CLOSE TO 175 STUDENTS SUSPENDED

SAP policy may have affected spring enrollment

BY JASON TOOLE AND TOWANDA TSIDALE
STAFF WRITERS

One reason registration may not have taken as long this spring may be due to the number of suspensions. Benedict’s Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy is starting to cut into the student population.

Benedict’s enrollment last semester was 2,850, according to official figures. Some administrators indicated they were expecting this spring’s enrollment to be about 2,900 students. Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness Gary Knight said, however, “We might get close, but I do not feel we will make that expected number because of the students we had suspended based on their performance.”

There are two scales involved with the SAP policy: quantitative and qualitative. This means that the students must maintain a certain amount of credit hours based on their specific classification and GPA. This past semester, 173 students were suspended. But there may be some hope for those affected students. They should not be entirely discouraged. Dr. Mohammad Nikravesh, chairman of the SAP committee, shed some light on the subject.

“Students are readmitted, and then they are placed on probation, which begins the work of the SAP committee,” he said. The SAP committee is made up of eight administrators of the college. Nikravesh, who is also the Assistant Dean of the School of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, said that affected students have a right to appeal a suspension. Only nine out of 38 student appeals have been granted so far.

“We hope by enforcing this policy the students will return in the fall with the mindset to be academically successful and be more responsible,” added Knight.

Benedict encourages students to pre-register, fill out financial documents and apply for FAFSA. “A key to a successful fall semester is to get every student to fill out the FAFSA forms before the month of April, pre-register, and sign all other financial documents and the outcome will be a smoother registration,” said Knight.

S.C. Primary Today: Use your Power – Get out and Vote!

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Question of the Issue: Would Martin Luther King Jr. be disappointed or pleased with the progress of blacks today?

Compiled by Kristen Archie

Would Martin Luther King Jr. be disappointed with the progress of African Americans today? This was the question reporter Kristen Archie posed to some students and staff members on campus on the annual celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Here are their replies:

“If this is progression, then we have African Americans have a long way to go.” — Environmental Studies major

“Some things have changed, but much is the same. I believe that Martin Luther King Jr. would be disappointed with some of the situations of the African Americans today.” — Professional Communications major

“Things have changed but in some ways they have not changed.” — Information Systems major

“Nothing has changed. I believe that Martin Luther King Jr. would be disappointed with how African Americans are using the resources in the United States.” — Sociology major

“I would be confused and disappointed with us.” — Environmental Studies major

Benedict College School of Education achieves national accreditation

Benedict College’s School of Education has received national accreditation. School of Education faculty and staff, guided by Dr. Janene Witty, Dean for the School of Education, have been working hard over the past three years specifically toward this achievement. Benedict revamped its teacher education program to meet the rigorous standards of this institution, the State Education Department, and the National Council Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

“It is a major milestone for this program to earn national accreditation,” said President David Swinton in a recent interview. “Our faculty and students worked extremely hard over the past few years to achieve this goal.” NCATE is responsible for professional accreditation of teacher education programs. Benedict’s Teacher Education Program met those performance-oriented standards. NCATE has accredited over 500 institutions, which produce two-thirds of the nation’s new teacher graduates each year.

“Our goal is to prepare students to leave our institution fully armed with the skills, knowledge, and dispositions to succeed as effective teachers with all children,” Witty said.

NEWS BRIEF

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Memories of MLK Day at the Dome

BY TERRILL BRYANT
STAFF WRITER

“O ne voice, one agenda,” shouted keynote speaker the Rev. Dr. Ezekiel Hampton at the fifth annual King Day at the Dome held recently the South Carolina Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People coordinated by the NAACP.

Hampton, who is president of the Baptist Education and Missionary Conference in South Carolina, told the crowd which numbered over 2,000, “If there is no struggle, there is no change!” He insisted that if African Americans join together, change would occur in their communities.

The national Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday was a day of celebration, work and commitments in cities, and towns across the country. The day’s slogan of this state event was “March and Rally for Dignity and Justice.”

The King Day at the Dome event was held on a cool Monday morning. Hundreds of marchers, supporters, and rally-goers gathered by the day by filling the pews at Zion Baptist Church, located on Washington Street West in downtown Columbia, before the march began. People of all races and colors gathered there as Dr. Sheila Koger, a Columbia area evangelist, delivered a message of remembrance and hope on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his dreams. From the church, the marchers made their way to the State House.

