Congratulations to the CCC&TI Cobras who won the 2002 District Championship in Maryland by a score of 107-48 against Butler Community College of Butler, PA. Check “The Cobra Den” on page 3.

Foothills Performing Arts Theatre presents Shakespeare’s classic tragedy, “Hamlet,” March 7-10 with 7:30 p.m. evening performances and 2:30 p.m. Sunday matinees. “The production is a good blend of experienced and young actors,” said Keith Smith. Two local high school drama teachers, Beth Wood and Joshua Scott, are cast in the performance along with several of their students. “Hamlet,” FPA’s first attempt at Shakespeare, will be the group’s 139th show in its 25th anniversary year. Tickets are $10 for adults; $8 for senior citizens; and $5 for students. Call 726-2318.

Calling all actors and actresses! Auditions for Foothills Performing Arts Theatre’s production of the Pulitzer prize-winning classic comedy, “Harvey,” will be held Mon.-Tues., March 4-5, at 7 p.m. in the studio theatre of the Caldwell Campus of CCC&TI. Needed are six men and six women, ages 18 to 75.

Donations are needed for the MSPIIPproject to fill a new batch of toiletry bags for distribution to students. The Compensatory Education class fills the bags, but they are in need of toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, mouthwash, combs and/or brushes and razors (sample sizes) to complete the bags. They currently have plenty of shampoo and lotion.

The North Carolina State Highway Patrol will hold a community meeting Wednesday, March 13 in R-Building beginning at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and discuss public issues related to law enforcement.

This week on The College Connection, Keith Smith and Donegan Smith talk about Foothills Performing Arts presentation of Hamlet; Garret Hinshaw and Bill Payne discuss the success of the Cobra basketball team; and Elaine Lockhart previews the new offerings in Corporate and Continuing Education. The show airs daily on Caldwell Charter Cable channel 3 at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

TransferStudents – Don’t forget to mark your calendars for the dates college representatives will be in the Student Lounge of the Caldwell Campus. The dates are:

Wednesday, March 20 Lenoir-Rhyne 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Wednesday, March 27 Gardner Webb 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 24 Lenoir-Rhyne 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Those interested in attending Appalachian State University should meet with an ASU representative in the Caldwell Campus Student Lounge on Wednesday, March 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for “Transfer in a Day.” Interested students should present a completed ASU application, $45 application fee, and official high school and college transcripts in sealed envelopes. No appointment is necessary.

Congratulations to the Circle K Club for its triumphant return with six awards from the club’s District Convention (North and South Carolina). Only Appalachian State University received more than CCC&TT’s chapter, which beat N.C. State and UNC-Chapel Hill. The following students received individual awards:

- Gail Brown: Outstanding Member (over 1,000 service hrs.)
- Diana Cover: Secretary Award
- Tommy Clark: Honorable Mention for Presidents award
- Sarah Spencer: Honorable Mention for Vice President award
- The club also received a Certificate of Achievement from the Boys and Girls home, and the Lloyd E. Coffey Outstanding Club Scrapbook Award (named after CCC&TT retired math instructor Lloyd Coffey).

A representative from Intergold will be on the Caldwell Campus to sell class rings on March 11 and March 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Lounge and on the Watauga Campus March 13-14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Students who would like to take advantage of free, confidential financial counseling and budget planning may now do so on our Caldwell campus. The dates of the free sessions will be:

- March 7, March 12, March 26, March 28, April 9, April 11, April 23 and April 25. There are two one and a half hour sessions available each day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Appointments are made on a first come, first served basis. Contact the Financial Aid Office to schedule an appointment.

Need help paying for college? Stop by CCC&TT’s Financial Aid Office to learn more about new scholarships and financial aid information. New scholarship applications are arriving daily. One of the most recent ones, from the Coca-Cola Foundation, is geared toward individuals who have performed or who will have performed 100 hours of community service work by May 1. Gather information about student loans by visiting the www.grad-free.com web site where students can register for free - family and friends will then automatically be invited to visit GradFree in order to learn more about helping pay off loan debts. To obtain information on a no fee loan, check out North Carolina Advantage at www.cfcn.org under “Paying for College.”

