

Kerry hints GOP may suppress Black votes

WASHINGTON (AP) - John Kerry suggested Saturday night that Republicans may try to keep Black voters from casting their ballots to help President Bush win in November. "We are not going to stand by and allow another million African-American votes to go uncounted in this election," the Democratic presidential nominee told the Congressional Black Caucus.

"We are not going to stand by and allow acts of voter suppression, and we're hearing those things again in this election."

Kerry has a team of lawyers to examine possible voting problems to try to prevent a repeat of the 2000 election disputes. He also has said he has thousands of lawyers around the country prepared to monitor the polls on election day.

"What they did in Florida in 2000, some say they may be planning to do this year in battleground states all across this country," Kerry said. "Well, we are here to let them know that we will fight tooth and nail to make sure that this time, every vote is counted and every vote counts."

Bush-Cheney spokesman Steve Schmidt said the campaign would not respond to Kerry's "baseless, divisive attacks" until Sunday. "Today is a day of remembrance," he said.

The Massachusetts senator also criticized the president for failing to meet with the caucus since his first month in office and for what he said was a failure to meet the Biblical standard set by the Good Samaritan to help others in need.

Blacks are one of the most loyal Democratic voting bloc and Kerry needs to bring them to the ballot box if he is to overcome his trail in the polls and defeat Bush. Kerry opened by joking about how CBC Chairman Elijah Cummings, D-Md., has an easier race ahead than he.

"The latest survey has him up 80-20, so I said, 'Want to trade?'" Kerry said.

Earlier Saturday, Kerry recalled the good works done in memory of those who died in the Sept. 11 terrorist strikes that killed nearly 3,000 people.

"While Sept. 11th was the worst day we have ever seen, it brought out the best in all of us," Kerry told families of Massachusetts victims during a memorial at the Boston Opera House. He delivered the same message in the weekly Democratic radio address.

"In the years ahead, we will share its lessons with our children and grandchildren," he said. "We will tell them that on Sept. 11, ordinary men and women became heroes at a moment's notice — and so can you. We will tell them that we were strong because we took care of each other — and so can you."

At 8:46 a.m. — the moment three years ago that American Airlines Flight 11 hit the north tower — Kerry was visiting a memorial to Massachusetts victims. He laid white lilies at the memorial, located in Boston's Public Garden, then attended a private breakfast with families of the victims before the memorial service.

The two hijacked planes that crashed at the World Trade Center originated at Boston's Logan Airport. Victims of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon included nearly 200 people who either lived in Massachusetts or had ties to the state.

Kerry also issued a statement Saturday calling on Bush to release a 2001 report by the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board that reportedly recommended a major restructuring of the U.S. intelligence community, including establishing a single intelligence director.

The board's chairman, retired Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, was national security adviser under Bush's father and President Ford.

"The White House has held this important report under wraps for nearly three years while resisting efforts to strengthen the intelligence services that are essential to preventing terrorist attacks and protecting our nation," Kerry said in the statement. "What is the White House hiding? Why shouldn't the Congress and the American people be able to fully consider General Scowcroft's recommendations?"

Obama: Black America not monolithic

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — U. S. Senate Candidate Barack Obama, singled out for his exceptional speech at the Democratic National Convention in Boston, says Blacks have moved past the need for a single national leader.

"We're beyond the point where we just have one messiah," Obama says in an NNPA interview during the Congressional Black Caucus' Annual Legislative Conference. "What we need is collective leadership helping to move the ball forward. I think everybody's got a contribution to make."



Illinois Democratic Senate candidate Barack Obama says Black America doesn't need to anoint a single leader.

The 42-year-old Illinois state senator, former civil rights lawyer and Harvard law school graduate, became a household word after his rousing primetime speech.

Some pundits immediately hailed Obama as the "Tiger Woods" of politics and predicted that he will eclipse Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton in popularity.

