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The Charlotte Post

"The Voice Of The Black Community"

Volume 13, Number 41

THE CHARLOTTE POST - Thursday, March 10, 1988

Price: 50 Cents



PHOTO BY CALVIN FERGUSON

Jesse Jackson won big among Mecklenburg Democrats.

Jackson Wins Meck. Vote

Local Showing Propels Candidate To No. 2 In N.C.

By Herb White
Post Staff Writer

Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign came up a little short in North Carolina but proved to be a hit in Mecklenburg County in Tuesday's Democratic primary.

Tennessee Sen. Albert Gore edged Jackson in state-wide balloting with 234,595 votes to 222,494. Gore took 34 delegates to the party's Atlanta convention while Jackson got 31.

But in Mecklenburg, North Carolina's biggest county, Jackson won big, with 19,440 votes. His closest challenger, Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, got 11,883. Gore was third with 9,708.

Despite recent shake-ups in the Mecklenburg campaign, Jackson was the clear-cut favorite of county Democrats.

Last month, Cathy Chapman Hughes was named coordinator of the 9th Congressional District, replacing Phyllis Lynch. Young and Mike Fennell were named co-chairmen of the Mecklenburg campaign.

Even with the late start, Jackson almost reached the campaign's goal of 20,000 votes. This year's total represents an increase of 2,000 over 1984, Mecklenburg co-chairman Sam Young said.

"I'd just like to thank the people of Mecklenburg for standing out in North Carolina," he said.

"With the amount of time we had, we did all right."

Jackson's Mecklenburg campaign expanded its base of support beyond blacks into the white community, which resulted in his strong showing.

"We had an effort to increase the vote in the white community and we had an increase of 25 percent in the black boxes," Young said.

"We did expand the black voting base, but we turned out a lot of white voters."

Young said the Mecklenburg campaign was staffed primarily by a group of energetic volunteers, especially from Johnson C. Smith University.

They went out into the county, canvassing prospective voters and distributing information. Students, however, were only a part of the total team effort.

Churches played an important role in the campaign, as ministers urged their congregations to go to the polls. Young said that although most ministers did not suggest voting for Jackson, the church delivered plenty of support.

Now that the campaign trails moves on to Illinois Tuesday, the local camp will concentrate on making sure the Mecklenburg delegates stay loyal to Jackson

in Atlanta.

"We're trying to get delegates who have a firm commitment" to Jackson after the first ballot, Young said.

According to convention rules, delegates are required to support a candidate on the first ballot only. On subsequent ballots, delegates can cast their votes for any candidate.



PHOTO BY CALVIN FERGUSON

About 3,000 fervent supporters turned out last week for Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson's visit to the United House of Prayer on Beatties Ford Road.

Jackson Reaches Out To Voters

By William James Brock
Post Staff Writer

Supporters began filling the United House of Prayer for All People on Beatties Ford Road at noon last Saturday to hear presidential hopeful Jesse Jackson speak.

More than 3,000 loyalists jammed into the huge sanctuary to hear the fiery candidate blast the Reagan Administration and challenge his own Democratic Party regarding his candidacy.

The Democratic candidate, who carried Mecklenburg County on Super Tuesday and now has 364 delegates, is gearing up for the upcoming South Carolina primary.

"You know me," Jackson said. "And you didn't learn about me from television ads. You heard about me from sit-ins, stand-ins and civil rights marches. I've paid my dues. I've worked to help elect other Democrats--including Terry Sanford. I deserve native son status, and I'm here to claim my prize."

Jackson's campaign has heated up since he posted a surprise second place finish in the February 28 primary in Maine. Prior to that, political analysts had not taken the Democratic populist seriously as a national candidate.

How seriously Jackson is now being taken as presidential tim-

ber was evidenced by the television coverage accorded his Charlotte whistle-stop by the prestigious British Broadcasting Corporation.

"We're filming this for a television presentation next week," said BBC correspondent Tim Sebastian. "Jackson's surprisingly strong finish in Maine has turned the American presidential race into a worldwide event."

More than 100 whites dotted the House of Prayer gathering to hear Jackson expand upon his six-point populist message. Catherine McIntyre, a retired public library official and wife of

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Top Three Democrats Split Southern Pie; Bush Drives Dole Bananas With Sweep

By Herb White
Post Staff Writer

Now that Super Tuesday is over, let's survey the presidential landscape for a moment.

Jesse Jackson won. A surprise to everyone but him.

