

TSU President James A. Hefner discusses student leadership roles
Page 7



Sports columnist Alan C. Beard warns TSU against the SGA presidential "three-peat"
Page 10

The Measure of Student Opinion and Sentiment

Student Election Week 2001!!!

The changing role of Miss TSU through the years



COLLAGE DESIGN BY ALAN C. BEARD AND HILLARY S. CONDON

Clockwise from left, Tamara Moore, Miss TSU 2000-2001; Michelle Robinson, Miss TSU 1999-2000; Tiara "Lady" Wilson, Miss TSU 1998-1999; Robbynne Manning, Miss TSU 1996-1997; and Jamila Ingram, Miss TSU 1997-1998. See the complete story on Page 11.

SGA asks for another fee increase from student body

Last year students voted 672-358 to double the SGA budget and a 50 percent increase is on tap now

By Henderson Hill III
Community View Writer

There will be a familiar sight on this year's Student Election Commission ballot. Like last year, a \$1 increase in the Student Government Association fee is up for a vote among students.

According to SEC records, 672 people voted last year to increase the SGA activity fee to \$2 from \$1. Just over half that number, 358 people, voted against the increase.

This year's proposed increase to \$3 is to be used to fund activities for students on campus. With the same number of students paying it, the higher activity fee would raise to \$54,000 from \$36,000 the portion of SGA funds that come directly from students. (See SGA budget for 2000-2001 on Page 3.)

Jamie Riley, SGA speaker of the House and a candidate for an evening representative-at-large position, said the proposal of the increase in the activity fee is because the SGA has depleted most of its budget. Riley said the primary reason the SGA budget has diminished greatly is that the SGA has given away \$20,000 to organizations that ask for assistance, in addition to miscellaneous student scholarships. But the SGA budget shows only \$700 going to a student organization and \$1,000 being used for scholarship purposes.

"Students need to realize that it is not to benefit the SGA personally but for the betterment of the students," Riley said. "Students have the right to know and can ask questions."

To help limit any misconceptions the student body may have about the SGA budget, Riley said he doesn't want students to think that any of the money that the SGA uses from its budget is solely for elected students' personal use. Riley said that about 5 percent of the budget is used for personal expenses, which is classified as traveling costs. The budget, however, shows \$28,000 going to travel from the \$36,000 in student activity fees.

"If the students help the SGA, they will be helping themselves," Riley said. Riley also said that this year's SGA gave

See "Fee increase" on Page 3

Fear of Rejection

Minority students examine their lack of involvement

By Paul Cameron
Sports Writer

This year during the Student Government Association election there is a lack of minority representation, not unlike every year.

White students at TSU still lack the courage or even knowledge needed to become successfully involved in student life and student government.

Among Black students, sentiments were summed up in the words of Bryan Franklin, who

said, "I would vote for a qualified white student," when asked about minorities in the Student Government Association election.

Another Black student, Obanijja Fagget, said, "More white students do not participate in the elections because they feel no support, or no Black support, because racism is still big."

The sentiments expressed by white students, however, were slightly different.

"White people are out of the loop," said minority student Chauntay Freeman. "I wanted to run but

See "Minority" on Page 3

NOTICE

Alameda Street, between Clay Hall (Education Building) and Strange Music Building will be closed for approximately four weeks to allow for construction of the Performing Arts Center.

Metro bus service already has been notified of this change, and will pick up passengers at the corners of Alameda Ave and 33rd Ave. (by the guard house) and Albion and Clare (by the second guard house near Hale Residence Hall).

Correction

An article in the March 28, 2001, edition of *The Meter* incorrectly identified Ricardo Johnson, a victim of a March 22 campus shooting, as a TSU student. The victim is not a TSU student. *The Meter* regrets the error. •

Myles stresses importance of SEC Week voting

He wants to boost student involvement in both national and campus elections

By Thomas Thorps
Sports Writer

Young adults often overlook elections. Whether it be a congressional election, presidential election or simply the next president of the Student Government Association. Many young people seem to do more complaining than voting when they want to get a problem solved.

At Tennessee State University there is a week set aside just for student elections. The significance of this event is for the most part not taken seriously by the student body.

"Student Election Commission Week is often times not taken to heart by the students," says Ronald Myles, adviser for the various political organizations at TSU.

"The significance of SEC week is to afford the opportunity for the students to select their student body's leaders for the coming academic year. Organizations like SGA represent the students so the students should come out and see what the candidates are about."

Myles says he hopes students wake up and realize that this is as important as anything. This election controls who speaks for the student body. The people who are elected represent the entire TSU student family. On the other hand, gaining student support for elections takes time and effort, both of which have been applied more and more each year.

"There has been a small turnout of student support for this event," Myles said. "I believe that comes from the lack of interest and student leadership."

As SEC week gets under way, numerous events have been scheduled to help gain the student body's interest and support. The week starts with the SGA nomination convention, class nomination convention, presidential and vice-presidential debate, a rally and the most supported event of them all, the Miss Tennessee State University Pageant. All of these activities are designed to prepare the students and the nominees for the election.

To many the only thing that stands out during Student Election Commission Week is the Miss TSU Pageant. As a matter of fact, Myles said, "The most significant change I've seen over the 10 years that I've been here is the diversity of the candidates for Miss TSU."

When asked what he means by the diversity of the Miss TSU candidates he replies, "I think that our female students have come to realize that being Greek-affiliated is not a part of the criteria."

True enough the pageant to some is the most active event during the week of election. But Myles says the election of student officials should not be overlooked or underappreciated.

Perhaps diversity in the Miss TSU candidates and later in the the candidates for other offices, he says, will be the key to more student body support. •



PHOTO BY DERICK KIMBROUGH

Ronald Myles, dean of Student Activities, is the adviser for Student Election Commission Week and urges student support.

Education

It's where St. Louis meets the future...

www.slps.org

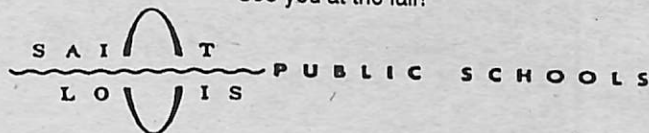
Make a difference in the life of a child and you make a difference in our future. At the St. Louis Public School District, our employees work together to foster a learning environment that encourages high achievement and prepares our students for today's - and tomorrow's - challenges. Not only do we offer stimulating, fulfilling opportunities in education, but in many other fields and support services as well. For a complete and current listing of our available positions, visit our web site at www.slps.org. Working together! Making progress! Making a difference in our future, one child at a time.

TEACHER HIRING FAIR
2001-2002 school year
9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 28, 2001
Gateway Educational Complex
1200 N. Jefferson Avenue
St. Louis, MO

Candidates should bring transcripts and proof of certification to the fair. Counselors, psychological examiners, speech therapists, librarians and substitute teachers are also needed. Tentative job offers, pending record checks, will be made to the most promising candidates. If qualified, candidates will be hired for the 2001-2002 school year. (If the candidate is available, intent to hire offers can be made to finish the current school year.)

The District offers an excellent salary and benefits package that includes paid health, dental, vision and term life insurance, tuition reimbursement (through the Parsons-Blewitt Memorial Fund) and retirement plan. St. Louis Public Schools - help us make a difference in our future. For more information, please call 314-345-2295. If unable to attend our Hiring Fair, you may contact us at: Human Resource Division, 801 N 11th Street, St. Louis, MO 63101. EOE

See you at the fair!



Fee increase will go toward a Mr. TSU court, student scholarships

Continued from Page 1

out more scholarships than any previous administration, because the scholarship requirements this year conformed to a different standard.

"We are not GPA-related," Riley said.

When Riley was asked how the SGA plans to influence the students to vote for the fee increase, he said the SGA will advertise for the idea through flyers and directly speaking with students during SEC Week.

"I encourage everyone to consider the dollar change," Riley said. "This is not to benefit us."

Students are not so sure.

"If it is for a good cause I agree with the increase, but it seems as if SGA and SEC only do something during election time," said LaKeisha Flowers, a sophomore math major. "If they do something more active with the student body I can agree with the increase."

The additional student activities planned from the fee increase may not be seen for a few years. Plans are in the works for such things as a court for Mr. TSU, advancement of technology, and giving out more scholarships. •

SGA Budget for 2000-01

SGA \$2.00 Fee		PROGRAMMING	Beginning Balance \$4,500.00
			Ending Total \$4,500.00
OPERATING	Beginning Balance \$16,550.00	ORGANIZATIONS	Beginning Balance \$4,950.00
SGA Uniform	\$909.00	Cheerleaders	\$700.00
SGA Uniform	\$535.95		
SGA Retreat	\$1,500.00		Ending Total \$4,250.00
Award Center (Open PO)	\$200.00	SCHOLARSHIP	Beginning Balance \$10,000.00
Aramark (Open PO)	\$1,500.00	History Packet for Prizes	\$1,000.00
Bookstore (Open PO)	\$500.00	Book scholarship/misc.	
A-Z (Open PO)	\$500.00		Ending Total \$9,000.00
Printing (Open PO)	\$400.00	STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE	Beginning Balance \$36,000.00
Dr. Grant	\$300.00	Travel	\$28,000.00
Tent for Inauguration	\$450.00	Mr. TSU	\$5,000.00
\$ for SGA shirts/blouse	\$950.00		
Duplicating	\$1,100.00		
Photography	\$400.00		
Telephone	\$400.00		
Postage	\$450.00		
Conference to Florida	\$3,200.00		
		Ending Total	\$3,000.00
	Ending Total \$3,200.00		

The International Friendship Society, sponsored by the Office of International Business Programs, will be holding a Multicultural Celebration Festival on Thursday, April 5, 2001. All are invited to attend.

