

The System Is Failing

In less than four days time it became necessary for the Guilford County Ambulance Service to take two students to the hospital. Since the second incident I have received more than a dozen verbal promises of letters of complaint concerning the difficulties the ambulance service had completing its job on both occasions. But I rationalized that past experience was grounds enough not to wait for colleagues to act on these matters.

That Wednesday night a junior had to be wheeled out of Cone Hall on a stretcher, the ambulance spent too much time parked on Gorrell Street waiting for the gate to be opened. Had the crew not made the decision to leave the unit and go after their patient, the young lady in question could have died in the extra moments and time in general that was wasted. But I suppose the fact that someone might have died will be forgotten since the ambulance somehow eventually gained access to the campus and was able to drive between the dormitories and exit quickly.

Another person became ill in Jones Hall later that week and again an ambulance unit was called to campus. Luckily this emergency call came during the daylight hours that the gates are open, so the gate posed no problem. But this time our college nurse was unavailable to give permission for this freshman to be taken to the hospital. Again time was wasted before Dean Bragg gave an "OK" over the telephone.

The nurse can't spend all her waking hours in pocket, but that gate could have been open. Rumor has it that Security Guard Henryhand left her post to go to the nurse and find out exactly what was going on. Instead of leaving the gate open, since she had heard that some ambulance was on its way, or leaving the lock free, she closed and locked the gate. When I asked her if this was an accurate account of what happened, she said it was. However, Mrs. Henryhand cannot be blamed for doing her job by following orders from higher up.

As far as the gate goes, there is no need for both gates to be locked. There is the understanding that a security person is to be on duty at all times to allow college faculty and staff persons through. Yet, when Mrs. Scarborough came to Player at 2:00 a.m. to take a student to the hospital she could not get through and no one ever responded to her horn blowing. Therefore, she had to foot it across our dark unguarded campus, alone.

The administration and trustees will probably not go along with a proposal for a staffed guard house with telephone at the south end of University Drive. They will say it can't be financed. So, we cannot really afford one man in a guard house . . . we also cannot afford a sleeping security guard inside Black Hall or the basement of Jones. Therefore, let's place this guard inside a guard house to allow parents, staff and emergency vehicles easy access. Surely we have more than one guard on campus at night, so let's consider constructing a guard house and rotating the men who walk a beat and the one who will man the house.

Hasn't anyone thought to consider the fact that Bennett is not building good will between itself and the community at large each time an emergency vehicle has to go through a hassle to do a job? What is being established is a foundation for an attitude to develop among the emergency services, that says in essence: Everytime we go to Bennett there will be some new obstacle for us to overcome before we can go about our appointed task.

It is truly somewhat less than intelligent for an ambulance crew to have to wait for an OK from Nurse Trammell or whoever before they can carry someone to the hospital. Why is it necessary for anyone to have to give some sort of "go ahead" if someone is ill and that person or those around deem it a problem that requires professional, immediate attention? Is someone concerned that people will fake an illness just to ride in an ambulance? I feel certain that those who would attempt to act out an illness in these technological times are minute in number.

President Miller I'm not trying to raise your pressure but Bennett College may have a money problem like Bennett never dreamed of if a law suit comes rolling down Union Drive.

ACES Again!

by Cheryl E. Johnson

In the interest of again clarifying confusion, we reprint the following excerpt from an article published last spring.

The seniors of 1976 will be the last class exempted from the Academic and Cultural Enrichment Series (ACES) assemblies and Lecture-Lyceum programs.

In an interview with Dr. Chelsea Tipton, dean of the college, the final word on the subject was this:

"As I understand it ACES attendance was added to the curriculum two years ago. Therefore present juniors and seniors are exempted because this program was added to the college catalogue after they (present juniors and seniors) entered Bennett. The only courses that can be required for graduation without being in the catalogue, that a student enters under, are those courses that are needed for some sort of state certification."

