

THE METER

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Volume 56
Issue 2



Bobby Brown has helped one network tally over million viewers per week.

Page 7



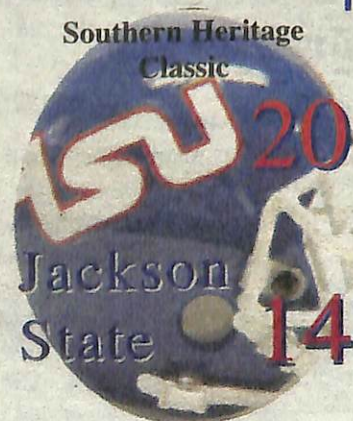
See how BET's spinoff of "Making the Band" sounds in your stereo.

Page 8



Vandy and TSU are only 377 days away from meeting on the gridiron.

Page 13



And the *show* must go on...



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

A drum major directs the Aristocrat of Bands during a halftime performance at the John Merritt Classic on Sept. 3. The band performed without having access to their "traditional pre-game practice field" before the performance.

Aristocrats perform despite in-house opposition

By Melaney Whiting
A&E Writer

TSU fans knew the 2005 football season would be one of many uncertainties.

The team has a new coaching staff and an unprecedented amount of underclassmen are getting playing time, not to mention the loss of All-American running back Charles Anthony.

But it was one thing almost all TSU fans were sure of, the Aristocrat of Bands would rock the crowd during halftime this season.

However, a wrench was thrown into that equation; This fall the band could not practice on the Hale Stadium or the football team's practice field playing surfaces.

For senior band member Faith Jackson,

this was a first.

"When we first got to pre-drills at the beginning of August, we were told that we couldn't use our traditional pre-game practice field in the Hole (Hale Stadium) or even the field that is located behind TSU's new tennis courts", said Jackson, a human performance and sports science major from Birmingham, Ala.

Now, the band practices on the infield of the Edward Temple Track behind the Gentry Center.

Now Kelly Carter, men's track and field coach, is the median between helping both the band and football team accomplish its goals.

Carter showed the infield of the track to

see "Band" on page 3

Student raises challenge

Hurricane evacuees welcomed, aided

Eddie R. Cole Jr.
Editor in Chief

For one TSU student, the John Merritt Classic was more than just a football game. It was an opportunity.

So, Ivra Warren, a senior biology major from Florence, Ala., spent the school's season opener rallying the crowd. But he wasn't working the crowd to help the Tigers on the field, but instead to help some Tigers off the field.

As a member of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, Warren spent the game taking donations for students affected by Hurricane Katrina.

"I wasn't thinking much about the

see "Match Me" on page 3

Campus dining costs more for less

Brian C. Browley
Campus News Writer

When students returned this fall they found out that not only was there a tuition increase of 14 percent, but also a raise in meal plan costs and removal of the descending balance.

In an effort to explain the changes, TSU sent out a mass email detailing the changes in cost and policy on Aug. 31, three days following the start of classes.

The email stated that the university "bore the entire \$100 cost assessed by Aramark," incurred with the use of the descending balance. The email further stated

see "Meal" on page 2

Campus News

Meal plan change spoils appetites

continued from page 1

that "the university is unable to continue the \$100 cash value and rates must also increase slightly."

The removal of the descending balance will now require students to pay out of pocket at both Onjetta's, an on-campus coffee shop, and Sports Zone, the on-campus sports bar.

"I don't like that they got rid of the descending balance," said sophomore business major Kevin Stroud from Memphis. "I don't think I'll be going (to Onjetta's or Sports Zone), not unless I have some extra money; other than that I won't be going."

The descending balance provided students who had either the 19-meal, 10-meal, or 10 + \$200 meal plans with an additional \$100 or \$200 dollars to spend at their preference.

The email also stated that "(m)meal plan fees at Tennessee State University continue to compare favorably with those of other Tennessee Board of Regents institutions," and went on to list comparable plans at other TBR institutions.

While the university email makes

the claim that TSU's meal plans are akin to those of its sister TBR institutions, only the five-meal plan at TSU is cheaper on the whole.

By factoring in the value of descending balances or other similar programs, the University of Memphis comes in as the least expensive in the 10-meal plans category.

While all of the universities have a variation of a 10 + \$200 plan, Austin Peay State University comes out as the cheapest in both this category and the 19-meal plan.

TSU carries only one plan that is less expensive than all those at other institutions, but it does not have the most expensive plan in any category. This is even though the other TBR schools use some type of descending balance system.

TBR associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, Treva Berryman, said in an e-mail to *The Meter* "To the best of my knowledge all of our institutions have out-sourced food service operations to private companies. Therefore, their operations are not regulated by the Board of Regents."

Of all the institutions only Austin Peay has two meal plans that are less

expensive than any other TBR school. Eastern Tennessee State University and Tennessee Technological University have the most consistently expensive meal plans. TSU's 10- and 19-meal plans are the second most cost effective plans factoring in total costs. ETSU's 19-meal plan is the most expensive with a cost of \$1231.

But while TSU's plan may be more favorable among other TBR schools, some students still prefer to have the descending balance.

"I was mad when they got rid of it, and that's putting it mildly," said Hugh Foster, a senior civil engineering major from Pearl, Miss. "I didn't know until after I got my meal plan. If I had known I might not have gotten one."•

Key

Bar 1: 5-meal plan
Bar 2: 10-meal plan
Bar 3: 10-plus \$200 plan
Bar 4: 19-meal plan

*Total value of meal plans with descending balances subtracted from final price



Events Calendar

Tomorrow

Open Convocation
Kean Hall Gym
9:45 a.m.

Freshman Election Forum
FPCC
Rm 210
6:30 p.m.

L.Y.L.A.S.
"Welcome To College:
No Disrespect"
LRC Auditorium
7 p.m.

Wednesday

NAACP Voting Rights Events
Humanities Auditorium
6 pm

Thursday

Voting w/TSU ID
FPCC
Rm 210
Time TBA

Thinking Outside the Box
Jamboree
Kean Hall
Rm 040
2 pm

Friday

Announcement of SGA winners
FPCC Yard
12 pm

Corrections

In the Sept. 8 issue of *The Meter*, Fannie Hyde-Perry was misidentified as coordinator of the Freshman Idol contest. Lynn Mcmeekin Swain was the coordinator.

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

Campus News

Band practices render mixed feelings

Continued from page 1

The Meter following the band's first weeks of practice. After just one game into the season, the band has already made significant imprints in the grass, but Carter doesn't mind saying his team runs on the track not the field.

"I will do whatever it takes to help the band get their job done," Carter said. "The football team's players had been getting injured prior to (new coach James) Webster's arrival and the football team had been requesting for the band not to play on their field for a time."

He also said other universities that TSU plays have separate band facilities.

"Our football team is the only team in the (Ohio Valley Conference) that share a field with their school's band," Carter said.

