

# Black lawmakers can identify with immigrants

Continued from page 1A

new guest workers, plus future undocumented immigrants. We need guest workers instead of undocumented immigrants."

Toward that end, Obama and other members of the CBC believe American employers need to take responsibility. The Rev. Jesse Jackson, a non-elected civil rights leader, insists that the government crack down on exploitative employers and off-the-books hiring. Jackson said that black, lower-wage workers in this country worry that employers are using immigrants to displace them, to undermine good jobs, force wages down and weaken labor organizing.



Jackson



Jackson Jr.

"But the answer to that isn't to turn on other poor workers," Jackson said. "It is to raise the minimum wage — which has been frozen since 1997 — bolster union organizing and run a full employment economy."

"Part of the anger directed at immigrants comes from workers understandably scared as manufacturing jobs are shipped abroad, and lower paying service jobs take their place. But global corporations, not immigrants, are taking those jobs abroad. The answer isn't cleaning up immigration, but cleaning out Washington and electing leaders who will challenge the corporate hold over our trade policies."

Rep. Diane Watson (D-Calif.) agrees with the citizenship requirements described by Obama

but adds "learning to speak the English language" to the list.

Watson, Maxine Waters and Barbara Lee, all Democrats from California, support the passage in the Senate of the McCain-Kennedy "Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act," which they claim provides for meaningful and comprehensive reform through measures to increase border security, a crackdown on businesses that employ illegal immigrants and a path for illegal immigrants to earn citizenship.

Jackson's son, Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-Ill.), who voted with the rest of the CBC on the issue, makes the distinction between immigrants and African-Americans.

"Americans are fond of saying that we're a nation of immigrants, and that's true for many but not for African-Americans," Jackson Jr. said. "Immigrants, technically, are volunteers. African-Americans didn't come to this country as volunteers. We were forcibly brought here as non-citizens in violation of our human rights to participate in a labor system called slavery."

As a result, African-Americans were undocumented and without legal protection and citizenship for 246 years and afforded second-class citizenship for another 100 years. So why does the Congressional Black Caucus identify with the immigrant cause? Because blacks, as a people, have been there, they said.

## Duke rebuffs Black Panthers rally

By Sommer Brokaw

THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

DURHAM — The New Black Panther Party for Self-Defense were forced to relocate their rally outside a fraternity house where a woman was allegedly raped after a Duke University policeman denied them entry on campus.

"Are you telling me that we are not allowed on your campus?" Victoria Peterson, a community activist, asked. "I'm an alumna of North Carolina Central University

and a taxpayer. They are not here for anything having to do with violence, go ahead and frisk them if you want."

With some fears that the militant group would be armed, the university had previously agreed to allow them on campus without weapons. But university spokesman David Roberson said that "what they had originally requested was that they would be allowed to march to the lacrosse field, but they would not be allowed to interrupt any academic

areas or residential halls because we are on final exams."

Dr. Bruce Bridges, owner of the Know Bookstore and Restaurant, said at a town hall meeting later that evening that the right to stand up for what you believe in should be more important than final exams.

Roberson countered that forbidding them on campus had nothing to do with freedom of speech.

"They have their freedom of

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