

Wise reminisces

by Debra Hodges

"We never thought about being 'trailblazers,'" Gloria Brown Wise said of the students 20 years ago. Mrs. Wise was the first black woman to join the Woolworth's sit-in that sparked a nationwide student protest movement against Jim Crow.

Mrs. Wise spoke at the commemoration service of Bennett's participation in the sixties' student movement on the 20th anniversary of the original sit-in. After the convocation she spoke informally to students and newsmen in a class session and at a luncheon in her honor.

At the convocation, Mrs. Wise called the protester's course non-violent direct action with clearly defined goals. She recalled the level of excitement, enthusiasm and discipline as very high. Bennett students were "on the scene" from the very beginning, she said. "A lot of planning, organizing and meeting" took place before the sit-in began, she recalls. Although all the details are not fresh in her mind, she said the group decided the men would be the first to sit-in because the students "didn't know what to expect."

Before she participated in the protests, Mrs. Wise said she had to search herself to determine if she could withstand the pressure. She realized that, although excitement, enthusiasm and an important cause were there, there was also the risk of physical and emotional abuse.

As SGA president, she also had to decide if she could lead the Bennett students in the protest. She said she knew the Belles

would follow her because they trusted her. The SGA president, she said, must do a lot of "soul-searching" to see if she is committed enough to lead the people who will hold her responsible. Her decisions made, she started to meet with A&T students.

Mrs. Wise applauded the Bennett students as they stood together at that time. She said she represented Bennett College and all the Bennett women in her activities. All Bennett women were represented at the sit-ins, she said, although not all actively participated in the protests. Some worked silently behind the scenes, she said.

She thanked the black and white Greensboro community for its support. She pointed out the risks were greater for residents than for students who planned to graduate and leave the city. She also thanked the white students from neighboring colleges who, she said, were very evident in the protests.

Bennett administration, faculty and staff were very supportive of the students, Mrs. Wise said. Dr. Willa B. Player, the president of Bennett, played a "quiet, unassuming" part, according to Mrs. Wise. Dr. Player was very concerned about the safety of her students and urged careful planning to ensure their safety. "She never questioned our motives," Mrs. Wise said, "... and she would do anything in her power to aid us." Mrs. Wise and the other SGA officers kept Dr. Player posted on their actions and told her how she could help.

Mrs. Wise challenged today's black youth to keep moving for-

ward. She said the "shared enthusiasm, energy, and sense of purpose" held by the students in '60 should also be held by today's students. Don't look back," she said, unless to gain inspiration from the past. She urged students to take a stand now or "all the work done before you will be for nothing." Those involved in the '60 movement are depending on today's students to continue to move further, she said. "We're not there, yet," she said, "we have a long, long way to go."

Priorities, goals and methods that fit today must be found, she said. She stated, "Now may not be the time for picketing or marching." If not, other methods must be found to further the fight against injustice.

Mrs. Wise expressed her joy at being back at Bennett. She hoped that she had challenged all to "do more yet, to move forward... to do more in Greensboro." She urged Bennett students to use Bennett as a "training ground" so when they left they will be "ready" (Continued on Page 5)



Gloria Brown Wise, the first Bennett woman to participate in the Woolworth's Sit-Ins, returns to campus for the twentieth anniversary of the event. She was former SGA president here.

Photo by Davis

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Hunt stresses change for 80's

by Debra Hodges

"What are the challenges of North Carolina in 1980?" was the topic at the North Carolina Governor's Reception Jan. 26. Honoring Gov. James Hunt and former Governors Luther Hodges, Sr., Robert Scott, and Terry Sanford, the six-hour Democratic reception

was well-attended by area Democrats and the press.

A two-hour reception at the Carriage House at Blandwood began the evening. Next, a champagne reception at the Carolina Theatre led up to the main event, addresses given by Hunt, Scott, and Sanford. Congressman Rich-

ardson Preyer presided over this part of the program with Hugh Morton, one of Hodges' "closest friends and associates," according to Preyer, who gave highlights of the Hodges administration. The evening closed with a showing of the 1940 film classic "Casablanca."

A new agenda for progress is needed for 1980, Hunt said, and the people must help to develop it. Election time is the opportunity for people to determine which way and how fast the government should go, he said.

Hunt said the Democratic party in North Carolina is in "strong shape." He believes the people feel they have been "well served" by the party. He stated the nature of

Democrats was not to focus on the past but on the future. The party must, he said, look ahead and figure out what it takes to make things better.

