



Dr. Gwendolyn O'Neal will be leaving us at the end of this semester. We wish for our Bennett Sister only the best in all of her future endeavors.

## Dr. O'Neal leaves Bennett family

by Joan A. Walker

Dr. Gwendolyn S. O'Neal, assistant professor of Home Economics is leaving to join her husband.

She is a graduate of Bennett College, class of January 1970. She received her master's at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Ph.D. at Ohio State University.

While in college she thought she would like to do something in merchandising or retailing. Dr. O'Neal went through what some seniors are going through now, finding a job after graduating from college.

She says she "always ran into luck, was always at the right place at the right time." The year she graduated was also the same time the director of the Home Management House was leaving. Dr. O'Neal was asked if she would like to hold this position. She had no idea she was going to teach clothing later on.

Drawing back in her chair, her voice becomes soft when she speaks of missing the student and teacher relationship. She thinks this is a "big plus" for Bennett.

She feels she will never find another job that has more academic freedom "in terms of the way we prepare and run

our own classes." She added that Bennett is also very flexible in its hours as long as classes are met and office hours are kept.

Dr. O'Neal devotes her time to family, friends and students. She enjoys working with student organizations, but she is so busy that she can't give as much time as she wants to.

Outside of work hours she is involved in her memberships on the Board of Directors of the N. C. Home Economics Association and serves as chairman of the College and University Professional Section of the Association.

Since she is such a busy person she too needs time to relax. After a hard day's work she finds reading relaxing before sleeping. She is interested in both fiction and non-fiction and is a member of several book clubs.

She has an indispensable sense of humor and is very enthusiastic. Her future goals are to publish some of her research this summer, to be a master teacher, developing her own material, which takes time and to work toward the writing of a book on clothing as non-verbal communication. She feels there is very little on bookshelves on clothing as non-verbal communication.

# Security: constant problem

by Donna Meacham

We're all familiar with the security problems we have here on campus. In the past we've had "visitors" on campus who have peeped in, broken in, hidden in, and carried things out of our dorms.

Because this is a college campus, these problems don't set us apart in any big way. Most all college campuses experience some security problems, however small.

Our problem is made unique by many factors, the least of which is not our gender. Here we are, six hundred young females living in what is essentially one square block in an urban setting, yet.

The fact that our campus is private property is no deterrent to, nor could it be expected to thwart the efforts of, the hundreds of thoroughly red-blooded males who seem to view riding through campus as the fulfillment of some kind of fantasy.

When you get a situation like this, there's not much that can be done in the way of control. That is, it's not feasible that every male who comes on campus be made to establish his sanity and/or good intentions in some way.

So, how to keep out the weirdos?

How to keep out the neighborhood vagrants who also happen to have red blood and ready access to our campus?

It's impossible.

For this reason, it is most always necessary to learn of an intruder's presence by surprise. And that's always unpleasant and most certainly unnerving. One former Bennett student in such a situation defended herself against an attack by an unusually insistent burglar on his second "visit" to the campus in the wee hours of the morning of January 10, 1946; she shot him.

Estelle Watson, then 20 years old, fired a .38 caliber pistol through a closed door as the man attempted to break into the dormitory at about 5:50 a.m. He was found at 6:30 by police on the far side of the brick wall on the Gorrill Street side of campus, badly wounded. He was taken to L. Richardson hospital, where he died soon afterward.

It seems that the same man, who was wearing nothing but shoes, had appeared at the dorm at 3:00 a.m. and attempted to break in, but left when a student awoke and saw him. He later came back and broke out a win-

dow on the south side of the dorm. After failing to gain entry, he proceeded to the north side, where he again tried to get in a window. Undaunted by a second failure, he went to a side door which he tried to force open. It was here that Estelle shot him with a pistol that belonged to her dorm matron. She was, incidentally, cleared of all charges following an inquest. Police said the man had a record for vagrancy and assault on a female prior to the incident.

