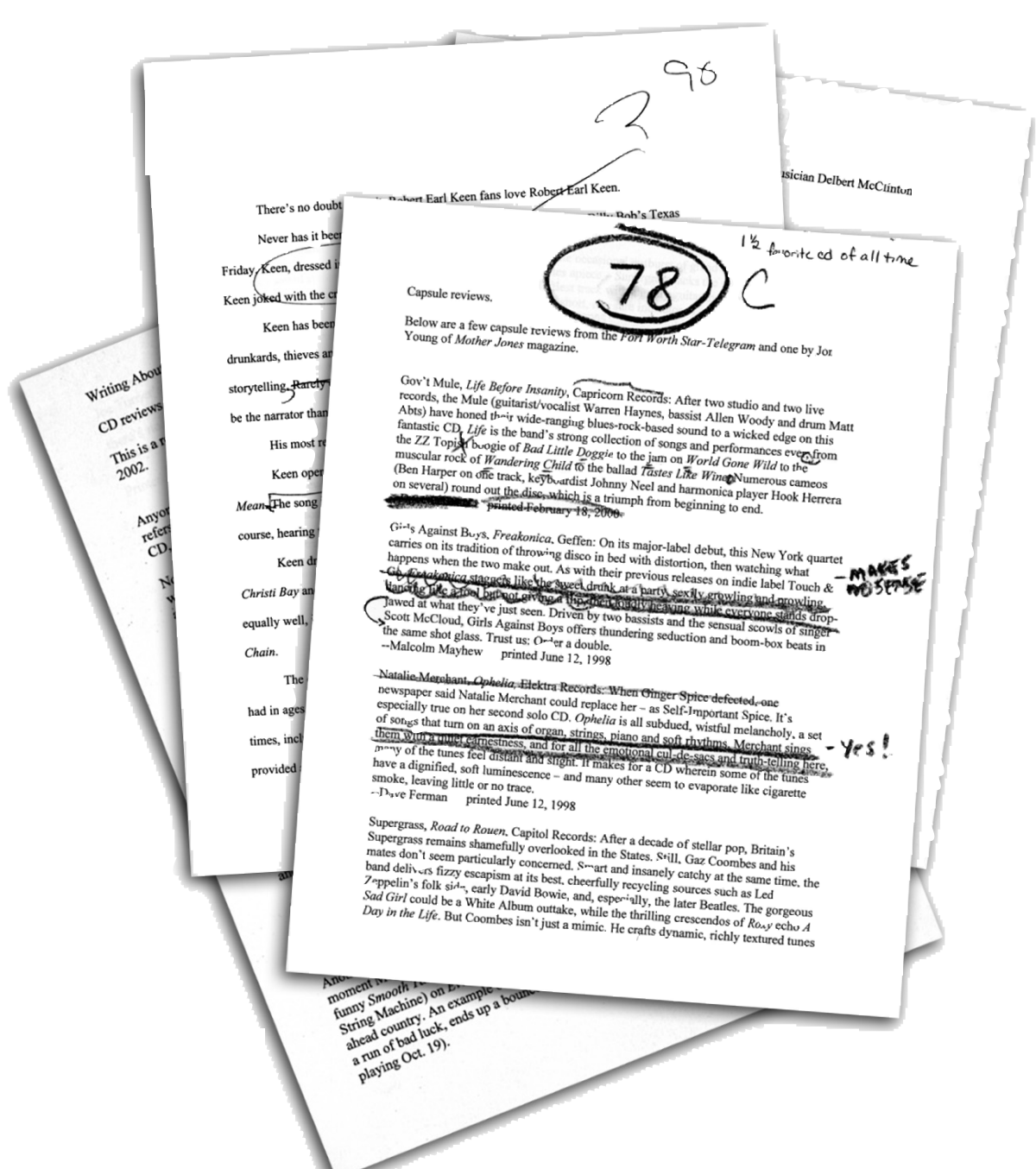
"At first, it's a visceral response against change," Fort said. "We're working to educate people about the system."

Grant said the system sells itself.

"My favorite part of this process is when people realize how much better the new system works," Grant said.

While he prefers the old system, Thurber said he sees both sides of the issue.

"Where it would be nice to have an A+ when I made a 99, it's nice for a 91 to have the same weight," Thurber said.



Rinewalt said this is because professors are more likely to shift over more average marks to higher marks.

"Under this system, a lot of B+'s become A-'s," Rinewalt said.

Dollars and Cents

Grant is quick to point out that while a plus/minus system will slightly lower GPAs; he does not think the research suggests it will harm students trying to maintain scholarships.

"It'll make 4.0s more discerning," Grant said, "But it actually represents a differing level of performance."

