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Director of Housing Discusses Contracts And Student Hold-out

by Joyce Bass

There are a lot of campus issues that students are voicing their opinions about: the gates, where our money is going and now two dormitories are rejecting the housing contracts that have been issued by the Office of Residence Life.

Mrs. Ouida Scarborough, Director of Residence Life was asked about her reaction to the dormitory hold-outs and the reasoning behind the issuance of the contracts. She said, "I drew the housing contracts up basically because of the out-dated student handbook. I felt that the students needed to know what is expected of them in the dormitories."

She gave the following background on the contracts: "The contracts were to have been sent to the students prior to their arrival on campus. I drew up the contracts, sent them to the president and deans for approval, after which they were then sent to the printers. It was later announced that they would be delayed coming from the printers. So, that explains why they were not sent to the students this summer." Mrs. Scarborough continued, saying that an additional letter was to have accompanied the contracts explaining them and giving the reasons behind them. However, she said, "I became ill during the summer and I was absent when the contracts arrived on campus. It was also about the same time that the students were returning to campus. I was told that the contracts were given to the dorm directors with instructions telling them to get their residents to sign them. No other instructions or explanations were given."

Mrs. Scarborough said that she felt that the contract was an honest one: "I did not try to mislead or trip the students up. We were one of few schools that didn't have a housing contract."

According to Mrs. Scarborough, the "Residence Halls Regulations" were set up not solely by the college, but by the State Board of Health and the Greensboro Fire

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Bennett Says Sign-up or Get Out

Reynolds and Cone Hall Residents Hold Out on Housing Contracts

by Joyce Bass

The residents of Reynolds and Cone Halls have rejected the proposed housing contracts that were issued to the dorms by the Office of Residence Life which is also under the auspices of the Office of Student Affairs.

What are some of the reasons behind the holdout? One sophomore, early childhood education major from Charlotte, said, "The contracts were a waste of time and money. If we set our minds on not doing something, we're not going to do it. What would Bennett do if 200 girls were put off campus?"

There were a number of comments about regulations in the contract. "I don't think they're fair. The contract says that we must pay for any damage done to our rooms, but no one really checks them thoroughly before new residents enter the rooms, and a lot of us end up paying for the damage someone else did," said a sophomore from Greenville.

"Considering the conditions of some of the dorms we are living in, we should be signing insurance contracts instead of housing contracts," said a junior interdisciplinary studies major from New Jersey. A junior physical education major felt that the contracts were not necessary. She continued by saying that she always felt the administration and the students of Bennett College had an understanding.

A number of students felt that the contracts weren't clear enough. "There is something written in the contracts about the assigned functions and tasks of the residence directors and maintenance personnel. Well, what are their functions? What do they have the authority to do?," said a junior special education major.

Freshmen Disappointed in Contracts

by Thomasina Stallings

Early in September the freshmen in Barge, Jones, and Pfeiffer Halls, like all students living in the dormitories, were issued a set of rules and regulations in the form of a contract, which they were expected to read and sign.

On the last page of the contract in big, bold, black letters was the statement: **I HAVE READ, AND I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS DOCUMENT.** The freshmen signed and returned the contracts to the dormitory directors as instructed, but many are apparently having second thoughts. The consensus seems to be that they read, more than likely understood, and by signing agreed to the terms but that they do not agree with them.

Among students who now feel that the signing was a mistake is Cynthia Robinson of Washington, D. C. She said she felt she was definitely forced to sign: "It was the type of thing where if you don't, the least little thing you do would be grounds for eviction."

Deborah Tillman, another stu-

dent from Washington, D. C., feels she would have no place to stay on campus if she hadn't signed. However, she felt that "some of the statements were sensible in the contract but other were outrageous."

Another freshman from New Haven, Connecticut, Beverly Randolph of Barge Hall states, "I thought the idea of a contract was irrational. We paid our \$75.00 to live here so we obviously would take care of our home."

"I honestly don't believe it makes sense to have a contract," said Kathy Clark of Norwalk, Conn. "We live here and we would only be better equipped to do the things ordinarily done at home."

Connie Murray of Jones Hall feels that she was forced to sign the contract. Connie, who is from Washington, D. C., states, "I think it is a lot of baloney."

From Jones Hall, Monica Brown rebels against the housing contract. Monica, of Norfolk, Virginia, said rules of Bennett College were sent to her before she came here. "I automatically figured I had to

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There were several students who felt that the contract issuance could have been handled differently. "If we had gotten the contracts during the summer, that would've fostered a more business-like air with us. After reading the contracts, I can honestly say that I would have reacted the very same way," said a sophomore music major from Indiana. Another sophomore business administration major said, "I can understand the statement about the drugs and unauthorized guests, but the comments regarding the hot plates and ironing in the rooms seem silly." One other student from Georgia said, "If we had gotten the contract during the summer, we would've had more time to think about them and we would've known what to leave at home. They went about it all wrong."

