ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2008

Noose ignites tempers on campus

Jade Ortego Staff writer

At 9 a.m. Tuesday, a rope was discovered tied like a noose hanging from a tree outside of Morrison Hall, prompting the Baylor NAACP and Baylor's Association of Black Students to hold a joint meeting to discuss racially charged events on Election Day. The groups feel the acts were indicative of a racist culture at Baylor.

Devin Culberson, Spring freshman, found a thin, white rope tied to a loop at the end, hanging from a tree. Culberson borrowed a knife from a janitor and cut it down, he

The rope evokes historical images of when black people were hanged from trees in the American South in

The rope is now in possession of the Baylor Police. Dub Oliver, Vice President of Student Life, says that he believes it was intended to look like a noose and send a hateful message. He hopes students will continue to come forward and help with the investigation.

Culberson believes the rope was put in a tree to intimidate black supporters of president-elect Barack

"I had to cut it down to show respect for myself and other black people," he said. Baylor Chief of Police Jim Doak

said he was also disappointed in the Election Day events. "This is irresponsible conduct to

the highest degree. It was absolutely distasteful, if that was the reason it was put out there," Doak said.

Someone has come to the police department with information on who may have put it into the tree, Doak said.

After the election was called for Obama, signs were found burning in the fire pit outside of Brooks Village, Waco freshman Brad Wright said.

Boerne freshman Michael Acosta said he saw it too

Later, verbal altercations occurred outside of Penland Residence Hall. A group of Obama supporters were walking around shouting "Obama" and then passed a group of white men outside who made threatening and racist remarks, said Emmanuel Orupabo, Arlington senior.

According to Orupabo, one the men told the group, "Any (expletive) who walks by Penland, we're going to kick their (expletive), we're going to jump him." Orupabu and the people with him stopped and responded, "Excuse me?" The groups shouted at each other until police showed up.

Doak said the police didn't witness any racist remarks, but they were told of them. There were only about 10 to 15 people involved, he said, but there appeared to be more because so many stopped to watch.

"Folks got a little tacky," Doak said. There were no arrests and no violence, he said, "but rumors have been absolutely crazy.

Parents of students have flooded the Baylor Police with phone calls

"I had to cut it down to show respect for myself and other black people."

> Devin Culberson Spring freshman

concerned with the safety of their children.

Doak said one caller heard that there were burning crosses on cam-

President Garland sent out an e-mail Wednesday condemning the Election Day conflicts on campus and the hanging of the noose.

"These events are deeply disturbing to us and are antithetical to the mission of Baylor University," it read 'We categorically denounce and will not tolerate racist acts of any kind on our campus."

"They're not going to brush this over. This is not a stance."

> Ryan Phipps Baylor NAACP

The Baylor NAACP and Association of Black Students said they appreciate the e-mail, but believe that further action must be taken.

'They're going to brush this over. This is not a stance," said Ryan Phipps, holding up a copy of the e-mail. Phipps, Mesquite senior, is president of the Association.

At the joint meeting of approximately 50 people, committees were assigned to head various measures that the groups hope to take to address racism at Baylor.

The Baylor NAACP gave a statement Wednesday.

"We have faith that the Baylor community will come together and bridge différences to create an environment of inclusiveness, understanding and acceptance all members of the Baylor family. We look forward to campus support of forthcoming initiatives statement they issued yesterday," it read.

Last Friday, a life-sized effigy of Obama was found hanging from a tree at the University of Kentucky.

On Wednesday in Kilgore, Texas, police said they found racially charged graffiti with references to the election spray-painted on a high school gymnasium wall and at a

Prisca Anuolam and the Associated Press contributed to this report.



Above: Devin Culberson found this rope, shaped as a noose, displayed here on a table in the Bill Daniel Student Center Tuesday.

Right: Ryan Phipps, president of the Baylor chapter of the NAACP, addresses members at a meeting held by the organization Wednesday evening to discuss responses to various incidents that happened Tuesday night after the presidential election.



Shanna Taylor/Lariat Staff

University Statement

Statement from Interim Baylor University President David Garland Regarding Campus Incidents

Interim Baylor University President David E. Garland released the following statement today:

Baylor police reported today on three disturbing incidents that occurred on our campus yesterday.

Late Tuesday afternoon we were notified of a single clothesline rope that had been seen in a tree on campus. The individuals who discovered it believed it had the appearance of a noose. Baylor police are now in possession of the rope and continue to speak with students who observed the rope in the tree and are gathering additional information about the origin of the rope

Last evening, police investigated a small fire in a barbecue pit adjacent to Brooks Flats in which it was alleged several Obama/Biden

Finally, police were called late last evening to a disturbance outside Penland Hall, where a shouting match had occurred between two small groups of white and African-American students.

These events are deeply disturbing to us and are antithetical to the mission of Baylor University. We categorically denounce and will not tolerate racist acts of any kind on our campus.

