

## Alumna to publish novel

by Yolanda DuRant

Soft-spoken, articulate and firm in her convictions are terms which characterize Dr. Linda Bragg, a former Belle who teaches English at UNC-G and has a first novel that will appear this summer.

Bennett gave Bragg confidence and direction.

"Bennett was a major influence on my life. Academically, I felt really prepared for graduate school, and I didn't have any trouble competing.

"Bennett gave me a sense of direction and purpose, and I had the experience of people other than my immediate family caring about me," explains the class of '61 alumna, who took a master's at Case Western Reserve and a doctorate in Afro-American literature and creative writing from The Union Graduate School.

This college was a tradition in her family. Bragg's aunt was former Bennett President

Willa B. Player, and two of Bragg's sisters had been Belles.

Bennett fulfilled another important need for Bragg. As a child in Akron, Ohio, she lacked black role models beyond the figures in her immediate family. The college provided a surplus of models.

The forthcoming novel, "Rainbow 'Round My Shoulder" is Bragg's first major work of fiction. She is the author of a book of poems, "A Love Song to Black Men" as well as various poems published in periodicals.

Bragg's novel is a partially true story about a psychic and healer who lived in Greensboro during the early part of this century. The novel dramatizes the turmoil the protagonist undergoes because of her gift.

In writing the book, Bragg developed a new interest.

"I became intrigued with healing, metaphysics and psychic phenomena while writing this book. Black women

have always been healers and peacemakers. People assume that if a person is strong, she doesn't have turmoil. So I told the story from her inner conflicts," she says.

Bragg has no ideas for a new novel, but she is "sure it [inspiration] will come." She's busy giving lectures and doing freelance writing and book reviews.

Mother of two teenagers, Bragg finds it difficult to combine parenthood with her career. "It's a very delicate balancing act," she says.

As advice to aspiring writers, Bragg says a strong spirituality and belief in God are necessary. Writing must become an obsession in order for a young writer to develop her talent.

Bragg encourages people to write because the world needs poets.

The writer's life is arduous but fulfilling, according to Bragg: "It's a dream. It doesn't happen that often. We can't all be Alex Haley."

### More letters:

## Nigeria defended; unity demanded

This letter is written in response to quotations attributed to Omotayo Otoki in a feature written by Vonda Long.

To the Editor:

As a full Nigerian, I have to straighten up so many things you did not say right; either because you are a half-Nigerian or because you are ignorant of the things you ought to know.

Before I talk about your misrepresentations on Nigeria — my beloved country, I would like to bring you up to date about Bennett College. You said "I am not impressed with Bennett College; it does not have the techniques I am looking for." What techniques? I do not need to tell you when Bennett College was founded. The school has produced very many educators.

There are 13 Departments which offer sound and well balanced programs. Bennett College is an accredited and approved institution of higher learning. Many foreign students have graduated from Bennett College and are now reputable administrators and among the policy makers of their countries.

Although Bennett College is not designated "Bennett University," it has all the potentials of a university which offers only first degree. I like Bennett College for what it is and will recommend it for any person who wants to further her education beyond the high school level. I dream of the day when I will graduate from Bennett College and call her my alma mater.

Nigeria is not the only nation where communication is necessary. You need a form of good communication in any societies all over the world in order to get along nicely with the environment. Nigerians do not pull anyone "back down" because she is unable to communicate. In fact, good communicators are the group that may be likely to cheat others through their communication process.

Tayo must have come from another part of the world and not even a half-Nigerian. Today education has reached all parts of Nigeria. Parents who are educated want their children to go as high as they can in education. Uneducated parents know the disadvantages of lack of education and would not let such disadvantages befall their children.

They want their children to be educated so that their families will see the light and join in the policy-making of the nation. Nigeria is one of the countries of the world that believes in educating her people. There are educational programs carried out since Nigeria's independence as the Universal Primary Education and the Free Primary Education. The government subsidizes the university education for its students.

