Celebrations begin for President Swinton to honor his ten years of service to the college

By KRISTYL ROLLIE

Dr. David Swinton, the 13th president of Benedict, was “lost for words,” after being honored by a host of special dignitaries and receiving tribute after tribute in a special program this month to recognize the numerous achievements he has made in his ten years as president of the college. Among the many dignitaries who took part were Columbia Mayor Bob Coble; City Councilman E. W. Cromaetic; Dr. Hiram Spain, Jr., executive secretary of the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina; and Myrtle Gordon, president of the Edgewood/Read Street Community Improvement Cooperative Council.

From the college community came tributes from Dr. Milton Kimpson, vice chair of the college’s Board of Trustees; Ethel Taylor, president of the Benedict College National Alumni Association; Tryon Francis, president of the Student Government Association; and Dr. Richard Miller, senior vice president for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Ruby Watts, executive vice president, presided over the commemorative event, and Barbara Moore, vice president for Institutional Advancement, gave the purpose of the occasion. The keynote speaker for the occasion was the Rev. Askand F. Wright-Riggins, III, executive director of the Department of National Ministries American Baptist Churches, USA.

Perhaps the most attention getting part of the unusual student tribute, which came just before the keynote speaker, Bopping onto the platforms stage in the HRC arena, Senior Class President Ali Omar bellowed out, “give it up, people, give it up.” Then as he snapped his fingers, he called on his back up stage crew and the audience to join in with his beatnik finger snapping. Jokingly said Swinton promised every student $100 and every senior $500 for clapping for him. He then performed a spoken word poem in a neo-soul, hip-hop style. The poem, written by English major Towanda Tisdale, began, “The old African saying ‘It takes a village to raise a child’ is a true statement indeed.” In a staccato rhythm, Omar ticked off a list of Swinton’s accomplishments including the college’s enrollment, instituting a host of new athletic, academic, and special programs; and spearheading a massive community and campus building and renovation effort.

The audience loved it.

With everyone standing and applauding, Omar’s performance nearly stole the show. Also taking part in the musical and dance tributes were members of the Harold Odum Dance Theatre, the NGOMA group, the Inter-Fraternal Council, and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, all of which Swinton is a member.

After the students’ tributes, the orator Wright-Riggins compared Swinton to President Lyndon B. Johnson, a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and Nafida Muhammad, Phi Beta Sigma.

(Left to right) SGA President Trystin Francis, Columbia City Councilman E.W. Cromaetic, Columbia Mayor Robert Coble, College Minister the Rev. Glenn Prince and Executive Vice President Dr. Ruby Watkins prepare themselves for the college’s dedication to Dr. Swinton to begin.

The Harold Odom Dance Theatre expressing their tributes in honor of President Swinton.

Various photos by Ali Omar, Kristyl Rolle, Tanneka McManamee, and G. A. Shabazz

Students shower Swinton with gifts at opening of his 10th year commemoration

By KRISTYL ROLLIE

N ow that Dr. David Swinton has reached his tenth year as president here at Benedict College, his goal in the years to come is to finish what he has started.

“I want the faculty and staff to be able to provide quality service and to assist students in being the best that they can be,” he said in an interview, after being honored by Benedict students at the first event this semester for his 10th year commemoration.

Swinton said he wants graduation rates to go up and failure rates to go down. He never wants to have to let students go because of bad grades, he said, as what happened last semester when a record number were suspended.

“Benedict isn’t where I want it to be right now. I want every student who comes here to graduate. I want them to want to study, to succeed, and to perfect themselves,” he said. “It’s a challenge,” he admitted, “but I want students to leave with the highest degree of motivation and with a desire to succeed.

Swinton also revealed his plan to retire within the next ten years. “Before I retire I want to have things so that when I leave it wouldn’t matter, and my assistance won’t be needed,” he said.

At the student commemorative event, which over 800 students attended, Swinton sat alone in a reserved place for him on the front pew of Antisdel Chapel as several student organizations paid tribute to him.

Tributes were made by the gospel choir, various student athletes, the Harold Odum Dance Theatre, the NGOMA group, the Inter-Fraternal Council, and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, all of which Swinton is a member.

