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Omaha World-Herald

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2008 SUNRISE EDITION

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER OWNED BY EMPLOYEES

OMAHA.COM BREAKING NEWS 24/7

MUST READ



You gotta love those scrubs

Comfortable surgical scrubs are growing popular outside the medical community.

Money

Tragic ride to school

A Springfield Platteview senior is killed and his brother injured on the way to school when their car is hit by a truck.

Midlands

Staying neutral

Gov. Heineman says he's unlikely to take sides on a proposed constitutional amendment to ban affirmative action programs in Nebraska.

Midlands

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Big Red Video: Football beat writers look ahead to NU's first game. **Sports/Big Red Page**

COMING FRIDAY

To lend or not to lend

Should you lend money to family members and friends? A look at the pros and cons. **Money**

Omaha weather



A morning thunderstorm. **High: 87 Low: 53**

Full weather report: Page 5B

Index

- Advice 3E
- Comics 4&5E
- Deaths 4B
- Editorials 6&7B
- Marketplace 5D
- Movies 4&5go!
- TV 6E

56 PAGES 50 CENTS

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Barack Obama's acceptance of the Democratic presidential nomination will mark a turning point in history.



Tonight's the night

What would it mean to you if Barack Obama were elected president?

Six delegates from Nebraska and Iowa share their opinions:

Robin Quarles
36, OMAHA



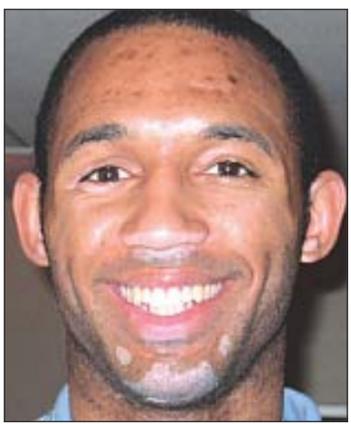
"This is a very, very big deal. There are some people who never thought they would see this in their lifetime."

Sandra Pope
49, OTTUMWA, IOWA



"I'd be honored to have been a part of this. That's something I could pass on to my children and my grandchildren."

R.J. Jarvis II
23, OSKALOOSA, IOWA



"We need to change direction in this country, and that would mean we're going to take those steps to make a change."

Pastor Janet Goodman-Banks
51, LINCOLN



"It's historic. It's motivational. It is the achievement of the American dream at its highest."

Brenda Council
54, OMAHA



"What does Barack Obama mean to me? The fulfillment of a dream."

Ebony Luensman
29, MARION, IOWA



"It would mean my kids have a better future. It's about improving their lives."

Black delegates express pride, joy, realism

By JOSEPH MORTON AND ROBYNN TYSVER
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITERS

DENVER — You could say it's going to be a big moment.

Tonight, Barack Obama officially becomes the first black presidential candidate of a major party in the nation's history.

Robin Quarles, 36, a convention delegate from Omaha, predicted that millions of black Americans will gather around their televisions to watch Obama's acceptance speech before more than 75,000 at Invesco Field.

"Just like any milestone, like walking on the moon or 9/11, people are going to remember where they were when he accepted the nomination," Quarles said.

Opinions differ from person to person,

regardless of race, about the implications of Obama's political rise. But a few common themes emerged from conversations with black delegates to the Democratic National Convention from Iowa and Nebraska.

On one hand, the success of Obama's candidacy shows that America as the land of opportunity "isn't a myth anymore," several delegates said, and represents an important turning point in the country's history. It already is altering perceptions of what is possible for minorities in the country and is causing people to re-evaluate prejudices.

On the other hand, delegates realize the country's problems with race relations won't be solved overnight.

The country still has a long way to go, they said, and they hope other Americans realize it.

"It's hope," said Brenda Council, 54, a delegate and legislative candidate from Omaha. "It's not the fulfillment of the dream entirely."

Older delegates who were asked about the historic nature of tonight's event recalled the pain of segregation.

Sandra Pope of Ottumwa, Iowa, said the image of "colored only" bathrooms was seared into her brain when she visited relatives in the South as a child.

George Dixon of DeWitt, Iowa, said he was about 7 when he was told he couldn't buy candy in a shop because of his skin color.

It's a heady thing to think that a country with such a past has now reached a point where a black man has a real possibility of moving into the White House.

"I've been having very strong emotions
See Obama: Page 2

Obama to accept nomination

When: Tonight
Where: Invesco Field, Denver

What: Barack Obama will accept the Democratic nomination for president, becoming the first black man ever nominated by one of the major parties. His running mate will be Joe Biden.

TV: Major networks will cover the acceptance speech, including ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN, MSNBC, Fox News and PBS.



Former President Clinton takes the stage Wednesday night at the Democratic National Convention to give a spirited endorsement of Barack Obama.

MORE DNC COVERAGE INSIDE

Nomination made by acclamation

Democrat Barack Obama is declared the first black nominee for president. During the roll call, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton released her New York delegates and called on the convention to declare Obama the nominee by acclamation.

Joe Biden, the vice presidential nominee, says Obama will restore the American dream.

Page 4A

Rowdy NU students spur seat changes

Season ticket holders who had sat behind the student section in South Stadium will be relocated, partly to avoid conflict.

By KRISTOPHER J. BROOKS
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

LINCOLN — At some University of Nebraska football games, Memorial Stadium's student section is a madhouse.

Students yell at people on the field. Shirtless guys, their chests painted red, stand up most of the game. Some students toss others into the air after Husker touchdowns.

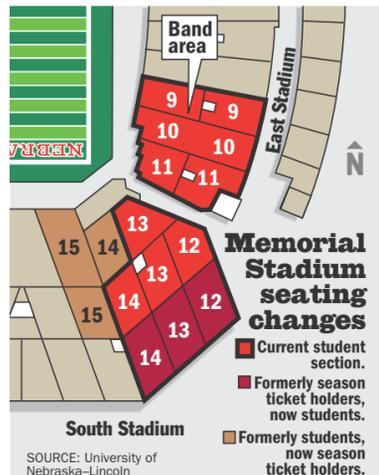
"Normally, each row is packed with fans, about two or three per seat," senior Chad Hall said. "The language is extremely vulgar, and I've seen at a few games bottles being thrown at people or the field."

That rowdiness — and an obstructed view — has frustrated some season ticket holders who sat right behind the student section in the South Stadium.

So university officials have rearranged the student seating, partly to alleviate overcrowding, but also to eliminate the conflict. Saturday's Husker game against Western Michigan is the first game under the new plan.

The 215 season ticket holders who had sat behind the student section have been relocated to different spots in the South Stadium.

See Huskers: Page 2



On Page 2A

Things to know if you're driving to Lincoln Saturday for the Huskers' season opener or the State Fair.

Coming Saturday

Feeling squeezed in that seat at Memorial Stadium? The hard numbers on seat width and average hip size explain why.

NEBRASKA STATE FAIR

Some fairgoers not bullish on move in 2010

By PAUL HAMMEL
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

STATE FAIR PARK — Eric Reimiller thumped the map of the state fairgrounds with a pointed finger for emphasis.

"Four generations of my family showed sheep in that building," the 56-year-old butcher from Seward, Neb., said, pointing at the map's designation for the stately brick 4-H Building.

"The fair's about tradition, and that's going to be gone when they move to Grand Island," Reimiller said.

The near-outburst came Wednesday at the Grand Island booth at the Nebraska State Fair.

The booth was the idea of Grand Island leaders, who want to emphasize the excitement and commitment of the central Nebraska community of 43,000. Grand Island was chosen this spring as the new site for
See Fair: Page 2