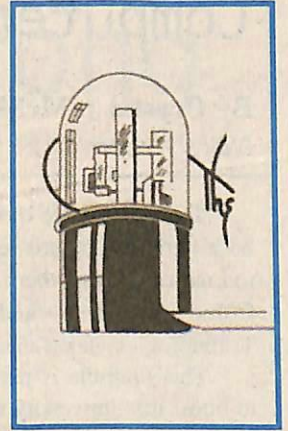


The Tiger



Tennessee State University



TSU
Alphas
suspended.
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Kirk Franklin
visits Nashville
to promote new
album.

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Aaliyah in her
final screen role
as *Queen of the
Damned*.

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Where will
Mike Tyson
fight next?

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The Measure of Student Opinion and Sentiment

HBCU THINK TANK

Black colleges unite for historic weekend at TSU



PHOTOS BY ZAKIYYAH HOLMES

l to r: Students gather in Kean Hall to listen to speakers, writer Sonia Sanchez, and spoken word poet Jessica Care Moore gives love to one of her fans.

By Raynata Reed
News Editor

Tennessee State University was the site of the first "HBCU Student Think Tank," a series of informative and entertaining seminars and speakers for students from historically Black colleges and universities, held from Feb. 22 through Feb. 24.

The purpose of the event was to give students from various HBCUs an oppor-

tunity to network and to reiterate the values that HBCUs were founded upon.

"For a first time event it was a major success," said Damyon Thompson, student government association president. "It was a team effort among the NAACP, SGA, Sub G and numerous other volunteers that made it possible."

Jamie Riley, event chairman, the Student Government Association and TSU's chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), coordinated

the event.

The Think Tank was planned by the National Association of Student Government Officers (NASGO), which consists of representatives from Student Government Associations from all 117 HBCUs. The schools that attended included Hampton, Howard, Bowie State, Coppin State, Norfolk, Jackson State, Kentucky State, Southern University, Paul Quinn University, Voorhees College, Rust College, Clark Atlanta, Morris Brown, Stillman College, South Carolina

and area colleges Fisk and Meharry. 415 students participated in the conference from visiting colleges and around 650 to 675 TSU students participated in the conference.

"The number of people for this first time event was just right," Thompson said. "There were not too many people where it was out of control, but enough to interact with a diverse group of people."

Registration began on Friday, Feb.

See "Seminars" on page 8

Computer department looks to create a wireless campus

By Crystal J. McMoore
News Writer

Tennessee State University soon will be a wireless campus, enabling students to logon from anywhere, according to the Communication and Information Technologies department.

This upgrade is part of CIT's effort to boost the university's computer capabilities, which contributed to its ranking No. 27 on the Yahoo! 2001 list of most wired universities.

CIT's effort also includes a \$1.2 million network upgrade and a laptop computer program, expected to be operational by the fall of 2002.

"This achievement is representative of the talented Communication and Information Technologies staff and dedicated faculty that we have at the university," said H. Clay Harkelroad, vice president for business and finance.

According to Jon Pinkerton, assistant director for information services, there are about 4,500 computers on campus. Even though just over 600 belong to CIT, whenever a student or a member of faculty places a complaint, one of their six field technicians handle the problem. There are about 300 work orders, averaged for each technician.

"Not one of our technicians are here for the money," Pinkerton said. "Because we are a state-run school we operate on a budget. Our pay scale runs 30 to 50 percent below market."

The budget for student expenses is significantly higher than that for salaries. Pinkerton believes this is because the university's main objective is to graduate students that are prepared for the growing technical opportunities. Pinkerton

also noted that TSU is constantly making changes in technology in order to keep the students up-to-date with the advances.

"There is a three-year warranty on

with many companies, including SYSCO, IBM, and the Microsoft engineering department. TSU also is becoming a member of the Microsoft Development Network Academic

CIT also plans to install two different e-safe systems, or antivirus systems. General Web traffic will be scanned twice, and there are three separate levels that e-mails will have to go through.

CIT's reason for becoming stricter on what students will be allowed to view on the computers is to prevent another viral attack like the one that TSU most recently suffered.

According to Pinkerton, it is not unusual for the old virus protection programs to stop 1,500 viruses a day, but the ones that did make it through were the more powerful viruses that "more often than not made it to the evening news." This new program will cost approximately \$250,000.

The more expensive problems with the campus computers are theft and vandalism. CIT reports that it recently had to replace four \$6,000 projectors that were stolen.

"That's \$24,000 that could have been spent on any number of things," Pinkerton said. "That has to be taken out of the budget to replace the projectors. We know that it was either a student or a faculty member because whoever it was knew exactly where to go to get the projectors. Nothing else was touched."

CIT says students can do their part to prevent costly equipment thefts.

"When students see vandalism or theft taking place they need to report it," Pinkerton said. "... (I)t's their money."



PHOTO BY ZAKIYAH HOLMES

Computer technology will continue to improve according to the CIT department.

all student computers at TSU," Pinkerton said. "Once that warranty is up, the computers go to administration."

The university spends about \$13 million a year on technology. The vendors that provide the computers are required to have an interest in the university. One company in particular, Howard Industry, a leading manufacturer of personal computers, will be a name that students will see more of in the future. Howard is going to sponsor five scholarships and co-op and internship opportunities for students at TSU. A program for engineering students could possibly be implemented that will allow them to work in real world environments to become better prepared for job opportunities after graduation.

TSU is enhancing its relationship

Alliance, which will allow students to download hundreds of Microsoft's new programs to their computers. This service usually costs at least \$1,500, but it will be free to the students.

"When our students graduate we don't want them to have to compete to get jobs," Pinkerton said. "We want to prepare them so well that companies will compete to get them...."

"This program is going after alumni and non-traditional students as an initiative to keep them attached to the university."

Along with new programs TSU is installing a state of the art multi-layered, multi-vendor virus protection program.

"A virus will have to get through three firewalls before even making it to the user," Pinkerton said.

Michael Eric Dyson shares his social commentary with TSU

By Raynata Y. Reed
News Editor

Michael Eric Dyson is not your usual Baptist minister. The renowned author, educator and theologian enlightened and entertained a captivated audience about bridging the gap between Blacks of the Civil Rights Movement and Blacks of today's



PHOTO COURTESY TSU
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Michael Eric Dyson

generation, or what he referred to as the "hip-hop generation." He spoke on Feb. 12 as the fifth presenter of Tennessee State University's Symposium and Presentation Series.

More than 400 people filled the Thomas E. Poag Auditorium, including students, faculty, staff and guests from the community to hear this highly sought after dynamic social commentator. As a Black History Month Speaker, Dyson started by stating what Black history is to him, as well as the importance of it.

"The heart of Black history is the quest for learning," Dyson said. "It should foster what you see, hear and read. It should be lessons of humanity for all people."

Dyson commented that TSU had

changed from the time he spent here. One difference that stood out to him was the addition of white and international students. Dyson, who received his B.A. in philosophy, magna cum laude, from Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn, would visit TSU because it was in a bigger city and "had better parties."

"TSU's broadened ethnic scene with white and international students is a good thing," Dyson said. "Whites need to be in an environment where they are the minorities. To see and feel the unseen barrier, it is an extra value of the education. It also is a great advantage to white brothers and sisters and international students to see the depth of Black culture."

Dyson, an ordained minister,

received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in religion from Princeton University. He has written for various publications, including the *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *VIBE* and *Rolling Stone* magazines. He has written several books about Black religion and culture, some of which include *Making Malcolm: The Myth and Meaning of Malcolm X*; *Between God and Gangsta Rap: Bearing Witness to Black Culture*; *Race Rules: Navigating the Color Line*; *I May Not Get There With You*, a biography of civil rights leader Martin Luther King and his latest book on the controversial rapper Tupac Shakur, *Holler If You Hear Me*.

During his lecture, Dyson's knowl-
See "Dyson" on page 8

Attallah Shabazz speaks about respect

By Raynata Reed
News Editor

Attallah Shabazz, the eldest daughter of slain civil rights leader Malcolm X, engaged Tennessee State University students, faculty and community guests in an inspiring discussion about the cultures of the world, how Blacks perceive themselves, and respecting one another.

She was here as part of the Africana Studies Awareness Week presented by the Department of Africana Studies Feb. 18.

Shabazz, a producer, writer and lecturer describes herself as a "world child," and has spoken to audiences in the U.S., Europe, Africa and Central America. She graduated from the United Nations International School at 17 and afterward, entered Briarcliff College. She has traveled the world for more than 20 years and has spoken to universities, correctional facilities, self-help groups and diplomatic networks as a motivational and inspirational speaker.

Shabazz stated that she did not come with a prepared speech, and preferred not to have her visit video or audio taped because that tends to stifle her and keeps her from being candid. That being said, Shabazz entered into her speech, but also kept open dialogue with the audience because she "didn't come to entertain, but to be helpful." In keeping with world events, Shabazz explained how the Sept. 11 events affected her life.

"I had to change all types of pilgrimages for development and growth

because of not wanting to get on planes," Shabazz said. But she pointed out an even bigger impact of the terrorist attacks that set a basis for her speech.

"On Sept. 11, there were 88 different cultures that died in the World Trade Center attacks," Shabazz said. "On Sept. 10, we (as Americans) knew nothing about them."

She stated that though it was Africana Studies Awareness week, before we know whom we are, we have to know the people around us, and that Sept. 11 also was a problem for people with double nationalities.

"Americans talk about 'them' and 'us,'" Shabazz said. "But if you're both, don't you have the right to be Islamic and American?"

She discussed how people of various nationalities are expected to check one box and forsake the other. She drew upon her own experience, having Black, Cherokee, Muslim and Christian in her background. According to Shabazz, "we (Americans) have no sensitivity or patience for an accent."

"We live in a marketplace," Shabazz said. "All too often the mainstream does not acknowledge that."

Shabazz also encouraged open discussion and comments from the audience

during her speech. At one point, she asked the audience participate in a short exercise. She asked everyone to raise their hands on three different questions: those who liked themselves, those who loved themselves and those who knew themselves. When the number of hands raised of people who liked and loved themselves was not equal to the number of hands raised of people who knew themselves, Shabazz pointed that out. "For what about yourself did you raise your hand on liking and loving yourself if you don't know yourself?" Shabazz said. She then went on to say that it was a question that you don't have to answer for anyone, especially if you're on a pathway



PHOTO BY ZAKIYYAH HOLMES

Attalah Shabazz

to finding yourself. It was an experience she was familiar with because she had to go through that herself in a society she described as being "very judgmental." She stated that most of what we don't like about ourselves is what other people have said they don't like about us and that no one can interfere with your mission in life if you know yourself.

She also found grievance with the fact that most people don't compliment themselves enough. She asked the audience to close their eyes and think of five

positive attributes to describe themselves. She asked who found it difficult and who found it easy and why. Shabazz commented that most people think that it's vain to entitle ourselves to a kind word on behalf of ourselves, but encouraged the audience to do so.

Shabazz also adamantly spoke about the concepts of respect and karma.

"Have respect for one another," Shabazz said. "If there is somebody you don't like, move your space. Don't embody or perpetuate the ugly because it comes back to you...watch your attitude, mood and presentation."

She then asked the audience to reintroduce themselves to someone they knew and to tell them "I wish you the best but if you get there before I do, take me with you." She ended her speech by telling the audience to "dare to love, dare to achieve and dare to live, by any means necessary."

Tunishia Kuykindall, a freshman from Memphis took many positive aspects from Shabazz's speech. "I felt like she was talking to me," Kuykindall said. "I loved the audience participation. I felt enlightened and it made my spirit feel better."

Keri Day, a senior from Springfield, Ill., was deeply moved by Shabazz's message. "She was enlightening and the message she had was a source of liberation and empowerment," Day said. "Not only for our community but particularly for our youth. If I could sum up her message in one word, it would be the idea of hope."•

ΑΦΑ Beta Omicron chapter suspended, investigated

By Jennifer Mitchell
Community View Writer

Tennessee State University's Beta Omicron chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. is suspended from campus on allegations of hazing that currently are being investigated.

Pan-Hellenic Council President S. Monique Jordan said she "was the last to know" about the suspension and was only informed about it after inquiring as to why the Alphas missed a Pan-Hellenic meeting.

"Their first missed meeting was Feb. 5," Jordan said. "If you miss a Pan-Hellenic meeting, you're suspended." Jordan said she later was notified about the suspension but is not sure what the charges are. "There are many rumors going around," she said. "We received word from regionals that they were sus-

pending and we followed suit."

Thomas Martin, vice president for student affairs, said the proper contacts for information about the suspension are Ronald Myles, the director of student activities, and Dorothy Lockridge, the dean of students and assistant vice president for student affairs.

"Dean Lockridge is the disciplinarian and she handed them the letter (from regional director George W. Pettway stating the Alphas are suspended)," Martin said. "I don't have any information on it."

