

Elections '88

SPECIAL UNITY SUPPLEMENT

JULY 1988



A New Day

United and disciplined for victory in Atlanta

Jamala Rogers

ATLANTA — The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson was greeted by thousands in an emotional welcome to Atlanta, as he arrived on board the Jackson Action Rainbow Express. Jackson's caravan received tumultuous welcomes as it passed through Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee. It was a fitting arrival in Atlanta for a campaign that began in the snowy fields of Iowa, and astounded the media and political pundits as it amassed nearly seven million votes across the country. A campaign that kindled hope in a new generation as it laid the foundation for a new electoral majority which can change the face of America.

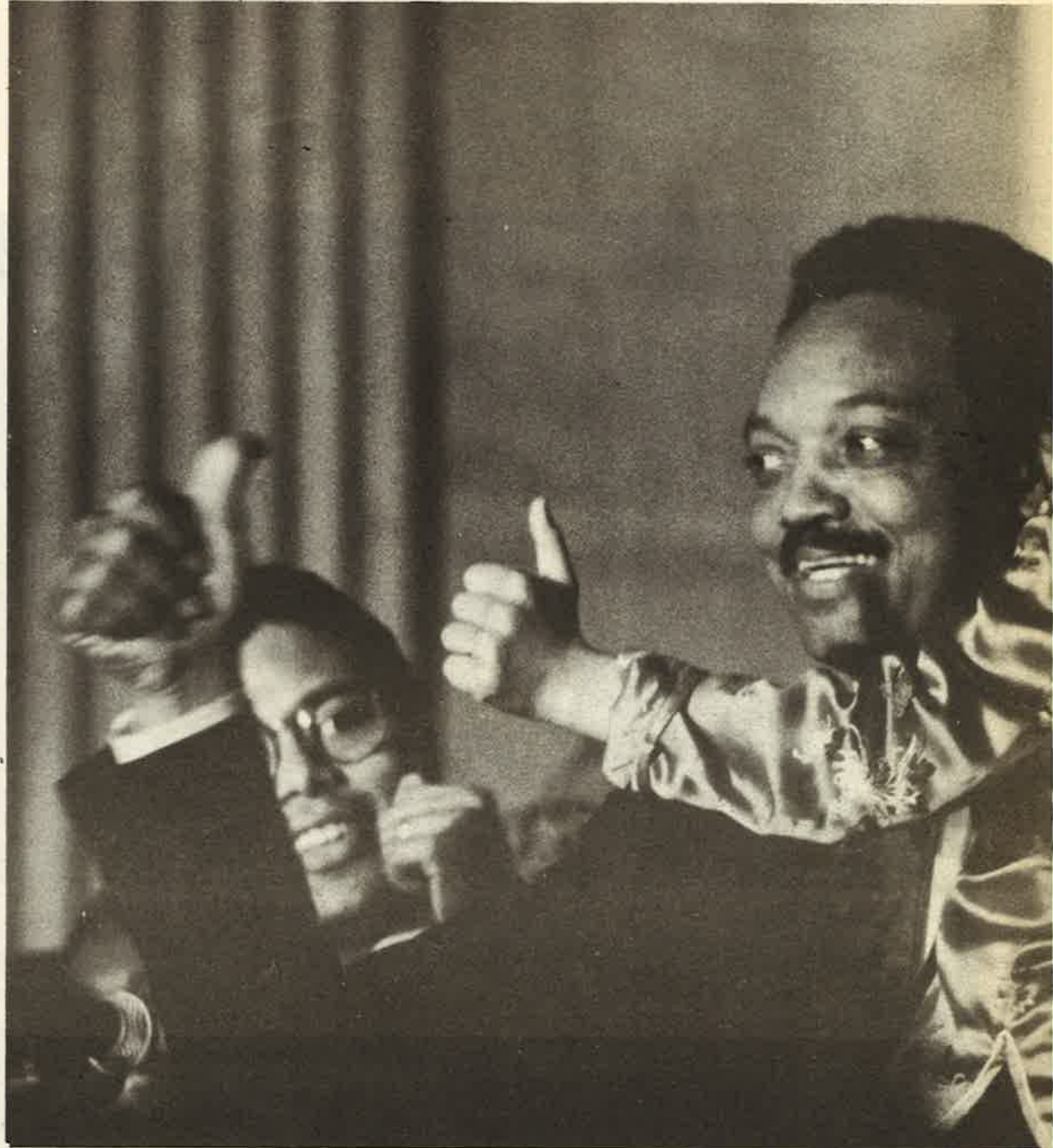
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Birmingham, Alabama.



