

VOLUME 81 NUMBER 5
March 3, 2004

IN THIS ISSUE:

Campus News

- 2 — Al Sharpton pledges hope for African Americans
- 2 — BC prepares for emergencies
- 2 — Community park now open
- 2 — Upsurge in HIV infections among black males
- 3 — News Briefs:
- 3 — New African American political party
- 3 — Call Me Mister scholars pay educational and spiritual tribute
- 3 — Library offers storytelling for elementary kids
- 3 — Dr. Stacie Jones named 'Outstanding Woman in Technology'
- 4 — College educators recognized on Empowerment Day

Editorials

- 4 — Don't be politically ignorant
- 4 — True friends are with you 'till the end

Culture/Art

- 5 — Film festival held at BC
- 5 — Poetry Corner: 'A Lyrical Salute to the Man'
- 6 — Are entertainers going too far?
- 6 — Love Grams

Sports

- 7 — Health Watch: HCM - A deadly disease for athletes
- 8 — BC handball teams place in regional conference
- 8 — Softball games underway
- 8 — Former BC player may be going to the NFL

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

By KRISTEL ROLLE
STAFF WRITER

Dr. David Swinton, the 13th president of Benedict, was "lost for words," after being honored by a host of special guests and dignitaries and receiving tribute after tribute in a special program this month to recognize the numerous achievements he has made in his ten years as president of the college.

Among the many dignitaries who took part were Columbia Mayor Bob Coble; City Councilman E. W. Cromartie; Dr. Hiram Spain, Jr., executive secretary of the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina; and Myrtle Gordon, president of the Edgewood/Read Street Community Improvement Cooperative Council.

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

Dr. Ruby Watts, executive vice president, presided over the commemorative event, and Barbara Moore, vice president for Institutional Advancement gave the purpose of the occasion.

The keynote speaker for the occa-

sion was the Rev. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins, III, executive director of the National Ministries American Baptist Churches, USA.

Perhaps the most attention getting part of the program was the unusual student tribute, which came just before the keynote speaker.

Bopping onto the platform stage in the HRC arena, Senior Class President Ali Omar bellowed out, "give it up, people, give it up." Then as he snapped his fingers, he called on his back up stage crew and the audience to join in with his beatnik finger snapping. He jokingly said Swinton promised every student \$100 and every senior \$500 for clapping for him.

He then performed a spoken word poem in a neo-soul, hip-hop style. The poem, written by English major Towanda Tisdale, began, "The old African saying 'It takes a village to raise a child' is a true statement indeed." In a staccato rhythm, Omar ticked off a list of Swinton's accomplishments: increasing the college's enrollment, instituting a host of new athletic, academic, and special programs; and spearheading a massive community and campus building and renovation effort.

The audience loved it.

With everyone standing and applauding, Omar's performance nearly stole the show. Also taking part in the musical and dance tributes were members of the Harold Odom Dance Theater, who put on a stage performance reflecting different facets of the black experience, to the crooning of Angie Stone's "Black Brotha". The gospel choir sang "Say the Word" and a combined concert and gospel choir performed Nina Simone's "To Be Young, Gifted and Black," one of Swinton's favorite artists, which followed the wind ensemble's rendition of Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On?"

The Fine Arts Department organized the lively performance section of the program, but several departments were represented.

After the students' tributes, the orator Wright-Riggins compared Swinton to begin.

Continued on page 6



Photo by Ali Omar

One of the many flags on poles surrounding the campus in honor of Dr. Swinton's 10th year as president.



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



Chinae Newton, Miss Benedict, poses with President Swinton after the campus-wide students' tribute event to him.



Dr. Swinton and his wife, Mrs. Patricia Swinton, with one of their daughters and son-in-law, and their granddaughter, who is sitting in Mrs. Swinton's lap.



Ali Omar doing spoken word poetry during the opening commemorative program to President Swinton.



Dr. Aidsand F. Wright giving a few words of praise at the commemorative program.



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

Various photos by Ali Omar, Krystal Rolle, Tameika McLemore, and G. A. Shabazz

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

By KRISTEL ROLLE
STAFF WRITER

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

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

Swinton said he wants graduation rates to go up and failure rates to go down. He never wants to have to let students go because of bad grades, he

said, as what happened last semester when a record number were suspended.

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

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

At the student commemorative

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

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

Swinton was paid tribute in song by the gospel choir. After which Min. Darryl Izzard, choir director, presented him with a gift. Antoine Miles, Johnathan Randolph, and Rahman



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

Day performed a jazz tribute. Representatives of each class also presented Swinton with gifts.

A special presentation came from members of the Student Government Association, which sponsored the event. SGA President Trystin Francis presented Swinton with a bronze eagle and then Zandra Chinae' Newton, Miss Benedict, rendered the song

Continued on page 6



Members of the SGA present Dr. Swinton with a golden eagle during the student tribute earlier this month.

ON POLITICS

Al Sharpton: 'Blacks need to take themselves more seriously'

By KRISTEL ROLLE
STAFF WRITER

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

Joyner and Sharpton were here a few days before the S.C. Democratic Party primary in February.

“He (Sharpton) speaks directly about our issues and comes up with practical solutions,” Joyner said. “With Rev. Sharpton, we are represented. If he doesn't bring it up, it won't be brought up,” he told a *Tiger News* reporter after the rally.

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

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



Krystel Rolle

“We will not be taken seriously until we take ourselves seriously. We have to be serious about ourselves. I want to see us have political power.”

Sharpton admitted that he is not taken as a serious democratic candidate, “but I'm the only one running you can't lose with,” he declared.

