

This Thing Religion

Like the Peace Corps, religion is a personal thing. It must be considered in light of the contemporary philosophy so touchingly referred to as "doing your own thing." Naturally, in a jet-propelled society such as ours, the importance and particularly the relevance of the time honored concepts of religion are undergoing a thorough examination. Because every tradition is now being viewed in a totally new perspective, religion must also lend itself to such interrogation.

On both the national and international scene, people are exhibiting their restlessness in various ways. As a result of the questions concerning the relevance of God, there have erupted many pseudo-philosophers who feel that God is dead. They preach about how His place is really not that of Head of the universe. The importance of man as a self-sufficient being is emphatically proclaimed. These atheistic thinkers obviously feel that the human race can exist quite well without Him. Yet, these very same people often resort to such things as cults and mysticism. They allow their dress to serve as further evidence of their disapproval of the conformity to established religious views. But the ironic thing is that their outward appearances usually reflect some biblical garb, such as the long flowing robes, the sandals, beards, and other attire that is associated with religion. In an effort to find something on which to rely for guidance they fabricate people like personal gurus. Perhaps the things that are really contradictions of atheistic declarations are feeble attempts to convince the dissenters themselves that what they preach is right. Surely anyone who is quite steadfast in his beliefs, whether they be for or against an established norm, should need no outward manifestations such as these.

On the other hand, there are those who are comfortable in their religious beliefs. They usually attend church regularly, pay their dues on time, and provide the necessary facade of a Christian in society today. These people are usually compromising on any question relating to the aspects of theology, whether they are in complete agreement or not. That they may not even fully comprehend what is being proposed is of no consequence. The main object, for such people, is to go along with what is considered the correct manner and idea. The sad part about such individuals is that they are often so unsteady in their convictions that they cannot tolerate anything that suggests adverse implications of any kind. They sometimes even refuse to participate in harmless debates concerning religious questions, but not merely because they are firm believers. It is probably because they are unsure of what they believe and why they believe such. Anything that might upset their comfortable role is distasteful.

These two contradictory views about religion in our society only represent a small segment of the population. In addition, new ideas and groups are being created rapidly, instituting equally unprecedented subjects relating to theology. In a world as complex and disturbing as ours, such manifestations are logical results. The importance of God must be interpreted on personal scales in order that He may be a major force in this technical universe. But, the only real difference in God today and the God of our forefathers is the change in attitude toward Him. He can no longer be described as the Superior Being that reigns from the sky. Now He must, of necessity, be considered as the Supreme Being that walks, feels and relates to contemporary man. His role must be that of a spirit that is real. The conclusion that God is dead is not as unbelievable as it sounds. The old God is dead. He is being replaced by an everyday God for everyday people-- His everyday world.

Those Who Destroy

By BETTY J. JONES

If you fall into that growing mass of creatures who seek to build and instead destroy, read further. If you fall into that category of those who are concerned for change but respect others and their feelings as well, you too read on.

When it becomes necessary for us, as People--not as blacks and Whites--to literally tear up or tear down symbols of what we are against, whether it is a school or a sign, it is also time to reevaluate the thoughtfulness or lack of it involved. Accomplishing a desired end does not necessarily mean using any proposed mean. This is true if for no other reason than the fact that all methods do not aid in the successful completion of a proposed goal. Whether we condone or criticize the wrath, ghetto-life, injustices, war, conspiracy and all of the thousands of other ills of this Flight called life, we live in a real world. These unpleasant forces exist in the heart as well as the hearth. Let us not forget that we are dealing with emotional as well as material problems as we live from hour to hour and day to day.

If tearing up a sign that symbolizes something you are against will curb or decrease in any way the narrow-mindedness and violence which prompted you to do so, then I feel confident that whoever put it up would be delighted to have contributed to your well being.

If, however, you feel the same malicious destructiveness that you felt before committing such an act, then you are part of that ever-widening sphere of "proposed humans" who let their animal instinct rule over their better reasoning. Those who can only live by impulse and lack reason and thoughtfulness, soon perish. That they perish is not so sad, but that races must perish because of them and their deeds, is sickening.

