

He who thinks himself wise,
O heavens! is a great fool.

—Voltaire.

THE BENNETT BANNER

STUDENT PUBLICATION OF BENNETT COLLEGE

To know you're a fool is often a
very fine flash of wisdom.

—Eden Phillpots.

VOLUME XX

GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA, MARCH, 1953

NUMBER 6

Prize-winning Author Visits Bennett's Campus

27th Annual Homemaking Institute Held At Bennett

An author, a movie actress, a foreign correspondent, and two newspaper executives highlighted the 27th annual Homemaking Institute held at Bennett College March 15-22.

Theme of the week-long meet, which drew in community leaders and students in joint enterprise, was "Achieving Peace Through Creative Experiences."

Keynote speaker at the opening session of the Institute was Ralph Ellison, author of *The Invisible Man*, and winner of the 1952 National Book Award for best fiction. Ellison told the Institute audience, "I know of peace only such as a person who dedicated himself to fiction or art can know it." He declared that "each generation must rediscover the world for itself."

Speaking on March 16, Allen Raymond, foreign correspondent and now writer for *Reporter Magazine*, said that peace will have to come as an individual matter. "There will be no peace," Raymond declared, "so long as tyranny and slavery exists." The veteran correspondent told the group that peace can come to an individual from a sense of accomplishment of something worth doing.

Motion picture actress Maidie Ruth Gamble, star of "The Well," arrived at Bennett College on March 19 to participate in panel discussions of the Institute theme. Mrs. Norman spoke on the role of films in achieving peace. She is a Bennett College alumna, having graduated here in 1934.

Two other nationally known leaders, G. James Fleming and Miss Mary Esther McWhirter, came to Bennett during the week to speak at the Institute. Fleming is executive editor of the *New York Amsterdam News*, and Miss McWhirter is director of peace education for children and editor of *News Letter* of the American Friends Service Committee of Philadelphia, Pa.

During the week all five guest speakers participated in panel discussions and workshops in which students dealt with achieving peace through creative experiences. Workshop projects, including such crafts as rug-making, knitting, and leather work, were held. Arts were also included, such as the dance, piano, short story writing, verse writing, and many other projects. All projects completed during the week were displayed on March 21 to show the progress made during the Institute.

Student Speaks At Vespers

"Who's In Your Gallery?" was the topic of Douglass Moore, of the Boston University School of Theology, in his address at Bennett College vesper services on March 8.

Referring to the "gallery" as the group of people who have most influence on the course of an individual's life, Moore declared that it should not include people who preach a philosophy of defeatism and quest for money alone.

The most important person for an individual to have in his gallery, Moore said, is Jesus Christ. It is by the principles of Christianity, he declared, that a worthwhile life should be lived.

Benjamin Mays Speaker On Palm Sunday

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, president of Morehouse College, Atlanta, Ga., was guest speaker at Bennett College vesper services here March 29 at 4 p. m.

Services were held in the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel on the Bennett Campus.

Dr. Mays, who has been president at Morehouse since 1940, is a native of South Carolina. He received an A. B. Degree at Bates College, Lewiston, Me.; and his M. A. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Chicago.

He has taught at Morehouse, South Carolina State College and served as Dean of the School of Religion at Howard University in Washington, D. C.

Outstanding in many fields, Dr. Mays was named the alumnus of the year by University of Chicago's Divinity School in 1949. He has served as a representative abroad for the Y. M. C. A. on several occasions, and has been vice-president of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America.

Bennett College Bell Is Housed

The 257-pound bell which has been ringing punctually 21 times a day for the past 75 years here at Bennett is housed in a new colonial-style tower, and was dedicated March 8, at 5:15 p. m.

This bell, made of copper from Michigan and tin from Malaya, has served as a timepiece for students and for the people in the community since the presidency of Rutherford B. Hayes.

The history of the bell dates from 1878, five years after the opening of Bennett College, when the founder, Lyman Bennett, went to his own townspeople in Troy, N. Y. and collected contributions to send a bell to this Southern school. In this effort, Bennett contracted pneumonia and died soon afterward. However, the bell was shipped down the Hudson River by boat to Bennett College where it was housed in one of the first buildings.

