

# Keep the faith

A pre-holiday message many blacks could have profitted from was given by Benjamin Ruffin, special assistant to Gov. Hunt, Nov. 18. Ruffin's advice to "keep holding on" is especially applicable during these last days of almost labor-pain-like exams before the blessed event of the Christmas semester vacation.

Ruffin pointed out that our parents held on for us and now "trouble ain'ta comin' like it usta did." Proof of their successful holding on, he said, can be seen in Blacks like Patricia Harris, Howard Lee and Henry Frye holding key governmental positions. Black students in formerly all-white colleges and universities were other examples of progress he cited.

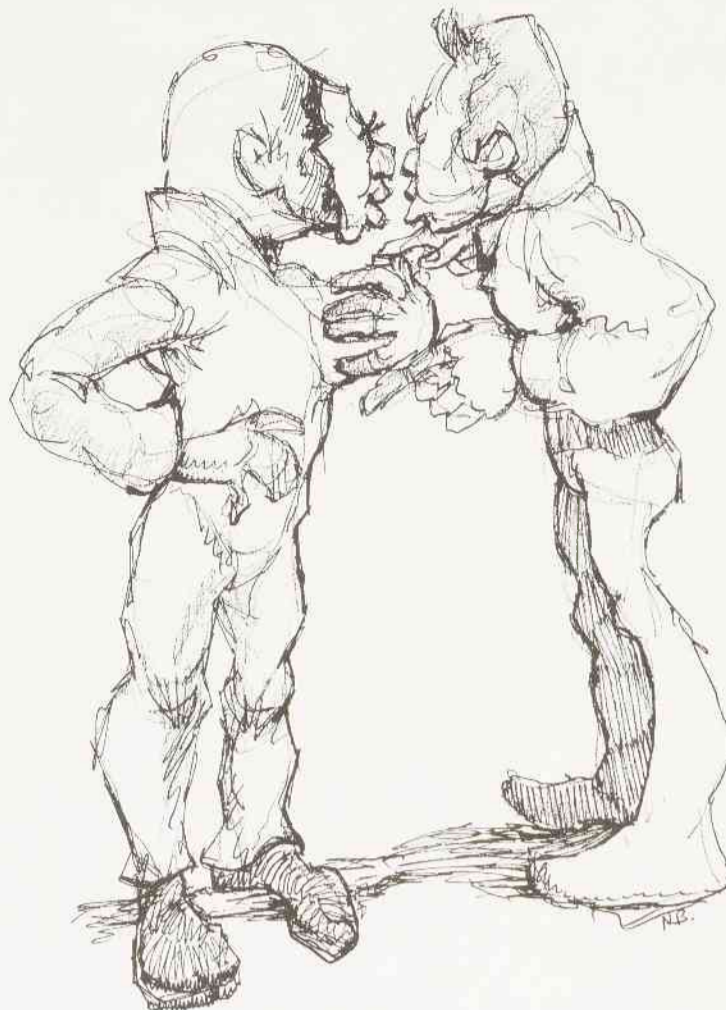
Although they might not have had much, our foreparents held on, Ruffin said. Their ability to see not only the darkness but also the light after the dark helped them to hold on.

During the usually back-breaking and mind-boggling period right before exams, we may lose hold of our perspectives and our reasons for being here at school. Caught up in cramming for those last course evaluations and meeting deadlines, we may, unlike our predecessors, concentrate on only the dark that comes before the seemingly distant dawn.

To hold on to our sanity during these semester academic tensions and frustrations, taking a moment out of the mad rush is critical. We should reflect on what we really want to accomplish and what we have already accomplished. We can find inspiration in the struggle and success of those who came before us, whose struggles stopped where ours are just beginning.

The struggle must be accepted as part of our means of success for, as Ruffin stated, "We may not get all we deserve, but we will certainly pay for what we get."

