

# Banner Mailbag

## letters to the editor

### Miss Bennett '98-'99 responds to letter by Miss Blue and White

"You may write me down in history, /With your bitter, twisted lies/ You may trod me in the very dirt./ But still like dust./ I Rise / I Rise/ I Rise."

The previous excerpt taken from Dr. Maya Angelou's poem, "And Still I Rise," accurately summarize my response to an article written by Miss Royal Blue and White, 1998-1999. I am your Miss Bennett College, 1998-1999. I write this letter not out of offense -- for I only become offended when things stated are true. With this said, I have absolutely no reason for being upset or "guilty." Instead, I merely write this letter to address some of the issues that many of you (the students), including myself, have surrounding the article [letter to the editor].

Allow me to begin by saying that Miss RB&W had every right to suggest pageant reforms. I am only curious as to why such suggestions were not made prior to this year's pageant, especially when she was directly asked if she had any input?

Let us now address some of the falsehoods mentioned in the article. First, anyone who attended this year's pageant knows what a sophisticated panel of judges we had, ranging from the Provost, to the Athletic Director, to the Dean of Freshwoman Studies. These are respected individuals who know Bennett well, in addition to one respected member of the community, and were pre-approved by the VP of Student Development. Questioning the value of their judgment in the pageant, is truly an insult to them.

Secondly, I favor the current voting block: judges 40 percent student body 60 percent. Why? Because as students, we are mature enough to decide the best candidate, for we see the candidates on a day to day basis and know who does what. To suggest that we only vote out of

"popularity," as was mentioned, is yet another insult to our judgment as students.

As to the point raised about "tampering with the judges' scores," rest assured that as soon as the pageant was over, the VP of Student Development immediately collects the judges' ballots and gives them to Dr. Treadway for calculation. Must we once again insult the integrity of Dr. Treadway and the VP of Student Development?

I, myself refuse to insult anyone like that because it is not sisterly behavior. It is quite ironic to me how loosely we use the term "sisterhood." You see, it is not enough to host seminars to discuss sisterhood, or use the term in our campaigning, and never apply it after the chats and the elections are over. Where is the sisterhood when we refuse to congratulate the next "Miss Bennett College" at the President's Ball for a job well done?

For those of you who do know, being Miss Bennett College is not an easy job, that is if you serve the position correctly. The time and expectation involved is quite demanding, for both Miss BC and Miss RB&W. But when I ran, I prepared myself for the reality that I may not win. In that case, I would be determined to be the best Miss RB&W, without complaint, because I realized that it was not about serving me, but serving Bennett College...(It was not for my will to be done, but God's Will alone.)

I personally refuse to become a part of the "Conspiracy Theorists" ideology and accusation that if an expected outcome does not come to pass, it was "set-up." Complaining, criticizing, pointing fingers, casting both blame and insults is not my style. Never was, never will be. I shall not allow myself to be brought down to that level.

Instead, I am encouraged by

my mother's words to pray for those persons who wish to mistreat me. For as long as I realize that my steps have been ordered by God and submit to Him despite what others may say or do, I have absolutely nothing to worry about. So, don't hate me because I am BLESSED! I love you no less - my Bennett sister. After all, it's not you...(Read Ephesians 6:12 to understand my point.) Until then, allow me to close by saying that: "No weapon (not even yours) that is formed against me will prosper!" (Isaiah 54:17).

Once again, I want to thank all those who supported me during my reign and truly apologize to any persons who may have been inadvertently insulted from last month's article. I pray that you will continue to be blessed in all of your endeavors.

Lovingly,

*Willacin V. Gholston*  
Miss Bennett College,  
1998-1999

**Editor's Note:** Ms. Gholston requested the Banner to bold some of the words in her letter. It is not the Banner policy to bold words or letters in "Letters to the Editor."

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

All letters to the editor

must be

signed

and must

include

the

author's

name, address, and

daytime telephone num-

ber. No letters will be

published in the Banner

without the author's

name.

Once a letter has been accepted by the editor, it

becomes the property of The Bennett Banner and will not be returned.

The Banner editor reserves the right to edit all letters.

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Letters to the Editor

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27401

### letter policy

## 115 grads Continued from Page 1

neering from the University of Michigan, where she also earned master's degrees in civil engineering and in urban planning.

In preparation for the commencement exercises, the Operational Work Group Committee has been working to ensure that everything will work smoothly.

"In case of inclement weather, we will have other sites for spectators, such as family and friends, to view commencement live on television screens," said Bruce

Clark, director of the Telecommunications program.

"The other alternate sites are located in student union foyer, the basement of Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel, or Black 106.

The commencement exercises will be videotaped by the staff of the Telecommunications program. The tapes will include footage of alumnae weekend events including the White Breakfast, baccalaureate and the choir concert. The cost of the tapes are \$25 and \$100.

### Earn \$1,000,000,000!

(Now that we have your attention)

The Bennett Banner newspaper has the following openings for the fall and spring 99-00:

- Reporters
- Movie/Music/Book Reviewers
- Feature Writers
- Graphic Artists
- Production/Design Personnel

For more information contact Monya Tomlinson, Banner Editor, fall 1999