“Don’t stop, don’t shop until the flag drops,” these words and other pagers were printed on dozens of bright yellow NAACP signs waved in the air by the marchers. Event organizers say that there will be a continued economic boycott on the state, until the Confederate flag is removed off the State House grounds and put into a place that holds historical artifacts, like a museum.

“Tell the truth you dodged our youth,” read one of the signs that was signed by NAACP organizers. Dr. John Jackson, the director of the NAACP National Education Department, told the crowd he saw on television how the government paid $55,000 to save a dog out in the sea, yet South Carolina only spends approximately $1,700 per child per year for an education.

“How much more is the dog than our kids?” he asked. He also commented on some students from Stratford High School in Goose Creek near Charleston were recently searched by armed special police teams.

Five students from the school, who were at the rally, talked about the humidity, hurt and betrayal they experienced when their high school was raided. November police came in with their guns drawn and dogs as students filled the hallway.

The students said that blacks were targeted in this incident, which got national attention.

Since 2000, King Day at the Dome has been an annual event coordinated by the NAACP in an effort to bring the Confederate flag off the State House grounds. Finally, in 2002, the Confederate flag, which flew atop the State House dome for decades, was removed from the dome, but then the State Legislature voted to put it on the front lawn of the State House, in closer display to the public, as a compromise.

The upcoming democratic presidential primary also offers opportunities for students to become more politically active. The first step to getting political activity is by voting. There are several places to get registered to vote here in Columbia. These include the local board of voter registration and the Department of Motor Vehicles. The Richland County Board of Voter Registration is located at 2020 Hampton St.

Several civic organizations such as the NAACP also have voter registration stations. Several campus organizations have also sponsored voter registration drives.

There are other ways to get involved in politics as well, such as volunteering with the various political campaigns.

Although Benedict College is a historically black college, students can become politically active on and off campus. The S.C. Democratic Party offers a volunteer program, which also provides students with service learning hours. If interested in volunteering with the Democratic Party, contact Joan Barnes at (803) 799-0534. To volunteer with Den- nis Kucinich, call Michael Berg at (803) 748-0456. To volunteer with Joe Lieberman, contact Barry Buehrer at (803) 252-0996.

These volunteer and internship programs not only give students the chance to meet fellow activists, but also look great on resumes.

There were one recent opportunity for students to become politically involved with a major political action march, rally, and debate with Democratic candidates who showed their support for bringing the flag down and by the King Day activities. Brown said that the presence of the candidates who were there likely would play a role in his choice when it comes to time to vote.

Some other notable figures at the event included Senator Joe Biden, Bakari Sellers and former presidential candidate Carol Mosley Braun, who came to show her support for the NAACP initiative to bring the flag down.

Memories of MLK Day at the Dome

By Terrill Bryant

Staff Writer

The democratic primary in South Carolina is a very important battle of African Americans join together, change would occur in their communities.

In the political process.

With this major event int he public’s thoughts, many are left to wonder what’s going on and how they can get more politically involved while in college.

To get more information about the presidential primary, the Tiger News went to Joquim Barnes, a director with the S.C. Democratic Party headquarters in Columbia. According to Barnes, a primary election takes place so that voters in that state can select a nominee for a political party. The candidate who wins the most state primaries will represent his or her party in the general presidential election.

At press time, the candidates in the South Carolina democratic presidential primary are Wesley Clark, John Edwards, John Kerry, John McCain, Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich, New York Congressman borey Buehrer, and John Sharpton.

Sharpton also encouraged blacks to go out and vote. He said, “If your parents did not leave anything else, they left us the vote, which is not for sale.”

Happy birthday Martin, happy birthday Martin,” shouted Sharpton, as he thanked King for all of his achievements and the way his life and the way he changed because of his dream. Speakers all morning long encouraged voters to vote.

The NAACP helped in that process by placing voter registration tables in front of the State House lawn.

Milton Brown of Spartanburg said he and a friend made the trip to help the NAACP and the events surrounding King Day. He said that he was impressed by the candidates who showed their support for bringing the flag down and by the King Day activities. Brown said that the presence of the candidates who were there likely would play a role in his choice when it comes to time to vote.

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The Talented Mister Hunt

BC staff member takes back the stage in award-winning drama

BY ALI OMAR
EDITOR

Benedict staff member Gerald Hunt is finally stepping into the spotlight again by starring in the Workshop Theatre’s production of Fences. Though this is Hunt’s Capitol City acting debut, he is no stranger to the stage. Prior to coming to Columbia, Hunt was a theatre major at South Carolina State University, where he earned a degree in professional theatre. There, he was a force to be reckoned with in terms of his powerful acting.

