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GLOBAL WOMEN BEARING GIFT OF WISDOM: Drs. Thelma Dean Njaka and Thelma C. Davidson Adair and Mrs. Geraldine A. Totten compare perceptions during the five-day Women's Studies International Seminar, Mar. 20-24. Njaka is assistant director of animal health for the West Virginia department of agriculture. Alumna Adair ('37) gave the keynote speech while Totten is coordinator of the Women's Studies Committee. The Seminar stressed that women strive for knowledge, independence and flexibility.

"As I See It"

Coalition inspires Belle

by Joan Y. Davis

I recently had the privilege of attending a conference sponsored by the Coalition of 100 Black Women in New Jersey. During the three-day conference, I came in contact with some of the most influential and successful women in the country.

Often I found myself staring in admiration and respect at the judges, lawyers, journalists, businesswomen, doctors, and other careerwomen I met at the conference. These very beautiful and very intelligent women were just the type of women I had been longing to meet and I loved every moment that I spent

with them.

There were many things I admired about the women I met at the meetings, but, most of all, I admired their unselfishness. They had every right to be cocky and selfish, but instead they were reaching back to help us climb up the ladder of success. They were giving back a portion of what they had taken and that made me respect them all the more.

I left the conference feeling inspired and encouraged. I know things will be tough, but I am willing to work like the women I met worked and still are working. I want to reach my goals just as these women have. I want to taste

the fruit of success just as they are and if I believe in myself as they believe in themselves, I can make it and I will.

I wish all my Bennett sisters could have shared this experience with me. You all might have gained something from it. Since you did not, think about what you have just read, get yourself together, and go out there for what you want if you know what it is. If you don't, find out.

There is a chunk of this world with your name on it, Bennett Belle. The only way you can get it is if you work for it.

Students meet artists

by Yolanda DuRant

Dr. Alma Adams toured New York City with her Consortium Art course during spring break.

The seminar is a one-week course designed for students to discover whether or not they really want an art career. The students meet artists and visit museums and galleries. On the trip they met three artists — Yvonne Jacquette, Edwin Rath, and Romare Bearden.

Yvonne Jacquette, is a successful painter who uses very large canvases ranging from eight to ten feet in size. She primarily does landscape scenes as pictured from airplanes. Jacquette's work exposed the students to impressionism. Adams stated that Jacquette's great success is due to the right connections she made.

Abstract and surrealistic art is the second type work

they were exposed to through Edwin Rath. Rath does not make a living from his art alone. He is still struggling to make a name for himself with his art.

The third artist participating in the seminar was Romare Bearden. Adams described Bearden as one of the greatest Afro-American artists in the world. Bearden, born in Charlotte, N. C., has achieved world fame with his work. His works were promoted by Europeans. Bearden's style of art is collages in which he creates each piece of the collage. He refers to his works as paintings because each piece of the collage is his design.

The art students also visited The Metropolitan Museum of Arts where art from the Vatican was on display. They also got a chance to study the Rockefeller collection of African art.

Other highlights of the trip were visits to The Museum of Modern Art, Frick Museum, the Whitney and the Guggenheim. They also visited the Studio Museum in Harlem. This museum is owned and operated by blacks. It is called the Studio Museum because it provides a place for artists to work. The artists work there for about a year and get a chance to exhibit their work.

Some of the other activities the students enjoyed were sessions with gallery owners and a visit to the Art Students League.

Adams stated that "one lesson all the students learned was that you really have to be dedicated to be an artist and work at it to make it."

The six-day trip was very successful for Adams and the 15 consortium students. The course ends with a final paper or project from each of the students.

Women's Seminar

Seek advancement advises Adair

by Dee Evans

"Women have not moved forward, but in reality women have regressed," said Dr. Thelma Davidson Adair at the opening of the Women's International Studies Seminar Mar. 20.

In Adair's keynote address, "The Global Women: Options and Opportunities," she stressed the great need for women to start advancing and make great contributions like their ancestors.

Adair pointed out that the major problem for women in America today is the feminization of poverty. "In reality the poorest people in America are women. Estimated by year 2000, not only will the majority of the poor be women, but the greatest percentage will be racial ethnic women," she explained.

Women are poor because men have moved into industry and factories, leaving women to tend and take full responsibility for their dependents. This leaves the figures showing that "70% of the women in the country are dependent upon men as sole breadwinners in the family."

"For every job category, the majority of the women work in non-traditional roles such as agricultural work, and the technological work has been left for the men," claims Adair.

She gives figures saying that in the 21st century, 2.1 million of the jobs being created will be for kitchen help, janitorial work, and fast food work and "they will all go to women."

Adair, however, does give four recommendations for

women to gain future opportunities.

Having knowledge of the past was her first recommendation. "Know the oral history of your family and yourself and tell it . . . know contributions that women have made," she stresses.

"Be a creator of the networks . . . it's important to know the legal minds of women everywhere and find out who the persons are across the land trying to pursue common goals," explains Adair as her second suggestion.

Risk-taking is Adair's third third option: "Going to a circus or riding a roller coaster is mild compared to the risk women have to take and most women are afraid."

She suggests to women that they should try to gain the highest possible level of work. "Results have shown that women who enjoy success, who have the highest self-esteem and women who dare to say 'I want it all' are the most fulfilled and satisfied," says Adair.

In short, women need to take all the "vigorous tasks in the work place."

Lastly, Adair recommends that women develop a sense of stamina.

Even though Adair presents some options to help women grab for opportunities, she still feels "the new vision of women is yet to come."

Adair, a '37 Bennett graduate, is a professor of education at the University of City of New York, Queens College.

She is also the national President of Church Women United in the USA.

Miller tells seniors to persevere

by Deborah Lewis

The ability to accomplish great things will come from the perseverance that students demonstrate, explained President Issac H. Miller, Jr. at the annual Senior Day ritual.

Miller referred to President Reagan's political slogan "Stay the Course" by saying "the college graduate today will need to stay the course

. . . and show perseverance."

Miller examined the economy and the future employment outlook. He said, "the cost of an education will triple if not quadruple and homes will do the same." He explained that this is the age of employment for the highly technically trained."

The extent of a student's success will depend on her (See Page 3)



VISITING THE LAIR OF A LEGEND: Brilliant artist Romare Bearden's studio was one of the many major stops on the spring-break itinerary of consortium art students who trekked to New York under the guidance and instruction of Dr. Alma Adams and former Bennett professor Eva Hamlin Miller. The trip was an eye-and-soul opener.