Homecoming Week Highlights

A 70’s flash-back, 2003 homecoming

BY CHYNEE D’HALL
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Hall, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2000, told the audience that she would not let her disease conquer her. “I think that my being disabled makes people realize that you cannot take life for granted,” she said. “You have to have tenacity and stay humble. If I can brighten up someone else’s day, then I have done my job.” Hall’s other hobbies include drawing, painting, reading, and writing poetry.

Asked how she felt competing against the other contestants, she said, “I felt well prepared and comfortable.” She said people should never take life for granted. “Always appreciate what you have because it can be taken in a second,” she commented. Winning Mr. Homecoming was a dream come true for Mills. “It was something that I wanted after seeing my friends crowned at the last two homecoming pageants,” he said, referring to last year’s winner Damion Quails and the 2002 Mr. Homecoming winner Jermaine Simmons.

Asked of he had inspired others, he said, “The standard was lifted on the campus because homecoming is viewed in a different way because of the representation that you can possess.” Mills’ hobbies include singing, speaking to youth, and working in his church. Asked how he liked

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Campus Security is working on safety

BY DONNIE CHANDLER, OMAR DAVIS, AND WAHEED ZARIF
STAFF WRITERS

Students are willing to give suggestions on how to improve public safety. Some of these suggestions include putting call boxes around campus, using foot-patrol officers, and increasing the overall number of officers.

Regardless of how many improvements in campus safety are made, Benedict students appreciate the efforts made by their colleagues who have participated in various other events, on and off campus, and they do community service work as a hobby.

They will probably do it for the next week, and then they will go back to what they were already doing,” she said. Public safety should make adjustments, several of the students said, like increasing the security presence around campus. “That will improve the well being of everyone at Benedict,” said the student.

One can only hope this is just the beginning of an improved public safety environment, and that it will lead to a Benedict College that will be forever free of unfortunate acts of violence.

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POLITICIANS LOVE BENEDICT
Presidential candidate Joe Lieberman makes small business his agenda

"Benedict College is doing a great job of helping small businesses. Its Business Development Center (small business incubator) is an asset to the community."

Joe Lieberman, Presidential candidate

Democrat presidential hopeful Joe Lieberman visited Benedict’s Business Development Center in November to express his proposal for closing the educational gap in America and for helping small businesses.

The amount of money given to students for financial aid does not keep up with the rising cost of tuition, said Lieberman. That is why he is proposing an increase in the amount of Pell grants for college students, he said.

Under his proposal, Pell grants would increase from $4,050 to $7,600. "I recognized that it is a lot of money," he said, "but the increased amount is an investment rather than a giveaway."

He spoke before about 100 persons gathered in a conference room of the modern, state-of-the-art Center.

Lieberman also proposed that financial incentives be given to college students which increase their graduation and retention rates.

Speaking on his goals for high school graduates, he said he would like to see at least 90 percent of high school graduates pursue some form of higher education. "A college degree is a passport of opportunity," he said, adding, "I would not be where I am today if I had not gotten my college degree.

On the economy and the role of small businesses, Lieberman said that small businesses have a vital role to play in America’s work force. "Small businesses are part of the driving force stimulating our economy," he told the crowd.

Lieberman said that Benedict College is doing a great job in that regard, not only by being a source of good for the community for over 130 years, but by helping small businesses and having a business development center.

He praised the Benedict facility, known as a "incubator" that assists local and minority businesses. The Center’s director is Dr. Robert Scott, who was on hand for Lieberman’s visit, along with Dr. Sheila Ank, Benedict’s Vice President for Community Development.

She introduced Lieberman and welcomed him to the facility.

While there has been progress in the growth of small businesses all over, Lieberman said there are still systems of "have’s and have not’s" in America’s schools. The systems not only divide individuals by income, but also by race. "Society and government are failing our children in America," he said.

After outlining other key parts of his platform, Lieberman answered questions from the audience. Asked if he thinks his religion (He is Jewish) might be a hindrance in negotiating peace between opposing groups in the Middle East, Lieberman said, "He said he could help to build bridges in the Middle East.

Asked whether he believes prayer in schools should be allowed, Lieberman said he favored a moment of silence, which does not directly force any religion.

As to what he would do about the budget deficit, Lieberman said that the government must get the deficit back in balance. "When President Clinton left office, the country had a $266 billion surplus. Now that Bush is in office, the country has a $374 billion deficit," he said.

Explaining his stand on adequate health care coverage, he cited several statistics: 43 million Americans have no health insurance, nine million of those are children. Lieberman said if he is elected he would propose that $100 million be put aside to help Americans suffering from chronic diseases.

He said he would emphasize the importance of prevention and adequate health care for all people, despite their income level.

Asked to give his opinion about violence in the media, Lieberman responded that the President has "not been very active" in the television and film industries should be stopped. "This is not censorship," he said, "but it is not a good system.

"One can always make a buck with violence and sex, but it is not good," he concluded.

Turning to a question on his position on the war in Iraq, he said that Saddam Hussein was a "ticking time bomb...I support the job the troops have done." However, Lieberman said he does not support the Bush administration for not having a plan for the reconstruction of Iraq. "Now American taxpayers are paying for the reconstruction," he said.