"There are people like myself, who hopefully can work within an institution like the United States Senate and do important work," he says, rejecting the notion that African-Americans must choose between him, Jackson or Sharpton. "There are going to be other people like Rev. Sharpton, who will be using a different platform. And, I don't think those things are contradictory. Rev. Jackson is a constituent and family friend and he was an important early supporter of my campaign. I continue to draw from the wisdom and knowledge of those who paid enormous sacrifices to help people

(See Obama, Page 12)

Festival

(Continued from Page 1)

Frisbee golf, horseshoes and bocce ball.

With the recent Olympics in mind, in the center's pool, a local swim club will demonstrate synchronized swimming. There will also be entertainment.

In addition to healthy foods, vendors will provide a variety of foods.

It is a challenge to get some people to change habits in favor of regular exercise regimens.

"First, you have to expose them to the exercises and the availability of it," Gamell said.

"Once people have been introduced to different types of exercises, get their questions answered, overcome fear, they do respond. We have programs in the

churches that are booked solid in advance. Seeing results in other people really makes an impact on them."

The percentage of deaths caused by heart disease is higher in African-Americans than in Whites. The disparity is attributed to racism, according to a report released by the Institute of Medicine in March.

"Minorities do not receive the same level of care as Whites regardless of socioeconomic background," Gamell said.

The Choose to Move Festival is a collaborative effort of The Healthy Hearts Project, City of Las Vegas Department of Parks and Leisure Services, Sierra Health Services and 100 Black Men of America Las Vegas Chapter.

Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health 2010 (REACH 2010), a federally funded project, is conducting a series of workshops that educate African-Americans on reducing risk

factors for heart disease and stroke.

Educational programming continues with \$850,000 per year in funding.

For further information, call (702) 257-5558.

Rally

(Continued from Page 2)

Kerry changes positions more often than a Nevada prostitute" and "Flush the Johns."

As the Bush backers chanted "four more years," the Democratic contingent shouted "no more Bush" and pushed in front of the GOP group waving yellow signs that read "No More BU—SH—!"

Police officers told the Edwards supporters to move back out of the area set aside for protests and reported no trouble after that.

"Reno is a conservative place so we need to give the Democratic ticket as much support as we can," said Kyle Isacksen of Reno, one of the Democratic activists.

"Bush has lost jobs and lost wars. It's a mess. If he were the executive of a company, he'd be fired," he said.

Crime

(Continued from Page 1)

less violent drug trade or police tactics that focus on high-crime areas.

James Lynch, professor at American University's Department of Justice, Law and Society, said the reason that crime is down so broadly is difficult to pinpoint.

Two recent possibilities, he said, are a prison population at a record 2.1 million and the terrorism fight's deterrent effect on more routine street crime.

"Some of the mobilization for terrorism issues may have put a damper on crime," Lynch said. "It has a chilling effect on a whole lot of stuff."

The low crime rate also has made the problem much less of an issue in national political campaigns. It is almost never mentioned in campaign speeches by President Bush or Democrat John

Kerry, and fewer people than in past years now list crime as a top concern in opinion polls.

The National Crime Victimization Survey is based on annual interviews by Census Bureau personnel with about 150,000 people at least 12-years-old. The FBI does a separate crime study based on reports it receives from thousands of law enforcement agencies nationwide.

Other highlights of the Justice Department report:

—In 2003, one-quarter of all violent crimes were committed by an offender armed with a gun, knife or other weapon.

—Violent crime rate has dropped in every income category by at least 40 percent between 1993 and 2003.

—Property crimes tended to occur more often in 2003 in the West (207 crimes per

1,000 households), among people who rent rather than own (206 crimes vs. 143 crimes per 1,000) and in urban areas (216 crimes per 1,000) rather than suburban or rural areas (145 and 137 per 1,000, respectively).

—Men were more often

crime victims in 2003 than women, except sexual assaults. About 29 Blacks per 1,000 were crime victims, compared with 21.5 per 1,000 Whites and 16 per 1,000 all others. Crime victims were more often 24 years old or less.

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