Further, we are committed to maintaining the safety and unity of our campus community. We wish to celebrate and strengthen inclusiveness, understanding and acceptance of all members of the Baylor family.

As they have thus far, Baylor police will respond quickly and decisively to any additional situations of this nature. Faculty, staff and students with information pertaining to any of the incidents we've described are urged to contact Baylor police at 710-2222

Baylor has specific policies regarding expectations of civility and respect on our campus. Those policies, which we endorse and nent.php?id=39242 <http://www.baylor.edu/co enforce, can be found at http://www.baylor.edu/content/services/docu document.php?id=39242>.

Faculty, staff and students also participate in on-going weekly meetings hosted by our department of multicultural activities called "Frankly Speaking" in which issues of the day are discussed in a respectful and civil manner. The goal of "Frankly Speaking" is for participants to feel comfortable expressing their opinions and beliefs within a safe environment. The meetings are held in the Bill Daniel Student Center each Tuesday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., and members of the Baylor community are

We believe that the incidents on our campus yesterday were irresponsible acts committed by a few individuals. As a community we condemn these terribly unfortunate events that do not represent the values we share as members of the Baylor family.

Rumors raised: Edwards to join Obama cabinet?

By Chad Shanks Staff Writer

Waco Representative Chet Edwards is downplaying speculation that he might be picked for a cabinet post in President-Elect Barack Obama's adminis-

An article in The Houston Chronicle Wednesday said that Edwards and former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk are being considered for staff positions.

"I have had no contact with President-Elect Barack Obama or his staff, and have no expectation of being offered a cabinet position in the administration. I am focused on doing my job and continuing to be an effective and independent voice for our district. I am humbled each day to have the honor of representing the great people of Central Texas in Congress,"

Edwards said Wednesday in an e-mail to The Lariat.

Central Texas Democrats expressed excitement about the possibility of their representative serving the administration in Washington, but would miss his local contributions.

"At this point, it is just speculation. However, if the president asks you to serve in any position, you have to listen. I'd expect Chet Edwards to seriously consider it if he is asked. Our preference is to keep him working for Texas's 17th District, but we would respect any decision he makes," said John Cullar, McLennan County Democratic Party president.

While Obama held no public events on Wednesday, sources close to the campaign expect him to start naming his staff soon, CNN reports. Illinois Rep. Rahm Emanuel is rumored to



Sen. John Edwards is dispelling rumors that he will be appointed to President- Elect Barack Obama's cabinet. Edwards said he has not been conacted by Obama and doesn't have any expectations for a nomination.

be the front-runner for Obama's in the running for cabinet posi-White House chief of staff. Several other well-known

figures are also rumored to be

Please see Edwards, page 4

McLennan sees voting increase

By Ashley Corinne Killough Staff Writer

Reflecting higher voter turnout rates nationwide, approximately 80,900 McLennan County voters participated in this year's election, marking a nearly 3 percent increase from the turnout in 2004.

And with a 24 percent increase from the last presidential election, early voting numbers especially saw a significant Brandon Buchanan, McLen-

nan County elections specialist, said the county's elections office had been working hard to promote early voting in order to alleviate the long lines that typically appear on Election Day.

"We were hoping that there would be less of a wait for people on Nov. 4.," Buchanan said. And, fortunately, there were less lines and less people having to stand for a long time. It was very helpful."

Buchanan said the election

process went smoothly but the final results will remain unofficial until two weeks after Election Day, as the office is still waiting on about 150 overseas ballots and as remaining technicalities are finalized.

Typically, they are pretty close to the unofficial results," said Buchanan, referring to the

The Associated Press reported Wednesday that the 2008 election is set to reveal a higher turnout than the record-setting 64 percent in 2004.

Ŝen. John McCain took 61.57 percent of McLennan County's vote, while President-elect Barack Obama garnered 37.64

This represents a 4.1 percent decrease from the number of votes that went to the Republican candidate, President George W. Bush, in 2004 and a 3.9 percent increase from those going

Please see Voting, page 4

ban gay marriage in Proposition 8 California votes to

By Lisa Leff The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES - Voters put a stop to same-sex marriage in California, dealing a crushing defeat to gay-rights activists in a state they hoped would be a vanguard and putting in doubt as many as 18,000 same-sex marriages conducted since a

court ruling made them legal their main target. The gay-rights movement

had a rough election elsewhere as well Tuesday. Amendments to ban gay marriage were approved in Arizona and Florida, and Arkansas voters approved a measure banning unmarried couples from serving as adoptive or foster parents. Supporters made clear that gays and lesbians were

But California, the nation's most populous state, had been the big prize. Spending for and against Proposition 8 reached \$74 million, the most expensive social-issues campaign in U.S. history and the most expensive campaign this year outside the race for the White House. Activists on both sides of the issue saw the measure as critical to

building momentum for their

"People believe in the institution of marriage," Frank Schubert, co-manager of the Yes on 8 campaign, said after declaring victory early Wednesday. "It's one institution that crosses ethnic divides, that crosses partisan divides. ... People have stood up because they care about marriage and they care a great deal.'

reporting, election returns showed the measure winning with 52 percent of the vote. An estimated 2 million to 3 million provisional and absentee ballots remained to be tallied, but based on trends and the locations of the votes still outstanding, the margin of support in favor of the initiative was secure.

