

Saying hello to the summertime

The sun warms your skin, the air is warm and these sensations bring back memories of past summers. The grass is that familiar lush green that is bouncy with each step.

A buzz whizzes by you and as you look ahead, various small insect buzz and make intricate designs in the air like some grand painter who has created each leaf of newly born grass, each petal of a snow-white dogwood blossom and who has meticulously painted each yellow and black stripe on one fuzzy fat bumblebee.

Along with nature, a part of you has slept through the winter. That curious, childlike, fun-loving part of you that awakens more and more with each sunny warm day. Like the fresh, bright bloom of springtime flowers, a light, sunny dress releases you from the slumber of winter pants and sweaters. As the green of the grass becomes richer in the sun, your skin takes on a richer, browner glow with each minute of sunshine.

Thoughts wander from history, math and other academics to summer fun and dreams of summer love. How will you spend these summer days? Camping, hiking, fishing, boating, swimming and various other summer pleasures may

have to be put on hold until after a day of summer work or a class in summer school. Yes, most of us find the time to relax and have fun.

In the meantime with only finals week remaining, we are all looking forward to getting on with summer. We can now reflect with pride that we all have another year under our belts. Let us go into summer only remembering the good and fun times of these past two semesters, and let us learn and understand from the bad times.

The wind blows cooler now, the sun is not so high as evening crickets make darkening noises in the trees. The air, the grass, the trees somehow feel more realistic as they darken from the setting sun. Mosquitoes discover your presence and your skin is already sort of sticky from the light sweat from the warm day. The sky, once blue, has reddened and the sun is a low orange in the sky.

You see it, you watch it slip under the earth and the coolness of the night is a relief from the warm day. As we reflect, the dreams fulfilled are satisfying. As sure as the summer sun will rise high in the sky, so will our dreams that have yet to be fulfilled.

Have a great summer! (Tish Richmond)

A&T students unintimidated by Klan

a column
by Shonna Luten

In the past couple of weeks there has been a lot of talk about the Ku Klux Klan coming to this area.

It all started when the head of the Klan was invited to come to A&T to speak to one of the English classes. The turnout was so large that the man cancelled and said he would come back on his own terms.

When he did, the students at A&T did not listen to what he had to say. They chanted, "We don't want to hear what you've got to say" and turned around and left.

The area was covered with police because of the threat of a riot. I was very proud of the way the students handled the situation.

The police and the leader of the Klan expected the black students to riot, and that would be the excuse the Klan would need to really start something on the campus.

When the man was asked why he was on campus, he said he had the right to speak where he wanted and he had the right to express his views.

I believe that he has the right to speak his views like any other person has the right to speak his or hers, but why would he choose to speak his mind on a predominately black campus. Why not in a more public place? The man was just trying to really get the black students to retaliate against him.

In June, the Klan is going to march in Greensboro again for the first time since the Nazi-Klan march a few years ago.

I think that anyone who has a point to make should make it but not in a violent way. I'm hoping that the black community and anyone else who opposes the Klan's actions will just take a look at what the students at A&T did and do the same.

Just let the black community and all who oppose the march stay home. This should not be a time to boost egos; it should be a time to break the barrier of prejudice and hate still in this world, and maybe in time the Klan and all other types of racist groups will just be a memory to all.

Letter to the editor:

Student morale lowered By "don't care" attitude

To the editor:

Bennett College. We have all had people give us the brush-off and each of us probably felt that it was unnecessary. I was recently given the cold shoulder when I tried to get faculty and staff's reaction for a harmless article about President Miller's retirement. I had one staff member tell me in no uncertain terms that the person had no comment. Most of the people I approached acted as if they didn't know what to say. On this campus, there is a prevailing notion that everything remain hush-hush and that no one say a word about changes. I am sorely disappointed but not surprised because the black woman on this campus is not respected.

In no way am I coming down on every person who works here, but the lack of respect that students receive can't be ignored any longer.

There is also an unwillingness to help students. During the first big snowstorm this year, my car was stuck in the entrance by the security house while I was trying to find a space. I asked one of the security guards to help me push the car into a space or back it into the street; he told me that he could not help me. He also told me that if my car stayed there it would be towed. I asked him how could I move my car without his help and he said he didn't know, but again if my car stayed there it would be towed. My two friends who were with me had to hurry to the dorm to try and get someone to help me. Meanwhile, I had stayed and tried to get help and didn't. Needless to say I was very upset. My friends brought back two guys who helped me get my car back into the street.

This story is just one of the many ways that students don't get

help. Why are there so many stories such as this one? I realize no person or school is perfect, but does anyone deserve to constantly be mistreated?

The administration probably thinks there goes another student complaining about Bennett and the problems that students are having. Yes, I am complaining because students are not the only ones who are lazy and have that "don't-care" attitude and lack of motivation. We should all take a good hard and long look at ourselves on every level and ask did I really help that student who just came to me or why don't students come to me more often?

This remark does not only apply to authority figures. Students have to and need to make more effort to get to know their instructors and push themselves a little harder everyday.

