

# Black Ink

The essence of freedom is understanding

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Voter Registration

Blacks Taking Action In  
Politics

Odetta Review

preaching in UNC's Memorial Hall

## JESSIE JACKSON

by Kevin Washington  
Assistant Editor

"Do not be discouraged by the hoof beat psychology of Reaganism," former Democratic presidential nominee, Jesse Jackson, said in reference to polls showing Ronald Reagan in the lead in the presidential race. "The polls are not open, nobody is winning; the score is zero to zero."

Jackson, who has hit the campaign trail for the Democratic Party ticket of Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro, brought his fiery oratory to UNC-CH's Memorial Hall Sept. 19.

His message, a call for students to vote and a condemnation of the Reagan administration, was given for a voter registration drive sponsored by several campus organizations.

He said, "We need a new direction. We must build an aggressive political movement in this nation for peace, justice and freedom."

"This is a critical period in the history of our state and our nation; you as a body of students have the balance of power in your hands ... you can wreck the course of this nation," Jackson said.

He compared the students' abilities to change the course of the

country to changes in religion Jesus had inspired and changes in human rights in this country participants in the civil rights movement had made.

Jackson said, "A handful of people with their minds made up can take it all."

To illustrate the point, he pointed out, "In 1960, Kennedy beat Nixon by 112,000 votes — less than one vote per precinct ... Carter beat Ford by one million seven ... In the case of Carter-Ford, 8,000 votes in the other direction, and [Carter] would have lost the electoral college."

"I challenge you to stand together on the great agenda of our day, economic justice ... your generation must make the judgement to turn to each other, not on each other," he said. "Your generation will make the choice between peace and war, jobs and jail."

He announced that the Rainbow Coalition, his progressive political organization, will continue to grow and encourage Americans to make room for everybody. "It is our mission to carry that message everywhere."

He said Reagan's refusal to make room for all made it imperative for the president to be defeated in the coming election.

"Reagan has been unkind to poor  
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## ODETTA

a glorious voice in folk music

by Rhonda Hubbard  
Managing Editor

"Magnificent black woman--an incredible voice, and very dignified, very graceful--very gracious." To hear these words, one would think that the glamorous Odetta was being described. But here, Odetta is doing the describing. She speaks of her "role model," Marion Anderson, who she has constantly tried to pattern herself after.

But Odetta, is unique within her own right. She sings with the accompaniment of her 'baby,'--her guitar, and at the end of her guitar sits a burning stick of incense. To add to her individuality is Odetta's voice. Her range sweeps from the high soprano notes to the lowest of bass/tenor. This makes her Odetta, stand out among a crowd of other folk singers.

Wearing clothes of African print, a large jade ring on her left hand, and a small jewel on her forehead, Odetta recalls what it was like being a black performer during the 50's and 60's when she appeared as a folk musician.

"As a member of a race that was down trodden, it wasn't a terribly easy thing (being a black performer). If that attitude hadn't been there, I probably would have been further along," says Odetta. She continues to say that although there are prejudices, it is possible to "cross-over" in this time period if you have a popular song in the black community, they would play it for white audiences.

"Basically it hasn't improved that much. If I were a white woman I'd be further,--much further, as far as popularity and being invited on the televi-

