ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2006



Pedal to the metal

Brandon Thomas, left, a junior from Garland, and senior David Grubbs of Half Moon Bay, Calif., help Abilene senior Tim Molina balance on a stationary bike roller during Baylor Cycling Club's 24-hour fundraising bike ride.

Bear Pit grows in 2nd year

Increased visibility, perks of membership spark jump in numbers

By Allie Cook Reporters

Started in 2005 as an effort to rally support for the men's basketball team, the Bear Pit's goal is to "enhance the atmosphere of the games and to pump up both the fans and the players," said Luke Baker, a Littleton, Colo., senior and Bear Pit president.

about 500 students sign up last year. However, since there was no way to enforce an attendance policy, there were never that many people at the games.

This year, after five days of recruiting at the Ferrell Special Events Center and two days in the Bill Daniel Student Center, Baker said 575 people have Students will be able to sign

up from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. until Friday, Nov. 10 in the SUB and will also be able to sign up at the season opener. Baker said the idea for the

Baker said the group had organization began with stu-

dent body President Mark Lay-

"My roommate, Mark Laymon, was running for student body president, and one of his platforms was better seating at basketball games," Baker said. After he was elected, Baker

said Laymon appointed him to help accomplish this goal. I met with head Coach

Scott Drew, and we decided to start a student organization," Baker said. "We came up with the idea of giving out the black and gold jerseys and went from there.

Robinson junior Brad Bowles

Bear Pit members engage in to cheer on the men's team and said joining the Bear Pit is the "thing to do" this basketball season.

described the various activities

"We show up two to three hours before the game. A lot of the games this year we're going to tailgate before the game - just hang out, eat food, stuff like that," Baker said.

Members have adopted different ways to show their school spirit by doing things such as wearing yellow wigs to

Please see PIT, page 4

Lines drawn in bitter race for Congress

Money, attack ads boost race into national spotlight

By Van Darden Staff writer

Republican representative hopeful Van Taylor moved to West in the summer of 2005, bringing with him large stakes in Exxon-Mobil stock, the support of the Bush administration and a desire to oust Waco's longtime State Rep. Chet Edwards.

Large personal loans aside, this race has already jumped into the national spotlight, each candidate having raised more than \$2 million in campaign contributions.

Recent local TV ads, sponsored by both Edwards and Taylor, have attacked both sides for not disclosing how much financial investment the other has in billion-dollar

corporations. Édwards, "There is not a single who has held member of the United a position in States Congress that has the House of Representaserved in the war on tertives for eight ror, and there are only consecutive terms, represented Central Texas since 1991 and has shown a steady lead over Taylor in

two dozen combat

veterans."

Van Taylor

District 17 candidate

a recent poll conducted by Washington D.C.based polling firm Bennett, Petts and Blumenthal.

But despite recent endorsements by President Bush, Taylor has had to funnel more and

campaign to counterbalance news that the National Republican Congressional Committee has pulled as much as \$1.5 million from Taylor's campaign

NRCC Press Secretary Jonathan Collegio said the NRCC's spending decisions are "a matter of campaign strategy" and that the NRCC does not discuss that strategy in Texas or anywhere else.

"The NRCC is still 100 percent behind Van Taylor," Collegio said. "He's a strong conservative voice with an outstanding career in the military and Texas voters could do no better than to vote for him."

ter for Responsive Politics. a nonpartisan, nonprofit research group that tracks money in politics and its effect on elections and public policy, Taylor's personal contribution currently stands at \$775,000. Edwards has

According to the Cen-

spent none of his own moninstead relying on political action committees and individual

donations.

Taylor's campaign focuses on his previous tenure with the United States Marines Corps and Marine Corps

Reserves, where he volunteered for active duty service in Iraq, using it as a launching pad for his platform.

Please see RACE, page 4

Senior quar-

Road gets tough after home loss

Bears won't let losses of Bell, A&M game dampen bowl hopes

By Daniel Youngblood Sports editor

With three games left to play, the Baylor football team (4-5, 3-2) needs two more wins to reach the six necessary to become bowl eligible.