Karen Horne

Newsweek article arouses mixed reactions

"Brothers: A Vivid Portrait of Black Men in America," Newsweek's March 23 cover story, traces the lives of 11 men who grew up together in a housing project on Chicago's Southside. The article prompted strong response and analysis from Bennett students.

Good and Bad:

Sylvester Monroe should be applauded for his daring yet intriguing article, but that does not mean that he should not be criticized. Applause because there are still people who do not realize what it is like to live in projects. There are still others who believe that the ghetto is a trap that few ever escape from. "Brothers" brings a definite sense of ghetto life to those interested enough to read it, and for those who already know what ghetto life is like it

can rekindle old hope.

Some of the men Monroe interviewed seemed to be locked into the same lifestyle they had grown accustomed to during the years of 1966 to 1972, and it is important for people to realize that not everyone who is living as they did in the past is insane. However, Monroe should be ridiculed for the lack of recent contact he had with his friends.

In the opening, he states that he was "journeying back to my past, and I didn't know what I would find." Had he kept closer contact with his friends, it may have been much easier for him to think of the things he might have found or have some idea what he would hear despite the times he had been back before.

Monroe was raised in the ghetto and to most black families "home" is the place where one is reared,

and Monroe obviously lost some if not most of the contact he had with his home. (Megan Harris)

Troubled Migration:

The migration of blacks to the North from the South was a tough decision for blacks because it seemed like a good move, but it did more harm than good.

Families were trying to escape the hatred that seemed to govern their lives, and moving to what seemed like the land of milk and honey was the best answer. If more blacks had stayed in the South, I think that they stood a chance of becoming landowners instead of sardines packed in a can.

The men in "Brothers" and their parents are victims of that migration. With a few exceptions, these men had lost hope and lacked a great deal of motivation that would change their lives. If the victims had met racism head-on, they could have survived and led productive lives. The parents of the men in "Brothers" probably started out with positive thoughts and ideas, but they became tired of fighting and gave up to the creators of subtle racism in the North, the conscious effort of those who wish to keep blacks and other minorities in "their place." By placing too many people in one huge building, they create animosity among the dwellers in these buildings and the residents are defeated before they even get started.

The men who did stay in Chicago unknowingly locked themselves into permanent invisibility. They have remained invisible and

will only be noticed as a taxpayers' burden. (Karen Horne)

Black Women:

If "Brothers" is a misleading portrayal of black men in America, than is the portrait of black women in this article a true picture?

Three types of women emerge—the caring mother, the exploited wife or girlfriend and the religious woman with the power to change a man.

The "stand by my child" mother role is displayed throughout the article. Each man expressed the respect and love he had for his mother. The men seemed to feel that their mothers' biggest concern was for their children to have a better chance at life.

An extra push from his mother made Newsweek correspondent Sylvester Monroe a success. When he tried to return to the ghetto from prep school by pretending to be sick, his mother said, "The only way you're coming home before you're supposed to is in a box." She later said this was the hardest choice she ever made.

When frustrated basketball player Billy Harris turned to drug-pushing and pimping, his mother said, "Boy, I didn't raise you like this." When she refused to accept money from her son, he promised to quit breaking the law.

Several men abused their wives and girlfriends, including the hard-working Half-Man Carter who married his teenage sweetheart and later began to beat her, thereby losing the love of his life.

But you can see the transforming power of several women in this article—especially the righteous magic of Anne, a strict Christian, who renews the life of Honk Johnson, a hustler and dope-peddler.

The change, however, doesn't last long. (Kimberly Eatmon)

Peer Pressure:

This article proves the unwholesome power of conformity in the ghetto.

It was almost impossible for the "brothers" to fight the pressure to do wrong because so many people were looking for trouble.

Older men, gangs, friends and even relatives urged teenaged boys to live the fast life and to embrace violence, drug abuse and the exploitation of women. Many of the "brothers" lived by imitation.

Peer pressure made people do things that at first they did not want to do. (Tammy Reed)

Program

(Continued from page 1)

standing scholarly achievement in the science field. She was also awarded the Belle-Tobias Award in 1985 for attaining the highest grade-point average among freshmen. Odessa is a Kenan Science Merit Scholar and a Bennett Scholar. She is president of the campus chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

The Bennett Banner

Editor Carla Bannister
Associate Editors Shonna Luten, Laura Nelson, Bernice Scott
Columnists Tricia Hairston, Tish Richmond
Reporters Kimberly Eatmon, Megan Harris, Karen Horne,
Calrena Jordan, Tammy Reed
Faculty Advisers Mr. Michael Gaspeny, Dr. Martha Gleaton

With special thanks to Ms. Sallie A. Hayes

Opinions expressed in columns and letters to the editor belong to their authors, not to the staff of the Banner, whose ideas appear in the editorials at the top of this page.

Send letters to the editor to Box 2, campus post office. All correspondence must bear a handwritten signature and must be acknowledged by the author. Letters are subject to editing according to newspaper style and demands of space. No anonymous letters will be published.