

THE METER

Serving the Tennessee State Un

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NASHVILLE, TENN.

WWW.TSUM

61, ISSUE 1

Madame President

Dr. Portia Shields explains how "a change is gonna come" to campus



Closed residence to reopen in fall

By TIFFANY WILLIAMS
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Edna Rose Hankal Hall is projected to reopen as a new general services building as early as fall 2011.

The hall was originally designed to house 400 or more female upperclassmen. It closed in late 2007 due to a low number of students residing in the building.

Plans for Hankal Hall included moving various departments including the TSU Police Department and athletics department into the space.

"The cost of running a hall unoccupied was very costly and left fewer dollars for repairs and improvements to any space," said vice president of student affairs, Dr. Michael Freeman.

There had been previous plans to reopen Hankal into its original purpose but will not happen due to finances.

A new plan, a new service building, is definite. Those suites plus more are scheduled to move during the summer 2011.



PHOTO BY TIFFANY WILLIAMS

Edna Rose Hankal Hall

TSU Police Chief Sylvia Russell stated that she hopes that the police department will be able to move as soon as possible.

"The benefit for the police department is to have more space for the responsibilities we have and to be closer to the residence halls," Russell said. "We really want to use fewer patrol units and more other types of transportation such as bicycles and all-terrain vehicles but not

lose response time and there would be much less difficulty with storage."

The birth of this plan came from staff of both departments. There was a necessity to reopen the residence hall after being closed for three and a half years for two reasons: space issues and safety.

The building originally opened in 1957 and was named after the late Edna Rose Hankal, who served as the second dean of women for 23 years.

The planning, design and construction committee hopes to prevent students from breaking into the abandoned building. Several students felt strongly about re-opening Hankal Hall.

"I think it's a great idea to move the TSU Police Dept. into Hankal Hall because it would provide quicker assistance," said Scarlett Singleton, a sophomore communications major from Nashville.

Daniel Patterson, a junior criminal justice major from Chicago, said, "I think they should go ahead and make Hankal

Hall the new TSU police station. It may decrease crime on campus.

"They should also consider using some of the extra space for President Portia Shield's new tutoring program."

Certain procedures are taken in order to create new spaces to maintain facilities on campus. Those include producing effective ideas, constructing a budget, bidding on a contract with constructing agencies and getting the required materials and workers.

The most important step is bidding for contracts to have the appropriate funds to proceed with construction. In order to prepare for re-opening there is work to be done on the building such as placing a new roof, fixing broken windows, fixing minor problems with the elevator and breaking down walls to create new ones.

The TSU Planning, Design and Construction hope to have all paperwork and financial conflicts to be handled so that work can begin and end in time for the fall semester of 2011. •

Honors program hosts West-themed conference

By BRANDON WRIGHT
STAFF REPORTER

TSU's University Honors Program hosted its fifth Annual Student Leadership Conference on the main and downtown campus Feb. 10-12.

The conference was comprised of several breakout sessions that focused on preparing for the business world, on acquiring dreams and on understanding the roles of African Americans in Corporate America.

"It facilitates growth, exposure, and networking. I've had the opportunity to attend and participate in the Leadership Conference for the past four years, and I always manage to take away something different," said Kikanwa Morgan, a senior biology major from Antioch, TN.

Throughout the conference, students had an opportunity to network with recent TSU graduates who have found success in their careers, Thurgood Marshall College Fund representatives, motivational speakers and students from other universities.

Speakers included Obie McKenzie, a 1967 graduate of TSU from Black Rock and other alumni, including Daniel Hibbert, a Goldman Sachs executive; Ayodeji Olojo, consultant with the Gallup Organization and former TSU Student Government Association President; and April M. Thomas, an accountant for Ernst & Young.

Dr. William Latham, associate director of the UHP, said this year's theme was influenced by Kanye West's *Power*, the lead single from the artist's recent album *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*.

Latham explained the reason for the theme was because he and other organizers felt that power is what this generation respects and is motivated by.

"I want them to think about power as a tool, as a mechanism for them to be world changers, and not from the stand point of just getting power individually, but for them collectively believing in power as a mechanism to be what they say they really want to be on behalf of something greater than themselves," Latham said.

"The fifth annual conference is shaping up to be the very best that we've had yet," said Sandra Holt, director of the University Honors Program. "It's historical because we're collaborating with the Emerging Leaders Workshop, which up to now has been held in Roanoke, Va.

"We're excited about the caliber of presenters, their level of expertise, and the students that are coming from TSU and other universities," Holt added.

Conference sessions were hosted on the main campus on Thursday and Saturday, and on the Avon Williams campus Friday.

There was also a fashion show hosted to combine entertainment value with the promotion of business attire, which organizers said is necessary for the corporate world.

"My expectations were to gain a lot of leadership skills, to learn how to work with other people in a group and to basically just build on my self character as well as networking and everything that I will need for my future," said Sherika Austin, junior

psychology major from Memphis, Tenn., who had never attended the conference.

The Student Leadership Conference was developed four years ago to provide TSU students with the opportunity to experience something unique throughout their matriculation at university.

Latham and Holt created the conference as a means to further nurture the skills that Honors students were learning in the four leadership courses of the UHP curriculum.

The duo also wanted to empower other student leaders across the campus and in the city. They hoped students would network, connect and establish relationships in a way never experienced before, with the speakers and presenters brought in to share their real-life experiences in corporate, non-profit, and educational opportunities.

