

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2006



Kelly Moore/Lariat staff

Colors of Africa

Dakarai Dibi, a senior from Zimbabwe, explained the meaning of a painting by Kula Moore to Mfrie Imoh, a Murphy senior, and Christian Van

Gorder, a World Religions professor at Baylor at a presentation by the African Student Association last night in the Bill Daniel Student Center.

Voters take God to polls

Religious views key to determining winner on election day

By Laura Frase
Staff writer

Current events during election time may not be the only things swaying a person's vote. It might all come down to how carefully candidates used religious rhetoric in their speeches and how well they relate to voters.

With research from the Baylor Religion Survey, researchers have discovered predictors for a person's political views based on their religious values.

"We know there is a relationship between religion and politics, but to explain this relationship becomes difficult," said Dr. Paul Froese, assistant professor of sociology and a researcher for the survey. "What's happening is political parties and candidates are attempting to attract certain religious people to their camps with use of religious rhetoric or saying the same issues are important to them."

In the past, Democrats chose to show no religious affiliation

in order not to exclude non-Christians from their campaigning efforts, but Democrats are realizing this was a mistake, Froese said.

"The Republican Party took advantage of this and painted themselves as the Christian party of the nation," Froese said. "We might see a change in the future in that the Democrats are waking up to the kind of results our survey is showing."

When President Bush ran for election, he announced that he was a "born-again Christian" to millions of people.

"Born-again really resonates with a lot of Americans," Froese said. "Evangelical and born-again Christians tend to support the Republican Party."

"Politicians, the ones who are successful, are savvy about using the proper language and connecting on their level," he said.

In the survey, researchers asked two specific questions prodding at the tie between religion and politics. They asked if Americans believed God is on the side of the United States during world conflict and if God

Please see SURVEY, page 4

Perry camp confident in win

Recent poll shows incumbent with big lead over foes

By Laura Frase
Staff writer

After rounding up his "Proud of Texas" tour Monday, Republican Gov. Rick Perry headed to Washington, D.C., with a smile on his face, unfazed by his opponents' final efforts to upset the polls.

In a poll conducted earlier this week by the *Houston Chronicle* and KHOU-TV, Perry led the pack with 38 percent of the votes, leaving all other candidates in the dust. Democratic candidate

Chris Bell and Independent candidate Carole Keeton Strayhorn trailed behind Perry with 22 percent and 21 percent, respectively, while Independent candidate Kinky Friedman pulled up the rear with 10.5 percent.

"The governor is in good shape," said Robert Black, a Perry spokesman. "We believe he will win and win handily."

While Perry left the state only a few days before election day, he left plenty of political advertisements floating across the airwaves of Texas. They are targeted specifically at Strayhorn and Bell, playing off the "Real

Men of Genius" Bud Light advertisements.

In the ads, Perry attacked Strayhorn as "Mrs. Corrupt Comptroller Politician Woman" and Bell as "Mr. Way Too Liberal for Texas."

As of Saturday, Perry held \$2.9 million for additional advertising, according to the *Austin American-Statesman* on Oct. 31.

Perry is pushing three priorities in his campaign - education, job creation and border security.

He boasts increasing public education funding, creating more than 630,000 jobs in Texas and taking action against

illegal immigration before President Bush.

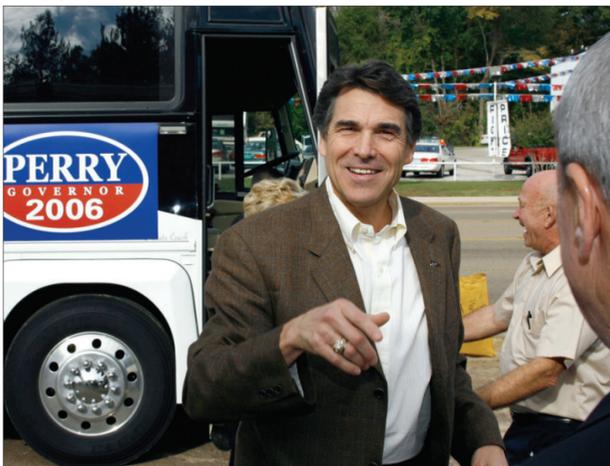
First Lady Anita Perry spoke on these issues on tour, picking up where Perry left off.

She made her way across Central Texas on Tuesday with an early stop in Temple, where supporters rallied together sporting Gov. Perry stickers and signs.

"Today, I ask for your continued support for the only conservative candidate willing to put Texas' best interest first," she said.

With enthusiasm, she noted that thousands of new jobs had been created in Texas in the last three years.

Please see TROUPE, page 4



Associated Press

Gov. Rick Perry steps off his campaign bus to greet supporters at a rally on his tour. Perry's campaign is confident it will arise victorious after the gubernatorial election ends Tuesday

Road to victory hard to follow for challenger

By Kris Firth
Reporter

It's the political version of David versus Goliath.

In the 2006 lieutenant governor elections, a position in Texas second only to governor, veteran Republican David Dewhurst is running against rookie Democrat Maria Luisa Alvarado.

Both candidates are emphasizing state-funded public education reforms in their campaign, but their approaches are far from similar.

Alvarado, a former research director for many universities, including the University of Texas at Austin, said she wants to establish a constant source of funding for public schools.

Currently, state schools are funded by taxes and the lottery, which can increase or decrease circumstantially, Alvarado said. She said that

Please see TEXAS, page 4

Campus memorial set

A campus memorial service for Katie Moseley, the Livingston freshman killed in a car accident Sunday night, will be held at 3:30 p.m. Monday in Miller Chapel. Donations in her memory can be made to the Central Baptist Church Building Fund, 506 N. Houston St., Livingston, TX 77351, or the Big Sandy Independent School District, P.O. Box 188, Dallardsville, TX 77332.



Courtesy Photo

Guerrilla Comedy Troupe members perfect their comedic timing in preparation for a performance 11 p.m. tonight in 101 Castellaw.

Guerillas looking to move popular act to local space

By Analiz González
Staff writer

"We've been 'bringing the funny since 1987,'" Blake Evans, a Guerrilla Comedy Troupe member, said. "It's one of our slogans. But we just sort of made that date up."

The troupe's real history started in 2000 when John Wolfe, now an alumnus, decided to organize auditions for an improvisational comedy group. The troupe didn't start having its own shows until 2005, after collecting fans from its performances at university functions.

And the troupe has come a long way. The last try-outs had more

than 100 applicants who competed for four openings. Now the troupe is looking into renting a place downtown where they can have performances for the Waco public, Evans said.

"Comedy is a way to get away from the stress of school or life, or it is a way to have fun or sit back," Evans said.

"You can either participate or you don't have to. People can yell out suggestions like, 'big fat watermelon,' or (they) can just watch."

The 13 Troupe members don't work for money. The \$3 entrance fee for performances goes to maintaining the group. And Evans said that's the way they like it.

He said there is a need for the troupe because there aren't any comedy groups in Waco, Hewitt, Temple or the surrounding area.

"Maybe the Hippodrome has something like once a year," he added. "But it isn't very good quality."

