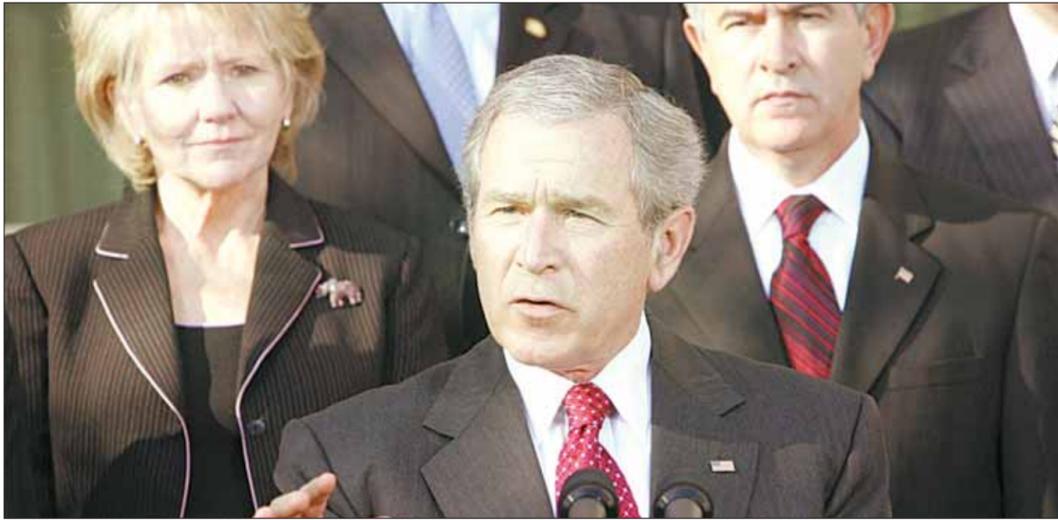


# A brand new Congress



President Bush, center, accompanied by members of his Cabinet, speaks during a news conference in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington on Wednesday. Transportation Secretary Mary Peters, left, and Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns, right, look on.

## President: Our obligations to the country haven't changed

By BEN FULLER  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**WASHINGTON**  
President Bush said Wednesday he'll submit a proposal to balance the budget in five years and exhorted Congress to end the dead of night process of quietly tucking expensive pet projects into spending bills.

The president's spokesman, meanwhile, said Bush would talk in his Jan. 23 State of the Union address about making spending on the Iraq war as transparent as possible.

Lawmakers and the independent, bipartisan Iraq Study Group have criticized the Bush administration for funding the war through emergency supplemental bills, instead of including the costs in the administration's yearly formal budget request for running the government. That means war costs are not included in the administration's deficit calculations and are not subject to overall spending caps.

Congress is expected to get another such emergency request soon. The Pentagon says it needs \$100 billion more to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan through the end of September; adding to the \$350 billion the Iraq war alone has so far cost the nation.

White House press secretary Tony Snow stopped short of saying that the adminis-

tration was considering folding war costs into annual budget requests — the next due to Congress on Feb. 5 — as the Iraq Study Group recommended.

But, he said: "We have already been providing larger and larger set asides within the budget for doing that, and I think that you'll find in the State of the Union that we will move toward making expenditures in Iraq, and in the war on terror generally, including Afghanistan as transparent as possible."

Faced with working with an opposition Congress for the first time of his presidency, Bush welcomed new members of Congress and said he's anxious to work with them on the nation's priorities during the remaining two years of his presidency. "Congress has changed," he said. "Our obligations to the country haven't changed."

But in a newspaper opinion piece published Wednesday in the Wall Street Journal, the president also served notice to lawmakers:

"If the Congress chooses to pass bills that are simply political statements, they will have chosen stalemate," Bush wrote.

"If a different approach is taken, the next two years can be fruitful ones for our nation. We can show the American people that Republicans and Democrats can come together to find ways to help make America a more

secure, prosperous and hopeful society."

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said Democrats ran in the midterms election on a message of compromise, and want to work with Bush.

"We hope that when the president says compromise, it means more than 'do it my way,' which is what he's meant in the past," Schumer said.

He said fiscal restraint is one area where the executive and legislative branches of government can work together.

"Over the past few years, pro-growth economic policies have generated higher revenues," Bush said. "Together with spending restraint, these policies allowed us to meet our goal of cutting the budget deficit in half three years ahead of schedule."

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projects that the deficit for the current budget year, which ends next Sept. 30, will rise to \$286 billion. Over the next decade, the office forecasts that the deficit will total \$1.76 trillion.

Bush called on Congress to cut by half the number and cost of pet projects prized by lawmakers.

"People want to end the secretive process by which Washington insiders are able to get billions of dollars directed to projects, many of them pork-barrel projects that have never been reviewed or voted on by the Congress," he said.

