

## The 80th Annual Academy Awards

# No Country's night

JOURNAL WIRE REPORTS

LOS ANGELES — The Coen brothers completed their journey from the fringes to Hollywood's mainstream last night with their crime saga *No Country for Old Men* winning four Academy Awards, including best picture, in a ceremony that also featured a strong international flavor. Javier Bardem won for supporting actor in *No Country*, which earned Joel and Ethan Coen best director, best adapted screenplay and the best-picture honor as producers.

Accepting the directing honor alongside his brother, Joel Coen recalled how they were making films since childhood, including one at the

Minneapolis airport called *Henry Kissinger: Man on the Go*.

"What we do now doesn't feel that much different from what we were doing then," Joel Coen said. "We're very thankful to all of you out there for continuing to let us play in our corner of the sandbox."

Daniel Day-Lewis won his second best-actor Academy Award for the oil-boom epic *There Will Be Blood*, while *La Vie En Rose* star Marion Cotillard was a surprise winner for best actress, riding the spirit of Edith Piaf to Oscar triumph over Julie

SEE **OSCARS, A3**

### Best Actor



**DANIEL DAY-LEWIS**  
*There Will Be Blood*

### Best Picture



**ETHAN AND JOEL COEN**  
*No Country for Old Men*

### Best Actress



**MARION COTILLARD**  
*La Vie en Rose*

AP / MARK J. TERRILL

## Another Castro in charge in Cuba

The Cuban parliament names Raul Castro president; a hard-liner is chosen to be second in command.

BY MIGUEL BUSTILLO and CAROL J. WILLIAMS  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

MIAMI — Cuba's parliament signaled yesterday that the status quo of a stunted state-run economy and strained relations with the United States will persist for now as it named Raul Castro to replace his ailing brother Fidel as president and chose another aging revolutionary as the nation's number-two leader.

The selection of Raul Castro, 76, to head the Council of State had been widely predicted, as he stood loyally by his brother's side throughout a 49-year rule. But the appointment of Jose Ramon Machado, 77, as first vice president surprised Cuba analysts who had expected that a younger candidate would be named to bring change to the country's ossified

SEE **CUBA, A7**

## No rush to get behind the wheel

Fewer 16-year-olds are getting driver's licenses these days.

BY MARY M. CHAPMAN and MICHELINE MAYNARD  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

DETROIT — For generations, driver's licenses have been a ticket to freedom for America's 16-year-olds, prompting many to line up at motor vehicle offices the day they were eligible to apply.

No longer. In the last decade, the number of 16-year-olds nationwide who hold driver's licenses has dropped from nearly half to less than one-third, according to statistics from the Federal Highway Administration.

Reasons vary, including tighter

SEE **TEENS, A7**

## CAMPAIGN 2008

# Clinton campaigns for R.I. votes



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KRIS CRAIG

Hillary Rodham Clinton enjoys a spirited rally at Rhode Island College yesterday at which she shouted, "This little state has a big voice on March 4 to help choose the next president."

projo.com

Your turn: Of the three presidential front-runners, which would you vote for? To respond, and for more photos of Senator Clinton's visit, go to [projo.com](http://projo.com)

Locked in a tight primary fight, the New York senator attends a fundraiser in Providence and a rally at RIC, visits a restaurant in Johnston and meets with a small group of Hispanic voters in Central Falls.

BY MARK ARSENAULT and SCOTT MacKAY  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITERS

PROVIDENCE — Surrounded by a cheering swarm of supporters, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton mocked her primary opponent's calls for consensus building, and asked Rhode Islanders yesterday to consider her experience when hiring a candidate "for the hardest job in the world."

The New York senator is counting on Rhode Island to help break a string of 11 consecutive defeats in primaries and caucuses to Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, who leads in delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Denver. Rhode Island's presidential primary is March 4. Texas, Ohio, and Vermont also vote that day.

"This little state has a big voice on March 4 to help choose the next

SEE **CLINTON, A5**

## Reed turns aside talk of running for vice president

"I have no intention to seek it or even, if offered it, to accept," the Rhode Island Democrat says of a slot on any Democratic ticket.

BY JOHN E. MULLIGAN  
JOURNAL WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — The mentioning season is upon us, and Sen. Jack Reed's name has begun to pop up in print, blogs and TV as a possible ticket-mate for front-running Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama.

But Reed, emphatic in his declarations of non-interest in a national candidacy, is ready for his 15 minutes of near-fame to be over. "It's very flattering" to be mentioned, Reed said last week, "but my intention is to run for reelection to the U.S. Senate from Rhode Island."

The Rhode Islander added a Shermanesque declaration about the vice-presidential nomination: "I have no intention to seek it or even, if offered

it, to accept."

Reed stressed, further, that neither Obama nor rival Hillary Rodham Clinton, nor anybody representing their campaigns has ever broached with him the topic of a place on the national ticket.

So Reed said the notion of a vice-presidential nomination for him is "not only hypothetical, but it ain't going to happen."

The Reed vice-presidential balloon — with many others attached to presidential candidates of both political parties — has been floated in the blog-



REED

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SEE **REED, A6**

## Some worry success has made Obama an assassination target

BY JEFF ZELENY  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

DALLAS — There is a hushed worry on the minds of many supporters of Sen. Barack Obama, echoing in conversations from state to state, rally to rally: Will he be safe?

In Colorado, two sisters say they pray daily for his safety. In New Mexico, a daughter says she persuaded her mother to still vote for Obama, even though the mother feared that winning would put him in danger. And at a rally here, a woman expressed worries that a message of hope and change, in addition to his race, made him more vulnerable to violence.

"I've got the best protection in the world," Obama, of Illinois, said in an interview, reprising a line he tells supporters who raise the issue with him. "So stop worrying."

Yet worry they do, with the spring of 1968 seared into their memories, when the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and

Sen. Robert F. Kennedy were assassinated in a span of two months.

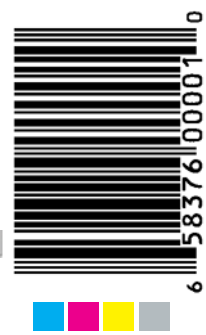
Obama was 6 at the time, and like many of his admirers, he has only read about the violence that traumatized and polarized the nation. But those recollections and images are often invoked by older voters, who watch his candidacy with fascination, as well as an uneasy air of apprehension, as Democrats inch closer to selecting their nominee.

Obama has had Secret Service agents surrounding him since May 3, the earliest a candidate has ever been provided protection. (He reluctantly gave in to the insistent urging of Sen. Richard J. Durbin, D-Ill., and others in



OBAMA

SEE **SECURITY, A4**



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## YEAR OF THE FROG

Scientists warn that frogs are disappearing at an alarming rate, which is why this leap year has been designated the Year of the Frog, with special events scheduled across the country, including Roger Williams Park Zoo, Feb. 29. **E1**

## GLOOMY OUTLOOK

An increasing number of economists foresee the country falling into a recession sometime this year. **A2**

## PAYING FOR SCHOOLS

The state's reliance on local property taxes to pay for schools continues to grow, with the state ranking second nationally in 2007, according to the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council. **C1**



## RAMS CAN'T CLOSE THE GAP

The Rams make it close but not close enough as URI falls to Saint Joseph's, 90-83. **B1**