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FINAL

## Shelton looking for vast changes from within UA

By Aaron Mackey  
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Academic departments and colleges at the University of Arizona could merge or be scrapped entirely under a major shakeup to the institution's structure proposed by UA leaders.

In a memo to the UA community, President Robert Shelton called on the university to make sweeping changes to how it operates its academic, research and outreach programs while also making wholesale changes to how the UA funds itself.

While Shelton wouldn't provide details on what specific changes need to occur or identify programs that could be cut, the push establishes that he is serious about making the university more efficient in the wake of declining state budget support.

"The status quo will no longer work," Shelton wrote in the memo. "Instead, the time has come to take bold action that will radically change the way we operate."

After the UA was asked to cut its budget by nearly \$20 million over the summer, Shelton said that attempts to balance the budget by leaving open positions unfilled and making other small moves were inadequate and that the UA needed to adopt a long-term budget plan.

The memo, sent out on Wednesday, is the first step in engaging faculty, staff, students and community

See SHELTON, A5

## Pot-deifying duo guilty, confident they'll avoid prison

By Stephanie Innes  
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The founders of an Arizona church that deifies marijuana have pleaded guilty to two criminal charges and are now each facing up to 20 years in prison.

But Dan and Mary Quaintance, founders of the Church of Cognizance, remain confident that they will not end up behind bars. Although sentencing in federal court is set to take place within the next 75 days, the Quaintances are confident an appeal will keep them out of prison.

The couple on Aug. 18 pleaded guilty to two counts relating to their 2006 federal arrest — one count of conspiracy with intent to distribute 200 pounds or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of marijuana; and one count of possession with the intent to distribute 100 pounds or more of a substance containing a detectable amount of marijuana, as well as aiding and abetting.

The sentence will depend on the discretion of the judge, said Dan Quaintance's lawyer, Jerry Daniel Herrera.

See MARIJUANA, A5

On StarNet: Read more faith and values stories online at [www.azstarnet.com/faith](http://www.azstarnet.com/faith).

## Soldier suicides in 2008 could set another record, surpass the civilian rate

By Pauline Jelinek  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Soldier suicides this year could surpass the record rate of last year, Army officials said Thursday, urging military leaders at all levels to redouble prevention efforts for a force strained by two wars.

As of the end of August, 62 suicides were confirmed among active duty soldiers and Guard and Reserve troops called to active duty, officials said. Another 31 deaths appear to be suicides but are still being investigated.

If all are confirmed, that means the number for 2008 could eclipse the 115 of last year — and the rate per 100,000 could surpass that of the civilian population, Col. Eddie Stephens, deputy director of human-resources policy for the Army, said at a Pentagon news conference.

"Army leaders are fully aware that repeated deployments have led to increased distress and anxiety for

See SUICIDES, A5

## 2008 REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

# McCain to the nation: 'Change is coming'



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republican presidential candidate John McCain vowed to end the "constant partisan rancor" that pervades Washington and boasted of his maverick label.

## Arizona senator waves maverick flag as he hits both parties

By David Espo  
and Robert Furlow  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. PAUL, Minn. — John McCain, a POW turned political rebel, vowed Thursday night to vanquish the "constant partisan rancor" that grips Washington as he launched his fall campaign for the White House.

"Change is coming," he promised the roaring Republican National Convention and a prime-

time television audience.

"Fight with me. Fight with me. Fight with me. Fight for what's right for our country," he said.

To repeated cheers from his delegates, McCain made only passing reference to an unpopular George W. Bush and criticized fellow Republicans as well as Democratic rival Barack Obama in reaching out to independents and swing voters who will pick the next president.

"We were elected to change

### TUCSON FIRM WORKS ON PALIN'S NEW AIRPLANE

Page A4

Washington, and we let Washington change us," he said referring to the Republicans who controlled Congress for 12 years before they were voted out of office in 2006.

As for Obama, he said, "I will keep taxes low and cut them where I can. My opponent will raise them. I will cut government spending. He will increase it."

McCain's wife, Cindy, and ticketmate Sarah Palin and her husband joined him on stage as tens of thousands of red, white and blue balloons cascaded from high above the convention floor.

See MCCAIN, A4



Cindy McCain

"If Americans want straight talk and the plain truth they should take a good close look at John McCain... a man tested and true... who's never wavered in his devotion to our country."



S.C. Sen. Lindsey Graham

"Our troops deserve a commander in chief who acknowledges their success. Has walked in their shoes. Speaks their language. Shares in their sufferings. And will lead them to victory in a war we cannot afford to lose."



Minn. Gov. Tim Pawlenty

"We don't need rhetoric or empty promises. We need a president who has the integrity and courage to make the tough choices so America will be stronger and safer."



Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback

"For America to fulfill its God-given destiny, we need leaders to help take us there, leaders who deny themselves the pleasures of the moment to pursue the joy of serving others. John McCain is one of those leaders."

**MORE INSIDE:** ANALYSIS: The party in power, running as if it weren't. Page A4  
GREAT RATINGS: TV viewers flocked to watch Sarah Palin's speech. Page A4

On StarNet: Be sure to visit [go.azstarnet.com/politicalblog](http://go.azstarnet.com/politicalblog) to get the latest news and guest blogs from the floor of the convention.

### WEATHER, C8

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A LEE NEWSPAPER  
VOL. 167, NO. 249

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