

Dr. L. R. Hankins

Bennett Professor Writes First Book

"Students are losing interest in school and a new approach has to be used in teaching for this reason," says Dr. Lela R. Hankins, Professor of Education and Director of Teacher Education at Bennett College, to justify writing her new book: *Biology: A Problem Solving Approach*.

Dr. Hankins explains, "Because of my background, I can see the problem more so in the sciences. Students' interest in general, on the national level, is switching from the natural sciences to the social sciences." She attributed the reason for this to the students' failure to understand the fact that "many of the social problems can only be solved through the application of biological knowledge."

The course of study present in Dr. Hankins' book, in her words, "makes Biology relevant to human affairs--which should be the primary objective of a course for the non-science major. Since the studies have shown that students are largely interested in themselves, the course of study recommended is student-centered around a problem-solving approach." *Biology: A Problem Solving Approach* can be used as a sourcebook or text. It is "a course of study including laboratory exercises, special projects and collateral readings that can be used for a college freshman Biology course."



Dr. Lela R. Hankins

Though this is the first book for the member of Phi Sigma National Honorary Society (biological science) and Sigma Xi (honorary in science research), she has written a number of articles for technical journals.

Dr. Hankins is a Bolivia, North Carolina native and graduate of Shaw University, Raleigh, North Carolina (B.S.) and Oregon State

University, Corvallis, Oregon (M.S. and Ph.D.).

Dr. Hankins, former Professor of Biology and Chairman of the Biology Department at Bennett College, has taught for some 11 years.

Her book, published by Carlton Press, Inc., 84 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10011, Chelsea 3-8800, is now on sale.

Bennett Gets Physical Upgrading

By JENNIE JONES

A central air-conditioning system has been installed in the Administration Building since last school year. Not only that, but in the President's Office, there is complete floor carpeting and paneling.

Mr. J. J. Scarlette, in commenting on the renovations on campus, stated that Merner Hall has been painted inside and out and new window screens were bought. The floors are scheduled to be refinished soon.

In the past, there have been many complaints about cold water and no heat. This year the Board of education of Methodist Churches has give a \$35,000.00 grant to renovate the boiler plant. This involves the transformation from coal to gas and oil for heat generating purposes.

A discussion was held with Dr. Breathett concerning the construction work in the Ethel Black Hall. He stated that painting and relighting will be installed throughout the building. The Business Education Department has moved to the south wing of the building. The Teacher education office will be divided, with the secretary having her separate office. Sociology and Psychology classes will be held in the building and store rooms

will be built. The ground level will become the Program Learning and Audio Visual Center, with a suite of offices constructed on the second floor. The whole building will be retiled except for the areas of hardwood and marble. New chairs will be purchased as to make the rooms more flexible.

There will be a complete new color scheme; all rooms will be different colors. Some of the colors to be used are golden rod, Apache Gold, forum gray, lemon twist, lemon pulp, Minuet blue, blue butterfly, melon sand, evening orchid, French Violet, ice lettuce, shocking green, minuet green and banana. Dr. Breathett also stated that the new color scheme was designed to make students feel that they have changed environment when they exchange classes. The whole plan of renovation is aimed at helping students to achieve, and in fledged leaning center."

In projecting some future plans

for Bennett, Mr. Scarlette stated that changes will occur in the playroom and the dormitories. He also stated that there would be further renovations of the administration building.

From S. S. President

A State Of Affairs Address

I can no longer share at this time any optimism regarding this coming year because it has become quite evident that for the Student Government nothing has changed. In spite of the appearance of a few 'new' faces on campus, it is clearly apparent to us that we are still dealing with the same individuals we dealt with last year and that over the summer these persons have become more rather than less, ego-centric.

Last spring the S.S. embarked

upon the beginning of an intensive campaign to save black institutions and particularly Bennett. Last year we saw the major threats as being external--inadequate finances, low keyed recruiting programs, etc. . . , tangible areas which could be dealt with through tangible proposals; but this year we realize that the major threat to Bennett's existence is not external but rather internal, and that this threat is far from tangible but rather abstract. We see this threat as being a negative attitude on the part of the student body and an overwhelming feeling of frustration which has led inevitably to a low student morale.

