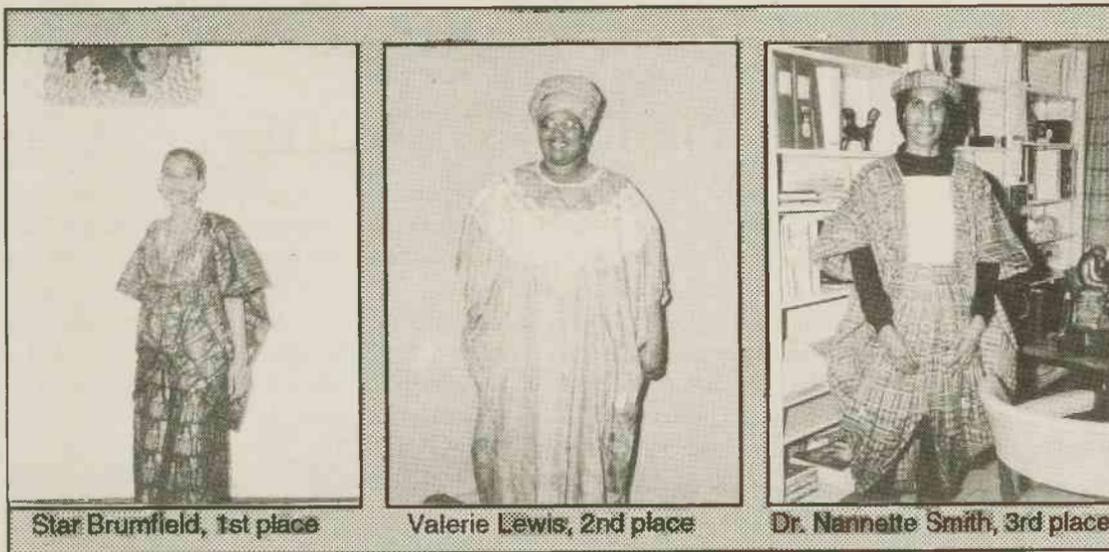


NEWS & FEATURES



Star Brumfield, 1st place

Valerie Lewis, 2nd place

Dr. Nannette Smith, 3rd place

The winners are...

The results of the Bennett Banner's first African Garb day on March 22 were announced April 14. Students, faculty and staff participated and were judged by other faculty and staff. Prizes were awarded to participants for their African outfits. First place prize a, \$50 gift certificate from Lucky 32 restaurant, was awarded to Star Brumfield, a freshman undecided major from California. Second place prize, a set of sterling silver bracelets, was awarded to Valerie Lewis, a freshman English major from Atlanta. Third place prize, a collection of soaps and lotions from the Body Shop was awarded to Dr. Nannette Smith, director of the Science Division. The prizes were donated by Lucky 32, Dillairds Department Store and Cynthia Pulliam, director of the Center for Women and Family.

Photos by Tahja McVay

African history...As told through fashion

NAPS)—African-Americans have always been style trend-setters. From Josephine Baker's feathers in the 20s and 30s, to Cab Calloway's "zoot suits" of the 40s, to the "street" styles of MTV rappers, Black men and women have always known how to make a statement through fashion.

But where did it all begin? Well, according to a new booklet created by e style, the catalog for African-Americans, the roots of contemporary styles reach back as far as ancient Egypt. Egyptians used their native flax to fashion linen loincloths for men and rectangular sheaths for women. The weaving process used by the ancient Egyptians led to the development of the horizontal loom, which is used to weave many of the cloths found throughout Western Africa.

The practice of draping beautiful lengths of uncut cloth around the body was the basis for traditional African dress throughout much of the continent. By the 10th and 11th centuries, when traders and scholars began to venture south of the Sahara, sarongs were dyed in vibrant shades of red, yellow and blue. White paint or ivory bangles also were worn to provide a brilliant contrast to deep black skin.

In much of Africa, clothing came to symbolize different life stages. Babies were naked until they received the "skin apron" of childhood. Adolescence was marked with a small loincloth. With marriage, women wore large skirts. And, as an individual climbed in status, he or she wore more layers of cloth and more jewelry. As time went on, Africans embellished their simple garments by adding beautiful sashes, fringe and beads.

