



THE CHARLOTTE POST

"The Voice Of The Black Community"

Volume 13, Number 20

THE CHARLOTTE POST - Thursday, October 15, 1987

Price: 50 Cents

Davis Comes Up Short In Runoff To Clodfelter

By Herb White
Post Staff Writer

Although he came up short in the District 1 runoff, Bob Davis hasn't soured on politics.

"When you enter the political arena, you have to have the mindset that you hope to win but that you can lose," he said. "I think I could have served District 1 very well and I hoped that I could win."

Dan Clodfelter, a 37-year-old lawyer, defeated Davis Tuesday in the Democratic primary with 1,672 votes to 1,162. Because there will not be a Republican challenger on the Nov. 3 ballot, Clodfelter is assured of a seat on Charlotte City Council.

Voter turnout was better than expected, with both campaigns bringing in more supporters than in the Sept. 22 primary. More than 13 percent of registered voters going to the polls compared to about 11 percent for the first primary.

Davis led the field in the first primary, gathering 1,139 votes while Clodfelter finished second with 1,009. The second time around, Clodfelter enjoyed a huge

See Davis's Bid On Page 2A



Gardner

Gardner Named To State Post

RALEIGH - Governor Jim Martin has announced the appointment of Roosevelt Gardner, Jr. to the N.C. Human Relations Council (HRC).

The 20-member council serves to create an attitude and climate which will promote the opportunity for social and economic equality for North Carolina residents and serve as a focal point for developing, maintaining and improving human relations.

Gardner 34, of Charlotte, is employed with United Insurance Company of America. He is active in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System by serving as chairman of the Nominating and Evaluating Committees of the Chapter I Program. Gardner is also a member of the International Management Council of which he serves as chairman of the House Committee. He is president of Westery Hill Elementary School PTA, and coaches Little League Football for the Westchester Athletic Association.

His term of office will expire June 30, 1989.

Jesse Jackson Makes It Official

By Jalyne Strong
Post Managing Editor

The rallying cry for Jesse Jackson has changed.

In 1984, when Jackson first decided to seek the Democratic nomination for U.S. President, (an unprecedented move for a black man) Jackson's predominantly black supporters chanted, "Run, Jesse run!"

Last Saturday, in Raleigh, NC, Jackson officially announced he would enter the race for the nomination in 1988, and a new group of racially diverse supporters cried out, "Win, Jesse win!"

"Can we nominate Jesse Jackson for President?" asked Dick Hatchett, Director of the Jesse Jackson Exploratory Committee. The thousands of people who filled the Raleigh Civic and Convention Center responded, "Yes!"

"Can we do it? Will we do it?" he exhorted. "Yes!" yelled the crowd.

"Many people say they'd vote for Jesse Jackson...but..." claimed Vance Hartke a retired U.S. Senator. "And we all know what the 'but' means."

"But I say, if not now...when? If not here...where? If not us...who?"

The people assembled in Raleigh to hear Jackson's formal announcement appeared to answer they will vote for Jackson in America in 1988.

Jackson, the front runner for the Democratic nomination, is buoyed by his supporters confidence in him. His supporters feel assured that Jackson, who made a successful run in 1984, has every chance of a win in 1988.

The crowd in Raleigh gave the first indication from where this confidence comes. Seeming to thumb their noses at the white media for its attempts to submerge Jackson's candidacy in 1984 by reporting "there was no rainbow" Jackson supporters presented every facet of the "rainbow" at this rally.

Speakers from almost every American ethnic group gave impassioned declarations that Jackson was their "leader" this time around.

Said an Asian-American, "When two men killed a Chinese American, Vincent Chin, in Detroit because they said he was taking their jobs, Jesse Jackson was the only national leader who condemned this grave injustice."

"There is only one man who can change the direction of this country," she concluded. "Jesse Jackson is my leader!"



Gospel singer Tremaine Hawkins led thousands of Jesse Jackson supporters in a song of solidarity for the first black man to run for the Presidency of the United States. Jackson supporters, assembled

in the Raleigh Civic and Convention Center, linked arms depicting the strength of the Rainbow Coalition. Photo By Calvin Ferguson

A Jewish woman added, "A lot of us know racism and anti-Semitism are twins. Jesse Jackson is my leader!"

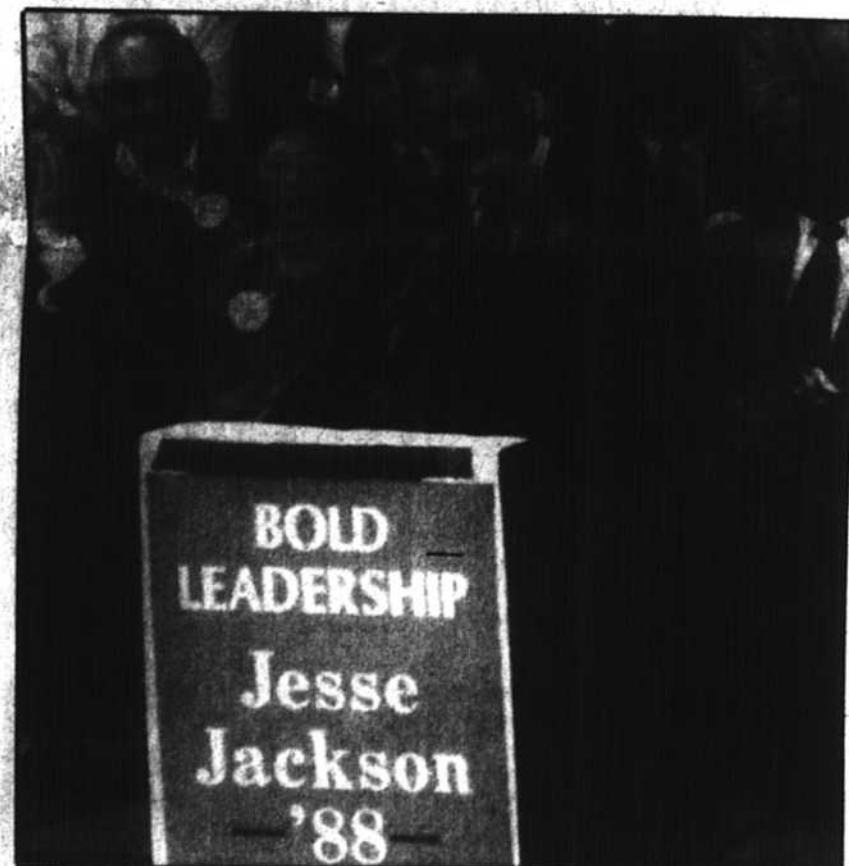
A Native-American man proclaimed, "Jesse Jackson is our brightest star and best hope."

