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Jesse Jackson Is The Frontrunner

One Week After Michigan A New World Has Dawned



Photo by CALVIN FERGUSON

Jackson currently holds the largest total number of delegates in the race for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

BY DONNA CASSATA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER
WASHINGTON (AP) --- Jesse Jackson's win in Michigan has sent a message to the Democratic Party that it can no longer ignore --- at the rate he's going, Jackson just might wind up as its presidential nominee this fall.

Political analysts say Jackson's almost 2-1 victory over erstwhile front-runner Michael Dukakis in Saturday's Michigan caucuses is a clear signal that the preacher-turned-politician is a very viable contender for the nomination.

Jackson, treated as an also-ran in 1984, has won in eight states so far this year --- Michigan, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Virginia, South Carolina, Alaska --- and in Puerto Rico's non-binding contest.

The string of victories is forcing the party to re-examine the theory that a black cannot be nominated for president in 1988.

"The Democratic voters are sending a very strong message to the party," said Ann Lewis, a Democratic strategist and informal adviser to the Jackson campaign. "The quality of leadership is something they like and admire. This is a referendum on him and a referendum he's winning."

The campaign-watchers also
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Photo by CALVIN FERGUSON

WHAT'S HOP-N-ING? Hop-n-ing is an educational program that combines handicap awareness and safety lessons and an opportunity for children to help Easter Seals. In Freedom Park last Saturday

children hopped to raise funds for Easter Seals. The children all attend Mama's Kids Daycare on West Blvd.

Education Cited As Priority Topic At NAACP Regional Conference

By Herb White
Post Staff Writer

Black students aren't getting the most from education, delegates to last week's NAACP regional conference said.

But it doesn't have to stay that way.

The delegates were part of a three-day conference at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Charlotte that drew participants from seven southeastern states.

Education was foremost in the discussion, with topics ranging from inequity in curriculum to the discrimination black educators face.

Discussion groups made up of students, and education professionals met to exchange ideas and voice their concerns. They later met with the moderators, Dr. Audrey Fisher-Brown and Regional Counsel Paula Bonds, to suggest a plan of action for the civil-rights group to address

problems.

"This is our way of assuring quality and equity for our black children," said Fisher-Brown, Education Specialist for Region V.

Despite a national push for quality education, black children still lag behind their white counterparts. Several factors play a role in the problem, from low teacher expectation to racism, Fisher-Brown said.

"It's terrible," she said. "It's really bad. In spite of all the reforms, there are no changes for black children."

Fisher-Brown said throwing money into the education system won't necessarily improve black performance in the classroom. Local and federal governments need to install programs designed to give every student a good education.

"Nothing has been written as far as an equitable education for



Fisher-Brown

black children," she said. Even if black children do well in the classroom, there is a

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PAC To Raise Money For Jackson

By Jalyne Strong
Post Editor

The 21st Century PAC recently announced its effort to raise \$4000 in three weeks for the Jesse Jackson for President Campaign. These efforts will take place simultaneously in five states: California, Illinois, Washington, New York and North Carolina.

Norma Smith, spokesperson for 21st Century PAC, said, "Jesse Jackson has mounted a historic campaign. I feel it is imperative that all Americans dig deep in their pockets and contribute to this historic undertaking."

Vernon Robinson, chairperson of 21st Century PAC for North Carolina, said, "This drive will target large contributors; those individuals who have already given the maximum contribution which is \$1000 or those who have given the maximum to

be matched with federal funds (\$250). Those who wish to provide additional financial support to Jackson can do so indirectly by contributing to the PAC."

In remarks to Macedonia Holliness Church in Winston-Salem, NC, Robinson related a story about his receiving an increase in his allowance when he brought his parents improved report cards. In an analogy, he said, "Last week, Jesse Jackson brought home straight A's from Michigan. We ought to make sure we increase his allowance."

Fund raising for Jackson is critical at this time. "Just at the right moment, too, Mr. Jackson is finally breaking into the financial big leagues..." reported the Wall Street Journal Tuesday. "Mr. Jackson traditionally runs on the proverbial shoe string, and until now this campaign has been no exception. But times

are changing. His campaign reported raising \$1.4 million in donations during January and February."

The 21st Century PAC, an independent bi-partisan political action committee, was founded in 1983 by a group of Howard University graduates to raise money to help finance campaigns of accountable Afro-American candidates in both parties at all levels of government.

