

Counting blessings

Despite the disorder and irritation that arise from leaving home and coming to campus, Belles do have some blessings to count.

The college's grounds have never been so carefully groomed or looked so lovely. August in Greensboro, which may still seem oppressive to those students from less humid places, has rarely been so merciful. It's been a long time since we've had such a cool eighth month.

Maybe the weather is a positive omen for this academic year. The administration is trying to attune itself to the needs of students. Although, as usual, Belles may grumble, the College's dedication to its charges has been evidenced by an increase in campus activities, an altered curfew policy and an inspiring matriculation ceremony for freshmen. The College is trying.

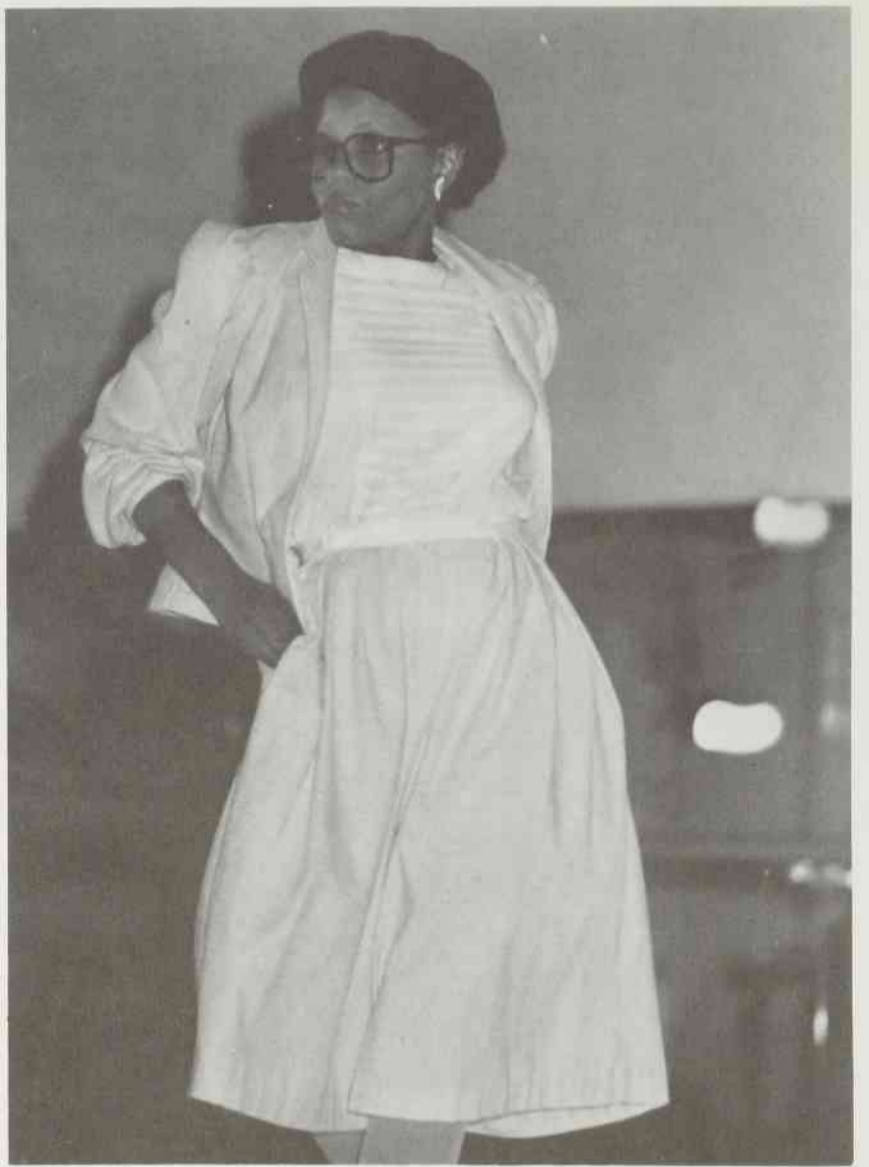
So is the city. In response to the often-voiced complaint that "There's nothing to do in Greensboro," the Gate City is offering the third annual City Stage Celebration, Oct. 2 and 3.

