

Opinions

The Rising Tide Of Dissent

By JANNIFER ENGLISH

American colleges and universities are experiencing what seems to be an ever rising tide of student unrest and dissent. Until recently this trend seemed prevalent at large universities rather than on small college campuses. Now, however, student dissenters are everywhere

-- protesting major issues; fighting the faculty and sometimes their own student body; becoming champions of right and champions of wrong.

However, regardless of the size of the school or the issue in question, all dissension seems to stem from a lack of basic requirements which must be met before harmony can exist. Student dissension may occur because of dissatisfaction with school officials, rules, or perhaps student leaders. Also, stu-

dents may protest because of misunderstandings triggered by weak or completely non-existent communication. And, a major cause of dissension is the failure or inability of one or both of the opposing parties to think clearly and try to evaluate both sides of the issue.

Here at Bennett, we are beginning a year that could be either a year of division or a year of unity--depending upon what the students want. If this student body uses dissension as a way of life and continually protests against anything or everything, then this will be a year of division. If, on the other hand, dissension is used as a technique for gaining desired goals when all other possible means have been exhausted, then this can be a year of unity and Bennett can become a source of pride for the faculty, staff, and student body.

An Effective Student Government

By ANGELENE JOHNSON

The word, "government," has just about taken control of the English language. The newspapers, radios, televisions, newsletters, and every other publicity channel are covered with the word, "government." But what about Bennett College? What is the role of government on our campus? Is there a government on our campus except that of the administration? Doris Scott, newly elected President of the Student Senate has her answers to these questions. In a discussion with news reporters, Miss Scott is quoted as having said:

"The role of government on this campus before now has been that of 'puppeteering,' with the administration pulling the strings. It has been one of filling chapel seats on meeting days, and voicing complaints which were never heard of again after

the meeting ended. A 'no' from the top meant the end of it.

"Students today are not accepting 'no' for an answer and in particular Black Students on Black campuses. We, the students here at Bennett College, cannot and will not accept 'no' either. An effective student government can end domination of students by the administration. But the elected officers need support from the student body. The emphasis has shifted from individual concerns to collective interest.

"The reins are now in our hands. The question is: Can we pick them up and assume our responsibility?"

This is the voice of our new President, Miss Doris Scott. We, the student body, can see that we must work with her. Is there a promise of change? It is time for a change, and if each of us supports our government, we cannot and will not fail.

United We Stand

By DARWIN PRIOLEAU

Once again Bennett College starts a new year. We should all look at this new year of 68-69 with hope and new ideas. Let's look back with pride but look

forward with thoughts of something better. We want to welcome our freshman sisters to the Bennett family with the hope that they will make the most of their years here.

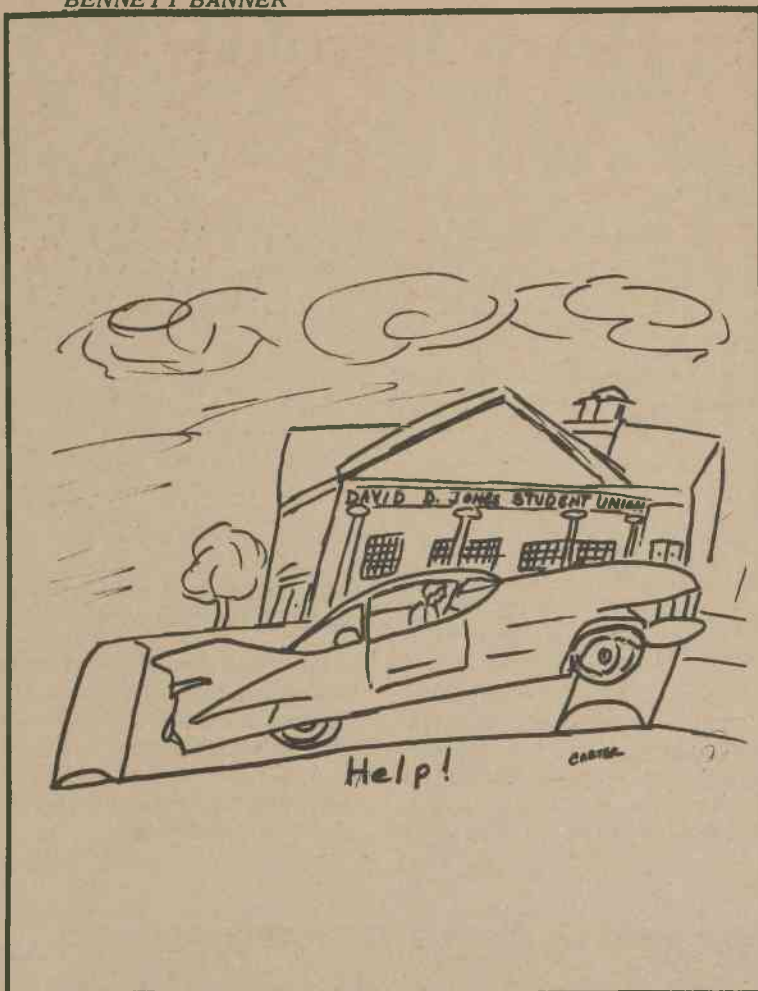
This year we hope that the Bennett family will stick together and form a united student body. With unity the student body will be able to achieve many things. We are pleading especially to our freshmen who have brought new life to Bennett College.

