

IN OUR OPINION

Jackson for president

Once in a while--once in a long while--a politician comes along with a real message; with the message which is able to energize thousands, and with the skills to present that message to the masses. Jesse Jackson is that man for this hour, and he deserves the votes of Ohio's Democrats for their nomination to the presidency of the United States.

Jackson ran in 1984, and was unsuccessful. But in 1988, he has grown in stature as a politician and a man. He has promoted a message which is designed not to divide, but to unite Americans into a common goal to attack, not each other, but the real enemies which would destroy the nation's social health and prosperity.

Jackson has spoken, better than any candidate, to the corrosive effect of illicit drugs in our society, and has developed a foreign policy initiative in the area which is designed to isolate those nations which practice the export of death onto our shores.

Jackson has addressed, better than any candidate, the need to raise the fortunes of "the least of these" in America who have not benefitted from "Reaganomics." He has said that increased investment in programs to educate, feed, house, and heal those who are down will not only cost all Americans something, but will pay off in the long run.

Jackson, alone of all the candidates, is talking about a peace strategy in the Middle East which neither patronizes Israel nor detracts from her deepest concerns. Indeed, Jackson's policy is based on something that many--particularly the vicious, divisive mayor of New York, Ed Koch--have forgotten: The Palestinians are human beings too, and have rights as humans which must be protected in order to ensure a lasting peace.

Jackson has been best among the candidates in articulating the vision that America's European-based foreign policy does not effectively address the needs of the majority of the world's population--those three billion people who live in what is called the

"third world."

Jackson, more than any candidate, has attempted to link the American civil rights struggle with the fortunes of more than Blacks in this country and around the world, and his vision and perspective have helped change the political debate in this campaign season, whether the issue is South African policy, drugs, or the needs of the nation's economic underclass.

Michael Dukakis has been an effective campaigner, and would probably be a fine president, but he has not offered the strong social vision which Jackson has offered. Dukakis has promoted himself as a strong and effective manager, who can effectively address the issues affecting the nation in an efficient way.

But a wise man once said that you "manage money, but you lead people." Dukakis has yet to demonstrate a vision which people will follow, a vision with the breadth and depth that Jackson has brought to this campaign.

That Jackson has no political experience is not the issue. A number of America's presidents--from George Washington to Dwight D. Eisenhower--have had no political experience when they were called upon to lead. We believe that Jackson will be able to surround himself with the kind of effective people who will help him govern this nation.

Jackson, more than any other candidates, has not sought to divide the Democratic Party into warring factions. Early on, he said that, even though the Democratic Party has its left and right wings, "a bird needs two wings to fly." He has continuously demonstrated that support for unity, in a campaign in which has often been the target of what have been mean-spirited and narrow attacks.

Jackson has shown that he has what it takes to be the next president of the United States. We urge Ohio voters to go out to the polls on May 3 and help Jackson make his dream--and ours--come true.