Swinton was paid tribute in song by the gospel choir. After which Min. Darryl Izzard, choir director, presented him with a gift. Antoine Miles, Johnathan Randolph, and Rahman performed a jazz tribute. Representatives of each class also presented Swinton with gifts. A special presentation came from members of the Student Government Association, which sponsored the event. SGA President Tryston Francis presented Swinton with a bronze eagle and then Zandra Chinnie Newton, Miss Benedict, rendered the song

Continued on page 6

Love and gratitude showered President Swinton

By KRISTYL ROLLIE

President Swinton as he accepts his gift from Treobshan Johnson, a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and Nafida Muhammad, Miss Phi Beta Sigma.

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Continued on page 6
CAMPUS NEWS

BY KRISTEL ROLLE
STAFF WRITER

“Y”ears ago I begged presi- dent Al Gore to bring up issues concerning the African American community while he was running for president, but he didn’t do it.” Tom Joyner, a well known national radio personality, said at a recent campus rally for Democratic candidate Rev. Al Sharpton.

Joyner and Sharpton were here a few days before the S.C. Democratic Par- ty primary in February. “He [Sharpton] speaks directly about our issues and comes up with practical solutions,” Joyner said. “With Rev. Sharpton, we are represented. If he doesn’t bring it up, it won’t be brought up,” he told a Tiger News reporter after the rally.

Democratic presidential hopeful the Rev. Al Sharpton spoke before a packed crowd in Benedict’s Swinton Center while campaigning in South Carolina. He expressed his concerns for the state of African Americans in South Carolina and around the nation.

“No one wants to talk about race because it divides us, but until we are even, we need to talk about it,” he said.

“We will not be taken seriously until we take ourselves seri- ously. We have to be serious about our- selves. I want to see us have political pow- er,” Sharpton admitted that he is not taking as a serious democratic candidate. “but I’m the only one running you can’t lose with,” he declared.

“Not mentioning your plights will not solve the problem,” Sharpton said. “I was the only Democratic candidate in the Civil Rights Movement, even though I am the youngest of the can- didates.”

Going on to talk about the primary in South Carolina, Sharpton said, “The issue is whether you vote for yourself, not for Al Sharpton, because if who wins represents what’s wrong, then you don’t win anyway. Tuesday is about defining what we want this par- ty to stand.”

Sharpton said he is prepared to fight unemployment, to bring back regula- tions of big businesses, to rescind Pres- ident Bush’s tax cuts, to guarantee health care to all citizens, and to get American soldiers out of Iraq.

“Bush brought us to war under a lie,” he said, “saying that we were in immin- ent danger and that Saddam Hussein was hiding weapons of mass destruc- tion.”

“The audience responded with laugh- ter as he continued. “No man with weapons of mass destruction would hide in a rat hole with mice and a pis- tol,” he commented.

Sharpton said blacks can play foot- ball together, and go to war together, but still are not equal. “They offer you when they don’t need you. I’m the only one to mention race and the Con- federate flag. The Confederate flag rep- resents hate and slavery and people are still trying to rationalize the flag.

“They say we need to have peace, but they don’t want peace. They want to have quiet. They want us to shut up,” he said.

“Bush brought us to war under a lie, saying that we were in imminent danger and that Saddam Hussein was hiding weapons of mass destruction. No man with weapons of mass destruction would hide in a rat hole with mice and a pistol.”

Al Sharpton, Presidential Candidate

CAMPUS SAFETY

What if there’s another ice storm or other emergency? BC is ready

BY GEORGE MOSES III
STAFF WRITER

Campus Safety, the Office of Community Life, and the Physical Plant know that anything can happen, from an ice storm to a power emergency. If it does, they are ready.

Those departments have prepa- rations in place in case of unex- pected emergencies, such as last month’s citywide power outage that left three off cam- pus apartment complexes without power.

Students who live in off campus housing had to evacuate their apart- ments because of the power outage, which lasted five days. The college moved the students to the Swinton Center (where females stayed) and to the Little Theatre (where males stayed) for temporary shelter.

Although there were no complaints, most affected students accepted the unplanned need to change their housing arrange- ments. “We accept the evacuation plans for the power outage was adequate,” Community Life did “we could do at the last minute,” said senior Rashon Jones.

Physical Plant Director Hayden Greenland said that the off campus stu- dents were brought to campus for their own safety. “We did not want to put them in harm’s way by transporting them back and forth,” he said.

Half of the 750 lights were out for a while and hundreds of homes and apartments were without power.

He also said they wanted to see that the students had adequate shelter including rest room facil- ities and close access to the cafe-

Benedict opens new community park and recreational facility to the public

BY OMAR DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Benedict’s newest contribu- tion to the Columbia com- munity — a modern, fully equipped community park — was recently dedicated and opened for public use.

