

Jackson and son find common ground in politics

By JON JETER
THE WASHINGTON POST

ATHENS, Ohio — Jesse L. Jackson came here to the foothills of Appalachia to do his thing, testifying and bearing witness in plain view of the television cameras. Weighing a third presidential campaign, the veteran civil rights activist has zeroed in on class conflict in America, and he brought his vision of a new poor people's campaign to this hardscrabble town just in time for the 2000 elections.

"We can build a coalition of conscience," he says to a group of jobless men and women, all white. "The

stock class and the sweat class. Too many people live in isolation. We don't talk to one another but the problems are the same. The people of Appalachia don't have good drinking water, just like the people in Ford Heights."

There was something telling in Jackson's repeated rhetorical bows toward Ford Heights, a poor Chicago suburb where the drinking water is a peculiar shade of orange, a hue not found in nature. Ford Heights lies in the congressional district represented by Jackson's oldest son, Rep. Jesse L. Jackson Jr. — and the Illinois Democrat, doggedly working Washington's bureaucracy, last year delivered \$5.8

million in federal aid that will bring fresh drinking water to the suburb beginning next year.

Physically, Jackson Jr. is a smaller version of his athletically built father, confident and witty. And as orators, father and son share the same cadences, the same Baptist minister's flourishes and gestures, the same ability to connect with all ages and races. But the story of Ford Heights and its water problems — the stuff of a stemwinder for Jackson Sr. and of delivering the goods for Jackson Jr. — goes a long way to show what a difference a generation has made in the Jackson family and, more broadly, in the struggle for

equality among black and white Americans.

The younger Jackson discovered the Ford Heights problem shortly after he was elected to office in 1995. He immediately began pressing his colleagues on Capitol Hill for money to fix the water system, even inviting some Republican lawmakers on a tour of Ford Heights. His staff poked around for grants, sizing up virtually every federal agency until finally stumbling onto a program offered by the Agriculture Department to provide clean drinking water to rural communities.

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U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (left) like his dad, civil rights leader the Rev. Jesse Jackson, has become an advocate of the poor.

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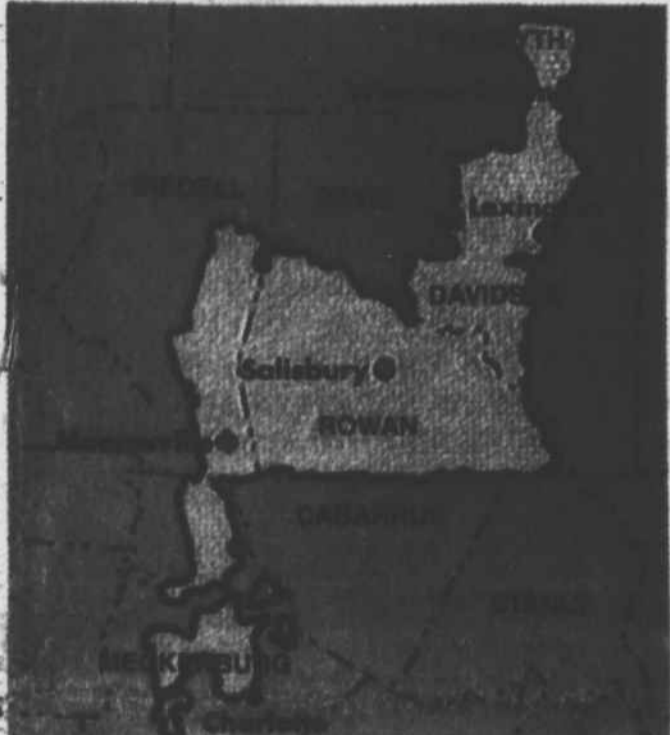
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Last week, legislators approved a new map for the 12th Congressional District. The proposal is now before a panel of judges who ruled the old district unconstitutional.

New 12th may present 'challenge' for blacks

By JERI YOUNG AND DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE

The revised 12th Congressional District still has two steps to go through before it's ratified, but already people are debating it.

The ribbon-like 12th, which snaked along I-85 from Mecklenburg County north to Durham County, was ruled unconstitutional by a panel of federal judges in early April. Since then its fate — and the fate of the African Americans who live in it — has been up in the air.

Last week, after almost three months of wrangling, the North Carolina General Assembly agreed on a new 12th District, that remains solidly Democrat but not solidly African American. The plan was sent to the panel of judges Friday. If they accept it, the proposal will face a review by the U.S. Justice Department. The plan must be ratified by early September to ensure primaries are held before the November election.

The proposed 12th is radically different from the old one. Guilford County has been lopped off and part of Forsyth County has moved to the 5th Congressional District. While it

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Library not closing



The Black Leadership Roundtable Steering Committee Meeting on May 21 was well attended. Many wanted information about what they could do to prevent the closing of East Winston Library.

Meeting dispels rumors about fate of historic East Winston Library

By FELECIA MCMILLAN
Community Correspondent

When Sabrina Hunter, a teacher at Mount Zion Preschool, came to the roundtable meeting last Thursday, she came armed with a two-page petition signed, sealed and ready to deliver to save the East Winston Library.

