

THE METER

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University staff now have their own voice to speak on issues.

Page 3



TSU gave this TV judge something to smile about.

Page 5



These two Tigers are standing tall in the conference.

Page 9



New office to resolve campus conflicts

By Darlisha Stanfield
Contributing Writer

TSU students, staff, and faculty looking for an unbiased solution to campus problems can now find it at the new ombudsman's office that opened this semester.

The word ombudsman, which originated in Sweden, literally means "commissioner man," according to *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*.

The new office gives students, faculty, and staff an additional opportunity to solve cultural conflicts, academics, and grade appeals.

"The ombudsman's office has been developed to assist TSU employees and students who have encountered problems and had difficulty resolving them through normal channels," said new TSU President Melvin Johnson in a memorandum dated

Aug. 25. "The ombudsman's office will act as an impartial and confidential channel, utilizing investigation, mediation and referrals to assist in bringing resolution to your concerns."

This new office has been in the making for years and was the idea of former TSU President James A. Hefner.

Gloria Ivy, the former president's administrative assistant, is now setting the standard for an ombudsman at TSU, as she is serving as the first in school history. Middle Tennessee State University, East Tennessee State University, and Nashville State Technical College are some other schools under the Tennessee Board of Regents that have an ombudsman.

"The ombudsman office was established to be a 'safe' place to discuss concerns and voice complaints in a confidential and

See "New" on page 2

Creative thinking led to student success

By Brandy Wilson
Contributing Writer

With the help of a professor, two TSU students wrote the musical arrangement for the classic poem *The Ballad of Birmingham* which has now led to local recognition.

TSU students Santayana Harris, a junior accounting major from Albany, Ga., and Kameka Word, a senior education major from Nashville, with the help of TSU professor of English Robert Bradley, arranged the poem to music.

Last month marked the 42-year anniversary of the 1963 bombing of the Birmingham 16th Street Baptist Church in which four little girls were killed.

See "Students" on page 6

National radio host aids displaced

By Amelia Scruggs
Campus News Writer

As displaced students from the Hurricane Katrina affected zone seek financial assistance, some of these displaced students have found that assistance from the Tom Joyner Scholarship Foundation.

Last month, 72 students from schools along the U.S. Gulf Coast transferred to TSU after the disaster. Eleven of those students from Dillard and Xavier universities in New Orleans now expect to receive \$1,000 checks from the Joyner Foundation to be used for book expenses, room & board, and tuition.

Tom Joyner, host of the nationally acclaimed *The Tom Joyner Morning Show*, and Tavis Smiley, political activist affiliated with the *Late Night Show* on PBS, have named this catastrophe the "black folks

See "Joyner" on Page 3



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Freshmen Gabrielle Jackson (left), from Mobile, Ala., and Brittany Sticer (right), an Indianapolis native, are both displaced students from Dillard University in New Orleans. Sticer talks to Jackson, who received a \$1000 from the Tom Joyner Foundation, in the lobby of the Rudolph Residence Center.

Campus News

New position to benefit campus

Continued from page 1

neutral environment," Ivy said. "It also provides the service of mediation upon the agreement of two parties."

According to the TSU homepage, tnstate.edu, Ivy's services may be utilized when the set process or procedure has failed, there has been an interruption in a process, or a decision has been made without first being explained.

Though Ivy does not handle legal issues, her job is to listen, give and receive information, give referrals, and mediate problems. The ombudsman does not make any final decisions, yet gives options for resolution.

"This semester I've serviced a number of employees and students," Ivy said. "I'm currently in the process of having brochures and posters printed for

distribution. I also plan to meet with various groups and departments to personally apprise them of our new university service."

Another intended characteristic of Ivy's new position is that she be neutral. Ivy said she works for students, staff, and faculty, but does not necessarily "advocate" on the behalf of the institution.

Issues discussed with the ombudsman are also kept confidential. The identities of those who visit are not released, but the issue is investigated as thoroughly as possible. Ivy said she reports only the president of the university.

"I have not had any unresolved problems at TSU," said Nevin Mapp, a senior business administration major from Portsmouth, Va. "But, I do see a dire need because other students do have

problems that are pushed aside. We need all the help we can get."

Administration could not give a prediction of who would benefit from the office the most.

"I think this office will be a great addition," said Sierra Taylor, a junior nursing major from Detroit. "It is necessary because I think we need another resource for information and support."•

TSU Ombudsman

Gloria Ivy

Visit her in the
Queen Washington
Health Center
Room 210 or call her @
615-963-2515.

Students thankful for support from peers

By Kirsten D. Watkins
A&E Editor

TSU senior Samuel Walker showed great appreciation to the Beta Omicron chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Thursday, for its helping hand toward him.

The New Orleans native was one of about 40 students in attendance who benefited from the fraternity's contributions to not only Hurricane Katrina displaced students, but to affected students already attending TSU.

"Tonight has been a wonderful night," said Walker, an electrical engineering major. "I give these brothers a standing ovation for their efforts."

As part of this Katrina relief reception which was held in the Women's Building auditorium, the fraternity gave each student a \$75 Wal-Mart gift certificate and a gift bag full of toiletries and other supplies.

The funds for the donations were raised from the fraternity's annual September Bike-A-Thon to Memphis in which proceeds typically go to the Martha O'Brien Center in Nashville and the La Bonner Children's Hospital in

Memphis. However, this year was different.

The amount of \$250 was given to the Student Government Association's Hurricane Relief Fund and \$500 was still donated to both the O'Brien Center and the La Bonner Children's Hospital, in addition to the student gift certificates.

"We always try to go above and beyond when it comes to TSU students," said Courtney Hale, president of the Beta Omicron chapter and senior economics and finance major from Nashville. "Tonight was a chance to do just that. There were 50 displaced students present and several TSU students from the Gulf Coast region. We were unable to contact all of the students from the affected areas due to the administration's inability to release the names of those students. So, we had to get the information out by word of mouth."

