



THE NAME ON HIS LIPS

Shinan Govani's daily column returns with an ode to Coco's mouth. *Page B4*

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DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

Divided Democrats choose Obama

CLINTON'S MOTION

By Sheldon Alberts

DENVER • The result was a foregone conclusion. But it was history nonetheless.

Delegates to the Democratic National Convention yesterday officially nominated Illinois Senator Barack Obama as their presidential nominee, making him the first African-American to carry a major party's banner in a U.S. general election.

Mr. Obama was chosen by acclamation after his rival for the Democratic nomination, former first lady Hillary Clinton, took to the convention floor and moved to suspend the traditional state-by-state roll call vote.

"With eyes firmly fixed on the future, in the spirit of unity, with the goal of victory, with faith in our party and our country, let's declare together in one voice, right here, right now, that Barack Obama is our candidate and he will be our president," Ms. Clinton said, triggering a deafening roar.

"I move Senator Barack Obama of Illinois be selected by the convention by acclamation as the nominee of the Democratic party."

Ms. Clinton's move came after her campaign struck a deal with Mr. Obama's to cut off the roll call after two-thirds of the states had voted. The compromise was designed to show respect for Ms. Clinton's supporters by allowing them to vote, while projecting a united Democratic front.

While many of Ms. Clinton's delegates were in tears, Mr. Obama's nomination was a moment of jubilation for African-American delegates at the Pepsi Center convention site.

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CHIP SOMODEVILLA / GETTY IMAGES

New York Senator — and former candidate for U.S. president — Hillary Clinton makes the motion to have Barack Obama acclaimed as Democratic nominee for president.

Visiting Columbine High nine years later

Gun control a silenced issue



ALLEN ABEL in Littleton, Colo.

The long, low halls of Columbine High School are lined with blue lockers and crimson history, decked with hand-drawn posters for Bible Study and the Knitting Club, cruised by laughing teens in Hollister and Aéropostale,

then eerily silent when the classroom doors swing closed. We are nine years removed from the mass murder-suicide that happened here, and 10 miles south of a national political gathering at which the quieting of America's guns has never been mentioned.

No one halts me as I enter the spotless, suburban, painfully infamous campus; no apparatus scans me for a pistol or a knife. There are cameras in the ceiling, but at the Home of the Rebels, a faith in human goodness — and the odds against a second strike of fateful lightning — is the shell that keeps a thousand children safe.

Ignored entirely in the electoral battlespace, yet unforgettable at Columbine and wherever else innocent life has fallen to a weapon fired in anger or insanity or accident, the issue of America's abundance of guns has made only a brief and semicomical intrusion into Barack Obama's festival of Hope.

Last weekend, three amphetamine-addled losers were slammed into federal custody in Denver when police discovered a carload of armaments, and an unarmed, unnamed woman testified that the boys had been talking about how a nigger never should be president.

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EITHER WAY, GAS PRICES WILL RISE

EXPERTS' TESTIMONY

Proposed policies can't avert passed-on costs

By David Akin

OTTAWA • Energy industry experts say consumers will pay more for gas at the pump, regardless of whether Conservative or Liberal policies are adopted to cut the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change.

The costs to consumers of cutting greenhouse gases is expected to be a major issue in the federal election campaign that could be underway as soon as next week.

Stephen Harper has described the Liberal plan, which involves a carbon tax to encourage business and consumers to reduce energy consumption, as "insane." The Prime Minister has said the Liberal proposal will force Canadians to pay more for gas and that will hurt the economy.

Representatives of the country's gasoline refiners and retailers told a House of Commons committee yesterday that gas prices will indeed rise under the Liberal Green Shift plan.

"A carbon tax would increase the price of gasoline at the pump," said Jane Savage, chief executive officer of the Canadian Independent Petroleum Marketers Association. Ms. Savage, whose organization represents about 70% of Canada's gas retailers, was responding to a question put to her and other witnesses at the committee by Conservative MP Colin Carrie.

But the Conservative approach to cutting greenhouse gases — a mix of regulations, technology investments and new markets to trade emission credits — will also result in higher pump prices, said energy industry executives after testifying yesterday at a House of Commons committee.

"I think we'd be fooling ourselves if, however we deal with the issue of climate change, that in the end there's not going to be some cost to Canadians and there's not going to be some element of economic dislocation," Peter Boag, president of the Canadian Petroleum Products Institute, said after testifying at the committee meeting. "I think that's inevitable in dealing with an issue that's as problematic and challenging as climate change."

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POST SPORTS

DJOKOVIC FEELS HEAT AT U.S. OPEN

Pressure follows Grand Slam win in January.



BIO

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