

# The Boston Globe

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## Democrats marshal their messages

### For Gore, goal is to emerge from Clinton's long shadow

By David M. Shribman  
GLOBE STAFF

LOS ANGELES – Tipper Gore has never gotten over the Monica Lewinsky episode, and is barely on speaking terms with President Clinton.

The president, temperamentally unable to refrain from political freelancing, is so estranged from the Gore campaign that he found himself last weekend in the uncomfortable position of beseeching leading Democratic law-makers for tips on whom Gore would choose as his running mate.

And Clinton's schedule here in Southern California in the days leading up to the Democratic National Convention was drafted without consideration to Gore's needs – and without consultation with Gore's staff.

As Clinton prepares to offer his convention farewell tonight, there is no Clinton Factor inside the Gore campaign – at least not on the personal and operational level.

But on a political and strategic level, Gore can't escape the Clinton Factor when he tries to, can't control the Clinton Factor when he needs to – and can't embrace the Clinton Factor when he wants to.

And so the story of Gore's struggle for power – the task that has trailed him from his battle with former senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey a year ago to his triumph in the caucuses and primaries of winter and spring all the way to now, the opening of the Democratic National Convention here – is his effort to untangle his destiny from that of Bill Clinton.

But not too much.

This is a tall order, even here in a corner of America where generations have come seeking a fresh start and a fresh identity.

"This is a hard trick to pull off," CLINTON, Page A10



Robert Mahoney, a stagehand, rigging cables for a camera at the Democratic National Convention, which starts today in Los Angeles.

## Analysts downplay the early polls

### Predict extremely tight race, say electorate is fickle till fall

By Walter V. Robinson  
GLOBE STAFF

LOS ANGELES – Ten days ago, Governor George W. Bush left the Republican convention with such a boost in national polls that he might have been tempted to ponder the prospect of victory in November. On the other hand, Bush might have pondered the fate of Democrat Michael S. Dukakis.

Two days after his convention, Bush held a breathtaking 17-percentage-point lead over Vice President Al Gore in a Gallup poll, and a

15-point edge in a CBS News poll – statistical evidence, said some analysts, that Gore faces a steep uphill road if he is to win in November.

But Dukakis, the former Massachusetts governor, says of such polls: "It's all absolute foolishness." And he should know: Dukakis left the Democratic convention in Atlanta in 1988 with a 17-point lead over Bush's father. Dukakis lost that November, and not by a little.

"I wouldn't be surprised if Al Gore is ahead after the Democratic convention," Dukakis added. "But that won't be real either."

What seems real to pollsters and political analysts in both parties is that the general election campaign is likely – almost certain, some say – to be extremely tight. Right now, most voters are paying little attention, said Democratic poll taker Mark Mellman, much like magazine readers who flip right past the color ads for new automobiles in August and start to look closely only when it comes time to shop for a car in October.

For now, what pollsters are measuring are the fickle preferences. POLLS, Page A12

### campaign 2000

**Star treatment:** Backers hope the convention will boost Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign. A10.

**Protests:** Demonstrators get ready to take a stand against what they call the sellout of democracy to big business. A11.

**The delegates:** Many cite common goals, but disputes are simmering just below the surface. A12.

### Core concerns top agenda as convention opens today

By Jill Zuckman and Susan Milligan  
GLOBE STAFF

LOS ANGELES – Hoping to boost Vice President Al Gore's chances of winning the White House in November, Democrats convene here today to bid goodbye to President Clinton and to make the case for his understudy.

This is the first time the Democratic Party has held a convention in Los Angeles since 1960, when the party nominee was John F. Kennedy and the talk was of the politics of the "new frontier."

The week's events, organizers say, will focus not so much on new frontiers as on the familiar, core issues the party believes will bolster Gore's campaign in the fall election. Among them are prescription drug coverage for senior citizens, Medicare, Social Security, and the right of patients to sue their health insurance plan.

"Our convention, unlike the other party's, will be driven by issues and not images," said Tad Devine, a senior strategist for the Gore campaign.

The message for voters, Devine said, is how far the nation has traveled over the last eight years and how much is at stake in November. "If we make the wrong choice and go down the wrong road, this nation will suffer," Devine said.