And as students gathered into the auditorium, there was quite a bit of chatter as students from the Gulf Region were being introduced to each other, some for the first time.

"It just really gave us a chance to get to know each other," said September Burks, a freshman nursing major from

New Orleans. "I'm just thankful for that."

Also, in addition to affected students being recognized, several students were honored at the reception for their charitable acts and giving spirits.

"I donated whatever I had every day," said Stacey Meadors, a sophomore physical education major from Nashville and honored contributor. "I am not from that area but I have family members that have been affected. If I was in the same situation, I could only hope that someone would extend a helping hand to me."

The Hurricane Relief fund was not just beneficial to the displaced students, but it was also designed to let the current TSU students know that they have not been forgotten, according to Hale.

"Even though I was here at school, I have lost everything," Walker said. "I may not have been an evacuee, but I have no home to go back to."

And New Orleans' native Shasta Wilson is extremely grateful for the fraternity's deed to assist students in need.

"I truly want to applaud this organization for reaching out to us and acknowledging our struggle," said Wilson, a junior majoring in mass communications. "This night has truly touched me. We know that we are being thought of and that people do care. When the hurricane first hit, several members reached out to me and they assured me that they would help us out and tonight they did."•

Events Calendar

Today
Honors Week Begins

"What About Honors?"
FPCC Room 210
6 p.m.

Tomorrow
L.Y.L.A.S. Seminar
LRC Auditorium
7 p.m.

Oct. 12
Co-op Interview Day
Kean Gym
8 a.m.

Hurricane Relief Drive
Rudolph Hall
6 p.m.

Oct. 13
TSU vs Tenn. Tech
Cookeville, Tenn.
7 p.m.

Bible Study
FPCC Room 217
7:30 p.m.

Corrections

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

Campus News

Joyner helps continue education

Continued from page 1

tsunami."

Joyner assisted those in need of immediate assistance by sending money to schools who were accepting displaced students as well as Red Cross, according to *Slate* magazine.

In addition, \$1.5 million is scheduled to be given to citizens housing these victims, and others for the aid of displaced students because of this event, according to the tomjoyner.com.

Gabrielle Jackson, a freshman nursing major from Mobile, Ala., was among the few who received assistance from the Joyner Foundation.

"I'm grateful for the money; it has helped me a lot," said Jackson, a displaced student from Dillard. "When I came I only had two outfits, but it just



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Gabrielle Jackson is one of 11 displaced students that received a \$1000 scholarship from Tom Joyner.

seems so unfair that not all (TSU displaced students) were assisted. We all need help, not just me."

On the other hand, some displaced

students like Tyree Sowell, a senior business major from Dallas, was one of the several that didn't receive assistance from the Joyner Foundation.

"If I went to a school where I had to pay for books or tuition, then not being a recipient would matter," said Sowell, who attended Dillard before Hurricane Katrina. "But under the circumstances by which TSU has waived tuition, not receiving the scholarship does not have a great impact on me."

Joyner said on tomjoyner.com, "We know that this is not permanent. However, this is our way of extending support to help students continue their plan to become productive citizens."

Locally, Joyner's show can be heard in Nashville on WQQK, 92.1 FM.

Amelia Scruggs is a displaced student from Dillard University.

Students are no longer receiving newspaper delivery to the residence centers for free.

Find out why @ tsumeter.com

New staff senate aims to boost campus morale

By Madelyn Ragland
Campus News Editor

The recent installation of a staff senate institute, which is designed to be the voice of TSU's staff members, is expected to boost morale and promote developmental growth, according to the senate's executive board.

One-hundred forty-nine of TSU's 939 staff members met in the Floyd-Payne Campus Center forum Thursday, Sept. 29 to hear the guidelines of the new staff senate committee.

The senate will voice recommendations and comments on the interests, issues, policies, and concerns of the staff, similar to like the faculty senate for faculty and the Student Government Association for students, according to Debra Alexander, president of the staff senate.

Alexander said plans to form the staff senate began two years ago under former TSU president James A. Hefner. But before the staff senate could be put into action, a chain of command and the staff members would have to make an

outstanding partnership according to Alexander.

"(Staff) work hard because they care about the students and the university," Alexander said in an email. "There are some great people working here at this university and (staff) give students positive and kind words."

She went on to say that senator nominations for committees over seven divisions will be the staff senate's first task for the staff board. Staff members are encouraged to nominate 24 staff members to serve their fellow staff members, which breaks down to one senator per 40 staff members.

The divisions include departments such as student affairs, academic affairs, and the business and finance. Each senator will meet with the cabinet and executive staff to ensure that the staff's voice be heard.

"If it wasn't for us, it wouldn't work," said TSU ombudsman Gloria Ivy, at the staff senate's first meeting in reference to the necessity for TSU to have a staff senate. Ivy also encouraged staff members to look for training to improve



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Debra Alexander, a secretary in the Boswell Complex, plans to improve staff morale as head of the staff senate.

themselves in their positions.

As well, four committees will be formed to help the staff senate cover specific upcoming occurrences like Homecoming and holiday and fundraising events. Alexander said these committees will enhance the visibility of the staff senate and promote objectives for proceedings as they will work closely with each vice-president and Linda Spears, director of human resource.

"I would like to see staff have a voice," said Teresa Pendergrass, a staff senate board member and an administrative secretary for alumni relations.

"I think staff will welcome this organization and support us 100-percent as long as the staff senate supports the staff and that is what we are here for."

"The senate will give them this

chance and the opportunity to rebuild trust among one another and their voices will count," said Louise Jones, a financial analyst clerk in the Bursar's Office.

TSU Staff Senate
is seeking a
logo design/motto.
If interested, please
send an
e-mail entry to
[president@
tnstate.edu](mailto:president@tnstate.edu)

Deadline: Oct. 30

Forum

What We Think

Famous playwright set new standard for American theatre



PHOTO COURTESY OF SDTHEATRESCENE.COM

August Wilson

On Oct. 3 acclaimed playwright August Wilson died of cancer at the age of 60.