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

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

Sharpton said he is prepared to fight unemployment, to bring back regulations of big businesses, to rescind President Bush's tax cuts, to guarantee health care to all citizens, and to get American soldiers out of Iraq.

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

The audience responded with laughter as he continued. “No man with weapons of mass destruction would hide in a rat hole with mice and a pistol,” he commented.

Sharpton said blacks can play football together, and go to war together, but still are not equal. “They offend you when they don't need you. I'm the only one to mention race and the Confederate flag. The Confederate flag represents hate and slavery and people are still trying to rationalise the flag.”

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

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

Al Sharpton, Presidential Candidate



(Above) Democratic presidential candidate, Al Sharpton speaking at the Township auditorium in Columbia.



(Right) Former Democratic presidential candidate Wesley Clark also paid a visit to Benedict during South Carolina's primary weekend.



Former Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean tried to win some support at the Township auditorium rally.

Photos by Andre Buckland

CAMPUS SAFETY

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

By GEORGE MOSES III
STAFF WRITER

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

Those departments have preparations in place in case of unexpected emergencies, such as last month's citywide power outage that left three off campus apartment complexes without power.

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

Although there were complaints, most affected students accepted the unplanned need to change their housing arrangements. “The evacuation plan for the power outage was adequate. Community Life did all they could do at the last minute,” said senior Rashon Jones.

Physical Plant Director Hayward Green said the off campus students were brought to campus for their own safety. “We did not want to put them in harm's way by transporting them back and forth,” he said. Many of the streetlights were out for a while and hundreds of homes and apartments were without power.

He also said they wanted to see that the students had adequate shelter including restroom facilities and close access to the cafe-

teria for their meals.

Tiger News asked officials from Campus Safety and Community Life what preparations the college has in place if such emergencies occur in the future. The *Tiger News* learned that Benedict has what it called an “Inclement Weather Operation Plan” for the safe movement of faculty, staff, students, and campus visitors.

According to a manual of the plan, the Office of Student Affairs is “committed to providing a high



Community Life Director Bridget Jones (right) gives students directives for the day.

Photo by Naim Zarif

level of security services to the college community and improving the college ability to deal effectively with problems caused by inclement weather as perceived by the community.”

The manual stated that Community Life outlines the evacuation route for students if the power goes off completely, supplies each dorm with flash lights, and works to keep students in the dormitories from rushing but staying calm in such an emergency.

Physical Plant is responsible for salting the walkways and pavements to help reduce the likeliness for injury. The health center works with Campus Safety and Community Life to maintain safety. Two staffers from the health center

Continued on page 6

Benedict opens new community park and recreational facility to the public

By OMAR DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Benedict's newest contribution to the Columbia community — a modern, fully equipped community park — was recently dedicated and opened for public use.

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

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

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

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

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

It was announced that the facility on the site — which had been a former house and was donated and renovated — will be called the Lamar Advertising Multipurpose Enrich-



Students from Benedict's Headstart program break in the new park equipment.



Photos by Donald Holmes
Benedict Community Development Board members Myrtle Gordon (left) and Gardenia Fair (right) lead the way in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the community park.

ment Center. A Benedict coach and an assistant coach will manage the park and have an office in the facility.

The children's choir from the Benedict Child Development Center performed for the park's dedication.

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

“Before the tennis team had to travel to practice. Now with the new park, hopefully this will make the

team more successful. We now have a sufficient area to practice,” he said.

CAMPUS EVENTS

MARCH

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

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

Dr. Stacie Jones chosen 'Outstanding Woman in Technology' by national black engineering society

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

By ALI OMAR
EDITOR

Not only does Benedict have outstanding students but faculty as well. Now, one more faculty member has received some national recognition. She is Dr. Stacey Franklin Jones, dean of the School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Jones was recently honored as the 2004 Outstanding Woman in Technology by the National Society of Black Engineers or NSBE, as it is called.

NSBE is one of the largest student run organizations in the country and probably the most pivotal black engineering society in the country. Its mission is to increase the number of culturally responsible black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community.

Jones' award falls under NSBE's Golden Torch program, which annually honors some of the best and brightest technology professionals in the country in the fields of technology, engineering, government, business, and academia.

Jones, who came to Benedict as professor and within a short while was named chair of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department, said she is greatly appreciative of this recognition.

"The timing is especially reward-



Photo courtesy of Dr. Stacey Jones
Dr. Stacey F. Jones, on the cutting edge in technology, science, and engineering, has brought her outstanding talent and expertise to Benedict, where she achievements can and have been a role model for others.

ing as NSBE's theme this year is 'Strengthening the Pipeline to Success,'" Jones told *Tiger News*.

While her latest recognition is quite an honor, Jones' career accomplishments did not just begin. She has been recognized for her significant contributions to the development of defense systems for the United States military and its allies.

Most notable is her design and coding of algorithms for the beam controller modules of the AN/APQ-164 Offensive Radar System, which netted her a Westinghouse Engineering Achievement Award.

It comes as no surprise that Jones is such an accomplished individ-

ual, having graduated magna cum laude from Howard University in Washington, D.C. with a degree in mathematics and computer science, and having received a masters degrees in engineering and applied science-technical management (with honors), as well as another masters in numerical science, from Baltimore's prestigious John Hopkins University. This, on top of her pioneering accomplishment as the first black woman to receive a doctor of science degree in computer science from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

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

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

"I hope to become a greater resource for engineering students and those new to related professions, while connecting with senior industry and academic professionals as well," she said.

Her achievements already speak to this and her outstanding work.

