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"When I go in, I go in to work"

Prof seeks win

by Yvette N. Freeman

Dr. Alma Adams is once again on the campaign trail. This time, she's running for re-election to the Greensboro City Council.

Adams was elected to the council in 1987, and says, "I feel good about the election, and I feel good about the service I rendered this first term."

Over the past two years, she has learned much about how the city government operates.

"Overall, I think the process is basically designed to solicit the input from the citizens to help the elected officials make the appropriate decisions for the community," she stated.

Adams feels that Greensboro has "an unusually high rate of citizen participation in city government" and says that "citizens should become more involved" in the political process. She explains that citizens often do not inform their elected officials of any problems they feel should be handled, yet expect them to make decisions to solve the problems.

Adams says, "I don't think you should totally rely on those persons (elected officials) to make the decisions."

During Adams' first term, the council passed several bond referendums. A referendum was passed to refurbish the neighborhoods on Greensboro's east side, which include Best Street, Bingham Street, Phillips Avenue, Julian Street and other areas considered to be high in crime and drug trafficking.

Adams says the council also passed a bond referendum for low and moderate housing, yet she doesn't feel that it is enough.

"We have done some things in housing but we haven't done as much as we would have liked," she said.

Adams also stated that "I've tried to pay particular attention to happenings in District 2," which she represents. However, she adds that council members are often criticized for wanting to upgrade and improve their particular districts. Adams argues that, "when certain areas of our city are strengthened and brought up to par with other areas of the city, that strengthens the entire city."

One success story that Adams is very proud of is that of the new library on Phillips Ave. According to Adams, the citizens in that area had been trying to get the city to open a library in their neighborhood for several years but were never successful. As a result of the citizens' persistence, they now have the "largest library in the city," says Adams.

Although her first term seems to be marked with success, the problem of public transportation still bothers Adams. She says, "We have not made adequate provisions for the public transportation

system." What she would like to see are better buses, extended hours and an improved routing system. The council has continually discussed improving the public transportation system, but it has yet to implement a plan, according to Adams. "I think that they (citizens) deserve better," she remarked.

In addition to trying to solve the housing, neighborhood refurbishment, and transportation problems, the city council has also been working to improve business and economic opportunities for minorities. Adams states that the group has been striving to "guarantee some equity of distribution of funds" to minority businesses. This would consist of business contracts and federal money, according to Adams. She adds that "some districts have never received equitable amounts of money."

"The primary issue with me is that city government is accountable to all citizens regardless of their income, regardless of their race, regardless of where they live," states Adams.

Beyond the Greensboro City Council, Adams admits that she has other political aspirations. She says, "I would like to eventually serve on the state level. North Carolina does not have a black congressperson. I think there's something wrong with that."

Adams also says that she sometimes "jokingly" talks of being mayor. "I don't see why this city could not have a black mayor," she stated, adding that she's not saying it should be she.

However, whatever position Adams is in, she says, "When I go in, I go in to work."

The election for the Greensboro City Council will take place Nov. 7.



Reelection campaign: Dr. Alma Adams, chairperson of the visual arts and humane studies department, is striving to return to Greensboro City Council. (photo by Yvette N. Freeman)

Writer to receive degree

Phenomenal woman visits

by Rehan Overton

The celebrated author and Pulitzer Prize nominee, Maya Angelou, will be the recipient of an honorary doctoral degree at this year's Founders' Day Convocation Oct. 15.

Angelou, one of the most acclaimed African-American women in the literary field, will be the special guest at the ceremony to be held in Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel.

By receiving an honorary doctorate, Angelou will become an official Bennett Belle and alumna.

President Gloria Scott had this to say about Angelou's visit and induction into the Bennett sisterhood: "I would hope that they (students) will retain this as a very important moment in the life of Bennett, where Ms. Angelou has chosen to bond with Bennett and be identified with Bennett and be supportive of Bennett, so that she can represent . . . all the Bennett Belles."

Students are eagerly anticipating Angelou's visit.

"This is the first time that I can really say that I look

forward to attending Founders' Convocation," says senior Iris Becton. "Maya Angelou is someone we all can relate to simply because she is a black woman who has overcome many of life's tragedies. She is someone to be respected."

Although Angelou will not be speaking at any scheduled events or lectures during Founders' Weekend, Dr. Scott stated that students should expect a return visit from Angelou during which she will instruct classes as a visiting professor.

Volleyballers have zip

by Erica Salter

The Belles are back once again for the 1989 volleyball season.

The new season brings with it some major changes. The team now plays in the NCAA Division III, which means more competitive opponents, such as A&T, UNCG and Winston-Salem State University. The Belles have won only once, but they are improving.

Each member had to pass a drug test issued by the NCAA to play this year.

Veteran players include: senior Kim Howard and juniors Yvette Williams and Candra Ruffin. These players are vital because they know one another's moves.

The newcomers to the team are Karen Weaver, Catrena Jordan, Marj Scarborough,

Kemyatta Vincent, Zandra Allen, Lynette Perry, Shawn Griffith, Inez Triplin and Karen Warren.

Ms. Joyce Spruill has returned as coach this year. Spruill was the coach of the girls' volleyball and basketball teams at A&T before accepting the position at Bennett last year. Spruill has also assumed the role of physical education teacher.

"She is a motivator," said Catrena Jordan. "There is no way you can play a sport for Coach Spruill and not be enthused."

Zandra Allen agrees, stating, "Coach Spruill is thorough. She wants the team to be good whether they win or lose."

According to Marj Scarborough, "She helps each player realize the importance God plays in the advancement

of athletes."

Zandra Allen and Catrena Jordan feel that contributing all they can to the team is vital to their success. Scarborough adds that, "communication is the key."

Kim Howard says, "The potential is there; time is important." Catrena Jordan states that, "the team is strong, but young. People have high expectations, but must understand that teams such as A&T and UNCG are more organized. Next year we'll be boomin'."

Reacting to the criticism of the team's record by some students, Howard says, "My fellow Bennett sisters, you knew when tryouts were. If you can't help us, don't hurt us."

Overall, the team has a winning spirit and great attitude.

Students develop interest about African heritage

by Erica Salter

The Bennett College African Awareness Assembly is now an active organization on campus.

The new organization (AAA) intends to increase students' awareness of African and African-American history, thoughts, culture and ideas. According to the group's constitution, its purpose is to assemble students who want to "remember the humanity, glory and suffering of our ancestors" and also "provide new direction for our people" and "to promote the element of change and new ideas inherent to Africentrism."

"Developing an understanding and appreciation of the cultural heritage of African-Americans and instilling within students a sense of pride in their heritage, serve as purposes, also, as stated in the constitution.

Sophomore Ureka Wash-

ington, president, and author of the group's constitution said she wants the assembly to become an effectual and positive force on and off campus.

She states, that this goal will be implemented through participation in activities such as an African Fashion show, the Anti-Columbus rally, Kwanza (African Christmas) and a naming ceremony where each member is given her own African name.

Members of AAA show an interest in African history and the impact it has on the present and future.

They also pledged "to cultivate self-reliance, have discipline, patience, devotion, courage and to be free and self-determining."

The group meets every other Thursday and will be working with A&T's History Club. It will use the book "Black Students Guide To Positive Education." Dr. Jacqui Wade is the advisor.



Focus on Africa: Sophomore Ureka Washington is heading a new group whose purpose is to foster a concern for Africa. Known as an exceptional poet, Washington, president of the AAA, is also author of the organization's constitution. (photo by Yvette N. Freeman)