

Sororities create successful bonds

by Cheryl Floyd

You hear an odd call and suddenly a sleeve — pink and green, blue and white or red and white — extends into the air. The hand at the end of the sleeve waves in the direction of the odd call, and perhaps you hear a similar odd call in response.

You realize that you have witnessed a sisterly greeting between members of one of the campus' sororities: Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., or Alpha Kappa Sorority Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., or Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

Such a sisterly bond has enhanced the lives of two of the sororities' presidents, Katherine Lynne Marshall (Delta Sigma Theta), Emily Rogers (Alpha Kappa Alpha), and of Debra Dilworth, vice-president of Zeta Phi Beta and president of the Inter-Greek Council.

"I am an only child. Being a member of a sorority and pledging with 27 other people has given me 27 sisters that I might not otherwise have had," says

Marshall.

Rogers, from Saudi Arabia, has brought her personal experiences to her sorority and feels she has a more international outlook.

Dilworth says that her sorority has helped her want to become involved in different clubs or activities.

"I want to be a student who has not gone through four years as just another student. I want to leave my footprints," she says.

Outside of the leadership roles that they have on campus, what manner of women are these?

The Lynne that Bennett doesn't see is very silly and is a big kid at heart, according to Marshall.

The Debra that Bennett doesn't see is a confidante. "You can talk to me about anything and be assured that it will go no further than you and me. I want all my friends to feel at ease around me," Dilworth says.

Rogers likes to travel. Her favorite places that she's been to are Bermuda, Hong Kong and the Soviet Union, and she would like to share her traveling experiences with students more often.

"A lot of my life experiences have been unique and I know people realize it, but I wish they'd ask me more questions," Rogers says.

Dilworth and Marshall feel that they have changed since becoming involved in their sororities.

"If you didn't change in some way after you pledged a sorority, then you didn't pledge," says Marshall.

She says that the essence of getting into a sorority is to find out your weaknesses and strengths, what you're capable of, what you're not capable of and finding talents that you never even knew you had.

"I've become more aggressive, more attentive to little things and more dedicated to responsibilities and commitments," Marshall adds.

Dilworth recalls that her friends cheered her on as she became more involved in campus life and more aware of the things that are constantly going on in her community.

Rogers feels that she did not change. "I grew in different ways, but I never changed. If my friends

view me differently, it's in a positive way," she says.

These women care about what people think of them as sorority members, since they all wish to maintain a positive image. Dilworth and Marshall realize, though, that there is a communication gap between sororities and the student body.

"Freshmen come in with these notions of what a Greek is, and some Greeks have the notion 'I've got it and you don't' — not to mention the fact that the movie 'School Daze' did us no good," says Marshall, believing that the gap is caused by Greeks and non-Greeks.

Rogers does not believe there is a communication gap. "Because we are an organized and structured group of women, of course, we're gonna be different and stick out. We do a lot of things that other groups don't do so I'm sure the student body views us differently, but it's not a negative thing. It's positive," she says.

Regardless of a communication gap, perpetrators (those who have not gone through the pledge process, yet still imitate the sorority

calls or wear paraphernalia) are offensive to these women. They feel that it shows a lack of respect and that perpetrators do calls and do not know what they mean.

Advice that Rogers, Dilworth and Marshall wish to give to anyone considering joining a sorority is to do research. They all feel that it should be an individual's own decision and not influenced by friends, since it is a lifetime commitment.

The purpose of a sorority is to help women develop their talents, to have lifelong friends and to become aware of the different types of problems that are occurring in the community and feel compelled to want to do something about this, according to Dilworth.

Each of these women also feels that her particular sorority makes a statement which explains why she is an active part of it:

Rogers: Service to all mankind and high scholastics.

Marshall: We are a sisterhood pledged to be successful.

Dilworth: Zeta is about sisterhood and working together.

Seniors are bequeathing wisdom to their sisters

by Joycelynn Hodges

Bidding their final farewells before venturing out into the real world, some seniors give their bequeaths in addition to some friendly advice.

Ava Martien, from Florence, S.C., wishes all of her Bennett sisters the best of luck. She said, "I would like to see more sisterhood shown on this campus, but most of all I'd like to see the end of the 'Belle System.'"

Karen Jones, from Plainfield, N.J., said, "I want everyone to remember to be persistent and to keep following your dreams."

Nancy Leath, from Burlington, gives motherly advice. She said, "Remember to take full advantage of the opportunities offered to you here at Bennett. Don't wait until the last minute to prepare for the world and what you want to do. Most of all, remember to have faith."

Carolyn Lewis, from Washington, D.C., said, "I bequeath my smiles and good times to all of my Bennett sisters. Use your time wisely because time will fly."

Kim Eatmon, from Capitol Heights, Md., said, "I'd like the underclassmen to 'stay on it' as far as what they have to encounter. Prepare for the future; don't wait till the end. Some great philosopher said, 'Shoot for the moon because if you miss, you'll still be among the stars.'"

Tish Richmond, from Indianapolis, Ind., said, "Bennett showed me my heritage. I didn't have one before. Most importantly, I've learned that if you love and accept yourself just as you are, it doesn't matter if others do or not. What matters is that you

accept others just as they are. With that, you'll make it. I hope my Bennett sisters remember that."

