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## "YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

—Jesse Jackson

Reporter: Ade Y. Aro

"You can make a difference," so said Rev. Jesse Jackson of the National Rainbow Coalition, Friday, April 7th, 1989 at the dedication ceremony in Berkeley, California of the Berkeley Peace Wall.

"Carolyn Marks made a difference; Malcolm X made a difference; Mahatma Ghandi made a difference in south Africa and India; Rosa Parks made a difference; Paula Louisa made a difference; Martin Luther King, Jr., made a difference," said Rev. Jackson. "You can make a difference," he concluded.

Rev. Jackson pointed to one striking difference between the Berlin Wall and the Berkeley Wall. The Berkeley Wall, according to him, symbolizes cooperation and faith in the goodness of humanity; the Berlin wall stands for separation and fear of people by people. He hopes that the Berlin Wall would go down some day. He believes war would never work anywhere in the world.

Jesse Jackson, amidst shouts of Jesse—Jesse—Jesse, gladly recognized the dynamism of Loni Hancock, the indefatigable Mayor of Berkeley; the Afro-Haitian Dance Group from Berkeley High; the Malcolm X School Musical Group; the Berkeley High School Jazz Band; Hon. Ron Dellums, but, particularly did he single out Carolyn for her contribution to the wealth of the nations.

Earlier on, Carolyn Marks, the initiator and co-ordinator of the efforts that brought the wall into reality, had indicated that peace and justice were the cornerstones of the Berkeley Peace Wall. She hopes that peace and justice would be given a chance in Central America and southern Africa. Carolyn likens the peace wall to the medicine wheel and hints that it would go around the world. She praised Rev. Jackson and his family each of whom bought a tile as a gesture of support for the construction of the wall.

The dedication ceremony was well organized. Young people seemed to have captured the imagination of the planners. Students— young and old—were bused from their schools to arrive on time at the

Martin Luther King, Jr. Park in Berkeley.

There, I encountered, amongst others, Chris Hawthorne, President, Berkeley High School Student Council and Leah George, Vice-President. Both Chris and Leah addressed the audience, pointing out the need for fairness to one another and co-operation between and among individuals.

Chris seemed to have internalized effectively the agenda of the peace movement; so I asked him and his vice-president Leah how they would practice what they've intellectually accepted in their everyday living at Berkeley High.

"We're working at projects that tend to unify people," said Chris and Leah.

Berkeley knows how to turn out for a dedication ceremony. It appears every segment of the community was there. The clergy and the laity were heavily represented. Dr. M.T. Thompson of Berkeley Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Dr. M.V. Peoples of Liberty Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Charles A. Moore of St. Luke's Church, and Rev. Earl H. Bill, Jr. of Ebenezer Baptist Church were among the clergy who met Rev. Jesse Jackson on his arrival at the park.

The ceremony concluded with the Rev. Jesse Jackson asking all would-be adults (that is, those who would turn 18 around November this year) to step forward and be registered. Almost all youngsters in that age-category complied, thanks to group psychology.



Jesse Jackson making his speech at the Berkeley Peace Wall



Jesse Jackson with Carolyn Marks to his right

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