

Early Risers

Political hopefuls speak their pieces at a campaign breakfast hosted by citizens too young to vote.
Front Page.

Election Year '84

Young Jesse

Jesse Jackson's been a chief executive before -- as student body president at A&T State. His classmates recall Jesse's days as an Aggie.
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In unanimous vote

Ministers group endorses Jackson

By ROBIN ADAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

The Rev. Jesse Jackson received a boost to his local campaign Tuesday when he was unanimously endorsed by the Baptist Ministers Conference and Associates. Bishop R.K. Hash, president of the predominantly black group of clergymen, said the decision was made to endorse Jackson after a plea for support by Alderman Larry Little, who heads the local Jackson for President campaign. Hash added that, while he supports the endorsement, he was surprised that it occurred. "They (Baptist Ministers Conference and Associates) voted earlier this year not to take a stand on any candidate until

"I don't think he will win, but we voted to show him support through the primary."
-- Bishop R.K. Hash

after the primary," he said. "Then, yesterday, it was a complete switch."

But Hash said the surprise was a pleasant one.

"Personally, I support Jackson," he said, "primarily because he is the first black man to have enough nerve to run and bring up the issues. I don't think he will win, but we voted to show him support through the primary."

An endorsement by the ministers conference will not, however, mean financial support from the group. According to their constitution, Hash said, the ministers cannot donate money in the name of the conference. "But what each individual minister does is up to him," Hash said.

Included in the unanimous support for

Jackson Tuesday was Dr. Jerry Drayton's vote.

In December, when the Rev. T.J. Jemison, president of the National Baptist Convention U.S.A., announced his support of Jackson, who is also an ordained Baptist minister, Drayton said supporting Jackson's campaign would be futile. "When we are considering our endorsement, we have to think about symbolic stupidity versus reality," Drayton had said.

However, in a telephone interview Wednesday morning, Drayton said he has now decided to support Jackson for three reasons: "His ability to get out black people who have not participated in the political process, his bringing to the campaign forefront issues that affect black people and his showing the power of the black vote."

"My opposition (earlier) was based on the fact that, up until yesterday (Tuesday), that was the first time I had heard a realistic explanation of his candidacy," Drayton said. "The unrealistic claim that he could win the nomination is what gave me some problems supporting him from the beginning."

But Dr. J. Ray Butler, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church and the conference member who made the motion to endorse Jackson, said no one should question Jackson's ability to win because he is already a winner and therefore worthy of support.

"Jesse Jackson has already won," Butler said. "It's not so much a matter of winning the primary ... as it is the fact that he is offering something not only to the black race, but to the whole nation. He's giving an image for the growing child. They not only become inspired, but they can aspire."



Fashions For Peace

What can a fashion show possibly have to do with peace in the Middle East? This particular show, featuring fashions from North Africa and sponsored in Washington by the Arab Women's Council Research And Education Fund, raised prize money for an essay contest on 114 black campuses entitled "The Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Solution."

Second batch in jury pool more educated

By ROBIN ADAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

The 19 potential jurors questioned on Jan. 11 for possible selection to the Klan-Nazi jury were more vocal and opinionated than most from the earlier jury pool.

According to the latest transcripts from the closed jury selection, the members of the latter group were better-educated and had more knowledge of the Klan, Nazis and Communist Workers' Party than their predecessors.

The jurors questioned earlier had little knowledge of the three groups involved and even less of the Nov. 3, 1979, shootout in Greensboro.

Nine Klansmen and Nazis are charged with violating the civil rights of the five members of the CWP killed in the blood-bath.

The questioning between potential juror Lucy May Ashburn and the court revealed that Ashburn was aware of the shootout between the three groups and had formed an opinion about the incident.

Said Ashburn, when questioned about what she knew about the shootout: "I saw men shooting other men with guns; people hiding behind cars."

Court: "All right. And what, generally, ... have you read about the case?"

Ashburn: "The Klan killed the communists."

Court: "I see. Have you heard anything else about this incident?"

Ashburn: "That the communists were black and the men who killed them were white."

Ashburn was then asked if she had formed an opinion on the case after seeing newscasts concerning the event.

"Well, I don't know if they (the Klansmen and Nazis) did it in self-defense
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James Ford, a member of the Human Relations Commission, listens attentively during the commission's first-ever town meeting (photo by James Parker).

Local Human Relations Commission: Is it the victim of an identity crisis?

By ROBIN ADAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Though it has existed since 1978 and operated on a budget of \$102,100 last year, the city's Human Relations Commission remains a curious animal to many of those it is supposed to serve.

Exactly what is it, some wonder, and what does it do?

Is its domain race relations? Human relations? Or discrimination of any kind? Those were only a few of the questions asked of the commission at its first-ever town meeting last week.

The purpose of the meeting, said the commission's chairman, Dr. Constance Johnson, was to give the public a chance to help the commission set a future agenda.

As for its duties, Johnson said, the commission is in the business of receiving and resolving individual complaints, as well as employee and employer disputes, and

preventing discrimination. The major gain for the commission thus far has been the city's Fair Housing Ordinance, passed in May 1982. The ordinance grants the commission the authority to resolve housing discrimination complaints.

The commission is made up of 21 members appointed by the mayor and the Board of Aldermen for two-year terms. The overall objective of the commission, said Herman Aldridge, director of the city's Human Relations Department, which works closely with the commission, is to "create an atmosphere where equality, opportunity and justice are a reality for all people."

Still, the 60 citizens attending the meeting in the council chambers at City Hall weren't quite sure of how the commission plans to accomplish those goals.

The first step toward eliminating its identity crisis, said
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NAACP youth, hopefuls meet

By ROBIN ADAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Political tidbits we've gathered while following the campaign trail:

The NAACP Youth Group held a Meet the Candidates Breakfast last Saturday, and, although the organization's members are only future voters, plenty of candidates, state and local, were on hand to woo the youngsters, as well as a number of present-day voters who turned out to eat eggs and talk politics.

Ann Simmons, adviser to the youth group, said the purpose of the breakfast

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For The Record...

In the March 29 edition of the Chronicle, the story titled "Policewoman reflects on past" incorrectly stated that Rufus Edmisten, state attorney general and gubernatorial candidate, presented Lillian Bonner with an award from the Winston-Salem chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute. Edmisten presented Bonner with the Attorney General's Award.

The article also indicated that Bonner had borrowed a blue suit from her sister-in-law to wear while her uniform was being cleaned when, in fact, she borrowed it from her sister.

And the article incorrectly stated that she had taken her son with her to a job interview.

In the same edition, the article "South Park shows
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Near Sprague Street

Aldermen nix shopping center

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

The Board of Aldermen denied a request Monday night by Richard A. Church and other investors to zone 3.5 acres of land for a shopping center south of High Point Road between Broadway Drive and Sprague Street.

The opposition came from residents of the blue-collar neighborhood who contended there was no need for such a business, since existing shops and businesses are already flourishing there.

Armed with petitions and other alter-

natives for a shopping center elsewhere, residents refuted the developers' argument that the proposed shopping center would provide additional jobs. They also argued that an increase in traffic would result from a new shopping center in the area, and said the new construction would pose a threat to neighborhood children who have no access to playgrounds.

"We're here to oppose it," said Janie Boyd, a neighborhood representative. "We're here to let you know that we are deeply concerned about an increase in
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