After a 31-21 loss to Texas A&M University, during which starting quarterback Shawn Bell was lost for the season with a torn anterior cruciate ligament, this already-difficult task appears even tougher.

In the next three weeks, the

Bears are set to face Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla., and the University of Oklahoma at home.

In the 11 years since the Big 12 began, Baylor has a combined 1-29 record against the three schools. This, combined with the fact

that redshirt freshman quarterback Blake Szymanski will be making the first start of his collegiate career against Texas Tech, has many Baylor fans wary of the team's bowl chances. Senior outside safety Mau-

rice Linguist said the team can't afford to let a series of unfortunate events define the Bears'

"We can still accomplish everything we set out to accomplish," he said. "People might jump off the bandwagon right now, but we're not going to feel sorry for ourselves, and we're not going to quit."

While the Bears' game against Texas A&M was a big point of emphasis for the team and its fans, as evidenced by a recordhigh attendance, Bell said it's important for the team to put that loss and his injury behind them and continue to prove crit-

"We've (handled adversity) before," he said. "We came out 1-3 in nonconference and had to win some games down the stretch. Now we're going to see

what this team's made of."

The Bears' three conference victories this year are already the most the team has won in a season since the Big 12 began in 1996, but the team still has its sight set on a bowl berth.

For the Bears to achieve their goal, not only will Szymanski have to pick up where Bell left off on offense, the defense will also have to play better than it has since conference play be-

Since holding Kansas State to just three points in their Big 12 opener, the Bears have struggled mightily to stop their opponents. Over that stretch, Baylor's

Please see BOWL, page 4



terback Shawn Bell's pass is deflected by Texas A&M defensive back Melvin Bullitt Saturday at Floyd Casey Stadium. The Bears are fighting for a bowl berth after the 31-21 loss that left the team with a 4-5 overall record.

Melea Burke/

Funeral service set for Moseley

Funeral arrangements for Katie Moseley, the Livingston freshman kilĺed in a car accident Sunday night, have been finalized. A visitation is scheduled from 6 to 10 p.m. today at the Cochran Funeral Home, 406 Yaupon Ave., in Livingston.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at the Central Baptist Church, 506 N. Houston Street, Livingston, TX 77351. Donations in her memory can be made to the Central Baptist Church Building Fund at the address listed above, or the Big Sandy Independent School District, P.O. Box 188, Dallardsville, TX 77332

A campus memorial service is pending.



Chris Bell, the Texas Democratic gubernatorial candidate, addresses the crowd Tuesday at a rally in Waco at the Suspension Bridge. Bell criticized Gov. Rick Perry's attack ads and his actions as governor.

Bell's bus rolls through Waco States of America," Bell said at dents Kinky Friedman and Car-

Candidate responds to commercial attack from governor

By Laura Klingsporn Reporter

With less than a week until the Nov. 7 elections, Democratic Gubernatorial candidate Chris Bell kicked off his "Bells on Wheels" tour Tuesday and included a stop in Waco at the Suspension Bridge on the banks of the Brazos River. "Happy Halloween to all of

you. Rick Perry decided to dress up like a vice president and spend his Halloween in Washington, D.C., today. He scared the hell out of the entire United the rally. Speaking to a crowd of nearly

100, he proposed his goals for Texas. "In the Texas of today we have to under-

stand that it can no longer be about big people versus little people, the haves versus the have-nots, the rich versus the poor," Bell said. "In the Texas of today at some point we are going to have to recognize that we are all in this together and by God start acting like it. That is the kind of leadership you deserve and you can make it happen.'

Bell, who is facing incumbent Republican Rick Perry, indepen-

ole Keaton Strayhorn, criticized Perry's actions as governor and responded to attack ads aimed

"Rick Perry can put all the attack ads on **ELECTION** the air that he can afford, and he can afford a lot of them, believe me. But he can't cover up six years of miserable failure. He can't cover up six years of corruption. If I were him, if I had his record I wouldn't want to talk about it either," Bell said. "Rick Perry is an absolute failure as governor and we keep falling behind the rest of the country.'

