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IN XL

TALKSHOW

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Austin American-Statesman

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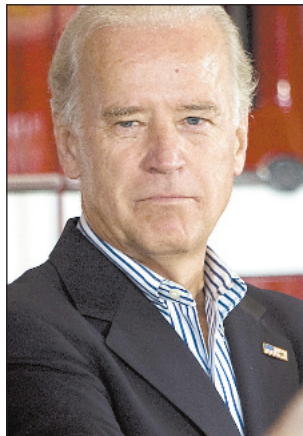
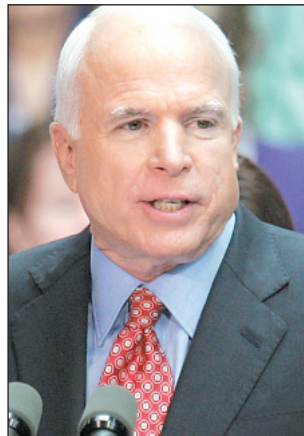
STATE EDITION ■ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2008 ■ 75 CENTS

THE TEXAS SENATORS

■ Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn voted in favor of the modified \$700 billion financial rescue package.

THE CANDIDATES

► Presidential nominees John McCain and Barack Obama voted yes, as did vice presidential candidate Joe Biden.



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

U.S. ECONOMY ■ FINANCIAL CRISIS

‘Meet the new bill, same as the old bill.’ **U.S. REP. JOE BARTON**, R-Ennis, who still opposes the measure

Senate OKs bailout plan

THE CHANGES

■ Senate measure adds some tax breaks, greater FDIC protections and mental health legislation.

THE STOCK MARKET

■ Ahead of the vote, the Dow Jones, Nasdaq and S&P 500 all closed down slightly.

WHAT'S NEXT?

■ The House of Representatives is expected to take up the Senate measure for a vote Friday.

74-25 VOTE COMES AFTER TAX BREAKS, OTHER ENTICEMENTS ADDED

House officials of both parties optimistic revised bill will pass

By Carl Hulse and David M. Herszenhorn
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The Senate strongly endorsed the \$700 billion economic bailout plan Wednesday, leaving backers optimistic that the easy approval, coupled with an array of popular additions, would lead to House acceptance by Friday and end the legislative uncertainty that has rocked the markets.

In stark contrast to the House rejection of the plan Monday, a bipartisan coalition of senators — including both presidential candidates — showed no hesitation in backing a proposal that had drawn public scorn, though the outcry eased somewhat after a market plunge following the House defeat. The Senate vote was 74-25 in favor of the White House initiative to buy troubled securities and head off potential economic catastrophe.

Only Sen. Edward Kennedy, who is being treated for brain cancer and was absent, did not vote.

The presence in the Senate of both presidential candidates in the final weeks of the campaign gave weight to the moment. The political tension was clear as Sen. Barack Obama walked to the Republican side of the aisle to greet Sen. John McCain, who offered a chilly look and a brief return handshake.

In the House, officials from both parties said they were increasingly confident that politically enticing provisions bootstrapped to the original bill — including \$150 billion in

See **BAILOUT**, A8

IN BUSINESS

■ UT tries to help alumni as financial jobs vanish, **D1**

■ Leader of FDIC tackles bigger role during crisis, **D1**

■ \$300 billion program launched for over-mortgaged homeowners, **D1**

■ Tight credit, financial chaos slam auto sales, **D1**

TEXAS ■ CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Accusations fly in DeLay case over reason for law change

By Laylan Copelin
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Did the state's money-laundering statute apply to Tom DeLay in 2002, when the former U.S. House majority leader is accused of using checks to illegally funnel corporate money to Republican candidates?



Tom DeLay says statute doesn't apply in his case.

A state appeals judge, Alan Waldrop, has been accused of going out of his way to say in a recent ruling that the law dealt only with cash. His rationale included that a legislator helped rewrite the law in 2005 to specifically include checks.

Both the judge and the legislator have distant ties to DeLay — a fact that conspiracy buffs see as more than coincidence. But a closer look at the case shows holes in that theory.

