

## Bennett not so bad

**Paquita Herring**

Recently I had the opportunity to spend much needed time with friends that I attended middle and high school with. It was interesting to find how we had all changed and developed since we were all together last.

My best friend (who was home from Spelman) surprised me by coming home with rings in both her tongue and eyebrow along with three tattoos. Despite her new appearance, we still reached

common ground as we shared some of the same experiences as students of the only two historically black women's colleges in the nation.

After chatting and griping with each other about cafeteria food, our workloads, the long registration process, and the cost of tuition, we talked to other friends who had the same complaints from other HBCU's. Still, we all expressed some sort of pride in our school and we all get support from our peers and professors in our efforts to do well and be a part of what is going on, on campus.

We also spoke to friends that attended larger schools. They all bragged about having, several restaurants on campus, on campus apartments, and cable in the dormitory, but none of them mentioned anything about activities they had become a part of or any large accomplishments. In fact, they told of having to sit in a class with 200 people, and not getting extra help from their professor. One of them also told me that she felt like she was constantly under attack and being asked to turn her music down because she was black.

When I thought about it, no, Bennett doesn't have several restaurants on campus, on campus apartments, or cable in the dorms. But we also don't have to be in a class with 200 other people. When we need extra help from our professors we can get it, and when someone asks me to turn my music down it is because it is obviously too loud, not because I am black.

I have realized that we have a lot to complain about, but compared to some of my other friends problems, ours aren't so bad after all.

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



### THE BENNETT BANNER

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*Student Opinion Poll:*

# Bellespeak

**What do you think about Ebonics being taught in high schools?**

*The muddled plan to teach Ebonics in California schools has been the center of national controversy.*



**ADRIENNE SMITH**  
**JUNIOR**  
**BIOLOGY**  
**HOME STATE: NEW JERSEY**

*It is insulting to label Ebonics as the official black language. We shake our heads at the guests on the "Rickie Lake" show because they sound ignorant and uneducated. However, we cannot compete in the future for jobs using double negatives.*



**MONICA SMITH**  
**FRESHWOMAN**  
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**HOMESTATE: NORTH CAROLINA**

*Ebonics will not bridge the gap between students and teachers. Students are students because they want to learn the correct way to speak. Ebonics is a language. It is just not spoken correctly.*



**CATHERINE A. ROGERS**  
**FRESHWOMAN**  
**POLITICAL SCIENCE**  
**HOME STATE: TEXAS**

*Ebonics should be considered a language. Ebonics will create a sense of understanding in the classroom. The language can enhance the growth of our society, in order for all of us to communicate effectively. Ebonics will display the act of intelligence within ourselves and others. It will help us reason with our ideas and better function as a society.*



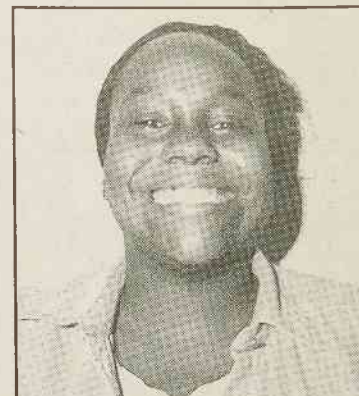
**YOLANDA WHITE**  
**SENIOR**  
**SOCIAL WORK**  
**HOME STATE: FLORIDA**

*Ebonics is not a language. Ebonics is used by African-American teachers to provide them with financial assistance. Other races of people are provided government funding, so why not help our own children. Bureaucrats are making a big deal because it is money to help Black Americans.*



**KHALILAH SALEEM**  
**JUNIOR**  
**BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**  
**HOME STATE: NEW YORK**

*Ebonics is a language just for young adults, and should not be taught as a second language in schools. Students are not going to learn from Ebonics. It won't help bridge the communication gap between students and teachers because as far as teachers are concerned, students are in school to get an education.*



**ROSHIE BULL**  
**FRESHWOMAN**  
**BIOLOGY**  
**HOME STATE: DELAWARE**

*I think it's a total mockery to the advancements that we have tried to make in this country. It raises the question: What is standard English?*