The park, located on the corner of Laurel and Heith Streets, includes two full-sized basketball courts, an adventure playground for kids, a walking trail, and two full-sized ten- nis courts.

Benedict held a dedication cere- mony for the park earlier this month, in collaboration with the Benedict- Allen Community Development Corporation. Among the participants were President David H. Swinton and William D. Gregory, field office director of the U.S. Department of Housing and Development.

“The park is only a sense of what is to come from Benedict College,” Gregory said. “We can’t stop here because we have a lot of work to do.”

This park is directly behind the Oak Street dormitory. It is part of an extensive housing and community revitalization effort in the area that the college has been engaged in over the past several years. The new park adds to that community revitaliza- tion effort, which has been focused on the Waverly area near and around the college, from Harden Street to Two Notch Road.

The Benedict Community Park, as it is called, was funded with a $380,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Several of the entities and individuals who were responsi- ble for the gift and its multipurpose facility were recognized.

It was announced that the facility on the site — which had been a for- mer house and was divided and ren- ovated — will be called the Lamar Advertising Multipurpose Enrich- ment Center. A Benedict coach and an assistant coach will manage the park and have an office in the facil- ity.

The children’s choir from Benedict Child Development Cen- ter performed for the park’s dedica-

Mohammed Faiz, a member of Benedict’s tennis team, will use the park for practices, called the park a big investment “which will serve the community very well.

“Before the tennis team had to travel to practice. Now with the new park, hopefully this will make the team more successful. We now have a sufficient area to practice,” he said.

CAMPUS EVENTS

MARCH

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

2 Founders Day Convocation
1-5 Mid-Term Examinations
8-12 Spring Break
13 Liberian Art Collection Exhibition Opens
16 All College Assembly: Women’s History, Antisdel Chapel, 11 a.m.

CAMPUS NEWS

BC Tiger News

Page 2 March 3, 2004
Dr. Stacie Jones chosen ‘Outstanding Woman in Technology’ by national black engineering society

One more feather in her cap for this accomplished acadeimic, engineer, scientist and U.S. defense systems developer

BY ALI OMAR
EDITOR

N ot only does Benedict have outstanding students but faculty as well. Now, one more faculty member has received some national recognition. She is Dr. Stacie Franklin Jones, dean of the School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) at Benedict College. Jones was recently honored as the 2004 Outstanding Woman in Technology by the National Society of Black Engineers or NSBE, as it is called. NSBE is one of the largest student run organizations in the country and probably the most pivotal black engineering society in the country. Its mission is to increase the number of culturally responsible engineers and scientists, while connecting with senior professionals in the country. Whether they are in industry, business, and academia. Jones, who came to Benedict as president and founder of S.T.E.M. which was named after the Chairmat of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department, says the recognition is especially appreciated of this recognition.

“The timing is especially rewarding as NSBE’s theme this year is ‘Strengthening the Pipeline to Success’,” Jones told Tiger News. While her latest recognition is quite an honor, Jones’ career accomplishments did not just begin. She has been recognized for her significant contributions to the development of defense systems for the United States military and its allies. Most notable is her design and coding of algorithms for the beam controller modules of the AN/AQS-164 Offensive Radar System, which netted her a Westinghouse Engineering Achievement Award. It comes as no surprise that Jones is such an accomplished individual, having graduated magna cum laude from Howard University in Washington, D.C. with a degree in mathematics and computer science, and having received a masters degrees in engineering and applied science-technical management (with honors), as well as another masters in numerical science from Baltimore’s prestigious John Hopkins University. This, on top of her pioneering accomplishment as the first black woman to receive a doctor of science degree in computer science and engineering from American University in Washington, D.C.

In addition to her personal and career achievements, Jones is a selfless contributor to the Benedict community. She has instituted such exciting programs here as “Xenome Technology Day” to encourage high school students to enroll in technology and scientific disciplines.

Along with her innovative programs, Jones hopes that her diverse background in industry, her work as an engineer, and her work managing the work of integrated teams of engineers and scientists will serve as a primer to the “pipelne” for the success of minority youths.

“I hope to become a greater resource for engineering students and those new to related professions, while connecting with senior industry and academic professionals as well,” she said. Her achievements already speak to this and her outstanding work.