Lockridge confirmed that the charges are hazing-related and declined to answer

further questions about the suspension.

"All I can tell you is that they're suspended based on allegations of hazing," she said. "We're in an investigation mode right now."

Lockridge also refused to release a copy of the letter sent to the fraternity by its regional director, which, because TSU is a public institution, is public information.

"It's not really public information that they've been suspended," Myles said. "We're not releasing anything to the media at this time. The only thing I can tell you is that they've been suspended."

According to Tennessee Codes Annotated 10-7-503, "All state, county and municipal records... except any public documents authorized to be destroyed by the county public records commission in accordance with 10-7-404, shall at all times, during busi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSU YEARBOOK

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc shield.

ness hours, be open for personal inspection by any citizen of Tennessee, and those in charge of such records shall not refuse such right of inspection to any citizen, unless otherwise provided by state law."

Beta Omicron chapter President Jamal Hutchinson was unavailable for comment. Chapter member Julius Proctor said that while the suspension is related to hazing, the charges are not serious.

"I heard some things were on hold because of some phone calls made to people high in the organization with things pertaining to hazing," Proctor said. "If you want to know if we killed someone, no. If you want to know if we almost killed someone, no."

The Alpha Phi Alpha Web site says, "Hazing...is any action taken or situation created that involves or results in abusive

See "Fraternity" on page 6

The Meter

The Measure of Student Opinion and Sentiment

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The Meter is a student publication that does not necessarily reflect the standards of the administration of Tennessee State University.

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.

From where I stand: An e-mail epiphany-- How Blacks are really perceived



Thomas Thorps
Sports Writer

ty, Illinois State University in Normal, Ill., was a culture shock for me. It also helped me wake up and realize that I could compete with these individuals.

Although the faculty and staff made it more difficult for me to do so (because racism still exists), I still had the will and determination to succeed against all odds.

When I transferred to Tennessee State University, there was yet another culture shock. I found myself overwhelmed at the potential and capability of my peers of my race. While making the contrast between the two universities and student body, I again found myself struggling to comprehend why there weren't more Black lawyers, doctors, entrepreneurs, etc.

Why are there so many Black people living in poverty and strung out on drugs, when the opportunities are there for us to seize?

These are questions that we all sit around and ask ourselves, but we are too afraid to seek the answers for them. Sure we have a lot of successful Black people in sports, music and theater— but when will there be a Black president? When will there be another Black Supreme Court Justice?

When will there be a Black commissioner of basketball, baseball or football? We are good enough to generate millions for these organizations, but we aren't smart enough to run them?

Currently, I have reached a point in my life where I am tired of excuses and let downs. Truly, this is Black History Month, but we deserve more than one month out of the 12 months of the year.

Honestly, there is a tremendous amount of talent floating around this campus, but it is sad to say it will never reach its maximum potential until we overcome racial stereotypes and barriers.

Especially since ignorance, greed and selfishness continue to haunt our race like a bad dream. Lets get it together. The real world awaits us, and now is the time to make our mark in our society, community and country.

I recently checked my e-mail, and I received what appeared to be one of those annoying forwards. You know the forwards that your friends send that you really don't have time to read. So you delete it without doing a little investigating and finding out what concern it had.

Something told me to read this particular forward because it was titled "The Caucasian's Perception of Black People".

I pretty much already know how whites feel about Blacks, but this particular day I was feeling a little nosy.

This e-mail stated how Blacks are ignorant, greedy and selfish. It read and I quote, "Being primarily a consumer people, they function totally by greed. They continually want more, with little thought for saving or investing. They would rather buy some new sneakers than invest in starting a business." It also went on to state other opinionated reasons for their twisted perception of Black people.

While reading this e-mail, feelings that I thought I had buried deep inside myself began to surface. Please don't get the wrong idea, I am not some militant Black revolutionist, but I do love my people.

That brings me to my point, when will the Black race wake up and start making the major moves that I know we are capable of making? I must admit in the past I was sort of brain washed.

For some strange reason, my mind had me believing that the white race was so intelligent, overachieving and they were just on another level. These misconstrued thoughts made me sort of feel intimidated of whites.

I had my reasons for thinking this way, considering I never had the opportunity of being around white people on a daily basis. It was not until I attended college that I faced reality.

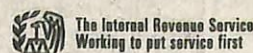
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The Meter Mission Statement

The Meter's mission is to timely 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 is published biweekly and is available free to the Tennessee State University community. Opinions expressed herein are of the writer, not those of the administration, the Student Government Association or the faculty or staff of TSU. The submission deadline is the Wednesday before each issue comes out. *No exceptions!*

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

All materials must adhere to the following guidelines:

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

Fraternity suspension possibly linked to hazing

Continued from page 3

physical contact or mental harassment of a prospective fraternity member. Any such action is considered hazing whether it occurs on or off the fraternity premises, campus or place where chapters or prospective members meet.

Hazing also is described as any action that results in excessive mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment or harassment. Such activities include, but are not limited to, paddling, creation of excessive fatigue, physical or psychological shock, morally degrading or humili-

ating activities, late work sessions that interfere with scholastic activities, and any other activities inconsistent with fraternal law and the regulations and policies of the affiliated educational institution and federal, state or local law.

"The above-described actions are expressly forbidden. Members or chapters involved in such infractions are subject to disciplinary action.

"Anyone who participates in hazing an aspirant does not represent Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Instead, that person will be considered a criminal by the fraternity. Any person who commits hazing

is individually and personally liable to the victim and can be subject to a lawsuit for monetary damages. Individuals involved in hazing also face severe disciplinary action by the fraternity."

Suspended organizations are not allowed to participate in any Pan-Hellenic sponsored activities and "forfeit their right to have their Greek week for the semester wherein the infraction occurs."

"You cannot do anything. You can't have parties, community service, and you can't set up tables [in the campus center]," Jordan said. To her knowledge,

this is the first time TSU's Beta Omicron chapter has been suspended.

Alpha Phi Alpha was established on Dec. 4, 1906, at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., as the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity for Black students. The Beta Omicron chapter was founded on May 12, 1934, at Tennessee A&I College, which now is TSU.

Death of nontraditional TSU student a loss to school, community and family

By Raynata Y. Reed
News Editor

Tennessee State University lost a committed student and a family lost a dedicated husband and father when Michael Martinez, 41, died on Jan. 19 from a massive heart attack.

At TSU, Martinez was pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. He was employed at Vanderbilt University Medical Center where he worked evenings. Martinez was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and a member of Westwood Baptist Church University Center. He also was the president of F.O.C.U.S., an organization "for older college and undergraduate students." F.O.C.U.S. is open to anyone entering and currently enrolled as students who are 23 years of age and older. It is comprised of students who have adult and family responsibilities and for

those who have had a break in their college experience. F.O.C.U.S. provides an outlet for networking, mentorship and support for adult learners, who are often regarded as non-traditional students.

Denese C. Hulbert, the organization's advisor, spoke highly about Martinez.

"I was so proud to be his advisor and work with someone so driven," Hulbert said. "He encouraged older students to get involved in campus wide activities."

F.O.C.U.S. had been off campus for few years before Hulbert was given the job to revise the organization. Her hardest part in doing this was getting students motivated. As a once single parent and going to school, Hulbert understood the plight of nontraditional students. However, she described Martinez as dili-

gently recruiting students to join F.O.C.U.S. and with his help, made her job very easy.

"He was a very people oriented per-

son," Hulbert said. "When you're with a person who is motivated, I was really ready to help him."

Hulbert stressed Martinez's commitment to increase the membership of F.O.C.U.S. He set a table up in the student center and on the downtown campus with pictures from various F.O.C.U.S. events and information leaflets about F.O.C.U.S. to solicit members. Martinez's work obviously paid off, as he signed on nearly 30 new members during his term, a great increase from the approximate eight to 10 members the organization started with.

The new president of F.O.C.U.S., Joel Wright, who works in financial aid, did not know Martinez very well but "had heard good things about him and knew that he was very determined."

Wright, too, has plans for F.O.C.U.S. as he takes on his new position.

"I want to try to make F.O.C.U.S. better than it was last year," Wright said.

"I have to meet everyone and find out

her husband as very "family oriented" and "a big man with a tender spirit." The two married when they were 17 years old and would be celebrating 25 years of marriage in May.

He was the father of four children, three of which were biological, one of which was adopted and was in the process of adopting nine more with his wife. Within the last four years, they had had about 65 foster children in their home.

Martinez also was a major advocate for children in Tennessee, having spent two years as a foster parent advocate for Davidson County and served as a trainer for foster parents. He wanted to go into law school to practice family law and get involved in the legal aspect of family care adoption.

Despite his many interests, working at night and going to school in the day, Martinez said that her husband had "boundless energy" and was a dedicated husband, a wonderful father and a wonderful friend. He participated in the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), fund-raisers and was always ready to go on field trips with his children.

"He did all the cooking and could wash and iron better than some women," Martinez said. "He was a jack of all trades and could do everything to perfection...he would serve others no matter what."

She said he loved to barbecue, was a big jazz fan, a Minnesota Vikings fan and loved the Isley Brothers. Though Martinez said it has been hard for her, she has fond memories of her husband she could always count on who "gave her balance and completion."

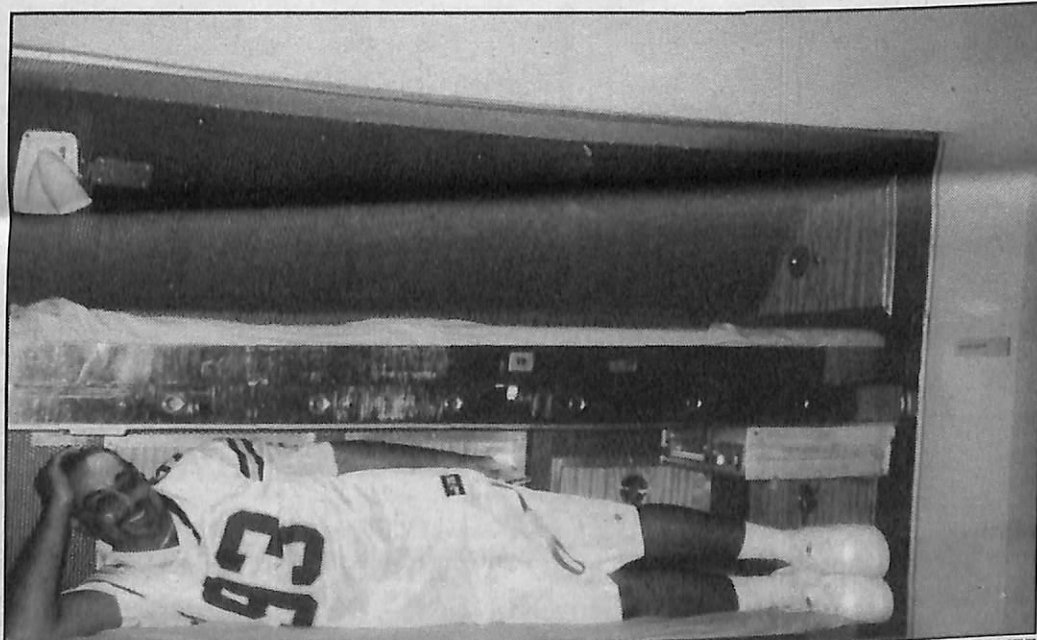


PHOTO COURTESY OF LANETRA DORSELL MARTINEZ

what they want and see if they're on one accord. I know I have to step in some large shoes and do the best I can."

Martinez's wife, LaNetra Dorsell Martinez said Martinez loved his time at TSU.

"He was like a kid in a candy store," Martinez said. "He could not wait to get to school everyday. He was excited about every aspect of the day...and liked the interaction with traditional students. He laughed a lot and enjoyed every minute he was there."

Martinez also believed that her husband was a good president of F.O.C.U.S. because of his excitement and enthusiasm for being back in school and because he was so organized as well as an advocate for the underdog.

Outside of TSU, Martinez described

News



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Leadership and training conference targets at-risk college students

By **Tatiana Taylor**
News Writer

The first Project Save-A-Student Leadership and Training Conference was a three day event comprised of various health, financial and educational workshops geared toward "at risk" college students to increase student retention rates in Middle Tennessee.

The Educational Equal Opportunity Group (EEOG) created the conference to promote their educational services in an effort to encourage institutions to identify students who would benefit from attending the conference. The EEOG is a local nonprofit organization. It is dedicated to implementing projects for academic, cultural and professional development by serving special needs to at-risk, disenfranchised and low-income populations.

"This conference was an excellent opportunity for students to acquire knowledge and experiences that will serve to enhance every aspect of their academic endeavors," said George Thomas, convention chairperson.