Al Gore won. He had to.

George Bush surprised himself by clubbing the opposition.

Michael Dukakis established himself as a national candidate.

Dick Gephardt, Pat Robertson and Bob Dole, bless them, were wiped out.

The Democratic field, first tabbed 'The Seven Dwarfs' a few months ago, has become The Big Three--Jackson, Gore and Dukakis--with Gephardt bringing up the rear.

Dukakis, running a big-money campaign, took Florida and Texas, the states with the highest yield of delegates. He also took his home state of Massachusetts, Idaho, Maryland and Rhode Island.

Dukakis's showing proves that he is a national candidate and

will get a big boost as the campaign heads into the industrial northeast and west.

After Tuesday's unofficial totals, Dukakis pulled 364 delegates to give him a field-leading 433.

Jackson, he of the shoestring budget and loyal following, expanded his base of support by winning Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Virginia and Alabama. Not bad for a guy who is given little chance of winning the nomination because he's black, too liberal, or both.

Unlike his 1984 campaign, Jackson has reached beyond the color line to offer something to all America--economic justice. And whites are buying the message, as evidenced by his Southern showing. In addition to carrying 97 percent of the black vote, Jackson took about 10 percent of the white vote in the old Confederacy.

Jackson now has at least 64 delegates going into the Democratic convention and is looking

more and more like the man who can make or break the party in November.

Al Gore, the man with the most

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Young Urges Changes In U.S. Economy

By Russell Clark
Post Staff Writer

Around 6:30 p.m. last Thursday at a stylish downtown hotel, Charlotte welcomed Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young with open arms at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League's Fifth Annual Equal Opportunity Awards Dinner.

After a series of interviews with the local media, Mayor Young took his platform seat beside other guests of honor.

Following the grand march, WBTV meteorologist Darrell Lloyd gracefully opened the ceremonies by introducing Charlotte's Mayor, Sue Myrick and County Commissioner Chairperson, Carla DuPuy who both offered warm greetings and gifts from the city.

During the delectable dinner, the Urban League highlighted its Word Processing Job Training program with a 15 minute film presentation. The promotional show featured black and white females who have landed good paying jobs in the local business community through the Urban League and was followed by an eloquent performance by Jane Powell.

An hour passed and the mood was swinging from jovial to tranquil as Vivian Williams introduced the keynote speaker.

Mayor Young quickly took to the podium mike and began to address the current presidential elections. "Right now in this political year, all we hear about

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N.C. Blacks Prime AIDS Victims

Blacks in North Carolina are twice as likely to contract the deadly AIDS virus as the population as a whole. This grim fact calls for a shift in the response by the black community to the disease, says a black journalist and talk show host.

Leaders of the black community must put aside their prejudices against homosexuals, says Cash Michaels, "and perceive the links between AIDS and drug abuse, teen pregnancy and other problems epidemic in the black community."

The most recent statistics released by the state reveal that since 1981 451 North Carolinians have been diagnosed as having AIDS. Forty-four percent of these have been black. A little over half those diagnosed have died.

The state does not keep statistics on the proportion of black drug users who have AIDS. But, says Michaels, who has prepared two series on AIDS for radio station WLEAM in Raleigh, "Because of the tendency to share needles, the rate of AIDS cases related to drug use has been recorded as

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Black Officials Under White Microscope

ATLANTA (AP) --- Black elected officials meeting in Atlanta Saturday renewed claims of a nationwide attempt to persecute them, with one official saying black officeholders are "under a microscope."



Michaux

"None of us are immune," said North Carolina state Rep. Henry "Mickey" Michaux. "If you are a black elect-

ed official, you are under a microscope. If you even think about doing wrong, someone will be after you."

Michaux, a former U.S. attorney, spoke to about 55 people attending the annual meeting of the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials at an Atlanta hotel.

Members of the association also renewed their pledge to equality and the black community.

Former Augusta Mayor Ed McIntyre, who was convicted of extortion and sentenced to five years in prison, said a techni-

cality in the law helped put him in jail.

Former Maryland Congressman Clarence Mitchell --- who was convicted along with his brother, Maryland Sen. Michael Mitchell, for fraud and conspiracy to obstruct a congressional investigation --- said he and his brother were unjustly singled out.

Federal investigation of black elected officials is causing negative perceptions in the black community, Mitchell said. McIntyre urged the audience to support anyone who is currently under investigation.

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