



Parasyte is 'Bout to Blow in Nashville

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Hate crime, shooting spree in Pittsburgh

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The Measure of Student Opinion and Sentiment

Richardson leads TSU into a new era

By Terry Edwards Jr.
Sports Writer

A new dawn began at Tennessee State University on April 25 as the head basketball coach position was filled by University of Arkansas assistant coach Nolan Richardson III. Richardson spent nine years at the University of Arkansas under his father, Nolan Richardson II.

During his reign as assistant coach, the Razorbacks made many NCAA appearances. He left a big program that was family-oriented and produced a 72 percent winning record. In 1994, the Razorbacks won the National Championship and was the runner-up in 1995. They also received nine NCAA Tournament bids, including two Final Fours, one Elite Eight and two Sweet Sixteen's.

After the resignation of Frankie Allen on March 7, the athletic department needed to bid for a new head basketball coach. Allen resigned after nine years and a 115-140 win-loss record. Athletic Director Dr. James Smith introduced Richardson and his father, saying, "The apple does not fall from the tree."

Richardson III uses the guidance he



PHOTO BY METRA BAUGH

Nolan Richardson III was introduced as TSU's new head basketball coach at a press conference April 25.

received from his father in coaching as well as in the game of life. While the proud father stood before the media, he told a story about attitudes and working.

TSU's newest staff member also told a story about how his grandmother told his

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Accreditation team pays a visit to TSU

Inspectors scrutinize everything "from the president to parking"

By Kester Kilkenny
News Editor

Recently Tennessee State University has been under intense scrutiny. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) lately paid the university a visit and according to TSU's Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research, Timothy Quain, "they inspected everything from the president to parking."

SACS is one of four institutional accrediting organizations in America, and each is assigned to a different region. They examined TSU as a whole, as opposed to individual school or departments. The committee that evaluated TSU was comprised of 15 members from various schools in the southern region. The only requirement is that they not be from Tennessee, or be affiliated with TSU in any way.

Before SACS could evaluate the state of TSU the Office of Institutional Effectiveness had to conduct what is called a self-study. This study which is conducted every 10 years, covered every aspect of the Tennessee State University. So extensive was this self study that it took over two years and involved more than 200 staff and faculty members, according to Quain. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness then compiles a report. In it they list all the improvements needed. The SACS committee members then review the compiled information. They then conduct some investigating of their own by inspecting individual departments and interviewing faculty members as well as students.

The final report is to be revealed, however an oral report was delivered to TSU officials. This is supposed to give officials an idea of the most pertinent issues which need to be addressed.

One of the main issues, according to Quain, was the main campus' library's resources, which are highly lacking in some areas. Another criticism was that TSU officials weren't making enough effort to use the infor-

see 'Recommendation' on page 2

Killer executed after 21 years

Robert Glen Coe killed by lethal injection for 1979 murder, state's first in 40 years

By Hillary Condon
Community View Editor

"God loves you."

Convicted killer Robert Glen Coe told investigators in a taped confession in 1979 that these were the last words of his 8-year-old victim. The child had been raped and beaten by Coe and these last words, he told investigators, sent him into a murderous rage, whereby he ended her life. He later retracted that confession and has maintained his innocence ever since.

Ironically, they were also his last words before his death at 1:37 a.m. on April 19 when he told his victim's family and other witnesses:

"I love you with all of my heart and soul. I forgive the state of Tennessee for murdering me for something I didn't do. I'm not guilty of this crime, and that's the God's truth. God loves you."

Meanwhile, the midnight air was near-freezing. There was a thick, eerie fog settling, dew on the grass, and the only sound was the soft singing of hymns over the buzzing of the generators and still-running news vans. Over 100 people were gathered in a field outside of Riverbend Maximum Security Prison to quietly protest Coe's state-ordered execution.

The people protesting the killing had different motives and means of opposition, but they were all there for one reason — to challenge the state, mainly Gov. Don Sundquist, on the capital punishment in Tennessee.

Protests had ensued earlier that day in front of the state Supreme Court and the Governor's mansion, where activists were arrested for blocking the entrance to the residence. The governor, however, was never seen — he was on vacation with his family in Florida.

Stephanie Harris, a graduate student at Vanderbilt Divinity School, was protesting the execution that night and had nearly been arrested in front of the empty governor's mansion earlier. Closely associated with TCASK, or the Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing, Harris challenged the governor, the system and the small group of pro-death penalty activists present.

"I am here tonight because it has been a long, emotionally-charged day, and an emotionally-charged past three weeks," she said, referring to the past months of stays, appeals and hearings made on Coe's behalf.

"I don't think that killing is the answer to anything. Revenge is not the answer. All that the death penalty does is create more victims... now Coe's family is victimized, and it's on the state's hands."

Other protesters were angry that the state was executing Coe in the name of justice and with taxpayer's money.

"These people are doing it in my name, in the name of the state of Tennessee, and that's me," said Lyn Newman, who came to the site at about 7:30 p.m. and stayed until after the death announcement was made at almost 2 a.m. "I don't want them to kill in my name."

Others addressed the crowd of quiet protesters.

"It's important to do everything we can to deter the state from killing

see 'Crowds' continued on page 3



Robert Glen Coe



Cary Ann Medlin

New way to rate your class, school, teacher's performance

By Toccara Houston
News Writer

Unlike last semester when students filled out a scan sheet to grade their teachers, this semester the format has changed. Now all students have to do is go to the University website to complete

the evaluation.

Here's how it works: Students should go to www.tnstate.edu and go under "Jump Points." Then click on Student Evaluation of Instruction. They should then type in their Social Security Number and six digit PIN number to log-in. A complete list of their classes will then appear. After answering the ques-

tions, they submit the forms and the process is then complete.

Some like freshman Candace Cunningham feel the new format is easy and necessary.

"It is necessary because it keeps professors in order for their responsibilities," she said.

However, others see it differently.

"We evaluate teachers, but what's the point because they [administration] do not get rid of the teachers with poor evaluations?" asked senior Derick Kimbrough.

If you have any questions, information is provided at the Information Desk located in the student center. •

Recommendations begin for faculty improvements

continued from front page

mation collected from the reports to implement change. This was no surprise said Quain. "Nothing surprised us," he said.

Regarding the faculty however, recommendations were plentiful: TSU was criticized for not having records of teacher's transcripts on file. The committee also thought there were too many part-time professors. They believed more effort needed to be put into hiring more full-time teachers. There also needs to be a pay-plan for each depart-

ment. Another suggestion made by the SACS committee regarding teachers was for them to receive a salary raise.

Overall, TSU officials are somewhat pleased with how the evaluations went. According to Quain, there were only about 25 recommendations made out of about a possible 500. The written report will be released in September. Quain said the entire document will be made available for TSU students and the public to review. It will also be placed on the Internet as soon as possible. •

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TSU Bookstore gets a facelift

By Kester Kilkenny
News Editor

"There's way more room now and it attracts you to come in," said freshman Jaimie Bibb, a social work major from Columbus, Ohio, regarding the new look of Tennessee State University's main bookstore. This feeling is echoed by most students. Bibb said sometimes she feels comfortable just going into the store to look around.

The reason for gracious sentiments like this is because TSU's bookstore recently underwent some sweeping renovations.

According to Stephen Treece, the bookstore's manager, planning for the renovations started a little over a year ago. He said the hardest part was trying to convince TSU officials that the renovations were worth being made.

"The issue wasn't money," he said. "TSU students didn't have to pay for anything." The company that operates the bookstore, Follett, paid for all the renovations.

The changes have provided much more open space. Treece said they reduced the length of the rows to provide room to walk around as well as room for more merchandise. "We didn't widen the store itself any," he said. "We just found ways to utilize space better." He said that they are trying to add new things.

For example, he has been recently talking to owners of Black haircare companies about getting their products in the bookstore.