Inscribed on the bronze bell is the Bible quotation from Isaiah 6:1 . . . "The spirit of the Lord is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings to the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound."

During the bell's long service of pealing out nearly a half-million times to summon students to classes and religious meetings, it has become traditional at Bennett for a student to serve as bell ringer. Looked upon with respect by all students, the bell-ringer arises to ring the bell each day throughout the school year at 7:45 a. m. Throughout the day she announces classes and meals with the bell until the last timorous note is sounded at 5:15 in the evening.

Rev. J. E. Brower, pastor of St. Matthews Methodist Church, was the bell-ringer during his college days at Bennett. He spoke at the dedicatory service on March 8, when he gave some "symbolic unities" of the bell. He too brought out the fact that the

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Senior Day Celebrated At Bennett College

It was a great day in the lives of the Senior Class as its members assembled in the gymnasium at 3:30 o'clock last Friday. The class assembled to receive the roses which its sophomore sisters so graciously pinned on them, and for the procession to the Chapel. With heads held high, and with very, very proud hearts, they marched through the Ceremonial Gate which was opened for the occasion. Side by side the two classes marched to the Chapel. To the strains of "Pomp and Circumstance" played by Mr. Whiteman, they marched into place in reserved seats in the front of the Chapel.

Senior Day is a tradition at Bennett College. It is on this day that the members of the Senior Class receive their caps and gowns and become authorized to wear them until graduation, providing they meet all the requirements of a senior. It is an inspirational ceremony as was exemplified on Friday.

The Announcement of Honors and Presentation of Seniors for Caps and Gowns was done by Dr. Willa B. Player. As is customary on this occasion, the names of those students who ranked highest according to scholastic averages were announced. The top ten were: Betty Washington, Elizabeth Reese, Lyvonne Mackel, Helena Valteau, Berella Lawson, Lovye Davis, Hazeline McPhaul, Rebecca Turner, Janol Corry, and Thomasina Martin. After this announcement the Senior Class was presented to President Jones to receive the caps and gowns. After everyone had received a cap and gown from a sophomore sister and was seated again, Dr. Player gave a nod to the class and ninety-two caps were put on simultaneously.

After a melodious presentation of "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" by the choir Lyvonne Mackel made a speech for the Class of '53 in appreciation for the many, many opportunities that have been afforded them. She reminisced for a little over

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Mr. George Houser Speaks At Bennett

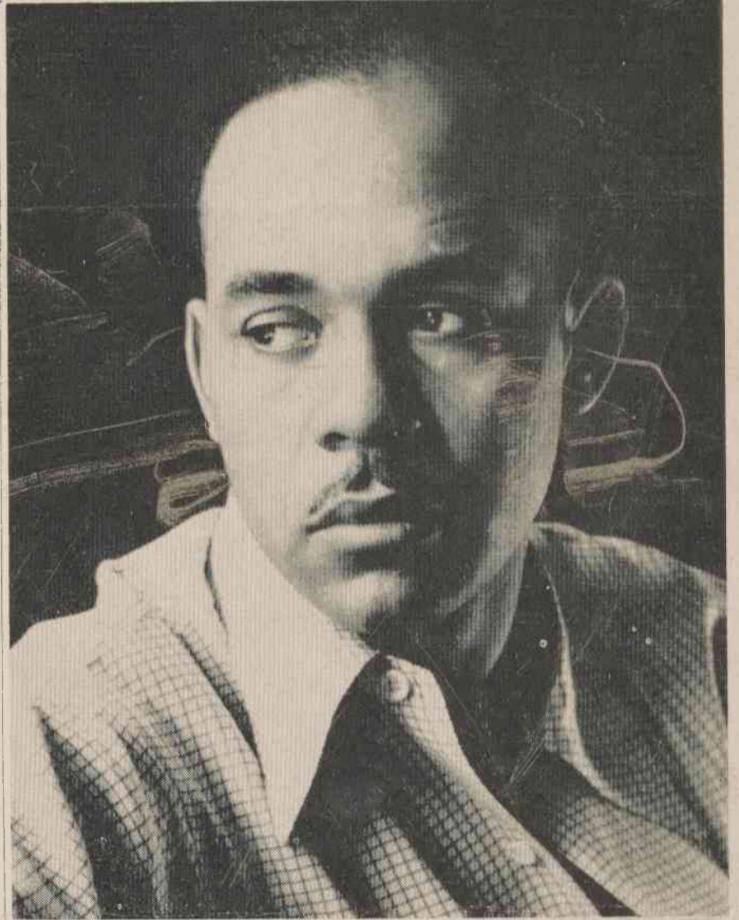
"American people are accepting the inevitability of war and conforming to it in a spirit of cynicism."

