

Editorial

Jackson 'slips' imply prejudice

Jesse Jackson's rainbow coalition apparently does not include as many groups as he would like us to believe. At least one group — the Jewish community — just doesn't seem to fit in anywhere.

Jackson, one of eight Democratic presidential candidates, has traveled coast to coast talking about his desire to see all people live as one, but remarks he has made indicate he is just as human as the rest of us when it comes to prejudices.

The most recent incident, of course, is Jackson's reference to Jews as "Hymie" and New York City as "Hymietown." This blatant name-calling should be considered no less serious than James Watt's reference to a government commission as "a black... a woman, two Jews and a cripple."

Jackson insists that the term was not used in the spirit of meanness, that it was just an innocent slip of the tongue, but it took him several days to acknowledge the use of it. According to *USA Today*, Jackson apologized Sunday for his "delay in coming to this temple" and denied that he is anti-Semitic. If Jackson did not know the term was considered offensive by most Jews, it seems that he would not have hesitated in admitting the use of it.

The recent name-calling incident is only one of the many indications Jackson has given that he is anti-Semitic. According to syndicated columnist Morton Kondracke, whose material appears in the *Lincoln Journal*, Jackson has hinted in many of his speeches that the United States is wrong to be allied with Israel. He also has often indicated his support for PLO leader Yasser Arafat, an enemy of Israel. Kondracke quoted Jackson as saying he is "sick and tired of hearing about the Holocaust and having America being put in the position of a guilt trip."



None of this should make Jackson an unappealing candidate to those who have supported his policies throughout the campaign. Political candidates are human and one slip of the tongue, one personal bias, however appalling it may be, should not swing the election.

But the sad truth of all this is that everyone has unfounded prejudices against certain groups of people. Jesse Jackson is no exception and his supporters have been wrong to believe otherwise.



Letters

Favors open primary

In response to the editorial on the wide-open primary bill (*Daily Nebraskan*, Feb. 27): I feel the opinion expressed is typical of a basic conservative — afraid of change. I feel that a non-partisan, open primary ballot would be great. It would allow more freedom of choice, allow the voter to see the whole spectrum of candidates and bring to conscious exactly how many people are running with some line of hope.

Because there is a greater number of independents, we should be fair and allow them to also have a voice in who will be in the final showdown. Granted, there may be some "election mischief" but it would be foolish. More people are going to vote for the most qualified candidate than try to undermine the opposing party and every vote will count. With the number of Democrats in the race, it is almost silly to think one could strengthen the Republicans by voting for the weakest politician.

As for undermining the two-party system, this is doubtful. What is more likely to happen is it will be strengthened. The Republicans are a conservative lot and will not change just because the ballot does. As idealistic as the Democrats are, they will stick to the most idealistic Democrat. Nebraska as a whole is too conservative for political trickery. What the open primary bill will do is get Nebraska out of its conservative rut and for once it will be marked as a progressive state.

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Campaign stirring up interesting dialogues

With the New Hampshire results in, the 1984 campaign finally is underway. Here are a couple of thoughts about the campaign so far.

The *CBS Morning News* reported



Mike Frost

that Ronald Reagan spent something like \$400,000 for his New Hampshire campaign, nearly the same amount spent by Walter Mondale. Why would the president spend so much on a primary he is already assured of winning?

Reagan supporters say the expenditures are justified. They claim it en-

ures their candidate the same kind of favorable media coverage the Democrats are receiving during their more competitive primary battle.

They're right, too, as this segment that Reagan did on a New Hampshire talk show bears out.

Gross: Hey everyone, I'm Paul Gross and welcome to another edition of *Cool People in the Granite State*. Today's cool person is Ronald Reagan, who co-starred with Humphrey Bogart in *Dark Victory*, and currently is President of the United States.

Reagan: Well, hello Paul, and hello to all the cool people out there in the Granite State.

Gross: Ronald —

Reagan: Call me Ronnie.

Gross: Cool. Ronnie, is it true you

spent nearly \$200,000 in New Hampshire?

Reagan: \$200,000 pah. I spent almost 400,000 smackers.

Gross: Wow, that's cool.

Reagan: You bet it's cool. I didn't even have any real opponents.

Gross: You mean you spent it...to be cool?

Reagan: You bet. Money is something more than just a means to oppress the masses and manipulate the political system. It's something to be cool with. Here, can I light that cigarette with this \$100 bill?

Gross: Ooh, how cool! Well that's all we have time for today with Ronald Reagan, cool guy and President of the United States. Tomorrow on *Cool People in the Granite State*, the ghost of

William Leob, still feisty after all these years.

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You have to feel sorry for Dave Nagle, the chairman of the Iowa Democratic party. Nagle claims the all-important Iowa caucus was ruined because the durned media spent too much time projecting early results. (Evidently, Nagle finds not even the smallest irony in telling news reporters from four networks and various newspapers that Iowa received too much media attention.)

To add insult to injury, Nagle testified on the matter Monday, in front of the House telecommunications subcommittee. Things did not go well, as this transcript bears out.

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Campus Quotes

What do you think of the proposed university performing arts center?



Howard Howell
freshman
business

"It's a good idea because it'll give the campus a broader view, a better overall perspective."



Ann Wagey
sophomore
human development-
elementary education

"I think it's a good idea. It'll get more people involved in it and it'll be closer to campus than Pershing."



Monica Hana
freshman
broadcasting

"It's too bad it has to take over the whole block but it sure would be nice. Temple is really small and the arts need more space."



Shemiah Nwansi
junior
chemistry

"Unfortunately, the theater would inevitably lower the spiritual knowledge of the students. Let the money be used to install a bible class. The students are hungry and thirsty for spiritual food and a bible class would very well work to this end."



Kurt Davey
sophomore
chemistry

"I'm against it. I think it's a shame that they want to take out all those businesses there. I don't think it's a service to benefit the students. I think it's a shame they went about the whole thing the way they did."