

# 'Rapping'

# Angela Davis Warns Of Facism

by Jon Hankins  
Special Correspondent

Black ignorance is the white racist's secret ally. In the past, whenever whites sought to prevent Black progress to equality, they tried to do it through the frustration, stultification, and just plain prevention of learning on the part of Blacks. As a result, we grew up ignorant, both of our own history and of our potential. Also, as contradictory as it may sound, we also grew up ignorant of white history, just as the whites also have grown

"You must align yourself with the people who are struggling the most. You'll not only be fighting for them, but

align yourself with them, defend their civil liberties and their rights, when the attack comes down on you it just might be too late!"

This seemingly rhetorical comment at first appears insipid and innocuous. But spoken by Angela Davis, it possesses timely significance which she, sometimes painfully, detailed to a capacity crowd at UNC-Chapel Hill's Memorial Hall.

"The first thing we have to do if we are going to defend our own civil liberties is to know the nature and the pattern of repression in American history -- and what will happen if it is allowed to proceed unchecked," she said.

The American government has historically practiced a "conspiratory pattern of repression localized in Washington" embodying an insidious alliance to coerce and repress all but the interests of the economic and political elite. Dispaired by the recent Vice Presidential selection, Angela characterized Nelson Rockefeller as "the epitome of corporate high-power interests." She said solemnly, "I sincerely believe that we are experiencing an extremely dangerous moment in American history, where we might end up in a lethal abyss of facism."

In this century the American elitocracy has relentlessly

defined more and more groups for "fascistic" repression "starting with the Communist Party in the 40's, to the Civil Rights and Student movements of the 60's, til they broke in the doors of the Democratic party."

repression of selected groups, it also renders the majority of the white population submissive and docile," Angela explains. "Ford knows that when the white people in Boston are out in the streets brutalizing black kids, they (the whites) don't have time to

would they make heroes of psychopathic killers and mass murderers?

According to the propagandistic exposure we received in white history, every page we turned was replete with the deeds of white heroes, generally battling against overwhelming odds, and still winning. Or, if not winning, losing, and in doing so, achieving martyrdom, which is still winning posthumously.

In the meantime, we Blacks, Chicanos, Red Men and every other non-white group, instead of donning water-proof hip-boots to wade through this cesspool of bull that we have been incessantly exposed to during our youth, succumbed to the myths, and the lies, and the half-truths; and while we adulated non-existent white heroes, we demeaned and castigated ourselves for not being capable of the deeds that American white mythologists set before us as examples to live up to.

So now we see the material results of the success that was achieved by our American step-brothers, and if we were more knowledgeable than we are, we would also see the price that they paid for such success, and also, the price that we paid, for their success.

But none of this is really obvious enough, yet. What we do not realize is that America, the New Land, was once England's Siberia, to which the criminals, castoffs, and political dissidents were once exiled. Not that England was that upright and moral. She, herself, was crude, vulgar and full of pomp and circumstance, and her leaders were prude, crude and vaingloriously greedy.

Since no one can pass through a sewer and come out smelling like a rose, and since anyone passing through that sewer is going to emerge with some of that taint still on him, so we have to consider the early settlers, no matter how romantically mythologized, as products of the English environment from which so many of them were ejected. We have to assume that "noble" passions were not a part of their makeup, and that an overwhelmingly compelling and oppressive sense of inferiority motivated them. Tie this in with an aggressive hostility on their part and a penchant and opportunity for the unbridled ruthlessness presented by the American wilderness to the settlers for exercising their violent passions, and we have an explosive mix that has manifested itself in terrible and brutally contradictory ways.

This mix has produced, on the one hand, one of the most noble documents known to man, and on the other hand, one of the most degrading social conditions possible.

Norman N. Barbee



Angela Davis

"I don't frighten very easily," she said. "But when I see all the things that are now happening in this country, I get very, very frightened."

The nature of American racism is an anachronism of this growing facism and illustrates the interrelatedness of the problems. "Racism is the single most important weapon for the powerful because it diverts the attention of everybody away from the people behind all these nonsensical elements. Not only is it a tool for the

like economic survival in these times of rising inflation and unemployment.

Angela said that no longer is it sufficient to limit one's political awareness to the civil liberties and rights laid down in the Constitution. For even as that document was being drafted, people contemplated the consequences of minority as well as majority tyranny in this "land of the free." Underlying many of these discussions is the idea that a society is only as free as is its least free. Since the "guaranteed" American freedoms have historically been selectively distributed, people should be wary of any sense of security. If you are not among the powerful, what ever your present status, Angela warns "You are a potential victim."

"The only way to effectively eradicate the present insanity is through mass collective movements, through collective action," she said.

Next Week:  
Part Two

## NER Gets New Board Members

Governor Jim Holshouser announced the appointment of 10 members to the Board of Natural and Economic Resources.

The 25-member Board was created by the General Assembly to consider and advise the Secretary of Natural and Economic Resources on any matter that he may refer to it, assist in the development of major programs, and recommend priorities for the Department.

Eight of the Governor's appointees have served on the former State Board of Conservation and Development. They are James C. Gardner of Rocky Mount; Ronald Barbee of Greensboro; Charles M. Shelton of King; Charles F. Coira, Jr., of Charlotte; Henry A. Mitchell, Jr., of Raleigh; Mrs. Anne K. Hickman of Winston-Salem;

Edwin A. Morris of Greens-

boro and Dewey Wells of Elizabeth City.

The other two new members

are John F. Watlington, Jr., and Charles Frank Benbow, both of Winston-Salem.

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The Show will start at 10 p.m. and last until 2 a.m. There will be 30 minutes of soft recorded jazz. Then the fashion show and then Charlie will do his thing...slow, funky, and mellow just the way you like it.

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