Minority students discuss 'the real reasons' they don't run for SGA positions

Continued from Page 1

never knew when applications or anything were due."

The overriding sentiments of white students was best summed up by the comments of Jason Zeller, who said, "(They are) afraid they won't get accepted because they are different."

Minority student Clint Young agreed.

"It's a big popularity contest and white people are not popular."

Despite all these negative feelings, the current senior class representative is a minority student. Kevin Wood says he has worked his entire term to promote unity on campus and a feeling of belonging among white students.

Mark Gunter, Director of Minority Affairs, has been dealing with a lack of minority student involvement since he took the position last year.

"The students don't feel they can win," Gunter said. "They feel that white students are not wanted as HBCU representatives."

Gunter also said that if white students took a more active role in campus organizations, they would be more accepted. He is trying to accomplish this by advising student organizations that help foster friendships among culturally-diverse people.

The two student organizations that he is focusing on are Campus Kaleidoscope and

Students for Students.

Campus Kaleidoscope is a discussion group that lets students from all backgrounds discuss issues they would not ordinarily discuss and to learn from others' views. Students for Students is a multi-national group that seeks to foster understanding among other cultures by being a forum for students of other cultures to educate other students about their culture.

Gunter expects that his work will help pave the way for minority students to in the future take initiative to become involved members of the TSU family. •

The Meter

The Measure of Student Opinion and Sentiment
Tennessee State University

TSU Box 1246;

3500 John A. Merritt Blvd.

Nashville, TN 37209-1561

phone: 615-963-5652,

fax: 615-963-5452

E-Mail: themeter@hotmail.com

Forum

EDITOR IN CHIEF **Mia D. McNeil**

NEWS EDITOR **Sonja Jones**

COMMUNITY VIEW EDITOR **Hillary S. Condon**

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR **Sparkle Davis**

SPORTS EDITOR **Alan C. Beard**

COPY EDITOR **Regan Toomer**

PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER **Derick Kimbrough**

ADVERTISING MANAGERS **Jonathan Adair, Myiesha Griffin**

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS **Pamela E. Foster**

From where I sit: Obey your judgment to avoid the mistakes of the past



**Mia D.
McNeil**

*Editor in
Chief*

So, I have finally embarked upon my last Student Election Commission Week. It has brought so many memories about my tenure here. Watching people spend ridiculous amounts of money on food, clothes and campaign items has been my pleasure.

I want to thank all of the past candidates from 1998 until now for filling my stomach and adding to my T-shirt collection.

However, I have been thinking about what I could possibly say to leave an *impact on the candidates and students* about this upcoming election.

I think I have figured it out. If you don't remember anything I have said about student elections, remember this - popularity is nothing, experience is everything, obey your judgment.

Because this is my column, I'm going to drop some knowledge on you guys about some things--based on my experiences over the past few years.

People without experience cannot run an office.

Offices such as the Student Government Association president and vice president need to be filled by people who already are involved in the SGA. For the past two years students have elected presidents who have no experience and *The Meter* endorsed one. In retrospect, we have seen the errors of our ways. Reginald "Kool Mill" Shareef accomplished nothing in his stay in office as far as I'm concerned, and Marc Peek couldn't pass post-election certification.

If these two people had had experi-

ence on the SGA and in the intricacies of the organization, they could have been excellent leaders because they otherwise had what it took to be a good leader. They simply lacked the experience.

Perhaps a way to alleviate this problem is to run for class representative or representative at large positions as freshmen, sophomores and juniors. Don't wait until your senior year and think just because you have held a presidential or vice presidential office in another organization you can run the SGA.

Running Pep Club, a fraternity or a sorority is not license to think that you can run a student body. It's embarrassing to watch students vote for these people based on popularity and then find upon research that these same elected officials were too busy to get involved in the SGA earlier. I think that it is quite shady that all of a sudden these people have time to run a student body--go figure.

On the flip side, students have elected people from the SGA to lead them

and, well...they didn't. I still have some (Q)uestions that haven't been (A)nswered about that one.

Still, I will give credit where credit is due. The SGA under Chris Berry has been the best since the era of Johnnie Bond. It has been efficient, in tune with the student body and always has been open with *The Meter*. I am very proud of this SGA. At the beginning of the year, I told them that *The Meter* would hold them accountable for good and bad things. I had my doubts, but this year's SGA has made a believer out of me. Although I do believe that they didn't reach all of their potential, they have done vastly better than their predecessors.

What it comes down to is that experience is a good thing to have and your best judgment is the greatest thing to use. Beauty belongs in a pageant, popularity belongs on a stage, but experience belongs in an office. Keep that in mind as you vote this year. Happy voting! •

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

It is the time once again for TSU elections, and I would like to convey a very urgent message to my TSU family. First, I would like to begin by thanking my TSU family for allowing me to serve you in the capacity of SGA vice president. It was an honor, and I have learned many life lessons. I gained a deeper understanding of my life's philosophy, which is, "I am, because we are."

That statement leads me to my point. Student Election Week brings many thoughts to the minds of TSU students, such as food, false promises and flashy campaigns. But, I am asking for every TSU student to look deeper than cheap thrills. There are so many vital issues facing TSU, and we can not afford to have weak leadership.

I urge you to question every candidate to ensure that they have TSU's best interest at heart. The Student Government Association makes a lot of decisions for the student body, and many of the decisions directly affect you. For example, SGA has implemented various

programs such as the credit hour requirements for off-campus apartments, value meals in the sub, SGA scholarships, etc. I mention these examples to ensure that students don't underestimate the power of the Student Government Association.

Though, like in any organization, you are only as powerful as you allow yourself to be. Therefore, the SGA demands strong leadership in order to create the needed change at TSU.

I am sure that many people may not be concerned with student elections, because they view the Student Government Association and student leaders as superficial.

And, I will not front because there are some superficial folks involved, but there are also a lot of student leaders who truly work for TSU.

But, the decision is left up to you whether you choose to elect real leaders or fake puppets. The choice is yours-- Be true to yourself!

Sincerely,
April Frazier
SGA Vice President

Submission Requirements

The Meter is published biweekly and is available free to the Tennessee State University community. Opinions expressed herein are of the writer, not those of the administration, the Student Government Association or the faculty and staff of Tennessee State University.

Submission Requirements

The Meter invites submissions by all members of the Tennessee State University community. Timeliness, clarity of thought, factual accuracy, and interest to the university community will be factors in selecting material for publication.

All materials must adhere to the following guidelines:

- All contributions must be typed, double spaced (submitted on 3.5" disks and hard copy), and must include the writer's name, telephone number and P.O. Box.
- Featured articles should not exceed 1,000 words. Opinion length should not exceed 500 words. Letter length should not exceed 300 words.
- Sources of factual material should be included. All claims of fact are subject to verification.
- The Meter* reserves the right to reject letters, articles or ads without explanation, and to edit those as necessary. •

Forum

What We Think:

The Meter editorial board endorses Thompson, Gilliam, Allen

In the midst of the famous Student Election Committee rally, the parading up and down the campus with the Aristocrat of Bands to follow as an attention-getter, or distributing roses to "Black Queens" at Tennessee State University to get votes, where do the real issues lie at TSU?

Who do the students depend on to get the job done?

Rather than jumping to the administration, students should look at their student leaders and representative of the university for guidance and admiration. This year's candidates for Student Government Association President, Vice President and Miss Tennessee State University are some of TSU's finest, popular and distinguished, but all are committed to one particular goal: to represent Tennessee State University to the extreme.

Three years ago, *The Meter* recognized the uncertainty of the student body when faced with voting for the candidates, so we challenge the candidates for our own endorsement process. This gives candidates an opportunity to present firsthand their platforms, concerns and election promises.

It is also a way to follow the candidates process throughout SEC week, and see if they are getting the support they want, or living up to what they are saying.

The information is based on interviews conducted by the editorial board of *The Meter*. Each candidate was viewed on an individual basis. We interviewed each candidate before the campaigning of SEC week began.

This is no way a mechanism to sway voters, however, it is presented in hopes to offer voters a chance to make decisions to vote based on the important issues.

Candidates for SGA President

Mario Curtis, a chemistry major, wants to push more student involvement for Tennessee State University's academic year of 2001-2002. Curtis is familiar with parliamentary procedure from four previous years in high school, so he feels that he would fit in with the SGA equally.

He plans to bring a different attitude

and also bring some new ideas among the SGA and the student body.

Robert Jobe, a senior mechanical engineering major from Nashville, Tennessee is running for president because of a deep love for TSU. He wants to develop more student-alumni relations. He also plans on ensuring more efficient student services, in the areas of residence life, classroom and security.

As part of what his ticket deems the "New Student Order," he would like to structure community and student economic empowerment. He also would like to communicate issues of the entire student body, as a way of recreating positive attitudes around campus.