Debbie Hodges



# Drama major demands change

To the Editor:

The Bennett College Drama Department has always had its share of problems, not only with insufficient finances and holding on to Drama instructors, but also with a lack of serious Drama students and College support.

This year, the crisis has grown more serious. Finances for the Drama Department are devastatingly low. We have long awaited an opportunity to do a large scale production in the form of a musical. This year we had hoped to do "The Wiz," the popular Broadway musical that has recently been made into a movie, but due to insufficient supplies and finances, we may not be able to do this particular musical, or any other, for that matter. Being a Drama major myself, I know this to be a fact.

Aside from the financial prob-

lems, this year, the Drama classes have been cut down to exactly **three**, one of which is a speech improvement class! This is nothing short of outrageous! Where does this leave the Drama majors? Has anyone thought about that? What the hell are we supposed to do!! We came to Bennett College under the assumption that like most other departments, the Drama Department was a good one with many diversified courses. Now we find that in order to complete our major, it is necessary to take, not a few, but nearly all of our classes at other colleges such as Guilford or A&T! We knew we would have to take a few at other schools, but almost all of them? That is utterly ridiculous! If we wanted to attend these schools, we would have from the start!!

Another problem we face day in

and day out is the theater itself. Bennett's Little Theater is extremely small, not only in audience capacity, but in the stage itself. The Drama Department has tried desperately to improve the stage by adding an extending platform; however, in order to do this, it was necessary to dispose of two rows of seats. The Theater also suffers from extremely poor lighting facilities. We tried to improve on this by adding lighting bars on each side of the theater, but we, unfortunately, lost more seats in doing so. Because of these lost seats, we have extended our performances to six. Even with these improvements, we still have a long way to go before we have an adequate theater to work in.

Still another problem we face is the inability to have any fund raising activities. We were told that we were **not** allowed to keep

any money we raise in the Bennett College Players' treasury. Please tell me why this is so, because I haven't the faintest idea!

In addition to all this, the Drama Department has found a major lack of college support, which I personally find to be a pathetic situation. Although there are a great many students and faculty members that support the Drama Department, they, unfortunately, are outweighed by those pathetic souls who do not. The Drama Department has often been accused of putting on "unethical" plays or plays that do not show the better side of Blacks, such as a Black Cunningham family as in the Cunningham family on the popular television show "Happy Days." We would love to, but there are few plays written specifically for Blacks and even fewer that are the "happy-go-lucky" Black family situation that would be hard enough for us to produce, having a lack of men around or more specifically, men that **can** act!

Faculty attendance to any plays put on by the "Players" is atrocious, which is unfortunate, but true nonetheless. I would think that the Bennett faculty would take more interest in student activities. Maybe if profs attended more often, more students would want to attend and we wouldn't need those ACES cards to threaten our averages!

In spite of these problems, the cast of the two most recent productions, "The Sirens" and "The Owl Killers," have been invited to perform at North Carolina Central University in Durham, all expenses paid. This does **not** mean that the Drama Department can function just fine without improvements, because it cannot. If improvements are not made soon, Bennett's Drama majors may eventually choose to transfer to another college, the end result of which would be the death of the Drama department entirely. It is tragic, but true. Is this what we really want? Think about it.

Kimberly J. Merritt

# Give old nails new luster

by Monica Motley

Do you feel ashamed of your nails because of cracks, chips, and splits? Do you put your hands in your pockets every chance you get? Are you one of those people who wear plastic household hand-coverings around the clock?

If you do any of those things mentioned, you probably have a problem with your hands and nails. Fear not if you do because your problem can be eliminated with just a few easy-to-follow procedures to promote good grooming in nail and hand care.

One of the first steps in nail

care is to remove cracked, chipped nail polish. Apply cuticle remover to the skin around the finger to soften dead cuticles. The cuticle remover should stay on approximately 10 minutes. You should then wash hands in warm soapy water to wash away cuticle remover and the dead cuticles. After thoroughly washing hands, you should use a moisturizing lotion or hand cream to replenish hands of moisture lost during harsh treatment by coldness, detergents and aridity. Moisturizing lotions and creams give hands that soft dewy look.

