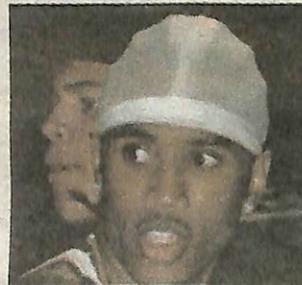




It's official -- Omega Psi Phi accomplishes another TSU first.

Page 8



Trey Songz just had to make it here for the students.

Page 11



The Tigers' game in Memphis could prove interesting.

Page 16

SGA has new look

By Alicia Boswell
Campus News Writer

At the conclusion of the Spring 2005 semester, the 2005-06 Student Government Association roster was set, but not set in stone.

Upon returning this fall, SGA President Josef Robinson welcomed spring representa-

tive at large runners-up, Matthew Evans, Tor Ajanaku and Tiffany Geeter to his staff. These newcomers replaced elected students, Franklin Rivers, Rickey Bearden and Theron Miller, according to documentation provided to *The Meter* by the SGA.

Also according to documentation, elected students Deiadra Preyer, DeAndre Washington, and Kandice Allen are to be

replaced during special elections this fall.

Despite bringing in new members on short notice, Robinson still feels good about this year's SGA.

"I have an excellent group," Robinson said of the staff he described as a diverse and excited group.

See "Administration" on page 6

Take a look at **page 16** for the front of the **Sports** section



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

TSU running back Javarris Williams (28) gets tackled on one of his 23 rushing attempts during the John Merritt Classic. Williams finished with 60 yards and a touchdown as Alabama A&M handed the Tigers their first ever JMC loss 27-14.

Tigers, Webster lose home debut

By Eddie R. Cole Jr
Editor-in-Chief

The TSU Tigers dropped the ball on new head coach James Webster's debut and fumbled the program's undefeated John Merritt Classic record.

TSU committed four turnovers in their 27-14 loss against the visiting Alabama A&M Bulldogs Saturday night in the

Seventh Annual JMC.

The Tigers moved to 6-1 in JMCs and as TSU was penalized 10 times for a total of 63 yards.

"I would have liked for us to have executed better," Webster said, following his collegiate head coaching debut.

TSU struck first with a 13-yard touchdown pass by senior quarterback Bryson

see "AAMU" on page 16

Katrina's blow felt at TSU

By Joy Hayes and
Kristra Forney
Campus News Writer and
A&E Writer

TSU students from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama spent their first week of class focused -- on their homes and families.

As Hurricane Katrina left the entire country in shock, some students right here at TSU tried to gather themselves from last week's disaster.

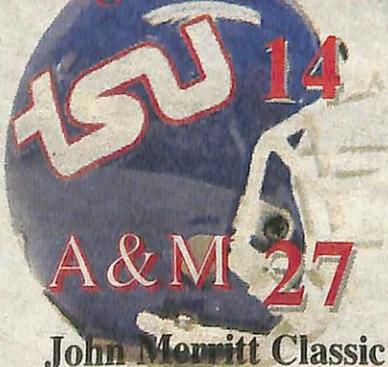
"I'm devastated," said Shasta Wilson, a junior mass communications major from New Orleans. "I really don't know what I or my family is going to do because we lost everything. It's going to take 4 to 6 months to get Lake Ponchartrain out of the city."

Katrina left residents along the Gulf Coast without food, sanitary water or shelter. In seven states across the South, the American Red Cross announced that all of their hurricane shelters were filled to capacity.

In Mississippi alone, an official death count of over 100 people was tallied before rescue efforts had begun Thursday, New Orleans, which was hardest hit, was nearly completely flooded, when levees on Lake Ponchartrain north of the city

See "Hurricane" on page 3

Tiger Football



Campus News

Olympic monument exposed

By Madelyn Ragland
Campus News Editor

An Olympic Plaza monument honoring TSU track and field legends was revealed on Saturday, May 28.

But it was soon taken down following the unveiling and is presently being worked on, according to Jane Allen McKinney, the statue's designer.

Despite the statue's current status, it pays tribute to the TSU's 17 Gold Medals, eight Silver Medals and seven Bronze Olympic Medals won for the U.S. from 1952 to 2004.

"(TSU was the) only school to control one event for a decade," said Ed Temple, TSU women's track and field coach of 44 years.

The Olympic Plaza was presented as a dedication to the universal good, enlightenment, development and service of the students, alumni, friends and future generations of TSU.

However, less than a hundred people attended the event in front of the Wellness Center on the north side of campus at 10 a.m. The unfinished monument dedication was former TSU president James Hefner's last event in office before his May 31 retirement.

"I think (the Olympian Plaza) is great for honoring past Olympians and future track students that will have something to look forward to setting their goals," said Tosha Hefner, former president Hefner's daughter in law.

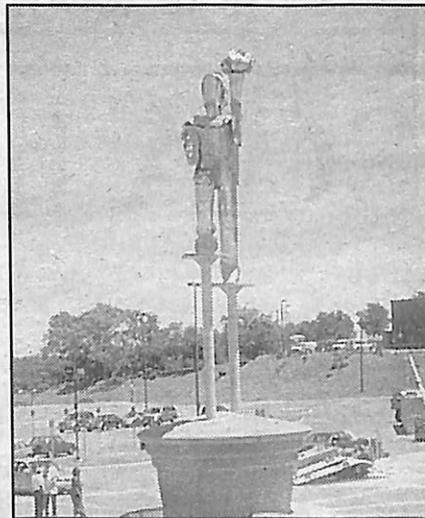
The statue is made of three metals: brass, aluminum and copper. The gold medals are represented by brass, silver medals represented by aluminum and copper represents the bronze in the statue.

The Olympian holds a brass diploma in the right hand as an icon for the educational baton passed from TSU to her students. All TSU Olympians earned their undergraduate degrees here, according to former president Hefner. The diploma reads "Tennessee State University, Degree Awarded" with this text visible to the viewer.

The Olympic torch held in the left hand of the runner, and the kinetic flame rotates 360 degrees. The base of the sculpture is inscribed with the names of all the TSU Olympians.

McKinney is an assistant professor of art at TSU who also has other three permanent works on campus and another near Chattanooga Aquarium.

A reception was held in the Gentry Center. •



PHOTOS BY MADELYN RAGLAND & KENNETH CUMMINGS

(Top) The Olympian revealed in May, stands tall in the Olympic Plaza before being taken down (bottom) and covered this summer for repair.

"(TSU was the) only school to control one event for a decade."

-Ed Temple

Legendary TSU Coach vies for Olympic Hall

Former TSU Tigerbelle coach Ed Temple was announced as a finalist for the 2006 U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame class, Wednesday, Aug. 17.

Temple, who already holds membership to four halls of fame, coached women's track and field at TSU for 44 years. Under Temple, the Tigerbelle won a total of 23 Olympic medals, with 35 Tigerbelle competing for the U.S. and five competing for their native countries.

The Tigerbelle were led to 34 national titles in both outdoor and indoor

competition under Temple.

He coached notable athletes such as Wilma Rudolph, Mae Faggs, Wyomia Tyus, Edith McGuire and Madeline Manning Mims. As stated in TSU's Ed Temple biography, he also served as head women's track and field coach for two consecutive U.S. Olympic teams, 1960 Rome and 1964 in Tokyo, and an assistant coach for the 1980 Moscow Olympic games.

Also, Temple has participated in the 1970 European Tour of Germany, Russia and Romania as head coach of the U.S. junior team at the 1982 and 1986 Pan

American Junior Games, and was head coach of the U.S. national junior women's track team to name a few.

Other coach finalists competing for the 2006 class induction include, Bill Bowerman (Track and Field), Herb Brooks (Ice Hockey), Carlos Fassi (Figure Skating) and George Haines (Swimming).

In an effort to usher Temple into the Olympic Hall, students, faculty and alumni are encouraged to visit usolympicteam.com to cast votes for the TSU legend.

Shantana Collins •

Events Calendar

Sept. 8

BET HBCU Tour
Old Courtyard Yard
11 a.m.

New Direction Gospel
Choir
Poag Auditorium
7 p.m.

Sept. 9

Summer Jam
Mid-South Coliseum
Memphis
7 p.m.

Sept. 10

Southern Heritage
Classic
Liberty Bowl in
Memphis
6 p.m.

Corrections

The Meter regrets errors and will continue to bring readers accurate information.

Campus News

Hurricane hits home for some students

Continue from page 1

burst pouring additional flood water into the city.

Thousands of New Orleans residents who chose to remain in the city or couldn't evacuate, were left clinging to rooftops or staying in their attics.

"Our parents are out of work," Wilson said. "I hope and pray that the government make some kind of attempt to help those who evacuated because many of us have nothing to return to and we will have to start our lives over from scratch."