The conference was held Feb. 7-9 at the Nashville Convention Center. The theme of events was "Education=Opportunity." Specialized volunteers with skills to educate, influence and enlighten the minds of college students conducted the events.

The number of college attendees expected were 250, but only 110 students enrolled. The Tennessee Board of Regents financed those who attended from TSU, Austin Peay State University, MTSU, Nashville State Technology Institute and Volunteer State Community College.

"I was learning so many different things that elevated my motivation to try harder to get what I want in life," said Ronald Price, senior from Covington, Tenn. "Nothing is better than learning knowledge that's interesting and fun and that's exactly what the workshops accomplished."

One of the speakers, Derek Young, executive director of 100 Black Men of Middle Tennessee, Inc., gave a motivational speech and some valuable tips for college students. He said there are six main ways to help maximize the college experience which are; to create a vision, think about your career, build

your own World Wide Website, study in an excellent environment, get right with God and be a person who initiates lasting change through others.

He tells students everywhere to write down a list of all the people in top positions at their schools and schedule a 15-minute meeting with each one. "That way they would be able to refer people to you because in this life, it's who knows what you could do that just might get you in the door you want," Young said.

Another speaker, Eric B. Walker, president of Equity Plus Mortgage Services LLC, discussed how to manage money while in college. He called his theory of being a successful student "ATM," which means managing attitude, managing time and managing money.

"Having ATM skills could lead students in a path of wise money-making decisions," Walker said.

The organizers behind the workshops want students to matriculate through college with a light load and know that there is help out there. The conference was so helpful in that it motivated students to attend the next one. According to Thomas, the next Save-A-Student conference will tentatively be in April of 2003.

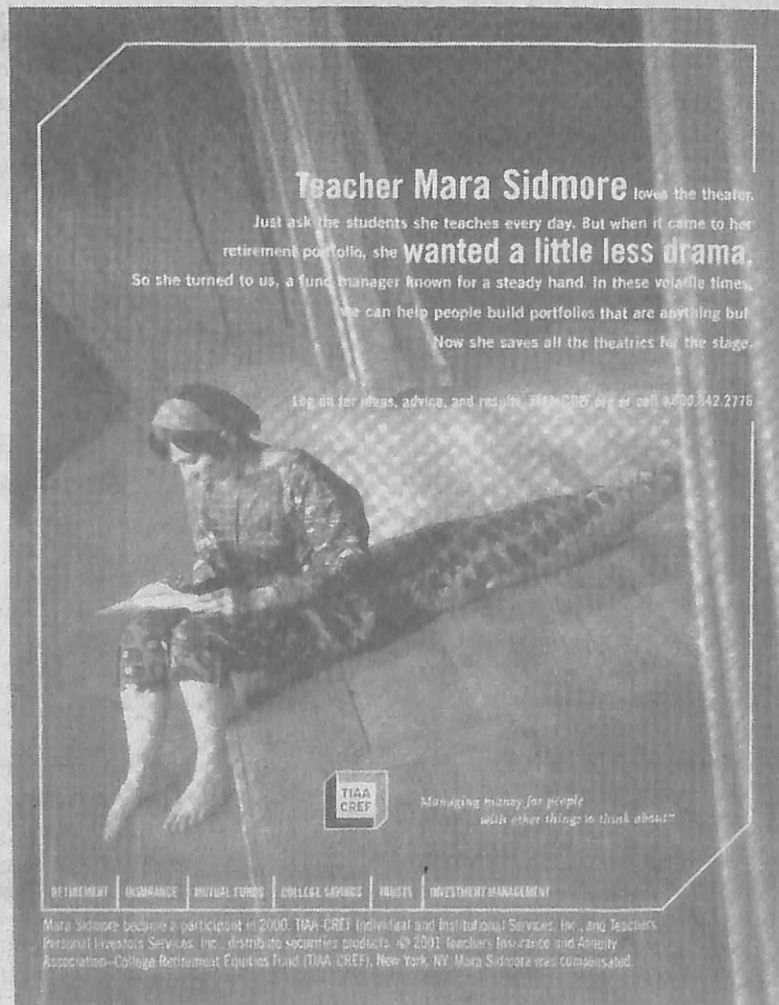
According to Jasmeen Mateen, a junior from Nashville, the conference left her completely satisfied.

"All of the speakers made their presentations fun and interesting. I was really surprised that more students did not come out and support the conference," said Mateen. "I hope that next year more students will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity, especially since the fees were paid for by the Board of Regents."

For Maurice Dickerson, a freshman from Memphis received an array of highlights. "The conference was great," said Dickerson. "The daily workshops were a good way to bring us all together in Christ."

The conference concluded with a luncheon featuring keynote speaker Chuck D, leader and co-founder of the legendary rap group Public Enemy, political activist and entrepreneur. He gave a presentation with the message "There's no business like your own business!"

"It is important that students get See "Chuck D" page 8



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Seminars and speakers highlight weekend of unity between Black colleges and universities

Continued from page 1

the event held in the Kean Hall Gymnasium. Afterward, students were treated to a plethora of seminars and speakers. Some of the seminar topics included "Maintaining a Spiritual Life while in College"; "Recognizing and Appreciating Black Culture"; "Preparing Yourself For the Business World as an African-American"; "Ending the Destruction of the Black Male Image"; and "Sister to Sister Seminar: Queen or Mistress".

A host of distinguished speakers also joined in enlightening the students with words of motivation and education.

Sonia Sanchez, who has been slated to speak at TSU on several occasions before, finally graced TSU's campus during the Think Tank weekend. The poet, author and influential lecturer travels around the world to give lectures, workshops and poetry readings. She has read her poetry in Cuba, England, the West Indies, China and many other countries. Sanchez is the winner of numerous awards for her work as an activist and a poet.

Bobby Seale, a founding member of the Black Panther Party spoke on Friday, as well. The Black Panthers were established to put an end to discrimination and to establish credible services for Blacks. After Seale left the Panthers, he continued to work for the plight of Black people.

"Black unity is not about revenge or politics," Seale said during his speech. "It is instead a catalyst to help humanize the world."

Ayinde Baptiste, a famed teen orator who focuses on

22 at 7 a.m. The opening ceremony pep rally kicked off such issues as leadership, diversity and youth issues brought an uplifting message to TSU on Saturday. He spoke on the importance of our heritage and the unequal distribution of wealth in America. The 19-year-old speaker has appeared on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and was a keynote speaker at the Million Man March.

Delisha Porterfield, a sophomore from Howard University enjoyed Baptiste's speech.

"His overall speech was very informative and inspirational," Porterfield said. "He made valid points to the students."

Jessica Care Moore, the young poet who in 1995 made history by becoming the first poet to win amateur night on "It's Showtime at the Apollo", five consecutive times, spoke to the audience on Saturday morning. Moore founded her own publishing company, Moore Black Press, because she grew tired of trying to find a big publishing company to represent her. Her poetry book, *The Words Don't Fit in My Mouth*, took the industry by storm.

Other Think Tank activities included a dramatic interpretation by William Taylor, a semi-formal banquet held in the Kean Hall Gymnasium, Greek Step Show and a stepshow after party.

Overall, the Think Tank proved to be a great success, and an enlightening and enriching experience for HBCU students. **Catrina Hewlett, Tatiana Taylor and Michelle Denning contributed to this story.**

The Aleter embraces

letters

written to the editor and looks forward to your submissions.

Chuck D says "get your degree"

Continued from page 7

their degree because sooner or later you won't be able to get that good job you want without one," said Chuck D. Since so many people can relate to hip-hop, he suggested that there should be a hip-hop curriculum.

The conference was supposed to have a comedy show and an after party, but plans were cancelled when comedian Ricky Smiley couldn't make his performance.

However, the purpose of the event was to reach the students, which it did.

"It's hard for a student to have people

always give them the run-around when they're trying to get straight to the point," Thomas said. "It's time to cut the red tape. To have individuals put unnecessary road blocks in the path of dreams of a student is what I'm referring to as red tape and it's time to cut the red tape."

For more information on Project: Save-A-Student logon to, <http://www.ceogusa.com/>.

Dyson seeks to bridge gap between hip-hop/civil rights generation

Continued from page 2

edge of hip-hop and Black history aided in his linking the past and the present together. He presented his ideas on race and culture, intermittently weaving in excerpts from rap songs, singing and being candidly blunt at times with the audience.

"(Black people) have 'afro-amnesia,' or forms of forgetfulness," Dyson said. "We don't want to remember our culture, and we do not want to confront a painful past. It's too immediate and what's too painful to remember we try to forget."

Dyson believes that there has been an emergency in Black America a long time before the terrorist attacks of September 11. According to Dyson, young Black America is now too concerned with the ibling, bling, or money and jewelry. Dyson even spoke of his colleagues, other preachers, who perpetuate this mind-set.

"Some preachers say if you have money you should be living prosperous," Dyson said. However, Dyson says these are not the preachers who spoke in the past about being prosperous and having

a revolutionary consciousness, but they are celebrating material culture. He states ministers are pimping Black people who are poor when there are people who are dying in America."

Out of the Civil Rights Movement, Dyson says other movements were started, such as the feminist movement, the ecological movement and the gay and lesbian rights movements. With these acknowledgements, he segued out of the older generation and moved into the issues of the younger generation. The younger generation, according to Dyson, has a different approach to life than the older generation, and he illustrated this point by stating that the youth of today have "no romance." Dyson compared the 1970's rhythm and blues group the Stylistics song *You Are Everything* to the raunchier contemporary lyrics of *You Remind Me Of My Jeep* by R&B artist R. Kelly.

In discussing what Dyson referred to as the hip-hop generation, he frequently quoted lyrics from such rappers as the Notorious B.I.G., Flavor Flav and Ludacris and even stated his views on the "beef" between Nas and Jay-Z as to who

has the better rhyming skills.

"Out of Nas and Jay-Z, Nas is the man," Dyson said. He gave more weight to Nas' lyrics overall, in terms of having a social consciousness and included rappers Talib Kweli and Mos Def, known for their community activism and hip-hop infused with social awareness, in this category as well.

Overall, Dyson stated that the hip-hop generation is doing no better than the civil rights generation, and he gave three aspects common to each. First, there is the stereotype, which is what mainstream society says about Blacks. Next, there is the archetype, which is what Blacks say about themselves and their projections of who they are. And last, the antitype, the different personas; the pimp, mack, hoe and hustler, that "Blacks from the ghetto" perpetuate. For the three aspects, Dyson gave simple advice as to how to counteract the ignorance each exhibits.

"Be careful about identifying Blackness too narrowly," Dyson said, and quoted a famous line from funk singer George Clinton; "free your mind and your ass will follow."

Miss Tennessee State University

Mia Evans enjoyed Dyson's speech and the method in which he presented it.

"I loved how he incorporated rap into his speech," Evans said. "I can tell he really has studied the hip-hop generation and what they're trying to express through music."

Junior Vaughn McCoy from California also was impressed with Dyson's speech.

"He was really inspiring," McCoy said. "He really captivated the audience by his sense of humor and he was able to relate to us by using quotes from different rap songs."

Dr. Augustus Bankhead, vice president of academic affairs enjoyed Dyson's speech, including the unconventional methods he used in reaching his audience.

"He eloquently vocalized his understanding of the generation gap," Bankhead said. "Some things that were said may have caused people to move in their seats, but in situations like that, you have to take in what is readily acceptable to you and sift through what is familiar to you."*

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Community View

L.Y.L.A.S. expands to Fisk University

By Tosha Jones

Community View Editor

Love You Like A Sister, a nonprofit community service organization, has expanded to Fisk University after five successful years at Tennessee State University.

L.Y.L.A.S. was founded at TSU in October 1996 by 19 individuals with a vision to uplift Black women who were away from home for the first time by "aiding in the educational and social balance of college life as well as promoting community service on and off campus."

Feb. 15, L.Y.L.A.S. inducted 16 women at Fisk, which is the first time in history that the organization has expanded to another campus.

"It has always been, especially in some of the founders' minds, that once L.Y.L.A.S. became established on TSU's campus and actually was doing something big and our name was out there...why not take it to our school that is right down the street?" said Niah Fulford, president of L.Y.L.A.S. "Fisk was the first step."

Fulford is a senior majoring in biology at TSU and carrying her organization to Fisk is a goal that she set at the beginning of her presidency.

"Expanding to Fisk was talked about for a while and then it was kind of pushed aside. There always seemed to be some sort of conflict," she said. "When I came to be president, that was one of my goals. I just said, by the time I graduate, we will be at Fisk."

"At first people thought it was going to be hard because we didn't know much about Fisk. We didn't know what were big things on their campus. But after the interviews with the girls it was clear to us that L.Y.L.A.S. will help a lot at Fisk, because if you are not in a sorority over there, there is no other sisterhood on that campus. I think it will help Fisk a lot and help L.Y.L.A.S. in general do a whole lot more for the community," Fulford said.

