

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2008

Election 2008

Americans Barack the vote

★ ★	Senate	Democrats 56 Republicans 40	President (D) Barack Obama 338 (R) John McCain 160	House	Democrats 247 Republicans 166	★ ★
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History made: Obama wins

By David Espo
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Barack Obama swept to victory as the nation's first black president Tuesday night in an electoral college landslide that overcame racial barriers as old as America itself.

The son of a black father from Kenya and a white mother from Kansas, the Democratic senator from Illinois sealed his historic triumph by defeating Republican Sen. John McCain in a string of wins in hard-fought battleground states, Ohio, Florida, Virginia and Iowa.

A huge crowd in Grant Park in Obama's hometown of Chicago erupted in jubilation at the news of his victory. Some wept.

McCain called his former rival to concede defeat, and the end of his own 10-year quest for the White House. "The American people have spoken, and spoken clearly," McCain told

disappointed supporters in Arizona.

Obama and his running mate, Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, will take their oaths of office as president and vice president on Jan. 20, 2009.

As the 44th president, Obama will move into the Oval Office as leader of a country that is almost

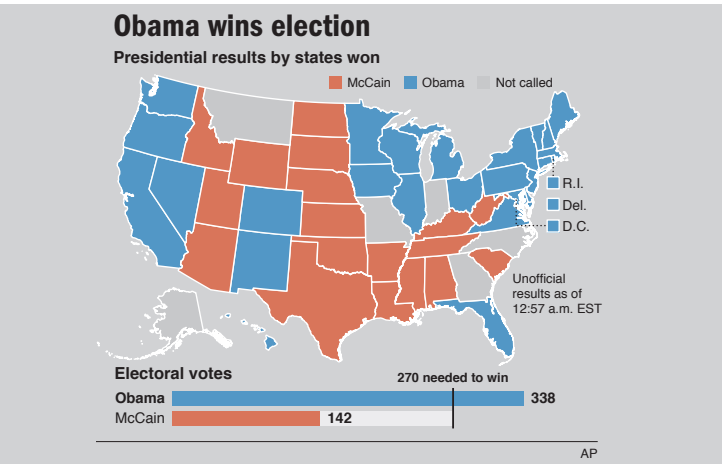
certainly in recession, and fighting two long wars: one in Iraq, the other in Afghanistan.

The popular vote was close, but not the count in the Electoral College, where it mattered most.

There, Obama's audacious decision to contest McCain in states that hadn't gone Democratic in years paid rich dividends.

Obama has said his first order of presidential business will be to tackle the economy. He has also pledged to withdraw most U.S. combat troops from Iraq within 16 months.

Please see RESULTS, page 6



Tenth term for Edwards

By Ashley Corinne Kilgough
Staff Writer

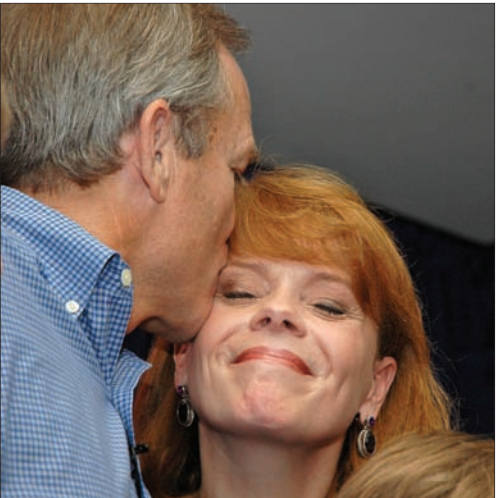
Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Waco, will serve a 10th term in the U.S. House of Representatives after defeating Republican challenger Rob Curnock in the District 17 Congressional race, with 96 percent of precincts reporting.

Spirits were high as a crowd of around 300 Edwards supporters gathered Tuesday night at the Hilton

Waco Hotel to watch the results and celebrate what many believed to be an inevitable victory for the 18-year incumbent.

"I'm deeply grateful to the citizens who looked at my record of fighting effectively with a bipartisan basis," Edwards said. "I look forward to rolling up my sleeves and going back to Washington to work for the people of Central Texas."

Also celebrating Barack Obama's vic-



Alex Song/Lariat Staff
Congressman Chet Edwards kisses his wife, Lea Ann after finishing his speech at the Hilton Hotel Tuesday.

tory, Edwards excited his audience with a charge of action.

"Our country faces a challenging time. Tonight is a night

for all Americans: Democrats, Republicans and independents to come together.

Please see EDWARDS page 6

Cornyn wins second term

By Rebecca LaFlure
Reporter

Republican Sen. John Cornyn declared victory over Democratic challenger Rick Noriega Tuesday in his race for re-election to the U.S. Senate. The Texas incumbent defeated Noriega 55 percent to 43 percent with 94 percent of precincts reporting.

"I just have three words to say to you: Thank you, Texas!" Cornyn said in his acceptance speech to nearly 500 supporters at the Four Seasons Hotel in Austin. "No matter who you are, and no matter what your status in life is, I am determined to serve you to the best of my ability."

Cornyn said he wants to bring more of Texas to Washington D.C.

"Our core values are lim-



Christina Kruse/Lariat Staff
John Cornyn proudly accepts the nomination of a seat in the U.S. Senate alongside his wife Sandy at the Four Seasons Hotel in Austin. Also in attendance at the rally was Gov. Rick Perry and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst.

ited government, lower taxes, personal liberty and unlimited opportunity to all," he said. "If we can make Washington more like

Texas, the whole country will be a winner."

Please see CORNYN, page 6

Baylor students burn Obama signs in protest of results

By Molly MacEwan and Jennifer Sutton
Reporters

Tuesday's election results sparked controversy on Baylor campus when Obama memorabilia was burned in the fire pit of Brooks Village.

After Sen. Barack Obama was

declared president, more chaos broke out near Penland.

Troup, Texas freshman Tyler McCuan said there were two different sides to the story.

"The Democratic side said that a group of Obama supporters were driving by and white people started screaming at them," he said. "The Republican side says that a group of eight to

10 white guys were standing and talking about the election and African-American women drove by and started shouting racial slurs. The cops came and broke it up."

Arlington senior Emmanuel Orupabo said a group of white men were standing at the corner of Penland and as some Obama supporters walked by, they over-

heard racial slurs and threats of violence.

Orupabo said that he and his friends responded by saying, "Excuse me?" and more words were exchanged but no violence occurred.

A Baylor police officer on the scene, who wouldn't give his name, confirmed the absence of violence.

Orupabo added that as the shouting escalated, a worker at Penland came out before the police showed up and broke up the crowd.

Beaumont freshman William Alford was at the scene.

"There were white people standing on the steps and black people drove by chanting Obama praises," he said. "We shouted

'Go socialism' sarcastically and other McCain cheers."

Orupabo said racial tensions should be brought to the attention of Baylor administration.

No Baylor officials or police officers were available to comment on the record.

Michael Wright contributed to this story.

Election day network coverage more focused on ratings

Armed with three separate televisions, we sat down to watch history unfold. The coverage had started earlier in the day, but we decided to start watching at 6 p.m.

We thought we had a pretty good idea about how each network would cover the election. Some would side with the Republicans, while others would go Democrat. Much to our surprise the coverage was remarkably consistent across the board.

Even more surprising was how quickly states were called for each candidate. The first polls closed and less than 35 seconds later CNN, FOX and MSNBC had already dished out electoral votes. Even BBC was getting in on the action. Despite their apparent confidence, networks were quick

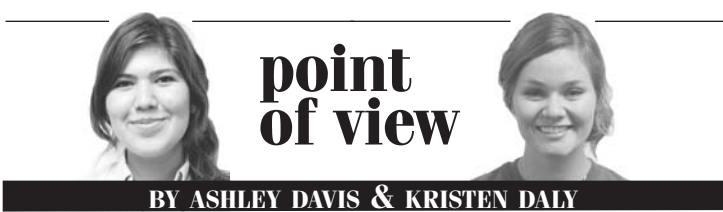
to inform us that their predictions might be off. "Those numbers will continue to change" seemed to be the evening's theme.

