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## Jordan's rhetoric not enough

LT. Gov. Robert Jordan, Democratic candidate for governor, last week invited some of North Carolina's Afro-American publishers and community leaders to meet with him and discuss his candidacy.

The meeting was held at a private club in Greensboro and the lieutenant governor seemed quite at ease, as he emphatically endorsed affirmative action programs and related issues.

On the surface, it might seem to some that Jordan's endorsement of affirmative action, and his rapport with Afro-American publishers and community leaders, would make him the Afro-American community's undisputed candidate for governor of North Carolina.

But, let's look below the surface.

When asked to be more specific about his plans for affirmative action programs, Jordan was vague and unprepared to make a concrete commitment on what his administration would do to address some of the concerns of the Afro-American community.

He was unable to move beyond rhetoric and into specifics. Yet, he was obviously very comfortable with his position among the publishers and community leaders.

This attitude suggests to some of us that the lieutenant governor feels he would get support from the Afro-American community just because he is a Democrat. Indeed, he has the support of some Afro-American newspapers already.

But the single most disturbing aspect of the lieutenant governor's meeting was his desire to simply win the governor's office. He said, "I want to win badly!"

He also said that he was a realist and that he realized that, in order to win, he would not only have to appeal to Afro-American voters, but to "the rednecks in eastern North Carolina" as well.

These two groups have traditionally been diametrically opposed, both philosophically and politically. We would like to know how the lieutenant governor can appeal to both.

His statement, however, makes it clear why he could not make a definite commitment on specific programs for the Afro-American community.

It is doubtful that he would get the "redneck" vote if he presents a platform that includes initiatives of special interest to the Afro-American community.

Jordan criticized former Gov. Jim Hunt and Sen. Terry Sanford for publicly endorsing presidential candidate Albert Gore. But, when asked if he had voted for Jesse Jackson, Jordan would not respond.

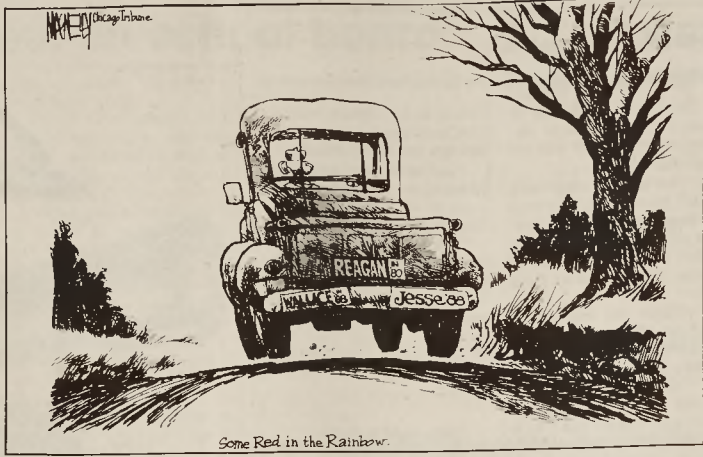
It is important that the lieutenant governor understand that mere rhetoric is not enough. Simply wanting to win is not enough and the Democrat label will not be enough this time.

He will have to develop a platform which clearly delineates how the Afro-American community will benefit from his administration, should he win the governor's seat.

Although most of us are Democrats and many of us have traditionally voted a straight Democratic ticket, Jordan should beware that some of us are actually listening to what the candidates are saying.

We will not allow him to be swept up by our Jesse Jackson-induced Democratic euphoria and landed into the governor's mansion without a strong commitment from him.

He must choose one side of the fence or the other!



Some Red in the Rainbow.

## On the Rev. Jesse Jackson's victories

NEW YORK — Jesse Jackson's victory on Super Tuesday was a victory not only for the Rainbow Coalition, but also for all those who believe in equal justice and freedom for all. Jackson won five to six states outright and came in a strong second in seven to eight states. There is no greater testimony to the political empowerment of the disfranchised than that people who were previously locked out of the political process are now included with such significant impact.

As a volunteer campaign supporter who traveled briefly with Rep. Ronald Dellums, D-Mich., and activist Dick Gregory in the South before Super Tuesday, I could sense a renewed awareness about the power of the vote. For the power of that vote has put in place, throughout the South, numbers of influential Afro-American elected officials and more sensitive white officials.

In Selma, Ala., on the Sunday before Super Tuesday, the 23rd Anniversary of "Bloody Sunday" was commemorated by the National Celebration of the Right to Vote. On that day in 1965, marchers who were marching for the right to vote attempted to begin the Selma to Montgomery March and were brutally beaten

by Alabama state troopers. Sheriff Jim Clark and other white officials were determined to use whatever violence they thought

the workers that Jesse Jackson was the only candidate who understood the plight of factory workers and the linkage between



### CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

By BENJAMIN CHAVIS JR.

necessary to deny Afro-Americans the right to vote.

During the commemoration those like Albert Turner, Amelia Boynton, James Orange and Marie Foster — all of whom were in the original march — were in the front line. All were wearing Jesse Jackson buttons. But this time, as we marched across the Edmund Pettis Bridge, instead of being beaten, we were escorted by Alabama law enforcement officials. And all along the line of march, we were cheered by Afro-Americans and whites who shouted, "Jesse Jackson for president."

Jesse Jackson's increased support among white voters was also obvious in Columbus, Ga. At a local textile factory, Afro-American and white workers greeted the campaign caravan with enthusiasm. Rep. Dellums explained to

the spiraling military budget and the loss of social programs. The response of the workers was overwhelmingly supportive of the Jackson candidacy.