Wilson's Pulitzer Prize winning plays *Fences* and *The Piano Lesson*, along with others such as *Jitney*, which was performed by TSU's theater department last year, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Two Trains Running*, and *Seven Guitars*, helped bring the level of acceptance of Black plays to the mainstream theater-going audience. Wilson carved the way for such plays such as the recent Pulitzer Prize winning play *Topdog/Underdog* by Suzan Lori-Parks.

Wilson's 10 plays were often set in Pittsburgh, with the exception of *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, and often dealt with internal and external trials facing Black American families from the 1930's up to the present day.

Wilson's own life was racked with

difficulties. He was kicked out of school at the age of 15 when a teacher—a Black teacher—at his school accused him of plagiarism because he felt a paper Wilson had written on Napoleon was too sophisticated for a student to produce. Rather than simply allow this to derail his potential, Wilson began to educate himself at the Carnegie library in Pittsburgh.

Wilson began a series of odd jobs after a brief stint in the military. During this time, Wilson wrote plays, and, in 1968, Wilson founded the Black Horizon Theater in Pittsburgh. Wilson stated in an interview in the winter 1999 edition of *Paris Review* that one of his reasons for founding the theater was that Blacks were looking for a way to change their status in society and he "felt it a duty and an honor to participate in that search."

Wilson's last play *Radio Golf*, which was finished earlier this year, continues to address issues concerning the African-American community. The play ends with an aria about how Blacks are perceived in America. The solo vocal performance contained elements of Wilson's controversial flare up with Bill Cosby in which he called Cosby a "clown" for statements Cosby made in which he criticized some Black parents' seeming lack of parental responsibility.

"A billionaire attacking poor people for being poor," Wilson said to *Time* magazine. "Bill Cosby is a clown. What

do you expect? I thought it was unfair of him."

While Wilson may have seemed rough around the edges, he commented in *The Paris Review* that people were often surprised by his cordial demeanor when meeting him in person.

"I'm a pretty likeable person and... despite our different views, I conducted myself with the civility and grace of manners my mother always demanded of me," Wilson said in *The Paris Review*.

Wilson went on to receive numerous Tony awards and other honors throughout his career, and *Playbill* magazine announced on Sept. 2 that the Virginia Theater will be renamed for Wilson on Oct. 17, making it the first Broadway theater to be named for an African-American.

While how Wilson's works portray the Black American family, and his personal views on things such as Bill Cosby are debatable, his impact on American theater is unquestionable. There is one characteristic that Wilson had an abundance of, and when asked in *The Paris Review*, it was one of the qualities he would give an imaginary playwright.

"Honesty. Something to say and the courage to say it."

Wilson's contributions to Black theatre, and American theatre in general will probably not be rivaled in our lifetime. •

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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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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TV Judge brings TSU to her court

By Gregory Brand Jr.
Senior Editor

Popular television personality and judge, Marilyn Milian, made the journey to TSU from the set of her hit nationally syndicated show, *The People's Court*, in an effort to encourage students to take chances and follow their dreams.

TSU's Student Development Symposium and Presentation Series' third speaker proved to be a real crowd pleaser drawing a massive throng of students and faculty to hear her distinguished lecture.

A Cuban-American from Queens, New York, Milian brought her trademark sassy and outspoken personality to eager listeners in the Thomas Edward Poag Auditorium in the Humanities Building on Tuesday, Oct. 4.

"Of all of the places I am asked to go and speak, colleges are my favorite place to go," Milian said. "The people are so warm and friendly. It makes the job so much easier."

As students packed the auditorium to near capacity, Milian spoke about her adventure from a comfortable position within the Miami judicial system to one of today's most popular television judges.

"I enjoyed it a lot," said Mitchell Gray, a freshman biology major from Memphis.

Milian completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Miami, where she graduated summa cum laude on a 4.0 grade-point average scale. She would then acquire her law degree from the Georgetown Law School at the age of 23.

After working as a lawyer in Florida for a number of years, she moved up to working as a judge. She held the position as a criminal justice until a neighbor



PHOTO BY GREGORY BRAND JR.

TV Judge, Marilyn Milian, brought her trademark personality to TSU's distinguished lecture series on Tuesday, Oct 4.

gave her number to People's Court producer and developer, Harvey Levin.

After almost "stalker" behavior from Levin, Milian finally agreed to audition for the position that would become presiding judge of the most famous courtroom in television history.

"(Levin) was very aggressive in trying to get me on the show after the interview," Milian said as she addressed the crowd. "After all of the trials (and auditions) I was so excited that everything

See "Milian" on page 7

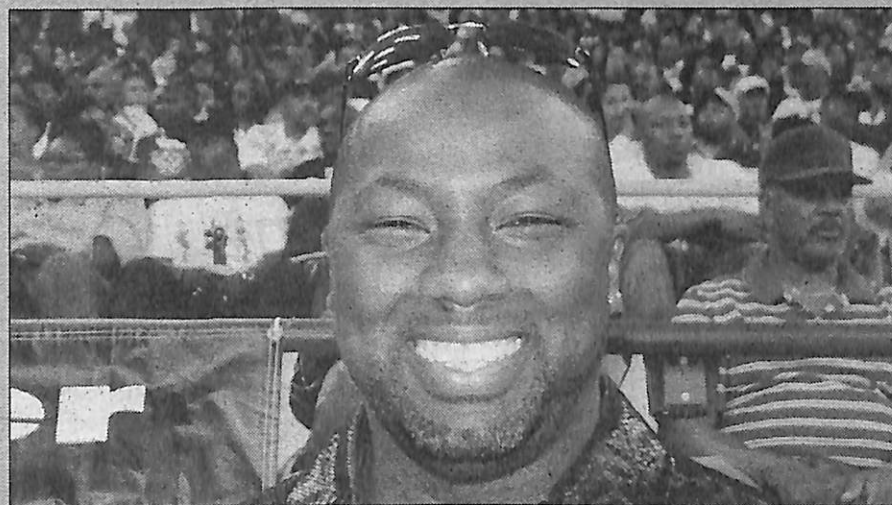


PHOTO BY VANESSA TOLE

Dwight Pope, TSU's head cheer coach, has his own modeling agency. His agency, Diavontti Modeling, aims to help Middle Tennesseans get into the modeling agency.