Treece said the reaction from students has been nothing short of "overwhelming." Even though he said it is too early to tell if the changes will have an effect on sales, the number of people visiting has been "way up."

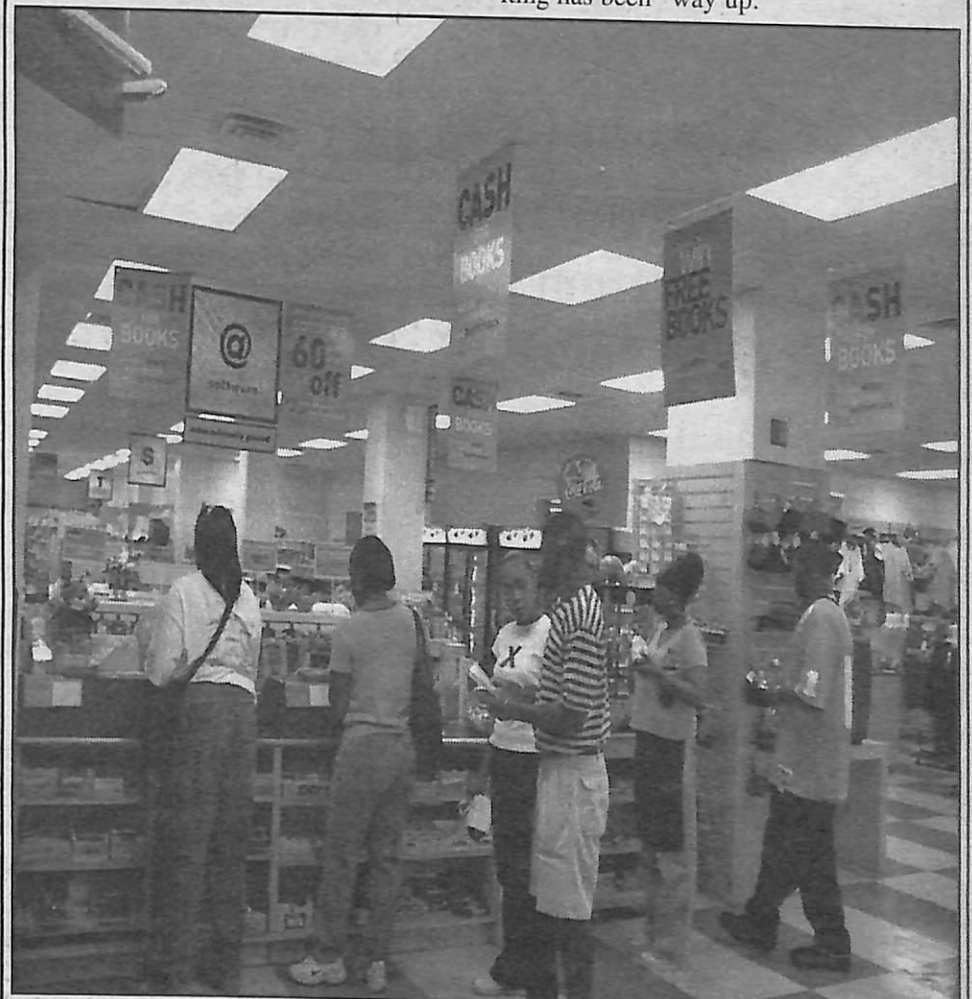


PHOTO BY JONATHAN GRAY

The TSU main campus bookstore received a facelift and additional room during Spring Break, courtesy of Follett, the bookstore's owner. According to the bookstore manager, this new space allows for more products to be sold, and the look invites more customers.

Community View

Crowds gather to protest and to support state-ordered execution

continued from front page

in our names," activist Greg Learning told those assembled. "The killing and the taking of lives is wrong. Little Cary Ann Medlin's death was wrong and the family is suffering... but killing a mentally-ill man won't bring peace or closure, it will only create more injustice for all of us."

As TCASK and their supporters practiced civil disobedience in front of the governor's mansion, a quiet memorial service was held at Centennial Park to honor 8-year-old Cary Ann Medlin, whom Coe confessed to raping and killing in 1979. Charlotte Stout, Medlin's mother, expressed ever-present anger over her daughter's fate and said Coe's death would bring closure to "a 21-year ordeal."

"She's in that grave because there is evil in this world," she told reporters. "If this is over for us, it will be one of the happiest days in 21 years."

Literally on the other side of the fence, about 30-40 protesters gathered, also with candles lit and quiet reverence, to support Coe's victim and her family.

"I support the death penalty because I support Mickey and Charlotte Stout," said Bill Strickland, a neighbor of the Stouts [Medlin's parents]. "We support the family... they've been through enough."

Others were more adamant about the return of the death penalty after its 40-year absence from Tennessee.

"Filth like this allowed to live, that's what's wrong with the United States of America today," said Robert Powell, a death penalty supporter. "He [Coe] isn't a man, he's a filthy, rotten maggot. I

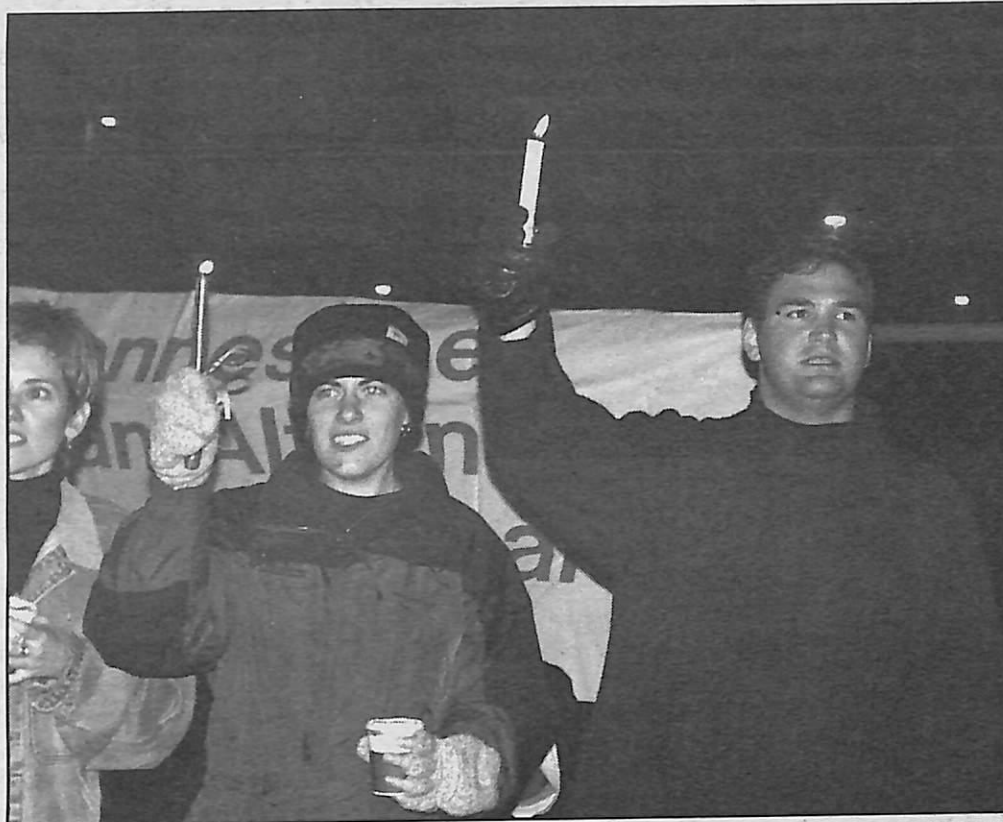


PHOTO BY JONATHAN GRAY

Protesters create a crowd outside Riverbend Maximum Security Prison to protest the execution of Robert Glen Coe on April 19. There was also a much smaller crowd of people "supporting the family," in favor of the death penalty.

have no mercy, and the state shouldn't have any mercy. He had no mercy for that baby."

