

**THE BENNETT BANNER**

Published seven times a year by the students of Bennett College.

Subscription Price...50c A year

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**EDITORIAL**

**YOUR RACE IN THE MOVIES**

You're in a theater—sitting in the balcony, of course, because this is the South and you are a Negro. The feature attraction is going on when suddenly there is flashed on the screen a fat, BLACK, greasy, grinning character. And what is your immediate reaction? You burst into loud appreciative guffaws and think that this character is probably the funniest you have ever seen. Why?

Do you like to see your race represented at its lowest, most unattractive level? Do you want other people to judge you by the movie representation of the Negro? Do you want to be thought of as a perpetually grinning, lazy stooge that speaks in a half-witted dialect? Of course you don't and yet as long as you laugh at them, the cinema producers will continue to characterize the Negro as unbecomingly as possible.

The matter of typing the American Negro as "the happy cotton picker" has long been a bone of contention championed by the N. A. A. C. P. Advertisers have been forced to change their illustrations of the Negro woman. Instead of the big, common, ugly, black "mammy" formerly seen in the ads, the Negro woman now is pictured as a rich brown with pleasing features and a not-so-elephantine stature. The usual red bandana is missing from her head nine times out of ten now — nor does she murder the king's English so consistently or thoroughly as before.

The N. A. A. C. P. has fought a long battle to raise the idea of the Negro in the eyes of other races. Yet YOU, the Negro himself, seek to tear down all the

work done by putting your stamp of approval on things about which you should properly be highly indignant.

So the next time your race is jokingly insulted on the screen, don't laugh! Suppress that nervous urge somehow! Be perfectly silent. Report the distasteful incident to your theater management—show them that you RESENT it! In that way some day in the not too far off future the Negroes on screen will be persons that will make you proud that you, too, have a brown skin.

**MUSIC**

Have you ever given music a serious thought? No, not swing alone, but all music, both swing and classical. Music is the art or science of making pleasing or harmonious combinations of sound tones, the effects of which satisfy or dissatisfy us. But before suddenly deciding which specific type you like, why not give it all a fair opportunity to please you?

The appreciation of fine music is not an innate characteristic with which some few people are endowed; we can all come to appreciate its value. A desire to learn, an attitude of entering upon a new road of adventure, an unbiased mind — these are the simple prerequisites — and a new world revolves about us, the world of music. Some few people in the universe have met these requirements successfully; Beethoven's "Sonata Opus 31, Number 3" is to them celestial, "The Valkyrie", a composition by Wagner, knows no verbal description, Chopin's "Ecosaisais" is sufficient to hold them spellbound until its completion, and so it goes. Just as easy as that, you, too, can become a cultured member of the circles of music lovers. We might liken our sense of listening to music to a business proposition; we listen because we feel that we might profit by something presented.

Music, in spite of its abstractions, is one of the most profound and useful arts to be found in the realm of civilized people. "It soothes the savage"; it can heal the sick, if the case is a psychiatric one, for music can act as a tonic, relieving one of many of his worries and cares of the day. It acts in the capacity of a stimulus, co-ordinating group activity, thus, the use of anthems, hymns, and the like, when masses meet for a common cause. Not least, by any means, music may aid in the building up and maintaining of morale, a thing most vital to us

especially during these dark days when America is arming, both mentally and physically, for total defense.

Let us allow ourselves to expand, to delve beneath the realms of mortals and seek experience through the will. As Schopenhauer has put it, "It is only through music that we can get the most out of life itself."

**Don't Talk--Act!**

Newspapers, billboards, movies, radio commentators, and people who love America are pleading to individuals and the general public to talk less and do more toward winning the war. Some one has been talking too much and thus aiding enemies in plotting against our country.

Have you asked yourself what you might do as a student?

We might remember that the person you least suspect may be one of those information seekers who is willing to risk his life to destroy an American plane or ship.

As college students, we are often asked to express ourselves on the war situation. We go on telling what is being done in our American factories, and boasting that our tanks are well-made with certain metals, and even describe them if possible. We like to feel that the colored boys are using the best equipment to be found in the army and that theirs is equal to that found anywhere else and so we proceed to describe it.

If a member of your family works in a production plant, you might keep in mind that discussing the amount of material that goes into a gun or army suit may give someone the wrong kind of idea.

Let us remember that secrets of war may be revealed and disclosed in a very few words. And so let us refrain from discussing and describing equipment, materials and jobs, and be aware at all times that there are many who are anxious to know what America is doing. Their knowing won't help us win the war, but may result in an evil plot. And you want to know what you can do? DON'T TALK—ACT!

**More Defense Work For Bennett Students**

Letter to the Editor;

Do you think that Bennett College is doing all it can to aid in the National Defense cause? I believe a great deal more could be done along this line. My suggestion is something similar to what was done recently at another woman's college. The committee on Civilian Defense at the college launched a Victory Book campaign to collect books for men in all branches of the service, with clever posters to attract the students. They were constantly kept reminded of the urgent need for these books and other defense efforts by posters scattered all over the campus saying, "LET'S FACE IT." The students co-operated wholeheartedly with the Victory Book campaign by giving to the committee over 500 books.