Leaders of the No on 8 cam-

paign said they were not ready to concede.

"Because Prop 8 involves the sensitive matter of individual rights, we believe it is important to wait until we receive further information about the outcome," Geoff Kors, director of Equality California, said in a statement Wednesday.

Please see Ban, page 4

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Passage of Proposition 8 continues marginalization

Proposition 8 was just passed in California, effectively banning gay marriage in the state. The amendment was the result of tireless efforts on the part of evangelical groups.

Preachers from all over the country moved to California to join in the effort, calling people to fast and pray. Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, said of the passage of the measure, "It's more important than the presidential election."

So much energy expended, so much idealism for a cause would be commendable if it weren't in the interest of hate and oppression. It is disturbing that so many would rally together to ensure that so many others stay marginalized, others whose only indiscretion is to love someone of the same gender.

For a short time, California,

Maryland and Connecticut all recognized same-sex marriages as legal. Why is this a sign of the end of times for the Christian right? Imagine a scenario in which gays could marry across the country: it would be just like now, but gay couples that live together anyway would now have property and visitation rights like straight couples. They could call themselves wives or husbands. That's it. Straight marriages would remain just as "sacred" as we make them.

The same sort of rhetoric used to bar gays from marrying was used in the 1950's in support of anti-miscegenation laws: it was implied that the ability of races to intermarry threatened the sanctity of normal (straight, white, Christian) marriages.

That mentality is seen as bigoted and outdated now, as this



current debate will be seen in, at most, a few decades. Proposition 8 in California is a temporary setback in an inevitable movement toward inclusiveness.

Always instep with the Christian right, Baylor remains embarrassingly behind in its perception of gay rights. Baylor's sexual misconduct policy calls human sexuality a "gift from the creator God" to be enjoyed through "heterosexual relationships within marriage." Misuses of this gift include "sexual abuse, sexual harassment, sexual assault, incest, adultery, fornication and

It is wrong to list rape and abuse in the same sentence with consensual sex between adults. That is a stinging, personal affront to the gay community.

In 2005, Baylor kicked alumnus Tim Smith off the business school advisory board for refusing to deny his sexuality. He had personally donated \$65,000 to Baylor and raised \$60,000 more for a scholarship fund. He had an MBA from Harvard. Apparently it was his private life and not his loyalty or qualification for the job that mattered.

This is an outrage that is, frankly, a joke at other universities. At any public university, he could sue for discrimination. Baylor ought to remember that just because it can legally do something doesn't mean it should. If an act is questionably legal at all, shouldn't we examine whether it should be done?

In March of 2007, members of Soulforce, a Christian gay rights activist group, were arrested on campus in front of Waco Hall for chalking Bible quotes that support their message of tolerance and equality. As I watched them lead away in handcuffs, I cried with admiration of their stoicism. I was furious, and couldn't imagine being led away peacefully. I also cried with disgust at the ignorant and mean-spirited behavior of institution that purports to be of higher learning.

How can Baylor expect to compete in a new century with regressive ideas of segregation based on identity? It can't, and unless some things change, it will become increasingly more embarrassing to identify oneself as an alumnus. I don't want to be thought of as a close-minded

Baylor does nothing to foster an atmosphere of tolerance. Even in the most inviting of environments on campus, ignorant or judgmental comments can be heard. Students can hardly be blamed for their ignorance. In denying gays and lesbians the right to have a recognized group on campus (like at any other university), Baylor legitimizes notions that gays and lesbians are secondary persons, or worse, that homosexuality is a choice or some sort or mental illness.

That this oppression happens in the name of a "god of love" is the biggest insult and biggest joke of all.

Jade Ortego is a senior journalism major from Sweeny and is a staff writer for The Baylor Lariat.

Editorial

Critics, publishers should give urban fiction a chance

Drive by shootings, drugs and sex fill the pages of recently popular urban fiction titles. Despite the genre's success, there has been some question as to whether these books should be allowed into public libraries or even printed.

The genre started in New York City and was written with residents of southeast Queens in mind. The books are authored mostly by blacks and contain graphic depictions of "life on the street," in which murders, drug deals and sexual situations are described in graphic

Street vendors first distributed the books because book agents and publishers initially rejected them. It wasn't until librarians ventured out onto the streets and purchased the books that they were placed into libraries.

A recent New York Times article, 'From the streets to the libraries,' stated that public libraries in Queens are now embracing the genre as a new way to get more people interested in reading. The library explained that since receiving the books, they have had a flood of new readers requesting

Despite their popularity. urban fiction authors are still struggling to get approval from agents and publishers.

Publishers, agents and critics should consider giving this genre of writing a chance because these books provide a new perspective of life from different people living in a different place.