Super Tuesday was originally designed by both Democratic and Republican party leaders to minimize the impact of the Afro-American vote and to give conservatives in the South a greater say in choosing presidential nominees. The party leaders thought that, by setting up primaries in so many southern states this early in the process, they could determine the nominee.

However, they didn't bargain for the Jackson candidacy. As a result of the effectiveness of that candidacy, the South has risen again, but not as a racially segregated and divided region. Jesse

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## Talking about the big AIDS lie

NEW YORK — While we need research on AIDS and a compassion for those afflicted with this deadly disease, it is risky to conduct a heterosexual scare campaign to get either.

"AIDS is not a sexual threat to heterosexual men and women, period," Susan Bakos writes in the March issue of *Forum* magazine.

Bakos also points out that "AIDS is not spreading at the anticipated rate among non-drug-using heterosexuals."

"Non-drug-using" men and women who prefer the opposite sex, she is saying. Drug-using homosexuals, heterosexuals or bisexuals, however, are a menace to everyone.

"In New York City, which has the highest number of heterosexual cases, the statistics don't show significant heterosexual spread through sexual contact," concludes Dr. Pauline Ann Thomas,

the epidemiologist in charge of the city's AIDS surveillance program, "but rather through primarily poorer people's shared use of IV drugs."

Of course, some health offi-

"The message pounded into us like driving rain is that AIDS does not discriminate, and that it will claim us all unless we are, and have been for a long time, monogamous," she added.



### TONY BROWN

Syndicated Columnist

cials cannot distinguish between Afro-American people as a group and Afro-American people who abuse themselves with drugs. As in the general population, it is the drug users who are most contaminated with the AIDS virus.

But New York City's health officials, according to Bakos, are so confused that they "are urging the state to add vaginal intercourse to its list of risky sex practices."

"Studies show that while AIDS is epidemic among homosexuals and drug users, very little crossover to the mainstream heterosexual population has occurred," says Dr. Harold W. Jaffe, the center's chief of AIDS epidemiology.

And from Dr. Robert C. Gallo, the National Cancer Institute researcher who was a co-dis-

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## Budget doesn't address needs

### TO BE EQUAL

By JOHN E. JACOB

NEW YORK — President Ronald Reagan's proposed 1989 budget — his last as president — has spawned much editorial comment regarding its contribution, but a closer examination reveals that it is full of cuts that reduce opportunities for the poor people's vision.

A federal budget is a list of spending items — an agenda for the coming year — a vision of where America can be and how government will run it there.

Hard choices have been made, given the deficit budget this year, as in previous years those hard choices have fallen on poor people's programs.

An analysis of the administration's budget proposal by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, an independent interest group, reveals that the authority for discretionary programs for low-income people is cut.

The center estimates that will come to about 10 percent below the levels needed to maintain today's service levels, adjusting for inflation, and important to remember that current levels are already being reduced by years of budgeting and starving key programs for funds.

The biggest hit in the administration's 1989 budget is a low-income energy assistance program, which helps poor people pay their heating bills. This program was cut by 19 percent in 1988 fiscal year (after inflation) and the budget would slash another 25.5 percent — halving this important program over two years.

At a time of rising homelessness in America, the budget would cut off funding for the four federal housing programs for the homeless, and evaporate \$10 million program provides job training for the less people would be needed.

Also cut heavily is funding for the emergency food and shelter program, which helps poor people's soup kitchens and shelters. It comes at a time when the Agriculture Department is cutting back on distribution of surplus food products to the needy.

So shelters and soup kitchens will be caught in a double bind: less surplus food donations and less money with which to buy food.

The other targets for cuts include housing programs including community development block grants, which cities to foster housing in poor neighborhoods.

Legal services for the poor would be cut by more than 50 percent, after inflation. As the community services grant, which helps fund anti-poverty agencies.

Even such admired and successful programs as the Job Corps and Head Start would be trimmed, despite the urgency to expand programs that

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## CHRONICLE CAMERA

# Should there be stricter laws for owners of vicious dogs?

A two-year old child was mauled by three pit bull terriers on his grandparents farm on March 8 in Wilmington. One of the dogs ripped off and swallowed one of Chris Graham's ears. Doctors at New Hanover Memorial Hospital had to retrieve the boy's ear from

the dogs' stomach and re-attach it.

Vicious animal attacks have become more widespread throughout the country. The Chronicle asked several local residents if they believe stricter laws should be imposed on owners of dangerous animals for the sake of public safety.

Many respondents said they believed something should be done, but expressed an assortment of opinions as to what.

Dogs, such as doberman pinchers and pit bulls, have been used as police attack dogs and on

patrol in Vietnam.

Several U.S. counties have outlawed the pit bull breed. In other places owners are being assessed heavy fines for allowing such animals to roam free, whether or not they actually attack anyone.

Many residents believe it is

virtually impossible to completely domesticate them because of their inbred ferocious nature.

Some also said that people who own or would like to own, such an animal should take into consideration how dangerous they

are.

Some suggested that people who want to own a pit bull should prove to some authority they have adequate facilities to keep the animal restrained. If they cannot prove they can restrain dogs, they should not own them.



"I believe there should definitely be laws imposed to protect people. pit bulls are difficult to train because it's in their nature to attack."

Ollie Smith



"Too many people have gotten hurt because of these vicious animals. If owners can't control them, then the law should."

John Heath



"Those animals are very dangerous and difficult to control. I think people who want them should take the safety of others into consideration."

Mildred Sanders



"They are too difficult to train. People have a right to get them, but they should consider the fact that they might get away."

William Herring Jr.



"Maybe if owners could prove they could handle them to some body, there wouldn't be so many problems."

Shirley Brown