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Palmetto City Classic: More than a game

A special happening with blood battles, step shows, tailgating and more

By TERRELL BRYANT
STAFF WRITER

Although the Benedict Tigers did not get the upset win they wanted over last year's Palmetto Classic champions, the South Carolina State University Bulldogs, the Classic was still a successful event, judging by the ambience and the atmosphere, the camaraderie, and the activities that it brought.

As the promoters said in their advertising, 'the Classic is more than a game, it's an event,' this year's Palmetto Classic was that and more.

The Classic involved many events that helped to popularize the occasion, bring money to both Benedict and South Carolina State, and build a reputation among football fans and HBCU supporters that the BC-State showdown is where they should be.

Even the traffic snarls of last year's Classic were far less of a

headache this time with both city of Columbia and Richland County police and traffic cops in full swing leading into and around Williams Brice stadium, where the football battle was held. And there were a few more stars in town this year, such as Indiana Pacers player and Columbia native Jermaine O'Neil, actress Lisa Raye, and singers Monica, Freeway, and the O'Jays, who were headlining at a Classic concert in town.

The Classic was also for the diehard Benedict supporters, friends, and alumni, who came in from several states; a few politicians including Mayor Bob Coble and Gov. Mark Sanford; and vendors and tailgaters who swarmed around the stadium like bees.

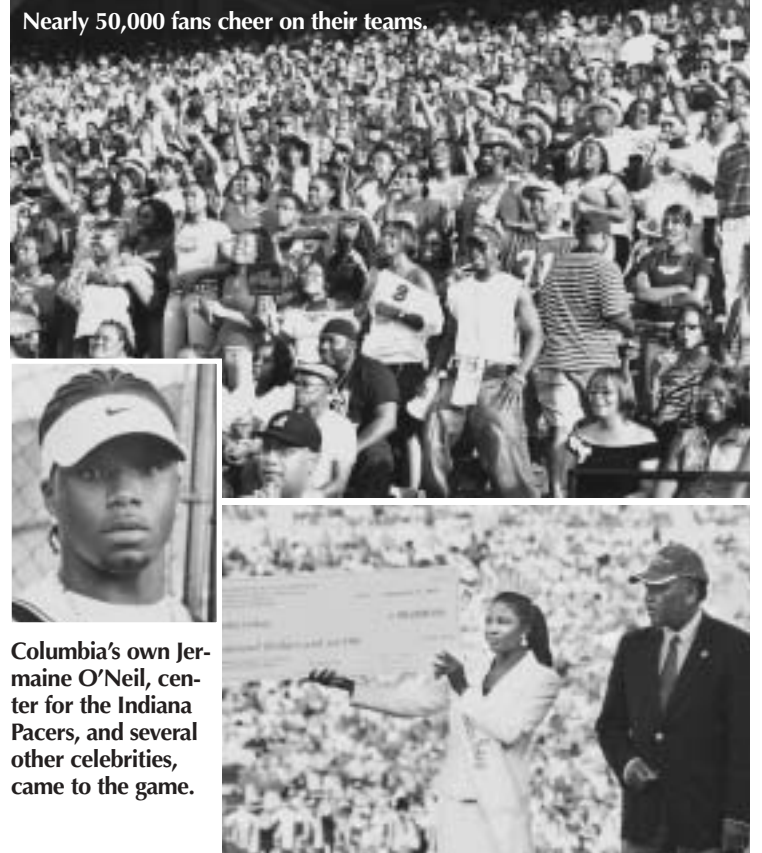
As is second nature at big football clashes, tailgating was a central part of the flavor outside the stadium, along with a bevy of vendors, who set up shop in and around the stadium.

Still, there was something for everyone, including the students. Throughout the week a number of events were held that catered to the college crowd. These included a fired up pep rally in Finlay park; a

See Classic on page 7

SCENES FROM THE 'CLASSIC'

Photos by David J. Sampson, Ne'Toya Thompson, and Tawain Kelley



Nearly 50,000 fans cheer on their teams.

Columbia's own Jermaine O'Neil, center for the Indiana Pacers, and several other celebrities, came to the game.

Miss Benedict, Chinae Newton, with President Swinton, holds a replica of the \$50,000 check that was presented to Benedict from State Farm.

Swinton gives touching keynote speech Records broken and milestones reached at this year's 134th Convocation

By SHERIKA PRINCE
STAFF WRITER

Like many standing campus occasions, Convocation could become just another campus gathering, another excuse to miss classes. However, this year's Fall Convocation seemed different. Perhaps it was the message that President David H. Swinton, the keynote speaker, gave, which was different in both meaning and tone.

The president had the usual admonitions to the students...study hard, work smart, know that you can be a power for good in society. But what really hit home in the speech, to use common vernacular, were his references to his own upbringing and how he overcame some turbulent times in his early years.

Swinton relayed a story about when he was down and out, saying that by the time he had reached high school he was homeless four times. There were times he was hungry, he said, and there was even a time when he had to eat out of a garbage can. "At times we had nothing to eat," he began, and as the audience absorbed this, he asked, "So what? God put the food in the garbage can for me to find. Everything is a blessing. Troubles can't do nothing but make you stronger."

Swinton had another story to tell. This one was about the time he lived in New York. He told the story of a man who bullied his way

around the Harlem community. One day someone talked to the bully about abusing him abusing his sister. The accuser shot the bully while at least 100 people witnessed the incident. When police asked around for who saw the shooting and what happened, not one person came forward.

The community was relieved and happy the bully was gone. No one saw the incident...no one wanted him around.

The stories were part of Swinton's address, a touching speech done in an easy going and emphatic way. He used the stories to try to get students, faculty, and staff to understand that being here at Benedict is a blessing, that they should be grateful for what they have, and that they can and are making a difference in the lives of others.

Telling faculty and staff that they have an opportunity to help more young people than at any other private institution in the state, he said, "You have the chance to create the next group of heroes."

To students, he said they should be grateful to have hard working faculty and staff who give personal, one-on-one service. "Don't be afraid to ask for help," he said, "and remember the blessings you have."

Commenting on the level of poverty in the world, he said, "There are people starving all over the world. It's easy to think you don't have it good. But if you look around you will see that you're blessed."



Photo by G. A. Shabazz

President Swinton delivered a powerful speech at this year's Convocation.

He proudly noted that he does not know of any other institution that allows their students to get emergency book vouchers, and he asked who had gotten some. A few hands went up. "We are here to assist you in anyway we can," he said. "You have your books. You have the knowledge. The only thing you have to do is apply yourself," he said sternly.

He told the students that they are all on the same level playing field when they come to Benedict. "You all start on the same playing field...we are all in this game together. We are all about getting you to become a worthwhile, contributing member of society. You have a wonderful opportunity before you."

Swinton also reminded the students not to let a few bad apples spoil the barrel for everyone else. "I know we have some students who will skip classes, not study. But you've got to step up and ask for help. You've got to take it seriously. Group yourself with a serious group of colleagues. Choose your friends carefully. Hang with the bunch who will help you, uplift you, not pull them down."

He then called on the students to report any improper or illegal behavior, including anyone they see stealing books. He said the college's public safety chief would be establishing a confidential hotline for students to call.

Turning to the financial sacrifices that parents make for students, including taking out PLUS loans; he asked how many of their parents had taken out such loans. A few hands went up. "Your parents only want the best for you. You need to understand what they have done for you the last 18 years or so to bring you up to this point."

He told the students not to settle, but to stretch their sights high. "If you don't think you can do it, I guarantee you won't. You've got to have faith. If you have faith, you will accomplish."

Swinton reminded the students that all of them could achieve. He also told them to count themselves blessed because only one out of nine African Americans go to college, only one in four graduate from college, and less than five percent of the world's population have

the privilege to go to college.

"Students, you have to take your work seriously," he said. "There are too many people counting on you."

In contrast to his message during last year's Convocation, in which he used the first initials of some common street terms to tell of his loathing for those students who misbehave and misuse the opportunities that come to them, this time he was firm but more gentle and serious.