BC librarians share the art of storytelling with school children

BY KIRSTEN ARCHIE
STAFF WRITER

Bendet College library staff members recently invited grade school students from one of Benedict’s most successful, black-owned private schools for storytelling sessions, as part of the library’s Black History Month ac-

The faces of the 23 little three-year-olds brought to the V.V. Reid Elementary School sit up in anticipation as they listened to Benedict archivist, McAreef and ref-

The scholars’ performance was of high quality and positively impacted the entire community. The goal of the event was to look back at famous periods during the Civil Rights Movement, which helped to boost equal education for African Americans. They specifically recalled the landmark Supreme Court cases of Brown v. the Board of Education and Briggs v. Elliott. Both cases have created a way to show unity among black men.

Mr. Dreher, who implemented some of those desegregation decisions in several school systems where he worked, noted that when integration came, it brought about some tremendous changes for blacks and whites, some that people could not cope with and some they were not prepared for.

Before young people go out in education today, they said, they need to understand what happened before, and how many of those historical decisions are still impacting African Americans.

News Briefs compiled by Alli Omor and G.A. Shabazz

Call Me Mister program presents literary & musical tribute to black preachers of old

Reported by Donna Draper

As part of a recent all college assembly held last month, scholars in the Call Me Mister program presented a literary and musical tribute featuring excerpts from the play “God: A Good Story, A Bad Story” by composer and writer James Weldon Johnson.

The presentation was a tribute to those old-time preachers who could create discussions that filled the soul and mind. The scholars’ performance was of such old-time spirituals as “Rockin’ In The Spirit,” “Precious Lord,” and, to end the program, “Everybody Say Amen.” The Call Me Mister program invited students from local schools to be a part of the assembly as hosts and narrators.

Benedict’s Call Me Mister scholars are mentor and help teach local elementary and middle school children. The Little Theater in the Fine Arts and Humanities Center, where the performance was held, was filled with grade school and Benedics students, who clapped and sang along.

Omar Anderson, one of the “Mis-

Call Me Mister program presents literary & musical tribute to black preachers of old

For their presentation during black history month, the BC jazz band performed tunes from legendary jazz greats such as Miles Davis and Sammy Nettico.

How to reach us:

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NEWS BRIEF

HIV affections on the rise among southern black male college students

A recent rise in HIV infections among black male college students in North Carolina is leading to fear that the disease could be spreading among black male college students throughout the South.

“It’s a public health emergency,” declared Dr. Peter Leone, HIV medical director of the North Carolina State University.

In addition, most of the affected students said they did not know they were at high risk for HIV, despite frequent high-risk behavior without condoms with different male partners.

South Carolina ranks seventh in the nation in per capita incidence of HIV. Three out of four persons in the state with HIV are black, although blacks make up only one-third of the state’s population. Nationwide, an estimated 900,000 people have HIV.

New political party formed for black voters

“We must stop supporting African American puppets and create a party of sincere African-Americans, whose souls are not for sale,” said Leslie B. Johnson, president of a new political party formed for voters who want a change from the usual political parties.

In a press release, from his office, Johnson said the goal of the African American United Political Party is to send America a political message through uniting black voters in the upcoming presidential election.

He asks that interested persons contact him at 886-395-1996 or go to www.aapp.org, for more information.

Educators past and present recognized on Alumni/Community Empowerment Day

Several campus departments, along with the Black History and Cultural Communities Committee, sponsored an event called Black History and Cultural Communities Committee to encourage high school students.

Among the presenters were S.C. NAACP President Dr. Lonnie Ran-

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Stop being politically ignorant; your future might depend on it

BY ALI OMAR
EDITOR

I hear the phrase, “the problem with black folks is...” one more time. I think I am going to scream!

From my perspective, I can tell you one problem with some black folks is that they wait until it is too late to be informed.

This comment arises from South Carolina’s primary weekend earlier last month.

If you can remember, the Friday before the Tuesday primary, all of the Democratic presidential candidates were in town to volley for South Carolinians vote. Political activities were happening all over town. Two of the candidates - Al Sharpton and Wesley Clark - even came to campus to talk personally with those willing to listen. I was surprised when more than one of my fellow students asked me these two questions: “What are all these people doing on campus?” and “Who are they?”

My immediate mental reaction was, where have you been for the past year?

I don’t know about you, but for past eight months or so, I haven’t been able to pick up a newspaper or enjoy my favorite television shows without seeing something about the upcoming presidential election.

Now, politics doesn’t have to be your hobby in order to hear about the latest news, but this particular event has great significance in our history and has been constantly in the news. How could you miss it?