Morgan added, "Everyone should have attended, because it was geared towards people from all majors and walks of life. It was, as the theme stated, very power filled." •

Shields reveals plans for change

STAFF REPORT

Interim TSU President Portia Shields is no stranger to serving as chief executive office of a university. In fact, Shields has earned a reputation for turning around troubling schools.

After a flood damaged nearly two-thirds of Albany (Ga.) State University's campus, she increased enrollment and spearheaded a \$153 million rebuilding campaign.

Years later, at Concordia College in Selma, Ala., she guided the struggling Christian school through probation woes stemming from two-dozen accreditation violations and transformed a multimillion-dollar deficit into a surplus in just under a year and a half.

Now, as the interim president for TSU, Dr. Portia H. Shields' first priorities are to putting the students first, to increase alumni giving and financial aid issues.

The Meter staff met with Shields to discuss just how she plans to accomplish all this in the 18 months she'll be on campus.

Meter: *The Tennessean* quoted you, stating, "There will be layoffs, reorganizations, and changes in the curriculum and in the way the university does business under the new administration." Will you elaborate how you this will happen?

Shields: Well we've already begun the process. Before I arrived, \$7 million had to be returned to the state — \$7 million that we didn't have. So, we asked the unit heads to get together and discuss how they could raise the money.

We took 52 percent of the travel budgets; after that, we had to rift some people. Fewer than 10 will be rifted, but people will have to go.

The unit heads recommended them because their jobs could be performed by somebody else or their job is no longer necessary.

As far as changing the curriculum is concerned, I don't think we need to. However, I do think we need to ensure that everyone who comes to study here has an opportunity to take an internship, shadow leadership and to travel.

Some students went to Egypt last year. It's a good thing they didn't go this year, isn't it? We have also taken students to China and all over the world.



Interim TSU President Portia Shields addresses faculty and staff members during the second day of the Winter Faculty Staff Institute on Jan. 7 at the Avon Williams campus. PHOTO BY JOHN CROSS/TSU MEDIA RELATIONS

These opportunities should be part of a curriculum of an institution this size and with its excellence. That's where we are going. We aren't going to change the teaching.

Meter: *With all the chaos concerning the university's accreditation and how it affects students, alumni, prospective students and the community, what can you tell us about the university's accreditation status?*

Shields: We are fully accredited. I went to speak with the people of SACS on Jan. 28 and we had an excellent conversation.

They assured me that most of the

information that we needed to become completely accredited, was there but not packaged correctly.

Already, we have brought in consultants who have begun working with the leadership.

We call them the triumvirate because there are three people leading the effort.

Pamela Burch-Sims is our liaison now, she has a way of calmly explaining what has to happen she has the personality to encourage and get our faculty invested in this.

We have a date of May 7 that it will be done. But two, just two standards have

had to be address so there are not a lot, just two but they will be addressed.

Meter: *Students have been vocal about their concerns with financial aid. While observing financial aid, from your feedback what changes will you be implementing to make this a smoother process for students?*

Shields: Well, we are getting ready to make some changes in the way financial aid is set up on campus.

I don't want to say too much about that because I haven't spoken directly to the people who will be affected. But

Continued on page 6

What We Think Make the choice to be great

This issue marks the first edition of the 61st volume of *The Meter*. For 60 years this publication has been a voice of student sentiment and opinion on the campus of Tennessee State University.

On April 21, 1950 *The Meter* was born as the results of the vast amount of effort put forth by the late Samuel F. Yette and others.

For the next 60 plus years, *The Meter* has provided numerous opportunities and valuable experience to many students that have graced TSU's campus.

For that, we the staff and student body are forever indebted to Yette's legacy.

Yette would go on to be a reporter during the Civil Rights movement, covering black America for *Newsweek* as the outlet's first black correspondent.

Before this, Yette held various positions working as a reporter for several African-American newspapers in both Washington D.C. and Baltimore before

moving on to work as the associate editor of *Ebony* magazine and the director of information for Tuskegee University.

Yette is most remembered nationally for his book, *The Choice: The Issue of Black Survival In America*. Following the publication of this book, *Newsweek* severed it's ties with Yette.

Yette would later say about his dismissal, "I don't mean to be pejorative or vindictive when I say this but had I been a nigger instead of Black, a spy instead of a reporter, a tool instead of a man, I could have stayed at *Newsweek* indefinitely."

Yette wanted us to look pass the

stereotypes of black success and failure that we are shown in the news.

As the book title suggests, black people must make a choice, to survive or not, to continue to accept things as it or to break away from the norm.

Clearly this is evident, in the success stories of both Portia Shields, the first female president of our university and Richard Dent, the first TSU alumni to be elected into the NFL Hall of Fame.

It is clear that they made and continue to make the choice to define success on their own terms, no matter the circumstances. Shouldn't we all be doing the same?

"They made and continue to make the choice to define success on their own terms, no matter the circumstances."

THE METER

The Measure of
Student Opinion
and Sentiment

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Meter's mission is to accurately and responsibly report the "highlights and lowlights" of Tennessee State University and its community so that we may foster positive results while reflecting the university's multicultural student body.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Meter invites submission by all members of the Tennessee State University community.

Timelines and clarity are factors in selecting material for publication. Materials must adhere to the following guidelines:

a.) All contributions must be typed and sent by e-mail.

b.) Opinions and letters should not exceed 400 words.

c.) The Meter reserves the right to reject letters, articles or ads without explanation and to edit others as necessary.

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New president needs our assistance



NAKEVA WILLIAMS
OPINIONS EDITOR

**In My Humble
Opinion** A COLUMN

Newly installed president, Portia Shields, is very passionate about restoring the university back to its historic value.

