

Banner undergoes change of hand

Last March, the Columbia Scholastic Press Association awarded this paper a first place certificate in the 55th annual contest for college newspapers. The prime movers in attaining this honor were Dr. Virginia Tucker, faculty advisor, and editors Deborah Tillman and Debbie Hodges. Since then, Tucker has exchanged "The Associated Press Stylebook" for volumes on modern grammar. But, during her five-year stewardship of "The Banner," she set high standards for accuracy and impartiality which the new order intends to follow.

A newspaper exists, of course, to impart information to its audience. It serves neither as a medium of flattery for its community or as a vehicle for skepticism. Our purpose is to present the news, and, in the proper areas of opinion, to praise the laudable and criticize what needs improvement. The Banner won't function as a florist's shop or a scourging den.

This paper will inevitably change, however. Despite grumblings about low SAT scores and perennial gloom over the resources of the contemporary college student, there is a great deal of writing talent at Bennett. We intend to enlist and showcase as much of this talent as possible.

In this issue and subsequent ones, you will find features, reviews, and an informal essay or two—in addition to hard news stories. This direction follows the national trend toward the warmer, stronger identification of papers with their audiences. Papers with Olympian poses or undue aloofness currently run the risks of alienation and bankruptcy.

While we plan to give appropriate coverage to all areas of campus life, please remember that the primary purposes of any college newspaper are to inform and entertain students—our largest constituency. (M.G.)



Fall fashion emphasizes mixed basics

by Betty Brown

LADIES! Be the talk of the town as you slip into the sleek, sexy, sophisticated fashions of this fall. Recreate your own image.

Anything goes! You can mix and match anything you like. Mix reds with blacks, or plums with burgundies. It does not matter as long as the color is right for you.

Where should you start? At the beginning, of course. Begin with your hair. You can twist it, twirl it, flip it, curl it, braid it, or just let it hang loose. Pull it all back, then stick in a comb or clinch sticks. Sounds becoming! A style that's quick and easy for that active woman, you! Remember, dress to suit your mood.

Now that step one is completed, move to step two. Look in your closet and pull out that old a-line skirt. Invest in a cinch collared blazer, add a belt and designer hose, "Givenchy" if you like. Then slip into some soft pumps and a matching clutch and you are ready to go!!!

If that's not enough, here's more. Invest, but stay within your budget. Buy those constructed pieces and learn to be diversified.

Simply start with the basics and make the best out of those items. Own plenty of accessories, such as belts (gold or silver, wide or skinny, long or short) hats, jewelry and, of course, make-up.

Choose colors such as wine, purple, burgundy, grey, green, red and black. Then you can easily mix and match them. Learn to be your own designer.

The basics, blazer, skirt and pants, can be dressed up with T-shirts and sweaters—long or short, blousy or tight. Don't forget to own a pair of jeans for that sporty look. Everything goes with jeans. Try anything that expresses you.

The right kind of shoes will complete your outfit. Wondering what kind to wear? Pumps (flat or high, suede or leather), candelis, or the ankle strap which is a very dainty, sexy shoe. If you have bad arches or these types don't suit your taste, try the conservative loafer. A popular look among businesswomen is the leather loafer with flaps or tassels.

Leave your signature everywhere you go. Remember, you are what you wear!

Letters to the editor

Transfer student—lonely and puzzled

To the Editor:

Everyone is aware of the lonely life of a lighthouse watchman, a long distance runner, a cross country skier and a bald eagle. Everyone is also aware of the confusing life of a school principal, a reporter, a financial aid director and a day camp counselor. However, not many people are aware of the lonely and confusing life of a transfer student.

From the beginning of her stay at Bennett, the transfer student learns how to be both lonely and confused. In fact, you could say that a transfer student is an expert in these two fields.

Transfers are instructed to report to Bennett with the freshmen during orientation week. Therefore, everyone assumes that you are a freshman. You are not seen wearing a skirt saying "Peer Advisor" nor do you go into a room with "Counselor" on the

door. Therefore, you couldn't possibly be anything but a freshman, right?! Beginning to feel a little confused? How about a little lonely?

