

# Angela Davis

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dent, an honor she also held in 1980, her candidacy has taken a back seat to a more urgent concern. Uppermost on her agenda, she says, is defeating Ronald Reagan.

"Right now, I'm the Communist Party's vice presidential candidate and have been very involved in the effort to see that Reagan is defeated," said Davis recently during a break at a conference on black women she participated in at Bennett College. "It's very important to establish continuity with the struggles of the 70s and the struggles of the 60s and, of course, we saw the campaign around Jesse Jackson

establish that continuity and awaken a new political consciousness among so many people in this country who have been disfranchised. Now, it's extremely important in these last few days ... that everyone participate in getting the vote out so that, if there's a possibility of defeating Reagan, we can. And I think there is a real possibility."

Although Davis said she is preaching against Reagan, she is not preaching for Mondale.

"It is saying vote for Mondale and Ferraro but not for the sake of voting for them," said Davis. "We know that Mondale and Ferraro don't really represent the

interest of black people or any other oppressed people or working class people in general.

"We have registered thousands and thousands of people all over this country. Some will vote for us ... but by and large they will vote for Mondale and Ferraro."

The success of today's struggles, said Davis, depends on different groups coming together and gaining from each other's strength -- a movement, said Davis, that will be an extension of what Jackson called the Rainbow Coalition.

"The Rainbow Coalition was possible for black people and other minorities to get together and realize what can occur in the

future," said Davis.

And an organization like the Rainbow Coalition can become a third political party, a party that will meet the needs of the people not being met by the present two parties, said Davis.

"I think we do need a third party," she said. "The Democratic Party is not going to be a people's party. I think we are going to have to build a people's party."

And with the enthusiasm of today's young people -- enthusiasm that was tapped by the Jackson campaign, Davis said -- she sees the emergence of a third party.

"There is a real enthusiasm among young people," she said. "Black and white working class people realize the problems but there is a lack of organization."

"The present level of organization does not coincide with what we desire to see. Buses and carpools from every church should be helping to get the vote out."

# Edelman

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Many adults argue that many of the children who listen to the radio don't know what they are listening to and just like the beat of the music. I do not believe this is true.

Many children can recite the words to the songs they hear better than they can say their multiplication tables and parents should face up to the fact that they are receiving very explicit sexual messages -- far more explicit, I am sorry to say, than they are getting from their parents.

I know it's hard, but if we are going to counteract the influence of much modern music -- not to mention television -- we have to

start talking to our children about sexual responsibility. The songs they listen to are a starting point. "Why do you like that song?" "What do you think the lyrics mean?" "Do you agree?" "Would you speak to or treat someone you care about the way the singer sings about his or her 'lover'?"

Then we must share with our children how we feel. Children often don't think their parents have feelings about sex, aside from the opinion that their children shouldn't have any.

We have to be able to discuss the feelings, confusions and frustrations involved in developing sexual values in a society that

sometimes seems to say there are no rights and wrongs.

This is not to let the singers themselves off the hook. They make a lot of money from the music they sell our children. We should let them know that along with the profits and the adulation comes responsibility.

They know they are heroes to our children. They, too, must confront the values they are espousing in their songs and ask whether "love" ballads really have to be x-rated to be hits.

(Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund, a national voice for children.)

# Marable

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billion after taxes. Reaganomics has made a qualitative difference: it has destroyed the lives of million for the profit of the few.

But the most profound impact of Reagan's re-election will be experienced across Africa and the Third World. Reagan's detente with apartheid quite literally is murdering thousands of Africans annually. Under Reagan, U.S. exports to South Africa have increased by \$1 billion. Namibian independence talks have stalled; Mozambique and Angola have been forced to negotiate at gunpoint. Repression of ANC and PAC dissidents has escalated with Reagan's blessings. And can anyone doubt that U.S. troops

will invade Nicaragua if Reagan's re-elected?

We must continue to criticize Mondale. The difference between Mondale and Reagan may only be of degree. But frequently -- in South Africa and in U.S. ghettos -- even a degree of difference can mean victory or defeat. Boycotting the 1984 presidential election may sound "radical," but it is exactly what the Reaganites want us to do.

For southern Africa, Nicaragua, welfare mothers and blue-collar workers, Reagan's re-election may mean life or death. We don't have the luxury to avoid the lesser evil this time.

Vote for Mondale-Ferraro, but criticize them all the way.

(Dr. Manning Marable teaches political sociology at Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y. His column appears in 140 newspapers internationally.)

# Letters

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expect from a continuation of the present national administration.

All Republican congressmen who may be elected this year will never have a bottom of their own to stand. The White House is well

known for its tyrannical rule. We cannot afford to subject ourselves to more of this rule.

H.B. Goodson  
Winston-Salem

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PUNCH #196

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