

Will We Survive?

These are troubled times for black institutions. They are confronted with problems in the areas of enrollment, finances, employment and maintenance. Bennett College being a black institution has all of the latter problems and because it is a church school for women those problems all seem to be more pronounced.

Enrollment at Bennett went up remarkably this year due to an all out recruitment effort. However, Bennett still does not have an enrollment indicative of growth and progress. The enrollment this year tends to counterbalance the slight decline in enrollment in the two preceeding years.

Theoretically as the enrollment is increased steps should be taken to insure that the quality of the students accepted is not lowered just to procure large classes. At black institutions allowances have to be made and are made about the caliber of students admitted. Then to a large extent many of the bright and talented blacks choose white institutions over black institutions because of better facilities, financial aid and sometimes the name that school happens to carry along with it, leaving black institutions with the dilemma of trying to maintain enrollment and caliber of student in the face of competition with bigger, more prestigious schools. It has been suggested with the advent of civil rights and the opening of the doors of white schools that predominantly black schools are obsolete. Why not consolidate them into the white university systems and be through with them, especially since even now in 1976 great discrepancies exist between black institutions and white institutions in relationship to finances and facilities among state schools not to mention private schools.

However, it has to be interjected here that black institutions educate on a whole, more black people than do other institutions and without them the black race would definitely suffer.

The financial situation at black institutions is perhaps the number one problem. A school can not operate without adequate funding. Bennett relies on alumnae support, the Methodist Church, the United Negro College Fund and its endowment fund. Students at Bennett only pay half of what it cost them to attend the school leaving the college to pick up the rest of the bill.

Black institutions do not have adequate alumnae support. Students on occasion here at Bennett have said "When I graduate from Bennett I am not going to send it a penny." "I got mine and the rest can get theirs. The same way I did." We exhibit little enthusiasm and gratitude toward a place in which we spend four years preparing for our careers. We need to as educated women, be proponents of education and adopt an attitude that would see that others have an opportunity to receive an education and support our school.

Black institutions also have problems securing faculty members. The salaries for teachers at Bennett is lower than many other institutions making it hard to attract new teachers and keep old teachers.

Maintenance at black institutions is poor because they do have less money and when budgets are cut maintenance is the first to suffer. The physical plant at Bennett College is not in the worst of conditions but things could be much better. As it stands now it takes at least two weeks for most repairs to be made. And in some instances longer, for example it is the middle of October and dryers and wash machines that were broken when school started still are not fixed.

The fact that inflation has increased the price of heating, plumbing and electricity does not help the college much either.

In light of all of the above, one would have to wonder how Bennett will survive as a private-black-all-women's institution. In a recent conversation President Miller gave some comments on the schools future. According to President Miller, Bennett will survive. He feels the school's chances of surviving are better because it is a women's college which gives it an added distinction. Also if the school can become an outstanding institution in the area of preparing women for new and emerging fields, in the disciplines of medicine, dentistry, and science; public school teaching, home economics with emphasis on family life, business administration, marketing and merchandising, media and communications and diplomatic service.

Financially President Miller feels Bennett will survive with good management of available funds and doubled efforts to secure money from the alumnae, and business corporations. Also the support of the church and the UNCF will help the school to endure.

The future of Bennett College does rest largely in the hands of administrators and the board of trustees. We as students can contribute to the continuation of the school by supporting it financially and morally. We often brag on the merits of other black schools like Howard, Fisk, Spelman and Hampton Institute, which is good, but we need to recognize that we too have something to offer. If we want Bennett to continue, if we believe the education we receive here is worthwhile, then we owe it to ourselves for the time we have invested in Bennett to see to it that the school does continue. This can best be done by achieving in our individual areas of study and demonstrating to the world that Bennett College is supplying and meeting the needs of young black college women.



