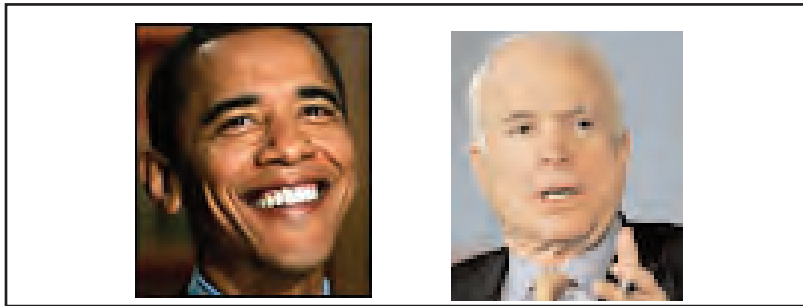


**Solangel Breaks Out Big! Big! Big!**



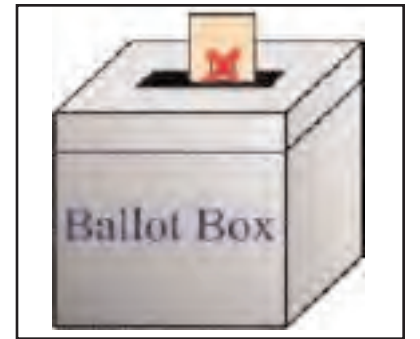
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# The Houston Sun

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## Obama's speech launches historic campaign



**Two Happy Families** – Democratic presidential nominee, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., his wife, Michelle, and daughters Malia, and Sasha, are joined on stage by his running mate, Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., and his wife, Jill, after Obama's acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Thursday, Aug. 28, 2008. (AP Photo/Chris Carlson). Read text of Obama's acceptance speech on page 2.

By STEVEN R. HURST  
Associated Press Writer

DENVER (AP) — Barack Obama launched his historic campaign for the White House with an outdoor extravaganza Thursday, promising more than 84,000 cheering supporters an end to the "broken politics in Washington and the failed policies of George W. Bush."

In a nationally televised speech in which he accepted the Democratic presidential nomination, Obama pressed the themes that will guide his campaign through the Nov. 4 election: that he will help the country's struggling middle class and be strong on national security, and that a victory for rival John McCain would amount to a third term for Bush.

"Tonight, I say to the people of America, to Democrats and Republicans and independents across this great land — enough!" he said.

The speech capped the four-day Democratic National Convention, where he sought to unite a party divid-

ed after a bitter primary fight and regain momentum in the campaign against McCain.

In an audacious move, McCain sought to steal some of the political spotlight by spreading word that he had settled on a vice presidential running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty canceled all scheduled appearances for the next two days, stoking speculation that he was the one.

Obama's speech was delivered in a dramatic setting, a filled sports stadium, the camera flashes in the night, the made-for-television backdrop that suggested the White House, and the thousands of convention delegates seated around the podium in an enormous semicircle.

"We meet at one of those defining moments, a moment when our nation is at war, our economy is in turmoil, and the American promise has been threatened once more," Obama said.

"America, we are better than these last eight years. We are a better country than this," he said.

Obama's speech came one day af-

ter Democrats made him the first black presidential nominee of a major U.S. political party. His address coincided with the 45th anniversary of one of the most critical events in the American civil rights movement: Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

Obama mentioned but did not dwell on the anniversary. His campaign has tried to prevent his candidacy from being defined by his race as it tries to appeal to a wide swath of the American electorate.

He sought to ease any misgivings Americans might have that he was not prepared to be president or that Democrats were not as trustworthy as Republicans on national security.

"The Bush-McCain foreign policy has squandered the legacy that generations of Americans — Democrats and Republicans — have built, and we are here to restore that legacy," he said.

He vowed to end the war in Iraq and to break America's dependence on Middle Eastern oil within a decade.

In addressing the convention, Obama returned to a setting where he be-

came a national star. He was a little-known Illinois state legislator running for the U.S. Senate when he delivered the keynote address at the 2004 Democratic National Convention.

He won that race and, two years later, began his improbable quest for the Democratic nomination that already seemed a sure thing for Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, the former first lady. He defeated Clinton by capturing the imagination of Democratic voters with his calls to change the divisive ways of Washington.

His campaign has struggled in recent weeks. Before the convention, his lead over McCain disappeared, even though the weak economy and continuing war in Iraq would seem to give Democrats an edge in the presidential race. McCain, a veteran senator and former Vietnam prisoner of war, has attacked Obama as unready for the presidency.

Clinton supporters, especially working-class Democrats, have remained wary of an admittedly exotic candidate: the son of a black Kenyan father and a white American mother

who spent part of his childhood in Indonesia.

The convention was designed to deal with those concerns. Both Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, made powerful appeals for the party to line up behind Obama. A speech by Michelle Obama, the candidate's wife, highlighted his traditional values, subtly countering rumors that he is a black radical or a Muslim. Sen. Joseph Biden, Obama's running mate and the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, talked favorably of Obama's national security credentials.

On Thursday he was lauded by another popular Democratic figure, former Vice President Al Gore, who was awarded a share of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for his work on climate change.

Gore said McCain's election as president would be little more than a continuation of Bush's policies.

"Hey, I believe in recycling, but that's ridiculous," he said.

On Friday, Obama, Biden and their wives begin a three-day bus tour of

critical northern industrial states.

A Gallup poll taken during the first three days of the convention showed Obama regaining his lead over McCain, 48 percent to 42 percent. Candidates generally receive a bounce from their conventions, and the figures could tilt in McCain's direction after Republicans hold their convention in St. Paul, Minnesota, next week.

Obama said he wanted to give his acceptance speech at a large sports stadium so many supporters, not just party insiders attending the convention, could attend. Several celebrities performed, including singers Sheryl Crow, Stevie Wonder and will.i.am.

