

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2006



Kelly Moore/Lariat staff

Incumbent Democrat U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards thanks supporters Tuesday night after Republican challenger Van Taylor conceded the congressional race for the 17th district.

Edwards rips Taylor in 17th

Democrat wins 9th-consecutive term as congressman

By Van Taylor
Staff Writer

Riding the wave of support garnered from his previous eight consecutive terms in office, U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Waco, secured a ninth win Tuesday, besting Republican hopeful Van Taylor by 30.24 percent with a margin of 16,010 votes.

Edwards thanked the voters profusely for re-electing him.

"Thank you for giving my family the privilege of working for you and with you," Edwards said. "This isn't a job, it's a labor of love."

When contacted after defeat, Taylor expressed his pride in the campaign he ran.

"It never hurts fighting for what you believe in," Taylor said. "I'm proud of the campaign we ran and the cause we fought for."

Working for the people was what Edwards said motivated him to keep going.

"This has never been about

me," he said. "It's about all of us in this district, and giving us a better voice in congress."

During his victory speech, Edwards turned his thanks from the voters to his family.

"I also want to extend a special thank you to my family," he said. "There were more than a few baseball games I had to listen to on a cell phone, so thank you for standing by me."

Edwards already had plans in mind for Wednesday during his victory speech.

"(Wednesday) morning at 8 a.m., my first phone call will be to the Veteran's Affairs Administration in Washington and tell them we're going to keep the Waco VA Hospital," Edwards said. "It's time to roll up our sleeves and go back to work for people in the 17th district."

Edwards serves on the Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Committee, which is responsible for allocating more than \$130 billion in yearly spending.

Last year, Waco's VA hospital saw more than 140,000 outpatient visits, providing

Please see CHET, page 8

Texans pick Perry

Split vote dooms challengers



Associated Press

Republican Gov. Rick Perry kisses his wife Tuesday during his victory speech in Austin after defeating Democrat Chris Bell and Independent candidates

Kinky Friedman and Carole Keeton-Strayhorn. With 63 percent of precincts reporting, Perry led his closest competitor by 10 percent.

Friedman



"One of the problems with the two-party system is that it doesn't give us the two best choices."

Republican laps field in race for governor's mansion in Austin

By Aaron Turney, Laura Frase and Laura Klingsporn
City Editor, Staff writer and Reporter

AUSTIN — Texas Gov. Rick Perry was leading his re-election race Tuesday evening with 39.5 percent of the vote with 77

Strayhorn



"I will continue to be one tough grandma, watching out for our precious resource: all of our children."

percent of precincts reporting. With two of the three challengers conceding, he will be the first governor in Texas history to serve 10 years in office. Democratic nominee Chris Bell garnered 29.5 percent, Independent Carole Keeton Strayhorn collected 18 percent, and Kinky Friedman, also an Independent, received 12 percent of the vote.

As hundreds of supporters clamored together in celebra-

Bell



"It has been a long, hard battle and one I will always believe was worth fighting."

tion of another four years for Perry, a loud "Woo" signaled the start of Perry's acceptance speech followed by a kiss with the first lady.

"It's a blessing and an honor to be governor of the greatest state in the union," Perry said, as supporters waved signs and rambunctiously cheered him on.

After thanking friends, family and fellow Texans, Perry as-

ured the people that the issues are about them. Perry promised to continue his work in education, border security and creating new jobs.

"I will serve with humility, recognizing that Texas is better when we all work together," Perry said.

A native of West Texas, Perry began his career by serving in

Please see PERRY, page 8

House Democratic Leader Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., fires up fellow Democrats Tuesday at an election night rally at the Hyatt Regency Hotel near the Capitol in Washington, D.C. Pelosi will become the first female majority leader of the House of Representatives.



Associated Press

House power shifts to Democrats

Nation's voters swayed by Iraq war, scandal in Republican party

By Liz Sidoti
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats captured more than enough Republican-held districts Tuesday to seize control of the House after a dozen years in the minority as voters demonstrated disenchantment with a war, a president and scandals on Capitol Hill.

Winning 23 GOP seats, if Democrats hold nearly all of their own, they would rise to power and clear the way for

Rep. Nancy Pelosi to become the country's first female House speaker. By early Wednesday, no Democratic incumbent had lost.

"The old era of irresponsibility is over, and the new era of real reform has just begun," declared Rep. Rahm Emanuel, the Illinois Democrat who oversaw his party's House campaign.

Faced with the inevitable, the White House made plans for President Bush to call Pelosi first thing Wednesday morning, and Republican Party Chairman Ken Mehlman said: "It's possible that Nancy Pelosi will become House speaker."

"It's been kind of tough out there," conceded House Speaker

Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., who won a 11th term.

The magic number for control was 218 seats. By late Tuesday, Democrats had won 186 seats and were leading for another 34, which would give them 220. Republicans won 149 and were leading in 46.

Casualties of a Democratic call for change, three GOP congressmen lost in Indiana, three more in Pennsylvania, two in New Hampshire, one in North Carolina and one in Kansas. Democrats won open seats in New York, Arizona, Iowa and elsewhere.

Scandals that have dogged Republicans appeared to hurt GOP incumbents even more

than Bush's unpopularity and the nearly four-year-old war in Iraq.

Republicans surrendered the Texas seat of former Majority Leader Tom DeLay, who resigned from the House after being charged in a campaign finance scheme, the Ohio seat once held by Bob Ney, who resigned after pleading guilty in a lobbying scandal, and the Florida district of Mark Foley, who stepped down after the disclosure that he sent sexually explicit messages to male congressional pages.

In Pennsylvania, Democrats defeated Curt Weldon in the

Please see HOUSE, page 8

Clifton freshman surrenders to police in connection with burglaries

Christine M. Tamer
Staff writer

Clifton freshman Roman Elwell turned himself in to authorities Tuesday and was taken to jail on second-degree felony charges of burglary of a habitation, according to the Baylor Police Department.

Elwell was charged in con-

nection with several thefts that occurred in Penland Residence Hall over the past month, Baylor Police Chief Jim Doak said.

During the early morning hours, after a thief systematically sought rooms that had open doors or doors that were not securely shut, the thief would quietly enter and steal cash from the residents, he said.

"Several boys awoke to find someone in the room, but they were in a stupor and sleepy so the suspect exited before they could stop him," Doak said.

Through some "creative investigating," police were able to pinpoint Elwell as the suspect, he said.

Police told Elwell during an interview last week that he

would be arrested and that he should secure an attorney, Doak said.

Elwell was taken to McLennan County Jail, where he remains tonight, and bail was set at \$15,000, a jail spokeswoman said.

Doak said there is a lesson to be learned from the thefts.

"Students are not doing the

fundamentals," Doak said.

"The doors are self-locking, so something like this is easy to defend against."

Dallas freshman Cale Dicker said \$60 was stolen from one of his hallmates.

"Guys should keep their doors shut," he said. "Too many people leave their doors open."

Burleson freshman Ben Beaz-

ley said he regularly locks the door to his Penland room.

"It makes me more conscious about watching my stuff," he said.

A second-degree felony carries a minimum sentence of two years in prison and a maximum fine of \$10,000.

Tommy Stone contributed to this story.

Political bickering ought to be least of our worries

The latest news from Washington isn't really news. Well, it's important, but only in the way celebrity gossip is important. It shouldn't affect my life, but I have to hear about it anyway.

John Kerry recently joked that our nation's students need to work hard in school, or they'll "get stuck in Iraq." Whoops. Didn't mean to alienate thousands of potential voters and their families.

Immediately blasted both by his own party and (of course) by the Republicans, Kerry apologized — sort of. He said he accidentally "mangled" a joke about

President Bush.

CNN quoted one top Democratic strategist saying Kerry should just keep his mouth shut, since he'd already cost the party one election.

In the ensuing playground fight, both John McCain and Bush got into the action, calling Kerry's comments "shameful" and "an insult to every soldier in Iraq."

Kerry, always the bigger man, shot back that the administration is just afraid to debate a "real man." Then he refused to apologize. After sulking for a few days, he finally said he was

point of view

BY JON SCHROEDER



sorry. No one is happier for having made the comment a controversy, and of all the time and energy spent on figuring out who said what, I can't see that the American people have benefited in the slightest.

Maybe Bush and Kerry won't be attending each other's birth-

day parties this year after all.

Do we have anything — anything at all — more important to be discussing? If we're done throwing mud, I'd like to move on to something more important. Like Iraq. Like illegal immigration. Like the fact that our partisan Congress seems to be ineffective. Like gay marriage. Like abortion. Like stem-cell research. Like education, if Kerry and Bush both will kindly keep their mouths shut. Like anything at all but this.

Please don't think this criticism is aimed at the offices of any of the characters involved

in this little debacle. It's not. But both Bush and Kerry could do a little growing.