Head Cheer coach's modeling agency helps open doors

By Tony Insignares
Contributing Writer

In response to the surging interest in modeling in Nashville, TSU's head cheer coach and owner of Diavontti Modeling, Dwight Pope, says his agency has found its niche.

Pope, who has been modeling since he was 12 years old, said his agency, located at 1719 West End Ave. in Nashville, is filling the "opportunity" gap for models in Middle Tennessee.

As Pope looks forward to graduating his first class of trainees in November of this year, he has a special goal in mind to challenge traditional views about modeling.

"I want to give opportunities to people who have never modeled because they don't have a traditional look, such as persons who may be seen as too short, too tall, or too big," Pope said.

In his effort to eliminate stereotypes about models, Pope said he also wants to give opportunities to certain groups. One of his priorities is to break down barriers

for Black males.

"Many African-American males lack knowledge on how to carry themselves in public," Pope said. "I want to teach them that wearing sagging pants makes a bad impression and getting a job depends on the right attitude."

Pope said that the two males and six females comprising the first Diavontti graduating class would receive certificates that recognize them as fully trained to work in the modeling industry.

Pope, who has choreographed the John Merritt Classic Fashion Show for seven years, has set up his business as both a training school and an agency to represent models. Pope said his school is different from other modeling schools because he emphasizes character development.

"Most agencies want to make money," Pope said. "I want to develop character and teach life skills. In a 15-week course, I set up small classes to cater to individuals and give practices through hands-on activities. Students

See "Modeling" on page 7

Arts & Entertainment

Students put historic words to musical notes

Continued from page 1



PHOTO COURTESY OF NASHVILLESCENE.COM

Santayana Harris and Kameka Word put music to the poem *Ballad of Birmingham*.

The *Ballad of Birmingham* is a fictional poem written by Dudley Randall, a celebrated Black poet, in 1965, two years after the bombing.

The poem is told through the eyes of a mother who will not let her child attend the freedom marches in Birmingham, but instructs her to go to church where she will be safe. However, the child still ends up one of the victims of a hate crime.

"One day after class I went to speak with Mr. Bradley about a grade he had given me on a paper," Harris said. "When my sheet music fell out of my folder Mr. Bradley asked me what instrument I played, I told him I was a vocal artist, and he told me that he wanted to talk to me about something."

Bradley wanted to discuss with Harris about setting the poem to music. Bradley, who encourages his students to try different things, now wanted Harris to play with the song and try to add a rhythm.

Also, Bradley, who had done a musical arrangement to an Emily

Dickinson poem before, said that he knew it was fairly easy to do and wanted something like that done with the poem.

"When Mr. Bradley first put the idea in my head, I really didn't take him seriously," Harris said. "But after sitting down and trying to sing the song to a (musical) beat, I thought it sounded good so I asked my friend Kameka to listen and collaborate with me."

After the ladies finished with the rhythm of the song, they enlisted the help of student Branson Edwards, who has now transferred to Alabama A&M University, for piano accompaniment.

Once the young musicians performed for one of Bradley's classes, Bradley realized how serious this project could be.

Soon after hearing the arrangement, Bradley enlisted the help of Pastor Janiro Hawkins of Friendship Community Outreach Center. Hawkins works closely with TSU's Service Learning program to extend learning beyond the classroom. Once Hawkins heard the arrangement, he thought that it should be recorded, so he connected the students to Chris Barker, the owner of IV Music in Nashville, where the song was recorded.

"Chris Barker loved the arrangement and wanted to do a demo," Bradley said. "After it was recorded, I wanted the song to be heard by an audience. So

I e-mailed the song with an MP3 to several different people and Nashville public radio, who would love a song like this. It is a spiritual mission driven project."

Since the song has been recorded, the trio has had a radio interview with WLPN 90.3, a local Nashville station, and Nashville Scene, which is an alternative weekly newspaper. They also performed the song on Sept. 15 at the Seventh Annual "Freedom Sings" concert at The Bluebird Café. The "Freedom Sings" concert was to celebrate the First Amendment and its role in the media.

Bradley, who works with the Office of Service Learning and Civic Engagement, under the direction of Sue Fuller, said he wants to start a foundation to support the song to keep it living. He wants the foundation to provide money for scholarships. Bradley would also like to see a whole album of poems turned into songs done by TSU students. He now has a student working on an arrangement of *We Wear the Mask*, composed by Black female poet Gwendolyn Brooks.

"The Office of Service Learning is always challenging students to think outside the classroom," Bradley said. "We would like to work with the Nashville community and the student body of TSU."

"The Office of Service Learning is always challenging students to think outside the classroom."

-Robert Bradley

Lyricist Lounge

Looking for Love

By Dominique Thompson

Listening to thousands of sounds each day
but less than half are heard due to mental mind play
Looking For Love
Lonely nights listening to mello moods,
dreaming of the day to come
watching the sun go down and come up,
talking on the phone
Looking For Love
having that feeling which only you can imagine
feeling each others pain, and concern
with each other feelings and thoughts
Looking For Love
shy amongst others, scared to speak
when in the distance to touch
wondering what others will think, wonder what I should do
Looking For Love
so much to say, so little time to react
moments of thinking, day after day and
thats a true fact
Looking For Love
wondering why others act up, and don't
realize what's in front of there eyes
actions speak louder than words so I
guess my face says a lot
Looking For Love
eyes connect with each blink in sight
with blank stares with nowhere to go
Looking For Love
Making me wonder what is my role
but for now I sit off in the cut, and stay
with my own
Looking For Love
waiting for my time to come, maybe one
day soon or maybe a matter of months
expectations rule the nation, and conversation is an occupation
Looking For Love
to wonder is to think, imagine a better
life
that's why love is living and also a certain part of life
Looking For Love
Looking for love, maybe in all the
wrong places
maybe you can find it if we actually
speak face to face
Looking For Love! •

Arts & Entertainment



Flightplan- A

Imagine a very large plane, a large crew, and a mother and daughter on an air voyage to New York. And now you have the No. 1 movie in America for the second weekend in a row in *Flightplan*.