The 21st Century PAC of North Carolina was established in 1985 and has recently targeted four State Senate races in order to double the Black Caucus in the North Carolina Senate.

Area contacts for this effort are: Cathy Hughes, Charlotte, 339-7545; Faiger Blackwell, Raleigh-Durham, (919) 229-5600; Peter Grear, Wilmington, (919) 768-4871.

Voters Deadline April 4

Registration deadline for the May 3 State & Local Primaries and School Board Election is Monday, April 4, 1988. Any change of address, change of name or change of party can be done at any branch of the Public Library, Mechanics and Farmers Bank, Town Halls in Matthews and Pineville or the Elections Office at 741 Kenilworth Avenue.

Of special interest is the new law in North Carolina that allows a political party to permit unaffiliated voters to vote in a party primary. The Republican Party has chosen to exercise this option and unaffiliated voters will be permitted to vote in the Republican primary on May 3, 1988.

Absentee Ballots are available for qualified voters by mail through Tuesday, April 26, 1988.

Qualified voters may apply for an absentee ballot and vote in the Elections Office beginning Tuesday, April 5 and ending Friday, April 29, 1988 at 5:00 PM.

For further information please contact the Elections Office at 336-2133.



Candidate James Baldwin talks with campaign strategist Clayburn Marshall outside Baldwin's recently opened headquarters.

Baldwin Issues Challenge

By Jalyne Strong
Post Editor

Actions show James Baldwin, Democratic candidate for Mecklenburg County Commission, District 2, is holding his own on the campaign trail.

He has opened campaign headquarters, held voter registration, and issued a challenge to another Democratic District 2 contender, Nasif Majeed, --- all within the last two weeks.

On Saturday, March 19, Baldwin officially opened his campaign headquarters at 1014

South Tryon St., suite 200.

It was during this opening that Baldwin told the press he challenges Majeed to take a stand on the issue concerning the third District 2 Democratic contender Bob Walton's record of "misconduct."

In late 1987, Walton, while serving as County Commissioner for District 2, was found guilty of assault in a case involving a young black male.

Baldwin challenged Majeed to take a public stand on that issue
See BALDWIN on page 2A

Charlotte Was Major Stop On Cotman's Alpha Inc. Presidential Campaign

By Jalyne Strong
Post Editor

Ivan Cotman of Detroit, Mich. was in Charlotte last week to attend the Southern Regional Convention of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

He also used this opportunity to push his campaign for presidency of this 100,000-member, nation-wide organization.

But Cotman prefers not to call his effort a campaign. He titles it a "crusade."

"I'm dealing with survival; strategies for young blacks to avoid teen pregnancy and drug abuse," said Cotman. "A crusade is always about survival."

An Associate Superintendent with the Michigan Department of Education, Cotman wants to lead the fraternity, "to be in a position to focus our resources on helping young black people. We can't rely on white resources. We must do it ourselves."

Says Cotman, "I believe our



Cotman

fraternity is most-equipped to do it."

Cotman also has interest in improving the fraternity's public image. The Alpha's have included on its roster of members such illustrious "brothers" as Martin Luther King Jr., U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall and Con-

gressman William Gray. But Cotman believes because of media portrayals---he points out Spike Lee's "School Daze"--- the public has a distorted view of what fraternities are about.

"I hope to present views to society, using the public media and public service time, to correct in the public's eyes, blacks and whites, about the contributions of fraternal organizations," said Cotman.

He is crisscrossing the nation on his "crusade" for the presidency of Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc. Yet, Cotman feels his stops in places like Charlotte are most beneficial. "The Southern region is the most well-educated, strategically placed, effective, large and resourceful assembly of brothers in the country. They must be mobilized first, before my crusade can be taken nationwide."

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Crime And Arrests Increase In N.C.

RALEIGH - North Carolina's crime rate is up an overall nine percent, according to preliminary annual statistics released by Attorney General Lacy Thornburg.

The survey of crime trends shows that reported crimes are up eight percent in the urban areas of North Carolina, and up ten percent in the rural areas, Thornburg said.

Thornburg said that the crime statistics also reveal a positive and encouraging trend.

At the same time as the crime rate increases, we are seeing an increase in the number of arrests by law enforcement officers. The police officers and sheriff's deputies are doing a

good job of clearing crimes with arrests, and they are doing their jobs in the face of an increased challenge," Thornburg said.

The arrest rate for reported

crime is up eight percent, the crime report shows. Arrest numbers increased the most for the crimes of rape, robbery and burglary.

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