I'm frustrated, and we should be frustrated with leaders so obviously more interested in humiliating their political opponents than with running a country.

How can we trust someone to manage our country, our state, our city when we watch him rip into his opponent in a campaign ad or a press conference? Surely we're not inspired by either side's shady maneuverings. And surely we don't think this is what politics should be.

I get this idea that any objective viewer, seeing the entire situation of U.S. politics from the outside, might have to stifle a dirty little chuckle every so often.

It's like good satire, or maybe a bad comedy. Either way, watching it hurts just a little too much.

It's U.S. politics, and our leaders better start taking it with a grain of humor and a block of salt if they want to accomplish anything.

Jon Schroeder is a senior journalism major from Arvada, Colorado.

Editorial

Student government right to analyze requests carefully

Little lights will be twinkling at Kappa Omega Tau's Christmas Tree Lighting on Nov. 30 thanks to \$8,000 of the Student Life Fund.

Recently, the student government turned down KOT's request for \$10,000 from the Life Fund to help fund the tree lighting.

The event, according to the bill, will cost about \$24,000.

Plano junior Samer Baransi told the Lariat in a Nov. 3 interview that student government members were initially confused about how the finances worked in the partnership of Place2BU and KOT during the Christmas Tree Lighting and Christmas on Fifth Street.

Student senators deliberated over the bill and then later decided to award KOT \$8,000 in amended payment for the event.

The effort of senators to understand the financial workings of the Tree Lighting is commendable.

We depend on the student government to analyze and consider all requests for money from our Student Life Fund carefully and with much thought.

This isn't a job that should be taken lightly or money that should be given away willy-nilly.

We elect representatives to make sure that all of the money given away is to good causes and will benefit the student body as a whole. That's why it's refreshing to see senators debating over bills

like these.

It shows that they're taking their jobs seriously and genuinely want what's best for our campus community.

According to the bill, KOT's financial request was to specifically fund the night's planned entertainment, which is scheduled to include Shane and Shane, Bethany Dillon and Jason Morant, at a total cost of \$13,000.

KOT has already gained the pledged support of \$6,500 from businesses, \$2,000 from alumni and \$3,000 from dues, according to the bill.

With the student government Student Life Fund allocation, the fraternity is very close to meeting its monetary needs.

Now the group needs to fund-raise on its own.

It's not student government's responsibility to pay for an entire event.

Groups, clubs and students who request money should expect to put in some financial fundraising beyond filling out a Student Life Fund request.

The Student Life Fund is to be used to cultivate the interests of the student body, and there's no question that the Tree Lighting is an important event on campus.

There's only a limited amount of money available for student government to give away, and it's important to remember that there are many people who need and deserve this money.



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.

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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.

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Blaming alcohol just another way of avoiding personal responsibility

Maybe we ought to give Prohibition another try.

Granted the attempt to outlaw drinking wasn't exactly a success back in the 1920s, but maybe it's time to have another go at it.

Don't we owe that much to the public figures who have become the unwitting victims of fool juice in recent months?

First, there was Mel Gibson, actor, minding his own business, tooling happily down Pacific Coast Highway, until alcohol jumped inside him and made him say terrible things about Jews.

Then, there was Mark Foley, Florida congressman, selflessly seeing to the business of the American people, until alcohol grabbed his fingers and forced them to type lewd messages to teenage boys.

Now, there is Ralph Arza, Florida state representative, going innocently along, until alcohol took control of his mouth and made it say some really naughty things.

Arza had been under fire for months after political insiders told Miami-Dade schools chief Rudy Crew, who is black, that Arza had repeatedly used the N-word to describe him.

Though admitting he sometimes uses potty language, Arza swore he never used that particular word.

Then, last month, Arza learned that another legislator, Rep. Gus Barreiro, had filed a written complaint about the alleged racial slur against chief Crew.

His response? He called Barreiro and left a profane tirade on his voice mail, using the B-word

point of view

BY LEONARD PITTS



and, yes, the N-word.

Then, a second man — police say he was Arza's cousin — left three messages that went through pretty much the whole alphabet of cussing.

He used the S-word, the A-word, the SOB words, the F-word, the MF-word and, again, the N-word. (It apparently didn't matter that Barreiro is not black.)

Arza's cuz also — allegedly — repeatedly threatened to beat Barreiro up.

Arza's explanation? The

demon rum, of course.

"At times I have had difficulty controlling my emotions and anger," he said in an e-mail to The Miami Herald.

"I have noticed that this problem is made worse on those occasions when I have been drinking."

Wednesday, Arza resigned his office as prosecutors filed charges of witness interference against him and his cousin, Paulino Barbon Jr.

And isn't it interesting the way alcohol seems to be the modern catch-all explanation lately for heinous behavior by public officials?

Small wonder, I suppose.

The booze-made-me-do-it apology has the advantage of seeming like a straight forward shouldering of responsibility, when in reality it passes respon-

sibility along.

The victimizer becomes the victim, a poor innocent at the mercy of evil drink.

As if the feelings expressed and behaviors exposed are something external to the person, something that poured unseen from the bottle.

As if Johnnie Walker insulted those Jews, Stolichnaya sent those instant messages and Bud Light left those voicemails.

Granted, the public apology has long been a soulless thing.

Scandal-tainted public figures draft stilted statements of regret that somehow never manage to actually convey any regret.

One is reminded of President Clinton's "apology" for alleged campaign finance irregularities.

"Mistakes were made," he said - the implication being that

the mistakes made themselves and no one on the president's team bore any responsibility.

But Gibson, Foley and Arza add a shameless new twist: Blame the bottle.

And don't you love Arza's statement? He has "noticed that when he drinks, he acts a fool?"

It's always been my experience that a drunken person is more than noticeable. Arza might as well have said, "Drinks were drunk. Calls were made. Sorrow is felt."

Unfortunately responsibility is not accepted. But why should it be? Booze makes such a convenient scapegoat.

If I were an alcoholic, I'd be insulted. These clowns give drinks a bad name.

Leonard Pitts Jr. is a columnist for The Miami Herald.

The Baylor Lariat

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EASY # 11
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 Czech or Pole
- 5 Egyptian goddess
- 9 Indian tea
- 14 Lug
- 15 Unclothed
- 16 "Come Back, Little"
- 17 MBA subj.
- 18 Disney sci-fi movie
- 19 Subdues
- 20 Trounce
- 23 Charged particles
- 24 Rivers in Spain
- 25 Unemotional
- 28 Wire thickness units
- 29 Conclusion
- 32 Tapestry
- 33 London gallery
- 34 Gin flavor
- 35 Trounce
- 38 Behind time
- 39 BA word
- 40 Old hag
- 41 French summer
- 42 Key pie ingredient
- 43 Black eye
- 44 French actor Jacques

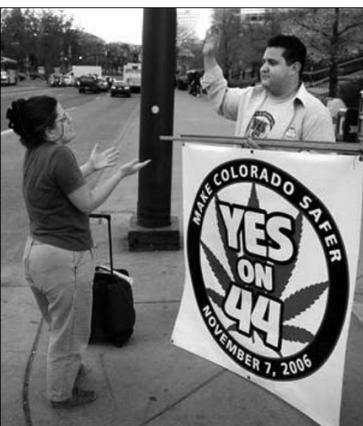
DOWN

- 1 Pipe part
- 2 Nuts
- 3 On the summit of
- 4 Air
- 5 Have in mind
- 6 Rides the waves
- 7 Object of devotion
- 8 Misses in Madrid
- 9 Houston team
- 10 George Bernard and Arlie
- 11 Big rig
- 12 Help with a heist
- 13 Alda series
- 21 Lifting device

- 22 Edmonton pro
- 25 Mink's cousin
- 26 Halloween handout
- 27 Speechify
- 28 Photo finish
- 29 John of pop music
- 30 Nary a soul
- 31 Table
- 33 Airport buildings
- 34 Mount (Flag-raising site on Iwo Jima)
- 36 Land of Port-au-Prince
- 37 Earth pigment
- 42 Bemoan
- 43 Biblical strongman
- 44 Mortise's partner
- 45 Bingo relative
- 46 Large unspecified number
- 47 Guinness or Baldwin
- 48 Toy with a tail
- 49 Royal role for Liz
- 50 Norse god
- 51 Seine tributary
- 52 Hustler from Minnesota

By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
For today's crossword and sudoku answers, visit www.baylor.edu/Lariat 11/8/06

MCC bond passes, district judges elected



Associated Press

Mason Tvert, right, the lead proponent for Amendment 44, which would legalize pot in Colorado, waves to supporters as he talks with Cindy Lewis in Denver in the last hours of election day.