"My dad thinks like an African," said Tayo. Africans are great thinkers and philosophers. Most young women in Nigeria today are more interested in getting education prior to getting married. Some may not get university education because of lack of adequate funds and not because they want to get married and be taken care of by their husbands.

It is known that African (Nigerian) women are very industrious and resourceful. They do the work at home and in the farm, and are good entrepreneurs, in some cases carrying on trade from one city to the other. The men are the family planners and administrators with the support of women. I believe that your dad would not think that women did not need education; hence he married a nurse many years ago. However, he may think that girls who are poor or failing students should not waste their time going to the college; it may be better for them to get married and start a family.

"In Nigeria you undergo a college training period, something like a technical school for two years," said Tayo.

The qualification for entry into the Nigerian universities is a successful completion of not less than five courses including English and mathematics passed with Credit at Ordinary Level General Certificate of Education for entry by entrance examination, or the five passes with additional three courses passed at Advanced Level General Certificate of Education for direct entry (entry without examination) into Nigerian universities. You do not have to go to a two-year college before you are accepted into a University in Nigeria.

Tayo also said that "In Nigeria, bribery is often used." Bribery is not often used; however, people use it and others give tips. Tayo must have misunderstood what is bribery and what are tips. Bribery is against the law in every nation including Nigeria.

According to Tayo, "I would like to get my degree and return home. . . ." "I would rather stay here than return and kiss the U.S. goodbye." She apparently is confused and infatuated with the U.S. at the first sight. She may refute her statements after she joins the system.

U.S. is a great nation, a superpower, one of the best nations of the world and my second place of permanent residence.

"Nigeria, we hail thee. . ." Tayo, you do not bite the fingers that feed you!

Veronica Ezekegbu

To the Editor:

Since my freshman year at Bennett College motivation on campus seems to have been swept up by a very powerful tornado.

We need to get ourselves together and motivate one another. We sit around and complain day by day about how boring campus life is, the food and we even have gotten to the point where we are bored with ourselves.

Lack of motivation cannot be blamed on the college as some individuals seem to think. You see, it is we who are not motivated. We can only make Bennett College what we want it to be. We should bring back a lot of activities we once had. For instance, Fun Night was an exciting part of the Bennett College atmosphere. We have parties on campus, but most of us would rather go to Side Effects or the Trevi Fountain instead of supporting our own Belle sisters.

What is wrong with the motivation? It may be because of our pessimistic view of Bennett. Hopefully, one day we can all have some kind of inspiration that will pursue us to motivation on our own campus instead of someone else's.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Darlene Smallwood  
Concerned Bennett  
Sister

## Gaye: from page 3

acles, and the unmistakable grace of Diana Ross and the Supremes.

We never thought Marvin would leave so suddenly, so tragically. Who would've ever imagined that he too, would fall victim to such an early and untimely death?

The grim reality is that Marvin seemed to have a rather pessimistic outlook on life. "Once you reach the top, there's no place to go but down," the singer stated in a television interview. This statement gives one the feeling of immense predestination.

On the day of Marvin's death, he received no elaborate fanfare, no in-depth newspaper writeups and very few of the musical tributes that former Beatle John Lennon got.

## Defining Mr. Right

by Pamela Gary

Who needs tough guys like Charles Bronson when you can have a hunk like Tom Selleck?

Today women are looking for the man behind the macho myth.

The emphasis has shifted from the "He-Man" qualities popular during the "Me Decade" to the more abstract attributes like sensitivity, warmth and compassion.

Susan Smith, a senior, says that to capture the status of being a perfect 10 a man must have integrity: "He should have pride within himself."

Adrienne Burch, a junior, wants a man that stands out in the crowd: "He has to have a mind of his own, be very clean-cut and relatively handsome."

Looks are still important to women. Ulonda Beaty, a sophomore, says the eyes and mouth are what attract her attention first: "If he doesn't have clean teeth then I don't want to have anything to do with him."

