

Be there for Terry Sanford

"I hope the speech doesn't last too long," said one student waiting outside Annie Merner Preiffer Chapel on Founders' Day.

"Sure hope he's not going to use little ole Bennett to make a long political speech," said another.

The object of this speculation was Democratic senatorial candidate Terry Sanford who had to compete with the heat and the fatigue following a weekend crowded with events.

As the breeze rose outside, Sanford brought his own kind of cool to the ceremony inside. It was a cool inspired by reason, taste and long devotion to public service. It took the wary by surprise.

The former governor of North Carolina didn't speak too long nor did he give a self-serving address. He had too much savvy to impose politics on a religious atmosphere and to neglect the honor due the founders of this institution.

In fact, he didn't even mention his candidacy. Instead, Sanford praised the pioneers of Bennett, stressed the importance of private institutions and urged the audience to vote for tax-free bonds to support new buildings at private schools. He left it to President Isaac H. Miller, Jr. to refer to his campaign.

It may be hard for students to overcome their cynicism about politicians and to feel passionate about a political battle that doesn't feature a glamorous candidate. But the truth is that Terry Sanford may well be the finest, most distinguished public figure that North Carolina has ever produced. He deserves our massive, unswerving support against Reaganite Republican Jim Broyhill.

As former president of Duke University and a roving ambassador for the life of the mind, Sanford has been a vital force on behalf of higher education in America. He has also been a lifelong friend to the needs and interests of black people. As governor, he guided this state smoothly through the turmoil of the early 60s and became a leader of national renown.

Throughout his career, Sanford, unlike so many "leaders," has never played himself or his constituents cheap. He has been a model of probity and decency.

There are indications that this good man is running behind Broyhill. He needs our help. Terry Sanford remembered Bennett on Founders' Day. On election day, it is incumbent on us to remember him.

Color-blind collaborations make good music

In the real world, blacks and whites may be as distant as ever, but in the music business, blacks and whites seem to be "walking this way" with "sound" results.

The collaboration between Run-DMC and the English heavy-metal band Aerosmith is one of the most recent examples of black and white artists shaking hands to the benefit of both. Aerosmith, incidentally, hadn't had a hit in years until the rap masters decided to record the Brits' song.

Another surprising collaboration unites the Queen of Soul with one of the all-time greatest bad-boys of rock-and-roll. Aretha Franklin and Rolling Stones' lead guitarist Keith Richard have made a new recording of the Stones' classic "Jumpin' Jack Flash." Then, too, there are duets by Patti LaBelle and Michael McDonald, Tina Turner and Bryan Adams.

Perhaps the brotherhood and sisterhood that characterized the "We Are the World" production have continued. Or did the fad begin with Paul McCartney's connections with Michael Jackson and Stevie Wonder? At any rate, musicians have often been color-blind.

Check out the latest Paul Simon album in which the former member of Simon and Garfunkel uses the popular music of black South Africans as his source of inspiration.

We continue tackling the tough issues

This college may be small, and it may have its problems, but one of its difficulties is not irrelevancy.

As the recent colloquium on hunger, sponsored by the Bennett Scholars and their energetic adviser Dr. Marshena Baird, attests, this institution is deeply involved in the urgent issues of our time. Experts of national and international importance came here to propose ways to relieve what is easily the world's most vexing and intolerable dilemma.

Two years ago, the Scholars' Colloquium focused on the landmark contributions of black women to American culture, a subject long neglected or underplayed by the authors of history and sociology texts.

As further proof of our relevance, it might be well for us to give a partial list of the distinguished guests who have appeared here in recent years. In this way, we can burst the illusion sometimes held by students that nothing impor-

tant happens on this campus. We can also show the college's ongoing relationship with the cultural urgencies of our day.

In the same way that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once spoke in Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel, James Baldwin and Jesse Jackson have inspired audiences there.

Some of the leading black female authors of the day have offered illumination to the Bennett family. The roster of distinction includes Margaret Walker Alexander, Angela Davis, Paula Giddings and Ntozake Shange. In addition, one of the most promising new novelists of our time, David Bradley, author of "The Chaneyville Incident," had his say here a few years back. And long before nuclear disarmament became a faddish issue in the suburbs, the college hosted Dr. Ronald E. Santoni, a prime mover in this arena.

This is not to mention the scores of other luminaries in the arts and sciences who have graced this campus in recent years.

Far from being isolated, Bennett is engaged in a lively dialogue with the world.

Letters critical about teachers, washers, false Belles

To the Editor:

What constitutes a true teacher? It seems somewhat hypocritical how Bennett students are constantly reminded by teachers to be mature, open-minded and diligent workers. Yet, some instructors who liberally proclaim this seem to become amnesiac when applying these traits to themselves.