City Stage is a time when downtown takes on the carnival atmosphere of midtown-Manhattan on a pleasant autumn afternoon. Ethnic cooking, displays of arts, crafts, and animal husbandry, and, most important, almost non-stop music dominate the usually sedate (some might say "dead") central city. From jazz to reggae to soul, your favorite music will be played.

Headline acts include Dizzy Gillespie—master of bebop, synthesist of ghetto and Latin rhythms and heir to Louis Armstrong as jazz's main ambassador—and celebrated saxophonist Lou Donaldson.

An African market atmosphere will run from Jefferson Square to Washington St. where Donaldson, Archie Bell, Yusef and Friends and blues performers Richard Henry and Bernell McLaughlin will work along with various choirs and dance groups.

Only the most confirmed skeptic or stay-at-home can fail to join and enjoy the big Celebration.



Swinging into the school year: A variety of "styles" glittered during the Freshman Talent Show. Among the participants was Yolanda Lloyd, who twirled for the fashion-conscious. (photo by Lisa Harris)

Miami hosts pageant

Andrus B. Grayson, president of St. Bonaventure Enterprises of Miami, proudly announces the creation of the Miss Black U.S.A. Pageant in December.

Grayson, a former radio talk show host, who has produced and directed such critically acclaimed shows as the Miami television special "Harambee" and "The Miss Black Miami Beauty Pageant," expressed enthusiasm for the development of the Pageant as a viable source for positive role models for future generations.

"The Miss Black U.S.A. Pageant was conceived as a part of the great American dream. It was created specifically for the black woman who strives for personal excellence, while defying mediocrity," he said.

Contestants vying for the Miss Black U.S.A. title, must reign as her college or university campus queen. She must be a U. S. citizen and between the ages of 18 and 27.

The Miss Black U.S.A. Pageant

stresses the importance of higher education as a vital element in obtaining upward mobility and professionalism.

It promises to serve as a source of motivation for young girls aspiring to become campus queens by strengthening their pride and

awareness.

The Miss Black U.S.A. Pageant carries a message of pride and a statement of unity among young black college American women, and is trumpeted as the ultimate competition in the world of collegiate royalty.

Beholder rides

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beamed their affirmation of the proposal, but not so lustily as to frighten me away. After much bending and more beaming, I was crouched in the Honda, reciting my bio: "Junior . . . Philadelphia . . . Poli-sci."

When we arrived at Bennett, I said I lived in Cone, across from the gym. With a chuckle, the driver assured me that he knew his way around campus. This should not have been news to me

since they'd said they were A&T seniors.

Still it gave me a shock to realize that to them I might be just another easy Belle. My "good will" left me. I wanted to get out of that car as soon as possible. The Honda stopped in front of Cone. The driver opened the door.

In my haste, I practically fell out. I heard no "See ya 'gain," no "Yer phone number." Just "Nice meeting you." I was relieved. What did I want anyway?

Program becomes academic enrichment

by Lisa Murray

Parents' Weekend and Founders' Day Schedule

Sept. 29: Greek Olympics; Sept. 30: "Women of the Bible," Chapel, 10:00 a.m.; Oct. 1: Photographic Exhibition at the library; Serendipity Birthday Celebration, 9:00 p.m., Coffeehouse; Oct. 2: Parent's Financial Workshop, 9:00 a.m.-noon, Science Assembly; Parents-Faculty Mini-Conference; Concert, 8:00 p.m., Chapel; Oct. 3: Founders' Day Convocation, 3:30 p.m., Chapel.

The name of the Pilot Program, a basic skills curriculum for some freshmen, has been changed to the Academic Enrichment Program by acclamation of the Belles who inaugurated this course of study last year.

The students felt that the new title was more appropriate to the effects of the discipline.

Dean of the College Chelsea Tipton, who started the program, believes the innovation has been a success. "Our success with learning enrichment, or pilot as it was called last year, was very positive. Fifty percent of the students made the Dean's List. These students, have been restricted to 12 hours, will prove themselves this year as they take a heavier load," says Tipton.

The College embarked on the program because, according to the Dean, "We, the faculty, saw a need to improve the academic performance for those who we feel were under-prepared for successful matriculation at the college level. In doing so, we felt that we should concentrate on the most basic tools of learning—reading, writing and arithmetic. We believe that if one is to be successful, he must master these skills."