According to Fulford, the main purpose of L.Y.L.A.S. is "bringing African-American females together, erasing the

lines of competition. We are letting females realize that we can work together to get things accomplished because we are all out to accomplish one main goal, to succeed in life. There should be no need for us to fight against each other and to put each other down. We should

into something positive. We are combining our powers for a positive cause."

L.Y.L.A.S. became incorporated Oct. 9, 2001 and plans to make sure their group at Fisk is strong before they move on to other campuses.

"We want to keep expanding, but

a prestigious university such as Fisk. Maybe this is just the beginning for L.Y.L.A.S. They have exemplified positive student role models. They should be proud of the achievements that they have made.

"There have been various points in time where there has been a lot of interaction [between colleges in Nashville], but leadership changes and people have different personalities. Hopefully, this will encourage more. We are within walking distance of each other... But we all get busy in our own world and don't branch out."

L.Y.L.A.S. is often compared to sororities on campus and the members are frequently asked if they consider themselves to be a part of a sorority.

"We are not a sorority," Fulford said. "I can almost see where people think that we are just because of the whole 'sisterhood' thing, but no...we don't try to be like a sorority, we don't want to be labeled a sorority. The bond that we form as soon as you enter L.Y.L.A.S. is a family. We are all sisters."

"We all have our own unique styles about us...Our diversity is what forms L.Y.L.A.S. and why it is so unique," she said.

Fulford plans to graduate in May. She knows she will miss her sisters, but has confidence that they will carry on the traditions that she has grown to love about L.Y.L.A.S.

"Coming into L.Y.L.A.S. as a freshman, I have seen myself grow with this organization and a lot of my sisters have helped me grow. I love all the things that we have done this semester...I'm going to miss it. I have seen three sets of ladies brought into this organization, Fisk making four. I've loved every last one of them. Everyone is doing major things in their lives, and I think L.Y.L.A.S. is helping all of our sisters get to another level. I have no doubt in my mind that it will continue because they see our passion for it and it is growing in them."

The next events that L.Y.L.A.S. will be participating in are a Diabetes walk, the Music City Marathon and Relay for Life. Visit them on the web at LYLAS.tsulive.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF L.Y.L.A.S. INC.

The women of L.Y.L.A.S. Inc.

be all about trying to help each other get to that next level," she said.

Members of Fisk's faculty and student body are excited about the organization coming to their school and feel it will be a valuable addition to their student activities.

"I think it is positive making contributions toward yourself and toward the community, and preparing young women to be leaders," said Lynwood Berry, director of student activities at Fisk. "I think it is a great thing. It creates a common bond with Fisk and TSU, because we are right here in the same city, but it is like having your right arm over here and your left arm way over there. The students were excited for it. Anything positive I am 100 percent for it."

Fisk Student Government President Kyle Brazile also feels that the expansion of L.Y.L.A.S. to Fisk is beneficial for both campuses.

"I know that they do community service and that they have a tight bond," he said. "I think it's a good thing to make a bond between TSU and Fisk. You know we are always rivals at basketball games. This is a good way to turn that energy

Fisk is the first step," Fulford said. "I want to be established at Fisk at least some years before we decide to make another move somewhere else. If we just keep moving, we will lose our sisterhood. We take in small numbers so we can keep that tight knit. We don't want to take in 50 girls, even though 50 may apply. We can't do that because then we might lose that chance to actually get to know somebody, like really get to know who you are calling your sister."

L.Y.L.A.S. has proven itself to be valuable to TSU and to the surrounding community with participation in service projects with the American Diabetes Association, The Leukemia Society, Nashville Cares, Project S.E.E., the American Red Cross and many others. TSU faculty and student body have been impressed with the contributions they have made.

"We have been pleased with their commitment to our community over the years," said Ronald Myles, director of student activities at TSU. "They have made us proud. They are very fine young women and I am glad that they have expanded that concept and philosophy to

Black memorabilia exhibit visits Nashville from Feb. 6 - Mar. 3

By Jean Jones

Community View Writer

At *Steal Away Home* you will find the most comprehensive collection of Black memorabilia in the United States.

This exhibit will be in Nashville from Feb. 6 until March 3, 2002.

Mary Ella Williams Willis, a native of Nashville started this exhibit to honor her mother who is 91 years old.

"My mother, Mrs. Josie Joyce Streater Williams, did so many things in

her life and I wanted to honor her," Willis said.

According to Willis, her mother started making dolls in her 80s, she was a beautician, an LPN and she raised 11 children. Her mother did so much in her life until Willis brought the exhibit to

Nashville for two weeks to display during Black History month in her honor. Normally, the exhibit is located in Atlanta where she has a business license to conduct operations.

Dolls made by Williams are on display. See "Creators" on page 12

Community View

Students participate in evaluations online

By **Catrina Hewlett**
News Writer

Grades come out twice a semester and are, in essence, a teacher's evaluation of a student's work. Now Tennessee State University students are expected to fill out surveys about their professors' performance as instructors.

Formally, evaluations were given out by the professors, completed in class without the professor present and eventually turned in to the Institute of Effectiveness and Research Office. However, the evaluations have been put on TSU's Web site to be completed and submitted. Although it may take more effort to go online to complete the evaluation, according to Dr. Timothy Quain, the director of the Institute of Effectiveness and Research, participation has actually increased.

The evaluations are now done online because when they were done in class, it created a problem with manual errors, overall participation, and calculating the results.

"Before, there were problems with

faculty dispersing the evaluations in each class, and not just their bigger classes," Quain said. "And the number of students filling them out did not represent the whole student body.

There also was a scanning problem; if students did not fill them out correctly, the evaluations were not processed. Now that they are done online, a computer program compiles the data and is received immediately.

"Student evaluations of instruction are one component in the assessment of teaching faculty," said Dr. Augustus Bankhead, vice president of academic affairs.

"Students' input is important for us to assess if they understand the faculties' presentation and approach, reaction to the instruction, and the learning environment," Bankhead said. "We must evaluate faculty, administration and everybody annually."

However, students may not feel an obligation to fill out the surveys each time they are administered.

"I think student participation is so low because students don't think that higher authorities really read them," said Erika Bradley, a junior from

Arkansas. "If many students give bad reviews for one teacher, and nothing is said or done about that teacher, they don't feel like the evaluations matter."

According to Bankhead, the evaluations do matter.

"When the faculty member sits down with the department head at the end of the academic year, those results are a part of the evaluation," Bankhead said. The faculty member is provided with the results of their students' evaluations.

It may be that the students want to fill out the student evaluations of instruction, but the network malfunctioned. Bankhead felt that putting the evaluations online would increase participation due to the fact that a student could go online at leisure and evaluate all their instructors at one time. He recognizes that may not work if technical problems arise.

"I have filled the evaluations out every time, in class and online," said Monique Lamb, a senior from Ohio. "But when I tried to do it this last time, the network was down."

For technical problems, Bankhead and academic affairs have a solution.

"What we are finding is that sometimes the system may be down...but, now we give each department the option of doing it manually or online," Bankhead said.

Some students have faithfully completed the surveys and didn't mind doing them because it gave them a chance to "grade" the teacher who normally grades them.

"I think the teacher evaluations are a good idea," said Kristin King, a sophomore from East St. Louis, Ill. "It is good to let the teachers know how their performance is in class because they do it to students with our grades. In the evaluations, I am allowed to be honest and tell what, and how, this instructor and class has, and will, impact me for the rest of my life."

The department feels that the transition of getting students accustomed to doing them online and having the system up and operating is the key to valid results. To further increase participation, the department plans to run a full-page ad in *The Meeter*, but they are open to suggestions from students on ways to increase participation. •

Private subsidized housing Part 2

By **Brandi Montgomery**
Financial Reporter

Staying in a dorm was not a choice for Kiana Williams, an alumnus of Tennessee State University. Like most students, Williams had to pay credit card bills and a car note. Due to the cost of dorm life, staying on campus was not an alternative for her.

After researching various government programs, subsidized housing seemed the way to go. "I knew I needed an apartment, but after paying my other bills I couldn't afford to pay over \$200 a month," Williams said.

Like Williams, many TSU students are reaping the benefits of subsidized housing. Some even pay less than 50 dollars for rent and receive a voucher for their electric bill. These students are currently participating in a government program that allows you to receive government assistance for living purposes. According to Cindy Brasher, assistant property manager for Charter Village, the government provides subsidies directly to the owner who then applies those sub-

sidies to the rents he or she charges low-income tenants. There are privately owned subsidized housing units for senior citizens and people with disabilities, as well as for families and individuals. To apply, visit the management office for the site that is nearest you.

Gina Britton, property manager for Buena Vista Apartments said the government voucher could be used only at the apartment complex in which the student applies, and applicants can be single with no family.

"An applicant does not have to have kids to apply," Britton said. "We accept everybody."

Like many other subsidized complexes, Knollcrest, located near Brick Church Pike, also accepts full-time students who do or do not work. Kellee Ingram, a senior from Union City, Tenn., currently resides in Knollcrest Apartments. "My apartment looks just as good as people who pay \$400 and \$500 for rent," Ingram said. "It's fully carpeted, with a master bedroom and full size kitchen. There is no lease agreement and they give me a check for my bills."

Finding a complex may be easy; however, getting accepted is more diffi-

cult. To apply for an apartment complex, an applicant must have a valid drivers license, social security card, birth certificate and proof of income. Proof of income is considered a paycheck stub, or a letter from an employer stating the amount of hours worked and rate of pay.

A criminal background and credit check also is required. Most apartment complexes look for repossessions, bankruptcy, unpaid utility bills and previous rental history when determining eligibility.

If the leasing manager approves the application, the applicant then goes on a waiting list. If not, the applicant will receive a rejection letter. Once approved for the waiting list, the applicant's rent is determined by calculating 30 percent of the gross income. If the applicant has no job, then no rent is calculated.

"When I first moved in, I paid under \$100 a month for rent," said Yolunda Bass, a senior from Memphis and resident of Charter Village. "But due to certain circumstances, I had to stop working. Because of that, I don't pay any rent and I receive a \$45 dollar light voucher."

Students who would like to have housing by the fall should apply now.

To find out more about private subsidized complexes log on to, <http://www.hud.gov.probase8.cfm> or contact, Brandi Montgomery at, brandimontgomery@hotmail.com or 963-5649. Listed below are some subsidized complexes located near TSU.

Knollcrest (1, 2, 3, 4 bedrooms)
3301 Creekwood Drive
227-1304
6-8 month waiting list

Charter Village (1, 2, 3, bedrooms)
333 Rio Vista Drive
868-5388
6-12 month waiting list

Berkshire Apartments (1, 2, 3, 4 bedrooms)
1500 Porter
865-2067
4-6 month waiting list

Buena Vista Apartments (1, 2, 3 bedrooms)
2400 Buena Vista Pike
256-7727
4-6 month waiting list*

Community View

Kirk Franklin visits Nashville to promote new album

By Tosha Jones

Community View Editor

Monday, Feb. 11, 2002 minister, songwriter and producer Kirk Franklin visited Swett's Restaurant to meet and greet the Nashville community and promote his new album. *Gospel Today* magazine and Senator Thelma Harper sponsored the event so this city could get a better look at who this famous gospel singer really is.

Following the gathering at Swett's, Franklin had a listening party and question and answer session at Born Again Church. His new CD *The Rebirth of Kirk Franklin* hit record stores Feb. 19. The album features artists Shirley Caesar, Crystal Lewis, Bishop T.D. Jakes and many others.

Harper began the evening at Swett's by asking the audience to introduce themselves to Franklin and tell their religious affiliation so that he would know how diverse the group is that appreciates who he is and what he does. Harper presented him with an honorary membership to the Tennessee state senate and

praised him for being a role model for youth.

"It gives young folk an opportunity to interact with someone who is nationally and internationally known," Harper

said. "I think that is important. Many times they are associated with those who are at their level. I think it is important that he is a husband and a father, so he understands what some of the thought patterns are of young folk and he usually

today."

As Franklin addressed the crowd of approximately 60 people, he expressed his visions for, as well as, his responsibilities to our youth.

"I sincerely believe that being a role model is not an option," he said. "If you've been blessed with a microphone and a platform or you've been blessed with an opportunity for people to look at you and to sometimes even try to plan themselves behind you, that you have no choice but to be a good role model."

He said that when he arrived at the restaurant that evening, he approached some children on an outside basketball court playing. Franklin said that he was somewhat discouraged by the conversation that he held with them.

"When I look at a child on your court here with fake gold teeth in his mouth and the only thing that he wants me to do is write him a check for \$1 million, it shows me that there is so much work to be done," Franklin said. "It can't just be done by momma and it can't just be done by the pastors. Hollywood has a responsibility, TV, radio has a responsibility, those in high offices they have a responsibility. See *"Franklin" on page 14*



PHOTO BY TOSHA JONES

Kirk Franklin and Senator Thelma Harper pose at Swett's Restaurant.

said. "I think that is important. Many represents what young people like

Creators of exhibit hope that visitors both young and old can learn something

Continued from page 10

play in the "Doll room" along with one of a kind black dolls collected from Amsterdam, Paris and London.