Lieberman encouraged the audience to vote and participate in the state’s primary on Feb. 3, 2004. Blacks can play an important part in the presidential race here in South Carolina, he said, especially in the democratic primary.

He encouraged blacks to share their voices and "Everyone has a voice in our great system. It does not matter if you are black or the president of Exxon. All votes count the same," he said.

TEACHING QUALITY
Freshmen find help in preparing for Praxis

BY TOWANDA TIDWELL
Staff Writer

Hoping to raise the number of students passing the Praxis exams, required before they can enter the teaching profession, in South Carolina at least, Benedict’s Education, Child and Family Studies Department is starting early to help Education and other majors pass the Praxis I exam.

Praxis preparation workshops have been held throughout the semester to help students prepare and pass the state offered test. Longtime Education, Child and Family Studies Department faculty member Catherine D. Thomas, who is also with the MATE program, organized the Praxis workshops. She explained that Praxis I is the South Carolina Educational Department’s exam that students who are majoring in education must pass, in order to take the required education courses here.

There are three areas of assessments in the Praxis series, she said. Praxis I is based on academic skills. Assessments are given to freshmen and sophomore years in college.

Praxis I focuses on the reading, writing, and mathematical skills one should know on a high school level. Paper-based portions of the tests are in reading and mathematics, and computer-based portions of the tests are in reading, mathematics, and writing, given via computer-delivered questions.

Previously, less than 40 percent of the students here who took the Praxis I the first time passed it. The department is making some assessments as to how many of the students who passed the test were education majors and how many were not.

Dr. Janeen P. Witty, chair of the Education, Child and Family Studies Department, said many of the students who took Praxis I were not education majors.

The second test required of prospective teachers is Praxis II, which is based on subject assessments and includes special area tests, multiple subject assessments for teachers, principles of learning and teaching tests, and teaching foundations tests. Seventy-five percent of the students here who took Praxis II passed it.

Then there is the Praxis III, which are classroom performance assessments. These are to evaluate all aspects of a beginning teacher’s classroom performance. The test is designed to assess in licensure decisions.

For now, the department is focusing on helping freshmen get ready for Praxis I.

The workshops introduce the students to aspects of the Praxis and cover the formal content of the material that will be on the test. The workshops have been held every week, and for now, are for freshmen only.

Thomas said their goal is to increase the number of students passing the Praxis. So, the focuses of the workshops now is on freshmen and first time Praxis test takers.
Edelman says no child should be left behind

By DIONNE CHANDLER

empowering and saving the nation’s children was part of the reasons for the visit of renowned children’s activist Mari-an Wright Edelman, who preceded Benedict’s campus this fall during a three-day visit to the area. Edelman, a native of Ben- netsville, is totally committed to the rights of children of all races. She almost single-handedly started the ‘Leave No Child Behind’ move- ment, which not only has become a nationally recognized slogan, but a passion as well. President and founder of the Washington, D.C.- based, non-profit Children’s Defense Fund (CDF), Edelman came to Benedict College to speak to the community and students about her definition of leadership and how it should be put into action through service, community, and educational excel-

Edelman explains that the concept of “Leave No Child Behind” is more than a slogan. It is a must, she says, a commitment. lence. The mission of the CDF is to leave no child behind, as its motto states, and “to ensure that every child have a healthy start, a head start, a fair start, a safe start, and a moral start in life, and a successful passage into adulthood with the help of caring families and communites,” according to CDF liter-

ature. The CDF says that it has become a strong, effective voice for children in America who cannot vote, lob-
by, or speak for themselves. During Edelman’s visit, she and members of the CDF Action Council, had the opportunity to speak at several different events, including a town hall meeting held in the Lit-
tle Theatre, a general assembly pro-
gram in Antioch chapel, and a stu-

dent leadership luncheon.

In all of her talk she went into depth on education and gave statis-
tics and findings on the status of youth. Asking the question, “what does America guarantee its chil-
dren?” she pointed out that the only time children become valuable is when there is an election of some sort.

At a general assembly program, she focused on statistics involving children and youth in America. Every 41 seconds, she said, a baby is born into poverty here in one of the richest nations on earth. There is a one in 13 chance that a male will go to prison, and a one in three chance of a female having a child before reaching the age of 20. She pointed out that since the start of CDF however, the number of teen pregnancies has decreased.

At the student leadership luncheon the deputy field director of CDF, Taj Brown, gave an informative speech about the need for advocacy. Advocacy is finding that force inside you that drives you to do something, he said. “A lot of us are waiting for Dr. King to come back. We are all we got, and we don’t need a Ph. D to take a stand. Everyone can make a change.”

Edelman also spoke on the theme of empowering and saving the nation’s responsibility to “policy, education, leadership and service.” “America is facing its most dan-
gersous times, if we don’t stop the trench now,” she said. “We’re going to have twice as many black men going to prison than college. Every-

one can make a change. We need to disarm our personal eagles and care for our children.”

CONTINUING EDUCATION

New evening/weekends program starting next fall

By ALI OMAR

Benedict’s Academic Affairs Department is mak-
ing plans for a new continuing education pro-

gram, designed to help older students and com-

munity residents work on and finish their college

degrees. The continuing education program will help tradi-
tional as well as non-traditional students to complete the requirements of a college education. The program will operate during afternoons and evening hours.