Guerrilla Troupe member Zach Kelty said laughter is a bond that holds people together.

"People come to our shows and they could have had a really bad week or day and our only job is to put a smile on their faces," Kelty said.

"I can't think of a better way

Please see PERRY, page 4

Texas senate candidate jailed for probation violation

The Associated Press

WACO — A Libertarian state Senate candidate was jailed for weeks before Tuesday's election, serving time for violating probation from an assault charge for which he was jailed during a previous campaign.

Phil Smart, an accountant from Palmer, is running against state Sen. Kip Averitt, R-McGregor, in the district that includes Waco.

Smart was released Monday from

the Ellis County Jail in Waxahachie after serving 20 days, a jail spokeswoman said. Smart did not immediately return a call Thursday from The Associated Press.

Wes Benedict, executive director of the Texas Libertarian Party, said he was not aware of details of the arrest.

Smart, 48, was on probation after he pulled a knife on employees at a Waxahachie bank in 2004, then turned the knife on his wrist and

asked if they wanted to be "blood brothers," according to police records. Before that, he had thrown pennies at the two women tellers and said, "Two pennies for my thoughts."

Smart was initially charged with felony aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, but the charge was lowered to a misdemeanor assault charge, said Ellis County District Attorney Joe Grubbs.

Smart was ordered to pay \$1,000

and received two years of deferred adjudication.

He was jailed in 2004 during his unsuccessful bid for Ellis County commissioner.

On Sept. 1, Smart was arrested by the Red Oak Police Department on a charge of possession of controlled substance, possession of dangerous drugs and running a stop sign. Smart provided proof of prescriptions for each of the drugs, Grubbs said.

Mountain may be daunting, but Bears capable of hike

For a football program that's had more than its fair share of "here we go again" moments in the past decade, senior quarterback Shawn Bell's career-ending knee injury couldn't have come at a worse time.

As if needing two wins against three schools that Baylor has gone a combined 1-29 against since the Big 12 began wasn't enough, the Bears will now be forced to climb that mountain without the services of its offensive captain and leader.

While many are understandably panicking, now is not the time to give up on this team.

I must admit I've been a Shawn Bell fan since I first saw

him play in 2003. After seeing so many quarterbacks during the Kevin Steele era struggle with poor decision making, I thought Bell's savvy and confidence were exactly what we needed to become competitive again.

I fought for him to start over Dane King in 2004, to start over Terrace Parks in the final weeks of 2005 and I defended him repeatedly this season when the offense struggled early on.

He may have been more of a game manager than gun slinger, but when he was in games, the Bears had a chance to win.

When he went down in the fourth quarter Saturday,

sports take



BY DANIEL YOUNGBLOOD

I'll be the first to admit that I was worried about the team's bowl chances, but I was more heartbroken for Bell himself. It seemed so unfair for him to get injured with so much left to accomplish.

After spending much of the past week imagining what could have been, I realized what still might be.

With as many seniors as

there are on this team and as good of a senior class as it is, these guys will do everything in their power to win the next three games.

And, regardless of the outcomes they deserve support.

If a torn anterior cruciate ligament, a torn medial meniscus and two bone contusions aren't enough to make Bell feel sorry for himself, then it certainly shouldn't cause an entire fan base to give up on a team that's already shown so much heart.

Obviously it's naive to believe freshman quarterback Blake Szymanski will be able to step in and be as effective as a seasoned veteran like Bell, but

a lot of people thought it naive to believe the team would have any hope of a bowl after losing to Army and starting 1-3.

With senior receivers Trent Shelton and Dominique Zeigler and running back Paul Mosley, Szymanski will have some powerful weapons at his disposal.

If he can just "drive the bus" so to speak and avoid game-changing mistakes, the Bears will still have their chances in the next three games.

It's definitely an uphill climb, and players on both sides of the ball will have to step up and play their best football of the season.

But if the Bears can put

things together, a bowl game is still a possibility.

You'd be hard-pressed to find a player that didn't see one as a certainty.

The crowd for the A&M game was fantastic. The players have said as much.

The fans at Floyd Casey Stadium last Saturday represent all that is great about big-time college football.

The players deserve that kind of support the remainder of the season.

Who knows? They may just surprise you.

Daniel Youngblood is a senior journalism major from Fort Worth.

Editorial Border fence degrades Mexicans

Texas tourists looking for a new vacation attraction don't have to go much farther than the border to see America's very own great wall.

In the shadows of monuments to separation — the Great Wall of China and the Berlin Wall — President Bush approved a 700-mile fence along the southern border of the United States on Oct. 26 in an attempt to deter illegal immigrants from entering our country.

But a 700-mile fence is quite a bit shorter than the 1,951 stretch of land that divides the U.S. from Mexico, and even at about a third of this total distance, it'll still cost us a pretty penny.

The government is misinformed to think this fence will curb illegal immigration. It's an impractical, expensive nonsolution to a real problem.

This fence not only creates a physical barrier between the U.S. and Mexico, but it also puts a wedge in our relationship with our neighbor to the south.

Mexican president Vicente Fox called the fence an "embarrassment for the United States," and said he didn't believe the fence would stop thousands of Mexicans from trying to cross over into the U.S. each year.

President-elect Felipe Calderon called the fence deplorable.

The solution to this problem is not to insult and dehumanize the Mexi-



can people.

The people trying to cross over to the U.S. are simply trying to make a better life for themselves and their families. By building a fence to keep them out, we're reducing them to less than they are worth.

Determined people will find ways to overcome the fence, whether it's by climbing over it or simply traveling down to a gap in the fencing.

But before we start debating the practicalities of the fence, we must

first recognize that this signing came without prior financing. Where will the government find the money to pay for it?

A previous allocation of \$1.2 billion that Congress approved for sealing the border is nowhere near enough money to pay for the entire project.

The 14-mile section of border near San Diego will cost \$126.5 million alone. Additional sections will vary in cost depending on the terrain, where the fence is located and other issues.

Signing this law was a political move aimed at giving lawmakers something to point at when constituents ask, "What have you done about immigration?"

But this is not the answer. While we wait the months and years it will take for the money to materialize and the fence to be built, hopefully someone in Washington will think a little bit harder about a solution and come up with something better than a giant fence.

Opinion policy

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

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, One Bear Place #97330, Waco, TX 76798-7330.

Corrections policy

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, 76798-7330 or e-mail Lariat_ads@baylor.edu. Visa and MasterCard payments may be phoned to 254-710-2662. Postmaster: Please send address changes to above address.

Student regent would give true representation to board about issues

The other student body officers and I met Oct. 19 with the academic affairs and student life committee of the Baylor Board of Regents.

It was the first time for this hybrid committee to meet, and it was certainly a new process to all. To be frank, we were less than thrilled with the 10-minute time frame we were given to address issues on campus and some of the projects we're working on. We know this allotment of time wasn't a true representation of how much the regents care about students.

At this meeting we only had time to address the issues of religious diversity in campus organizations, the community summit and the proposal of a

student regent.

The irony (and the necessity) of the latter initiative became clearer as we were ushered out the door.

