

**BONITA  
Caldwell**

Takes on  
"Intercollegiate Sports"



## Phone-a-thon nets \$50,000 in pledges

BY LASHAINNNA CAMPBELL  
Co-Editor

The annual phone-a-thon, which took place Feb. 11 through 14 raised \$50,000 in pledges from alumnae.

This year's bad press and negativity about Bennett inspired the alumnae to work even harder by sponsoring a phone-a-thon two months earlier than the usual April

schedule. A local fund-raiser, the phone-a-thon targeted alumnae living in North Carolina.

"We knew that Bennett had a financial need," said Sandra Walker, director of Alumnae Affairs.

"Local alumnae pushed for a phone-a-thon for N.C. alumnae and we wanted to increase the cash flow for operational expenses."

The phone-a-thon pledges will go towards the national alumnae goal of \$500,000, more than double the annual phone-a-thon usual \$200,000.

Local alumnae gave support for the phone-a-thon. Gladys S. Robinson class of '71 and director of The Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation allowed the volunteers to use office space to make the phone calls.

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# THE BENNETT BANNER

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## Introducing the 'first' Miss Ebony Soul



Stephanie Brown  
Miss Ebony Soul 02-03

Stephanie Brown, a sophomore mass communications major was named Miss Ebony Soul during the first Ebony Soul pageant. The pageant and title, formerly called Nubian Nuance, took place April 2.

Stephanie Brown, a native of the Virgin Islands, is first Belle to hold the new title.

As the new Miss Ebony Soul, Stephanie Brown will assume the duties of Latonya Brown, the Miss Nubian Nuance 2001-02. Latonya Brown, a senior from Fayetteville, N.C. is also a mass communications major.

Stephanie Brown competed against Carmel Smith, a junior Arts Management major from Elizabethtown, N.C. Smith sang during the talent portion of the competition, and Brown danced. Photo by Takesha Briggins, Banner Photographer and Reporter.

## Senior Day: A time for tears, smiles

BY NATALIE JORDAN  
Banner Reporter

As they sang the popular IndiaArie song "Strength, Courage, and Wisdom" 112 members of 2002 graduating class held their heads high through the mist of happy tears and smiles during Senior Day Convocation, March 21.

During the traditional ceremony "Little Sisters," members of the sophomore class and first-year students robe their Big Sisters, the graduating seniors.

Interim President Charles Fuget presided.

Shawntee Anderson, a mass communications major from Miami, Florida and member of the class of 2002 read a poem written by herself in appreciation to all her graduating sisters. Anderson's poem discussed her feelings and experiences during her four-year matriculation at Bennett.

During his address to the audience, Dr. Fuget said he felt like a person running for a meeting and missed the train. "I missed the train that brought the senior class to Bennett. I didn't see them mature during their sophomore and junior years, and I was just getting on board as they prepare to leave."

After telling the senior class that it is time to look toward the future, Dr. Fuget talked about three keys to success.

## Board approves 6 percent tuition hike

BY LASHAINNNA CAMPBELL  
Co-Editor

It's going to cost more to attend Bennett.

Beginning next fall students will pay 6 percent more for tuition and fees, making \$15,669 the cost for a full-time student.

The increase was unanimously approved during the Board of Trustee's October meeting.

"I proposed a possible 5, 6, or 7 percent increase to the Board of Trustees finance committee," said Louise Farmer, Vice President for Fiscal Affairs.

"After taking into consideration the rising cost of living and the

economic situations of students we [finance committee] decided that a 6 percent increase was sufficient."

Farmer said that the 6 percent increase is modest. The real cost to attend Bennett is approximately \$27,000. This includes tuition, room and board, and other fees.

"There are approximately 30 colleges and universities in the North Carolina's private school system, and of them Bennett still remains a good buy, ranking about 25 on the scale as far as reasonable prices," Farmer said.

Bennett is a private institution; therefore, it does not receive subsidies as do state schools in the

UNC system.

While next year's tuition has increased, the comprehensive fee has decreased. "One complaint that I heard about was that the comprehensive fee had been increasing steadily," Farmer said of complaints from students and parents.

The comprehensive fee covered expenditures that were outside of the classroom.

"Students were paying fees such as building use, academic fees and library fees, so we decided to include all things dealing with aca-

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