"Willis' collection is such that the typical person, Black or white, will never see this type of material in a lifetime," said Dr. Lewis Laska, a professor of business law at Tennessee State University.

Laska is a long time collector of various types of Tennessee Black material, not just Black art. He collects documents, pictures, post cards, programs and other material.

"This is a modern collection of African-American artifacts and memorabilia.... The history and culture that Willis has in this exhibit is very, very interesting," Laska said.

Willis started collecting old bottles before reading an article in *Essence* magazine about a Black woman in California who collected art. This inspired Willis to start collecting Black art in the late 70s. Her first exhibit was at the World Congress Center in 1987 for the Black Council for Negro Women. Since that time, her exhibit has become known for its authenticity, originality, and simplicity.

Relics include more than 1000 pieces of Black historical artifacts, some

of which have come from Willis' travels to West Africa. One of the displays includes actual bricks taken from the holding cells of slaves at Elmina Castle in Ghana and the Cape Coast where the "stubborn slaves" were held before making the Middle Passage to America. Among the other artifacts are original

and hats that were worn by Black soldiers in 1861.

One of the rooms is identified as the "Derogative Room" and it has artifacts associated with the Klu Klux Klan. This room also contains symbols that have degraded Blacks in the past such as pictures of white men in "Black face," the

who attend Corinthian Baptist Church. Different

groups have viewed her exhibit including after school programs and the Boys and Girls Club.

Sadie Hooten, Willis' sister, thinks the exhibit is very educational and that it is something young people should see.

"It would give them a sense of history," she said. "By seeing this exhibit, they may be able to understand what their ancestors had to experience. It could give young people a sense of discipline and education. It may inspire younger generations to do something similar."

As wonderful as the experience of accumulating these artifacts has been for Willis, she has decided to sell the entire collection. She wants to travel back to Africa and feels she will have more time to do so once it is sold. This exhibit can be seen at 1600 Meharry Blvd. between 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. For more information, call 321-5615 or 226-2376.



PHOTO BY TOSHA JONES

Mary Willis (right) stands with sister Sadie Hooten in the Doll Room at Steal Away Home.

pictures of Harriet Tubman and her husband, a copy of the Emancipation Proclamation, records from old slave traders showing how much slaves were sold for, a book signed by Rosa Parks,

Confederate flag and robes of the Klan's men.

Willis is advertising the exhibit by flyers, that her nieces who attend TSU, are handing out and religious friends

Are you interested in events that are going on in the Nashville area?

Call Community View Editor

Tosha Jones at 963-5555.

Community View

Memphis Civil Rights Museum plans expansion

By **Tamika L. Jefferson**
Sports Writer

The National Civil Rights Museum of Memphis is expanding at a cost of \$8 million to \$10 million.

The expansion will include the Bessie Brewers rooming house on South Main Street, which has already been purchased. The house will connect two buildings by a tunnel and pedestrian plaza. Once in the rooming house, tourists will be able to visit the bathroom where James Earl Ray allegedly fired a shot that killed civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. April 4, 1968.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM.ORG

Dr. Expansion of the National Civil Rights Museum.

"It's important to conserve history, but I feel that \$8 million is entirely too much to invest in a single project of this sort," said Leonard Sullivan, a sophomore computer science major from Memphis. "The money can be dispersed among other things like renovating the housing projects right down the street from the museum."

The NCRM exists solely to educate the public of civil rights, to feature King as one of many promoters of civil rights, and to promote civil rights in a proactive, nonviolent manner. Yet, many people openly criticize the museum for its "distasteful exhibits" and "the heavy dwelling on violence".

Among those critical of the NCRM is former Lorraine Motel employee, Jacqueline Smith. She was also the last tenant living in the Lorraine Motel until she was forcibly thrown out of her home.

Smith has devoted most of her life to upholding the principles of King. She has appeared in the press and on television in many different countries, which in turn has increased public awareness about the problems of the NCRM.

Smith and other protesters

agree that there should be a museum, but that its location is inappropriate. Smith has actively protested over thirteen years to convert the Lorraine Motel into sheltered housing for the poor and displaced, a community center or a facility for the needy. "I am determined to use this opportunity to continue the teachings of Dr. King and to lead by example," Smith said.

"Visitors will be immersed in the sounds, sights and charged emotions that comprised the civil rights movement." The question at hand is: Is it appropriate for display within the NCRM?

Taxpayers of Memphis aided in the purchase of a bus to set fire that re-created the atmosphere of the Freedom Riders bus. The Freedom Riders bus was firebombed and attacked outside Anniston, Ala. in 1961. "This is unjust and unfair to spend financial resources from the poor and disadvantaged for pure entertainment," said sophomore criminal justice major Kimberly Fitzpatrick. Supporters of this expansion include actor Danny Glover, actress Vivica A. Fox and former Green Bay Packer Reggie White, who will join Denny's Restaurant "Re-ignite the Dream" fund-raiser, in an

effort to raise another \$1.5 million. Denny's will donate \$ 0.20 to the museum from every All-American Slam Breakfast sold.

The \$8.5 million that has been raised came from corporations such as, First Tennessee Bank, AutoZone, City of Memphis, FedEx, Assisi Foundation, the Plough Corporation, Promus Corporation, Service Master, Shelby County Government, State of Tennessee, Storage USA, Harrah's Entertainment and Hyde Family Foundations.

"The museum already offers comprehensive information on civil rights and the expansion will only strengthen what it has to offer," said Reverend Benjamin Hooks, board chairman of the NCRM. The museum was scheduled to be finished in April 2002 but due to construction delays, the museum is tentatively due to open at the beginning of the summer. The weather has also played an essential role in determining the exact date of the grand opening of the expansion.

For more information about the National Civil Rights Museum, call (901) 521-9699 or e-mail the museum at www.civil-rightsmuseum.org.

Despite the efforts of the protesters, the NCRM continues to project images of violence with exhibits such as the alleged murder weapon, a Remington 30.06 GameMaster rifle. There is extensive doubt as to whether the rifle was indeed used to assassinate King. King's widow, Coretta Scott King, and her family firmly believe that James Earl Ray did not commit the murder. According to William Pepper, author of "Orders to Kill," the late Memphis Police Captain Earl Clark fired the fatal shot from the bushes above the wall of the rooming house.

Through a laser display, tourists will follow the alleged track of the bullet from the rooming house on South Main Street to the (then) Lorraine Motel. Visitors will also be able to view the bullet fragments from King's suit jacket and his discarded gum wrappers.

"That is not a vital part of history," said sophomore education major Freddie Hawkins from Memphis. "Besides, there is not enough evidence to place exactly where the shot came from."

According to *The Commercial Appeal*, a Memphis based newspaper,

Got news?
If you have news that affects TSU, contact News Editor Raynata Y. Reed at 963-5649.

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WWW.SmartTips.Org, it's not simply the RIGHT choice it's the SMART choice!

Community View

Student shares her experience of discrimination here in Nashville community

Discrimination remains a reality in our community

Improvements in communication, transportation and all aspects of technology have propelled our nation forward in countless directions. But one area that remains to be challenging for all societies is equal treatment to every human being regardless of racial, economic, religious or social backgrounds.

In the Feb. 13 issue of The Aleter, personal testimonies were solicited from the Tennessee State University community to share any experiences in Nashville where they were discriminated against based on their racial background. The following story is a submission from a TSU student who wanted to inform her community that discrimination is alive and continues to be a hindrance in our development as a society.

Change for a Ten

On Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2002, I, Syreeta Blakely, a Black female at Tennessee State University, approached the checkout counter of New Life Thrift Store at 4802 Charlotte Avenue in an attempt to receive change for a \$10 bill.

A white female, who was more than willing to give me a five-dollar bill and five single dollar bills greeted me. As the woman and I began to exchange currency, a white male mysteriously appeared

amidst junk and said, "No, we don't have enough singles to be giving change." I asked the woman if I could possibly have two fives and as we attempted to exchange currency for the second time, we were interrupted by the man who said, "We don't have enough fives to give out."

The woman had already agreed to exchange currency with me, so the man said, "Go ahead and do it this time, but we shouldn't be giving change...Great, now she knows how to rob the place."

I was so appalled at what he had said that I instantly said, "What?"

The man then told me to "just get out." At this point I thought, do I want to keep my cool or stoop to his level? As angry as I was at the aforementioned statement, I chose to leave and on my way out the door I told the man to "have a nice day." He then turned around and nastily said, "There is a bank down the street," among a series of other comments.

I immediately said, "What? I only came in for some change, I don't want to rob you!"

He apparently became frightened by the tone of my voice because he then stated that I needed to get out because he was going to call the police. I told him to go ahead...he never did. I decided to ask him for his name, which he refused to release. I let him know that this would

not be the last of this conversation and left the store (The last of this conversation merely means exactly what I am doing...informing).

It is apparent that this man viewed me as a threat based on an issue many of us try to ignore-COLOR. It dawned on me that he had either acted or reacted this way to previous customers, with no retaliation. It is unfortunate that change for a ten turned into moments of hurt. To be preconceived of now knowing how to rob a thrift store still has me in disbelief. I could just brush this situation off, but what good will that do? The way this man felt about me at the present moment did not need to be expressed verbally. Studies show that the reason service is so poor at many service organizations is because people don't complain; therefore, the organization feels that there are no glitches in the system.

I hope that this situation will make people rethink the things they say...verbal communication is irreversible.

Syreeta Blakely
Senior
Business-Marketing Major
Milwaukee

The Aleter is an open forum to

express the concerns of the

university and the community.

Submissions will continue to be

accepted for

anyone who wishes to continue

this

discussion on discrimination in

Nashville, or any other city.

"We hold these truths to be self-

evident, that all men are created

equal, that they are endowed by

their Creator with certain

unalienable Rights..."

- United States Declaration of

Independence

Franklin's music enables him to minister to younger generation

Continued from page 12

"Just like in your community, it is the same in every African-American community in our country, and we have been seeing it even in other communities where white kids and Hispanic kids are going through the same epidemic; There is a cancer in our youth and I have a passion for it. I have a heart that really yearns to really reach young America."

Gospel Today magazine publisher Teresa Hairston has been a long time friend of Franklin and was excited to have the chance to host him in Nashville.

"I think we want to see real people," she said. "We see them on TV and all that, but we also want to know that those people are real. The main thing is, I want them to get a look at the guy I know."

Many people have disagreed with Franklin's style of music and criticized him for taking gospel too far into a secular realm. However, there are many who are adapting to his style, as well as those who have always been his supporters.

"One of the greatest things that I think was said about David [of the Bible] is that he ministered in his generation," said Jimmy Greer, chaplain for the police department and minister at Sylvan Street Baptist Church. "I think the church should have the message today that we have to minister in this generation. Not as we did 50 years ago or in the 30s or 20s. That's a hard thing for people to understand even in the church

responsibility, these are our children.

today we get a lot of resistance about change...A lot of what we need to do in church today to win our young people, is to change that mind-set and to realize that there has to be a different kind of music."

Director of the Northwest YMCA Gary Cobbs is also an advocate for the work that Franklin does.

"I think really it shows his commitment to what he is trying to do, his commitment to youth," Cobbs said. "Kirk really started a whole new genre of music. I mean, gospel was out there, but he kind of changed everything. And for him to get out there and take that stand and when people were probably throwing stones at him and to keep going, that shows his commitment right there."

Franklin wanted to convey to the audience that the music he produces is his way of reaching out to children and trying to introduce them to his God.

"This is bigger than music," he said. "The music for me is just a tool to get into the hearts of these kids. It is bigger than album sales and having kids 'stomp' to the music. It is just about trying to lay one brick at a time . . . I believe that you can not fight a nuclear war with civil war guns. We must become all things to all men that we may win them. And we can do that without compromising the integrity of what we preach and who we preach about.... We have to remind people that God is an awesome God and he still reigns regardless of the color of our skin or the economical structure of our community."

A Friend....

- (A)ccepts you as you are
(B)elieves in "you"
(C)alls you just to say "HI"
(D)oesn't give up !! on you
(E)nvisions the whole of you (even the unfinished parts)
(F)orgives your mistakes
(G)ives unconditionally
(H)elps you
(I)nvites you over
(J)ust "be" with you
(K)eeps you close at heart
(L)oves you for who you are
(M)akes a difference in your life
(N)ever Judges
(O)ffers support
(P)icks you up
(Q)uiets your fears
(R)aises your spirits
(S)ays nice things about you
(T)ells you the truth when you need to hear it
(U)nderstands you
(V)alues you
(W)alks beside you
(X)-plains things you don't understand
(Y)ells when you won't listen and
(Z)aps you back to reality

Arts & Entertainment

Up Close: Academy Award Nominations 2002

First time ever three Blacks nominated at the same time in major acting categories



Alan C. Beard
A&E
Editor

For the first time since 1972 three Blacks were nominated in the major acting categories for an Academy Award. Only once has there been a Black actor who walked away with the prize. Sidney Poitier won best actor for the 1963 film *Lilies of the Field*.

