

# The Bennett Banner

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1981

BENNETT COLLEGE, GREENSBORO, N. C.

VOL. XLIII, NO. 3



The women who made the Evening of Public Speaking so splendid. (Left to right) Rhonda Whitted, Shelly Boyd, Jeanette Hatch, Nedra Kyna McGee, Lisa Murray and Melinda Lowery. (Photo by Shelly Coston)

## Lowery, Whitted excel

by Evelyn Glenn

Melinda Lowery and Rhonda Whitted won awards at the seventh annual Evening of Public Speaking on Sept. 29 in the Science Assembly Hall.

The program is one of the most popular occurrences on campus, combining intellectual stimulation and exceptional entertainment.

The competition is a student-organized event sponsored by the Interdisciplinary Studies Program (ISP) and the SGA. There were performances in two categories—dramatic interpretation and original oratory.

Lowery, a sophomore from Sumter, S. C., excelled in both areas. She interpreted the Langston Hughes' poem "The

Negro Mother" and presented her own composition "Momma." Lowery commented: "I was astounded by winning. I felt that . . . it was a start (toward future success)."

Whitted, a sophomore from Fayetteville, distinguished herself in original oratory. In a speech titled "Divorce," she stressed that people should consider the seriousness of marriage before they go to the altar, especially since so many weddings end in divorces. At the end of her powerful argument, she said: "Take marriage as serious as you take your life, for after you say 'I will,' marriage will be your life." Whitted could not be reached for comment.

Lowery and Whitted received trophies for their work.

Other contestants in the realm of dramatic interpretation included Jeanette Hatch (as Ntozake Shange's character "The Woman in Red"); Nedra Kyna McGee (T. S. Eliot's "McCarthy: the Mystery Cat"); Shelly Boyd (James Weldon Johnson's "The Creations" and Ruby Dee's "Calling All Sisters").

The other entries in original oratory were Angela Pickett's "Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth: Pioneering Black

Women Liberators" and Lisa Murray's "Knowledge and its Importance."

Judges for the competition were: Dean of Student Affairs Phyllis Forte Ethridge; senior Lisa Manley; instructor Anne C. Gillespie; associate professor Mary Hopkins; and Dr. Lynn Sadler.

Dr. Ruth Lucier, who assisted in the planning for the event, was excited by the performances: "To have the power to work and make society better, you have to have the ability to communicate to an audience. The Evening of Public Speaking encourages and helps students to gain the ability to communicate well."

Lucier was also strongly impressed by the response of the crowd. "I thought the students present reacted in a very sophisticated and supportive way to the speakers," she observed. "I think that's gratifying to have many of the faculty attend the program."

Sadler was also very pleased by the success of the evening, stating that "It continues to be one of the best-attended occasions at Bennett, and this year's program can only help to perpetuate that tradition."

## Mitchell eyes security

by Wanda Edwards

The college has taken an important step toward solving increasing security problems with the recent acquisition of trouble-shooter Thessie L. Mitchell, an expert in campus protection.

The newcomer is a sergeant investigator on the Duke University security staff, and he has been "loaned" to Bennett to upgrade its force.

Mitchell is a graduate of North Carolina Central University in Durham. He received his degree in criminal justice. He has attended various specialized schools involving campus police.

Mitchell is here under a Duke program that sends trained officers to smaller colleges to help them restore or rebuild their security departments. Mitchell stated that President Miller and Mr. Browning are behind him 100% because they can see that Bennett's security department needs improvement.

Mitchell's duties include establishing a training program for the security staff, preparing long-range plans for traf-

fic, fire and safety control, establishing effective communications between security staff and the student body and preparing a manual which the staff will follow.

Mitchell has worked at Duke six years. He says that the problems there are the same as the difficulties here, but they exist on a larger scale. A time limit has not been set for how long Mitchell will be here. He hopes to stay as long as it takes to see some improvements. Mitchell wants to talk individually with some of the students to see just what their complaints are against the security department. He hopes the student body will see the security staff as protectors. "They are here for you," he says.

The training program will educate the officers in what they need to know to run a campus effectively. Well-informed, thoroughly professional officers can make the student body more aware of crime. The lines of communication between guards and students must be open for this program to be a success. Mr.

Mitchell asks all young ladies to report any suspicious activities to the security department. Measures will be taken to solve the problems.