She's definitely made strides that reveal she's exactly the right person for the job, but she cannot do it alone.

This is a new start for TSU and it is

important that we all do what we can to make sure this will be a successful journey.

The "ONE-TSU" campaign is popular among the student body, but actions speak much louder than words.

I am not saying that some students have not sincerely adopted and applied the policy but it will take more than a few to really bring about a change to the 3500 block of John A. Merritt.

To me, ONE-TSU is about helping the university as whole, not just those in your clique.

It is about more than going to games and wearing the "I love TSU" t-shirts, but about pride.

It means making a commitment that you will do whatever it takes to make sure that the place where you chose to invest your money is always on top.

There are always so many students complaining about the current state of the university but are not making any moves to change it.

A lot of times it is the students that are feeding into the negative views of the

university, which hurts us tremendously.

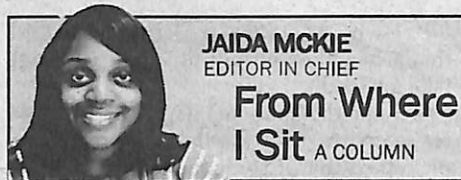
If we want to be taken seriously as a quality institution, our mindsets must change. The way we feel about our university must change.

The future of TSU depends on it.

Madame President is a great example of what it means to truly show love for this university.

Let's not let her take the road alone but be the head of a great army of tigers that follow close behind.*

Shields' legacy has just begun



JAIDA MCKIE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

From Where I Sit A COLUMN

Greetings TSU family! In your hands, is the very first issue of the 61st volume of *The Meter*.

I believe it is safe to say that a lot has happened in the land of golden sunshine since we've returned from winter break.

Inside this issue, you will find an engaging interview with newly appointed interim President Dr. Portia Shields.

Back in December, Shields, who has a history of turning things around at troubled HBCUs, was appointed president

of TSU and has been striving to make changes since she stepped foot on campus.

So far she has taken away reserved parking on campus, launched a contest to name our mascot, made massive cuts to travel budgets, begun offering students more tutoring resources and shaken up some departments with a string of dismissals and reorganizations.

Faculty members and students have praised Shields' progress thus far, including Timothy Quain, a 34-year-old faculty member who said in the *Tennessean*, "There has probably been more good done in the last two months than the past five years."

The Meter staff got the opportunity to sit down with Madame President — as

she prefers to be addressed — on Feb. 1 and find out what her vision is for our university.

We know you all have been wondering where we've been. Due to being extremely short staffed, we have not been able to produce the news as often as we would like.

We are now tackling internal issues so that we can get back on track and provide you with the latest news surrounding TSU and the Nashville community.

In my opinion, the Tennessee Board of Regents and its new Chancellor John Morgan couldn't have made a better choice when they chose Dr. Portia Shields to serve as the eighth leader of our institution.

Not only does she have the resume to prove it, but she's very down-to-earth and

personable.

She has a genuine desire to see each and every student at TSU succeed, and I believe that's the type of leader we need heading this university during the countdown to our centennial.

We plan to keep you updated with all of President Shield's plans, news on our upcoming centennial, and more.

Be sure to keep up with us on Twitter (@tsumeter) and our Facebook group. Type 'The Meter' in the search box and join our group.

As always, if you have any news regarding TSU or the Nashville community, don't hesitate to pay us a visit in Kean Hall Suite 304 on the third floor of the Floyd Payne Campus Center. •

Police to offer a number of changes



SYLVIA RUSSELL
TSU POLICE CHIEF

SEE THE STORY "Campaign addresses campaign safety, residence issues."

I became chief of TSU police department Jan 1, 2007 and the goal was to provide the university community with a police department staff that was accountable for its actions, fiscally responsible, able bodied, transparent in its operations and skillfully trained to respond to any situations on campus that were either natural or manmade.

I am proud to say that all of those goals have been accomplished and is the basis for completing the mission of the department on a daily basis.

The Student Government Association has suggested the campus is not safe. It is a certainty that perception and reality rarely meet. It is my responsibility to ensure the university community is safe and secure and everyone is comfortable with the service received from the police department. Allow me to provide some contextual information.

First, there were a record number of arrests by the police department in 2010.

It could be that crime is up on campus; or it could be we're doing a better job of addressing crimes.

While the final statistics have not been released by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation I can say that all but one felony arrest was of enrolled TSU students.

There were quite a few misdemeanor arrests on campus and those were also of students and their friends.

The police department utilizes the student conduct system on campus to address as many issues as possible to address and modify student behavior and to use these situations as teaching moments on the road to maturity while not permanently affecting anyone's college or professional life.

However, to change the trend there will need to be a program in the fall to address freshmen students about what it actually means to be a TSU student.

Hopefully, the new Student Government Association will become a part of the new program.

The program will teach new students the history of this great institution and how they must promulgate its legacy.

A proud legacy that has created much from little; created great alumni that have been movers and shakers in the global

economy; created professionals that have been leaders and not followers; and those that embody the very meaning of truth, ethics and decency.

Our department is as much a part of the university as any other and we are committed to retaining and graduating students who are prepared to take on the world.

We must do this by ensuring a safe and secure environment and we do that by enforcing the student code of conduct and the laws of the city, state and federal governments.

Second, the residence halls are of specific concern to the police department because it is where most incidents occur and it is where students live and socialize.

Officers are stationed in the halls and are diligent at walking the halls and making arrests when necessary.

We enforce the zero tolerance policy for drugs and weapons on campus. But, we cannot secure the halls without the assistance of the students that live there.