Gay marriage, abortion bans pass

By David Crary
The Associate Press

Amendments to ban gay marriage won approval Tuesday in three states — including Wisconsin, where gay-rights activists had nursed hopes of engineering the first defeat of such a ban.

Nationwide, a total of 205 measures were on the ballots in 37 states, ranging from routine bond issues to a riveting contest in South Dakota, where voters chose whether to reject a toughest-in-the-nation law that would ban virtually all abortions.

Activists on both sides of the abortion debate were on edge over the campaign, and early returns showed a close contest. If the ban is upheld, abortion-rights supporters are likely to launch a legal challenge that could lead all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Eight states had ban-gay-marriage amendments on their ballots; South Carolina and Virginia joined Wisconsin in approving them, while results were pending in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, South Dakota and Tennessee. Similar amendments have passed previously in all 20 states to consider them.

Colorado voters had an extra option — a measure that would grant domestic-partnership rights to same-sex couples.

Conservatives hoped the same-sex marriage bans might increase turnout for Republicans. Democrats looked for a boost from low-income voters turning out on behalf of measures to raise the state minimum wage in six states. The wage hike passed in Montana and Ohio; results were pending in Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, Montana and Nevada.

In Missouri, a proposed amendment allowing stem cell research was a factor in the crucial Senate race there; incumbent Republican Jim Talent opposed the measure, while Democratic challenger Claire McCaskill supported it.

Missouri — along with Arizona, South Dakota and California — had a sharp increase in tobacco taxes on its ballot. In California alone, big tobacco companies spent more than \$56 million fighting a tax increase that would boost the average price of a pack of cigarettes to \$6.55.

Even more money — a state record of \$133 million — was raised in the fight over California's Proposition 87, which would tax companies drilling for oil in the state. The proposal sought to raise \$4 billion to promote alternative fuels and energy-efficient vehicles.

Nevada and Colorado both offered measures — trailing badly in the polls — that would legalize possession of up to an ounce of marijuana by anyone 21 and older. A measure in Rhode Island would restore voting rights to felons on probation and parole.

Michigan voters decided whether to bar the state government from using race and gender to determine who gets into college, who gets hired and who receives contracts.

Elsewhere, land use was a hot issue, part of a backlash against a 2005 Supreme Court ruling allowing the city of New London, Conn., to buy up homes to make way for a private commercial development.

In Maine, Nebraska and Oregon, voters considered measures that would cap increases in state spending — similar to a controversial measure approved in Colorado in 1992.

Johnson beats Peterson, Menard retains office

By Analiz González
Staff writer

Restaurants, political party headquarters and private homes throughout the county erupted in cries of victory or sighs of defeat as election results came in Tuesday night.

The McLennan Community College bond for \$74.5 million passed with 65.47 percent of the vote.

Vicki Menard, 414th District Judge incumbent, defeated fellow Baylor alumna Democrat Merrilee Harman Dunnam. Republican Matt Johnson defeated Democratic opponent Scott Peterson for the 54th District Court.

The MCC bond money will go to the construction of a science building, a general classroom building and an emergency service center. It will also go to building renovations and infrastructure like parking lots and roads, said MCC Community Relations Director Lisa Wilhelmi.

Under the bond, property taxes will increase by \$3 monthly for residents average homes, worth \$95,733.

"The next steps are the plans," Wilhelmi said. "We will start working on more specific plans. Right now we just have the square footage of the buildings and the cost per square foot, which is how we came up with the total (amount). We will be getting together with faculty and directors to help us figure out how the insides of the buildings will look. You probably won't see any ground braking until February or March of 2007."

She added that the MCC administration will probably begin consulting with faculty, deans of the campus and architects this month.

A similar bond election for \$73.445 million failed by between 200 and 300 votes in March 2005.

"The reason the board called for this bond election was because of our enormous enrollment growth," Wilhelmi said. "Since 1966, we've grown from an 855 spring enrollment ... to a 2005 spring enrollment of 8,500."

414th District Court

Menard reclaimed her spot as 414th District Court Judge after beating fellow Baylor alumna Merrilee Harman Dunnam by taking 54.42 percent of the vote.

Menard was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to serve as the first judge of the 414th court on September 2005.

Menard had 15 years of civil law experience before taking the bench. During her time as judge, she hired staff, furnished the court and decided more than 800 cases. She has also served on the Waco Family Abuse Center board.

"It was elation," said Menard's campaign manager, Shirley Blanton. "Everyone was very confident because we knew, when you take the high road, you're gonna win."

Blanton said Menard is very proud of being a Baylor alumna.

"She attends practically every basketball game, every football game, as much as possible," Blanton said. "The watch that she wears has green and gold stones — her Baylor colors."

Menard has five children and is married to Stephen Menard, a pharmacist. Less than three years ago, Menard's 18-year-old son Jacob died in a car accident.

"When she was sworn in, she had (Jacob's) picture pinned inside her robe," Blanton said, adding that her campaign team uses her son's white pickup in parades.

"He's kind of like our inspiration," she said.

Blanton and Dunnam were not available for comment after election results came in.

54th District Court

The race between Scott Peterson and Matt Johnson for the 54th District Court judge was a close match, but Johnson beat his opponent by taking 55.62 percent of the vote.

Matt Johnson, a Republican, earned an undergraduate degree from Baylor and a law degree from Oklahoma City University.

He has had experience as justice of the peace at McLennan County Pre-



Melea Burke/Lariat staff

Judge Vicki Menard thanks her supporters Tuesday while campaign worker Rex Davis looks on as election night draws to a close.

inct One and as a felony prosecutor and appeals attorney. He will assume office as judge in January.

"I would like to continue the fine work of Judge George Allen over the past few years in this court," Johnson said, adding that he has no plans to push for a change in docket, but he would be willing to make the court available for civil cases if it is most convenient for the other judges in the county.

After the elections, the five district judges will decide if the 54th District Court will begin handling civil cases in addition to the criminal cases it now takes.

Peterson was not available for comment after the election.

Of the 132,058 residents of McLennan County, 53,791 took part in the election.

Lauren Hightower contributed to this report.

Dewhurst re-elected as lieutenant governor

By Kris Firth
Reporter

AUSTIN — In the race for lieutenant governor, Republican David Dewhurst was leading with 59 percent of the vote, with 66.5 percent of precincts reporting.

Dewhurst has already given his acceptance speech.

"I have been honored to serve as lieutenant governor for the last four years," Dewhurst said in the speech. "And I'm honored to serve four more."

At press time, Dewhurst had 1,923,492 votes. There were 3,254,518 votes counted in all.

Dewhurst ran against Democrat Maria Luisa Alvarado and Libertarian candidate Judy Baker.

Alvarado said she doesn't see the campaign as a wasted effort.

"In no way can I go back to living a private life," Alvarado said. "I've gained too much knowledge about what goes on in government."

In 2002 Dewhurst became the second Republican in Texas history to serve as lieutenant governor, the second-most powerful position in Texas government.

"It's a victory for Texas, a victory for all Republicans," Dewhurst said in a speech Tuesday night at the Omni Hotel in Austin.

Dewhurst's main platform was twofold. While focusing on education reform, Dewhurst also campaigned heavily for Jessica's Law. If enacted, Jessica's Law would mandate that all sex offenders be sentenced to a minimum of 25 years in jail.

During his previous term as lieutenant governor, Dewhurst led the charge to pass meaningful school finance reforms to raise academic standards. He also gave teachers a \$2,000 across-the-board pay raise.

He also implemented an initiative at high schools to reduce the dropout rate and lower local school property taxes by one-third in 2007, said Enrique Marquez, Dewhurst's campaign spokesman.

During his next turn in office, De-



Associated Press

Republican Texas Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst claims victory in his re-election campaign Tuesday in Austin. The incumbent in the race, Dewhurst focused his campaign on his education program.

"It's a victory for Texas, a victory for all Republicans."

David Dewhurst
Lieutenant Governor

whurst plans to implement Texas Children First, his comprehensive five-point plan which he says addresses the needs of Texas children.

The goals of Dewhurst's program include protecting Texas children from harm and abuse and internet predators. It also aims to provide safe schools, keeping Texas children healthy and smart. Education is a top priority of the program.

Marquez said Dewhurst spent mil-

lions on his campaign, which included TV ads.

Some people are predicting that Dewhurst will run for governor in 2010, said Jordan Powell, a Greenville sophomore. However, Dewhurst has not officially announced any intent to run.

Alvarado said she considered the experience an honor.

"I went directly to the people," Alvarado said. "They deserve an elected official who listens to them."

Last night was a victory for Republicans in both the lieutenant governor and gubernatorial races.

"It shows our state is on the right track," said Houston sophomore Erica Mooney. "And it will continue to be on the right track with the reforms Dewhurst has proposed."

Laura Frase contributed to this report.

