

What Kind Of Impact Is Superstar Jackson Making On Today's Youth?

Just about everybody has heard of Michael Jackson or seen his Pepsi commercials on TV. There's no doubt the superstar is having an impact of today's youth, but what kind of impact? And what do people think of all the fuss being made over the singer-dancer?

Post reporter Audrey Lodato took to the streets to find out what area residents think about Michael Jackson. Here's what they had to say:

Oscar Alexander, Ross Avenue, unemployed: I think he needs the publicity. He presents a nice image.

Julius Nash, Rosethorn Lane, delivery: I don't see why so many people are making a fuss over him. I couldn't see paying all that money to see one person. But I do like to see black people do good. He gives a good image to young people. Most want to grow up to be like him. He's out there making money.

Grady Hannah, Bessemer City, barber: I think it's great. More power to him. He's kind of like Elvis Presley--lots of people were against his fame and fortune in the fifties. I was in Europe in the military then and you could see the



Oscar Alexander jealousy. But Jackson's achieved something. He has a good, clean image. His concerts haven't reeked of drugs, at least not to my knowledge.

Geraldine Belton, The Plaza, Radiator Specialty: I think he's great, being a millionaire before he's 30. As far as I know, he's doing something great for the kids. He's free of drugs, doesn't indulge in



Julius Nash alcohol, lives a nice, clean life - it's a good image for young people.

Robert Byrd, S. Tryon, bus driver: He's not all that big. All that money they put into that commercial isn't going to make people buy that product any more. It's too outrageous. He's turned these girls into zombies.

Norma Gardner, Rosevine Place, waitress: He's not just throwing his



Grady Hannah money away, he's giving it to charity. He's a good influence. He lets young people know there's more than the streets, drugs, and alcohol.

Tonya Edwards, Park Road, student: I think he's great and wonderful. He needs to slow down and be careful of what he's doing or something might happen to him.

Terry Haynes, Roddy Avenue,



Geraldine Belton brickmason: I think he's all right. It'll probably end pretty soon. He's been a pretty good influence. He's not into drugs and he's not turning anybody else onto drugs.

Even three year old Brandon Diggs of Kings Park Drive knows about Michael Jackson. He likes "Beat It" and "Thriller." Asked what he thinks about the star, Brandon replied, "I want to dance



with him."

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The program is designed for persons pursuing the Master of Divinity or the Master of Religious Education degree.

Registration for first semester will be on Tuesday, August 28, from 7-10 p.m. at the church. Classes will be held each Tuesday and Thursday from 7-10 p.m.

Each applicant for this program must present evidence of graduation from an accredited college or university, with a bachelor's degree or its equivalent. (+) It is an outreach program created to assist those persons seeking to train for the Christian ministries on a part-time

basis. For additional information and admission application, contact Dr. W. F. Lawrence Jr., Dean, Hood Theological Seminary, 800 West Thomas Street, Salisbury, N.C.

(+) Students in the equivalent category shall not exceed 10 percent of the total number of persons enrolled in the degree level courses (on the parent campus and in the extension program). The equivalent status will be evaluated on an individual basis by the Dean on the recommendation of the Admissions

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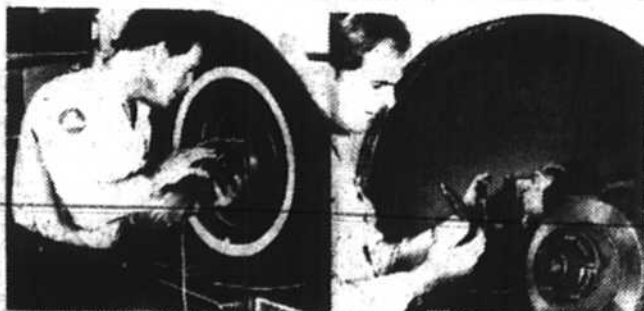
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