

## Solidarity Day Observed

By WINOMA GRIFFIN

Feb. 8 marked the first anniversary of the Orangeburg Massacre--exactly one year ago Brothers Delano Middleton, Samuel Hammond, and Henry Smith were shot down by police on the campus of S.C. State College. Saturday, Feb. 8, was set aside as "Solidarity Day", a day in which students from the two Carolinas commemorated the Orangeburg Massacre.

The schedule for Solidarity Day on Bennett's campus consisted of a workshop that involved both faculty and students. Members of the panel were Linda Silver, Mary Shanks, Andrea Harris, Sandra Wilson, and Sandra Philpott.

A final rally was held at 3 p.m. on the Bennett campus. Speaker for the rally was Bro. James

Turner of Northwestern University in Ill. Bro. Turner stressed the importance of "commitment to our people" and to the struggle for liberation--liberation from oppression--social, economic, and particularly psychological oppression. He explained that because the black man has been so conditioned by white society, he has not been able to achieve total liberation. The black man's thinking has been based upon white ideals, values, morals, and so on. Moreover, in order to achieve total liberation, the struggle for liberation should be directed a-

gainst "capitalist exploitation" as well as racial oppression, for these are factors that continue to hold the black man in a state of dependency. Bro. Turner, in explaining the purpose of Solidarity Day, stated that "We have an obligation to all black leaders, particularly to our slain leaders." Moreover, black people are bound by "blood ties," "family ties," "historical events," and "cultural factors."

The rally ended with a question-and-answer session in which members of the audience were permitted to ask questions.

## Orangeburg Massacre The Facts

Three students, Samuel Hammond, 18 of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Henry Smith, 18 of Marion, S.C., and Delano Middleton 18, a Orangeburg high school student were killed and at least 28 others were injured during a short, intensive burst of gunfire during the week of Feb. 5-9, 1968. The incident occurred in the small Negro College city of Orangeburg, S.C. Information concerning the massacre was taken from a Special Report by the Southern Regional Council, Atlanta, Ga., and was described thus.

On Monday night, Feb. 5, a group of Negro students from S.C. State College and Claflin College in Orangeburg visited the All-Star Bowling Lanes, the only bowling alley in town. In the background of the visit to the lanes was Negro resentment of the segregated status. Negotiations on the local level (and efforts to involve the national government) to desegregate the bowling alley had all failed. Harry L. Floyd, proprietor of the bowling alley, refused service to the Negroes and asked them to leave. When the students refused to leave, he went out to obtain warrants for their arrest on trespassing charges. While he was gone, Orangeburg Chief of Police Roger E. Paston cleared the bowling alley of all persons and closed it for the night. On Tuesday night, Feb. 6, local police were present when a group of students appeared again at the bowling alley seeking service. The door of the bowling alley was locked to the students when Chief

of Police Paston arrived on the scene, the door was opened to him and some 25 students rushed to the door gaining entrance. Fifteen were arrested on trespassing charges and taken to jail. Word of the arrests quickly spread across the two campuses and by 7:45 p.m. a crowd of approximately 300 students gathered in the shopping center parking lot. Alarmed at the potential danger of their presence in the parking lot, city officials, including the Chief of Police decided to release the fifteen Negroes who had been arrested on the promise that they would urge the students in the parking lot to go back to the campus. But at that moment also, for reasons not

clear, a city fire engine pulled into the parking lot. There was a return of anger, and a return by most of the crowd to the parking lot, to surround the fire engine. The truck was ordered out of the lot, but the students, newly agitated, moved now to the bowling alley, swarming about its glass front. Police from 15 or 20 cars in the parking lot closed in behind them. Police pushed at the crowd and then city and state police alike, began beating back the crowd with billy clubs. More than one witness told of a young woman held by one policeman, hit with a billy club by a second, also of a young woman begging not to be hit again, even as a policeman swung his club.

The students from both colleges paused back onto the State College campus, breaking windows in white businesses along the way.