There is now a lot of talk about eviction notices being sent to these students. What's the initial reaction? One sophomore student from Greensboro put it this way, "If it comes to the point where I have to leave, I'll leave. I will finish my course of study and Bennett won't see me again." Another student felt that the eviction notices would have little effect, since they were to have been sent this summer; therefore, the eviction date would've expired. One junior resident said, "Before they can evict us, they will have to refund our key deposits, our dormitory fees and a certain percentage of our tuition." Another junior resident said, "If they give me my plane ticket, and find me a place to stay until my plane arrives, then, I'll go."

One final statement given was this, "Eviction? I feel that it's just a rumor. Bennett would lose a lot of students and money, plus the fact that the word would get around about the situation, and they would lose a lot of their recruitments."

Meal Ticket Use Surprises Students; Most Would Prefer Use of I. D. Cards

by Lennet Hill

Students arrived on campus this school year and discovered that meal books were necessary to eat in the dining hall.

Bennett has never had meal books before, so this was a new idea to everyone on campus.

A few students favored meal books. They felt that they were an improvement.

Representative of this point of view was Judy Britt, a junior, who said, "They help speed up the line."

Joy Person, a senior, said "I think they are o.k. Last year some people were bringing in friends to eat who did not attend Bennett. Meal books could eliminate this."

Some other students said that the meal books help minimize the cutting.

However, most students felt that they were unnecessary, inconvenient, and a waste of time.

Mary Lewis, a junior said, "I don't like them because you might leave them in the room and then have to go back and get them. I hope it is our last book."

A general opinion was that Ben-

nett does not have enough students to make meal books necessary.

A sophomore, Vivyette Outer, said "I don't see the purpose because anyone could use your meal book. Anyone could find a meal book and use it because they don't check your I.D."

Lucinda Brown, a freshman, said "They don't make any sense."

The administrations point of view, voiced by J. J. Scarlette, business manager, was "The meal book is not a purchase of meals, but an authorization to eat in the dining hall. They let the people in the dining hall know that the holder is authorized to eat."

"Meal books are an institutional idea. At some colleges the students elect whether or not to buy meal books, but at Bennett everyone living on campus is issued a meal book because the college wants everyone who is a resident student to be able to eat."

Scarlette further stated, "It is not possible to get a refund because of meals missed. The meals are not on a per meal basis. In the

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Bennett Very Different From Home

New Freshman Student Enjoys Freedom Of Bennett And The Open Attitude Of The Classroom

by Donna Meacham

Vajira DeSilva is having no major difficulties in adjusting to life here at Bennett, even though it is quite different than in her native Sri Lanka, a small island off the coast of India.

Though she has only been here for a short time, Vajira has come to appreciate the many freedoms afforded the students at Bennett. She says, "There is a lot of communication between teachers and students, and I think that is very good. At home, a teacher comes into a class and says what she has planned to say, and the students listen, and then, afterwards, they may ask questions. Here a student discuss things and express their opinions openly in class, and I think that is a very good way to learn."

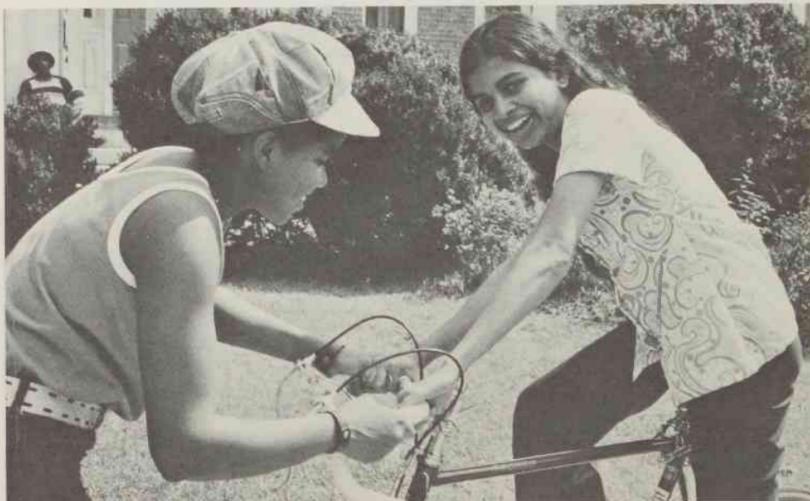
She also noted the diversity of

the educational programs available at Bennett.

In her country, one's vocation is decided for you before the first year of high school. "They chose science for me," she said. "It is done according to the overall marks you get and your score on the final exam in grade eight. When you come to grade nine, you are placed in either arts or sciences, and you get an education along those lines."

When asked why she chose Bennett, she stated, "I am a member of the Experiment in International Living, and I was notified that Bennett was offering five scholarships to students like myself. I was lucky enough to get one of them." She has declared chemistry her major, and plans career in either bio-chemistry or chemical engineering.

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Vajira Gets An Assist From Classmate

Photo by Cheryl E. Johnson