On the other hand, even though the band now has found somewhere to practice, halftime routines may still suffer by not having an aerial view equal to what Hale Stadium and the practice field provide.

"Our last resort was using an electrician lift and decided to perform only the simplest parts of our routine instead, cutting our original performance in half."



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

The Aristocrat of Bands practice in the Hale Stadium bleachers the week before the John Merritt Classic. The band has not been allowed to practice on the Hale Stadium or football team's practice field surface this year.

lift, which was given to us Thursday before the (John Merritt Classic) by administration to enable the band staff to see the formations," said Robin Jones-Fuqua, a senior band assistant from

Chattanooga. "Electrician lifts are life-threatening, especially if you aren't trained to use them."

Jones-Fuqua, however, said, "We finally just aborted the use of the electrician lift and decided to perform only the simplest parts of our routine instead, cutting our original performance in half."

However, everyone associated with the football team doesn't think the band and team sharing the fields is a bad thing.

Redshirt freshman running back Javarris Williams, who suffered from a turf toe injury during preseason camp, said he was indifferent on the situation.

"I didn't really know anything about it," he said after being informed of the situation. "I wouldn't mind if they used the field or not."

But relief may be coming for what seems to be a dim situation.

According to Jones-Fuqua, President Melvin Johnson visited the band during the Friday, Sept. 2 practice and announced that in the near future the band will have a state of the art practice facility built.

Aristocrat band director, Professor Edward Graves declined to comment on the situation but did say, "(I)t will eventually be worked out."

Meter staff writer Alicia Boswell contributed to this report.

'Match Me' program challenges student body

Continued from page 1

game," said the three-year track and field runner. "I was just concerned with getting the jar full."

Warren said \$1400 was raised during the JMC which will go toward books for students. But a conversation during that game moved his conscience to do more.

That conversation was with New Orleans native and TSU football player, Charles Vinson's parents. Warren said after listening to Vinson's parents talk, he knew one night of fundraising wasn't enough.

"His parents had up spirits but you could tell they lost a lot," he said. "That (Hurricane Katrina) hit home. Imagine kids with no home, no yard to play in and

no clothes."

As a result, Warren single-handedly started the "Match Me" campaign.

This campaign was designed by Warren to benefit displaced students from schools in Gulf Coast region that now attend his beloved TSU.

"I stay trying to think outside the box," Warren said. "It benefits the school's name as well as the people it goes to. I put up \$50. Students can match me, do better than me or they don't even have to match me. Every little bit helps."

But he doesn't just urge students to give money but also clothes and other necessities, not as competition, but to help others in need.

Nathaniel Booker, a sophomore from Chicago, said he likes Warren's idea and plans on participating in the "Match Me" to help it catch stem.

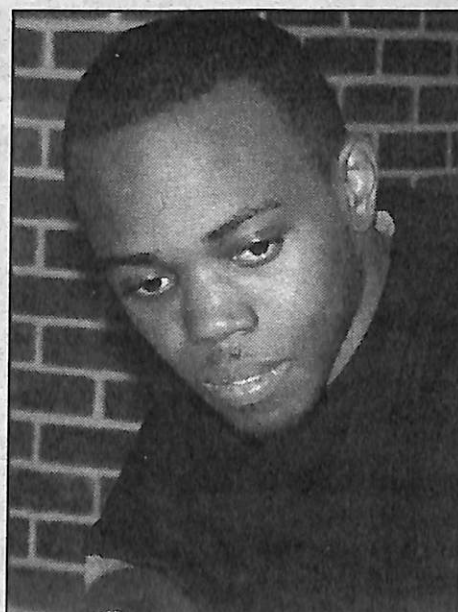


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Senior Ivra Warren has started the "Match Me" campaign to help displaced students here at TSU.

"(Displaced students) are basically coming here with the clothes on their backs," Booker said. "That's really cool that (Warren) is doing that. People need

money. So, this is not a hand me down, it's a hand me up."

And hand me ups, are exactly what Warren is attempting to do.

"I was thinking about how I would feel if I were in their position," he said. "I don't know how it feels to lose everything but I'm sure it's not a good feeling."

Also Warren has open arms for anyone who wants to volunteer and help him with the "Match Me" campaign.

Warren said, "I put a challenge out to all of TSU to help their own. For the students here, we have to take care of them. So, in the words of our old president (James A. Hefner) 'Students matter most.'"

**To participate in the "Match Me" campaign:
Contact: Ivra L. Warren
Phone: 256-349-0074**

Campus News

What We Think

Administration should prenotify students of financial changes

When it comes to TSU, by the time you've acquired 60+ hours, you have learned the value of a dollar.

Generally, every year students return to the raising of one cost or another with little or no warning. For those who may have a healthy refund on its way or a scholarship to cover their educational expenses, this may not come as a problem. But for those students who have worked and saved all summer just to have enough to pay for their schooling, a sudden price increase can throw their carefully laid out plans to the wayside. This is a particularly trying situation for out-of-state students who are not privy to news of cost increases as students who stay are in-state. The university did make some effort to inform students of the cost increase by email until after classes had already begun. Yet to quote the age old adage, "that's too little too late."

The 14 percent tuition increase was mandated by the Tennessee Board of Regents, so holding TSU accountable for the rise wouldn't be fair. It is, however, at the discretion of the university to determine raising the costs of meal plans and housing and when, and if, to inform the student body of such. By neglecting to inform students in a timely manner, the university has in effect left many students, who with prior warning could have taken steps to securing additional funds to pay for school, in a bind. Now many are forced to deal with another round of deferred payments, late registration fees, and the dreaded purge.

Perhaps even more troubling is that with this increase, certain services and products offered with the meal plans have been eliminated.

The descending balance, which was a popular plan with students, has been discontinued.

It seems improbable that the university would raise prices and then give students fewer options. While with the descending balance a student could occasionally go over the predetermined costs of meals without having to pay out of pocket. But now, a student can expect delays in line while individuals try to make sure they have not exceeded the allowed monetary value placed on each meal. Additionally the sell of bottled drinks has been canceled in the SUB and the Rudolph cafeteria. So, that means no more days of hoarding Minute Maid lemonades and Peach Fantas for a rainy day.

The university needs to make a conscious and concerted effort in informing students on increases in tuition, fees, room and board costs and not get rid of the things that students value most.

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 500 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

Tennessee State University
3500 John A. Merritt Blvd., Box 1246
Nashville, Tenn. 37209-1561
Phone: 615-963-7530
Fax: 615-963-5452
E-Mail: themeter@hotmail.com
Ad. dept. E-Mail: themeter2@hotmail.com
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.