Although Bennett is a good school it is lacking in student participation, school spirit, and unity among the students. When

a united student body is mentioned, everyone immediately thinks about a radical group ready to overthrow the administration. However, this is not necessarily so. A college is composed of students. This is our college and we should have some say in how it should be run, but first we must consider what we want done and obtain a strong forceful student government that can determine the difference between a trivial change and a much needed reform.

If we can work with the administration instead of against it, many of our objectives can be accomplished. But before any of this can be achieved we must have a student government with

a strong hand. This strong hand has to be the student body, the entire student body. After all this is our school and we should want it to be the best, socially, culturally and academically.



Freshman Opinion

By WILHELMENA BRASWELL

The entering Freshman Class of Bennett College has started the semester with anticipation, vigor, and lots of school spirit. In line with school spirit, the Freshman girls feel that there are several areas which, if modified, would direct the college toward a more appreciable curriculum. The general opinions of the girls in Barge, Pfeiffer, and Jones Halls were discussed in informal group discussions and single interview. The criticisms and commendations covered many areas.

The general area of unrest concerns Freshman curfew and calling hours. Many of the young ladies feel that the curfews are much too restricting. Gail C. and Pam P. are in mutual agreement when Pam says, "Calling hours should be extended and weekend curfews for Freshmen should be lengthened by an hour or more." The girls also expressed the desire of most of the Freshmen when they spoke of being able to wear pants during calling hours. The idea of not being able to dance with fellows in the Union seems a bit imposing to some of the Freshman girls. The young ladies say that the spectacular Bennett Belle Chorus Line is getting to be boring. Pam and Gail further elaborate that "The Young Women of Bennett College are just as mature, reliable, and responsible as any women on any college campus."

Another disturbance among the Freshman girls is the problem of their not being able to ride in cars with their male friends.

Cathy G. suggests that this restriction be lifted for all girls on campus because, she says, "Freshmen and upperclassmen are constantly slipping a ride in cars by having the driver of the car to meet them at a designated spot. Why not let the girls go ahead and do it in the open?" From a psychological standpoint, this suggestion may be helpful in preventing such a great desire on the part of some of the students.

Several students in the Freshman Class feel that the chaotic state of some of the Freshman classes and the constant class scheduling and re-scheduling should be under hand by this time. Students find it very frustrating to be in one math class today and in another one tomorrow.

The dining hall is not spared in the general bombardment. N. J. Hatch thinks the meals are too repetitious. (Especially the greens and potatoes) Veronica P. thinks something should be done concerning the system of lining up. She suggests having two lines or some similar solution. A few girls complain of having digestive problems. V. Jordan responds that September 18th was the first time she ate a meal without accompanying stomach pains.

The overall feeling of the Freshman Class was summed up by O. Fields when she said, "My experiences so far have been pleasant, however, there are certain phases of campus life that need to undergo a few changes.

Welcome Freshmen

The faculty, staff and student body wishes to extend a cordial welcome to each of the 230 freshmen enrolled this year. Everyone here on campus hopes that the next four years here at Bennett will be the most enjoyable and memorable years of our lives.

The juniors especially wish to extend welcome greetings to their freshmen sisters. Realizing the dramatic transition from home-life to campus-life, they are always willing to help solve any personal problems of adjustment you may encounter.

It is the desire of the entire campus that you actively participate in the various activities provided. It is also hoped that each of you will become an intimate part of the Bennett family. Much success and happiness to you in your forthcoming college years.

Mankind Engaged

In Building Lives

Mankind is engaged in the great engineering feat of building lives. A mental survey shows man that directly ahead on his individual right of way lie many hills and valleys, all representing experiences either beneficial or harmful, pleasant or otherwise, that are to be encountered along life's road.

To follow the line of least resistance, to drift aimlessly forward with no fixed purpose in mind, is to take an up-and-down, zigzag course that leads nowhere particularly, but is wasteful of time, energy, and happiness. Those hills must be cut through, not skirted. Those valleys, perhaps representing human imperfections, need to be filled in by good, hard remedial effort ere the rails of our advancement are laid.

Lightning and sudden heart attacks have much in common, the N.C. Heart Association says. The conditions which lead to both build up over a period of time. The victim of sudden heart attack has, in most cases, been "playing with lightning" for years by ignoring heart attack risk factors. Cut your risks with regular heart checkups.

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