It is extremely important for people who do not live there to not be let into the halls. It is equally important for students to respect one another and not victimize one another.

It is also important to realize the

halls are for the purpose of providing students on campus living facilities and not for engaging in promiscuous behavior that can and will prove to be detrimental to ones health and safety. The intent is to provide a healthy environment conducive to learning.

Third, the police department will create more innovative means for communicating with students.

We plan to introduce a newsletter for the campus community; have completed the first look book publication for the campus community; and we plan to have more contact with students in the classroom setting.

The crime prevention program will be as active as ever and will also be engaged in programming for the fall 2011 academic year.

I do understand there are differences in philosophy, ideals and perception of campus policing.

It is the responsibility of all to take an interest in safety at Tennessee State University, as a great institution for learning; and for what we must do to move to the next level as a leading institution in our country.

The university must come before self to reach its goals and to continue its motto of "Think, Work, Serve." •

Shields to address registration ills

Continued from page 6

the process will be made more seamless because it will be one stop for it.

The only request I have of the students is that they fill out the forms before they go home. Even if they don't have the money, go ahead and fill out the forms. Whatever documents you need from your families get those documents.

We are going to separate the line. On one side of the line will be students who have turned in all their documents. On the other side of the line, we call this the red zone where students have not filled out these forms.

You know which side is going to the longest now don't you? I don't mind standing in line with them.

We can talk, we can talk about their hopes and dreams, we can have Coca-cola, and we can do a whole lot of things.

But I can't put them in front of students who have turned in their information and all they have to do is pay.

I think that is one of the mistakes maybe that is been made before—everybody in the same line. We need to separate those who have from those who need to get it.

I also at some other school, not here I'm sure it doesn't happen here. There are students who walk in the campus with an application in their hand while we are trying to register students.

Well if they have not applied officially, then we don't even know who they are. So once we find out who they are, then they will be at the back of the line again. They get attitudes about that.

Well, first thing we are going to do is treat everyone with respect. We are going to be smiling, but the truth is going to be told.

If you did not take care of your business, get over here. We are going to hold your hand and help you take care of it.

What we are also going to do is cross train our secretary. So that when registration starts — financial aid happens—there will only be one person



Interim TSU President Portia Shields joins Nashville mayor Karl Dean, State Representative Brenda Gilmore and State Senator Thelma Harper in the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day march on campus. PHOTO BY JOHN CROSS/TSU MEDIA RELATIONS

here to answer the phone.

They will be at our one-stop place helping answering questions. They have to be trained because they don't know all the answers.

We will be taking one from each unit so that you won't have to wait as long in line but there will be some.

We are also trying to make sure the process is automated through technology as much as possible.

My son—I saw him lying in bed registering by the telephone. That's one time. Then, another time, he just went on the web and registered.

I had to go check behind him because I couldn't believe it that he had done it. I thought he was gaming me on.

But the truth of the matter is there is an easier way to register than we have been using here.

It's going to depend on students but also going to be dependent upon our

training people—cross training people whose job it's not and putting in all the technology that's necessary. You should be able to register from China.

We are working on that by day. Come back again to see me within six weeks and see if we have that rolled out.

Meter: How do you plan to tackle the division among students, faculty, and administration?

Shields: What division? I love student. Students like me

Meter: If and when do you plan to hold a meeting with the student body, not SGA, to answer questions and listen to student concerns and issues?

Shields: Give me a time which would be about 6 o'clock any day and we could do it or during lunch hour. I'd come in the cafeteria.

I love that cafeteria food. I'm sure you all have complaints, but I love it! I love the fried chicken!

Meter: From your observations and feedback, what should students be doing to support the changes you are implementing on their behalf?

Shields: I'm concerned about the security on the campus and I've already spoken with the student leadership about this.

I would like for students to promise that when they go out at night, they will take a friend.

I like that students have asked that we set up with our fraternal organizations a pickup so that if someone is at the library late or the computer science area that they can just call a number and somebody will come and to walk the student home.

I want students to help themselves out a little bit in that regard. I want students to keep their stuff tight.

Meter: From your experience as a leader, what is your best quality, asset, or trait do you have that will be essential in tackling TSU issues and restoring the university success?

Shields: Just never give up. When I first received that question, I wanted to write down four or five qualities I think I possess, but I said, "No."

The one thing that I learned from my family, and that's why my sisters and me— and my children— now are successful.

We never give up and never give in. If you think you can do it, you can do it and you never listen to someone who tells you can't.

I was at Howard University when I got the job as president of Albany State and this well-meaning person came into my office. He said, "I heard the news," and I thought he was going to say "Congratulations."

But, he said, "Why on Earth would you go to that little country town?"

I replied, "Because the students are there."

He said, "Well you're gonna be sorry."

I haven't been sorry a day yet, but if I had stopped to think about what he could possibly have meant or maybe I was making a mistake, that would've just wasted time.

When I drove off Howard University's campus, I never looked back. So once you decide you're gonna do something, give it your all.

Meter: TSU is the only land-grant HBCU in the state and is also on the heels of its centennial. Do you have plans or ideas to increase alumni giving?

Shields: I believe that we're going to have activities that will get alumni from all over the world here. We're determined.

Now, is that going to relate to alumni giving? Well, I hope so. Here's what I'm

"We never give up and never give in. If you think you can do it, you can do it and you never listen to someone who tells you can't."