BC librarians share the art of storytelling with school children

By KRISTEN ARCHIE
STAFF WRITER

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

The faces of the 23 little three-year-olds from the V.V. Reid Elementary School lit up in anticipation as they listened to Benedict archivist Mary L. McAfee and reference librarian Bridget V. Sledge promise they would have some wonderful stories to share.

"This event is put together every year for Black History Month for the kids," McAfee said.

Acquisitions librarian Beatrice Sumter made special crafts just for the event, and as storytellers McAfee and Sledge read to the children, their smiles grew wider.

Lucky for them they had the chance to hear such books as "The Fat Cat Sat on the Mat" by Nurit Karlin; "Miss Viola and Uncle Ed Lee" by Alice Faye Duncan; and "The Magic Orange Tree," which was recited from memory.

Instead of just reading from the books, McAfee used creative visual techniques to tell her stories. At the same time her vivid expressions made the children even more inter-

ested and attentive, which helped to reinforce for them their understanding of rhyme and morals.

Asked how the story telling helps educate youth about black history, Sledge answered, "This helps to open up their values and gets them to read more."

This is the goal of the library by inviting the children to Benedict - to get them interested in reading more and to help them recognize the



"My kids and I really did enjoy the storytelling. I'm always talking about Benedict to the kids."

LaTisha McCanic,
V. V. Reid Elementary
School teacher,
2000 Benedict graduate

morals in the stories that are read to them.

Along with the children came their teacher LaTisha McCanic. Asked whether she enjoyed the storytelling, she said she did. "I really did enjoy this. I always talk about Benedict to the kids," she said.

McCanic, herself a 2000 Benedict graduate, said she hopes to bring the children to Benedict again. The librarians ended the sessions with lots of baggies, filled with valentines and other delights for their guests.

NEWS BRIEF

HIV affections on the rise among southern black male college students

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

"It's a public health emergency," declared Dr. Peter Leone, HIV medical director of the North Carolina State Health Department.

Officials said the upsurge is driven by young men having risky sexual encounters with other men. Typically they do not consider themselves to be gay or bisexual and may have girlfriends as well.

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

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

New political party formed for black voters

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

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

He asks that interested persons contact him at 866-395-1996 or go to www.aaupp.org for more information.

Educators past and present recognized on Alumni/Community Empowerment Day

Several campus departments, along with the Black History and Culture Commemoration Committee, got together earlier this month to pay homage to educators, past and present, from Benedict College.

The goal of the event was to look back at famous periods during the Civil Rights Movement, which helped to boost equal education for African Americans. They specifically recalled the landmark Supreme Court cases of *Brown v. the Board of Education* and *Briggs v. Elliot*.

Both cases, which have roots in the segregation days here in South Carolina, left an indelible imprint on the shape of education in this country, especially on schools and education systems throughout the South. The cases together probably did more than any other to end legally sanctioned school segregation and institutionalized racism by states and schools across the country.

Local area churches and community members participated in the enriching activities, many of which were designed to educate area youth. There were oral presentations from Benedict students and comments from advocates of minority education.

Among the presenters were S.C. NAACP President Dr. Lonnie Randolph and Benedict's own longtime educator Naomi Dreher. She has served for many years as a professional development school consultant and has worked in education in various positions for over 60 years, including 17 years at Benedict.

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

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

News Briefs compiled by Ali Omar and G. A. Shabazz



Photo courtesy of Mrs. Dreher
Mrs. Naomi Dreher, one of Benedict's longtime educators, was recognized on Alumni-Community Empowerment Day. Mrs. Dreher, who has over 60 years in education, has seen many changes in education, which have impacted the entire community.

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

By DIONNE CHANDLER
STAFF WRITER

As part of a recent all college assembly held last month, scholars in the Call Me Mister program presented a literary and musical tribute featuring excerpts from the play "God's Trombones," written by composer and writer James Weldon Johnson.

The presentation was a tribute to those old-time preachers who could create discussions that filled the soul and ears.

The scholars' performance was of such old-time spirituals as "Rockin In Da Land," "Let My People Go," "Precious Lord," and, to end the program, "Everybody Say Amen."

The Call Me Mister program invited students from local schools to be a part of the assembly as honorable guests.

Benedict's Call Me Mister schol-



ars mentor and help teach local elementary and middle school children. The Little Theater in the Fine Arts and Humanities Center, where the performance was held, was filled with grade school and Benedict students, who clapped and sang along.

Cedric Anderson, one of the "Mister" scholars, said the program was

a way to show unity among black men.

Call Me Mister Program Collaborator Edward Hill commented that "If each one teaches one, what a wonderful world this would be."

The Call Me Mister program consists of male education majors, who have an interest in teaching elementary school children.

Stop being politically ignorant; your future might depend on it

BY ALI OMAR
EDITOR



Ali Omar

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

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

This comment arises from South Carolina's primary weekend earlier

last month.

If you can remember, the Friday before the Tuesday primary, all of the Democratic presidential candidates were in town to volley for South Carolinians vote. Political activities were happening all over town.

Two of the candidates - Al Sharpton and Wesley Clark - even came to campus to talk personally with those willing to listen.

I was surprised when more than one of my fellow students asked me these two questions: "What are all these people doing on campus?" and "Who are they?"

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

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

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

I guarantee you, the same people who have not been aware of the latest political issues are the same people who predominately watch the videos on BET and MTV, with no regards to the local 11 o'clock news or to CNN. It is like the joke comedian Chris Rock tells about N*****s and books. "N*****s

hate to read!" he says. I'm beginning to wonder if it's just a joke.

This is a common lesson that most of our parents chastised us about regarding our homework: "You can't add two plus two, but I bet you can tell me all the words to the latest rap song," they smirked. (I understand now, mom and dad.)

