

Banner Mailbag

letters to the editor

Miss Royal Blue and White says pageant procedures need reform

I am Miss Royal Blue and White, 98-99, and I'm writing this letter to address some concerns I have regarding the selection process involving Miss Bennett.

First, the judges and the judging. To choose the best candidate, the judging practices need to change. The reigning Miss Bennett College should not select the judges for the next pageant, and judges should not only be faculty and staff. There should be three student representatives, one Bennett faculty, one staff member, and two people of the local community to serve as judges. In addition, all judges should go through an intensive training before the pageant so that they will know what to expect, and what is appropriate to judge.

At most institutions, the faculty and staff are not part of the election process for any student positions. I'm not saying that I really have a problem with our faculty involvement because their active involvement might indeed help to bridge the gap between faculty/staff and students.

However, there seem to be too many problems involving the faculty/staff vote. Students have not been informed about how the votes are calculated. In addition the faculty/staff and the two community people should have 50 percent of the vote, and the students should have the other 50 percent of the vote. The voting block now is unfair; faculty/staff

have 40 percent and students have 60 percent.

The judging: The final decision of the judges of the Miss Bennett pageant should be announced the night of the pageant. That way when the pageant is over no one will question if the judges scores were tampered with, if everyone voted, or whether the judging was based on popularity.

I also didn't like the fact of being forced to serve as Miss Royal Blue and White. I say forced, because I had no other option as the first runner-up to Miss Bennett. I think that more respect for these two offices will come with the separation of the pageants. Many people have asked what is the significance of my title of Miss Royal Blue and White.

According to the Student Handbook, Miss Royal Blue and White has more duties than Miss Bennett. Then on top of that, Miss Royal Blue and White has to be present in Miss Bennett's absence. I would have preferred to be a third or fourth place winner because I'm truly not first runner-up material. All I've done, during my reign is pick up the slack of Miss Bennett. However Miss Bennett is always given an opportunity to look good in front of the student body, and I just get to look tired.

Before I end this letter, let me clear up a few misconceptions that may arise. I did not write this letter out of anger or guilt.

Also, I didn't write this letter because my line sister, in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., didn't win this year's title of Miss Bennett College.

I wrote to thank my institution for making me a better person. I have finally realized that although I'm not always going to be No. 1 I'll still always be recognized for my efforts. I'm finally able to be true to myself about my feelings concerning the Miss Bennett title.

At the beginning of this academic year, I wanted to resign from my position, but I knew in my heart that I was chosen for this position for a reason. Now I can finally admit that this year has been a true learning experience.

Lastly, I do want to take this opportunity to congratulate all the contestants, and I want to encourage my Bennett Sisters to utilize the Bennett Banner, for this is our outlet, our voice.

For those that are offended by this letter, it's only guilt that you may be experiencing. If you are not guilty, then you truly understand my message.

Truthfully Yours,
Ronda N. Stingley
Miss Royal Blue and White,
98-99
Milwaukee, Wis.

Student complains about fiscal affairs staff

I find it very offensive when I am told that my money will be ready at a certain time but at the last minute due to "uncontrollable" circumstances my money is not ready.

After all of that, I have to deal with fiscal affairs staff members,

and their lack of concern to an individual students' situation, for example (being eighteen hours away from my home state thus without local financial source).

It is unreal and I am very displeased.

This is a very disturbing feeling and it gives me "ill" feelings about dear old Bennett College.

Angela Baltimore '01
Psychology
Little Rock, Ark.

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

All letters to the editor

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and must

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name, address, and

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letter policy

Warning: Beware of telephone scams

I thought I'd warn Belles, faculty, staff and the rest of the readers of the Bennett Banner about something that hapened to my friends and me last week. We were sitting in the dorm bored and broke when the phone in the front office rang.

When I answered, a man claiming to represent 102JAMZ said he would pay us \$300 if we could laugh for three minutes straight over the phone.

Being the poverty stricken college students that we are, we jumped at the chance for easy money. We tried to make each other laugh by tickling and

making faces for 20 minutes straight. Of course, we succeeded but the sicko hung up.

To make a long story short, THIS IS A SCAM! Do not listen to this perverted individual. Sure, its funny and we didn't lose anything but time, but I thought I would save my fellow Belles from losing dignity.

You wouldn't want to feel as pathetic as we did, now would you?

Regina Lee '02
Mass Communications
Washington D.C.

Where's Bennett College

I was recently reading a magazine the other day that featured the top 10 colleges and universities in the United States, and Bennett College was not on the list. What is your opinion of the reason Bennett College was

not listed among the top 10 colleges and universities? What do you think can be done to get Bennett listed?

Tiffany Harmon '02
Biology
Wilmington, Del.