BEAR BRIEFS

Culture Show

The Asian Students Association will host its second annual "Pandamonium" culture show at 7 p.m. Friday at the SUB bowl in the Bill Daniel Student Center. The show is free.

Philosophy conference

The "Hannah Andredt in the 21st Century: A Global Discourse" conference, celebrating the 100th birthday of Jewish philosopher and activist Hannah Andredt, will take place Nov. 9-12 in 133 Marrs McLean Science Building. Meals will be provided throughout the day and tickets cost \$200. For more information, contact Donna Praesel at (254) 710-2866

Yearbook pictures

Freshmen, sophomores and juniors can have their Round Up yearbook pictures taken from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today through Friday in the CUB student government lounge in the Bill Daniel Student Center.

Open house

The Outdoor Adventure Living and Learning staff will host an open house from 4 to 6 p.m. today at the North Village Community Center. Interested students can tour outdoor adventure classrooms and facilities and ask questions.

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Technology usage increasing among local churches

By Brad Briggs and Ashley Stocker Reporters

It was only a matter of time before the information age coupled with religion.

Hymnals have been replaced with projection screens. Sermons are accompanied by sleek PowerPoint presentations.

Today's tech-savvy churches are not the time-honored, traditional institutions our grandparents grew up in.

For more than 20 years, Columbus Avenue Baptist Church has been utilizing cutting-edge technology in its services.

By broadcasting the Sunday morning service each week to audiences throughout the Waco area, Columbus is able to reach people beyond the walls of the sanctuary.

Dale Blackburn, business administrator for Columbus Avenue Baptist Church, said he believes a church's Web site can give visitors an important first impression.

"The first thing people see when looking for a church is their Web site," Blackburn said.

E-mail also has become an integral part of their church community. During Hurricane Katrina, a church wide e-mail was sent asking for help with displaced families. Within one hour, donations began to come in.

"A response like this wouldn't be possible if we had sent a request out through regular mail," Blackburn said.

In the future, Blackburn said Columbus plans to have streaming video of sermons as well as other features.



Photo illustration by Kristina Bateman/Lariat staff

Technology has become a ministry tool for many churches. Nearly six out of every 10 churches have Web sites, according to The Barna Group, a church research organization.

A few blocks down from Columbus, Highland Baptist Church also incorporates many forms of technology into its administration and worship.

"Our worship service combines the best of concert and theater production," said Doug Hankins, assistant college director at Highland.

Highland works to provide a seamless worship service, giving church members information they need in a quick and convenient form, Hankins said.

The Web site for Highland has a college pastor blog that provides a connection to the leaders of the church.

CDs and DVDs of the sermons are also produced for members to take home and share.

First Baptist Church of Woodway uses its Web site to help members stay involved.

The site allows members the opportunity to sign up for various events via the Internet.

According to Terry Graham, associate pastor of administration and education, this feature has resulted in more church wide participation.

Graham said an online newsletter keeps members informed of weekly events, as well.

Antioch Community Church tries to set itself apart through a community-based informational network on its Web site.

The site is hosted by Church Community Builder, a company specializing in the development of church technology.

With the application, church members can log in and view their giving statements, upload documents and calendars and post messages in their small-groups zones.

Antioch information technology director Blanton Lewis said that while the technology Antioch uses in its ministry is important, it's not vital.

"If all of our equipment went away, I'm sure it wouldn't be as effective, but our ministry would go on," Lewis said.

All this is part of a larger trend sweeping sanctuaries across the nation.

According to The Barna Group, a church enhancement and research organization, nearly six out of every 10 churches have Web sites.

About 62 percent of Protestant churches use projection technology as well. This amount is up from 39 percent in 2000.

Americans have increasingly brought religious programming into their homes and cars as well.

According to a Pew Research Center study, about half of those surveyed reported watching or listening to religious programming at some time.

Churches are now able to connect to an audience beyond their geographic limitations.

There is also a growing gap in the way large and small churches utilize

media in the delivery of their messages.

Additional research from The Barna Group showed that larger churches tend to use the innovations of technology more than their smaller counterparts. The decision of churches to use more technology is not entirely based on size, however.

The rising prominence of technology in churches has resulted in a new industry.

There is now an abundance of companies that specifically cater to a church's needs by offering sound and lighting equipment, PowerPoint presentations and Web site management.

BibleGateway.com is another prominent online resource used to look up Bible verses. There are even online churches where visitors can pray together in a chat room.

However, some churches, such as Seventh and James Baptist Church, choose the more traditional route.

Members seek to connect their past and present by using hymnals and refraining from pre-recorded and PowerPoint material.

"We really want to maintain the tradition of our worship service," Leslie Rosencrans, minister of congregational life, said.

Rosencrans said the church prefers to use the gifts of their congregation rather than rely on media resources.

"We prefer not to be heavily influenced by contemporary trends," Rosencrans said.

Seventh and James may remain the exception, since the waves of innovation flooding into America's churches show no sign of stopping.

Model U.N. contests take on big issues

By Ashley Stocker Reporter

Solving the world's problems is a weekly practice for the Baylor Model United Nations team.

During the past weekend, a group of eight student team members traveled to the University of Pennsylvania for an annual conference, where they won three awards.

"Model U.N. is a small delegation with a very strong history," said Jen Kim, an El Paso junior and assistant head delegate for the Model United Nations team.

Members must try out for the Model UN team. There are currently 15 students participating in the organization, said Ivy Hammerly, Model U.N. faculty adviser.

The team, which holds weekly meetings, learns parliament procedures, discusses international issues and learns about the U.N. through practice, Kim said. The Model U.N. also holds conferences for high school students during the spring and fall semesters. These conferences host eight to nine central Texas high schools and give students a

Model United Nations team members competed Saturday at an event held at the University of Pennsylvania. The team represented the country of Luxembourg and brought home three awards.

Courtesy photo



chance to experience a competition, Kim said.

Hammerly said delegates for the competition were chosen based on two factors: their performance in simulations throughout the semester and their performance in chairing a high school Model UN conference put on in the fall.

"We try to put together the best team possible," Hammerly said. "We are only allowed to take eight to 12 students, so often we aren't able to take all the people we want to."

Competitions were held daily at the University of Pennsylvania and delegates from Baylor competed against more than 1,200

students from across the United States, said Allison Campbell, a Fort Myers, Fla., sophomore.

"We were in the Ivy League conference," Kim said. "So Stanford, Harvard, Yale and Georgetown were some of our competitors."

The competition consisted of four days of rigorous competition where students were presented with realistic world problems, Kim said.

"Our delegates were definitely in the same league as the Ivy League schools," Hammerly said. "They were very poised and just as good as the other schools."

Delegates were at the confer-

ence from Thursday to Sunday. Competitions were held daily and consisted mostly of committee work discussing worldly issues, Campbell said.

Each participating university is given a country to represent based on the number of participants, Nadine Maalouf, a Fort Worth junior, said.

Baylor delegates represented the country of Luxembourg for the competition. Five teams worked together and brought home three awards for the team, Kim said.

Will Masters, an Amarillo junior, received honorable mention for his work in NATO.

Jonathan Turner, a Birmingham, Ala., senior, received a verbal acclamation for his work in the legal committee.

Travis Hobbs, a Georgetown, Texas, sophomore and Campbell received a verbal acclamation for their teamwork on the social humanitarian committee, Kim said.

The model U.N. team attends conferences similar to this one once a semester. In the spring, the organization plans on attending a conference in San Francisco hosted by the University of California, Berkeley.

Baylor Law scores highest in state bar exam

Lizza Lopez Reporter

With a 97.87 percent passing rate, Baylor Law School ranked highest in bar exam scores among nine Texas law schools that took the exam in July.

The overall state pass rate was 86 percent, with a total of 1,152 of the 1,182 students passing the exam. For Baylor, 92 of the 94 candidates were successful.

Baylor Law School Dean Brad Toben said a lot of hard work and dedication goes into preparation for the exam.

"Preparation, in a real sense, is the education up to the point they take (the exam)," Toben said. "The students also take a bar review course prior to the exam, which refreshes what they have learned in law school."

The exam is offered twice a year, in January and July, and

lasts three days.

Day one consists of a procedure/evidence exam, which accounts for 10 percent of the exam, and one 90-minute multistate performance test, which accounts for an additional 10 percent.

On day two, students take the multistate bar exam, which accounts for 40 percent.

On the last day, students are required to complete 12 essays, which account for 40 percent.

Gordon Davenport, a Baylor Law graduate who was among the 92 who passed the bar, said that Baylor Law's required courses prepared him well for the exam.

"The Texas Civil Procedure and Evidence courses were especially useful in certain areas of the exam," Davenport said. "The advantage that Baylor has over other schools is that it requires you to take courses, such

as these, that are not required at some of the other schools."

