

Opinions

The opinions expressed in this column are the author's and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Bennett Banner staff

Editorial

Editor bids farewell

This will be the last editorial that I will ever write for this paper, and it almost makes me sad.

But I am happy because it means that I can move forward on the never ending road to the real world. Bennett has changed me into a more tolerant and mature person than what I was when I first entered here in the fall of 1991 as a 17-year-old freshman who had never been away from home.

I came here with the same fears that anyone that is starting a new school would have, such as whether I would have any friends, be successful in my classes, or get used to being on my own. Many positive as well as negative things have happened to me at Bennett.

Being cultivated the talents and skills that I already had, as well as gave me the confidence to display them. These same talents and skills will prepare me for future jobs and projects that I will be working on.

Bennett, just like life, is what you choose to put into it and things that may happen along the way can make you or break you if you allow them to.

These four years at Bennett have not been easy, but then again, nothing worth having ever is. I know that students complain about certain policies that the school has, and the fact that they feel restricted at times, but it is the same at any school.

No school is ever going to have rules and regulations that everyone is going to agree with, but my advice to those that plan to graduate from Bennett is to never give up, work hard, and stay on your knees in prayer.

Goodbye and may God Bless You All!

Stephanie McCorkle
Banner Editor

The right to pray

Prayer is supposed to be beneficial and uplifting. It is supposed to represent everything positive.

If this is the truth than why has it become such a debate. Last month the N.C. House of Representatives passed a bill requiring students and teachers to began the day with a moment of silence. The *News & Record* (March 27) reported that students, teachers, and parents expressed different opinions on the issue. Some for, some against and some said it was a stupid idea.

In 1962 the Supreme Court removed prayer from schools stating it was unconstitutional.

I am shaky when the government becomes involved with religion because there are people who pray to a different God and some who don't practice prayer at all. Even so, I fail to understand how this bill interferes with one's constitutional right.

A moment of silence is just that. It does not demand that students pray. It simple requires them to be quiet for a few moments. If students choose not to pray that is fine; however, the silent moment should exists for the student that does. The bill doesn't favor any religion or define God or any higher being.

The bill will hopefully pass in the North Carolina Senate.

Crystal Simenton
Banner Managing Editor

Letter to the Editor

Newt Gingrich wants us to eat diseased meat

Open letter to Representative Howard Coble

In the early part of the 20th Century, Upton Sinclair wrote a book *The Jungle* which described how the meat packing plants in Chicago sold meat to the American people which was spoiled, diseased, and sometimes contained rat dung. *The Jungle* created a mad American public which demanded that Congress do something about the meat which was sold to consumers to eat. President Teddy Roosevelt persuaded Congress to pass the Meat Inspection Act which required meat packing plants to have their products inspected by government inspectors.

Going further back in American history, any type of medicines, or concoction, with no known benefits, could be sold to the American people without being tested. All of us have seen movie western in movie in which a covered wagon pulled by six horses rode into towns and sell bottles of snake oil to cowboys, claiming that the "medicine" in the bottles would cure everything from baldness and gout to heart trouble

The bottles had nothing in them which could ease pain, grow hair, or cure disease, but the medicine men of the old West sold a lot of bottles to drunk cowboys outside the saloon.

It was because of worthless products which cure nothing but often killed, and because of things like rotten meat and dirty food which was sold to the American people that the Food and Drug Administration (the FDA) was established to protect the health and lives of the American people.

Well, there are some people in the nation now who do not give a damn if you eat rotten meat, Dirty food, consume unclean drinks, and buy medicines which have not been effectively tested and which are unsafe and which may kill you or cause genetic mutations in newborn babies.

Cranks and crackpots who are not concerned about your health or the health of your babies and parents have taken out full-page

ads in newspapers, urging Congress to abolish the FDA. They would like to do away with all government inspections of foods and drinks and all tests for the government inspections of foods and drinks and all tests for the safety of medicines. Republican Newt Gingrich of Georgia wants to do away with the FDA so that meat companies can sell you unclean meat and that pharmaceutical companies can sell you dangerous drugs.

I am sure that Newt Gingrich's and Rush Limbaugh's physical constitutions are so strong that they could eat purified foods and develop nothing but halitosis which would only enable them to emit more venom into the media.

It may be Newt Gingrich's and Rush Limbaugh's greatest desire in life to sit down at expensive restaurants and eat meat filled with bacteria, termite legs, roach eggs and rat dung and say, "I am sure

glad we have gotten unnecessary government regulation of our food out of the way, " just as it is Newt's desire to be unethical and have the taxpayers pay for his travels to Georgia to teach, but most Americans want to eat food not contaminated with microorganisms and want to take medicines which will not kill them.

If it were not against the postal laws, I would urge everyone to mail a rotten chicken leg and an once of rat feces to Representative Newt Gingrich, The House Office Building, Washington, D.C., but we do not want to give Newt what he has been giving the American people for a long time.

Mickey Colbert
N.C. A&T State University

This is the last issue of
The Bennett Banner
for the 1994-95 semester. Have a good
summer.



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