I guarantee you, the same people who have not been aware of the lastest political issues are the same people who predominately watch the videos on BET and MTV, with no regards to the local 11 o’clock news or on CNN. It is like the joke comedian Chris Rock tells about N****s and books. “N****s,“ he says, “I’m beginning to wonder if it’s just a joke. This is a common lesson that most of our parents chastised us about regarding our home work. “You can’t add two plus two, but I bet you can tell me all the words to the latest rap song,” they snickered. (I understand now, mom and dad.)

This is not an issue to be confused with using phrases like “nobody told me” or “I didn’t know.” At Benedict College, students constantly refer to themselves as adults. So, then act like it. Adults should not have to be reminded that the next four years of their lives will be determined by what happens at the polls in November 2004.

I didn’t write this article to belittle those who are uninformed, but to serve as a word of caution about something that’s going to affect our everyday life.

Ironicallly, those who need to read this probably won’t. Can those of us who do, get the word out?

“I guarantee you, the same people who have not been aware of the latest political issues are the same people who predominately watch the videos on BET and MTV, with no regards to the local 11 o’clock news or to CNN.”

Ali Omar, Editor

Friendship ...do you know the real meaning?

BY SHERNA PRINCE
Staff Writer

It has often been said that birds of a feather flock together. So that about you and your friends? Are you all sticking together through thick and thin? Are you encouraging each other through the rough times, or are your friends nowhere to be found?

Friends are supposed to be there for each other in times of need. Isn’t that what the word ‘friend’ means? “I have a couple of friends. My friends are always there when I need a helping hand. We do not have any plans, and that is what is important when you are searching for a friend,” says my friend La’Quasha Williams.

As I observe people on campus, I can see that some of us do not know the meaning of friendship. Friends do not pick at you because you do not have the things that they have. Instead, they try to help you. Friends are not jealous of each other. My mother once told me that you can count your real friends on one hand.

So, just because a person considers him or herself to be your friend does not mean that he or she is your friend. I have had plenty of friends who made me not want to trust or confide in anyone at all.

You must realize that there are some good people are out there. Just be careful. When I was a freshman, things were different. Nobody in the freshman class knew each other, but now since we have been here for almost four years, things are different. For example, some people you see, yet they don’t speak to you. You need to find people who have similar goals and morals, who want to succeed in life. It is hard being young and finding people who are stable, who have the drive to succeed in life.

If you find a good friend, you will know he or she is really a friend from the way he or she treats you. You will not have to wonder if your friend talks about you when you are not around. You will complement each other’s needs. That is an important factor when you are looking for a friend, for someone to spend time with, to study with, to cry and laugh together.

When you have a good friend, there is no such thing as peer pressure. Your friend will understand that you just don’t do certain things. If you prefer not to smoke, drink or club, it will be okay.

Am a believer that people do grow apart. But don’t let anything deter you from the meaning of friendship. Being a friend does not require a lot of money; it’s not what you can do for them. It is about giving and having a shoulder to lean on.

This is a new year. It is time to turn over a new leaf. Everything you let go by last year doesn’t have to be that way this year.

Sherika Prince

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BY ali omAR
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You must realize that there are some good people are out there. Just be careful. When I was a freshman, things were different. Nobody in the freshman class knew each other, but now since we have been here for almost four years, things are different. For example, some people you see, yet they don’t speak to you. You need to find people who have similar goals and morals, who want to succeed in life. It is hard being young and finding people who are stable, who have the drive to succeed in life.

If you find a good friend, you will know he or she is really a friend from the way he or she treats you. You will not have to wonder if your friend talks about you when you are not around. You will complement each other’s needs. That is an important factor when you are looking for a friend, for someone to spend time with, to study with, to cry and laugh together.

When you have a good friend, there is no such thing as peer pressure. Your friend will understand that you just don’t do certain things. If you prefer not to smoke, drink or club, it will be okay.

Am a believer that people do grow apart. But don’t let anything deter you from the meaning of friendship. Being a friend does not require a lot of money; it’s not what you can do for them. It is about giving and having a shoulder to lean on.

This is a new year. It is time to turn over a new leaf. Everything you let go by last year doesn’t have to be that way this year.

Sherika Prince
The old African saying it takes a village to raise a child, Is a true statement indeed. Carrying out this journey, Is somewhat hard to believe. The journey begins with… Eyebrows have been raised, Along with fierce, cruel, sometimes harsh comments. But he is not one to back down from nonbelievers and naysayers. So, we indulge in this opportunity to express our appreciation.