Yes, there was freedom of speech and press. There was freedom. It now exists more as a farce. The significant question for our times is: Do we care and contribute to further freedom, or damn and destroy and get nowhere?

To Return Or Not...

By DARWIN PRIOLEAU

There are many students who will go home with the thought that they will return to Bennett in Sept. on the scholarship that they were previously on. However there may be many students who will be disappointed because there is a possibility that many scholarships will be decreased or even dropped entirely.

(See NUMBER 2 Page 5)



Life's Just Beginning

Graduation: An Opening Door

By DARWIN PRIOLEAU

It's that time of year again when graduation is here. Most underclass women envy their graduating sisters. To the underclass women the chance that the seniors will have to be on their own is too much for words. They look at them as adult figures who will soon be able to make their own money, buy their own clothes, and do pretty much what they like to do. In their eyes the graduate is the luckiest person in the world.

However, the graduating student does not take such an optimistic outlook on the situation.

While she is glad to be graduating, she can't help but feel that little amount of fear. While during the year she may have been shouting at the top of her lungs how happy she would be when she finally graduates, she now begins to realize the security that college has represented during her past four years. She

never had to worry about what she was going to do the next year because she knew that she would return to college in September. Now she suddenly sees herself as an adult woman faced with the ups and downs of life in a pretty rough world. She looks at graduation as one of the

final important events of her life. It is, of course an important step, but by all means not final.

The seniors at Bennett College are just beginning life. There is so much to do and see that it will be impossible to do and see it all in their lifetime. The excitement of getting a first job and first promotion, the first trip abroad, marriage, and the first child, are just a few of the great things that will happen. Look forward to life with excitement and hope. College is an important part of everyone's life, but it is just a small part. College opens the door, it is up to each to walk through it.

EDITOR'S MAILBOX

Dear Editor:

While most campuses in the U.S. are in a uproar over the present administration's dictated college situation, there are some who seek the cause of the unrest, while others only seek to stop it. Those who seek to stop campus riot, as the government, do not realize that punishing students will not put an end to the unrest, for the cause will still be present.

Most administrators infer that students riot and walk out because other campuses are doing it. Thus, they refuse to stop and take notice of the real problems on their campuses. Any (so called intelligent) logical thinking person should be able to decipher that there must be some immediate problem if millions of students (who are intelligent young adults and future government builders) are unsatisfied with the present college structure.

Furthermore, it is senseless for the state to arrest students who express their unrest in a new, yet, profound way. Just think, what would be the reaction of the community if policemen were sent on Bennett's campus to arrest hundreds of young ladies? It sounds ridiculous, doesn't it? Yet, this is what the N.C. governor advocates. You may even attempt to consider the reaction of the administration. Think seriously.

Bennett students and administration, for there is a serious situation at hand.

Gladys Ashe

To Sophomores,

Beware sophomores! If you don't turn in a self-evaluation, you're liable to remain a sophomore for life--at least until you do turn in one. You did get the notice didn't you? "Any sophomore therefore, who has not submitted a self-evaluation by the beginning of the academic year 1969-70 will continue to be classified as a sophomore until she has submitted two copies of her self-evaluation to her advisor." The self-evaluation is supposedly designed to enable you to identify "strengths and weaknesses" as far as educational progress is concerned. Also, your advisors will be better able to make your "college work during the junior and senior years contribute most effectively to your plans for your life." But this certainly won't affect those of you who already have your courses outlined for next year. For you, the self-evaluation is just a little too late. But then, you still aren't exempted from writing one.

But, since this is the last week of school and since you don't have much of anything to do, writing that evaluation will be a snap.

Dear Editor:

This year has been the best for the Banner that I have ever seen. But though the staff is to be commended for this year's work, I hope to see an even better paper next year with more frequent issues and better than ever. Though I enjoyed the entire paper, the poetry section was my favorite. I liked it for its originality and uniqueness. (By the way, who is "Fuentes" in the poetry section, and, who is "Joy?")

M.A.W.

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