



McCain rallies national, college GOP

Speech plays up experience, bipartisanship; pledges to give party new direction.

By CATHERINE LYONS

Daily Trojan

Sen. John McCain (Ariz.) accepted the Republican Party's nomination with fervor Thursday night in a primetime address that rallied his party and promised to reach across the aisle and improve the lives of struggling Americans.

"Let me offer an advance warning to the old, big-spending, do-nothing, me-first, country-second Washington crowd: Change is coming," McCain said.

In a patriotic speech that emphasized country over party and traditional Republican values, McCain touted his own experience, including his time as a prisoner of war in Hanoi, Vietnam, and attempted to differentiate himself from Democratic nominee Sen. Barack Obama (Ill.) on policies, although his attacks against his opponent were few.

Instead, McCain promised to work with the Democrats and change the partisan spirit of Washington. Proudly defending and professing his epithet as a maverick politician, McCain promised to work first and foremost for the people, particularly aiming for the support of the working class.

"I will reach out my hand to anyone to help me get this country moving again. I have that record and the scars to prove it," McCain said. "Senator Obama does not."

The scene in the Annenberg lobby, where about 100 students gathered to watch McCain's speech, was more subdued than the crowd of more than 300 that overflowed the lobby last week to witness Obama's speech.

Although applause and cheers were minimal for the first thirty minutes of McCain's speech, the last ten minutes elicited more reaction from students as he electrified the crowd in St. Paul, Minn., with his call to stand up for what's best



Photo courtesy of 2008 Republican National Convention and Reflections Photography

Mr. Maverick • Sen. John McCain addressed delegates at his party's national convention Thursday night (top). At the Annenberg lobby on campus (left), dozens of students gathered to watch.



Josh Sy | Daily Trojan

for America.

The speech was preceded by a panel of journalists and political figures, hosted by the USC Annenberg School for Communication and the USC Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics, and included Dan Schnur,

McCain's communications director during his 2000 campaign and now the director of the Unruh Institute.

Other panelists included political journalist Richard Reeves, broadcast journalist Judy Muller and School of Journalism Director

Geneva Overholser. The discussion broached the topics of the relevance of conventions, how the press should cover the scripted events, and what McCain needed to accomplish with his acceptance address.

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Deleted site causes stir for Muslim organization

Provost Nikias takes down posted documents calling on Muslims to kill Jews.

By ASHLEY ARCHIBALD

Daily Trojan

Provost C. L. Max Nikias has approved the deletion of part of a Muslim student group website that hosted religious documents urging Muslims to kill Jewish people.

The material was removed from a collection of scriptures known as hadiths, historical sayings of the Prophet Muhammad not included in the Quran. The hadith in question, along with thousands of others, are hosted in their entirety on a USC server as part of the now defunct Muslim Student Association's website.

Nikias first heard of the hadiths' phrasing when Rabbi Aron Hier of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Jewish human-rights organization, approached USC trustee Alan Casden with his concerns. Hier was troubled by five hadiths advocating Muslim violence against Jews to hasten the coming of the "final hour."

Nikias reviewed the site, and responded that "the passage cited is truly despicable. ... We did some investigations and have ordered the passage to be removed."

Members of the Muslim Student Union, which is the dominant Muslim student organization on campus but which is not associated with the MSA, declined to be interviewed, but in a statement, they called Nikias' actions "unprecedented and unconscionable" and said they amounted to unwarranted censorship. Nikias did not consult the group before he took down the hadith, they said.

"We are outraged at the censorship of a complete religious and classic

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"I'm not in the habit of breaking promises to my country and neither is Governor Palin. And when we tell you we're going to change Washington. ... You can count on it."

...

SEN. JOHN MCCAIN

New USG Course Guide misses the mark

Students say lack of reviews on newly launched site leaves them groping for advice.

By KATE MATHER

Daily Trojan

For students picking classes, checking the Senate Course Guide had become an integral part of the registration process.

But as the Undergraduate Student Government transitions its popular professor ratings site to a new home — taking down the old version in the process this summer — many students said they've been left without a vital resource in deciding which classes to take.

The guide, an online forum

where students can post information about courses and professors, is commonly referred to when students are making decisions about their schedules. Many students said they did not know that a new site had been created in April.

"I was worried there wouldn't be a course guide," said Clem Bradley, a junior majoring in physics/computer science. "I was checking for it at the end of the summer and couldn't find it. My guess was that it was down."

One complaint is that the new site was started without importing any feedback from the old course guide. Without access to the old course guide and with few new reviews to consult, some students said they felt they had lost a

resource during registration.

"Once Senate Course Guide was gone, you were kind of stuck with finding someone who had the professor beforehand or just going in blind," said Josh Moser, a junior majoring in broadcast journalism.

Phil Ehret, USG director of Academic Affairs who oversees the program, said that word of mouth is one of the key ways to spread the use of the new guide, which currently has reviews for more than 150 different classes.

"It's up to students to get it up and running and put reviews up," Ehret said. "We're encouraging everyone we can."

Ehret also said USG tried to

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Leah Thompson | Daily Trojan

Logging on • USG launched a new course guide last April. When the old site was taken down this summer, some students were left hanging.

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