It was four days after Katrina made land fall before government agencies were able to make a substantial rescue and relief effort in New Orleans. Agencies then delivered supplies to thousands of residents who were forced to find shelter at the Louisiana Superdome and the city's Convention Center.

In an on-campus effort to support storm victims, a prayer service was held at the TSU Wesley Foundation, Thursday, Sept. 1.

Students and faculty were in attendance and shared their wishes and prayers for their loved ones. The service was officiated by Rev. Renee Franklin, the campus minister at the Wesley Foundation.



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Wesley Foundation campus minister Rev. Renee Franklin leads a service to pray for the families and victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Orrin Cowley Jr., a freshman from Nashville, requested prayers from the crowd for his family members who reside in New Orleans.

"I been praying that everyone's alright and that God is watching them," he said to the group.

The crowd began the service with a prayer and an uplifting song entitled "Through It All."

Franklin said that she "felt com-

pelled by to God to encourage people to help and trust in the Lord with all their heart."

Franklin also expressed her heartfelt thoughts for the families.

"I want to put a personal face on the situation," she said. "...our brothers and sisters need us to extend care."

Devonah Morris, Wesley Foundation secretary, said she plans on helping with relief and making kits.

In spite of the natural disaster's impact, Franklin remains positive and encourages all to "Praise God for what has been preserved."

Sherpri G. Giles, 2002-2004 Meter editor and native of Mobile, Ala. said she is blessed that her family is safe, however, she said several members of her sister-in-law's family were still unaccounted for.

"My brother, sister-in-law, and 10-day-old nephew evacuated New Orleans to Mobile a day before the hurricane," Giles said of her family members who resided in New Orleans. "While they do not have any of their possessions, they have something better— their lives."

Giles said her family in Mobile, on the other hand, is accounted for but are without the necessities of life.

"My family in Mobile is suffering from gas and food shortage, but recently got electricity," she said. "Nonetheless, we are fortunate. ...Please keep my family and others in your prayers."*

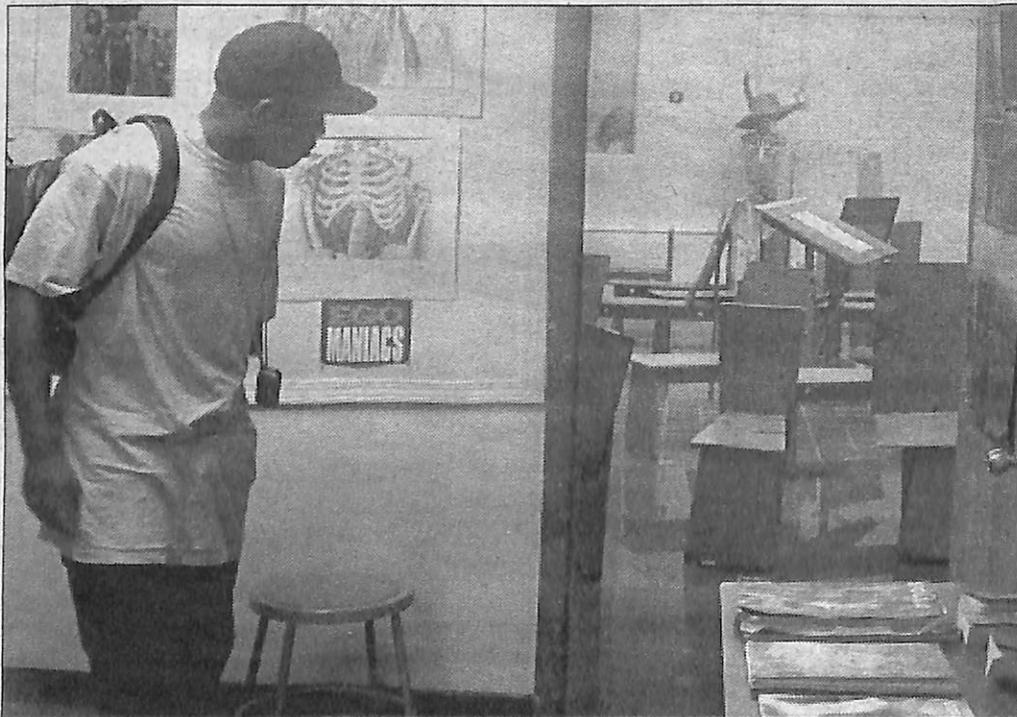


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

A student peeks into a Women's Building classroom suffering minor flooding from rains Hurricane Katrina dumped over Nashville.

TO HELP HURRICANE KATRINA

VICTIMS

TSU Wesley Foundation
3201 John A. Merritt
Blvd, Nashville, Tenn.
37209
Phone: 615-327-4651

The Wesley Foundation plans on sending Health Kits to help aid the relief effort. Items requested are:

- Towels (15" X 25" up to 17" X 27")
- Wash cloths
- Combs (Large and sturdy, not pocket size)
- Nail file or fingernail clippers (No emery boards or toenail clippers)
- Bath size bar of soap (3oz an up)
- Toothbrush (single brush only in original wrapper; no child size brushes)
- Large tub of toothpaste (4.5 or larger, expiration date must be 6 months or longer in advance of the date of shipment)
- Adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

Campus News

Prez holds faculty institute

By Madelyn Ragland
Campus News Editor

Typically, a new leader brings a lot of first. And one of President Melvin Johnson's first acts in office was to lead a faculty and staff institute.

The event, held on Aug. 19, was the first ever in school history. The institute was designed to expose new faculty and staff members to a more student focused environment, according to administrative officials.

The institution was formed to develop a sense of symbolic feeling through the TSU faculty and staff members Johnson said.

"(Faculty) all must be involved, so we will be prepared for students,"

Johnson said.

He said he feels TSU students have got to be prepared equally to succeed in a global place by our faculty and staff members. He said each and every employee matters when it comes to this academic university from the person mowing the yard to the person directing traffic.

"(Johnson) made a lot of good points," said Sheila Brown, a cashier in the Bursar's Office. "But I really want to see him follow through on these ideas."

Johnson said the mission of the institute was to define what this university can become and what it isn't by communication and feedback and that the university needs to work on one accord. He plans to strengthen academ-

ic partnerships with internal relations through the TSU's alumni, Nashville and the state of Tennessee.

The expected outcome will also strengthen graduate programs, Johnson said. It is also expected to increase federal, state and private funding for TSU.

In addition to increased funding, recognizing faculty and staff members and prestigious departments through events, such as the Blue and White Awards, will promote a better quality servicing university, according to President Johnson.

The spring Faculty and Staff Institute is set to take place on Jan. 5.

"I felt important to be included in such an event," said Osami Zaki, an assistant in the Bursar's Office. •

Johnson gives advice to freshmen

By Dairanetta Spain
Sports Editor

In front of the largest recorded group at a TSU priority orientation, President Melvin Johnson gave his first class some important notes this July.

With 2,155 people in Kean Hall listening, Johnson advised the incoming freshman class to start their collegiate careers on the right track, hit the ground running and remember to do one thing— attend class.

Making a vital point of prioritizing, Johnson highlighted the importance of class attendance. He said students should not only attend class on the first day, but each day.

"Although, being a student at TSU, you will be forced to deal with headaches that will stop you from going to class (on the first day), such as being purged or having any financial issues," said Arianna Powers, a sophomore mass communications major from Detroit. "I do feel that many faculty members sympathize with the student body on the matter of attending class on the first day and aren't as harsh."

Powers said she feels that it's important that you attend class on the first day of school "because you may very well get that one teacher that says you missed everything and be that one student that's behind."

Each year TSU hosts priority ori-

entation as a means of aiding in the adjustment of the freshman transition from high school to college. Here students receive an ample amount of information regarding registration and fees, advisement, financial aid, campus tours as well as handbooks, which spell out the scope of the university's rules and regulations.

Although some student's experiences of registering can sometimes be hectic. Some students are said to benefit from attending the priority orientation instead of waiting until the Fall semester.

"Those persons who participate always have a jumpstart on those who

see "Freshmen" on page 6

The Meter 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 changes in the world around us, while reflecting the university's multi-cultural student body.

Submission Requirements

The Meter invites submissions by all members of the Tennessee State University community. Opinions contained in submitted articles do not necessarily reflect the views of TSU faculty, students, SGA, or administration. Timeliness and clarity are factors in selecting material for publication. Materials must adhere to the following guidelines:

- All contributions must be typed, double-spaced (submitted on 3.5" disks or e-mailed) by Monday, and must include the writers name and title or classification.
- Opinions and letters should not exceed 400 words.
- The Meter* reserves the right to reject letters, articles, or ads without explanation and to edit others as necessary.

The Meter

The Measure of Student Opinion and Sentiment

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E-Mail: themeter@hotmail.com

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Website: www.tsumeter.com

The Meter capitalizes the letter "B" in the word "Black" when it refers to people of African descent in accordance with the Oxford American and other dictionaries.