Once again history has been made. This could be the year Denzel Washington, nominated for the third time (he was also nominated for *Malcolm X* and *Hurricane*) in this category for his portrayal as a crooked cop in *Training Day*, walks away with an Oscar. He is a low-key favorite if you consider this about the Academy voters; they often neglect to award deserving nominees for their best work (i.e. Al Pacino winning best actor for *Scent of a Woman* instead of *The Godfather II* or *Dog Day Afternoon* and the list could go on and on).

Will Smith earned his first ever nomination in the same category for his portrayal of Muhammad Ali, in *Ali*.

Upon hearing the news Smith told E! News Daily, "Jada and I were asleep, the phone rang, Jada answered it and it was my publicist telling me the news," he said. "Jada got so excited, she started jumping up and down and hit her head on the door. So I got her some aspirin and then we laughed ourselves silly."

The field of nominees competing against Washington and Smith include Russell Crowe (earning his third consecutive nomination for best actor) who portrays the brilliant mathematician struggling with schizophrenia, John Forbes Nash Jr. in *A Beautiful Mind*, Tom

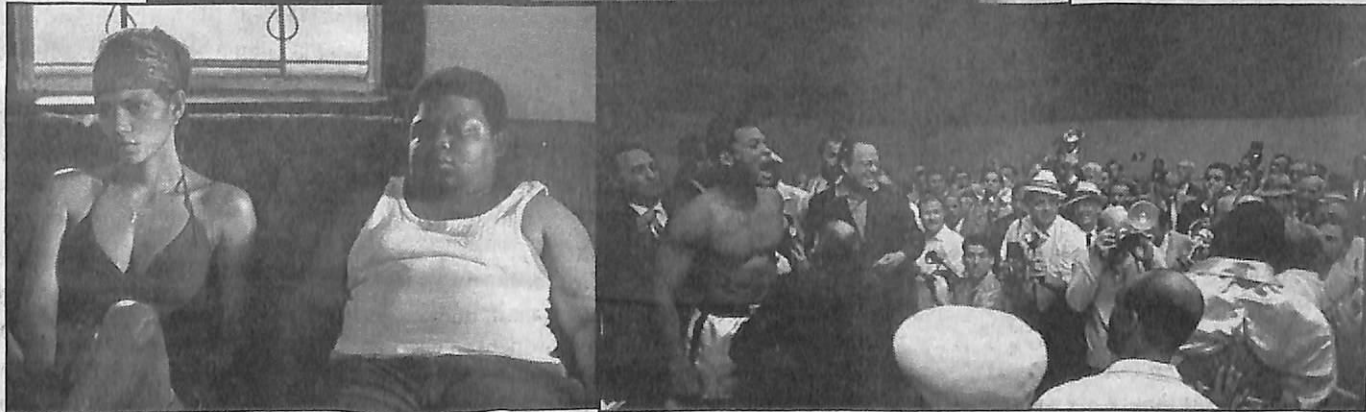
Wilkinson as an admiring father of his

son's youthful dalliances in the film *In the Bedroom* and Sean Penn as a mentally retarded father fighting to retain custody of his daughter in *I Am Sam*.

Halle Berry rounds out the history

writer Iris Murdoch in *Iris*, and quite a surprise or makeup nomination for Renee Zellweger for her performance in *Bridget Jones's Diary* (she deserved a nod for last year's *Nurse Betty*).

The Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of



PHOTOS COURTESY OF IMDB.COM

Top: Denzel Washington and Ethan Hawke are both nominated for the film *Training Day*. Washington is up for best actor and Hawke is up for best supporting actor.

Bottom l to r: Halle Berry is nominated for the first time for best actress in the film *Monster's Ball*, playing the mother of an obese child (Coronji Calhoun) whom she neglects. Will Smith's mouth got him a best actor nomination for his portrayal of Muhammad Ali, in *Ali*.

making trio, with her first ever Oscar nomination for her role in *Monster's Ball*. She plays the widow of a man killed on death row, who falls in love with one of the death row prison guards.

Berry's up against favorite Sissy Spacek for her role as the mother of a son dating a much older woman with baggage (e.g. kids and an estranged husband) for the film *In the Bedroom*. Other nominees include Nicole Kidman as the breathtaking courtesan of *The Moulin Rouge*, Dame Judi Dench as British

the Ring made its mark leading all films with 13 nominations. The first installment of the trilogy based on J.R.R. Tolkien's classic about Middle Earth was directed by Peter Jackson. It stars Elijah Wood (*The Faculty*), Ian McKellan (nominated in the best supporting actor category) and Viggo Mortensen (*28 Days*). Included in those 13 nominations is a nod for best picture.

It is up against Ron Howard's (Howard is also up for a best director) *A Beautiful Mind*, *Black Hawk Down*

based on true events during a 1993 US Special Forces mission in Somalia gone bad, *Moulin Rouge* an enchanting love story set against the back drop of the infamous Paris nightclub circa 1900, *In the Bedroom*, the story of a young man who falls for an older woman, which leads to unexpected consequences and *Gosford Park*, an ensemble murder mystery/satire directed by Robert Altman. Set in 1930's England, the story revolves around a weekend party, bringing together a vast array of family and friends of whom at least one is a killer.

Everyone can not be a winner or a nominee for that matter. Notable exclusions from the ballot were Baz Luhrmann and Todd Field in the best director category for *Moulin Rouge* and *In the Bedroom* respectively, Billy Bob Thornton, in the best actor category for either *The Man Who Wasn't There* or *Monster's Ball* and Tilda Swinton in the

best actress category for *Mulholland Drive*. My favorite film of the year, *Memento*, earned nominations for editing and original screenplay. One of the biggest surprises of the day was Ethan Hawke's best supporting actor nomination for his role in

Training Day, as a naive undercover rookie on his first day of the job. This is the early buzz from Hollywood's biggest party that brings out the best of the best in the entertainment field.

Be sure to catch the 74th Annual Academy Awards hosted by Whoopi Goldberg, Mar. 24, on ABC at 7 p.m. to see if your favorites will win. For a complete list of all the nominees visit www.oscars.com.

Arts & Entertainment

Director's Chair

Aaliyah rules over the undead, Denzel fights for his son's life and Halle bares all

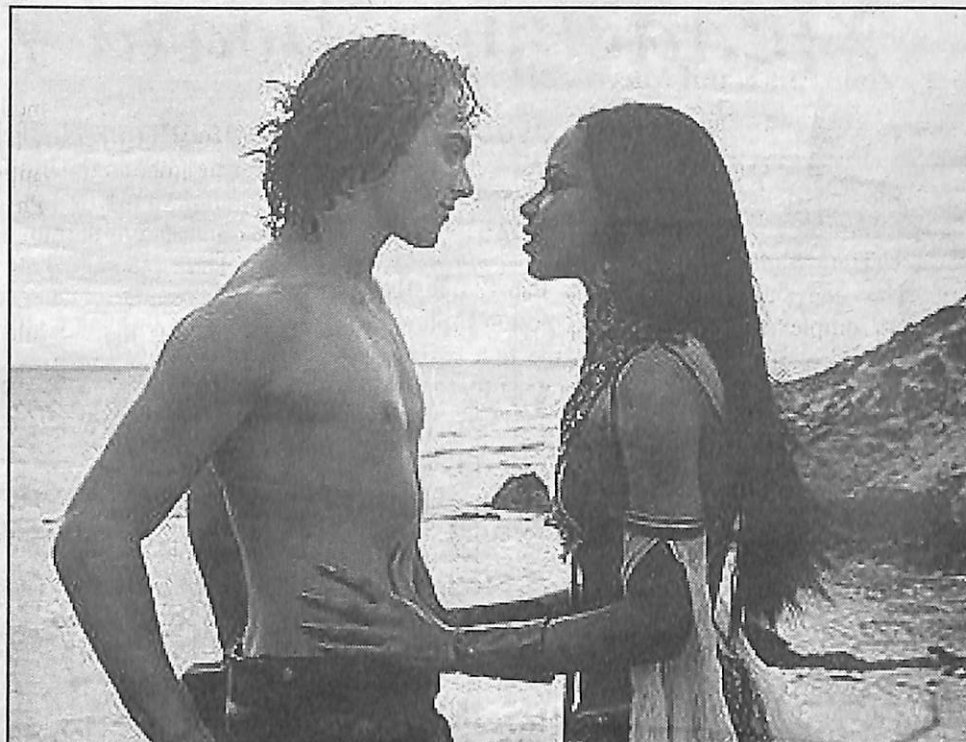


PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB.COM

Stuart Townsend stars as Lestat and the late Aaliyah is Akasha the title character in *Queen of the Damned*.

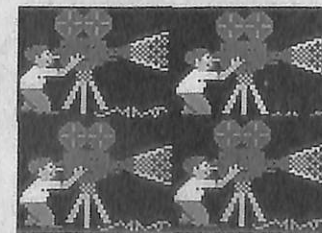
ing Akasha. Jessie lost both of her parents at a young age and is looking for a way to enter into her family's dark world. Her time with her aunt Maharet played by Lena Olin (*Chocolat*) gave her a sense of belonging that she has not felt since. Lestat comes along at the right time, giving her an opportunity to walk on the dark side.

All that assume Aaliyah is the focal point of this film will be sorely disappointed. The movie's marketing department is counting on the singer's fame to draw an audience. The target audience centers on those who enjoy a movie with suspense filled action and pointless cruelty. I say that the film will be a hit among the same crowd that enjoyed the first installment *Interview with a Vampire* and the recent release *The Mothman Prophecies* starring Richard Gere. Queen of the Damned however, has tricked people into thinking the movie is centered on Akasha. Her character rarely makes an appearance, but the script would not have any merit without her. After seeing the movie, I believe that Aaliyah might have had a promising career as an actress.

For a story surrounding death and vampires, there is too much thought put into the plot and purpose and not enough hard-core action. Director Michael Rymer (*In Too Deep*) does save the movie from failure with sensational special effects and usage of a soundtrack that lulls the viewers into false moments of peace before the visually explicit scenes.

My favorite effects were the ripples that hum around the vampires as they attack and fly through the night sky, which makes them appear to be skipping in the air. This sets them apart from their human prey as they glide up and down streets and alleys with the stealth of a cat. The vampires live in a world where the laws of nature and unity have no meaning. Their condemnation is hovering among us unnoticed, which only adds to the pity felt for Lestat. He only wants to regain the humanity lost to him. When you begin to feel that Lestat and his kind deserve a respectable place among the living, the sorrowful music introduces you to another side of their darkness.

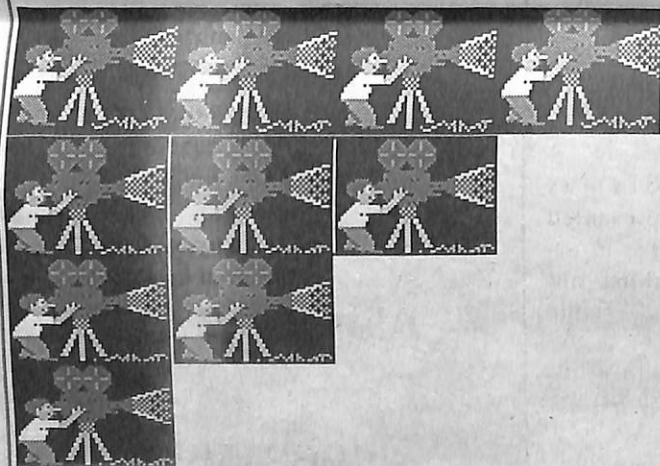
If you are looking to see a film that is purely entertaining, and slightly romantic, *Queen of the Damned* is a good pick. For those who expect a movie with substance and valuable lessons starring Aaliyah, buy a ticket to something else. **Miriam Cavnar**



John Q

This movie illustrates one black

family's life and death struggle with the American economic, healthcare, and criminal justice system. See "Powerful" on page 18



I Gotta See that Again

That was tight

Get the bootlegged Copy

Forget about It

Queen of the Damned

I laugh at the fool who dares anger a woman lusting for power, but I weep for the man who believes he can love her, have her, and have her power without sacrifice

This is the underlying theme of *Queen of the Damned* adapted from horror scribe Anne Rice's *Vampire Chronicles*. The vampire Lestat, played by Stuart Townsend (*About Adam*) has lustfully sipped blood from the veins of Akasha, played by the late singer Aaliyah (*Romeo Must Die*), mother of all vampires. Lestat has spent hundreds of years in the shadows of human life and he

longs to live among humans, as he did before his decent into immortality.

