

At the AME convention

Jackson: Edwards gives Dems a boost

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Sen. John Kerry wasn't the only celebrity at the Indiana Convention Center on Tuesday.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson — a former presidential candidate himself — surprised even the church leadership by attending the convention Tuesday.

Mike McKinney, director of communications, said Jackson had not been invited nor expected. Jackson said he had always intended to come.

"This is home," he said of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

He praised the choice of Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., by Kerry, D-Mass., as his running mate.

"Edwards' message of bridging the gap between the rich and the poor, the Black and the White," is the right one this year, he said.

Speaking to the convention, Jackson, who is a Baptist minister, said that with Edwards on the ticket and with Black voters leading the way, "we can regain the South. Hands that once picked cotton will now pick the next president of this country. The South is the key to the North. The South is the key to the country."

Before returning to his Chicago home, Jackson said he planned to visit the Rev. Charles Williams, president



Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry greets supporters after addressing the AME Church convention. Kerry on Tuesday selected Sen. John Edwards as his running mate.

and founder of Indiana Black Expo, who has been seriously ill with prostate cancer.

Bush invite

McKinney said he had contacted both the White House and the Bush campaign to invite President Bush to also address the convention. But he said he never heard back.

"They could have made an effort," he said.

If Bush's schedule didn't allow it, McKinney said, the president could have addressed the convention by video — as he did in June when he spoke long-distance to the Southern Baptist con-

vention in Indianapolis.

Or, McKinney said, Bush at least could have sent a written statement to hand out to delegates.

"Even a printed statement," he said, "is better than nothing."

Looking good

People at the Indiana Convention Center had lots of different reactions Tuesday about both Kerry's choice of Edwards for the vice presidency and Kerry himself.

"I'm so glad," exclaimed Viola A. Bown, of Louisville, Ky., when she heard that Edwards was on the ticket.

Was it his views on the economy? Maybe education? "He looks good," said

Brown. "And he's young."

Rick Barry, of Indianapolis, didn't hear Kerry's speech and didn't care too much about who Kerry picked as his running mate.

Barry had come to the convention center with other union members of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees to dismantle the sound and stage equipment after Kerry left the convention center.

Pointing to himself and three other union members, Barry said: "He's got four votes for Sen. Kerry right here."

The bottom line, Barry said bluntly: Anybody but Bush.

Ky. newspaper sorry for activism coverage

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — The Lexington Herald-Leader featured a prominent clarification on its front page Sunday, apologizing for the newspaper's failures in covering the 1960s civil rights movement.

The notice accompanied a series of stories titled "Front-page news, back-page coverage" and numerous black-and-white pictures taken by an independent photographer.

"It has come to the editor's attention that the Herald-Leader neglected to cover the civil rights movement," the clarification read in Sunday's editions. "We regret the omission."

The report comes as the nation observes the 40th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Beneath the clarification are photographs of a Main Street march and a

lunch counter sit-in taken by Calvert McCann, now 62.

Many of his pictures were undeveloped until last year, when University of Kentucky historian Gerald L. Smith was researching a book.

"If it had not been for Calvert, we wouldn't have a visual record of this moment in Lexington's history," Smith said.

Lexington's newspapers at the time, the Herald and the Leader, occasionally published short stories about the local civil rights movement; photographs rarely appeared. The papers merged in 1983 and the Herald-Leader is now owned by Knight Ridder.

"The people in charge of recording the 'first rough draft of history,' as journalism is sometimes called, ignored sit-ins and marches, or relegated them to small no-

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No charges in armed drug raid on campus

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) - South Carolina's attorney general said Friday that it was "grossly inappropriate" for police to draw their guns during a drug raid at a suburban high school last year, but no charges will be brought against the officers.

"There is no evidence of any degree of criminal intent on behalf of the police officers or school personnel. Thus a criminal prosecution would not be appropriate," Attorney General Henry McMaster said.

The Nov. 5 raid by Goose Creek police at Stratford High School drew national attention after a surveillance video showed students being ordered to the floor and a drug-sniffing dog prowling the hall.

No drugs were found and no arrests were made in the sweep, though some students were handcuffed for a time.

The raid led to allegations of excessive force and racism because many of the students at the school during the early morning raid were Black. Two lawsuits have been filed over the incident.

Police have said they felt the tactics were needed to ensure the safety of the officers and students.

The state's chief prosecutor said school officials had probable cause to conduct a search, but he criticized police officers' decision to draw their weapons as a highly dangerous tactic that could have been deadly.

"The tactics were good tactics for a crack house, a drug den or a methamphetamine lab, but highly inappropriate tactics for a school house," McMaster said.

Seventeen Stratford students sued in December, alleging Goose Creek police and school officials terrorized them during the raid. The American Civil Liberties Union sued on behalf of 20 other students, alleging their constitutional protection against unlawful search and seizure was violated.

In January, the principal who asked police to come to the school after receiving reports of marijuana sales announced his resignation.

Goose Creek Mayor Michael Heitzler said he saw no reason for the police department to punish the 14 officers who took part in the raid.

"Police officers have to make hard decisions and it's so easy to be Monday morning quarterback," he said.

Badge Humphries, an attorney for some Stratford High students, said none of his clients had sought criminal charges. He added that McMaster's ruling wouldn't affect the lawsuit.

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Timothy Williams is a member of the Nevada & Illinois State Bar, practicing primarily in personal injury cases.

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