

# BENNETT BANNER



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BENNETT COLLEGE, GREENSBORO, N. C.

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## Don Can't Have Job Back

by Cheryl E. Johnson

Former Bennett supervisor of grounds, Donald Webster, wants his job back. According to Webster, he was fired by superintendent of buildings and grounds, Zack Browning, because he was incarcerated in Dorothea Dix Mental Hospital.

Webster spent 53 days in Dorothea Dix because he said, "Someone slipped me LSD or some other type drug." He said that he has never been a user of drugs.

Webster was arrested in the Greensboro bus station in Dec. 1974 following an episode where "he seemed to have some type of unexplained psychotic reaction which subsequently lead to his hospitalization and release at John Umstead Hospital," as his medical discharge summary reads. His incarceration at Dorothea Dix was a result of the recurrence of the condition that lead to his admittance to Umstead Hospital.

He said that Browning told him that he (Browning) did not think it would be in the best interest of the college to rehire him and "that because of the situation some people here may be very friendly and some people may be afraid of you," Webster said. Webster feels that he was an asset to the college and that he hasn't been treated fairly. He says Browning stated that he was fired because he is sick but "I'm not sick and I can't accept the reason Mr. Browning has given me."

During the interview with THE BANNER, Webster showed a letter from Dorothea Dix that suggested Webster be rehired to full employment and stated, "Mr. Donald Webster is able to perform all duties and responsibilities in a capable and responsible manner."

Don was employed at Bennett for approximately three and a half years. He says that his future, his life and his reputation are at stake and that he has to become re-established with Bennett College.

Don says he does not want to give up his job on the basis of one man's decision. He added that "the main reason I kept in touch with Bennett was because I wanted everyone at Bennett to know that there was nothing wrong with me and I was under the influence of a drug which I did not knowingly take."

"I don't think he would add anything constructive to the college by getting his job back," is the opinion that Browning expressed. "I just didn't think he was the person I was looking for to do that particular job at the particular time," he continued and, "his position is filled."

According to Browning his records indicate that "the week of Dec. 3rd he (Webster) was out without reason." By without reason Browning said he meant "that before Webster left he didn't give indication that he would be out." Browning said that two weeks later on Dec. 17 Webster came back with what Browning termed, "a legitimate reason for not being

at work for that length of time," and that Don was, "re-instated to his full position." Browning said that after his re-instatement Webster's performance as a worker slacked off.

Browning said that he did not talk over his decision to dismiss Webster with any of his immediate superiors.

He stated: "I am in charge of personnel for this department so I have to make the decisions on the hiring and firing."

"I didn't go to any other faculty or staff person and say, what do you think? In my position you don't want to set yourself as a judge and you try very hard not to set yourself up as a judge. But when you talk to a person, depending on his past record and how he talks at the particular time, you make decisions on what you think his performance would be and how it affects the other people around him."

Browning says that when he talks with a percentage of the people a worker will be associating with and finds that more than a majority fear the man, this helps him to make a decision. He said that these percentages were not derived from any point blank investigative questions about Webster. Instead he said that one uses, "other terms of finding out how people feel. I did go to some faculty and staff people and got some ideas," about how they feel about Webster, he concluded.

One idea he got was that 95 per cent of the faculty and staff women are afraid of Webster. He also said that 50 per cent of the students and over-all 75 per cent of the faculty and staff fear Webster. He said that he realizes that his personal information on Webster may not be accurate but, "from my standpoint this is the way I feel."

About the letter that Browning received from the hospital stating Webster's competency to assume the responsibilities of his job Browning said, "In essence the letter said that if a person is capable of standing trial he is capable of performing any other duty."

## Banner Scores Again in Southern Regional Competition

At the 24th Annual Southern Regional Press Institute, held at Savannah State College, Savannah, Georgia, the **Bennett Banner** received a score of 46 out of a possible 50 points in the college newspaper competition.

The **Banner** received a perfect score of 10 on its handling of feature material and a score of 9 on each of the following categories: layout, content, illustrations, and overall appearance.

The judges' comment was: "Good workmanlike job. Strives to cover campus news professionally."

## Thorna Humphries Leads With Presidency After College's 1975-76 SGA Election

Leading the slate of recently elected SGA officers for Bennett College's 1975-1976 school year is **Thorna Humphries**, who will serve as President of the Student Senate. She is presently a sophomore who resides in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Thorna, a Mathematics-Art major, is also a second-year Presidential Scholar. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, president of the Sophomore Class, and Feature Editor of the yearbook staff.

Other officers of the Student Senate are **Bertha Scarborough**, vice-president, Lynchburg, S. C.; **Cassandra Jones**, treasurer, Montgomery, Ala.; **Jamelle Felder**, as-

sistant treasurer, Montgomery, Ala.; **Donna Dennis**, corresponding secretary, Stratford, Connecticut; **Sheree Johnson**, parliamentarian, East Orange, N. J.; and **Geneive McCormick**, recording secretary, Red Springs, N. C.