To those who think they can get by taking the easy road, he said, they will not get by. "Those who are using the campus to sell marijuana should know that there is no profit in that. If they think that they will become successful through crime and drugs, it ain't going to happen."

"Statistics prove that those who do this, by age 40, 30 percent are dead, another group is in jail, and the others, their lives have been ruined. If you are going to be around to age 95, you cannot do those things. When people tell you to do those things, that's stupid rhetoric...it's proven that there is a formula for success."

Swinton ended his speech with more words of wisdom. "Don't look for people to give you everything. Life doesn't work that way. You have to be active, participate, and study. Everything is a blessing. Troubles don't do anything but make you stronger...nothing can stop you unless you let it stop you."

See Keynote on page 7

Braun announces presidential intentions at Benedict

BY TANISHA POLITE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Breaking barriers, building bridges, and bringing people together was the three-part theme of Illinois resident Carol Moseley-Braun, as she announced her official candidacy for the democratic nomination for president at Benedict last month.

Moseley-Braun, a minority twice over in the presidential race, is the only female of the eight other Democratic presidential candidates and one of two African American candidates.

Moseley-Braun told a crowd of over 200 in the packed press conference in the Swinton Center that she is dedicated to peace, prosperity, and progress to end "this country's exploitation."

Criticizing America's foreign policy, she said, "It is the spirit of our people that make this country great."

Moseley-Braun, a former ambassador to New Zealand and the first and only African American woman to have been a U.S. Senator, where she served on the finance commit-



Photo by Ne' Toya Thompson

Moseley-Braun is all smiles as she announces her candidacy for president.

tee, said, "I am practical and not afraid of partnerships. I am committed to making the world better for our children."

Under her leadership Moseley-Braun said that she would create an American renaissance by creating "partnerships for justice," would take greater fiscal responsibility, bring national, state and local governments together, and create new industries and new wealth.

With her innovative ideas, she

vowed she could fix the "mess" created by the current presidential leadership.

Moseley-Braun faces eight other democratic candidates: Wesley Clark of Arkansas, Howard Dean of Vermont, Dick Gephard of Missouri, Bob Graham of Florida, John Kerry of Massachusetts, Dennis Kucinich of Ohio, Joe Liberman of Connecticut, and Al Sharpton of New York.

She told the Benedict audience

that, "Everyone has a chance to contribute to liberty, opportunity, and hope. Together we can rebuild an America that we can be proud of. Together failure is impossible."

Moseley-Braun also expressed the hope that she will attract and gain more support from African American voters.

Many of the Benedict students who heard her remark, like Roshanda Brown, a sophomore, computer science major, approved of what she said.

"I am excited about Braun running for president, and I am proud that she chose Benedict College to make her announcement," she said. "I am also proud of the fact that she is a black female trying to make a difference in this seemingly male dominated world."

On the other hand, Brandy Jackson, a 23-year-old senior, biology major, had concerns about Moseley-Braun's candidacy because all of the other candidates have raised more money than she has and are beating her in the polls. "Braun will have to work extremely hard in gaining more support at the polls," said Jackson.

"I am excited about Braun running for president, and I am proud that she chose Benedict College to make her announcement. I am also proud of the fact that she is a black female trying to make a difference in this seemingly male dominated world."

Roshanda Brown

Moseley-Braun said she came to Benedict to announce her candidacy because "I liked the synergies and symbolism of the school. Benedict has an excellent reputation for being one of the fastest growing black colleges."

Prior to coming to Benedict, Moseley-Braun made a stop at Howard University in Washington, D.C., another historically black college. After leaving Benedict, she made an appearance in her hometown of Chicago, where she got her start in politics 25 years ago with her election to the Illinois legislature.

Service Learning Expo attracts many businesses

BY MARCO BROOKS
STAFF WRITER

The Swinton Center was crowded all day as scores of students passed through, looking at materials on tables from various businesses, organizations, and agencies at the recent Service Learning Expo.

A record number of site representatives took part in this year's Expo. Over 85 sites were represented.

"The Service Learning Expo makes things a lot easier... I mean the sites actually came to the college. We did not have to go out and find them like we did back in the day when I was a freshman."

Patrick Mills,
Senior

"I can always depend upon Benedict whenever the subject of volunteering and helping out is mentioned," said Rolanda Hankins, a donor recruiter for the American Red Cross.

So far, she said, she has been able to recruit over 15 students to take part with American Red Cross as their service to the community.

The Expo is an annual event held to provide information to students about service learning and service learning sites. A large number of students attended this year.

Some of the sites represented were the American Red Cross, Sistercare, Inc., Black News, the South Carolina Democratic Party, C.A. Johnson Academy, Benedict College Child Development Center, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Benedict College Athletics, Benedict College Theatre, YWCA of the Midlands, Palmetto Senior Care, Palmetto Baptist Medical, the S.C. African American HIV-AIDS Council, and Wateree Community Action.

Joiqum Barnes of the S.C. Democratic party, said he likes to take part in Benedict's Expo. "I think that what Benedict is doing here is a dynamic thing. There are very few schools that I have visited that promote community service. I would love to have as many students as possible volunteer to help.

My overall purpose for being here is to hopefully get some volunteers and to educate the students about the importance of voting."

Students must earn a total of 120 service learning hours before they graduate. Many need to find sites if they are short some hours; others eagerly search for sites as quickly as possible, so they won't be caught short before the end of their senior year.

Service Learning director Gwendolyn Green said the program serves as a liaison with students and service learning sites. The service learning hours have to be contracted in order for students to earn credit, she said. The Service Learning Expo helps the students to identify which sites are contracted and which ones are available.

Several students at the Expo said they have begun working on their hours.

Asked whether she is looking forward to her service learning work, freshman Kalifa Oliver said, "Service to the college and community is something that each every student at Benedict should want to give.

"As a student in the School of Honors, I am entitled to give academic service as an initiative, as a tutor in the development program for the School of Honors. Therefore I feel obligated to give my service. The amount of hours expected for graduation is never too much."

Gaylan Henderson, a sophomore and biology major, said she came

simply because she has been educated on the significance of service learning. "I understand why there is a need for a Service Learning Expo. I can speak from my experience. I need service hours to graduate, and the Expo makes it a lot easier to find a site to work to earn the hours."

Asked how he feels about the number of service hours required, Patrick Mills, a senior and biology major, said he does not think the number of service hours needed for graduation is too much. If anything, not enough hours are required, he said. "I feel as if the amount of hours needed for service in order to graduate are not enough."

"In the matriculation of four years, each student can earn 15 hours a semester and will have completed the amount of hours needed within that time period. The Service Learning Expo makes things a lot easier for the students. I mean, the sites actually came to the college. We did not have to go out and find them like we did back in the day when I was a freshman," he said.

Senior Stacie Stephens, a mass communications major, also spoke of the importance of service learning hours. "Service to the college and community is not always about monetary rewards but self-worth compensations," she said.

Green said she hoped students understand that service is about "knowledge and action. Service is the heart of the people, for the people, and about the people."



Photo by David Sampson

Two students stop to talk with representative of Central Carolina Rehabilitation Services at the Service Learning Expo.



Students work on the computers in a lab on campus.

Photo by Ne' Toya Thompson

MIS technicians spend weeks rooting out computer virus

BY RAYNITA MILLER
STAFF WRITER

A computer virus known as the "worm" or the blaster virus, which has been menacing computers all over the country, touched down on Benedict's campus just as the new school year began.

Benedict's Management Information Services technicians were able to wrestle the worm and get it under control. They spent at least three weeks going into computers all over campus, getting rid of the worm, and putting on "fix it" devices.

Benedict wasn't the only local college affected. The University of South Carolina was nearly shut down computer-wise because of the same virus. USC was off-line for several hours while technicians there worked to resolve the problem.

Here at Benedict, when word came to MIS about the wormy situation, MIS Director Robert Squirewell and MIS technicians began searching out and rooting out the computer menace.

According to Samuel Paschal, POISE administrator, who helped MIS technicians Freeman Burgess and Ivanton Manning whenever they needed extra hands, this particular virus is activated by an unknown command, usually a common, everyday computer command.