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

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

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

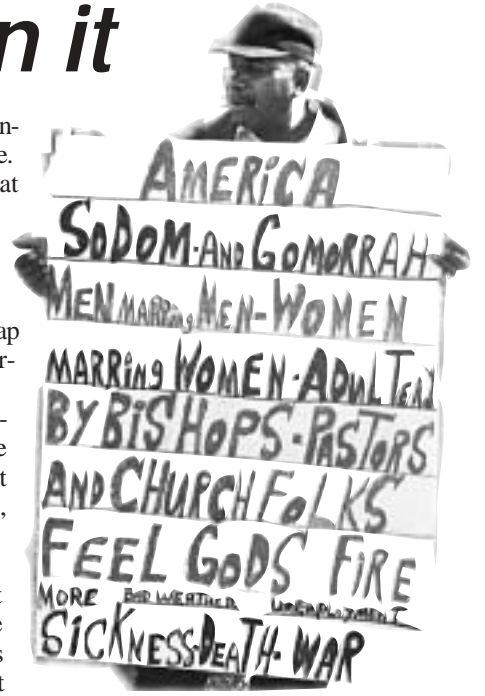


Photo by Andre Buckland

All kinds of activists, like this protester holding a sign against same sex relationships at a campaign rally at the Township, came out during the primary season. You don't have to agree or disagree with everything. Just stay informed.



Photo by Andre Buckland

Wes Clark supporters holding up campaign signs on a Columbia corner, as they canvassed for votes during South Carolina's primary week.

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

Ali Omar, Editor

Friendship ...do you know the real meaning?

BY SHERIKA PRINCE
STAFF WRITER

It has often been said that birds of a feather flock together. So

what about you and your friends? Are you all sticking together through thick and then? Are you encouraging each other through the rough times, or are your friends nowhere to be found?

Friends are supposed to be there for each other in times of need. Isn't that what the word 'friend' means?

"I have a couple of friends. My friends are always there when I need a helping hand. We do not have any drama, and that is what is important when you are searching for a friend," says my friend La' Tricha Williams.

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

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

You must realize that there are

some good people are out there. Just be careful. When I was a freshman, things were different. Nobody in the freshman class knew each other, but now since

we have been here for almost four years, things are different. For example, some people see you, yet they don't speak to you.

You need to find people who have similar goals and morals, who want to succeed in life. It is hard being

young and finding people who are stable, who have the drive to succeed in life.

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

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

I am a believer that people do grow apart. But don't let anything deter you from the meaning of friendship. Being a friend does not

require a lot of money; it's not what you can do for them. It's about giving and having a shoulder to lean on.

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



Sherika Prince



Photo by Na'im Zarif

Get 'yo' read on — In an attempt to expand his mind, senior Terrell Bryant loads up on overstocked free books provided by the library.

Tiger News

BENEDICT COLLEGE

Vol. 81 No. 5

March 3, 2004

Spring 2004 Tiger Newspaper Staff

Instructor/Advisor: Mrs. G. A. Shabazz

Editor: Ali Omar

Assistant Editor: Terrell Bryant

Staff Writers:

Kristen Archie
Dionne Chandler
Omar Davis
Jocelyn Egleton
McKeiver Jones
David Lee
India McKinney
Raynita Miller
Keir Moore
George Moses
Keiana Page
Delaqua Pickett
Krystal Rolle
Towanda Tisdale
Janeen Toole

Sports Writers:

McKeiver Jones
Raynita Miller

Photographers:

Andre Buckland
Na'im Zarif

News Assistants:

Tamika McLemore
Sherika Prince

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

Member, South Carolina Press Association (Collegiate Division) and Black College Communications Association

2003 First Place Winner

Best Newspaper Overall: Division II Newspapers, SCPA

POETRY FOR DR. SWINTON'S COMMEMORATIVE 10TH YEAR

A salute to Dr. David H. Swinton

BY TOWANDA TISDALE
RAP BY RONNIE MANN & ALI OMAR

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

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

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

Editor's Note: This was the poem and rap performed in honor of President Swinton at the opening 10th Year Commemorative event. They were read during the Student Anniversary Jam. The *Tiger News* wanted to share them with you. (All rights reserved by the authors. Do not reprint without permission.)

RAP to the Man

Imma say the word when I flow of the track
It's a privilege to be young, gifted and Black
Keep your hand on the plow. Man ya gotta hold on
Imma sing my song like Marvin—"What's goin' on"
What's goin' on is a salute to the man...
The man with the plan and the best college in the land
Our voices ring like a sturdy band...
Give it up for the 10th Anniversary Jam

(BC! BC! YOU KNOW! YOU KNOW!)
BC, BC, You know, we're goin' fast,
It's been ten years now we're ahead of the class.
Increased enrollment over 100%,
Just in case you didn't know I'm talking PRESIDENT,
Dr. D - H - Swinton ain't spittin' nothing but the truth,
He went to Harvard. Yo, my man is smooth.

Can't forget about the School of Arts & Sciences,
Eva since your tenure (the) population comprises,
OF — 50%, strong male students,
At other B.C.U's the ratio eludes us.

Brought a new era with a couple of schools—
Professional programs, athletics enhanced,
A new football team with a distinctive band,
Got some A.P.T's and some new buildings
We're Black powers for good, now we're takin' a stand.
Our voices ring, like a sturdy band
Give It Up For the 10th Anniversary Jam!

Independent film festival shown at BC

BY JANEEN TOOLE
STAFF WRITER

To help kick off Benedict's Black History Month celebrations, the Columbia Film Society showcased a screening of short films by black independent filmmakers here on Benedict's campus.

