



JYM WILSON, Free Press

FULL HOUSE: Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson addresses a crowd of University of Vermont students outside Ira Allen Chapel Thursday afternoon. The students were unable to enter the chapel because it was already filled with people waiting to hear Jackson speak. Standing beside the candidate is Burlington Mayor Bernard Sanders, who has endorsed Jackson's candidacy.

Jackson comes to Burlington

Candidate says victory possible in 'essentially white' Vermont

By Susan Allen
Free Press Staff Writer

The Rev. Jesse Jackson brought his Democratic presidential campaign to Burlington Thursday, saying a primary victory in "an essentially white state" like Vermont is possible.

Jackson also said he was "delighted" with the recent endorsement of his candidacy by Burlington Mayor Bernard Sanders, but stopped short of saying he'd support a bid by Sanders for Vermont's U.S. House seat.

"I'm delighted, I'm impressed," Jackson said when asked at a day-care center about the Sanders endorsement. "I hope his endorsement will spread."

Later, Jackson spoke at Ira Allen

Chapel on the University of Vermont campus to a crowd of 1,400, most of them students, on his campaign themes of ending economic and social oppression — then turned the event into a registration and fundraising drive.

Following the 30-minute speech, interrupted frequently by applause, the candidate called on unregistered voters to come forward and sign up to vote in Vermont's March 1 presidential primary.

"Welcome to liberty," Jackson told the students, after they took the Freeman's Oath to register. "Along the same line, you do not have to vote for me, but you ought to."

As about 400 students waited to complete registration forms, Jackson urged those willing to contribute up to \$1,000 to

his local campaign effort to step up with cash and checks.

He said he hoped to raise about \$10,000 for radio and television advertising in Vermont.

Sanders also called on the crowd to donate funds, adding, "You can't run when you're outspent 20-to-1. So let's reach into our pockets."

Jackson called the Iowa caucus, in which he placed fourth among Democratic candidates, the opening game of a 50-game season, with next week's New Hampshire primary game number two.

Jackson added he was outspent and outstaffed in Iowa, spending about \$175,000 as compared to some campaigns which spent \$750,000.

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Jesse Jackson brings campaign to Burlington

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"They have the money and the campaigns," he said. "I have the message and the experience."

Jackson also said he supports a commitment to family farmers, favors a health care plan for all Americans, believes "mediation" is the U.S. role in settling unrest in the Gaza Strip, and would push for support of education and daycare.

He did not discuss specific plans for achieving any of those objectives.

"Day care is cheaper than jail care,"

Jackson during his visit to the Burlington Children's Space. "Schools at their worst are better than jails at their best."

He indicated he would support a budget shift away from increased defense spending and favors more funding for many social programs, citing as one example the problem of infant mortality.

Jackson said he also is concerned about drug use and suicide in high schools, saying that at a recent trip to one high school 60 percent of the students said they had considered suicide.

"Our children deserve our attention," Jackson said.



The Associated Press

THUMBS UP: Jesse Jackson shows Lincoln Wadhams Haskins, 3, how to give the "thumbs-up" signal during the Democratic presidential candidate's visit Thursday to the Burlington Children's Space.