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SENIOR VISUALS EDITOR: DeSHANEE MINER

CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR: MADELYN RAGLAND

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The Meter is committed to serving TSU and the Nashville community. If you would like to become a supply outpost for *The Meter* or have an idea or suggestion regarding circulation please contact:

Jamaal Oldham

Advertising & Circulation Manager
(615) 963-5652 - Office
themeteronline@yahoo.com

Forum

Editor charges all to help TSU



**Eddie R.
Cole Jr.**
Editor-in-Chief

Building on the foundation

First of all, on behalf of *The Meter*, I welcome all students, administration, faculty and staff to hopefully another productive year at TSU. This issue is the first of seven special editions to be published over the course this academic year. Special editions are scheduled for once a month on a Thursday and will not interrupt our regular Monday editions. We are striving to improve upon what previous editors have built.

Now as the TSU family, we must all remember to build upon the foundation which this university has been built upon. We all play a role in helping TSU move forward. *The Meter* is a part of this single body and continues to play our part to the fullest.

Our role, what we do

Next, I want to inform our read-

ers of what exactly we do. As student journalist, we make all content decisions to what goes in the paper. It's not our advisor, nor an administrator but us. We know that the decisions we make have substantial ramifications if not reported properly and accurately. Therefore, we have a mission of reporting only accurate and factual information. As a result, nothing less than our best will be produced.

Also, as a publication that has won nearly 50 national awards since 1998, we continue to provide readers with solid writing techniques. Our news will be precise, quick hits of information without omission of details. You will see this consistent production on a weekly basis. And guess what, you, as a reader, can help us do this.

Paws for the cause

The TSU community plays a major part in aiding *The Meter* accomplish our goal of covering the highlights and lowlights of the university to foster a positive change. In our effort to meet this goal, readers

and concerned members of the community should feel free to submit news tips to us. And when submitting news tips, it helps us get your event or organization covered when you find out the basics of who, what, when and where before informing us.

On the other hand, realistically it is almost impossible for us to cover every event that occurs on campus but *The Meter* still wants our readers to keep us informed. Because

no one else knows what is going on in your dorm, organization, department or community better than you.

Also, as we make our content decisions, we must prioritize our coverage. News comes first. And

news is what people want and need to know. Whether our coverage is "liked" or "disliked", at the end of the day we all should know *The Meter* wants what's best for TSU not us as individuals. So, if you're interested in helping us, come to Kean Hall Suite 304, right above the Student Government Association office.

Again, welcome and thank you, from your news source for all you want and need to know. •

From
Where I
Sit

What We Think

Government, assistance slow to help own

Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama natives were dealt a mighty blow with the landing of Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast Aug. 29. However, many of the people in this area continued to be hit hard when it comes to the time it has taken and is taking for aid to arrive. The burning question is: why was response so slow in coming to the aid of these people, especially those in New Orleans?

When the tsunami hit Asia late last year, the people and government of the U. S. were quick to send aid to the victims. Also, when Hurricane Charlie hit Florida last year, there was no hesitation to reach out to those affected. Law enforcement officers and workers from other states along the East Coast were sent to help. Not saying that everyone's response wasn't right, but why isn't the same happening now?

Could it be that America, after all these years, still caters to those who are in the upper class or the racial majority? Everyone knows that New Orleans is a city of predominately Black population. So, the people who were hit the hardest by Hurricane Katrina are Blacks, other minorities and poor whites. These are the people who could not afford to go to hotels or travel north. So, when footage of people in the Superdome are shown, almost all you see are Black people.

Our government, and even our citizens, are quick to help people overseas. Nevertheless, we seem to have trouble helping those on the home front who need it most. We can respond to a sudden attack on our country or a sudden natural disaster elsewhere, but we have difficulty getting aid to those affected by a natural disaster that we knew was coming. Why weren't preparations for aid made at the first sign that something this size could be a possibility? It wasn't as if the storm was unexpected with warnings being issued as far north as Kentucky.

The lyrics of a popular Tupac Shakur song say "We've got money for war but can't feed the poor." In the case of Hurricane Katrina, the poor are those thousands of people on the Gulf Coast who are slow in receiving aid to get back on their feet. We have a substantial amount of money to fight the war in Iraq and even for space travel, but these people here in the U.S must suffer because we can't afford to give them help when they need it most. •

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This insurance plan does have certain limitations and exclusions. For complete detail see policy on file at the Tennessee Board of Regents.

Campus News

Administration enforces SGA requirements

Continued from page 1

Robinson said there were several reasons why the elected students didn't hold their positions. He said some decided to pursue other obligations, instead of serving on the SGA, while some simply did not meet the grade requirements.

According to the TSU student handbook, grade requirements for students serving on SGA are to have a 2.50 cumulative and 2.30 semester grade point average.

Any student who doesn't meet the requirements must forfeit their position to the next eligible runner-up, states the handbook.

Tiffany Geeter, who was the next eligible candidate for the rep-at-large day position, was informed over the summer that she would serve on SGA.

"I was very excited to find out that

I was going to be a member of the Student Government Association," said Geeter, a junior majoring in social work from Tulsa, Okla. "I first heard about it from a friend but I was happy to receive a letter in the mail which made it official."

Director of student activities, Ronald Myles said students need to look up the requirements for their office of interest before running for a position.

"They must meet post certification requirements. ..." Myles said. "I would advise students to read the student handbook."

Myles also said a student running for a position should remember to "maintain academic intensity throughout the semester."

Also according to the handbook, a student is not allowed to attend summer school courses to meet grading criteria to

serve in the fall.

However, Robinson sees the new additions as a positive as he begins his fourth year as a member of the SGA. But with his experience, he recognizes the differences of moving from a rep-at-large to now serving as president.

"Leading the administration as president is a lot different than being one of the somewhat background participants as a (Representative) at Large," Robinson said.

He now leads the SGA and stands strongly behind his campaign platform of 'Together We C.A.N. (Communicate, Activate, and Navigate).'

Robinson said the SGA plans to work closely with university president, Melvin Johnson, to accomplish the needs and goals of the university and make career opportunities for students.

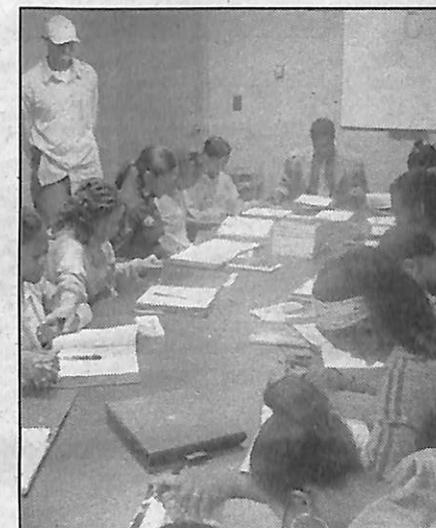


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

The 2005-06 Student Government Association holds a prayer before the start of the year's first meeting.

Phirst family welcomes first family



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

April Thomas (far left), president of the Alpha Psi chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., and Courtney Hale (far right), president of the Beta Omicron chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., welcome new President Melvin Johnson, and wife Marcelite, to TSU with a reception. Johnson and his wife are also members of the two organizations, respectively. The reception was held Tuesday, Aug. 30 in the Women's Building.

Freshmen are high priority

Continued from page 5

don't," said Fannie Hyde-Perry, director of counseling services. "Because all the anxieties are relieved and you feel better when you meet people. They are taking precedent and they get acclimated. Priority is a benefactor for all of us. ... The bottom line is we're still helping someone and that makes my staff feel good."

During his first formal address to a TSU body, Johnson's words of wisdom began with his version of the all too familiar parable that TSU students have come to know almost by word.

That's the African parable of the "The Cheetah and the Gazelle," which former President James Hefner used at almost every speaking engagement.

Instead, Johnson's version used a

lion and a gazelle. He said students should begin their days ahead and not behind, as stated by the parable, "It doesn't matter whether you're a lion or a gazelle: when the sun comes up you better hit the ground running."

If all goes well, the graduation of the incoming freshmen class is to be rather momentous with both Johnson and the class of 2009 embarking on careers at TSU together.

"I'm excited about this class," Johnson said. "I've had a chance to meet several students and they're excited. This is my first class so I have a special interest in them. I want to see them on graduation day and share special moments."*

"I'm excited about this class. I've had a chance to meet several students and they're excited. This is my first class so I have a special interest in them. I want to see them on graduation day and share special moments."

-President Johnson

Campus News

Late students cause housing delay

By Keith Richardson
Campus News Writer

Students who missed the Aug. 1 housing application deadline may not have gotten the campus dorm room they wanted. In fact, they didn't get a room on campus.

Instead, those students stayed in Nashville hotels for a night or two.

