

Minority leaders rally with Edwards at UNR stop in Reno

RENO, Nev. (AP) - Leaders of northern Nevada's Black, Hispanic and American-Indian communities rallied with Democratic Sen. John Edwards Monday as the vice presidential candidate of the "party of inclusion."

"We are standing with you today, with the Democratic Party because we are the party of inclusiveness," said Arlen Melendez, a Vietnam veteran and chairman of the Reno Sparks Indian Colony.

"We are the party that represents people of all walks of life," he said before Edwards addressed a diverse crowd of more than 4,000 on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno.

"This country needs new leadership that will meet with groups that represent Native Americans, Blacks, Latinos and Asians," he said.

Emma Supevela, a UNR literature professor and president of Latinos for Political Education, led the crowd in a chant of "No mas Bush," "No

more Bush."

"The message from the Latino community is that we don't want a president who speaks Spanish to us, but turns around and supports English-only legislation," she said.

Melendez said the Bush-Cheney campaign's criticism of Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry's war record has divided the country and caused divisions "even among our Vietnam veterans."

"That should never happen. We should never question the honor or the medals of our veterans," he said.

Edwards continued the theme of inclusiveness versus divisions in a 25-minute speech that criticized the Bush administration's economic and foreign policies and repeated a pledge Nevada Democrats believe will help the Kerry-Bush ticket carry the state that Bush won in 2000 after Bill Clinton claimed it twice before:

"When John Kerry is



Supporters await the arrival of Democratic vice presidential candidate John Edwards on Monday at the University of Nevada in Reno, Nev. John Kerry is in Las Vegas today.

president, there will be no nuclear waste dump at Yucca Mountain," he said to loud applause.

Edwards said President Bush should apologize for Vice President Dick Cheney's comments suggesting a Kerry-Edwards administration would leave the country vulnerable to new terrorist attacks.

"The vice president actu-

sally said if you don't vote for Dick Cheney and George Bush, if there's another terrorist attack, basically it is your fault," Edwards said from the outdoor stage in front of Morrill Hall draped with American flags and red-White-and-blue bunting.

"This statement was intended to divide us. It was calculated to divide us. And to divide us on an issue of

safety and security for the American people — here's the truth — it is un-American," he said.

"The president of the United States should be willing to say it's wrong," he said.

Edwards said he and Kerry have a plan to "build one America that actually works for everybody, not just for a few."

"George Bush and Dick Cheney, their solution for everything is the same thing, right? More tax cuts for multimillionaires," he said.

Kerry would restore the United States' respect in the world in contrast to Bush's "go-it alone policy" which "drives away our friends and allies," Edwards said.

"The truth is, Iraq is a mess. And it's a mess because of this president and this vice president. And not only that, during this administration's watch, Iran has moved forward with nuclear weapons programs

and North Korea has moved forward with nuclear weapons programs," he said.

Before Edwards' speech, police stepped between about 30 Bush-Cheney backers and a dozen Kerry-Edwards supporters who waved signs, chanted and shouted back and forth at each other at a protest on the edge of the quad organized by the National College Republicans.

Gregory Green, 24, a student at the University of Nevada, Reno, wore a large yellow flip-flop sandal around his neck to ridicule what he said was Kerry's frequent change of positions on important issues.

"I don't know how people can know what policies Kerry stands for because he's changed his position so many times on so many issues, like war," said Green, who said he served five years in the U.S. Air Force in Iraq.

Other protesters waved a sign that read, "Hanoi John" (See Rally, Page 6)

Interest high across county in local Urban League position

By Albert C. Jones
Sentinel-Voice

Several months before the position is to be filled interest is percolating across the country in the top executive position of the recently chartered Urban League of Clark County.

"We have to conduct a national search," said Annelie Lewis, senior vice president for affiliate services for the New York-based National Urban League. "I wouldn't be surprised if we see a record number of applicants from those external to the Urban League and from some of our sitting managers. I know there has been a lot of interest."

The local affiliate was chartered in July during the group's national convention in Detroit. The search for a CEO is expected to start in January.

The person ultimately selected to be the chief executive officer must meet "minimum standards" in board governance, fiscal management, fund raising, community advocacy, community development and mobilization, personnel management, program management and design. The position also requires five years of strategic planning, bargaining and board development.

"Whatever it takes to run a non-profit," Lewis said.

A senior team of Urban League managers, perhaps three to five, with five to 40 years of experience will be chosen to sit on a certification committee, verifying experience and picking those who will be considered for interviews.

"The executives chosen for this committee bring an understanding with their depth and breadth of knowledge," Lewis said. "They run an Urban League affiliate on a daily basis and know what it truly takes."

John W. Mack, who has served as president of the Los Angeles Urban League since August 1969, might be a part of the certification committee, Lewis said. Under Mack's

leadership, the Los Angeles Urban League has become one of the most successful non-profit community organizations in Los Angeles with an annual budget of \$28 million.

The certification committee will make recommendations to the local board. The local affiliate is actively recruiting citizens from various backgrounds to fill 30 to 35 board seats, said Jackie Shropshire, board chair and an Urban League member for 47 years.

For the past three years, Shropshire worked to gain certification for a local Urban League affiliate.

"We would like for 15 percent of board members to be under the age of 35," she said. "We are looking for a good representation from the community."

The NUL has 104 affiliates in 35 states and Washington, D.C. Men comprise 60 percent of the top positions and women 40 percent.

"It's getting closer to 50-50," Lewis said.

The CEO's salary will be structured out of the affiliates total annual budget. An annual budget up to \$1 million will pay a minimum salary of \$65,000; up to \$5 million pays a minimum salary of \$80,000; and more than \$5 million pays a minimum salary of \$100,000.

Los Angeles, Hudson County (Jersey City, N. J.) and Miami have the largest-funded affiliates.

What does an Urban League affiliate do for a community?

"We have a five-point empowerment agenda," Lewis said. "We have delivery in the areas of education and youth, economic empowerment, health and quality of life, civic engagement and civil rights," Lewis said. "Their (local) programs will align into our five-pronged agenda."

Local affiliates pay dues to the national organization based on a sliding scale. Local affiliates receive pass-through funding from

grant sources based on eligibility and ability to deliver programming.

For example, in September 1999, the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. funded "The Campaign for African-American Achievement." The \$25 million, five-year initiative is aimed at mobilizing Black parents and local leaders to demand high achievement as the norm for their children and schools. Twenty affiliates are receiving funding from the Lilly Endowment.

"Affiliates receive pass-through funding,"

Lewis said. "There is not an out right funding formula from the national to the local affiliates."

Marc H. Morial, president and chief executive officer of the NUL, is tentatively scheduled to visit Las Vegas in October to kick off activities of the local affiliate and to meet with community and corporate leaders.

Morial, former mayor of New Orleans, was named to his position on May 15, 2003.

For further information, call Shropshire at (702) 525-2886.

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