Democrats point out that Rep. Larry Taylor, a Republican who accepted a \$20,000 donation from the DeLay money in question, also authored the 2005 change in the money-laundering statute. Taylor denied there's any connection.

In fact, the bill's language came from the insurance industry, its regulators and prosecutors, including two lawyers on the staff of Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle, the Democrat who's prosecuting DeLay on money-laundering charges related to

See **THEORY**, A5

INSIDE

■ Judges are regularly accused of partisanship in DeLay case, **A5**

WORLD WAR II ■ RESEARCH

Putting history on the map



Bret Gerbe FOR AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Alberto Giordano, an associate professor at Texas State University-San Marcos, has been given \$430,000 to study the Holocaust not just in time but also in geographic space.

Study will use geography to analyze Holocaust

By Ralph K.M. Haurwitz
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

SAN MARCOS — Alberto Giordano's interest in the Holocaust is both personal and professional.

The personal part: His ancestors participated in the Italian resistance, the grassroots movement against Nazi occupiers and native fascists during World War II.

The professional part: Giordano is a geographer, and the Holocaust — the systematic persecution and murder of 6 million Jews by

Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime and its collaborators — has never been analyzed with the computerized tools of modern geography.

That is about to change. The National Science Foundation has awarded \$430,000 to Giordano, an associate professor at Texas State University-San Marcos, and Anne Knowles, a geographer at Middlebury College in Vermont who also specializes in computer-assisted historical geography, to conduct a two-year study focusing on four

See **HOLOCAUST**, A9

‘Simply locating things and giving them their time stamp, you suddenly see patterns that raise new questions.’

ANNE KNOWLES, geographer

U.S. MILITARY

General: More troops needed now for ‘tough fight’ in Afghanistan

By Lolita C. Baldor
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The U.S. and its allies should rush more troops “as quickly as possible” to Afghanistan, the top American commander in that country said Wednesday, warning that the fighting could worsen before it gets better.

Trying to meet Gen. David McKiernan's urgent need for weapons and equipment, Defense Secretary Robert Gates has asked the military for additional surveillance drones and armored vehicles right now for Afghanistan. The Associated Press has learned. It is a short-term solution to a persistent shortage of military assets in a seven-year war often overshadowed by the larger U.S.-led conflict in Iraq.

Violence in Afghanistan is up about 30 percent this year compared with 2007. The Taliban and associated militant groups such as al Qaeda have stepped up attacks. More U.S. soldiers have died in Afghanistan this year

See **AFGHANISTAN**, back page



Joe Biden is trying to meet high expectations.



Sarah Palin has answered few media questions.

PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN ■ VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Toughest scrutiny yet awaits hopefuls

Palin must prove ability and Biden likability, observers say

By Ken Herman and Scott Shepard
WASHINGTON BUREAU

ST. LOUIS — Hours before Sen. John McCain's surprise announcement of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as his running mate, a McCain confidante dismissed another rumored candidate: a veteran senator with a résumé more impressive than Palin's.

“Remember the first imperative? They would have to be capable of being president,” the operative said, indicating that the longtime senator in question wasn't viewed as clearing

See **DEBATE**, A4

WANT TO WATCH?

■ Debate begins at 8 p.m.
■ Airs on ABC, CBS, NBC, PBS, Fox, CNN, MSNBC and C-SPAN.

IN THIS SECTION

■ Some Christians unsure of Palin's role, **A3**
■ Biden sees perks from years in Senate, **A4**

IN METRO & STATE

■ W. Gardner Selby's take on the debate, **B1**
■ Palin ignites GOP base in Texas, **B1**

AT STATESMAN.COM/ALBERTA

■ Editorial columnist Alberta Phillips will blog with a panel of voters starting at 7:45 p.m.

IN METRO & STATE | B1

COMMUTER RAIL SET TO DEBUT IN MARCH

IN SPORTS | C1

DODGERS, PHILLIES OPEN PLAYOFFS WITH WINS

SUNNY AND WARM
92/63 ■ B6

INSIDE ■ BUSINESS D1 ■ DEATHS B4-5 ■ EDITORIALS A10-11 ■ LIFE & STYLE E1 ■ SPORTS C1 ■ WORLD & NATION A2 ■ CLASSIFIEDS F1

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