Please see BELL, page 4

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Media, entertainment industries perpetuate stereotypes

In a political science seminar, a Baylor student was asked what he believed about drug con-sumption in America. "Well," he replied, "we all know that it's mostly black people who use drugs." When asked what informed his perspective, the student answered, "things like B.E.T. (Black Entertainment Television, the premier channel for black entertainment) and the news mostly, like about (Hurricane) Katrina."

His response confirmed what is sadly true today in America. America's perception of blacks is still shaped by the exchange of ideas between informative and entertainment media.

The exchange of ideas between the two media is fueled by prospects of wealth and social exposure. The informational media's viewer ratings skyrocket when they cater to ideas the general public already holds, and when entertainment media adopt these images in videos, ads and songs they make beaucoup bucks.

Sometimes the phenomenon takes place vice-versa. Capitalist giants in the rap industry market particularly violent and negative images of blacks, particularly black men, and sell them. And if entertainers and entertainment media don't "streamline" these images into their own art, they suffer. Need an example?

A friend of mine who is a local rapper can't get attention from producers if he doesn't manufacture some horrible language or images into his



art. "Manufacture" is the right word because this is an artificial act. He doesn't really believe all the things he talks about or engage in illicit activities, but he "streamlines" them into his music to put some money in the bank. Ice Cube's mother is just happy he isn't doing the things he raps about. Rap was Ice Cube's way out of the hood, a way out of poverty.

This phenomenon is widespread in black communities. Young black men struggling to live often bow down to the capitalist demand to sell negative images of themselves and black communities so they can

Phenomenon continued: The media spits these images out at us. We buy them and then buy into them. Listen to Ice Cube's CD and it's no wonder we're scared of black men on Baylor's campus. No wonder we believe the things we heard about them in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. We believe what the media tell us.

Lots of misinformation was spewed out about blacks in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. News sources reported gangs of black men raping and black families looting. And people in general,

blacks and others, bought into this. Blacks were horrified and embarrassed. When I heard the stories, one of the first things I thought was, "Oh, God, why does it have to be us acting igno-

In the end we all found out that the gangs of black rapists were fictional and, of course, just like all the other people affected by Katrina, blacks weren't looting – they were surviving off of whatever they could.

But why did most people, including myself, buy into the ideas of black men running around raping people willy nilly? Because we were so used to seeing these images tossed around in the media, including the black media, and we bought into them.

communities before and after Hurricane Katrina closely follows the illegal visions of blacks we see on B.E.T. every day. Artists depict violence in their lyrics and on their music videos. Use of illegal substances is, at the least, condoned.

Because these images aren't balanced out by significant and positive images, these same images of a few individuals expand to represent a whole

And this is why it's hard to argue with the political science student. Because what he said is what we see on the TV and in

Jacquie Scott is a senior professional writing major from Yokosuka, Japan.

Editorial

Diversifiying dorms beneficial for all

Students entering Kokernot Residential Hall during the 2002-2003 school year found themselves in one of the most dramatically diverse dorms on campus. Women from around the world filled the halls and contributed to the richness that made Kokernot such a unique place to live.

That year, Kokernot had only 57 percent Caucasian residents. Collins Residential Hall also found its rooms filled with eager freshmen that year - 92 percent of whom were Caucasian.

With a desire to provide Baylor students with a more "real world" experience, Campus Living and Learning changed the way it handles its first-comefirst-served priority system in dorm placement. This fall, only 70 percent of dorm assignments were determined by Campus Living and Learning. The remaining percentage of applicants were randomly placed across campus

This kind of proactive move has proven to be highly successful.

As a result of the application changes, Baylor's residential halls have seen a role reversal of sorts. Today, Kokernot is com-

posed of 72 percent Caucasian and Collins has 70 percent Caucasian residents. This is a dramatic step toward balancing the Caucasian/minority ratio and a sign that Baylor is on its way to living out Baylor 2012's goal of diversifying the campus.

By allowing minorities a chance to live in the residential halls that are known for their campus legacies, students are given the opportunity not just to meet but live with fellow students of different ethnicities. This benefits each Baylor student because it teaches how to get along with people of different races. Students are also given the chance to learn about different cultures and traditions inside and outside the classroom set-

ting.