Candice Taylor, was one of those students who missed the housing deadline and she said that made her housing experience, a memorable one.

"My move in experience was inconvenient," said the sophomore biology major from Osceola, Ark. "I stayed in one of the hotels, Homestead Suites, and it was very nice. I wasn't upset, but I was concerned where I was going to stay for this semester."

Director of residence life and dean of students, Peggy Earnest said students were told specifically to have their applications in by the Aug. 1 deadline which was even extended until Aug. 5.

"Students had plenty of time to receive all of their information regarding their residence, and to submit their applications," Earnest said. "For those that were late sending this information in had to stay in a hotel for a couple of days until a room was available for them."

Earnest said all students that had to wait for a room now have a room available.

Housing supervisor, Hosea Lewis said the housing problem is because of the increased enrollment which has brought more out of city students. He also said that even native Nashville students want to live where it's convenient for them to commute to class.

"There are 3,200 residence rooms available, combined with all the halls and apartment units," Lewis said. "But the current enrollment of 9,000 students have made it difficult to house everyone comfortably."

Oldest TSU graduate dies

The man believed to be the oldest living TSU graduate passed away on Thursday, May 19, at the age of 101, due to injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Lorenzo Miller was born Sept. 3, 1903, in Bolivar, Tenn. He was married to Frances Miller, 97, for more than 76 years. They met on the campus of Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State Normal School for Negroes, now TSU.

He was known for being a farmer, a church worker and a little bit of everything else. In 2002, the Millers were documented as the oldest living graduate

couple.

Miller later earned the nickname "Professor." He was a principal for 42 years before he retired in 1968. He was co-owner of the Dixie Funeral Home in Bolivar for two decades. Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen honored him last year as the oldest living funeral director in the state. Funeral services were held at the Bolivar Middle School. Burial followed in the Bolivar Community Cemetery.

Based on reports in the *Tennessean* and compiled by Madelyn Ragland



Student journalists train for top performance, Media Night

The Meter student newspaper editor Eddie R. Cole, Jr. led a host of student journalists in gaining top training this summer, as he attended prestigious workshops at the Columbia University School of Journalism and the University of Georgia and interned at The Telegraph newspaper in Macon, Ga.

On the yearbook side, Tennessean editor Marian Bullard traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the National College Newspaper, Yearbook & Media Advising Workshops & Shortcourses, gaining training for her unprecedented interactive and electronic 2006 yearbook concept.

"With this kind of ongoing professional training outside the university and the advice they get from journalism experts on campus, these students are well equipped to provide excellent coverage of what's going on in the TSU community," said Student Publications Director Pamela E. Foster, who advises the publications.



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Eddie R. Cole Jr., editor of The Meter and David Green, managing editor of the Tennessean, have a panel discussion during You Matter to Media on Aug. 29.

Newspaper senior editor Gregory Brand, Jr. interned at Black College Wire and The Daytona Beach News-Journal in Fla. He said that among the primary

lessons he'll help instill in others from his experience is the importance of taking proofreading more seriously, following professional procedures to the letter to minimize misspellings and other inaccuracies.

Newspaper sports editor Dairanetta Spain and reporter Shantana Collins won scholarships to attend the Mid-America Press Institute's sports writing and editing seminar in St. Louis. Spain said she now plans to cover the TSU angle of sports stories of national importance, such as Title IX gender equity, and assure that her reporters cover stories on specialized beats.

About 40 Student Publications staff members also trained on campus Aug. 24-27, digesting such topics as journalism ethics, best practices, and campus student publications policy. The also heard talks from Communications Department faculty members Drs. Donald Page, Coreen Jackson, and Harriette Insignares and outside journal-

ism experts Christopher Garrett, who is managing editor at The Nashville Business Journal, and Sherrie Marshall, who is vice president and editor at The Telegraph.

"This is the best and most productive workshop we've been able to put on in my three years on staff," Cole said. "I know TSU's student journalists will continue to have award-winning work and a heads up on the competition when entering the real world."

Bullard, who is serving a third non-consecutive term as yearbook editor, said, "The conference and workshop were excellent in giving my staff and me tools to be successful writers and graphic designers. I am looking forward to seeing the end result that will capture every angle of student life at TSU."

The Meter also hosted You Matter to the Media Monday, Aug. 29. This panel discussion, featuring local media editors, addressed the public's questions about how they can help media coverage.

Campus News

Omegas shine on golden day

By **Kenneth Cummings**
Visuals Editor

On a sunny Saturday afternoon, about 100 members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. gathered across from the Old Courtyard for something special.

But it wasn't for an impromptu step show, but instead for a dedication.

Several members of TSU's Rho Psi chapter were joined by other Omega

chapters as the fraternity held a special ceremony to dedicate a monument to the fraternity, Saturday, Sept. 3.

Former TSU president James A. Hefner, also a member of the fraternity, was at the event and said the monument marked a first for not only the fraternity but for TSU.

"We are the first institution to have a non-state monument on a state campus," Hefner said. "We wouldn't take no

for an answer. (Former TSU presidents) Walter S. Davis and Dr. William Jasper Hale are smiling on us now."

The Rho Psi chapter, established on April 30, 1930 at Tennessee A&I College, later TSU, was the first Pan-Hellenic organization to be established on the campus.

The monument is established as members of chapter celebrate their 75th anniversary. Hefner said the process took six years before the final erection of the monument.

"It took a lot of hard work," Hefner said with a smile despite the midday heat. "But I am extremely pleased that we prevailed."

Walter Vincent, designer of the monument and member of the fraternity, was also in attendance at the dedication ceremony.

"Rho Psi 2000 came up with the idea," said Vincent, the retired TSU head of the Department of Architectural Engineering, who sat proudly next to the structure after his speech. "(Rho Psi) raised funds to build the monument."

The monument cost the fraternity about \$60,000, according to *Meter* archives. Rho Psi is also the first chapter to obtain alumni status on TSU's campus.

At the closing of ceremony, the men of Omega Psi Phi "rang their bells on TSU's campus" at the end of the

dedication of what Hefner called, "the most impressive monument in the country on a black college campus."

The undergraduate chapter of Rho Psi was revoked in spring 2001 for five years according to a letter by then District Representative Henry Jackson, Jr for "possible involvement in some improper activities."

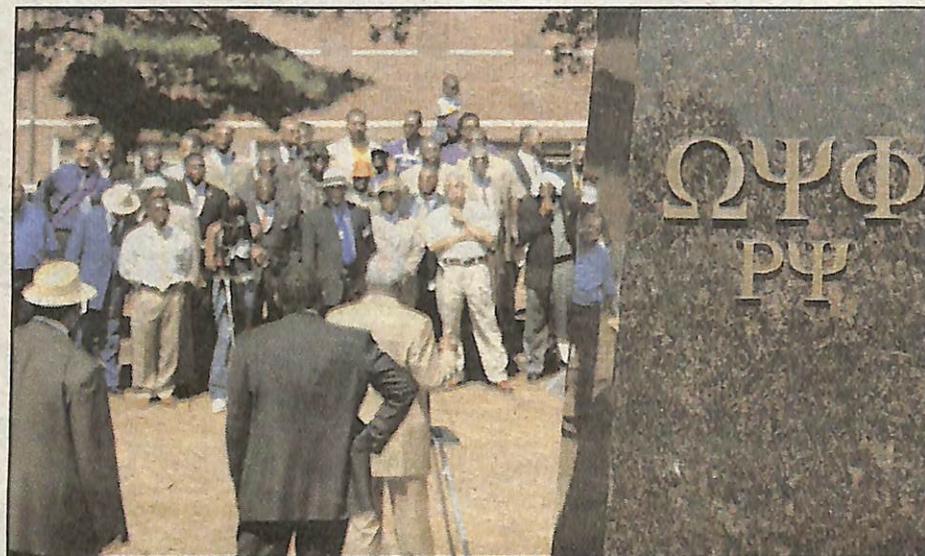


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

The old courtyard is now home to a new Omega Psi Phi monument which was officially dedicated on Saturday, Sept. 3. James A. Hefner, former president of TSU and member of the fraternity, was in attendance as well as many other members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Retired TSU Architectural Engineering department head and member of Omega Psi Phi, Walter Vincent speaks at the dedication ceremony of the new Omega monument.

Awards Night displays TSU excellence

By **Madelyn Ragland**
Campus News Editor

The first ever Blue and White All-Stars Academy Awards was held at the Vanderbilt Loews Hotel, Saturday, Aug. 13.

The event commemorated the achievements of TSU's faculty and staff and one of its outstanding alumna according to the gala's committee.

The Blue and White Awards banquet also saluted many distinguished TSU departments and recognized Xernona Clayton.

Clayton, a 1952 TSU graduate, was employed by the Turner Broadcasting System in Atlanta for over 25 years. In

1967, she became the South's first African-American to have her own television show.

