



SEE Policy: Firing of two professors sparks strong debate on the policy; perceptions of policy vary

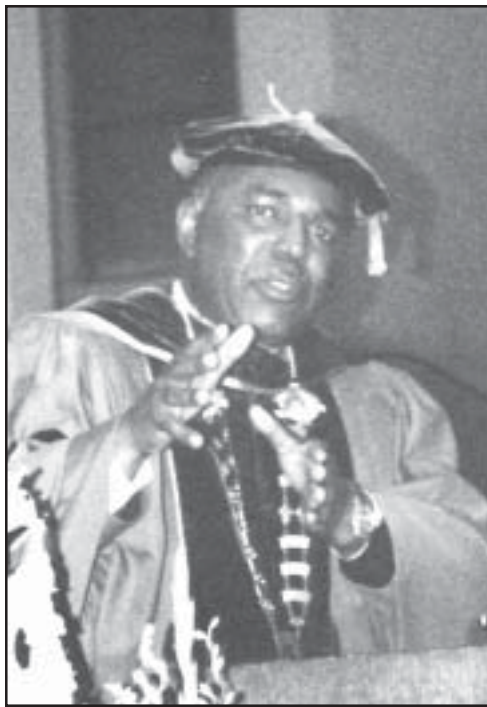
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In comments after Convocation

"Successful Benedict graduates can tell our story better than anyone else..."

PRESIDENT SWINTON



At Convocation

"The SEE Policy will work...Effort means work. We're not giving students a grade."

SEE POLICY STORIES

By TERRELL BRYANT, EDITOR,

PHOTOS BY NAIM ZARIF

The Background

Two former Benedict professors, apparently fired last Spring for not implementing the Success Equals Effort, or the SEE policy, as it is commonly known, sparked a barrage of controversy about the college this fall.

The professors, Milwood Motley and Larry Williams, received letters of termination in the mail in June. The two were fired because "they were in subordination," President Swinton said in a recent interview.

Motley was quoted in an August 20 edition of the *State* newspaper as saying that, "They told us to go back and recalculate the grades. I just refused to do it."

Since the reporting of the professors' firing, several articles in local and national media over what may have led to their firing has stirred a major controversy over the merits of the policy itself, as well as questions of the professors' academic freedom, and the integrity of a Benedict College degree.

The SEE policy was put in place at the college in the fall of 2003. It designates that if freshmen students put forth effort, which means taking all tests,

promptly turning in all assignments, participating in class discussion, doing all that is asked by the instructors and attending classes regularly, then they will be guaranteed a passing grade, according to Swinton.

This policy also applies to sophomores, but they are not given a warranty. For freshmen the grading scale is 60 percent effort and 40 percent acquired knowledge. For sophomores it is 40 percent effort and 60 percent acquired knowledge. The policy does not apply to junior and senior level courses.

A faculty grievance committee voted for the administration to rehire at least one of the professors, according to published reports.

However, their appeal was not heeded. Ultimately, President Swinton decides who is hired and who is fired. The firings remained.

Motley and Williams meanwhile have filed a lawsuit against the college. Motley's wife, Wanda, who is also participating in the suit, stated that her husband's termination led to marital and financial stress for them.

Meanwhile, the debate over Benedict's SEE Policy continues.

Various Student Comments

Byron McKelvey, 19, major - Elementary Education: "I see good and bad in the policy. It can help those who are actually willing to make the effort meaning, getting involved and participating in all classroom assignments. However, it may make some settle."

Alicia Goodwin, 25, major - Criminal Justice: "It is a good policy because it helps students who might not have had a good educational background. It gives them a chance to see what it takes for them to become successful. With proper implementation, I think there will be some great results. It will be a shame if some students were to try and take advantage of it because they will only end up hurting themselves."

"I see good and bad in the policy. It can help those willing to make the effort, meaning getting involved in school and participating in all class assignments. However, it can be bad because it may make some settle."

Byron McKelvey

Bilal Salahuddin, 22, major - Computer Science:

"If it stands for what it says, then I am 10 toes down... Whatever you strive for, that's what you're gonna get. I am against those who try to abuse the policy. Overall, I can't wait for the policy to prove those with negative words wrong."

Marlena Johnson, 23, major - Criminal Justice: "I disagree with it. I do not feel it gives freshman the true feeling of being a college student because some may take advantage of it and not put forth their best effort. It is like saying I can sign my name to a test and not have to try and pass because I'm still going to get a 'C' out of the class."



Swinton addresses critics and concerns over SEE

Following some intense local and even national media attention - much of it critical of the SEE policy and the firing of Professors Motley and Williams - President Swinton has been speaking out on the intent of the policy, what it means, and why he believes it is needed.

In a recent interview with the *Tiger News*, Swinton discussed some of the comments swirling around the policy. "In South Carolina as in the nation, African Americans are disadvantaged socially and economically," he said.

"Some students are not revealed of their true knowledge by tests such as PACT exams when they leave from the public school systems," he continued.

"But students should take an active role when it comes to their education," he said.

Having been associated with education for now over 30 years and having been president for over 10 years, Swinton said he has seen enough to know that the SEE Policy can work. "It is something new," he admits, "but it is designed to help give students

SEE Policy responses continue, pg 2

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that extra push, to give them the necessary tools to be successful later in life."

Meanwhile, as the fallout from the court of public opinion continues, Swinton has begun talking to and holding special meetings with various groups most affected by the policy, to relate to them what he sees as the true meaning of the SEE policy.

He has met with faculty to discuss the policy and to solicit feedback. He has held special assemblies with the freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior classes. He has also sent out letters to parents explaining the intent of the policy and the expected results.

There are assessment tools in place, he said, to determine whether or not the policy is working. He expressed confidence that it will succeed.

He was asked about a concern expressed by one faculty member, that it was getting more difficult to place students in internships, due to what the companies had heard about the policy and the way they perceive the quality of Benedict students.

Swinton said if a company is having second thoughts about accepting a Benedict student as an intern, he will personally contact each company to talk to them.

"I feel confident that I will be able to get those internships back," he said.

On the matter of the policy itself, Swinton said he wants the policy to give students that boost of confidence, which he said the public school system is failing to do, particularly for African American students.

If a freshman does all that is asked of him, give his or her maximum effort coupled with the academics expected in class, that student will be guaranteed at least a passing

grade in the course, said Swinton.

The policy, he continued, is designed to achieve higher test scores, improve academic performances, and dramatically improve retention and graduation rates.

Swinton also commented on reports regarding the school's accreditation. The *State* newspaper in a Sept. 3 article reported that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the accrediting agency for Benedict, is reviewing the SEE policy.

Swinton said as far as accreditation goes, "The college will be in full compliance if there is something SACS feels we need to change."

Having served as a chair of several accreditation committees, Swinton said he knows what the accreditation process is. "I know what has to be done," he said.

Swinton said the SEE policy is "designed to improve or enable more power over to the faculty to teach more effectively."

Swinton also commented on some things he had heard from some honor students and others about the value of their education.

"No honor student should think that they are better than anyone else. It is important for all to learn the necessary skills to be successful. I am looking forward to those students helping to influence the atmosphere for learning."

As to what he thinks of the barrage of publicity the school has received on the policy, Swinton said he is tired of all the negative publicity. "This is another form of racism," he said.

"At the end of the assessment (of the policy), which should be in four years, (when the first students under the policy graduate), "I wonder how they will react when the results come back positive."

Some expressions on the policy from faculty

Alice Holt - Business Professor, Director of the Communications Center: "I love Swinton and Benedict. However I think the problem came in when there was no formal introduction of the policy to the faculty. If the element of faculty engagement was there, then this topic might not have been as big as it is. As an educator for over 40 years, the process of the policy is nothing new. The only difference is that it was not called the SEE policy. In my various teaching jobs, I have given participation grades. Now that I understand how to implement the policy, I feel better with its implementation."