The networks wanted to be right in their forecasts, but they also wanted to be first. Instant gratification might be fun for viewers, but is it the way to do the news?

At 9:08 p.m., we got a phone call from our friend Phil. "I don't understand what's going on. Why are they calling states with only 33 percent of the vote in?" he ask. Our answer? Exit polling.

In exit polling, voters are asked who they voted for as they leave the polling stations. Media outlets use exit polls to project results early, since actual results could take days to achieve.

Networks use this information



point of view

BY ASHLEY DAVIS & KRISTEN DALY

to call states for one candidate or another before the votes are actually counted. Unfortunately, these projections are just projections. Problems occur when networks jump the gun with exit polling reports.

If a state is called too soon, the network may be forced to retract their statement. This does nothing for their credibility and does not serve their audience. Viewers expect accurate and objective information. This is compromised

when networks get so competitive that they sacrifice solid facts for projections.

This race has been hailed as one for the ages, and rightly so, thanks to the diversity of the candidates. When Election Day arrived, it seemed surreal — eerie even. America was holding its breath. We all knew we were in for something big, but was it as big as media made it out to be?

We've been gearing up for this night for months and despite our

age group's tendency toward apathy, it seems that the media has gotten our attention this year.

But we can't help but wonder, is it all just for ratings? Is media just creating hype? The media is supposed to be a watchdog — to sound the alarm and inform the people. Well, they're barking, but are they saying anything?

Watching the network coverage of the election was like watching a sporting event, with announcers breaking everything down play by play. As they counted down the seconds until polls closed, we were hanging on every prediction, following every strategy. We were hooked. And no one had officially won anything.

With all this crowd appeal, it made us wonder if the networks were serious about objectively

reporting the news or just interested in courting viewers. They raced to bring us the most up-to-date information, but perhaps even before it was entirely reliable. This sense of urgency definitely creates interest, which is ultimately what these competitive networks are after. Still, we can't help but wish they would drop the hype and simply report the facts.

Regardless, one thing became clear while watching the coverage. Though news networks aim to inform, they are also still a business. And even before the election was decided, we already had a winner: the media.

Ashley Davis is a senior journalism major from Houston, and Kristen Daly is a junior journalism major from Carlsbad, N.M.

Editorial

Baylor needs to offer support to expecting moms

Baylor Health Center at the McLane Student Life Center is great for students' stuffy noses and sore throats. But when it comes to women's health services, the clinic is lacking. Baylor needs to provide more care for and more information about women's health.

Every woman at Baylor should feel welcomed and cared for no matter what condition she finds herself in. Though students should not be having pre-marital sex, there should be medical information available in case a student does get pregnant. She should feel supported enough to carry her pregnancy to term if she so chooses. Without this support, she may feel pushed to choose an option other than keeping her baby. As a Christian university, Baylor should provide as much care as possible to keep a woman from feeling her only option is to terminate the pregnancy.

Currently, the health center will diagnose pregnancy but does not offer any care beyond that; they just refer pregnant women to a gynecologist. A woman who suspects she is pregnant can buy a pregnancy test at a drug store and find out if she is pregnant on her own. She needs support and infor-

mation after she knows she is pregnant.

The clinic often refers patients to specialists that can offer more comprehensive care, such as allergists or optometrists, but pregnancy is a long and emotional process. It requires more counseling and support than many other conditions. Baylor Health Center should provide care and counseling in conjunction with an off-campus gynecologist so that pregnant women still feel like part of the Baylor community.

Many universities, such as Texas Christian University and Southern Methodist University, have a page on their Web sites dedicated to women's health information. These pages offer detailed accounts of the exact women's issues the clinics deal with, ranging from Pap smears to the treatment of PMS to the possibility of unexpected pregnancy.

Every service the health center provides should be listed on the Services page of its Web site. Baylor's Web site only briefly mentions women's health, in the Frequently Asked Questions section. Toward the bottom of the list, the site mentions that the clinic offers well woman exams between 9 a.m.



and 11 a.m. Monday through Friday and that patients should expect the exam to take about 30 minutes. That is the extent of the information given. Well woman exams normally include a gynecological exam, breast exam and Pap smear, but students won't find that anywhere on the site. Looking at the Web site, students also can't tell whether the clinic will provide birth control, the HPV vaccine or any other routine procedures women need.

If there is care available to students to ensure they stay as healthy as possible in every way, information about the ser-

vices provided should be easily accessible. Students shouldn't have to wade through a list of unrelated questions to discover what is available to them. Women's health is an important issue and shouldn't be looked over by a clinic offering care to thousands of college-age women.

The Baylor Health Center also offers STD testing, but you will only find that listed in the Frequently Asked Questions section, as well. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that approximately 9.5 million new sexually-transmitted infections occur each year among people between the ages

of 15 and 24. Though it would be great if no Baylor student fell into that category, students should know how to get tested if the situation ever comes up. Being sexually healthy is a part of being healthy and students should be aware that sexual health care is accessible to them.

If Baylor Health Center's mission is to "offer a high-quality primary health care service that is accessible, efficient, (and) personalized," like its Web site says, it should offer more care specifically for women and make information about it easily accessible.

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.

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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Completion of 2008 presidential election brings nostalgia

We've been hearing about it for months. Today, the day after the election, marks a milestone in American history. So I'm not going to write about what a significant event this is because, frankly, we all already know that.

For me, it's a sad time. Like many college students, I got hooked on this election. As a big part of our lives, it penetrated our small talk, our Facebook decorations and our YouTube hits.

So here's a nostalgic look of the last year — a plotline of America's newest pastime. In the most unserious manner possible, here are the top ten things I'm going to miss about the presidential race.

10) Media wars. I just loved

trying to figure out which cable news channel had the biggest ego. Calculating the true "Number One" was like doing a puzzle every night. It must have been the network with The Best Political Team On Television, because, seriously, who can top a six word, all-capitalized name like that?

9) Having three presidents. It was nice knowing that when Russia invaded Georgia we had a trio of heads of state for the public to rely on. And who knows if we would have made it through the bailout fiasco without Barack Obama, John McCain and, wait, who was the other guy? George something, I think.

8) "Maverick." Every time I



point of view

BY ASHLEY KILLOUGH

heard that word, it filled me with a rogue sense of adventure, like I was voting for someone who could defy all the rules and conquer reality with his extraordinary logic and swift power. Forget the fact that he's 72 and has a bad medical record. Mavericks are immune to old age.

7) Criticizing people. I like how it became completely OK to dehumanize these candidates,

subjecting them to unprecedented judgment and unheard of attacks. It felt so exhilarating.

6) John King and his magical map. He captured us with his smooth moves, zooming in on states and then wisping them away with the flick of his wrist. Man, I'm really going to miss that map. In just one touch, he could turn a state from red to blue to yellow—and then to red again. What power he had. John King 2012!

5) Tina Fey as Sarah Palin. What am I going to do with my Saturday nights?

4) Gaffes. The way the media pounced on any mispoken phrase made this election cycle

an educational one. I learned so much about the importance of being absolutely perfect, so too bad those lessons are ending. Oh wait, Joe Biden will be in the White House — never mind.

3) People pretending to be happy. You know, when you're having a bad day, all it takes is a short clip of Hillary on stage rallying for Obama. You realize if she can suck it up, so can I. All it takes is a big smile and a colorful pantsuit.

2) Debates. Those always turned into the best naps. Except for that last one. I could tell things were getting a little testy because I kept dreaming about a plumber — odd.