Any person can be a teacher, but what constitutes a true teacher? A true teacher is the person who is humble yet strong in character. A true teacher is that person who cares whether the slow one in class is learning and excelling. A true teacher is like a bridge constructed of knowledge who leads her students across her back to the land of wisdom. A true teacher is that person who is willing to crumple beneath the feet of her students, allowing them to form new bridges of knowledge.

Students are not seeking for "instructors" who complain about teaching class because they are tired. We do not want to be chastized because our grammar is not up to par. Be a better teacher and help our grammar to improve. Anyone can criticize you, but not everyone is capable of helping

you. We are not attending class to have our opinions struck down and labeled "nonsense." Let us debate intelligently and maturely so that every person can learn. We are here to receive the knowledge that teachers possess.

Knowledge is a precious thing. Those who have it must pass it on wisely. For what you have to offer is priceless, but was acquired only by the grace of God. Therefore, what was hard to obtain, remember, is easily taken away.

Valencia Lee

To the Editor:

As a student at Bennett College and away from home, I am glad that Bennett does sponsor a Parents Weekend. The only thing I did not appreciate is that most of the weekend I had to spend most of my time at a laundromat trying to wash all the clothes I had in my room. My mother was not very pleased that she had just come to Greensboro to wash clothes all day.

The students understood we were supposed to have new washing machines this year. They have not been installed yet. It is already October and we have been here almost three months and there are

only about four working washers and dryers on this campus for the whole student body living on campus.

Also, the price has gone up on the washers and the clothes come out dirtier than last year. I have had a couple articles of clothing ruined this year in those machines. It's time for the students to see those new washers or we just might be knee-deep in dirty clothes by fall break, and there will really be a "big stink."

Shonna Lutén

To the Editor:

There are true Belles and insincere Belles. Which one are you? There are Belles who ring leadership qualities and there are Belles who ring disaster. These are the attributes that we see throughout each day on our campus.

I have noticed, while waiting in line in the cafeteria or sitting on the porch of my dorm, and on my way to class conversations like, "Look at her, she thinks she's cute," or "I wonder if those are her real nails?" and "She's conceited." We should ask ourselves are the ladies who constantly talk about each other true Belles? I say, no. A true Belle is a woman who doesn't worry about her fellow Bennett sister in terms of what she is wearing on the outside. A true Belle should concern herself about what is inside of her fellow sister. She should be attentive to whether or not her sister is learning and practicing leadership skills. The difference between a true Belle and insincere Belle is that an insincere Belle cracks without a sound and the true Belle rings forever.

We as Belles should share closeness, togetherness and sisterhood. Let's start now to become true Belles.

Yvette Jones

To troubled teenagers

Show the way

opinion
by Tricia Hairston

As a 21-year-old senior, I find myself feeling very old and doubtful about teenagers today. When I try to explain myself, I realize that I have been tuned out and Run-DMC tuned in. The truth of the matter is that teens scare me because I understand that they think of me as "not knowing the deal."

At first I laughed the feeling off and just "chilled." My next move was to let teenagers know that I had been in their shoes and almost wore the shoes out. This was to say I knew where they were coming from. The more I thought about this, I sensed a question — did I really know where they were coming from?

The average teenager has been offered marijuana, cocaine, speed and alcohol by the age of 13. She knows of someone or has a friend who's a mother. Her parents are divorced, and parental guidance is not a 24-hour ritual. So these are some things I have to think about before I offer advice or comment.

The next thought is how it was when I was a teenager. At 13, I was a tomboy. If a boy liked me, I would fight him. I did not know about cocaine or speed; I thought marijuana was a "hippie thing"; and there was no such thing as a pregnant friend. As a matter of fact, my girlfriends and I talked about our first kiss and giggled for days. Now the talk is about who will lose her virginity first. When I discovered the

opposite sex, boys had to pass certain requirements such as having the same music likes as I and a willingness to discuss "what are you wearing to school tomorrow?" Now the popular guys have Adidas, tight Levis and a kid or one on the way. They must sport an earring; this is cool.

I have just recently left my teen years and I was not a "square." My friends and I were into more mischief than anything. So how do I deal with these miniature grown-ups? Lecturing is out. So I try to divert their attention from drugs, sex and music to politics, magazines, museums and manners. This may or may not work, but I do appeal to all to help the teenagers.

Let the males know that manhood is not located below the navel and the same goes for females. Inform them of the positive aspects of acquiring good grades and college life. Take them out to see good movies and take them to church. Tune them in to "Meet The Press," "60 Minutes" and "20/20." Discuss the unrealistic actions of "Miami Vice" and "Dynasty." Stick to the basics, though, because teenagers will only cooperate so much. I am sure we all remember the rebellious streak. If we read between the lines, they are really crying out for help because life is moving too fast for them. They are going from kids to adults with no in-between. We need to become that in-between — a yield or stop sign. Think about it. If they grow up too fast, what will become of them once they are grown?

The Bennett Banner

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