Under the old system, a high B grade is penalized as much as a low B grade.

maintain an academic scholarship.

"If you're a good but not quite good student, it's going to hurt you," Fort said.

A great deal of headaches

The plus/minus system accomplishes too little to be worth adopting, Rinewalt said.

"Bottom line is, it just means a great deal of headaches for the students and professors," Rinewalt said.

Grading is already an imprecise system, and narrowing it will not remedy the problem, Rinewalt said.

Fort disagrees with Rinewalt.

"That's an argument out of laziness," Fort said.

Moving to a plus/minus system can be a motivator, making students study harder

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FAMOUS QUOTE

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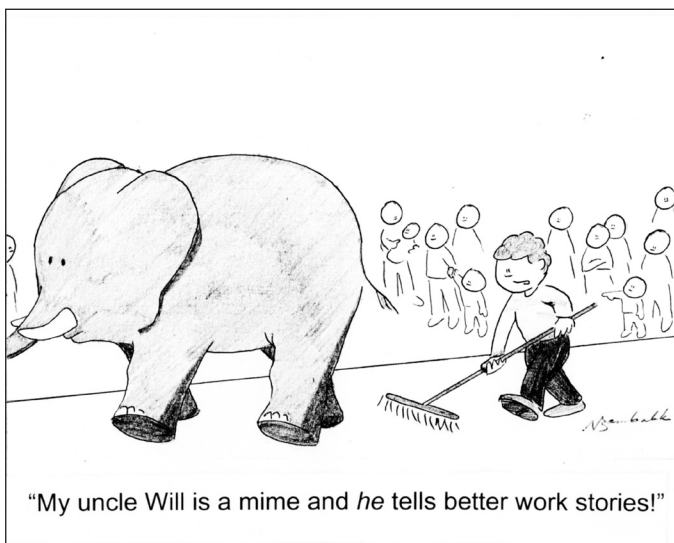
— Krishnamurti

TODAY IN HISTORY

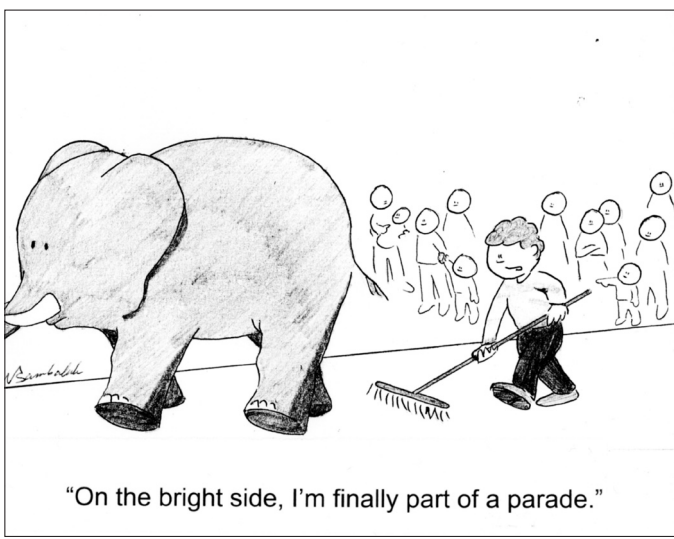
1772: George Washington uses the first presidential veto
1994: Kurt Cobain commits suicide

Three Dimensions

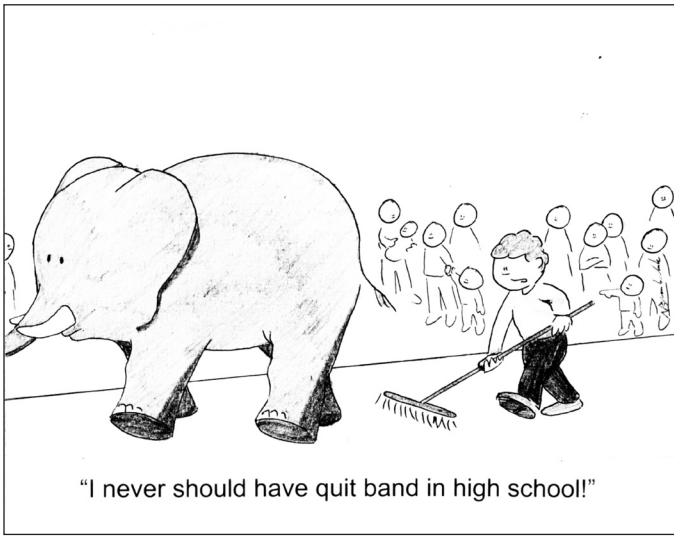
by Nicholas Sambaluk



"My uncle Will is a mime and he tells better work stories!"



