

## Speakers at Republican Convention wow crowd with energizing messages

BY LUKE SUMERFORD  
Reporter

Tampa, Florida hosted the Republican National Convention from August 27-30. Delegates and television viewers witnessed the formal nominations of Mitt Romney as the presidential candidate and Paul Ryan as his running mate. During the convention, the party also proclaimed its platform for the next four years. Besides Romney and Ryan, major speakers included Condoleezza Rice, Tim Pawlenty, John McCain, Ann Romney, and Chris Christie. Ris-

ings stars for the party like Marco Rubio also spoke.

As the former Secretary of State, Rice brought a foreign perspective to the problems facing the nation. Through her speech, she mainly addressed renewing hope in America. Tim Pawlenty, a presidential candidate during the primaries, focused his oration on attacking the Democrats in various aspects, especially regarding a not so good economy. His task was to excite the party against their opposition.

John McCain represented the party as its previous presi-

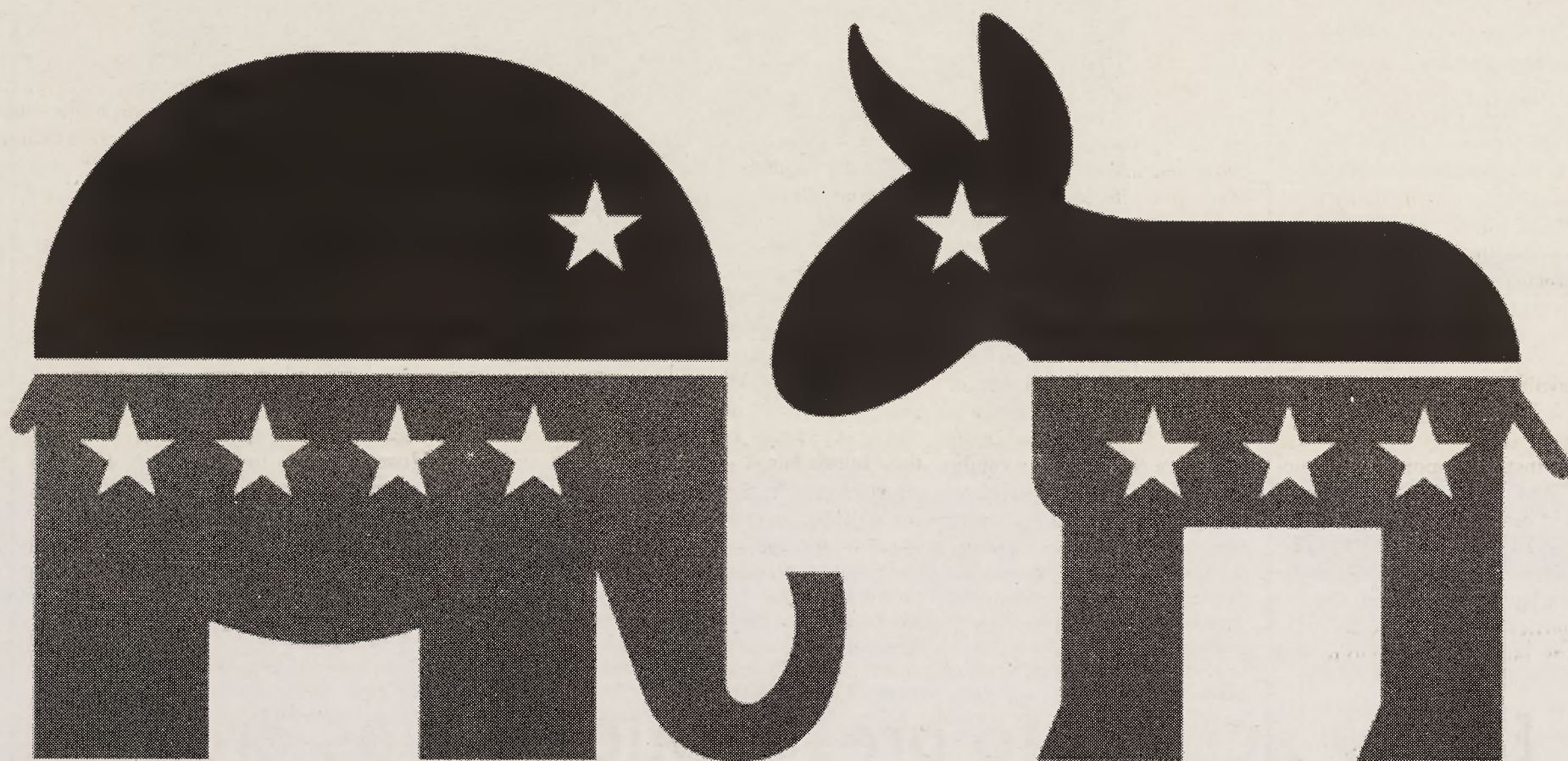
dential nominee. With his speech, he aimed to reassure the public that Romney was prepared to lead the country and across the world. Perhaps the most anticipated speech of the convention was that of Ann Romney, who portrayed her husband in a different light from what the media has expressed. She shared personal stories to humanize Mitt Romney.