Jodie Foster plays Kyle Pratt, a determined mother in search of her lost daughter on an aircraft departing from Berlin with over 400 passengers aboard. The mystery becomes evident when Kyle suddenly doses off with her daughter Julia (Marlene Lawston) in her arms, to awake later and find that she is missing.

The spacious aircraft is searched

over and over again, in hopes of finding the missing child, yet there is no success. Captain Rich (Sean Bean) and Air Marshal Carson (Peter Sarsgaard), feel that Kyle is suddenly losing her mind, and throughout the film, one begins to believe that Kyle really has lost her mind. The question that is so very puzzling is "How can a child be lost on an aircraft?"

As the film progresses, Kyle takes matters into her own hands, sabotaging the plane so to speak, disrupting those onboard and placing fear in it's passengers. She searches every cabin and corridor, even the coffin of her late husband on board the cargo area, and frightening the passengers in the process. Once contained on board, Kyle begins to put the pieces to this mystery together, and comes one step closer to finding her missing daughter.

The film bellows down, with a climax so stunning, and a resolution so incredible, that it easily makes *Flightplan* one of, if not the best, suspense thriller of the year. Jodie Foster gives an "A" List performance, and her co-stars aid in the overall process.

Since its' initial release on Sept. 23, 2005, *Flightplan* has received some criticism by American Association Of Flight Attendants and other aircraft companies for portraying them as "rude and unhelpful". Although this film has already received it's share of criticism, it is America's No. 1 movie with a gross total



PHOTO COURTESY OF YAHOO.COM

Tim Burton's The Corpse Bride stars Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter. This rollercoaster ride is sure to give viewers something to die for.

of \$48 million dollars as of Oct.4, 2005, and deservingly so. Other than another thriller, *The Skeleton Key*, which was released earlier this year, *Flightplan* really delivers an intelligent and thrilling punch to it's viewers. You can not miss this picture.

Justin Gibson

Tim Burton's The Corpse Bride- B+

Throughout the years, audiences have had a love-hate relationship with director Tim Burton. He has given the audience a rollercoaster ride. Often going from media hits such as *Edward Scissorhands* to media flops like *Planet of the Apes*, the film *Corpse Bride* brings great animation back to the big screen. Fresh off the scene of his breakout hit of the remake of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Burton has once again delivered.

The story begins with a fish manager's son, Victor, voiced by Johnny Depp, on his way to meet his wife-to-be. With his wedding only days away, he has never met his betrothed. After meeting his grisly in-laws, the Everglots, voiced by Paul Whitehouse of *Finding Neverland* and Joanna Lumley of *Absolutely Fabulous*, he shows brief disappointment until he meets Victoria, voiced by Emily Watson, also seen in *Red Dragon*.

During their very brief meeting they show a strong liking for each other, with the hopes that this union will not be as bad as either thought possible. During

the practice reading of the vows, Victor stumbles from nervousness and doubt. He takes to the woods for fresh air and practice. While successfully articulating his vows, he slips a ring on what he thinks is a branch. The combination of his words and the ring brings to life a dead bride. The corpse bride is voiced by Helena Bonham Carter, better known for her role in *Fight Club*. She then takes him away to the world of the dead, where he learns that it is livelier than the life he was leading previously.

After the unearthly courtship is discovered, Victor tries everything in his power to break it off. That is until he learns there's more to this bride than the talking maggot coming out of her head.

The screenplay is urban legend come to life. It is based on a Russian folklore that has the same outline. It is about a man on the way to see his bride and slipping a ring onto what looks like a stick only to unearth a long dead woman in a tattered wedding dress. The legend and the actual movie go hand and hand.

Even though Burton is known for his dark mind, this animated comedy was very light. It was nothing like his other animated creation *The Nightmare before Christmas*. It lacked the creepy vibe that most of his films have. The stop motion was perfected even more from its medieval roots. It's a great love story that will pull the audience in with its amazing songs and great characters.

Deshanee Miner



PHOTO COURTESY OF YAHOO.COM

Flightplan, starring Jodie Foster (front), has been flying high on the box office charts since its release Sept. 23.

Arts & Entertainment

Milian inspires in lecture

Continued from page 5

worked out. I'm glad I get the opportunity to be the 'Latina judge' on national TV."

Now, in its fifth season, *The People's Court* remains at a ratings high for daytime television. Milian credits this fact to the show keeping constant integrity while entertaining its growing audience.

"Judge shows have topped on television and I'm glad my show can be among them. They are one of the only reality shows that make real money on TV," Milian said.

Confident that there is no near-end to the reality court phenomenon, Milian said that she is proud of the opportunities that *The People's Court* has given her.

"It's gratifying to be a role model for the Latino community. I get to do a job that puts me out in the public eye and though it can be crazy, I wouldn't trade the experience."



PHOTO BY GREGORY BRAND JR.

TSU First Lady Marcy Johnson and Judge Milian enjoy a laugh and lunch at a luncheon held prior to Milian's speech in Humanities.

As she left TSU, students were still taken by the message she delivered.

"It was thought provoking," said Bernice Lenix, a senior speech communication and theatre from Cleveland. "The whole lecture was to get young people to be adventurous. She encouraged thinking and living outside of the box."

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Modeling agency teaches students industry basics

Continued from page 5

learn etiquette, table manners, audition skills, business administration, and how to land a job."

