



Actor Martin Sheen's take on Proposition 5

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# THE SACRAMENTO BEE



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## McCain: 'Change is coming'

### HE FIRES UP GOP, VOWS TO REMAKE WASHINGTON



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BY ROBERT BARNES  
*Washington Post*

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Sen. John McCain of Arizona completed a long and often improbable journey to the Republican presidential nomination Thursday night, offering himself as an “imperfect servant” who will never surrender in his fight to change Washington and the country.

In a speech to the Republican National Convention that was interrupted by boisterous applause and occasional protests, McCain said his record demonstrates a dedication to remaking Washington and an instinct for putting the people's interests over party loyalty.

McCain has spent nearly 26 years in Congress and, at 72, is seeking to be the oldest president elected to a first term, but he presented himself as an agent of revival for a political system in disarray.

“Let me offer an advance warning to the old, big-spending, do-nothing, me-first, country-second Washington crowd,” he told the delegates. “Change is coming.”

McCain has often taken pride in crossing swords with the party that on Thursday night finally accepted him as its standard-bearer. And he argued that those differences with his fellow Republicans were why a country whose citizens overwhelmingly believe

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Sen. John McCain gestures to the Republican convention crowd Thursday night, above, during his acceptance speech in St. Paul, Minn. He described how 5½ years of captivity in North Vietnam changed his outlook and asked for support from Republicans, independents and Democrats to end partisan fights that he said hinder national progress. Amid the California delegation on the convention's final day, below, Emily Springer of San Jose gets a better view from the shoulders of her father, David Springer.

## Local loyalists like what they see at viewing party

McCain's BACKERS LAUD HIS LEADERSHIP AT SACRAMENTO FETE

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN  
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He implored his audience to stand up, to stand with him. So they rose to their feet, applauding and enraptured, in a Sacramento storefront festooned with miniature flags and stars dangling from ceiling tiles.

They chanted “USA, USA,” some pumping fists into the air, a cardboard cutout of John McCain looking on.

For about an hour Thursday night, the small band of loyalists applauded, sometimes hooted and chuckled, during a viewing party of the Republican National Convention.

They arrived, about 50 members

strong, at McCain's Sacramento County headquarters to hear not oratory, they said, but a message spoken plainly and directly by the Arizona senator and the man whom they would like to call president.

“He's not an exciting speaker - he doesn't have to be. He just needs to be straightforward,” said Richard Boyd, who described himself as an independent voter and whose T-shirt described him as a Navy veteran.

“He might not be as exciting as Sarah Palin,” said Boyd, referring to the Alaska governor picked by McCain to be his running mate. “You have to remember she's going to be the vice president. He'll be our leader.”

He'll be commander in chief, too, noted Edgar Calderon, whose son, he said, enlisted in the Air Force on Sept. 11, 2001 - his 18th birthday and the day

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### Republican National Convention

#### MORE COVERAGE

- Mounted police block hundreds of anti-war protesters from marching to the convention site. **A14**
- **California chatter:** Sarah Palin's convention speech invigorates the state GOP delegation. **A14**
- **What McCain said:** “I fell in love with my country when I was a prisoner in someone else's. ... I loved it because it was not just a place, but an idea, a cause worth fighting for.” **A15**
- How the McCain and Obama campaigns use popular music to expand their message. **A15**

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#### RACE FOR '08

Read the full text of McCain's acceptance speech from the Republican National Convention.

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- **Updates:** Latest news from the convention.
- **Blog:** “Hot off the Trail”
- **Convention notebook:** See what's happening with the California delegation.
- **Photo gallery:** Convention images from The Bee's Brian Baer.

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### TOP STORIES

#### OUR REGION

**Schools are narrowing the achievement gap** between white and Asian students and those who are African American, Latino or learning the English language, according to state test results. **B1**

**A mistrial is declared in the case** of Spc. James Roland Ambler III, the Army National Guard soldier accused of vehicular manslaughter who wasn't allowed to wear his uniform during the trial, after the jury deadlocks. **B1**

**Federal prosecutors are reviewing** an inspector general's report about alleged misuse of federal funds by Kevin Johnson's nonprofit organization St. HOPE. **B3**

#### CAPITOL & CALIFORNIA

**A bill that requires emergency medical technicians** to undergo mandatory criminal background checks is expected to be signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger after the budget passes. **A3**

#### NATION

**Some Southeastern states declare emergencies** and officials urge residents to move inland as Tropical Storm Hanna heads toward the Atlantic Coast. **A6**

**Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick is bounced** from office, will serve four months in jail and must pay a \$1 million fine after pleading guilty to obstruction of justice. **A7**

#### WORLD

**Top U.S. military advisers are recommending** that President Bush make no further U.S. troop reductions in Iraq this year, despite improved security in the country, the Associated Press reports. **A12**

#### BUSINESS

**Saturn of Roseville's business operations are being consolidated** into John L. Sullivan Chevrolet in the Roseville Automall. **B9**

#### SPORTS

**Granite Bay High School, coming off its third** Sac-Joaquin Section Division II championship, debuts as The Bee's No. 1 football team. **C1**

### STATE BUDGET STANDOFF | Day 67

## Uncharted land ahead as delay nears record

By STEVE WIEGAND  
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With California on the verge of another dubious record in the Great Budget Debate of 2008, it would seem prudent for state officials to be preparing for a worst-case scenario.

Trouble is, no one seems to know what that might be.

“I don't think that we can predict the impact of not having a budget in place in the near future,” said Halle Jordan, spokeswoman for state Controller John Chiang. “We know what the pain has been.”

Saturday will mark the latest into a fiscal year (which started July 1) that the state has ever gone without a budget. On Monday, lawmakers surpassed

#### MORE COVERAGE

- **Graphic:** This is hardly the first time the budget has hit a roadblock. **A18**
- **Dan Walters:** There's potential for mischief as stalemate continues. **A3**

their Aug. 31 record for the latest the Legislature had ever approved a budget.

And there is no discernible end in sight. There has been talk in the Capitol about a “half-a-loaf” compromise. The idea is to pass a bill that would allow the controller to make payments to programs he cannot now pay without a

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