-Interim TSU President Portia Shields

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Interim TSU President Portia Shields taking down notes while discussing her planned changes to the campus with the currently nameless tiger in hand. PHOTO BY KAYLOR SPARKMAN/TENNESSEAN YEARBOOK

TSU offers \$250 to name mascot

By **ALECHIA DEAN**
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

A member of the TSU family has been missing for years, or rather, missing a name. Until now the TSU Tiger has remained nameless until now.

To fix the problem, interim President Portia H. Shields has launched a campaign to name the tiger.

The TSU Tiger has been known for years not only on the campus, but has also had a large impact in the Nashville community. From taking pictures with children to cheering on the athletic teams, "Tiger" is a huge part the TSU family.

With the centennial of the university approaching, Shields has launched the "Not Tony" Name that Mascot campaign, which will allow TSU fans to submit possible names for the sociable feline.

According to the TSU Newsroom, Shields said, "As (TSU) prepares to embark on our 100th anniversary, giving our beloved mascot a name is long overdue.

"We hope by involving our fans – from students to alumni to faculty, staff and the community – it will generate a renewed sense of school pride and rev us up for an exciting athletics season and centennial celebration in 2012," she continued.

Students, faculty, staff, alumni and fans can all participate in this contest, which enables people whose blood truly runs blue to participate in making a big decision for the university.

The campaign has not been isolated to TSU's campus but has also leaked into the community and some alumni and very excited about having a chance at making history.

Nashville alumna Lorishea Berry said that she has been thinking hard of different names that would make a statement for the Tiger that she has loved since she was a child.

Johnathan Strickland a junior, english major from Memphis also is was very interested in the idea if the campaign and said that it was a really "cool" idea that the president had.

There is an award that will be given to the person who suggest the winning name, alumni or a fan will receive two season passes for next year's football season or if a student is picked they will receive a book scholarship.

Submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. CST on Feb. 22. Readers can send their ideas via phone at 615-963-7451 or by e-mail attigercontest@tnstate.edu with the words "Not Tony" in the subject line.

Shields: I'm going to every alumni chapter

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going to do, I'm going to every alumni chapter. That's 44.

I start on Feb. 12. I will go to every nook and cranny to ask for support.

But here's what they want and some students on this campus also want: they want the 'Hole' [Hale Stadium] fixed.

You know, it is an embarrassment to look at, isn't it? It has to be fixed, but the state is not going to fix it.

Anytime they take \$7 million from you, they're not going to turn around and give you what's going to be at least \$3 million to get that [Hale Stadium] right.

It has to come from alumni; the ones who played ball in that stadium, the ones who ran track in that stadium, that's where I think we're going to get that money from.

Meter: Recently you joined Twitter, what ways do you plan to interact and connect with the student body?

Shields: You know, I like it. I just give it, I don't get it.

In other words, I put things out there, but I don't get a lot of feedback from it.

Students are telling me they're following. I asked my son to put me on because Danny [Glover] told me I had to get on so he said, "Mom, you sure you wanna do this?" and I said "No, I wanna do it if they say do it."

So when I got on, it was 54, I was on about five minutes and I had 54 tweets and then I came back upstairs and I had five hundred and something.

The next day it was over a thousand. I said, "What am I doing?" cause they were all in my email.

I hope that the students are reading it. I hope that I'm making a connection.

I'm just enjoying getting out something that they might relate to. I'm not gonna put out any platitudes: "You better go study?"

I'm gonna do that because that's not what it's for. I'm hoping that they'll just be there.

University on path to reaffirmation

By SYKNESE FIELDS
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

At the start of the semester, TSU students continued to ask questions about whether the university's accreditation would be reaffirmed by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), and many more wonder if their degree will be valued upon graduation.

"I feel that because we have a new president and I've heard about what she's done at other schools, I'm confident that when I graduate, my degree will mean something," said Adrian Booker, a senior English major from Nashville. "However, a lot of people are telling me that this is their last semester and that they're going to be transferring because they are afraid that their degree isn't going to mean anything."

Tracey Hightower, a sophomore said that she wants to remain at TSU, but has already planned tours at other colleges if the issue is not resolved.

TSU faculty made it clear at the general assembly meeting called by newly

appointed Interim President Dr. Portia H. Shields on Monday, Jan. 31, that the current problem is not accreditation; rather, they contended, the issue is making sure the school gets reaffirmed.

"TSU is fully accredited; however, we were not granted reaffirmation for the next 10 years," said Dr. G. Pamela Burch-Sims, director of institutional effectiveness and assessment.

She stated that every 10 years each university must have its accreditation reaffirmed, and 2010 was the year for TSU.

"We are really looking at student learning outcomes and making sure that we are documenting and proving that our students are learning what we think they're learning," Burch-Sims said. "All of the categories are related to one big issue, which is: how well do we document that the university is achieving its mission?"

SACS policy contains a provision called Core Requirement 2.5 which focuses on institutional effectiveness, while the comprehensive standard is separated into four distinct subcategories: educational

programs, administrative support systems, educational support services, and community/public service.

SACS found that TSU failed to demonstrate compliance with Core Requirement 2.5 and Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1, thereby placing the university on warning for 12 months.

"The process of documentation is underway," Burch-Sims said. "With the implementation of Compliance Assist, an online documentation system, it will document the linkage of TSU's outcomes to the university's missions, and will provide SACS with proof of progress on institutional effectiveness."

TSU has also put in place a steering committee that will be responsible for consulting with the faculty and other personnel gathering information, conducting a follow-up on that information, evaluating the quality of the materials submitted, compiling assigned sections of the report, and working with the leadership team to revise various drafts of the report.

