

The Bennett Banner

Friday, December 11, 1981

BENNETT COLLEGE, GREENSBORO, N. C.

Vol. XLIII, No. 5



(Left to right) Deborah Johnson, Marvette Spruill and Wanda Kincaid light candles during the celebration of the coming Kwanza held Dec. 6 in the Player Hall Lounge. Attended by a packed house, the observance featured song, dance and a brilliant speech on the importance of roots by Mottalepula Chabaku, adviser in residence to the Women's Studies Program. (photo by Shelly Coston)

Santoni analyzes Racial violence

by Melinda Lowery and Evelyn Sims

Racism rates at the top of the list of violent crimes, contended Ronald E. Santoni, a visiting lecturer in philosophy, discussing "Existentialism and the Concept of Violence" Nov. 16 in the Science Assembly Hall.

Racial violence occurs in two forms—overt, such as the demented activity of the Ku Klux Klan, and covert, such as the blindness of whites who refuse to acknowledge the prejudice in America.

Racism is motivated by the same psychology as aggravated assault, according to the professor from Denison University. The racist disavows the humanity of his victim.

"I see violence where people treat one another as objects (less than human), where

they depersonify . . . when they treat people as though they are not subjects. This is what happens when segregation occurs . . ." Santoni said.

This idea parallels the thinking of theologian Martin Buber who believed that injustice arose when the "I-Thou" relationship between human beings was twisted into "I-It."

Santoni identifies powerlessness as one of the major roots of brutality: "Very frequently violence will develop as an explosive expression of the sense of powerlessness. Powerlessness on the part of a people who feel that they don't have any sense of worth or sense of dignity, (people) who have been systematically exploited . . ."

In Santoni's mind, the Klan and the Nazis possess this sense of futility—an outlook that is sometimes created by a social ill.

Such organizations "may see a great deal of unemployment, and they will say, 'Look, we don't have employment because Blacks are taking the jobs or Jews are taking the jobs we should be getting,'" according to Santoni. Attempting to gain a sense of worth, the Klan and the Nazis commit violence against their scapegoats.

Santoni also believes that sheer madness, without any cultural reference, motivates many Klanspeople.

Although cultural conditions often supply propaganda that leads to violence, Santoni stated that an insane craving for importance sometimes produces the same effect. Killing a president, like John F. Kennedy, or a popular culture idol, like John Lennon, often arises from the assassin's mania for historical significance.

Santoni's analysis characterizes the urge of Arthur Bremer, who after stalking Hubert Humphrey and Richard Nixon, finally secured his niche in history in 1968 by shooting and paralyzing George Wallace in a Maryland parking lot. Bremer didn't care whom he killed—as long as the person was renowned.

But Santoni was very careful to divorce psychosis and headline-hunting from the legitimate claims for liberation by exploited people. It is "with justification that (the oppressed) can explode with violence against the colonialists who have kept them in subjugation for hundreds of years."

On Nov. 17 in Science Assembly, Santoni, a pacifist, presented a lecture on the insanity of the nuclear arms race.

Vice-president of the Bi-National Union of American and Japanese Professionals Against Nuclear Omnicide, he

(See pg. 3)

Johnson recruits Belle recruiters

If you have been bombarded lately with memos concerning graduate schools and job opportunities, the action can be traced directly to the new attitude of career awareness being presented by the Career Service Center.

Recently a great deal of emphasis has been placed on making students aware of professional opportunities.

Jacquelyn Jeffers, director of career services, has recently acquired a new addition to her staff, Anthony Pace. You might have seen this tall medium-slim male specimen walking around campus. Mr. Pace recently coordinated a seminar titled "Questions to Ask Graduate School Recruiters." Considering the number of juniors and seniors that turned out for this seminar, the event was labeled a success. So in the future if you find a great deal of (so-called by students) "junk mail" in your post office box, stop and take a few minutes to read it. You might read up on something that could change the course of your future.

(M. L. Cook, reporter)

Phyllis Johnson, director of admissions, urges students to become

actively involved in the recruitment of future Belles.