Clayton later accepted a position with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and worked closely with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Her persistence against prejudice and bigotry was never so apparent as in 1968, when the Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan denounced the Klan and credited her for the influence with this change. She currently serves as creator and executive producer of the Trumpet Awards.

"This is truly a great university," said Dr. Jacqueline Mitchell, special assistant to the president for the Geier Consent Degree.

Many influential constituents attended the gala to celebrate a memo-

orable night. Attendees included President Melvin Johnson's wife, Marcelite Johnson; Dr Bobby Jones, emcee of the event; Damon Lee, who donated \$50,000 to TSU; Lillian Thomas, oldest alumna; Brenda Gilmore, City Councilwoman and Samuel F. Yette, founder of *The Meter*.

Twenty one awards were given for specific portions of each department nominated by their peers.

Student Affairs won the first award for their annual relay for life walk-a-thon. The Center of Excellence department won an award for the division of research and sponsored programs. The Department of Extended Education and Public Service was acknowledged for the academic outreach cluster: One Stop Shop, Distance Education and

Multimedia Services and Off Campus Program. Several other departments were included in the award s ceremony: such as the Libraries and Media Center, Speech Pathology and Audiology, Africana Studies, Nursing, Public Relations, the College of Arts and Sciences and several others.

"I was honored that my department received an award for outstanding services for our Vintagers Celebration," said Teresa Pendergrass, administrative secretary for Alumni Relations. "We take great pride in (the award), and receiving this award from our own institution is a great accomplishment. I felt the Blue and White Gala was a huge success. I also feel the future of this annual event holds to be very promising."

Campus News

Classic weekend mixes old with new

By Eddie R. Cole Jr.
Editor-in-chief

New TSU President Melvin Johnson enjoys sailing in his spare time. But even though last weekend wasn't his vacation, it was still quite a ride.

Last weekend Johnson took part in his first ever John A. Merritt Classic. So, from the pep rally to the game downtown, President Johnson was sailing on the JMC wave.

"It's going great," Johnson said during a reception and mixer at the Millennium Maxwell House Friday night. "I had an idea of what it would be like, but it has exceeded expectations."

Also at the same reception, players from the 1970 undefeated football team were the guests of honor. The Tigers of the past were welcomed back by faculty, alumni and other guest as they met with this year's team.

As the former players met with the



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Howard Gentry, Jr. (left), former TSU radio broadcaster of 30 years, greets new President Melvin Johnson and his wife, Marcelite, at a John Merritt Classic mixer at the Millennium Maxwell House Friday, Sept. 2.

team, first-year head coach James Webster, was also taking part in his first JMC.

He said he was enjoying the JMC and was pleased with his team's output

through preseason camp and the community's backing.

"It's a lot of support," Webster said at the reception following his live radio show. "It's a big deal here. It's a lot of

excitement and I hope we keep the excitement going."

Athletics Director Teresa Phillips said a different approach to the reception was used this year. She said a less formal approach was used for the community to enjoy the mixer and bring people back.

"It was a way, first of all, to get the 1970 team back," Phillips said. "We wanted a laid back type of atmosphere. We decided to have a more casual approach."

Johnson also noted how such an event benefits the university and himself as an individual.

"It allows me to connect to alums, the outside community and the students," he said. "... Also, it's really good that my daughters were able to make it. So, it also allows my family to connect, and everyone has had open arms."

Also, in attendance were former President James Hefner and former former TSU radio broadcaster of 30 years Howard Gentry.

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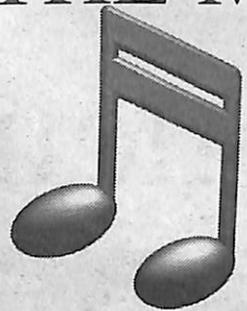


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does

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Coming Soon...



Cingular tour stops at TSU

Phone company sponsors concert, fashion show

By Kirsten D. Watkins
A&E Editor

The Cingular Wireless phone company has a commitment to itself of 'raising the bar.' Let's just say — promise kept.

Blue Ice, a presentation on behalf of the Cingular's historically Black colleges and universities Back to School tour, featured national recording artists Trey Songz and Chris Brown. This event proved to be an excellent way to kick off the 2005 John A. Merritt Classic weekend, Thursday, Sept. 1 in the Gentry Center.

As part of the event, the official John A. Merritt fashion show, which was orga-

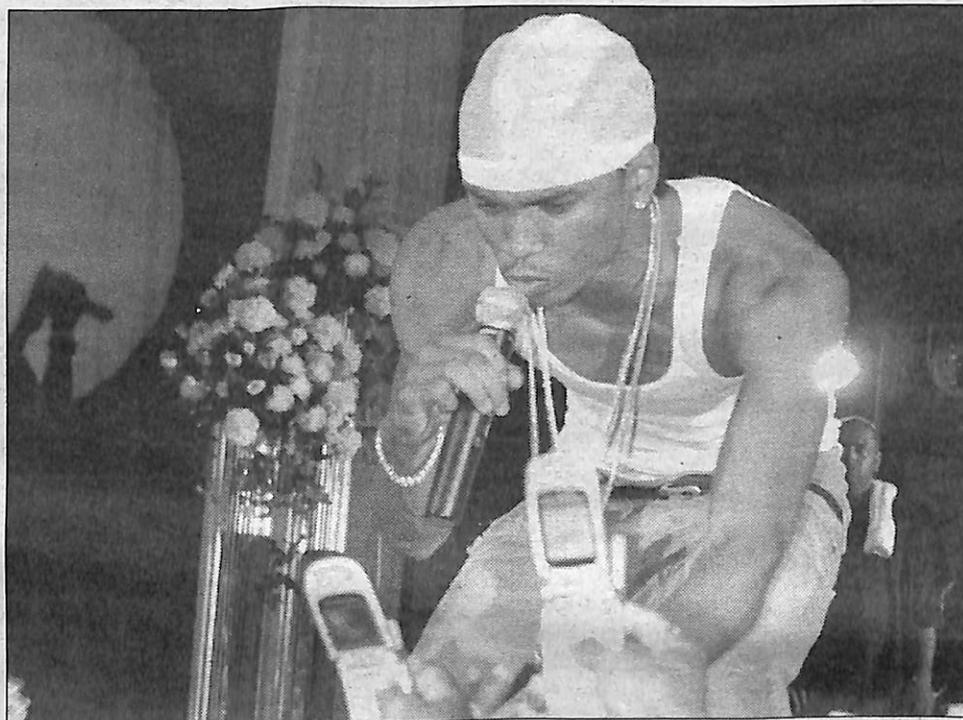


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

R&B singer Trey Songz sings to the TSU crowd at the Cingular Wireless concert tour in the Gentry Center. Students attempt to catch a picture of the star with camera cellular phones.

nized by Nashville's own Diavontti Productions, preceded the concert.

High fashioned couture and newest hip-hop/urban gear was showcased as the fall's hottest trends. The show's guest models traveled from Memphis and Washington D.C. of Reflections Modeling Agency and Will C Productions, respectively.

Student Government Association President Josef Robinson was pleased with the show and hopes to see more of its kind in the future.

"Tonight is a great start to the weekend's festivities," Robinson said. "The students came out and showed their support. I would love for (SGA and Student Union Board of Governors) to bring more concerts and shows that the student body can enjoy."

When the fashion show was over, Jive Records recording artist Chris Brown immediately took the stage and performed his new single "Run It," which features Dip-Set alum Juelz Santana.

See "Blue Ice" on page 14



Compact DISCUSSION Ratings

5/5: Instant classic
4/5: Ground-Breaking
3/5: OK Album, worth a listen
2/5: Buy the bootlegged copy
1/5: Don't waste the money

Trey Songz — "Just Gotta Make It" 4/5

The self proclaimed Prince of Virginia has spoken and fans across the country are listening attentively.

So, who is this prince? He's none other than Songbook/Atlantic Records recording artist Trey Songz. And he has released his debut album "Just Gotta Make It."

Songz is a 20-year old Petersburg, Va. native who earned his stage name in an untypical way. He earned his nickname coincidentally while shopping his demos because his real name is Tremaine and he writes all of his own material, hence the name Trey Songz.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWERRECORDS.COM

Trey Songz is the self-proclaimed Prince of Virginia.

"It just (kind of) stuck and we went with it," he said.

Now Songz sets himself apart from today's industry leaders like Bobby

Valentino and Usher by committing himself to the old soul of R&B and also gives in to hip-hop's overpowering culture.

When asked to name the one artist he would be thrilled to work with, his immediate response "Jay-Z, without a doubt."