The Columbia Film Society has been working closely with Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. George Devlin and Social Work professor Marjorie Hammock for the past three years to introduce to the Benedict family films they might not normally see in commercial theatres.

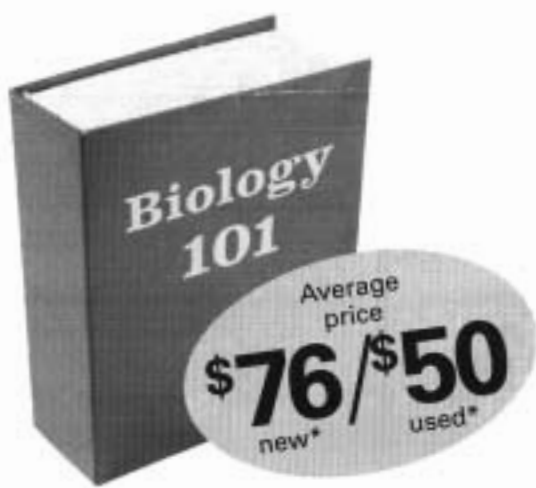
The screening consisted of four short films: *Red Eye*, directed by Kevin Gordon, which depicted the lives of African American youth through the eyes of different people; *Positive Attitude*, directed by Deborah Marcano, a story about a relationship a young woman began through an ad with someone who, as it turns out, is HIV positive; *HIS/HER*, by Nzinga Kemp, a reflective story of how a woman struggles to find truthfulness in her life; and *My Nappy Roots* by Regi Kimbell and Jay Bluemke, a film about black people's hair.

One student who attended the festival, Marsha Logan, a business major, said the films were excellent and very stimulating. "My favorite of the four short films was *My Nappy Roots* because of the reference the film made to the Caribbean," she said.

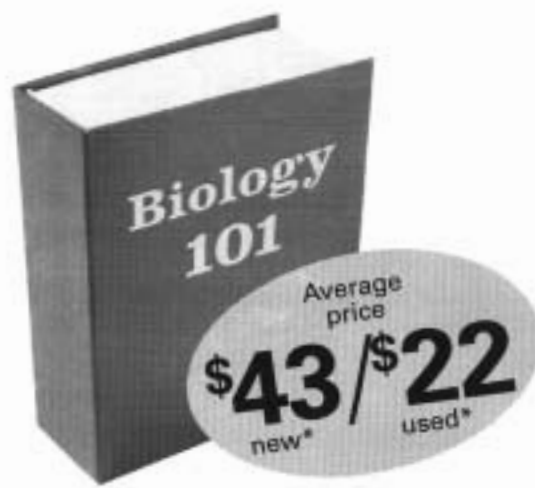
The screening of the films took place in the Little Theatre, with free admission to the public. Despite the attempt to pull in more students to the screening, only about 50 people turned out for the event.

Citron Shiver, a student from the College of Charleston, who attended, said that the films were very informative, especially for Black History Month.

Retail



Half.com



Natural selection.

How smart is this: All the textbooks you need for up to 50% off retail prices. New or used, all you have to do is go to half.com and type in the book titles, or ISBN numbers. Then let nature take its course.



Same textbooks.
Smarter prices.

For a limited time, first-time buyers
Save an additional \$5
on purchases of \$50 or more!
Simply use this code:
BENEDICT

Copyright 2003-2004 Half.com. Half.com, the Half.com logo, eBay and the eBay logo are trademarks of eBay Inc. All rights reserved. *Average Retail Price of a New Textbook based on data from Follett Corp (as reported by The Associated Press in January 2003). Average Retail Price of a Used Textbook based on data from Monument Information Resources. Average Half.com Price for New and Used Textbooks based on an August/September 2003 analysis of over 500,000 books sold on Half.com. Quantities, pricing and availability are not guaranteed and will vary due to supply and demand. Coupon is for first-time buyers only. Limited time offer; excludes shipping and handling; offer subject to change or termination without prior notice.

Did Janet Jackson go too far? Or, is she simply following trends in entertainment today?

BY INDIA MCKINNEY
STAFF WRITER



India McKinney

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

Artists are consistently drumming up new and unusual ideas to contribute to their outlandish dress styles of high-water pants, revealingly skintight tops and low-riding bottoms, and bright colors. Artists are stunning their fans with ever more shocking, sexy, and provocative performances.

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

The controversial performance

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

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

Benedict student Jessica Burnette of Hopkins said she was not offended by the performance. "They did a good job. It was the best Super Bowl halftime this year," she said.

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

"I think a lot of entertainers are going overboard," said senior and mass communication major Sherika Prince. "It's all about our children. That is our future. So, yes, it was 'Nasty' for Ms. Jackson, but like they said, Penny is all grown up now."

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

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

"This year's Super Bowl was not only the most exciting, athletically, but it was probably the most controversial," said the student. "Janet Jackson is just as 'Bad' as her brother Michael, so don't hate. CBS knew that she was Miss Janet and

'Nasty' when they extended the invitation."

Janet Jackson is not the only entertainer pushing the limits these days. It wasn't too long ago that pop singers Britney Spears and Madonna French kissed on national TV.



Photo from heavenlycelebrities.com
Janet Jackson

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

But, are their new looks truly trendsetting, or just a way for the artists to express their artistic personalities?

Mary Scott, a senior and computer science major, said to her Outkast "are being themselves. They

always come out with something different."

Where do artists get such eccentric tastes in clothes and use such vivid imagination to coordinate so many colors?

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

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

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

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

Being different, pushing the envelope, and being as outrageous as possible seems to be working for many artists, even if they stir up controversy. In fact, the controversy only adds to the frenzy surrounding them.