Less than an hour before the scheduled execution at 1 a.m., Steve Hayes, the Public Information Officer for the Department of Corrections, announced to waiting media representatives that a "temporary restraining order" filed that afternoon had been lifted. Coe's lawyers, in a last-minute attempt to delay or stop the execution, had filed a request for a temporary stay to investigate

whether lethal injection violated the "cruel and unusual punishment" clause in the Constitution.

After the temporary stay was lifted, Hayes announced that the execution would go "as planned," complete with 22 witnesses from the media and the families, as well as prison personnel, attorneys and doctors.

For nearly an hour after that update from Hayes, the crowd of protesters and media had nothing to do but wait. Still freezing, the crowd gathered around a

portable television with their still-lighted candles, waiting for confirmation of Coe's death.

Meanwhile, Coe was being strapped to a gurney and wheeled into Riverbend's newly built execution room. Since no one had been legally executed in 40 years in Tennessee, which was by electrocution in the old Tennessee State Prison, this execution chamber had never been used — until now.

After uttering his last words to the watching witnesses, Coe was injected with three drugs. The first was sodium pentathol, which rendered him unconscious. The next was pancuronium bromide, which paralyzed him and stopped his breathing. The final injection of potassium chloride caused his heart to burst and shut down all electric activity in the brain.

He was pronounced dead at 1:37 a.m. by the prison doctor, and his body was turned over to his family after an autopsy.

When witnesses and corrections department personnel emerged after Coe was pronounced dead, the two crowds outside had two drastically different reactions. The supporters of the death penalty cheered and exclaimed relief; while the opposition showed signs only of defeat and sadness.

"Oh, my God!" Newman cried, still clutching her rosary. "I can't believe it."

The family of Cary Ann Medlin expressed relief that "the ordeal" was over, and other witnesses, including Coe's lawyers and spiritual adviser, spoke out against the death penalty's return to Tennessee. •

Vermont first to approve legal same-sex "civil unions"

The possibility of "domestic partnership" already prohibited in many states

By Amani Murph
Community View Writer

The state of Vermont became the first in the nation to legally allow "civil unions" for same-sex couples. Although they are not the same as marriages, these unions would allow virtually all of the same rights and privileges, like joint property rights, shared healthcare benefits and inheritance rights.

A court ruling of a lawsuit filed by Stan Baker and Peter Herrigan two years

ago was the impetus for the bill. The victory of Baker and Herrigan's suit sparked passionate arguments, and the bill met stiff opposition throughout its development.

Since the 1970s, gay and lesbian couples have been pushing for legislation that would allow them to unite in a civil ceremony.

More than 30 states have banned same sex unions and refuse to recognize those made in other states, including Tennessee in 1996.

On its second attempt



in 1998, Kentucky passed a bill that bans same-sex marriages and does not recognize these marriages from other states.

Neither of these states have municipalities that offer gay and lesbian couples the benefits of domestic partnership.

Gov. Howard Dean signed the bill privately, although a bill-signing of this magnitude is usually a highly celebrated event signifying the defeat of "one side by another," he said.

Instead of a triumphant party, he said the signing was "a time for the state to begin healing."

At left: Bobbi Whittacre, left, is hugged by her partner Sandi Cote after the bill passage was announced. The pair already have plans for a ceremony for a legal union.

AP PHOTO COURTESY OF YAHOO.COM

The Meter

Forum

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What We Think

Graduation is upon us again and the class of 2000 will be greatly represented on May 6, 2000. Among the great number of graduates, there will be three of The Meter's own that will be departing onto bigger and better things.

The Meter editorial board would like to take time to recognize our graduates and to remember all their efforts and dedication toward The Meter and let them know it was greatly appreciated.

Nicole Edwards is graduating with a degree in Speech, Communication and Theater with an emphasis in print journalism. She has served as a news writer for The Meter for two years. One of the nicest and reserved staff writers, Nicole always has a pleasant disposition. She was always willing to write any article no matter what the subject matter may be. We will definitely miss her warm and inviting smile!

Tracey Vance is graduating with a degree in Speech Communication and Theater, with an emphasis in Mass Communications. She has served on The Meter staff for two years as a news writer and has gained a lot of writing experience. Tracey joined the staff with little experience in writing, like most people on the staff initially, but became one of the best staff writers. Tracey's personality was to always lend an ear to anyone and give words of encouragement at all times.

Mitchell Vantrease will be receiving his degree in Speech, Communication and Theater with an emphasis in Mass Communication. Mitchell began his journalism career at TSU as a news writer in 1997, where he served as news editor from 1998-2000. He was also a Chips Quinn scholar in 1999.

Mitchell, the king of the office, always liked to get the job done and perfected everything with which his name was affiliated. Mitchell remained very dedicated to The Meter, as he would stay up in the office numerous nights and weekends to the early hours of the morning, to help make the paper what it is today. Mitchell was the epitome of dedication when it came to the paper. All of our graduates this year have been the glue helping our staff stay focused on the job at hand, and we will miss them tremendously.

Good luck, and you are in our prayers! •

From where I sit: May God Bless You



Mia D.
McNeil

Editor in
Chief

The first thing that my mom asked me when I was on my way to TSU this year was "Are you ready for this (editor in chief) position?" Of course I said that I was, but in my heart, I wondered if I had the knowledge and ability to lead and inspire a group of people to love the newspaper like I did.

I found out quickly that the know it all knows nothing, but the person that thrives to gain knowledge can learn everything. So, while I was the leader this year, I took the time to learn from all of my experiences this year also. To be very honest, some of the experiences that I have had this year caused me to grow more as a person.

I learned that patience is a virtue, but not one of which I have an abundance. I learned that when one humbles themselves, they are more open to new experiences. My best learning experience this year was how to ask for help without being ashamed. Hence the following thank you's and God Bless you's.

To my editorial board - You guys have been my family all year long. I have never laughed so much and vented so much with one group of people for at least three hours everyday in my life. What an experience to have as a junior in college. It makes life a little bit easier. It surely made leading this paper a lot easier.

Regan and Sonja, my copy editors - Considering that I was once a copy editor on this newspaper and the one the let the infamous last "e" in Tennessee fall off, I realized that was not an area of expertise for me. However, it is an area of expertise for the two of you. Never let anyone

question your ability to edit and edit effectively. I think that you guys have done a great job this year. I look forward to working with you guys next year. By the way we're getting more red pens - smile!

Dorian, my advertising ace - You have shown me what team spirit is this year. Regardless of some of the things going on, you always kept the cool head about things. I have really admired you from afar this year, and I know that you will do an excellent job in the position next year. Keep up the good work!

Jonathan, Mr. Cartoon Network - As I have previously told you, I am in awe of you sometimes. Not just by the way that you act, although that can leave a person in awe by itself, but I am in awe of the way you are. You never complain about doing things for the good of the newspaper and yes, I do have to nag you sometimes, but I do it because I love you and I see you as my little brother. Good luck on your internship at Cartoon Network this summer. Make me, but most of all yourself, proud.

Metra and Sparkle, the entertainers - I'm really impressed with you guys. This year, I believe that the section has been really good. Only you two would come up with some of the stuff I read in the section this year. I thank God for you guys because you had some big shoes to fill, but you guys got some of your own. Good job. Keep up the free stuff ... I mean, good work.

Hillary, Ms. All-purpose - You ma'am, amaze me. You have come through on a lot of things this year when you could have said no and allowed things to be the way they were. I think that this year you and I have grown up a lot together and we still have some room for growth, but we'll tackle that next year. You're like the sister I never had. Love you, man, good luck this summer.

