



Greetings, SMCC....this week's clipping is somewhat bittersweet---earlier this week, the *Arizona Republic* reported the passing of Judie Wennersten Bailey, one of SMCC's most active and involved students back in the old days. She is one of four students featured in this article about student life in the early years, published January 20, 1982....



JANICE SNOWDEN



LORETTA JOHNSON



JUDIE WENNERSTEN



GUY LITTLE

**MORE ACTIVITIES PLANNED**

# South Mountain Students To Focus On School Spirit

By LARRY SAMSON

Identity and dollars are scarce commodities at South Mountain Community College, say student leaders. But they hope to deal with the problems in the coming semester.

Starting their second semester at their permanent campus at 7060 S. 24th St., the students viewed the shortage of financial aid and the lack of school spirit and identity as their two pressing problems.

"Now our job is to build the school spirit," said the school's NAACP chapter president, Janice Snowden.

ACTING STUDENT body President Loretta Johnson agreed, saying student organizations would be planning more activities this semester to help build school spirit. "We don't have a school song or anything," she said.

Guy Little, activities director for the Black Students United for

Progress, attributed a lot of the school spirit problem to student apathy.

One of the students who went before the Maricopa Community Colleges Board to appeal for financial aid, Little said students also would be tackling the problem. He suggested that renewed efforts be made to find contingency funding available through the district.

Other student leaders said new efforts will be made to ease the financial pinch by working with the South Mountain community. Local businesses and civic groups will be sought out, they said, to fund scholarships and other financial aids.

MISS SNOWDEN said the NAACP chapter already had arranged with OK Productions, a black businessmen's group, to help its scholarship fund. The proceeds from each Thursday's cover charge at the R and J Lounge, 3611 S. 16th St., will go towards scholarships, she said.

Gauging the student population's feelings on the operation of the school, the leaders agreed that most students are happy with the way things are going on campus.

"I love this school," said Judie Wennersten, president of the school's Phi Theta Kappa scholastic honorary club. "I see that they're trying," she said of the school administration, attributing most student complaints to a breakdown in student-staff communication.

Most the student leaders discounted reports of student unrest or racial tension on campus.

MOST STUDENTS have heard such stories "floating around," said Little, but none of them can be substantiated. "I can't figure where it's coming from," he said, as "most (students) appreciate what's here."

One student leader attributed student complaints to a militant few who are "skating" rather than studying.

The student said there had been some racial tension due to the actions of a handful of blacks, but that the situation now "has relaxed more."

He called upon the administration to exercise more control over such students, advising that school officials tell such students that, "you ought to be learning."

All the students agreed that most were happy with the quality of teachers at the school.

"WE DO HAVE a lot of good instructors here on campus," was a typical comment from Miss Johnson. "They do care."

Those compliments were generally extended by the leaders to the school's administration as well.

"We've worked very well with the administration," said Miss Johnson.

"There hasn't really been any hassle," said Miss Wennersten. The PTK president noted she regularly sees both President Raúl Cárdenas

and Dean of Student Development Wil Counts on campus and always feels free to stop and talk with them about school problems.

MOST OF THE students said there were still some problems with the scheduling of classes, but recognized that as a result of the school's small enrollment.

The administration, said Little, had tried "to the best of their ability" to meet complaints about the spring scheduling problems.

Miss Wennersten said it was still difficult to get many required math and science courses — many of which are offered only at night. The school, she said, has "lost quite a few students this last semester" because students weren't able to get the classes they needed.

But Miss Wennersten noted other district colleges are having the same problem. She said two Mesa Community College students are in her microbiology class.