

# Editorials & Comments

## Thank You Jesse Jackson

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.  
Post Editorial Writer

Be active in your schools, avoid the "politics of indifference" and set meaningful priorities for yourself. That was the underlying message of the Rev. Jesse Jackson, keynote speaker for the 34th Annual WBTV Convocation for local high school students at Owens Auditorium last week.

Jackson, president of the PUSH (People United To Save Humanity), a national human rights organization and an associate of the late civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has been traveling across the country telling youths, especially black youths, to become more active in their schools; more disciplined and thus more able to take advantage of today's opportunities.

The articulate 34-year-old native of Greenville, S. C., said today's challenge to youth is "to move up. By law, we have civil rights, but no way to economically fulfill them. You can move into any neighborhood, attend any college, but you can't afford them."

In summary, Jackson told many of our local high school youths that it's time to express their self awareness in a new way. The dashiki look, the "Superfly" lifestyles and the "do your own thing" mentality of the immediate past must be exchanged for the pursuit of excellence in our personal and academic lives.

Jackson noted also that his challenge to the pursuit of excellence does not stop with school children. He said teachers, parents and ministers must work together to create

an optimum learning environment. He encouraged teachers to deal with students with patience, care and understanding. He challenged parents to visit the school more frequently, create a home environment conducive to good study habits and to require that their children study more and look at television less.

On specific educational matters, Jackson criticized the state's competency test as a condition for high school graduation. He said the test simply reveal in an after-the-fact fashion what a student doesn't know, thus he suggested giving the tests to eighth graders and use their results to clarify deficiencies in the high school years.

Finally, Jackson told the more than 2,500 students to shout "I am somebody" and to accept the challenges necessary to make that statement true.

For these and similar words of encouragement that the Rev. Jesse Jackson has offered to thousands of youths and particularly black youths, the Post offers a sincere "THANKS."

We say "thank you Jesse Jackson" because too many have assumed that desegregation means automatic integrated quality education. This is not true and this has not happened, thus the pursuit must become an individual challenge to each youth supported by every adult involved, with and having an impact upon that youth's life, values and ambitions.

Parents, teachers, ministers and other adults, you too say thank you Jesse Jackson for a job and a commitment well done. pagess, then show your hopefulness

## Voteless People are Hopeless People

Among the many relevant observations made by the Rev. Jesse Jackson as the speaker for the 34th annual WBTV Convocation recently was that black voter participation

has taken on a new image. Specifically, he said black voter participation is "based on vested interests, more important than party solidarity." Thus blacks can and should look carefully at both the Republican and Democratic parties and should use political leverage for the change we seek.

Talk about "political leverage" or the change for the better we seek is meaningless unless people are registered to vote, study the issues, analyze the candidates' interpretations of those issues and then vote.

What we are suggesting here is that we have said so often in this column, black people must register and vote in much larger numbers if they expect to see positive changes in their own lives as well as that of their offsprings.

Thus, our appeal and concern in the May 2 primary election is not with who the candidates are but rather that you study the issues and vote for the candidate or candidates who best respond to those issues in terms of your needs and desires.

It is this kind of political awareness and behavior that can and does create positive change and can make a hopeless people a hopeful people.

Black people were for many years a legally voteless people and thus a hopeless people. Today, however, we can and should be a hopeful people because we are a voting people. You must decide, you must vote. Read the stories about the candidates and the issues on these pages, then show your hopefulness by voting on May 2

Remember, a voteless people are a hopeless people.

Vote May 2.

WHITEY COULD, FOR ALL INTENTS, AND PURPOSES PUT HIS GUNS AWAY. WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO KILL OURSELVES BETTER THAN HE CAN. NOW WE SEND EACH OTHER DEATH IN SMALL BAGS.

CLAYTON RILEY  
LIBERATOR



Time For ACTION In The Black Community

### Letters To The Editor

#### Retired Teacher Is Concerned?

#### Young People Being Brutalized

Dear Sir:

I am a retired teacher, a product of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System, and am a proud graduate of Second Ward High School.

When I was in elementary and junior high school, I never heard about Johnny, who couldn't read, nor did I hear about children who did not know the fundamentals of arithmetic. I didn't know about social promotions, but I did know that if one could not read, write, or do arithmetic, one certainly did not get promoted. I think that the schools need to return to the basic fundamentals which should be taught in the early grades instead of waiting until Johnny gets into high school to talk about his inability to function on certain levels.

