

New show brings diversity to campus

By LON MEDD
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"Big Thangs" are in store for the MSU campus, thanks to Marcus Davenport and Anthony Barnes.

To provide an alternative for MSU's diverse student body, the two have created a new cable-access show called "Big Thangs." The object of the show is to highlight the positive accomplishments of the minority community at MSU.

Davenport, a senior elementary education major, along with Barnes, an advertising junior, collaborated in July to do a show that was different than the same stuff that's always on television.

"We felt that a lot of TV programming was limited in the audience it was trying to reach," Davenport said.

"So we wanted to do something original that could represent people from all walks of life."

So Davenport and Barnes set out to create a show that highlighted the positives of the student body.

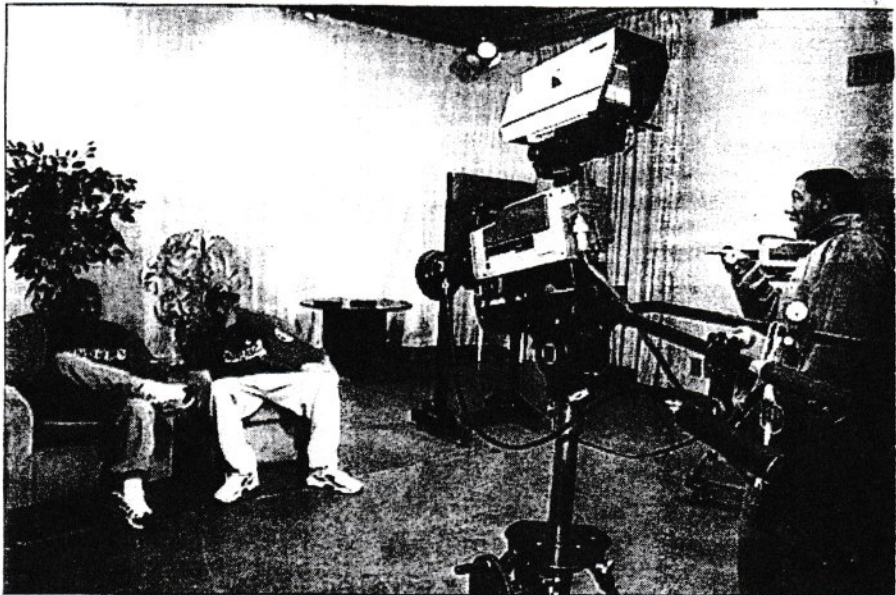
They wanted to do a show that was on the cutting edge of entertainment.

"We want the viewers to get the message that people are doing big things around campus, that's what this show is about," Barnes said.

"Big Thangs" has hosted some first-rate guests.

Before the football season, about 20 players from the MSU team appeared on the show. Also, groups who performed at Magic Johnson's Homecoming Concert such as Destiny's Child, Next and rap legend Ice Cube made an appearance.

In addition, the show had members from the Black Poets Society on the air to read poetry.



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Chemical engineer and mathematics senior Maurice Bounds, the engineer of the show, directs Barnes and Davenport in the studio at WELM-TV, 1070 E. Trowbridge Rd.

For next week's show, members of the Omega Pi Psi fraternity will visit.

The creators have set out to create a show that not only entertains, but also educates.

"We have a very diverse group of people who talk about life on the MSU campus," Davenport said.

"They have a lot of points of view that aren't usually heard — that's where the educational part of the show comes from."

When Davenport and Barnes

aren't interviewing celebrity guests or educating their audience, the program has featured original comedy skits that have earned them praise from their audience.

"We do some political humor, we impersonate famous people and we do a lot of wild stuff," Barnes said. "A lot of people have come up to me and said that they liked the show and thought it was funny."

Davenport and Barnes said it was hard work that created and produced the show, and they encourage others to accomplish

their goals.

"All I can say is (you need) to be ambitious and to follow your heart," Davenport said. "And all the blood, sweat and tears is worth it if you're happy with the final result."

You can see "Big Thangs" a 9:30 Monday night. It runs for an hour on the public-access station WELM-TV.

On campus, you can see the show on channel 28 and off campus, it will be on channel 30.