Songz' first single off of his debut album is "Just Gotta Make It," an inspiring track for anybody who has ever had a dream. This single leads listeners to thinking that once the lyrics and the beat sounds like it cannot get any better, comes that Chi-town rapping style from hip-hop artist Twista whose hurried delivery style has become his signature mark-making listeners repeat the track

See "Songz" on page 14

Arts & Entertainment

SUBG parties with freshmen

By Melaney Whiting
A&E Writer

TSU's Student Union Board of Governors gave the class of 2009 a warm welcome in the Gentry Center, Saturday, Aug. 27.

The party, which was also sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., had music provided by WTST, TSU's campus radio station which was named last

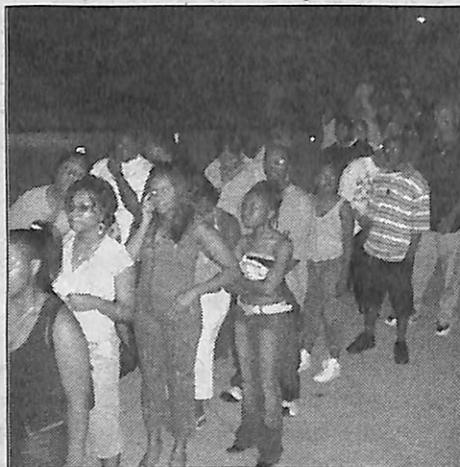


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Freshmen line up for the free party in Gentry Center sponsored by TSU's Student Union Board of Governors.

year's Black college radio station of the year.

Live performances were given by rap artists Yo Gotti and All Star, and some of TSU's Greek-letter organizations were on-hand for a pre-party step show.

The evening began promptly at 8 p.m. with the Pan-Hellenic step show to kick off the party and get the crowd wound up.

"The step show was the most exciting and positive part of the party," said Moné Darden, a freshman majoring in forensics psychology.

The Pan-Hellenic organizations of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sigma Gamma Rho, Delta Sigma Theta, Phi Beta Sigma, and Alpha Phi Alpha performed in the show before a large anticipating crowd.

"The Greek organizations left a huge impression upon me" said Raven Early, a freshman majoring in engineering.

At 9 p.m., the party began and the large crowd in the stands filtered down onto the Gentry Center's floor for the dance. Once the party reached its peak, Memphis rapper YoGotti arrived on stage with his entourage to heighten the party. After performing a few songs, security bombarded the stage forcing

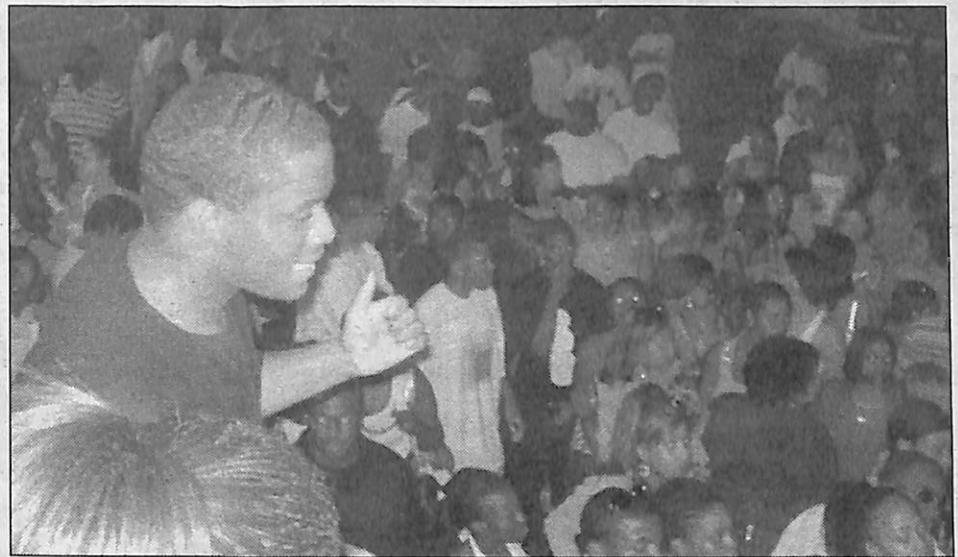


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

"Think, Work -- Kick It --Serve." SGA president Josef Robinson dances on stage as students gather to mingle at the first campus party of the year.

YoGotti to cut his performance short due to overpopulation on stage.

"I was disappointed that he brought his entire crew on stage" said WTST campus radio spokesperson Jessica Reaves. "The party would have been better if he would have been able to complete his performance."

Cash Money Records recording artist Jermaine Shute, better known as All-Star, from Nashville performed

before Yo Gotti with his own outstanding performance.

"The party and the performances would have been better if there wouldn't have been so many technical difficulties with TSU's sound system" said biology major Ivra Warren.

Freshmen and all TSU students also had another party on Thursday, Sept. 1, in the Gentry Center, again hosted by SUBG.

'Freshman Idol' lacks star power

By Demetria Green and
Michael Holloway
A&E Writers

This year's Freshmen Idol talent show did not hold its weight against the shows of previous years.

The show, held in the Gentry Center proved to be the evening the Class of 2009 could show their talent on campus, Friday, Aug. 26.

Judges present were Miss TSU Tomeika Dobson, SGA President Josef Robinson and SGA Vice President Brenda Carter.

The event was coordinated by Fannie Hyde Perry, director of new student orientation and the TSU Peer

Counselors.

Out of the 13 contestants who entered the Freshman Idol talent show, there were three finalists. Rekira Lucus, who performed an original Hip-Hop selection, won third place. Cybil Willis won second place as she contributed a dramatic monologue from Ntozake Shange's 'For colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf.' The first place winner was Brittney Kelly, who sang Yolanda Adams 'Open My Heart'.

On the other hand, many freshmen complained about the show's late start but were pleased with the open concession stands.

"I think that the talent show could have been more organized," said Chekata

Lawrence, a freshman from Atlanta majoring in business communication. "I did enjoy getting to see what talent the freshman class has to offer!"

Peer Counselors rolled out the red carpet for their incoming apprentices. However, not everyone enjoyed themselves and appreciated the effort put into such an event.

"I enjoyed the show, but I enjoyed the crowd more," said Benjamin Arnold, a freshman from Atlanta majoring in political science. "They could have used more talent. Personally, I feel like I wasted my time by coming. I really only came because I thought there would be a lot of girls here." •

"They could have used more talent. Personally, I feel like I wasted my time by coming. I really only came because I thought there would be a lot of girls here."

-Benjamin Arnold

Arts & Entertainment

FaceBook garners TSU following

**Melaney Whiting and
Demetria Green**
A&E Writers

1. **Demetria Green** (Freshman) - Major: Early Childhood Education [Doesn't know about The Facebook Web page]

2. **Melaney Whiting** (Junior)- Mass Communications Major [Is well informed about The Facebook Web page]

Melaney: Have you ever been to the facebook.com?

Demetria: No, what is that?

Melaney: The Facebook is a web page which makes it easier for college/university students to stay in touch with their fellow peers, high school graduates, and friends who attend other institutions.

Demetria: So does that mean the webpage is for HBCUs only?

Melaney: No, the webpage is designed for all higher learning institutes

Demetria: Is Facebook a secure webpage?

Melaney: Yes, it is very secure. You can only



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Junior Melaney Whiting and freshman Demetria Green talk "Face to Face" about the new web network, FaceBook, that has hit colleges and universities across the nation.

become a member if you have an account and e-mail address with the institution you attend.

Demetria: What do you do on Facebook?

Melaney: Various things such as join groups, send

people messages, request to become their friends, poke people who you think are attractive, sign their wall, look at their pictures, view other's profiles, view their friends' lists, and search for old confidantes.

Demetria: How do you join Facebook?
Melaney: You go to www.theface-

book.com and register, then when the information from your Facebook registration arrives on your e-mail account at your institute, you click on the link, you log in using the same username and password you use to login at your institute, and you are finished.

Demetria: It's that easy?

Melaney: Yes, and once you have become a member, you can decorate your page with pictures, quotes, and various other things that personalize your page and give others a sense of your character.

Demetria: Do you like being in TheFacebook?

Melaney: Yes, it is fun, addicting, time consuming, cool, and easy.

Demetria: So, is it ok if I put personal information like my phone number and address on my page?

Melaney: You can, but I don't recommend it because some people only get on Facebook to flirt, find a mate, and even stalk. If necessary, you can delete people or refuse to accept them as friends if you dislike them.

Demetria: I think I will more than likely check out the Web page and join.♦

Conversation Piece

TSU's Top Ten Survival Methods:

**By Tenicka Hatchett and
Christine Carter**
A&E Writers

Leaving home for the first time can be very overwhelming if you're not prepared. For most of us, we're in a new city surrounded by many new faces. Many students are homesick, missing their mother's home-cooked meals, or even that significant other. Here are some tips from the upperclassmen to the freshmen on how to make it through college.

