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SGA planning community activities

BY TOWANDA TISDALE
STAFF WRITER

The Student Government Association is hard at work this school term planning numerous events for the student body.

Trystin Francis, SGA president, is the driving force behind the association. "My job is to oversee all nine officers, including Miss Benedict and her court," said Francis. The remaining officers are: Marco Brooks, first vice president; Stacie Stephens, second vice president; Jameeka Young, corresponding secretary; Franz McKnight, business manager; Chyneeda Hall, recording secretary; Damon Qualls, student representative to the Board of Trustees; Chinae Newton, Miss Benedict; Stephanie Prophet, first attendant and Andrea Foster, second attendant.

Francis said that the SGA in the past seemed to concentrate more on "fun stuff." This year they have various projects scheduled. Francis' staff is concerned with com-



SGA members (front - l to r) Stephanie Prophet, Marco Brooks, Chinae Newton, Andrea Foster; (middle) Stacie Stephens, Jameeka Young, Franz McKnight; (back) Chyneeda Hall, Damon Qualls, and Trystin Francis. Photo courtesy of Benny Brown

munity service and academic enrichment, he said. He especially wants freshmen to get involved. One of the new community pro-

jects planned is a "Thanksgiving Feed the Homeless Day." For this event, the SGA officers will open their doors to homeless families

around the Columbia area and provide them with a meal.

Furthermore, the SGA is plan-

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The freshmen journey begins

Proper dress stressed during Orientation Week

BY MARCO BROOKS
STAFF WRITER

They said their good-byes and entered into another world of hellos. FRESHMEN. Graduating from high school with the status of seniors, now they are back at the bottom of the barrel, not to mention being classified as the Benedict College Class of 2007.

So, what is expected of the Freshmen Class? Why did they choose Benedict College? What training is required of them to earn their stripes?

These and other questions were discussed during this year's Orientation Week for new students. Approximately 776 new students walked onto the campus this fall, partaking in a new life. In Tiger land the students were required to attend intensive training known as Freshmen Orientation, designed to equip the students with moral, emotional, and academic standards.

"Much emphasis is being placed on the dress code, to assure that the students obtain the appropriate business attire. It is very important that the students practice being leaders early in their community and school," said Rufus Watts, director of Student Leadership Development, as he discussed the emphasis of Orientation Week.

One of the points addressed during orientation was that dressing professionally needs to be prac-



(Left to right) President David H. Swinton and wife, Patricia, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Richard C. Miller, and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. George Devlin, enjoy a meal at a student orientation picnic. Photo by Katrina Pitts

ticed early. Therefore, by the students' senior year, they will know the importance of having a professional look.

Senior Patrick Mills put it this way: "Wanting to be professional is nothing compared to actually looking like a professional. Preparing yourself in advance is the key to any beginning. Simply because a suit is just a small portion of the professional package."

Orientation, which was coordinated by Angela Woodard, assis-

tant director of Service Learning, was mainly focused on freshmen and sophomores with discussions and workshops on how the students can become professional leaders.

The students were told they are expected to wear business attire to seminar classes and campus functions. Each student was informed that he or she had to purchase a business suit, with the cost to be charged to his or her account. Students who already own a business

suit, however, can present it to their seminar instructors, and they will not be charged for a new suit.

The orientation program lasted two weeks and included several activities: a pep rally, a fashion show, and such recreational activities as card games, pool, and a cookout.

"The activities were designed to help the new students learn how to work together, understand each

other, and maintain under pressure," said peer mentor DeJuan Taylor.

Katrina Pitts, an administrative assistant for Service Learning, asked what they hoped students gained from the orientation program, said, "It is our hope that the students will understand what Benedict College stands for and will uphold the true standards of the college. We want students to develop qualities to lead and to become true leaders, and not be influenced by the negative but the positive."

Asked why he chose Benedict, freshman Christopher Peay said, "I chose Benedict College because I wanted to be close to home and



Bernadette Brantley, Service Learning program coordinator, and peer mentor Dontae Patterson listen attentively at an orientation workshop. Photos by Katrina Pitts

"All the students come here 'stripeless', but by the time their senior year arrives they will have taken many stripes. I encourage the students to strive to earn their stripes."

Laronda Robinson, seminar instructor

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Warning: Don't ignore the W/A policy

It could affect your academic status

BY RAYNITA MILLER
STAFF WRITER

Have you heard about the new W/A policy for this year? If not, then you are not alone. It seems that many students have not heard about it. The truth is the WA policy is not new; it has been in the Benedict College Handbook for the past four years, and it has been rigidly put into effect since last spring.

W/A is a grade, based on attendance. If a student accumulates seven unexcused absences, he or she can be withdrawn from the class. It is important for students to avoid getting W/A's because having too many can affect students' academic status based on the Satisfactory Academic Progress Scale (SAPS). Scott Blanks, senior advisor, said

students need to make sure they carefully understand the W/A policy, as well as their overall academic standing. "Many students have no idea what is going on because they think their advisor is going to 'baby' them and make sure that everything is okay, and they're wrong. It's their responsibility to see that all of their academic information is correct."

All full time students who have a minimum of 32 attempted credit hours must meet the quantitative and qualitative goals of the SAPS. (For part time students the mini-

mum credit hour is 1).

The quantitative scale consists of the number of credit hours that a student is attempting and the amount of credit hours that must be earned. Students must earn at least two thirds of the hours they are attempting. The qualitative scale demands that for whatever number of credit hours a student earns, he or she must have a specific minimum grade point average.

Most of the student academic dismissals last school year occurred because those students didn't meet the requirements of the quantitative

scale, the set number of hours that could be dropped and the number of classes withdrawn from or accumulated over a four year-period. If students do not meet the SAPS requirement, one of three consequences could happen: 1.) Probation. 2.) A maximum one year suspension from the college 3.) Dismissal from the college. Even if a student drops a class, that still is considered an attempted credit, and shows up as a W/C (withdraw or dropped class), which could affect the student's quantitative progress.

Dr. Richard Miller, vice president of Academic Affairs, said one of the biggest problems is that some students are not going to class. "They need to understand that we are serious. We will send them home," he said.

Last spring 41 students were sent home because they did not meet the SAPS requirement for fall semester 2002; and this past summer 132 students received a certified letter in the mail telling them they were suspended from Benedict.