Last semester, students raised the question if enrollees in Academic Enrichment would be allowed to take one or two courses in their majors. Tipton replies: "No, they will not be allowed to take courses in their major for the reason that we believe that the basic skills taught in the Academic Enrichment Program are prerequisites to success in most other areas."

A staff of four directs the discipline — Ms. Marcella Whidbee, English instructor and program coordinator; Mr. Ray Treadway, instructor in mathematics; Mrs. Amy Reynolds, instructor in reading; and Miss Jimmie Gravelly, instructor in orientation and the seminar component.

Letters to the editor:

The power of blackness

Editor:

Being born and reared in Belize, British Honduras, in Central America, and staying there until the age of nine, I was exposed to a different culture from that of the North American people.

I did not understand what it meant to be Black until I came to Bennett College. Although I knew that I was not white, I could not apply the term "Black" to describe me. There is not a great consciousness or awareness of racism in British Honduras.

I did not understand why Blacks in America were so concerned about racism, the insignificance of Black dialect, the values of the people and the goals of the Black race.

Because I had been called to the ministry, I thought that I had better come to understand the concept of being Black and understand how the very concept is incorporated into the lives of these American people.

My first attempt to do this was by taking a Black Studies course at Herbert W. Lehman College in New York City. It was a well-taught course; I learned the reasons for the attitudes, values and purposes held by Blacks, but I did not personally experience or feel the pride, dignity, confidence and awareness of what it means to be Black.

I understood the concept on an intellectual level, but I could not feel it as part of me. So, after

taking the course, I still did not have the self-awareness of being Black.

I then decided to place myself in an environment where I could have to internalize what I have learned through the environment itself. I judged the best place to be was the South and Bennett College.

I can finally call myself Black with the dignity, pride and confidence that is felt and that I feel from having a rich and gracious African heritage. Bennett has given this to me in the space of one year and I thank her.

An excerpt from "Loving Styles: A Guide for Increasing Intimacy" by Martin F. Rosenman appropriately describe how I feel about Bennett:

"Everything we share[d] and communicate[d] [became] a permanent part of my growth process. Though my feelings will be different a year from now, or ten years from now, part of the difference is you. Because of you, I am a different person, and the person I will grow to become, with or without you by my side, will have gotten there partly because of you. If you were not in my life right now, I would not be who I am right now."

"Nor would I grow in exactly the same way. Much of what I grow toward, or change within myself, has to do with what I respond[ed] to in you, what I learn[ed] from you, what I re-

ceive[d] about myself through you, and what I learn[ed] about my feelings in the dynamics of our relationship."

"I do not worry about our future together since we have already touched each other and affected each other's lives on so many levels that we can never be totally removed from each other's consciousness. A part of me will always be you, and a part of you will always be me. That much is certain, no matter what else happens."

Yes, Bennett shall always be my alma mater at heart. Till we meet again.

Jennifer Jones

Editor:

Many of us are failing to realize the importance of sisterhood. To clear up some vague minds on the definition of sisterhood, Webster simply defines it as (a) a community or society of sisters, (b) a group of women having the same interest, status, etc.

Let's analyze these definitions. Any community or society of people must live by given laws which make it possible for each person to live in harmony with thy neighbor. If law and order were not exercised within a community or group, then chaos would rule. In accordance to our subject matter, this simply tells us that societies of women should abide by given laws in order to live in a tranquil

sisterhood.

In reference to our second given definition, it would be a great advantage if women of the same community could identify or relate to one another whether it be to a particular interest, idea or goal. In this way, women could work together on a project with equal enthusiasm; therefore, accomplishing their objectives successfully.

A perfect example of women working as a whole was in 1920 during the women's suffrage movement. This resulted in the 19th Amendment which passed in 1920. Women from all around worked together to strive for equilibrium with men in the political, legal, social, cultural and economic institutions of this society. This new and brighter beginning for women proved their teamwork strategy triumphant.

Even today, women are lobbying for the Equal Rights Amendment. Once again, sisterhood becomes an important factor in order for this goal to be achieved.

Many of us are working for ourselves rather than our sisterhood. Sure, self-accomplishment is important, but in order for us women to take charge in this "man's economic world," we have to work as a whole. Much more can be acquired.

Keep in mind that our philosophy should be "one for all and all for one if not at all."

Dee Evans