

## Are faculty and staff indifferent?

At the formal opening of the College, President Miller stressed the importance that the Bennett family should stick together. I was appalled that only two faculty members, other than those directly associated with the event, attended the second annual Miss Bennett coronation ceremonies. The teacher attendance of last year's coronation was also low. Last year's crowning was history in the making. I feel that everyone should have witnessed this momentous occasion. The faculty was also inadequately represented at last year's Parents' Weekend.

President Miller proclaimed that "We are family." If we were truly a family, we would support one another. The student body attends recitals held by faculty members, but teachers do not take the time to attend activities that we find important. Faculty members seem only to line up for programs where their academic attire is to be worn.

Last year during Parents' Weekend, the parents were not given the opportunity to discuss their daughters' progress with the teachers. I guess the teachers did not feel that they should waste their time, which is obviously precious, to instill in the parent's mind the close family image that Bennett heavily emphasizes.

This weekend is Parents' Weekend. A new Miss Bennett will be crowned next fall. I hope the Bennett faculty can find the time to spend with their surrogate daughters. If you consider us a part of your family, don't continue to treat us like stepdaughters. Apathy has no place within a family.

Joanne Joyner



## Words in praise of dining hall personnel

Once again the "Banner" deadline approached and once again I was called upon to write an editorial. Once again I was stumped for an editorial topic.

I could have written about this year's "Banner" philosophy, but this topic was competently handled by Mr. Gaspeny, our advisor, last issue. I could have written about the coronation, but an opinion on this subject was already being expressed in the Letter-to-the-editor column. Another topic I considered writing about, the early morning Player Hall incident (in which I had a minor role), was also being taken care of in the same column.

What then, could I possibly write about that would make interesting and topical reading? An unlikely and, thus far, unpublished idea came to me: an editorial in praise of our dining hall staff.

Now, lest there be any misunderstanding, we all know conditions in the dining hall are far from perfect. As a matter of fact, suggestions for improving that facility will be appearing in this paper now and then.

I won't go into the subject of food at Bennett. All students have their complaints in this area. There is too much pork in our diet and after three years, any given week's menu can be recited on demand. It is true that the staff does seem a bit overprotective of the food, allowing each student so much and NO MORE until 6:30. (Isn't it funny how students continuously complain about the food, then complain when they can't get any more?)

"Unsympathetic," I would have called the staff until one night at 7:30 I realized I had left one of my textbooks in the dining hall, which closed at 6:30. Normally, I wouldn't have worried but just gone to the dining hall when it opened at 7 the next morning to pick up the book. The next morning, however,

I had an early exam. My mind's eye pictured an automatic "F" on my first test in political science.

Desperate to get my book, I first went to the campus security only to be told what I already knew: no one but Mrs. Myra Jones, dietician, who had gone home for the day, had a key to the dining hall. Reluctant to be told she couldn't help me until the next day, but willing to give anything a try, I called Mrs. Jones at her home. After explaining my plight, I hesitantly asked if there were any way I could go to her home for the key if I promised to bring it right back. She chuckled at the idea of entrusting a student with her key, but must have sensed my disappointment over the telephone. In the next breath, the same lady who says, "Only take one dessert, baby," said, "I'll come right over."

Mrs. Jones really didn't have to come back on campus just because I was negligent. But she certainly did. Why? Could it be she really cared?

I began to think of other calls above and beyond the call of duty Mrs. Jones and her staff had answered. Banquets given throughout the year, including the recent Miss Bennett Dinner and the upcoming Parents' Weekend Banquet, are all special efforts made by this crew. We can't forget all the free advice given by them when various campus organizations give their own receptions.

So, despite the ridiculously long lines that stop and start worse than any rush hour traffic jam, despite the dining hall's opening at 5:15 instead of 5:00, despite hot dogs and cold baked beans EVERY SINGLE Saturday for three years and two months, I'd like to send praise to the dining hall staff. Thank you, Mrs. Jones and crew, for caring. Isn't that the way they said it's supposed to be at Bennett?