Three Free Cuts: From Another Perspective...

by Gena Haskett

The trouble with policies at Bennett College is that somewhere down the line they always seem to get misconstrued. Unfortunately this is so and it is definitely so in relationship with the class attendance policy. Supposedly a student has one cut for each semester hour she is carrying. It is not stipulated that those cuts must be used for any reason other than the reason she chooses to use them for. It is stated, however, that no make-up test will be given for unexcused absences. The policy goes on to say that as long as a student has a doctor's excuse for missing a class that absence is excused and not considered to be a class cut. This year, though, and on more than one occasion students have been told not to seek excused absences but to use their cuts and when their cuts are completely used up then they may go to the Dean for an excuse. This is blatant and unjustified regimentation coupled with complete disregard for students rights.

It is bad enough to have mandatory classes and have to listen to roll call like elementary students, but to be told that the small amount of freedom that the class attendance policy does provide, in actuality does not exist is taking things just a little bit beyond tolerable limits.

It is very strange for a country so well known for its news gathering and the speed at which news is dispatched to leave half of the country confused. I refer to the matter of **Earl L. Butz**, former secretary of agriculture and what led to his resignation.

For that we must go back to the end of the Republican convention and a flight from Kansas City with Butz, singer **Pat Boone**, and **John Dean**, former White House lawyer and No. 1 stool pigeon about Watergate.

Boone and Dean were involved in a conversation about the lack of black representation at the convention. (There were only about 76 black delegates to the convention). Boone: "John and I were discussing the appeal of the Republican party. It seems to me that the party of Lincoln could and should attract more black people. Why can't this be done?"

Butz: "I'll tell you why you can't attract coloreds. Because coloreds only want three things. You want to know what they are?" Boone shook head no. Dean indicated yes. "I'll tell you what they want, a tight ---, loose shoes, and a warm place to ---."

John Dean later published the story in the **Rolling Stones** omitting Butz's name by saying a "member of the cabinet." Butz later admitted to the **President** that he had made what he considered a "joke."

The **President** gave Butz a "strong reprimand" saying that

"such language and attitudes were not accepted for a member of his administration." This was not the first time Butz has made an ethnically offensive remark. In 1974 Butz had quoted a fictitious Italian woman in a heavy accent as a comment on the Pope's stand on birth control. Butz said: "He no play da game, he no maka da rules."

If the remarks Butz made had no place in his administration then why did Butz stay? Perhaps it's because Butz is very popular in the midwest and Ford needed him to campaign among the farmers. **Alan Grant** president of the American Farm Bureau Federation said, "The resignation will have an effect on the farm vote. It will look like he was forced out."

This is what Ford did not want. He needs every kind of vote he can get. He waited for the last possible moment not to do something because he did not want to hurt his chances for election. **George McGovern**, the senator from South Dakota said, "This is not the first time that he has displayed his contempt for his fellow humans. But it is the worst example of an attitude that can not be tolerated in the U. S. government. No apology can wash it away."

I feel the same way; however this can be applied to **President Ford**. You do not wait for a Gallup poll to tell you what is morally right.

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Banner Salutes Dr. Miller for Important Contributions

It is sometimes necessary to stop and pay tribute to individuals who weather all the criticism, complaints and out and out opposition and say to them, "maybe you are not so bad after all." Dr. Isaac H. Miller, Jr. has been with Bennett for the last ten years through what could probably be termed some good times and some bad times but he has stuck by Bennett and made some improvements along the way.

Many of the programs which we handily take for granted were instituted by Dr. Miller: the 13 College Curriculum Program, Interdisciplinary Studies Program, Cooperative Education Program,

Presidential Scholars Program, Computer Assisted Instruction, Home and Family Life Program, Women's Studies Program, Program for Women in Leadership Roles in International Service, Institute for the Training of Directors of Learning Centers, Special Services Program, Academic Options Program, Academic Advising Program, Academic Re-inforcement Program, and Six Institutions Consortium.

During Dr. Miller's administration the campus was expanded through the erection of Henry Pfeiffer Science Building and Player Hall.

Since Dr. Miller has been here

the percentage of teachers holding the doctorate degree has increased from 25% to 65%.

New majors that have been added to the colleges curriculum are Recreation, Student Personnel Services and Communication and Mass Media. Also he has supported and encouraged the development of a dual degree program in Mechanical and Electrical engineering between Bennett College and N.S.A.&T. State University.

For a decade of service to the college we at the Banner salute Dr. Miller and hope that he will continue to direct Bennett in a forward direction.

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