

# Chronic apathy must be banished

Despite severe economic problems, Bennett's biggest drawback next year will probably be the student apathy.

Some people have suggested that this apathy is an indication of students' dissatisfaction with present rules and officials. But, if students were truly dissatisfied with these things, it seems that they would seize the opportunity to elect people to replace the officials and propose new rules. The statistics prove otherwise.

Of the entire student body, only 52.9 percent voted in the recent Student Government Association elections. Worse yet, many students ran unopposed. And in the Student Union Board races, there were only candidates for the presidency.

Until a few days before the SGA election, the two main offices were being campaigned for by only one student each. But the unending efforts of another student resulted in the Election Committee's decision to allow this student to run for SGA president. Unfortunately, this kind of student, who would take a stand and fight for her rights, is rare at Bennett.

There are a fine drama department, a choir and countless other organizations offering opportunities to become involved, but students still complain that "there's nothing to do at Bennett." The problem is, clearly, not a lack of opportunities but a lack of initiative on the part of the students here.

Any program or organization is only as good as the students that comprise it. If a student is dissatisfied with an organization, she should see this as a challenge to get involved and find ways to make that organization what she feels it ought to be.

The thing to keep in mind is that changes are gradual. Apathy is not a state that happened suddenly. It grew over the years and it can only be overcome if students find some kind of inner motivation. It is not enough to ask for changes or complain about situations. It is up to the individual to push for these changes.

The present SGA has waged a tremendous fight against lack of interest among the student body. Yet many programs sponsored by the SGA featured bands that played to only a handful of students. The Lyceum Committee arranged for many artists to visit the campus, but the attendance at their performances was sometimes embarrassing.

The newly elected officials will face a lot of problems in the upcoming year but few of them will be resolved until someone finds a way to get the students interested in playing an active role. It is a grave task, and one that certainly cannot be completed merely by words.

Someone has to take the first step.

(Myra Jewel George)

## Letters to the editor:

### SGA President gives parting advice For reformation of the institution

To the Editor:

Bennett College, Wake Up!

To the students, faculty, administration and college personnel:

When are we, the college community, ever going to deal with the internal problems which plague this institution, when are we going to function as the realistic, objective persons that we have the capability of being and concern ourselves with the business of this college?

Too long have we the students denied ourselves the opportunity to demand that we receive the maximum degree of intellectual and social growth. We appear obsessed with the supposition of 'slipping through' the system, of doing the minimum requirements and of permitting our instructors to do as they seem fit, without being accountable to us as a student.

We must wake up and realize that before changes can occur, we must demand that professionalism from our 'educators' be executed and that they educate and prepare us for our future. We must demand that the educators present us with challenges, but by the same token we must be enthusiastic and willing to accept the challenges. If we remain submissive to a system which stifles our growth, both mentally and physically, then we will continue to perform like ships navigating in darkness.

We must demand that our college administrators, instructors and other personnel set the example and cease their 'Catch 22' games. Students are entitled to be a part of the entire college community, not just that which the

administrators feel is appropriate.

Again, President Miller and Dean Ethridge, let me reiterate my concerns. It has been a desire of mine to have student representation on each and every policy-making decision regarding this college. Consistently, I have requested information from both of you, as to when students will be allowed to become an active part of the Board of Trustees. A verbal agreement had already been obtained from the President of the Board at the beginning of this year. The month is now April, I have yet to hear from either of you. This is obviously a circle game!

A few weeks ago my sorority hosted a Delta Teen Day, which invited students to visit our campus. But it seems that everyone was encouraged to speak in behalf of their area of concentration except the STUDENT, who makes each and every one of those person's clocks tick. To Ms. Phyllis Johnson, Director of Admissions, I wish not to take credit for an activity that continues to perpetuate an unjust system.

It is imperative that we, the students at Bennett, challenge the tenacity of the problems here by fully utilizing the S.G.A., Greek organizations and the many other networks available, to rectify these devastating problems.

No, I do not celebrate Washington's birthday, nor do I camp here at Bennett College; I live here as do you. I am not here for a season, but better yet a reason. Because without the students there would be nothing.

Karen Dixon  
SGA President



"You say you won't take me out 'cause I'm always gettin' calls from strange men? What kind a jive talk is that, fool? You ain't never home long enough to know what I get!"

## Conformity mars campus

by Joan Y. Davis

Recently, I was watching a public awareness program about the role of women in the 80's. The guest on the program was a radical Black activist straight out of the Black movements of the 60's.

Just as I had anticipated, she began to roll out this long speech about what Black women do and don't do, what Black women should be doing and what Black women need to do for the race.

It was the same old song and dance that I have heard before, the same old sermon that I listened to in elementary school, the same old sermon that I listened to in high school and the same old sermon that I listen to at Bennett.

Frustrated, I cut the television set off.

Some of you might ask "why?" Well, I'm tired of it. I'm tired of being told what my role is because I just happen to be Black. Just once, I would like to hear about my role as a person, a human being in a world full of other human beings.

I realize that Blacks and other minorities face special problems because this is a world full of prejudices and racial oppression. I also realize the need for minorities to join together and identify as a race. However, I feel that a member of any race should identify himself or herself as a person first, not a Black or white person, but

a person with a unique personality and qualities that make a person an individual.

I used to believe that being an individual was easy, a natural thing. After I arrived at Bennett, I realized that individualism might be a natural thing, but there is nothing easy about it. It takes a lot of courage. Something here in the atmosphere wears down on a person's sense of individualism. There are constant forces demanding everyone to conform. Individuals have to strive, even fight to remain individualistic.

It was hard to believe at first, but to do as the majority does, instead of standing on one's own (See page 3)

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