

Is There Intellectual Life Here?

Founder's Day Eve my presence was requested at a small gathering where the latest issue of the BANNER was to receive some sort of tongue lashing for airing so many student grievances. The central figure in this discussion was a graduate who emoted over and over again of her love for this institution. After I explained that the students' newspaper was merely covering the points of interest to the student body, a somewhat calmer atmosphere prevailed.

However the conversation that ensued, before I excused myself, and as the number of participants grew, was purely without taste, couth or any of those components that make for a constructive discussion of campus issues. What did occur, though, was the going up in smoke of the reputation, credibility and motives of at least three of our five top campus officials.

For weeks I have been contemplating ways to creatively incorporate one of the concerns of this editorial into an editorial. The scene described in the second paragraph was such an avenue.

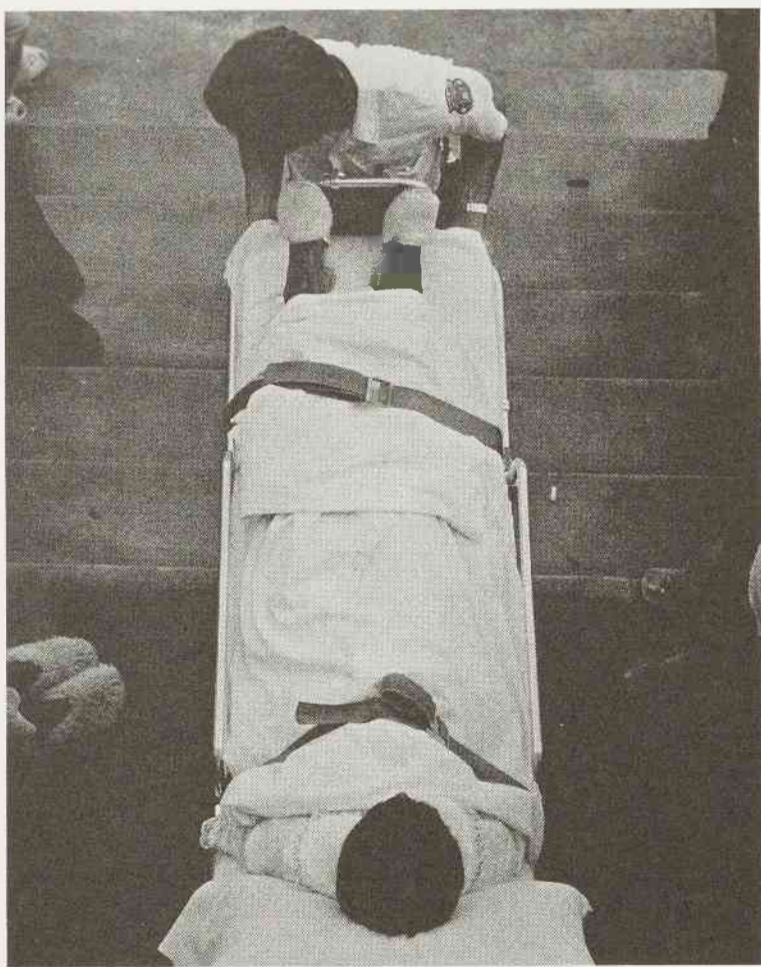
The purpose of our college is being defeated when the above sort of malicious intercourse can take place in an open meeting. Doing such makes it apparent that we are determined to destroy Bennett. Some of us have forgotten that as a college Bennett's primary purpose is to provide education. The reason that each and every one of us should be here is to immerse ourselves in the pursuits of academia. I would be willing to guess that if we concentrated even twenty-five percent of our energies on correctly enunciating the King's English, alone, we would not have time to sit around belittling ourselves, nor would we have time to notice those ridiculous gates, or useless meal tickets or anything but our college work. We might also be too busy to have the dormitories vaguely reminiscent of a roller derby.

Last year one of the students who is a part of the Experiment on International Living remarked that there was no intellectual life on this campus. Some of us became indignant at the verbalization of this thought although it was, and is, true whether we want to face it or not.

Most students are unsatisfied with some aspect of residence life. And since we are unhappy with campus life why don't we try sitting down and discussing alternatives and then seeing these proposals through. We live on this campus, the faculty does not, so if we are dissatisfied after five o'clock let's make recommendations to improve our habitat.

But I assure you that if the professors would begin an all out campaign to prepare us for the sort of things we will encounter in graduate school we would not have time to be idle.

Our alma mater is very small. Therefore, we should make every effort to see to it that our faculty has more difficulty earning their pay. Few, if any, of our faculty members are really challenged because we are not attempting to capitalize on ALL they have to give academically. When we begin placing emphasis on learning, the president's desire to 'interrupt ignorance' will be fulfilled and we will be well about the business of a rewarding collegiate experience.



We're not trying to harrass the administration but when you've got to go you've got to go!! photo by Cheryl E. Johnson



Sorry prof, but I think she's gone into a deep sleep. . .when you live in a dorm you catch 20 winks whenever you can.

