

The Bennett Banner

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BENNETT COLLEGE, GREENSBORO, N. C.

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Family unity: Junior Amanda D. Smith is joined by her mother, Mrs. Helen Smith, a homemaker, and father, Mr. Archie Smith, a mail carrier, during last Parents' Weekend.

(photo by Myra Davis)

Harris expresses concern for students on probation

by Alaina Cloud

About one of every five Belles is on academic probation. How did 107 students get there?

According to Dr. Dorothy Harris, associate dean for academic support programs, "The major reason, is that they really have not taken college as seriously as they should." Harris also thinks that the students bring complacent attitudes from high school and have not successfully matured.

Last year's freshman class included 39 students in scholastic trouble. Many of the freshmen attended summer school to improve their overall averages.

Harris also feels carelessness by students contributes to weak performances in the classroom. Failure to attend classes regularly and resist-

ance to tutorial programs increase the names on academic probation.

A student receives academic probation and possible dismissal if she fails to meet these grade-point averages—for freshmen, 1.65 at the end of first semester and 1.75 after the second; for sophomores, 1.9 at the end of first semester and 2.0 after the second; for juniors and seniors, 2.0 at the end of each semester.

A new developmental program was introduced this fall. Many new students are taking reduced course loads and attending required tutorial sessions.

"Both the load and the courses have been revised," says Harris. "It is anticipated by the end of this academic year that the probation list will be cut by at least 50 per-

cent. She adds, "I'm really pleased that we are addressing the issue of low academic performance of our students through the new implemented developmental studies program for all of our students."

Harris refuses to accent the negative, pointing out that many Belles are excelling. "While we do have a large number on academic probation, there is an increased number of students who are achieving at a commendable academic level of performance," she stresses.

The spring Honors Convocation cited 51 students for academic excellence. Twenty-seven were freshmen, and four of them had perfect cumulative averages of 4.0.

The spring Dean's List consisted of 52 students, including 18 freshmen who achieved averages of 3.0 or better.

Parents arriving

by Bernice Scott

Parents and Founder's Weekend, beginning Friday, Oct. 12 and ending Sunday, Oct. 14, will include various parent and daughter activities, with Saturday as the busiest day.

Mr. James Burt, coordinator of the event, said the college's goal is to encourage the relationship between the parents and the college to continue, because the parents as well as the students and staff, are a "total part of the institution."

Saturday's activities will begin at 8 a.m. with registration and fellowship, followed by a general assembly of parents at 9. The parents will be involved at 9:30 in workshops including two programs titled "Financing Your Daughter's Education" and "The Developmental Studies Program." There will also be a college-style luncheon and an open house at the residence halls.

The afternoon features a conference between parents and faculty. This session will occur in the Student Union from 1:30 to 3:30.

The day will end with a reception and banquet at the Sheraton Hotel. The speaker will be Dr. Prezell R. Robin-

son, president of St. Augustine's College in Raleigh.

There will also be a Parents, Faculty, and Staff Talent Show Friday at 8 p.m. in the Little Theater. This performance generally attracts a packed house. Songs, skits and comedy routines reveal the hidden talents of many professors, administrators and support personnel. The theme of the show traditionally involves support for the United Negro College Fund. The presentation, especially strong the last two years, has frequently gotten rave reviews.

This year, Founder's Day, one of the most important ceremonies on the college calendar, coincides with the last day of Parents' Weekend. On Sunday, there will be a Founder's Day service at 10 a.m. in Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel.

Of all the events, one of the most crucial is the visit between faculty and parents, which usually generates a good turnout. The two-hour period allows parents to discuss their daughters' progress with teachers as well as to engage in family-style fellowship.

The college encourages parents to meet the faculty.

From politics to peace

Ferraro in town

by Dee Evans

The prospective vice president's message was fiery and urgent.

"The time is now. The time is now to register new voters; the time is now to clean up the environment; the time is now to send Robin Britt back to Congress; the time is now to send Jim Hunt to the Senate and the time is now to elect Fritz and Ferraro," Democratic candidate Geraldine Ferraro told ecstatic supporters Oct. 1 in the Governmental Plaza.

"We're going to clean house in November," she promised, describing the reforms her ticket will implement if it wins in November. "We're going to make changes if you send Fritz-Ferraro to the White House and Reagan back to the ranch," said Ferraro.

Emphatically, Ferraro said she was sure the people of North Carolina don't want leaders who interpret the Constitution inaccurately. "Leadership is not telling people what they want to hear, but what they need to hear. The people want a President who will protect personal rights," she stressed.

The candidate indicted the Reagan administration for numerous sins, including insensitivity to the unemployed; failure to back the ERA amendment; disregard of social security; the escalation of the national deficit; cuts in funds for education; perpetuation of the nuclear arms race; and indifference to the rights of veterans.

"We want a government that doesn't just want veter-

ans for their service in times of war, but stands by them in time of peace," she insisted.

The congresswoman gave a definition of peacetime patriotism.

"Patriotism ultimately is great during the times of war, but patriotism doesn't take a holiday during peace . . . A patriotic act is when we stop the arms race. When we can keep peace and young men don't die—that is a patriotic act. When we open the doors for young people—that is a patriotic act," she said.

Ferraro attacked the administration for unsympathetically apportioning funds: "The Republicans make money the old-fashioned way—they print it. Social security is a contract, and the elderly have a right to live in dignity."

Ferraro recounted a conversation with Vice President George Bush, stressing the Republicans' alleged belief that elections are bought. "I asked George what wins an election. He took out his wallet and said, 'It's who puts money into it and who puts it out.' Of course, we [Democrats] care about money, but people must realize this is an election, not an auction. It's not up to the highest bidder to determine a winner," she said.

The self-assured Ferraro traveled into the future with her objectives. "When I take office for a second term, I will uphold the Constitution and the Equal Rights Amendment," she said, predicting passage of this key piece of legislation.

Evening of Public Speaking

Belles impress audience with rhetorical excellence

by Avanti Allen

Three Belles won trophies during the 10th annual Evening of Public Speaking Sept. 18.

Ellen Latrice Graves, Karen R. Taylor and Kathy Howell distinguished themselves during the presentation, which is one of the most crowd-pleasing events on the college calendar.

Judges and spectators found the competition especially strong this year. "In all, I think each contestant did an excellent job," said student judge Tanya Mills. "Their selections were indeed inspiring and motivating."

Graves, a senior ISP drama major, gave a dynamic interpretation of the poem

"Crime." She has long been one of the college's leading actresses.

Taylor presented a hilarious short story about a nightmare during which her roommate is transformed into a cockroach. "I am proud of myself," she said. "My competitors were very good."

Howell, a junior majoring in pre-medicine, was honored for her speech to convince or persuade, "Victory—A Challenge to Black America."

The overflow crowd was impressed by the presentations. "The program was excellent because it gave students a chance to show their talents," said junior Wendolyn I. Abel.

"The speeches were more competitive than those of last

year's program," observed sophomore Tracey Townsend. "They were really well organized."

Other judges included Dr. Phyllis Ethridge, dean of student affairs, and Dr. Flossie McIntyre, chairperson of the communications department.

All of the participants received roses.

Other contestants were Digna Hester in the category of dramatic interpretation, Elizabeth Appiah, Patricia Mfula and Yvonne Breece in interpretation of original poetry or prose and Jacqueline Ponder in a speech to convince or persuade.

The event was sponsored by the Debate Society, the SGA and the Interdisciplinary Studies Program.