Baylor Law 2003 alumnus Jesus Lopez said part of the reason he chose Baylor Law was because of its bar exam success rates.

"Baylor Law prepared me to handle just about any high-pressure situation in the courtroom," Lopez said.

"Its practice court program gave me good preparation for realistic work. Upon completion of the program, I felt I had the ability to go out and work the next day."

Toben said the program is a third year advocacy-training program and is effective in getting students ready for the courtroom.

"Practice court is a great part of our curriculum," Toben said. "The curriculum as a whole is what is critical and important for success in our students' ca-

reers."

Toben said alumni are marked by extraordinary achievement and knows that recent graduates and graduates to come will go far in their careers.

"Our alumni have all made a big impact in communities across the state and nation," Toben said.

"We focus on preparing students with practice and are very pleased that they make us very proud with their performances."

Baylor has ranked No. 1 on seven of the past 10 exams. Toben said he believes results like these will be produced for years to come.

"Baylor graduates have an unparalleled record of success on the Texas bar exam, whether the time period measured extends five, 10, 15, 20 or more years in the past," Toben said.

On Tuesday, however, Saddam sat quietly, calmly taking notes as four Kurdish witnesses gave their testimony.

Saddam's goal in making the statement was unclear.

However, the remarks followed at least two other public declarations by Saddam in recent weeks in which he urged national unity — perhaps to secure a more favorable place in history or to encourage contacts between the Americans and his supporters.

Hussein asks Iraqis to reconcile with each other

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A somber and subdued Saddam Hussein called on Iraqis to "forgive, reconcile and shake hands" as he returned to court Tuesday for his Kurdish genocide trial two days after being sentenced to death in a separate case.

Iran urged Iraq to disregard calls for clemency and hang the ousted president, saying Saddam's "very existence is anti-human."

dam came after he rose during the afternoon session to question the testimony of the witnesses, who told of a mass killing of Iraqi Kurds in the 1987-88 Operation Anfal crackdown on Kurdish guerrillas.

Saddam then calmly spoke about how the Prophet Muhammad and Jesus Christ asked for forgiveness for those who had opposed them.

"I call on all Iraqis, Arabs and Kurds, to forgive, reconcile and shake hands," Saddam said

before resuming his seat.

The former president's demeanor was far different from his performance Sunday, when another court convicted him in the deaths of about 150 Shiite Muslims following an assassination attempt against him in the town of Dujail in 1982.

Saddam and two others were sentenced to death by hanging. Saddam thundered, "Long live the people and death to their enemies" when the sentence was imposed.

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Author to explore biblical story roots

By Kori Chappell
Reporter

A decade of traveling in the Middle East to search for the birthplaces of Biblical stories will be explored in a lecture by an award winning author Thursday night.

Bruce Feiler has written eight books, been on the cover of *Time* magazine, hosted a PBS special and is a contributor to National Public Radio.

His lecture is part of the fifth-annual Ferguson-Clark lecture series, which features well-known authors.

Feiler's lecture will be a summary of three of his books and a decade of his travels.

"He has several books that are the foundation for his discussion," said Mary Goolsby, library advancement coordinator.

He will talk about how Abraham is the father of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and how these three religions can find common ground and seek a more peaceful existence.

"Religion is the number one topic in the world today from Iraq to terrorism to the Da Vinci Code," Feiler said.

"What I've done over the last decade is travel through war zones visiting ... a lot of these places that we learn about as children."

He was inspired to research

where the Bible took place in order to make it more real.

"I wanted to read the Bible, but it was so distant," he said. "The Bible is really a great adventure story. If I went to these places I could have a good time and learn something, too."

Feiler said he was trying to answer the big question of whether religion will tear humans apart or keep humans together.

"I would love for people to walk away with the feeling that each of us can make a difference in religious reconciliation," Feiler said.

Associate dean and director of university libraries Bill Hair, said the lecture will be a good

opportunity for students to learn about what is going on the Middle East.

"He's an engaging speaker and I think he puts forth some good ideas as far as what we have in common," Hair said.

Goolsby said last year the lecture had about a thousand people in attendance, and this year a crowd of about the same size is expected to turn out.

The proceeds from ticket and T-shirt sales will go to a project to improve the library.

"Each year we try to do a student-centered project," Goolsby said.

Usually money goes to renovations, she said, since there isn't much money in the budget



Courtesy art

Author Bruce Feiler traveled to the locations of the Bible stories to research the roots of Christianity, which he's written about in many of his eight books.

for it.

Goolsby said this year's proceeds will provide new study areas with some furniture.

The lecture will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday at Waco Hall. Student tickets are \$5 and faculty tickets are \$10.

Woman falls to death at Leap

By Christine M. Tamer
and Lauren Hightower
Staff writer and reporter

A woman fell to her death shortly after noon on Tuesday when she intentionally slid over the ledge of Lovers Leap in Cameron Park, said Steve Anderson, spokesman for the Waco Police Department.

Sarah Marie Rebecca, 28, crawled over the Lovers Leap wall and refused park bystanders' requests to return to safety. When police officers arrived at the scene, they found Rebecca sitting on the rock ledge.

Anderson said Rebecca continually refused officers' attempts to get her to step away from the cliff's edge.

She then intentionally slid off the ledge she was sitting on. Before falling, she turned back toward officers while holding onto the rock ledge, Anderson said.

An officer offered Rebecca a repelling rope, but Anderson said she refused the officer's help. While one of the responding officers was speaking with Rebecca, she let go of the ledge she was holding onto and fell to her death.

Anderson said officers experienced "a feeling of helplessness."

"It was obvious that they felt how anyone would feel when trying to keep someone from taking their own life and then right there in front of them they just jumped," Anderson said.

Monique Ortega, an El Paso senior, said Lovers Leap has made her nervous since her freshman year. She said the wall is low and even appears broken in some areas.

"It's really bad," she said. "There should be a lot more things to keep people from getting to those dangerous parts."

Ortega said the city should do "whatever it takes" to prevent this kind of incident or a repeat of last February's accidental death. One of her suggestions was the inclusion of a "buffer zone" between the wall and the cliff.

"How many more people have to die before they do something about this?" Ortega asked.

Attempts to contact Jonathan Cook, the City of Waco Parks and Recreation community relations officer, after hours were unsuccessful.

Ex-candidate throws punches at voting site

The Associated Press

DRIPPING SPRINGS, — A former Republican lawmaker unseated four years ago by state Rep. Patrick Rose physically attacked him Tuesday at a polling site where Rose was greeting voters in his race for a third term, authorities said.

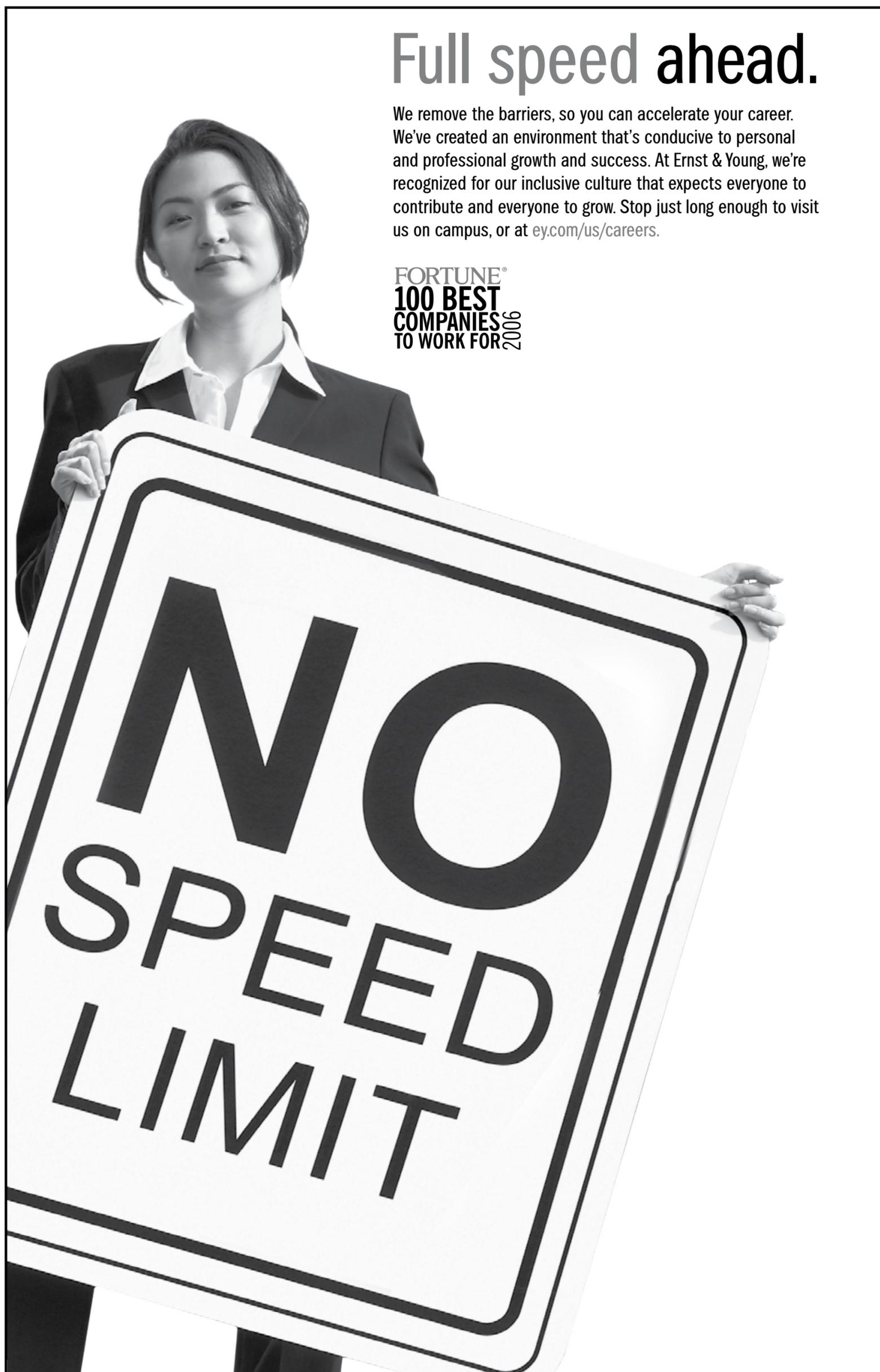
Rose, who said he wasn't injured, is running for re-election for District 45 against Republican Jim Neuhaus. Rose said there had been no brewing enmity with Green and that he doesn't know what prompted the alleged attack.

