

Dealing with anthrax threat

I've been jaded since the events of Sept. 11 and the days that followed. Without the usual newscasts about monsoons in Japan and the World Left-Handers' Convention, I've been forced to realize that my country is not as safe as I thought it was. America is now under a siege of fear.



Monya D. Tomlinson

Nothing is heightening our fears more than the threat of exposure to the anthrax virus. The terror of possible contamination of our mail services and public buildings is the top story everyday. While the news is usually discouraging and nerve-racking, I, like so many others Americans, have continued to live life. I'm more cautious now of what I do and where I go, but other than that, my life hasn't changed much.

The big question now is "What can I do to protect myself?" Buying a gas mask is out of the question. Spraying myself with disinfectant is not really an option. I could move into a bomb shelter, but I'm not good with confined areas.

What I'm really doing a lot more is praying – not the usual list of "thank you's" and blessing requests th "I'm-kneeling-so-hard-I-need-a-pillow-so-my-knees-don't-turn-black" kind.

I'm also starting to adjust my priorities. I'm no longer only en-sconced in the daily goings-on here at school. I'm looking harder at my future. I'm making plans.

If it is my fate ,God forbid, to be the anthrax victim, I want to be able to say that I'm prepared for it. My insurance pays for Cipro –the antibiotic used to fight anthrax -- I checked). I know where all the major hospitals are and which is the closest. I watch the news daily and read the paper for any new information. More importantly, I've upped my daily prayer quotient. I tell my family I love them as often as I can. I'm living my life.

We are living in scary times. Our worries about anthrax are real. As long as we realize that we have little control over what happens to us, but we have ultimate control over our attitudes about life, we can survive anything.

I might be jaded, but I'm not afraid.

The opinion expressed in this column is that of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the entire Bennett Banner staff.

THE BENNETT BANNER

The newspaper produced by and for the Phenomenal Women of Bennett College

Monya D. Tomlinson Chief Editor

Carla Adams Circulation

Ethelyn Bagwell Circulation

Takesha Briggins General Reporter

LaShainna Campbell Associate Editor

Rochelle Clark Health & Beauty Reporter

Larissa Colbert General Reporter

Toccara Davenport Staff Artist

Stacey Hansen General Reporter

Darnita Howard Herstory, Briefings, KUDOS

Amber Knox Production

Jessica London Production

Ayodele Murphy Reporter & Reviews

Phierce Phelps General Reporter

Keisha A. J. Stoute Sports Reporter

Brandl Wright Reporter & Reviews

Dr. Lona D. Cobb Faculty Advisor

The Bennett Banner is a laboratory newspaper published twice monthly during the academic year, except during months with College recognized holidays or College vacations. The newspaper office is located in Shell Hall C-2. The Banner telephone is (336)517-2305.

STUDENT OPINION POLL:

Bellespeak

What should we do about the possible threat of infection by the anthrax virus?

Photos by La Shainna Campbell Associate Editor.



NATIA BROWN

Junior
Arts Management
Washington, DC

While Anthrax is an issue, I don't think that we as Americans can allow fear to rule our lives. It could hit us at anytime. We should live life to the fullest.



LATOYA MILLER

Sophomore
Undecided
Statesville, N.C.

God has not given us the spirit of fear. We should keep our trust in God and believe that he will see us through.



SHAUNA WILLIAMS

Senior
Business
Baltimore, Md.

Everyone should remain calm and not jump to conclusions. The terrorists want us to be scared so we should do the opposite.



MEREDITH TALFORD

Junior
Social Work
Chester, S.C.

Take proper precautions and pray.



DEVAN YOUNG

First Year
Biology
Biloxi, Miss.

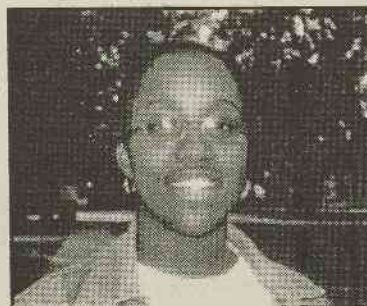
Be more aware of it and understand that it could happen to anyone.



SHAKIRAH FOSTER

First Year
Mass Communications
Marlton, N.J.

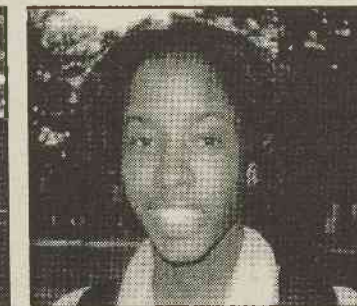
Be cautious.



ERICA WOLRIDGE

First Year
English/Political Science
Wilmington, Del.

America should continue to do as they are doing and unite, and pray that God will take control of this situation and fix it.



MELANIE FIELDS

Senior
English
Cincinnati, Ohio

I believe all we can do is check our mail and tell people in power about anything that we think is suspicious



TIFFANY BOWE

Junior
Mass Communications
Balch Springs, Texas

Just pray and let God take control.