Ronald Davis - Freshman Seminar Instructor: "While I go along with the policy, I feel that it may make students lazy. Some students may not give their full potential because they know they have a crutch to lean on. Students, as we say in the old days, have got to be about the business. For the students who do put forth, 100 percent of their efforts will be successful. Ultimately, the success rests with the students. The verdict is still out."

Benedict's AAUP chapter president gives personal opinion of SEE

The college's SEE policy is a major concern of Benedict's renewed chapter of the American Association of University Professors, an organization that encourages a voice for faculty members at institutions of higher learning.

Faculty members of the organization have expressed grave concerns about the policy, and have issued a position paper on where they stand on the policy.

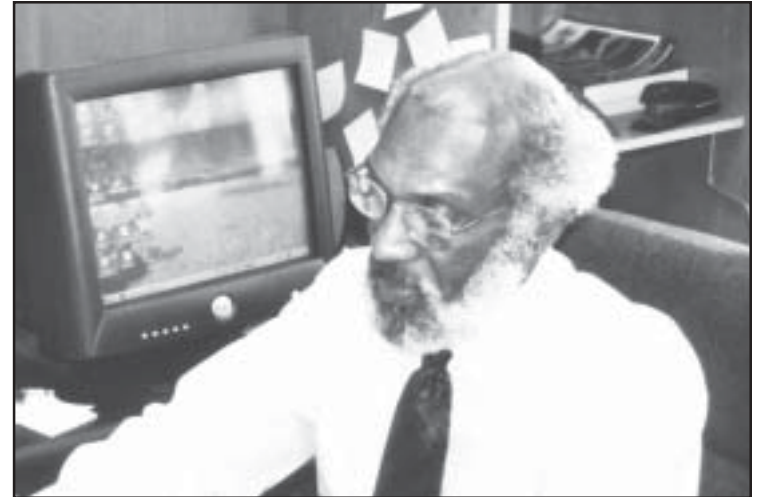
Dr. William Gunn, chair of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation department, heads the Benedict AAUP chapter. He recently spoke to the *Tiger News* about the chapter's position on the controversial policy.

Gunn, who has been a long time member of the faculty at Benedict, said that first of all he wished that the matter over SEE policy had been done in-house.

Recently members of the chapter prepared a position paper on SEE in which they explain why they believe the policy may hurt the institution.

While he understands what Swinton is trying to do, Gunn said, he does not believe in the policy nor the way it was implemented.

Gunn said some things



Gunn, head of the faculty AAUP, says there should have been faculty input on the policy before it was implemented.

should have taken place before it was implemented, such as faculty discussion over the merits of such a policy and faculty involvement in how it would be implemented on a per-instructor basis, to help insure academic freedom.

"This is not a new practice," he said. As stated in the position paper, "Academic policies have been handed down from above, as opposed to being worked out from the ground up with faculty voices and votes."

Gunn said that in order for

the professors to uphold the school's motto of "powers for good in society," then they are going to need help from the administration.

"I am not a renegade. I like Swinton. I think he's a great guy. However, we just see things differently."

"I believe from the bottom of my soul that students can do anything they want to do once they believe in themselves. I think the policy shortchanges them. Motivation comes from within," he said.

Q & A

Fired professors Williams and Motley discuss the SEE policy and their lawsuit

Editor's Note: Below are excerpts of an interview *Tiger News* editor Terrell Bryant had with former Benedict professors Larry Williams and Milwood Motley. Their firings helped fuel the controversy over the college's SEE grading policy.

Q: How do you feel about the SEE policy?

A (Motley): "I think the intention of the policy is good, but as an educator I could not do it...I felt that it lowered my professional standards. In good conscious, I could not do something that I felt was wrong."

A (Williams): "I do not believe the policy serves the students nor does the school any service. When I was in

school here (at Benedict), the academics were much more rigorous. I have mixed emotions. I really want what is best. HBCU's have always been looked at negatively. This does nothing but add to those stereotypes."

Q: What type of reaction have you received since this has gone public?

A (Motley): "All of the response that I have received has been positive with overwhelming support."

A (Williams): "I have had many replies by students and faculty, all of whom have said I did the right thing by not compromising my academic integrity."

Q: Is it true that you have filed a lawsuit? If so, how much and on what grounds?

A (Motley and Williams): "We are in the process (of a lawsuit)...We do not want to make a statement about it as of yet."

Q: If invited to teach again at Benedict, would you?

A (Motley): "The only way I could come back is if the policy is gone."

A (Williams): "I am not the one to never say never. If so, there would have to be a better academic climate, where professors are appreciated for their work."

Note: Williams is now working as an adjunct professor at South Carolina State University.

Motley is teaching part-time at Midlands Technical College, Airport Campus.

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION OF THE SEE POLICY? IS IT WORKING?

ARE YOU MAKING THE EFFORT? Write to Tiger News, PO Box 57 or TigerNews@benedict.edu (Please include a contact number)



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ELECTION 2004

Are You Ready for the Presidential Election?

Election Expected to Be Close

Just as the season has begun to change, so may the leadership of the country.

As the rest of the country prepares for the election, so too is Benedict getting ready for the Nov. 2 presidential election.

Who will you vote for? Whether it be Kerry or Bush, it's very important that all students vote, said Karen Rutherford, director of Student Career Services. Rutherford has also been active in student voter registration efforts.

Oct. 2 was the last day for students to register for the presidential election.

To ensure that every student get the opportunity to vote, Rutherford and a few other staff, faculty and students launched what they called the Education Empowerment Registration committee.

Since its formation in August, the committee has been focused on getting the word out about the importance of registering to vote and actually voting, said Rutherford.

The committee held registration drives through seminar classes and with assistance from various campus organizations such as the Gospel Choir, sororities, fraternities, and other student groups.

"Our goal was to get every student registered to vote," Rutherford said. Asked what percentage of students are registered, she said she did not have an exact number but she believes there has been an increase.

The committee members will also be working as volunteers at the Swinton Center



Bush



Kerry

on election day. Benedict is Ward 8, the closest polling place and the designated place where students who registered here must vote. Anyone interested in serving as a volunteer at the polls can contact her, said Rutherford.

The polls will be opened in Columbia starting at 6 a.m. on election day.

Students who registered to vote in their home towns but who wanted to vote here had to register in Columbia by Oct 2.

This was the first year students who were registered in their hometown but who wanted to register here could do so. They could have used their Benedict College mailing address.

As the election countdown continues, Rutherford is encouraging faculty to discuss the importance of this election with their classes.

She suggests that students also study the issues before voting.

"Before going to the polls, know what each candidate stands for.

"Make your voice count," she said.

"Study the issues before voting. Before going to the polls, know what each candidate stands for. Make your voice count."

Karen Rutherford

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Public health students working to eliminate health disparities in the African-American community



Photo courtesy Glenda Green-Davis

Benedict public health majors who took part in a summer internship at USC: Crystal Stafford, Dorian Lezama, Glenda Green-Davis and Wendy Thompson.

Four Benedict College public health majors had the opportunity to engage in a special summer internship program this past summer at the University of South Carolina.

Thanks to a major grant to several HBCU's and the University of South Carolina designed to interest students in a career in the health professions, the students were able to take part in a public health internship. They also received a \$7500 scholarship, which is to be renewed annually.

The grant, awarded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, is designed to help provide African Americans with opportunities to expand their knowledge of health care professions even beyond their horizons, according to one of the student participants Glenda Green-Davis.

This program will also help students with internship opportu-

nities, with job placement, and research opportunities, Green-Davis said. "This is all designed to help eliminate health disparities within the African American communities," she said.

The four students selected for the summer internship program at USC were Green-Davis, Crystal Stafford, Dorian Lezama, and Wendy Thompson.

Members of the community, HBCU's, and other institutions impress upon students the need to take advantage of opportunities such as furthering their undergraduate studies and becoming part of the solution in eliminating health disparities, Green-Davis said. "But it is solely up to the student to maintain that interest," she added.

Public health majors and faculty are encouraging interested students to join the newly formed public health club on campus, apply for scholarships in the field, and take an active part in elimi-

nating health disparities among African-Americans, said Green-Davis.

