



Part of the cafeteria team: Ms. Frankie Williams Howell, TWM Food Services director, supervises line server Ms. Ruth Cole. Williams is striving to bring improvements to her domain and to respond to student suggestions. (photo by Cheryl Floyd)

'Cafe' is coming along

by Cheryl Floyd

Frankie Williams Howell, food service director for TWM Food Services, says that many changes have taken place in Bennett's cafeteria since last year.

She says that students were asked at the end of last semester to write down some suggestions that would improve the meals in the cafeteria.

"Many students said that they would like a variety of fruit and a variety of juices for breakfast, and we have tried to give it to them," she says.

Howell also says that there are a variety of breads including muffins and biscuits and a variety of salad dressings.

Tremis Johnson, purchasing manager for TWM, notes the addition of a taco bar, changes in the appearance of the cafeteria and holiday entertainment (like the Halloween dance given recently).

The most difficult aspect of being a purchasing manager, Johnson feels, is disciplinary problems with the students.

"We have a severe problem with taking items out of the cafeteria. We have even had a student to almost get into a struggle with Ms. Jones who sits out front," Johnson says.

Johnson thinks that the policy of TWM should be first-come, first-served, but that this is difficult because "there are girls who come in and wait in line for a long time, and then people come in and jump in front of them."

"I don't think anyone who cuts in line should be served before the people that they cut in front of," he says.

For Howell, the most difficult

part of her job is "staffing the unit."

"It's hard to find people with the right attitude for food service. If students find something wrong with the food and the food server has a bad attitude, then I'm in double-trouble," she says.

Line server Ruth Cole says that sometimes the students have attitudes. She still likes her job, though, and just figures that when a student has an attitude that she has had a bad day.

Emma Long, TWM cook, loves her job and says that she works for great people.

Howell and Johnson say that the earlier grade B sanitation rating that the cafeteria received was due to improperly working dishwashing equipment and inadequate temperatures on coolers. This was the reason that students ate with plasticware for some time. The grade is now restored to A since these problems have been corrected.

Howell says that the lunch hour for this year has been extended to last from 11:30 to 1 p.m. She feels that this was necessary to handle the number of students who actually eat at lunch time. Breakfast and dinner, though, do not have very much participation, and Howell does not feel the need to extend them.

She says that provisions have been made for students who have gastrointestinal or other health problems, or who for religious reasons or by personal choice do not eat certain foods.

"I started stressing the salad bar, putting out chicken salad, fruit salad, soup or whatever else I felt would be better for those students," Howell says.

She recalls that the diet-plate

plan that was used last year was ineffective. The names of students who could not eat the food that was being served were placed on a list by Nurse Cora H. Waddell. Those students could come in and request a diet plate.

"I could have a student come in one day and ask for a diet plate, and then the next day I could come in and see them with five or six waffles on their plate smothered in butter and syrup," she says.

Howell has placed a suggestion box at the entry of the cafeteria so that students can tell her what they want. The problem with the suggestion box, though, according to Howell, is that the students are not specific enough in their criticism.

"Criticism I can handle, but give me some constructive criticism, something I can work with. Then maybe we can do some things," says Howell.

One of the things that she plans to do is to start an annual tradition for the senior class called a "Wine-and-Dine Delight." She says that the senior class will come in and learn to eat some of the finer foods, specifically seafood.

"If you are a senior, your grades have already earned you an interview. If that company wants to take you out to dinner, you need to know how to eat certain foods, which fork to use, and things of that sort," says Howell. "This will be our way of preparing the senior class."

Howell says that she will try to give students what they want.

"I can't serve T-bone steaks every night or every week, but I can come as close as possible," she says.

Close Gorrell?

by Rehan Overton

The administration's efforts to close a section of Gorrell Street and put up a fence in order to enhance the campus for both security and financial purposes reap both positive and negative reactions from the student body.

The idea to close Gorrell Street, from the corner of Bennett Street to the corner of Sampson Street, came about after several Bennett women were assaulted by men who strayed on campus. Although none of the incidents involved any of the men who loiter around Gus's Groceteria, some students feel that the daily drug and prostitution traffic on the corner of Gorrell and Macon Streets does present a threat to students on campus.

"We do need a fence for our protection. I'm worried about my safety . . . Whatever they need to do, they need to do it," said freshman Sherrilyn Hicks of Richmond, Va.

"It would eliminate the problem of 'Gus bums' being on our campus," said sophomore Miji Bell of Durham. "I think Bennett is trying to look at ways to make the greatest improvements in security . . . I think it's just another measure to improve security."

Although both sides of the issue were represented by students, the majority of the students responded nega-

tively about the closing of Gorrell Street. Most felt that closing a section of Gorrell would do more harm than help — not just to the students on campus, but also to the community as well.

"I think it adds to the closing in, the congested feeling, that students have about this campus life. We also have a fire department . . . That (closing Gorrell) is violating their codes. When they need to get through this street to get to their destination in time, they shouldn't have to drive all around to get to their destination," said Catherine Netter, a sophomore from Detroit.

"With all the traffic, especially school and city buses, I don't see the point in closing it," said senior Jennifer Jennings from Washington, D.C. "They won't do it."

Some students stated that Bennett's efforts to build a fence around the campus are just a way to mimic other small black institutions, namely all-female Spelman College in Atlanta.

