

# The Bennett Banner

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BENNETT COLLEGE, GREENSBORO, N. C.

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Celebrating a "Victory": Students flocked to thank a certain Mr. Jackson for his contributions to the United Negro College Fund. (photo from Public Relations Office)

## Facility is funded

by Mardell Griffin

An anonymous donation made Feb. 13 to the Greensboro Urban Ministry will fund renovations to the home of local street people.

The \$12,000 gift was announced by Frank Miller, social worker and co-ordinator for the Urban Ministry Day Shelter, 305 Asheboro St.

Renovation plans include a new soup kitchen, dormitory, offices, dining room, and space for recently expanded self-help programs for shelter residents.

According to Marilyn Cirulis, a Methodist minister and associate director of housing for the Urban Ministry, the soup kitchen will be moved two blocks from the Potters House to the Asheboro St. location. Potters House has seating for 50. The new facility will seat 300.

"This will keep people from having to stand in line in the weather before they can eat," said Cirulis.

The planned dormitory is part of an incentive program to help the street people re-enter the work force.

Currently, shelter residents sleep on mats with blankets on the floor. The dormitory plan calls for beds, lockers and showers. Residents who accept jobs can move from the open room with mats by paying a small fee for dormitory facilities.

"This will be used as positive reinforcement during transition from street person to working man and independence outside the shelter," said Miller.

Space will also be provided for the Adult Basic Education Program directed at the shelter by Toni Matthews. Matthews tutors 15 street people in basic subjects in preparation for GED high-school equivalency exams.

"They are now learning how to write resumés, complete job applications and do basic tax work," said Matthews. "They work at their own pace and may leave and reenter the program at anytime."

Other services and classes being implemented are: arts and crafts, Alcoholics Anonymous, Bible study, mental and physical health screening and treatment and job training.

"Bennett students who are majoring in social services or related areas are welcomed to work internships in any of our programs, and volunteers are always needed," said Cirulis.

## Choir treks south for spring tour

by Bernice Scott  
Evelyn Sims

What's the difference between a good choir and an exceptional one?

Consistency and a strong performance on the road, according to Dr. Charlotte Alston, who has directed the Bennett College Choir for 10 years.

After five months of preparation and numerous performances, she'll discover whether this year's group will rise to the occasion when the choir appears in six Georgia and Florida cities during spring break. Alston hopes that this year's singers, mostly experienced members of the spring tour, will match the accomplishments of last year's choir, one of the best that she has conducted.

"This year's choir is also good," she says, "but it remains to be seen as to whether at the end of this year, I can truly say, 'That was an outstanding choir.'"

Augusta, Orlando, Cocoa Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Miami and Atlanta are places that mean pleasure, but the choir will be transacting serious business instead of having fun in the sun.

The choir is one of the college's leading public relations ambassadors, attracting prospective students, making new friends and rekindling the spirit of alumnae. The singers stay in the homes of sponsors and Bennett graduates.

A source of optimism for Alston has been the performance of a quartet which will be featured on the tour. Sopranos LaLeza Harris and Teresa Morrow and altos Tracey Watts and Linda Rivers received praise from professional musicians who attended a recent choir appearance in Fayetteville.

Audiences in the Deep South can also look forward to selections from the music of Nathaniel Dett, a brilliant composer who once directed

the Bennett choir.

"Dett's music is something I want the choir to be known for," Alston says.

The director, well known for her hard work and the precision of her singers, is as demanding of herself as she is of her choirs.

In terms of quality, she believes, "We're holding."

"I have not been able to work out the strategies that would permit that elevation," she adds.

Alston, who wasn't trained in choir direction but rather in music theory, had to spend the first few years as director in mastering technique. She recalls that period of apprenticeship to craft as a self-conscious phase in her professional life. Now she feels free.

"You have to have that total abandonment," she explains. "You have to have time to rid yourself of that shyness."

She has arrived at a maxim

for getting the best from her students: "If you have to stand on your head to do it, do it!"

The choir will be accompanied by Mr. Fred Mason, Jr. The singers are: Soprano I, Josefa Bethea, Jeanna Bridges, Cynthia Brooks, Mary Dickerson, Anna Harrington, LaLeza Harris and Jean McCall; Soprano II, Constance Blackwell, Tammy Crawford, Freda Holiday, Audette Johnson, Jeaninne Lewis, Camille McCoy and Teresa Morrow; Alto I, Alethea Adams, Xanthe Cooke, Evelyn Jackson, Linda Rivers, Audrey Speights, Tracey Taylor, Kimberly Tyson and Tracey Watts.

The Spring Tour Schedule: March 2-3, Augusta, Ga.; March 4, Orlando, Fla.; March 5-6, Cocoa Beach, Fla.; March 7-8, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. and Miami; March 9-10, Atlanta.

## Intelligence characterizes SGA President

by Vicelia Howard

"It's time we stop falling into the Bennett College Oreo syndrome. You know, our fellow sisters that are phony, snooty and black on the outside and all hateful, mixed-up, confused and white on the inside."

This is a quote taken from a speech that Karen Taylor, SGA president, addressed to the student body Nov. 19.

You may know her as "Popcorn," the smiling and joking young lady that almost everyone admires. But be-

neath her conviviality exists a sharp mind and keen conscience.

Robin Delago, a junior majoring in interdisciplinary studies, says, "Karen is very outgoing and intelligent. To put it plain and simple, she is the upcoming lady of today." That is saying quite a bit for Popcorn but not nearly enough.

Karen happens to be involved in many clubs and scholarly organizations. She is a member of the Bennett Scholars and she wears the

red and white to represent Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

Karen is the first student in the history of the college to become SGA president her junior year. This is just one of her many accomplishments. To her, being the first to become SGA president as a junior isn't important, but she does describe it as a learning experience.

Karen states, "There are very few disadvantages to being SGA president. I don't seem to get enough time for myself. Also Bennett does not

offer any type of financial assistance. The advantages outweigh the disadvantages. You are always recognized by your peers. You get to meet new people and other SGA presidents at the different colleges. Most important, I get to represent Bennett College in a positive way."

Mary Dickerson, a junior majoring in political science, feels that Karen plays the role of being SGA president very well. "I feel that Karen is open-minded and intelligent. She impresses upon me

a person who possesses the quality of a true Christian."

Karen says that the student body, faculty and staff give her much support. "I just wish that the students would participate in more of the programs. I would like to give a special thanks to Mr. Guess, Dr. Ray and Mrs. McCormick. They have stood out in supporting me," Taylor said.

Karen hopes to accomplish many goals while she is in

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