Miller added that "another problem is that some students are juggling too many things at once: classes, work, taking care of family issues, or extracurricular activities. We can understand that problems come up and things happen, but there is a level of responsibility that students must accept."

"One of the biggest problems is that some students are not going to class... They need to understand that we are serious... We will send them home."

Richard Miller, Vice President

Assembly speaker Les Brown motivates students on healthy living, finances and wealth

BY SHERIKA PRINCE
STAFF WRITER

Benedict College's first All College Assembly this semester gave students insight into how to achieve a healthy and promising future.

With the theme "Changing the Legacy," Les Brown, a professional motivational speaker, author, and television personality, gave a packed Benedict audience of students, faculty, and staff much to hope for.

In a powerful and motivating speech — his visit was sponsored by Benedict's Student Health Services department and the Palmetto Health Alliance — Brown touched on topics such as being healthy, achieving your goals, his own childhood trials, and wealth.

Brown stated that your health is your wealth, and that it is important for everyone to have good health. In order for everyone to live their

dreams, he said, they have to know how to be healthy.

"We are breaking the cycle of people having bad habits," Brown firmly said. "As a part of African Awareness Month, it is important for us to change the way we eat. I love chicken but nothing tastes as good as health feels."

"Being healthy will add years to your life," said Brown, a survivor of prostate cancer. He urged the crowd to change the legacy of poor living and to take the necessary steps so there can be healthier communities of color.

Brown told the students in the

audience to not be infected by the "HIV" virus or 'Hood Infected Virus', as he called it. "Don't be like everybody else," he enjoined. "Try to be different."

He also made students aware of the "AIDS" virus, or the 'Addiction to Incarceration Death Syndrome' as he put it. "Do not go where the path led, but go to a path and leave a trail," he said. "You need to focus on your destiny rather on distracts. Most people allow themselves to get sidetracked."

"We must not allow ourselves to be sidetracked," he admonished. "So stay focused."

Brown, a very successful business entrepreneur himself, gave some very practical advice to achieve wealth. "Your network determines your net worth," he said. "Everybody wants to be wealthy, but you should think wealthy. You have to think about you personal goals and how you plan to achieve them. Those who have money will have access. The rest will die," he stressed.

Brown continued to repeat the phrase 'you got to be hungry'.

"You have to know what you want, and go after it," he said. "In order to become successful, you

"Your network determines your net worth... Everybody wants to be wealthy, but you should think wealthy. You have to think about you personal goals and how you plan to achieve them. Those who have money will have access. The rest will die."

Les Brown, motivational speaker



Photo by Ne' Toya Thompson

Les Brown showed and told why he is successful and the audience agreed.

must be willing to do today what others won't do. In order to have the things tomorrow that others won't have. So as the 2003-2004 school year begins, remember your dreams. Stay focused, and remember, your health is your wealth. You got to be hungry."

"Are you hungry?" he asked.

The shouts and prolonged applause from the audience told him yes.

SPOTLIGHT ON ACHIEVERS:

Three environmental health science majors spend summer conducting research at Savannah River laboratory

BY ROSEMARY FORREST
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Three recent Benedict graduates — William Drayton, Tanjenique Paulin, and Carla Stricklin — spent a ten-week period at the University of Georgia Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) and on the Edisto and Ashepoo Rivers of South Carolina (the ACE Basin) this summer conducting some important research for the Laboratory.

The three students - May 2003 graduates - were nominated for the research project, which involved field training and laboratory research, by Environmental Health Science faculty member and pro-

gram chair Milton Morris, who is on the advisory board of the Savannah River Site Science and Field Station.

Morris said students are selected for the research project as part of a collaborative agreement between the Savannah River Laboratory, Benedict College, and South Carolina State University.

Benedict has sent other students to the project in the past, he said. It gives them some very valuable training and research experience.

The three students who went this year loved it, he added.

Paulin, who is from St. Stephens, worked with Dr. Charles Jagoe and



Heather Brant looking at the effects of salinity on mercury uptake in fiddler crabs. Drayton, who is from Charleston, worked with Drs. J Vaun McArthur and Ramunas Stepanauskas looking at ways to prepare bacteria for study without killing them. Stricklin is from Columbia. All three were environmental health science majors.

Paulin suspected that the bioavailability of mercury might be lower in salt marshes than in fresh water. Mercury, a poisonous metallic element, is present in the ACE Basin. She compared samples taken from both the ACE Basin and freshwater areas and examined the relationship between crab body size

and mercury concentration. An analysis of 141 specimens showed no size difference among the two groups.

Drayton compared various processes for counting bacteria including flow cytometry, centrifuging and microscopy. He used six different types of sediment ranging from sandy to heavily organic from the ACE Basin. He found the flow cytometry, which uses fluorescent dyes and laser light, is faster than other methods and can count live bacteria.

The students were part of SREL's annual Research Experiences for Undergraduates program, funded by the National Science Foundation.

Faculty had rich experiences abroad this summer

BY DIONNE CHANDLER
STAFF WRITER

Several Benedict faculty did so much traveling this summer, you could almost say they were jet lagged after studying abroad in different countries.

Ghana visit

A select group of 14 highly educated professors, teachers, and administrators were selected to go abroad to Ghana, West Africa, from June 2 to July 2, 2003. The trip was linked to a U.S. Department of Education Fulbright grant, which they applied and were accepted for.

The intention for this expedition was to immerse faculty in Ghanaian and other African cultures, so that they could teach what they learned in their disciplines and schools and enhance their existing courses and curricula.

After applying and qualifying for the Fulbright grant, which paid for the expedition, five Benedict faculty were among 14 persons selected as part of the delegation.

Those who went on the African trip were Dr. Norma Jackson, director of Benedict's International Program; Dr. Marguerite Garvey, assistant professor in the department of Social Science; Dr. Gloria Boutte, principal investigator in the Center of Excellence;

Mrs. Sybil Rosado, instructor of sociology; and Vivian Bates, instructor of computer science; all traveled to Ghana for one month.

Jackson said that everyone enjoyed this opportunity to travel abroad. Garvey specifically said it was an eye-opener for her. "Beyond the poverty, all I saw was beauty; from the land to smiles on their faces. People can be comfortable without having the materialistic possessions we have."

South America visit

Jackson also led an African American historic delegation this summer to Colombia, South America, and her native country. She said she took this assignment to see and experience the plight of Afro-Colombians in the middle of an armed conflict of the country.