Once the command is activated, the worm could load a bunch of files onto the computer and possibly take up all the space on the hard drive, essentially making the computer inoperable, or total shutdown. Sometimes it will wait for certain innocent commands to happen such

as opening e-mail attachments or using an e mail server like AOL.

The person using the computer may not even know the virus or worm is on the computer, he said, especially if the person has a lot of space on the hard drive.

Paschal explained that Burgess came across the major virus on the Internet. He also heard about USC's computer problem and that a great majority of the computers there had to be shut down.

He learned how the problem was being resolved; then he and the MIS staff began working on the computers here, assessing which computers were affected and where. They did a building by building, computer by computer search, and installed the fix-it mechanisms to forestall it from happening again. At least two thirds of the campus computers were affected.

Since the detection of this despotic virus, the MIS staff has worked days, weekends and extra evenings "quarantining" buildings with infected computers and going into each and every computer installing fix-it tools to arrest the virus. They have also installed "service packs four" to de-bug the system.

Will all this stop another bug or virus from happening again? There is no guarantee that someone will not create another virus somewhere and the whole cycle started again.

One precaution, however, say MIS staff, is not to download everything you see. Paschal advises students not to download from the Internet on the computers unless for an academic assignment or instructed to. It is also advisable to make sure your disk is virus free.

A SPECIAL HEALTH REPORT

Wake up – Protect yourself against STDs

Health care specialists say South Carolinians need to be better informed about sexually transmitted diseases

BY TERRELL BRYANT
STAFF WRITER

Editor's Note: Tiger News reporter Terrell Bryant took a look at the growing number of sexually transmitted diseases among individuals in the state. He spoke with health care officials from Benedict and other area colleges, as well as state health care and regulatory agencies. This special report warns that this health care situation could gravely affect the state's main population and colleges as well.

STATE'S HIV/AIDS CASES GROWING

Local doctors and specialists say South Carolina is fast on its way to having a sexually transmitted disease (STD) epidemic.

In the city of Columbia, for example, which has a population of a little more than 100,000 and the Columbia metro area, which includes Richland, Lexington, Kershaw and Fairfield counties, with over half a million population, there are approximately 4,500 HIV and 3,000 reported AIDS cases.

According to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Ga., blacks are acquiring sexually transmitted diseases faster than any other race in the country.

HIV, the virus which causes AIDS, was once thought of as only affecting gay, white males. Anthony Lewis, a community outreach specialist with the South Carolina African American HIV and AIDS Council, says, however, that African American females are rapidly succumbing to the disease.

According to U.S. Census Bureau statistics, African Americans make up 12 percent of the United States population. African Americans, according to the CDC, make up about 60 percent of new AIDS cases among 13 to 19 year olds, and almost 40 percent of all AIDS cases overall.

The CDC predicts that by the year 2020, one in four school age African American children will have contracted the HIV virus by the time they reach their sexual maturity.

STD INCIDENCES ON CAMPUSES

As the HIV virus and full blown AIDS spreads among individuals in the general population, colleges and universities are beginning to openly discuss the problem and seek solutions for preventing STD's from reaching epidemic proportions on their campuses.

Some colleges and universities have been dealing with STD incidences as a norm. Benedict College has been working to prevent major STD incidences and has been seeking ways to keep students informed of steps to prevent HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

The school has had voluntary STD testing for a number of years. Students can go to the Health Services Center during hours of operation, in the basement of Mather Hall, to be tested for the HIV virus, for AIDS, and for other sexually transmitted diseases.

The school does not force testing on anyone, but makes the services available for anyone desiring a test.

According to Benedict health personnel, 63 cases of STD and STI (sexually transmitted infections) were reported among students in the 2002-2003 school year. This is a relatively small figure, compared with the college's nearly 3,000 student population.

At the University of South Carolina over 1700 STD or STI cases were reported last school year, and at Columbia College there has been one reported STD case this semester.

Although the number of reported cases at Benedict is low — with only a fraction of the student population testing positively for a sexually transmitted disease or infection — that does not mean those are all the STD or STI cases among students here.

Some affected individuals may not want to come forward, or they could have been tested elsewhere. The numbers also do not account for those who may have

other diseases such as chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis, in which South Carolina ranks high among states with such reported cases.

EDUCATION/COUNSELING EFFORTS

Still, there are a few agencies and private organizations working to get the word out about HIV/AIDS prevention and the importance of testing. One of these is the S.C. African American HIV/AIDS Council (SCAAHAC).

SCAAHAC Project Coordinator Vivian Clark said it is time that African Americans stop shying away from even talking about the subject and from getting the information they need about it.

"It's the stigmas that are killing our people," she said. "We are in an epidemic that has the potential to wipe us out, and we still do not talk about it."

"We need to have open dialogue," she continued. "Not talking about it leads to more infections."

Clark said that people need more education about STDs; they need to be aware of their sexual health; and they need to approach people with HIV from a non-judgmental stand point.

"Any person of any age; race or orientation should know their status from the first time they start to have sex," she concluded.

Clark also suggests that sexual health and STD prevention need to be talked about in churches, homes and schools. "We need to discuss it because it is killing us, and all are affected in some way, whether it be in the taxes we pay for health care, or

the loss of a love one."

Patricia Powell, Benedict's Health Center director, says that it is the risky behaviors that lead to new infections. "The best way to stay safe is abstinence," she says. "You can get some STDs such as gonorrhea without sexual penetration."

Dr. Jacob P. White, MD, an intervention specialist with Between Brothers, a non-profit organization that is part of the SCAAHAC, says that risky behaviors that can lead to STDs are an offshoot of the mentality held by some men. For example, some males don't call themselves gay as long as they perform as the male with their male partner. They may not tell their female partner they are gay, which is harmful to themselves and their partners.

Between Brothers targets males who may be engaging in risky behaviors as young as 13 to 24 years old. Their ages don't matter, he says, especially if they are already hearing about and engaging in sex. Getting all the information to them on how to prevent risky behavior can make a difference, he says.

TESTING SERVICES

Tchernavia Gregory, a disease intervention specialist with S.C. DHEC, agrees that certain behaviors are more riskier than others. This includes having sex without condoms, having multiple sex partners, and sharing needles associated with drug use.

Tamekia Sanford, a mass communications major and sophomore, feels that students who are sexually active should always be up front with their partners about their sexual orientation and past sexual history. She believes many people are not, but that everyone needs to protect themselves because no one else will do it for them.

As the number of STDs and STIs increase, more colleges, including Benedict, are offering free testing and counseling services for their students.

Testing has become much easier and quicker thanks to new technology. The results from the OraQuick test, for example, used to detect the HIV-1 anti-body, can be achieved in 20 minutes. The only place offering this particular test in

South Carolina currently is the S.C. African American HIV/AIDS Council office, located on Hampton Street in Columbia.

In another test, OraSure, for HIV/AIDS, in which a sample is taken from the mouth, the results are back within seven to ten days.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Meanwhile, more organizations have been formed to help get the word out about these and other testing



Terrell Bryant

NEWS BRIEFS

United Negro College Fund announces \$1 million gift to state's black colleges

Columbia — The United Negro College Fund recently announced a \$1 million dollar gift to a number of black colleges in the state, including a \$250,000 share to Benedict. Similar gifts have gone out to HBCU's across the country. A total of 39 historically black colleges and universities will receive the funds, provided by the Altia Group, Inc., a parent company of Kraft Foods, Phillip Morris tobacco, and Miller brewery.

Pizza Hut now offering dinners on demand

Columbia — Pizza Hut, the nation's first national pizza delivery company, has introduced a new Pizza Hut card that can be activated in amounts up to \$100 at all Columbia and South Carolina Pizza Hut restaurants. The cards are a convenient way to give a Pizza Hut pizza as a gift, and they can be used at any time, says Tom James, Pizza Hut's chief marketing officer.