Damyon Thompson, a business information systems major, has a concrete platform of what he calls the Student Bill of Rights. Those rights entitled to students are security, having a consistency with protection on campus; fast and accurate financial aid, which also includes scholarships where he wants to distribute \$100 and \$200 scholarships to deserving students; and access to technology, which should be unlimited, and that includes 24 hour computer lab service, and linking the computer systems from the main campus to the downtown campus.

Thompson plans to focus each month on different aspects of his platform. He considers the SGA president to be dynamic and flexible, determined and aggressive, personable, knowledgeable, and available to cater to freshmen needs. Thompson has already worked in the SGA under Quanita Johnson's and Chris Berry's administrations giving him an advantage of implementing goals. He has managed to offer an IBM course for technology, more variety of food services on campus and worked on improving security.

Candidates for SGA Vice President

Kevin Gilliam II, is a junior working to create a better TSU. If elected vice president, his platform is a declaration of interdependence. He would like to galvanize the SGA General Assembly for money for organizations, so there can be

a high amount of money allotted to each individual organization. Gilliam believes the vice president has a duty to inform the students through the General Assembly. Integrity and accountability is what believes sets him apart from the other candidates.

According to Gilliam, the skills needed for the vice president to possess are teamwork, integrity, consistency and dependability. Gilliam's involvement around campus shows that he possesses those skills already. He is active in BLACK, President Collegiate 100, Golden Key National Honor Society, TSU University Honors Program, Honors Program Representative, SGA Representative-At-Large, and Honda Bowl. He wants to be remembered as the vice president that makes the General Assembly effective.

Jamal Hutchinson, an architectural engineering major and president of the Pan-Hellenic Council, wants to see a proactive vice president. He would like to see more activism in school pep rallies, and service on committees. As what he calls, the "SGA's middle man," he would work on: a table in the Floyd-Payne Campus Center once a week; a student bill of rights; support of Black businesses; repair of campus computers; security and student workstudy; more parking spaces on campus; student empowerment; more workshops for Black freshmen; and usage of Greek organizations more on campus to repeat his platform. Hutchinson, hasn't served on the SGA before, therefore he feels he is "on the outside looking in."

He would like have a security/student workstudy where students could be trained for a presence on campus, both night and day. His bill of rights would include things students can and cannot do, instructions on how to handle teachers, grade appeal and turning in of assignments.

Candidates for Miss Tennessee State University

Carla Allen, a junior accounting and business law major is active on the TSU women's volleyball team, SUBG and LYLAS. Her platform for Miss TSU

includes academic awareness, community service, and physical fitness. She plans on starting her goals in her platform by contacting businesses over the summer to help network with various majors on campus.

She would like to get the Queens Council active in physical fitness by starting walk-a-thons, with surrounding colleges, where the proceeds would go to NAACP chapters or UNICEF. She would like to publish tips on fitness in issues of *The Meter*, and would leave an option for students to sign up to run a mile with Miss TSU. She feels she can relate to all students in that she is focused, determined, has perseverance, and does not give up easily. Her motto is: take the little things day by day and build on them.

Yvette Brooks, a junior, wants to give back to the community to build a better tomorrow. She would like to uplift African American women, entrepreneurship and the heritage of HBCUs. She considers herself as caring, thoughtful, and spiritual.

Brooks volunteers at a hospital, YMCA and an elementary school. She is active in SUBG, MAPS, and TSU Dance. She can relate to Michelle Robinson, Miss TSU 1999-2000, because she was a graceful queen.

Kristian Campbell hails from Memphis, Tenn., and is a business administration major with a concentration in marketing. Her objectives for Miss TSU are to be more active in state college recruitment; hold a campus wide can drive; monthly rap sessions; on-line voting; hold a dance-a-thon; and informational listings. Her platform includes pushing more in-state college recruitment and having a stand against domestic violence.

She believes Miss TSU should stand for the student body. She identifies with Tiara "Lady" Wilson, a former Miss TSU because she understood focus. She plans to recruit in-state residents to TSU by going to a different school every Friday, and says word of mouth is always a great start. To prevent domestic violence, she plans to work with Ujima House, where kids of domestic violence can go to play. She would also give informational pack-

See "What We Think" on Page 6

What We Think:

Candidate profiles continued, and The Meter's endorsements

Continued from Page 5

ets on the facility of Ujima on a table in the student center.

Nia Campbell, a interdisciplinary studies major, has a platform of unifying our campus and involvement of our community. She would like to start an Outstanding Tiger Employee Award Program, where students at TSU would be able to nominate professors, administrators, and staff that go above and beyond the call of duty. The nominees would be recognized at a special program during the school year.

She would like to increase social activities by having more pep rallies, showing more "Tiger Spirit." She also would like to start student athlete community involvement, to get past the assumption that athletes are just recognized for the sport they play. The athlete would travel to various schools encouraging students to keep the books first in their academic life. She would also like to target more alumni for funding.

Chandra Champion, a nursing and biology major, would like to build more empowerment of women in college for her platform. She wants to start a mentorship program with women on seminars like: safe sex; how to dress for success; breast and cervical cancer; speakers; religion; and how to balance life. She would like her pastor of her church, True Way,

to speak with males on campus.

She has experience with the Royal Court, being a former Miss Sophomore, and feels she can be the liaison for *The Meter* and the SGA. She believes her positive attributes are leadership, loyalty and being trustworthy. She is active in the community as a Girl Scout Troop leader and a volunteer with Napier Housing Community.

Mia Evans, a mass communications and biology/chemistry major, has a solid platform in what she calls the "Community Outreach Coalition." She wants to spread her coalition campus-wide and to focus on mentally and physically disabled people. She would also like to push the issue of diversity awareness and multi-culturalism and create a race relations council.

She identifies with Miss TSU 1999-2000 Michelle Robinson because she was welcoming and was a lady. As Miss TSU, Mia believes that you represent everyone and each time Miss TSU is in public, the community sees every student at TSU, TSU's history and its future.

Celena Pitts hails from Atlanta, Georgia and wants to restore pride and spirit at TSU, by singing the Black National Anthem at TSU basketball games.

She feels that Miss TSU is an ambassador to incoming students and needs to

support community service. She feels Miss TSU should exemplify ambition, elegance, poise, a positive attitude, be cooperative, and possess tenacity. She would also like to see involvement of community service after pep rallies.

Delali Potakey, a candidate for Miss TSU, is a speech communication major who plans to bring unity and spirit into the school, and wants to hold more events displaying talent. She wanted to run for Miss TSU, because she feels she can represent TSU well. Her personality is an open spirit, and her style is that she like to "stick out like a sore thumb." She considers herself a good listener.

She is active in TSU Showstoppers, Forensics Team, TSU Peer Counselors, TSU Restoration and Sister of the Rose. She identifies with Michelle Robinson, Miss TSU 1999-2000, because of her spirit, and Tiara "Lady" Wilson, Miss TSU 1998-1999, because of her powerful speech. She would like to be Miss TSU because she is dedicated, loves TSU, enjoys the students and can get the job done right.

Shimere Williams believes that TSU is ready for change. A civil and environmental engineering major, Williams' platform is students, action and reaction. She would reach out in love, and change students way of thinking. Her attributes include ambition, persis-

tence and determination and a deep belief in God. Her community service goals are to talk to schools.

She not only identifies with former Miss TSU Michelle Robinson, but also current Miss TSU 2000-2001 Tamara Moore because of the change she went through as Miss TSU. Williams is active as a mentor, community service secretary, Restoration praise dancer, Brother to Brother/Sister to Sister and Hale residence council.

Each candidate presented what they consider the important issues to be on and off campus; however a decision must be made by voters to select the most qualified and respectable candidate. We had the opportunity to talk to each of them and from those conversations and based solely on the issues, we think Damyon Thompson, Kevin Gilliam II and Carla Allen offered solid solutions and productive platforms for TSU.

By no means are we telling you to vote for these people. It is up to you to decide who you want to represent Tennessee State University.

Take the information that you receive this week from reach candidate and think about what is best for the University when choosing a candidate.

Most of all, be sure to exercise your right to vote, a privilege that was not obtainable at one time, but is a treasure to have now. •

Voting online not a possibility if not in Constitution

By Raynata Y. Reed
News Writer

The recent technological advance at TSU of putting housing online will not be overshadowed by voting online anytime in the near future.

Every year, the first week of April is Student Election Week, or SEC week. After SGA nominations, candidate rallies and forums and the Miss Tennessee State University pageant, voting takes place for class officers at the end of the week on both the downtown and main campus.

Though most students feel it is imperative to vote, some students either don't find the time or find it hard to fit in vote between classes.

"I have voted ever since I've been here," said Lydia Crivens, a social work major from Memphis. "Voting in the stu-

dent center has sometimes been a hassle, but it's worth it. I feel it is every student's right, duty and responsibility to vote."

There have been proposed talk of trying to get voting online in the works. However, there is a process that needs to take place in order to get online voting into the Student Government Association's constitution.

Kwesi Johnson, who is on the SEC acts as a liaison between SEC and SUBG.

"(The SEC and SUBG) works the same way the U.S. Government works," Johnson said.

"The house of delegates acts as the executive branch, and they make the laws. The house has to approve what goes on during SEC week and SEC carries out those actions," Johnson added.

But before SEC can carry out online voting, it has to be in the SGA constitution and that requires a constitutional amendment.

"To get it in the constitution, it is a process," said Angela Street, a junior from Wisconsin and a member of SUBG.