The presence of student regents on American college campuses came around in the post-World War II era. Universities went through a pivotal point of self-evaluation that resulted in many changes in the way universities were run and spawned contemporary ideas. The idea of having a student regent an idea that would provide for the invaluable input of the general student body.

The initial idea of establishing a student regent on Baylor's board came to me when I attended the Big XII Conference

point of view



BY TRAVIS PLUMMER

of Student Governments. At that time, the University of Texas had just won a 30-year battle to attain a student's voice in a seat on its trustee board.

Instituting this process at the University of Texas meant changing the regent structure of all Texas public universities. It actually took legislation from the Texas Legislature. If a university with 50,000 students can have so such concern for its

student body, certainly Baylor would, and should, follow suit. The great news for our university is that this change wouldn't require a statewide initiative. It would only take action from the Baylor Board of Regents.

I can only pray that our fight for the position won't take nearly as long as it did for other Texas universities. Yet given Baylor's well-known climate for change, we better not hold our collective breaths.

My main focus this year is to spark dialogue about a Baylor Student Regent among students and administrators; a starting step. I personally desire to see a student regent put on the board as an ex-officio member. The benefit of this would come from

the student regent being able to sit in the official board meetings and even present students concerns and opinions right before the board itself votes.

Currently the student body officers are not permitted in the official meeting and may only present to the student life committee, which consists of about a quarter of the board members.

Ideally, students would have this position representing as an ex-officio member on the board for about five or six years. Hopefully students who had been selected would represent the student body in an effective way while building strong relations with all the board members. This would, in turn, set up future student body officers

for success so that in the near future they might pursue a voting member.

The selection process is going to be crucial for picking not only intelligent and active students, but students who are going to fit well into the board's group dynamic.

I know this student body is one of the most mature collegiate campuses in the nation, and I hope that the regents can see that.

I hope all parties can capitalize on the amazing potential this position holds in communication benefits and the overall betterment of our university.

Internal Vice President Travis Plummer is an junior biology major from San Antonio.

The Baylor Lariat

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Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 9, 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 3, 2, 8, 4, 6, 7, 8, 4, 7, 3, 7, 4, 5, 9.

HARD #10
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3X3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats.

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THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS: 1 Velvety flora, 5 "Kama ___", 10 "Carmina Burana" composer, 14 Body or knock lead-in, 15 Sub-Saharan region, 16 Horizontal barrier, 17 Obstinate, 19 Height: pref., 20 Target sighters, 21 Squealer, 23 Buy a round, 24 Cardiac cycle, 26 Weekday abbr., 27 Fermented beverage, 29 Pasture in poetry, 30 Winter ATV, ___-Cat, 31 Korean apricot, 33 Bro's sib, 35 Shabby, 37 Youth org. and puzzle theme, 41 Discharge from the RAF, 44 Israeli weapon, 45 Ellipsoid, 49 Pay extension?, 50 DDE's arena, 53 Atmosphere, 55 "___ Maria", 56 Surrenders, 59 Sits in neutral, 61 Stay abed, 62 Comes about, 63 Bickering, 64 Kind of insurance, 66 Pleasure trek, 67 Let in, 68 Egyptian sun god: var., 69 Bakery work, 70 Wokers hard, 71 Four-posters, DOWN: 1 Honorific for Gandhi, 2 Long golf club, 3 Flower parts, 4 Part one of a tape, 5 Fast fliers, for short, 6 Egt.-Syr., once, 7 "___ Were the Days", 8 Car for hire, 9 Tipper's mate, 10 Big name in toothbrushes, 11 Most risque, 12 Biting insect, 13 Mr. Ziegfeld, 18 Mexicali miss, 22 Hokkaido port, 24 Will beneficiary, 25 Miniature, 28 Shaq's alma mater, 32 Sci-fi craft, 34 Chinese kingdom, 36 Blood class. syst., 38 XXX large, 39 Old autocrat, 40 Half of CIV, 41 Homer Simpson exclamation, 42 Flexible, 43 Anthropoid, 46 Appraise, 47 Swore, 48 Decreases, 51 Astaire/Rogers classic, 52 City in northern Spain, 54 Loaded with fat, 57 Impede, 58 As a friend: Fr., 60 1983 Mr. T movie, 62 Baseball's Mel and Ed, 63 Hawaiian tuna, 65 Adjective for Ab

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-71.

By John Underwood, New York, NY 11/3/06
For today's crossword and sudoku answers, visit www.baylor.edu/Lariat



Kelly Moore/Lariat staff

Cook-off kicks it up a notch

Lynn Nottoli, a South Lake Junior, spoons out some chili for Dallas freshman David Reed at the Chi Omega chili cook-off Thursday night. The event raised money for the Make-a-Wish foundation.

Senate passes bill, funds KOT Christmas

By Van Darden
Staff writer

After turning down Kappa Omega Tau's \$10,000 request to help offset costs of its annual Christmas tree lighting festival last week, Student Senate voted Thursday night to award the fraternity \$8,000 in an amended payment.

KOT member Matthew Burks was at the meeting and said he's satisfied with the final offer.

"We just really appreciate the help of Student Senate," the Hot Springs, Ark., junior said. "We'll make up the rest with fundraising and t-shirt sales."

In last week's session, Student Senate members tied when voting on the KOT bill, 13 to 13 with three abstaining.

According to Student Senate bylaws, in the event of a tie, abstaining votes are counted as negatives.

Senators disputed for more than an hour last week before eventually turning down the fraternity's initial request.

"There was a lot of confusion over KOT's relationship with the Place2BU and how the finances worked between the two," said Plano junior Samer Baransi. "But I think that the vote speaks for itself."

Baransi said many senators were confused about having two Christmas cele-

brations - KOT's Christmas tree lighting festival and the Place2BU's Christmas on Fifth Street - simultaneous events that are financially independent of each other.

"Last year, KOT and the Place2BU combined their events, calling it something like 'Christmas Tree Lighting on Fifth Street,'" Baransi said. "There were senators in the room who didn't know what the Place2BU even does."

Dallas junior Andrew Hawes called the Christmas tree lighting ceremony one of his favorite events.

"We're obviously very appreciative of the money so we can continue this long tradition," Hawes said.

The KOT member said he enjoys watching the student body come together under the banner of spiritual solidarity.

KOT's Christmas tree lighting ceremony began in 1966. Every year since then, the group has brought an enormous fir tree to Burselson Quadrangle, adorned it with thousands of lights and ornaments and topped it with a glowing star.

In the past, more than 6,000 members of the Waco and Baylor communities have attended the ceremonies to enjoy yule-tide fellowship and be entertained by popular Christian recording artists like Caedmon's Call and Jars of Clay. This year acoustic duo Shane and Shane will perform at the Nov. 30 celebration.

Moon festival sheds light on traditions

Autumn celebration presents Vietnamese culture to campus

By Grace Maalouf
Reporter

Food, fashion and dancing dragons will come together this weekend when the Vietnamese Student Association hosts its 14th annual Autumn Moon Festival.