Qualls researches in Europe

Another Benedict professor who went abroad this summer was Dr. Loren Qualls of the English, Foreign Languages, and Mass Communication department. He went to Salzburg, Austria and Paris, France.

Throughout the summer Qualls said he participated in intense workshops presenting new ideas on "post rebellion" fiction. Qualls has been researching a new genre in African American fiction connected to the changes in the styles of literature that African Americans

have been producing for the last 70 years.

"African American literature no longer focuses solely on slave narratives or protest language," he said. "It has become more narcissistic and (some of it) devalues African Americans."

Few scholars really understand African American culture, however, he said. "They know how to appropriate it, but they don't know

anything about its origins or what inspires it. They are mainly (acquainted with) the European culture."

On his France and Austrian trip, paid through a fellowship, Qualls was able to share his work with other experts in the field of African American literature.

Qualls has also been working on a book, set to be published in January 2004, called "Post

Rebellion Fiction: The Continued Journey in African American Literature."

Editor's Note: If other faculty, staff, or students would like to share their study abroad, foreign, educational, or unique experiences of this summer, please contact the Tiger newspaper at TigerNews@benedict.edu or call 253-5297.



The Fulbright participants, including Benedict faculty, pose for a picture in front of the W.E.B. DuBois Monument in Accra, Ghana, West Africa. Shown with them is Lakon Nkrumah, son of the late President of Ghana, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah.

Courtesy of Dr. Jackson

New counseling initiatives and services aid students

BY TERRELL BRYANT
STAFF WRITER

If you are feeling down and think no one understands what you are going through, you might want to give Benedict's Counseling, Testing Services and Special Student Services departments a visit.

The department offices are located

in BC Cares, as it is aptly named. BC Cares might be the first place you want to try.

BC Cares houses two guidance offices, the Counseling and Testing Services under the supervision of Millercin Weeks, and Special Student Services, under Mildred Knightner.

The two departments work together to help encourage and assist Benedict students in doing their very best; they also provide non-academia help such as counseling and substance abuse prevention, to students in need.

Counseling and testing services offer help for students who have social, emotional, behavioral, and psychological problems and even provides spiritual advice to

students who may feel their whole world is collapsing from under their feet.

"We consider ourselves to be advocates for students," said Weeks. "They can come to us if they have issues or concerns about things going on in or around campus."

Knightner, a Benedict graduate herself who has been with the institution for many, many years, provides help to students who need tutoring, readers or note takers in the classroom.

She also implements a "We Care" program, for students who may have an illness or death in the family. They can contact the office to intervene for them with teachers and administration, so that they won't fall behind or become subjected to withdrawal.

The two offices also serve as a testing and a group sessions center. Administered tests can be given to

select or special needs students and educational outreach can take place on several self help topics.

The Counseling and Testing Services department is also currently working on new initiatives involving helping students in areas related to substance abuse prevention and awareness information on sexually transmitted diseases. They have formulated an Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Task Force initiative, whose aim is to promote a healthy and safe learning environment, as stated in its philosophy and mission statement.

Both departments feel strongly about helping students and encouraging them to seek help for problems or preventing problems before they occur.

"My doors are always open," said Knightner. "I want to help assist students in any way I can."

"My doors are always open. I want to help assist students in any way I can."

Mildred Knightner,
Counseling Services



For substance abuse prevention and other special needs, contact BC Cares counseling services at 253-5271 or 253-5439.

(Below) Mrs Mildred Knightner counsels a student on scheduling classes for the semester.

Photo by Ne' Toya Thompson



SGA

Continued from page 1

ning a coat drive this fall. For this event, the officers will solicit coat donations from the faculty, staff and students as well as other residents of Columbia, and distribute them to the needy.

In addition, they are also working on a Christmas toy drive. Francis said that no child should be without at least one present for Christ-

mas.

And of course there is Homecoming! The SGA members are hoping to line up such acts as Loon, T.I., Youngbloodz, and Floetry for this year's entertainment.

Francis assures students that there will be a host of other activities that will "blow your mind," he stated. Students should be prepared for another fashion show because "we are focused on change," he said.

Freshmen

Continued from page 1

because I heard the Social Work department was excellent here. I also wanted to get that black experience. I knew attending Benedict would give me that, along with an education."

Seminar Instructor Laronda Robinson commented on what she hopes for new students. "We are hoping that the legacy will continue with the next batch of students. All the students come here 'stripeless', but by the time their senior year arrives they will have taken many stripes. I encourage the students to strive to earn their stripes."



Photo by Katrina Pitts

Peer mentors, looking on at one of the orientation sessions in the chapel, helped assist the new freshmen during the summer new student orientation.

Benedict's health science program conducts major environmental justice listening conference

BY WAFAEQ ZARIF
STAFF WRITER

David A. Dorch is prepared to fight for environmental justice, even if it means losing another job.

On August 21-23, the Benedict College Environmental Health Sciences Program, along with the Environmental Protection Agency, sponsored an Environmental Justice Listening Conference at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in northeast Columbia.

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and involvement of all people when developing, implementing, and enforcing environmental laws.

Several of the speakers at the conference suggested that potentially polluting corporations skip over affluent neighborhoods and set up shop in mostly minority ones because they know the predominantly minority community most likely lacks the resources to fight them.

Dorch, a member of the leadership team in the activist environmental group Concerned Citizens Against Toxic Contaminants, spoke on the need for community organizing and accountability.

He said that a company has been dumping chemicals in the wetlands of the town of Williston since the 1960's, but the people

in the community weren't told.

"It's affecting the population of (the elemen-

tary and high schools) because it is polluting the ground water," said Dorch, who feels he has been labeled a troublemaker because the people of Williston are ignorant about what is going on.

"It's about poverty and ignorance. When people are ignorant, they can come in and do these things," said Dorch.

"We go to hearings and don't get heard. People in the community don't want to hear from us because they're ignorant and scared," he said.

Dorch holds local ministers partly responsible for this ignorance. In his area, he said, churches get money for new buildings, then he sarcastically asked, "Where's the money coming from?"

"Once you get the ministers silenced, you can keep the community in check," Dorch said in an interview.

Benedict's Assistant Director of the Environmental Health Science Program, Dr. May Linda Samuel, who chaired the steering committee that planned this major conference on Columbia, cited Williston as an inspiration for the conference.

"Environmental justice is a movement that involves social, political, and spiritual aspects," said Samuel.