He wants to be accepted and respected, as he sets out to become a rock star and succeeds. This goes against every law vampires practice because they believe in anonymity to survive. Not only does he make a spectacle of himself, the lyrics to his songs are giving away vampire secrets. What is Lestat searching for?

He yearns to have someone to share his fate with. Akasha can give him what he wants. She only asks for him to reign as her king. He is given the choice of life as a heartless lord or death as a meal for the Queen.

Marguerite Moreau (*Wet Hot American Summer*) plays Jessie Reeves and is the sole mortal relative of an ancient vampire coven bent on destroy-

Arts & Entertainment

At a Glance:

TSU Pan-Hellenic Step Show

By **Jamarran E'mil Moss**
A&E Writer

The Pan-Hellenic step show displayed a celebration of Black sororities and fraternities' heritage, during the first HBCU Think Tank.

The step show held Saturday Feb. 23 in the Gentry Center Complex was emceed by Evolution Creative Group's B-Wood. The step show served as the first social outing of visiting Think Tank attendants from HBCUs across the nation.

The first sorority to take the stage was Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. with a Michael Jackson smooth criminal theme. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. followed and, represented with four members. They integrated their patented confident personae with rhythmic dance routines and interchanging moves. The last of the three sororities to perform also were the winners of the step show. Taking the stage with high energy, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. creatively displayed original content along with imitations of all of the Pan-Hellenic fraternities.

"The best part of the step show was the intermission," said Oakland, CA native Domeshia Taylor whom was visiting from Howard University. "Not because nothing was happening at intermission, but because everyone was in their lines in the middle of the floor stepping. Overall, the show was very long

winded. It seemed like every Greek stepped for an hour on stage, but I really liked the Zetas, they deserved to win."

Only two fraternities stepped in the show, Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Inc. and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.

"More fraternities should of stepped," said junior graphic design major Janald Hampton from Hampton University. "I know all of the fraternities and sororities are not on the yard, but they should of got chapters from schools like

Vanderbilt and Fisk to get a fair and complete representation.

Besides the lack of all Greeks stepping, it was a good show."

Iota Phi Theta presented a theatrical performance with frequent dialogue, watermelon props, swords and breaks within routines that put them in danger of being booed off stage. Applause overshadowed the boos as the Iotas finished their performance.

Finally, the Sigmas presented something out of the norm by imitating sororities rather than imitating fraternities. Their parody of several sororities was enough to win the competition.

"I was hoping to see the Gentry Center more

packed than what it was," said Monique Jordan organizer of the step show and Pan-Hellenic Council president. "Overall, I felt that the step show was good, especially on the sorority side because there was a lot of competition."*



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TSU ARCHIVES

Top and Bottom: Members of both Phi Beta Sigma and Zeta Phi Beta strike a pose. Blue and white ruled at this year's Pan-Hellenic step show.

Got A Minute?

If you know someone

who should be

profiled in the

A&E

section of

The Meter

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A&E Editor

Alan C. Beard

at 963-5555.

Got the scoop on a hot CD?

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know and we'll DISCuss it.

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963-5555.

Arts & Entertainment

Powerful performances, driving force behind John Q and Monster's Ball

Continued from page 16

tice system. In essence, it's the black man vs. The Man. The audience laughed, cried, cheered, and looked around to make sure no one was watching.

The opening scene is a bit confusing but overall the movie has a clear, pleasant pace. It mixes sadness with comedy and action with drama so skillfully that just as the audience is getting overwhelmed with sadness they can't help laughing and when the drama has slowed the pace-the action immediately picks it up.

John Q. Archibald, is the father of a dying boy being killed by the system even faster than by his enlarged and failing heart. This is a timely realistic story of a two-income black family, living below the poverty line and falling through the cracks of the system. Denzel Washington is John Q., and his wife, played by Kimberly Elise (*Bait*), are already facing financial woes when their son suddenly falls ill. The situation gets worse when the hospital's chief administrator played with dead on conviction by Anne Heche (*Psycho*) and head of cardiology James Woods (*Scary Movie 2*) tell the couple that the only chance the boy has is a heart transplant and their insurance won't cover it.

The couple goes from agency to agency trying to find some way to get the help they need for their son. Washington even pleads with the local news media to cover the story in an attempt to raise money. Nothing works and the boy is steadfastly running out of time. John snaps and takes the entire emergency room hostage demanding that something be done for his son or people are going to die.

Notable performances were given by actors, Ray Liotta (*Hannibal*) as a police chief, Robert Duvall (*Gone in Sixty Seconds*) as the old school hostage negotiator, and Eddie Griffin (*Double Take*) as one of the hostages. Liotta and Duvall's characters are engaged in the classic conflicts of age vs. youth and ambition vs. honor. Liotta plays the only character that seemingly has no redeeming qualities.

With the exception of Liotta, the characters in this movie are well-rounded. Their personalities are not one-dimensional. The bad guys aren't com-

pletely bad and the good guys aren't completely good. That quality adds some desperately needed realism to this highly unlikely story.

The only thing I can share about the ending without giving it away is that in terms of realism, it concludes on a note that even the most skeptical person can live with. **Leslie Doss**



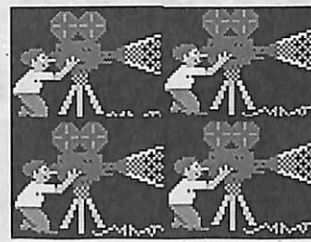
PHOTOS COURTESY OF DARKHORIZONS.COM AND IMDB.COM

top: John Q (Denzel Washington) and his wife (Kimberly Elise) are running out of time to save their son in *John Q*.

bottom: Halle Berry and Billy Bob Thornton in *Monster's Ball*.

Monster's Ball

Monster's Ball summarized in a word - intense; in a phrase - what in the



dictable story lines imaginable. Just when the audience feels like they know

the world? Is it worth it? Yes.

Monster's Ball has one of the most unpredictable

two death scenes, there was not a closed mouth in the house and no one was prepared for the explosively graphic nature of the sex scenes which left no part of Halle Berry's body to the imagination.

This film is entrenched with the hard-hitting issues of racism, violence, and the vicious cycle of dysfunctional families. Billy Bob Thornton (*Man Who Wasn't There*) plays Hank-a seemingly reluctant racist raised by an overt racist father played by Peter Boyle (2002's *Adventures of Pluto Nash*). Hank and his son Sonny played by Heath Ledger (*A Knight's Tale*) are very different, despite the fact that both work on the execution team of the local prison and frequent the same prostitute. Sonny has somehow escaped the racist and harsh attitudes of his father and grandfather, which leads to serious conflicts in the household and on the job.

Here is a rundown of the story: Berry's character is married to a man played by Sean P.Diddy Combs (*Made*), who is about to be executed.

The story begins on the day before his execution. The gentleness of Combs' character conflicts with the fact that he is a death row convict. His concern and love for his family increase the audi-

ence's love and concern for him. Berry is cold towards her condemned husband and towards her child. She is an abusive drunk who beats her child because he's fat. The beauty of her face distracts audiences from the ugliness of her actions and increases their tendency to sympathize with her character.

The frankness of Thornton's character, Hank, adds much needed humor to this heavy drama. He is completely unrefined and somewhat unfeeling causing his ordinary actions to be extraordinarily funny, especially during times when you'd least expect to be laughing.

The filmmakers' artistic use of tattoos to illustrate an underlying theme of the film was subtle and brilliant. Thornton and Combs have tattoos in various places on their arms and Berry has one on her butt. The tattoos illustrate that all people, no matter how different their situations, have common ground that will allow them to

connect, if they will allow themselves to. **Leslie Doss**

what's going to happen-they realize that they don't have a clue. Shocked jaws were dropping all over the theater during several scenes in this film. For at least

Arts & Entertainment

Lyricist Lounge
Historically Black

Let me gather my thoughts for a sec

This poem I must admit

Will not be politically correct

My heart has been pricked

Not by cupid but rather, prejudice

This is a tale that's been told before

Black man goes out into the world

And is reminded that his Uncle is Sam

Valentine's Day, Bah-Humbug!

A universal feeling of love is supposed to

engulf our moods

Instead of "I Love You" on this day

It was . . . "You Niggas!"

Honestly I was more shocked than anything

It can be described as an out of body

experience

The year was suddenly 1963 not 2002

Fire hoses whipped H₂O across my face

And boycott wasn't just a word

But a movement

Transported back to the present time

My soul ached cause the thought of this

happening

Never crossed my mind



By Alan C. Beard
A&E Editor

Voices from my people's past echoed through

my drums

I knew now what they had tried to

convey to my generation

And nothing, I mean nothing was worst than

this feeling

What should I do? What could I do?

Questions that one shouldn't have to ask them-

selves

Situations that the masses presume extinct

And I just stood there and gritted my teeth

Yeah, I wanted to shoot them fools dead

But walking away was a better reality

Than life in a cell

As my wheels pounded across the painted

pavement

Silence was the only lyric we could mutter

They say we learn something new everyday

Today's lesson is hard for me to stomach

Peep this:

I was born Black


I was told I was a Nigga

Today I was put in a place

(H-I-S)-T-O-R-Y has a funny way of repeating itself.

Arts & Entertainment

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“Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.”

-- Malcolm X

Sports

Talkin I.S.H.

Bring Tyson-Lewis Fight to Tennessee!!!



Marcus Norris
Sports Editor

Just think how off the chain it would be: Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis fighting right here in the Volunteer state. The entire world would be focusing in on Tennessee. Think of the economic boost this fight will give the city that caters the fight. Georgia passed up on the opportunity to play host to this fight. Governor Roy Barnes called Tyson a "sexual predator" (imagine that).

Celebrities would be flying in for the fight. Imagine the economic effect it will have on the state. Why . . . they could have the fight right here in Nashville. The Gentry Center comes to mind, but the likelihood of Tennessee State University alumnus Anthony Mason getting caught up in Wilson Hall on a late night creep, kind of makes you want to look for other venues (sorry Mase). The Gaylord Entertainment Center sounds a little better, it's closer to the strip clubs downtown (there you go

Mase, you knew we wouldn't forget about you).

Promoting the fight wouldn't be that hard either. Give me some time and I bet I could come up with an undercard for this fight that would make the *Thrilla in Manilla* look like a sixth-grade after school fight.

F i r s t Undercard:

L a t r e l l Sprewell versus **Bobby Knight**. In one corner a disgruntled player who sees nothing wrong with taking his anger out on middle-aged white coaches.

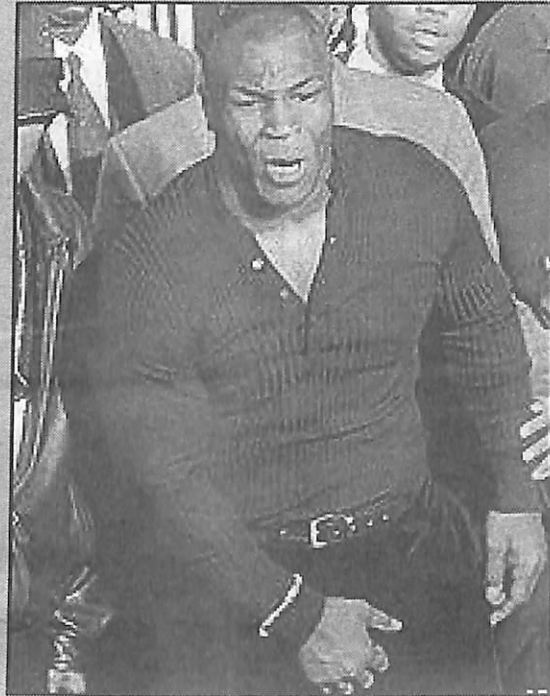


PHOTO COURTESY OF ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mike Tyson

In the other corner, a middle-aged white coach who sees nothing wrong with slapping the dog mess out of young men not giving "110 percent". It's a real life "Nat Turner versus Jim Crow" matchup. **Line:** Sprewell in six. **Prediction:** Although

he's the crowd favorite, I figure Sprewell will go down in the fifth round (score one for the KKK). Knight is used to regulating a whole team of players, one uppity Negro won't be that much trouble. Plus Knight's got that "old man strength."

S e c o n d Undercard:

Allen Iverson vs. **Kobe Bryant**. He can't beat him on the hardwood (as long as Shaq's playing anyway) so Iverson will try his luck inside the ring. Bryant comes into the fight still carrying that chip on his shoulder

from being booed at the All-star game. **Line:** Bryant in three. **Prediction:** Iverson knocks him out in the first round a'la Chris Childs (remember how he chin-checked Bryant a few years ago).

