

BC: unique female experience

Independence, self-confidence and a sense of one's own identity can be gained at Bennett College. As women in today's patriarchal society, we seem to be doubtful of our own physical, mental, social and psychological capabilities. Bennett offers us experiences that encourage decision-making skills and mature study of previously adopted values.

Because of the subservient role of women in America, many women feel inadequate in decision-making situations. They further believe that men are more stable mentally and emotionally and therefore that men should hold leadership positions. Thus, many women never reach their full administrative potential.

Some women fail to strive for excellence in leadership positions for fear of being labeled "aggressive" by men. This derogatory term is used to characterize a woman working too diligently at attaining a goal.

At Bennett the women have no male figures to look to for support and convenient stereotyping. Every mission must be accomplished alone. In the beginning, this is a frightening experience, but, as a Belle grows into a member of the college family, she becomes much more confident in her abilities to survive independent of her male counterparts.

Bennett sisters hold prominent offices on and off campus. We participate in athletic events and prepare our own workshops. Through these experiences, we learn to respect ourselves as well as our sisters. Our heroes eventually and rightly become ourselves.

It is quite a satisfying experience to live in a female-dominated environment and survive successfully for four years. A Belle learns not only to trust her own judgments, but she also learns to do the simple, formerly male-centered tasks for herself. What happens when a Belle needs her bed moved, when heavy bundles have to be carried and when maintenance problems must be solved? She does these things herself and gains a feeling of wholeness.

If there is a task to be done, we know it can be performed well because we believe in ourselves. When an apparently impossible feat has been expedited, we feel pride and dignity. Each struggle—no matter what the degree of difficulty—develops self-esteem and self-confidence.

After such liberating experiences, a Belle asks herself crucial questions—"Who am I?", "Where is my place in society and the universe?", and "What is my identity?" A small female college is the perfect place to get in touch with one's feelings.

Because Bennett is a liberal arts institution, it affords students the opportunity to concentrate on careers related to technological areas on one end of the spectrum and professional areas on the other. A great deal of time and effort are spent on studying the role of women past, present and future. Through this discipline, women can examine their ideals and find a comfortable lifestyle.

Bennett's small size allows students to have a good rapport with peers and faculty members. Emphasis is placed on the development of the total student. Individual attention is by far one of the most outstanding features that sets Bennett aside from most other institutions.

The campus is beautiful, fruitful and inspirational. The friendliness of the atmosphere expresses the obvious concerns of the administration.

Bennett may have its problems, and the students may have their complaints, but all the tools for a well-rounded education are present, and it's up to the students to take advantage of them.
Mondrell Jester



Sorors defend purpose, slate events

Dear Editor:

I would like to address the many slurs and condemnations directed toward the Zeta Omicron Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.

I find it not only disgusting but also disheartening that members of the faculty and staff and my fellow Bennett Sisters would find it necessary to criticize an organization which I deem as honorable as I do my sorority. Since long before I pledged Delta Sigma Theta, I viewed both Delta Sigma Theta and Alpha Kappa Alpha with the highest regard. This high esteem was due merely to the fact that the two organizations had as a common goal the betterment of the community through civic activities.

Since being a member of DST I have not only enjoyed sisterhood through parties and "Greek stepping" but my sorors and I have also enjoyed ourselves in a civic

capacity. To be specific, during the 1979-80 school year we have:

- 1) Collected aluminum cans for the benefit of the sickle cell anemia foundation, and this contribution was and is being made in the name of our Bennett sisters who have sickle cell anemia.
- 2) We have had a very successful clothing drive and the clothes were given to Rev. Addo to be distributed to needy families.
- 3) We also sponsored a bloodmobile through the American Red Cross.
- 4) The Delta Cabaret, which we sponsor annually, was successful enough so that we are able to make our annual contribution to the UNCF.
- 5) Presently, we are continuing to collect cigarette packs for a young girl who has a kidney ailment. For every 100 packages we collect this young lady receives one free treatment.

- 6) The Pyramid Club's service project was a contribution of underwear to the Children's House for those "unfortunate accidents."
- 7) Presently, we are in the process of organizing a walkathon for Sickle Cell anemia. If by chance this project is not carried out this semester, we will be sponsoring the walkathon next semester.

Now that this year's activities have been outlined, I think that I should make it very clear that I am not looking for glory or awe for my organization! The things I have stated that we have done are our responsibility, which we deem very important.

