

**POLITICAL FEATURE**

# Black Davidson College Student Finds Warm Reception In Republican Party

Dylan Glenn believes the Republican Party's ideology can bring greater political power to American blacks, and he's happy to find himself in their midst at a very young age. The 19-year-old Davidson College sophomore recently accepted a 12-month internship in the White House that begins in May.

The appointment is the latest in Glenn's rapid rise to Republican prominence. Just last May he was office-hopping in Washington looking for a job. But he knocked on the right door - James Pinkerton's - and ended up during the last eight months at the nerve centers of President Bush's campaign, the Republican convention and the inauguration. The dizzying series of events are leading Glenn toward a long-range goal of dedicating himself to government and eventually running for office.

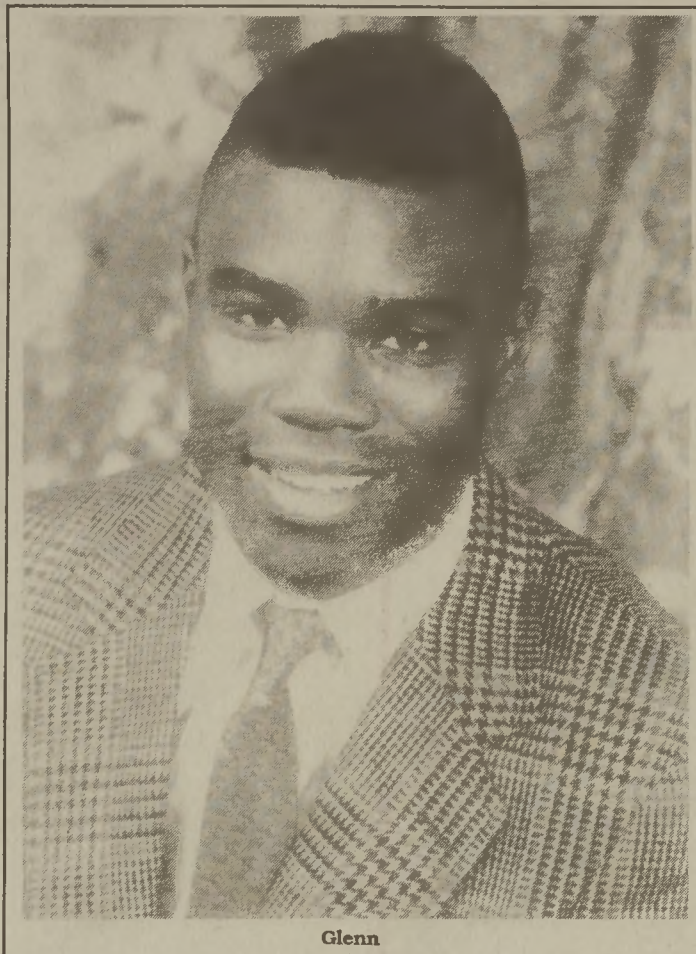
The Republicans are offering Glenn valuable entry into top-level national politics. In turn, he offers them the allegiance of hard-working, attractive, young, black man who shares their conservative ideology.

Beginning May 20, Glenn will become an aide to James Pinkerton, President Bush's deputy assistant in charge of policy planning. It's not the type of job you get by filling out an application. Glenn met Pinkerton by chance during a Washington job search last spring, and gained his confidence during long hours behind the scenes in Bush campaign headquarters and at the republican National Convention. Pinkerton said of Glenn, "He's one of the best we've got, a real All-American."

Glenn's political science professors at Davidson think he has a bright future with the Republicans. Associate Professor Tom Kazee said, "He has considerable experience for someone so young. He seems to understand politics as a process. The contacts Dylan is making now will definitely give him a boost. His youth and his ability to project self-confidence make a potent combination. I think he'll be able to leap up the rungs of the political ladder fairly adroitly."

Kazee also praised Glenn's early interest in politics, saying, "It's commendable that he wants to commit himself to politics. Not enough young people give politics the respect it deserves."

Asked about the secret of his success, Glenn said he listens well and tries to maintain good rapport with people. He admits that politics is a game of personalities, and he's happily hooked. "When I'm not working on it directly, I'm thinking about it," he said. "I'm always on the telephone calling Washington to let 'em know I care. I'm a political junkie now."



Glenn

Glenn has discovered that hard work is mandatory to curry the favor of a mentor like Pinkerton. As Pinkerton's right-hand man during the Bush campaign, he kept the same 6 a.m. - 1 a.m. hours as his boss. When Pinkerton gave him documents to copy, Glenn ran, rather than walked, to the copy machine. Once when he complained about the menial work assigned to him, Pinkerton reminded him, "The important thing is not that you're making copies, it's where you're making copies."

Glenn reflected on Pinkerton's remark as he worked there on the main floor of the Republican national campaign, an area sealed off by security guards to all but people like Frank Sinatra, Mohammed Ali and leading lights of the Republican Party. He thought about it some more in the campaign trailer at the convention as the party hierarchy seated around him considered Dan Quayle as Bush's possible running mate. He recalled it again as he sat four seats away from Donald Trump at Bush's inaugural, and he never again complained about any of his duties.