As Governor George W. Bush of Texas retired to his ranch for a week's vacation, the Republican nominee's campaign said it was ready for the Democrats' onslaught.

"They're going to try to claim credit for our nation's prosperity and cast blame for those things they didn't get done," said Dan Bartlett, a Bush spokesman. "Governor Bush believes you had your chance, you didn't lead, we will."

At the convention, delegates are set to formally nominate Gore CONVENTION, Page A11

## False credentials worry health care industry

### Recruiters working to spot deception

By Anne Barnard  
GLOBE STAFF

Dennis Roark performed surgery on hundreds of patients in Ohio, Michigan, and Canada before supervisors learned his medical degree was bogus.

Sixteen applicants for a gastroenterology fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh falsely claimed they had published research papers.

The chief financial officer of UMass Memorial Health Care was demoted to vice president last month when his bachelor's and master's degrees were exposed as fictional.

Falsified credentials have become a nagging problem for the health care industry, helping to spur a whole new cadre of background-checking firms in recent years to stem the tide.

Although executive search

firms say resume fibs are at epidemic levels across professions, the problem is particularly worrisome in the health care industry, where lapses in integrity can not only embarrass a company but also endanger a patient. Roark, for example, has been sued by a man who says his botched surgery left him with no feeling in one hand.

Now, UMass Memorial's willingness to keep Michael Greene on as vice president has some critics calling for more serious attention to the issue.

"In Massachusetts, two areas in which we are national leaders, education and medicine, are also two areas where qualifications and personal integrity are paramount," said Nancy Achin Sullivan, executive director of the state Board of Registration in Medicine. "I think we should expect better."

While Greene never pretended RESUME FRAUD, Page A9

## Finally crossing the 38th parallel

### Korean families, divided for decades, win a lottery that allows for reunion



South Korea's Seonwoo Chun Shil holding a letter informing her that she can visit her relatives in the North. Her aunt, Seonwoo Yong Suk (right), wishes she could make the trip as well.

By Indira A. R. Lakshmanan  
GLOBE STAFF

SEOUL – Seonwoo Chun Shil has been crying all day – tears of anticipation over seeing her long-lost brother tomorrow for the first time in half a century; tears of sorrow over a lifetime of separation.

"I have no more wishes if I die right after I see my little brother," said Seonwoo, 72, wiping her eyes with a wad of tissues clenched in her fist. "I'll be hoping to see him again. But I don't want anything more than this."

Seonwoo is one of 1 million people born in North Korea who fled south during the 1950-53 Korean War and who lost contact with their parents, children, spouses, or siblings. She will be among the 100 South Koreans who will travel to the North tomorrow for a 72-hour family reunion – the most emotional and tangible sign of the cross-

border rapprochement that has blossomed since the first summit of leaders from the North and South in June.

Many analysts believe the reunions carry far more than humanitarian significance. Such contacts may offer the best hope of diminishing ignorance and distrust on both sides of the border, thereby pushing diplomatic efforts toward peace and eventual reunification.

Also today, the governments will reopen liaison offices at the border village of Panmunjom. On Saturday, they announced a fiber-optic cable link between the capitals.

The nascent detente may be extending to other nations as well. Yesterday, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il was quoted as saying that he would establish diplomatic ties with the United States as soon as Washington removes Pyongyang from its list of states that REUNIONS, Page A8

### World/Nation A

**Kashmir violence**  
Guerrillas kill 26 and injure 49 in the Indian state, and separatist groups threaten to step up the attacks. A2.

**N.Y. siege aftermath**  
A man who wounded four policemen on Saturday was once a jail guard who hoped to become an officer, officials say. A3.

### Metro/Region B

**Compromise ends sit-in**  
Schools Superintendent Thomas W. Payzant says the new Madison Park Technical Vocational principal will serve a one-year temporary term.

### Living/Arts B7



**Big benefactors**  
At times, Boston hotels will pick up the whole bill for a fund-raiser, leaving more money for the charity.

### Business C

**TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION**  
Electronic devices of every type will soon talk to each other without wires.

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