Taking such positive steps toward expanding students' conceptions will continue to bring enormous benefits to all the residential halls.

This is a change that truly benefits the campus and challenges students to expand beyond what they've always know.

Today, Collins may boast in its diversity and begin to taste the richness which Kokernot has long treasured over the years.



Opinion policy

The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and

Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of the Baylor administration, the Baylor Board of Regents or the Student Publications Board.

Letters to the editor should include the writer's name, major, graduation year, phone number and student identification number. Non-student writers should include their address.

Letters that focus on an issue affecting students or faculty may be considered for a guest column at the editor's discretion.

All submissions become the property of The Baylor Lariat. The Lariat reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, length, libel and style.

Letters should be e-mailed to Lariat_Letters@baylor.edu or mailed to The Baylor Lariat, Óne Bear Place #97330, Waco, TX 76798-7330.

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The Baylor Lariat is committed to ensuring fair and accurate reporting and will correct errors of substance on Page 2. Corrections can be submitted to the editor by sending an e-mail to Lariat_letters@baylor. edu or by calling 254-710-4099.

A subscription to the Lariat costs \$45 for two semesters. Send check or money order to One Bear Place #97330, Waco, TX, 76798.

'Falling in love' may be more realistic than most people think

You feel eight inches taller, five years younger and 80 college credit hours dumber, but you don't care. You couldn't care if you tried. Despite the bitter protests to eliminate Valentine's Day, the desperate attempts to justify eating ice cream out of the carton and the numerous cooties shoots you received as a child, you are currently mesmerized

It can't be love. No way. You

are too young. It is too fast. Where are the shooting stars and the chirping birds and the prancing ponies? All I see is an overflowing trash can, a spilled beverage and a winding line for the bathroom. Ew, is that a Nelly CD playing? Seriously, it smells like we are physically in a Taco C. It is loud and crowded and the floor is sticky, but hold on a second. That's him. Wow, he is just so ... perfect.

College romance - maybe it is overrated or maybe it is underrated. I am not sure. I just know that somehow everyone wants it. It's hard to pinpoint. Some of us seek a mere date to that fraternity function. Others of us want just one fun night out on the town. A few of us would be satisfied with awkward small talk over a meal at Chili's Too. But some of us, we want the college fairy tale.

Look at my Baylor scrapbook,



BY CHRISTINE TAME

kids. This is us eating dinner together our first weekend of freshman year. Oh, and here we are at homecoming. Ha, we look so young. Can you believe what we wore to semi-formal that vear? Here is Dad proposing on the quad. He lined it with roses and candles. College romance - it's that

motivating confidence. It's that

smile; the one only drawn by a certain person's text message. It's that first time you hold hands, the first time you refer to your relationship as "us," the first time you go home for fall break together, the first time you sign the card "l-o-v-e" instead of

It's exciting. It's new. She is nervous. He is terrified. She was supposed to be 28. He was supposed to be 35. He was supposed to be taller. She was supposed to be from the south. I wanted to move to New York next year. I wanted to go to California. Now I have to change my 10year plan. There goes my future bachelor's pad.

Personally, I did not go to college to get the ring by spring or the MRS degree. I did not want to find "the one." It wasn't supposed to happen like that. The timing was off. The lighting was all wrong. The movie was awful. But somehow, it happened. I fell in love with the most amazing person I have ever met. He is my best friend in the entire world, and suddenly I find myself looking at Brides magazine, baking him cookies and totally throwing the PDA rules out the win-

According to my parents, "college is the best time of our lives." We are surrounded by smart, intriguing, exciting and eccentric people.

Maybe she is here. Maybe he is here, but you won't know unless you have an open mind. It doesn't always fit into your five-year forecast. It is nothing like the movies. You probably won't see stars and white horses, but maybe, if you are lucky, you'll fall hard.

College romance - upon graduation, I saw myself wearing a business suit, standing in the line at Starbucks, keeping my cell phone on 24/7, waking up early, leaving late, catching taxis and focusing on flying solo. Plans change.

Christine Tamer is a junior journalism major from Colleyville.

