



**Hair apparent:** Hille, flanked by the runners-up, celebrates his victory

## Sideburns, mo better

CARSON CITY, Nevada: A German with snow-white sideburns sweeping 20cm outwards from his face overcame strong competition to win the Sixth World Beard and Moustache Championships yesterday.

In a silver-grey morning suit and top hat to highlight his whiskers, Berlin native Karl Heinz Hille beat a field of 130 sporting beards shaped into fantastic twisting whorls and rapier-like moustaches to gain the title of world champion.

"I feel as happy as a pig in mud," said Hille, who also won the category for Imperial-shaped whiskers.

Competitors from 10 nations vied

for honours in 17 categories of beard, sideburn and moustache fashions in the Nevada state capital.

The categories ranged from the brooding Chinese Fu Manchu style to suave musketeer moustache-and-goatee combinations, to the incredible inventions in the freestyle classes.

The best-whiskered winners garnered trophies and bragging rights, although no financial reward.

It was the first time the contest has been held outside of Europe. It was dominated by a 56-strong contingent of Germans, who launched the first championship in 1990.

AFP