UNITY PHOTO: LEON SUN

Richmond, California



UNITY PHOTO: SONNY KIM

Tarrytown, New York.

New York, New York.

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It has been a difficult campaign. Outspent by his rivals \$6 to \$1, outstaffed 3 to 1, the victim of orchestrated attacks by racists like New York's Mayor Ed Koch, dismissed and disrespected by the media and white Democratic Party leadership, Jesse Jackson and his campaign still succeeded in waging a race which fired the imagination and hope of the country. The Jackson campaign won over 1,100 delegates, 88 congressional districts and 13 states, with strong second place finishes in 33

other states.

The Jackson campaign won major changes in the Rules Committee towards fairer elections in 1992, including elimination of the undemocratic winner-take-all and bonus elections, and a reduction of superdelegates by 244 (eliminating all Democratic National Committee members from superdelegate status).

Bentsen

It has been a difficult campaign. Gov. Michael Dukakis chose Lloyd Bentsen for the vice presidential nomination, failing to extend the minimal courtesy of notifying Rev. Jackson prior to the press. In



UNITY PHOTO

New York, New York.

doing so, Dukakis demonstrated not only his desire to mollify the right wing of the Democratic Party, but also an arrogance, ignorance, racism and gracelessness under pressure which bodes ill for his ability to pull together the kind of coalition necessary to defeat Bush in November.

Sen. Bentsen of Texas, described as a "moderate," supports contra aid, mandatory prayer in public schools, limitation of busing for school

desegregation, and is a major recipient of PAC money.

Gerald W. McEntee, president of the AFSCME union, said, "His voting average started out rather low, but it's been good ... in the last few years." However, most Jackson delegates are unconvinced as the Democratic National Convention begins in Atlanta.

Rev. Jackson said, "The Governor's recommendation of Lloyd Bentsen represents his inclusion of the right wing of the Democratic Party in his campaign. We have yet to see any efforts to include the progressive wing of the Democratic Party."



UNITY PHOTO: LEON SUN

Selma, Alabama.



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Jesse Jackson's address to the NAACP

The Rev. Jesse Jackson addressed the 79th National Convention of the NAACP on July 12 in Washington, D.C. Calling his speech a "Report on progress made," Rev. Jackson touched on the major themes of his 1988 campaign.

Following are excerpts from this speech.

I come back to my family to report on our progress. I come to share thoughts and take stock. I come back home to share tonight as families must. I offer no special favors, but shared concerns. You are not only in my heart, you are in my blood. We speak tonight as family. Empowerment.

We've made great progress, but our society is still too much segregated by race, too much violence still scars our neighborhoods. In the last years, our progress has been slowed as Reagan and Bush have sought to turn back the clock. Housing segregation has changed little in 20 years, and continues to breed inequality and reinforce isolation. Public schools have become more segregated, not only for Blacks, but also Hispanics. We've come a long way since Montgomery, but the road untrod is still too long.

The garbage workers in Memphis had their civil rights, they had jobs, they worked every day. But when they got through working, they could not afford a decent house. When they got through working, they could not educate their children. When they got through working, they could not afford health care. When they got through working, they could not buy a balanced meal. This is the great unfinished business of our movement for justice. There must be economic justice. We must end economic violence to fulfill our basic civil rights and our quest for social justice.

People say to me, "You're fighting against the odds," they say. "Don't you know?" they say. Well, don't they know? I was born against the odds. I stand here against the odds. I'm an odds-breaker and a dream-maker, and I will never surrender, I will never turn around.

Why will my name go in nomination? Because my grandmother who is 80-plus years old . . . I want her to feel good about herself one more time. Why will my name go in nomination? Because when I win, you win. Because if I can win, your child can win. Why will my name go in nomination? So that every child will know that he or she can make it from the guttermost to the uttermost. I challenge young America.

I know it gets tough in these ghettos. I know your homes may be split. But I understand. I was born to a teenage mother, who was born to a teenage mother. I understand. Couldn't have a doctor, had to have a midwife. Couldn't go to a hospital, born in a house, and it was cold on an October day. I understand. Born in a three room house, bathroom in the backyard, slop jar by the bed. I understand. Wallpaper used for decoration, never. Always for a windbreaker. I understand. Skeleton key for every home in the neighborhood. I really do understand.