Kester, the voice of reason - When I hired you, I never thought that you would stay on staff because you were far too quiet. First time I can say that I was wrong. As news

editor next year you'll have a little experience under your belt, but nothing can prepare you for handling the task alone - trust me. I know you'll do well because you have great character and had a good teacher. Get prepared to assign some stories for the summer!

Mitchell, my best friend - Letting you go is one of the hardest things I have had to do thus far. No more slushies, no more Chili's and no more truth or dare because you're gone. You have encouraged me throughout this year and I want you to know that all the wisdom you have given me is priceless. You are a talented journalist and I don't see any reason why you should take anything less than what you are worth. I love you to death and I'll miss you even more.

Ms. London - God couldn't have sent a better angel into my life. I know that sometimes people don't truly understand your value and often take your love and attention for granted, but I want you to know that I love you for not only who you are, but for the people you make better than what they were before they met you.

Ms. Clark - All I can say is thank you. You made me see some things in myself that I didn't see before. You taught me patience, resilience and helped me to strengthen my faith in God and understand the power of prayer. Had you not been our adviser, I don't think that I would have gained those precious things and for that I am eternally grateful.

Thanks to all the staff and congratulations to Nicole Edwards and Tracey Vance, our graduating seniors. As Barry Hobbs says "You guys have done it again." Here's to another successful year.

A final thank you to the student body who has been supportive of the newspaper all year long. We continue putting out this publication because you deserve to know about the university. God Bless You. •

From Where I Stand: My Final Say!



**Mitchell
Vantrease**
*News Editor,
1998-2000*

It's finally here!

After four years, I am about to receive my degree. At this point, I am excited and happy to be getting away from the stress and horrors of Tennessee State University. I love this school, but it's time to move on to bigger and better things.

Although there is excitement building up to the big day, I will be sad. The sadness comes from leaving something that has been a part of me for the last three years, *The Aletter*. I never would have thought when Ambre Brown (former editor) stopped and asked me to walk with her to class that I would benefit from so many things.

I have transitioned from news writer to news editor to part-time employee/ intern of *The Tennessean* newspaper. And it came from being on *The Aletter*.

Writing for this newspaper has been extraordinary and amazing. Many times covering stories have been thought provoking and scary! I've had the men at TSU mad at me, not to mention the Student Government Association breathing down my back, and students wondering why I had to expose the Black student who was interested in Sigma Pi.

Would I trade all of this experience for the entire world?

Never!

The stories aren't the only thing I'm going to miss, but the people also. This newspaper has been more than just a place to work, but it has been a family. The people on *The Aletter* have been more than just co-workers but friends. Through it all, they have been there for me whenever I needed them.

Within the past three years, I have had to experience more than the average person would had have to experience in at least 10 years. By this, I mean, I had to deal with the loss of my beloved father, grandfather, grandmother and finally the loss of my good friend. These were trying times for me,

but through prayers, tears and friends I made it through. I have matured tremendously by these experiences. These individuals are not here in life but they will always remain in my heart.

Who was there for me through the pain?

My *Aletter* family, of course! There were others that were there for me, but

Remember you control your own destiny and no one else!

Jonathan, Since you have been on staff, I've seen you go from being zany to using four-letter words. What's the problem? You have definitely changed, but Jonathan, you have a gift for drawing. And I'm sure my kids will be watching your cartoons one day.

Regan, You are definitely a sweet

Kester, You have the task of taking over my shoes. Do not copy anything that I had to do, but be yourself. Remember that because an event happens, it does not make it news. I'm sure with Marc Peek as your next SGA president, you will have plenty of news to write. God Bless You and take care of my section.

Perianne London (Mom), What can't I say about you? The day I told you my father was going die; me, you, Ambre and Tim prayed for my father who had little chance of living. From that day on, your door has always been opened to me. You have always been honest and have never been ashamed to call me "Son" or say "I love you." I love you. You haven't heard the last from me.

And finally **Mia McNeil**, you have been my sister and my best friend. Without you, I don't know what I'm going to do. Whether it was just going to Sonic for a slush or talking on the phone early in the mornings, you were right there when I needed you. I hope that you do well at *The Baltimore Sun* this summer. I could say more, but I only want to leave you with five words. I love you a lot! In a few days when I walk across the stage, remember me and the times that we spent in the office late at night trying to produce this paper. God bless you, and I hope you have a successful next year.

To the rest of staff and future members, work hard. Don't be on the staff because you are trying to become a part of a fraternity or sorority, do it because you want to write and better the university.

Well, I have had my say! As the Mickey Mouse Club song says: Now it time's to say goodbye to all our company ...

Goodbye TSU and my *Aletter* family!•

**Would I trade all of this experience
for the entire world?**

Never!

**Mitchell Vantrease,
News Editor 1998-2000**

the staff has been there many times when I wanted to give up. Now, I would like to take the time say something to each of them.

First of all, I would like to say thank you to past *Aletter* staff editorial board. Ambre, Demeika, Ashley, Joy and Keith! (my big brother) — Thank you for everything and helping to believe in myself. I owe you guys a lot and now I'm about to become one of you, an alumnus!

Now to the remaining editorial board members:

Dorian, Good luck next year with your advertisements. As Sonja would say, get some full page ads! Seriously, I've seen you grow and mature since three years ago—I'm proud of you.

Metra, You were my study buddy for many of our classes and you definitely have a gift for writing.

young lady! And I'm glad I had the pleasure of meeting you. You are a great copy editor! Take of care of Sparkle.

Sonja, You have kept me in line for the past two years. I thought Demeika Thompson graduated... I guess I was wrong. I've gone through so much drama this year, but you were right there to lend an ear, as well as your cute roommate.

Sparkle, You have been a younger sister to me! We have gone through some rough spots this year. But we made it through the storm! I love you a lot. Please don't forget me, or I will cry!!!

Hillary, I love to argue with you a lot at 5 p.m. editorial board meetings, and I will miss that along with your sarcasm! Truly, I wish you all of the best of luck.

Congratulations Mitchell!!

Community View

TSU and Nashville Hooked on "Off the Hook" talent project "Star Search" followers in search of local talent for summer television show

By Hillary S. Condon
Community View Editor

International forces from as close as Chicago and as far away as Berlin joined to create "Off The Hook," what they describe as "Star Search meets Amateur Night at the Apollo."

New York producer Michael Pendleton, the senior executive producer of the show, got the idea from working with emerging artists who were on the verge, but needed a push. He decided to start a show to help polished and talented

Gospel artist Everett Silver

PHOTO COURTESY OF EVERETT SILVER



acts catch the attention of record companies and talent scouts.

The headliner artists covered everything from R&B and gospel to soul, pop and folk/alternative, and that variety is what Pendleton says will make the show a success.

"It's important for Nashville to know that this show is about inclusiveness and welcoming all forms of music," he said. "If we are indeed 'Music City,' there should be something for everybody."

The choice for the venue and setting of the show taping was also part of the image that Pendleton wants to create. The show, which will air on Thursday at 12:30 p.m. in June on Nashville's FOX 17, as well as in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, Atlanta and Memphis, was filmed at the Onyx Room in downtown Nashville.

Pendleton said he chose the venue because it provided an "up-close and personal" setting in the heart of the community that had class and appropriate facilities, but was still small enough to make the artists comfortable. This, he said, will make the radio and entertainment industries sit up and take notice.

"Right now, radio is so structured, there is no room for developing the talents of new artists," he said. "These



PHOTO BY JOHN J. CARROLL

Detroit-based R&B quartet Sadae performs at "Off the Hook" April 20.

shows will allow the record companies to see clean and polished acts."

The clean and polished acts in the first show included Sadae, a Detroit-based male quartet that performs mostly hip-hop, R&B and gospel, but believes they can attract and impress any audience.

"We can sell to any crowd," said Snap, one of the members of Sadae. "We

are diverse and can sell to a diverse audience."

