

The Bennett Banner

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The lights are out for the basketball team

by Dee Evans

The basketball team has been discontinued this season and possibly for years to come.

Student apathy has forced the cancellation of this year's schedule, according to the coaches.

On Nov. 18, prior to the first game, the final decision of discontinuing the team was made by Athletic Director Leon McDougle and Coach Cathy Mussington. The team started with seven women and then the number kept dwindling. The players came to practice on an irregular basis.

In addition, "their skills were inadequate for competitive play," says Mussington. "It is not feasible for us to spend thousands of dollars to spend equipment, supplies and officials if we do not have an adequate number of

players," she adds.

Both Mussington and McDougle were dismayed by the low number of students who tried out for the team, but McDougle was not surprised. "I saw it coming for the last three years. The trend is not only in small colleges but high schools even with the championship teams," says McDougle. He explains that there is no more enthusiasm sparked by the novelty of women's sports. He also said that there is a loss of school spirit and pride in public schools.

Mussington, in agreement, says, "the low motivation extends from the home through attitudes and social values. The lady of the '80s tends not to be interested in external affairs and is not group-oriented, therefore, creating a spillover of apathetic attitudes."

Sophomore business major,

Carol Holliday, a first-year player, was not really disappointed. "We weren't prepared. I was hurt because there was no team, but not hurt because of no participation. How can you call yourself a team with no players?" says Holliday. She too, notices the apathetic attitude among the students because those she talked to gave her the impression that they had better things to do.

The college's academic orientation contributes to the low athletic interest. Mussington feels that if Bennett offered an athletic scholarship, that could help recruit more students into the athletic field. "There is a need of revamping the budget to include more money for scholarships," she maintains.

The faculty is not giving up on athletics totally. They are planning new strategies and new ideas for new teams.

A stronger concentration on volleyball will take flight along with the idea of starting a softball team for the spring. Sophomore accounting major Michele Sherrod, who plays volleyball, agrees that softball will promote interest among Belles. "I talk to a lot of people who said they would be interested in softball," comments Sherrod.

McDougle's opinion is that it's hard to regain a program after losing a season. Therefore, concentrating on other athletic areas would be recommended. "I don't think it's wise to continue basketball until things have changed," he says.

Holliday agrees that until a team is developed with players who won't half-step, then Bennett should try to find other alternatives. "It takes discipline, motivation and time to play sports. You have to get spirit and morale up

before you can talk about a team," says Holliday.

Coach Mussington has decided to create a survey questionnaire in order to "seriously scrutinize the interest of students." After evaluating the results, she wants to plan athletic activities on an intramural level, setting up invitational matches which are not to be confused with regular conference-affiliated squads. Mussington adds, "I hope that when the surveys come out, we'll get responses that will give us a good picture of the student's expressed interests."

Mussington takes a strong interest in the future of athletics because she is an alumna. "I hope . . . the ladies will all respond after seeing how important this matter is to the athletic department."

The survey will be distributed in early March.

Big scene for Black History Month

Quality and quantity characterize the campus' celebration of Black History Month.

A one-time candidate for president, an leading drama troupe, an art exhibition and programs featuring student participation highlight the schedule of 15 events, with several presentations still to be announced.

The most distinguished guest is former Congresswoman Shirley Chisolm, who will speak on either Feb. 14 or Feb. 15. The date, place and time are pending. Chisolm is the scholar in residence at Spellman College.

Some old friends will be returning when the Pin Points give two dramatic performances Feb. 19. Last spring, this innovative theatrical group won accolades here for its "1001 Black Inventions," a look at how the world would stop turning if it were devoid of contributions by blacks.

The Pin Points will enact "The Dope," a musical comedy about the stages we go through under the influence of p.m. in Little Theatre at 4 p.m. Students should pick up complimentary tickets in the humanities office.

"If He Were Alive," a slide-skit presentation showing Dr.

Martin Luther King's how martyr might be applied today, will be given in the chapel at 7 p.m.

"African Textiles and Tapestries" will be displayed at the Z Gallery, 107 S. Dudley, across from the Market St. post office parking lot. The exhibition starts Feb. 3.