1) And finally, Obamania. The way writers would twist, concoct and create new words with Obama's name just blew me away. Obamanation. Barackstar. Or my personal favorite: "Baractopus—a journalist capable of producing large quantities of ink relating to Obama." How ingenious. If only I could cut off the end of my name and attach another word onto it. But I guess that solely works with "Obama." I mean, "Killomerica" doesn't sound quite as presidential as "Obamerica." So much for my bid for 2032.

Ashley Corinne Killough is a senior journalism and international studies major from Plano and is a staff writer for The Baylor Lariat.

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THE Daily Crossword

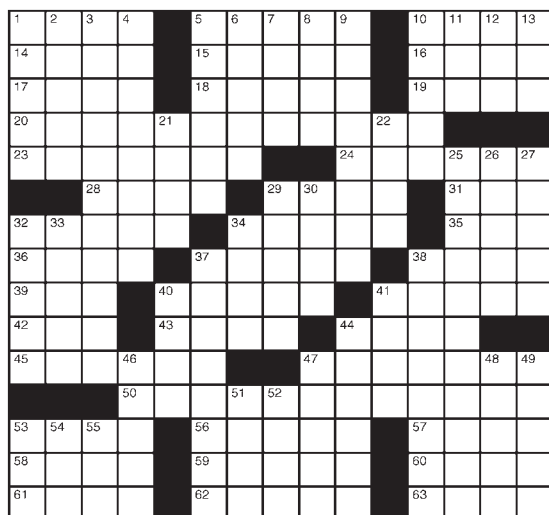
Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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By Edgar Fontaine
Dighton, MA

11/5/08

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

Watch Party Central

Campus, Waco life revolves around watch parties

Kate Williams
Reporter

Emotions ran high late Tuesday night as students celebrated the end to two years of presidential campaigning.

Dorm room windows glowed predominantly blue as television screens confirmed Barack Obama as next president of the United States.

Eager students crowded couches and computers in the Bill Daniels Student Center to watch the polls reveal the action at the Rock the Vote campaign party.

Student Government and the Baylor Activities Council held the Rock the Vote election party so students could gather and watch the polls at a central location.

"There are a lot of places students can go to watch the election, but this is a convenient location," she said.

President of Baylor Activities Council, Catalina Murillo, said she was satisfied with the amount of students interested in the election.

Allentown, Pa., Sam Chen worked with Murillo to organize the event and said he was pleased with the final turnout.

"We thought it would be interesting for students to hear what their peers think, but it still would have been successful if only three or four students showed up," he said.

Students passing through the student center overwhelmingly agreed that the free pizza, chips and soda were incentive for them to "hang out" and watch the returns, despite being "generally uninterested."

Hallsville freshman Jorge Levin said he stayed because he was fascinated by other students' input about the candidates.

"I wanted to hear what kids thought was going to happen, plus the pizza is free," he said.

President of the Society for Professional Journalists, Brooke Ezell, also participated in the event Tuesday night. While she said she was disappointed that more students did not show up, she expressed that it is important to vote whenever possible.

"There is really no excuse for not voting, especially since you can vote early," she said.

Ezell added that students who do not participate in voting should not complain.

"As we have seen in the past every vote makes a difference, so if don't vote, don't complain," she said.

Panelists from The Baylor Lariat and Baylor Democrats also gave their opinions about the winners for the local election for congressional seats.

But the election party in the Bill Daniel Student Center was only one of many that spanned across the campus Tuesday night. Students from NAACP gathered in the Outpost Apartments to watch Barack Obama become the next president. President of the Association of Black Students, Ryan Phipps, said he believes that Obama's hope can overcome anything.

"I've grown up thinking that blacks couldn't be president, but all you need is one," he said.

Phipps was joined by several other Obama supporters Tuesday evening to watch the returns.

Back on campus, senior Chelsea Saylor held an election party in Brooks Residential Flats.

"It's fun to be part of a group that gets excited when a state is called," she said.

While she was satisfied that so many young people were adamant about a particular candidate, she stressed that sharing political opinions within a community is important too.

"It is important to be involved individually, but it is also important to be involved as a community," she said.

Student Body President Bryan Fonville, who attended Saylor's party, expressed his excitement about the active participation of young voters.

"This is a very important time in our country's history and it is great to see so many students interested and voting in this election," he said.

Saylor said that, despite whoever wins, tonight is celebration that happens only once every four years.



Jordan Wilson/Round Up

Sam Chen, a senior from Allentown, Pa., mediates a discussion panel during the election watch party in the Bill Daniels Student Center. Panel members included members of student government and reporters from the Lariat.



Alex Song/Lariat staff

Registered voters wait in the line to vote in front of Wiethorn Visitors Center in Campus on Tuesday.



Waco resident Wadell Mason sprints down Valley Mills Drive Thursday afternoon in support of Sen. Barack Obama. Mason decided to help supporters after he got off work. "I want to be a part of history," Mason says.

Jordan Wilson/Round Up

Local GOP party focuses on area elections

By Jennifer Lee
Contributor

Some members and local candidates of the McLennan County Republican Party met at Georges' Banquet Hall to watch presidential election night coverage and wait for the local election results.

Tables of anxious Republican supporters surrounded a television reporting the latest poll figures.

Spirits seemed high as food and refreshments were served and local Republican candidates worked the room.

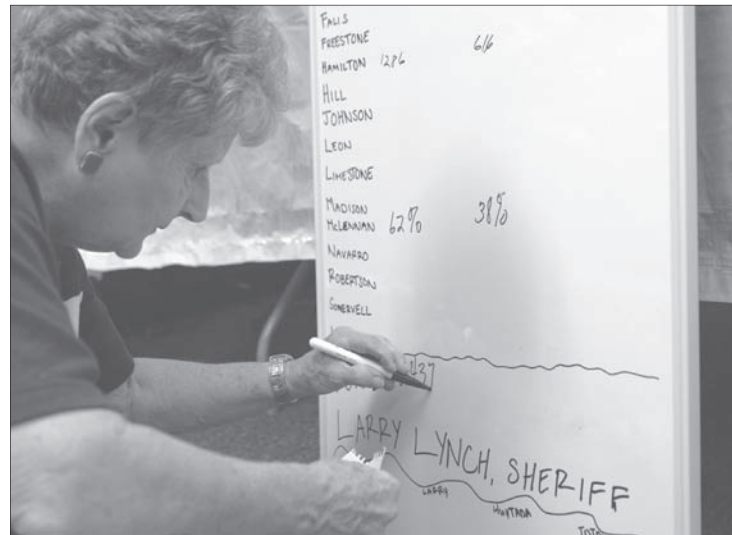
But as things calmed down, and focus turned to the presidential coverage on the television, the upbeat faces turned worried.

Many of the Republican voters seemed optimistic on a local level, but were less confident on a national level.

Once the numbers started rolling in, the watch party focused in on the television, and a tense level of concern filled the room.

"I'm feeling very anxious about the Presidential race. We have to wait for the final count," state representative candidate Charles 'Doc' Anderson said.

Despite the lingering concern of the Democrats inching closer to victory, many Repub-



Shanna Taylor/Lariat staff

Sarilee Ferguson, campaign manager for Larry Lynch and Rex Davis, updates the tally on the white board at the McLennan County Republican Watch Party as the votes come in.

lican voters tried to hold on to hope.

"This is a slippery slope. It's hopeful, but it's not looking good," said Franklin Potts, associate professor of finance, who was at the watch party.

Rex Davis, a candidate for justice of the 10th Court of Appeals, was delighted and pleased with the turnout at the watch party.

He expressed his feelings on both the national and local elections as "cautiously optimistic."

Despite the underdog stance many voters faced, some Republican voters remained confident, and excited about the election process in general.

"This is so exciting. There is just something about going to the polls on Election Day," said Laurie Finley, McLennan County Republican Party member.