Tyjuana Phillips, co-founder of Me-Lange Production, has modeled for Pope for six years.

"He is a great teacher," Phillips said. "Based on what I learned about business practices from him, I was inspired to start my own business."

Because Pope views his mission as a ministry, Diavontti is a non-profit agency set up to "reach and educate."

And Alain Patterson, a fellow fashion designer, said he's experienced Pope's ministry.

"When I arrived in Nashville from Atlanta, I had no money," Patterson said. "However, Dwight helped me through

the struggle of building my business in fashion design and gave me hope. He helped me to make some contacts to show my fashion line and set up a Web site."

One of the main differences between Diavontti and other modeling agencies is cost. Other agencies charge \$2,400 for the training package, however, the Diavontti fee is only \$500, according to Pope.

Some of the credit for Pope's insight on ways to improve modeling opportunities must go to his work at TSU. For 12 years, he has been head cheer coach along with being listed in *Who's Who Among College's Coaches*.

In addition, he has received international recognition as a member of the International Judging Panel for cheerleading competitions and dance. His eye for modeling and fashion can be seen in

his designs for the cheerleaders' uniforms.

"I feel positive about him having his own agency," said Kim Martin, a model-

ing instructor at the Diavontti Modeling.

"The city has never seen an agency like his before. It has a future, and it's what the city needs."

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TSU Sports

THE METER

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Defensive players share the spotlight

By Dairanetta Spain
Sports Editor

Despite the TSU football team's poor 1-4 overall record so far this season, two Tigers have steadily lead the Big Blue defense to the top of the Ohio Valley Conference.

Senior defensive back Jamar Landrom and senior linebacker Wesley Holmes are currently two of the top OVC defensive players with 49 and 36 total tackles, respectively.

As of Oct. 1, the Tigers' defense led the OVC in total defense, scoring defense, pass defense and quarterback sacks.

The Big Blue defense currently has 21 quarterback sacks for a total of 124 yards, nine ahead of the next, UT-Martin

whose total sack yardage adds up to 86.

"Our approach is no different," Landrom said. "We still use the same philosophy as far as running to the ball. We just run a 4-4 defensive set up instead of the basic 4-3 we ran last year."

This change has proved to be effective. In addition to shining in OVC ranking, the TSU defense is also taking top rank nationally in Division 1-AA as well. According to sportsnetwork.com, the Big Blue defense is ranked 18 out of 120 teams as of Oct. 1.

In order to achieve this top performance, the TSU coaching staff has combined four experienced backgrounds to culminate into one successful defense thus far.

See "Landrom" on page 10



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Double Trouble: Senior defensive standouts Wesley Holmes (left) and Jamar Landrom (right) have led the TSU defense to the top of the Ohio Valley Conference. As of Oct. 1, the Tigers' defense led the OVC in several defensive categories.

Key players missing from new line-up

By Lavonte Young,
Jamil Hunter and Kayla Todd
Sports Writer and
Contributing Writers

This off-season could prove to be costly for the TSU men's basketball team, as the 2005-06 squad has lost expected lettermen Eric King and possibly Courtney Bohannon.

King said he has decided not to return this season after a conflict with a teammate and Bohannon is out indefinitely due to a heart condition.

King, a senior forward who played in 31 games last season, finished the year third on the team in scoring, averaging just over 10 points per game, and

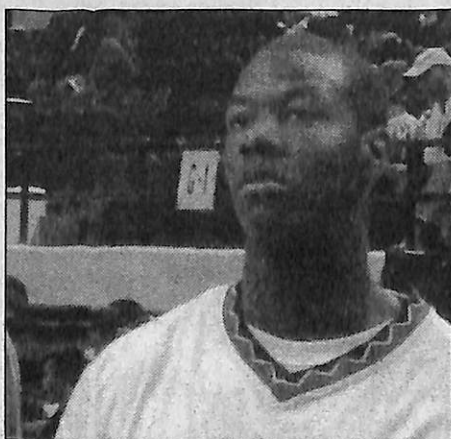


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

TSU basketball player Eric King decided not to return to the Tiger squad because he felt disrespected by his coaches and teammates.

second in rebounds with six per game. He also participated in two TSU games in Costa Rica in late August.

But King said he left the team because he felt there was a lack of respect from the coaching staff and his teammates towards him.

"I felt that the coaching staff did not respect me," King said in a telephone interview. "I got into it with one of my teammates when he accused me of stealing \$300 from him. I did not feel respected by my teammates or my coaches, so it is no point for me to be here."

Mark Pittman, assistant men's basketball team coach, denies King's alle-

See "Losses" on page 11

Volleyball players make grades on the courts

By Adrian Powell
Sports Writer

Four C's, two D's and no F's with an overall C average sounds like the end of a semester for some students, but for the TSU volleyball team it's just the end of a game.

Lately, the Lady Tigers have been graded on their performance after matches. Following each game, their individual and team average scores are posted on the door of the team coaches' Kean Hall office

See "New grading" on page 11

Sports

Landrom, Holmes win despite team losing

Continued from page 9

Defensive coordinator coach Orlando Mitjans' comes from Towson University in Maryland. He is joined by defensive lineman coach Kenny Ingram from Memphis' Melrose High School, last season's defensive coordinator Rod Reed as outside linebacker's coach and inside linebackers' coach Canute Curtis.

Upon coming into the program, Mitjans surveyed the current program and noticed the basics missing among the TSU defense. After doing so, the staff conjured up a remedy.

"The biggest thing we needed to do was to be fundamentally sound," Mitjans said. "We felt that if we could be fundamentally sound, we could be a very good defense."

The force leading this very good defense is the front defensive line, according to Mitjans.

And the defensive front, so far this season, has allowed Landrom and Holmes to earn OVC honors for their performances. Landrom was named OVC Defensive Player for the week on Sept. 11 for his six solo tackles, including three tackles for loss, two sacks and a forced fumble in this year's Southern Heritage Classic 20-14 overtime win against Jackson State University.