"You find out quickly that loyalty pays off in politics," Glenn said. His duties during the cam-

paign grew from copying documents to writing up summaries of evening news programs for consideration by Pinkerton, Lee Atwater and other campaign leaders. As a chief aide, Glenn said he was "basically an extension of Pinkerton." Glenn performed the important function of screening visitors and calls. "I had to know who he would speak to and who he wouldn't," said Glenn. "I learned an awful lot about who was who that way. As Jim came to trust me more, he let me stay in conversations with other people. And I'm real proud of the fact that during the inauguration he started introducing me as Mr. Glenn rather than Dylan."

His internship will keep him away from Davidson for a year, but he will return to campus to graduate in May 1991.

Then I'll go back to work for the campaign again," he said, referring to Bush's presumed reelection run in 1992.

The taste of political assistantship has him looking toward an elective office of his own, and he's already aiming toward running for something at age 29 in 1998. However, with the cost of a House of Representatives campaign at \$3 million and a Senate race averaging \$7 million, he

sees the need to work in the private sector and make some money and contacts before seeking office on his own.

Eight months of intense association with the Republican Party are giving Glenn visions of years of fruitful association ahead. It has affirmed a love of politics first stirred during his high school years at Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia, just outside of Washington. He serves at Davidson as a Kappa Alpha fraternity senator in student government, and is co-chairman of Davidson's Young Republicans.

Glenn's life of politics is evident to John Haskell, an assistant political science professor with whom he shares hours of banter. Haskell said, "Apparently Dylan has succeeded in Washington because he's a good hard worker. He's articulate and very likable."

As a black Republican, Glenn feels like he has a good seat on a bandwagon that will become more crowded during the Bush administration. The Republican approach to economics can help black Americans gain social equality, Glenn said. "Blacks will have to be economically equal to gain social equality, and the Republicans will help do that."

He realizes that he serves as a representative of the black race as well as a party loyal. "It would be silly to say I don't have the interest of blacks in mind," Glenn said. "But I feel comfortable with Republicans because I think the Bush administration will be conscious of the black agenda. He's very serious about the welfare of black Americans and earning the black vote."

## Black Caucus To Meet Sun.

The Black Political Caucus will meet at First Baptist Church-West, Oaklawn Ave., on Sunday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, call Bob Davis, chairman, at 568-4981 or Anna Hood at 333-4685.

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## Black Voter Turnout And Registration Rates Fall In Presidential Election

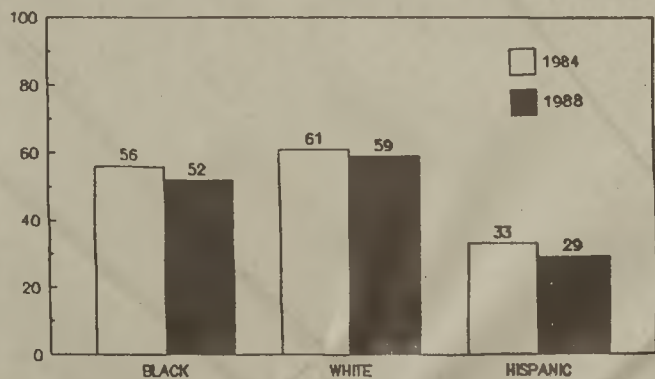
Fifty-two percent of the 19.7 million voting-age blacks went to the polls in last November's general election, compared with 56 percent in 1984, according to a report from the Commerce Department's Census Bureau.

The white turnout dipped from 61 percent to 59 percent, while the rate for Hispanics fell from 33 percent to 29 percent. The report notes that 37 percent of Hispanics in the survey were not U.S. citizens and therefore could not register.

Black voter turnout was higher in the North and West (56 percent), than in the South (48 percent). Among whites, 60 percent voted in the North and West, and 56 percent in the South.

Sixty-five percent of voting-age blacks reported they had registered for the 1988 presidential election compared with

**Percent Reported Voting, by Race and Hispanic Origin: November 1984 and 1988**



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

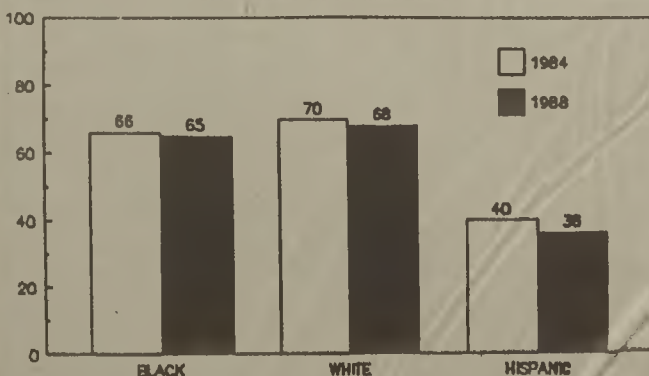
66 percent in 1984. White registration fell from 70 percent to 68 percent, and among Hispanics it declined from 40 percent to 36 percent.

The turnout rate for the nation was 57 percent in 1988, down from 60 percent in 1984. It is the first drop in a presidential election since 1976, and marks the lowest voting rate recorded by the bureau since it began taking this survey in 1964.

The report notes that although official counts of the number of votes actually cast last November were not available when the report was written, news media have indicated that about 50 percent of voting-age persons went to the polls.

The report notes that data from surveys are subject to sampling variability and response errors.

**Percent Reported Registered by Race and Hispanic Origin: November 1984 and 1988**



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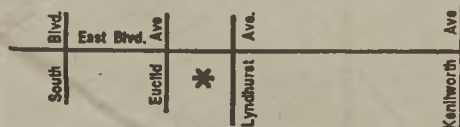
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