

# McCain, Obama Trade Jobs on the Economy

## With meltdown on Wall Street

(AP) -- John McCain and Barack Obama traded increasingly barbed insults along with prescriptions for the ailing economy Tuesday as financial fears shoved aside other political issues with just weeks left in the long presidential campaign.

An ad by Democrat Obama sneered: "How can John McCain fix our economy if he doesn't understand it's broken?"

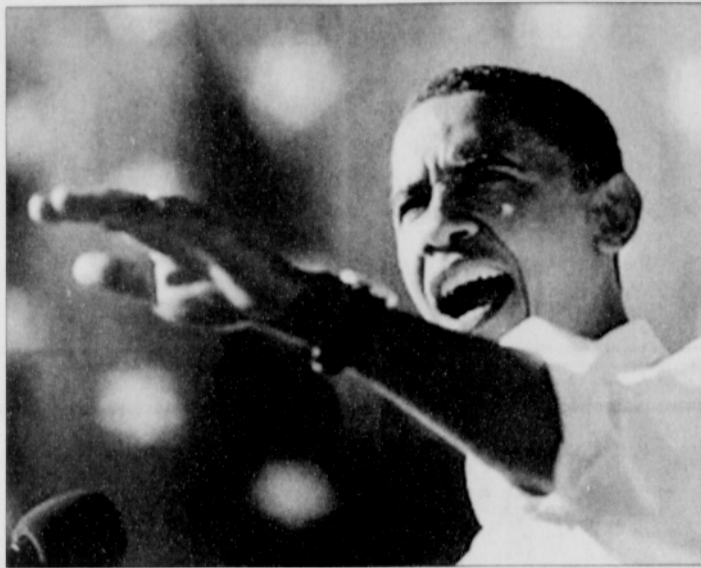
Getting even more personal, Republican McCain retorted: "Sen. Obama saw an economic crisis, and he's found a political

opportunity. My friends, this is not a time for political opportunism; this is a time for leadership."

The verbal dueling showed the importance both candidates put on the issue of the economy as the continuing financial meltdown on Wall Street has driven all other issues out of the news.

Both campaigns now believe the candidate who manages to wrest control of the issue and gain voters' confidence could well be the next president.

Earlier in the day, McCain called for a crisis commission, while



Obama laughed that off as "the oldest Washington stunt in the book."

"This isn't 9/11," Obama told a noisy crowd of more than 2,000 at the Colorado School of Mines, dismissing the idea of a need for study. "We know how we got into this mess. What we need

*Democrat Barack Obama cranked up his assault Tuesday on John McCain after the Republican declared the US economy was 'strong' despite the Wall Street turmoil hammering global markets. (AP photo)*

now is leadership that gets us out. I'll provide it. John McCain won't."

McCain, campaigning in Florida, promised reforms, too, to expose and end the "reckless conduct, corruption and unbridled greed" that he said had caused the financial crisis on Wall Street.

The bewildering turmoil has shaken Americans' confidence, erased hundreds of billions of paper wealth for U.S. stockholders and led McCain and Obama to forsake other controversies and scramble back to the economy as the primary concern of voters.



## Remembering 9-11

Members of The Commodores, William King (from left), Walter Orange, and J.D. Nicholas assist a soldier of the 3rd Infantry Division to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C. last week to remember the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the seventh anniversary of that fateful day.

## Texas Coast Devastated by Ike



Korkie Smith looks at the devastation of her neighbor Renee Napier's house on Tuesday in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike in Baytown, Texas. (AP photo)

### Hurricane leaves grim scenes behind

(AP) -- Grim scenes greeted rescuers as they penetrated the areas hardest-hit by Hurricane Ike, two days after it thrashed the Texas Gulf Coast over the weekend and left thousands homeless.

The Bolivar Peninsula and the west end of Galveston Island saw some of the heaviest damage from the storm and took the longest to reach as flooded roads, high winds and washed-out bridges blocked search-and-rescue teams. But when help finally arrived to the last unexplored, Ike-ravaged area, there were few people around; they had either gotten out ahead of the storm or escaped afterward.

What remained of the penin-

sula, a vibrant beach resort of 30,000 residents during the peak season, was a 27-mile wasteland. Ike's storm surge rolled over the skinny spit of land separating the Gulf of Mexico from Galveston Bay and swept away everything in its path.

The water's retreat revealed an apocalyptic scene.

From the air, all that was left on streets once lined with houses were twisted black stilts reaching up from the sandy soil. In other places, concrete slabs were wiped clean by the surge.

Even the helicopters ferrying out survivors had difficulty finding somewhere to land amid the debris.

Rescuers who did make it to the peninsula town of Gilchrist visited the few houses left standing to check for survivors and came back describing a scene of total destruction.

Four deaths were reported in

Galveston.

Mary Maxymillian rode out the storm with seven friends in a brick house on High Island, a bit of elevated land in the middle of the peninsula that stayed high and dry. She wants to stay, but the group was running low on fuel for the generators after siphoning some from a boat to keep them going.

"The general consensus is we want relief, we want help," Maxymillian said. "I want to stay, and at the same time I'm scared."

But she worries that if she leaves now, officials won't let her come back for months.

That's exactly the message authorities were giving residents of Galveston.

"Galveston can no longer safely accommodate its population," said city manager Steve LeBlanc, who predicted it would take "days, weeks and months" to get the island cleaned up.

"My goal is to be an electronics technician." Fall classes start September 22.



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Clark County District Attorney David Roger questions witness Bruce Fromong during O.J. Simpson's trial in Las Vegas, Tuesday. (AP photo)

## Simpson Witness Contradicts Himself

(AP) A key witness in the O.J. Simpson robbery trial was confronted with contradictions in his testimony Tuesday, including his claim that he didn't try to profit from the casino hotel room confrontation that led to charges against the former football star.

Memorabilia dealer Bruce Fromong, who returned to the stand after becoming ill Monday, told defense attorney

Gabriel Grasso he didn't have money on his mind while allegedly being robbed of sports collectibles by Simpson and a group of other men.

The attorney played a tape recording of the 2007 incident in which Fromong said, "It's not (expletive) over. I'll have 'Inside Edition' down here for us tomorrow. I told them I want big money."

Fromong acknowledged it was

his voice and he conceded that he later advertised memorabilia on eBay with the statement, "The same ones stolen by O.J. in Las Vegas."

The testimony came on the first anniversary of Simpson's Las Vegas arrest. He and co-defendant Clarence "C.J." Stewart are charged with 12 counts of robbery, kidnapping, assault with a deadly weapon and coercion. They have pleaded not guilty.

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### Portland Flights Cut

Alaska Airlines and Horizon Air say they will reduce flights from Portland International Airport as a part of larger cutbacks. Both are owned by Alaska Air Group.

Horizon Air will trim daily departures from Portland from 94 to 68. Alaska Airlines will reduce Portland departures from 35 a day to 29, trimming its number of flights to Denver, Las Vegas, San Jose, Calif. and Sacramento and eliminating its flight to Orlando, Fla.