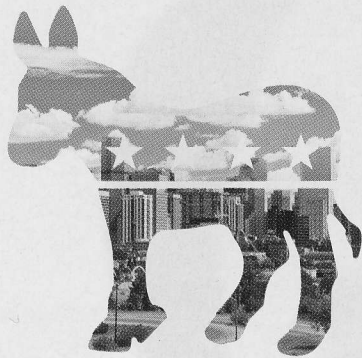


Party Plans

A look at the preparations for the parties in Pig's Eye and the Mile High City **BY BOB HUSSEY**

The Democrats plan to storm Denver in August. The Republicans will hit St. Paul a week later. What's in store for the two parties and their host cities? The Dems have vowed to make their convention "the greenest ever," with caterers serving locally grown or organic foods on recyclable plates. Members of the GOP, meanwhile, plan to party: Metro area bars will stay open two extra hours during the convention. Though schedules need to be finalized, speeches polished, and balloons inflated, here are a few things we do know about this year's conventions.



DENVER
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

50,000
4,050
Pepsi Center
Hyatt Regency Denver
Convention cars use ethanol made from Coors beer. (It's true.)
Baseball hat made of organic cotton (\$22)
Recreate 68
Jeremiah Wright
Seating Michigan and Florida delegations
Hillary Clinton
John Kerry
Superdelegates

VS.



MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL
REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

Estimated total attendance	45,000
Number of delegates	2,380
Primary venue	Xcel Energy Center
Official headquarters hotel	Hyatt Regency Minneapolis
Showcase of environmental initiatives	Climate control at headquarters cuts off at 5 p.m.
Must-have souvenir	Loon Tune, a toy that recreates the wail of the common loon (\$14)
Awarded a protest permit	Coalition to March on the RNC and Stop the War
Clergyman least likely to offer opening prayer	John Hagee
Potential controversy	Acceptance of global warming in party platform
Most anticipated speaker	George W. Bush
Most likely to be muzzled	Dick Cheney
Most relieved when it's over	Sleepy St. Paul bartenders