"It also depends on what you're trying to do. It takes time to change things in the constitution."

Whether or not online voting is a good idea or not leaves students feeling indifferent.

"The major (benefit) of online voting would be increased voter turnout," Johnson added.

"On the last two years that I have been on SGA and ran, one out of every nine students voted."

Johnson also added that "(it's important to vote) to make people feel like they have a part in what is going on and they tend to have more pride in their school. I'm looking at the bigger picture, trying to get people to care about more issues."

Rodney Elam, a senior from Dayton also on SEC agrees with the increased

voter turnout stance.

"(Voting online) would result in increased voter participation," Elam said. "More people would have an opportunity to vote between classes."

Stephanie Carter, a Biology Pre-Med major from Atlanta, who is also running for representative-at-large, opposed the idea of online voting.

"I think we should keep the system we have now because of the problems we're having with Pipeline."

Despite student opinion, any issues that may concern putting voting online need not be a worry now.

According to Johnson, there may be a trial run next semester during freshman elections, and possibility online voting for real elections next semester, but as of now, "nothing is etched in stone or official yet." •

Hefner discusses student leadership roles and the SGA

The Meter submitted questions to the President's Office regarding student leadership and the role of the Student Government Association at Tennessee State University. What follows is Dr. James A. Hefner's response to each question.

Q: What do you believe is the single most important quality for a student leader to have?

A: Flexibility. To be an effective leader, one must be an effective listener. Those who listen well more often than not learn about things that necessitate course or direction changes.

Only by being flexible can the student leader claim legitimacy, since legitimacy comes from followers - other students - who actually set the agenda. At (his or her) best, a good leader is a good follower.

Q: Who in the past four years has exemplified this quality above others?

A: It is impossible to single out any one student. In many different areas, TSU students have exemplified exemplary leadership. Oftentimes, the most respected and compelling leader is without portfolio or title.

I have seen so many outstanding student leaders in my 10 years as TSU president. I have admired many young men and women in student government posi-



TSU President James A. Hefner

tions, in positions in other student organizations, fraternities, sororities, and those in quiet, simple study groups.

It is not fair or possible to point out just one student.

Q: What role does the TSU administration play in assisting student government leaders?

A: As you know, Vice President for Student Affairs Thomas Martin and his staff provide an abundance of support to student government leadership.

TSU is one of the few colleges and universities that offers student govern-

ment leaders the office space, computer services, and overall governance support.

Only a handful of schools I know of provide the kind of physically attractive facilities we have available for our SGA. In the larger sense, though, I personally have always mentored and supported student government officials. My executive team and I meet frequently with SGA representatives to discuss student-related issues.

Q: What is the most important role/ activity for a student leader?

Why?

A: As with all leaders, the most important thing a student leader can do is model the behavior he or she wishes to prevail. If a student leader wants the student body to excel academically, then he or she must demonstrate outstanding academic discipline.

In all things involving leadership, the masses of people are looking more to what the leader does than what the leader says.

Q: What can student leaders, faculty and administration do to encourage and motivate students to vote (in national elections and student government elections)?

A: Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, the former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, wisely observed that all

politics is local politics.

What O'Neill meant is that the focus of politics, first and foremost, should be on issues that are important to people where they work and in the case of TSU, study.

Again, though, the issues have to be of the people, by the people, and from the people. A leader cannot invent issues and expect people to rally around them. This is true nationally as well as locally.

All of us at TSU can encourage localized participation in issues identification and from there, encourage the most capable men and women to run for office on these issues. Teach-in and study circles are excellent vehicles for helping members of the TSU community identify and rally around those issues.

Q: What advice do have for up-and-coming politicians who are getting their start at TSU?

A: There is no substitute for substance. Substance comes from preparation. Preparation comes from diligent study, reflection, and the capacity for selflessness.

The best advice I can give an aspiring politician is embodied in the TSU motto: "think, work, serve."•

Attention Graduating Seniors!!!

Thursday, May 10, 2001

10 a.m. -2 p.m. Clearance envelopes given to students
4:30 p.m. Commencement rehearsal for schools of Agriculture and Home Economics, Allied Health Professions and Nursing
5:30 p.m. Commencement rehearsal for colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, Engineering and Technology and the Institute of Government

(All held at Gentry Complex)

Friday, May 11, 2001

6 p.m. President's Informal Reception for Graduates, Parents and Guests

The Barn

Saturday, May 12, 2001

9 a.m. Commencement exercises for all graduates of colleges

2 p.m. Commencement exercises for all graduates of schools

hang ten,
earn six*

summer sessions, hawai'i

* 6 weeks, 6 credits, as low as \$3,000 (based on typical costs of tuition, room & board, books, and estimated airfare)

Term 1: May 21-June 29 • Term 2: July 2-August 10

www.summer.hawaii.edu • toll-free 1 (800) 862-6628

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Summer Sessions

Reflections on a Year of Presidential Service:

Chris Berry shares his thoughts on being SGA President

By Tosha Jones
Community View Writer

When leaders are called to service either for a nation, a community, or a university, they will undoubtedly experience times of triumph and accomplishment, as well as frustrations and failures. In a recent interview with Chris Berry, current president of the Student Government Association, he recounted the moments of this school year that have presented him with the most difficulty and the instances that have brought him the most satisfaction.

In April of 2000, Chris campaigned with the motto of, "the vision, the mission, the man." In his inaugural address on August 31, 2000, Chris relayed his vision for the future of TSU through short messages concerning the way students relate to each other and their attitudes about their community.

"I have a vision that students will walk across TSU's campus without putting their heads down when they see

someone walking their way; a vision that we could start cleaning up the community and the perimeters of TSU," Chris said as he began his period in office. He said that the first way to spark students to speak and make eye contact with others is to do it yourself.

"It starts with just you," he said. "It's amazing if you just smile at one person what type of influence that might have on someone else."

Community service is another avenue that Chris wanted to pursue to unite TSU students. On Oct. 7, 2000, the SGA organized a community clean-up day, in which 40-50 students participated and they are also planning a similar project for April 7, 2001 called CommUniversity Cleanup Day. This event will allow Tennessee State to team up with Vanderbilt, Fisk, and any other surrounding universities in an effort to clean up the community.

"If you have a well-kept community, that does nothing but uplift your university that much more, and vice versa," Chris said. He went on to say that every



PHOTO BY DERICK KIMBROUGH

Above: Chris Berry and emcee (and former Mr. TSU) Wil Taylor at the Homecoming 2000 pep rally. Below: Vice President April Frazier and President Christopher Berry made up the 2000-01 SGA administration.

person that participated in the cleanup day last October, when they returned to the same area on campus, looked around, and took pride in the area they had just cleaned up.

"I know if that feeling of pride can happen to me, then it can be a universal feeling," he said. "That is why I encourage people to participate in events like that."

When asked what were the most difficult situations to deal with as president of the SGA, Chris replied that they were keeping that SGA on one accord and maintaining a high level of excitement among the SGA and the student body.

Chris feels that when the students see their leaders working hard to share knowledge with them through workshops and other forums, that the entire student body will become motivated to get involved in activities on campus. He says, "the energy starts with the SGA and it's a domino effect, it will trickle down."

Chris also recognizes that there is a tendency for the SGA to slack off during the spring semester due to preparations for graduation, involvement in Greek weeks, and many other factors. However, he made a promise to himself that he would finish his year as president with the same zeal with which he started.

There is no single instance that is the highlight of the year for Chris, instead he had numerous accomplishments throughout the year that fulfilled his vision. Two special moments for Chris were introducing Vice President Gore on national television and TSU's Presidents Day Dinner during SGA Week. He was able to attend



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS BERRY

several conferences in Washington, D.C. and Florida and come back with ideas to implement here to make TSU the best university it can be. Also, this was the first year that SGA has given over \$10,000 in scholarships for students

Chris advises the next president of SGA to stop by his office and talk with him. He says that, "there is so much work to do, things that aren't in writing that you're responsible for, and I would like to share my stories, my experiences."

He said that it is important for every candidate to know why he is running for the position and that he must remember his purpose.

"Be knowledgeable of situations and understand that not everything is going to go your way," he counsels, "but be able to say to yourself ever morning that I did the best I could."•

▶ COMPUTE THIS

90
Days

+



=



Up to \$23,000
education assistance with

UPS Earn & Learn
\$8.50 - \$9.50/hr

Preferred Work Time Frames:

Twilight Shift: 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Midnight Shift: 10:30 pm - 3:30 am
Sunrise Shift: 3:00 am - 8:00 am
Preload Shift: 3:30 am - 8:30 am

- No weekends
- Part-Time - 3.5 to 5 hours/day
- Exceptional Benefits Package
- Paid Vacations & Holidays
- FREE COMPUTER AFTER 90 DAYS!
- Free Group Banking at AM South Bank

Call Now: **615-876-5292**

Jshields@ups.com



AA/M/F

Student Election Commission Week Calendar of Events

Wednesday, April 4

SGA Forum

Kean Hall Gym, noon

Miss Tennessee State University Pageant

Kean Hall Gym, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 5

Voting (TSU ID required)

Avon Williams Campus Lobby, 4-8 p.m.

Friday, April 6

Voting (TSU ID required)

FPCC Lobby, 7 a.m.- 7 p.m.

Announcement of Winners

FPCC Courtyard, 9 p.m.