The alleged assault happened about 11:30 outside Sunset Canyon Baptist Church.

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Cross country runners go the distance in district meet

By David Kaye
Reporter

The Baylor men's and women's cross country teams traveled 43,680 miles, the equivalent of running almost twice around the world, during 21 weeks of training leading up to the Big 12 Conference meet Oct. 27. But they didn't use any gas.

"It's a hard thing to imagine, but it's not as horrific as it sounds," senior Bo Price said. "Once you get in shape to do it, it can actually be enjoyable."

These Bears don't hibernate during the offseason. While most of their classmates are relaxing, the 35 Baylor distance runners spend their summers running as many as 100 miles per week in an effort to build a "base."

"It's hard to train in the summer in the Texas heat," head Coach Todd Harbour said. "But you can't run the quality of meets that we run without a huge base. It gives us a hardness that carries us through the season."

As the season begins, their training drops to 70 to 80 miles per week for men and 50 to 70 miles per week for women. But that doesn't make their workload any easier. As student-athletes, cross country runners have to budget more than just their time.

"It's not even just the practices. It's like an entirely different lifestyle," junior Jacob Jones said. "We live totally different than a lot of people. We're on totally different schedules. We eat different than 99 percent of people. If you don't have somebody by your side doing that, it can get rough."

So the runners lean on each other. Not just in training, but also in competition.

"If you're running just for yourself, it's a whole lot easier to give up in a race," Price said. "You see your teammate running right next to you in a race, and you think, 'Well they're not giving up, so I can't give up either.'"

While runners individually score points, cross country is a team sport. The top five runners from each school determine how their team places against other schools in the meet.

Individuals score one point for each place they finish, with first getting one point, second getting two and so on. The lower the team scores, the better it places.

A scoring system that places so

Cross country by the numbers:

- The men's and women's cross country teams ran 43,680 miles in 21 weeks of training to get ready for the Big 12 Conference meet.
- The circumference of the earth is approximately 24,901.55 miles.
- Athletes piled on as many as 100 miles per week in the summer to prepare for the season.
- Waco is 102 miles away from Austin.
- Training this year averaged 70 to 80 miles a week for men and 50 to 70 miles per week for women.



"I run as far as Dallas, and back every month."

Loren Hodges



"I run more than a Bearathon every weekend."

Erin Bedell



"I run more miles in a week than I drive."

Rob Morrow



"I run more in a month than most people will walk in one year."

Ben Haby

much emphasis on the team encourages runners to work together toward a common goal.

"A lot of people think that we're just running on our own, but really we're not because of the way the team score works," Plano junior Lyndsy Bedell said. "The better everybody does individually, the better the team does as a whole."

Despite the runners' dedication, injuries can often ruin an entire season for cross country runners.

Mononucleosis forced Plano sophomore Erin Bedell to take a redshirt after competing in just one meet during the 2006 season. Senior Brittany Brockman also took a redshirt after suffering a stress fracture during 2006 track season.

"We live on the edge, and injuries are as much a part of our program as they are any other sport," Harbour said. "If you're not running hard enough to get injured, then you probably aren't training hard enough. That's just the way it is."

Price has proven that some injuries are unavoidable, regardless of the intensity of training. Just two meets into the season, he spent time in the

hospital after being hit by a car during practice.

Though he suffered several abrasions, hip contusions and road rash, Price only missed one meet. He said being in good shape aided in a quick recovery.

"Part of (the accident) is a mystery to me," Price said. "Eleven years of running and a lifetime of mileage helps. Sometimes an injury like that isn't as bad as it should be."

Price hasn't lost sight of his running goals, even after being hit by a car. He's one of three seniors trying to lead the men's team to the NCAA championships for the first time since 1995.

"This is my last year, and I've had a lot of bumps in the road. I didn't have as much summer training as I wanted to," Price said. "Then I came back and got hit by a car. My motivation is just to do as much as I possibly can for the team - to be a good team leader."

Harbour said he's pleased with the progress the men's team has shown this season.

"We've got a hard-working group of guys, and I'm so proud of what they've accomplished," he said. "They've put the program on solid ground."

Harbour said he knows what it takes to be successful. He learned from his days as a Baylor athlete that there's no limit to what can be achieved through hard work and dedication.

Former track and field Coach Clyde Hart recruited Harbour to run for Baylor in 1978. Harbour went on to become the Southwest Conference champion in the 1,500 meters in each of his four years as a Bear, and his time of 3:50.3 still stands as the record for the best mile ever run by a collegiate.

After running professionally as one of the world's top milers, Harbour returned to Baylor to coach cross country in 2000. He credits Hart with making him the person and coach he is today.

"I wasn't interested in coming to a Christian university, but because of who Coach Hart was, I came to Baylor," Harbour said. "I've never once regretted that decision. God used this university and the people here to change my life. It's a little overwhelming to think about at times."

Despite sickness, injuries and freak accidents, the runners have prevailed throughout the season. The women's team finished fifth at the Big 12 Conference Cross Country Championships,

and the men finished eighth. While the women didn't finish as high as they had hoped, since they came into the meet ranked third in the Big 12, the men's team improved on last year's 12th-place finish.

The runners' next challenge is the South Central Regional Championships, which will be held Saturday at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course in Waco. The women's race kicks off at 10 a.m., and the men will run at 11 a.m. The top two teams from each of the eight regions will receive automatic bids to nationals, and the next best 15 teams overall will receive at-large bids.

The women's team has competed at nationals the past three years, finishing 15th last year. The women hope to qualify with a top-two spot at regionals. Although the men haven't been to nationals since 1995, they're hoping to change that this weekend.

No matter the race's outcome, they'll continue to pound out the mileage. Running 43,680 miles is a lot of work for 35 runners, but they say they run because it's what they love to do.

"It's like those T-shirts that say, 'Our sport is your sport's punishment,'" Harbour said. "Most people look at run-

Lady Bears rip up Jaguars 103-50 in final exhibition matchup



Nathan Obbards/Roundup staff

Forward Bernice Mosbey goes up for a layup against a Houston Jaguar defender Tuesday night at the Ferrell Special Events Center.

After slow start, Baylor dominates opponent

By Will Parchman
Sports writer

The Baylor women's basketball team won its second of its two pre-season exhibition games Tuesday night, defeating the Houston Jaguars 103-50 at the Ferrell Special Events Center.

Despite facing a clearly over-matched opponent, it took some time for the Baylor women's basketball team to warm up against a Jaguars team playing more for pride than practice.

The Jaguars, who are not affiliated with a school and play only exhibition contests, gave the Lady Bears a brief scare, leading by as many as six points in the game's first 15 minutes.

Freshman forward Jessika Bradley said the Lady Bears' lack of experience served as a wake-up call following their 71-point win last Thursday.

"(Houston) was a lot better than the team we played the other night," Bradley said.

"I think it was an eye-opener

to see that we came from behind and to show that we really are young and we really are learning. I definitely think we are getting better."

