

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

from the BENNETT BANNER

On Senior Day, March 17, Cynthia Williams, senior English major, presented the following eloquent speech to her graduating class.

Look to your left. Now look to your right. One of these women will pioneer history while the other will change history. 1994 has proven to be anything but lackluster. New policies are being written and executed as women take the forefront of major political, social, economic and religious affairs.

The women in the class of 1994 have been preparing for this moment for four years. We have read the newspapers and looked in our own homes and communities and saw changes that needed to be made, improvements for bettering the lives of all people especially African American.

We knew we could make an impact because we were nurtured. Nurtured by administrators who cared and by professors who went beyond their collegiate obligations to ensure our success.

Ms. Whidbee, Mr. Maclean, Dr. Lewis, Dr. Wentowski, Mr. Gaspeny, Ms. Ayers-Lynch, Ms. McKissick-Kemp, and Ms. Bell. Though they are absent in the physical, their presence is still felt.

The first year was tough. No one wanted to stay at this small black women's college in Greensboro, North Carolina. These professors and many other were her in the Fall of 1990 with the heat, crumbling campus and sinking morale, fear and intimidation.

We saw some of our close friends leave for various reasons: financial, social, academic, immaturity and some left for the "so called" more "established" colleges and universities. We thought for sure that this was it, but we weathered through the storm and something happened. Dr. Scott caught the vision of excellence, perseverance, determination, and the will to succeed from us. You and me.

Dr. Mosby, Dean Gravely, Dr. Alston, and Dean Scarletta caught on fire as they saw us demand something better. To be something better. The professors from, Dr. Ageyman-Douah, Dr. Figgins, Dr. Cobb, Mr. Clark, Dr. Treadway, Dr. Adams, Dr. Kay, Dr. Reid, Dr. Brogdon-Wyatt,

Dr. Pinnix, Dr. Mangum, Mrs. Spear, Ms. Oliver, Ms. Cooper, to Mr. Jackson even the maintenance and food service workers felt the energy as we exploded. As we, the class of 1994, said yes, Bennett, yes.

Unlimited opportunities awaited us as we studied in New York, Virginia and Washington, D.C. We interned at television and radio stations, newspapers, law firms, hospitals, research labs, and even the White House. We were Goodwill Ambassadors and lobbyists. And these are just a few of the accomplishments achieved by us, the phenomenal class of 1994.

We have overcome adversity to be a part of a generation that voices our opinion and moves forward. We have come over a way that with tears has been watered. We have come, class of 1994 treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered. I say to the entire Bennett College community, look for us because sooner than you think will be: diagnosing, rapping, writing, acting, presiding, defending, prosecuting, counseling, advising, praying, singing, teaching, financing, representing, nursing, computing, anchoring, directing, designing and engineering.