Photo by Sherika Prince

WLTX's Darci Strickland provides insight on a broadcasting career

Columbia — Darci Strickland, one of WLTX News 19's primetime anchors, recently led a discussion on the broadcasting field with some mass communication students in a video production class on campus. Strickland declared that it is a good time for African American females to be in the business. She said the industry is looking for diversity so as to draw a larger viewing audience. To be a good broadcaster, she said, you've got to be on your toes, be focused, and be aggressive.

Channel 19's Darci Strickland addresses some mass communication students.

Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry makes stop at Benedict

Columbia — Earlier this month Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. John Kerry, met with a small group of Benedict College students to discuss the importance of college scholarships and the need that no child is left behind.

Kerry said he has already laid out his plans for America if he wins next fall's presidential election. His goals include expanding health care access, providing early education for children, providing more quality after school programs, increasing the child tax credit, and raising the level of Pell grants for college students.

Angelou shares her rainbow with captive audience

Columbia — Scholar, novelist, poet Dr. Maya Angelou welcomed the presence of about 2,000 men and women who came to hear her recently at the second annual Women's Expo at the Carolina Center.

This was Angelou's first visit to Columbia. She spoke about her memories of her childhood in her native Stamps, Ark. and the major impact that one of her relatives, her Uncle Willie, had on her. Her message revolved around how everyone should share their love with each other and have patience with all races of people.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 13 Opening of art exhibition of Chandra Cox, Henry Ponder Art Gallery (through Nov. 14th)
- 14 Last day to submit Service Learning forms
- 16-17 Fall Break
- 20-26 Homecoming Week
- 21 All College Assembly, 11 a.m., Fellowship of Christian Athletes, HRC Arena
- 24 Alumni Career Day, Swinton Center, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.
- 30 Poetry Slam, Swinton Center, 6 p.m.

NOVEMBER

- 1-30 National Diabetes Awareness Month
- 1-4 Graduate School Visitation
- 3-5 Spades tournament, Swinton Center, 7 p.m.
- 5 Early Registration for Spring 2003 (through Dec 12th)
- 4 Sophomore Seminar LEAD Series Leadership, 11 a.m.
- 5-8 Harold Odom Dance Concert, Henry Ponder Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
- 5-8 Education Majors Professional Conference Experience
- 6 Honors Lecture Series, Henry Ponder Theatre, 4 p.m.
- 6 Minority Law Day, Swinton Center, 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- 6 Karaoke Night, Swinton Center, 7 p.m.
- 7 USC Minority Law School visitation
- 8 GEAR-UP Saturday Academy, 8 a.m. - 12 noon
- 11 Education Career Fair, Education Majors Recruitment Day, Swinton Center, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 12 Brown Bag Black Forum, N.A. Jenkins Board Room, Library, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 13 Bingo night, Swinton Center, 7 p.m.
- 15 Fall High School Visitation Day, HRC Arena, 10 a.m.
- 15 Reading Day/Instructional Day
- 16-21 American Education Week
- 18 Education Department, All College Assembly, 11 a.m.
- 19 Brother to Sister Forum, Swinton Center, 6 p.m.

Columbia Area STD and STI Testing, Volunteer & Counseling Services

- Richland County Health Department (HIV testing, Midland area) — 576-2733
- Planned Parenthood of Columbia — 256-4908
- Between Brothers — 254-0162
- South Carolina African American HIV/AIDS Counsel (SCAAHAC) — 254-644TD, Hotline: 1-800-322-AIDS
- National AIDS/STD Hotline: 1-800-342-AIDS

MUSINGS AROUND BC

Observations from the game room

BY APRIL WOODS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Editor's Note: *The Tiger News* introduces a new column called *Musings around BC*. In this issue, Features and Editorial Writing class student April Woods shares some of her observations around a campus site. If you would like to share your musings, contact *Tiger News* at TigerNews@Benedict.edu.

In Benedict College's game room, located in the David H. Swinton Center across from the mailroom, male and female students play pool and table hockey, and talk to each other about who will win. As they compete against one another, they show off their talents and skills.

Some people sit calmly waiting for others to finish their game so they can play next. Others sit impatiently, anxiously waiting for someone to finish and leave.

One female student relaxes in the pool room reading an *Essence* magazine, while she questions a male student about an article inside the magazine.

Some people inside yell out of the window, while others outside yell from below, saying, "What's UP?" as they acknowledge friends or associates. Or, they simply say, "Let's ride out."

Others stand up as they await an available table to play the next game and talk about how they will



Photo by David Sampson

It's game room time. Sharon Simmons takes a shot that leads her to a win.

beat the person that they are up against next, or what they have to get done for a certain class.

Colorful balls lie scattered on the pool tables. Students push the long brown pool sticks as they try to hit the balls. The balls make a loud, cracking noise, then fall and roll into the holes at the end corners of the tables.

"I did that sh..! Now gimme mine," yells a male student from across the room. Sounds of slapping hands fill the room. Sweet melodies K-ci and Jo Jo's, "Last Night Letter" play in the background.

The male players not only have their victories, but females win, too. One girl beats a guy and says, "F..k! What you heard? Run it back." Her male opponent walks away. A few of the male students

joke. "She punked you," they say. The male loser just walks away, saying, "Whatever. I got a class. One!"

More people walk in and out the door, peeping their heads in the poolroom to see if anyone they know is inside.

Different types of music ... rap, r & b, reggae, gospel....filter through the sound system. The sounds saturate the room.

Male and female players come in, dressed in their own unique styles, professional, baggy, outrageous, comfortable, their hair in braids, or loose, long or short, bald, tamed or wild, sizes petite to huge.

Some people lose. Others win. Their wins based on chance or luck. Or, it may be they are just good or lousy at the game. Life's a game. So is pool.

The New Angels

BY NE'TOYA
THOMPSON
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER



Ne'Toya Thompson

People are dying all around us.

Nowadays death has no age limit. At times you may unknowingly take your life for granted. But life is too short for anyone not to take advantage of life and live each day, each hour, and each second as though it were your last.

Death does not discriminate. It has taken such well-known celebrities as Lisa (Left eye) Lopez, Aaliyah, Gregory Hines, and even some dear Benedict College students and staff.

Then there are the U.S. soldiers in Iraq, firefighters in New York, family members and friends, whose lives were cut short, to name a few.

As I sit here remembering some of Benedict's fallen — Jacqueline Evans, Iris Canty, Philip (Big Phil) Lee — I know that people deal with death in many different ways.

But we can make it through. As Campus Minister the Rev. Glenn Prince says, "Be involved and encouraged." Counselor Mildred Knighter always knows just the right words to say. "Death," she says, "is an expected event, but it still surprises us every time." Nurse Patricia Powell offers these

words: "Death is a natural part of the process of living but everyone doesn't deal with it very well."

Student Tony Brewington says death can make a person stronger or it can have a negative effect, but "the strong survive."

Student Tasha Davaughan advises, "Don't take life for granted."

I am a perfect example of someone who is experiencing death head on. Experiencing death is a crucial process for me.

I've accepted the fact that death is a part of life, but that does not mean that it doesn't hurt or make me sad. Life is precious to me. For when someone's mother, father, or even a grandmother passes, it leaves an empty feeling within your heart. Having only memories isn't the same as having the presence of the person there.

But there are places on campus where you can go for help or to get comfort and provisions for your grief. First there is the student health services, which will refer you to Winstead and Associates. Then there is Rev. Prince, located in the chapel, and you can also go down to the counseling and testing services, located in BC Cares.

For now, though, live life to the fullest! It is shorter than we think.

STYLE ANALYSIS

Sagging Pants: Urban flavor or misguided thinking?

BY WAFEEQ ZARIF
STAFF WRITER

Editor's Note: In this enterprise story, *Tiger News* reporter Wafeeq Zarif takes a look at the background of one type of urban street wear, sagging pants, which may or may not be a favorite of everyone. Since Benedict has a dress code, he wanted to see how one type of street wear is raising eyebrows and why. (Some of the names have been changed for the sake of privacy.)



Wafeeq Zarif

"Hey Eazy, why you wear your pants like that?"

"I wear my pants like this for easy access baby."

To let hip hop artist Eazy E tell it, it really is that simple. He, and many other young black males, wear their pants hanging off their butts for easy access.