Benedict's public health program requires students to successfully complete 42 hours in the major. They take such courses as Human Diseases, Drugs and Society, Mental Health, Human Sexuality, Public Health Seminar, and Contemporary Public Health Problems for African Americans. Benedict's public health seminar courses are held in collaboration with the University of South Carolina's School of Public Health.

Public health majors also engage in field work at clinics, hospitals, schools, and other public health facilities.

Interested students can obtain more information about the program by contacting the program offices. The program is a part of the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation department.

NEWS FROM STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

BASIC group strengthens Christian outreach

BY SHERROD GARY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

One student Christian organization is on a mission in sharing its faith on the Benedict campus.

Now in its second year, the BASIC organization (Brothers and Sisters In Christ) is embarking on a mission to help students develop their faith in God.

Members and advisors say they have started things off in the right direction. The BASIC club was co-founded by Campus Minister and Chaplain the Rev. Glenn

M. Prince.

Over the summer BASIC became a part of InterVarsity, a ministry geared toward helping Christian clubs such as BASIC encourage students to build a serious relationship with Christ. The Rev. Fred Williams is InterVarsity's advisor.

At the beginning of the school year the BASIC chapter introduced its new format and goals for the organization.

First, the group established a calendar of religious service events and activities. Second, BASIC members and advisor wrote bylaws and statements of faith. Finally, the group established a leadership team of five

to seven students.

Rev. Prince explained the new changes. "The new format will really draw the attention of students on campus.

"What I like is for the BASIC organization to develop a group of students who initiate a representation of God on campus, to hold study and prayer meetings."

"I want the students to be available to fellow students," he said, adding that the organization will not have a hierarchy such as a president and vice-president, but will have a core leadership which will help coordinate the

See BASIC, pg. 5

VOTE * VOTE - Nov. 2nd

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Swinton Center, Benedict College

Mass communication majors get hands on experience at newly opened broadcast facility



"I feel wonderful about having equipment to teach with. The equipment offers real life experience for the students ."

Susan Dugan

Photos by Nicholas Anderson

WATCH AND LEARN: Intro to Video Production professor Mrs. M. Mechingher (top left) shows students Kimberly Diamond and Scott Mitchell how to edit on the 'Avid' system.

BY NICHOLAS ANDERSON
STAFF WRITER

Sound cards, linear, non-linear, sound waves, digital auto tape, cross fading. Do any of these words sound familiar to you? If they don't, don't feel bad.

A lot of the other students learning these broadcast terms in classes at Benedict's new broadcast facility didn't know them before either. Now, however, they are not only studying such common broadcast terms but learning how to put them into practice.

After waiting several years for a well equipped broadcast facility, mass communication majors are finally getting a step closer. For the first time this fall, students began taking broadcast classes out of a renovated building near campus.

The building, designated as the broadcast facility, is located across the street from Benedict's planned sports complex on Two Notch Road, about two blocks from the main campus.

Right now students are taking four classes in the building and are being introduced to some state-of-the-art broadcast equipment such as audio boards and video editing machines.

The students are undergoing training in the uses of the equipment, purchased through a grant, written by English, Foreign Languages, and Mass Communication Department Chair Dr. Linda Quillian. The grant's title was Project BETA, which means Broadcast Experience for Technology Application.

After the department and college officials decided on a building suitable for use as a broadcast facility, the building had to be readied for that use. Some structural changes had to be done; the walls were sound proofed; and a control room and various equipment put in.

The grant was designed to afford optimum hands on experi-

ence, said Quillian, who is the director of the BETA Project.

The department saw a need for such a facility in order to provide more hands on experience for students, especially in the Mass Communication program of study, she said.

The uses of the grant will mirror those in the mass communication field and tie in with the college's mission, to address under recognized minorities in the mass communication field, she added.

David Dornik, control room assistant, has played a major role in helping the department to identify specific equipment needs for the facility, including costs and structural needs of such a facility. Department staff and faculty and other college personnel also worked in the effort.

Mass Communication faculty teaching classes in the facility now are Susan Dugan, Ron McKnight, and M. Mechingher. Students are taking such courses as Audio Recording Techniques, Broadcast Writing and Reporting, Introduction to Video Production, and Production Broadcast.

The department is hoping that in the near future students will be able to produce radio and television programs out of the facility, programs that would be aired across the college campus.

These would be shows and programs covering campus events, such as sporting events, special college programs, and reports on news and issues affecting the campus and the communities it serves.

While students have begun taking classes at the facility, there are still issues that have to be worked out -- such as the building having Internet access, more comfortable temperatures in the facility, and additional cables for fiber optics in the building needed for high technology uses.

For the next stage of Project BETA, additional funds would be needed, before a full-fledged operation, or actual broadcast station in the facility, can take place.

One short-term goal is for



the facility to offer close circuit programs just to the Benedict College campus. These programs would reflect events and special offerings from various departments and entities of the college.

Now the students are learning and beginning the groundwork in the broadcast classes, while getting some hands experience on the equipment.

Some of the students aren't fond about the distance from the

main campus to the facility. "There should be a walkway from campus," said student Inesha Watts, a mass communication major from Detroit, Mich.

As the facility continues to take shape, mass comm students and other majors taking the courses are hoping the hands on experience will help them sound as professional and be as comfortable around broadcast equipment, as veteran broadcasters, such as

professionals like Oprah Winfrey and Tavis Smiley.

This broadcast facility is a start. Since its inception, the Mass Communication program has placed several students in professional broadcast or electronic settings, at TV and radio stations, to provide them with additional experience.

There is nothing, however, like their own. As one mass communication major said, "I can hardly wait because we have wanted this a long time."

Majors such as Nadia Muhammad of Atlanta, Ga. are eagerly soaking up what they can. "We haven't had the chance to actually 'hit the boards' yet because we're learning basic information right now. Oh, but I definitely can't wait until we start getting on the sound machines."

Faculty members are eager, too. "I feel wonderful about having equipment to teach with," said Dugan, an experienced photographer herself, who has been teaching students the new digital camera equipment and helping them get acquainted with it.

"The equipment offers real life experience for the students through service learning projects and broadcast practicum," she said.

NEWS ON STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS: BASIC, FROM PG. 4

many aspects of the group.

The group established committees on fellowship, stewardship, worship, administration, pastoral care, music, and mission.

Two of BASIC's core leaders expressed their feelings on the new format.

T.J. Hunter, a member of the music committee, said he believes the new format is very simple and basic for anyone to understand.

"It will provide Christians with the opportunity to express themselves and their love for God," he said.

Fellowship committee chairman Keith Parker said that he hopes by arranging events, and getting people to interact, "this will hopefully give them the chance to both love and learn the ways of God.

"I want them to still have fun and to know that loving God is not about just going to church."

BASIC administration chair Rob Reynolds said that he is pleased with the turnout for their activities thus far. He is looking forward to the club doing even

"I want them to still have fun and to know that loving God is not about just going to church."

Keith Parker

more activities.

The BASIC meetings are held every Thursday night at 7 p.m. with Bible study led by the Rev. Anthony Fleming, followed by a meeting at 8 p.m. The group meets upstairs in Starks Hall, near the Public Safety Office.

The organization provides free refreshments at the meetings. "Food for the body, as well as the soul," club members say.

"My concern is that we get God's word out, said Rev. Fleming, adding that, he wants

the club to "lift spirits, be a living organism and become a family environment."

Any interested student can join BASIC. Membership dues are \$10 per semester. Club leaders pay \$20 for the semester.

In addition, leaders go through designated training sessions and must agree to the terms of a 'Statement of Faith'. You do not have to be a member, however, to join in on the BASIC activities.

The organization also holds worship services on Sunday mornings in the Little Theater at 11 a.m. An offering is taken up, says Prince. "But BASIC is not an organization that is in the business of fund raising.

"Most of the funds comes from the tithe offerings, which serve as a donation to the organization."

In addition to the Bible study meetings and other activities, the club has noon day prayer on the second floor of the Swinton Center.

The organization also plans to carry out two mission projects later in the year.