In a letter in response to The New York Times article, a freelance editor wrote about her disapproval of the genre. She felt the material was severely stereotypical to blacks. She told her publisher that she would refuse to work on urban fiction because of the content. Just because these books are

not a typical 'happily ever after' story doesn't mean the books shouldn't be appreciated. Urban fiction can reach out to new readers who could embrace the joys of reading, no matter the type of story or plot. It's unfair to classify these

books as stereotypical, especially if the authors have lived the reality of the stories and their interpretation is based upon

urban communities don t get to experience, which is the basis of the appeal. The graphic content of these

books is obviously not appro-



priate for young readers but may be a means of communicating to young adults that a life of crime is not the way to go.

Like violent movies and video games, just because read-The books reveal a side of ers read about a life of crime life that people living outside of doesn't mean one will actually go out and commit a crime It's strictly for educational and entertainment value and doesn't advocate anything to the reader beyond a juicy plot.

For some readers, the tales told in theses books are a mirror image of their own lives. These readers can relate to realistic characters that have the same problems, goals and pleasures in life. These books could also teach readers that there are consequences for living a street life. The stories and plot lines depicted in these stories could convey the negative side of living a life of crime that best be left to the fictional characters.

Just because the genre has received some content criticism doesn't mean that these books shouldn't be published.

There are not many stories that tackle life on the streets of New York City, something that a lot of people can relate to. Life isn't always peaches and cream, and it's important that others understand that people come from all walks of life.

Opinion policy

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

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

The Weekly Events sidebar on page five of Wednesday's paper listed incorrect times for a basketball and volleyball game. men's basketball Saturday vs. Tarleton State University is at 7 p.m. and volleyball vs. Colorado in Boulder, Colo. is at 4 p.m.

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, Discover and MasterCard payments may be phoned to 254-710-2662. Postmaster: Please send address changes to above address.

Letters to the editor

Community must come together, take responsibility for tradition

I love tradition. Traditions can have a transformative effect on the lives of students. Traditions are often historic and seemingly permanent events that can help students to feel like they are a part of something bigger than themselves, connected to the past and the future. In November of 1999, as a junior at Texas A&M University, I saw a 90-year-old seemingly permanent tradition literally come crashing down, leaving 12 fellow students dead and over 20 others seriously injured. That experience has had a profound effect on my career as a student affairs educator.

As members of this community, we share in the joys and burdens of unity, of brotherhood and sisterhood and of the Baylor spirit. Samuel Palmer Brooks in his Immortal Message to the seniors of all years asserted that "Truths do not change." He did not assert that traditions do not change, because they do.

Inevitably, traditions evolve over time, sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worse becoming almost unrecognizable and at odds with the original intention and spirit of the event.

There are times when communities must come together and take responsibility for their tradition and the future of the tradition for the good of the community. Change is a part of tradition and we need to make sure that change is for the better.

To seek to assign blame would be to miss the point, for we are all Baylor University. We are better than the events on Founders Mall last year and on Wednesday night. We are Baylor University.

Larry R. Correll-Hughes Director of Brooks Residen-

BU students should behave like good Christians and citizens

As a recent graduate (Fall 2007), I was very saddened by the news of the behavior of current Baylor students regarding the outcome of our national elec-

As a Christian university, not only do we have the privilege of receiving an exceptional academic education but also an education in morals and values. While I am aware of Baylor's political tendencies, I had hoped that Baylor students would apply that which we have been taught at our beloved school and acted with respect and love for one

another rather than protesting through racial slurs and burning

I hope that our current Baylor students learn that the world is not like the Baylor bubble and that sort of behavior won't be tolerated nor respected in the real world. I hope, for the sake of our school's name, those students currently carrying our school's reputation can learn to behave like good Christians and responsible citizens.