Mitchell is staying in the basement of Player Hall. He is available 24 hours for emergencies. The security department has been moved from the basement of Jones Hall to the old Counseling Center. If anyone is not familiar with this building, it's the white house sitting on the edge of campus, near Washington St.

Mitchell would like to add that if any young ladies have had improper advances made to them by the security officers and feel that these incidents should not happen again, please inform him at once. This is a crucial part of opening up the lines of communication.

The combination of a well-trained security force and an alert student body can form a powerful deterrent to both crime and the nuisance of harassment.

It's important that Belles extend the trust and help that Mitchell needs to streamline security services.

## Forum features Baldwin

by Arlene McNeil

James Baldwin, whose 19 books have had a profound impact on American thought, will conclude a two-day visit to Bennett with an appearance at the Nov. 3 Faculty Forum.

The program, sponsored by the humanities division and supported by the Mellon Grant, will feature Baldwin's answering a structured set of questions from the faculty. Starting at 7:00 p.m. in Pfeiffer Chapel, the event is open to teachers, students and the public.

The author's work begins on Monday, Nov. 2, when Baldwin will chair a panel at a 7:30 faculty meeting in the Science Assembly Hall. He will be joined by two colleagues from Bowling Green State University, Dr. Ernest A. Champion and Dr. Robert L. Perry. By the visitors' request, the evening will be confined to the faculty.

The Monday night presentation "will consist of the showing of a video-tape of James Baldwin and Chinua Achebe (a celebrated Nigerian novelist) discussing the topic 'The Black Aesthetic: Is There One?'" explains Dr. Ruth Lucier, chairperson of the Mellon Grant Committee. "Afterwards, Baldwin and his two colleagues, who specialize in Baldwin's and Achebe's works, will talk about the dialogue, and then the session will be open to faculty discussion." Achebe's most highly acclaimed books are "Things Fall Apart" and "A Man of the People."

Baldwin was a powerful presence in American literature ever since the publication of his first novel, "Go Tell It on the Mountain" (1952). He did not, however, receive the intense glare of the international literary spotlight until the appearance of his books of essays, "Notes

of a Native Son" and "Nobody Knows My Name." Among Baldwin's most famous works are "The Fire Next Time" (1963), regarded as one of the most brilliant essays in the history of Black protest, the play "The Amen Corner" (1968), and his most recent novels "If Beale Street Could Talk" and "Just Above My Head" (1979).

Baldwin was born in Harlem, the son of a preacher and the first of nine children. A graduate of DeWitt Clinton High School, the gifted young man, who had served for a time as a preacher in his father's church, pursued a career as a writer—a calling for which he had possessed an early aptitude. Influenced and aided by the great novelist Richard Wright, Baldwin moved for a while to Paris—the first of many trips throughout the world.

Now living in France, he (See Page 3)

## Revived NAACP chapter needs aid

by Kathy Lewis

Since 1978, the Bennett chapter of the NAACP has been silent.

The members all seem to have disappeared. That is, until one student started asking questions. Valerie Brown, a junior transfer from Howard University, wanted to know why we had no NAACP on our campus. After being active with the organization at Howard University as a

voter registration recruiter, Valerie wanted to continue her work.

She consulted Diane Small, who is the president of the state youth conference for the NAACP. Small informed Valerie that the charter was still registered for the organization, but no active members existed since Vanessa Bartley, president of the Bennett chapter, graduated in 1979. Small also told Valerie that if the chapter was to function, it would need at least 25 members, an adviser and elected officers.

Valerie went to Jacqueline Jeffers of the career placement center because of her active participation in the NAACP. Jeffers agreed to be the adviser. Valerie then talked to Carolyn Coleman, director of the state field house in Greensboro. Coleman informed Valerie of the activities scheduled for the year and urged her to recruit for the organization.

The NAACP stresses the purpose of bringing people together to help solve problems in the community. Some basic problems are unemployment, political dilemmas and civil rights issues. The purpose of the college chapters is to cultivate good leaders.

Valerie has definitely gotten a strong start in recruiting, but, although two meetings have been held, not enough people have paid the dues and become members. The chapter needs to be involved in upcoming events, but, if it doesn't have enough members, it cannot function. Valerie says: "The NAACP needs people in numbers who are dedicated. The more people we have, the less time-consuming it will be."



Man of letters James Baldwin will bring his unique vision to Bennett Nov. 2-3. His most recent novel, "Just Above My Head," is both a best-seller and a critical success. (Photo by Jerry Bauer)