Behold! The Queen has arrived!



The Royal Court

BY NICHOLAS ANDERSON
STAFF WRITER

Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the prettiest queen at this ball? Sounds like a fairy tale to you? Well, Miss Benedict College 2004-05 Ms. Erica Smalls's theme for her coronation was "A Night to Remember," and it was truly a Cinderella story.

The night started off with a walk on "The Red Carpet" by past Miss Benedict queens starting from 1966 all the way up into 2003. Chinae Newton, Miss Benedict 2003-04, walked "The Red Carpet" and sat in the royal seat until it was time to give up her crown.

After the past queens were

escorted to their seats, the campus queens paraded. They were escorted to their seats on the two sides of the gym floor by their campus kings.

The kings sat them in their chairs and then they sat down after them waiting on the Queen to come out.

The royal court then walked out, starting with Second Attendant Stacy Reed followed by First Attendant N'Coya Davis. They both walked to the stage and sat in their royal seats and awaited the grand entrance of Miss Benedict.

Kentara "Titi" played "Dora," a girl raised by her stepmother to clean the house while her stepmother and stepsister got to go to the "Grand Ball" (the basic Cinderella Story). In the end, Smalls was pulled out to the floor

President David H. Swinton crowns another Benedict queen at Coronation - Miss Erica Smalls -

in a wooden carriage to make her magical appearance.

Smalls did a tribute to her father and mother by giving them gifts and serenading them with a rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing." She was accompanied by her two older sisters.

The campus organization queens and kings then danced a ball scene to the song "Impossible" by Whitney Houston and Brandy Norwood, from Disney's "A Cinderella Story."

President Swinton then walked to the stage to crown Smalls. Swinton took several minutes to do this, but he finally did so. Smalls was all smiles. She beamed as she was formally crowned Miss Benedict College 2004-2005.

The evening ended with a reception in multipurpose room B of the David H. Swinton Center here at Benedict College.



Past and Present Queens
Miss Benedict 2004-2004 Chinae Newton and
Miss Benedict 2004-2005
Erica Smalls



Photos by Floyd Ingram



The campus queens and their escorts sashay on the dance floor and members of the Harold Odom Dance Company give a special performance for the queen.

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Chapel renovation work delayed by fire

BY DAVID LEE
STAFF WRITER

Completion of the renovation work on the historic Antisdell Chapel will be delayed a bit because of a fire to the historic building earlier this month.

The reopening of the chapel had been scheduled for October. However, the fire will mean a slight delay in the re-opening, according to the construction supervisor working on the renovation.

The fire, which occurred on Wed., Oct. 13, damaged the front of the chapel stage. It charred the wood in front of the stage and the entire chapel underwent smoke

damage.

Public Safety Officer Sgt. Fleming said a student had been walking by the chapel when he noticed smoke coming out of the building; he looked in and saw the fire. He immediately notified campus security.

A local fire station responded within minutes to the fire, which reportedly occurred about 2 a.m. Officials said the fire was due to a faulty extension cord.

A published report said the fire caused some \$10,000 worth of damage to the chapel.

Work is to resume on the chapel, which included additional office space upstairs, new carpet, and a new stage.

Hip-Hop scholar Shabazz encourages students to hop to success



BY JIM EDWARDS
Contributing Writer

The scene was set for the first program of the 2004 Freshman/Sophomore Seminar LEAD Series (Leadership, Enrichment and Academic Development).

All that remained were the lights, camera, and action.

While approximately 300 members of Benedict's class of 2007-2008 filed into the Benjamin E. Mays Arena to hear David L. Shabazz, the LEAD series guest speaker for September,

"Once you attend an institution of higher learning, you never really leave because all of the positive thoughts and experiences are with you, no matter where you are."

David Shabazz

Cornell Grady, a leadership development specialist at Benedict, assumed the director's role.

Shabazz, a 1991 Benedict graduate and former SGA president, wasted little time in relaying his message after introductions from Grady, and Nacoya Davis, first attendant to Ms. Benedict College 2004-2005.

Borrowing a line of a poem by Jim Rowe, Shabazz described his formula for success and failure. He began by reciting the words, "Someone will be mastered and someone will be served."

"The formula for success includes good study habits and strategies designed to develop

and enhance one's mindset through a positive attitude and hard work," Shabazz continued.

"The formula for failure is day to day distractions that occur on and around campus, such as hanging out with the boys, and the never-ending pursuit of the opposite sex," he added.

Shabazz, also known as the hip-hop scholar, because he incorporates rap lyrics in his speeches, honed in on his message to the audience. "If you want to develop your mind, you need only research, study and retain information," Shabazz said.

To illustrate his point, he commented, "There was a man who once sat down and drew a

picture of a mouse. For whatever reason, the thought of this mouse stayed with the man.

"As time progressed, the man began to develop ideas centered around the mouse. That mouse is now known as Mickey Mouse, and the man was Walt Disney."

Although Shabazz received applause throughout his motivational speech, the applause was magnified when he compared students having to deal with peer pressure to rap artist Jay Z's popular song, *Dirt off Your Shoulders*.

Shabazz, who has authored three books, *Dolemite*, *Public Enemy Number One*, and *Dis-*

cover *Your Gold Mind*, incited the audience even more in his closing remarks.

He declared that the unyielding support from his mother, and said his experiences while attending Benedict College, will always be his motivation.

When asked at the end of his speech how it felt to return to his alma mater, Shabazz replied, "Once you attend an institution of higher learning such as this one, you never really leave because all of the positive thoughts and experiences are with you, no matter where you are."

The LEAD Series ended with Student Leadership Development Director Rufus Watts encouraging all in attendance to register and vote.

What most attendees probably did not realize was that this particular LEAD Series had taken on a new approach. Previous Series guest speakers were either outside of or inactive in the educational arena, said Associate Director for Student Leadership Development Glenda Greene.

Library books are ready for check-out Inspirational, political scandals, fictions and more

BY SYLVIA WILSON
STAFF WRITER

On those cold and lonely nights have you ever found yourself entwined into a good book? If you find that you have a preference for a particular kind of book or just enjoy reading in general, then the Benedict College library may have some books that interest you.

Darlene Bethea, director of the library said, that several of the newer books are put on display once a month, students are encouraged to take advantage of the many variety of books in the library, she said.

The new arrival books are not just for show, she said. Students can check them out.

Librarian Beatrice Sumter said that having the books on display gives the Benedict family an opportunity to "peruse and check out materials before they are integrated into the existing collection."

Sherry Cade, a freshman, said new books are helpful and enlightening and they can enhance student's knowledge.

There is an advantage to going to the library. You not only get to check out books but you get to stay abreast of what's new.

The library has bestselling books that are sold in most bookstores. Why go out and buy when you can get it at the library for free.

Here's a review of some of this month's books on display.

For those folks who like a little controversy, you may find it in the book "On The Down Low" by J.L. King, which tells of the lives of straight men who sleep with men.

And if you want to dip more in the icing, try reading "Marriage and Same-Sex Unions" by Lynn D. Wardle, Mark Strasser, William C. Duncan and David Coolidge. The book is a debate between heterosexual and homosexual couples who give their views about legalizing same-sex marriages.

For novel lovers, here are two popular books that may hit the spot, especially for those who love drama. "Little Bitty Lies" by Mary Kay Andrews, is a steamy story about a woman's husband who betrays her. He is then found dead, but then soon later the truth is told.

Another steamy hot novel is "Drive Me Crazy" by Eric Jerome Dickey. He has written several bestsellers including, "Naughty or Nice," "The Other Woman," "Thieves," "Paradise," "Between Lover," "Liar's Game," "Cheaters," "Milk in my Coffee," "Friends and Lover," and "Sister Sister."

You may also find some books in the library on religion, history, and true-life stories.

A book by Jane Kurtz, who has written a number of stories connected with Africa, folktales, historical fiction, contemporary fiction, and nonfiction, called "Memories of Sun," is a selection

of stories of Africa and America.