Representatives from Women's movements, the Hispanic community, the disabled and handicapped community all announced Jackson as their leader. Banners on display read "Haitian Americans for Jesse Jackson," "Labor For the Rainbow," and "Arab-Americans for Jesse Jackson."

The sizable number of whites in attendance, a group conspicuously absent from the 1984 campaign, joined in the rally for Jackson with as much fervor as the other groups. If the rally drove home one point it was the fact that Jackson is entering the 1988 race with a much broader-base of support than in 1984.

These supporters are responding to a Presidential candidate who feels he has an agenda that is speaking to the basic needs of all Americans. As Jackson has said, "We have found that common ground; a new extended family united on a common agenda of jobs, peace and justice."

In 1984, Jackson spoke primarily to black voters, centering on racial and civil rights issues. Even with that narrow scope he won 3.2



Jesse Jackson

Photo By Calvin Ferguson

million primary votes (compared to Mondale's 6.8 million and Hart's 6.2 million); he won five states: the District of Columbia, Virginia, South Carolina, Louisiana and

Mississippi. In addition, Jackson is credited directly for adding 2 million new Democratic voters to the rolls.

For 1988, Jackson appears not

to be abandoning the racial issues but he is making comparisons to more universal problems.

For example, in his speech he noted, "Twenty-five years ago the critical issue threatening to tear our country apart was racial violence. The south was the battleground, but the war against racial violence was a national war."

"Economic violence is the critical issue of our day! When plants close on workers without notice, and leave them without jobs or training for new jobs--that's economic violence. When three to five million Americans are on the streets and homeless--that's economic violence..."

And the message is working. The Roper Poll of 12 southern states indicated a growing acceptance of Jackson's "economic justice, invest America" message among whites. The Roper Poll also showed him with 30 percent of the Hispanic vote.

At the rally, a film depicting Jackson's public life was shown. It was a chronicle of his rise from a student leader at North Carolina A&T University, through his work with the late civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., continuing on into his formation of Operation Bread Basket, PUSH, PUSH Excel, his 1984 negotiation with Syria's

See Jackson on Page 2A

Black Southern Bell Workers Meet With Executive

By Jalyne Strong
Post Managing Editor

"Many blacks, because of their backgrounds, wonder how to behave in a corporation," Jere Drummond, top executive over Southern Bell's N.C. operations was quoted as saying in a Charlotte Observer article, October 6, 1987.

To say the least, the comment was not well received by a large number of black Southern Bell employees.

Thursday, October 8, emotions concerning the article ran high at a meeting of approximately 125 black Southern Bell employees held at McDonald's Cafeteria.

"If the chief executive of Southern Bell is emboldened enough to make such a statement, we no longer have anything to lose," related Mario Evans, a black Southern Bell assistant manager, referring to why the group was meeting that night. "He (Drummond)

Evans



What was viewed as a derogatory comment made by a white, top executive of Southern Bell concerning blacks in the corporation, brought black em-

ployees out in protest. These employees met to discuss strategies for improving race relations.

is suggesting that blacks are not promotable and we are here tonight to stand up and say that is wrong."

Pointing out that there is strength in numbers, Evans claimed, that evening, the group's purpose was not to seek litigation but negotiation with Southern Bell.

Evans and a group of 19 black

Southern Bell employees of various department in the Charlotte and Gastonia areas met with Drummond and George Harmon, General Manager of Southern Bell Personnel for N.C., Monday.

"What was negative, turned out positive," Evans says. "I was pleased to have an opportunity to clear up any misunderstand-

ings. We've met together and have agreed to have a series of meetings to insure better relations."

About Drummond's printed statement, Evans now says, "This event is important as it served as a catalyst to dialogue which is helpful to all. Southern Bell is re-committing itself to eliminating cultural biases."

Cultural bias as opposed to racism was the root of the problem, according to Evans. "Blacks and whites see things differently because of distinct cultural backgrounds." The friction comes when white corporate leaders try to mold blacks to fit a certain image, suggests Evans.

"What Drummond said was stereotypical," Evans analyzes. "The statement was made probably because of a difference of perception."

Evans admits that Drummond's statement ignited smoldering race relation problems at the corporation. "A lot of informal complaints were floating around. The frustration level was high," he describes.

For this reason, Evans believes the controversy over the public statement "happened at a good time. It made us aware of the fact that the highest corporate leader was not getting all the information available," he says.

The meeting with Drummond was informational in that the corporate leader was reminded that black employees must be made to feel they belong with the compa-

See Southern Bell On Page 2A

INSIDE THIS WEEK

Editorials	8A
Lifestyles	8A
Church News	10A
Entertainment	1B
Sports	8B
Classifieds	14B