The Baylor Lariat

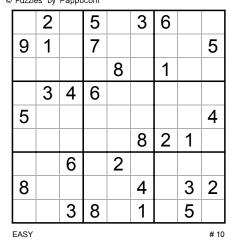
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60 Congressman's

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Phrygia

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3 Clumsy

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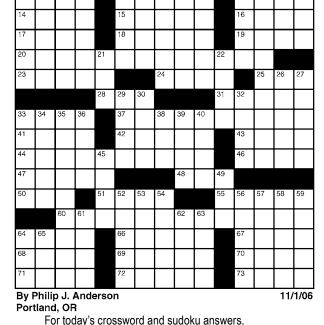
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- 45 Coconut fiber 49 Large vessel 52 Do another land
- survey 53 Word to the audience
- 54 Soft drinks 56 Rope on the range
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Katie Laird

Apocryphal tale airs as opera

Student cast brings ancient story to stage

By Ashley Stocker Reporter

Vibrant voices will bellow from Jesse H. Jones Theatre today as the opera Susannah takes

The opera is an American-ized version of the biblical story of Susannah and the elders, found in Daniel 13.

This chapter, which is added in the Apocrypha, tells the story of a girl, Susannah, who is accused of immorality. However, Susannah doesn't believe she did anything wrong.

When she's pressured by church elders and their wives, it seems there is no hope for her, until someone steps in.

Susannah was written by Carlisle Floyd in 1955.

The production connects with modern-day audiences, even though it was written nearly half a century ago, said guest director Dr. David Herendeen, professor at Oklahoma City

He said he views this story as a lesson in how harmful gossip

Herendeen, who has been working on the production for nearly two months, said he's very proud of it's development.

"Susannah is very appealing to first time opera-goers, but connoisseurs enjoy it as well," Herendeen said.

"With this production in particular, we have adopted an approach that may be slightly different than that of past productions, and it may surprise those who have seen Susannah

A director in opera and musical theater in Oklahoma, Herendeen said his best time in Waco has been working with the Baylor students.

Herendeen said he enjoyed working with the cast because they were open to taking chances by trying a slightly new approach to the show.

The cast of Susannah is composed mostly of undergraduate students. A few graduate students have also been cast.

The role of Susannah is dualcast by Maria Thomas and Kiri

Thomas, a New Orleans senior, is in her third consecutive lead role in a Baylor opera and said she is excited about getting to work with an out-of-state di-

"He offers a new creative perspective to the production and a high-energy personality that is very good for a young cast," Thomas said.

"He has a lot of background in theater, so he is showing us a side to acting that, as opera singers, we have not yet been

Vocal training was led by Dr. Leta Horan, associate professor of piano in the school of music.

Horan said this production was put together much like a professional performance.

Since Herendeen is from Oklahoma, the performers had to have all the music memorized and perfected before he came to put the final product together

Hóran worked alongside Dr. Stephen Heyde, the production conductor, to musically train

With a cast of nearly 25 and a large crew behind the scenes, Susannah is highly anticipated with Thursday's show already

The new approach Herendeen has taken with this production adds an additional strong theatrical element, as well as solving some transitional problems, Horan said. "We are very fortunate to

have a professional like Dr. Herendeen working with our students," she said. The production plays a role

in entertaining the National Association of Teachers of Singing conference. Many of the students in the

production are also competing in the conference this week as well, Herendeen said. "So far it appears that the au-

dience is going to be about half students and half conference participants," Sherry Ward, audience director, said.

The show will be taking the stage today, Thursday and Sun-

The shows that are not yet sold-out are filling up quickly, Ward said.

She also said she expects that with sales at the door, the theater will be close to full ca-

Show time is 7:30 p.m. today and Thursday night and 2:30 p.m. Sunday.



Laura Klingsporn/Lariat staff

Laundry trip ends in accident

Texas State Technical College student Josh Cordy was leaving a laundry mat Tuesday afternoon when a pickup truck ran a stop sign and left his car upside down at 12th Street and Bagby Avenue, according to the Waco Police Department. Both drivers suffered minor injuries, according to the Waco Police Department.