EDITOR IN CHIEF: EDDIE R. COLE JR.
SENIOR EDITOR: GREGORY BRAND JR.
SENIOR VISUALS EDITOR: DESHANE MINER
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DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS: PAMELA E. FOSTER
CIRCULATION: 3,000

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

Forum

The Meter Editorial Board 2005-06

Senior Visuals Editor



Name: DeShanee Miner
 Classification: Senior
 Hometown: Springfield, Ill.
 Major: Psychology
 Phone: 963-5652
 dminer@tsumeter.com

Senior Editor



Name: Gregory Brand Jr.
 Classification: Senior
 Hometown: Memphis
 Major: Mass Comm
 Phone: 963-5649
 gbrand@tsumeter.com

Visuals Editor



Name: Kenneth Cummings
 Classification: Sophomore
 Hometown: Memphis
 Major: Mass Comm
 Phone: 963-5649
 kcummings@tsumeter.com

Campus News Editor



Name: Madelyn Ragland
 Classification: Senior
 Hometown:
 McMinnville, Tenn.
 Major: Mass Comm
 Phone: 963-5649
 mragland@tsumeter.com

Arts & Entertainment Editor



Name: Kirsten D. Watkins
 Classification: Junior
 Hometown: Atlanta
 Major: Mass Comm
 Phone: 963-5555
 kwatkins@tsumeter.com

Sports Editor



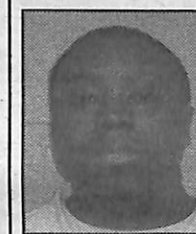
Name: Dairanetta Spain
 Classification: Junior
 Hometown: Memphis
 Major: Mass Comm
 Phone: 963-5649
 dspain@tsumeter.com

Web Manager



Name: Gregory Fletcher
 Classification: Senior
 Hometown: Washington, D.C.
 Major: Computer Science
 Phone: 963-5649
 gfletcher@tsumeter.com

Ad and Circulation Manager



Name: Jamaal Oldham
 Classification: Senior
 Hometown: Clarksville, Tenn.
 Major: Business Admin.
 Phone: 963-5652
 joldham@tsumeter.com

Copy Editor



Name: Evita Timmons
 Classification: Senior
 Hometown: Hanceville, Ala.
 Major: Mass Comm
 Phone: 963-5555
 etimmons@tsumeter.com

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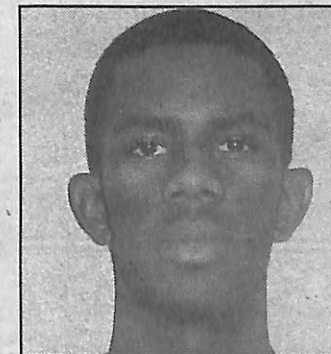
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Editor in Chief



Name: Eddie R. Cole Jr.
 Classification: Junior
 Hometown: Boligee, Ala.
 Major: Speech Communication and Theatre/Mass Comm emphasis
 ecole@tsumeter.com

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Cousin Jeff connects with the generations

By Ashleigh Randolph
A&E Writer

Jeffery Johnson, also known to the Black Entertainment Television audience as Cousin Jeff, is the new voice of our generation.

He has the gift of connecting with people on what issues are plaguing urban America.

Johnson started on his way in his hometown of Cleveland and went to the University of Toledo on a track scholar-

ship. But he gave the scholarship up to pursue and concentrate his energy on campus activism. He was the then twice elected president of the Black Student Union. He was the first and only person to be elected in that position thus far. While president, he succeeded in forming an Africana Studies department, having Black faculty and students sit on all executive search committees, forming a minority retention program, and getting a university bus service in the Black community.

The time had come and gone when

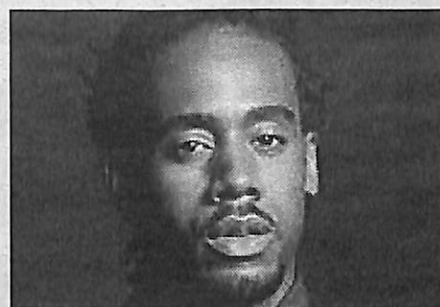


PHOTO COURTESY OF BET.COM

Cousin Jeff's show, *The Cousin Jeff Chronicles*, tries to inform today's youth about social issues.

he was the National Director of the NAACP Youth College division and oversaw 700 youth units. He is the vice president of Russell Simmons' Hip Hop Summit and is now the host of his own show, "The Cousin Jeff Chronicles" on BET, where he challenges all concepts of reality by exposing the problems that are in urban America.

Johnson was first featured on the Hip-Hop video countdown, "Rap City" with host Big Tigger. He also speaks See "Chronicles" on page 8

Viewers see what its like 'Being Bobby Brown'

By Kirsten D. Watkins and Pamela Jones
A&E Editor and A&E Writer

"I'm just being Bobby Brown, just being Bobby Brown." If you don't know this theme song, you are probably missing out on the latest and hottest reality show on the Bravo Network.

"Being Bobby Brown" is the reality series that takes a look into the life and times of entertainer Bobby Brown. The show features Brown, his wife Whitney Houston Brown, his Cadillac Escalade truck full of kids, his brother/manager Tommy Brown and father Pop Brown.

But with all of the publicity that this new show is receiving, it poses a question that I still don't understand. Why are we, as a generation, so addicted to reality television?

Here, Bobby and Whitney have topped Nick and Jessica Simpson, and

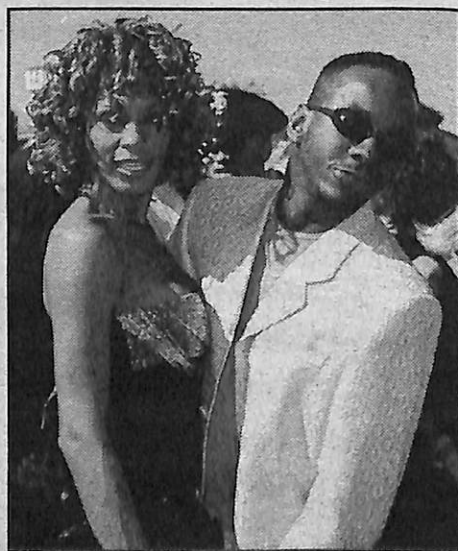


PHOTO COURTESY OF YAHOO.COM

Bobby Brown and Whitney Houston star in "Being Bobby Brown." The new reality series, which follows the couple around through their daily life, tallied 1.1 million viewers during its June 2005 debut.

have blown Britney and Kevin Federline out of the water. The show debuted in June 2005 with 1.1 million viewers, giving Bravo a substantial boost on Thursday nights. The show details Bobby and Whitney's careers, their family life, and a peek into their legal woes, recording new albums, and their real love for one another.

Whether going on a camping trip with a "Diva" and "Drama Queen", celebrating Mother's Day with the entire family, eating a lot, over-spending on daughter Bobbi-Christina, and being rude to the fans, 'Being Bobby Brown' is sheer entertainment at its best.

"Observing the Brown family acting out as ghetto and idiotic on the camera is the funniest sight I've ever seen," said Deonna Bohannon, a junior from Atlanta. "Being Bobby Brown is funny, emotional, and very real."