1. **Time Management:** You have to have an easy balance for social events, education, extracurricular activities, and employment. Education is a full time job and it requires you to take it seriously. When working, often times you have to

accept a lower standard of living in order to focus on your schoolwork. College is an experience but don't overindulge yourself in weekly parties.

2. **Financial Aid:** Never take no for an answer. You must do your part: turn in papers on time, call, check up, arrive early in the semester to see counselors, etc. Ask about verification papers, go to work shops and ask questions early to avoid long lines.

3. **Relationships:** Some of the friends you make in college will be your friends forever. However, be cautious. Know what people are expecting; if they are just looking for a good time, be weary. Most people our age aren't looking to get married. Be aware of STDs and the sexual preference of others.

4. **Get Involved:** Many people don't realize that employers don't want

a dead student. They want to know how you impacted your campus, and that could be the difference between getting hired and wasting a degree. So get involved. Networking will help you later in life.

5. **Be yourself:** College is a learning experience and you will grow. Keeping up with the Jones's will kill you. If you don't drink or smoke now, don't inherit it from someone else.

6. **Expect to Leave:** Getting in college is not enough; you need to learn how to get out! Know what classes you need to take, how many credits you can successfully complete, what classes are offered and if they will coincide with your schedule. Don't decrease your load to party. The real party starts after you leave here.

7. **Learn from Others:** Learn from upperclassmen what classes to take and what you should do differently. Enjoy other people's hometown stories and experiences. Different cultures and things are great for an overall

understanding of people.

8. **Experience Nashville:** You will call this place your home for the next four years at least. Know the malls, the eateries, the nail shops, the car maintenance places: they are key to your survival.

9. **Stay Grounded:** Keep a good spiritual foundation. Whether it is praying, mediating or going to church, staying spiritually centered will keep you out of a lot of trouble and give you a solid foundation to stand on when obstacles come your way...and they will.

10. **Love your school:** Take pride in your university by attending functions and student-sponsored activities. Know your administrators and faculty. You can learn a lot from these educators. You never know...your professors can be your biggest cheerleaders in corporate America.♦

Arts & Entertainment

Blue Ice brings 'Back to School'

continue from page 11

Following the show, Brown said he's fortunate for the chance to perform at TSU and was pleased with the crowd's outpour.

"I got signed on Christmas Day last year and that was a blessing," Brown said. "I'm just happy to be here."

Next onstage, was tour headliner and Songbook/Atlantic Records recording artist Trey Songz, whose debut album 'Just Gotta Make It' is creating quite the buzz in the music industry

Songz performed his lead single 'Just Gotta Make It', as well as other

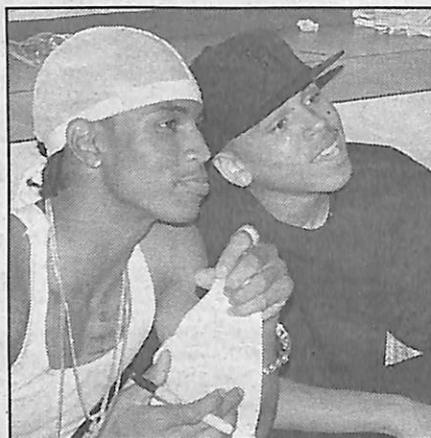


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Trey Songz and Chris Brown share a photo opportunity after their performances.

notable tracks on his debut including 'Cheat on You.' The crowd went crazy, as dozens of ladies swarmed to the sides of the stage.

However, as pleased as students were, some thought the event could have been bigger.

"The night went fairly well," said SUBG member Candace Witt, a junior business administration major from Nashville. "The turnout was not what it could've been because it was not fully publicized until the day before."•

Trey Songz's
new album is now
available in stores!

Songz brings soul, climbs in charts

continue from page 11

just to catch the lyrics he spits. It's a feel good track that even your Grandma can bob her head to.

In addition to Twista making a guest appearance on the album, soul legend Aretha Franklin and hip-hop artist Juvenile are also featured.

Also, in a day where music videos are full of scantily clad female dancers and extra heavy 'bling,' Songz' video concept is refreshingly different, possessing what most of Black Entertainment Television's rotation is missing — soul.

When asked if he anticipated "Just Gotta Make It" would take off the way that it has, Songz quickly gave a humble reply.

"No, it hasn't taken off and for that I am extremely grateful," he said.

This all hasn't happened overnight. The record has been out for five months now and it has been a slow grind, and I love it. I think that I appreciate it more that way. I get to grow up with my record".

Other standout tracks on the album are "Cheat on You," a song that plays role reversal on male/female relationships. In most cases, the woman has complaints about where her man's attention has wandered but in this case Songz is stepping out on her after feeling inconsistencies with love.

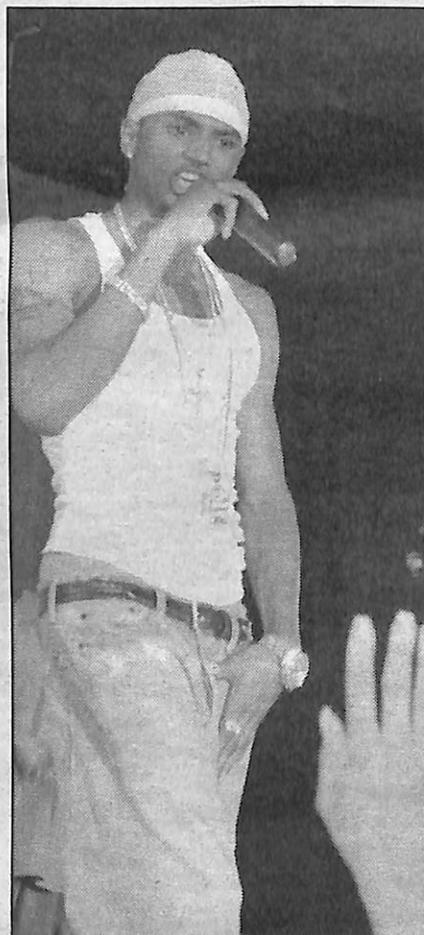


PHOTO KENNETH CUMMINGS

Trey Songz performs one of his songs from his album "Just gotta make it."

Another track, "I Gotta Go," Songz promises his woman to hold

tight while he leaves to pursue his goals but not for her to worry, because he's coming back giving her the best that he's got.

But don't think that because this is the artist's first release, Songz is a stranger to the studio.

He was featured on the 'Coach Carter' soundtrack last winter with "About The Game" and he has worked with many of the industry's most successful players such as producer Troy Taylor and rap artists Lil' Kim and Trick Daddy.

According to treysongz.com, Songz played the mix-tape circuit which is not typical for the average R&B singer and his single "Ghetto People" is a reply to R. Kelly's "Happy People."

But Songz' album and music aren't the only impressive part, he has a total package. He appears to be an intelligent young man, full of humility and focus with an understanding that nothing is easy, so keeping God first is essential.

So, as veteran Aretha Franklin confirms in the prelude, Songz should have a belief in himself and that yes, he's 'gonna make it.'

There should be a very promising career for, as Songz put it, "A young cat just trying to find his way."•

Kirsten D. Watkins•

Lyricist Lounge

Fight

By: Hodari Pili-Tourre Brown

No matter how dark it may be
No matter how hard it may seem
Never give up,
Always believe!

When you feel no one cares and there is
nothing on earth to live for,
Just remind yourself, the fight isn't over
yet.

With your last ounce of blood and your last
breath of fresh air,

Make a change that will last forever.
Do something that will inspire others,
Have a legacy or an impact on someone
else's life.

Do whatever it takes to show the world you
care.

Never say never,
Always believe!

Because if yesterday was tomorrow and
tomorrow is today.

Then a new day has started for you to
achieve!

Always strive for first; never accept second
or third!

Just hold on to your dream because if you
believe, it will come true.

Always give; never receive!

Always share; never be greedy!

Because if your goal is to change then why
wait until tomorrow when you can start
today.

Life waits on no one,

So do all you can do to help someone.

Never stop dreaming!

Never stop believing!

Never give up!

Always continue fighting!

Fight until the bitter end!

No matter if you have to do it alone.

Always fight!

Always believe!

Always strive for excellence!

Always strive for first!

Continue to fight!

Continue to give hope!

Because if you can do it today, it's no
telling what you will accomplish tomorrow.

So, continue to fight!

Fight until you can't fight any more!

Fight!

Sports

JSU puts family first

continue from page 16

of Jackson, Miss. It also hit home with a few members of the TSU Tigers as well. Namely, sophomore wide receiver Travis Lee and junior linebacker Charles Vinson of New Orleans and offensive assistant coach Shannon Harris of Wiggins, Miss. Coping with the aftermath, the players waited and prayed for the safety of their family members.

"Our hearts and prayers go out to those who were affected by the hurricane," said head Tigers' coach James Webster. "We're going on with our lives like nothing happened because we have to, but I think mentally and emotionally people a lot of people are involved with what's going on a lot of people have ties to the (Gulf Coast)."