# Pelosi's ascent gives boost to women in politics

## Representative to be first female speaker of the House

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**WASHINGTON**

It shouldn't be surprising that it took more than 200 years for Congress to select a female speaker of the House. The United States isn't exactly at the forefront when it comes to women in politics.

Women make up a larger share of the national legislature in 79 other countries, including China, Cuba, North Korea and Vietnam, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, an association of national legislatures. The United States even trails a couple of fledgling democracies: Afghanistan and Iraq.

"When my colleagues elect me as speaker on Jan. 4, we will not just break through a glass ceiling, we will break through a marble ceiling," said Rep. Nancy Pelosi, who is set to lead the House when the Democrats take over. "In more than 200 years of history, there was an established pecking order, and I cut in line."

There were 22 women in the House when Pelosi was first elected to her California district in 1987. There will be a record 71 female representatives when she takes over as speaker, giving women 16 percent of the seats.

"The biggest obstacle women candidates face is not about gender, it's about the lack of opportunity," said Ellen R. Malcolm, president of EMILY's List, which helps Democratic women who favor abortion rights get elected to public office.

"Ninety-eight percent of incumbents who run for re-election are re-elected in most years. ... The bottom line is there are very few opportunities."

Once women decide to run for office, they are just as successful as men, according to experts who study the issue. However, women are much less likely to run.

One big reason is child care. Women are much more likely than



House Democratic Leader Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., will assume the role of speaker of the House today.

men to be responsible for child care, and that doesn't always fit into the usually chaotic schedule of a member of Congress.

"All these women, even if they are extremely qualified, they are still so much involved in their family life they couldn't even consider running for office," said Richard Fox, professor of political science at Union College in New York.

Fox did an extensive survey of women in professions that produce many lawmakers: education, business and the law. He worked on the study with Jennifer Lawless, an assistant political science professor at Brown University who ran for Congress this year, losing the Democratic primary in Rhode Island to incumbent Rep. James Langevin.

Among their conclusions:

- Women are less likely than men to be asked to run for office by party leaders and other officials.

- When women are asked to run, they are just as likely as men to do it.

- Women are more likely than men to think they are unqualified to serve, even when they have the same qualifications as male candidates.

# Democrats promise action on Iraq, ethics

By DAVID ESPO  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**WASHINGTON**

Congressional Democrats stepped hungrily to the brink of power on Wednesday, promising immediate action to limit the influence of lobbyists and constant prodding of the Bush administration to bring U.S. troops home from Iraq.

Even as they prepared to take control of Congress, Democrats received a brusque reminder that they face pressure from the political left as well as resistance from Republicans.

At one point during the day, Rep. Rahm Emanuel, a member of the Democratic leadership, was addressing reporters when he was loudly interrupted by Cindy Sheehan and other anti-war activists. "De-escalate, investigate, troops home now!" they shouted, while he smiled gamely.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi, in line to become the nation's first female House speaker, spent much of her day at ceremonial events. She attended a Catholic Mass in remembrance of the children of Darfur and Katrina, then a tea in her honor.

That left it to her lieutenants to outline plans for the Democrats' initial stretch in the majority.

Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, the incoming majority leader, said the first six bills and a series of stiffer ethics rules would be passed within two weeks.

The first step, he said, would take place by early tonight and consist of several measures crafted in

"Democrats are committed to working with Republicans to get results."

Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev.  
On how the House and Senate will work in a bipartisan spirit

response to the scandals that weakened Republicans in the elections.

In addition to expanding restrictions on privately financed trips enjoyed by lawmakers, House Democrats said they will prohibit travel on corporate jets and require greater disclosure of earmarks, the pet projects inserted into legislation at the behest of individual lawmakers.

The rules do not prohibit lawmakers from taking trips financed by foundations that seek to influence public opinion. Those trips will require pre-approval from the ethics committee.

Current rules ban congressional travel paid for by lobbyists or foreign governments, and violations of the existing restrictions played heavily in the scandal involving Republican lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

Two months after the voters ordered a change in congressional control, Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate, as well as Bush, pledged to work in a bipartisan spirit.

"Democrats are committed to working with Republicans to get results," Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, due to become majority leader today, wrote in a memo distributed to the party's rank-and-file.