Yvonne Ashley, a rising senior, agrees with Beaty. "If he doesn't take good care of his teeth, then he probably has poor personal hygiene. I love to see a guy with a pretty smile," Ashley observes.

Good grooming is another key

criterion. Dana Rutledge, a sophomore, says that a well-groomed man captures her attention: "His appearance has to be neat." Burch adds that "if his appearance doesn't appeal to me, my immediate interest fades quickly." Phyllis Wilson, a junior, says that a neat appearance makes a good impression: "A man's appearance makes a definite statement about his personality. If he isn't well groomed, then he probably has a very poor self-image."

What comes out of man's mouth may be more significant than his appearance. Lisa Jackson, a junior, says that if a guy is making a great first impression, the easiest way for him to ruin it is if he talks like a thug: "I get sick of hearing men approach me with slang like 'Yo, baby, yo.' It really turns me off." Burch adds that good diction is a must. If he doesn't speak well grammatically she loses interest. Ashley says that guys that frequently use slang are usually trying to impress you: "Speaking properly to me impresses me more than using the current slang. It lets me know that he is talking to me, not at me."

Belles are very articulate on the

subject of which famous men attract them and why. Marcy Davis, a junior, admires Quincy Jones: "He is so multi-talented. He uses both his talent and ability in unlimited ways." Smith admires Nat King Cole because of his talent: "He was an outstanding performer, and during his time period, he never received the recognition that he deserved."

Wilson likes actor Tom Selleck: "He has definite sex appeal and he is good at what he does." Effie Hayes, a senior, says that she really admires James Earl Jones: "He is an outstanding actor that never compromises himself."

There is no such thing as the perfect man. But if there were, he would be an unlikely combination of today's superstars. Rutledge says, "He would be a combination of Muhammad Ali because of his athletic ability, he would have to have Billy Dee Williams' looks, Richard Pryor's sense of humor and Michael Warren's body."

Although individual tastes do differ, Eddie Murphy's sense of humor is in demand along with either Michael Jackson's or Luther Vandross' voice and Tom Selleck's body.

## Bonds is princess

by Jacqueline Williams

Wendy Bonds, a junior computer science major, from Georgetown, S. C., has been elected the 1984 Cherry Blossom Princess for South Carolina.

Bonds was selected her state's princess by the South Carolina State Society of Washington, D. C. She represented her state in the Cherry Blossom Festival held in the nation's capital April 1-7.

Says Bonds, "The Cherry Blossom Festival is the beginning of Spring. The cherry blossom tree was given to the United States as a gift from the Japanese." The Cherry Blossom Festival is sponsored annually by the National Conference of State Societies to coincide with the blooming of the cherry blossoms along the Potomac River.

The week-long festival be-

gan on Sunday when representatives received gifts from each of the states. On Monday, they went to the White House where they met President Reagan in the Rose Garden. Later that afternoon, they met the Washington Redskins.

A Congressional reception was held in their honor on Tuesday evening. Bonds was escorted by Senator Strom Thurmond, the oldest member of the senate. Thurmond offered Bonds an opportunity to work as an intern.

Some of the other events which occurred during the week included an Elizabeth Arden fashion show, the Cherry Blossom Ball and the parade. Bonds also visited the Japanese Embassy for a reception. The South Carolina State Society also sponsored a reception in her honor.

Bonds explained her selec-

tion this way: "Each Congressman out of the six districts that are in South Carolina, submitted a name to the South Carolina State Society." Bonds worked as a summer intern for Congressman Robin Tallon last summer. The only requirement to become a princess was that the aspirant be between the ages of 18 and 23.

Of the 56 princesses who attended the festival, only two were black. The other black princess was a representative of the District of Columbia. Says Bonds, "I was the first black princess of South Carolina."

Says Bonds, "The most memorable experience was having the opportunity to share with 55 other members in the celebration of the Cherry Blossom Festival. It was a great honor to represent the state of South Carolina."