Baylor students will have the chance to experience the event in honor of a traditional harvest holiday that began in China.

"Autumn moon is the month of the year that the moon is fullest and brightest," said Hal-len Dao, a Dallas freshman and Vietnamese Student Association member.

"Traditionally, according to Chinese culture, it's when the

fairies come from the heavens and bless everybody with beauty and health."

James Vu, a New Orleans junior and president of the organization, said the full moon on the celebration day traditionally signifies the abundance of the harvest.

Dao said the month, which usually falls on October in the Western calendar, is a time for families in China and Vietnam to come together, have dinners and enjoy community festivals at a church or temple.

At the festival on campus, association members will put on a fashion show of traditional Vietnamese attire, such as dresses called ao dais, said Vy Truong, a Houston junior and officer in the association.

Others will perform a cultural skit, and a professional martial arts troupe from Dallas will perform a kung fu show and

present the festival's signature event, the dragon dance.

Vu said the dance is the highlight of the night and probably the part students will enjoy most.

"(The dancers) start out in Barfield Drawing Room and take the dance outside," Vu said.

Guests then light candles inside small paper lanterns and hold them on the edge of a stick while watching the dragon dance, which is accompanied by drums, he said.

"It's something people don't see every day," Vu said.

Dao said the lantern lighting is part of the Vietnamese tradition of the festivals.

"Around a certain time at night, right when it starts to get dark, everyone lights a lantern," Dao said.

Truong said everyone attending the event will receive a small lantern to keep at the conclu-

sion of the evening.

The festival will also showcase a wide range of Vietnamese food, including egg rolls, fried rice, a salad called goi and dessert, Truong said.

Vu said parents of organization members cook and donate the food, and many of them will travel to Waco from Dallas and Houston for the festival.

"We do (the festival) for our families, too," Vu said.

Although Baylor students will learn about Vietnamese culture, Vu said he also hopes it's a chance for them to see that people are ultimately all the same.

"We're not very different from anybody else," Vu said.

The festival will begin 7 p.m. Saturday in the Barfield Drawing Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center. Tickets are on sale today in the Bill Daniel Student Center for \$10 and will be \$13 at the door.

BEAR BRIEFS

Opera performance today

Opera star Jay Hunter Morris, a Baylor alumnus, will perform in the Distinguished Artists Series at 8 p.m. today in Jones Concert Hall. For ticket information, call the School of Music box office at 710-1161. Student tickets are \$10.

Case competition today

The Ethical Leadership Forum at the Hankamer School of Business will present the inaugural Case Competition from 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. today at Cashion Academic Center. The event is designed to help students develop their ethical

skills. Guests are welcome.

Bear pit sign-up

Students may sign up for the Bear Pit from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today in the first floor lobby of the Bill Daniel Student Center.

Programming contest

The annual Association for Computing Machinery Collegiate Programming Contest will be held at noon Saturday at the Rogers Engineering and Computer Science Building.

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

Concert series will reward community service

Bands to play after Steppin' Out

By Cat Smith
Reporter

After a morning of service at Steppin' Out, Sigma Phi Lambda wants to serve you.

Following Baylor's day of community service Saturday, Sigma Phi Lambda will host a Celebration of Service luncheon and a concert series called Encore! at 7 p.m. in Burselson Quadrangle.

Brittany Normand, a Fort Worth senior and one of the event's organizers, said this is a way to reward students for all of their hard work during Steppin' Out.

"We wanted to create a safe, relaxing environment for stu-

dents after the day of service to the community," Normand said. "It should be a lot of fun, and we are really looking forward to it."

The concert will feature Monk & Neagle and include Baylor student artists Denise Hearn and The Awesomes as opening acts.

"This is a great way to keep the good feelings fostered from Steppin' Out going," Normand said. "We decided to hold this event as an addition to Steppin' Out, so students can have a chance to connect with one another while enjoying music from great bands."

Denise Hearn will kick off the event with original, faith-based songs with an acoustic sound, said Normand.

Hearn was also one of the performers featured on the Baylor Rising Artists Network

CD.

The Awesomes are a Baylor-based band composed of Eric Weiss and Ryan Combrink, both Katy seniors, and San Antonio sophomore Tony Angeleri.

Weiss said the band was excited about the chance to play at the concert.

"It's been a great step for us as a band," he said.

"We don't know how much longer we'll all be in the same town since two of us are seniors, so we're really looking forward to playing."

The headliners, Monk & Neagle, are a Christian-based band from Amarillo.

"Monk & Neagle received a lot of attention for the song 'Dancing with Angels,'" Normand said. "We are really excited to have them join us and make Encore! a memorable

event."

Normand said she hopes the event eventually will become a part of the annual Steppin' Out tradition.

"It's my hope that this day will truly be about serving students. Steppin' Out was created as a way to serve the community, and now we want to serve our fellow students," Normand said.

"We think that (by) condensing our events into one day, students will be able to enjoy all of our activities."

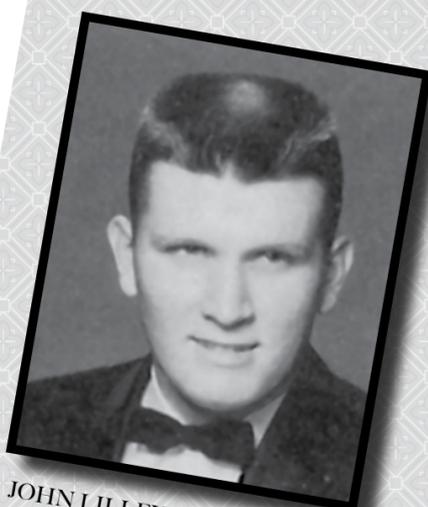
"I think that it's great that Phi Lamb is trying to increase involvement of people after Steppin' Out," Rebecca Laflure, a Tyler junior, said.

"This concert sounds like a lot of fun and a great way to get together after a day of hard labor."

Forty-five years from now, THEY'LL STILL BE LOOKING YOU UP.

Get your yearbook picture taken

UNDERGRADUATE PORTRAITS will be taken starting Monday through Nov. 10 in the CUB (the lounge area nearest to the Student Government office) in the SUB. Portrait sessions last from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and all you have to do is walk in.



JOHN LILLEY, CLASS OF 1961

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TROUPE from page 1

to spend my free time. I love what I do.
 "And I love making people laugh."
 Troupe performances last about an hour and a half. During that time, the audience is led through short comical recorded clips, games and improvisations.
 Evans, who's been in the Troupe since he was a freshman, compared it to *Whose Line is it Anyway?*
 "We do that in a live format," he said.
 "Except the thing with *Whose Line is it Anyway?* is that they film three hours of footage and they only show like 45 minutes to an hour. With us, we have to make everything funny because it's live."

Salil Arora, an Arlington junior, said he's been hooked on the Guerrilla Troupe since the first time he saw the show.
 "I love improve comedy and they are absolutely amazing at improv," he said. "Every time they have a show I try to make it out."
 The Guerrilla Troupe will perform at 11 p.m. tonight and 9 and 11 p.m. Saturday in 101 Castellow Communications Center.
 This weekend's shows will include new games, and it will be the first time the Troupe improvises the order of activities.
 "We're going to decide on the order by picking them out of a pumpkin," Evans said about the Halloween-themed performance.
 "I think it'll be more exciting for the audience."

