

THE BENNETT BANNER

Published Monthly By The Students of Bennett College
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

Ten Cents a Copy\$1.00 Per Subscription

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THANKSGIVING REFLECTION

Thanksgiving, according to Webster, is the "act of rendering thanks, especially to God." Here in America each year during a special season, we set aside a period of thanking God for our many blessings. Thanksgiving, however, should last for each day throughout the year, for we do receive untold blessings every day.

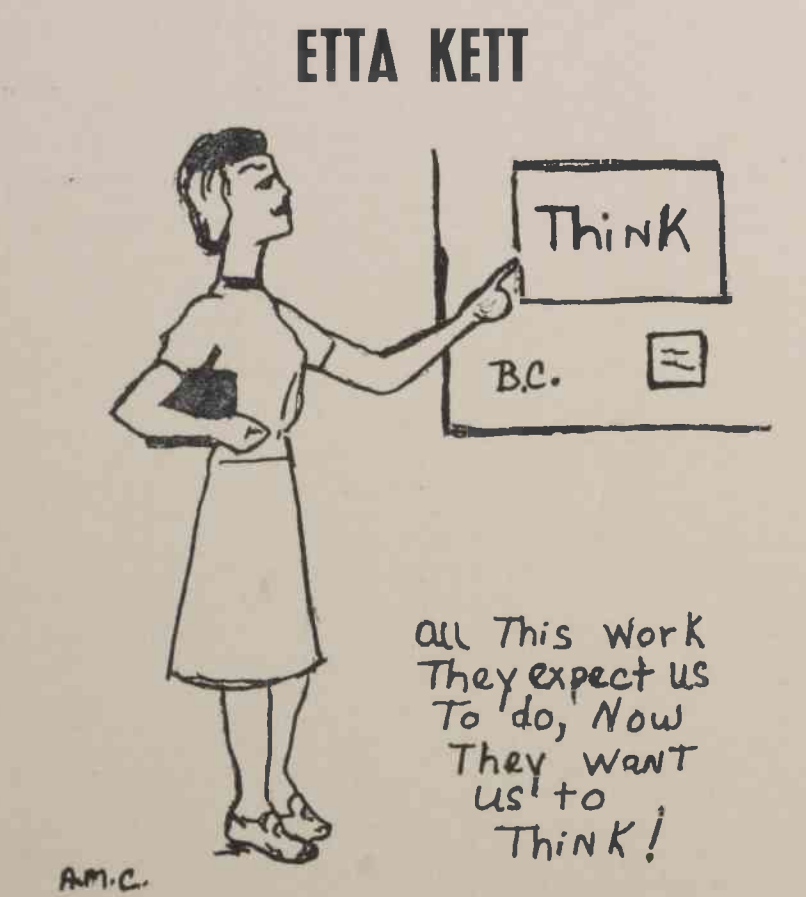
Some of us are often found complaining about what we do not have. We close our eyes to our present possessions and open them only as we wish for future gains. We might take a few moments occasionally to sit down and think quietly of some of the things for which we should be thankful.

Do you take your blessings for granted? Why not put on your thinking cap for a moment and list some of your treasures. As we ponder over this thought for a brief period, we soon should remember that we should thank God each day for:

T—houghts of depth and sincerity
H—appy thoughts of home and family
A—ir we breathe through life
N—eighbors and friends so important and dear
K—nowledge and wisdom of which we are privileged to share
S—erenity and peacefulness of occasional solitude
G—od and His faith in man
I—tegrity of thoughts and actions
V—irtuous lives and deeds
I—nstitutions like ours everywhere
N—ation and the whole world
G—ifts infinite: spiritual and material

As we each celebrate the season of Thanksgiving and in the near future that of Christmas, may we remember that: "No man is without a reason to be thankful. If he lacks gratitude, the fault lies at least partly within himself."

—The Editor.



BENNETT'S PAST

The fine physical plant that Bennett now consists of had its origin in struggles, flames, and hope. The first building erected was named Bennett Hall in honor of its donor, Lyman Bennett. It was dedicated in 1878. In 1883, the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church built and had provisions for home economic classes. This home operated apart from the Seminary until 1926 when it became a part of the new Bennett College brick structure after having burned twice. It served the junior class as a nursery school. It is now the infirmary and a fresh-and an inner conviction.

Early Administrators

In 1881, during the administration of the Rev. Wilbur Fletcher Steele, the Seminary was chartered by North Carolina as Bennett College. The administrators for the fifty succeeding years were Dr. Charles N. Grandison, the first Negro to lead any of the schools under the auspices of the Freedman's Aid Society; Jordan Chavis, 1892-1905; Silas A. Peeler, 1905-1913; James Wallace, 1913-1915; and Frank Trigg, 1915-1925.

Century Fund Building

From 1915 to 1925, three buildings were constructed with Century Funds. They were Jones Hall, Steele Hall, and the Academic Building. Jones Hall is named for Bishop Robert E. Jones, the first Negro bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and brother of the late Dr. David D. Jones. Wilbur F. Steele Hall is named for one of the early presidents who is the father of Wilbur Daniel Steele, the American short story writer. This was the dining hall with a seating capacity of three hundred. It has since been renovated and at present is used as a fine arts building with provisions for music and art students. The Academic Building had nine rooms, six being used for general class purposes and three for administrative offices. Five buildings represented the total physical growth of the school during the fifty-three years prior to Dr. Jones' administration. Other structures include the Carrie Barge Chapel and Johnson Hall, which was located where Jones Hall now stands.