"We want to increase environmental justice knowledge. People are sick and dying of various pollutants. The mercury and lead contamination in the lake at Sesquicentennial Park can cause learning disabilities," she said.

Samuel also cited what is happening in another South Carolina city, Allendale, as an example of environmental injustice taking place.

Virginia Sanders, of the South Carolina Sierra Club, spoke on water and air issues. She said this state has a poor history in dealing with environmental issues. "South Carolina has lax environmental laws," she said. "The rest of the country sees South Carolina as a dumping ground for what they don't want. In the past, we thought that was what we'd have to settle for to get (money making) industries," said Sanders.

Sanders also said the situation is worse in minority areas. "It's understood if a landfill is built, it goes into a black community," said Sanders, who later said that people take air and water



Photo courtesy Benny Brown

Dr. Lowe

for granted.

"They think they'll always be here, and that's not true," she said. "Our main job is to educate the public on these issues. If we pollute all our water, we can't just reacquisition more," she said.

The environmental justice learning conference, whose theme was "There Is Hope," was spread over three days. Dr. Samuel said the committee is already planning for next year's conference, to be held Sept. 30-Oct. 3, 2004.

This year's conference had numerous sponsors, committee members, and special volunteers and included keynote or plenary speakers Jim Connolly of the Environmental Law Clinic from the University of South Carolina; Dr. William Gunn, chair of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation department; Dr. Robert Wingfield, a professor of chemistry and an environmental justice researcher from Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn.; Dr. Larry Lowe, chair of the Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Health Science department; S.C. Rep. Joseph Neal; and Harold Mitchell, director of Regeneration Project in Spartanburg.



Photo courtesy Benny Brown

Dr. May Samuel, chair of the organizing committee for the conference, addresses some participants at the major statewide environmental justice listening conference.

"Environmental justice is a movement that involves social, political, and spiritual aspects... We want to increase environmental justice knowledge. People are sick and dying of various pollutants."

Dr. May Linda Samuel

THE FIFTY POINT CLUB:

Highly motivated English lab students more than make the grade

BY ANNE COLGATE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

At the end of the fall 2002 semester, freshman assigned to the English Lab should have earned 30 points to be applied toward their grade for efforts in their freshman composition courses. Many students made the grade, but there were those who clearly valued the opportunity to earn even more points because a flexible point system allowed students to attend as many labs as they wanted and work for extra credit.

While tallying the points for each student, I realized that five students had earned 50 or more points! I was pleased that these students took the initiative to go beyond the requirement; they were self-directed.

Being self-directed is right out of the Affective Domain of Bloom's Taxonomy - the ultimate frontier for this instructor to explore in the classroom. To give recognition for the student's effort, I posted an announcement on the classroom cabinet and Lab door in 48-point font: The 50 Point Club.

Students who had 50 or more points in Fall lab: Shavon Fouch, Micheal Goodwin, Jasper Gurley,

Lajoelle Rapp, and Tina Williams.

When the lab students returned for the spring semester, I pointed to the names on the door and recognized those returning Club students with praise. The students knew that the 50 Point Club was not a formalized club, but just a title to denote that these students were special in terms of their achievement. It wasn't long before other students, however, started saying that they wanted their names posted and some friends who had lab together began competing against each other to make the most lab points.

By the end of the Spring semester, some lab students who had come close to making 50 points asked to do extra credit work to make the Club, while those students who had planned more carefully were making the Club, with 56, 62, 65, 72 and the highest score of all — 80 points! (For Jasper Gurley, 80 is his personal best. He thinks there needs to be a lab of Fame Club now. Indeed!)

Whether or not the Club will formalize itself is not as important as the fact that it managed to sustain itself for two semesters, and more than tripled in membership, including two of the original members. (One no longer had lab; one didn't make the grade this time; and one failed to come.)

Now the entire length of the cabinet and Lab door will feature the

following: The Fifty Point Club. Students who had 50 or more points in Spring Lab: Brittany Berry, Kimberly Brown, Delmeria Callaway, Jonik Cannon, Michelle H. Chisholm, Keosha Cooke, Franswor Grant, Jasper Gurley, Lisa LaCroix, Boyd Mulwee, India T. Puch, Paulette Royal, Sherika Truesdale, Christopher Whitaker, Nativia Williams and Shavon Wilson.

I am very proud of these students

and am confident that their instructors will appreciate the fact that these students gave "the old college try."

Editor's Note: Ms. Colgate, who is the Learning Specialist for the English Lab, wanted to share all of the wonderful successes of her lab students. Tiger News welcomes reports or articles on other success stories in and out of the classroom. Contact TigerNews@benedict.edu

THE LITERARY AWARDS
COMMITTEE PRESENTS.....

A LITERARY CONTEST for Benedict Students

Deadline for Entries November 15, 2003

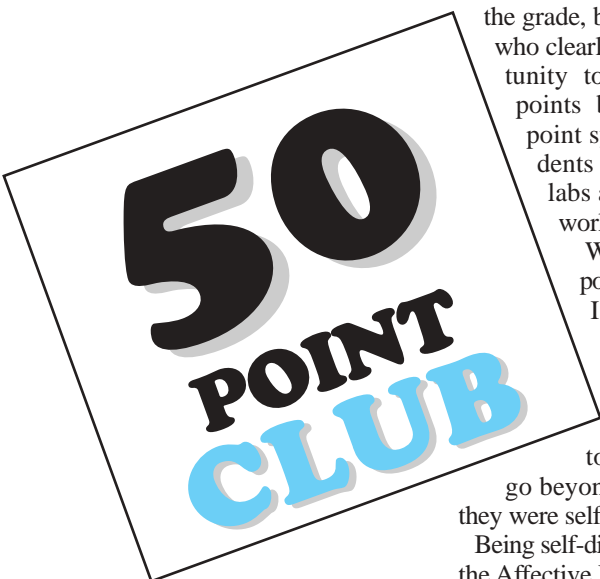
Submit your original work today (not previously submitted or published elsewhere). Poems (up to 20 lines, do not have to rhyme, nor any restrictions on meter, stanza, etc.). Short Stories (500 to 2500 words). One-Act Plays, and Essays

Entries will be judged anonymously. Submit one entry per category, typed or computer generated, double-spaced, one side per page. No handwritten entries. Use appropriate taste.

Each submission must be the author's unpublished original work. Plagiarism will immediately disqualify entries.