Many volunteers went out into the local community to help facilitate the voting process. Among them were Baylor Republicans.

While the Baylor Republicans did not have an official watch party, Baylor Republicans President Phillip Chaney worked a 14-hour shift at a local election poll and tuned into the coverage as soon as he got home.

"We have tried to encourage people to vote, especially to vote early ... it's never over until it's over," Chaney said.

Despite the lack of an official college Republicans watch party, some Baylor students in support of McCain gathered with friends to watch the coverage.

"I'm anxious for my candidate. I voted early over Fall Break, and I can't wait for the results," Bryant, Ark., senior, Paige Tucker said.

Another College Republican, Rowlett senior Chelsea Saylor, expressed her excitement about the presidential election and the voting process.

"I voted on campus, and it was such a smooth process. I've sported my 'I voted' sticker all day," she said.

Democrats celebrate win as historic election ends

By Jade Ortego
Staff writer

With the 10:05 p.m. calling of Sen. Barack Obama as the 44th president elect of the United States, nearly all the 200 or so in the McLennan County Democratic Headquarters screamed. They embraced, and most were crying. Someone began a chant of "Yes We Can."

"I don't even drink champagne, but I'm drinking it tonight," said Doris King, 71, secretary of the McLennan County Democrats, laughing, with tears in her eyes.

The race was called immediately after the calling of Virginia for Obama, which hasn't voted for a Democrat for president since 1964.

Obama won with 338 electoral votes, over the 270 needed for victory. McCain had 141.

King, who has a daughter who couldn't go to Baylor because of the color of her skin, said she was elated.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd ever see a black man president," she said.

Obama is the son of a white woman and a black African man.

"I look around here and I see all the blacks, whites and His-

panics together, and this is the way the United States should be," she said.

It was an emotional day for young people as well, some who say that Obama showed them everything they can accomplish.

"It felt like a personal victory," Stockton sophomore Rachel Joseph said. "Now I don't have to worry about boundaries because of the color of my skin. No more glass ceilings, no more limits."

Several members of the Baylor Democrats, who say they voted for Obama for reasons as diverse as reformed health care or science policy, were there to celebrate.

"I am so pumped. Now we can actually get some things done," Dallas junior Emily Childs said.

Most members spent the last year canvassing for Obama.

They seemed surprised by the announcement, despite Obama's projected victory.

"I kind of knew that it would happen, but seeing it up on the screen made it real," Houston senior Ashley Millay said.

Obama has held at least a four-point lead nationally over the past few weeks and up to an eight-point lead in the past two

months.

"I've never been so happy in my life. I'm so scared they're going to say 'Oh, never mind,'" Virgin Islands senior Morgan Black said.

In 2000, the race was called for Vice President Al Gore before it was given to then-Gov. George W. Bush.

Earlier in the day, around 5 p.m., members of the McLennan Democratic Party and Baylor Democrats, as well as director of the Waco Friends of Peace Alan Northcutt, held Obama signs at the intersection of Valley Mills and Waco Drive.

As cars drove by, most honked in approval, smiling with thumbs up.

Some threw candy, and one man pulled over, got out and grabbed a sign.

"I'm going to help," he said.

Not all reactions were positive, however.

Some booed and flipped off the demonstrators.

A man in a red truck said that Democrats were communists and threatened to get his machine gun.

The demonstrators were unfazed by the jeers.

"I've been blowing kisses at people that flip me off," Black said.

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Local elections

Alumnus retains District 57 spot

By Alex Maxwell
Reporter

This year's District 57 state representative election was not much different than last year's battle. Democrat Jim Dunnam and Libertarian Neill Snider were the two candidates vying to represent Waco's District 57 in the Texas State House of Representatives.

According to results from the McLennan county Web site, with 52 percent of the district's vote in, Dunnam pulled away with 91 percent and left Snider with 9 percent of the district's votes.

Since 2001, District 57 has been comprised of part of McLennan County, and Falls, Leon, Madison, and Robertson counties.

Dunnam currently holds the position for District 57 and is in his sixth term since 1996. He ran against Snider in last term's election in 2006, and won. Again, this year's election swung in favor of Dun-

nam.

"I ran for (state representative) in 2006 and I won 13 percent of the vote," Snider said. "I'm just trying to increase that percentage this year."

Unfortunately for Snider, that was not the case.

Dunnam said he feels really good about the way the election went.

He said he is glad that, with five challengers winning their districts, the Democrats still had a net gain in the house, making it a more bipartisan house like it was under then-governor George W. Bush.

"It gives us a staunch head wind," Dunnam said.

Dunnam graduated from Baylor University School of Law in 1987.



Dunnam

Since then, he has practiced law locally at Dunnam and Dunnam as a well-decorated lawyer with board certifications in both family law and civil trial law.

According to the Dunnam and Dunnam L.L.P. Web site, Dunnam was named Young Lawyer of the Year by Baylor University in 2001.

Dunnam has served on the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence and Public Education and Redistricting. Also, he has served as a chairman for both the House Democratic Caucus and Interim Committee on Charter Schools.

Dunnam currently serves on the House Committee on Economic Development and the House Committee on Corrections, according to the Texas House of Representatives Web site.

He also was elected by his peers to a third term as chair of the House Democratic Caucus and is a member of the Legislative Study Group and the Mexican American Legis-

District 56 elects candidate for third term

By Molly MacEwan
Reporter

Republican Charles "Doc" Anderson was re-elected to the Texas House of Representatives for District 56 over the Libertarian candidate David Meine.

At 10:36 p.m., 51 percent of McLennan County voters had been counted, and Anderson was leading with 86 percent of the vote compared to David Meine with 13 percent.

"I'm a little disappointed," Meine said, "I had hoped I would run a little higher."

At the McLennan Republican watch party at George's Banquet Hall, Anderson said he was excited about the turnout and optimistic about his campaign.

"We've worked year in and out — not just in the election," he said. "Working really hard 24-7 gives you a much better chance of prevailing. I think they can pull it out."

Anderson was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 2004 and was re-elected in 2006. He served as the vice-chairman for the Agriculture and Livestock Committee, on the Financial Institutions Committee, and on the House Administration Committee in the 80th Legislative session.

An advocate for "clean

coal" projects, he opposed the building of 18 coal plants in the Waco area and introduced a moratorium bill to delay the permitting process, according to Anderson's official Web site.

Recently, Anderson has made news by heading a campaign to criminalize Salvia.

In 2007, Anderson introduced a bill to criminalize the Salvia drug, a legal hallucinogenic herb, but it failed to pass through the committee, according to The Dallas Morning News.

When the legislature meets again in January, Anderson said he plans to introduce a new bill that would make possession of the drug a misdemeanor.

Other pieces of legislation introduced by Anderson pertain to school bus safety belts and Jessica's Law, a law designed to punish sex offenders more severely and keep them from re-offending, according to Anderson's official Web site.

Anderson said he expects discussion of eminent domain, the ability of the state to take private property, the rising drug cartels, and energy.

"Energy is always an issue," Anderson said. "We need to find a way to get the wind from west Texas to other places in Texas."

Anderson also supports a one-percent tax cap on statewide corporate businesses, and the income generated from that tax will go to finance schools, he said.

"We want to keep Texas growing," Anderson said. "We have to finance schools appropriately to do that."

In the last legislative session, Anderson said he supported a two-year moratorium on the Trans-Texas Corridor.

"There are too many gray areas," he said. "We need a new system but I'm not sure if the Trans-Texas Corridor is the right option."

Meine resides in Waco and is a retired Texas State Technical College educator of electrical systems.

Running on the Libertarian ticket, Meine said he stands for less government, less spending and more individual freedom.

He said he favors school vouchers and strongly opposes the Trans-Texas Corridor.