Why can't the Bennett girls, think of the men in camps in some similar manner?

A recent survey at Dickinson college revealed that more than a third of the freshman class are related to graduates or former students of the College.

As we lift womanhood, we lift civilization.

**VOX POP**

By Constance Steward, Inquiring Reporter

Many of us, I am sure, have read the numerous articles appearing in our current magazines on "Our Place In National Defense." These articles all leave many questions. One is, naturally, the woman's place. What is it? Some authorities on the subject say that the woman of America's place is in the home, others, in the defense jobs which many women hold, and still others contend that we, the women of America should be drafted into a standing army, an army to take the place of our brothers, fathers, and sweethearts who are not coming back, one similar to the one Soviet Russia now has.

What do you, the women of Bennett College, think? Would you like to be drafted into this military service or do you think your place is still in the home?

Should we, the women of America, be drafted into a standing army? Anona Blanchet, Freshman, does not like the idea—

"No, who would be home to cook and to help make machinery to be used in the war."

Mary Gregory, Junior, agrees with Miss Blanchet,—

"No, women can take an active part along other lines of defense and it will be just as important."

Miriam Hart, Senior, is slightly on the fence about the subject—

"At the very end or when the man power is exhausted, women, then and only then, should be drafted into a standing army."

Icic Parks, Senior, has another view on the subject—

"I should think women who do not have any definite contributions to make to defense on the home front, should willingly go into the armed forces, since we demand equality with men in every other situation — why not prove it here by defending our country against enemies?"

Dorothy Devaughn, Sophomore, is slightly in favor of enlistment—

"If absolutely necessary, I would be glad to enlist in the army. Remember I say if "absolutely necessary."

Ruth Van Hook, Sophomore, is definitely in favor of enlistment— "Women should be drafted because if there is a shortage of man power, we could still have a well trained army."

Ruth Harvey, Freshman, her viewpoint on the subject is this—

"At the present, I see no need for women to be drafted into a standardized army. I think that there are too many other positions that we can fill. I think we should be drafted into training for mechanical and technical instructions so that we will be able to take the places of the men in industries, research laboratories, etc. — When the war situation has reached the place where our service is greatly needed then, I see no reason why we should not be drafted."

Now fellow students, what is your opinion? Should you like to be drafted?

**ELEVEN YEARS AGO**

Bennett Wins City Basketball Tournament.

Senior Day was observed on Friday, March 18, when the Seniors named their tree after Mary McLeod Bethune.

The Phi Beta Kappa fraternity of Wesleyan University, the alma mater of David D. Jones, saw fit to initiate him as one of its members after twenty years of absence. Mr. Jones was a member of the class of 1911.

Bennett College held its fifth annual Home-Making Institute Week.

**Information Please**

Did you know that approximately \$2,000 has been spent to add a thousand and new books to the Thomas F. Holgate Library during the present school year? The library budget, including \$1,500 from the Carnegie Foundation and \$500 from the college, has been used to make it probably the most up-to-date college library in the state. These expenditures do not include the Carnegie Art set which will be reviewed in this column next month.

A full reference collection has been made possible from the Carnegie donation. Expensive general and specific reference volumes have been added this year. For recent general information, see the 1941 editions of the "Americanna Annual" and the "Britannica Yearbook". These volumes supplement the encyclopedias by giving the march of events through 1941. The Columbia Encyclopedia and the "New Funk and Wagnall's Dictionary" will aid you in your search for information.

In the field of literature, valuable additions have been made. For those English term papers, the following volumes are recommended: the 17-volume "Library of Southern Literature", the "Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature" and the "New Variorum Edition of Shakespeare".

Information in the field of history is also included in the reference additions. Significant facts about the United States may be found in the "Dictionary of American History." Brendon's "Dictionary of British History" offers the same type of information about Great Britain.

Do you know about the index services offered by the library? These indexes direct you to sources of specific materials in various fields. For educational information, see the new "Educational Index." "The Essay and General Literature Index", an index to essays in volumes and miscellaneous works is one you need to know better.

If you wish to trace world events as given in issues of the New York Times, use the New York Times Index. You will find many more helpful indexes at your service in the library.

The library budget from the college has been used to secure material to make the library serve the functional needs of the curriculum. Because consumer education is important in the present crisis, approximately 50 new books in this field have been purchased. Why not read Gaer's Consumers All, McCaw's Fifty Ways to Save Money and Richardson's ABC of Co-operatives for information on these popular subjects?

Ever mindful of the achievement of Negroes, the library keeps its Negro book collection up to date. Most outstanding among recent additions are our own Miss Virginia Simmons' rich collection of original poems, Whitecaps, W. C. Handy's Father of the Blues, Twelve Million Black Voices by Richard Wright and Arna Bontemps' Golden Slippers.

The library gratefully acknowledges the gift of 988 books by the family of the late Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Suggs of Greensboro. Including a collection of poetic, religious and miscellaneous works, this gift is valuable.

A wealth in books is at your service in our own Thomas F. Holgate Library, why not make the greatest use of it?