Speaking in regards to his assistant coach, Webster said, "I told him 'Take as much time as you need to do whatever you need to do to spend time with your

family and get your family taken care.' This is a national tragedy unlike anything we've ever seen and it's going to take a long time before this thing clears up."

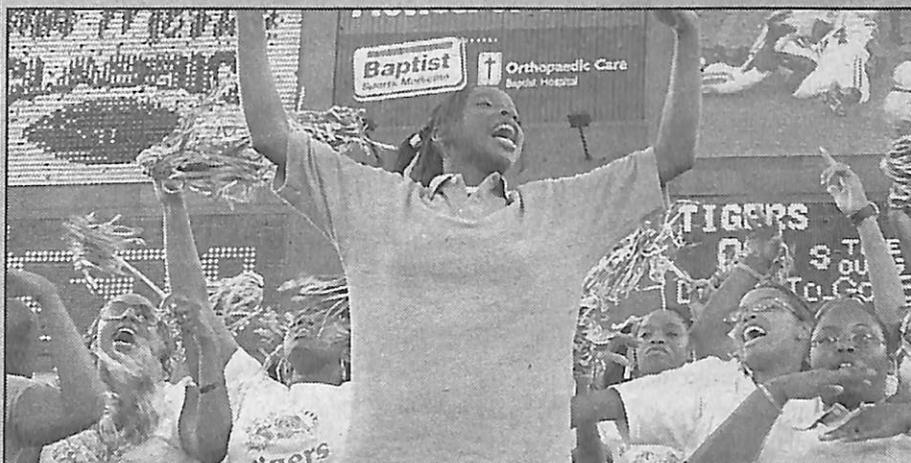
Also, according The Clarion Ledger, JSU were back in full force and practiced for nearly 2 hours after the three day lay-off.

Though they were not able to practice outdoors the use of their indoor facilities did work to their advantage in the event of getting them back on the right track and able to compete against in their season opener and in two days against Big Blue in the 16th Annual Southern Heritage Classic in Memphis at the Liberty Bowl.

"I don't think it would so much affect their performance," said junior fullback Brandon Williams from Memphis. "They've been practicing all summer just like schools all over the country. I think it could affect them emotionally because the players from around the Gulf Coast and Mississippi area and their families were affected as well."*

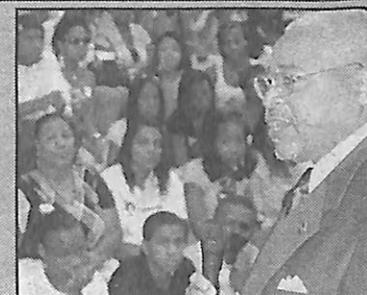
**The Southern Heritage Classic
will be held in Memphis on Sept. 10.**

JMC Photos



Sophomore Marissa Heidelberg (center), Miss Pep Club 2004-05, is leading the rest of the pep club in cheers at the Seventh Annual John Merritt Classic.

New President Melvin Johnson addresses a crowd of Nashville high school students at TSU's college fair sponsored by the Office of Admissions and Records in Kean Hall, Sept. 3.



PHOTOS BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Volleyball opens strong

The Lady Tigers Volleyball team starts off on the right foot The Lady Tigers Volleyball team competed in a tournament hosted by the Blue Raiders of Middle Tennessee on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 26 and 27.

The Lady Tigers opened up the tournament falling to the University of Texas-El Paso, 3-0 (19-30, 21-30, 24-30) and beating Alabama A&M, 3-2 (30-20, 29-31, 23-30, 30-18, 16-14).

On the second day of the tournament the Blue Raiders of Middle Tennessee State defeated the Lady Tigers, 3-0 (13-30, 20-30, 16-30). The Lady Tigers bounced back to conclude the night with a victory over Western Carolina, 3-0 (30-19, 30-21, 30-24) ending the tournament with a 2-2 record.

The Lady Tigers were led by senior Katrell Armwood with a total of 21 digs, sophomore Kelly Davis' 11 kills

and six aces produced by junior Erika Godbolt.

Other competitors included the University of Texas at El Paso, Alabama A&M University, and Western Carolina University.

Lady Tigers hosted their media day on Tuesday Aug. 30, in the Faculty Dining facility. Here players were introduced, pictures were taken and to start the season on a hefty foot, food was served.

This improved team filled with many new and unfamiliar faces vowed to their supporters to "give 100%" in order to have a winning program.

Brittini Barnes*

Former TSU football start arrested

Michael "Moon" Thompson was arrested by Gwinnett County, Ga. police

and charged on three counts of armed robbery Tuesday, Aug. 30, according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Thompson, who was a five year letterman for TSU from 1995-99, is charged for an incident that occurred in the parking lot of the Admiral Benbow Inn in Suwanee, Ga.

Thompson allegedly robbed three hotel guests at gunpoint, taking with him \$145. He was apprehended by police at a gas station after the robbery had occurred.

Thompson was a fourth round draft by the National Football League's Atlanta Falcons in 2000.

Men's hoops takes games in Costa Rica

The men's basketball team traveled to Costa Rica and to what would become a double victory trip against the Barbados National Team, August 26.

In game one, the Tigers trailed most

of the game before sophomore guard Reiley Ervin scored 17 second half points on his way to a game high of 27 points. The Tigers also received contributions from guards senior Wayne Arnold with 12 points and eight points each from junior Bruce Price and sophomore Andre Belton. Forwards, junior Courtney Bohannon and senior Eric King, both chipped in 6 points a piece to result in a first game win of 67-61.

A rematch in game two was a higher scoring affair, as the Tigers went on to defeat the Barbados National Team 96-86 August 27.

Leading contributions were given by King and Price, who had significant turnaround in game two with 27 and 26 points, respectively. Arnold and Ervin once again, scored 11 points each.

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Lavonte Young***

**Tiger
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Hurricane tackles Tigers before Memphis

By Dairanetta Spain
Sports Editor

The Jackson State University Tigers' football program was halted by the dictation of Hurricane Katrina, just days before their season opener against Hampton and a week before preparing for this weekend's Southern Heritage Classic.

The natural disaster damages left the entire JSU campus without power leaving the Tigers unable to practice for 3 days straight. However, in times of emergencies and the care of athletes; coaches often find themselves taking on the role of a guardian as well as a head athletic figure.

That's what JSU head football coach James Bell had to do as his players were

scattered throughout campus from the library, the student union, the T.B. Ellis gym and the Athletics and Assembly Center.

According to the Jackson, Miss. newspaper, The Clarion Ledger, Bell said, "People want to talk about football. That's not my focus right now. I'm worrying about feeding my players, making sure they've got a secure place to stay and getting fluids in them. That's what I'm concentrating on."

Despite the inconveniences of the hurricane, the JSU Tigers went on to lose to their season opener to No. 13 Hampton University Pirates 20-7 in the Detroit Classic.

But Katrina didn't just hit the Tigers

See "JSU" on page 15



PHOTO KENNETH CUMMINGS

Fullback Daniel Williams brings in a catch against Alabama A&M Saturday. The Tigers now prepare for Jackson State in Memphis.



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Freshman kicker, Eric Benson (19), kicks an extra point in TSU's 27-14 lose to AAMU in the first half of the John Merritt Classic.

AAMU's secret weapon torches TSU

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Rosser to senior wide receiver Fred Burnette with 42 seconds remaining in the first quarter. The pass proved to be the Tigers only first half score as they took at 7-3 lead into the locker room at halftime.

AAMU was led in the second half by redshirt freshman quarterback Harold Dorman, who did his best Michael Vick impression of giving the Tiger defense both a running and throwing threat to stop.

Dorman finished the contest with four of six passing attempts for 33 yards and 53 rushing yards on nine attempts and a touchdown.

Tiger specialists, junior receivers and twin brothers Jarrett and Gerald Morrow, were expected to have a significant impacts on AAMU's defense and special teams.

Gerald finished the contest with two catches for 25 yards and a kickoff return for 32 yards. While brother Jarrett

recorded two punt returns for 32 yards and a kickoff return 24 yards.

"They're playmakers," Webster said. "... They just didn't touch (the ball) enough."

The TSU defense put forth a solid effort, only giving up 212 yards total offense to the Bulldogs.

Cornerbacks Dominique Rodgers and Aaron Strong led the way with seven and nine total tackles, respectively. Rodgers also added a first half interception.

A pair of redshirt freshmen shined for the Tigers' offense as well. Running back Javarris Williams had 23 rushing attempts for 60 yards and a touchdown while wide receiver Chris Johnson, TSU's all-time receiver C.J. Johnson's younger brother, had four catches for 33 yards.

Rosser finished with 154 yards and one touchdown and two interceptions.

"We're a good football team," Webster said. "... We just didn't get the job done tonight."•