

Byers

Coronation festivities dazzle campus

by Portia Griffin

"I Am Woman" was the theme of the 1979-80 Miss Bennett coronation held September 15 in the David D. Jones Student Union. A semi-formal affair, the coronation was hosted by Ms. Elizabeth Patterson White, a Bennett graduate who is now a Biology instructor with the Greensboro Public School System.

Prior to the coronation was a semi-formal dinner given in honor of Miss Bennett and her court on September 14 in the David D. Jones Dining Hall. Mrs. Mary Scarlett, Chairperson of the Department of Elementary and Special Education, was the featured speaker. Along with the court's family and guests, faculty and students were invited to attend. Miss Johnson C. Smith and Miss Shaw Universities also attended the banquet. Kathy Lewis, a sophomore sang "Unchained Melody" at the banquet.

Tributes and presentations in honor of Miss Bennett, Kathy Crosby, were as follows: Cone Hall presented Miss Bennett with a gift given to her by Ms. Veta Covert; Jones Hall presented Miss Bennett with a dedication to her written by Ms. Terri Wade and read by Ms. Phyllis Tillery with Ms. Betty

Harbison accompanying on the piano; also Ms. Marion Bennett presented her with a rose. Merner Hall, in which Kathy is assistant dormitory director, presented her with flowers given to her by Ms. Rebecca Wilburn; Pfeiffer Hall presented Miss Bennett a drawing by Karen Shields and a poem written by Langston Hughes "Dreams Variation" read by Carolyn Holt, and Stephanie Durham and Gwen Ingram danced; Player Hall presented Miss Bennett with a song sung by Ollie Sims entitled "If" and Tee Williams danced; Reynolds Hall presented Miss Bennett with a song sung by Ms. Charlotte Stewart entitled "Inseparable"; The Alpha Kappa Alphas presented Miss Bennett with a gift, Josie Hudley sang "If You Believe," and LaSandra Muldrow sang "I'll Never Love This Way Again."

Members of Miss Bennett's court were Miss Freshman Cheryl Johnson, San Diego; Miss Sophomore Terri Phillips, Harrisburg, Pa.; Miss Junior Tracy Phillips, Harrisburg, Pa.; Miss Senior Kathy Colbert, West Hempstead, N. Y.; The First Runner-Up Patrice Vailes, Washington.



Photo by Ben Poole

Members of the 1979-80 Miss Bennett Court are (standing) Patrice Vailes, First Attendant; Kathy Crosby, Miss Bennett College; (seated) Tracy Phillips, Miss Junior Class; Kathy Colbert, Miss Senior Class; Terri Phillips, Miss Sophomore Class; Cheryl Johnson, Miss Freshman Class.

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Will Bennett go co-ed?

by Debbie Hodges

Controversy has arisen as a result of an article in the September 12 issue of "The Greensboro Record," which began:

A group of black Methodist leaders agreed . . . to propose to the Bennett College Board of Trustees that the traditionally black women's college be made coeducational to offset financial difficulties.

This group is not an official United Methodist organization and has no decision-making powers. According to the "Record" the group consists of over 75 ministerial and lay leaders, all former members of the old Methodist Jurisdiction for Blacks before the formation of the United Methodist denomination. The group meets yearly for informal fellowship service. A committee was established within the group to send a written statement to the trustees within "the next couple of months," says a member of this unofficial group, Rev. James McCallum, of the United

Methodist Center in Raleigh.

The idea of co-education for Bennett originated, not with any one person, but in a couple of smaller groups which reported to the large group, according to McCallum.

More students would be available for Bennett, McCallum reasoned, if Bennett would open its doors to men. "The main thing we're trying to do is increase enrollment and indirectly increase finances," he says.

He also recalled that Bennett

was once co-ed and supplied the state with ministers. Some of the reason for today's shortage of ministers, he says, is that Bennett is an all-women's school. "Of course," he added, "we recognize girls as ministers now."

Local members of the board of trustees had unfavorable reactions to the suggestion. Trustee Nelle A. Coley called the group's reasoning "fallacious." Co-education does not solve the money difficulties of other black schools, she pointed out. Mrs. Coley, a Bennett alum-

nus, says she would oppose co-education even if the group's reasoning had merit. She says she believes in what Bennett has stood for and has done for black women and women in general.

Dr. James A. Colston, trustee, sees no advantages in Bennett's going co-ed. The need for some all-female institution, he says, necessitates Bennett's remaining "the same kind of college it is now." For that reason, Colston states, "We (the trustees) did not support" the co-ed suggestion.