Send a cover page with the title of the entry, author's name, phone number, and student ID number. Winning entries will be recognized in a college ceremony and may be published in the Benedict Tiger or a literary magazine.

For more information, contact: Mr. Charles Brooks, FAHC 325. Further rules available in the Fine Arts/English Department offices.



BENEDICT'S BAND: Not *Drumline*, the movie, but a styling, musical reality

BY TAWAIN E. KELLY
STAFF WRITER

Unlike the popular movie *Drumline*, starring Nick Cannon, about life in an HBCU band, the real life of an HBCU band is much different. While many of the scenes from the movie stretched the truth, the real deal about an HBCU band is not a myth. Take a look at Benedict's own proud marching 90.

Like *Drumline* BC's band has fancy moves and drummers' beats, "but it's more to the band than the drums," as one band member says. "It is about hard work, dedication, and total commitment."

"Yes, we have some 'off the chain' drumming and fancy moves," say its members, "but we also have supreme respect, appreciation and honor for our director, Sean Daniels, and assistant director and chief music arranger, Isaac Bell."

Through the hard work and dedication of these two men of music, Benedict's band is becoming one of the region's best.

The band came in fourth place recently at the Battle of the Bands competition in Charlotte, N.C. The band performs tirelessly throughout the year for athletic games, festivals, and numerous events.

The band has been in other competitions around the region and has gotten many accolades and positive encouragement from other established band programs, such as Howard University's, North Carolina A & T's and Florida A & M University's, which have been around for decades.

Benedict's recent band program is fairly new — just seven years old — but it is making its presence felt. The program has grown from little more than 25 members in 1996 — it came in the same year as the restart of Benedict's football program — to about 90 members today.

Much of the reasons for the band's phenomenal success in so short a time lie with the director and assistant director. Both are strong believers in hard work and in bringing in fine talent.

Said Assistant Director Bell: "He (Daniels) and I are both grads of Alabama State University, where we were both under Dr. Thomas Lile (imminent band director) and his philosophy was instilled in us, to always try to build quality over quantity."

"We would rather have a 100 piece band that's excellent than a 200 piece band that's sloppy. We try to instill in our members' integrity, pride, and work ethic. Budget time, time on task, as we say. That really means a lot."

"We have to practice, practice, practice to become proficient. We

tell our students the perks don't come without the work....what keeps them going is that they want to be good. That's what drives them."

As the directors continued to talk about what drives the members, the band practiced in the background, mixing horns, winds, and drums, playing one of Steve Wonder's songs. Their blend was so clear, and as their "Jazz Band Let Me Whip it" came in, the horns sounded louder and hotter. Tapping my feet to the beat, they practiced another one of the summer's hottest jams, "Crazy In Love."

The music made me want to get out my seat and go go. Beyonce Knowles would be proud to hear this band, but they didn't stop there.

They took their styling to a new level, breaking it down for Heather Headly's "I Wish."

After their practice several of the band members shared some of the secrets of their closeness and commitment.

"We have become one big family," said Taji Sewell, the only female tuba player in the band. Daniels and Bell are not only the leaders of the band, she said, they also represent father figures to them.

Sewell, along with first year band members Maria Olge of Columbus, Ohio and Ahmad Eddy of Monks Corner, spoke about the hard work and dedication the members have. During band camp in August, members practiced four times a day with practice beginning at 4 a.m. Once school started, the practices continued. Now they practice every night from 7 to 9 p.m., or until it's dark, on a nearby field and sometimes later.

Not only must they practice the music, they have to learn the moves and precision steps. Band members are also expected to read their music

and learn whatever style the band is focusing on at the time.

For incoming freshmen, transitioning from high school band to college band can be hard, sometimes, especially if you are used to one style of playing, but they have adapted.

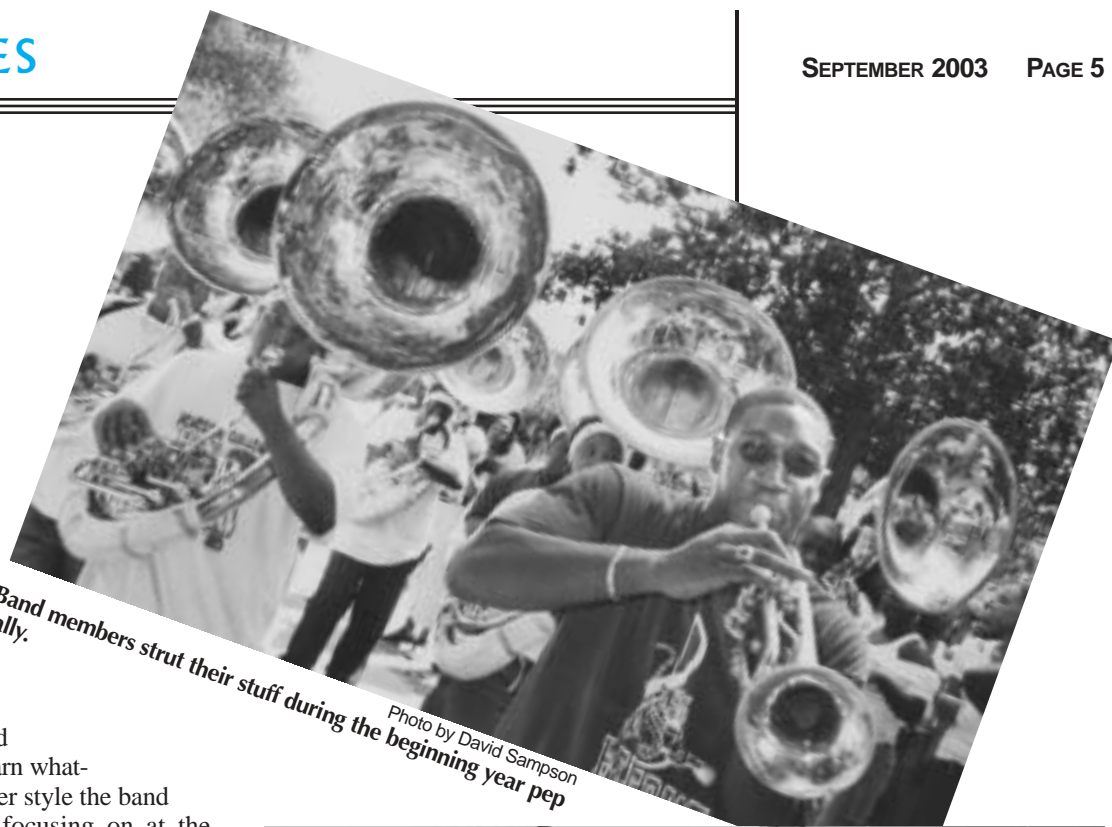
Sewell and Eddy said they were on a "core style band" in high school, so they had to adjust to actually stepping as a form of marching. The band's recent participation in the Charlotte competition was a great learning experience, they said.