Members of Outkast

Photo from heavenlycelebrities.com

Celebration begins for President Swinton

Continued from page 1
ton to Jesus when he was on a rocky boat with his disciples during a storm. The disciples were crippled with fear as the boat tossed and turned, so they woke Jesus up to come and calm the sea. "Swinton has the ability to stay calm in the midst of the storm. He is one who possesses and protects us with unconditional love," Wright-Riggins said.

"He is one with whom you feel protected," he continued, and reminisced on his days in elementary school. Wright-Riggins said he was one who loved to fight, and the only things that saved him were his fast feet and his older sister, Sandra. He knew that once he could get himself in a position where he could call out to her, he was safe, and he felt protected.

"Dr. David H. Swinton is like Sandra," he said. "Swinton protects, possesses, hears, pleases and partners with us for the long haul."

He left the stage saying, "Thank

you, Dr. Swinton for making BC a force for good in the 21st century."

After the speech, Swinton told the audience, "You don't do what you do because you want to be honored. You do what you do because it's the right thing. There are still lots of things that need to be finished."

Before he leaves Benedict, Swinton said he wants to install graduate programs, develop the student body to their full potential, have a graduation rate that "we can be proud of," and finish the multimillion-dollar sports complex. His most immediate goals are to get "the student performance to where we want it to be."

Getting a little emotional, Swinton thanked his wife, whom he referred to as "the wind under my sails. That's my bride and she'll always be my bride."

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

Students shower Swinton

Continued from page 1

"Wind Beneath my Wings."

After being feted by different student organizations, Swinton commented, "The real award is to see students excel."

Before he left the stage, he joked, "Next time we're going to have to find some more people to sit with me on the front row."

The students clapped as the presentations were made. Tia Wilson, a junior majoring in biology, said, "I particularly enjoyed the performance by NGOMA. It was fresh and new, and something I had never seen before. The whole event was well organized. I enjoyed myself."

What if ...

Continued from page 2

ter are on call to assist students in case of emergencies.

Meanwhile, Food Services would provide students with meals in a timely manner, and provide a schedule to Physical Plant and Campus Safety of meal delivery times.

"Campus security's job is to maintain the overall safety of the campus, and to be responsible for all emergencies," the manual said.

In an interview with Community Life Director Bridget Jones, she said, "The administrators here are trying their best to support the students, faculty, and staff and to make sure that they are safe and secure." Community Life and other campus departments say they are ready for emergencies should any occur.

WE HAVE A SUREFIRE WAY
TO PREDICT THE FUTURE.
HIRE YOU TO INVENT IT.

Cyberspace controls and laser defense systems came as no surprise to the U.S. Air Force. In fact, they came off our drawing boards. No wonder we're always looking to hire the best and brightest. You can leverage your degree immediately and get hands-on experience with some of the most sophisticated technology on earth. To request more information, call 1-800-423-USAF or visit our Web site at airforce.com.



U.S. AIR FORCE
CROSS INTO THE BLUE

HEALTH MATTERS:

HCM, a potential death threat for athletes

Three local athletes die from the disease

BY KEIANA PAGE
STAFF WRITER



Keiana Page

Picture a basketball game. The star of the team goes up for a slam-dunk, collapses, and dies. Later, the cause of this sudden death is pronounced as HCM.

Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy or HCM, as it is called, is a genetic heart condition. The disease affects one out of every 500 people and a disproportionate number of athletes. HCM causes the muscles of the heart to thicken excessively. If undetected, it can cause death, especially among athletes.

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

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

Patricia Sims, mother of the late Vic Sims, a local high school athlete who fell victim to the disease last year, after a game of pick up basketball at his school.

In an interview with the *Tiger News*, Mrs. Sims, who has become a strong advocate for HCM awareness, said athletes are more at risk because of the strain put on their hearts.

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

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

number of heart conditions can be detected.

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

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

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

"We follow the trend in college health needs, and we give referrals for students with special problems," said Patricia Powell, R.N., director of Health Services.

Powell said all students are given health screenings before entering Benedict, adding that her office has not seen a great number of students with cardiac problems.

For those living with Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy, there is no cure, but there are treatment options such as medications, heart transplants, and pacemakers.



Tiger News
LOVE GRAMS

Readers: Valentine's Day is over, but your love remains. We share these

LOVE GRAMS sent in by a few of our readers for their special love ones.

"I love you, Evita."
LOVE, Grand Mom

"I love working for G. S. I."
Rose & Company
"Happy Valentines Day!"

"I love you Star, Q, Rachel, Rose, Kendra & Erica, you guys are my Sisters for life!" Tiera

"Dear Mommy, thanks for all you've done.
Happy V-Day." Love, Boosie

"Gill, sorry it did not work. If nothing else, know that you are loved! May your new mate feel as special as you made me feel! 4 real."

You know who

"Happy Valentines Day, Thomas Hunter, from the love of your life and your longtime friend."
Love, Harmoni

"Ebonee Williams, the sun above, my dreams for the past few weeks, you've shined upon me." Secret Admirer

"Zakiyyah, my earth, my star, my queen, thanks for a year of love."
Your Soldier

"Happy love day to all the ladies, especially the one who interviewed me." Vanilla Sky.

"Nobody loves Alice Stiward like Mundo Selah."
JAH Bless

"Benedict students... This Valentines Day, love God, love yourself, love learning, love life! God bless you!"

Seeking and Sharing Love around the Yard



Kier Moore holds his Valentine's Day purchases.



Students packed the bookstore looking for that special Valentine's Day gift.



Tiffany Spencer holds the Valentine's Day balloons she purchased for her kids.



