

Hairstyle bans are discriminatory

**Paquita
Herring**

What would you do if the Bennett College administration instituted a rule that students are not permitted to wear their hair parted on the left side, in braids, cornrows, or frenchroll?

According to a recent article published in the *News & Record*, students attending a junior high school in south suburban Chicago have been told what hairstyles are acceptable for school. And one student, an African-American female was given the choice of going home or sitting in the library alone all day because her frenchroll was parted on the right. Officials told her that she looked like a gang member. Braids, beads, cornrows, hair coloring, dreadlocks, and ponytails for boys have also been banned for the same reason.

This ban does not make sense. We have a constitutional right to bear arms, but some are not permitted to wear braids.

A hairstyle says a lot about a person's heritage. Braids and cornrows are apart of the history of African-American people. Cornrows and braids were worn by Egyptians many years ago and dreadlocks are a part of the Rastafarian religious beliefs. Many native American men still wear ponytails, and let's not forget about of the founders of these United States (including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson...).

Some people wear a hairstyle because it fits the texture of their hair. More often than not some choose a styles as a time saving measure; braided hair can last weeks or months. There are different reasons for the various styles worn today. Gang membership may be one for a small select group, but it is not the sole influence for the majority.

The opinion expressed in this column is that of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the entire Bennett Banner staff.



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Student Opinion Poll:

Bellespeak

What are you thankful for?

The Thanksgiving Day holiday will soon be upon us. Some Belles share their thoughts of giving thanks. Photo by Camisha Gentry



**A'SHAUNA TYLER
JUNIOR
MAJOR: MASS COMM
HOME STATE: FLORIDA**

I have so much to be thankful for. I did not expect to attend school this semester. I had financial problems and almost gave up on Bennett. I really did not know how much students and teachers in my department cared about me. I am especially blessed to have a friend like Bianca Williams, who called me and asked me to see if something could be worked out. Dr. Brogdon-Wyatt and Mrs. Carrino [in the Mass Communications, Speech and Theatre Department] also cared enough to pull strings to get me back in school. If it were not for these individuals, I do not think that I would have come back. I thank God every night and day for allowing me the opportunity to continue my education.



**MARYAM HAKEEM
SOPHOMORE
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First I am thankful for life. I mean this is not only in the sense of being physically alive. In other words, the exception of not being amongst the mentally dead and knowing myself and my place in this universe. I will never be categorized as the mentally dead. I am also thankful for my loving family members. My opportunity to attend college at the age of 15 and to carry through with big plans is a blessing in itself. I am thankful that I am myself and that I can help and encourage others to be themselves. I am also thankful for my reward which is positive growth and development in all aspects of my life.



**JESSICA COVINGTON
FRESHWOMAN
MAJOR: NURSING
HOME STATE: MICHIGAN**

I am thankful that on this 28th day of November, 20 years ago my mother gave birth to me. I am also thankful that I am allowed the chance to get an education from an higher learning institution. My thankfulness includes not being pregnant, dead, or on welfare. I am thankful for all my true Bennett sisters who are always there when I need them and my family who keeps encouraging me when I feel discouraged. I am thankful that I can go into a store and buy what I want without [experiencing] prejudice, discrimination or bigotry.

Letter Policy

The Bennett Banner welcomes all letters that are typed, double-spaced, and not longer than 250 words. All letters to the editor must be signed, and must include the author's name, address and daytime telephone number.

No letters will be published in The Banner without the author's name.

Once submitted, a letter becomes the sole property of The Bennett Banner and will not be returned.

The Bennett Banner reserves the right to edit.

Letters may be hand delivered to the Banner office in Shell Hall C-2 or mailed to Letter to the Editor, The Bennett Banner, Campus Box 25, Bennett College Greensboro, N.C. 27401.