For those who love the Lord and want to take Christianity a step further, reading "Those Preaching Women" by Ella Pearson Mitchell and Jacqueline B. Glass may interest you.

This book may be a good investment for those who need an encouraging word. It is also for the student who wants to understand Christian communicators or become an inspirational speaker.

Another inspirational book is "Overcome, Succeed and Prosper" by Lenell Geter, a native of South Carolina who conducts presentations for educational organizations, churches and businesses.

This is a true-life book about Geter, who overcame many odds. Geter mentions in the book how he was mistakenly charged, convicted, and sentenced to life imprisonment for a crime he did not do. As you read more, you'll find how he truly overcame.

"My Life" is an autobiography by former president Bill Clinton. You'll find by reading the book about Clinton's dreams and hopes. He also goes deeper by sharing some of his intimate stories, indicating how he was affected by the loss of his father and the sex scandal he endured, which affected his marriage to Hillary Clinton.

While you are browsing through the library, look to see what is new on the display shelf. Maybe you'll find a book that interests you. Just come to the library. Check out a book and enjoy!

Freshman Sherry Cade checks out one of the books in the new arrivals section at the library.

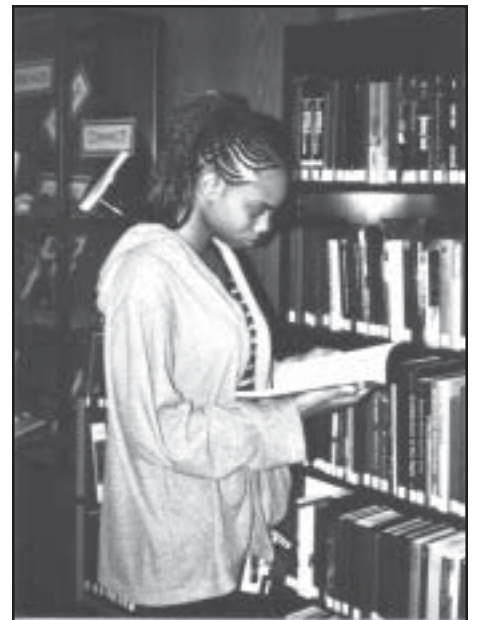


Photo by Sylvia Wilson

Announcements

BC Wins Blood Drive

The Office of Public Relations announces that Benedict won the Palmetto Capital City Classic Blood Drive against S.C. State University. The event was coordinated out of the Office of Student Affairs in collaboration with the Health Center, the Office of Student Affairs, and the Office of Public Relations.

"We thank everyone for their support. We could not make this a victorious event without a win-proof strategy known as "TEAMWORK," the coordinators said.

Anger Management Workshops

Counseling & Testing Services has been holding anger management workshops on campus. An upcoming workshop is scheduled Nov. 1. The workshops are in LRC, Suite, 107, 6 to 7 p.m. Contact Gloria Simmons at 253-5303 for more information.

BC All Male Calendar Available

Benedict College's first all-male calendar which displays the diversity of 12 male students is now available for a donation of \$10. The calendars, which showcase some of the male participants in last year's Mr. Sporty Contest, can be purchased from the Office of Community Life.

REFLECTIONS

SEE Policy Fallout and Aftermath

Can we all just get along???

BY TERRELL BRYANT
EDITOR

Who would have guessed that something that was meant to help would have caused so much of an uproar. I'm speaking of Benedict's SEE policy.

For ages, colleges and universities of all types from open to selective to highly selective have had problems with retention of their students.

According to Dr. Daniel Papp, the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academics and Fiscal Affairs at the University of Georgia, the largest number of students who drop out of college leave after the first year. "If we can keep students into the second year, they have a good chance of persisting until they earn a degree."

President Swinton has been working to find new ways to retain students. One of the methods he is trying is the SEE policy. SEE is meant to help students make the maximum effort to succeed in their classes and thus stay in school. Swinton recently posed the question, "Why can't we be the first to try something new?"

Retention is a serious issue for colleges across the nation. Instead of trying to help schools find solutions to keeping their students in school, some people would rather say that maybe some students don't belong in school; that some students are not college material.

My question is, what is college material? Is it someone whose parents send them off to an Ivy League school although

their grades and actual wit may speak another language?

Money and status rule everything around us. Parents who know someone or have a high standing in the community may be able to persuade an enrollment official to let certain things slide; so his or her child can get into school.

The Bible and science come together on this issue. The Bible says "speak things as though they are not," and that the tongue has the power of life and death. You can speak things into existence. Studies have found that if parents say harsh words about their children, those children in many cases will believe those things about themselves.

So, if one is raised in an environment that is not encouraging to his/her educational abilities and self worth, then he or she will very likely encompass the negative energy, because that's all they know. Although that does not mean they don't have the brain power to succeed in higher education.

Unfortunately, many blacks have these challenges of low self esteem. The key is for those fortunate ones who made it out of their situations, to continue on with their goals. With that in mind we should all try to lift someone up and encourage him or her to do better. I encourage my friends of all races to get into school, or to go after their dreams.

I have to say I love the institution in which I am earning my degree. I had the privilege of being a student of Dr. Milwood Motley. He, along with Dr. Larry Williams, were amongst many of Benedict's fine professors. I thank God for professors who looked at a young man and saw



more in me than I did myself.

This is not a shout out session, but when I came to Benedict, many of the faculty and staff embraced me. Unlike some colleges where my family and friends have gone to, Benedict told me to "look to your right and look to your left and four to five years from now you will see those persons graduating beside you."

I did not understand the true meaning of that then, but I do now. This college, along with Jesus Christ, has helped me to realize my worth and path in life.

I will never forget when one of my instructors called to my dorm room around 9 p.m. to ask me if everything was ok because she missed my presence in her class. Instead of being upset, I appreciated her sincerity. I felt that someone cared.

The people in my major from the head of the department, to the faculty, the administrative assistants, instructors and staff, have always wanted to see the best from me. That has changed my outlook and given me the essential tools to let me know I can make it.

After speaking with many persons, reviewing multiple articles and comments about the SEE policy, I found that there is

"I encourage those with derogatory comments or malicious will to become better educated on the topic.

I encourage those policy makers to listen to all sides and opinions, to bring people most affected by SEE to the table, and to use the intellect that it is here, from students to staff and faculty. We are all in this together."

a great range of opinion on the subject. I think that the students need to know that this is not a policy that grants grades for solely coming to class.

I believe it is a policy designed to give students that extra push, when they may not be able to realize their self-worth right now. To Swinton and the professors of this institution, I can only ask for there be a real forum on ways to improve the policy.

I know professors who agree with the policy, but I also know many that do not. I have comments from outer sources that include all sides. However, this is a Benedict thing.

One of the many life skills I have obtained here is how to listen to what people are saying and that two minds are better than one. I think Swinton in his tenure has taken this institution to a level beyond imagination. This program, especially if it works, will be the icing of the cake that will make Benedict a model school for others to follow. However, we all learn from one another.

So I ask Swinton to talk to the great professors that he hired and the ones he did not. I ask the professors to come up with ways of how to improve the policy or another strategy to help solve some of the problems that plague our and other American institutions.

Willing or not, you all have jobs beyond your titles. You all are our mentors and non-paternal parents. You all are intelligent and are awesome because you all have the power to impact lives. Please, both sides, work it out. We are your students and children. Because even adults do not like to see their birth parents fight.

I encourage those with derogatory comments or malicious will to become better educated on the topic. I encourage those policy makers to listen to all sides and opinions, bring people most affected by SEE to the table, and use the intellect that it is here, from the students to the staff and faculty. We are all in this together.

From a proud product of Benedict.

Staying focused isn't always easy, but it can be done

BY SYLVIA WILSON
STAFF WRITER

It's that time again to get in motion for classes and to get through the semester. All the relaxations you did over the summer vacation are over. There is no more playing around at the beach or partying at the clubs. It's time to get focused on your education.

In recent interviews with a few of Benedict's faculty, learning specialists, and students, they gave some tips on staying focused.