"On the bright side, I'm finally part of a parade."



"I never should have quit band in high school!"

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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

Directions

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

See Thursday's paper for answers to today's Sudoku puzzle.

Tuesday's Solutions

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

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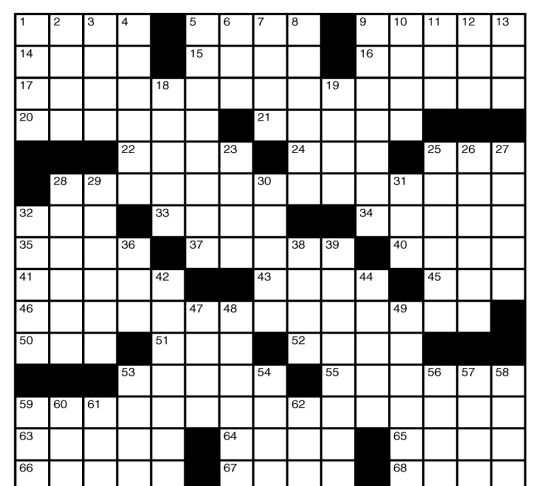
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ACROSS

- 1 Explorer Tassman
- 5 Stage backdrops
- 9 January in Oaxaca
- 14 Arias for one
- 15 Criminal, to a cop
- 16 Sub finder
- 17 Banks
- 20 King of the Visigoths
- 21 Tourney type
- 22 Old wives
- 24 Small viper
- 25 Appropriate
- 28 Banks
- 32 Roman household god
- 33 Munro in print
- 34 Colonel's insignia
- 35 Heraldic border
- 37 Artifact
- 40 North Carolina school
- 41 Long, thin ridge
- 43 Felipe or Moises of baseball
- 45 UFO personnel
- 46 Banks
- 50 Observe
- 51 Inmate, briefly
- 52 Blue dye
- 53 Select few
- 55 Son of Daedalus
- 59 Banks
- 63 Apothecary weights
- 64 Pugilist's garb
- 65 Give off
- 66 Concur
- 67 Bro's bros
- 68 Impertinence

DOWN

- 1 Movie pooch
- 2 Heat to vaporization
- 3 Raines of old films
- 4 Metric units
- 5 Keyboard feature
- 6 Hallow ending?
- 7 Golf hazard
- 8 Staircase type
- 9 One on the lam
- 10 Par for the course
- 11 Doe in "Bambi"
- 12 Brit. flyboys
- 13 Table scrap
- 18 Boxcars in Vegas
- 19 Patriot Betsy
- 23 For Pete's sake!
- 25 Fisherman
- 26 Cockpit honchos
- 27 Time between 12 and 20
- 28 "Peter Pan" author
- 29 Actress Dahl
- 30 Purple hue
- 31 "Norma"
- 32 Bums around
- 36 Airport info
- 38 Ends of small intestines
- 39 Cooperates by tacit consent
- 42 Fence in
- 44 City on the Mohawk



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

I	F	S	S	E	S	A	M	E	A	C	T	S
C	E	O	P	A	T	T	E	R	C	H	A	T
U	S	A	P	A	T	T	E	R	C	O	C	A
R	E	D	O	N	A	N	S	A	A	D	E	L
E	D	I	N	A	H	A	V	E	N	E	D	
B	U	S	I	N	J	E	T	T	A			
P	H	A	N	T	O	M	M	E	N	A	C	E
M	A	R	I	L	Y	N			S	A	L	I
A	T	O	N	E			S	T	E		M	I
G	H	O	S	T	O	F	T	O	M	J	O	A
P	E	S	O		T	O	O	T	O	T	O	P
I	N	T	L		I	N	N	A	T	E		E
E	A	S	E		S	T	E	L	E	S		D

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See Thursday's paper for answers to today's crossword.

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TODAY IN SPORTS

Tuesday's paper referred readers to an online story updating the status on both the women's and men's golf team; because of time constraints, that story was unable to run.

TRACK & FIELD

Three team representatives head into Austin's Texas Relays events

By Travis Stewart
Sports Editor

The TCU Flyin' Frogs are about to begin their biggest outdoor match this season — or at least three of them, anyways.

Senior Katrina Zielinski, junior McKale Davis and sophomore Cassie Hostick will be TCU's only three representatives on the first day of the 79th Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays track meet in Austin.

Both Zielinski and Davis will compete in the women's 10,000-meter invitational run and Hostick will race in the 1,500-meter run.

Today's competitions are only the first of many at the Relays, which extends through Sunday. Head coach Darryl Anderson said the events, which will be held at the University of Texas' Mike A.

Myers Stadium, have a high level of intensity.

"It's the biggest meet in the outdoor season so far," Anderson said. "But it's only our third."

