WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush claimed a re-election mandate yesterday after a record 59 million Americans chose him over Democrat John Kerry and voted to expand Republican control of Congress as well. He pledged to pursue his agenda on taxes and Iraq while seeking “the broad support of all Americans.”

Kerry conceded defeat in make-or-break Ohio rather than launch a legal fight reminiscent of the contentious Florida recount of four years ago. “I hope that we can begin the healing,” the Massachusetts senator said.

Chiming a second term denied his father, George H.W. Bush, the president struck a conciliatory tone, too. “A new term is a new opportunity to reach out to the whole nation,” he said, speaking directly to Kerry’s supporters.

“To make this nation stronger and better, I will need your support and I will work to earn it,” he said. “I will do all I can to deserve your trust.”

It was a warm-and-fuzzy close to one of the longest, most negative presidential races in a generation.

Bush didn’t use the word mandate, but Vice President Dick Cheney did, and the president’s intention was clear as he kicked off a familiar list of second-term goals: overhaul the tax code and Social Security at home while waging war in Iraq and elsewhere, to steer terrain.

Bush stands to reshape the federal judiciary, starting with an aging Supreme Court that voted 5-4 to award him Florida four years ago. In all branches of government, the GOP now holds a solid, if not permanent, ruling majority.

Bush’s vote totals were the highest ever and his share of the national vote, 51 percent, made him the first president to claim a majority since 1988 when his father won 53 percent against Democrat Michael Dukakis.

Like Dukakis, Kerry is a Massachusetts politician who was labeled a liberal by a Bush. This president also called Kerry a flip-flopper and an opportunist who would fight feebly against terror.

None of that rancor was evident yesterday, when Kerry called Bush to concede the race. He told Bush the country needed to be united, and Bush agreed. But the numbers suggest the country is deeply split.

Bush’s victory ensures Republican dominance of virtually every quarter of the U.S. political system for years to come — the White House, Congress and the federal judiciary. Democrats poured over election results and sadly determined that the GOP base was bigger, more rural, suburban and Hispanic than they had ever imagined.

They looked within their own party, and found plenty of Democrats to blame — Kerry, his running mate John Edwards, their layers of consultants and legions of former Bill Clinton aides. The packeaging began in earnest for the 2008 race, with Edwards signaling his ambitions by pressing Kerry to wage a legal fight in Ohio. Democrats love to fight the GOP, particularly those Democrats who vote in primaries and caucuses.

“You can be disappointed, but you cannot walk away,” Edwards told supporters at Kerry’s concession. “This fight has just begun.”


Kerry himself showed no sign of exiting the political arena. “I’ll never stop fighting for you,” he told backers.

Fifty strategies had longed hoped to supplant their political issues in the Midtown and South Mountain Avenue and East Mabel Street.

Man enters showers in Apache

By Jesse Lewis
AZONIA DAILY WILDCAT

A man entered an occupied community shower room in Apache-Sierra Cruz Residence Hall, 1420 E. Fifth St., and approached a showering student at 16:35 p.m. Sunday, according to a press release issued by the University of Arizona Police Department.

The man walked through an unlocked door into the bathroom and confronted a female student who was showering, according to the release.

The man stared at the student and then entered an adjoining stall.

The student was able to run out of the bathroom and obtain help from another resident who confirmed the man and told him to leave the press release stated.

The man disappeared from sight while the student was looking for a resident assistant.

The student told police the man was between 15 and 17 years old and about 5 feet 8 inches tall, weighing 120 pounds.

Police are hoping to find the man fitting the description, said Sgt. Roby Moja, UAPD spokesman.

“We want to talk to him and determine through speaking to him what his intentions were,” Moja said.

A similar string of incidents occurred in April 2002 when two male suspects watched people shower in six different occasions in residence halls.

One man was arrested that year, but three days after his arrest, another man attempted to sexually assault a student in a residence hall shower.

Police enacted a whistle program in which they handed out safety whistles on campus and put all residence halls on 24-hour lockdown.

By Jesse Lewis
AZONIA DAILY WILDCAT

Following reports of recent burglaries and a sexual assault in the neighborhood of campus, police are urging students to take extra precautions to keep themselves safe.

A female UA student called police to report she was raped early Sunday morning in the front yard of her house at North Mountain Avenue and East Mabel Street.

The University of Arizona, Tucson