Students are heading on the right track, said seminar instructor Yolanda Goodman. "I am seeing more students involved in class and wearing career attire. When students start out with high expectations, they usually con-

tinue."

Staying focused is not to just going to class. Students need to have all the necessary tools to perform duties assigned to them. Students should get prepared for class by getting books, pens, pencils and paper, and most of all being enthusiastic.

Math lab specialist Marlene McClerklin said that students can stay focused by attending class everyday, keeping up with assignments, attending labs, and asking questions.

She gave a list of advice strategies that she tells her students: have good attendance, proper management, be organized, take good notes, and use the textbooks and make sure to read.

At certain points in our lives we find that we lose focus due to family, health, or going to work. But with all these dilemmas, your

priorities with education should be important.

Dr. Rhonda Grego, English professor said she has discovered that a lot of her students may perform great at the beginning of a semester, but lose focus due to putting social life first. She is understanding that most students have complicated lives, but emphasizes that they should "put priority on education."

Adrian McCullough, a freshman, who spends his spare time in the library, said he stays focused when getting up in the morning on time, going to class, and knowing how important it is to have assignments.

Another freshman Sharia Free, from Greenville, said she had no idea how different high school is from college. "It is a lot of hard work and I get a lot of homework, but I want to finish school so I can make my parents

proud of me."

Tomika Lewis, a junior, has surpassed the freshman phase and believes that she stayed focused thus far by "keeping an accurate schedule, by having great time management, good study habits, and by putting partying aside."



Photo by Sylvia Wilson

Math Lab Specialist Marlene McClerklin assists student Roosevelt Reeves with a math problem.

Trip to Africa gives religious professor, students, staff member a new perspective on the meaning of having and giving

Professor Burgess leads contingent on missionary and spiritual journey to Kenya

By G. A. SHABAZZ
TIGER ADVISOR

Benedict religious professor the Rev. Lillie Burgess has been doing missionary work since 1993. She has traveled across two continents and been to five countries -- Uganda, Kenya, Mexico, Santa Domingo and Haiti -- and yet her appetite for this work grows and grows.

"I want to expand. I want to go to southern and western Africa," she said in a recent interview, speaking of her most recent trip this past summer to the east African country of Kenya, where she led a contingent of 24 persons, including 18 volunteers, four Benedict students and a staff member.

The Benedict students selected were Tina Williams, an early childhood major; Martina Morale, a history major; Jennifer Self, a social work major; and Crystal Stafford, a public health major. Service Learning Coordinator Katrina Pitts also took part, as did Martina's mother.

In the 11 years she has been doing missionary work, said Burgess, she finds that it gets more and more rewarding each time.

This trip was especially so, she said, not only because of the addition of the Benedict students and staff, but also for the spiritual rewards.

"In some of the places we went, this was the first time they had seen a black missionary. One elderly man in a church we visited came up to me and said I looked just like his long lost daughter."

Burgess, who serves as associate minister at Ridgewood Missionary Baptist Church in Columbia, has been an instructor for the S.C. Baptist Convention and the Gethsemane Association in Columbia under the Education and Missionary Convention. Her missionary work, she said, gives her a way to minister to the needy while helping her African sisters and brothers.

She had the opportunity to preach for two services in Mombasa, the second largest city in Kenya. Over a thousand persons attended one of the services alone, she said, and some 31 persons converted to Christianity.

Burgess also personally raised over \$10,000 to help pay for the costs of the trip. She covered all the housing, transportation and food. The group members only had to pay for their ticket, about \$1,200. She received some donations from sponsoring churches, family, friends, and a few Benedict members.

What really keeps her going, she explained, is ministering to the needs of people. Each time she goes, she takes resources. This time she took \$3,000 that

(Right) The Rev. Lillie Burgess speaking to a group of school children in Kenya. (Below) Members of the American group on the Kenyan trip. (Bottom) Kenyan school children enjoy some recreation.



had been raised, and it was given to a church in Kenya; 2,000 Bibles were also distributed to churches in rural areas. "A Bible is like something precious to them," Burgess said.

Burgess coordinated and trained the volunteers to teach leadership seminars in African churches in church administration, evangelism, spiritual gifts, and about a Biblical character known as "A Woman Called Lydia." The volunteers came from various Baptist churches in South Carolina, Georgia and Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Benedict students, who went in connection with a Service Learning project, served as HIV/AIDS peer educators. They facilitated workshops geared toward high school students in Kenya regarding HIV/AIDS awareness. They also had the chance to visit orphans and hospitals in Kenya.

The students had to complete specific criteria such as participating in education and training initiatives to strengthen their understanding of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa. They also par-



Photos courtesy Lillie Burgess

ticipated in a Social Science Cultural Orientation committee; they had to have a 2.5 grade point average or higher; and complete courses in the history of Africa and in health education.

They also underwent training in HIV/AIDS awareness provided by the Women's Resource Center of Columbia. Upon returning, the students submitted a written reflection paper and gave an oral presentation of their experiences.

Pitts said the trip was a very special experience for her and the students. It not only helped them appreciate what they have in

America, but it also opened their eyes to the strong morals and values they saw in the African children. "They are very serious about their education and their religion," she said.

"It was just an overwhelming experience. The people were so warm, even in the midst of the sickness we saw at some of the hospitals. A lot of students really need that experience."

Burgess said the trip was also an opportunity for everyone who went to learn about African culture, beliefs and practices, and to put aside stereotypes of what they thought Africa was like.

Opinions count: Wearing what you want

By TAMEIKA SANFORD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I was thinking the other day about why it is that when a woman yells rape, so many times, it's assumed she must have asked for it. People immediately assume, before getting all the facts, that she must have done something to deserve what she got, perhaps because of the provocative clothes she may or may not have worn.

Some say the man should control himself regardless.

But look at what happened in the Kobe Bryant's case. He was accused of rape and then even before the case goes to court, the criminal charges against him are dismissed. He gets off, and then apologizes to his female accuser. Who should be blamed for this situation? Him or her?

This brings up another question. If a woman says no, does she really mean no? At

what point should a man stop? In Kobe's case, so goes his side of the story, he was lured to her hotel room. Or did she come to his room, as was alleged in the rape case of defendant Mike Tyson.

Word is Kobe's accuser goes to his room alone; it is night. What message was she sending to him? Was it, 'I just want to talk' or 'I would like a bite to eat'? What was she wearing? What were her intentions before coming? No one will ever know except this particular female.

My point is, girls, women, still need to be careful who they are with, and even today, what they wear. Even if they have a case, if she is raped, her background, the position she puts or finds herself in, what she is, and who she is, are still important.

Any woman who thinks she can get away with wearing a thong and a short mini skirt or no underwear at all and walk past high testosterone males and not get a holla is fooling herself.

COME ON AND LET'S BE REAL! You know when you wear certain things, it brings about many different feelings. Ladies, when you walk out your dorm

room, what message are you conveying?



Yeah! Yeah! I know women who feel they can wear what they want to wear. It's their given rights, they say. But everyone doesn't want to see what you have, nor do we want to be forced to see it.

Let's keep that in mind when a man calls you a whore or worse. Don't get mad. Just look down at what you have on and ask yourselves, 'Is this the message I am portraying of myself to all the world?' or 'Will this make the guy I like notice me more?'

Be careful because the one you are trying to attract may be the wrong one, and it could come back to haunt you.

Respect and love yourself. You can be sexy and stylish in moderation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

CHEDRICK A. NEAL



SON OF RICHARD AND MARILYN NEAL OF HARLEYVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

For earning a Doctor's degree in Chiropractic Medicine on June 12, 2004 from Life University in Marietta, Ga. Chedrick is a 1999 magna cum laude graduate of Benedict College's Science Program of Therapeutic Recreation. He is also a 1994 graduate of the former Harleyville-Ridgeville High School in Dorchester, South Carolina.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Conference on traditional music details influence of 'black experience'

BY JIM EDWARDS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

You may not think of banjo music as finger popping music, but for your information the banjo's origin actually began in Africa.

