

Nixon library pondered

Myra Jewel George

I read an article in the newspaper the other week about Duke University. The school is in an uproar, it seems, over the prospect of a Richard M. Nixon library which will be completely free of charge to the campus. Some Duke trustees and graduates don't care to pay tribute to our infamous ex-President. These opponents fear that Duke's reputation would be tarnished. I mean, who ever heard of a school with a Benedict Arnold Hall?

It's interesting to note that the school had never refused any of the money Nixon has donated in the past. I guess they figure that it's all right to take his money because "no one will really know." It kind of reminds you of what Nixon might have said during the Watergate incident. What bothers me most, though, is that after all the fireworks are through and the smoke has cleared, Duke will still be in good shape. They'll either add another wing to their present library or they'll be applauded for refusing the library altogether. Either way, they've lost nothing.

There's a moral in this story.

It seemed especially strange to read about a school refusing a gift. Why, at Bennett, we go out of our way to get people to give us donations, especially the alumnae. Naturally, there isn't the most remote chance that Nixon would offer Bennett such a gift, but what if he had?

Many of the students on this campus feel that Bennett sacrifices quality for quantity. It's a vicious cycle. Bennett needs money to stay open. But in order to get that money, the college often has to do things such as accept students that it ordinarily wouldn't. This causes the college to look as if it has lowered its standards, a circumstance that disappoints the alumnae and prospective students—both major sources of a private school's revenue. All of it leaves Bennett back where it started from: short of money.

The question is, I imagine, just how far Bennett would go for this money. Would the school, for example, keep a student who rightfully should be suspended in order to keep the payments coming? What if ten students got together and vandalized Black Hall; would Bennett put them out knowing that expulsion would mean the loss of \$40,000? These are far-fetched examples. But what about the examples that aren't so far-fetched? Have you ever wondered why Bennett's tuition increases, but the number of semester hours you can take without being charged doesn't? Or why Bennett financially punishes you for taking extra hours instead of applauding your incentive?

My position is that Bennett doesn't do anything to deliberately harm us students. It's all a matter of survival and trying to get out of the cycle. Bennett doesn't have a score of benefactors waiting in line to make contributions. Money is always a problem; such is the fate of a predominantly Black private institution. I can't condemn the school for trying to keep its mission alive. I want it to stay alive, too. That doesn't mean that I don't have my eyes open.

It's important that all of us students be aware of the changes around us this year. These changes shape us in many ways. Don't just look at the situation as it is presented to you. Look at it in the way that it affects you and the people around you.

I said before that this story had a moral, and here it is: If you graduate from Bennett and you gain the reputation that Nixon has, don't offer us a free library—we might take it. (Myra George)

The Duke University Board of Trustees has approved negotiations for the Nixon library. Advocates argue that the voluminous collection will be a boon to scholars. Detractors claim that the school will be tarnished by association with the former President.

Banner Meeting
Monday, Sept. 14, 6:30 p.m.,
Steele Hall Basement

Dear Claire:

Lady wants freedom

Dear Claire,

I am going with a guy who lives out-of-state. We've been going together for three years. My problem is that I feel strange about dating guys in Greensboro. I don't want to sit around my room all the time but I don't want to be unfaithful to my boyfriend either. I love him very much. What should I do? Faithful Freshman

Dear Faithful,

Your problem is a very common one among freshmen. The solution is simply to sit down with your

boyfriend and find out exactly what you expect from each other. While you're talking, remember that you shouldn't ask anything of him that you aren't willing to do yourself. It's probably unrealistic to expect you to have a relationship without any friends. You can go out with guys and still be faithful, you know. But abide by whatever you and your boyfriend decide. Good luck.

Dear Claire,

I wrote to you last semester asking whether it was possible for a

guy I've known all my life to suddenly become interested in me since he came to A&T and I'm here. You told me that it could be possible. Well, Claire, I became very involved with this guy and then I found out that he was only using me. He had told all his friends at A&T that I was crazy over him. Now they're all laughing at me and the people from my hometown are too. You messed up! How am I ever going to get out of this? Embarrassed

