

## Sisterhood Is Bennett Experience

A small light bulb lit up the other day when, as I was going through my mail, I opened a letter concerning the Bennett tradition we call the campus "Big Sister and Little Sister" policy.

Ah . . . the memories. What is it really like? What do you say to someone who seems to be six-feet-two and flatly states "I'm your big sister." To a freshman, this becomes an unforgettable experience.

Once introductions are over, the conversation closes with the "Big Sister" saying "Come by and see me." Well, one might think this is the end of what began as an intriguing relationship; but on the contrary, it is just the beginning, or it should be.

The purposes of the Big Sister-Little Sister program are beautiful, if they are fulfilled. Unlike some schools which foster "unity and sisterhood" for a week during the beginning of the semester, the policy at Bennett is a lifelong experience.

It's an experience filled with birthday cards, congratulation cards on making honors convocation, get-well cards, advice on how to trap that special guy and hints on how to get around certain aspects of student life (if you know what I mean). Yes, "Big Sisters" and "Little Sisters" can be and are beautiful. However, it seems as though the "thought" behind the program has become lax.

Four years of college can never be taken away from us, nor can our "Little Sisters," and vice versa. It's time we took pride in our college heritage and traditions. One act of concern goes a long way.

For many of our campus sisters, this policy makes the difference between their success as a student and as a person. It means a lot to know that there is someone you can go to when your roommate could care less or when you don't have enough money to call home with.

Sisters, let's take each other seriously. Many of us will never see each other again once we leave these ivory colored walls; but isn't it nice to know that no matter where you might be, you have another special sister?

## "Glamour" Magazine Holds Contest To Select Top Ten College Women

Bennett College students are invited to participate in GLAMOUR Magazine's 1978 Top Ten College Women Contest. Young women colleges and universities throughout the country will compete in GLAMOUR's search for ten outstanding students.

A panel of GLAMOUR editors will select the winners on the basis of their solid records of achievements in academic studies and/or in extracurricular activities on campus or in the community.

The 1978 Top Ten College Women will be featured in GLAMOUR's August College Issue. During April, May or June, the ten winners will be invited to New York to meet the GLAMOUR staff and will receive a \$500 cash prize.

Anyone who is interested in entering the search should contact Myra Davis, director of Public Relations for more information. The deadline for submitting an application to GLAMOUR is December 15.

There are a limited number of applications, so don't wait.

## Letters to the Editor: Need for Orientation to SGA Stressed

How do students at Bennett perceive their student government? On the surface, it appears that they have no idea of what it is and what it does. And whose fault is this? Well, that might take a while to explain. But to get things moving toward improving this situation, let's place the blame on poor advising and lack of leadership role models.

A young woman does not enter Bennett College knowing what the student government tradition is. She must be oriented. If she is allowed to drift through several years of not knowing its nature, she will not know the responsibilities of student leaders when she assumes such a position.

On matters of student governance, power is scattered traditionally among several groups. Student government is generally the all-purpose organization, though students commonly refer to it as "the no-purpose organization." It

can "dabble" in all facets of campus life. The Administration should recognize it as the official channel to express student concerns on student life matters. Administrators can also use student government as a sounding board and sanction for various proposals. But this has not been the case in recent Bennett affairs.

Students who thoroughly understand that the administration needs student government can use leverage in obtaining justified changes. But first, Student Affairs must make sure that at least some students understand the institutional system and the role of the student body within the system. This can be done through student leadership workshops throughout the year. Outside resource persons should be brought in to help students understand the role of the student government and the officers; to make and implement worthwhile objectives; and to generate student involvement.

It would be nice to say that at Bennett when student leaders speak, administrators listen. Instead, it appears that administrators are listening, but student leaders are not speaking.

In various court cases involving control of student activity fees, the argument has been on who controls fees paid by students used to finance student services. In every court case, the administrators and trustees have won. The deciding factor has been legal responsibility. If something goes wrong the institution is liable, not the students. Therefore, courts have ruled that the institution must have final control of student fees to protect itself from legal hassles.

At each college the amount of control varies. At Bennett, students don't seem to care who controls student life programs. No one seems to care where the money for the student newspaper or yearbook comes from as long as the show goes on. Local prob-

lems seem to generate on "who has what date for this" or "where it's going to be held." Here again, Student Affairs must get into the business of explaining the budgetary process and the policies governing student services. How does an organization receive funds? How is it financed? Each year, SGA leaders should submit a budget report as is required of college offices. Students should know how much they have to spend and how it is being spent.

