THE BENNETT BANNER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1980

Review of '80 and hopes for '8'

Since this is the last issue of the BENNETT BANNER to be published in 1980, it seems only fitting that I should give an overview of highlights in the news that affected the black population. Probably the most recent and startling news was the Nazi-Klan trial verdict. All six men were found not guilty of murder and felonious rioting and were acquitted. This decision provoked mass confusion on college campuses everywhere. Students were justifiably upset about the decision of the all white jury. In Greensboro, the college students staged a march in protest of the decision.

Lots of things made the impact of the verdict so strong. I mean, the least the jurors could have done was to find one of the men guilty-to make it look good. And the time was just rotten. The nation was just getting over the presidential election. We all knew what a Reagan presidency would mean in terms of black people. Now, among those things such as a cutback on government spending in higher education, the end of busing and the deterioration of black colleges, we can add the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan. And let us not forget those whites who are organizing their own party so that they can take over both North and South Carolina to form their own little world: NO BLACKS AL-LOWED. Are we really going to let the country go back to that? Maybe we won't be able to stop it. Let's face it, before Alex Haley's Roots, many of us thought our ancestors liked slavery.

It wasn't too long ago that an assassination attempt was made on Vernon Jordan. He was critically injured, but he survived. The clues surrounding the shooting were almost nonexistent. Then there are the mass murders in Atlanta. Some maniac is going around killing black children, but the authorities don't know who. I think it's amazing. All this violence and the authorities can't find anyone to blame. Of course, I guess that's better than what goes on in Greensboro. Here they have the violence and the people responsible, but the authorities prefer to close their eyes to it.

On a lighter note, Richard Pryor recovered from serious burns. Randy Jackson was injured in a car accident but he recovered. This may all seem a bit trivial now, but I promise that in the year ahead, we'll need somebody to make us laugh and somebody to sing to us.

Then there was the news that didn't affect us so directly. The Shah of Iran died; the American hostages in Iran have been held for over a year; inflation and unemployment reached record-breaking heights. The future looks very dim for us, as students and as blacks. Who was it that said, "When winter comes, can spring be far behind?" Let's hope it is.

Belle states purpose of march

The "Silent March" that took place Thursday, Nov. 20, was one that had little preparation and much anticipation. Since the "not guilty" verdict was handed down Monday evening, the students of the city had little time to think of what could be done next. The most important issue at that point was for the city of Greensboro to hear our opposition to this verdict.

The verdict of "not guilty" is something that cannot be changed. The persons charged are now free, in Greensboro, N. C. Our concern was how many more incidents will go on and result in a verdict such as this one. How much longer can the people of our nation stand for such injustice? Not long, was our decision. Student leaders from Bennett, North Carolina A&T State University, Guilford College, and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro all saw the need for a coalition to show our opposition.

We walked in silence down towards the Governmental Plaza, where leaders from our school and the community spoke to the crowd of marchers. Rev. White, a minister from Raleigh, N. C., told the press, "don't try to turn this around into a racial issue. This is not a racial issue; it is a march for justice." Obviously justice doesn't come in colors, or does it?

For those of you who did march, I am sure that you felt a sense of commitment to the cause for justice. For those of you who did not participate, I wonder just what influenced your decision. After all, classes were cancelled on our campus for you to participate if you wanted to. Why wouldn't you want to? Justice is justice, and you are either for justice, or against jus-

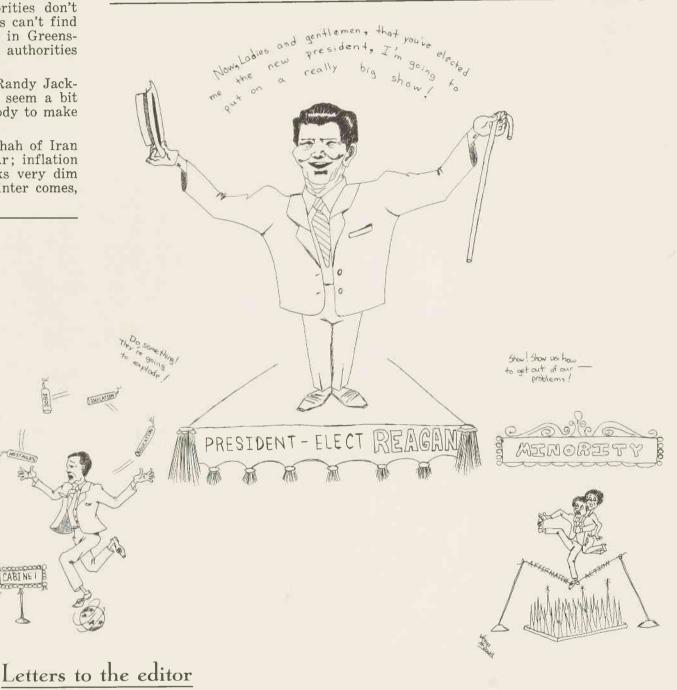
I remember who said it now, but what good will that do me when I can't afford to go to college and there are no jobs to be found. Sure, I wish I could tell you about a bright future and name some good things ahead. But I think we're all a little old for fairy tales. To be totally honest, the only good thing I can imagine to say about the coming year is that at least we'll know who shot J. R. That isn't much comfort, so here's something else. Remember when your friends back home told you that you might go to college for four years and not find a job when you get out? Well, now you can tell them how wrong they werebecause there won't be a college to go to.

