

## PROFILE

## Campus minister filling big shoes

by Lydia J. Oliver  
Bennett Banner

The Rev. Sherrie Cook describes herself as laid back and compassionate, and you will notice these traits as soon as you walk into her office. She'll greet you with a warm smile and a soft 'hello' and take the time to listen to your ideas and problems.

Rev. Cook comes to Bennett from Tulsa, OK, by way of Durham, NC. She was born here in Greensboro and has lived in 37 different states. She has been involved in the ministry for 14 years and was ordained three years ago.

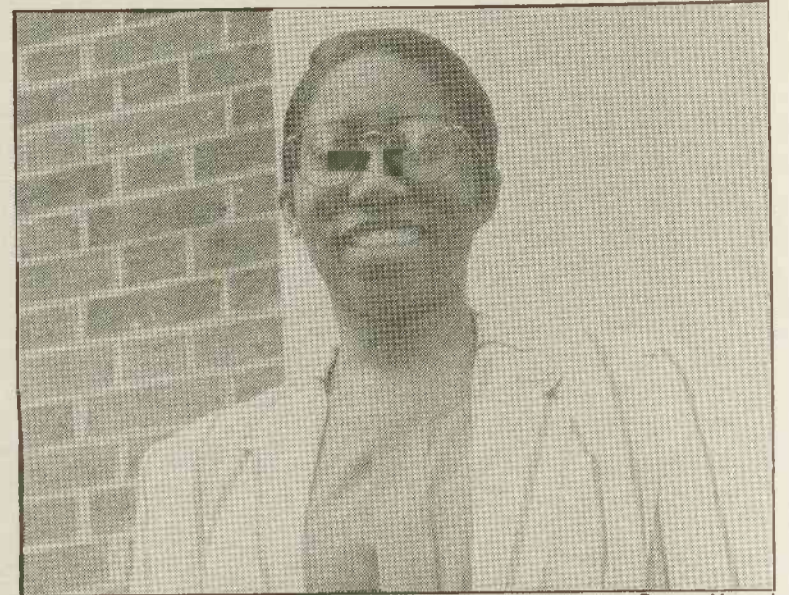
Many people have not seen her around the campus and those who have may not have realized who she was. Last semester she was only really known to those mem-

bers of the Belles of Harmony or the Student Christian Fellowship. This semester, that number has increased to include many more students. Rev. Cook, although approaching 40, can very easily blend into the campus crowd. She is a student at Duke University, where she is finishing her Master's degree in divinity.

Mrs. Jimmie Gravely, the assistant dean of student development, said, "I think students are trying to compare Rev. Cook with Rev. Woods (Bennett's former college chaplain), and are not responding to Rev. Cook as an individual." Mrs. Gravely also said that she hoped Rev. Cook would be on campus full time this semester since last semester she was part-time

(working here and taking her classes at Duke), which would offer more of the students a better opportunity to get to know her.

Alicia Hubbard, a freshman and member of the Belles of Harmony, said that she thought Rev. Cook is a nice person but that she was trying too hard not to offend anyone and that the upperclass students in the choir seemed to make a lot of comparisons between Revs. Woods and Cook. in terms of what the choir has done in the past and what they have accomplished so far this year. "I've heard that before we would have done several concerts by now, but they have to realize that the majority of the choir are freshmen and we need the time to learn the songs that everyone else already



by Deanne McLeod

**COOK'S MOTTO:** "Life is to be enjoyed . . . to its' fullest."

knew," Ms. Hubbard said.

When asked what she would most like the students of Bennett to remember Rev. Cook said, "Life is to be enjoyed. Enjoy life to its' fullest in every expression of life."

She hopes that the

students will give her the chance to help them and lead them into their own understanding.

Her motto for life... 'In my life Lord be glorified,' and her life is definitely a reflection of that.

## The black and white of interracial relationships

by Jocelyn Biggs  
Bennett Banner

He is white and she is black. They are common ordinary people with one thing in common they are in love.

To them, the color of their skin does not matter. The only thing that really counts is that they love each other and one day hope to be married. But in the eyes of some, this should never be.

Interracial or mixed relationships as they are sometimes called have just made it to the fore front of society in the 90's. Spike Lee's "Jungle Fever" was the movie of the 90's that first tackled this very controversial issue. And every since, interracial relationships have been taking place everywhere. Especially where famous persons are involved. The latest couple of mixed color happened to be rock star David Bowie and supermodel Iman. Other stars involved in mixed relationships are Boris Becker, Sidney Poitier, Quincy Jones, Whoopi Goldberg, Charles Barkley and Robert DeNiro.

Interracial relationships are also taking place on college campuses especially at predominately white schools where blacks are few. This is not really happening at predominately black colleges, but here at Bennett, some students are involved in mixed relationships or have been involved in a mixed relationships before.

Rekel Harris, a senior, says that "I would be involved in a interracial relationship if I liked the person. The color of their skin should not have



by Deanne McLeod

anything to do with it." But others beg to differ.

Willie Sykes, a senior at NC A&T, says, "I would never consider talking to someone of another race, for the mere fact that a woman of a different race could do nothing for me, and there is nothing in the world like a beautiful black woman." Most of the young black men interviewed said that they would never consider a interracial relationship.

John Fouls, a student at NC A&T, who has been in an interracial relationship for three years says, "my relationship with my girlfriend happens to be the best thing that has ever happened to me." John met his potential friend in a class that he was taking. John says, "when I first saw her, I felt a certain attraction to her. But I tried to deny it. And then through a mutual friend I found out that she had a certain attraction to me also.

"I must admit that at first it was

real hard for us. A lot of our friends did not want think that it was right for us to be together." "But the way we saw it, it was on us and if it felt right, it was right." "And it must be right because we have been together for three years." Most interracial relationships do no last so long. However one must be mature and understand the consequences that come along with being involved in a relationship like this.

Consider the following relationships (\*Names Have Been Changed). \*Janet Reynolds, a student at Bennett, just left a interracial relationship that lasted for only six months. Janet says, "the pressure from my friends and family really started to get to me. Whenever my girlfriends and I went out with our boyfriends, we always got stares." "People would always say that I was selling out my race by dating a white person." "To me that did not matter, the only thing that mattered to me was when we were together he cared about me and me only." But Janet says, "after this relationship, I doubt if I would get in another relationship with someone of a different race."

\*Brian Coleman, a senior at UNC-Greensboro, describes his first encounter with a black female. "Michelle was very pretty." All the guys were attracted to her, even the white ones. We worked together at the counseling center here on campus, and we would always go to lunch and dinner together. We had a lot in common, the same interests and values. So when Michelle asked me out on a date, I was not surprised at all. We went out to a nice restaurant and then a

Please see Interracial, page 8

## ADVICE COLUMN

## Exercise or get help quick!

DEAR ROXI,

I am seeing someone who has an aggressive temper. This often impacts and interferes with our relationship. How can this person better channel their aggressive feelings? What resources are available to help this person address their aggressive tendencies, and what can I do to ensure that this behavior does not threaten the quality of our relationship?

Signed Tired, but not through!

*Dear Tired but not through,  
Sounds like your friend has a lot of anger outside of your relationship. Your friend really needs to find an alternative way to channel this anger, maybe exercise or if it comes down to it they really should seek counseling.*

DEAR ROXI,

For the past six months, I have wanted to start a wellness and fitness plan complete with plenty of rest and exercise and healthy eating habits; however, I cannot seem to get started. Do you

Please see Roxi, page 8