

# Logic of double cut system questioned

Myra Jewel George

Bennett prides itself on its uniqueness from other colleges. At times that quality is good, but at other times it can be a problem. Take, for example, the cut system. At Bennett, we get one cut for each semester hour and double cuts for unexcused absences taken before and after holidays. Other schools have no cuts at all and some, like St. Augustine, require that upperclassmen attend 75% of the time.

I can understand the rationale behind the cut system, but the double cut is a mystery to me. With the single cuts, the administration is trying to reinforce class attendance and keep students from being dropped failing. That's fine, except for the fact that it isn't the administration's responsibility or business to worry about our grades. Bennett women are supposed to be mature and capable. (Although you'd never know it from all the rules they impose upon us!) I admit, everyone needs a set of rules to abide by so that we can all live peacefully. But, if these rules aren't logical, they really defeat the purpose.

What is the logic behind double cuts? The cut system implies that there is a difference between an absence taken on any given day and one taken before or after a holiday. I don't believe that there is a difference. In both cases, the student misses subject matter. So, if these absences are the same, why do they have different punishments? Besides being illogical, it looks as if the administration is trying to punish students for going home early on a holiday. Could it be that they are angry because they have to sit in offices and classes while the students are at home celebrating?

As Thanksgiving vacation approaches, I am trying even harder to understand the double cut system. What if I were taking a bus home that left at ten and at six? Thanksgiving vacation begins Wednesday at twelve and the dorm closes at five. I already have two classes before noon and I can't afford double cuts or I'll be dropped. Am I supposed to go to class and then wait on Gorrell Street after five for a taxi and then wait even longer at the bus station to get on a bus that's already filled with students from other colleges? Or am I supposed to skip my morning classes and get dropped? I guess the administration's answer is to go to class, at all costs, so that I can save my cuts until

holidays. Is that the purpose of double cuts, to teach students how to arrange unexcused absences or to make us have short holidays and chaotic traveling arrangements?

Why can't we have one cut for absences before and after holidays? Because then students might leave early and few would come to class. Well, so what? Would you rather have students sitting in class thinking about being at home and not learning what is being taught? I believe that it's better to have a class with only a few people who are learning everything than a class packed full of people who couldn't care less.

It's a problem of misplaced responsibilities. The responsibility of the faculty is to impart knowledge. The student's responsibility is to absorb this knowledge. If a student doesn't uphold her responsibilities, she punishes herself by failing. Students don't need any extra punishment.



## Black College Day promotes pride

Lisa Harris

Bennett's representation in Black College Day was not felt in mass numbers, but the college was well represented. A group of 49 students participated in the march to the United States Capitol on Monday, Sept. 29.

As we retraced the route of the 1960 march on Washington where the cry was for Civil Rights, I tried to imagine the feelings of those marchers. Here we were, 8,000 students marching for the first time in support of another important cause, the preservation of our traditional Black institutions. I suddenly realized that there was something more important than the trivial complaints that often plague our campuses. For the first time, I realized that our schools were established for a unique purpose. Where else will we encounter the cultural aspects not gained at predominantly white institutions? Where else will the professors take the time to give us extra help and encouragement? Where else will we develop awareness and appreciation of our heritage? Where else will our non-athletic black students get the chance to prove themselves?

Never before have I felt the need to defend my blackness. Never before had I felt that something so dear to me could be taken away because of race. Black College Day was a success, if only for the awareness that I achieved from it. It challenged each of us to participate in the survival of black colleges. It says to Bennett students, "Know your priorities and make the best of your Bennett experience."

## Prayer lightens heart, gives guidance

"I CALLED ON MY FATHER AND HE HEARD MY CRY"

I called on the Lord and He heard my cry, He answered my prayer Now my burdens are lifted and my days are no more nights. The pressures are gone and my way is made easy, The loneliness that used to be midnight is no more a force against me. Yes I called on the Lord and He heard my cry, I called on the Lord, My Father, and He drew my soul nigh. He said child, you know I

love you and what I have is yours, so give me all of your cares and let me wrap you in my love. Yes I called upon the Lord and He set my soul free, In exchange for my pain He gave me sunshine and peace. The Lord said child, I love you so, and I desire to take you where no natural man can go. I called on My Father and He drew nigh to me, He said child I'm right here and I love you, I love you, I love you, I love you . . . Katherine Winston

"I MAY BE BEHIND IN WORKING FOR MY B.S. DEGREE, BUT I'M 'WAY AHEAD OF MY 'MRS.' SCHEDULE!"

### Letters to the editor

## Students voice concerns

To the Editor,  
I am writing to express my opinion to all those non-participating freshmen.

Recently our freshman class officers were elected and it was my understanding that all the freshmen did not vote. So I would like to say to those who didn't take

the time to vote, "don't take the time to criticize."

Leslie Monique Barr

To the Editor:  
I would like to express some concern about the abolishment of fun-nite. To most students fun-nite was an escape from the mid-

week madness of classes and homework. This was the only type of enjoyment on campus for students to look forward to. Game-night is of no significance and draws only a small portion of people. I think that the administration should seriously consider this matter if they are looking out for the well-being of the students.

Darleen Brooks

To the Editor:  
I am really disturbed with the heating system in my dormitory room. It gets entirely too hot and, in fact, I have to open windows and turn on the fan to cool the room. The thermostat dials that are placed on the heaters must be there for sheer decoration, because they just don't work.

I would like to know when the heat will be regulated. Because as far as I'm concerned if the heaters are not regulated I will continue to open my window, letting needed money as well as heat out the window.

Leslie Monique Barr

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