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Senior Day Ceremony: Nedra McGee, Miss Bennett, is joined by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil McGee and President Isaac H. Miller, Jr. after the annual ritual during which seniors in good standing receive graduation regalia. The service stirred nostalgia in many of the participants. (photo by Otis Hairston)

Seniors Honored

by Karen Taylor

Senior Day was any ordinary day for underclasswomen, but for seniors, it represented the beginning celebration of the commencement ceremonies.

"To be a college graduate or seem to be?" That was the question according to Dr. Isaac H. Miller, Jr., in his address to the class of '84. Preparation for the real world outside of Bennett College was the main point stressed in Miller's address.

"Are you warm; are you real, Mona Lisa? Or just a cold and lonely, lovely work of art," Miller asked the seniors.

Susan Smith, who gave the appreciation speech, said: "To be chosen by my classmates as their representative is something that will remain in my heart for the rest of my life."

Senior Day was not only an exciting day, but it was a special day as well. "It marked the end of many days of hard work and the beginning of a new and exciting future," Smith stated in her address.

It was a day to say "thanks" for the support and

encouragement that has been given to the graduating class. "The unyielding support and feeling of deep concern for our progress by the faculty and staff is something we will forever be thankful for," said Smith.

Smith also thanked the parents for giving students the opportunity to become a part of the Bennett family. She explained, "We recognize the sacrifices that were made to maintain our stay here and we are sincerely grateful."

"Those of us who have reached this point fully realize that without the devoted support of those who cared, we would not be here," said Smith. "And because of you, dear parents, faculty and staff, we feel confident that we are prepared for the complexities of the world in which we live."

"In appreciation for all that you have done for us, I would like to pledge on behalf of this soon-to-be-graduating class of 1984, that we will become the additional links in the chain of fine Bennett women who continue to make notable contributions to the society in which we live," Smith vowed.

Ritual evokes reflections

by Dee Evans

Some seniors felt that Senior Day was a glorious occasion, but others held a different view.

SGA president Kay Boyd experienced a sense of joy. "I didn't know it would mean so much," she said. "I didn't feel it until we left the gym; then I could taste the fact that we had almost reached the victory at the end of the mile."

Several seniors began to realize that they were entering a new phase of their lives. Debra Lovett, a psychology major from Estill, S. C. thought about her past and future: "Senior Day made me think about graduation, the future; what was ahead and behind and how my years at Bennett were. It was like I made it, but hadn't made it quite yet. It was a good feeling."

Monica Jones, a biology major from Philadelphia, felt that she had reached "the end of a new beginning: the end

of the semester and the beginning of a new route."

"I had looked forward to Senior Day since my freshman year," said Jeanette Hatch, a professional theatre major from Atlanta. "It was a big thrill to sit on the right side of the chapel for a change. I felt especially good when I was able to hug my little sisters after they robed me. Senior Day was a moment that I will always cherish in my memories of Bennett."

Some seniors were not so thrilled with this day, which they had anticipated for so long that it didn't turn out as they had expected.

"I wasn't affected by the day because I wasn't graduating at that time," said Angela Wilkins, a political science major from Sumter, S. C. "Maybe I'll have some delayed reaction when graduation does come," she concluded.

"It wasn't as exciting as I

thought it would be," said Sharon Smoother, a biology major from High Point.

One senior blamed the disappointing day on the address. "I was deeply disappointed by President Miller's address. It was too negative. He could have made it more positive about what the future was going to be like," said Valorie Emory, a pre-med major from Virginia Beach, Va.

"From the speech, I got the impression that our class went around jiving and carrying on all the time," said Wilkins.

Eventually, most seniors will have the same feelings as Doris Deemi, a health science major from Liberia. "I feel good about my senior year because it gave me the chance to grow, be independent and make my own decisions without my parents' guidance. I have an insight of what a goal is and what life is all about," said Deemi.

Jesse is rebuked

by Yolanda DuRant

When Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson called Jews "Hymies" and New York "Hymietown," was he expressing blacks' views of Jews?

The consensus on campus is that Jackson was wrong for making these derogatory statements. Blacks are not anti-Semitic, according to respondents to a BANNER poll. Many Belles, however, were not aware of Jackson's slurs.