Student Support Services is still collecting General Mills Boxtops for Education and Campbell soup labels for Whitnel Elementary School. Anyone with box tops or labels is asked to send them to the SSS area.

The Caldwell Campus Book Club will be reading An Island Like You by Judith Ortiz Cofer, now available in the bookstore. In addition, Cofer will be on campus in April as part of the college’s annual Writers Symposium, which will give readers a chance to meet and discuss the book with the author. The next meeting will be March 28 at noon in F-153.

Need a vacation? Sign up for a visit to Washington, D.C. from May 9-11 with Christian Tours. The bus will leave at 7 a.m. May 9 and return around 9 p.m. May 11. The trip is open to all faculty, staff and students. Currently, 29 people have signed up to go. Cost depends on the number of people who travel with the group. The trip includes two continental breakfasts and a dinner theater. The first payment of $50 is due March 8. Final payment for the trip is due April 11. To pay or for more information, contact Sheila Pritchard at 726-2726 or Gilma Roberts at 726-2728.

Friday, March 29 is the graduation application deadline for Spring 2002 graduation. Applications must be turned in by 1 p.m. and are available at the receptionist’s desk in Student Services. They should be turned into the Business Office with the appropriate fee by the deadline. Any students completing their course of study in the spring or summer are encouraged to complete this process early in order to obtain a check of their graduation readiness.

A Ping Pong and Pool Tournament is set for March 4-8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the student lounge of the Caldwell Campus. Cost is $2 per player; double elimination. The event is sponsored by Circle K. Proceeds will go toward cost of the group’s national convention in Orlando.

Check out basketball intramurals this week as the Bulls play the Lakers on Tuesday, Mar. 5. On Thursday, Mar. 7, Ebony Kinship plays the Faculty and Staff. The win/loss records for the teams are as follows: Bulls 3-1; Lakers 0-4; Hornets 1-3; Ebony Kinship Club 4-0; Faculty & Staff 2-1; and Bio-Med Club 1-2. Games are held each Tuesday and Thursday at noon in the gymnasium on the Caldwell campus. Come check out the fun!
CCC&TI Cobras Headed To National Basketball Championship

Bringing home the NJCAA District 7 title this past weekend, the Cobras of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute are well on their way to a possible national championship in men’s basketball. CCC&TI’s team finished top in the Division III District Tournament in Hagerstown, Md. Sunday after downing Montgomery College (Takoma Park, Md.) and Butler County Community College (Butler, Pa.) March 2-3. The win puts CCC&TI in the elite 8, taking the team to Delhi, NY on March 14-16 where the Cobras will compete for the National Division III Basketball Championship.

The Cobras continued their winning streak Saturday, defeating Montgomery College (Takoma Park, Md.), 81-68, in the first round of the district tournament. Curtis Jones had 23 points and 13 rebounds, while Trae Smith added 24 points as CCC&TI shot 50.9% from the field in defeating Montgomery-Takoma. Brandon Robinson and Stephen Heggins chipped in 7 assists each.

CCC&TI routed Butler County Community College, 107-49, in the final round of tournament action Sunday, bringing its overall record to 21-10. Trae Smith led the team with 22 points while Jason Marley added 14. Drew King and Stephen Heggins scored 11 points each. Curtis Jones racked up 17 points and 9 rebounds. Menyel Flowers and Jason Marley had 8 assists each. The phenomenal win wraps up a 14-2 record for the team for the last 16 games.

“I am most impressed with the way we kept our intensity the whole game,” said CCC&TI Head Basketball Coach Bill Payne. “The players were really focused on the job they had to do. We upped the tempo, had a lot of rebounds and made (Butler) change the kind of game they play. I’m proud of the team. They played really hard. The support we’ve received has made all the difference.”

Curtis Jones was recognized as Most Valuable Player in the tournament. Trae Smith and Antwan Little were named to the All-Tournament Team.

“This championship shows that anything CCC&TI does, we do on a higher level, from being named 1 of 5 superior institutions this past year to being 1 of the final 8 in men’s basketball,” said Garrett Hinshaw, athletic director and dean of student services. “It says a lot about the commitment to excellence of our faculty, staff and students. It feels absolutely wonderful to be associated with coaches of the talent and skill of Bill Payne and Matt Connor, and it’s been wonderful how our players have reacted to their guidance on the court and in the classroom.”

