

Tony Brown's COMMENTS

Should Jackson Run For President?

If Jesse Jackson wants to be President, he should run for President.

Jackson is now at a point - due to his success in attracting and getting out the black vote - that he must decide between being a power broker at the Democratic convention and running as an Independent for President.

I must admit that as a political Independent and an advocate of independent black political power and a personal believer in independence ("God bless the child that's got his own!"), I am swayed by my bias in the direction of non-dependence.

By any political yardstick, Jackson has defied the odds and he has overcome them; in a few instances, he has overwhelmed them. Without paid television commercials, he has won significant percentages of primaries and caucuses. All of this, of course, is due to his ability to mobilize black people.

Also among his achievements is his ability to advocate homosexual and gay rights and abortion and develop a conservative black church base at the same time - no small feat. He has admitted to using an ethnic slur and has not been harmed among blacks.

In his own party, he has defied the labor gods and the party bosses with his call for new rules and has hurt both of his party's frontrunners by siphoning off the black vote.

Under Democratic rules, he received 17 percent of the 35 delegates in Arkansas, but he got 34 percent of the votes. But in Mississippi, he won more delegates than Walter Mondale or Gary Hart. The rules have worked for and against Jackson, but have not diluted the enormous impact of record-black turnouts in the primaries.

Although Jackson's projected 300-odd delegates will give him, perhaps, the balance of power at the convention, they will not give him the nomination. With all of this black success under his belt, Jackson must face the future and reality.

He must now turn his voting bloc over to Mondale or Hart, the likely winners at the convention.

Or he must keep the black vote and run against Ronald Reagan and the Democratic winner in November. For the first time, he would truly be a candidate for President. But Jackson's fears are that he would be blamed if Reagan were to win.

Mondale cannot beat Reagan. Hart would have a good chance, but Hart probably can't get the nomination. That's the real dilemma of the Democratic Party - not Jesse Jackson's running as an Independent.

If Jackson does stay in the party - as he has said he would - he faces the awesome problem of turning his followers over to Mondale or Hart. Reagan, of course, would serve as the bad guy. Jackson would aim at Reagan and try not to look like a campaign assistant to his former peers.

Jackson will have great difficulty, again, pulling that one off.

"I am at the apex of the triangle," Jackson boasted when speaking of his peer relationship to Mondale and Hart, "and that is the very opposite of (blacks) being taken for granted by the Democrats or written off by the Republicans."

White Democrats will never own the black vote again - thanks to Jackson. Some black will always run from now on. The Republicans on the other hand, are terrified that blacks will turn out the vote and beat them from City Hall to the White House in November. Jackson has also demonstrated that in solving one dilemma, he has created another. He may have to play it safe and support the white choice of his party.

... "Tony Brown's Journal" TV series can be seen on public television Sunday, on Channel 42 at 5 p.m. It can also be seen on Channel 58, Sunday, at 6:30 p.m. Please consult listings.

Hanna's Newest Group To Make Premiere Performance

Bill Hanna's newest musical group, The Jazz Quintet makes its premiere performance April 5 at 12:30 p.m. in Rowe Recital Hall at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Admission is free.

The Jazz Quintet features Hanna at the piano; Barry Gordemer, drums; James Hammond, bass; Jimmy Duckworth, guitar and Bill Crowell, tenor saxophone.

"We play it all," says Hanna. "Ballads, be-bop, the works - dynamite material from the last 30 years, and we're good," he adds with a wink.

Hanna is also quick to point out that two members

of the group received recent honors for their performances with Hanna's UNCC Jazz Ensemble. Duckworth and Crowell, along with Chris Heavner, trombone, were picked as outstanding soloists on their particular instruments at the UNC-Chapel Hill Jazz Festival. The

weekend competition for high school and college students included competitors from across the state.

In addition to receiving top honors in three of nine categories, UNCC's Jazz Ensemble received an overall "one" or "superior" rating.

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Spring Concert


UNCC's Spring Concert "Jam-up" will be held on Friday, April 6, in the Charlotte Coliseum. The bands will be Spyro Gyra, The Producers, and Shannon.

The concert will start at 7 p.m. Ticket prices are as follows: students free with valid I.D., faculty-staff \$3, and general public \$6.

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