

Child's murder raises pageant questions

The angelic face of JonBenet Ramsey has graced the cover of every magazine. All of the magazines and newspapers rushed to tell the story of JonBenet, the child beauty queen that was found murdered in the basement of her family's Colorado home.

Though her death has been a major focus of media attention, the other focus has been the beauty pageants in which JonBenet was very active. JonBenet was following her mother's footsteps (Miss West Virginia 1977) by participating in several pageants.

Should children be allowed to participate in these pageants at such early age?

Pageants are fine just as long as the child and the parents know the difference between healthy and unhealthy competition.

Healthy competition is when a child and the child's parent realize that winning is not everything and that there is something to always fall back on such as dance or piano. A child should be given positive reinforcement with unlimited things to do.

Unhealthy competition is when pageantry is all that there is and winning becomes obsessive.

Children should be made to look and act as such, and many times little girls find themselves rushed into adulthood by wearing heavy make-up, sexy costumes, and frilly dresses.

Children should be given a chance to have their childhood. It is very easy for children to lose touch with reality when caught up in the glamour of pageants.

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

Student Opinion Poll:

Bellespeak

What is the one thing that Bennett should do to increase enrollment?

Bennett College, like other colleges and universities across the state and the country, has been experiencing problems with declining enrollment during the past few years.



AMANDA PECCHIONI
CLASS: SENIOR
MAJOR: MASS COMM.
HOME STATE: KENTUCKY
I would encourage each student to take home materials during breaks, and distribute them to their high school and schools in their hometown. Bennett should provide some kind of incentive to get more students to participate.



THERESA BUSH
TRANSFER STUDENT
MAJOR: MASS COMM.
HOME STATE: OHIO
Bennett should have more publicity. A lot of people have not even heard of Bennett College. Bennett needs to reach out to high schools all over, especially all-female high schools. Publicity for activities such as games can also



JAMILA MCFARLANE
CLASS: SOPHOMORE
MAJOR: BUS ADMIN.
HOME STATE: NEW YORK
Bennett College needs national advertisement. A lot of people do not know about Bennett. The school needs to promote itself better. I never saw representatives from Bennett at a New York college fair.



THE BENNETT BANNER

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Dr. Lona D. Cobb
FACULTY ADVISOR

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AMINA MORRISON
CLASS: SENIOR
MAJOR: BIOLOGY
HOME STATE: NEW YORK
Bennett needs to add more majors to their curriculum. Administration needs to work with students and not against them.



NICOLE SOUTHERN
CLASS: SENIOR
MAJOR: PRE MED.
HOME STATE: PENNSYLVANIA
If a woman has no vision she will never understand his surroundings. Bennett needs only to be herself. She has enough positivity to produce positive things. She needs only to drop the mask.



LORI NIBBLINS
CLASS: JUNIOR
MAJOR: ELEM. ED.
HOME STATE: VIRGINIA
Bennett needs to engage in campus refinement, curriculum restructuring and stricter admission requirements. It should not be a given that anyone should be able to attend Bennett College. We are only as strong as our weakest student. It is a privilege to attend Bennett; thus, this should be reflected in our students.