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Perspectives about 60-year celebration

I was once told "The past is the beginning of a beginning." In other words, we should not forget the past but we should use it as a tool to move forward in a positive direction. As Bennett College celebrated "60 Years of Student Activism in Pursuit of Social Justice," we had a chance to relive and recreate our past as a student body. Through films, speeches, a play and a march we remembered over 200 Bennett students that were arrested during the civil rights demonstrations in the 1960s and those students that picketed outside of the national theater on South Elm Street to protest the way that blacks were depicted in films in 1937. Those were students that stuck together to achieve the things that they all believed in; not just at their school but in their community.

Paquita Herring

The activities taught me that we rarely possess those same outstanding traits of our sisters before us. Now we choose to do things individually rather than as a group failing to realize that we would get more attention as a group rather than as individuals. We've lost communication with each other and interest in most everything because we feel that we don't have a voice.

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



THE BENNETT BANNER

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Student Opinion Poll:

Bellespeak

How did the celebration of '60 Years of Student Activism in Pursuit of Social Justice' affect you?



LA MEKIA MCNEILL
FRESHWOMAN
MAJOR: MASS COMM
HOME STATE: WASHINGTON D.C.

The events that took place last week were beautiful. I can truly say that I was touched, for once in my life. I felt in tune with my history, and part of a struggle-the struggle for equal rights.



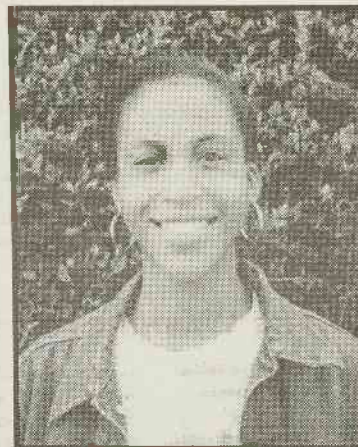
JOI ELAYNE WIGFALL
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The events of last week allowed me to ponder on the numbers of men, women and children who died for my name sake (although unknown to them), in order to make a place in American society for me.



CAMILLA SMITH
JUNIOR
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Last week was my most valued experience at Bennett. My sisters and I were unified, instead of being discriminatory against each other over material and physical appearances. When we held hands and sang, we were one love, one struggle and one people.



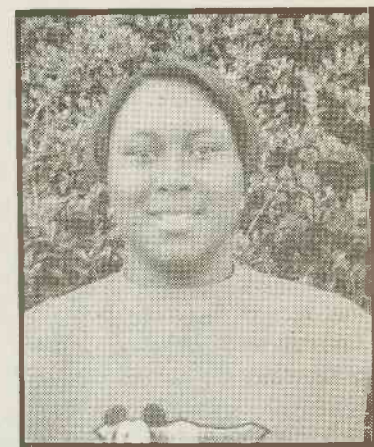
ALLISON SMITH
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I enjoyed most of the weeks activities. I never realized how involved Bennett Belles were in the Civil Rights Movement. I loved the march. It gave me the inspiration to fight for social change, and to attend the Million Woman March.



MACHE WELLS
FRESHWOMAN
MAJOR: POLI SCI
HOME STATE: VIRGINIA

It [week-long celebration] made me realize just how far we as a people have come. It also made me appreciate the stories my parents told me about their involvement in the Civil Rights Movement.



SONGSERRE TAY
FRESHWOMAN
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It made me have a special appreciation for what Blacks had to endure in those times just to enjoy the things that we now take for granted.