Other acts included Washington, D.C.-based gospel artist Everett Silver, who won on *Star Search* in 1985 and plans to start outreach ministries for young people. He describes his sound as "Stevie Wonder turned gospel."

Perhaps one of the most impressive see 'Off the Hook' on page 7

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Hate Crimes

A 34-year-old lawyer allegedly went on a shooting spree in Pittsburgh, Penn. last week, and the local police and FBI are treating the slayings like hate crimes.

Richard Baumhammers is in custody for the shootings of two employees at a Chinese restaurant, a person of Indian descent at an Indian grocery store, a Black karate student at a karate school and a Jewish woman, whom he followed home from synagogue.

Police say Baumhammers also shot at and defaced two synagogues, but no one was injured.

World View

Elian

The federal government has been accused of abuse and excessive force from when 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez was taken from the home of his Miami relatives early in the morning the day before Easter. Photos taken by a freelance photographer in the room when Elian was seized show a federal agent in riot gear, pointing an automatic rifle in the startled face of the boy. Riots in the street and resignations in the capitol in Miami ensued.

Attorney General Janet Reno and President Bill Clinton still defend the action, saying that it was the only course of action left to take after Elian's Miami relatives refused to cooperate. After taking the boy from the home of his relatives in an early-morning raid, government officials brought the young castaway to Andrews Airforce Base in Maryland. He was then reunited with his father, stepmother and half-brother.



AP PHOTO

Elian Gonzalez with his father

Additional speculation had surfaced after Juan Miguel Gonzalez's attorney released photos late Saturday of a happy, smiling Elian, gazing lovingly at his father. These were taken only hours after Elian was removed from the home of his Miami relatives.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TENNESSEAN

Local

Wreaths and flowers adorn the doors and the sidewalk in front of Boutique World, the site of a brutal, but accidental, police shooting. The store's owner, 49-year-old Korean immigrant Chong Hwan An, was shot and killed by police after his store was robbed and he chased the assailants with a gun.

The police said that they asked him to put the gun down and were unaware of the robbery. He continued to fire his gun at the young man and woman who had just robbed him at gunpoint. An was shot in the head.

Metro police chief Emmett Turner said that the officers did not intend to strike An's head, and that there will be an investigation. The alleged robbers are in custody.

Off the Hook producers search for local talent -- could you be next?

continued from previous page

and crowd-pleasing acts was J.J. Usher, a Nashville-based singer-songwriter who can only describe his music as "varied,"

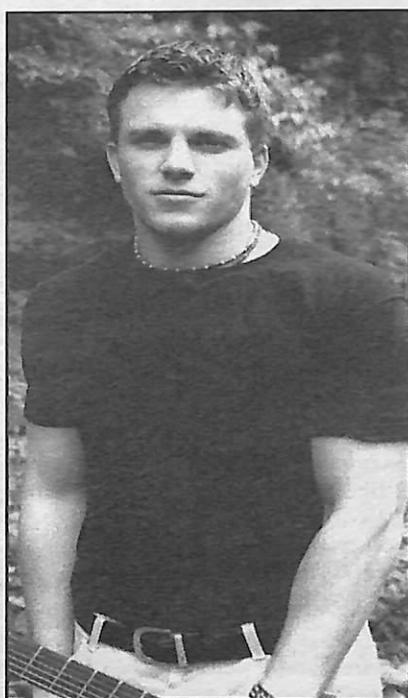


PHOTO COURTESY OF J.J. USHER

Belmont University student and singer/songwriter J.J. Usher was one of the biggest surprises of the evening.

acoustic, folk, funk, rap and alternative. A college student at Belmont University originally from Houston, Texas, Usher plays guitar, and unlike the other performers, did not have any additional taped music.

Another group that received rave reviews from the Onyx Room audience was a group of Tennessee State University students calling themselves Descendants of Reality. The soulful sounds of Sharisse Jackson and Kim Vaughn, over smooth keyboards, drums and a saxophone, echoed through the club.

The featured bands were not the only TSU students given a break through "Off the Hook." Geno Ford and Terry Edwards, two students eager to break into entertainment production, served as associate producers for the show and were pleased with the learning experience they gained.

"I think that it went kind of rough, and we could have done better," said Edwards. "This was a learning experience for all of us."

Edwards was pleased with the participation of the other TSU students, particularly the performance of Descendants of Reality.

"You'll be picking up their albums in stores soon," said Edwards. "They'll

be a household name."

The management and production were pleased with the outcome of the project as well.

Marquette Patterson, a computer engineering major at TSU who plans to be a director after graduation, served as the executive in charge of production and the director.

"I was thoroughly impressed with all of the talent," he said. "Overall, the

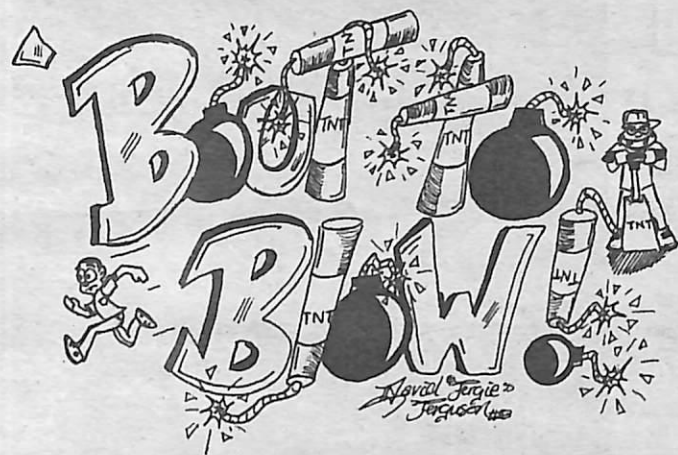
show was a success, and Nashville is definitely on its way to a great start in the television and film industry."

The first four tapings of the 30-minute show were filmed on April 20, with pre-selected artists from all over the world. There will be more tapings and auditions for shows in the future. Artists interested in showcasing their skills in future tapings can contact Pendleton at (615) 354-5469.

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Arts & Entertainment



Parasyte

By Metra Baugh

Arts and Entertainment Editor

If you're tired of artists who do only enough to pay the bills and only enough to bounce your head from side to side, you've come to the right place to learn about the future fathers of life-rap.

Before you get to know Parasyte, you must know the meaning of Parasyte.

According to Tennessee State University student Geno "Breath" Ford (rapper), Parasyte can be defined in two different ways: (1) "A parasite is hungry, it doesn't want to stop. All we ask for is to be fed inspiration." And (2) "You can look at parasyte as rootwords. Para means either beyond or beside.

If you take sight to mean vision, we look beyond the normal."

The sky isn't the limit with Parasyte because these young men - Quentin "Kaneda" Barber, Jarred "Moth" Patterson and Breath (all rappers) - go above and beyond when it comes to creating and delivering products like their debut album *DeepRest*.

"They actually care about what they say and care to write tight lyrics," Darye "Papi" Henry, CEO of Obsidian Music Group, said. "For them hip-hop is all about the love, instead of what others care about, which is obviously money."

OMG has Black Diamond, 3rd Eye Nation and Parasyte under its wings. According to www.obsidian-music.com, the OMG Music Production team consists of two producers, Papi and Baroni. They have also produced Jazz, Soul, Alternative and other genres of music, according to the website.

Each member of Parasyte is different, but when they come together to take care of business they feel that they are more than just a group; they are close friends. In the studio they have a "nice atmosphere," Kaneda said. "There's kind of a warm environment."

While some people aim to please others, Parasyte aims to do the same, but even more.

"One of the things that a lot of artists today, particularly rap artists, is lacking is good music backed with good lyrics," Baroni Parson, R&B producer/ songwriter for Obsidian Music Group, said. "Parasyte definitely holds down the lyrics, but it's the music

that sets them apart from everyone else."