According to the Texas Department of Transportation Web site, the Trans-Texas Corridor is a proposed statewide transportation route that combines new and existing highways, railways and utility rights-of-way.

The Libertarian Party of Texas believes in a conservative fiscal policy and are

lative Caucus.

Even though Dunnam and Snider are opposing candidates for the same office, they share some similarities. Both were born in Waco and are members of the Waco Chamber of Commerce.

"I went to high school with Jim and I consider him a distant friend," Snider said.

Snider graduated from Texas State University in 1987 and received a Bachelor of Science in technology, then became president of Gandler-Snider Engineering Company. He is currently president of Neill Mechanical Technology, Inc.

Snider has been a member of the Libertarian party since 1989 and previously ran as a candidate for the Texas State House of Representatives, District 57, in 2006, but has no other political experience beyond that, according to www.votesmart.org.

"I'm just trying to get the Libertarian message out and let people know what we stand for," Snider said.



Anderson

socially tolerant, according to the party's Website. They seek to make America the most powerful economy in the world by lowering taxes, free trade, less regulation, free markets and less red tape for large and small businesses.

"I'm running because I believe in competition," Meine said. "Competition in government is good, like the competition in business."

Meine said although he previously identified with the Republican Party, he felt like the party was becoming too much like the Democratic Party.

"I want to shake (the Republican Party) up," Meine said. "That's why I'm pushing the third-party movement."

Meine said he and Anderson agree on most things.

"Doc's opponent in the primaries tried to make school vouchers the main issue, but I agree with vouchers," Meine said.

Waco Police Department pushes for salary increase

By Chad Shanks
Reporter

The decrease in murder rate and Waco Police Department's desire for a salary increase were the topics of Tuesday's city council meeting following a controversial billboard advertisement posted by the Waco Police Association.

Waco's 2008 overall crime rate is down eight percent from 2007, but the murder rate has increased, according to data from the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

Waco Police Chief Brent Stroman offered the statistics to the Waco City Council on Tuesday as part of a Waco Police Department public safety update presentation.

"I believe in transparency in the government and transparency in the (police) department," Stroman said. "We have an open door policy. We've got a great group of people and we're working as hard as we can for public safety in the city of Waco."

Waco's number of offenses is currently totaled at 6,386, down eight percent from 6,944 at this time in 2007, Stroman said. Also, 88 percent of Waco crime is property crime, including theft, with 12 percent violent crime: murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

While the overall crime rate is down, the murder rate has increased. Stroman said 10 murders have been reported in

Waco, up from six in 2007. He said that arrests have been made in seven out of the 10 cases.

The presentation also discussed how the Waco Police Department is working to combat crime. In 2008, arrests are up 14 percent and traffic citations are up about 86 percent, Stroman said.

Waco is working to increase police salaries to attract and retain new officers.

The police force increased 13 percent over the last five years, adding 28 new officers. The average Waco police salary is \$56,000 a year, with first year officers starting at approximately \$42,000, Waco City Manager Larry Groth said.

"Public safety is a top issue. That's reflected in the way we budget," Groth said. "We want to be at the top in providing the best compensation for our police."

Waco's police compensation has come under fire recently by the Waco Police Association, who posted billboards highlighting Waco's violent crime rate. According to the Waco Tribune-Herald, the group wanted more than the 5 percent salary increase offered by Groth in this summer's "meet and greet" sessions.

Council member Jim Bush asked Stroman why the Waco Police Association feels the city council is not listening to them. Stroman said that the council has been helpful in approving

funding for additional officers and thanked them for being accepting of their requests and needs.

Council member Rick Allen said he was concerned about the Waco Police Department's response times with Waco's recent growth and expansion.

"The public is more concerned about how long it takes police to show up after a call than how many officers they have," Allen said.

The council said they were grateful that Stroman shared results from the Uniform Crime Report study and asked for additional statistics on response time.

The UCR results will be sent to police teams.

"I appreciate Chief Stroman's

willingness to answer our questions and the critical leadership he's provided," Mayor Virginia DuPuy said. "I'm very encouraged."

According to the FBI Web site, The Uniform Crime Reporting Program was conceived in 1929 by the International Association of Chiefs of Police to meet a need for reliable, uniform crime statistics for the nation. In 1930, the FBI was tasked with collecting, publishing and archiving those statistics.

Today, several annual statistical publications, such as the comprehensive Crime in the United States, are produced from data provided by nearly 17,000 law enforcement agencies across the United States, according to the FBI Web site.



Courtesy Photo

A promotional photo of Flyleaf band members from left to right, Jared Hartmann, Pat Seals, Lacey Sturm, Sameer Bhattacharya and James Culpepper.

Flyleaf off tour, recalls rough road

By Lincoln Faulkner
Contributor

Last Thursday I sat down in Waco with front woman Lacey Sturm and guitarist Jared Hartmann of Flyleaf, an alternative and metal mix quintet composed of Belton and Temple natives.

The band was off tour and talked about the their experiences on the road and in concert.

"Step into my office," Sturm said while crawling into the back of a musty white '88 Ford van with a dim rear light that kept turning off as people entered and left. Hartmann, followed by his wife, Kat Hartmann, propped themselves against various amps and equipment inside the van.

"(Sturm) sold her car to buy this van from a church member of Bethel Assemblies of God in Temple six or seven months after the band formed," Kat said.

"This is where we used to sleep," Sturm said. "This is where we used to live." She pointed where bunk beds were built and a TV used to be. "We did six national tours in this van, we drove all the way to Seattle from (Texas)," she said.

The trip time is 50 hours long, a daunting amount of time to endure for even the most road-hardened band. Dangerous, too, Sturm said. "We almost fell off a mountain."

The band did not have a trailer while touring, forcing them to pile equipment up to the ceiling where mattresses were laid on top, Sturm said. "We could sleep in between the mattress and the ceiling in like a two-inch space," she said.

Sturm recounted the traumatizing mountain experience that happened in Feb. 2004.

She said at that time, the driver was Gabriel Colbert, owner of Art Ambush, a Waco tattoo, piercing, and clothing store that has recently become a new music venue.

"I was sleeping, Gabriel was driving and I heard him yell out 'somebody pray!'" Sturm said. "I looked and we were flying off the mountain. We were like sliding in the snow, in a snowstorm, off the road, in the wrong lane, and we're about to fall off! I was like 'Oh Jesus!' I just started praying, and we didn't fall off the mountain."

Both Sturm and Hartmann said it was a blessing they survived.

No matter how treacherous touring cross-country may be, making the trek provided an opportunity to meet with fans and play with other bands, such as Korn in the 2007 Family Values tour, Sturm said.

Getting to meet Jonathan Davis and finding out how God is chasing Korn is one experience Sturm said she recalls in particular detail.

"Their guitar player got saved and left the band," Sturm said, referring to guitarist Brian "Head" Welch who

Welch left Korn in Feb. 2005 to pursue a life of faith and raise his daughter, Jannea, as a single parent, according to his official Web site, www.brianheadwelch.net.

"There's a guy in the band who actually used to be a worship leader for Vineyard Worship," Sturm said. "It's amazing how God is all around that."

Though meeting with bands on tour has been an influential experience for the band, connecting with the fans on and off stage is where Flyleaf demonstrates their ability to empathize with the lives of their audience, Sturm said.

"It's really cool to see that there's this huge generation of kids that were my group of friends before I was a Christian in junior high and high school," Sturm said. "I didn't get saved until 10th grade, so up until then, I hung out with all these kids who felt really hurt and had broken homes and seemed to hate everybody, because I hated everybody, too. That's what the Korn audience was and that's what was cool to play in front of those kids."

Sturm did not provide a release date for their next album, but gave an update.

"We have 25 different songs," Sturm said. "We don't know how the record is going to sound exactly yet because we haven't picked the songs."