Carolina Rodriguez, '07

The Baylor Lariat

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1 FBI agent

5 Droops 9 Full-scale attack

14 Costa_

15 Bryce Canyon state 16 Flood protection barrier

17 NYC theater

18 Afrikaner

19 Circumvent

20 Start of Mario Cuomo quip

23 Go by, as time 24 Wet soil

25 One of those girls 28 Orch. section

29 Disney dwarf 32 Apple leftover 33 Scottish river

34 Eyeball impolitely 35 Flash of light 36 Part 2 of quip

39 Continuous 42 Launch forces 43 Big galoot 46 Sort of school

47 Concert sites

49 Tango team

50 Lawyers' org. 51 A Gabor 52 Thelma or Tex 54 End of quip 58 Overcharge

60 Alleviate 61 Andy's radio partner 62 Luster

63 Move just slightly 64 Amounted (to)

65 Balance sheet plus 66 Chuck 67 Low-blow weapon

DOWN 1 Superlatively ashen

2 Canon rival 3 Insurance statistician 4 Rights grp.

5 Go under 6 On the peak of 7 Primal goddess of Greeks 8 Seafood order

12 Danson or Koppel

9 Amalgam 10 Strauss of jeans 11 Sir Walter Scott hero 58 Young ladies' org.

13 Final letter 21 Equally beneficial 22 Regular Joe

26 Period 27 "The One I Love" group

30 Most remote, briefly 31 Blend together 32 Actor Gulager

35 Rumor spreader 36 Apple seed

37 Hankering 38 Ones who pine 39 Masseuse's milieu

40 Poetic planet 41 Associations of teams

43 Cushioned footstool 44 Truly amazing 45 Envision

47 Hail, to Caesar 48 Hardest to find 51 Big occasion

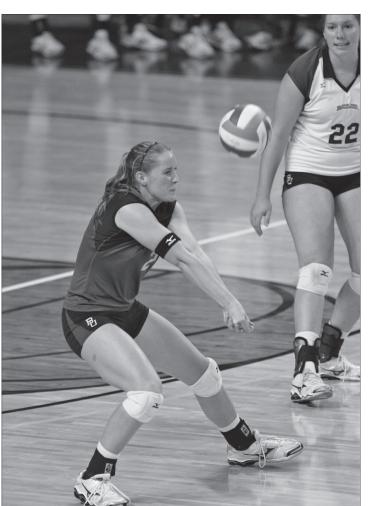
53 Follow 55 Curved molding 56 Amer.-Eur. alliance 57 Fertility goddess

59 Sighs of delight

By Alan P. Olschwang 11/6/08 Huntington Beach, CA

> For today's crossword and sudoku answers, visit www.baylor.edu/Lariat

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Sarah Morris/ Lariat Staff

Baylor's Katie Sanders (22) watches Caitlyn Trice (2) bump the ball in Baylor's 3-Ó loss to No. 4 of Texas Wednesday at the Ferrell Center. Sanders led Baylor

Longhorns hand BU fourth straight loss

By Kirsten Johnson

For the fourth-straight match, the Bears came out with

The volleyball team (14-10, 6-8) dropped a 3-0 match (25-18, 30-28, 25-21) to the No. 4 University of Texas Longhorns (18-4, 11-2) Wednesday night in the Ferrell Center.

The last meeting of these teams was Oct. 8 in Austin ending with a 3-0 loss for Baylor.

In preparing for the second meeting, the Bears focused on

"(They) are a very athletic team," head coach Jim Barnes said. "Our preparation was defensively not to let any of their off-speed tips and shots go down. At times, we didn't let balls go down and we forced them into mistakes. We just didn't do it consistently

Baylor headed into the match 6-7 in the Big 12 Conference standings and 14-9 overall.

The first set was won by Texas 25-18. However, the next two sets were neck-and-neck.

The second half of game two went point-by-point between the two teams until a final set score of 30-28, culminating in a

Neither squad was able to get a five-point advantage, and momentum switched back and

During halftime, the Bears discussed the importance of staying focused only on the third game.

"We had just lost a really close game, but we just talked about that when we were playing aggressive and disciplined, we could stay toe-to-toe with this team," Barnes said. "We talked about staying aggressive and not missing serves after 20 (points). When we get to 20, we need to play smart.

The third set started like the second set ended, with neither team gaining an advantage. The rally of points back-and-forth continued.

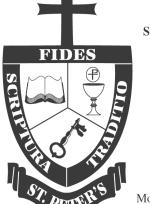
"It's a tough loss," Arlington junior Taylor Barnes said. "Granted there was only three games, but it's was tough because it was so close in every single game. Especially in the second game, if we could have split before the halftime, I think it really would've changed the

momentum in the match. The next match for the Bears will be at 4 p.m. Saturday in Boulder, Colo. against the University of Colorado. Their last meeting resulted in a 3-0 win for the Bears.

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Obama selects former Clinton aid as chief of staff in new administration

By David Espo and Nedra Pickler **Associated Press Writers**

WASHINGTON - Presidentelect Barack Obama pivoted quickly to begin filling out his new administration on Wednesday, selecting hard-charging Illinois Rep. Rahm Emanuel as White House chief of staff while aides stepped up the pace of transition work that had been cloaked in pre-election secrecy.

Several Democrats confirmed that Emanuel had been offered

While it was not clear he had accepted, a rejection would amount to an unlikely public snub of the new president-elect within hours of an electoral col-With hundreds of jobs to fill

and only 10 weeks until Inauguration Day, Obama and his transition team confronted a formidable task complicated by his anti-lobbyist campaign rhetoric.

The official campaign Web

Site said no political appointees would be permitted to work on "regulations or contracts directly and substantially related to their prior employer for two years. And no political appointee will be able to lobby the executive branch after leaving government service during the remainder of the administration."

But almost exactly one year ago, on Nov. 3, 2007, candidate Obama went considerably further than that while campaigning in South Carolina. "I don't take a dime of their money, and when I am president, they won't find a job in my White House," he said of lobbyists at the time. Because they often have

prior experience in government or politics, lobbyists figure as potential appointees for presidents of both parties. On the morning after making

history, the man elected the first black president had breakfast with his wife and two daughters at their Chicago home, went to a nearby gym and visited his downtown offices.

said he planned no public appearances until later in the week.when has promised to hold a news con-

ference.



