



Your Voice: David Wolford

THE
ENQUIRER
cincinnati.com

McCain holds his own on an unequal field

John McCain survived an opposition audience Wednesday at the annual NAACP conference, amid obvious bias but in an exchange of mutual dignity and respect.

McCain faced challenges competing with the glitter of the NAACP greeting the country's first black presidential nominee. Biases beyond this wonderful milestone's attention afforded McCain unequal protection.

The NAACP cannot endorse a political candidate due to their legal status as a non-profit organization. Chairman Julian Bond avoided an endorsement of Barack Obama in

his opening remarks, but cast a shiny light on Obama while barely recognizing McCain. "The stars are aligned to defeat the Republican dominance," he said.

The NAACP showcased Obama posters on easels throughout the convention center, complete with NAACP logo, to announce a schedule change for Obama's speech. Those flung into the auditorium to hear McCain's speech, passed large-screen TVs replaying Obama's inspirational speech from two nights before.

When the Arizona senator arrived, however, the crowd, filling

Want your voice here?

Send your column or proposed topic, 300 words or fewer, along with a photo of yourself, to assistant editorial editor Ray Cooklis at rcooklis@enquirer.com, or to letters@enquirer.com. "Your voice" in subject line.

about 90 percent of the seats, respectfully welcomed him. The underdog grabbed additional respect with his candid talk and subtle admissions and humor on how the deck was stacked against him here. The crowd appreciatively responded

and signaled a unique brand of support for him in general.

McCain followed his speech with an impromptu Q&A. Some will say this was merely to score political points. But in a realistic risk analysis, he had more to lose than to gain. Consider what past GOP nominees have chosen to do lately. And, he gave unpopular, straight-talk answers by promising strict constructionist judges and reiterating his firm belief in school choice.

David Wolford teaches government and politics at Mariemont High School.