

# Civic leader encourages young Blacks to strive



Jesse Jackson

**RAMONA BROWN**  
Staff Writer

The Reverend Jesse Jackson, a Baptist minister, civic leader and Black spokesman, encouraged young Blacks to use their talents and to stretch out for extraordinary gains at the Fourth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. lecture held recently in Memorial Hall.

"Atrophy kills more people each year than cancer does," Jackson said.

Jackson, co-founder and director of Operation Breadbasket, said Blacks should exercise their limited talents to reap extraordinary returns on their investments.

"Martin Luther King, Jr. was an ordinary man with an extraordinary will to serve," Jackson said.

Although King was born amidst "You can't and you won't," he did not settle for such discouragement, instead he used his ordinary mind to achieve extraordinary gains and accomplishments.

Jackson said Blacks should think as King did with the attitude that "I can and I will."

"We are in a system that requires a strong

resistance movement," Jackson said.

Jackson said we as Blacks have access but our struggle today shifts to equality and parity.

"We have equal protection under the law but we do have equity within the law," Jackson said.

Jackson said we must examine our progress quantitatively and qualitatively.

"Can we measure our progress from 100 years when we were picking and baling cotton to today when we are exchanging cottonballs for footballs, basketballs and baseballs," Jackson said.

Jackson said we must examine and raise questions as to why professional football and basketball leagues are full of black players but the coaches and athletic directors who build their careers and make the profits are white.

"Our Black players are entertaining gladiators and must realize that they are only a sprained, broken, or twisted ankle from being on the junkpile of history," Jackson said.

Our Black institutions should be preserv-

ed because their mission is to breed Black leadership.

The primary mission of the Black school is to teach the so-called unteachable and to reach the unreachable," Jackson said.

Jackson challenged Black consciousness and the need to take pride in our Black history.

"White racism is too high for Black consciousness to be so low," Jackson said.

Jackson, founder of Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) and PUSH for Excellence in Education, said American history is Black history and Black history is American history and unless it is put in that context, the people who teach must go back to school and study the facts of America.

Jackson encouraged Black students to study programs of technology, medicine, business, journalism, agriculture, and engineering to build an efficient, Black economy.

"There is nothing more powerful than a made up mind with some information in it," Jackson said.

## Busy sophomore becomes UNC band majorette

**LAWRENCE TURNER**  
Managing Editor

Although Ophelia Davis, a sophomore journalism major, plans to work with **Black Ink** and **The Daily Tar Heel** next semester, she will spend time also practicing as one of UNC's newest majorettes.

Davis is the second Black majorette in 10 years at UNC, John Yesulatis, University band director said.

"Ophelia did a great job (in tryouts). I have no qualms about her fitting in with the squad," he said.

The majorette squad is very team orientated; a certain style is used and Davis adopted it well, Yesulatis said.

Davis said she tried out for the squad last year but did not make it. "I didn't have the experience or the Carolina style," she said.

"I was determined to try at least one more time," Davis added.

She felt the competition as very strong and that hurting her left knee while practicing didn't help her chances. "It was the day before (the tryouts) but it wasn't critical," Davis said, and laughed.

"I'm excited," she said. "It's a way of self-expression for me. I love to twirl (the baton)."

The only Black on the seven-member squad, Davis said she does not feel any additional pressures. "I feel I have to do my best, but not because I'm Black," she said.

"I'll probably feel self-consciousness being the only black, but I'll get use to it because I was the only black in high school," Davis said.

A member of the majorette squad in high school for three years, Davis served as co-chief her last year.

She estimated majorette practice will be four days out of the week plus weekends.

"I will try to handle it (time management) as best I can because I have made that commitment," Davis said.

The other squad members are encouraging, she said.

The feeling I got after tryout is that they were warm and they congratulated me," Davis added.

But Davis received encouragement from her family too.

Her parents and two brothers came to tryout to encourage it," Yesulatis said.

Davis scored high among each judge at the tryout and could not be considered a "token," he said. "She earned every bit of it," Yesulatis said.

"I try to get more Blacks on the squad to judge," which he said is a problem as well as few Blacks trying out for those positions as majorette.

Two of the seven majorette judges were Black, Yesulatis said.

Practice sessions including the leader from each band section before tryouts would be helpful for Blacks, he said.

"I don't look at it as Black or white, it's talent," Yesulatis said about the applicants. "We have never turned anyone down who was successful who tried."



Ophelia Davis (photo by Sonja Payton)

## University ignores underlying racial tensions

**LAWRENCE TURNER**  
Managing Editor

Campus race relations have an underlying tension and people usually avoid or ignore it, UNC assistant clinical psychology professor Denise Barnes said in a recent interview.

"I think it's a stressful situation and that one of the ways people deal with it is to deny that it is there," Barnes said.

"Sometimes Black folk don't have a choice in denying racial matters," she said.

Barnes has dealt with the issue in discussion groups sponsored by the Carolina Union's Human Relations Committee.

She has conducted four discussion groups involving Black and white students since last year.

### FRESHMEN TARGETED

"I really think (the Black discussion group) is needed, because they need an outlet of frustration," Barnes said. The group could be geared for freshmen and take advantage of the upper-classmen

(their knowledge) and let people know where their support systems are on campus," she said.

Barnes said the program could aid during crucial times of the year. For example, the group could discuss when students have their first series of tests in courses at UNC, she said.

The program also could discuss continuous racial prejudice incidents students encounter, Barnes added. Students need to keep a positive self-image and self-esteem, she said.

Otherwise, Barnes conducts the groups for a self-examination of racial attitudes and not to change those attitudes. "I want people to get in touch with their feelings about the other race," she said.

### ROLE PLAYING

Groups achieve this through role playing or discussing fantasies, Barnes said.

An effective role playing example was a Black student pretending to be a white woman reacting to a Black man sitting beside her on an airplane flight, she said.

Some observations of Black students in discussion groups included that Blacks spoke about racial issues easily and gave personal incidents to document their cases usually, she said.

In comparison, whites had a little more trouble (discussing racial matters) and tended to intellectualize" and not give personal incidents, Barnes said.

But there existed exceptions to both cases, she added.

### GROUP OBSERVATIONS

Although Barnes said the groups served as learning experiences for everyone, both Blacks and whites felt unable to change the racial situation. "They were caught up in a pre-made system and couldn't change things," she said.

The groups were small and organized to follow discussion topics without any set agenda for organization, Barnes said.

Another observation from the groups is that Black students are very angry about what they have to cope with aside from academics, in particular prejudice from

whites, she said.

"They felt it was very unfair, but they realized it's just not on this campus but wherever they go they'll have to deal with it," Barnes said.

### STRESSFUL PROBLEMS

The racial problems Blacks encounter can result in stress through several ways, Barnes said.

The problems can stem from white people's biases, their too-nice attitude toward Blacks, she said.

Another problem is ignorance of the different cultures of the races, she added.

Anxiety may result from stress from the discrimination from whites as, for example, not receiving a job because of being Black, Barnes said.

The future of the discussion groups is unknown, but Barnes said. "I think the University ought to find some means to expand the programs... because now it's me. And if me should get tired, who would continue it?"