Yvette Austin, from Orangeburg, S.C., said, "I encourage all the women of Bennett College to grab hold of the things that belong to them and to break down the negatives that have stereotyped us for so long. Gain control over ourselves and make positive statements to the Bennett community and the larger community and the world as a whole. I pledge that the true essence of women be exemplified in the Bennett woman."

There are some seniors who left personal bequeaths directed to specific persons here.

LaShawn Barber, from Upper Marlboro, Md., said, "I bequeath my pleasing personality to the juniors because they really need it. I give my will to survive to the sophomores and my ambition to the freshmen. Most of all, I bequeath 300 hugs and kisses to Denise White, but save a few for Diane."

Carolyn Riddick, from Wilson, said, "I leave to my little sisters all of my old humanities and French tests."

Liane Bennett, from Hartford, Conn., had a lot to leave behind to her Bennett sisters. She said, "To my little sister, Dionne Warwick, I leave my ability to sing and the best of luck in whatever she sets forth to do; to Jocelyn Isom, my much funnier sense of humor; to Towanna Foye, a tiny bit of my little bit of weight; to Rhonda Fisher, the words to 'Self Destruction'; to Norita Phillips, Memory Brock, Tina Gray, Rhonda

Scholfield and Tauye Simmons, all of the house music and blenders in the world; to Trammel Henson, my not so squeaky voice and to Tujan Wood, my back rest and the good samaritan award."

Yenetta Bell, from Columbus, O., said, "Being of sound mind and body, I bequeath to the Zeta Xi Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the continued ability to do good and to hold their heads up high like the sophisticated ladies they are; to Kim Eatmon and all of my pals, my crazy sense of humor; Ms. Harrison, my gratitude because without you this could not have been possible; to the underclassmen, a renewed sense of yourself so that you can make Bennett best."

Miriam Whitehead, the senior class president, said, "I bequeath to Bennett College to always keep a door open for women to learn, grow and succeed in life and continue to prepare strong, black women leaders who are to motivate and to change the world; Merner Hall, to show the world that academics can be a part of one's life and that intelligent women living and sharing together can bring harmony and peace to the world; Bennett Scholars, to bring wisdom and understanding to the world and never be ashamed of your God-given talents and use them to the best of your abilities; Sonja Cloud, Paula Johnson, DeLisa Hill and Annette Moore, to remember that friendship can be pain, but the price is worth it when there are those who care and share your dreams and aspirations."

NAACP agenda

Group is busy

by Cheryl Floyd

NAACP president Tracy Lett says that her greatest challenge has been motivating students.

"We have about 40 members, but not very many who participate. It's all about motivation and priorities. People are missing out on a lot when they don't get involved," she said.

Lett also believes that being an active member of the NAACP helps prepare students for the real world.

"In the real world, everything is political. When you are born, the first thing you get is a birth certificate, then a social security number," she said.

Founded in 1909, the NAACP, Lett believes, has been — if not the — one of the most advanced institutions in helping "our people." It is continually trying to empower African-Americans.

The Bennett chapter has been busy this year. Last semester, the organization sponsored a visit by Tony Brown, writer of the controversial film "White Girl."

During NAACP week this semester, the chapter held a "Free South Africa" Day.

Conference stimulates spring fever

opinion

by Taundra Woodard

For weeks, palm trees, white sand, and warm ocean breezes were at the center of my thoughts. As Jan. 25 approached, my anxiety had reached an unbearable level. Although my trip was centered around a model United Nations seminar to be held at Bethune-Cookman College (BC-C) in Daytona Beach, Fla., I rarely concentrated on that aspect of the trip. The work was merely something to tolerate between running along the beach and mingling with students from 18 other institutions.

I had no cares about completing work for classes before the 4 a.m. departure time or worries about the pile that would be waiting for me once I returned.

It was very clear that I had become possessed by the "I don't care about anything but getting away for a few days" monster. Now, I realize that my attitude

was not consistent with my purpose for the trip and I regret that I may have missed out on a valuable experience.

As the van left Greensboro, the air was cold and harsh, but as we sped down the highway, the air took on a salty odor and the breezes turned warm. I no longer saw people in heavy winter coats, ear muffs, gloves and hats. The winter garb was replaced by tank-tops, shorts, sunglasses and swim suits. As we cruised along the strip to the hotel, I wondered what sort of accommodations the college had supplied. When we reached the Clarendon Plaza, I could hardly believe my eyes. The plaza was a high rise consisting of 15 floors of beautifully carpeted and colorfully decorated rooms. We were placed on the fifth floor, just the right amount of space between the bottom and the top of the hotel to really enjoy the excellent view of the ocean.

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Bush-from page 1

May 14, in the campus quadrangle.

Reverend Willie Barrow, president of Operation PUSH, will be the Baccalaureate speaker on Saturday, May 13.

Study hard for finals

Victims of shooting were all black

(From page 1)

the suspects involved in the shootings were white and all victims in the cases were black. He said, however, that this did not make the shootings a racial incident.

Daughtry also said that the Greensboro Police Department

expected to make at least two more arrests within the next few weeks.

Daughtry made suggestions for ensuring safety.

"Use the buddy system and don't go anywhere alone," he said.