"If SACS saw us today versus last March, we would pass because we have put into place an integrated model. A six-step process," Burch-Sims said. "We need to show SACS that we have an integrated, on-going, research based use of assessment, and assessment results for improvement that moves us towards meeting our mission."

TSU started gathering information to address the issue in 2009 to go with data from the previous year. This information will be put into the SACS report to show them consistency over the past few years.

"We'll have two to three years worth of data to show them a pattern," Burch-Sims said. "We have to create a culture of assessment and make use of assessment results...that's what the committee is for."

TSU will not find out if they are reaffirmed until December 2011, after the school sends the First Monitoring Report.

"There's no problem with student's receiving their degrees or with financial aid, but we do need to address institutional effectiveness," Burch-Sims said. •

Campaign addresses campaign safety, residence issues

By BRANDON WRIGHT
STAFF REPORTER

"Stop the B.S." — a forum hosted by the SGA on Dec. 8, 2010 — concluded last semester with students voicing their concerns about campus security and residence life.

Although there was disagreement on the execution of the campaign, the forum helped identify who was responsible for the repair and replacement of cameras and emergency phones — Facilities Management, not campus security.

"The students of TSU were crying out. They wanted to feel a sense of security, and they wanted to have adequate living conditions, all of which they deserve," said Student Government Association president Danny Glover, a senior political science major from Macon, Ga.

Students have voiced their concerns frequently pertaining to the issues since the start of the academic year.

"I don't really agree with the platform. I think there is a better way to have had it handled. I don't feel that the campus is not safe. I have a real problem understanding

students not feeling safe on this campus. Out of 10 robberies reported only one of them were legit," said Assistant Chief of Police James Kizer.

The SGA officials were working to resolve these issues. "We, the Student Government Association, followed all proper channels to bring some resolution to these two issues. Some were productive, yet many were not," said Glover.

A selected group of members representing SGA and the student body met with upper division leadership on the matter.

"I believe the meeting uncovered a lot of hidden truths within the university, those in which we rarely speak upon. It created a sense of urgency and explanation by administration regarding the student body's complaints," said Javaris Polk, a senior health science major from Birmingham, Ala.

The SGA then hosted a seminar focused on campus security, in which James Kizer addressed the students and answered questions.

"I was appreciative that Assistant Chief Kizer took the time to answer

questions. However I received the perception that he was making excuses pertaining to security on our campus, or lack thereof," said Desmon Preston, a junior mechanical engineering major from St. Louis. "Afterwards, I had an opportunity to speak with him on an individual basis and we came to the conclusion that it's a team effort between students and security to ensure the safety of our students, faculty, and staff."

During the seminar, SGA representatives disseminated a total of 53 surveys to various students in attendance. The surveys included five questions pertaining to the feeling of security on campus. Seventy-seven percent of student respondents marked a five or below when asked on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the highest, of how safe students felt on campus.

When asked if the TSU Police Department had a strong presence on campus, 46 students answered, "No."

Chief of Police Sylvia Russell disagreed with the students' responses.

"The students are secure on campus. We will continue business as usual the way

that we have been doing," she said.

Kizer added, "All we can do is patrol the campus, use the resources we have, and in some cases stretch them. I would love to have more officers per shift. However, we must work within our budget."

"If students can provide me with ideas on improvement and what you see then I will be more than happy to sit down and work with that," Kizer continued.

Interim President Portia Shields has formulated plans to secure the campus as well: "We are planning on closing off the campus as much as we can. Everyone who comes on this campus must have business here. We have added security in the dorms, policed the library, and put a uniformed officer in the stations in front of the dorms from 3 PM until the morning. We are looking to have student leaders and organizations walk female students where they have to go to do business in the evening," she said.

Glover said, "Now that this campaign is over, it is time to move forward with the agenda predicated back in August of last year: ONE student body equipped with ONE mission to create ONE TSU." •

KMAC
DROPS
MIXTAPE
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THE METER ARTS CULTURE

Monday, February 21, 2011

Volume 61 Issue 1

BE READY TO FIGHT FOR YOUR BELIEFS



LATOYA D. PICKETT
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

Keepin' it
Real A COLUMN

In recent news, citizens in many Egyptian cities protested and won their freedom from the tyrannic government of their country.

They demanded former President Hosni Mubarak to resign after holding office for three decades. They also protested police brutality, the country's minimum wage and other issues.

It is fair to say that Egyptian history was rewritten before our eyes. Everyday, major news networks have shown images and videos of people protesting in the streets.

Even CNN's Anderson Cooper was harassed by Mubarak supporters while he covered the protests. Things got real.

Many of the protests were organized on Facebook and Twitter. In response, the government cut off internet access in the country. It still didn't stop protesters from posting images through Twitter's Twitpic and videos on Youtube.

The protests in Egypt and other Arab nations have shown that it is never too late to stand up for what you believe in, even if it is not necessarily the "right" side to be on.

The events bear reminiscence to the marches of the Civil Rights Movement — the Egyptian people are modern revolutionists. Rising death tolls and the unjust jailing of protesters did not stop their fight. They were passionate about getting their freedom — and they won.

It has been said about passion, "It is not passion, unless you are willing to die for." Death goes much deeper than just a physical commitment. People can also kill your character, reputation and integrity.

Everybody is not going to share your beliefs; in response, they might attempt to kill you by talking about you or being cruel towards you. What are you willing to die for? •

Shuttle service expands

By LATOYA D. PICKETT
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

The TSU shuttle services will begin to transport students to and from the Nashville West shopping center and Wal-Mart on Charlotte Pike.

Students with valid TSU identification will have the opportunity to access the shuttle service.