The dual Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and dean of Research, Graduate School, and Continuing Education Dr. Godwin Mbamalu said the program is targeting non-traditional students, persons at least 25 years old, and full time workers.

He said the college saw a need for the program and wanted to support members of the African American community, especially those who might not otherwise have a chance to go back to school. “In keeping with one of our key missions, which is community service, we want to extend opportunities for career advancement to our constituents in the community,” said Mbamalu.

Continuing education students would be able to obtain degrees in business administration, computer information sciences, in liberal arts fields, as well as social work. Other areas will be added as the program grows, he said.

The courses will tentatively be offered Mondays through Thursdays, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mbamalu said most of the decisions concerning the program have been planned and are ready for imple-

mentation, but some minor details remain. The pro-

gram is scheduled to start the beginning of the 2004 fall semester.
STUDENT RESEARCH DAY
Mass communication students share summer intern experiences

BY TANISHA POLITE AND RAYNITA MILLER
STAFF WRITERS

Several mass communication majors reflected on their print and broadcast internships and journalism conference experiences in a program called “Know What I Did Last Summer” as part of Student Research Day.

Before about two dozen of their fellow majors, other students, and faculty staff, the students talked about the benefits of their summer experiences and their plans and hopes for their future careers.

Trystin Francis, a senior and Student Government Association (SGA) president, shared what his internship experience for ESPN network was like this past summer. He interned at the network’s New York facility in Manhattan. Francis, a native of New York, said his job was to market various packages to potential clients (valued at $9 million) offered by ESPN. The major sports and entertainment network grossed over $2 billion on the World Series last year. Francis also had the opportunity to work with the Indianapolis Racing League, attend the network’s star-studded ESPY awards show, go on the PGA tour, and work on an ESPN 2 block party, hosted by rapper Mos Def.

“The experience was wonderful,” said Francis. “I met a lot of people, and I learned how to deal with people on a professional basis.”

Francis, who met most of the stars on ESPN’s hit TV show “The View” including Star Jones and Barbara Walters, was invited to apply for a permanent job with the show by one of the show’s producers.

Senior Chynneada Hall, a Richmond, Va. native, spoke about her internship with the CBS affiliate television and radio station there. She said she had the chance to write some broadcast news scripts. She said she also learned the importance of being on time and keeping up to date on current events.

“In order to be in this business, you have to be able to come up with good questions, have good communications skills, and be a clear and concise writer,” said Hall.

Landing an internship was not easy for Jamaica, the West Indies native Andre Buckley. “It is very hard for an international students to get an internship,” he said, explaining that they have to work perkins, or meet additional work requirements.

Buckley was able to get an internship at a television production facility called CB-TV in Jamaica. He wrote scripts and learned how to operate a television camera. “Even though my internship only lasted for three weeks, it was a good experience,” he said.

Marco Brooks, a Georgia native and SGA Vice President, interned at WSB-TV in Atlanta, Ga., over the entire summer, at one of the top stations in the Atlanta area. He competed for and got an anchor position and was able to produce a very professional resume tape, showing him working as an anchor and reporting on the scene live.

Brooks said he was the only black male accepted at the station, out of more than a dozen candidates. He talked about how having an understanding of public relations, writing and reporting, broadcast terminology, camera talent, and a good resume package are key elements in finding a job in broadcasting.

Wafeeq Zarif, Caleb Obumba, and Latonya Jones also spent the summer interning. They proved themselves very capable and prepared, as several of their news stories were published.

Zarif, who worked as a staff writer in general news, even got a page one story, and Obumba, who worked as a sports writer, also had several stories. They collaborated on a couple articles for the newspaper’s special back-to-school edition. Jones gained some very valuable experience as an assistant to the State’s research librarian.

Tameka McLemore had the opportunity to intern with Electra and Atlantic Records. McLemore explained that she went to different record stores promoting albums for several artists and networked with people in the music business. She reminded her fellow students that they did not have to make music themselves but to be in the music business.

Terrill Bryant, Ali Osmar, and Jocelyn Eglington shared the fun and educational time they had at the summer regional conference of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) in Atlanta, Ga., which they attended with faculty member Gladys Shabazz and Public Relations Director Kymm Hunter. The three students said they were able to make some great contacts for possible jobs and additional internships. They were also exposed to several new trends in the communications field.

The student presenters agreed that every course they had taken at Benedict was beneficial to them. They all said that getting internships and being exposed to industry professionals was very important. “Even though many internships do not pay, you get paid in knowledge and experience,” said McLemore.

Following the students’ portions of their reports, English, Foreign Languages, and Mass Communications Department Chair Dr. Linda Quillian gave some encouraging and supportive words to the students. She said she was proud of them, and she knew that when they leave here, “you will continue to make Benedict College and myself very proud.”

Assistant Chair Dr. Carolyn Drakeford told the students to remember those who helped them as they go up the ladder of success and to always be fair and kind to people because they may need them later. Mrs. Karen Rutherford, director of Career Planning and Placement, also offered her encouragement.

She reminded the students to take advantage of the many careers, jobs, and graduate school materials available in her office.