Student Union Board officers are **Mary Sneed**, president, Bethel, N. C.; **Nicki Woods**, vice president, Philadelphia, Pa.; **Sheryl Clowers**, treasurer, Macon, Ga.; **Robin Jones**, secretary, Hampton, Va.; **Shawn Humphries**, Special Activities Committee Chairman, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; **Linda Hill**, Sip N Chat Committee Chairman, Winston-Salem, N. C.; **Sandra Johnson**, Film Committee, Milton,

N. C.; and **Jeanette Branch**, Publicity Committee Chairman, Henderson, N. C.

The officers of the Interdormitory Council are **Patricia Goings**, president, Sumter, S. C.; **Sherita Blackstock**, vice-president, Mt. Vernon, N. Y.; **Jozetta Whaley**, treasurer, Charleston, S. C.; **Malika Maniam**, secretary, Malaysia; and **Deborah Luttery**, assistant secretary, Atlanta, Ga.

Officers of the Recreational Council are **Lynnette French**, president, Detroit, Michigan; **Iris Vaughn**, vice president, Bronx, N. Y.; **Freddie Spencer**, treasurer, Philadelphia, Pa.; **Nykki Lodrig**, Dance Committee Chairman, New Orleans, La.; **Kristen Dennard**, Fun Night Chairman, Detroit, Michigan; and **Deborah Beale**, Publicity Chairman, Asheville, N. C.

President of the Pre-Alumnae Council is **Nancy Dolfinger**, a sophomore from Fishkill, N. Y. Other officers are **Crystal Phifer**, vice-president, Greensboro, N. C.; **Audrey Forrest**, secretary, Ninety Six, S. C.; **Joyce Bass**, treasurer, Creedmoor, N. C.; **Deborah Lundy**, Program Committee Chairman, Macon, Ga.; and **Rhonda Kittrell**, Publicity Chairman, Greensboro, N. C.

## Plan for Integration of Classes in Dorms to Be Offered for Student Vote

A plan to integrate dormitories was discussed in a recent residence life meeting between **Dean Harold E. Bragg**, **Mrs. Ouida Scarborough**, dormitory directors and dormitory presidents. Before the proposal is approved or disapproved a vote from the student body will be conducted as input to determine student consensus.

Mrs. Scarborough, Director of Residence Life, said one of the main reasons for implementing such a plan is to promote sisterhood campus-wide, and maintain this atmosphere of sisterhood after each class graduates and in the remaining class. She said, "What happened to make us think about this was the returning of a number of recent graduates who didn't know anybody. When they returned to the campus, they felt out of place although they just graduated."

She thinks the present system of living in dormitories according to classification, "archaic" and feels that this new proposal will "make for a better family relationship on campus."

This open housing plan will allow rising seniors first choice in selecting a dorm, followed by juniors and sophomores. As far as curfew is concerned, "Students

will be on their honor," she said.

She concluded that upper classmen need more of a cross-section of relationships with each other. However, in-coming freshman will be assigned to freshman dorms, as it is believed that they need the opportunity to get a feel of the campus and its surrounding together, as opposed to being dumped into the main stream of activities right away.

## AIDP Funding Approved; Breathett Named Director

Bennett College is in the implementation stages of its Advanced Institutional Development Program. The \$1.5 million grant, awarded by the U. S. Office of Education, will strengthen existing operations and provide new strategies to assist Bennett in achieving its institutional goals.

President **Isaac H. Miller** announced the appointment of **Dr. George Breathett** as Director of the College's A.I.D. Program. The money will not support Bennett's total operation, but it will serve as a stimulus to get several major components started in planning, administration, management, and

evaluation; curriculum development and support; and student services development.

Bennett is establishing its executive structure on the principle of the Management Information System. Such an organizational structure will result in improved data assimilation and retrieving for sound educational planning and reporting; more rationale in the allocating of human and material resources; facilitation of the institution's evaluation process and assessment of manpower; and the organization of personnel management and recruitment.

This sector of institutional development also includes the instituting of three new positions, the Director of Planning, AID-P, the Director of Personnel Services, and Director of the Computer Center. It provides resources for staff and administrators to attend instructional conferences and workshops.

The Curriculum Development and Support Component of A. I. D. P. places strong emphasis on improving communications skills and expanding curriculum offerings by instituting a Computer Assisted Instruction Program to provide for accelerated, remedial, and independent study; developing a Women's Studies Program and Curriculum based on appropriate research and study; instituting of two new majors in Communications-Media-Public Relations and Student



If Spring is here, can Dog Days be far behind?

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