The abuse of profanity is a big problem that all artists face everyday. To cuss or not to cuss that is the question. Will Smith, The D.O.C. and A Tribe Called Quest, just to name a few, are artists who can control their tongue when it comes to their everyday style. Whether it is appropriate or not is the main issue.

"It really doesn't get you anywhere," Ollie "Phantom" Ward, President of OMG, said.

"[Profane] language is a fad and Parasyte doesn't follow that fad."

The group has been together for three years and since the beginning of that time they have been able to perform at the RCA Dome during the 1999 Black Expo and at a few clubs in Indianapolis, the central meeting place for the group.

Their mission is quite simple and crystal clear. "Our image is refined and our mission is defined," Breath said.

"I believe Parasyte's mission is to change the face of hip hop, or even create a new type of music," Papi said. "It is time for something new because the music industry has ruined the face of hip-hop."

A majority of artists in the music industry have their jobs for all of the wrong reasons - to obtain more money than they need, to over-



PHOTO COURTESY OF PARASYTE

Parasyte

dose on material wants, or even to gain popularity. Parasyte makes up for the half job that other artists tend to do and have done throughout the years.

The difference between Parasyte and those other artists is that "they have morals," Papi said. "That is what basically sets them apart."

Sure Parasyte is a hardworking group who is worth all of your time and support, but they (Parasyte and OMG) could never do it alone.

"The Bible is our standard," Phantom said.

Which way could a group of close friends go? Up. That is what Parasyte is shooting for - nothing but the best.

Kaneda said that he once heard a quote that said, "Great pain equals great art." This work of art is complete.

Contact information: Call Obsidian Music Group CEO at (317) 341-0879, (317) 445-9224, or reach their website at www.obsidian-music.com.

Descendants of Reality

By Geno Ford

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Two Tennessee State University juniors, mass communication major Sharisse "Lyrical Soul" Jackson and business administration/ music major, Kim "Brownie" Vaughn - make up the soulful new duo, Descendants of Reality.

Their music combines Anita Baker's aura, Marvin Gaye's mentality, Chaka Khan's capability, Curtis Mayfield's consciousness, Stevie Wonder's sensuality, the Isley Brothers' intimacy and Mahalia Jackson's ministry. This creative combination has bred the universal sound that these two poets/singers/producers provide.

In their music, these lovely young ladies fearlessly express the sound of their souls and the rhythms of their reality. Their voices effortlessly complement each other as they slide like grease through the syrupy grooves of their all-male live performance band, Precisely Stated - also comprised of TSU students. Brownie's voice is the subtle storm in comparison to the vibrant sunshine of Lyrical Soul's vocals.

Jackson comes from a strong church upbringing and singing background in Miami, Fla. She got her start when she was young by winning various talent shows in Miami. Jackson was inspired to write about her own thoughts by her high school English teacher, Ms. Williams, who asked her to write a poem about racism. Jackson then created a powerful piece that stirred the emotions of her classmates and Williams herself. Since then, Jackson has not hesitated to express through music and poetry what others cannot.

Her partner, Vaughn is from a Haitian family that resides in Kokomo, Ind. She was also raised in the church. It was there where she played piano for the children's choir. Vaughn wrote her very first song, "My God," while still in high school. "My God" was originally discouraged by her family because it was not the typical gospel song due to its unconventional twist, which made it more poetic than praising. In time, her family grew to accept and appreciate her new approach to making music that was both human and humble.

The duo met at the beginning of

their freshman year at TSU. The two have since become close friends and roommates so they can constantly work on new material.

Their art is inspired by a combination of love, nature, experience, struggle, daily observations and the dynamics of life. With their music, these ladies seek to derail and restructure the predictable musical cycles



PHOTO BY JOHN J. CARROLL

Descendants of Reality perform at Off the Hook, which will be aired on FOX 17 on Thursdays in June.

and trends of today. "We seek to outlast the traditional longevity of female duos," said Jackson.

"Life is not all about love," said Vaughn. "We don't want to limit our music. We don't just sing passionate ballads." Jackson explained, "Our name is self-explanatory. We are all descendants and we sing about reality."

Students may remember Descendants of Reality from their performance at the 2000 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Jazz Set or from their routine practices in the lobby of the Student Center every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m. to noon.

"Our style is versatile, moody and realistic," the duo told *The Alerter* after their April 20 performance at the live television taping of FOX 17's "Off the Hook" talent showcase.

Michael Pendleton, executive producer of "Off the Hook," first heard Descendants of Reality at the AKA Jazz Set and was impressed enough to add the ladies to his show. Pendleton said, "The ladies have a very polished and professional sound. I like what I hear and a lot of people will also."

The duo is equipped for success with their magical chemistry, superior music, original approach and unyielding faith in God. "It is our desire to be entirely unexpected," assures Vaughn regarding their future material.

The ladies promise more live performances in the future, as well as some surprises. •

Arts & Entertainment

A&E News Brief

Conference, record labels, artists make an "Impact" on Nashville

New York, NY — The Impact Super Summit, legendary music conference now in its 14th year, took place on April 26-30 at the historic Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn.

Radio programmers throughout the USA attended this year's Impact Super Summit to support the conference theme most suitable for the new millennium: "The Business of Urban Entertainment."

In addition there were lead executives in the music industry; representing the interests of radio, television, retail, recorded music, distribution and new media.

James Spencer, entertainment director of Impact Super Summit XIV said, "We are extremely grateful for the industry's support in making the Super Summit



PHOTO BY MICHAEL BENABIB

One of the featured groups at Impact, The Take Over. one of the most innovative conferences this year. Thanks to conference Chair, Kevin Liles, L.L. Cool J. will launch his new album from the conference, culminating with a live performance of his new material."

The Impact Super Summit is a spin-off of the industry magazine, Impact, which was founded almost 20 years ago. Impact caters to radio, retail, recording and distribution, serving as an information source for radio airplay and record rotation. In 1986, The Impact Super Summit was established with the intent to provide a serious business and networking environment for the top radio executives, retailers and distributors of all leading recording companies.

This information came directly from the IMPACT press kit.

The Winans and Gatlin steal the show

Last month, Nashvillians were able to review the events within the Civil War at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center. The Civil War, which freed millions of slaves, was more than a battle - it was a test for all of the participants, observers and their families.

The Broadway musical, "The Civil War" took both the lives of the slaves and the soldiers and depicted them.

Soul gospel singer BeBe Winans portrayed the life of a slave who, along with the other slaves, fought for their freedom. Despite the stiff dancing in the show, BeBe's singing and acting was quite pleasing. He has also starred in the Broadway play "Don't Get God Started" and also the play "Your Arms Too Short To Box With God."



PHOTO COURTESY OF TPAC

BeBe Winans in "The Civil War."

Debra Winans (who played the part of a slave) made a surprisingly excellent performance both kinesthetically and vocally. Her vocals were so strong and smooth one would have thought that she was CeCe Winans.

Larry Gatlin, who played "The Confederate Captain," is a famous singer and actor with notable roles in musicals including "The Will Rogers Follies," "Alive and Well in Bristol" and "Pa," just to name a few.

