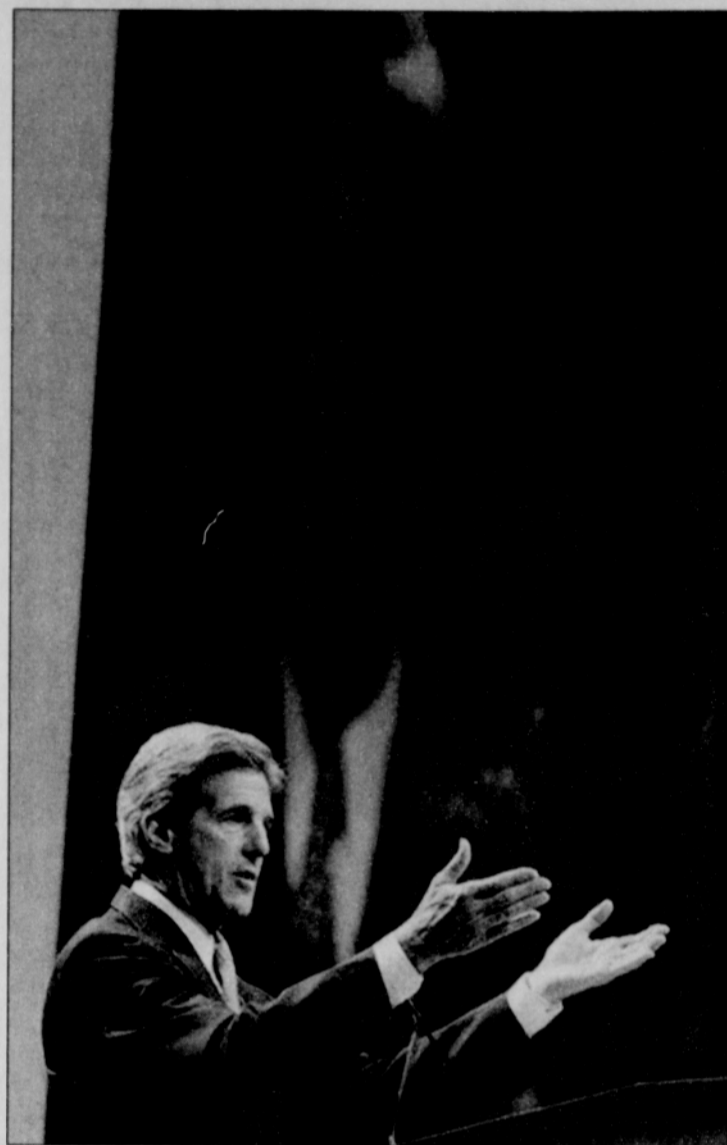


Minority Journalists Quiz Kerry Says nation is divided by race and money



Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., speaks at the Unity: Journalists of Color conference in Washington, D.C.

(AP)—Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry said America remains a nation divided along racial and economic lines, and pledged to “lift up those who are left out.”

In an appearance Thursday before minority journalists, the Massachusetts senator was asked if he would have jumped into action more quickly than President Bush did on

Sept. 11, 2001, when he learned of the terrorist attacks.

The president spent seven minutes reading to Florida elementary school children after learning that hijacked planes had been flown into the World Trade Center in New York.

“Had I been reading to children and had my top aide whisper in my ear that America is under attack, I would have told those kids very nicely and politely that the president of the United States has something that he needs to attend to,” Kerry said.

Kerry drew applause when he referred derisively to Bush’s recent decision not to speak before the NAACP. He said that as president, he would meet with the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, civil rights groups and other minority organizations as part of an effort to build a more united nation.

“America is still a house divided, in health status, living standards, access to capital, schools, all the things that make a difference,” he said.

Kerry cited statistics that 50 percent of black men in New York City are without work, while in some cities 40 percent of Hispanic children are school dropouts.

“How can we accept the fact that one of every five Asian-Americans attempting to buy or rent a home faces discrimination?” he asked.

Kerry also pledged to “open the doors of the White House to Native Americans.” And in an unusual pledge, he said he would prod the nation’s news executives to increase the number of jobs for Native Americans in the media.



Portland rap duo Dynamix to perform their new song “Chillaxin’ on the MAX” before the game.

Portland Beavers vs. Salt Lake Stingers Saturday, August 14 at PGE Park



5:30 p.m. Gates open, kids’ activities begin

- Interactive exhibits teach kids about safety around electricity, water, transit and bikes
- FREE metal lunchbox for the first 3,000 fans ages 14 and younger
- Free photos of Dynamix at TriMet’s booth

7:00 p.m. Dynamix performs “Chillaxin’ on the MAX”

7:05 p.m. Game begins

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Bush, Kerry to Visit Friday

Sen. John Kerry and President George Bush will both visit Portland on Friday.

Kerry is expected to arrive in Medford on Thursday, then head to Portland on Friday for a public rally at Waterfront Park, downtown.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, an Oregon Democrat, said Kerry will speak on issues including the economy, health care and homeland security.

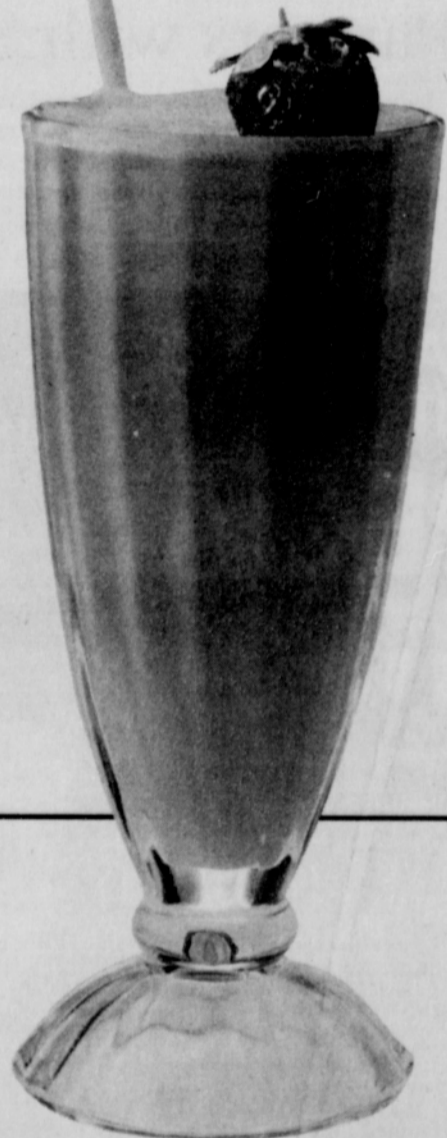
“On the issues that matter most to our state — like jobs and the economy, health care, and educa-

tion — the Kerry-Edwards ticket represents Oregon’s values,” Wyden said.

Tracey Schmitt, a White House spokeswoman, said the president intends to attend a small business summit.

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