Department staff member David Dornik gave an update on the status of the radio/television facility.

The “Know What I Did Last Summer” program was organized and planned by mass communications faculty members Tam Bryant, Susan Dogan, and Gladys Shabazz.

Mass communication student Marco Brooks shows photos from his summer internship experience at WSB-TV in Atlanta.
Library’s collection grows and expands

By Omar Davis

The Benjamin F. Payton Learning Resource Center, better known as the Benedict College Library, is not just a facility containing a lot of books, but it is a facility conducive to studying and research. It is one that has grown into a sizable collection of books, multi-media resources, periodicals and other special holdings.

Today, the library contains over 115,000 books, media and periodicals. Over the last school year, the library’s collection grew by nearly 2,000 new books, additional periodicals, and media selections.

The library staff strives hard to improve and increase the collection throughout the year. There have been several new advances in technology and changes in information, resulting in new editions of resources and improvements in the collection, which is supported by institutional budgets and Title 3 funds. Currently, the library is seeking grant opportunities from the Andrew Mellon Foundation.

The Learning Resource Center maintains adequate print and electronic resources, designed to facilitate effective student study and scholastic achievement, said Zinerman-Bethea. The LRC has improved its technology to provide a climate that is conducive for study and research by students, faculty, and staff of Benedict College, she added.

Additionally, Benedict’s library has upgraded its offerings with the Electronic Resource Center, now furnished with nine new flat screen personal computers, placed along wall to wall tables. The capability of the new Dell PC’s allows faster connectivity and access to research on the Internet. Students and faculty can log online to the State newspaper and other publications. This system encompasses news articles from 1987 to the present, which can be accessed from their beginning to the end.

If research materials and resources are not found in the LRC, students and faculty can take advantage of the Inter library Loan Service (ILL), a program that allows students and faculty to retrieve resources from other libraries in South Carolina. The LRC offers a South Carolina borrowing card privilege to share resources with 56 other participating libraries in the state.

In the library, newly acquired books are displayed on bookshelves near the circulation desk. Students, faculty, and staff of Benedict College are able to examine these books before they are placed in the general collection.

“During the 2002-2003 academic year, 1,859 new books were added to the Learning Resources Center collection,” stated Bethea. These books on the New Arrival Bookshelf are displayed for 30 days before they are placed in the general collection of books in the library.

The LRC has also upgraded its Electronic Resources Center with the Instructional Media Center. Here students have access to a collection of videos, compact discs, filmstrips, and other audio and visual resources. Students and faculty can retrieve recordings of college events during the academic year.

The library staff, besides Director Zinerman-Bethea, includes Peter Rossi, Mary McAfee, Acquisitions Librarian Mrs. Beatrice Sumter, Bridget Sledge, Jeannie Adams, Mary Hendrix, Julian Pempleton, Brian Crawley, and Shirley Goodwin.

Photos by Rayrita Miller
A ROYAL AFFAIR:
The Coronation of Miss Benedict 2003-2004

BY TAMIRA L. MCLANMORE
STAFF WRITER

The annual crowning of Miss Benedict this year did not present the usual combination of only glamour and gowns. This year the enchanted evening entailed more sophistication and cultural glitz.

Darci Strickland and Curtis Wilson of WLTX-19 hosted this royal affair. Coronation 2003 bore the theme “The Beautiful One Has Come.” The Egyptian/African environment accentuated with pulsating beats of drums added to the spectacle of awe.

Miss Benedict’s attendants, Stephanie Prophet and Andrea Foster, were elegantly draped in royal gowns themselves. They were gracefully presented to the audience and court by way of a chaise lounge being carried by two escorts clothed in Egyptian wraps. Though the queens of the court were dressed in traditional white gowns, the gentlemen spiced things up with their cleverly accessorize variations of flags representing Benedict’s international conglomerate of students.

However, her court’s extravagant entrances would not outdo Chinae. She would be introduced to the audience by stepping out of a shiny gold pyramid that parted at the seams. Her white, two-piece ensemble defined fine royalty with its purple and gold train.

Newton was honored with a dance tribute from the Harold Odum Dance Theater and gifts and presentations from several family members. “You’ve got to pray for two reasons, when you feel like it and even when you don’t,” said Chinae’s mother, Sandra Newton Walker.

Chinae also had some surprising guests to show up at the event. Grandmother Essie Perkins, a 1962 graduate of Benedict, acknowledged the relationship between the family and Benedict, while father Russell Perkins surprised Newton with a saxophone serenade of “Ju’s She Lovely” by Stevie Wonder. However, it was her football play-er boyfriend Calleb Obumba who stole the show with some creative and poetic verses to his sweetheart.

Miss Benedict 2002-03, Tennika Smith, sat upon her throne for the last time before passing the tiara on to Miss Benedict 2003-04, Zandra Chine Newton. Newton’s acceptance speech was a vocal serenade to Christ thanking him for his blessings. The sound of joy brought the audience to their feet, which earned Miss Benedict 2003-2004 an emotional, standing ovation.

The Coronation was finalized with the Court’s promenade to “Brand New Day” from the Broadway musical The Wiz. The irony is that Newton portrayed the role of Dorothy this summer during Work-shop Theatre’s production of The Wiz. The 2003 Coronation displayed sophistication and class. It was a definite showstopper. Chinae Newton portrays the role of the beautiful one has come.

