



Times Tribune staff photo by Sam Forenych

Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson celebrates with East Palo Alto Mayor Barbara Mouton (right) and Keith Archuleta, a local Jackson delegate, on stage at the Garden

Oaks Elementary School auditorium Thursday afternoon before a crowd of about 500 people. Jackson also spoke Thursday at College of San Mateo.

Jackson gets warm reception

By Thomas G. Keane
Times Tribune staff

In his only appearance on the Peninsula before the June 5 primary, Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson thrilled an East Palo Alto audience Thursday afternoon.

"Today I sense a joy in this room," Jackson told a crowd of

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about 500 in the Garden Oaks Elementary School auditorium. "There's a spirit in here."

Before his appearance in East Palo Alto, Jackson spoke at a rally at the College of San Mateo, where his speech received a courteous, but relatively lukewarm response.

In East Palo Alto the crowd responded to all of Jackson's best lines with thunderous applause. Many of them had arrived in cars nearly two hours early. Waves of



Times Tribune staff photo by Sam Forenych

Spectators, including Pearl Mamveaux of East Palo Alto (center), generated what Jesse Jackson said was a special spirit of joy Thursday at his appearance at Garden Oaks school.

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Times Tribune staff photo by Renee Lynn

Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson (left) and Jackson campaign volunteer Doc Holliday reach for a handshake Thursday at a reception at College of San Mateo.

JACKSON

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students came on buses from Stanford University, and still more came on foot from the Pulgas Avenue neighborhood.

Inside the auditorium, which ordinarily seats a maximum of 300 people, children pushed their way near the stage and others sat on ledges along the walls 10 feet off the ground. Speakers boomed Jackson's voice outside the building for those who could not squeeze in.

In the end, the crowd donated \$6,248 to the Jackson campaign, according to Cliff Boxley, a local Jackson delegate and an organizer of the event.

East Palo Alto City Manager Fred Howell, one of several community leaders who spoke to the crowd before the candidate, said Jackson's appearance in the city was a "historically significant occasion."

Howell said the evolution of the city parallels the Jackson campaign in several ways. The most important of those similarities, he said, is "that we're both underdogs, but we both maintain we can."

Jackson, arriving about an hour late, began his speech slowly, thanking Mayor Barbara Mouton and East Palo Alto residents for their support. Soon, however, Jackson's speech picked up a revival-meeting rhythm — a trademark of his campaign — and he slammed

home his favorite campaign themes.

"There are three candidates but only two points of view," he said. "Hart and Mondale want to raise the military budget in peacetime. Well, to get off a Republican elephant and onto a Democratic donkey going the same direction, only a little slower, is not enough. We need a new direction."

Jackson emphasized that he, in contrast with Walter Mondale and Gary Hart, has known poverty and hard times. When the other two candidates tell blacks, Hispanics and the poor that they want to help, he said, "They mean well, but they don't understand. If you want somebody, here I am. Send me!"

He assailed President Reagan for wreaking havoc on the poor.

"There are 8 million more poor people in this country since he took office," Jackson said. "Don't color poverty red or black or white, color poverty desperation and destitution."

He lashed out at Reagan's support of the "trickle down" theory of economics. "We get the trick, but we never get down," he said.

"Our mission is to defend the poor," he said, suggesting again that he will lead a "rainbow coalition" of minorities, women and the poor that will continue beyond the election. The poor work the hardest and the longest hours at the "nastiest jobs," he said, but they are paid the least.

He vowed to protect unions that fight for workers' rights, and he tossed in several supportive state-

ments for United Stanford Workers, a union local at the university that is embroiled in a dispute with the Stanford administration.

Several members of the union, present in the auditorium, had solicited Jackson's support while he campaigned in the morning. The union also had approached Mondale and Hart, but only Jackson expressed support for the union, an elated union spokeswoman said after Jackson's speech.

After the candidate finished, and as his motorcade sped away, Mayor Mouton stood beaming with pride. "I tell you, it was a real high," she said. The mayor, who changed her registration from Republican to Democrat last month, had pledged her endorsement to Jackson on stage, clasped hands with him, introduced him to the crowd and welcomed him to "the newest city in San Mateo County."

For the rally, 40 officers from nearby communities were called in to help county sheriff's deputies with crowd control. Secret Service agents also were on duty, as they are with presidential candidates throughout the campaign.

Sheriff's Sgt. Bob Cancilla said there were no security problems, except for some confusion before Jackson arrived. Several people, including the Secret Service agents, had confused Brentwood Oaks School with Garden Oaks School. The two schools are on neighboring properties.

Jackson began the day in San Francisco with a visit to a longshoremen's club.