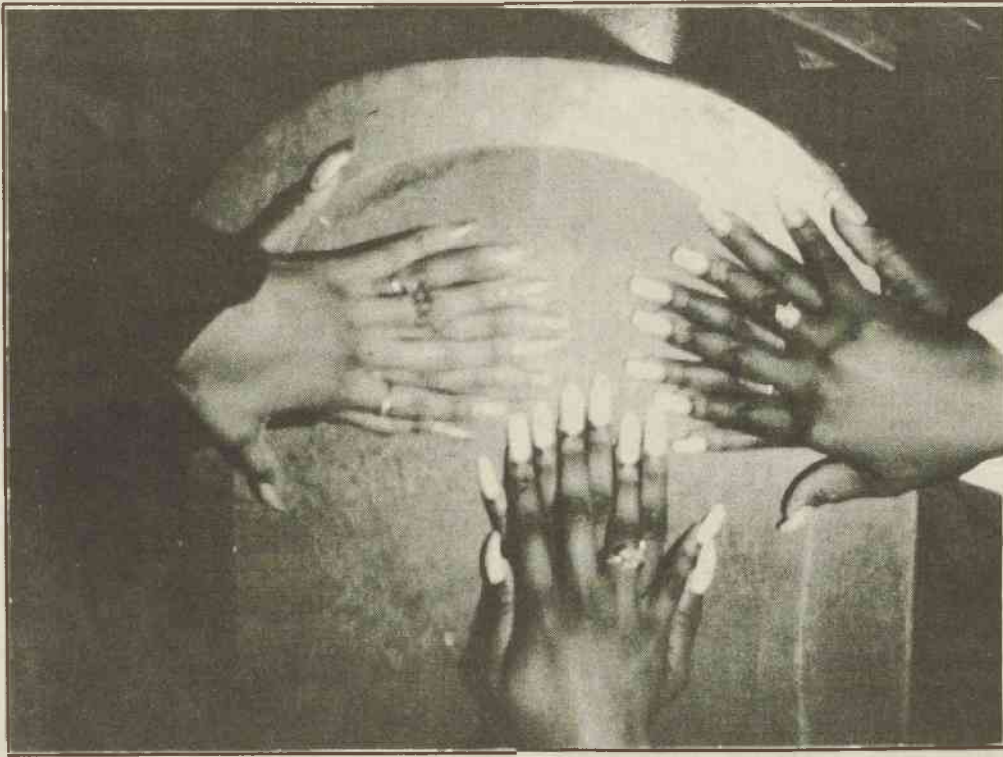


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Bennett students and faculty can be seen sporting nail art, sculptured nails, acrylic nails, and gel nails. Photo by Camisha Gentry.

The 411 on getting nails done

By Brandy Jones
Banner Reporter

As you walk around Bennet's campus on a daily basis, you might notice a lot of interesting attractions about Bennett Belles: Their hair, designer clothes, and of course their beautiful nails.

According to a nail technician at Nail Image, a salon located on West Market Street, a large percentage of their clients are college students.

Are nail technicians taking precautions to ensure that their clients' nails are healthy? Or are the students getting nailed?

Every technician doing nails professionally in North Carolina must be licensed. Nail technicians can earn a license after successfully completing training and passing an examination.

According to Rose Smith, an instructor at Dudley Beauty College in Greensboro, a technician must complete 16 hours of instruction at a school of cosmetology and receive a passing score of at least 80 percent.

After the training, the technician then takes the N. C. State Board of Cosmetologists Examination. The technician must pass both the practical (hands-on test) and theory (written questionnaire) exam with a score of 75 percent or above.

When the technician has completed all the requirements, he or she will be given a license. This license must be visible to clients at all times at the technicians' place of business.

According to Alisha Kier, the owner of Alisha's 24-Hour Nail, Tan & Feet Retreat, of the 12 technicians who work at her shop only four of them have obtained a license.

Jackie Wirsing, owner of Allure, a nail shop in Greensboro for 12 years, said that she has two technicians and both are licensed.

"All of my technicians are licensed," said Jaime Phan, a nail technician at Nail Image on West Market. There are four technicians in that shop.

I went to get my nails done at Nail Image," said Christine Burch, a mass communication major from D.C. "I was somewhat alarmed that there was no license on the wall of the technician who was doing my nails.

I tried to ask questions, but she [the nail technician] did not speak English well. Therefore it was hard to understand her response," Burch said. [All the technicians in Nail Image are Vietnamese.]

There are dangers associated with making nails attractive. One of the most common dangers is contracting a nail fungus.

"A fungus can be caused by waiting too long in between fill-ins because bacteria from household cleaners can get under the tips," Phan said.

Smith said that technicians may also be responsible for a client developing a fungus. "It [nail fungus] may be due to the improper use of the drill or not sanitizing in between in each use," Smith said.

"I contracted a nail fungus while getting my nails done and as a result I had to wait until a whole other layer of nail grew out," said Elisha O'Neal, an elementary education major from Columbus, Ohio.

If a client develops a fungus, Kier said that her technicians treat the disorder with an over-the-counter product for fungus and a home remedy (peroxide, bleach, and vinegar).

Wirsing said that if one of her clients contracts a fungus she recommends that the client sees a physician.

- Tips**
- Check to see if the state license is visible and current.
 - Ask the nail technician to sanitize the instruments before working on your nails.
 - Do not wait too long in between each fill-in.

Interactive

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Keisha Reed a junior biology major from Washington, D.C. said the program was excellent, very energetic, and helpful.

"I received new information about keeping myself in shape mentally and physically."

Another student, Renitta Hills, a sophomore mass communications major from North Carolina said that the ACES program was creative. She also said, "Our group's expression on being more involved in the community gave me a deeper incentive to do more for my community."

Dr. Lenora Brogdon-Wyatt, Humanities division chair said that she hopes that the ideas and suggestions made during the program will result in concrete plans.

Etiquette

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and chocolate cake.

During the seminar, which was demonstrated by Mary Scarlette, dean of Academic Achievement and Retention, students were shown how to dine properly in a four star restaurant.

"We chose these foods because many people have difficulty with them," Scarlette said.

Students were shown proper ways of eating the peas and rice from their plates without difficulty.

Not only did the students seem

to enjoy the seminar, but they also said that they learned.

Cisha Howard, a mass communications major from Ohio, said she felt that the seminar was helpful and beneficial.

"I picked up some valuable skills that will help me in the real world," Howard said.

Scarlette said that each of the students brought something new to the sessions.

"The young ladies should be commended," Scarlette said.

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