Up On Deck:

Beware of the three-peat ...

Will there be more post-certification problems in the SGA's highest office?

By Alan C. Beard
Sports Editor

For the past two years here at Tennessee State University we've been bamboozled, hoodwinked, and led astray by false prophets.



Alan C. Beard

Candidates running for the office of Student Government Association president promised us that they would bring us out of the dark into the light. Then came the truth. They couldn't even pass post-certification, which means they wouldn't get the chance to light a match.

You can't just blame the candidates though, it's your fault too! Yeah, you.

TSU students have gone the popular route the last two years when it came to voting for SGA president.

I remember both instances as if they were just yesterday. As I write this, I can't help but laugh at the memory. That's right, it's a joke! Why? Because Bernard Johnson (he won in the spring of 1999) and Marc Anthony Peek (the most recent culprit) knew when they were running that their grades were not up to par.

They knew they were about to get big, fat F's in one or more of their classes. Then they had the nerve to act surprised. "I am a wounded soldier," Peek said in an earlier interview with *The Meter* after being informed last fall he would not be SGA president.

How simple for Peek to think only of himself.

What about us, the students? You know, the ones who you promised to lead to greener pastures. You won the election, so obviously you convinced enough peo-



COLLAGE DESIGN BY ALAN C. BEARD & HILLARY S. CONDON

Clockwise from left: Reginald "Kool Mill" Shareef, Marc Anthony Peek, Christopher Berry and Bernard Johnson.

ple that your Marcus Garvey act was not just an act. So instead of reaching our Peek, we got what at the time seemed like the sour taste of a Berry (first name Christopher).

Johnson, you captivated us during your campaign, made us believers, and then you flunked! (you started this).

No wonder there is so much apathy about voting on this campus.

Every time we pick people we think are right for the job, they end up not being so right after all.

So for the past two years we've had an SGA president who calls himself "Kool Mill," a.k.a. Reginald Shareef (anyone who has to walk around calling them self Kool, well you get my drift) and Berry; how many people at TSU even know he is the SGA president?

Alas, neither of them was chosen by us to lead the school, but they did. And what do we have to show for it?

If the SGA has made significant improvements at TSU over the last two years, what are they?

The food here still tastes like somebody regurgitated it, the dorms are dustier than ever, and if the SGA raises the student activity fee one more red-cent,

without having any activities, it's gonna be Trouble-Trouble!

When "Kool Mill" took office during the 1999-2000 school year after Johnson was notified he did not qualify, he had no prior experience "EVER" in the SGA.

Can anyone remember one thing that the SGA did during his term in office? (besides add more members to the low-budget wannabe fraternity, the W.U.A.N. Click) Didn't think so!

Which leads me to believe his running for the position was simply to fatten up his resume. Now, I must be fair, Berry did have substantial experience in the SGA prior to running for president. This is probably why his term in office has been more organized and semi-beneficial than Shareef's, Puff Daddy-esque administration.

When the current SGA president was asked if he thinks there is a possibility of a three-peat taking place, Berry responded, "...the candidates that I know are running, their GPA's are well over 3.2, if not better. I've seen them over the last three or four years academic-wise, at recruiting trips and usually you don't take your less than 3.0 students.... you take your best."

There are two sides to every story, and then there is the truth. Some are afraid to tell it, but I'm not! Someone has to keep it real as so many of us walk around here dazed and confused. And as you all know, the truth can hurt. (Ouch!)

I know I should give the evicted presidents (Johnson and Peek), the chance to defend themselves. But were they as considerate when they played with our emotions and ran for office? Exactly!

Have Johnson and Peek done serious damage to how TSU's Student Government Association is viewed not only by the students but the community and other universities?

Berry doesn't think so, saying, "I think it's just like a cycle. No, I don't think it will go long-term because (he pauses) well if it happens again I can see definitely raising the standards for running for office from a 2.5 to a 2.8 or maybe even a 3.0. That way it will be similar to getting into the Honors Program or Honors Society. No, I don't see it being long term." (Really!)

Well, only time will tell; my hometown Chicago Bulls three-peated twice but they celebrated afterward. We won't have the same privilege.

We will all have to re-evaluate ourselves if this happens a third straight time. We have the power, the apathy must stop here!

I implore you to choose a president in this upcoming election who will truly symbolize what TSU is all about. Someone who stands for what it is that you as an individual came to this university for in the first place.

Enter the booth and place your vote for that person. You will help ensure that TSU's Student Government Association is not further tainted by post-certification issues.

And if you fail to do that, then like a mother tells her 5-year-old son who has just done something wrong, I can only say, . . . "shame on you!"

Don't Forget to vote on
Thursday and Friday!!!

Advice for future Miss Tennessee State Universitys

By Sparkle Davis

Arts and Entertainment Editor

Miss Tennessee State University is the most coveted title a TSU woman can earn. Along with this title come popularity, often grace, a picture in *Ebony* magazine, and the opportunity to be a representative of what TSU is and stands for.

According to the Miss Tennessee State University Handbook, a student qualified to run for Miss TSU must have at least a 2.5 G.P.A., attend a workshop that gives the participants details on the responsibilities of the job, have no prior school violations that resulted in probation or suspension, and have a continuous enrollment at the university up to the time that she is seeking office. If all of the above criteria are met, then she can proceed in the election.

Running for Miss TSU is not like running for high school prom queen or homecoming queen. Being a campus queen comes with huge amount of responsibility.

After the endorsements, the pageant and the election comes the work.

So now you have the coveted title of being the one to whom other students look up, the one many admire and want to be, the one who has to attend all major functions, parades, Homecoming activities, alumni conferences and off-campus activities. Oh, and if you thought that you get the same amount of time off during the summer as everyone else, think again.

Once you are crowned Miss TSU, your duties begin immediately. Student activities coordinator Dale Williams explains that the summer vacation is the

time to prepare for your role as a TSU representative, which means enrolling in a speech class to help prepare for all the speeches you'll make and coming back to school at the end of July to pick out the wardrobe for the royal court to wear.

Two weeks later you will be a helping hand when the freshman class arrives on campus. After all, TSU's queen also is a member of the Student Government Association.

There have been rumors about Miss TSU's seat in the SGA being revoked at the end of this year, but current Miss TSU Tamara Moore may have helped quell those rumors.

"Before I think there was problem with Miss TSU being on the the House of Delegates," she said. "I can't understand why they would want to take that away if it wasn't the way it was brutalized in the past. From what I heard, some Miss TSUs did not attend any of the meetings, so this year I attended most of the meetings and the ones that I could not attend I gave notice to the SGA."

Being Miss TSU and having a seat on the board with the SGA can make the job tough. "People don't realize that you have two jobs. As far as the SGA, their major focus is SGA. Wherein Miss TSU has her duties, plus SGA," Moore said.

"It's hard to balance both, but it's important for her to hold a position on the House of Delegates, so people can know that it's not just about looks but that she has a political view on everything."

So, as you can see, being Miss TSU comes with a lot of responsibility. The position can cause a lot of stress, particularly in the fall semester. It is recommended that she take only 15 hours in the fall and a normal course load in the spring because the grades of former queens have suffered and they could not graduate on time.

So, what happens when the fall semester is over and spring is in the air? What is left of Miss TSU's job?

The reigning Miss TSU says her main focus is on graduating and following through on campaign ideas.

"Spring semester gives me time to implement the things that I want to do,

which is what I talked about during my campaign," said Moore, who plans to produce and host her own fashion show.

Spring semester is the time when Miss TSU is not really in high demand. Though she still has to attend certain functions like the Distinguished Lecture Series that featured Danny Glover and Felix Justice, spring semester generally is a cool down period for her to focus on her grades and do any special projects that she feels will benefit TSU.

Moore's advice for future Miss TSUs is to focus on academics and be women of character, substance and manners because people are always watching and what you do in the courtyard today will be remembered.

"Be focused and know who you are before you get into this position," she said.

"It's a metamorphosis. You will transform in one way or another whether in a negative way or a positive way and you have to know who you are because the position will either make you or break you."

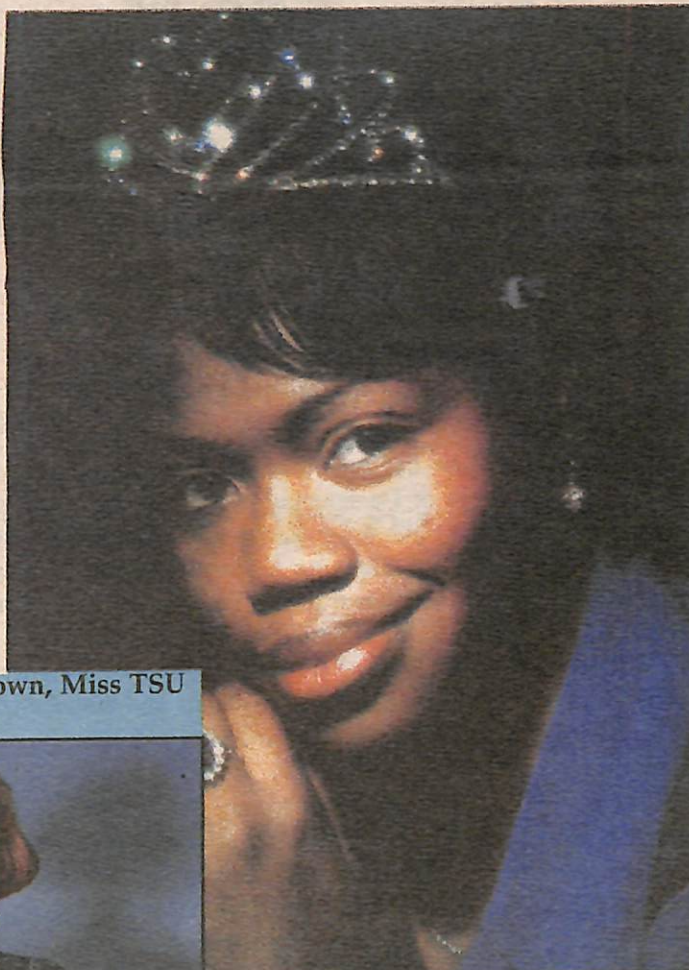
To translate, if you think that you are ready for this position, you need to have tough skin because you are going to be constantly ridiculed by the faculty and your peers.

