

Editorials & Opinion Page

Science grant serves as inspiration

The Science Division and Dr. Robert Boyd Sr. deserve the highest congratulations for landing a remarkable and unprecedented research grant for Bennett College.

The National Institute of Health's Minority Biomedical Research Support Program has given this college \$200,000 to study the influence of anti-depressant chemicals on laboratory animals.

Announcement of the grant made the front page of the Nov. 1 issue of The Greensboro News and Record, serving as a dramatic example of the continuing progress that is occurring here. The work is being done in association with Wake Forest's renown Bowman Gray School of Medicine.

Boyd, who is the project's chief investigator, and four laboratory assistants will study chemicals which may control or combat depression. Funds will cover the purchase of new lab equipment and pay student researchers \$3,600 per year. Evelyn Fulmore and Laurrie Murphy have been selected as the first two assistants.

In many ways, the grant should serve as inspiration to us all. In the first

place, it shows that with ingenuity and determination a small college can indeed compete with larger institutions. In the second place, it is yet another example of this school's ability to offer qualified students challenging and rewarding activities.

Throughout the semester, we have been emphasizing the vast opportunities for enlightenment that Bennett offers, and we have been trying to refute the complaint that the little happens on our campus.

In his address to the Nov. 7 Honors Convocation, President Issac H. Miller Jr. described the mind as a "limitless source." It can take us to vistas of knowledge if we are willing to train ourselves and capitalize on the many chances for growth that the world offers us. Or it can be self-limiting and self-defeating, a prison of "I can't's," "I don't want tos" and "I could have's."

Dr. Boyd and his students have the opportunity to aid in the solution of problem which, according to the weekly news magazines, has reached almost epidemic proportions in this country.

We offer them a good luck and a Godspeed, and we ask a key question: if they can, why can't we do something equally important?

It's obvious as the nose on your face

Anybody with eyes and ears knows what it took the Bureau of Justice Statistics department plenty of time and money to determine — that many violent crimes are committed by people who have been consuming alcohol.

A recent report by that alleged agency shows that more than half of jail inmates guilty of violent crimes had been drinking before they assaulted, maimed, raped and murdered. This conclusion will not rank with Newton's discoveries or Freud's map of the human psyche.

You don't need a doctorate to see all those discarded beer cans and smashed wine and liquor bottles in the street and link this refuse with lawless behavior.

Can there really be a person alive who hasn't witnessed a fight resulting from drunkenness or domestic trouble fire-brewed by booze? Is there any Ameri-

can outside a convent who has not seen an inebriated person lose all sense of restraint or an accident caused by a loaded driver? Who hasn't heard a law-breaker excuse himself by saying, "I was drunk and didn't know what I was doing," a justification which is equal to "The devil made me do it."

We don't need researchers to tell us the obvious, but they do—repeatedly. We wouldn't be surprised if some federal agency isn't funding a multi-million dollar, 10-year study on the effect of rainy days on human emotions.

The social scientists and staff people involved in this alcohol/crime correlation project are either incurably naive or intolerably cynical.

Their work would be laughable if its sponsor were Mother Goose or the Fairy Godmother, but, regrettably, we footed the bill for this fiasco.

Ghana is striving to find balance

a column

by Elfrida Mensah

Ghana is a republic of West Africa on the Gulf of Guinea. It has a population of about 11,835,000 and its capital is Accra. Ghana has many different African languages but the official language is English (Ghana was a British colony).

Ghana gained her independence on March 6, 1957, becoming the first African country south of the Sahara to have done so. Her first president, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, was a strong, determined leader. His strength and perseverance gave many countries in Africa much inspiration.

The name Ghana was the name of a medieval African kingdom. It was adopted by Dr. Nkrumah after independence. Ghana used to be called the Gold Coast, a name given by the European traders, because of the flourishing gold trade.

Presently, Ghana is recovering from an economic crisis brought about by a chain of coups and changes in the administration of the government. Ghana is now under a military head, and groups have been formed to further aid her in a full recovery. Most of these organizations and associations aim at getting most Ghanaians to be as self-sufficient as they can possibly be, so that any sudden changes in the government will not be difficult for them to adjust to. Families

are encouraged to cultivate and grow crops on any land that they may own, however small, to help them lessen the amount of money used on food.

Another problem facing Ghana is the evasion of taxes by some fairly large businesses. This is being dealt with by the government and has so far been a success. There was a lot of brain drain during the time of the coups because many intellectuals went to neighboring countries to seek new jobs. Many of these intellectuals are now back in Ghana.