SURVEY from page 1

is on the side of one of the political parties.
 "One-fifth thought God actively took sides in world conflicts and that God was on the side of the United States," Froese said.
 According to the survey, 30.2 percent of that one-fifth were Republicans.
 In response to the second question, only 4 percent of the American public believed God was on the side of one of the political parties, according to the survey.
 "Of that 4 percent, they were nearly all Republicans," Froese said.
 "So what that says is a lot of the rhetoric the Republican Party has used in the last four years is working for this small minority of people."
 Religious rhetoric isn't the only way to a person's vote. When politicians appeal to a person's basic moral issues, people tend to sway toward that party based on their religious views, Froese said.
 "A lot of political issues are issues of people's conceptions of morality," said Dr. Christopher Bader, assistant professor of sociology and a researcher for the survey.
 Some of these basic moral concerns include controversial issues such as abortion and gay marriage, as well as minor issues like legalization of certain drugs, he said.
 "There is always going to be an implicit tie between morality and a person's religious values," Bader said.
 Findings from the Baylor Re-

ligion Survey suggest that evangelicals and nonevangelicals do base their political choices off their conservative and liberal religious views, but recently researchers discovered these groups tend to flip-flop their opinions on different issues.
 Evangelicals, commonly seen as conservative in the sense that their theology defines moral issues as right or wrong, hold conservative views on abortion and gay marriage, while they take a more liberal approach with protection of the environment and distributing wealth evenly.
 Surprisingly, nonevangelicals tend to be on the same wavelength as evangelicals when it comes to abortion and gay marriage and hold a similar conservative view.
 "Politicians can't assume that evangelicals are conservative on every issue, and they can't assume that liberals are liberal on every issue," said Dr. Byron Johnson, professor of sociology and co-director of the Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion.
 The Baylor Religion Survey gives a more accurate picture of these different views, Johnson said.
 "The lesson here is that people are not easily typed," he said. "For a long time, politicians made assumptions about people. You can't put everyone in the same box."
 The research group for the study includes Froese; Bader; Johnson; Dr. Rodney Stark, university professor of social sciences; Dr. Kevin Dougherty, assistant professor of sociology; Dr. Carson Mencken, professor of sociology; and Dr. Jerry Park, assistant professor of sociology.

PERRY from page 1

Education funding is also on the rise with school funding up by \$9 million and teachers receiving pay raises across the state, she said.
 "The advancements in this area are a testament to Rick's leadership and vision and have created a better future for the children of Texas," she said.
 Ending on increased border security, she noted how quickly Perry took action against illegal immigrants.
 "With millions of dollars from the governor's office, he's putting more boots on the ground, more helicopters in the sky and more resources into the hands of border law officers," she said.
 She concluded the rally by urging people to vote.
 "We cannot let apathy beat us," she said.
 Aside from Perry's achievements, a major controversy circling him is the Trans-Texas Corridor, which requires the use of eminent domain by the state.
 But Yolanda Mares, vice pres-

ident of Central Texas Republican Women, said people will come around.
 "If everybody understands it's for the good of the community, they'll go beyond the pit falls the Democrats are trying to throw Perry's way," Mares said.
 Supporters of the Trans-Texas Corridor estimate that the current population of 22 million in Texas will boom to 36 million by 2030, meaning the already overcrowded highways across the state will have to squeeze in 12 million more motorists.
 "If people become more educated about the issues, they'll accept them," Mares said.
 Perry became the 47th Governor of Texas in 2000. Starting off his career, Perry served in the U.S. Air Force from 1972 to 1977, served two terms as Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, four terms in the Texas House of Representatives and won the Lieutenant Governor's race in 1998.
 "He is the only candidate with a record of achievement," Black said. "Amongst governors in the United States, he has a record that is unparalleled."

TEXAS from page 1

without a consistent source of funding from the state budget, the education system may fail its students.
 "We risk fulfilling the American dream without a solid education," Alvarado said.
 Texas has one of the largest economies in the world, Alvarado said. She wants to find out where the sources of money are.
 "If elected, I will get to the bottom of what our state treasury consists of," Alvarado said. "And see if there's enough funds to improve schools and teacher pay."
 If re-elected Lt. Gov. Dewhurst will try to implement a plan to address the needs of Texas children, said Enrique Marquez, Dewhurst's campaign spokesman.
 "Dewhurst Texas Children First Plan" will focus on protecting Texas children from harm, abuse and Internet predators. It will also ensure that Texas children are healthy

while providing safer schools, Marquez said.
 During his time in office, Dewhurst reformed Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services, Marquez said. He also led the charge to pass a reform raising academic standards and increasing teacher pay \$2,000.
 The campaign approaches of the two candidates also differ. Dewhurst is running a focused media campaign, Marquez said.
 His TV campaign ads are running in Dallas, Austin and Houston.
 Alvarado is focusing more on a grassroots campaign. When announcing her intent to run, she said she decided in to target the voters not previously tapped in to.
 "I knocked on doors, went to underrepresented voters and had lots of small lunch meetings," Alvarado said. The personal approach helped her win the Democratic majority in March, Alvarado said.
 While Alvarado's main

platform is education reform, Dewhurst is campaigning his Jessica's Law proposal.
 The law, based on a girl who was abducted on Feb. 23, 2005, and brutally raped, buried alive and murdered by a previously convicted sex offender, is Dewhurst's creation.
 The statutes of the proposed law state that a convicted sex offender whose victim is under 14 will be sentenced to a minimum 25 years in prison.
 "We need a law like Jessica's Law," said Jordan Powell, a Greenville sophomore and active member of Baylor College Republicans. "When you have rapists turned free after only 90 days of jail, something's wrong."
 Powell referred to a case in Vermont in which Judge Edward Cashman gave a 90-day sentence to a man who repeatedly raped a girl for four years, starting when she was 7 years old.
 "There needs to be a mandatory sentencing period," Powell said. "They can't be let loose on

our streets."
 Powell said he sees this election as a sure victory for Dewhurst. It's the first time in history the Democratic Party hasn't put a strong candidate in against the Republican Party, he said.
 Powell said the lack of a serious competitor from the Democratic party is a "tell-tale sign" that the Republicans are beginning to dominate the political landscape in Texas.
 The lieutenant governor office is widely considered to be the most powerful position in state government, more so than even the governor, Powell said.
 He said this is because Dewhurst has "worked both sides of the aisle" while in office.
 Alvarado said she is working to make sure more Texans get involved in the voting process.
 "Our citizens are more knowledgeable than our elected officials believe," Alvarado said.
 "I just want everybody to vote, whether you vote for me or not."





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'Bear Raid' offense prepares for top-notch pass defense



Melea Burke/Lariat staff

Senior receiver Trent Shelton celebrates after his teammate, Dominique Zeigler, caught a 79-yard, first-quarter touchdown Saturday against Texas A&M. The two receivers have combined for 1,343 yards and 10 touchdowns so far this season.

