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Weather Data on Page 6A

The News-Sentinel

Today's Chuckle
Early risers are concerned in the morning and tired in the afternoon.

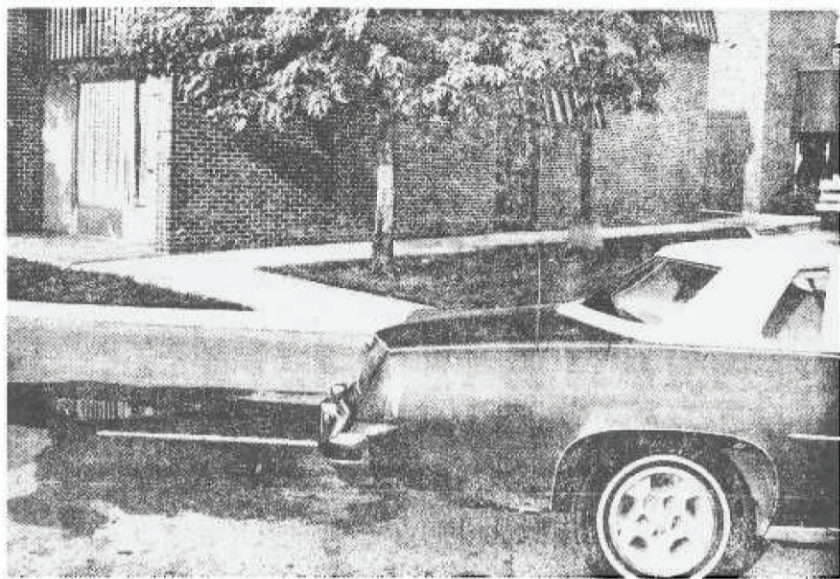
147TH YEAR No. 129

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FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46802 THURSDAY, MAY 29, 1980

36 Pages — 3 Sections

National Urban League Chief Vernon Jordan Shot Critically



Scene of the Shooting

When National Urban League President Vernon Jordan Jr. emerged from this car driven by a Fort Wayne woman shortly after 2 a.m., he was shot on his way to his Marriott Inn room (upper left). The water below the car marks where the blood was washed off the pavement. Jordan was taken in critical condition to Parkview Hospital. (Staff photo by Carl Hartup.)

By RICK ANTOINE
And PETE FULLAM
National Urban League President Vernon Jordan Jr. came through 4 1/2 hours of surgery at Parkview Memorial Hospital early today after being shot and critically wounded in the Marriott Inn parking lot in what authorities describe as an "isolated incident," not racially motivated.
Jordan, 44, was shot about 2:05 a.m. today as he left an auto at the Marriott and prepared to cross a drive to return to his motel room.



Vernon Jordan Jr.

Related Editorial on Page 4A,
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A few hours after surgery his condition was reported to have stabilized. He had been listed as "critical," but satisfactorily," but doctors explained it is not unusual to list gunshot victims as "critical" in the first 24 hours. Jordan mainly suffered internal injuries from a bullet wound to the abdominal area.
The driver of the auto, Martha C. Coleman, 36, of 4338 Lafayette Esplanade, told police she heard two shots ring out and, through her rearview mirror, saw Jordan jump to the ground.
"It sounded like an M-80 going off right outside my window. It rose me right up out of bed," said one motel guest, Patrick Gillespie, of Chicago.
Gillespie said he ran to his fifth floor window overlooking the eastside ballroom entrance area and saw a man leaning on the back of a red Grand Prix.
Jordan was yelling, "Help me. I've been shot in the back," according to Gillespie.
The woman jumped out of the car and hovered over the fallen Jordan momentarily before running off toward the lobby, Gillespie said. He noted the first police officers arrived in about 10 minutes, followed by an ambulance in another five.
Chief surgeon in the operation, Dr. Jeff Towles, said one bullet entered Jordan's back about midway between the pelvis

and chest. The bullet, which police believe to be small caliber, apparently hit a bone and fragmented, parts of it exiting from two or three small wounds in Jordan's front and side.
As many as 15 police officers scoured the area near the Marriott Inn, including Jordan's motel room, searching for clues in the shooting. However, they reportedly recovered no bullets or fragments and were unable to determine from where the shots were fired.
Early reports indicated investigators suspected the shots may have been fired from an auto driving past the area on the adjacent I-69 south exit ramp to Coldwater Road. However, police later said they had discounted that theory because they believed a marksman would be unable to fire two rounds from a moving vehicle.
Jordan had attended a reception after the local Urban League's annual dinner Wednesday night, where he was the prin-

cipal speaker. Sometime around midnight, he reportedly asked Coleman if she would like to accompany him somewhere for drinks and food. She apparently suggested they go to her home, which they reportedly did, returning just before the shooting occurred.

