

The Bennett Banner

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First Lady is commencement speaker

by Yvette N. Freeman

Mrs. Barbara Bush, wife of President George Bush, will visit Bennett May 14 as the commencement speaker for the graduating class of '89.

The First Lady was invited to speak here primarily for her interest and work in education.

"Looking back at the last First Ladies we've had recently, she seemed to be the first one in a long time that really had an educational piece as her focal point for wanting to improve," says President Gloria Scott.

Bush is active in promoting education and removing illiteracy from society. She recently set up a foundation for illiteracy and asked that a

black organization be the primary spokesperson for the program, stated Scott.

Scott also said that "a part of an illiteracy program that Mrs. Bush is pushing, is the helping of parent literacy as well as child literacy."

Bush is also active in advancing education in the black community, according to Scott. She and her husband, as well as various members of their family have supported private black higher education since 1942. Bush has also agreed to hostess a session for The Black Child Development Institute in Washington, which would focus on helping black children, added Scott.

Bennett contacted the First Lady by sending an invitation to the White House, along

with information about the college. Bush's staff then called Scott's office to learn more about the school.

The confirmation that Bush would speak at the commencement exercises came around March 30. The White House invited Bennett privately, hoping to make the announcement itself. However, Scott says that somehow the information leaked out to a Raleigh newspaper, so she decided to make the announcement first.

Scott credits William Trent, a former Bennett officer of institutional advancement and a personal friend of the Bushes, as being very instrumental in persuading the First Lady to come here. Trent met Bush at Yale Uni-

versity years ago when Trent was the first executive director of UNCF. According to Scott, the two men have remained friends over the years.

Scott says that she hopes Bush's visit will benefit the graduating seniors and "give them certain worldwide visibility" in addition to preparing them "to move into those leadership roles."

"I would think that some of the challenge of the fact that here is a woman who is First Lady, who's going to devote her four years, at least whatever it is, to an educational task. That is, removing illiteracy, which we know is very rampant in the black community; that there ought to be, I would hope an inspiration or motivation that this

is a part of their task," says Scott.

Having Bush speak here will also serve in possibly attracting additional funding for the school as well as more students. Scott stated that "everybody would like to see or be near the President or the First Lady, so we knew that that would also attract people to come to the college as a PR function. So for those reasons, we thought that several goals could be met."

Bennett has not yet been notified as to when Bush will arrive or how long she will visit the campus. However, Scott expects at least 2000 people to be present for the graduation exercises, which will take place at 10 a.m.,

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Mixed feelings about the Bush visit

by Yvette N. Freeman

Several students have negative feelings towards the upcoming visit by First Lady Barbara Bush as the commencement speaker on May 14.

According to a campus poll, some students feel that it would be more appropriate to have a black speaker for the commencement exercises.

Natisha Hoskins, a freshman, says, "She's not going to say anything to students that's going to relate to them as black women."

Taundra Woodard, a junior, feels that "Barbara Bush may be a dynamic speaker, but I don't think that she can provide young black women with a clear and realistic view of the job market and the world."

Senior Valerie Jones also feels negatively towards the visit. She comments, "I think it is unfair to the graduating seniors to have that white Republican here, because she can't identify with us and we can't identify with her."

One student feels that Bush is inappropriate not only because of her skin color, but also her political affiliation.

"I don't understand why they would want a white Republican to come," says sophomore Francine Bramble.

However, some students did not have negative feelings towards Bush's visit.

"I think it would be beneficial myself, because it would bring other people to the school," says sophomore Sheron Randolph.

Freshman Dawn Hayes says, "I find no problems with it. But whether or not I have any negative feelings toward her, I don't."

Dr. Baffour Agyeman-Duah, director of the division of social sciences, feels positive about the upcoming visit. He says, "This will make it easier for us to market Bennett as we begin to embark on our capital campaign. Her visit will also affirm the viability of historically black colleges and universities."

All of the students polled felt that the primary reason Bush was invited to speak here was for the media attention Bennett will receive as well as the possibility of additional funding.

Sabrina Hardy, a freshman, says, "One reason they probably brought her in is the publicity."

Woodard added, "I realize that Bennett College will receive a large amount of media attention and Mrs. Bush's appearance can also generate funding for the college. Although I agree that Bennett College needs funds, I think the graduating seniors are being deprived of a speaker with the same or similar experiential background."