Scandal inspires ethics forum

By Kris Firth Reporter

In 2002, two of the world's

largest companies, Enron and Arthur Andersen, were brought down by corruption and scandal. Now, Hankhamer School of Business is addressing the issue of morality, standards and eth-

Today through Friday, Baylor will host its annual Business Ethics Forum, "Five Years Later: Leadership Lessons from Enron and Andersen."

The forum will discuss some of the major ethical issues and lessons learned from Enron and Andersen, said Cynthia Jackson, Director of communications and marketing at HSB. Beginning with a today's

panel, men such as former An-

dersen partner Larry J. Dagley and former Andersen CFO, Harold R. Cunningham will discuss "The Andersen I knew." The purpose of this panel is to inform students what made Andersen so successful, since most students today have a neg-

ative view of the company from

media coverage of the scandal,

said Bill Thomas, HSB Accounting and business law professor.

Prior to the scandal, Arthur Anderson was one of the "Big Five" accounting firms. Its relationship with Baylor University goes back many years, Thomas said, even before the business school was a formal depart-

By 1947, Andersen actively began recruiting Baylor graduates. Some of its most significant employees were Baylor alumni, Thomas said.

It is through these connections that previous Andersen employees continue to visit Baylor to inform and educate students on the importance of business ethics, Thomas said.

The three-day forum will emphasize Baylor's national and international ethical influence on business, said Anne Grinols, assistant dean of graduate business programs in HSB.

Grinols is overseeing the inaugural ethical leadership case competition. Beginning Thursday, 15 undergraduate teams and eight graduate teams will compete. The winners will be announced 1:30 p.m. Friday.

The groups will be split into five separate rooms, and in each room a winner for best team, best presenter and best Q&A session will receive a prize. The winning team in each room will receive \$1,000. The competition will be judged by various professionals and students participating in Students in Free Enter-

"We wanted to do something to get students involved," Grinols said. "Unless they actively participate, these ideas just won't stick.'

On Thursday night, the film "The Smartest Guy in the Room" will be presented in room 303 of Cashion Academic Center. The film documents the last days of the corporate giant Enron and offers an entertaining yet informative look into the ethical scandal, Thomas said.

The film presentation and speeches are open to all stu-

"The lessons taught here are pretty pervasive," Jackson said. "It will be in the forums, the movie and eventually, every classroom in the business

BEAR BRIEFS

Gridiron registration

Beta Chi Theta Gridiron Games Registration is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday through Friday at Penland Residence Hall.

Icon finals tonight The American Icon compe-

tition begins its final round today. Baylor Religious Hour Choir's Baylor Icon fundraiser event is from 7 to 9 p.m. in Waco Hall.

Free orchestra concert

The Baylor Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of conductor Gary Casity, will perform at 7:30 Tuesday in Jones concert hall. The concert is free of charge.

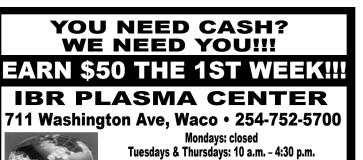
Get the vote rally

The College Democrats, College Republicans, and NAACP will be hosting the Get the Vote Rally 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday at Fountain Mall

To submit a bear brief, e-mail Lariat@baylor.edu.







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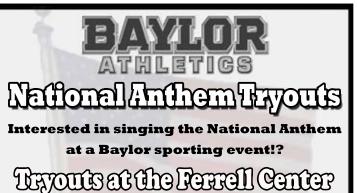
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Democrats steam ahead, unfazed by Kerry's remarks

By David Espo The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - After a decade in the political wilderness, Democrats are beginning to predict confidently if quietly that they will win control of the House in next week's elections, and possibly emerge with a relatively robust majority.

The optimism coincides with a Republican retreat Tuesday in three costly, highly competitive races in Pennsylvania, Colorado and Ohio, as well as polls showing continued public dissatisfaction with President Bush and the war in Iraq.

In addition, fundraising is running significantly stronger than two years ago, \$104.5 million through Oct. 18. That represents an increase of more than 30 percent, and has allowed Democrats to launch late-campaign television advertising in several districts in recent days in an attempt to maximize their gains on Election Day.