The students obtained a permit to march at about 8:30 Wednesday morning. A list of grievances was handed to the city council by the students. The city council's answers were essentially negative. Between 75 and 130 male students milled around the edge of the campus of S.C. State College facing Watson Street and Highway 601. Someone suggested building a bonfire on Watson St. The fire was started and according to an observer, about 50 highway patrolmen along with 45 guardsmen and a number of city police were present. Firemen began putting out the dying bonfire. A fireman reportedly yelled that they were being shot at from the campus. Suddenly the patrolmen began shooting over the bank toward the mob. "It was a crackling gunfire, almost as if an order had been given for all patrolmen to shoot at once." The state maintains that no order to fire was given. But no one including newsmen on the scene saw any students with guns, and the students said they heard no shots immediately preceding the gunfire of the patrolmen. The students maintain that without warning shots were fired into a defenseless, unarmed crowd.

To this date, no punitive action has been taken against the perpetrators of this crime.



BENNETT'S OWN MISS UNCF  
Florenzo Watson



BERNADETTE GREGORY  
Drama Production

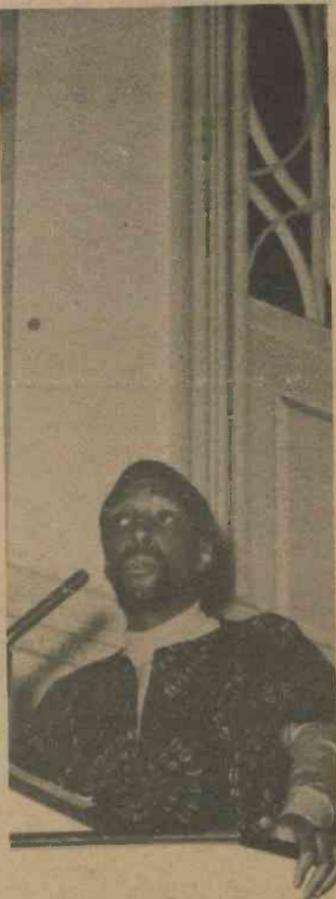
Once again the Little Theatre Guild raises its curtains to produce "Barefoot In the Park" written by Neil Simon. The play is a comedy centered around the difficulties that a newly married couple faces as they settle into their new brownstone apartment. Having to cope with inadequate space, heating and plumbing, and an overly concerned mother-in-law, the couple finds the situation to be quite hectic. The husband is portrayed by Gregory Tally, a student at A&T, and the wife is portrayed by Hilda Freeman, a freshman here at Bennett. The supporting roles are played by Alfred Jones from Dudley High School, Edgar Murphy, Tyrone Miller, both from A&T, and Betty Jones, and Hattie Carwell from Bennett.

## 4 Students Attend UNCF Conference In New Orleans

By WINOMA GRIFFIN

The United Negro College Fund Conference was held in New Orleans, La., Feb. 6-9. The conference consisted of 36 black privately operated colleges. Included were Clark College in Atlanta, Bethune-Cookman, Daytona Beach, Fla., Barber-Scott, Concord, N.C., and Bennett. The purpose of the conference was to allow each college to report on its activities in relation to the United Negro College Fund, to suggest plans and activities for the years 1969-70, and to better acquaint student representatives with the functions of the pre-alumni Council.

Florenza Watson, a sophomore here, was chosen as Bennett's own Miss UNCF. She attended the conference along with Bernadette Gregory, Carla Friend, and Doris Scott. Mrs. Necia Boyers, director of Co-curricula activities here, was also present at the conference. Bernadette Gregory was elected as secretary of the National Pre-Alumni Council. Bernadette is presently treasurer of the sophomore class here at Bennett.



BRO. TURNER SPEAKS

## Thought For Today

Negro colleges are like Oreo cookies, black on the outside and white on the inside.

--Leon Wiles,  
Philander Smith,  
Little Rock, Ark.