The shuttle will run two times on Saturday while also providing service to students to get to and from the Main and downtown campuses.

The Shuttle will leave from the Ford-Payne Campus Center on Saturday first at 11:45 A.M. and later at 2:45 P.M. It will return at 2:20 P.M. and 4:30 P.M. respectively.

The idea came from students Connye Garrett, Brandon Neal, and Jeremiah Crutcher, who were members of a group project in their Small Group Communications course.

The group decided to write a proposal to use the University's campus shuttle services for students to travel off-campus to purchase food and clothes.

After the proposal was written, it was shared with Vice President of Student Affairs Michael Freeman and to the Office of Faculties Management.

Garrett wanted to do something about the limited transportation. She said she has acted as a means of transportation to many friends and even to people she did not know.

"We didn't know if it was going to go through, but by the grace of God, we kept fighting for it," said Connye Garrett, a recent TSU graduate from Nashville.

Dr. Freeman said university officials discovered a plan to make it work best suited for the student body.

The students did run into problems



TSU alumna Connye Garrett and senior Brandon Neal drafted a proposal to expand the campus shuttle services to include stops to the Charlotte Pike Wal-Mart and Nashville West Shopping Center. PHOTO BY JOHN CROSS/TSU MEDIA RELATIONS

getting the services approval.

"We had a few difficulties with getting the service a float, such as getting money for the drivers to be paid for overtime," said Garrett.

When junior Brandon Neal, a communication major from Memphis, founded out the services was approved, he was surprised.

"Wow we did not know if it was only going to be a grade for class or something was going to get done," Neal said.

Sophomore Cynthera Hutchison, a Spanish major from Memphis believes the shuttle services was a great idea.

"I think its rather convenient,

definitely helpful to the students without cars like myself," Hutchison said.

If students are trying to get campus from the apartments, the wait may be a little longer due to lack of drivers.

"We have one driver doing two drivers' job, but we are working on making that not an issue," said Jewel Winn, director of Business Operations. "We understand students need to get to campus."

In fact, some students have complained of the shuttle between the campus apartments and main campus not running any more. •

Veteran producer K-Mac releases mixtape debut

By CHAZ PIRTLE
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Producer Kevin McCall dropped his mixtape, *Uninvited Guest* this week. Though a veteran in the music industry, this is his first solo project.

McCall has produced for artists such as Kelly Rowland, Trey Songz, and Keyshia Cole. The mixtape features artists such as Tyga, Chris Brown, Omarion and The Game.

It is reminiscent of Chris Brown's *In My Zone* mixtape but, it definitely creates its own lane and establishes McCall as an artist.

The first track on the mixtape, *How Many Bars*, hits hard on the bass and possesses a groove like no other. It definitely creates the image of his homie Chris Brown hitting the dougie.

McCall not only has a way with the production, but his word play matches: "Bad like Michael bad the vitiligo/ All black everything you, you swear you got ya eyes closed."

*F*ck You, Pay Me* is another strong track that possesses an insatiable groove that is sure to sound great in the summer time with windows down.

It seems as though every track has the same groove, but it works because it leaves the listener wanting more.

Touch You is a slow tune is sure to get it popping in the bedroom. The production hits with a long, deep note from what sounds like something from the brass instrument family that lets the listener know that he is serious and means business. This is also a song where McCall showcases his vocals.

Uninvited Guest is a good attempt for McCall's first mixtape. He is wise in his production and wordplay.

Bottom Line: Though it is lacking substance, any track on this mixtape is sure to make a great addition to any party playlist.

TSU alumnus launches his own Web show

By ZERYUS HALL
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

TSU alumnus Aaron McGee has created his own web-based interview show, *The Just Aaron Show*.

Launched on Feb. 6 at the Buffalo Wild Wings on Super Bowl Sunday, the "empowerment" show is an interview style talk show designed to inform, educate and inspire.

McGee and his company McGee-Glover Media Productions teamed with clothing retailer PhatKaps to provide attendees with mid-game giveaways and door prizes. *The Just Aaron Show* premiered on all 42 screens immediately following the game.

The Just Aaron Show's first season will feature interviews with people of various facets, from former graduate and author Martez Burks to Grammy nominated artist Common.

Topics range from debt and education among minorities, to self development and entrepreneurial pursuits.

McGee did not take the popular approach with his talk show and venture down the paths of shows such as 106 & Park because he wanted it to be a reflection of him.

"I wanted a show that could highlight the success of those I admired, and those who are making a positive impact," said McGee "...creating a new trusted voice for a generation of young families, professionals and entrepreneurs."

Aaron's younger brother, Larry, also serves as a force behind the show. Serving as director and production assistant, the 21-year-old junior, mass communication major and Nashville native said he is elated that his older brother is making big moves.

"The content, along with the guests he brings on the show, help enlighten students on the outline to success," he said.

Aaron McGee is just as excited to be working with his younger brother as well as several other members of his team.

"Not only him, but I have a team of people who really believe in what I'm doing and who have been pushing the show since day one, adding their blood, sweat and tears into the mixing bowl with mine!" Aaron McGee said.

Viewers can catch new episodes of *The Just Aaron Show* every Sunday on www.just-aaron.com.

THE METER SPORTS

Monday, February 21, 2011

Volume 61 Issue 1

Miller excels on the court, in the classroom

By CHARLEY INGLE
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Freshman standout Patrick Miller has been playing basketball since he was five years old.

After a few years and coaching from dedicated coaches that coached him over the years, Miller has become the player that he is today.

But he's also excelled in the classroom, earning a spot on the dean's list.