Republicans were quick to deride the stage setting as one that befitted an unaccomplished celebrity, a theme they used when Obama drew tens of thousands for an appearance in Berlin.

"This Roman-like facade, a facade with Roman columns, is a perfect metaphor or icon for the point that it's an interesting production, but behind it there's not much there," Pawlenty, the Minnesota governor, told ABC television.

## Detroit rally commemorates King, celebrate Obama

By JIM IRWIN  
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Witnesses to history and history in the making, hundreds of Barack Obama supporters gathered Thursday to celebrate his acceptance of the Democratic presidential nomination.

Obama spoke at the Democratic National Convention in Denver on the 45th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington. King had delivered a version of the speech two months earlier during a civil rights march in Detroit.

Obama backers marched 1 3/4 miles Thursday from Detroit's Cobo Arena, where King spoke in 1963, to a theater in the city's Eastern Market, where they were to watch television coverage of the Denver convention.

"This is a great re-enactment," said

the Rev. Nicholas Hood Sr., a former Detroit City Council member who attended both 1963 civil rights demonstrations.

"Most of these folks weren't even born," said Hood, looking around at Obama supporters in their teens, 20s and 30s.

Ten-year-old Adriana Thornton of Detroit said she hoped Obama would win election because "he wants change in this world, and he wants to stop war."

She also said she thought Obama could heal racial divisions.

"One of my best friends is white, but other people, they hate each other because of the color of their skin," said Adriana, who is African American. "It's just a color."

Tim Vance, 57, a retired teacher from Macomb County's Clinton Township, said he was proud to see King's legacy upheld by Obama.

"I'm a child of the '60s. I've been waiting 40 years for this," Vance said.

"It's about time."

Michigan is prominent on Obama's post-convention itinerary. Republican John McCain's efforts to become the first GOP presidential candidate to win Michigan since 1988 has turned it into a battleground state.

Obama and running mate Joe Biden are scheduled to campaign Sunday in Battle Creek during a whistle-stop tour of Michigan, Pennsylvania and Illinois. Obama also plans to speak Monday in Detroit.

The two Democrats hope to build support in the three critical industrial states and deflect some of the attention focused on McCain and the Republicans as they open their convention Monday in Minneapolis-St. Paul.

The 1963 event in Detroit called the "Great March to Freedom" marked the anniversary of two events: the centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation and

the 20th anniversary of the 1943 Detroit race riots that claimed 34 lives, 25 of them black.

Participants included the Rev. C.L. Franklin, a prominent Baptist minister and father of singer Aretha Franklin; and two other members of the newly formed Detroit Council for Human Rights, the Rev. Albert B. Cleage Jr. and James Del Rio; United Auto Workers president Walter Reuther; Gov. John B. Swainson; U.S. Rep. Charles C. Diggs Jr.; and Mayor Jerome Cavanagh, who called the march "a demonstration of goodwill."

In her 2000 book, "Dancing in the Street: Motown and the Cultural Politics of Detroit," Suzanne E. Smith wrote that King urged the crowd to oppose segregation facing blacks in the South and the "subtle and more hidden forms" of racism found in the North — including Detroit.

## Palin Probe Could Mean Election-Eve Trouble for McCain

By Kate Klonick  
and Zachary Roth

It looks like John McCain's new running mate, Sarah Palin, could be hit with some decidedly negative PR at the worst possible time. The Alaska legislature's investigation of whether Governor Palin improperly fired a state employee is scheduled to wrap up and release its findings just days before the November election.

The firing is at the center of a scandal that has largely remained confined to the Alaska press, but is now likely to become a national story in the wake of Palin's selection — one that could conceivably have an impact on the presidential race.

As it happens, we've been tracking the story closely here at TPMmuckraker. The scandal concerns allegations that Palin's office improperly fired the state's public safety commissioner because he refused to remove Palin's ex-brother-in-law from his job as a state trooper after his bitter divorce from Palin's sister. In addition to the legislature's investigation, the Alaska attorney general is also looking into the matter.

**WAS PALIN LYING AND DID SHE ONLY FEEL UP WHEN SHE FOUND OUT OF SECRET RECORDINGS?**

Palin had at first denied that her office had a hand in pushing to have the trooper fired, but was forced to retract those denials when taped evidence emerged that a staffer in her office was involved.

If the investigation finds that her personal involvement was more extensive than she has admitted, it could create some damaging headlines for the McCain campaign at the worst possible moment.

Here's a recap of the story: The scandal began on July 11, when Public Safety Commissioner Walt Monegan was removed from his post with little explanation, a move whose abruptness quickly raised questions in Alaska. A few days later, Monegan decided to blow the whistle, and came forward to tell local media that he had been dismissed because he refused to fire trooper Mike Wooten, the ex-husband of Palin's sister, after having been pressured to do so by aides to Palin. (Monegan's replacement, former Kenai Chief of Police Chuck Kopp was only lasted two weeks on the job once past complaints of sexual harassment from 2005 were publicized.)



Cong. Sheila Jackson Lee

## Clinton to honor Sheila Jackson Lee, her supporter

Marty & Parvin McVey, Ambassador Arthur Schechter, Barbara Ann Radnofsky, Amy Ashby, Dr. Karen Otazo Hofmeister, and Ann MacNaughton, are hosting a reception for Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

Sen. Hillary R. Clinton will honor Lee from 12:30p.m. — 3:00p.m. Sunday, September 21, 2008 at the Houston Racquet Club located at 10709 Memorial Drive Houston, TX 77024.

Please RSVP to Patrina Harrell at 713-953-1056 if you wish to participate in a reception in honor of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee with Senator Hillary Clinton.