

OPINION LINE

WHAT BENNETT STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT ISSUES OF THE DAY

African-Americans coming back together

The history of African-Americans is rich in various aspects of color, education and spiritual heritage. Blacks in America can trace their roots as far back as African tribes, European cultures, and slave plantations on the southeast coast of the country. Our black forefathers put their lives on the line to save blacks from continuous ridicule, torture and pain. Educating their people was their main objective in finally allowing the black race to seek the unknown knowledge they had been denied, and in turn find peace and tranquility for all people.

Education is the key to preserving our rich heritage. If our people are not educated at an early age, then they will be forced to become subject to all kinds of danger and harm that could be avoided. Blacks killing one another is no way to solve the unanswered questions our young people are striving to learn today. We must teach the young, and that teaching starts at home.

"Seek and ye shall find." This phrase is often used to allow people to go out into the world and find what their hearts desire. Seek the knowledge my young brothers and sisters. We must help each other in times of need. Don't let your brothers and sisters fall down or lose their self-esteem. Knowledge is also a key factor in preserving what is rightfully ours. We can only be knowledgeable about our black history if we educate our minds.

Last but not least, pray. Pray for our male population, which has gone down considerably. According to some reports, half of the young black male population is either in jail, on abusive drugs, or dying by another brother's hand. And sisters, we must fight and come together in sisterhood in search of a finer womanhood. Only through prayer can we face another power struggle to stand up and be proud African-Americans. Education, seeking the true knowledge, and prayer will bring African-Americans back together as a race, instead of just individuals.

The comfort of a man

The present policy at Bennett College calls for no men beyond the parlor-unless he is helping lift something into or out of the room. Is this fair?

On the positive side, no males in the rooms allows Bennett women the freedom to move from the showers to their rooms without the fear, or embarrassment, of meeting someone else's boyfriend on the hall.

Also, in cases of roommates with opposite lifestyles (one being Ms. Popularity and the other Most Likely to be Alone) it allows both ladies to feel comfortable in their own room. Because, what happens to the other roommate when one has male company?

On the negative side, if there is no male visitation, ladies will, and have sneaked guys into their rooms one way or another. This is a security hazard, not to mention a violation of school policy.

Perhaps Bennett should consider some type of limited in-room male visitation. Maybe a few hours in the middle of the day on weekends. Nothing to completely erode our reputations as phenomenal women. But, let's face it, even the most phenomenal of women needs the comfort of a man every so often.

MELODY WHITAKER

Opinion

How we made it over?

The battle is finally over. Now it's time to get out into the real world and fight the big war.

We came in as freshwomen and grew into "Phenomenal Bennett Belles." Many of us thought it was going to be a difficult task and many times it was. We leaped over those hurdles and did what we had to do to get to the finish line.

Some of us came to Bennett on a five-year plan, and some finished in four years. It

of tea. Many students like school but just don't like the work. They are the ones that eventually drop out of school.

The question was asked to some seniors "How they made it?" Valarie Redd responded with, "hard work, time, effort, and of course dedication. These are the four factors that helped me survive at Bennett College."

When she first arrived at Bennett, she thought she would never make it because she wasn't able to read on a college level. This frustrated her an awful lot. The teachers would help her, but she found no progress. The reason for no

NICOLE GAINES

Reflections

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Valarie Redd

doesn't matter how long it takes to finish college, just as long as you finish and apply what you have learned to everyday life. College today is not for everyone, school isn't everyone's cup

progress was because she would not help herself.

The lesson from this is that anything is possible if you put your mind to it. Let's learn from our graduating seniors.

BANNER ADVICE

Where do you go from here?

"And you thought some of them wouldn't make it through college."

We asked some seniors the question, "Where do you plan to go from here?"

Some said that they were going off to graduate school. Some of them said they will venture out into the community to find a job in their chosen field of study.

Tangela Napier said, "Hallelujah, it's over I don't have to be bothered with school anymore." That attitude is one of relief and means I need a break from the pressure.

Some grads are confused because they can't find jobs in their field and many are just simply having trouble finding a job period. The fact is the economy is still bad and there isn't enough money out there to pay people. "That's why we have a hard time finding jobs," said Deidra Walker, a graduate in education.

Our advice to every graduating senior is if you don't already have a job lined up for you when you get out of college, settle for the next thing available. You have to start somewhere. Who knows where that may lead.

Sex: No child's play

What is the right age to teach your child about sex? Conservatives would say between the ages of 10 and 12. They argue that teaching your child at any age before

that would be robbing them of their innocence. But is it really innocence or ignorance?

As young African-American college women this is something that we should think about as we grow older and decide to have children. Is it wise to hold back information that your child may already have at the age of five or six? I think not.

With the rampant outbreaks of AIDS, child sexual molestation, incest and teenage pregnancy, this is something that we definitely should be concerned about.

Some feel that educating children too early may lead to their becoming sexually promiscuous sooner rather than later. That is simply not true. Eventually, if they don't learn it from you, they will learn it elsewhere, which is worse than knowledge from a reliable source - the parent.

Overall, the media hypes up sex to be bad and dirty. But in reality it is a beautiful thing between two individuals who love and respect one another. When parents tell their children that it is an ugly and forbidden thing to do, that child is more apt to be curious and possibly rebel anyway. In this day and age it is impossible to protect your child all the time. The only solution is to positively teach them all you know and trust that they will do the right thing.

KIM HALL

Thinking Out Loud

