

Program prepares teachers for problems in classrooms

Kaetina Davis
Student Reporter

It is just after lunchtime at a high school in Columbia, and a 12-year veteran physical education teacher, is returning to her classroom. One of her male students has already arrived to class early, but it isn't for the benefit of getting a good seat.

As Elkins enters the classroom, she sees that the student is rummaging through her desk drawer, where she keeps her purse. When she attempts to retrieve her things from the student, he pulls a knife on her.

Violent incidents like this have become a major problem in public and private schools. As a result teachers have had to change their teaching methods.

The Teacher Education Department at Bennett College is preparing future teachers to handle violence and other such problems that may arise in the ever-changing classroom.

According to Donna Oliver, director of Teacher Education, among the first things that should be incorporated into classroom management are the three F's—being firm, fair and friendly.

"Teachers should establish respect for themselves as well as the students," Oliver said.

Teachers should also make the classroom an inviting place for the student.

One way to do this, says Oliver, is to maintain "high time on task" which is achieved by engaging students in instructional activities.

"This kind of activity encourages social skills and it also forces them to remain focused on their work," Oliver said.

Instructional leadership should also be instituted. Parents as well as teachers should be involved with their child's educational development.

"One way to establish the parent-teacher relationship is to let the parent know that you, as a teacher, are interested in that child's success," Oliver said.

Oliver said that it is important that a teacher understand the physical, mental and cognitive processes of a child because students have different learning styles.

Teacher education majors at Bennett are required to take courses designed to help them understand how children develop mentally, socially and cognitively.

Teachers can not only effectively teach but also incorporate discipline into their classrooms by using three common models: "the How to Method," "the Discipline Model," and "the Cooperative Learning Method."

In the how to

method, which is commonly used in the secondary school setting, the teacher focuses on "how to teach" the subject, instead of dispensing information about the subject. Discipline models are used in the elementary school. This kind of model involves a strict set of rules, along with the consequences for breaking that rule.

With Cooperative learning a student is responsible for his other actions. This method is usually used in kindergarten and elementary school. However it is sometimes used in high school settings.

These methods stem from the multicultural structure theory and the various concepts of teaching students that have different learning styles.

According to Oliver, multicultural education is a process and a way of thinking. "The goal of the Education Department is to make multicultural education and ethnic diversity a part of the curricula," Oliver said.

"We want to move away from the melting pot theory and go on to the salad bowl theory."

The student who pulled the knife on his physical education teacher was suspended from school. The physical education teacher in the incident came out of the situation shaken, but unharmed.

Pre-Alumni Council to host national UNCF Conference

Kelly Kniffley
Student Reporter

The Bennett College chapter of the Pre-Alumni Council will host the National UNCF Conference Feb. 3 to 5.

Bennett's Pre-Alumni Council participated in the Regional UNCF Conference at Shaw University. Constance Leach, Miss Pre-Alumni Council 1993-1994, said the conference was well attended.

Annette Peatross, Miss UNCF, had an opportunity to represent the Pre-Alumni chapter in Durham.

Peatross, along with President Gloria Scott and Susie Powell and other prominent people were interviewed in reference to the contributions and benefits of UNCF institutions. Powell is a major contributor to the Bennett College community and the UNCF.

"I enjoy any opportunity to speak about Bennett College or the contributions of the United Negro College Fund to the Historically Black Colleges and Universities affiliated with the UNCF," Peatross said.

Membership of the Pre-Alumni Council is still available to all matriculating students at Bennett.

Administration, faculty and staff are also encouraged to take an active role in the UNCF efforts to help raise monies for Ben-

nett.

The Pre-Alumni Council is an organization that endeavors to stimulate the interest and active participation of matriculating Bennett College students in progress of the UNCF.

The National Conference will take place at the Holiday Inn Four Season's.

Trio From Page 1

dents who might have had a bumpy start are enthused to do better after witnessing the success of other students."

"Every year when we celebrate National Trio Day it excites the students when they see just how much their work is appreciated," Copeland said.

Erica Blackshear, a student participant and office assistant, said, "I think that the National Trio Day is something that the staff and students look forward in celebrating."

National Trio Day is Feb. 10.

Answers to Crossword Puzzle on Page 3

S	H	O	A	T	S	A	B	I	N	E				
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Entries will be judged for effectiveness, appropriateness, design and layout, and scientific accuracy. Entries must be received by February 1, 1994 and must include an official entry/release form. To obtain an entry kit, contact your school's alcohol and drug coordinator, or call 1-800-729-6686, extension 5992.