As president-elect, he begins receiving highly classified briefings from top intelligence officials Thursday.

In offering the post of White House chief of staff to Emanuel, Obama turned to a fellow Chicago politician with a far different style from his own, a man known for his bluntness as well as his single-minded determina-

Emanuel was a political and policy aide in Bill Clinton's White House. Leaving that, he

turned to investment banking, then won a Chicago-area House seat six years ago. In Congress, he moved quickly into the leadership. As chairman of the Democratic campaign committee in 2006, he played an instrumental role in restoring his party to power after 12 years in the

Emanuel maintained neutrality during the long primary battle between Obama and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, not surprising given his long-standing ties to the former first lady and his Illinois connections with Obama.

The day after the election there already was jockeying for Cabinet appointments.

Several Democrats said Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, who won a new six-year term on Tuesday, was angling for secretary of state.

They spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they were not authorized to discuss any private conversations.

Alumnus invests in fair trade in sports

By Alex Maxwell

Founder and president of Fair Trade Sports, Baylor alumnus Scott James will speak on campus this Friday as part of the Dale P. Jones Business Ethics Forum.

"My hope in talking this week is to inspire undergraduates to line up with the Baylor ethos and have an enormous impact with spiritual beliefs in the business world," James said.

James' company, Fair Trade Sports, offers the first non-agriculture product, soccer balls, to be fair trade certified and ecocertified, or "green."

Fair trade addresses the ethical issue of working conditions. It is about creating opportunities for economically disadvantaged workers, ensuring fair product pricing, gender equality, safe working conditions and environmental protection,

The ethics forum is aimed to challenge current and future leaders to thoughtfully explore

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the significant opportunities and profound responsibilities businesses have in this constantly changing business environment, according to the press

Starting off in the technology industry after graduating from Baylor in 1994, James then received his MBA from Notre Dame. He said that his first child triggered him to rethink his career and possibly be more than a software analyst.

James said he was envious of his wife, who worked in social work, but wanted to incorporate his marketing skills into his vocation, which led him to establish Fair Trade Sports.

James said that he used to assume that this country provided healthy working conditions, but after a little research, he found that was not the case.

While the ethics forum has been in existence for over 10 years, the current format includes both guest speakers and student competitions and was implemented three years ago, said Dr. Mitchell Neubert,

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Chavanne Chair of Christian The change is an effort to get

students more actively engaged in wrestling with ethical issues,

Baylor campus has seen some Fair Trade companies' presence already this year. Independence Coffee Company presented its Baylor Signature Series of coffees in August, for sale at the Baylor Bookstore.

"I was pretty excited to see Baylor launch fair trade coffee," James said.

James returns to campus from his home in Seattle to talk at a round table event.

This is not the first time James has made the trip back to Baylor. He was invited a few years ago to speak at Chapel about business ethical responsibilities.

"It takes forever to get back

onto campus from Seattle, but I would bend over backwards to do it," James said. "I'd do anything to help convey (business ethics) messages."

Besides Fair Trade Sports, James also partakes in the Not for Sale Antislavery Campaign and teaches a marketing MBA program that specializes focus on being green.

'Students who come out off Hankamer have an opportunity to make an enormous impact," James said. "The culture behind fair trade lines up closely to the missions of (Christian universities) like Baylor."

The Corporate Social Responsibility Roundtable will be Friday, from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. on the 5th floor of Cashion Academic Center. It is open to the community, faculty, and stu-



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Bush speeds up financial rescue plan

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - At a time when most administrations are slowing down, the Bush White House appears to be speeding up, at least when it comes to getting the \$700 billion financial rescue program up and run-

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, President Bush's point man on the gigantic program, is pushing his staff to do everything possible to show markets that the government is getting the money out the door to bolster the financial system and get banks to resume more normal

On Wednesday, one day after Sen. Barack Obama won the presidency, the Treasury Department detailed how it planned to borrow a record \$550 billion before the end of this year to back the bailout. Treasury said it would sell \$55 billion in bonds next week, including a reintroduction of the three-year note, all part of a massive borrowing effort required because of the cost of the bailout and a budget deficit that some believe could hit nearly \$1 trillion next

The government's surging financing needs are a stark

Exit polls for The Associated

Press found that Proposition 8

received critical support from

black voters who flocked to the

polls to support Barack Obama

voted in favor of the ban, while

Latinos also supported it and

passed a ban on same-sex mar-

riage in 2000, but gay-rights

supporters had hoped public

opinion on the issue had shifted

enough for this year's measure

"We pick ourselves up and

trudge on," said Kate Kendell,

executive director of the Nation-

al Center for Lesbian Rights.