Easy access is a simple enough answer for sagging your pants, but to some, it's far more complicated.

"It's my culture," declares Benedict student Steve Smith in a recent interview.

"I'm from the 'hood, and this is how we dress in the 'hood," he says.

Some may disagree with Smith's stance that wearing pants six inches below the waist is part of black people's culture, but Smith says he doesn't care what other people think. With a stern look, he shoots down the notion that his culture comes from Africa and not from the 'hood.

"I'm not from Africa. I was born and raised in the 'hood," he says.

When reminded by a passing faculty member that his mother would-

n't approve of his attire, Smith fires back with contempt in his voice, easily dismissing the lecture as garbage from someone ignorant to his upbringing.

"You don't even know my mother," he says.

"My mother is a crack-head, and she's from the 'hood too. You can't tell me about my mother when you don't even know her," he says.

Smith has heard the lectures before, and he is completely unmoved by them. He's here in school, but he doesn't plan on changing his dress for those who don't understand the 'hood, nor for what they want him to be.

Even as the faculty member tells him that sagging pants are a part of the jail culture, that the sagging pants style found its way into youth culture by way of the county jails and prison systems, Smith disputes that claim, too.

Not all BC students agree with Smith. Many students like the neat, clean cut look. They like to style, too, and will buy bigger clothes to be more comfortable, but they don't necessarily want to sag too low.

One Winthrop University student even did a paper on the subject. Mario Washington, a Winthrop history major, researched the topic while interning with a state law enforcement agency. He found that belts are confiscated from inmates as a safety precaution to prevent suicides and other violence.

"Inmates, whose pants' waistlines are big, walk around with their pants sagging and underwear exposed when the belts are gone," says Washington. "When released, some former inmates took that jailhouse mentality out onto the streets with them. Over the years, it caught on as a style among inner-city



Photos by G. A. Shabazz

Freshman Mantell Richardson of Spartanburg sports some sagging pants because he likes wearing them. "I was raised this way. It's the style; everybody does it," he says.

youth, some of whom spend their days idolizing the big money making neighborhood street hustlers who just got released," he says.

Even when told about the sagging pants/prison theory, Smith still doesn't agree. "That's not true. The real reason their pants are sagging is because the boys in the 'hood tote guns," he says.

"When the guns are too big to fit tucked into their waist with their pants up, they sag them to make the



Photos by G. A. Shabazz

(Above) Business major Ivan Wright says he came out of the 'hood, too, in Charleston, but he prefers a neater look. "I always like to look neat. It's up to you how you dress, but in this world you do need to dress for success," he says.

guns fit," he continues.

Washington says Smith's difference of opinion is a warped viewpoint, largely due to the entertainment industry's glorification of street life. Those who identify with that glorified view find it hard to advance past their upbringing, whether from the 'hood or city streets.

"He needs to wake up and realize who he really is," says Washington, "because he won't learn it by watching 50 Cent videos and chilling in the 'hood."

"You don't hear Italian or Asian people disowning where they come from. They're always proud to say their grandparents or some older relatives are from somewhere like Korea or Italy. They go on and on about their heritage because their parents make sure they know it," he says.

"Yeah sure, they may dress like Americans, watch MTV and BET everyday, and they may even rap a little, but they never forget the country where their people boarded a boat to come here. You can go to a Chinese restaurant or look at any Rocky movie to see that. We (black people) are the only ones who either don't know or don't care about our true heritage, and that's a shame," Washington concludes.

Are sagging pants a fairly recent additive to the spice of black people's culture, or something engraved into the minds of black men after thousands of hours locked down in the prison yards?

Even if it is just another fad conjured up by the brainwashing tool, more commonly known as the entertainment industry, seeing young black men sagging their pants as they walk the street is as common as spotting a McDonalds on the interstate exit.

Whatever it is, the style is at least 15 years old now, so it has demonstrated some longevity, but with the indecisive winds of change styles travel on, who knows how much longer it will last.

"When released, some former inmates took that jailhouse mentality out onto the streets with them. Over the years, [sagging pants] caught on as a style among inner-city youth, some of whom spend their days idolizing the big money making neighborhood street hustlers who just got released."

Mario Washington

Miss Benedict and attendants exude talent, poise and charm

BY CHYNEEDA HALL
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Ms. Benedict and her court are intelligent, intellectual, and beautiful women. But besides these qualities, they are also very talented.

Ms. Benedict 2003-2004 Zandra Chinae Newton, a 21-year old senior majoring in Social Work, has performed professionally as a singer and actress for several years. She has performed in local theater, including the Town Theater, where she played the lead role of Dorothy in the summer production, *The Wiz*.

Asked what she most loves to do in her spare time, she said she likes listening to music, talking on the phone, and spending time with her family.

For the talent portion of the Miss Benedict Pageant last year, she sang the song "Home" from *The Wiz* soundtrack. She received a standing ovation.

Asked how she felt about winning Miss Benedict, she said, "When I

won, I was so happy. I could not believe it. I was scared but happy all at the same time."

She recently represented Benedict in the Miss HBCU Pageant in Atlanta, Ga., where she placed in the top ten, competing against 40 other college queens.

Asked how her year has been since she was selected as Miss Benedict, she said, "I knew that my life would change, and I knew I really was going to have to be on point with everything."

So far, Miss Benedict has been on point, serving the college in a number of capacities. Besides the Miss HBCU Pageant, she has represented Benedict at college functions and other community events, and attended the Miss South Carolina State and Miss Voorhees coronations.

This month she was officially crowned as Miss Benedict at the Coronation on Oct. 10. She spent many days preparing for that, while keeping up with her academic and college responsibilities.

A native of Columbia, she said her plans for the remainder of the year are to "interact with students on a positive note at all times."

She also wants to implement new social activities for students on a mental, physical, and emotional level.

Besides Newton, students had treat watching and hearing from the first and second attendants to Miss Benedict, Stephanie Prophet and Andrea Foster.

Prophet, a native of Augusta, Ga. and a senior majoring in mass communication, has also brought a new level of talent to the college. She performed a monologue and sang a spiritual for the Miss Benedict Pageant.

Prophet hopes one day to become a minister and use her talents to help others. Her favorite hobbies are singing, writing, reading, shopping, and spending time with her mom. She has two brothers, one younger and one older.

Second Attendant Andrea Foster also brings some diverse talent to

Benedict. She has lived in Vicenza, Italy for the last ten years, but was born in Macon, Ga. Foster, a senior majoring in criminal justice, has one older sister.

For her talent, she performed a monologue and played the role of an airline stewardess asking a question as a reminder of the horrors of slavery.

Not only have the queen and her attendants worked together well, they have also become genuinely closer.

When hearing that Newton had placed in the top ten at the Miss HBCU Pageant, Prophet said she felt so good about her winning. "I felt that Chinae did a wonderful job in the pageant," said Prophet. "Her placing set a high standard for herself and Benedict College."

Foster added, "I am so proud of our Ms. Benedict. She represents herself and Benedict College well. It is my deepest and truest belief that Zandra Chinae Newton was the best. She walked away a true winner for the college."



Photo by David J. Sampson
Chinae Newton, Miss Benedict 2003-2004, flashes a beautiful smile at the recent Classic game.

Students can expect more from this talented trio, who represent Benedict so well. They will have the chance to see and hear more from them, not only as talented performers but as intellectual achievers, at events throughout the year.

BC students and faculty get involved with community theatre

BY TOWANDA TISDALE
STAFF WRITER

'The play's the thing', in the words of Shakespeare. Certainly a few Benedict students and faculty have found that the play is the thing.

Benedict students and faculty have been involved with local theater productions in the past. One of the newest local theater productions that has been keeping some Benedict faculty and staff on their toes night after night, performance after performance, is the Columbia Workshop Theater's production of the musical *Ragtime*, adapted from E.L. Doctorow's 1970 novel, which deals with racism at the turn of the 20th century.

Benedict students Wilbur Glover II, April Kelley, Jenniel Manswell, Ali Omar and Patrick Scarborough appeared either on stage or behind the scenes in the production, which ran two weeks over the scheduled run because of the popularity of the show.

