

• BRIEFS • REVIEWS • BRIEFS • REVIEWS • BRIEFS • REVIEWS •

Critic's Corner  
reviews & previews

# Banner Briefings

On and Off Campus Events • Activities • Announcements

### College-A-Rama, 'Explore Bennett' Scheduled

The annual College-A-Rama or "Everything a Potential Belle Ever Wanted to Know About Bennett" event has been scheduled for March 26-27 and April 9 and 10. This information-packed event includes programs covering topics such as information about faculty, academic and student life, and financial aid. High school seniors, juniors and parents are expected to participate. For more information contact the admissions office at 370-8624.

### Seniors to be Honored

The Senior Day Convocation will take place at 4 p.m. in the Chapel March 18. Seniors will be excused from their classes, but all other students are required to attend classes as scheduled on that day until 2:50 p.m.

### Lunch and Learn Program Continues

Religion and Philosophy professor Dr. Ruth Lucier will be presenting her research "Teaching Morality Through Demonstration," from noon to 1 p.m. on March 24 in David Jones Student Union private dining room. Lucier's presentation is one of three presentations sponsored by the Academic Affairs Office "Lunch and Learn" sessions with faculty on the fourth Wednesdays of the month. At the first session, Feb. 24, Dr. Shirley Washington, an associate professor in the Political Science Department, discussed her Cuban trip and research.

### Juniors, Seniors Needed

Juniors and seniors with at least a 3.0 gpa are needed to meet and work with professionals four hours a week to participate in a medical and health-related career mentoring program. There are four slots available. For more information contact Dr. Mark Anthony Melton, an assistant professor in the Biology Department, at 370-8641.

## 'Ring Around the Moon' crosses all racial boundaries

BY KENYA A. SAMUELS  
Features Editor

Infidelity, segregation, and youth -- these three elements combined weave the story of Amy Beale, an 11-year-old girl growing up in the 1940's, as told through her adult eyes. Author Mary Burnett Smith entwines Amy's story in "Ring Around the Moon" (289 pp., Morrow, \$24) in the same heart wrenching style that she used in her first novel, "Miss Ophelia."

As an 11-year-old, Amy awakens to her mother's cries and the ultimatum she gives her father, one steamy July night in 1940. She knew then that things were not going to be the same. The ultimatum: shape up or ship out in a year's time. In her bed that night, she remembers how she caught her daddy in the outhouse doing some "nasty" things with their neighbor Miss Edie and how her older brother Lonnie told her to shut up about it. As tears fall down Amy's face, the life she grew to love in the all-black town of Westville,

Pa, symbolized the ring around the moon that was going to be cast over her life.

After her mother, an avid lottery ticket player, hits the number, she packs up Amy, her two brothers and her father and moves them to Hillsboro, the racially divided town where Amy's father grew up. Hillsboro is supposed to be the change Amy's dad needs. No more Miss Edie, rent parties, or gambling, something John "Blackjack" Beale had become accustomed to.

However, Hillsboro does nothing but bring out the worst in Jack and confuse Amy even more. Amy witnesses her father beat her mother and then bring her gifts. He continues to have his parties, but this time at his older sister's house, who lives around the corner. Jack also stays out all night and comes home in the mornings drunk.

Hillsboro is Amy's first introduction to segregation, having witnessed a black family being kicked off an all-white street for trying to move on the

block. She is also the only black girl in her all-white class, and gets stares and questions the first time her hair is straightened. Yet the segregation isn't cross-racial. Amy is tormented and teased by the black kids on the block for having red hair and being fair skinned, and being best friends with a white girl in her class.

Interfering aunts, live-in nannies and pre-adolescent pain, round out Amy's life, but throughout it all she struggles to keep the pain that she feels bottled up and show her strength to her mother, who is crumbling.

Smith has done it again. I thought Miss Ophelia was one of the best works I have ever read, but I acquiesce to "Ring Around the Moon."

This story crosses all racial boundaries and could have been told by the Jewish family who lives across the street from the Beales, or the "poor white Irish trash" that Amy befriends. Either way, the pain of discrimination is all the same and Smith does an excellent job of chronicling the struggle and pain of a young girl.

## Black HISTORY story

ON THIS DAY IN MARCH

COMPILED  
BY ERISHA LIPORD  
Reporter

• 4, 1932 Zensi Miriam Makeba, "Empress of African Song," is born.

• 5, 1936 Joyce B. Sullivan-Johnson, first African-American registered nurse in the Washington, D.C., Superior Court's Occupational Health Unit, is born.

• 7, 1917 Janet Collins, prima ballerina and first African-American to perform at the Metropolitan Opera House, is born.

• 8, 1945 Phyllis Mae Daley receives her commission

as ensign in the Navy Nurse Corps and becomes the first African-American nurse to serve in active duty in World War II.

• 9, 1919 Nora Douglas Holt and other black Chicago musicians form the Chicago Musical Association.

• 10, 1845, Hallie Quinn Brown a women's right activist is born in Pittsburgh, Pa.

• 17, 1867 Ida Rebecca, an educator Cummings is born in Baltimore.

• 20, 1883 Jan Matzelliger receives a patent for the shoe-lasting machine, which launches mass production of shoes.

### BANNER CLASSIFIEDS

Bennett College students may place meeting announcements, services, items for sale, etc. -- 25 words or less -- in the Banner Classifieds for FREE. The cost for non-Bennett students is \$2.50 for 25 words or less and 5 cents for each additional word. For more information stop by Shell Hall C-2.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Worship Service  
first and third Sundays  
at 8:30 am  
Bennett College Chapel

#### BOOKS FOR SALE

Short Prose Reader  
\$15  
Call Song 574-2238

Music Appreciation  
6th ed. \$20  
Cone #18

#### FOUND

"Language Skills for Journalists"  
MC 170 textbook  
(fall '98). See Dr. Cobb  
in Shell C for details.

#### HELP WANTED

SPRINGBREAK BEACHES  
Daytona, Panama City,  
Padre, Miami, Cancun,  
Jamaica, Bahamas, etc.  
All the popular hot spots.  
Best hotels, prices, parties.  
Browse [www.icpt.com](http://www.icpt.com)  
Reps earn cash, free trips.  
Call Inter-Campus  
800-327-6013

#### SERVICES

Need Help Writing  
Speeches for Campaigns  
Only \$5  
Call Brandy 373-8540

#### The Bennett Banner Publication Schedule for the 1998-1999 School Year

Deadline	Publication Date
Mar. 12	Mar. 19
Apr. 5	Apr. 9
Apr. 16	Apr. 23
Apr. 30	May 7

Dates subject to change  
without notice