

**IT'S SCHOOL TIME, BOYZ!**  
**96 HOURS:** Local rappers star at back-to-books jam

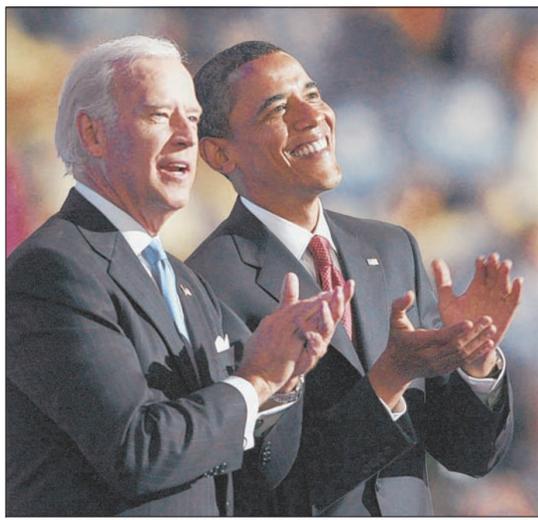
**COLLEGE PREVIEW**  
**SPORTS:** What to expect from Cal, Stanford, NCAA

**SPORTS**  
**WARRIORS' ELLIS HAS ANKLE SURGERY**

**BUSINESS**  
**S.F. PENTHOUSE FOR SALE: \$70 MILLION**

# San Francisco Chronicle

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CHRIS WATTIE / Reuters

**Barack Obama**, who wasn't expected to appear until today, and running mate Joe Biden, stand onstage at the end of day three.

## Obama pays surprise visit in night of unity

**'COMING TOGETHER':** Bill Clinton thrills crowd — Biden comes out swinging

By **Carla Marinucci**  
 CHRONICLE POLITICAL WRITER

DENVER — Barack Obama, who was formally nominated Wednesday as the first major-party African American presidential candidate in history, delighted and electrified Democrats with a surprise visit on the third day of their national convention — one painted with a remarkable display of unity. Obama's unexpected star turn came at the end of a night

in which party delegates got a full helping of passionate calls to action, red-meat attacks on the opposition and peace gestures between previous rivals.

The display of unity began when Hillary Rodham Clinton led Democrats in calling for an acclamation vote to nominate her onetime rival, Obama.

Her husband, former President Bill Clinton, later delivered a tour de force endorsement of the Illinois senator,

► **NOMINATION:** Page A14

## THE CLINTONS: Ultimate power couple a potent, yet risky, weapon for Obama

By **Carolyn Lochhead**  
 CHRONICLE WASHINGTON BUREAU

DENVER — Hillary buttons are selling at a deep discount on the streets of Denver, but the most powerful political couple in American history has emerged from the Democratic convention as Sen. Barack Obama's most dangerous weapon. Like all dangerous weapons, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and former President Bill Clinton must be used with great care.

Given their proven capacity to backfire, former Vice President Al Gore shackled Bill Clinton during his losing 2000 campaign. Veteran political professionals said Obama should unleash the couple.

"I would keep Hillary Clinton in every neighborhood, every

city, every county, every state where she kicked my ass," said former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown. "I'd put Bill Clinton in every black Baptist church in America and let him re-establish

► **CLINTONS:** Page A14

### More on the Democratic convention



LACY ATKINS / The Chronicle

► **Newsom in spotlight:** Mayor basks in attention as one of Dems' "hotshots to watch." **A15**

**SFGate.com Politics Blog:** To read convention updates, go to The Chronicle's Politics Blog — by reporters Carla Marinucci, Joe Garofoli and Carolyn Lochhead. [sfgate.com/blogs](http://sfgate.com/blogs)

## BAN ON GAY MARRIAGES TRAILING IN STATE POLL

Economy seen as California's top problem — 60% want troops home from Iraq

By **John Koopman**  
 CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

The gap between those who support and those who oppose same-sex marriage is closing, and a poll indicates that backing for a proposition to ban such marriages is lagging.

Those were two of the main findings of a poll conducted by the Public Policy Institute of California and released Wednesday.

