

OP-ED

Banner Mailbag

letters to the editor

Miss Royal Blue and White upset at President's Ball

The series of events that transpired on April 19 made the President's Ball an experience that I won't soon forget. I arrived at the exclusive Hilton Hotel located downtown in Greensboro promptly at 9 p.m. with a friend and my escort. For the next hour, we relaxed and waited patiently for my other friends to arrive. At approximately 10:10 p.m., we left our seats for a short while to take some pictures. When we returned, our seats were occupied by two faculty members and two staff members. In addition to them taking our table, they had moved our belongings (purses, cameras, programs, etc.). When we politely informed them about the situation one member of that group replied, "Jennifer Farris' [the 1995-96 Miss Bennett] parents have just arrived and we certainly can't ask them to stand."

Being the phenomenal Bennett women that we are, we all exited the ballroom with dignity and class. Needless to say, we felt like we had been treated like

obliged to retire to the lobby outside of the ballroom. The remainder of the evening was tarnished from that point on. We were unable to watch the fashion show from a good position. I tried to seek help from the hostesses and the current Miss Bennett College, but my attempts were futile; I was basically ignored. In addition, I had to work my way through the crowd as Jennifer Farris introduced the candidates for the Miss Bennett College title, Jasmine Canady and me. To this day, I wonder how I wasn't considered worthy of having a table or seat at an event like this. Future candidates should be able to sit at a reserved table, so they don't have to be subjected to what I had to endure. I further stress that the students at this institution not only have a right to voice their opinions and thoughts, but they also have the right to be treated with respect. I urge the student body to remember my words.

Candace Deanna White,
1996-97 Miss Royal Blue

Gorrell Street needs more security

On April 25, two shootings took place inside a small grocery store on Gorrell Street. The store's owner was fatally shot, and his employee, who was also shot, was critically wounded.

That horrendous incident took place in close proximity to the President's house, and the Alumnae House. Both are located about a block up the street. Also in the vicinity are "Gus' Grocerteria" and "Alicia's

Hair Salon" located a few feet away, and the Gorrell Street entrance to Bennett College campus.

Gorrell Street has been a topic in Greensboro for years because

of the people who "hang out" in that block day after

day. President Scott has been trying to "clean" that area for some time.

It may be helpful if Bennett considers moving the campus

security headquarters to one of the College-owned buildings in a central location on Gorrell Street. The sight of Bennett's new police officers wearing uniforms and carrying guns may help prevent and dissuade would-be perpetrators.

Another suggestion is that students initiate a letter-writing campaign to the Greensboro Police Department demanding that this area be patrolled often. "The pen is mightier than the sword," and letters from students and surrounding residents could help to make a change for the better.

Paquita Herring
Banner Reporter

Still I Rise

BY MAYA ANGELOU

JUST LIKE THE MOONS AND THE SUNS

WITH CERTAINTY OF TIDES

JUST LIKE HOPES SPRINGING HIGH

Still I'll rise

OUT OF HUTS OF HISTORY'S SHAME

I rise

I'M A BLACK OCEAN LEAPING AND WIDE

WELLING AND SWELLING I BEAR IN THE TIDE

LEAVING BEHIND NIGHTS OF TERROR AND FEAR

I rise

INTO THE DAYBREAK THAT'S WONDROUSLY CLEAR

I rise

BRINGING THE GIFTS THAT MY ANCESTORS GAVE

I AM THE DREAM AND THE HOPE OF THE SLAVE

*I rise**I rise**I rise*

THE THEME OF DR. ANGELOU'S POEM MIRRORS OUR OWN. FOR 50 YEARS UNCF COLLEGES HAVE HELPED STUDENTS RISE TO NEW HEIGHTS OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND PRODUCTIVE LIVES. NOW YOU CAN RISE TO THE CHALLENGE AND SUPPORT THIS EFFORT. CALL 1-800-332 UNCF.



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Nicholas, General
5th grade

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