Although the season finale was in August, surely we'll be able to watch the Brown's antics next season.

HBCU Connect to provide cruise

Kirsten D. Watkins
A&E Editor

Many students struggle with finding internships and employment as days dwindle away toward graduation. When the parting is over and you've sold your last book back, some might begin to feel a little uneasy.

Well, HBCU Connect just might be the answer to your problem. HBCU Connect, which is a highly acclaimed marketing firm, has created a cruise that provides school and job information for prospective HBCU students and alumni. The HBCU Connect cruise ship accommodates over 3,000 people and features activities such as networking mixers, speed dating, sports functions, and aerobics classes.

The seven-day cruise begins on Oct. 23, 2005 in Miami, Fla., making stops in San Juan, St. Maartan, and Bahamas, before returning on Oct. 30, 2005. College students can travel luxuriously with prices ranging from \$654 to \$1,099. This is an excellent opportunity for a near or recent graduate in limbo yet seeking employment. For more information, contact www.hbcucruise.com.

Arts & Entertainment



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

Fatty Koo

House of Fatty Koo-3/5

After the utter tragedy and ultimate demise of the previous reality series

known as MTV's *Making the Band*, it seemed almost a given that the BET knock-off *Blowing Up: Fatty Koo* would be a similar pile of musical garbage. However, the outcome proved to be a little different.

The group's debut album, *House of Fatty Koo*, does a pleasing job of combining a diverse group dynamic along with surprisingly good musicianship.

The combination is a mismatch to be sure, but this may be the reason it works. The destined for solo-stardom Valure, 16-year old heartthrob Josh, smooth crooner Eddie B., sultry soprano Gabrielle, funky Latin-flavored musician Marya, and rapping/production whiz-kid Ron all bring useful elements that make the album a nice collection of urban, hip-hop flavored pop.

The album's 15 tracks blaze through a variety of topics that touch everything from being in love to just plain having fun.

The electronic buzz of the lead single *Bounce* lit up dance floors this summer with loads of clever wordplay and dance-friendly production. This is definitely a strength for the group. A bulk of



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE.COM

Members of Fatty Koo are on the come up

the album lands in this department making for plenty crowded dance floors.

To prove that they are more than a group that caters exclusively to the dance floor, several of the tracks introduce different elements for more interesting music.

This is most noted on the album's standout track, *Chills*. This classic slow jam laments on the bliss felt when one is in real love. Inside melodic crescendos and pulse pounding bass lines the lyrics support a sweet and sexy ballad.

Lyrics and music also work together to make *Princess In Disguise*, *Cruise Control* and *Juke Joint* memorable tracks on the LP.

Another of the album's biggest pluses is the production from front to end. It is all well done for the type of music it supports. The medium needs to be light and fun to appeal to younger and suburban customers and it is a success in that department.

The album's weak points come into play with some poor song choices and lack luster vocal delivery. Songs like the trite, nonsense filled *Fatty Koo* and useless *Move On* kill the over all polish of the album.

Bottom Line: Strict fans of real R&B music should approach this album with caution because it has a real sugary pop vibe. The slow tracks do make it appealing for the grown and sexy set though. Other than that, the only real mistake that was made is they aired after three long seasons of *Making the Band*.

Gregory Brand Jr. •

Chronicles bring knowledge to the less informed

Continued from page 7

passionately about bridging the gap between the civil rights and hip hop generations, the U. S. Judicial system, issues concerning Black youth, as well as diabetes and obesity and other health concerns that affect our race at disproportionate rates.

The show is a series of mini documentaries that dives in to the issues most concerning to Blacks and Latinos. He has also said he thinks the difference between and other people is that he brings information to the people

who generally don't get it. His passion for college issues affecting minority students is what made him want to speak in terms of activism.

Cousin Jeff felt that he had to be part of the solution. He makes young people aware of the social and political problems by speaking their language and relating to them on their level. He continues to try and provide information and encourage conversation among our generation and to empower people all over the country. To see "The Cousin Jeff Chronicles" on BET, tune into your local listings. •

The Measure of Student Opinion and Sentiment

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Arts & Entertainment

Ovarian cancer gains national attention

Demetria Green
A&E Staff Writer

September is National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. Most young ladies, and even older women, do not know what ovarian cancer is or whether they even have the symptoms.

Ovarian Cancer is a cancer that begins in the cells that constitute the ovaries. These cells are known as the surface epithelial cells, germ cells, and the sex cord-stroma cells. In short, it is a cancer that affects the ovaries. The cancer usually causes tumors in its later stages.

Some symptoms of ovarian cancer are abdominal pressure; pain during intercourse; bloating; digestive problems; a constant feeling of fullness; fatigue; unexplained change in bowel and/or bladder habits such as constipation, urinary frequency, and/or incontinence; and some women may experience

abnormal bleeding.

There are some factors that may increase a woman's chance of getting ovarian cancer. Some of these factors include increasing age, one or more intermediate family members with ovarian or breast cancer, uninterrupted ovulation (infertility, never used birth control pills or never pregnant), and living in an industrialized country. Having one or more of these factors does increase a woman's chances of developing ovarian cancer but does not mean she will definitely have it.

A common misconception of ovarian cancer is that it can be detected by a pap smear test. This is not true. However, there are other tests that are available and can be helpful in detecting

ovarian cancer. These tests include a vaginal exam (recommended for women age 18 and above) and annual recto-vaginal exam (for women aged 35 and above).

Besides looking out for symptoms, a woman can also go to the doctor and get regular rectal and vaginal pelvic examinations. A pelvic examination is the examination of a female's external and internal pelvic organs to screen for cancer and other abnormalities. A recto-vaginal exam is when the doctor feels the internal pelvic organs by inserting one gloved finger in the rectum and one in the vagina. It is recommended

that every woman undergoes a regular rectal and vaginal pelvic examination, due to the fact that only 10 percent of ovarian cancer is found in its early stages.

Ovarian cancer is usually treated by removing tissue through surgery. However, there are other treatments such as chemotherapy and radiation therapy.

To find more information about ovarian cancer and what you can do to lessen your chances of getting it you can go to
www.ovarian.org,
www.aicr.org.uk,
www.ovarex.com,
www.ovariancancer.org/



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Arts & Entertainment

Tops of the Summer

By Kirsten D. Watkins
A&E Editor

You may not enjoy the hot humidity or fighting off the mosquitoes at the family barbeque. You may not even enjoy your three month break because you're stuck at a job or internship. Whatever the case may be, summer brings out the best in any city. This summer was filled with all types of happenings-from the Dirty South to the nation's capital- the music was loud, the movies were fly, the tours were jammin', and the grill was smokin'.

News-

I'm A Hustler: For Real???