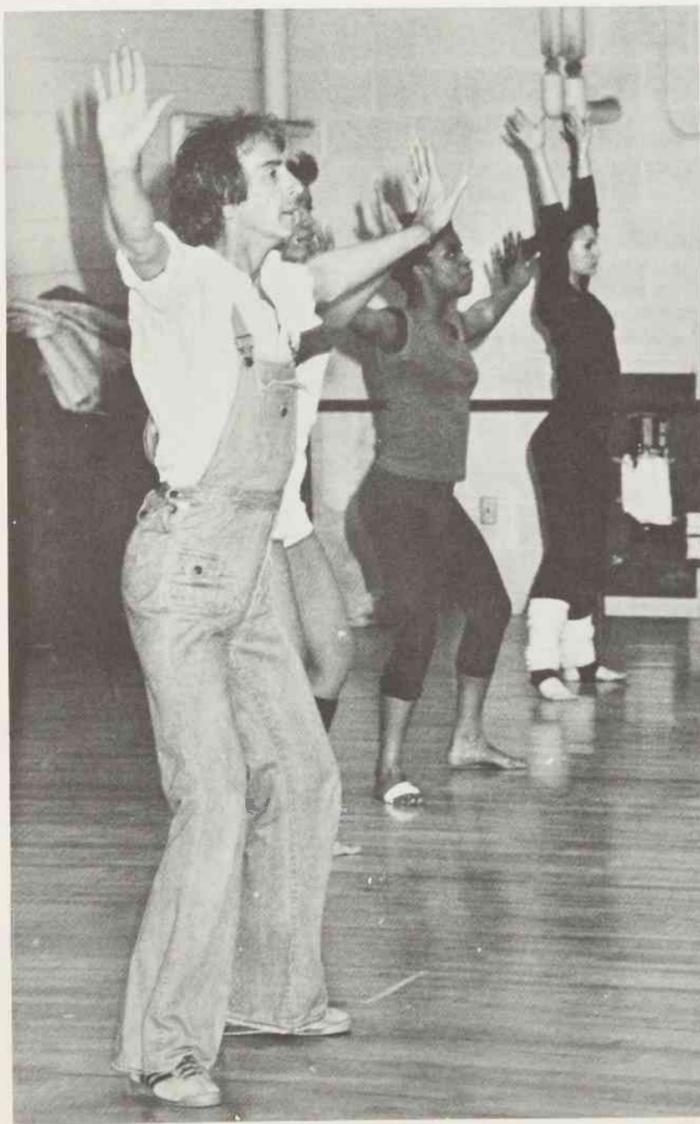
Hunt urged his party to work hard in the precincts. He promised to give everything he has to insure the Democratic Party "from White House to court house." He stressed the importance of the district in the Rockingham, Guilford and Alamance counties. He pledged to help elect Democratic candidates in his district.

"Republicans can't beat us in North Carolina," Hunt stated, "we can only beat ourselves. Republicans are hoping for a split in the Democratic party," he said. He

pledged a "positive campaign full of total loyalty and support to the Democratic Party." Hunt is running for re-election against fellow Democrat Robert Scott.

Education was another concern Hunt expressed. More skill and technical training are needed in the state. Smaller classes and stronger discipline are needed in public schools, he said. He also said more concern for the "average child" must be shown. More must be done for the exceptional, but education must also be better for every single child, he said. A method of reducing the one-third drop-out rate must be found, he said.

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Andre Tayir, eminent dancer and choreographer, assists hopefuls auditioning for the upcoming production of "Purlie." Tayir appeared on the Bennett and Greensboro College campuses as a result of a consortium grant.

Photo by A. Garrett

Achievers on campus

The Omega Nu Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta National English Honor Society is in the process of publishing its annual literary magazine in March, 1980. This literary magazine will consist of short stories, poems, and essays.

The members of Sigma Tau Delta are Linda Anderson, Sandra Brown, Shelia Purnell and Marchelle Boatwright. The adviser of this organization is Dr. Georgie Latimer.

Valerie Littlejohn, Pamlico Miller and Margaret McDowell were special guests at the monthly meeting of the Guilford County Home Economics Association Feb. 5. As a part of the dinner meeting,

the three Belles spoke on special departmental emphases at Bennett and some of the special programs and professional involvements of the students during this school year.

Mrs. Vaughnetta Carr, a graduated Home Economics Education major, has recently begun a two-year stay in Sierra Leone, West Africa, where she looks forward to meeting and working with several other departmental graduates who are now working in their homeland.

Valerie Bendolph, a junior majoring in Food and Nutrition, has

returned for the second semester at Bennett after spending the fall as a food program specialist trainee with the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington. Part of her experience involved visits to various school lunch programs on the east coast.

The second Home Economics mini-course, "Food and Your Health," starts Feb. 18, and the final mini-course, "Food and Inflation," will begin March 17. According to Chairperson Louise G. Streat, "if you missed the first mini-course from the Home/Family Life Center, you missed a treat."

College uses arts grant

Bennett College is fortunate this year to be a part of a Greensboro Consortium Artist and Residence Grant. The grant was awarded this academic year for the purpose of bringing to the campus outstanding artists in the field of music, visual art and drama.

Mr. Andre Tayir, who has just completed dance demonstrations with Bennett College and Greensboro College, was enthusiastically received by students in various workshops.

During the month of March, Mr. Willis Patterson,

concert artist from the University of Michigan, will be on our campus for four days. A portion of that time will be spent in master class workshops with faculty. He will perform a concert of classical music. Mr. Patterson sings bass and is one of the outstanding artists in the country in that voice range.

He will spend some time on the campus of Greensboro College. For further information, contact Dr. Alston, chairman of the music artist and residence grant.