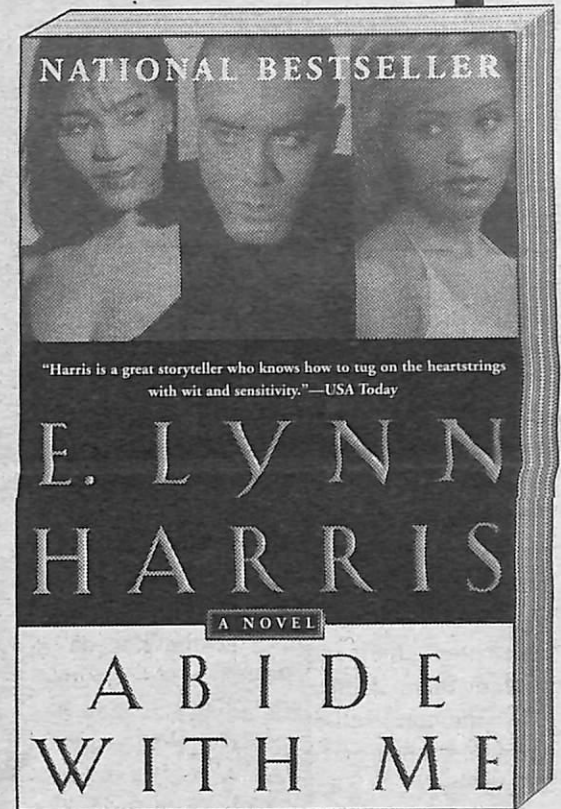
"The Civil War" was written by Frank Wildhorn, Jack Murphy, and is under the creative helm of director Stephen Rayne.

"The Civil War" was written by Frank Wildhorn, Jack Murphy, and is under the creative helm of director Stephen Rayne.

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Arts & Entertainment



Dead Prez

Let's Get Free 4

Sometimes it's good to let history repeat itself. You might want to learn how to make grandma's famous pecan pie. But on the other hand, repetition could be deadly. Dead Prez have come to give us a history lesson.

DP began to bring this awareness to light in 1997 on LOUD '97 Set Up, a compilation CD. Dead Prez is made of two young men, M-1 (from NY) and stic.man (from Florida), and although these two masterminds came from two different regions, they have been on the same page for 10 years. The main themes within their debut CD include self-growth, honesty and discipline.

Rap has been criticized for years because of its negative messages about drugs, sex, crime, race, etc. But, take this

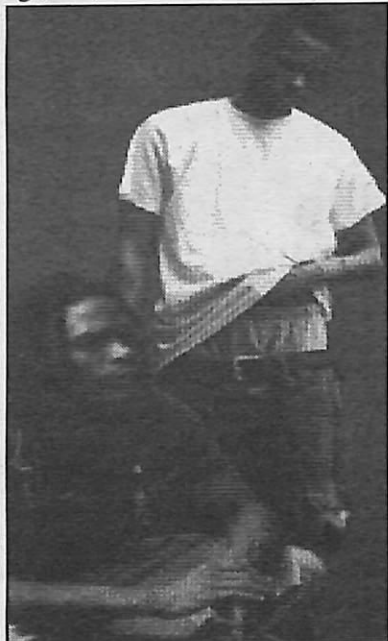


PHOTO COURTESY OF VIBE MAGAZINE

Dead Prez

idea, swallow it and digest it: If you don't talk about your problems, how will you solve them?

DP tries to offer a solu-

end, three years of hard work paid off.

Let's Get Free touches on every aspect of human life. We are reminded on "Be Healthy" to take care of ourselves because no one else will.

heading in the wrong direction. His life seemed to make a dramatic change when he met with Jay-Z and CEO of Roc-A-Fella Records Damon Dash in New York City. Finally, his dreams were fulfilled

with a record contract and a debut album called *The Truth*.

Beanie Sigel is an exceptional lyricist who constantly pushes rap to its boundaries, with his twisted vocabulary. Sigel explores a new form of hardcore rap on "What Your Life Like," where he cleverly distinguishes his regular life from his prison life. Other exceptional battle tracks include "Pac Man," where he epitomized the old school video game into a club rocking song.

"Remember Them Days" is a collaboration with fellow Philly native Eve which reflects on their days before stardom. His first single, "The Truth," is also a popular tune.

This album provides a variety of sober, serious and infectious lyrical content that explores a new side of rap music that no one has ever witnessed.

Beanie Sigel certainly has established himself as an entity to be reckoned with in the hip hop community for many years to come... and that's the truth.
Franklin Alexander

DISCUSS THIS!

Twista and Various Artists *Twista Presents Legit Ballin' 3*

By Geno Ford

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Twista, arguably the most influential lyricist in the hip-hop world today, has returned after numerous guest appearances with artists such as Ras Kass and Puff Daddy to release yet another adrenaline-pumping album. But this time, Twista does for the Legit Ballaz crew what Tupac and Biggie did for Tha Outlawz and Junior M.A.F.I.A.: he "puts them on."

The album's purpose is to assemble several unknown vocalists and producers from Chicago, supply one well-established platinum artist with street credibility and give the exposure to the amateurs.

The unknown artists make an effective impression with their passionate deliveries, which allow you to hear the hunger through the music. The artists featured on the album include: Ms. Kane (Remember her arousing duet with Twista on his 1997 classic single "Get It Wet?"), Tod Nitty, Turtle Banxx, Bennie Frank\$, Darkside Ballaz, High Beam and producers Toxic and Cayex Illah.

Twista does his job as he consistently unloads his arsenal of clear deliveries and combustive lyrics in each of his six verses on the album.

The album kicks off with Twista's solo track, "Victory or Death." Twista begins with a few instigating words aimed towards his imitators as he says, "F*** all ya'll styles!" He then proceeds to unleash the beast over Toxic's banshee-like violins and hypnotic keyboards with such rapid-fire lines as: "When we get full of

tion through their song, "Hip Hop." They tell us, "The real world is bigger than all these big a\$\$ records where po folks got the millions and my woman's disrespected...but then if you a liar, liar pants on fire, wolf crier... I'm gon' know it when I play it/ It's bigger than hip-hop, hip-hop, hip-hop, hip."

Sex is on the minds of many Americans, but on different levels. On "Mind Sex," DP informs us about taking your time before getting intimate. They make this subject a beautiful work of art. The poem at the end of this track makes us see the beauty and the true meaning of intimacy.

Life for DP has not always been easy, like any human being they have come across some road blocks. In 1994, their house caught on fire and they had no where to go. That problem also delayed their record deal for a little while. In the

that indo/hydroponics and chronic, lock up your doors and the window/ better go and call up your kinfolks/ 'cuz the riders that's down with this mob will murder when the wind blows/ Don't know what you're in for/ We bring terror in this Apocalyptic era of Armageddon we headin' in/ and the only way we can survive is if we come hard and strive to be gods instead of men." (Keep in mind this is said with speed.)

Twista engraves his presence on the album with such songs as "Legit Ballaz" and "Get Ya," but soon lets the new artists grab the reins. Ms. Kane showcases her style of venomous sensuality on the songs "Rider B****" and "Game Recognize Game," featuring Twista and Felony of Chicago-based R&B group Public Announcement.

Tod Nitty supplies one of the most memorable performances with his song that will forever change the way we count to 12, the menacing and melodic "Artillery."

The Darkside Ballaz contribute a blend of spirituality, dark chords and war chants on "Piece of Mind." And the album is further amplified with the gravel tones of Turtle Banxx, Bennie Frank\$ and High Beam on such racks as "Don't Blink" and the new club anthem "Break 'Em Up," where they chant the hook, "I can't breathe! Somebody get 'em off meeeee!"

These artists display talent and seem to have learned well from their "Uncle Twista." The only faults of this album exist in the numerous interludes that destroy the tone of the music. But such a setback can be corrected with *Twista Presents Legit Ballin' Volume 2* coming this summer.

Twista

Unlike some lyricists, M-1 and stic.man define true storytelling.

So, what's your plan in life? What will you do? Dead Prez already have that in mind. **Metra Baugh**

Beanie Sigel *The Truth* 4

Graphic and ghetto as a graffiti mural, is the description of South Philly, home town to hip hop's newest sensation Dwight "Beanie Sigel" Grant of Roc-A-Fella Records. He erupted into the music industry back in 1998 on Jay-z's *Vol. 2... Hard Knock* album *Reservoir Dogs*.