She states that although predominantly white colleges have increased their recruitment of minority students, Bennett can expect a large freshmen class for fall 1982. In the future, Johnson would like to see the Bennett students revitalize their role in recruitment. She states that Bennett has the capacity to enroll at least 300 on-campus freshmen. She would also like to recruit more students from the surrounding area. It is her hope to see Bennett College with a student population consisting of 900 or more on-campus and commuting students.

Johnson will readily admit that it takes a unique person to become a Bennett Belle. The person must have the initiative to get involved and she must make something of herself. She is also quick to defend the proud history of the school in the sense that it has offered a family-oriented atmosphere, individualized attention in the courses offered and a long tradition of successfully educating Black women.

Presently, the admissions office is approaching the end of a re-

cruiting tour that took representatives throughout the United States. What happens next is the follow-up on students that have been contacted.

The spring semester will create an ideal opportunity for students to become active in the vital role they must play in recruiting. Students will be needed to help out with campus tours, to plan activities and to sit and chat with future Belles. If you are thinking about ways to assure that Bennett continues to achieve success in recruiting, fill out the Admission Student Volunteer Form below.

ADMISSION STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

Name: _____

Campus P. O. Box: _____

Hometown: _____

Return to: Admission Office, P. O. Box H.

The sixth annual Home Economics Awards Night was held Dec. 10 in Ethel F. Black Assembly.

A large audience included Home

Economics graduates, family and friends of the Home Economics students and community persons. The program was planned and executed by the senior Clothing majors under the direction of Louise G. Streat, department chairman.

The theme for the night centered around "Careers for Christmas," and the assembly walls and the Christmas tree were decorated with new and interesting Home Economics careers. The speaker for the program was Elynor A. Williams, senior public relations specialist with Western Electric. The title of her address was "Home Economics Prepares for Career Versatility."

Fashions were modeled by Beginning Clothing students and exhibits of student work in Family Clothing and Costume Design were featured. A special skit on careers was written and presented by senior Clothing majors. Seniors modeled a versatile wardrobe for the careerist.

Special awards were presented by the Home Economics Faculty to students in first semester classes. The honorees and guests were

(See pg. 4)

New high stomps the Comp.

by Rosellen Durham

The test did not prove to be a demon for most students who took the English Comprehensive Examination Nov. 19.

Nearly 70% of the writers passed this requirement for graduation—the highest percentage ever for first-time test-takers. Eighty-eight out of 127 students were successful, according to data released by the communications department.

Professor Virginia A. Tucker stated that "in the past, the passing rate sometimes dipped below 60%." She expressed satisfaction at the improvement.

The examination asks writers to compose an essay of at

least five well-developed paragraphs on one of a variety of topics. A total of four major grammatical errors results in failure. Chronic problems in organization and coherence can also disqualify a paper.

Failure of agreement of subject and verb ranked first among the major mistakes (199). It was followed by pronoun errors (169), failure of consistency of point of view (150), sentence fragments (95) and run-on sentences (77).

Among lesser problems, comma faults, misspellings and instances of incoherence predominated.

Teachers were pleased by the 69.29% passing rate, but

they had some reservations about the quality of many papers. "There were fewer major errors," Tucker noted, "but there were still a lot of papers which didn't have anything to say."

Instructor Michael Gaspeny shared this viewpoint. "Too many of the essays lacked content as well as effective use of examples," he said.

Instructor Anne C. Gillespie commented that the appearance of some papers was "sloppy" and that continued laxity in this area will hinder students' success in future courses and in entering graduate school and finding rewarding jobs.

Failing students, who wished to remain anonymous,

voiced several complaints about the examination.

"I didn't know how to prepare for the test," one Belle said. "I did a practice essay, but evidently that wasn't enough."

"There were too many topics and they were too dull," another student maintained. "It took me a long while just to choose a subject. Then I ran out of time, and I couldn't go back and check over my paper."

Several students questioned the value of the comprehensive, claiming that other colleges in the area did not have a similar requirement.

The examination will be given again during the spring semester.