Members from the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. say no love is really love unless you are safe. They handed out condoms as gifts for Valentine's Day.



Rod Baker kneels down on one knee to give Icko Jones a flower. How sweet!

students + roof = much drama

www.BET.com

exclusively on **BET** BLACK COLLEGE...REAL LIFE
You know it's gonna be off the hook!

WEDNESDAYS @ 9pm eastern

College Hill \$25,000 Scholarship Sweepstakes
Watch *College Hill* every Wednesday at 9pm et/pt starting January 28, to get the entry password, then log onto www.bet.com/collegehill to enter and you could be the lucky winner of a \$2004 scholarship. One winner per week for 13 weeks.*
No purchase or payment necessary to enter or to win. All federal, state, local and municipal laws and regulations apply. Void where prohibited. Must be 18 years or older. *Weeks may not be consecutive.

COLLEGE

HILL



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

BY RAYNITA MILLER
STAFF WRITER

Benedict's men and women's handball teams' hopes of bringing home a championship in the South Eastern Team Handball Conference (SETHC) Championship at Georgia State University in Atlanta were dashed recently. Neither team won first place, but the women's team brought back a second place finish and the men's team returned with a third place finish for the season.

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

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

The team's loss may also have been due to a lack of their usual playing time. The team only played three games this season. The year before when they won the conference championship, they played well over 10 games and had all experienced players.

In a best of three series, the first team Benedict faced was Rock Atlanta, a semi-professional team, not associated with a particular school. In a very close and exciting game, Benedict kept the score close throughout the first half with the help of leading scorers Bryant Suber, Anthony Small, Tywain Titis, and Terrance Bunting.

In the second half, however, Atlanta Rock held on to a five-point lead, keeping the Tigers at bay and handing them their first loss in the best of three in the conference. The game ended 17-12.

Although the Tigers were one loss away from being eliminated from the tournament, Benedict was optimistic it could win against Georgia State University, which they played next. Benedict men had beaten Georgia State in the regular season, 18-14.

"We beat them earlier this year, but all I cared about was beating them today. I wasn't ready to go home," said one Benedict player, commenting right after the game with Atlanta Rock.

But Georgia State had their number this time. Benedict's leading scorers in the game against Atlanta Rock were held in check by Georgia State. GSU kept the lead most for most of the game and never looked back. The Tigers lost in the match up against GSU, 8-12.

The men finished the overall season 1-4 and 1-1 in the SETHC.

"It was a tough loss for us because there was so much pressure on us as the defending champions. I don't think that it was pressure from the other teams that got



Photo by Raynita Miller
Right back Anthony Small attempts to drive in for the score.

to us, but the pressure that we put on ourselves to win," said an upset BC player.

Nonetheless, Coach Rice said that he was very proud of his team, despite the rebuilding season and a lack of games to give the team more experience.

"There is a lot of talent on this team. I look forward to helping our returning players work toward regaining the championship next season," he said.

The women's team fared better than the men, but not much. In the first round of a best of three tournaments, the lady Tigers played the University of Carolina at Chapel Hill. The lady Tigers were

in a see saw battle with the lady Tarheels throughout the game. Despite their best efforts on offense and defense, Benedict women fell to UNC, 3-5.

The team members said they did everything they could to try to score, but no matter what they did, the Tarheels had an answer for it.

Like the men, the lady Tigers were one loss away from going home early, when they met their next opponent, Furman University.

Furman has beaten the lady Tigers by an average of 13.6 points every game all season. "We always look forward to playing them because it's such a good rivalry. There's no love lost between us. They've beaten us all season and every time we play them we look forward to getting the upset," said team member Raynita Miller.

Both teams showed how badly they wanted to win, since both teams had taken loss to UNC and were on the verge of going home.

Benedict took the lead, however, going into the second half. Furman wouldn't give up, taking back the lead half way through the second half.

With stellar defense by Benedict's

goalie Melissa Reese, Furman was held to seven points while Benedict's offense dominated the rest of the game.

Leading scorers Shanetal Hayes, Raushana Gregg, and Kim Webber helped the lady Tigers regain the lead, and they never looked back. Benedict upset Furman, 10-7.

Team Captain Raushana Gregg said their teamwork and defense was what won the game for them. "It felt good to knock them out of them out of the tournament early," she said. "Especially since they knocked us out in the championship last year. We've always been the underdog because they have beaten us over the past few seasons, but we got them this time."

Assistant Coach Rosland Clark said, "We couldn't have won this game without Melissa's defense. She's been an excellent goalie all season, but she definitely came through for us today."

The championship game was a rematch between Benedict and UNC. The lady Tarheels took a commanding lead early and never looked back. The lady Tigers tried everything to get themselves back into the game, but they simply ran out of gas, losing 2-11.

The women's team took home second place for the second year in a row.

"We lost because we strayed away from what got us to the championships in the first place: defense and teamwork. They got the best of us early and we fell apart," said Gregg.

The lady Tigers' sights are already on winning the championship next season.

"As a senior, next year I want our team to go out as champions. The way we played this season showed that we deserve it," said Gregg.

"Our teamwork and defense is what won the game for us. It felt good to knock them (Furman) out of them out of the tournament early, especially since they knocked us out in the championship last year. We've always been the underdog because they have beaten us over the past few seasons, but we got them this time."

Raushana Gregg,
Women's Handball Team Captain,
speaking of her teammates' 2nd place finish
in the SETHC championship

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

Cortez Oliver hopes to get picked by the New York Jets

BY DELAQUA PICKETT
STAFF WRITER

December 2003 Benedict graduate Cortez Oliver may well be on his way to the National Football League.