On Wednesday, June 22, 2005, the Philadelphia police department issued an arrest warrant for platinum-selling rapper Cassidy, 22, on the charge of murder. Cassidy, whose real name is Barry Reese, alleges that three men followed him to his home and opened fire. As a result, one man was found dead and two others were treated with gunshot wounds. Upon the police investigation, it was found that neither of the three men were armed. The incident took place on April 15 and was allegedly in response to an early fistfight. The J Records/Full Surface recording artist was charged with murder, aggravated assault, simple assault, reckless endangerment, weapons charges, and other related offenses. Cassidy, who is best known for his hits "Hotel" with R.Kelly and "I'm A Hustler" pleads and maintains his innocence.

No More AJ and Free!!

After five years of leading Black Entertainment Television's show to the No. 1 live on-air program, hosts AJ Calloway and Free have called it quits. The last broadcast, which aired on July 28th, was an emotional AJ with the fans onstage, while Free said farewell via cell phone. Rumors have been flying around since Free's departure from the show weeks ago. BET execs commented that she was 'just on vacation'. According to www.bet.com, BET's Senior Vice President of Programming Stephan Hill assures the BET audience that the pair was not let go, "they wanted to pursue

other endeavors". Currently, AJ is set to open his new restaurant *Mahogany* in Brooklyn, NY, while Free continues on with her flourishing rap career ("Wait" Remix with the Ying Yang Twins) and plans to launch a Web site. However, Debra Lee, the newly named CEO of BET commented that she wanted to 'change the face of the network' and the duo was only offered a brief contract extension. Whatever the case may be, AJ and Free will always be associated with classic '106 & Park'. A constant staple in Black homes for the last five years, Free

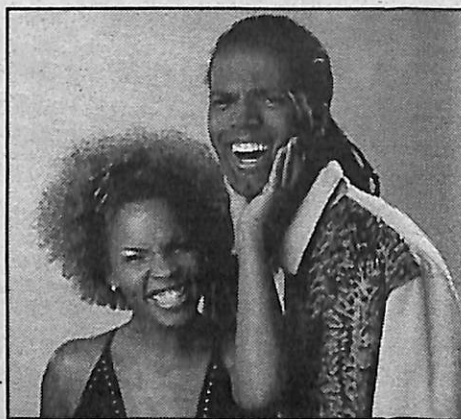


PHOTO COURTESY OF YAHOO.COM

AJ and Free are no longer hosts of BET's 106th and Park.

set fashion trends (ladies, you know the boots were fire) and AJ kept us abreast of news in our communities (wearing tee shirt slogans 'Buy Black' and 'Vote or Die'). I'm almost sure that their viewers will follow them and continue to support their careers.

Festivals-

The Essence Music Fest-

Since its arrival in 1994, the Essence Music Fest has become synonymous with the Fourth of July for the Black community. The three day event, which is held in New Orleans, La, allows the audiences to kick back to enjoy the gift of music, explore the awesome bayou marketplace, as well as joining in on paneled discussions covering topics that affect our generation and diaspora. Musical performances were given by today's and yesterday's greatest artists (Alicia Keys, Lyfe Jennings, Doug E. Fresh, and Teena Marie). The bayou mar-

ketplace included a wide variety of precious African art, handcrafted sculptures, and more. The informative discussions include areas of health and beauty (fitness guru A.J. Johnson), political restoration (educator Dr. Cornel West), and social problems relating to young Blacks (author Kevin Powell). Presented by Essence, the leading African-American magazine publication, the Essence Music Fest attracts thousands each year.

The VIBE Music Fest-

This summer, VIBE expanded its multi-million dollar enterprise with a new venture- a three day music festival in the 'Black Mecca', also known as Atlanta, GA. Presented in partnership with Burger King, the VIBE Music fest attacked the Peach capital on June 10-12, 2005. Performers included Kanye West, Keyshia Cole, T.I., Ludacris, and a host of other artists. Also, open to the public were discussion panels relevant to aspiring artist such as: 'How To Get Into The Game' hosted by Kandi Burrell (songwriter and former member of Xscape), 'Ethics in Entertainment' hosted by author Cheo Hodari Choker, and 'Keep it Street: Keep the Faith' hosted by Bishop Eddie Long. The first annual Free Agent concert, hosted by T-Boz (of girl group phenom TLC) gave unsigned artists an opportunity to compete for a chance to open Saturday night's show. Atlanta native, Kalenna, won the show. It is to be hoped that the VIBE Music Fest will be as successful and carry the same substance that makes Essence lasting.

MegaFest-

MegaFest 2005 was an excellent vision brought to pass by Bishop T.D. Jakes. Atlanta, once again, played host city to the history-making conferences known as 'the total Christian experience'. On August 3-6, 2005, Bishop Jakes and his ministry, the Potter's House, brought the four-day/three-night festival to the Georgia Dome. The fest was broken into three conferences: 'ManPower', 'Woman, thou art Loosed', and 'the MegaYouth Experience'- catering to every man, woman, and child seeking spiritual prosperity. "You're Not Forgotten" was the series for young adults aged 18-24. Seminars included:

The best of the summer
in News, Concerts,
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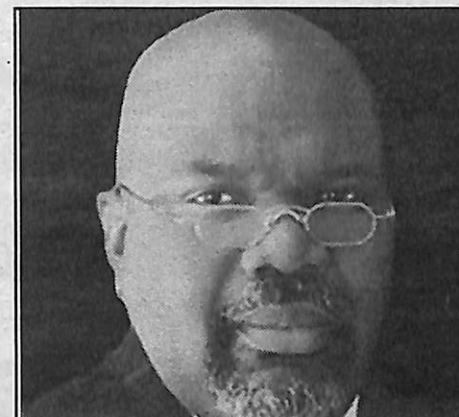


PHOTO COURTESY OF YAHOO.COM

Bishop T.D. Jakes' vision of MegaFest came true this summer in Atlanta.

'On The Grind: Job Development 101', (teaching us how to make it in the corporate world), and 'Heart of a Woman-Soul of a Man' (ministering to the youth about love and relationships). Also, Dr. Coretta Scott King was named the 2005 recipient for Women of Purpose.

Concerts-

The Anger Management Tour-

Rappers Eminem and 50 Cent have been touring the U.S. with their hottest jams for the last two years, and this summer is no different. The Anger Management Tour had a few kinks in it this year, but technical difficulties and cancelled artists have not stopped the G-Unit gravy train. Due to Eminem's withdrawal from the AM3 Tour due to exhaustion and family situations, he dropped off the concert bill in July. 50 Cent decided to press on without his mentor/friend Slim Shady. The original tour's lineup included Eminem, 50 Cent and the G-Unit crew (Young Buck, Lloyd Banks, Tony Yayo, Olivia, Mobb Deep), and ATL's Lil' Jon and the Eastside Boys. However, when Eminem backed out, it left room for other artists to shine. Ciara, Ludacris, and Mike Jones joined 50 Cent on a 39-city American tour kicking off in Indianapolis, Ind. on July 7, 2005. Hip-Hop heavyweight 50 Cent will also be releasing a movie, *Get Rich Or Die Tryin'*, that comes out in November, a line of bottled energy water (Formula 50), and an autobiography (*From Pieces To Weight*) has just hit bookstores this

Arts & Entertainment

The best of the summer
in News, Concerts,
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Tops of the Summer

summer.