We have defined problems for the school in the past and when they saw fit the administration acted on these problems.

Today I would like to say that once again we have defined a problem and once again we are asking the administration to act on it -- not in the near future but now!! You can no longer expect us to give respect when we receive none; nor can you expect us to be 'happy' when we are placed in an unhappy situation. To the administration, I would say take



Carla Friend, President Student Senate

heed and read the writing on the wall; to the seniors I say that in spite of what seems to be the gravest of insults, let us continue to raise our heads high and walk with the dignity, strength and unity which has distinguished us as women among women. And finally to the student body I would make a plea for a unity which is now, even more than ever, necessary and also offer the advice that we must all be wary of strangers and old friends bearing gifts.

New Bookstore Management

Everyone has probably noticed the new face in the bookstore. For all those that have not been introduced yet that is the face of Charles T. Byrd, Sr., the new manager of the Bennett College Bookstore. Mr. Byrd, a resident of Greensboro, is hoping to make quite a few improvements. He wants to order more items with the Bennett College shield on them. He is also trying to make it easier for the students by ordering items they need so they

wouldn't have to go all the way uptown for them.

Some improvements can easily be seen already. Most of the prices are posted, the place is orderly, and is much better stocked. Best of all some of the prices are cheaper, especially the souvenirs. For example, Bennett salt and pepper shakers which were sold for \$2.00 are now \$.90, bookends were \$1.50 now they are \$1.35 and car stickers which were \$.50 are \$.35.

"You negroes may get learning, you may get property, you may have churches and religion.. but this is your limit. This is a white man's government."

---Alexander Crummell, 1888

Presidential Message:

Does It Come Too Cheap?

It is a truism of the human experience that things which come without too much effort are seldom fully appreciated. The boy who delivers newspapers all summer to earn the money with which to purchase a bicycle places a different value on that item than does the boy whose parents simply purchase the bicycle for him. The young woman who works a 40-hour weekly shift in order to pay her tuition, buy a few clothes and support herself here at Bennett College frequently places a higher valuation on her college opportunity than does the one who needs concern herself with nothing more basic than to talk her parents out of more money for some trivia.

The Federal Government, private philanthropy and colleges, themselves, have done so much to enable today's student to pursue a carefree post-secondary education that many individuals never come to the realization that going to college is still a privilege. Too many refuse to apply themselves sufficiently to drive full benefit from the opportunities which are inherent in this privilege. Consequently, many young people are graduating from colleges today "aware" perhaps, but still functionally illiterate, unlearned, and just not quite ready.

The College Work-Study Program, the Bennett College Scholarship and Work-Study Programs, the National Defense Student Loans, the Economic Opportunity Grants have enabled hundreds of young women to attend Bennett College without too much care of concern. One wonders, however, if the ease with which this kind of assistance is obtained has not destroyed personal initiative and somehow devaluated the very experience which it makes possible.

Students and too many parents frequently overlook the fact that a Bennett student pays through tuition and fees only 46% of the cost of her education. The remainder must be somehow provided by the College. Although there are certain well-defined sources for additional funds, the United Negro College Fund, the United Methodist Church, and the endowment, there remains 10%-12% which must be secured simply by passing the hat. It is therefore most distressing to discover that many of our students choose to be mediocre rather than engage in disciplined and scholarly effort; too many fail to care for the college facilities and even encourage their boy friends to litter, deface and destroy; too many participate in premeditated efforts to scuttle the high purposes of the institution and resort to a variety of practices which nullify our efforts to build here an outstanding center of learning.

This is not what Bennett College is about. Our efforts are expended for the purpose of putting sound minds in sound bodies, and for the creation of more options for each student who enrolls. We operate in the belief that each young woman who enrolls here wishes to be a serious student while preparing for responsible citizenship in the post-college world. We are an institutional entity with a personality to which all contribute, but which will not be distorted by aberrant behavior, personal whim, or caprice.

The opportunity for personal development which Bennett College represents is a privilege and not a right but, unfortunately, too many students seem incapable of distinguishing between the two. But then - perhaps it comes too cheap.

Isaac H. Miller, Jr.
President