Though he won't know for sure until and if he is picked, Oliver is hoping the New York Jets will consider him for a top prospect.

Oliver, 25, a native of Queens, N.Y., has been playing for the North American Football League or NFL. Although not as big as the NFL, it is still a professional league. He has been playing for the minor league South Carolina team, the Chapin Timberwolves. He is one of eight former Benedict players in the league.

Recruited by Benedict's football coach in 1998 from the high school he attended in Holly Hill, Oliver came here on an athletic scholarship. He played for Benedict as a running-back for one season. He left the team to pursue some financial opportunities; then rejoined the team in 2001 in the same position. That same year, Oliver was recruited to

play running back for the Chapin Timberwolves.

Oliver was named MVP (most valuable player) for the Timberwolves at the second annual Sunshine Bowl in Homestead, Fla. earlier this season. He rushed 14 times for 160 yards and scored a touchdown in the bowl game. The Timberwolves defeated the Florida Southeast Football All-stars, 13-14.

Scouts have apparently been noticing Oliver's impressive skills on the turf. Now, after barely settling in with the Timberwolves, Oliver has been recruited by another minor league team. He is currently playing for a North Carolina team called the Astro Grizzlies, also a part of the NFL.

"It is a great experience to play for a football league. If you're not playing college football, you should try for a league," Oliver told the *Tiger News*.

Though he is enjoying the minor league, Oliver said he would happily accept an offer from the major league, especially an outfit like the NFL, the top of the heap as far as professional football goes.

Meanwhile, he has two sports agents, Mark Seinson and John Lastini, who will be looking out for him, drumming him up in the upcoming



Photo courtesy of Cortez Oliver
Former Benedictian Cortez Oliver wearing his minor league football team, the Timberwolves, uniform.

tryouts with the Canadian Football League and the National Football League's New York Jets. The tryouts start in May.

"I am overwhelmed and estastic over all that is happening for me," he said. "If I'm signed as a free agent to play on any NFL team, I will first give all thanks to God and buy my mother a house."

Oliver added that if a major league team does not sign him this summer, he will continue in his job with the Social Security Administration, at the Federal building in Columbia.

For those like him who have aspirations to play in the NFL, Oliver offers these words of encouragement: "Stay focused, and don't listen to the negativity."



Photo by Andre Buckland
Members of the Benedict softball team huddle in prayer before the game against Winston-Salem.

Girls softball team in full swing

BY KRISTEL ROLLE
STAFF WRITER

"Strike one! Strike two! Strike three, you're out-ta here," says the umpire, as Diana Butler, one of two starting pitchers for the Benedict Tigerettes softball team, strikes out three ladies consecutively from Winston Salem State's team.

The Tigerettes played their first game of the season on a rainy Friday afternoon, winning in only five of the normal seven innings, 9-0 against Winston Salem State.

After a series of strikeouts, balls, pop-ups, and just some down-in-the-dirt slides to the bases, the Tigerettes pulled off a convincing victory. Although only one of the two scheduled games was played because of bad weather, the players went home happy.

Head Coach Gwendolyn Rouse says she was confident that the Tigerettes were going to win. "They executed well, and the game was played practically error free."

Rouse expects to go all the way this season with this team. "I believe that this year we will win in both the conference and the tournament, which will be held in Albany, Ga. April 15-17."

All of the starting players are back from last years' season, including pitcher Tina Sanders, first baseman Tiffany White, second baseman Shakia Lyburd, outfielders Ericka Greene and Lashauntae Greene.

Joining them this year are Butler, who transferred back to Benedict, after one semester at North Carolina A & T; Cylenia Norris, who is also returning after two semesters off; her sister Santoria Molly, who transferred from a junior college; Jenna Castrow, the closing pitcher; and Natassia Wilkes, who is the catcher for the team.

The Tigerettes took on Erskine College on the sixth, losing the first of two games, 4-2, but winning the second game, 9-4, with Butler pitching the first game and Sanders pitching the second.

The Tigerettes have some tough opponents coming up, but they say they are ready, and are capable enough to swing, bat, and pitch their way into the conference as champs.



Photo by Andre Buckland
Softball Tigerette Erica Green stills herself for a pitch at the game with Winston-Salem.



Photo by Andre Buckland
Cameraman catches outfielder Lacelia Knight in a confident mood.

MARCH SPORTS CALENDAR

3-6	BASKETBALL - S.I.A.C TOURNAMENT (AT ALBANY, GA.)	
5	SOFTBALL - BC VS. FORT VALLEY STATE (AT FT. VALLEY)	1 P.M.
6	BASEBALL - BC VS. ALBANY STATE (AT ALBANY)	12 NOON
	SOFTBALL - BC VS. ALBANY STATE (AT ALBANY)	9 A.M.
7	BASEBALL - BC VS. ALBANY STATE (AT ALBANY)	1 P.M.
9	BASEBALL - BC VS. FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY (AT FRANCIS)	4 P.M.
13	BASEBALL - BC VS. MOREHOUSE COLLEGE (AT MOREHOUSE)	12 NOON
14	BASEBALL - BC VS. MOREHOUSE COLLEGE (AT MOREHOUSE)	1 P.M.
16	BASEBALL - BC VS. CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY (HOME)	2 P.M.
	SOFTBALL - BC VS. ALBANY STATE (HOME)	2 P.M.
18	BASEBALL - BC VS. VOORHEES COLLEGE (HOME)	3 P.M.
19	SOFTBALL - BC VS. CLARK-ATLANTA (HOME)	4 P.M.
20	SOFTBALL - BC VS. FORT VALLEY STATE (AT FT. VALLEY)	1 P.M.