Holmes' showing in the UT-Martin

"As long as you run to the football, good things will happen."

-Orlando Mitjan

42-20 loss sets him with an OVC game-high of 17 total tackles on Sept. 18.

Landrom now leads the OVC in sacks with four for a total loss of 26 yards.

In addition to leading in sacks, Landrom also heads the conference in tackles for loss and fumbles forced. This season Landrom has tallied a total of seven tackles for a loss of 43 yards and has had three forced fumbles.

As the root of his performance, Landrom credits his hard work.

"I worked out in the off season and I practice harder than I ever have before," Landrom said.

Holmes is ranked second in the OVC in total tackles, 31 of which were solo and 18 assisted along with three sacks. Also, second in tackles for loss, Holmes has recorded seven tackles for a loss for a total of 33 yards.

Holmes and senior defensive end Frantzy Dorlean are tied at fourth for sacks. Dorlean and junior defensive end Almonte Duncan also rank in the OVC top eight for tackles for loss. Dorlean has five for a total 29 loss yards and Duncan has five for a total of 15 loss yards.

"The key thing is that we're running to the football," Mitjans said. "As long as you run to the football, good things will happen."

While Mitjans admits that the key to the Tigers' defensive standing is running to the ball, Landrom coincides and counters that communication is the key and Holmes agrees.

"Being able to communicate with your teammates as to where a player is on the field and being aware of what is going on is the key to the success of the TSU Tiger defense," Holmes said.

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Sports

Softball makes alumni connection

By Shantana Collins
Sports Writer

TSU softball head coach Joyce Maudie was able to get a first hand look at the progress of the softball program over the last few years or so.

Well, kind of.

The team hosted its first ever alumni softball game which matched this year's team against TSU softball alums Saturday, Oct. 1.

Started by Maudie, this event was meant to establish a connection with the Lady Tigers and alumni in an effort, for current players to understand the history of the program while supporting one another.

"This event was a great start to build on," Maudie said. "I would like to get more alumni back and do more, especially players from the (1990s)."

Alumni players ranged from the 2002 to 2005 seasons. Antoinette Armstrong, Misty Adfield, Shannon Hicks, Alana Thomas and Shona Riggley were a few of past TSU soft-

ball players who participated in the game.

Both teams exited and happy about the game brought intensity. It wasn't until the third inning that the game picked up, with the alumni leading the current Lady Tigers 3-1. The Lady Tigers would bounce back and pick up the heat in the seventh inning on the way to a 10-4 win.

Saturday's game standouts were junior infielder Emily Somata, sophomore center Hollie Sanders, sophomore infielder and outfielder Jessica Sesson, and senior infielder and outfielder Heather Ebersole.

This game not only gave the Lady Tigers a chance to meet alumni players, but to also be able to start something new and fun to the program.

"It was a great opportunity to be out here," said Alana Thomas, 2004 alumna player from Bristol, Va. "We all had the chance to play with old teammates, and know that we still have it in us."•

Losses affect Tiger Basketball

Continued from page 9

gations.

"Eric was respected on the team by both players and coaches," Pittman said. "So, we really do not know the reason for him leaving."

Head men's basketball coach Cy Alexander said he had to talk with TSU Athletic Director Teresa Phillips before commenting on King's departure.

Also, Bohannon, a junior forward from Memphis, will be out for the season due to an enlarged heart. With this condition, the blood does not flow in and out of Bohannon's heart correctly, which causes his heart to work harder.

"I thank God that the doctor was able to find it early so they can treat it," Bohannon said. "I thank God daily for my life."

In the meantime, Bohannon has weekly doctor visits, in an effort for clearance to play. So far, the report is

that he's fine, but because of Bohannon's large heart size, he is not sure whether it is due to his being an athlete, his height or the condition of his health.

As a means of caution Bohannon is to get another doctor's opinion, but until then the fate of his basketball career is still in the air.

With the possible loss of both Bohannon and King, the Tigers will be short two players in the front court; nevertheless, the season would not be abandoned.

"I expect players Kareem Grant and Andrae Belton to blossom in the new position," Bohannon said in regards to the possible lack of depth at forward. "I think they will succeed this season."

In addition to Grant and Belton, this season the Tigers are expected to have a trio of newcomers. Three transfers, junior forwards Petroslav "Pepe" Zafirov from Western Wyoming Community College, Clarence Matthews from Los Angeles City College and center Larry Turner from the University of Oklahoma, are to add depth to the front court.

"I think we're still going to do good even though they were two big key losses," sophomore guard Andrae Belton said. "I feel that all of us should step up and play our role."•

New grading system puts performance on display

Continued from page 9

as a mark of the performance for any passerby to see.

The grading system has only been in effect for two weeks, but the school as well as the coaching staff has seen an improvement in the player's performance.

"I wanted them to track their performance at the games like they track their performance in school," said second year TSU head volleyball coach Kathy Roulhac.

Roulhac came up with the idea after she began using the grading system at her former institution North Carolina A&T, as a means of improving on last season's record of

She said players are graded on an individual basis by their position, and the players on the bench are graded on how they motivate their teammates in the game to perform to the best of their ability.