The wide-ranging poll found that 60 percent of those surveyed

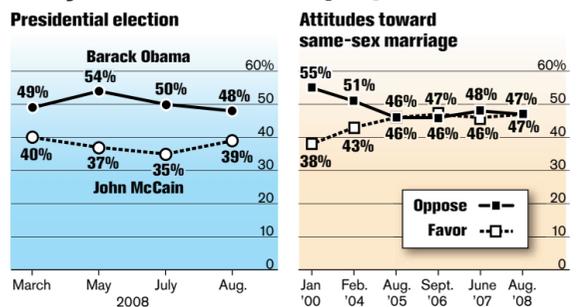
favor bringing home troops in Iraq, that President Bush's approval rating is 24 percent and that 63 percent of likely California voters favor universal health care.

However, the biggest concern among Californians today is the economy, the poll found.

The results suggest that 54 percent of likely voters will say no to Proposition 8, the proposal to ban same-sex marriage, come November.

► **POLL:** Page A12

### Likely voters' views on major questions



Survey findings are based on telephone interviews of 1,047 California adult residents interviewed from Aug. 12-19, 2008. Interviews were conducted in English or Spanish. The sampling error is plus or minus three percentage points.

Source: PPIC Statewide Survey

The Chronicle

## Burning with anticipation



FREDERIC LARSON / The Chronicle

The Man isn't scheduled to burn until Saturday night, but Burning Man participants gathered Wednesday to watch the sun rise over the Black Rock Desert in Nevada. About 50,000 people are expected to attend the annual art and fun festival, which began Monday and culminates with the torching of the festival's towering wooden icon. Attendees are flocking to the remote festival site known as Black Rock City from all over the world, but the biggest crowds aren't expected until Friday. Sheriff's officials in Pershing County reported no problems.

**SFGate.com**

► Find more photos, including some submitted by readers, plus reader forums, articles, tips, links and coverage from past years at [sfgate.com/burningman](http://sfgate.com/burningman).

## S.F. turns teen drug suspect over to feds

Juvenile Court recommended shelter instead of deportation

By **Jaxon Van Derbeke**  
 CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

A San Francisco court's ruling that a 14-year-old drug suspect from Honduras should be considered an abandoned youth — entitled to shelter rather than deportation — was thwarted Wednesday when the city turned him over to federal immigration authorities.

Juvenile Court Commissioner Abby Abinanti concluded Monday that the youth, in custody accused of dealing crack in the Tenderloin, should be treated within the social welfare system and not as a criminal offender.

In doing so, she sided with defense attorneys who argued that the boy had no family in Honduras, fled to this country to escape gang beatings, turned to drug dealing to survive and deserved a chance to seek asylum while in foster care.

The ruling set up a conflict with Mayor Gavin Newsom's administration, which has begun turning over juvenile illegal immigrants held on felony

► **SANCTUARY:** Page A12

### DEL MARTIN | 1921-2008



The Chronicle 2004

**Del Martin** (right) and **Phyllis Lyon** embrace after their 2004 wedding at City Hall.

## A lifetime of lesbian activism

By **Rachel Gordon**  
 CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Lesbian rights pioneer Del Martin, whose trailblazing activism spanned more than five decades, most recently in the battle for same-sex marriage, died Wednesday, just two months after she made history again by wedding her longtime partner in San Francisco City Hall.

Ms. Martin, an author and organizer, died at UCSF Hospice af-

**"Her last act of activism was her most personal — marrying the love of her life."**

KATE KENDELL  
 longtime friend

ter a long period of declining health. She was 87 and was admitted to the hospital nearly two weeks ago with a broken arm.

Ms. Martin's crusading began in 1955, during an era in America known more for social conformity than for rebellion, when she co-founded a lesbian social-turned-political organization, Daughters of Bilitis, named after a 19th century book of lesbian love poetry.

This year, on June 16, she and

► **MARTIN:** Page A16



**ELECTORAL FORECASTS:** Interactive map of presidential predictions. [sfgate.com/ZERA](http://sfgate.com/ZERA)

**JON STEWART'S SCOLD:** He says cable networks shouldn't set the political agenda. [sfgate.com/ZERB](http://sfgate.com/ZERB)

**BURNING MAN PHOTOS:** Experience the desert spectacle live from Black Rock. [sfgate.com/ZERC](http://sfgate.com/ZERC)



**WEATHER**  
 Sunny and hot.  
 Highs: 81 to 108.  
 Lows: 58 to 72. **B10**  
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