

Participation in Elections a Must

Everybody wants to "freak," but nobody wants to speak up and out on the rights of students or take action for bettering student life.

Very soon, student government elections will take place. And as last year, students will literally have to beg other students to run for office. This sort of tactic isn't fair for those people who don't want to run, but do run for office because nobody else will. It also isn't fair to the person who silently sits back with leadership capabilities and fails to take the initiative to run.

There's an old wise saying that states, "If you don't do it, it won't get done." And around Bennett, if those same five or ten people don't at least try and run for an office, the office will go unfilled or worse, be filled by somebody who solicited your votes and that was the last you saw of them.

Yes, to be elected to an office means giving up some precious free time, but there is personal satisfaction in knowing that what you attempted to do was for the betterment of student life at Bennett.

So many of our sisters complain about not ever being featured in any candid shots of the yearbook.

The yearbook tells a story. A story of activities with active participants. It tells a success story and a story of defeat. No one wants to read an obituary about someone who merely served as a "mock" officer or a student with a lot of mouth, but no action.

Every one complains about what should be done. Well if you don't do it or do something about it, it won't get done.

Yes, we can find time to "freak," and jam and play spades and gossip about our best friends; but we can't find time to draw up petitions concerning the conditions of the dorms or the cafeteria or the health services or the heating problems.

Yes, we can find time to see the "Young and the Restless," watch as "The World Turns" while the "Doctors" stay the same and "The Guiding Light" beams on. These things are important, or so it seems.

Many students are finding themselves in academic peril and feel that there's no need to try to find help or work for a better standing.

Well, it's your grade, your four years of college and your life. And if you don't do something about it, nobody else will. If you take pride in yourself and the things that concern you, then inevitably, you will receive respect and words of guidance when those rough times appear. But just remember, "IF YOU DON'T DO IT, IT WON'T GET DONE."



photo by Myra Davis

Where were you when the questions were being raised and the answers given? How have you helped your SGA?



For Belles Only: Afro Prevails for Spring

by Dotty Brown

During the cold and windy months we can cover up a lot of things, including our hair. It takes nothing to cover up those brittle, badgered threads of protein (which we call hair) with a hat.

Yes, it's cold outside and we

should wear hats to keep our heads warm. But believe it or not warm weather is on its way and you'll look ridiculous if you insist on wearing those wool tams and to-boggans in warm weather.

What we must do now while it's still cold is to pull out the conditioners, oils, and scissors and get your hair ready for the Spring and Summer of '78. Key words this year are natural and easy. The Bush.

Not the traditional Bush. This year's Bushes are long, medium, short—wavy, kinky, crimped. The cut and the set are very important. But before you even consider having your hair cut, the first thing you must do while you're hiding it under hats is to get it in shape.

Bushin' your hair requires a full texture, and to obtain texture all types of hair needs conditioning. Conditioning is a way of moisturizing, building, and strengthening your hair.

If you have been neglecting your hair it may be necessary to apply a pre-conditioning agent to your hair. A deep penetrating oil or creme used with a heating cap or a half cup mayonnaise with a few drops of olive oil or castor oil

with a heating cap are both excellent pre-conditioners. An ordinary plastic bag can substitute for a heating cap. The plastic bag or heating cap (set at a low temperature) should be left on for about 45 minutes. They should be applied to unwashed hair followed by a mild, but thorough, shampooing and a regular conditioning.

For natural hair use a balsam-type-conditioner. Relaxed (permed) hair needs a penetrating, protein conditioner. If yours is fine or soft hair, use a no-rinse conditioner. For wiry or coarse hair use a softening extra-deep penetrating conditioner.

Also, that brush you may have on your dresser . . . use it! Brushing releases the scalp's natural oils which lubricate and stimulate the hair shaft. As a result of daily brushing you may find that you don't need half as much store-bought oil as you thought.

Now, go get that perfect cut. Remember your face, personality, and lifestyle when you're having your hair cut. Ask your barber or beautician for tips on keeping your hair up-to-par between trim-ups.

The Bush . . . it's so natural, so easy, so us.

Letters to the Editor: Grievances and Gratitude

Dear Editor,

It's that time again. Time when scores of restless Bennett Belles feel compelled to once again demand changes at Bennett. It's starting to become an annual event. Year in and year out grievances are discussed, analysed and presented to the administration, only to be ignored.