From Another Perspective . . .

by Diane Stevens

Point of order, but whose point should be made first? Mine! I'm Bennett College, the students, the faculty and the administration. I don't know how but anyway some things must be cleared up if I'm to go on and really I do have some tendencies toward self-preservation, no matter what everybody else keeps saying. It is time I had my say so!

Everyday I look around and see what is going on. I know all. I'm everywhere. After all, I'm Bennett; the dining hall food, the books, the curriculum, the dormitories, the traditions, all of these things are me. Believe me, I am aware of all of the talk. What am I referring to you may wonder. . . .

Well let's see, for instance, I hear my young ladies talking about "Bennett ain't this and Bennett ain't that." "Bennett doesn't prepare one to meet the world." "Bennett is a prison and how we hate Bennett." What hurts me to my heart, though, is that these statements are uttered so often by so many girls.

On a brighter side, however, sometimes I see my Bennett Belles happy, going to class, doing their work, helping each other, making the best of their college years.

I see teachers approaching their courses half-heartedly at times, bothered by the inattentive dispositions of their students. But I also see them teaching their material well, even if they only reach a few students.

I see them giving out poor grades and good grades.

I see them when they're on their toes covering the subject material. I see them cramming to finish course outlines after they have dragged all semester.

I hear them when they say to my ladies, "It's up to you to get it if I don't cover it." I see them leaving out information, at times, which they haven't covered.

I see them both encouraging their students and developing prejudiced attitudes toward their students.

I see it all.

I see the administration making more rules: gates, curfews, ACES, drop-fail, drop-pass for missing class, don't walk on the grass, don't wear curlers on campus after 8:00 a.m., which are all of the betterment of my ladies so they say.

I see the administration dissenting among themselves, bucking for power.

I see them working together trying to organize a more sound administration.

I know, better than anyone perhaps, that there are many things wrong with me, Bennett College, but the constant bickering back and forth is not going to change things. Students drawing their battle lines, administrators establishing counter-defenses and teachers lining up their own warfare tactics will serve no purpose.

All three should and desperately need to come together for my sake. A house divided against itself can not stand. Energies exerted in confrontation merely negate each other, whereas diplomacy and compromise would put everyone concerned ahead.

I am not about who is right, but about preserving an institution. I am not about rules and regulations, but about the development of finer women. I am not about becoming in any way similar to other institutions; I am a unique experience dedicated to fulfilling the needs of young black women. I am not about what was, but about what is and how I can serve to prepare an individual for the onslaught of life. I am not about being only for a chosen few; I am for all. I am to see that every young lady that crosses my threshold realizes and meets her potential.

So I say to the whole Bennett family, now is the time for us to come together, forgetting our differences in order that an institution which is over one-hundred-years-old may long endure. What I can be, the type of institution that I will be, lies solely in the hearts and minds of the entire Bennett family.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

There are several basic types of Belles who attend the average Sunday Vesper. Take a few moments to glance over the audience and I'm sure you'll agree. Then maybe you will arrive at a general conclusion as I've done for five years.

Over there is Muriel the Music Lover. She comes to Vesper to hear a fantastic choir, but then falls asleep during the main address.

In the center is Sarah Scholar who finds that she can do her shorthand better during the service.

Then up in the balcony is Rosie Reluctance who didn't really want to come, but who did, and then leaves only after the first half of the program is over. To make matters worse, she wears loud platform shoes.

Yet, I admit, there are Belles who come for that extra missed during the week — inspiration, solitude, and fellowship.

Whatever the reason, maybe it's time to evaluate Sunday Vespers. We realize that we are restricted by a small program budget. But this is often a cover-up for lack of creativity.

The challenge to the student body is to get involved. There are enough organizations on campus to be responsible for planning some of the Sunday Vespers during the school year. This can be a worthwhile learning experience. It might cause a change in the attitudes of Muriel, Rosie, and Sarah.

Myra Davis

Faculty Briefs

Dr. Hortensia Sanchez Boudy read a paper, "La poesia negra en Colombia" on October 11 at a foreign language conference held at the Center for Continuing Education on the campus of Appalachian State College in Boone.

BENNETT BANNER

Editor-In-Chief
Cheryl E. Johnson

Adviser
Dr. Virginia Tucker

Associate Editor
Joyce Bass
Advertising Manager
Robyn-Denise Berryhill

Lay-Out-Editor
Esther Canty
Circulation Manager
Cleo Branch

Reporters
Elizabeth Adams
Marcia Blackwell
Mellisandre Breathett
Janelle Felder
Muriel Fenner
Frances Gaines
Gloria Glisson
Lennet Hill

Rose Marie Hudson
Bianca E. Hurley
Debra Lowrance
Donna Meacham
Thomasina Stallings
Diane Stevens
Sheila Stewart
Debra Tillman

Cartoonist
Bobbie Durden