Before he graduated, he would have the leading role in a number of productions including Bubblin’ Brown Sugar, Trian Women, Ohh-ehh, Dream Girls, and Medea.

Hunt, a native of Myrtle Beach, continued to perform, but soon he

would take a hiatus from the acting stage for other important roles in the theatre. After leaving South Carolina State, he became an assistant electrician at the Crossroads Theatre in New Brunswick, N.J., which won several Tony Awards for some of their productions. He was affiliated with the company from 1992 to 1999. He also worked at Norfolk State College in Virginia, where he served as the school’s technical director from 1993 to 1994.

As fate would have it, Hunt found himself back in South Carolina. He gave to working in front of the audience the importance of his pow-

erful acting.

In a recent rehearsal she

expressed confidence that Hunt will

expressed confidence that Hunt will perform beautifully. “He’s amazing,” she commented. Workshop’s Fences begins the first performances Jan. 30. It will go through to Feb. 11. Performances start at 8 p.m. There will be one matinee performance on Feb. 5 at 3 p.m. The Workshop Theatre is located on the corner of Bull and Gervais Streets. For tickets or more information, call the Workshop Theatre at 799-6551.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY SPEAKER

Environmental activist David Dorch keeps students informed

BY GEORGE MOSES III
STAFF WRITER

After the national holiday to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Benedict also paid homage to the famed civil rights leader with an assembly on Jan. 20 in the Swinton Center.

Environmental activist David A. Dorch of Myrtle Beach was the guest speaker for the event. He shared with the audience the importance of being aware of how such factors as air pollution and radiation can affect the environment and black communities.

Junior Kourtney Humbert, one of the students who attended the program, said the speaker was very informative. “Since I attended the MLK program on environmental injustice, I am more cautious of my surroundings and more aware of the air I breathe,” she said.

Singing, dancing, and other drama
talents were displayed at this event. The highlight for this event was the moving performance of the award winning Benedict College gospel choir. Benedict's production of Fences

Campus Events

FEBRUARY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
3 All College Assembly, Little Theatre, 11 a.m.
4 Service Learning Registration, Gressette Center
5 Jazz Ensemble & Combo Bands Concert, Little Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
8 Art Gallery Reception: Dr. Harold Rhodes, Art Gallery, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
9 Student Research Day, NO CLASSES, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
11 All College Assembly, Little Theatre, 11 a.m.
17 Black History Teleconference Reception & Dinner, 6:30 p.m.
All College Assembly, Swinton Campus Center, 11 a.m.
18 BLACK HISTORY TELECONFERENCE, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Tiger News
BENEDICT COLLEGE
Vol. 81 No. 4

February 3, 2004

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Produced by the Production Print class MABS 336 - English, Foreign Languages, and Mass Communications Dept.
The newsroom is located in Stuart Hall basement.

Member, South Carolina Press Association (Collegiate Division) and Black College Communications Association
2002 Second Place Winner
Best Newspaper Overall: Division II Newspapers, SCPA
Population of team handball slowly on the rise

BY RAYNITA MILLER

While team handball as a sport has been offered here at Benedict since 1993, it is not as popular as two of the biggest sports programs here — basketball and football. It has grown in popularity and is slowly gaining the attention of students.

Men’s and women’s team handball was first introduced as a club sport to Benedict in 1996 when the National Olympic Handball Team held a practice here. Two years later Athletic Director Willie Washington, who was then men’s basketball head coach, worked to get team handball as a club sport here.

BC’s Handball Team Accomplishments:
1st Place in SETHC Conference Tournament (2003) — Men’s Team
2nd Place in SETHC Conference Tournament (2003) — Women’s Team
Six men’s players invited to tryout for National Handball Team (2003)
Benedict is currently the only HBCU school with men’s and women’s handball teams.

His efforts followed the formation of the South Eastern Team Handball Conference (SETHC) in 1998. There were a total of nine division 1 teams in the SETHC in 1998.

BC’s Handball Team

Handball Facts
must either pass the ball or try to score. The game consists of two 25 minute halves.
How Many Players?
There are six players on the court at a time, along with the goalie.
Playing Surface:
Handball can be played indoors or outdoors on a handball court or a basketball court.

Handball Coach James Rice played Men’s and Women’s Handball while playing basketball at the University of South Carolina (1993-1997). Now he finds himself recruiting possible players.
“I often walk around campus asking students if they would be interested in playing handball,” he said. “I explain the basic rules to them and tell them that it’s a relatively new sport and if they’re interested, I am more than willing to teach them everything I know.”