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Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

Recently a very much listened to radio station on campus has been running a contest advocating a name change for the city of Greensboro, which at present is called the "Gate City." When, why, or where this nickname was created escapes me but in view of the current situation at Bennett it is certainly applicable.

Among the primary complaints of Bennett students, the issue of the north and south gates comes high on the list. In the last edition of the *Banner*, two opposing views, those of a student and those of an administration official were offered. Here then is still another opinion.

I am 100% with the administration if the primary objective of the gate construction is student safety. But realities must be faced. If their main reason for the gates is to prevent vagrants and other undesirables from entering the campus, three yards of half a gate is hardly sufficient means for keeping them out, perhaps by car but certainly not on foot.

While I thoroughly support the view, therefore, that they are not much use for safety, I am by no means in accord with those students who advocate removing them by force, which in the long run will prove to no avail. Somehow a sensible, middle of the road compromise must be reached.

It stands to reason that if you can't get in the gates, you can't get out. Therefore, I fail to see the need for a gate at both ends. The solution? If it is a necessity to have a gate, let the one at the south end remain and construct a guard both at the north end where the security personnel can screen all entering vehicles. That way ambulances, fire engines, etc., in the event of an emergency will have easier access to the campus and will be able to prevent what could end in tragedy if time is wasted.

College in general and Black colleges in particular face sure extinction because of many more severe problems (such as budget) other than this. The solution to the problem of security should really be quite simple.

Robyn Denise Berryhill
Merner Hall

CHEKESHA



This issue marks the beginning of a column by senior, Chekesha Penn from Winston-Salem. It is the intention of the *BANNER* to see to it that student points-of-view are reflected through a second editorial eye, on a regular basis, with this section of the editorial page.

I am so tired of waiting
Aren't you,
For the world to become good
And beautiful and kind?
Let us take a knife
And cut the world in two—
And see what worms are eating
At the rind.
—Langston Hughes

"See what worms are eating at the rind?" In the past four weeks, all of us have become aware (though some of us quite reluctantly) of the many instances of some things rotten going on around the school. Let us have a review of these events:

- #1—TWO NEW GATES; an additional one from last year, reinforced with cement, that closes at 6 P.M.
- #2—COMPULSORY CLASSES.
- #3—NO ROLLERS IN THE HAIR AFTER 8 A.M.
- #4—MEAL TICKETS; non-optional, that is, unlike the option meal books or stickers used at other institutions; we **must** pay for them.
- #5—A MISPLACED INFIRMARY; if the Residence Life Office can move to Cone Hall basement, why couldn't the Counseling Center?
- #6—ANOTHER HOSPITAL CASE; why did Nurse Trammell have to "finish her dinner first" and why did the ambulance have to drive across the grass (that students are forbidden to walk on) because the gates were locked and no security guard could be found to open them?
- #7—CONTRACTS; why were people threatened with eviction AFTER their tuition/room and board money had been paid?

"Worms" is a problem, don't you think? In looking over these events, we raise the question, "Why?" Some of us will call names; others may give a group as to the reason (i.e. "niggers," "the administration," "un-together students," "these silly women," etc.) And still others will blame the Forces Unseen.

Back to the question "why?" Remember last year in the news when people were upset over Watergate, Nixon's orders and lies, rampant bugging, CIA plots to overthrow foreign governments, injunctions that stopped people from striking, and the giving of drugs to unsuspecting persons?

All those things were manifestations of the same attempt to suppress people's democratic rights.

Many of you signed petitions for various countries in Africa to be free. Many of you participated in an anti-capital punishment demonstration. Many of you supported the action of JoAnn Little. These instances pertain to people having a RIGHT—to defend themselves against bodily harm, to not be under foreign domination, to not work if they choose.

And what does this have to do with Bennett? "Education is said to be an interest of the federal government, a legal function of the states . . ." (*American Education*, pg. 7) If the larger motion around the school (i.e. those who own the businesses, control the flow of money, determine national policy—"call the shots") is pursuing a policy of little regard for personal rights, then it logically flows that AN INSTITUTION THAT IS
(Continued on page 3, Col. 1)