The Destiny Fulfilled And Lovin' It Tour-

Kelly Rowland, Beyonce Knowles, and Michelle Williams have every reason to celebrate this summer. The female powerhouse has sold over 50 million records to date, have accomplished solo career projects, been role models for young girls around the world and will be remembered as one of the world's top selling female groups in history. Since announcing the group's split in June, Destiny's Child has begun their last tour together, 'Destiny Fulfilled And Lovin' It,' which is co-sponsored with McDonald's. Also, featured on the 'Fulfilled' bill are singers Amerie ('One Thing'), Mario ('Let Me Love You'), and R&B newcomer Tyra ('Country Boy'). Destiny's Child will split after their final television performance this month and will continue their thriving solo careers.



PHOTO COURTESY OF YAHOO.COM

Mark Wahlberg, Tyrese Gibson, Andre Benjamin and Garrett Hedlund starred in the movie Four Brothers.

be respected in this medium as well. 'Four Brothers' is a gritty drama, yet carries enough humor to keep you satisfied.

Tributes-

Johnnie Cochran, Jr.-

October 2, 1937- March 29, 2005

An accomplished criminal defense attorney and humanitarian, Johnnie Cochran, Jr. is credited with giving a voice to the Black community in areas of legal expertise and criminal justice. He was one great man who represented many. Cochran has represented many famous faces (O.J. Simpson, Sean 'Diddy' Combs, and Michael Jackson) and some not-so-famous faces (activists Geronimo Pratt and Abner Louima). Johnnie Cochran, Jr., the self-proclaimed 'legal gunslinger', will always be remembered as a blessing lifting up our community. He was 67 years old.

Luther Vandross-

April 20, 1951- July 1, 2005

Famed singer and songwriter, Luther Vandross has entertained the hearts and households of many for over 30 years. Many of us were even conceived to the sound of his magnificent voice. Vandross has sold more than 25 million records worldwide and has received numerous accolades such as Grammys, Soul Train Awards, and NAACP Awards. Among his hits are 'Never Too Much', 'Here And Now', and 'So Amazing'. Mr. Vandross suffered from a stroke in 2003, which he never fully recovered from. He was 54 years old.

Peter Jennings-

July 29, 1938- August 7, 2005

ABC News Anchor and career journalist, Peter Jennings dedicated his life to keeping the masses abreast of events shaping our world. Jennings was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2003, after smoking cigarettes for many years. Peter Jennings has won 16 Emmy awards and has covered stories such as the tragedy of September 11th and the catastrophe of the 1972 Summer Olympic Games. Jennings, a high school dropout, is a motivator for today's youth that no obstacle is insurmountable. He was 67 years old.

John H. Johnson-

January 19, 1918- August 8, 2005

Successful and motivated founder of Johnson Publishing Company, John H. Johnson was an extremely savvy businessman. Johnson is responsible for single-handedly launching Ebony and Jet Magazines with \$500, turning Johnson Publishing Company into a multi-million dollar corporation. His innovative publi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF YAHOO.COM

John Johnson was a pioneer in journalism for starting Ebony and Jet Magazines.

cations came in the era of the Civil Rights Movement and gave Blacks, as he has said before, 'a new sense of somebodyness'. Johnson has received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his journalistic contributions. He died of heart failure at the age of 87.

Brock Peters-

July 28, 1927- August 23, 2005

Accomplished stage and screen actor, Brock Peters changed the face of African-Americans in the entertainment industry in the 1930's and 1940's. Peters was not as celebrated as Harry Belafonte or Sidney Poitier, but his contribution to

film and television is just as great. Brock Peters has starred in yesterday's classics such as 'Carmen Jones', 'Porgy and Bess', and 'To Kill A Mockingbird'. He died of pancreatic cancer and was 78 years old.

Music-

Missy Elliot's "The Cookbook"

Missy 'Misdemeanor' Elliot is back and she has brought her listening audience a new taste with her sixth album 'The Cookbook'. "Lose Control", which featured special appearances by Ciara and Fat Man Scoop, was the first single off her Atlantic Records release. Elliot stepped out on faith on her new project, excluding super producer Timbaland, she enlisted help from other industry greats such as The Neptunes' own Pharell Williams (Gwen Stefani's 'Hollaback Girl') and Rich Harrison (Amerie's 'One Thing'). She's back with her innovative sound, lyrically surprising messages, and dance-crazed videos.

Young Jeezy's "Let's Get It: Thug Motivation 101"

The Atlanta-area native Young Jeezy is making a new for himself in the Hip-Hop arena. His first major record label release, "Let's Get It: Thug Motivation 101" is climbing the charts faster than many had anticipated. His summer jams, "And Then What" f/ Mannie Fresh and "Soul Survivor" f/ Akon, have proved not just to be club bangers, but set Jeezy into constant radio rotation. Young Jeezy is one-fourth of the street rap foursome known as "Boyz In Da Hood" who have reached the ears of many with their single 'Dem Boyz'. Also, he is the founder and CEO of his own label, Corporate Thugs Entertainment. The self-proclaimed 'snowman', don't be surprised if Young Jeezy has a clothing line and endorsements in the future. •

Movies-

Hustle And Flow'-

Director John Singleton has delivered the goods again. 'Hustle And Flow' was one of the most anticipated movies of the year. 'Hustle And Flow' is an urban drama about a Memphis, TN pimp with a dream to change his life and begin an extravagant rap career. Starring Terrence Howard, Taraji P. Henson, Paula Jai Parker, Anthony Anderson, and Taryn Manning, this movie shows DJay's (portrayed by Terrence Howard) internal struggle to realize his dream and reach his full potential while there's so much chaos in the world. The overall message: Sometimes your environment can be stifling, but it is up to you to find your focus.

'Four Brothers'-

How exciting could a film be about four foster brothers attempting to avenge their adoptive mother's death? Very. 'Four Brothers' carries an amazing cast including Mark Wahlberg, Tyrese Gibson, Andre Benjamin, and Garrett Hedlund, with appearances by Terrence Howard and Taraji P. Henson (both in "Hustle and Flow"). Rapper/actor Benjamin gave a surprisingly stellar performance and Gibson proves once again that he's not just a singer-that he should

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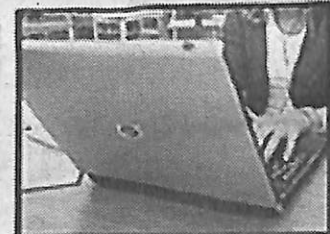
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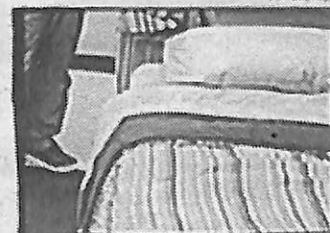
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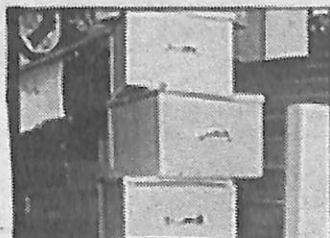
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THE TSU Sports METER



Monday
September 12, 2005

Volume 56
Issue 2

New neighborhood rivalry in back yard

Dairanetta Spain
Sports Editor

After years of talk about a TSU and Vanderbilt University football match up, these talks are now finalized. The game is set for Sept. 23, 2006.

