

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK . . .

STUDENT LAG IS OBVIOUS!

Some of the problems on Bennett's campus are caused by the lack of communication among students-to-students, students-to-faculty, students-to-staff, students-to-administration, faculty-to-faculty, administration-to-faculty, faculty-to-staff, and administration-to-administration. In fact, no one communicates with anyone.

Recently a group of students and alumnae expressed their concern on the matter. They concluded that most Bennett students are going through their college experience without ever having developed their leadership potential or creative talents. They live in a vacuum and never become involved in campus activities nor community projects.

This problem has already been analyzed, so no more studies need to be taken. What is needed? Most feel that a dynamic Co-Curricular Office will break the barrier that is going up steadily. So many students don't know what the opportunities are, so we cannot justify their actions by saying "Well, they have this already, but don't take advantage of it." We must continue to search for the programs that the students are interested in and dig just a little deeper for the necessary elements to make them feasible. Each day should be spent in helping students realize their opportunities, not in telling them what can be done or how it has been done in the past.

For the most part, the majority of the student body never go to the offices of Student Affairs. In fact, they are the most dull offices on campus when they should be the center of student activity. Students who do frequent them often find the atmosphere loaded with personal hostilities among the personnel.

Bennett College once bore the reputation of being an institution where women excelled in scholastics and were very active in co-curricular activities. Students were encouraged to participate from the first day they arrived to the campus. Everyone was made to become a member of the Bennett family. Each cared for her fellow student and rights of others were carefully honored. The Student Government was truly the voice of the populace. The leaders were very capable and well-spoken. They led in academic achievement and felt that they must set the example for the students. They were respected by the students and the administration. When they spoke, people listened and had faith in their judgment because they reasoned out all the possibilities. They knew what was going on in the community and were called upon to play active roles.

Now, where are these qualified leaders? It is now time for student elections. In the past three years, it has become increasingly hard to find qualified people to run. Why? Have the offices become so meaningless? Have the students and administration lost respect for our student leaders? Only the Bennett students can answer these questions. Some things we must do on our own.

Such achievements are placed on the academic records also, because future employers are looking for the leaders, as well as the scholars.

The underclassmen are faced with a challenge for they are the potential leaders and the future students. It is very important to do more than sleep, party, and go to class. To make it in today's world, one needs to be well-rounded. A recent graduate made the following observation:

"After I graduated and went to several job interviews I was asked repeatedly about my co-curricular involvement in high school and college. I was quite relieved that I did have something to submit. I would advise anyone to take an active role in campus activities. Make yourself known to those who count. Let the community know who you are. Get involved out there, also. That's why students like Connie Hammond found it so easy to get placed."

There is indeed a lack of communication on campus. But we are small enough to overcome it. Just like the example displayed by some students who met informally with some faculty and alumnae last week. They met off campus to discuss things and came back with a better understanding of the college and its people. But it's going to take more students and faculty-staff persons to make this work. Whenever and wherever people are involved in such a community, it's going to take just a little more effort on the parts of all. Student Affairs must get with it or out of it! We must move on toward better things!

In the coming student elections, a new breed of leadership must be sought. The most important thing to consider is the ability of the candidate, not her status in the dormitory, not her ability to rap in ghetto slang, not her ability to crack on the administration, and not what sorority or club she represents. We must be concerned with the total picture of the college. We must select those people who can tell us what we need to know. We must select those who can communicate intelligently and lead rationally. We must select those who have maintained scholarly achievement throughout their college experience and who realize what a college is about.

CAMPUS ELECTIONS COMING SOON!

ARE YOU DOING WHAT YOU CAN?

*Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can*
—John Wesley

Service to mankind is one of the most expensive gifts one may surrender to his fellow man. Have we become so self-centered and thoughtless that we tend to forget the needs of our brothers and sisters in the Community? Sure, we are quick to talk a lot about "the man's oppression of the masses" and the problems of the inner-city. But we are a little slow in doing something about it.

Not so long ago, Bennett College was the center of community action. Faculty and students were actively engaged in the voter registration drives of the early fifties. The Home Making Institute assisted blacks in making their lives more profitable and their homes more livable. Annually the entire student body walked to a local nursing home to make the dull lives of its patients just a little more bearable. Community parties were sponsored for the children in the surrounding area. Even classroom projects centered on community involvement. It was not necessary for the Sociology students to leave the campus to undertake field studies. She was able to organize projects which brought the community to the campus.