Carter Coming to Fort Wayne
Baer Field officials said this afternoon President Carter will arrive in Fort Wayne sometime this evening to visit Jordan at the hospital. Carter called Jordan a "revered leader and personal friend."

No threats had been reported against Jordan, and he arrived here alone, requesting no special security measures, local Urban League director Robert Williams Jr. said.

Jordan's room was in a corner on the first floor of the northside motel, near the ballroom entrance and facing east toward the open area abutting Coldwater Road. The spot where Coleman let him out of her car was only about 20 feet away from the room's door.

Motel policy is never to reveal a guest's room number, security personnel noted.

Coleman, an Urban League board member, was reported to be cooperating with police except in one regard. She declined to reveal details concerning a Fort Wayne male friend or his whereabouts, police sources said. It was also noted she immediately phoned two lawyers after reporting the shooting.

Jordan was admitted to Parkview Memorial Hospital about 3:30 a.m. and rushed to surgery about 3:45, hospital officials said in an early morning news conference.

A team of doctors, including two surgeons, worked on the black leader until about 8:30 a.m., when he was admitted to the hospital's intensive care unit.

His condition is "overall satisfactory, but must be considered critical," Towles said. (Turn to Page 6A, Column 3)

Residents Question Assault on Jordan

By KEVIN LEININGER
Inner city residents today reacted to the shooting of Urban League President Vernon Jordan Jr. with shock, sadness and suspicion—but little outright anger. Although local police have tentatively ruled out racial motives, some city blacks aren't buying that notion. In fact, more than one person today suggested the Ku Klux Klan may have been responsible for "setting up" Jordan.

"I figure it (the shooting) was a racial thing," said one man who asked not to be identified. "A guy of that caliber just shouldn't be gunned down. Indiana is a leading Klan state. If I had a bet, I might think they were behind it."

Other blacks were willing to let time shape their perception of the incident. Jordan occupies a curious place in the hearts of city blacks. Some said they had never heard of him, others mistakenly believed he represents the NAACP and one man spoke of Jordan and the late

Martin Luther King in equally reverent terms.
"It's bad he was shot," said Terry Woods. "It seems every time blacks get a leader he gets knocked off. My boss was real angry today when he heard, but I don't have any real deep feelings. I didn't know the man."
It was generally agreed today by those interviewed that racial tensions in the inner city have been minimal in recent months. Some said they feared that might change now, but no one said they believe blacks' reaction to the Jordan shooting will erupt into violence.
Several blacks expressed disbelief that such a thing would happen in Fort Wayne.

Sam Davenport operates a small grocery store on Pontiac Street. He called the shooting "upsetting," and said he met Jordan once, in Chicago several years ago.
"Fort Wayne was supposed to be a

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According to Guinness

FASTEST BIRTH OF TRIPLETS — The fastest recorded natural birth of triplets has been two minutes in the case of Mrs. James E. Duck of Memphis, Tennessee (Bradley, Christopher and Carmen) on March 21, 1977.
(From Guinness Book of World Records)

Civil Rights Leader Faces 'Dark Midnight'

By SHARON LITTLE
Vernon Jordan Jr., one of the nation's foremost civil rights leaders, said here Wednesday America is experiencing a "dark midnight" but he would "rather be in America with the lights out than Russia with the lights on."

Today, surgery lights were on Jordan as Parkview Memorial Hospital physicians attempted to remove bullet fragments from his body following a 2 a.m. shooting at the Marriott Inn.
Only hours before, the 44-year-old, tall, muscular Jordan had used a voice as rich in conviction as in timbre to address a cross section of the community at the 31st annual meeting of the Fort Wayne Urban League.

The National Urban League president repeatedly told his 450-member Marriott

Inn audience he believes in this country where, he said, "it's a dark midnight" because of domestic and international problems.

Racial riots in Miami, the hostages in Iran, Soviet aggression in Afghanistan, "this great nation held hostage by the OPEC nations for the price of oil," presidential candidates nobody is happy about and a recession he believes will worsen all create a dark picture for America, Jordan said.

"The economy is in trouble, democracy is in trouble, and we seem lost at sea without a leader." But, he said, "I believe that it's darkest before the sunrise, and so I believe in my country and its system both politically and economically, and if it can be made to work for some of us, it can be made to work for

all of us."

"I believe in change in this country because I have seen it change," Jordan said, referring to a high school chum, Maynard Jackson, a black who today is mayor of Atlanta, Ga., and to another black, Langston Hughes, once denied access to law school but today serving as federal district judge.

Initially slow and deliberate in his delivery, Jordan's voice crescendoed as he reminded his audience that 70 million Americans did not vote in the 1976 presidential election and 100 million did not vote in the 1978 congressional elections.

