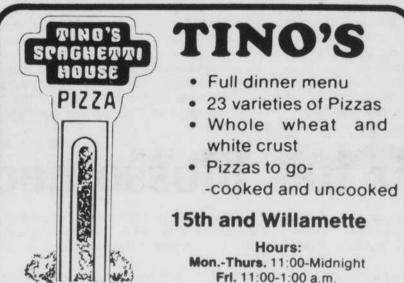
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suggestion for Mondale

Walter Mondale has been hiding out in Minnesota the last few days, grappling with the most important decision of his political career. He is trying to choose a running mate.

The whole process must be a bit embarrassing for Mondale, with the underlying implication that the vice presidential candidate will be more important than the presidential candidate. Mondale, the quintessential vice president, could end up the number two man on his own ticket

But Mondale is still an astute politician, steeped in the sacred Democratic tradition of ticket balancing. He knows he must find a running mate who is all the things he is not. And

Commentary

Paul Ertelt

Walter Mondale is not a lot of things: he is not a woman, not a Westerner and not a member of a

But more important, he is not very exciting. This is no reflection on his character, experience or ability to do the job, but these are not the criteria by which Americans choose their leaders.

So far, however, Mondale has not really considered anyone with sufficient charisma to offset his own banality. Dianne Feinstein and LLoyd Bentsen are not going to set the woods on fire. And who ever heard of Martha Layne Collins or Henry Cisneros before they were summoned to the media extravaganza in North Oaks?

Mondale's running mate must be identifiable by the public, a candidate who can shake Americans out of their political slumber.

But I am amazed that Mondale has not even considered the ideal running mate. The choice should be as easy as A-B-C: a Mondale-Jackson ticket. No, I don't mean Jesse. I'm talking about

Jackson has become a one-man media event. You can't read a newspaper, listen to the radio or watch TV anymore without hearing about him. Beside the needed glamour Jackson could add to the ticket, he is also a good ticket balancer. He is young, a member of a minority and he lives in the

But of course there are drawbacks to this plan. For one thing, Jackson is only 25, and too young to serve as vice president. But Mondale wouldn't need him to serve as vice president, but only to run as a vice presidential candidate. He could always bow out and be replaced after the

Though Jackson claims he is not interested in politics, I still can't get the idea out of my mind. After weeks of being bombarded with news of Michaels's tour and Mondale's search, the two stories have become irrevocably mixed in my

I guess it is just a weird fantasy of mine, but we all have our fantasies. Walter Mondale's fantasy is that he will be moving into the White House in January. Maybe, Fritz, maybe.



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