

• OPINION • OPINION • OPINION • OPINION • OPINION •

The numbers don't match

My prayers were answered this past Nov. 3. We lost some good ones (including Carol Moseley Braun, the Democrat senator from Illinois), but that disappointment was followed by pure joy Nov. 6 when the House of Representatives majority speaker, Newt Gingrich announced that he was resigning from his position. I really don't care what he says is the reason for his departure. But I know who may be somewhat responsible for his sudden decision.

KENYA A. SAMUELS
Editor

The fact that he left office after African-American voters showed up Nov. 3 in record numbers throughout the country to replace members of the GOP with better qualified Democrats -- in both state and federal slots -- is proof that the African-American vote does matter, a lot.

As we all know by now, 98 percent of on-campus Belles (who are eligible) are registered voters. Some of those Belles helped make many of the local and state changes -- such as bringing incumbent Sen. Lauch Faircloth back to North Carolina and sending Democrat John Edwards to Washington.

But these facts don't mean anything if voting Belles are not informed Belles. Belles were and have been afforded the opportunity this and other semesters to hear the issues and meet the candidates. But a large number of them don't take advantage.

Case in point: Belles made up 32 percent of all the voters in Precinct 30. Seventy-five percent of the registered voters on campus turned out to vote, yet a total of 25 Belles attended the Oct 26-27 political forums hosted by the SGA's of Bennett and N.C. A&T: 15 Belles were present at the Bennett forum and 10 attended the forum on A&T's campus.

Being an informed voter is as important as voting.

THE BENNETT BANNER

The newspaper produced by and for the Phenomenal Women of Bennett College

EDITORS

KENYA A. SAMUELS Editor
NAIMA Q. BARBOUR News Editor

EDITORIAL STAFF

DEANNA HARRIS Features
ERISHA LIPFORD Briefings, KUDOS & Herstory
SAMANTHA MOREY President's Office
RUNGANO NYAJEKA Natural, Behavioral & Social Sciences
KRIISHAL A. PANTON Graphics Editor
JANISHA THOMAS Sports
MONYA TOMLINSON Humanities
MARIE A. SMITH Chief Photographer & Editorial Assistant
SHAYLA WEST Health Center
SHANTILEE OTEY Graphic Artist



SALES & MARKETING

NIKIA M. STEELE Sales & Marketing Director
SHAMILAH HARRIS Sales & Marketing Rep.
DARNITA HOWARD Circulation

PRODUCTION

AMBER LUGO Production Manager
AMBER M. TOWNSELL Production Assistant

ADVISER

DR. LONA D. COBB

The Bennett Banner is a laboratory newspaper published twice a month during the academic year, except during months with College recognized holidays or College vacations. The newspaper is produced by and for students at Bennett College. The newspaper office is located in Shell Hall C-2.

STUDENT OPINION POLL:

Bellespeak

Why don't more students attend the political forums that take place on campus? Photos by Marie Smith, Staff Photographer.



LARRITA TERRY
CLASS: SOPHOMORE
MAJOR: ACCOUNTING
HOME: VIRGINIA



RENEE MOORE
CLASS: SENIOR
MAJOR: MATH ED.
HOME: NEW JERSEY



TIFFANY SAMPLE
CLASS: FRESHWOMAN
MAJOR: ACCOUNTING
HOME: MARYLAND

Students lack knowledge. They feel as though the election didn't pertain to them because they aren't from this state. Also there was a lack of publicity about the forums.

There was a lack of communication about the forums. Students don't feel that politics directly affect them or that they [student] can make a difference.

I believe Bennett lack student participation in political forums due to poor advertisement.



KUBRAT GBAJABIAMILA
CLASS: SENIOR
MAJOR: BIOLOGY
HOME: CALIFORNIA

The reason that people don't get involved in politics is because of ignorance and finding excuses why they shouldn't get involved. Basically the students are just being plain lazy.



DARNITA BROOKS
CLASS: FRESHWOMAN
MAJOR: MASS COMM.
HOME: WASHINGTON D.C.

I believe that there is a lack of involvement at Bennett. Students are so quick to leave campus. That's why so many turned out at A&T's forum. Besides, there was also a lack of advertising.



ILHSON MUHAMMAD
CLASS: FRESHWOMAN
MAJOR: BIO/PRE.MED
HOME: WASHINGTON D.C.

I believe that students don't attend political forums on campus because those activities are not well advertised. In the future, maybe we can put up fliers and also pass the information around by word of mouth.