

# The Bennett Banner

Friday, September 17, 1982

BENNETT COLLEGE, GREENSBORO, N. C.

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**Ceremony of Matriculation:** Sharon Allen received a tip of the academic hat and a handshake of welcome from President Isaac H. Miller, Jr. during Opening Convocation, Sept. 9. One hundred fifty-five freshmen and new students signed the college register as a symbolic commitment to excellence, whose significance was underscored in Miller's remarks to the College.

(photo by Lisa Harris)

## Public speaking event Promises entertainment

by Teresa Lipscomb  
The Eighth Annual Evening of Public Speaking will be held Sept. 28 at 8:00 in the Science Assembly.

All students are eligible for participation.

This event is one of the most popular occurrences on campus, combining intellectual stimulation and entertainment. It is a program of speech presentations, orations and dramatic interpretation of poetry or prose given by Belles to an audience made up mostly by their peers. The evening is a project co-sponsored by the Debate Society and The Interdisciplinary Studies Program (ISP).

"The purpose of this pro-

gram is to promote excellence in public speaking and to enable students to share their ideas and feelings with one another," says Associate Professor Ruth Lucier, one of the event's coordinators.

Awards will be given to the speakers by the panel of judges.

The Seventh Annual Evening of Public Speaking was a success. Melinda Lowery and Rhonda Whitted won awards. Lowery interpreted the Langston Hughes poem "The Negro Mother" and presented her own composition "Moma." Whitted distinguished herself in original oratory. In a speech titled "Divorce," she stressed that

people should consider the seriousness of marriage before going to altar.

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 "McCavity: 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 Librators" and Lisa Murray's "Knowledge and Its Importance."

## Bewitching hour changes

by Leslie Hendricks

"Change, It's Time for Change," sings composer Barry White and change is what has happened to the curfew policy.

Classified juniors, seniors and students that are 21 or older are now eligible for self-limiting hours without the consent of their parents.

Sophomores are also eligible for self-limiting hours with the consent of their parents. The once 12:00 a.m. curfew for freshmen has now been extended to 1:00 a.m. on the weekends.

In the past, only students that were 21 or older were eligible for self-limiting hours and still had to have parental

permission. Classified sophomores and juniors could not qualify for self-limiting hours until they were 21. The request to have the policy changed came from the student body.

Students have a mixed reaction to the change. "I do not feel and think it is fair because we (sophomores) had to wait until second semester before we were eligible for extended weekend curfew," said Louise Stokes, sophomore business administration major from Reidsville.

Teresa Roy, a junior accounting major from Washington, D. C., said, "I think it is a vast improvement from last year because it gives the individual time to enjoy

themselves and to accept the responsibilities of young adults."

"I think that it is showing that things are beginning to change," said Sabra Smoot, a sophomore special education major from Charlotte.

In other news from Dean Phyllis Forte Ethridge, the Student Affairs office will help any student achieve her academic goals. There will also be "special emphasis" placed on students on academic probation.

Ethridge says she is looking forward to the coronation of Miss Bennett, student personal service day, Faculty Day Folly and Senior Day Graduation.

## Performers create living Bible

The Bennett College Performing Arts Company has been well received by audiences in and out of Greensboro this summer.

Its production, "Women of the Bible," has evoked tears and handclapping among stunned audiences as the seven-member Company gives its interpretation of the sorrow, joy and hope experienced by women in Biblical days.

The Company, under the direction of Myra Davis, public relations officer, has presented the program to church groups at St. Matthews United Methodist Church, Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church, Providence Baptist Church, Shiloh Baptist Church and Glen Raven Baptist Church.

Established by the Public Relations Office and Office of Admissions to assist in student recruitment and church cultivation, the Performing Arts Company has become a major public relations feature. In fact, it received some support from the United Methodist Church Black College Fund Office to help in the BCF fundraising program among churches. The group traveled to Springfield, Ohio to represent the BCF Office at the Black Methodist Church Renewal, Inc. Youth Conference, July 23-24.

Research for "Women of the Bible" was provided by Kenneth Wytch, a former director of the

company. Scripts and dance choreography were a joint effort of the students; the music director, Dr. Charlotte Alston; and choreographer, Miss Susan King.

Scenes in the production include "Women About Moses," "Lot's Wife" "Naomi and Ruth" and "Widow of Nain." Through song, dance, and acting, the students give individual and group performances.

The first scene, "Virtuous Women" is an adaptation of the proverbs of Solomon and presents the contemporary view of the different types of women in Bible days. The final scene, "Trio," is a collective presentation which revolves around the experiences three women have had with Jesus.

Members of the Company are Nedra McGee, a junior from Chattanooga; Kathy Lewis, a senior from Chicago; Teresa Morrow, Hurdle Mills; Phyllis Tillery, Rocky Mount; Jill White, Columbus, Ohio; Kim Witherspoon, Charlotte; and Susan Smith, Warminster, Pa. Additional members will be added during Sept.

The group has begun to accept engagements for the fall. Interested organizations can contact the Office of Admissions or Public Relations Office, 273-4431. The Company also presents spirituals, gospel selections, and popular musical selections for special programs, luncheons, weddings and church worship services.



**Belles bearing ploughshares:** Members of the Performing Arts Company, which is busy dramatizing the gospel, are (front) Susan Smith, Teresa Morrow and Jill White; and (second row) Kim Witherspoon, student director Kathy Lewis, Phyllis Tillery and Nedra McGee. These women are giving new luster to old proverbs. (photo by Keith Miller)