Faculty members involved with the show included Scott Blanks, an associate professor in

the Fine Arts department, directed the musical; Dr. Linda Kershaw, chair of the Fine Arts department, who served as the musical director; and music instructor David Ezell, who was the show's synthesizer.

Workshop Theatre is the first community theater to bring the musical *Ragtime* to Columbia. The show began Sept. 19 and ran at least three weeks.

Blanks, who has worked in several critically acclaimed national and community productions including Broadway touring companies, spoke about how he became the director of the musical. "I was asked to direct it," he said. "I am a member of the board at Workshop Theatre and also a director."

Putting on musical theater is not an easy task. One has to love it and not let it become a chore, say many community actors and actresses.

For *Ragtime*, the production work started this summer, back in May. Blanks explained that first he had to find his team. "I asked Kershaw, and she asked Ezell." Then he had

open auditions, inviting Benedict students to try out.

"You have to be disciplined," said Blanks, adding that some students did not listen to directions. "Three students just stopped coming to rehearsals," he said.

Then he has to make sure the actors and actresses understand what he wants and expects, whether they are students or seasoned professionals. "We want people to watch it, not only to enjoy it, but to take away that feeling that America can be a wonderful place if we all work together. Race really doesn't matter. It's all about humanity."

Kershaw, who also directs Benedict's Concert Choir, explained that Blanks approached her about the production, convincing her that they should do a show together. As musical director, Kershaw had to work with each soloist; some required vocal training. "I worked with all of the small ensembles and with the entire cast," she said. In

"We want people to watch it, not only to enjoy it, but to take away that feeling that America can be a wonderful place if we all work together. Race really doesn't matter. It's all about humanity."

Scott Blanks

addition to her task as musical director, she was also the keyboardist.

What better voices to turn to than some of the members of the concert choir, and so she did.

Ezell also had an interesting part in the musical. He had already performed *Ragtime*'s original orchestra score. So, it was not too much of a stretch for him to use the synthesizer to imitate the orchestra instruments. "I was picking out different instruments (to highlight) though for the first time," he said.

Ezell will continue to showcase his talents when he plays with the Benedict College Community Orchestra, which will host five concerts later this year. Their first performance is scheduled Nov. 3 in the Little Theatre.

For the Benedict students involved with the musical, it has been given them a tremendous learning experience, lots of late nights performing, and hard work.

Mass communication major Jenniel Manswell, a junior, who along



with a group of friends have started their own theatrical company called the Artist Mecca, discussed how she got involved with the musical. "Dr. Kershaw is my mentor," she said. "I have always had an interest in theatre. I worked with Kershaw, and she told me about the auditions. I auditioned and got one of

the roles."

Explaining her concept of *Ragtime*, Manswell said that it involves the meshing of cultures that is New York. "Black meets white, meets immigrant, in the early 1900s," she said.

Patrick Scarborough, a senior, music education major, said he, too, learned new things being part of a play. "I have always been on stage, but this is my first musical. Being in *Ragtime* has taught me about stage presence and characterization. It's about being comfortable and having fun."

Scarborough also discussed some controversies of the message of *Ragtime*. "It is very controversial with black and white issues. It has taught me that we still have bigots in South Carolina. I am glad that we decided to do *Ragtime* because it gives people a chance to see what happens, for younger ones who don't understand what our forefathers went through."

Ali Omar, a senior, mass communications major, who served as



Photos By Pam Johnson

(Left) BC Student Jenniel Manswell bellows out a tear jerking solo during the funeral scene of the play *Ragtime* at Workshop Theatre.

(Above) Cast members (left to right) Patrick Scarborough, Joseph Scott, Daryl Byrd, and Wilbur Glover help mourn the loss of the character Sarah during the show's funeral scene.

the show's lighting technician, said *Ragtime* was the seventh or eighth musical he has been involved in. "I'm very impressed with the array of talent on stage," he said.

Benedict should also be impressed with those faculty and students who helped to make *Ragtime* one of Columbia's best musical productions.

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Good music is universal: Nappy Roots get back to their roots

Group visits Columbia; stops by Benedict

BY TAMIKA L. MCLEMORE
STAFF WRITER

“The whole world is country,” say Atlantic recording artists Nappy Roots, who graced Columbia with their presence late last month.

Despite an intense schedule, Nappy Roots made time to visit a blood drive at Benedict, held as part of the celebration of the Palmetto City Classic. Afterwards the group visited students at Keenan High School, and then dropped by Sam Goody's record store, Hot 103.9 and The Big DM radio stations. Then, to top it off, Nappy gave a free concert at the Palace nightclub in honor of the Palmetto Classic and to promote their new album.

The Kentucky hip-hop sensations have been having a busy year. They visited the nation's soldiers in the Middle East as part of Project Salute. The soldiers had requested Nappy as their second must-see artists, following Jay-Z at number one. Columbia's own Duce Staley of the Philadelphia Eagles was with the group on their tour. Both can be seen in Nappy's latest video “The Whole World,” which has scenes of the group, Staley, and some of the nation's soldiers.

Project Salute also drew celebrities such as Bubba Sparxx, Kid Rock, Britney Murphy (*8 Mile*), Wayne Newton, and the world

famous thespian Robert DeNiro.

“Good music is universal. Good people relate to good music whether you're in Baghdad, Kuwait or Germany,” said Vito Tisdale, a.k.a. Big V, who is the wild cat of the bunch. The statement derives from the title of their first single off their album *Wooden Leather, the Whole World*. The chorus of the song amplifies that the whole world is country, in connection to the group having a down home state of mind and heart. Much like the name of these homeboys – Nappy Roots – the group says that is how they wake up. “You must be yourself and be proud of yourself whoever you are. Be you.” Even their names have a down home touch: Fish Scales, B. Stille, Big V, Ron Clutch, Skinny DeVille and Prophet.

Though the lovable bunch claim Kentucky, all of them are not Kentucky natives. Prophet, who was not able to appear with the group in Columbia due to a dental obligation, is originally from California. Scales is from Georgia. The rest are from Kentucky. They met while they were attending Western Kentucky University, where they formed the group.

I managed to sweep away each member of the clan as they were signing autographs at Goody's to answer a few questions fans might like to know.

Q: What brings Nappy Roots to Columbia?

A: (Big V): We are on a promo tour for the album *Wooden Leather*. We also here to speak to high school music students.

Q: The new album, *Wooden*



Photo by Tawain Kelley

Hip-hop artists Nappy Roots stop promoting for a minute to pose for a picture with Tiger News writer Tamika McLemore and Tiger News editor Ali Omar at Sam Goody's in Columbia.

Leather; what's it all about and why such a title?

A: (Big V): Nappy is classic, like ole' leather, and it's timeless like an antique. If revamped and taken care of, you can make it last like wood. A leather belt holds ya' up and supports ya'. That is the best representation of classic success...wood and leather.

Q: Are there any distinctive differences on this album versus the last?

A: (Scales): There is growth lyrically and production wise. Hip hop stepped up to another level with such skills as B. Stille's. The subject matter is crazy, in particular the song “These Walls are Closing In,” which describes paranoia and the act of people running from themselves, responsibilities and their past. This is much like our people feeling the walls closing in on them.

Q: Is there an artist you'd like to collaborate with?

A: (B. Stille): We would like to work with Mary J. Blige or Jaheim. The brother's voice is incredible.

Q: How are you feeling about success?

A: (B. Stille): A combination of everything. With such a short lived career so far, I'm lucky to still be at it, and we're blessed to be able to make a second album. Man, I feel good! Nappy is filling a void for hip-hop and we're glad to do it.

Q: If there were anything you would like people to think or know when they hear Nappy Roots, what would that be?

A: (Clutch): Nappy is REAL, down to earth, and we appreciate the fans and everyday above ground.

(Skinny was unavailable for questioning due to his attentiveness to

his adorning fans during the in-store promo at Sam Goody's in Columbia Place.)

