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The non reporting of a hate crime

Imagine this: One night, a black man and two white men have what begins as a friendly drink in a trailer park. Things get out of hand and the two white men drag the black man out of the trailer, douse him with fuel and burn him alive. As if that is not enough they even cut off his head.

As unbelievable as this story may seem, it is true. It sounds like something that may have happened in the deep south during the early Civil Rights Era, with its lynching and hangings. But recently this is what happened to Garnett P. Johnson. On July 25, in Independence, Va., Emmett Cressell Jr. and Louis J. Ceparano decided to brutally murder Johnson.

Federal authorities are investigating whether the crime was a racially motivated hate crime. I think that it is clear that it was racially motivated because only a sick racist mind could come up with such a senseless brutal killing.

Maybe some of you haven't heard much about the incident because it is the media's way of not trying to start a public uproar addressing hate crimes, such as this. It is not up to the media to choose what they think society should know. Whether this crime was racially motivated or not, use your best judgment. If the races were reversed none of this would have been a question.

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

**Paquita Herring**



**THE BENNETT BANNER**

*The Newspaper produced by the Phenomenal Women of Bennett College*

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Student Opinion Poll:

**Bellespeak**

*What is your opinion about the closing of Gus' Groceteria?* Photos by Camisha Gentry, Banner Photographer

*Gus' Groceteria -- the local store that for years supplied Belles with everything from snacks to quarters (change) -- closed in July.*



**SHANEIK ISAAC**  
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**MATTEA HILL**  
SOPHOMORE  
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*Closing Gus was a great loss. I felt no danger and it was a place to get snacks and quarters to wash clothes late at night without missing curfew.*

*It's sad that Gus is gone now. It was the worst thing that could have ever happened to students without transportation. His store was opened all hours of the day, and it was very convenient to everyone.*

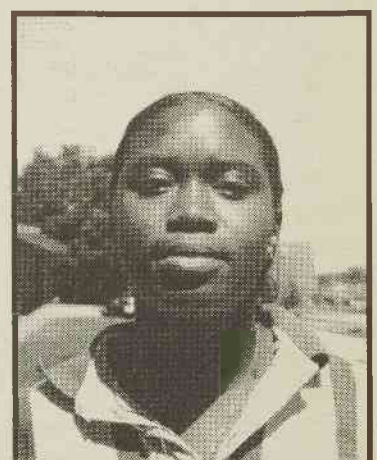
*I can no longer get my midnight snack. It is an inconvenience, but you got to do what you got to do.*



**MONICA SMITH**  
SOPHOMORE  
MAJOR: UNDECIDED  
HOME: NORTH CAROLINA



**DYORA KINSEY**  
SENIOR  
BIOLOGY/PRE-MED MAJOR  
HOME: JAPAN



**YAYA MITCHELL**  
SOPHOMORE  
MAJOR: ELEM. ED.  
HOME: NORTH CAROLINA

*Bennett seems to be trying to keep students to spend their money on campus, at the book store. I found it strange that Gus closed. The bookstore now has a wider variety of merchandise. All in all, Gus was a convenience for me.*

*Gus was a buddy of mine. For four years he gave me a soda and a snack on my birthday. All I want to know is where do we get quarters to wash clothes and midnight snacks during mid-terms and finals... BP?*

*Gus was a good store to get something to snack on when you didn't have any money. He was a kind man who enjoyed Bennett Belles coming to his store.*