

Campus Alumnae Discuss "Old Days"

Bennett Has Changed

by Kelly Gardner



Carol Chatters, candidate for Recreational Council president.



Yvette Shelton, candidate for Interdormitory Council president.

It has been said by the alumnae of Bennett that the college has changed from the "old days" but to what extent has the college really changed except for the administration and faculty and, of course, the students?

"Many people come back and don't expect a change but any institution that is going to be viable has to change," said Dr. Charlotte Alston, head of Music Department. Dr. Alston attended Bennett in the 50s.

Dr. Alston feels that the major changes came about in the 60s because of the social upheaval at black colleges and in the 70s because of the women's liberation movement. She also added that the best changes at the college were the increased opportunities for women, the new teaching styles, and the consortium.

When asked how she felt about curfew and the restrictions that are placed on the students, Dr. Alston said, "Students get too wrapped up in the superficial aspects of the college. A student should have a set of priorities."

The curfew in the 50s was midnight for seniors and 10 p.m. for the other students.

In the 1950s attention was given to the intellectual and cultural growth of the students and music and drama were always highlighted.

Mrs. Frederica Sayles who graduated in 1942, discussed the Lyceum programs. She said, "The lyceum programs were cultural and a variety of artists came, such as Marion Anderson and Paul Robeson."

Chapel was held every day except for Saturdays and the students were required to attend chapel and Vesper every Sunday at 4 p.m. The students were required to wear hats.

The entertainment included dances at A&T and football games where the girls were required to have an escort. They were not allowed to drink or go to clubs. Whenever the students went off campus they had to sign on and off. There were no sororities until the late 60s, but the students had various clubs and organizations.

The classes were held from 8

a.m. to 5:15 p.m. during the week and on Saturdays 8 a.m. to noon. Lunch hours were from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The students could rest during this time. Also no radios were allowed to be played at this time because it was considered a resting period.

Life in the dormitories was quite different. The college had not employed maids so the students had to keep the dorms clean. Everyone had "beauty work," said Mrs. Charlotte Barnes who attended Bennett in the late 1940s. "Each girl was assigned a certain duty, and the rooms in the dorms were checked every day. Also each girl had dining-room duty where she was required to serve as a waitress, which meant no long lines. The students ate family style and were required to dress for dinner."

Mrs. Christine Bizzell, who attended Bennett in 1953, said, "There was no reason for a student to fail because she had nothing else to do but study. There was no financial aid. If a student was on the work program, she made 35 cents an hour."

Most of the students looked up-

on Dr. David D. Jones as a fatherly image. "Dr. Jones was firm but kind and an excellent president. He was interested in the welfare of Bennett and the students," said Mrs. Barnes.

Mrs. Sayles added, "He was a wonderful person, fatherly, kind, but positive."

The sophistication of the students has always been one of the major concerns. It has always been said that a Bennett Belle could be recognized a mile away. One of the reasons was that at one time in Bennett history the girls were required to wear uniforms. Later on they were only required to be neatly dressed and always wear a hat when they went out in public. If the girls did go out, it was always in a group.

Bennett also had a marriage committee. If the girl was getting married she was required to have a note or letter from her parents. Then the committee wanted to meet with her and her husband-to-be. If the girl got married in secret that meant she would be suspended from Bennett's campus permanently. Bennett has changed, but so has the world.

115 Honored on Senior Day

by Joyce Bass

This year's Senior Day festivities, held March 16, honored 115 seniors.

With the class colors of peach and cream and class motto of "Take Time To Be Somebody," the class of 1978 made its appearance for the first time in its academic attire, accompanied by its sophomore class sisters.

Senior class member, Mil-

dred Harris, proudly spoke on behalf of her class sisters while music was rendered by the college choir and senior choir ensemble.

After the senior class was presented with its academic attire, the members of the class and their guests retired to the dining hall for an elegant banquet organized by the sophomore class.

Grapejuice Is Tops

by Dionna Woods

What's the favorite snack on campus?

"Welch's Grapejuice is the most popular snack," said Mary Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, manager of the Snack Bar.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick has worked in the college snack bar for nine years and eight months. She says the grapejuice starts selling as soon as she opens.

When asked why she thought it was so popular she said, "It is really good and it is always cold."

Students all agree on the popularity of the grapejuice.



Choir members left for Spring Tour despite snowy precipitation.

Bennett Pioneers College CAI

Bennett is one of the pioneers of systematic CAI at the college

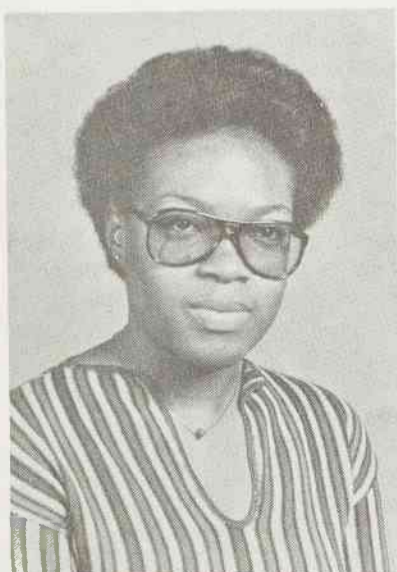
level; however the number of colleges instituting some form of computer-assisted instruction is rapidly increasing.

The teacher/technology learning strategy applied to freshman English, mathematics and reading at Bennett is in its third year of operation. Xavier, Hampton and Jackson State Universities are some of the institutions that have sought to emulate the program here in setting up a program on their campuses.

The Bennett College case study has been presented at the conference on Computers in Undergraduate Education, the Conference on Educational Computing in Minority Institutions, the North Carolina Conference of Teachers of Mathematics and, very recently, at the North Carolina Association of Educational Data Systems Conference at UNC-Charlotte.

Mrs. Nellouise Watkins, director of the Computer Center, said that Bennett College administrators were far-sighted in their decision to install a Hewlett-Packard mini-computer as a technique to individualize instruction.

The CAI project is a part of the Advanced Institutional Development Program.



Karen Lewis, candidate for president, Student Union Board.

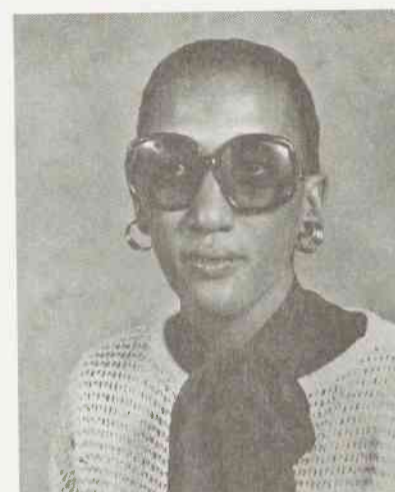
Candidates not pictured: Cynthia Brown, candidate for president Student Senate; Mondrell Jester, candidate for president Recreational Council; Yvette Smyre, candidate for president, Recreational Council; Gwen Davis, candidate for president, Recreational Council.



Ramona Reid, candidate for president, Interdormitory Council.



Angel Ford, candidate for president, Sophomore Class.



Hattie Purnell, candidate for president, Senior Class.

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INTERVIEWS: Placement Office-3/28 (MAR 28)
Info: Student Union-3/29 (MARCH 29)