"If there's something good about this democracy," he almost shouted, "it's worth participating in to make it better. If you don't participate, you don't de-

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League Official Believes 'Jordan Will Be All Right'

By SHARON LITTLE
John Jacob, executive vice-president of the National Urban League, said he has talked with Urban League President Vernon Jordan Jr. since Jordan's surgery and is "convinced and satisfied" things are progressing for the league's president.

"Vernon would want me to say to you

and to this country we should interpret this incident for what it is... a single, isolated incident that ought to be perceived as such, an incident that points to the needs and concerns of this country, one that can be used to mobilize this country for good.

"Vernon wants you to know he appreciates your interests, concerns and blessings. He will be all right," Jacob declared.

Jacob added Jordan is completely in control, fully aware and confident he is going to be all right.

Jacob said he doesn't think Jordan knows the reason he was shot, and knows of no other threat to his life.

Asked if he considered it an assassination attempt, Jacob replied, "That should be determined by the police." He said he is convinced Fort Wayne police are doing all they can.

Jacob noted Jordan never travels with security, that "in this country he thinks one ought to be able to travel that way."

"The act is one of insanity," said Jacob when asked if he felt the shooting was racially motivated. "One cannot eliminate from an act of insanity any specific answer... but we should not be as insane as the person who perpetrated the act."

"We should show calmness, coolness and intellectual wisdom," said Jacob.

Jacob said the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who is also in town, said this is not a time to act emotionally, but to engage in prayer to guide Vernon through this crisis.

Parkview Hospital attaches said the White House called to inquire about Jordan's condition, and Senator Edward M. Kennedy, reportedly en route to Fort Wayne, contacted the hospital to offer whatever services he could.

Hospital aides said Henry Kissinger, former secretary of state, is sending flowers.

Gary Mayor Richard Hatcher also was reported en route to Fort Wayne today.

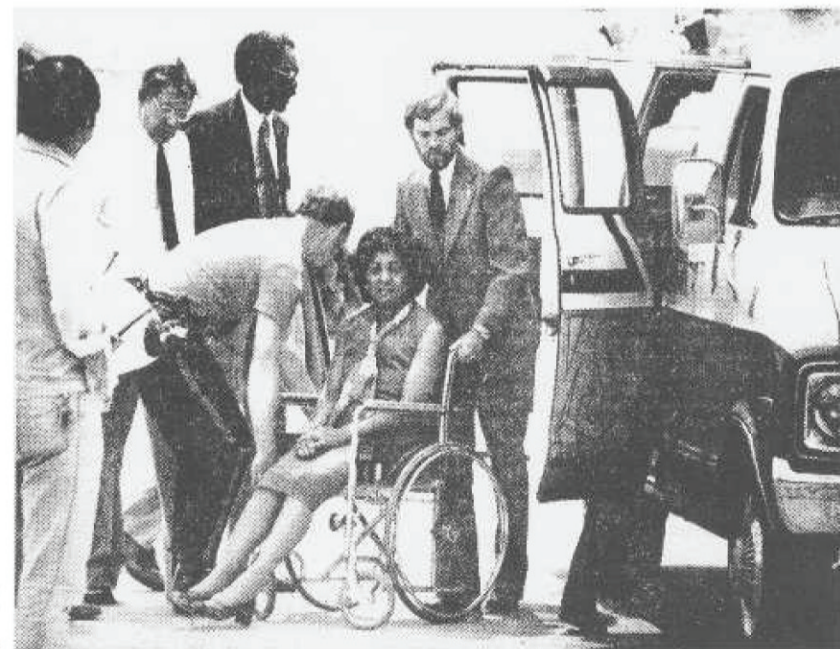
John Beams, executive director of the Fort Wayne Metropolitan Human Rela-

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'No Racial Tensions'

In an early morning press conference, Mayor Winfield Moses (left) and Robert Williams, Fort Wayne Urban League director, said Vernon Jordan Jr.'s shooting was unrelated to any local "racial tensions." (Staff photo by Argil Shock.)



Jordan's Wife Leaves for Hospital

Vernon Jordan's wife Shirley is transported from Baer Field Airport to Parkview Hospital where her husband is in critical condition. Jordan's family arrived here shortly after 11 a.m. Lyndon Wade, director of the Atlanta, Ga.,

Urban League, said the family is "extremely frightened and anxious to see him." He added, "We have no idea of the motive behind this heinous thing. We've received no previous threats," Wade said. Staff photo by Argil Shock.



Miami Indian Heritage Day

Saturday, August 2 • 1:00 to 4:00 PM
At Chief Richardville House, 5705 Bluffton Road, Fort Wayne

Join us for Miami Harvest, edible and usable plants and materials. Tour the historic 1827-built home of Miami Chief Jean Baptiste de Richardville, and celebrate the history and traditions of the earliest inhabitants of the Three Rivers area.

Admission: \$7 adults; \$5 seniors and students; free to History Center members & children under 5.

HISTORY CENTER

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