Mark Mellman, a Democratic pollster, said in an interview there has never been an election in which a president's approval rating was below 40 percent "and his party has not lost the 15 seats" that Democrats need to gain control this year. Bush's approval ratings hover in the mid- to high 30s.

Despite the developments,

Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic leader, and Rep. Rahm Emanuel the head of the campaign committee, have told aides to avoid predictions of victory before the votes are counted.

"Anybody who's been involved in politics for the past 10 years can tell you that a week out you've still got a long week ahead of you," said Bill Burton of the Democratic campaign committee. "And we are absolutely not taking anything for granted."

Republicans, too, say that with a week of campaigning to go, Democrats are ill-advised to

They note than an extraordinary number of races remain very close, and that their GOP get-out-the-vote operation will help pull enough of their candidates to victory to preserve their

Eager to persuade conservatives to vote, President Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and Republican leaders attack Democrats steadily as favoring a policy of retreat in Iraq and higher taxes at home.

The White House and several Republican law makers criticized Sen. John Kerry during the day for saying that young men and women unable to navigate the country's education system "get stuck in Iraq.'

In remarks prepared for de-

livery in Georgia, Bush called the statement by his 2004 Democratic presidential rival "insulting and shameful," and called on him to apologize. Kerry lashed out at the president's men and said: "I apologize to no one for my criticism of the president and of his broken policy."

seats to win control of the Senate next week, but the House is

mittee, told one group last week that Democrats felt confident they had locked up 10 of the 15 seats they need to prevail, according to participants in the meeting who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Democratic chances.

Democrats must gain six viewed as more within reach.

Karin Johanson, executive director of the campaign com-

But other officials and strategists with long experience in congressional campaigns have turned far more bullish about

In an interview, Mellman said he wasn't counting victories before they occurred. At the same time, he said polls consistently show Democrats with such a large lead on hypothetical ballot tests that they are "outside the realm of historical experience."

"I think if the election were held today we would win," said Steve Elmendorf, a Democratic lobbyist who retains close ties with party aides and lawmakers from his days as top aide to



Los Angeles mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, left, speaks Monday in support of gubernatorial candidate Phil Angelides, who is joined by U.S. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., at a rally held at Pasadena City College in Pasadena, Calif.

Rep. Dick Gephardt, the former House democratic leader.

Recalling disappointments from 1996 and 2000, Elmendorf said, "people are very cautious because we've been up this hill before." He added, "the thing that gives people on our side the most confidence is all our friends on the other (Republican) side think they're going to

Erik Smith, a consultant for Chris Murphy, a House candidate in Connecticut, said, "every day the Democrats' chances of taking the House seem to im-

RACE from page 1

On Aug. 22, Taylor appeared on Hardball with Chris Matthews, a political talk show on MSNBC.

"There is not a single member of the United States Congress that has served in the war on terror, and there are only two dozen combat veterans," Taylor said. "We need to send people like me in Wash-

Edwards serves on the House Budget and Appropriations

record is 2-2, but it has allowed

an average of 40 points and

252.5 yards per game on the

The Bears' defense will have

a new challenge on Saturday

when they head to Lubbock

to take on Texas Tech. Unlike

Baylor's last four opponents, which all had run-oriented

offenses, the Red Raiders do

most of their damage through

BOWL from page 1

ground alone.

Edwards

offense down.

Tech," he said.

Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee and the Energy and Water Subcommittee and is one of

tees, the

only two House Democrats serving on the Homeland Security committee.

Pawelek said the team will have

to make the necessary adjust-

ments to shut Tech's "Air Raid"

"Last week we had a little

trouble stopping the run, but

I do not think that we will see

much running this week with

"It will be a pretty familiar offense, since our offense runs

the same offense as they do, so

we will just have to focus on

our assignments and go out

The Bears are also confident

and get the job done."

wards, who voted yes on approving the removal of Saddam Hussein in March 2004 and yes on authorizing military

force in Iraq in October 2002, announced his support for a Homeland Security appropria-

they'll be able to rebound from

the loss of Bell and continue to

slowly on offense, the Bears

have averaged 27.8 points in

After starting the season

While much of that success

can be attributed to Bell, who

had already broken several

passing records this season,

the coaching staff and team

it's a big blow, but (offensive

coordinator Lee) Hays does a

"Any time you lose a starter,

have faith in Szymanski.

be effective on offense.

conference play.