My mother went to work every day with runs in her stockings so that I could have on matching socks so I wouldn't be shamed in the classroom. I really do understand. My teachers made less money by law than the white teachers, but I still learned to read and write and cope with those who go to Yale and Harvard and wherever it is they go. I understand.

Hold your head high, don't you turn back. These storm clouds may roll, you may have to give up the right to the road, but don't you surrender. We're too close to where we're going and too far from where we've started. It was never promised that the road would be easy, but He did not bring us this far to leave us here. With that faith, I will carry on. With that faith, I will never bow down my head. With that faith, I will never surrender. I may, may not be on the ticket, but I'm qualified. Hold on, the morning comes!

Jackson delegate Carmelita Gutierrez said, "I cannot support Bentsen. He supports the contras who are killing Nicaraguans every day. I see the importance of defeating Bush. For myself, I support Rev. Jackson for the presidency and for the vice presidency."

Assemblywoman Max-



UNITY PHOTO: BEN FERRIS

Corpus Christi, Texas.

ine Waters, speaking on the ABC program *Nightline*, expressed the sentiments of the overwhelming majority of Jackson supporters when she said, "Dukakis has had the opportunity to deal with Jesse Jackson in a fair and up-front way. He clearly has not done that. Unless Jesse Jackson and his constituency are working hard for Dukakis, there cannot be a Democrat in the White House."

Waters added, "We have some minority planks that we're going to push forward with . . . We're going to vote for Jesse Jackson. His name is going to be

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From Iowa to Atlanta

A Year of Victory for Jesse Jackson and the People

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placed in nomination. We're not going to move from that position. . . . I don't think Dukakis understands the importance of Jesse Jackson and the kind of constituency he has built, and what it means in this day and in this time. . . . This is a new day and a new way, and it won't be business as usual."

Assemblywoman Waters also did not rule out efforts to place Rev. Jackson's name in nomination for the vice presidency. Already a petition is being circulated by Jackson delegates in the Southwest to gather the necessary 300 signatures (with no more than 50 signatures per state) to place Jackson's name in nomination for the vice presidency on Thursday, July 21.

Also, as of July 13, the Jackson campaign had stopped all platform negotiations, and delegates expect to fight on the floor for some or all of the Jackson minority planks. As the more than 1,100 Jackson delegates and the Jackson campaign gather their forces in Atlanta, there is a determination to fight and to continue to win, and to build the people's movement.

The long road to Atlanta

In reply to reporters who questioned why his campaign is continuing,

Rev. Jackson replied, "The quest for justice and peace is endless. Those who look for the campaign to end are lacking a sense of history."

Jesse Jackson and his campaign are the continuation of the historic fight for equality, justice and democracy of the African American people — a fight which began with the struggle against slavery, leading to the

revolutionary promise of the Civil War and then to the betrayal of Reconstruction and the establishment of Jim Crow segregation. This struggle has continued from that time on. The African American people have led the struggle for democracy, not only for themselves, but for everyone in America.

From the beginning of this decade, Jackson and the Black community have spearheaded, led and provided the main force for the difficult fight to turn the tide against the right-wing onslaught ushered in by the Reagan administration. From the anti-apartheid movement, to the election of Harold Washington in Chicago in 1983, to Jackson's run for the presidency in 1984, to the Democratic victory in the Senate in 1986 and the defeat of Bork in 1987, and on to the Jackson '88 campaign, this powerful movement has brought together the democratic aspirations of a new progressive electoral majority — of workers, farmers, women, students, and people of all nationalities.

In his 1988 campaign, Jackson forged a powerful united front of African Americans, bringing together all progressive sectors of the Black community — from businessmen like Percy Sutton and John Johnson, to

the Chicano/Latino vote in California, and nearly 50% of the Chicano/Latino vote in East Los Angeles. Among white voters, Jackson doubled, tripled, even quadrupled his vote, reaching a high of 35% in Oregon. Even in the historically conservative South, Jackson's 1988 white vote grew immensely. Jackson did phenomenally well among Asian Americans, long considered a "conservative" voting group, capturing 46% of the Asian vote in California and raising substantial amounts of money.

**A new day,
a new way
we will never
surrender**

The Jackson campaign is not a conventional political campaign which serves the ambitions of a politician. The Jackson campaign is about democracy, about hope, about a new day.