We have problems in the schools now which need to be remedied. George Battle, Jr. has the prescription for this tragic illness. He has organized a program using this prescription involving 500 children. This program, which is the Gethsemane Enrichment Program, uses and is living proof that something can be done to help children get off on the right foot to get a head-start on life. He has been working on children's problems for three years and is getting positive results. A lot of talk is "cheap" but action is the key word.

Let's put somebody on the school board who is an educator, one who knows that the job can be done, one who

is already doing something about serious problems facing our children. George Battle is a man of action, accomplishment, experience, intelligence—young and energetic enough to get the job done. He is thinking about his own two small children while pushing forward so hard to make sure that good teaching is taking place in all areas under his control.

I was asked to run for the schoolboard, but as a senior citizen, even though I am not 65, I feel that I can better utilize my time by getting more people to register and vote in order to get a qualified people on this very important board. I have great respect for the aged, but there comes

a time when youth prevails and during these times, it takes youth to cope with the rising, new problems that are facing this school system—problems that we senior citizens are not accustomed to nor can adequately find solutions for. This is a new day, and a new kind of child has emerged with special problems and special needs. Put George Battle on the School Board and let him use the vast skills needed to deal with such problems on such a large scale. He definitely has the skills which are needed.

Alean McCorkle  
1139 Mulberry Avenue  
Charlotte, N. C.  
Tel: 334-0642

Thank you for the part you played in its success.

Sincerely yours,

Daisy S. Stroud  
Box 16027  
Charlotte, N. C. 28216

#### Sorority Expresses

#### Appreciation

Editors  
The Charlotte Post  
2604-B West Boulevard  
Charlotte, N. C.

Dear Editors:

We, Eva J. Shadd and Daisy S. Stroud, Co-chairpersons of Public Affairs for the Charlotte Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., would like to publicly express appreciation for the fine coverage your paper gave our 14th annual Debutante Cotillion.

Our sorority is dedicated to public service and the Cotillion is our major fund raising event.

#### Enjoyed Visit

Mr. William Johnson  
c/o The Charlotte Post  
2606-B West Boulevard  
Charlotte, N. C. 28208

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I appreciate the opportunity to visit you at the office, and I enjoyed reading the article you printed about my candidacy shortly thereafter. You were very kind to give me this opportunity.

Very truly yours,  
Frank B. Aycock, III

# as i see it

## Competency Base Testing Offer No Surprises

By Gerald O. Johnson

Now that the tabulations are in and the first results have been reported, the competency base testing offered no surprises.

The majority of tenth graders failing the test were Black. This happened in spite of the fact that Blacks are in a minority in the system. There are approximately 2500 Black tenth graders out of nearly 6700. 1420 Blacks failed the competency test. That's 57 per cent failure rate for Blacks. This figure compares with a 20 per cent failure rate by Whites.

Though the results were expected they still were quite alarming. The thought that CMS allows 1 out of every 2 Black students to enter the world unprepared.

The system is not directly at fault for the high failure rate. It is to blame for the social promotions that allow a person to receive a diploma without the ability to read what's on it.

The political pressures brought on the system by individuals who feel that Blacks are victims of the system and should not be held back are not justified and should be ignored. The school system can

not be held responsible for all the social ills confronting this country. It's only responsibility should be the education of the country's youth. In its attempt to be all things to all people it has turned out to be few things to hardly anyone at an exorbitant cost. If the system would set minimum requirements for graduation, allow only those students attaining such requirements to receive a diploma, then it would have served its function.

The high Black failure rate is not genetic. A similar outcome could have been predicted if the results had been broken down by income levels instead of by race. Out of the 2,300 students failing the competency test I am willing to bet they all fall within an income range. It just so happens that the majority of Blacks are poor.

From this we can conclude that the school system fails the poor.

The poor are not incapable of learning, however. George Washington Carver, Booker T. Washington, just to name a few came out of poverty. What is more they had no formal education until college. Yet, they became great men

was trying to recruit a coach.

Now that they have one let me say to Mr. Harris, welcome to "Bull Country" (that can be taken anyway you see fit). Also, the best of luck in your endeavors.

Let me hasten to add that Mr. Harris will have little success in the immediate future and only time will tell how he will fare in the long haul. His immediate problem is a late start. It would take a miracle worker to organize a team this late in the year and field a winner by Fall. So, don't expect it, Bull fans.

