

Beauty of women valued highly by society

Myra Jewel George

Society places so many demands on women, some necessary and some questionable. Probably the most important, and most questionable demand is for a woman to be beautiful.

Not only must a woman be beautiful, but in order to be beautiful she must conform to what this society has predetermined that beauty is. To be beautiful is to have 36-inch bustline and hips and a 24-inch waistline with perfect skin, teeth and hair. Flawless is the key word.

As early as in the cradle, we hear fairy tales of Snow White who is "fairest of them all," and beautiful Cinderella underneath the rags and dust. Of course there is the story of the Ugly Duckling, but we soon learn that the world has room for only one famous ugly person, Phyllis Diller.

As we grow older, we read magazines that show us how the so-called beautiful woman is supposed to look and dress. We read the magazines and honestly believe that one product will clear up acne instantly and one toothpaste will magically make our teeth pearly white. On television, we are invaded by beauty pageants and commercials showing exactly what it is that makes a woman beautiful.

We put up with braces and hair chemicals because to be beautiful is to have perfect teeth and silky, shiny hair. The Orientals bind the feet of their baby girls because to be beautiful is to have small feet. Our society does not go quite that far to be beautiful, but we do inflict pain upon ourselves by being the victims of hot combs and plucked eyebrows, all in the name of beauty.

Why do we do it all? We do it because we have been taught that it is our desire to be beautiful and because we live in a world that expects us to be beautiful or at least try to be.

Our society either punishes or ignores the girls who do not or cannot conform to these guidelines. These girls must settle for dateless nights and danceless parties. What nightmare is more upsetting to a teenage girl than to be dateless for the prom?

How did all of this come about? Have women imposed these guidelines upon themselves? As far as I can detect, these guidelines were passed down through generations without anyone questioning their origins or their validity, because back then to be a woman was to be docile and accepting.

Maybe if we could go back in time we would find that these guidelines were the inventions of men to sell products and to make their surroundings more beautiful. Maybe we would find

that these guidelines were suggested by women to insure lasting marriages or to attract men.

No matter how these guidelines originated, the fact is that they do exist and play an influential part in our lives. We live in a society that says to be special is to be beautiful as society sees beauty. Perhaps by the time I have a daughter she will grow up in a society that says to be special is simply to be a woman.



"COME ON IN NOW, HONEY. THE COAST IS CLEAR!"

An inspiring lesson in faith

Katherine Winston

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." (Colossians 3:17)

A person's word is his bond and all that he does is the truth that he carries. Paul tells us in Colossians that whatever words we speak and deeds we do should be done all to the glory of God. When we not only have God in our lives, but when we also live our lives in such a way that He uses us to exhort to others His goodness and bring them into His kingdom, then our

words and deeds are done in His name. We all can improve the talents that we have, but they can never truly be perfected because there is always something in our talents and in our characters that has to be changed or strengthened.

There is a way that we can be perfect in our works for God, and that is in faith and obedience. Difficult situations will arise, sickness will continue to occur, and other circumstances will come before us, but if we can hold on to and use the faith that God has given us, we can overcome whatever circumstances

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Negative opinion expressed about cafeteria

To the Editor:

As a child, when I disobeyed my mother or father, I was never for any reason sent to bed without benefit of food or drink. However on September 19, 1980 because of my failure to participate in the Miss Bennett coronation banquet activities, I was refused eating privileges. To me this is slightly ironic since I am not required to pay my parents for the privilege of living in their home or eating their food. Yet I pay tuition at Bennett College which happens to include room and board.

Perhaps I am wrong but it is my understanding that as part of my tuition I am to be fed three meals a day, seven days a week as long as I am an on-campus student and desire to eat the food. There was no contract signed by

me stating, "Unless you attend all campus functions at which a meal will be served, you will not be allowed to eat." If I am not to be served a meal because I do not attend a function but desire to appease my appetite, then I would definitely appreciate being reimbursed for that portion of my tuition that is called "board" for that particular meal. If I am not fed and guests are served, I have no choice but to assume that someone is literally "eating my money."

I was told that it was "disgusting" that I chose not to attend the banquet. It is now my turn to say what I think is disgusting.

What is disgusting to me is the fact that the only time that we are not served a "predictable" meal is when the college is enter-

taining outside guests. Why must we be forced to dress up to eat decently? It is then and only then that tablecloths and flowers are placed on the tables. Are students so much less than guests on this campus that we cannot appreciate a little pleasantness at our meals? Is Bennett College only interested in showing its attractive side to its visitors and our parents?

And if that is not "disgusting" to you, the way that food is "guarded" in the cafeteria is enough to make your blood boil! It is not as if shrimp cocktail or chocolate mousse were being served at every meal! I have also noticed that people have taken to watching the soda dispenser. Is the next step serving prefilled glasses of various beverages or prefilled plates of wilted salad? Heaven help us all then! The next thing you know is that there will be no more seconds served in the cafeteria. Perhaps I am being paranoid, but I honestly do not know what to think when I see a person sitting or standing with arms akimbo eyeing the food that I am reaching for. It makes no sense for a person to have to sneak a little extra in order to satisfy themselves.

Who knows the dietetic needs of any one person? One and a half strips of bacon for breakfast is laughable and yet it is not. The only thing that I can assume is that it is either being reheated (which is ridiculous), it is being

wasted (I have seen trays of bacon taken to the back before), or it is being taken home by the people working in the cafeteria. Who knows but myself whether or not I can drink one or two glasses of juice? And it is not as if I have never before seen U.F.O.s (Unidentified Floating Objects) in the breakfast juice.

If students were allowed to get two portions of dessert, perhaps we would not be served two-day old banana pudding that looks and tastes as if it has not been refrigerated. Or cake with icing that crumbles in your hand. Or leftover pineapple that does not look nor taste fresh. Or leftover chicken that is stale and greasy. Or leftover beef stew that tastes as if it has been reheated several times several days in advance before it is actually served. Or . . .

You would think that all of this were enough. But I cannot rest until I point out the fact that the sanitation grade of E in our cafeteria is deplorable. A "B-grade" in Advanced Calculus or Physics is extremely commendable but when you are dealing with food that goes into one's digestive system, things must be brought to a standstill! Just what is going on in our cafeteria that we do not know about? Perhaps the Public Health Department noticed that the personnel were not wearing hairnets (which they should be doing) and decided to "crack down."

I have repeatedly stressed our cafeteria, but it is questionable as to whether it is really ours and even if it can be called a cafeteria! Something is definitely wrong when you go home and your system has to readjust to Mother's cooking. You have been eating her food for years. Perhaps it is good to be skeptical of the diagnosis of a stomach virus when vast numbers of the students develop severe stomach cramps!

Many people laugh off the complaints made by students about the quality of the food in the cafeteria and the attitudes of the people that work there by saying, "Well, I see you eat there anyway!" True, but a starving man will eat maggot-infested, molded bread if he has nothing else to eat!

Bonita McClain

To the Editor:

I feel Bennett College has brought together many black women from all walks of life. I admire the togetherness that we, the freshman class, share with the upper classmen.

The most exciting thing that happened to me was acquiring a Big Sister. I am sure we will make a good team. I enjoy having someone I can share my thoughts with. I sincerely hope I will play an important role in my Big Sister's life during her last two years here at Bennett.

Pamela Y. Pate

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