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# Banner Mailbag

## letters to the editor

### We need to reclaim the spirit of Black History

As blacks we have become professional complainers.

When Black History Week was started by Carter G. Woodson, its purpose was to inform our communities about the rich history of our people. Several years later, in 1976, it became a national holiday to inform the United States of America of the contributions of Blacks to this "great" country.

Now more than 20 years later we complain about how it seems as if Black History Month is

nonexistent, but this is only because we make it this way. Yes, it is the shortest month of the year, but what are you doing to make the best of these 28 days.

The Bible says "To whom much is given, much is required [expected]." In knowing this, He will not give you more until you show appreciation for the small portion that you have.

In our schools we are given information about Blacks [and their achievements] during

Black History Month. However, the real knowledge has to be sought after and acquired.

It is our responsibility to learn about our heritage. The true scholar, after acquiring the knowledge, is obligated to share this for the advancement of her community! We as a people have lost our zeal, and it is up to us to reclaim it.

*Natalie Stewart  
Sophomore  
Pensauken, N.J.*

### Celebrating one month of Black History is meaningless

Black History Month is a frivolous and patronizing attempt at pacifying the African-American race.

How is it possible to recognize the numerous achievements that this race alone has contributed to American society, within the time span of 28 days?

That is an insult.

Black history should be incorporated in the general

education curriculum of all schools, on all levels. In today's society there are still states that do not even honor King's holiday, so the month of February holds no particular significance to them either.

What does Black History Month mean to me? Nothing. However, the eternal knowledge of the rich heritage that my ancestors brought forth to this

country is immeasurable.

I keep this rich legacy close to my heart, and keep it reverent 365 days of the year. Once the African-American race does this, the sooner we as a people will realize that we don't need the shortest month of the year set aside for out people to be noticed nationally.

*Tanya Wagstaffe  
Senior English major from  
Brooklyn, NY*

### Personal thanks to Intercultural Appreciation Week

Bennett College Global Connections: 125 Years and Counting... Intercultural Appreciation Week revealed several strengths and areas of excellence at Bennett. Pfeiffer Hall offered a delightful celebration of the theme in the dynamic presentation of "carnival", a festival celebrated in many cultures, especially in Central and South America. Their display included pictures, food, dance, music, and narration.

The International Students Association did an exceptional job Feb. 15 preparing samples of

foods from various countries. Their ACES program Feb. 18 was outstanding! I hope we will have an opportunity to see an encore presentation of the scripture read in different languages and the Zimbabwe student's song. The inclusion of the sign language interpreter was wonderful and desirable for all public events.

Our thanks to the faculty, staff and students who wore clothes to reflect their ethnic or cultural identity. The beautiful display of diversity reminded us of the richness within our

College community.

So much of the extraordinary message delivered by Dr. Shelby Lewis, ACES speaker, warrants our serious consideration. We plan to make available the text of her speech and invite discussion of the ideas and issues she raised.

My personal thanks to the Intercultural Appreciation Week committee, and especially to Dr. Anthony Oyewole, its chair.

*Paula Quick Hall, Ph.D.  
Chair,  
Political Science Department*

*The Bennett Banner welcomes all letters that are typed, doubled spaced, and don't contain more than 175 words.*

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### letter policy

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dent population. The college with the largest amount per capita is awarded the national title.

Maxine Womble Bakeman, Bennett's pre-alumnae council adviser, said that Bennett lost the title to Claflin College by less than a dollar. Bakeman said Claflin claimed the victory due to a technicality.

"The pre-alumnae group from Claflin was allowed to bring their money to the conference instead of submitting it beforehand by deadline," Bakeman said.

Bakeman said that a letter of protest was submitted to UNCF by President Gloria Randle Scott when she returned from the pageant, and neither the pre-alumnae advisors nor Scott has received a response from UNCF conference and pageant officials.

"Students' focus should now shift to the importance of becoming more active in pre-alumnae council positions, especially seeking national positions," Bakeman said.

Bennett was represented at the conference by pre-alumnae council advisers, Bakeman, Dorothy Colson and six other council members including senior accounting major Tennille Francis from Chester, Pa. Francis presided at the national meeting for all 39 colleges as the national president of the pre-alumnae council of UNCF.

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"This foundation seeks to reach out to United Methodist colleges in need of support and improve race relations in this country," said Leah Tannenbaum the chair of the Board of Directors of the Foundation.

Leah Tannenbaum is also the mother of former Board of Trustee member, Jean Tannenbaum.

The Capital Campaign offices are located in the Carnegie Library now, but Mary Scarlette, dean of Academic Achievement and Retention, said the offices for the new student volunteer program, entrepreneur program, and a community outreach center will also be housed there.

Students who have an interest in community service projects and starting their own business can come to the library to use the resources available to assist them Scarlette said.