Seriously, in all likelihood, the hostages will be released. I know you've heard that a hundred times before. I understand from a very reliable source that unemployment won't be so high because Reagan has a colonization plan for blacks to go to Africa. Those who can't go there can go to war. At least we'll have a choice.

I don't know exactly what to expect from 1981. I'm not the kind of person to prejudge either, that's why I can take the situation so lightly. It won't do any good to guess at what's ahead because we're not in any position to change the future.

All I can offer you is wishes for a merry Christmas. Say a silent prayer for prosperity and justice in the coming year. May we all have a happy, happy, new year.

Myra Jewel George



tice, or you simply don't care how the judicial system operates.

If you cannot feel the commitment as an individual, or if you cannot see where an injustice has been done to "anyone," you need to re-examine your own growth. If nothing else gets you to look into this matter, take into account that one of those individuals who lost her life fighting for her cause was a former Bennett student and a former SGA president of Bennett College.

Ladies, we marched out of anger, frustration and disillusionment. We are ashamed to be citizens of Greensboro, where other cries for justice have been heard in the past. This was not reflective of the community. Why wouldn't the jury decide against "individuals" as it is supposed to do? Instead they reacted bitterly against Communism. But, as long as America, and Black America too, has thinking rational people, we can never go back. With this in our hearts, we marched.

Lisa Harris

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Additional class desired

To the Editor:

CABINET

My dearest Editor, I am currently enrolled in Art 330, Photography I. It is an exciting class and our instructor is top-notch!!! He is Mr. Leander Canady.

Mr. "C" has shown us how to take pictures, develop them, and make contact sheets; he has also shown us how to make prints. All of these procedures involved other procedures and Mr. "C" taught us them too!!!!

Gee, I enjoy photography and I know my classmates do too; but we have a problem-and the sad thing is that it can be easily taken care of if the administration would recognize it-OUR CLASS IS TOO LARGE!!!

Sure Mr. "C" has taught us a lot and has done well in teaching it to us; but there are so many of us that it prevents him from teaching us a lot more. You see, taking pictures, developing negatives, putting negatives on a contact sheet, and printing them are not all the things a good photographer needs to know. She needs to know other things like how a subject relates to the background; whether the background is distracting or tells us more about

the subject: how a background can be eliminated; or what effect camera angles have on the photograph. These unique points and more make a good photographerand I want to be a good photographer so that I will be ready for my competition from UNC-G, A&T, and other institutions who have prepared their students to take a good picture.

As I said, Mr. "C" is top-notch and he could teach our class these techniques if it wasn't so LARGE. If we could only have two classes it wouldn't be such a problem (Oh, if I didn't mention it we only have one Art 330 class and just for information sake, I heard it through the grapevine that it is the most popular Art class on campus).

One day I asked Mr. "C" why our class couldn't be broken down into two classes; after all it wouldn't take any more supplies than those allotted for the class now. It seem to me that two photography classes that are no more expensive than one large class is very logical. Then maybe Mr. "C" could teach us some more tips on how to take a picture and maybe we would be ready for our competition. That doesn't sound like a bad idea to me at all so why haven't two photography classes been scheduled? It is pitiful when a student spends a semester taking photography in a crowded class and all she knows is how to take a halfway decent picture, develop the negative, and make a print of it; but in her typing class, which is the size of a normal typing class, she learns the alphabetic keyboard, fundamentals for typing, skills required for correspondence, basic forms of correspondence, manuscripts and related features and all of the necessary skills that are learned with these. The student is ready for her typing competition but her interest is PHOTOGRAPHY and she can't come close to producing any pictures like her competition.

I pray that someday two classes of Photography I will be offered at Bennett as opposed to one overcrowded class, which will enable the instructor, whomever he or she may be, to increase his/her student's knowledge about photography!!! After all that's what it's all about-learning as much as you can while you can.

Denise Wilder