Sherill Baldwin, a senior from Whiteville, said, "I am not prejudiced against Jews. I don't think it was appropriate for him to make such a statement since he is a presidential candidate. I think that since it was said in a private conversation it shouldn't have been publicized. In private conversations, it is hard to keep track of what is being said."

Lorraine Merant, a sopho-

more from Wilmington, said, "I don't agree with Jackson's statement because I don't have anything against their [Jews'] religion. There are so many different types of religions, and I don't see that it is necessary to use slang names against the Jews or criticize their beliefs."

"I disagree with what Jackson said because during the Civil Rights Movement he helped blacks overcome the discrimination and segregation whites placed upon us. Whites began to feel that blacks were taking over; now he is showing the same attitude that whites had toward blacks to the Jews. How does he expect to get votes with such a negative outlook toward Jews of America?" commented Fredricka Watson, a sophomore from Charleston, S. C.

A freshman from Charleston, Lynda Keith, said: "Jesse

should have never said that. I am indifferent towards Jews because they are just like any other whites. In his position as a presidential candidate, he should have never said it because he is supposed to be the liberator of minorities."

Another freshman, Karen Horne of Durham, stated, "I don't feel prejudiced toward Jewish people. I think it was a slip of the tongue. All politicians are human and are allowed to say one thing out of the way."

One Belle partially sympathized with Jackson's view. "In a way, I agree with Jesse," said senior Cheryl Mackey of Queens, New York. "I'm not totally against Jews, but I am [against them] in the way in society in which they [Jews] try to get over on blacks." Mackey was concerned about what she considered the unethical practice of some Jewish store-owners.

Biggers believes roots make beauty

a review

by Leslie Barr

Blend the exploration of roots with a brilliant imagination, and you have the masterful art Dr. John Biggers exhibited and discussed here Feb. 28-29.

Soft charcoal grays, reds and blues dominate the sketches and paintings of the artist-educator from Gastonia.

"Hold on to your precious memories," Biggers advised student-artists, for recollection is the raw material of art.

Learning the ancestral past is another principle of Biggers'. In 1957, he won a UNESCO fellowship enabling him and his wife to travel to Africa.

He said this experience "laid the foundation for my desire to present Africa from that point to now."

His first lecture was primarily devoted to his "The Great African Kings" series financed by Budweiser. These works contain vivid imagery and minute detail. Striking colors of gold, red and earth-tones as well as life-life figures give the audience a sense of actually being in Africa.

Biggers also presented his great "Adair" mural which depicts the beginning and ending events in the life of Christia V. Adair, the Texas activist. His commentary was cut short, however, by a malfunctioning projector and an unruly audience.

On Feb. 29, Biggers discussed some of his prints with 150 students from Jackson and Lincoln Junior High Schools. The youngsters' enthusiasm and the artists' talent for effective communication made the event more educational and entertaining than his first presentation.

The first print "Holocaust" is Biggers' statement of how he views the world after a nuclear attack. The colors are red and sky-blue, and

the print are very abstract. Biggers stated that if "we drop atomic bombs, all of nature might be spoiled."

The second print "Bridges" forms part of a mural for the music building at Texas Southern University. It is primarily concerned with the "wheels of life from life to death." It included many themes and scenery from America, South Carolina and Southern cities.

The third print "Harvesters" portrays two black women. Biggers stated that the theme of this print was that "we should as people know each other better." The colors are black and white and the two figures are elongated in shape, and there is an emphasis on the bones of the hand.

The print titled "The Seed" shows a black male and female working in a field and planting rows of seeds. This is also done in black and white. Its primary theme is the "toiling of the earth."

Biggers said about his work: "I use the human body as a means of expression."

During the question and answer period of the presentation, Biggers stated that he did not always want to be an artist. In fact, while at Hampton Institute he wanted to be a plumber because "I wanted to make me some money."

However, his desire changed and Biggers decided to make painting his way of life. He stated that of all things dear to him, "my most precious possessions are my drawings and my paintings."

Biggers sums up his philosophy and aspirations in an article which appeared in the March issue of *Ebony*. He states that, "My job now is to reach the universe through the Black art experience. I'm a man who believes in Black art and am not insulted by it."