"I've been listening to a lot of metal lately," Hartmann said. "It kind of reminds me of Rage Against the Machine a little bit."

Sturm and Hartmann said other influences include Shinedown and Korn.

"It feels good to have new songs and have a new message and new direction," Sturm said.

Reaching out to this generation's youth drives this band across the world, just for the chance to talk to the kids who never go to church, Sturm said.

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Sports briefs

Bears clean up after Ike

The Baylor baseball team will travel to Houston this weekend to help a relief organization clean debris leftover from Hurricane Ike.

The Bears will partner with the Christians Organized for Relief Efforts (CORE) Alliance in League City.

The group was established in 2005 by two Houston churches to assist people hit by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The baseball team will clean houses, remove tree limbs, debris, sheetrock and water-logged floors.

"Our players and coaches are looking forward to providing assistance to people hit so hard by Hurricane Ike," Baylor head coach Steve Smith said. "It is wonderful to have a program like CORE to coordinate not just our group but groups from all over the country."

The Baylor roster features three students from the Houston area: Raynor Campbell (Katy) Andrew Cooley (Conroe) and Aaron Miller (Chanelview).

Contributions to CORE can be made at www.core-alliance.org.

Volleyball back on court

The Baylor volleyball team will return to the Ferrell Center Wednesday, as the Bears welcome the No. 4 Longhorns.

Texas won the last meeting in Austin 3-0.

Baylor is on a three-game losing streak with the latest coming Saturday: a 3-2 loss at Oklahoma.

Women's golf takes 10th

Hannah Burke finished 4th overall, leading the Lady Bears into 10th place at the Challenge at the Wolfdancer.

Colorado took the tournament, while Texas Tech and Texas State took second.

Baylor ranked No. 19

The women's basketball team is ranked No. 19 in the preseason AP poll.

The University of Connecticut claimed the top seed, followed by Baylor's first official opponent: No. 2 Stanford University.

Oklahoma came in No. 4, Texas A&M University claimed No. 11, the University of Texas is No. 13 and Oklahoma State University is No. 14.

Only the Atlantic Coast Conference has as many in the top 25.

Soccer places 12 on list

The Baylor soccer team placed 12 players on the Academic All-Big 12 team.

Beckah Brady, Megan Humke, Lindsey Johnson, Betsy Kyle, Lucy Quintana, Gianna Quintana, Courtney Seelhorst, Elena Sutherland and Katie White were named to the first team, while Lotto Smith, Andi Fagan and Allie Moran earned second team honors.

In addition, the Big 12 Conference selected goalkeeper Seelhorst to the Big 12 All-Newcomer team.

She is the first Bear to be selected since Megan Sherrell and Anna Schuch in 2004.

Hoops game time changed

The Baylor men's basketball game scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday has been moved to 7:30 p.m.

The exhibition against Tarleton State University was moved due to Baylor's football game at Texas being changed to 11 a.m.

Baylor will return to the court at 7 p.m. Nov. 15 for its first official game against Paul Quinn College.

Submit briefs to Lariat@baylor.edu.

compiled by Brian Bateman

Baylor looking for respect against No. 5 Texas

By Garrett Turner
Sports Writer

After nearly defeating a team that was favored by more than two touchdowns Saturday, the Bears look to upset No. 5 University of Texas.

"Last week definitely was a disappointment because I felt like we really came a long way as a football team," head coach Art said. "We have to cross over to the other side. In order to find good things to feel good about, we have to come out with wins. I feel comfortable and confident that our guys are going to get us there."

Confidence on Baylor side

Heading to Austin against the Longhorns will be a tough task in itself. The University of Texas lost to Texas Tech University last weekend with last-second heroics from Red Raider quarterback Graham and wide receiver Michael Crabtree. The Bears will look to take advantage of key injuries. Senior wide receiver Quan Cosby and senior defensive end Brian Orakpo, were injured against Texas Tech. Their statuses are uncertain for Saturday. Nevertheless, the injuries can't overshadow the fact that the Bears will line up against one of the most storied programs in Texas and they will look to hold nothing back.

"Confidence is something you can control, and how you get confidence is through actions, not words," Briles said. "We're going to bring everything we have and not leave anything lying around. It's encouraging and it gives you the chance to have a good outcome. If you don't believe in yourself, no one else will. Right now, we're fighting for ourselves and trying to make other people believe in us as a football team."

The Bears can gain even more confidence facing the No. 116 passing defense in the nation this Saturday. The Longhorn defense gives up an average of 288.7 yards per game. Mix that with Griffin's ability to manage the game and limit his interceptions the offense will be looking to put up a large number of points.

Another Saturday, another Big 12 Heisman quarterback

It could be the fact the Bears are arguably in the toughest football conference in the nation, or maybe the Bears are just the most unfortunate team in college football, but nonetheless, the Bears face another top-tier quarterback Saturday for the fourth time this season.

They have planned against Zac Robinson's ability to make plays with his feet, Sam Bradford's decision-making and Chase Daniel's arm strength, but this week the Bears will look control quarterback Colt McCoy. Robinson, Bradford, McCoy and Daniel are all in the top 5 for passing efficiency in the nation. They all lead statistically phenomenal offenses. Come this week, they all will have had their chance against the Baylor Bears defense, which hopes to at least contain one of them and come away with the win.

"Colt has been around football all his life so he's a competitor," Briles said. "He's intelligent on the field and will fight hard to win. He possesses the ability to throw the football, rally his team and make plays with his feet at the same time."

The Bears will narrow their focus on Texas and try to keep the crowd noise out and the energy high.

"There is always motivation," offensive linemen Jason Smith said about playing in a



Christina Kruse/ Lariat Staff

Baylor's David Gettis (4) gains a first down in the third quarter. The Baylor Bears squared off against the Missouri Tigers at Floyd Casey Stadium Saturday afternoon. Baylor will face the University of Texas at 11 a.m. Saturday at Darrell K. Royal Stadium.

rival stadium. "Extra motivation? No. There are things that will get you riled up and that will last only about three plays. After that, you just have to play football. We don't want to give them anything to their benefit. We want to take from them. We want to go down there, play our style of football and have a little fun."

On the recruiting trail

With the next three games in the state of Texas, the rest of this month becomes critical to bring in freshman talent for next year. While coaches are limited to their recruiting during the season, the best way to

show improvement in a team will be to beat the teams that are directly competing for the talent the program is trying to recruit. For Briles, the recruiting aspect for these three weeks can't be overlooked.

"When you live in the state of Texas, recruit and make your living in the state of Texas, these next three games are critical," Briles said. "When we go out on the recruiting trail, we are going to see guys with a Longhorn on their shirt, an Aggie bumper sticker on their car or a Red Raider on their sleeve. We have to be able to do what we do to get on as equal of a playing field as we can. We are all trying to

do the same thing with the same guys. I want people to be able to go out and feel really good about what is going on in the Baylor football program, so there is a lot riding on these next three weeks."

With the announcement of receiving enough funds to finish the new practice facility coming at the last Regent's meeting, the Bears program is looking better by the minute. By getting a win against either the University of Texas, Texas A&M University or Texas Tech University, the Bears will look to attract better recruits from the bountiful football squads in the state of Texas.

Epperson escaping Sepulveda's shadow

By Kyle McKanna
Reporter

Before he arrived at Baylor, 6-foot-3-inch, 235-pound sophomore punter Derek Epperson rarely stood in anyone's shadow. Now, it's all he seems to do.

For one, he no longer physically overshadows his teammates and opponents.

"In high school, regardless of the line or defensive line, I was the biggest guy on the field," he said. "Now I've got 6-foot-6, 250-pound guys rushing at me."

And even if he were a foot taller, Epperson would still have the shadow of former Baylor punter Daniel Sepulveda towering over him.

