

Black voters reflect racial respect

"Hey, the election is next month. I can't wait to vote. Are you registered yet?" If that statement is made, can you imagine the response? The number can be counted as to who would have an unconcerned facial expression and say, "Big deal! My candidate is not going to win anyway so why should I bother?" or "I don't have time to deal with that mess." Mess, you say? It will be a mess if you allow a candidate to take office who undoubtedly doesn't need to be there because he doesn't give "cat-dog" about your personal concerns or rights.

It is of great concern that thousands of people have this attitude. Many people are too busy sitting around the table fussing and complaining about what funds President So-and-so cut or what jobs he can't find or even how Mr. So-and-so is making the rich richer and the poor worse off than before.

Do these people realize how long and how determined their ancestors fought for their right to vote? We have, as Blacks, misused and shamed our right to

vote.

Realize your vote will make a difference. Be a role model for your brother or sister. If your friend sees that you care about voting, then he or she will get out there and tell a friend, and that friend will tell a friend and so on. In the long run, it will reunite our black power and hopefully make it stronger.

It is time we put our pride and selfishness in the closet. We should grab the hand of our neighbor and lead him. "Where, you say?" The right way!

Once everyone is counted by vote, then our vote will make a definite impact, and we won't have to worry about where our next dollar for school will or will not come from or whether we'll be out in the battlefield instead of the classroom.

Please don't misuse the right we have to turn this nation inside out. Like Geraldine Ferraro said, the time is now. So make the time and take the time to count. It will make a difference—a big one at that! (Dee Evans)

October conference is a big step forward

We politely differ with anyone who says, "Nothing ever happens on this campus."

The truth is that plenty has always happened here, but this fall is especially rich in events.

A few weeks back, there was the splendid 10th Annual Evening of Public Speaking—a night of rollicking and provocative entertainment that showed this college in its very best light.

Tonight is the eve of Parents' Weekend whose highlights include a talent show, which traditionally draws rapturous reviews; conferences between the faculty, parents and students; and a special Founder's Day service on Sunday.

Next weekend brings the coronation of Rhonda Chapelle Jackson as the new Miss Bennett.

But between these two showcase events on the college calendar, there's something new and we'd like to focus on it.

Occurring Oct. 17-19, a conference sponsored by the Bennett Scholars, "A

Socio-Cultural History of the Black Woman in America: Traditional, Feminist and Ethnographic" will bring three distinguished black female writers, Margaret Walker Alexander, Paula Giddings and Angela Davis to this campus.

This is a conference of national significance. It will attract scholars from across America, involve the Greensboro community and offer first-class illuminations to all Belles.

In many ways, our acclaimed guests represent links on the chain of sisterhood that has ennobled black women and profoundly affected the course of American history.

In addition, the conference ideally fulfills the mandate of President Isaac H. Miller, Jr. who has urged the college to accomplish things of national importance.

We congratulate the Scholars, who have worked long and hard to make this conference a success, and extend our special thanks to Dr. Marshena Baird, director of the Scholars, who wrote the proposal which secured sponsoring funds from The North Carolina Humanities Committee.

What's happening at Bennett? It's called excitement.

Black College Day march

Unity and euphoria reign in Raleigh

by Karen R. Taylor

It was hot. The temperature soared above 80 as a mass of 3,000 black college students came together to rally for survival, peace, freedom and equality.

Purposefulness and anger intermingled with an appreciation for history in the making. There was euphoria as it became evident to the assemblage that we had overcome apathy. We came — no, we swarmed — together with individuals from coast to coast to form the body of the march. The body grew until finally it flowed into the streets.

It flowed freely this time as a white police force seemed more interested in keeping the peace than in restricting the movement of the march. Most of the marchers were black college students, but there were some five to 10 black dignitaries who came to join the National Historically Black College Day agenda with their own agendas.

We knew the importance of marching and rallying. We had first-hand knowledge and we went to demonstrate our awareness. We went to show the present administration that we are fired up and we are not going to take it any more. We went to show that "we don't need no music," because all we want to do is

read and write, study hard and stay in our black schools.

Represented on the speaker's platform and in the forefront of the march were all student government presidents of all the black colleges in North Carolina. We talked about everything from slavery to freedom. We talked about everything from the negative aspect of life to the positive aspect of life.

We talked about everything the government once offered and everything that President Reagan has now cut. We talked about the chauvinistic view of male society and the ongoing struggle for women's rights. We talked. We were listened to. We were heard. Our message was digested by every soul that came to partake in the Black College Day meal.