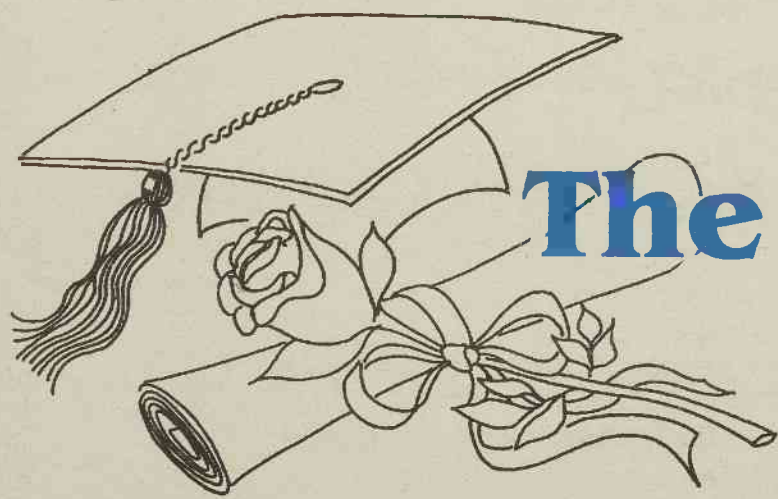
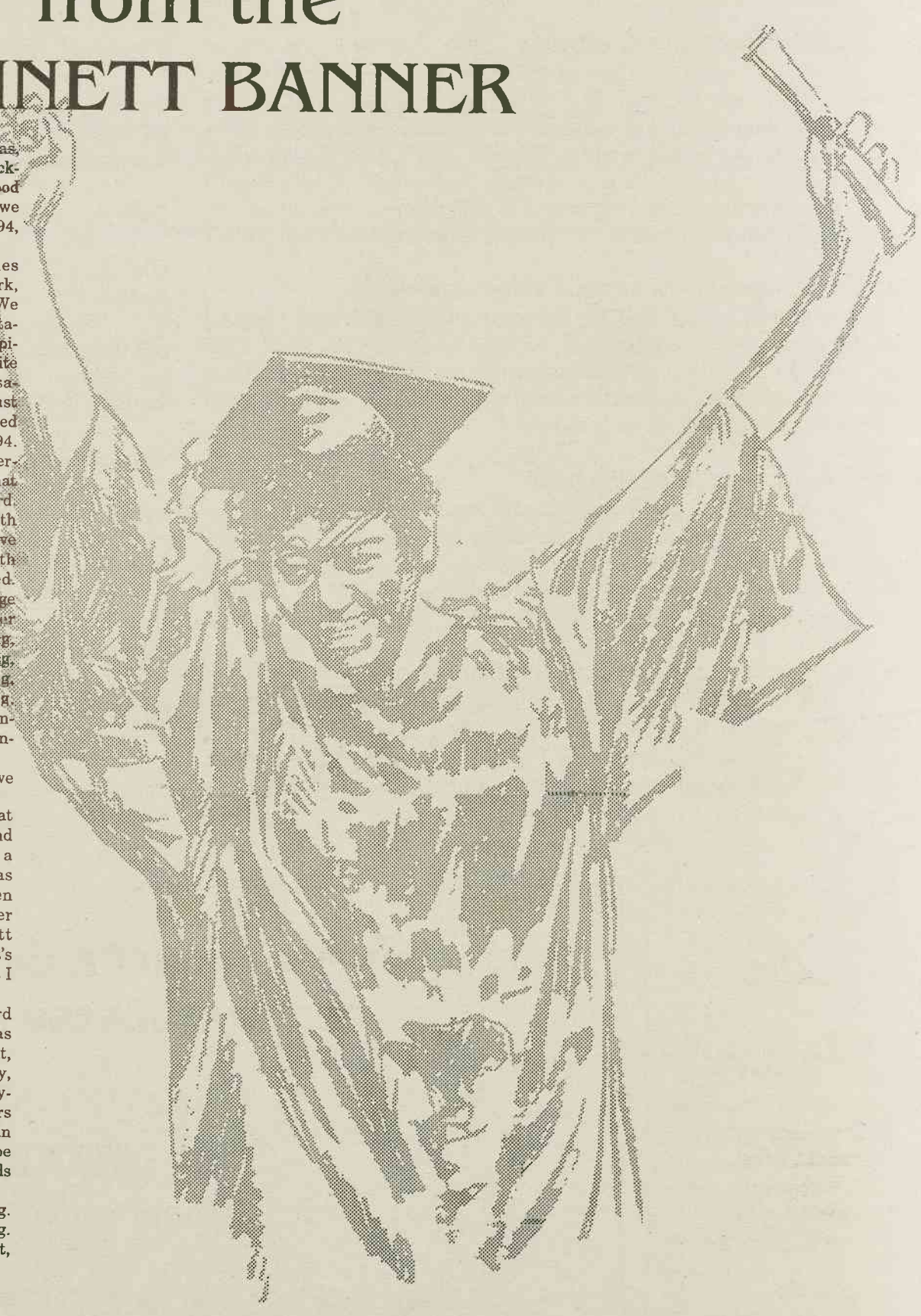
Yes my Bennett sisters, we have arrived.

I remember when I was at New York University last spring and I saw Amma Brown's video, "Walk a little closer this way," on t.v. I was screaming to anyone that would listen to come and watch. She and all of her friends were wearing Bennett sweatshirts and posing on Bennett's campus. I was so proud to say that I went to Bennett. Yes, Bennett.

And as four years of hard labour, a labour of love I believe has come down to this shining moment, We the class of 1994 would like to say, "thank you" and "God Bless" to everyone who has made these four years more than special and more than memorable. They will forever be etched in our hearts and in our minds as we proudly say:

"Alma mater now we sing.
Hail the light that thou dost bring.
True we've been throughout the past,
true to thee while life shall last."

Cynthia Williams



To
**The Graduating Class
of 1994**