While traditional African dress is fading into folk costume, many African-Americans are drawn to those same bold colors, geometric patterns and flowing shapes, which today are re-interpreted into modern silhouettes.

For many, wearing these styles is a way of showing

pride in their African heritage.

Today, African-American women are finding great fashion options in the e style catalog, a joint venture between Ebony magazine and Spiegel. Lori Scott, co-creator of the catalog, reports, "the whole idea behind e style was to offer African-American women fashions that speak their body's language." That means fashions that meet their style preferences and fit needs, as well as incorporating some traditional African motifs."

For Spring '96, e style offers lots of great colors, particularly in the warm, earthy, sun-kissed range. The newest pale is periwinkle, which looks especially sophisticated in tailored suits and dresses for day or evening. Black-and-white combinations appear in modern geometric patterns or in African-inspired batik and wood-cut prints.

e style uses lots of new and luxurious fabrics in its Spring '96 collection. Look for shimmering iridescent tunics, pants and decorated jackets. Textured fabrics with a handcrafted feel, such as washed linens, textured rayons, crinkle and crochet, add a warm "human touch." Decorated fabrics feature gold-embroidered African symbols, beading and appliques.

Twists on fashion classics give e style fashions a fresh edge this season. Examples include a pea coat done in white leather and cropped or a basic trench coat rendered in iridescent ivory nylon. And since the e style customer loves hats, the newest catalog offers iridescent straw hats in brilliant colors as well as funky hats for the younger customer.

This season, e style offers all the newest looks for African-American women who want to celebrate their cultural history with fashions that are right for today. For a free copy of the new e style booklet, which contains information on hair-care and skin-care, makeup tips and fashion for African-American women, and a copy of the e style catalog for Spring '96, call 1-800-2-e-style, and ask for offer #F5260.

Campus day care creating 'water babies'

Monique Edwards
Lab Reporter

Swimming lessons are the latest addition to the itinerary at the Children's House Day Care Center on campus. Approximately 25, 4 and 5-year-olds are receiving lessons about how to adjust to being in the water.

Sharon Bibbs, director, Children's House said the goal of the lessons is for students to be able to swim before they go off to kindergarten.

According to Bibbs, the prevailing stereotype that most African Americans can not swim is not true.

"Some of them make excellent swimmers," Bibbs said.

"All children should be water safe."

The students are taught in the indoor, heated pool on campus. The lessons, which began March 18 are given by Coach Carl Bibbs, head track coach for the Belles and Sharon Bibbs' husband.

Coach Bibbs said that he is using the American Red Cross community and water safety instructions, the method that teaches the children how to become comfortable in the water by doing exercises like arm strokes, kicking and

putting their face in the water. The children also learn breathing and floating techniques and how to jump into the water.

"They aren't really strong enough to do what we call swimming," Bibbs said.

"The goal is to assure that all the students will be at that level or higher so that they won't have any accidents."

The program will put the students at an advantage to learn more difficult swimming procedures in the future. The students seem excited about learning how to swim.

"It was fun," said Joilee Havner, a 5-year-old student. "I like blowing bubbles in the water."

Coach Bibbs said that he wants to set up a similar program for 3-year-olds and have their parents to participate. "That program will get the parents involved in teaching the children about water awareness," Bibbs said.

He said that he would also like to see more Bennett students involved in a swimming lesson program.

"There is no excuse for not learning to swim. Don't look for a reason not to, look for a reason to," he added.

---Story was contributed to by
Banner Staff.

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If you think you are at risk for HIV infection, now's the time to consider counseling and testing. If you test positive, work with a doctor to make decisions that are right for you. Because today, the earlier this happens, the more medical care can help.

Talk to a doctor, your health department, or other local AIDS resources. Or call your State or local AIDS hotline, or the National AIDS Hotline at 1-800-342-AIDS. Call 1-800-243-7889 (TTY) for deaf access.

HIV is the virus that causes AIDS.



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