After spending time with Kentucky's hometown heroes, I instantly felt a part of them. They were hospitable, charming, witty, and fun to be with. Good people do relate to good music and their music is from the heart. In my opinion, they are a powerful force and a loving source. To know them is to love them. Now I understand why they call themselves Nappy Roots.

Note: Nappy Roots' sophomore album *Wooden Leather* is in stores now.

Contributing writer McLemore interns locally for WEA (Warner Electra Atlantic Records) where she sometimes gets to go on promotional tours.

Wycliffe Gordon/other musicians conduct jazz workshop here

BY TOWANDA TISDALE
STAFF WRITER

Local area musicians and some lucky high school students got a chance to “swing” with a “cool cat” last month in the Little Theatre. Benedict welcomed world-renowned trombonist Wycliffe Gordon, who conducted a free Jazz and General Musicianship Workshop.

The event was a joint project with

the Fine Arts department and Dr. Peter Jackson, acting dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences.

There were two sessions held in the Little Theatre. The first ran from 10 am to 12 noon. That time was designated for middle and high school musicians. The second session was for a general audience, which included college and professional musicians.

During the interaction at both sessions, the student musicians had the

opportunity to perform with and be critiqued by Gordon.

Gordon mentioned during the second session that he has played at the world famous Lincoln Center with such jazz musicians as Claude Williams and Milt Jackson. He stated that “many people don't get to talk about jazz sessions a lot, but they are going on all the time.”

The musicians played a couple of

blues and ballad selections and really started to jam up the theater with

their jazzy sounds. After each session, Gordon allowed time for questions and answers; anyone could ask a question about the business or his music. Several students took advantage of this opportunity.

But Gordon seemed to be having as much, if not more fun than the students. “He obviously loves being a musician, and he's a good teacher, too,” said

one observer who attended.

Dr. Linda Kershaw, chair of the Fine Arts department, introduced the musicians at the sessions and explained that like music, educating never ends. This was an opportunity for students to learn that not everything started with hip hop, she said. Hip hop has its roots in jazz, too. What better way to teach that lesson than to let the students hear the music and its melodies and chords than from the masters themselves.

Music reviews: October brings harvest of new sounds



Sterling McGlown

BY STERLING MCGLOWN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

October launched the release of Fall Music Month. Music industry record labels all over the nation have begun their last push for the year 2003, in an effort to gain props for their companies and to end the fiscal year.

Artists released this term are Murphy Lee, The Neptunes, Obie Trice, Outkast, and Wyclef, just

to name a few. These are some of the phat new album releases, just in time for your holiday shopping. Here's the spin.



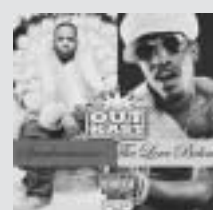
Murphy Lee — From St. Louis, Mo. has made several appearances with Roc-a-fella Dynasty and his homies, St. Lunatics. He has two joints on BET and MTV, and radio airwaves are playing his chords across the globe right now. The first single of Murphy's Law album is “What da hook gon' be,” produced by Jermaine Dupri. The second single, “Shake ya tailfeather,” featuring P. Diddy & Nelly, is also on the movie soundtrack *BadBoys 2*, which came out a month ago.



The Neptunes — By Pharrell Williams and Chad Hugo, the producers who composed songs for Jay-Z, Mystikal, NORE, Kelis, Baby “The Birdman,” Clipse, and other artists in the music industry. The Neptunes came out with a new album called *The Neptunes Present... Clones* on their label Star Trak Entertainment. Pharrell, promoted himself with the hit single “frontin” with Jay-Z. The Neptunes have a new single “Light yo' ass on fire” featuring Busta Rhymes from the Flipmode Squad.



Obie Trice — An affiliate of the group D-12, finally released another single “Got some teeth” off his freshman album *Cheers* on Shady/Aftermath on Sept. 23. He made a name for himself on tracks like “Rap name” and “Love me” of the *8 Mile* movie soundtrack.



Outkast — Big Boi and Andre' 3000, better known as Outkast, the ones who brought you hits like “Player's ball” and “So fresh, so clean” are back with another double CD, which features “The way you move” from Big Boi, and Andre's 2000 hit “Hey ya”, on Arista Records. The CD is a combined effort from the group to promote both Andre and Big Boi's creative differences.



Uptown Sounds in West Columbia.

Wyclef — The multi-talented artist and original member of the Fugees, recently changed record labels from Columbia to J. Records to promote his new album *The Preacher's Son* that has the latest single “Industry.” The album is on sale for \$9.99 at



“Thoia Thong” off his latest album *The R in R & B Collection*. R. Kelly features all his greatest hits and remixes on Jive Records. There are also various versions to the “Thoia Thong” song out now. The album is on sale locally.

R. Kelly — Despite all the publicity about his alleged sexual involvement with underage girls, R. Kelly is still hot on the scene. Robert Kelly, better known as R. Kelly, from Chicago, Ill., is making moves on BET's “106 and Park” live top countdown with his new smash

Classic

Continued from page 1

'paw and claw' step show at the Koger Center featuring sororities and fraternities from both schools, a card challenge tournament, a block party, a golf tournament, several dances, a VIP presidents reception, a pre-game show, an after party hip hop an R&B concert, and wrapping it up, a gospel explosion.

With the game serving as a backdrop, the schools also put on another intensified rivalry — a battle of bloods — with students, faculty, and staff from both schools vying to see which school could donate the most blood to the American Red Cross. Although State won this battle too, it was all for a good cause, as Benedict folk donated over 125 pints of blood to State donors' 150 pints.

Tiger News was able to get some responses to the Classic Week events. Charmaine Johnson, an alumna of the class of 2001, from Myrtle Beach, was surprised at the numbers of people tailgating: "The numbers for people tailgating seemed to double those who were in the stands," she said.

Columbia officials reported nearly 90,000 persons at Saturday's game or just outside the perimeter — 48,000 inside the stadium and another 30,000 to 40,000 outside. The game attendance figures were a little lower than the expected 55,000 to 60,000, but that still rep-

resented an increased over last year's premier Classic attendance of 46,000.

Johnson, who traveled from Baltimore, Md., where she is a social worker at a health care facility, said she felt good supporting alma mater team, tailgating, and seeing old friends.

A State alumna, the Rev. Yvonne Sanders of Columbia, spoke about how the Benedict Tigers seemed to have lost their confidence against the more experienced Bulldogs. "Benedict seemed intimidated. Maybe if the team would have

prayed, they could have shaken it off and might have won."

Ne' Toya Thompson, a therapeutic recreation major from Fort Lawn, noted that after the first two touchdowns by State, the Tigers seemed to have lost their spirit. "I think they gave it what they could, but after those touchdowns... they have shown improvement, however." She also thought traffic flowed better this year. "However, people cruising still made it a little difficult," she said.

Gov. Sanford, who knows plenty about politics, even had a word or

two to say about the game. "It is a celebration that is growing with time," he commented.

Benedict's sports information director Derrick Johnson, thought everything went well. "The Classic has the potential to becoming great," he said, adding that it has gained statewide recognition, and that the promotions committee is working to make the event a national program.

"The more people participate in the events, the more money for the schools, which contributes to more scholarships. Now we need to get

more people on the inside of the stadium."

State Farm, a sponsor of the Classic, donated \$50,000 each to Benedict and State. A State Farm representative said the game is not only good for the schools, but for the city of Columbia, and the state.

Kenya Bryant, an account executive for Sonrise Enterprises, a minority-owned public relations firm which promoted the event, said it would be great to have a pre-game concert at next year's Classic. That might attract more people into the stands.

STD

Continued from page 3

services and to pass along STD/STI information.

Many of the groups are looking for volunteers to help. One of the more active groups is the Midlands HIV Prevention Collaboration, made up of several organizations that work to get the word out and which have various community outreach projects. Their number is (803) 252-1087.

Several sites around Columbia offer STD/STI testing (see box), and most provide confidential testing for free.

While some STDs and STIs are not curable, treatment is available. Early detection can lead to a longer, more productive life.

Benedict health care personnel recently took part in a community outreach program at Allen University, with students from area colleges targeted.

