

# Winston-Salem Chronicle

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## Playing Their Game

Whatever things the Rev. Jesse Jackson might be, one of them is not dumb.

Jackson has played the media as a virtuoso performer plays a finely-tuned instrument -- much to the dismay of the Glens and Mondales of the world.

Jackson's recent successful negotiations to free Lt. Robert Goodman from Syrian captivity is the latest master stroke in his campaign to be on America's political agenda, whether some Americans like it or not.

The former director of Operation PUSH already has been on the cover of *Time*, announced his candidacy on "60 Minutes" and logged coveted minutes on all the major television news programs in the land.

He's fast capturing the nation's imagination, even among those time-locked black folk who, wonder of wonders, have said they wouldn't support him because he can't win.

Jackson's presence also is becoming more prominent on the home front.

Aldermen Larry Little, Larry Womble and Virginia Newell, as well as County Commissioner Mazie Woodruff and school board member Beaufort Bailey, have begun laying the groundwork for a Jackson campaign organization in Forsyth County.

We applaud their initiative and foresight.

Still, the question persists, though we don't quite understand why: Is Jesse Jackson merely a public relations marvel, the ringmaster of a political circus that makes Phil Donahue salivate and provides a sure-fire conversation topic at receptions and dinner parties?

We think not. Though he is indeed those things, Jackson surely is not *merely* those things.

Jackson is intelligent, articulate and versatile; he can hobnob with dignitaries and heads of state, deliver a fiery Baptist sermon with the best of them, calmly field ridiculous questions from middle-class white housewives on "Donahue" and sit down to a meal of black-eyed peas, pork chops and greens with a rural black family.

Jackson is schooled on the issues (an obvious and welcome departure from the man presently in the White House, who sticks foot so firmly in mouth so often that he should consider having his lips measured when buying shoes).

More importantly, Jackson is as audacious a Negro as we have seen in quite some time. He has a knack, it seems, for doing things he isn't supposed to be able to do -- for taking what traditionally has been a white man's game and beating white men at it.

How far Jesse Jackson will go we can't say. Surely he's gone a lot farther than many of us could ever have imagined.

One thing we do know at this point, however, is that Jackson has set an encouraging precedent and sparked an excitement among the black electorate about registering to vote and using the political process to effect change.

And he has made the idea of a black presidential candidate a lot more conceivable than it was even a few months ago. Nobody's snickering about his campaign anymore.

## Crosswinds

### The Most Significant

#### From The Carolinian

The publishers in the black press were recently asked to list the most important events of 1983, not necessarily the most popular, but the most important.

The campaigns to register voters was listed as most important, and we agree that this one particular development will have the most far-reaching impact on black America for some time.

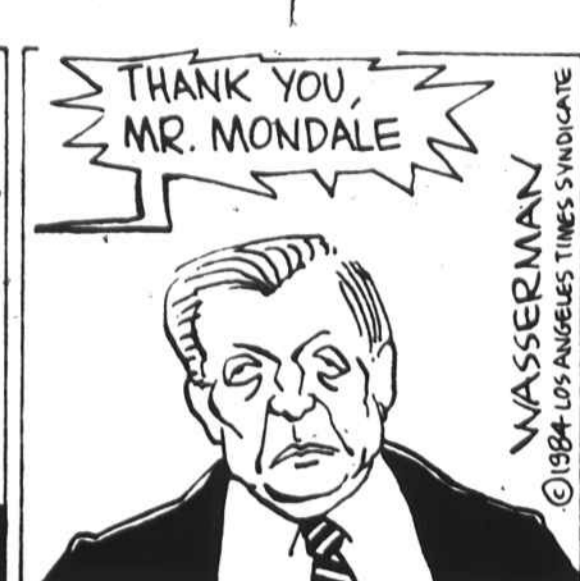
The event listed as second most important, the election of Harold Washington, is closely related to the first. The voter registration drives will also impact the upcoming national party conventions, hundreds of local and state races and the presidential candidates. Of course, one cannot overstate the importance of the Rev. Jesse Jackson's role in stimulating voter registration and his entrance into the presidential sweepstakes.

The March on Washington was listed as number three in importance. It likewise is connected with the efforts of blacks to focus attention on problems and to find redress through all available channels -- especially the political avenues. By bringing the concerns of black Americans to the doorsteps of our government, the elected officials can be made aware of the voter's opinions. Again, voter registration is the key to any meaningful results here.