"Oh, my goodness, this is going to be a beautiful show of authentic African textiles and a few pieces of sculpture," says Dr. Alma Adams, assistant curator of the gallery. "Unless you've got money to travel, it's the closest you can get to Africa."

Headlining the calendar of student-staged activities are the annual Black History I.Q. Quiz Bowl Feb. 12 in the science assembly at 7:30 p.m. and "An Afternoon of Black Public Speaking" to occur Feb. 17 at 3 p.m. in the same location.

The choir will perform twice, offering "Black History Through Song" Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m. and "Gospel Expo" Feb. 24 at 6 p.m. in the chapel. On Feb. 26, there will be a panel discussion on the history of black music at 10 a.m. in the chapel and a presentation of student research papers on black composers as well as musical demonstrations at 3 p.m.

Key history course no longer on hold

by Tricia Hairston

After a year's absence, a black history course has returned in time to meet the needs of scholars eager to know their past and of freshmen in the Developmental Program, which requires one semester of this subject.

Mrs. Linda Addo is teaching Afro-American History 308. The first semester covers the social, economic, political and cultural heritage of blacks starting from slaves to the '60s.

Addo has taught history for many years at Bennett and black history at Guilford College and UNC-G. She feels that the course is very important because there are some things that American history has not highlighted.

She explains, "It is important that we find out about our past because it helps us to understand the current issues and problems we have to deal with today. Students are surprised to find out that in the Civil War over 5,000 blacks participated, and thousands of blacks were free in some Southern states before the war."

Beginning with the African heritage and the American Revolutionary period, the course will deal with slavery, then the Reconstruction period "and what it meant to blacks, and the adjustments and problems they faced during the 20th Century. We'll look into Booker T. Washington, W. E. B. DuBois and the

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Exterior—Interior: Most people only see President Isaac H. Miller Jr. as the college official, performing such duties as this welcome. But, as Pamela Gary shows, there's more to the man than meets the eye. (photo by Public Relations Office)

The President: behind the title stands a sensitive man

by Pamela Gary

The 18 years here have been kind to President Isaac Miller. His hair is a blend of salt and pepper. His eyes are alert and filled with the understanding needed for his job, and in his gaze, there is an underlying glint of steel barely noticeable unless he is stressing a point.

The only evidence of time passing and the daily stress that he works under is in his stance. His shoulders are slightly rounded as if they were used to carrying the burdens of keeping this school afloat.

One of the major problems facing Miller is money. In this high-tech society, higher education has become an almost mandatory requirement for getting a job. It is also becoming a "luxury" that fewer and fewer blacks can afford each year due to Reaganomics.

It costs about \$5 million a year to keep Bennett functioning. Tuition is presently \$4650, but the actual cost per student is about \$7000—a difference of \$2350.

"One of the most difficult parts of my job is managing to raise the additional funds needed to run the enterprise while keeping the price the student as reasonable as possible," says Miller.

The additional money comes from three primary sources—The United Negro College Fund, the United Methodist Church and the alumnae. In order to keep the groups abreast of the rising costs, Miller travels frequently.

Because of his hectic schedule, Miller does not get to spend as much time with his family as he would like.

"I would say that more than five to 10 percent of my time is spent with my family. I regret that is the case, but being president of this institution makes me a very public person, and the public calls on me a lot because of who and what I am," he explains.

Because of the proximity of his job to his home, Miller finds it almost impossible to separate his private life from his public life. "Even when I am engaged in a social activ-

ity for my own personal entertainment, I am often promoting Bennett College," he says.

Despite his dedication to his job, Miller would not advocate his career choice to any of his children.

"The travel obligations place a real strain on the family, and I think that it is important for both mother and father to spend ample time with the family," he says, adding that if a child has a strong sense of service then he would recommend some other area of the teaching profession. "It takes a certain kind of emotional make-up to do this job. You have to believe in your enterprise because you have a lot of 'take' and not that much 'give.'"

Although Miller is obviously fond of his work, he has very defined ideas about other career choices that he would have liked to pursue.

"My background is in teaching at the elementary, high school, and medical school level. I teach one sec-

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