Other TCU notables that will compete in later events include sophomore Virgil Hodge, who already has several gold medals on the season; freshman Justyn Warner, who has further bolstered the Frogs' sprinting success; and senior distance runner Kip Kangogo.

Although sprint events have always been TCU's strong suit, Anderson said today's medium-distance runs will not be used as a measuring stick of the team's ability.

"It's not so much a gauge of ability," Anderson said, "but it's a gauge on how we're growing as a team. I'd like to see

TCU ATHLETES IN THURSDAY'S EVENTS

Cassie Hostick
Event: 1,500-meter run

McKale Davis
Event: 10,000-meter run

Katrina Zielinski
Event: 10,000-meter run

(growth) in the distance kids, the field kids, everyone."

The Relays are also an open meet, which means some races will also include professional athletes. Davis and Zielinski's event will fall into that category. Hostick's race is a collegiate-only one.

Although Anderson said he could not predict levels of individual success, he said the team's objective has always been to be competitive.



STEPHEN SPILLMAN / Photo Editor

The TCU track and field team competes during the TCU Invitational on April 24, 2005, at the Lowden Track and Field Complex.

BASEBALL

Frogs hold 15-4 lead in 6th inning

By TRAVIS STEWART
Sports Editor

Like they have so many times this season, the Frogs found themselves facing an early deficit with the bat in their hands and men in scoring position.

This time, however, TCU showed a little timely hitting can go a long way — a long, long way.

The Frogs jumped to a fast start against Baylor on Tuesday night at Lupton Stadium with an explosive first inning that

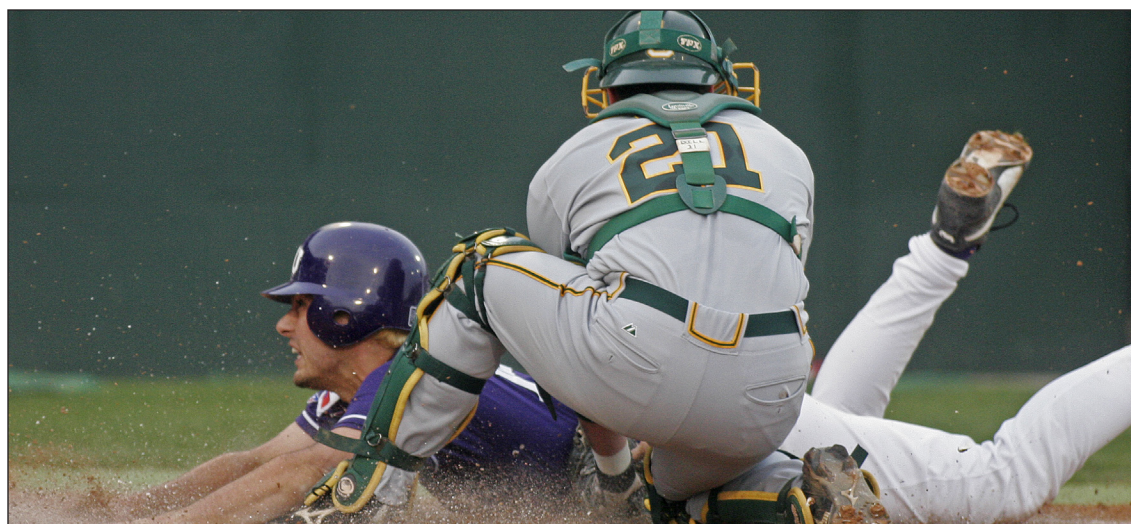
that finished with the Frogs holding a double-digit lead.

Baylor starter Owen Reid only induced a flyout from sophomore shortstop Bryan Kervin before the Bears' wheels came off.

Designated hitter Steven Trout drew a walk before first baseman Chad Huffman infielder Matt Carpenter singled to right field to load the bases before junior outfielder Keith Conlon cleared them with a double down the third-base line.

Sophomore catcher Andrew Walker furthered the damage with a massive home run over the left-field fence that made the score 5-1. Corey Steglich, Kervin, Trout, Huffman, Carpenter and Walker added RBIs to give the Frogs a 12-1 advantage before the inning ended with a flyout to center.

Entering the bottom of the sixth, the Frogs held a 15-4 lead. Check online at tcdailyskiff.com for full coverage.



STEPHEN SPILLMAN / Photo Editor

Sophomore Matt Carpenter slides into home plate, making it safe past Baylor catcher Zach Dillon and pulling the score 3-1 Tuesday night at Brown-Lupton Stadium. The game was in the bottom of the 6th, with the Frogs leading 15-4 at time of press. Go online at www.tcdailyskiff.com for the final score.

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