"They are students first," Roulhac

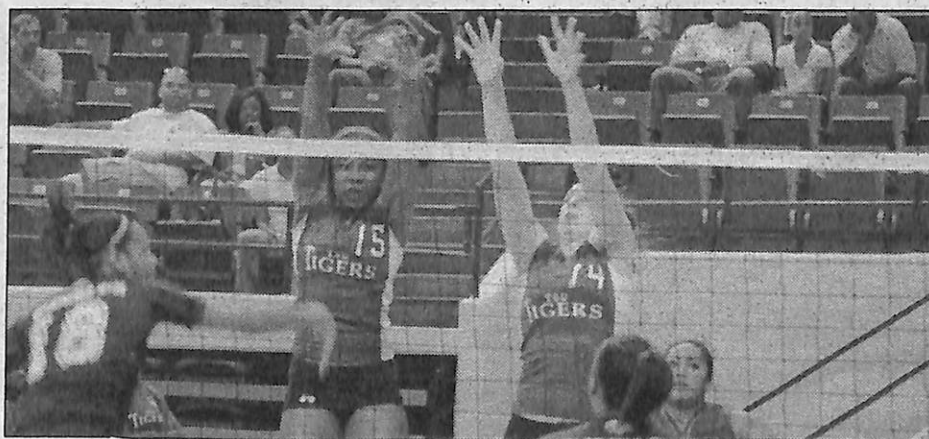


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Lady Tigers Kelly Davis (15) and Kelley Smith (14) defend an Alabama A&M Tuesday, Sept. 27. The volleyball team now gets grades for their on court performances.

said. "Players are interested in what they are given, and if they improve individually, the overall team will improve as a result."

And the players seem to have no problem with the scoring system.

"I think it is a good thing," sophomore setter and outside hitter Kelly

Davis said. "It gives us a good way to see how we actually perform in games. Sometimes we might feel as though we are doing well but in actuality we are not."

Students, however, have mixed feelings about the scores being posted for the public to see.

"I feel as though grading players on the performance is wrong," said Joy Mitchell, a junior biochemistry major from Memphis. "They already have to worry about their grades in class. Now they have to worry about their grades after a game."

But Candice Witt disagrees.

"Embarrassment can be the best motivation sometimes," said Witt, a junior business administration major from Nashville.

Despite whether outsiders agree or disagree, this new grading mechanism has proven to be effective. The Lady Tigers have posted a 6-1 record since its inception on Sept. 23.•

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Sports



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Junior Tiana Maua tallied 41 assists against Ohio Valley Conference foe Murray State, Oct. 4.

TSU Volleyball spikes another conference win

The TSU Lady Tigers (11-8, 3-1 OVC) continued to improve their seasonal record with a win over conference opponent Murray State (2-9, 0-4 OVC) on Tuesday, Oct. 4.

Offense was headed by junior mid-

On Friday, the Lady Tigers defeated Samford (4-13, 1-3 OVC) 3-1 and on Saturday, they beat Jacksonville State (7-7, 4-0 OVC) 3-0. Both games were held in Kean Hall.

Dairanetta Spain

Seniors Watkins and Nemnich's pilot men and women's golf

TSU senior golfers Jessica Nemnich and Phillip Watkins each led their respective teams in tournaments the week of Oct. 2.

The Lady Tigers golf team competed in the Great Smokies Women's Collegiate Tournament hosted by tournament winner Western Carolina Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 1-2.

Nemnich tied for 22nd with a total of 147 in two rounds.

Danielle Stewart finished with a 178, LaToya Moppins contributed a 182, Jenna Fuhrhop closed with a 187 and Gensis Fitzgerald added 203.

The team concluded with a total score of 684.

On Tuesday, Oct. 4, the TSU men's golf team placed 12th in the Murray State Invitational Golf tournament.

Watkins placed 17th individually with a score of 214.

Other contributors included Adam Gruber's producing a 224 and Scott Herald followed with a 229.

The Tigers finished with a combined score of 891 to finish 12th among 13 teams.

Based on reports from tsutigers.com and compiled by Dairanetta Spain

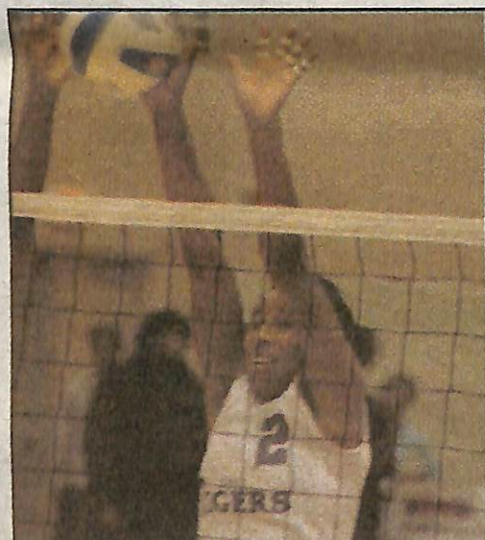


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Junior Erika Godbolt had 18 digs against Murray State, Oct. 4.

dle blocker and outside hitter Kelly Smith who produced 13 kills out of 19 attacks. Smith's hitting percentage for the night was .579. Junior setter Tiana Maua tallied an impressive 41 assists with an addition of eight kills.

Defensively, junior outside hitter Erika Godbolt recorded 18 digs while senior libero and outside hitter Katrell Armwood put in 15.

The Lady Tigers played back to back home games this past weekend.

Tiger Briefs



Tiger Top 5



1. Wesley Holmes – Linebacker
Senior – Criminal Justice
Nashville

Holmes had 12 tackles and two sacks against North Carolina A&T, in a 16-3 loss, earning him Most Valuable Defensive Player in the Circle City Classic Saturday, Oct. 1.

2. Katrell Armwood – Libero/Outside Hitter
Senior- Architectural Engineering
Durham, N. C.

Armwood recorded a total of 35 digs in two wins. She recorded 20 against Alabama A&M and 15 against UT-Martin.

3. Kelly Davis – Outside Hitter
Sophomore – Psychology
Farrell, Pa.

Davis led the Lady Tigers to a 3-1 win with 28 kills against OVC foe Samford on Sept. 25.

4. Tiana Maua – Setter/Outside Hitter
Junior- Criminal Justice
Spokane, Wash.

Maua had 26 assists and nine kills against Alabama A&M on Sept. 27 in the Lady Tigers' 3-1 win.

5. Javarris Williams – Running back
Freshman – Computer Science
Richmond, Texas

Williams rushed for 79 yards on 11 carries against North Carolina A&T Saturday, Oct. 1.



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