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## New dance troupe formed

By Jobina C. Brown  
Banner Sports Editor

Step aside Dance Theater of Harlem. Bennett Belles have formed a dance troupe this semester.

This new yet-to-be-named dance troupe follows on the heels of the Belle Essence dance group that was formed in the early 90's. Belle Essence folded in 1996.

This semester Jerry Patterson, the assistant director of Student Activities selected two students with prior dance experience -- Christina Burch and Sannyu McDonald -- to help form the dance troupe and to serve as dance instructors. Both have experience with different forms of dance.

Burch attended Duke Ellington School of Arts in Washington D.C. where she specialized in ballet.

McDonald has taken numerous lessons in modern, jazz, and Afri-

can dance. When she was a freshman, she performed with the dance troupe at N.C. A&T.

After the tryouts which were earlier this month, Burch and McDonald were left 12 students that practice three days a week, two hours a day.

Burch and McDonald, teach jazz, African, ballet, folk, and hip hop moves.

"Each participant will specialize in a specific area of dance that best suits them as an individual," said McDonald, a sophomore psychology major from Windsor, Conn. "Not everyone can do ballet or jazz, so we are going to pull the person's strongest area out on the floor."

Burch, a sophomore mass communications major from Washington D. C., said, "The goal [of the troupe] is to have fun and to make my love of dance a love for the members of the dance troupe as

well."

McDonald said that the new dance group would like to have its first campus performance during an ACES next fall.

The dance troupe is an extra-curricular activity, but Patterson said that he only wants serious Belles involved.

"Students often times get a little over their heads with extracurricular activities," Patterson said. "School work is important, and if you can't commit yourself to the dance troupe then you shouldn't even get involved."

Patterson also said that the group looks promising.

"We look forward to doing big things as a result of these committed young ladies."

## Spring time sniffles

The first day of Spring, March 21, mother nature came into effect causing El Nino to move south which brought allergy season sooner than expected.

In the Greensboro area, many people allergic to tree pollen are already plagued with their annual torment of sneezes, itchy eyes, and stuffy or runny noses.

The mild temperatures have pushed the tree pollen season forward about a month, which will prolong the exposure to these allergens and increase the number of people who develop symptoms.

"With Bennett having so many trees, my allergies have flared up unbelievably" said Chanel Frazier, a freshman political science

major from Columbia, S.C.

The unusual amount of precipitation may also promote the growth of pollen-producing grasses and weeds, which will add to the load of airborne allergens through the spring, said the National Allergy Bureau.

For those with nasal allergies the best thing to do is avoid exposure to airborne allergens and to get effective treatments. When nasal allergies are ignored, it is possible to suffer from sinusitis, ear infections, nasal polyps and asthma may get worst.

Contributed to by Adwoa Aikins,  
Banner Reporter

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