Ladies-in-Waiting: Campus queens sit and enjoy the show.

INSPIRE BY DOING
Coach Hendricks speaks to young children at Harmony

BY BRYAN SIMON
STAFF WRITER

Benedict College’s Head Football Coach John Hendricks recently visited some young kids from Harmony, an after school program, in association with one of Columbia’s Kaban mini-police stations to share some inspirational words.

“Whenever there is a chance to speak to young kids about having a positive outlook on life, I do it,” said Hendricks. “I never turn down the opportunity to talk to young kids.”

Hendricks told the eager young faces that they could become whatever they desire. “It’s your work ethic and what you think about yourself that is important,” he said. “Don’t become what others want you to become. You must put the work in to be successful. The dictionary is the only place success comes before work.”

Hendricks also said that if something is worth having, you must work hard at it. “If you’re going to be successful, you must sacrifice. You must see the big picture. Having self-esteem, pride, and motivation play a major role in your success. Never forget to develop the gift God gave you.”

Hendricks said that he’s motivated to speak to young kids because he grew up in a rough neighborhood in Camden, N. J. That made him realize that he is blessed to have had parents who influenced him in the right way. “It’s important for parents to be active in their kids lives and be their role-models and keep them away from the wrong surroundings,” he said.

“Life is very important,” he continued. “It’s important that we as male role models express positive images to our youth. We also need to get more involved to push our kids to be successful.”

Hendricks said that there are not a lot of males taking the role of being a positive image for youth, but he is willing to take as much time as needed to reach the youth of today, and especially inner city and less fortunate youth.
The First Calvary and Benedict Connection

Spirituality with an historical twist

BY MARCO BROOKS
STAFF WRITER

The sounds of deacons conducting devotional service, ushers lifting the offering, prayers of the elders, reading of the announcements, choirs singing songs of praise, and the preaching of the Word. These are the typical features of services at First Calvary Baptist Church, like so many other churches in Columbia.

What sets First Calvary Baptist Church services apart, however, is where the services are held. First Calvary members first held worship and fellowship services here on the campus of Benedict College from 1945 to 1950. Now, they have returned again. While their old sanctuary is under new construction, First Calvary members are conducting services on Benedict’s campus in the Swinton Center, since Antisdel Chapel is being renovated.

“This is not the first time that Benedict College has opened its doors to help the church,” said Dean of Chapel and Campus Minister the Rev. Glenn Prince.

“First Calvary Baptist held services on Benedict’s campus back in 1945, while the church was being remodeled, and we are back again. It is truly an honor to be able to continue our services while we await construction of our new sanctuary,” said John Goodwin, a trustee of the church.

Under the leadership of the Rev. Samuel Lewis, First Calvary Baptist Church’s membership is approximately 350, recently joined with Benedict College Chapel Services Department, to hold worship service for the college and community.

The joint worship services are held in the David H. Swinton Campus Center ballrooms. The campus services that were normally held in Antisdel Chapel are now held with First Calvary.

“I think the blessed part of it all is that First Calvary, a church that has historical significance to Benedict College, is now sharing on a new level of worship, representing the true meaning of spirituality,” said Prince.

“I am very pleased to have First Calvary as a part of Benedict College’s spiritual growth among the students. It is a blessing to have so many different entities within the community, in which everyone comes together as one church family, to work together,” said Bathsheba Benedict founded Benedict College on the grounds of the American Baptist Home Mission Society. The college was initially founded for training ministers and teachers, and in the past, the church has joined worship with First Calvary Baptist Church, this legacy continues.

First Lady Patricia Swinton worship services at First Calvary Baptist Church, along with her husband, Dr. David H. Swinton, who serves as a deacon of First Calvary. She shared her aspirations of spirituality and support of the chapel services on campus.

“The chapel worship services are now at another dimension, and I encourage the students of Benedict College to attend the services. It is my hope that the students will take part and share in the upbuilding of spiritualty on campus, and the primary stage would be, to support the chapel services.”

The American Baptist Home Mission Society founded First Calvary Baptist Church in 1865.

The new church is under new construction a few blocks from Benedict’s college. The old church had been torn down to make way for the new sanctuary. Professor of Literature, Dr. Malqueen Richardson described said while the former First Calvary building has been torn down to make way for the new sanctuary, her memories of the old church will never leave her heart.

“I have compassion, and a sense of dedication for First Calvary. I have been a part of First Calvary for many years and as a result, I will carry that same dedication over into the new sanctuary. I grabbed a piece of brick that was dismounted from the old sanctuary as an emblem of the hard work that has been invested in the upbuilding of the church, and thanks to Benedict College, our services as a church family will continue, along with the memories.”

First Calvary member Mariam Kennedy

Benedict College not only shares worship services with First Calvary, but they also join Bible study and noonday prayer. “I normally did not attend chapel services, but I decided to go one Sunday since Benedict has joined with First Calvary. I have really enjoyed the new services. I think that a change is needed every now and then because people tend to get comfortable and growth stops. First Calvary really brought something new,” said Trotman Johnson, a member and teaching of music major.