For some, seeing is believing, while others walk by faith, Against trials and tribulations of today’s academic race. The Negro Tiger’s of Benedict College stand tall and walk proud, Traveling in the footsteps made by Dr. Swinton. Thus far, we have honored his tenure through music & words spoken from page, Now we’ll step aside, as the Harold Odom Dance Theatre perform dances of praise.

Let me bring to your attention a few other things, Like the school’s enrollment and innovative programs. To the School of Honors and the return of football, Dr. Swinton is definitely a man on a mission. He’s changing things for the better. So take heed of what he brings. I will pause—to let it marinate, As we listen to the choir sing.

Editor’s Note: This was the poem and rap performed in honor of President Swinton at the opening 10th Year Commemorative event. They were read during the Student Anniversary Jam. The Tiger News wanted to share them with you. (All rights reserved by the authors. Do not reprint without permission.)
Did Janet Jackson go too far? Or, is she simply following trends in entertainment today?

BY INDA MCKINNEY

Stylish trends, moves straight out of hip hop comedy, movies such as the box office hit “You Got Served,” along with harmonizing vocals, and a great deal of sex appeal are the key elements that drive the entertainment industry today.

Artists are consistent-ly drumming up new and unusual ideas to contribute to their outlandish dress styles of high-water pants, revealingly skin-tight tops and low-riding bottoms, and bright colors. Artists are stunning their fans with ever more shocking, sexy, and provoc-a-tive performances.

The world-renowned pop icon Janet Jackson paired up with N* Sync’s own sexy pop sensation Justin Timberlake to perform the hit song “Rock Your Body” from his debut album Justified at the recent Super Bowl halftime show.

The controversial performance when Jackson’s wardrobe suppos-edly malfunctioned, as Timberlake ripped off her outfit, revealing her right breast thinly covered in a star shaped pasty, knocked the socks off many a viewer. A firestorm of talk began around the nation over whether she should or shouldn’t have, and whether her performance was out of hand.

The reaction was mixed. Much of it was critical against the Jackson icon. Students here reacted, too.

Benedict student Burnette of Hopkins said she was not offend-ed by the performance. “They did a good job. It was the best Super Bowl halftime this year,” she said.

Others thought it was too much off the top. Although Jackson was covered from head to toe, and very little actually was exposed, her end-ing performance was too much for many viewers.

“I think a lot of entertainers are going overboard,” said senior and mass communication major Shert-ka Prince. “It’s all about our chil-dren. That’s our future. So, yes, it was ‘Nasty’ for Ms. Jackson, but like they said, Penny is all grown up now.”

On the other hand, some Jackson fans remain loyal and supportive of Jackson and her Super Bowl per-formance.

“Janet Jackson is a legend as well as a media mogul. Her presence at the Super Bowl alone helped to increase the number of viewers watching,” explained one student.

“This year’s Super Bowl was not only the most exciting, athletically, but it was probably the most con- troversial,” said the student. “Janet Jackson is just as ‘Bad’ as her broth-er Michael, so don’t hate. CBS knew that she was Miss Janet and Nasty when they extended the invitation.”

Janet Jackson is not the only entertainer pushing the envelope and using sex to sell her music. It wasn’t too long ago that pop singers Britney Spears and Madonna French kissed on nation-al TV.

Artists are also doing their own things in fashion as well as in music. Take the bizarre and viva-cious rap duo Outkast, for example. They have taken whole new forms to fashion and music.

But, are their new looks truly trend-setting, or just a way for the artists to express their artistic per-sonalities?

Mary Scott, a senior and comput-er science major, said to her Out-kast “are being themselves. They always come out with something different.”

Where do artists get such eccen-tric tastes in clothing and use such vivid imagination to coordinate so many colors?

According to rapper Andre 3000, the thing right now is to act like you have no style at all.

“Companies are getting rich off clothes that look torn, and worn. I think it’s important to dress again. I think that’s very important. It’s just great showmanship and style. I think it goes back to African tribes,” he said. He is quoted in an international newspaper.

“They’re always elaborate. They wear the face paint and big hoops and dirt in their hair and shit, making them look like something else. You look in the mirror everyday and you see the same thing. As an entertainer, you see something new. Know what I mean?”

Both Andre 3000 and fellow raper Big Boy have taken their music to a whole new level. They mix it up with a little blues, jazz, hip hop, rap and more, and many of their songs are playing on radio stations and music channels all over.