Band president Mekessharia Williams said the competition was a challenge. "We had to deal with the heat; a lot of students were not used to that kind of weather. But we were up for the challenge."

The band is a job, she continued. "It's our job to entertain those who come to the games, We keep the spirit alive by entertaining the fans."

When new members come on board — 47 incoming freshman joined this fall — the first thing they have to learn is how to be big brothers and sisters to each other. Some members of the band dropped out, said Williams, because they felt it wasn't like the movie *Drumline*.

"No, the band is not like the movie," said Nevell Bein, band vice president. "We work hard; some students can't adjust to that fact. They couldn't separate reality from fact. Our practices are not easy, unlike the movie. This is real life, this is our job, and we are doing it, It takes all the instruments to make



Band members strut their stuff during the beginning year pep rally. Photo by David Sampson



Band Director Daniels and Assistant Director Bell have many years of experience between them in music conducting, instrumentality, and directing. Besides his work with the marching band, Daniels directs Benedict's jazz and percussion ensembles; Bell directs the brass ensemble and the jazz combo. The symphony ensembles mix jazz with hip-hop and classical music into what is essentially 20th century funk.

Photo by Tawain E. Kelly

the band."

Speaking of the band's closeness to directors Daniel and Bell, band member Corin Gordon, a senior, said, "They are like father figures to every member. They guide us to be our best, not just being a good band member, but a good person. They instill values in each member which makes them excellent role models."

Oree Simmons, one of the band's three drum majors, said, "being a drum major is not an easy job, but we hope we are doing a good job. Sometimes we practice up to four times a day, but we enjoy what we do."

Not only do they have to practice constantly, but the band members also have to keep a good grade point average. Several members have a 3.0 GPA or higher. "We give 120 percent in everything we do," said Simmons, who credits the band directors with instilling in them the

desire to strive for more.

Felicia Burly, the first female drum major for the band, added, that though the work is hard she was selected for drum major because she has shown that she is a leader. "Some of the guys test me and it's all in fun, to see if I'm strong enough to be in the position. But I don't let anyone keep me down. If you have goals, you should go after them. Don't let someone steal that away from you."

Sometimes art does reflect reality. In some ways *Drumline* is like Benedict's band, but in many ways it is not. Benedict's band consists of individuals with goals; they are one unit. They are also strong individuals who want a lot out of life. This is a band that wants to be the best. They are one big family. "As one, we are strong," as the mother in the movie *Soul Food* says. Benedict's marching band is proving that's true.

Photos by Tawain E. Kelly and David Sampson

(Right) Dancers and band members perform during the first game of the season against Tuskegee.



(Below) Members of Benedict's band on the practice field. First they march and instill the steps and moves in their minds and bodies, without their instruments. Then they practice with their instruments.



Leave the past in the past

BY ALI OMAR
EDITOR

If we're not careful, history is doomed to repeat itself. Ignoring the past will get you no where fast.

It's time to get back into the swing of things and realize it is time to get serious. Really. The longer you wait, the harder it is to catch up. Just ask the seniors.

For us returning students, we all know that last school year represented "the best of times and the worst of times," as Charles Dickens so elegantly put it. For many of us students there was more "worse" than best:

tuition increases, late registrations, a poor economy, financial freezes, and war, to name a few.

Dwelling on the past, however, will not fix your current problems. Let us hope you have learned from your mistakes and have moved on.

Benedict's Financial Aid and Enrollment departments sure did. The speed of registration this semester improved drastically compared to last year — didn't it?

For the freshmen and new students, it doesn't matter where you come from; it's where you're going. Life at Benedict is whatever you

make it. There is really no perfect formula to making it through your first year of college, let alone all four years.

All I know is that your old lazy study habits need to take a back burner. College is no joke.. Life rarely offers us second chances. I'm sure I'm not the only who has regretted slacking off or over estimating my memory for a final exam. Bad habits catch up with us sooner than we think.

No matter your classification, in my opinion, no one has it better than the other does. The freshmen are entering a whole new world where they are bound to learn more about themselves, while the seniors are doing the same by leaving the comforts of college life and starting their careers, in a virtually job-less economic climate.

As for the sophomores and juniors, they are trying to cope with constant changes and may be haunted by them until they finally leave.

Nevertheless, don't put off things till spring semester what you can do fall semester. Take precautionary measures to assure your graduation. Hound your academic advisors; apply early for everything (financial aid, internships, graduate school, etc.), and remember if you drop classes, you are adding semesters to your four year plan.

But, let us remember that without struggle, there is no progress. Administrators, faculty and staff

have been working diligently over the summer to ensure that we students have a successful year. So, let's please be patient for the changes to take effect.

Since Benedict is a Baptist based institution, I think, it is appropriate to say that the positive changes may not be there when you want them, but they will be there right on time.



Ali Omar



Graphic by Tyrell Brown

Stay Tuned for More News & Views At BC's First Live Tiger News & Talk Show

Wed., Sept. 24th
1:30 to 2:30 pm
In the Atrium Room, 2nd Floor, Swinton Center

With Guest Interviews, Campus Highlights and Breaking News

Stop By & Catch the Show

Contact 255-2049 or 253-5297 for more information (Commercial time available)

Brought to you by the Tiger News Staff (English, Foreign Languages, and Mass Communication Department)

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Tiger News

BENEDICT COLLEGE

Vol. 81 No. 1

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Staff Writers:

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David Sampson
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Tawain Kelly
Sterling McGlown
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The newsroom is located in Stuart Hall basement.

