

The Bennett Banner

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BENNETT COLLEGE, GREENSBORO, N. C.

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Ball at new spot

by Yolanda Lloyd

A tradition that is over 30 years old will continue with the April 13th President's Ball, but the gala has a new location.

Years ago it was held in the dining room and in the past few years it has been held in the gym, but this time it will be held at the Blandwood Carriage House on McGee Street.

Wondering why this event will occur off-campus? One reason is that a public facility will attract more students.

The public relations office coordinates this event with a budget of \$2,000. This budget will provide the ball with refreshments from the home economics department like finger sandwiches, nuts, punch and cake and entertainment in the form of casino games and a DJ instead of a live band.

"There won't be enough room for everyone to sit down. We want everyone to get up and dance and have a good time! That's why we have a DJ this time," says Myra Davis, public information officer. "You don't need a date or even a long gown for this occasion. It's semi-formal, but you do need to obtain your admit card in the financial aid office by April

9th in order to get you and one guest in."

"Some girls aren't going because they don't have dates," says Davis, but don't worry. Once again the brothers from Morehouse College in Atlanta will be there. Only this time you get to choose whom you want.

There won't be any advance dating arrangements done until the weekend of the ball and that's all up to the individual! Last year we had 36 men from Morehouse and some ROTC members from A&T.

"I'm not going unless I have a date and he is tall, dark and handsome with some big bucks," jokes junior Andy Chan.

Probably the highest percentage of the girls going will be freshmen, since this is a first-time experience for them.

"The girls should be old enough by now to find their own dates! That's what this ball is for—socializing and having fun," says Davis.

If you do attend the ball, make sure that you don't bring any alcoholic beverages or any illegal substances into the facility.

If you haven't decided to go, think again. It might be something you'll regret.

Company coming

by Karen R. Taylor

After months of promoting the college and appearing at high schools and colleges across North Carolina, the Bennett College Dance Company will soon be giving its annual on-campus performance.

On April 14, the home folks will get to see a troupe whose strength is cohesion, according to Ms. Susan King, company director and physical education instructor.

"We all work together pretty well," King says of the versatile nine-member group, which dances to popular and contemporary music.

The dancers are freshmen Dwan Harris, Judy Lawrence, Valencia Lee and Michelle Roberson, sophomore Trayce Faulkner, juniors Alyson Berry, Deirdra Evans and Khadija Ward and senior Denise Green.

The company compensates for a lack of classical training with a strong emphasis on energy and style. Each of

the performers has a variety of talents, in addition to that key force—ingenuity.

The students do most of the choreography, a matter that King stresses.

"I am more comfortable when the students do their own choreography," explains the director. "This way they can express themselves more."

"I enjoy taking part in the planning," Faulkner says.

Discipline is the key to dance, which sometimes borders on a vocation for the company members. Some students are surprised by the amount of work dance demands and fear that falling in love with dancing can seriously compromise grade-point averages.

"One has to be flexible," says Berry, a veteran performer. "I enjoy modern and African dance. I enjoy watching the professionals. I like to dance. Dancing helps burn frustrations and tone muscles."

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Senior Day Delight: Newly-robed Gail Ingraham, a senior from Detroit, is feted by Linda Johnson during the banquet following the afternoon ceremony. The annual ritual is the last stop before exams for prospective graduates.

(photo by M. Davis)

"Inspiring" speech highlights Senior Day ceremony

by Margo Gilmore

An appreciation speech by Florentia Spires received a standing ovation as Senior Day when 109 Belles received their robes.

"... I see evidence of progress, the spruce of successful performance and the sparks of a great promise for the future," said Spires.

She observed that the class of '85 talks about achievement now instead of low morale, proof that academic challenge has been accepted.

Spires provided several examples of the progress by her class and college. "Faculty and staff are openly showing support and concern for their students," she said. "We discovered that the opportunity for greatness is inside each of us. We recognized that in order to achieve success, we might be required to leave

our comfort zones . . ."

"Bennett College has helped us to build determination and to overcome the barriers that have been established for black women," she said. "A transformation which most assuredly shall result in this group of women moving into those desired top positions . . ."

Spires then moved into the experiences that would always be remembered by her fellow graduates. These included the "Old Girls' Network" better known as the "Belle System."

The senior biology major extended thanks from the seniors to President Isaac H. Miller Jr., Dean Chelsea Tipton, the faculty and staff. "We are very grateful to you for indeed making it all happen. We will see you at the top!"

Several seniors showed their exuberance for their sister. Senior class Vice President Avis Kimpson said, "Spires was very good and proposed an inspiring challenge for the senior class as well as the faculty."

But Spires said following the ceremony she received many remarks concerning one statement alone—"It saddens me to admit that some faculty and staff are still in a state of shock by our confidence, determination, and enthusiasm . . ."

"However, that was not intended to put anyone down. I love my instructors, and the majority of them are excellent," she explained.

"Know who you are, and where you wish to go," said President Miller in his address to the seniors. "Only thoroughbreds win."

Gospel according to Shirley Chisholm electrifies audience

by Avanti Allen

"To whom much is given, much is expected" was the statement directed to Belles by The Honorable Shirley Chisholm, former congresswoman and the first black to run for President of the United States.

The congresswoman, describing herself as being a maverick and unpredictable, delivered the message in the overflowing chapel to students, faculty, administrators and city residents.

With her mission of peace, prosperity and equality, Chisholm stressed that the fight for freedom and justice was not over. "It saddens me to think that we have to set aside a certain time to celebrate great black people," said Chisholm.

Chisholm took the audience on a journey through the black man's life, past and present to give an idea of how blacks lack freedom.

"Blacks have a unique heritage in that we gained strength from suffering, learned from oppression and how to have an affirmed faith from the Almighty," according to Chisholm.

The time has come for the need to awaken the spirit of blacks of the past because "all is not well in America," cried Chisholm, "in regard to the economy and the treatment of blacks."

Chisholm talked of a second Reconstruction that was not completely over. She described how blacks of the past struggled for freedom and only gained political freedom.

Limited rights were granted to blacks. The rights included political freedom but there was also the denial of an education, exemplified by the Dred Scott decision.

Chisholm listed other events which encouraged blacks to think that freedom was near.

After being briefed on the black man's struggle, the audience was confronted with the idea that the hour was near for a change.

Her advice to her listeners was to give something back to better the race because, "if we don't, we may lose everything we have."

"We have a legacy to bequest from where we've come," stated Chisholm. She urged blacks to stand tall and

to do the best possible for the black heritage.

After delivering her address, the congresswoman was presented with a Bennett sweater and inducted as an honorary Belle by Karen Taylor, SGA president.

Earl Jones, Greensboro city councilman, presented Chisholm with the key to the city of Greensboro.

The program sponsored by the Bennett College committee on black history and the division of student affairs contained participation from students, faculty and administrators.

Participants included the Bennett College choir; Mrs. Doris Vincent, director of career services; Mrs. Julia Anderson, counseling center coordinator; Deborah Jacobs, senior; Dr. Phyllis Etheridge, dean of students and Dr. Isaac H. Miller Jr., president of the college.

According to one student, Anne Warren, a sophomore, "Shirley Chisholm was an outstanding speaker. The quality of her voice kept the attention of the audience. Her message of the past and the present was very inspiring."



Bearing Witness: Shirley Chisholm brought life and light to campus in March. (photo by Keith Miller)