This musical historic fact and others were part of the information presented at a recent conference on traditional music in South Carolina. The conference, which took place at the South Carolina State Museum, was sponsored by the South Carolina Traditional Arts Network, a consortium of various arts groups in the area.

Among the panelists was bluegrass musician Steve McGaha, who commented that contrary to what many may think, the banjo is actually steeped in African traditions.

He said that early African musicians created the banjo, from a squash like vegetable known as a gourd.

Between the panel discussions on various aspects of South Carolina traditional music such as gospel, contemporary, folk, country, and bluegrass were live per-

formances by McGaha and his two accompanists; contemporary musician Danielle Howle; the Noor ul-Isha Muslim singing group, who performed some Islamic prayer songs; and the Benedict College Concert Choir.

Stephen Criswell, a Benedict professor and the former president of the Arts Network, served as the conference's assistant coordinator. He said the program was designed to reflect the origins of South Carolina's musical traditions, religion in music, and contemporary traditions.

Several of the 15 panelists who spoke, among them Dr. Linda Kershaw, director of the Benedict Concert Choir, clarified that various types of music are related, and in fact most of what is considered traditional music stems from "the black experience in the South."

Participant Allen Hinnant demonstrated a 'hambone' rendition of "If I am a Pig." He explained that the hambone is a combination of lyrics, clapping of hands and thighs, and sound mimicking.

He said that this form of musical expression dates back to the post slavery period. He added that he learned how to do one particular 'hambone' from "a little old

black lady in the hills of Georgia."

Another example of the black influence on music in the South can be found in country music, which is also known as folk music. Folk music, McGaha said, originated with slaves and freedmen on farms and plantations throughout the South.

In fact, country music's famed Grand Old Opry featured a black harmonica player named DeFord Baily, who became one of the Opry's biggest stars during the 1920's.

That improbable country music star was an example of a black musician crossing the musical barrier in spite of his race.

The conference also heard from keynote speaker Dr. Peggy Bulger, with the Library of Congress.

Bulger borrowed a quote from legendary folk singer Bill Brewsey regarding folk music. Brewsey, also known as 'Big Bill', was once asked if he considered all music to be a form of folk music. "He replied, 'I guess all music is folk music. I ain't heard no horse sing 'em yet'."



A group of Muslim women from York, S.C. perform a prayer song during the conference. (above)



Photos by Jim Edwards

Asst. Program Coordinator Dr. Stephen Criswell stands with a program assistant, student Lekeisha Williams.

Tiger News Entertainment Interview

R&B Princess Monica talks about life's greatest lesson and how her faith helps her get over

BY TAWAIN KELLY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Editor's Note: Tiger News contributing writer Tawain Kelly had the opportunity to interview R & B star Monica on her swing through Columbia for the Palmetto Classic weekend earlier this fall. He caught up with her at a local restaurant, and she shared a few words of her story with him.

Since her arrival over 11 years ago with the hit CD "Miss Thang," Monica has been proving that she is a survivor.

Many consider R & B superstar Whitney Houston as the 'voice', but sultry Monica should surely be considered the other voice.

Monica talks about how at an early age she found the love of the Lord, and ever since then He has had a presence in her life.

Because of all the trials and tribulations she has gone through, she says, she can speak to young people about how she got over.

It's hard to believe that this beautiful young woman has had any real trouble. She looks like she could be any college student. She reminds me of a beautiful African-American Mona Lisa, she has such a pretty smile.

As we talk, she gets her

make up done by her artist called Christen. With her manager/cousin by her side, she speaks of being her own woman. "I know where my blessings come from," she says.

With such a busy lifestyle now, I ask her how she deals with the business of life and music. "I play it like a game of chess," she says. "You try to make the best moves as possible, to win as much as possible."

She reminds me that winning is about many things, not just music. It's important even to be successful at being a good parent, she says.

As for the world of music, she says she plays it like a business. "Actually it's not that hard. Life itself is hard or a combination of the two," she says.

Monica explains that she learned early how to handle herself in business. She says she has been dealing with being in the public eye since she was 14, yet she has managed to stay true to her Christian background.

"Thanks to my family, especially my mother," she says.

I tell her I remember seeing her on BET's "Celebration of Gospel" show. Even though she says she had lost her first love and was grieving, she never showed her sadness. "It was my love of the Lord that came shining through," she says.

Asked what advice she would give to a young man or



woman feeling pressured to give up the goodies, she says, "It's something that you just can not get back. I think people look at it as if it's something that you are supposed to give away freely.

"But being from a Christian family, I was taught the complete opposite. Now it's kind of glorified through music, videos, and movies, through everything. It just becomes a natural part of everyday life for people. They

feel as if they are not a part of the in crowd. Then that's not what's taking place.

"The reality is once you give that away, you can never get those moments back. Nowadays, it's much too dangerous. HIV is much too prominent, and there are so many STD's that you cannot rid yourself of.

"Kids are not aware of the dangers because they don't teach them as well as they should in



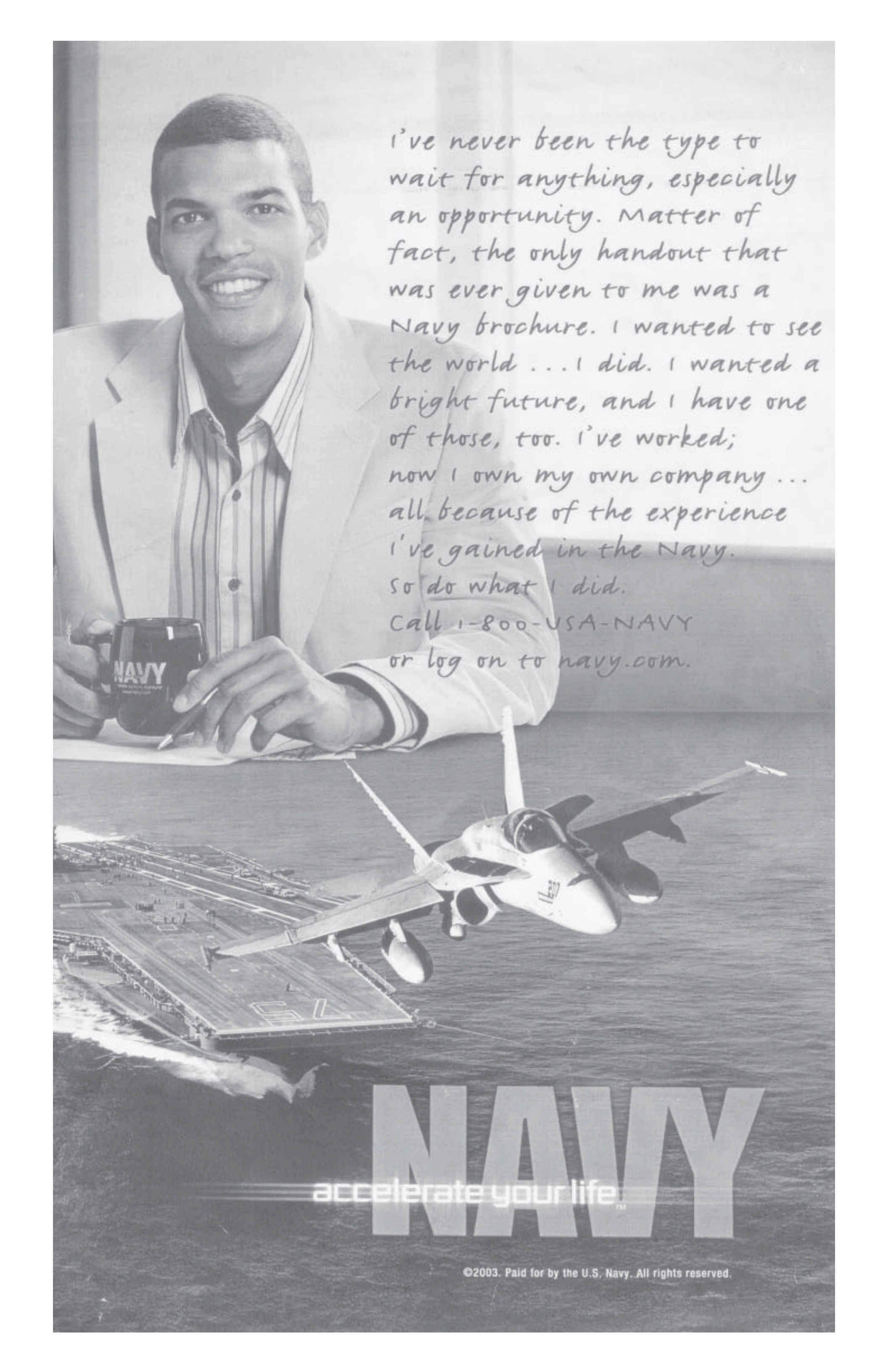
Monica on unprotected sex: "The reality is once you give that away, you can never get those moments back.

