

Will we take grades seriously?

It is past mid-semester and first semester is almost over now. The freshmen have gotten settled into the rigors of college life. Many have decided to stay and then others have decided Bennett is not the place for them.

Midterm grades have made the decision for many. The discovery has been made that college must be taken seriously. A number of freshmen were shocked and disappointed when they received their midterm grades. Some upperclassmen were also appalled at their grades.

These students still have time to improve their grades, but half of them will not—some because they are too busy making the same mistakes and others because they are not coming back anyway.

The other half who are trying to improve their grades will be struggling now until finals. People who have never seen the inside of Holgate Library will be making first appearances. The week before finals will probably be very hectic for some. There will be the last minute effort to raise an "F" to a low "C."

The complaint has been made that a midterm break was greatly needed. The

students have said that this break would have been instrumental in helping them improve in their classes. A break would give them a chance to catch up on overdue work. Some wanted a break just to get completely away from school for a while.

Thanksgiving holidays could be the needed outlet from the stress of studying for some. Maybe when the holidays are over, students will come back in the right state of mind to buckle down and study. At home, parents could be influential in persuading their students to try to improve grades before it is too late.

For those who do not succeed in doing better before the end of the semester, there is always second semester. It is very hard to pull very low averages up, but with determination it can be done. Hopefully, everyone will learn from the mistakes made this semester and will not repeat them.

Second semester can be the turning point or the new beginning for many. But there is always the possibility that there will be those who will make the second semester an instant replay of the first. (Yolanda T. DuRant)

Dormitories need great improvement

It is deplorable as well as depressing to live in a residence hall where everything is deteriorating.

Walls and ceilings are peeling and falling; pipes are knocking together at all hours of the night; sinks are backed up with all kinds of waste material; and side doors are broken. Residence halls are in need of a great number of improvements, maintenance-wise.

"Cling, cling, cling, bang, bang, sh" is the sound of the heat coming up in Jones Hall at six o'clock in the morning. The noise is unbearable. The pipes sound like cannons in a civil war. It is quite annoying to wake up out of a deep sleep to a harsh, unpleasant sound.

Parents are paying a total of \$4,000 a year for our education and lodging. The question is: Why are we paying so much tuition while we are living in unsatisfactory conditions? The situation is unfair and unjust.

It is quite amazing how the maintenance staff mysteriously disappears when something is broken or just needs a minor repair. These employees' responsibility is to make sure that things are working correctly in the residence halls.

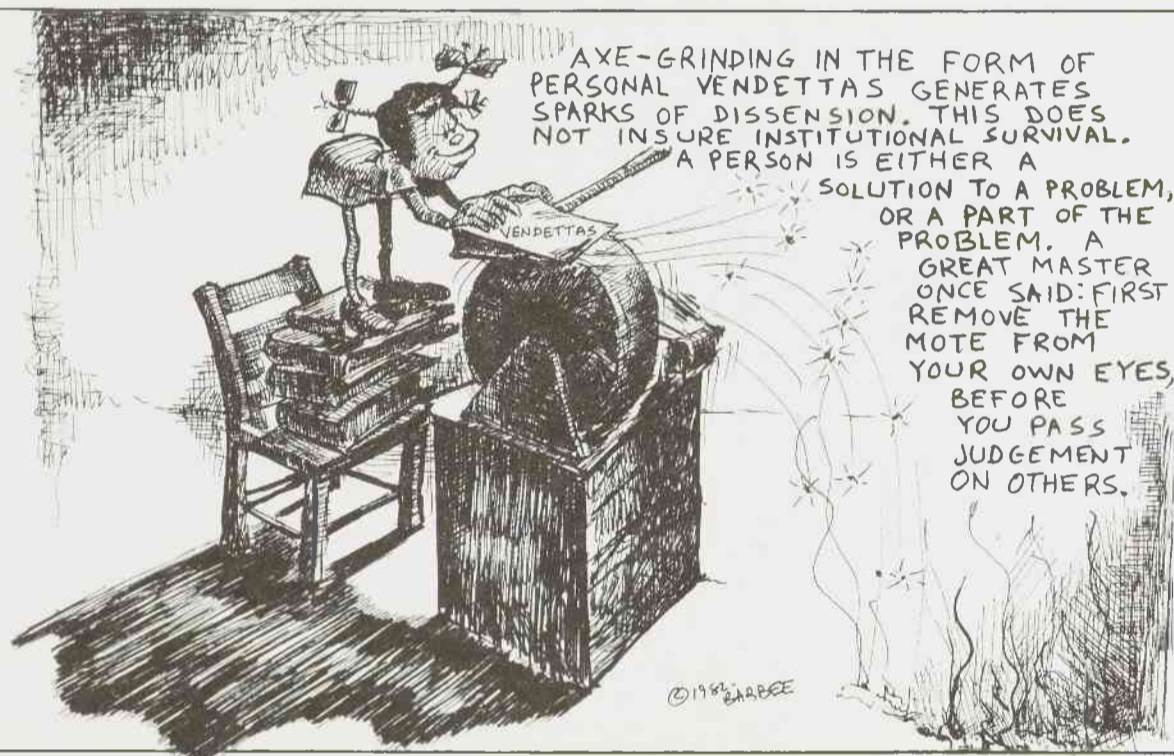
Unfortunately, they are not fulfilling their obligations. This staff seems to have a "Why should I fix anything?" attitude.