It's like that of a Hollywood athletic film. But it's no film for TSU and Vandy, it's rather a competition compared to the biblical battle of David and Goliath.

"I feel good about the game," said sophomore linebacker Derrick Moore of Nashville. "I think Coach Webster and the athletic department did a good job with setting it up. I think they know it will give the program exposure and it will be a good experience for us as well as TSU and Vanderbilt alumni and current students."

Announcement of the game was delivered at a reception given in honor of new TSU President Melvin Johnson. The reception, hosted by Vanderbilt Chancellor Gordon Gee and university administrators, welcomed the competition with an announcement of gratitude.

"Vanderbilt and Tennessee State are neighbors and partners in many ways," Gee said according to the official site of the Vanderbilt University Commodores, in response to the announcement. "So, a meeting on the football field is a natural extension of that relationship."

This will not be the first athletic meeting for TSU and Vandy. The schools' athletic programs have competed against each other in men and women's basketball and baseball. However, adding the football competition creates more dimension and has the potential to benefit the program in regards to publicity.

But, many may argue and can't help but fantasize this momentous match up's late arrival in regards to TSU football legend John Merritt.

Having coached for 20 years, 1963-1983, Merritt rounded his career out with a record of 173-34-7 and an impressive career

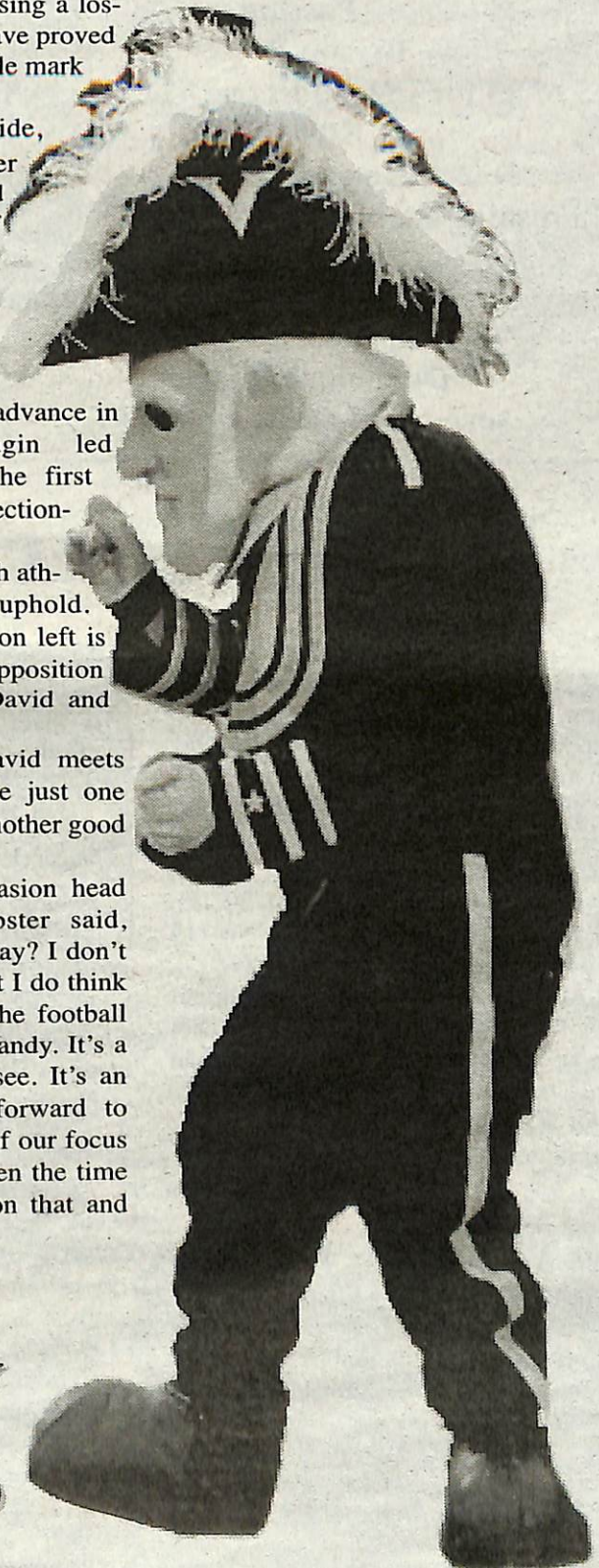
record of 233-67-11. Adding to his legendary status of never possessing a losing season, this game could have proved to be an unforgettable, indelible mark in Big Blue history.

On the opposing side, Commodore history maker Coach Dan McGugin finished his career with a record of 197-55-19. Becoming known for his ability to successfully and effectively use the on-side kick after being deemed legal in collegiate football and using guards to advance in lead interference, McGugin led Vanderbilt on to become the first Southern team to play intersectional games.

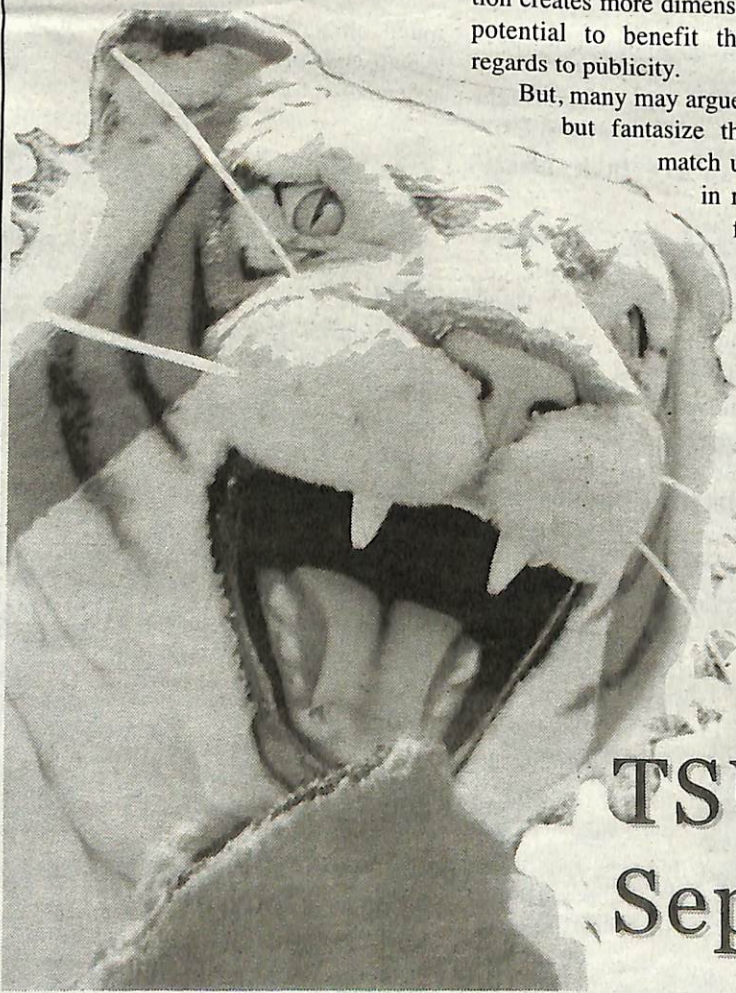
Both institutions have rich athletic traditions to uphold. Nevertheless, the only question left is will the Big Blue rise above opposition and be able to produce a David and Goliath defeat?

