

**Weather**  
**Today:** Rain.  
 High 77. Low 67.  
**Friday:** Thunderstorms.  
 High 81. Low 71.  
 Details, **B8**

# The Washington Post

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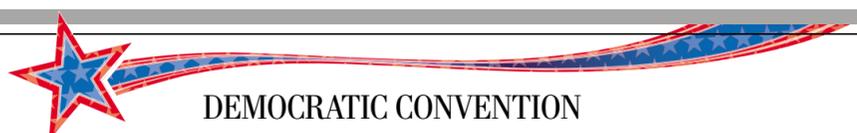
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M1 M2 M3 M4 V1 V2 V3 V4

**SPECIAL SECTION**  
**PAGES A21-A34**



DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

## Democrats Nominate Obama

### Candidate Gets Boost From the Clintons as He Becomes The First African American to Lead a Major-Party Ticket

**Tonight's His Night**  
 When Barack Obama takes a stage bordered by Greek columns to accept the nomination, he will make history on the 45th anniversary of the Rev. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech. The event will feature a stadium crowd of 80,000, a prime-time TV audience, fireworks and pop music. And at the center of it all, the candidate promises a "workmanlike" speech high on specifics as he sets out his goals for the nation. **A21**

**MULTIMEDIA COVERAGE**

washingtonpost.com  
**Live Video:** Watch the political teams of The Post and Newsweek throughout the convention. Tune in to Fix columnist Chris Cillizza's show from 4 to 6 p.m. and Newsweek Editor Jon Meacham's gavel-to-gavel coverage from 7 to 11 p.m.  
 washingtonpost.com/postpoliticstv.  
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As Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr. finished accepting the vice presidential nomination, Sen. Barack Obama made a surprise visit to the stage to praise his running mate.

By DAN BALZ and ANNE E. KORNBLUT  
 Washington Post Staff Writers

DENVER, Aug. 27 — Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois completed an improbable and historic journey here Wednesday when he was nominated by acclamation as the Democratic candidate for president, becoming the first African American to lead a major political party into a general-election campaign.

Obama, who just eight years ago attended his first Democratic National Convention and who four years later shot to national prominence with an electrifying keynote address at the gathering in Boston, was given a final symbolic boost Wednesday by Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, who moved from the convention floor to suspend the roll call of the states and formalize her former rival's nomination by acclamation.

The gesture of conciliation brought to a conclusion the closest and hardest-fought nomination battle Democrats have waged in the modern era of presidential politics, pitting two historic candidacies in a contest that divided the party and left lingering bitter feelings among Clinton loyalists.

But after days of nervous speculation about how the long and often contentious competition would end here in Denver, the nomination-by-acclamation set off a joyous scene on the convention floor, as delegates danced to the strains of "Love Train" and then broke out in chants of "Yes, we can!"

Hours later, the convention confirmed Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr. (Del.) as the party's vice presidential nominee, and as he finished his acceptance speech, Obama made a surprise visit to the Pepsi Center to praise his running mate; his wife, Michelle; his erstwhile rival Clinton; and her husband, former president Bill Clinton, who had delivered a powerful speech on behalf of Obama earlier in the night.

"I think the convention's gone pretty well so far, don't you think?" Obama said. He cited his wife's speech on Monday, and then, referring to Hillary Clinton's speech on Tuesday, said, "If I'm not mistaken, Hillary Clinton rocked the house last night."

In his acceptance speech, Biden, the fiery chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, cast himself as a champion of working-class families — a key target group Obama has struggled to win over — and laid out a sustained critique of Sen. John McCain (Ariz.), who will accept the GOP nomination next week.

"I am here for everyone I grew up with in Scranton and Wilmington,"

See DEMOCRATS, A32, Col. 1

**ANALYSIS**

## Clinton, Thinking About Tomorrow

By DAVID MARANISS  
 Washington Post Staff Writer

DENVER, Aug. 27 — At first, it seemed, it might be all about Bill Clinton and yesteryear. The former president strode onto the stage Wednesday night to his old campaign theme song, "Don't Stop (Thinking About Tomorrow)," and bathed in the glow of a standing ovation that went on so long and loud that he had to finally confess, "I love this." But it turned out to be not about him at all, with Clinton delivering a speech that framed the case for Sen. Barack Obama and against the Republicans in a way that no one at this convention had done before.

