

THE BENNETT BANNER

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WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Our trains have arrived at the station. Their destinations—THE WORLD. Each train will travel down the long, winding course of life. Many pitfalls lie ahead. There will be frequent and unexpected stops and a host of other delays. Each of the stops may cause many of us to panic and jump off this transcontinental train.

Others of us may hold on until the end, still others of us may give up and take the short cuts of life and end up with absolutely nothing. Just where are we going? How long is it going to take for us to get there? All of these questions and a great many more puzzle us. We just cannot figure out the answers!

But wait! There is a solution. It is not the easiest solution and it will not come to us over night. Yes, HARD WORK and DILIGENT PREPARATION are the suggested solutions. You might say, "But that's nothing new. We've heard that so many times before. Isn't there anything unique?" Seemingly, hard work and diligent preparation are the only qualities worth pursuing. Of course, there are a great many more, but will those be productive and yield us the final quality of life which we strive so hard to attain, will things such as cheating, lying, stealing, dishonesty, ruthlessness, get us where we are going? Obviously, that all depends on just where we are going.

The trains are ready to roll. SENIORS, have you prepared? Are these four years at Bennett going to be put to good use? You must now get aboard. There is no turning back. Are you ready? JUNIORS, you still have another year's hope. But is that time enough to prepare because of the two other years wasted?

SOPHOMORES, you are in a better position time-wise. But is that time enough? Are you going to get in that "sophomore slump" and never wake up until it is too late? Are you going to let petty differences with the upperclassmen deter you from your much desired goal?

FRESHMEN, what about you? You are now on the threshold of the college career. Are you going to fall into cliches and establish undesirable habits which may hinder your cause? Are you going to listen to a few upperclassmen when they say, "Don't worry about your freshman year, it's a cinch!"

Yes, the trains are ready to roll. When we get to the station, we cannot decide which one to board. The first train's destination is "party life." How many of us will board that one? On that train we can certainly have a ball. We will not have to worry about responsibility. We will go through life having a good time. The second train's destination is "short-cut to life." This one advertises no worries. Just get on board as we will take the easy way out. The third train's destination is to the "ruthless life." Forget about your fellowman is what this train advocates. Push, push and push your way through! It does not matter how many people you hurt! How many of us will be on this train? The last train only wants those who are willing to work hard, prepare diligently, love your fellowman, and to be able to cope with the up's and down's for "Good Life" is its destination. Will this train be filled to its capacity or will it be half empty?

Now is the time to ask ourselves "Where are we going?" Let's decide before it is too late.

—GAIL HICKERSON

LET US GIVE THANKS

Thanksgiving Day is nearly here again and a day away from classes. A day to oneself or perhaps a game of football seeing your favorite team. Maybe there will be a big gala afterwards.

In all of our givings of thanks this Thanksgiving, I think the students of Bennett College should include a special thanks to the institution for providing them with many experiences for broadening their horizon of living.

Such things I mention here include the Thanksgiving Ball, the visitation of Morehouse, our own choir, and other special features such as the bookfair, the reputation of Ben-

nett which has caused a leading magazine staff to choose this school as a "Special" to present the Negro Woman.

There are things which most of us take for granted but we have learned from them, and should be grateful for such opportunities.

Of course we have a lot of complaints, but it is impossible to forget the many things which we do have. And these are not ours or would not be ours if it were not for the efforts of some who had the ideal of Bennett foremost in their minds.

We cannot overlook our student leaders who have worked toward the betterment of the institution. They should be appreciated, for there are so many "officeholders" today who are merely interested in their positions, ignoring the task before them. These things cannot be forgotten.

So let us give thanks this Thanksgiving for our institution, its leaders and the student body as a whole and the congenial relationships established here.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I am writing in answer to a letter that appeared in the last edition of the Bennett Banner concerning weekly church attendance.

When we were children, many of us were taken to Church and Sunday School every week by our parents. There were no two ways about it, Sunday was the Lord's Day and should be spent in the house of the Lord. We are no longer children, and need no longer be led by the hand to Sunday worship. Religion cannot be forced on a person, nor does attending Church services every week make a person a true servant of God. The question then arises how do we serve our God justly? By doing His will and trying to lead our lives to the betterment of all men.

While it is true that God is omnipotent and responsible for all things, can we make sure a great generalization in saving God put us at Bennett College and God will get us through? True, in a way if it were not for God we might not be here, but it is also through the hard work of our parents that we are able to be here. Also, can we simply leave it up to prayer to get us through college? No. While prayer and worship are extremely important, we must mix them with hard work and study if we are to succeed. God helps those who help themselves. Can we, therefore, say "Put away your books and get

down on your knees, then you will pass your test."

All of this is not meant to say "Don't go to church, it's not necessary." Certainly church is very important in the worship of God, but let every man decide for himself how and where he is to worship his God, whether from a Church pew, on his knees every night, or from his heart.

Cleo Walker

Dear Editor:

I had the privilege of hearing Dr. Blanshard when he spoke on conformity. This topic is one of my favorite ones. I was very hurt and disappointed when he treated the subject of conformity so loosely and in such a conventional way. When asked how he felt about academic freedom he replied a quick "yes!" When asked how he felt about social freedom, however, he stated that he felt this is out of place in "those four most formative years" of college life.

Dr. Blanshard's concept of social freedom might be a little different from ours in that he gave as an example the following: Allowing girls to stay in the rooms of the Yale men after twelve midnight. As this applies to our situation, even I must conform enough to say that this is ridiculous at twelve, before twelve, and certainly after twelve. I feel Dr. Blanshard compared his concept of social freedoms which so abundantly

are found at Yale with those social freedoms that he assumed that we surely must have at Bennett. If this were his concept of social freedom, then I can see his opposition to it. However, if he felt that we are socially free, and with a full understanding of our situation, then I humbly submit this my idea.

If one is to be truly educated and have both academic and social freedoms, then must one be subject to all the teaching forces. These forces are many and varied. There are books to accept and reject as they come into the area of our personal way of thought. There is nature to commune with, in order to find our god in the beauty or the horrors of the world.

There are peers with whom you may exchange ideas. There are the wise words of elders to adhere to, and the thoughts of youth to understand. If a being be caged in a glass menagerie of the academic without a well rounded look at the social world in which that person lives, how is that being then to understand that world in which that individual will be thrown if he be so protected?

And if he be so protected from both good and evil, then when he enters that comically painted, rose colored tigers in a world in which he will find that these tigers were not so comically painted after all.

Andrea Mast

From The Editor—

In answer to Wendy Parker and the "Chapel Attender". Dear fellow students I am glad that you too are concerned with the present situation in chapel.

I have been trying to think of some answer to this problem but the only thing I can say is that I think that all of us should be aware of the fact that when we are disrespectful we draw the attention to ourselves. This might be all right if the people whose attention is drawn are people who share our feelings, but we must remember that opinions vary from person to person.

I would say personally that in order to be sure that you are not calling unwanted attention to yourself, pay attention to what others are attending (supposedly the program) at least you can be sure you are a part of a greater majority.

"History Repeats Itself"—

"I am the state," said Louis XIV.

And he was. You have to admire a man like Louis for he was a great king. He was absolute. He reigned by both divine right and fear.

You have to admire a man like Louis. He kept parliament intact. The government had no power at all. Those few rulings that were passed were very small and insignificant.

But you have to admire a man like Louis. He was not satisfied; he wanted to extend his natural boundaries ever if that ambition infringed upon the natural boundaries of others, so he surrounded himself by wise men (for Louis was a fool).

You have to admire a man like Louis. "Fifty million Frenchmen can't be wrong."

—Prudence Potts