“Being a part of these young men’s lives will be something I’ll never forget,” added Hinshaw. “Our talent is incredible. I’m extremely proud of them.”

Bob Gibbons, editor and publisher of All Star Sports Publications, caught the Cobras in action prior to their advancement to the district tournament. “I was very impressed with the way CCC&TI played in the regional tournament in facing another high quality team in Surry Community College,” said Gibbons. “I saw many players who have the potential to play at a higher level. I usually have to travel a long way to find that kind of talent, and it’s wonderful to see this here in Caldwell County. I certainly feel the team will be successful in the divisional playoffs and wish them the best of luck in advancing to national competition. Coach Payne has done an excellent job of building a high quality, top-notch community college basketball program at CCC&TI.”

CCC&TI is slated to play in the first round of the national tournament in Delhi, NY at 1 p.m. Thursday, March 14, against Keystone Jr. College, Pa. (28-2) Also in the bracket will be Springfield Tech, Mass. (24-7) and Sullivan Community College, NY(25-3).

Log on to ccti.edu under “Student Life” for tournament photos!
The Scoop...

Nanci Griffith to Appear in Concert at Civic Center

Nanci Griffith, well-known singer and songwriter, will thrill audiences when she appears at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center in Lenoir on May 4 to present her own unique brand of music. Celebrating over twenty years of writing and performing, Grammy-winner Griffith will be accompanied by her band, the Blue Moon Orchestra, and will feature her best-loved songs from her latest album, The Dust Bowl Symphony.

Originally from Austin, Griffith began her career at age 14 when her parents chaperoned her on the Austin club circuit. In the late 70s and early 80s, she brought her self-described “folkabilly” music to Nashville. She has since reached millions of fans and has even gathered admirers among the other artists.

Rolling Stone dubbed Griffith “the Queen of folkabilly,” while Telegraph Magazine called her “the torchbearer of American folk music.” Her body of work includes some of country music’s most enduring hits, including Willie Nelson and Emmylou Harris “Gulf Coast Highway,” Kathy Mattea’s “Love at the Five and Dime” and Suzy Boguss’ “Outbound Plane,” as well as over 15 literate and acclaimed solo albums.

Last year, Griffith performed at the annual St. Patrick’s Day luncheon hosted by House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL). In attendance at this exclusive social event were President George W. Bush, Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland, Secretary of State Colin Powell, the majority leaders from the United States House and Senate, several members of the Irish Parliament and many other luminaries. Griffith brought the luncheon audience to a hush for the first time in recent memory, according to one Hastert staffer.

Her first Grammy Award came in 1993 for her “Other Voices, Other Rooms” album (Best Contemporary Folk Performance). She also has received two Grammy Awards for her performances on albums by the Chieftains and has five Grammy Award nominations to her credit.

Griffith will present a vibrant and entertaining evening, spanning over two decades of musical roads that have brought her both national and international fame and popularity. The 7:30 p.m. performance is part of the Showcase Series of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute. Tickets are $32.50 for gold seating and $35.50 for platinum seating. Tickets may be purchased by calling the civic center at (828) 726-2407. Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted.

Biomedical Equipment Students Attend Training Session at CCC&TI

Students enrolled in their second year of study in the Biomedical Equipment Technology Program at Caldwell Community College and technical Institute recently received in depth training in the care and management of biomedical equipment during a three-day training session held at the college. The training was conducted by Olympus America of Melville, NY. The company is a leader in the field of operating room optical equipment. Students were trained on endoscope inspections, image manager software and hardware and endoscopic video information systems (EVIS).

Also in attendance at the training session were biomedical equipment technicians from Albuquerque, NM, Tazewell, Va., and Columbia and Chase, SC. In addition, nurses and endoscopic department managers of local hospitals attended the session. John Noblitt, director of CCC&TI's BMET program, said the training was especially beneficial for his students. “This training will help the students who attended be better prepared for their chosen career,” he said.

For more information on the BMET program, contact Noblitt at (828)726-2263.