By Daniel Youngblood
Sports editor

After facing running offenses in each of its past six contests, the Baylor football team will get a test of a different kind Saturday when the Bears head to Lubbock to take on the pass-happy Texas Tech University Red Raiders.

The game, at 11 a.m. at Jones AT&T Stadium, will pit two teams with similar offenses against each other.

When head Coach Guy Morriss brought offensive coordinator Lee Hays in before this season began, he did so with the knowledge that Hays' offense would be similar to Texas Tech's in philosophy. He said he hoped it would be similar in production.

While it took a few games for the Bears to adjust to a new offensive system, their production has been much closer to that of the Red Raiders in recent weeks.

Senior quarterback Shawn Bell's career-ending knee injury will force freshman signal-caller Blake Szymanski into action, but Hays said he thinks his offense can score points against the Red Raiders — a team he holds in high regard.

While working as offensive coordinator for Division II West Texas A&M, Hays spent much of his time with the Texas Tech coaches learning their system in an attempt to create and perfect his own version of the "Air Raider" offense. Hays said it will be interesting being on the opposite

sidelines of his one-time allies.

"This is kind of a tough game for me because those guys were really good to me, and a lot of those guys are my friends," Hays said. "I hope they win every game except this one."

Morriss, who coached with Texas Tech head Coach Mike Leach at Valdosta State University and the University of Kentucky, said he and Leach have a unique relationship and that Leach helped influence him to hire Hays and quarterbacks coach Wes Phillips.

He said since the two teams are so similar on offense, the team that plays the more complete game will walk away with the win.

"I think it's going to come down to execution and who wants it most," Morriss said.

With Szymanski making his first collegiate start against the Big 12's best pass defense, the players on Baylor's offensive side will have their work cut out for them.

And with Texas Tech entering tomorrow's game as the nation's third-best passing offense, Baylor's defense will also be put to the test.

The Bears' defense, which has struggled this season against the run, allowing 166.1 yards per game, will have to focus on stopping the pass this weekend. The Bears have been much better at stopping teams through the air. They are fifth in the Big 12 in passing yards allowed at 199.7 yards per game and first in interceptions at 14.

Defensive coordinator Bill Bradley said he thinks his unit will be up to the task of stopping

Weekly
Big 12



Game	Youngblood	Parchman	McGuire	Daniel
Baylor @ Texas Tech	TTU 35-21	TTU 41-20	TTU 24-14	BU 30-22
Oklahoma St. @ Texas	UT 38-28	UT 28-12	UT 37-17	UT 35-20
Oklahoma @ A&M	OU 27-24	OU 27-17	OU 28-21	OU 21-13
Missouri @ Nebraska	NU 28-23	NU 31-24	NU 31-27	NU 31-24
Kansas @ Iowa State	KU 31-14	KU 20-14	ISU 24-21	ISU 27-17
Kansas St. @ Colorado	KSU 24-17	KSU 14-13	KSU 17-14	CU 24-17
Last week's record	2-4	2-4	3-3	3-3
Overall record	37-17	39-15	41-13	33-21

the Red Raiders.

"It's going to be a different approach this week; we'll have a good game plan for them which we already have in," Bradley said. "If our guys can execute it, I think they'll be fine."

"We get to see that type of offense everyday when we go against each other in the spring and two-a-days."

The matchup will be televised regionally on Fox Sports Net Southwest.

Lady Bears crush opponent at exhibition debut

By Will Parchman
Sports writer

The Lady Bears basketball team won its first of two exhibition tune-up games to kick off the 2006-2007 season, defeating the Louisiana College Lady Wildcats 94-23 Thursday night at the Ferrell Special Events Center.

The noticeably nervous and undersized Wildcats took to the court and failed to score a point until the 11:28 mark in the first half, falling behind 18-0 before finally getting on the board.

"You can't leave a game like this tonight and not be pleased, nor can you leave a game like this tonight and think you're that good," head Coach Kim Mulkey said.

The Lady Bears came out of the gates strong, forcing four turnovers on the Wildcats' first five possessions. They would outscore the Lady Wildcats 51-2 in points off turnovers.

Baylor took a 46-7 lead into half-time, showcasing a mix of suffocat-

ing defense and what appears to be a promising fast-break offense.

"In practice we like to push the ball. That's how Coach Mulkey likes the game to go," said guard Latara Darrett, who scored 8 points and had four steals. "That's how you get points off turnovers."

The Lady Bears pressed the Lady Wildcats into 38 turnovers and out-rebounded their clearly overmatched opponent 44-21.

Baylor was also able to overwhelm the Lady Wildcats for points in the paint, scoring 66 of its 94 points underneath the basket. Mulkey made use of her talented but young bench early and often, getting contributions from all seven of the Lady Bears' first-year players.

"(The freshmen) want to do good," Mulkey said. "That's their first collegiate game. They could probably go and pull the rim down they were so excited. But excitement and playing smart and running the system, that takes time."

Senior transfer Bernice Mosby

started strong, scoring the team's first two field goals and infusing her veteran experience into an inexperienced squad.

She finished the game with 14 points and seven rebounds in just 18 minutes of work.

"She never gives up, always going 100 percent, and that reflects on her game a lot," guard Latara Darrett said of Mosby. "We're looking to her to do big things."

Louisiana College almost doubled its scoring output in the second half but were outgunned at every position, shooting just 27 percent from the floor and making just 33 percent of the free throws.

Despite the seemingly solid effort on both sides of the court, Mulkey said, "You can teach a lot from a game like this on the defensive end of the floor."

And with the regular season opener with the University of North Texas just a week away, don't expect the Lady Bears to rest on their haunches despite the crushing 71-point victory.



Junior guard Angela Tisdale, left, wraps up the ball Thursday at the Ferrell Special Events Center. The Lady Bears debuted many of their rookie players at the exhibition, while veteran seniors also dominated the court. Though the victory will give confidence to the Bears, head Coach Kim Mulkey said the team must continue to remain focused.

Melea Burke/Lariat staff

SPORTS BRIEFS

Soccer season ends with tourney loss

The Baylor soccer team (6-12-1) ended its season Wednesday when the Bears were knocked out of the first round of the Big 12 Conference Championship with a 3-0 loss to No. 7 Texas A&M University. The Aggies took a lead in the third minute and added to it with goals in the 36th and 85th minutes. The shutout loss was the Bears' ninth of the season. Goalkeeper Ashley Holder, who was named first-team All-Big 12 Conference, recorded a career-high 14 saves in the loss.

Tennis players compete on national level

Baylor Bear tennis players Lars Poerschke and Zuzana Cerna are competing this weekend in the ITA National Intercollegiate Indoor Tennis Championships, hosted by Ohio State University. Poerschke, who is ranked No. 4 nationally, defeated Old Dominion's Henrique Cancado in straight sets to advance to the round of 16 in the men's bracket. He returns to action against

Ohio State's Steven Moneke today. Cerna, who is ranked No. 14, defeated Ohio State's Julie Blackmore in straight sets and will play Fresno State's Melanie Gloria today.