If you cannot handle being in the spotlight, then do yourself a favor, do not run.

This is not to discourage anyone, but if you decide to run just know that this is what you'll be getting into.

Though her reign will be over at the end of this year, Moore wants to be remembered by her TSU family as someone who always has been sincere, open to hear anyone's problems, and understanding toward people.

"I want to be remembered as the Miss TSU (who) was down-to-earth and was real," Moore said. "It's a wonderful, fulfilling position, and I made the best of it."•



From left: Jamila Ingram, Miss TSU 1997-1998; Diannia Brown, Miss TSU 1995-1996; Tiara "Lady" Wilson, Miss TSU 1998-1999; Michelle Robinson, Miss TSU 1999-2000; and Tamara "Tamee" Moore, Miss TSU 2000-2001, and her court at the Homecoming 2000 pep rally.

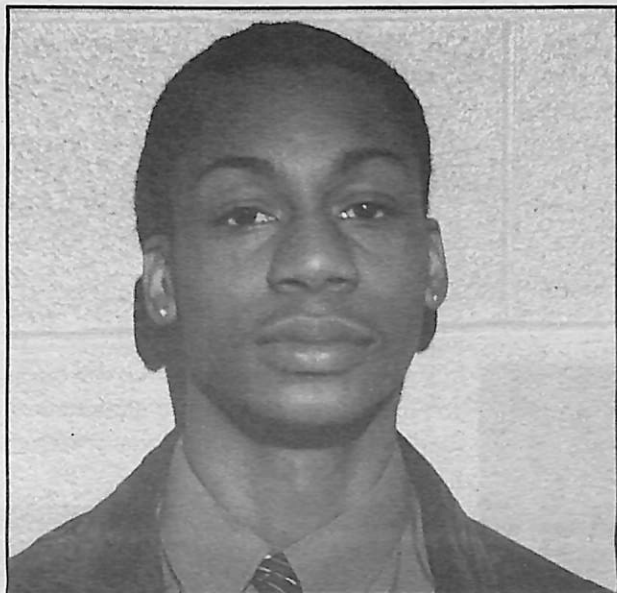


Student Government Association Candidates

2001-02

Student Government Association

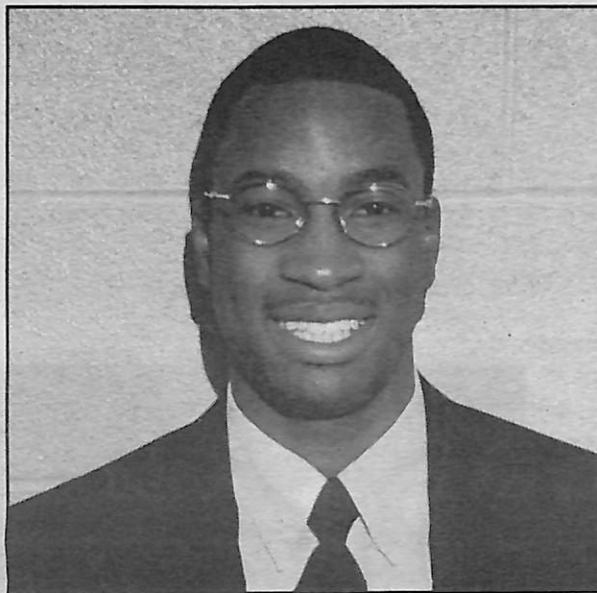
President



Name: Mario Curtis
Classification: Senior
Major: Chemistry and Business
Hometown: Memphis, Tenn.

Curtis is a member of the American Chemical Society, Pan-Hellenic Council where he is the Sergeant-at-Arms, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

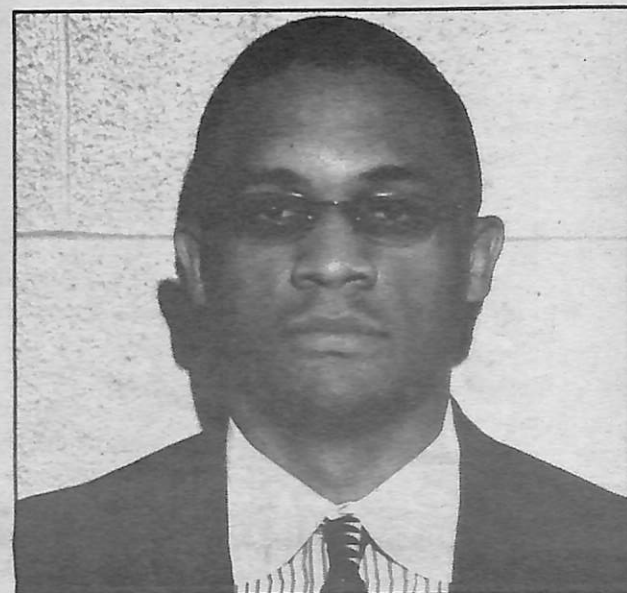
"I desire the position of SGA vice-president because I feel that there is not a voice that represents the diverse amount of the students on the campus. I feel that I can represent the students, be a hard worker, and provide insightful ideas for the betterment of the student body. Voting is important on this campus because it gives students a right to voice their opinion on who would be the best representative of the student body. Also when students choose representatives they are actually establishing the medium between students, administration and faculty. This is part of the glue that holds the TSU family together, and provides for a wonderful learning environment."



Name: Robert Allen Jobe
Classification: Senior
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Nashville, Tenn.

Jobe has served as the program manager for the College of Engineering and Technology's recruitment team, 1998 Engineering Concepts Institute, and Sophomore Teaching Assistant program. He was also the vice-president of the Engineering and Technology Student Leadership Council for the Fall of 1998. He is also Air Force ROTC cadet, Honors Program, math tutor for Academic Intervention, and the vice-president of Generation of Educated Men (G.E.M.)

"I am seeking to become the elected SGA president of TSU for the 2001-2002 school term. There seems to be a strong feeling of apathy on Tennessee State's University's campus. I feel that with adequate leadership that takes the time to see that the students are appropriately provided for and protected you will see and produce better results in student supported efforts. I envision to reinstate the SGA as a student empowered organization that will uphold all students' views and educate and inform them on what they can do collectively to see things through."



Name: Damyon Thompson
Classification: Junior
Major: Business Information Systems
Hometown: San Jose, California

Thompson has served on SGA for three years. He currently holds the position of Representative -at-Large. While on the SGA he has served on the Technology, Food Service, and Constitution Committee. Other organizations include: Honors Program, Collegiate 100, B.L.A.C.K., Golden Key Honor Society, Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity Inc.

"Embedded within me is the desire to serve as SGA president for the fall semester of 2001. There are many reasons why I am seeking this position, but the core reasons are to restore the student's faith and respect in this great university. Many times I hear students degrade the university out of frustration, and I believe if they actively participate in decision-making processes that occur on campus, they can have their voices heard."

Student Government Association Candidates

2001-02

Student Government Association

Vice-President



Name: Kevin Gilliam II
Classification: Junior
Major: Biology/Pre-Med
Hometown: Clinton, MD

Gilliam is involved with the Honors Program as a state representative, Honda Campus all-star challenge team, president of Collegiate 100 Black Men, B.L.A.C.K., Golden Key National Honor Society, and SGA Representative-at-Large.

"I am seeking this position because as the SGA vice-president I would be directly over the General Assembly. Being over the General Assembly I would have direct access to every student organization on the campus and retroactively be able to make the average students voice louder. It is exceedingly important that the student body gets out in masses to vote because without a showing of student support the SGA loses some of its credibility. This is because it would appear as if we were leading a student body who didn't care one way or the other what happens on our campus."



Name: Jamal Hutchinson
Classification: Senior
Major: Architectural Engineering
Hometown: Atlanta, GA

Hutchinson is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, inc., president of the Pan-Hellenic Council, Vice President of Architecture Engineering Instate, Mentor for the College of Engineering, peer tutor.

"My drive to become vice president of SGA is strong for numerous reasons. One of the reasons is that TSU's spirit needs to be rekindled and student's concerns about school issues need to be pro actively addressed. I believe it is the SGA's responsibility to address student concerns and also provide a positive environment for the student body. Voting is a privilege that is important for several reasons. One single vote could be the difference in putting an individual in who wants to make a change in the school or an individual who wants the position for resume filler. That person who chooses not to vote could hold the fate of the school in their hands."