Nowadays, it's much too dangerous. HIV is much too prominent, and there are so many STD's that you cannot rid yourself of."

schools. It's our job to do that when we have children, to make them aware. But I'll help if they have it. It's a dangerous bottom line."

Wrapping up, Monica plays a word association game with me. I want to know what she thinks when I throw these words at her.

Don't take it personal, I say. "The Beginning," she sings. I say, Atlanta. She sings "Love It."



i've never been the type to wait for anything, especially an opportunity. Matter of fact, the only handout that was ever given to me was a Navy brochure. I wanted to see the world ... I did. I wanted a bright future, and I have one of those, too. I've worked; now I own my own company ... all because of the experience I've gained in the Navy. So do what I did. Call 1-800-USA-NAVY or log on to navy.com.

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Tiger Football

BC couldn't shake their shaky start all season

By CALLEB OBUMBA
STAFF WRITER

The 2004 season kicked off on a promising note but the promise was not fulfilled this season.

The Tigers opened the season with a much-needed win of 21-14 against visiting Stillman College.

Quarterback Tremaine Lyle, a junior, led the way as he scored two touchdowns (1 run, 1 pass). In addition to the pounding the 'Harden Street Hitmen' held Stillman's spread offense to only 225 total yards.

The victory gave several fans and supporters hope that the Tigers would be ready to close the gap between crosstown rival South Carolina State.

However, a well-coached South Carolina State team which played the role of the hunters and

the hunted upended the Tigers' streak.

South Carolina State forced the Tigers to turn the ball over five times on the way to a 51-0 blowout.

On the bright side, Lyle and defensive back Jesse Owens, a senior were named the offensive and defensive MVP's for Benedict in the Palmetto Capital City Classic.

The following week the Tigers welcomed winless Morehouse College to Columbia. The Tigers opened up like with the defense setting the tone. Defensive end Kenny Smith, a senior, folded up.

John David Washington, son of actor Denzel Washington, caused him to fumble and defensive tackle Gary McClausland, a junior, pounced on the ball, giving the Tigers a 7-0 lead.

Offensively the Tigers prevailed in their ground attack with sophomore Jeff Nobles leading the way. However, the Tigers' drive to score would eventually

be halted due to penalties and two game breaking blocked field goals by Morehouse.

The Marion Tigers would eventually gain the edge as they would score on a 40-yard run. The score would eventually allow Morehouse to escape Columbia with a 10-7 win.

In the midst of things, the offense lost a spark when Lyle missed the game due to a non-football related injury.

Now Coach Hendricks and his troops must find a way to get their swagger back.



Photo courtesy Floyd Ingram

The Tigers had an up-and-down season all year, but they remain focused on building a strong program as the team matures.

Homecoming Schedule	Thursday, Oct. 28 "International Day" Luncheon, Swinton Center 12 pm Volleyball (Winston-Salem) 6 pm gym Carnival/ International Students Celebration 6 pm Bonfire/Spirit/Prep Rally front of Swinton Center	Saturday, Oct. 30 "Purple & Gold Day" Parade 10 am Main St. Game Miles College 2 pm **Concert gym, 9 pm
	Friday, Oct. 29 Homecoming Dinner-Caf'-4 pm **Step Show -gym, 8 pm	Sunday, Oct. 31 Gospel Choir Concert, Township, 7 pm (free)

Analysis

Palmetto Classic: a winner in more ways than football

By JONATHAN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

This fall's Palmetto Capital City Classic was far from one of Benedict's greatest games, but in terms of other benefits such as scholarships for students and community awareness of the school, the Classic proved a winner.

Not only is the Classic a football game, it is also a social event for the community, a monetary opportunity for Benedict and Classic rival South Carolina State University, as well as a business opportunity for individual vendors.

Many of the events surrounding the Classic helped to raise money for both schools and the community.

A percentage of the proceeds from the Miss Capital City Classic pageant, held for the first time this year, benefits Benedict's and SCSU's Education Scholarship fund. The fund is designated to assist financially disadvantaged

students who wish to pursue an undergraduate or graduate degree.

Another new aspect of this year's Classic, the Vendor Village, sponsored by SCE&G utility company, gave some business opportunities to vendors. Game ticket holders could purchase cultural merchandise from the various vendors set up in the 'village' right outside the stadium where the game was held. There were many vendors from all over selling various items.

"The Palmetto Capital City Classic gave the two historically black schools a chance to do something good for the community," said Natalie Brown, assistant director of public relations for Benedict.

Both Benedict and SC.State held a blood competition for the American Red Cross. Faculty, staff, students, and community members showed their school spirit by donating blood through one of the two schools.

Not only was the Classic a good business venture for many, it also proved to be a popular social event in the city. Members of

the community had the chance to experience a concert the Friday night before the kickoff.

This year's concert featured Grammy award winner Brian McKnight, Columbia native singer Angie Stone and Anthony Hamilton.

"The concert was just a wonderful experience," said Roderick Gregg, a computer science major from Benedict.

In short, the Classic is offering educational enrichment, cultural programming and networking opportunities for fans who took part in some of the many events.

Despite the lopsided victory for South Carolina State on the field, many of those who attended still thought it was a great event.

"This year's Classic was the best of all because of the many events leading up to the big game this year," said Ira Sharpson, a business management major from South Carolina State.

Now that the big rivalry game is here, both Benedict and State can not only battle for bragging rights but they have the chance to do good for the community.

NFL: Year for the underdog?

By CALLEB OBUMBA
STAFF WRITER

Once again it is time for another interesting year in the National Football League. One reason: When the season kicks off, there will be several familiar faces in new places.

Several teams were very busy in the off-season as they added key ingredients to spice up their winning formulas.

Some teams prepared for the future, while some franchises prepared for today.

Last season the Panthers almost shocked the world when they were a field goal away from defeating the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XXXVIII.

The question is, who will be in the sleeper this year? Maybe the youthful Detroit Lions will try to become the King of the Jungle or the NFC. Or maybe Terrell Owens will be the savior to lift the Philadelphia Eagles to the Super Bowl. On the other hand Michael Vick's return may be what the Atlanta Falcons need to become a contender again.

Can the New England Patriots repeat as world champions? Or, will the Ray Lewis and the return of 'PrimeTime' Deon Sanders carry the Baltimore Ravens back to destiny?

These are some of the questions that many of us will wonder about as the 2004 season begins.

This is my skinny of how the 2004 season will turn out:

- NFC East Champion: Philadelphia Eagles 11-5
- NFC South Champion: Carolina Panthers 10-6
- NFC North Champion: Green Bay Packers 12-4
- NFC West Champion: Seattle Seahawks 11-5
- NFC Playoff Teams: Green Bay Packers, Carolina Panthers, Seattle Seahawks, Philadelphia Eagles, Atlanta Falcons, Minnesota Vikings
- AFC East Champion: New England Patriots
- AFC South Champion: Indianapolis Colts
- AFC North Champion: Baltimore Ravens
- AFC West Champion: Kansas City Chiefs
- AFC Playoffs: New England, Indianapolis, Baltimore, Kansas City, Cleveland Browns, Tennessee Titans
- AFC Championship Game: Indianapolis, Baltimore
- AFC Champion: Baltimore
- Super Bowl: Baltimore, Philadelphia

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