So, ladies, learn never to take your safety for granted. As it stands, we are by no means iron-clad against crime; in fact, we're extremely susceptible to most types. Augment our security force's efforts, no matter what you may think of them, with your own. Keep your side doors locked. Don't taunt or talk to weird guys—they sometimes go on to prove how weird they really are.

After you've done these things, then keep a big stick behind your door, if that makes you feel safe. And promise yourself that if a situation arises where you have to use it, you won't get stage fright. And if all else fails and the situation permits, remember: A good run beats a bad stand any day.



Photo by Myra Davis

Mrs. Montez Byers assists Dean Chelsea Tipton in cutting the cake for the library's 40th anniversary celebration.

# Individuality: the secret of success

by Hattie Purnell

An identity truly is one of the most important things which a person must acquire and maintain before she can emerge into today's society.

Graduating from Bennett College each year are so many young ladies who don't ever find their true identity. Some enter Bennett College and begin to live in someone else's shadow, being very unrealistic, illogical and irrational about themselves and their future. Then there are those few who enter with their own identity and struggle to maintain it even though pressure may be applied by their peers. These are the students who have been able to keep their own identity throughout it all.

Webster defines the word identity as "the condition or fact of being the same: sameness: the condition or the fact of being some specific person or thing: individuality; the condition of being the same as something or someone described or claimed."

Having your own identity entails an individual setting her own goals, choosing her own friends,

making her own decisions and being able to evaluate her own actions. Being strong enough to promote one's own ideas, and goals openly, is not always the easiest thing for quite a few to do within one's own peer group. But those who cannot are the people that will always find themselves being used or influenced by the stronger people who have their identity pretty much together.

Living in a college environment is one of the hardest places to maintain one's personality, and also one of the hardest places to acquire an identity. Peers can easily influence one another and it happens in many instances.

But once again the individual must be strong enough to resist the decision of the majority, trust her own judgment of a particular situation or her feelings. A college experience helps to mold a young lady into a woman, only if she develops within herself, not becoming a replica of someone she admires or associates with.

This transaction helps her to develop her potential, create her own beliefs, implement her suggestions and relates these things to others through her poise, grace,

educational background, and adolescent development.

Therefore you can truly understand why it saddens me to realize that quite a few young ladies graduating from Bennett College are unable to stand alone before their peers and uphold their true beliefs.

In most instances the majority carries the most weight, and rules the land. But in this particular instance the majority are the unidentified people, people who cannot function without the support of their peers, or make decisions for themselves, and who don't know what their fate will be after Bennett when they shall have to stand alone, or who will conform to another group of peers to survive. These are the persons who will always be followers, never to realize that if only they would re-examine themselves more closely, they too could possibly be leaders.

The minority here is very important for these are the persons who graduate with confidence in themselves, aggressiveness, and ambition, who will always be the individualists. These will be the strong women of our time, making

a place for themselves and fulfilling their career goals.

So seniors of Bennett College, take a look at yourself and how you have fared in four years of constant pressure. Consider your values, recognize your weaknesses and decide just which way your life is turning.

Rising sophomores, now is the time to take a long look at yourselves. Beware; be positive in attitude and actions. Do what is "you," and only what you as a person feels is best for yourself. Always be an individual—first, before you are a part of the crowd.

## Frye speaks at annual senior vesper

State Representative Henry Frye was the guest speaker for the Annual Senior Vesper Convocation held in the chapel on Sunday, April 22.

The program opened with an organ prelude played by Katie Dodson, '79. Following the prelude and processional hymn, the invocation was given by Marion Johnson, '79.

The Old Testament reading was done by Brenda Tyson, '79; the New Testament reading was done by Venessa Lane, '79. Following the readings, Marion Johnson gave the prayer.

Next, Patti Winston, '79,

addressed a few remarks to the audience. Then, following a hymn, Representative Frye addressed the audience.

Francis Gaines, senior class president, spoke a few final words to the audience. This was followed by the recessional hymn and postlude, played by Katie Dodson.

Music for the program was provided by the college choir, directed by Ellen Warren, '79, and the senior ensemble directed by Beverly Randolph, '79.

The program was followed by a reception in the Student Union for the speaker.