

The Roving Reporter

Seniors Talk About Changes At Bennett

As seniors approach the termination of their days as Bennett Students, they were asked to reflect their views of the following questions. What changes have you seen at Bennett during the 4 years? What improvements would you suggest in the future?

"There have been a drastic reduction of social restrictions, but there still need to be improvements. We need a more dedicated faculty and student body."

C.M.



CATHY MILLNER

"The real changes have been social. The administration has begun to look at the students more as adults, than was the case 4 years ago. There should be more unity among the"

Blossie Hughes

"They put some steps in front of the gym so the girls wouldn't have to jump over the wall. The curfew has changed. Black students have been added; but the overall curriculum has not improved. The faculty has not improved at all."

Debbie Gailliard and Lydia Johnson



MELVA COX

"I'd really like to see students here optimistic about drawing new students to the college rather than running them away."

Melva O. Cox

"I think the student body on this campus as well as on campuses across the country show a greater concern in the curriculum and regulations to which they are subjected. Where a change is needed and desired, griping no longer

proves an adequate measure. Constructive criticism and action are now the keys."

Audrey Blaylock

"I've seen the coffee house, a modern dormitory and science building, and extended curfews. I would like to see the business dept. move out of the basement of the administration building, a general improvement in the English department, unlimited curfew for seniors, and definitely more telephones."

Mary Greene



JOHSIE WILLIAMS

"In the past 4 years we seem to be losing a lot of good instructors and there seems to be an increase in trying to get grades other than studying. I hope that there will be established a social studies library in Black Hall."

Johnsie Williams



GLORIA SMALLS

"Most evident changes are in the student values and morals. There has been improvements in the curriculum with the emphasis on black studies. There is definitely a change in the interaction between students."

G. Smalls

"I have seen a more progressive attitude on the part of the administration, but there is still a need for communication with the students. I would like to see less complacency among the student body as a whole, more involvement in contemporary issues."

Myra Hedrick

"There has been a definite change in ethical standards concerning the difference between right and wrong."

Barbara Wiltshire

"There is more freedom now. In my freshman year we couldn't wear pants, now we can wear anything we want. There is no more family style eating. I'd definitely like to see this campus coed."

Dianne Lacle

"I think Bennett is more in tune with the times as far as social standards are concerned. I think they are moving away

from that matriarchal image and are allowing us as students to assume more personal responsibility. Academically, the students are becoming more concerned with relevant issues, and they are ahead of the administration. I think the school is lagging behind the students, and they will have to close the gap."

Mary Shanks

"Since I came here, I've seen the curfew change from being restrictive to fairly liberal. As far as the curriculum, I think it has improved but not enough. It is not yet totally relevant to black students. There is less to do on this campus now, than when I came as a freshman. This school does not attract as many men as it used to. The one thing that hasn't changed is the food. It is still bad."

Carol Craig



"I've seen a type of leniency since my freshman year. For instance, we received chapel cuts if we did not wear hats. I'd like to see no chapel at all. But since it is church orientated, there could be an eleven o'clock worship service on Sunday mornings for anyone who wishes to attend."

Juanita Spencer

Ex-Belle Is A Doughnut Dolly

-Reprint from "The Knoxville News-Sentinel"

The girl the soldiers call "Soul Sister" and "Black Queen" clapped a helmet over her Afro haircut, pulled a flak jacket over her pajamas and wiggled under the bed.

When the mortar shells really started cracking close, shrapnel ripping into the trailer where the girls slept, she pulled the mattress down on top of her, clenched her teeth and wiled for the big boom.

What was a 22-year old girl from Frogmore, S.C., doing in a place like this?

Phuoc Vinh, South Vietnam (her station) is headquarters the 1st Air Cavalry Division in jungle country north of Saigon. The enemy regularly shells Phuoc Vinh and other 1st Cav. firebases where "Soul Sister" does her Vietnam thing.

Laverne Smalls occupational description is that of Red Cross mobile recreation worker -- a "doughnut dolly." She takes games, charm and conversation to American troops in Vietnam's boondocks, one of only three black girls who do this. She doesn't take doughnuts because they don't last long in Vietnam's heat, dust, rain and war. It's tough on a girl, too.

What's it like, working around all those men without women?

"I enjoy meeting the guys," she says, "I enjoy meeting all of them, especially the black



guys. Because they don't see many black girls out here. Sometimes with only white girls coming out, the black guys would never go around. They felt as if they had nothing to say.

"Now they come up and talk. 'What's the latest dance? I love your natural hair. You're one of us. You look like my sister. You look like my girl friend. I'm glad you came!'"

"Some of the soldiers who haven't seen any girls at all in months look at you funny. They're nervous. They stand around. They'll pass by. They don't say anything at all. Most guys are kind of bashful after such a long time."

She said her family was dead set against her coming to Vietnam. One brother (she's one of 11 children) threatened to call Washington to stop her. But she was determined. After graduating from Bennett College, Greensboro, N.C. in 1969, she said goodbye to her people in the tomato-growing country around Frogmore, and by July she was bound for Vietnam.

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education departments and the social science and humanities question of prejudice or discrimination--as some would like to refer to it as being--but rather it is a question of our treating our own people with the respect due to them. In other words, if a people, race, nationality, or group, cannot cater to its own, then who will? Similarly, if a black school cannot hire its own and cannot treat its own with dignity and respect, then who will?

It would do well for administrators to heed the students pleas for more black faculty members and to also consider the suggestions that were made in the meeting. One important suggestion being that administrators and those responsible for the hiring of faculty members to go out and seek black instructors rather than simply wait for an application from them. The request is a simple one--hire more black instructors and keep those blacks that we already have.

DIG, the literary journal published by the C.C.C.C.C. (Committee Committed to Cultivating Campus Creativity, alias English 127) is "hot of the press" and ready for your consumption! Look for announcements as to the time and manner of distribution.

THE FOLLOWING POEMS ARE FROM BLACK PRIDE, THINK BLACK! AND DON'T CRY, SCREAM.

By Don L. Lee

a poem for negro intellectuals (if there be such a thing)
blackwoman be ahead or as
moved yr/own sharprazors fr/blk/hands
un-noticed will swinging
throughout the unlike yes among mid-night stars
world terday where
a people deathliving again everything iin
in be born into place
abstract realities a as it was
hoping/looking blk/seif, yes
for u terday &
blk/man-actions will move yes
from as swift as it will not be so tomorrow
action-livers, black d.c. sevens if we do.

AWARENESS

BLACK PEOPLE THINK
PEOPLE BLACK PEOPLE
THINK PEOPLE THINK
BLACK PEOPLE THINK
THINK BLACK