Taylor

tions bill that could bring as much as \$70 million to Waco's L-3 Communications, a company that provides intelligence. surveillance and reconnaissance systems, secure communications systems and satellite communications to the Department of Defense. Edwards has also helped

fight the closing of Waco's 73-year-old Veteran's Affairs hospital, securing \$3 million for post-traumatic stress disorder research that will involve Waco's VA hospital.

great job of working Blake in,

and everyone has confidence

in him that he can come out,

make some big plays and do

some big things for this of-fense," senior running back Paul Mosley said. Senior cornerback C.J. Wilson said he's looking forward to the challenges the rest of the

season will bring. "For some reason or another, it seems like we play better when our back's against the wall, so we just got to do what we got to do," he said.

PIT from page 1

Once the doors open, about an hour and a half before the game, the Bear Pit gets down to business.

"We'll all go in. We'll get good seats. We'll cheer on the players during their warm-ups," Baker said. "Basically, we just pack out the floor seats for the games and be really loud."

Joining the Bear Pit includes many perks, Baker said. Along with the signature black and gold jersey, members get free pizza an hour before the game, a Red Jak energy drink at halftime and an identification card to get into the games.

The pizza and ID card were added as benefits this year. The Bear Pit ID card will also give members discounts to various fast food venues and the Baylor Bookstore.

"Last year was the first year, so people didn't really know about it," Bowles said. "Now that everyone has seen it's a success, a lot of people are really interested in it."

Baker said attendance is expected to be high this year.

"Looks like we could get up to about 1,000 people by the time conference play rolls around," Baker said.

"Ideally, we're hoping to get more and more seats along the floor as the Bear Pit grows bigger each year."

Bowles also said this year's freshman class has addeď a lot of members to last year's num-Atlanta freshman Sarah Bliss

said she joined the Bear Pit because she loves basketball and wanted to cheer on the men's

"It just looked like a neat way to get involved," Bliss said. "It's kind of like the Baylor Line, but for basketball.'

Bliss said she found out about the Bear Pit when it was promoted at a pep rally during Welcome Week. Last year's members jumped around on stage and showed the spirit of the Pit in order to encourage freshmen to be involved.

"It looked like fun, with all the students there close to the excitement (and) the players," Bliss said.

Lizza Lopez and Christine Tamer contributed to this story.

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Freshman linebacker Joe

BELL from page 1 Bell placed an emphasis in his speech on his positions on

the environment. "You need a governor who is going to draw a line in the sand and say 'we are not going to make it profitable for polluters in the Lone Star State any more. We are going to get serious about cleaning up our environment.' That is the kind of leadership all of you deserve," Bell said.

Among Bell's supporters is Hank Gilbert, the Democratic candidate for agriculture commissioner

"I respect him greatly for the job that he is doing, the

tasks that he is undertaking. I couldn't do it," Gilbert said. "We need strong leaders, strong leadership, a positive direction for all Texas.

In addition to people from the community, Baylor students had a presence at the rally.

"Most of the young voters are for Kinky Friedman, but I think Chris Bell has a good chance," said Kylie Lehman, an Amarillo sophomore.

Oscar Boleman, a Galveston sophomore, said that after looking at Friedman's position on some of the issues, he didn't think Friedman was tactful enough to be governor.

"I was kind of partial to

Kinky but I found out that Chris Bell was more democratic ... he would be a better candidate for Texas," Alex Neville, Baylor Democrats President and San

Antonio junior, said. Bell ended his time in Waco by telling the voters to call their neighbors and friends and get-

ting them to vote. There is an old saying from Gandhi: 'First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win," Bell said. "We are in that third stage right now and next Tuesday we will get into that fourth stage and start taking Texas in a whole new, more positive direc-





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