Despite the slow start, Baylor overcame a sloppy showing in the first half and took a 47-29 lead before heading into the locker room at halftime.

The Jaguars successfully employed half- and full-court trap defenses for most of the game, which the Lady Bears seemed to struggle in the early portions of the game.

"I think it's very obvious, if you watch the game, that we have talent," head Coach Kim Mulkey said.

"But what we don't have is experience. It excites me, the talent that we have, but I'm realistic to understand that we have a long way to go."

Baylor's dominating post presence played its part in overcoming what would be a short-lived lead for Houston, and outscored the Jaguars 48-16 in the paint.

Led by senior forward Bernice Mosby's 14 first-half points, the Lady Bears broke open the game for good. Facing a 29-27 deficit,

"I was dizzy I was screaming so loud. It was a great play and I'm happy it was completed."

Jhasmin Player
junior guard

Baylor railed off a 20-2 run to cap the first half.

After figuring out Houston's defensive press, Baylor put it on cruise control in the second half en route to the comfortable 53-point win.

Junior guard Jhasmin Player and Mosby were the game's two leading scorers, combining for 45 minutes and 35 points.

"Jhasmin has to play because she works her rear end off," Mulkey said. "She just plays hard."

Mulkey also acknowledged Mosby's leadership qualities, saying that her greatest asset could be slowing down at the right times and saving her seemingly boundless energy.

"She's been a great leader," Mulkey said. "She's been a cap-

tain that has tried to lead the basketball team, which is hard to do when you've only been in a program one year."

Igniting the Lady Bears' final push was a behind-the-back pass from Bradley underneath the basket late in the second half, setting up an easy lay-up for fellow freshman forward Danielle Wilson.

"It really brought a spark. I actually caught a head-rush getting so excited," Player said. "I was dizzy I was screaming so loud. It was a great play and I'm happy it was completed."

Bradley said the play put an emphatic capper on what was a solid night of effort.

"That's a pass that I was allowed to make in high school," Bradley said. "I saw Danielle open and I knew she's somebody who was going to finish."

The Lady Bears' next contest will be their season opener at 7 p.m. Friday against North Texas at home, kicking off the WNIT tournament.

For Player and the rest of the Lady Bears' roster, the regular season can't come soon enough.

"The sky is the limit for this team," Player said.

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My Chemical Romance album falls short on originality



Courtesy photo

My Chemical Romance's new album, *The Black Parade*, was released nationwide on Oct. 24.

By Stephen Cortez
Contributor

It is certainly an oddity that a release like *The Black Parade* by My Chemical Romance can fly as low under the radar as it has.

ALBUMREVIEW

After a breakthrough second release (*Three Cheers For Sweet Revenge*) and heavy airplay for *The Black Parade*'s first single, "Welcome to the Black Parade," you would think that fans would be lined up around the corner waiting for this one. However, it seems the public can smell a rat.

Countless times throughout *The Black Parade* you find yourself thinking, "I've heard this somewhere before." But where? After some careful thought, the answer may shock you. Queen? Bon Jovi? Coldplay? Garth Brooks?

For the sake of fairness, things aren't as out of place as they seem. The punk-rock guitar is actually an upgrade, and,

for the most part, Gerard Way's vocals are pretty solid.

Tracks like "This Is How I Disappear," "The Sharpest Lives" and "House of Wolves" are as good as anything the band has released so far — crunching guitar, decent lyrics and a solid hard rock feel. "Sleep" pulls off the ballad concept fairly well without being too whiny. That's the good news.

Turning to a track like "Welcome to the Black Parade," the musical plagiarism is blatant. The extensive intro is almost intentionally reminiscent of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody." The middle of the track seems like everything is back to normal, but a stadium-ready chant and another ripped-off solo put me right back in the Murfmobile with Wayne and Garth head-banging and screaming "Mama mia, let me go!"

"Mama" has to be one of the more comical numbers on *The Black Parade*. The track is riddled with just a dash of Panic! at the Disco and Way fighting the urge to sing in an Italian accent. And

amid all the carnival-like aura, My Chemical Romance manages to drop in a fairly chaotic breakdown.

But, just when things are about to head in the right direction, the comedy returns in the form of a brief Liza Minnelli cameo. That's not a joke; she really sings a few lines.

Then there's the unnecessary slow songs, a category the band just can't seem to conquer. "Cancer" features overly explained cancer metaphors (I know, very original) without any amount of meaningful depth. "I Don't Love" comes off as a half-hearted attempt at a love-gone-wrong ballad. "Disenchanted" explains itself perfectly with the chorus: "You're just a sad song with nothing to say." Hey, that's exactly what I was thinking! These tracks seem out of place not only with the album but with the band.

My personal favorite is "Teenagers." The track begins with electric guitar and country music chords and really doesn't detract from that path. The

chorus is catchy, detailing how much teenagers frighten Way, which confused me considering the demographics of the band's punk-rock fan base. Between the country music twang and sing-along lyrics, I couldn't help but feel like I was listening to Garth Brooks' greatest hits.

Once you get past the annoyingly obvious rip-offs and the off-the-wall humor, *The Black Parade* has its moments. There are several tracks I highly recommend, and even the silly songs have their moments.

Surely there will be some who think that all of these intricacies are a brilliant addition to what was already a pretty quality act. To some degree, they may present some valid arguments. I just couldn't quite sell myself on the idea of My Chemical Romance incorporating trumpets and Liza Minnelli.

Give it a try: Find something about *The Black Parade* that grabs hold of you and treasure it. If you don't find anything, don't say I didn't tell you so.

Grade: C

The Fray reaches top of charts

By John J. Moser
McClatchy Newspapers

Ben Wysocki proffers several explanations — none of them very convincing — why The Fray's latest single, "How to Save a Life," has become even bigger than the summer's "Over My Head (Cable Car)."

Finally, the drummer for the Denver piano-rock band laughs and gives in to the obvious. "It might just be *Grey's Anatomy* that made it a bigger hit," he said during a phone interview from a St. Louis theater parking lot.

Bingo! Fact is, after the video for "How to Save a Life" was shown on the top-rated ABC-TV drama's season premiere, it raced to No. 3 on Billboard's Hot 100 (it is No. 5 this week), eclipsing "Over My Head's" peak at No. 8.

Television exposure certainly has been a component of The

Fray's success, as shows use its moody, emotional, atmospheric music to emphasize dramatic scenes. HBO even used "How to Save a Life" over a montage of *The Sopranos* to promote the acclaimed series.

The Denver band also has played virtually every late-night talk show (Letterman, Leno, Conan, Craig Kilborn) and on Thursday performed on *Good Morning America*.

The Fray's music, packed with piano melodies and percolating melodrama that has drawn comparisons to Coldplay, clearly has struck a chord with listeners.

The group's 2005 debut disc, *How To Save A Life* (Epic), hit platinum, and last August The Fray released a live EP recorded on May 26 at The Electric Factory in Philadelphia.

"A lot of the inspiration (for the EP) came from us starting to like some of these songs better

live than on the record because I think we are learning better how to play them now," Wysocki said.

Moreover, to keep the raw sound, the recording was done with no post-production.

"There's an energy live that is kind of irreplaceable in the studio, and we just absolutely loved *The Electric Factory*," he said.

For a band in the midst of such a whirl, life can be pretty hectic.

"If you're not ready for it, it can really screw you up," Wysocki said.

Wysocki, Isaac Slade (vocals, piano), Joe King (guitar, vocals) and Dave Welsh (guitar) are all in their early to mid-20s and find grounding in their families.

"We might have just played to 6,000 people or something, but we get off stage and call our wives, and they're waiting for us to get home and take the trash



MCT

The Fray's video "How To Save a Life" was shown on the season premiere of the top-rated ABC-TV drama *Grey's Anatomy*.

out," Wysocki said.

And though all band members are Christians, they are not a Christian band.

Singer-pianist Slade has said "How to Save a Life" was inspired by the suicide of a crack-addicted teen to whom he was a men-

tor, but Wysocki said "the song and the subject matter kind of goes beyond that."

The band has been writing songs for a new disc, and Wysocki said he expects the next album to be as emotionally charged as *How To Save a Life*.

Spears files for divorce

By Jeremiah Marquez
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Britney Spears is saying bye-bye K-Fed.

The pop princess filed for divorce Tuesday from her husband, former backup dancer and aspiring rapper Kevin Federline.

The Los Angeles County Superior Court filing cites "irreconcilable differences," said court spokeswoman Kathy Roberts.

Spears, 24, married Federline, 28, in 2004. They have a 1-year-old son, Sean Preston, and an infant son, Jayden James, who was born Sept. 12.

A message left with Spears' attorney, Laura Wasser, was not immediately returned.