Shantae Jones, a member of Brothers and Sisters in Christ (BASC), said that the joint services have inspired her. “I attended the new services one Sunday. I can really see a difference in the atmosphere of worship. The services now seem to be more spirit filled. I cannot attend my church in my hometown, but attending the services with First Calvary gives me that down home feeling.”

The new sanctuary of First Calvary Baptist Church, to be located on the corner of Harden and Pine Streets, is well under construction.

Church officials are anticipating completion within the next two years. “We anticipate that the church will be completed within 18 to 24 months,” said Goodwin.

The schedule of the joint First Calvary-Benedict services in the Swinton Center are as follows: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Worship Services, 10:30 am, Bible Study, 6 p.m., and Prayer Service, 12 noon.

Creating Achievers achieving well

BY TONAWANDA TISDALE STAFF WRITER

Creating Achievers, an academic program designed for a specific number of new freshmen has been creating quite an achievement for itself in the number of students in the program making vast improvements in their classes and other academic work.

Dr. Malqueen Richardson, director of Educational Support Services which conducts the Creating Achievers program, said students in the program have shown progress.

One of the program goals is for students to “progress satisfactorily, both quantitatively and qualitatively,” she said. A second purpose is for students to be eligible to receive financial aid through grants and scholarships. Finally, they hope to help improve the retention and graduate rates of the students.

Students are randomly chosen based on the college’s admissions policy. Richardson explained the program and her role in it. “The students are required to attend sections of English and math which meets five days a week. The reason for this is the intensity and repetition of the one on one contact.”

Richardson also discussed the reaction that the students have made about the faculty and staff who are involved in the program. “Students in the program speak highly of faculty members in terms of improved writing and analytical skills. They appreciate that the teachers know each person. The students receive additional support through writing and math lab as well as study groups,” she said.

The Creating Achievers program started nearly three years ago, but this is the first year that it has been called by the name ‘Creating Achievers’. There are approximately six faculty members involved in this program. Currently, 78 students are enrolled in this program.

Creating Achievers is in conjunction with the English, Foreign Languages, and Mass Communications department, the Mathematics and Computer Science department, and the Office of Educational Support Services.

The faculty and staff in the program include Dr. Carolyn Drakeford and Faye Hardy (English); Anne Colgate and Marlene McLerkin (support services); Evan dine Nobles, Vernell Ross, Remmer Vereen (math); and Mildred Knighfer (support services).
MUSING AROUND CAMPUS

From my observation post: BC’s old oak tree

BY DAVID LEE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It can be intriguing to sit under the old oak tree on Benedict’s campus and watch the way the people around here communicate with each other. Everyone has his or her own style. There are people from down South, up North, the Midwest, and the Islands. If passers-by decide to sit down, he or she may as well get ready to be enveloped in an aroma of tobacco, which will linger in the air. Perhaps the aroma is from cigarettes. Newport’s are the favorite around here or Black and Milds, which have more of a more tart smell.

A group of guys argue over a playstation game. From the look of one guy’s face, he wants to fight. His lips are turned up, and he is pointing his finger in the other guy’s face, shouting, “You cheated!” A girl walks over and asks to borrow a book. From down South, up North, the Midwest, and the Islands. If passers-by decide to sit down, he or she may as well get ready to be enveloped in an aroma of tobacco, which will linger in the air. Perhaps the aroma is from cigarettes. Newport’s are the favorite around here or Black and Milds, which have more of a more tart smell.

Several public safety officers ride pass, telling everyone to move. They keep passing several times. The patrols seemed to be working because the campus seems quieter than usual. Sam, a physically challenged student, passes by in his wheelchair. He rides so fast it looks like he’s about to run somebody over.

All shapes and sizes of people pass by. Fat people, skinny people, people wearing all kind of styles, showcasing their different cultures. You don’t know what to expect. Each moment something different can happen. You might try to catch a nap sitting under the tree, but most days you can’t. You can only chat a while and smile, and just keep on building memories because under BC’s old oak tree, there’s so much to see and hear.

Editor’s Note: Lee, a student in the Features and Editorial Writing class, wrote this observation piece under the old oak tree.
**Homecoming Week Highlights**

*Continued from page 1*

Continued from page 1 competing against other content, Mills said, “I was in a state of nervousness. I had placed in my mind that I had to be the best in each portion of the competition.” For his question portion, he answered, “Be true to your self, and all other things will be added!”

As the week progressed, there was a dormitory step-off, with several groups performing. J. Town/Jenkins Hall steppers were the winners. Then it was ‘Flashback Day’, a day wherein students could dress in clothes from the 70’s and 80’s. Other activities for the day were the dinner, the ‘Soul Train Line’, ‘Tiger Apollo Night, and the pajama party held in the gym. There was a great turn out for the pajama party considering that it was a first time homecoming week activity. The long line outside the gym indicated the anticipation level of the event.

At midweek an International Students Carnival was held. Carnival Bonfire was another event attended by students from Benedict and some other surrounding schools. The carnival was full of colorful sights and sounds, including r & b, hip-hop, and reggae, which truly helped to make it an international carnival.