Sepulveda was a two-time winner of the Ray Guy Award, an honor annually bestowed upon the nation's top punter. Epperson has been announced as a semi-finalist for this year's award, making him one of 10 under consideration for this season.

"I was definitely pretty surprised when I heard the news," Epperson said. "Coach Briles came and told me. He said it was a big deal, and congrats."

Epperson's success is a big deal. The punter, who says his true love is soccer, is averaging 43.50 yards per punt this season. His gravity-defying hang time and precision



Clint Cox/ Contributor

Baylor's Derek Epperson punts against Oklahoma State University Oct. 18. His punting has helped Baylor's punt coverage rise to No. 10 in the nation.

directional kicking have helped the Bears earn a No. 8 national ranking in team net punting.

"It's good to have a guy that gets good hang time like Derek," safety Jordan Lake said. "It's a world of difference when the returner is catching the ball and you are five to 10 yards away from him as opposed to being 20 yards away. It's allowed us to have success in the coverage aspect of the punt team."

With Sepulveda, Baylor always had the upper hand in field position. When he left, the Bears wondered where they would turn to replace such an integral part of their special teams. Where they turned was Derek Epperson.

From the moment he stepped on the field for the Bears, Epper-

son drew comparisons to his punting predecessor.

"There's not many 6-foot-3-inch, 235-pound punters in college football," Epperson said. "Of course Daniel was one of them."

Now, it is more than just their similar size that makes it easy to compare the two. Epperson has experienced the same type of on-field success Sepulveda did in his years at Baylor. This season, Epperson has turned in to a pivotal playmaker for the Bears. He has allowed Baylor to stay in close games by helping them win the field position battle.

"Derek has done a great job this year getting great punts and great field position for us," linebacker Joe Pawelek said. "Not just him alone, but the coverage

team, too."

Part of the reason for Epperson's success is his work ethic and dedication to getting better. "In punting there are a lot of small things you can do to improve," he said. "Ideally, you'd like to kick it outside the hashes, so I've been working on directional kicking. I'd still like to be a little more consistent."

Directional kicking is one of the things Epperson discussed with Sepulveda in one of their conversations. "We keep in touch," Epperson said of his relationship with Sepulveda. "It's good to have someone like that to talk to."

One thing Sepulveda can't help Epperson with is following in the footsteps of a great player, but so far, Epperson has figured that out pretty well on his own.

"I try not to think about it," he said. "I just try to do the best of my ability and play as well as I can. But, if I had a dime for every time someone mentioned it, I'd be a rich man."

If Epperson keeps on punting like Sepulveda, a fourth round pick in the 2007 NFL Draft, he won't have to worry about collecting dimes to get rich. He is already the No. 16 ranked punter in the nation in just his second year at Baylor, and seeing as how his career so far has mirrored Sepulveda's, a future on Sunday isn't out of the question.

Epperson and the Bears will travel to Austin this weekend for a conference match up against No. 5 Texas. The game is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m., and the forecast is calling for cool weather and sunny skies — perfect weather for Derek Epperson to begin casting his own shadow.

Weekly Events

Check out which Baylor sports are happening on and off campus.

Wednesday

Volleyball vs. Texas
Ferrell Center: 7 p.m.

Friday

Women's basketball
vs. Dallas Diesel
Ferrell Center: 7 p.m.

Saturday

Football vs. Texas
Darrell K. Royal Stadium
in Austin: 11 a.m.

Volleyball vs. Colorado
Boulder, Colo.: noon

Men's basketball vs.
Paul Quinn College
Ferrell Center: 7:30 p.m.

All week

Intramural volleyball
Student Life Center

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Summer Camp Jobs

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Election Results

President/Vice President
(nation wide results)
John McCain (R) — 47%
Barack Obama (D) — 52%
(87% of precincts reporting)

U.S. Senator
John Cornyn (R) — 62.39%
Rick Noriega (D) — 35.91%
Yvonne Adams Schick (I) — 1.69 %

U.S. Representative, District 17
Rob Curnock (R) — 39.32%
Chet Edwards (D) — 59.82 %
Gardner Osborne (L) — .85%

Railroad Commissioner
Michael Williams (R) — 57.15%
Mark Thompson (D) — 40.10%
David Floyd (I) — 2.75%

Texas Supreme Court
Wallace Jefferson (R) — 57.73%
Jim Jordan (D) — 39.72 %
Tom Oxford (L) — 2.55%

Texas Supreme Court, Place 7
Dale Wainwright (R) — 55.31%
Sam Houston (D) — 42.47%
David Smith (L) — 2.22%

Texas Supreme Court, Place 8
Phil Johnson (R) — 58.41%
Linda Reyna Yañez (D) — 39.35%
Drew Shirley (L) — 2.24%

Justice, Court of Appeals, Place 3
Tom Price (R) — 56.82%
Susan Strawn (D) — 41.03%
Matthew Eilers (L) — 2.15%

Texas Court of Appeals, Place 4
Paul Womack (R) — 58.62%
J.R. Molina (D) — 38.97%
Dave Howard (L) — 2.42%

Texas Court of Appeals, Place 9
Cathy Conchran (R) — 87.38%
William Strange III (D) — 12.62%

Texas Board of Education, District 14
Gail Lowe (R) — 59.22%
Edra Bogle (D) — 37.86%
John Scheuy (L) — 2.92%

State Representative, District 56
Charles "Doc" Anderson (R) — 86.38%
David Meine (L) — 13.62%

State Representative, District 57
Jim Dunnam (D) — 91.35%
Neill Snider (L) — 8.65%

Texas10th Court of Appeals District, Place 2
Rex Davis — 60.34%
Richard Ferguson — 39.66%

District Judge, 19th District
Ralph Strother (R) — unopposed

District Judge, 74th District
Gary Coley (R) — unopposed

Sheriff
Larry Lynch (R) — 62.75%
Charles Hutyra (D) — 37.25%

County Tax Assessor/Collector
A.F. "Buddy" Skeen (D) — unopposed

County Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
Kelly Snell (R) — unopposed

County Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Danny Volick (R) — 42.45%
Joe Mashek (D) — 54.55%

Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 1, Place 1
Kristi DeCluitt (R) — 65.85%
Wendell Seitzler (D) — 34.15%

Constable, Precinct No. 1
Travis Bailey (R) — unopposed

Constable, Precinct No. 3
David Maler (D) — unopposed

Constable, Precinct No. 4
Larry Eschenburg (R) — unopposed

Constable, Precinct No. 5
Stan Hickey (R) — unopposed


Constable, Precinct No. 7
John Johnson (D) — unopposed

Constable, Precinct No. 8
Freddie Cantu (D) — unopposed

(62.05% of precincts reporting)


Polling places and faces

How were the lines, wait and privacy during your voting experience?



Mary Jo Amaro


"It was very private and I really didn't have to wait that long to vote."



Taylor Tarr


"It was my first time to vote and it is definitely weird having the responsibility to do it now."

In the battleground states police are taking precautions to riots which may break out during elections and after the winner is announced.What is your take on this?



Stephanie Bousquet


"Violence shows ignorance, especially to get your personal political views across."



Jonathon Cline


"Political parties have a history of feuding; it really isn't that surprising."

Who do you think the majority of Waco voters will vote for and why?



Katie Shake

"I'm torn because the city of Waco and Baylor students are two completely different types of voters."



Jake Morphew

"McCain might take it; there are so many definitions of conservatives in Waco."

DEMOCRATS from page 1

three Democratic incumbents. With more than 380 of the 435 House races decided, Democrats held leads for a dozen other Republican-held seats. Republicans were leading in fewer than a handful of seats held by Democrats.