Baylor volleyball takes on Texas

The Baylor volleyball team (15-10, 4-9) will host No. 8 University of Texas at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Ferrell Special Events Center. The Bears, who snapped an eight-match losing streak last Friday with a 3-2 victory over Missouri, defeated Texas A&M University 3-1 on the road Wednesday. The team's victory over the Aggies was its first Big 12 road victory this season and puts them on a two-match winning streak for the first time since Sept. 13.

Baylor men's basketball plays exhibition

The Baylor Bear men's basketball team will tip off its 2006-2007 season with an exhibition game against Texas A&M-Commerce at noon Saturday at the Ferrell Special Events Center. Since the noon tipoff coincides with the Baylor football team's 11 a.m. start in Lubbock, video screens at the Ferrell Center will broadcast the Baylor-Texas Tech University football game while the basketball game is played.

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The Jesus Jurisdiction

Recognizing the challenges of separating religion, politics

By Claire St. Amant
Reporter

Two topics to avoid at all costs: religion and politics. And yet the combination is almost inevitable.

"In over 225 years of American history, we have never been able to not combine religion and politics," said Dr. Martin J. Medhurst, distinguished professor of rhetoric and communication. "If it's possible, it has yet to be shown how."

But Christian Americans are beginning to look at politics in a new way.

Jim Wallis, author of the best-selling book *God's Politics: Why the Right Gets it Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It*, has characterized the agenda of the new generation of evangelical Christians as "broader and deeper than the two main things the religious right calls the 'moral values' issues: abortion and gay marriage."

Dr. Jonathan Tran, assistant professor in the religion department, agrees, citing the need to care for the poor as well as issues of race and gender equality, which have largely been ignored in the political discussion of moral values.

"If there is one moral issue the Scriptures care about, it's care for the poor," Tran said. "Jesus talks about money second only to the kingdom."

Tran expressed frustration similar to Wallis' over the current, narrow definition of moral issues.

"In the last election, people said that they decided to 'vote their morals' and go with Bush on abortion and gay marriage, but we need to care about more than two moral issues," he said.

Jerry Robertson, a missionary from Africa and a Baylor alumni, said he wants to see Christians take a stance on poverty, hunger and social justice issues. Robertson also said people are becoming "disillusioned with the idea that one political party is the Christian party."

While Tran believes Americans as a whole tend to be "two-party-thinking people," he also believes there is more to the issues. By rejecting the media's simplistic way of portraying political issues and not just accepting the terms of the debate as they are given to the public, Tran said Christians can escape the "either or" mentality and actually engage in the issues.

"Authentic, radical democracy calls for much greater conversation than is allowed right now in this country," he said.

"We short-circuit our conversations so that we can just go and vote."

Medhurst echoed Tran's sentiments, calling for all Christians to recognize their role as citizens and participants in the political process. Medhurst also said Americans need to be more knowledgeable and engaged with the issues before deciding to vote.

"Communication between and among the citizenry is perhaps as or more important than anything else," he said.

Tran believes the reason most Americans have withdrawn from the political spectrum, not voting or reading about the issues, is because "they recognize the sheer limit the media gives them."

According to an Oct. 10 Gallup poll on partisan views of parties, one in five members of both the Republican and Democratic parties didn't have a strong identification with their own party and neither party had anything positive to say about itself or the opposing party.

"People are disillusioned with their own parties and with politics in general," Tran said. "In a lot of ways it is unclear how Republicans and Democrats are different."

Robertson also believes that the current two-party system is inadequate. "Bipartisan politics just don't cut it for Christianity," he said.

In light of recent moral issues in Washington, D.C., such as the scandals with Rep. Mark Foley and lobbyist Jack Abramoff, Medhurst said many people with religious convictions are growing concerned.

"We seem to be in an era where all sorts of issues take on value connotations," he said.

Answers aren't easy to come by, either. When Christian churches display flags in the sanctuary and honor the military in their services, the line

between church and state is blurred.

"Patriotism is something the church really has to think through," Tran said.

Comparing the "narrative of sacrifice" that patriotism offers to the sacrificial narrative of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Tran said churches need to moderate their patriotism.

"We can be patriotic only to the extent that the narrative of the cross and resurrection is not overrun by the narrative of nationalism," Tran said. "Our central commitment is to Jesus in a way that will often complicate our relationship to the state."

Medhurst said churches should tread lightly on issues of patriotism.

"It's not that there is anything wrong with patriotism or having your national flag in a church building, but there is something wrong when people confuse the message of the church with the message of the country," he said.

"Whenever Christianity becomes subservient to any ideology, it ceases to be the church of Jesus Christ and it becomes the church of something else."

"Our central commitment is to Jesus in a way that will often complicate our relationship to the state."

Dr. Jonathan Tran
Assistant religion professor

Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, one of the largest mega-churches in North America, regularly practices patriotism, said Plano junior Brandon Nine, one of the 26,000 church members.

Nine recalled a flag hanging in the sanctuary as well as President Bush speaking via satellite to the congregation. As far as voting is concerned, Nine said the church's view on issues is usually made quite clear by the senior pastor, Jack Graham.

"Pastor Graham focuses on issues when elections roll around, and he will occasionally voice support for candidates that support the issues he believes the church should support as well," Nine said.

One of the ways the church showed support for the anti-abortion bill was planting flags for every abortion representing unnecessary deaths. This happened "more than once," Nine said.

A couple of years ago, Nine said Graham showed a video of Bush signing an anti-abortion bill.

These practices raise questions about the church's role in politics. Medhurst said he didn't

believe the church per se had any role in politics.

"Christians individually who are part of the church have every bit of responsibility as any other citizen does," he said. "But churches themselves are not called to take a role in politics."

Karen Groman, assistant to the pastor at First Lutheran Church in Waco, said the church has an American flag hanging up in the sanctuary.

"It was donated by an individual who wanted it displayed in the church," she said.