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### Spring 2007 Course Schedule

CRSNUM	COURSE TITLE	DAY	TIME	DATES	TUITION	FEES
<b>BUSINESS</b>						
BOS 101-31	QUICKBOOKS ACCOUNTING	T	6-8:30	2/6-5/15	\$150	\$25
BOS 102-31	ACCOUNTING FOR SMALL BUSINESS	Th	6-8	2/22-5/3	\$100	\$30
BOS 103-31	KEYBOARDING 1- Beginning Typing	M&W	6-8	2/5-4/9	\$129	none
BOS 201-31	REAL ESTATE SALES	M&T	6:30-9:30	1/22-3/26	\$349	(includes books)
<b>COMPUTERS</b>						
BDP 101-31	BEGINNING COMPUTER SKILLS	M&W	6-9	1/31-3/21	\$160	\$45
BDP 101-32	BEGINNING COMPUTER SKILLS	M&W	6-9	3/26-5/16	\$160	\$45
BDP 102-31	COMPUTERS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS	M&W	4-6	2/7-3/21	\$89	\$20
BDP 102-32	COMPUTERS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS	M&W	4-6	4/9-5/16	\$89	\$20
BDP 202-31	MS-WORD 2003, Basic	T&Th	6-9	2/6-3/1	\$108	\$75
BDP 204-31	MS-WORD 2003, Intermediate	T&Th	6-9	3/6-3/29	\$108	same book
BDP 206-31	MS-WORD 2003, Expert	T&Th	6-9	4/10-5/3	\$108	same book
BDP 209-31	MS-EXCEL 2003, Basics	M&W	5:30-8:30	1/31-2/28	\$108	\$75
BDP 210-31	MS-EXCEL 2003, Intermediate	M&W	5:30-8:30	3/5-3/28	\$108	same book
BDP 211-31	MS-EXCEL 2003, Expert	M&W	5:30-8:30	4/9-5/2	\$108	same book
<b>MEDICAL</b>						
MOC 101-31	CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT*	M&W	4-7	1/22-3/5	\$335	\$37
MOC 101-32	CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT*	M&W	4-7	3/7-4/23	\$335	\$37
*Additional costs apply In person only registration Jan. 5, at 3 p.m., for CNA Copies of physical/PPDs requested after completion of the CNA course will be at a charge of \$5						
MOC 201-31	Q.M.A.*	T&Th	4-7	2/1-4/24	\$369	\$95
* QMA required orientation, Jan. 25, 4 p.m.						
MOC 102-31	MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY	W	6-8:30	1/31-5/9	\$160	\$75
MOC 300-31	ICD-9-CM CODING, Basic	T	6-9	2/6-5/22	\$289	\$168
MOC 305-31	CPT CODING	Th	6-9	2/1-5/10	\$289	\$140
<b>TRADE &amp; INDUSTRIAL</b>						
TAM 203-31	BEGINNING PRECISION MACHINE TECH	T	5-8	2/6-4/17	\$169	\$50
TAV 101-31	AUTOBODY	T	6-9	2/6-5/1	\$189	none
TAV 112-31	AUTO SERVICE	T&Th	6-8:30	2/27-3/29	\$89	TBA
TAV112-32	AUTO SERVICE	T&Th	6-8:30	4/10-5/10	\$89	TBA
TAV 104-31	WELDING-INTRODUCTION	T	6-9	2/6-5/1	\$189	\$26
TAV 105-31	WELDING FOR ALL SKILL LEVELS	W	6-9	1/31-4/25	\$189	\$20 fee, \$6 book
<b>HORTICULTURE</b>						
SAG 104-31	HORTICULTURE	M	6-8:30	4/9-5/7	\$69	none
<b>COMMUNITY</b>						
CES 301-31	BUYING & SELLING ON-LINE	T	6-8:30	2/6-3/13	\$60	\$10
CES 301-32	BUYING & SELLING ON-LINE	T	6-8:30	4/10-5/15	\$60	\$10
CES 104-31	CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH	W	6-8	2/7-3/14	\$89	\$19
CES 105-31	CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH II	W	6-8	3/21-5/2	\$89	\$19
CES 110-31	COOKING WITH STYLE	T&Th	5:30-8:30	2/27-3/15	\$65	\$45
CES 111-31	BAKING TO IMPRESS	T&Th	5:30-8:30	4/10-4/26	\$65	\$45
<b>ADULT BASIC EDUCATION</b>						
GED 101-32	LEARNING CENTER*	T&Th	6-9	Ongoing	free	\$10
GED 101-35	LEARNING CENTER*	T&Th	8:30-11:30a.m.	Ongoing	free	\$10
GED 101-37	LEARNING CENTER*	M&W	6-9	Ongoing	free	\$10
ESL 101-31	ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE*	T&Th	6-9:30	Call for schedule	free	\$10
ESL 101-32	ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE*	M&W	9a.m.-12:30	Call for schedule	free	\$10
*Please inquire about fee assistance if needed for ABE classes						
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>						
EMS 101-31	EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN	M&W	6-10	1/17-5/23	\$425	\$120
EFS 501-31	MANDATORY FIREFIGHTER (3 Saturdays required)	W	6-9	1/24-2/28	\$140	none
EFS 231-31	FIRE OFFICER STRATEGY & TACTICS	W	6-10	3/7-5/9	\$130	TBA

No school: Jan. 15, Feb. 19, April 2-6



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