Other schools participating included South Carolina State University, Claflin University, and Orangeburg-Denmark Technical College. The organizers gave away protection devices and provided testing services.

Keynote


Continued from page 1

From the sustained applause, the audience understood and appreciated what he said.

Besides the address, Convocation was also an occasion to celebrate. The school awarded a record 52 President's Trophies (reserved for students who obtained a 4.0 GPA throughout a full school year) and dozens of other awards and honors, both academic and participatory, including deans lists and honor rolls.

Swinton also reminded the audience that he is celebrating his 10th year at Benedict. He stated that he has seen the college go through many cycles in order to get to this particular point. "We are truly blessed," he said over and over.

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2nd Classic game was better; Tigers shouldn't be intimidated

BY JASON JAMES
SPORTS WRITER

The Benedict Tigers fell short for the second year in a row to arch rival South Carolina State, 41 to 7 in front of about 50,000 people at Williams-Brice Stadium during the Palmetto City Classic football game.

It was a tough day for Coach Hendricks and the Tigers. They fought most of the first half, trailing the Bulldogs 7 to 0 with less than two minutes in the half. Coach Wilson, BC's offensive coordinator, repeatedly told the offensive that they were hurting themselves with penalties.

Things seemed to be looking up when on a third down, Benedict's Tony Wilson intercepted a pass from S.C. State's quarterback Reese McCampbell in the end zone. However, defensive tackle Tracey Stephens was called for a very

questionable "roughing the passer" penalty. That gave State all the momentum it needed. "When you give them the ball back after you had them nine out of 10 times, they are always going to score," said Coach Hendricks.

Two plays later, from Benedict's 9 yard line SCSU's Aaron Alexander made a sliding catch in the end zone with Wilson all over him, to give the Bulldogs a 13-0 lead with 1:16 remaining in the half.

After punting the ball to the Bulldogs just before the second half, defensive back Shawn Roberts, gave the Tiger fans something to cheer about. He had intercepted another SCSU pass with the clock only moments from expiration. With only one yard separating the Tigers from the end zone, Tiger fans thought a touchdown was moments away. Unfortunately, the Bulldog defense was too much.

The second half was all SCSU.

Coty Martin ran right through the Tiger defense. That helped the Bulldogs score 21 points in the third quarter. The Tigers would finally reach the end zone in the fourth quarter on a Terrance Bunting one yard run.

State ended up adding one more touchdown in the fourth quarter from a pass that the Tigers will not forget. Nevertheless, it was an outstanding effort put up by the Tigers. If a couple calls had gone their way, it may have been a different result or game. The 12 total penalties against the Tigers seemed to have made a difference in the game.



Photo by David J. Sampson

(Above) Terrance Bunting, Benedict's MVP (most valuable player) for the Classic, holds up his plaque with pride as he stands beside Coach Hendricks and President Swinton.



(Left) The Tigers closed out this year's Classic with a prayer.

Despite start up pains, soccer program becomes official

BY ESTEBAN LUGO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After three years of waiting, Benedict's soccer team is finally getting the chance to play against another college team. The problem why the soccer players could not meet other college teams was that in the SAIC conference, which Benedict is affiliated with, soccer is not one of the conference's incorporated sports. And there are no plans currently to incorporate the sport.

Nevertheless, the players and Head Coach Juan Amud have continued to work hard to improve the team's skills and coordination. Amud, a former professional player from Colombia, South America, came to Benedict last February,

largely through the efforts of International Program Director Dr. Norma Jackson. He volunteered to practice with the players.

Although Amud wasn't an official coach, Athletic Director Willie Washington offered him the soccer coaching position and gave him the go ahead to set up the required 10 games under NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) regulations. NCAA requires a 10-game minimum for a team to be registered in the conference and to be allowed to play competitively.

The soccer team's first game away was against USC Aiken. Now Amud is working on the arrangements for the remaining schedule. Amud is trying to get USC Aiken to Benedict for a game. Another option is to alternate games with Columbia Adult League, a soccer

club competition. Benedict players have competed on the club level for three seasons.

Regarding recruitment, Amud has been doing some, and there are at least three new players this season. He hopes to reinforce the team on key position while continuing to give the team as international a favor as possible. He wants to have some of the best soccer players he can get, most of whom come from different countries.

Freshman goalkeeper Emerson da Silva of South Paulo, Brazil, is poised and to be a formidable challenge to Charles Haynesworth, who has been the starter for the last three years and the only American born player on the team. Martin Degazon, a freshman from Saint Lucia Island in the Caribbean, will bring speed and a vivid pace to the team's game. Colombia, South American freshman Roberto Delgado should provide his fellow countryman Amud with a very strong, physical game, which is very much valued in the midfield.

The new players have helped to make much improvement to the team, especially in light of Jamaican-born defender, Nelroy Jones, not being on the team. He graduated last May. Amud, 32, a graduate of Central University in Bogotá, Colombia, where he majored in economics, has been playing in the reserves of Atletico Nacional, which follows a traditional style, in the Colombian Professional League.

He has also played as a professional in the Venezuelan League, from which he retired to move to Wash., D.C., where he resided until he assumed the Benedict coaching job. Amud hopes to make this team the best it can be and that the players will support him. He is thankful that he has support of the players.

Says team member Tremane Bartley, "We've been blessed with the arrival of Coach Amud. He will certainly help us develop our game and help us win as many games as we can. The Benedict community, including the team's first mentor, Dr. Norma Jackson, is definitively hoping things will go that way.

Tigers undefeated on the road

BY JASON L. JAMES
SPORTS WRITER

Atlanta, Ga. – The Tigers defeated Morehouse in a defensive struggle in a mid-September game that ended 15 to 14.

Benedict's Calvin Drummond passed for 98 yards and made one touchdown. Then Morehouse completed a touchdown run and led 14-8, but Benedict's Keith Green returned a Morehouse kick-off 55 yards into Morehouse ter-

ritory.

That led to a 12-yard touchdown by Green with 7:33 left in the fourth quarter. Morehouse threatened to score, but Morehouse's John Washington, son of actor Denzel Washington, who had been giving the Tigers trouble all day, was stopped on a 4th and 1 by Larris Curry, Gerod Washington, and Herman McCord. They finished him off to seal the victory.

That left the Tigers 3-1 and 1-1 in the SIAC.

Tigers 2-0 in the CIAA

BY JASON JAMES
SPORTS WRITER

Salisbury, N.C. – After the Tigers struggled in their first home game of the season against defending conference champion Tuskegee, they rebounded with a 26 to 20 win over CIAA opponent Livingstone.

Like in the Tuskegee game, Livingstone struck first on a 41-yard touchdown pass from Joel Ward to Chris Jeter early in the first quar-

ter. But the Tigers struck back with a 65-yard touchdown run by Keith Green and a 16-yard touchdown pass from Calvin Drummond to Josh Gran.

That put the Tigers up for good. Keith Green led the Tigers with 20 carries for 168 yards and two touchdowns. Benedict's defense limited Livingstone to only 24 yards rushing.

Herman McCord and Tracy Stephens led the way, with each tallying two sacks.

SPORTS CALENDAR

October

18	Football - BC vs. Fort Valley (Bolden Stadium)	2 p.m.
20	Volleyball - BC vs. Albany State (HRC Arena)	4 p.m.
22	Volleyball - Tri-Match (HRC Arena)	4 p.m.
25	HOMECOMING FOOTBALL BC vs. Kentucky State (Bolden Stadium)	2 p.m.
29	Volleyball - BC vs. Claflin (At Claflin)	6 p.m.
30	Volleyball - BC vs. Albany State (At Albany State)	TBA

November

1	Football - BC vs. Albany State (At Albany State)	2 p.m.
5	Volleyball - BC vs. Paine (At Paine)	6 p.m.
8	Football - BC vs. Miles (At Miles)	2 p.m.
	Volleyball - BC vs. Clark-Atlanta (At Clark-Atlanta)	1 p.m.

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What's your opinion?

Write or call us if you have an opinion. 253-5297 or 255-2049
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