Where is such humility and volunteering spirit in today's Bennett student? Are we so

Thoughts To Ponder

90% of the enrollment receive financial aid.

Tuition only meets a fraction of the cost of education.

As the cost of a college education goes up, more and more financial aid should be based on proven scholastic achievement.

More students than ever cannot construct an acceptable written paragraph nor speak a complete sentence without making a grammatical error.

More students say they are studying; however, larger percentages are cheating on exams.

Over \$5,000 worth of bad checks were received in the Business Office.

Some students feel that they don't have to pay their bills while you must bear the load of their college expenses.

The campus might look better if we stop parking cars on the grass.

Private institutions are not operated on tuition alone. A very large percentage of the money comes from outside sources.

It is better to bear with disciplinary codes now. Those imposed on the outside and even at home are worse.

Beware of professors bearing gifts, these are the one's who are stabbing you in the back.

Sororities are service organizations. Who are they serving?

self-centered that we are content to justify our lack of concern with the over-used excuse "I have a lot of studying to do"?

Let's be honest with ourselves! The average community volunteer spends less than two hours a week in serving the community. We spend nearly one hour a day criticizing those who are doing.

The sad truth about the matter is that we are happy to be doing nothing. We do not care that only several of our Bennett Sisters are carrying the burden of Bennett Community Involvement. And what makes it just a little more pitiful is the fact that so few of our faculty and staff members are involved.

Bennett College is about the business of educating strong black women who will be called upon to play various roles in the community, whether it be wife, mother, civic leader, or professional. However in any case humility and humanitarianism are basic elements of success in all.

There are numerous problems out there to be solved. By merely recognizing the problem gets us nowhere. We must get out there and fight it.

Co-op Students On Assignment

The Cooperative Education Program enables its participants to benefit from added educational experiences gained from a semester away from the campus. The knowledge gained on these Co-op encounters helps to enhance the total college experience for these girls. Those that have accepted the challenge and gone out on Co-op assignments this semester are:

Annette Barnes, Sophomore — U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

Mary Ashe, Junior and Brenda Wilson, Junior — Office of Equal Opportunity, Washington, D. C.

Cynthia McCaskiel, Senior — Grumman Aerospace, Long Island, New York

Effie Y. Jones, Senior — Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization, Organization, Washington, D. C.

Elaine Jones, Senior — North Carolina General Assembly, House of Representatives

Evelyn Cohens, Junior; Deborah Herbin, Sophomore; and Dorothy Kelly, Sophomore—Department of Health Education and Welfare, Public Health Services, Rockville, Maryland.

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THE ROVING REPORTER

Question: Is there a drug problem on the Bennett campus?

"No, there's no evidence to prove one exists!"

Annie Ward '75
Lilesville, N. C.

"No! Looking at the problems on other campuses, I don't see it. There hasn't been any proof."

Sandra Johnson '75
Wilmington, N. C.

"Really, I don't know! But if there are drugs on campus, I would not consider it a problem. The problem depends on percentages."

Juliet Smith '74
Goldboro, N. C.

"I don't think there is a drug problem on campus. But then that depends on what the administration defines as a drug problem. Yes, there is some usage. However, there are no crises of having addicts and stone addicts selling dope and using it all over campus, as on some campuses where everyone wants to know where "to cop" or where the student union is the commodity store.

Ruth Dennis '73
Richmond, Va.

"I don't believe that a drug problem exists. If students are taking them, then the problem lies in the reasons why they are taking them, not in the fact that they are doing so.

Abigail Flanders '73
Charlotte, N. C.

"In my opinion, there is no problem. It must be so small that it can't be seen if there is one.

Gloria McIntosh '76
Philadelphia, Pa.

"I feel that there is no real drug problem here on Bennett's campus compared to many other college campuses."

Fernaundra Ferguson '76
Sumter, S. C.

"If smoking reefer is what Bennett College considers a drug problem then I think they should consider themselves lucky. As far as I am concerned, there is no drug problem on this campus. The only problem I can see is the lack of the administration to communicate, relate and listen to the needs of the students."

Yvonne McFadden '76
Sumter, S. C.