"There has been enormous

movement in favor of full equal-

ity in eight short years. That is

the direction this is heading,

and if it's not today or it's not

The constitutional amend-

ment limits marriage to hetero-

sexual couples, nullifying the

California Supreme Court deci-

sion that had made same-sex

marriages legal in the state since

in 27 states before Tuesday's

elections, but none were in Cali-

fornia's situation ,Äî with about

18,000 gay couples already mar-

ried. The state attorney general,

Jerry Brown, has said those mar-

riages will remain valid, although

legal challenges are possible.

Similar bans had prevailed

tomorrow, it will be soon.'

Californians overwhelmingly

About seven in 10 blacks

BAN from page 1

for president.

whites were split.

to be rejected.

awaiting Obama even as the current administration moves to implement its rescue program and the Fed fine-tunes its approach to the crisis.

The financial turmoil flared anew Wednesday with the Dow Jones industrial average plunging 486.01 points, or more than 5 percent, as investors absorbed more bad economic news with a report on the manufacturing sector showing that the segment of the economy where most Americans work had dipped into recession territory in October.

The selling carried over to Asia, where Japan's Nikkei stock average retreated 5.7 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index lost 6.7 percent in early trading Thursday.

Investors were braced for more bad news Thursday with the number of newly laid-off workers filing claims for unemployment benefits expected to remain around 480,000, a level that usually signals a recession.

Economists expect a separate report will show productivity slowed to a weak 0.8 percent rate of gain in the third quarter, far below the 2.8 percent increase in the second quarter. And they were looking for the slowdown in productivity to be

Despite intense disappoint-

ment, some newlyweds chose to

look on the positive side, taking

comfort that millions of Califor-

nians had voted to validate their

Correia, of Berkeley, who mar-

ried her partner of 18 years, Cyn-

thia Correia, on Sunday in front

of the couple's two children and

80 relatives and friends. "I hope

the marriage holds, but we are

already married in our hearts, so

Jake Rowe, 27, and James

Eslick, 29, were in the midst of

getting married at Sacramento

City Hall on Wednesday morn-

ing when someone from the

clerk's office stopped the wed-

ding. But not all county clerks

stopped sanctioning same-sex

an for the Los Angeles County

registrar's office in Norwalk,

said weddings for gay couples

were being performed in first

clerk Karen Hong Lee said gay

couples were asked to wait until

the office received guidance

Kate Folmar, a spokeswom-

an for Secretary of State Debra

Bowen, said initiatives typically

take effect the day after an elec-

tion, although the results from

Tuesday's races will not be certi-

for Brown, said the attorney

general's office has yet to decide

whether same-sex marriages

Dana Simas, a spokeswoman

But in San Francisco, county

Grace Chavez, a spokeswom-

marriages Wednesday

from state officials.

fied until Dec. 13.

nobody can take that away."

"I'm really OK," said Diana

relationships.

reminder of the challenges accompanied by a rise in labor awaiting Obama even as the pressures with unit labor costs climbing at a rate of 2.8 percent, compared with the 0.5 percent rate of decline turned in during the second quarter.

And those reports were coming one day before the government was scheduled to report on unemployment for October, a report expected to show that the jobless rate shot up to 6.3 percent last month as businesses cut 200,000 workers from their payrolls, the 10th straight month of joblessness since Jan-

The government said last week that the overall economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, fell at an annual rate of 0.3 percent in the July-September quarter, reflecting the biggest drop in consumer spending in 28 years. Analysts are forecasting that GDP will fall by an even larger amount of around 2 percent in the current quarter. That would meet the classic definition of a recession of two consecutive quarters of declining GDP.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com, said he thinks GDP will keep shrinking through the first half of next year, pushing the unemployment rate up to 8 percent before a solid rebound can begin.

conducted after Election Day

Gay-rights legal groups filed

petition Wednesday asking

the Supreme Court to invalidate

Proposition 8 on the grounds that

voters did not have the authority

to make such a dramatic change

in state law without approval

from the Legislature. The court

refused to hear a similar petition

in June, when gay-rights activ-

ists tried to knock the measure

number of states that allow gay

marriage to one, though it will

highest court made same-sex

marriage legal there in 2004. A

ruling last month by the Con-

necticut Supreme Court will

make gay marriage legal there

forbid it except for New York,

which recognizes same-sex mar-

riages performed elsewhere, and

Rhode Island, where state law is

rado and South Dakota rejected

measures that could have led

to sweeping bans of abortion,

and Washington became only

the second state, after Oregon

,Âî to offer terminally ill people

the option of physician-assisted

Colorado, which was defeated

soundly, would have defined life

posal could lead to the outlaw-

as beginning at conception.

A first-of-its-kind measure in

Its opponents said the pro-

Elsewhere, voters in Colo-

All other states specifically

soon rise again to two.

beginning next week.

silent on the subject.

suicide.

Tuesday's vote drops the

A ruling by Massachusetts'

would be valid.

off the ballot.