Power is also traditionally given to the student newspaper because it parallels the SGA in function and scope. But at Bennett, during the last several years, it has lost its impact. It should address itself to issues and act as a channel for student views. It should not compete with student government, but should augment it. Often good, constructive investigative articles have revealed things which served to generate change. The Banner must adopt a more sophisticated, challenging tone. Inferior writers must be weeded out to make room for more effective reporting.

Much of the responsibility for upgrading student affairs and its related components will depend on organization advisers. Students must be challenged to seek "excellence" in whatever they undertake. They must gain skills in effective planning and management. Once the tradition is re-established, new students will have role models to build on.

The challenge is for this year's student government to recruit potential student leaders into committee involvement or other areas of responsibility. Workshops should be held quarterly to introduce them to the Bennett College system and administration. One writer put it so aptly, "When they 'know' you well enough, you can disagree and not worry." Another said, "The idea is to play the game according to the rules of those in power, but to beat the powerful at their own game." But the strategy at Bennett, is not winning any games, but developing responsible student government which combines "assertiveness with respectability."

Concerned



## Fashion Show To Highlight "Unity Week"

The Pre-Alumnae Council is sponsoring a Fashion Show as part of the NAACP's "Unity Week," on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 4:30 p.m.

Fashions will be from S. Edwards in the Forum VI Friendly Shopping Center. Models are being selected from Bennett's student body. A donation of \$3 for adults and \$1 for students with college identification is being asked.



## For Belles Only: Personal Hygiene

by Dotty Brown

Like most beauty, health, and fashion conscious women we take extra care and pride in making ourselves look as attractive and presentable as possible. And that's good.

But what about that annoying

little itch you may have, or the unpleasant odor, or maybe you are experiencing discomfort during intercourse? Chances are that you could have a vaginal infection and not even know it. Don't worry, you are not alone. Gynecologists estimate that one in every three women has vaginitis.

Vaginitis is a catch-all term used to describe several infections that attack the vaginal tissues. Vaginitis does not include the hard core venereal diseases such as gonorrhea and syphilis. Actually, vaginal infections can be more annoying than serious. But this does not mean that they can go overlooked. Like any other illnesses, vaginal infections, should be treated to avoid further complications.

Although some forms of vaginitis can be transmitted during sexual intercourse, vaginitis germs are present in soil, vegetables, milk products, and the air. Doctors say that there are always a few of these germs in our body and that the slightest change to our vaginal chemistry can cause

them to multiply.

Taking the Pill or antibiotics, pregnancy, obesity, diabetes, or poor eating habits are conditions that may upset our chemical balance, leaving us more susceptible to infection. Some doctors hold the Pill and antibiotics as the major causes of the current vaginitis epidemic. Some evidence indicates that tight nylon panties, panty hose and slacks promote vaginitis by limiting the circulation of air and raising body temperature around the vagina.

The form of vaginitis that is most common is *Candidiasis* (also called candida, monilia, vaginal thrush or vulvovaginitis). It is caused by the yeast like fungus *candida albicans*. Common symptoms are burning, swelling, and intense itching in the pelvic area. Candida is usually treated with a fungicidal cream applied locally or with a fungicidal tablet inserted into the vagina. Although the symptoms may disappear within a few hours after treatment, it is important that the medication is

(Continued on Page 3)

## Bennett Banner

1977-78

Editor-in-Chief . . . . . Joyce A. Bass  
Associate Editor . . . . . Deborah Tillman  
Adviser . . . . . Dr. Virginia Tucker  
Layout Editor . . . . . Debbie Hodges  
Circulation Manager . . . . . Janis Badson  
Business Manager . . . . . Terry Lewis  
Cartoonists . . . . . "Twinkle" Richmond, Karen Evans  
Photographers . . . . . Joyce Bass, Myra Davis

### Reporters

Linda Anderson  
Vanessa Batley  
Dorothy Brown  
Sandra Brown  
Patricia Crawford  
Renee Hall  
Becki Holder  
Marion Johnson  
Sheila Purnell

Jacqueline Roberts  
Beverly Rumley  
Sharon Sanders  
Yvette Shelton  
Sabrina Sturgis  
Yolanda White  
Jackie Williams  
Dionna Woods  
Wendy Woods