

The Bennett Banner

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Is cartoon sportswear attire inspired by racial pride?

by Crystal Sadler

Can you imagine Mickey Mouse sporting a Filas jogging suit and a nameplate, and carrying a Louis Vuitton briefcase? Can you envision Fred Flintstone or his pet Dino with a fad haircut? Picture Snoopy wearing a pair of Gucci shades and a sweatshirt with one of the historically black colleges' names printed across his chest.

Then, when you have all of this in your mind, picture these characters with brown skin.

Since last January, there has been a new look on campus. Many students here and at other black schools have been wearing teeshirts and sweatshirts that have pictures of cartoon characters like Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Fred and Wilma Flintstone, Snoopy and Charlie Brown, but instead of being represented as white they are all black.

At first it appeared to be "just another fad," but other sweatshirts began to be worn as well. These new shirts featured the slogans, "Black by Popular Demand" or "Black, Catch the Wave." It is a well known fact that clothing styles make statements. Is this new style just a fly-by-

night trend or is it representative of something deeper?

Black campuses across the country seem to be having a resurgence of black pride. Male students are wearing haircuts that are reminiscent of African tribal haircuts, while females are wearing braids called cornrows, which are twisted and shaped and resemble tribal styles. Like the hairstyles, the clothes previously described are evidence of this pride.

Many students here feel that the new attire isn't just a passing fancy. "I think it's here to stay," said junior Tanya Goodwin, "I like them!"

"It does show pride in our heritage. I don't think it will wear out," added senior Tracey Durant.

Others seemed to feel that the trend may be the end of the extremely complacent young black and the beginning of a real black power movement like the one in the 60's and early 70's.

"I think that it will spur on a true black pride movement," Karen D. Jones said.

Young blacks in the tee-shirt business, who tend to be males, say that the tee-shirts are profitable. One entrepreneur in Atlanta intends

to open up his own business and specialize in these type of black-oriented sweatshirts.

Not all students think that this is a beginning of a movement similar to the one in the 1960's and early 1970's.

"Since this style is found on predominantly black campuses, I don't think it is a black pride movement," Bernice Scott said.

"Give it a chance to spread to the blacks on white campuses and I think it will spark a movement," stated freshman Akosita Nguae.

There were many ideas about why these articles of clothing are so popular. Barbara Wilkes said, "The clothes are popular because blacks are enjoying seeing themselves on the things they spend their money on." Another student, Jerilyn Williams, agreed, "I like seeing black faces on my shirts and I think others feel the same."

"They are fun and inspire smiles," said Rhea Simpson.

It is difficult to judge whether this is just another college student fad, but with the right amount of support what began as "just another fad" could turn into a black pride/power movement of the 1980's.



Gone but not forgotten: Miss Sallie A. Hayes has left the office of public relations for an advertising position, but she has also left behind many good memories.

College celebrates Black History Month with speakers

by Shavaughn Neal

Black History Month is a month of celebration around the country as well as on the campus of Bennett College.

It is dedicated to blacks and their accomplishments.

Bennett will have events that teach students of their heritage and of the struggle that many endured and overcame, the struggle that continues today. These programs are designed to enlighten the minds, enhance the lives of blacks and show students that only together can blacks overcome the obstacles that remain in the path that leads to progress.

This year's Black History Month programs begin on Feb. 9 at 10 a.m. in the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel with Dr. Edwin Bell, director of the Black Studies Program at UNC-G, speaking on "The Civil Rights Movement in Greensboro: The Role of Bennett College."

On Feb. 11 at 10 a.m., in the chapel, Dr. Alma Adams, chairperson of the department of visual arts and humane studies, will speak on "Afro-American Women: Prioritizing the Agenda For Now and Later."

On Feb. 16 at 10 a.m. in the chapel, Dr. Sammie Campbell, associate superintendent for educational programs in the Greensboro City School System, will speak on "Personal Growth and Development."

The celebration continues on Feb. 18 at 10 a.m. in the chapel with Dr. Karen D. Wells, clinical psychologist of CPC Mental Health Services in Freehold, N. J. She will speak on "Women of Color: Young, Gifted and Beautiful."

On Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 10 a.m. in the chapel, Mrs. Maxine H. O'Kelley, assistant superintendent for personnel and student affairs of the Burlington City School System, will speak on "The Value of An Education: A Job Is Waiting

For You Who Are Prepared."