Dear Embarrassed,

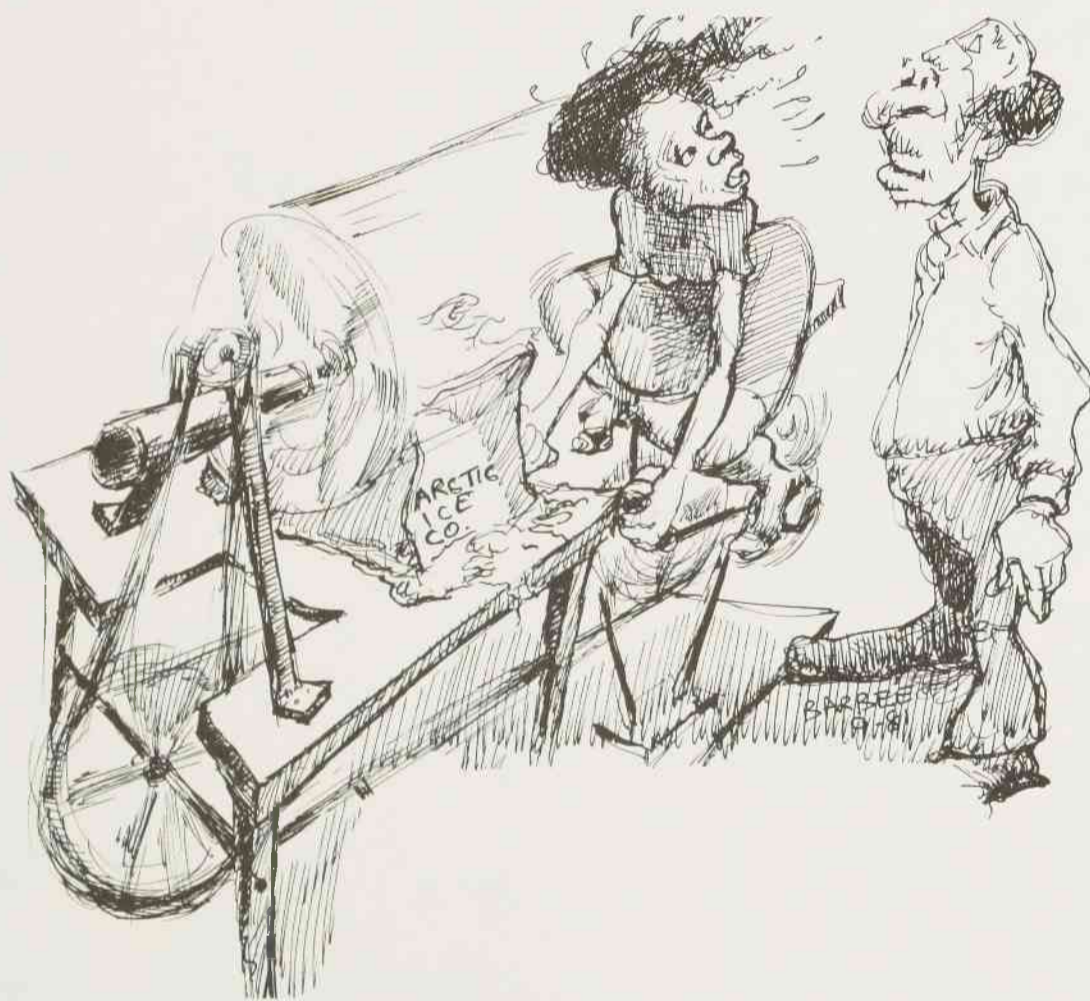
This probably sounds harsh but we learn from our mistakes. Maybe I did mess up but it was up to you to decide whether the guy was sincere or not. Apparently, he deceived you. Could it be possible that the laughing is all in your imagination? Even if it's not, no one can laugh forever. They'll forget about it and so will you. At least you'll be more alert in future romances. Let me hear from you again.

Dear Claire,

Sometimes my boyfriend is very open and affectionate but other times he's very reserved. It's as if he's in another world. I'm sure he's not seeing anyone and I know he cares about me a lot. What do you think the problem could be? Puzzled

Dear Puzzled,

You've already ruled out the two possible answers. Your mate's "moods" might be caused by you. It sounds to me like he simply finds it hard to communicate with you. Be open with him and he'll try to be open with you. Maybe he feels that you'll hurt him if he's too open. Reassure him, show him your love and I'm sure you'll see results.



FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS I HAVE BEEN REQUESTING AN AIR CONDITIONER—AND THIS IS WHAT I FINALLY RECEIVED!"

Trust in God—not in fleeting friendships

Alice F. Taylor

This column is directed especially towards freshmen.

You have been on campus for at least three weeks now. You should know who your friends are

and who your "so-called" friends are. They are probably different people.

Since I have been at Bennett, I have found out who my friends are and who my "so-called" friends are. God is our real friend. I have chosen him as my friend because I can go to him and talk my personal problems over with him without his telling his best friend. I put all my trust in him and so should you.

Here is a word of warning. Your "so-called" friends only help you when they are going to need help the next day. They say they are your friends, but they can be troublemakers. They look for faults in others but never in themselves.

Talk to people but don't put all your trust in them. God is the only one who will not fail you. So when

everything else has failed, try Jesus. When your mind is troubled at night or during the day, read St. John, chapter 14, "Let not your heart be troubled." Remember, let God walk with you and not you with him.

When you get upset, why not go in your room and sing your favorite hymn? Then think about that song. Moments later you will feel better because God's singing and praying always make a person feel better. Admit to yourself, "I have done wrong and I am continuing to do wrong. I'm trying to change because I want to and not because my friends want me to." Do things for yourself. Make yourself happy then think about others. Ask God to help you, but mean it when you ask him, and he will help you—not all the time but when he sees fit.

God can be a great friend to have. Learn to depend on him as your special and true friend. He's the only one that will not tell his friend next to you about your problem.

Ask yourself whether your true friend has done anything for you other than hurt you. Then ask yourself what you have done for your true friend. If the answers to these questions are negative, you need to check your friendship.

We need to ask God for things but not make demands of him. We should come together in faith. We should pray for people and stop putting everyone down. God said, "Ask and it shall be given."

Choose God as your friend. He will not let you down, but people will. God will never fail us; we fail ourselves.

The Bennett Banner

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