Being different, pushing the enve-lope, and being outrageous as possible seems to be working for many artists, even if they stir up controver-sy. In fact, the controvers-ry only adds to the frenzy sur-rounding them.

Celebration begins for President Swinton

Continued from page 1

T he students, faculty, and staff at Benedict College are on call to assist students in case of emergencies. After the speech, Swinton told the audience, “You don’t do what you do because you want to be honored. You do it because you do it because it’s the right thing. There are still lots of things that need to be finished.”

Before he leaves Benedict, Swin-ton said he’d like to work with the Board of Trustees to finish the multimila-ry dollar sports complex. His most immediate goals are to get “the student performance to where we want it to be.”

Getting a little emotional, Swin-ton thanked his audience and virtually referred to as “the wind under my sails. That’s my bride and she’ll always be my bride.”

After the ceremony, Swinton told a Tiger News reporter that he truly appreciated the tributes. “It was a nice program. Everyone did an excellent job.

What if...

Continued from page 2

ter are on call to assist students in case of emergencies. Meanwhile, Food Services would provide students with meals in a timely manner, and provide a sched-ule to Physical Plant and Campus Safety of meal delivery times.

“Campus security’s job is to maintain the overall safety of the campus, and to be responsible for all emergencies,” the manual said. In an interview with Community Life Director Bridget Jones, she said, “The administrators here are trying their best to support the stu-dents, faculty, and staff and to make sure that they are safe and secure.”

Community Life and other campus departments say they are ready for emergencies should you occur.
HEALTH MATTERS:
HCM, a potential death threat for athletes

BY KEIANA PAGE STAFF WRITER

Picture a basketball game. The star of the team goes up for a slam-dunk, collapses, and dies. Later, the cause of this sudden death is pronounced as HCM. Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy or HCM, as it is called, is a genetic heart condition. The disease affects one out of every 500 people and a disproportionate number of athletes. HCM causes the muscles of the heart to thicken excessively. If undetected, it can cause death, especially among athletes.

“It is the most common cause of sudden cardiac death in athletes,” according to a recent report from the Miami Heart Research Institute. It is estimated that 2.5 percent of all HCM patients die of the disease each year.

For victims, the symptoms vary, from shortness of breath, to heart palpitations and black outs. Any-one is at risk for HCM, but young athletes have been found to more likely suffer the damaging effects of this disease because they are more likely to over exert themselves or engage in intensive physical activity.

Patricia Sims, mother of the late Vic Sims, a local high school athlete who fell victim to the disease last year, after a game of pick up basketball at his school. In an interview with the Tiger News, Mrs. Sims, who has become a strong advocate for HCM awareness, said athletes are more at risk because of the strain put on their hearts.

She said her son, who was a student at Dutch Fork High School, may have lived if he had been screened for HCM. “It is important that athletes are screened for HCM because the test can save lives,” she said.

The test she referred to for Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy is an echocardiogram, a painless procedure, not only for HCM but other heart diseases as well. If given, a number of heart conditions can be detected.

In light of the recent HCM deaths of three Midlands area student athletes and the heart ailment death of a Camden student athlete, at least one area high school, White Knoll in Lexington, has begun offering the test to any student athlete in the area.

In addition, Palmetto Health hospital system has announced it will donate 33 Automated External Defibrillators to Richland County middle and high schools.

Currently, Benedict does not automatically provide echocardiograms for its athletes. Athletes do not have to take physical screenings, and if the college is aware of any health problems, these students are given referrals to health providers.

“We follow the trend in college health needs, and we give referrals for students with special problems,” said Patricia Powell, R.N., director of Health Services. Powell said all students are given health screenings before entering Benedict, adding that her office has not seen a great number of students with cardiac problems.

For those living with Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy, there is no cure, but there are treatment options such as medications, heart transplants, and pacemakers.
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strike one! Strike two! Strike three, you're out! 

If you are a fan of Softball, as Dana Butler, one of two starting pitchers for the Benedict Tigers softball team is, then this one is for you. The Tigers pulled off a convincing victory in the best-of-three series, with a commanding lead early and never looking back. The lady Tigers took home the championship for us today. They killed us out of the competition and never looked back. The way they played this season showed that we deserve it," said Gregg.