More seriously, though, is the fact that we doubt if Mr. Harris will have much success at JCSU. This is by no means a reflection on Mr. Harris but rather a comment on the ATHLETIC PROGRAM. A few of the top candidates interviewed for the job indicated that the school was not committed to a strong athletic program. Consequently, they refused the position. We do not know the terms of Mr. Harris' contract, except that it is annual. But if he is responsible for teaching classes as well as coaching, recruiting, and the like, then he is destined to fail. The man will be overworked. To have a

inspire of hardships and difficulties. What they had was determination and motivation.

It is these two ingredients that are lacking among many high schoolers. Without the two you are destined to fail. It is the responsibility of the community at large to stress the importance of education. Thus we all are obligated in helping CMS improve the competence of Black youth.

WELCOME TO WILEY HARRIS

I was overjoyed by the fact that JCSU finally contracted a football coach. At a time when most schools were winding down Spring practice, JCSU



Gerald Johnson

# TO BE EQUAL



## Inflation Vs. Jobs

Inflation's back again. That's the word from the President, from the media, and from shoppers. The big question now is what are we going to do about it? And the next question is who will make the sacrifices made necessary by the effort to control inflation?

If past history is any guide, the fight against inflation will take the form of relatively ineffective economy-wide measures, and the burden of the battle will be borne by poor people in the form of higher unemployment.

But past history need not be repeated. The traditional concept that you control inflation by letting unemployment rise has been proved wrong. We've had both high inflation rates and high unemployment rates.

It is questionable whether Congress has absorbed the lessons of the recent past. While likely to go over health, housing and job budgets with a red pencil, it is also likely to give defense spending a blank check and to pass some sort of farm bill that will raise food prices.

A grossly inflationary farm bill lost in the House, but some form of farm aid will probably go through this year. And it will come at a time when farm prices are beginning to turn higher, raising doubts that more federal subsidies are needed at all.

Farmers' protests were well publicized, but the real reason for their distress was not low prices. It was the mistakes many made during the last boom in farm prices. Some farmers went heavily into debt buying land and equipment at inflated prices, figuring that the boom caused by heavy Russian wheat-buying would never end. Of course it did, and many were left with huge debts.

But that's no reason for consumers to pay higher prices in order to bail out the farmers who speculated and lost. Huge agricultural businesses now get most of those federal subsidies and will benefit most from higher prices. Family farms should be helped where necessary, farm credit aid expanded, and poor shoppers should get price relief. Instead, blanket subsidies are proposed, and inflation will be fueled if farm prices keep going up.

Congress also wants a tuition tax credit, supposedly to relieve the middle class of the burdens of higher college costs. The result of a tuition tax credit would be to lessen college opportunities for the poor, subsidize some middle class families at the expense of others, and increase inflation.

There are plenty of other proposals from both Congress and the Administration that would wind up boosting the inflation rate. But there are plenty of ideas to control inflation without engineering another recession that would cost working people their jobs.

If both Congress and the Administration are so intent on cutting taxes, why don't they shift funds into a national pool for distribution to states that cut or eliminated sales taxes?

Ending state sales taxes would immediately bring down the cost of living. The poor pay a higher percentage of their incomes in sales taxes than do the affluent, so ending reliance on sales taxes would also help poor people and make state tax systems more equitable.

what it is going to do, then there is no hope.

I'm saying all this before the season starts to cut down on night club cussing when it does start.

## Telephone Rates Will Increase

Residence telephone rates for Southern Bell's North Carolina customers will increase 10 cents a month and business rates 25 cents a month, beginning April 26, as a result of an order issued April 17 by the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

In Charlotte, the basic monthly rate for residence telephone service will increase from \$8.70 to \$8.80, according to Royce Angel, Bell's local manager. The monthly business rate will increase from \$22.15 to \$22.40.

Service connection charges also are being revised to more closely reflect the work the telephone company must perform to establish the service.

As an example, Angel said, the service connection charge for residences where all wiring and jacks must be installed will increase from \$25.50 to \$31.10.

For residences in which telephone wiring and jacks are in

place—and the customer picks up his or her telephone at a Southern Bell Phone Center Store—the service connection charge will be \$15.90. The installation charge for a business telephone will increase from \$33.40 to \$40.00. Savings for business customers, similar to those for residence customers, on wiring and jacks can be realized if these facilities are in place. Angel pointed out that basic monthly rates have been adjusted for some local service items. Rates for Touch-Tone service were among those restructured and some customers who have this service may experience additional increases. The monthly rate for business extensions will increase slightly, from \$1.90 to \$1.95 per month. Today's order by the Utilities Commission resulted from a request by Southern Bell in August, 1977 for \$33.7 million in additional revenue.

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