New officers prepared

by Shavaughn Neal

As the end of another academic term approaches, students have faced again the annual campaign posters and speeches that accompany the various office elections on campus. While most of the Student Government Association and class officers have been chosen, there are still a few vacant positions left to be filled.

Kathryn Lynn Marshall, the current Student Government Association president, has been re-elected.

Miss Marshall is a rising senior from Charlotte, majoring in accounting. When asked how she felt about being re-elected, she said, "I am happy to have the opportunity to serve as president for another academic year."

Kathryn, or Lynn as she prefers to be called, said that some of the things she plans to do during her second term include restructuring the entire student government cabinet.

She said, "I want to include presidents of organizations as part of the SGA Senate in an effort to get all organizations involved in campus activities." Marshall also said, "I want to look at the election process and reorganize it and start an endowment plan for the Student Government Association."

Cherryl Floyd, a junior English major from Roanoke

Rapids, was elected to the office of recording secretary of the Student Government Association. Floyd said of her position, "A recording secretary operates much the same way as a historian does. It is that future generations will know their past. The recording secretary is the keeper of truth." Floyd went on to say, "I feel that I will be an excellent secretary because I have the skills and above all I am audacious enough to think myself a writer."

Yvette Williams is the corresponding secretary for the coming academic year. Williams said, "I'm looking forward to assuming my position during the next school year. I plan to make sure that all students receive accurate information and receive that information on time."

Joann Moore, a junior from Suffolk, Va., majoring in biology, will serve as Student Government Association treasurer for the coming academic year. Catherine Netter, a freshman, holds the office of parliamentarian. Talia McCray, a senior from Denver, Col. and an engineering major, will represent Bennett in the capacity of Miss Royal Blue and White.

On the Student Union Board, the office of President will be held by Tamilia Stubbs, a junior from Dearfield, Fla., majoring in English. Lorraine Patton, a freshman from Pensacola, Fla. majoring in

Interdisciplinary Studies, will be the Student Union Board Secretary.

At deadline time, the positions of SGA vice president and Miss Bennett College are still vacant, and on the Student Union Board the offices of vice president and treasurer are still vacant.

Film contest news

BURBANK, Calif. — A major, new program in the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences' (ATAS) ongoing campaign against substance abuse was announced today with news that \$15,000 will be awarded by the Academy this year to fulltime college or university students producing the best four-to-seven-minute film or videos on anti-substance abuse messages, accompanied by related 20 to 30-second public service announcements.

The new program was announced by ATAS President Doug Duitman and Chairman of the Academy's Campaign Against Substance Abuse Steering Committee John J. Agoglia.

First place winner will receive \$7500; second place, \$5000; and

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Student shot en route to class

by Cherryl Floyd

Sophomore Akosita Ngaue was so anxious to get to her 2:30 class that she did not think about a gun being pointed from the back seat of a black Mustang on Feb. 21.

She noticed the car because she likes Mustangs, but when she heard a pop, she still kept walking.

When she reached her dorm and realized that her leg was swollen, she knew that she had been shot. She told one of her friends, Tonya Williams who lives in Jones Hall. Williams called the police.

"When the policeman got here," Ngaue said, "he said that the hole was too big to be a BB gun. He said the bullet was probably from a .22 caliber."

A doctor at Moses Cone Hospital confirmed that the weapon used was a BB gun.

Ngaue filed a report with the policeman and went to the Trammell Health Center accompanied by Williams. Mr. John Brower, chief of Bennett security, then drove the two women to Moses Cone Hospital.

Ngaue and Williams met

two young girls at the hospital to whom the same thing had happened.

"While I was waiting to get an X-ray, two high school students came in. One had a bullet hole in her jacket and the other one had been shot in her face close to her eye," Ngaue recalled.

According to Sgt. Joe Deich, two others were shot and two people reported being shot at through car windows. There were five cases reported. One of the victims was shot at twice.

Deich said that Richard

Bryan Flores, 20, of 1008 Elwell Ave. was arrested in connection with the shooting of Kimberly Westbrook, a 15-year-old whom Ngaue and Williams saw at the hospital. Flores was charged with assault with a deadly weapon with serious injury.

Detective Dave Spagnola said that the driver of the Mustang was brought in for questioning but refused to give any information.

In a safety seminar on Feb. 28, Chief of Police Sylvester Daughtry Jr. confirmed that

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Belle grazed by shot: Akosita Ngaue didn't realize what was happening when a car passed with a gun protruding from the window. (Photo by Kimberley Williams)