Member, South Carolina Press Association (Collegiate Division)

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2002 Second Place Winner

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Best Newspaper Overall: Division II Newspapers, SCPA

MUSIC REVIEW:

T.I., Young Bloodz and Nappy Roots' new albums criticize the ignorance of the times

BY STERLING MCGLOWN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Dirty South rapper T. I. representin' S.W.A.T (south-west) Atlanta, Ga., swung by Columbia's Palace night spot recently to promote his new album, "Trap Muzik." The 22-year-old rapper, who has his own label called Grand Hustle, used to be signed to Ghetto-Vision/Arista Records. He recently renegotiated a contract with Atlantic Recording Corp., which now distributes his music. The album is selling well regionally and globally.

Some guest performers on the album include: Bun B of UGK, T. I. P (PSC), and Eight Ball and MJG.

Don't sleep on T.I.'s "IN Da Streets Pt.3" CD either. Trap Muzik is filled with head-nodding songs like "24's," "Look what I Got," "Let's Get Away," and "Doin' My Job."

Jazze Pha and Kanye West, well-know producers, laced T. I. with some heat, along with many others.

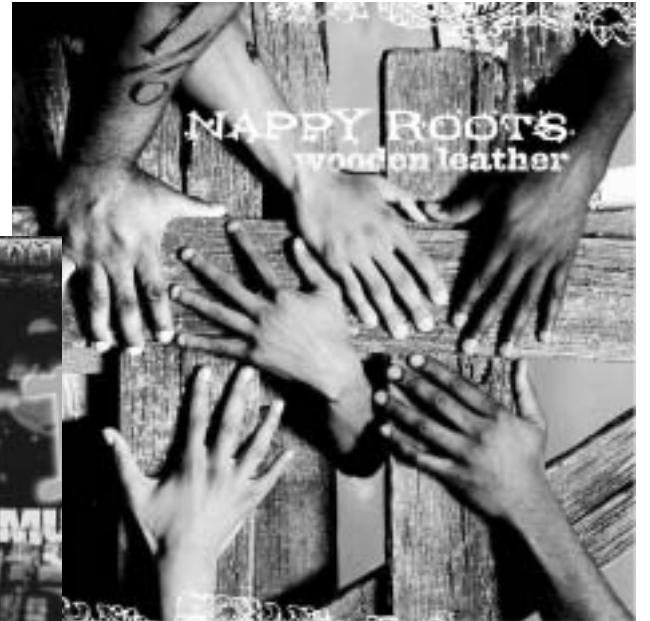
Young Bloodz, also Atlanta natives, have a new album called "Drankin Patnaz" on So So Def recording, which merged with Arista Records. Their album has the new club banger "Damn" featuring Lil John, "Lane to Lane," "Te quilla" and "Some Fools" (T. I. and PSC). The album is simply loaded with crunk-like tracks.

Dem country "boyz", straight "outta" Kentucky are at it again with their sophomore album "Wooden Leather" on Atlantic Recordings.

They still express country grammar and philosophy over the flame production. The track "Sick and Tired" has a con-

cept to it. They seem to be fed up with ignorance, criticism and being pushed around.

Some other tracks like "Push On" have meaning and encouragement for those people struggling in the world. Their albums are designed to look at hip-hop music from another angle. The CD features special DVD "Half the Truth" footage.

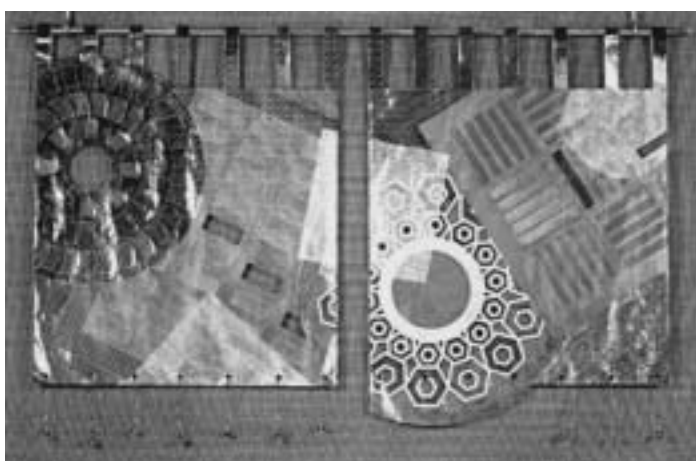


Reprints of the album covers from Nappy Roots and T.I.

'Uncharted Waters' on display at gallery



Three of the works on display as part of the "Uncharted Waters" exhibition now under way in Benedict's Ponder Fine Art Gallery. Works are by faculty artists Gina Moore, Michael Hale, Susan Dugan, Tyrone Geter, and John Wright. The exhibition will continue through Oct. 3.



CAMPUS CALENDAR

* Chapel/Worship Service every Sunday at 10:30 am

September:

- 18 FALL CONVOCATION (HRC Arena) 11 a.m.
- 19 Graduate School Visitation (Atlanta, Ga.)
Pool Party (HRC Pool) 6 p.m.
- Cold and Flu Campaign (Health Center)
- 24 Honors Summer Intern Symposium (School of Honors Lecture Hall) 6 p.m.
- 25 SERVICE LEARNING EXPO (Swinton Center) 8 a.m.
- Honors Lecture Series (Ponder Theatre) 4 p.m.
- 30 All College Assembly (Busi. & Econ) 11 a.m.

October:

- 3 Student Research Day (NO CLASSES)
- 6 Stress Management (Health Ctr)
- 8 Charter Day Awards Dinner (Adam's Mark Hotel) 6:30 p.m.
- 10 CORONATION / Fall Ball (HRC Arena) 8 p.m.
- PARENT'S WEEKEND
- 10-15 MIDTERM EXAMINATIONS
- 11 Hip-Hop Stomp Jam (Location TBA) 7 p.m.
- Last day to Submit Svc Learning Forms

RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

- Noonday prayer every Wednesday and Friday, SGA conference room
- Bible study each Thursday, Starks Hall, 8 pm
- B.A.S.I.C. meetings Thursdays, Starks Hall, 7 pm
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes Tuesdays, Starks Hall, 8 pm
- Praise Service, Antidel Chapel Sept. 19, 7 pm
- First Calvary worship service Sundays, Swinton Center, 10:30 am
- Special Sunday worship service Sept. 28, Swinton Center, 10:30 am
- Praise service TBA, Oct. 10, 7 pm
- Special Homecoming Sunday worship service Oct. 28, Swinton Center, 10:30 am

(Call Rev. Prince at 253-5409 for more details)



BC FOOTBALL

Coach John Hendricks' era starts on a good note

BY JASON JAMES
SPORTS WRITER

On a hot and humid night, earlier this month in the highlands of North Carolina, Head Coach John Hendricks and the Benedict Tiger's defeated the Elizabeth City Vikings 18-6.