CORNYN from page 1

The results were no surprise to the traditionally red state. Rasmussen Reports telephone polls in October placed Cornyn with a 15-point lead over Noriega. Cornyn was 94.9 percent likely to keep his Senate seat based on data gathered from the polling site. Vincent Harris, a senior from Fairfax, Va. and aid to the senator, attended the victory party Tuesday night. "John Cornyn is the only candidate with a small-government, low-tax vision for America," Harris said. "He's a great, personal

guy who I've gotten to know the past nine months." Noriega spent the night at his election party in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Houston. Noriega remained continually optimistic as the numbers came in, but he was ultimately unable to defeat the incumbent. He congratulated Cornyn on his win and said he respected the voters' decision. "We fought as hard as we could, and we did the best with what we had," Noriega said. "I'm very pleased with what we were able to accomplish. It was a great privilege to be nominated." Noriega said he's currently most concerned about spending

time with his family and "seeing what doors open." He did not say if he had plans to run for the U.S. Senate again in the future. Noriega is a Houston native and five-term member of the Texas House of Representatives. If elected, he would have been the first Hispanic senator from Texas. Oscar Boleman, a Galveston senior and president of the Baylor Democrats, said it's unfortunate Noriega lost. "Noriega was the underdog, and he was being outspent by the GOP," Boleman said. The Democratic challenger was at a clear disadvantage since

old mother of five, toppled English in a swing district of rural communities and old industrial steel towns in Pennsylvania's northwest corner. In Connecticut, Democrat Jim Himes, a Greenwich businessman, defeated Shays despite the Republican's highly publicized late criticism of McCain's presidential campaign.

EDWARDS from page 1

er and do what the American people want us to do -- find common sense solutions. When Americans work together there is no challenge we cannot overcome," Edwards said. Approximately 50 Curnock supporters rallied behind their candidate Tuesday night at the Carleen Bright Arboretum in Woodway. "We congratulate Chet Edwards on his victory," Curnock conceded. "We were able to get our viewpoints across, and it was an interesting campaign. Overall it was a good race." After spending nearly a year on the campaign trail, Curnock said he was tired. "It's been a 10-month ordeal, and I'm looking forward to rest. At this point, I have no other (political) plans," Curnock said. "I'm a small business owner, so I need to get back to business." With 70 percent of the district's vote going to President George W. Bush in 2004, the area is widely considered one of the most conservative parts of the state. This was Curnock's third run for a seat in the House, with his first two attempts trumped in the district's primaries. Curnock had hoped his chances would improve with the summer announcement of Edwards as a strong contender for Obama's running mate — an indication, Curnock believed, of Edwards being too liberal for his district. "This is a key race," Curnock said. "We're talking about a situation where we've got two widely divergent visions of America. And my opponent supports the extreme leftist ideology of Barack Obama and Nancy

Pelosi." But Curnock was considerably outtraised by his Democratic opponent. Greenville senior Jordan Powell, a former staff worker on Gov. Mike Huckabee's presidential campaign, said that funding is extremely important for a candidate. Powell also worked as a staff aid for Van Taylor, Edwards' opponent in 2006. "Money equals air time, radio time, newspaper ads and bigger get-out-the-vote efforts," Powell said. "Money is the lifeline in politics." According to the two campaigns' latest financial reports filed after the third quarter, Edwards raised \$2.18 million in the 2007-08 House election cycle, with 49 percent in Political Action Committee contributions and 48 percent in individual donations. Curnock, who started his campaign after receiving the Republican nomination earlier this year, raised \$84,713, with 91 percent from individual donations and 7 percent from his own funds. "On the whole, from staff to advertising to name identification, (Curnock's limited funds) put Mr. Curnock at a significant disadvantage that probably can't be overcome," Powell said. As for contributions from industries, Edwards drew heavily from oil and gas companies, transportation unions, lawyers and law firms, as well as the retired community. Curnock received his highest number of contributions from miscellaneous businesses, the retired community and the real estate industry. Edwards is one of eight House members to serve as a senior member on both the House

Budget and the Appropriations Committees. He also serves on the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee and Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, and as the co-chair of the USO Congressional Caucus and House Army Caucus. Edwards was first elected to the Texas Senate in 1983, where he served until he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1990. "Mr. Edwards has always had a strong sense of what minorities need as far as representation. He has a genuine concern about the community and about the welfare of the community," said Veronica McClain, a Waco probation officer. "His supporters, his work ethic, his character all speak for him." With what many cite as a bipartisan appeal, Edwards survived the 2003 GOP-led congressional redistricting in Texas, which garnered national attention as a mid-census move to favor House Republican candidates. Edwards lost U.S. Army post Fort Hood and gained several conservative constituencies, such as the home of Texas A&M University, his alma mater, and several Fort Worth suburbs.

Winning 51 percent of the vote in 2004, Edwards narrowly defeated Republican state Rep. Arlene Wohlgemuth. Edwards was the only Democrat in competitive races re-elected after the redistricting, and in 2006 he widened in his lead with 58 percent of the vote against Republican challenger Van Taylor. "It's really interesting how many Republicans are for Chet Edwards. On the ballot he's a Democrat, but really, in his policy he's found a way to keep a balance that benefits everyone and find a mutual zone for both parties," said Jonathan Hill, precinct captain for Precinct 83. Known as a champion for veterans, Edwards secured \$1.6 million this year for a Post Traumatic Stress Disorder research study conducted by researchers at Baylor and in conjunction with the Waco Veterans Affairs and Fort Hood. Edwards also gained notoriety in the district for getting \$16 million to refurbish aircraft at L-3 Communications plant, Waco's largest employer.

Staff Writers Sommer Ingram and Chad Shanks both reported for this story from the Edwards and Curnock campaigns, respectively

RESULTS from page 1

Fellow Democrats rode his coattails to larger majorities in both houses of Congress. They defeated incumbent Republicans and won open seats by turn. The 47-year-old Illinois senator was little known just four years ago. A widely praised speech at the Democratic National Convention, delivered when he was merely a candidate for the Senate, changed that. Overnight he became a sought-after surrogate campaigner, and he had scarcely settled into his Senate seat when he began preparing for his run for the White House. A survey of voters leaving polling places on Tuesday showed the economy was by far the top Election Day issue. Six in 10 voters said so, and none of the other top issues, energy, Iraq, terrorism and health care, was picked by more than one in 10. "May God bless whoever wins tonight," President Bush told dinner guests at the White House, where his tenure runs out on Jan. 20. The Democratic leaders of Congress celebrated in Washington. "It is not a mandate for a party or ideology but a mandate for change," said Senate Majority leader Harry Reid of Nevada. Said Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California: "Tonight the American people have called for a new direction. They have called for change in America." Shortly after 11 p.m. in the East, The Associated Press count showed Obama with 338 electoral votes, well over the 270 needed for victory. McCain had 127 after winning states that comprised the normal Republican base. The nationwide popular vote was remarkably close. Totals from 58 percent of the nation's precincts showed Obama with 51 percent and McCain with 47.9. Interviews with voters suggested that almost six in 10 women were backing Obama nationwide, while men leaned his way by a narrow margin. Just over half of whites supported McCain, giving him a slim advantage in a group that Bush carried overwhelmingly in 2004. The results of the AP survey were based on a preliminary partial sample of nearly 10,000 voters in Election Day polls and in telephone interviews over the past week for early voters. Democrats also acclaimed Senate successes by former Gov. Mark Warner in Virginia, Rep. Tom Udall in New Mexico and Rep. Mark Udall in Colorado. All won seats left open by Republican retirements. In New Hampshire, former Gov. Jeanne Shaheen defeated Republican Sen. John Sununu in a rematch of their 2002 race, and Sen. Elizabeth Dole fell to Democrat Kay Hagan in North Carolina. Democrats also looked for gains in the House. They defeated Republican incumbents Rep. Tom Feeney and Ric Keller in Florida, 22-year veteran Chris Shays in Connecticut and Rep. Robin Hayes in North Carolina.

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