

Were the protests worth it?

My fellow Belles staged a protest last month to decry poor dormitory conditions, a lack of textbooks, treatment of international students, etc. Though it was wet and freezing that day, the 100 plus Belles waited on the lawn for a response from College administration. They spent two days, Feb. 18 and 19 expressing their feelings and concerns for our fair institution.

Was it worth it? I think the answer is yes... and no.

Yes, we needed the administration and Board of Trustees to hear our concerns. Yes, we needed answers and solutions to our problems. And, yes, we needed to let out all our frustrations and experience a little revolution.

The protests, however, did not help the morale on this campus.

I was able to deal with the problems at Bennett before the protest because I knew it was not going to be like this forever. After the protests, I and many of my friends had considered transferring from Bennett.

February's events didn't help the College's reputation, either. Local media ["Bad news is good news for the media!"] seemed eager to report a troubled Bennett College.

Image isn't everything, but most of the students and faculty I've talked to admit it's embarrassing for the College community, when Bennett is on the front page of the newspaper everyday for nearly five days -- and none of the news is good.

On the flip side, the true meaning of Bennett sisterhood showed through. Students and alumnae made contact and interacted, when under most circumstances, they wouldn't. Students felt empowered to know that they could openly voice their opinions and someone would listen.

Overall, the protests were needed. However, our actions will prove unsuccessful unless until changes or improvements are made.

Time will tell if the protests were effective.

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

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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

How effective were the student protests?

Photos by Candice D. Evans, Banner Photographer



SAMARIA COLBERT
 CLASS: FRESHWOMAN
 MAJOR: UNDECIDED
 HOME STATE: MARYLAND

The protest was very effective. In my dorm Pfeifer Hall there have been a lot of changes that wouldn't have happened without the student protest.



ERIN MIXON
 CLASS: JUNIOR
 MAJOR: ENGLISH
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A lot of positive changes are in the process of being implemented as a result of the protest. I hope that we will continue to see results.



KATHERINE SHIVERS
 CLASS: FRESHWOMAN
 MAJOR: BIOLOGY
 HOME STATE: NORTH CAROLINA

We did an excellent job as far as the protest is concerned. Many things on this campus are being improved as we speak.



AMBER LOVE
 CLASS: FRESHWOMAN
 MAJOR: MASS COMM
 HOME STATE: CALIFORNIA

I truly believe the protest was effective because everyone's voice was heard. The students are ready but is the administration at Bennett College ready for change?



ANGELA BYRD
 CLASS: FRESHWOMAN
 MAJOR: MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION
 HOME STATE: VIRGINIA

The protest was effective. Without student action, improvements probably would not have been made. It is because of a unified front that Bennett is changing.



COLLEEN HALL
 CLASS: FRESHWOMAN
 MAJOR: MASS COMM
 HOME STATE: NEW JERSEY

There have been a lot of changes for the good of the school since the protest. I have a few problems; however, I have yet to receive a literature book.