Only a day earlier, when there was some unease among Clinton's associates about whether he was being straitjacketed in what he could say in his speech, Obama tried to defuse the situation by saying Clinton could say whatever he wanted. Good call, as it turned out. Perhaps not even Obama himself could have conjured up an oration so powerful on his behalf. Not only did Clinton utter the words "Barack Obama" 15 times, they came in his first sentence and his last, and there were long riffs about the candi-



Former president Bill Clinton appeared to pass the torch to Barack Obama.

date in between. At the start of the speech, Clinton joked that it seemed unfair that he had to follow the previous night's address by his wife, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, who

many believed had delivered the most flowing and soulful speech of her failed campaign. Fat chance. Clinton is always

See ANALYSIS, A29, Col. 1

**A GOVERNING AGENDA**

## Obama Team Works With Hill Democrats

By JONATHAN WEISMAN  
 Washington Post Staff Writer

Eager to avoid the missteps that plagued the first months of the Clinton administration, aides to Barack Obama have begun working in concert with top Democrats in Congress to craft a preliminary legislative agenda that would guide the senator from Illinois should he capture the White House in November.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) has assigned her committee chairmen to begin with low-hanging fruit to build confidence and provide a new, young president quick legislative victories, then pivot to more challenging issues, from ending U.S. military involvement in Iraq to broadening health-care coverage. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charles B. Rangel (D-N.Y.) said his policy staffs and Obama's have been working together for more than a month.

"This is my last chance," Rangel, 78, said of his opportunity to make a lasting legislative imprint. "This is the big one."

Pelosi's priorities begin, in order, with ending the war in Iraq, expanding access to health care, rebuilding infrastructure and weaning the nation off oil. But with economic problems looming ever larger, she and other Democrats say providing relief could be their first tar-

See AGENDA, A30, Col. 1

## Businesses Cite a Catch-22 After Miss. Immigration Raid

By SPENCER S. HSU, ALEJANDRO LAZO and DARRYL FEARS  
 Washington Post Staff Writers

The arrests this week of nearly 600 immigrant workers at a manufacturing plant in Laurel, Miss., are fueling a national debate over a federal system to check new hires' work documents, a program whose expansion the Bush administration has made a cornerstone of its fight against illegal immigration.

In what they called the largest immigration sweep at a single site in U.S. history, federal agents raided a Howard Industries electrical transformer plant Monday despite the fact that the company last year joined the work eligibility system,

called E-Verify. The White House has called the program a key weapon against illegal hiring, proposing to expand it to nearly 200,000 government contractors this fall, covering about 4 million U.S. workers. Thirteen state legislatures have enacted similar legislation, and Congress is debating whether to extend E-Verify this fall.

Major U.S. employers assailed the expanding crackdown, saying it creates a Catch-22. If businesses fail to enroll in E-Verify, they run the risk of a raid by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, business groups led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said.

See E-VERIFY, A4, Col. 1

**INSIDE**

**THE WORLD**  
**Iraq Forces to Control Anbar**  
 The U.S. military will hand over security duties in the western province, freeing thousands of Marines to go to Afghanistan. **A3**

**Tensions Grow in Georgia**  
 A U.S. ship delivering aid supplies diverts to different port, and Georgia downgrades its diplomatic relations with Russia. **A14**

**THE REGION**  
**Flashpoint in Pr. George's**  
 A surge in fatal police shootings this year, along with other aggressive tactics, is alarming residents. **B1**

**BUSINESS**  
**Shake-Up at Fannie Mae**  
 Three executives depart the struggling mortgage giant. **D1**

**HOME**   
**Packing the Perfect Lunch**  
 What's in a child's lunchbox? A complex labor of love. **H1**

BY LISA POOLE — ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Scientists Reprogram Adult Cells' Function

Advance Stirs Up Debate on Embryos

By ROB STEIN  
 Washington Post Staff Writer

Scientists have transformed one type of fully developed adult cell directly into another inside a living animal, a startling advance that could lead to cures for a variety of illnesses and sidestep the political and ethical quagmires associated with embryonic stem cell research.

Through a series of painstaking experiments involving mice, the Harvard biologists pinpointed three crucial molecular switches that, when flipped, completely con-

vert a common cell in the pancreas into the more precious insulin-producing ones that diabetics need to survive.

The experiments, detailed online yesterday in the journal Nature, raise the prospect that patients suffering from not only diabetes but also heart disease, strokes and many other ailments could eventually have some of their cells reprogrammed to cure their afflictions without the need for drugs, transplants or other therapies.

See CELLS, A6, Col. 1