This is an assertion made by Mr. George Houser, project secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation of New York, as he spoke in Chapel on March 3.

Speaking with great concern, Mr. Houser stated that the American people need to stand up for spiritual values through non-violence in the face of adversity. He also pointed out that world government, disarmament, and the Point Four program cannot achieve peace.

"We are not a secure people today," Mr. Houser asserted. "We are a people fraught with fear and hysteria. Our acceptance of things as they are is leading to a loss of moral values. "It is necessary," he continued, "to make a moral decision either to go along with the present trend or stand up against violence."

"There is power in the method of non-violence," Mr. Houser declared, "and this is the way by which we can escape the spiritual crisis today."



RALPH ELLISON

A prize-winning young Negro author who started his life's work riding an ice wagon with his father through the streets of Oklahoma City, Okla., at the age of three, attributed the foundation of his success as a writer to "being exposed to a mother who had no patience with that which was false and who encouraged me to do what I wanted to do."

The author, Ralph Ellison, who won the 1952 National Book Award for his novel, *The Invisible Man*, said in an interview that his mother was an endless source of encouragement to him during his early years of indecision.

Ellison, who started a career in the study of music, became interested in writing after reading some of the writings of Richard Wright, author of *Native Son*. The music student was so impressed that he sought Wright out in New York City to discuss writing with him. A strong friendship resulted, and Ellison tossed aside his study of music to undertake serious writing.

After writing several successful short stories, Ellison started his first novel in 1945. "I tried this book, but I didn't know enough about structure," Ellison confessed. "I had to abandon it."

Failing in his first attempt, Ellison made an exhaustive investigation of many writers' techniques. "Ernest Hemingway, Herman Melville, and William Faulkner made a very strong impression on me," the writer said. "George Bernard Shaw was another definite influence."

"When I started *The Invisible Man*, the 39-year-old author said, "I was trying to see reality and personality for what they are. I wanted to define what was real and "I was interested, too," he pointed out, "in how Negro leaders arise." His ideas for the book changed as he progressed, Ellison said. "Whatever idea you start out with is likely to go

through modifications. I tried to define the experiences of my generation, and I tried to do it by avoiding old ideas. Where I was wrong was in not getting in close enough."

With plans for his second novel already underway, Ellison said: "I am striving for what is called honesty. I feel a responsibility to be a witness of the times. The main thing one seeks is to release the deep drive within himself. I want to take this life and give it my own personal slant while yet not violating its truth."

Alpha Kappa Mu Initiation Period Held On Campus

On Sunday morning, March 8th, the probation period started for the eleven Juniors and Seniors who were eligible to become members of the Alpha Kappa Mu Association. During the period each probate was to carry a scroll 33 inches long and a book weighing seven pounds. White gloves were worn at all times, the hair was drawn to the back of the head, and no make-up was used. Whenever passing an Alpha Kappa Mu member, the probates had to raise their scrolls.

Many interesting programs were presented before and during the dinner hour by the following probates: Janol Corry, Barbara Crutchfield, Helena Valteau, Roberta McGuinn, Marilyn Whaley, Bertha Brown, Charlotte Alston, Peggie Jeffries, Marilyn Kimber, Jean Phillips, Dorothy Dixon and Thomasina Martin.

The qualification for becoming a member is a 2.5 average for the junior year, and a 2.3 average for the senior year. Congratulations, girls, and may you have many happy and prosperous days in the future.