

# Council election: a race for races

November 3, 1981 is a day that will stand out in the minds of Greensboro residents for some time. That date marked the second year anniversary of the Communist Workers Party's confrontation with the Ku Klux Klan—a meeting that left five dead. And it marked the election of an all-white city council.

What began as a contest between 23 people seeking city council seats ended up as a power struggle dividing the 12 post-primary candidates. What happened between the CWP and KKK is history.

Two influential Black groups, the NAACP and Progressive Committee endorsed Dorothy Bardolph, Katie Dorsett, Prince Graves, James Kirkpatrick, Lonnie Revels and Joseph Wood. The opposing and conservative group, Stand Up For Greensboro, endorsed Joanne Bowie, Ralph Cambron, Cameron Cooke, Douglas Galyon, Lois McManus and one lone Black, Alexander Parker.

The result was a "lily white" city council; all three Blacks—Dorsett, Graves and Parker—were defeated. Something unexplained went wrong.

Perhaps the problem was within the Black candidates. While Graves got various endorsements, he hurt his campaign by making statements concerning minority hiring. Also, Graves was appointed and not elected to a seat in the first place. Dorsett, an A&T business professor, was also one to apply (unsuccessfully) for the seat, vacated by Jimmie I. Barber, which Graves was appointed to. Her list of civic involvements is impressive, but she seemed to pin her hopes too much on the minority vote. Parker also applied for Barber's seat. His campaign was damaged when he failed to get the Black endorsement. This made him an easy pawn for the opposing group and also took votes away from the other two Black candidates.

Graves probably had the best chance of winning of them all. He had earned the respect of both Blacks and whites through his work for the city and for St. James Baptist Church. But his statements, which made front page on the City/State sections of the local papers, caused his ruination and on election night, he didn't even show up at the courthouse to see the results. Both Dorsett and Parker

were "losers." If they didn't get the council seat before, what makes us think they deserve one now? Parker was a double loser because he didn't get the endorsement of the Black group either. The three were a depressing lot as election day approached.

Sex was also a factor. Three women, Bardolph, Bowie and McManus, were elected. All are incumbents. Bardolph, the only one supported by the Black group, is a retired history professor from Bennett. She is completing her first term on the council and has proven that she is informed and outspoken on the issues. She will likely prove more effective than either of the Black candidates ever could have been.

Yes, the council is all white; that is fact. Nothing can be done about it. Many of us complain, but for the wrong reasons. Do we want an integrated council or do we want a council that is both integrated and effective? The Blacks in Atlanta who voted Andrew Young in as mayor proved that Blacks vote when they have someone worthwhile to vote for.

A white man at the courthouse summed up popular sentiments. When the final votes came in he shouted, "Blacks don't count in this city." What would be more correct is to say that Blacks don't count as much in this city as whites do. It's time we took off our blinders and concentrated on people and issues rather than colors. Obviously, we can't center a campaign around racial lines when we're working with these kinds of candidates in a 33 percent minority setting.

Unfortunately, race seems to have been so much of a factor in the election that other issues were avoided, even forgotten. Districting and toxic waste were put on a bottom shelf. Many Blacks view the results as a sign of white supremacy in this city while others see them as proof that residents vote for the candidates, not the endorsing groups.

All of us would have liked at least one Black on the council, but we would like someone who will get the job done and look out for our interests. It's pretty hard to find someone like that in a field of leftovers. (Myra Jewel George)



## Letters to the editor:

# Belles: don't let "soror" precede "sister"

To The Editor:

It has come to my attention that the formation of a Pan-Hellenic Council is in the making.

It is true that this will provide an opportunity for the Greek organizations to join together and discuss Greek issues and problems and, consequently, bring about a more unified atmosphere. The Greeks are truly powerful on Ben-

nett's campus and, as a result, they do have a tremendous effect on the entire student body.

Bennett College has presented its students with a history of unity and sisterhood. In an effort to continue this history, I feel it is also time to formulate a council whereby Greeks and Non-Greeks can sit down together and discuss the things needed to create a more

harmonious environment in which all students will be able to grow and develop into the traditional women that Bennett College prides itself on. It should be so that whether a student chooses to pledge Greek or not, she will not be put in a position where she feels alienated. We cannot afford to let "Soror" take precedence over "sisterhood." The education of women and the sister relationship have been the binding forces holding our small community together. It is my hope that Bennett College will continue to educate and promote love among all Black women. M. L. Cook

I would like to take this opportunity to explain the Job Location and Development program that has been established among the Greensboro Regional Consortium. As director of this program, I actively seek off-campus part-time employment opportunities for students regardless of their financial need.

Job Notices are posted on each campus regularly. Students are encouraged to check the "Part-Time Employment Opportunities" bulletin board daily for new list-

ings. Job Notices do not contain the name of the employer. It is essential for all students to complete a Student Registration form and have a short interview with me in order to receive further information about a specific job opening.

Brochures explaining the JLD program and how to participate have been placed in all student mailboxes. However, I am sure many students are still unaware of JLD. If you should come in contact with a student in need of a job, please refer them to me. My base office is on the Greensboro College campus, however, I will be on each campus to meet with students at the following designated times.

Bennett College — 1st Floor, Administration Building  
Wednesday 2:30-4:30

I want to stress my availability to any student not being able to meet with me at their specific time. An appointment can be made by calling my office at 272-7102; I will be more than happy to set up a mutually convenient time for us to meet.

I would also like to mention that the serviceability of JLD is two-fold. Employers have access to a

pool of qualified applicants from three colleges, immediate advertising of jobs, and referral of only those qualified applicants. This FREE service to employers (as well as to students) enables a saving of advertising and placement costs. If the opportunity arises to mention my program to an employer, I would be most appreciative.

I am most eager to help students and invite any suggestions you might have as I continue to develop JLD.

Denise L. Nugent

## Lay-Out Seminar

Will Be Held

Monday, Nov. 16

at 6:30 p.m.,

Banner Office

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