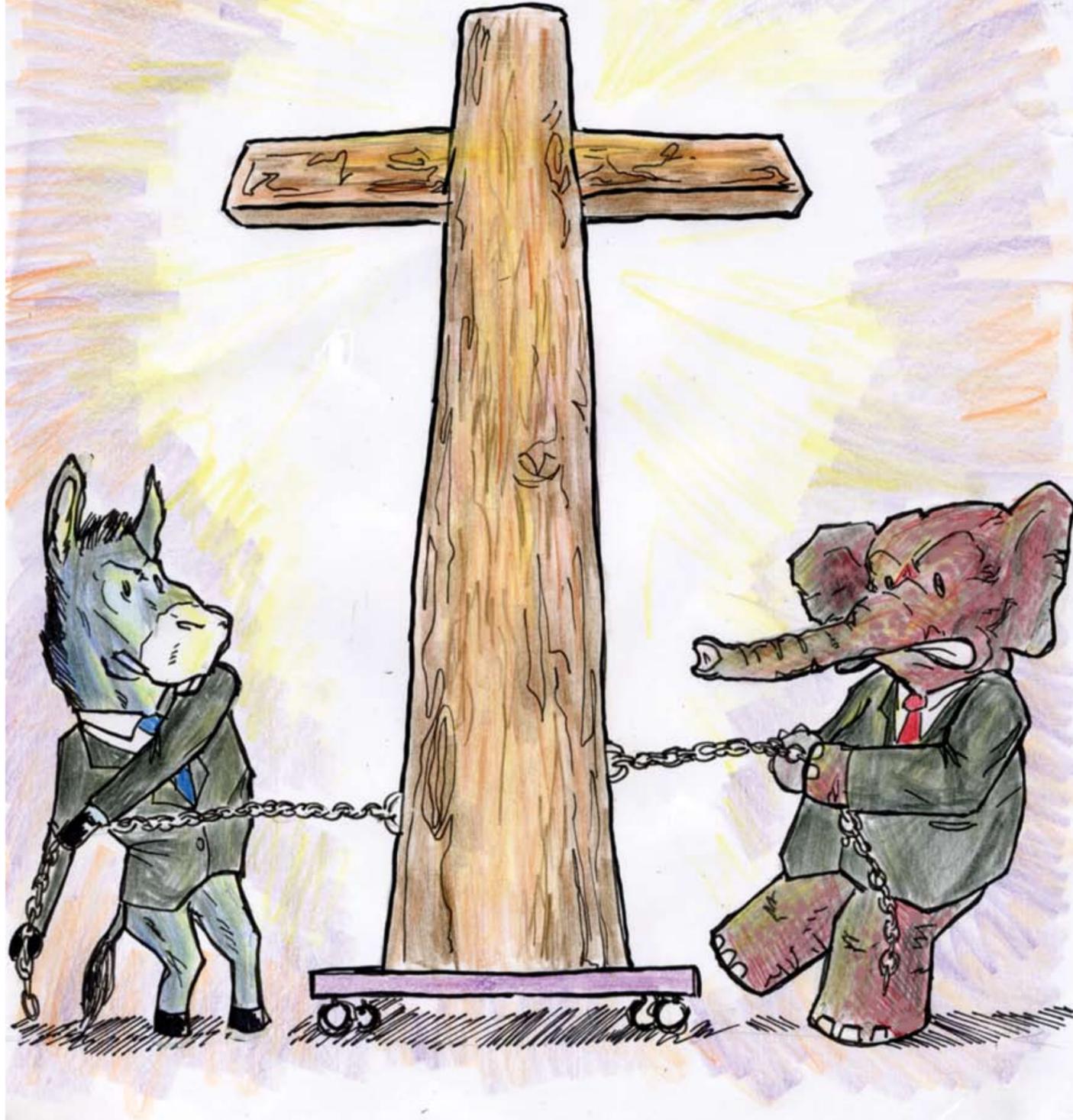
Groman added the church does not endorse political candidates or allow those running for office to speak to the congregation.

Pastor Steve Ramsdell of First United Methodist Church in Waco said patriotism is a healthy practice of the church.

"We have a long, patriotic history here in Waco," he said. "Stephen F. Austin spoke on the steps of this church and the basement was used to make Civil War uniforms."

While Ramsdell said the separation of church and state no longer allows those types of activities, the church does display an American flag alongside the Christian flag in the sanctuary.

"There is plenty of biblical backing for asking God to bless your nation," he said. "I do stress that God is not an American, nor is he any nationality, but I also believe that God established the idea of government and we ought to honor it."



Staff illustration/Ben Humeniuk

Spiritual leaders try to assert influence while remaining tax-exempt

By Paul Asay
The Gazette (MCT)

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — With midterm elections just days away, leading Christian conservatives are pushing hard to get Christians from the pew to the voting booth.

Are their efforts pushing the limits on church involvement in politics?

Yes, some say. They ought to pull back.

Yes, others say. That's their job.

But others say they're not going far enough.

The rules may be written in black and white, but their interpretation, it seems, is gray to many.

Legally, pastors can push for amendments, encourage people to vote and shape political dialogue in myriad ways.

They can't campaign for or against a particular candidate,

nor can they endorse a political party.

In exchange for following these rules, churches don't pay taxes, and donations to them are tax-free.

The agreement has been part of the tax code since 1954, but there's latitude.

For example, churches can publish and hand out voter guides — as long as both sides of an issue are fairly represented.

They can invite political candidates to speak — as long as they give their opponents a chance to speak, too.

Pastors can endorse political candidates — as long as they stress their support is as a private citizen, not pastor.

The line, however, can get pretty fuzzy.

What happens if a pastor while wearing a clerical collar, endorses a candidate — even though he says he's speaking as a private citizen? Just how bal-

anced do voter guides need to be?

The Internal Revenue Service publishes guidelines to help churches work through these questions and publishes real-world examples. But IRS officials say the determination of whether a church is in the clear has to be made on a case-by-case basis.

IRS spokeswoman Nancy Mathis says that even when a church falls afoul of IRS guidelines, the IRS tries to educate the church and bring it back in line. Revoking a church's tax-exempt status — the tax-code equivalent of excommunication — is a last resort.

It has happened, however. In 1964, the IRS revoked nonprofit status for Christian Echoes National Ministry, an organization that endorsed Barry Goldwater for president that year. In 1995, the IRS revoked the tax-exempt status of a church

in Binghamton, N.Y., for saying voting for Bill Clinton was sinful.

There are signs the IRS is looking more closely at churches for wayward politicking.

"What we've been seeing in recent years, especially in election years, is an increase in churches and charities engaging in political activity," Mathis said.

After the 2004 election, the IRS examined 47 churches for violations. Seven cases are still being investigated. Of the 40 churches where investigations are complete, 37 were found to be in violation.

None of the 37 churches has been stripped of their tax exemptions.

But the liberal All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena, Calif., recently refused to turn over additional documents to the IRS, and it could be the first church this century to lose its

tax exemption over politicking.

Losing tax-exempt status would be a huge blow for any church, said the Rev. Armin Sommer, senior pastor for Pulpit Rock Church in Colorado Springs.

Although he thinks many churches could survive, it would greatly curtail their outreach and charity work — including running hospitals and relief organizations — because donations likely would drop.

But Sommer and many other local pastors think the IRS restrictions are necessary.

"To unduly influence the political process is inappropriate," Sommer said.

Although he speaks out on political issues occasionally, he thinks the way Christians live their lives is "far more powerful than gaining five Supreme Court justices."

Most churches never get close enough to the line to worry

about it.

"You have to understand what the guidelines are in order not to endanger the tax-exempt status," said Bishop Michael Sheridan, head of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Colorado Springs.

"But if we do what we're supposed to, it's not all that hard," he said.

Sheridan says the IRS has not contacted the diocese about inappropriate politicking, even though in 2004 Sheridan said he'd refuse communion to political candidates who supported abortion or euthanasia.

He also suggested Catholics who voted for such candidates should abstain from the eucharist.

Sheridan's statement drew national attention, and Americans United for the Separation of Church and State asked the IRS to revoke the diocese's tax privileges.