Leaving the march, we all brought home a renewed spirit of positive action. We returned carrying a new feeling of power and freedom. We went, we saw one another and now, together, we will conquer. That's the way it was on Sept. 24 in Raleigh.

Bennett College played its role in making Black College Day a success. For the 70 Belles who went, the meaning of Black College Day soon became evident.

Bennett was very supportive, and among its members true sisterhood was shown.

Politics means discretion

a column
by Vicky Dunn

I was all psyched up to write a political article, the timing being perfect, as Democratic vice presidential candidate, Geraldine Ferraro, was in Greensboro only a few days ago.

And in a sense, I will be writing politics — only of a different nature. Politics, in a broad sense, is "the total complex of relations between men in society." That, of course, is merely a denotation; politics, or the act of politicking in reality is quite a bit more interesting than those nine words would ever lead one to believe.

I'm sure that Ferraro realizes that she must act in a political manner everywhere she goes. She must be perfectly attired, infallibly spoken, and incredibly well-mannered. These virtues may be expected of everyone prestigious, but never would their absence cause such an uproar as they would in Ferraro.

She is an image maker. Sure, she has had political forerunners, but never before

has a female candidate (for president or vice president) been taken so seriously. Millions of Americans are watching her simply to see that she is indeed wearing her strand of pearls. Even her pearls, a symbol of femininity, are political to voters. They symbolize to many that she is and always will be a woman.

I had the opportunity to do a little politicking myself this weekend as I often do while traveling with the Bennett College Choir. After picking out just the right dress, and following specific instructions to curl my hair just so, I thought I was prepared for both of the performances at two large, prominent churches in Winston-Salem and High Point. Both were quite impressive to me, bringing to mind the cathedrals I studied in Humanities 201.

As we were whisked about from room to room, I noticed many African artifacts, maps and other relics. This was understandable, as it was African Missions Emphasis Day. But our presence on this particular day? Coincidence or politics? I'd call it the latter.

I must admit that I'm somewhat biased in the matter, but I placed a small wager on the afternoon's menu, and the expected delicacy showed up — fried chicken. I am inclined to think that more than coincidence was involved. The political response, of course, was to smile and bear it.

Later that evening, I had the pleasure of hearing the new Bishop, L. Bevel Jones, III, of the United Methodist Church. One well-respected minister responded to his message with "in the words of my constituency, you done good!" Most of the audience enjoyed the exclamation.

When one of the ministers approached me after the service, patted me on the back and said, "You done good," I'm certain that he read the disapproval in my face. Politicking was then shot to the wind. I was calm, as I never intend to cause damage to Bennett's image. I simply intend never to do damage to my image as a black woman either. To those who require a smile from their fellow politickers, I say, "Yes, we did do well."

Letters to the editor:

Yearbook amended; NAACP stats

To the Editor:

I'm writing you concerning an outstanding mistake that was made about me in the 1984 yearbook regarding my nationality.

On page 111, I am listed as being from Raleigh, N. C., while on page 130, I am posing with the group of international students with the understanding that I am supposed to be international. I cannot be international and at the same time be labeled as being from Raleigh, N. C.

I would appreciate it very much if you would please state in your next issue of the BANNER that I am from St. Croix, Virgin Islands and not from Raleigh, N. C. I am international.

Thanks very much for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,
Dayme Joseph

To the Editor:

The following breakdown comes from the *Black Resource Guide*, which lists the black population of the U.S. as 26,488,248.

Enrollment in Colleges	1,200,000
Veterans	4,000,000
Trade Unionists	3,000,000
Men & Women in the Armed Forces	376,747
Officers in the Armed Forces	12,619
Postal Workers	108,000
Black Churches	65,000
Police Officers	30,000
Doctors	10,540
Lawyers	14,000
Firefighters	8,000
Elected Officials	4,912
Dentists	2,600
Black-owned Newspapers	400
Mayors	196
Members of Congress	18

The Bennett College
Chapter of the NAACP

The Bennett Banner

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Opinions expressed in columns and letters to the editor belong to the author, not to the staff of the Banner.

Send letters to the editor to Box 2. All mail must be signed by hand.

Correction Box

- The name of the chairman of the social sciences division was misspelled in our last edition. It should have read Dr. William Candley.
- The middle initial of the residence life director was given incorrectly. Mrs. Ouida Scarborough's middle initial is R.
- Dean Chelsea Tipton's leave of absence covers one semester, not the entire academic year.

Please accept our apologies.