More Recent Buildings

Buildings erected during President Jones' administration are: Mary H. Thirkield Gymnasium, 1933; Pfeiffer Hall, 1934; Merner Pfeiffer Heating Plant, 1935; Henry Pfeiffer Science Hall, 1936; Annie Merner Dormitory, 1937; Thomas F. Holgate Library, 1939; Carrie Barge Dormitory, 1941; Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel, 1941; the Children's House, two faculty apartments, and the president's home, 1955.

The Bennett campus is arranged on a quadrangle plan. The colonial and Georgian - styled buildings facing the campus proper with the chapel at the head, give one a feeling of deep security and an inner conviction. One student recently said she loved every magnolia tree on Bennett's campus. We shall go so far as to say we love every inch of the Bennett that was and that is for that which she gives.

(The dates and much of the material in this article were obtained from a paper by Dr. Virginia Simmons Nyabonga, entitled, "Bennett's History.")

—Delores Tonkins.

A Junior Speaks On "The Value Of Giving"

(This month we are featuring the second article in a special series, "A Student Speaks." Miss Jimmie English, majoring in English, has written "A Junior Speaks on The Value of Giving.")

There is a time in every person's life when he or she is faced with the question, "Is life worth living?" It may not be stated in these very words, but the essence is the same. If a Bennett girl does not answer this question before coming to college, certainly by the end of her sophomore year she will tackle that problem in her "self-evaluation."

In evaluating one's self, one must surely include one's values, principles and ideals, one's assets and deficiencies, and what one has done and is doing in regards to the future.

I am more interested in values and particularly concerned about the value of giving. I admit in the outset that this concern has been conditioned by some recent undertakings on the campus.

Before anyone gives, I think she should understand for what cause she is giving and where her gifts are going. In most cases, when money is asked for, the reason is stated beforehand. I have mentioned money first, but may I assure you that money is not the only gift one can give. In despair, the only explanation I can give for our poor cooperation in giving money for worthy causes is that we do not see the value in giving. Someone can beg for money every day, but until each person individually decides on the basis of value that she is going to give, we will not get one cent from anyone. We must re-examine our values. We must remember, too, that because of gifts of time, money, and efforts, Bennett is a reality.

Cooperation is the key word in a group. No group can ever accomplish anything unless each member understands the value of each person's service. If a group is to function effectively, it must have organization—a dividing of responsibility and an understanding that each responsibility is of greatest value to the success of the group. Is each of us doing her share in carrying out the school projects at hand?

I think that we can best begin re-discovering our values by doing a little individual thinking. In many instances we are swayed into situations because that is what the crowd is doing. We are asked the reason, and we have to turn to the crowd for an answer but, unfortunately, the crowd never stands up for us.

The most demonstrative way to prove that we appreciate the gifts which have been bestowed upon us is to share our time and our possessions with others. We are approaching a special season of giving. Are we going to do our share in giving?

Relax Yourself

The cramming session for the nine-week examination is over. Your moments of high tension and nervousness have climbed back on the shelf to rest until they are called again. But there might be a few souls still suffering from the above troubles who have no idea what to do about them.

If this is your trouble, it is indeed time for you to settle back for a few moments and relax. Don't get carried away and spend the entire day sleeping on your little cot. That is not the meaning of the word relax. Mr. Webster states the definition like this: "to make less firm, rigid, or tense; to seek recreation or rest."

To relax yourself, take a few moments off before bedtime (after you have studied your lessons well), and listen to some real recordings. Perhaps the music from the land of hi-fi by Sarah Vaughan, Dinah Washington, Patti Page, and others has not the soothing effect that some operatic aria might have. Then you should find an album of "Madame Butterfly," "Aida," "Andrea Chenier," "Pagliacci," or some other excellent classicals to hear. Then, too, you might be a "real gone" progressive jazz member, who just delights in the music of Brubeck, Gillespie, and Mulligan. In any case, take fifteen minutes off to dim the lights and soothe the nerves with music.

You say, "Oh, dear me, I'm not a music fan. What shall I do?" Don't feel blue; get your paints and brushes and remodel your "cell" into a studio. The canvass offers itself as a likeable place to display your talent in color. Who can tell whether or not you might be a female Cezanne or Degas.

Now you say, "Painting costs too much to relax the mind." Then open your pretty little mouth and give your tonsils some exercise. Oh, yes, you can sing, regardless to the comments your dorm mates make. I can hear them now, "quiet please," "shut up!" The best place to try is in the bathroom, so let out with a big song. However, if you have to agree with your friends that your voice is wicked, try your ten brownies on the keyboard. There is one in every dorm, and how can you help but enjoy the sweet music that rings out from the ivory and ebony?

If all of the above suggestions cannot help you, then take to the library. Yes, off we go to the library to get ourselves a book. A nice fiction or non-fiction is the thing to fill those empty moments in your life. If you'd like a few suggestions, try one of the following: *Like One of The Family*, by Alice Childress; *Caleb, My Son*, by Lucy Daniels; *A Certain Smile*, by Sagan; *A Russian Journey*, by William O. Douglas; and several others that you may find in our library.

Take a tip from a friend and stop now. Get a good picture of yourself and figure out a solution to your problem. One of the above will certainly serve to soothe your weary mind.

—Barbara Elliott