Debbie Hodges

### Letters to the editor

To the Editor:

The NAACP has proven to be one of the most effective organizations that Blacks and other minorities can turn to as a support agency in times of racial discrimination. Bennett College is affiliated with the national organization through its own branch. The statement of objectives for the national organization is as follows:

The principal object of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People shall be to insure the political, educational, social and economic quality of minority group citizens; to achieve equality of rights and eliminate race prejudice among the citizens of the United States; to remove all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes; to seek enactment and enforcement of Federal, state and mu-

## NAACP stressed; Aphrodite solicits correspondence from love-torn hearts

nicipal laws securing civil rights; to inform the public of the adverse effects of racial discrimination and to seek its elimination; to educate persons as to their constitutional rights and to take all lawful action to secure the exercise thereof, and to take any other lawful action in furtherance of these objectives consistent with the Articles of Incorporation.

The reason for directly quoting the objectives of the NAACP is because many of us are unaware of the true nature of this organization. We know of its efforts to eliminate racism and upgrade the economic status of blacks through the legal system; however, few of us have actually seen its statement of objectives written in full as we have seen the constitution of the United States.

The fact that there still remains

a need for such a constitution is a testament to the relevance of the NAACP to our nation. It functions as a sentinel to help insure those rights given to every citizen.

Bennett's branch of the NAACP was established in 1976. Since then, it has sponsored activities that have helped to bring the Bennett Community together and enrich our lives through educational and entertaining programs.

The main purpose of the Bennett branch is to support the national organization through fundraising activities. As students, support of such activities is one of the most beneficial contributions we can render the national organization at this time. The activities planned for the Fall Semester are as follows: October—membership drive, and Halloween Dance; November—color TV raffle and Vesper Service; and December—the sale of Christmas Seals, Unity Week and Ms. NAACP pageant.

The officers for this semester are: President, Jane Brandon; Vice-President, Stephanie Wright; Secretary, Roseland Scott; Treasurer, Valerie Wills; and Executive Chairperson, Carolyn Dixon.

In 1978, the Bennett Chapter received an award from the national organization for the most outstanding college chapter. It is the hope of this year's officers that the Bennett community will continue to support its efforts by actively becoming members and through the support of its various activities.

Stephanie Wright

To the Editor:

The editor's desk is usually the place where students gripe about the faculty and faculty gripes about students (not to mention the occasional articles where faculty gripes about faculty).

But today, Dear Editor, I come here not to gripe about faculty or students. In fact, I come here to commend some of my Bennett Sisters of Player Hall.

Monday, September 17th at 2:30 a.m., the ladies of Player Hall's second floor heard a loud scream and a door slam, which sent terror throughout the hall. Quickly assembling came sleepy-eyed, curler-clad students armed with brooms, knives and Lysol cans, ready to avenge the supposed attacker of a Bennett Sister. Searching all maids' closets and bathrooms and knocking on doors became the task of about 20 students with numbers increasing as the entire dorm was checked.

I am happy to report that no one was hurt or needed any help. And I sent my sincerest of apologies to those ladies that were awakened under false pretenses. But to those of you who cared enough to roam the halls; it is you that can positively state that, "Bennett Sisterhood is still alive." And to you ladies, I personally send a special thanks.

Kim Haynes

To the Editor:

I bear greetings and advice from the heights and wisdom of Mount Olympus, dwelling place of the Gods. From me you will find com-

fort and encouragement for those who have loved and lost; those who have never loved but wish to, but abstain because of fear; those who have a love and wish to be certain and assured.

I will accept each letter as if it were a heart, struck by my son and constant companion Cupid. For those are the hearts that are most fragile.

I will seek advice from the immortals under the guiding hands of Eros, the god of love. They will give us expert counsel on such subjects as emotional, physical, as well as social maladies.

I will welcome and encourage all, for I am the goddess of beauty and love. I seek to brighten where there is darkness and secure the marvelous light!

Aphrodite Awaiting Mail

To the Editor:

We, the members of the Zeta Omicron chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., wish to address this letter to the student body of Bennett College. It is necessary to correct a rumor that has recently circulated on our campus that Delta Sigma Theta is no longer a sorority. Since our inception in 1913, we have led a vital existence and today we are the largest Black Greek sorority in the United States as well as abroad. Our organization stresses sisterhood; therefore we find immature acts such as slandering our sorority, malicious gossip, and defacing our property not in the interest of campus unity.

Bennett Chapter

### BENNETT BANNER

1979-80

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