

# National and World News

## FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

### Reagan legacy is fading for GOP

DENVER (MCT) — As Republicans gather at their national convention in St. Paul, Minn., they face the prospect that the era of Ronald Reagan is ending after dominating American politics for nearly three decades. The winning coalition of economic, foreign policy and social conservatives is splintered. The issues he used to define the party have changed. And the rejection of an unpopular president helped Reagan but now benefits the other party as Democrats rally against the legacy of George W. Bush.

### Biden takes on role of attack dog

DENVER — (MCT) On a historic day when Democrats nominated Barack Obama, the first African-American ever chosen by a major party for the presidency, his ticket mate, Joe Biden, on Wednesday launched the new partnership's attack on John McCain by insisting that America needs more than a decorated military veteran as its leader. "These times require more than a good soldier — they require a wise leader," Biden said.

### Russian aggression, threats align Georgians behind their president

TBILISI, Georgia (MCT) — During Russian bombing raids on Georgia's troops and villages earlier this month, Kremlin officials seemed to have another target in their sights: Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili. But the fighting, subsequent occupation and this week's de facto annexation of two large chunks of Georgian territory into Russian control have so far only strengthened Saakashvili's domestic political support. Some analysts, though, see a long struggle ahead between Russia and the U.S.-backed government in Georgia.

For now, even among political foes of Saakashvili there is broad solidarity with their president in the face of what they see as a Russian aggression that threatens to topple his administration. Russia appears to have miscalculated badly when it pushed out of South Ossetia — after stopping the Georgian offensive — and marched its troops forward to positions within 25 miles of the capital of Tbilisi, according to George Targamadze, a key opposition leader in Georgia's parliament.

### Eighth storm of season threatens

MIAMI — (MCT) Tropical Storm Gustav closed in on Jamaica Thursday at near-hurricane strength while Tropical Storm Hanna formed in the Atlantic. Hanna, the eighth storm of the 2008 hurricane season, is east-southeast of Miami. Hanna could be a hurricane by Labor Day but wouldn't reach the U.S. coast until later next week, if at all. Residents throughout the Gulf, including New Orleans, where Friday is the third anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's landfall, paid close attention to the storm and said they had evacuation plans ready for Gustav.

### Repaired levees still inadequate

WASHINGTON (MCT) — The levees that ring New Orleans have been substantially fortified since Hurricane Katrina in 2005, but the city is still far from protected if Gustav or another large storm were to hit before 2011. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been fast at work reinforcing and repairing the 325 miles of levees and floodwalls that protect New Orleans and neighboring parishes. A \$15 billion upgrade to the hurricane protection system designed to protect the New Orleans area from a 1-in-100 storm is scheduled for completion in 2011.

## RUSH

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time and money spent on planning will pay off with a memorable experience for new recruits. "A lot of my friends have rushed or joined, and I know they've enjoyed it," said potential new member Carly Benbow. "I wouldn't want to look back and realize I missed out on an amazing opportunity." This week, potential new members have been exploring their options in groups and will begin visiting sorority houses today. Potential new members are accepted by sororities on Bid Day on Sept. 4, in Coker Arboretum. Egerton said recruitment has always been a fun experience. "We look forward to having our Panhellenic community grow with new members."

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## STANDUP

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doing a shtick," Albani said. Jenni Norman, a UNC grad student, was impressed with the comedy and said she also appreciates the acute sense of community. "They focus on being a part of the community. It's very tight-knit," Norman said. "It promotes getting people to go out and do something different." This lack of barriers between artists and audience was clear after the show, when headliner John Loftin went outside and mingled with the patrons, discussing trends in comedy today that he considers shameless commercialization of the craft. Loftin said he'd rather be down-to-earth than to try to turn profits with homogenized humor. "I hate self-promotion."

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## ASG

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seems like there's going to be a lot more accountability." Handling the budget and increasing accountability are both key to the greater goal of restoring the ASG's integrity. Ethical scandals and ineffectiveness have undermined faith in the ASG's abilities for many years. "Following through isn't difficult. You just have to make a mental commitment and do it," Doucette said. "We have to show that we can responsibly handle the money." It could be an uphill battle for the beleaguered organization, but Doucette said that past struggles make any move a step up. "It's been mediocre for so long that looking excellent isn't that hard."

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## CONVENTION

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At state delegation breakfasts every morning of the convention, the state's pivotal role came up, Price said. And the N.C. delegation is taking its new role as a battleground state seriously. They are prepared to come home and fight for a Democratic win, Meek said. "I think there is a common recognition among the North Carolina delegates that we are important this year," he said. "We knew that before we came here."

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## IN THE PIT

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