Number four, according to the black publishers, was Col. Guion Bluford's flight into space. The emerging revitalization of the auto industry ranked fifth, and sixth was the crowning of a black woman as Miss America.

The conventions of the major civil rights organizations won seventh place. Assuredly, on the agenda of each convention was voter registration. With only 10 million of the 17.6 million eligible black voters registered, the black organizations face a significant challenge. As always, it is within these organizations that we find much of the organized dedication,

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## 1984: A Decisive Year Coming Up

By JOHN JACOB  
Sygdicted Columnist

Ever since George Orwell titled his bleak novel of a totalitarian future "1984," the coming of that year has been charged with special meaning.

The coming year is not going to fulfill such drastic visions of the future, but it will be decisive in a number of ways.

First, 1984 is a presidential election year, with all that implies for public policy and national choices.

Election years seem to be fairly good ones, since incumbent administrations want a flourishing economy and at least the appearance that they are dealing constructively with national problems.

This year should be no different. We can expect an easing of overall economic policies, such as lower interest rates and targeted federal spending, that, taken together, create more jobs.

But the big question in the 1984 elections is what policies the nation will follow in 1985 and beyond. If, as expected, the slow economic recovery turns into a real rebound from recession in 1984, the structural dislocations that have thrown millions out of jobs or rendered them unemployable will remain.

So the election will have to turn on philosophical differences between the

major candidates and their specific plans for the future, and less on the day-to-day economic statistics.

The black vote will be a major factor. The signs are all there: Higher black registration, black mobilization to maximize the black vote and the large black voter turnouts in recent years all point to the black vote as being important, perhaps decisive.

A second key factor in 1984 will be the growth of poverty in America. The ranks of the poor have swelled by five million over the past years and the recovery has not touched them.

Unless the current recovery

poor -- a poor family of four paid almost \$1,000 in income and payroll taxes last year -- enough to move many out of poverty.

A third factor of importance in 1984 is whether the nation will broaden equal opportunity. We've had a lot of hand-wringing about how bad the schools are and how limited minority progress has been. But if we don't start implementing national policies that prepare the poor and minorities for productive jobs, the economy will be in even worse shape.

Over the next decade one-fourth of the new entrants to the labor force

*"The ranks of the poor have swelled by five million over the past three years and the recovery has not touched them."*

broadens to become a boom that creates jobs in industries hit hard by the recession, the poverty level will remain high. The 35 million poor need not be poor in this affluent nation. Experts say a transfer of \$45 billion would bring the incomes of the poor up to the poverty level. The Pentagon wastes more than that on cost overruns, inflated payment for parts and inefficiency.

Poverty could be relieved, too, by changes in the tax structure that penalize the poor. The much-ballyhooed tax cuts didn't benefit the

will be black and minority. The young people now getting inferior educations, on the verge of dropping out of school and denied the skills training they need to get decent jobs will, in the coming months and years, have to function in a high-tech economy.

Their needs are also the economy's needs for skilled, trained people. But too many people are still trapped in the mind-set that thinks of their needs as a "social problem" and the investments in their human capital as

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## The Key: Thinking For Ourselves

By WALTER MARSHALL  
Guest Columnist

As election '84 approaches, black Americans must realize that even though we possess a vast potential as a voting bloc, we are a minority and must avoid the delusion of pseudopower and stop restricting ourselves to doing the things we did decades ago -- if we hope to be full participants in the great political scheme of things.

Although democratic governments offer minorities an opportunity to achieve some success, they also tend to be limited in their capacity to respond to the demands of minorities because it is dependent either upon majority support or upon those groups that already have economic political and social power. For that reason, we as a people must take the necessary steps to gain the controls of our destiny, but, before we can address the issue of who will control our votes, the black leadership must learn itself and the generation in which it serves.

A major task for the community is to inspire the masses into believing and serving themselves the way they serve and believe in others. The plight of black America is closely related to how we as a people perceive ourselves as a people. Sure, we must continue to educate and inspire the illiterate

and apathetic among us about the power of a large, unified bloc of votes. The unregistered must be registered and educated on the wise use of the ballot; plus, coalitions with other groups must be formed.

However, before the black vote can be used wisely, black leaders must first eliminate their slavish habits of berating black political candidates and worshipping whites. We must be as fair to black candidates as we are to white ones, if we hope to solve our major problems.