As starting point guard for the



Patrick Miller

Tigers, Miller stands at 6 feet tall weighing 185 pounds.

He has scored 10-20 points per game, which according to stats, means Miller plays longer than any of the other starters on the team.

"You just have to stay dedicated, work hard, don't give up, and most importantly always listen," said Miller, about finding the balance of being a freshman on the dean's List and also committed to his team. "It's important I be my best in the classroom as well as on the court."

Miller credits his coaches for shaping

his talent on the court, but he also values the impact of his mother and her instilling in him a relationship with God.

"I don't play for myself, I play for my family," said Miller, wanting to use his basketball career to provide a better life for his family.

Though Miller received scholarship offers from Chicago State University, Eastern Illinois University and other schools, he chose TSU after having built a relationship with assistant coach Dana Ford. Ford recruited to Miller with a full-ride scholarship.

While Miller also has hopes of one

day playing in the NBA, he's made a commitment to obtaining his degree in business administration.

He'd also like to win three conference championships and lead the Tigers to the NCAA championship.

When he is not on the court or in the books, Miller enjoys listening to music, going to the movies, playing games, and spending time with his girlfriend.

A fun and interesting fact about Miller is, "I'm a nerd and I can do both back and front flips. I can tumble too." he said with a big smile and chuckle.

TSU's Richard Dent elected to NFL Hall of Fame

By LATOYA D. PICKETT
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

Richard Dent received the good news he had been waiting to hear for years from his daughter, Mary, while coming off the golf course.

Dent, a former TSU football player, was voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Joining Deion Sanders, Marshall Faulk, Shannon Sharpe, Chris Hamburger, Les Richter and Ed Sabol in the class of 2011, becoming the first TSU alumni to be in the Hall of Fame.

Dent had been a Hall of Fame finalist in six of the last seven years but had fallen short prior to this year.

"It is an honor for him to have reached this ultimate milestone in his NFL career. It's also a honor that he came out of TSU," said Quintin Ficklin, a sophomore Healthcare Administration and Planning major from Little Rock, Ark. "This will be bringing more national attention to our football program."

During his 15 NFL seasons with the Chicago Bears, Philadelphia Eagles, Indianapolis Colts and San Francisco 49ers, Dent racked in 137 ½ sacks, which is the sixth most in the league's history.

He was a key member of the undefeated 1985

Chicago Bears team, recording 17 sacks and two interceptions. Dent also was the MVP of Super Bowl XX when the Bears completed a perfect season with a 46-10 victory over the New England Patriots.

Dent may have made an imprint in the professional world starting in the mid-1980s, but he already impressed TSU fans during the seasons of 1979-82, where he was known as "Dirty Dent."

Recalling his TSU career, Dent credited John Merritt and then-defensive coordinator Joe Gilliam, he credited the coaches at TSU for teaching him the fundamentals of the game.

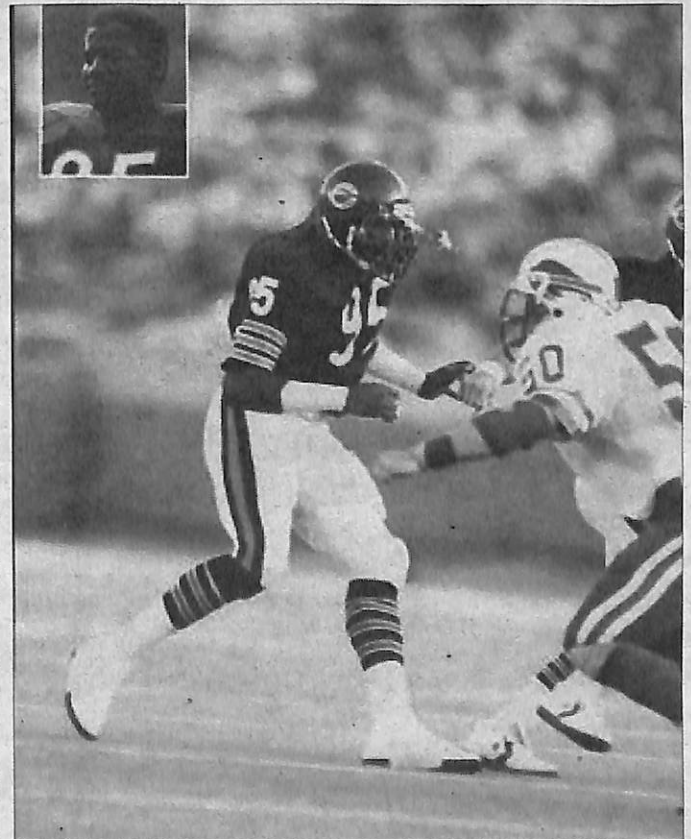
"...We were sitting in the music room at the high school and they were telling me that if I came in and worked hard, I could play," Dent said. "Those are the two of the most important people in my life."

Senior Human Performance and Sports Science major Brent Davis from Memphis feels Dent getting voted into the Pro Ball Hall of fame as motivation.

"Players from black schools don't get the attention as players from other schools do, so for him to do the things he did in his career is inspiration."

TSU alumnus Richard Dent was elected into the NFL Hall of Fame Feb. 5.

PHOTO FROM TSU ATHLETICS YEARBOOK



HELP WANTED

THE METER NEEDS AN OFFICE MANAGER

The Meter seeks an office manager -- someone who has a professional, pleasant personality who can:

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- Answer phones and disseminate messages.
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- Greet clients and visitors, directing them to the appropriate Student Publications staff personnel who can offer further assistance.
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THE METER

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