"I think one of the basic strengths of Bennett is that it is a girls' college," says Trustee Eric Schlaginhausen. If it becomes co-ed, he says, Bennett will lose the attractiveness of an all-women's school and become "just one of many" co-ed schools. He does not think co-education will help the college financially.

"Special" and "unique" are what Mrs. Emry Green, Jr., also a trustee, calls Bennett. "I really prefer it to stay as it is," she says.

Co-ed poll: Belles, Aggies disagree

by Terri Wade

Recently, an informal poll was taken on the campuses of Bennett College and A&T University to determine whether Bennett College should or should not become a co-educational institution.

The results?

At Bennett College, the freshman and sophomore classes were

tied with 99 percent of each class voicing opposition to such a change. Freshman Terry Byrd felt as the majority of the freshmen and the sophomores polled, "If we had wanted to go to a co-ed school, we could have selected a less expensive and better facilitated institution. Also, one closer to home." One young lady in Bennett's freshman class, who wished to remain anonymous, said, "I wish it would become co-ed because more students means more money for Bennett College."

The members of the junior and senior classes were 100 percent in agreement that Bennett College should remain female. Says junior Irene Chavis, "Are they out of their minds?" Junior Kathy Coleman speculated that "Bennett College does not adequately facilitate the students it has now. I wonder if they would put the guys in the basement of Jones Hall where they could keep Jonesey Mouse company?"

The 85 percent of the Aggies who were in favor of such a change voiced their opinions much the same as Dana McCrewell, "I can freak on that," and Maurice King, "If they need only one guy, can I transfer tomorrow?" The 15 percent of the Aggies who were opposed to such a change felt much the same as a former Aggie football player, who said: "Leave it all girls. When the fellows go over to Bennett College, they don't want to see a bunch of hardheads."

One Aggie who wishes to remain anonymous stated, "If I go home and tell the folks I want to go to Bennett College, they might think I'm fruity. Besides, my mother went to Bennett, and the finest woman and lady in the world is my MOMS."



Photo by Myra Davis

Junior Linda Anderson recites her original poetry and prose to capture 1st prize in original interpretation at The Evening of Public Speaking.

Three win annual speaking event

by Myra George

Bennett students who attended the fifth annual "Evening of Public Speaking" on September 25th in the Pfeiffer Science Assembly were graced by excellent speakers, logical preparations and thought-provoking presentations.

By 8:00, at the start of the program, the audience had filled the seats and was beginning to line

up against the walls, making it evident that this program is one of the most popular ones on campus. "It gave me chills just listening to the speeches," declared sophomore Beverly Bernard.

The program was presented by the Interdisciplinary Studies Program and the Debate Society. The ISP students divided into nine committees to develop the program and were graded on the outcome of it.

Although there were originally eleven students who wanted to participate, the manuscript committee reduced this number to eight. These contestants competed in the categories of dramatic interpretation, original interpretation and original oratory.

Dramatic interpretation included presentations of another's work with the participant's opinions or observations about the work. Original interpretation took in the presentation of the participant's own poems with an explanation or summary. Original oratory included an essay or speech written and explained by the participant.

Carolyn Davis, a sophomore ISP student, delivered the welcome. Libby Malloy, Debate society president, followed with remarks about the organization. Sharon

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Photo by Myra Davis

Stephanie Durham, winner of the dramatic interpretation at The Evening of Public Speaking, recites Nikki Giovanni's poetry.

Parents, daughters to share weekend

by Josie Hudley

Bennett's 2nd Annual Parents' Weekend will be held during the college's celebration of its founding, October 5-7, an event which should really bring parents and daughters together to share the Bennett experience.

One of this weekend's highlights will be the Faculty/Staff Follies to be held in the Little Theatre tonight at 8:00 p.m. This event will give the older generation on campus an opportunity to show off some of their hidden talents!

Dining college-style and being able to view the dormitory rooms (Open House) will be a part of Saturday's activities.

The Founders' Banquet also on Saturday at 6:00 p.m. in the Student Union will honor the faculty/staff who have served at Bennett for more than 25 years and were not previously honored. Following the banquet a "Founders' Weekend Extravaganza" will finish a long, but delightful day of festivities.

The weekend continues with the parents being invited to the 11:00 a.m. worship service at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church.

Finally, the Founders' Day Convocation in Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel at 4:00 will be the finishing flair, with attention being given to the founders and builders of Bennett.

Although Founders' Celebration Weekend is fun there is a more serious side concerning the parents.

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