I wish to pose this question to the administration: Why? Why aren't dormitory improvements being made? Why can't we have co-ed visitation, at least on a trial basis? Why aren't the cafeteria complaints taken seriously? Is it felt that the students are just going through a stage of revolt and rebellion and it will pass?

We are constantly reminded about academic achievement and the need for its improvement here at Bennett. Has it ever occurred to anyone, other than students, that if the social and residential life was improved academic improvement will follow suit?

Many changes we propose will not cost anything. The majority of them are policy changes that would make life here at Bennett a little more liveable and pleasant.

As students, we should unite together to fight for improvements. I make this preliminary request to the administration to take us seriously! For the outcome of this campaign will be the stepping stone to making . . . no, to keeping

Bennett as alive and vibrant as a black woman's college as we want it to be.

Sincerely yours,
Marion Johnson

Dear Dr. Haff,

It has been six years since I sat in your English 106 class. But the experience I had during those two semesters will always remain with me. Who would have thought that I would go to college? After I got there, I wasn't exactly sure that I would remain and for a while I thought you would be the reason for my leaving.

From the first day I entered your class, I knew that it would be an uphill battle. Armed with my hostility and "big city know-how," I did not see the need for English grammar. So what if my SAT verbal score was low. That was no measure of what I knew, I thought.

You returned six papers marked up in red pencil before I was ready to admit that my grammar was terrible. It was pretty embarrassing to hear myself on the tape recorder during the first two weeks. While it might have been okay for talking with the gang back home in Brooklyn, it didn't seem to fit in at college.

Unfortunately, too few of us wanted to face the reality that we handled communications skills poorly. I can remember trying to get out of your class when my

roommate managed to 'test out' of her English class. She bragged about not having to take English 16, but it turned out that she could not write a decent paragraph in her other classes.

I recall that week before Fall Break when you made the entire class rewrite one assignment until you were satisfied. I wrote those two paragraphs ten times before you accepted it. How about the day you threw your textbook in the trash can and warned that it would remain there until Mary Dunn learned the meaning of predicate? Well, she did and is now a reporter for a Chicago paper.

There was the Sunday Vesper when you asked me to leave because my curlers showed under my hat and other occasions when you criticized your students for their behavior. Well, I admit, you were intruding, but it showed that you put genuine concern above minding your business.

It took dedication and love to be the kind of teacher you were, Dr. Haff. It also took something else. You had a special insight into the black experience and the environment from which we came. You realized that many of us lacked motivation to excel. With this understanding, you made us work harder.

Since leaving the college, I am still wondering how I made it. Somehow, you saw promise in this 'big-city gal.' As I complete my final year in law school, I am grateful for having had the experience of Dr. Haff.

Yours truly,
Marlene Baker

Choir to Tour Five Northern Cities

by Joyce A. Bass

While most, if not all, Belles are looking forward to spring vacation, 41 of our Bennett Sisters are counting the days until they leave on a two-week tour of five major northern cities. Who are the 41 girls? They go under the name of the Bennett College Choir.

Plans have been completed for the spring tour and Dr. Charlotte Alston, along with chaperones, Myra Davis and

McGill Offers Journalism Funds

May 1st is the deadline for aspiring young Southern newspapermen and women to submit applications for Ralph McGill Scholarships.

The Ralph McGill Scholarship Fund offers scholarships of up to \$1,500 each to stu-

dents who have completed at least two years of college, and who have demonstrated a long-time interest in the news and editorial phase of newspapering. Jack Tarver, Chairman of the fund's advisory committee, said scholarships are limited to those young men and women whose roots lie in the South.

Applicants must also convince the Awards Committee that they firmly intend to pursue a career in daily or weekly newspapering. Tarver said the Awards Committee wants to give scholarships to those who are likely to become leaders in the newspaper field.

Successful applicants will be required to maintain a "B" average in order to keep the scholarship.

A letter of not more than 500 words telling why the applicant wants a scholarship, together with a photograph of the applicant, must accompany each application. Applicants also must have a letter of recommendation from a college authority.

Application blanks may be obtained from: The Ralph McGill Scholarship Fund; Box 4689, Atlanta, Georgia 30302.

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