Class Representatives

Graduate Representative
 Alexander B. Sellers

Miss Senior
 Dwedor Ford
 Alisa Person
 Djuana Stroud
 Robin Ursery

Senior Class Representative
 Tarashaun Cain
 Joscelyne Gibson
 N'Jemele Bush

Miss Junior
 Raven Winters
 Robin Atkinson

Junior Class President
 Tuere Coulter

Junior Class Vice President
 Shayla Toombs

Student Government Association Candidates

2001-02

Miss Tennessee State University



Name: Carla Allen

Classification: Junior
Major: Accounting and Business Law
Hometown: St. Louis, Missouri

Allen has been an athlete of the women's volleyball team for three years, Sophomore Representative-at-Large of the SGA, member and treasurer of SUBG, secretary for National Association of Black Accountants, LYLAS, Honors Program, and Student-Athlete-Advisory Board.

"Since my freshman year, I have looked up to the person holding the position of Miss Tennessee State University. I realized the Miss TSU is more than a pretty face; she is a woman of purpose. From this observation, my purpose for wanting to be Miss TSU came into being. If I achieve the honor of holding the position, I want to continue uplifting black women. I want to empower the minds of black women to know that all the positions and achievements that they obtained in college can carry over to the workforce."



Name: Yvette Brooks

Classification: Junior
Major: Health Care Administration
Hometown: St. Paul, Minnesota

Brooks is involved in the Concert Band, Dance Experience Ensemble, Honors Program mentor, Tiger Tour Guide, Pre-Alumni Council, SUBG, and a Resident Assistant at Wilson Hall.

"Voting is each and everyone's personal chance to make a difference and without your vote you're giving up your right to make a difference!"



Name: Kristian Campbell

Classification: Junior
Major: Business Administration
Hometown: Memphis, Tenn.

Campbell is involved in Honors Program, Honor's Service Council, Golden Key Honor Society, Phi Beta Lambda Business Fraternity, Advertising Club, LYLAS, and Restoration Dance Ministry.

"The seed of the TSU true blue spirit has been planted in my heart and has grown throughout my years at TSU. Representing TSU is a dream and a goal I have pursued. I want the students, faculty, and staff to accept me and respect me not only as their queen, but also as a representative voice. The importance of voting goes deeper than just voting, but voting for the right reasons. That is why it is important to vote for a personal representation, not a personal long time friend. With the situation of our last presidential election, and even close results at TSU, the students should now realize the importance of voting and that voting is important and it does make a difference."



Name: Nia Campbell

Classification: Junior
Major: Interdisciplinary Studies concentrating in speech and psychology
Hometown: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Campbell was crowned Miss Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Women's cross country/track-n-field team, and vice-president of student athletic advisement board, where she is now president.

"As a strong advocate for African-American rights and privileges I am a firm believer that voting does make a difference. I think oftentimes "we" as a people underestimate ourselves when it comes to "our" voice being heard. Too many times we sit back and allow the unthinkable to happen just for the simple fact that we don't believe. As I reflect on this last presidential race, it reaffirms that every vote does make a difference."



Name: Chandra Champion

Classification: Senior
Major: Nursing, minor in Biology
Hometown: Detroit, Michigan

Champion is involved XI Phi Lambda Medical Pre-Professional Fraternity, Resident Assistant at Heiman Street Apts., and committee leader in the Campus ministry College Group, Girl Scout Troop Leader in Napier Housing Community, coach for a girl's basketball team, volunteer at various AIDS centers in Nashville and Detroit.

"I desire the position of Miss Tennessee State University because I feel that position is one of integrity, beauty, intelligence, and grace. I feel that I possess all of these characteristics. The position of Miss TSU would allow me to try to implement programs dealing with Safe Sex and the homeless. We need to show the administration that we do care about our school. I believe the easiest way to do this is to go out and vote."

Student Government Association Candidates

2001-02

Miss Tennessee State University



Name: Mia Evans
Classification: Senior
Major: Mass Communications
Hometown: Sicily, Italy

Evans is involved in the Honors Program, National Dean's List as an All-American Scholar, Golden Key Honor Society, Alpha Kappa Mu, TSU State Representative in 1998, Miss Wilson Hall '97-'98, Honors Repertory Ensemble, LYLAS, American Red Cross, Miss Junior '99-'00, National Broadcasting Society, and a Resident Assistant.

"The office of Miss Tennessee State University offers an amazingly rare opportunity of service on a larger scale. As an influential leader and visible change on campus and in the community. She acts as a gracious ambassador and stands as a symbol for her university and the students she proudly represents."



Name: Celena Pitts
Classification: Senior
Major: Health Information management
Hometown: Atlanta, GA.

Pitts is involved in Aristocrat of bands, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc where she serves as parliamentarian, vice president of of Mu Rho Alpha, a member of the mass and college choirs of Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

"As I envision Miss TSU, I see a woman of elegance, poise, dignity, attitude, grace, and tenacity. I desire this position because of my ability to transmit radiant positive energy that will encourage the student body to more active in campus activities. My energy shall also encourage the student body to be more involved and esteemed about their school. My desire to be Miss TSU comes from the heart and from he heart I will give this esteemed position its value."



Name: Delali Potakey
Classification: Senior
Major: Speech Communication, emphasis in theatre with teacher certification
Hometown: Memphis, Tenn.

Potakey was a member of the Pep Club and she is presently a member of TSU Forensics Team, Co-Captain of TSU Showstoppers, and a praise dancer in TSU Restoration Dance Ministries.

"I understand Miss TSU may not be a political figure and I am not trying to be politician but I would like to see more school spirit on campus. Change comes with time; change erupts through unity; change starts with the students. As students, we would like certain events to take place to better our school, but without voting our opinions cannot be heard. We should always view voting as a priority, but at the same time the student body should vote because they want excellent striving people to represent their school and understand what the students want."



Name: Shimere Williams
Classification: Junior
Major: Civil Environmental Engineering
Hometown: Birmingham, Alabama

Williams is the director of Restoration Praise Dance Ministry, Miss National Society of Black Engineers, Miss Hale Hall, TSU chapter of Golden Key National Honor Society, TSU Honors Program Student Council.

"The role of Miss TSU is inevitably a leadership position on this campus that receives an abundance of recognition. I am a person after the hearts and needs of people. Being in a position that receives the attention of people gives me the precious opportunity to reach someone even if it is just one. Unfortunately, our generation is materialistic and extremely visual; thus Miss TSU is a beauty queen to the physical eye. In desiring this position not only do I understand that "Miss" suggests one who must exemplify characteristics of a queen but to me "Miss" means molding individuals for Self Success.

Class Representatives

Continued from Page 13

Junior Class Treasurer
Brannon Gaskins

Junior Class Secretary
Gina V. Houston

Junior Class Representative
Lakia Brown Shawntaz Crawford Kiyoko Clark

Miss Sophomore
Tiffany Bryant

Sophomore Class Representative
Charles Galbreath

Student Government Association Candidates

2001-02

Day Representatives



Name: Esther Baptiste
Classification:
 Junior
Major: Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology
Hometown: Detroit, Michigan

Baptiste is involved in Michigan Club, Pre-Alumni Council, NACWC, Aristocrat of bands, Criminal justice organization, Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity, Inc., and a SUBG volunteer.

"I truly believe that as a university we can grow by using Talent and Striving Unity. While seeking the position of rep-at-large for the SGA, it is my desire to be willing to serve my student body. Voting is very critical when it comes to sustaining our equal rights. It is important that I exercise the privilege that was once not double minorities of which I represent. As an African-American it is a duty that I at solely upon my beliefs and convictions."



Name: Marlin Carter
Classification:
 Sophomore
Major: Biology/Pre-Med
Hometown: Wichita, Kansas

Carter is currently a member of the SGA Stipulation of Settlement Committee, various science clubs, Honors Program.

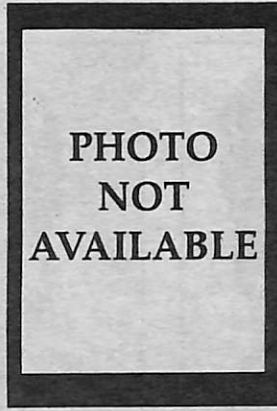
"I believe that as a representative of the SGA I will be able to promote a better relationship between the school and the surrounding community. I will carry on the work of the current SGA in addition to bringing fresh ideas to the group. By the students actually taking part in elections, this will help them to know and feel comfortable voicing concerns to people that can actually make changes."



Name: Stephanie Carter
Classification:
 Sophomore
Major: Biology/Pre-Med
Hometown: Atlanta, Ga.

Carter is involved in Honors Program and Helping Hands organization.

"I want to become a rep-at-large so that she can grow to be more active in her campus. I think that being elected into the SGA will help me to learn the inner workings of TSU and to understand how to help with the improvement of her school. I also feel that this position will enable me to be a leader among my peers. This position will give me a platform upon which I can give and hopefully initiate my ideas."



Name: Mekeila Cook
Classification:
 Major: Psychology
Hometown: Memphis, Tenn.

Cook is involved in the Varsity Cheerleading Squad, Pre-Alumni Council, and a Peer Counselor.

"Voting is essential to effectively accomplishing all the goals a particular group has set. Just as we witnessed in this year's presidential election, every vote counts. This along with equal and fair representation is why I feel voting is imperative."



Name: Ramsey Covington
Classification:
 Junior
Major: Accounting
Hometown: Memphis, Tenn.