At the 79th convention of the NAACP in Washington, D.C., Jackson



Pittsburg, California.



Dallas, Texas.

Black elected officials, to athletes like Magic Johnson and artists like Bill Cosby and Stevie Wonder. Above all, Jackson galvanized the African American masses, gave expression to their desire for self-determination, and forced the cohesion and accountability of all progressive sectors of the Black Liberation Movement.

This united front captured over 95% of the Black vote for Jackson. From this strong base, Jackson went on to win 25% of the Chicano vote in South Texas, 36% of



Newark, New Jersey.



Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



Houston, Texas.



Santa Fe, New Mexico.

PHOTO: LISA LAW PRODUCTIONS 1988

said, "On June 20, fulfilling the hopes and dreams and answering the prayers of Fannie Lou Hamer and Medgar Evers, my name will go in nomination for the Presidency of the United States of America. When my name goes in nomination, our foreparents cry out from their graves. When my name goes in nomination, our struggle is being vindicated. When my name goes in nomination, we're not making hysteria, we're making history. When I win, you win. We're too close to where we're going, and



New York, New York.

UNITY PHOTO

too far from where we've come from to turn back now. I will never surrender."

At the convention, there will be many attempts to divide the ranks of Jackson's delegates and supporters. Jackson's large and disciplined contingent of delegates needs to remain firmly united, along with

the many Jackson supporters gathered in Atlanta, so they can represent the interests of Jesse Jackson and of the seven million people who worked and voted for him, and who are watching from home.

The movement which began when the first slave stood up in the South, through the lives and struggles of W.E.B. DuBois, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks and Fannie Lou Hamer, joined by fighters for other oppressed people, such as Juan Cortina, continues on. We should fight hard, aim for victory,

keep our eyes on the prize, and above all, keep our sights on building a movement to ensure the full realization of the hopes embodied in Jesse Jackson's 1988 campaign: liberation, jobs, peace, equality and justice.



Chicago, Illinois

UNITY PHOTO



Hartford, Connecticut

UNITY PHOTO: DOUG BRUGGE

Unity is there

From the point of view of
the people in struggle



ROGER L. GREEN

New York State Assemblyman
Chair of the New York State Black
and Puerto Rican Caucus
Brooklyn, New York

“Unity plays an important role in the movement for human rights and progressive change by providing news, analysis and direction. Your coverage of the Jesse Jackson campaign and the struggle for racial justice has been both timely and constructive.”



ROSE SANDERS

Attorney
Co-chair, Campaign for a New South
Selma, Alabama

“I first came in contact with *Unity* through its coverage of the voter rights persecution cases in Black Belt Alabama. When children from the Black Belt performed a play on teenage pregnancy in Atlanta, again *Unity* was there. That’s why the word *Unity* means something, the paper not only attempts to unite people and struggles, but regions and problems impacting us nationally.”



LUIS GUTIERREZ

Alderman
City Council
Chicago, Illinois

“*Unity* articulates well the labor, electoral and social struggles of our emerging Rainbow Coalition. I appreciate its stand. *Unity’s* coverage of the Chicago City Council elections clearly got to the heart of our fight for political empowerment.”



MERLE HANSEN

Farmer
President, North American Farm Alliance
Newman Grove, Nebraska

“The need to know the truth is essential to the solution of the farm problem, as well as the building of a just and peaceful world. I read *Unity* for its insights into the problems and also its broad perspective of the solutions. I appreciate *Unity’s* coverage of the Jackson campaign which brings out all the different colors of the Rainbow.”



GLORIA BETANCOURT

Former Watsonville Strike Leader
President, Watsonville Cannery Workers’ Center
Watsonville, California

“*Unity* is the only paper that has done justice to our cannery strike in Watsonville. By reading *Unity*, I have learned about the Chicano students’ struggles, about South Africa, Nicaragua and about different unions. The culture section is one of my favorites because the poetry and culture reflect everything we feel. Continue with your good efforts.”



SHERRI CHIESA

President,
Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees, Local 2
Executive Committee, Central Labor Council
San Francisco, California

“I read *Unity* because it is one of the few newspapers that consistently covers labor stories emphasizing the struggle of workers to achieve the dignity and respect they deserve.”



COLIN CLARKE

Black Student Alliance
University of Texas
Austin, Texas

“*Unity* is what a newspaper should be. This paper provides consistent coverage of Third World people and movements. *Unity’s* got the ear of the students in the struggle.”

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