

The Gym *jammed*

By Jamila Boozer
Banner Reporter

If Gym Jam '97 was an indication of College spirit, than this school year is off to a good start.

The recent event took place in Goode Gymnasium Aug. 22 and raised close to \$2,000 that will be used to purchase athletic department equipment.

A highlight of the evening was when the Belles presented their Bennett dance in a line around the gym.

"I think it [Gym Jam] was great," said Jennifer Gardner, a native of Washington D.C. and a sophomore fashion merchandising/business administration major.

"Bennett should have a lot more activities like that. There was a lot of participation."

Loris Boyd-Groover, director of Student Activities said that the Gym Jam went well.

"Students really supported it," Boyd-Groover said. "The Gym Jam did a lot to set the tone for other activities throughout the school year."

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THE BENNETT BANNER

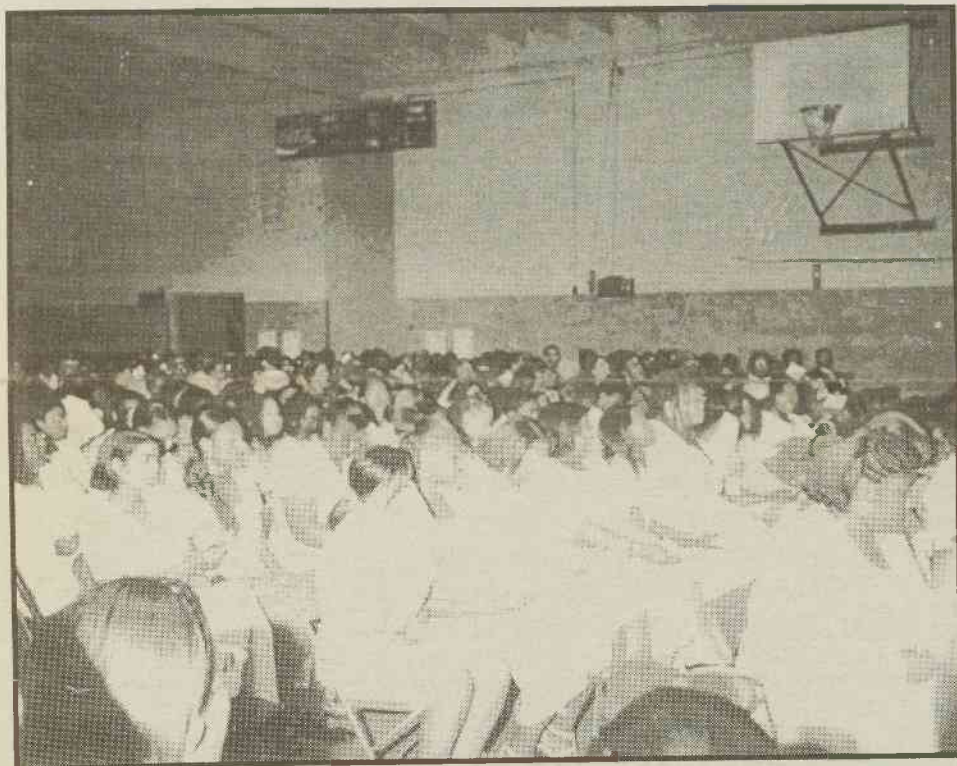
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Members of the class of 2001 at Convocatum Est, the official opening of the College's academic year. The annual ceremony took place in the Ida H. Goode Gymnasium while the chapel is being renovated. Photo by Camisha Gentry, Banner Photographer.

Class of 2001 formally introduced to College

By Delanissa A. Moody
Banner Reporter

History was made Sept. 9, 1982 when 155 Belles participated in the first ceremony of matriculation at Bennett College.

Fifteen years later, Aug. 28, the tradition continues.

During this year's Convocatum Est -- the official opening of the College's academic year -- 217 entering freshmen and 18 transfers were introduced to the faculty, staff, and returning students.

The annual ceremony took place in the Ida H. Goode Gymnasium while the chapel is being renovated.

The members of the class of 2001

possess higher SAT scores and grade point averages than the previous years. In addition, four freshmen were their high school valedictorians.

During her address, President Gloria Randle Scott encouraged professors to teach to the best of their abilities and to make their classes demanding and interesting.

Scott also challenged students to be accountable for their own education.

"If teachers don't push you, you pull them," Scott said.

Some students said that they were motivated by Scott's address.

"Dr. Scott was very inspirational and she impressed me," said Melissa Clowe, a freshman from Maryland.

Gus is gone

By Brandy Jones
Banner Co-Editor and Staff

Returning students may have noticed that the area across from the Gorrell Street entrance to the campus has been quiet and empty.

For a number of years, residents and the College community had been complaining about the loitering taking place in front of the store and the noise it was creating.

The complaints led to a petition that forced the owner of Gus' Grocerteria to close in July, according to Ted Napper, chair of Bennett and Gorrell Street Neighborhood Association.

The area has had its share of trouble. In April 1996 the owner of a grocery store on the same block was slain and his store clerk was shot during a robbery. That store has been closed since that incident and the building is boarded up.

Other businesses, including a barber shop and beauty shop have since relocated were closed. All that remains is the Red & White Supermarket.

Napper said that Gus' was reported selling fortified wines and allowing loitering and drug activity in front of the store.

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Jones Hall repairs near completion

By Ronda Stingley
Banner Reporter

Last spring Hurricane Fran "visited" the campus. Her heavy rains uprooted the magnolia tree in front of Jones Hall and severely damaged ceilings in seven rooms in that dormitory.

Since that time, those rooms have been under reconstruction, with four rooms completed. While the ceilings are being repaired, some students have been relocated to other dormitories.

Gina Griffith, a freshman from New York, said that she stepped out of bed one morning into a puddle of water.

"I really liked my room and I hope to move back very soon," Griffith said.

Freshwomen who were originally assigned to Jones will soon be able to move out of Reynolds Hall back to Jones.

"This would make room in Reynolds for a few upperclasswomen that are still waiting for room assignments," said Amanda Williams, director of Residence Life.

Moving days are scheduled from Sept. 9 to 14.

"All the rooms in Jones Hall should be complete by this time," Williams said.

A few years ago, the entire dormitory had been closed for renovations.