"I wouldn't say it's David meets Goliath" Moore said. "We're just one good team going up against another good team."

Giving light to the occasion head football coach James Webster said, "What do I think about it today? I don't think anything of it today, but I do think it's a great opportunity for the football program to be able to play Vandy. It's a great game for the fans to see. It's an opportunity that we look forward to when the time comes; none of our focus is on that game now, but when the time comes we will be focused on that and we'll be ready to go."•



TSU vs. Vandy
Sept. 23, 2006



Sports



226

233

Passing

Bryson Rosser

15 of 23 for 154 yards, one TD, two INTs

Rushing

Javarris Williams

23 rushing attempts for 60 yards, one TD

Defense

Aaron Strong

nine total tackles, one sack

Dominique Rodgers

seven total tackles, one INT

Where: Martin, Tenn.

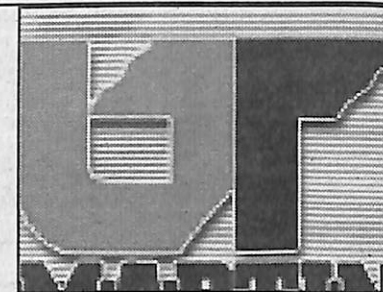
Location: Hardy Graham Stadium

When: Saturday, Sept. 17

Time: 12 p.m.

Offensive Yards per game

Defensive Yards per game



407

425

Passing

Brad Wahlberg

22 of 26 for 188 yards

Rushing

Donald Chapman

26 rushing attempts for 141 yards, one TD

Defense

Markes Jackson

nine total tackles, two assists

Andre Plummer

nine total tackles, one assist

Key Players

Stats accurate as of Sept. 9

Lady Tigers Fall to No. 14 Louisville

In their second tournament of the season, the Lady Tigers moved on to compete in the Louisville Labor Day Invitational in Louisville, Ky.

The Lady Tigers would fall to tournament opponents Ohio University, 3-0 (30-21, 30-24, 30-21); Wake Forest University, 3-0 (30-27, 30-26, 30-22). The team would also fall to No. 14 Louisville 3-0 (30-21, 30-24, 30-21).

All tournament honors recipient Sophomore Kelly Davis led the team with an impressive 28 kills combined in three matches. Recording 47 digs, Senior Katrell Armwood led the program in defense.

Dairanetta Spain

Lady Tigers drop to Western Kentucky

The TSU Lady Tigers (2-6, 0-0 OVC) volleyball team continued its 2005 seasonal quest in a defeat Tuesday Sept. 6 at Western Kentucky (5-1, 0-0 Sun Belt).

Resulting in a 3-0 loss, WKU would lead match sets (30-19, 30-26, 30-14). The Lady Tigers dealt a hitting average



PHOTO COURTESY OF METER ARCHIVES

The TSU volleyball team has opened up the 2005 season with a stiff schedule.

of -.022.

Sophomore Kelly Davis continued to lead the team with six aces. Junior Erika Godbolt would also contribute six kills, while senior Katrell Armwood produced 13 digs.

The Lady Tigers continued with their first conference match in yet another tournament at the University of Alabama to compete against Southeast Louisiana, University of Alabama-Birmingham, and University

of Louisiana-Monroe the weekend of Sept. 9-10.

Dairanetta Spain

Intramural sports lack attention

With the lack of attention and interest expressed in TSU's intramural/recreation coming to a head, director Keith Morgan expresses his fury.

With convenient hours of 10 a.m. - 10:30 p.m., Monday - Friday, 4 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, and noon to 10:30 p.m. Sundays the campus center basement is filled with recreational opportunities. With plans of remodeling, students are in store for a new look.

Lack of attention was brought on by the cancellation of the John Merritt Softball

Tournament when the lack of Greek participation failed to deliver. For non-participants, come and be supportive. The future date for the postponed tourney has not been set. Students are also urged to attend by intra-

mural officials to be supportive in the events while in competition and showing appreciation for the intramural program.

Melissa Thompson

Tiger Briefs

See something that needs to be added to our sports coverage? Come join sports editor Dairanetta Spain and her staff to help cover The Big Blue Tigers.

Sports

Tiger Top 5

Every week *The Meter* sports staff votes on the week's top athletes for the week. The following Tigers clawed their way into the Tiger Top 5 for the week of Sept. 3.



1. #15 Kelly Davis - Outside Hitter

Sophomore - Psychology
Farrell, Pa.

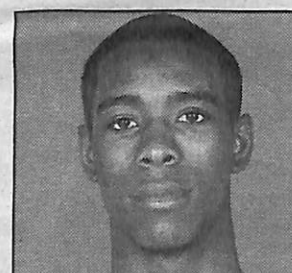
Davis shined offensively with 30 kills earning All-Tournament Honors at Middle Tennessee State University the weekend of Aug. 26-27.



2. #9 Catherine Armwood - Libero/Outside Hitter

Senior - Architectural Engineering
Durham, N.C.

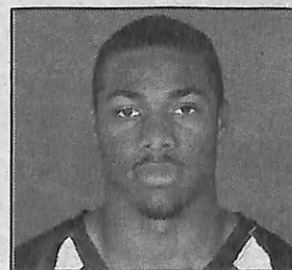
Armwood recorded 47 digs at MTSU tourney.



3. #45 Dominique Rodgers - Defensive Back

Sophomore - Psychology
Bradenton, Fla.

Rodgers led defense with seven solo tackles and one interception against Alabama A&M University Sept. 3.



4. #9 Aaron Strong - Defensive Back

Junior - Physical Therapy
Atlanta, Ga.

Strong recorded nine total tackles against Alabama A&M University Sept. 3.



5. #28 Javarris Williams - Running Back

Freshman - Computer Science
Richmond, Texas

Williams rushed for 60 yards on 23 attempts and one touchdown in first collegiate game action.

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