Blacks who exploit their race for

The responsibilities for promoting a black candidate rest with black people. All of the negative talk about how Jesse Jackson cannot win can never be substantiated until he runs. The misinformation about how Reagan will be given a second term if Jackson seeks the Democratic nomination for president is at best an irrational assumption designed to make Mondale's task of winning the Democratic nomination easier.

America needs the candidacy of Jesse Jackson. Black Americans need his candidacy to help them regain

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social or economic gains must be caste aside. Those who hate themselves to the point of being frightened at the thought of a black man being president must be repudiated and exposed for what they really are. If the democratic process and the major political parties cannot sustain the candidacy of a black candidate, then our system of government is not worth saving.

Blacks cannot wait on an endorsement from the majority or for some opinion poll to tell the public that they are ready for full citizenship rights.

their self respect and to give them a positive perspective as a people. White Americans need Jesse's candidacy to help them reshape their warped moral values and make them face the reality of their dual and racist system. Jesse may not gain the nomination. But his efforts and gallantry will inspire millions and aid in the election of hundreds of minorities and women across the country.

Reganomics has hurt blacks; however, that is no reason for us as people to "cast down our political

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JESSE JACKSON'S TRIP TO SYRIA IS INJECTING POLITICS INTO FOREIGN POLICY

SURE--HE'S GRANDSTANDING TO ATTRACT MEDIA ATTENTION

AND HE'S USING AN AMERICAN SERVICEMAN FOR PARTISAN PURPOSES

WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS-- RONALD REAGAN?!



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## Chronicle Letters

### Leader's Role Is Questioned

To The Editor:

Though I wouldn't vote for the Rev. Jesse Jackson for Dog Catcher in Cat County, I do believe in giving credit where it is due.

I'm ashamed and embarrassed that one of our so-called black leaders here intimated (*Winston-Salem Sentinel*, Jan. 3) that Jackson succeeded in getting Lt. Robert Goodman released because he's black like the Syrians. If one white person intimated this, all hell would break loose.

The black so-called leader who intimated this is so obviously possessed by the "green-eyed monster" until he dared hit not only Jackson below the belt but our whole race. It is usually white racists who contend that black people can't undertake anything that requires brains.

To be questioned now is if one of our so-called community leaders is but an insecure Uncle Tom. All of Winston-Salem should now and forever more denounce him as a leader, for the only way he can lead us is backwards.

J. Thomas  
Winston-Salem

### Article Lacking

To The Editor:

I am a proud and public supporter of and subscriber to the *Winston-Salem Chronicle*. It is not only objective and the best weekly, black or white, in North Carolina, I believe it to be one of the very top black newspapers in the nation.

Even the best, however, are subject to error, and I believe the lead article of the Dec. 8 edition, "Local Baptist Ministers Will Not Support Jesse Jackson," was chock-full of mistakes both in conception and design.

First, the headline itself, in the context of *Winston-Salem*, implies, that the Baptist Ministers Conference and Associates had taken an anti-Jackson stance in defiance of Dr. T.J. Jemison, president of the National Baptist Convention, and his endorsement of Rev. Jackson. Not only is this not the case, I can say with reasonable assurance as a member and a fairly regular attendee of the conference (meetings) that the Jackson campaign was not even discussed until Jan. 4, when (WXII reporter) Rudy Anderson asked several ministers what we thought of Jackson engineering Lt. Robert Goodman's release from Syria.

Second, apparently no background research was done on the Baptist denomination, its structure and doctrine. One of the distinguishing hallmarks of Baptists is our commitment to a radical sense of local autonomy, from the local church up through the association, state and national levels. Along with this is our profound sense of individual conscience under the sanction of the Holy Spirit. This leads, ideally, to a highly democratic form of church government. All Drs. Butler, Drayton and Hay were saying, therefore, was that Dr. Jemison's endorsement, despite his presidency, must be justified by all the various other church leaders before it could be viewed as an official stance of the convention. This is a completely accurate analysis on their part.

Third, the clear implication of the *Chronicle* headline is that the majority of local Baptist ministers, and at the very least a substantial minority, are opposed to Jackson's candidacy. Upon reading the article, we discover only three ministers out of the well over 100; the *Chronicle* itself has documented are quoted, and only two of those make definitive anti-Jackson statements.

When we actually analyze this article, we "discover" that less than 2 percent of "local Baptist ministers" don't support Jackson. I question whether or not two or even three doctors, lawyers, businessmen or even journalists who don't support the campaign newsworthy of the lead article on any paper that had anything

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