Other students feel as if Bennett should concentrate on improving the educational and physical aspects of the college rather than debating over the closing of Gorrell Street. The energy and time spent on trying to close Gorrell should be focused on expanding curriculum and courses. "Aesthetics without education means nothing," said Netter.

On the eve of the season

Squad is eager

by Erica Salter

The Bennett College basketball team has returned this season with few players, but the squad is hoping talent, determination and optimism will persevere.

Five players are back from last year's team with new attitudes and noticeable improvement. They are: Pam Warner, a 5-11 sophomore from Greensboro; Artlisa Alston, a 5-10 sophomore from Savannah, Ga.; Yvette Williams, a 5-7 junior from Indianapolis, Ind.; Perdita Patrick, a 5-6 sophomore from Greensboro and Erica Salter, a 5-3 junior from Cincinnati.

Ms. Joyce Spruill, who is the coach of the volleyball and basketball teams, shows optimism for this season. The returning players are "more mentally prepared" and are "more competitive," said Spruill.

Additional talents on the team include: Hyler Jones, a 5-3 sophomore from Denver, Colo. and Kandys Taylor, a 5-8 freshman from Roanoke, Va.

These two Belles have

spirit and are enthusiastic. "They have good attitudes and want to learn," said Spruill.

Not only are the basketball players good on the court but in the classroom as well. Two of them, Warner and Alston, were recognized as honors students Nov. 2.

Goals on the team varied. "To contribute 110 percent to the team" was Jones'. "I want to crash the boards and score," said Alston. "Being a better team," was asserted by Patrick. Warner and Williams simply want "to win."

Twenty girls tried out for the team. When the final team was selected, 11 players emerged. However, injuries and changes in plans caused four players to leave.

Other students are in the process of joining the team and are serious about helping out in any way possible.

"The potential to be better than last year is present," said Spruill. "The question is will they work hard everyday at bringing out this potential?" she added.

Racism's on the rise

by Louise Morris

The confrontations between blacks and whites during the past few months have led many students to believe there is a rise in racism, according to respondents to a Banner poll.

One of the most dramatic clashes worrying many college students is the Virginia Beach Greekfest, a yearly gathering of college students (mostly black) out to have a good time on the shores of Virginia Beach. This year, students were harassed, wounded and injured by white policemen.

Another occurrence alarming students was the death of 16-year old Yusef Hawkins, the black youth who was murdered in Bensonhurst, an Italian-American neighborhood in Brooklyn, N.Y.

"I am very worried about America and the relationship between races," said Staci Green, a freshman from Capitol Heights, Md. "We

have a serious problem that needs to be dealt with."

"When will racism ever stop?" asked Tracei Shavers, a freshman from Winston-Salem. "Everyone feels like their race is superior, so you cannot stop others from expressing their beliefs because it's their right."

There are quite a few others who feel we are entering a decade resembling the turbulence of the '50s and '60s.

"The acts that are being performed on blacks today are the same that were performed on my forefathers," said Monique Jones, a junior from Rahway, N.J.

"I feel we are regressing back to the lynching of the past because of ignorance among and for one another," said Jaki Davis, a freshman from Washington, D.C. "We are uneducated about different races and we are not open-minded enough to accept

a race and their culture for what they are. And until we do that, we will always have racism."

Other sources mentioned improvement of racial relations since the '50s and '60s.

"I believe blacks and whites have come a long way since the lynching of the '50s and '60s," said Areaka Foye, a freshman from Landover, Md. "We're working and educating ourselves together, and that was something our parents and forefathers could not do back then."

One respondent confirmed that racism is a nationwide problem.

"Racism is a nationwide problem for everyone who wants to accept that we in this nation have a problem with other ethnic groups," said Terrilynne Jenkins, a junior from Syracuse, N.Y. "It is not only happening in New York and Virginia, but it's everywhere."

Public Enemy gives sermon at A&T's Homecoming

by Marci Smith

The rap group Public Enemy is taking the risk of lessening its popularity by trying to incorporate a positive message into its concert performances, according to students who attended A&T's Homecoming.

Students were not prepared to hear a sermon-like dialogue which left very little time for the audience to enjoy the music. Public Enemy does have a reputation for using Afrocentric Messages, but its new approach to teaching motivation to audiences is definitely something thus far unused in the music industry.

"It was a very positive

message, but it was delivered to a totally unprepared and somewhat unreceptive crowd, who had come only to hear the music and have a good time," said Kevin Roach, a senior computer science major at A&T.

"The group was trying to drop a little knowledge, but the crowd just wasn't trying to hear it," stated Waita Moore, a junior from Brooklyn, N.Y. "They totally surprised people in their approach; it just wasn't the right atmosphere."

There is something to be said for Public Enemy's persistence in bringing forth an inspirational message.

"I think that they should try to teach a positive message as often as they can. If people are constantly bombarded with positive messages, I feel that whether they realize it or not, their subconscious will tune in on it and eventually come to their realization," speculates Michelle Stewart.

"People who started to walk out of the concert still stuck to the message," said Jerald Walington, a senior accounting major at A&T.

Public Enemy is definitely serious about getting its message across at all risks. The group is willing to jeopardize its place in the rap industry as one of the top groups.