For example:

One of our fellow Belles has a bathroom connected to her room. The plumbing needed some adjustments. She and her roommate made several complaints to the residence directors. Maintenance did not come for about two weeks. Finally men came to fix the pipe under the sink. This turned out to be disastrous. Soon after maintenance fixed the pipe, the leak was ten times worse than it was before.

The student requested that maintenance come to her room again to fix the bathroom. This time, they did not return until her mother made a complaint to Mrs. Scarborough, director of housing.

We, the Belles, should put more pressure on the administration to make changes in the residence halls. Many of us just sit back and complain that this is broken and that needs fixing. We should inform the administrators about the problems in the residence halls. We should keep pressuring them until we get desired results. (Lisa Murray)



Letters to the editor:

Bennett gets "ups" as well as "downs"

Editor:

After being here for three months, I feel the students at Bennett deserve a fall break like the other colleges in our area.

Personally, I, along with others, are under a lot of pressure for such a long period of time before the Thanksgiving holidays. I find myself sick and tired of school work sometimes. Having to keep your head in a book and not tak-

ing a break is a pain in the neck.

I've noticed recently that some of the students' attitudes have changed, including mine. It's a trip; I found myself going off on one of my instructors in class because she refused to explain something to me. She accused me of falling asleep in class the day she had gone over that particular assignment, and I knew that I had, but I got arrogant anyway.

Another incident was when I witnessed a fight in my dormitory which occurred over something silly.

I hope this letter will serve as an example of how desperately we are in need of a fall break.

Sheila Foxworth

Editor:

I congratulate Bennett College on preserving the authentic look of the past. Through the years, the maintenance department has been competent in keeping the campus beautiful, but I must bring a problem to mind before someone is seriously injured.

Everyday while walking to class, Belles, including me, have the fear of falling or tripping over the loose slates and holes in the sidewalks. When it rains, the danger is increased. It seems as though the sidewalks flood over because there is not any type of irrigation system where the overflow of water can detour.

The falling of snow only enhances the possibility of embarrassing oneself by suddenly tripping over a loose slate.

I have confidence that something will be done to sustain the beauty of the sidewalks, plus keep them under repair.

Sharon Allen

Editor:

Bennett College is going to have to lower its book prices because they are becoming ridiculous.

One can understand how infla-

tion is affecting everyone, but why must the Belles suffer these consequences?

It is fitting for us to question the prices of our books because we only get to use them for one semester and we do not even get enough usage of the book.

For example, the "Structure and Meaning" book costs almost \$20, and we only get to use the book about twenty times. These twenty times are divided by two days. In the class one must read stories, poetry, and plays. Then there is the discussion of what one has read.

It is highly impossible for one to complete a book with 1220 pages in one semester.

The administration should try to be reasonable in selecting books which they feel are adequate for this college and try to lower the prices of books. Maybe they could consider renting the books out so that one can received what one has paid for.

Agnes C. Brown

Editor:

I would like to comment on the Bennett College family's closeness. With the faculty, student body, and the administration working together as they do, I feel Bennett College is a close-knit school. The teacher and student relationship here is important and encouraging to the student. At other schools such as North Carolina A&T and the University of

North Carolina at Greensboro, the students are just numbers in the instructors' classrooms.

They really don't have that teacher-student relationship. Another point about the large universities is no one knows anybody else too well. But here, everyone knows everyone and we all try to help each other. Our teachers give us special attention and individual help in our work when it is needed. The activities and special events we participate in as a whole instead of everyone being out for herself. I would like to say in the end to the Bennett College family to continue to stick together because you are doing a great job and moving along just fine!

Tracye E. Payne

Editor:

As a member of THE BENNETT BANNER and a member of the Bennett College family I have been aware of a certain complaint made by a large number of Belles, myself included.

The complaint is that there is nothing to do on Bennett's campus, nothing to keep us from being bored. The general gripe is that all we do is sit in our rooms after classes.

I've come to realize that when translated this means we don't have enough parties or dances to attend like our counterpart, A&T.

Remember that A&T is a fairly (See Page 5)

The Bennett Banner

Editor-in-chief Yolanda DuRant
Associate editor Leslie Barr
Adviser Michael Gaspeny
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