

# Banner Mailbag

## letters to the editor

### What will you do on Nov. 5th?

The November Elections are less than two months away and students will have another opportunity to be a part of making history and impacting policy makers who govern their lives.

The right to vote is a privilege that we've not always enjoyed as African Americans and most especially as women. Our ancestors died so that we could have that right. Bennett College students have had a long, proud and impressive tradition of civic involvement in local, national and state elections. They made their voices heard at the ballot box each election day.

Student participation in the formulation of policy through the electoral process continues to be crucial because issues effecting education, including the survival of student financial aid, tuition costs, fees and other essential areas related to jobs and economics, impact students now and in the future and are not always made by "Education Friendly" politicians. Therefore each and every student eligible to vote should vote Nov. 5 to be able to strongly influence those individuals who make decisions about their lives and those of their families.

The Nov. 5 election will

determine who will lead this country and who will represent us in Congress, including who will serve North Carolina in the U. S. Senate -- Harvey Gantt or Jesse Helms. It will ultimately determine the fate of majority-minority districts throughout the nation and the survival of the 12th Congressional District in North Carolina. The next governor, lieutenant governor, state legislature, secretary of state, state auditor, district and superior court judges, local county commissioners and the Board of Education will all be determined when the votes are counted this November.

In the November 1995 local city council elections, Bennett students who were registered to vote in Guilford County turned out 73 percent of its overall registered voters with the women in Barge Hall voting 100 percent; Merner 92 percent; Reynolds 88 percent; Player 81 percent; Pfeiffer 73 percent; and Cone and Jones turning out 60 percent; and 58 percent of its Guilford County registered voters respectively.

While these figures are exceptional and set a record for our community, the 1996 Bennett College "Get Out To Vote Committee" (GOTV) is committed to increasing its voter turn out in November.

Each member of the Bennett family has a stake in the future of the college, the community and nation in which it resides by being registered and voting on election day. If you're not registered, you can't vote. If you don't vote, you're not counted and if you're not counted, you can't be heard. If you are registered in a county outside of Guilford (perhaps in your home town) you need to ask yourself:

Where will I be on Nov. 5?

Did I Vote in the Last election?

If you will not be at home to vote then you must contact your board of elections early enough to secure an absentee ballot (from your board) and return it before the election deadline. If it is not received in time you are not eligible to vote at all. As a student attending college in North Carolina, you are eligible to vote in Guilford County and can register up to Oct. 11 to vote this November if you will be 18 years old by election day.

We can be a part of continuing the "Bennett College voting tradition" and take responsibility for our own empowerment and survival by voting and make sure others do.

Dr. Alma Adams  
Professor of Art

## BELLES

BENNETT COLLEGE IS A VOTING COLLEGE

BE A PART OF MAKING HISTORY AND CONTINUING THE BENNETT TRADITION BY EXERCISING YOUR RIGHT AND YOUR VOICE. VOTE NOV. 5

POLITICIANS ARE MADE BY PEOPLE WHO VOTE AND OFTEN BY THOSE WHO DON'T, BUT THEY ARE CONTROLLED BY THOSE WHO VOTE.

Voter Registration is being organized by the Bennett GOTV Committee and sponsoring members of the Political Pacesetters, SGA, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., and the National Council of Negro Women through Oct. 10. Students may also contact Dr. Alma Adams, Steele Hall.

Bennett Polling Place: Reid Memorial Church, at the corner of Bennett and Julian streets.

### Greetings from SGA leader

The Student Government Association for 1996-1997 brings greetings to all of the new and returning students for this academic year.

We are very excited about the events planned for this upcoming year and we are in the process of recruiting all students to take an active part in these activities.

We, the Bennett College community, are facing critical times and must begin to call on each other for assistance.

We are putting it upon you, the students, to become interested in the community surrounding you, to get involved and to be informed on the issues that are facing us as women of color -- not only locally but globally as well.

The SGA is making itself accessible to everyone in this community, by making sure that everyone is counted as a member of this growing family.

We are inviting you to attend an executive board meeting, every Monday at noon, to see how we function, especially if you are interested in running for a position on campus next semester.

Student Senate meetings are every second Thursday, 6 p. m. in Black Hall and Student Body meetings are every third Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Student Union Foyer.

We wish you a productive

school year.  
Good Luck.

Amanda Pecchioni,  
SGA President

#### SGA Roster 1996-1997

Amanda Pecchioni,  
President  
HBCU connection/Board of Trustees/Parents Association

Amy Alexander, Vice President  
Voter Registration/  
Student Senate Chair

Diona Street-Coe,  
Recording Secretary  
Administrator Connection

Erika Johnson,  
Corresponding Secretary  
Campus Activities Communicator

Lakeisha Valentine,  
Treasurer  
Budget/Food Committee

Asha Pinkney,  
Parliamentarian  
Off-Campus Students Committee

Jasmine Canady, Miss Bennett College 1996-1997  
Campus Queens/  
Community Spokes Person

Candance White, Miss Royal Blue and White  
Pre-Alumnae Connection

Tia Smith, Publicist  
Community Adviser

## Oops Here It Is!

Corrections

The Bennett Banner wants to correct mistakes appearing in the newspaper. If you believe we have made an error, stop by the Banner office in Shell C or send a note to Campus Box 25.

## THE ELIE WIESEL PRIZE IN ETHICS 1997 ESSAY CONTEST

### SUGGESTED THEMES

- ◆ DISCUSS ETHICS BASED ON A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE
- ◆ WHY ARE WE HERE? HOW ARE WE TO MEET OUR ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS?
- ◆ REFLECT ON AN ETHICAL ASPECT OF A LITERARY TEXT

ELIGIBILITY: FULL-TIME JUNIOR AND SENIOR UNDERGRADUATES  
DEADLINE: JANUARY 17, 1997

No more than three (3) essays from the same college, university or campus will be considered in any one contest year. Essays must be submitted by a college or university on behalf of its students.

FIRST PRIZE: \$5,000 SECOND PRIZE: \$2,500  
THIRD PRIZE: \$1,500  
TWO HONORABLE MENTIONS: \$500 EACH

For entry forms and further information, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope by December 20, 1996 to:  
The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity  
1177 Avenue of the Americas, 36th Floor  
New York, NY 10036