Students pulled out their best threads the next day, Thursday, which was ‘Flashday Day’. Students put their best foot forward and got dressed for the day. The events on this day included the Tug Over Talk Show, and the ‘Best Dressed Runway’ competition. The Tug Over show attracted another large audience; the three show participants were given makeovers, going from rugged clothes to dressy ones. The next to the last day of the week, Friday, was the time for everyone to pull out his or her Benedict paraphernalia for it was ‘Purple and Gold Day’. Many students and faculty showed their school spirit and colors. This day’s events included a pep rally, a homecoming dinner, and a step show. The step show included an exhibition by the J. Town Steppers and performances by members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. of Voorhees College. The winners of the competition were Kappa Alpha Psi member groups from Voorhees College. Saturday was ‘Celebrity Day’, so participants came into the clothes and styles of their favorite celebrity. The homecoming parade was one of the best ever because of widespread support from BC alumni, friends, community members and organizations. Over 20 units participated in the homecoming parade.

The homecoming game was filled with lots of cheering and applauding as the Benedict Tigers put on a great effort towards winning, but lost 19 to 31 to the Kentucky State Thoroughbreds. The day ended with great performances by Maya and Benedict’s own Snook. The week ended on Sunday with another dynamic performance by the Benedict College Gospel Choir.

Several students had various views on the week’s activities. Freshmen Brian Goodman said he liked the Greek step show the pajama party, and the fashion competition. “I was amazed that you saw people there who you don’t see on a daily basis. Lavelle Jamison, another freshman, said he liked the pajama party, the bonfire, and ‘Apollo Night’.

**Campus Security**

*Continued from page 1*

crossing that street. “People (drivers) don’t necessarily have to come to a screeching halt,” he said, “but it has the potential to be unsafe. We need to educate people.”

As to whether there is too much student traffic in the area, students often congregate in the area, although, it seems, not in as large of groups as before the incident. Some persons have also complained of smelling marijuana as they pass some students standing or lounging in the area. “I have no data to support that claim (of marijuana smoking),” said Davis.

Davis suggested that one reason there is more traffic there is that it is a pick up area for the shuttle bus. Traffic kind of dies down after that, he said. Davis said he does expect he situation to improve. He said they will maintain a high visibility and will continue the proactive approach. “Students are very supportive of what we do,” he said. “Students come around and talk. That makes me feel good to know that I can talk with the students.”

Benedict security does not have jurisdiction to investigate the shooting since the street is in the city of Columbia. police jurisdiction.

**Oak Street closing**

*Continued from page 1*

This isn’t the first time the proposal has been made. The problem is that some residents around Oak Street oppose the closing. They are worried about not having access to many churches and schools located around Oak Street. Hunter said this wouldn’t be the case, and the issue of safety trumps any slight inconvenience.

“What we want them to know is that they can still go to church. It’s unfortunate that we’re talking about safety and convenience, while they’re talking about convenience,” said Hunter.

Hunter also said there’s a perception that every household around Benedict is against closing the street, but that just isn’t true. She cited the older community in the high-rise on Reed Street as supporting the idea of closing Oak Street.

“It’s just that those that are opposed are very vocal. They are quick to run to the newspaper,” said Hunter.

Hunter also mentioned that some of the decision falls into Councilman E.W. Cromartie’s lap, since this is his district.

Although Benedict wants full closure, from Hunter’s perspective, that’s not a realistic possibility, especially since this is an election year. She used the University of South Carolina’s failed plan to completely close Green Street in front of the Russell House as an example.

“We probably won’t get something another school in a similar situation didn’t get,” said Hunter.

That is why, Hunter said, Benedict is willing to compromise. “We have to work with the community. If they’re saying they want no closure, and we want full closure, then partial closure is the middle ground. It could be similar to what USC does with the Russell House,” she said.

USC closes the stretch of Green Street in front of the Russell House from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. This is a high traffic area for students during most of the day.
Dr. Ronald High returns to his alma mater to honor the famous singer William Warfield

By Dr. Ronald High
Contributing Writer

Dr. Ronald H. High, Associate Professor of Music at Benedict College, participated in a concert in October that paid tribute to one of America’s greatest musical treasures, William Warfield. Warfield, who was one of the most foremost operatic artists of all times, had a distinguished career as a teacher, performer in oratorio, opera, recital, musical theater, and film. He was best known for his performances of “Ol’ Man River” (in the 1951 MGM film), for his bass solos in Handel’s Messiah and Porgy and Bess, where he sang opposite the great opera star Leon- tyne Price.

High’s performance, entitled “Homage to an American Treasure: William Warfield” took place at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois-Champaign in The experience was a reunion for former pupils and colleagues of Warfield. High’s appearance was significant because he is the first African-American to receive a doctorate degree in voice from the University of Illinois, where he studied with and accompanied Warfield for four years.

High not only showcased one of the songs his former teacher taught him (“In My Father’s House”) but accompanied the other special guests on piano. Those guests included John Wustman, a renowned accompanist who plays for the Italian opera star Pavarotti; Robert Ray, former pianist for Warfield and composer of the Gospel Mass; and Thomas Warfield, nephew of the legendary singer, who sang an original composition in memory of his uncle.