On Feb. 25, at 10 a.m. in the chapel, Dr. Samuel P. Massie, professor of chemistry at the United States Naval Academy, will present, "Black Scientists: The People and Their Work."

Continuing the celebration on that day will be the children of the Children's House under the direction of Mrs. Naomi Dupree, Mrs. Jeanette Keith and Ms. Wanda Williams. At 4:00 p.m. in the Pfeiffer Science Assembly, the children will present "Voices of Great Leaders and Accomplishers."

The events planned on the Bennett College campus in celebration of Black History Month should serve to uplift the spirit of blacks and bring pride and dignity to all who see and hear the words spoken on these days. They are words spoken from the wise in the hope that they will bring wisdom, knowledge and understanding to others.

Dr. Martin Luther King: what he means to us today

by Kimberley Waller

Martin Luther King Jr.'s dreams are still meaningful for the Bennett College students.

Another year passes, marking the 20th year anniversary of Dr. King's death. This year we celebrated his birthdate on Jan. 18, three days after his original birthdate. Dr. King left the black society with many inspirations and expectations concerning the brotherhood of all mankind.

Said to be Martin, a senior, "Dr. King means a pillar of faith from the past."

Bennett was the first college in Greensboro to allow Dr. King to speak on campus. It happened Feb. 11, 1958. This inspired many Bennetters that attended Bennett at

that time.

"He was important to black history and gave blacks leeway into the white society. At one point he brought all blacks together as a whole and after he died everyone separated," stated Michelle Sherod, a senior.

In today's society blacks are still striving and fighting for their means of freedom, but there aren't enough strong black activists in the world who know the meaning of non-violence.

Mrs. Elaine Harrigan, director of Audio-Lingual Lab, shared some of her experiences as a young black activist. "I went to jail for 17 days in Orangeburg, S.C. We were chased by bloodhound dogs, sprayed with fire hoses and I had bruises and scars for

two months," she said. "We went from riot to riot, but we were strictly non-violent and we walked hand in hand during each demonstration. I was a member of the non-violent campus committees and I remained involved as a non-violent activist for integration and student rights for the next 10 years." Mrs. Harrigan was a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. This was the same organization Dr. King founded. "His death helps make my dreams more apparent and each year more meaningful as we honor his memory," she said.

Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech had such an impact on the society when he was alive that it has been

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Hayes Praised

by Tammy Winchester

For 16 months, she had a difficult position that required creativity, dedication and endurance. She made it look easy.

Miss Sallie Hayes, director of the office of public relations, left Bennett College on Nov. 30. She took a position as project manager with Cooper and Cooper, an advertising company in Winston-Salem.

Hayes will still be a resident of Greensboro. She will be commuting to work between the two cities. Her new responsibilities include the completion of all accounts for various clients. She will also be required to do some writing.

Hayes has a great deal of fondness and respect for the college.

"Bennett has been and will continue to be a very unique institution. Its founding and purpose have always been to better black people, especially black women, which will never change. That is one of the things that contributes to its uniqueness. Bennett is also a family that includes students, faculty, and staff," stated Hayes.

Hayes is looking forward to the new challenges ahead of her, but hasn't forgotten her achievements here.

"Getting the college more exposure is what I consider one of my biggest achievements," says Hayes. One of the things Hayes is sorry that she didn't get completed is the college darkroom. All who

know Miss Hayes have very positive things to say about her and her job performance.

"Miss Hayes has done a good job. I like her. She is dedicated," stated Mrs. Christina Bizzell of the financial aid office. "She is doing a wonderful job. She is youthful, knows how to talk to the students. She also listens very well."

"Many of the students come to Miss Hayes just to talk," says Ms. Vicky Rose of the admissions office.

Many of the students went to Hayes because she always enjoys talking to them. She never appeared to be bothered by the visits, which encouraged the students to drop in more often to say hello. When working with the students, she was patient as well as kind.

Hayes is a friendly person who really enjoys people. She makes everyone she works with feel comfortable and welcome.

One member of the staff has a great admiration for Miss Hayes. "She does a magnificent job for someone who had no help when she arrived," says Mr. Henton C. Jenkins of the maintenance staff.

There have only been very positive things said about Hayes as a person and her work. She has been called dedicated, excellent, dynamic and sensitive. She is a wonderful woman with a great deal of talent and style. Bennett will remember Miss Sallie Hayes and what she meant to each and everyone here.