Federline's attorney, Mark Vincent Kaplan, issued a statement declining comment.

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Ann Willis (Richards)
Class of 1954
(Governor of Texas, 1991-1995)

After fast start, defense lags behind rest of team

By Daniel Youngblood
Sports editor

Through the first five games of the Baylor football team's season, the Bears' defense was seen as their strength while their offense was considered somewhat of a liability.

Five weeks later, that perception has changed.

After allowing just 14.8 points through its first five games, the Baylor defense has given up an average of 43 points in its last five contests.

Since holding Kansas State University to three points on Sept. 30, the Bears have surrendered point totals of 34, 63, 35, 31 and 55 to its last five conference foes.

While the team has two wins in each of the five-game stretches, more pressure has been placed on the Baylor offense to keep the Bears in games.

The offense, which averaged 21.6 points through the first five contests, has scored an average of 28.8 points in its last five games.

Senior defensive back C.J. Wilson said the defense's play in the recent weeks is not acceptable and that the unit desperately needs to regroup.

"We have to, collectively as a defense, get together and find out what's going wrong because we haven't played a solid game

since Kansas State," he said. "We need to get everybody together, (including defensive coordinator Bill) Bradley and all the coaches, and get something right."

"If not, we're going to be wrong for the rest of the season."

Coming into his senior season, Wilson said he had high hopes for the Baylor defensive unite.

Ten games into the Bears' 12-game schedule, their defense ranks 11th in the Big 12 in scoring defense, ninth in pass defense and last in rush defense.

And while the Bears are tied for third in the conference with 22 takeaways, only six of those have come in the last five games.

Baylor has given up big chunks of yardage on the ground and through the air, and after allowing 55 points and 682 total yards to Texas Tech University Saturday, the team's confidence has been shaken.

"Any time you let an offense put 50-plus points on you — if you have any pride as a defensive player — you have to take this personally," senior cornerback Anthony Arline said. "It's very embarrassing."

Head Coach Guy Morriss said he thinks the Bears will be able to rebound Saturday against Oklahoma State, but his seniors will have to take control of the

team and be held accountable for the team's success.

"One thing we have to do is appeal to the seniors that these are their last two chances," he said. "We have got to appeal to them to help get everybody up and then appeal to the younger guys."

"We've got to get their confidence back up."

Morriss said his team has not given up on the season.

"I heard Bill (Bradley) talking about how the kids were a little bit embarrassed," he said. "I think that's a good sign really because they care and it's important to them that they don't let it happen again to them this week."

While the Bears, 4-6, could still receive a bowl bid if they win their last two games, a bowl game at this point appears unlikely.

But senior outside safety Maurice Linguist said he's not shaken by adversity and he's not surprised that people have written the Bears off.

"Last time I checked, we got Oklahoma State and Oklahoma on the schedule and we need two wins to get into a bowl," he said. "If you got any fight in you — any heart — then you're not going to give up."

"We've got Oklahoma State Saturday, and this defense is going to be ready to play."



Kristina Bateman/Lariat staff

Last-minute push

Georgetown senior Julia Bustos, Waco resident Georgia Bell and Baylor alumna Michelle St. Lawrence, a Lake Jackson resident, support Republican Van Taylor Tuesday outside the Wiethorn Visitors Center.

HOUSE from page 1

fallout from a federal corruption investigation and Don Sherwood who admitted to a long-term affair with a much younger woman who says he choked her.

Midway through the evening, Pelosi, a grandmother five times over, briefly addressed a crowd of party faithful at an election-night fete at a Washington hotel. "I thank all of you for taking us to where we are tonight," said Pelosi, who won an 11th term.

Ethics woes, the war and overall anger toward Bush appeared to drive voters to the Democrats, according to surveys by The Associated Press and the television networks of voters as they left voting places. Several traditionally hard-fought demographic groups were choosing Democrats, including independents, moderates, the middle class and suburban women.

Those early exit polls also showed that three in four voters said corruption was very important to their vote, and they tended to vote Democratic. In a sign of a dispirited GOP base, most white evangelicals said corruption was very important to their vote — and almost a third of them turned to the Democrats.



Associated Press

U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton, greet supporters after her reelection as she leaves the stage after speaking at a Democratic party victory celebration Tuesday in New York.

CHET from page 1

long-term care in areas of medicine, surgery, psychiatry and rehabilitation. In 2003, the CARES commission, operated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and responsible for evaluating the performance of VA hospitals, recommended that the department close Waco's VA campus.

The well-liked Corpus Christi native has secured \$44 million in investments for defense jobs, road improvements, cleaning up Lake Waco and other priorities for McLennan County. Additionally, Edwards recently secured \$3 million for post-traumatic stress disorder research

that will involve Waco's VA hospital, Baylor University and Fort Hood.

Longtime Waco resident Paul Carrizales, a veteran and retiree, said he has always supported Edwards because of his willingness to help people in his situation.

"He's always been for the people," Carrizales said. "He's always been upfront and extended his hand and tried to help anyone who walks in his office."

The win wraps up two long and expensive campaigns.

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, a nonpartisan, nonprofit research group that tracks money in politics and

its effects on elections and public policy, Edwards and Taylor together have spent nearly \$4.5 million on their campaigns.

The Center for Responsive Politics shows that Taylor had to contribute \$775,000 of his personal wealth to counterbalance recent news that the National Republican Committee pulled almost \$1.5 million from his campaign.

A spokesman for the committee said the decision was a "matter of campaign strategy" but the committee was still committed to endorsing Taylor.

Before the race, Taylor expressed his excitement and said he knew it was going to be a very close race.

PERRY from page 1

the U.S. Air Force for five years. He first was elected commissioner of agriculture, followed by a seat in the Texas House of Representatives, lieutenant governor, and finally reaching the top as Texas Governor in 2000 when then-Gov. George W. Bush resigned to run for president.

During the campaign, Perry highlighted three issues: education, border security and job creation in Texas. Perry spokesman Robert Black said all these are ongoing issues in Texas.

Perry offered console to his fellow candidates and noted that while they all had differences, they shared a mutual love: Texas.

"Today's victory must be about preparing for tomorrow's Texas," Perry said. "This campaign is over and our work has just begun."

Perry heightened security along the border by providing security cameras to monitor illegal immigration.

He also has made efforts to increase education funding as well as teacher salaries. Throughout his term as governor, Perry has created more than 600,000 jobs in Texas.

At his election night party in Houston, where a band played country music, Bell called Perry to congratulate him.

"It has been a long, hard

battle and one I will always believe was worth fighting," Bell told supporters.

"I hope you think so, too," he said.

Alex Neville, a San Antonio junior and president of Baylor Democrats, said Bell did well considering he was running in such a Republican state.

"I'm sorry that (Bell) lost, but I'm pretty proud of what we did this election night," Neville said. "Perry already had a following, and already being in office gave him the edge he needed to win."

Neville said she's unsure what the political future of Texas will look like if the state keeps moving in the same direction.

"I definitely don't think very many changes are going to be happening," Neville said.

She is placing hope for change in the hands of local politicians and Democrats in the Senate.

Bell's campaign focused on the environment, mainly the adverse affects of proposed coal plants such as pollution and economic problems, and ethical reform, saying that Perry has no moral ground to stand on.

Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn and Kinky Friedman ran with hopes of following in the footsteps of Sam Houston. Not since 1859 has Texas had an Independent elected governor.

"He's always been for the people."

Paul Carrizales
Chet Edwards supporter

"I'm really pumped. One hundred and forty-four people at my polling location came up and said they're voting for Van Taylor for Congress," Taylor said. "No matter who wins, we ran a good campaign."

Taylor expressed his anxiety to know the election results.

"It's like Christmas. You get to the end of the race and you just want to find out what (the

outcome) is going to be."

Taylor moved to District 17 in the summer of 2005 to oppose Edwards. The district extends south from Johnson County, just south of Dallas, to Navasota — a 200-plus mile swath that includes Baylor and Texas A&M universities and Fort Hood.

The district's total population is 651,620, with more than 55,000 veterans.

Casey Phillips, Taylor's campaign manager, said the camps been working hard in the community. "Van has put 55,000 miles on his truck campaigning this year," Phillips said. "He's shaken a lot of hands and met a lot of people."

Taylor is a Harvard College

graduate and a Marine Corps Reservist. He based much of his campaign platform on his service history and made repeated promises that, as a veteran, he would equip the military and law enforcement with the proper tools and equipment needed to win the war on terror.

When asked, Taylor said he was unsure of his plans for the future.

"I'm going to wake up alive tomorrow. I'll still be around."

Edwards sent his regards to Taylor in his victory speech.

"I want to thank Van Taylor for his service as a Marine in Iraq," Edwards said. "I respect Van for his service and wish him the best."

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