The finale of the concert was a powerful rendition of “Ol’ Man River,” featuring Lawrence Craig, a former pupil of High and Warfield. After the concert, a grand reception for the performers was held. It featured some of Warfield’s cuisine, for which he is equally known.

As a result of the historic event, pupils and friends have vowed to keep the Warfield legacy alive so that generations to come will not forget that powerful voice of “Ol’ Man River.”

ARMS AND CUTURE

MUSIC REVIEWS:

50 Cent, G-Unit, Big Tymers, and Rah Digga get back to the studio

By Sterling McGlown
Contributing Writer

D ominant rap artist Curtis Jackson, also known as 50 Cent, has more lives than a cat. Although he was shot nine times by assailants in a still unresolved case, not only has he managed to survive with some extra therapeutic help, but he appears unstoppable on the music scene. Just a couple months prior to releasing his new album last year, entitled Get Rich or Die Tryin’ (Shady/Aftermath/Interscope Records), 50 Cent headlined Benedict’s ’02 Homecoming concert, in which he performed such songs as “How to Rob” and “Wanksta.” Little did most fans here know that he would sell millions of albums and top Billboard’s chart with his smash single “In the Club.”

The single from the “Stunt 101” video is already in play on BET and in heavy rotation on radio stations across the country. Now that the artist’s combination album is finished, their individual albums should soon be down the line.

* The Big Tymers Mannie Fresh and Baby who hail from the projects of New Orleans, La. are working on another album called Big Money Heavy Weight (Cash Money/Universal Records). Producer Mannie Fresh is in the studio putting the final touches on Lil’ Wayne’s The Carter album. The fly guys, Baby and Lil Wayne, have made platinum and gold sellers of hits such as “1sta Stunna,” “Still Fly”, and “Oh Yeah.”

* Baby and Lil Wayne were supposed to attend Benedict’s Homecoming after part in the film How We Do. After appearing on one of the hottest disc jockeys in South Carolina. Their current single “This Is How We Do” shows off their glamorous lifestyle and how they get down.

* The First Lady of the Flipmode Squad, Rah Digga, has two new street anthems, “Party and Bullsh-t” and “Party Over Here,” featuring Lloyd Banks on her forthcoming album (Flipmode/J.Records). She stopped by Benedict’s cafeteria to sign some autographs and to hang out with the students. Rashya Fisher, of Newark, N. J., is the only woman in the Flipmode Squad.

* You can catch the video “Party & Bullsh-t” on BET’S Rap City.” Rah Digga is ranked the hottest female hip-hop MC in the music industry today. Be sure to buy her new album and support her talent. More on Jay-Z and Bad Boy’s new releases in the next Tiger News.

Photos courtesy Dr. High

ALPHA GOLD: Newly inducted brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity, Inc. step out at a coming out show and demonstrate how “ice cold” as in cool they can be.

Members of the cast of the Harold Odom Dance Theatre (HODT) perform one of the student-choreographed dances entitled “Carnival.” This fall’s concert consisted of four new dances choreographed by three students.
Volleyball team is on the rise

BY KRISTAL ROLLE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The volleyball team has come a long way since its entry into the SIAC conference last year. The Benedict Tigerettes finished third in the conference in November, and placed fourth out of 10 at the conference tournament in Kentucky.

The Tigerettes defeated several teams in the conference, including Miles College, Fort Valley State, and Clark-Atlanta. Team Co-captain Tia Wilson, a junior, expressed her satisfaction at the team’s standings. “Benedict is finally getting the respect we deserve in the conference,” she said. Overall, said the biology major, “We had a good season.”

Wilson added that there is room for improvement, but the only way she thinks the team will improve is by getting a few more players. “When you play three consecutive games without breaks as was the case in the conference tournament, you need someone to step in when someone else is tired,” she said.

At the recent conference tournament held Nov. 12-13 at Kentucky State, Benedict received its first three awards in the SIAC conference for volleyball; the third place trophy in the conference the first team conference award; and the all conference award. The latter two were awarded to freshman Krystal Rolle.

Head Coach Gwendolyn Rouse said she was very proud of the team. “They had a good season. I’m looking forward to next year,” she said.

The future of Tiger volleyball seems bright. All but one of the players, senior and Co-captain Reenosha Ashford, will return next season to try to surpass this year’s third place finish.

Happy Holidays
to the Benedict College Family

...from the Tiger News newspaper staff
**Tigers lose homecoming game**

By JASON L. JAMES

Sports Writer

In a full Bulldog Stadium the Tigers lost their Homecoming game for the second year in a row, as first place Kentucky State defeated the Tigers 31-19.

KSU quarterback Joe McBride, who threw 13 for 20 for 218 yards, picked the Benedict defense apart and threw five touchdown passes. Though the Tigers gave the thoroughbreds all they could handle in the first half, the KSU offensive seemed to move the ball at will. Senior linebacker Michael Simmons, who had his best game of the season with 26 and 23-yard field goals, led the Tigers. His kicks evened the score up at 13-13 at the half.

Senior quarterback from Miami, Fla., saw his first action of the season since coming back from knee surgery.

He gave the Tigers a spark as he went 13 for 23 and 1 touchdown. He even had over 100 yards passing in limited time.

But, it wasn’t enough as the...