

Media need a reality check

Everyone knows that when a U. S. President is on television that he comes on every channel (especially during the time of our favorite shows). His speeches may often be boring, but they are always newsworthy because they have an effect on the whole country. The media do not have their priorities straight. If we think about the media on the night of Feb. 3, when the Presidential State of the Union Address was interrupted and the screen was split to show the verdict of the O.J. Simpson trial, it's obvious that the broadcast media have their priorities mixed up.

What is more important? Hearing about the status of the country a from second-term president or hearing the verdict of how much O.J. Simpson (someone who has done nothing for the black race) is going to have to pay for a wrongful death suit.

I cannot recall ever seeing a Presidential address being interrupted. The gatekeepers (editors, news directors, producers and so on) cannot really believe that the people believe that the O.J. Simpson verdict is more important or newsworthy than the future of their country.

This incident should force all of us to take a serious look at all mass communication systems and reevaluate their roles in our lives.

We should also begin to take long hard looks at what current issues, topics and events the media have decided are newsworthy.

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

Paquita Herring



THE BENNETT BANNER

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Student Opinion Poll:

Bellespeak

Who is your favorite African American?

February is Black History Month. This month was distinguished by Dr. Carter G. Woodson to recognize the achievements of African Americans. It is also a time for us to remember those who have influenced us the most.



**NADIRAH GOLDSMITH
JUNIOR
PSYCHOLOGY
HOME STATE: PENNSYLVANIA**

My mother has taught me independence. She is a firm believer in the "Go and get what you want" attitude. My ancestors are to be admired for taking a stand when others would not.



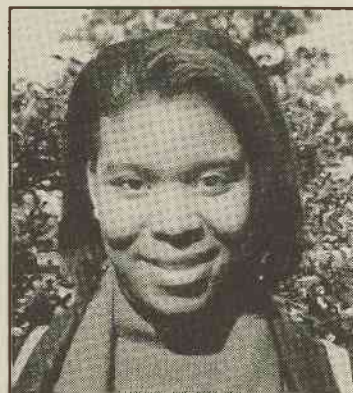
**REGINA BIAS
JUNIOR
ACCOUNTING
HOME STATE: WASHINGTON D.C.**

I most admire a wonderful, kind-hearted woman, Dean Mary Scarlette. Since I have attended Bennett College, Dean Scarlette has always been there to help me whenever I need her. She is like a mother figure as well as a guardian angel all rolled up in one.



**LATASHA ROBINSON
FRESHWOMAN
MASS COMMUNICATION
HOME STATE: WISCONSIN**

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a peaceful man. He got what he wanted accomplished by remaining peaceful. That takes power from a person.



**TERRI MOORE
SENIOR
BIOLOGY
HOME STATE: VIRGINIA**

Dr. Benjamin Carson did not allow academic barriers and poverty to keep him from fulfilling and succeeding at his dreams. Many times, physical strength is rewarded, but mental, intellectual, and spiritual strength are the true measure of human and Black achievement.



**STACEY THOMPSON
SENIOR
BIOLOGY
HOME STATE: MARYLAND**

There are many people I admire. If I had to pick one it would be Bill Cosby because of his strength during such a difficult time (his sons death). His unwavering support of black institutions has assisted many of us trying to get an education.



**TAKIYAH STARKS
JUNIOR
BIOLOGY
HOME STATE: ILLINOIS**

Dr. Martin Luther King was a civil rights leader, a father, as well as a spiritual leader. I love him not only because he was a strong black male, but because he sacrificed himself for his people. He truly is a man whose spirit will live on in my heart forever.