But she didn't need it. "I was definitely misinformed," she said. Like Hunter, many of the East Winston residents who came to the meeting had heard the

library was closing.

"The idea to close the library is a lie," said William "Bill" Roberts, executive director of Forsyth County Libraries. "It did not come from me or my staff."

N.C. Rep. Larry Womble invited Roberts to address the library issue at the Black Leadership Roundtable Steering Committee meeting on May 21 at the Winston Mutual Building.

"As long as I am director, this library will

See Library on A2

Memo angers black leaders

By JERI YOUNG
THE CHRONICLE

Black business and civil rights leaders are outraged over an internal document from a company that warned advertisers not to use stations with predominantly black and Hispanic listeners.

In the document circulated internally by AmCast, a division of Katz Radio Group, sales representatives were instructed to warn corporate customers about purchasing advertising time on stations with a majority of black and Hispanic listeners because "...advertisers should want prospects, not suspects."

AmCast sees advertising to mainstream radio. No corporations were specifically mentioned in the memo.

The incident, which was first chronicled in the New York Daily News earlier this month, gained national attention when radio commentator, Tavis Smiley, discussed it recently on the syndicated "Tom Joyner Morning Show."

Smiley encouraged listeners to write, call or e-mail Katz's home office to register their displeasure with what he called a "racist memo."

Listeners around the Triad did just that. "I was just upset about the whole thing," said JoAnn Bush of Winston-Salem. "I think I was more upset they put it in black and white... But you know I'm kind of glad they did. You can't erase what is put in print."

Bush says she first heard about the memo during Smiley's commentary on the show, which is broadcast locally by WQMG radio (97.1 FM). She called the station "to see if his comments could be played over and over during the day."

"I was just upset by the whole thing," she said. "It just doesn't make sense. I wanted other people to hear it. It was just wrong."

Radio stations geared toward black and Hispanic listeners have long complained that they are not getting the advertising dollars attracted by mainstream stations because of a perception that their listeners are not good consumers.

The memo was the hottest topic of conversation Saturday, the opening day of the conference of the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters.

The parent company of Katz Media group also owns radio stations, so the memo amounts to competitors using a subsidiary to steer advertisers away from minority-owned stations, said James L. Winston, executive director of the broadcasters organization.

"We have one of our chief competitors using ostensi-

See Black Radio on A2

Gate City names new police chief

By DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE

There's a new police chief in Greensboro. And he's ready to get things rolling.

Robert C. White was named Chief of the City of Greensboro Police Department on May 7.

"I look forward to building on the many successes of the Department and to working with men and women who have contributed to those successes," White said. "Together, we will provide the well-deserved services our community expects and is entitled to."

White, an African American, will begin work in Greensboro on June 1. He replaces Sylvester Daughtry, also an African American, who served as chief for 11 years.

"I don't believe people expected another African American to be selected as police chief, including myself," Daughtry said. "I think it's good that regardless of race, a per-

son can be objectively selected as police chief."

White, a twenty-year law enforcement veteran, was the Assistant Chief of Police for Patrol Operations for the 2,600-officer Washington D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, the primary law enforcement agency for the nation's capital.

"I believe Robert White will do an outstanding job leading the Greensboro Police Department in the coming years," said Ed Kitchen, Greensboro City Manager. "His leadership traits are what caused him to rise to the top in our selection process."

He began his career in law enforcement in 1972 as a patrol officer in Washington D.C. and worked his way through the ranks, serving in numerous command positions.

He has also served two and a half years as Director of Public Safety for the District of Columbia Housing Authority, where he is credited with establishing an independent police department.



After heading Washington, D.C.'s patrol operations, Robert C. White will take the helm of the Greensboro Police Department June 15.

"He's coming from an organization that has a wonderful reputation," said Daughtry.

"Everyone we talk to about Robert commented on his innovative approach to police work, his high

energy levels, his emphasis on crime prevention and community policing and a style that kept him in close contact with officers and with community groups," Kitchen said.

Jackson officials ask public's help to solve newspaper firebombing

By JAY HUGHES
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JACKSON, Miss. — One day after critics accused Jackson officials of delaying an investigation into the destruction of a black-owned weekly newspaper, city leaders asked the public's help in finding the firebombers.

"I can't stress enough how important it is for citizens to help with this investigation," Mayor Harvey Johnson said Thursday. "Law enforcement is not going to be able to do this alone."

Johnson said investigators need tips from anyone who knows anything about the fire. He said rewards totalling \$25,000 have been posted for information leading to arrests and convictions.

The Advocate was gutted when two Molotov cocktails were thrown through a plate glass window Jan. 26. No arrests have been made and no suspects

have been named.

Fire Department Chief Investigator Vernon Hughes said officers are currently questioning several people. He wouldn't say whether they are suspects or potential witnesses.

"Several new leads have developed," he said.

Hughes refused to elaborate on any leads investigators are following. Federal agents, including the FBI, are taking part in the investigation.

Advocate publisher Charles Tidale and his supporters on Wednesday accused investigators of inaction. Tidale said he plans to file suit over the handling of the investigation and rumors of his involvement. U.S. Attorney Brad Piggot has issued a subpoena clearing Tidale and his staff of any complicity.

Tidale also announced U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson

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