The shape of your nails is very

important because that's what makes them distinctive from other nails. Nails should be filed with an emery board to avoid rough edges. Never file nails in a back and forth motion; this is a mistake many women make. Nails should be filed in one direction. Do not file nails too much on the sides because this causes them to become fragile and weak.

A basecoat should be applied to nails before brushing on nail polish so that the nail polish will not stain the nail after it remains on the nail. Apply the color of polish of your choice. First brush the polish down the center of nail and then apply it on each side of nail. Usually two to three coats should be applied, depending on how much you want to use. After polish has been applied, a top coat should be glossed over the polish to seal the polish and prevent it from chipping. The top coat also gives nails that extra shine to dazzle everyone you come in contact with.

After you begin to follow this beauty regimen, you should enjoy letting your hands be seen by others. If you own a pair of those plastic gloves, save them for when you do household chores and do not wear them with your regular attire. Keep this in mind: take care of your hands and treat them with tenderness and kindness because you can't buy another pair of hands in the way that you can purchase gloves.

# Object for the Christmas Holidays: Bring warmth to the less fortunate

The Christmas season has arrived! Visions of dancing sugar canes, pot-bellied Santas, and imitation pine trees are foremost in the minds of many Bennett students. As they rush through their final exams, they become more and more impatient to join their families in decking the halls, trimming the Christmas tree and baking the Christmas delicacies. Social popularity commands that many of them plan to spend this holiday season whirling from egg-nog parties to Christmas discos.

However, it is our wish that these students, before they become dazzled and totally wrapped-up in the imitation parphenalia of the holiday season, consider the original meaning of Christmas. This meaning has its roots in the most significant story in Christendom: the birth of Jesus Christ. It is the traditional Christian practice of giving thanks for the gift of Christ's birth which prompts the observance of a Christmas season and the setting aside of December 25th as a national holiday.

Hence, observance of the true meaning of Christmas should not become cluttered with a myriad of flashing lights. When each student returns to her hometown, she should affiliate herself with the various charity organizations there that are starving for young people to assist in making the holiday season more pleasant for the masses of people who are less fortunate. Each student can try to visit an old-folk's home or make the season brighter for a poor child by donating old toys to a charity. Also, before departing from Bennett College, students may pay a visit to the InterFaith Center on campus. Reverend Addo, college chaplain, welcomes all donations of old clothes and accessories.

All in all, these acts of benevolence are foremost in the celebration of Christmas. We sincerely hope that each student will have a "Merry Christmas," and that each, in observance of the true meaning of Christmas, will strive to "make a merry Christmas" for someone else.

Terri Wade

## BENNETT BANNER

1979-80

Editor-in-Chief ..... Debbie Hodges  
 Associate Editor ..... Beverly Rumley  
 Advisor ..... Michael Gaspeny  
 Layout Editor ..... Bernetta Hamilton  
 Circulation Manager ..... Myra George, Karen Heck  
 Business Manager ..... Ollie Sims  
 Cartoonists ..... Norman Barbee, S. Marie Brown  
 Photographers ..... Myra Davis, Bernetta Hamilton  
 Dear Aphrodite ..... Box 377  
 Ombudsman ..... Joanne Joyner, Box 716

### Reporters

Betty Brown  
 Yolanda S. Crump  
 Carolyn P. Davis  
 Felicia M. Gatson  
 Myra J. George  
 Beverly Griffin  
 Lisa Harris  
 Karen M. Heck  
 Josie P. Hudley

Yolande Y. Johnson  
 Joanne Joyner  
 Kathy Lewis  
 Libby Malloy  
 Kim Merritt  
 Sheila Purnell  
 Ramona Rousseau  
 Zephalee Thorne  
 Terri Wade

Denise Wilder