Men's and women's handball teams take second and third place in South Conference

By Rayminta Miller Staff Writer

Benedict's men and women's handball teams' hopes of bringing home a championship in the South Eastern Texas Athletic Conference (SETHC) Championship at Georgia State University in Atlanta were dashing. Neither the men, or the women's team, but the women's team brought back a second place finish and the men's team return with a third place finish for the season.

The men's handball team came second in the tournament as the second SETHC champions. Expecting to bring home more hardware this season, the conference proved too difficult for the men to remain the top champion.

Even though we were the defending champs, this was also a rebuilding season for us. We had no returning players from this year. So I knew it wasn't going to be easy," said Coach James Rice.

The team may have also been due to a lack of their usual playing time. The team only played three games all season. "For a year before when they won the conference championship, they played well, they worked hard, and had all experienced players. In a best of three series, the first Benedict was runner-up. Florida State, a professional team again the University of Georgia on a one-year deal with Cleveland Indians. Benedict kept the score free throughout the first two half with the help of leading scorers Suber, Anthony Small, Tyrwan Tins, and Terrence Bunting. In the second half, Florida State, held on to a five point lead, keeping the Tigers at bay and handing them their first loss in the best of three in the conference. The game ended 17-12.

Although the Tigers were one loss away from being eliminated from the tournament, Benedict was optimistic that they could win against Georgia State University, which they played next. Benedict's leader said that Georgia State was in the regular season, 14-14.

"We beat them earlier this year, but all we cared about was not getting there today. I wasn't ready to go home," said one Benedict player, commenting right after the game with the Atlanta Rock. But Georgia State had their number this time. Benedict's leading scorers in the game against Atlanta Rock were held in check by Georgia State's GSL/GIU, leading the most for most of the game and never looked back. The Tigers lost in the match up against GSL/II, 8-12.

The men finished the overall season 1-4 and 1-1 in the SETHC. "It was a tough loss for us because there was so much pressure on us as the defending champs. I was not sure that it was true for the other teams that got in a see a battle with the other team. So we had to adjust to each other throughout the game. Despite their best efforts on offense and defense, Benedict women fell to UNC, 1-3. The team members said they did everything they could to try to score, but they just couldn't. But we had an answer for it. Last season, we didn't lose, the lady Tigers were one loss away from going home empty handed when they scored their next opponent, Furman University. Furman has beaten the lady Tigers by an average of 1.36 points every game all season. "We always looked to playing them because it's such a good rival. There's no love lost between us. They've beat us season and every time we play them we look forward to getting the upset," said team member Raushana Gregg. Both teams showed how badly they wanted to win, since both teams had tied last season in UNC and were on the verge of going home. Benedict took the lead, however, going into the second half. Furman wouldn't give up, taking back the lead half way through the second half.

With stellar defense by Benedict's "Our teamwork and defense is what won the game for us. I felt good to knock them (Furman) out of all the tournaments in the early, especially since they knocked us out in the championship last year. We've always been the underdog because they have beaten us out of the past few seasons, but we got them this time." Rauhsana Gregg, Women's Handball Team Captain, speaking of her teammates' 2nd place finish in the SETHC championship.

Former BC football player on the fast track to his NFL dream

December 2003 Benedict graduate Cortez Oliver may well be on his way to the National Football League. Though he is a year away for sure and if he is picked, Oliver is hoping the New York Jets will consider him for a spot on the team. "It is a great experience to play for the national football league," Oliver told the Tiger News. He has been recruited by another minor league team. He is currently playing for a North Carolina team called the Astro Grizzlies, also a part of the NAFL. "It is a great experience to play for a football league. I am not going to be playing college football, you should try for a league," Oliver told the Tiger News. Though he is enjoying the minor league, Oliver said he would happily accept an offer from the major league, especially an outfit like the NFL. The top of the heap as far as professional football goes.

Meanwhile, he has two sports agents, Mark Sisson and John Las- ter, who will be looking out for him, drumming him up in the upcoming photo courtesy of Cortez Oliver Former Benedictinian Cortez Oliver wearing his minor league football team, the Timberwolves, uniform, tryouts with the Canadian Football League and the National Football League’s New York Jets. The try- outs start in May. "I am overwhelmed and ecstatic over all that is happening for me," he said. Oliver added that as a free agent to play on any NFL team, I will first give all thanks to God and buy my mother a house. Oliver added that if a major league team does not sign him this summer, he will continue in his job with the Social Security Administration, at the Federal building in Columbus. For those like him who have aspirations to play in the NFL, Oliver offers these words of encouragement: “Stay focused, and don’t listen to the negativity.”