Then they really try to confuse the transfer student. You are told that you must be tested with the freshmen. This seems easy enough, right? Well, it's fine until you and five other girls arrive at the room and the door is locked. "Coincidental," you might say. Well, the coincidence idea vanishes when you discover that the other five girls are transfer students also. It is not until later that you discover that an announcement postponing the exam was made in the freshman dorms. That lonely feeling is creeping up again.

Then you tell yourself that this has all been a simple misunderstanding. The show must go on, life goes on, the sun still rises, etc.

You decide not to become a hermit, but rather to go on to registration day at least. But, Bennett still has a couple of tricks up her sleeves. You arrive at registration bright and early, cheery-eyed and enthusiastic—only to be told that registration during freshman week is for freshmen only. All that patience you had accumulated during the summer is about to run out. Just when you decide to pull out someone's hair and to throw a temper tantrum in front of Black Hall, you run into your advisor. Saved right? Well, surprise! It's now 3:30 and your advisor informs you that you must register now or you could be closed out of classes in your major field. And if that weren't bad enough, they manage to lose your transcript and registration cards. Right about now the life of a hermit is beginning to look real good—well, lonely and secluded anyway.

Now, an ordinary person might give up and go home at this point. But, the transfer student is a unique breed. You already know how to be assertive and aggressive and you are determined to prove it. You decide to wait until the upperclassmen get to Bennett. You are convinced that there is at least one class that will claim you. But it soon becomes apparent that Bennett is not the only one with surprises. All of the upperclassmen mistake you for a freshman also. After all, why else would you be here early and with all those freshmen around you? You are feeling nice and lonely now, not to mention confused.

Well, you decide that there is only one test left, CLASSES. You are the first one to class. You take a seat in the front row. The professor will at least see your face. Just when you've broken five pencils and squirted ink all over the floor, someone walks into the classroom. You glance up with an authoritative look, and she walks over to you. "Excuse me," she says, "you look like an upperclassman. I seem to be lost and could use your help." It is then that you realize that you've found a home.

Wynetta Scott

Policy on pregnancy questioned

Rules cause excessive pressure

by Debbie Hodges

While reading the 1979-80 Student Handbook, I discovered an interesting and somewhat confusing policy. On page 36 the Pregnancy Policy states:

The unwed expectant student must withdraw from the college no later than the fifth month of pregnancy. The student may return to the college no sooner than four months following the termination of the pregnancy upon the recommendation of a physician to the college Health Center.

Married students may continue to study at Bennett with written permission from their doctors.

Although explanations of other campus policies and regulations are given in the handbook, none are given for the Pregnancy Policy. Therefore, I shall offer two or three explanations that may have been on the administration's mind when the policy was written.

The most charitable explanation could be an overwhelming concern for the health of students. Knowing of the added physical and emotional strains pregnancy (especially unwed pregnancy) may bring, Bennett may desire to spare students in this situation the additional trauma of college life. This concern, however, is misplaced. Unless there is an unusual medical problem, most women can continue normal activities throughout the greater portion of their pregnancies. A doctor's assurance of normal pregnancy should calm Bennett's unneeded fears.

Another possible (and more probable explanation) could be that unwed pregnancy does not fit the image of "the confident, courteous, gracious woman Bennett expects each matriculated student to be." (Student Handbook, pg. 54) This explanation, however, is in direct conflict with the "Bennett Family" image. We are told each member of the Bennett Family should be concerned with the welfare of the others. If the image of the Bennett Family were true and all students were truly daughters of Bennett, the forced withdrawal of unwed pregnant students would be comparable to a family's turning its back on a daughter in a similar situation.

Of course, another reason for the existence of the Pregnancy Policy could be that Bennett fears pregnancy is contagious. In this day and age assurances that a "pregnancy epidemic" can be caused by one or two female students are hardly needed.

Some students, of course, may not be able to continue their college careers during their pregnancies for physical, emotional or financial reasons. Those who are able to continue should be given every opportunity to do so. While not denying the difficulties of unwed pregnancy, society does not now brand women in this situation with a big "A". Why should Bennett?

COURTESY CORNER

The Bennett Banner staff wishes to express its deepest sympathy to Mrs. Myra Jones on the passing on of her husband, Mr. Robert Jones. Mr. Jones was the Property Control Officer.



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