Known as the average little bad kid, Beanie Sigel has undoubtedly lived a roller coaster life. From getting expelled at school twice and playing hooky from school, to serving time at Pennsylvania's Slayton Farms Juvenile Facility for armed robbery, his life seemed to be



PHOTO COURTESY OF TWISTA.TSR.ORG

News

D'Angelo spreads his "Voodoo" in Nashville

By Regan Toomer
Copy Editor

Fans were dressed to impress, with men in multi-colored derby hats and women in sequined dresses that set the scene Tuesday evening, April 18, looked a little bit like a line to get into a ritzy club. The lobby auditorium of Andrew Jackson Hall at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center was packed to capacity with anxious fans ready to enjoy the D'Angelo "Voodoo Tour" concert.

Tons of Nashville residents and visitors came out to see D'Angelo.

"It was something to do... I enjoy D'Angelo's music," said Stacey Pace, a Dallas, Texas native who resides in Nashville. Although it didn't seem like the typical crazed pre-concert scene, there were many expectations from numerous fans. Tennessee State University students were scrambled amongst the many fans.

TSU seniors Tanesha Hooper and Femetres Gray, commented on why they came out see D'Angelo.

"I came to see D'Angelo strip, and the tickets are free," said Hooper.

Gray said that the main reason he came to see D'Angelo perform was that "he is sexy."

Smoke filled the auditorium and the house lights glared upon the audience and stage that evoked the feeling that you were entering an old blues or jook joint. Jazz music served as a calming anticipating fans ready to scream and ogle D'Angelo.

D'Angelo was the headliner for the "Voodoo" tour, however the opening act was rap group Dead Prez. Their performance was very unique as they opened with a militant style that featured a projector on stage that displayed images, of refugees in third-world countries, Black people jailed and prisoners shot at point-blank range. The group can also be described as a conscious rap group that focused on Black power, social reform and police brutality. They freestyled about the music genre, particularly rap, saying that they "need more than emcees, they need humans."

One of the songs performed was on education, where they spewed out lyrics like, "schools are teaching us bull*^%... teach yourself, know yourself." Another song they performed was eating healthy which they dedicated to late rapper Big Pun. Some of the lyrics they chanted in

that song were:

"True wealth comes good health and wise ways, be healthy...be yourself, free yourself."

Dead Prez basically brought a historic message and profound along with beats to vibe to. They educated the crowd with rhyme. Their current LP, *Let's Get Free*, is in stores now.

Afterward, D'Angelo and his

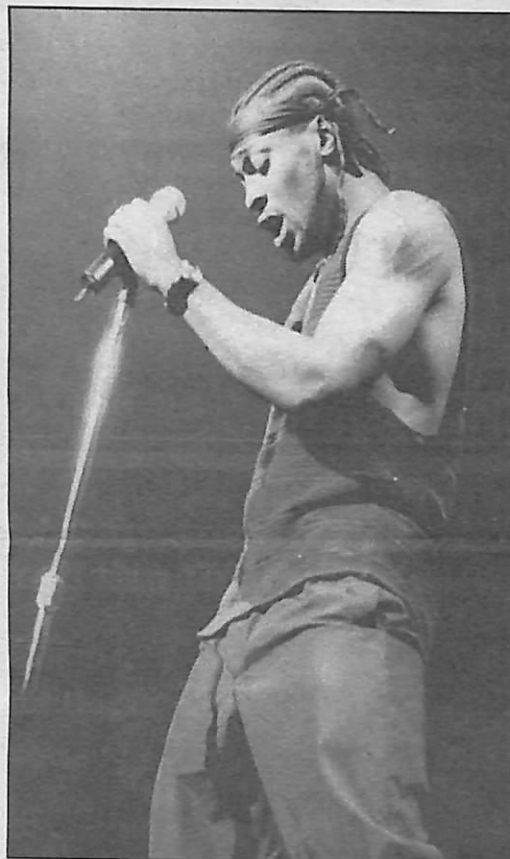


PHOTO BY JOHN J. CARROLL

So, ladies, how does it feel?

band, the Soultronics hit the stage and opening with a scene that looked like a voodoo ritual, hence the CD's name. His background singers came out in African attire with black grim reaper capes and smoke filled the stage along with heavy beating of what sounded like Congo drums. Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, drummer from the group The Roots introduced the opening song, "Devil's Pie" with his signature drumming.

Then the caramel-skinned D'Angelo appeared on the stage once the stage lights beamed on, with a sleek leather jacket, black bandanna, black-and-white striped tanktop and snug leather pants, accented by those lovely cornrows that the ladies love and men rock. During the song, D'Angelo jumped and danced imitating James Brown and hyped the crowd up; and also felt the vibe, as he stripped his leather jacket for adornment of his chiseled frame and scripted tattoos.

His next song he performed was the groovy "Send It On," which was the

TSU's newest has basketball in his blood

from front page

father that attitude is the most important thing in life.

"Working is an attitude," she told him.

Richardson's father then passed it on to him. This concept helped both father and son realize what work is all about.

His grandmother also had a saying, "Take a sledge hammer and knock it out!" This means that

if there is an obstacle in the way, make sure you get it. With these things, Richardson starts his coaching tenure at TSU.

With a new blazer and a TSU letterman hat, the eager Richardson looked like he was on the road to victory. He said he believes that winning is a contagious concept. Richardson also talked about the upcoming season as hard work. He also said he believes winning is the key that will take the Tigers to the next level.

Since he came from a school that has the style of play that the South Eastern Conference plays, run and gun, lots of press, you will probably get that

the style of play that will be seen on the courts next year.

"When I met Coach Richardson I saw a well-rounded coach that wants to meet a new challenge," said senior basketball player Jamie Roberts. "I am



PHOTO BY METRA BAUGH

TSU's new basketball coach fields the press.

very excited for the team and Coach Richardson. I got a sense that instead of the first five starters it will take all of us as a team to be a winning basketball team."

Senior Kevin Samuels added, "Last year the offense was slow and the defense was not intense, but this year looks like the intensity will be up on both sides of the ball."

Since the TSU Men's Basketball roster is not really changing, the relationship would have to be built on and off the court. •

ladies' favorite, as they danced to the beat on their feet, and snapped their fingers to the hook. D'Angelo continued to swoon the crowd with his song "Chicken Grease," which has a "down-south" beat, where he chanted "I'm like the Crisco on top of a stove, I simmer till I'm hot!" During this song, D'Angelo and the Soultronics had a wardrobe change, into a white ensemble, where the headliner was dressed down in a white tanktop and white leather pants.

During the middle of the show, fans shouted many things to D'Angelo on-stage. However, many comments of enjoyment were spoken too. One lady in the crowd shouted "I don't think anyone appreciates his [D'Angelo's] music, as much as he does."

Later, D'Angelo performed some of his old joints, including "Me and Those Dreamin Eyes of Mine," where he performed on the keyboard and still maintained to keep to keep the audience on their feet.

He got overjoyed with his song, "S%\$#, Damn, M*%&#@\$*%#\$\$", as he jumped into the audience, screaming

and running around and throwing studio equipment on-stage. The song was about the anger one feels once they find out their lover has been unfaithful.

"One Mo'gain" from the *Voodoo* CD brought back D'Angelo to his keyboards, along with the help of the booming bass guitar that brought a smooth vibe with: "I wonder all this time how've you been, and I hope by chance I'd see you once again."

D'Angelo even brought an old school vibe among the crowd with his rendition of Roberta Flack's "Feel Like Makin' Love," where he passed out red and white roses among the women in the crowd.

He performed "Brown Sugar" and "Lady" where he stripped his tank top off to tease the ladies.

D'Angelo ended his concert with the smash hit "Untitled: How does It feel," which was better live where you could see him in the flesh. He sang until everyone of his band members exited the stage, until he was left on the stage by himself to sing acapella and "play" on the keyboard. •

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