The Tigers defense totally dominated the game. Forcing three fumbles, Benedict scored a touchdown and held the Vikings to a total of 45 offensive yards. Hendricks, who is also the defensive coordinator, had the Viking quarterbacks hitting the ground all night.

Both offenses came out of the gate slow but the Tigers scored first on a 27-yard pass from quarterback Calvin Drummond to Josh Grant. The Tigers failed on the extra point attempt, which would be a problem all night. Nevertheless, the Tigers would lead the first half, 6-0.

Despite first half woes, the Vikings came out strong at the

beginning of the third quarter. They returned a punt for an 81-yard touchdown. However, that would be the only time the Vikings would see the end zone.

In past games, the Tigers have had their share of fourth quarter problems. But cornerback Lamar McGill and strong safety Gerod Washington would not let them lay down.

McGill served a crushing hit on one of the Viking runningbacks that woke up the Tiger sideline. They were further amazed on the next play when Washington forced a fumble that was picked up by cornerback Tony Wilson and ran in for an 11-yard touchdown.

With only a touchdown lead at the beginning of the fourth quarter, Hendricks felt confident enough to place his second team defense on the field. After forcing a Viking punt, the Tigers put the game away on a 27-yard pass from Drummond to number 84, Gerald Robinson.

Drummond was 8 for 26 with



Photos By Jason James and David Sampson
While our Tigers kicked up dirt, number 50, Darck Cook, worked hard to put a hold on Tuskegee's linemen.

one interception and one touchdown. "It wasn't pretty, but it was a team effort and we will take it," said defensive lineman Herman McCord, who led the Tigers in total tackles.



Coach Hendricks acknowledges the good work of the Tigers after their win over Elizabeth City Vikings. "Let's go # 54."

Promoters and events staff prepare for the second annual Palmetto Capital City Classic

BY BRYAN SIMON
SPORTS WRITER

The Tigers are not only anticipating an upset victory over last year's Palmetto Classic City winners, the South Carolina State Bulldogs, but Benedict as well as the rest of Columbia, it seems, are expecting one of the biggest football party bashes this town has seen at the upcoming second annual Palmetto Capital City Classic later this month.

Columbia police, S.L.E.D and the University of South Carolina have teamed up to make this Classic a showstopper. The promotions team has been working to prevent traffic jam problems like the ones that occurred at last year's Classic. The 2002 Classic was a success in terms of the numbers that turned out and the media coverage, but kinks needed to be worked out.

Bobby Gist of USC has partnered with the Palmetto Classic marketing team to assure supporters that there will be few traffic

problems on game day.

"We are preparing for at least 55,000 to 60,000 people (up from last year's total of over 46,000) at this year's Classic," said Gist.

Former South Carolina State head football coach Willie Jeffries was on hand at a kick off press conference on campus, as well as Benedict's director of Athletics Willie Washington.

They spoke to the media about the events surrounding the game between the historic rivals that will take place Sept. 23-28. Game kick-

off is 4 p.m. at Williams Brice stadium.

Several pre and after game events are being planned including a coaches media luncheon, a blood drive, step show and a jazz and R&B social.

Head football coach John Hendricks spoke briefly on the Classic predicting that his team will come into the game with a two game winning streak. He hopes that someday the Palmetto Capital City Classic will rival such classics as the Battle the Border and the Bayou Classic, also sponsored by State Farm.

Tickets can be purchased at outlets throughout Columbia such as Publix's grocery chain, Ticket Masters, and the National Guard Armory.

A satellite ticket office for Classic tickets has also opened at 2363 Taylor St. near the main campus. Ticket costs range from \$15 to \$25 for the football game. For more information call (803)255-8903 or visit www.palmettocapitalcity-classic.com.



UPCOMING SPORTS EVENTS

September:

- 19 Volleyball - Tri-Match (HRC Arena) 4 p.m.
- 20 Football - BC @ Morehouse 7 p.m.
- 26 Palmetto Classic Pep Rally (Finley Park) 5 p.m.
- 27 PALMETTO CLASSIC GAME (Williams-Brice Stadium) 4 p.m.
- 30 Volleyball - BC vs. Winston-Salem (HRC Arena) 6 p.m.

October:

- 1 Volleyball - BC vs. Morris (HRC Arena) 6 p.m.
- 7 Volleyball - BC vs. Columbia (HRC Arena) 6 p.m.
- 9 Volleyball - BC vs. Fort Valley (HRC Arena) 5 p.m.
- 11 Football - BC vs. Clark Atlanta (Bolden Stadium) 2 p.m.
- 13 Volleyball - BC vs. Miles (HRC Arena) 5 p.m.
- 15 Volleyball - BC vs. Claflin (HRC Arena) 6 p.m.

Volleyball Tigerettes eager to pounce

BY MCKEIVER JONES
SPORTS WRITER

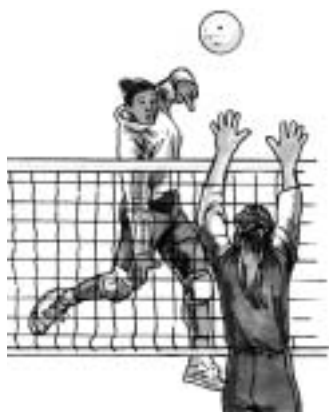
After coming off a promising season last year, the Tigerettes are looking to exceed their third place finish in the S.I.A.C earlier this year.

Head coach Gwendolyn Rouse strongly believes her squad will leave spectators amazed this season.

The team already captured their first win over Morris College earlier this month: 30-21, 30-21, 30-23. "I expect for a big improvement this year because the team has bonded as one,"

said Rouse.

The Tigerettes are built around strong leaders and supporting bench players who look to fin-



ish on top of the conference this season. Seniors Tia Wilson and Reenoshia Ashford should be ready to accept major roles in the team's success and make a big impact on the volleyball court as well.

Coach Rouse has ignited a flame that she predicts will never burn out because the Tigerettes believe that they can succeed at anything. Their blueprint is clear: Take No Prisoners!

Rouse hopes members of the BC family will come and support the Tigerettes volleyball team and see what they have been missing.

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All information for the October '03 issue must be received in the Tiger newsroom by Wed., Oct. 1 or earlier.