Zandi expects this downturn to produce the most severe unemployment since the 1981-82 recession, when the jobless rate jumped to 10.8 percent, the highest since the 1930s.

"I think we are through the worst of the financial panic, but I expect the recession will last through next summer," Zandi

While major bond trading firms are projecting that the government will need to borrow a record \$1.4 trillion during the current budget year, which began Oct. 1, Zandi expects the borrowing costs to be closer to \$2 trillion.

He noted the size of the rescue program that needs to be financed and the likelihood that Obama and a Congress with larger Democratic majorities will pass a second economic stimulus program of between \$150 billion and \$300 billion.

On Wednesday, the Federal Reserve said it will slightly boost the interest rates it pays banks on their required reserves and the excess reserves they choose to deposit with the Fed. The rescue bill authorized the central bank to start paying interest rates to commercial banks on the reserves. Policymakers hope the move will further bolster the banks' reserves.

ing of some types of birth con-

would have banned abortions

except in cases of rape, incest

and serious health threat to the

the rape and incest exceptions,

thought the modifications would

win approval, but the margin of

defeat was similar, about 55 per-

Americans, in states across

the country, clearly support

women's ability to access abor-

tion care without government

interference," said Vicki Saporta,

president of the National Abor-

solid approval to an initiative

with Dignity" law, which allows

a terminally ill person to be pre-

scribed lethal medication they

in 1997, more than 340 people

,mostly ailing with cancer, have

ment won two prized victo-

ries, with Massachusetts voters

decriminalizing possession of

small amounts of the drug and

Michigan joining 12 other states in allowing use of pot for medi-

in Massachusetts with an ounce

or less of pot will no longer face

Henceforth, people caught

The marijuana reform move-

used it to end their lives.

cal purposes.

criminal penalties.

can administer to themselves.

In Washington, voters gave

cent to 45 percent of the vote.

A tougher version, without

Anti-abortion activists

"The lesson here is that

The South Dakota measure

trol as well as abortion.

lost in 2006.

tion Federation.

Edwards from page 1

tions. The Telegraph reported Wednesday that John Kerry, the 2004 Democratic presidential nominee, is being considered to replace Condoleezza Rice as Secretary of State and Colin Powell is rumored for Pentagon chief or Education Secretary.

If Edwards is chosen for a position in Obama's cabinet, a special election would be held to fill his vacant Congressional seat. Cullar said.

There would be no primaries and any qualified candidate, Democrat or Republican,

This is not the first time Edwards has been associated with Obama. In June, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi recommended that Obama consider him as a candidate for vice president.

"Chet Edwards is a person that many of us think would

be a good person to have in the mix," Pelosi told Newsweek.

In August, The Huffington Post reported the Waco representative was a finalist on Obama's short list of vice presidential candidates. Reportedly, Edwards was one of the few Democrats whose background was checked by Obama's campaign and he was a finalist for

Edwards was re-elected for a tenth term as Texas's District 17 representative Tuesday, defeating Republican challenger Rob Curnock 53 percent to 46 percent. The 17th Congressional District of Texas covers a 230-mile stretch from the suburbs of Ft. Worth through Waco and down to Bryan/College Station.

Edwards serves as chairman of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee and is known as a champion for America's veterans, according to his Congressional biography.

Voting from page 1

to Democratic nominee, Sen. John Kerry.

With these shifts in mind, John Cullar, chair of the McLennan County Democratic Party, is optimistic that the county might one day prove more favorable toward Demo-

"We are hopeful not only because our neighbor President George W. Bush is not on the ticket anymore, but because President-élect Obama, we believe, is going to create an atmosphere where there's no demonization of people because of their party preference," Cullar said. "I think Sen. Obama's approach will allow folks to work together. I expect to see more moderate Republicans turning to support him."

Cullar said the county would have seen more Democratic votes this year no matter who the nominee was.

"I know that there were some folks who supported Hillary. What I really believe is this: I think for different reasons an increase would have been there because with the last eight years of the

Bush administration, I think that whether it was Hillary or Obama we were going to get a bigger turnout," Cullar said. "Either way it would have been

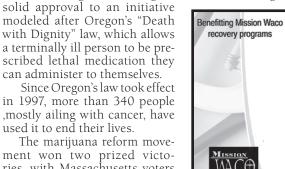
In targeting specific neighborhoods and going door-todoor with registration cards, McLennan County Democrats were instrumental in getting more than 3,000 residents signed up to vote.

The county's Republican Party also was active in regis-

Beaumont senior Phillip Chaney, president of College Republicans, worked as the bilingual election clerk for Precinct 18 in Waco. He he said believes the voting shifts in this election have to do with reasons other than a change in the county's political climate.

"We saw many Democratic voters, some in their 40s or 50s, who had simply never voted before," Chaney said. "And less Republicans might have voted because, one, they didn't feel the need due to living in a red state.

And, two, there were a lot of Republicans who didn't feel like Sen. McCain was as conservative as the other nominees they had originally wanted."



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