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, whom some refer to as the Republican Party's "rock star," was the keynote speaker. Though often known for being blunt, his speech was very plain

and simple; he explained how the party and its platform will support the middle class. Marco Rubio had the tough task of following a weird speech by Clint Eastwood, who pretended Obama was sitting in an empty chair, and excited the crowd for Mitt Romney. He talked a lot about the American dream and how it helped him become a Senator for Florida.

Subject matter regarding climate change was vastly different between the 2008 platform and that of 2012. In 2008, the platform recognized the importance of decreasing carbon emissions,

while in 2012; it completely rejected all efforts to reduce emissions. Another change occurring was the endorsement to return to the gold standard for the country's monetary system. Other issues that the republicans decided on were gay marriage and abortion. The decided to not support any form of gay marriage or abortions. Overall, Republicans determined that the 2012 Republican National Convention was a huge success, though Democrats would most likely disagree.



## Democratic convention inspires voters with stirring speeches from familiar faces

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Wrapping up on Thursday, September 6, in Charlotte, NC, was the Democratic National Convention. Key speakers included, of course, President Barack Obama, and Vice President Joe Biden, but Michelle Obama, former President Bill Clinton, and San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro also stood before the podium. Controversy occurred over two conspicuous changes in the party's platform.

For the most part, the premise of the whole convention was to excite the Democratic base, and the mission was successful. President Obama spoke about how bad

the economy was when he took office and how he diverted the nation from an even worse recession. He emphasized that under his administration, new jobs became available for 36 straight months.

While many people agree with Obama's claims, they still believe he should stop blaming others. Vice President Biden defended the President with praise for his leadership during difficult times and also mentioned how the two have a very good relationship, helping each other make major decisions.

First Lady Michelle Obama emerged with celebrity status among Democrats at the convention. She connected to the women

voters and explained how much her husband cares about the letters he receives from people across the country who are struggling. Her personal story of humble beginnings related to voters in such a way that many delegates shed tears.

Former President Bill Clinton was the keynote speaker. His job was to defend Obama's record and answer every verbal attack from Republican candidate Mitt Romney. Clinton was supposed to limit his speech to 24 minutes, but he actually spoke close to an hour, 48 minutes, due to some improvising to his speech. Even so, he delivered his intended message that Obama deserves to be re-elected.

San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro rose to the occasion as another rising star of the Democratic Party. As a Latino, he talked about the importance of immigrants in the United States and the importance of the Dream Act. Castro has been called the party's next "Obama" because of his excellent oratory skills and his ability to stir up the crowds with positive energy.

Two platform changes occurred. One stemmed from the absence of any mention of God, and the other surfaced when recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel was removed from an earlier platform. After an outcry from the more conservative wing of the Democratic Party, the two issues were ad-

ressed and reinstated; however, the Republicans have heavily criticized the Democrats for these lapses in judgment.

Other than the platform changes, the convention progressed without any major problems. Unfortunately, the inclement weather called for a change of venues, which limited the number of people who could attend. Originally, the President planned to speak at the 75,000 seat Bank of America Stadium, but instead he spoke in the Time Warner Cable Arena, which hosts much smaller numbers. Despite a few setbacks, President Obama did improve his poll standings by approximately five points.