There have been loans and aid from different countries including the United States to help in stabilizing the economy. These loans and aid have been of great help in trying to get Ghana back on her feet.

Newspapers like The Ghanaian Times, People's Daily Graphic and The Ghanaian Voice are also helping in encouraging the people to join in the strife for a better Ghana. There are slogans like "Power to the people means DISCIPLINE" and "Power to the people means RESPONSIBILITY", displayed on the front pages of newspapers.

Ghana is going through a phase in development, as all developed countries had to go through before they became developed. An African proverb says that "Before a child learns to walk with his feet firmly on the ground, he must fall a number of times."

New regime restores freedom of speech in Nigeria

a column

by Omotayo Otoki

In Nigeria, the civilian rule under the leadership of President Alhaji Sheun Shagari was ousted by Major General Buhari's regime in December, 1983. The military regime took over because the administration was full of bribery and corruption.

The former President was placed on house arrest, and some of the legislators were arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment, while some managed to flee to other foreign countries.

One of the legislators who fled to London was the ex-Minister for External Affairs, Alhaji Umaru Dikko. In August, 1984, two men were arrested by the British government for kidnapping the

ex-minister. He was taken from his home, drugged and put in a box. His secretary got suspicious when he reported for work and the ex-minister was not around; he alerted the police. The two men were arrested at the airport before they could leave with the box. The ex-minister has since been under severe surveillance by the police in his home. He is still wanted for embezzlement by the Nigerian government.

The regime of Major-General Buhari was even tougher and more unbearable than what the Nigerians expected. Freedom of speech was refused to the press and public; people were arrested for voicing their opinions about the government; scholarships and foreign exchange were scrapped and many cuts in budget

were initiated to save the country's economy.

After about eight months in office the regime was overthrown by General Babangida in August of this year. Announcing his takeover to the press, he granted freedom of speech to the press and the public. He pardoned and freed some of the legislators sentenced to prison.

This first step put a big question in everyone's mind. Could this mean a better change for the country under the leadership of General Babangida? Things can only get better if Nigerians at home and abroad lend a hand to save the country.

No foreign interference or help can do a better job than we Nigerians. It will take time but a change will surely come.

Letters to the editor:

BC praised; Rifles meet

To the Editor:

Bennett College is a very unique school. It allows a certain closeness among its students that most colleges don't have. I think Bennett College is also a special school in that its members consist of only the female species.

I would highly recommend my school to anyone who is interested in furthering her education. In my opinion, Bennett College is the best schools around to attend. If I were asked by someone, "Is Bennett a good choice in deciding which college to attend?", I would proudly stand up and say, "Yes!"

The students that attend Bennett College are very respectable ladies in the sight of their peers. Each student is unique in her very special way. I guess you could say that we are a melting pot of very precious and valuable gold.

Although at times we do not get along, there still exists a strong bond of love and sisterhood. The sisterhood among Bennett's special ladies is in itself precious because it grows more and more each day. Although each day the same colorful faces are seen, it becomes sweeter and

sweeter to behold the faces of such beautiful, inwardly as well as outwardly, people.

The faculty of Bennett College is also rather unique in their own way. Each instructor is different in that he/she has a different style of conveying lessons, but they are unified in that they are a part of the same "family." There may be times when the instructors feel that they have not done adequate work, but I'm sure to the students, the messages were conveyed. Unlike the students, the faculty are not of the same race; however, this does not present a problem for anyone. On the contrary, it makes this institutional family even more special.

The administrators of Bennett College are certainly no exception. They are very hard workers. Although they are not always seen, they keep the institution operating in the background. Certainly they deserve to be put up front. There is not very much to say about our administrators due to the fact that they are always in the background, but if success is doubted, there are records that will display their diligence.

Each of the above mentioned

are reasons that add up to make Bennett College a very special school. If it were not for the students, faculty and administration, this school would only be an old wintry gray building standing on its last two legs, soon to meet its appointment with death.

Gail D. Brady

To the Editor:

Who are the Pershing Rifles?

The Pershing Rifles are a national society which was founded in 1894 by General John J. Pershing. General Pershing saw a need to group young men with the same interest. These young men formed a club that later became the National Society of Pershing Rifles (P/R).

As the years passed, the organization allowed women to join. In 1962, the National Society of Pershing Angels (P/A) was formed locally; however, it was governed by the National Charter of P/R.

A well-known and successful alumnus of A&T, General Charles Bussey, brought the unit of P/R, Company N-4, to A&T in the spring semester of 1952.

The Army R.O.T.C. program is (see page 4)

The Bennett Banner

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