Third Undercard: Tag-Team bout.

In one corner "The Best of Both Worlds" duo Jay-Z and R. "don't-leave-me-in-the-same-room-as-your-daughter" Kelly vs. Nasty Nas from Esco-to-Escobar now he's . . . who really cares and Dru Hill's frontman sissy-tive Sisqo. **Line:** Hova and Mister Nasty Man himself in seven. **Prediction:** S-Dot Carter and R. Kelly win the fight after Nas, who is clearly outmatched but is starting to get in some jabs on Jay-Z, gets stabbed in the back by Sisqo and his dragon (Ugghh!!!).

The Main Event: Tyson versus Lewis. **Line:** None (yet!) **Prediction:** I don't know who, I don't know how, but I do know where, what and why. **SOME-BODY WILL DIE.** All the planets are aligning for this monumental event. The last time these two heavyweights were in the same room Lewis got a chunk of meat taken out of his leg (Mike, cut that out): Tyson has already said that he wants to eat Lewis' kids and Lewis doesn't even have any (must have been thinking about Evander Holyfield). The last time Tyson fought in a championship fight before this, Holyfield lost an ear. A couple of fights before that, on a hot Las Vegas night, Tupac Shakur got killed. This time we've got a crazy man, a couple of rappers, mixed with a few Memphians, someone has to die. •

Sports Spotlight

By Crystal J. McMoore
News Writer



PHOTO TAKEN BY CRYSTAL J. MCMOORE

Larissa Thomas

As the only senior on Tennessee State University's Lady Tigers basketball team, LaRissa Thomas has more than earned her reputation as a leader. Thomas, a business administration major, from St. Louis, is an athlete worth imitating.

Besides being an essential asset to the Tigers, Thomas has set records nationwide. She is ranked 11th in the nation for shooting.

Not only is Thomas leading in rebounds, she also is the leading scorer on the team. Her game high for the 2001-2002 season was 38 points in a game against Cleveland State, and she had 17 rebounds in that same game. Out of the 21 games played by the Lady Tigers, Thomas was the games highest scorer in 17 of them, and had the most rebounds in 14 of them.

Thomas's accomplishments have not stopped her from exemplifying her talents as a team player. Even though the Lady Tigers have had a rough season, 3-17 overall, and 2-9 in the conference, Thomas advises the rest of the team to, "hold on." There's no need for a bunch of could of, should of, would of. Don't take anything for granted."

She also added to "seize the moment and give your all on and off the court."

Thomas has played power forward at TSU for four years, and even though the last couple of seasons have been disap-

pointing, she believes the team has more potential than ever to take their game to the next level. "They're only losing one player, and that's me. In the past they've never had almost all the players stay."

When a post player is injured, or the team is in need, normally Thomas is the one to step-up. She has showed incredible senior leadership, and she believes that her reign will continue on in the seasons to come. "I believe Tristin Johnson will lead the team in points and rebounds. She has a lot of potential," Thomas said.

Thomas's future plans haven't been set in stone, but she does have options. "I've been offered a couple of positions at basketball camps, and I'll see how that works out. But if not I guess I'll join the working force," she said.

The Tigers will be losing a valuable asset once Thomas graduates, but she assures the team that she will return to support them next year. •

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Sports

Tigerbelles seek respect for hard work

By Thomas Thorps
Sports Writer

Throughout the 2001-2002 outdoor and indoor track and field season, the Tennessee State University Tigerbelles have been handling business as usual. The Tigerbelles have fought long and hard, but no one seems to notice their hard-work.

This is no ordinary team; they are the reigning 2001 Ohio Valley Conference Outdoor Track and Field Champions, they are coached by OVC Coach of the Year and Tennessee Hall of Fame Inductee Chandra Cheeseborough, not to mention this is an extremely young and overachieving team with only eight seniors.

Not only are these young women currently the OVC Outdoor Champions, but they also finished 2nd place last year in the OVC Indoor Championship.

"The season is going good, we're staying focused" said Kenitra Woods, a senior interdisciplinary studies major from Nashville. "Last year we came in second place indoor and it was an upset to us, so we are keeping our options open, heading into this year's OVC Indoor Championship. We want an Indoor Championship to go along with our Outdoor Championship.

Staying focused is one of the largest obstacles that the Tigerbelles face heading into the OVC Championship at

Eastern Illinois University. Cheeseborough has down played her achievements hoping that more of the limelight would be focused on her girls. "My Tennessee Hall of Fame induction and OVC Coach of the Year is another honor," said Cheeseborough. "I'm excited since I was the youngest to go into the hall of fame thus far, hopefully the things I have done here at TSU will push the girls to the next level and lead to future awards for the girls."

So far Cheeseborough has pushed the Tigerbelles to that next level, with girls placing in the top 10 in 15 events during the 2002 Indoor Track and Field season.

As the Saluki Invitational approaches the Tigerbelles must maintain their confidence and remain determined, heading into the OVC Championship.

According to Tigerbelles co-captain Nia Campbell, "I think we're doing good this year, we are focused and we set high standards for ourselves."

As the spirits ring high for this year's outdoor champions, two goals still remain the 2002 OVC Indoor Championship and the respect of the student body.

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Sports

Tigers look to finish season strong

By **Tamika L. Jefferson**
and **Marcus Norris**
Sports Writer and Sports Editor

In the Gentry Center Complex Saturday, Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m., the Tennessee State University Tigers played with intoxicating intensity and smothering defense in their 94-76 win over Eastern Illinois.

Coming into the game leading the Ohio Valley Conference with 27.1 points per game, Henry Domercant of Eastern Illinois was held to only 9 points.

"I felt good tonight and I shot a couple of threes," said junior guard Josh Copperwood. He and sophomore guard Brandon Lockridge combined for 5 out of 7 from the three-point range.

Senior forward Kyle Rolston led all scorers with 23 points. Rolston was a perfect 9 for 9 from the field and 2 for 2 from beyond the arc.

With limited playing time freshman forward Roshawn Bowens hit six consecutive free throws and grabbed two key

steals. He entered the game igniting an offensive spark by going strong to the hoop and getting fouled, extending TSU's lead to 62-41 with 12.5 minutes left of playing time.

Despite having the big men Darnai Thomas, Arvid Caldwell and Will Hendricks in foul trouble, all three had four a piece with fewer than 12 minutes left in the game. However, the Tigers remained in control and never lost heart.

"The rest of the team played great. They (the Eagles) were number 2 in the conference," said Cooperwood.

The Eagles applied full court pressure defense but were unsuccessful due to the Tigers effective ball movement. The Tigers' patience, mixed with some aggressiveness, aided them in a 10-0 run late in the second half.

"Overall we did okay," said Garrett Richardson, of TSU who had an average night with 13 points, 2 blocks and 3 steals. "There's always room for improvement and I'm happy we got a victory."

In their final regular season home game of the year on Feb. 14, the Tigers defeated Austin Peay State 78-67. The

Tigers were led by senior forward Kyle Rolston who scored a career-high 29 points going 10-14 from the field, including 6-8 from three-point range.

The Tigers used a late surge to erase a 63-62 deficit with four minutes left in the game, and took the lead for good on a three-point play by sophomore guard Garrett Richardson, who had 19 points in the game. Rolston hit a three-pointer later putting the Tigers up 69-63 securing the win.

"Our defense came through for us," said head coach Nolan Richardson III. "It was great for our seniors to finish at home with a win."

For his efforts in this game and the 65-62 win over Eastern Kentucky in which he led the Tigers with 14 points, Rolston was named OVC player of the week. He is the second Tiger to win the award this season, with Richardson winning it on the week of Feb. 4

After a slow start, the Tigers find themselves playing their best ball of the season as the OVC playoffs get nearer. Coming into OVC play the Tigers were 3-9 on the season, including only 1-6 in the month of December. But after losing

at Morehead State 92-72 on Jan. 3, the Tigers won two in a row. First a 69-68 win at Eastern Kentucky on Jan. 5 and then a 94-82 win at Southeast Missouri State on Jan. 7.

The Tigers have especially hit a roll as of late, winning five of their last seven games. The two games they did lose were by a combined nine points. As it stands on the season the Tigers are 11-15, 7-8 in OVC play, good enough for fourth place in the league. With a win in their season finale over Eastern Illinois, who they beat 94-76 in their first meeting Feb. 2 at the Gentry Center, the Tigers in all likelihood will host a first round playoff game when the OVC tournament begins on Mar. 2.

Do you like sports?

Contact

Sports Editor

Marcus Norris

at

963-5652.

Sports Briefs

Morehead State defeats the Lady Tigers

The Lady Eagles of Morehead State University used defense, defense and more defense to interrupt the Lady Tigers of Tennessee State University chance to finish with a win. MSU pulled away with an 84-74 victory over TSU.

The loss dropped the Lady Tigers to 2-14 overall, and 2-7 in conference play in the Ohio Valley Conference.

The Lady Tigers' leading scorer, senior forward LaRissa Thomas had a double double in the game scoring a game high of 22 points and grabbing 10 rebounds. "We were already limited on post players, so I had to step up my game a couple more notches," said Thomas.

Sophomore guard Zekeya Anderson hit three consecutive three pointers for the Lady Tigers to trail 67-74 with 3:07 left in the second half. Morehead converts on back-to-back baskets as well. Anderson fouled out with 2:05 left in the game with 11 points, 2 assists, 1 steal and fourteen minutes of playing time.

The Lady Tigers were led in scoring by senior forward Larissa Thomas who

had 24 points along with her 10

rebounds.

With under two minutes left in the second half sophomore forward LaToya Clay was called for traveling. Instantly, MSU turned the ball right back over, and Clay hit a key basket making it a nine point game. MSU never lost composure and their starting center, Tasha Gales, ignited her leadership abilities by adhering to the fundamentals of basketball, "put ball into hoop." During clutch time the Lady Eagles hit their free throws.

Despite Morehead's offense, the Lady Tigers did not lack defensive abilities in the second half. Walter State Community College transfer Tristen Johnson hustled for 9 points, 3 rebounds and four steals. "Our coaches have been hard on us about playing with more passion and the love for the game," Johnson said. The aggressive play by Johnson was the outcome of the coaches' toughness. Unfortunately, Johnson fouled out with 2:21 left in the game. "I just tried to deliver what the coach asked for."

Tamika L. Jefferson

- Vonetta Edwards became the first Black to win a gold medal in the history of the Winter Olympics as a brake woman for the United States bobsled team. The

team, which also featured driver Jill Brakken, won the gold with a two run time of 00:01:37.76. This was the first Olympic gold medal for the U.S. in bobsledding in the last 46 years.

- On Feb. 14 a limousine driver, Costas Christofi, was killed at the home of former basketball star and current NBC analyst Jayson Williams, after suffering a gunshot wound to the chest. On Feb. 25, Williams was charged and released on bail for an undisclosed amount. The police have ruled the shooting a homicide and the nephew of the limousine driver said, that to his knowledge Williams will be charged with manslaughter.

- With the National Basketball Association trade deadline looming, there have been two trades made. The Chicago Bulls sent guards Ron Mercer and Kevin Ollie, small forward Ron Artest and center Brad Miller to the Indiana Pacers in exchange for guards Jalen Rose, Travis Best, Norman Richardson and a conditional second round draft pick. The other trade had the Phoenix Suns sending guard Tony Delk and small forward Rodney Rogers to the Boston Celtics for guards Joe Johnson, Milt Palacio and Randy Brown, along with a first round draft

pick.

- Washington D.C. is looking like a likely sight for the Lennox Lewis - Mike Tyson heavyweight title fight. A three-member D.C. Boxing and Wrestling commission voted 3-0 in favor of granting Tyson a license to fight in the state. A sight for the fight had been set in Las Vegas, Nev., but following a press conference altercation between the two fighters, initiated by Tyson, caused his application for a license to fight in Nevada to be denied.

- The expansion draft for the newest National Football League franchise, the Houston Texans, was held on Feb. 18. Among the 19 players picked in the draft was former Tennessee State University wide receiver Avion Black as the 16th pick.

- The Tampa Bay Buccaneers named Jon Gruden head coach on Feb. 19. The Buccaneers were forced to give up two first round draft picks, two second round draft picks and a third round draft pick to the Oakland Raiders for the right to begin negotiations with the coach. Gruden signed a five year \$17.5 million contract with the team. **Marcus Norris**

TSU Yearbook Photos

Photos by Photiques Photography

Katrina S. Coomer, photographer - 292-2025 - Call if you have questions

Downtown Campus: March 11 & 12 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. <i>just show up</i> Main lobby outside library	Main Campus: March 13 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. <i>just show up</i> Kean Hall Basement 040
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Clubs & Organizations

Clubs with up to 10 members can come to Kean Hall 040 anytime on March 13
Larger groups meet on the front steps of Kean Hall on March 13 at 4:00 pm
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