Furthermore, I think it is necessary that I establish the purposes for dances, car washes, bake sales, spaghetti dinners, cabarets and beauty parlors. That main reason: Economics. Very few, if any, organizations at all can function

without the almighty dollar and very few of our civic projects could be performed without the aid of our "so-called party money." I find it very ironic that the double standard of preaching sisterhood is practiced by both Bennett faculty and our Greek sisters, yet there is always slanderous criticism directed toward us as we strive to attain our goal of service, unity and peace.

I said before that I found it disheartening and disgusting that some could be so critical of our organization, but I also find people who criticize and demean others without all the facts very pathetic. By all means, I hope that anyone who has unjustly criticized "THE DELTAS" has new insight into what it really means to be a member of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.

Cynthia D. Brown,
President
ZO Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.

To the Editor and all Belles:

The Zeta Xi chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will hold "AKA Week" April 9-16. AKA will sponsor various recreational activities, service projects and beauty pageants. The week will close with the annual AKA rush.

Here is the complete calendar for "AKA Week":

On April 9, the Alpha women will sponsor their annual awards banquet for members of the sorority. Afterwards, the sorors will spend a quiet evening enjoying dinner at Western Sizzlin' Steak House.

On April 10, the sisters will hold a "\$1.98 Beauty Pageant" in Black Hall at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for this event are 50¢.

On April 11, the morning will begin with the sorors jogging their way to good health. Health exhibits will be displayed in the David D. Jones Student Union foyer. Please feel free to come by and browse. You may find some helpful information.

On April 12, the sisters have planned a Greek Step Show at noon in front of the chapel. Later in the day, a Greek picnic is slated for Battleground Park. To top off the day, there will be a "Splash Party" at Woodlea Lakes that evening. The picnic and the party are open to the public. Tickets can be purchased from any AKA member.

On April 13, the sorors will worship at the Institutional Church, and that evening they will dine together in the college cafeteria.

On April 14, "The Mr. AKA" pageant is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in Black Hall. Ticket charge is 50¢.

On April 15, the annual AKA "Rush" will occur in the Union foyer at 6:30 p.m.

On April 16, Open House will be held all day. Students are invited to come to the rooms of the sorority members and view various displays of AKA paraphernalia.
(See Page 3)

Prayer: needed key to a full life

God help me to pray
throughout each day
Keep me true
in all the things I do.
That I will open my heart
and give my praise to you.

Prayer is those words that are expressed to God in all honesty and sincerity. It is in prayer that we look to God for the

calming of a troubled mind, guidance in daily life, or for the expression of thanks to Him. Prayer is a communion between you and God that grows sweeter the more often it is practiced.

Just as Jesus prayed to God His Father, we must also pray. Jesus once told his disciples that "in all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." (Matthew 21:22). It is necessary to pray because prayer lets God know that we turn to Him for help and guidance and that we trust Him. When praying, we must believe that God hears our prayers and that He will honor our word.

A lot of times we pray, but we don't even believe that God will answer our prayers, and furthermore, we don't believe that He hears us. If we are "in tune" with God, the moment we say something that shouldn't have been said, we immediately say "Lord, forgive me." By saying this, we acknowledge that God has heard us. So when we pray, we must believe that God has heard our prayers and that He will answer them. It is not necessary to beg.

Can you believe that prayer changes things? Many times we go lacking in our lives due to absence of a rich prayer life. The Bible says that "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16). 1 Peter 3:12 says that "the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."

Sometimes we stop praying because certain prayers aren't answered.
(See Page 3)

BENNETT BANNER

1979-80

Editor-in-Chief	Debbie Hodges
Associate Editor	Beverly Rumley
Advisor	Michael Gaspeny
Layout Editor	Bernetta Hamilton
Circulation Manager	Myra George, Karen Heck
Business Manager	Ollie Sims
Cartoonists	Norman Barbee, S. Marie Brown
Photographers	Myra Davis, Bernetta Hamilton

Reporters

Linda Anderson	Karen M. Heck
Shelly Coston	Joanne Joyner
Felicia M. Gatson	Libby Malloy
Myra J. George	Shelia Purnell
Beverly Griffin	Katherine Winston
Betty Harbison	Denise Wilder
Lisa Harris	Stephanie Wright