He said that many of the students he talks to are not interested in playing because they don’t want to try something new. “So I try to interest other student athletes,” said Rice. “Not only is he the men’s and women’s handball coach, Rice is also the men’s basketball assistant coach and gym supervisor, which makes it easier for him to find players who already play a sport.”

“It’s easier for students who already play a sport to cross over and play handball because they are more physically fit and disciplined to play this sport, which requires a lot of running, being physically aggressive, and patient,” he said. “I also go down to Atlanta, Ga. where handball is more popular and recruit high school students to persuade them to come play for Benedict once they graduate,” said Rice.

Benedict is the only HBCU school to play team handball.

Although team handball is only a club sport, there are plans in the works to try it sanctioned by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). “I believe that the SETHC is a ‘feeding’ team for the National Handball Team,” said Rice. Since he has been coach, Benedict has sent six men’s handball players to try out for the national team.

The National Handball Team, which chose several players out of the SETHC to try out for the national team, selected six players from BC’s men’s team to go to Lake Placid for the national team handball tryouts.
Last year Benedict’s men’s handball team won the SETHC conference tournament held in Atlanta, Ga., while the women’s handball team took second place. With all of the accomplishments that have been made in the sport’s short existence at Benedict, the coach and players have high expectations for the future progress and popularity of the sport.

What is handball?
Handball is a combination of basketball and soccer. Players attempt to score by throwing a small, soccer ball from either the six or nine meter line into a goal, which is similar to a soccer goal. Players are allowed to dribble the ball just like in basketball, but once a player picks up his/her dribble, he or she can take three steps in any direction. After a player takes three steps he/she

Handball tryouts held a practice here. Two years later Athletic Director Willie Washington, who was then men’s basketball head coach, worked to get team handball as a club sport here.

Meanwhile, the Tigerettes are not only showing their strength in athletics but also in academics. The team members have a 3.2 GPA overall.

“Give 110 percent, do the best you can, play hard and make good decisions,” says Coach Bailey. describing what he tells the team.
Not only is the women’s team doing well, but so is the men’s team.
Coaching up with the men’s basketball team is not always easy, especially after they come off a long weekend on the road. They are 7-1 in the SIAC conference.

Men’s Coach Fred Watson’s goals are to win the conference, play in the tournament and go to the nationals. Watson also believes that education is important. That’s why he put together a well-supervised study hall for his players.
At the home games, Coach Watson pulls his players to the side and says, “Protect our house,” and on away games he says, “Play well on the road, and play hard.” It looks as if both coaches are going to have a great season.

SPORTS CALENDAR

February
1 Baseball - BC vs. Voorhees College (At Voorhees) 12 noon
3 Basketball - BC vs. Paine College 6 p.m. & 8 p.m.
4 Basketball - BC vs. Erskine (At Erskine) 12 noon
5 Basketball (W) - BC vs. Morris (At Morris) T.B.A.
6 Basketball - BC vs. Barber-Scotia College (Home) 1 p.m.
7 Basketball - BC vs. Winston-Salem (Home) 2 p.m.
8 Basketball - BC vs. Tuskegee (At Tuskegee) T.B.A.
9 Basketball - BC vs. Claflin University (At Claflin) T.B.A.
9 Basketball - BC vs. Stillman (At Stillman) T.B.A.
10 Softball - BC vs. Claflin University (At Claflin) 2 p.m.
11 Softball - BC vs. Erskine College (Home) 3 p.m.
12 Basketball (M) - BC vs. Morehouse (Home) 8 p.m.
13 Basketball (M) - BC vs. Brevard-Parker College (At Brevard) 4 p.m.
14 Basketball - BC vs. Clark-Atlanta (Home) 2 p.m. & 4 p.m.
16 Basketball (M) - BC vs. Claflin University (At Claflin) 8 p.m.
17 Basketball - BC vs. Colar College (At Colar) 2:30 p.m.
17 Softball - BC vs. Lander University (At Lander) 3 p.m.
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The start of a new basketball season for the Tigers and Tigerettes has already begun and so far the season looks good.
Coach Maurice Bailey of the women’s basketball team says his team is doing well. At press time the team’s record was 5-2 in the conference and 7-5 overall.

Coach Bailey’s focus is on the women’s basketball team says his hall for his players.

“Protect our house,” and on away games he says, “Play well on the road, and play hard.” It looks as if both coaches are going to have a great season.

MEN’S AND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Teams mixing academics with winning performances

BY DELIAQUA Pickett

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