Covington is a member of the TSU tennis team, Honors Program, Athletic Advisory Council, Golden Key National Honor Society, and National Sports Program.

"I desire the position of Representative-at-Large. I want to actively help to see that the needs of the students body at TSU. Since the SGA is a voice for the students that promote change in campus living, and is a link between students and faculty, voting is important on this campus. Voting on this campus allows students to know that their votes count and can help them get in the habit of voting in city, state, and national elections."



Name: Kennethra Edwards
Classification:
 Major:
Hometown:

Edwards is a SGA member, AFROTC cadet, founder of Physical Fitness Organization, and National Criminal Honor Society.

"Voting is one realistic goal that was accomplished on this campus and will be pushed forward in many years to come. Knowing the voting procedures shapes the well being of all collegian individuals. College is about growth and strength that is gained through the participation in such activities as the SGA. This opportunity will give me a chance to enlighten the ignorant on reality."

Student Government Association Candidates

2001-02

Day Representatives



Name: Anthony Forte
Classification:
 Junior
Major: Business Administration (Marketing)
Hometown: Atlanta, Ga.

Forte currently serves as Mr. Tennessee State University, a member of SUBG, student/faculty hearing committee, president of Advertising Club, parliamentarian of Phi Beta Lambda Business Fraternity, former journalist for the campus newspaper (The Meter-1999), and a Resident Assistant

"There is a serious need for the students to be represented by someone that can interact effectively and understand the wide array of students and cultures enrolled at Tennessee State University and act as a respectable liaison to the administration. Voting is important so that your opinion is knowledgeable in the selection of your student body representatives."



Name: Stargell Mosley
Classification:
 Sophomore
Major: Health Care Administration
Hometown: Atlanta, Ga.

Mosley is currently involved as an active member of the Airforce ROTC Det 790 program, Sophomore Ambassadors, and a Resident Assistant at Watson Hall.

"Being in the ROTC program gives me the chance to enhance important leadership skills that are needed in the corporate world today. I also get the opportunity to guide and help others in their search for a way to fund their education by way of being a recruiter for the program. I want to hold the position of representative -at-Large because I know I have what it takes to be a voice for my fellow schoolmates."



Name: Ihsan Um'Rani
Classification:
 Sophomore
Major: Nursing
Hometown: Decatur, Georgia

Um'Rani is a member of the SGA as a sophomore class representative, treasure of Sophomore Ambassador, Honors Program, and NAACP.

"As Rep-at-Large, I would be obligated to speak and operate in such a manner as to cater to the needs of the entire student body, rather than just one class. I would like to stress the importance of voting on TSU's campus. We, as students, must work toward eliminating the apathy on campus. We can accomplish this goal by, first, keeping an update on the election, the candidates, and VOTING. It is OUR ONLY GUARANTEE that the most qualified and diligent students will obtain offices."



Name: Brandy Tate
Classification:
 Junior
Major: Mass Communication with a minor in Computer Programming
Hometown: Memphis, Tenn.

Tate currently serves as Rep-at-Large on the SGA, a member of NACWC, and the Black Caucus with Senator Thelma Harper.

"The position I am seeking is Rep-at-large of SGA because I believe it's time for a change for TSU and it starts with the student leaders. I believe voting is very important because if we don't vote in campus elections, then I'm afraid we will not vote in national election. Many times students complain about situations on campus and they don't realize the people they put in has a direct effect on the situation that they are complaining about."



Name: Courtney White
Classification:
 Sophomore
Major: Health Care Administration
Hometown: Dyersburg, Tenn.

White currently serves on the SGA as representative-at-large, chairperson of the food service committee, 2nd vice-president of Sophomore Ambassadors, and NAACP.

"I desire the position of Rep-at-Large because I believe I can have a lasting effect on my peers. I have and plan to continue helping others as much as I can. Throughout the pass year we have seen our voting power as a nation being questioned, therefore I believe that is all the more reason why we should voice our opinion. Apathy is so vivid on our campus and voting is a way for us to show our involvement in school."

Editor's Note:

The biographies printed are samples from the biographies candidates turned in to the Student Election Commission, and the photos were scheduled through The Meter office. Those without printed photos did not make or show up for scheduled appointments with The Meter's photographer.

Student Government Association Candidates

2001-02

Evening Representatives



PHOTO
NOT
AVAILABLE



Name: Cheron Corbett

Classification:
Junior
Major: Marketing and Speech Communications
Hometown: Chicago, Ill.

Corbett is currently a member of SGA.

"I have a deep desire for the position of rep-at-large. I truly take the position of rep-at-large to heart. My responsibility is to attend to everyone's problems starting for the freshman to the seniors. By being open minded and president, these qualities allow me to complete my duties as rep-at-large. I put the problems of this school on my shoulders and carry the load. I feel that I'm here to make a difference, so why not join the SGA and put your input toward improving this great institution of high learning. Voting is not only important on this campus, it always important to vote regardless of the situation."



Name: Kwesi Johnson

Classification:
Junior
Major: Respiratory Therapy with a minor in business
Hometown: Greensboro, N.C.

Johnson is the squad captian of the Cheerleading Squad, and was previously the spirit leader and motivator, he served on Freshamn Delegation, Sophomore Class Representative, student apathy committee on the SGA, currently a rep-at-large as a member of the Building and Grounds Committee, and vice-president of B.L.A.C.K.

"I am running for rep-at-large evening because I want to help bring a change to TSU, so we can head in the right direction."



Name: Angela Moore

Classification:
Junior
Major: Political Science
Hometown: Little Rock, Arkansas

Moore has served as a freshman delegate, peer counselor, NAACP, SUBG volunteer, SGA Food Service Committee, Honors Program, Golden Key National Honor Society, international Affairs Society, and Baptist Student Union.

"I feel that being in SGA is where I feel most effective as a student and as a leader. During this semester, I have been selected as a student intern during the Tennessee State General Assembly. I want to be a liaison between administration and students in a way that has not yet fully developed. I feel that voting in any arena is very important. However on college campus, I feel that voting is a precursor to voting for a national or local election.



Name: Ashlei Ray

Classification:
Sophomore
Major: Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing
Hometown: St. Louis, Missouri

Ray is a member of Phi Beta Lambda Business Fraternity, inc., Dean's List, Junior Varsity Cheerleading.

"I would be privileged to add SGA Rep-at-Large to my list of accomplishments. This goal is to be carried out and met with the aid of my student body. Without their supporting votes the campaign cycle, as we know it, would come to an end. The voters are my closest and greatest connections to my ultimate goal of pleasing the student body and myself."



Name: Jamie Riley

Classification:
Sophomore
Major: Health Care Administration
Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio

Riley has served as freshman Class President, President of Watson Hall, Literary Guild, WUAN, Ohio Club, Freshman Delegation, Speaker of the House of SGA, vice-president of NAACP, president of Ohio Club, Chairperson of freshman Delegation, founder of Sophomore Ambassadors, and the Chairperson of Stipulation of Settlement and Constitution committees.

"I believe in building a stronger connection between the African-American community, raising the moral, and awareness of the Black race, allowing for upgrading, not belittlement."

Blackett is currently a member of the SGA House of Delegates, Peer Counselor, and Honors Program, and Big Brother/Big Sister of Nashville.

"I believe my works with the SGA will not only be the most rewarding and fulfilling, but it will also be the most productive. I also hope that through my campaign I can encourage those students that have never voted before to go out and get involved with the campus activities. Voting at any HBCU is important because the people that hold offices can make outstanding changes for both today and the future."

Student Government Association Candidates

2001-02

Evening Representatives



**Name: Brian
Sexton**

Classification:
Sophomore
Major: Business
**Administration with
a concentration in
Urban Land
Development**
Hometown: Chicago,
Ill.

Sexton is involved in
NAACP and
Sophomore
Ambassadors.

"I feel TSU is fading due to lack of student apathy. I plan to accomplish my goal through the respected position of Rep-at-Large. I feel none of these goals will be implemented if one does not VOTE, which is something I feel strongly about. I feel everyone one on campus should vote and have a chance to voice their opinions on the different issues affecting them."



**Name: Kenneth
Taylor**

Classification: Junior
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Atlanta,
GA

Taylor is involved in the Aristocrat of Bands, TSU Cheerleader, Pre-Alumni Council, Secretary of the psychology club, and a present SGA Rep- at-large.

"I feel that education is very empowering, and I endeavor to help equip my fellow student body with knowledge from our books, school, the world, and its government. I feel that serving on the SGA will enable me to help resolve many of the concerns and requests of the student body, whom in fact are the most important. I am committed to making short and long-term goals become a reality for the future of TSU. I feel it is our duty to help motivate our peers to vote, and to share with them the importance they play in today's modern society."

Don't forget
to vote on
Thursday
and Friday!!



OPEN LETTER FROM KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY, INC.

MEMBERS OF KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY,
INCORPORATED THAT ARE TRANSFER
STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED AT
TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY MUST
ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR PRESENCE ON
CAMPUS WITH THE OFFICE OF STUDENT
AFFAIRS IMMEDIATELY. FAILURE TO
CONTACT THE OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
COULD JEOPARDIZE YOUR MEMBERSHIP
STATUS WITH THE FRATERNITY AND THE
REINSTATEMENT STATUS OF ALPHA THETA.